

Perspectives
Charlie Hayslett
• Page 4A

The Albany HERALD

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



Worth advances
Lady Rams top Crisp
• Page 9A

$1.50 ©2026 GTLN Vol. CXXXIIII, No. 122 ALBANYHERALD.COM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

Dougherty County Sheriff's Office looks to make more arrests in Saturday shooting incident

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – When gunfire erupted in downtown Albany on Saturday night, J. Lane Theater owner Je'Nita Lane was standing in the doorway as concertgoers were outside waiting to get into the venue. What ensued was panic and confusion.

"I definitely heard it," Lane said. "I never heard anything like that. I was trying to get inside and I fell. I fell and they kept trampling over me trying to get (inside) away from what was outside. Because of the (gun)shots, the people were running. They were falling over each other. Somebody pulled me into the ticket booth."

At the time, about 60 people were inside and there was a large crowd outside waiting to get in for the concert that had been scheduled to start at 9:30 p.m. Officers from multiple law enforcement agencies showed up to disperse the crowd, and it was about 10:30 p.m., when that police presence was most substantial, that the gunfire erupted.

Before she made a dash to get inside, Lane, who has owned the theater for about four years, said she saw flashes in the vicinity of a parking lot located between the Pine Avenue venue and the post office on West Broad Avenue.

Entry was slowed by the large crowd that had started arriving two hours early as the staff did double pat-downs of individuals before allowing them to enter, and there were a large number of people waiting in line, Lane said. About 15 theater security personnel were in the building, and extra off-duty Dougherty County Sheriff's Office deputies were outside.

The event was geared toward Albany State University students, who were celebrating homecoming, Lane said. The gunfire started after officers from multiple law enforcement agencies showed

See **SHOOTING**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett
Residents listen to a presentation from Kathleen Truitt during a Lee County School Board hearing on a proposed 3-mill property tax increase.

Lee County residents press school board for alternatives before Thursday's tax vote

By Kathryn Crockett
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LEESBURG — Lee County residents urged school board members Friday to reconsider spending, find other revenue and weigh the strain on household budgets before voting Thursday on a proposed 3-mill property tax increase.

At the second of three public hearings, speakers challenged the district's priorities and offered alternatives ranging from facility rentals to fundraising. Superintendent Kathleen Truitt said the proposed rate is needed to meet the school system's obligations and warned that deeper cuts could affect classrooms and services.

The proposal would raise the school operating rate from 15.96 mills to 18.96 mills. The final hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, followed by a vote at 6:30 p.m.

Sam Lovelace, 26, a Lee County High School graduate and father of four, described the pressure on his single-income household. He said his monthly mortgage payment had risen by $400 after last year's tax error

See **LEE**, 2A

48th Sunbelt Farm Expo set to kick off next week in Moultrie



File Photo
Around 50,000 visitors are expected in Moultrie for the three days of the Sunbelt Farm Expo. The annual farm show gives farmers the opportunity to check out the latest in technology in action at the adjacent research farm.

By Alan Mauldin
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MOULTRIE – The farming community from near and far will make its way to Moultrie next week for the 48th annual Sunbelt Farm Expo.

The three-day farm show starts on Oct. 20 and runs through the 22nd and is expected to bring up to 50,000 guests to the region over that time.

With farmers across the country struggling, Expo Executive Director Chip Blalock said the equipment on display and in action harvesting on the more than 500 acres at the Darrell Williams

See **SUNBELT**, 2A

Ruth's Cottage/Patticake House offers Hope for Kids who have faced trauma

Staff Reports
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TIFTON — Adoptions for Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House's Hope for Kids Holiday Project opened on Tuesday, giving community members a chance to "bring hope" to children who have experienced unimaginable trauma in the past year.

Hope for Kids serves around 250 children who have received services within the last year and meet certain criteria. Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House serves children who have been victims of physical and sexual abuse, as well as children who have witnessed a violent crime, through The Patticake House. Additionally, they serve children fleeing domestic violence with their family in the Ruth's Cottage emergency domestic violence shelter.

"All the children we serve with this project have been through so much," Nancy Bryan, the executive director of RCPCH, said. "This is a great way for the community to get involved and bring these children hope and show them there are people out there who love them and care about them."

Originally started as Suitcases for Kids more than two decades ago and serving

See **KIDS**, 2A



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockettn
Hope for Kids provides Christmas joy for children in the Tifton area who have experienced extreme trauma over the past year.

Periodical — Mail Label

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Protect What Matters. Prioritize Your Health.

Regular health screenings can play an important role in prevention and early detection. This October, make your health a priority and schedule your Women's Health visit with AAPHC.

Elois Edge Women's Health Center
1912 Arlington Street
Albany, GA
229-501-2048

Mirian Worthy Women's Health Center
2100 Palmyra Road
Albany, GA
229-888-3636

AAPHC
aaphc.org

From 1A

SUNBELT

Research Farm will provide a glimpse at the latest farming technology.

"Technology evolves so quickly, the autonomy of the tractors, the evolution of the devices that make it so much more efficient," he said. "We'll have two-square (cotton) bailers in the field. Things like that enhance efficiency. I think folks are always looking for that technology that will give them an edge."

Some of that technology will be in the fields harvesting cotton, peanuts and hay.

The multiple years of tough conditions that farmers have faced have had an effect on their mental health, and for the third year the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia, located in Moultrie, along with other healthcare providers will be on hand. Staff from those entities will provide medical screening and discuss issues that farmers could be facing.

"We came up with the idea three years ago to provide an area for folks to come in and get checked out," Blalock said. "We'll have mental health clinics, seminars with doctors throughout southwest Georgia. I tell people if our farmers and their workers are not healthy, we will be hungry and without shelter and without clothing on our backs."

Not everything is farm-related. Among the expected 800 exhibitors the Expo features recreational vehicles, fishing and hunting equipment, family living and more.

The last show of the season for the SloJo Pullers, which hosts vintage, antique and garden tractor pulling events, will be held during the Expo. Animals, including cows, alpacas, horses and more, also are on display.

Expo hours are 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on Oct. 20 and 21 and from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Oct. 22. Tickets are $15 per day, with advance tickets priced at $12. Children 10 and younger are admitted free with a parent. For more information, visit https://sunbeltexpo.com/.

The Expo also is celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

"Another thing they like to come for is the camaraderie," Blalock said. "It's like downhome week, coming to see all the friends, and that's very reassuring to see. We look forward to welcoming 40,000 or 50,000 of our closest friends to the Sunbelt Expo."

Valdosta criminals face life in prison for meth distribution

Staff Reports
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ALBANY – Two South Georgia residents are facing up to life in federal prison after admitting to distributing methamphetamine in the Valdosta community.

"Repeat felons who continue distributing deadly, addictive illegal drugs in the Middle District of Georgia will face federal prosecution, where there is no parole," U.S. Attorney Will Keyes said. "We are working closely with our law enforcement partners at every level to identify these cases, and hold repeat offenders accountable."

"The investigators in this case did an excellent job, and their dedication helps protect the citizens of Lowndes County," Lowndes Sheriff Ashley Paulk said. "We are grateful for the strong partnership we share with our federal, state and local partners, which strengthens our efforts to keep this community safe."

Melissa Lynn James, 41, of Naylor pleaded guilty and Ryan Daniel Williams, 28, also of Naylor, pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine before Senior U.S. District Judge W. Louis Sands. James and Williams face a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison, up to a maximum sentence of life in prison, to be followed by at least five years of supervised release, and a maximum fine of $10 million. There is no parole in the federal system.

According to court documents and statements made in court, a Lowndes County Sheriff's Office investigator received a tip from a concerned citizen in November 2025 that Williams was distributing methamphetamine in the community. Williams, who has prior state convictions for methamphetamine possession, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and burglary, was a fugitive at the time, wanted for a probation violation out of Glynn County.

Investigators conducted a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from Williams and James on Nov. 4, 2025, at the Big Foot Truck Stop on West Hill Avenue in Lowndes County. Williams attempted to

See **METH**, 11A

From 1A

LEE

depleted his escrow account.

Lovelace said he did not blame the board but asked members to "revisit the proposal, scrutinize the budget, and exhaust reasonable alternatives before placing the burden on taxpayers."

Another resident, who moved to Leesburg in 2023, said their property taxes had increased by $4,563.60 over the past year. If school taxes forced a move, the resident said, "I will not purchase in Lee County again."

Local business owner Megan Weaver asked the board to "pretend that raising property taxes is not an option" and consider other ways to meet its needs.

Weaver suggested facility rentals, alumni fundraising, naming rights, redirecting gate and concession receipts, and an energy-savings performance contract for heating and cooling work. She also suggested voluntary employee pay cuts and warned that raising property taxes could make another education sales tax proposal harder to pass.

Other residents questioned employee raises and construction priorities. One challenged spending on a bus parking lot while the high school needed air conditioning.

"Somebody, somewhere along the line has got to say no," he said.

Truitt said the district had eliminated 11 positions through retirements and resignations, saving about $779,000. But salaries and benefits account for 83% of its $92.7 million operating budget, and rising costs have limited those savings.

"We do not get to negotiate our insurance plan," she said of state-mandated employee health coverage.

The proposed levy includes money for the operating budget, rebuilding reserves after a $3.28 million taxpayer refund, replacing part of the capital revenue expected to be lost when the current education sales tax expires, higher fuel costs and the county's tax collection fee.

The district describes the reserve recovery as a one-year expense. Voters rejected renewal of the education sales tax this spring.

Truitt said alternatives to raising the rate could include layoffs, larger classes, fewer extracurricular activities, a four-day school week, combining schools or changes to transportation and other services.

Board Vice Chair Donna Ford said she had once taught 34 fourth-graders during her 32-year teaching career and described the experience as "extremely challenging."

Some speakers defended the board. Frank Griffin, a former Lee County school board chairman who now serves on the State Board of Education, said efficiency and taxpayer frustration could co-exist.

"This school system can be the fifth-most efficient school system in the state," Griffin said. "I can still think my property taxes are high."

Truitt said the district would add a clearly labeled financial information section to its website to make budgets and audits easier to find.

The board chair said members would consider residents' comments before Thursday's vote.

From 1A

KIDS

foster children in the Tift Judicial Circuit, alongside children served by RCPCH, the holiday project rebranded to Hope for Kids in 2022.

"When we first started this program, there were not the resources for foster children and their families that there are now," Melissa Wood, PCH's manager and senior forensic interviewer, said. "The decision was made to change the project several years ago to ensure we weren't duplicating any efforts with other organizations, and we renamed the project to reflect that change."

In the same effort to ensure they are not duplicating efforts, Wood explained that the children served by Hope for Kids are not included on any other area list, whether for Called to Care, Toys for Tots or the YMCA Christmas. They work with local organizations in Tift County and surrounding counties to ensure these children are not being helped by anyone else.

"These children are not being served by any other organization, so when people donate to this cause or adopt a child, they can rest assured their money is going to a child truly in need of help and some hope this holiday season," Wood said.

Civic organizations, workplaces, church groups, individuals and families are all welcome to adopt a child. When adopting a child, the required items are two full outfits, underwear or diapers, socks, one pair of pajamas, and at least two items from the child's wish list. They will get information about the child, their age, and their sizes when they receive their adoption packet. All items must be new with tags still on them and unwrapped.

"This can be a great activity to give back this holiday season," Wood said. "Whether you're looking for a community service project to do with your co-workers, your church group, another club or organization, or with your children or grandchildren, this is a good one."

In addition to adopting a child or sibling group, Bryan explained that community members also can donate directly to the cause on the RCPCH website (www.stopthehurtga.org), via Venmo, or by mailing a check to Hope for Kids, P.O. Box 2727, Tifton, GA 31793. With these donations, staff from The Patticake House will shop for children who were not adopted by a community member.

"We really need our community's support to make Hope for Kids possible this year," Bryan said. "Our organization is facing several funding cuts at a time when expenses are so high. We need your support more than ever."



Special Illustration

From 1A

SHOOTING

up to disperse the crowd and had announced that the event was being canceled.

"It was very strange how the shooting started after all this law enforcement was there," she said. "It actually happened across the street. The crowd panicked, and they just started running and that's what started the commotion."

So far, the sheriff's office, which is the lead agency in the investigation, has arrested two men and more arrests are expected.

Sheriff's deputies, who were working the event as off-duty security officers, were assisted by officers with the Albany Police Department, Dougherty County Police Department and Georgia State Patrol, Dougherty County Sheriff Terron Hayes said.

Quentavious Tyson, 22, and Dey'ontaye Sampson, 23, have been taken into custody in connection with the incident. One firearm has been recovered. Investigators believe that there may have been an exchange of gunfire linked to something that occurred outside.

"It's still under investigation, and we're looking to make more arrests as we gather more evidence and identify more individuals involved," Hayes said. "That's our interpretation, that it was an argument or a fight that went down. That's one thing we are looking at."

The sheriff identified the victim, who showed up later at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, as Jabez Allen, 19. He was treated and released from the hospital.

In listening to audio, it was obvious that there were gunshots from multiple weapons, Albany Police Chief Michael Persley said during a Monday morning news conference.

"You could tell just by listening it was more than one caliber," he said.

The department provided additional resources and extra patrols during the homecoming weekend to monitor events and provide police presence in the areas where events were happening during the weekend, the chief said.

Albany is not alone in having violence recently, and Persley said that Albany should not be singled out as an unsafe city.

"I call it (the weekend) a success because everybody who went somewhere went home," he said. "What makes it sad is the majority of people just want to have a good time. There were over 400 people gathered as officers were working to disperse the crowd (and) several shots were fired."

Deputy Katarrion Harris, who loudly urged individuals to get down after the gunfire erupted, may have prevented a worse situation, the sheriff said.

"He did an outstanding job," Hayes said. "In our eyes, he's a hero. He saved a lot of folks and caused the incident to not be worse."

The gunfire was the first time there has been any kind of violent incident in the vicinity of the theater during an event, Lane said.

The Saturday event was not an Albany-State-sponsored gathering, University Marketing and Communications Specialist Rachel Lawrence said.

"It didn't have anything to do with Albany State," she said. "It didn't have anything to do with Albany State in any way."

Tyson and Sampson have each been charged with aggravated assault, reckless conduct and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony. In addition, Tyson was charged with obstruction.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Gunfire erupted in the vicinity of the J. Lane Theater on Saturday night as law enforcement agencies were dispersing a crowd of people waiting to get inside a concert. One man was treated for a gunshot wound in the leg after the incident.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR BEER AND WINE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that **Arthur F. Medlock Jr.**, doing business as **The Lounge**, located at **106 S Slappey Blvd., Albany, Georgia 31701**, has made application for an **Alcoholic Beverage License** for the **on-premises** consumption of **liquor, beer, and wine** for consideration and approval by the appropriate governing authority.

This notice shall be published in the *Albany Herald* on **October 15, 17 and 20, 2026.**

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It could be a great day for research; you could find something very valuable for healing and upleveling your life. Close relationships could be highlighted for another week or so.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A shared situation that's been troublesome could get resolved or at least move toward resolution, many earlier blocks to progress could now be out of the way. Home in on best ways to get things done.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Something could get put right with someone close, bringing a lot of relief. Use the creative process to not only express your deepest and most authentic self, but also as a tool for catharsis.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Something could slide into place today that could make a huge improvement in an ongoing effort, maybe even let you put something to bed permanently. Your home life could be extra important.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Learning new things will always expand your mind if you allow your attitudes to flow as information changes. You might have a chance to expand a creative hobby into a profitable career or side gig.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your financial situation could be on the upswing, and you'll likely incorporate recent lessons learned. Today could be a good day to heal something with a domestic partner or housemate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Words can wound but they can also heal — today's vibe is about healing, and significant progress could be made. Keep working on your persona — it's a topic that's likely to be at the forefront for another week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A money wound could be salved by a much-improved situation, you could potentially ride the stars up toward a jackpot later this month if your personal transits are headed in the same direction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You might be able to improve your public image now, shaping it into a positive new form. Let friends be advisers for another week or so, they could have wisdom you could really use.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Big shifts could happen on the inner plane today that become life-changing as they emerge into your outer life — try to take some time to swim in silence. Your career could continue to be at the forefront.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A friendship that's been out of alignment could be rebuilt today into a better form. Open yourself to outside knowledge, and take what you know and offer it to others who could benefit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An important rapprochement in your career or otherwise in the world could come together today or this evening. A joint investment or situation with shared resources could continue to occupy your mind.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: There could be a lot to look forward to in the remainder of 2026. The first opportunity that rolls in could deliver not only a nice new income stream, but a sense of belonging and enhanced artistry, too. In November, your mind could take center stage with high-level thoughts and strong communications. Avoid a chance to step in something stupid during the month — be wise. Early December could bring a nice surprise windfall, followed by a real bonanza of abundance — this arrival of needed resources could be instrumental in helping you ascend the next level of your future. A lot of emotion could be triggered; don't worry, you deserve this. Lastly in December, something precious could get repaired — someone's health, an important relationship, or something else. Buckle up for a real chance to flex in January.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1783 - The Montgolfier brothers hot air balloon makes the first human ascent piloted by Jean-Francois Pilatre de Rozier

1793 - Queen Marie Antoinette of France is tried and convicted of treason

1815 - Napoleon starts his exile on Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean

1878 - The Edison Electric Light Company starts operation

1879 - Flooding on the Segura river in southeaster Spain kills 1077 people

1928 - The Graf Zeppelin finishes its first trans-Atlantic flight in Lakehurst, New Jersey

1932 - Tata Airlines makes its first flight, later changing it's name to Air India

1939 - The New York Municipal Airport is dedicated, ultimately changing its name to LaGuardia Airport

1954 - Hurricane Hazel is responsible for the deaths of 95 and causing huge floods along the eastern seaboard of North America as far as Toronto

1966 - The Black Panther Party is created by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale

1970 - During the construction of the West Gate Bridge in Melbourne, Australia, a span of the bridge falls and kills 35 workers

1990 - Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union leader is given the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to open up his nation and lesson the Cold War tensions

2008 - The Dow Jones Industrial Average drops 733.08 points or 7.87% in the second worst percentage drop in the Dow's history

2013 - At least 215 people die when the 7.2 Mw Bohol earthquake hits the Philippines

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Blind Americans Equality Day
- Breast Health Day
- Conflict Resolution Day
- Get Smart About Credit Day
- Get to Know Your Customer Day
- Global Handwashing Day
- Great Shakeout Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness Drill
- I Love Lucy Day
- Sewing Lovers Day
- Spirit Day
- White Cane Safety Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."

Oscar Wilde, playwright (1854-1900)

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.

Weather Forecast

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
89°	87°	71°	70°	75°	78°	79°
62°	57°	53°	52°	56°	63°	63°

Daily Bridge Club

Unchanging luck

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency


Frank Stewart

Unlucky Louie has beaten his head against Wall Street for years.

"How are your stocks faring?" I asked Louie in the club lounge.

NORTH
♠ 9 6 2
♡ J 10 5
◇ 6 3 2
♣ A Q 6 3

WEST
♠ A K J 7 3
♡ Q 6 3
◇ K 8 7
♣ 10 7

EAST
♠ Q 10 5
♡ 9
◇ J 10 9 4
♣ 9 8 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 8 4
♡ A K 8 7 4 2
◇ A Q 5
♣ K J

South	West	North	East
1♡	1♠	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ K

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I knew he had positions in three companies: one makes light switches, one makes writing implements and the third deals in baby products.

"Light switches are off," Louie said gloomily, "and pens and pencils are down a few points."

"What about your diaper stock?"

"It's unchanged," Louie shrugged.

Louie's "bad luck" was unchanged in today's deal. At four hearts, he ruffed the third spade (not best defense) and led the A-K of trumps.

DOWN ONE

When East discarded, Louie cashed his king of clubs, overtook his jack with the queen and threw a diamond on the ace. He then tried a diamond to his queen -- and lost a diamond and a trump for down one.

After Louie takes the ace of trumps, he can cash the K-J of clubs, then lead a low trump. He forces a trump entry to dummy and discards his five and queen of diamonds on the A-Q of clubs, assuring the contract.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S A K J 7 3 H Q 6 3 D K 8 7 C 10 7. The dealer, at your right, opens one diamond. You overcall one spade, and your partner bids three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: You might have acted with less, and your king of diamonds looks well placed, but you must pass. Partner's jump-raise is preemptive; he has a shapely hand but few high-card values. If he had a good hand and wanted to try for game, he could have cue-bid two diamonds.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

After inheriting money, heir worries about making friends uncomfortable

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency


Eric Thomas

Dear Eric: My husband and I are the fortunate recipients of our parents' inheritances. We worked hard and lived within our means, so we are secure in our retirement, and this money is not needed but a generous gift.

I would like to use this money for enrichment of my life and my friends' lives, like picking up the check or paying for vacation condos.

How do I approach this without coming off as "Lady Bountiful " when I want to treat my friends?

– Sharing the Wealth

Dear Sharing: Be upfront with your friends about your financial situation, or as upfront as you're comfortable being, and then pitch your plans with some specifics. For instance, "I'd like to go on vacation this winter to someplace I've always wanted to see. Would you let me pick up the tab so it's an easy yes for everyone?"

Your friends may still have a small amount of envy or even discomfort about being treated to things by you. We all have complicated relationships with money sometimes. But that's not really something you can or should try to fix for them.

By being honest about what you'd like to do and acknowledging that it might bring about complicated feelings, you show your friends respect and empower them to respond honestly.

One way of thinking about these potential treats is as gifts that your parents gave to you and your friends. Now your parents didn't know this, of course, but in these conversations, it might be worth pointing out that this money is unexpected and not spoken for.

I hope you and your friends make many happy memories together.

Dear Eric: I have a different opinion for "Didn't Get a Vote", whose sister came to visit during a time when the letter writer already had plans. It is related to replying to invitations in a timely manner. "Didn't Get a Vote" knew months in advance that they couldn't attend the family lake gathering and purposefully chose not to respond with regrets in a timely manner.

One sibling was making the effort to host/invite and another was taking the time to travel; they probably thought that letting others know of the proposed date well in advance was also a way of asking whether that date worked for everyone.

Perhaps they would have changed the date had they known that one sibling couldn't attend. I can't help but wonder if the letter writer didn't speak up sooner because they didn't want to attend the gathering. I have noticed that many invitees will only RSVP if a reply has been specifically requested (and many not even then), but isn't it most polite to respond to an invitation with a prompt reply?

Betty, the organizer of this visit, was justified in calling out the late response about the lack of attendance. There likely could have been time to "make it work" with a different date. It is a shame to get hung up on semantics and miss a potential rescheduling when the siblings were very clearly trying to plan an inclusive get-together.

– RSVP on Time

Dear RSVP: What you're pointing out is exactly right and I should have brought this up. It seemed to me, when reading the letter originally, that the plans had been announced without opportunity for feedback or adjustments. But that was an assumption on my part, not something that was included explicitly in the letter. So, it would have been better to voice the conflict as early as possible. Even if the scheduling conflict couldn't be avoided, the interpersonal conflict could have been.

Dear Eric: In response to the young widow whose friends do not reach out to support her ("Grieving Loss of Connections"), at 49, I was in the same situation. Support only came from my family and a few girlfriends who listened and invited me out.

The letter writer's friends just don't get it. It took two years for me to get the help I needed by joining a widow support group, which I would never have thought I would do in a million years. It helped immensely and gave me connections and support with the grief of losing a partner with people of all ages and circumstances. I eventually distanced myself from non-supporters. I continue at 72 to listen and support friends and family in their grief.

– Supported in Hard Times

Dear Supported: I'm sorry you shared the experience of friends not showing up for you. Unfortunately, too often, when confronted with another person's grief people think they don't know what to say or do. When, in truth, the most important step is simply showing up. I want to second your point about how helpful support groups can be. I'm glad you found them when you needed them.

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

SQUAWKBOX

squawkbox@albanyherald.com

To that man without a family Yes, illegal immigrants are not (legally) eligible to receive public assistance. But in Democratic cities claiming to be sanctuary cities, they do receive free public assistance and much more.

History is the propaganda of the victorious. --Voltaire. American history since 1865 is the bias, misinformation and lies by Northern historians condemning the South for slavery that New England grew rich from.

Principles of individual liberty, personal responsibility, respect for God, and limited, constitutional government are not merely convenient political concepts, but essentials that are fundamental to our liberty, prosperity and security.

You people blaming Albany State for that ridiculous melee at the State Theater downtown are just looking for something to complain about. As the owner, the police and everyone involved said, this had nothing to do with Albany State.

So this preacher that heads up United Way of Southwest Georgia wants $100,000 to feed kids next summer. We paid most of the $350,000 last summer with taxpayer money, although the county tried to camouflage it with the sheriff department funding much of the program and the coroner chipping in. Gosh, wonder who funds the sheriff's department and the coroner's office?

It wasn't that long ago that The Albany Herald reported election results by precinct. What are the chances of the Herald resuming that practice?

All these "conservatives" talking about poor people getting welfare should turn some of that "laser-focus" on this country's farmers, who receive welfare like subsidies for not growing certain crops and huge pay-outs when they fail. This is more welfare for the wealthy you just don't hear about.

Once again, we were blessed when a major storm did not hit us with its full force as predicted. I feel for the people who suffered severe damage from the storm, but I'm thankful we were spared ... again.

Mr. Dyer, the Board of DCSS and administrators need to take a long, hard look in the mirror and ask themselves if a full week off of school in October is good for the students or just a convenience for themselves. Success only comes with hard work, and these kids and their parents deserve the best shot we can give them. There is no time for laziness.

What Phoebe haters don't say is that the more than 100 properties owned by Phoebe (as mentioned in a Saturday Herald article) were purchased before the current administration arrived. And what they also don't acknowledge, as the CEO said, is that for every property Phoebe owns that is not used for medical purposes, the hospital pays taxes. Find something else to gripe about.

Man without family, you have no clue about illegal immigration. In blue states, you don't need a social security card or birth certificate to get assistance.

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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

Georgia Trust for
LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul."

Psalms 25:1

COLUMNIST ■ CHARLIE HAYSLETT

Georgia keeps winning the wrong contest

Well, they did it again.

Last month, Area Development magazine named Georgia the nation's top state for doing business for the 13th year in a row. Gov. Brian Kemp's office had a press release out the same day, calling it "yet another testament that we're delivering on the shared goal of creating more jobs for Georgians."



HAYSLETT

If this sounds familiar, it should; I wrote much the same story in February. I've been beating this dead horse for a while. Since then, however, some important numbers have actually gotten a little worse.

First, though, credit where it's due. Area Development surveys about 50 site consultants, the people corporations hire to pick plant sites, and this year they ranked Georgia first for skilled manufacturing labor, responsive government and speed to market. Those are real advantages, and somebody in state government earned them.

But that ranking measures how a state looks to someone deciding where to build, not how the people who already live here are doing. For that, the late George Berry, who served as Gov. Joe Frank Harris's commissioner of Industry, Trade and Tourism in the 1980s, focused on a different scoreboard: per capita income as a percentage of the national average.

In a January 2011 Georgia Trend column, Berry called it an "elemental measure" and an "intensely personal statistic" – one that "measures how much education one can afford, how much healthcare one receives, whether one can take his children to a dentist and even how many culturally enriching experiences one can have."

So let's take a look at this intensely personal statistic.

Georgia ranks 41st among the 50 states in per capita income. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis updated its figures just last month. In 2025, Georgians averaged $65,111, or 84.5% of the national average. It's the fourth year in a row we've been 41st, the lowest Georgia has ranked since at least 1980.

When Georgia won its first Area Development crown, in 2014, it ranked 40th, at 85.5% of the national average. That was down from nearly 95% of the national average and 25th place as late as 2002. Thirteen trophies later, Georgians' incomes, measured against everybody else's, are lower than when the streak started.

In 2021, Area Development said the quiet part out loud: Companies choosing Georgia and Texas "appreciate the fact that they both have wages below the average in more than half of all other states." This year the magazine is more polite, noting that "Southeastern states dominate labor-cost competitiveness." Same idea, better manners. To a site consultant, a low wage is a low cost. To the person earning it, it's a low wage.

Now the second scoreboard. In July, CNBC put out its own annual ranking, "America's Top States for Business." Georgia came in seventh, same as last year. North Carolina, last year's winner, slipped to second, behind Ohio.

Georgia does fine on CNBC's business basics: fifth in infrastructure, eighth in access to capital, ninth in workforce. But CNBC does something Area Development doesn't: It grades quality of life, on the theory that companies need workers who'll want to live there. That category is a grab bag. It covers crime, environmental quality and health care, plus the cost and availability of childcare. It also covers worker protections such as paid leave and the right to organize, anti-discrimination laws, voting rights and abortion access. On that scorecard, Georgia tied with Louisiana for 46th place, with only Indiana, Texas and Tennessee scoring worse.

Some of those measures are values fights, and Georgians are on both sides of them. Health care isn't one of them. In 2024, 12% of Georgians had no health insurance, the second-highest rate in the country, behind only Texas.

North Carolina's quality of life ranking was nothing to brag about: 34th, down from 29th. But that's 12 places ahead of us. And on Berry's PCI scoreboard, North Carolina is pulling away. It passed Georgia in 2007; we caught back up in the late 2010s, but since 2020 the gap has widened every year. In 2025 the average North Carolinian had about $3,200 more income than the average Georgian.

North Carolina has managed to be good for business and better for the people who live there. Georgia has managed the first.

And the statewide average flatters us. In 2024, the latest year with county figures, 100 of Georgia's 159 counties, home to 3.3 million people, sat in the bottom quarter of all American counties. Only Texas had more people in that cellar. Add up the 147 counties outside metro Atlanta as if they were a state — I call it Notlanna — and their per capita income was $52,282. That's just barely ahead of last-place Mississippi at $52,074.

Had Georgians earned the national average in 2025, they'd have had about $11,900 more apiece, roughly $135 billion in all. That's the size of the hole in Georgians' pockets, and 13 years of trophies haven't made it any smaller.

I'm not suggesting the state stop chasing plants. A factory that hires 2,000 people is a good thing for the 2,000 people. But being the best place to build a factory and a place where incomes keep pace are two different goals. For 13 years, Georgia has celebrated the first and largely ignored the second.

In his aforementioned January 2011 column in Georgia Trend, George Berry was writing directly to the state's incoming governor, Nathan Deal, about the importance of per capita income.

"If our new governor can improve this vital statistic," Berry wrote, "he will be assured of a successful administration."

In January, Georgia will have a new governor again: Republican Rick Jackson or Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms. Berry's advice still holds, whether the new governor is a he or a she. I'd like to hear each of them tell us how they plan to get Georgia out of 41st place — and especially how they'd get Notlanna out of a tie with Mississippi for dead last.

Charlie Hayslett is a mostly retired journalist and communications counselor now working on a book about the costs and consequences of the decline of rural Georgia. He blogs occasionally on these subjects at www.troubleingodscountry.com.

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

Removing obstacles to faith

I am not surprised that the more scientists discover about the world we inhabit, the more obstacles to faith are removed. My optimism comes from a fusion of my engineering education at university with my theological education at seminary.



FOWLER

That's not to say that the messaging from advocates of materialism has been ineffective. Cambridge-educated scientist Stephen Meyer reports a poll indicating that many people disbelieve because "the findings of science make the existence of God less probable." They accept the hoax that faith and science are mutually exclusive.

The belief that "the cosmos is all there is" had pronounced results in the last century. It was the foundation for dehumanizing ideologies, which destroyed millions of lives. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn stated the issue concisely when accepting the Templeton Prize in 1983: "Men have forgotten God."

If God does not exist, then people are products of mindless chance and have no

more intrinsic value than a tree or rock. It means free will and objective morality are illusions. Life has no meaning, purpose, or destiny. When we die, we rot.

To internalize this sad ideology is to add to the shocking daily headlines born of despair. Yet I am optimistic that obstacles to faith are being removed by science. Take the fine-tuning argument, which posits that the physical constants of the universe fall within narrow ranges, permitting life in a most improbable way (absent intentional design).

Sir Fred Hoyle, a Nobel-winning scientist, considered the complex evidence and admitted, "A commonsense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology."

C.S. Lewis commented on complexity as well: "Do not let us deceive ourselves," he writes. "No possible complexity which we can give to our picture of the universe can hide us from God. There is no forest, no jungle thick enough to provide cover."

When fine-tuning and other scientific discoveries point you Godward, it affects your thoughts about meaning, purpose, and destiny. It affects how you view yourself and your place in His plan. When you believe in Christ Jesus, your life begins yielding the fruit of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Gal. 5:22-23)

That makes you part of the solution for what's wrong with the world.

God exists whether you believe or not. He is the source of life. "Material laws alone do not explain our life or give it direction," Solzhenitzen writes. "The laws of physics and physiology will never reveal the indisputable manner in which the Creator constantly, day in and day out, participates in the life of each of us, unfailingly granting us the energy of existence."

Science may never reveal that, but it continues to remove obstacles that prevent you from seeing God's eternal power and divine nature through what He has made.

Wayne Fowler has been a pastor and columnist in Georgia since 1996. Email mountainchristian@brmemc.net.

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

A space-age solution to the digital divide

Georgia has for years positioned itself as the Silicon Valley of the South, attracting technology investments from across the globe. But the state has wrestled with a glaring problem: Much of it has historically lacked broadband Internet access. This was the case for much of rural Georgia where as recently as 2021 large swaths of unserved locations existed because it was not profitable for providers to build out the necessary infrastructure.



HYDEN

"These are typically areas where it is difficult to deploy terrestrial (e.g., ground-based) broadband technologies, such as fiber or cable, because of build-out challenges with terrain and cost," according to a 2025 congressional report.

Government officials have worked to limit the scope of the problem, and through the federal BEAD and ARPA programs, funneled around $2 billion to Georgia to install broadband hardware in underserved communities.

The billions of taxpayer dollars have been a boon to many in the Peach State. Now 99% of urban Georgians have access, but nearly 10% of rural Georgia locations are still in the dark. Closing the remaining gap, however, may have less to do with the government and more to do with innovative technology: low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite internet.

This kind of Internet access recently grabbed headlines when Elon Musk and Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines had a very public difference of opinion. Musk owns Starlink, a satellite internet company, and three of the big four airlines are outfitting their planes with Starlink access. Delta chose to go in a different direction – opting to ink a contract with a competitor, Amazon Project Kuiper – leading to some testy online exchanges.

Delta should feel empowered to make whatever business decisions it sees fit, and so should Musk. But my point is if Starlink, Project Kuiper and others can provide high-speed Internet to airplanes traveling 500 miles-per-hour through the clouds, then once at scale, they can handle many corners of rural America.

I saw this first-hand, too, when I started dating the woman whom I eventually married. Her father lives in rural Georgia, and at the time, cell service there was abysmal, and there were no high-speed broadband Internet providers. Instead, he had a package from a mobile phone company that gave him limited access and if he surpassed his data allotment, then he had to pay extra. It was better than nothing, but still pretty limiting.

Soon enough, he was able to get Starlink at his location and leapt at the opportunity. Ever since, he has enjoyed the kind of high-speed Internet access at his home that seemed unthinkable before. Now he can stream video and FaceTime with his grandchild with ease.

To be sure, satellite Internet is not a new technology.

"Historically, satellite broadband has been deployed using satellite systems in geostationary orbit (GEO)," the Congressional Research Service reports. "GEO satellites are susceptible to interference caused by weather and are reportedly not as reliable and resilient as wired broadband technologies, such as fiber.

"LEO satellites, which are positioned at a much lower altitude than GEO satellites, may be able to offer speeds closer to those that can be achieved with fiber, as well as lower latency (i.e., lag time)," the report added.

While they are not a panacea by any means, they have the ability to put high-speed Internet within reach of many who would otherwise remain unserved. We know these satellites work thanks to their broad deployment. Starlink has over 11,000 satellites in orbit, OneWeb about 650, Amazon has nearly 400, and so forth. The number of LEO satellites is poised to explode, too.

These have been providing rural areas with critical internet access, which does more than let people browse the web and stream movies. It allows them to work from home, attend telemedicine appointments, facilitate remote education and so forth. LEO satellite Internet has even been tested in some of the most rugged of environments. As Internet access was limited and degraded during the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War, Starlink stepped in and provided Ukrainian soldiers access to support their war effort.

The BEAD and ARPA programs have helped connect many to wired Internet in the U.S., and to be clear, BEAD funding has assisted in the spread of low Earth orbit satellite Internet. However, without its innovation and emergence, the government would still be trying to figure out how to lay fiber and cable across rural Georgia and many more people would still be without broadband access.

In the end, solving Georgia's digital divide may have more to do with space-age technology than it does with government involvement.

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



What to watch

THURSDAY

October 15, 2026

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

9-1-1

ABC, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The drama series about the high-pressure experiences of Los Angeles first responders – including police officers, firefighters and dispatchers – who are thrust into the most frightening, shocking and heart-stopping situations is back for Season 10 with "That Sinking Feeling." Angela Bassett, Aisha Hinds and Jennifer Love Hewitt star.

Scrabble

The CW, 8 p.m.

Three wordsmiths put their vocabulary skills to the test as they compete for a chance at the $10,000 prize in the new episode "Vowel Language." Craig Ferguson hosts.

The Traitors: New Blood

NBC, 8 p.m.

Shaken by the funeral, the Faithful conspire to solve who committed the murder in plain sight in the new episode "A Murder of Necessity."



'9-1-1'

DISNEY

Hell's Kitchen

FOX, 8 p.m.

The chefs get a glimpse of college life and compete in a beer pong challenge to decide who can best pair alcohol with their protein in the new episode "Hell's Kitchen University."

Eternally Yours

CBS, 8:30 p.m.

Max (Jaren Lewison) and Emma (Helen J. Shen) try to process their new reality, while Charles (Ed Weeks) attempts to make a friend at work in the new episode "Baby Vampire."

9-1-1: Nashville

ABC, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The *9-1-1* spinoff set in Nashville returns for Season 2 with "Going Rogue," as the Music City's heroic first responders face new professional and personal challenges. Chris O'Donnell, Jessica Capshaw and Kimberly Williams-Paisley star.

Elsbeth

CBS, 9 p.m.

When a young playwright's suspicious death rocks the world of New York theater, Elsbeth (Carrie Preston) finds several suspects waiting in the wings. Nicholas Braun (*Succession*) guest-stars in the new episode."

Trivial Pursuit

The CW, 9 p.m.

A game-show enthusiast takes on the six iconic Trivial Pursuit categories in hopes of winning $20,000 in the new episode "Jimmy Eat Trivia." LeVar Burton hosts.

Special Forces: World's Toughest Test

FOX, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Leadership," some recruits are challenged to lead their team in a hostage rescue in a race against time. Tensions rise when the recruits must infiltrate an enemy compound to gather information while under a powerful gas attack.

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

NBC, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Midway," Curry (Aimé Donna Kelly) answers a family's call for help when their son disappears from a carnival. The search uncovers a chilling connection to an old abduction and a tragic chain of events.

Grey's Anatomy

ABC, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The drama following the doctors, nurses and staff at Grey Sloan Memorial returns in the Season 23 premiere "Collide." Ellen Pompeo, Chandra Wilson and James Pickens Jr. star.

Cupertino

CBS, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "Vik & Bo," Michael and Olivia (Mike Colter and Rachel Keller) defend Vik Malhotra (Nik Dodani), a Silicon Valley coder being held responsible for an errant drone that killed an onlooker during an elaborate drone display.

Law & Order

NBC, 10 p.m.

Price and Walker (Hugh Dancy and David Ajala) are forced off a high-stakes case when their connection to a murder suspect creates a conflict of interest in the new episode "Into the Mystic."

CATCH A CLASSIC

Creepy Cinema Classic Monsters

TCM, beginning at 12:45 a.m. (late night)

The lineup begins with **The Brides of Dracula** (1960) and **Blood From the Mummy's Tomb** (1971), followed by Christopher Lee in **Dracula Has Risen From the Grave** (1968). Lee and Peter Cushing reunite in Dracula A.D. 1972 (1972), which brings their famous rivalry to modern London. The marathon continues with **The Curse of Frankenstein** (1957), **Horror of Dracula** (1958) and 1959's **The Mummy (pictured)**, three films that helped define Hammer Productions' colorful Gothic style.



UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters'

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

The Equalizer (2014, Action) Denzel Washington, Marton Csokas **BET, 6 p.m.**

Descendants: The Rise of Red (2024, Family) Kylie Cantrall, Malia Baker **Disney, 6:15 p.m.**

Con Air (1997, Action) Nicolas Cage, John Cusack **E!, 7 p.m.**

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (2016, Fantasy) Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Bean (1997, Comedy) Rowan Atkinson, Peter MacNicol **VH1, 8 p.m.**

Who Could Kill a Sweet Old Lady? (2026, Suspense) Alexandra Harris, Laurie Cummings **LMN, 8 p.m.**

Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (2013, Fantasy) Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

It Follows (2014, Horror) Maika Monroe, Keir Gilchrist **SYFY, 9:30 p.m.**

Final Destination 2 (2003, Horror) Ali Larter, A.J. Cook **IFC, 9:45 p.m.**

Ghostbusters (2016, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig **FX, 10 p.m.**

Godzilla vs. Kong (2021, Science fiction) Alexander Skarsgård, Millie Bobby Brown **TNT, 10:30 p.m.**

Mr. Deeds (2002, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Winona Ryder **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

Whistle (2025, Horror) Dafne Keen, Sophie Nélisse **IFC, 10:30 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

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What to watch

FRIDAY

October 16, 2026

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

Sheriff Country

CBS, 8 p.m.

A breakthrough in a 30-year-old cold case forces a family to confront a long-buried secret in the new episode "Family Trust."

'Tis the Season for Setups

Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

Hyper-organized single mom and party planner Lexi (Amanda Schull), her free-spirited mother June (Barbara Niven) and teen daughter Piper (Verity Marks) are set to spend Christmas at a local ski resort after Lexi is hired to organize their annual holiday party. Upon arrival, she immediately butts heads with Ridge (Victor Webster), the ski instructor and son of the lodge's owner, Dan (John B. Lowe). Looks like some matchmaking could be in store.

Fire Country

CBS, 9 p.m.

When a fast-moving wildfire threatens Edgewater, Station 42 and Three Rock battle increasingly dangerous conditions in an effort to contain the blaze in the new episode "Fire Under Fire."

Scariest House in America

HGTV, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Nightmares in New England," Retta's journey to find scary takes her to nightmarish New England, where four homes battle for a chance at a stunning makeover by designer Alison Victoria. It's between a large house with whistling and humming specters, a diabolical duplex, a former jailhouse, and a gigantic house with a mind of its own.



''Tis the Season for Setups'

HALLMARK MEDIA

Boston Blue

CBS, 10 p.m.

As Danny and Lena (Donnie Wahlberg and Sonequa Martin-Green) follow a lead in a case, they find themselves in an intense standoff with a dangerous biker gang in the new episode "Ripple Effect."

Great Musicians of Our Time

PBS, 10 p.m.

This documentary series profiling six of the most influential and celebrated classical music artists of the 20th and 21st centuries continues with "Pinchas Zukerman: Here to Make Music." Israeli American violinist, conductor and music master Zukerman's legacy continues to inspire after more than five decades.

The Rainmaker

USA Network, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The first season, based on John Grisham's novel, ended with Rudy (Milo Callaghan) and Deck (P.J. Byrne) winning millions for their client thanks to some unusual and lowbrow legal tactics. Now armed with heaps of cash, "they're hounded by high-profile, high-paying clients," Callaghan tells. In-demand though they may be, "they're still dysfunctional, still in a Taco Hut and still moving like scrappy underdogs," he adds. Season 2 will explore life before Rudy joined Bruiser's (Lana Parrilla) ragtag team, but one thing that's not likely to happen is a rekindling of the romance between Rudy and Sarah (Madison Iseman).

CATCH A CLASSIC

Becoming Hitchcock: The Legacy of Blackmail

TCM, 8 p.m.

This night devoted to Alfred Hitchcock and four of his memorable leading women starts with the 2024 documentary **Becoming Hitchcock: The Legacy of Blackmail**, which explores the director's signature style through the making of the 1929 film *Blackmail*. Following is the sound version of **Blackmail**, starring Anny Ondra, and **The 39 Steps** (1935), with Madeleine Carroll.



WARNER BROS.

Grace Kelly takes over later in 1954's **Dial M for Murder (pictured)**, while Eva Marie Saint joins Cary Grant in **North by Northwest** (1959). A 2014 TCM festival conversation with Saint closes the lineup.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Godzilla vs. Kong'

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Friday the 13th (1980, Horror) Betsy Palmer, Adrienne King **AMC, 6 p.m.**

The Addams Family (1991, Fantasy) Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia **Paramount, 6 p.m.**

The Man in the Window (2026, Suspense) Teri Polo, Dylan Walsh **LMN, 6 p.m.**

Encino Man (1992, Comedy) Sean Astin, Brendan Fraser **CMT, 7:30 p.m.**

Misery (1990, Horror) James Caan, Kathy Bates **Sundance, 7:30 p.m.**

The Little Mermaid (2023, Family) Halle Bailey, Jonah Hauer-King **Disney, 8 p.m.**

The Conjuring (2013, Horror) Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson **IFC, 8:30 p.m.**

The Perfect Guy (2015, Suspense) Sanaa Lathan, Michael Ealy **BET, 9 p.m.**

Christine (1983, Horror) Keith Gordon, John Stockwell **Sundance, 10 p.m.**

Little Nicky (2000, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Patricia Arquette **VH1, 10 p.m.**

Star Wars: Return of the Jedi (1983, Science fiction) Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford **FX, 10:10 p.m.**

Godzilla vs. Kong (2021, Science fiction) Alexander Skarsgård, Millie Bobby Brown **TNT, 10:30 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



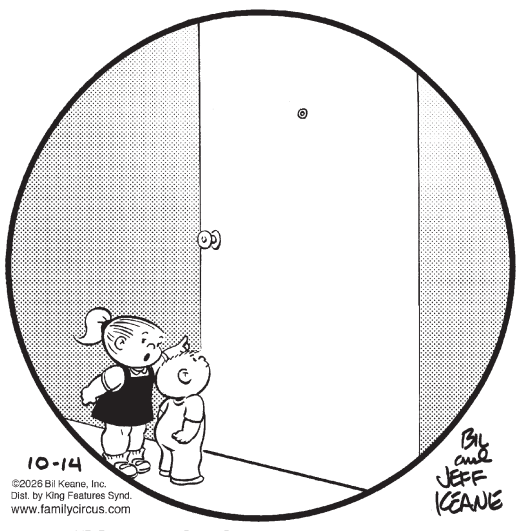
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CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



When pirates play Twister.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

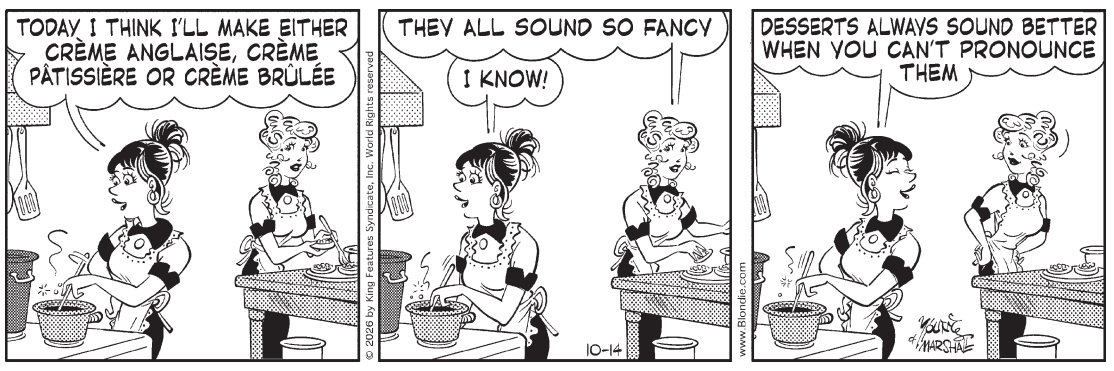


"You hafta look through the peephole before you open the door."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



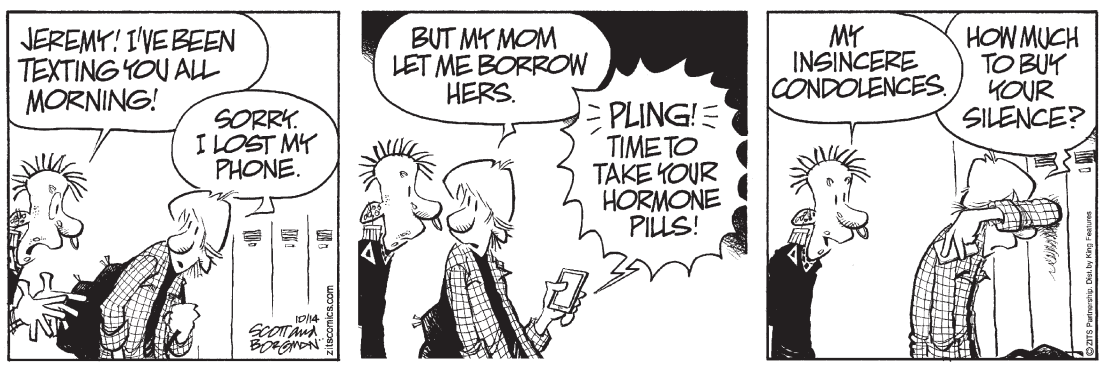
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 No-frills supermarket chain
5 Receipt fig.
8 Puzzle
14 Weaver's machine
15 "Pshaw!"
16 Perfect alignment
17 *Black Friday enticement
19 Peak with a name from Koyukon
20 "The Matrix" hero
21 Wee bit
23 Left in a cave, as some cheese
24 *Words with a WWII-era doodle
28 Mardi Gras song originally called "Jock-A-Mo"
29 Fabled race day napper
30 "I'll shake on that!"
31 Berra with a record 10 World Series rings as a player
34 Centipede releaser
38 Family guy
39 *Shout on a playground
41 Pod of whales
42 "Do the Right Thing" actor Davis
44 Stint in office
45 Much Duchamp work
46 Pitch setter
48 Superhot, as wing sauce
50 *Introductory phrase
53 Stepped heavily
55 Grammy winner India.__
56 Sudden flight
57 Demolish
59 Marketing slogans, or what the answers to the starred clues are?
63 Does some tailoring on
64 "Fearless" or "Lover," for Taylor Swift
65 Iditarod terminus city
66 Thrift store transaction
67 Sketch show with celebrity 50-Down, for short
68 Flakes

DOWN

1 __ too soon
2 Lav
3 Gets off the web
4 Put at risk
5 Pacific tuna
6 Large parrot that forms a pair bond
7 Angle symbol, in geometry
8 Subject of a 49-foot bronze statue in Nara, Japan
9 WSW opposite
10 Mosque tower
11 Utility bill data
12 Foot part
13 "Wednesday" werewolf
18 Chess piece in castling
22 More pale
24 Little buddy
25 Stores with Småland play areas
26 Fluctuate wildly
27 Basic Latin verb
32 Determined to get
33 Test for some srs.
35 Leader of the Greek army during the Trojan War
36 Diameter halves
37 Apple desktops
39 Talk over the clamor
40 "Ms. Marvel" star Vellani
43 Pure Leaf beverage
45 Realms
47 Pass by
49 Starbucks size
50 Members of 67-Across's Five-Timers Club, e.g.
51 Tiny arachnids
52 Pine (for)
53 Type of ski lift
54 Hold the throne
58 Web address
60 Actress Gadot
61 Angsty rock
62 Do some tailoring on

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

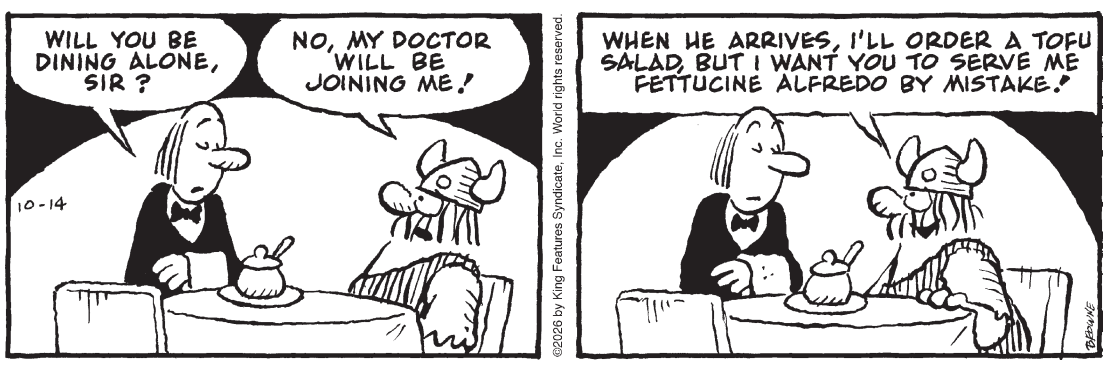
10/14/26

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15			■	16					
17				18				■	19					
■	■	20			■	21		22		■	23			
24	25				26					27			■	■
28						■	■	29				■	■	■
30				■	31	32	33		■	34		35	36	37
38			■	39					40		■	41		
42			43		■	44				■	45			
■	■	■	46		47		■	■	48	49				
■	■	50					51	52						
53	54			■	55				■	56			■	■
57				58		■	59		60				61	62
63							64			■	65			
66						■	67			■	68			

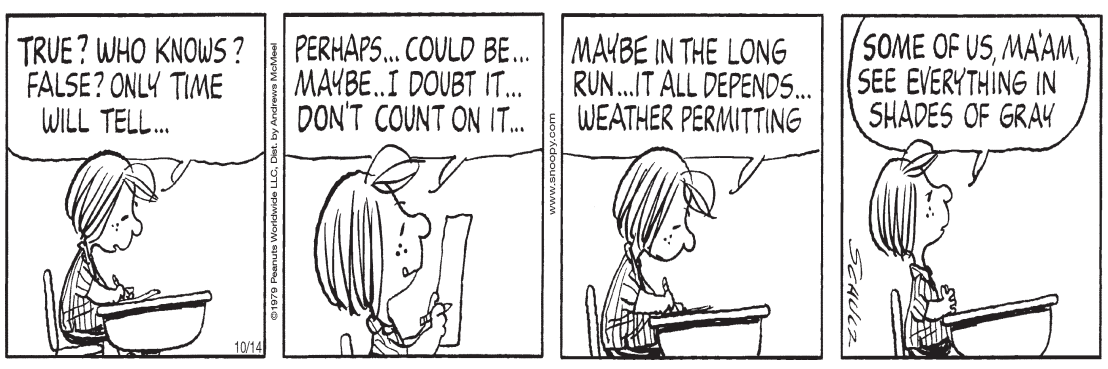
By Joe Rodini
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10/14/26

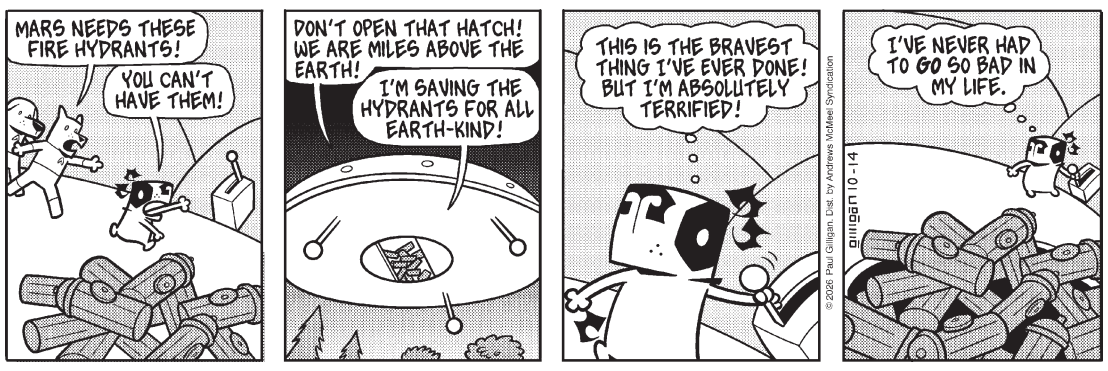
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

SAM NEILL (1947-2026) **Solution: 7 letters**

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

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Adventure, Andrew, Career, Charismatic, Creative, Cultured, Dermot, Dish, Elena, Escape Plan, Father, Fever, Fox, Grant, Hollywood, Iconic, Jurassic, Landfall, Legendary, Lisa, Love, Maiko, Merlin, Nigel, Noriko, Performer, Priscilla, Private, Producer, Rake, Reach, Screen, Stiff, Thor, Thunder, Twelve, Versatile, Wine, Witty, Writer

TODAY'S ANSWER: Xfinity

WHATZIT?™

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

DNA 1/4

Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Back and forth

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



"I've got a bad feeling about this, Dave. It could be one of those pyramid schemes."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"Mommy has two 'portant rings. Her 'I do' ring and her 'yes' ring."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



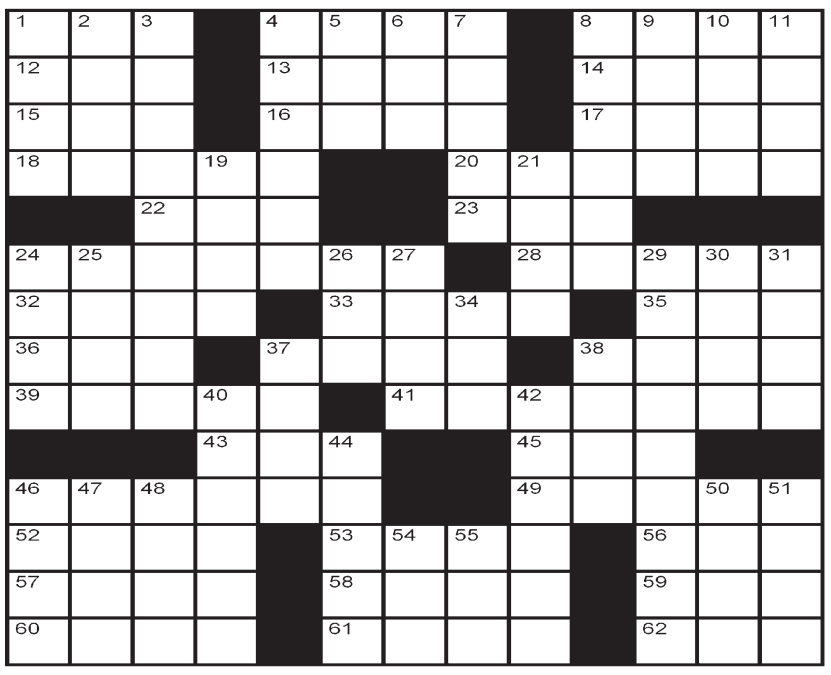
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

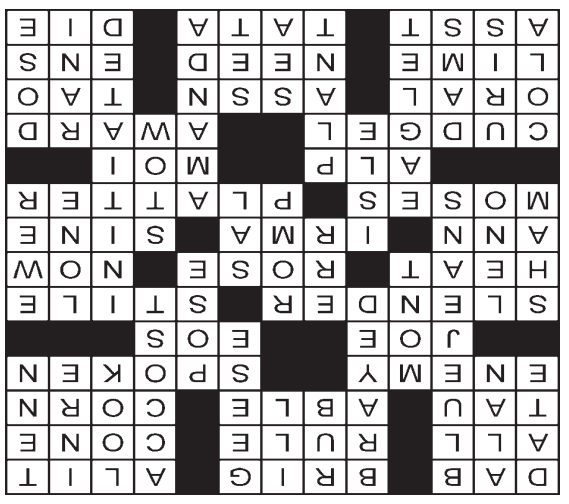
1 Wee dollop
4 Naval lockup
8 Dismounted
12 The whole enchilada
13 Regulation
14 Ice cream holder
15 Greek letter
16 Ready, willing and —
17 Maize
18 Nemesis
20 Uttered
22 Actor — Pesci
23 Dawn goddess
24 Slim
28 Subway entrance
32 Warmth
33 Actress — Byrne
35 This minute
36 — Arbor, Michigan
37 "— La Douce"
38 Trig function
39 Exodus leader
41 Dish
43 High mountain
45 Miss Piggy's perfume
46 Club
49 Prize
52 Exam type
53 Org.
56 Chinese "way"
57 Citrus fruit
58 Require
59 USN rank
60 Aide: Abbr.
61 "Toodle-oo!"
62 Expire

DOWN

1 Appointment
2 Actor — Alda
3 Denim pants (2 wds.)
4 Cried like a donkey
5 Massage
6 Badly
7 Gaggle members
8 Approach aggressively
9 Appearance
10 About (2 wds.)
11 Nashville's st.
19 — Blanc
21 Sit for a portrait
24 Counterfeit
25 Comedian Jay —
26 Goof
27 Frolic
29 Started
30 Sole
31 Pitcher
34 Actor — Mineo
37 Ait
38 Pack
40 Young bird of prey
42 Actress — Peet
44 Factory
46 Soft drink flavor
47 "Exodus" author
48 River blockers
50 Indian queen
51 Prescribed amount
54 Dead — Scrolls
55 Harden

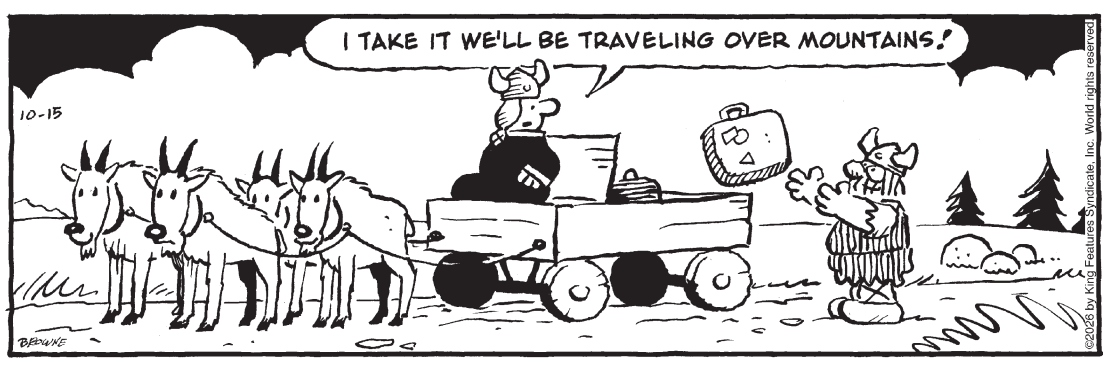


TODAY'S SOLUTION:

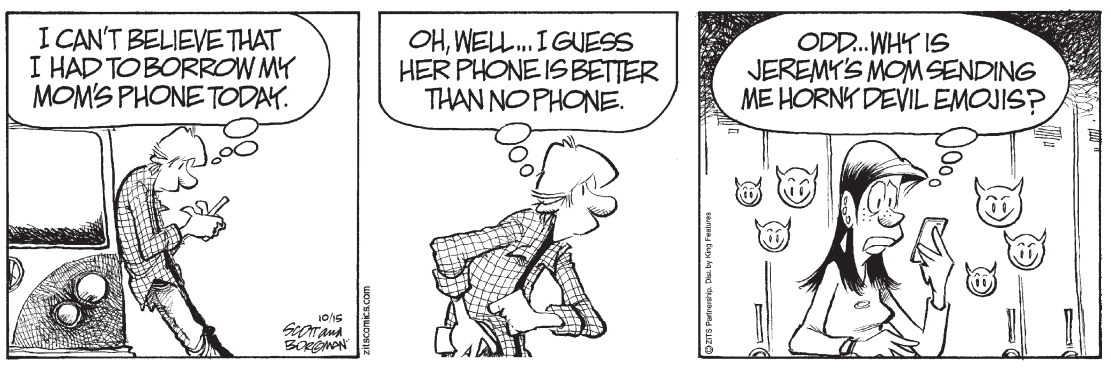


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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



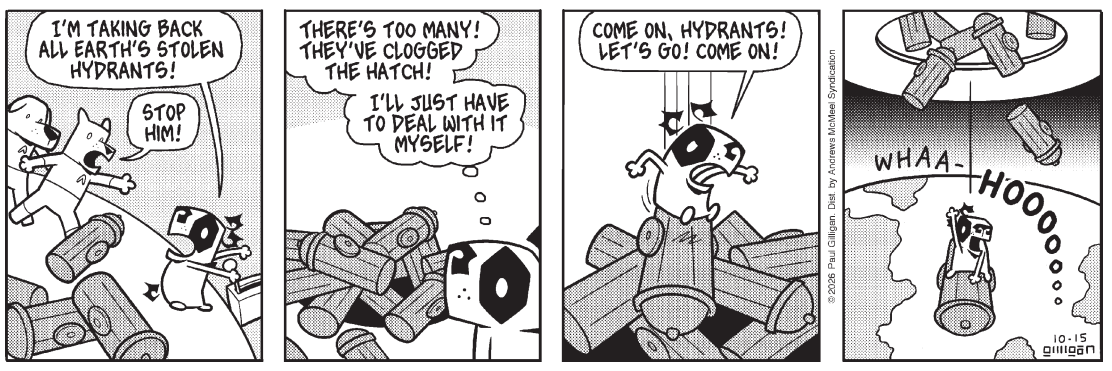
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



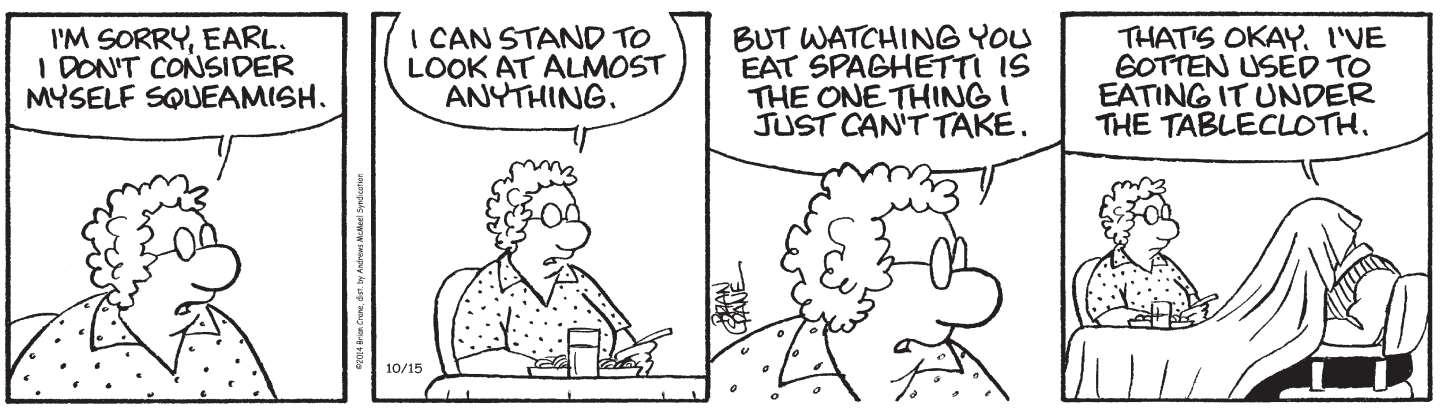
GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



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.**

GINGHAM SCHOOL DRESSES — **Solution: 12 letters**

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

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Belt, Blouse, Bows, Bright, Butterfly, Checkered, Collar, Cotton, Crochet, Fashion, Flair, France, Frills, Green, Jumper, Kids, Knit, Lace, Linen, Pastel, Pinafore, Pink, Plaid, Playsuit, Pleated, Pockets, Polka Dots, Print, Ribbon, Royal, Ruffle, Shirt, Size, Skirt, Sleeves, Soft, Straps, Style, Tartan, Ties, Uniform, Vintage, Violet, Yarn, Zipper

TODAY'S ANSWER: School Colors

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

WHATZIT?

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



Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION: Think tank



Special Photo

Several Georgia State Park employees were honored recently during the annual Park Managers Conference.

State park managers receive accolades at ceremony

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA – Several Georgia State Park employees were honored recently during the annual Park Managers Conference. Accomplishments included natural and cultural resource enhancement projects, ranger-led programming efforts, customer service excellence, and more.

The awards ceremony focused on the monumental moments created by state park employees across the state, from First Day Hikes on Jan. 1 to America's 250th commemoration. Superintendents attended training sessions, shared innovative ideas, and celebrated each other's accomplishments from the past year. Award winners included:

Henry Struble Manager of the Year Award – Royce Johnson, Jack Hill State Park, Reidsville: Park Manager Johnson demonstrates steady servant leadership at Jack Hill, serving as a mentor and consistently supporting others. In the past year, Johnson trained new managers, rangers, interns and staff while working closely with golf leadership to improve course operations. Johnson serves on the Division's Outdoors Beyond Barriers Advisory Committee and promotes accessible outdoor recreation in the community.

Most Outstanding Site Operation Award – Fort King George State Historic Site, Darien: Fort King George earned the Most Outstanding Site Operation Award for its exceptional resilience and statewide leadership over the past year. Despite its small staff, the site played a key role in statewide initiatives including First Day Hikes and America's 250th celebrations. Site Manager Michael Putnam represented Georgia State Parks in period clothing at multiple America's 250th events throughout the state, including events at the State Capitol and Truist Park.

Natural Resource Enhancement Award – Vogel State Park, Blairsville: Vogel transformed the Lake Trahlyta dam restoration project into an opportunity for comprehensive improvements beyond the required infrastructure repairs. While the lake was drawn down, staff cleaned and improved the beach, restored the stream inlet, upgraded depth markers, removed 14 old tractor tires, and partnered with DNR Fisheries to install new fish habitat structures. The project also included refurbishment of nearly the entire lake loop trail.

Cultural Resource Enhancement Award – Fort Morris State Historic Site, Midway: Fort Morris completed a multiphase project to protect its historic Revolutionary War earthworks from damage caused by mature trees and severe weather. The project removed encroaching vegetation, restored historic views toward St. Catherines Sound, relocated cannons to their original positions, and upgraded the visitor center and museum.

Best Year-Round Programming Award – A.H. Stephens State Park, Crawfordville: A.H. Stephens delivered 406 programs and events, reaching 5,856 visitors, with an emphasis on accessible programming opportunities throughout the year. Programs included statewide initiatives like the First Day Hike and Junior Ranger Camp, as well as fishing rodeos, historic tours, nature hikes, wildlife programs, homeschool activities and holiday events. The park's Christmas light event alone attracted approximately 1,200 visitors.

Retail of the Year Award – Don Carter State Park, Gainesville: Park Manager Jamie Madden and her team transformed the retail area at Don Carter by improving the layout, enhancing merchandise displays, and expanding seasonal Georgia Grown products and park-themed items. They also creatively integrated retail into programming efforts, including a frog adoption activity where visitors participated in a frog educational program and received their own plush keepsake.

Outstanding Golf Course of the Year Award – Meadow Links Golf Course, George T. Bagby State Park, Fort Gaines: Ranked among the Top 5 public golf courses in Georgia, Meadow Links demonstrates excellence in course quality, operations and community involvement. The course supports multiple high school tournaments throughout the year, supporting youth golf in the community. Recent facility improvements include tree removal, improved bunker drainage, and irrigation improvements.

Above and Beyond Award – Mike Teal, Providence Canyon, Lumpkin: Park Manager Mike Teel has dedicated nearly 13 years to DNR, progressing from park maintenance technician at Florence Marina to park manager at Providence Canyon. He consistently goes above and beyond, leading the regional debris team and providing critical assistance following severe storms and in emergency situations. His work at Kolomoki Mounds following a major windstorm saved the park approximately $25,000 in cleanup costs, while his response to visitor concerns demonstrates his commitment to safety and service.

Phoebe trauma surgeon David Kashmer has research on tracheostomy complications accepted for publication

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – A Phoebe trauma surgeon with an extensive history of research, scholarly writing and teaching is about to publish new research aimed at improving care for critically ill patients who undergo a procedure to help them breathe.

Dr. David Kashmer examined complications associated with tracheostomies, a hole that surgeons make in the front of the neck and into the windpipe where a tube is inserted during a surgical procedure called a tracheotomy.

A tracheostomy may be needed during trauma care, when a patient may need to be on a ventilator for an extended period or because of medical conditions that block or narrow the airway. Even when a tracheotomy is done correctly, patients can still face complications that may not be caused by the procedure but related to ongoing care the patients need.

Kashmer and his team reviewed the current standard of tracheostomy care and problems seen across the country. The goal is to use those findings to guide the design of new devices and processes to help prevent complications.

"A lot of what I write about is the buildup to creating a new medical device or process that can positively influence patients I'll never even see face to face," Kashmer said.

The paper has been accepted for publication and will appear in an upcoming issue of Journal of Thoracic Disease. Kashmer's research has long focused on the airway and on how surgeons learn to manage it in emergencies. He holds a patent on an airway-access device he helped develop, and he is a member of the patent team for a second airway device. He has also studied how medical students and resident surgeons learn to access the airway, work that bears directly on emergency care.

Kashmer has also edited a publication on modern medical simulation, which covers how simulation helps clinicians master new techniques safely. He has written multiple books and chapters of textbooks on topics including trauma program management, medical education and games for health.

Kashmer joined Phoebe nearly two years ago, drawn by the health system's growth and its trajectory in clinical care. He also saw a chance to expand medical education and improve services in trauma and acute care surgery.

"When you have good clinical care, you have a foundation with processes to start doing research that help other people," Kashmer said. "Phoebe is in a really good spot for the future."

Phoebe leaders say the community is fortunate to have physicians like Kashmer, with high levels of experience and expertise, providing care in southwest Georgia

"Physicians like Dr. Kashmer are helping elevate Phoebe's reputation as a destination for high-quality clinical care, medical innovation, and physician education," Dr. Estrellita Redmon, the president of Phoebe Physicians, said. "His commitment to research not only advances patient care but also strengthens our efforts to attract outstanding physicians and build the graduate medical education programs that will help train the next generation of healthcare providers in southwest Georgia.



Dr. David Kashmer

"We are grateful for Dr. Kashmer's research, and we look forward to additional scholarly activity from other outstanding physicians at Phoebe."

Phoebe's partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine will establish new physician residency programs at Phoebe in multiple specialties – including general surgery and emergency medicine – while expanding clinical training opportunities for Morehouse medical students.

"Part of why I joined Phoebe was the growth and improvement I felt it was due for clinically," Kashmer said. "The natural next step is expanding medical education for students and even residents one day and improving services in areas like trauma and acute care surgery."

As a clinical professor of surgery at MSM, Kashmer plays an important role in strengthening the relationship between Phoebe and MSM. Published research such as Kashmer's helps build the academic foundation needed to support expanded graduate medical education through future residency training programs in southwest Georgia.

Albany Museum of Art student exhibit submission period is open

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The submission period has begun for southwest Georgia students who want to submit artwork for the third annual juried Student Art Exhibition, which opens on Oct. 30 at the Albany Museum of Art. Submissions for the exhibition and competition must be delivered to the AMA by Oct. 27.

"We want to remind students that they can start submitting their work on Oct. 13 and that all submissions must be in by 5 p.m. on Oct. 27," AMA Director of Education and Public Programming Annie Van Oteghem said. "Middle and high school students who attend southwest Georgia public schools, private schools, and homeschools are eligible to participate. There is no cost to enter."

Van Oteghem said that student artwork created after Nov. 1, 2025, is eligible to be entered in either the middle school or high school division. Each division has three two-dimensional categories — abstract work, realistic technical work, and enhanced photograph and digital art — and one three-dimensional category — sculpture and 3D art.

"Each student can submit up to two pieces, but the second artwork must be for a different category than the student's first submission," Van Oteghem said. "For instance, a student could submit an abstract painting and a sculpture, but not two abstract paintings."

There are also size limitations for submissions. The maximum size, including frame or mat, for two-dimensional works is 24 by 36 inches. The maximum size for three-dimensional works is 24 by 24 by 36 inches, with a maximum weight of 40 pounds.

Judges will name two top winners and honorable mentions in four categories in both the middle school and high school divisions. All winners and honorable mentions in both divisions will receive certificates. In addition, the first- and second-place high school winners in each category will also receive cash awards.

Museum visitors, however, will determine who wins the People's Choice Award.

"We will announce the winners on Nov. 7, at the Albany Museum of Art's annual fall art celebration, The Heart of Albany Festival, which will take place in Tift Park this year," Van Oteghem said. "From the Student Art Exhibition opening on Oct. 30 until the festival day, people can use a QR code posted in the exhibition gallery to vote for their favorite work. The student whose artwork gets the most votes will win the award and a cash prize."

Entry forms can be filled out, and artwork dropped off at the front desk in the AMA lobby. Students and their parents and teachers can find detailed descriptions of each of the submission categories on the Albany Museum of Art website at www.albanymuseum.com/events/heartfest/participate/.

New State of the Georgia Girl report reveals girls are excelling while facing challenges

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

SAVANNAH — Georgia girls are graduating high school at record rates, pursuing advanced coursework and preparing for their futures while simultaneously navigating significant challenges related to mental health, social connection, safety and financial hardship, according to the newly released 2026 State of the Georgia Girl Report.

The report examines girls' well-being across five interconnected dimensions: physical health, digital wellness, emotional wellness, academic wellness and social wellness. "Neither truth cancels the other. The girl who is rising and the girl who is struggling are the same girl," the report states.

Among the report's findings:

-- 90% of Georgia girls graduated high school in 2025.-- 58% of upper-school girls in Georgia experienced signs of depression, compared with 39% of boys;

-- Two in three high school girls lack a caring adult to talk with about their feelings;

-- One in five middle and high school girls has seriously considered harming herself in the past year;

-- Three in five Georgia girls are girls of color, and 31% of girls in Georgia identify as black or African American;

-- 44% of Georgia households face financial hardship, even as the portion of girls living below the federal poverty line has declined;

-- One in five high school girls has experienced sexual dating violence, and one-third of teenage girls report feeling unsafe at school.

Dougherty ready for region showdown

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — First place will be waiting beneath the Friday night lights at Hugh Mills Stadium.

So will Cairo's defensive front.

That is where Dougherty's biggest game of the season figures to begin—not with the celebrated quarterbacks, dangerous receivers or future college stars, but in the crowded, violent space along the line of scrimmage.

Dougherty (5-1) will host No. 4 Cairo (7-0) in a matchup of unbeaten Region 1-AAAA teams. The winner will walk away alone atop the standings and gain control of the race for the region championship.

"They have one of the best defensive lines in the state, no doubt," Dougherty coach Uyl Joyner said.

The Trojans believe they have an answer.

It is an offensive line without much fanfare but with six games of evidence behind it. Joyner jokingly refers to the group as "the misfits," though there has been nothing mismatched about its production.

From left to right, the group includes tackle Richard Washington, guard Amaree Jones, center Jayden Walker, guard K'Nyron Holliday and tackle Kyle Jackson. Together, they have given Dougherty the protection and continuity necessary to build one of the area's most explosive offenses.

"You might call them the misfits, but the way they play together has been effective," Joyner said. "I'm really happy with the way our offensive line has been playing. They've been giving Micah time all season."

Micah Joyner has made good use of it.

The sophomore quarterback has thrown for more than 1,400 yards and 22 touchdowns in six games, directing an offense capable of attacking every blade of artificial grass at Hugh Mills.

Senior David "Blue" Burgess has been his leading target, catching 20 passes for 445 yards and nine touchdowns. He is hardly the Trojans' only problem for opposing defenses.

Jherel Gibson can stretch the field. Alonzo Hammond, Detavious Poole and Jayden Richardson give Joyner additional options. Morris Hill has supplied balance with 330 rushing yards on 46 carries.

That collection of weapons has made Dougherty difficult to defend.

Cairo will make it difficult to operate.

The Syrupmakers arrive unbeaten after overpowering Shaw 53-24. Their defense can create pressure without sacrificing coverage, and it has repeatedly turned opponents' mistakes into points.

That makes ball security more than a coaching cliché Friday night. It could decide the region.

"If you make a mistake, they will make you pay," Uyl Joyner said. "We have to protect the football and not give them any free points."

The same warning applies when Cairo has possession.

Most of the attention follows running back Bryian Duncan, a West Virginia commitment who wears No. 4. Dougherty's defensive plan, however, cannot begin and end with him.

"We are not preparing for No. 4; we are

See **DOUGHERTY** 10A



Special Photo: Submitted
Calhoun County running back Quintin Edwards scored four touchdowns on nine carries with 237 yards Friday night. He leads the entire state of Georgia in rushing with more than 1,700 yards this season.

Friday Night Five: Quintin Edwards is Player of the Week

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Quintin Edwards, Calhoun County

Most running backs need an entire night to reach 237 yards. Quintin Edwards needed only nine carries.

The Calhoun County standout averaged an eye-popping 26.3 yards per attempt and scored four touchdowns as the Cougars defeated Southwest Georgia STEM Charter 44-22. Nearly half of Edwards' carries ended in the end zone.

"Quintin is a great football player and an even better young man," Calhoun County coach Deshon Brock said. "He embodies everything you would want in a student-athlete on and off the field. He is extremely talented, yet humble.

"He can do everything you would want a feature back to do, and he is a great teammate and leader."

Edwards' explosive performance earns him Albany Herald Player of the Week honors and leads this week's Friday Night Five.

PASSING

1. Cohen Lawson, Lee County — 13 of 14, 237 yards, 4 TDs
2. Maddox Skipper, Deerfield-Windsor — 14 of 21, 172 yards
3. Preston Hurst, Baconton Charter — 6 of 11, 152 yards
4. Lyndon Worthy, Worth County — 9 of 12, 145 yards, 3 TDs
5. Bryse Peachey, Terrell Academy — 5 of 8, 80 yards

RUSHING

1. Quintin Edwards, Calhoun County — 9 carries, 237 yards, 4 TDs
2. Bryse Peachey, Terrell Academy — 22 carries, 200 yards, 2 TDs
3. Rae'Shawn Clyde, Randolph-Clay — 24 carries, 179 yards, 2 TDs
4. Jymerion Roddy, Lee County — 5 carries, 125 yards, 1 TD
5. Kelvin Tyler, Worth County — 5 carries, 84 yards, 1 TD

RECEIVING

1. Kayden Logue, Baconton Charter — 4 catches, 138 yards, 1 TD
2. Jack Hallford, Deerfield-Windsor — 4 catches, 94 yards, 1 TD
3. Jamarion Nelson, Worth County — 3 catches, 82 yards, 1 TD
4. Jaden Upshaw, Lee County — 6 catches, 65 yards, 1 TD
5. Destin Bell, Lee County — 3 catches, 60 yards, 1 TD

Pritchard, Rucker pitch Worth into Round 2

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

SYLVESTER — Crisp County finally scored against Worth County on Monday afternoon.

One run. Four games. Thirty-nine for the Lady Rams.

That tells the story of just how thoroughly No. 2 Worth County has controlled its Region 1 rival this season.

The Lady Rams defeated Crisp County 6-0 and 10-1 at Ram Park, sweeping their best-of-three series and advancing to the second round of the GHSA Class 3A state playoffs.

Worth County will host Jackson next Monday in another best-of-three series. Game times were still being finalized, but Lady Rams coach Zach Mauldin said he planned to begin the doubleheader at 4 p.m.

"I'm proud of the way we played," Mauldin said.

There was plenty to appreciate.

Worth County received two more dominant pitching performances, played error-free defense in both games and finished the afternoon with 20 hits. When the offense struggled to find its usual rhythm in the opener, Laurie Pritchard made sure it did not matter.

Pritchard struck out 12 and limited Crisp to three hits over seven shutout innings. She walked two and never allowed the Lady Cougars to generate enough pressure to threaten the lead.

The Lady Rams went ahead in the first inning when Kayelee Mathews' fielder's choice brought home a run. They added three more in the second behind RBI singles from Isabelle Hancock and Pritchard.

Hancock finished 2-for-3 and drove in three runs, while Kamryn Kendrick added two hits. Worth County also drew seven walks and did not commit an error.

"We didn't have our best game offensively in Game 1," Mauldin said.

The Lady Rams fixed that problem in Game 2.

After two scoreless innings, Worth County strung together four singles in the third. Austyn Kate Rucker drove home the first run, and the Lady Rams began to pull away.

Then Ellasyn Gandy changed the game with one swing.

Gandy launched a three-run homer over the center-field fence in the fourth inning, turning a growing Worth County lead into another runaway. She finished with two hits and four RBIs, including a run-scoring single in the third.

"Ellasyn with the big home run really got us going," Mauldin said. "AK, Kayelee and Kam all stepped up big in Game 2."

Mathews went 3-for-4, while Kendrick collected two hits and stole two bases. Rucker joined Gandy with four RBIs as the Lady Rams piled up 12 hits and ended the game after five innings.

Rucker also handled matters in the circle, allowing one run on five hits while striking out five and walking one.

Crisp's lone run was notable only because it was the first the Lady Cougars had scored against Worth County all season. The Lady Rams won the four meetings 17-0, 6-0, 6-0 and 10-1, outscoring Crisp 39-1.

Pritchard and Rucker combined for 17 strikeouts Monday while allowing eight hits and one run.

"Laurie and AK continued to pitch great," Mauldin said. "They are both a force to reckon with in the circle. Another great job by those two."

The Lady Rams were equally reliable behind them. Worth County did not commit an error in either game, preventing Crisp from gaining the extra baserunners that can change a postseason series.

That combination—dominant pitching, clean defense and a lineup capable of erupting without warning—has made Worth County one of the most dangerous teams in Class 3A.

It will be tested again Monday.

Jackson advanced by dismantling Columbia 18-0 and 19-0. Worth County outscored Crisp 16-1 in its sweep, meaning

See **WORTH**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Worth County's Laurie Pritchard connects for a hit Monday against Crisp County at Ram Park in Sylvester. Pritchard also struck out 12 batters in a three-hit shutout as the Lady Rams swept the series 6-0 and 10-1 to advance in the Class 3A playoffs.

Terrell, Deerfield-Windsor meet again

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

COLUMBUS — Terrell Academy and Deerfield-Windsor know each other well.

Perhaps too well.

The longtime rivals have already met twice this softball season. On Thursday, they will see each other again—this time with considerably more at stake.

Second-seeded Terrell Academy and No. 7 Deerfield-Windsor will open the GIAA Class AAA state tournament at noon Thursday at the South Commons Softball Complex. The matchup is among the first games of the three-day, double-elimination tournament featuring the state's top eight teams.

Both teams will play again later Thursday, with their opponent and game time determined by the opening-round results.

Terrell Academy (12-7) enters as one of the tournament favorites after finishing behind only top-seeded Westfield, the nine-time defending state champion. Deerfield-Windsor earned the seventh seed during coach Dwayne Suggs' first season with the program.

The Lady Eagles dominated the two regular-season meetings, winning 18-1 and 13-3. Terrell coach Ashley Walker, however, does not want his team carrying those scores into Thursday's game.

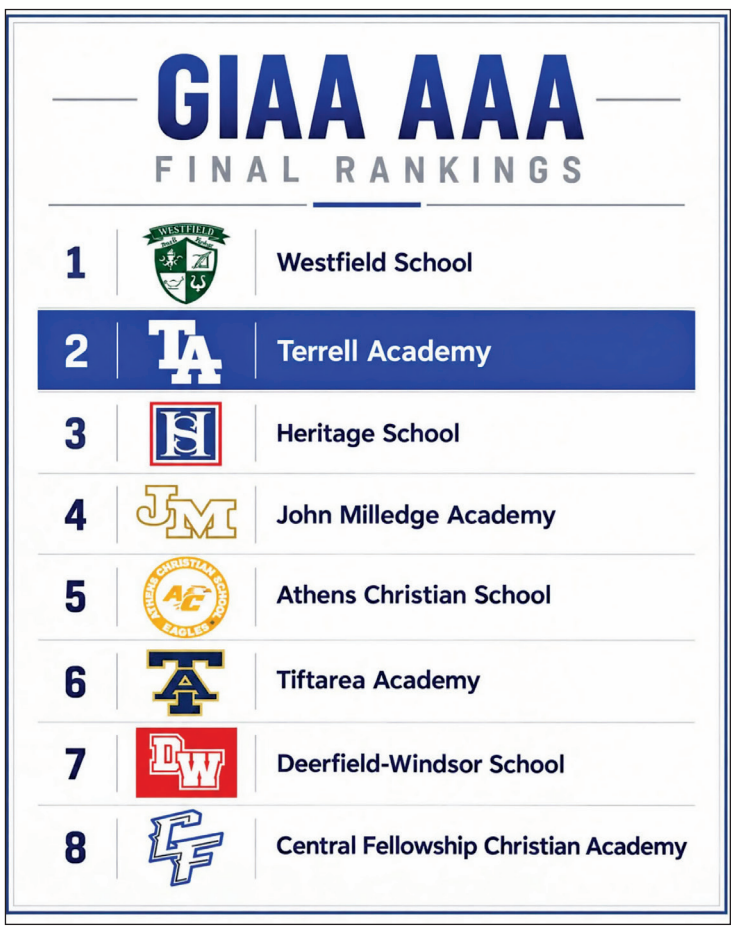
Past success will not provide runs in Columbus. It will not record an out or move Terrell into the winners' bracket.

Walker wants his players focused on the approach that helped them earn the No. 2 seed.

"I'm telling them to stay true to what we have been doing," he said. "We have to stay consistent and confident about our identity. We can't go out and put unnecessary pressure on ourselves in different situations."

That message carries particular importance in a double-elimination format, where one difficult inning does not have to end a season—but one loss can make the road to the championship considerably longer.

See **MEET** 10A



Special Graphic

From 9A

MEET

"We have to adapt and adjust from game to game," Walker said. "We have to go out and control the rhythm and flow of the game."

Terrell has prepared for this week by playing an ambitious regular-season schedule. The Lady Eagles deliberately sought difficult opponents and uncomfortable situations with the hope that both would pay dividends when the tournament arrived.

That schedule helped produce the state's No. 2 seed and another opportunity in Columbus.

The Lady Eagles reached the championship game last season before falling to Westfield. Returning to that stage will require a veteran core led by seniors Caroline Pressley, Hadley Webb, Alyssa Godwin and Laine Brown.

Those four have experienced the pressure of the state tournament and understand how quickly momentum can turn when every team in the bracket is capable of ending another's season.

Deerfield-Windsor arrives from the opposite direction.

The Lady Knights have only two seniors, Laiyah Williams and Kambrell Williams, on a roster that has spent much of Suggs' first season learning and developing through difficult competition. What Deerfield lacks in experience, it can counter with the freedom that comes with being the lower seed.

The Lady Knights have nothing to lose—and no reason to be intimidated by a familiar opponent.

Terrell, meanwhile, must resist the temptation to expect Thursday's game to resemble the first two meetings. The setting has changed. The pressure has increased. Deerfield gets another chance.

Walker's final instructions have been less about strategy than perspective.

"I told them to relax and have fun," he said. "The hard part is over. Now we just play the game we love to play."

The regular season established the seeds. It gave Terrell two decisive victories and placed the Lady Eagles one spot behind the most accomplished program in the tournament.

None of it guarantees what happens next.

At noon Thursday, the records and previous scores become background noise.

Two rivals will meet again. This time, the road to a state championship begins on the other side.

ASU prepares for noise, history at Tuskegee

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

Now comes the harder part: taking that performance on the road and proving it can travel.

The Golden Rams will visit Tuskegee at 2 p.m. Saturday, stepping into one of the SIAC's most historic venues for a game carrying significantly more intrigue than the teams' records suggest.

Albany State is 3-3 overall and 3-1 in the conference following a 51-0 demolition of Lane. Tuskegee is 2-4 and 2-2, has lost two straight and recently fired head coach Aaron James.

That does not make the Golden Tigers harmless. It might make them dangerous.

"This is a good football team that is in transition and has something to prove," Albany State coach David Bowser said.

Tuskegee relieved James of his duties Oct. 4, one day after a 30-28 loss to rival Morehouse. Longtime assistant and offensive line coach Keith Higdon was named interim coach while the university conducts a national search.

Higdon's influence was immediately noticeable.

In his first game leading the program, Tuskegee ran 49 times for a season-high 255 yards in a 27-19 loss at Central State. Ja'Khael Rowser rushed for 106 yards, his third consecutive 100-yard performance, while quarterback Bryson McGrew added 93.

"The offense is led by a very good run game," Bowser said. "They also play three quarterbacks. We have to keep them in second-and-long."

Saturday will be Tuskegee's first home game since the coaching change, and Bowser expects an energized crowd at Cleve L. Abbott Memorial Alumni Stadium.

Albany State is preparing accordingly.

The Golden Rams plan to pipe crowd noise and music into practice this week, forcing players to communicate while learning to tune out everything that will surround them Saturday.

"It's a tough place to play," Bowser said. "You have the history and the mystique. We have to take all of that out of it and block out all the things around us."

That means eliminating a problem that has followed Albany State throughout the season: penalties.

Bowser wants the Golden Rams to remain aggressive and physical without allowing enthusiasm to become carelessness. Penalties can derail drives, erase explosive plays and give a struggling opponent the momentum it needs.

"We've got to get these penalties down," Bowser said. "Sometimes we're overzealous."

The challenge comes one week after Albany State played its most complete game of the season.

The Golden Rams outgained Lane 388-89, rushed for 245 yards and never punted. Their defense held the Dragons to minus-18 rushing yards, while the offense, defense and special teams each produced touchdowns.

Quarterback Jeffery "JD" Davis threw two touchdown passes and ran for two more scores. Albany State's defense and special teams overwhelmed Lane before the game had time to settle.

Bowser wants the same physical edge Saturday, only with greater discipline.

Tuskegee's defense will make that difficult.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Former Dougherty standout Chauncie Brown takes a breath on the sidelines during Saturday's game against Lane. Brown played a key role in helping the Golden Rams hold Lane scoreless in Albany State's 51-0 win.

"TU has a very good interior defensive line," Bowser said. "They are aggressive on the perimeter of the defense, and they are very sound."

For Albany State, the formula is straightforward: establish the running game, control the tempo and stay ahead of the chains. Doing that would keep the Golden Rams' defense rested and prevent Tuskegee's crowd from becoming a factor.

"We must be able to run the football, control the play clock and eliminate the penalties while still being aggressive and physical," Bowser said.

Albany State has won the past two meetings, including a 7-3 defensive struggle last season. But Saturday represents something different.

Tuskegee will be playing at home for the first time under an interim coach. Albany State will be trying to prove last week's rout was more than one enjoyable Homecoming afternoon.

The music will be loud in practice this week. It will be louder in Tuskegee.

Bowser's message is to ignore the noise, respect the history and play clean football.

UGA's Kirby Smart: Humility is one week away

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ATHENS — Georgia returned from Tuscaloosa with the nation's No. 1 ranking, a long-awaited victory over Alabama and a warning from Kirby Smart.

Humility is always one week away.

This week, it is wearing orange and blue.

The Bulldogs have barely had time to enjoy Saturday's 20-17 victory at Bryant-Denny Stadium before preparing for another old rival. Georgia hosts Auburn at 3:30 p.m. Saturday Between the Hedges in the 131st meeting of the Deep South's Oldest Rivalry.

Georgia is 6-0. Auburn is 3-2. The Bulldogs have won nine consecutive meetings and are 10-1 against the Tigers under Smart.

That is exactly the kind of résumé that makes coaches nervous.

Auburn had an open date to rest and watch Georgia trade blows with Alabama for four quarters. The Bulldogs returned to Athens battered, emotionally drained and carrying the weight that accompanies a No. 1 ranking.



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Georgia tight end Jaden Reddell turns upfield after making a catch Saturday against Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Reddell and the No. 1 Bulldogs return home to face rival Auburn this Saturday.

"We watched the tape of it," Smart said. "It was extremely physical, and this one's going to be really physical, too. I promise you the page for us is focused on this Auburn team."

Georgia's depth was tested before the Alabama game began. With running backs Nate Frazier and Chauncey Bowens unavailable, Dwight Phillips Jr. made his first career start.

Phillips responded with 120 yards on 17 carries. Bo Walker added 69 yards as Georgia ran for 206 against one of the nation's strongest rushing defenses.

At 5-foot-11 and 180 pounds, Phillips does not resemble the bruising backs who have traditionally carried Georgia's offense. When the Bulldogs needed toughness, however, their smallest running back supplied plenty.

"His vision, his unique toughness for his size and his speed," Smart said. "He has great vision, a great one-cut, and he's got great toughness. His speed is elite."

Georgia also has Gunner Stockton. The fifth-year quarterback completed 18 of 22 passes for 249 yards against Alabama and directed the decisive 84-yard drive during the final five minutes.

The Bulldogs average 46.2 points and 474.8 yards per game. Their 277 points are the most through six games in school history.

Auburn will counter with an aggressive defense coordinated by DJ Durkin and an offense built around the tempo and vertical passing concepts of first-year coach Alex Golesh.

Smart, however, sees something more basic underneath Auburn's scheme.

"They're physical," he said. "They're physical at the point of attack."

Georgia leads the series 66-56-8, and its nine-game winning streak matches the longest by either school in the rivalry. Smart is 5-0 against Auburn in Athens.

The history is lopsided. The records are lopsided. The expectations will be lopsided.

Rivalries do not always respect any of them.

Georgia proved plenty in Tuscaloosa. Saturday, the Bulldogs must prove they can stop looking backward long enough to protect everything that victory gave them.

Alabama is now a memory.

And humility is only one week away.

From 9A

WORTH

the two teams enter the second round having outscored their opening opponents by a combined 53-1.

Jackson is coming to Sylvester without allowing a run.

Worth County will be waiting with two dominant pitchers, a deep lineup and another home playoff series at Ram Park.

From 9A

DOUGHERTY

preparing for Cairo," Joyner said. "You can't just focus on one player because Cairo has so many talented athletes."

Among those athletes are Xiquavian Teal and Laderrick Perkins, two playmakers capable of turning one missed tackle into six points. Quarterback Bryce Puckett gives the Syrupmakers another way to strike.

"That No. 1 and that No. 2 can hurt you at any time," Joyner said. "And their quarterback is good, too. He can make big plays."

The responsibility of containing them falls to a Dougherty defense with playmakers of its own.

Georgia Southern commitment Eric Spann leads the Trojans with nine tackles per game. Trevon Williams and JerMarcus Potts average 8.4 apiece, while sophomore defensive end Mekaih Redding has recorded a team-high five sacks.

Dougherty has had an open week to rest, study and prepare. Cairo enters with momentum, seven victories and a No. 4 state ranking.

Neither advantage will matter much after kickoff.

Cairo finishes its schedule against Columbus and Bainbridge. Dougherty still must play Bainbridge, Westover and Hardaway. Friday's winner will not clinch the region championship, but it will seize control of the race.

There will be stars all over the field. There will be college prospects, explosive receivers and two quarterbacks capable of changing the game with one throw.

But first place may belong to whichever group controls that crowded space up front.

Cairo brings one of Georgia's best defensive lines.

Dougherty counters with its "misfits."

Friday night, somebody takes first place.

Braves face offseason full of questions

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ATLANTA — The Braves won another division championship because they refused to go away.

Then October arrived and reminded them that perseverance is an admirable quality, not a postseason pitching plan.

Atlanta survived enough injuries to win the National League East for the seventh time in nine seasons. It escaped the wild-card round, too. Against the two-time defending World Series champion Dodgers, however, the Braves finally encountered a problem they could not outlast.

They ran short of healthy pitchers. They also ran short of answers.

That makes the rotation the first and largest question confronting president of baseball operations Alex Anthopoulos.

Chris Sale is the closest thing Atlanta has to a certainty. Spencer Schwellenbach recently had a screw placed in his pitching elbow. Spencer Strider has resumed throwing bullpen sessions, but his recent history makes projecting 30 starts an act of faith rather than responsible planning.

Anthopoulos knows the difference.

"I don't think it'd be responsible to sit here and say, 'OK, those guys are going to start 30 games and throw 180 innings,'" he said Sunday.

That is executive language for this: Help is needed.

Grant Holmes remains a possibility. So does Didier Fuentes, whose electric arm played well in the bullpen and might eventually become even more valuable in the rotation. The issue is not whether Fuentes has starter-quality talent. It is whether a pitcher who worked slightly more than 70 innings can suddenly carry 150 or more.

That is a bridge to cross carefully, not leap blindly.

Tyler Mahle offers a more immediate solution. Acquired from San Francisco on Aug. 2, he gave the Braves exactly what they needed during the stretch run: dependable innings and reasons to want him back.

Atlanta has an exclusive negotiating window with Mahle until the World Series ends. Anthopoulos did not promise a reunion, but he did not hide his appreciation.

"I couldn't be more pleased with what he did," he said.

Pitching will dominate the offseason, but it is not Atlanta's only concern.

Jurickson Profar has now had performance-enhancing drug suspensions derail the Braves' plans in consecutive seasons. Whether there should be a third attempt is among the internal discussions awaiting the front office.

Then there is Austin Riley.



Special Photo: Braves.com

Braves president of baseball operations Alex Anthopoulos faces a pivotal offseason as Atlanta weighs pitching concerns and other roster decisions following its playoff exit.

For two years, injuries provided a reasonable explanation for Riley's decline. This season removed that defense without restoring his offense. Anthopoulos praised Riley as a defender and teammate, and both descriptions are fair. The Braves, however, are not paying Riley merely to be pleasant and sure-handed.

They need the hitter who once appeared capable of anchoring the middle of their order.

"He's still a young player and is capable of so much more," Anthopoulos said.

Mauricio Dubón created a different dilemma by doing nearly everything Atlanta asked. Injuries to Michael Harris II and Ronald Acuña Jr. forced him into the outfield, but Anthopoulos said he would be comfortable with Dubón at shortstop. The complication is that Dubón is headed for free agency, where versatility tends to become expensive.

The coaching staff appears likely to remain intact. Anthopoulos said continuity matters and expressed satisfaction with manager Walt Weiss' staff.

Continuity is useful. Reinforcements would be better.

The Braves proved they still know how to survive a regular season. They won the East despite injuries that might have broken a lesser club. That deserves credit.

The Dodgers provided the less comfortable lesson.

Surviving long enough to reach October is one achievement. Building a roster equipped to win once it gets there is another.

Information for this article came from Braves.com, Mark Bowman.

VDL group to add 120 new jobs in Hall County



PAT WILSON

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

OAKWOOD – VDL Groep, a global Dutch mechanical engineering and equipment manufacturer, will invest an estimated $77 million over the next several years to expand its footprint in Hall County, creating approximately 120 new jobs.

"Companies like VDL Groep not only continue to choose Georgia for an initial investment, they also choose to grow their footprint here again and again because of our pro-business environment and partnership approach," Gov. Brian Kemp said. "That includes our efforts to be the Top State for Talent, so manufacturers like VDL Groep have the reliable, highly-skilled workforce they need to succeed."

VDL Industries Gainesville, part of Netherlands-based VDL Groep, is a turnkey partner in the development and manufacturing of high-tech systems. The unique combination of technical expertise and high-quality craftsmanship under one roof enables VDL to provide integral solutions in the high-tech semiconductor, foodtech, mobility and infratech sectors. Currently employing approximately 70 people in Hall County, VDL has already strengthened its position in sheet metal fabrication, welding, machining and cleanroom system integration.

"To facilitate and supply our customers worldwide, we invest in employees, machinery, and facilities at our locations across three continents (Europe, Asia, America), including VDL Industries Gainesville," Willem van der Leegte, president & CEO of VDL Groep, said. "For VDL Groep, the State of Georgia is an attractive base because of its connectivity to the entire U.S., which is a world leader in the high-tech and semiconductor market."

VDL will purchase and expand the building it currently leases at 5459 Aloha Way in Oakwood. The expansion will add large-milling capability and an expanded cleanroom for manufacturing semiconductor capital (semicap) equipment. Construction is expected to be completed in 2028, and hiring is expected to begin in Q4 2026.

Regional Project Manager Brandon Lounsbury represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development on this competitive project in partnership with the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and Georgia Power.

"The Netherlands is one of Georgia's top five trade and investment partners in Europe, and VDL Industries' manufacturing facility in Oakwood has played a role in that story for eight years," GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. "We are thrilled that they are part of Dutch investment bringing more than $1 billion and planning at least 2,400 new jobs over the last 10 years. In turn, Georgia prides itself on being a reliable partner with a strategic location offering connectivity, workforce, and shovel-ready sites that companies need to scale up local-to-local manufacturing."

From 2A

METH

flee when officers approached, throwing a bag containing 11 grams of methamphetamine, but he was quickly apprehended. James, who was in the passenger seat of the car, moved into the driver's seat but stopped when ordered by deputies.

During a search of the car, officers found four plastic baggies containing a total of 81 grams of methamphetamine, along with a digital scale with methamphetamine residue, and James's iPhone.

The Lowndes County Sheriff's Office is investigating the case, with assistance from the District Attorney's Office for the Southern Judicial Circuit. Assistant U.S. Attorney Sonja Profit is prosecuting the case for the government.

Obituaries



Beverly Clay Hocutt

February 20, 1941 - October 2, 2026

Beverly Clay Hocutt, our dearly loved "Memaw", passed away peacefully at home on October 2, 2026.

As we mourn her loss, we also celebrate the love, joy, and generosity of a remarkable woman. We will remember her as a loving mother, a doting grandmother and a kind soul.

Beverly Jean Clay was born on February 20,1941 in Atlanta, the youngest of four children born to Eugene Lee Clay and Grace Stewart Clay.

It was graduation day on June 4th, 1959 at Southwest High School in Atlanta, when Beverly Jean Clay walked across the stage and imagined a life of dreams that lay ahead. She didn't have to wait long. That same month, after a courtship of writing love letters back and forth, she married Ralph Agrippa Hocutt Jr. and left Atlanta for Birmingham, Alabama.

She was shy and he was gregarious. She was a great cook and he was a great eater. For years, she would make his breakfast while he read her the morning paper. They were made for each other.

In their first three years of marriage, they had three children: Catherine Ann Hocutt, David Lee Hocutt and Rhonda Faye Hocutt. Motherhood became her expertise, and she tended to her family with great care, love and devotion.

After a move to St. Louis, the family settled in Albany in 1967, in a home Beverly loved and lived in for nearly 60 years. She enrolled in nursing school and became an L.P.N. caring for patients at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

In 1992, she and Ralph had the joy of filling their empty nest with daughter Rhonda and oldest granddaughter Megan Piper. Beverly rejoiced in and embraced motherhood all over again.

She was blessed with three more grandchildren: William Isern, Hannah Cain (Coty) and Shayna Rix (Brandon). Megan White (Greg) gave her four great-grandchildren: Cooper, Amelia, Graham and Evelyn White.

Beverly loved gardening in her tree-filled yard, her dogs and the quiet solitude and wildlife of the mountains. For many years, she and Ralph spent time together in their cabin in North Georgia and generously shared it with friends and family.

After her beloved Ralph died in 2021, Beverly could often be found sitting and talking with her daughter and best friend, Rhonda, or on her front porch, marveling at her life.

After living out that life she imagined and more, having had all of her dreams come true, now she is with Ralph again. Breakfast is on the stove, he is reading to her, and she is listening, just as she always did.

Mr. Leslie Garrett Williams

Leslie Garrett Williams passed away on October 21, 2025, in Kennesaw, Ga at the Brickmont senior living facility. He was born on August 7,1939, the son of Tascar Williams Sr and Claudia Garrett Williams.

Leslie graduated from Albany High School and upon graduation joined the United States Navy where he served as a dental technician. After his naval service, he began a lengthy career with Delta Airlines in Atlanta, Ga. Upon his retirement from Delta, he moved to Kennesaw, Ga where he enjoyed spending time with his beloved dog, Alfie, with friends, family and traveling. He is predeceased by his parents and his brother, Tascar Williams Jr. He is survived by his son, Michael Williams and daughter-in-law, Leslie, of Matthews, N.Carolina; his daughter, Leslie Anne Williams De'Lea of Weeki Wachee, Florida; seven grandchildren; his brother, Fred Williams of Nocatee, Fla; and his sister, Tasca Williams Hagler, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. A graveside memorial and internment of his ashes will be held at Crown Hill Cemetery on October 19, 2026, at 10 am. Those desiring so may make a memorial donation to the Sally Wetherbee Adoption Center in care of the Albany Humane Society.



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.

"W L N A J X K S J Y L D D L D K D A G A D X W Q L Z A Q X D A Q K M A J. M Y A X ' D A U L M Y K U L I M Z I U G A D M O S R A H F A W M K M O L S Z ... M O N O S R K S J M L S A." — B K W Y W D A R R A D

Previous Solution: "My father was one of my biggest supporters. He always tried to motivate me and, more important, get me to set my goals high." — Sally Ride

TODAY'S CLUE: C = W

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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.

"I W B W D T K P K O T X R P S R X Z K P O P P K I O L K D I B X P M ... X I ' Z W P D G P K I O L K D C W L I B R V K M X S Z H R D D I W A L R K E ... T W P ' I D R I X I U K Y R L." — S K L W D S B K P P X P M

Previous Solution: "Comedy and horror are very closely related. They're both about subverting expectations ... timing and tone." — Zach Cregger

TODAY'S CLUE: R = L

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 dummy (10)	
2 marathon energy sources (4)	
3 watch from the bleachers (8)	
4 busy little bird (7)	
5 insipid (6)	
6 rotund (9)	
7 lap counter (9)	

PWA NI OMP PAL ECT
KIN COR SP STO OOP
ENT GE LID NC ET
LS TCH GL ATE PUL

Wednesday's Answers: 1. CHILLING 2. WISDOM 3. MARVELING 4. GREY 5. NONCHALANT 6. SARAH 7. PODOLOGIST 10/15

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 spun around (7)	
2 word in ingredients list (8)	
3 straight out of the toaster (10)	
4 Italian luxury label (7)	
5 pickleball's kitchen (9)	
6 Japan's "dragonfly island" (6)	
7 get like Heinlein (4)	

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FOR HON ED UNB CON
ER GR IRL URT VE

Thursday's Answers: 1. NINCOMPOOP 2. GELS 3. SPECTATE 4. KINGLET 5. PALLID 6. CORPULENT 7. STOPWATCH 10/16

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS
1 __ bass
5 Support before a run, perhaps
9 One way to take the bull by the horns?
14 Gilded element in some religious art
15 "The Good Dinosaur" dinosaur
16 In base eight
17 Gas vs. electric?
19 Play lightly
20 Course selection for a student with senioritis, maybe
21 Mind
23 Hose shade
24 Kenwood vs. Sony?
27 Benders
31 Ruling to restart court proceedings
32 Arctic Monkeys lead singer Turner
33 Denny's rival
37 Subtle vibes
41 Old World vs. New World?
44 Katana, e.g.
45 Average
46 Home of the Taj Mahal
47 The whole lot
49 Country legend Willie
51 Montagues vs. Capulets?
57 Sufi mystic who wrote the six-volume poem the Masnavi
58 See 48-Down
59 "You got that right"
64 Green shade
66 Carnivore vs. vegetarian?
68 Stanley's "The Devil Wears Prada" role
69 Not on board with
70 Whipped up
71 Twitch
72 Overflow (with)
73 Quaint cry

DOWN
1 Card dispenser
2 Heavy-duty soap made by WD-40
3 Some drafts
4 Petting zoo ride
5 Paving gunk
6 Clutch
7 "I was home watching TV all night," e.g.
8 Birling contest
9 Spanish article
10 "Quick, look like you're not up to something!"
11 Confident gait
12 __ Arabia
13 Early Mesoamerican civilization
18 Expose
22 Runway letters
25 "That is to say ... "
26 Aqua kin
27 Egg pouches
28 Snowbank creator
29 Silver State city
30 Boosts in some games
34 Cutting edge of fashion?
35 Common Scrabble tile value
36 School org.
38 Semis
39 Curly coif
40 Superfan
42 Asian rice cake
43 Green Gables girl
48 With 58-Across, exercise venue
50 Really bad grades
51 Does a laundry chore
52 Spring bloom
53 Latina friend
54 Like some lean products
55 Yankees manager Aaron
56 Street corn often topped with cotija
60 Cartoon supplier of instant roads
61 Steep rock
62 "I did it!"
63 Went fast
65 Shade tree
67 Darken

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

10/15/26

By Wyatt Johnston
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10/15/26

Albany Museum of Art's HeART of Albany fest will move to Tift Park

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Art enthusiasts can daydream out loud on Nov. 7 when the Albany Museum of Art brings the ninth annual Heart of Albany Festival to Tift Park.

In addition to professional chalk artists competing for Best in Show by creating chalk paintings that embody the festival's daydreaming theme, artists in different media, from cool painting to hot glass, will showcase their talents during the free event, which takes place from 10 a,m, to 5 p.m.

Musicians and performers will take the stage throughout the day, including magician Evan Dupree, whose skills with illusions have wowed audiences and television viewers in his appearances on "The Tonight Show" and "America's Got Talent." Kids can have fun in the Vine Vision AMAzing Activities area, and festival-goers can stroll through the Vendor Village for unique items and grab a bite at one of the food trucks.

"Tift Park is a beautiful location, and it's just a few blocks from downtown, where the new home for the Albany Museum of Art will be," Executive Director Andrew James Wulf said. "We appreciate our partners with the city of Albany and the Albany Recreation and Parks Department for making the festival's move to Tift Park possible. It will be an exciting day, and we hope everyone will come out and enjoy all of the art, entertainment and activities."

"Albany Recreation and Parks Department is extremely excited to reconnect with the Albany Museum of Art and assist with this year's Heart of Albany event," Velvet Poole, the recreation superintendent of the recreation and parks department, said. "We look forward to bringing our community together through art, creativity, and family fun, and to partnering on many more events in the future."

Art will be created in real time as professional chalk artists complete 49-square-foot or larger artworks on pavement as they work to capture the daydreaming theme. Student groups and amateur artists also will compete for recognition as they complete smaller chalk art paintings on the pavement.

The festival also will include artists in other disciplines creating works during the day, and some will have pieces for sale to festival-goers. Confirmed artists include painter Hugh Cunningham, photographer James Malphrus, and artist Remington Adams.

"We will have members of the Hot Glass Academy in Americus back this year," Director of Education and Public Programming Annie Van Oteghem said. "At last year's festival, there was a steady stream of festival-goers who were fascinated as they watched these artists create pieces of art out of molten glass."

Onstage, entertainment will be ongoing during the day. Singer Isaac Evans will kick off the event, and Ballet Theatre South will perform scenes from its upcoming performances of "The Nutcracker."

"There will be a new kind of magic on the stage and later mixing in with the crowd," Van Oteghem said. "Evan Dupree is a Warner Robins native who was inspired to pursue a career as a magician at the age of 8 when he saw David Copperfield on television."



Special Photo: Albany Museum of Artr

The Albany Museum of Art has partnered with the city of Albany's Recreation and Parks Department to bring this year's Fall Festival, set for Nov. 7, to Tift Park.

The Best in Show professional chalk artist and winners in the amateur chalk art categories will be announced in the afternoon, as will the winners of the third annual Student Art Exhibition at the Albany Museum of Art. When the student exhibition opens on Oct. 30 in the AMA's West Gallery, museum visitors can vote for their favorite student artwork for the People's Choice Award, which will be announced at the festival along with the winners in each student exhibition category.

Learn more about the Heart of Albany Festival, visit https://www.albanymuseum.com

Phoebe, Memorial Hospital & Manor partner to educate nurses who care for vulnerable babies

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, in partnership with Memorial Hospital & Manor of Bainbridge, is leading the way in creating a culture of nursing excellence in southwest Georgia through its Perinatal Fellowship Program.

As one of six designated regional perinatal centers in Georgia, Phoebe not only provides the region's most advanced neonatal intensive care for premature and critically ill babies from 22 counties, the hospital also provides expert nurses who share their knowledge with colleagues at health care facilities throughout the region. Five Memorial Hospital & Manor nurses recently completed the program that is designed to help hospitals throughout the region elevate their level of care and improve outcomes for their patients.

"Providing high-quality care means more than just serving those within the walls of our hospital; it also involves serving those within our region," Phoebe Neonatal Outreach Educator Mindy Spencer said. "As a regional perinatal center, Phoebe has the responsibility to educate staff in referring hospitals throughout our region, and we're grateful for our partnership with the hospital in Bainbridge and their commitment to this program and the continuing education of their nurses."

The 18-week Perinatal Fellowship Program involves rigorous self-study, classroom education and clinical training at Phoebe that includes participation in deliveries and direct patient care.

"We're taking everything we learned and passing it on to other nurses at our hospital," RN Shelby Smith, one of the recent graduates of the program from MHM, said. "We're able to teach them what we learned, and we know that will benefit our patients."

Veteran nurses and newer nurses agree the program has boosted their skills and confidence and strengthened their relationship with the team at Phoebe.

Jennifer Landrum, a nurse for 21 years, said, "Even after being a nurse for a long time, I'm still learning things that make me more comfortable in difficult situations. It's also great to see the rest of the story – what happens when we send our babies to Phoebe."



Special Photo: Phoebe

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital and Memorial Hospital & Manor nurses train in Phoebe's NICU.

During the first 16 weeks of the program, Phoebe Perinatal Outreach Educators travelled to Bainbridge to teach in the environment the nurses work in every day, utilizing the tools and equipment they use to care for their patients. Once that portion was completed, the nurses spent time in Phoebe's Labor & Delivery Unit and Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"Doing everything hands-on instead of just from a textbook helps me with learning new skills, RN Regina Leal-Kimble, who began her nursing career 2 1/2 years ago, said. "I believe what I've learned will help me be able to stabilize patients and keep them in our hospital whenever possible."

The program would not have been a success without the support and leadership of both facilities, officials said, adding success comes through commitment to excellence and investment in the staff.

"With collaboration among nursing leadership and access to valuable resources, Phoebe is able to innovatively enhance the professional development of perinatal nurses within our region," Phoebe Maternal Outreach Educator Ashton Petersen said. "This ultimately improves the quality of care our mothers and neonates receive throughout southwest Georgia."

The five Bainbridge nurses are the first to complete the Phoebe Perinatal Nurse Fellowship Program in several years, but others will soon follow.

"We're working with several other hospitals in the region to schedule courses for their nurses," Spencer said. "We're excited to re-energize this program because it teaches the most up-to-date and evidence-based care for obstetric and neonatal patients, and we know it truly benefits families in communities throughout southwest Georgia."

Symphony supporters to enjoy Mozart & Martinis

Staff Reports
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ALBANY -- The Albany Symphony Orchestra will celebrate the coming 2026-27 season with a Mozart & Martinis gathering at the 407 Duvernet home of Albany Mayor Bo and Bonny Dorough.on Oct. 20.

The season kickoff will include live music, martinis and hors d'eeuvres as symphony supporters discuss:

-- The introduction of the new Symphony League;

-- Preview the orchestra's 2026-27 season;

-- Share updates and plans for the orchestra;

-- Celebrate symphony musicians, supporters and friends.

Cost is $25 per person. Contact the symphony's offices at (229) 669-3191 or online at www.albanysymphony.org for additional information.





Special Photo: Daffodil Garden Club

Tim Yates' Whispering Pines home has been selected as the Daffodil Garden Club's Yard of the Month.

Whispering Pines home selected as garden club's Home of the Month

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Daffodil Garden Club has recognized the Whispering Pine Avenue home of Tim Yates as its October Yard of the Month.

Yates' love of gardening began at the age of 5, and more than seven decades later, that early passion has grown into a beautifully landscaped garden that reflects his knowledge, creativity and love for plants.

A landscape designer and former educator, Yates has lived at his Whispering Pines home for more than 57 years. Over those years, he has transformed the property into a garden filled with mature plantings, carefully shaped shrubs, winding paths, stonework and charming garden accents.

The garden invites visitors to slow down and explore. Garden paths lead through lush beds and around thoughtfully placed plantings, while mature trees provide shade and create a peaceful, established setting. Ornamental containers, statuary, stone borders and garden structures add interest and personality throughout the landscape.

One of the most striking features is the way Yates has incorporated natural stone and hardscaping into the garden. Stone pathways and low stacked-stone walls beautifully complement the surrounding greenery, creating a garden that feels both timeless and inviting.

Yates' talent as a landscape designer is evident in the garden's balance and structure, but perhaps most impressive is the feeling it creates — a peaceful outdoor space shaped by 57-plus years of gardening, experience and love for the land.

The Daffodil Garden Club celebrates the dedication and lifelong passion that have made Tim Yates' garden such a special part of the Whispering Pines neighborhood.