



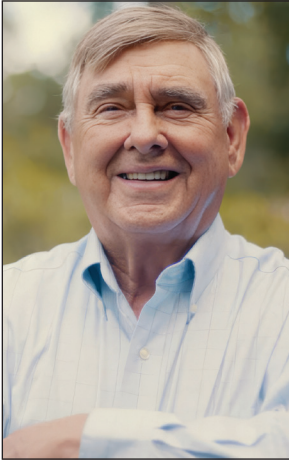
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Harry James



Gerald Greene

Former Dougherty Commissioner Harry James challenges ‘dean of legislature,’ Gerald Greene

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – State Rep. Gerald Greene’s name is well-known throughout District 154, and he is the longest-serving elected representative in the Georgia Legislature. Harry James has also been active in politics for decades and has continued to participate since his stint as a Dougherty County Commissioner.

James, the Democratic Party nominee, and Greene, the incumbent Republican, are set to vie for a two-year term in the district that includes eight southwest Georgia counties and a portion of Dougherty County.

The two expressed that they have had an amicable relationship over the years, and identified some of the same issues as priorities for the district that includes Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Early, Miller, Quitman, Randolph and Seminole counties as well as the bottom half of Dougherty County stretching to the Flint River.

Greene, a retired educator who was first elected in 1982, said that he is seeking another two years to usher through some of the projects he has

See
CHALLENGES, 2A

CANDIDATES DEBATE HEALTH CARE, DEVELOPMENT, RURAL INVESTMENT AT ALBANY FORUM

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Candidates seeking to represent southwest Georgia called for greater investment in health care, education and infrastructure during an Oct. 1 forum, but differed over data centers, economic development and how to work across party lines.

The forum at Brooks Plaza fea-

tured questions about retaining teachers, repairing aging infrastructure, attracting employers and ensuring rural communities receive state resources.

State House candidates participating included Harry James, a Democrat seeking the state House District 154 seat; Democrat Ethan Wolfe and independent Travis Lockhart, both running in House District 151; and

Democrat Mitchell Rosa, seeking the District 152 seat. Anthony “AJ” Patterson, a candidate for Dougherty County Commission District 4, also participated.

Wolfe argued that southwest Georgia has been overlooked in state decision-making, with too many young people leaving because they cannot see a future in the region.

“Rural development cannot just

be a talking point that comes up during election season,” he said. “It has to be a real plan built with the people who already know the communities best.”

James identified health care, housing, jobs and education as his campaign’s central concerns, describing them as connected needs that determine whether

See **DEBATE, 2A**

Westover student Judy Li a National Merit Scholarship ‘Commended Student’

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Westover High School senior Judy Li has been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a Commended Student. Judy earned this recognition by taking the 2025 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and was identified as scholastically talented.

Judy is one of 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

Special Photo

Westover High School senior Judy Li has been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a Commended Student.



County approves 198-foot Gillionville Road cell tower; no speakers at public hearing

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Dougherty County commissioners unanimously approved a 198-foot

cell tower behind a church on Gillionville Road, with no one speaking for or against it at a public hearing.

Commissioners raised no

questions about radio frequency emissions. The applicant’s site plan places the nearest home about 426 feet from the proposed tower.

At their Sept. 21 meeting, commissioners rezoned about a quarter-acre at 4614 Gillionville Road to C-3c, commercial conditional, limiting its use to a telecommunications facility. They also granted special approval for the tower. The county’s published zoning ordinance requires that special approval be granted for towers taller than 150 feet in specified districts, including C-3.

Gillionville Forest Baptist Church owns the 21.39-acre property. Diamond Communications is the applicant.

Commission Vice Chairman Ed Newsome presided in the absence of Chairman Lorenzo Heard.

Johnthan Yates of Diamond told commissioners the tower would address gaps in Verizon coverage along Gillionville Road, Eight Mile Road and Byron Plantation Road and in the Stonegate neighborhood.

“And most importantly, Live Oak Elementary,” Yates said. “We have to improve the coverage in Live Oak Elementary.”

He called the site “the perfect location” because it sits directly behind a Georgia Power substation at 4700 Gillionville Road. He described the pairing of wireless and power infrastructure as “utility with utility.”

District 6 Commissioner Anthony Jones asked Yates to relay concerns about poor coverage on Fleming Road, County Line Road and elsewhere in east Dougherty County.

Newsome then told Yates,

“If there’s any interest in a location for a site, I may have something. I would like to talk to you.”

Angel Gray, the county’s deputy planning director, said the tower would improve signal strength without adding meaningful traffic. She said it would be unlit, surrounded by a fence at least 6 feet tall, and buffered by trees and existing vegetation.

Gray said the facility would stand 500 feet from the nearest edge of the public right-of-way.

She acknowledged that the rezoning conflicts with the county’s future land use map, which designates the parcel for low-density residential use.

“However, the installation of a cell tower, while not resi-

See **TOWER, 2A**



Special Illustration

Periodical — Mail Label

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Empower Her Health 2026 Women’s Health Fair

Saturday, October 24 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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2400 Gillionville Road • Albany



Georgia voters will see pen and paper at polls

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Attentive Georgia voters will notice something different when they go to their polling places on Election Day: pen and paper.

Poll workers will log each voter in electronically, but they

will also be recording voters’ names on a backup log using pen and paper.

The retro method is required by a rule adopted in June by the State Election Board, the appointed body that establishes voting procedures in Georgia.

Approved in a 4-0 vote by the five-member Republican-

controlled board, with the support of the lone Democrat, the measure was introduced after digital check-in failures during the May primary.

“This will be your paper document to refer back to if there’s an audit, if there’s a forensic audit,” then-board member Janice Johnston said at the

meeting, according to the official transcript.

“Now, will it be perfect? No,” said Johnston, who subsequently stepped down from the board. “Someone will forget to write a name down, but it is the paper document to go back to.”

Anne Dover, the election director in Cherokee County, one

of the largest counties in Georgia, said this week that she was concerned the requirement could slow the check-in process and result in longer lines.

Dover also worried about errors. Many of her poll workers are retirees in their 70s. She has asked them to write legibly but noted they will be re-

cording hundreds of names on a busy Election Day.

Robert Sinners, a spokesman for Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, the top election official in Georgia, also said he expects delays.

“This additional step may slow down the check-in process,” he said.

From 1A TOWER

dential, is not a use type that increases traffic or noise,” she said.

District 3 Commissioner Clinton Johnson asked whether the tower site would be separated from the church property for taxation. Gray said it would become a separate, landlocked parcel “so that the parcel itself can be taxed.”

Johnson also questioned a site-plan label identifying the tower area as M-1c, an industrial district. Gray said the label likely came from a preliminary application and that C-3c was the actual request.

The Albany-Dougherty Planning Commission recommended approval 5-0 on Sept. 3.

The church property is L-shaped. The tower site lies in a narrow strip extending west behind the substation and a row of homes on the south side of Gillionville Road.

The plans show a 100-by-100-foot rezoning area, about 0.23 acres, containing a 50-by-50-foot equipment compound. A 30-foot access and utility easement would serve the facility.

The nearest home is farther from the tower than the tower’s height and outside the applicant’s labeled 70-foot engineered “fall radius.” That label describes the proposed failure design; it does not, by itself, establish that all debris would remain within that area.

Staff’s presentation identified the adjacent land use as residential and stated that “setback requirements will keep any impacts on-site.” The site plan shows a property line behind the homes 209 feet from the tower and another line 75 feet to the south.

The published ordinance

provides a twice-height setback standard when a tower site abuts residential districts, public property or a public street. For a 198-foot tower, that distance is 396 feet. It also requires stealth construction within 500 feet of residentially zoned property unless commissioners approve otherwise. The drawings depict a gray, galvanized-steel monopole. Neither provision was discussed during the hearing.

The tower drawing places Verizon antennas at 190 feet and shows three additional mounts for future antennas. Adding carriers could increase RF emissions, though the drawings alone do not establish future exposure levels.

The published ordinance requires a building permit application to include an environmental impact statement addressing surrounding residences and “the radiological impact on human health,” along with a structural report from a Georgia-licensed engineer.

Federal law limits local authority over RF concerns. Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, local governments cannot regulate wireless facility placement based on the environmental effects of RF emissions when the facility complies with Federal Communications Commission rules.

FCC public exposure limits apply to people of all ages and are intended to accommodate continuous exposure. Compliance at this location would require an assessment of the proposed equipment and operating conditions.

A World Health Organization backgrounder published in 2006 concluded that available research did not provide convincing evidence of adverse health effects from the weak RF signals typical near base stations. That general assessment does not establish the exposure level at this proposed site.

From 1A DEBATE

families can build stable lives.

Lockhart emphasized relationships, regional cooperation and his work leading Fresh Start Academy, which operates in Albany and Americus.

Rosa proposed raising the minimum wage to \$20 an hour, legalizing recreational marijuana and establishing constitutional protection for abortion rights.

Questions about whether Albany should prioritize a water park over data centers revealed some of the clearest differences among the candidates.

Rosa supported a moratorium on data centers until at least 2030, saying communities need more time to understand their effects.

“And I do love a water park, so let’s build one of those,” he said.

Wolfe described development decisions as primarily local responsibilities but said lawmakers should establish protections for residents and the environment. He opposed passing the cost of additional electricity needed by data centers to existing customers.

“We need to generate new power. Let them pay for it,” Wolfe said.

The candidate also called for accessible public information and opportunities for residents to comment on development proposals.

Lockhart said data centers and recreational projects could co-exist with appropriate planning. He supported a water park and skate park while arguing that communities should prepare for data centers and ensure they benefit financially.

James said responses to development concerns depend on the type of project, adding that problems often arise from local zoning decisions.

Health care access was a recurring concern, particularly for rural communities struggling to attract providers.

James supported full Medicaid expansion and identified inadequate access to care as District 154’s biggest problem. He also said communities need a quality of life that will help attract medical professionals.

Wolfe likewise supported expansion, arguing that broader coverage and preventive care could reduce future costs. He proposed incentives to retain providers and suggested additional clinics or mobile services to reach residents who lack nearby care.

Infrastructure questions focused on what the state should do when local governments cannot afford repairs.

Wolfe favored grants for com-

On education, candidates were asked about adding a poverty weight to the state’s school funding formula — additional funding tied to students’ economic circumstances.

Rosa said the state should assume more responsibility because communities have unequal local resources.

Wolfe called for revising the Quality Basic Education formula and investing in teacher retention. Lockhart also supported funding changes while emphasizing the importance of keeping experienced educators.

James linked education funding to economic development, saying communities need an

Wolfe cited his military experience working with people from different nations and backgrounds. Lockhart said his independent candidacy positioned him to work with both major parties. James emphasized finding common interests.

“Most of the time, we have more things in common than we have not in common,” the former Dougherty County commissioner said.

Rosa argued that Republican control, rather than partisan gridlock, explained the lack of action on issues he wanted addressed. He said he hoped Democratic gains would allow those priorities to advance



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Candidates and residents gather for a forum Oct. 1 at Brooks Plaza in Albany to discuss health care, education, infrastructure and economic development in southwest Georgia.

From 1A CHALLENGES

worked on during his tenure, including the revitalization effort at Radium Springs near Albany, for which he got an appropriation of \$400,000 last year, and a Dougherty County library. Some of the other projects he said he has supported include the widening of U.S. Highway 27/State Route 1, work at George T. Bagby State Park and preservation work in the Okefenokee Swamp.

You get to the point that you want to finish your projects,” he said. “The only way to do it is to run again and get those things in line. I wanted to do Radium Springs, Westtown Library. The only way to do it is to run again and get them over the finish line.

“We’ve been helping the people at Lake Seminole to break up the invasive species, and it looks great. We’re taking the lake back because we’ve put monies in there. Because we did that, the federal government is now matching our (contribution). As we roll through the counties, there are so many needs.”

One of the biggest needs for

the region is infrastructure, the incumbent said.

“Our infrastructure is wearing out,” he said. “Those grants from the federal government are gone, so it’s up to the state to help them with grants. Water, sewer, housing ... it’s a lot of these things. If you’re going to have industry, you have got to have somewhere decent for people to live. That’s why it’s important to promote our schools, promote housing, to provide for our workforce.”

Among the committees Greene sits on are Appropriations and Rural Development, which address some of the issues that he mentioned. His other committees are State Properties, Economic Development and Tourism, Public Safety and Homeland Security, Retirement and Rules.

Some of those committee assignments are not ones on which a novice lawmaker can expect to be placed, Greene said. And those assignments help him bring home resources to address some of the district’s needs.

“As a legislator, it means a lot when it comes to seniority,” he said. “That puts one in a better leadership role. When you’re out there with the people you love and you’re out in the district, that gives you something to do every single day.”

James, known for his white cowboy hat, is the owner and operator of construction firm James Unlimited. He also has

served as an adjunct professor at both Albany Technical College and South Georgia Technical College in the past.

For his campaign, James has identified healthcare, housing, jobs and education as the most pressing issues for District 154’s residents.

After serving on the Dougherty County Commission from 2012 through 2014, the candidate has kept up with political issues as a member of the Dougherty County Democratic Committee and in most years attending the Association County Commissioners of Georgia’s annual meetings.

During his time on the commission, he was elected as president of the Georgia Association of Black County Officials, a title he held for two years after leaving elected office.

“I’m running because I always wanted to serve to make it better for my community and the people of the community and to advocate for the people who cannot be at the table to advocate for themselves,” James said.

Of his four identified issues, he identified healthcare as the top need in the rural district.

“In District 154, there is a healthcare desert,” James said. “For most of the district outside Dougherty County, they’re having to drive an hour, an hour and a half for healthcare.”

State lawmakers’ refusal to

expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act has led to hospital closures and affected rural residents’ ability to access healthcare in a timely manner, James said. As a state representative, he said he would work to move Georgia out of the group of 10 states that have not taken that step.

“(The lack of) Medicaid expansion has crippled a lot of rural hospitals,” James said. “There’s a great need for healthcare for the people of District 154.”

On education, James said that a map in late Albany Tech President Anthony Parker’s office told a vivid story. The map showed the areas of the city where the population had the most- and the least-educated residents.

“When you looked at where the least-educated live, that’s where the crime is,” he said. “Education is the foundation. That’s where you’re talking about industry, you’re talking about jobs. The better people are educated, the better chance we have to draw in industry for better-paying jobs.”

While Albany State University draws in students, those students graduate and leave for better opportunities elsewhere, and local students who pursue education after high school often do not return, James said.

“Our best and brightest don’t come home because we don’t have the jobs for the lives

they live or want to live,” he said. “The loss of population is due to the lack of quality housing, quality jobs. People are going to go to where their needs are met. It boils down to what do you have to offer for work and play.”

Data centers have been a big, and controversial, issue in the region in recent months, and on that topic James and Greene gave a similar response: Leave the decision on whether to host one to local officials who can use permitting regulations and negotiation skills to ensure that the facilities will not be a nuisance and, if allowed, that they will be an economic benefit to residents.

While James does not have the years in state government that his opponent has, he said that he has made and kept close contacts with elected officials throughout the state for years. Those relationships will be of service to him in working for the district.

“The relationship part we’ve already built through my participation at ACCG meetings,” he said. “Most politicians in office refer to me as the black politician with the cowboy hat.”

Gov. (Brian) Kemp, I have a great relationship with him. I’ve got a relationship with many people in office now. That’s one of the advantages, these relationships. I believe experience matters, relationships matter, the voice of the people you serve matters.”

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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Changes, adjustments, or new understandings could uplevel a relationship with someone close. You may need to table or wrap up a fun creative project to prepare for new duties or just to meet a deadline.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An especially generous and benevolent vibe could permeate your home for a few hours today; it's an energy to seek out and enjoy. Getting clarity on tasks at hand and ongoing could make for improved workflows.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Saying it gently can be more effective for planting seeds that can actually sprout, instead of creating resistance from being too forceful. Creatives might be able to make major progress now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You could find a new level of alignment with your path to your destiny — pay attention to insights and glimmers today. Needed, and doable, changes to your home space could become evident.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your kindness could be broadly visible and palpable to those around you now, you may have entered a much better space than you occupied yesterday. You should be able to let ideas flow freely out into the world now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Build your inner self before you decorate or tweak the outside. What you've built, or haven't built, is always apparent no matter how bougie the facade. Being solid sits differently on the inside too — that's real confidence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You could have a lot of the answers now, both for your own life and for everyone around you. Don't dismiss any hunches for the next couple of days, they could be solid gold. Give to a friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A nice positive could emerge in the workplace today, or just in general dealings with the world. This is a time to really trust your gut, the next day or so could bring

especially on-point insights.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A friend or group could be pipeline to critical intel, or you might be the one to offer game-changing advice to a friend. Share generously of your knowledge, even if you're not sure of its relevance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Dramatic and positive impact could be made now in your career or other worldly ventures. Trust your intuition strongly today and tomorrow unless you are in highly detrimental personal transits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You could be an especially masterful mentor or teacher for a day or two, share your wisdom. A focus on relationships could dissolve, and your attention could move into improving a financial path.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Resolution to a financial situation could finally happen, or at least you may now see the steps needed to move forward. Your thoughts could center more on relationships for the next few days.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: A lot could begin to make sense in a new way as you enter your personal new year. While 2026 thus far may have challenged a lot, the next few months look considerably brighter. Note down insights now so nothing gets forgotten. You might be asked to sign onto something, investigate to be sure before you do. About early November, cash flow could improve either through an existing avenue or a new one. Do your homework as always but if all checks out, you could get a bonus of extra grace and charm concurrently. Don't entrap yourself via a foolish move around mid-month. A windfall could land later in the month. December brings big, life-level early gifts which could be game-changing, literally. Your whole life could improve as a result of having more resources to drawn upon. Then there's likely some healing and some recognition to close the month.



- 1683** - Germantown, Pennsylvania is founded by immigrant families from Germany
- 1777** - British forces capture Fort Clinton and Fort Montgomery on the Hudson River during the American Revolutionary War
- 1884** - The Naval War College is founded in the US State of Rhode Island
- 1903** - The High Court of Australia sits for the first time
- 1973** - The Yom Kippur War starts when Egypt and

- Syria launch coordinated attacks against Israel
- 1976** - Dozens are killed by the Thai army in the Thammasat University massacre
- 1979** - Pope John Paul II is the first pontiff to visit the White House
- 1981** - Islamic extremists murder Egyptian President Anwar Sadat
- 1987** - Fiji becomes a republic
- 2010** - Instagram, a social media photo-sharing application is founded

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- American Libraries Day
- Come and Take it Day
- Ecological Debt Day
- Garlic Lover's Day
- Jackie Mayer Rehab Day
- Mad Hatter Day
- National Badger Day
- National Coaches Day
- National Fruit at Work Day
- National German-American Day
- National Noodle Day
- National Physician's Assistant Day
- National Plus Size Appreciation Day
- World Cerebral Palsy Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm an idealist. I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way."

Carl Sandburg,
poet (1878-1967)

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

That moronic squawk by the person who said we have "the strongest economy ever" is definitely one of Donald's Doofuses ... has this jerk bought gas or groceries lately?

"The fiery and destructive passions of war reign in the human breast with much more powerful sway than the mild and beneficent sentiments of peace." — Alexander Hamilton (1788)

A certain commissioner said he's gonna do everything "regular and efficient." Does that include raising our property taxes through the roof?

I really enjoyed reading the reminiscences of Graylon Brunson in response to the article about "Cruisin' Slappy." I intend to get copies of his books because I was another one of those cruisers in the '80s.

For those of you who say that Kamala would have been worse than Trump, I say are you serious? America would not allow her to do half the crap Trump has done without an uprising. Congress would not allow the corruption, unqualified cabinet appointments, the power grab, the outright lawlessness and unconstitutional behavior. The media would castigate her for name-calling and harassment. Trump is what happens when DEI (Didn't Earn It) promotes folks like himself.

I am flabbergasted -- but in no way surprised -- at the amount of tax-exempt property in Dougherty County. I get it, for the most part, but allowing these "storefront preachers" and pastors who campaign for candidates from the pulpit free money is an insult to honest taxpayers.

The clown who says we have "the greatest economy ever" must be one of those "he's doing what we elected him to do" true believers. This is the kind of person who believes loyalty is not impacted by lie after lie after lie. And it's you who looks like a fool.

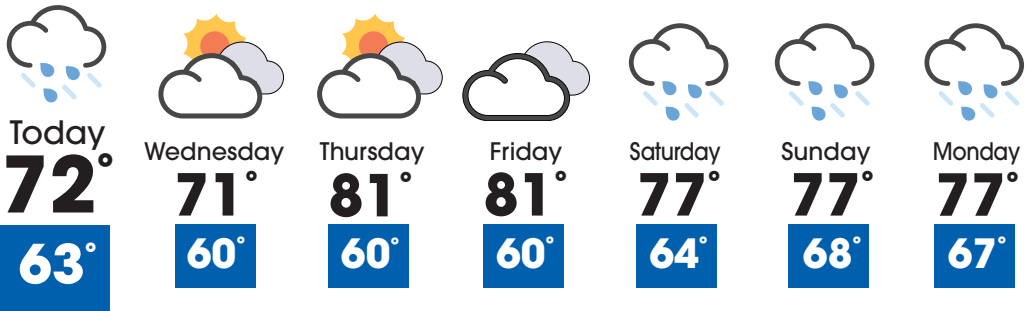
If Gov. Gump is cutting out gas taxes in the state, why is regular gas still above \$4 in Albany? Isn't there some kind of retribution for scammers? Or does it not matter because we don't live around Atlanta?

I'm so thankful we elected a president who promised we would not get in any foreign wars under his watch ... ummmm, wait a minute.

What are Republican Senators most worried about other than trying to distance themselves from the incompetence of the Trump administration and getting re-elected? It isn't getting us out of the Iran disaster, or lowering gas, food, and housing costs. It's furries. Yes, folks, an entire rant session on the floor of the senate by Tubberville on pilots and furries. Will wonders ever cease?

I can post 'He's an idiot' and 90% of the world knows who I'm talking about. That Man Without a Family

Weather Forecast



Daily Bridge Club

Cy loses interest

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

"I heard you're doing some investing," I said to Wendy, my club's feminist.

"Ask her if she thinks the bonds

NORTH ♠ Q 10 9 3 ♥ A 4 ♦ K 9 8 6 3 ♣ 8 5			
WEST ♠ 5 4 ♥ K J 6 3 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ K Q J 7		EAST ♠ 8 6 ♥ 10 9 8 7 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ A 9 6 2	
SOUTH ♠ A K J 7 2 ♥ Q 5 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ 10 4 3			
South 1 ♠ 4 ♣	West Pass All Pass	North 2 ♠	East Pass
Opening lead — ♣ K			
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of matrimony are a good investment," Cy the Cynic growled.

"They are," Wendy snapped, "if the interest is kept up."

In a penny game, Cy and Wendy were East-West; she led the king of clubs against four spades. Cy signaled with the nine, and Wendy next led the jack. The Cynic took the ace and led the ten of hearts.

HEART SHIFT

South judged that Cy would have signaled low at Trick One if he had the king of hearts, so South played low and took dummy's ace. He drew trumps, ruffed his last club in dummy, cashed the A-K of diamonds and exited with a heart. Wendy won and led a third heart, and South ruffed



Frank Stewart

in dummy and pitched his last diamond. Making four.

"So your interest in beating the contract was zero," Wendy scowled at Cy.

The defense prevails if Cy overtakes the first club and shifts to hearts.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S Q 10 9 3 H A 4 D K 9 8 6 3 C 8 5. Your partner opens one heart, you respond one spade, he bids two diamonds and you raise to three diamonds. Partner then bids three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner is still interested in a heart contract — and also wants to be at game, else he would have stopped at three diamonds. He should have six hearts or five strong hearts and extra strength. Your A-4 is enough support to bid four hearts.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

‘Good’ sister stole family treasures while sister was on mission trip

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: About two years ago, I realized that my sister and brother-in-law had burglarized me when I had made a mission trip many years ago. Some years later, I began to discover that various items were missing from my home — medical and estate records, articles of clothing, various photographs, and a portrait of my mother. They all seemed unrelated at the times I discovered they were missing. Had I known there was one source, I could have easily told the police actionable details.

Additionally, what has been taken from me is some Norwegian poetry that my grandmother had left in her Bible. It reflected her great sorrow at the death of her son who, accidentally, lost his life years ago. My sister did not want her adopted children to know about any of this.

My sister and brother-in-law have recently passed away, both under very seemingly tragic circumstances. Their children know nothing about their chicanery.

Frankly, I would like to tell my unassuming relatives and, perhaps, even some of their friends, including those at church, the truth. These people have been beneficiaries of their gratuity, some of which were personal treasures of my mother.

As far as they know, my sister is just a very successful, generous person, greatly favored by my mother and the rest of the world. The fact is she was a thief and liar.

— *Stolen Treasures*

Dear Stolen: I'm very sorry this happened to you. What a terrible breach of trust. I'm

sorry, too, that your sister and brother-in-law are no longer able to make amends. But I'm not certain that telling their grieving children or their friends about their crimes is going to bring you the closure you seek.

Indeed, it will likely raise more questions and cause more sorrow, without making you feel any better.

However, if there are items of your mother's that you feel particularly attached to and want to get back, it's appropriate to reach out to the people who have them and ask for them back. You can, in this case, even tell them that your sister shouldn't have given them away.

You don't have to forgive your sister, if that's not what's in your heart at the moment, but it will help you to make peace with her actions. They weren't right; they were hurtful; they were cruel. But you don't have to live under the shadow of her actions.

Dear Eric: My sister-in-law berated me for inviting her two adult sons for a dinner and not including her and her boyfriend.

Although we have included the two of them in the past, this time my husband wanted to keep it simple and just invite one son and his wife, along with our son and his girlfriend, because they shared a common experience.

We then learned that her other son, who is visiting from out of town, is staying with son number one, so we asked him also.

She told me that, being their mother, she should always be included because she seldom sees them otherwise and accused me of "stepping on her toes."

She also complained I was taking her daughter-in-law away from her because she brought me candy as a hostess gift once



Eric Thomas

and never took her any.

My question is: Were we wrong, and how do we move forward? Do we now always include her and her boyfriend, do we stop seeing the family, or we ignore her directions and risk her wrath? She said that telling me made her feel better, but it certainly did not make my day.

— *Chastised Sister-in-Law*

Dear Sister-in-Law: This barrage of complaints may have made her feel better (temporarily), but I doubt it's solved any of her real problems. Though your sister-in-law was using you to vent her frustrations, it doesn't seem like most of those frustrations are really about you. Instead, it seems she's frustrated about her relationship with her sons, or lack thereof. Yes, she was also hurt by seemingly being left out of this get-together, and that's understandable.

When the other son also tagged along, that might have been a good opportunity to at least give their mother a heads-up. Everyone here is an adult and responsible for their own social calendars, but one can see how she might feel excluded.

That said, the accusations of stepping on her toes and stealing her daughter-in-law away from her don't hold much water. If you are really smarting from the conversation, it might help to circle back to her and set a boundary for how she talks to you. But there's no need to stop spending time with family. Going forward, it's good to know that this is a sensitive area for her and it might be in everyone's best interests to include everyone for a little while.

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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

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Carlton Fletcher

EDITOR

—Georgia Trust for—

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S
BIBLE
VERSE

*“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.”*

Proverbs 3:5

COLUMNIST ■ JAY BOOKMAN

Whatever became of that
‘urgent’ FBI election probe?

Nine months ago this week, FBI agents raided the Fulton County elections office, seizing hundreds of boxes of ballots cast in the 2020 election.

According to the subpoena authorizing that seizure, federal officials had “probable cause to believe” that Fulton officials had “knowingly and willfully deprived” the people of Georgia of a “fair and impartially conducted election process” in 2020, just as President Trump had claimed.

Conservatives celebrated the news, certain that the truth – their truth – would now be confirmed. “Georgians have waited years for real answers about what happened in 2020,” Georgia GOP Chair Josh McKoon put it.

Then six months passed. Nothing.

In early July, FBI leadership in Washington suddenly ordered “all FBI field offices to immediately surge support to an FBI Atlanta priority investigation,” ordering hundreds of analysts around the country to drop whatever they were doing to assist in the Atlanta vote-fraud investigation.

“Overtime (including weekends and holidays) has been authorized,” the FBI memo noted.

Three months, and tens of thousands of man hours, have since passed since that massive surge. Early voting for the 2026 mid-term elections begins Oct. 13, but nothing more has been heard of the Fulton investigation.

Nothing.

Ordinarily, it might be safe to assume that since nothing has been heard, nothing has been found. If actual evidence of fraud had been discovered, Trump would have demanded a prime-time speech before Congress to announce that he had been vindicated. Given his history, he might even do it without evidence of fraud.

But that hasn’t happened. At least not yet.

In other voting-related news, the U.S. Department of Justice last week claimed success in its campaign to demonstrate that non-citizens have illegally registered to vote in Georgia and elsewhere. Three people – that’s one plus one plus one – were charged with voting illegally in Georgia elections going back as far as 2008, a time frame in which tens of millions of ballots were cast.

All three are isolated, individual cases, with no sign of collusion or an organized conspiracy.



BOOKMAN

Of course, some will still argue that three is three too many, and in a perfect world, maybe so. But we do not live in that perfect world, and three is far, far too few to alter the outcome of an election, as election conspiracy nuts like to claim.

In fact, three is an absolute repudiation of such claims. After all this time, with all the rhetoric and all the investigatory resources committed to it by the Trump regime, three is all you’ve got?

It could be worse, though. In July, the Trump administration claimed to have found almost 16,000 non-citizens registered to vote in Nevada.

“No way!” said Nevada officials, and after they demanded proof, the administration was forced to reduce its list to 185 supposed non-citizens registered to vote.

“No way!” Nevada officials said again, and once again the list was drastically reduced. After investigation, this time the number went to zero.

Zero is not enough votes to alter the outcome of an election.

Again, these are the results of in-depth, well-resourced investigations by an administration that could not be more committed to finding mass voting fraud, yet time after time they are coming up empty.

It’s time to end this nonsense. While we should always be vigilant in protecting the integrity of elections, we do considerable damage to our democracy by claiming mass fraud where none exists.

Such false claims helped to fuel the attempted coup on Jan. 6. They undermine faith in the legitimacy of our government. They give cover to those who want to destroy our democracy. They encourage people who lose elections to explain it away as cheating, because that’s easier to accept than the fact that they lost.

Such claims also feed demands for complex solutions to problems that simply do not exist on any scale that matters. The additional paperwork, bureaucracy, hassle and expense that would be needed to drive the number of non-citizen voters from three to zero would be immense, and in the process would discourage or prevent thousands of actual citizens from casting ballots and participating in this great country.

It makes no sense. None of it.

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

Resist the distraction;
hear the message

FOWLER

Meta agreed to an \$18 billion payout over 10 years. States initiated the case claiming Facebook and Instagram are addictive and harmful to children. Meta denies wrongdoing, despite evidence that it exploited brain science for financial gain.

What is not contested is that the information overload presented to users of smartphones and social media is a consuming distraction.

Herbert Simon was one of the first to warn about this. In 1971, he wrote, “In an information-rich world, the wealth of information means a dearth of something else: a scarcity of whatever it is that information consumes. What information consumes is rather obvious: It consumes the attention of its recipients.”

In short, mass information distracts you from more important matters.

We now live in the attention economy, where platforms compete for your eyeballs. They use rage, voyeurism and misinformation toward those ends. The result is individual isolation, political polarization and cognitive fatigue. It’s as though some mastermind foisted upon us a grand conspiracy of distraction. Maybe so. The devil tried to

distract Jesus with bread, power, and invincibility. Jesus refused the temptations by grounding His response in the words of Scripture. Much of Jesus’ teaching could be characterized as urging people to focus on what really matters

.For example, Martha was a distracted hostess and Jesus commended Mary for listening to Him. A man wanted Jesus to arbitrate a family dispute over money. Jesus invited him to refocus and seek the kingdom of God saying, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34)

Jesus told a parable about an invitation-only dinner. The first invitees were distracted by a real estate purchase, newly acquired oxen or a new wife. The host then invited the poor, crippled, blind, and whoever else might be found, “so that my house may be filled.” (Luke 14:23)

This story urges you to resist anything that distracts you from responding to Jesus’ invitation. Helen Lemmel wrote these familiar lyrics long before smart phones: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus ...and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”

The Albany Herald encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and must include the writer’s name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

IF YOU DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE IN SCHOOL...
WORK HARD... STAY OUT OF TROUBLE...
TODAY'S LESSON: THE WORK ETHIC
BECOME WILDLY SUCCESSFUL...
EARN UNTOLD WEALTH...
THEN, YOU, TOO...
CAN HAVE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS TAX THE HELL OUT OF YOU!

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

The darkness that stops us moving

For three days, Egypt disappeared. Not the buildings. Not the people. Not the roads connecting one place to another. They were all still there. But no one could see them.

The ninth plague in the book of Exodus is usually described simply as darkness. Yet the Torah gives an oddly specific account of what that darkness did: “No one could see his brother, and no one rose from his place for three days.” (Exodus 10:23)

The first consequence makes perfect sense. In total darkness, people cannot see one another. The second is stranger. Why couldn’t they move?

Jewish tradition describes the darkness as physically overwhelming, a darkness with substance, almost something that could be felt. But the Torah’s choice of words leaves another disturbing image behind. First, a person cannot see another human being. Then he can no longer rise from where he sits.

The sequence matters. We usually think our failure to notice other people is primarily a problem for them. But something also happens to us.

An elderly neighbor begins leaving her curtains closed until noon. At first we notice. We wonder whether she is all right. But after seeing the same closed curtains often enough, they become part of the street. Nothing about her circumstances has necessarily changed. What has

changed is what we notice.

There is a kind of moral vision that works much like physical vision. We look beyond ourselves and discover that another person’s reality makes a claim upon us. Once we truly see someone who may need us, remaining exactly where we were becomes more difficult. Seeing creates the possibility of movement.

Which means not seeing can do the opposite. The danger is rarely deliberate cruelty. Most people do not wake in the morning intending to become indifferent. The process is quieter. Our field of vision gradually narrows. Our own deadlines become more urgent, our own worries more consuming, our own grievances more interesting. Other people remain present, but increasingly at the edges.

Eventually, we can construct a world in which almost everything we see is ourselves. That is a peculiar kind of darkness.

The Torah’s description of Egypt becomes especially unsettling when read this way. “No one could see his brother” is immediately followed by “no one rose from his place.” The inability to see and the inability to act become almost a single condition.

No human being can respond to every need. There is more suffering in the world than any one heart can absorb and more

HAMBOURGER

need than any one person can meet. But there is a difference between recognizing our limits and allowing those limits to become blindness.

The Torah asks something more basic than solving every problem. First, see your brother. The wording itself is intimate. It does not say merely that the Egyptians could not see “people.” It says one person could not see his brother. The person hidden by darkness is not an abstraction. He is someone to whom I am connected, someone whose existence ought to matter to me.

And then comes the contrast: “Yet all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.”

Perhaps the deepest difference between darkness and light in this passage is not simply what people possessed in their homes. It is what they were able to perceive beyond themselves. Light allows us to see that someone else is there.

That sounds almost embarrassingly modest. We prefer larger words: justice, compassion, generosity, sacrifice. But every one of them begins with attention. Before we can help another person, defend another person, comfort another person, or stand beside another person, we must first notice that person.

Much of moral failure begins one step earlier than we imagine. It begins when

we stop looking. This can happen even in a world saturated with visibility. We can know what hundreds of acquaintances ate for dinner, where they traveled, what they celebrated, and what opinions they expressed – and still fail to notice the person sitting across from us.

Information about people is not the same as seeing them. Perhaps that is why the Torah’s image remains so haunting. The Egyptians are not described as running in the wrong direction or attacking one another. They simply cannot see one another. And eventually, no one gets up.

The opposite of that darkness can begin with something almost imperceptible: noticing. A face that looks different today. A voice that has gone unusually quiet. A person everyone else walks past.

Attention alone will not solve another person’s problems. But it interrupts the small enclosure of self that allows another human being to disappear from our world. It reminds us that beyond our own concerns, someone else is there.

We cannot respond to every need. We cannot carry every burden. But we can resist the darkness that gradually shrinks the world to the boundaries of ourselves. The Torah describes a darkness in which people could no longer see one another, and eventually could no longer rise.

Perhaps that is what light finally makes possible: We see another person – and rise from our place.

What to watch TUESDAY

October 6, 2026
All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

NCIS
CBS, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere
The action drama begins Season 24 with “Wayward Son.” While dealing with the fallout from the shooting involving McGee’s (Sean Murray) son, the team investigates a mysterious new threat to the secretary of the Navy and receives help from an unexpected source: Tony DiNozzo (guest star Michael Weatherly), newly arrived in D.C. to open a satellite office of his private security firm.

Best Medicine
FOX, 8 p.m.
The citizens of Port Wenn get competitive during their annual floating crate race in the new episode “Crate Expectations.”

American Masters
PBS, 9 p.m.
Edward James Olmos narrates “American Pachuco: The Legend of Luis Valdez,” a profile of the filmmaker and playwright known for his play *Zoot Suit*, the Ritchie Valens biopic *La Bamba* and the theater company El Teatro Campesino. Valdez, a founding figure of the Chicano Movement, continues to inspire many Latino trailblazers. Lou Diamond Phillips, Cheech Marin and others share insight.



NCIS: New York
CBS, 9 p.m. ■ New Series
New York is the seventh spinoff in the franchise, (with the original *NCIS* itself coming from JAG), and while producers want to do something new with it, they’re not forgetting what works. “How can we maintain the roots of the universe but take it to a different level?” asks series lead LL Cool J, reprising his role from *NCIS: Los Angeles*. He called in L.A. showrunner R. Scott Gemmill (*The Pitt*) to “help craft the foundation,” he adds. “New York has a vibe and a whole different energy,” the rapper says. “We wanted this show to present that to the world, and I think we accomplished it.” Hanna returns to his hometown, where he partners with a roguish agent (Scott Caan, *Hawaii Five-0*). Together they help lead a new team tasked with high-stakes missions to defend one of the most vital cities and ports in the world. The first episode, “Pilot,” follows Special Agent Sam Hanna (LL Cool J) as he returns to New York City following the death of his friend and Navy reservist Jack Halloway.

Doc
FOX, 9 p.m.
Amy and Jake (Molly Parker and Jon-Michael Ecker) are paired together on a bizarre case that lays bare the feelings surrounding their fractured relationship in the new episode.

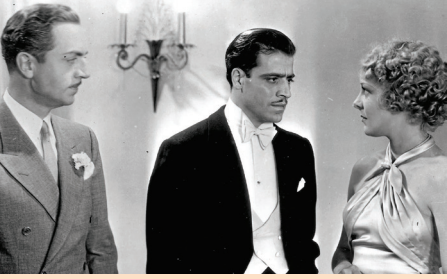
R.J. Decker
ABC, 10 p.m.
A murder at a fishing tournament reels R.J. (Scott Speedman) into a case that becomes deeply personal when a figure from his past resurfaces in the new episode “The Angler.”

NCIS: Origins
CBS, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere
The *NCIS* prequel series following young Leroy Jethro Gibbs (Austin Stowell) in the 1990s returns for Season 3 with “Don’t You Forget About Me.” Present-day Gibbs (returning guest star Mark Harmon) has his peaceful retirement in Alaska disturbed by ghosts of the past. In 1992, the team races to rescue a kidnapped Randy (Caleb Foote).

CATCH A CLASSIC

Murder at the Movies
TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.
Tonight’s programming is curated by TCM host Alicia Malone with a theme based on her first novel, *Murder at the Movies: A Movie Palace Mystery*, a classic whodunit to be released today. The evening begins with René Clair’s chilling 1945 murder mystery **And Then There Were None**, based on Agatha Christie’s novel, in which a group of

strangers trapped on an isolated island try to determine the identity of a ruthless killer who is methodically picking them off one by one before it’s too late. In **Murder She Said** (1961), Margaret Rutherford takes the reins as the irrepressible Miss Marple, who witnesses a strangulation through a train window and takes the investigation into her own capable hands. The evening also includes 1933’s **The Kennel Murder Case (pictured)**, starring William Powell as suave, razor-sharp detective Philo Vance, and Alfred Hitchcock’s psychological masterpiece **Suspicion** (1941), with Joan Fontaine playing a sheltered heir-



ess who slowly comes to the terrifying realization that her charming new husband (Cary Grant) might just be a murderer.

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



The Addams Family 2 (2021, Children) Oscar Isaac, Charlize Theron **NICK, 7 p.m.**
Mamma Mia! (2008, Musical comedy) Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan **Encore, 7:05 p.m.**
Ghost Ship (2002, Horror) Juli-anna Margulies, Ron Eldard **AMC, 7:45 p.m.**
Wife Stalker (2025, Suspense) Keshia Knight Pulliam, Trai Byers **LMN, 8 p.m.**
Role Models (2008, Comedy) Se-ann William Scott, Paul Rudd **Para-mount, 8:30 p.m.**
Hocus Pocus (1993, Family) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker **Freeform, 8:55 p.m.**
In the Grey (2026, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal, Henry Cavill **Starz, 9 p.m.**
Independence Day: Resurgence (2016, Science fiction) Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum **FX, 10 p.m.**
Matilda (1996, Children) Mara Wil-son, Danny DeVito **SYFY, 10 p.m.**
Crazy Rich Asians (2018, Ro-mance-comedy) Constance Wu, Henry Golding **HBO, 10:30 p.m.**
Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Christine Taylor **Para-mount, 10:30 p.m.**
Dune: Part Two (2024, Science fic-tion) Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya **TNT, 10:30 p.m.**

From the editors of
TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



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What to watch WEDNESDAY

October 7, 2026
All times Eastern. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Scrubs
ABC, 8 p.m.
While J.D.’s (Zach Braff) relationship is flour-ishing, Elliot (Sarah Chalke) is reintroduced to an old flame in the new episode “My Ex’s Ex.”

Chicago Med
NBC, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere
Gaffney Medical Center without director Sharon Goodwin (S. Epatha Merkerson)? Unthinkable! But it’s possible when Season 12’s action begins. A few months have passed since board member Miranda Lewis (Orlagh Cassidy) came for Goodwin after she al-legedly leaked a doctor’s personal psychiat-ric files. Can the good director save her job? It will be a journey. The premiere also brings Hannah (Jessy Schram) back to the ED to decide if she’s ready to return to work after maternity leave. She and Dr. Dean Archer (Steven Weber) have a child together, and he’s confessed his love.



Abbott Elementary
ABC, 8:30 p.m. ■ Season Premimere
Another school year begins on the sixth season of the Emmy-winning comedy as the teachers head into their annual Development Day, riding the high of having their school spared closure in Season 5’s finale. While second grade teacher Janine (played by cre-ator Quinta Brunson) does something “outra-geous” for her classroom, her educator beau Gregory (Tyler James Williams) prepares for his first day as the official assistant principal. But this time around, he’ll be tackling the leadership role alongside outlandish princi-pal Ava Coleman (Janelle James).

99 to Beat
FOX, 9 p.m.
In the new episode “Families on the Edge,” 69 contestants remain to compete in five seemingly simple and hilarious games.

Chicago Fire
NBC, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premimere
Sound the alarms! Last we saw Firehouse 51, most were trapped in a burning building — or on a ladder outside — as a wave of fire consumed them. The premiere plays with time, beginning where it left off and jumping three months ahead to reveal who made it out alive. Early on, Season 15 welcomes new probies and says goodbye to two major play-ers. Dermot Mulroney wraps up his role as ex-battalion chief Dom Pascal in the opener, and original cast member Joe Miñoso (fire-fighter Joe Cruz) leaves after a handful of episodes in what Greensmith calls a “beauti-ful” story.

NOVA
PBS, 9 p.m.
Once purely a realm of scientific wonder, space is now a critical battleground, as global military powers race to weaponize it. Satellites, vital to our daily lives and economies, are vulnerable to attack both from adversaries and the debris that’s filling increasingly crowded orbits. The new episode “Space Wars” explores the technology and strategy of a rapidly devel-oping arms race and reveals how experts are wrestling with the implications of this looming conflict.

Chicago P.D.
NBC, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premimere
Officer Eva Imani (Arienne Mandi) was dealt a crushing blow last season when she re-united with her sister, Shari (Selin Cuhadaro-glu), who’d been taken as a young girl by a sex trafficker. It left Sgt. Hank Voight (Jason Beghe) with a tough decision: Does he turn Shari in for a murder she committed? Season 14’s premiere, set three months later, reveals whether he does and explores new territory for the sisters.



Hanks as an anxious homeowner whose quiet neighborhood vacation spirals out of control alongside neighbors played by Car-rie Fisher and Bruce Dern. The retrospec-tive closes with the atmospheric werewolf classic **The Howling** (1981), starring Dee Wallace and Patrick Macnee, which rede-fined the modern monster movie with its groundbreaking transformation effects.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Directed by Joe Dante
TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.
Tonight, TCM celebrates director Joe Dante, whose inventive blend of horror, science fiction, nostalgia and satire made him one of the distinctive filmmakers of his gener-ation. The evening begins with the warm and witty **Matinee** (1993), starring John Goodman as a charismatic 1960s exploita-tion filmmaker staging a sensational movie premiere against the backdrop of the Cu-ban Missile Crisis. The journey continues into the cul-de-sacs of middle America with the delightfully paranoid 1989 dark com-edy **The ’Burbs (pictured)**, featuring Tom

MOVIES YOU’LL LOVE



Jumanji (1995, Family) Robin Wil-liams, Jonathan Hyde **SYFY, 6 p.m.**
Kentucky Roses (2026, Romance) Annie Fitzpatrick, Matthew W. Allen **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**
Monsters, Inc. (2001, Children) John Goodman, Billy Crystal **Freeform, 6:25 p.m.**
Ant-Man (2015, Action) Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas **Starz, 7 p.m.**
Judge Dredd (1995, Action) Sylves-ter Stallone, Armand Assante **BBC America, 7:30 p.m.**
Ghostbusters: Afterlife (2021, Comedy) Carrie Coon, Finn Wolf-hard **FX, 8 p.m.**
Evil Dead Burn (2026, Horror) Souheila Yacoub, Tandi Wright **HBO, 9 p.m.**
The Mummy (1999, Adventure) Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz **Par-amount, 9 p.m.**
Burlesque (2010, Drama) Cher, Christina Aguilera **E!, 9:30 p.m.**
Road House (1989, Action) Patrick Swayze, Kelly Lynch **BBC America, 9:30 p.m.**
The Killer With No Name (2024, Suspense) Kabby Borders, Brianna Butler **LMN, 10 p.m.**
Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (2024, Comedy) Paul Rudd, Carrie Coon **FX, 10:35 p.m.**
Seed of Chucky (2004, Horror) Jennifer Tilly, Brad Dourif **AMC, 11 p.m.**

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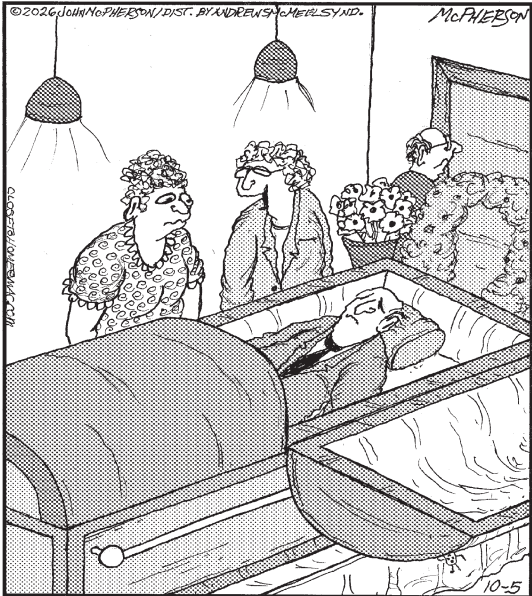


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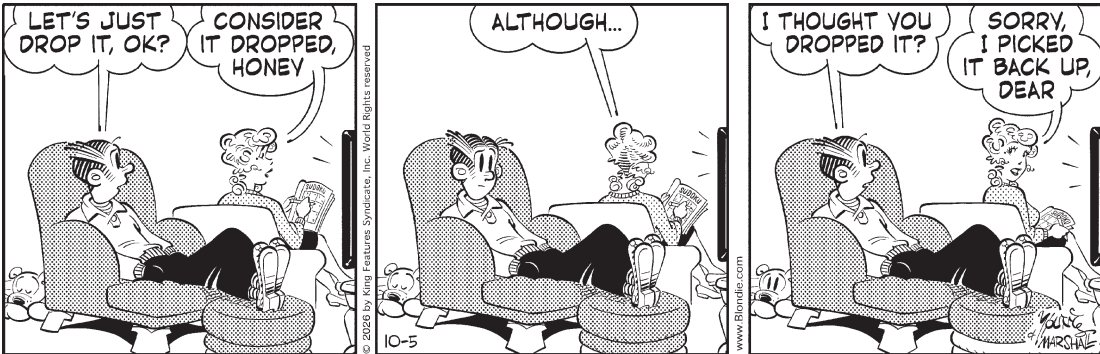
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



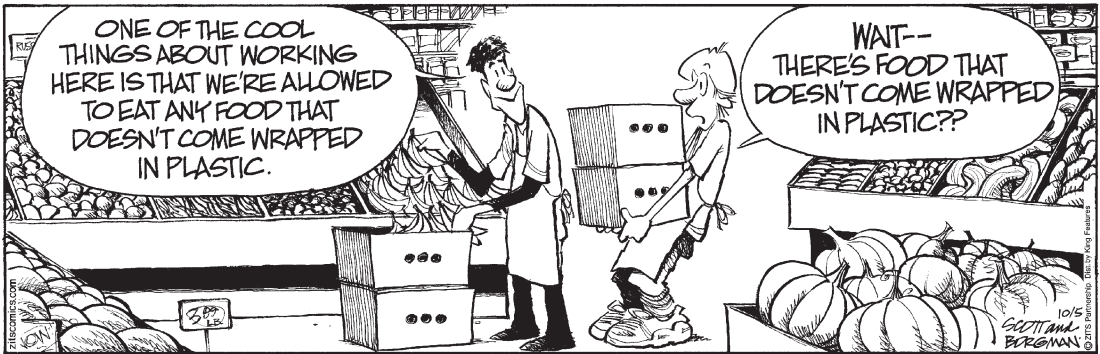
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



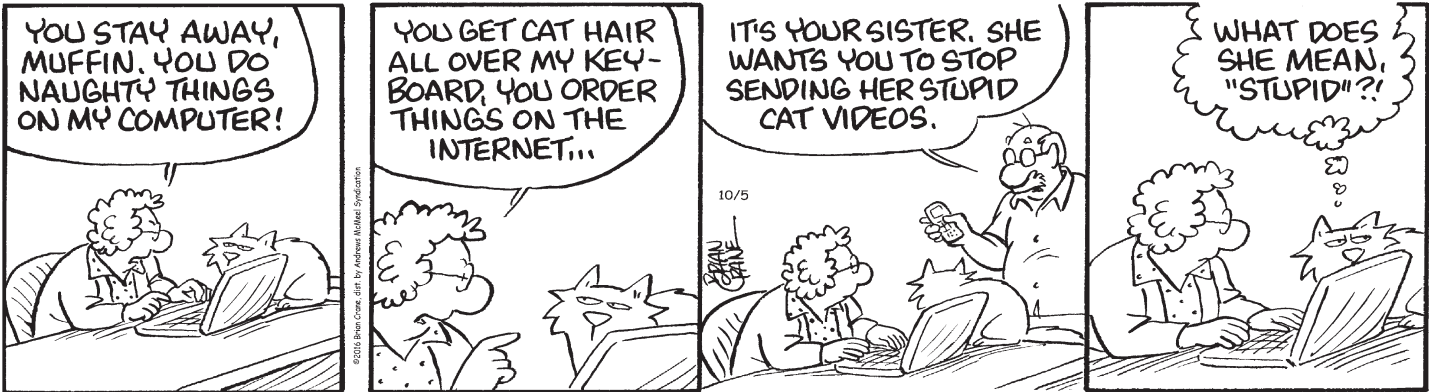
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

MOLAR INCISOR CANINE

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:

lie through your teeth

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
1 Tiny trims
6 "Tar" Oscar nominee
10 Jar topper
13 Art studio stand
14 Chocolate-flavored latte
15 Fuss
16 Playful back-and-forth
18 Church seating
19 Messy person
20 Word with ocean or eye
21 Skim through
22 Wear away
24 Sprawling property
26 Workstation option since the 1980s
30 Rainbow maker
31 Attempted
32 Bath rug
33 Old hoops org.
36 Genetic material
37 Polo shirt, e.g.
40 Power strip switch
42 Not exactly, informally
44 Ticket pickup location
49 Battery terminals
50 Punchiness
51 See 58-Across
52 Crown for a prom queen
54 Wanes
58 With 51-Across, dance accessory for Fred Astaire
59 Time off that may coincide with a new calendar year, or what can be found in 16-, 26-, and 44-Across
- DOWN**
1 Does some alterations
2 Place for cuticle oil
3 Analogy words
4 Spots where dogs may sit, lie down, and roll over
5 Clever
6 Meet over coffee, perhaps
7 Entr'
8 Eerie electronic instrument
9 Musical proclivity
10 Affectionate feline
11 Brainstorm
12 Wet blanket
14 Some hotel employees
17 Move like the wind
21 Small earring
23 Fiction subgenre
25 "I didn't quite catch that"
26 Typing speed: Abbr.
27 401(k) alternative
28 Minor quibble
29 Chicago airport code
34 Not-so-humble bragging
35 Old gridiron org.
37 Feature of many a Wile E. Coyote trap, for short
- 38 "___ to Joy":**
highlight of Beethoven's Ninth over
39 Golf course standard
40 Ye ___ Shoppe
41 Pool raft, e.g.
43 Receive, as a bequest
44 Squandered
45 Take a deep breath
46 Copy on an email reply
47 Apple pie-making tool
48 Minnesota representative
53 Deets
55 Triumph over
56 Make a cake, say
57 Icelandic dairy product similar to yogurt
59 Nintendo console released in 2006
60 Certain sib

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

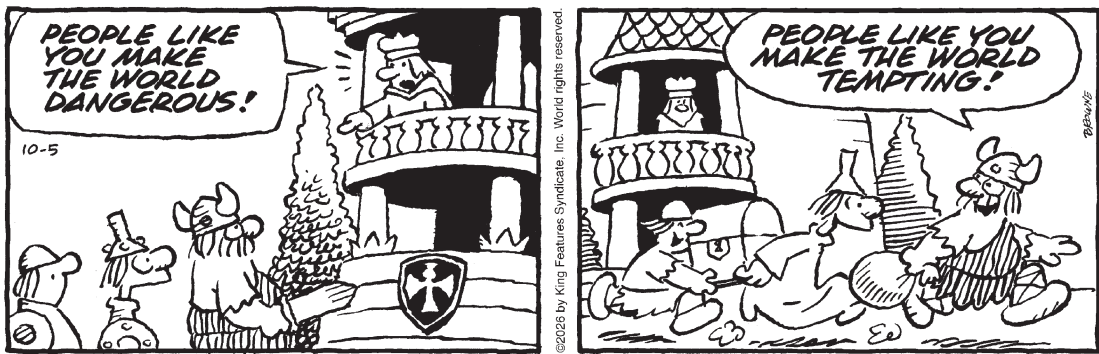
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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14						15	
16						17						18	
19						20					21		
					22	23				24	25		
26	27	28								29			
30								31					
32					33	34	35		36			37	38
39													
					40				41			42	43
44	45	46							47	48			
49				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

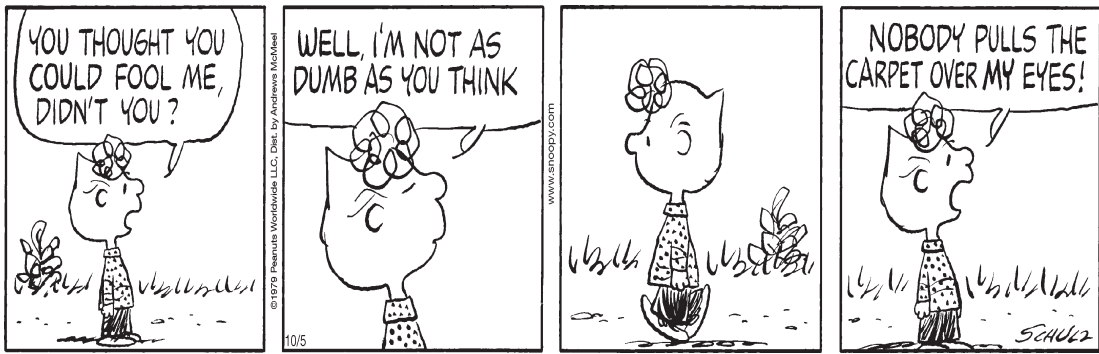
By Amanda Cook
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10/05/26

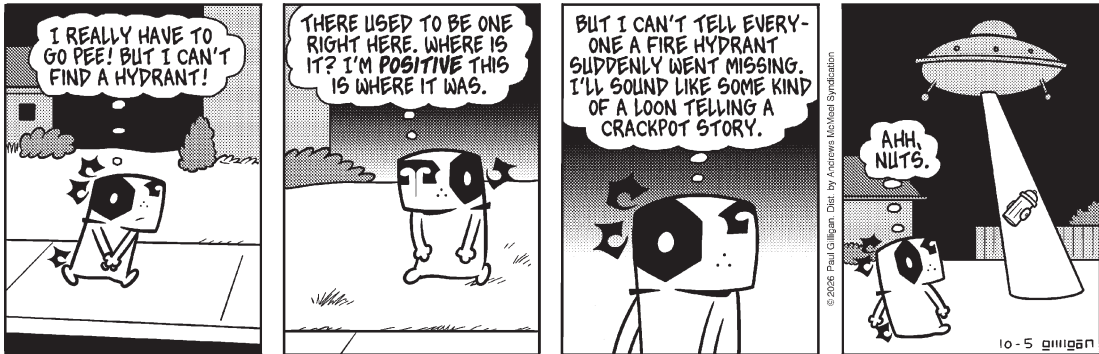
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.

AXIOMATICALLY SPEAKING

Solution: 5 letters

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

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10/5

Absolute, Accept, Actual, Agree, Answer, Apparent, Argument, Articulate, Assume, Certain, Data, Declare, Easy, Educate, Establish, Explain, Fact, Given, Granted, Grounded, Honest, Idea, Manifest, Math, Mind, Obvious, Phrase, Presume, Principle, Quote, Reasonable, Research, Right, Statement, Sure, Theory, Truth, Undeniable, Understand, Wisdom

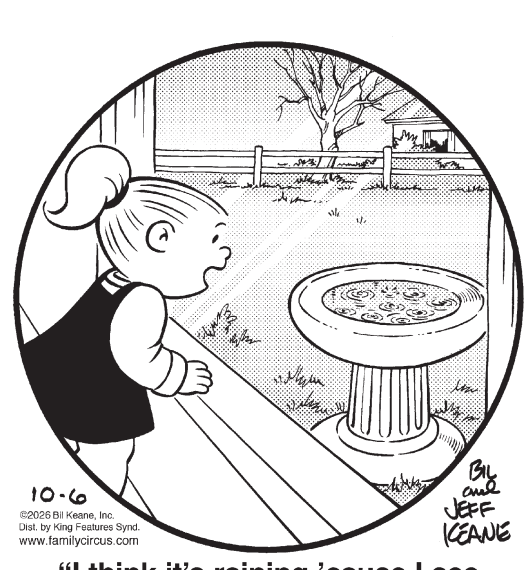
TODAY'S ANSWER: Logic

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



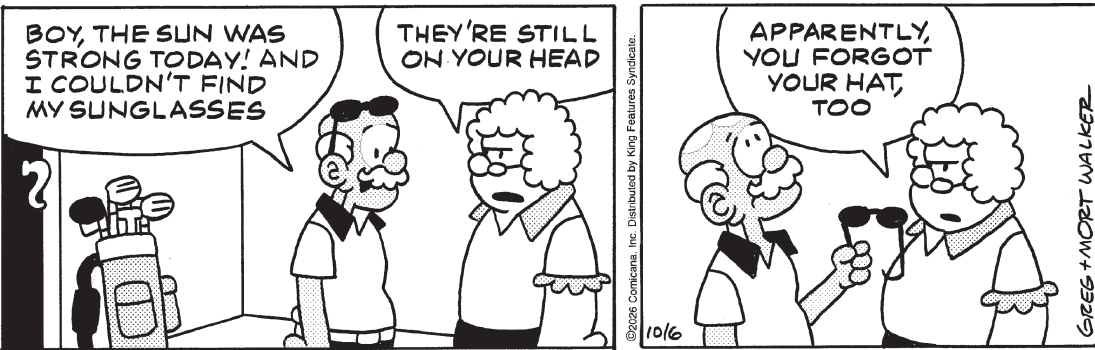
“This explains that banging noise we’ve been hearing since we left that rest area in New Jersey.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

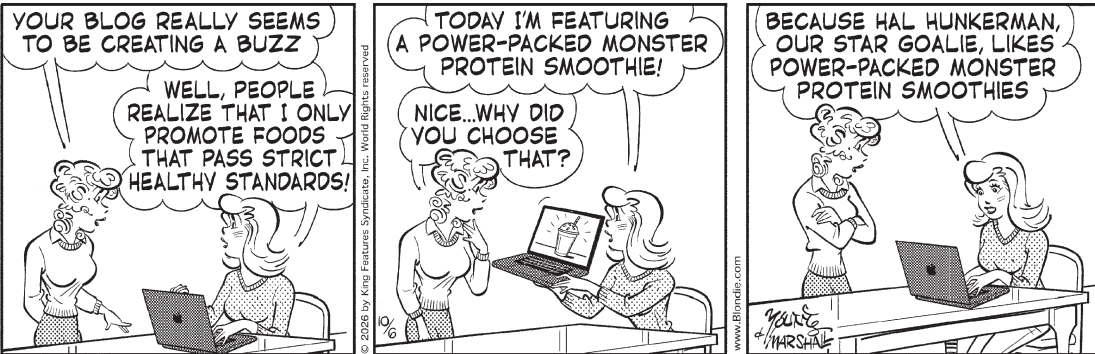


“I think it’s raining ’cause I see dimples in the birdbath.”

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



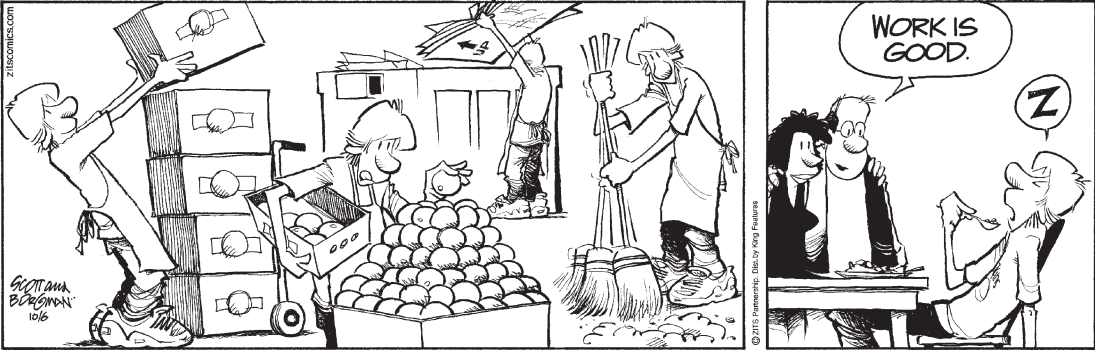
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



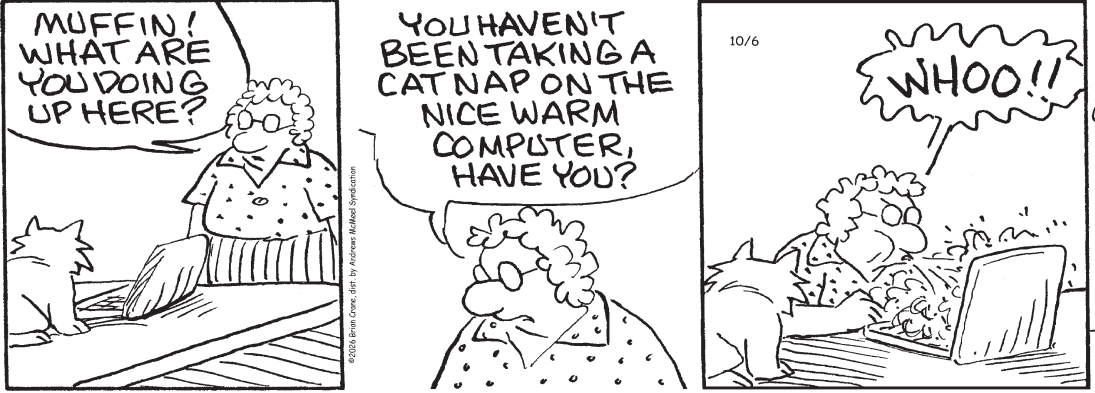
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

WHATZIT?

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

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

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Curved bone
- 4 Make a sweater
- 8 Remain
- 12 Climbing plant
- 13 City in Nevada
- 14 “— land is your land ...”
- 15 — Moines
- 16 Calendar span
- 17 Impolite
- 18 Bar by legal means
- 20 Zoo denizen
- 21 Skill
- 22 Carnation color
- 24 — Domingo
- 26 Try
- 30 Yellowstone’s — Faithful
- 31 Notorious emperor
- 33 Pub order
- 34 Rd.
- 35 “Star —”
- 37 Is able to
- 38 Very thirsty
- 41 Intone
- 43 “Present!”
- 44 Curtain holder
- 45 Wooden duck
- 48 Swiftly
- 51 Seed covering
- 52 Floating platform
- 55 Devil— —care
- 56 Ceremony
- 57 Of the ear
- 58 Wrath
- 59 —do-well
- 60 “Little Women” name
- 61 Classifieds
- DOWN
- 1 Carnival attraction
- 2 Currier’s partner

TODAY’S SOLUTION:

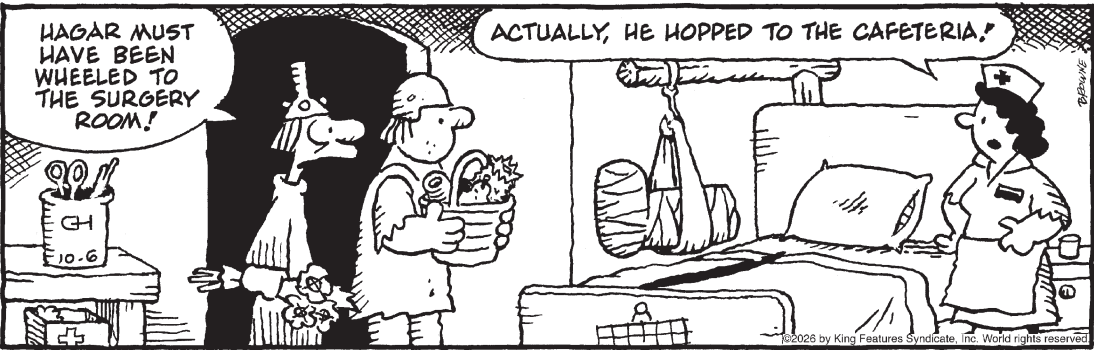
S	D	V		H	T	E	B		R	E	E	N
E	R	I		C	I	L	O		E	I	R	
A	V	M		T	F	V	R		L	I	R	V
A	C	E		A	P	A		Y	O	O	E	C
				V								
				R	O	R		E	H			
T	N	V		H	C	D	E	H	C	R	V	P
N	V	C		S	R	V	W			E	V	A
E	T	V			R	O	E	N		D	T	O
T	M	P		T	E	T	A		O	T	V	S
				K	I	N	P		T			
R				I	G	E	R		P	O		
E				R	U	R			Y		S	E
S	I	S		H	T	O	N		R	E	V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

- 3 Witness on the scene
- 4 Superman’s home
- 5 Once called
- 6 All — day’s work
- 7 Rocky hill
- 8 Hit
- 9 Hoodlum
- 10 —de-camp
- 11 River in France
- 19 Kitchen scrap
- 20 Dynamite letters
- 22 Ticker-tape event
- 23 “Believe — not!”
- 24 Bath need
- 25 Thomas — Edison
- 27 Hawaiian nut
- 28 Blueprint
- 29 Camp shelter
- 32 Pitcher
- 36 Abrasion
- 39 Irritability
- 40 “You there!”
- 42 Jump
- 45 Mend
- 46 Pennsylvania port
- 47 Mention
- 49 Funny fellow
- 50 Looks at
- 52 Stalk from
- 53 Dined
- 54 Healthy

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

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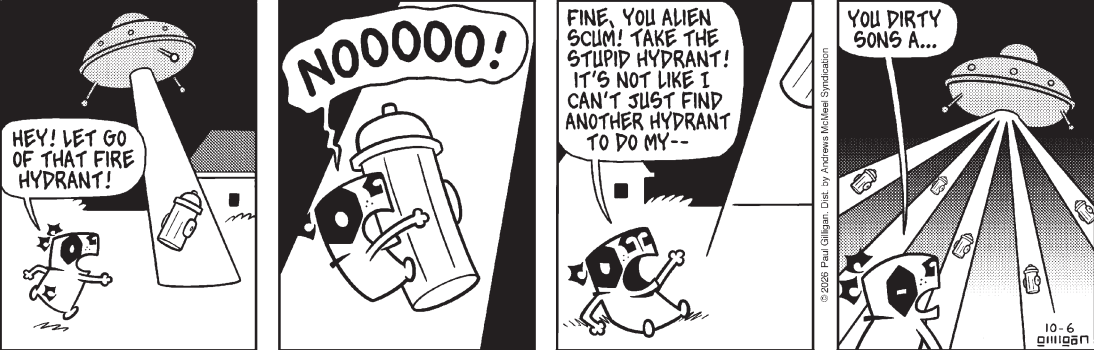
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

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

POMERANIANS

Solution: 8 letters

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

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10/6

Adopt, Affection, Bold, Cuddle, Curious, Cute, Dog, Energetic, Exercise, Explore, Extrovert, Family, Fearless, Feisty, Fluffy, Foxlike, Friendly, Fun, Gentle, Haircut, Happy, Intelligent, Lively, Loving, Loyal, Naps, Outdoor, Patient, Personality, Pets, Playful, Protect, Puffy, Size, Small, Snuggle, Social, Spitz, Spunky, Teeth, Toys

TODAY’S ANSWER: Grooming



Special Graphic: Governor's Office

Georgia breaks tourism record for fourth straight year

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — The Georgia Department of Economic Development announced last week that the state broke tourism records for the fourth consecutive year and ranked No. 5 in the nation for domestic overnight visitation for the sixth year in a row.

Speaking at the annual Georgia Governor’s Tourism Conference, Gov. Brian Kemp said that a record 175.6 million domestic and international visitors in calendar year 2025 spent \$46.2 billion on Georgia’s lodging, restaurants, transportation and other local businesses, surpassing the previous record set in 2024 by more than 2%. Those tourism dollars generated \$5.3 billion in state and local tax revenues, saving each Georgia household nearly \$1,300 in annual taxes on average.

“Georgia’s incredible natural wonders, welcoming communities, and unique attractions make our state a top destination for business and leisure travelers alike, as well as both families and employers who want to make Georgia their home,” Kemp said. “These figures are a testament to the work of hard-working Georgians statewide who provide visitors with a reason to keep Georgia on their mind, thereby generating revenue, supporting small businesses, and creating jobs for Georgians in all four corners of the Peach State.”

Tourism is one of Georgia’s largest economic contributors, generating \$84.1 billion in statewide economic impact. The state’s tourism-supported workforce rose to 473,837 direct, indirect and induced jobs, accounting for one in every 15 Georgia jobs. During Kemp’s term, Georgia’s visitor economy has grown more than 15%, from 152.3 million visitors in 2019 to an all-time high in 2025. Over this seven-year period, visitor spending increased by 22%, boosting state and local tax revenues by more than 24% — delivering record levels of tourism-generated economic impact and tax savings for Georgia families.

“Every visitor who chooses to spend time and money in our beautiful state helps create a better future for the people who call Georgia home,” GDECD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. “Tourism is a powerful economic driver with real results. These latest numbers reflect the hard work of Georgia’s tourism professionals who keep our state competitive and a destination worth choosing time and again.”

GDECD’s strategic tourism marketing efforts have remained a key driver of visitation to and within Georgia. In 2025, the state achieved a return on investment of \$78 for every \$1 invested in paid advertising alone, according to an advertising effectiveness study by SMARInsights.

Presented by GDECD’s tourism arm — known to travelers as Explore Georgia — the Georgia Governor’s Tourism Conference draws more than 400 travel and hospitality professionals from across the state each year to learn, share best practices, and elevate the statewide tourism industry’s efforts to increase visitation to and within Georgia. The 2026 conference was held at the Jekyll Island Convention Center to showcase one of the state’s leading convention destinations.

For more information about tourism in Georgia, visit Georgia.org.

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For more information about tourism in Georgia, visit Georgia.org.

Dementia Care Partners Conference scheduled Nov. 5 in Albany

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Margaret Jo Hogg Dementia Support Center and the Sowega Council on Aging will present the Dementia Care Partners Conference Nov. 5 at the Dougherty County Library System’s Northwest Library Branch.

The conference will start at 9 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m. The library is located at 2507 Dawson Road in Albany.

Featured presenters at the event will be Nancy Treaster, a certified caregiver consultant and co-founder of The Caregiver’s Journey, and Izzie Sadler, a functional medicine certified health coach



Izzie Sadler

and nutritional specialist.

A registration fee of \$25 includes continental breakfast, lunch and conference materials.

For reservations, call (229) 432-2705 or go online to sowegacoa.org/event/dcpc.

Georgia Regents name former Southern Company leader Thomas Fanning as next chancellor

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

Fanning led Southern Company from 2010 to 2023. He also chaired the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

After leading the university system for four years, Perdue announced his retirement in April, prompting a five-month search for his successor.

Perdue served as agriculture secretary and as Georgia’s first Republican governor since Reconstruction starting in 2003.



Thomas Fanning

Mayville Engineering plans 140 new jobs in Thomson

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Mayville Engineering Company, a U.S.-based company that provides a wide range of services, including prototyping and tooling, production fabrication, aluminum extrusion, coating, assembly, and aftermarket support, plans to create approximately 140 new jobs and invest an estimated \$26 million over the next several years to establish a new metal fabrication facility in McDuffie County.

“We continue to see companies bring good-paying jobs and opportunity to all corners of this state,” Gov. Brian Kemp said. “MEC will help reinforce Georgia’s strong manufacturing supply chain while benefiting from our highly skilled workforce and top-notch infrastructure network.”

“MEC is proud to partner with McDuffie County and the state of Georgia to bring new investment and approximately 140 jobs to the region,” Jag Reddy, president and CEO of Mayville Engineering Co., said. “Georgia’s skilled workforce and strong commitment to economic development made it the ideal location for our newest facility, and we look forward to contributing to the community’s continued growth.”

“This new facility strengthens MEC’s national manufacturing network and expands our capacity to support customers across the industries we serve. As we continue to grow, so does our need for talented people, and we look forward to hiring locally in McDuffie County for roles across operations, skilled trades, and management



Special Logo

as we invest in the Thomson facility.”

For the new metal fabrication facility, MEC will refurbish the existing building at 1048 Superior Way in Thomson. Facility renovations and equipment investments are expected to be phased in over the next several years, with workforce expansion anticipated to begin in 2026. The company will hire for roles in management, administrative support, technical positions, operators, maintenance and quality control. Interested individuals can learn more at www.mecinc.com/our-company/careers.

Senior Project Manager Adela Kelley represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development on this competitive project in partnership with the McDuffie County Development Authority and Georgia Quick Start.

“Georgia’s manufacturing supply chain is built on layers, from small and specialized manufacturers to major OEMs, and MEC brings important capabilities that serve multiple industries and multiple points across that supply chain,” GDECD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. “With its proximity to Augusta and connectivity to the broader Southeast manufacturing ecosystem and some of the nation’s busiest ports, McDuffie County is well-positioned for this investment.”

Proposal requiring election workers to ‘shuffle’ ballots fails to find support

By Maya Homan
Georgia Recorder

ATLANTA -- A last-minute proposal that would have required poll workers to manually “shuffle” ballots before scanning them in an effort to prevent bad actors from identifying how Georgia residents voted failed to advance Thursday at a special-called meeting of the State Election Board.

Election workers and advocates said the proposed rule would be impossible to implement before the November midterms and would likely create more problems than it solved.

State Election Board member Salleigh Grubbs, a top Georgia GOP official who was appointed to the board last year, argued that emergency rules were needed to uphold Georgia’s constitutionally required ballot secrecy rules. Her proposal would require voters to place their completed ballots into “secure boxes” rather than ballot scanners, which voters use to submit their printed ballot.

Thursday’s meeting was called to consider Grubbs’ proposal.

“We cannot continue on the same path with these kinds of vulnerabilities,” Grubbs said. “It must be addressed before the November election so that we can continue on to secure all future elections.”

But other members of the board appeared more skeptical. Janelle King, the board’s vice chair, said she worried

that the proposal would likely generate more fear and distrust among voters.

“I also have major concerns about dropping our ballots into a secured box and then having other individuals scan my ballot,” she said. “How do I know that in the shuffling something doesn’t fall out?”

Anne Dover, the Cherokee County elections director, raised concerns that counties could struggle to recruit poll workers if the proposal were approved.

“Elections officials are put in a very difficult position,” she said. “We’ve been accused of fraud. We’ve been accused of being criminals. Our poll workers have been accused of doing things they shouldn’t do, and this atmosphere just gets worse for us as elections officials and poll workers. And I’m afraid we will lose poll workers if something like this is mandated, because they’re going to feel that pressure not to make a mistake.”

The change would also be extraordinarily expensive for counties, Dover said. Cherokee County’s policies mandate that at least three poll workers be assigned to monitor ballots. The cost of hiring enough poll workers to have three people monitoring ballots at every early voting location across the county, she said, would require an extra \$80,000 for the midterm elections.

Ballot images have been public record in Georgia since



Special Photo: Maya Homan/Georgia Recorder

A last-minute proposal that would have required poll workers to manually “shuffle” ballots before scanning them failed to advance at a special-called meeting of the State Election Board.

2021, and records dating back to 2024 are available online at the secretary of state’s website. In August, a Princeton University researcher claimed that he was able to use artificial intelligence to tie thousands of voters to specific ballots with relative certainty by putting publicly available data through an AI tool.

In July, Election Director Blake Evans issued guidance to county election workers instructing them to redact ballot record numbers before uploading them to the secretary of state’s website to prevent ballots from being traced back to specific voters. At Thursday’s meeting, VotingWorks executive director Ben Adida, whose company also manufactures election equipment, said the secretary of state’s office had successfully addressed election security concerns.

But some election activists have maintained that Georgia’s system contains critical security issues and are urging the state to take action ahead of the midterm elections. Early voting begins on Oct. 13.

On Monday, members of the board approved a resolution urging the secretary of state’s office to update the state’s voting machine software and calling on the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Homeland Security to step in to ensure that the update takes place.

But Carolyn Roddy, the board’s GOP appointee and sponsor of the resolution, said she shared board members’ concerns about ballot secrecy, but that Grubbs’ proposal went too far.

“I’m not in favor of putting election officials through the ringer on this thing,” she said. “I think that it will cause incredible conflict that will deter us from other missions.”

A last-minute proposal that would have required poll workers to manually “shuffle” ballots before scanning them failed to advance at a special-called meeting of the State Election Board.

Acree chooses Texas A&M

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Kie'Aundria "KJ" Acree sat inside the Monroe High School gym Friday morning wearing the letter jacket of the school she has represented for three years.

She already knew what was underneath it.

After emotional speeches celebrating her accomplishments on the basketball court, in the classroom and in the community, Acree stood, opened her jacket and revealed her college choice. Texas A&M.

"I made the decision back earlier in September when I was out there for a visit," Acree

said. "I committed that day and shut down my recruitment. I knew that is where I wanted to be."

Basketball was only part of the decision.

Acree carries a 4.14 GPA and plans to major in engineering. During her visit to College Station, she toured the engineering department and learned about academic support available to athletes balancing demanding coursework with travel.

"It really felt like home, and I loved the coaches and the campus," Acree said. "The engineering aspect played a big part of my decision."

Acree enters her senior sea-



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

From left, Jeffrey Acree joins his niece, Monroe basketball star Kie'Aundria "KJ" Acree, and her mother and head coach, Jennifer Acree, after KJ announced Friday that she will continue her basketball and academic career at Texas A&M.

son with more than 2,600 career points after averaging 30.6 points, 12 rebounds, six assists and four blocks as a junior.

Her former track coach summed up Acree's approach during Friday's ceremony.

"KJ doesn't work on her jump shot," she said. "She works on her future. KJ does things the right way — she is one of my heroes."

Acree won't be the only Southwest Georgia stand-out headed to College Station. Lee County football star Jaden Upshaw committed to Texas A&M earlier this year, sending two of the area's most highly recruited

Class of 2027 athletes to the same SEC school.

But Acree's mother and Monroe coach, Jennifer Acree, reminded her daughter that Texas can wait.

"We have one more season together, goals to reach and we have people depending on us," she said. "We've got unfinished business."

KJ helped Monroe reach the Class AAA Final Four as a freshman, the Elite Eight as a sophomore and the Final Four again last season.

The missing accomplishment is a state championship. Acree's destination is settled.

Her final mission at Monroe isn't.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Construction continues on Westover High School's new gymnasium in Albany. Delays related to plumbing and equipment have pushed the expected completion date to Dec. 10, with the Patriots now planning to play their first home games in the new facility in January 2027.

Construction issues delay Westover gym

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Westover's new gymnasium won't be ready for the start of basketball season, but the delay comes with a consolation prize for the Patriots.

They aren't quite finished with Boston Garden yet.

Construction issues related to plumbing and equipment that did not arrive on schedule have pushed completion of Westover's new gym to Dec. 10, principal William Chunn said. The school now plans to begin playing games in the facility after the Christmas break in January 2027.

The new timeline means Westover will spend the opening portion of the basketball season in its longtime home before moving into the new facility.

For Chunn, that's not entirely bad news.

"I am disappointed that we did not reach our initial opening, which was scheduled for the end of November, but I am not upset, as this gives us additional games in the Boston Garden," Chunn said. "And I do love The Boston Garden, where we've played for 10 state championships, winning six."

Those extra games will provide something of an unexpected encore for a building woven into the history of Westover basketball.

The Patriots had expected to move into their new home earlier in the season. Instead, even if construction is completed by the revised Dec. 10 date, Chunn said Westover will wait until after Christmas before playing games there.

That is by design.

"We plan to have home games in the new gym after the Christmas holidays, in January 2027," Chunn said. "This will give our teams time to get acclimated to our new playing facility."

Rather than moving immediately from Boston Garden into the new building, Westover's teams will have several weeks to practice there and become familiar with their surroundings.

"It is important to us that we have adequate practice time in this facility before we start playing home games, as we are sure there will be kinks to work out," Chunn said.

Before the first basketball game, Westover also plans to allow its community to see the finished facility.

Chunn said the school plans a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by an open house for the "Patriot Nation" before opening the gym to the public.

The school is building the new gym on the site of Westover's former baseball field as part of an extensive campus renovation. Plans for the approximately 2,000-seat facility include locker rooms, coaches' offices, weight and training rooms, concessions, and other amenities.

The project represents a major upgrade for Westover's athletic program and will eventually replace a gym that has witnessed some of the school's greatest basketball accomplishments.

That makes the delay unusual.

Normally, waiting another month for a new gym would be nothing but frustrating. At Westover, it also means another month inside Boston Garden.

The new building can wait until January.

For a few more games, the Patriots get to stay home.

Sanders changing Baker County football

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

NEWTON — Terrance King has been around Baker County football from the beginning.

He has watched the Bears build a program, endure difficult seasons and work toward becoming a team capable of winning consistently.

So when King says one player has changed Baker County football, he doesn't say it lightly.

That player is Taylor Sanders. "I have been with the football program from the beginning, and this young man has changed our program," King said.

The Baker County senior quarterback and defensive back has put together a remarkable final season, piling up yards, touchdowns and school records while helping the Bears recover from an 0-3 start.

Through six games, Sanders had rushed for 1,012 yards and thrown for another 906, giving him 1,918 yards of total offense and 16 touchdowns.

Those aren't merely impressive numbers for a small Southwest Georgia program.

They rank among the best in the country.

According to MaxPreps' 6-, 8- and 9-man statistics through Sept. 29, Sanders ranked sixth nationally with 1,918 total yards and 19th with 1,012 rushing yards. His 16 total touchdowns ranked 57th.

For King, the production is a reflection of everything Sanders did before anyone started keeping statistics.

"Taylor Sanders is a great student-athlete," King said.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Baker County quarterback Taylor Sanders runs against Westwood in Camilla during a game earlier this season. The senior quarterback was expected to rewrite the record books in Friday night's game against Spring Creek when he was expected to surpass 2,000 yards of total offense.

"He has worked extremely hard and deserves all the recognition for the work he has put in this summer to be prepared for this season."

"The stats this young man has achieved are a testament to his ability and dedication."

His performance against Georgia Christian provided a snapshot of just how much Baker County asks of its senior leader.

Sanders carried 32 times for 211 yards and two touchdowns in the Bears' 34-28 victory. When he wasn't running it, he was throwing it, completing 19 of 29 passes for 112 yards and two more scores.

That's 61 plays with the football in his hands, 323 yards of offense and four touchdowns.

And when Baker County's

offense leaves the field, Sanders' night isn't necessarily over. He also plays in the secondary for the Bears.

His 211 rushing yards against Georgia Christian pushed him beyond 1,000 for the season and put another Baker County record in his name. He entered the following week's Homecoming game against Spring Creek Charter closing in on 1,000 passing yards and 2,000 yards of total offense.

The accomplishments have come during a season in which Sanders has helped the Bears find their footing after a difficult beginning.

Baker County lost its first three games before winning two of its next three. As the Bears began turning their season around, Sanders became

increasingly difficult for opposing defenses to contain.

His ability to hurt opponents with his arm or his legs creates an obvious problem.

Load the defense to stop Sanders from running, and he can throw it.

Respect the pass, and the quarterback who has already rushed for more than 1,000 yards can take off.

College coaches have noticed.

Sanders has received offers from Georgia Knights Community Christian College, Dega University Community Christian College and Culver-Stockton College, an NAIA program in Missouri. NCAA Division II Erskine College recently joined the list.

More could follow.

But numbers and recruiting offers tell only part of Sanders' story at Baker County.

For a young football program still building its identity, King believes his senior quarterback has demonstrated what can happen when talent is matched by preparation and commitment.

The records eventually will be broken. The statistics will become numbers in a record book.

King believes Sanders has given Baker County something that could last considerably longer.

"This young man has changed our program," he said.

And for a coach who has been there since the beginning, there may be no bigger accomplishment than that.

Albany State honors 2026 Hall of Fame class

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Albany State University celebrated generations of athletic achievement Friday night, honoring former Golden Rams who left their marks as athletes, coaches and community leaders while also recognizing a championship team from Darton State College.

Six individuals — Robert L. Sampson Sr., Janel Herring-Farlin, Frank "Choo-Choo" Brown Jr., Keith Kinney, Edward "E.T." Taylor and Edward "Ed" Wilson — were inducted into the Albany State Athletics Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the university's West Campus Ballroom. The 2016 Darton State College baseball team was also inducted. Pasted markdown

The class stretches across decades of Albany State athletics and includes accomplish-



Special Photo: Reginald Christian

Albany State Athletics Hall of Fame inductees and representatives gather during the Class of 2026 induction ceremony. From left are C.J. Hillard, representing the 2016 Darton State College baseball team; Joshua Sampson, son of inductee Robert Sampson; Frank "Choo-Choo" Brown; Janel Herring-Farlin; Edward "E.T." Taylor; Keith Kinney; and Edward Wilson

ments in football, basketball, volleyball, cross-country, track and field and baseball.

Brown helped establish a piece of Golden Rams football history.

A four-year letterman from 1964-67 who played tackle

and end, Brown earned All-Conference honors in each of his four seasons. He was named Defensive Player of the Year in 1967 after averaging 15 tackles per game and earned Small College All-America recognition. He

later became the first Albany State player selected in the NFL Draft when the Dallas Cowboys chose him. Pasted markdown

Wilson also carried his Albany State career into the NFL. A three-sport athlete in football, baseball and track and field, Wilson was a four-year starter in both football and baseball and earned All-SIAC football honors. The Atlanta Falcons selected him in the 11th round of the 1974 NFL Draft. Pasted markdown

Herring-Farlin built one of the most decorated volleyball résumés in school history. She earned SIAC MVP honors in 2002 and 2004, was named the conference's Best Offensive Player in 2003 and 2004 and was Albany State's Athlete of the Year in 2003. She also competed in track and field and contributed to Albany State's run of

Lee County seniors savor final home game win

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — There was plenty to celebrate in Lee County’s final home volleyball match of the regular season. There were three seniors honored, a large crowd in the stands and plenty of opportunities for Lady Trojans throughout the lineup to get on the court. There was also a victory. Lee County cruised past Crisp County in straight sets, 25-10 and 25-15, on Senior Night, giving seniors Essential Hasan, Ragan Selman and Lindsay Kate Starr a winning finish in their final regular-season appearance at home.

The Lady Trojans took control almost immediately. Mayce Roberts opened the match behind the service line, and Lee County reeled off six consecutive points before Crisp County could get on the scoreboard. The Lady Cougars never seriously threatened in the opening set. Freshman Lexi Copeland took over at the service line late and served the final three points as Lee County finished off a 25-10 victory. Crisp County briefly grabbed its first lead of the night by scoring the opening point of the second set. It didn’t last long. Copeland went to the ser-



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

vice line after Lee County gained possession, and the Lady Trojans quickly turned a 1-0 deficit into a 10-1 ad-

vantage before Crisp scored again. With her team comfortably ahead, Lee County coach

Tondra Davis began working players into the match, eventually switching the entire lineup and giving others an opportunity to play on Senior Night. Crisp County stayed closer during the remainder of the set, but Lee County maintained control before power hitter Jada Ridley punctuated the evening with a spike for the final point of a 25-15 victory. The match also served as Lee County’s final preparation for the Region 2-6A tournament in Warner Robins. “This was the final warm-up before the region, and we were supposed to play Northside Columbus as well, but I

so appreciate Crisp tonight,” Davis said. “Hopefully, with it being Senior Night, our energy will take us into the region tournament.” Lee County finished fourth in the region standings behind Houston County, Veterans and Tift County, setting up an opening-round tournament matchup with fifth-place Thomas County Central. But before postseason volleyball arrived, Thursday belonged to Lee County’s seniors. Hasan, Selman and Starr got one more victory in their home gym — and one more Senior Night memory to take with them.

Jordan jersey sells for \$12.26M

Field Level Media

Michael Jordan’s jersey from Game 3 of the 1998 NBA Finals sold for \$12.26 million on Tuesday, breaking the record for a piece of Jordan memorabilia. This jersey, from Jordan’s sixth and final NBA Championship season in his “Last Dance” final campaign with the Bulls, put up for sale by entrepreneur Ryan Gough and sold at Joopiter, Pharrell Williams’ digital auction house. It broke the previous record for a piece of Jordan memorabilia, which was previously \$10.091 million for the game-worn jersey from Game 1 of the same Finals. “Few objects in the history



Special Photo: Robert Hanshiro

Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan stands alongside head coach Phil Jackson during Jordan’s final championship season in 1998. A jersey Jordan wore during Game 3 of the 1998 NBA Finals sold Tuesday for a record \$12.26 million.

of sport embody greatness as completely as Michael Jor-

dan’s Game 3 jersey from the 1998 NBA Finals,” Joopiter

said in the online auction posting for the jersey, with an estimated price range of \$10-15 million. Worn during The Last Dance ... it marks the culmination of an era that transformed basketball into a global cultural phenomenon. Today, it stands among the most important game-worn sports artifacts ever to come to market.” The sale price of this jersey, while a Jordan record, is barely halfway to the total of the highest price paid for a game-worn piece of sports memorabilia in auction history. That honor belongs to the jersey Babe Ruth wore in the 1932 World Series where he called his shot, which sold for \$24.12 million in 2024.

Tony’s Take: Penix gives Falcons reason to believe

By Tony Duckworth
tonyduckworthsr@gmail.com

Falcons. I have been critical of the Dirty Birds. Who can blame me? So much of future organizational success depends on the most important position in team sports: the Quarterback. From training camp to the first two games, the Falcons version of QB was a disaster. Injuries, last year’s

starter not wanting to buckle a chin strap until he was 100%, and abysmal performances. If ATL is going to be more than a 7- or 8-win team year in and year out, the organization has to solve this piece of the puzzle. When Penix got the nod heading into Thursday Night Football, I commented that, given he’s been out for about a year, no one should pass

judgment until Penix has completed 4 starts. I posted the following on X after Penix’s stellar performance against the Packers: “Much respect for Penix’s return ... he gave life to the @Atlanta Falcons seemingly lost season ... “. Penix’s line in his return as starter was 18 for 25 | 256 yards | a touchdown | 101.4 passer rating. Impressive! While I am not ready to crown the Falcons NFC South Champions, ATL fans have to be excited about the remainder of the season. Penix was in control, but he will likely have bumps in the road. Falcons fans enjoyed a well-designed and executed offensive game plan on TNF, and the team was well-prepared and played with purpose and a common goal in all three phases of the game. This has not been the case during the past two head coaches’ tenures.

While the Falcons upcoming four games include the Saints, Ravens, Bears, and 49ers, fans will be watching if this version of the Red and Black can continue what we observed against GB. CFB. A month into the college football season, it shows the usual suspects are going to be playing in the CFP. However, several teams in the SEC appear to have made significant strides since last season.

If you ever wonder how important coaching is, look no further than Florida. Jon Sumrall has the Gators chomping to be relevant again coming off pounding #4 Ole Miss in the Swamp. Look for the Gators to be 6 - 0 entering an unenviable stretch. Back-to-back games against #1 Texas and #2 UGA will be the measuring stick for UF.

How about the Bulldogs? Not UGA. Don’t look now, but Mississippi State is 4 - 0 following defeating #19 Mizou. The Starkvegas Dawgs will quickly fall to 4 - 2 after facing #7 BAMA and #11

LSU, but look for MS State to continue to win games throughout the remainder of the season and, at minimum, become bowl eligible. Most forget Jeff Leiby was OC under Lane Kiffin at Ole Miss, so he has a blueprint for success. Pokes are relevant. Oklahoma State finished 2025 16th in the Big 12. They were 1 - 11 and 0 - 9 in league play. First-year head coach Eric Morris led the Cowboys to a win over WVU on Saturday to end an 18-game, 1,036-day drought without a conference win. In a state where the Sooners dominate sports talk, it is good to see OSU is back to relevance. Go Pokes! Pistols Firing!

Protect. The Protect College Sports Act passed the Senate and now waits for a vote in the House. National Sports Commentator for Fox Sports Tim Brando posted on X in favor of the legislation. Brando feels college leadership does not have the juice to get things done on their own. Perhaps, but here were my thoughts to Timmy B. “While there need to be changes, Congress is not the answer. There will be unintended consequences. History tells us now that Congress has its hands in it, they will continue to be involved, and that is not a positive.”

@TimBrando: “Tony, honestly, there’s not a commissioner in the sport that believes they can assert their leadership capabilities without Congressional help. They are the ones living in this world, and I am yielding my observations to those guys that I trust know more than yours truly. The late changes to the bill that won over the @bigten and @SEC and that’s good enough for me.”

“Timmy B, it is a fascinating time for sure. It will be interesting to see how this all plays out.”



Six-time major champion Phil Mickelson watches his shot during tournament play. Mickelson recently completed a voluntary stay at an addiction treatment center, according to a report Wednesday.

Mickelson completes stay at addiction treatment center

Field Level Media

Golf star Phil Mickelson had a voluntary stay at an addiction treatment center, TMZ Sports reported on Wednesday. Per the report, Mickelson was seeking help with “family trauma and addiction,” and he was no longer at the facility. In June, Skratz Golf reported that Mickelson was kicked out of three golf clubs for inappropriate interaction with women and propositioned the ex-wife of another golfer by displaying a nude photo. The Skratz article followed a report from Golf Digest that Mickelson had his membership revoked at The Farms Golf Club in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., because of alleged nonconsensual and inappropriate physical contact with a female club employee. Mickelson, through his rep-

resentatives, denied all of the allegations. They issued a statement that called the Skratz story an “anonymously sourced drive-by shooting” that attempted to create “a compelling, click-bait narrative over an accurate one.” Mickelson, 56, played just one tournament in 2026, tying for 48th at LIV Golf South Africa in March. He was one of the biggest names to leave the PGA Tour for upstart LIV Golf in 2022. However, Mickelson never won an event on the LIV circuit, which now faces an uncertain future after losing its financial backing from Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund. His 45 wins on the PGA Tour include six major championships: the Masters in 2004, 2006 and 2010; the PGA Championship in 2005 and 2021; and the Open Championship in 2013.

Chung wins Georgia PGA Championship for second time

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA - Jin Chung, PGA of America Teaching Professional at Chateau Elan Golf Club, captured his second Georgia PGA Championship on Wednesday at Champions Retreat Golf Club, finishing at 5-under-par 211to add the 2026 title to his 2024 victory.

Chung entered the final round with a three-shot advantage after rounds of 71 (1-under-par) and 68 (4-under-par). Playing alongside PGA Head Professional Todd Sapere of Ohoopsee Match Club and PGA Head Professional Dylan Malafronte of Frederica Golf Club, both of whom started the day at 2-under-par, Chung finished with an even-par final round to win the championship. “It feels great,” Chung said. “Playing with the lead was not easy out there. I hit it into some spots that I shouldn’t have and kind of made it hard on myself, but I was happy that I made some putts.”

Sapere remained Chung’s closest challenger, finishing the championship at 2-under-par, while Malafronte finished at 2-over-par. For Chung, the victory marks a return to the top of

the Georgia PGA Championship leaderboard just two years after capturing his first title in 2024 at Sea Island Golf Club’s Retreat Course, where he finished at 10-under-par. Following a season competing on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2025, Chung returned to Section competition and once again claimed the Georgia PGA Championship. Chung credited the support around him for helping him stay competitive. “It’s grinding out here, but for me to stay competitive, my wife grabs back home working full time and taking care of our nine-month-old, so that’s more grinding than out here,” Chung said. “Thanks to my wife, and the support from the PGA Professionals out here is great.” He also credited his coach, PGA Professional Jon Tattersall for helping him throughout the week. “Thank you to my coach,” Chung said. “I was chatting with him throughout the week, and he really helped me.” The championship also served as a qualifier for the 2027 PGA Professional Championship, set for April 25–28 at Streamsong Golf Resort in Bowling Green, Florida, on the Red and Blue Courses.

From 9A ASU

SIAC volleyball championships from 2001-05. Pasted markdown
Kinney helped make Albany State a conference power in distance running. After arriving on scholarship in 1977, he contributed to four consecutive SIAC cross-country championships from 1977-80 while winning individual championships in the 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000 meters. He was named Albany State Athlete of the Year in 1979 and SIAC Most Outstanding Track and Field Athlete in 1981. Pasted markdown
Taylor’s Albany State legacy extended from playing to coaching. A former Golden Rams football and baseball player, he returned in 2002 to lead the baseball program. Taylor compiled a 246-155 record over nine seasons, winning six conference championships and making two NCAA Division II Regional Tournament appearances. He now works with the Texas Rangers Youth Academy. Pasted markdown
Sampson’s contributions have continued long after his playing days in football and basketball. A 1976 Albany State graduate, he has spent more than 25 years supporting Golden Rams athletics through fundraising, volunteer leadership and community outreach. He also founded the Albany State Quarterback Club and served 10 years as president of the Westover High School Football Grid-

iron Club. Pasted markdown
The ceremony also connected Albany State with an important piece of Darton State history. The 2016 Cavaliers baseball team went 43-21 under coach Scot Hemmings, winning the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association regular-season and tournament championships. Darton then captured the East Central District Championship and advanced to the Junior College World Series. The Cavaliers won four consecutive elimination games during their postseason run, including a walk-off victory to clinch the regional championship. They finished the season ranked No. 9 nationally while posting a 3.30 spring GPA. The run came during Darton’s final year before consolidation, making the championship season one of the program’s final athletic achievements. Pasted markdown
Albany State President Robert Scott, athletics director Kristene Kelly and ASU National Alumni Association President Sharmagne Goff joined family members, former players, teammates and Golden Rams supporters for the induction ceremony. Pasted markdown
Together, the newest Hall of Fame class represents more than championships and individual honors. Its members span different eras and sports, but share a connection through the athletic history they helped build at Albany State.

Mayville Engineering plans 140 new jobs in Thomson

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – Mayville Engineering Company, a U.S.-based company that provides a wide range of services, including prototyping and tooling, production fabrication, aluminum extrusion, coating, assembly, and aftermarket support, plans to create approximately 140 new jobs and invest an estimated \$26 million over the next several years to establish a new metal fabrication facility in McDuffie County.

“We continue to see companies bring good-paying jobs and opportunity to all corners of this state,” Gov. Brian Kemp said. “MEC will help reinforce Georgia’s strong manufacturing supply chain while benefiting from our highly skilled workforce and top-notch infrastructure network.”

“MEC is proud to partner with McDuffie County and the state of Georgia to bring new investment and approx-

imately 140 jobs to the region,” Jag Reddy, president and CEO of Mayville Engineering Co., said. “Georgia’s skilled workforce and strong commitment to economic development made it the ideal location for our newest facility, and we look forward to contributing to the community’s continued growth.”

“This new facility strengthens MEC’s national manufacturing network and expands our capacity to support customers across the industries we serve. As we continue to grow, so does our need for talented people, and we look forward to hiring locally in McDuffie County for roles across operations, skilled trades, and management as we invest in the Thomson facility.”

For the new metal fabrication facility, MEC will refurbish the existing building at 1048 Superior Way in Thomson. Facility renovations and equipment investments are expected to be phased in over

the next several years, with workforce expansion anticipated to begin in 2026. The company will hire for roles in management, administrative support, technical positions, operators, maintenance and quality control. Interested individuals can learn more at www.mecinc.com/our-company/careers.

Senior Project Manager Adela Kelley represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development on this competitive project in partnership with the McDuffie County Development Authority and Georgia Quick Start.

“Georgia’s manufacturing supply chain is built on layers, from small and specialized manufacturers to major OEMs, and MEC brings important capabilities that serve multiple industries and multiple points across that supply chain,” GDECD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. “With its proximity to Augusta and connectivity to the broader Southeast manufacturing ecosystem and some of the nation’s busiest ports, McDuffie County is well-positioned for this investment.”



GOV. BRIAN KEMP

Shan Cooper, Doug Hertz named 2027 Georgia Trustees

Staff Reports

news@albanyherald.com

SAVANNAH – The Georgia Historical Society has announced that Shan Cooper, trailblazing businesswoman and civic leader, and Doug Hertz, leading businessman and philanthropist, have been named the 2027 Georgia Trustees. It is the highest honor the state of Georgia can confer.

The pair will be inducted by the Georgia Historical Society and the Office of the Governor as Georgia Trustees on April 24 at the Trustees Gala in Savannah.

“Shan and Doug are the living embodiment of the Georgia Trustees motto ‘Not for Self, but for Others,’ W. Todd Groce, president and CEO of the Georgia Historical Society, said. “Their selfless leadership and record of service are an inspiration and an example for us all. Every organization that have touched is better and stronger as a result.”

In conjunction with the Governor’s Office, the Georgia Historical Society re-established the Georgia Trustees in 2008 to recognize Georgians whose accomplishments and community service reflect the highest ideals of the founding body of Trustees. The original Georgia Trustees were a governing body chartered and appointed by King George II of England in 1732 to establish a new colony in North



America. The Governor annually appoints new Trustees whose history-making accomplishments and service reflect the original Trustees’ ideals.

Shantella E. Cooper is the founder and CEO at Journey Forward Strategies LLC, a solutions-focused consulting firm that specializes in leadership development and organization effectiveness. Cooper also serves as a Senior Advisor to McKinsey Consulting.

Cooper made her name as vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, where she was responsible for the 6,000 employee operations in Marietta, Meridian, Miss., and Clarksburg, W.Va. After Lockheed Martin, Cooper served as the Chief Transformation Officer of WestRock and as Executive Director for the Atlanta Committee for Progress.

Cooper was named to Georgia Trend Magazine’s Hall of Fame, Georgia Trend’s 2015 Most Respected Business Leader,



SHAN COOPER



DOUG HERTZ

and the 2015 Women of the Year by American Association of University Women.

Hertz is chairman and CEO of United Distributors Inc. He became the company’s president and CEO in 1984, and under his leadership United experienced tremendous growth and is one of the top privately held companies in Georgia. The Atlanta Business Chronicle has consistently named Hertz as one of Atlanta’s 100 most influential individuals.

Hertz is also chairman of Camp Twin Lakes, a camping facility he founded in 1989. The camp is designed for, and serves, nearly 13,000 special needs children and adults annually.

He serves on the boards of for the 6,000 employee operations in Marietta, Meridian, Miss., and Clarksburg, W.Va. After Lockheed Martin, Cooper served as the Chief Transformation Officer of WestRock and as Executive Director for the Atlanta Committee for Progress. Cooper was named to Georgia Trend Magazine’s Hall of Fame, Georgia Trend’s 2015 Most Respected Business Leader,

leader in 2018. Hertz and his wife, Lila, were honored by the Georgia Association of Philanthropy as the 2017 Philanthropists of the Year.

Previous Georgia Trustees Previous inductees are Saxby Chambliss, Christopher Womack, Walter M. “Sonny” Deriso, Craig Menear, Dr. Louis Sullivan, Carol Tomé, Dan Amos, Donna Hyland, Dan Cathy, Shirley Franklin, David Abney, Juanita Baranco, Robert L. Brown, Jr., Robert S. Jepson, Jr., Frank Blake, John Schuerholz, Edward H. Bastian, W. Paul Bowers, F. Duane Ackerman, A.D. “Pete” Correll, James H. Blanchard, Muhtar Kent, Alana Smith Shepherd, Paula S. Wallace, Arthur M. Blank, William Porter “Billy” Payne, Truett Cathy, Herman Russell, Tom Cousins, Andrew Young, Vincent J. Dooley, Sam Nunn, Henry Aaron, Robert Edward “Ted” Turner, Bernard Marcus, and Marguerite Neel Williams.

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THE CLASSIFIEDS

NO PAIN! ALL GAIN!

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 base to build upon (10)	_____
2 like a vinyl LP’s surface (7)	_____
3 taking in a panoramic view (11)	_____
4 1994 Oscar winner Holly (6)	_____
5 high window (7)	_____
6 New York range (11)	_____
7 left the coop, perhaps (5)	_____

DA	FOUN	GROO	OK	OVE
VED	ING	OM	ONDA	ER
FLO	CKS	TION	HU	TRA
WN	NS	ADIR	NT	RLO

Saturday’s Answers: 1. BLUE 2. SNOOPERS 3. PANICKING 4. LITTLE 5. MAGGIE 6. BAJAN 7. XEROPHYTE 10/5

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 feathery tools (7)	_____
2 more resilient (7)	_____
3 without any trouble (6)	_____
4 glass squares (5)	_____
5 Beefeaters, perhaps (6)	_____
6 renowned chemist Louis (7)	_____
7 like the great outdoors (7)	_____

TE	UGH	DU	SI	RS
TO	DS	ER	PAN	AR
EA	UR	ES	STE	TU
NA	RAL	PAS	GU	LY

Monday’s Answers: 1. FOUNDATION 2. GROOVED 3. OVERLOOKING 4. HUNTER 5. TRANSOM 6. ADIRONDACKS 7. FLOWN 10/6

Release Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Signs of healing on scrapes and cuts	3 Years in old Rome
6 Dedicated poems	4 Circus tent
10 “Omg same”	5 Opens up at a checkup
14 Ancient Aegean region	6 Eggs ___ easy
15 Start of a Spanish cheer	7 Aria singer, maybe
16 Phobia	8 Paperless party announcements
17 Like grapefruit juice	9 Capital of Oregon
18 Sinister	10 Questionable
19 Greek salad cheese	11 Golf peg
20 Plan for ending a relationship	12 Gym cushion
23 Boathouse blade	13 Noteworthy period
24 World’s second-tallest bird	21 Vibration
25 Hooting bird of prey	22 Clog, informally
28 Have a meeting of the minds?	25 Betting unwisely, in poker slang
33 Major fad	26 Frankfurter
35 Mil. mail drop	27 More roomy
36 Deg. for a CFO or a CEO	28 Knock down violently, as a door
37 Feathery cleaner	29 Quick on the ___
38 “Can it!”	30 Secured in a 42-Across
42 Protected place for boats	31 ___ Dhabi
43 Pirate’s cry	32 Hannah of “Splash”
44 Fib	34 European viper
45 Swedish home furnishing stores	37 Naturalist Charles with a theory of evolution
46 One who’s not a fast-food fan?	
49 Actor Beatty	
50 “Last Week Tonight” network	
52 Company abbr.	
53 Nonverbal communication, or what can be found at the starts of 20-, 28-, 38-, and 46-Across	
59 Pesky insect	
62 From the top	
63 Push	
64 Numerous	
65 ___ Millions lottery	
66 Republic in the Himalayas	
67 Deep black	
68 Crafty website	
69 Diary passage	

DOWN

1 Location
2 Gently persuade

By Tennessee Grimes
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

10/06/26

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

“ RE WBVSQIF SIBBRJ DUWAIF JWAJ JYVISQRBT BITWSRMI, R JWA, ‘SQWS TRFU CRUU BIMIF LIWS YI.’ CI EIIG VEE SQI HFRSRHRJY.” — MIBKJ CRUURWYJ

Previous Solution: “It can be difficult to keep that strong sense of gratitude when you’re exhausted, but the joy comes from making the art.” — Eva Noblezada

TODAY’S CLUE: 7 sienbe n

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

“ H MXS’J JRHSI CSLXSD DFDP ISXTB TRCJ’B ZXHSZ JX GD ZXXM JDNDFHBHXS ... H MX TRCJ H MX GDKCQBD HJ HSJDPDBJB YD.” — KRPHBJXARDP ZQDBJ

Previous Solution: “If another tennis player says something negative, I say, ‘That girl will never beat me.’ We feed off the criticism.” — Venus Williams

TODAY’S CLUE: 4 sienbe o

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Albany State, Colony Bank launch strategic partnership

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Albany State University and Colony Bank have entered into a strategic partnership designed to expand opportunities for students, strengthen workforce development, and contribute to the continued growth of Albany and southwest Georgia. The partnership brings together two organizations with a shared interest in building a stronger community and creating pathways that connect education to economic opportunity. While Colony Bank will provide financial support to the Albany State University Foundation, the relationship extends well beyond philanthropy, establishing a framework for collaboration across financial literacy, academic programming, internships, employment, scholarships, banking services, workforce development and community engagement.

“Growth is most meaningful when it creates opportunity,” ASU Growth Officer Troy Beetz said. “Our goal is to build partnerships that move beyond traditional sponsorship models and create measurable value for our students and our region. This is just the beginning of what we believe can become a transformative relationship with Colony Bank.”

A central focus of the partnership is creating stronger pathways from the classroom into the workforce, ASU officials said. The university will explore the feasibility of an accelerated three-year academic pathway aligned with careers in banking and finance, building on the its existing accounting and management programs. If approved, Colony Bank will provide workforce-focused input into the pathway and serve as an early hiring partner for graduates.

The partnership will also

expand opportunities for students to gain professional experience through internships and employment. Colony Bank has committed to providing an opportunity for student internships annually, with the potential to increase placements as the partnership develops. The bank also will explore recruiting ASU students for its Banker Development Program and other full-time opportunities.

The partnership also includes annual scholarship support for Albany State students, with the level of support expected to grow as the relationship matures. The financial partnership will extend to the ASU community through opportunities for co-branded banking products. Colony Bank will develop a co-branded debit card program that would allow participating students, faculty, and staff to use an ASU-branded card through the bank.

The partners are also developing a co-branded credit card program for alumni, faculty, and staff, including revenue-sharing opportunities that could generate additional support for the Albany State University Foundation.

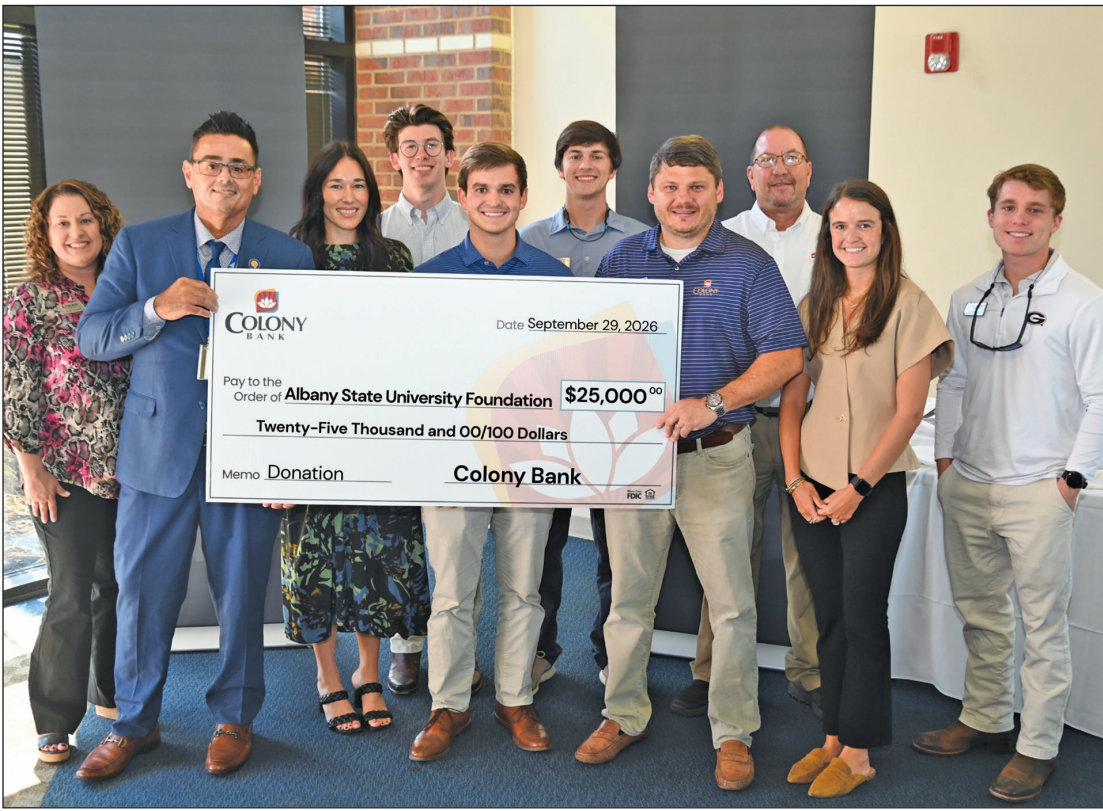
Colony Bank also has committed to supporting Albany State’s signature homecoming celebration. As part of the partnership, the bank has made an initial \$25,000 contribution to serve as a 2026 homecoming sponsor and has committed to an annual Homecoming partnership moving forward.

“This is the kind of partnership that allows us to be present in the community in meaningful ways, Colony Bank Vice President and Market President Jamie Knight said. “We want to do more than support Albany State financially. We want to build relationships with students, help prepare them for financial and pro-

fessional success, create opportunities for them to learn and work with us, and grow alongside the communities we serve.”

The partnership will also create opportunities for Colony Bank employees to benefit from Albany State educational and professional development resources. As ASU’s employee benefits continue to expand, the university will explore extending select opportunities to eligible Colony Bank team members, including access to IBM SkillsBuild digital skills credentialing and waived fees for ASU graduate program applications.

As the partnership develops, Albany State University and Colony Bank will continue identifying opportunities to create new pathways for students, support the workforce needs of southwest Georgia and contribute to the economic vitality of the region.



Special Photo: ASU

Albany State University students and officials take part in a check presentation with Colony Bank officials.

Comedian Arnez J to perform at Albany Municipal Auditorium

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Tickets went on sale Friday for comedian Arnez J’s March 21 appearance at the Albany Municipal Auditorium.

Known for his infectious energy, physical storytelling and hilarious observations, Arnez J has been entertaining audiences for decades and is bringing his high-energy stand-up to Albany for the first time.

The comedian has built a career spanning television, comedy specials and sold-out stages across the country. In April 2025, he released his first comedy special in 10 years, “Not Gonna Stop,” on You-

Tube. The special surpassed 1 million views in its first 10 days and has now reached more than 4 million views, proving that Arnez J is still delivering the kind of comedy fans can’t get enough of.

His journey to comedy wasn’t exactly traditional. Arnez J began his career as a flight attendant and even turned down an opportunity to pursue professional baseball before following his passion for stand-up comedy. He quickly rose through the comedy ranks, eventually becoming the host of BET’s “Comic View” for two seasons and appearing on shows including “The Keenen Ivory Wayans Show,” “Comedy Central Presents,” “Russell Simmons’ Def Comedy Jam,”



Special Illustration

“The Mo’Nique Show,” “Louie Anderson’s Comedy Showcase” and “Comedy Central’s Make Me Laugh.”

He has also headlined Showtime’s “Shaquille O’Neal Presents: All Star Comedy Jam” and released the hit comedy special “Racially Motivated,”

which originally premiered on Netflix and is now streaming on Amazon and Tubi.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or at the Georgia’s Own Credit Union Box Office at the Albany Civic Center, which is open Monday–Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



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Community partnership helps feed up to 200 Terrell families each month

By George Wilson
Special to The Albany Herald

DAWSON -- A strong community is built when people open their hearts, share their resources and work together to care for their neighbors. Through JL Barnes CDC, George Wilson and his dedicated team distribute free food provided by Feed the Valley to individuals and families throughout Terrell County.

For five years, Wilson and his team have worked to provide food to people throughout the community. Every fourth Saturday of the month, Wilson coordinates a community food giveaway that serves approximately 100 to 200 families. He works diligently to ensure that the available food reaches local residents who need it. His

strong and dependable team stands beside him, helping to receive, organize and distribute the food with dignity, kindness and respect.

The monthly outreach has become an important source of support for households facing rising grocery costs, unexpected hardships or limited access to fresh food. By returning each month, Wilson and his team provide consistency that families can count on while building stronger connections throughout the community.

The giveaway is held at S&S Personal Care Home, 475 Cinderella Lane SE in Dawson. Shakita Randle, the owner of S&S allows JL Barnes CDC to use the property as the distribution location so families have a safe, accessible and welcoming place to receive their food.

Feed the Valley provides the food distributed at the



Special Photo

George Wilson and his team, including firefighters who volunteer their time, unite with community partners to help Dawson families in need.

event. Together, their service demonstrates what is possible when local organizations, first responders, businesses and residents unite around one purpose: making sure families in the community do not go without.

Wilson and his volunteers have a big heart for Terrell County. Month after month, they continue pushing the effort forward because they understand that food assistance can relieve pressure on a household and bring hope during a difficult season. Their work is about more than distributing groceries. It is about treating people with compassion, strengthening families and reminding every person who comes through the line that the community cares.

The success of the giveaway depends on teamwork. Volunteers give their time to unload food, prepare the distribution area, organize food and welcome families as they arrive. That shared commitment allows the outreach to serve a large number of households in an orderly and caring way each month.

Wilson extended his thanks to every person who takes time out of their day to help hand out food to the community. He said this five-year effort could not continue without the commitment, compassion and hard work of the team members and volunteers who consistently show up to serve local families.

Community donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. Donations of food, supplies and volunteer time can help the team reach more families, strengthen future distributions and continue meeting needs throughout Terrell County.

Churches, businesses, civic organizations and individual community members are encouraged to support the effort whenever possible. Every contribution, regardless of size, can make a meaningful difference for a family in need.

The free food giveaway takes place every fourth Saturday at S&S Personal Care Home. Only food is distributed at this time, while supplies last.

For information about the event, call S&S at (229) 537-0216.