

Phoebe
Physicians

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Ascending stars bring ascending odds, the rest of the week should be favorable for actions taken unless your individual transits are poor. Put your heart into friendships and relationships now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do more than just phone it in; there's more in it for you too if you give your best — knowing that you consistently give your best is a component of ever-increasing self-esteem. Handle things on a granular level.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The next month or so could be a wonderful and inspiring period for creatives. You should have lots of imagination plus an understanding of logistics and methodologies. Teach what you know.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Benevolence, wisdom, and a certain amount of confidence could help a negotiation reach resolution as long as no one starts to demand extreme concessions. Craft words carefully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This could go either way: Someone close could provide the reassurance you need, or, you might buck up a partner as needed. You could have increased financial means, ideas, confidence, or even certainty.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Wisdom plus assertion could go a long way toward getting things done in your daily rounds, relying on old habits can help too. You could be the strong arm or understanding ear for someone today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Creative confidence could be yours, let yourself express freely for the next couple of days. A last lap of your inner landscape could be helpful, starting tomorrow you may have less time for self-work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Home is a place where the emotional temperature has to matter, tune into the mood and vibe and notice where tweaks could be helpful. You could soon slide into

a more introspective few weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you've got a few important career tweaks to make, now could be the time, at least some of your attention could soon shift. A communication should be run through a wisdom filter first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Exchange knowledge freely, don't hold back what you know. Financial matters are moving into better patterns, but it's still important to rely on facts and wisdom instead of emotions and reactivity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A few finishing touches on something nearly complete and you could be ready for a change of scene inwardly or outwardly. Consider a new course of study or a new travel adventure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The outside reflects the inside, just like as above — so below. Invest in your own inner stability and inner healing and it can't help but show in your energy and outer demeanor. Go within.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: As you enter the third quarter of 2026, take a breath. The rest of the year is likely to be easier, better, and less stressful. October could be a big month; it opens with a chance to tap highest wisdom. Be sure to spend time away from distractions and noise so you'll get all the big memos from the Universe. Late in the month, something you've believed in could come through — still, do all due diligence. If things look good, a new income stream could be only one benefit. Early in November, don't get cocky, keep it mellow. A nice windfall could land on your doorstep and that's likely just the trailer — some real wish fulfillment could shower you with resources soon after. December's blessing could be the healing of something long unhealed. You could reach a pinnacle right at year-end or early in January.



1692 - The last hanging of those convicted of witchcraft in the Salem Witch Trials

1776 - Nathan Hale is hanged for spying during the American Revolution

1862 - Abraham Lincoln releases a preliminary version of the Emancipation Proclamation

1896 - Queen Victoria passes up her grandfather King George III as the longest reigning monarch in British history

1919 - The steel strike of 1919 begins in Pennsylvania before spreading across the United States

1941 - On the Jewish New Year Day, the German SS murders 6,000 Jews in Vinnytsia, Ukraine

1960 - The Sudanese Republic is renamed Mali

1975 - Sara Jane Moore tries to assassinate U.S. President Gerald Ford, but is stopped by the Secret Service

1980 - Iraq invades Iran

1993 - The deadliest train wreck in Amtrak history kills forty seven passengers when a barge strikes a railroad bridge near Mobile, Alabama

1995 - After multiple bird strikes to two of the four engines soon after takeoff, an E-3B AWACS crashes outside of Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, killing all 24 on board

2013 - At least 75 people are killed in a suicide bombing at a Christian church in Peshawar, Pakistan

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- American Business Women's Day
- Car Free Day
- Chainmail Day
- Dear Diary Day
- Elephant Appreciation Day
- First Day of Autumn
- Hobbit Day
- National Centenarian's Day
- National Girl's Night in Day
- National Ice Cream

- Cone Day
- National Leg Wear Day
- National Rock n' Roll Dog Day
- National Voter Registration Day
- National White Chocolate Day
- National Woman Road Warrior Day
- Proposal Day
- Remote Employee Appreciation Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens."

Jimi Hendrix,
guitar god (1942-1970)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

I'll believe they're going to build a hospital in Lee County when I see the first patient admitted. Billy Mathis wants to say "he" built a hospital so badly, he'll hijack the county's future by promising everything everybody wants. I hope thoughtful men like Luke Singletary don't buy into his bull.

I can't wait to see the contractor and consultants chosen to do the work on this completely unnecessary Tift Park construction project. History says the winner will have the right "friends" in place and a low bid will quickly become high with cost overruns. These old scammers aren't fooling anyone, and one day it is going to seriously catch up with them.

Keisha Lance Bottoms was such a bad mayor for Atlanta, she didn't even run for re-election.

The Meredyth recycling center is a metaphor for how poorly run and corrupt Dougherty County government is. Exhausted carpooling parents and elderly people with walkers come through with their contribution, and the county in September 2026 reprimands those people. Meanwhile there are six or seven staff members getting a paycheck, and the grounds are covered in litter. This is Dougherty County government. State auditors paying attention?

The people fussing about the truck stop and shop in east Albany are the same as everybody else in the community. I want us to get new businesses and more jobs, but not in my backyard.

Persley announced his retirement months ago. Finding a well-qualified replacement is going to take months and require an extensive national search and screening. And our City Commission is just now starting? This is a very important and very difficult seat to fill. This search should have initiated months ago. This is a prime example of incompetence in our local government. And what does citizen input have to do with this position?

Talk about dumb use of taxpayer dollars. They are going to pay some outfit \$14,000 to tell us to put a 45 MPH speed limit on Winifred Road.

College football and basketball are professional sports now. Just like I quit watching the NFL with the kneeling during the anthem hoo-hah, I no longer plan to spend a penny of my money supporting these uneducated pro mercenaries playing college sports.

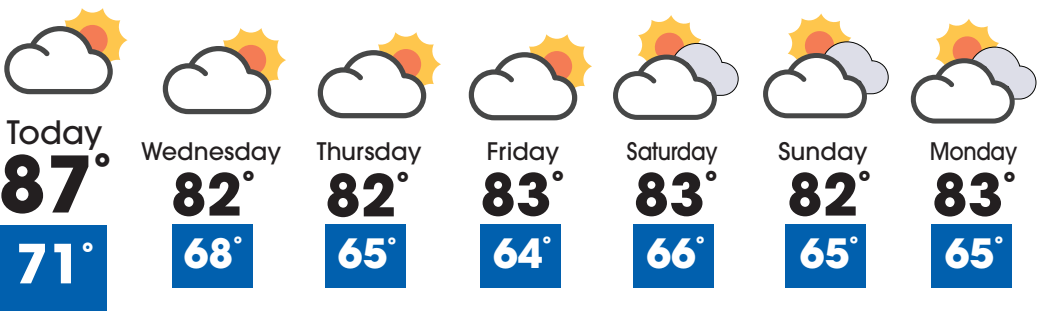
The GOP thinks they'll win the midterm argument with common sense vs crazy. Their problem is "It's the economy, stupid."

Some people are so upset that immigrants are coming to America that they actually say if there was a country they could move to that did not take immigrants they would move there. First, no such country exists. But most of all, you would be considered an immigrant if there was such a country, which would not allow you to live there because you are the immigrant.

Phoebe is the largest employer of Lee County citizens. How's that going to impact the county when the hospital goes up there?

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Weather Forecast

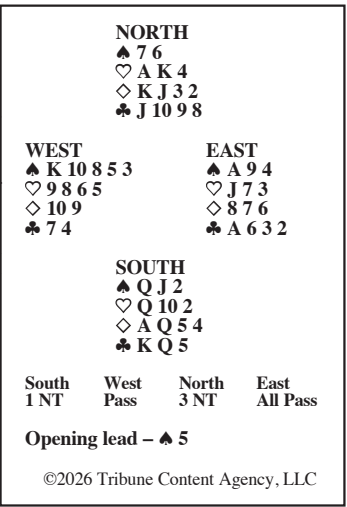


Daily Bridge Club

Which part is hardest?

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

Recently, four aspiring women engaged me for some private lessons. When I asked what part of the game they wanted to focus



on, their reply was unhesitant: "defense."

Many players find defense difficult, but by counting, thinking logically and applying some principles, anyone can be a good defender.

In today's deal, West leads his fourth-highest spade against 3NT. East takes the ace and returns the nine, the higher of his remaining spades. With A-9-5-4, East would lead the four at Trick Two.

FINESSE?

When declarer plays the queen, West should place him with Q-J-2 and duck to preserve communication. Then South leads a diamond to dummy and returns a sneaky jack of clubs: a fake finesse.

East shouldn't be fooled: Assuming West has the king of spades,



Frank Stewart

the deck doesn't have enough points for him to have a queen besides. If South has the K-Q of spades, he has nine tricks. So East must grab the ace of clubs to lead his last spade. This week and next: Tight defense.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S A 9 4 H J 7 3 D 8 7 6 C A 6 3 2. Your partner opens one diamond, you bid 1NT and he rebids two diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has minimum values but at least six diamonds. Raise to three diamonds to show support and a maximum 1NT response. There is some chance partner will convert to 3NT; but at the least you will prevent your left-hand opponent from backing into the auction. The opponents probably have a fit in a major suit. South dealer N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Resident wants to warn new homeowners about swinger neighbors

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: My neighbors have boisterous parties on occasion. It's not a matter of noise — they're very considerate about it. But from the number of cars and the late leaving times I can only imagine that everyone is having a good time. I heard a rumor that they might be swingers, so that explains some things. The house on the other side of them is for sale. Should I let potential buyers know what they might be walking into?

— Concerned Neighbor

Dear Neighbor: Leave it be. This pineapple upside-down cake is not fully baked. From what you've written, you have popular but conscientious neighbors about whom someone spread a rumor. A rumor that does not impact you in any way, mind you. If you were to tell a potential buyer, the thing that they'd likely be most concerned about is moving into a neighborhood where there's too much unfounded gossip.

Dear Eric: I thought I'd add to your good advice to "Stuck Student" who was in college but not sure yet what he wanted to be yet. I spent four and a half years in college, changed my major twice and graduated with a liberal arts degree and no plan for where to go next.

I was lifeguarding and living with my parents the summer after school ended when a friend convinced me to take a computer programming class "for fun" at a local community college.

Because the class was with a buddy, we had fun and took a second one. Then I took an aptitude test at a local finan-

cial firm and was invited into their technical training program. I was never very good at the programming part, but I was good at managing projects and teams and with a core understanding of technology and additional coursework it became a successful IT management career.

My point is that not knowing what you want to do in college is normal and not limiting at all. There are majors that can track you directly into a specific career path, but a college degree is mainly to learn how to think critically, analyze facts and situations and apply that learning to life.

Stuck Student should focus more on what courses he likes and doesn't like, learn something from every class and use that knowledge to home in on what he might eventually like to become.

— No Hurry

Dear No Hurry: I really appreciate this perspective. Because we are a few weeks into the new school year, I thought it useful to share your letter and the letter below, in case there are other students reading who find themselves adrift.

I especially like your focus on college's ability to help one think critically. The value of critical thinking cannot be overstated. Sometimes one is in an educational environment to learn a specific skill or trade. But at other times, one is there to learn how to learn and to discover what one doesn't know. It's a privilege to take advantage of that opportunity.

Dear Eric: This is a letter in reference to "Stuck Student", a second-year college student who didn't know what path to



Eric Thomas

take. Back when I was 18 and had gone off to college, I truly had no idea of what I wanted to do with my life. I naively thought that everyone picked a career and was good at it and enjoyed it. I had fears of picking something I'd neither like nor be any good at. I didn't go see any college counselors either, unaware that this was obviously something with which they could help me.

I did drop out and worked at various jobs. Later, in my 30s, my husband pointed out that financially, this might be a good time to go back to school. By this time, I had the wisdom and maturity to understand that there was no single, magical career in which I'd completely excel, or which I'd love completely.

So, I just told myself to pick something and make it work. The local college had a nursing program and with that philosophy, I entered the program. Thirty years later I still love it. It's complex, mentally and physically challenging, and constantly interesting. My message to Stuck Student is that obtaining that degree doesn't hold you to one single path. It's fine to be unsure, and he/she is on the right track with their studies.

— Colorado Reader

Dear Reader: Yes! Thank you for sharing your experience. It's never too late to revisit higher education. While college or vocational training are a wonderful next step for many high schoolers, it can be so rewarding to hold off on it or come back to it with some life experience and perspective under your belt. I'm glad it worked out so well for you.

The Albany Herald

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

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Carlton Fletcher

EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do,
do all to the glory of God.”
1 Corinthians 10:31

COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL

Timothy Miller shares his gift with Braves fans

Timothy Miller gives me goosebumps. He is the charismatic man in the tuxedo who sings “God Bless America” during the 7th inning stretch at Atlanta Braves games on Sundays.

I have enjoyed his performances for the past 18 years, and I can report that he is on a 221-game winning streak, with no end in sight. It is an impressive display of patriotism, each more moving than the last.

We chatted recently, and I had questions: Is he married? Does he have children? Does he enjoy singing for 40,000 people (plus a few million more watching at home)? Does he know the ballplayers, and do they appreciate what he does? The answer to all those questions is “yes.”

His voice, he says, is God-given. He is flattered to hear that people stop in their tracks when he begins to sing. (There are videos online of dogs who do, too.) Yes, he sees the reaction from the fans at Truist Park. What he can’t see are fans in the concourse who pause for a couple of minutes to salute before they order their hot dogs. He hears the stories of veterans, some of whom struggle to walk, carefully rising from their living room chair to salute when he begins to sing.

His journey to the baseball diamond began in his hometown of Augusta. At the age of 10, he was discovered in church. He said, “I come from a singing family. My mom (Ann Miller) is one of 12 children, and my dad (the late Rev. Woodrow Miller Jr.) was one of 14. Any time our family got together, there was music.

“One day at church, I was singing up front, and the pianist had her back to me. When the song was over, she looked at my mom, and nodded her approval.”

His mom took note, and encouraged him to study music.

After high school (Academy of Richmond County), he took voice lessons at Augusta State University. He moved on to Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he sang in the Glee Club. For the first time, he was singing alongside equally talented students who special-



CARROLL

ized in operatic and classical music. He felt challenged to step up his game. He said, “I grew up with gospel music and hymns. Now it was time for formal training.”

After graduating from college, he performed with the Atlanta Symphony, Atlanta Opera, and the Georgia Symphony. By 2008, the Braves featured “God Bless America,” performed by guest singers at home games. The team held an audition for a permanent voice, inviting eight singers to audition. Miller said, “I was fortunate enough to be selected, and I am forever grateful.”

So are Braves fans, players, managers, and even the umpires. He said, “(Umpire) Dan Iassogna hired me to sing at his daughter’s wedding. (Former Brave) Freddie Freeman went out of his way to give me a big hug this year. Some of the Braves salute me, or give me a thumbs up.” But he saves his greatest praise for the fans. “They let me know I am loved,” he said. “It’s the best feeling in the world.”

Miller says he never gets tired of singing “God Bless America.”

“It is always an honor,” he said. “I know that every time I sing it, someone is hearing me for the first time. We honor veterans at the games, and they are so touched by the song. I never had the honor of serving, but my dad was a 20-year military man. This is my way of serving.”

He and his wife Iuyana, an educator, have two children, daughter Morgan, 18, and son Matthew, 16, both of whom are talented musicians in their own right.

What does he do when he’s not on the field? His day job is adjunct professor of music and voice at Morehouse. He can sing in five different languages. He often schedules public performances, proving he’s not a one-hit wonder.

Most of all, he is thankful.

“Singing at Braves games has changed my life,” he said. “I love sharing the gift the Lord has given me. I never take it for granted.”

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. Contact him at RadioTV2020@yahoo.com.

COLUMNIST ■ JAY BOOKMAN

Secrecy, tax breaks pave the way for data center proposals in Georgia

This year, Georgia taxpayers will spend an estimated \$2.4 billion in tax breaks to subsidize construction of data centers in our state.

I have several problems with that. You might, too.

First, and most obviously, that \$2.4 billion could buy a lot of health insurance, or keep rural hospitals operating. It could pay a lot of teacher salaries. But leadership in this state has decided those are not good uses for the money. Instead, they’ve decided it is better used to fatten the bank accounts and stock portfolios of people who are already some of the richest on the planet.

Because really, that’s all state officials are doing. Even if you believe that data centers are necessary – and there’s a decent argument to that effect – billions of dollars of state tax subsidies remain a ridiculous waste of money. The usual justification for such subsidies is to encourage needed economic development projects that otherwise would not occur, and that is simply not the case here.

To the contrary, this year the artificial intelligence industry is expected to draw \$2.5 trillion in new private investment globally. The worry isn’t that the AI industry can’t attract enough investment, it’s that it is drawing too much investment, too quickly, to the point that many experts warn that the sector is creating a financial bubble that may soon burst.

In short, we are subsidizing and incentivizing projects that almost certainly would have been built in Georgia anyway.

Second problem: We are using public money to subsidize something that the public does not

seem to want. Nationally, poll after poll finds that more than 70% of Americans would oppose construction of data centers in their community. Here in Georgia, an Atlanta Journal-Constitution poll of primary voters back in April found that 53% of Republicans and 75% of Democrats would oppose data centers near them. Those numbers have probably grown since then.

Why? Data centers require huge quantities of water to cool servers. They require huge amounts of electricity, straining power plants and grids and potentially raising energy costs. They are noisy, and once operational they don’t generate many jobs. It is not irrational to wonder whether their drawbacks outweigh their benefit, particularly to communities forced to host them.

That leads us to the third problem. In their headlong rush to cash in on the AI boom, data center proponents often have neither the time nor the patience for working with and reassuring communities about its impact. Instead, they attempt to get their way through brute force, deception, political power and money.

Take recent events in Effingham County, near Savannah, where a huge new data center was announced in late July. At full build-out, the facility will cover 1,400 acres and require 3.2 gigawatts of electricity, enough to serve 3 million homes.

That’s a project of immense public impact. Yet there had been no public input or even knowledge about the project before it



BOOKMAN

was announced as a finalized deal. That happened by design, not accident. According to The Current, the CEO of the Effingham County development authority had signed a non-disclosure agreement with OpenAI, the company building the plant. In April, he even publicly denied that negotiations for a data center were underway, actively misleading the people he is supposed to represent.

In late July, the county development board quietly approved the final deal in a hastily called meeting without proper public notice. Nobody in the community was in attendance. The local weekly newspaper had been told a deal was coming, but it agreed to embargo the news, withholding it from its readers and denying them the chance to weigh in, until after the deal had been approved. That’s a terrible journalistic decision.

That is not operating in good faith. It is a way of doing business that heightens rather than mitigates fear and suspicion. And the problem is, similar stories are playing out all over the country.

Outside Memphis, for example, Elon Musk is building another massive data center project and has installed dozens of natural gas generators to supply the needed electricity. However, he has done so without the legally required air quality permits and pollution-control systems, producing thousands of tons of unregulated pollutants.

And when local groups sought to sue Musk’s company for violat-

ing the federal Clean Air Act, the Trump administration declared the facility essential to national security, claiming that status meant Musk could ignore federal law and was immune to lawsuits.

Such high-handed action may work in the short term, but it will inevitably produce a backlash. It has done exactly that, which leads to my fourth and most important point: AI is already a spooky technology to many people, including people intimately involved in its development. They warn of its impact on jobs and communities, of its propensity to “hallucinate,” to tell users what they want to hear, and in some cases to set its own agenda, independent of its human creators.

The companies and people championing the promise of AI reassure us that they will keep the public interest in mind, that they will be responsible and conscientious in implementing this powerful technology and will not blow through safeguards in a mad rush for profits. Yet these are the same people now bulldozing through environmental laws, compelling elected officials to keep secrets from their own constituents and ignoring community input in their gold rush to build AI data centers.

Color me skeptical.

Jay Bookman covered Georgia and national politics for nearly 30 years for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, earning numerous national, regional and state journalism awards. He is the author of “Caught in the Current,” published by St. Martin’s Press.

COLUMNIST ■ LANCE LORUSSO

Fear has become America’s most powerful currency

We live in one of the safest, most technologically advanced and information-rich periods in human history. Yet listen to the way Americans talk and you might conclude we are surrounded by danger at every turn.

We fear crime. We fear economic collapse. We fear losing our jobs. We fear artificial intelligence taking them. We fear saying the wrong thing. We fear being criticized on social media. Parents fear for their children. Employees fear their bosses. Business owners fear the next downturn. Political campaigns routinely tell us what terrible things will happen if the other side wins.

Fear has become one of America’s most powerful currencies.

That should concern us, because fear was never meant to run our lives. I learned that lesson during my years in law enforcement and later representing police officers involved in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. I’ve known officers who ran toward situations every instinct told them to avoid. I’ve represented men and women who were shot or stabbed in the line of duty and nevertheless continued serving.

Were they fearless? Of course not.

I’ve been frightened on police calls myself. I remember running toward people who needed help while feeling so afraid that I thought my knees might buckle beneath me. The fear was real. So was the decision to keep moving. That’s the distinction we’ve forgotten. Courage isn’t the absence of fear. Courage is acknowledging fear but refusing to surrender our decisions to it.

Most of us will never run toward gunfire or into a burning building. But the same choice presents itself in less dramatic ways every day. Do I apply for the job I might not get? Start the business that might fail? Have the difficult conversation I’ve been avoiding? Admit I was wrong? Stand up for someone when remaining silent would be easier? Help a stranger when everyone else keeps walking?

Fear quietly answers: Don’t do it. Don’t risk it. Don’t expose yourself. Don’t get involved. Eventually, those decisions become a life. Fear creates invisible guardrails around us. We remain inside them because they make us feel safe, never realizing how much of our potential exists on the other side.

There is an even greater danger when an entire society begins operating this way: Frightened people are remarkably easy to manipulate. Fear can control behavior, erode confidence and persuade people to surrender their own judgment. In an age of nonstop news, social-media outrage and political tribalism, there is always someone willing to tell you what you should fear next.

Politicians understand it. Advertisers understand it. Social-media algorithms reward it. Outrage and frightening predictions attract attention. We cannot eliminate those voices. But we can decide how much power we give them.

Living without fear does not mean ignoring danger. A firefighter doesn’t pretend fire cannot burn. A police officer doesn’t pretend a gun isn’t dangerous. Courage requires recognizing risk clearly and then deciding what should be done despite it.

Fear should provide information. It should not automatically cast the deciding vote.

There is another way to weaken fear’s grip, and it may sound counterintuitive: Serve someone else. Years ago, after a particularly frustrating experience at an airport, I encountered an airline employee who had just endured an angry customer. Instead of carrying my own irritation into our interaction, I wished her a better day. Her expression changed. Surprisingly, so did mine.

That small encounter reinforced something I’ve tried to practice ever since: When you’re having an awful day, do something good for somebody else. Service forces us to look outward.

Hold the door. Help the stranded motorist. Mentor a young person. Check on an elderly neighbor. Thank the person doing the thankless job. Stand beside somebody going through a difficult time. None of those actions will make the evening news. That’s precisely the point.

We have confused heroism with extraordinary circumstances when much of what holds a society together consists of ordinary people deciding to act when doing nothing would be easier. I’ve spent much of my professional life around first responders, and one thing has always struck me: People whom the public calls heroes rarely describe themselves that way. They were doing their jobs. Helping someone. Serving a purpose larger than themselves.

Perhaps America needs more of that mindset. Imagine what would change if instead of constantly asking, “What should I be afraid of?” we asked, “Who can I help?” Instead of wondering what might go wrong, we considered what might happen if we tried. Instead of allowing our differences to make us suspicious of one another, we looked for opportunities to serve one another.

Our problems are real. So are uncertainty, danger and failure. Pretending otherwise isn’t courage. But neither is spending our lives waiting for the world to become safe enough for us to live. We don’t need a nation of fearless people. We need a nation of people who feel fear, recognize it, respect it — and move forward anyway.

Serve others. Live without fear.

Lance J. LoRusso is a former law enforcement officer, attorney and founder of the Blue Line Lawyer Institute. He is the author of the new book “Serve Others. Live Without Fear: Adopting a Fear-Free Mindset in a Fear-Driven World.”



LORUSSO

What to watch TUESDAY

September 22, 2026

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

WNBA Basketball

ESPN, beginning at 8 p.m. Live

ESPN airs a WNBA doubleheader featuring the Minnesota Lynx at the Indiana Fever and the L.A. Sparks at the Las Vegas Aces.

Judge Judy: Unfiltered, Unforgettable

CBS, 8 p.m.

Judge Judy Sheindlin gets candid about life and celebrates 30 years as a TV icon in this 90-minute primetime special. Celebrities Amy Poehler, RuPaul, Samuel L. Jackson, Sherry Lansing and Steven Spielberg, as well as family members, lifelong friends, former colleagues and litigants, share their favorite Judge Judy stories.

Best Medicine

FOX, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Josh Charles returns as Martin Best, a brilliant surgeon who leaves Boston to become the general practitioner in a quaint East Coast fishing village. In the Season 2 premiere “Be Careful What You Fish For,” a mermaid washes ashore in Port Wenn to the amazement of everyone in town.

Doc

FOX, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The drama following Dr. Amy Larsen (Molly Parker) as she struggles with memory loss returns for Season 3 with “Wherefore Art Thou,” in which Amy and Sonya (Anya Bajerjee) must coach a fresh crop of interns through a mysterious case that seems to defy medical logic. Blair Underwood joins the cast as Dr. Ben Grant, a supremely confident trauma and cardiothoracic surgeon who often clashes with Amy.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



DAWNHOFFMANN.COM

House Shock

HGTV, 9 p.m. ■ New Series

This covert renovation series finds unsuspecting homeowners, who were nominated by their sneaky loved ones, receiving surprise makeovers for the spaces they've neglected, abandoned or just plain hate. Series host and designer Arielle Vandenberg, along with a resourceful construction team led by builder and former *Battle on the Beach* win-

ner Steve Lewis, will keep each edge-of-your-seat renovation on track and on time.

R.J. Decker

ABC, 10 p.m.

A missing man, a mysterious item and a dangerous stranger in a pickup truck pull R.J. (Scott Speedman) into one of his strangest cases yet in the new episode “Manos: Hands of Fate.”

CATCH A CLASSIC

TCM Spotlight: Swashbucklers

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Swashbucklers changed with the times, and this lineup focuses on the genre's adventurous 1960s and '70s revival. 1975's **The Four Musketeers** (pictured) reunites Michael York, Oliver Reed, Frank Finlay and Richard Chamberlain for the second half of director Richard Lester's Musketeers saga. Next, Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn play older versions of the legendary outlaw and Maid Marian in the bittersweet **Robin and Marian** (1976). Roger Ebert praised this poignant take on the Robin Hood legend for the warmth and emotional depth it



FOX-RANK

brought to Connery and Hepburn's aging characters, describing the film as being about “the end of youth and high romance.” Other films in the lineup include the TCM premiere of 1976's **Swashbuckler**, along with 1960's **Sword of Sherwood Forest** and 1962's **Seven Seas to Calais**.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



CHRISTOPHER RAPHAEL

Junebug (2024, Romance) Autumn Reeser, Aaron O'Connell **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

Deep Impact (1998, Action) Robert Duvall, Tea Leoni **BBC America, 6:30 p.m.**

The Beekeeper (2024, Action) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Supergirl (2026, Action) Milly Alcock, Matthias Schoenaerts **HBO, 7:10 p.m.**

The Wood (1999, Drama) Omar Epps, Taye Diggs **Starz, 7:10 p.m.**

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard **TNT, 8 p.m.**

The Way to You (2026, Romance) Kim Matula, Aaron O'Connell **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011, Action) Nicolas Cage, Idris Elba **SYFY, 8:30 p.m.**

Toy Story 2 (1999, Children) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen **Freeform, 8:55 p.m.**

The Perfect Storm (2000, Suspense) George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

Wrath of Man (2021, Action) Jason Statham, Holt McCallany **AMC, 9:30 p.m.**

Danger in the House (2022, Suspense) Rebecca Liddiard, Kathryn Kohut **LMN, 10 p.m.**

Cape Fear (1991, Suspense) Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte **Sundance, 11:05 p.m.**

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What to watch WEDNESDAY

September 23, 2026

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

WNBA Basketball

CNBC & USA Network, beginning at 8 p.m. Live

Catch the Atlanta Dream at the N.Y. Liberty (USA Network) and the Dallas Wings at the Seattle Storm (USA Network and CNBC).

Survivor

CBS, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Season 51 finds for the first time in the series' history every advantage and every twist ever used in the game is in play (along with dangerous new elements never seen before) as a fresh crop of players try to outwit, outplay and outlast to be the sole survivor.

The Floor

FOX, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The 100 new competitors for Season 6 all have something in common. They all are champions in some particular walk of their life, be it an NCAA volleyball champion or a barbecue world champion. Host Rob Lowe is ready to give away another \$250,000, as contestants vie to be the last person standing on the floor.



SCOTT DUNCAN, CBS

99 to Beat

FOX, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The game show is back for Season 2 with 100 more contestants taking on simple and hilarious challenges to be the last one standing and win the \$1 million grand prize. Ken Jeong and Erin Andrews host.

America's Got Talent

NBC, 9 p.m. Live ■ Season Finale

Host Terry Crews reveals who America has chosen as AGT's Season 21 winner in the live finale results show, which also features special guest performers.

NOVA

PBS, 9 p.m.

The new episode “Knowledge Keepers” explores how Indigenous communities in North America have long practiced a distinct version of science and engineering. See how centuries of observation, experimentation and adaptation have forged solutions to complex challenges.

Ages of Ice

PBS, 10 p.m.

In the new episode “Polar Seas,” scientists explore the importance of the polar seas as oceans warm and sea ice disappears.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



CLAUDETTE BARIUS

Toy Story 3 (2010, Children) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen **Freeform, 6:30 p.m.**

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986, Comedy) Matthew Broderick, Alan Ruck **AMC, 7 p.m.**

The Hunger Games (2012, Science fiction) Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson **SYFY, 7 p.m.**

Turbulence (2025, Suspense) Hera Hilmar, Jeremy Irvine **Starz, 7:20 p.m.**

The Shining (1980, Horror) Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall **BBC America, 7:30 p.m.**

Haul Out the Halloween (2025, Comedy) Stephen Tobolowsky, Kimberly J. Brown **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Killing All My Sisters (2024, Suspense) Isabella Carlsen, Muretta Moss **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Hangover Part II (2011, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms **Paramount, 8:30 p.m.**

Michael (2026, Biography) Jaafar Jackson, Colman Domingo **Starz, 9 p.m.**

True Lies (1994, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis **AMC, 9:30 p.m.**

Contagion (2011, Suspense) Marion Cotillard, Matt Damon **HBO, 10 p.m.**

The Forever Purge (2021, Action) Ana de la Reguera, Josh Lucas **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

Jerry Maguire (1996, Romance-comedy) Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding Jr. **FX, 11:30 p.m.**

500+ MOVIES

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TV - What to watch

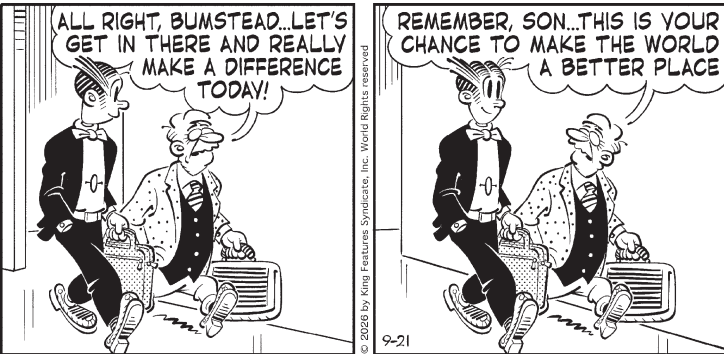
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



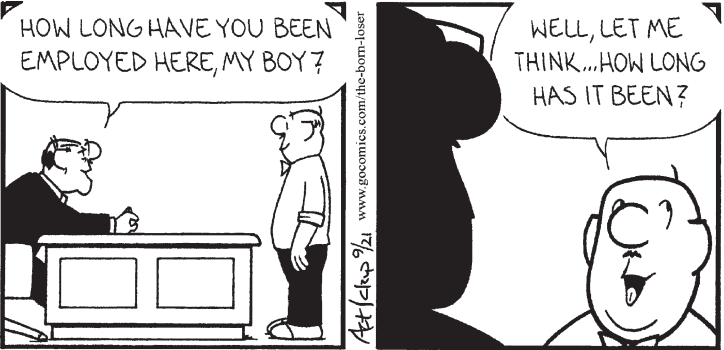
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



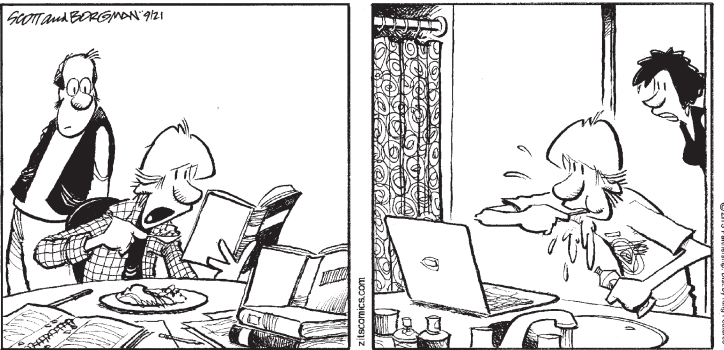
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



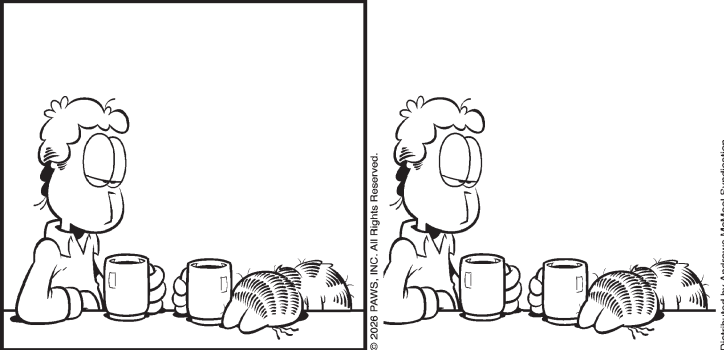
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



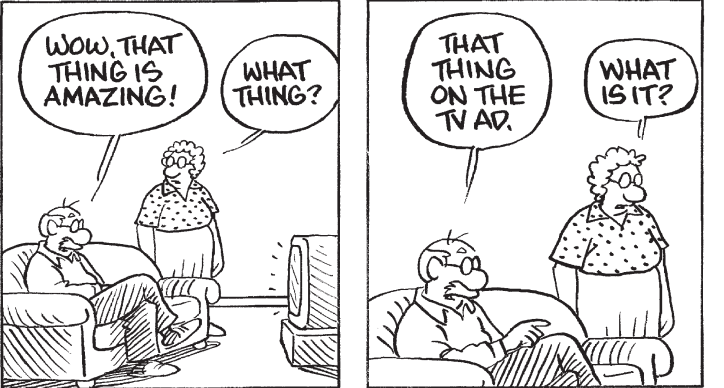
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane

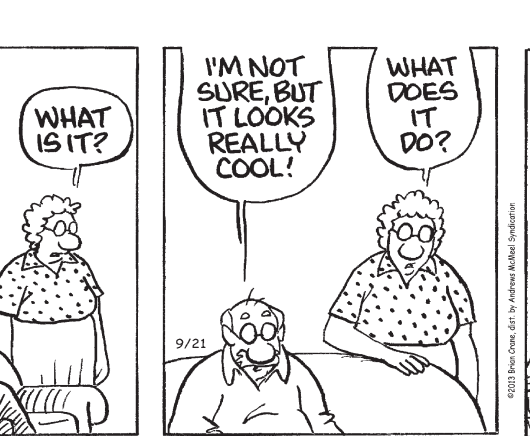
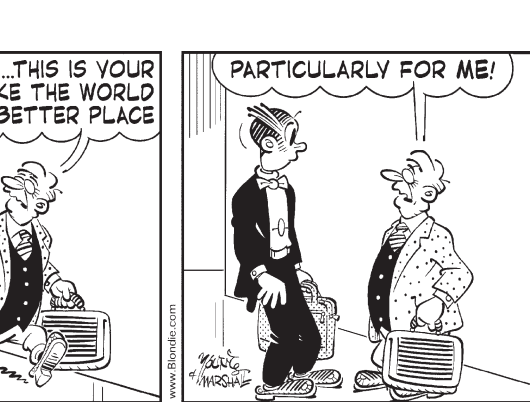
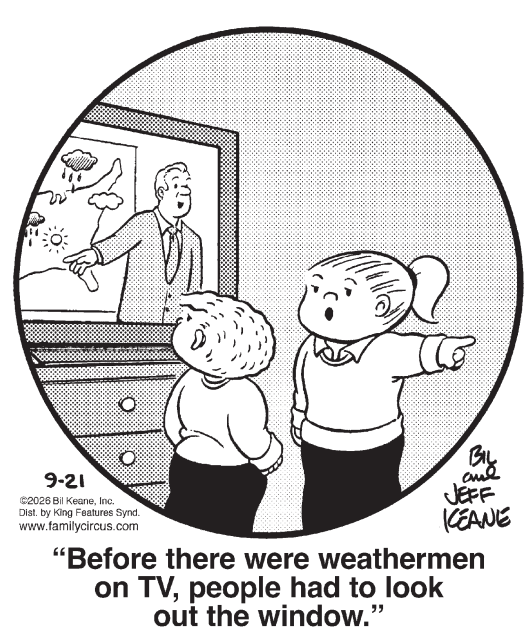


SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bill Keane



WHATZIT?

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

bolt broth butt

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:

Lock, stock and barrel

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

- Edited by Patti Varol
- ACROSS**
- 1 Dot-___: online businesses
 - 5 Capital of South Korea
 - 10 Clever remark
 - 14 Shape of many a car logo
 - 15 Inner circle
 - 16 Caterer's coffee servers
 - 17 "Just act naturally!"
 - 19 AirPods holders
 - 20 Chocolatey treats that may have walnuts
 - 21 Portable device with a touchscreen
 - 23 Baby bear
 - 24 ___ farewell: said goodbye
 - 25 Vietnam War film directed by Stanley Kubrick
 - 33 Between ports
 - 34 Second-string players
 - 35 Lamb's mother
 - 36 Sow's opposite
 - 37 Renewable energy option
 - 38 Safari park roarer
 - 39 Gloomy ___: pessimistic sort
 - 40 Comedian Wyatt
 - 41 Annoys
 - 42 Quickly resolved legal matter
 - 46 Finishes up
 - 47 Part of FTW and BTW
 - 48 Talks back to
 - 51 Morton who plays Circe in "The Odyssey"
 - 56 Help in wrongdoing
 - 57 Do the same, and what the ends of 17-, 25-, and 42-Across can do
 - 59 Genuine
 - 60 Face-to-face exams
 - 61 Prefix with skeleton
 - 62 Like a couch potato
 - 63 Move, as a root-bound houseplant
- DOWN**
- 1 Salad with bacon and eggs
 - 2 "Back to you," in radio lingo
 - 3 BLT spread
 - 4 Insincere round of applause
 - 5 Book copier of old
 - 6 Loosen (up)
 - 7 Poems of praise
 - 8 Address that often starts with "www"
 - 9 Not quite closed
 - 10 Montreal's province
 - 11 Eurasian border river
 - 12 Memo heading
 - 13 Soft "Hey, you!"
 - 18 E pluribus
 - 22 Singer Lambert
 - 24 Laundry whitener
 - 25 North Dakota city
 - 26 Spend all of
 - 27 Rental contract
 - 28 Govt.-issued investments
 - 29 Book of maps
 - 30 Knightley of "Bend It Like Beckham"
 - 31 Furry "Star Wars" creatures
 - 32 Uptight
 - 37 Summons
 - 38 Officially permitted to drive, say
 - 40 Walking stick
 - 43 Big name in milk chocolate
 - 44 Ultimate
 - 45 Melt
 - 48 South Asian silk dress
 - 49 Tucked in for the night
 - 50 Barking marine mammal
 - 51 Smack
 - 52 French greeting
 - 53 Song
 - 54 Keep out of sight
 - 55 Tiny particle
 - 58 Mine yield

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

09/21/26

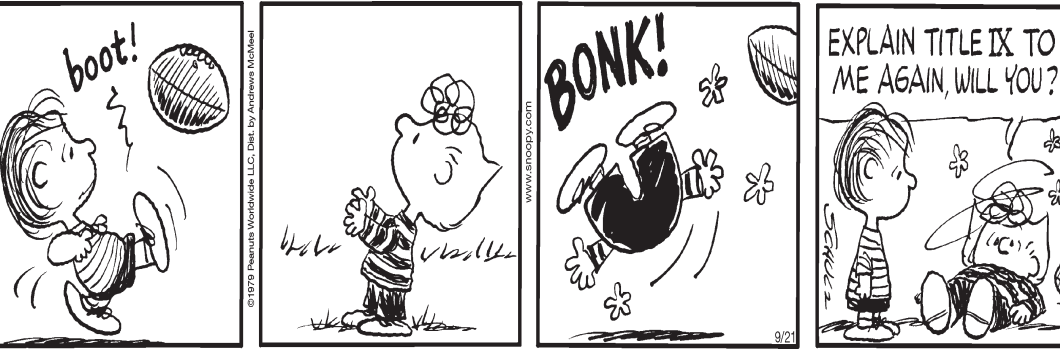
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14					15					16		
17				18						19		
20								21	22			
			23				24					
25	26	27			28	29				30	31	32
33					34					35		
36					37					38		
39				40						41		
42			43					44	45			
			46					47				
48	49	50				51	52			53	54	55
56					57	58						
59					60					61		
62					63					64		

By Janice Luttrell ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

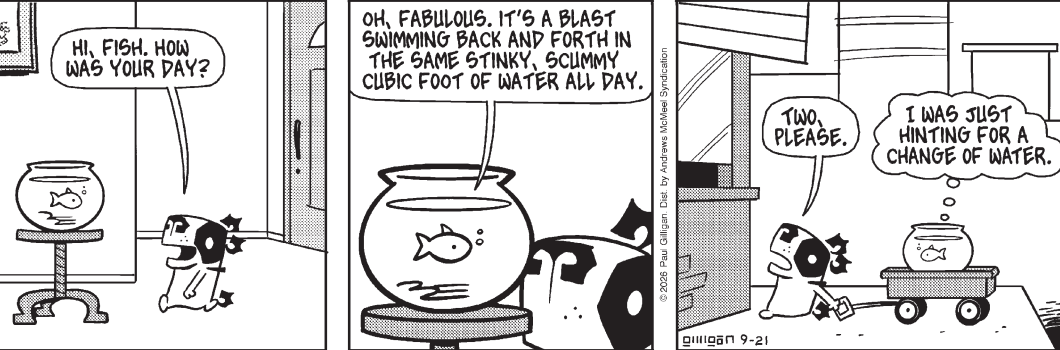
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

ROLEX WATCHES Solution: 6 letters

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

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Alfred, Appraisal, Balance, Bracelet, Cellini, Couture, Crystals, Davis, Deepsea, Dial, Elegant, Flute, Geneva, Gold, Hairspring, Hands, Hans Wilsdorf, Haute, Helium, Jubilee, Lean, Luxury, Main, Manufacture, Milgauss, Perpetual, Precision, Professional, Rolex, Serial, Size, Smooth, Steel, Swiss, Switzerland, Task, Tell, Thin, Time

TODAY'S ANSWER: Oyster

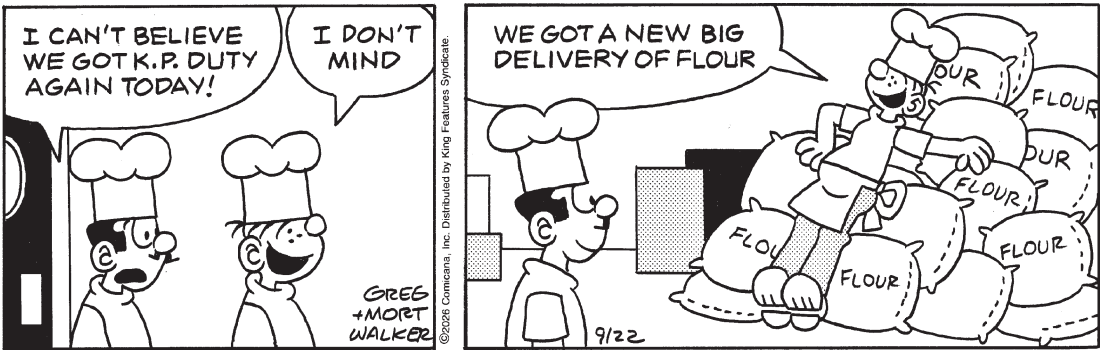
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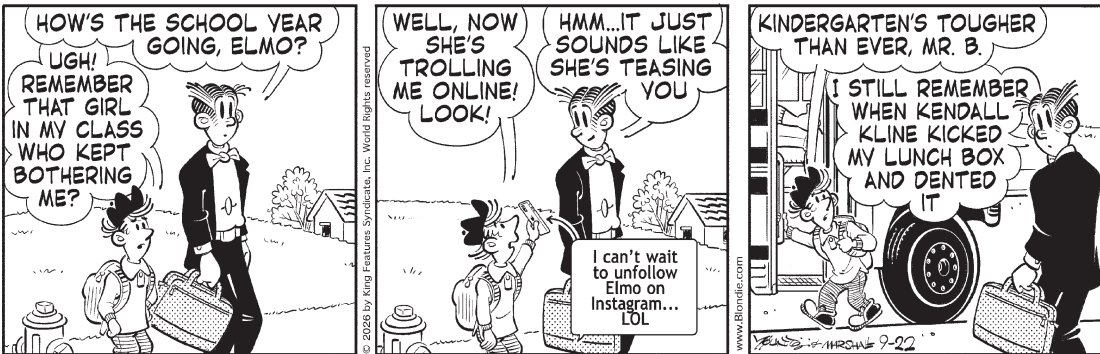
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



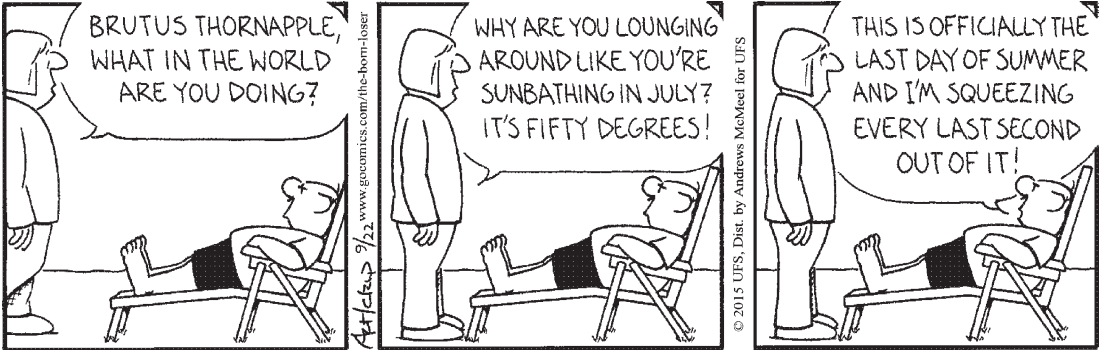
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



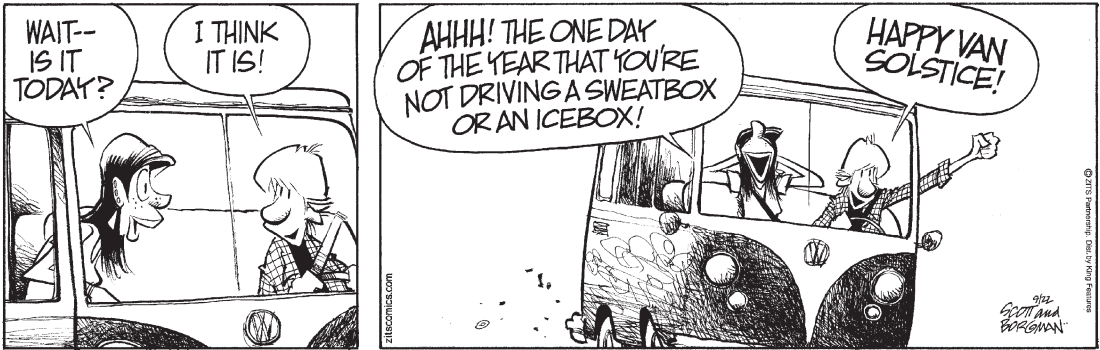
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



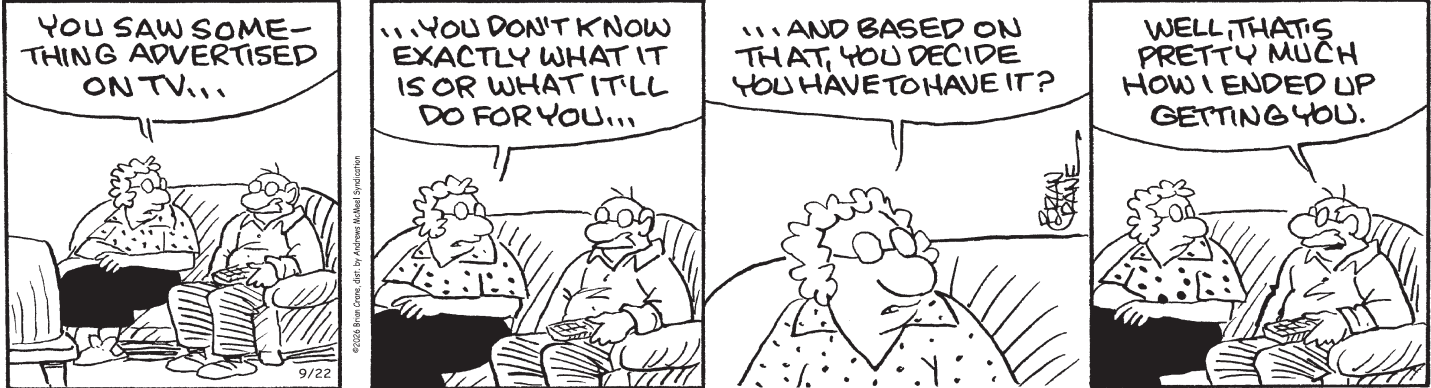
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

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:
A pair of overalls

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Light metal
 - 4 Tater
 - 8 Mafia bigwigs
 - 12 In the past
 - 13 Relaxation
 - 14 Release
 - 15 Simple bed
 - 16 Actor — Reynolds
 - 17 Isinglass
 - 18 Treasure stash
 - 20 Sea duck
 - 22 Tried for political office
 - 23 Stunt
 - 24 Takeout option
 - 27 Kingly
 - 31 Fish eggs
 - 32 Marine seaweed
 - 34 Fuss
 - 35 No longer fashionable
 - 36 Missile housing
- DOWN**
- 1 Diplomacy
 - 2 Composer — Stravinsky

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

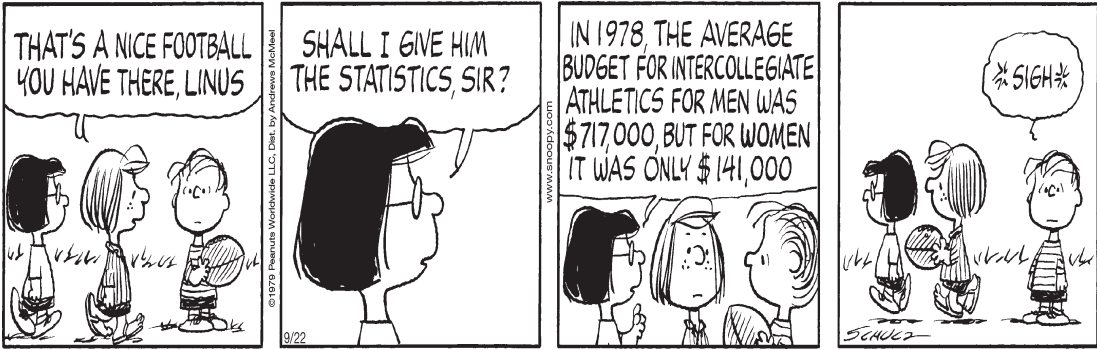
- 3 Infamy
- 4 Tranquil
- 5 Salary
- 6 "Born in the —"
- 7 Thick
- 8 Lower in rank
- 9 Drop
- 10 Agreeable
- 11 Luminary
- 19 Moving truck
- 21 Complain
- 23 Antenna
- 24 Large reptile, for short
- 25 60 minutes
- 26 Schuss
- 28 Enter uninvited
- 29 First fellow
- 30 Sole
- 33 Smoked salmon
- 36 Slow-cooked dish
- 39 Subatomic particle
- 41 Hypnotic state
- 42 Decay
- 44 Wrath
- 46 Horse's gait
- 47 Flexible tube
- 48 Actor's part
- 50 Ancient Peruvian
- 51 Mine entrance
- 54 Unclose, poetically
- 55 Humor

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

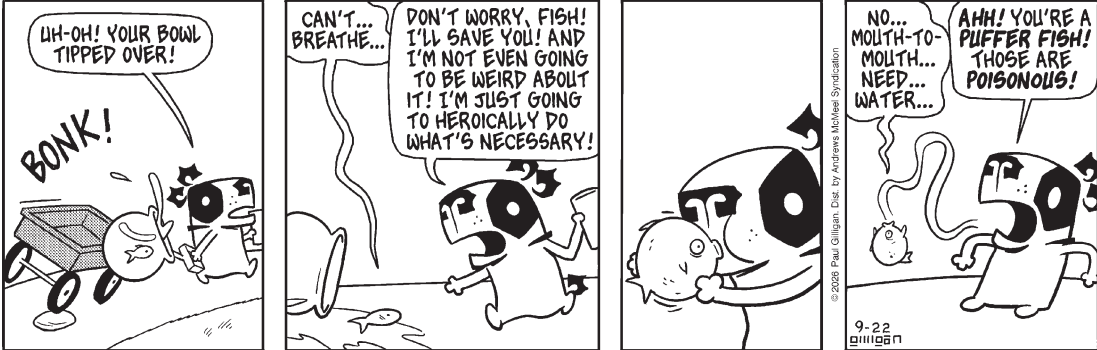
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

BONNIE TYLER (1951-2026) **Solution: 12 letters**

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

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9/22

Albums, Authentic, Avis, Ballads, Blues, CBS, Charts, Committed, Country, Duet, Eighties, Gaynor, Genres, Harmony, Heartache, Hero, Hopkins, Jim Steinman, Lost in France, Lynn, Marriage, My! My! Honeycomb, Nashville, Passion, Paul, Recording, Robert, Rock, Sing, Sony, Success, Sullivan, Touring, Vinyl, Voice, Wales, Welsh

TODAY'S ANSWER: Total Eclipse

Georgia DOT helps establish pollinator meadows on highway rights-of-way

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — The Georgia Department of Transportation and The Ray have partnered to establish monarch butterfly pollinator meadows at nine Georgia DOT highway right-of-way sites across the state.

The nine meadows represent Georgia DOT’s first installed acres banked through the Nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Monarch Butterfly on Energy and Transportation Lands, a voluntary conservation initiative that encourages transportation agencies to create, maintain and manage monarch butterfly habitat on transportation lands.

“Monarch butterfly populations have been declining in recent years, and these pollinator sites demonstrate how transportation infrastructure and environmental stewardship can create meaningful conservation opportunities,” Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry said “The Ray has long been a valued and trusted partner of the department, and we are pleased to continue our collaboration

to help protect and preserve monarch butterfly habitats.”

Through this collaborative effort, Georgia DOT prepared the roadside sites and implemented conservation mowing practices, adjusting mowing schedules to allow native vegetation and flowering plants to grow and provide habitat and nectar for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. The Ray coordinated the planting and evaluation of the habitats, monitoring plant growth and coverage, pollinator activity, and how well native vegetation performs under different roadside conditions.

“Installing these meadows across Georgia gave us the opportunity to take what we’ve learned through years of roadside research on The Ray Highway and apply it at a much larger scale,” Josh Weaver, natural capital manager at The Ray, said. “Each site presents different soils, slopes and growing conditions, so this work is about more than planting wildflowers. We’re demonstrating how Georgia’s highway rights-of-way can be intentionally managed to provide meaningful monarch and pollinator habitat while



Special Photo: Georgia DOT

The Georgia Department of Transportation and The Ray have partnered to establish monarch butterfly pollinator meadows at nine Georgia DOT highway right-of-way sites across the state.

also evaluating native vegetation as a practical tool for slope stabilization, erosion control and long-term roadside management.”

Georgia DOT and The Ray will continue monitoring the nine meadow sites as the plant-

ings become established. Information gathered from the project will help partners evaluate the use of native vegetation for roadside habitat and slope stabilization and identify opportunities for future work.

Georgia sets new records for labor force; unemployment falls to 3.2%

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — The Georgia Department of Labor has announced that Georgia reached new all-time highs in both its labor force (5,490,319) and employment (5,314,822) in August, and that the state’s unemployment rate declined to 3.2%.

Georgia’s unemployment rate is 0.9 percentage points below the national rate. One year ago, the state’s unemployment rate was 3.4%.

“Georgia’s job market is stronger than ever,” Georgia Labor Commissioner Bárbara Rivera Holmes said. “With August bringing record-breaking labor force and employment numbers alongside a two-and-a-half-year low unemployment rate of 3.2%, our state’s economy is thriving. These milestones translate to real opportunities

for families and businesses, and we remain committed to ensuring a mortgage-paying career is within reach of everyone who wants it.”

In August, Georgia’s labor force increased by 9,498 to 5,490,319, an all-time high, and rose by 68,659 over the past year. Employment rose by 13,013 to an all-time high of 5,314,822 and was up 76,272 over the past year.

Unemployment declined by 3,515 to 175,497 and was down 7,613 over the past 12 months. The unemployment rate was at its lowest level since February 2024, when it was also 3.2%.

In August, jobs were up 8,000 over the month to 4,985,700 and were down 7,300 over the year. Jobs in Georgia are now up after being down for two months in a row.

The sectors with the most over-the-month job gains



Special Logo

were administrative and support services, 3,200; state government, 3,200; retail trade, 2,200; durable goods manufacturing, 1,300; and health care and social assistance, 1,300.

Jobs were down over the month in non-durable goods manufacturing, 1,800; private educational services, 1,400; transportation, warehousing, and utilities, 1,200; information, 1,000; and wholesale trade, 600.

The sectors with the most job gains over the past year were health care and social

assistance, 19,100; durable goods manufacturing, 4,400; local government, 4,300; administrative and support services, 4,000; and state government, 3,400.

Jobs were down over the year in professional and technical services, 11,600; federal government, 9,400; non-durable goods manufacturing, 5,100; transportation, warehousing and utilities, 5,000; and construction, 3,200.

Initial claims decreased by 3,323 over the month to 16,827 in August and were down 1,794 over the year.



Special Logo

Georgia Southwestern State University

Southwest Georgia students recognized by colleges, universities

By Carlton Fletcher

carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

Georgia Southwestern State University – President’s, Dean’s Lists

AMERICUS -- The following local residents made the summer 2026 President’s List at Georgia Southwestern State University and were among 613 students recognized for scholastic achievement.

Shelby Bennett of Leesburg
Celestial Collins of Albany
Key’ Andrea Crapp of Albany

Quartavion Davis of Albany
Chase Moore of Leesburg
Melvin Nealy of Leesburg
Daimien Peters of Albany
Kaayla Polite of Leesburg
Mikayla Wentzell of Leesburg

Alexcia West of Albany

The following local residents made the summer 2026 Dean’s List at Georgia Southwestern State University.

Andrew Dawson of Albany
Shakesha Ennels of Leesburg

Britany Hayes of Dawson
Grace Mallow of Albany
Collin Phillips of Sylvester
Henry Plowden of Albany
Delaney Renfroe of Leesburg

Elisa Sanchez of Ty Ty

Ka’mya Washington of Leesburg

Sakoyriah West of Dawson

Southern New Hampshire University -- Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, N.H.

-- Southern New Hampshire University is recognizing the following students for being named to the summer 2026 Dean’s List. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. Local student recognized include:

Lakeisha Jenkins of Albany
Ebony Rivers of Albany
Carolynn Williams of Albany

Kenyata Hammond Daniels of Albany

Jahaziel Sarria of Albany

Carla Harris of Albany

Laquesha Donaldson of Albany

Stella Prince of Albany

Alexander Gordy of Poulan

Kania Vicks of Albany

Jalisia Duncan of Albany

Alltonese Gray of Albany

Kennesaw State University -- President’s, Dean’s Lists

KENNESAW -- Kennesaw State University has named more than 1,700 students to the President’s List in recognition of their academic excellence for the summer 2026 semester. To achieve this honor, each undergraduate student must have completed at least nine credit hours with a term grade-point average of 4.0. Students from

the area earning President’s List recognition are:

Nabeeha Tazeen of Leesburg, majoring in Cybersecurity

Noor Hassan of Leesburg, majoring in Management

Noor Muhammad of Leesburg, majoring in Computer Science

Shamaiyah Davis of Pelham, majoring in Health and Physical Activity Leadership

Montavian Walker of Leesburg, majoring in Nursing

Noelia Bermudez of Albany, majoring in Biology

Kali Nicholson of Leesburg, majoring in Political Science

Kennesaw State University is recognizing the more than 1,500 students named to the Dean’s List in recognition of their academic achievement during the summer 2026 semester. Undergraduate students enrolled in at least nine credit hours and with a term grade-point average of at least 3.5 were named to the list. Southwest Georgia students earning Dean’s List honors are:

Jay Patel of Leesburg, majoring in Finance

Alexander Clark of Leesburg, majoring in Information Technology

Taniyah Billings of Leesburg, majoring in Biology

Georgia State University -- President’s, Dean’s Lists

ATLANTA --

To be eligible for the President’s List during the summer semester, degree-seeking students must have earned a GPA of at least 4.0 for a minimum of six semester hours of academic credit taken at Georgia State with no incompletes for the semester. Students who made the President’s List from southwest Georgia include:

Chantis Billings of Leesburg

Tamira Collins of Albany

Mya Favors of Albany

Annie Ho of Leesburg

Jamarine Jackson of Leesburg

Suntrell Mitchell of Albany

Kassiel Robinson of Albany

Alexandria Scott of Albany

Camille Shedrick of Leesburg

Gary Wright of Albany

To be eligible for the Dean’s List during the summer semester at Georgia State University, degree-seeking students with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 must earn a 3.50 GPA for the semester and complete at least 6 semester hours of academic credit with no incompletes. Local students who made the Dean’s List include:

Elijah Baker of Albany

Sariya Burkes of Albany

Rae Johnson of Albany

Tania Lamar of Albany

Tykerian Mathis of Sale City

Lake Owen of Leesburg

Konner Paschal of Albany

Yasukumar Patel of Sylvester

Samiya Sherman of Albany

Joshua Thomas of Albany

Madelin Vasquez of Albany

Claudia Vicente Martin of Albany

Olivia Walker of Albany

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	VALUE	UNINCORPORATED	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
		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	VALUE	INCORPORATED	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
		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%	

Braves rest Sale with October in mind

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

ATLANTA — Whether the celebration came over the weekend or had to wait a few more days, the Atlanta Braves have been preparing for October for some time. Their plan for Chris Sale makes that clear. The Braves skipped Sale’s turn during the weekend series at Houston, giving the 37-year-old left-hander an extended break before his final regular-season start Wednes-

day against Cincinnati. The decision allows Sale to carry six additional days of rest into that outing and remain positioned to start Atlanta’s postseason opener with another extra day between starts. “It’s a little bit of an extended break,” Braves manager Walt Weiss said. “But we feel it sets him up for the postseason.” Atlanta entered the final full week of the regular season with a comfortable lead over Philadelphia in the Na-

tional League East and needed a combination of five Braves victories and Phillies losses to secure its seventh division championship in nine seasons. That cushion gave the Braves an opportunity to prioritize Sale’s health over keeping him on a conventional pitching schedule. Few pitchers have benefited more from additional rest. Sale ranked third in the major leagues with a 2.18 ERA when the Braves mapped out his remaining schedule. He

has pitched on normal rest only twice this season, with the most recent occurrence coming April 6. In 13 starts with one extra day of rest, Sale posted a 1.67 ERA. He had a 2.17 ERA in 11 outings following more than one additional day. Since his last start on regular rest, Sale has produced a 1.98 ERA across 23 appearances. The Braves would gladly

See **BRAVES**, 10A



File Photo

Braves ace Chris Sale will receive an extended break before making his final regular-season start Wednesday against Cincinnati, positioning him for extra rest before Atlanta’s postseason opener.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

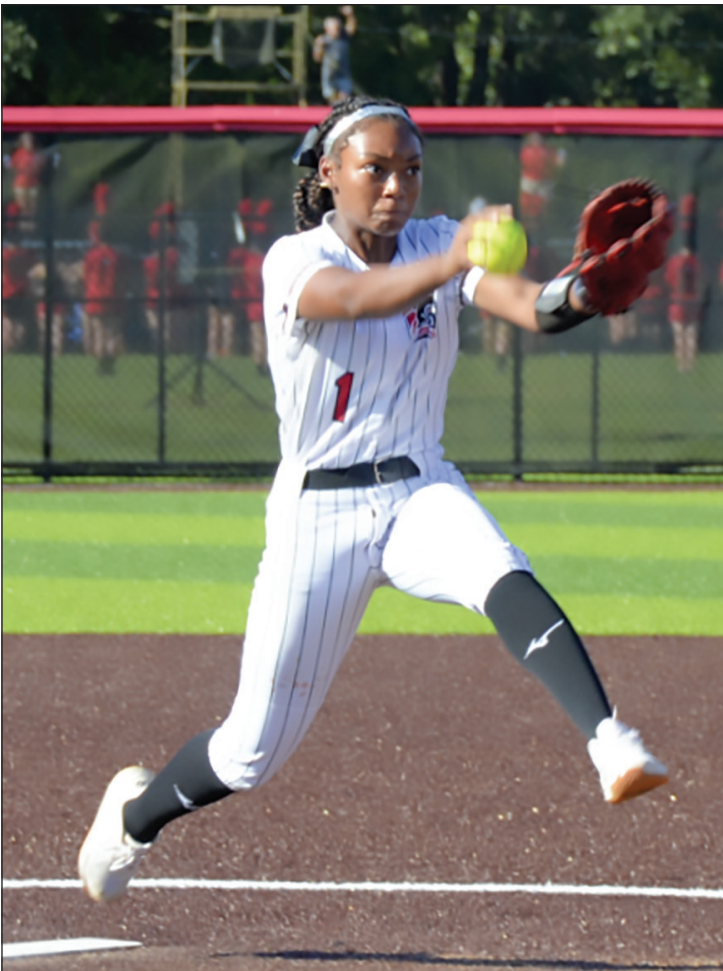
Lee County catcher Porter Butler tags out Houston County’s Ann Marie Defore during the third inning of Thursday’s first game in Leesburg.

Softball Roundup:
Lee sweeps;
Terrell, Worth win

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Two days after Houston County ended Lee County’s 17-game winning streak, the Lady Trojans answered in the most convincing way possible. Lee County swept the Lady Bears in a Thursday doubleheader that stretched until nearly 10 p.m., winning the opener 7-4 on Kennady Patrick’s walk-off home run in

the eighth inning before pulling away for an 11-3 victory in the nightcap. The sweep improved Lee County to 19-2 and gave coach Hannah Spencer the response she wanted after Tuesday’s 6-1 loss in Warner Robins. “I wasn’t satisfied with how we competed and our approach at the platoon Tuesday,” Spencer said. “Tonight we turned it around. That’s what you want to see from your team — fight and compete until the very



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Senior pitcher Tina Benton pitched a complete game over the Lady Bears of Houston County Thursday afternoon. She gave up six hits and four runs but only two were earned. She also smacked a double to the center field fence to knock in the Lady Trojans’ first run.

last pitch.” Patrick provided the defining moment. Houston County carried a 4-3 lead into the bottom of the seventh inning before Jaydynne Frisbee delivered a two-out, pinch-hit single that helped Lee County pull even. An inning later, Patrick launched a three-run homer over the left-field fence, ending a tense opener and touching off a game-winning celebration. “Kennady ‘KP’ Patrick is a senior who hit a three-run walk-off home run,” Spencer said. “Both of these kids have worked for moments like this, and I couldn’t be happier for them. Both of them earned that moment, and our whole team earned that win.” Lee County built its initial 3-0

See **ROUNDUP** 10A

Khalil Barnes
happy to be home

By John Frierson
UGAAA

Khalil Barnes is back on familiar ground. “I’m used to being here. I don’t have to tell my GPS how to get to Piggly Wiggly,” said the senior safety from Athens, who spent three seasons at Clemson before transferring to Georgia in the spring. Sanford Stadium is familiar to Barnes, too. His grandmother, Glenda Brown, owned Peaches Fine Foods and used to cater Georgia events, and he would go to the games. He would go and dream about one day playing on Dooley Field. “I was always thinking, I’m going to go to Georgia. I’m from here, and it’s going to be so cool,” he said. Eventually, he did. But not right away. A bit of a “late bloomer” on the football field, Barnes, who played wide receiver, defensive back and returned kicks and punts at North Oconee High School, didn’t have many scholarship offers from major schools until his senior year, he said. He originally committed to Wake Forest before eventually deciding between Clemson, Oklahoma and Notre Dame. “I didn’t get offered by Clemson until the fourth game of my senior year in high school,” he said. “I was kind of like a late bloomer with the bigger offers.” He chose Clemson and made an immediate impact. As a freshman, he had 41 tackles, including five for loss, as well as six pass breakups, three forced fumbles and a team-high three interceptions. All of that earned him multiple postseason honors, including multiple First-Team Freshman All-American awards. He followed that with 60 tackles, five pass breakups and a team-high four interceptions as a sophomore. In the 2024 season opener against Georgia at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, a 34-3 Bulldog win, Barnes had a pair of tackles and a pass breakup. Last season, he had 46 tackles and 10 pass breakups. And then he hopped into the transfer portal. “Everything in the portal kind of happens quick, so you’re having to figure out what teams want you and what teams do you feel like you can really see yourself at,” he said. “And when I weighed my options, I felt like there wasn’t a big decision to be made. Coach (Kirby) Smart laid it out flat to me,

See **BARNES** 10A



Special Photo: Tony Walsh, UGAAA

Georgia safety Khalil Jones is enjoying being back in his hometown of Athens, near his family, after returning to play at Georgia following three years with the Clemson Tigers.

Sumter County downs Albany Middle

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — The game clock finally did what Sumter County’s defense could not. It stopped Albany Middle. The Indians spent Wednesday afternoon falling behind, fighting back and refusing to go quietly at Hugh Mills Stadium. They recovered a fumble. They surrendered a defensive touchdown. They trailed by 14 points with barely three minutes remaining, then somehow got the football back with one last chance to win. Only when the final seconds disappeared could Sumter County exhale. The Panthers escaped with a 26-20 victory, handing Albany Middle its first loss of the season and dropping the Indians to 5-1. This was a middle school football game that came with a varsity-sized finish.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Albany Middle wide receiver Christian Watson pulls in a pass from quarterback Josiah West during Wednesday’s game at Hugh Mills Stadium. Watson scored on a 31-yard pass play in the second quarter to give the Indians a lead. It didn’t last, however, as Sumter County won 26-20.

Both teams scored during an eventful first quarter, and Sumter County appeared ready to add to its lead late in the period. Instead, the Panthers lost the football, and Albany’s Christian Watson recovered. The quarter ended before the Indians could take advantage, but their drive continued. Albany moved inside the Sumter County 15-yard line before a penalty and a sack pushed the Indians all the way back to the 31. What appeared to be a promising drive was suddenly in danger of producing nothing. Quarterback Josiah West fixed that with one throw. West found Watson behind the Panthers’ defense and delivered a perfect strike for a 31-yard touchdown. The play gave Albany a 12-8 lead and offered the first indication that the Indians weren’t

See **DOWN**S, 10A

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From 9A

DOWNS

going to be discouraged easily.

A celebration penalty pushed the two-point attempt back near the 20-yard line. West completed a pass to Lionel Jackson Jr., who fought his way toward the goal line but was stopped just short.

The missed conversion would matter later.

Albany's defense forced a stop on Sumter County's next possession, giving the Indians the ball at their own 26 with an opportunity to take control.

Instead, the game turned in an instant.

A bad snap hit the ground on Albany's first play. A Sumter County defender scooped up the loose ball and raced into the end zone, giving the Panthers a 14-12 halftime lead without their offense taking the field.

Neither team scored in the third quarter, but Sumter County began creating separation early in the fourth.

The Panthers put together a five-play touchdown drive to extend their lead to 20-12. When Albany couldn't answer and was forced to punt, time began working against the Indians.

Then came the play that appeared to finish them.

On Sumter County's first snap after the punt, a Panthers runner broke free for a 55-yard touchdown. The lead was 26-12 with just more than

From 9A

BARNES

and I thought this is just the best opportunity for me."

At his news conference on Monday, Smart said he's liked what he's seen from Barnes so far.

"High level of maturity. He was very well coached where he was. Very scheme-diverse. Very Intelligent, picking things up," Smart said. "He's been a good leader and a constant for us in terms of being consistent in his performance."

Barnes has started Georgia's first two games in the Star position, as a hybrid defensive back/linebacker. When the Bulldogs opened their season against Tennessee State on Sept. 5, Barnes' childhood dream finally came true. He was in a Georgia

From 9A

BRAVES

accept anything close to that production in October.

Sale is expected to headline a postseason rotation that also includes Tyler Mahle, Grant Holmes and Martín Pérez. Those three handled Atlanta's weekend series in Houston while Sale remained on his extended break.

The four-man group gives the Braves a postseason plan. What comes behind it has become less certain.

Atlanta's starting-pitching depth has been stretched by injuries throughout the season. Bryce Elder recently underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee, and Reynaldo López returned to the injured list after revealing that he had experienced intermittent discomfort in his right shoulder.

López allowed five runs in three innings during a loss to the Chicago Cubs before the Braves shut him down.

That forced Atlanta to promote 23-year-old JR Ritchie for the series finale at Wrigley Field. Ritchie was making his first major-league start since Aug. 2 and encountered a Chicago lineup that offered little forgiveness.

Pete Crow-Armstrong homered, tripled and walked against the right-hander. Alex Bregman doubled home a run in the first inning, homered

three minutes remaining.

Two touchdowns down. Almost out of time. First loss of the season approaching.

Albany responded as if none of that mattered.

West connected with Jamikel Tiller for a long completion that carried the Indians to the Sumter County 11. Two plays later, West found Jackson for a touchdown. The two-point conversion cut the Panthers' lead to 26-20.

Now Sumter County needed only to run out the clock.

Albany's defense wouldn't let it.

The Indians stuffed the Panthers on the next possession, leaving Sumter County facing fourth down with only seconds remaining. Rather than punt, the Panthers attempted a halfback pass.

Albany intercepted it.

Suddenly, the Indians had the football at their own 30-yard line with 43 seconds remaining and one final opportunity to turn a certain defeat into an improbable victory.

West completed two quick passes to move Albany near midfield. The Indians hurried to the line, searching for one more big play.

They never got it.

The final seconds expired before Albany could reach the end zone, allowing Sumter County to escape Hugh Mills Stadium with the victory.

Albany Middle lost for the first time this season. But even in defeat, the Indians demonstrated why they had won their first five.

uniform, running out onto Dooley Field. The meaning of the moment wasn't lost on him, he said.

"That first game was a little emotional for me. It hit me in (pregame) walkthroughs — how much my family has been through and how much I've been through to get there," he said. "Last week (against Western Kentucky) felt more like a normal game. I just kind of had my routine, which was good. But at the end of the day, it's football. I'm just blessed to continue to be able to play."

Barnes, a three-time member of the ACC Honor Roll who has already earned a degree from Clemson, is loving being close to home, close to his family.

"I probably see my family twice a week now, just because they're so close," he said. "It's been really good."

in the fourth and tripled in the fifth.

Ritchie allowed six earned runs and seven hits in 4⅓ innings as the Braves lost 8-4.

"That's a tough lineup to get through for anybody, let alone a young kid," Weiss said. "JR is going to be a good one. He just needs to tighten some things up. He's a young kid."

Ritchie could receive another start Tuesday against Cincinnati. AJ Smith-Shawver is another possibility, although the Braves recently moved him to the bullpen in hopes that his power arm would be more effective in relief.

López's injury may force Atlanta to reconsider that role before the regular season ends.

Those questions matter for navigating the final days of September. Barring another injury, they are unlikely to change the Braves' postseason rotation.

Sale remains the centerpiece.

By moving his final regular-season start to Wednesday, Atlanta has given its best pitcher something the rest of the rotation has rarely enjoyed this season:

A little room to breathe before October arrives.

Texas-Ohio State draws record audience

Field Level Media

Texas' comeback victory over Ohio State last Saturday was ratings gold as it became the most-watched Week 2 game on record, Front Office Sports reported Wednesday.

The 24-23 Texas home victory over then-No. 1 Ohio State not only averaged nearly 14 million viewers for the ESPN-produced game that aired on ABC, it peaked at 16.4 million in a game where the Longhorns erased a 20-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

According to the report, it was the biggest audience for a regular-season college football game produced by ESPN in 10 years.

Last year's 14-7 home victory for Ohio State against Texas drew 16.6 million viewers with a peak of 18.6 million. That game aired on the Fox Network and occurred during the much-anticipated Week 1 of the regular season.

Earlier that Saturday, Michigan's 17-10 home victory over Oklahoma drew 8.2 million viewers on Fox, but that was down from last year's matchup between the teams, which drew 9.7 million viewers on ABC.

Texas (2-0) rose from No. 4 to No. 1 while Ohio State (1-1) fell from No. 1 to No. 6 in the latest Associated Press Top 25 poll.



Special Photo: Adam Cairns

Texas quarterback Arch Manning celebrates with fans after the Longhorns' 24-23 comeback victory over Ohio State, the most-watched Week 2 college football game on record.

Reese scores 30 as Dream rout Sun

Field Level Media

Angel Reese scored 19 of her game-high 30 points in the first half to help the Atlanta Dream earn a 103-59 victory over the visiting Connecticut Sun in College Park, Ga., on Thursday.

Reese also had 10 rebounds and two blocks, while Rhyne Howard added 10 points, eight assists and four steals for Atlanta (27-14), which has won six of its last seven games. Alisha Gray had 10 points and six rebounds and Madina Okot and Te-Hina Paopao both finished with 10 points for the Dream, who held Connecticut to 24 second-half points.

Olivia Nelson-Ododa led the Sun (10-31) with 13 points, followed by Saniya Rivers, Raegan Beers and Ashlon Jackson, who each scored nine points. Connecticut made just 3 of 20 of its 3-point attempts in its fourth straight loss.

Atlanta extended its 10-point



Special Photo: Brett Davis-Imagn Images

Atlanta Dream forward Angel Reese shoots over Connecticut's Olivia Nelson-Ododa during Thursday's game. Reese scored 30 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the Dream's 103-59 victory.

halftime lead to 50-35 as Gray's layup forced a Connecticut timeout with 8:27 left in the third.

Charlissee Leger-Walker

scored the Sun's first second-half points to cut the deficit to 52-37, but Reese began a 6-0 run with a hook shot.

The margin ballooned to

25 after baskets by reserves Isobel Borlase and Okot.

Aaliyah Edwards hit a mid-range jumper to briefly stop the bleeding before Naz Hillmon drilled a 3-pointer and Paopao and Okot had layups to give the Dream an overwhelming 76-46 lead after three quarters.

Atlanta outscored the Sun 27-13 in the fourth quarter en route to its largest margin of victory this season.

Atlanta led 22-17 after the first quarter before opening up its first double-digit lead on Reese's layup with 6:20 left in the second.

A minute later, Reese scored five straight points to extend the lead to 39-25. Jackson stopped the run with a 3-pointer before Reese made two more layups to give the Dream a 43-28 edge.

Okot and Nell Angloma traded layups to end the first half as Atlanta took a 45-35 lead into halftime.

UGA helps shape athlete mental health guidelines

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATHENS — The University of Georgia Athletic Association Mental Health and Performance team recently collaborated with the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) to promote Mental Health Emergency Action Play Development among student-athletes.

UGAAA's Director of Mental Health and Performance, Dr. Dylan Firsick, was a co-author of a consensus statement by the NATA with an objective to provide athletic trainers, team physicians and mental health professionals working with college athletes with updated information on responding to mental health emergencies. Previous guidelines on mental health emergency response had not been published since 2013.

The lead author on the statement is

Tim Neal, a certified athletic trainer, NATA Hall of Fame member and licensed social worker who has spent time working with the UGAAA Mental Health and Performance team in curating careful guidelines surrounding mental health emergencies.

"I'm grateful to Tim Neal, our lead author, and all the other contributors on the consensus statement," shared Dr. Firsick. "Mental health emergency response is something we talk about regularly within our sports medicine and mental health and performance departments here at UGA. I'm fortunate to work with a great staff of mental health professionals, and it is encouraging to know that many of our own policies and procedures are reflected in this paper as a recommended standard for emergency response."

The focus of the new guidelines was to create a mental health emergency

action plan, with the UGAAA's current medical emergency action plan as a model. The new guidelines help medical professionals to identify and recognize collegiate student athletes with psychological concerns, as well as laying out antecedents and expanded circumstances that may challenge the mental health and wellbeing of a student athlete. Further, the new guidelines provide mental health assessment tactics and referral plans for student athletes in need.

For more information regarding the Dr. Firsick's and the University of Georgia Athletic Association's promotion of mental health emergency plans, visit the full consensus statement available in the latest issue of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Journal of Athletic Training. For more information on Student Athlete Mental Health Week, visit HilinskisHope.org.

From 9A

ROUNDUP

lead in the third. Porter Butler walked and scored when Tina Benton drove a ball over the center fielder's head for an RBI double. Makinley Duke followed with another run-scoring double, and Patrick added an RBI single.

Houston County pitcher Allie Hutto hit a two-run homer in the fourth and later dove in the tying run. Callie Bradley's seventh-inning RBI single then put the Lady Bears ahead 4-3.

Benton went the distance for Lee County, allowing four runs — only two earned — on six hits over eight innings. She worked around eight walks and repeatedly escaped trouble, including leaving the bases loaded in the second.

Patrick finished 2-for-2 with four RBIs, while Butler collected three hits and Duke added two.

There was considerably less drama in the second game.

Houston County scored in each of the first two innings,

but Lee County took control with four runs in the second and six more in the third.

Butler tripled home two runs during the third-inning eruption. Benton followed with a two-run homer to center, and Brylyn Parsons added a two-run shot to left.

Izzy Evans, Frisbee, Parsons and Benton each had two hits as Lee County finished with 12. Parsons and Benton drove in three runs apiece.

Sophomore Reese Watkins earned the victory, allowing three runs — one earned — over five innings. She struck out five without issuing a walk.

"Reese Watkins showcased just what she's capable of on the mound," Spencer said. "I was happy to see her compete in a big game and carry her team as a sophomore. That's exciting for the future."

Lee County (19-2, 12-1) hosts Coffee (13-7, 9-3) on Tuesday. First pitch is set for 5 p.m.

Terrell Academy overwhelms Deerfield-

Windsor

ALBANY — Terrell Academy erupted for 16 runs in the second inning and defeated Deerfield-Windsor 18-1 in three innings Thursday.

The Lady Eagles combined seven hits, eight walks and several Deerfield-Windsor errors to turn the game into a runaway.

Lily Addison led the attack with two doubles and four RBIs. Jaelynn Oliver and Harlee Sheffield added two-run doubles, while Hadley Webb contributed an RBI single.

Caroline Presley pitched all three innings for Terrell Academy, allowing one unearned run while striking out three and walking none. The Lady Eagles also played error-free defense.

Emily Phillips, Anna Beth Brady, Reynolds Bryson, Millie Champion and Marin Anthony each had a hit for Deerfield-Windsor. Anthony drove in the Lady Knights' run.

Terrell Academy improved to 9-5 and will host Tiftarea in a region game Thursday in

Dawson. Deerfield-Windsor fell to 3-10 and will travel to Macon for a region game against Central Fellowship on Tuesday.

Rucker fans 17 in Worth County shutout

AMERICUS — Austyn Kate Rucker struck out 17 batters and allowed only one hit in Worth County's 8-0 victory over Sumter County on Thursday.

Rucker went all seven innings as the Lady Rams improved to 18-2 overall and remained unbeaten in region play at 7-0.

Kamryn Kendrick led Worth County's 14-hit attack with two doubles, a single and four RBIs. Laurie Pritchard opened the scoring with a first-inning sacrifice fly, and the Lady Rams steadily added to their lead over the next six innings.

Kayelee Mathews, Pritchard and Isabelle Hancock also finished with multiple hits.

Worth County will visit Crisp County on Tuesday and Berrien on Wednesday.



Special Photo: Grant Blankenship/GPB News

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has rolled back rules restricting climate warming emissions at electrical power plants, including those in Georgia.

How EPA emissions rollback could impact Georgia coal-fired power plant

By Grant Blankenship
GPB News/Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON — The federal Environmental Protection Agency has rolled back rules restricting climate warming emissions at electrical power plants, including those in Georgia.

The rules the EPA ended this week date from the Biden administration and would have required coal and natural gas-fired power plants to restrict carbon emissions starting in 2030.

That was about the same time Georgia Power had planned to shutter its two largest coal plants — Plant Bowen, which is north of Atlanta, and Plant Scherer, just north of Macon. But now with the data center boom, Georgia Power is keeping the plants running. With the help of a third coal plant over the border in Alabama, Georgia Power hopes to meet fully 70% of the data center demand.

Plant Scherer is on the Ocmulgee River, in the Altamaha River watershed. Altamaha Riverkeeper Fletcher Sams said the decision is a greenlight for unchecked pollution. “This rollback is going to allow Georgia Power to run these aging antique coal plants indefinitely,” he said.

Plant Bowen’s units all came

online in the 1970s. Plant Scherer’s went online in the ’80s. The Trump administration is fighting to keep even older coal plants up and running.

Last year, the two Georgia plants produced about 22 million tons of carbon dioxide, putting them near the top for greenhouse gas pollution among more than 1,000 U.S. power plants and accounting for just under half of the carbon emissions of Georgia Power’s entire generation fleet.

Sams points to other pollutants in coal plant emissions as things Georgians will still be living with once the looser carbon rules keep the coal plants online rather than replacing them with cleaner combined cycle natural gas turbines.

“It’s hard to run a coal plant clean,” he said. “You have the mercury emissions and heavy metal emissions coming out of the stack that wouldn’t be coming out with the combined cycle turbines.”

Sams says much of that pollution will still end up in the state’s streams and rivers. Other things, such as particulate emissions, will continue to contribute to ground-level ozone and health conditions that come with it, such as asthma.

A 2023 study by a host of universities that included Georgia Tech suggested those emis-

sions contributed to 500,000 excess deaths over 20 years. Plant Bowen was found to be the second most deadly power plant in the study. Bowen was thought to be responsible for deaths as far away as New York.

Meanwhile, the EPA in its announcement of the rule change said it now expects coal use to increase by a factor of 10. The EPA also set its intention to repeal any remaining carbon emissions rules, too. That would include any new natural gas power plants, such as the 1,500 megawatt power plant proposed for rural Mitchell County, south of Albany. Resident Lauren Dorminey has been organizing political opposition for months to the project pursued by Florida based NextEra Energy.

“I cannot trust energy industries who benefit by the millions from regulatory rollbacks,” Dorminey said. “Air, along with water, are two of our major concerns. So, of course this is alarming.”

Maggie Shober, research director with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, also blasted the rollback.

In an emailed comment, a Georgia Power representative said the company is reviewing the EPA’s actions on greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act

DNR: Reduced spring flow, low oxygen led to Radium fish deaths

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Residents and visitors may have noticed several dead fish in the spring area at Radium Springs in recent days. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources assessed the conditions and determined that low oxygen in the water caused the fish to die. The low oxygen occurred after the flow of the spring became very low or temporarily stopped.

After being notified, DNR representatives visited Radium

Springs with a fisheries biologist to examine the conditions.

According to DNR, when the spring flow becomes very low or stops, fresh water no longer enters the area at its normal rate. Fish, plants and other organisms continue to use the oxygen available in the water. When oxygen levels become too low, some living matter cannot survive.

Larger, adult fish are often affected first because they need more oxygen. DNR observed the deaths of mostly spotted suckers, along with some large-

mouth bass and bream, in the waters flowing from the spring. Smaller fish and minnows were not affected in the same way.

DNR officials explained that this type of low-oxygen event can happen naturally in ponds and other bodies of water. It also has happened at Radium Springs before. A similar event occurred about 10 to 15 years ago when the spring stopped flowing and oxygen levels dropped, local officials said.

Radium Springs is connected to the Floridan aquifer, a large underground source of water used throughout the region. It supplies water for homes and communities, businesses, industries and agriculture.

DNR explained that as more water is taken from the aquifer, groundwater levels can drop. This can reduce the amount of water flowing from Radium Springs and, at times, cause the spring to temporarily stop flowing.

DNR also noted that the spring historically did not stop flowing as often as it has in more recent decades. The aquifer can recharge, or refill, but the amount of water being used can affect the spring’s flow.

Based on DNR’s assessment, there is no indication that the current conditions pose a danger to the public. Residents and visitors may notice an unpleasant odor as the fish naturally deteriorate.

DNR advised Dougherty County to leave the fish in place and allow nature to take its course. Bacteria and wildlife, including turtles, vultures and other animals, will dispose of the dead fish.

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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 menu category (6)	_____
2 bridal or baby events (7)	_____
3 home sweet home (5)	_____
4 the “E” in ESPY Awards (10)	_____
5 dark print (8)	_____
6 sweet-sounding (7)	_____
7 place to start sledding (7)	_____

ADS

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Saturday's Answers: 1. WHITE 2. SOLEMNITY 3. CALABRIA 4. GALL 5. NOTA 6. NUCLEOLUS 7. SENSIBILITY 9/21

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 what learning gets you (9)	_____
2 cranium contents (6)	_____
3 in an unsteady manner (7)	_____
4 Old Hollywood star Rita (8)	_____
5 proverb (5)	_____
6 it's layered between tiers (7)	_____
7 “listening devices” (10)	_____

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Monday's Answers: 1. SALADS 2. SHOWERS 3. ABODE 4. EXCELLENCE 5. BOLDFACE 6. HONEYED 7. HILLTOP 9/22

Release Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

- Percussion instruments with taut tops
- Highest mountain in Japan
- Use a needle and thread
- Superficial layer
- Guy known for his first-person perspective?
- Abu Dhabi's fed.
- Composer Shostakovich
- Harlem Renaissance writer ___ Neale Hurston
- Bikini top
- Exhibit A: That awful handwriting
- “Little Bunny”
- Lit ___ English major's course
- Arduous
- Exhibit B: That loud guffaw
- Belarus capital
- Cars
- “ ___ Doubtfire”
- Exhibit C: That unruly hair
- Position
- Student
- “With any luck”
- Exhibit D: That goofy stare
- Gave approval to
- Out-of-pocket amount
- Area of influence
- Lacking all refinement, facetiously, or like the person described in 20-, 26-, 35-, and 44-Across?
- Omelet ingredient
- Dental exam image
- Mystery
- Come out on top
- Snub-nosed dogs
- Catch, as a fish
- Triumphant cry
- High-pitched wind instrument
- “Give it a go”

DOWN

- Netflix format, originally
- Sleep cycle letters
- Horned equines of mythology
- Procedures
- Typeface line
- Unnerve
- Japanese noodle
- Jam holders
- Apple all-in-one computer
- Forester carmaker
- Pincered insect
- Riches
- Canon competitor
- “Kitchy-kitchy-”
- Some old radios
- County event with lots of fried food
- “I wonder ...”
- Tennis sequence after a serve
- ___ generis: unique
- And so on: Abbr.
- Norse god of mischief
- Disposable coffee pod
- Word after photo or special
- Golfer Michelle ___ West
- In a playful manner
- Like an unlocked door
- Place to sleep
- Furry companions
- Whiter with age
- Off-the-wall
- Sandwich also known as a grinder
- Endorses digitally
- Childcare expert LeShan
- Clearheaded
- Impressionist painter Edouard
- Trade show
- Defeat soundly
- “Othello” villain
- Nasdaq rival
- Cambridge sch.
- It's ___-win situation”

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

O	L	A	B	I	E	O	B	O	S	E	A	
N	I	T	E	E	S	G	N	D	N	I	M	
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V	H	B	V	H	O	Z		I	A	I	W	D
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09/22/26

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63				64				65					
66				67						68			

By Zachary David Levy
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Worth educators’ home is garden club’s Yard of Month

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The Daffodil Garden Club has recognized Sanders and Shelby Dorough and their beautiful home and landscape at 606 North Ingleside Drive as the club’s Yard of the Month.

The Doroughs have called this lovely Lake Park residence home for the past five years and say they especially enjoy being part of such a wonderful neighborhood. Their home is nestled among

mature pines, magnolias and hardwood trees, creating a natural setting and a welcoming sense of privacy.

The well-maintained landscape complements the home. A gently curved brick retaining wall defines the expansive front planting bed, while carefully shaped shrubs and rounded evergreen topiaries provide structure and symmetry. Layers of colorful foliage, ornamental grasses and tropical-looking plantings add texture and interest



Special Photo: Daffodil Garden Club

The Daffodil Garden Club has recognized Sanders and Shelby Dorough and their beautiful home on North Ingleside Drive as the club’s Yard of the Month.

throughout the landscape. The neatly manicured lawn provides a beautiful green carpet that ties the entire setting together.

The home itself has a charming, classic character, the curved driveway and thoughtfully designed planting beds create an inviting approach while showcasing the home’s attractive architecture.

Beyond their home, the Doroughs are dedicated educators. Sanders teaches in the Worth County School System

and coaches cross country and girls soccer at Worth County High School. He was also honored as WCHS Teacher of the Year. Shelby is a Teacher of the visually impaired for Worth County Public Schools, bringing her passion for education and service to students who need her specialized support.

The Daffodil Garden Club congratulates the Doroughs and thanks them for helping make the Lake Park area such a beautiful place to live.

Albany Area Chamber welcomes Zondria Wilson as director of operations, workforce development

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce announced that Zondria Wilson has been named director of operations and workforce development.

Wilson brings 24 years of professional experience to the position, spanning human resources, operations, workforce development, event planning and associate engagement. Her professional experience includes roles with Mars Snacking, the American Cancer Society, Clark Associates and OFI, as well as Lee County High School, where she served as a CTAE administrator supporting career and technical education.

Working across corporate, nonprofit, manufacturing and education environments has given Wilson a unique perspective on how strong relationships, effective processes and meaningful partnerships help organizations succeed and communities thrive.

As director of operations and workforce development, Wilson will serve as a key connector among chamber members, workforce partners, community organizations and chamber leadership. Her role will focus on strengthening day-to-day



Special Photo: Albany Area Chamber

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce announced that Zondria Wilson has been named director of operations and workforce development.

operations, advancing workforce and talent development initiatives, supporting chamber events and strategic initiatives, and strengthening engagement with chamber members, in-

vestors, volunteers and community partners.

“I’ve always enjoyed work that brings people together and creates opportunities to make a difference,” Wilson

said. “I’m excited to join the chamber, build new relationships and use the experiences I’ve gained throughout my career to support our businesses, workforce and community. This area has become home to my family, so having the opportunity to contribute to its continued growth makes this role especially meaningful to me.”

“Zondria brings a combination of experience, energy and a passion for people to the Albany Area Chamber,” Matt Reed, interim president/CEO of the Albany Area Chamber, said. “Her experience across business, education, workforce development and operations gives her perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing our members and our community, and she understands that strong organizations are built on strong relationships.

“She will be an incredible asset to our team as we strengthen our operations, expand our workforce initiatives and create even greater value for our chamber members and the community.”

Wilson says she looks forward to building relationships throughout the Albany and southwest Georgia community and working alongside chamber members, business leaders and community partners to support continued growth and opportunity throughout the region. Her experience and passion for bringing people together will play an important role as the chamber continues to serve its members and strengthen the business community, chamber officials said.



File Photo

A new budget analysis shows that the White House has spent \$40 billion on the Iran War with more than \$2 billion a month expected as the war continues.

Budget analysis: Iran War cost tops \$40 billion

By Jennifer Shutt

Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON — The cost of U.S. military operations in Iran has exceeded \$40 billion and the war will continue to cost taxpayers between \$2 billion and \$3 billion per month, according to an analysis released by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The ongoing bombing campaign, launched alongside the Israeli government in February, has also significantly reduced American military weapons stockpiles, according to the analysis.

CBO Director Phillip L. Swagel wrote in a letter accompanying the report that “the main opportunity cost of the conflict thus far has been the large expenditure of missile defense interceptors, which will leave the United States with a reduced inventory of interceptors for several years.

Swagel noted in the letter that because the Defense De-

partment “did not respond to CBO’s requests for information” the report “relied on government databases and public reports.”

“As a result, CBO’s estimates are subject to considerable uncertainty,” he wrote.

In addition to the direct costs, CBO expects the war to increase inflation in the first quarter of 2027 by 0.5 percentage points due to the rise in energy prices, predominantly caused by increased danger and difficulty navigating the Strait of Hormuz.

The analysis stems from a request House Budget Committee ranking member Brendan Boyle submitted to CBO in March.

The CBO report differs somewhat from a report released earlier this week by inspectors general from the departments of Defense and State as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Brandon Marshall (26-063) has submitted an application to the Albany Dougherty Planning Commission requesting rezoning of an .64-acre parcel from C-3c (Commercial District, with conditions) to C-R (Community Residential, Multiple Dwelling District) for a Transport & Towing Company with Vehicle Storage Lot. The parcel is located at 1314 W Broad Ave. (0000H/00002/005). The owners of the property are Brandon and Patricia A Marshall. The applicant is Brandon Marshall. **Ward 3**

Chad Warbington (26-065) has submitted an application to the Albany Dougherty Planning Commission requesting rezoning of an .64-acre parcel from C-2 (General Mixed-Use Business District) to C-R (Community Residential Multiple-Dwelling District) to construct a residential duplex. The parcel is located on 600 2nd Ave. (0000D/00001/022). The owner of the property is Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Inc. The applicant is Chad Warbington. **Ward 2**

Zoning Ordinance Revision: Timeframe for Reapplication; Title III, Sections 4.04(D) and (E)

The Albany zoning ordinance, Title III, Sections 404(D) and (E), sets the time allowed to apply for a rezoning after a denial of a previous application at 12 months for citizens and 6 months for the City/County Commission. The request is to ask the Planning Commission to make the time period consistent for all applicants. O.C.G.A. §36-66-4 states that “same property may not again be considered for rezoning until the expiration of at least six months immediately following the defeat of the rezoning by the local government”.

The Albany Dougherty Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on this request on **Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA. Based on the information presented at the public meeting, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation and forward it to the Board of City Commissioners.

The City of Albany Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.** in the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA 31701.

The Dougherty County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, October 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Government Center, 222 Pine Avenue, Room 100, Albany, GA 31701.

Meetings of the Albany Dougherty Planning Commission and the City of Albany Board of Commissioners are open to the public. Those wishing to speak or provide comments should contact the Planning & Development Services Department before the meeting at (229) 438-3901, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

As set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Albany does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs or activities. The Human Resources Department has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in section 35.107 of the Department of Justice Regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the rights provided there is available at the Office of Human Resources. The City of Albany will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice (7 working days). Any requests for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in an open meeting, program, or activity of the City of Albany, Georgia, should be directed to Paul Forgey, AICP, 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, Georgia, 31701, (229) 438-3901.

DARTS MPO NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Dougherty Area Regional Transportation Study (DARTS) will hold its quarterly committee meetings on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 and Wednesday, September 30, 2026. DARTS meetings are open to the public and will be held hybrid via Zoom or In-Person at 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 380.

Citizens Transportation Committee September 23, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88173467972?pwd=PCHH7jQXUAWEM9rXVZYUzZaeARjH5M.1>

Meeting ID: 881 7346 7972
Passcode: 395757

Technical Coordinating Committee September 30, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89889248032?pwd=qaANm3aeSdKybTizA5ydrG0WR.1>

Meeting ID: 898 8924 8032
Passcode: 920489

Policy Committee September 30, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84794746133?pwd=4Hitkf2YIQPG8umqaQVb8edBz7TP9n.1>

Meeting ID: 847 9474 6133
Passcode: 548938

City of Albany Planning & Development Services
240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, GA 31701

If you have any questions, please contact Transportation Planner, Tanner Anderson, at (229) 302-1843 or taanderson@albanyga.gov

AVISO DE REUNIÓN PÚBLICA DARTS MPO

El Estudio de Transporte Regional del Área de Dougherty (DARTS, por sus siglas en inglés) celebrará sus reuniones trimestrales de comités el miércoles 23 de septiembre de 2026 y el miércoles 30 de septiembre de 2026. Las reuniones de DARTS están abiertas al público y se llevarán a cabo en formato híbrido a través de Zoom o en persona en 240 Pine Avenue, Suite 380.

Comité de Ciudadanos sobre Transporte 23 de septiembre de 2026 a las 9:00 A.M.

Enlace para unirse a la reunión de Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88173467972?pwd=PCHH7jQXUAWEM9rXVZYUzZaeARjH5M.1> ID de la reunión: 881 7346 7972

Código de acceso: 395757

Comité Técnico Coordinador 30 de septiembre de 2026 a las 9:00 A.M.

Enlace para unirse a la reunión de Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89889248032?pwd=qaANm3aeSdKybTizA5ydrG0WR.1>

ID de la reunión: 898 8924 8032
Código de acceso: 920489

Comité de Políticas 30 de septiembre de 2026 a las 10:00 A.M.

Enlace para unirse a la reunión de Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84794746133?pwd=4Hitkf2YIQPG8umqaQVb8edBz7TP9n.1> ID de la reunión: 847 9474 6133

Código de acceso: 548938

Anuncio de periódico para la Ciudad de Albany Servicios de Planificación y Desarrollo
240 Pine Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, GA 31701

Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con el planificador de transporte, Tanner Anderson, al (229) 302-1843 o por correo electrónico a taanderson@albanyga.gov