

FRIDAY

ON THE FLINT

ALBANY • GEORGIA • 2026

FALL ON THE FLINT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 6PM
VETERANS PARK AMPHITHEATRE



Perspectives
Marc Hyden
• Page 4A

The Albany HERALD

Serving readers and online viewers in Metro Albany, Camilla, Tifton and Americus



Returning Daffodil
Garden club reconvenes
• Page 12A



\$1.50 ©2026 GTLN Vol. CXXXIII, No. 115 ALBANYHERALD.COM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026



Special Photo
Westover High School Principal William Chunn joins in celebrating the school's 2025-26 National Sickle Cell Scholarship Champion award.

Dougherty schools celebrate national award, state honors, alumni support

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — From a national blood donation award to state recognition for schools and teachers, the Dougherty County School System is celebrating achievements in community service and education. Westover High School received the 2025-26 National Sickle Cell Scholarship Champion award Sept. 16. In an email announcing the honor,

William Chunn said Westover collected more blood donations than any other high school in the country. Superintendent Kenneth Dyer highlighted additional honors during the Board of Education's Sept. 24 meeting. Robert Cross Middle Magnet School earned both Title I Distinguished School and Title I Reward School designations from the Georgia Department of Education, Dyer said. The honors recognize schools among the state's highest-performing 5% and those among the 5% showing the greatest improvement, respectively, based on state assessment results. Albany Middle School became the district's first Apple Distinguished School, rec-

See **AWARD**, 2A

Albany Middle earns DCSS's first Apple Distinguished School honor



Special Photo Courtesy of DCSS

An educator works with a student on an audio project at Albany Middle School. The school's Apple Distinguished School designation recognizes its use of technology to support teaching, creativity and collaboration.

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — In Greg Barnes' multimedia classroom, Albany Middle School students record sound effects, edit audio and assemble scenes. In Deatrice Hayward's seventh-grade language arts class,

students turn their written narratives into movies, comics and other projects. Behind those assignments is a team effort that has made Albany Middle the first school in the Dougherty County School System to earn Apple Distinguished School recognition. The designation, covering

September 2026 through December 2029, recognizes the school's use of technology to support teaching, creativity and student learning. For the educators who worked toward it, the achievement reflects years of preparation involving classroom teachers, school leaders, district

staff and students. Superintendent Kenneth Dyer said the district's goal extends beyond earning a designation. "Our aim was to help students be creative and innovative in their approaches," Dyer said. "We want to give

See **APPLE**, 2A

Dougherty County police expect to present report on surveillance cameras within two weeks

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Those who have the feeling that somebody's always watching me may be onto something. License plate readers and surveillance cameras are part of life these days, and Albany and Dougherty County are no exception. Those cameras are important tools in solving crimes, according to the Dougherty County Police Department, which operates 18 Flock Safety System license plate readers and nine Condor cameras

that can take still photos as well as record video. After reports began appearing about the misuse of those devices, the department started conducting monthly reviews of the system, Dougherty County Police Chief Kenneth Johnson told Dougherty County Commission members on Monday. The monthly reviews went back to January of this year. In July, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation arrested five former Albany Police Department officers who were accused of misusing the Flock

See **CAMERAS**, 2A



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Dougherty County Police Chief Kenneth Johnson talks to Dougherty County commissioners Monday about Flock cameras.

Albany Symphony prepares for 63rd season

By Carlton Fletcher
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Officials with the Albany Symphony Orchestra are putting together plans for the 2026-27 season's kickoff fundraiser that will lead into the orchestra's 63rd season. Symphony Music Director and Conductor Claire Fox Hillard said concerts have been scheduled for the 2026-27 season, which will be conducted under the theme "The Magic of Music." Concerts include the annual Peppermint Pops

holiday extravaganza and the James Barnette Foundation Children's Concerts that introduce area students to orchestral music. "One of our goals this year will be emphasizing the musicians who play with the orchestra," Hillard said. "We're focusing on the orchestra and engaging with the community. Specific members of the orchestra will be featured at each performance." Concerts on tap for the '26-'27 season include "The

See **SYMPHONY**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

INDEX	
Classifieds	11A
Comics	6A-7A
Crosswords	6A-7A, 11A
Horoscopes	3A
Local News	8A
Perspectives	4A
Sports	9A-10A
Squawkbox	3A
TV - What to Watch	5A
Weather	3A

FREE

HEALTH FAIR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

9 am – 12 pm

Albany Exchange Club Fairgrounds

Free to the public!

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

AAPHC
Albany Area Primary Health Care

THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS:

CareSource

peach state
health plan

LRA
CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

FYZICAL
Therapy & Balance Centers

From 1A CAMERAS

camera system for personal purposes that were not related to their law enforcement duties.

The city of Albany also operates Flock cameras as well as a gunshot-detection system that covers part of the city. The city and county departments share data recorded by their two systems.

The county department’s auditing predates the Albany officers’ arrests, and a policy on camera use was initiated in June, county police Lt. J.C. Phillips said.

“Chief Johnson had that done right away,” Phillips, who is one of two officers with the department who helps monitor the use of the devices, said.

At the department, only 10 investigative officers are authorized to access data recorded by the devices, he said. The auditing program was initiated in August.

The department is preparing a report on its findings, but so far there has been no indication of any county officers misusing the devices, Johnson told commissioners.

“Because all of this (cases of misuse) came about, that’s when everybody put a policy in place,” Johnson said.

The department plans to present its report to the commission when it is completed, probably within the next two weeks, the chief said.

Since the department started using the cameras in 2024, they have assisted it in solving a number of crimes, Johnson said. Those include murder, aggravated assaults, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts.

“The Flock program provides the department with an investigative capability,” he said. “It saves time. Those capabilities can be particularly valuable in responding to crime in identifying vehicles, recovering vehicles.”

The chief said he cannot guarantee that an employee will never misuse a camera but said that the department will do everything it can to be accountable, identify potential misuse through oversight and provide transparency.

Communication with the public about the camera system and how it is used is a key, the chief said.

Media across the country have reported about individuals intentionally damaging the systems, and the county has not been an exception. Two of its Flock devices have been damaged, Johnson said, and he was also informed that two in Mitchell County also were vandalized.

“I think it’s a great tool,” Commissioner Gloria Gaines said of the cameras. “Do we need more?”

The cameras also could be a way to deter crime if people are aware that they could be collecting information that could be used to apprehend criminals, she said.

“If people are told we are watching you, that we have these cameras countywide ... it would be better to prevent the crime than to arrest them afterward,” Gaines said.

The cameras can provide an additional level of safety, Commissioner Anthony Jones said.

“We need to do anything we can to provide a quality of life for the people of Dougherty County to keep them safe,” the commissioner said.



From 1A APPLE

teachers the tools to innovate to help meet students’ needs and prepare them for their futures.”

DCSS has provided individual student devices for more than a decade, moving from tablets to Chromebooks before beginning its transition to Apple about five years ago, Dyer said. Every student in kindergarten through 12th grade has an iPad, and teachers have both an iPad and a MacBook.

The next step was helping educators use those resources to give students more opportunities to create and demonstrate their understanding.

That required training, coaching and a willingness to learn alongside the children.

Hayward said that adjustment was personal. She came from an alternative school setting where technology use was limited and she had to become comfortable with new tools.

“No, this was not natural. I had to learn just like the students,” she said.

She sought help from colleagues, including Barnes, when developing assignments.

“I don’t have a problem asking for help, too,” Hayward said.

Now her students are taking stories they have written and choosing different ways to present them.

“What we’re working on right now is the students are taking their narratives and turning them into multimodal projects,” she said.

Those options also help students who struggle with reading or writing. Hayward said audiobooks and tools that allow students to dictate their work give them additional ways to participate and communicate their ideas.

“I love seeing students really just open up,” she said.

Barnes, who teaches sixth through eighth grades, said he sees similar changes when students work on sound and film projects. They use their iPads to record or gather sound effects, combine them with other audio and edit the material into a finished scene.

“They’re not just learning about sound; they’re actually becoming filmmakers and sound designers and engineers,” he said.

Some of the biggest surprises come from students who rarely draw attention to themselves.

“Usually the quiet ones, they’ll come out of their shell and they’ll find the confidence within themselves,” Barnes said.

Students’ enthusiasm for technology helps instructors like Barnes get them interested in assignments, he said. Keeping them focused and ensuring they use the tools appropriately remains a classroom management challenge.

Barnes also helped tell the school’s story beyond his classroom, producing the video submitted with its application. District instructional technology specialist Tracy Lane credited him with translating the school’s vision and classroom work into a visual account of its progress.

Barnes described his contribution as part of a shared accomplishment.

“It was a team effort,” he said.

Much of that work developed under former Principal André Simmons, now the district’s director of operations.

Simmons said he began by setting an expectation for himself: If he wanted teach-

From 1A SYMPHONY

Magic of Mozart,” scheduled Nov. 7; the Peppermint Pops performance, presented under the title “The Magic of the Holiday Season,” on Dec. 8; “The Magic of Music by Candlelight” on Feb. 6; “The Magic of Beethoven,” scheduled April 10, and the Children’s Concerts, featuring the music of Tchaikovsky, on March 19.

All shows are scheduled at the Albany Municipal Auditorium.

Featured performers for

File Photo

Officials with the Albany Symphony Orchestra are gearing up for the orchestra’s 63rd season, which kicks off Nov. 7 with “The Magic of Mozart.”

ers and students to embrace the devices, he needed to use them, too. He brought his device to meetings and worked with administrators, teachers and students to establish a common direction.

Students sometimes helped lead the transition because they were already familiar with Apple products.

“Basically, for the first year, they were the teachers,” Simmons said. “They were the leaders in the building because they had the knowledge of using Apple products.”

The school built on instructional practices already in place, he said, adding, “We just used those resources to improve what we were doing.”

Lane’s role helped connect the classroom work with the district’s technology department. A former classroom teacher, she works to ensure educators have the tools and support they need to use technology effectively.

She also works closely with Angela, a senior Apple professional learning specialist who supports a cohort of five district schools. Angela requested that only her first name be used because she was not speaking as an official Apple spokesperson.

Her support includes planning with school leaders, coaching teachers, designing lessons together and working alongside them in classrooms.

A teacher might begin with a familiar assignment, such as building a model ecosystem. Angela helps identify ways students could extend that work through augmented reality or a movie explaining how they constructed it.

The support varies by teacher. Some need help learning the technology; others want someone beside them while they try a lesson or feedback on how to expand an existing project.

Lane said the larger challenge is helping students move beyond receiving information on a screen to creating something that demonstrates what they have learned. That distinction also guides conversations about screen time.

“It’s not about putting them on the device,” Lane said. “It’s about what are the students accomplishing, and where are they spending their time?”

Dyer said access to technology is part of the district’s broader effort to address differences in students’ opportunities.

“Two things that can go a long way to leveling the playing field: education and technology,” he said.

For current Principal Tra-

the Mozart concert include oboist Will Wise, clarinetist Peter Geldrich, bassoonist Shannon Lowe, and horn player Kelly Bayer. Flutist Sarah Jane Young and percussionist Ryan Smith will be the featured artists during the Candlelight performance, and violinist Kristin Pfeifer Yu and viola player Laurel Yu will be featured artists for the Beethoven performance.

Additional information and future orchestra events will be announced in the near future. ASO supporters can keep up with the symphony at the albanysymphony.org website or by calling (229) 430-8933.

cy Stolze, the responsibility is to sustain what the school has built.

“I am standing on the shoulders of giants,” she said, crediting Simmons and the team that worked toward the designation.

Stolze said administrators are already collecting photographs, videos and examples of classroom work to document continued progress ahead of the school’s next application.

Students recently drew her into that work themselves, recruiting her to play a track coach in a story they were creating for Hayward’s class.

The designation also gives Albany Middle an opportunity to help other schools. Lane said four other schools in the cohort are developing their practices and collecting examples of student work. Simmons plans to support principals by sharing what he learned during Albany Middle’s application process.

For Stolze, maintaining the distinction means making sure the work continues in classrooms every day.

“It’s not something that, ‘OK, we accomplished it. Now we’re going to stop and then pick back up when it’s time to reapply,’” she said. “No, we’re keeping it going.”

Dyer said the next three years will also involve examining how the training and resources affect students. That includes their creative work, engagement with learning and how teachers use technology, as well as whether those changes improve student outcomes.

“We look at not just the quantitative, but the qualitative measures as well,” he said.

District officials say they hope Albany Middle’s experience will help other schools follow. Simmons, now the district’s director of operations, said he wants to help principals navigate a process he has already completed.

Dyer credited Simmons and his team with leading the effort and Stolze with carrying it forward. When the recognition was announced to faculty and staff, Simmons returned to share the moment with the people who had worked alongside him.

Lane said the achievement demonstrates what the district’s own students and educators can accomplish together.

“I know that the other principals are excited about the designation for Albany Middle, and that they want their school to be going in the same direction,” she said.

From 1A AWARD

ognizing its use of technology to support teaching and learning.

The school also received \$13,668.19 from Albany High School alumni, who presented the donation Sept. 22 after raising the money during alumni weekend festivities. Although Albany High is no longer operating, its gradu-

ates continue supporting current students through Albany Middle.

Two elementary school teachers earned statewide recognition. Yetay Anderson of Sherwood Acres Elementary was named a 2026 Accomplished Teacher through Georgia LEADS, one of 14 educators recognized statewide, Dyer said.

Kenisha Wester of Live Oak Elementary received a Mentor Teacher Award from the Georgia Association of Col-

leges for Teacher Education for the Southwest P-20 region. The honor is one of nine presented statewide annually to educators who help prepare future teachers.

The district also received a banner and plaque recognizing its state-certified teacher induction program. Dyer said Dougherty is one of 15 Georgia school systems with the certification, which recognizes support for teachers beginning their careers.

SCAN CODE TO
VIEW SPORTS ONLINE





NATIONAL GEAR UP WEEK

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a college and career readiness initiative designed to help students prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education. Through academic support, mentoring, college exploration, career awareness, and family engagement, GEAR UP helps students build the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to become college and career-ready.

**Dougherty County School System**
Building a better community, one student at a time!

#DCSS #FutureReady #AcademicRigorAndRelevance

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Today is a significantly higher-scoring day than tomorrow, do it today if you can. Sidestep communication blocks and stubborn resistance if you can. Relationship clarity could be coming.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you're feeling stuck with money, the intensity of the feeling should only last a few hours. Don't make decisions under this influence. Mid- to later- October could offer great days to expand your abundance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A combo of logic and artistry could take you far in the next week or so. Even if you don't think of yourself as creative, problem-solving is an exercise in creativity too. Try not to dig your heels in today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): New perspectives could shed new light on your living space in the next week but wait for above-zero days — Sunday and beyond — to initiate anything new. Be gentle with yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There can be little truths, big truths, and Truth with a capital 'T.' Some major truths could descend in the next week or so — take them to heart, note them down. A friendship could swing from freedom to stuckness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Continue to note down financial insights that drop over the next days but wait until the ascending stars of mid-month or later to make your move or moves. Be sure you're in strong personal transits too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use discernment about new intel, be especially careful if emotions get involved. Some information or insights can free you; some can trigger confusion or inner dissonance. Notice which is which.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A money situation that may have looked like it was moving could get stuck again temporarily, you may need to wait on someone else. Master yourself, then master your

world. Otherwise it's just posing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone close may bring in some fresh air metaphorically speaking, then get bogged down and cranky. Flow with these changes, all should be short-lived. A friend could have a solution you seek.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you need to start over, start over. Shifting stars could make something flow more smoothly within just hours. Pour your intelligence and wisdom into your career or your time in the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Drill down to the info you need, it should be available when you look. If a creative project gets stuck or inspiration isn't arriving, pick it up again later today, Sunday, or after. Share your knowledge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A see-saw vibe at home over the last day or so should be coming to a stopping place somewhere near neutral. Take a breath. More answers about money could be coming into view quite soon.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The first three quarters of the year are behind you; so are most of the challenges 2026 is likely to dish out. Your birthday month this year is critically important, new insights could drop which change the way you see yourself and the world. Make the most of a more powerful mindset. November could bring a new source of income or increased cash flow, with a side of enhanced attractiveness and charm. Be humble, not entitled. Late November could bring a nice win or windfall. December could open with the beginning of a gift delivery courtesy of the Universe. Many of the resources you've needed could land sequentially, enabling your mission and passion projects, opening the way for your destiny. Then comes the healing of something precious. Then, your highest and best talents could be on full display. Happy New Year!



1931 - The George Washington Bridge that links the states New York and New Jersey is opened

1940 - The Pennsylvania Turnpike opens to traffic

1957 - In God we trust first appears on U.S. paper money

1960 - Nigeria gains its independence from the United Kingdom

1962 - The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson is first broadcast

1971 - Walt Disney World opens near Orlando, Florida

1982 - Epcot opens at Walt Disney World near Orlando, Florida. Sony launches the

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Bring Your Bible to School Day
- CD Player Day
- Homemade Cookies Day
- Less than Perfect Day
- Lincolnshire Day
- Model T Day
- Pudding Season Begins
- Vegan Baking Day
- Willy Wonka Day
- World Ballet Day
- World Vegetarian Day

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Fools admire, but men of sense approve."

Alexander Pope,
poet (1688-1744)

CORRECTION

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

The big white church pastor said we should love one another, but we don't need to like one another. Luke 6:30

Carlton, your article stated that Dougherty County had 66,663 registered voters. The census estimates Dougherty's population at 82,616 as of July 2025. The census also says the county's under-18 population is 23.6%, which is 19,497 humans. So according to the census, our current population of 82,616 minus 19,497 is 63,119. How can we have 66,663 registered voters? We don't need that Trump crowd down here counting our votes.

Mr. Nader and Mr. Fletcher are the only columnist worth reading.

Do we not find it interesting that the most compelling speeches at the U.N. have come from those like Guiana and Barbados, in an assembly hall empty of the major world power ambassadors and a world population that chooses to suffer rather than listen and reform? Humanity's demise is its own undoing.

Fletcher, it's good to see you still out there fighting the good fight. Sadly, these Trump cult members refuse to open their minds to the truths that are staring them in the face.

Capitalism is just another name for freedom. Socialism and Communism are just other names for slavery.

Faith-based scams are as old as time. Worship as you wish. But when your pastor starts demanding a donation, gets involved in your finances, or becomes your landlord, then you are 100% the victim of a scam. Reach out to the police immediately. It is so terribly sad to realize that many in Albany are falling for this in 2026.

Is the new Lee County hospital going to admit poor people?

I can't afford enough gas to get to the grocery store, which really doesn't matter because I can't afford groceries today. But I don't fault our great president because he's "doing what we elected him to do" ... which is, I guess, to send everyone but his rich friends to the poor house.

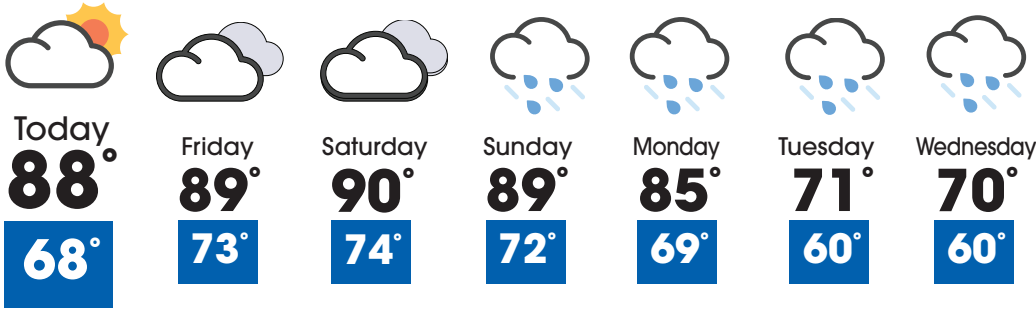
The radical left didn't hate Charlie Kirk because he was hateful. The left hated Charlie because they're hateful.

Clinton Johnson, is the liquor cheaper and the hotel rooms more affordable now that you're spending the money of agencies who obviously did not vet you very thoroughly.

The baseball playoffs are upon us. It's a good time to be an American. Go Braves.

ADS: Advertising can be placed by phone, email and/or in person Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am - 5 pm or call 229-888-9300. For classifieds and display/public notices/online ads email Phil Cody at phil.cody@albanyherald.com or call 229-888-9300. Our office is at 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, GA 31701. **BILLING:** Business hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm, contact number: 229-888-9300.

Weather Forecast

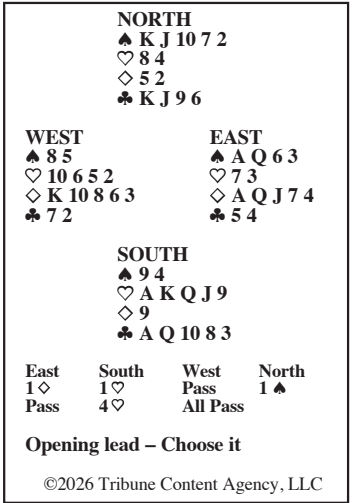


Daily Bridge Club

Minnie's good lead

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

"I'm hiring a goon to abduct Minnie and take her to an optometrist," Cy the Cynic told me. "I think that would be a felony."



Frank Stewart

"So is what her glasses do to me," Cy growled. Minnie Bottoms, my club's senior member, wears old bifocals that make her mix up kings and jacks, often to her opponents' dismay. Cy has been Minnie's chief victim. "See if you defend as well as Minnie," Cy said. He showed me today's West cards and auction. "What do you lead as West?" "The king of diamonds," I said promptly. **SWITCH** "You chose that lead," the Cynic said sourly, "because you might never be on lead again. If the king won, you might be able to make a good switch through dummy. Minnie led the king because she thought it was the jack: She led from her J-10-8 sequence."

Advice Columnist

Interracial couple's social media posts called 'racist'

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: I am a 34-year-old Black woman in a long-term relationship with a 36-year-old white man. A few years ago, I started sharing videos of us on social media. We'll do little skits or trend videos, and we have some sponsored content. We're having a good time.

Recently, his sister, who I like, messaged me some comments about one of our videos. I think she was trying to message someone else and accidentally replied to me because the comments were basically mocking us for being cringe.

She said it gave her the ick that we play up our racial differences. She actually wrote the words "racist much lol".

This was a shock. We've made videos where I've taught him how I do my hair (even though he knows) and videos where I've teased him about not moisturizing enough (which he doesn't! He's a man!). I had no idea his sister felt that way.

She unsent the message so I assume she realized she messed up, but she hasn't said anything to me about it.

I didn't tell my partner, but now I feel self-conscious every time we post. I just keep hearing "racist much lol" in my head. It's kind of ruined the whole thing for me. I don't know what I should do.

– *Unsocial Media*

Dear Media: Whether we're getting brand deals or just sharing with friends and family, what we post online is only one side of our lives. It's natural for people to have opinions, but it's important for everyone to remember that they're not getting the whole story. This is especially true in the case of an account that's posting a version of life that's

heightened for comedic effect.

It's no crime to be cringe, but it's worth digging into the suggestion that your content strikes your partner's sister as racist. Share your experience with your partner and see how he feels about it. Talking it through with the person you're doing life and content with will help get perspective.

Even though your partner's sister isn't just some random person commenting online, you should still take her comments with a grain of salt. She's not inside your relationship and therefore isn't privy to the full context of your content creation.

However, this could be an opportunity to take another look at what you're posting to make sure that you're saying what you want to say. Humor is subjective and sometimes threading the needle can be tough when talking about politically charged topics. But not everything online is going to be for everybody.

Dear Eric: I don't eat sugar. It's poison. My daughter-in-law obviously doesn't feel the same way. She lets her children, my grandchildren, have snacks with sugar in them, and sometimes uses store-bought pasta sauce, which is full of sugar. I've told her not to do this multiple times, but she tells me that she feels comfortable with her decision. She feels comfortable poisoning my grandchildren? I don't know how to escalate this so that she gets it.

– *Not So Sweet*

Dear Sweet: Please don't escalate this. Let your daughter-in-law – and your child, to whom your daughter-in-law is married – parent their children the way they see fit.

Yes, sugar can have negative health effects, but the examples



Eric Thomas

you gave don't paint the picture of a house in chaos. Moderation is key here, as with many foods. You're only going to create unnecessary conflict in your relationship if you continue to insert yourself in this way. I know it's coming from a place of concern for your grandchildren, but it's important that you respect the boundary your daughter-in-law has set and leave this be.

Dear Eric: In response to "Don't Want to be Alone", the letter from an ailing 59-year-old with no spouse, children, or close friends, I'd say don't equate being alone with being lonely.

We spend so much time comparing ourselves with others that we give up our autonomy and individuality.

Your advice to reconnect with others is spot-on. May I suggest other ways to help? Educate yourself on the origins and treatments for your medical conditions. Be able to ask informed questions about your health. Make a will – put in writing your wishes for your assets and belongings. Fill out an advanced directive for your healthcare.

Knowing your affairs are in order will give you peace of mind.

– *Never Lonely*

Dear Never Lonely: The letter writer expressed concerns about who would care for her when she could no longer care for herself. And, to your point, the present-day version can, in some ways, take care of the future version of herself, or at least lay some of that groundwork. We can't predict what will happen, but we can be mindful of and educated about what our options are.

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

DELIVERY QUESTIONS: If your paper hasn't been delivered call our Circulation Department at 229-888-9300. Hours are 8:30 am-5 pm weekdays, closed on holidays. A customer service representative will assist you. (All papers are by mail only and delivered by U.S. Postal Service.) **POSTAL SERVICE COMPLAINTS:** If you are dissatisfied with delivery, ask your postmaster for a Consumer Service Card and record

The Albany Herald

MAIN OFFICE: 229-888-9300
SUBSCRIPTIONS: 229-888-9300

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

vocate, 475 L' Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260 **TO REPORT NEWS ITEMS:** Email the editor at carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com or call 229-888-9300. **CLASSIFIED, DISPLAY OR ONLINE**

THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—
LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you.”

1 Corinthians 6:19

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Milei drops truths on United Nations

Ask any person what the United Nations is, and they are liable to say, “It’s that big building in New York City where nothing consequential happens.”

While this is an unfair characterization, the U.N. is limited in power and its proceedings are often very dry. Rather than following U.N. developments, I generally focus on state and federal issues, but when I hear that Argentine President Javier Milei is speaking at the U.N., I tend to pay closer attention.

He is a free-market economist who is known for his brashness and brutal honesty. He is not without controversy, but that is a consistent theme among political reformers. True to form, he transformed the U.N. general session snoozefest into a fireworks show. While I don’t necessarily agree with him on everything, he delivered some immutable truths that Americans should learn on a variety of topics, between his not-so-subtle barbs.

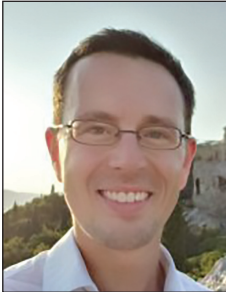
In his opening salvo, he held little back. The U.N. has “become a useless organization whose only purpose is to sustain a cast of fatally arrogant parasites, masquerading as well-intentioned bureaucrats,” he exclaimed. “The [U.N.’s] alleged defenders of human rights have sheltered bloodthirsty dictatorships.” Suffice it to say that he is not the biggest fan of the U.N.

These comments naturally made headlines, but he also discussed matters of public policy that merit deeper consideration, especially as they contrast with American policy. “For far too long, Argentina [...] grew accustomed to debating how to divide up what remained rather than asking ourselves how we could grow again, how we could rebuild what we had lost. That’s over. We’ve already lost too much. We do not want to lose it again. That’s why we’ve embraced free enterprise capitalism. We’re opening our economy up to trade and investment.”

For a free marketer, like yours truly, that is music to my ears, but the U.S. is trending in the other direction. The federal government under President Trump is increasingly taking stakes in private companies – something more akin to a socialist government. By the Cato Institute’s count, the federal government has proposed or already has current stakes in 30 companies – investments totaling tens of billions of dollars.

Meanwhile, Trump continues to inhibit free trade by imposing tariffs on countries without any rhyme or reason to the detriment of American consumers.

“In 2026, we estimate the tariffs will increase taxes by an average of \$820 per U.S. household,” the Tax Foundation found. Trump also seems



HYDEN

intent on closing our economy to others, including foreign talent wishing to move here and contribute. The administration has proposed a \$103,000 fee to obtain an H-1B visa, which will stifle the kind of legal immigration politicians claim to welcome – that of immigrants with advanced degrees.

While Milei’s remarks understandably centered around Argentina, much of it included broad economic lessons, but he focused closely on one particular topic: artificial intelligence.

“The arrival of artificial intelligence demonstrates quite something else,” he said. “The printing press, the steam engine, electricity, the internet, every great technological revolution has been accompanied by fears about what it would destroy, particularly jobs.

“Where many see a threat, we see a new frontier. It can transform our economies, our medicine, our education, even the way we govern. That calls for prudence, yes, but prudence doesn’t mean fear.”

He calls for a more laissez-faire approach that mirrors Trump’s position, but a number of American politicians instead fear AI and want to regulate it into oblivion no matter how harmful that could be.

Despite Trump and Milei seeing eye-to-eye on AI, Trump continues to ignore many of the free-market lessons that Milei touts, but he is hardly the only one. The rise of democratic socialism stands in opposition to free-market capitalism and ignores socialism’s violent history of stifling freedom, innovation and prosperity.

But why should Americans care about Milei’s thoughts? While Argentina is still grappling with the economic consequences of many years of mismanagement, including a poverty rate over 30%, there are glimmers of hope. Since taking office, Milei balanced the country’s budget – even creating a surplus – brought inflation down from 211% to 31%, facilitated a surge of new housing construction, and after a debilitating recession, saw the Argentine economy grow by 4.4% in 2025. He did this by championing freer markets and limited government.

Milei saw a nation in decline, but as he said at the U.N., “Decline is not destiny. It is the result of repeated decisions, and if a course can be chosen, it can also be changed and that is what Argentina is trying to do.”

With many debating whether we are witnessing American decline – in the face of mounting debt, rising inflation and a frozen housing market – free market capitalism is part of the antidote we need. It’s true in Argentina, and it’s true here.

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

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

Government is the cause of fuel sticker shock. It won’t be the cure

U.S. president Donald Trump caught America by surprise in late September while gabbing with reporters during a visit to the United Nations: “I’ve said let’s not send out the diesel,” he said. “We make a lot of diesel.”

The impulse is understandable. With prices topping \$6 per gallon for a fuel widely used in long-haul trucking, rail transport, shipping by sea, and public transportation, everyone who buys anything is taking a new hit to the wallet. Trump would like to see those prices come down before the November midterms.

Other writers have ably explained why an export ban wouldn’t lower prices at the pump, but here’s an AI-generated summary for your convenience: “[E]xisting pipeline bottlenecks force regions such as New England and the West Coast to rely on waterborne imports; an export ban would trap Gulf Coast supplies in the region and compel refiners to cut daily output, driving up prices for gasoline, jet fuel and diesel.”

Quite a few chickens are coming home to roost, and to defecate on all our heads while roosting. The idiotic and illegal war against Iran is driving oil prices up. The ill-considered but never-dying Jones Act, which forbids using foreign-built, foreigncrewed, and foreign-owned ships to transport material between U.S. destinations, holds domestic cargo tonnage down.

Fortunately, Trump seems to be reconsidering a ban. Politico reports that federal officials are looking at other measures, such as encouraging states to put their diesel taxes on hold and/or allowing highway use of tax-exempt diesel (identified by its red color and normally only allowed for off-highway uses such as agriculture, construction and home heating).

That would be a welcome reversal from the usual trend.

As Thomas Sowell wrote in 2013, “Sometimes it seems as if there are more solutions than

problems. On closer scrutiny, it turns out that many of today’s problems are a result of yesterday’s solutions.”

Government perceives, or even creates a problem. In this case, the U.S. government created the problem of high fuel prices with its war on Iran. Government intervenes in markets to “solve” the problem.

But that intervention creates new, different problems – usually while failing to solve the previous problems. And those new problems are addressed with yet more interventions.

At every point in that never-ending loop, things get generally worse than they were before the latest intervention, and even in specific areas it’s usually hard to discern any improvement.

The only way to solve these problems is to reverse course and undo the interventions that caused them in the first place. The effects usually aren’t instant. If the war on Iran ends today, it may be years before the oil market recovers to steady, cheaper output and delivery.

Furthermore, such reversals aren’t politically palatable. No politician likes to publicly admit that he screwed up and has to pull a U-turn from a policy he previously tried to sell the public on. Trump personally seems even more resistant to doing so than most. Admitting that he lost a war, and in doing so screwed the American public over for no good reason, just doesn’t match his previously revealed temperament.

But to be clear here, it’s not just Trump. It’s pretty much every politician you’ll ever encounter. They all want to run your life, and they all do so pretty poorly when given the wheel. Trump is just the case of the moment.

The problem is that political government isn’t a workable substitute for a free market. Markets adapt to actual conditions. Politics adapts to the ego-mania of politicians. So don’t expect any big breaks on fuel prices any time soon.



KNAPP

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

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

No debate ... these should be great debates

Unless you have been living in a cave, you have no doubt been inundated with political ads from businessman Rick Jackson and former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who are running for governor; and incumbent Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican challenger Mike Collins, the two candidates vying for the U.S. Senate seat in Georgia.

The ads are so intense, we almost know them by heart. But what about the candidates themselves? How much do we know about them when they step out from in back of their ads?

You will get the chance to find out for yourself on Oct. 6 and Oct. 8. All four have agreed to face-to-face debates on WAFN in Atlanta and streamed on Gray Media stations live and statewide. The gubernatorial debate will take place on Oct. 6 at 8 p.m. and the Senate debate on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.

Frankly, I was surprised to hear the news. With the election just a bit more than a month away, why would

the candidates want to expose themselves to their opponent? I asked WANF news anchor Rick Folbaum, the man behind the project. How did he make it happen?

“As much as I’d like to take credit that I was able to earn the campaigns’ trust with my decades of experience and dazzling charm,” Folbaum quips, “the truth is these candidates want to be able to reach as many voters as possible, and Gray gives them that ability. This was our main selling point.”

Gray owns stations in every major media market in Georgia, making them the only outlet that could offer live, primetime statewide coverage.

Folbaum says: “Back in February, I approached my bosses with the idea that WANF and Gray Media should host political debates ahead of the November midterms. They said, ‘Sure, go ahead and get the campaigns on board.’ That’s when I started reaching out to the campaigns to tell them what we wanted to do and make the case we could be trusted to do it.”

Since this was before the primaries, Folbaum called everyone. Once he knew the nominees from each party, he was able to focus on the two candidates for governor and the Senate.

Folbaum, a 30-year broadcast veteran, said he had contacted Ossoff’s office first, since he was running unopposed in the Democratic primary. Then he was in contact with communications directors and campaign managers with the other candidates.

“I wrote up proposals outlining our vision and shared them with the campaigns,” Folbaum told me. He followed up with regular phone calls offering to answer anyone’s questions or concerns.

“Deciding whether to take part in a debate and which debates to sign on to is no easy decision. There is so much at stake in these elections, and the campaigns, understandably, want to make sure they’re signing on to an event that will be carried out fairly for everyone involved.”



YARBROUGH

The gubernatorial debate is a town-hall-style debate. Some of those asking questions will be in the debate hall. Those who don’t live in metro Atlanta will have their questions recorded and played back for the candidates during the debate. Most importantly, the people asking the questions will go through a thorough vetting process to make sure they don’t have any affiliation with the campaigns or with any other political organization.

In the Senate debate, a panel of journalists from Gray Media stations in Albany, Macon, Savannah, Columbus and Augusta will ask the questions that reflect the concerns of voters in their particular area.

Folbaum says polls show most voters have already made up their minds. I agree, based on the “see-no-evil” responses I get from

those who would support their candidate if he or she were seen running jaybird-naked down Interstate 75. But the debates can also change minds if a participant does extremely well or very poorly. There is no safety net.

Your assignment: Tune in. Take off the blinders. Watch. Listen. Then decide who best can serve us in Washington and in the governor’s office. As for Folbaum, who

will moderate the debates, he talked to Chris Wallace, with whom he had worked at Fox News.

“Chris’s main piece of advice to me,” he said, “was to be as invisible as possible. If the headlines the next day are about the moderator, then you’ve done something wrong.”

Not much chance of that happening. So far, everything he has done has been right. Let the debates begin.

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



What to watch THURSDAY

October 1, 2026

All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider.

Big Brother

CBS, 8 p.m. Live ■ **Season Finale**

Find out which Houseguest wins the Season 28 grand prize in the 90-minute live finale.

Scrabble

The CW, 8 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

Three contestants face off in a word battle as they try to climb their way to the final round and play for \$10,000 in the midseason premiere “Mt. Scrabblemore.”

Hell’s Kitchen

FOX, 8 p.m.

The teams battle it out in an extensive three-round challenge, then cook for a room full of influencers in the new episode “A Tale of Two Kitchens.”

Coven Academy

Freeform, 8 p.m. ■ **New Series**

In the haunted heart of New Orleans, *Coven Academy* follows three teenage witches and their dangerously charming warlock peers at an elite magic boarding school where power is currency, secrets are lethal and attraction is a liability. Caught between ancient supernatural wars and forbidden love interests, the coven must decide how far they’re willing to go to protect their city – and themselves.

Special Forces: World’s Toughest Test

FOX, 9 p.m.

In the new episode “Duty,” the recruits work together to retrieve a supply drop while dangling from a ladder 300 feet above the jungle canopy, then must navigate a grueling obstacle course through the dense jungle floor.



Trivial Pursuit

The CW, 9 p.m. ■ **Midseason Premiere**

A pediatric hematologist tests his knowledge in the six iconic Trivial Pursuit categories in hopes of winning \$20,000 in the midseason premiere “Science and Nurture.” LeVar Burton hosts.

War

HBO, 9 p.m. ■ **New Series**

Two rival London law firms take on the case of the century. In a world of love, scandal, betrayal and ambition, winning is everything, but it’s not as simple as good guys and bad guys in writer George Kay’s (*Hijack*, *Lupin*) twisted legal thriller. Dominic West stars as a tech billionaire and Sienna Miller stars as his movie-star wife, both looking to preserve their assets and reputations during their messy divorce – but how far are they (and their respective law firms) willing to go to achieve this? “The awfulness shifts around during *War*,” Kay shares. “At times it’s the clients who can be hard to control, but as the series progresses, it’s the lawyers’ secret motivations that take center stage. There is no limit to how far they’ll go to outdo their rivals: Compromising materials, corporate espionage and bedroom betrayals all form part of it.”



JUSTIN DOWNING, HBO

Archive X: Unexplained Phenomena

SundanceTV, 10 p.m. ■ **New Series**

This six-part docuseries that explores extraordinary human experiences kicks off to-night with the episode “Telepathic Children,” sharing the story of two nonverbal girls with autism who communicate telepathically with their mothers, describing a realm called “The Hill.” Rare footage reveals a pioneer who studied psychic children, challenging neuroscience, and questioning consciousness and connection.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Noir to Die For! MOVIES!, beginning at 6 a.m.

Today’s film noir spotlight features 11 films that will plunge viewers into a shadowy world of desperate characters, psychological torment and corrupt institutions. Among the highlights are **Caged** (1950), in which a naive young woman (Oscar nominee Eleanor Parker) is hardened by the brutal realities of life inside a women’s penitentiary. Noted noir director Fritz Lang’s **While the City Sleeps** (1956) finds media executives waging a cutthroat war to catch a notorious serial killer and secure a powerful promotion. In 1947’s **They Won’t Believe Me**, a philandering husband (Robert Young) on trial for the murder of his girlfriend (Susan Hayward) recounts a twisted tale of greed, deceit and accidental deaths. Another highlight is Nicholas Ray’s bleak, critically celebrated 1951 noir **On Dangerous Ground** (pictured), featuring



EVERETT COLLECTION

one of composer Bernard Herrmann’s finest scores, which follows an urban detective who is sent upstate to investigate a brutal rural murder and finds unexpected redemption.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



‘Hotel Transylvania’ SONY PICTURES ANIMATION

Air Force One (1997, Suspense) Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman **TNT, 6 p.m.**

Baggage Claim (2013, Romance-comedy) Paula Patton, Derek Luke **BET, 6 p.m.**

Oscar Shaw (2026, Action) Michael Jai White, Tyrese Gibson **Starz, 6:05 p.m.**

Hotel Transylvania (2012, Children) Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Aliens (1986, Science fiction) Sigourney Weaver, Carrie Henn **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Blade II (2002, Horror) Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson **E!, 8 p.m.**

Killer Clown (2026, Suspense) Sara Paxton, David Cubitt **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Martian (2015, Science fiction) Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain **TNT, 8:30 p.m.**

Top Gun (1986, Action) Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis **Paramount, 9 p.m.**

Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter (1984, Horror) Kimberly Beck, Peter Barton **IFC, 9:45 p.m.**

Freaky (2020, Horror) Vince Vaughn, Kathryn Newton **SYFY, 10:30 p.m.**

The Replacements (2000, Comedy) Keanu Reeves, Gene Hackman **USA, 10:30 p.m.**

Venom (2018, Action) Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams **FX, 10:30 p.m.**

The Fugitive (1993, Action) Harrison Ford, Tommy Lee Jones **TNT, 11:30 p.m.**

MUST-SEE MOVIES ALL MONTH LONG

StayTuned What2Watch All Month Long!

\$3.99/Month
CALL: 888-899-9992
Mention code: tune1

What to watch FRIDAY

October 2, 2026

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

The Wizard of Oz

MeTV, 7 p.m. ■ **Catch a Classic**

MGM’s beloved musical *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) was a staple of TV viewing during the holiday season from its first airing in 1956 until its final CBS telecast in 1998. Now, classic TV network MeTV has landed the exclusive broadcast rights and will air the film multiple times throughout the month beginning tonight. *The Facts of Life* star and *Collector’s Call* host Lisa Whelchel will introduce the film.

Gold Rush

Discovery, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

Parker Schnabel, Tony Beets and Rick Ness are still at it. As gold prices reach a staggering \$5,000 an ounce, a new wave of fortune seekers head to the Yukon, where mining veterans and the newbies risk everything in pursuit of life-changing riches. Fierce rivalries intensify, record-breaking hauls are within reach, and pressure mounts as crews battle harsh conditions, costly equipment



BEN BLACKALL, STARZ

failures, and risky decisions that could make or break their season. Despite delivering his best season ever last year, Parker still found himself trailing Tony, fueling his motivation to come out on top. With his sights set on a potential \$65 million jackpot, Parker chases a massive season target, but a dispute over water access threatens to derail his plans.

Africa Earth’s Wild Home

Nat Geo, 8 p.m. ■ **New Series**

Nearly four years in the making, this seven-part series is one of the most ambitious productions ever on Africa, revealing new species, never-before-documented behaviors and the continent’s most spectacular ecosystem. Narrated by Wunmi Mosaku, it’s a story of resilience, drama and survival.

Celebrity Wheel of Fortune

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

Hosted by fan-favorite Ryan Seacrest and beloved cohost Vanna White, the celebrity edition of the popular game show is back with more famous contestants spinning the Wheel and solving word puzzles for a chance to win \$1 million for the charity of their choice.

Hispanic Heritage Awards

PBS, 9 p.m.

The 39th Hispanic Heritage Awards ceremony, held Sept. 10 at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, honors the People of Minnesota with the Humanitarian Award. Venezuelan singer and musician Oscar D’León receives the Legend Award. Comedian Anjelah Johnson-Reyes hosts.

The UnBelievable With Dan Aykroyd

History, 9 p.m. ■ **Season Premiere**

Dan Aykroyd returns for Season 4, continuing to dive into history’s most astonishing people, bizarre places and outlandish events. Tonight’s episode, “Epic Fails,” explores a miracle cure with a deadly catch, a romantic gesture that explodes in a president’s face and a simple home repair that spirals wildly out of control. Sometimes the biggest disasters begin with the best intentions.

Tip Toe

Starz, 9:05 p.m. ■ **New Series**

In this riveting five-part British drama, longtime neighbors (Alan Cumming and David Morrissey) become enemies as prejudices against the LGBTQ+ community bring issues of identity, fear and polarization to the surface.



AMERICAN MASTERS

back the prosthetics to reveal the man behind cinema’s most harrowing masks. The theme continues with **Man of a Thousand Faces**

(1957), a biopic starring James Cagney that traces Chaney’s path from vaudeville to early Hollywood and illustrates how his upbringing with deaf parents influenced his art. Next up is Chaney’s most famous film, **The Phantom of the Opera** (1925), a master class in horror that remains terrifying a century later. Chaney traded in his signature prosthetics to deliver two of his most dramatic performances as tragic circus clowns in **He Who Gets Slapped** (1924) and **Laugh, Clown, Laugh** (1928). The night concludes with **The Blackbird** (1926), with Chaney playing dual roles as a criminal and a clergyman.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



‘Fist Fight’ WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Fist Fight (2017, Comedy) Charlie Day, Ice Cube **BET, 6:30 p.m.**

Lisa Frankenstein (2024, Horror) Kathryn Newton, Cole Sprouse **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

Hocus Pocus (1993, Family) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker **Disney, 7 p.m.**

The Avengers (2012, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans **FX, 7:30 p.m.**

The Haunting in Connecticut (2009, Horror) Virginia Madsen, Kyle Gallner **Sundance, 7:30 p.m.**

A League of Their Own (1992, Comedy-drama) Tom Hanks, Geena Davis **CMT, 8 p.m.**

Mr. Deeds (2002, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Winona Ryder **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Mystery Island: House Rules (2025, Adventure) Elizabeth Henstridge, Charlie Weber **Hallmark Mystery, 8 p.m.**

Beetlejuice (1988, Comedy) Michael Keaton, Alec Baldwin **Freeform, 8:55 p.m.**

Don’t Breathe (2016, Horror) Jane Levy, Dylan Minnette **SYFY, 9 p.m.**

Jack Reacher (2012, Action) Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike **Paramount, 9:30 p.m.**

Carrie (2013, Horror) Chloë Grace Moretz, Julianne Moore **Sundance, 9:45 p.m.**



StayTuned What2Watch All Month Long!

The Ultimate Guide for What to Watch Now!
Subscribe Today! 1-888-899-9995 | subscribe.staytunedmag.com/tune3
Mention code: tune1

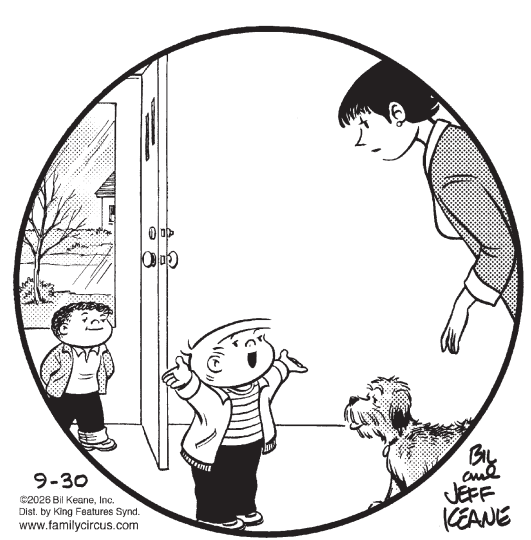
\$3.99/Month

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



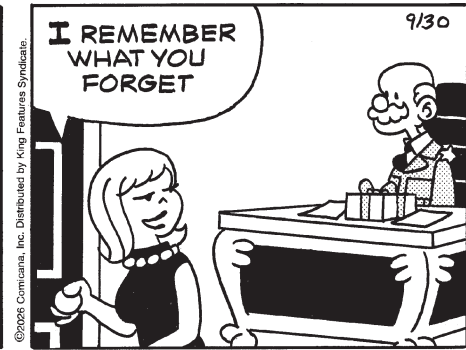
“Ken is determined to get on that show about hoarders.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

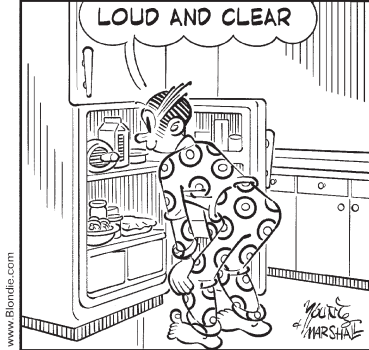
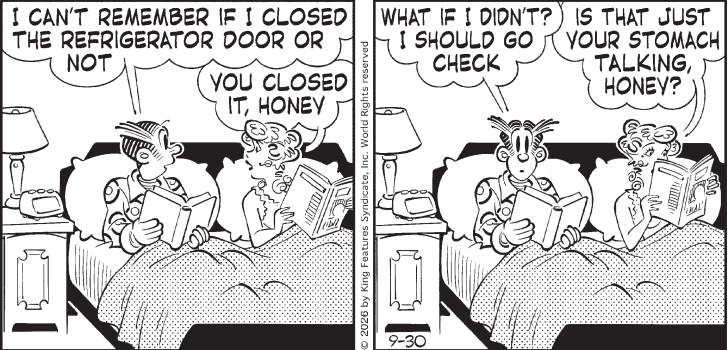


“Gary is lucky. He's got TWO rooms—one at his mother's house and one at his father's house.”

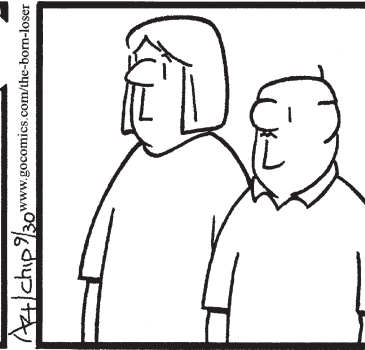
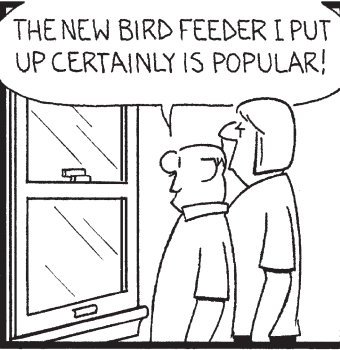
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



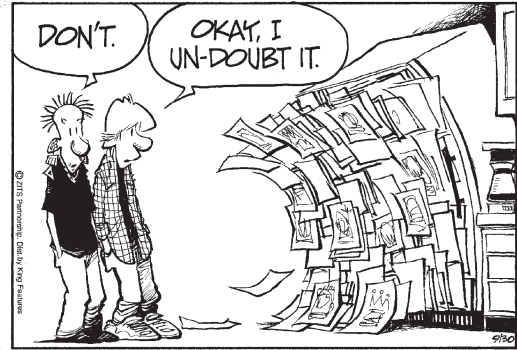
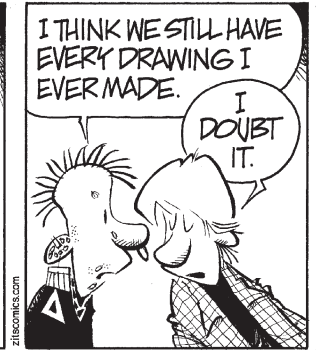
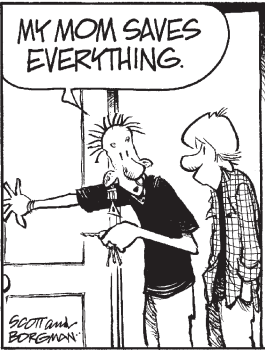
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



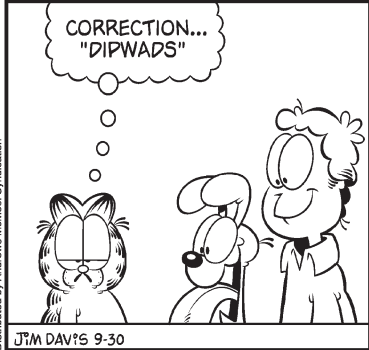
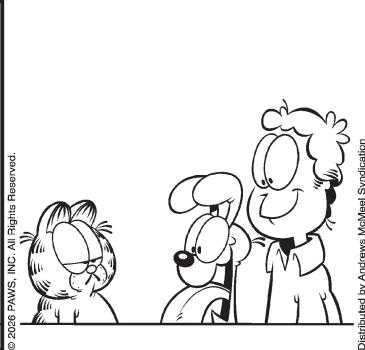
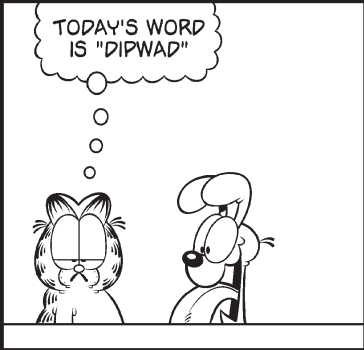
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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



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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

That is beside the point

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

- Place to retire
- "I Luh God" singer
- Prevent
- Neuschwanstein
- As soon as
- City in India's Golden Triangle
- "What'd I tell you?"
- Copied, in a way
- Not elective
- "My turn!"
- Have a hunch
- Sequoia, e.g.
- Thesaurus entries: Abbr.
- Blue part of blue cheese
- radar
- A deer, a female deer
- School of tomorrow?
- Puts a name to
- Skilled performer
- Mineralogist with a hardness scale
- Scott of "Severance"
- Cuatro y dos
- Nest egg letters
- Camp David
- Accords figure
- Eight-related
- Start of a pencil game
- Oscar and Grammy winner
- Tabloid TV host
- Povich
- Squalid space

DOWN

- No-frills
- "I Luh God" singer
- Prevent
- Neuschwanstein
- As soon as
- City in India's Golden Triangle
- "What'd I tell you?"
- Copied, in a way
- Not elective
- "My turn!"
- Have a hunch
- Sequoia, e.g.
- Thesaurus entries: Abbr.
- Blue part of blue cheese
- radar
- A deer, a female deer
- School of tomorrow?
- Puts a name to
- Skilled performer
- Mineralogist with a hardness scale
- Scott of "Severance"
- Cuatro y dos
- Spot for un chapeau
- Mary Kay rival
- City on the Tiber
- Brief scene
- Dessert for Little Jack Horner
- ATV component
- Atmosphere
- Hankering
- Fully grasp
- In a senseless way
- Memorial bios
- Warrant
- London of "What Not To Wear"
- Discreet summons
- Ishmael's captain
- Brouhaha
- Setting of the graphic novel "Persepolis"
- In ___ as found
- Over yonder
- Color TV pioneer

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

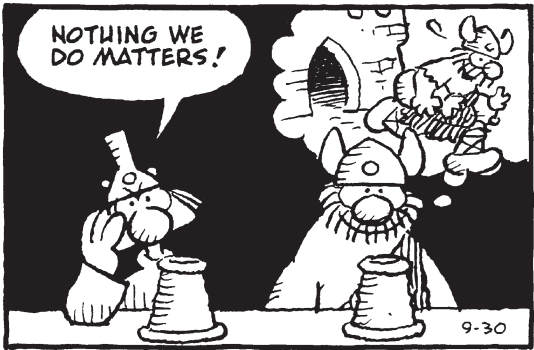
09/30/26

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20				21						22				
23										24				
				25						26				
32	33	34								35				
37										38				
41										42				
44										45	46			
										47				
53	54	55	56							57	58			
59										60				
62										63				
65										66				

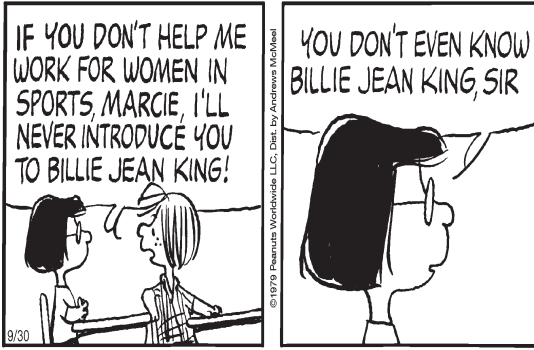
By Lee Taylor
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

09/30/26

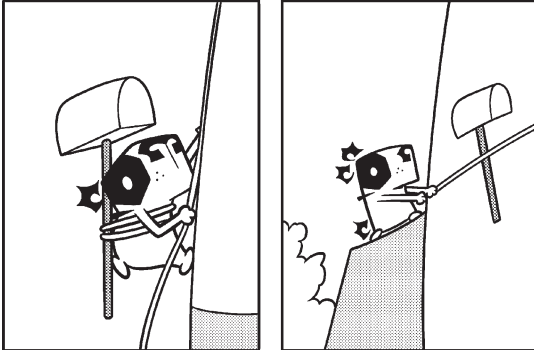
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

THE PERFORMING ARTS

Solution: 7 letters

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

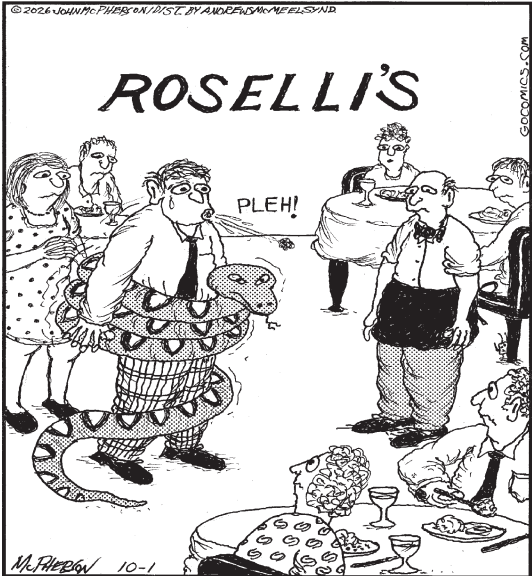
© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

9/30

Act, Applause, Arts, Ballet, Ballroom, Classical, Comedy, Costume, Dance, Design, Drum, Effects, Film, Folk, Hip-hop, Lights, Live, Makeup, Masks, Mime, Movie, Music, Paint, Piano, Play, Plot, Production, Props, Puppet, Role, Scene, Script, Show, Sing, Sound, Speech, Stage, Stand-up, Story, Tableau, Tango, Theater, Tickets, Ventriloquist, Violin, Vocal, Waltz

TODAY'S ANSWER: Buskers

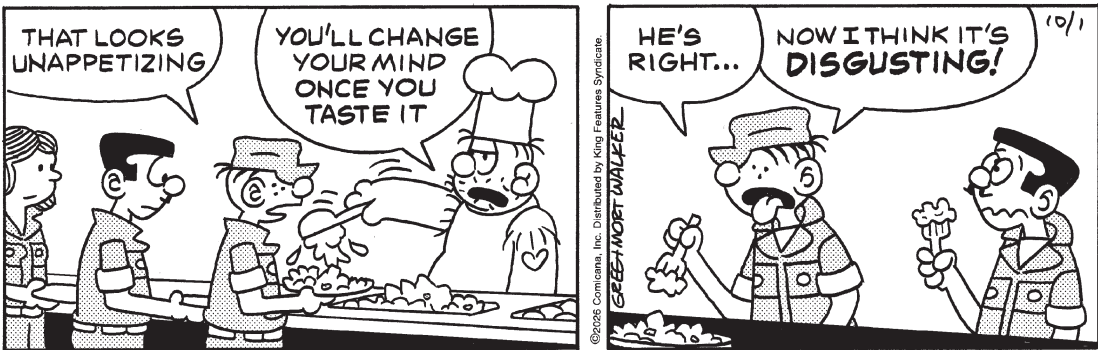
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



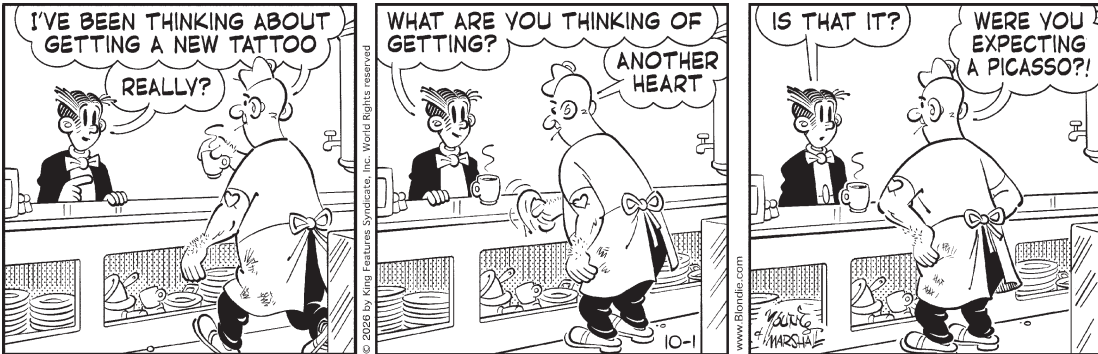
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



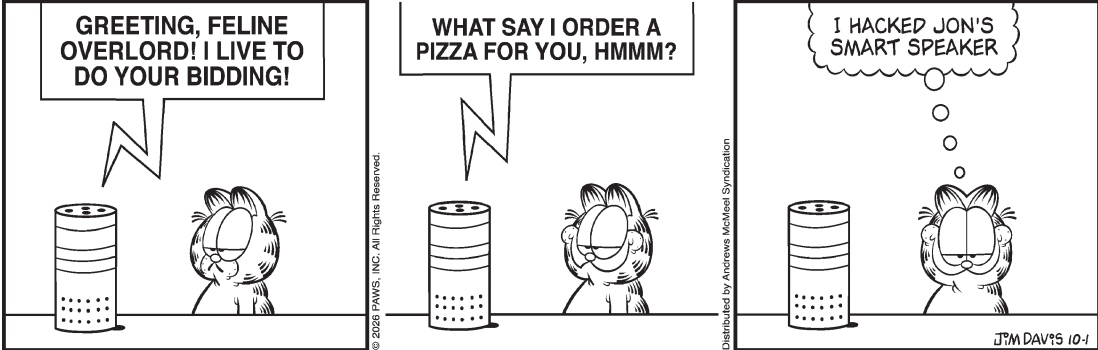
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

WHATZIT?

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



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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Play on words

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- "Cogito, ergo —"
- Streetcar
- Luge
- "... — I saw Elba"
- Lead character
- Ripped
- Links org.
- Sign over a door
- Drizzle
- Singing voice
- Considers
- Payable
- Clumsy fellow
- Human
- Fashionably dated
- Jolts
- Unwelcome plant
- In what way?
- Playing card

36 Cabbage salad

- Ceremony
- Corpsman
- Time in office
- Speck
- Unmatched
- Polynesian island
- Vitality
- Margarine
- Wife of a rajah
- Intention
- Shut with force
- Long story
- -o'-shanter
- Weakens
- Remove
- Isle of —

DOWN

- Fall mo.
- Encourage
- Walked aimlessly

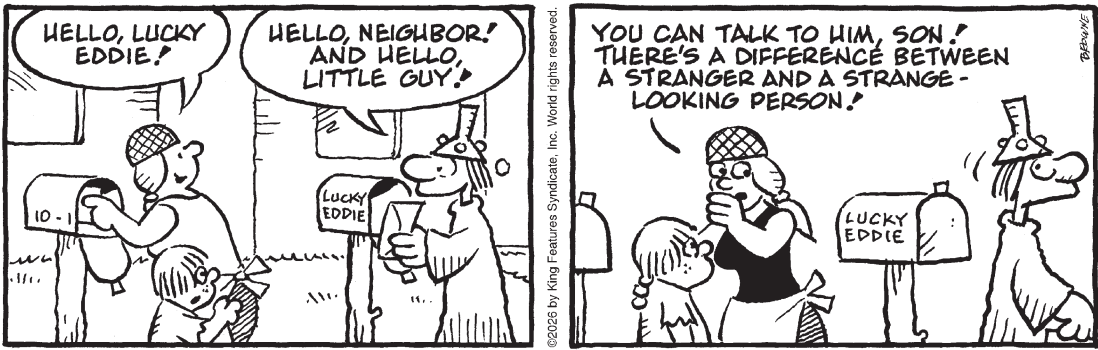
TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

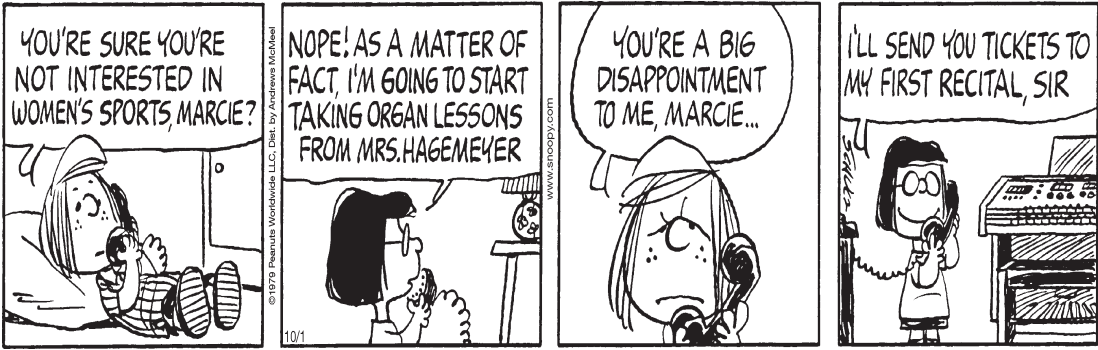
- "— no place like home"
- Actor — Harrison
- Onassis, familiarly
- Slogan
- Conflict

- Cash advance
- Actor — Estrada
- Private rooms
- Yours and mine
- Stony
- Walk back and forth
- Night bird
- Tidy
- Inferior (2 wds.)
- Memory alone
- Be in the red
- Cram
- Mother sheep
- Highlander
- Ill-mannered
- Figures of speech
- Beginner
- All in
- Fling
- breve
- Pile
- Small bottle
- TV award
- Copy
- Zero

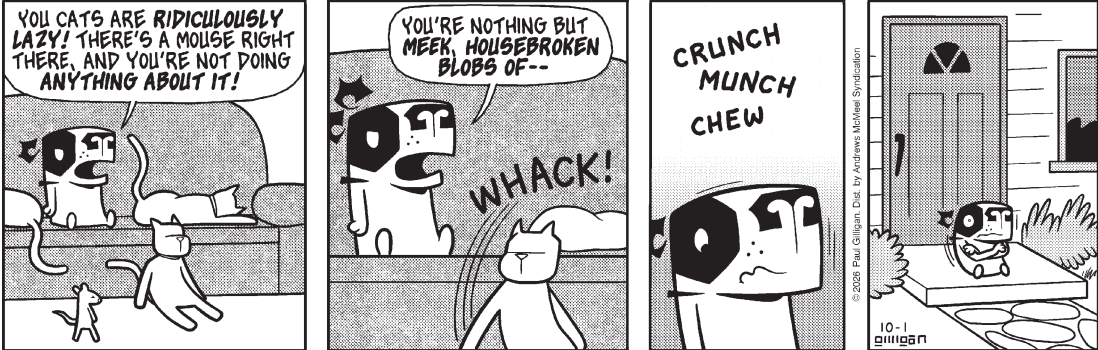
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

FROZEN BURGERS

Solution: 7 letters

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

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

10/1

Air Fryer, Bacon, Bake, BBQ, Brand, Bun, Butter, Charcoal, Cheddar, Cheese, Chicken, Cook, Defrost, Flip, Fridge, Garden, Garlic, Grill, Heat, Kitchen, Lamb, Mayo, Meal, Meat, Onion, Pepper, Pickles, Relish, Round, Salt, Sauce, Savory, Shape, Share, Sliders, Smoky, Spatula, Stove, Summer, Sweet, Take, Taste, Tater, Temperature, Texture, Thermometer, Thick, Tomato, Turkey

TODAY'S ANSWER: Patties

Albany State awarded \$2.24 million grant to expand entrepreneurship education

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Albany State University has been awarded a \$2.24 million competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency to develop and launch a regional entrepreneurship education program serving southwest Georgia.

The two-year initiative will provide entrepreneurs with practical business education, industry-recognized credentials and connections to resources designed to help them start, strengthen and grow their businesses. The program will serve a 38-county region anchored by the Albany metropolitan area and aims to reach 1,000 entrepreneurs during the grant period.

The grant was authored and submitted by Jarrod Benjamin, ASU’s vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, who will serve as project director. The

initiative, titled “Leveraging Regional Assets and Technology Commercialization: The Albany State University MBDA Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education Program,” will operate through Aug. 31, 2028.

“This award allows Albany State University to build a durable engine for entrepreneurship, capital access, and job creation in the communities we serve,” Benjamin said. “We designed this program to meet southwest Georgia’s entrepreneurs where they are to connect them to the region’s anchor industries, to capital, and to the practical skills they need to launch and grow viable businesses.”

Through the initiative, Albany State will develop and implement a new, evidence-based entrepreneurship curriculum specifically designed around the needs and economic strengths of southwest Georgia.

The program’s credentials will serve as building blocks



Special Photo: ASU

Jarrod Benjamin, Erin Gilliam and Peter Ngwafu will develop and launch Albany State University’s regional entrepreneurship education program serving southwest Georgia.

toward a new 23-credit-hour Certificate of Entrepreneurship and Economic Impact, which ASU will launch as a stand-alone, industry-recognized certificate program.

The certificate will be embedded into ASU’s Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration curricula, allowing future students to earn the credential as part of their degree programs. The certificate also will provide an option for entrepreneurs and other working professionals who are not enrolled in a degree program to pursue the

credential independently.

The project is led by a team of Albany State faculty and administrators with experience in entrepreneurship education, curriculum development, workforce development, grant management and regional programming.

By incorporating the new entrepreneurship curriculum and Certificate of Entrepreneurship and Economic Impact into its academic offerings, Albany State will create a lasting educational infrastructure that extends beyond the two-year grant period.

Shots fired in home during standoff with APD

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Officers from the Albany Police Department’s Hostage Negotiation Team and the Albany-Dougherty SWAT Team entered a residence on the 700 block of 16th Avenue last week and arrested Taylor Sanford, who had fired shots in the home.

Sanford had barricaded himself inside a shed adjacent to the residence. Police said he fired several shots inside the home with his mother present. His mother was able to leave the residence and contact police from a neighbor’s home.

Officers located shell casings inside the residence, confirming that shots had been fired. Sanford then barricaded himself inside a rear shed with a handgun. After a search warrant was



Taylor Sanford

obtained, the SWAT Team entered the residence and took Sanford into custody.

Sanford was charged with aggravated assault-family violence-firearm and possession of a firearm or knife during the commission of or attempt to commit certain felonies. He was taken to the Dougherty County Jail.

Phoebe hospitals to provide free mammograms

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY/AMERICUS -- - In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and as part of their commitment to promoting women’s health, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany and Phoebe Sumter Medical Center in Americus will provide free 3-D mammogram screenings throughout October. These screenings are available for women who are uninsured and in need of their annual mammogram.

One hundred free screenings will be conducted in Albany; 50 in Americus.

The 3-D mammography procedure is similar to a traditional mammogram, but the key difference is that the tomosynthesis machine moves around the breast rather than staying stationary. During the 3-D exam, multiple low-dose images are captured from different angles, offering a more comprehensive view of the breast tissue. This advanced imaging allows radiologists to better detect and evaluate individual breast structures, reducing the risk of missing abnormalities due to overlapping tissue.

“At Phoebe, we believe early detection saves lives,” Lori

Nurmi, director of Oncology Services at Phoebe in Albany, said. “That’s why we’re dedicated to ensuring cost is never a barrier to essential screenings, giving women the opportunity to take control of their health with confidence.”

Added Carlyle Walton, the president of Phoebe Sumter: “At Phoebe Sumter, we take our commitment to our community very seriously. This is one way each year that we can reach out to women in and around Sumter County to ensure they have access to this potentially lifesaving screening.”

To be considered for one of the free breast tomosynthesis screenings, each Phoebe Albany applicant must meet the following criteria:

Not had a mammogram in the last 12 months;

Age 40 or older;

Not experiencing any breast problems, (if you are experiencing breast problems, contact your doctor immediately);

Uninsured;

Not pregnant;

Live in one of the following counties: Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Crisp, Dougherty, Early, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Randolph, Sumter, Terrell, Tift, Turner and Worth;

FREE 3-D Mammograms
for women who qualify

Check eligibility & schedule now!

October 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				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

Phoebe

Special Illustration

Must have a referring physician.
Requirements are the same at Phoebe Sumter, except

the counties of residence are Sumter, Schley, Macon, Marion, Dooly, Webster, Stewart and Taylor.

Smithville to host Chicken Pie Festival

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

SMITHVILLE -- Southwest Georgians are invited to celebrate Halloween in this small Lee County community, as Smithville prepares

to host its annual Chicken Pie Festival on Oct. 31.

Organizers promise a better-than-ever celebration with delicious food, a car and motorcycle show, entertainment and the community favorite chicken pie contest.

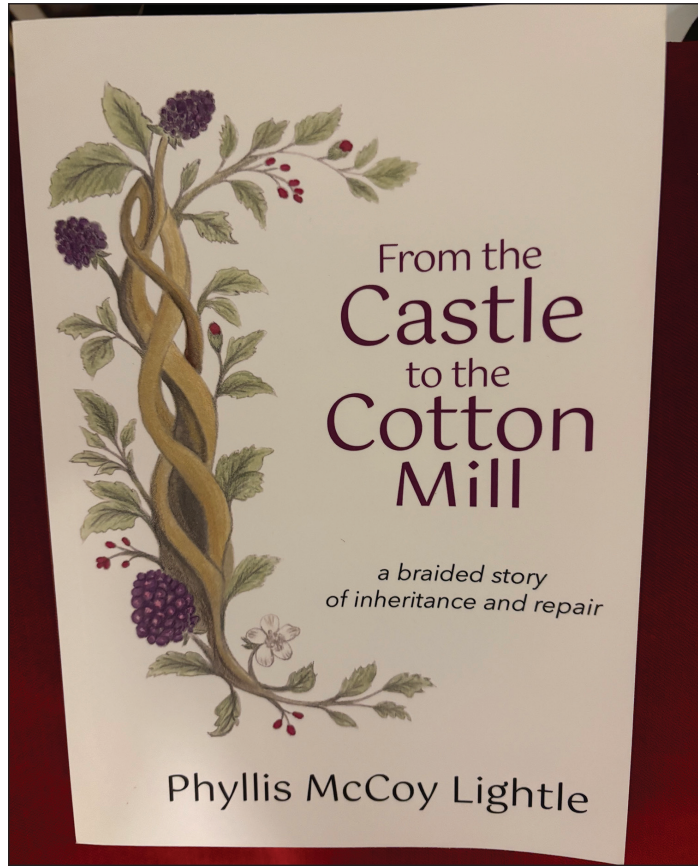
The festivities will kick off bright and early on trick-or-treat day with a parade starting at 9 a.m., featuring local schools, organizations, and lively floats. Once the parade wraps up, the fun will continue throughout the day with non-stop entertainment for all ages.

Car lovers and motorcycle enthusiasts will not want to miss the car show featuring sleek classic cars. Throughout the day, live entertainment will be provided by area musicians, including The Eric Hatcher Band, who will bring a mix of great music that will keep listeners dancing. Fans of country, rock or pop will hear some of their favorites as the music continues.

The contest is open to all cooks.

The festival will feature a variety of vendors, offering everything from handmade crafts to delicious local foods, as the festival marketplace promises something for everyone.

For anyone interested in becoming a vendor or entering their chicken pie in the contest, applications are available at the city of Smithville. Call (229) 903-5537 for more details or call Dot Angry at (229) 942-7809 or (229) 564-4322.



Special images

Albany authors plan book-signing event

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Authors and former Albany Herald reporters Phyllis McCoy Lightle and Bill Lightle will be in Albany Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. signing copies of their new books at the Tift Park Community Market.

The Lightles came of age in Albany, having met and dated there in the early 1980s, working as reporters for The Albany Herald. Life took them other ways back then, but they found each other again in 2008 and married a year later. Since 2011, the couple has lived in Fayetteville.

Phyllis Lightle’s book,

“From the Castle to the Cotton Mill: A Braided Story of Inheritance and Repair,” is part memoir and part history.

Bill Lightle’s book, “The New Justice & Other Spirit Animals,” is about a big, loveable black Lab named Justice who came into the author’s life in the mid-1990s. He will also be signing copies of his seven-part Maynard/Sinclair thriller series that was first published in 2015.

The Tift Park Market stop is the first of several events the Lightles have planned for their books throughout the fall and winter. Their books are available on Amazon.

Tift Park is located at Fifth and Monroe Streets.

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

MADlab Marketing

MADlab

a marketing collaboration

STAR BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

STAR BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

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

Founded in 1999 as Langstaff Marketing, MADlab has spent nearly three decades helping businesses bring their ideas to life through creative, strategic marketing. From a time before social media, smartphones, and even widespread business websites, MADlab has continually evolved alongside the ever-changing world of marketing.

Over the years, the team has produced hundreds of websites, television commercials, print campaigns, special events, and social media campaigns, helping clients develop marketing strategies that connect with their audiences and deliver results.

MADlab understands that there is no one-size-fits-all formula for successful marketing. As the industry continues to change, their approach is built around finding the right mix for each client — whether that means a drop of social media, a splash of traditional media, or a creative combination of both.

We are proud to recognize MADlab Marketing for its creativity, adaptability, and years of service to businesses in our community. Congratulations, MADlab Marketing!

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

MADlab Marketing

322 N Washington
Albany, Ga 31701

ALBANY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

225 W. Broad Ave.
Albany, GA 31701

229.434.8700

albanyga.com

Fleming & Riles INSURANCE

WALB NEWS 10

The Albany HERALD

clearchannel

ALBANY CEO

ellianos coffee

FOX 31

WSWG SOUTHWEST GEORGIA



Special Photo: Dale Zanine, Imagn Images

Atlanta Braves third baseman Austin Riley celebrates after his three-run homer in the eighth inning lifted the Braves to a 5-3 win over Philadelphia in Game 1 of their National League wild card series Tuesday at Truist Park in Atlanta.

Riley’s late blast lifts Braves in wild card opener

Field Level Media

ATLANTA — Austin Riley delivered the biggest swing of the Braves’ season when they needed it most. Riley blasted a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning Tuesday, turning a one-run deficit into a 5-3 Atlanta victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 1 of their best-of-three National League wild-card series. The win moved the Braves within one victory of their first postseason series win since capturing the 2021 World Series. Atlanta can close out the series Wednesday afternoon at Truist Park. Michael Harris II singled

with two outs in the eighth and Ozzie Albies was hit by a pitch before Riley jumped on the first offering from Phillies closer Jhoan Duran. Riley drove it 385 feet to right-center for his sixth career postseason homer. Duran had retired the first five Braves he faced before Atlanta’s decisive rally. Harris finished 3-for-3 and scored twice for the Braves. The late comeback rescued a strong postseason performance from Chris Sale. Making his first playoff start since 2021, the Atlanta left-hander struck out a postseason career-high nine and allowed three runs on four hits with one walk over 6 1/3 innings.

Atlanta trailed 1-0 after Alec Bohm doubled home Kyle Schwarber in the first inning, but Mike Yastrzemski tied the game with an RBI single in the second. The Braves moved ahead in the sixth after Phillies starter Jesus Luzardo departed. Albies ripped an RBI triple to right-center to score Harris and give Atlanta a 2-1 advantage. Philadelphia answered in the seventh. Sale allowed two runners to reach before rookie Didier Fuentes entered from the bullpen. Fuentes nearly escaped the inning before J.T. Realmuto delivered a two-out, two-run triple that put the Phillies back in front 3-2.

The lead lasted only until Riley came to the plate in the eighth. Dylan Lee worked a scoreless eighth to earn the victory, and Raisel Iglesias pitched around a leadoff single in the ninth, getting a double play before finishing the game with a flyout. The Braves had their first opportunity to clinch the series at 2 p.m. Wednesday, when right-hander Tyler Mahle was expected to face Philadelphia left-hander Cristopher Sánchez. If the Phillies did force a deciding Game 3, it will be played at 2 p.m. Thursday at Truist Park.



Special Photo: Submitted

Baconton Charter quarterback Preston Hurst earned Player of the Week honors for leading the Blazers to a 28-21 win over the Terrell Academy Eagles Friday night in Baconton. The junior signal-caller completed 11 of 12 passes for 244 yards and three touchdowns.

Friday Night Five: Hurst’s near-perfect night helps Baconton Charter make history

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

BACONTON — Baconton Charter has never had a football season quite like this one. And Preston Hurst had a lot to do with making history Friday night. The junior quarterback completed 11 of 12 passes for 244 yards and three touchdowns as the Blazers beat Terrell Academy 28-21, improving to 5-1 and setting a program record for victories in a season. Hurst’s near-perfect performance also earned him Albany Herald Friday Night Five Player of the Week honors. Five wins may not sound extraordinary for some programs. For Baconton Charter, it represents another milestone in a season that has quickly become the best in school history. The Blazers have won four straight and, with games still remaining, already have more victories than any Baconton Charter football team before them. Hurst was remarkably efficient in getting them there. He completed 91.7% of his passes and averaged more than 20 yards per attempt against Terrell Academy. Seven of his completions went to Kayden Logue, who piled up 161 receiving yards and a touchdown. Ziroc West caught three passes for 82 yards, with two of those catches going for touchdowns. That means 10 of Hurst’s 11 completions went to Logue or West, and the duo accounted for 243 of his 244 passing yards. For a program enjoying unprecedented success, Hurst delivered one of the most efficient quarterback performances of the season at exactly the right time. Here is the rest of this week’s Friday Night Five:

PASSING

- 1. Preston Hurst, Baconton Charter — 11 of 12, 244 yards, 3 TDs
- 2. Omarion Guildford, Calhoun County — 11 of 22, 229 yards, 1 TD
- 3. Micah Joyner, Dougherty — 6 of 9, 225 yards, 4 TDs
- 4. Cohen Lawson, Lee County — 14 of 20, 181 yards
- 5. Brandon Hemmings, Sherwood Christian — 10 of 24, 120 yards, 2 TDs

RUSHING

Golden Rams remain confident entering open week

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — At Albany State, losses tend to linger a little louder. The Golden Rams made the NCAA Division II playoffs last season, and the expectations surrounding the program did not disappear when David Bowser arrived as head coach. Saturday’s loss to Kentucky State dropped Albany State to 2-3 overall and interrupted the momentum created by consecutive conference victories. Bowser understands the disappointment. He also refuses to treat one September loss as a verdict on the season. “We are in a good place,” Bowser said. He never suggested that he is feeling pressure from outside the program. Still, his message during a conversation about the first five games was unmistakable: Albany State is improving, the championship goal remains attainable and there is too much football left for the Golden Rams to lose confidence now. Albany State is 2-1 in the SIAC entering its open week. Its final five regular-season games are all conference matchups, beginning with Lane in the Golden Rams’ Homecoming game. “If we handle our business, we are back in the championship,” Bowser said. “That is the exciting thing. We still control our destiny.” The standings support his optimism. Several teams ahead of Albany State still must play one another, and some have not faced the Golden Rams. Head-to-head victories over the final five weeks could quickly reshape the championship race. Bowser’s confidence is also rooted in what he has learned about his team since August. “These guys love each other, and they want to play for each other,” he said. “Every week, they’ve taken the challenge and trusted each other. They are a resilient group.” That resilience was tested against Kentucky State. Albany State played without two starting offensive linemen and three defensive linemen. The Golden Rams struggled to establish their inside running game, and



Special Photo: Reginald Christian, ASU

Kentucky State wide receiver Aiyon Carter leaps to catch a touchdown pass over Albany State’s Carter Hicks during Saturday’s game in Albany. The Thoroughbreds held off an Albany State rally to claim the win.

Kentucky State frequently devoted two defenders to Jaquan Graham, Albany State’s most explosive receiver. Even so, the Golden Rams remained close enough to have an opportunity on their final possession. Bowser said one of the game’s pivotal moments came before halftime, when Albany State came away with three points instead of seven. It was one of several opportunities the Golden Rams created but failed to finish. “We’ve got to make sure we capitalize and come away with points,” Bowser said. Bowser credited Kentucky State’s preparation and execution. The Thoroughbreds used two quarterbacks, managed the first-down marker and sustained possessions without constantly searching for a home-run play. Kentucky State improved to 4-1, and Bowser considers the Thoroughbreds the best team in the SIAC at this point in the season. He also believes Albany State showed that the distance between the two programs is not as great as the disappointment surrounding Saturday’s result

might suggest. “We played a good doggone football team,” Bowser said. “They’re playing the way Albany State played last year.” That comparison carried weight. Last season’s Albany State team reached the playoffs and established the standard against which this year’s Golden Rams are being measured. Bowser is not asking his players to ignore the loss. He wants it to bother them. What he does not want is for one defeat to become doubt. The open week gives Albany State time to get healthier, return to fundamentals and evaluate younger players who have been forced into larger roles. Bowser hopes to regain several starters before the closing five-game stretch begins. The first half of his opening season has been difficult, but it has not eliminated any of Albany State’s primary goals. Five conference games remain. Bowser’s message is simple: Win them, and the Golden Rams will again have an opportunity to play for a championship.

Curtis brings intriguing twist to Georgia-Vanderbilt

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ATHENS — Jared Curtis was once supposed to become Georgia’s quarterback. On Saturday, he will try to beat the Bulldogs. Curtis, a five-star prospect from Nashville, was committed to Georgia deep into his high school recruitment before reversing course and signing with Vanderbilt. Now a freshman, he will start against the program he once planned to join. Georgia coach Kirby Smart left the recruiting history in the past on Monday. His concern is the player Curtis has already become. “He has tremendous talent and is way better athletically than people give him credit for,” Smart said. “I don’t know if one person has tackled him yet. He’s strong, he’s quick, he’s powerful, and he’s got great arm talent. Everything that everybody thought has been true.” That combination of mobility and arm strength makes Curtis



Special Photo: Rodney Cofield

Georgia wide receiver Taylan Taylor celebrates after scoring a touchdown against Oklahoma last Saturday in Athens. Taylor and the Bulldogs will face Vanderbilt Saturday “between the hedges.”

especially dangerous. Georgia must keep him contained without compromising its coverage downfield, and Smart said the assignment begins with something far less complicated: getting him on the ground. “It’s always important that you tackle well,” Smart said. “It doesn’t matter if it’s a running back, a receiver, a tight end or a quarterback.” Smart has little use for labeling quarterbacks as mobile anymore. In today’s game, he considers mobility part of the position. “We’re going to play mobile quarterbacks the entire year,” he said. “Tell me somebody that’s not mobile that plays quarterback. I don’t know if there is one.” Curtis’ return to Georgia’s schedule also provided an unmistakable reminder of how uncertain recruiting commitments have become. Asked generally about prospects committing early, Smart offered

Trojan War awaits Lee County in Douglas

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Lee County spent much of the first half of its season proving it could take a punch.

Now the Trojans get a chance to show how they respond to a loss.

There is little time for reflection after Friday night's 49-26 loss to No. 1 Thomas County Central. Lee County goes from facing the state's top-ranked Class 6A team to traveling to Douglas on Friday for another showdown with an unbeaten opponent.

Coffee is 5-0 and ranked No. 3 in Class 6A. Lee County is 4-1 and No. 4.

The Trojan Radio Network has dubbed the matchup between the two teams separated by Georgia Highway 32 the "Battle of Highway 32."

This week, it might as well be called the Trojan War.

"We have certainly been in several big-time atmospheres and tough games this season against top-quality competition," Lee County coach Dean Fabrizio said. "This team is definitely battle tested."

Few teams could argue otherwise.

Before running into defending state champion Thomas County Central, Lee County had survived a demanding opening stretch that included comeback victories against ranked opponents Carol City, Sequoyah and Colquitt County. Against Thomas County Cen-

tral, however, mistakes that Lee County had survived in earlier games proved costly.

"The thing when you play a team as good as TCC is any little mistake gets exposed," Fabrizio said. "Some things we have been able to get away with finally hurt us Friday. We have to correct those things.

"Also, we didn't do a good job of staying the course once we got down. For the first time all year, some panic set in and some guys reverted back to bad habits. We will learn from that and get better because of it."

The recovery started Monday. Lee County came out of Friday's physical game with its share of bumps and bruises but no major injuries. More importantly to Fabrizio, the loss appeared to have the Trojans' attention when they returned to work.

"Our kids came back re-focused and we had a good practice," he said.

They will need that focus against a Coffee team that presents a much different challenge than Thomas County Central.

While Lee County's early schedule has been loaded with ranked opponents, Coffee has taken care of business during its 5-0 start, including victories over traditionally strong programs Parkview and Ware County.

And there is little mystery about what Coffee wants to



Special Photo: Jim Griffith, jimgriffithphoto.com
Lee County receiver Jaden Upshaw and the No. 4 Trojans travel to Douglas on Friday night for a Class 6A showdown with unbeaten No. 3 Coffee.

do offensively.
Run the football.

Coffee has attempted only 37 passes through five games,

Sherwood sends seniors out with a sweep

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Sherwood Christian Academy gave its seniors a fitting farewell Monday night.

Playing its final home match of the regular season, the Lady Eagles dominated Highland Christian in straight sets, winning 25-8, 25-10 and 25-6 during a Pink Out and Senior Night celebration.

The victory improved Sherwood Christian to 18-8 overall and provided another boost of momentum heading into the GIAA state playoffs.

"Senior Night was a huge success," Sherwood coach Bri Collins said. "Our seniors have had a great year, and tonight capped it off with a great Senior Night. We had a great time celebrating this group, and it was good to get a win."

Sherwood honored seven senior players — Bella Mullis, Emma Baker, Addie Walker, Maddie Mallard, Justice Perryman, Melia Mallard and Julia Kendrick — along with senior managers Amie

Amparo and Jordyn Brown.

The Lady Eagles controlled the match from the service line, with Kendrick leading the way. Highland Christian was never able to settle into a rhythm as Sherwood built early leads in each set and quickly answered any attempt at a rally.

"We were dominant at the service line the entire night, led by Julia Kendrick," Collins said. "When given the opportunity to fight back, we answered and never looked back."

After rolling through the first two sets, Collins gave the seven senior players the third set together. They closed the night with Sherwood's most decisive victory, finishing the 25-6 set and completing the sweep.

"I was happy to honor our seven players with their own seniors-only third set," Collins said. "This group is special and will leave a great legacy in our program."

The night was both a celebration of what the seniors have contributed and a transition toward what Sherwood



Special Photo: Submitted
The Sherwood volleyball seniors are, from left, manager Amie Amparo, Bella Mullis, Emma Baker, Addie Walker, Maddie Mallard, Justice Perryman, Melia Mallard, Julia Kendrick, manager Jordyn Brown with Coach Bri Collins.

still hopes to accomplish.

The Lady Eagles finished third in the region behind Valwood and Grace Christian, earning the right to host first-round playoff matches Saturday. Before turning their full attention to the postseason, Sherwood will travel to Mount de Sales for its final regular-season match.

Collins said the Lady Eagles must use the remaining practices and match experience to make sure they are

playing together when the postseason begins.

"We are excited to host the first round of the state playoffs on Saturday," Collins said. "We're taking it one day and one practice at a time and making sure we connect as a team from start to finish."

Saturday, the Lady Eagles will watch as Georgia Christian and Heritage Prep start the playoffs Saturday at Sherwood, then the Lady Eagles will face the winner at 4 p.m.

From 9A GEORGIA

an answer that fits the Curtis story particularly well.

"No one's committed until they're signed," Smart said. "At the end of the day, they're not bound until they sign something or they enroll. ... They're not yours. They have an option to go to other places. You also have an option to not keep them."

Curtis chose Vanderbilt, and coach Clark Lea has built a program capable of giving Georgia problems well beyond the quarterback position.

Smart described the Commodores as physical, disciplined and constructed much like Georgia under a defensive-minded head coach. He also suggested Vanderbilt deserved stronger consideration for the College Football Playoff last season.

"They've got a great program, a great team," Smart said. "They arguably should have made the playoffs last year with the record they had and the teams they beat."

Vanderbilt's defense has Smart's attention as well. The Commodores combine athleticism with the sound fundamentals expected from a Lea-coached team.

"They've got twitchy guys," Smart said. "They're sound fun-

damentally, play really hard, and he's got a defensive staff, but he's also the head coach. He's a defensive guy."

Georgia's offense will counter with the balance it showed against Oklahoma. Smart liked the physical play of the offensive line and the way the Bulldogs mixed the running game with play-action passes, pocket movement and traditional drop-back throws.

The Bulldogs have also been better at protecting the football and creating takeaways.

"Our turnover ratio has been better," Smart said. "It's probably the biggest difference. We've taken more than we've given."

That margin could prove crucial against Vanderbilt and its talented freshman quarterback.

Curtis never made it to Georgia's locker room. On Saturday, the Bulldogs will be responsible for making sure he does not take over their field

Georgia and Vanderbilt will kick off at 12:45 p.m. Saturday at Sanford Stadium in Athens. The game will be televised by the SEC Network.

From 9A FIVE

1. Quintin Edwards, Calhoun County — 15 carries, 164 yards, 1 TD
2. Dyson Harris, Sherwood Christian — 21 carries, 139 yards, 1 TD
3. Morris Hill, Dougherty — 11 carries, 117 yards, 1 TD
4. Michael Daniels, Westover — 17 carries, 116 yards
5. Brandon Hemmings, Sherwood Christian — 8 carries, 90 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING

1. Kayden Logue, Baconton Charter — 7 catches, 161 yards, 1 TD
2. David Burgess, Dougherty — 2 catches, 93 yards, 2 TDs
3. Mikhail Simmons, Westover — 3 catches, 83 yards, 1 TD
4. Ziroc West, Baconton Charter — 3 catches, 82 yards, 2 TDs
5. Jherel Gibson, Dougherty — 2 catches, 76 yards, 2 TDs

Softball Roundup: Lee Co. falls; Deerfield-Windsor, Dougherty and Wednesday roll

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — One swing broke open a scoreless game and sent Lee County to a rare defeat Monday afternoon.

Perry's Emma Hapton hit a grand slam during a six-run fourth inning, and the Lady Panthers handed the Lady Trojans a 6-2 loss in Leesburg.

The teams were scoreless through three innings before Perry put together its decisive rally. Natalie Myers singled home the first run, another scored on an error and Hapton drove a pitch over the right-field fence to make it 6-0.

Lee County never recovered, falling to 23-3 after entering the game on a six-game winning streak.

Tina Benton went the distance in the circle for the Lady Trojans and allowed eight hits while striking out six and walking three. Only one of Perry's six runs was earned.

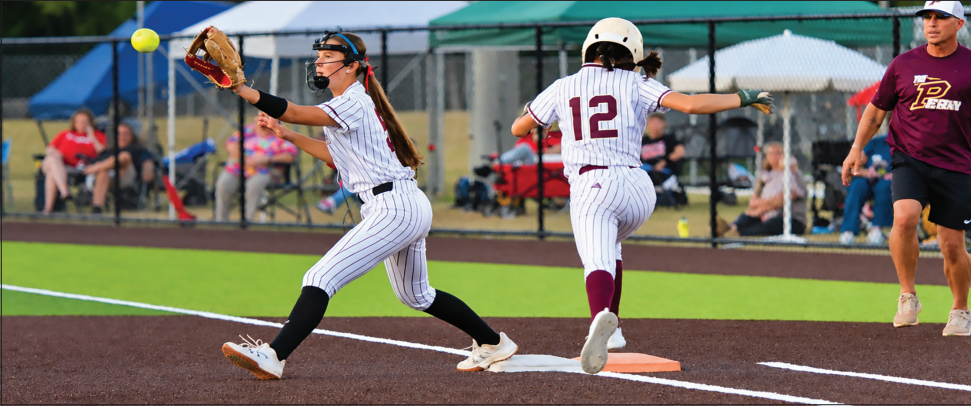
Lee County finished with five hits, one each from Izzy Evans, Kennady Patrick, Jaydynne Frisbee, Brylyn Parsons and Jaylyn Purvis. Parsons and Purvis drove in the Lady Trojans' two runs.

Emma Rose Wood earned the win for Perry, holding Lee County to two runs over seven innings. She struck out three and walked one.

DEERFIELD-WINDSOR 22, SW GEORGIA STEM 14

Deerfield-Windsor erased an early seven-run deficit and extended its winning streak to three games with an offensive outburst Monday.

Aubrey Ross collected three hits and drove in five runs as the Lady Knights im-



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Lee County first baseman Jaydynne Frisbee stretches for a throw at first base during Monday afternoon's game against Perry in Leesburg. The Lady Trojans fell 6-2, with two of their three losses this season coming against the Lady Panthers.

proved to 6-10 entering Tuesday's home region game against nine-time defending state champion Westfield.

Southwest Georgia STEM scored seven runs in the second inning to take a 7-2 lead and extended the margin to 9-4 in the third. Deerfield-Windsor answered with eight runs on seven hits in the bottom of the inning, taking a 14-9 lead it would not surrender.

Ross delivered a two-run double during the comeback and added a two-run single in the fifth. She also earned the win in relief, striking out five over three innings.

Claire Hockman joined Ross with three hits and drove in three runs. Mary Ruth Courtney and Laiyah Williams added two hits apiece, with Williams driving in two runs.

The Lady Knights finished with 14 hits, drew six walks and stole 15 bases. Courtney, Anna Beth Brady, Williams and Kambell Mitchell each had multiple steals.

DOUGHERTY 19, CARVER 7

Dougherty erupted for 10 runs in the second inning and rolled past Carver in four innings Monday.

Jazlyn Turner went 3-for-4, while winning pitcher Jalexi Thomas collected two hits and drove in four runs. Turner singled home Dougherty's first run during a four-run opening inning and added an

RBI double in the second.

Thomas delivered two-run and run-scoring hits during the 10-run second. Deriyah Gibbs added a two-run double as the Lady Trojans stretched their lead to 14-0.

Thomas allowed two hits and two earned runs while striking out nine. Dariona Simmons and Gibbs joined Turner and Thomas with multiple hits.

Dougherty also stole 13 bases, with Turner, Simmons, Alona Harris and Gibbs recording at least two apiece.

WESTOVER 19, CALHOUN COUNTY 5

Westover scored seven runs in the first inning and eight in the second on the way to a four-inning victory over Calhoun County.

Morgan Polite and Kennidia Miller collected two hits apiece. Miller drove in three runs, while Polite brought home four.

Miller also earned the victory in the circle, allowing two hits and one earned run while striking out eight without issuing a walk.

Sydney Donaldson tripled home a run in the third inning and drew three of Westover's seven walks. The Lady Patriots collected 10 hits and stole 14 bases, with Abigail Teasley, Miller, Gabrielle Brown and Lauren Edwards each stealing multiple bases.

Another fuel tax suspension as gas prices continue to hit pocketbooks

By Ty Tagami
Capital Beat News Service

ATLANTA — For the third time this year, Gov. Brian Kemp has ordered a suspension of Georgia’s fuel tax, as prices at the pump keep rising with no sign of relief.

The 30-day suspension order, which Kemp signed Monday, goes into effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday and runs through Oct. 29.

“Global markets remain unstable and are subjecting Georgians to unpredictable price shocks on basic goods and services,” Kemp’s executive order, issued under his authority to declare a state of emergency, said.

The “inherently unpredictable” market shifts have been making it “difficult, if not impossible” for Georgians to manage their budgets, prompting the suspension, the order said.

The state motor fuel excise tax is 33.3 cents a gallon for gasoline and 37.3 cents a gallon for diesel.

The average price for a gallon of regular gas in Georgia



Special Photo

Gov. Brian Kemp has ordered a suspension of Georgia’s fuel tax, as prices at the pump keep rising with no sign of relief.

is \$4.19, according to Kemp’s office. Diesel averages \$6.24 a gallon.

Kemp, in a statement explaining his decision, said he and lawmakers have been committed to helping Georgians and small businesses “fight through the tough times” with billions of dollars in relief.

Prior motor fuel tax suspensions cost the state about \$200 million a month.

In March, Kemp signed a 60-day gas-tax-suspension bill after it passed the state

House 163-4 and the state Senate unanimously.

Then, in May, he issued a state of emergency and extended the suspension a couple of weeks, into early June. The General Assembly retroactively approved the extension in a special session in June.

A spokesman for Kemp’s office said lawmakers can approve the new suspension whenever they next convene, noting that prior fall suspensions were ratified during the regular session, which starts each January.



Special Photo: GSW

Georgia Southwestern State University has once again earned national recognition, ranking No. 49 among Top Public Universities in the South.

Georgia Southwestern ranks among top public universities in the South

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Georgia Southwestern State University has once again earned national recognition, ranking No. 49 among Top Public Universities in the South in U.S. News and World Report’s 2027 Best Colleges list.

GSW also climbed 25 spots to No. 37 among Top Performers on Social Mobility, which measures how successfully universities enroll and graduate students receiving federal Pell Grants, generally awarded to students with significant financial need. GSW is one of only

four Georgia universities ranked among the top 50 in its social mobility category.

Overall, GSW is recognized on seven U.S. News & World Report 2027 Best Colleges lists: Top Public Schools, Top Performers on Social Mobility, Best Regional Universities in the South, Best Undergraduate Business Programs, Best Undergraduate Computer Science Programs, Best Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs and Best Undergraduate Psychology Programs.

The annual U.S. News Best Colleges rankings compare more than 1,700 four-year colleges and universities

across the country. GSW is classified as a Regional University in the South, a category that groups institutions by their academic mission and geographic region. The Top Public Universities ranking identifies the highest-performing public institutions within that category.

“Georgia Southwestern’s recognition across several categories in the U.S. News & World Report rankings is a tremendous reflection of the work happening across our university,” GSW President Kerry Palmer said. “Our faculty and staff are committed to giving our students an exceptional educational experience, and that commitment is reflected in the progress we continue to make.”

The rankings align with several recent indicators of GSW’s progress in student success, access and career preparation. The University reached a record enrollment of 4,017 students in fall 2025, marking its third consecutive year of record enrollment, while also earning University System of Georgia recognition for improvements in student retention. GSW offers more than 85 academic programs with a 17:1 student-to-faculty ratio, providing students with access to personalized instruction and support.

U.S. News has published its Best Colleges rankings for more than four decades as a resource for prospective students and families evaluating colleges and universities across the United States.

The full 2027 Best Colleges rankings and methodology are available at www.usnews.com/best-colleges.

ALBANY HERALD CLASSIFIEDS CALL 229-888-9300

Albany Classifieds

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Houses for rent

HOUSE FOR RENT
1203 Waddell Ave., \$750 monthly + \$750 deposit. 3 BR, 1 bath and laundry room, AC & heat. Contact 229-344-2849. Rental background check required. No Pets Allowed.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Home Repair /Remodeling

ENHANCED REMODELING & DRYWALL

- Drywall Repair Services
- Popcorn Removal
- Level 5 Drywall Finish
- Water Damage Repair
- Texture Matching
- Tape & Float
- Moldy Drywall Repair
- Demolition

WE DO SMALL AND BIG JOBS!

229-364-2997
Hernandez
912-432-3016

Residential-Commercial-Renovations

PAINTING AND HOME REPAIR

Tile work, popcorn ceiling removal, wall paper installation/removal. Just one call, we do it all!

FREE ESTIMATES

229-349-5475

YOUR AD HERE

Call or email Phil Cody to book your ad space:
229.888.9300
phil.cody@albanyherald.com

The Albany Herald Classifieds



Someone is **SEARCHING** for **SOMETHING** you have!

Meet them in...

THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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

1 hanging tight (7)

2 down in the dumps (9)

3 perfect society (6)

4 jewelry designer Scott (6)

5 show in syndication, often (5)

6 city near Dollywood (9)

7 Black Friday activity (8)

SOLUTIONS

RE	ED	ING	WA	PR
IT	KEN	OP	UTO	RUN
ESS	KNO	DRA	DE	LLE
XVI	NG	SH	PI	PIA

Tuesday's Answers: 1. VOLUNTEERS 2. UNDERSTANDS 3. FASTER 4. BALANCES 5. CRANBERRIES 6. SURFACED 7. PIGGISH 9/30

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

1 jog the memory (6)

2 short mechanical sound (5)

3 sustains (11)

4 it is dropped in triumph (10)

5 kindergartener, perhaps (11)

6 Spanish F1 racer Alonso (8)

7 “coffee makers” (8)

SOLUTIONS

ST	REMI	CL	ARI	MICR
NE	FERN	TES	RI	ICK
BA	PERP	AN	ND	ECED
ETUA	AS	AB	OPHO	ANDO

Wednesday's Answers: 1. WAITING 2. DEPRESSED 3. UTOPIA 4. KENDRA 5. RERUN 6. KNOXVILLE 7. SHOPPING 10/1

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

“ Z W D P M S F D Z F Z X D E F B J W N X R W D E T X J . . . U J P M H O B H F P R F V Q X O X R T X J O K F F D B W F V N S F Q N U M R M B J - K N B M B S W F O D ' B Q F R A J W N M D X Z B M D E . ” - O B F G F D J F N D

Previous Solution: “[Macbeth] got into me so deeply it dominated my life ... No other role I have played has affected me so profoundly.” — Patrick Stewart

TODAY'S CLUE: 7 s i a n b e R

© 2026 by NEA, Inc., dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication 9-30

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

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

“ N O A X C O U A X F D T I P I B C O N M P B D N O P N B N K P , U A X O T Y P N A H S F P T G B N T F A X D G - U A X O T Y P N A K P N A N O P F S P A S K P H R A F P N O P N A X R O G A Q D . ” - R T F A K M X F D P N N

Previous Solution: “Confidence can get you a long way ... my first reflex has always been to exude humility — but it doesn't help you in acting.” — Steven Yeun

TODAY'S CLUE: T e q u a l s A

© 2026 by NEA, Inc., dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication 10-1

Release Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Pride letters

5 Latch (onto)

9 Pricey strings, familiarly

14 Geometric calculation

15 Spiritual energy

16 Canines, e.g.

17 “Top Gun” and “Top Gun: Maverick” actor

19 Spy collection

20 Do-nothing

21 Fastest qualifier in auto racing

23 Welcomes

25 Insect such as Bombyx mori

28 Possesses

29 All ready

31 “I disagree”

32 Word with flat or late

33 Plemons of “The Power of the Dog”

35 Lends a hand

36 “The Kiss” painter

40 Without a date

42 Like many a chimney sweep

43 Resistance unit

44 Show stoppers?

47 Org. overseeing LA28

48 Part of B&B

51 Appear as

54 “Friends” friend

56 Lady Gaga, for one

58 Moral standard

59 Burp

61 Ice cream treat, or what can be found in 17-, 25-, 36-, or 51-Across?

63 Nebraska city

64 Fancy party spread

65 Like leap years

66 Some sushi fish

67 Lock lips, in London

68 Musical pause

DOWN

1 Extravagant

2 Top-notch

3 Some ball attendees

4 Opinions, informally

5 Lass

6 Gravy imperfection

7 Cookies with many limited-edition flavors

8 Miami baseball player

9 Like flypaper

10 Brunch hr.

11 Supply with updated parts

12 Feasted on

13 UPS competitor

18 Van Gogh flowers

22 She, in Portuguese

24 Tree house?

26 Danson of “The Good Place”

27 Bucks and rams

30 ID checkers at an airport

33 Big container

34 Chargeable autos, for short

35 “Good Hang” podcaster

36 Locker room strategy

37 Fish that turns into a dragon, per myth

38 Roller coaster feature

39 Desires

40 “Help us!”

41 Not just a

44 Socially dominant types

45 Accomplished

46 Cuts corners

48 “Don’t act up!”

49 Battery-powered rides

50 Clothed, so to speak

52 Frappuccino flavor

53 Water brand

55 Last multiple-choice choice, often

57 Midrange voice

59 Many a customer service assistant

60 Animal mascot for Liberty Mutual

62 Beer dispenser

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

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

10/01/26

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

By Cameron Barr & Annabel Blitzer
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

10/01/26

Daffodil Garden Club welcomes fall with annual plant exchange

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Daffodil Garden Club reconvened recently after its summer break for its annual Fall Plant Exchange and meeting at the Garden Center. Fourteen members and two guests attended, with Penny Williams presiding.

The meeting provided an opportunity for members to reconnect, exchange plants and share their enthusiasm for the upcoming gardening season. Members discussed the club’s ongoing Radium Springs project, as well as

preparations for the upcoming Flower Show at the Perry Fair on Oct. 9. Other informative gardening and club-related topics also were discussed.

The meeting tables reflected the arrival of fall with the theme “Busting Into Fall.” Table hostesses Betty Bailey and Claudia Copeland created a seasonal setting featuring vibrant fall colors and bright mums. Bailey also created a floral design for the food table, adding a special touch to the gathering.

The Daffodil Garden Club invites anyone interested in gardening, flowers and com-



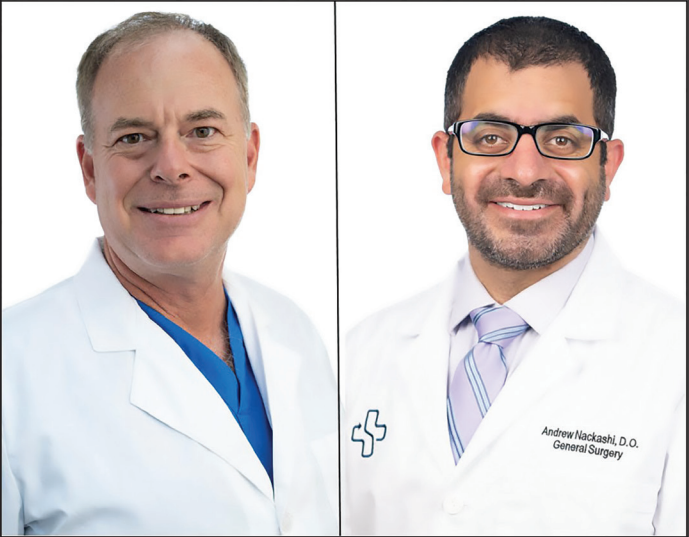
The Daffodil Garden Club reconvened after its summer break for its annual Fall Plant Exchange and meeting recently at the Garden Center in Albany.



Special Photos

munity service to join and follow the club on Facebook at Daffodil Garden Club Albany Georgia, Magnolia District for meeting dates, activities and upcoming events.

The club’s next meeting will be held Oct. 20 at 11 a.m. at the Garden Center. Guest speaker Robert Rusconi will present a program on scams targeting seniors, with a focus on some of the newest scams, including mailbox, ATM, text, email and telephone scams.



Dr. William Kaiser, left, has been named Southwell chief of staff, and Dr. Andrew Nackashi vice chief of staff.

Southwell announces medical staff officers for Fiscal Year 2027

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

TIFTON – Southwell recently announced its medical staff officers for Fiscal Year 2027, which runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 2027. Southwell includes Tift Regional Medical Center in Tifton and Southwell Medical in Adel.

The chief of staff for FY ‘27 is Dr. William Kaiser, a board-certified vascular surgeon who practices with Tift Regional Vascular. The vice chief of staff is Dr. Andrew Nackashi, a board-certified general surgeon who practices with South Georgia Surgical.

The Southwell medical staff officers represent the physicians and advanced practice providers who have privileges at Southwell’s hospitals, outpatient centers, clinics, and skilled nursing facilities. Along with department chairs and vice chairs, these officers manage the medical staff’s governance

and advise Southwell’s executive team and board of directors on credentialing, staffing and policy.

In addition to the appointments of Kaiser and Nackashi, the complete list of Southwell’s department chairs and vice chairs for FY ‘27 includes:

Southwell Medical (Adel): Dr. Thomas Fausett, chair; Dr. Eric Ward, vice chair

Emergency Department: Dr. Olakunle Aina, chair; Dr. Dennis Williams, vice chair

Medicine: Dr. Abduljalil Elfasi, chair; Dr. Raymond Alvarez, vice chair

Obstetrics/Gynecology: Dr. Ana Hernandez, chair; Dr. Donald Menya, vice chair

Surgery: Nackashi, chair; Dr. Keith Phillipi, vice chair

Pediatrics: Dr. Nikkia Johnson, chair; Dr. Nicholas Webster, vice chair

Colquitt Regional breaks ground on Hufstetler Tower

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE – Colquitt Regional Health System officially broke ground Monday on the Hufstetler Tower, marking a significant milestone in the health system’s continued growth and its commitment to expanding access to healthcare in the region.

The groundbreaking ceremony brought together Colquitt Regional leaders, Hospital Authority trustees, Foundation Board members, physicians, employees, volunteers, campaign supporters, donors and members of the Hufstetler family to celebrate the beginning of the project.

“Today represents much more than the beginning of a construction project,” Colquitt Regional Health System President and CEO Jim Matney said. “It represents growth, progress and an investment in the future of our community. As Colquitt Regional continues to grow, so does our ability to create jobs, attract physicians and contribute to the economic strength of this region. Most importantly, this project ensures that exceptional healthcare remains available right here for generations to come.”

The four-story Hufstetler Tower is being built in response to the continued growth of Colquitt Regional and the increasing number of patients choosing the health system for their care. Growth has been particularly significant in areas including women’s health, surgery, cardiology and other specialty services.

When completed, the Hufstetler Tower will expand the hospital’s capacity from 99 to 155 beds and will include



Colquitt Regional Health System officially broke ground Monday on the Hufstetler Tower, marking a significant milestone in the health system’s continued growth.

Special Photo: Colquitt Regional

expanded surgical services, an expanded Maternal Infant Unit, increased intensive care and telemetry capabilities, and additional private patient rooms.

The project also represents an investment in the future of the region’s healthcare workforce. Colquitt Regional anticipates that the growth associated with the tower will bring approximately 35 additional physicians and 500 new jobs to the community.

The impact of Colquitt Regional extends well beyond the care provided within its walls. According to Georgia Hospital Association’s 2026 data, the health system contributes an estimated \$586.2 million in economic impact to Colquitt County and supports nearly 3,000 jobs in the local community, with 1,639 of those being full-time employees within the health system.

In 2024, Colquitt Regional Medical Foundation launched its Reaching New Heights Capital Campaign, a \$15 million philanthropic effort supporting the project. To date, the campaign has raised more than \$13.7 million. Colquitt Regional employees have contributed \$2 million through an employee giving program, while the health system’s volunteers have pledged \$350,000. Individuals, families, businesses, foundations and community partners also have contributed to the campaign.

“This campaign is a true reflection of the generosity and belief our employees, volunteers and community have in the future of Colquitt Regional,” Hospital Trustee and Reaching New Heights Capital Campaign Chairman Maureen Yearta said. “So many people have chosen to invest in this project because they understand that the Hufstetler Tower is about building a stronger healthcare system for the generations who will call this community home.

“We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped make this vision possible. But our work is not finished. We still have ground to cover to reach our \$15 million goal, and we hope others throughout our community will be inspired to join us as we complete this campaign and invest in the future of healthcare for our region.”

A lead gift of \$5 million from Teresa and Steve Hufstetler helped propel the campaign forward and led to the naming of the new facility as the Hufstetler Tower. Their gift reflects their belief in the future of Colquitt Regional and their commitment to the health and well-being of the community.

“Today is an exciting milestone for Colquitt Regional and for our community,” Steve Hufstetler said. “Teresa and I are honored to be part of a project that will expand access to care and strengthen healthcare for the people of this region. Having grown up here and knowing so many families who depend on Colquitt Regional, we hope the Hufstetler Tower will serve this community well for generations to come.”

The project is being designed by Curtis Coleman, Calleigh Freese and TMPartners, with Doster Construction serving as the general contractor. Mike Noli, Jacob Odom and NWG are coordinating the project management and planning process. The project team is expected to continue construction through the tower’s anticipated opening in 2028.

For more information on the Reaching New Heights capital campaign, contact Development Director Nicole Stringer at (229) 890-3416.

October 31st
5 pm - 6:30 pm
TRUNK OR TREAT
306 West Broad Ave. - Albany
(In the parking lot next to Albany Herald)

KIDS HALLOWEEN COSTUME Contest
with prizes

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Mail-in voting is still an option for this year’s midterms

By Maya Homan
Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA – Voting by mail remains a reliable form of voting in Georgia after the U.S. Supreme Court blocked an effort to restrict the practice over unfounded fears of widespread noncitizen voting.

The U.S. Postal Service had previously attempted to implement a new Trump administration rule requiring states to send their voter rolls to the federal government and only deliver mail ballots to voters who match federal citizenship data. Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who is a Republican, was among the election officials who filed an amicus brief in the case urging the justices to postpone the rule, arguing that it would be impossible to implement the changes so close to the midterms.

Election officials say that, functionally, nothing has changed about the process of absentee voting for the midterm elections in Georgia.

In Georgia, anyone can cast an absentee ballot, but that method of voting is predom-

inantly used by older voters, voters with disabilities, military and overseas voters and college students who want to stay registered at their family’s home address.

Voting absentee, officials say, can be beneficial for voters who want to avoid waiting in line at the polls, or are worried about encountering technology issues on Election Day.

But election workers say that although there will not be changes to Georgia’s vote-by-mail process ahead of the midterms, there is still a degree of uncertainty involved in using this method of voting.

“We are encouraging more people to actually vote in person, only because when we mail a ballot to a person, it is out of our hands as far as when it will get to them and then when it will get back to us,” Richmond County Elections Director Travis Doss said.

Georgia also offers three weeks of early voting for residents who want to vote in person before Election Day. Registered voters can cast an early in-person ballot at any early voting location in their county starting on Oct. 13.

But for voters who want to cast an absentee ballot in Georgia, here are the most important things to know.

Georgia is a no-excuse absentee voting state, meaning anyone can request an absentee ballot for any reason. But the state does not send absentee ballots automatically, meaning that any voter who wants a mail-in ballot must fill out an application from the secretary of state’s office.

Elections Director Blake Evans said he encourages voters to be proactive if they want to cast an absentee ballot and make sure they’re following all the necessary steps.

“The main thing I would say is, if you do want to vote by mail, go ahead and get your request in now,” Evans said. “That way, you’ll get your ballot in plenty of time, and then you can always, of course, send it back to the mail.”

To request an absentee ballot, voters can complete a paper form or an electronic application from the secretary of state’s website, which they then must sign and mail, fax, email or drop off in person at their county registrar’s office.