Perspectives
Dick Yarbrough
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The Albany HERALD

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Dougherty commissioners split over proposed $50,000 jail study

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — A proposed $50,000 study of Dougherty County's jail drew disagreement among Dougherty County commissioners Monday over whether the county needs a broader plan for inmate housing and safety or risks paying twice for work while urgent repairs remain unresolved.

Commissioner Russell Gray questioned overlap with an earlier assessment of the jail's building systems. Commissioners Clinton Johnson and Gloria Gaines argued that the proposed study would address operational problems the earlier work did not examine, including staffing, inmate supervision and mental health needs.


RUSSELL GRAY

The proposal from Garmong GA LLC, working with Studio View Architecture LLC, would compare renovation, expansion and replacement options while projecting the jail's needs over 20 years.

County Administrator Deron King said funding is now included in the budget. The Oct. 26 agenda identifies the general fund's Jail Services account as the source.


GLORIA GAINES

The proposal previously appeared on the commission's Dec. 15, 2025, agenda but was not voted on because a transfer from contingency funds was not approved.

Gray said taxpayers already had paid for an assessment by Andrews, Hammock & Powell covering mechanical, electrical and other building needs, along with plans for kitchen and lobby improvements. Only part of that work had been approved for implementation, he said.

"There are some very acute things that need to happen at that facility before we have a catastrophic failure of some of our systems," Gray said.

Gray put the identified renovation needs at $44 million and questioned how the county would finance that work. He acknowledged

See **JAIL**, 2A

Albany Herald to host Halloween evening TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT

By Carlton Fletcher
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ALBANY – Even with all the fun scary monsters roaming the streets on Halloween night, parents are encouraged to avoid any real possible monsters by making sure their little ghosts and goblins trick-or-treat safely Saturday.

One way kids can get lots of candy and enjoy a safe Halloween is to come to the parking lot beside The Albany Herald at 306 West Broad Ave. Saturday from 5-6:30 p.m. for a trunk or treat event. Albany Police Department officials will be on hand to make sure the event is a fun and safe one.

Albany Herald staff and a number of businesses and individuals will set up candy stations for the free event, ensuring that there will be plenty of sweet treats to go around. A kids costume contest can win prizes for participants.

So make sure your little ghoulies have a safe Halloween and get enough treats to last them at least until Thanksgiving. Bring them to the Herald parking lot Saturday for some good, old-fashioned family fun.


File Photo
Little trick-or-treaters can enjoy a safe Halloween event Saturday in The Albany Herald's 306 West Broad Ave. parking lot for a trunk or treat event that includes prizes for the best costumes.


Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
David Furman addresses the Dougherty County Commission on Monday about the condition of Lake Chehaw. The Cromartie Beach area resident said that invasive vegetation has made recreational activities impossible.

Invasive vegetation spoils recreational activities at Lake Chehaw

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – An invasion of small organisms is causing big problems on Lake Chehaw, and residents say the out-of-control vegetation has taken the fun out of water activities.

"It's no longer a lake," David Furman, who addressed the Dougherty County Commission about the situation on Monday morning, said. "It's more like the Okefenokee (Swamp). Fishing, boating, anything ... I've had to basically take everything out and not try to use it."

Vegetation has choked the water and is making conditions more conducive to alligators, who have been appearing more frequently, the Cromartie Beach area resident said.

"I've seen some seriously large alligators," Furman said. "There's more habitat closer in to the shore now. Normally they stick to backwaters and sloughs."

See **CHEHAW**, 2A

Albany Area Primary Health Care names Jeren Stepp chief financial officer

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Albany Area Primary Health Care has announced that Jeren Stepp has joined the organization as its new chief financial officer.

With more than 14 years of health care finance leadership experience, Stepp brings expertise in Federally Qualified Health Centers, financial operations, revenue cycle

management, federal grant compliance, strategic planning and organizational growth.

"I'm excited to join AAPHC and contribute to an organization that is making such a meaningful impact across southwest Georgia," Stepp said. "I look forward to working alongside the leadership team, providers, and staff to strengthen the organization's financial foundation and support its continued growth and service to the community."

Throughout his career, Stepp has held CFO and senior finance leadership positions with community health organizations, including TCA Health Inc., Heart City Health Center, and Western Wayne Family Health Centers. His accomplishments include improving financial reporting and operational efficiency, securing additional grant funding, enhancing revenue cycle performance, overseeing HRSA compliance efforts, successfully navigating federal audits, and providing strategic financial guidance to executive leadership teams and governing boards.

"As AAPHC continues to expand services and strengthen access to quality health care throughout southwest Georgia, strong financial leadership is essential to supporting our mission of providing quality health care to the communities we serve," AAPHC Chief Executive Officer Shelley Spires said. "Jeren's extensive FQHC experi-

See **STEPP**, 2A


JAREN STEPP

Periodical — Mail Label

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AAPHC
Albany Area
Primary Health Care



Visit Albany to host holiday open house event

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – Visit Albany invites residents and visitors to begin their holiday shopping at its Holiday Open House on Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the 112 N. Front St. Albany Welcome Center.

The event will feature participating local businesses, artisans and authors, offering shoppers an opportunity to find gifts while supporting Albany's creative community.

Featured participants include Love Koture, offering beard and hair oils; Simply Beautiful, featuring candles and other products; and authors Mary Sterner Lawson and Billy Paul Smith.

A children's interactive corner will offer books and Santa postcards for younger guests.

"We want people to make the Welcome Center part of their holiday shopping," Kasey L. Summerville, the president/CEO of Visit Albany. "This is a chance to discover local talent, find something special and support the people creating right here in our community."

For more information, contact Visit Albany at (229) 317-4760 or visit www.VisitAlbanyGA.com.

CITY OF Albany GEORGIA

Special Logo

Albany Tree Board to hold quarterly meeting

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The city of Albany's Tree Board will conduct its fourth quarterly meeting of 2026 on Nov. 4 at 10 a.m..

The meeting will take place at the Government Annex Building at 240 Pine Ave., Suite 200, Room 232.

The Tree Board meeting, which falls under the city's Engineering Department, is open to the public.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSUMPTION OF WINE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that **715 SOMA WORKFORCE LLC**, doing business as **SOMA WORKFORCE**, located at **715 S. Madison St., Albany, Georgia 31701**, has made application for an **Alcoholic Beverage License** for the **on-premises of wine**, for consideration and approval by the appropriate governing authority.

This notice shall be published in the Albany Herald on **October, 29th, 31st and November 3rd or** the **next three (3) consecutive publication dates thereafter**, in compliance with applicable law.

From 1A

STEPP

ence, strategic financial expertise, and commitment to community health make him an outstanding addition to our executive leadership team. We are excited about the leadership and vision he brings as we continue to grow and serve our communities."

A graduate of Wayne State University, Stepp earned a bachelor of science degree in Accounting and Business Administration. He has built a reputation as a collaborative leader who leverages data-driven decision-making, financial stewardship, and operational excellence to support both organizational sustainability and improved patient outcomes.

Stepp's experience, knowledge, and leadership will play an important role as AAPHC continues its commitment to improving the health and well-being of the communities it serves through accessible, high-quality health care, AAPHC officials said.

Trash, debris on Lynn Street raises concerns for Albany City commissioners

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The pile of garbage that contained fast-food bags, old vacuum cleaners and bricks was relatively small, but its presence next to a street in southeast Albany revealed a lack of cleanup and shrubs growing into the street that impede traffic.

Albany City Commissioner Vilnis Gaines noticed the conditions on the 300 block of Lynn Street, across the street from an apartment complex, Commissioner Jon Howard said, and notified him of it. The garbage, piled where a dirt drive intersects with the street, is actually a short distance outside his Ward I and lies in Ward VI, Commissioner Diana Brown's district.

Called to the scene by Howard, Brown said she would act to have city employees address the situation.

The section of Lynn Street is a short one that connects Moultrie Highway near Albany State University to Oakridge Drive.

"When you illegally dump, there's a $1,000 fine, and I'm going to take that through to the end," Brown said.

The commissioner said that she supports the city's Municipal Court imposing the maximum fine to get the attention of violators.

In addition, the vegetation extending into the street is a hazard that forces drivers to shift over to the oncoming direction of traffic to pass, Brown said. It also prevents street sweepers from cleaning the street properly.

City employees "need to ride down every street and make sure it's getting this (overgrowth) out," she said. "The street sweepers are supposed to be on a cycle. Where's the cycle in east Albany, because this area has never been swept? We want to make sure the streets stay maintained."

The leaves from that vegetation fall into the drainage for a nearby curb drain that feeds into the city's wastewater flow and can clog up the underground drainage system, said Howard, who is chair of Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful.

"This is one of them where the city hasn't done its job," he said of the situation with the vegetation.

As for the dumping, Brown said there is no excuse.

"You can take up to 500 pounds a day to the (Dougherty County) Landfill," she said. "That's 3,000 pounds a week, and it's free.



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Albany City Commissioners Jon Howard and Diana Brown examine garbage that has been dumped on the 300 block of Lynn Street.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear delivers $5 million for Bottoms campaign

By Niles Francis, Fulton Neighbor & Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Just over a week ahead of Election Day, Keisha Lance Bottoms' campaign for governor got a boost from a leading Democrat in a nearby state.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear joined the former Atlanta mayor and U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff for a canvass launch in Atlanta's Grant Park neighborhood on Monday.

"I've beaten Donald Trump-endorsed candidates two straight elections in a state he won by 30 points," Beshear said, "so I am living, breathing proof that Democrats can win anywhere and we should be fighting everywhere."

The younger Beshear also chairs the Democratic Governors Association, and he did not come to Atlanta empty-handed. He announced another $5 million toward Bottoms' fight against Republican Rick Jackson for the governor's mansion.

From 1A

CHEHAW

Conditions have caught the attention of county commissioners, who say the lake isn't just an attraction for residents who live near the manmade structure that is fed by the Flint River, Kinchafoonee Creek and Muckalee Creek. The lake is a source of hydroelectric power generation for Georgia Power Co.

The Monday discussion was over a recommendation to spend up to $275,000 of county money to restore recreational access to the lake's shoreline. The funding would come from special-purpose local-option sales tax funds, if the work is approved by commissioners.

"This is an expensive proposition, but it is a valuable recreational asset for the county and the region as a whole," Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks said. "(We want) to bring it back to the recreational state we used to enjoy."

Residents on the lake said that more frequent drawdowns could help with battling vegetation close to the shore. Leaving those areas dry during the winter, when vegetation would be exposed to frost, would help in that effort.

The frequency and timing of drawdowns are under the control of Georgia Power. Those drawdowns were at one time made every year or so, but in recent years have been on a four-year cycle, residents said.

Nearby Cox Landing also has been affected.

Commissioner Ed Newsome suggested more study before spending county money.

The commission also could seek grant funding and assistance from the state for the boat landing, Commissioner Russell Gray said.

"I don't think $275,000 is going to make a dent in it," Newsome said. "We need to do a survey of that and what it will take to do the whole thing. I would rather put some better planning into it."

Among the invading water weeds in the lake are water primrose, water hyacinth and Lyngbya algae, according to Juston Stone, owner of Stone's Aquatic Weed & Algae Removal.

"Alligator grass is the other big one," he said.

Along with the destructive impact of wind and rain that Hurricane Michael brought to the region in October of 2018, it also carried unwanted vegetation that it dumped in area waterways, Stone said. Cleaning up the invasive vegetation likely will require mechanical removal and chemical applications.

"It's going to take a couple of years to get it back right," he said.

From 1A

JAIL

the value of studying safety, staffing and operations but argued that commissioners also must act on problems already documented.

"We owe it to our sheriff's department and our citizens to maintain what we have," Gray said.

Johnson said the earlier assessment did not amount to a comprehensive plan for the jail.

"That's a plan for the mechanics of the jail," Johnson said. "That's not the same thing as living spaces" for inmates or officer safety.

Johnson argued that a broader review would help commissioners determine whether major investments in the existing building would support the kind of facility the community needs. He said the earlier engineering recommendations should become part of the new study.

Gaines also supported the proposal, saying the prior work would help inform a more comprehensive assessment.

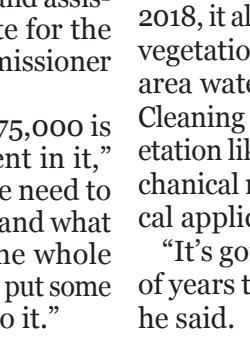
"The work that has been done was a small part of it, but now we're tackling the bigger part," Gaines said.

Representatives presenting the proposal described a study that would examine how the building supports daily operations, including medical care, mental health services, inmate classification, observation and programming.



CLINTON JOHNSON

They said the assessment could identify improvements that could be completed in phases, allowing the county to match priorities with available funding.



DERON KING

The planning also could help avoid installing expensive equipment that later would have to be moved, changed or enlarged to accommodate an addition or renovation, the presenters said. They emphasized that urgent repairs could proceed while the broader plan is developed.

Sheriff's office representatives supported the study, citing staffing shortages and the difficulty of supervising inmates in the existing layout. They also discussed whether a more efficient design could expand the county's ability to house inmates for neighboring counties and generate revenue.

The written proposal calls for evaluating the current facility and up to three additional county-selected sites. Consultants would review jail and court records, population trends, staffing and existing building systems before recommending an approach.

Estimated costs would include construction, equipment, professional services, financing and other expenses associated with the alternatives.

The firms propose completing the study within 90 days after authorization to proceed.

The disagreement left commissioners weighing two connected questions: how to pay for repairs to the jail they operate now and how to determine what facility they will need in the decades ahead.

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

Hughey & Neuman Real Estate



Hughey & Neuman Real Estate

532 N Westover Blvd
Albany, Ga 31707

The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Hughey & Neuman Real Estate as this week's Star Business of the Week.

Founded in 1954 by George W. Hughey, Jr. and Carl Neuman, Hughey & Neuman has built a legacy of serving Albany's real estate needs for more than 70 years. What began as a home repair and remodeling business has grown into a family-owned and operated company specializing in residential and commercial properties, investment opportunities, and land sales.

Today, that legacy continues through the Hughey family's third generation. Bill and Sharon Hughey's daughters, Katie Hughey Gatewood and Callie Hughey Walker, joined the business after college and became co-owners in 2014. Alongside Bill, Sharon, and longtime team member Leslie McClure, they continue to bring experience, dedication, and a personal touch to their work in real estate.

With deep roots in Albany and a passion for the people and businesses that make this community special, Hughey & Neuman remains committed to helping individuals and businesses throughout Albany and Southwest Georgia with their real estate needs.
Congratulations to Hughey & Neuman Real Estate, and thank you for being a valued part of our business community

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

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
225 W. Broad Ave.
Albany, GA 31701
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Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be sure they show their work as a verification; belief alone may not be enough now. Resolution to something could come in the next few weeks. Wait for emotions to settle before what could be a potential overshare.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Lots of things can drive good financial decisions like ethics, values, solid projections, and facts. Feelings and beliefs often do not. Get clear about the real reasons for doing something before you do it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You might want to hold off on tipping your hand or showing your underwear, your mood could rapidly shift away from wanting to reveal too much. This could be a very productive period for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The purity of your heart shines through more visibly for the next few days, but if someone misreads openness for weakness you can set them straight. Creative inspiration could be strong for several weeks.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Friendship could feel better today than it did yesterday. Home projects could be at the forefront for the next month or so — make needed improvements, beautify, and improve domestic management systems, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay present while out in the world, tune in so you can give yourself space to decompress as needed. Spoken and written communication as well as the world of ideas could be highlighted now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Financial independence is a worthy goal, do what you can to make it happen for yourself—not just for security but also for freedom. You could be more trusting than usual today, keep your eyes open.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are worthy of breathing air, taking up space, walking on the Earth, just as you are. And, you can still elevate yourself further too. Self-improvement is for making life easier, not because you're not enough.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The journey is richer when it's more conscious — open yourself to being open, embrace beginner's mind. Tensions from late yesterday or early today could still echo for a few hours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Group relationships can be more rewarding now; they look to be highlighted for a few more weeks. Alliances can make a real difference, so does a circle of community. If tasks are frustrating, revisit them in a few hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Career matters could be at the forefront of your mind for the next several weeks, it's a time to grow your talent and stature which should ultimately bring greater returns. Grab an hour of freedom if you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Some unsteadiness at home should have passed, things could feel sweeter domestically today. It could be time to expand your world through new ideas, new studies or a new travel adventure.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: 2026 has more gifts for you up its sleeve. Use the month of November to get your head right — learn from mistakes, forgive yourself, forgive others — your analytical powers should be excellent. December brings plenty of gifts but first you'll need to sidestep a temptation to make a fool's move. Just don't. A nice little win could land, preceding a much bigger gift delivery from the Universe, including more than one of the things you've been waiting for. You're being staged for the next step of your destiny — among the many resources landing should be more money. Healing, whether of a person, a relationship, or something else, could emerge with sweetness and grace. Right near year-end, you could have a golden opportunity to prove yourself, with an audience that could really make a difference.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1618 - English explorer and soldier Sir Walter Raleigh is beheaded for allegedly conspiring against James I of England

1792 - Mount Hood in Oregon is named after Samuel Hood by Lt William E Broughton who sighted the mountain near the mouth of the Willamette River

1863 - The International Red Cross is formed after eighteen countries meet in Geneva

1901 - Leon Czolgosz, the assassin of U.S. President William McKinley, is executed by electrocution

1929 - The New York Stock Exchange crashes, ending the Great Bull Market of the 1920's and results in the beginning of the Great Depression. The crash will become known as the Crash of '29 or Black Tuesday

1941 - Over 10,000 Jews are shot by German occupiers at the Ninth Fort in Lithuania

1944 - During World War II, the Soviet Red Army enters Hungary

1969 - The first ever computer to computer link is establish on ARPANET which is the precursor to the Internet

1998 - The second deadliest Atlantic hurricane in history, Hurricane Mitch makes landfall in Honduras

2008 - Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines merge, becoming the world's largest airline

2012 - Hurricane Sandy hits the east coast of the United States causing $70 billion in damages and killing 148 directly and 138 indirectly

2015 - After 35 years, China announces the end of their one-child policy

2018 - A Boeing 737 MAX plane crashes after take-off from Jakarta, Indonesia killing 189 people on board

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- International Internet Day
- National Cat Day
- National Hermit Day
- National Oatmeal Day
- Read for the Record Day
- World Psoriasis Day
- World Stroke Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In Ethiopia during the famine, I saw stuff there that reorganized how I saw the world. I didn't quite know what to do about it. At a certain point, I felt God is not looking for alms. God is looking for action."
Bono, singer/activist (1960-)

CORRECTION

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

Weather Forecast

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
76°	81°	79°	73°	76°	78°	79°
61°	62°	63°	65°	65°	63°	61°

Daily Bridge Club

Taking it slow

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

I'm old enough to remember those wonderful roadside Burma Shave signs:

"Passing School Zone,
take it slow.
Let our little
shavers grow." -- Burma Shave

Taking it slow benefits your dummy play. Plan before you touch a card. At today's four spades, the play to the first trick took less time than it takes to tell: West led his singleton seven of diamonds, dummy played the jack and East covered with the queen.

South won with the ace, drew trumps and led a second diamond. When West showed out, declarer took dummy's ten, let the eight ride and led a diamond to his king. He lost a club to East's ace and two hearts to West but made his game.

ENTRIES

Both South and East took it too fast. East can diagnose the opening lead and follow with his deuce of diamonds. Then declarer lacks the two entries to dummy he needs to pick up the diamonds, and he loses a diamond and goes down.

South always succeeds by playing dummy's eight of diamonds at Trick One.


Frank Stewart

NORTH
♠ 7 3
♡ 10 8 4
◇ J 10 8 4
♣ K Q 5 2

WEST
♠ 9 6 5 2
♡ A J 7 3
◇ 7
♣ J 9 7 6

EAST
♠ 8 4
♡ Q 6 5 2
◇ Q 9 3 2
♣ A 10 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10
♡ K 9
◇ A K 6 5
♣ 8 4

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead – ◇ 7

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DAILY QUESTION

You hold: S 9 6 5 2 H A J 7 3 D 4 C J 9 7 6. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and he next bids one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: You responded with a near-minimum hand, and partner's (opener's) non-jump change of suit is not forcing. I would pass with a hand such as 9652,AJ73,765,J6, but the actual hand has a ruffing feature and may produce some winners. Bid two spades. Game is barely possible.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Sibling's messy home raises alarms for family

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: I'm the oldest of three. My middle sibling has routinely been to the home of our youngest sibling to pick up a niece for childcare. This middle sibling recently shared with my parents that the youngest sibling's home is in a state of unsafe disarray.

The home has always been cluttered but apparently, it's gotten to a point of concern.

The last time I was at the home I saw the same conditions but looked at it through a lens of "most generous interpretation" and figured they'd had a busy season. Neither my parents nor I have been there in quite some time, partly because it's always such a mess.

How do we proceed? There are children in the home, our sibling works full time and appears to do all the cooking, and their spouse is a stay-at-home parent who we know struggles with mental health concerns.

The sibling who brought this to our attention isn't comfortable bringing it up directly (our family is deeply non-confrontational and private but loving and connected). There is concern for everyone's safety, including our in-law's mental health, concern that our sibling will become defensive, and concern that the limited family time we have with them will become more challenging.

– Torn Family

Dear Family: There are a couple of components to this, each of which should be addressed separately.

If your sibling has concerns about unsafe conditions in the home that endanger the children, they have to speak with the parents. This can be done gently and fairly. It should involve specifics and suggested solutions. For instance, "I noticed that there are boxes blocking the back door and that's a safety hazard. Can I help you move those to a closet so it doesn't endanger your kids or any emergency personnel that might need to get into the home?"

Yes, the youngest sibling might get defensive, but the safety of the children has to supersede everything else.

Now, if there aren't safety concerns, but rather quality-of-life concerns, you might instead gift the family a few sessions of housekeeping or a consultation with a home organizer. They do have to choose to make use of them, but this would remove one barrier.

As to your sibling's spouse's mental health, again if you have specific concerns, intervene. But if your concerns are more general, start with the question "how can I help?" And be prepared with suggestions, including the two above.

It's important to respect that this is still their home and they can run it how they see fit. But you can make yourselves available to relieve some of the burdens or remove some of the obstacles they may be facing.


Eric Thomas

Dear Eric: A same-age friend of mine has a grown, married son who lives out of town. He and his wife are very gregarious, interesting and kind. They have in the past asked to visit when they were in town. That seemed to work out just fine.

However, since my husband died, this son has started phone and text communications. I am certain he means well, but I am not interested in his daily life, and I have no desire to share my daily life with him.

In other words, I do not want a friendship, only an acquaintance. I know you always say to simply communicate with people, but this is very complicated as I do not want to offend either this young man or his mother (who can be very sensitive about things like this…).

I am sure she wants me to be friends with her son. Any suggestions?

– Less Talk

Dear Talk: A few options – first, you can frame your request not to chat as much as being less about the friendship he wants and more about the volume of communication we all receive. More simply put, you can tell him that you're not in a place to respond to texts and calls as much. It's perfectly understandable when someone says, "I'm not a phone person" or "I don't like to text as much as I once did."

As a gregarious person, he may struggle to accept this, but one hopes his empathy and self-awareness is greater than his desire for social connection.

Another option is to simply mute him. This may seem unkind, but he won't know he's been muted. You can check in on the text thread once a week or whenever it occurs to you and reply if you'd like. You're not required to pick up every time he calls. In the old days, the call would just go to an answering machine. Or, before that, an answering service if a person had one. If they didn't, the phone would just ring and the caller would hang up and try again another time. No harm, no foul.

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

Those of you who are so partisan you continue to support the man in the White House who obviously has lost his mind -- check out all his commentary with random, childlike noises -- don't get that opposing someone like Mike Collins has little to do with him being a Republican, everything to do with him being a reprehensible human who continues to pay fealty to Trump despite his lunacy.

I was pleased to see the response to the homecoming shooting by the Albany State student. She presented her thoughts well and pointed out how the local TV station made accusations without having the information to support those accusations. Pathetic excuse for journalism.

"New Mexico" should be changed to "New America?" Georgia was named for King George. Why not just change the name to "Donald?"

Let's say the important part out loud: We have a self-righteous set of commissioners who have been overtly rude to each other in public and often dismissive of real citizen concerns in favor of their own friends and churches. We have a police chief who has no passion left for the job and makes little effort to adjust or improve in the face of failures. The commissioners are unwilling to admit their own selfishness and change, plus they are unwilling to run a professional, unbiased search into finding a tough, energetic new police chief to finally improve safety in our community.

I see that Christmas decorations have been put up downtown. Does anyone in charge of such things realize it is not even Halloween? And then comes Thanksgiving ... then Christmas.

Spending $9 million to build another hotel downtown ranks right up there with the street crossovers on South Slappey and Alice Coachman School as dumb expenditures of taxpayer money. Neither the Hilton nor St. Nicholas hotel is anywhere near capacity, and there is no demand for more hotel rooms in downtown albany.

I wish Superintendent Dyer well as a finalist for Superintendent of the Year, but not getting the same results as the superintendent over in Dublin City Schools, who had to to resign last year over financial issues within the system. In fact, they owed millions to the state for unpaid insurance and retirement money. The state had to loan them about $7 million on top of that. I also noticed the Valdosta City School superintendent being nominated for the same honor. Everyone knows that city school system is in shambles. Who votes on these superintendents of the year?

Hello, I am a new developer, and I think I can really remake some of the crumbling-down buildings in downtown Albany into fine structures. I just need a couple of million dollars to get started. Reach out via the Squawkbox, and I'll tell you what church I attend and how much of the two-mill I'm willing to share.

Only a deranged megalomaniac like Trump would try and have so many things named after him. He's too feeble-minded to know he's only sewing hate, not building a legacy.

Parents, keep your kids safe this Halloween. Only let them go to organized events, not roam from home to home.

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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

Georgia Trust for LOCAL NEWS

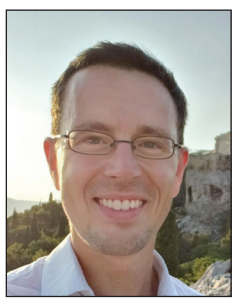
TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."
1 Timothy 2:5

COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

Seeing isn't believing when deepfakes pervade politics

AI-generated videos and images are becoming inescapable and threaten to turbocharge disinformation in Georgia elections, and while the technology is new, the tactic is not.


HYDEN

Irish essayist Jonathan Swift remarked in 1710, "We are told the devil is the father of lies [but] he seems, like other great inventors, to have lost much of his reputation, by the continual improvements that have been made upon him." Where have many of these improvements been made, according to Swift? The political realm.

This is evidence that deceit in the political sphere isn't unique to the modern era, but the 21st century has a new method to spread disinformation: deepfakes, which can be a "video, photo, or audio recording that seems real but has been manipulated with AI," according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Georgia is ground zero for their use in politics. If voters are not vigilant, these could influence elections because, as Swift noted, "Falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it," and many are demanding government intervention. Yet with so many laws already in place, a free-market solution may be the best option, and it provides plenty of tools to guard against disinformation, which continues to spread.

Recent examples of deepfakes in Georgia politics are relatively commonplace. Doctored pictures circulated on social media seemingly show Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., with serious health problems. "An apparent deepfake photograph that portrays the mayor of College Park kissing a man who is not her husband" has been making the rounds, the Atlanta Journal Constitution reported.

These have been debunked as AI-generated fabrications, but they can be incredibly damaging personally and politically. While Warnock and the College Park mayor aren't up for re-election this year, others are and have grappled with deepfakes. Meanwhile, "signs are emerging that Russia and other foreign governments are once again seeking to influence American voters," according to The New York Times, although it isn't clear how much, if any, of this meddling includes deepfakes.

Regardless of that, Georgia has been taking heat for supposedly being the wild west for deepfakes. "There are no laws on the books [regulating deepfakes in political ads]," a recent report announced. While it is true that there are none specifically banning deepfakes or requiring disclosures on ads, claiming that there are no laws on the books regulating them is a misconception.

There are plenty of state laws applicable to deepfakes, including anti-fraud laws and a corpus of civil law related to defamation and libel. However, laws specifically banning or over-regulating them run into several problems – namely they risk running afoul with the First Amendment and have questionable efficacy in application. Meanwhile, requiring political ads to disclose the use of deepfakes would increase transparency and perhaps public trust, but it wouldn't entirely solve the problem.

That's where private enterprise can help. Many AI companies embed a kind of watermark in video, images and even text. It is imperceptible to humans, but proprietary programs can detect it and expose deepfakes as AI-generated. There are several other publicly available software tools that can determine if an image or video is real or AI-generated, too.

Many AI chatbots also have protections built into them. When I asked Google Gemini to help me find the deepfake targeting the College Park mayor for this newspaper column, I got a surprising response: "I cannot locate or provide you with the deepfake. My safety guidelines prohibit me from sharing, linking to, or distributing fabricated media of real people, particularly when it is used to harass, defame, or spread misinformation about an individual." That is encouraging, although not all forms of AI have the same ethical standards.

You don't have to be a computer whiz to deftly navigate the brave new world of deepfakes. Meta and X have created a decentralized, crowd-sourced mode of fact-checking. "When an automated system or individual user identifies a post as potentially misleading, eligible users can contribute contextual information to it," writes my R Street colleague Spence Purnell.

Are Community Notes a panacea? No, but they are showing great promise combatting falsehoods. They also complement perhaps the best line of defense against deepfakes: established legacy media, which still relies on gumshoe reporting to uncover the truth no matter how difficult. If you see something questionable online, just double-check its veracity with a credible news source.

The November elections are nearly here, and deepfakes are likely to increase until Election Day – only to ramp up further in the 2028 elections. Whether they are due to Russian interference or unscrupulous political operatives, we already have the tools to overcome them.

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

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

Here's one know-it-all that doesn't know it all

Some of you out there won't be surprised by this, but to be the know-it-all I claim to be, I must confess that there are some things I just don't understand. Let's start with the recent ruling from U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit that says Georgia can enforce its new law requiring social media platforms to verify the age of account holders and restrict its use by minors.


YARBROUGH

The state law aims to prevent children under the age of 16 from having social media accounts without a parent or guardian's permission. (Let's read that last part again – "without a parent or guardian's permission.") The law also limits advertising on and the collecting of information from minors' social media accounts.

The suit had been brought by NetChoice, a trade association of online businesses like Amazon and Meta and eBay and Google, that says it is an advocate for free expression and free enterprise on the internet. NetChoice had sued Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr in 2025, claiming the law, entitled the Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act, chills the rights of all Georgians to engage in anonymous speech online, contrary to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Chill the rights of kids under the age of 16 from getting on social media without their parents' approval or knowledge and engaging in anonymous speech online? Like cyberbullying or bomb threats? Oh, please.

With all due respect to kids under 16, what is wrong with getting parental or guardian approval? To the NetChoice lawyers, same question. Sadly, there are likely enough parents who want so badly to be their kid's BFF that they would probably say yes anyway. They are probably also the ones that would buy their child an AK-47 for the same reason.

And then there was the crash on Interstate 20 in DeKalb County when a Georgia State trooper spotted a car weaving through traffic at roughly 110 mph and without headlights. The driver fled a traffic stop attempt, lost control and caused a 10-vehicle crash that tragically killed a 7-month-old infant and the driver.

I held my nose and got on Reddit, (which happens to be a member of NetChoice, by the way), and read the comments of oh-so-cute anonymous appellations like "bunnysuitman" and "Single_Bar_1836" who seem to want to blame the GSP for the audacity of stopping a car with no headlights doing 110 mph while weaving in and out of traffic on a major interstate. I don't understand their reasoning except they seem to not care much for the police.

I don't know why the state of Tennessee was unable to execute death row inmate Christa Pike after two attempts. In 1995, Pike and an accomplice lured Colleen Slemmer, a fellow Job Corps trainee, to an isolated area at the University of Tennessee agricultural campus, tortured her and beat her to death because Pike thought Slemmer was trying to steal her boyfriend. Pike bashed Slemmer's head in with a chunk of asphalt and then kept a piece of the skull as a souvenir.

Pike survived two doses of pentobarbital meant to kill her. She ended up in the hospital and was later discharged and sent to the women's prison in Nashville. Not sure what happens next.

OK, so what do I know? I know the Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act is a positive development. Children under the age of 16 have no business being on social media anonymously. They are not mature enough at that point. I know the lawsuit brought by NetChoice was ill-conceived and ill-advised. The association and their lawyers ought to be ashamed of themselves. Why don't they spend their time helping us from being hacked by bad people?

I know the Georgia State Patrol did the right thing in trying to stop that maniac on Interstate 20 before he killed someone else. As for "bunnysuitman" and "Single_Bar_1836," they are proof-positive why not letting anonymous pubescents on social media is a good thing. Reading their post-pubescent comments made me wish the law had been passed a decade earlier.

I know that in all the hue-and-cry over the botched execution of Crista Pike, she has come across looking like the victim and we want to forget it was really Colleen Slemmer who was the victim. She and her family. They deserved better.

I know that some of you will agree with me and some of you won't. And I know your comments won't be anonymous. Thank you.

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

GUEST COLUMNIST ■ GAIL DRAKE

George Washington, Part III: Setting precedents as the first president

Editor's Note: Final in a three-column series about the life of George Washington.

In honor of our nation's 250th birthday, this series has taken a look back at our nation's founding father. Remembering where we came from gives us a clearer vision of our future.

Our first president was a leader among leaders, and it has been a delight to learn details of his unique life. Washington served as Commander in Chief of the ragtag Continental Army, some 200,000 soldiers of which 25,000 died of disease, starvation and in combat.

By what he called "providence," Washington managed to defeat the strongest military in the world, Great Britain – in part using guerilla warfare for more than eight years.

Planter. After the surrender of British General Cornwallis, Washington resigned his commission and returned to his beloved Mount Vernon. Like a Hallmark movie, he rode home through the snow on Christmas Eve, delighted to be "free of the bustle of camp" and wanted to "move gently down the stream of life until I sleep." He enjoyed his stepgrandchildren, remodeled his home, entertained a steady stream of house guests, and reactivated some farming projects. His farm had made no profits during his absence.

Constitution Midwife. The new nation was a confederation of 13 individual nation-states, which quickly descended into infighting. Washington issued a letter to state leaders describing the Articles of Confederation as a "rope of sand," warning that the current structure left them all vulnerable to attacks from foreign governments and internal confusion.

When Shay's Rebellion proved his point, he met with other leaders to ask Congress to revise the Articles. Congress agreed to hold a Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, with each state sending delegates. Washington was chosen to represent Virginia. Because of his reputation, he was unanimously elected as presiding officer. For four months the delegates wrangled. Washington wrote to Alexander Hamilton that he "repent[ed] of having had any agency in the business." The delegates compromised, and the U.S. Constitution that we know today was ratified on Sept. 17, 1787.


DRAKE

College President. The next year, Washington was appointed president of the College of William & Mary. He held this post until his death.

First U.S. President. The Convention delegates elected Washington as the nation's first president – the only president ever chosen by unanimous vote. Furthermore, he insisted he remain nonpartisan – the only president without a political party. And by his correspondence, the most reluctant president ever, as he longed for retirement. On April 30, 1789, Washington took the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City. One of my friends recently visited the Hall, stumbling upon it by accident near Wall Street. The Hall highlights the stone slab Washington stood on when sworn in.

Setting The Firsts. "As the first of everything in our situation will serve to establish a precedent, it is devoutly wished on my part that these precedents be fixed on true principles." Washington rejected being addressed as "his majesty" or "his highness," favoring the humble "Mr. President." He gave the first inaugural address, asking "that Almighty Being ... consecrate the liberties and happiness of the people."

He established the first cabinet form of government for the executive branch and chose the first "secretaries". And he chose the first justices of the Supreme Court, initiated the first patent office and the U.S. treasury.

Builder of the Capital. Washington planned a permanent capital on the swampy lands near the Potomac River, and selected the design for the future Capital Hill as well as the White House. He even personally chose its Italian marble. He oversaw the passage of several legislative firsts, including the Bill of Rights. He encouraged debates about abolishing slavery and expanding westward into Indian territory. And Washington proclaimed the first Thanksgiving celebration, appointing Nov. 26, 1789, as a day of thanks to celebrate national unity.

Teeth and Hair. A point of curiosity has been Washington's personal grooming. Contrary to contemporary fashion, Washington opted for his own hair tied into a ponytail instead of shaving his head and wearing a wig. Unfortunately, his teeth gave him pain and trouble most of his life. When serving as president, he had one tooth. He famously used dentures of human and animal teeth (not wood as alleged). A set of his dentures is on display at Mount Vernon Museum — quite the uncomfortable contraption.

Washington reluctantly served a second term and suffered a chain of disappointments: strife in his cabinet, riots over taxes, and disillusionment from personal accusations. He retired and returned to Mount Vernon. On Dec. 12, 1799, while riding around his properties, he contracted a throat infection and died two days later. In his last will and testament, he freed all his slaves at the death of his wife, and left funds for their care. Martha freed them all immediately.

It's hard to understand why some alleged scholars would misrepresent and misjudge our nation's earliest champions in a manner that is either sloppy scholarship or myopic agenda. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who 250 years ago pledged "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." Because of their choices, today we enjoy freedom and prosperity unknown in most nations around the globe.



What to watch

THURSDAY

October 29, 2026

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

Saban
ESPN, 6 p.m.

ESPN continues its documentary series about the life and career of football coaching great Nick Saban with the new episode "The Mountain."

Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage
CBS, 8 p.m.

Georgie and Mandy (Montana Jordan and Emily Osment) are caught in the crossfire when their moms disagree with each other about CeeCee's Halloween costume in the new episode "The Devil's Interval and a British Stripper."

Scrabble
The CW, 8 p.m.

Contestants put their word skills to the test as they try to stretch their way toward the final round and a chance at the $10,000 prize in the new episode "Mental Gymnastics." Craig Ferguson hosts.

The Traitors: New Blood
NBC, 8 p.m.

In the new episode "A Bad Apple Spoils the Whole Bunch," nerves are pushed to the limit at the roundtable as a new power hangs in the balance. Theories are scrutinized and minds are changed before a brutal banishment sends emotions spiraling.

NFL Football: Carolina at Green Bay
Prime Video, 8:15 p.m. Live

The Carolina Panthers visit Green Bay's Lambeau Field for a *Thursday Night Football* matchup to kick off Week 8 of the NFL season.

Eternally Yours
CBS, 8:30 p.m.

In the new episode "Halloween," Liz (Allegra Edwards), hoping for a promotion, invites her boss and his wife over for drinks. When they arrive dressed in stereotypical vampire costumes, Charles (Ed Weeks) gets annoyed.

Ghosts
CBS, 9 p.m.

Hit sitcom *Ghosts* might not be returning for Season 6 until early 2027, but fans can revel in this year's two-part special episode "Halloween 6: The Mirror." While Sam (Rose McIver) is in Australia, Kyle (Ben Feldman) steps up to help babysit the ghosts. Hetty (Rebecca Wisocky) is unexpectedly reunited with her estranged sister (guest star Maria Thayer), and Bela (Punam Patel) throws an unconventional Halloween bash at Woodstone.

Trivial Pursuit
The CW, 9 p.m.

A copywriter takes on the six iconic Trivial Pursuit categories in hopes of winning $20,000 in the new episode "Write, Not Wrong." LeVar Burton hosts.

American Horror Story
FX, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

The horror drama anthology series created and produced by Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk ends its 13th season with "Devil of a Good Time."


'Ghosts'

CBS

Grey's Anatomy
ABC, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "It's All Wrong, but It's All Right," Blue (Harry Shum Jr.) fights to reclaim his place at Grey Sloan, and Jo (Camilla Luddington) is pulled from motherhood back into the operating room.

Cupertino
CBS, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "A.J. & Buddy," Michael and Olivia (Mike Colter and Rachel Keller) defend the young founders of a prediction market site, one of whom has been arrested while the other has fled on his private jet with Christy (Ella Stiller).

CATCH A CLASSIC

Creepy Cinema: Women in '70s Horror
TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Two unsettling films from the 1970s put women at the center of Gothic stories. In 1971's **The Beguiled (pictured)**, the women and girls at an isolated Southern school take in a wounded Union soldier during the Civil War. Then enjoy **The Sentinel** (1977), which stars Cristina Raines as a fashion model who moves into a Brooklyn brownstone filled with strange neighbors and even stranger secrets.


EVERETT COLLECTION

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE


'Thirteen Ghosts'

WARNER BROS.

Déjà Vu (2006, Suspense) Denzel Washington, Val Kilmer **BET, 6 p.m.**

It (2017, Horror) Jaeden Lieberher, Jeremy Ray Taylor **AMC, 6 p.m.**

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (2003, Horror) Jessica Biel, Jonathan Tucker **IFC, 6:30 p.m.**

Shrek the Third (2007, Children) Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Oscar Shaw (2026, Action) Michael Jai White, Tyrese Gibson **Starz, 7:45 p.m.**

Bride Wars (2009, Comedy) Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway **E!, 8 p.m.**

Where No One Can Find Her (2026, Suspense) Brianna Cohen, Casey Breneman **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Crow (2024, Action) Bill Skarsgård, FKA Twigs **SYFY, 8:30 p.m.**

Casper (1995, Children) Christina Ricci, Bill Pullman **Freeform, 8:35 p.m.**

Legally Blonde (2001, Comedy) Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson **Paramount, 9 p.m.**

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

The Batman (2022, Action) Robert Pattinson, Zoë Kravitz **TNT, 10:15 p.m.**

Silent House (2011, Horror) Elizabeth Olsen, Adam Trese **SYFY, 11 p.m.**

Thirteen Ghosts (2001, Horror) Tony Shalhoub, Embeth Davidtz **AMC, 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

FRIDAY

October 30, 2026

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

College Football
ESPN & ESPN2, beginning at 7 p.m. Live

ESPN2 carries Tulane at Charlotte and Kent State at Sacramento State, while ESPN airs Baylor at UCF.

NBA Basketball
Prime Video, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Live

The Emirates NBA Cup in-season tournament begins tonight, and Prime Video streams two matchups with the N.Y. Knicks at the Philadelphia 76ers in East Group B and the L.A. Lakers at the Golden State Warriors in West Group C.

Sheriff Country
CBS, 8 p.m.

As a dangerous manhunt intensifies, Mickey (Morena Baccarin) races against time to protect vulnerable lives in the new episode "Maria."

Happy's Place
NBC, 8 p.m.

Unresolved feelings about their late father arise when Bobbie and Isabella (Reba McEntire and Belissa Escobedo) put a photo of him on their *ofrenda* for Día de los Muertos in the new episode "Skeletons in the Closet."

Who's Coming for Christmas?
Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

Having recently relocated, Julie (Rhiannon Fish) is setting up her new home using pieces she inherited from her grandmother, including a beautiful dining room table she plans to use on Christmas Eve when she hosts dinner for the first time. Though she doesn't have her guest list set just yet, Julie takes inspiration from her grandmother and has faith that her holiday table for eight will be filled.


'Who's Coming for Christmas?'

MUSE ENTERTAINMENT

Newlyweds
NBC, 8:30 p.m.

In the new episode "My Place or Yours," Jeanie and James (Téa Leoni and Tim Daly) realize they have very different ideas about where they should live.

Great Performances
PBS, 9 p.m.

This hit-filled concert pays tribute to master songwriter, storyteller and musician Jimmy Webb, whose iconic hits include "Up, Up and Away," "Wichita Lineman," "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," "Galveston" and "MacArthur Park." Performers include Vince Gill, Lyle Lovett, Sheléa, Ryan Shaw and Ashley Campbell, daughter of Webb's frequent collaborator Glen Campbell.

Fire Country
CBS, 9 p.m.

As a mounting controversy puts Station 42 under scrutiny, Bode (Max Thieriot) and the volunteer firefighters face a challenging test that leads them to an unexpected rescue in the new episode "Winners and Losers."

Boston Blue
CBS, 10 p.m.

Danny and Lena (Donnie Wahlberg and Sonequa Martin-Green) hunt for a killer after human remains are found inside a great white shark in the new episode "Everything Right Can Still Be Wrong."

CATCH A CLASSIC

Vincent Price: What Keeps Us Alive
TCM, 8 p.m.

TCM airs **Vincent Price: What Keeps Us Alive**, a documentary celebrating the life and legacy of one of horror's most recognizable stars. The tribute continues with **The Fly** (1958), followed by 1953's **House of Wax (pictured)**, the hit that helped establish Price as a horror icon. **House on Haunted Hill** (1959), **The Mad Magician** (1954), **The Tingler** (1959) and **The Bat** (1959) keep him onscreen through the night.

WARNER BROS.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE


'Hocus Pocus'

DISNEY

Blade (1998, Horror) Wesley Snipes, Stephen Dorff **Bravo, 6 p.m.**

Carrie (2013, Horror) Chloë Grace Moretz, Julianne Moore **IFC, 6:15 p.m.**

Matilda (1996, Children) Mara Wilson, Danny DeVito **E!, 7 p.m.**

The Addams Family (2019, Children) Oscar Isaac, Charlize Theron **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Hocus Pocus (1993, Family) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker **FX, 7:05 p.m.**

Joe Dirt (2001, Comedy) David Spade, Dennis Miller **CMT, 7:15 p.m.**

Goosebumps (2015, Fantasy) Jack Black, Dylan Minnette **CW, 8 p.m.**

Halloween (2018, Horror) Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer **SYFY, 8 p.m.**

Uncle Buck (1989, Comedy) John Candy, Amy Madigan **POP, 8 p.m.**

Old School (2003, Comedy) Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell **Paramount, 8:30 p.m.**

Tremors (1990, Horror) Kevin Bacon, Fred Ward **Sundance, 10 p.m.**

Role Models (2008, Comedy) Seann William Scott, Paul Rudd **Paramount, 10:30 p.m.**

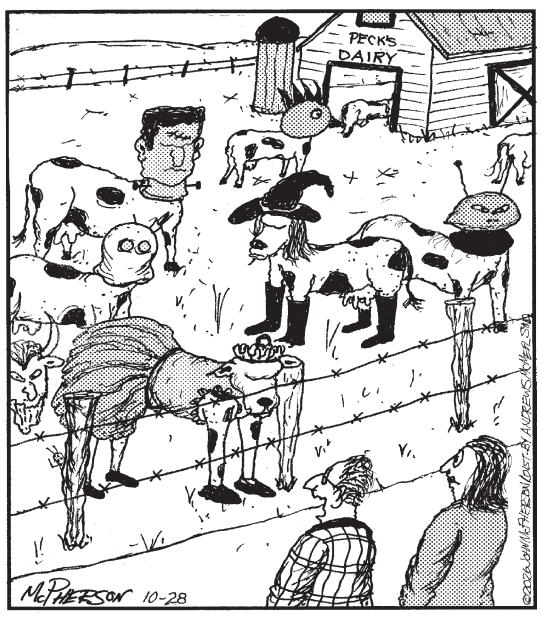
Halloween (2007, Horror) Malcolm McDowell, Scout Taylor-Compton **AMC, 11 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



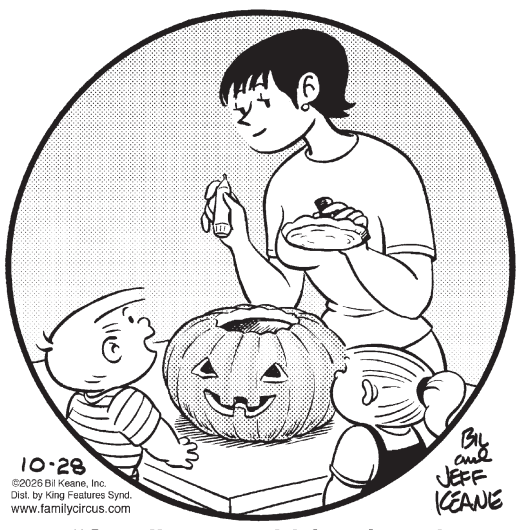
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CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



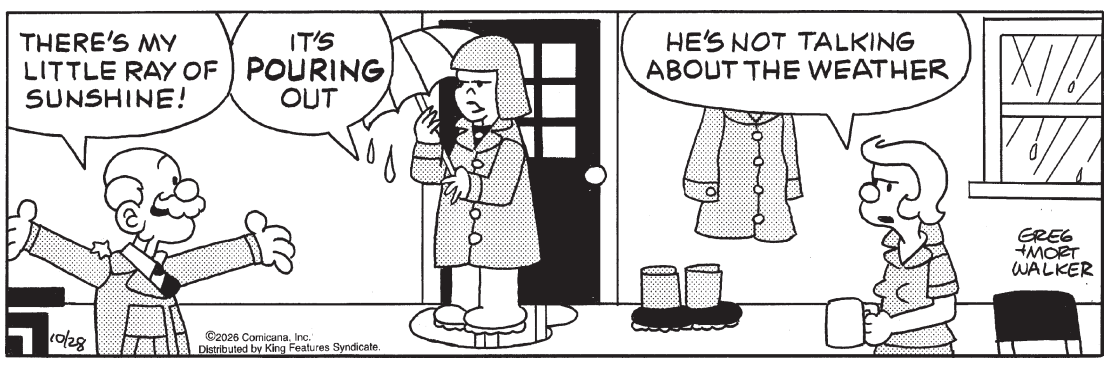
"You gotta love this farmer's enthusiasm about Halloween."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

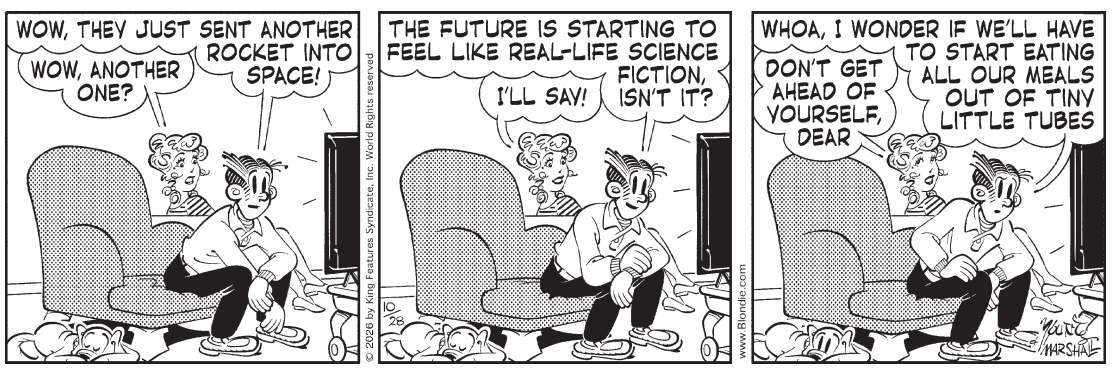


"Candles are old-fashioned. Let's wire him for electricity."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



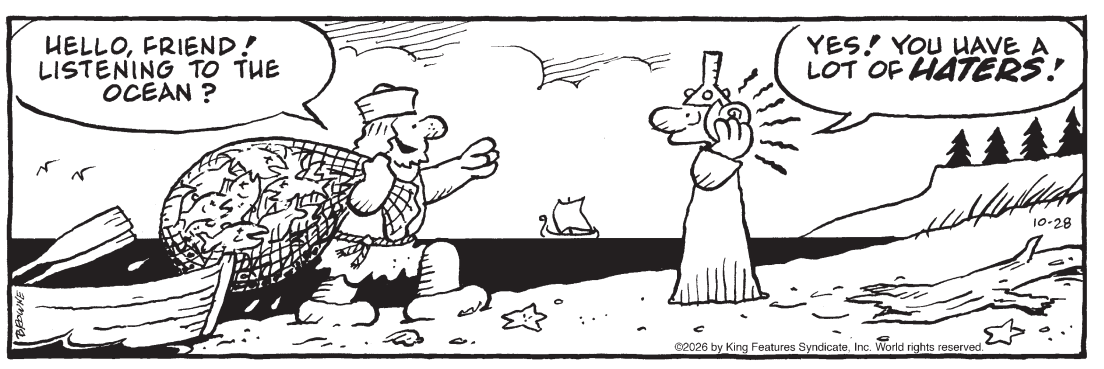
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



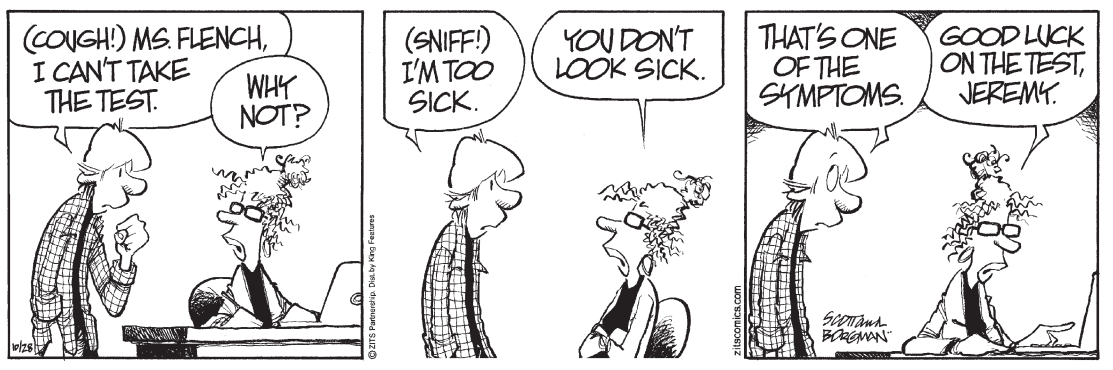
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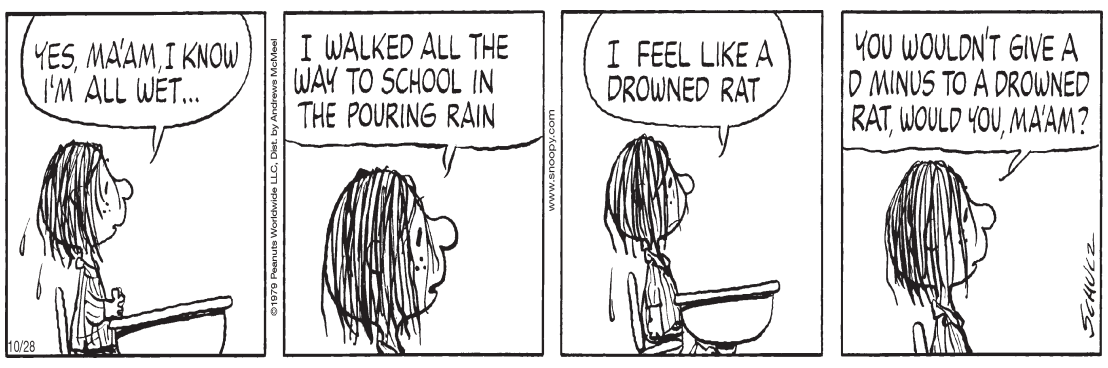
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



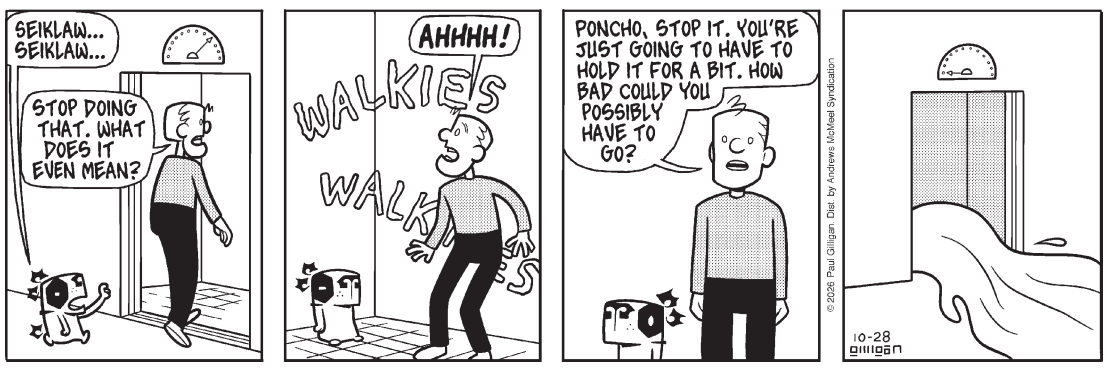
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 One of the Musketeers
6 Midrange choir voice
10 Old Prizm maker
13 Superfluous bits
15 Bit of bait
16 Under the weather
17 *Place to take an oral exam
19 Get 10/10 on, say
20 Toronto's province
21 Condiment drizzled on a taco
23 Obama-era legislation, for short
24 *Program that hones public speaking skills
28 Béret spot
30 Mined finds
31 Soul singer Redding
32 Kind
34 Basilica recess
37 Letters that may end with a bang?
38 *Spot for a "Good Hang" recording, say
42 Track that fills the dance floor
43 Goes green?
44 Notable span
45 Sad
47 Diaper bag item
49 Housekeeping staffer
53 *Destination after speaking to a bot, perhaps
56 French article
57 Club hit, perhaps
58 Breakfast spot
61 Freight unit
62 Discussing business, or a punny description of the answer to each starred clue
65 Editorial "Wasn't me!"
66 End of an ultimatum
67 Angler's exclamation
68 "___ to the Mets": The Strokes song
69 Gobsmack
70 Philosopher Kierkegaard

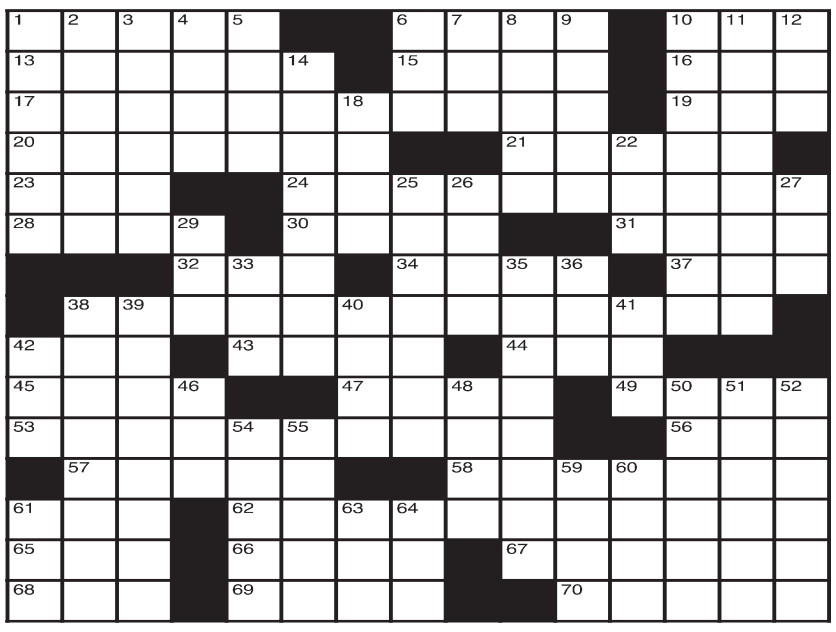
DOWN

1 Above water
2 EDM genre with hypnotic melodies
3 Drop clues about
4 Aunt in Pixar's "Elio"
5 Fail to enunciate
6 Feeling when overlooking a grand vista
7 "Hehe"
8 Plot of land
9 Color technique for hair and nails
10 "The Holdovers" actor Paul
11 Classic Chevy
12 Spanish cheer
14 Gave the green light
18 Concert or movie ending
22 Mode on some washing machines
25 Skedaddles
26 North African cobras
27 Vegas winter hrs.
29 Ramadan ender
33 Rock's ___ Soundsystem
35 Self-driving car's task
36 Italy's cont.
38 Photo that might be shaken
39 Champagne lifestyle, e.g.
40 Stitched up
41 Beaver-built structure
42 "The Graham Norton Show" airer
46 Stately tree
48 Short spa service?
50 Name on a byline
51 Chant
52 Intensify
54 Refers to
55 Put on a pedestal
59 CARE and WWF
60 This, in Spanish
61 General with a chicken dish
63 Tiger Stadium sch.
64 Filmmaker Burns

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

10/28/26



By Sala Wanetick
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10/28/26

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

10/28

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WHATZIT?™

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

westand wef all

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:

United we stand, divided we fall

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

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.**

WHEN THE LEAVES START TO TURN — **Solution: 7 letters**

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

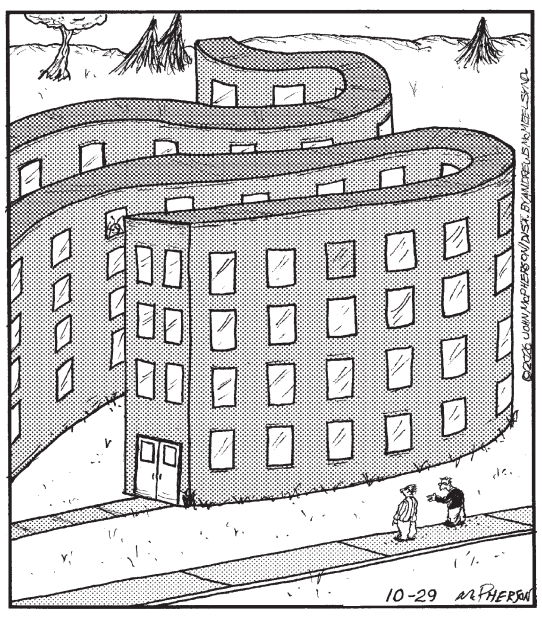
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10/28

Autumn, Blanket, Boots, Branches, Breeze, Bronze, Burgundy, Canopy, Chilly, Colors, Copper, Crisp, Daylight, Drift, Earthy, Elm, Falling, Forest, Golden, Grove, Harvest, Hiking, Jacket, Leaves, Maple, Meadow, Mist, October, Orange, Pines, Rake, Rust, Scarlet, Season, September, Shade, Sweater, Trail, Trees, Twigs, Weather, Wind, Woodland, Yellow

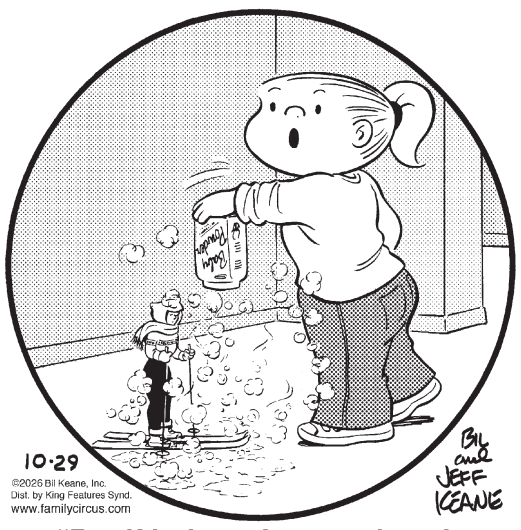
TODAY'S ANSWER: Foliage

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



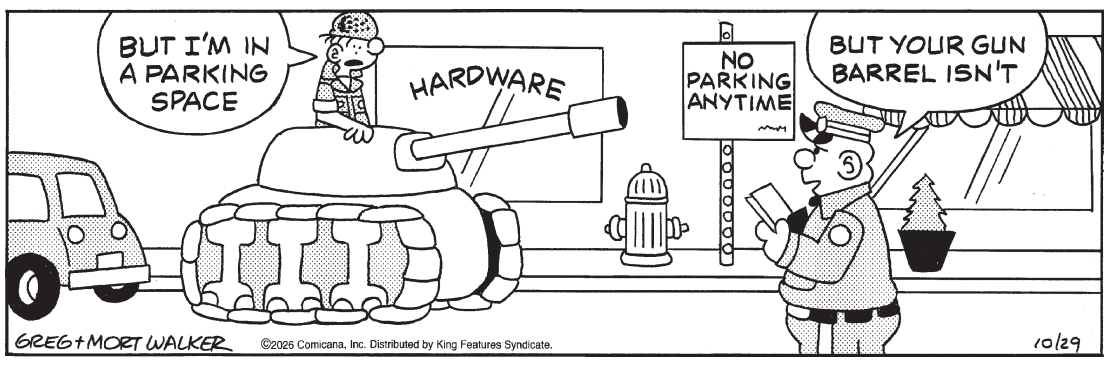
"It's uniquely designed so that every employee gets to sit next to a window."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

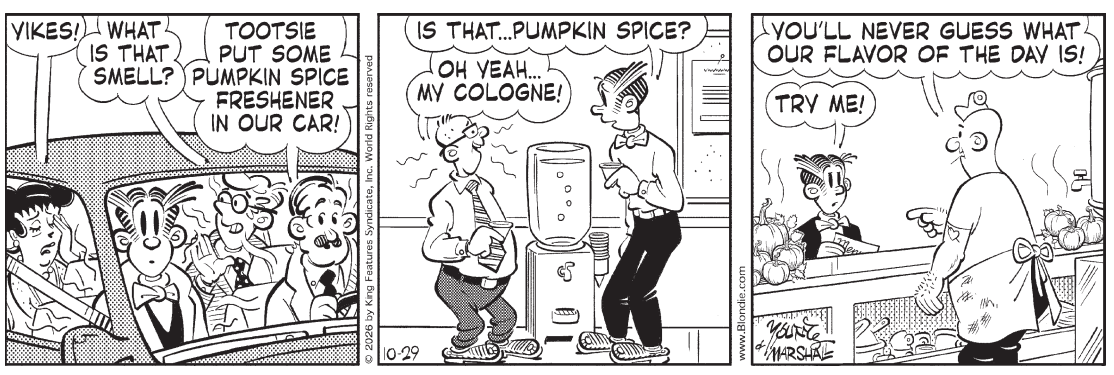


"But if it doesn't snow, how is Barbie s'posed to ski?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



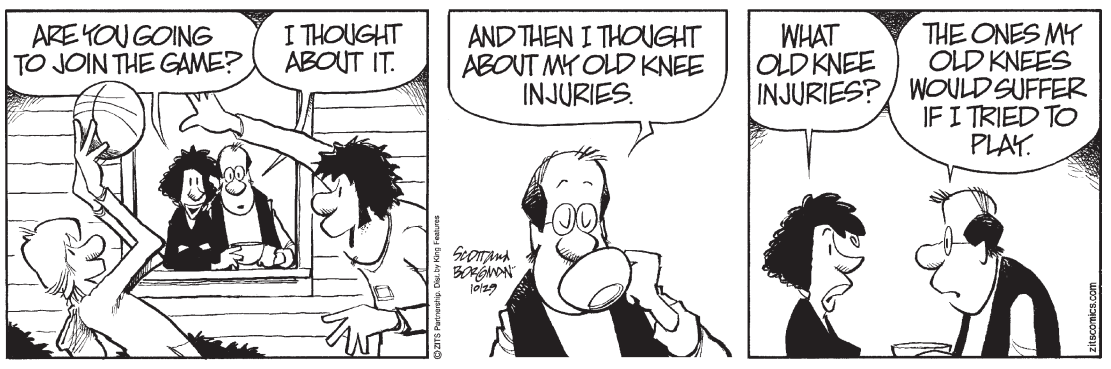
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



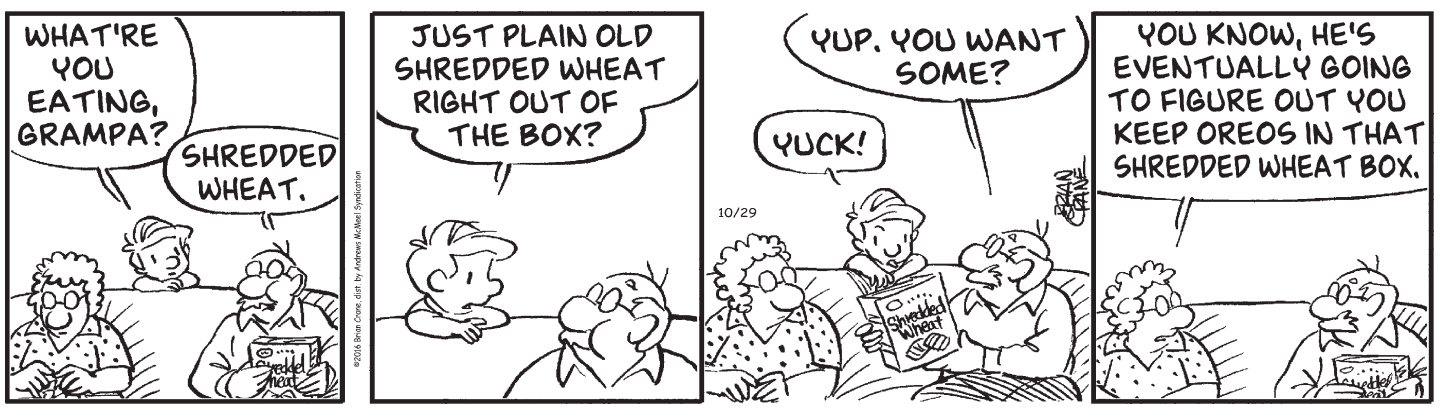
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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

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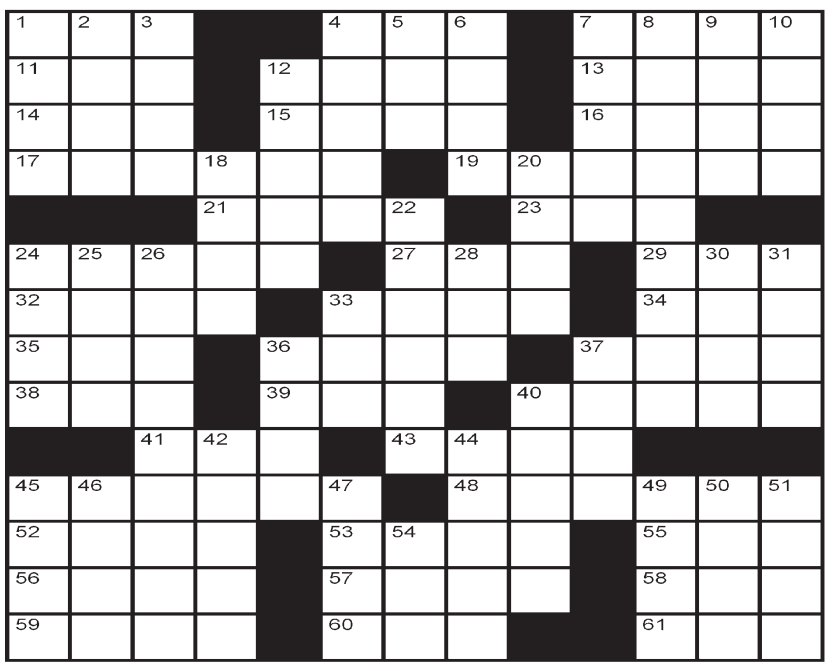
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Thick mist
4 Conducted
7 Pause
11 Rowing need
12 Greek cheese
13 Exam type
14 Cry of understanding
15 — Lendl of tennis
16 Defense acronym
17 Mutter
19 Chess piece
21 Friendly nation
23 Frozen water
24 Narrative
27 Common abbr.
29 Monk's title
32 Heart
33 Green space
34 Patience-virtue link
35 Literary collection
36 "— Poppins"
37 Zippy
38 Finger count
39 Totality
40 Reluctant prophet
41 Hair goo
43 "Hold — horses!"
45 Did a gardening job
48 Watched
52 "Woe is me!"
53 Long story
55 In the past
56 Faction
57 Lion's hair
58 Moving truck
59 Skin
60 Anger
61 NFL gains

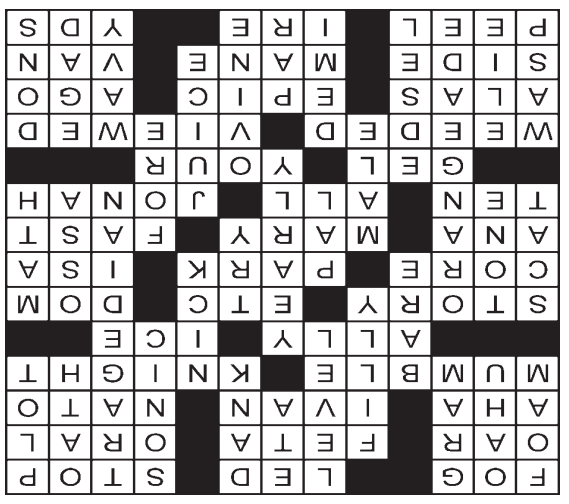
DOWN

1 Froth
2 Honolulu's island
3 Metric measure
4 Flat
5 Zeta
6 Dark and humid
7 — the Hedgehog
8 Serious actor
9 Swearword
10 Conspiracy
12 Female horse
18 Expose
20 One of the Jonas brothers
22 Every 12 months
24 "Begone!"
25 Timbre
26 Citrus drink
28 Attempt
30 Greek peak
31 School subj.
33 Bud
36 Like ganders
37 Links cry
40 Power, slangily
42 Ford that flopped
44 Of sheep
45 Stinging insect
46 Nobelist — Wiesel
47 Actress — Moore
49 Undulating
50 "Yikes!"
51 Puts on
54 Golf standard



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TODAY'S SOLUTION:



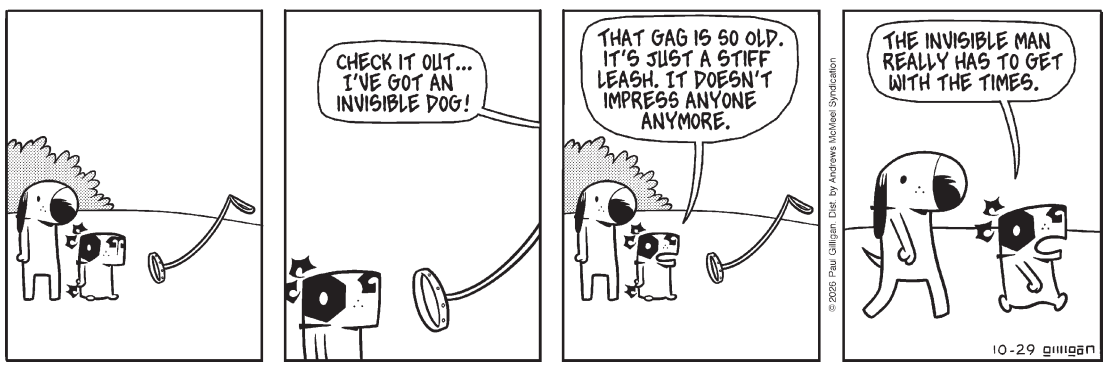
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTESTS **Solution: 6 letters**

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

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Autumn, Basket, Candle, Candy, Carving, Contest, Costumes, Crowd, Cutout, Decorate, Design, Display, Eerie, Eyes, Faces, Farm, Flicker, Ghost, Halloween, Harvest, Hayride, Jack-O'-Lantern, Messy, Monster, Orange, Pattern, Pumpkin, Scrape, Seeds, Shape, Skeleton, Sketch, Slime, Spider, Spooky, Stem, Stencil, Teeth, Template, Tradition, Trick, Witch, Yard

TODAY'S ANSWER: Judges

WHATZIT?™

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

come
come
cul-de-sac

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: Come to a dead end

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

Record number of women running for state legislatures

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA -- A record number of women are running for state legislative seats this November, more than two-thirds of whom are Democrats.

Across the 46 states with legislative seats on the ballot, a total of 3,824 women are running — up from 2022's previous record of 3,621 women candidates, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. Women make up 35.5% of all state legislative candidates this cycle.

Currently, women hold about one-third of state legislative seats across the country — a record level of representation.

While some election cycles have seen spikes in the numbers of women running, the long-term trend has been defined by incremental progress, said Debbie Walsh, director of the research center.

"It is a step towards change, but it's not going to happen in any one cycle," she said. "Our system is set up in many ways for this kind of slow, steady progress."

And she noted that Republicans still lag significantly. Of the women nominated this cycle, 68% are Democrats. Currently, about 64% of the women in state legislatures are Democrats.

The number of women serving in legislatures has increased nearly 40% over the past decade, according to government relations firm MultiState. But representation varies wildly: Women hold more than half of seats in Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico, but fewer than 15% of seats in West Virginia, South Carolina and Mississippi.

Midterm elections typically favor the party that doesn't control the White House. And the current focus on affordability offers an extra boost for women candidates, said Republican pollster and consultant Amanda Iovino.

Polling has shown men tend to think of the economy in terms of income — wages, jobs growth and investment performance, she said. Women, though, have long framed discussions in terms of costs focusing on household budgets and grocery expenses.



Special Photo: Georgia Recorder

A record 127 women are running for legislative seats in Georgia during the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

Former teacher Stefanie Bord, who is running for the Texas state House, said women are able to speak to those issues more credibly than many other politicians.

"Women are sort of like on the front lines of managing their homes and their families, and like the regular everyday life that needs to get done," she said. "And they see first-hand the problems that happen because of laws that are passed without women involved."

A Democrat, Bord found her way into politics after volunteering with the gun control group Moms Demand Action. She said women have become even more interested in running for office since the Supreme Court's 2022 reversal of Roe v. Wade that had guaranteed the federal right to abortion.

"I think women are just really sick and tired," she said, "especially in Texas, where you know my two daughters have less rights than I had."

Bord's campaign is being supported by The First Ask, a political action committee working to elect pro-choice Democratic women to statehouses across the country. That group supports first-time candidates by investing early in campaign organization and staffing support.

Republicans say they are investing in recruiting women.

In 2021, the Republican State Leadership Committee, which works to elect conservatives to state legislatures, redoubled a longstanding effort to recruit and train women candidates. This year, its Right Leaders Network included a class of 67 women running for legislatures in a dozen states.

Officials with that organization were unavailable for an interview.

In 2020, a record number of Republican women ran for Congress and 2022 set a record for Republican women serving in state legislatures.

This year, women in Georgia are more politically engaged than during Trump's first term, said Melita Easters, executive director of Georgia WIN List, a political action committee working to elect pro-choice women to the legislature.

A record 127 women are running for legislative seats in Georgia. The organization has endorsed 76 of those candidates. Plenty of those races are considered long shots, but Easters said getting women onto the legislative ballot can be an accomplishment in its own right — especially in the South, where representation lags behind other parts of the country.

Aside from increasing levels of representation, Easters said women bring a different perspective to politics. While many men run to gain power or financial advantage, she pointed to research showing women tend to run with more altruistic motivations focused on public service.

"Women bring a different skill set to holding public office, a skill set that is more collaborative," she said. "And last but not least, women have generations of experience in cleaning up men's messes, and the current political landscape is a very messy place."

A record 127 women are running for legislative seats in Georgia during the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

GSW visual arts faculty highlight creativity, collaboration in regional exhibition

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Faculty members from Georgia Southwestern State University's Department of Visual Arts are showcasing their creative talents in "Collegium," a group exhibition on display at the Albany Area Arts Council through Oct. 30.

The exhibition features works by four GSW faculty members: Laurel Robinson, professor of painting and drawing; Keaton Wynn, professor of art history and ceramics and department chair; Charles Wells, professor of sculpture, glass and printmaking; and Justin Hodges, assistant professor of photography and digital arts.

Following an opening reception on Sept. 3, the exhibition continues to offer visitors an opportunity to explore the diverse artistic styles, media and creative approaches of GSW's visual arts faculty.

"This exhibition highlights the diverse creative talents of our faculty," faculty members said in a joint artists' statement. "The title of this show describes the community and culture of our program. We see each other more as family than colleagues. We're able to nurture, challenge, and encourage each other in both the classroom and studio.

"As professional exhibiting artists, we share a philosophy that values skill development, conceptual curiosity, and a profound respect for the mystery and meaning of the materials we explore."



Special Photo: GSW

Works by GSW professor Laurel Robinson are part of the "Collegium" exhibit on display now at the Albany Area Arts Council Gallery.

The opening reception brought together faculty, students and community members, providing an opportunity to engage with the artists, explore their recent works and gain insight into their creative philosophies and practices.

For GSW visual arts students, the exhibition offered a unique opportunity to see their professors' work beyond the classroom and gain a deeper appreciation for their roles as practicing artists.

"The faculty show at the Albany Arts Council was very interesting for me to see," Dakota Nash, a junior fine arts major, said. "Seeing the work of our professors helped me to connect with them better and see that they are still active artists making work to be exhibited."

Hodges emphasized the collaborative spirit reflected throughout the exhibition.

"I'm really excited about this new body of work and about the exhibition as a whole," he said. "The Albany Arts Council is a great venue for the show, since all four of our individual works interact well together in the space. Though our work makes use of different media, it's evident throughout the exhibition that we all appreciate and are informed by one another. It's always a great pleasure to exhibit with my colleagues whom I respect and admire."

GSW's Department of Visual Arts offers hands-on instruction in ceramics, digital art, drawing and painting, glass, photography, printmaking and sculpture. The department is particularly distinguished by its glass program, established during the emergence of the American Studio Glass movement in the early 1970s. As one of the oldest programs of its kind in the country, GSW remains the only state university in Georgia to offer a bachelor of fine arts degree in glass.

In addition to its strong foundation in traditional studio arts, the department embraces emerging technologies through its digital makers' space, equipped with large-format printers, 3D printing technology and professional photography and video equipment.

"Collegium" is on display at the Albany Area Arts Council, located at 215 N. Jackson St. in Albany, through Oct. 30. Gallery hours are noon-4 p.m. The exhibition will then be reinstalled in GSW's Fine Arts Gallery beginning Nov. 1, providing another opportunity for the campus and local community to experience the faculty's work.

Learn more about GSW's Department of Visual Arts at gsw.edu/VisualArts.



File photo

Albany police are investigating an aggravated assault incident that reportedly included shots fired.

Albany police seek suspect in shooting incident

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- The Albany Police Department is investigating an aggravated assault incident that occurred in the 100 block of Broadway St.

A woman reported that her son began physically assaulting her while they were inside a vehicle. During the incident, he took a handgun from her purse. The woman fled the vehicle and ran to a nearby business. Shortly afterward, a gunshot was heard, and the suspect fled on foot toward Union Baptist Church.

The Albany Police Department said in a news release that the incident is not an active shooter situation at Albany State University. Officers are actively searching for the suspect in connection with the investigation.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Albany Police Department at (229) 431-2100 or submit a tip through the department's APD App.

Southwest Georgia Graduate Medical Education programs gather for annual conference

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE — Residents, faculty and graduate medical education leaders from across southwest Georgia gathered recently at the Ameris Bank Medical Education Center at Colquitt Regional Health System for the fourth annual Southwest Georgia Graduate Medical Education Conference.

Participating residents represented Colquitt Regional's Georgia South Family Medicine and Psychiatry programs; SGMC Health's Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Transitional Year programs; the Medical College of Georgia–Archbold Internal Medicine Residency; and Coffee Regional Medical Center's Internal Medicine program.

More than 120 residents, program directors, faculty members, and GME staff participated in a day of educational sessions, scholarly presentations and collaborative discussions focused on advancing graduate medical education throughout the region.

"Graduate medical education is an important investment in the future of healthcare for our region," Colquitt Regional Health System President/CEO Jim Matney said. "By bringing residents, faculty and medical education leaders together, we are strengthening relationships among our regional programs and helping prepare the next generation of physicians to serve communities like ours."

Residents participated in forums covering meaningful supervision and feedback, cross-program collaboration, artificial intelligence in residency and rural program innovation. Program directors, associate program directors and faculty members also participated in dedicated discussions addressing moonlighting, remediation, professionalism, and the balance of supervision, autonomy and faculty expectations.

Facilitators included Dr. Kent Posey, associate program director, Georgia South Psychiatry; Dr. Kirby Smith, program director, Georgia South Family Medicine; Drs. Leslie Lamptey and Timothy Sobukonla, associate program directors, SGMC Health Internal Medicine; and Dr. Clay Sizemore, associate program director, Medical College of Georgia–Archbold Internal Medicine Residency.



Special Photo

Residents, faculty, and graduate medical education leaders from across southwest Georgia gathered at Colquitt Regional Health System for the recent fourth annual Southwest Georgia Graduate Medical Education Conference.

"This is our fourth annual meeting regionally," Smith, who facilitated a resident remediation case and participated in the Innovation Spotlight, said. "What a remarkable opportunity to collaborate, share resources and provide support to each other. It is how we keep raising the standard of training in southwest Georgia."

Residents also showcased their scholarly work during a poster competition featuring four judging categories: Innovation and Originality, Clinical and Educational Impact, Visual Appeal and Design, and Clarity and Quality of Scholarly Presentation. Peers and faculty members evaluated the presentations and selected a winner in each category.

The annual conference continues to strengthen collaboration among graduate medical education programs across southwest Georgia, providing opportunities for residents and faculty to share knowledge, exchange ideas and support the development of the region's future physician workforce.



Special Photo: Jim Griffith Photo

Lee County quarterback Cohen Lawson earned Albany Herald Friday Night Five Player of the Week honors after throwing for 304 yards and two touchdowns in Friday's 49-14 victory over Tift County.

Friday Night Five: Cohen Lawson is Player of the Week

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

Cohen Lawson made 19 passes go a long way Friday night.

The Lee County quarterback completed 14 for 304 yards and two touchdowns without an interception, powering the Trojans to a 49-14 victory over Tift County and earning Albany Herald Friday Night Five Player of the Week honors.

Lawson completed 73.7% of his attempts and averaged 16 yards per throw, directing an offense that piled up 581 total yards. His performance topped the area's reported passing totals.

Carter Blackwell supplied his biggest receiving target, turning three catches into 132 yards and a touchdown. Destin Bell added a 77-yard touchdown reception, while Jaden Upshaw caught six passes for 65 yards.

The Trojans matched that production with a ground game that generated 234 yards and five touchdowns. Dominique Ball scored three times, and Jordan Bush added two rushing touchdowns.

While Lawson led the passing list, Terrell Academy's Bryse Peachey delivered the largest combined passing and rushing total among the reported performances.

Peachey rushed for 211 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries and completed 11 of 17 passes for 138 yards and two scores in a 46-26 loss to Westfield. Evan Montgomery caught both touchdown passes, finishing with three receptions for 110 yards.

Baconton Charter's Braylen Hundley also made a little work produce big results. He rushed for 156 yards and two touchdowns on seven carries in the Blazers' 38-0 victory over Southwest Georgia STEM Charter, averaging 22.3 yards per carry.

Here are this week's Friday Night Five leaders, ranked by yardage from available statistics.

PASSING

Cohen Lawson, Lee County — 14 of 19, 304 yards, two touchdowns.

Micah Joyner, Dougherty — 14 of 21, 196 yards, two touchdowns.

Maddox Skipper, Deerfield-Windsor — 7 of 11, 191 yards, three touchdowns.

Jacorey Williams, Terrell County — 13 of 17, 188 yards, one touchdown.

Bryse Peachey, Terrell Academy — 11 of 17, 138 yards, two touchdowns.

RUSHING

Bryse Peachey, Terrell Academy — 28 carries, 211 yards, two touchdowns.

Braylen Hundley, Baconton Charter — Seven carries, 156 yards, two touchdowns.

Rae'Shawn Clyde, Randolph-Clay — 25 carries, 117 yards, one touchdown.

Turner Simmons, Deerfield-Windsor — Six carries, 102 yards, two touchdowns.

Malik Young, Westover — 13 carries, 97 yards.

RECEIVING

Carter Blackwell, Lee County — Three catches, 132 yards, one touchdown.

Evan Montgomery, Terrell Academy — Three catches, 110 yards, two touchdowns.

Mangham Pippin, Deerfield-Windsor — One catch, 80 yards, one touchdown.

Destin Bell, Lee County — One catch, 77 yards, one touchdown.

Jaden Upshaw, Lee County — Six catches, 65 yards.

Rankings reflect statistics available at publication. Monroe's individual statistics were unavailable.

Oh, Brother

Joyner brothers lead Dougherty, Westover into rivalry showdown with a region title at stake

By Joe Whitfield | Sports Editor

ALBANY — Corey Joyner knows much of his family will be pulling against him Friday night.

He also knows they expect to eat at his house Saturday.

Westover's football coach would like everyone to consider those competing interests.

"They need to remember that beanie weenie will be served on Saturday at my house," Joyner said.

Cousins are coming from Jacksonville. Brothers are flying in from Maryland and Delaware. Most of his immediate family and much of the extended family grew up on Albany's Eastside, and Corey knows which way their loyalties lean.

Across Hugh Mills Stadium. Toward Dougherty. Toward his younger brother, Uyl.

Friday's 7:30 p.m. meeting would command attention on the family calendar regardless of the records. This time, both teams arrive 7-1, and a region championship hangs between them.

Dougherty can claim the title outright with a victory. Westover can force a three-way tie with the Trojans and Cairo, leaving tiebreakers to determine the champion and playoff positioning.

The fifth Hampton Smith Classic has its own tie to settle. Dougherty won the first two editions of the game honoring the legendary Albany State football coach. Westover won the next two — both since the Joyner brothers began coaching against each other.

For Uyl, Friday offers the chance to beat his older brother for the first time and take home a championship.

For Corey, it means preparing to stop a team whose progress he understands on a more personal level than most opponents could.

"I know the struggle of his program from a behind-the-scenes perspective," he said.That knowledge complicated the satisfaction of winning their first two meetings. Corey described moments when beating his brother felt like "kicking a man when he is down."

Afterward, neither had much appetite for dissecting what happened.

"We really don't talk about the game," Corey said.

Mostly, they are relieved it is over and ready to continue their seasons.

This year's Dougherty team, however, has become the opponent the family anticipated.

"We knew this team growing up would be special," Corey said.

His nephew is a substantial reason why.

Micah Joyner quarterbacks the Trojans for his father, Uyl. Corey's son, Jordan, plays receiver for Westover. What begins as a matchup between brothers on the sidelines extends to cousins on the field.

Micah brings more than a familiar last name. He completed 14 of 21 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns in last week's 27-20 victory over Bainbridge. A week earlier, he threw for 284 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 145 yards as Dougherty edged Cairo 26-23.

His receiving options include David Burgess, Jherel Gibson, Detavious Poole and Alonzo Hammond, giving Westover several threats to account for when Micah drops back.

Corey has watched enough of his nephew to know that familiarity offers no easy solution.

"Micah has always been ahead of the curve," he said. "He never played like his age group in any sport."

The quarterback's best football, Corey believes, is still ahead of him.

"The state of Georgia needs to be on alert because he has two more years," he said.

For now, the uncle would appreciate a quiet Friday.

Asked what would decide the game, Corey listed limiting explosive plays and sustaining drives. Then he named the challenge that ties those assignments together.

"Stopping Micah."

Keeping Dougherty's quarterback off the field would help. Westover has several players capable of making that happen.

Quarterback Gabriel Hopper and running backs Michael Daniels and Malik Young give the Patriots multiple ways to move the ball behind an offensive line led by Louisville commitment Kyson Mallard. Young rushed for 97 yards on 13 carries in last week's 14-6 victory over Monroe, while Hopper supplied the first touchdown on a fourth-down keeper.

After halftime, Hopper, Young and Daniels helped move Westover into scoring position before freshman Jalen Mack handled the finish. Mack powered into the end zone and added the two-point conversion, providing the cushion the Patriots needed when Monroe answered.

Every drive Westover extends Friday is another stretch Micah must spend watch-

See **BROTHER**, 10A

Golden Rams: Taking their lumps, finding their footing

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Four freshmen are learning college football the hard way on Albany State's offensive line. David Bowser wants the Golden Rams to benefit when those lessons stick.

That means preparing them for Clark Atlanta on Saturday — and keeping them in Albany long enough to become the experienced players his team keeps running into.

In the transfer portal era, those are two substantial coaching assignments.

The immediate one comes with a 2 p.m. kickoff in Atlanta. Albany State enters 3-5 overall and 3-3 in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, carrying a battered lineup and Bowser's conviction that its record tells an incomplete story.

"We are a young football team, and we are playing good football," Bowser said. "Don't just look at the result. Look at the process."

That process has included finding healthy offensive linemen.

Starting center Ty'Orice Brown's injury in Saturday's 29-8 loss to Benedict further depleted a unit relying on four freshmen. Bowser said the Rams have reached their third center.



Special Photo: Reginald Christian, Albany State University

Wide receiver Braylon Jakes, a redshirt freshman from Columbus, runs after making a catch during Saturday's loss to Benedict. Jakes and the Golden Rams get another chance Saturday when they travel to face Clark Atlanta.

Quarterback Jeffery Davis also departed early after injuring his non-throwing shoulder. Bowser expects him to play Saturday. Davis has been receiving three treatments a day.

His return would help. It would not make his blockers any older.

Against Benedict's experienced defensive front, those young linemen had to recognize pressure, communicate assignments and sustain blocks. Bowser praised their effort, but finishing those blocks remains essential.

"Experience is something you can't replace," he said.

Nor can a coach manufacture it during a film session. Players accumulate it, sometimes one frustrating possession at a time.

Albany State nevertheless had opportunities against Benedict. The Rams held the Tigers scoreless in the first quarter, and Bowser praised the defense's second-half work, Jonathan Rodriguez's punting and Vinson Berry's relief effort at quarterback.

But a blocked field goal cost points. A fumble returned for a touchdown helped Benedict take control.

"When we get the ball at the plus-45, we've got to come away with points," Bowser said.

That urgency follows Albany State to Clark Atlanta. The Panthers are 2-6 overall and 2-4 in conference play, but Bowser expects their defensive movement and inside blitzes to challenge his young line.

Defensively, the Rams must contain an offense that spreads the field and attacks the perimeter. Bowser expects defensive backs Evan Wynn and Rontavion Scott to return. Turnovers could provide shorter fields.

Beyond Saturday, continuity will determine how much these lessons pay off.

See **RAMS**, 10A

Dawgs seek answers against Gators

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ATHENS — Georgia has won five straight against Florida. Its most recent game offered a reminder that reputation doesn't protect the football or finish a tackle.

Auburn exposed enough mistakes to send the Bulldogs into their open week with a loss and a lengthy repair list. Now Florida gets to inspect the work.

The rivals meet at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, bringing their annual hostilities to Atlanta for the first time. No. 3 Georgia enters 6-1 overall and 4-1 in the SEC. No. 17 Florida is 5-2 and 3-2. Both teams are coming off open dates.

The new setting will draw plenty of attention. Kirby Smart is more interested in whether Georgia looks different once the ball is snapped.

"How do we not turn the ball over? How do we stay away from dumb penalties? How do we tackle better?" Smart said Monday.

Those questions connect what went wrong against Auburn with what must improve against Florida. The Bulldogs cannot afford to give away possessions, extend the Gators' drives or turn manageable gains into something much worse.

Center Drew Bobo said Georgia worked to put the Auburn defeat behind it early in the week, then returned to demanding practices. He described quarterback Gunner Stockton as maintaining his steady approach while reviewing the mistakes.

Stockton threw two interceptions and lost a fumble against Auburn. The response has begun in practice, Bobo indicated. Saturday will measure its progress.

Georgia's defense faces an equally direct examination, and Smart has been preparing his players for it longer than they might have realized.

Throughout the season, he has shown them clips of Florida running back Jadan Baugh. The point was to establish a tackling standard: Were they practicing to stop the next opponent, or developing habits good enough to stop one of the best?

"When you can run the ball and know that your back is going to make people miss in the open field or break tackles by running through them, over them, around them, it certainly gives you the confidence to give him touches," Smart said.



Special Photo: Kameron Taylor

Georgia running back Dwight Phillips Jr. and the Bulldogs face Florida on Saturday at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

Baugh makes the first defender's job difficult. Florida's scheme makes arriving in the right place difficult, too.

Offensive coordinator Buster Faulkner, a former member of

See **DAWGS**, 10A

Defense decides crosstown split

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — A Monday night. A middle school gym. A full house.

Eastside vs. westside doesn't need a Friday night football field to draw a crowd in Albany.

With the stands packed at Merry Acres, the Braves swarmed Albany Middle with full-court pressure Monday, and Princeton Atkins and Candler Williams supplied the shooting in a 53-23 boys basketball victory.

Albany earned its share of the bragging rights in the girls game, weathering a Merry Acres rally before holding the Lady Braves scoreless in the fourth quarter for a 31-13 win.

The doubleheader brought a familiar rivalry into a new season. Albany Middle had won both football meetings earlier in the fall, but the Merry Acres boys wasted little time establishing that those results wouldn't carry much weight in their gym.

The Braves made Albany work for every bit of breathing room, using their pressure defense to keep the Indians off balance and struggling to get shots away.

Atkins made those early possessions count at the other end. His first 3-pointer put Merry Acres ahead 7-1, and another helped stretch the lead to 12-1.

Williams picked up where Atkins left off, connecting from deep early in the second quarter to make it 17-1. While Albany searched for an offensive rhythm, the Braves were settling comfortably into theirs.

The Indians began finding points as Merry Acres rotated players, but the return of the Braves' starting five brought another Williams 3-pointer and a 22-7 advantage.

Atkins saved his longest shot for the final seconds.

From just beyond half court, he launched a buzzer-beating 3-pointer that sent Merry Acres into halftime ahead 25-8. The Braves had spent the half making shots difficult for Albany; Atkins finished it by making a difficult one himself.

Merry Acres maintained control after the break, building a 41-16 lead through three quarters before completing the 30-point victory.

Atkins and Williams finished with 14 points apiece. De'Haven Frazier led Albany with eight points, and Christian Watson added six.

While the Braves established their advantage early, the Lady Indians had to withstand a challenge before pulling away.

Albany led 8-4 at halftime, but Jennelisa Thomas gave Merry Acres the spark it needed in the third quarter. She hit one 3-pointer, then another, helping the Lady Braves close within 15-13.

Suddenly, Albany's lead was down to one possession, and Merry Acres had an opportunity to turn the game.

The Lady Indians answered with their strongest stretch of the night.

Katlyn Mathis connected on a 3-pointer early in the fourth as Albany extended its advantage to 20-13. With the Lady Indians shutting down Merry Acres at the other end, that lead continued to grow.

The Lady Braves went scoreless in the final quarter, allowing Albany to turn a two-point scare into an 18-point victory.

Mathis led the Lady Indians with 10 points. Ana Simpson added nine, and Rishonna Butler contributed seven. Thomas' six points led Merry Acres.

By the finish, each school had a victory to take home — and a packed gym had supplied an early reminder of how much this rivalry matters.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Merry Acres' Princeton Atkins goes up for a layup against Albany Middle on Monday night. Atkins and Candler Williams scored 14 points apiece to lead the Braves to a 53-23 victory before a packed home crowd.

From 9A

DAWGS

Smart's staff, builds around his players' strengths while maintaining a physical running game. Smart considers that adaptability one of his former colleague's greatest assets.

This week, it gives Georgia two quarterbacks to prepare for.

Aaron Philo started Florida's first six games before a shoulder injury opened the door for Tramell Jones Jr. Jones helped lead the Gators to a 27-24 victory at Texas. Florida had not named its starter as the week began.

Smart sees little comfort in either possibility. Philo helped beat Ole Miss. Jones won in Austin. Faulkner can tailor the offense to both.

"He gives them so many options, and he can play to the strengths of each guy," Smart said.

For Georgia's secondary, that means resisting the temptation to solve one problem by creating another. Cornerback Ellis Robinson IV emphasized that Florida can punish a defense on the ground and throw over it when defenders become too aggressive.

Robinson said tackling received daily attention during the open week. As a cornerback, he studies opposing running backs as well as receivers, preparing to help stop the run when the play reaches him.

"They're a fast, physical team," he said.

Having a healthier defense would help, but Smart offered no firm Monday update on safety KJ Bolden or receiver Isiah Canion. Their progress in practice would provide a better indication of their availability.

The open week required a balance between recovery and preparation. Some Bulldogs needed rest more urgently than extra repetitions, Smart said. That creates its own concern when the next opponent demands contact.

"You better be ready to strike somebody in this game because it's going to be physical," he said.

Georgia still brings considerable strengths. The Bulldogs lead the SEC in scoring offense at 43 points per game and scoring defense at 15.9. Florida averages 39.6 points but allows 28.3. Even so, Georgia's fifth consecutive victory in the series last season came by just four points, 24-20.

There is enough offensive ability for the Bulldogs to create opportunities Saturday. Their task is to preserve those chances while making Florida earn its own.

The rivalry has a different roof this year. Underneath it, Georgia's most important work will look much the same: hold onto the football, avoid the unnecessary flag and get Baugh on the ground.

From 9A

RAMS

Bowser pointed to experienced opponents whose rosters have stayed together. He wants that opportunity for Albany State.

With the portal offering mobility and name, image and likeness opportunities influencing decisions, developing freshmen is only part of building a program. Keeping them allows that development to compound.

Bowser has emphasized productive film sessions, weightroom work and progress that losses can obscure.

"The sky is not falling," he said.

He can see what these freshmen might become. His task is to help them see it, too — and give them a reason to become it together at Albany State, where this season's difficult lessons could help shape a much different future.

From 9A

BROTHER

ing. But the Patriots also know they must finish possessions and make stops.

Against Monroe, they needed an early goal-line stand, forcing quarterback Jordan Shorter out at the 1 on fourth down, and enough defense late to preserve the victory.

It was a demanding night before another demanding night. Corey found reassurance in how his team responded.

"We can handle adversity," he said. "We can focus and be resilient."

That focus will be tested by everything surrounding Friday's kickoff. The rivalry supplies its own emotion. The standings add urgency. The family connections ensure somebody will have something to say afterward.

Corey wants his players thinking about their assignments.

"Just play the game," he said.

There will be time later to sort through the championship implications and settle the family arguments.

By Saturday, everyone will know who won.

Corey has already told them what's for dinner.



Special Photo: Submitted

The Deerfield-Windsor boys team stands with the GHSA State Championship banner after the Knights won the state championship Saturday in Macon. Deerfield-Windsor had three runners in the top eight, and the Knights finished with a total of 64 points, ahead of Bethlehem Christian and Calvary Christian.

Deerfield-Windsor captures 5th cross country championship

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

MACON — Deerfield-Windsor moved into a bigger classification. Its runners made sure the championship trophy still came home with the Knights.

Whatley Fountain won by 52 seconds, two teammates joined him in the top 10 and two more surged through the closing kilometers Saturday as Deerfield-Windsor captured the GIAA Class AAAA boys cross country championship at the Georgia Premiere Cross Country Course.

The Knights finished with 64 points, holding off Bethlehem Christian's 78 and Calvary Christian's 105 to claim the program's fifth boys state title — a GIAA record, according to coach Jake Clawson.

"Obviously, I'm really proud of what the boys were able to accomplish," Clawson said. "We bet on ourselves by moving into a larger class and they did everything they needed to do to make this happen."

Fountain gave that effort a commanding start. He covered the course in 16 minutes, 5.47 seconds, leaving runner-up Gage Wasileski of George Walton Academy 52 seconds behind.

The victory also established Deerfield-Windsor's school record for career race wins. But Fountain's individual championship was only part of what he came to Macon to accomplish.

"The team title is more important, but I've worked hard to win the individual title and it feels rewarding," he said.

Daniel Roland and Adam Mallow helped deliver the championship Fountain valued most. Roland finished sixth and Mallow eighth, giving the Knights three of the race's first eight finishers and putting pressure on their closest challengers.

Deerfield-Windsor maintained that advantage deeper in the field, where Mills Cothren and Mangham Pippin made the closing kilometers count. Cothren finished 22nd and Pippin placed 25th to complete the scoring.

"Daniel and Adam ran out of their minds, and Mills and Mangham shut the door on the other teams and probably picked up 12 points between them in the final 3K," Clawson said. "It was a top-down team win."

Pippin's contribution came on a quick turnaround. After playing in Deerfield-Windsor's football game Friday night, he raced Saturday with a state championship on the line.

His finish helped complete a performance that rewarded the Knights' confidence in taking on a larger classification — and extended a championship tradition built during Clawson's tenure.

The Deerfield-Windsor girls also met the challenge of racing up, delivering what Clawson called their best race of the season to finish fifth.

Holli Roland led the Lady Knights in 21st place. Alli Roland followed in 25th, Reagan Church placed 32nd, Maggie Collins finished 38th and Ann Margret Barrow took 40th.

Tallulah Falls won the girls title with 61 points, followed by Stratford Academy with 83 and St. Anne-Pacelli with 120.

Clawson praised the progress the girls have made with coach Plowden. For the boys, Saturday's victory offered a chance to appreciate how far their program has come.

"When I came here in 2015 we had zero. Now the boys have five," Clawson said. "For me today felt like we were running for everyone who has ever worn our jersey."

Leesburg roots, Athens dreams: Bo Bryan commits to Georgia

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

Luke Bryan carried his love of Georgia football from Leesburg to Nashville. His son is taking it to Athens — with a chance to wear the uniform.

Bo Bryan, the country music star's son, announced his commitment to the Bulldogs on Sunday, turning a childhood allegiance into a college football opportunity.

The three-star quarterback from Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee, joins Georgia's 2027 recruiting class with impressive senior-season numbers and a clear understanding that his development is still ahead of him.

Georgia was his first Power Four offer. His other reported offers included Austin Peay, North Alabama, UT Martin, Eastern Kentucky, East Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech. All offered a route into Division I football. None carried the personal significance of Athens.

For southwest Georgia, that connection begins with his father. Luke grew up in Leesburg, graduated from Lee County High School and developed his musical talents in school and church before becoming a country star. He graduated from Georgia Southern in 1999, but remained a devoted Georgia football fan.

Bo grew up attending Bulldogs games and following players such as Nick Chubb and Jake Fromm. When offensive coordinator Mike Bobo called with an offer, Bryan told Rivals, he accepted during the conversation. Sunday brought the public announcement.

What awaits him is the chance to compete alongside a more heavily recruited quarterback in the same class.

Colton Nussmeier, a four-star prospect at Archbishop Rummel in Metairie, Louisiana, committed to Georgia in June. The Rivals Industry Ranking places him No. 20 among quarterbacks nationally, and his offer list includes Florida, Arkansas, UCLA and Texas Tech.

Nussmeier comes from a football family. His father, Doug, is the New Orleans Saints' offensive coordinator. His older brother, Garrett, played quarterback at LSU before entering the NFL. A 247Sports scouting evaluation projects the strong-armed left-hander as a potential Power Four starter.

That makes Bryan's addition a different kind of investment: a developmental prospect willing to enter a competitive quarterback room at the school he has always supported.

His senior season offers reasons for that investment. Before suffering a season-ending collarbone injury Oct. 16, Bryan completed 114 of 155 passes for 2,006 yards, 30 touchdowns and three interceptions — a 73.5% completion rate.

He also sees a football fit. Battle Ground Academy coach Bobby Bentley and Bobo have a close relationship, and Bryan told Rivals that the similarities between their offenses helped make Georgia appealing. His high school team has even used plays drawn from Georgia's playbook.

Bryan wants time to learn from the quarterbacks ahead of him and develop under Bobo and Kirby Smart. He plans to sign in December and enroll in January.

His commitment gives Georgia 24 verbal pledges, including two quarterbacks. Running back Kemon Spell, tight end Jaxon Dollar and offensive tackle Kennedee Jackson are among the other offensive prospects in the class.

For Bryan, joining them fulfills one ambition. It also calls for another.

Kemp says Audi plant delivers on pledge to grow jobs in rural Georgia

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — German automaker Audi's decision to locate its first U.S. plant in Georgia was a trifecta for Gov. Brian Kemp, who said he sees it as a major part of his legacy as he prepares to leave office.

When campaigning the first time for governor eight years ago, Kemp pledged to bring more jobs to rural parts of the state. He went on to assemble three "megasites" strategically located east and south of Atlanta.

First, Rivian jumped in, choosing the site near Social Circle. Then came Hyundai, picking the second site near Savannah.

Finally, on Saturday, Gernot Döllner, CEO and chairman of the Audi AG board, announced plans to build the company's first U.S. plant at the third megasite, in Peach County, near Macon.

Audi said it wanted to be closer to customers in North America. Kemp's office said the company would make as many as 200,000 vehicles a year at the facility by 2031, with SUVs tailored to the continent.

On Monday, the term-limited Kemp characterized the announcement as "mission accomplished." The plant, in which Audi plans to invest about $4 billion, is expected to create about 4,500 jobs in the region.

"We will see this payoff for decades to come," he said at the Capitol.

Pat Wilson, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, said the jobs will be high-tech, in a highly-automated plant, and will pay workers an average of more than $63,000 a year, pumping $283 million annually into the state economy.

"Those are quality jobs, high-skill jobs," Wilson said.

The contracts have not been inked. Audi's board of directors must still approve the deal.

But Kemp and Wilson said they were confident in sealing a deal that has been nearly two years in the making.

It came together in fits and starts after Kemp said he read an article in the Wall Street Journal about the company's interest in making cars in the United States.

The Munich Security Conference was approaching in early 2025, and Kemp saw it as an opportunity to sell Georgia. He had been making trade trips abroad and would be speaking at the event.

The governor said he asked Wilson to arrange a meeting with Audi.

"It was really a cold call quite honestly," Kemp said.

The company agreed to meet. They convened in a small room at a hotel. Georgia's team showed Audi executives the megasite, and Audi responded with a poker face.

"They didn't really say a whole lot to us, best I remember," Kemp said.

Later, the company expressed interest, and a deal seemed to be in the offing. Then Audi stopped talking to Georgia. Kemp said the state was planning to market the megasite to other companies, but Audi returned to the table.

The site's location near Georgia's rail lines, ports and automotive parts suppliers attracted Audi, Kemp said, adding that he thought access to a skilled workforce was the top selling point.

Kemp said Georgia competed with other states to land Audi. He would not detail any incentive package the company would receive but said that information would eventually become public.

Another major selling point, both Kemp and Wilson said, was the preparation at the megasites that would allow a company to quickly get a new plant up and running.

"Speed to market" was among the reasons that consultants who responded to Area Development magazine's latest survey again ranked Georgia as the top state for business. The magazine's announcement last month put Georgia at No. 1 for the 13th year in a row. Georgia also ranked first for cooperative and responsive state and local government.

Kemp and Wilson said government had to adapt to the fast pace of business these days.

"It couldn't just be, you know, a piece of land," Kemp said.

It had to be ready to go, or "shovel-ready." Audi had to have confidence that Georgia could quickly issue environmental permits and provide the site with the water and power supply necessary to get a factory running at that scale — and quickly.

Kemp described Audi and the other automakers as magnets for related businesses that would contribute to economic growth long after he leaves office in January.

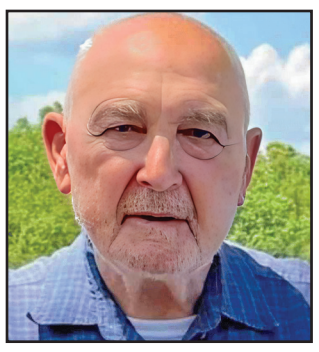
"You land these projects and they're going to grow over time or bring suppliers," he said.



Special Photo: Ty Tagami/Capitol Beat

Gov. Brian Kemp, right, joins Pat Wilson, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, at the Capitol, to answer questions about Audi's decision to locate a plant in Georgia near Macon.

Obituaries



Mr. Reginal "Reggie" Dowdy

Reginal "Reggie" Dowdy, 81, of Cedar Bluff, Alabama, passed away peacefully at his home on October 22, 2026, surrounded by his wife and children.

Born October 31, 1944, in Sylvester, Georgia, to W.T. and Doris Dowdy. Reggie graduated from the University of Georgia with a BA in Business before serving his country in Vietnam. He went on to a long career as a textile manager that spanned South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, as well as several countries overseas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, W.T. and Doris Dowdy; his brothers, W.A. Dowdy and Ricky Dowdy; and Ricky's wife, Patty Dowdy.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Linda Newberry Dowdy; his children Gina Dowdy, Eric Dowdy, and Julie Dowdy (Sara Vida); his sister Rhonda Dowdy Howard (Fred); his sister-in-law, Diana Dowdy; 10 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In accordance with Reggie's wishes, he was cremated and no formal services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

To share your condolences with the family online, please visit www.masonfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are provided by Mason Funeral Home, Summerville, GA.

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.

"P L G T O U , O V I P G G S Y D Q P G G Q S B Z P B , T Z G Q S Z P I S M T O K V C P Y G P Z P A T P O T Z G V Y P E T V H T O T Z G ... D S T O G S Y A Y S G G Q S Z L Y T A G ."

— E T O L S O G A Y T L S

Previous Solution: "Sometimes I'd rather just do the scene and not talk about it at all ... You can't think yourself into feeling." — Mia Goth

TODAY'S CLUE: S sɹəɲbə Z

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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.

"P X S J S R P R Z G D F S H B F G S I D P I D S F U E I H P I Z G B G U F F U F J B K Z P U I S Z Z G B W U K S W T P H B U J Z U F B , U Q J B J J P T B W O F B I Z P I D S I H ... H F B S Y P I D ."

— R P W Y Y S A B F L S I B J K G U B I Q F E I

Previous Solution: "Acting, no matter what they say, is the same kind of art as a pianist or a violinist ... We interpret the script." — Vincent Price

TODAY'S CLUE: S sɹəɲbə ſ

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Albany Legals

Public Hearings

A-1055
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ALBANY HOUSING AUTHORITY
RFQ NO. PIN-55 -001
LAND ACQUISITION DUE DILIGENCE, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND LAND PLANNING SERVICES
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 all alone (7)	
2 green pieces in "Monopoly" (6)	
3 compatriot (4)	
4 buttered the Butterball (6)	
5 what RPMs measure, briefly (4)	
6 James Thurber, for one (8)	
7 cheek (9)	

RE AL ED UN US
AID ST SAS LY VS
ES HU ED HO RI
MO ESS ST SIN BA

Tuesday's Answers: 1. ELATED 2. GYMNAST 3. VOGUE 4. ANGELS 5. BATONS 6. FILETS 7. GEOMETRY 10/28

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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 sales' partner, often (9)	
2 "early" movie idol, once (7)	
3 leader who "knows the score" (9)	
4 deliver a heavy blow (5)	
5 felines, familiarly (7)	
6 like a rich sauce (7)	
7 journalist & author Gilbert (9)	

ZAB MAR ING TI DUC
SM RE CON ELI MAT
CED IN ES KET KIT
EE ETH ITE TOR DU

Wednesday's Answers: 1. UNAIDED 2. HOUSES 3. ALLY 4. BASTED 5. REVS 6. HUMORIST 7. SASSINESS 10/29

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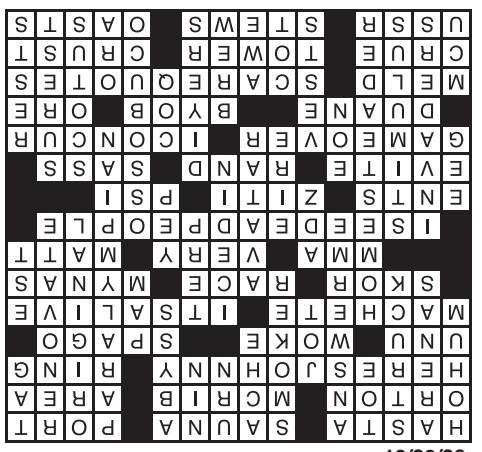
Release Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Patti Varol

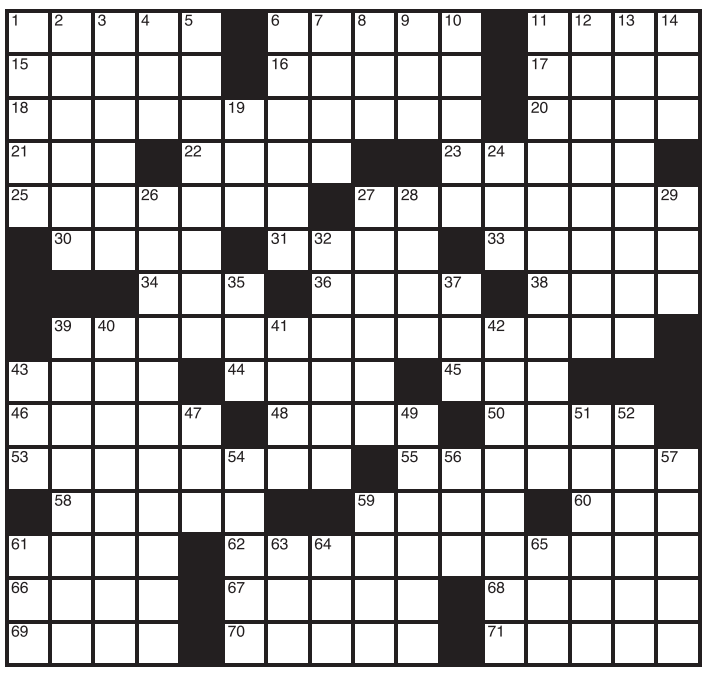
ACROSS
1 "__ luego"
6 Cold plunge preceder, sometimes
11 Starboard's opposite
15 "Stolen Car" singer Beth
16 Fast-food item celebrated with multiple farewell tours
17 Basic geometry calculation
18 *"The Shining"
20 Circle
21 Burma's first prime minister
22 Roused from sleep
23 Wolfgang Puck restaurant
25 Large agricultural knife
27 *"Frankenstein"
30 Toffee candy bar
31 Formula One event
33 Chatty starlings
34 UFC sport
36 Ever so
38 "The Simpsons" creator Groening
39 *"The Sixth Sense"
43 Laryngitis docs
44 Tubular pasta
45 Tire gauge meas.
46 Inbox party notice
48 South African currency
50 Back talk
53 *"Saw"
55 Formal agreement?
58 One of music's Allman Brothers
59 Stipulation for some parties, briefly
60 Metallic lode
61 Combine
62 Punctuation that expresses skepticism, or what the answers to the starred clues may be called?
66 Rock's Mötley __
67 Pisa landmark
68 Pizza part
69 Cold War initials
70 Crock-Pot concoctions
71 Hops-drying ovens

DOWN
1 Stale
2 Big concert venues
3 Word with love or thunder
4 Tot's piggy
5 "Say something!"
6 Barbecue apparatus
7 Ibuprofen target
8 Catering container
9 Diarist Anaïs
10 Bottomless pit
11 Elite wheelchair rugby player, maybe
12 Fresh
13 Get ready to flip, perhaps
14 Size indicator
19 Put (down)
24 Nonstick spray brand
26 One with a self-sufficient lifestyle
27 Stranded until a thaw
28 U. of Maryland athlete
29 Approximate fig.
32 Online representative
35 Woodworking tool that resembles an axe
37 "Reckon so"
39 Space trailer of the 1970s and '80s?
40 Agent that produces a reaction
41 Word on Irish stamps
42 Dish whose name means "bone with a hole" in Italian
43 Brain test letters
47 Long, long time
49 Handy types
51 Fed. bench nine
52 Most certain
54 Confers, as authority
56 __ au vin
57 Takes a breather
59 Cauldron concoction
61 CGI-heavy superhero franchise
63 Hotel bonus bed
64 Fill with wonder
65 __ pro nobis

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:



10/29/26



By Mat Holmes
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10/29/26

ALBANY HERALD CLASSIFIEDS

Construction has begun on Albany Museum of Art's downtown location

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY -- Construction has begun on the Albany Museum of Art's new downtown home at the former Belk Department Store on West Broad Avenue.

LRA Constructors Inc., the project's general contractor, has begun clearing the interior of the 58,000-square-foot, two-story building at 126 and 140 W. Broad Ave. The work marks the beginning of a construction process expected to take up to 24 months.

"Passing pedestrians and motorists will notice increasing construction activity at the downtown site," AMA Executive Director Andrew James Wulf said. "After years of planning, fundraising, and working through the complexities of a project of this scale, it's enormously gratifying to see the work begin. There is something wonderfully exciting about taking a building that was once such an important part of downtown Albany's commercial life and giving it an entirely new purpose. And now, that transformation is underway."

The $35 million project will transform the former department store into a museum featuring expanded exhibition galleries, spaces for art education, artist studios, a café, and an outdoor sculpture garden. The new facility will also accommodate performances and community gatherings. Admission to the museum will remain free.

The project is supported by $4 million in funding from the city of Albany, $3 million from Dougherty County, a $3 million commitment from the Bunzl Foundation, contributions from private foundations and individual donors, and historic rehabilitation tax credits. The museum's capital campaign continues as construction moves forward.

The official groundbreaking ceremony took place on May 18, marking the launch of the public phase of the Capital Campaign.

The AMA relocation began taking shape in the summer of 2019, when the Robert N. Brooks Sr. family generously donated the downtown building to the museum. Shortly after that gift was made, DLR Group, a national design firm based in Washington, D.C., assessed the building, created a master plan for using the new space, ensured that historical preservation requirements were met, and reviewed the extent of grant and tax credit opportunities that could be used in the project.

The project is expected to have direct and indirect economic impacts totaling $5 million annually when completed and has already brought environmental improvements to the downtown site. In 2020, hazardous waste and petroleum contamination associated with a previous use of the property were addressed through an EPA Brownfields cleanup grant.

One of the first signs of things to come occurred in 2021 when a former auto supply store and later dance studio at the southwest corner of Broad Avenue and Washington Street was razed. That area will be an outdoor sculpture garden when the new museum opens.

In December 2025, the AMA hired Aaron & Clements of Columbus to represent the museum throughout the project delivery process. In January 2026, the AMA selected LRA as the general contractor.



Special Photo: Albany Museum of Art

LRA Constructors Inc., has begun construction at the future home of the Albany Museum of Art. The transformation of the former department store at 126 and 140 W. Broad Ave. is expected to take 24 months.

Wulf said that while construction progresses downtown, the AMA will continue to have a full schedule of art exhibitions, programs, and events at the museum's current home, 311 Meadowlark Drive adjacent to Albany State University's West Campus.

"We are deeply grateful to the families, foundations, businesses and public officials who have helped us reach this point," Wulf said. "Our fundraising campaign continues, and there are still many opportunities for people to become involved. But today, I think it's worth celebrating just how far we've come.

"I've always believed that a museum should be much more than a place where works of art are displayed. It should be a place where people feel welcome, where children discover things that they didn't know existed, where artists and ideas have room to flourish, and where a community can come together. That's what we want to create downtown, and after all these years, I'm delighted that we're finally building it."



Phoebe Foundation provides nearly $500,000 for new mammography machine

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Phoebe Foundation is highlighting its nearly $500,000 investment in a new mammography machine at the Carlton Breast Health Center on Meredyth Drive. The funding will help strengthen breast cancer screening services and improve access to essential screenings for women throughout southwest Georgia.

Regular mammograms play a critical role in detecting breast cancer early, when treatment is often most effective. The new equipment will help the Carlton Breast Health Center continue providing important screening services for patients throughout the region.



Special Photo: Phoebe

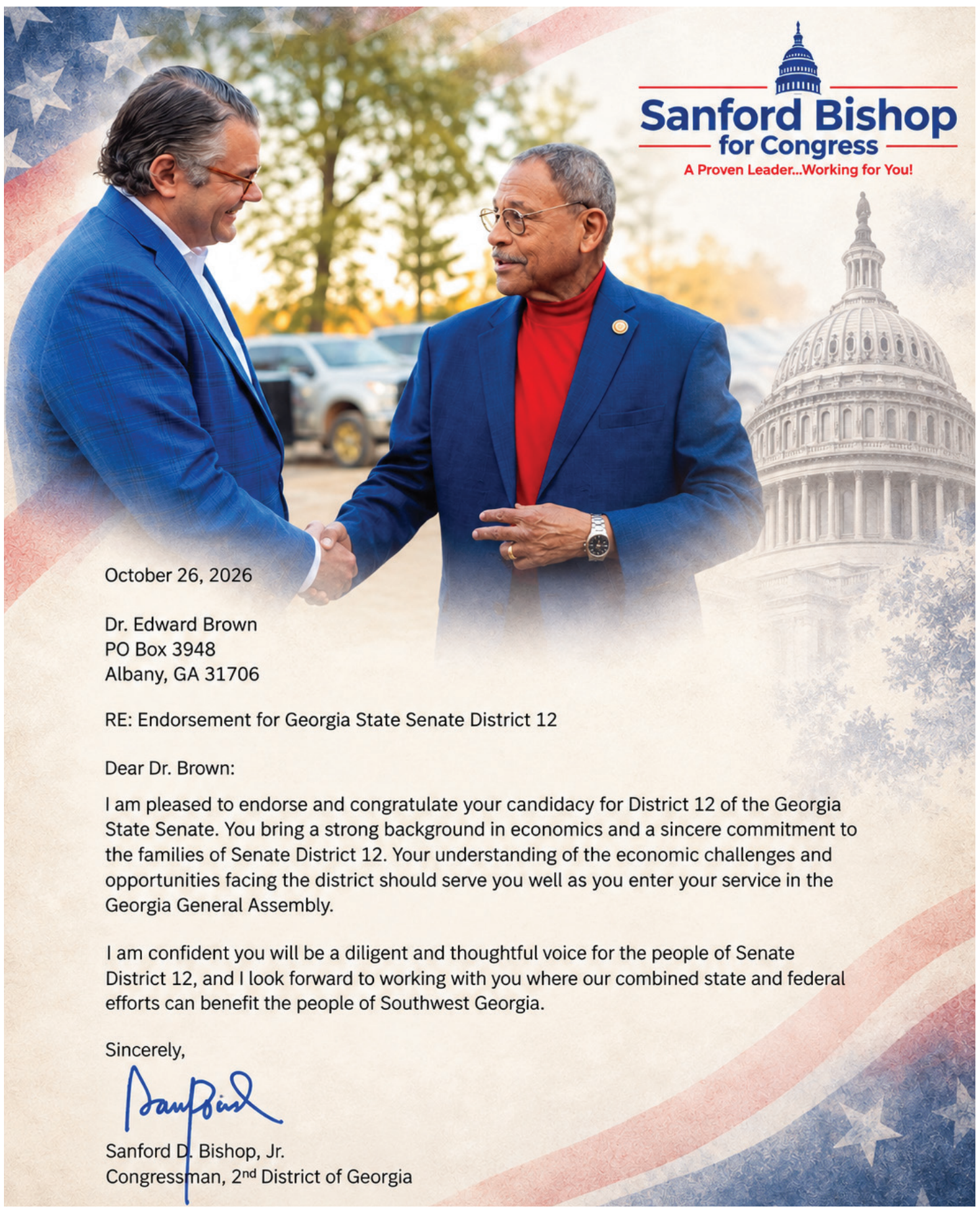
The Phoebe Foundation is highlighting its nearly $500,000 investment in a new mammography machine at the Carlton Breast Health Center in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"This new mammography unit will be a wonderful addition to the Carlton Breast Health Center," Dr. Shailaja Sappati, the medical director for the Carlton Breast Health Center, said. "It will improve patient access to important breast cancer screenings and help us continue providing high-quality care that puts patients first. Most importantly, it strengthens our commitment to making essential healthcare services more accessible to the communities we serve."

For the Phoebe Foundation, Breast Cancer Awareness Month is also an opportunity to recognize the role philanthropy plays in bringing important healthcare resources to the community.

"Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an important reminder of just how much early detection matters," Parker Douglas, the director of the Phoebe Foundation, said. "Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we're able to help bring important screening technology to more women in our community. This is exactly what philanthropy should do – turn generosity into resources that can have a lasting impact on people's lives."

While October brings additional attention to breast cancer, the importance of early detection extends throughout the year. Women are encouraged to talk with their healthcare providers about when to begin mammograms and how often they should be screened based on their age, health history and individual risk factors.



Governor extends gas tax suspension through Thanksgiving

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — It has been nearly a month since Gov. Brian Kemp suspended Georgia's motor fuel tax to help drivers cope with soaring prices at the pump.

With prices down but still relatively high, Kemp announced that he is extending the tax break for another month.

The state excise tax of 33.3 cents a gallon for gasoline and 37.3 cents for diesel will remain suspended until 11:59 p.m. Nov. 30, according to the executive order signed by Kemp on Saturday.

The General Assembly must approve the suspension when it next convenes.

This is the fourth suspension of the tax this year. Kemp said he consulted with Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and House Speaker Jon Burns before extending the state of emergency.

In March, Kemp signed a 60-day gas tax suspension bill after it passed the state House 163-4 and the state Senate unanimously.

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

On Sept. 28, Kemp signed an executive order declaring another state of emergency and authorizing the current suspension, originally set to expire Oct. 29.

"With a major holiday coming up and fuel prices still at high levels, I am proud to take this step to keep more money in Georgians' pockets," Kemp said in a statement.

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