

Perspectives
Yonatan Hambourger
• Page 5A

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Land bank's deadline to reclaim blighted Radium Springs house expires

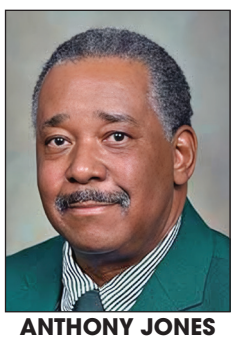
By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com



VICTOR EDWARDS



CLINTON JOHNSON



ANTHONY JONES

ALBANY — A house sold by the Albany-Dougherty Land Bank near the Radium Springs fishing pond remains unrepaired, but the deadline to reclaim it under the deed has expired, commissioners were told Monday.

The land bank's programs manager told the Dougherty County Commission that the property's two-year reverter clause had expired without significant repairs. The case has been referred to Code Enforcement.

The clause allows the land bank to take back property when buyers fail to meet conditions of the sale. Its expiration leaves the county pursuing a separate nuisance abatement process.

Commissioner Victor Edwards raised the issue during commissioner updates at the board's meeting last week, asking whether the county could reclaim the property.

The program's manager said every property the land bank sells carries a two-year reverter clause. During that period, buyers are expected to mow, maintain the property and pay taxes.

Officials outlined the next steps: Code Enforcement will issue a 30-day notice, followed by referral to the county attorney for abatement. That process includes notice that the county may place a lien on the property if it must intervene.

See **RECLAIM**, 2A

Barbara Rivera Holmes brings campaign for Labor commissioner to Albany

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – During a busy first political season as a campaigner for office, Georgia Secretary of Labor Barbara Rivera Holmes made a stop last week in the city she's called home for decades.

Such visits as the one on Wednesday are rare these days for the Republican nominee who was in the city for an event with Gov. Brian Kemp as part of a busy campaign. The first Latina to hold a statewide elected office in the state, she was appointed by Kemp in March 2025 to serve the remainder of the term of Labor Commissioner Bruce Thompson, who died in late 2024.

Prior to that she served as president and CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I felt perfectly positioned when Gov. Kemp (appointed me)," Holmes said. "Building on 20 years of workforce development and chamber leadership built me for this role in such a time as this."

The Democratic candidate in the race is Nikki Porcher, a former public school teacher who served in the U.S. Air Force.

The campaign has taken Holmes to every part of the state and allowed her to meet and speak with Georgians.

See **HOLMES** 2A



BARBARA RIVERA HOLMES

Small fish make big business for Southern farmers



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Katie Everett, a doctoral student at the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory, stands beside an aquarium display at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie. The exhibit introduces visitors to Florida's ornamental fish farming industry.

By Kathryn Crockett
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MOULTRIE — The fish in a University of Florida display at the annual Sunbelt Ag Expo this week were more than technicolor aquarium pets. They are farm products, representing a multimillion-dollar industry that depends on breeding, feeding and keeping some very small livestock alive.

"All the fish you see here are farmed in Florida," Katie Everett, a doctoral student at the university's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory, said.

The display brought that industry to southwest Georgia, where university representatives used the expo to introduce families, farmers and prospective students to agricultural work beyond familiar fields and pastures. For aquarium-fish producers, research can turn on a question as basic as what a newly hatched fish will eat.

The business is growing in sales value. U.S. ornamental-fish sales reached $77.1 million in 2023, up 77% from $43.5 million in 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of

See **FISH**, 2A

Pelham farmers turn hardship into a regenerative mission

By Kathryn Crockett
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MOULTRIE — When serious health problems disrupted April Workman's career, she and her husband, James, began reconsidering how they earned a living, raised their family and cared for their farm.

Part of their answer lay in materials already familiar to southwest Georgia agriculture: poultry manure and cotton gin waste.

The Pelham couple now turns those byproducts into compost through Waymaker Soil Solutions, using the products on their own farm and selling them to other growers. For James, owner and operator of Waymaker Soil Solutions and Waymaker Pecans, the approach centers on building the soil that supports a crop.

For April, the change also grew out of a deeply personal reassessment.

"We were just rushing out the door, going to all these meetings, doing all this stuff," she said during an interview at the Sunbelt Ag Expo here.

Her illness forced them to slow down. April said she experienced severe losses of function, including difficulty walking and speaking. As the couple considered how to replace her income, they began exploring a different approach to farming.

Their Christian faith helped guide those decisions, she said. A trip to Tampico, Ill., connected them with growers whose methods helped shape their own.

The Workmans began poultry farming in 2015. They already had some mature pecan trees, but expanded their investment in pecans in 2021, planting 5,500 trees, April said. Their operation includes 90 acres of pecans.

They initially farmed conventionally. Over roughly two years, James said, they began changing their fertility and crop-protection practices, relying more heavily on compost

See **PELHAM**, 2A



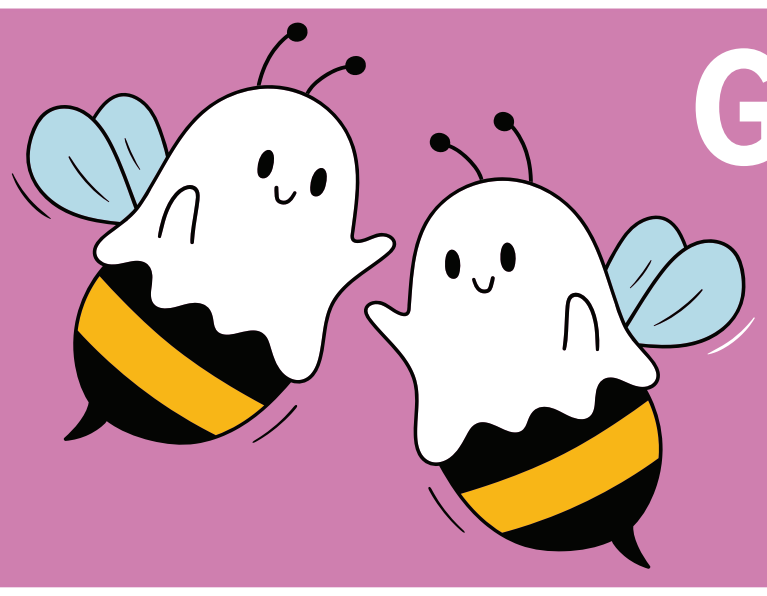
Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

April and James Workman stand at their Waymaker booth during the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie. The Pelham couple grows pecans and produces compost from poultry manure and cotton gin waste as part of their shift toward regenerative agriculture.

Periodical — Mail Label

INDEX

Classifieds	11A
Comics	6A-7A
Crosswords	6A-7A, 11A
Horoscopes	4A
Obituaries	11A
Perspectives	5A
Sports	9A-10A
Squawkbox	4A
TV - What to Watch	12A
Weather	4A



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Carr calls on convenience stores to remove kratom products

Staff Reports
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ATLANTA – Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr is calling on all convenience stores throughout the state to remove dangerous kratom products from their shelves immediately, particularly those products that are regularly marketed to children and teens.

"It shouldn't take legislation or law enforcement to do the right thing," Carr said. "Every minute these products remain on our shelves, innocent lives are put at risk. This problem could be solved today if all of our convenience stores step up, remove this poison from their shelves, and put safety first."

Carr issued his directive at a meeting of the Georgia House of Representatives Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Youth Exposure to Kratom and Retail Available Substances. He also pushed for a new law that would ban all kratom-derived products in the state, with a narrow list of approved items. As part of his remarks, Carr discussed the rising threat of kratom and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), an opioid-like substance that is addictive and roughly 13 times more potent than morphine. Manufacturers now synthesize 7-OH into tablets, gummies, shots and powders, then sell it as "kratom" at gas stations and smoke shops across the state.

In 2025, Carr warned Georgians about the dangers of kratom and other products containing 7-OH. He also recently authored an op-ed outlining his legislative proposal.

Last month, two University of Mississippi students, one of whom was from Georgia, were found dead in separate incidents in Oxford. While the investigation is ongoing, law enforcement recovered packaged kratom at the scene – the same type of kratom product that is sold in communities throughout the state.

In 2021, 23-year-old Ethan Pope died after consuming a liquid kratom product.

The Georgia Poison Center has handled roughly 543 kratom exposure cases since 2021, which includes a 66% increase in cases between 2022 and 2025, with the vast majority requiring treatment at a healthcare facility.

Carr argues that Georgia's existing law, the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, does not go far enough to address the issue. While this statute bans synthetic 7-OH outright, currently, law enforcement must find and identify a product, seize it as evidence, test it, and then prove what is in it.


CHRIS CARR

Carr is pushing for legislators to reverse the model – requiring that all kratom-related products be presumed illegal for retail sale unless the state has affirmatively approved it. Under this approach, policymakers would establish a short, public list of products that meet clear standards, such as independent lab testing, accurate labeling and federal marketing authorization. Products not included on that list would be treated as contraband, subject to seizure by any law enforcement agency anywhere in the state.

The state took a similar approach to address gray-market and counterfeit-stamped cigarettes years ago – treating them as contraband by statute and authorizing seizures.

Just last week, Carr hosted his final meeting of the Statewide Opioid Task Force – an initiative he launched in 2017 in response to the opioid crisis. Carr was joined by more than 150 public, private and nonprofit partners to share how far the state has come in this fight, highlighting several key stats and initiatives.

According to the CDC, overdose deaths in the U.S. declined for the third year in a row in 2025.

Last month, Carr's Gang Prosecution Unit secured the indictment of six individuals in Chatham County following a multistate investigation into the trafficking of illegal narcotics, including carfentanil, a synthetic opioid that is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl.

In 2024, Carr's Gang Prosecution Unit worked with law enforcement in Richmond County to seize 15 pounds of fentanyl, enough to kill 3.5 million Georgians.

Carr partnered with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia to prosecute a Savannah doctor who was operating a pill mill that dispensed massive amounts of controlled substances – sometimes in return for cash or sex.

By initiating legal action against opioid manufacturers, distributors and retail pharmacies, Carr has been able to secure more than 1 billion dollars for our state and local governments to expand access to critical treatment, prevention, and recovery services. The funds will be received and distributed over time, the majority of which will be administered by the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust.

Carr also pushed for the U.S. Senate to pass the HALT Fentanyl Act, legislation that closes the loophole for copycat fentanyl in federal law and saves American lives.

From 1A

PELHAM

and an extract made from it.

"We make our own compost now," April said. "We have poultry houses."

Their compost combines two parts cotton gin waste with one part poultry manure, according to the company's product description. They also produce a fertilizer made from composted chicken manure and a liquid compost extract. April said they apply the extract to foliage and through the irrigation system.

The process links the couple's poultry and pecan operations while creating another product to sell. Materials left from raising chickens and processing cotton become inputs for growing another crop.

That emphasis on recycling nutrients and improving soil is central to regenerative agriculture. University of Georgia researchers describe the approach as building soil health and organic matter while reducing dependence on outside inputs. Practices can include compost applications, cover crops and reduced tillage, with methods adapted to the farm.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service identifies four principles for soil health: minimizing disturbance, keeping soil covered, increasing biological diversity and maintaining living roots. Such practices can improve nutrient cycling, soil structure and water infiltration.

At Waymaker, James said, the transition involved watching how the trees responded.

He said the farm stopped using liquid nitrogen during the preceding season and reduced fungicide applications. This year, he said, its fertility program relied on composted poultry manure and compost extract, with supplemental zinc added to address a deficiency.

"We did have to add some zinc," he said. "That was the only deficiency that we had."

James said monthly tissue analyses helped track the trees' nutrient levels. He reported that some nutrients increased even when they were not being added individually.

Those observations have encouraged the couple.

The financial question matters alongside the biological one. In a UGA account of regenerative agriculture research, Tifton horticulturist Juan Carlos Díaz-Pérez emphasized that changes must work for both the land and the people earning a living from it.

"The challenge is to demonstrate that you can be sustainable both ecologically and financially," he said in the university report.

Soil-building practices also have an established place in pecan research. Another recommendation from the UGA Extension is the addition of crimson clover between orchard rows to supply nitrogen and build organic matter. The clover grows while pecan trees are dormant and produces seed in late spring and early summer.

For the Pelham couple, the farm also has become a place to test what they sell.

April said they initially marketed their products to backyard growers. Their own experience with struggling citrus trees helped persuade them to expand the approach across the farm. After applying compost supplied by their Illinois partners, she said, the trees began bearing fruit.

She attributed the improvement to the compost. The experience became part of the couple's decision to change their practices, rather than proof that the same treatment would produce identical results elsewhere.

The Workmans are experienced farmers, but their shift toward regenerative practices is still new. After gradually reducing conventional inputs, they made a broader change about a year ago, putting soil health at the center of their operation. April traces that turning point to her decision to step away from her work as a clinical pharmacist and administrator to prioritize her health and homeschool their three children.

At their first Sunbelt Ag Expo as exhibitors, the Workmans were sharing a business that had grown from that disruption — one tied to the soil beneath their trees and the livelihood they were rebuilding together.

For the Workmans, the shift ties their faith and family's health priorities to a more sustainable way of farming. Their own land is where they intend to show what those practices can do.

"We're going to be our own testimony," April said.

Rooted in faith, the Workmans say they hope the new growth on their farm will carry a message beyond it — that even after a season of hardship, renewal is possible.

From 1A

FISH

Aquaculture. Ornamental fish are raised for aquariums and decorative ponds rather than for food.

Florida accounted for more than $57 million in ornamental-fish sales in 2023, according to the University of Florida. The state's production includes freshwater and saltwater species, with freshwater fish making up about 90% of its ornamental fish.

Everett pointed to the Tampa Bay area's climate as one reason the industry has developed there.

"We raise lots of tropical fish here because the climate, especially around the Tampa Bay area, is really suitable for doing so," she said.

Florida producers raise more than 800 species and varieties of ornamental fish, including guppies, mollies, swordtails, tetras, koi and goldfish, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Production is concentrated in the state's southern half, where favorable winter temperatures and access to international airports help support the business.

Bringing that work across the state line is part of the university's outreach mission, Chris Vivian, the associate vice president of communications for UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, said.

"This is a great opportunity to meet families, and of course, farmers from across the Southeast," Vivian said.

State extension services share similar responsibilities while working with different commodities, she said. The expo provides a place to explain those differences and show visitors what researchers and producers are doing.

"It gives our universities a chance to talk to potential students," Vivian said.

Aquatic agriculture had other educational outlets at this year's Moultrie show. Inside the expo's Aquaculture Building, small aquaponics displays showed how fish and plants can be raised together. One setup used a 300-gallon tank with fish below and plants above, while a tabletop model illustrated how the same approach could bring lessons in biology, chemistry and mathematics into a classroom.

That connection between agriculture and classroom learning is already taking root in Albany. At the Commodore Conyers College and Career Academy, known as 4C Academy, agribusiness students grow lettuce hydroponically in a greenhouse, reporting harvests of roughly 800 heads every two weeks, many destined for school cafeterias in Dougherty County and beyond.

Hydroponics grows plants without soil, supplying nutrients through water. Aquaponics adds fish to the process: Microorganisms convert fish waste into nutrients plants can absorb, allowing water and nutrients to be reused. The academy's lettuce operation is an example of hydroponics, while the expo displays introduced visitors to the combined fish-and-plant approach.

South Georgia also has university expertise closer to home. UGA's Tifton campus offers aquaculture management among the subjects covered by its Animal and Dairy Science research and extension programs.

The interest extends beyond one exhibit. UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant reported that the inaugural Georgia Aquaculture Conference drew 117 farmers, researchers, policymakers and other participants to Athens in April 2025 to discuss subjects including farm management and market expansion.

Nationally, aquaculture farms with sales increased 18% between 2018 and 2023, reaching 3,453, USDA reported. Total sales rose 26% to $1.9 billion. Four Southern states — Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama — joined Washington as the five states accounting for 55% of U.S. aquaculture sales.

Georgia has its own examples of developing agricultural niches. UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant reported that the state's oyster-farming sector grew from one farm in 2017 to 10 in 2025, alongside training and technical assistance for growers.

On land, commercial citrus has expanded in southern Georgia. UGA Extension Agent Jake Price estimated the state had 3,936 planted citrus acres in 2023. His assessment also illustrated the risks: He estimated the December 2022 freeze killed 230 acres of newly planted trees.

For ornamental-fish farmers, one challenge comes much earlier in an animal's life.

Everett described research by a former graduate student, now a faculty member, into feeding larval fish. Researchers needed to determine when the fish begin eating, what they can consume and how to provide it.

"And that's a big bottleneck in ornamental aquaculture," Everett said.

A fish can hatch successfully and still fail to thrive if its first food is unsuitable. Everett said producers need "really, really tiny food that the fish actually recognize as being food."

Everett's own research focuses on non-native species, particularly reptiles and amphibians. Her doctoral work involves improving tools that assess whether a species is likely to become invasive, information she said could help inform rulemaking and public policy.

Everett says the projects address different problems, but both illustrate the practical work behind a university display: identifying a gap in knowledge and finding an answer someone can use.

For the producers raising aquarium fish, that answer may begin with a first meal.

"What size do they start feeding? How do they start feeding?" Everett said. "Our work is in finding solutions."

From 1A

RECLAIM

The discussion prompted questions about both the county's enforcement procedures and the conditions placed on land bank sales.

Commissioner Clinton Johnson said stronger requirements at the time of sale could help prevent properties from remaining blighted. He suggested requiring buyers to demonstrate financing, submit plans and meet construction milestones, with penalties or a provision allowing the land bank to reclaim properties if buyers fall short.

As an example, Johnson proposed requiring work to be 90% complete within two years.

"Just to protect ourselves from this cycle that tends to happen," Johnson said.

Edwards expressed frustration with lengthy enforcement cases and extensions granted by judges. He cited a property on Dorset Avenue that he said had remained an issue for about six years.

County Attorney Alex Shalishali said the county must follow the required legal process.

"There's no avoiding due process," Shalishali said.

The attorney told commissioners that state law governs the county's nuisance abatement procedures and that changes would require working with the local legislative delegation and the General Assembly.

Commissioner Anthony Jones asked whether the county could use its home rule authority to streamline the process. Shalishali said that authority would not allow the county to bypass state requirements.

Jones called for reviewing the procedures and talking with local judges about the delays.

The issue will go to the commission's Government Affairs Committee.



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From 1A

HOLMES

"Being out in the community, (seeing) what's going on in their lives, asking questions ... I've very much enjoyed this part of the campaign, learning about the lives, the hopes, then coming back to the office and making the economy stronger," Holmes said. "I'm out in communities every single day, meeting with our workers, in our job centers working on solutions to move Georgia forward."

During her tenure, the Puerto Rican native has overseen the rollout of UI Inspire that was launched in 2025. The system is meant to eliminate red tape, eliminate waste and reduce fraud. It will replace aging legacy software with modern technology offering what officials say is a smoother experience for jobseekers and employers.

"This is the (agency's) largest effort in state history," Holmes said. "(There are) improvements from an agency delivery standpoint. Modernizing the Department of Labor through new technology is one of my biggest priorities."

The goal of UI Inspire is to "serve Georgians at the speed of business," she said, and represents a business-minded approach.

One of the ways the department touches residents' lives is through re-employment efforts, which it does in partnership with the University System of Georgia and the state's technical colleges, the candidate said. Education and training allow jobseekers to be more competitive in the workforce.

The Labor Department's role is statewide, but Holmes said that it works to bring jobs throughout Georgia. In September the state marked a milestone 50-year low in unemployment claims.

"Last month, the governor announced 25,000 new jobs, 75% of which were outside metro Atlanta, delivering on his promise to bring opportunities to all parts of Georgia," Holmes said. "As a long-time Albany resident and economic developer, I have worked for decades to grow jobs and to grow the economy in Albany, and we have done that.

"The role of the Labor commissioner is statewide. We have 34 offices. We have 800 dedicated employees across the state."

After a year and a half on the job, Holmes is asking for a four-year term to continue the work started in 2025.

"This is a historic time in our economy," she said. "We are at a critical time in our state's history. It is critical we keep moving forward."

Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful to launch 'Litter is UnLawful' campaign

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful, in partnership with Dougherty County, will officially launch its "Litter is UnLawful" Campaign Wednesday to raise awareness about litter prevention and encourage residents to take an active role in keeping Albany and Dougherty County clean and green.

The campaign emphasizes community responsibility, environmental stewardship and the importance of protecting the appearance and well-being of local neighborhoods.

The campaign kickoff is scheduled Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Albany-Dougherty County Government Building, 222 Pine Ave. in downtown Albany.

The Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful Board, city and county leaders, and community representatives will take part in the event, which is being held to increase public awareness about litter prevention, encourage community involvement and promote shared responsibility for maintaining clean, attractive neighborhoods throughout Albany and Dougherty County.

As part of the initiative, KADB officials will encourage residents to invest in their neighborhoods by taking an active role in litter prevention and community beautification. A limited number of campaign signs will be available for placement in designated neighborhoods.

Officials noted the campaign reinforces a simple but important message: "If you see something, say something."

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Special Logo

Comedian Gary Owen plans to bring his national tour to Albany

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Special illustration

Comedian Gary Owen is scheduled to perform at the Albany Municipal Auditorium May 20

ALBANY - Comedian/actor Gary Owen is bringing his "Keep It Moving Tour" to the Albany Municipal Auditorium for an evening of bold, unapologetic stand-up comedy.

Tickets went on sale Friday for the May 20 show at the Albany venue.

Owen has built a loyal following through his sharp observational humor, fearless storytelling and hilarious takes on family, relationships, his military experience and the everyday situations that bring people together across backgrounds. Fans may recognize him from hit films including "Ride Along," "Think Like a Man," "Little Man" and "Daddy Day Care," as well as the television series "Tyler Perry's House of Payne."

Following his surge in popularity and sold-out performances at comedy clubs nationwide, Owen is taking his comedy to theaters across North America, bringing his signature style to audiences in Albany, in May of 2027.

Tickets are available online through Ticketmaster.com and in person at the Georgia's Own Credit Union Box Office at the Albany Civic Center. The box office is open Monday–Friday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Participants selected to take part in Leadership Georgia's Class of 2027

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Special Photo

Scott Chastain of Thomasville is the president of Leadership Georgia's Class of 2027.

ATLANTA – The Leadership Georgia Board of Trustees is proud to announce the participants selected for the organization's Class of 2027. Each year, Leadership Georgia seeks out emerging leaders from every corner of the state and selects 63 participants from a pool of several hundred applicants to participate in the year-long leadership program.

Leaders selected include:
Anna Adams | Cartersville
Edna Adams | Macon
Courtney Ashley | Jesup
L. Joy Baker | Lagrange
Ernesto Baron | Elijay
Daniel Bayman | Quitman
Christopher Blakely | Atlanta
Jason Bragg | Athens
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Caroline Earle | Atlanta
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Jed C. Evans | Cochran
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Carlos Greer | Locust Grove
Robert Griffith | Watkinsville
Blythe Hammons | Gainesville
Jerry Harkness | Demorest
Kim Hartsock | Suwanee
Dustin Hightower | Bremen
Jacob Hopkins | Butler
Christy Hubbard | Columbus
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Preston Jimmerson | Doerun
Michael Kaufman | Saint Simons Island
Donald Kirkland | Atlanta
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Chris Paulk | Wray
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Tory Powell | Atlanta
Sidney Reynolds | Blakely
Jacqueline Rosenthal | Brookhaven
Travis Rush | Americus
Emily Evert | Atlanta
Beau Seagraves | Bishop
Walter Stafford | Macon
Kelsey Stanford | Fort Valley
Molly Steeves | Rome
Lisa Stephens | Dawson
John Stewart | Augusta
Casey Tanner | Marietta
Kari Viola-Brooke | Augusta
Latray Walker | Evans
Seth Walker | Milledgeville
Aaron Whitely | Savannah
Joel Wiggins | Decatur
Ashley Woitena | Columbus
Jonathan Wu | Norcross
Taos Wynn | Atlanta

The mission of Leadership Georgia is to prepare strong and effective leaders for the future development of the state. Over the course of the program year, the class participants will experience five immersive programs that examine critical issues facing rural and urban communities of Georgia. Together, the class participants of Leadership Georgia seek mutual understanding of the challenges of the state and the solutions developed and implemented to drive change and success for all Georgians.

The 2027 Leadership Georgia Class will be led by President Scott Chastain of Thomasville. "Look Beyond. Lead Here" is the 2027 program theme.

Leadership Georgia is the country's most prestigious statewide leadership organization. The organization was founded in 1971 and graduated its first class in 1972. Since then, more than 5,000 leaders – from elected officials to business owners to nonprofit leaders – have participated in the program. Leadership Georgia is a volunteer-run organization governed by its Board of Trustees and is an affiliate of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.



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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Today's nice high Universal day score could be a little misleading as it's sliding downward, limiting the longevity of anything you start today. Use this day to start something quick, not something long-term.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone close may need the solidarity of feeling seen and understood today, being upheld like this can be a final stage of releasing an old trauma. Embrace your inner child today, let them play a little if you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Feeling is the beginning of healing — tap in to emotions in order to ultimately let them go. You should more or less automatically have the right approach for handling what comes up today

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A creative outflow could continue for several more weeks — you could just plain be more inspired than usual. Subconscious ambitions could awaken and become a driving force, at least for the short term.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If your family of origin didn't help you build a solid foundation within yourself, it's never too late. Focus on building yourself a springboard for greatness — for living up to your highest potentials.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Speaking and writing, all forms of communication, could be highlighted for the next few weeks. Learn what you can and also disseminate what you know. You could touch not just minds, but also hearts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Unless you plan a relatively short lifespan for something, today's not an ideal day to begin it. While you may be certain of your clarity, you could still be more subjective than you realize.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A relationship could stabilize by tomorrow as emotional stars begin to quiet their influence. Believing in yourself and your path is one of the most powerful reasons to keep going in an uncertain world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Most people dread looking within and shut off a powerful way to DIY major life improvements. Face yourself. Takes courage but you can do it. The confidence you build will change everything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Indulge a playful mood if you've got the freedom today. Social participation and networking could be at the forefront for the next 3-4 weeks — build your community both personally and professionally.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It takes courage to put your gifts out into the world and face the world's judgments, but the truer you are to your inner light the less the opinions of others matter. You're here for your mission, follow what calls you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotional message could still be well received, listeners could be fairly predisposed to believing in something presented today. Also keep your mind open to learning something new yourself.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You might start your new year with a declaration of some kind of independence if you've handed off some of your power to something or someone else. Put yourself at the forefront of your own life. November could incline you toward being more in your head than usual, your mind could be busy processing. Early December could set up a temptation to step in something, resist stupidity and place your feet with intention to avoid consequences. A nice windfall could come in as a nice little precursor to the arrival of some powerful help from the Universe. Many of your needed resources could land, including more money, setting you up for your next round of growth with greater ease. A real blessing could follow, something or someone could find some real healing. Near year-end, expect a chance to show your talents with all the right people taking notes.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1275 - Amsterdam is founded

1682 - Philadelphia Pennsylvania is founded

1810 - The U.S. annexes the former Spanish colony of West Florida

1904 - The first underground NYC Subway line named the IRT Broadway-Seventh Avenue Line opens

1936 - Mrs. Wallis Simpson obtains her divorce so she can marry King Edward VIII of the UK who abdicates his throne

1954 - Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. becomes the first African-American General in the U.S. Air Force

1961 - NASA tests the first Saturn I rocket

1971 - The Democratic Republic of the Congo is renamed Zaire

1979 - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines gains its independence from the U.K.

1981 - The Soviet submarine S-363 runs aground on the east coast of Sweden

1991 - Turkmenistan achieves its independence from the Soviet Union

2017 - Catalonia declares independence from Spain

2018 - A gunman kills 11, and injures six when he opens fire on a Pittsburgh synagogue

This Day in Music

1982 - 1999 is the fifth album released by Prince

1993 - Glenn Frey's TV series South of Sunset debuts on CBS

1998 - Doo Wop (That Thing) is released by Lauryn Hill and is her first single as a solo artist

1999 - Falling Away From Me is debuted by KoRn on the season premiere of South Park

2009 - Modern Day Prodigal Son is released as Brantley Gilbert's debut album

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- American Beer Day
- Boxer Shorts Day
- Cranky Co-workers Day
- National Black Cat Day
- National Mentoring Day
- National Potato Day
- Navy Day
- Occupational Therapy Day
- Sylvia Plath Day
- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is a tragic flaw in our precious Constitution, and I don't know what can be done to fix it. This is it: Only nut cases want to be president."

Kurt Vonnegut,
author (1922-2007)

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.

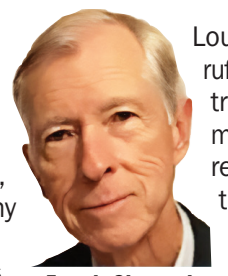
Weather Forecast

Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
78°	77°	78°	80°	78°	79°	78°
48°	50°	59°	60°	62°	65°	64°

Daily Bridge Club

Impatient play

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency


Frank Stewart

Unlucky Louie has raised nine children. He says you can learn a lot from your kids -- especially patience. If Louie has acquired any patience at home, it doesn't show at my club.

NORTH
♠ 6 3
♡ K Q 8 6 5 4
◇ 5
♣ Q 7 6 2

WEST
♠ Q 10 7 5 2
♡ 9 2
◇ K J 10 7 4
♣ 5

EAST
♠ A K J 9 4
♡ A J 10
◇ 6 3
♣ 10 9 8

SOUTH
♠ 8
♡ 7 3
◇ A Q 9 8 2
♣ A K J 4 3

South	West	North	East
1 ◇	Pass	1 ♡	1 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♠	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ 5

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Playing at five clubs, Louie ruffed East's second high spade and hastily drew trumps. He next led a heart. West signaled with the nine, and East let dummy's king win. Louie came to his ace of diamonds and led a second heart to dummy's queen, but East took the ace and led a third spade. Louie ended with eight tricks.

FOOLISH

When Louie drew trumps early, he was not only impatient but foolish. At Trick Three he should lead a heart to dummy's king. If East ducks, Louie leads a trump to his hand and a second heart: deuce, queen, ace.

If East leads a third spade, Louie ruffs in dummy and ruffs a heart high. He draws trumps ending with dummy's queen and takes the rest with good hearts and the ace of diamonds.

Do what you must do first. Do what you want to do later.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S A K J 9 4 H A J 10 D 6 3 C 10 9 8. You open one spade, your partner bids two hearts, you raise to three hearts and he bids four clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner's four clubs is an ace-showing cue bid to suggest slam. Whether you should cooperate is a judgment call. You have good hearts and the A-K of spades, but to cue-bid four spades, you must go beyond game. I would bid four hearts; I would not criticize four spades.

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Friend's bossy behavior to boyfriend causes concerns

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency


Eric Thomas

Dear Eric: I have been friends with a woman for about 12 years. We have many shared interests and have had fun "adventuring" together. When I met her, she was married but has since become widowed.

Her relationship with her husband was "cringe-worthy" from my perspective. She was always in charge, told him what to do and how to do it, infantilized him, tried to control his every move, was never wrong, never apologized, et cetera.

This summer we both booked the same week-long adventure trip. She went with her new boyfriend. This new relationship is a repeat of her marriage. She belittles him, calls him a dork, makes fun of his jokes, treats him like her lap dog, and generally acts superior in every way.

He seems to tolerate and comply with her demands.

It makes me uncomfortable and angry to see the way she treats him. I've lost respect for her and her lack of humanity and decency.

I know some would say, "It's between them; if he's OK with it, why should you care?" But it gave me a new view into her character and I don't like it.

I don't feel like being friends with her anymore. But the question is, should I tell her why? Part of me thinks that friends should be able to share their feelings/perspectives honestly. But given

her "my way or the highway" style, I think the odds of her receiving my feedback constructively is unlikely.

– Out of Like with My Friend

Dear Friend: Think about what you want the goal of your feedback to be. If you want her to treat her boyfriend differently, you may be overstepping. It's possible that her way of interacting is too brusque, or even unhealthy. But it's also possible that what strikes you as cringe-worthy and unworthy of respect, works for the two of them.

If you felt the boyfriend needed protection or intervention, it would be another matter.

But, if your goal in expressing your opinion before breaking your friendship off, is to explain your actions, you're in the clear. But it's important to speak from an "I" perspective, as in "this is how I'm experiencing the things that you do; this is how I felt when it happened."

She may or may not feel compelled to change. That's not your responsibility. But she'll understand why this 12-year friendship has hit a rough patch and, in conversation, you two may be able to see each other differently.

Dear Eric: This is just a thought about the letter and your response to "Hard Truths", which was from a father who didn't know how to talk to his daughter about his ex-wife's infidelity.

First, I always think your advice is excellent and wise, as was your response here.

My husband and I divorced nearly 50 years ago after his many affairs, but we were lucky: we had as good a divorce as possible, supporting each other as parents. When our children, and sometimes their cousins, were older and asked why we divorced, I told them that we had grown apart by not paying enough attention to our marriage, which was true, but that their dad was a good man and we both loved them.

I have never told them anything else. They may have other ideas as he married several times after, but all these years later it means we can, with our spouses, celebrate special occasions and holidays together with our children and now our many grandchildren.

– Been There

Dear Been There: Thank you for sharing your experience. You make a very good point. It's not any parent's job to manage the relationship between an ex and an adult child. And the details of a divorce are rarely that illuminating because every marriage is different. So, the best option is to tell the truth with respect and dignity.

Dear Readers: From time to time, I prepare a column, or even a week's worth of columns, dedicated to a specific theme. In preparation for two upcoming themes, I need your help. I'm looking for two kinds of questions. First, do you have what you might consider a petty grievance or a tiny problem that, despite its size, you can't quite fix? I want to hear about it. This isn't a call for complaints. We're looking for problems you want to solve.

The second theme I'm calling Cold Case Questions. Is there something from the past, something that seems settled – for better or worse – that you want to take another look at? A friendship that fell to the wayside, a fight that turned into a cold war, a love lost? Again, I'm all ears. Send them to the regular address: eric@askingeric.com. I'll print both themes later this year and early next year.

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

Here's what's so stupid about those people who believe Trump is going to send them all this "free money:" It's your own money, dummy. If you pay taxes, these bribes are coming out of your own pockets. Who was it that said there's a fool born every minute?

Democrats won't need to cheat. Thanks to the current president, a lot of Republicans will be voting for the Democratic candidates.

I think the people who design electronic equipment took that song "Paint It Black" way too seriously, as I have to turn on a light to see the buttons and switches. That Man Without a Family

I don't know what the folks who are working on Pine Avenue downtown are looking for, but the hole they've dug goes about halfway to hell. Who thought it was a great idea to do this work while work on the bridge is going on and traffic is already backed up in the district? More great planning by Albany officials.

How 'bout them Dogs ... oops, sorry.

For just one political party to spend $1 billion in political mid-term election campaigning, to this country, society and suffering humanity in act and character, demonstrates that which is most egregious, abominable, perverse and obscene. Yet not one of you is offended or rejects it. Why?

Trump has become a babbling fool, just saying whatever comes to his feeble mind. He is a train wreck as it is, but to think that our elected officials -- and about 20% of the country -- blindly follow this incoherent buffoon is a sad reality.

Those voters who foolishly think Democrats are more suited to lower prices: It's not going to happen. Many Democrats, including Georgia's own Sen. Raphael Warnock, have already stated that their top priority would be going after President Trump. Shame on those to follow their lies.

Carlton, your love for Ossoff and other Democrats is amazing. Your hatred for people that inherit money has shown for years. (A good shrink would have a blast in your head!) But ossoff is nothing but a trust fund baby. Remember, Ossoff is not really a Georgian with his thinking, a third- or fourth-generation Russian Jew. Never had a real job; never had to worry about money.

Our Great President wants to change the state name of New Mexico to New America. Why not change the name of Georgia? Any suggestions? I like Bulldog Land.

Remember when Republicans had a field day parsing every statement that Biden made, talking about his incapacity to lead the country? Where are these people now that their president is talking about people's butts and their muscles and can't even remember what country he's in? This double standard is more of the dumbing of partisan politics in America.

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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

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."
Romans 8:2

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Trump declares war on credit card rewards

President Trump's popularity appears to be sinking faster than a stone in the Strait of Hormuz. The most recent poll shows him with a paltry 30% approval rating, amid his ill-conceived intervention in Iran, and the results of his Middle East foray are making it even harder for Americans to make ends meet.


HYDEN

According to economist Mark Zandi, the Iranian war has cost $2,000 per household in almost eight months, including increased energy and borrowing costs and the military expenses paid for by taxpayers. With Trump failing spectacularly to keep inflation in check, a Republican rout seems very likely in November unless GOP incumbents can somehow salvage the situation.

Faced with this persistent affordability crisis, myriad Americans are relying on credit cards – and specifically cash-back rewards – just to cope with the rising price of groceries and gas. While Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp has wisely cut income taxes, offered tax rebates and recently suspended the gas tax in light of soaring costs, Trump has taken a curious approach. So what is one of his answers to the ongoing affordability crisis? Supporting a policy that will effectively take away your credit card rewards. Seriously.

"President Trump has been clear: Pass the Credit Card Competition Act and save American families from hidden swipe fees that cost households $1,200 a year," the White House wrote. The Credit Card Competition Act has long been a passion project of Sen. Dick Durbin, the Senate Democratic Whip from Illinois, and Trump appears determined to join him in championing the obscure but highly controversial policy.

"Currently, a card issuer (like a bank) partners with a network for each card, determining the rails that will be used to move the payments," The Wall Street Journal explained. "The network determines the fees that are charged each time a card is used, but the money is mostly pocketed by the issuer. Under the bill, each card issued by a major bank would be required to support at least two networks, including smaller competitors, allowing merchants to choose a network that charges a lower fee."

Supporters of this bill claim it is needed for many reasons, including that Visa and Mastercard enjoy a duopoly, but that ignores the reality that they face plenty of competition. They compete with each other and other cards and payment methods, like American Express, Discover, Apple Pay, Google Pay, personal checks and cash.

To elbow out their competition, card issuers attract consumers with lucrative rewards programs, and those must be bankrolled somehow. The interchange fees charged on these networks account for around 2.25% of the purchase amount and can add up, but they serve a purpose, even if Trump and Durbin want them gone. If card-issuers cannot collect interchange fees, then they must cut costs elsewhere to remain profitable. The most likely option is to pull back credit card perks – like cash-back, miles for travel and other rewards – which is one of the primary reasons many people use credit cards in the first place.

Other options include increasing annual credit card fees and interest rates or restricting credit altogether. In this scenario, issuers would reject applications from those with less-than-ideal credit or no credit at all because, without the cushion provided by interchange fees, they would represent an unnecessary default risk.

The Credit Card Competition Act also poses other hazards to current credit card holders. If passed, it could force cards off of established interchange networks and onto others, potentially with fewer security safeguards. This could expose users to fraud and lead to ongoing headaches as users try to protect their credit from fraudsters.

Despite these risks, Trump and Durbin's hope is that the Credit Card Competition Act will curtail interchange fees to the benefit of consumers, which is well-intentioned. Many merchants likewise support it, claiming it could lower customer costs. That would be a positive development, if true, but history suggests otherwise.

Back in 2010, Durbin slipped an amendment into the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to limit interchange fees on debit cards. Unfortunately, it did not do much for consumers.

"The objective of Durbin was to increase consumer welfare," a University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School study found. "For consumers to benefit, banks needed to not offset Durbin losses and merchants needed to pass through savings to consumers. Instead, we find causal evidence that banks fully offset losses by charging higher fees for their products."

It is plausible that something similar might happen if the Credit Card Competition Act is passed – resulting in limited savings for consumers, while issuers turn off the spigot to credit card perks and access to credit. Considering that dismal reality, I doubt it would save Trump from his plummeting approval rating or the affordability issues plaguing Americans.

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

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER

The arguments surrounding intelligent alignment

Dario Amodei is the CEO of Anthropic, the artificial intelligence company that created the large language model "Claude." Amodei earned a Princeton PhD, so he is no teenage whiz kid on a high-tech rush.


FOWLER

Amodei published an article about AI security. He wrote, "I agree with Secretary Bessent that a Chinese lead in AI would pose grave danger for the United States and the world."

He also expressed concerns about "alignment" issues, i.e., respecting human values.

"We've made clear progress training models," he wrote, "so that they remain safe, ethical, compliant with our guidelines, and genuinely helpful (the principles that are embedded in Claude's constitution)."

Others agree about risks. Former diplomat Susan Rice said, "We face very real and proximate risks that this technology can be misused in cyber attacks by terrorists."

Commentator Mollie Hemingway warned about ideological control. "He who wins algorithmic control," she said, "controls the world for the decades to come. That's really important because these people support censorship."

These and more voices compete for ears, declaring what AI ought to be. "Ought" is your clue that morality is in play. Indeed, Claude ought to have guidelines, but whose? Quibbles turn into battles over AI alignment based on priori assumptions about what is good. Such discussions are yet more evidence that we live in a universe created to be moral.

The dysfunction happens when you misalign with the Creator by crafting your own moral framework. "You be you!" sounds so liberating. But those who reject Divine morality for the sake of freedom and reason end up discarding freedom and reason if only to reject the Divine.

Yet there is hope. Jesus said, "No one is good except God alone." (Luke 18:19)

By faith you can know Him who is good. One day you will see the convergence of what is and what ought to be, regardless of AI.

"According to His promise, we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells." (2 Pet. 3:13). That is good news. When that day comes, you will have no more concerns about Claude's alignment.

Wayne Fowler has been a pastor and columnist in Georgia since 1996. His articles appear on Substack @wayne505598.

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

Whatever happened to enough?

Six wagons stand in the wilderness. They are not miraculous. Nothing dramatic happens to them. No sea divides, no voice comes from heaven, no great biblical figure delivers a speech beside them. They are simply loaded.


HAMBOURGER

And that may be why they are worth noticing.

Near the beginning of the book of Numbers, the leaders of Israel's 12 tribes bring gifts for the newly completed Mishkan, the portable sanctuary that will accompany the people through the wilderness. Their generosity is impressive: silver vessels, gold, flour, oil, animals for sacrifice.

For transporting the sanctuary, however, the 12 leaders bring just six covered wagons and 12 oxen. (Numbers 7:3) Six wagons for twelve tribes.

The Torah could easily have passed over this logistical detail. Instead, the wagons are counted, received and assigned according to the work required. Jewish tradition pays attention to how precisely the sanctuary's components were transported, and Chassidic teaching draws particular attention to the absence of wasted capacity.

Imagine those wagons for a moment: boards, beams, pillars and fittings arranged for a journey through the desert, each vehicle carrying what it was meant to carry. No spare fleet follows behind.

There is something almost foreign about that image. "Enough" is a peculiar word. Grammatically, it sounds complete. Psychologically, it often feels temporary. Enough money ... until we discover what someone else earns. Enough house ... until we walk through a larger one. Enough recognition ... until someone else's name receives the attention we wanted.

Even abundance has difficulty announcing its own arrival. The horizon moves as we approach it.

This isn't simply greed. Human beings adapt remarkably quickly to improved circumstances. What once felt luxurious becomes ordinary; what once seemed unnecessary becomes difficult to imagine living without. Economists and psychologists have studied versions of this phenomenon for years. Our expectations are not fixed. They travel with us. Which raises an uncomfortable question: If the definition of enough keeps changing, how would we ever know when we had reached it?

The six wagons offer no formula. They do not tell us how large a house should be, how much money someone should earn or which comforts are excessive. The Torah is not romanticizing deprivation. The Mishkan itself contains gold, silver, fine fabrics, craftsmanship and beauty. This is hardly an argument that material things are inherently suspect.

Something subtler is happening. The wagons have a purpose, and their sufficiency can be measured against it. That may be what modern conversations about "enough" often lack. We tend to measure what we have against what other people have, what we once had or what we might conceivably acquire. All three measurements can expand without limit.

Purpose creates a different measure. A dining table can be judged by whether it gathers the people we love, or by whether it is more impressive than the neighbor's. A career can be measured by whether it supports worthwhile work and a meaningful life, or by whether the next title has arrived. A bank account can provide security and generosity, yet still fail to answer the question of how much would finally make its owner feel secure.

The object has not changed. The measure has. This is where sufficiency becomes more than an economic idea. It becomes a moral discipline.

To say "this is enough" is not necessarily to stop aspiring. There are forms of more worth wanting: more wisdom, more patience, more generosity, more competence, more capacity to serve others. Nor is contentment an excuse for remaining in circumstances that are unsafe or unjust. But without some conception of enough, aspiration can quietly become appetite without an object.

We continue adding because adding has become the purpose. The wilderness offers an intriguing setting for this lesson. A people traveling through a desert cannot pretend that carrying more is costless. Everything added to the wagon must be transported. Every possession occupies space and demands effort. Modern abundance can conceal that truth, but it cannot eliminate it.

What we acquire still has to be stored, maintained, insured, cleaned, managed, updated, worried about and eventually disposed of. Possessions do not merely belong to us. In small ways, we belong to them. The same can be true of commitments, ambitions and even opportunities. A life can become so crowded with good things that there is no room left to ask which ones are actually carrying us toward somewhere worth going.

That is why I keep returning to those six wagons. Not because they were empty. Because they were full. Their fullness did not create an argument for a seventh. They carried what the journey required.

Perhaps "enough" becomes visible only after we answer a question our culture rarely encourages us to ask: Enough for what? Without that question, there is always another wagon. With it, six might be plenty.

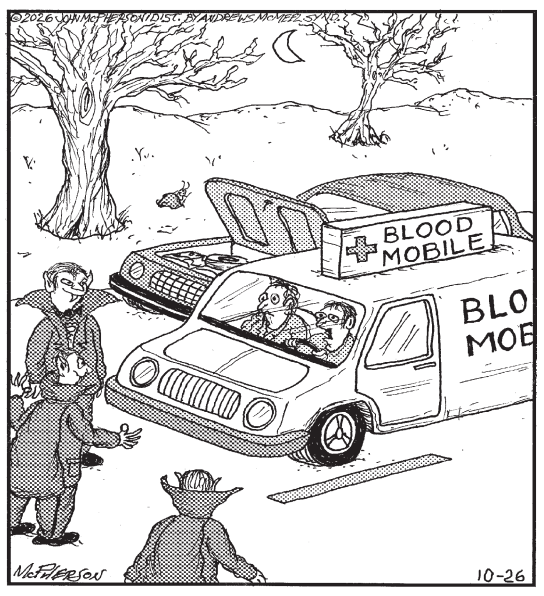
Yonatan Hambourger is a rabbi, teacher, and author of Echoes From Sinai: A Torah Voice for All Who Seek. He welcomes questions and comments at y@TasteofTorah.org.

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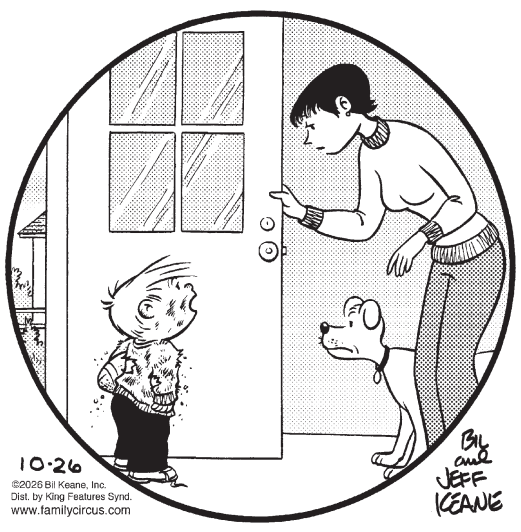


CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



"I've got a really bad feeling about this, Russ. Maybe their car is broken down, and maybe it isn't."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

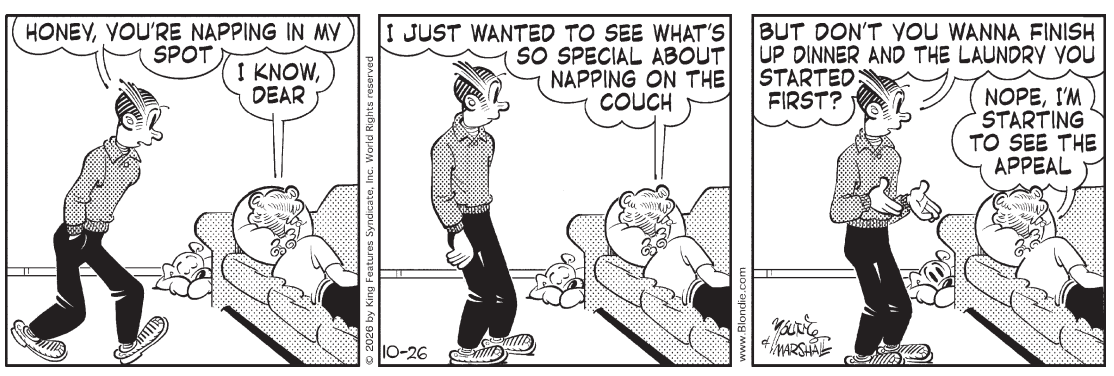


"Mommy, remember the new sweater I'm wearing?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



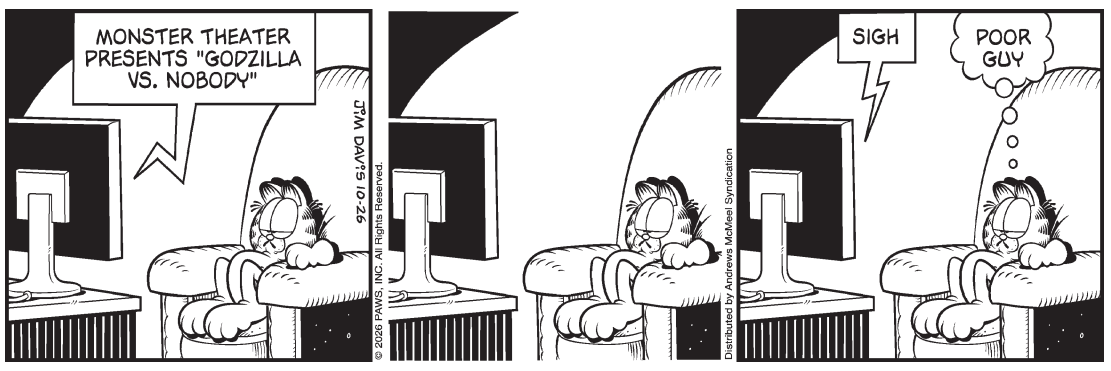
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



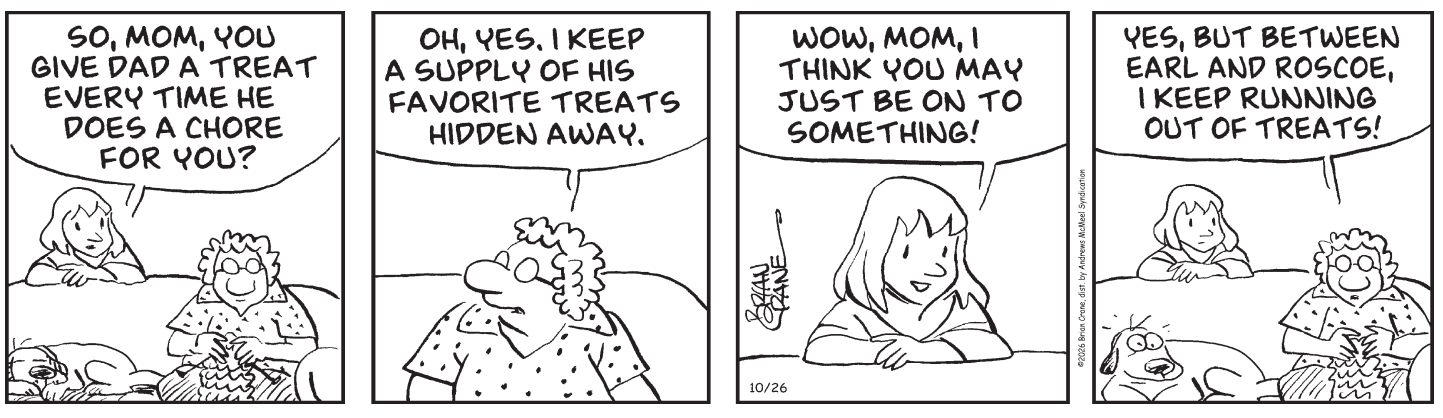
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



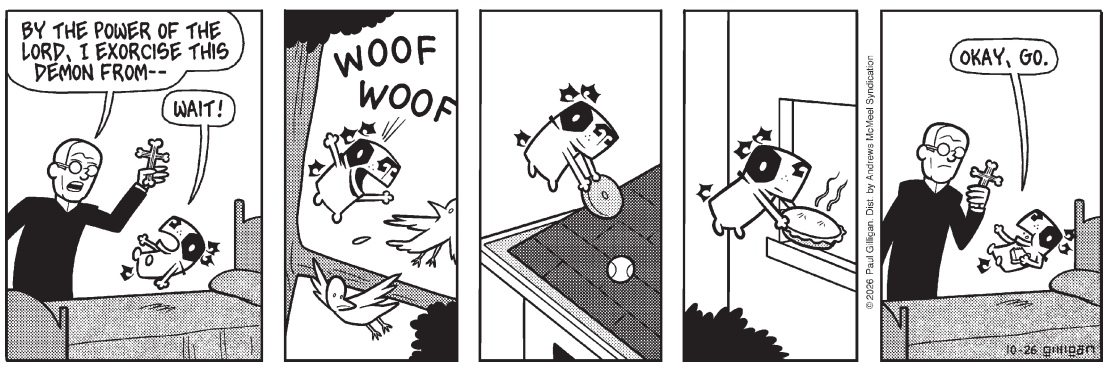
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

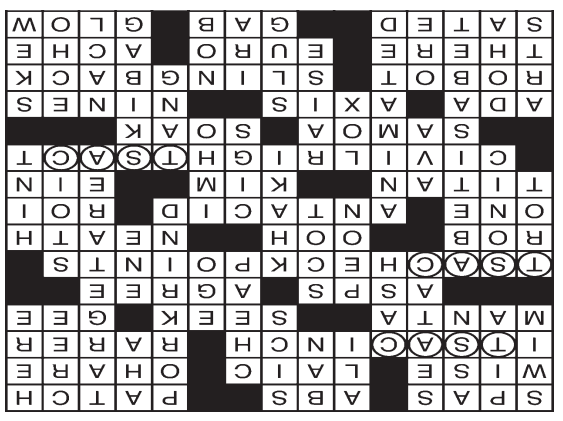
ACROSS

1 Mani-pedi spots
5 Muscles targeted by leg raises
8 Pumpkin's place
13 Like a trusted mentor
14 Not of the clergy
16 Windy City airport
17 "Piece of cake!"
19 Harder to come by
20 Stingray relative
21 Search for
23 "Well, golly!"
24 Vipers in the Sahara
27 Feel the same way
29 Airport screening spots
34 Actor Lowe
35 "That sounds cool!"
36 Below, poetically
38 Individual
39 Heartburn reliever
42 Title for Louis XIV
43 Tennessee NFL player
45 Snowboarding great Chloe
46 German 101 article
47 Landmark antidiscrimination legislation of 1964
52 Girl Scout Cookie with coconut
53 Relax in the bath
54 Oral health org.
56 Line on a graph
58 Golf course halves
62 Automaton
64 Shoe with a strap behind the heel, or what can be found in each set of circled letters
67 "You had to be __"
68 Currency in Cyprus
69 Woe after a long hike
70 Filled to the brim
71 Shoot the breeze
72 Shine from within

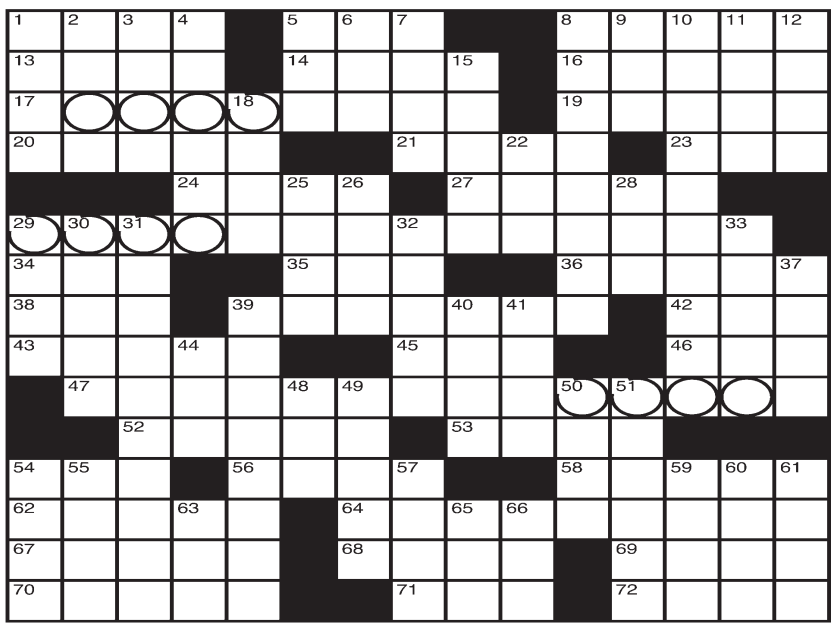
DOWN

1 First leg of a traditional triathlon
2 Falafel bread
3 Professional gp.
4 Closest airport to Mt. Rainier, familiarly
5 Mahershala of "Green Book"
6 Declare off-limits
7 Sets the dogs (on)
8 Salty fried snack
9 "I get it now!"
10 Bull's-eye vicinity
11 One of Canada's First Nations
12 "Present!"
15 Low-priced
18 Fat wallet fattener
22 Sense of self
25 Laborer
26 Edinburgh native
28 U-turn from WSW
29 Slow and steady run
30 Lightning-fast hedgehog of video games
31 "No weaseling out! Pay up!"
32 Uniform color for some park rangers
33 Showing no emotion
37 Helpful suggestion
39 Like Pixar movies
40 Slangy smokes
41 Intro to a texter's two cents
44 "Selma" director DuVernay
48 Fishy bagel topping
49 Reward for a job well done
50 Zesty flavor
51 Carrier for poles, boots, and goggles
54 Bonsai and saikei
55 Gulf capital known for its futuristic skyline
57 Slimy garden pest
59 Table salt, to a chemist
60 Sound in an empty chamber
61 Distort, as data
63 Mined find
65 401(k) kin
66 San Francisco's __ Hill

TODAY'S SOLUTION:



10/26/26



By Zhouqin Burnikel
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

10/26/26

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

10/26

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WHATZIT?™

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

issue issue
issue issue
issue issue
issue issue
issue issue

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 WHATZIT SOLUTION: Tennis shoes

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

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.**

COLLAGEN BOOSTERS — **Solution: 8 letters**

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

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10/26

Aloe Vera, Antioxidant, Beams, Beef, Berries, Body, Bone Broth, Chicken, Clinic, Dairy, Diet, Egg, Elastin, Fish, Fruit, Guava, Hair, Healing, Health, Heart, Hyaluronic Acid, Kale, Mango, Muscle, Nails, Orange, Pineapple, Pork, Protect, Protein, Salad, Salmon, Skin, Stew, Sulfur, Support, Swiss Chard, Teas, Tendon, Tissue, Tomato, Tuna, Weight, White, Wrinkle

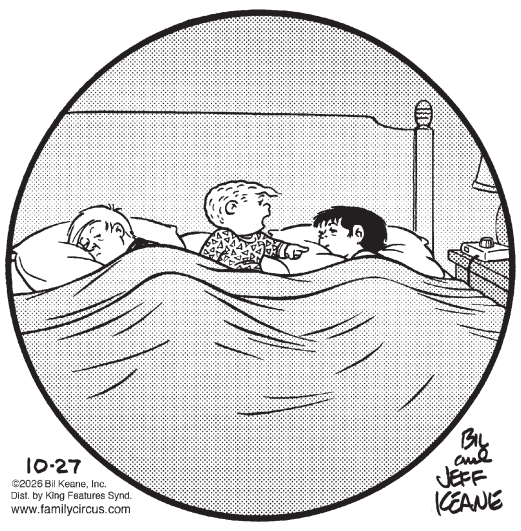
TODAY'S ANSWER: Peptides

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



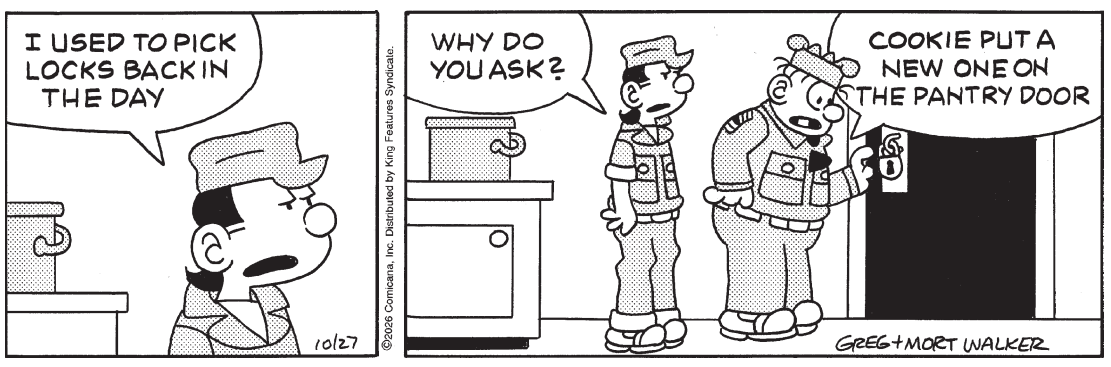
"The FAA told us we had to put a red light on top of the skeleton."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"I'm very warm, Mommy. Can you turn down the volume on the 'lectric blanket?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



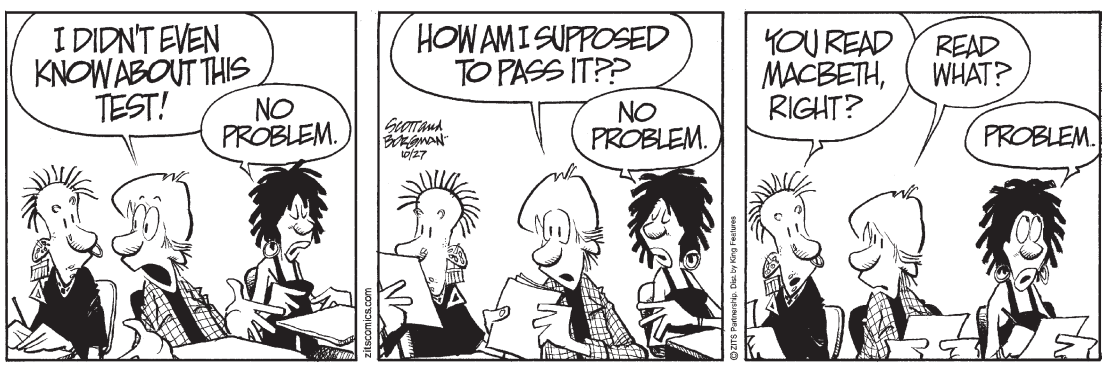
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



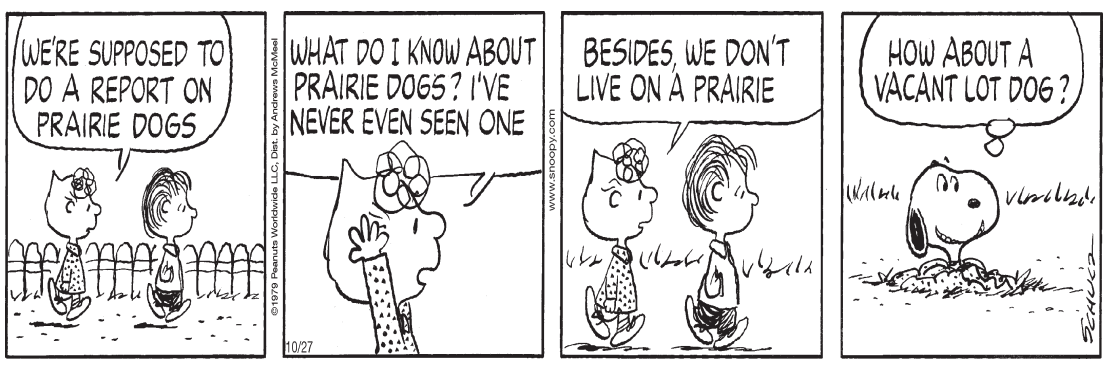
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



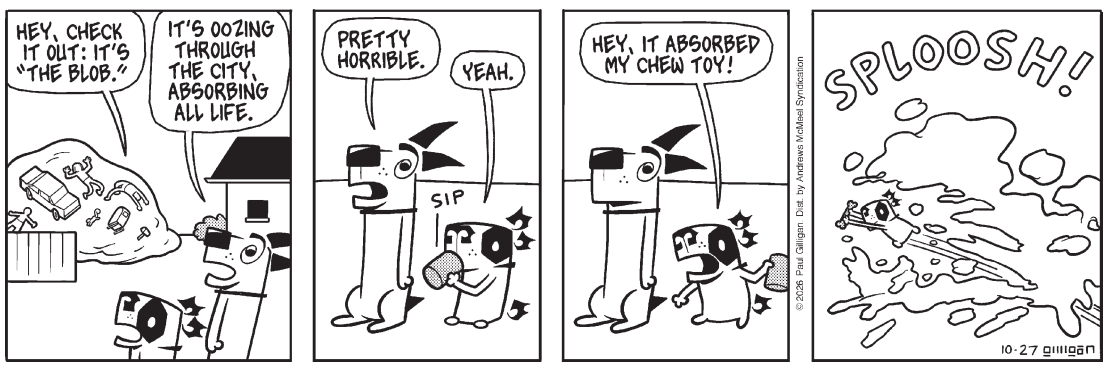
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



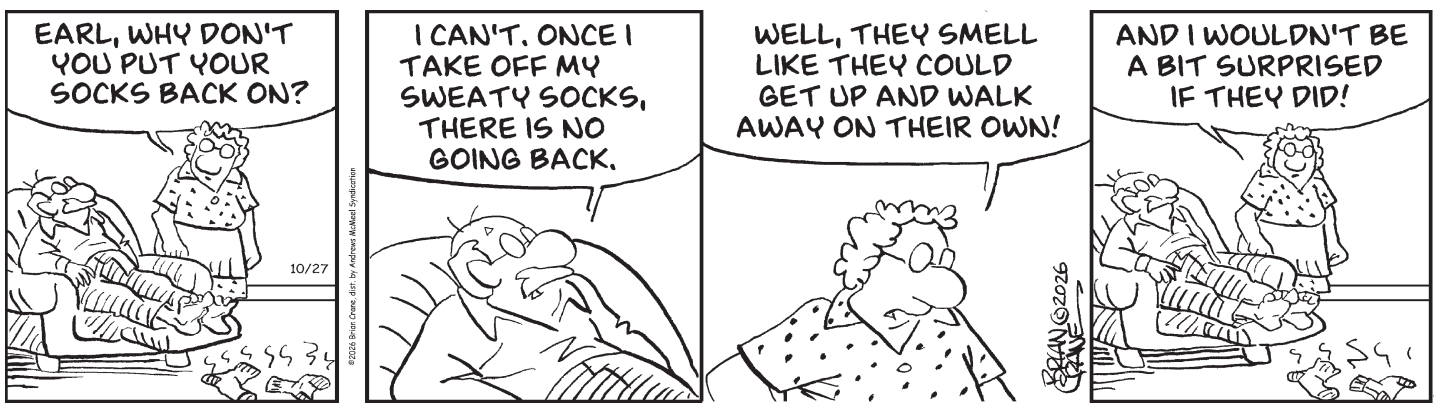
GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



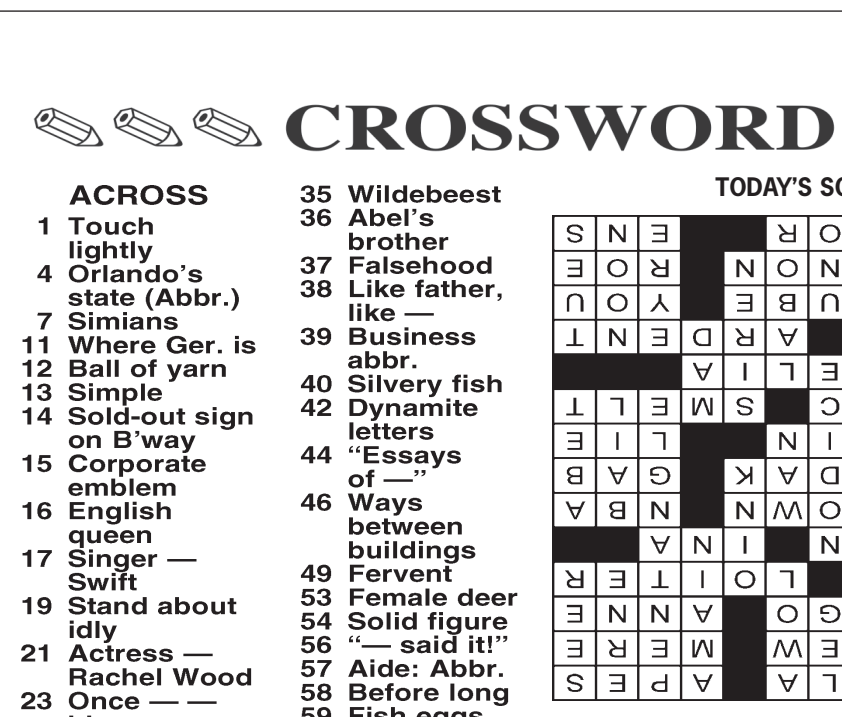
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Touch lightly
4 Orlando's state (Abbr.)
7 Simians
11 Where Ger. is
12 Ball of yarn
13 Simple
14 Sold-out sign on B'way
15 Corporate emblem
16 English queen
17 Singer — Swift
19 Stand about idly
21 Actress — Rachel Wood
23 Once — — blue moon
24 Game show host
27 Possess
29 Hoops org.
32 Slime
33 Neighbor of Minn.
34 Chatter
35 Wildebeest
36 Abel's brother
37 Falsehood
38 Like father, like —
39 Business abbr.
40 Silvery fish
42 Dynamite letters
44 "Essays of —"
46 Ways between buildings
49 Fervent
53 Female deer
54 Solid figure
56 "— said it!"
57 Aide: Abbr.
58 Before long
59 Fish eggs
60 Soldier's meal
61 Rocky hill
62 Naval rank (Abbr.)

DOWN

1 Annoying one
2 Invisible emanation
3 Helen of —
4 Plants of a region
5 Table part
6 MPs' quarry
7 With full force
8 Five-pointed star
9 Coastal eagle
10 Prophet
12 Bit of garlic
18 Actor Tommy — Jones
20 Pig's squeal
22 "Forget it!" (2 wds.)
24 Brunch fare
25 Not stereo
26 Innumerable
28 Pale
30 Bucket handle
31 Aid and —
33 Word in place names
36 Metropolis
40 Warning signal
41 Fuming
43 Aeries
45 Toil
46 Genesis name
47 Forfeit
48 "Get outta here"!
50 Bronte's "Jane —"
51 Midday
52 Calendar abbr.
55 Numero —



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TODAY'S SOLUTION:

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

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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:

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

WHATZIT?™

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

detsatanail

Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

The devil is in the detail

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.**

GHOST CANDIES — **Solution: 11 letters**

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

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Autumn, Bend, Burn, Caramel, Clay, Crafts, Curve, Cute, Energy, Faces, Fire, Flame, Ginger, Glow, Gothic, Halloween, Haunted, Heat, Holder, Holiday, Lavender, Light, Luminous, Mantel, Melt, Nutmeg, Paint, Purple, Scary, Shelf, Silhouettes, Silk, Soak, Soft, Soul, Sour, Spell, Spice, Spirit, Spooky, Sugar, Supernatural, Table, Vanilla, Water, White, Wicks, Zombie

TODAY'S ANSWER: Marshmallow



Special Photo GSW

Taking part in a ceremony announcing Georgia Southwestern State University's Laken Hope Memorial Nursing Scholarship were, from left, Wes Wheeler, John Phillips, Allyson Phillips, Kendall Hall and Kerry Palmer.

GSW establishes Laken Hope Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Georgia Southwestern State University has announced the establishment of the Laken Hope Memorial Nursing Scholarship within the GSW Foundation, an endowed scholarship honoring the life and legacy of Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student whose life was tragically cut short in February 2024.

Made possible through the generosity of a group of donors, including GSW alumni Wes and Jean Wheeler, the scholarship will be awarded annually to support GSW nursing students as they pursue their education and prepare for careers in healthcare.

Kendall Hall, a senior nursing student from Leesburg, has been named the inaugural recipient of the scholarship.

"I am incredibly honored and grateful to be the first recipient of the Laken Hope Memorial Nursing Scholarship," Hall said. "Knowing how passionate Laken was about helping others makes this scholarship especially meaningful.

"I hope to carry on her legacy of kindness and compassion as I pursue my own dream of becoming a nurse. I am truly thankful to Laken's family and the donors who made this opportunity possible."

Laken's parents, Allyson and John Phillips, recently visited GSW to meet Hall and see first-hand how the scholarship is making a difference. During their visit to the Rosalynn Carter Health and Human Sciences Complex, they met with GSW President Kerry Palmer, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Courtney Ross, and nursing faculty, who also led the family on a tour of the nursing building.

"I've known since the day Laken was born that she was going to change the world," said Laken's mother, Allyson Phillips, who added that Kendall reminded her of Laken. "I obviously didn't know it would be this way. I thought it would be in nursing or something in the medical field, but this would make her so happy because she would just love to see someone else benefiting from this generosity."

Laken was a nursing student at Augusta University's campus in Athens and a former student at the University of Georgia. Described by her mother as "very thoughtful and kind" with "a very serving heart," Laken had a passion for caring for others from an early age. She earned her Certified Nursing Assistant license while in high school and worked at an assisted living facility while also serving as a nanny. She was also an active member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

The loss of Laken Riley deeply affected her family, friends and communities across the country. Through this scholarship, her dedication to serving others and passion for nursing will continue to inspire future generations of healthcare professionals.

"Laken Riley's life touched so many people, and we wanted her legacy to continue in a way that creates hope and opportunity for others," Wheeler said. "Establishing this scholarship is a meaningful way to honor her memory while helping students pursue their dreams and build brighter futures."

Laken's family also established the Laken Hope Foundation in her honor to promote women's safety awareness, provide financial assistance and tuition support for nursing students, and advance children's healthcare. To learn more about the foundation and its mission, visit https://lakenhopefoundation.com/

The Laken Hope Memorial Nursing Scholarship will provide ongoing financial assistance to GSW nursing students, helping ease the cost of their education while honoring Laken's dream of caring for others. As an endowed scholarship, it will create a lasting legacy of compassion and service for years to come.

Those wishing to support may make a gift online at gsw.edu/Give by selecting the "Laken Hope Memorial Nursing Scholarship." For more information or assistance with making a contribution, contact the GSW Foundation at foundation@gsw.edu or call (229) 931-2014.

Albany Tech nursing program receives donation from former state Sen. Freddie Powell Sims

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Albany Technical College has received a $2,500 donation for its Nursing program from former Georgia State Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, recipient of the Lemuel Griffin Community Service Award.

During a recognition ceremony, held Oct. 12 in Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital's Willson Board Room, Sims distributed the proceeds from the award among Albany Technical College, Georgia Southwestern State University, Albany State University, and her alma mater, Fort Valley State University.

Morris Clarington, dean of Academic Affairs for Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, accepted the donation on behalf of Albany Tech. The full $2,500 donation will be used to provide scholarship support that directly benefits Albany Technical College nursing students as they continue their coursework and clinical preparation and work toward careers in nursing.

"This entire gift will go directly to scholarship support for our nursing students as they pursue their education and prepare for careers in nursing," Clarington said. "Nursing education is demanding, and financial support can help students stay focused on completing their training.

"Ms. Sims' generosity is an investment in our students and in the patients, families and communities they will serve."

Albany Technical College's Nursing Program prepares students for the knowledge, skills, clinical responsibilities, and professional expectations required in the nursing field. Scholarship support made possible by this contribution will place resources directly behind students working to complete their education and enter the healthcare workforce in southwest Georgia and beyond.

Current and prospective nursing students interested in scholarship assistance through the Albany Tech Foundation can learn more at www.albanytech.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-grants. Applicants should complete their financial aid file, including the FAFSA, and submit the appropriate scholarship application along with a one-page explanation of financial need and future plans to the Albany Technical College Financial Aid Office. Scholarship criteria vary. For more information about scholarship opportunities, contact Michelle Williams, ATC's executive director of Institutional Advancement, at (229) 430-6624 or mlilly@albanytech.edu.



File Photo

Albany Technical College has received a $2,500 donation for its Nursing Program from former Georgia State Senator Freddie Powell Sims.

Sims' contribution places resources directly behind students who are working toward careers in one of the region's most essential workforce fields. The donation continues a longstanding connection between education, healthcare, and community service in southwest Georgia while providing meaningful support for Albany Technical College nursing students.

2026 Georgia Farm Dog announced at Sunbelt Expo

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE – Farm dogs help their farmers with a lot of tasks. They help move livestock. They guard cattle, chickens, sheep and goats from predators. They ride along in the truck or tractor to keep their farmers company and relieve stress during long work days.

Realizing the special role farm dogs play in helping their farmers, Georgia Farm Bureau held its third annual Georgia Farm Dog of the Year contest this year to honor the canines who help with chores and offer unconditional love to their farmers.

Riggs, a tri-red Australian Shepherd who lives on Shadow Lane Farm in Morgan County, was named the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year during the Willie B. Withers Sunbelt Expo Luncheon on Oct. 20. As the winner, Riggs received a medal and his person, Kelly Smith, received a gift card to buy Riggs treats.

"For many Georgia farmers, a good farm dog is their right-hand companion. This is why Georgia Farm Bureau is proud to recognize these dogs through our Georgia Farm Dog of the Year Contest," GFB President Tom McCall said. "Georgia Farm Bureau is dedicated to supporting Georgia's farm families. Honoring the dogs who work beside them is one way we say thank you for the work that happens on our farms every day to feed and clothe us and to grow the timber used to house us."

Riggs was chosen by a panel of judges with knowledge of farm dogs. What stood out most for the judges is his versatility.

At home on his Morgan County farm, Riggs helps Smith monitor and manage horses, goats and chickens. He's part of every morning and evening feeding. Smith enrolls Riggs in herding lessons to keep improving his livestock-handling skills.

Like many farmers, Riggs has an off-farm job. He goes to work with Smith at Putnam County High School, where she teaches agricultural education and is an FFA advisor. Every morning, Riggs helps with barn checks on the school's show heifers and pigs.



Photo Courtesy of Georgia Farm Bureau

Riggs, a tri-red Australian Shepherd who lives in Morgan County with his owner, Kelly Smith, was named the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year at the Sunbelt Ag Expo on Oct. 20.

In Smith's Veterinary Science classes, Riggs is a hands-on teaching partner. He patiently lets the students learn how to handle animals as they practice their dog-grooming skills and learn how to observe animal behavior.

Riggs is also a decorated competitor. He holds numerous American Kennel Club and United Kennel Club titles in farm dog certification, herding, obedience, rally, temperament and trick dog.

Riggs stands 20 inches tall and weighs about 49 pounds. Smith says Riggs' favorite treat is freeze- dried chicken hearts.

"Riggs is a true partner in every aspect of my life," Smith said. "Whether he is helping manage livestock on the farm, supporting students in the classroom, competing in performance events, or tackling new adventures on the trail, he approaches every task with heart, intelligence, and unwavering dedication.

"His ability to seamlessly transition between farm work, educational settings, competitive arenas, and emotional support roles speaks to his remarkable temperament and versatility. His work ethic, loyalty, and drive make him truly one of a kind."

Georgia Farm Bureau is known for its love of dogs as Lucky, also an Australian Shepherd, has served as the GFB mascot since 2021. Good Boy Goodies, a Georgia Grown company that makes all-natural, wholesome dog treats, sponsored the contest. Visit https://gfb.ag/26farmdogcontest to learn more about the contest. Visit www.goodboygoodies.com to learn more about the contest sponsor.

Georgia Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting the future of Georgia's family farms and consumers' access to locally grown food and fiber. Membership is open to everyone. Visit www.gfb.org to learn how GFB supports farmers, connects consumers with farmers through its Farm Passport Program and to learn about the many discount benefits offered to members.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY Georgia

The Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia will make appointments to the following listed Boards. Candidates should submit a letter of interest and/or resume by **5:00 p.m. November 13, 2026** to Bristeria Clark Hope, Deputy County Clerk at bclark@dougherty.ga.us.

Please call 229-431-2121 X0 or visit the Government Information page at https: www.dougherty.ga.us/Government/Board-of-Commissioners/Board-Appointment for additional details about each board.

• **AIR CONDITIONING, HEATING, & VENTILATION BOARD –** Four (4) appointments with eligibility requirements	• **PLUMBING BOARD** Three (3) appointments with eligibility requirements
• **CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (DARTS) -** One (1) appointment	• **RETIREMENT FUND COMMITTEE** Two (2) appointments with eligibility requirements
• **ELECTRICAL BOARD** Five (5) appointments with eligibility requirements	• **SOUTHWEST GA COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL** One (1) appointment with eligibility requirements
• **FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT REVIEW BOARD** Two (2) appointments with eligibility requirements	• **SOUTHWEST GA HOUSING TASK FORCE** One (1) appointment
GAS BOARD - Three (3) appointments with eligibility requirements	• **SOUTHWEST GA REGIONAL COMMISSION** Two (2) appointments with eligibility requirements
GOLDEN TRIANGLE RC & D COUNCIL - Two (2) appointments	• **TAX ASSESSORS BOARD -** Two (2) appointments. Training must be completed after appointment
• **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION** Four (4) appointments	• **VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS** One (1) appointment.
• **LIBRARY BOARD -** Two (2) appointments	

Westover holds off Monroe, 14-6

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Westover had plenty to celebrate Friday night. Monroe made sure none of it came easily.

The Patriots combined a goal-line stand, Gabriel Hopper's fourth-down touchdown and freshman Jalen Mack's power running to beat their crosstown rivals 14-6 at Hugh Mills Stadium on homecoming and senior night.

Westover improved to 7-1 overall and 5-1 in region play, remaining in the championship hunt. Monroe fell to 2-6 and 2-4 after keeping the outcome uncertain into the fourth quarter.

The Golden Tornadoes threatened first, with quarterback Jordan Shorter and running back Justin Grice leading a drive to first-and-goal at the Westover 9.

The Patriots held. On fourth-and-goal from the 6, Shorter raced toward the pylon, but Westover forced him out at the 1 to preserve the scoreless tie.

Westover later broke through after Malik Young's sideline run carried the Patriots to the Monroe 12. Facing fourth-and-6, Hopper faked a handoff to Young, rounded the left corner and scored. The extra-point attempt failed.

A penalty erased a subsequent touchdown pass from Hopper to Keyontae Hayes, and consecutive Monroe sacks helped keep Westover's halftime lead at 6-0.

After the break, the Patriots leaned on an offensive line led by Louisville commitment Kyson Mallard. Starting at midfield following a squib kick, Westover advanced with runs by Hopper, Young and Michael Daniels.

Mack finished the drive, powering through the middle for a touchdown before adding the two-point conversion for a 14-0 lead.

Monroe answered with a drive sustained by Shorter's third-and-long completion to a diving Kholin Browlee. Dy'Karie Carr added a sizable run, and Shorter scrambled to the 8 before Grice scored around the left side.

Westover blocked the extra point, then protected its eight-point advantage through a scoreless fourth quarter as both teams threatened but neither reached the end zone again.

The Patriots return to Hugh Mills next Friday against Dougherty, with another crosstown rivalry awaiting them. Monroe hosts Spencer at the stadium Thursday, seeking a rebound after pushing Westover throughout the night.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Westover running back Michael Daniels picks up big yards during the second quarter of Friday night's game at Hugh Mills Stadium. Daniels and the Patriots edged crosstown rival Monroe, 14-6.

The anatomy of a championship: Tough lessons, golden finish

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

DAWSON — Terrell Academy coach Ashley Walker scheduled trouble.

Westfield. Southwest Georgia. Calvary Christian.

All three beat his Terrell Academy softball team. None kept the Lady Eagles from becoming state champions.

That was the point.

Walker wasn't building a record to admire in September. He was building a team that could survive October. Saturday at the South Commons Softball Complex in Columbus, the Lady Eagles supplied the proof: Terrell Academy 13, John Milledge Academy 5.

The school's first state softball championship since 2009.

An unbeaten run through the GIAA Class AAA tournament.

A 16-7 season in which the seven losses helped explain the final victory.

"It allowed us to fail and fail often," Walker said of his schedule. "It taught us to be closer in tough moments and to battle adversity collectively as a group and not on our own individually."

Fail often. Grow closer. Win a championship.

It sounds tidy now. Living through it required considerably more faith.

Before the bracket

Ask a coach where a championship began, and you might expect a turning-point victory or a late-season practice when everything finally clicked.

Walker's answer takes you to Statesboro in the summer.

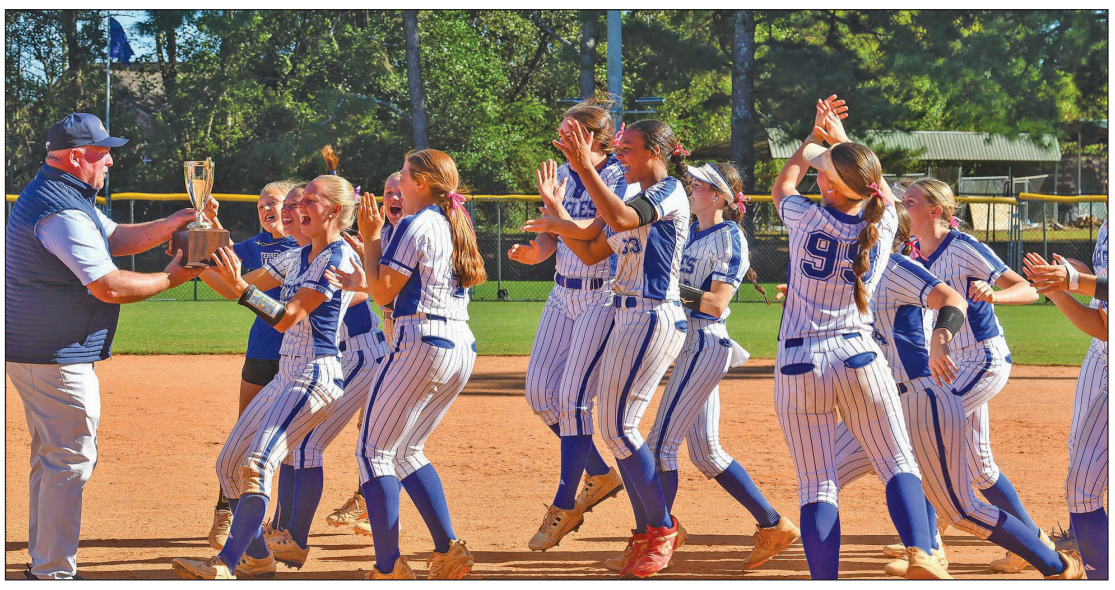
For three days at an FCA softball camp at Georgia Southern, the Lady Eagles faced tough opponents and learned something about the teammates beside them. Away from familiar surroundings, they talked through problems. They leaned on one another. They began becoming the group Walker would need when a season hung in the balance.

"This was the point that I witnessed our team come closer together," he said. "Going off to Statesboro allowed us to grow together not only in softball but more importantly together in spirit."

There was work to do back home, too.

Walker challenged his players in the weight room. A long season required stronger bodies, and stronger bodies required a commitment nobody could make for them.

They made it.



Special Photo: Darrell Roaden, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer
Terrell Academy players celebrate receiving the GIAA Class AAA state championship trophy Saturday in Columbus after beating John Milledge Academy 13-5. The Lady Eagles went unbeaten through the tournament to claim the school's first softball state title since 2009.



Special Photo: Darrell Roaden, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer
Terrell Academy senior Hadley Webb slides into home plate against John Milledge Academy in Saturday's state championship game. Webb was one of four seniors coach Ashley Walker credited with maintaining the Lady Eagles' standards throughout their championship season.

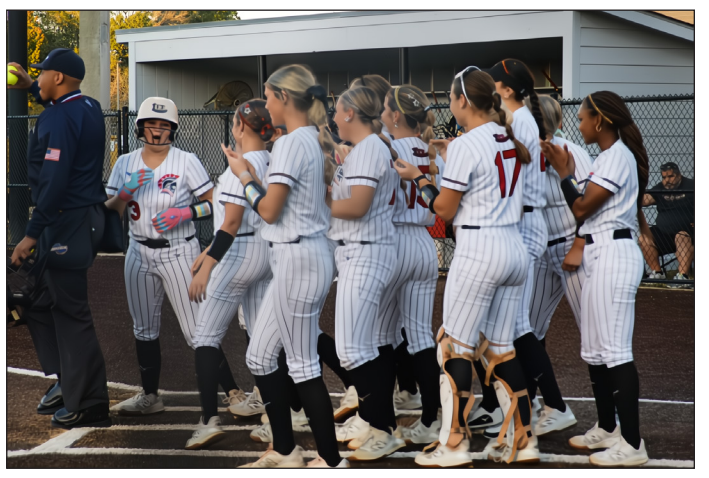
"I knew that we had a good shot at making a run when I saw the commitment to focus on getting better physically," Walker said.

The championship was still months away. Its foundation was taking shape.

The price of preparation

A difficult schedule offers

See **LESSONS**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Lee County players celebrate at home plate after Makinley Duke's home run in the second game of Wednesday's playoff sweep of Kell in Leesburg. The Lady Trojans face Pope Wednesday in the Class 6A Elite Eight at the South Commons Softball Complex in Columbus.

Lady Trojans ready for Elite Eight challenge

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Porter Butler gets on base. Brylyn Parsons supplies power. Tina Benton can change a game from the pitcher's circle or the batter's box.

Getting past Kell, however, required more than individual talent. Lee County needed patience against an elite pitcher, steady defense and the composure to turn small opportunities into enough runs.

That combination has the Lady Trojans headed to Columbus.

No. 2-ranked Lee County, 27-3, opens the Class 6A Elite Eight on Wednesday at the South Commons Softball Complex against Pope of Marietta. The Greyhounds enter at 24-9 after eliminating River Ridge 4-1 and 7-5.

Lee County earned its berth by sweeping Kell 3-0 and 3-2, winning twice against senior Alabama commitment Lyla Morici.

"Beating Kell in two close games showed that our girls are prepared to compete under pressure and find ways to win when the games are on the line," coach Hannah Spencer said.

The Lady Trojans have several ways to apply that pressure.

Butler leads a lineup capable of producing runs through power, speed and consistent contact. In Lee County's statistics posted on MaxPreps through Oct. 7, she was batting .560 with a .661 on-base percentage, 47 hits, 13 doubles and 16 stolen bases.

Parsons was hitting .410 with nine home runs and a .892 slugging percentage. Makinley Duke led the team

See **ELITE**, 10A

Worth County brings more than big numbers to Columbus

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

SYLVESTER — Worth County has scored 334 runs this season. It has allowed 67. Eight of its hitters are batting .400 or better.

Those are persuasive credentials for a trip to Columbus.

What happened against Jackson might be more persuasive still.

The Lady Rams, ranked second behind Appling County, lost the opening game of their second-round playoff series, watched a freshman pitcher take a line drive to the face and found themselves needing consecutive victories to keep their season alive.

They won both.

Now Worth County, 28-4 and the No. 2 seed in Class 3A, will face Brantley County at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the South Commons Softball Complex in the opening round of the GHSA Elite Eight.

The Lady Rams arrive with an offense capable of changing a game quickly, two pitchers who have combined for 28 victories and a coach who believes his team can handle what comes next.

"These girls are battle tested," Zach Mauldin said. "They've been in big games and don't let the pressure rattle them. They believe in one another."

Against Jackson, they had reason to lean on that belief.

Austyn Kate Rucker was struck by a line drive during Monday's second game, returned to finish the 3-2 victory and pitched again in Tuesday's deciding game. Worth won that one 16-12.

Mauldin said Rucker is ready for Columbus.

"She came back and pitched game three against Jackson," he said. "She wasn't as sharp but effective enough for us to win. She's a bulldog."

Her season provides supporting evidence. Rucker is 14-0 with a 1.78 ERA and 90 strikeouts in 74⅔ innings.

She also gives Worth something particularly useful in a double-elimination tournament: a second dependable arm alongside Laurie Pritchard.

Pritchard is 14-4 with a 1.51 ERA, 143 strikeouts and 23 walks in 97⅓ innings. Together, they have held opponents to a .199 batting average.

Then Pritchard picks up a bat, and the assignment becomes considerably less pleasant for the other team.

She leads Worth with a .521 average, 12 home runs and 65 RBIs. Of her 50 hits, 28 have gone for extra bases. She has struck out six times in 114 plate appearances.

Worth can also manufacture trouble without hitting a ball over the fence.

Isabelle Hancock is batting .484 with 58 runs and 35 stolen bases. Molly Williford is hitting .481 with a .616 on-base percentage, 50 runs and 19 steals. The Lady Rams have succeeded on 96 of 102 stolen-base attempts.

That combination puts pressure on a defense before the middle of the order gets its turn.

Ellasyn Gandy has supplied a .427 average, 10 doubles and 41 RBIs. Rucker, Kayelee Mathews and Ansley Bartley are also hitting above .400.

And Kamryn Kendrick, batting an even .400, just delivered the biggest offensive performance of Worth's postseason.

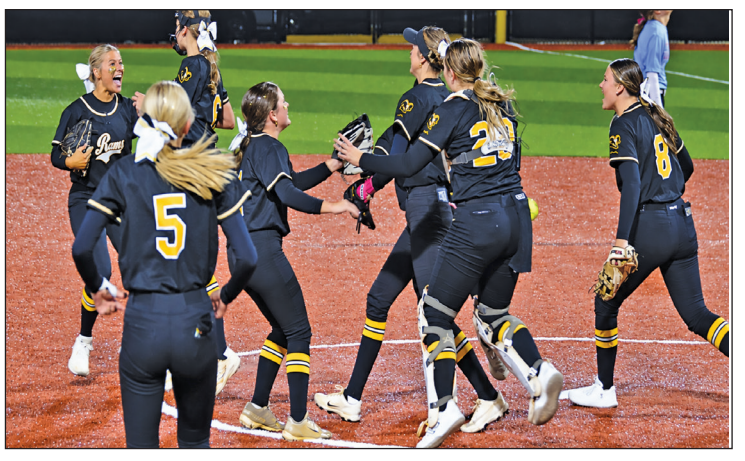
The senior hit two home runs, including a grand slam, and drove in seven runs in the clincher against Jackson. On an afternoon when Worth needed 16 runs to settle matters, Kendrick drove in nearly half of them.

The reward is a meeting with an opponent that gave the Lady Rams considerable trouble last season.

Worth and Brantley shared a region before the latest GHSA realignment. They played three times. Brantley won all three by wide margins.

That history offers an obvious storyline. Mauldin sees little reason to make it his team's focus.

"Honestly, we don't think about it too much," he said. "We are motivated enough to be on this stage."



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield
Worth County players celebrate during their playoff series against Jackson. The Lady Rams will face Brantley County at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Class 3A Elite Eight in Columbus

The Lady Rams have already demonstrated why they belong there. They overwhelmed opponents for much of the fall, then survived a series in which very little came easily.

Columbus will demand more of the same composure. The double-elimination format provides a chance to recover from a loss, but every team remaining has won its way through two playoff rounds.

"Brantley is a good team," Mauldin said. "Everyone is at this point, so we have to come with a lot of energy and just play Worth County softball."

For 32 games, that has meant power, speed and pitching. Against Jackson, it also meant finding a way through trouble.

Worth will take all four to Columbus.

Braves' winter challenge: Give Sale help, close lineup holes

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ATLANTA — The Braves found a formula that kept Chris Sale healthy and pitching among baseball's best. Now they need enough dependable arms to keep using it.

That makes starting pitching a central question this offseason, even for an organization with several intriguing options. Atlanta has talent. What it lacks is confidence about how much of that talent will be available in 2027.

The uncertainty extends beyond the rotation. The Braves must address weak offensive production at shortstop and determine whether veteran reliever Raisel Iglesias is worth another substantial investment.

As MLB.com's Mark Bowman outlined in his offseason analysis, those decisions are closely connected. How Atlanta handles them will determine both where it spends and how much flexibility remains.

Sale's season provides a compelling argument for starting with the rotation.

The left-hander avoided the injured list, averaged a career-best 96.1 mph with his four-seam fastball and delivered a season that stands alongside some of the franchise's finest.

His 196 ERA+, which adjusts for league and ballpark conditions, ranked behind only Greg Maddux's 1994 and 1995 seasons and Reynaldo López's 2024 performance among Braves pitchers with at least 25 starts.

Atlanta helped make that possible by regularly giving Sale six or seven days between starts. Even with injuries thinning the rotation, the Braves protected his schedule, earning him the playful designation of "Friday night starter" late in the season.

Preserving that approach as Sale turns 38 will require more than hoping the injured pitchers recover.

Bowman identifies Sale, Grant Holmes and Bryce Elder as the only current organizational options who should be projected for 25 or more starts next season.

López's right shoulder could continue to limit him. Spencer Schwellenbach faces uncertainty after another elbow surgery, while Spencer Strider's health also clouds the outlook. Their recoveries could force Atlanta to consider whether either would be better suited for relief work.

The younger pitchers offer possibilities, though each comes with a qualification.

Didier Fuentes has never thrown more than 73 1/3 innings in a season. AJ Smith-Shawver will be further removed from Tommy John surgery. JR Ritchie and Owen Murphy give the Braves additional upside, but Atlanta still must determine how much it can reasonably ask of them.

Re-signing Tyler Mahle would provide valuable stability. Given the questions behind Sale, Holmes and Elder, Bowman suggests the Braves could need two additions to the rotation.



Special Photo: Braves.com

Adding rotation depth to help Chris Sale this offseason could help the Braves preserve the extra rest that kept Sale healthy and effective in 2026.

Every dollar committed there, however, is a dollar unavailable to repair an offense that received too little from several positions.

Shortstop presents the clearest opportunity.

Atlanta's shortstops combined for a 67 weighted runs created plus, meaning their offensive production was 33% below league average. Third base, left field and second base also fell below average, but none produced as little as shortstop.

Mauricio Dubón could fill that opening. First, the Braves must bring him back.

Dubón produced a 115 wRC+ while playing shortstop — 15% above league average — and contributed positive defensive value. His season strengthened the case that he can handle an everyday assignment.

It also strengthened his negotiating position.

The Braves acquired Dubón after Houston declined to pay him approximately $6 million through arbitration. Now 32, he is the leading shortstop option in this winter's free-agent class, according to Bowman's assessment.

Retaining him would give Atlanta a familiar answer at a position of need. Installing him permanently at shortstop would also reduce the defensive versatility that made him so useful, particularly in left field.

That could send the Braves back into the market for an outfielder.

Randy Arozarena and Ian Happ are among the leading free-agent choices. Atlanta could also seek a right-handed bat to pair with Mike Yastrzemski, although his .697 OPS against right-handed pitching leaves room for improvement on that side of the arrangement as well.

The bullpen requires a similar calculation: how much certainty can the Braves buy, and at what price?

Iglesias has earned $16 million annually since the start of 2023. Another one-year agreement at that figure would keep an experienced reliever in place, but it would be a significant expense for a team with multiple needs.

Robert Suarez's postseason fastball offered encouragement. His right elbow remains part of the decision, however, and the front office will need a favorable medical assessment before counting on him next season.

Dylan Lee's second-half decline adds uncertainty. Fuentes could help in relief, but assigning him to the bullpen would remove one possible source of starts.

That is the balancing act awaiting Atlanta. Strengthening one area could expose another, and counting too heavily on recoveries could leave the Braves scrambling for help again.

Albany State volleyball surges into national spotlight

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Albany State's volleyball team earned national recognition this week, then delivered another reason to keep watching.

The Lady Golden Rams, ranked No. 2 in the inaugural Black College Sports Network HBCU Volleyball Rankings, defeated Allen in four sets Wednesday to reach 20 victories and extend their winning streak to 11 matches.

Albany State improved to 20-8 overall and 14-1 in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with the 25-17, 23-25, 25-23, 25-9 road victory at Adams Gymnasium in Columbia, S.C. It is the program's first 20-win season since the 2023-24 campaign.

For coach Verniece Graham, the ranking recognizes the work already invested. The larger prize remains ahead.

"Our goal is not simply to be ranked among the best, but to compete for championships," Graham said.

The BCSN rankings evaluate HBCU programs across NCAA Division I, Division II and NAIA. Based on competition through Oct. 18, Albany State earned a score of 76.20, narrowly behind top-ranked Fayetteville State's 76.63.

West Virginia State, Livingstone and Virginia State completed the top five.

"Being recognized among the top HBCU volleyball programs is a testament to the hard work, discipline, and commitment our student-athletes demonstrate every day," Graham said.

That discipline faced a test Wednesday when Allen recovered from an opening-set loss to tie the match and pushed Albany State deep into the third set.



Special Photo: Albany State University

Albany State volleyball players gather in a team huddle. The Lady Golden Rams earned the No. 2 spot in the inaugural BCSN HBCU rankings and extended their winning streak to 11 matches with Wednesday's victory at Allen.

The Lady Golden Rams responded by winning the third 25-23, then left little doubt in the fourth.

Albany State produced 14 kills and hit .407 in the final set, overwhelming Allen 25-9. The hosts managed just four kills and a negative-.115 hitting percentage as the Lady Golden Rams closed out the match.

Jarianis Perez led Albany State with 13 kills on a .375 hitting percentage, adding 10 digs and two service aces. Amiria Anderson supplied 12 kills and hit .429.

Their production helped the Lady Golden Rams regain control after an uneven start. Albany State hit .353 while winning the opening set 25-17, but its offense faltered in the second as Allen pulled even with a 25-23 victory.

The pivotal third set brought a stronger response. Albany State recorded 15 kills to edge Allen, setting up its decisive finishing burst.

The offense extended well beyond its two leading hitters.

Shaniya Banks contributed eight kills on a .429 hitting percentage, along with three solo blocks and two block assists. Aleiah Carr added seven kills, while Maya Ogbogu finished with six kills, three aces and five solo blocks.

Trinity Britt distributed a team-high 25 assists, and Liannette Burgos added 20 assists and three aces. Myra Lopez anchored the back row with 15 digs.

Albany State finished with 50 kills, 50 assists and 10 aces while hitting .243.

The Lady Golden Rams return to the Jones Brothers HPER Complex on Tuesday to face Clark Atlanta at 6 p.m. With 20 victories secured and a national ranking beside its name, Albany State will look to extend its streak and continue building toward the SIAC championship chase.

From 9A

LESSONS

a coach useful information. It can offer players a bruised sense of themselves.

Terrell Academy had to learn the difference between losing a game and losing its way.

Westfield beat the Lady Eagles 6-2. Then 9-5. Southwest Georgia and Calvary Christian handed them losses, too.

Walker kept asking his team to do hard things against opponents capable of exposing its weaknesses.

"We used the hard schedule to prepare us to be our best when times were at its hardest," he said. "I needed this group to be battle tested early and often."

The players had reasons to trust that approach beyond their coach's assurances.

Some had already won a state basketball championship at Terrell Academy. They understood the pressure of a title run and brought that experience to a different field.

"Those young ladies who were able to hoist the trophy created a calm understanding of what it was going to take to create that same result in softball," Walker said.

They knew a big moment could be handled.

Their teammates learned to believe it, too.

Four seniors, one standard

Hadley Webb. Laine Brown. Caroline Presley. Alyssa Godwin.

Four seniors whose contribution Walker measures in more than hits, innings or outs.

"They cried, they fought, they faced frustration, they were hungry but humble, but most importantly, they led us!" he said.

There is a season inside that sentence.

The frustration of falling short. The work of trying again. The responsibility of keeping everyone moving in the same direction when nobody can promise where the road will end.

"They never wavered, they kept us on track with our standards and never allowed our team to lower those standards," Walker said.

He credits the previous senior class with helping establish that culture. These four carried it forward.

Then they carried it to Columbus.

The final examination

Westfield had won nine consecutive state championships.

Terrell Academy had lost both regular-season meetings.

Friday, those facts became background.

Jacey Lane hit two home runs and drove in five runs as the Lady Eagles beat Westfield 8-7 to reach the championship game. The opponent that had twice shown Terrell Academy how far it needed to go had just discovered how far it had come.

John Milledge then eliminated Westfield, ending the Lady Hornets' title streak and completing a four-game charge through the elimination bracket.

The Lady Trojans arrived in the final knowing how to survive.

Terrell Academy gave them no room to do it again.

Trailing 1-0 Saturday, the Lady Eagles scored five runs in the third inning. They drew walks, put balls in play, used sacrifices and punished mistakes.

In the fourth, they supplied the heavy blows: six runs on five hits, including Michaela Zingarelli's three-run single.

Presley pitched all five innings.

The team Walker had deliberately placed in difficult situations finished the championship game with an eight-run cushion.

What stays

Four seniors will graduate. Walker makes no promise that replacing them will be easy.

"You know the hardest thing to do in any sport is to stay on top," he said.

He likes the young talent returning. More than that, he knows what he will ask of it.

"Our goals and expectations will stay the same, we just have to work hard to make sure we give ourselves a chance to compete again."

There will be more work in the weight room. More demands. More afternoons when the opponent reveals something Terrell Academy needs to fix.

The Lady Eagles now have a championship to show where that work can lead.

Walker scheduled trouble.

His players learned how to handle it.

Seventeen years after its last softball title, Terrell Academy finished with the trophy.

From 9A

ELITE

with 33 RBIs, while Kennady Patrick had six home runs and Benton had seven. Izzy Evans was batting .362, and Aubree Spencer owned a .500 on-base percentage. maxpreps.com

Those numbers describe a lineup with multiple threats. Against Kell, the Lady Trojans demonstrated that they could also manufacture the runs a difficult game demands.

Morici struck out 17 without issuing a walk across the doubleheader. Lee County kept finding openings.

"We faced elite pitching … in both games and they still found ways to get on base and put pressure on the defense," Spencer said. "Both games challenged us in different ways, and our players stayed composed, trusted each other, and executed when it mattered most."

Benton made the first game's three runs stand up, pitching a complete-game shutout with five strikeouts. She also contributed two hits.

Butler singled home the opening run in the third inning. Duke and Jaylyn Purvis also drove in runs, helping Lee County take control of the series.

The clincher tested the Lady Trojans' ability to respond.

Duke homered to center field in the second inning, and Parsons brought home another run with a third-inning groundout. Kell answered with two runs in the fourth to erase the lead.

Reese Watkins handled the first four innings, striking out two. Benton returned to the circle in the fifth and pitched three scoreless innings, allowing two hits.

With the score still tied in the sixth, Parsons delivered another run-scoring groundout to put Lee County ahead for good.

Aubree Spencer, Mac Davis, Butler and Duke each collected a hit in the clincher. Lee County turned a double play in each game, giving its pitchers valuable support.

Benton finished the sweep with both victories and 10 scoreless innings.

That pitching partnership will remain central in Columbus. Watkins and Benton led Lee County's posted Oct. 7 statistics with ERAs of 1.76 and 1.81, respectively. maxpreps.com

Spencer expects the double-elimination format to leave her approach largely unchanged. She will continue to trust her pitchers and make decisions according to each game's circumstances.

The same goes for the lineup and defense. Against a Pope team coming off its own second-round sweep, Lee County will need contributions throughout the roster.

"At this point in the season, every team is good and every team is bringing its best," Spencer said. "We know we will have to be disciplined at the plate, play solid defense, and take care of the little things to give ourselves a chance to win."

Her confidence comes from watching how the Lady Trojans handle those responsibilities together.

"I'm super impressed and proud to say that they play hard for each other no matter the situation and it feels good to take a team like this to Columbus!" Spencer said.

Lee County has already shown it can win when runs come in bunches. Against Kell, it proved it could win when every run mattered.

Now the Lady Trojans will try to carry both versions of themselves into the state tournament.

UGA's four-year graduation rate reaches 82%

By Heather Skyler
media@uga.edu



Special Photo: UGA Today

The University of Georgia's four-year graduation rate has reached 82%, placing UGA among the Top 10 public universities nationally.

ATHENS – The University of Georgia's four-year graduation rate has reached 82%, reflecting the university's commitment to student success and placing UGA among the Top 10 public universities nationally.

Here are some fast facts on UGA's enrollment for fall 2026:

Total enrollment reached 44,547, an increase of 1.5% or 660 students from the previous year.

1,053 more Georgia students are enrolled this fall than in fall 2025.

UGA's undergraduate enrollment stands at 33,133, up about 1% from the previous year.

Transfer applications increased 20%, and incoming transfer students recorded an average GPA of 3.72.

UGA graduate and professional education enrollment surpassed 11,000 for the first time, reaching 11,414.

Master's and education specialist enrollment increased 3.4% to 5,973, doctoral enrollment rose 1.4% to 3,627, and professional enrollment grew 6.1% to 1,814.

The largest enrollment increases in UGA's schools and colleges include Engineering (+328), Veterinary Medicine (+205), Public and International Affairs (+111), Social Work (+102), Family and Consumer Sciences (+99), Education (+92), Pharmacy (+60) and Business (+58).

"The University of Georgia's growth is rooted in our responsibility to serve this state," UGA President Jere W. Morehead said. "We are enrolling more Georgians while making the strategic investments necessary to support them through initiatives ranging from new residence and dining facilities to expanded academic and student-support capacity.

"Our goal is not simply to grow but to ensure that every additional student has access to the exceptional experience and opportunities that define UGA."

Obituaries



William E Southerland

Major William (Bill) Elbert Southerland, USMC (Ret.), age 91, passed away peacefully on October 19, 2026, in Moultrie, Georgia. Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM Friday, October 23, 2026, in the chapel of Baker Funeral Home, with the Reverend Josh Purvis officiating. A graveside service with full military honors was held at Gurganus Cemetery in Shallotte, North Carolina, on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM. The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, Thursday, October 22, 2026, in the chapel at Baker Funeral Home.

Bill enlisted in the Marines in 1953, beginning a distinguished 30-year career that saw him through numerous rank promotions and took him to many destinations across the globe. Bill was a member of a select group of Marines called "Mustangs." His storied military career began with the enlisted rank of Private and ended with retirement at the officer rank of Major. During active duty as well as in his civil service career, Bill saw the world. He traveled to many foreign countries and saw almost all 50 states of the United States. He served in Vietnam and many overseas deployments, earning the Good Conduct Medal (w/3 stars), Navy Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal (w/1star), Vietnam Campaign Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (w/"V"), Navy Unit Commendation, RVNAF-MUC Gallantry Cross w/Palm, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Achievement Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Bill served in a variety of battalions and divisions while in the USMC, but referred to himself as a "Tanker," which was the role he enjoyed the most. Upon retirement from MCLB Albany, GA, in 1983, Bill began a distinguished 25-year-long career with the MPS Program (Blount Island, Jacksonville, FL), serving as a civil service worker for the United States Marine Corps. Through his 55-year long service to the Marines, Bill was known for his steady leadership and unwavering commitment. He mentored countless Marines and left a lasting impact on the Corps.

In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his loving wife, Margaret Usher Southerland; daughter, Terri Southerland; brother and sister-in-law, Ed and Peggy Southerland; sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and JD Sorrell; brothers-in-law, William Usher Jr. and Grover Holden. He is survived by his children, Tammy Southerland Maxwell and husband Brennen, and Tina Southerland Johnston, all of Moultrie; his grandchildren, Billy Johnston and wife Faith of Moultrie, Kathryn Maxwell of Jasper, GA, Adrienne Johnston and fiancé, Adam of Doerun, GA, and Kaitlyn Maxwell of Statesboro, GA.

Because Bill had a heart for giving and a love of children, in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Called to Care (a children's foster care mission group), PO Box 2396, Tifton, GA 31793, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.



GySgt Miles Edwin Martin, USMC (Ret.)

Miles Edwin Martin, 88, of Albany, Georgia, passed away peacefully in New Smyrna Beach, FL, leaving behind a legacy of devotion to country and family. Born April 30, 1938, in Andalusia, Alabama, to Miles Truman Martin and Mary Estelle Phillips, he learned grit early while sharecropping cotton and peanuts across Alabama and Florida. Miles served over 20 years in the United States Marine Corps. While fondly remembered as a Drill Instructor and Senior D.I. for four years, he spent most of his distinguished career in Force Recon conducting classified special operations, including pilot rescues behind enemy lines. A veteran of two wartime tours in Vietnam, he trained Vietnamese forces in 1961, earning rare Vietnamese jump wings. Following his military retirement, he dedicated 17 years to teaching Naval Junior ROTC in Leesburg, affectionately known to generations of students as "Mr. Gunny." He was preceded in death by his wives, Carole Morris Martin, his devoted partner of 52 years, and Alice Fay Mercer Martin. His legacy continues through his six children: sons Charles (SMSgt, USAF, Ret.), Kevin Michael (USN/Merchant Marine), Sean (USMC/USCG, Ret.), and David (USAF); daughters Cathleen Monnett and Kelly Slayton; and many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

To place an obituary announcement in the Albany Herald, go online to https://legacy.memoriams.com/network/albanyherald/obituary. Fill out form online and submit payment. WE DO NOT ACCEPT OBITUARIES & PAYMENT BY PHONE.

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.

"DN GWCPQUK ZPCPQ'U UCWTPMHQL, ZP SHSQ'U VWTP UVP DIQPN YIC UVWU. YHMDDWBHQL WMMIZPS DP UI KPP UVP ZICMS." — CNWQ OIILMPC

Previous Solution: "Being edited by American journals improved my sentences ... With a tighter sentence I was able to write a tighter book." — Zadie Smith

TODAY'S CLUE: M = D

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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.

"VKTMJPTMV P'Y ULJIMU ZQVJ YK JIM VAMBM LBY BKJ JLHO LEKQJ PJ LJ LHH ... SKQ ALB'J JIPBO SKQUVMHG PBJK GMMHPBX." — TPL XKJI

Previous Solution: "My parents weren't traveling, we didn't have the money for that. Filmmaking allowed me to see the world." — Ryan Coogler

TODAY'S CLUE: T = H

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The Housing Authority of the City of Albany, Georgia (AHA) invites qualified civil engineering firms to submit qualifications for comprehensive acquisition due diligence and preliminary land planning services for approximately 55.27 acres on Pinson Road and Rosebrier Avenue in Albany, Georgia.
AHA seeks one prime consultant responsible for providing and managing all required technical disciplines, including surveying, environmental assessments, geotechnical investigations, wetlands and floodplain evaluation, utilities, drainage, access, zoning, preliminary development planning, cost estimates, and technical closing support. Qualified subconsultants are permitted. Services will support a proposed mixed-use development and a 90-day acquisition inspection period.
Selection will be based on qualifications, relevant experience, proposed personnel, approach, availability, and past performance, followed by negotiation of scope and compensation. **Do not submit pricing with qualifications.**
The complete RFQ and submission instructions may be obtained by contacting Douglas Holdridge, Director of Modernization, at dholdridge@albanyha.com.
Qualifications must be received by no later than 2:00 PM **Eastern Time on 11-19-2026**, in accordance with the RFQ. Written questions are due by **12:00 PM Eastern Time on 11-05- 2026**

Public Hearings

AHA reserves the right to reject any or all submissions and to cancel or amend this solicitation in accordance with applicable requirements. Small, minority-owned, and women-owned firms are encouraged to participate.
October 24, 27, 29, 31, November 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 2026



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 spoiled (6)	
2 bookworms (7)	
3 film launch (8)	
4 cooks in sugary syrup (7)	
5 "In addition..." (8)	
6 flagrant rule-breaker (8)	
7 what a woodcutter wields (8)	

NED	RUI	ADE	RE	PRE
RS	CA	SCO	LAW	SEC
IN	CHA	RE	NDI	OND
SAW	LY	FF	ES	MIE

Saturday's Answers: 1. PUSHBACK 2. IMAGING 3. SOUP 4. EMERALD 5. CLOVE 6. DERAILLEUR 7. LIMINAL 10/26

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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 overjoyed (6)	
2 Simone Biles, by trade (7)	
3 "Cosmopolitan" competitor (5)	
4 Farrah, Kate & Jaclyn, once (6)	
5 what relay runners pass (6)	
6 sole cuts (6)	
7 "shapely" math discipline (8)	

ETS	MN	EL	GUE	ED
GY	NS	AST	GE	TO
VO	GE	LS	AT	ET
OM	RY	FIL	BA	AN

Monday's Answers: 1. RUINED 2. READERS 3. PREMIERE 4. CANDIES 5. SECONDLY 6. SCOFFLAW 7. CHAINSAW 10/27

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Release Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2026

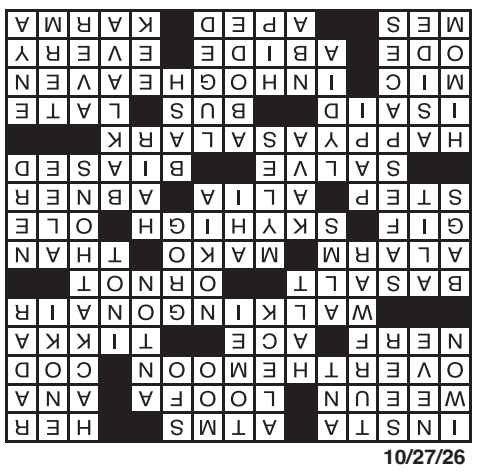
Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

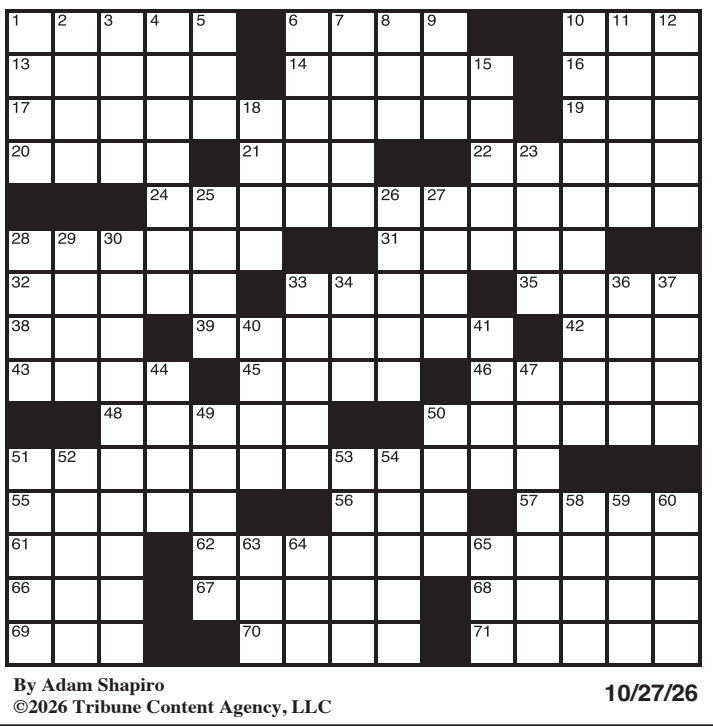
ACROSS
1 Stories and Reels app, familiarly
6 20s dispensers
10 That woman
13 Tot, to a Scot
14 Bath accessory
16 Santa __, California
17 Ecstatic, like a nursery rhyme cow?
19 North Atlantic fish
20 Weaken, in gaming slang
21 Low card in cribbage
22 Chicken __ masala
24 Ecstatic, like a tightrope performer?
28 Volcanic rock
31 "... but I may be wrong"
32 Scare
33 Shark called the "cheetah of the ocean"
35 Larger __ life
38 Animated response?
39 Like exorbitant prices, and like 17-, 24-, 51-, and 62-Across?
42 World Cup shout
43 Ladder rung
45 Et __: and others
46 "Li'l" resident of Dogpatch
48 Skin soother
50 Unfairly partisan
51 Ecstatic, like a songbird?
55 "Let me repeat ... "
56 Team transport
57 Tardy
61 Karaoke aid
62 Ecstatic, like a big pig?
66 Sharon Olds' "__ to My Whiteness"
67 Tolerate
68 "Worth __ penny!"
69 Month, in Mexico
70 Parroted
71 Cosmic fate

DOWN
1 Victorious cry
2 Campbell of "The Lincoln Lawyer"
3 Prophetic one
4 Power struggle within a company, e.g.
5 Kitchen pest
6 Smart __
7 Oscar winner Marisa
8 "I'm a cow!"
9 NorCal airport
10 Collaborative coding events
11 Japanese mushroom
12 Plane-tracking tech
15 Writer Chekhov
18 Sentry's shout
23 Playing to break a tie, for short
25 Offerings to Buddhist monks
26 Pioneer in mobile phone technology
27 Shipboard booze
28 Reusable totes, e.g.
29 Came to rest
30 Judgment-free environments
33 NFLer Garrett who made a record 23 sacks in 2025
34 Poke bowl tuna
36 Not aweather
37 Trivia champion, perhaps
40 Intoxicating Polynesian drink
41 Brush target
44 Daddy, in Spanish
47 Layered pastry with honey and nuts
49 Golfer Ko in the LPGA Hall of Fame
50 Major shindig
51 Classic handmade sign for TV cameras
52 Brief digression
53 "Humble" quarters
54 Raced on a sled
58 Affirm as true
59 Time in office
60 Irish New Age singer
63 Org. with Hornets and Bulls
64 Cool
65 Shriek after a squeak

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:



10/27/26



By Adam Shapiro
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10/27/26

What to watch

TUESDAY

October 27, 2026

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

Dancing With the Stars
ABC, 8 p.m. Live

The ballroom becomes a house of chills and thrills as contestants dance to favorites from scary movies in "Horror Movie Night." Alfonso Ribeiro and Julianne Hough host.

World Series: Game 4: Milwaukee at Tampa Bay
FOX, 8 p.m. Live

If a team has a 3-0 lead in the World Series, a champion could be crowned following tonight's Game 4. If there's no series sweep, Game 5 is tomorrow night.

NBA Basketball
NBC, 8 p.m. Live

NBC's *Coast 2 Coast* NBA primetime regional broadcasts return with the Detroit Pistons at the defending champion N.Y. Knicks for Eastern viewers. For fans out West, NBC airs the Portland Trail Blazers at the L.A. Lakers.



'The Drop: A Snowfall Saga'

RAY MICKSHAW, FX

NCIS
CBS, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "Like and Subscribe," the team investigates the murder of a sailor who was moonlighting as a contestant on an online game show.

NCIS: New York
CBS, 9 p.m.

A deadly armored truck robbery at the Naval Corps Credit Union sets the team in search of a sniper in the new episode "Homecoming." "

The Drop: A Snowfall Saga
FX, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

The *Snowfall* spinoff set in the world of early 1990s West Coast rap in Los Angeles concludes its first season with "Hercules." Gail Bean, Isaiah John and Asante Blackk star.

Breaking the Deadlock
PBS, 9 p.m.

As artificial intelligence works its way into every facet of our lives, Americans will have a choice: Will we control it or will it control us? Moderator Aaron Tang guides a panel of prominent voices through complex hypothetical scenarios, grappling with questions of community, accountability and personal responsibility as they weigh in on AI's growing role in our lives in the new episode "AI: Who's in Control?

R.J. Decker
ABC, 10 p.m. ■ Season Finale

R.J. (Scott Speedman) is hired to look into the murder of a police officer in the hope of exonerating a possibly wrongly convicted man who took the fall in the Season 2 finale "Before You Accuse Me."

NCIS: Origins
CBS, 10 p.m.

In 1993, the team intervenes when a general's rebellious teen son is targeted by a dangerous former gang member. In the present, Gibbs (returning guest star Mark Harmon) returns to a place full of memories and discovers he's not alone in the new episode "Shimmy Shimmy Ya."

In Pursuit: Lessons of American Leadership
PBS, 10 p.m.

News organizations More Perfect and Retro Report present this study of leadership lessons learned from presidents and first ladies, weaving together new voices, archival material and documentary storytelling to honor America's 250th birthday.

CATCH A CLASSIC

TCM Spotlight: Sweater Weather
TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

This month's final "Sweater Weather" lineup mixes romance, comedy and murder in a cozy night for mystery fans. Cary Grant discovers that his sweet elderly aunts have a deadly secret in 1944's *Arsenic and Old Lace* **(pictured)**. Next, Veronica Lake plays a witch who falls for the descendant of the man who condemned her in *I Married a Witch* (1942). *A Stolen Life* (1946), *The Stranger* (1946), *Deathtrap* (1982) and *Ten Little Indians* (1965) follow.



WARNER BROS.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Beetlejuice'

WARNER BROS.

Double Double Trouble (2026, Suspense) Tami Roman, Colin Lawrence **LMN, 6 p.m.**

Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981, Adventure) Harrison Ford, Karen Allen **Paramount, 6 p.m.**

A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984, Horror) John Saxon, Ronee Blakley **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Minions (2015, Children) Sandra Bullock, Jon Hamm **NICK, 7 p.m.**

The Devil Wears Prada (2006, Comedy-drama) Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway **E!, 7:30 p.m.**

Gone in 60 Seconds (2000, Action) Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie **SYFY, 8 p.m.**

Black Adam (2022, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Aldis Hodge **TNT, 8:15 p.m.**

Beetlejuice (1988, Comedy) Michael Keaton, Alec Baldwin **Freeform, 9 p.m.**

Creepshow (1982, Horror) Hal Holbrook, Adrienne Barbeau **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

Captain Marvel (2019, Action) Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson **FX, 10 p.m.**

Just Wright (2010, Romance-comedy) Queen Latifah, Common **VH1, 10 p.m.**

Con Air (1997, Action) Nicolas Cage, John Cusack **SYFY, 10:30 p.m.**

Shelter (2026, Action) Jason Statham, Bodhi Rae Breathnach **Starz, 11 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

TV REIMAGINED What to Watch Now! | StayTuned What2Watch All Month Long! $3.99/Month CALL: 888-899-9992 Mention code: tune1

What to watch

WEDNESDAY

October 28, 2026

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

NBA Basketball
ESPN, beginning at 7 p.m. Live

NBA action on ESPN has the Philadelphia 76ers at the Indiana Pacers and the Oklahoma City Thunder at the Dallas Mavericks.

NHL Hockey: Philadelphia at Washington
TNT & truTV, 7:30 p.m. Live

Travis Konecny and the Philadelphia Flyers are at D.C.'s Capital One Arena to skate against Alex Ovechkin and the Capitals.

Scrubs
ABC, 8 p.m.

J.D. (Zach Braff) helps a former colleague with a difficult patient, Elliot (Sarah Chalke) seeks support for her new clinic and Turk (Donald Faison) faces his family's growing pains in the new episode "My Halloween."

Chicago Med
NBC, 8 p.m.

Charles (Oliver Platt) clashes with a colleague when he diagnoses their family member in the new episode "Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow."

Nature
PBS, 8 p.m.

In the conclusion of this two-part *Nature* episode, "Tiger Island Part II," follow a team of cinematographers and big-cat experts in the forests of Nepal as they use drones and the latest imaging technology to capture rarely seen tiger behavior.

Abbott Elementary
ABC, 8:30 p.m.

Ava (Janelle James) hosts an exclusive Halloween party, and Janine and Jacob (Quinta Brunson and Chris Perfetti) get suspicious of Gregory (Tyler James Williams) in the new episode "Halloween Party."



'NOVA'

SEB BLACH

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire
ABC, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

The season finale episode features sisters Sarah Jane and Brooks Nader (*Love Thy Nader*), and *Saturday Night Live*'s Colin Jost and Michael Che.

Chicago Fire
NBC, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "A Perfect Arson," the FBI recruits Severide (Taylor Kinney) when a fire is intentionally set to cover up the kidnapping of a judge's daughter.

NOVA
PBS, 9 p.m.

Earth teems with creatures that walk, swim, slither and fly. *NOVA*'s series on evolution continues with "Body Builders," which uncovers the evolutionary twists that gave rise to peculiar yet defining features that make Earth's living tapestry so remarkable.

Chicago P.D.
NBC, 10 p.m.

An eager young officer assigned to one of Chicago's most dangerous districts catches a case that Intelligence is watching in the new episode "My Eye, My Call."

CATCH A CLASSIC

Hollywood and the Black Athlete, Part 2
TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

The second installment spotlights more athletes who worked in front of the camera. NFL star Jim Brown leads the Western **100 Rifles** (1969), while Muhammad Ali plays himself in 1977's biographical drama **The Greatest (pictured)**. Football player Fred Williamson stars as a private investigator in **Black Eye** (1974), and martial artist Jim Kelly takes the lead in **Black Belt Jones** (1974). The night ends with **Hit Man** (1972), starring NFL player Bernie Casey.



COLUMBIA PICTURES

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Pet Sematary'

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Night of the Living Dead (1990, Horror) Tony Todd, Patricia Tallman **BBC America, 6 p.m.**

Pixels (2015, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kevin James **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

Shrek 2 (2004, Children) Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy **NICK, 7 p.m.**

'Tis the Season for Setups (2026, Romance-comedy) Amanda Schull, Victor Webster **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Apocalypse Now Redux (1979, War) Marlon Brando, Robert Duvall **SHO, 8 p.m.**

Pet Sematary (1989, Horror) Dale Midkiff, Fred Gwynne **BBC America, 8 p.m.**

Hocus Pocus (1993, Family) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker **Freeform, 8:50 p.m.**

The Invite (2026, Comedy-drama) Seth Rogen, Olivia Wilde **HBO, 8:55 p.m.**

Haunted Heist (2025, Comedy) Tiffany Haddish, Andrew Bachelor **Starz, 9 p.m.**

Ghostbusters II (1989, Comedy) Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd **FX, 10 p.m.**

Bean (1997, Comedy) Rowan Atkinson, Peter MacNicol **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

Evil Dead Rise (2023, Horror) Lily Sullivan, Alyssa Sutherland **TNT, 11 p.m.**

Marry Me (2022, Romance-comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Owen Wilson **E!, 11:30 p.m.**

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