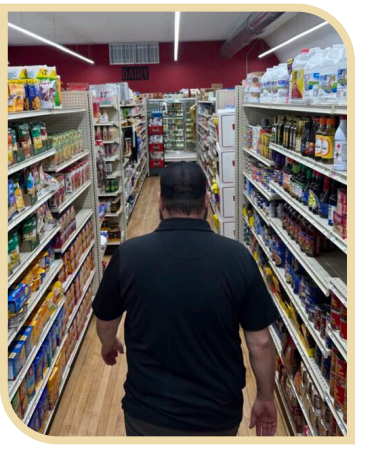




Perspectives
David Carroll
• Page 5A

The Albany HERALD

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



Rising prices
Affordability impacts election
• Page 8A

$1.50 ©2026 GTLN Vol. CXXXIIII, No. 130 ALBANYHERALD.COM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026



File Photo
Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Tuesday across the state.

Voters to decide local, state, national races

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The weeks of ads on television and social media, cleaning campaign flyers out of the mailbox, text messages and occasional phone calls pushing political candidates will mercifully come to an end soon.

All that's left, for those who want to have a voice in representation and who didn't vote early or by mail, is to get out to the polls on Election Day.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. statewide on Tuesday for the Nov. 3 election.

Up for grabs are statewide races for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, commissioner of agriculture, insurance and fire safety commissioner, commissioner of labor and state school superintendent. The two other statewide contests are in Public Service Commission Districts 3 and 5.

Closer to home, Dougherty County voters in County Commission District 6 will decide between incumbent Republican Russell Gray and Democrat Anthony "A.J." Patterson.

In Lee County, the candidates for County Commission District 1 are Republican Susan Smith and Democrat William Simmons.

In Dougherty County, the

See **VOTERS**, 2A

Dougherty school board vacancy, election lawsuit leave voters facing uncertainty

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Dougherty County School Board members acknowledged Thursday that they must address a District 4 vacancy after Melissa Strother resigned. Meanwhile, a court challenge to the May primary alleges scanner malfunctions, mishandled ballots and incomplete election records.

The board said Strother submitted her resignation letter Wednesday. Members did not comment further.

Strother announced Monday that an unexpected change in her family's residential plans had led to their move outside the district. Her statement did not say when the move took place.

Her name remains the only one on the Nov. 3 ballot for the school board seat she narrowly won in the Democratic primary. Early voting continues through Friday.

In an interview Wednesday,

See **LAWSUIT**, 2A



Melissa Strother



Adam Inyang

Gerald Greene re-election campaign brings high-profile supporters to Albany



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin
From left, Phoebe Putney Health System President and CEO Scott Steiner, Georgia House Speaker Jon Burns and state Rep. Gerald Greene talk during a fundraiser held for the Cuthbert Republican, whose district includes a portion of Dougherty County.

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – A few of state Rep. Gerald Greene's friends, including a former governor and the Georgia Speaker of the House, made a trip to Albany this week to help out in the final push in Greene's re-election bid.

The dean of the House by dint of being the longest-serving member in the body, Greene, R-Cuthbert, is being challenged by Albany Democrat Harry James, a long-time contractor and former Dougherty County Commission member.

House Speaker Jon Burns, who attended the Tuesday luncheon fundraiser at Doubegate Country Club, said that the incumbent Republican has distinguished himself by service to constituents and bringing home appropriations to House District 154 during his time in office.

"Gerald's service over the years has been important to Georgia and throughout southwest Georgia," the speaker said. "His impact is critical in the House to keep Georgia a great place to live, work and raise a family."

As the only elected Republican in the

See **CAMPAIGN**, 2A

Reassessment appeals could leave Dougherty schools without local tax money until April

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Dougherty County School System may not see any local property tax revenue until April, nine months into its fiscal year. The reason is a flood of appeals after the county's first full property reassessment since 2007.

Superintendent Ken Dyer told the Dougherty County Board of Education on Thursday that appeals cover roughly 30% of the value on the county's tax digest. Until that share comes down, the state can't approve the digest and the county can't send regular tax bills.

"We certainly have enough cash flow to get us through December," Dyer said. "But I don't know if we'll be able to get through nine months ... without receiving that local revenue."

Dyer said the district is running a cash flow analysis to decide whether it needs a tax anticipation note. That is a short-term loan repaid once tax collections arrive. He expects to bring the analysis to the board at its next meeting or in December

A long way to 8%

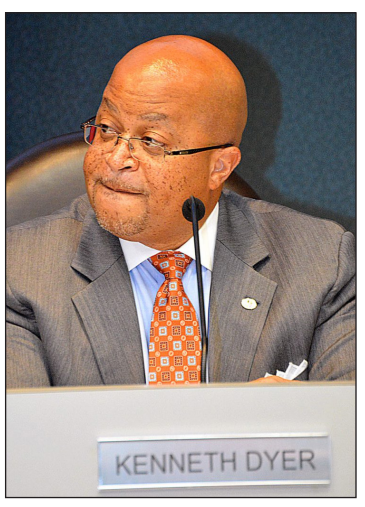
The revaluation covered about 37,000 properties and took 2½ years.

County officials have said a 2022 state sales ratio study found Dougherty out of compliance with state standards, forcing the revaluation. In 2024, county assessments averaged about 31% of market value, below the 40% Georgia law requires.

The catch-up produced steep jumps on notices mailed this summer. Owners had 45 days to appeal, and the deadline passed Oct. 5.

Dyer said the district learned this month that appeals represent "at least 30% of the value

See **TAX**, 2A



File Photo
Dougherty County School System Superintendent Kenneth Dyer

Periodical — Mail Label

INDEX

Classifieds	11A
Comics	6A-7A
Crosswords	6A-7A
Horoscopes	4A
Obituaries	XA
Perspectives	5A
Sports	8A-9A
Squawkbox	4A
TV - What to Watch	12A
Weather	4A



From 1A

TAX

of our tax digest." He added, "If that figure is correct ..." A member of the Dougherty County Taxpayers Association estimated more than 5,000 appeals were filed.

State law sets the bar. In a revaluation year, the state revenue commissioner cannot approve a county's digest when 8% or more (O.C.G.A. § 48-5-304) of the disputed assessed value and 8% or more (O.C.G.A. § 48-5-304) of the properties are on appeal or in arbitration.

If the taxpayer group's estimate holds, both measures are well past that line. With about 37,000 properties, 8% works out to roughly 2,960 parcels.

"We have a long way to go," Dyer said. "And all those delays just further delay our receipt of our local property tax revenue."

He said resolving the first round will likely take a couple of months. Owners who lose before the county Board of Equalization, a hearing officer or an arbitrator can then appeal to superior court.

"So that will take this out even further," Dyer said.

April at the earliest

Dyer said the earliest he expects the digest to be approved is late January. Bills would likely go out in February and come due about 60 days later.

"So that puts us in the beginning of April before receiving any local revenue," he said. April is the 10th month of the district's July-to-June fiscal year.

The district enters the gap with a cushion.

"Fortunately, we have a reserve that will sustain us for a large period of that time," Dyer said. He noted that some school systems struggle to make it to Dec. 31.

That cushion has been shrinking. The general fund balance fell from about $41.3 million at the end of Fiscal 2023 to a projected $31.8 million by the end of the current year.

The district's Fiscal 2027 budget calls for about $181.8 million in general fund spending. It draws about $3.1 million from reserves. Dyer estimated monthly payroll at around $10 million. At a June budget hearing, Dyer said, "Even after this budget, we're projected to have more than $30 million in reserves."

Rate decision on hold

The delay also stalls the board's tax rate decision, which can't be made until the digest arrives. Dyer has said he expects a "significant reduction" in the millage rate. It would be the district's ninth straight cut. The rate was 17.93 mills in 2025, down from 19 mills in 2005.

He also has warned that cutting too deep could cost the district state equalization money. That funding requires a minimum local tax effort.

The county and city face the same wait. Local officials have said millage rates will be set after appeals are complete. The county's Fiscal 2027 budget is $104.13 million.

Could last year's digest be used?

Board member James Bush, who chairs the board's Finance Committee, asked whether the county could keep using last year's digest until the appeals are settled.

Dyer said that call belongs to the Board of Tax Assessors. He said the district would review state law and consult the assessors, the city of Albany and the Dougherty County Commission "to see if there's an appetite for that."

"Although we don't control that, that's certainly something that tax assessors can consider," Dyer said. "I certainly wish they would, and wish they would make that inquiry."

State law offers a route. A Superior Court judge can let a county collect taxes temporarily while its digest awaits approval. The order may be based on the most recently approved digest, adjusted for ownership changes (O.C.G.A. § 48-5-310).

Fulton County won such an order in August after problems with its 2026 digest. The judge allowed bills based on 2026 values and 2025 tax rates, with refunds for any overpayment once the digest is final.

Bush also credited Dyer and his staff for the district's finances. He said he was looking at about $33 million on hand. He recalled a time "when the board used to have to borrow money."



Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Say No To Littering

Attendees hold up signs during the Wednesday kickoff of a new initiative to reduce litter in the community. Albany and Dougherty County officials turned out to launch the anti-littering campaign. The "Littering is Unlawful" initiative will include the placing of signage in the city and county urging residents not to litter. Officials also urged law enforcement agencies to enforce laws against littering, which can come with a $1,000 fine.

From 1A

VOTERS

advance in-person early voting period was somewhat disappointing, Election Supervisor Ginger Nickerson said. Through Wednesday, 12,008 voters had cast ballots at the Albany Civic Center, which served as the location for the three weeks of early voting.

The last report of registered voters showed 67,049 registered in the county. After more than 1,000 voters showed up each of the first four days, numbers dropped off. During the last weekend ahead of the election, 638 voters cast ballots on Saturday and 424 on Sunday.

"We would like to average at least 2,000 a day," Nickerson said. "We have enough voters to do that. They would have to come out to make that possible. I wish it was higher."

Now the election supervisor's office is preparing for Election Day at the county's 23 precincts.

"We just want to encourage citizens to get out and participate in the process," Nickerson said.

In addition to early voting, the office had accepted 762 mail-in ballots as of Wednesday.

The Tuesday election offers an opportunity to elect a new governor, as term limits prevent Gov. Brian Kemp from seeking a third term. There also are no incumbents in the races for lieutenant governor, attorney general or secretary of state.

The Public Service Commission races also can have a huge impact on voters' lives as the body's responsibilities include setting rates for customers of privately owned utility companies like Georgia Power Co. and for natural gas providers that operate in the state.

Election supervisors recommend that voters utilize the secretary of state's My Voter Page available at https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/.

The online tool provides voters with their precinct locations and sample ballots. Voters can print and fill out those ballots with their choices to carry to the voting machine on election day. Voters are not allowed to use cellphones or tablets.

Rounding out the selections for voters are contests in Georgia House Districts 151, 152 and 154.

In House District 151, Rep. Mike Cheokas will face both a Democratic opponent, Ethan Wolfe, and independent candidate Travis Lockhart.

Incumbent state Rep. Bill Yearta and Democrat Mitchell Rosa are the candidates in District 152.

Gerald Greene, currently the longest-serving House member in the state, will face former Dougherty County Commissioner Harry James in District 154.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR, BEER & WINE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that **Nfusion Lounge LLC**, doing business as **Nfusion Lounge**, located at **2238 Palmyra Rd., Albany, Georgia 31707**, has made application for an **Alcoholic Beverage License** for the **on-premises of liquor, beer & wine**, for consideration and approval by the appropriate governing authority.

This notice shall be published in the Albany Herald on **October 31st, November 3, and 5th** or on the **next three (3) consecutive publication dates thereafter**, in compliance with applicable law.

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

LAWSUIT

Dougherty County Elections Supervisor Ginger Nickerson said her office had no knowledge of Strother's eligibility changes.

"I haven't received any notice of the resignation, so I can't speak on that," Nickerson said. Asked whether anything formal had been filed, she said, "Well, not with our office. Let me say that."

Nickerson said any special election would start with a request from the school board. The board's attorney would present that request to the county's five-member Board of Elections, which would call the election, set a date and arrange candidate qualifying.

"But that would have to come from the board of education," Nickerson said.

She said a replacement election could not be held Nov. 3.

"That would be on a different date," Nickerson said. "November has already gone. There's nothing we can do in November."

State law points the same way. Strother announced her departure eight days before the general election.

Georgia law bars filling a party nomination when the nominee withdraws fewer than 60 days before an election. When a withdrawal leaves no candidate for an office on the ballot, the law calls for a special primary and a special election.

A separate provision lets a primary runner-up who received at least 40% of the vote replace a nominee who withdraws. It applies only when the withdrawal comes 60 or more days before the election.

The school board has not announced a timetable for an election. It also has not said how it will handle representation for the rest of Strother's current term, which expires Dec. 31, or for the term that begins in January.

Adam Inyang, who narrowly lost to Strother in the May 19 Democratic primary, is awaiting a ruling on his challenge to that election. Unofficial results showed Strother with 713 votes to Inyang's 700.

Inyang, who is representing himself, said the judge had indicated he expected to rule this week. Senior Judge Greg McCorvey of the Tift Circuit is hearing the case. Inyang said he filed an additional legal memorandum Wednesday.

"I filed a supplemental memorandum of law to further expound on already admitted evidence," Inyang said.

Nickerson said she did not believe the challenge would bear on the vacancy because Strother is no longer a candidate. She declined to discuss the case further.

"It's ongoing litigation, so I can't say anything on that note," she said.

An Oct. 28 news release from Freeweb.network describes allegations presented during an Oct. 26 hearing in Dougherty County Superior Court. They include recurring scanner jams, improper ballot handling and a lack of records documenting equipment problems and how they were fixed.

According to the release, Inyang testified that his ballot jammed while he was voting. He said a poll worker removed it, placed it in the ballot collection bin and pressed the scanner's "Cast" button, leading him to question whether his selections had been recorded.

The release also describes testimony by Board of Elections Chairman Benny Hand about a visit to the Sherwood precinct around lunchtime on Election Day. Hand said he was told that a poll worker had been repeatedly clearing scanner jams and placing ballots in the collection bin by hand.

Those accounts raise questions about ballot handling. They do not on their own establish that votes went uncounted.

State Election Board rules require a poll manager to notify the election superintendent immediately when voting equipment malfunctions. The poll manager must keep voters from using the affected equipment until the problem is corrected.

When a ballot scanner malfunctions, voters are to place their ballots in an emergency bin attached to the ballot box. Those ballots are counted once the scanner is working.

According to the release, testimony identified discrepancies between Election Day scanner and Poll Pad recap forms at four precincts. The gaps were 34 ballots at Westover, eight at Albany High, two at Sherwood and one at Albany State University's West Campus.

Westover forms reviewed by The Albany Herald show 1,023 voters on the Poll Pad recap, including seven on supplemental lists. The scanner closing count was 989, a difference of 34.

Albany High's forms show 432 voters checked in and 424 ballots scanned. At Sherwood, the check-in total on the Poll Pad form was crossed out and changed by hand from 360 to 485. The Sherwood scanner count was 487.

The figures are precinct-level accounting totals, not votes recorded for either school board candidate. The forms do not show how many ballots involved the District 4 Democratic contest or whether the discrepancies affected its outcome.

A separate county reconciliation spreadsheet compares ballots cast with voters credited for voting across all voting methods. It lists matching totals of 1,686 at Westover and 1,054 at ASU West.

It lists two more ballots than voter credits at Sherwood and one more at Albany High, attributing the differences to missing Election Day voter credits. At Albany High, that runs opposite to the Election Day forms, which show fewer ballots scanned than voters checked in.

The spreadsheet does not explain how Westover's differing Election Day figures were resolved.

According to the release, Nickerson testified that many forms had not been completed correctly and attributed the inconsistencies to human error. The release's assertion that the elections board admitted breaking laws is not a court finding. The records reviewed for this story did not include a hearing transcript or a court order.

Inyang said he still hopes to serve on the board.

"I am hopeful that now that she's stepping down, that I will be able to step into the seat and help improve the school system for our community," he said.

Strother's statement did not address the election challenge.

"I recognize the uncertainty this creates for the voters who have entrusted me with their representation, and I sincerely apologize for the unfortunate timing," she said in the statement.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY Georgia

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

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

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

From 1A

CAMPAIGN

House who represents a majority-minority district, Greene, who was first elected in 1982 as a Democrat, has won re-election because of the relationships he has made over the years, Burns said.

"He enjoys support in the community," the speaker said. "Those friendships, along with his constituent services, are what make him a very special public servant."

Greene also worked closely with Dawson Democrat Freddie Powell Sims, who is retiring at the end of the year, to bring resources to southwest Georgia, the speaker said.

"He and Fredddie have been friends for a long time," Burns said. "I will miss her greatly."

Despite 2026 being a year in which Democrats are looking to have a good election season, Burns said that Republicans in the Peach State feel positive. Burns pointed to work in healthcare, including partnering with Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, and working to improve literacy as two issues for which Republicans have addressed needs.

"We feel good," Burns said. "We have great candidates like Gerald, great policies. We think our track record speaks to what Georgia needs."

Former Gov. Sonny Perdue, who is retiring as chancellor of the University System of Georgia, also put in a good word for the incumbent.

"He's been very effective for a long time," Perdue said. "It's important to get people in southwest Georgia to vote."

Phoebe Sumter announces plans for new child care center

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Special Photo: Phoebe

Phoebe Sumter Medical Center is moving forward with plans to build The Family Tree, a new on-campus child care center designed to support its employees.

AMERICUS – Phoebe Sumter Medical Center is moving forward with plans to build The Family Tree, a new on-campus child care center designed to support its employees who care for the community every day. The facility will serve up to 107 children, offering care for children ages 6 weeks to 4 years, along with an after-school program for children ages 5 to 11.

For working parents, access to dependable child care can make all the difference – particularly for healthcare professionals whose schedules often extend beyond traditional business hours. By bringing child care directly to the Phoebe Sumter campus, The Family Tree will give employees the convenience of having their children nearby while also helping the hospital recruit and retain physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

"Phoebe Sumter Medical Center's employees give so much of themselves to care for others, and we want to support them in ways that make a real difference in their lives," PSMC President Carlyle Walton said. "Having dependable, high-quality child care right here on our campus will give parents greater peace of mind. The Family Tree is not only an investment in our Phoebe Family, but also in the future of healthcare in our community."

The Family Tree is being made possible through a combination of community philanthropy, contributions from Phoebe employees and support through the Georgia HEART Rural Hospital Tax Credit Program. Georgia HEART allows taxpayers to receive a 100% state income tax credit for contributions to Phoebe Sumter and other eligible rural hospitals, creating an opportunity to keep tax dollars close to home while supporting important investments in local healthcare.

"The Family Tree project is a wonderful example of what can happen when our employees, donors and community come together around a shared need," Katherine Council, director of the Phoebe Sumter Foundation, said. "Every gift represents someone choosing to support the people who care for our community every day.

"We are incredibly grateful for that generosity and excited to see what The Family Tree will mean for Phoebe families for generations to come."

Groundbreaking for the child care facility is expected in early 2027, with the center projected to open in fall 2028. Additional details will be announced as the project moves forward. Anyone interested in supporting the project can reach out to the Phoebe Sumter Foundation about making a donation at (229) 931-1300.

Fort Benning to host hiring event

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

Special Logo

COLUMBUS – DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and Recruit-Military will co-host the Fort Benning Hiring Event, Nov. 4 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the base's Soldier for Life Center. The event is free to veterans, their spouses, active-duty military personnel, and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

More than 29 employers actively seeking the unique talents of America's veterans will be on-site representing a range of industries, from construction to medical to administrative and logistics, with career opportunities from entry level to senior management.

In addition to employment assistance, the veterans expected to attend can utilize career counseling and resume assistance, network with fellow veterans and military personnel, and get support with their Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and claims assistance — all at no cost.

This year, DAV will sponsor more than 95 in-person and virtual job fairs. Since the inception of its employment initiative in 2014, the job fairs have generated more than 200,000 job offers in the military community and are regularly adding new locations.

To support employers and demonstrate the business case for employing America's 4.5 million veterans with a service-connected disability, DAV published The Veteran Advantage: DAV's Hiring Guide for Employers of the Military Community. This guide offers tips and practical tools for employers who wish to improve their recruiting, hiring and retention practices of this talent pool.

DAV's Assistant National Employment Director Jeremy Yost, a service disabled Marine veteran, is available to discuss trends in veteran and military spouse hiring, valuable employment-related resources, and job opportunities in the Fort Benning area and nationwide.

To register for the Fort Benning Hiring Event and access additional no-cost resources for veterans and their families, go to jobs.dav.org.

Time for a change? Permanent daylight saving time bill awaits Senate action

By David Lightman
Georgia Recorder



Special Photo: Jeff Beach/North Dakota Monitor via Georgia Recorder

Most Americans will set their clocks back an hour Saturday as Standard Time returns.

WASHINGTON -- Most of the nation returns to standard time Sunday morning, and Congress could decide as early as next month whether it will be the last time people have to change their clocks.

The U.S. House voted overwhelmingly in July for the change. Lots of Democrats and Republicans are behind the idea. Yet, any momentum has stalled. The legislation can't get out of the U.S. Senate, and it looks unlikely there'll be much progress anytime soon.

Senators are due to return to Washington from a lengthy recess on Nov. 9, and a push for year-round daylight saving time is expected. But it faces strong opposition from senators in rural areas and those who represent states where children could be walking to school in darkness for most of the winter.

"No one likes changing the clock, me included, but Congress has enacted permanent Daylight Saving Time multiple times before and repealed it each time once Americans experienced absurdly late sunrises in the winter," Sen. Tom Cotton said in a tweet.

The Washington fight over time is timeless.

Standardizing time became more important in the mid-19th century as railroads expanded. Until then, local time depended largely on the position of the sun.

The Standard Time Act in 1918 established five time zones in the U.S., including what was then the territory of Alaska. Not all states liked the idea and were given the option of using daylight saving time, according to a report by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

That hodgepodge of time policies ended in 1966 when the Uniform Time Act became law, requiring most states to change clocks annually on the last Sunday of April and the last Sunday of October.

The energy crisis of the early 1970s allowed the use of daylight saving time in parts of the winters of 1974 and 1975. It proved largely unpopular, as sunrises after 8 a.m. in sections of the nation meant schools opened in darkness.

Since then, there have been some tweaks as support for changes grew. Daylight saving time now runs from the second Sunday in March through the first Sunday in November, allowing the baseball season and trick-or-treaters to have later daylight.

Supporters of year-round daylight saving time contend that the nation has changed since the 1960s and 1970s, as tourism and recreation have boomed. Fifty-six percent said they preferred daylight saving time year-round, an AP-NORC poll a year ago found.

The House debate in July over the Sunshine Protection Act, which would allow year-round daylight saving time in most of the country, attracted strong praise from members of both parties.

More evening daylight, supporters said, would provide "a needed boost to our tourism industry. Extra sunlight means more time at the beach, more time eating out at restaurants, and more time doing outdoor leisure activities."

One of the few voices of opposition came from Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-Pa.

"Early morning light is an important environmental cue to set our bodies' internal clocks and promote alertness, and dim evening light tells our bodies that it is time to sleep," she said.

The bill passed by a 308-17 vote, with 193 Republicans, 114 Democrats and one independent voting in favor.

Senators represent broader constituencies than House members, and more people on their states' westernmost or northernmost edges could be more affected than others.

For example, if daylight saving time continued beyond Sunday in Arkansas, sunrise would occur in most of the state after 8 a.m. during much of the winter. January sunrise in Little Rock currently can be as late as 8:17 a.m. if daylight saving time were used year-round.

"Three months out of the year, kids in towns like Bentonville, Fayetteville, and Fort Smith would start school ahead of the sun," Cotton said.

Senators from rural areas also have expressed concern. Sunrise in Des Moines in December and January would be as late as 8:41 a.m. In Lincoln, Neb., it would be 10 minutes later than that.

The Senate did pass the Sunshine Protection Act four years ago but it went nowhere in the House. Today, Senate supporters face two procedural hurdles.

One is simply having time for lawmakers to consider the bill.

The Senate is scheduled to be in session for 22 days the rest of this year. During that period, senators must pass legislation to pay government bills beyond Dec. 11, when funding expires, and are expected to take up other major legislation, notably defense policy.

If the daylight bill does reach the floor, it would need 60 votes to proceed. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., told reporters this summer that it remains to be seen whether that many senators support the measure.

This much is assured: Most of the country will set their clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday. And the odds are good they'll move them forward again on March 8, 2027.



a better way
to cardiac care

Meet the newest members
of Phoebe Cardiology –

Victor Redmon, MD

Moshrik Abd-Alamir, MD

Call **229-312-1022**
to schedule an
appointment.

Phoebe
Physicians

Phoebe Cardiology
425 West Third Avenue | Albany, Georgia
229-312-1022
phoebehealth.com

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): U.S. Election Day is a decent day in the sky, but we could see post-election drama as Universal stars take us on a roller-coaster ride through November 9. Focus on what's in front of you ... And VOTE!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Today could be a good day for an important conversation, otherwise wait until mid-next week to avoid tumultuous stars, which lead to tumultuous outcomes. Break free for even an hour if you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You could be both task-oriented and very productive today. Wrap up everything you can, stars swing wildly Thursday through next Monday and it could be harder to get necessary things accomplished.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A creative solution could arise that handles many nuances and could be a win-win for all concerned. Implement it now or wait until next Tuesday or beyond. Share your deepest thoughts with someone safe.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): While a financial idea could feel resonant, it might not fly well with the peanut gallery. Universal stars don't really support a new financial move for another week, anyway by then some objections could have been swept away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You might have feelings of vulnerability for the next few days, do what you can to keep yourself regulated, keep life simple, and avoid flipping the script onto anyone else. Let compassion be your guide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The big answers are within you — excavate them and you'll clarify your path and the steps needed. Let the next few days be more inward other than to handle normal responsibilities and vote.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Hold fast to your circle of community, if it's made up of the right people it's golden in a time of uncertainty. But do be alert to peer pressure — don't let groupthink sway you away from what's right.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're about midway through a month or so of inner processing — it's a chance to build a new and improved you. Do it for yourself. Build up what works, fix what doesn't, and your life gets exponentially easier.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A friend could have the idea or plan, or the friend with the plan could be you. It's a decent-enough day for regular activities, but save any important new beginnings for next Tuesday or after.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You could be the rainmaker in the workplace today or otherwise out in the world, don't be afraid to offer up your ideas, which could be excellent. Leave finances alone until mid-next week.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone close might need some extra support and/or you might feel less certain of a key relationship for a couple of days. Share ideas with the world, your insights could be exactly what someone else needs.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Your mind could be driving things during your birthday month, your cognitive and communication skills could both be excellent. It could also be a good time for problem-solving. December stacks up more than just holiday gifts, a lot of what you've been waiting for could begin to land at that time. Before the goodie train arrives could come an impulse to do a very stupid thing. Please don't, you won't want to screw up all the good that's coming. Expect an abundance of helps, these could be helpful ideas, helping hands, helpful techniques, and the most pivotal helper of all, more money. Healing could come to a person, a relationship, or a situation. And you could have a big opportunity to show what you're made of and come through with flying colors. A chance to really soar. To make yourself proud. The ovation from onlookers could last into the new year.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1493 - The Caribbean island of Dominica is found by Christopher Columbus

1783 - The American Continental Army is disbanded

1789 - New York City opens the first District Court established by the U.S. Constitution

1817 - Canada's oldest chartered bank, the Bank of Montreal opens

1903 - Panama separates from Columbia

1908 - William Howard Taft is elected the 27th President of the United States

1936 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected President of the United States

1943 - Five hundred aircraft of the U.S. 9th Air Force bomb Wilhelmshaven harbor in Germany during World War II

1957 - The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 2 with a dog named Laika who is the first animal to enter orbit

1964 - Lyndon B. Johnson is elected to a full term as President of the United States

1973 - NASA launches the Mariner 10 towards Mercury

1978 - Dominica gains its independence from the UK

1982 - 2,000 people are killed during the Salang Tunnel fire in Afghanistan

1986 - The Federated States of Micronesia gain independence from the United States of America

2014 - One World Trade Center officially opens as the replacement for the World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York City that were destroyed during the 9-11 attacks

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Cliche Day
- Election Day
- Give Someone a Dollar Today Day
- Jellyfish Day
- National Housewife Day
- National Sandwich Day
- Public Television Day
- SOS Day

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.

Napoleon Bonaparte,
military leader (1769-1821)

CORRECTION

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

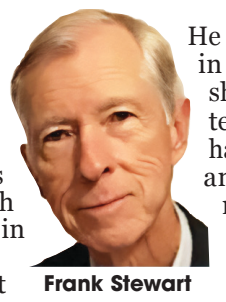
Weather Forecast

Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
77°	81°	77°	77°	79°	76°	74°
65°	61°	60°	56°	55°	54°	50°

Daily Bridge Club

Cy's two-way guess

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency


Frank Stewart

Cy the Cynic has a personal way of resolving two-way finesses: Cy says if his play is a guess, he finesses against the opponent he dislikes more. Cy's approach didn't work so well in today's deal.

NORTH
♠ A Q J 5
♡ 7 4
◇ 9 2
♣ Q 9 5 4 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 8 7 2
♡ K 8 5 2
◇ K J 3
♣ 8

EAST
♠ 6
♡ J 10 9 6 3
◇ Q 7 6 5
♣ A J 7

SOUTH
♠ K 4 3
♡ A Q
◇ A 10 8 4
♣ K 10 6 3

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ◇	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead – ♠ 10

©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Against 3NT, West led the ten of spades, and the Cynic, declarer, won with dummy's queen and led a club to his king, winning, and then a second club. Unfortunately for Cy, West discarded, and East won with the jack and shifted to the jack of hearts: queen, king, four.

DOWN ONE

Cy's ace won the next heart, but when Cy led another club, East took the ace, and the defense cashed three hearts for down one.

"I don't understand your play," I said to Cy.

"West gets on my nerves," Cy shrugged. "I was going to play him for the jack of clubs to spite him."

Cy's play was technically wrong. He doesn't want East to get in to lead a heart, so Cy should lead a club to his ten at Trick Two. If West had the jack, he could win and shift to, say, a diamond, but Cy could win and force out the ace of clubs. He would be sure of three clubs, four spades, a diamond and a heart.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A Q J 5 ♥ 7 4 ♦ 9 2 ♣ Q 9 5 4 2. Your partner opens one heart, you respond one spade and he bids two diamonds. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: This is a borderline decision. If you had just a bit more strength – suppose your club holding were K-10-5-4-2 – you could reasonably try 2NT to invite game. As it is, return to two hearts. To bid 2NT still might work, but with no points in either of partner's long suits, I would be inclined to take the conservative view.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Name-calling leads to split with daughter

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency


Eric Thomas

Dear Eric: A few years ago, my then-wife and I had an ugly fight that my daughter and mother witnessed. In that fight I did something I promised I'd never do, which was name call.

I've been called names and was badgered long before and lost my cool. I meant the harm I caused my now-ex-wife and was finally happy the marriage was coming to an end.

However, my daughter (14) then moved to Florida with my in-laws and hasn't spoken to me in more than a year.

I've since been blessed but miss her terribly. A day hasn't passed that I don't think of her. She doesn't respond to any contact. I've never harmed her and her loss is killing me. How can I fix myself if I'm not allowed to fix our relationship?

– Missing My Daughter

Dear Missing: It's a healthy sign that you're able to acknowledge your part in the dissolution of your marriage and the impact it had on your daughter. You can see the missteps that may be standing in the way of a relationship with her right now. This will make repair easier, when it's time. But it may not be time for repair right now.

This can be hard to accept, especially if you feel that you've changed. But it's clear that there are things with which your daughter is grappling that aren't so easily healed.

I'm curious about the kinds of communication you've attempted with her. If you haven't written to her with a specific apology for the things you feel you did wrong and made an attempt to make amends, you might start there. If you have and she hasn't been responsive, then you'll need to give her more time.

Don't think of this as not being allowed to fix your relationship with her. Sometimes space is part of the fixing. But that shouldn't stop you from continuing to work on yourself. Indeed, continuing to work on yourself will make you a healthier person and healthier parent when she is ready to reconnect.

Dear Eric: I know you've addressed estrangement from adult children many times, but I'm struggling with how it should affect our estate planning.

This is not the first time our oldest son has cut us off. After college, he lived with us until age 32 despite repeated efforts to get him to become independent. When he finally moved out, he stopped speaking to us for a year and resumed contact during COVID, when he needed a place to live.

Since then, we have been extremely generous. In 2024, we hosted and paid for his wedding in Italy and gave him and his wife substantial financial support and gifts. In January 2026, we also paid for a family trip to Chile. My son went on the trip but behaved badly.

Soon afterward, he stopped speaking to us.

We are now establishing our wills and trust. Given the repeated estrangements and how much we have already provided for our older son, I am inclined to leave our estate to our younger son.

The brothers currently are not speaking either, largely because of the older son. If they eventually reconcile, would leaving everything to our younger son make it impossible for them to have a healthy relationship?

I don't want our estate plan to burden our younger son with guilt, resentment, or responsibility for a decision that is ours.

How do we balance our feelings about our estranged older son with protecting our younger son from the consequences of our estate-planning decision?

– Very Sad Mother

Dear Mother: Unfortunately, you can't protect your younger son from his brother's resentment because that resentment might be there with or without the money. Both sons need to be responsible for their own behavior both now and in the future.

Your younger son has been affected by his brother's behavior throughout life, up to and including this current estrangement. It's possible that he resents how much has been given to his older brother and it's possible that he would resent having to split even more, should your estate be divided.

It may help to think of the sons separately. The older son's relationship with you is fractured. As you make your will, you don't feel compelled to leave him anything. This doesn't have anything to do with his younger brother. If you want, you can explain your decision to your older son in advance or in a letter to be included in your will, but that might invite more conflict into an already difficult relationship.

It's a hard pill to swallow, but the older son's resentment is his responsibility, now and in the future. Also, if they reconcile, your younger son is free to do with your estate what he pleases, including splitting it.

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

When I think about Mr. Trump, I think about Hijeki Trojo, who was the Japanese leader who decided to authorize Pearl Harbor. He was hung at the end of that war.

Wow, Mr. Fletcher, it's hard to believe someone who is such a liberal voice would write such a myopic, racist, sexist column as you did about the WNBA. I'm sure from the tone of the column it was meant to be funny. It wasn't. Very disappointed.

If traffic lights are the answer to accidents in certain areas, why do accidents still happen after they are installed? Doublegate and 82 intersection is a prime example. Folks, it is the drivers, not always the roads.

Has anyone ever watched a Muslim baseball game? Has anyone ever watched a Muslim football game? Has anyone ever watched a Muslim basketball game? I rest my case.

If Melissa Strother is stepping down from the Dougherty School Board, please don't tell us Adam Inyang will get that seat. He is a loud-mouth who allows his alligator mouth to overload his hummingbird a$$.

Don't complain about the economy being so bad, we should all blame the MAGA voters

As someone on Facebook noted: The people telling us we can't have publicly-funded health care all have publicly-funded health care. I would add that they're also the ones telling us we're the wealthiest country in the world but fail to note that most of the wealth is held by the top 10%. That Man Without a Family

There's very little chance that Strother just all of a sudden found out she was moving, a few days before the election. People don't make decisions like that in that amount of time unless there's some kind of emergency, which doesn't appear to be the case. If she "cared so much about the students" in the county, she wouldn't have done this.

The (majority) Dougherty County commissioners -- the freaky four -- keep finding ways to pay off their buddies at the expense of county taxpayers. Now, they're going to pay a (most likely) friend o' Lorenzo to do work that's already been paid for. At some point, you move past corruption to just plain old stupidity.

It's about time the symphony started giving its musicians a little recognition. They are, after all, the ones entertaining us with their talent.

I'm sure, Fletcher, that you'll catch some grief from people with little sense of humor, but I thought your WNBA column was right on the mark. And very funny ... and screw those who can't take a joke.

DELIVERY QUESTIONS: If your paper hasn't been delivered call our Circulation Department at 229-888-9300. Hours are 8:30 am-5 pm weekdays, closed on holidays. A customer service representative will assist you. (**All papers are by mail only and delivered by U.S. Postal Service.**)
POSTAL SERVICE COMPLAINTS: If you are dissatisfied with delivery, ask your postmaster for a Consumer Service Card and record your complaint. If this does not bring improvement, contact us at 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) or TTY: 711., or write your complaint to USPS's Consumer Advocate office at: United States Postal Service Office of the Consumer Advocate, 475 L' Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260
TO REPORT NEWS ITEMS: Email the editor at carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com or call 229-888-9300.
CLASSIFIED, DISPLAY OR ONLINE ADS: Advertising can be placed by phone, email and/or in person Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am - 5 pm or call 229-888-9300. For classifieds and display/public notices/online ads email Phil Cody at phil.cody@albanyherald.com or call 229-888-9300.
Our office is at 306 W. Broad Ave., Albany, GA 31701.
BILLING: Business hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm, contact number: 229-888-9300.

The Albany Herald
MAIN OFFICE: 229-888-9300
SUBSCRIPTIONS: 229-888-9300

THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

Georgia Trust for LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."
Romans 10:9

COLUMNIST ■ DAVID CARROLL

Sharing my average intelligence

The cat is out of the bag. Many journalists are utilizing "A-I" to write stories. Occasionally I'm asked if I'm one of them.


CARROLL

If by "A-I" you mean "average intelligence," I might qualify for that. Like many folks, I'm curious about bots, ChatGPT, and all the other online entities that will supposedly make our lives easier.

So I found a writing app, entered some of my past columns, and instructed the non-human to "write a column about baseball in the style of David Carroll." It spat out a few paragraphs that were not humorous or insightful in any way. That really got my attention. It was way too similar to something I could have written. Scary.

Recent headlines have also caught my eye. Like, "Kroger Cuts 3,000 Jobs as AI Reshapes Work." Okay, this is getting serious. There are no Kroger stores in my neck of the woods, but when one big retail chain makes a move, the others could soon fall in line.

The story goes on to say that the Kroger layoffs are "part of a broader shift toward artificial intelligence and workflow streamlining." That is usually code for "Good luck ever communicating with an actual person again," but Kroger insists that "store-level and front-line grocery workers are not part of this specific corporate reduction." The message seems to be that fewer (corporate) employees will improve business efficiency.

That reminds me of my recent customer service call to a local heating and air company. I had called my usual "go-to" AC guy, but he was tied up that day, and I needed a cool breeze. So I tried another company, and I spoke to a lady for a minute or two, describing my cooling problems, and then sharing my address and phone number. I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer, so it took me a while to realize that I was not speaking to a human being.

Little Miss AI had charmed me into believing she was the real deal. She was so smooth and literate, that if I were single, I might have asked her out. I can't remember what gave it away, but after a while, I realized that this "mom and pop" HVAC repair service had farmed out their receptionist service to AI, and I had been sharing my personal thermostat data with an uncaring figment of someone's imagination. I hung up and resumed my search for a person with an actual pulse.

Another news report indicated that I could soon have an "AI agent" to pay my bills, order items online, and remind me when it's time to brush my teeth, watch a football game, or take a walk. Many similar devices are already available, and goodness knows that without my Google Maps app, I would often be driving in circles. But I'm not sure that I need an AI agent holding my hand through my mundane daily chores. Call me old-fashioned, but I should have to think for myself, at least once in a while.

Finally, I have been warned by USA Today to "Spot fake AI hotel reviews before booking a reservation." Travel writer Christopher Elliott cited, "AI agents managed by reputation management firms."

I didn't even know that was a thing. I'm old enough to remember when a retail business had to provide a quality product in order to build and maintain a good reputation. It was called "word of mouth." You do a good job and give your customer their money's worth, and as word spreads, you earn a good reputation.

Not today. Many hotel reviews are AI generated, and (spoiler alert) many of them are fake five-star exclamations of praise. "Excellent service!" "Attentive staff!" "Best bed ever!" And so on.

I prefer real reviews written by real people. You can spot them if you try. "If you love powdered eggs, you'll love the free breakfast bar." "Would it hurt them to dust the rooms every year or so?" And, "Thanks for giving me the room next to the world's loudest ice machine. I didn't need to sleep anyway."

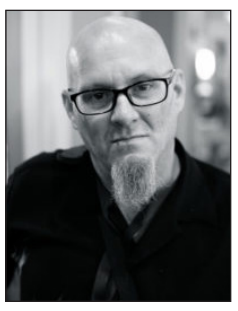
Welcome to the AI world. Don't believe everything you read. Except for this column, of course.

David Carroll is a Chattanooga news anchor. His latest book is "I Won't Be Your Escape Goat," available from his website, ChattanoogaRadioTV.com. Contact him at RadioTV2020@yahoo.com.

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

The other Nathan Bedford Forrest election tactic

How do you win an election? To the degree that elections are a lot like — some of us anarchists would say an actual form of — war, it's worth consulting military figures on the subject.


KNAPP

Few military figures come off quite so quotable as Confederate cavalry general (and Ku Klux Klan founder) Nathan Bedford Forrest, who said of winning battles, "I always make it a rule to get there first with the most men."

That, of course, also constitutes the conventional rule for winning elections: Get there first (by motivating mail and "early" voters as well as Election Day voters) with the most votes.

One variant: "I just took the shortcut and got there first with the most men."

In every election, we hear accusations of various "shortcuts," such as registering unqualified persons to vote, combing the graveyards for names with still-registered voters in the caskets and casting ballots in their names, etc.

Sometimes the stories are true; sometimes they aren't. They're usually, but not always, attributed to the Democratic Party. Republicans usually, but not always, get more credit for trying to suppress the Democratic vote than for trying to get out the Republican vote.

As this year's midterm elections approach, that tactic looks a lot like another Nathan Bedford Forrest aphorism. It pops up in different forms, but I'll use the one associated with the Battle of Day's Gap, fought in May 1863. Forrest's instruction to his troops: "Whenever you see anything blue, shoot at it, and do all you can to keep up the scare."

Earlier this year, Republicans started talking up the notion of stationing Immigration and Customs Enforcement gang members ... er, "officers" ... outside polling places to intimidate would-be voters.

When asked about that possibility in an Oct. 1 interview with Time, Trump said he "doesn't rule anything out or in" and mentioned the Insurrection Act. Voting in areas with lots of Democrats, you say, may just constitute insurrection.

Then the little "October Surprise" operations stepped up. The U.S. Department of Justice charged 21 individuals with illegal — specifically, noncitizen — voting in California. The biggest takeaway from that should be that after years of asserting huge numbers of noncitizen votes, DOJ only thought it could make the charge stick against one one-millionth of California's registered voters.

The Department of Homeland Security raided the home of U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., in an "immigration fraud" investigation, even though it's literally impossible for her to have lied on her immigration and citizenship paperwork (her father, claiming her as a minor dependent, filled out and signed that paperwork).

Back to the U.S. Department of Justice: On Oct. 23, it filed suit in Alaska to pre-emptively overturn that state's U.S. Senate election ... but only if incumbent Daniel S. Sullivan loses. It seems there's an invisible, previously unnoticed clause in the U.S. Constitution forbidding candidates with similar names (like independent Daniel J. Sullivan) to challenge Republican incumbents.

Any of these several "one weird trick" moves, taken in isolation, might come off as a frivolous waste of the public's time and the government's stolen money.

Taken together, though, they constitute a strategy: Whenever you see anything blue — be it a Democratic-leaning state electorate or polling place, a Democratic congresswoman who's an easy target for dog-whistle attack, or an independent candidate whose votes might bring a Republican candidate up short of victor — shoot at it, and do all you can to keep up the scare.

I guess if I was a Republican strategist looking at current poll numbers, I might suggest desperation plays like these myself. I hope the effect of those tactics is less to influence the specific outcomes than to wake Americans up to the nature of politics itself. It really is just another form of war.

And, as with most kinds of war, this kind inevitably despoils the public and rewards the belligerents. The politicians aren't your friends. They're soldiers in an evil, unworthy cause.

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

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

The hardest part of helping someone

A child is learning to ride a bicycle. An adult runs alongside, gripping the back of the seat, keeping the bicycle steady while the child pedals. Eventually, the adult faces a difficult decision: How long should that hand remain on the seat?


HAMBOURGER

Let go too soon, and the child may fall. Hold on too long, and the child may never learn to balance. The adult must judge when to provide support and when to loosen that grip. It is a small dilemma, but it touches something surprisingly complicated about helping other people.

Most of us take satisfaction in being useful. We want to be the person someone calls when a problem arises, the one who knows what to do, the one whose experience or encouragement makes a difference. There is genuine goodness in that desire. Much of what holds families, friendships, and communities together depends upon people willing to give their time and attention to others.

But being needed also can become part of how we understand our own worth.

A parent may find it difficult to watch a grown child make decisions independently. A mentor may feel an unexpected sadness when a student no longer seeks advice. Even in a loving relationship, another person's growing confidence can leave us wondering where we now belong.

These feelings are not necessarily selfish. They are deeply human. Yet they raise an uncomfortable question: How do we know whether our help is strengthening another person or quietly preserving our own importance?

An unusual instruction in the Torah sheds light on this dilemma. In the book of Numbers, God instructs Aaron, the High Priest, concerning the seven-branched menorah in the portable sanctuary the Israelites carried through the wilderness.

The Hebrew wording is curious. Rather than simply commanding Aaron to light the lamps, the Torah says, "When you cause the lamps to ascend." (Numbers 8:2)

Why describe lighting a lamp as causing it to ascend? The classical commentator Rashi explains that the priest must hold the fire to the wick until the flame rises on its own.

The priest cannot merely touch the wick with fire and walk away. A momentary spark is not enough. He must remain until the wick has caught and the flame can continue burning independently. His responsibility includes knowing when the flame no longer needs him.

Consider what this means for the relationships in which we try to help others. Sometimes we provide assistance because someone genuinely needs what we can offer. But over time, an arrangement can develop in which one person becomes the permanent rescuer and another the permanent recipient. The helper receives gratitude, purpose and the reassuring feeling of being indispensable. The recipient receives support but may gradually lose confidence in the ability to manage without it.

Neither person necessarily intends this outcome. Indeed, the arrangement may have begun with genuine love and generosity. The difficulty comes when the other person begins to grow.

Someone who once depended upon our judgment starts making decisions without consulting us. Someone whose problems we routinely solved discovers the confidence to solve them independently. We may celebrate that progress sincerely while also feeling a small, unexpected loss. We wanted them to become stronger. We simply hadn't considered that their strength might change our place in their lives.

This is where helping becomes a test of humility. Can we take satisfaction in another person's independence even when it means receiving less appreciation, less attention, or fewer requests for our advice?

Of course, independence is not always the immediate goal. Someone who is overwhelmed, ill or vulnerable may require sustained care rather than another demand for independence. And the Torah's image does not suggest abandoning someone before that person is ready. The priest remains with the wick until the flame has truly taken hold.

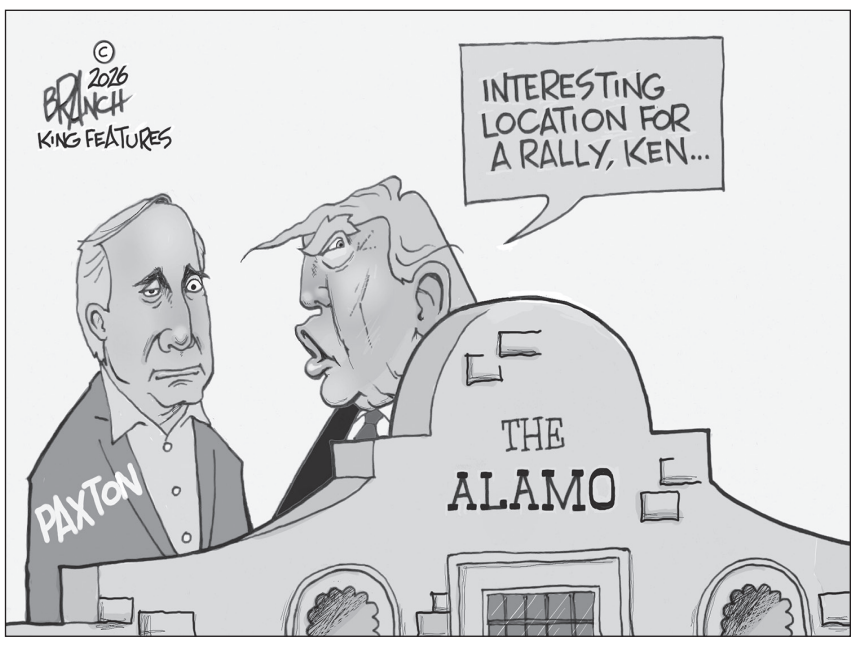
There is a difference between withdrawing help and helping someone grow beyond needing it. Chassidic tradition uses the image of a lamplighter to describe our responsibility toward others. A lamplighter walks through darkened streets carrying fire to lamps waiting to be lit. His work takes him from one lamp to another, bringing light to places where his own torch will not remain.

But the lamplighter does not create the lamp's capacity to burn. He recognizes what is already there and helps bring it to life. That distinction matters. We do not create another person's worth by recognizing it. Nor do we own the talents we help someone discover. We may provide knowledge, encouragement, patience and opportunity, but the abilities that emerge belong to the person who develops them.

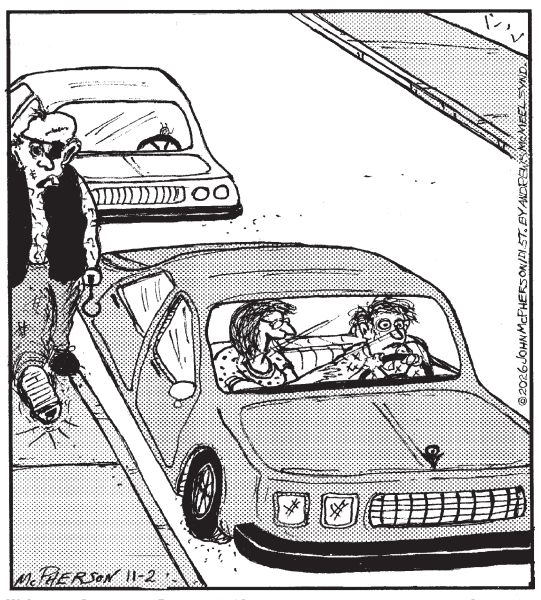
And sometimes those abilities will carry that person in directions we would not have chosen. A student may reach conclusions different from the teacher's. A grown child may build a life unlike the one a parent imagined. Their independence need not diminish what we gave them. It may be the clearest evidence that our efforts succeeded.

The Torah's language captures something that is easy to overlook in our desire to be helpful. The priest's task is not completed when the wick first touches fire. It is completed when the flame rises on its own. The priest can kindle the flame. He cannot burn in its place.

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

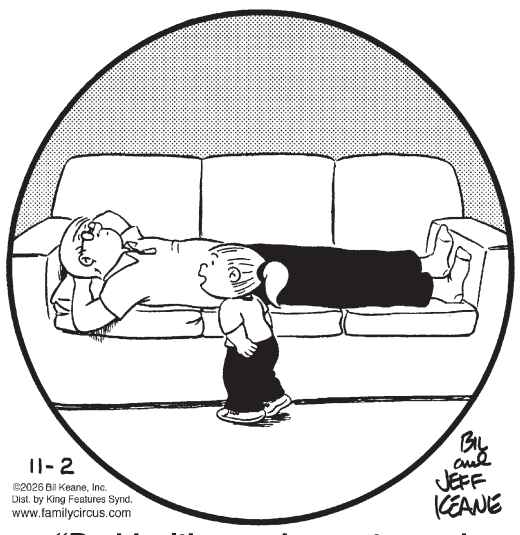


CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



"Now, Jason, forget those scary rumors about the driver's test examiner. I'm sure he's a nice person, and you'll do just fine!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"Daddy, it's good you stopped growing when you did."

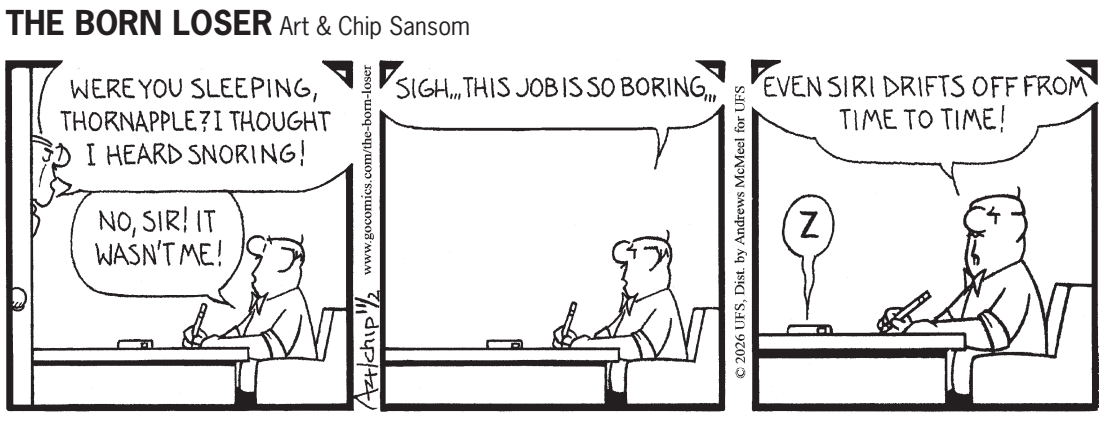
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



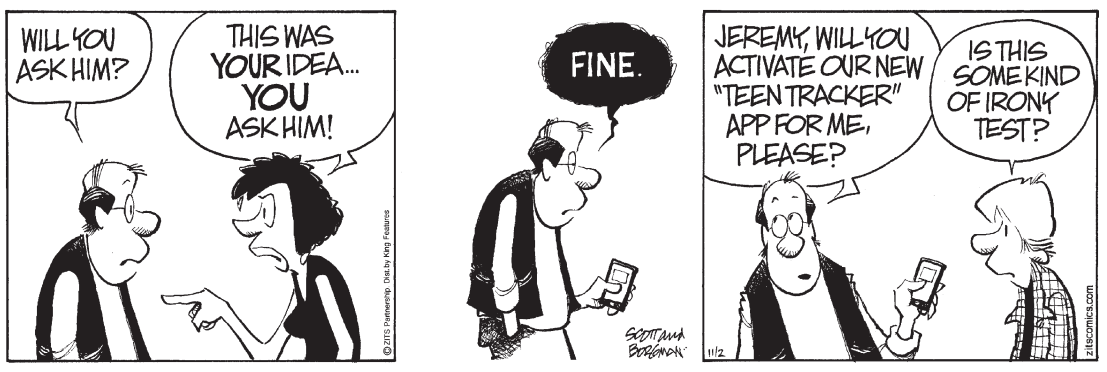
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

11/2 © 2026 Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

WHATZIT?

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

SUMM IT

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: Take it from the top

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Earth tremor
6 Quarterback Darnold who won the Super Bowl with the Seahawks in 2026
9 Tom or drake
13 Japanese breadcrumbs
14 Lose steam
15 20-Down highlight
16 Minute Maid juice box option
18 Dressage gait
19 The "D" of LED
20 Atmospheric layer with holes
21 Knee pt. studied in an MRI, perhaps
24 Catchphrase associated with hippies
27 Bedroom piece
29 Migrating geese formation
30 Crafty
31 Thoroughly cooked
32 Pageant crown
34 Occasion to wear a little black dress, perhaps
40 Maid of honor speech, typically
41 Field of expertise
43 PC key near the space bar
46 "What __ missing?"
47 Flagging down, as a cab
50 Tennis server's infraction
53 Bear, in Spanish
54 Utterly confused
55 Loud kiss
57 Leaning Tower city
58 End of a race, or what's found at the end of 16-, 24-, 34-, and 50-Across?
63 Notified
64 Opinion column
65 Conger catcher
66 Classic game console, for short
67 Prohibit
68 Airline based in Atlanta

DOWN

1 Coppertone initials
2 Unit of corn
3 Shiba __: dog breed
4 Lose traction, as on an icy road
5 Recurring themes
6 Connective tissue
7 Curved path
8 "Not my fave"
9 __ ball soup
10 Quiver contents
11 "Hello" singer Richie
12 Dining establishment
14 Royal house of Elizabeth I
17 Bit of trekking gear
20 La Scala production
21 Append
22 Colorful clog with holes
23 Longtime late-night host Jay
25 Nefarious
26 Gather, as crops
28 Religious faction
32 __ for tat
33 North __ Sea: Kazakh lake
35 Eucalyptus lover
36 Like household pets
37 "You wish!"
38 Threesome
39 Cravings
42 Long, long __
43 Modifies to fit
44 Soothing cosmetic
45 Minor dustup
47 Muggy
48 "What a shame"
49 Irritated, in a way
51 Common elements in Native American jewelry
52 Ed of "Elf"
56 "Twittering Machine" painter Paul
58 Keyless key
59 Bitter beer letters
60 Unwell
61 Take-home pay
62 Pitching ace's stat

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

11/02

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

By Amanda Cook
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
11/02/26

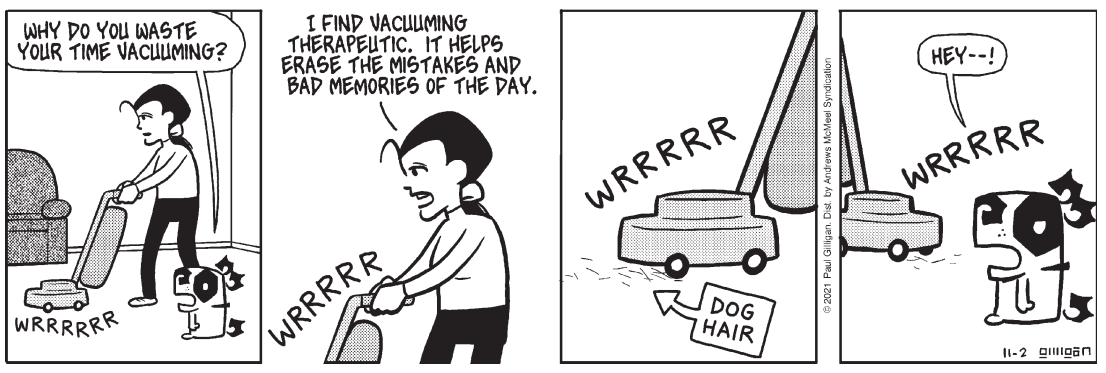
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

WHATABURGER **Solution: 11 letters**

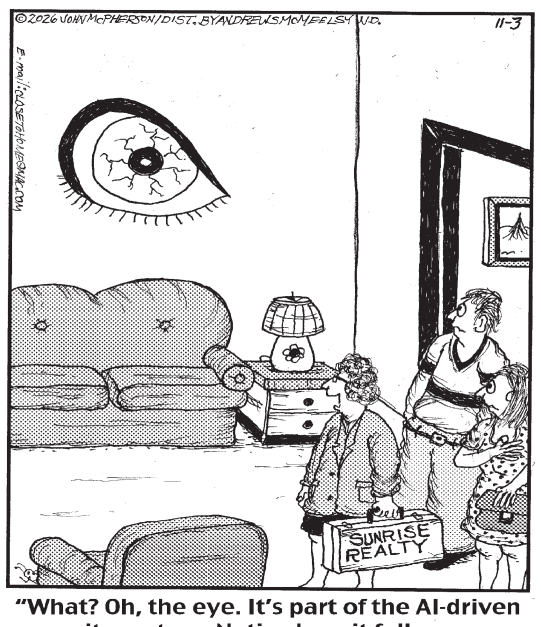
S	R	E	G	R	U	B	M	A	H	C	N	A	R	C
A	E	U	C	E	B	R	A	B	S	E	X	O	B	I
U	S	P	A	N	C	A	K	E	S	T	I	S	R	N
S	T	O	I	V	E	G	G	I	E	N	S	E	E	N
A	A	I	B	R	F	A	M	X	U	I	D	I	A	A
G	U	N	I	Ⓜ	T	L	A	J	W	R	S	K	K	M
E	R	O	S	Ⓔ	O	S	O	S	O	G	L	W	F	O
K	A	T	C	Ⓝ	Y	C	M	C	N	U	C	I	A	N
A	N	N	U	Ⓤ	A	O	O	I	H	H	O	N	S	R
H	T	A	I	T	O	L	R	C	I	A	W	G	T	O
S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

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/2

Bacon, Barbecue, Biscuit, Boxes, Breakfast, Chain, Chipotle, Cinnamon Roll, Colorado, Combo, Customize, Hamburgers, Honey Butter, Hulk, Junior, Lunch, Malt, Meal, Menu, Milkshake, Mushroom Swiss, Onion Rings, Order, Pancakes, Ranch, Restaurant, San Antonio, Sausage, Size, Stripes, Taco, Taquito, Texas, Veggie, Wings

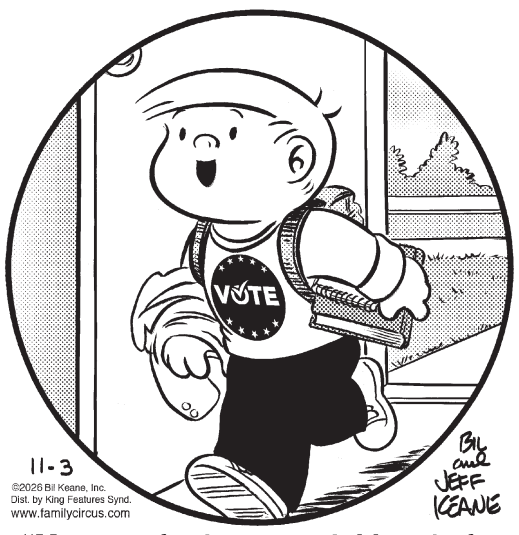
TODAY'S ANSWER: Family-owned

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



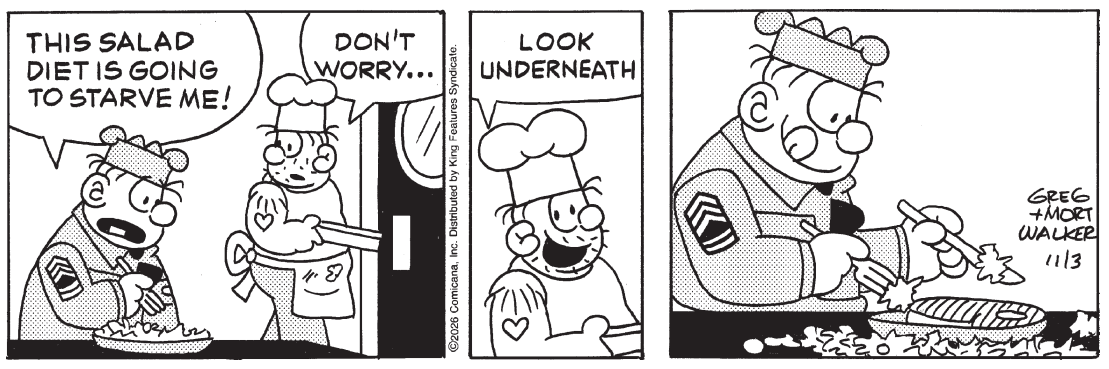
"What? Oh, the eye. It's part of the AI-driven security system. Notice how it follows you everywhere you move."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"Mommy, for homework I just hafta make sure you and Daddy vote!"

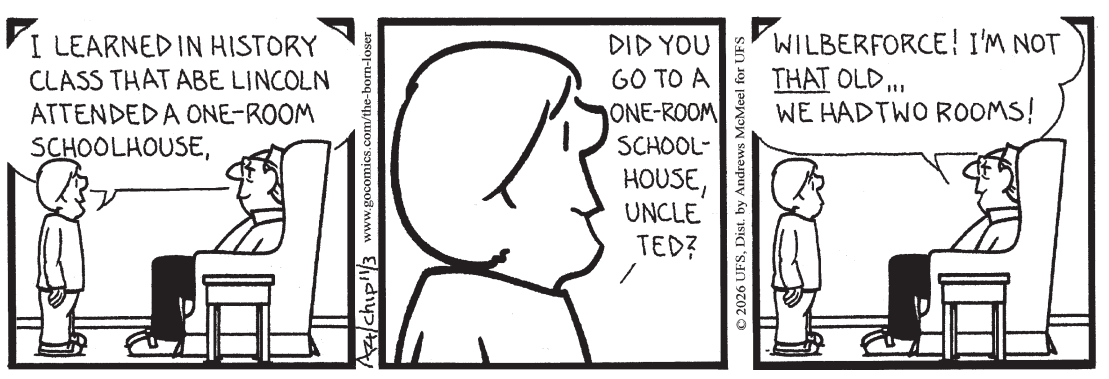
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



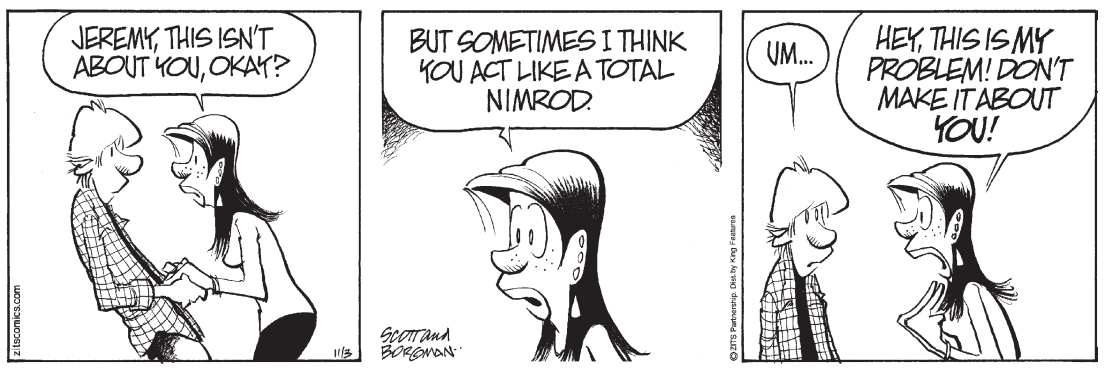
BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



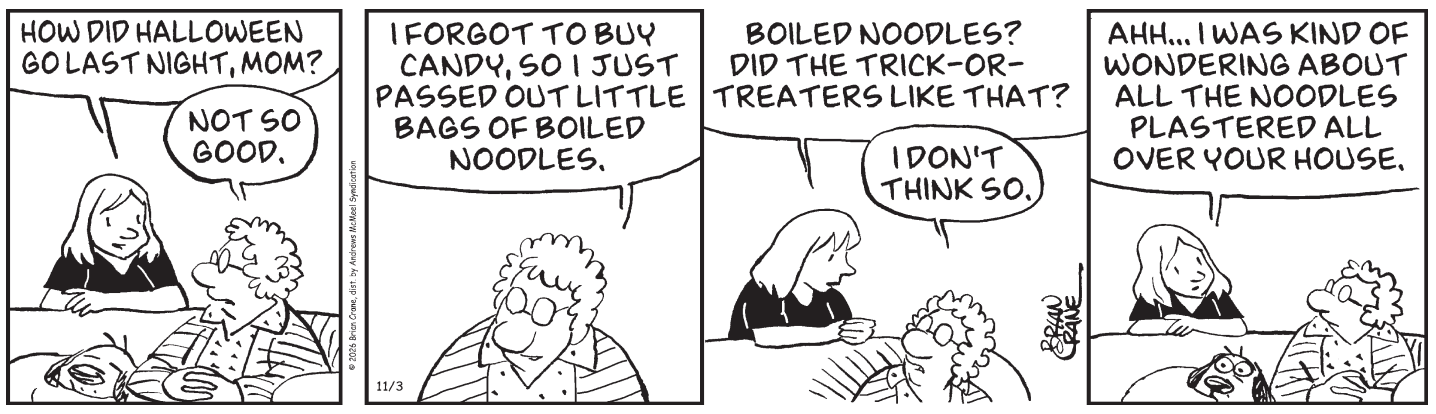
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

11/3 © 2026 Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

WHATZIT?™

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

board tear tier

Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Bored to tears

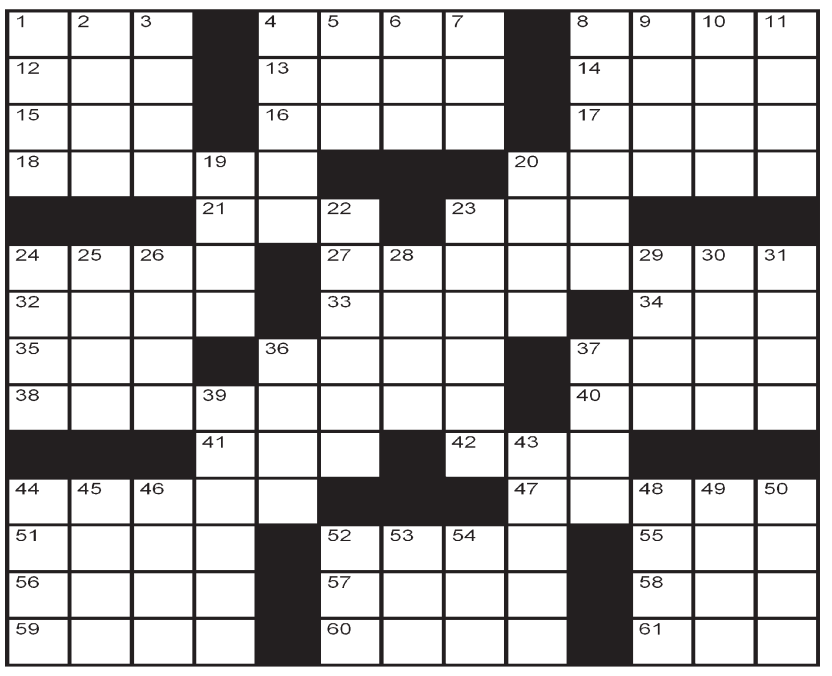
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Silent
4 Pal
8 Costco rival, familiarly
12 From — — Z
13 Lighten
14 Seed cover
15 Blue
16 Minnesota WNBA team
17 "Walk the —"
18 Conch
20 Looked steadily
21 Dawn goddess
23 Intention
24 Leg part
27 Persuade
32 Furry friends
33 Libertine
34 "— we there yet?"
35 Time
36 Nobleman
37 Small bottle
38 Come crashing down
40 Full of leafy trees
41 Tax org.
42 Cask
44 Eats no food
47 Stem
51 Leave the stage
52 Famed German composer
55 "Live and Let —"
56 Work the soil
57 Fever
58 DDE's nickname
59 Punta del —
60 — -do-well
61 Half score

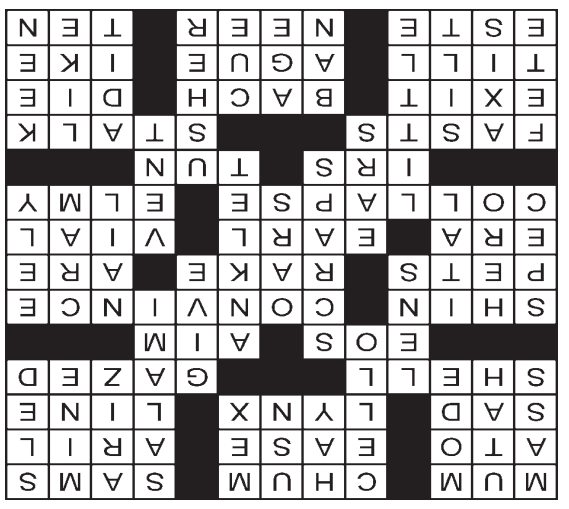
DOWN

1 Church service
2 The Beehive State
3 Fashion
4 Stringed instrument
5 Baled material
6 Ensign's org.
7 Tex- —
8 Deli meat
9 Neighbor of Cal.
10 Ore source
11 Toboggan
19 Eye part
20 Donate
22 Kitchen leftovers
23 Short sock
24 Design detail, for short
25 Brave fellow
26 Slanted type: Abbr.
28 Rowing need
29 Brad
30 Stuff
31 Like a moray
36 "I'm all —!"
37 Let off steam
39 — Red Riding Hood
43 Theater worker
44 Gala
45 Line of rotation
46 River deposit
48 Collier's entrance
49 Enjoy
50 Sharp
52 Outlaw
53 Grow older
54 Stage signal

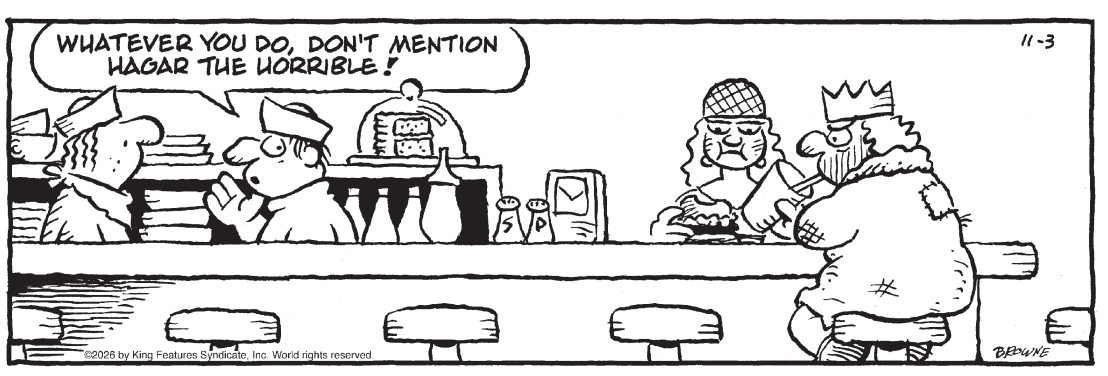


11-3 © 2026 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

TODAY'S SOLUTION:



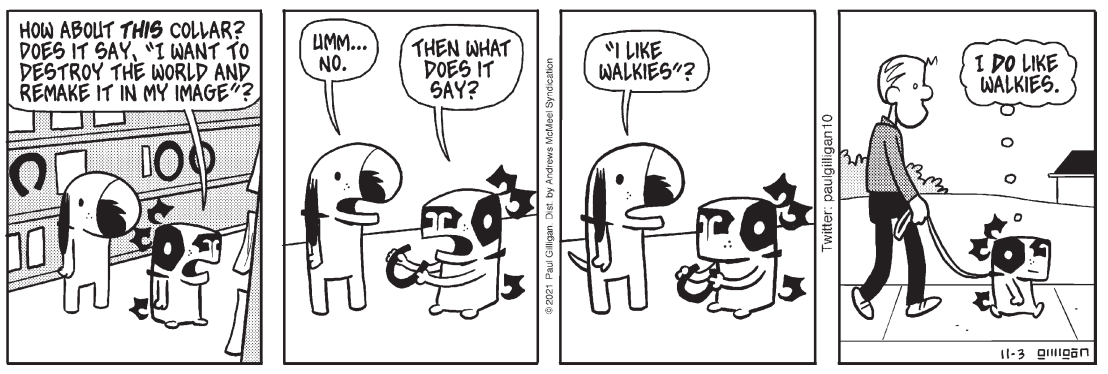
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.**

U.S. MIDTERM ELECTIONS **Solution: 10 letters**

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

© 2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/3

Ballot, Bill, Candidate, Caucus, Congress, Country, Debate, Democrat, District, Early, Endorse, Fall, Fuel, House, Independent, Issue, Laws, Live, Mail, Minority, News, Nominee, Party, Polls, Power, Predict, Race, Rally, Region, Registration, Representatives, Republican, Seat, Senate, Speech, State, Tax, Terms, Views, Volunteer, Votes

TODAY'S ANSWER: Referendum

Lee commissioners back $200M hospital bond plan, separately OK $122K for utility engineering

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com



Staff Photo: Kathryn Crockett

Lee County commissioners approved a hospital financing plan of up to $200 million Oct. 27 and separately approved $122,000 for engineering to extend water and sewer service to the county's planned hospital site.

LEESBURG — Lee County commissioners approved a financing plan Tuesday allowing up to $200 million in revenue bonds for the proposed hospital at Grand Island and separately approved $122,000 for engineering work to extend water and sewer service to the site.

County Attorney Jimmy Skipper said the financing would have two parts, with a combined borrowing ceiling of $200 million and an interest rate cap of 8%. Neither the final borrowing amount nor the interest rate has been set.

Skipper said the ceilings were likely higher than the project would need. Final figures would depend on project costs and economic conditions closer to closing.

Commissioner Dennis Roland asked whether the total included the $30 million portion of the financing discussed previously. Skipper confirmed that the $200 million ceiling covered both parts.

The county's role extends beyond approving the financing plan. The Albany Herald reported in September that the proposed arrangement would rely on county payments to repay roughly $30 million in bonds. Hospital revenue could eventually reimburse the county, but that potential reimbursement is separate from the county's payment commitment.

The estimated annual county payment was about $1.8 million, though bond attorney Roger Murray cautioned at the September hearing that the amount would depend on interest rates and the repayment period.

Tuesday's discussion did not establish whether those proposed repayment terms had changed.

The resolution approved a financing plan for the benefit of MCLCG Inc., the nonprofit identified as the hospital's future owner. A hospital information graphic released by Lee County on Wednesday lists Commissioner Billy Mathis as MCLCG's chairman and Luke Singletary as vice chairman.

The graphic says MCLCG's board members are unpaid volunteers with no financial interests in the project. It identifies People's Health Systems LLC as the hospital's manager, a separate role from ownership.

Skipper said the Hospital Authority had held a public hearing and recommended county approval of the financing plan. All but one of the speakers during the public comment period opposed construction of the hospital.

Commissioners also approved an engineering proposal to prepare water and sewer service for the hospital site.

County Manager Scott Addison described the $122,000 proposal as covering exploration work, design, permitting, bid assistance, contract administration and construction oversight.

The amount covers engineering services rather than construction of the utility lines. The discussion did not identify a construction estimate or the funding source for the engineering work.

The county's infrastructure responsibilities were already outlined in an earlier agreement. According to the Herald's September reporting on the 2024 intergovernmental contract, Lee County committed to pay for utility lines and public roads serving the hospital property, with no dollar limit or reimbursement provision specified for that work.

The utility approval came during the same meeting in which commissioners discussed gaps in water service and fire hydrant coverage in existing neighborhoods.

During a discussion of recent house fires, board members considered buying another tanker truck in place of extending water infrastructure to areas without hydrants. They asked staff to explore equipment options and potential funding sources and report back.

AB&T officials: Sound fundamentals continue to fuel success

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

Special Logo



Perry Revel

ALBANY — Community Capital Bancshares, and its wholly owned subsidiary, AB&T, continued to see success driven by the Albany bank's emphasis on core relationship banking, finishing the third quarter of 2026 with continued growth in core earnings, bank officials reported.

Income before taxes of $1.7 million marked a 13.1% increase over the third quarter of 2025, driven by Net Revenue Growth of 5.6% and a 1.0% reduction in Non-interest Expense, while the bank's efficiency ratio once again improved, shrinking from 53.29% to 49.97% at quarter's end. The bank finished the quarter with Net Income of $1.3 million and Earnings per Share of $0.97, increases of 1.9% and 1.5% respectively, while Non-interest Income grew 8.0%.

While the bank experienced a 7.3% decline in Average Non-Interest-Bearing Deposits, driven by inflationary pressures and cost uncertainty, as opposed to clients seeking higher yields, Average Deposits grew 1.9% year over year to $226.3 million for the quarter. Additionally, Average Loans grew 7.2% year over year, to $192.8 million, and the bank closed the quarter with $195.6 million in loans.

That loan growth was driven by bank clients continuing to seek new opportunities and was achieved despite several larger payoffs throughout the year. As has been AB&T's hallmark, the bank's credit quality remained pristine, ending the third quarter with Non-performing Assets standing at zero, compared to $1.4 million a year ago. The bank's allowance to loans ratio finished at 1.27%.

"Even as rates rise, we're seeing less flight to yield and more use of cash as the cost of business inputs continues to climb," AB&T CEO Perry Revell said. "We anticipate the fourth quarter uptick in deposits we've historically seen in an agrarian economy like ours, but we're watching closely how price pressures are affecting our clients' businesses.

"Our vision remains to execute the highest standards, every day. Three quarters into 2026, the results continue to reflect what happens when client experience, brand stewardship and our gold-standard aspiration work in concert. We will finish the year with the same discipline and intentionality that drives us."

Community Capital Bancshares Inc. is a bank holding company located in Albany whose principal activity is ownership and management of its wholly-owned bank subsidiary, AB&T, which offers a full range of commercial and retail banking services at its locations in Albany.. To learn more about the company's most recent financial performance visit www.abtgold.com.

Rising prices squeeze more Americans ahead of midterm elections

By Kevin Hardy
Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON — Americans' growing frustration over high prices has defined many political campaigns ahead of November's midterm elections.

Rising costs of healthcare, gas and groceries have put Republicans on defense, not only in Washington, but in statehouse and gubernatorial races across the country.

As the political environment continues to sour for Republicans, a new analysis released by the Urban Institute underscores just how expensive everyday life has become in America: Gas and electricity prices are rising much faster than paychecks. Housing, child care and healthcare are becoming a bigger strain for millions of people.

And affordability pressure is worsening in once-affordable havens such as Atlanta; Louisville, Ky.; and Rochester, N.Y., where costs of housing, groceries and healthcare are increasing faster than the national average.

The latest installment of The American Affordability Tracker details how costs of food, housing, energy and healthcare have changed across all 50 states over recent years. High prices are pinching people across income brackets, with an estimated 49% of families unable to afford the basic costs of living. That's according to Urban Institute's true cost of economic security calculation, which measures how much is needed to live securely.

"We're not saying that 49% of people are poor. We're saying that they're not secure," Gregory Acs, an Urban Institute fellow who worked on the research project, said.

He said the analysis confirms that the economic angst so many people feel is justified — despite strong national economic indicators such as low unemployment and growing gross domestic product.

"They are not crazy. They're not making it up," Acs said. "They're not being marketed into feeling bad. They really do have struggles."

Among other findings, the report shows that average annual child care costs for two young children have risen $6,600 over the past decade. Since January 2025, gas prices have risen by 33% — an average increase of $1.02 per gallon nationally. And premiums for benchmark plans on the Affordable Care Act Marketplace are up 22% since last year, now averaging $611 per month.

Those struggles have become a political liability for Republicans, who control the White House, both chambers of Congress, most state legislatures and a majority of governor's offices.

All midterm elections, as a referendum on the sitting president, are difficult for incumbents in the majority. But this cycle is particularly charged because of Trump's promises to improve the economy during his 2024 campaign, Todd Belt, a professor of political management at The George Washington University, said.

"He hasn't done that. In fact, in a lot of ways, he's made things worse," Belt said, citing Trump's unilateral war in Iran and tariff policies — both of which have driven up costs. "Donald Trump is bringing down the Republican ticket."

Some Democrats have proposed new policies to help lower costs, following the lead of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani whose winning campaign last year promised free buses and childcare. But many others are simply benefiting from the sinking approval ratings of the president — driven largely by high prices.

Republican officials have recognized the political drag of rising prices. Vice President J.D. Vance has publicly acknowledged Americans' growing frustration with high prices, particularly for gas, telling voters "we're working on it," during a CBS News town hall in Michigan earlier this month.

But Trump has often downplayed such concerns, calling affordability "a hoax" promulgated by Democrats. Campaigning for Kansas Republican Sen. Roger Marshall last week in an unexpectedly competitive race, Trump blamed previous President Joe Biden for rising prices. Trump pledged that the war in Iran would end soon.

Rising prices are hitting consumers and businesses alike.

Earlier this month, Small Business for America's Future, a coalition of business owners across the country, released results of a new survey that found many small employers are struggling with high costs of utilities, fuel, business supplies and employee healthcare.

Nearly two-thirds of the 1,171 businesses owners surveyed said they had recently cut or skipped their own pay to keep their operations afloat. Nearly half said customers are spending significantly less, and more than two-thirds said they had delayed, canceled or scaled back investments because of uncertainty about federal economic policy.

High prices are hitting consumers across demographic and geographic borders.

Acs, the Urban Institute researcher, said rising prices squeeze more than just the poorest Americans. Many middle income earners are struggling to cover the costs of healthcare, higher education and housing, "feeling like they're on a treadmill at best," he said.

The Urban Institute's recent analysis also highlighted rising price challenges in regions long considered affordable.

In the battleground state of Wisconsin, where gas and electricity costs are well below the national average, parents face disproportionately high costs for childcare: Parents there spend an average of $30,800 per year for care for two young children — $6,900 more than the national average.

"I think there is an old story that affordability really is a coastal problem," Acs said. "What we're trying to illustrate is that it's not just high-cost areas where costs are an issue. Costs are an issue throughout the country."

Southwell Health and Rehab in Adel awarded nursing care center accreditation

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Special Photo: Southwell

Southwell Health and Rehabilitation, a 95-bed skilled nursing facility in Adel, has earned Nursing Care Center accreditation.

ADEL – Southwell Health and Rehabilitation, a 95-bed skilled nursing facility in Adel, has earned Nursing Care Center accreditation from Joint Commission, an independent, evidence-based standards-setting organization that sets the benchmark for safe, high-quality patient care through healthcare accreditation.

This accomplishment formally recognizes Southwell Health and Rehabilitation's ongoing commitment to meeting rigorous performance standards and delivering the safest, highest-quality care to its patients.

Southwell Health and Rehabilitation underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite survey on Sept. 8. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission surveyors assessed compliance across key areas such as environment of care, infection prevention and control, performance improvement, and overall resident care.

"This accreditation reflects our team's dedication to providing safe, compassionate, high-quality care," Mark Kimball, chief operating officer for Southwell Medical, said. "We are proud of this achievement and remain committed to maintaining the highest standards for our residents."

Joint Commission surveyors conducted on-site observations and interviews to identify performance strengths and opportunities for continued improvement. With decades of expertise and a data-driven accreditation process, Joint Commission helps ensure healthcare organizations adhere to leading quality and safety practices, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and commitment to better patient care.

"Joint Commission congratulates Southwell Health and Rehabilitation for achieving accreditation by demonstrating its focus on delivering safe and effective care of the highest quality and value," Ken Grubbs, the executive vice president of Accreditation and Certification Operations and chief nursing officer for the Joint Commission, said. "Through the accreditation process, we worked closely with Southwell Health and Rehabilitation to enable and affirm the highest standards of healthcare quality and patient safety.

"Together, we are elevating care for all patients, and we appreciate Southwell Health and Rehabilitation's collaboration throughout this process."

For more information, visit Joint Commission's website.



Consumer Cellular®
OVER 50? UNLIMITED FOR JUST $35/MONTH.
Backed by #1 Network Coverage and Customer Satisfaction.*
Switch & Save Today. 833-446-1847
© 2026 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include $5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. For unlimited plans, high-speed data is reduced after 35GB on single-line plans and 50GB of combined usage on multi-line plans for the remainder of your billing cycle. Unlimited data plans only for customers age 50+. *2025 ACSI® Survey of customers rating their own wireless service provider. ACSI® and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI®, visit www.theacsi.org.

Catch him if you can

Micah Joyner powers Dougherty past Westover to region title

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY— Micah Joyner ran toward the sideline, cut back toward the middle and kept escaping Westover defenders until he found the end zone.

His third-quarter scramble broke open a defensive struggle and helped send Dougherty to a championship.

The No. 7-ranked Trojans defeated crosstown rival Westover 31-8 Friday at Hugh Mills Stadium, clinching the Region 1-4A title before the stadium's largest crowd of the season.

Dougherty improved to 8-1 and gave coach Uyl Joyner his first victory in three meetings against older brother Corey Joyner, Westover's coach. The Patriots fell to 7-2.

The homecoming victory came in the fifth Hamp Smith Classic, honoring the legendary Albany State coach.

Dougherty led 10-0 at halftime, then needed its defense to protect that advantage.

Westover reached the 9-yard line early in the third quarter after Gabriel Hopper's completion to Jordan Joyner and a defensive holding penalty. The Patriots went backward and turned the ball over on downs.

A Micah Joyner fumble provided another opportunity, but Dougherty forced another fourth-down incompletion.

Micah then supplied the separation, extending a scramble through repeated pressure for a touchdown and a 17-0 lead.

Westover fumbled the ensuing kickoff return. One play later, Joyner found Melvin Williams for a 25-yard touchdown.

Penalties moved Dougherty's next kickoff to the Westover 30, where Christian Hernandez delivered an onside kick the Trojans recovered. A completion to Detavious Poole helped set up Zion Johnson's touchdown, making it 31-0 through three quarters.

Dougherty's first touchdown followed a mishandled Westover punt snap. Joyner hit Jayden Richardson for a 23-yard score, and Hernandez added a 23-yard field goal as the first half expired.

Hopper threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Ahmad Mitchell in the fourth quarter and found Jaden Thomas for the two-point conversion.

Westover had threatened throughout the scoreless opening quarter, with Michael Daniels helping drive the Patriots into scoring territory before Nilan Jones' sack helped Dougherty force a fourth-down incompletion.

The defense supplied the foundation. Joyner supplied the finish.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Dougherty quarterback Micah Joyner scrambles away from Westover defenders Friday at Hugh Mills Stadium. Joyner helped lead the Trojans to a 31-8 victory and the Region 1-4A championship.

Nobody has won next year yet

Jake Clawson builds champions by giving Deerfield-Windsor runners something difficult to chase. The lessons follow them beyond the finish line.

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Five state championships into his coaching career at Deerfield-Windsor, Jake Clawson sat in a student's desk during his planning period, explaining why the next one remained an open question.

Across from him, in another desk, a visitor asked how he would help Whatley Fountain improve next season.

Fountain had just won the GIAA Class AAAA cross country championship by 52 seconds. The Knights had won their fifth boys team title since Clawson arrived in 2015.

Clawson answered matter-of-factly.

"Just because he won this year doesn't mean he is going to win in 2027," he said. "Nobody has won that race in 2027 yet."

During the conversation, a middle school runner came into the classroom to return his jersey.

One season was being packed away. Clawson was already considering what its runners could become.

That outlook has helped build a program capable of graduating champions and developing another team to chase them. It also comes with a cost.

Clawson acknowledges that constantly thinking about the next race, the next challenge and the next group can become mentally taxing. Enjoying a victory sometimes requires a deliberate decision to stop preparing for another.

He made himself take a couple of days with this championship.

His former runners recognize that coach. They also remember the one who waited after soccer practice, saw a school record where an athlete saw a plateau and understood when two words would mean more than a trophy.

A second chance

Running entered Clawson's life because his father noticed something on a soccer field.

Growing up in North Carolina, Clawson played soccer. His dad saw his speed and, when Clawson was in eighth grade, signed him up for a 5K road race.

Members of the high school cross country team entered, too.

Clawson beat them.

That led him to try out for cross country as a freshman, although his introduction nearly ended on the first day. He got into a fight with another runner.

Clawson believes he probably should have been kicked off the team. The coach liked the way he ran and gave him another chance.

He became a successful high school runner and went on to compete at Western Carolina University. College brought a different education.

By his assessment, he was a very good high school runner who was not a great college runner. He learned from succeeding, then learned something else when the work did not produce the same results.

He believes both experiences helped prepare him to coach.

But coaching had not been the plan.

After graduate school at Auburn, where he earned his doctorate, Clawson submitted 52 applications for teaching jobs.

One school called. One school offered.

Deerfield-Windsor.

His college running background interested the school. Clawson looked up the cross country program's results and took on the team along with his classroom responsibilities.

"I didn't come out here to lose," he said.

Choosing the difficult race

Clawson's first task was to change what runners believed

See **CLAWSON**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Deerfield-Windsor coach Jake Clawson stands behind state championship trophies from the school's cross country program. Since arriving in 2015, he has led the boys to five state titles while building a culture of discipline and sustained success.

Monroe falls to Spencer, 32-6



Staff Photo Joe Whitfield

Monroe senior running back Justin Grice runs between Spencer defenders for a nice gain during Thursday night's game at Hugh Mills Stadium. The Spencer Greenwave scored twice quickly, built a 25-0 halftime lead and won 32-6. Monroe got on the board with a late touchdown pass. The Tornadoes are now 2-7 and will close the football season Friday night against Shaw in Columbus.

Late steal, final stand seal Radium Springs sweep

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Aiden Boone stole the lead. Radium Springs' defense made sure Lee West couldn't take it back.

Boone's steal and basket put the Panthers ahead in the closing seconds Thursday afternoon, and Paul Sawyer's contested shot bounced off the rim at the buzzer as Radium Springs held on for a 38-37 victory.

The finish completed a home sweep on Albany's southside after the Lady Panthers opened with a 16-10 win.

The boys supplied the suspense, trading leads throughout a game that entered the fourth quarter tied and remained within reach until the final shot.

With two minutes left, Radium Springs' Arelius Roberts Jr. connected from the corner to put the Panthers ahead 36-35. Sawyer answered with a basket at the 1:33 mark, giving Lee West another lead.

The Trojans stopped Radium Springs on its next possession and had the ball with an opportunity to protect their one-point advantage.

Then Boone intervened.

He stole the ball and raced to the basket,

See **SPRINGS**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Radium Springs guard Drew Bryant dribbles past Lee West's Paul Sawyer at Radium Springs' Coach Rantavious Gilbert, right, and Lee West Coach Kai Hamilton, in back, watch. The teams went back and forth the entire game with Radium Springs getting a 38-37 win.



Special Photo: Jayne Kamin / Oncea

Ronald Acuña Jr., left, and Ozzie Albies exchange a high-five. The Braves exercised both players' club options Thursday, keeping them in Atlanta for 2027.

Acuña, Albies back for 2027

Field Level Media

The Atlanta Braves exercised their 2027 club options on outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. and second baseman Ozzie Albies on Thursday.

Acuña will make $17 million next year while Albies will make $7 million.

The Braves picked up the first of two club options on Acuña, who signed an eight-year, $100 million extension with the club in 2019. He has another $17 million club option for 2028. This was the second of two club options on Albies, who signed a seven-year, $35 million extension in 2019.

Acuña, who turns 29 in December, was limited to 107 regular-season games in 2026 because of injuries. He went on the injured list twice for hamstring strains, on May 3 and June 10. When he was available, he batted .255 with 20 home runs, 55 RBIs and 21 stolen bases in 469 plate appearances.

He has had two seasons (2019, 2023) during the extension where he appeared in 150-plus games.

Albies, who turns 30 in January, played in all 162 games this year. He batted .237 with 22 homers, 73 RBIs and 85 runs scored. He led the major leagues with 158 games played at second base as he completed his 10th season with the club.

The Braves also announced that they had activated four pitchers from the 60-day injured list: right-handers Spencer Schwellenbach, Spencer Strider and Hurston Waldrep and left-hander Joey Wentz.

Atlanta rallies past early struggles

Field Level Media

Onyeka Okongwu scored a season-high 29 points, and Nickeil Alexander-Walker sank two crucial free throws with 15.3 seconds remaining as the host Atlanta Hawks snapped a three-game losing streak with a 114-111 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday.

Atlanta also snapped Cleveland's three-game winning streak and extended its home winning streak against the Cavaliers to five games.

The Hawks led by 10 with 4:34 remaining, but Cleveland twice pulled within one point, the second time on Donovan Mitchell's basket with 21 seconds left. Alexander-Walker made two free throws to restore the three-point lead and the Atlanta defense survived two last-second shots from Mitchell that could have tied the game.

Okongwu went 11-for-17 from the field, including four 3-pointers, and added a season-high 12 rebounds. Alexander-Walker shot 8-for-17 from the field and also made four 3-pointers.

Aaron Wiggins added a season-high 20 points and seven rebounds off the bench, while Jalen Johnson scored 17.

Cleveland got a season-high 24 points from James Harden and 22 points from Mitchell. Sam Merrill came off the bench to make four 3-pointers and score 16.

Cleveland limited the Hawks to 23.8% shooting in the first quarter and, sparked by an early 10-3 run, took a 28-16 lead. It was the fewest points scored in a quarter by Atlanta this season.

The Cavs led 35-24 with 7:22 left in the first half, but Atlanta went on a 13-2 run to tie at 4:33 on a runner by Okongwu. The Hawks took a 46-44 halftime lead.

Atlanta pushed its lead to 61-50 on Alexander-Walker's 3-pointer with 9:14 left in the third quarter. Cleveland cut the margin to 83-82, fueled by nine third-quarter points from Harden. Atlanta scored 43 points in the period and entered the fourth quarter with an 89-82 lead.



Special Photo: Brett Davis / Imagn Images

Atlanta's Onyeka Okongwu goes up for a layup against Cleveland's Evan Mobley. The Hawks overcame a slow start to take the lead into the fourth quarter.



Special Photo: Jeff Hanisch / Imagn Images

A Green Bay player celebrates with fans at Lambeau Field. The Packers held off Carolina 27-19 Thursday behind Jordan Love's three touchdown passes.

Love delivers, Packers hold on

Field Level Media

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Jordan Love passed for three touchdowns and the Green Bay Packers turned back a fourth-quarter rally for a 27-19 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Thursday night.

Carolina, which trailed 27-10 in the third quarter, rallied within 27-19 with 5:37 remaining in the game when Bryce Young hit Jalen Coker with a 26-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-3. The two-point conversion pass was incomplete.

The Panthers (3-4) got the ball back at their own 45 after a punt with 4:35 left, but Young's fourth-down pass was incomplete. Carolina got a final possession starting at its own 20 with 22 seconds left, but Young was sacked once and Green Bay picked off a lateral on the final play.

Love completed 30 of 41 passes for 288 yards with one interception. Packers receiver Christian Watson, who left the stadium in an ambulance for testing after sustaining a first-half chest injury, returned to action in the third quarter and finished with eight catches for 113 yards.

Green Bay (5-3), which entered last in the NFL in rushing at 59.9 yards per game, managed just 66 yards on the ground. Josh Jacobs, in his second game since coming off the commissioner exempt list following an offseason incident, had 39 yards on 21 attempts (1.9 yards per carry).

According to the Amazon Prime broadcast, the Packers are the first team in NFL history to own a winning record through eight games while having less than 500 rushing yards on the season.

Young connected on 23 of 41 passes for 209 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Chuba Hubbard ran for 81 yards and a score on 22 carries.

Love had two touchdown passes in the first half to offset a pair of lost fumbles by Green Bay, helping the Packers take a 20-10 lead into the break.

Hubbard was stopped short on fourth-and-2 at midfield on the first possession of the second half, and the Packers marched 50 yards, going in front 27-10 on Love's 4-yard touchdown pass to Jacobs.

Ryan Fitzgerald countered with a 50-yard field goal to make it 27-13.

Carolina recovered the opening kickoff fumble at the Green Bay 29 but had to settle for Fitzgerald's 39-yard field goal.

Later in the opening quarter, Green Bay produced an eight-play, 56-yard drive, capped by Love's 12-yard touchdown pass to tight end Tucker Kraft. But Trey Smack, who missed two field-goal attempts last week in the Packers' 20-17 loss at Detroit, missed the extra point.

Carolina regained the lead on the ensuing possession when Hubbard scored on a 1-yard run on the opening play of the second quarter to finish a 65-yard drive, putting the Panthers up 10-6.

Love hit Watson with a 53-yard pass to key a 90-yard scoring drive. Jacobs' 1-yard touchdown run put the Packers back in front 13-10 with 6:33 remaining in the half.

Love connected with Matthew Golden on a 24-yard scoring toss late in the half to extend the gap to 20-10.

From 1A

CLAWSON

they were there to do.

Practices would have a purpose. Athletes would work to improve and race to win. He wanted them to discover the satisfaction that comes from taking something seriously enough to find out how good they can become.

Jackson Eubanks experienced the change.

A junior on Clawson's first team, he became captain of the first state championship team. Before Clawson arrived, Eubanks said, some runners treated cross country as an activity or another line on a college application.

Clawson made competing something they wanted to be part of.

"He has the confidence, the passion, and almost a 'swagger' that inspires guys to really commit to the grind and do what has to be done to be successful," Eubanks said.

Winning only gave them something else to pursue.

Jon Durham remembers riding home after the 2018 cross country championship. They had just won a state title and were already discussing winning one in track and field.

"That mentality is a testament to the culture Coach Clawson has built at Deerfield-Windsor," Durham said.

It also explains the schedule.

Local meets often bring familiar runners together on different courses. Clawson looks farther afield for challenges his athletes cannot find by repeatedly facing the same competition.

He takes the Knights to Jacksonville to contend with heat, humidity and a deep field of runners. At Bleckley County, they encounter a demanding course and a program with multiple state championships.

He sent Fountain to Atlanta to compete individually against another highly competitive field.

Even his best runner needs somewhere to be pushed.

"It's not really winning if there is no chance of losing," Clawson said.

The coach who arrived declaring he had not come to lose deliberately seeks races his team could lose. He wants his runners to encounter difficulty before a championship depends on their response.

Inheriting the standard

That preparation begins before high school.

Clawson tries to bring as many children as possible into the middle school program, looking for talent and desire, then helping develop both. Older teammates show younger runners what the commitment involves.

Garrison Slaughter remembers being the eighth grader listening.

Clawson told him he was needed and had the talent to become great. Slaughter understood that he had a place, but also a responsibility.

"I was a part of something bigger than myself, and I had people who were relying on me, just like I was relying on them," he said.

Eventually, he became captain — the runner explaining those expectations to someone else.

"Nobody was above the standard," Slaughter said. "It didn't matter whether you were the captain or you were in eighth grade."

The athletes doing the teaching change. The lesson survives graduation.

But maintaining a standard does not mean treating every runner the same way.

Charlotte Augenstein played soccer and basketball, too. She credits Clawson with giving her room to find her own commitment to running.

When she asked to complete cross country workouts after soccer practice, he supported her.

He came out to time her.

As Augenstein improved, she began to understand what further improvement would require. His experience as a Division I runner helped her imagine competing in college. His patience allowed her to decide how much she wanted it.

She went on to run at Georgia, then used her final NCAA season while pursuing a master's degree at Wake Forest. She has competed internationally and now runs professionally in Austin, Texas, while pursuing a career in the medical field.

Clawson calls her "the most successful person I've coached."

Knowing when to push

Durham needed reassurance at a different point in his development.

Near the end of his junior track season, he approached Clawson believing his progress had stalled.

The coach answered with a prediction.

"Keep putting one foot in front of the other, and you will set the 5K school record in the fall," Durham recalled him saying.

Durham did.

"It was his constant belief in my potential that motivated me to trust the training, push through the difficult days, and ultimately accomplish my goals as a runner," he said.

With Slaughter, Clawson chose a more provocative approach before the state track meet during his junior year.

He told Slaughter he had not yet delivered a legendary performance for the program.

"Man, that lit a fire in me for that meet, and he knew exactly what he was doing," Slaughter said.

Over three days, Slaughter competed in seven races and won three. He earned the boys high-point award as Deerfield-Windsor won the team championship.

After Slaughter received his trophy, Clawson came over.

"Legend Status."

What stays with them

Clawson is now Deerfield-Windsor's director of curriculum and teaches AP U.S. History and AP U.S. Government.

His classroom work and coaching share an investment in what young people can become. He believes running can teach them to accept responsibility, work without an immediate reward and stay with difficult things long enough to improve.

His former runners describe those lessons in their lives now.

Eubanks lives in Atlanta and works as an aerospace engineer. He still runs.

Slaughter studies finance at Auburn, with a minor in real estate development. He says the discipline and work ethic developed under Clawson now help guide his studies and career ambitions.

Durham, a 2022 Deerfield-Windsor graduate, expects to graduate from Auburn in December with a nursing degree.

Over the summer, he joined members of this year's team for a few runs.

The former school record-holder was back alongside athletes pursuing goals of their own. He no longer had a place in the lineup to earn or a school record to chase. He came back anyway.

Now another championship season has ended. The Knights are off until after Thanksgiving, when they return to prepare for spring track and field.

Clawson has allowed himself to enjoy what they accomplished. He knows how quickly his attention moves ahead.

"Last year doesn't matter," he said. "It's nice to think about and talk about, but no one has won the race for 2027."

For now, the jerseys are coming back.

In Clawson's classroom, the conversation has already turned to what comes next.

From 1A

SPRINGS

turning a promising Lee West possession into the points that decided the game.

The Trojans still had time. They called a timeout to arrange a final attempt, but Radium Springs crowded Sawyer and forced him to shoot in heavy traffic.

His shot caught the rim and stayed out.

For most of the afternoon, neither team had been able to make an advantage last.

Lee West's Daquan Styles hit a corner 3-pointer for an early 3-2 lead. Jeremiah Jordan promptly answered from the opposite corner to put Radium Springs back in front.

Dominic Mayes kept the Trojans moving with three consecutive baskets underneath, helping Lee West reach the end of the first quarter tied at 11.

Michael Hill Jr. added a long 3-pointer early in the second quarter for a 15-13 Trojans advantage. Marquavious Jones and Delonte Thomas countered with work inside for Radium Springs, although Lee West took a 25-22 lead into halftime.

Jordan struck again in the third, hitting a 3-pointer to tie the game at 29. The quarter ended with the teams even at 33, setting up a final period in which they combined for just nine points.

The Lady Panthers had established a steadier path to their victory.

Radium Springs took an early lead, carried an 11-8 advantage into halftime and never trailed. Riggins scored seven points as the Lady Panthers limited Lee West to two points after the break.

Both programs return to action next Thursday. Radium Springs visits Merry Acres in Albany, while Lee West hosts Bainbridge Middle School. Games at both locations begin at 5 p.m.



Special Photo: GSW

Officials with Georgia Southwestern State University and South Georgia Technical College Julie Partain, Rachel Abbott, Mark Laughlin, Jonathan Scott, John Watford, Kerry Palmer take part in an articulation agreement signing.

Georgia Southwestern, South Georgia Tech pact expands student transfer opportunities

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — Georgia Southwestern State University and South Georgia Technical College have strengthened their long-standing partnership through a new articulation agreement designed to create a smoother transition for students pursuing bachelor's degrees and expand access to higher education in southwest Georgia.

The agreement, signed on Oct. 26 by GSW President Kerry Palmer and SGTC President John Watford, establishes clear transfer pathways for students completing eligible coursework or associate's degree programs at SGTC who wish to continue their education at GSW. By identifying transferable courses and aligning academic requirements between the two institutions, the partnership helps students maximize previously earned credits, avoid unnecessary duplication of coursework and make continued progress toward their educational and career goals.

"We are very excited to welcome students from South Georgia Technical College into our campus community," Palmer said. "This partnership reflects our shared commitment to expanding educational opportunities while recognizing the time, hard work and resources students have already invested in their education. By providing a clear pathway to a bachelor's degree, we're helping students achieve their goals, increase their earning potential and strengthen the skilled workforce our region needs."

The agreement outlines transfer opportunities across several high-demand academic fields, including:

- **Business Administration:** Students completing eligible coursework in SGTC's accounting and marketing programs can apply credits toward GSW's Bachelor of Business Administration degree.
- **Information Technology:** Students in SGTC's computer programming, computer support specialist and networking specialist programs can transfer designated coursework toward GSW's Bachelor of Science in Information Technology.
- **Elementary Education:** Students completing SGTC's Associate of Science in Education can apply eligible credits toward GSW's Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education.
- **Nursing:** Registered nurses who have completed SGTC's Associate of Science in Nursing program can apply eligible credits toward GSW's RN-to-BSN program.

In addition to these program-specific pathways, the agreement identifies general education courses that transfer between the institutions, including coursework in mathematics, communication, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

"South Georgia Tech is excited to continue to partner with Georgia Southwestern on this new opportunity for students to have a seamless education and career path," Watford said. "The spirit of cooperation and tireless efforts to remove barriers for students, demonstrated by both SGTC and GSW, is essential to making the connection between education, personal growth and a life-long career."

As part of the agreement, both institutions will collaborate on student recruitment, admissions, academic advising and communication to help prospective transfer students better understand available pathways and requirements. The partnership also encourages students to work closely with academic advisors at both institutions to ensure a successful transition.

The agreement is effective from fall 2026 through spring 2031 and reinforces the institutions' shared commitment to expanding educational opportunities, supporting workforce development and keeping talented graduates in southwest Georgia.

For more information about transfer opportunities, visit www.gsw.edu or www.southgatech.edu.

Obituaries



Joan "Jo" Jordan Roos (Jordan)

Joan Jordan Roos, Age 96, of Atlanta, GA, passed into Glory on October 26, 2026. A memorial service will be held at 1:00PM on November 13th at Peachtree Corners Presbyterian Church, Peachtree Corners, GA. The family will receive friends following the service at the church. She is predeceased by Stephen Roos, Sr., her husband of 63 years. She is survived by her sons Steve Roos, Jr. (Kathy), Tom Roos (Marlys), and Bill Roos (Shara); grandchildren Rebecca Borger (Scott), Deborah Holtzclaw (Arthur), Mark Roos and Sydney Roos; and great-grandchildren Wesley & Merritt Borger, and Noah & Ethan Holtzclaw. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Peachtree Corners Presbyterian Church or King's Bridge Retirement Community. Online condolences may be made at www.crowellbrothers.com.

Obituaries

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

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Jared Goudsmit

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

"ICU EQUT BW T STNESTIHNU ELM'I IB JUI FCBIBNUTAELIES AEOUMULL RHI IB STFIHNU ICU SCTNTSIUN BW T FUNLBM." — TMEZTIBN TQNETM ZBAEMT

Previous Solution: "Film is one of the ways we address our fears, which we fight as human beings ... That's why these movies work." — Jordan Peele

TODAY'S CLUE: C = S

© 2026 by NEA, Inc., dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication 11-2

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Jared Goudsmit

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

"SYHS 'J OTSPN' BSJACPG ... KGTAVHJWB SYHS J PIPGAJBPN H GJEYS NPRJPN ST BT WHRZ QTG BT VTRE ... J OTSP FJSY SYPW JR WJRN." — HOH NMOPGRHZ

Previous Solution: "The idea of a caricature isn't to get photorealistic likeness but to capture the character of a person." — Animator Adrian Molina

TODAY'S CLUE: N = R

© 2026 by NEA, Inc., dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication 11-3

ALBANY HERALD CLASSIFIEDS

CALL 229-888-9300

Albany Classifieds

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Home Repair/ Remodeling

ENHANCED REMODELING & DRYWALL

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

WE DO SMALL AND BIG JOBS!

229-364-2997
Hernandez
912-432-3016

Residential-Commercial-Renovations

MERCHANDISE

Firewood

SEASONED & GREEN OAK FIREWOOD
Truck Load delivered and stacked $175
Fat Lighter Available.
Also for sale: $25 Burn Barrels & barrel wood.
Call 229-288-1375

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.**

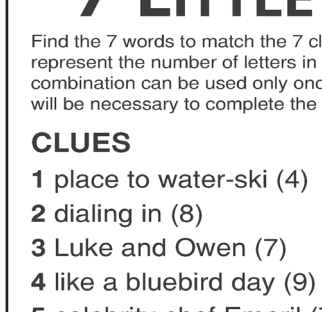
The complete RFQ and submission instructions may be obtained by contacting Douglas Holdridge, Director of Modernization, at dholdridge@albanyha.com.

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**

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

Public Hearings





Find Your Perfect
Pet Match
The Pet Classifieds In Print & Online
Breeders
Adoptions
Pet Supplies

To advertise or subscribe, call Phil Cody 229.888.9300 or email: phil.cody@albanyherald.com

THE ALBANY HERALD
albanyherald.com

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES
1 stumbling block (8)
2 university housing (11)
3 feature of a kite or cat (4)
4 Clydesdale's home (6)
5 more like a jet engine (7)
6 giveaway (8)
7 "bumps in the road" (7)

SOLUTIONS

TA	OBS	DOR	TA	ORI
MIT	IL	TE	ALE	NO
CU	HIC	CLE	STA	IS
PS	IER	LLT	BLE	ES

Saturday's Answers: 1. CARDIO 2. QUICHE 3. CAMILLA 4. RIDICULE 5. MALIC 6. CAIRNGORMS 7. TCHAIKOVSKY 11/2

© 2026 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES
1 place to water-ski (4)
2 dialing in (8)
3 Luke and Owen (7)
4 like a bluebird day (9)
5 celebrity chef Emeril (7)
6 lukewarm quality (8)
7 given first-class treatment (8)

SOLUTIONS

ID	ING	LA	NS	FO
CUS	SE	WIL	UDL	AS
SO	ITY	ESS	KE	RAD
UPG	ED	TEP	LAG	CLO

Monday's Answers: 1. OBSTACLE 2. DORMITORIES 3. TAIL 4. STABLE 5. NOISIER 6. TELLTALE 7. HICCUPS 11/3

© 2026 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

Release Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

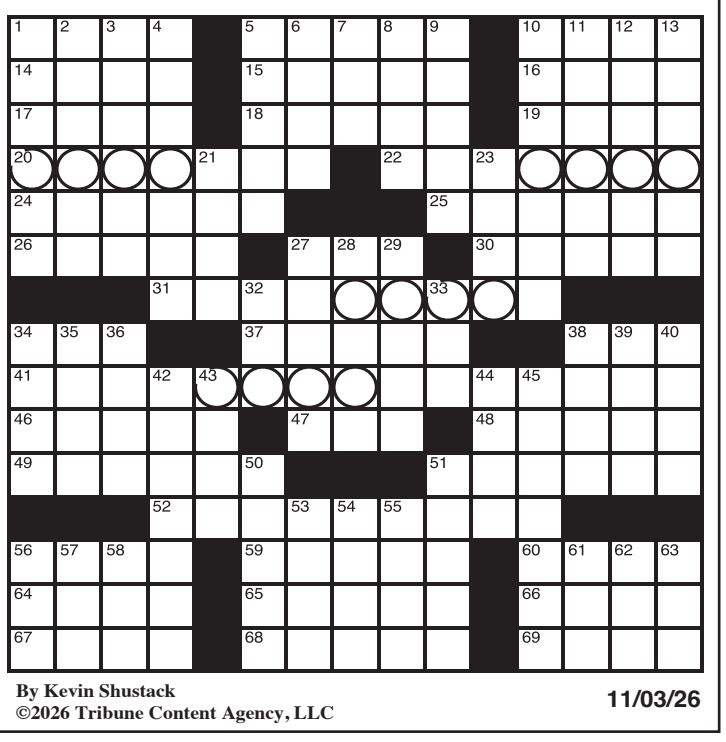
Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS
1 Open-handed hit
5 Saudi neighbor
10 Reasons to cry "April Fools!"
14 Bull, in Spanish
15 Former One Direction member Niall
16 Actor Morales
17 Upper limbs
18 "April Fools!"
19 Epistles: Abbr.
20 Marshy source of organic fuel
22 Attempt to hit
24 Touched down on a runway
25 Come out
26 "Middlemarch" novelist George
27 Unfortunate
30 Word before beauty or peace
31 Budget-friendly fare
34 __ tai: cocktail
37 Squeeze water from
38 Show hosts, for short
41 Slip by unnoticed
46 Eighth Greek letter
47 "Science Guy" Bill
48 "Live at the Acropolis" musician
49 Appear that way
51 Pass along, as an unwanted present
52 Rare championship sequences, or what can be found in this puzzle's circles
56 Acid counterpart
59 Auction warning
60 Somewhat open
64 Run in place
65 Opposite of double
66 Zero, in tennis
67 Planner pages
68 Long shots, in hoops lingo
69 Black-__ Susan

DOWN
1 Paper clip alternative
2 "Because you're worth it" cosmetics brand
3 Italian fashion house
4 Scholar pursuing an advanced deg.
5 "Good Lord!"
6 Big name in synthesizers
7 Museum display
8 Votes against
9 At a loss for words, perhaps
10 Felt-tip alternatives
11 Toward the back of a boat
12 Parking structure
13 Sorority member
21 Word in many temple names
23 "You found the one and only"
27 Kitchen wrap brand
28 Unfortunate
29 Al __: pasta specification
32 Female sheep
33 Mature
34 Queens baseball players
35 Queens tennis stadium namesake
36 Slushy drink
38 Pocket-size
39 NCAA div.
40 Irritable state
42 Some convenience store inconveniences
43 El __, Texas
44 Russian denial
45 Neighborhood event with good deals
50 "This __ to be good"
51 Rants and raves
53 Lion's sound
54 Mound that grows until laundry day
55 "Inside Out 2" emotion voiced by Ayo Edebiri
56 Auction action
57 Tooth care org.
58 __ as a fox
61 "Inside Out 2" emotion voiced by Amy Poehler
62 "__ Maria"
63 Like Clifford of kid lit

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:





By Kevin Shustack
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

11/03/26

What to watch TUESDAY

November 3, 2026

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

2026 Fall Election Coverage

Various Networks, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Live

Get the latest news and analysis from experts and commentators as Americans cast their ballots in the fall midterm elections. In addition to the in-depth coverage provided by 24-hour news networks CNN, FOX News Channel, MS NOW and others, major broadcast networks will have primetime news specials. Confirmed programs are *Decision 2026: Election Night* (NBC), *CBS News: America Decides: Election 2026* (CBS), *Vote 2026: PBS News Election Special* (PBS) and *ABC News Election Night: Vote 2026* (ABC).

Everybody Hates

Vice, 9 p.m.

The Vice documentary series about the most polarizing figures in sports continues with a look at NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Former teammate Tyler Fredrickson, former Green Bay Packers executive Andrew Brandt and others dive into how Rodgers transformed from an underdog to one of the most contentious figures in modern sports.

Lot Patrol

BET, 9:30 p.m. ■ New Episodes

The mockumentary comedy series about eccentric security guards who patrol the chaotic backlot of a major Hollywood studio returns for the second half of Season 1.



'Lot Patrol'

BET

CATCH A CLASSIC

Star of the Month: Burt Lancaster

TCM, beginning at 12:45 p.m.

This month, TCM celebrates Burt Lancaster, a cinematic powerhouse whose rugged charm, piercing blue eyes and unmistakable screen presence made him one of the most enduring figures of American cinema. Born on Nov. 2, 1913, Lancaster leapt from circus performer to Hollywood legend, bringing a rare mix of athleticism, intelligence and emotional depth to the roles he took on. Today's Lancaster tribute includes such films as **The Crimson Pirate** (1952), a tongue-in-cheek swashbuckler that capitalized on his acrobatic background



KOBAL COLLECTION

and inspired later adventure romps such as *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The seminal noir **The Killers** (1946), adapted from an Ernest Hemingway short story, served as a launchpad for Lancaster, whose explosive screen debut opposite Ava Gardner made him an overnight star. Also featured are another swashbuckler adventure, **The Flame and the Arrow** (1950), and the films noir **Criss Cross** (1949) and 1947's **Brute Force (pictured)**.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'American Sniper'

EVERETT COLLECTION

The Amateur (2025, Suspense) Rami Malek, Rachel Brosnahan **HBO, 6 p.m.**

1992 (2022, Crime drama) Tyrese Gibson, Ray Liotta **SYFY, 7 p.m.**

Iron Man (2008, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard **FX, 7 p.m.**

The Terminator (1984, Science fiction) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton B**BC America, 7:30 p.m.**

Aquaman (2018, Action) Jason Momoa, Amber Heard **TNT, 8 p.m.**

Beverly Hills Cop (1984, Action) Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold **AMC, 8 p.m.**

Forgotten Holiday (2026, Romance) Janel Parrish, Daniel Lissing **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Toy Story 2 (1999, Children) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen **Freeform, 8:55 p.m.**

American Sniper (2014, War) Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller **SYFY, 9 p.m.**

The Furious (2025, Action) Xie Miao, Joe Taslim **Encore, 9 p.m.**

Kraven the Hunter (2024, Action) Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Ariana DeBose **FX, 10 p.m.**

Saving Private Ryan (1998, War) Tom Hanks, Edward Burns **SHO, 10 p.m.**

The Death of Robin Hood (2026, Action) Hugh Jackman, Jodie Comer **HBO, 10:30 p.m.**

Diamonds Are Forever (1971, Action) Sean Connery, Jill St. John **Sundance, 11 p.m.**

500+ MOVIES StayTuned What2Watch All Month Long! $3.99/Month CALL: 888-899-9992 Mention code: tune1

What to watch WEDNESDAY

November 4, 2026

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

The Greatest

Prime Video ■ New series

The Greatest is an intimate exploration of the incomparable life of the boxing champion, humanitarian and global icon Muhammad Ali. Executive produced by Lonnie Ali, the wife of the late luminary, this is the first authorized scripted series about his life, offering unprecedented access and going beyond the amazing victories and defeats that made Ali a legend, both in and out of the ring. Jaalen Best stars as Cassius Clay/Muhammad Ali, with Dana Gourrier, Amin Joseph, Kai Parham and Michael Ealy also in the cast.

Harry Potter: Wizards of Baking

Food Network, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the iconic first film in the series, the new season introduces a tournament twist with four teams of three, each representing one of the four Hogwarts Houses: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin. Comprised of returning competitors, each team will feature cake artists, bakers and pastry chefs who have previously proved their talent and passion for Harry Potter but never were the final victor. The winner will earn the trophy and a once-in-a-lifetime VIP trip to Warner Bros. Studio Tour Tokyo — The Making of Harry Potter (also known as Harry Potter Studio Tour Tokyo).

NOVA

PBS, 9 p.m.

The special *NOVA* series on evolution continues with "The Mating Game," which explores how the rise of sexual reproduction fueled genetic diversity and threw evolution into overdrive. Follow the ostrich to reveal how the egg became a breakthrough that allowed life to conquer land — and how feathers transformed into tools of courtship before they were ever used for flight.

Ozark Law

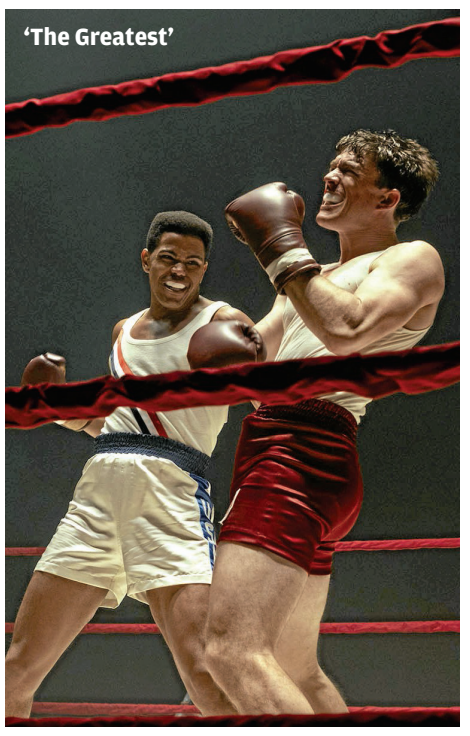
A&E, 9 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

For most of the year, Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks is a quiet haven of small towns and a few thousand residents, but every summer, millions of tourists flood in for all-day fun on the water and rowdy nights at the bars. The influx of visitors turns this quiet oasis into a round-the-clock job for the police. Following the small forces in Lake Ozark, Osage Beach and Sunrise Beach, this new season continues to spotlight what it takes to protect the peace in this Midwestern paradise as well as the people who come to party.

Southern Law

A&E, 10 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Cameras follow law enforcement across the South as they respond to calls, protect their communities and face the realities of policing in one of the country's most dynamic regions. In thep remiere episode, "That's My Baby," a high-speed vehicle pursuit in Richland County ends in a rollover crash where a deputy subdued a suspect while simultaneously rescuing a baby.



'The Greatest'

BROOKE PALMER

CATCH A CLASSIC

Directed by Frank Capra

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Few filmmakers have left a deeper imprint on the American screen than Frank Capra, a master storyteller whose inimitable vision defined the heart, humor and conscience of Hollywood's golden age. One of seven children, Capra emigrated from Sicily at age 5, suffering through a miserable trip in the steerage compartment of a steamship ("the most degrading place you could ever be") and settling in Los Angeles, where his life evolved into a true rags-to-riches story as he became one of the most influential directors of the 1930s and '40s. A quartet of his films tonight on TCM displays the remarkable range of his career, from the early romantic drama **Ladies of Leisure** (1930), which helped establish Barbara Stanwyck as a major star, to the timeless 1936 classic **Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (pictured)**, a warm and witty celebration of decency triumphing over cynicism that earned Capra the Oscar for Best Director. He turned his keen eye toward politics in **State of the Union** (1948), a



COLUMBIA PICTURES

sharp and still-resonant look at ambition and public life, while **Arsenic and Old Lace** (1944) showcased his flair for manic comedy, transforming a macabre stage hit into one of Hollywood's most beloved farces.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Toy Story 4'

EVERETT COLLECTION

Major League (1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen **Paramount, 6 p.m.**

Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie (2017, Children) Kevin Hart, Ed Helms **NICK, 7 p.m.**

Knives Out (2019, Mystery) Daniel Craig, Chris Evans **AMC, 7 p.m.**

The Godfather (1972, Crime drama) Marlon Brando, Al Pacino **SHO, 7 p.m.**

In the Grey (2026, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal, Henry Cavill **Starz, 7:20 p.m.**

A Wife's Suspicion (2015, Crime drama) Andrea Roth, Sebastian Spence **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Family Stone (2005, Romance-comedy) Dermot Mulroney, Sarah Jessica Parker **E!, 8:30 p.m.**

Toy Story 4 (2019, Children) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen **Freeform, 8:55 p.m.**

Alarum (2025, Action) Scott Eastwood, Sylvester Stallone **Starz, 9 p.m.**

Aquaman (2018, Action) Jason Momoa, Amber Heard **TBS, 10 p.m.**

Meet the Parents (2000, Comedy) Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller **AMC, 10 p.m.**

Planes, Trains and Automobiles (1987, Comedy) Steve Martin, John Candy **Paramount, 11 p.m.**

Blumhouse's Truth or Dare (2018, Horror) Lucy Hale, Tyler Posey **HBO, 11:40 p.m.**

500+ MOVIES StayTuned What2Watch All Month Long! $3.99/Month CALL: 888-899-9992 Mention code: tune1