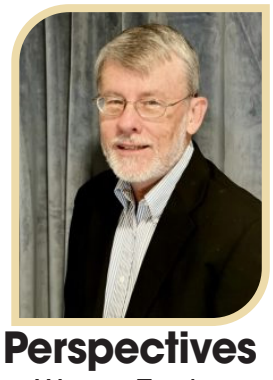


The Albany HERALD

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



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Blue Wave!

Democrats prevail in national, state, local elections

By Carlton Fletcher & Kathryn Crockett
Albany Herald News

ALBANY – The historic election of Keisha Lance Bottoms as the nation's first African-American woman governor, the return of Jon Ossoff to his seat in the U.S. Senate and the overwhelming control of both the U.S. House and Senate were only the beginning of Democrats' complete control of Tuesday's midterm election.

By the time the smoke had settled early Wednesday morning, all nine top state positions in the Georgia hierarchy had been claimed by Democrats in a stunning turn of events that marked a stark condemnation of President Trump and the Republican officials who had ruled in the country and state for decades.

Even Gerald Greene, the dean of the state Congress, was removed from the seat he'd held for 44 years, narrowly losing the House District 154 seat to former Dougherty County Commissioner Harry James. The Democratic onslaught was so complete, Democrats actually gained control of the state House for the first time in more than two decades.

By early Wednesday morning, Georgians woke up to the new reality that their leadership had been completely flipped, as Josh McLaurin won the lieutenant governor's race, and Penny Brown Reynolds was elected secretary of state, Tanya Miller attorney general, Katherine Juhan-Arnold ag secretary, Keisha Waites insurance commissioner, Lydia Powell schools superintendent, Nikki Porcher labor commissioner (ousting Albany's Barbara Rivera Holmes), and both Pete Hubbard and Sheila Edwards Public Service Commissioners, giving Democrats control of that body.

Locally, the Democratic train kept rolling, as Anthony Patterson defeated the Dougherty County Commission's one Republican member, Russell Gray, by a 2,790-1,429 margin, a 66%-34% victory.

In addition to James' victory, Republican Bill Yearta retained his District 152 seat, while Mike Cheokas was forced into a runoff by Democratic newcomer Ethan Wolf. U.S. House seats went to incumbent Democrat Sanford Bishop (District 2) and Republican Austin Scott (District 8).

NBC News projected Bottoms as the winner of the governor's race at 9:05 p.m., her lead over Republican Rick Jackson too much for the tide to turn.

Meanwhile, Ossoff easily dispatched Republican challenger Mike Collins, earning the projection as Senator-elect only 30 minutes after polls in the state closed.

Bottoms' victory ends more than two decades of Republican control of the governor's office. The former Atlanta mayor will succeed Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, who was term-limited.

See **BLUE WAVE**, 2A



Staff Photo/Kathryn Crockett

Keisha Lance Bottoms

Dawson drops fire charge after Georgia Supreme Court ruling

By Kathryn Crockett
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DAWSON — Dawson will not implement its approved $8 monthly fire service charge following a Georgia Supreme Court ruling, and residents have never been billed for it, City Manager Roxie Powell said.

The decision leaves the city evaluating how to address the loss of approximately $172,800 in anticipated annual revenue while completing its overdue budget. Powell said no final alternative funding plan has been established and the council will address the charge at its Nov. 12 meeting.

"Residents will not need to take any action, and there are no payments or adjustments that residents need to make concerning this charge," Powell said in a response to questions from The Dawson News.

Her response confirmed City Attorney Tommy Coleman's earlier statement that Dawson would not move forward with the charge after the court's Oct. 14 decision in Chatham County v. Smith.

"The city is reviewing the implications of the decision and does not intend to proceed with the charge at this time," Powell said.

The Supreme Court upheld a lower court's ruling that Chatham County's fire protection charge was an unlawful tax. The charge funded the general availability of fire protection and was imposed on property owners without being based on their property's value.

The case did not directly challenge Dawson's ordinance, but it raises questions for other communities about when a charge described as a service fee functions as a tax and what rules local governments must follow to collect it.

The Georgia Municipal Association has advised cities with fire service fees or similar charges to consult their attorneys about the decision's effect on their local practices.

How the challenge began

The Chatham County dispute grew out of a problem paying for fire protection in unincorporated areas outside municipal boundaries.

According to the opinion, Chatham Emergency Services, a private provider, served four fire districts through payments from property owners. When about a third of those owners stopped paying and the provider could no longer maintain the same service, the county contracted with it to provide protection.

In 2022, Chatham replaced an earlier fire service tax with an ordinance establishing a fire protection service fee. The charge combined $100 per parcel with an additional amount based on the square footage of structures. A 2023 revision charged $100 for vacant parcels and 14 cents per square foot for burnable structures, with a $100 minimum.

Property owners Damon

See **CHARGE**, 2A

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Staff Photo: Alan Mauldin

Residents of Cromartie Beach on Lake Worth/Lake Chehaw discuss how to proceed after the Dougherty County Commission on Monday failed to approve an expenditure of $275,000 to remove vegetation from the shoreline.

Dougherty Commission vote for beach restoration washes out

By Alan Mauldin
alan.mauldin@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – The Dougherty County Commission voted down a proposal to remove invasive vegetation along Cromartie Beach on Monday, with commissioners also unanimously approving a curfew measure.

Residents at Lake Worth/Lake Chehaw have described a situation in which vegetation makes recreational activities impossible on the waterway that serves as a means of hydroelectric generation for Georgia Power Co.

A group of lake residents that attended on Monday were disappointed that no action was taken.

The vote to appropriate up to $275,000 to restore recreational access to the shoreline failed, with three of the seven commissioners voting no and one abstaining.

"I think they don't care nothing about Albany," Robert Hubbard told an Albany Herald reporter outside the meeting after the vote was taken. "We're not talking about cleaning up my yard or the next yard, we're talking about cleaning up everything."

A combined effort from the county and city of Albany is needed to tackle the issue, Hubbard said.

In the commission meeting a week earlier, Stone's Aquatic Weed & Algae Removal owner Juston Stone described a lake that had

See **VOTE**, 2A



From 1A

BLUE WAVE

The victory followed repeated campaign visits to southwest Georgia, where Bottoms emphasized rural investment, health care access and education. She visited Albany on May 15 during her "Our Rights, Our Future" tour, on the final day of early voting before the primary and returned on Saturday, three days before winning office..

During an Oct. 16 appearance at Albany's Hilton Garden Inn, Bottoms addressed about 210 supporters after an introduction by former Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, an Albany resident. The event encouraged supporters to vote across the street at the Albany Civic Center.

"We came by today to say we haven't forgotten about you, Albany," Bottoms told the crowd. "We need you, Albany."

In an interview with The Albany Herald during that visit, Bottoms said improving student literacy would require adequate school funding, a voice for parents and literacy coaches in every school.

She also called for reducing diesel costs, supporting cooperatives to help farmers obtain better prices on supplies and expanding broadband and business opportunities in rural communities.

Republicans made their own closing appeal to southwest Georgia on Monday, when Gov. Brian Kemp and Republican gubernatorial nominee Rick Jackson appeared at the Albany Jet Center at Southwest Georgia Regional Airport.

Jackson conceded Tuesday night.

"Tonight the voters spoke. And I respect their decision," he said in his remarks.

Bottoms served as Atlanta's mayor from 2018 to 2022, leading the city through the COVID-19 pandemic and protests following the killing of George Floyd. She declined to seek a second term and later served as an adviser to President Biden.

Her victory returns the governor's office to Democrats for the first time since Roy Barnes won election in 1998. Barnes lost his re-election bid to Republican Sonny Perdue in 2002.

Ossoff said Tuesday's election showed that time for change in America had arrived.

"In sweeping and decisive victories, the American people have rebuked the depravity, corruption and incompetence of the failed lame-duck president Donald J. Trump," Ossoff said in his victory speech. "And if, at times these last two years, amidst the ceaseless onslaught of brutality and indecency, you doubted whether our republic would survive, let tonight's results give you courage that the first light of dawn is on the horizon."

The evening belonged to Democrats, as the nation emphatically let Trump and Republican leaders know they were not satisfied with policies that have the cost of living skyrocketing and the ongoing war with Iran that has gas and diesel prices at their highest levels ever raging on even as the president promised time after time that the war was ending.

It quickly became apparent during Tuesday's voting that there would be a new world order in Washington in 2027. Experts projected that Democrats would easily gain control of the House in '27 by a margin projected to be as large as 255-180. Democrats gained the four Senate "flips" – in North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Ohio – needed to take control of the upper chamber before the polls even closed in some Western states.

Roy Cooper in North Carolina, Annie Andrews in South Carolina, James Talarico in Texas and Sherrod Brown in Ohio won their elections to assure Democrats would have a majority in the Senate, even as other seats that were too close to call appeared to be headed toward Democrats as well.

In the end, with some races still undecided, Democrats had claimed at least 250 seats in the House, while taking control of the Senate by a 54-44 margin with races in Alaska and Mississippi still not decided.



Staff Photo/Kathryn Crockett



Staff Photo/Kathryn Crockett



Staff Photo/Kathryn Crockett



Staff Photo/Alan Maulding



Staff Photo/Alan Maulding

From 1A

CHARGE

L. and Sebrell E. Smith challenged the charge in a class-action lawsuit. They argued that it was a tax on real property and therefore could not lawfully be collected through flat charges and square-footage calculations under the law governing the county's funding arrangement.

The trial court agreed. It awarded the class approximately $26.85 million in refunds for charges collected from July 2022 through June 2024, plus approximately $3.27 million in prejudgment interest. The Supreme Court affirmed that judgment.

Chatham had already changed its approach by then. In 2024, the county took over fire protection in the district and incorporated the charge into its property tax millage rate, according to the opinion.

Why the court called it a tax

The court examined how the charge worked, rather than accepting the county's description of it as a fee.

"The distinction between a tax and a fee is not one of names but of substance," Justice John Ellington wrote, quoting an earlier decision.

The justices applied four considerations: whether the charge raised revenue for general governmental purposes, whether payment was mandatory, whether the amount reflected the payer's burden on the system and whether the payer received a special benefit unavailable to people who did not pay.

Chatham's charge paid for maintaining fire protection — its personnel, equipment, facilities and readiness — regardless of whether an individual property owner ever needed firefighters.

The county could pursue unpaid charges through penalties, lawsuits and enforcement of resulting liens. The amount depended on property ownership and square footage, rather than actual use of fire services or a demonstrated burden on the system.

Firefighters also responded regardless of whether a property owner had paid. The court found that the charge supported a public service available throughout the district, rather than purchasing a distinct service for each payer.

Keeping the revenue in a dedicated fund did not change that conclusion. Nor did creating a special district allow the county to bypass the legal restrictions governing its funding sources.

What the ruling means beyond Chatham

After determining that the charge was a tax, the court considered whether Chatham had authority to collect it in that form.

The justices concluded that the version of Georgia's Service Delivery Strategy Act governing the charges required a property tax used in this arrangement to be ad valorem — based on property value. A flat parcel charge or a square-footage charge did not meet that requirement.

The opinion did not resolve whether the Georgia Constitution, by itself, imposes a general requirement that all property taxes be based on value. Instead, it relied on the applicable statute together with constitutional limits preventing the county from overriding that law. The opinion noted that the act was amended effective Jan. 1, 2026.

That distinction matters for cities reviewing their own ordinances. The ruling establishes how the court evaluated Chatham's charge; it does not individually invalidate every fire fee in Georgia or decide the legality of Dawson's ordinance.

In an Oct. 16 analysis, GMA said the decision could affect municipal finances because service fees can spread costs to properties that benefit from public services but are exempt from property taxes.

The association warned that reduced ability to collect those fees could shift more of the cost to homeowners and businesses that pay property taxes. GMA said it was reviewing possible legislative responses and raised the possibility that a constitutional amendment might be needed to preserve local funding flexibility.

What changes for Dawson

Dawson approved its $8 monthly charge in September for residential and commercial utility accounts within the city limits. For an account billed each month, the cost would have been $96 a year.

Powell confirmed the city's estimate that approximately 1,800 eligible accounts would generate about $172,800 annually. The council previously discussed beginning collections in January, but Powell said the city never implemented the charge or began collecting it.

Officials had said the revenue would help support a fire department with an annual budget of approximately $1 million and reduce the amount needed from other general fund revenue.

"We are continuing to review departmental expenditures, available revenues, and potential budget adjustments to ensure the city can meet its financial obligations while continuing to provide essential services," Powell said. "No final alternative funding plan has been established at this time."

The annual revenue estimate does not establish how much Dawson had included in its unfinished Fiscal 2027 budget or what amount it must replace during that fiscal year.

Asked whether the decision would affect fire services, Powell said the department would continue operating. Her response did not specify whether staffing, equipment purchases or other spending would change.

"The Dawson Fire Department will continue operating, and the city will continue evaluating its budget and available resources to support the department and maintain public safety," she said.

The decision comes amid existing financial uncertainty.

On Oct. 8, the council authorized temporary spending for October and November while Powell continued work on a balanced budget. Dawson's fiscal year began Sept. 1. Powell told council members in October that she was still working to eliminate a general fund deficit and planned to seek budget adoption in November. In her written response, she said dates for the budget hearing and adoption had not been finalized.

"The city is continuing to work toward presenting a balanced FY 2027 budget," she said. "Once the revised proposed budget is completed, it will be made available for public review so residents have an opportunity to examine the proposed revenues and expenditures before the public hearing."

Asked whether the council must formally rescind the approved fire charge, Powell said, "The matter will be addressed at the Nov. 12 council meeting."

She did not specify what action the council would consider. The Nov. 12 meeting provides a next step on the charge, while the city's replacement funding plan and budget schedule remain unsettled.

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.

From 1A

VOTE

invasive species ride along with Hurricane Michael's winds when they hammered the region in 2018.

The invasive species include water primrose, water hyacinth and Lyngbya algae, but the main culprit is alligator grass, said Stone, whose company in the past cleaned vegetation out of Radium Springs and Spring Run Creek that flows from the spring to the Flint River.

During the meeting, Commissioner Victor Edwards criticized Commissioner Clinton Johnson, in whose District 3 the lake is located, for failing to respond to residents.

"Being very diplomatic, we have tried to involve you in this process and you have not even bothered to call back," said Edwards, who was joined by Commissioner Anthony Jones in voting to approve the expenditure.

Johnson responded that he was working on securing grant funding to tackle the entire issue rather than a fix that extends only along the beach area.

"Doing a comprehensive plan is the best way to do this," Johnson said. "It's going to be done from the shoreline to the middle of the lake."

There are other players who have a stake in the lake, Commissioner Ed Newsome said during an interview following the meeting. Those include the city of Albany, Lee County, the Flint Riverkeeper, Georgia Power Co. and others.

"You've got 10 or 12 entities you've got to get to come to the table," the commissioner, who was joined in voting no by Johnson and Commissioner Russell Gray, said. "Clinton and other people have worked on this for years. It's complicated."

Commissioner Gloria Gaines abstained from the vote after commenting that she had not heard enough information about the issue to allow her to cast an informed vote.

Commission Chairman Lorenzo Heard said that he has discussed sharing costs of cleanup of the vegetation with city officials but had not made a concrete proposal.

The curfew for minors approved by the board goes into effect immediately, County Administrator Derron King said, and mirrors the curfew that has been in effect in Albany since 2004.

"All commissioners felt that we should be in lockstep with the city," he said.

Under the curfew, minors unaccompanied by an adult are prohibited from engaging in activities on streets and highways, playgrounds, restaurants and businesses between 11 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and from midnight to 6 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

It includes exceptions for certain activities, including driving home from work.

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Today is a Cosmic Caution day as stars plummet early. Anything you have to do will benefit from being done as late in the day as possible. Don't let reactivity drive actions or decisions now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The lower the Universal stars, the more helpful it can be to use proven strategies and not take risks on trying out new ideas. Do what you can — if something doesn't work, try it again after a few hours.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Creative experimentation might not bring satisfactory results today, but later tonight into tomorrow morning could be a somewhat more favorable time window. Be patient when Universal stars are this dark.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions could make the domestic scene somewhat rocky for a few hours today and Universal stars aren't supportive at all. Tomorrow could bring a much improved perspective and wiser response.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll likely want to speak your piece, but you could be overly influenced by feelings and not considering important facets of the situation. Better to wait for a broader understanding and a much better Universal day score.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Early hours fears could dissolve as the day is born, depending on your time zone. Don't let the stars drag you into darkness, the cosmic rollercoaster ride is over by next Tuesday and things should get back to a more even keel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The monster under the bed isn't really there, but today's sinking stars and some passing fear-vibe could cling for a few hours. Don't act today, neither anxiety nor underwater stars are a good basis for action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Even if you're feeling confident in your intel, today could bring a negative or wonky reaction. The more important something is, the more important it is to time your actions and wait for better days in the Universal sky.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The first part of today could be more anxiety-driven in the workplace than you'd likely prefer, but at least Universal stars start ascending again about midday, depending on your time zone. Later will be better today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sign out of any platform that's trying to increase and manipulate your fears — as the day wears on, the worry is likely to lessen but today is still not a helpful day in the sky.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick to normal procedures instead of trying something new under upside-down stars and foster sanity over reactivity out in the world. Don't let financial fears drive bad decisions now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't act based on relationship fears, they're likely to pass or at least improve quickly, and there could be downside consequences you didn't anticipate. Always tread lightly when stars are this deeply underwater.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Let November be a spacer month as you gear up for what could be a monumental December. If things are quiet, let them be. Breathe, ground, center, and be ready, the quiet won't last. December's first opportunity is a dubious one — it's a chance to step into something you wouldn't want stuck to your shoe. Sidestep anything that could sabotage your future without hesitation. Once past this moment, open your arms to receive abundant blessings which could include many things you've been wanting and waiting for to improve your life, including ample money, but not only money. Soon after, a situation, person, or relationship could find the grace of unexpected repair and healing. Then a real opportunity to live up to your highest potential could bring both personal pride, and advancement. You're likely to get some real recognition early in the new year.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1895 - George B. Selden is given the first patent for an automobile in the United States

1872 - Susan B. Anthony votes for the first time in the United States in defiance of the law and is fined $100

1912 - Woodrow Wilson is elected the 28th President of the United States

1914 - During World War I, France and the British Empire declare war on the Ottoman Empire

1940 - During World War II, the British HMS Jervis Bay is sunk by the German Admiral Scheer

1940 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is the first and only President of the United States to be elected to a third term

1943 - Bombing of the Vatican during World War II

1968 - Richard Nixon is elected as the 37th President of the United States

1991 - Tropical Storm Thelma kills more than 4,900 people in the Philippine City of Ormoc due to flash floods

2007 - Google unveils the Android mobile operating system

2009 - U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan murders 13 and injures 32 at Fort Hood, Texas in the worst mass shooting at a U.S. Military base

2017 - Devin Patrick Kelley kills 26 and injures 22 in a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas

2021 - The crowd crush at the Astroworld Festival results in 10 deaths and 25 people injured

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- American Football Day
- Bank Transfer Day
- Commercial TV Broadcast Day
- Firewood Day
- Guy Fawkes Day
- International Project Management Day
- International Stout Day
- National Cash Back Day
- National Donut Day
- National Gunpowder Day
- National Love Your Red Hair Day
- National Men Make Dinner Day
- Play Monopoly Day
- Stout Day
- World Tsunami Awareness Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can go a long way with a smile. You can go a lot farther with a smile and a gun."

Al Capone,
gangster (1899-1947)

CORRECTION

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

Weather Forecast

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
81° / 64°	78° / 55°	78° / 51°	72° / 48°	71° / 46°	69° / 44°	72° / 45°

Daily Bridge Club

Matchpoint woes


Frank Stewart

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency

"I'm starting to hate matchpoints," a club player told me. "Any type of scoring that penalizes a good play is silly."

At matchpoint duplicate. your goal is to beat other pairs who hold your cards, even by 10 points. That can mean risking your contract, if it is "normal" and every pair in the game will reach it, to make overtricks.

My friend displayed today's deal. As declarer at four hearts, he took the ace of spades, drew trumps, threw a club from dummy on his king of spades and ruffed his last spade. Then he took dummy's ace of clubs and exited with the queen. East won and led a diamond. Declarer played the nine, and when West won, he was endplayed. Making four; the contract was assured.

"Well done," I said.

ACTUAL DEAL

"I must confess," my friend said. "In the actual deal, West had the king of clubs and East Q-5 in diamonds. I was cold for an overtrick by taking some finesses. I got a bottom score on the deal; every other South made five."

There is no answer to my friend's lament. Matchpoints requires an approach that many players seem to accept and like.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A ♥ K J 5 2 ♦ 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ A Q 3. You open one diamond, and your partner bids one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: No second bid is ideal. A bid of two hearts would be a "reverse", promising more strength than you possess, and would court disaster. You might survive an improvised bid of two clubs on your good three-card holding. I would prefer a bid of 1NT, limiting the strength and promising, if not quite delivering, a balanced minimum hand.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ Q J 10 6
♡ 9 6
◇ A Q J
♣ 10 8 6 5

EAST
♠ 9 8 7 4 3
♡ 10 7
◇ 8 5
♣ K J 9 7

SOUTH
♠ K 5 2
♡ A Q 8 4 3
◇ K 10 9
♣ 4 2

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

Opening lead – ♠ Q

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Advice Columnist

Friend's paranoia keeps her away from medical help


Eric Thomas

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Eric: I'm 82 years old. I live in a retirement home where I've made two close friends, Wilma and Janet.

Out of all of us, Wilma's health is the worst. Her eyesight has taken a turn, and her hearing isn't what it used to be either.

Janet and I have tried to get her to visit her doctor (especially about her arthritis), but she is highly paranoid and thinks that the doctors are going to give her "pills that do nothing" and "run her for all that she's worth".

Janet, Wilma's husband, and I used to laugh it off as a stubborn quirk of hers, but now it's gotten more serious. Wilma's driving has become downright unwieldy, and she has been stacking up tickets, and she refuses to use the shared transportation provided by the home because she "doesn't know where they're taking her."

If she's not careful, she could lose her license for the second time, most likely permanently. How can Janet and I bring up this issue without her shutting down or invoking conspiracy theories? Or should we just step back and let her face the consequences of her own stubbornness?

– Worried Friend

Dear Friend: If Wilma is a danger to herself or others behind the wheel, it's imperative that someone step in before anyone gets hurt. Most states' Departments of Motor Vehicles have a site or phone number where you can anonymously request checks on suspected problem drivers. Call yours to see what your options are.

It's not appropriate for me to speculate about the source of Wilma's paranoia, but, whether it's a quirk or a sign of a mental and/or physical issues, it's something that needs treatment.

You, or Wilma's husband, or both should try to have a frank, but kind conversation with her about it. "I understand that you're distrustful of a lot of things and I respect that you want to feel comfortable. But some of your responses make us concerned. Would you let us help you find solutions?"

From here you can explore options such as a house call from a doctor, or seeing a doctor completely covered by her insurance. There may not be a perfect solution, because it sounds like her reality has been severely distorted. But an intervention may help her start to see an alternative to her current thinking.

Dear Eric: My oldest daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 40. She's married with three children and lives out of town but in the same region. She's not a warm, huggy person but she has close relationships with her large extended family.

Her husband is definitely not welcoming but we maintain cordial interactions, especially in connection with the grandchildren. After her diagnosis, I started reading online articles about coping with breast cancer and sent her links. I was told this upset her and made her cry.

She then had her husband call me and her father with orders not to contact or visit her, saying that he could handle it all, and that all information regarding her illness would be transmitted through him. We were devastated but complied.

I'm conflicted as to whether the situation is yet another of her husband's efforts to separate her from family or whether he is just trying to ensure she has a safe space to recover.

Recently I made an observation about a niece's photo and out of the blue she sent me a scathing defensive message about not having opinions. I chalked it up to "roid rage" since she's going through menopause.

After two years of being iced out, should I just give up on my daughter?

– Ignored Mom

Dear Mom: Your use of the phrase "yet another" with regard to the husband's efforts to separate your daughter raises alarm bells. The past few years have, understandably, been incredibly difficult for her, physically and emotionally, and she may not have had the capacity to manage many relationships. But if you fear that her husband is purposefully inserting himself and keeping her from the rest of her family, you should find a way to speak with her in person and solo to see what's going on.

Even if he's not attempting to isolate her, which would be a dangerous form of emotional abuse, it's still in your best interest to have a "no expectations" conversation with her. Try to do it in person and somewhere neutral, like out to lunch. Defer to her schedule as much as you can. And frame it as what it is: a sincere desire to check in and listen.

You may not get a yes from her right away. Try not to pressure. This relationship won't mend itself overnight, so give yourself and her the space and grace you need to find common ground again.

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

What happened to Albany Utilities' e-delivery of statements? I have completed requests for two accounts at least two times over the past several months and am still getting mailed statements. At least I don't see the mailed surcharge applied yet.

I want to thank The Albany Herald for having the trunk-or-treat event on Halloween. Everyone there was so nice, and our kids had a ball (of course, they'll be eating all that candy for the next several weeks). It was a very well-run and well-planned event. Thank you.

I love the Milwaukee Brewers' Manager Pat Murphy. just a tough old player/coach/manager. This season he benched his leading player, William Contreras for not hustling running the bases. Murphy sat Contreras' butt down. Ironic ... Contreras would win the Most Valuable Player as the Brewers won the World Series.

Way to go, Albany Herald (and Ms. Fletcher). The Halloween event was special; our kids had a great time. And they're enjoying the books you guys gave out.

Suspect in south Georgia $115K stolen check fraud stolen from about 14 banks and credit unions, stolen postal key to steal checks and check information from USPS mail sentenced to five years. What a joke! Better justice served: Sentence him to 5 minutes behind the barn with each person, taxpayer, institution he stole from and victimized.

Good companies providing well-paying jobs avoid cities where school board candidates sue after results come in. Also, where corrupt commissioners blatantly try to control every tax dollar to benefit their church congregation or contractor friends. Albany's poorest children pay the largest price for the extreme narcissism of these grown men, as parents struggle more each year. We need to remember this is public service, not a way to enrich oneself.

The only thing -- and it was a small thing because it was well-handled -- that wasn't great about the Herald's trunk-or-treat event was the two or three homeless folks who came around trying to get some of the candy. They were politely -- but firmly -- turned away. Way to go.

If the WNBA teams can't show respect for our National Anthem, I am in full boycott mode.

Oh what a parade we have today. Republicans' noses are so brown they don't know what's coming and what has been sent already. Plenty enough time to go after the lunatic in the White House -- convicted felon, serial sexual predator, con man who steals from charities -- and still plenty of time to fix affordability- get rid of the tariffs he placed on goods,we all pay for and stop his stupid war -- which caused prices to skyrocket -- feed the poor and care for needy, not the billionaires club he stole his way into. Now if just one Republican could find their spine and stand up, problem solved.

Thank you Albany Herald for trunk-or-treat. Next time, bring more candy!

Elon Musk is a target of Democratic hatred, and some of them are starting to talk openly about socialism in the form of nationalizing SpaceX and Starlink.

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THE ALBANY HERALD

Perspectives

The Albany HERALD
ALBANYHERALD.COM

Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

Georgia Trust for LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

COLUMNIST ■ DICK YARBROUGH

No longer dipping a toe in the political waters

Before I let the rest of the world know, I wanted to share with you first the news that it looks like I won't be governor of the state of Georgia after all. My write-in campaign ran out of time.


YARBROUGH

Things looked very promising. I had 45 firm commitments, including the prized endorsement of the Ryo Morning Coffee Club and its chair, Skeeter Skates, owner of Skeeter Skates Tree Stump Removal and Plow Repair in Ryo. That was huge. Ryo Morning Coffee Club is a collection of Great Americans that includes Walleye, who runs the bait shop over in Red Bud; Booger Bledsoe, who operates a local roadside vegetable stand on State Route 136 near Sugar Valley; and Uncle Coot, recently retired from the porta-potty transportation industry.

The Ryo Morning Coffee Club doesn't endorse just anybody. That is why you didn't see Donald Trump or Barack Obama stumping in Ryo. Trying to win over Skeeter and the boys would be a monumental waste of time. Can you imagine Trump trying to chat up Walleye on whether gizzard shad or red wigglers is the best bait for catching catfish? Or Obama discussing the logistics of porta-potty transportation with Uncle Coot?

All that was left for me to do was to round up another 2,111,547 more votes. No question they were there for the taking. Once you have Skeeter and his colleagues on board, the rest of it should have been a piece of cake. I certainly had no plans to ask Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to see if he could find them for me. I remember that's something he is not very good at doing.

So what happened? My toe, that's what. Big toe. Right foot. This is don't-ask-don't-tell territory, but let's just say I messed it up big time. A short version: While walking across the floor my foot decided to stop without alerting my brain, which said keep going. My brain sometimes has a mind of its own. As a result, my big toe folded up under my foot like a tent. The rest is R-Rated.

I ended up in the hospital emergency room and then in surgery. All this for a toe? Yes, for a toe. Surprising what kind of damage you can do to such an insignificant digit when you aren't paying attention. As I share this with you, my big toe now has more pins in it than a bowling alley.

This is also the reason you didn't see the column here last week. You may have been wondering, where is that guy that looks like a young Brad Pitt and who knows a lot of stuff? And why didn't he respond to my email? Has he all of sudden gotten too big for his britches and lost touch with the common folks?

Those are fair questions. The answer is that when you are flat on your back on a hospital bed with a mattress as soft as concrete, being poked like a pig, it is hard to be creative. I'll bet even the woman from Canada who got the Nobel Prize for Literature couldn't have written her "bold and inventive oeuvre" with somebody sticking a needle in her every hour. I did make good use of that time, though. I whined a lot.

I hope I have gotten word to you in time for you to make an informed decision on who is next-best to lead our great state for the next four years, be it the gazillionaire with the creepy smile or the cut-and-run former mayor of Atlanta. I feel your disappointment. Not sure who else could (Inhale) lower our taxes, reduce crime, shrink the size of government, create jobs, stand up to powerful special interest groups, fight bureaucracy, secure our borders, take care of our veterans, improve education and fix Medicare. (Exhale.)

But please know I am not going away. Aching toe or no aching toe. Even though I won't have my hands on the levers of government, I plan to keep a close eye on those who will. I am very much alive and kicking. Well, maybe not kicking. My big toe says I may be alive, but it is going to be a while before I do any kicking. I agree.

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

COLUMNIST ■ WAYNE FOWLER:

God offers a certain contentment

Do we have more reasons to be anxious than previous generations? The onset of artificial intelligence gives us pause, given all the warnings. But some see AI not as the cause of anxiety, but their personal solution for it.


FOWLER

Will artificial intelligence steal my job, money or privacy? Can our country win the AI race? Will it have guardrails to protect humans from unintended consequences and runaway machines?

The deeper issue is what AI reveals about humans. A Google engineer said, "What is going to be created will effectively be a god. ... If there is something a billion times smarter than the smartest human, what else can you call it?"

That is a simplistic view of god defined as apparent omniscience. It confirms the age-old seduction of creating or acting like a god.

The temptation to take the place of God first happened in the Garden of Eden. Idolatry has always been around. If not a god, AI can be your girlfriend. It applies its data to have a conversation with you, making it appear to have consciousness.

Waiting in the wings is transhumanism, the merger of machines and people. Can godlike technology really solve human problems like unhappiness and death?

The real God already offers reasons for joy and the hope of life beyond death. This is why Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." (John 14:27)

That peace is attractive and contagious. Professor John Lennox discussed AI on Steven Bartlett's podcast. The conversation turned to Bartlett's anxious question, "Isn't there a bigger picture that can make sense of my world and my life and give it some meaning?"

Lennox answered by offering Bartlet reasons to believe in Christ and receive His peace. At the end of the podcast, Bartlett said, "You have a certain contentment that I rarely see in people that I interview. One of the most compelling arguments for God that you've presented ... is not necessarily anything you've said. It is actually ... you."

Is it you, too?

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:
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COLUMNIST ■ MARC HYDEN

To arrest prison crisis, lawmakers should give these ideas a second look

Another day, another serious complaint against the Georgia Department of Corrections. The most recent stems from Harris v. Georgia, which alleges the department failed to "provide incarcerated deaf and hard of hearing people with equally effective communication access to programs, services and activities, including medical care, telecommunications and prison programs."


HYDEN

This comes on the heels of other concerning accusations. The U.S. Justice Department noted in 2024, "Our statewide investigation exposes long-standing, systemic violations stemming from complete indifference and disregard to the safety and security of people Georgia holds in its prisons. People are assaulted, stabbed, raped and killed or left to languish inside facilities that are woefully understaffed."

Lawmakers have acknowledged the deplorable realities of our state prisons, which house 47,000 inmates in 34 prisons, and to address them, they allocated an additional $250 million to improve prison conditions and hire 700 more corrections officers. This is a start, but lawmakers should also consider serious reforms that responsibly curtail the prison population and save taxpayer money, while also making society safer.

To do so, lawmakers should address the front end of the system. The criminal justice pipeline often begins with an arrest and booking the accused into a local jail. However, time spent there – regardless of guilt or innocence – greatly increases the likelihood of committing future crimes.

Despite this, Georgia has long perpetuated a money bail system – meaning those who cannot afford to make bail often remain behind bars longer. In 2018, Sen. Brian Strickland, R-McDonough, in cooperation with then-Gov. Nathan Deal, passed a bail reform package to address this, but the measure lacked teeth.

Either eliminating cash bail for first-time petty offenses for those who are not a flight risk or ratifying a more precise law governing cash bail for minor infractions would rectify this. It would ensure that defendants aren't punished with extended jail time – while waiting for trial – for being too poor to make bail.

This would provide a double benefit. It could curtail re-offense rates and save localities considerable money. It can cost more than $1,000 a month to house someone in a local jail, and as of September 2026, sheriffs held nearly 33,000 people in Georgia's jails.

Another option involves focusing on Georgia's pretrial diversion program. It has for years been an important tool to rehabilitate offenders, reduce recidivism and give them second chances, while keeping them out of jail. The program is typically reserved for first-time offenders who are accused of non-violent misdemeanors. If they satisfactorily complete the program, then they usually don't face any additional penalties or have a conviction on their record.

This is a boon to the system and offenders, but navigating the program can be an unsure and complex process that requires counsel. Rather than forcing defendants to navigate this labyrinth, policymakers should consider creating a standardized statewide program that institutes an automatic enrollment for low-level first-time offenders who opt into the program. This would remove uncertainty in the process and make these rehabilitative services more accessible.

Taking into account that people "age out" of crime and the deleterious effects of prolonged imprisonment, the state ought to consider responsible ways to reduce those under supervision. There is a way: Second Look laws.

These statutes empower inmates who have served much of their sentence to petition the court to review their sentence and consider modifying it. There are limited methods of reducing and suspending sentences now, but they stand in stark contrast with the approach found in Second Look laws. They create a more accessible, streamlined pathway for a greater number of inmates. In doing so, they curtail the prison population and release those who have served their time and pose no threat to society.

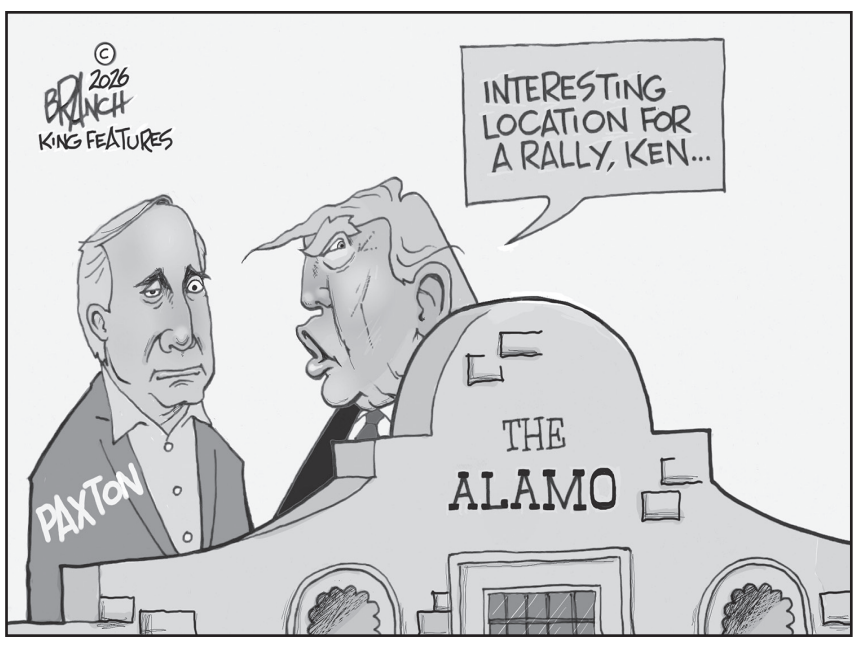
As important as they are, getting these reforms to the next governor's desk could prove challenging. Once the nation's criminal justice reform capital, the flow of landmark reforms has slowed to barely a trickle. Part of that is due to political turnover and the perception that we are riding an unprecedented crime wave.

"In 2023, a record 63% of U.S. adults called crime an extremely or very serious national problem, and those who reported being afraid to walk alone at night near their home reached a three-decade high," my R Street colleague Jillian Snider wrote. Crime stats paint a different reality. "Data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that violent crime fell an estimated 4.5% in 2024, bringing the national violent crime rate to its lowest level since 1969, while murder rates declined 14.9%," Snider continued.

Georgia is not in the midst of a historic crime wave, but the glaring allegations facing prisons prove we have unmistakable flaws within our justice system. Given everything we know, perhaps it is time for Georgia to make criminal justice reform a priority again before another tragedy unfolds.

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

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



What to watch

THURSDAY

November 5, 2026

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

Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage

CBS, 8 p.m.

Georgie and Mandy (Montana Jordan and Emily Osment) reach their breaking points when Missy (Raegan Revord) moves in with the McAllisters in the new episode "A Snotty Attitude and a Party on a School Night."

Hell's Kitchen

FOX, 8 p.m.

It's time for a special black-tie gala celebrating 25 seasons of *Hell's Kitchen*! The chefs will be judged by previous *Hell's Kitchen* winners, and the top three dishes will be added to the prestigious menu in the new episode "A Black Tie Affair."



'Mistletoe Murders'

PETER STRANKS, HALLMARK MEDIA

The Traitors: New Blood

NBC, 8 p.m.

Paranoia takes hold as the players face a deadly poisoned chalice and a spooky mission in the new episode "Playing Chess."

Snowbody Like You

UPtv, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

A holiday first date ends in a frosty misunderstanding that leaves Peyton and Ethan to go their separate ways. Years later, a Christmas blizzard brings them back together, giving them one more chance to discover if the magic between them was meant to last. Stars Kelley Jakle, Colton Little and Lana McKissack.

Mistletoe Murders

Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

In Season 3, Emily Lane (Sarah Drew) teams up again with Detective Sam Wilner (Peter Mooney) to solve three new holiday mysteries. Guest stars this season include Catherine Bell and Holly Robinson Peete.

Elsbeth

CBS, 9 p.m.

A prize-winning hole-in-one by Perry Macintyre (guest star Nat Faxon) leads Elsbeth (Carrie Preston) and an insurance investigator to suspect foul play is behind a country club president's fatal accident in the new episode "A Bad Lie."

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

NBC, 9 p.m.

When a wedding guest is assaulted at the reception, Benson (Mariska Hargitay) and the squad uncover a secret that changes the course of the investigation in the new episode "Forsaken."

Grey's Anatomy

ABC, 10 p.m.

Amelia (Caterina Scorsone) sees a young patient with an extremely rare condition, and Bailey (Chandra Wilson) receives unfavorable feedback from a teaching assistant in the new episode "Love on the Brain."

Cupertino

CBS, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "Celeste," Olivia (Rachel Keller) recruits her friend (guest star Kennedy McMann) to be the lead plaintiff in a class-action lawsuit against an AI training company accused of wage and overtime abuse.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Sally Field 80th Birthday

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

To celebrate her 80th birthday on Nov. 6, TCM salutes the remarkable career of Sally Field and the warmth, wit, determination and unforgettable performances that have made her one of the most enduring and versatile stars of the silver screen. Whether bringing strength to a woman facing hardship, sparring with a respected businessman or matching wits with some of Hollywood's most beloved leading men, Field has always radiated intelligence, humor and emotional depth. In the first of five memorable performances tonight, **Places in the Heart** (1984), Field delivers an Oscar-winning portrayal of a determined widow struggling to hold her family and farm together during the Great Depression. In the legal drama **Absence of Malice** (1981), Field stars as an ambitious newspaper reporter who



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

inadvertently wrecks an innocent man's (Paul Newman) life after publishing an unverified hit piece implicating him in a union official's disappearance. Field's range also shines through in the exuberant 1977 action comedy **Smokey and the Bandit (pictured)**, opposite Burt Reynolds; **Hooper** (1978), another raucous comedy with Reynolds; and the warm **Murphy's Romance** (1985), a romantic comedy/drama with Field playing a single mother who builds a relationship with an older man that is endangered when her ex comes to town.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Uncharted'

EVERETT COLLECTION

Ralph Breaks the Internet (2018, Children) John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman **Freeform, 6 p.m.**

The Princess Bride (1987, Children) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright **BBC America, 6 p.m.**

Tombstone (1993, Western) Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer **SYFY, 6 p.m.**

Meet the Fockers (2004, Comedy) Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller **AMC, 6:15 p.m.**

Shelter (2026, Action) Jason Statham, Bodhi Rae Breathnach **Encore, 7:05 p.m.**

The Mummy (1999, Adventure) Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz **FX, 7:10 p.m.**

Dodgeball (2004, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Christine Taylor **USA, 8 p.m.**

Meg 2: The Trench (2023, Science fiction) Jason Statham, Wu Jing **TNT, 8 p.m.**

Two Weeks Notice (2002, Romance-comedy) Sandra Bullock, Hugh Grant **E!, 8:30 p.m.**

Deliver Us From Eva (2003, Romance-comedy) Gabrielle Union **BET, 9 p.m.**

Godzilla (1998, Science fiction) Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno **SYFY, 9 p.m.**

Uncharted (2022, Adventure) Tom Holland, Mark Wahlberg **FX, 9:45 p.m.**

Finding Faith (2025, Drama) Paula Patton, Nadine Velazquez **LMN, 10 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com weekly tv

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What to watch

FRIDAY

November 6, 2026

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

Sheriff Country

CBS, 8 p.m. ■ Guest Star Alert

The new episode "No Way In" is the first part of tonight's crossover event with *Fire Country*. When a dangerous prison break escalates into a volatile hostage crisis, Mickey (Morena Baccarin) must make a high-stakes decision that could change the course of the case and put lives on the line. *Fire Country*'s Max Thieriot, Kevin Alejandro and Jules Latimer guest-star.

Gold Rush

Discovery Channel, 8 p.m.

Tonight's episode follows Rick Ness as he hunts for new ground to finally kickstart his season. Meanwhile, Tony Beets is expecting his biggest gold weigh yet and leaves brother Nick in charge, who battles to meet Tony's expectations. Newcomer Greg Gibson's foreman Buzz Legault sets out on a desperate rescue mission for a vital piece of equipment.

Merry Memories

Hallmark Channel, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

Michaela (Lindura) is a rigid accountant who steps in to help her brother care for his young son Danny (Omi Fitzpatrick-Gonzales) while Danny's military mom is deployed over Christmas. When Danny is assigned to create a holiday scrapbook for his mom, Michaela reluctantly accepts help from his free-spirited substitute teacher (Brendan Morgan), and their creativity clashes.

Chocolate for Christmas

UPtv, 8 p.m. ■ Original Film

When a woman returns home to save her family's beloved chocolate shop, she finds unexpected love and a renewed appreciation for what matters most. This sweet holiday romance celebrates family, community and the lasting power of tradition. Stars Angela Cole and Joel Berg.

Fire Country

CBS, 9 p.m. ■ Guest Star Alert

In "No Way Out," the conclusion of a crossover event with *Sheriff Country*, Bode (Max Thieriot) and the Station 42 crew join forces with Sheriff Mickey Fox (guest star Morena Baccarin) and her deputies to protect the community during the hunt for escaped convicts.

Salute to Service 2026: A Veterans Day Celebration

PBS, 9 p.m.

Former NFL star Jason Kelce hosts this musical celebration of our nation's heroes, past



'Gold Rush'

DISCOVERY

and present. Grammy winner Jon Batiste performs alongside the Six-String Soldiers, and Kelce joins the Jazz Ambassadors on the baritone sax. Retired NFL offensive lineman Alejandro Villanueva reminisces about his time at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and viewers meet members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment "The Old Guard," who share what it takes to be a member of their elite team.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com weekly tv

CATCH A CLASSIC

Films on Film: 'American Masters: Mike Nichols'

TCM, 8 p.m.

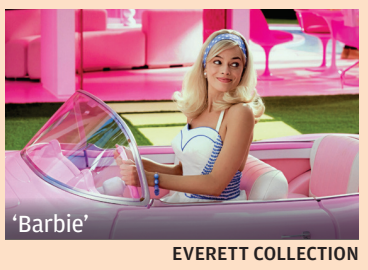
Meet one of America's late, great directors, Mike Nichols, on what would have been his 95th birthday, tonight on **American Masters**. The EGOT winner (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony) was an artistic trailblazer, beginning as part of the legendary comedy duo Nichols and May, featuring partner Elaine May, who revolutionized entertain-



EVERETT COLLECTION

ment in the late 1950s and early '60s. In tonight's documentary, released in 2016 and directed by May, Nichols discusses his life and 50-year artistic career while friends and colleagues like Meryl Streep, Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, Dustin Hoffman and Neil Simon paint a vivid picture of a master storyteller defined by fierce intellect, profound humanity and an unforgettable love of his craft. Following the documentary, catch some of Nichols' most important and honored works, including 1967's **The Graduate (pictured)**, **Biloxi Blues** (1988), **Working Girl** (1988) and **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** (1966). Also airing is **Gilda Live** (1980), a filmed version of Gilda Radner's one-woman Broadway comedy show directed by Nichols.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



'Barbie'

EVERETT COLLECTION

Friday (1995, Comedy) Ice Cube, Chris Tucker **VH1, 6 p.m.**

The Best Man (1999, Comedy-drama) Taye Diggs, Nia Long **BET, 6 p.m.**

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002, Fantasy) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen **Paramount, 6 p.m.**

Couples Retreat (2009, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman **WE, 6:30 p.m.**

The Martian (2015, Science fiction) Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain **FX, 7:05 p.m.**

Barbie (2023, Comedy) Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling **TBS, 8 p.m.**

Cars 2 (2011, Children) Owen Wilson, Larry the Cable Guy **Disney, 8 p.m.**

The Invite (2026, Comedy-drama) Seth Rogen, Olivia Wilde **HBO, 8:10 p.m.**

Speed (1994, Action) Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper **E!, 8:30 p.m.**

Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982, Comedy) Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh **IFC, 10 p.m.**

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971, Children) Gene Wilder, Jack Albertson **TBS, 10:30 p.m.**

The Waterboy (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kathy Bates **Comedy Central, 11 p.m.**

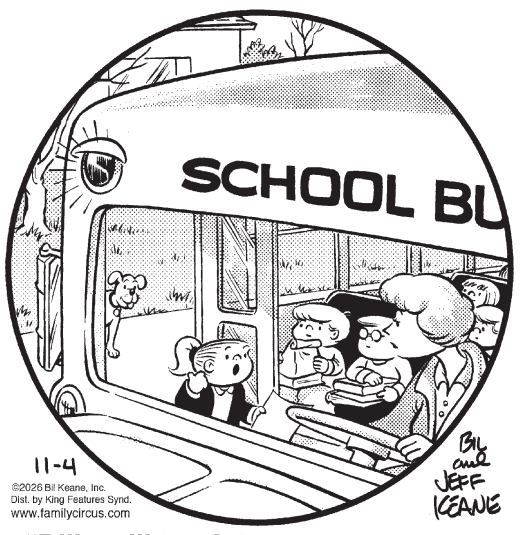
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CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



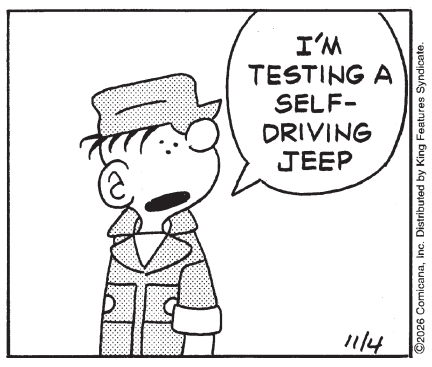
"When we want to close the beach and get everyone out of the water fast, we just blast the soundtrack to 'Jaws.'"

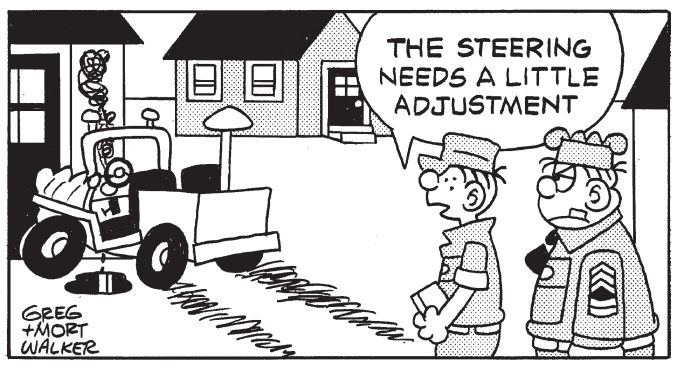
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"Billy will be right out—as soon as he finds his other shoe."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker





BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



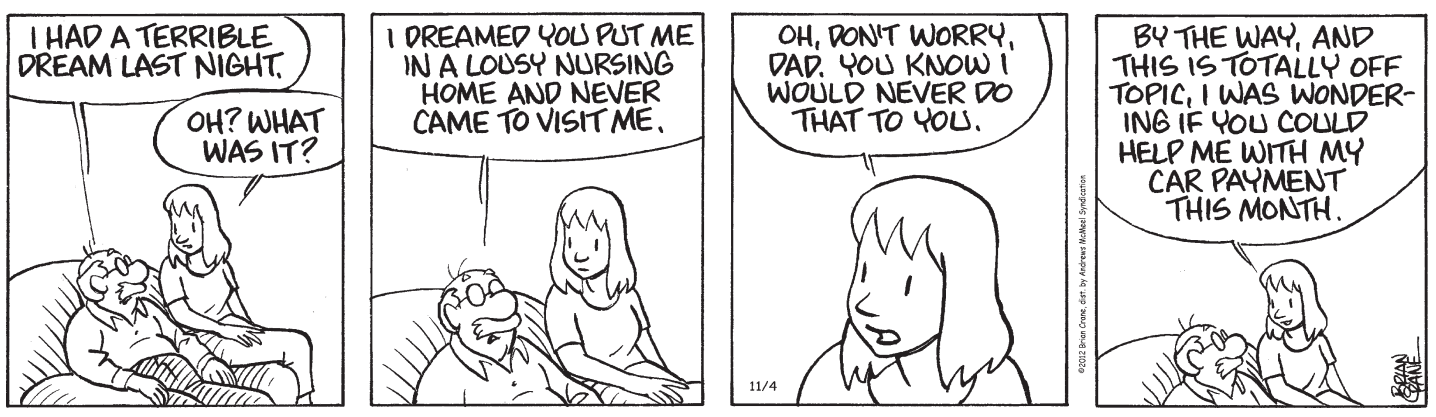
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

3	9	1	8	6	4	5	2	7
2	8	5	9	7	3	6	4	1
6	4	7	2	5	1	3	9	8
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9	5	8	7	2	6	1	3	4
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WHATZIT?™

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

gene ration

Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Generation gap

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

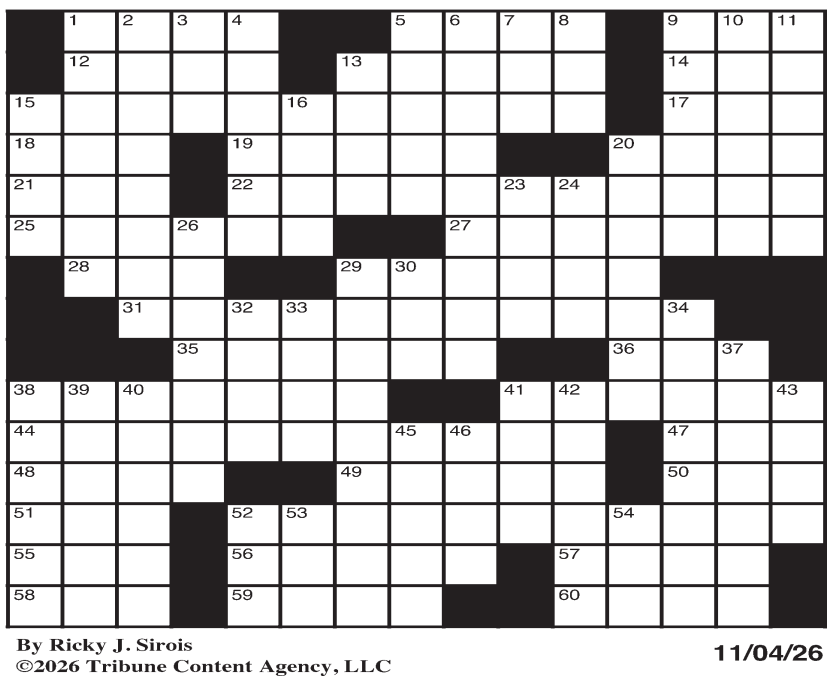
ACROSS
1 Shot in the dark
5 News story intro, in journalism jargon
9 Secondary social media acct.
12 Drive
13 Judy of "Scrubs"
14 Caviar
15 Pungent breakfast choices
17 Time for many countdowns, briefly
18 Making out while out and about, for short
19 Like some columns
20 Great Lakes diving bird
21 Carol contraction
22 Aids in makeup removal
25 Mouths off to
27 February 29
28 Ablaze
29 Grammy winner Estefan
31 Alternatives to cinnamon buns
35 Songs of praise
36 Calendar divs.
38 Poor rating
41 Subtle difference
44 Car parts that may be repurposed as swings
47 Tax-efficient fund, for short
48 Pinkberry rival
49 Home of the College World Series
50 Court divider
51 Ivy League nickname
52 Mysterious patterns in fields, or what 15-, 22-, 31-, and 44-Across are?
55 Intro to Xer, Yer, and Zer
56 With passion
57 Signify
58 Multinational insurance co.
59 In need of a massage, say
60 Trees whose wood is used for lutes and bows

DOWN
1 Old timer?
2 Period during which mammals first appeared
3 In the past
4 "No fighting!"
5 Bona fide
6 Disparate features of someone with heterochromia
7 Rehoboth Beach's st.
8 End of most plural words
9 "The Neighborhood" actress Tichina
10 Common name for a Jesuit school
11 Itty-bitty
13 Leave a scathing review, perhaps
15 Makes a selection
16 Responses to bad calls
20 Home of Roque de los Muchachos Observatory in the Canary Islands
23 Fictional sleuth Wolfe
24 Take off
26 Visits
29 Clockwork bit
30 NFL Hall of Famer Dawson
32 Lot
33 Cause of some tremors
34 Kin by marriage
37 Multitude in a multiplex
38 "Wednesday" actress Jenna
39 Microbiology research centers?
40 On the decline
41 Classic soda brand
42 G.I.'s org.
43 Puts away
45 Get at
46 R-rated, say
52 The Hornets, on a sports ticker
53 Retinol Correxion maker
54 Middling grade

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

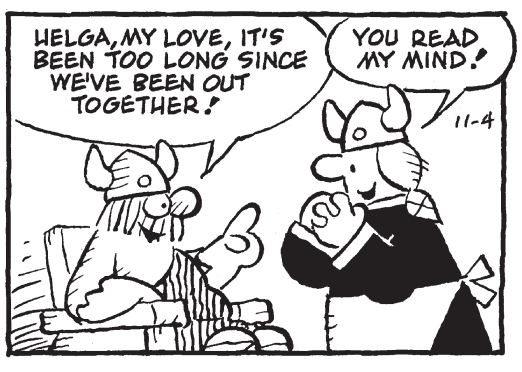
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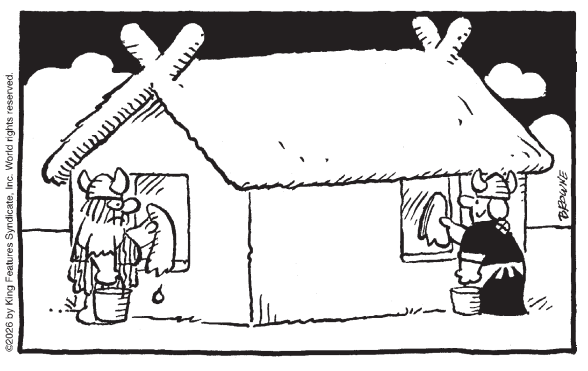


By Ricky J. Sirois
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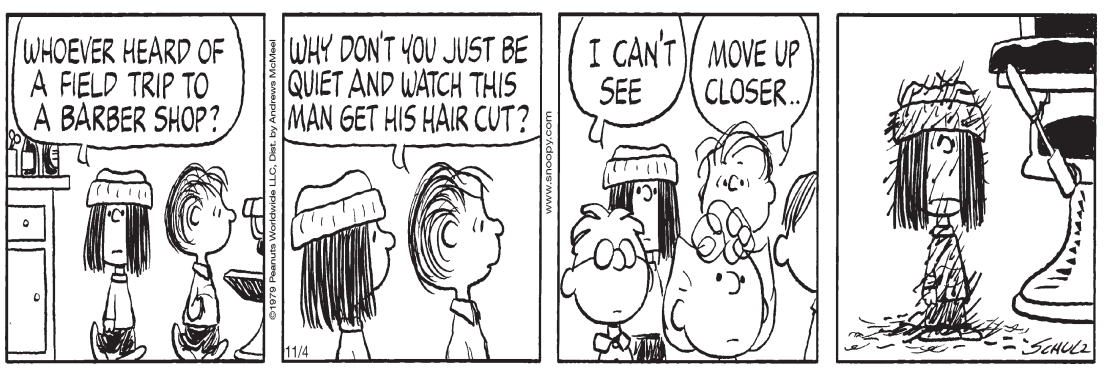
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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne

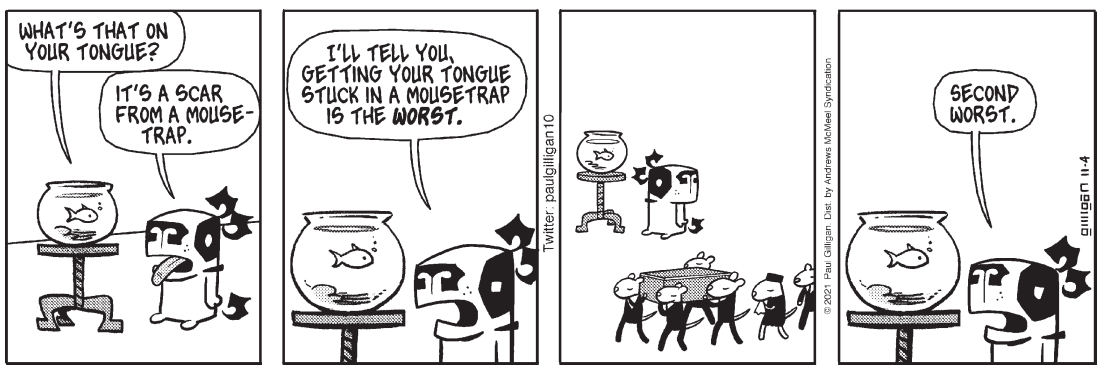




PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

FALL IS MY HAPPY PLACE — **Solution: 5 letters**

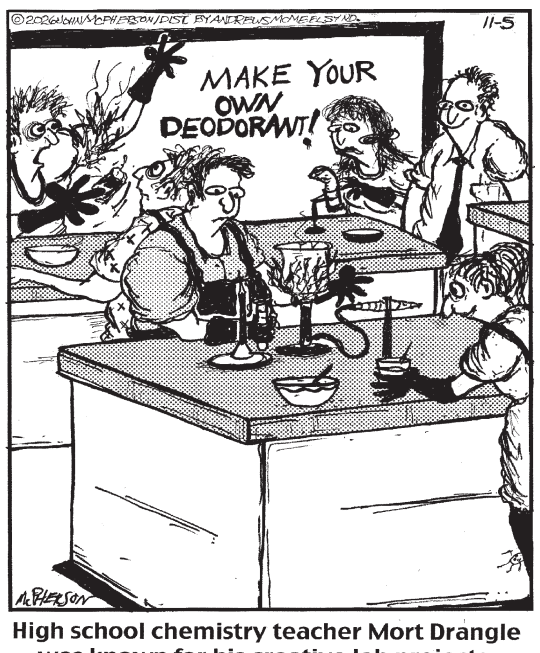
C	O	S	K	L	A	T	S	N	R	O	C	R	(N)	O
L	H	V	S	L	E	R	R	I	U	Q	S	E	(R)	R
S	U	E	E	K	R	U	W	B	C	N	I	B	(A)	C
W	R	F	S	R	S	E	L	E	F	A	R	M	(B)	H
E	E	A	K	T	C	A	B	N	E	P	I	E	S	A
A	B	C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	K	K	V	S	R
T	M	C	S	K	A	U	S	Y	T	O	E	O	E	D
E	E	B	E	R	T	H	T	T	M	C	R	N	L	I
R	T	T	E	U	O	E	T	S	T	O	O	B	D	H
S	P	S	A	R	Z	O	D	A	A	C	O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

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Acorns, Amber, Apple, Autumn, Barn, Basket, Blanket, Boots, Breeze, Cabin, Candles, Chestnuts, Cinnamon, Cornstalks, Farm, Flannel, Foliage, Leaves, Mittens, November, October, Orchard, Outdoors, Overcast, Pies, Porch, Pumpkin, Rain, Rustic, Scarf, September, Soup, Squash, Squirrels, Sunset, Sweaters, Thankful, Toasty, Trail, Weekend, Woodsmoke

TODAY'S ANSWER: Crisp

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



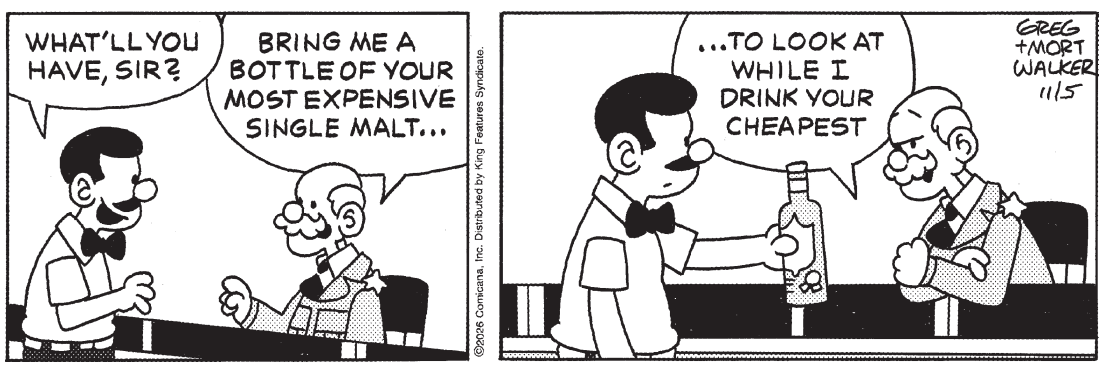
High school chemistry teacher Mort Drangle was known for his creative lab projects.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane

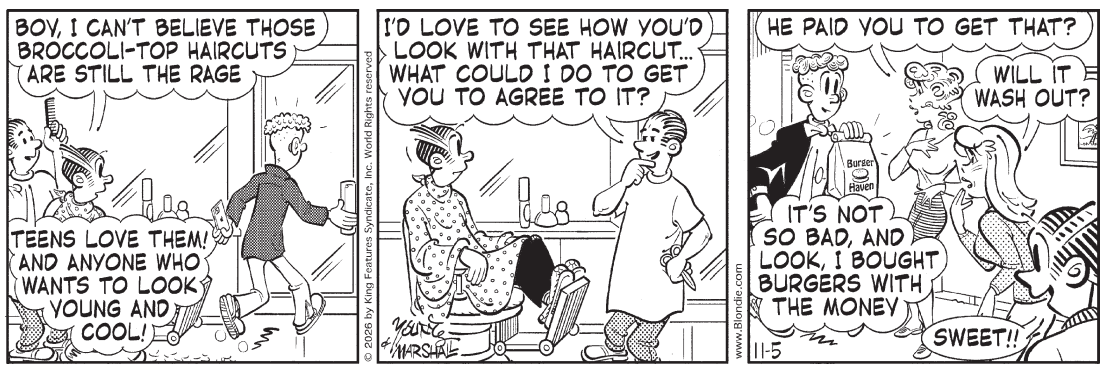


"Farm kids are lucky. They have a whole petting zoo in their backyard."

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



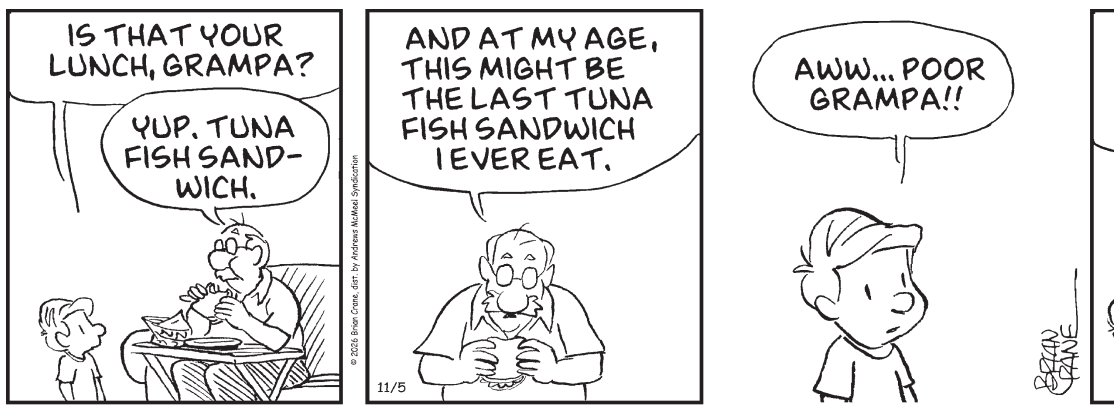
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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

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

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

WHATZIT?™

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

His 2 Own 2

Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

To each his own

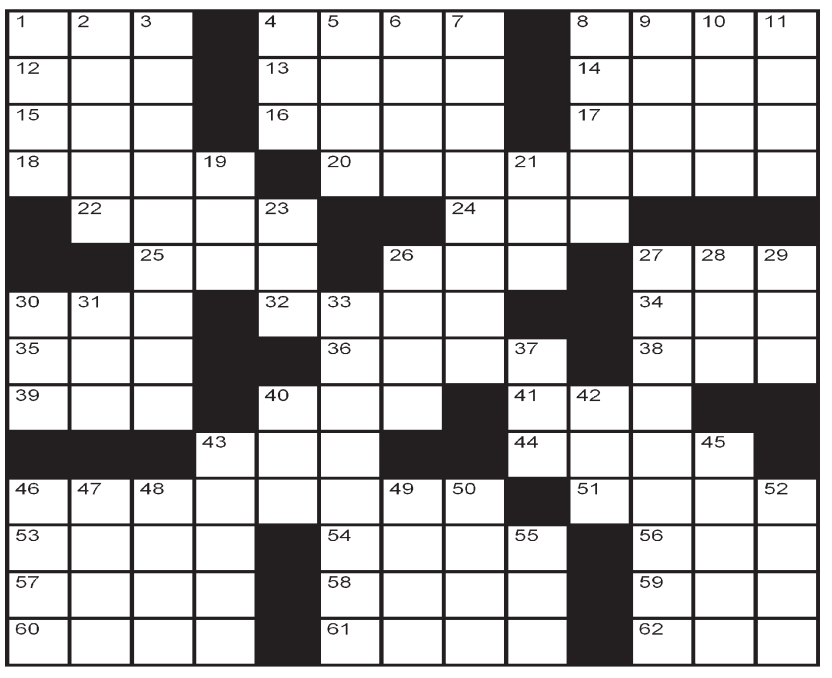
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Gift topper
4 Sports group
8 Abode
12 Fire remains
13 Place of Napoleon's exile
14 Declare
15 Biol. or chem.
16 From the U.S.
17 Put cargo on board
18 Detest
20 Carriage for baby
22 Back
24 "No —, ands or buts"
25 Billiards stick
26 Feline
27 "The X-Files" org.
30 — — matter of fact
32 Stopper
34 Dogpatch adjective
35 Knock
36 Utah city
38 Excellent (Hyph.)
39 Print measures
40 Enemy
41 Likely
43 Dandy
44 "From Russia — Love"
46 Ideas
51 Green veggies
53 Lather
54 Spoken
56 Tear
57 Grows old
58 "Saturday Night —"
59 Get with effort (with "out")
60 Pink
61 Sword
62 Unexploded bomb

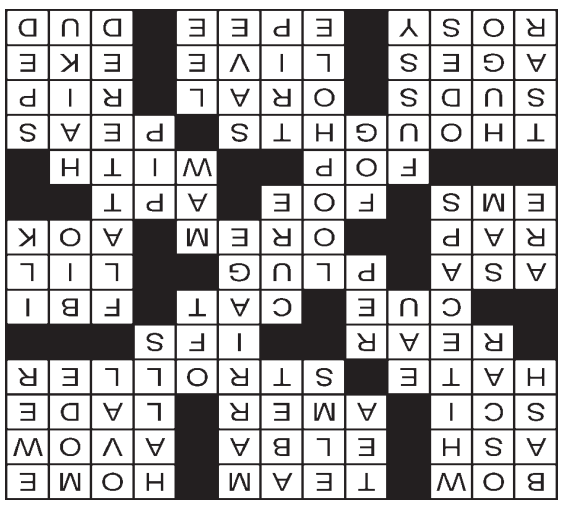
DOWN

1 Big party
2 Entertainment award
3 Waves on rough seas
4 Brewed beverage
5 Trees
6 Aid
7 "The — of Figaro"
8 Corridors
9 Flattened circle
10 Fashion
11 Fancy jug
19 — Claire, Wisconsin
21 Frequently
23 Agent, for short
26 Remedy
27 Buttered up
28 Life story, for short
29 Type
30 Exist
31 "Cheers" bartender
33 Escape clause
37 Gaping mouth
40 Haze
42 Spot on a card
43 Picky
45 Japanese verse
46 Old Russian ruler (Var.)
47 French writer Victor —
48 Lyric poems
49 Stumble
50 Rescue
52 Went quickly
55 Director Spike —



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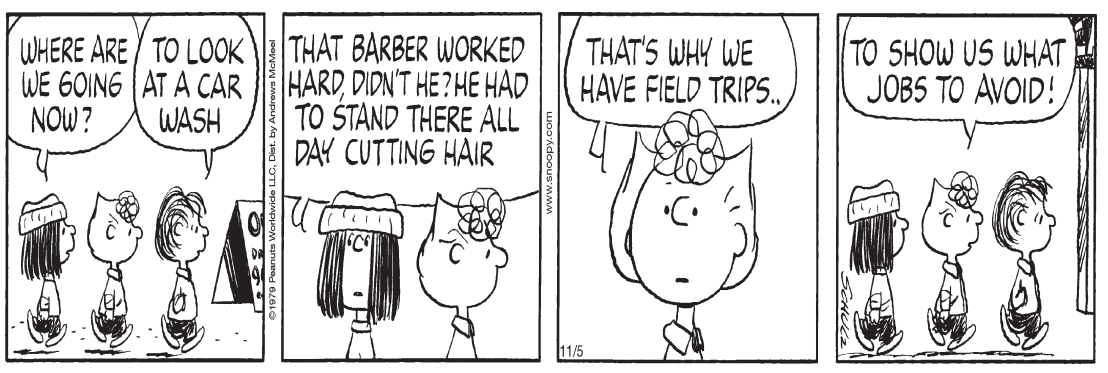
TODAY'S SOLUTION:



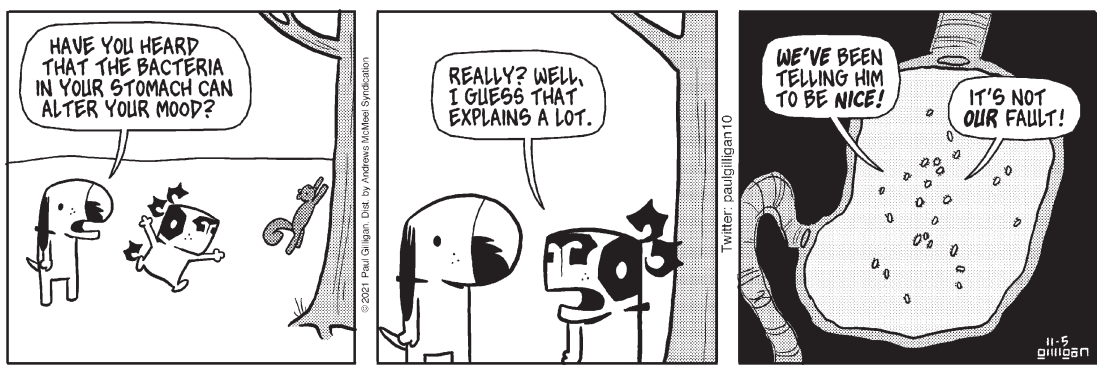
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

ITALY'S FRASASSI CAVES — **Solution: 8 letters**

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

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Ancona, Artifacts, Bats, Candles, Caves, Chambers, Chronobiology, Columns, Dark, Echo, Explore, Flowstone, Gear, Genga, Heritage, Italy, Karst, Labyrinth, Marche, Marvel, Minerals, Natural, Organ Pipes, Paleontology, Passageways, Path, Pools, Preservation, Rare, Rock, Science, Seekers, Site, Stalactites, Stalagmites, Walls, Wind

TODAY'S ANSWER: Landmark

More than 1,100 ASU students take part in fifth WellFest

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Special Photo: ASU

More than 1,100 Albany State University students took part recently in the university's fifth WellFest.

ALBANY – More than 1,100 Albany State University students, faculty, staff, and community members took part in the university's fifth annual WellFest that transformed the Jones Brothers HPER Complex on ASU's East Campus into an interactive hub for health, wellness and community engagement.

Hosted by the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, this year's event embraced the theme "The Wellness Playbook," encouraging Rams and Ram supporters to take an active role in their physical, mental and emotional well-being through hands-on activities, preventive health screenings, and connections to valuable campus and community resources.

With 1,107 students participating, representing more than 95% of the 1,159 attendees, the event highlighted the university's continued commitment to making holistic wellness an essential part of the student experience.

"Wellness isn't a timeout from student success; it's part of the game plan," Dedra Williams, the assistant vice president for Student Affairs and Holistic Development, said. "When more than 1,100 students show up in a single afternoon, they're telling us they want to win in every area of life. 'The Wellness Playbook' gave our Rams the plays to do it: Move your body, fuel it well, know your numbers, and never be afraid to ask for help."

Throughout the afternoon, attendees participated in a variety of activities designed to make healthy living both accessible and engaging. From yoga sessions led by Honey Flow Yoga and water aerobics to fitness challenges, hydration stations, and smoothies, students explored practical ways to incorporate wellness into their everyday lives.

The event also provided access to free healthy groceries from Better Way Grocers, biometric health screenings, first aid education and supplies, and an American Red Cross blood drive. The ASU Cheer Squad helped energize the crowd, while interactive activities and door prizes added to the celebration.

A highlight of this year's WellFest was the collaboration between Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and Academic Affairs, creating an opportunity for students to support the health of their peers while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

Nursing students from the ASU Darton College of Health Professions conducted biometric health screenings, providing preventive care and health education while strengthening their clinical skills. The ASU Dental Hygiene Program also participated, sharing oral health resources and scheduling appointments at the ASU Student Dental Hygiene Clinic.

"Knowing your numbers is the first play in any wellness playbook," RN Orlandria Bennett-Reed, the director of student health services, said. "Our student nurses screened their peers, explained what the results mean and connected them to follow-up care, all in one visit. That's prevention in action, and it's students taking care of students."

Mental health awareness remained an important focus of the event. Members of ASU's Active Minds student organization encouraged open conversations about emotional well-being, reducing stigma, and the importance of seeking support. Students also had opportunities to connect with mental health professionals and organizations offering education, guidance and resources.

WellFest brought together 11 campus and community wellness partners, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Phoebe Behavioral Health, Aspire Behavioral Health, The Change Center, Better Way Grocers, the American Red Cross, Honey Flow Yoga, ASU Student Health Services, ASU Counseling and Student Accessibility Services, Active Minds, and the ASU Darton College of Health Professions.

Now in its fifth year, WellFest continues to grow as a signature campus tradition, connecting the Albany State community with resources and experiences that promote healthier lifestyles. By bringing together education, preventive care, physical activity, and mental health awareness, the event reinforces the university's commitment to supporting students beyond the classroom.

Through initiatives like WellFest, Albany State continues to foster a campus culture where wellness, connection and student success go hand in hand, empowering Rams to thrive academically, personally, and throughout their lives, university officials said.

State Sen. Freddie Powell Sims applauds Phoebe Level II Trauma verification

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Sen. Freddie Powell Sims

ATLANTA — State Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, D–Albany, lauded Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital's recent verification as a Level II Trauma Center from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma:

"Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital's verification as a Level II Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons is a tremendous achievement for southwest Georgia," Sims said in a statement. "Multiple counties in Senate District 12 currently lack their own hospital, so the importance of having a nationally verified Level II Trauma Center serving our region cannot be overstated.

"This achievement is the results of decades of planning and strong investment here in rural Georgia."

Sims said the achievement is indicative of Phoebe Putney Health System's commitment to bringing top quality health care to the region.

"The ACS recognized numerous strengths within Phoebe's trauma program, including rapid surgical response times, exceptional pediatric readiness, strong patient safety practices, a demonstrated commitment to performance improvement and comprehensive support services," Sims said. "Progress of this magnitude requires a shared commitment from medical professionals, community leaders and elected officials on both sides of the aisle. I am proud to have worked with these leaders here at home and with my colleagues at the Capitol to advocate for rural healthcare.

"There is no doubt that a healthier community is a stronger community. When families have confidence in the medical care available close to home, our region is better positioned to attract new opportunities that support long-term economic stability and an increased overall standard of living."

Sims said the news impacts all of the southwest Georgia region.

"Illnesses and medical emergencies do not discriminate based on political affiliation, and every community, regardless of its size or location, deserves access to dependable medical care," she said. "I commend the entire Phoebe team and everyone who has contributed to this decades-long effort to enhance health care in southwest Georgia. Phoebe's recent national verification reinforces why we, as legislators, must continue working across party lines to strengthen rural hospitals throughout our state."



Special Logo: Phoebe

Volunteers needed for Jingle Bell Jog

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Phoebe Foundation is gearing up for the 37th annual Jingle Bell Jog on Dec. 5, and officials are looking for a few good men -- women, and children! -- to serve as run volunteers.

This event supports the Children's Miracle Network at Phoebe and is one of southwest Georgia's favorite holiday traditions. For those who've helped out before or first-timers, run officials promise it'll be a fun and meaningful way to kick off the season.

Regular Phoebe volunteers are expected to be a part of the fun event, and those who know students who need service hours, church or civic groups, or friends and family who'd enjoy volunteering are encouraged XXXXto share this opportunity with them. All are welcome!

Volunteers will earn extra service hours, help cheer on runners and guide participants, and meet great people and get caught up in the holiday spirit.

Interested persons or those who have additional questions may call Volunteer Services at (229) 312-4335.

Law requires loaded trucks in city to be secured, covered

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The City of Albany requests citizens' cooperation in ensuring that all trucks and trailers operated by all companies, subcontractors, suppliers and haulers have loads properly secured and covered before traveling on city streets and other public roadways.

Loose materials, including soil, sand, gravel, rock, demolition debris, vegetation, construction waste, and similar materials must be secured and covered with a tarp or other effective covering, as necessary, to prevent them from blowing, falling, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle.

Georgia law requires vehicles traveling on public roads to be loaded or covered so that the load does not drop, escape, or shift in a manner that creates a safety hazard or deposits litter. (See O.C.G.A. §40-6-248.1.)

Individuals or companies transporting loaded vehicles or trailers should ensure that drivers inspect each load before leaving the job site, loading area, or staging location and that all tarps, tailgates, and other load-securement devices are properly fastened.

City officials say adherence to the law helps to maintain safe, clean streets and rights-of-way throughout Albany. Continued failure to properly secure or cover loads may result in appropriate enforcement action and may be addressed under applicable city contracts, permits or other requirements.

UGA wins $8 million grant to restore marshes

By Emily Jones
WABE/Grist



Special Photo: Alphonso Whitfield/WABE

UGA and several partners will use a federal grant to restore coastal saltmarshes across four southeastern states.

ATHENS – The University of Georgia plans to use an $8 million federal grant to restore salt marshes in Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas.

Coastal salt marshes provide critical habitat for lots of animals, and protection from the dangerous tides and flooding that come with stronger storms. Georgia is home to 368,000 acres of marsh, more than a third of the coastal salt marsh in the region. But sea level rise due to climate change is eating away at it.

"That sort of creates that imperative to do something to make sure our future generations have the same marsh system providing these benefits," Mark Risse, the director of the Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant at the University of Georgia, said. "We don't want to see the marsh disappear."

Risse's team plans to use dredged-up sand and mud to restore eroding marshes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does regular dredging in coastal waterways and shipping channels to keep them deep enough for boats. What they dredge up is usually either deposited on land or dumped offshore.

But, Risse said, there are better uses for it.

"We think one of the best applications for beneficially re-using (the sand) is to put it on our marshes to restore areas where marshes have already been degraded," he said.

UGA and its partners plan to use the grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to restore more than 300 acres of marsh across four states. Working with the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative, UGA and the teams from other universities say they hope to establish a blueprint for this approach to marsh restoration that can be used again around the region and country.

This coverage is made possible through a partnership between WABE and Grist, a nonprofit environmental media organization.

Battle-tested Trojans ready for final tuneup

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Lee County will enter the playoffs with no shortage of experience under pressure. The Trojans have faced powerful opponents, climbed out of double-digit deficits and learned how to win when the first half did not go their way.

Dean Fabrizio expects that education to serve them well.

"I would hope we have improved in all phases of the game since August," the Lee County coach said. "One thing is for sure: With the schedule we played, we are battle and big-game tested."

Before the postseason arrives, the Trojans have one more test — and plenty riding on it.

No. 3 Lee County (8-1) closes the regular season Friday night against region rival Houston County (5-4) in Leesburg. Coming off an open week, the Trojans will try to secure their ninth victory and protect a favorable playoff position.

Lee County is ranked third in the GHSF poll but holds the No. 2 spot in the GHSA postseason power rankings that determine playoff placement. Maintaining that position would put the Trojans in line to remain in Leesburg through the playoff rounds leading to the state championship game.

That opportunity starts with handling the Bears.

"Being in this region and playing the schedule we have, we understand that we need to give our complete focus to that week's opponent," Fabrizio said.

The schedule has reinforced that lesson. So have the moments when Lee County had to decide how it would respond to adversity.

Two stand out for Fabrizio: halftime against Miami Carol City and halftime against Sequoyah. In both games, the Trojans trailed talented opponents by double digits.

Neither deficit shook them.

"No one panicked," Fabrizio said. "Our leaders stepped up, everyone stuck to the plan, we made some corrections and had big second halves in both to win."

Those victories revealed something about a team whose senior class supplies much of its talent and leadership. The group includes Jaden Upshaw, Carter Blackwell, Jace Murray, Dominique Ball, Jordan Bush, Greg Batson, Shavezz Dixon, Larry Mosely and Larry Jackson.

Upshaw has made his mark in the school record book, setting Lee County's career receptions record. He has caught 186 passes for 2,734 yards and 27 touchdowns.

But the Trojans' ability to regroup against Carol City and Sequoyah showed the value of leadership beyond the statistics. When they needed corrections, their experienced players helped keep the team focused long enough to make them.

The open week offered another opportunity to address mistakes, along with time to rest players before the final regular-season push.

"It gives you a chance to work on some things maybe you can't devote as much time to during a regular game week," Fabrizio said.

The priority remained improvement. An 8-1 record has given Lee County a strong position, but Fabrizio wants his players continuing to sharpen their execution with every practice.

Houston County will provide a measure of that progress, with running back Austin Stinson leading the challenge. Stinson, who wears No. 0, has drawn nearly 30 Division I offers and is committed to Colorado State. He has carried 199 times and scored 27 times with 1,685 yards this season.

"Houston is very well coached," Fabrizio said. "They have an excellent RB in No. 0, a returning starter at QB and a lot of good players on both sides of the ball."

For a Lee County team with postseason ambitions, Friday brings a chance to turn weeks of difficult lessons into another victory — and give its accomplished senior class more football to play at home.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Ethan Slaughter shoots for two over Albany Middle's De'Haven Frazier during Monday night's game in Leesburg. Slaughter scored 25 points to lead the Trojans over the Indians, 42-35.

Albany Middle, Lee East split games

By Joe Whitfield,
Sports Editor

LEESBURG — Lee East had the cushion it needed. Albany Middle nearly erased it.

Ethan Slaughter scored 25 points, and Braye Hill sank two free throws with 16 seconds remaining to help the Trojans withstand a furious late rally for a 42-35 victory in Deep South Conference basketball at Lee East.

Albany Middle won the girls' game 28-22, scoring the final nine points to rally past the Lady Trojans.

In the boys' game, Lee East led 40-26 with two minutes remaining before the Indians turned a comfortable finish into a tense one.

As the Trojans began making substitutions, Albany Middle attacked and repeatedly reached the free-throw line. A foul and a technical foul gave the Indians four straight free throws, and they made all four. When M. Toombs followed with a 3-pointer, Lee East's lead had shrunk to 40-35.

With Albany Middle fouling to regain possession, Hill stepped to the line and delivered both shots to put the game away.

Slaughter had helped build the lead the Trojans needed to survive.

After a back-and-forth opening quarter ended 9-9, Albany Middle scored first in the second to move ahead 11-9. Kaison McClain tied it with two free throws, and Slaughter followed with consecutive baskets as Lee East launched a 13-0 run.

The Trojans opened a 22-11 advantage and carried a 24-15 lead into halftime.

Albany Middle fought back within 26-21 in the third quarter, but Slaughter answered with a corner 3-pointer. Lee East led 32-24 entering the fourth, and another Slaughter 3 helped the Trojans stretch the margin to 38-24 before the Indians mounted their final charge.

The girls' game brought another comeback, with Albany Middle delivering the decisive finish.

Kaylee James scored 13 points to lead the Lady Indians, who held Lee East scoreless after falling behind 22-19 in the fourth quarter. Ariyah Thomas led the Lady Trojans with 10 points.

Albany Middle controlled the early action. Kaitlyn Mathis drove for a layup to give the Lady Indians an 8-2 lead, then connected from beyond the arc to make it 11-4. Albany Middle took a 14-7 advantage into halftime.

Lee East responded with defensive pressure and a determined third-quarter push. Thomas scored twice, Harmony Williams added a basket, and a free throw by Ja'Siyah Saillberry pulled

See **LEE**, 10A



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Dougherty quarterback Micah Joyner escapes Westover defenders after appearing trapped in his own end zone Friday at Hugh Mills Stadium. Joyner accounted for 284 yards and three touchdowns in the Trojans' 31-8 region championship victory.

Dougherty's difference-maker

Sophomore quarterback's ability to turn trouble into opportunity gives the region champion Trojans another weapon heading toward the playoffs.

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — A defense can cover Dougherty's receivers, pressure its quarterback and disrupt the play the Trojans called.

With Micah Joyner, that may only be the beginning of the assignment.

The sophomore's ability to create something after a play breaks down gives Dougherty an advantage that is difficult to draw on a chalkboard. As the region champion Trojans approach the playoffs, it also gives opponents something else to consider: Getting into the backfield does not necessarily mean getting a stop.

Westover learned that Friday night. Dougherty coach Uyl Joyner was still marveling at it afterward.

"At halftime number 4 put on that cape and came out and did some amazing work," he said. "I've never seen anything like it."

Joyner accounted for 284 yards and three touchdowns in Dougherty's 31-8 victory, helping the Trojans clinch the Region 1-4A championship. He completed 14 of 23 passes for 169 yards and touchdowns to Jayden Richardson and Melvin Williams, while rushing for 115 yards and a score on nine carries.

The statistics measure the production. They cannot measure how many times Westover appeared to have a play stopped before Joyner found another way forward.

That ability matters for a Dougherty team preparing to face the challenges of postseason football. When the first option disappears, the Trojans have a quarterback capable of finding another — and teammates willing to keep working until he does.

One assistant coach called it "organized chaos," Uyl Joyner said.

The description fits the movement. The coach's praise for his offensive line explains the organization.

Even when Joyner changed direction and the original play unraveled, his linemen continued blocking. Their work bought him time to find a receiver, spot a running lane or escape another defender.

The quarterback supplied the improvisation. His blockers helped make it possible.

Westover gave both a demanding test.

"Corey had a good plan to stop our offense," Uyl Joyner said of his brother, Patriots head coach Corey Joyner.

Dougherty held a 10-0 halftime lead, but a mishandled Westover punt had helped set up its only touchdown. The Patriots repeatedly penetrated the backfield, preventing the Trojans from establishing much rhythm.

Joyner's response offered the clearest example of what makes him dangerous.

On his third-quarter touchdown run, defenders chased him from behind the line near midfield toward the sideline. He escaped, turned upfield and cut back toward the middle before lunging with the ball at the goal line.

Westover defenders pounded the turf with their fists.

Their frustration was understandable. Pressure that might have ended a possession instead became a touchdown.

Still, Dougherty's championship performance showed why the Trojans need more than their quarterback's resourcefulness.

Earlier in the quarter, Joyner escaped pressure from his own end zone but lost a fumble when tackled upfield. Westover had an opportunity to cut into the lead.

Dougherty's defense erased it.

John Thomas and Kendarvis Jones, who recorded two sacks

See **DOUGHERTY**, 10A

Rivalry Week - Albany State vs. Ft. Valley State



Special Photo: Reginald Christian, Albany State University

Albany State football coach David Bowser, left, Jeffrey Davis, Evan Wynn and athletic director Kristine Kelly represent the Golden Rams at Monday's Fountain City Classic press conference in Columbus. Albany State will face rival Fort Valley State at 2 p.m. Saturday at A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium in the 36th edition of the Classic. The Golden Rams seek their fourth consecutive victory in the series after winning last year's meeting 48-3. Saturday's matchup closes Albany State's regular-season schedule and offers Bowser's first team a chance to finish with a rivalry victory. The series dates to 1945 and became the Fountain City Classic when the game moved to Columbus in 1990.

Georgia heads to Oxford with unfinished business

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor



File Photo

Georgia Head Coach Kirby Smart will lead his team into Oxford Friday for a showdown against the Ole Miss Rebels. Smart is 0-2 in Oxford and looking to get his first win over the Rebels in Mississippi.

ATHENS — Georgia has won national championships under Kirby Smart. It has won SEC championships. It has won in places where visiting teams generally leave wishing they hadn't come.

It hasn't won in Oxford.

Saturday would be a useful time to start.

The second-ranked Bulldogs visit No. 12 Ole Miss at 7:30 p.m. on ABC, facing a quarterback Smart considers perhaps the nation's best and a program that has become an unusually persistent problem for Georgia.

The Bulldogs lead the series 34-15-1. The more relevant numbers: Smart is 0-2 in Oxford, and Ole Miss ended Georgia's last playoff run with a 39-34 Sugar Bowl victory. Georgia hasn't won at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium since 2011.

History won't tackle Trinidad Chambliss. Georgia needs someone who will.

"They probably have the best quarterback in the country who plays at a high level," Smart said Monday.

Chambliss has thrown for 2,189 yards and 18 touchdowns against eight interceptions this season. Ole Miss credits him with averaging 312.5 passing yards in last season's two meetings with Georgia. The Bulldogs won the first. The Rebels won the one that ended Georgia's season.

Smart's concern goes beyond the scrambling and improbable completions. He sees a quarterback who anticipates openings, works through his progressions and moves within the pocket without abandoning the play.

"It's the down-in, down-out decision making that he's really elite at," Smart said.

Making those decisions uncomfortable will require coordinated pressure. Outside linebacker Quintavius Johnson emphasized that same collective approach Monday, crediting teammates for the success of Georgia's defense rather than treating sacks as individual achievements.

Ole Miss offers a considerable test. The Rebels have allowed five sacks in eight games. Right guard Patrick Kutas earned SEC Offensive Lineman of the Week honors after helping Ole Miss convert 13 of 16 third downs against Auburn.

Georgia cannot spend Saturday watching Chambliss turn third down into another first down.

The Rebels could be missing a significant weapon. Coach Pete Golding said Monday he does not expect running back Kewan Lacy to play. Shekai Mills-Knight and Makhi Frazier combined for 127 rushing yards against Auburn in Lacy's absence.

Georgia, meanwhile, has reason to welcome Nate Frazier's increasing workload. He carried 12 times for 67 yards and a touchdown against Florida, his busiest game since September.

Frazier remembers the atmosphere from Georgia's 2024 visit and expects another physical contest. He described Ole Miss' defensive front as fast and big, with former Georgia safety Joenel Aguero adding a familiar hitter behind it.

The Bulldogs arrive 7-1, including 5-1 in SEC play. Ole Miss is 6-2 and 4-2, carrying a 16-game home winning streak.

For Georgia, the task is straightforward. The execution figures to be considerably harder.

"You're not tricking the guy," Smart said of Chambliss. "You have to go play good sound football."

In Oxford, Georgia has some catching up to do.

Pearce reinstated; Falcons release two

Field Level Media

The Atlanta Falcons released defensive end Drake Jackson and defensive end/linebacker Jared Ivey on Monday.

The moves come the same day defensive end James Pearce Jr. was reinstated after serving an eight-game suspension.

Pearce, 23, was suspended for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. He was arrested near Miami in February and charged with aggravated stalking and two counts of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. He was also charged with fleeing police, resisting an officer without violence and aggravated battery of a law enforcement officer. The resisting charge was later changed to resisting an officer with violence, a felony; the aggravated stalking charge was changed to a misdemeanor, and the charge of battery of law enforcement was dropped.

Pearce entered into a diversion program as part of a plea agreement. According to a police report from the incident, he had pursued his ex-girlfriend, WNBA player Rickea Jackson, in a separate vehicle, struck the vehicle she was driving and fled when officers arrived on the scene.

A first-round draft pick in 2025, Pearce finished third in Defensive Rookie of the Year voting after recording 10.5 sacks and one forced fumble.

Drake Jackson, 25, played in two games for Atlanta after being signed to the practice squad on Sept. 16, almost two weeks after the Washington Commanders waived him with an injury designation. He did not record any stats for the Falcons. He was a 2022 second-round draft pick of the San Francisco 49ers.

Ivey, 24, played in seven games for the Falcons and recorded eight tackles (two for loss) and one sack. The Falcons claimed him off waivers from the Seattle Seahawks on Sept. 1.

From 9A

Dougherty

apiece, helped lead a unit that kept Westover from capitalizing. Penalties pushed the Patriots backward, and an incomplete fourth-down pass ended the threat.

Before Joyner could change the game with his legs, his teammates had protected the lead.

That combination — a defense capable of answering trouble and an offense capable of escaping it — gives Dougherty reason for confidence as the postseason approaches.

The Trojans are ranked No. 7 in the GHSF poll, but their win over Westover moved them to No. 6 in the GHSA postseason power rankings. Troup County (9-0) and Peach County (9-0) hold the top two spots.

Dougherty has already guaranteed itself a home playoff opener by winning the region championship. Its final power ranking will determine its placement in the bracket and help shape the path beyond that first game.

First comes Friday's regular-season finale in Columbus against 0-9 Hardaway. At 8-1, the Trojans have an opportunity to carry a nine-win season into the playoffs.

Uyl Joyner does not expect his players to struggle to find motivation after the emotion of beating Westover.

"We had a little extra motivation Friday night because it was Westover," he said. "But this team really wants to prove that they are a good team. A 9-1 record would do that. I don't think there will be a problem in motivating the guys for that."

From 9A

Lee

the Lady Trojans even at 17-17.

A late Albany Middle basket put the Lady Indians ahead 19-17 entering the final six minutes, but Lee East kept coming.

Thomas scored and added a free throw to give the Lady Trojans a 20-19 lead. Saillberry followed with a basket to push the advantage to 22-19.

Those were Lee East's final points.

Albany Middle closed with a 9-0 run, including two free throws by Aria Simpson with a minute remaining. James supplied the finishing touch, driving for a layup with 15 seconds left to seal the victory.Kaylee James scored 13 points to lead the Lady Indians, who held Lee East scoreless after falling behind 22-19 in the fourth quarter. Ariyah Thomas led the Lady Trojans with 10 points.

Albany Middle controlled the early action. Kaitlyn Mathis drove for a layup to give the Lady Indians an 8-2 lead, then connected from beyond the arc to make it 11-4. Albany Middle took a 14-7 advantage into halftime.

Lee East responded with defensive pressure and a determined third-quarter push. Thomas scored twice, Harmony Williams added a basket, and a free throw by Ja'Siyah Saillberry pulled the Lady Trojans even at 17-17.

A late Albany Middle basket put the Lady Indians ahead 19-17 entering the final six minutes, but Lee East kept coming.

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Friday Night Five: Micah Joyner is Player of the Week

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Terrell Academy's Bryse Peachey eludes a defender earlier this season. Peachey rushed for 327 yards and three touchdowns in Friday's 28-25 win over Tiftarea Academy, earning a spot among this week's Friday Night Five standouts.

Some performances fill a stat sheet. Others need a little explanation.

Micah Joyner delivered both Friday nigFriday ht, helping Dougherty claim a region championship with the kind of plays that kept a rivalry crowd watching long after the pocket collapsed.

Elsewhere, Terrell Academy's Bryse Peachey piled up 327 rushing yards, Calhoun County's Edwards topped 200, and Baconton Charter found production on the ground and through the air.

With Lee County and Worth County idle and individual statistics unavailable from several area teams, this week's Friday Night Five takes a different form. Rather than separate lists of quarterbacks, running backs and receivers, here are five standout performances from the available reports — plus a Monroe touchdown worth recognizing.

Player of the Week: Micah Joyner, Dougherty

The numbers were impressive. The circumstances made them better.

Joyner completed 14 of 23 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns and rushed nine times for 115 yards and another score as Dougherty beat Westover 31-8 to clinch the Region 1-4A championship.

That gave the sophomore 284 yards of total offense. It also gave Dougherty coach Uyl Joyner his first victory in three meetings against his older brother, Westover coach Corey Joyner.

Micah's signature moment came in the third quarter, when he retreated from pressure, worked toward the sideline and cut back toward the middle before finding the end zone. What looked like trouble became a touchdown — and helped launch the surge that put the game away.

Bryse Peachey, Terrell Academy

Tiftarea Academy knew Peachey could run. Stopping him was another matter.

Peachey rushed for 327 yards and three touchdowns, averaging 10.9 yards per carry, as the Eagles edged the Panthers 28-25.

In a game decided by three points, Peachey supplied the steady force that kept Terrell Academy moving. It was his seventh consecutive game with at least two rushing touchdowns.

Edwards, Calhoun County

A losing result did little to diminish an outstanding individual effort.

Edwards rushed for 209 yards and two touchdowns in Calhoun County's 38-32 loss to Baconton Charter, averaging 11 yards per carry.

The Cougars stayed within striking distance, with Edwards providing much of their punch on the ground.

Braylen Hundley, Baconton Charter

Hundley helped make sure Calhoun County wasn't the only team finding running room.

He rushed for 142 yards as Baconton Charter won its third consecutive game. The Blazers finished with 229 rushing yards, using their ground game to help withstand the Cougars' challenge.

Kayden Logue, Baconton Charter

Logue made his opportunities count.

He finished with 53 receiving yards and two touchdowns against Calhoun County, giving the Blazers scoring production to complement Hundley's work on the ground. Quarterback Preston Hurst threw for 96 yards and two touchdowns in the victory.

One more worth mentioning: Raymund Thompson, Monroe

Thompson usually makes his mark on defense. Against Spencer, he gave Monroe an offensive moment to remember.

The play didn't begin smoothly. Thompson initially went the wrong way, then corrected himself and went out for a pass from Aiden Mathis in the fourth quarter.

He caught it, broke a tackle and scored the Golden Tornadoes' lone touchdown, keeping Monroe from being shut out.

There were bigger statistical nights around the area. Thompson's determination deserves a place alongside them.

Olson, Dubón both win 2nd straight Gold Gloves

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com



Special Photo: Braves.com

Atlanta Braves first baseman Matt Olson, left, and utility player Mauricio Dubón each won a second consecutive Gold Glove Award Sunday. It was Olson's fourth career Gold Glove and Dubón's third.

ATLANTA – Matt Olson has been recognized as the National League's best defensive first baseman for the second straight season. As for Mauricio Dubón, he strengthened the argument that he stands as baseball's best defensive utility player.

Olson and Dubón both gained a second straight Rawlings Gold Glove Award when this year's winners were announced on Sunday night. They were the Braves' only winners. Starting pitcher Chris Sale and center fielder Michael Harris II had been Atlanta's other finalists.

The Braves, Brewers (2B Brice Turang and LF Jackson Chourio), Cubs (CF Pete Crow-Armstrong and 3B Alex Bregman) and D-backs (RF Corbin Carroll, SS Geraldo Perdomo and C Gabriel Moreno) were the only NL clubs with multiple winners.

Olson's second consecutive Gold Glove Award is his fourth overall. He also won while playing for the A's in 2018 and '19. He led all MLB first basemen in both Fielding Run Value (+12) and Outs Above Average (+12).

Dubón's tremendous defensive versatility provided great value in left field, at shortstop and in center field this year. His +3 Fielding Run Value as a shortstop helped fill the void created by Ha-Seong Kim's disappointing season.

Rawlings began giving a Gold Glove to utility players after the 2022 season. Dubón was the AL's winner while handling this versatile role for the Astros in 2023 and '25. He's the only player to win this award as a utility player multiple times.

Maya Henry named Albany Museum of Art curator of African art collection

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — Originally on a career track to become an attorney, Maya Henry has taken a different path, one bringing the New Jersey native to southwest Georgia. She became the new Curator of African Collections and African Diasporic Art at the Albany Museum of Art on Oct. 13.

Henry, who earned her master's degree in Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University earlier this year, said her first impressions of Albany have been positive.

"I'm still getting my bearings," she said. "Everybody's been so very welcoming, very kind, so that's made the transition very easy for me."

"We are thrilled to have Maya join us at the Albany Museum of Art," AMA Executive Director Andrew J. Wulf said. "What impressed me about Maya from the beginning was her curiosity, her passion for history, and her understanding of how art can connect people across cultures and generations. She brings a fresh perspective to our remarkable African art collection, and I think her interest in the stories behind the objects will open up some wonderful possibilities for the museum and our community"

Since joining the AMA Curatorial Department led by Director of Curatorial Affairs Katie Dillard, Henry, whose position is endowed by the Walter & Frances Bunzl Family Foundation, has been acquainting herself with the AMA's African art collection, the largest in the Southeast outside a university setting.

"It has been a pleasure to welcome Maya to the AMA as our new Curator of African Collections and African Diasporic Art," Dillard said. "She is already hard at work developing exhibitions for upcoming seasons and getting to know the AMA's permanent collection. I'm excited to see how Maya's diverse experiences, background, and expertise will enrich our exhibitions, bring fresh perspectives to the interpretation of the permanent collection, and contribute to the continued growth of our curatorial department."

Henry said the focus on African diasporic art was a major factor in her decision to apply for the position at the AMA.

Originally, Henry planned to pursue a law career focusing on education or civil rights. She was doing advocacy work for LGBTQ communities while studying political science and education. She decided she needed to know what it was like to teach before developing education policies.

After earning a bachelor of arts degree in History and Education with a minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies from Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pa., in 2020, she taught middle school social studies for four years at Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School in Philadelphia. She also served two summers there as an academic advisor for the academy and the Ujima Friends Peace Center.

"I switched to teaching because my education classes were invigorating," Henry said. "I had the opportunity to gain the language necessary to understand the disparities present in our system and conduct research related to class and race. This made me passionate about teaching and supporting education initiatives that benefit students, holistically."

She also had early exposure to museums as a child that continued through adulthood.

"I always loved museums," Henry said. "Every time we went somewhere growing up, my mom made sure we always went to a museum. She made that a normal part of my life, so that is something I did as an adult."

Still, she never entertained the idea of actually working in the museum field until she was in an entirely different kind of field.

"I was on an organic ginger and turmeric farm for two weeks in Virginia — random side quest in my life," Henry said. "I took a trip with the family I was with to the National Gallery of Art, and I saw Afro-Atlantic Histories. It was curated by Adriano Pedrosa and Kanitra Fletcher, and it was art from all over the diaspora in one large exhibition. That was the first time I went to a museum and felt like, 'Oh, I know what they're talking about.'"

She had taken college classes about Black women and spirituality, Yoruba, religion, African traditional religions, and African-American history, but had not seen her pan-African diaspora interests reflected in museum exhibitions.

Henry returned to the classroom and, earlier this year, earned a master's degree in Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University. She was a community outreach graduate research assistant from 2024 to 2026 at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Historic Preservation Division in Brookhaven.

In 2025, she served as a Roger Kennedy Scholars intern with the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., where her duties included collaborating with curators, museum staff, and external partners on exhibition planning, interpretation, collections care, evaluating objects, maintaining records, and supporting the preservation and organization of materials.

As curator, she will preserve and show objects that connect the present to the past through art that comes in many forms.

"I have a large interest in textiles — patterns, fabrics, materials, and color," Henry said. "I love fashion, wearable art, and art that has deep personal meaning or that is connected to family history. I love to hear about people's family, their stories, and why things are important to them."

Obituaries

Barbara Bennett Pippin

Barbara Bennett Pippin passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, October 23, 2026, surrounded by family and beloved caregivers. Though she has passed from among us, she leaves a profound mark on this community and on the lives of all those she touched as a loving wife, mother, stepmother, grandmother, great-grandmother, beloved aunt, friend, world traveler, businesswoman, and teacher.

The youngest of the four children of Jay Frank and Lilian Mixon Bennett, Barbara was born in Albany on October 29, 1939. Except for a brief period as a student at Florida State University, she lived in Albany all of her 86 years, growing up on Third Avenue and later spending over 40 years on the pecan farm where she passed her last days.

Known to so many simply as "Miss Barbara," she spent more than five decades teaching dance and inspiring thousands of young people through the Pritchett-Pippin Dance Studio. Led by her deep Christian faith, anyone who crossed her path knew that she was a force of nature—spreading love, compassion, and inspiration throughout her extensive family and the wider community.

Barbara is survived by her four children: Colleen Jones Meriwether, Billie Bruce "Chip" Jones III (Diane), Clarence Mangham "Trey" Pippin III (Shena), and Jay Scott Pippin (Theresa); her two stepchildren: Trina Pippin Lawrence (Stephen) and Leah Pippin Harding (Chad); as well as 16 grandchildren and many cherished great-grandchildren.

Barbara was the essential glue that bound this family together as generations grew, branched out, and dispersed across the country and the world. No matter the holiday or occasion, everybody was always welcome. With her, it was truly "the more, the merrier," and she possessed love and generosity enough for everyone. She loved deeply and was loved by so many in return.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 44 years, Clarence Mangham "Bubber" Pippin, Jr.; her brothers, Jay Donald Bennett and James "Jim" Franklin Bennett; her sister, Wyolene Bennett Walker; and her stepdaughter Sharon Lynn "Shari" Pippin.

The family is eternally grateful to Miss Barbara's longtime caretakers—Venetia Fredenburg, Earnestine McNeil, and Melissa Stevens—as well as the many friends and family members who contributed so lovingly to her care.

The family will receive friends beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at Gillionville Baptist Church, followed by a service celebrating her life at 3:00 p.m., with Pastor Bryan Haynes officiating. Interment will follow at Crown Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the ministry of Gillionville Baptist Church 4614 Gillionville Rd, Albany, GA 31721.

The family warmly invites all who knew and loved Miss Barbara to join them in honoring a woman who brought so much joy, movement, and light to our lives—remembering that while there is "a time to weep, and a time to mourn," because of the legacy she leaves in our hearts, there is also a time to do what she loved most: "a time to laugh, and a time to dance." (Ecclesiastes 3:4)

To sign our online registry, or to send condolences to the family, you may visit Mathews' website at www.mathewsfuneralhome.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	SOLUTIONS
1 become too mature for (7)	
2 arm's-length photos (7)	
3 span for octogenarians (8)	
4 fails to take off (7)	
5 site of 490 BCE Greek battle (8)	
6 printing press pioneer (9)	
7 Fri-Mon separator (6)	

ES EI ROW OU LF
TG FI ERG GHT MAR
IES ATH ZZL SE GUT
ON HEN ENB HYP IES

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Tuesday's Answers: 1. LAKE 2. FOCUSING 3. WILSONS 4. CLOUDLESS 5. LAGASSE 6. TEPIDITY 7. UPGRADED 11/4

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 draining (9)	
2 candy cover (7)	
3 F1 pros (7)	
4 feigning (6)	
5 "flattened spaghetti" (8)	
6 Turkish strait (8)	
7 sounds of a sleepover (7)	

GL DEP ING GU VE
FAK BOS DRI GIG WR
RUS APP INE LET LIN
ER ES ING RS PO

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Wednesday's Answers: 1. OUTGROW 2. SELFIES 3. EIGHTIES 4. FIZZLES 5. MARATHON 6. GUTENBERG 7. HYPHEN 11/5

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Work involves the performance of skilled and semi-skilled duties in connection with repairs to and maintenance of buildings and grounds requires rudimentary knowledge of basic heating, carpentry, painting, plumbing and electricity. High school graduate, vocational training or equivalent combination of education and experience required. Experience in the building trades, building maintenance or a related field is required. Georgia Driver's license is required. Criminal background checks and drug testing are required.
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Albany Legals
Public Hearings

A-1055
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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

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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.

"R J V ZGQA, OU NQGKQJ FNRWZQX ... V FRW NKWQJSHU JRU SNRS RWUKWQ ANK XKQJ RWUSNVWZ SK NQHM R FNVHX VJ R NQGK SK OQ."
— EGQX GKZQGJ

Previous Solution: "That 'I VOTED' sticker ... proclaims that I exercised a right denied to so many for so long ... I vote with them in mind." — Ava DuVernay

TODAY'S CLUE: N equals M

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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.

"X EXMA X NYQRB FSRR ZWMSRO FACF X MAYQRB VCJ, CVB FACF X PVSE AYE ... X UQMF ACLS ZYTS NYOOSS CVB DSF ZW SXDAFA EXVB."
— CTXCVC DTCVBS

Previous Solution: "As I grew, my heroes changed ... I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me." — Fred Rogers

TODAY'S CLUE: O equals Y

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS
1 "So mad!"
4 Fill up
8 Curses
13 Filmmaker Ang
14 Mosque leader
15 Hosts
17 Destination for a team bus
19 "Don't panic"
20 Italian city with a big Fashion Week
21 Significant phase
23 Pico de __
24 Proper partner
25 Hair product that often contains cornstarch
27 "Me Talk Pretty One Day" writer David
29 Faux follower
30 Furrow
31 Ad __ committee
32 Corral
33 Anya's "The Queen's Gambit" role
34 Dried or fried fruity snacks
38 Some pub pints
39 "20/20" network
40 "Yikes"
41 Vietnamese New Year
42 "Give __ try!"
43 Bike alternative
47 Extremely terse voicemail message
50 Show up
51 Central Plains people
52 German "Bah!"
53 Sasha Obama's sister
54 Emmy-winning drama with primarily Japanese dialogue
56 Many a house wine, or what can be found in each set of circled letters
58 El __ tequila
59 "Bugonia" actress Stone
60 Mama deer
61 Direct (to)
62 Min. parts
63 Bruins great Bobby

DOWN
1 Stays in a heated yurt, perhaps
2 Alter, as neural pathways
3 Passport alternative for U.S. domestic travelers
4 Talk with one's hands?
5 Reddit session with a celeb guest
6 Some big animal handlers
7 Nail file material
8 Food blogger Perelman
9 Some fatty acids
10 Thinker with a "razor"
11 Cook for the week ahead, say
12 People accused of losing artistic integrity
16 Slick
18 Some motorcycles and keyboards
22 Setting of the annual Food & Wine Classic
25 Use voice-to-text technology
26 "Round Midnight" Oscar winner Herbie
28 Baseball analyst Darling
32 Quick snapshot
33 Like some lenses
34 Vegan-friendly fabric
35 Blow off steam
36 Addis __, Ethiopia
37 "Oh, boo-__!"
38 Without markup
42 "No doubt in my mind"
43 Plot
44 Lake Erie port
45 Key related to G major
46 Bookworm
48 __ lamb
49 Griffith Park's 4,210+
53 Wharton degs.
55 Neither partner
57 Rap trio Run-__

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

11/05/26

By Emily Biegas
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11/05/26



Staff Photos: Carlton/Tara Fletcher

All manner of ghosts, goblins and little monsters came to The Albany Herald parking lot Saturday for the newspaper's first trunk-or-treat event.

Hundreds take part in Herald trunk-or-treat event

By Carlton Fletcher
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

ALBANY – They came from all over the city – witches, princesses, Ninja warriors, Cats in Hats, axe-wielding demons, skeletons, policemen, Ninja Turtles, Spider-men, demon fearleaders, all kinds of super heroes and one spot-on, dead-letter-perfect miniature Erkle clone.

Before the witching hour in the West Broad Avenue parking lot adjacent to The Albany Herald ended Halloween evening, hundreds of trick-or-treaters – most with parents in tow – had filled their goodie bags with little cuties, books, light necklaces, and – oh yeah – candy. Lots and lots of candy.

Organized for The Albany Herald by Tara Fletcher, the newspaper's first Halloween Trunk-or-Treat event was a resounding success beyond pretty much anyone's imagination.

"The leadership team at The Herald is looking for more and more community involvement, and there's no better way to get involved than to do something for the kids in the community," Fletcher said. "We're very appreciative that officers from the Albany Police Department were on hand to support the event, and we were blown away by the number of kids – and families – that came out."

Along with APD officers Morency and Warner, who handed out treats and police stickers, six other groups of volunteers set up their decorated vehicles as candy stations for the treat-hungry horde that descended on the downtown venue.

Among those who handed out treats were Lizeth Gomez and Neidi Diaz.

"We'd never done anything like this before, so we decided to get involved after we read about it," Gomez said. "It was really a fun experience."

Added Diaz: "I couldn't believe all these kids came out. We had a great time being part of this."

With many doubters warning that such a first-time event might not have registered in the community, Fletcher said she never doubted. In fact, before decorating trunksSaturday, she went to several stores before the event,.buying double the amount of candy to give out.

"I just had a feeling," she said. "I wanted us to be prepared."

Even with the additional goodies, all trunks (and one van) previously loaded with candy – as well as dozens of children's books and other treats – were gone 20 minutes before the trunk-or-treat was scheduled to end.

But even when the candy, books and other treats ran out, there were still nothing but smiles all around.

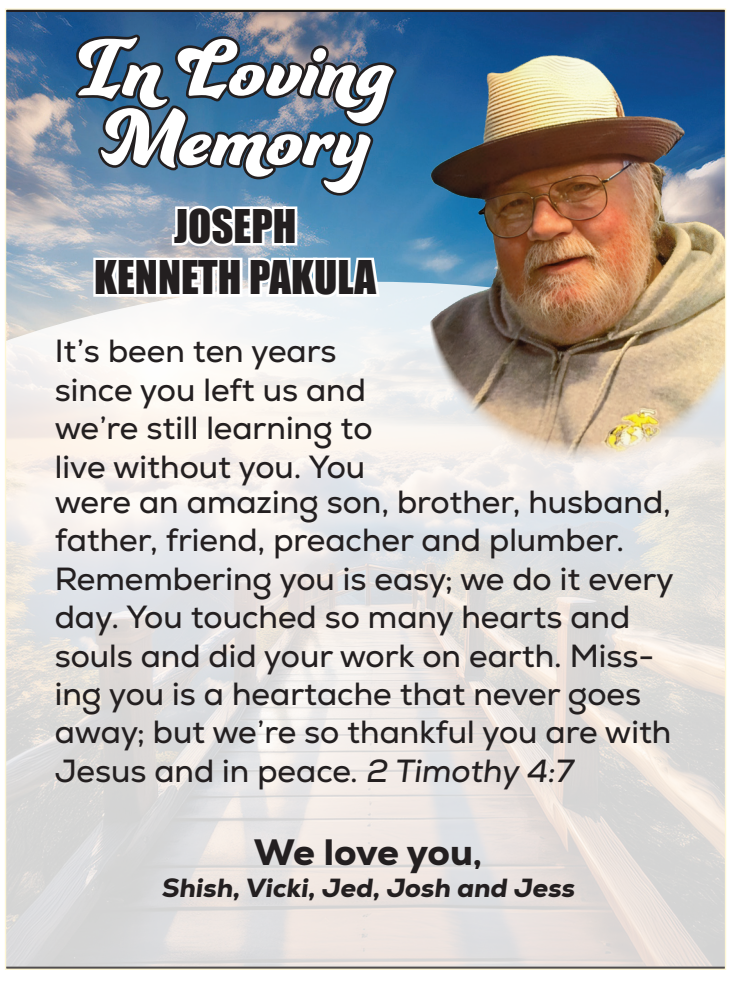
"This was wonderful," one mom said as she led her little dragonfly princess away, her goodie bag bulging with treats. "The city needs to have more things like this for families. Everyone was so nice; we loved it."











It's been ten years since you left us and we're still learning to live without you. You were an amazing son, brother, husband, father, friend, preacher and plumber. Remembering you is easy; we do it every day. You touched so many hearts and souls and did your work on earth. Missing you is a heartache that never goes away; but we're so thankful you are with Jesus and in peace. *2 Timothy 4:7*

We love you,
Shish, Vicki, Jed, Josh and Jess

