

Perspectives
Thomas Knapp
• Page 4A

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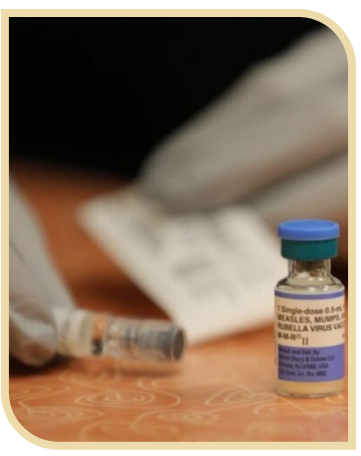

No longer measles free:
U.S. sees surge in virus
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$1.50 ©2026 GTLN Vol. CXXXIIII, No. 139 ALBANYHERALD.COM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026

Fawohodie looking to make positive difference for youngsters in Albany area

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY – Taking its name from a word that originated in Ghana meaning "freedom," the Fawohodie Cultural Sustainability Center is reaching out to provide opportunities for underserved and at-risk youngsters in the Albany area.

Formed three years ago, Fawohodie's adult instructors are working to give direction to students in grades six through 12.

"In the Akan language, it means, 'With freedom comes great responsibility'," Jabriel Davis, who serves as president and has enlisted husband Phillip Davis as vice president, said. "I founded it because of what I perceived with rebelliousness with youth wanting to control their lives but with no realization of the responsibility of what that means, of what freedom entails."

On Saturday the center, along with the Albany Area Arts Council, is hosting "REWIND: In a Strange Land" featuring Albany native Jupiter "Jupe" Javetta, a photographer, documentarian and storyteller. This edition of the "REWIND" series will blend Javetta's media to "examine the relationship between people and place for an exploration of black Southern life, lineage, memory and the complicated beauty of belonging."

The event starts at 7 p.m., and there is no admission fee. However, the organization has a "pay-as-you-want" philosophy that allows those who have the means to donate toward its programs.

The series is Fawohodie's community arts program and has five or six participants who regularly perform at events.

The arts and culture workshops also include audio and visual engineering, poetry, songwriting, film, dance, and African and African American storytelling.

That includes the "smallbany" poetry competition.

"They write and they perform," Davis said. "It's spoken word, but some of the experiences are like a one-act play. We have about 23 kids signed up for that program.

"With the poetry, they learn how to express themselves and their emotions in a healthy way, how to be compassionate and considerate of others, public speaking and confidence."

Through the organization's environmental and economic sustainability workshops, the participants learn to create seed banks, manage home gardens, composition, foraging wild foods and herbs, and how to produce herbal medicines and food preparation.

"They learn how to grow in urban spaces," Davis said. "They participate in workshops. They grow everything. This

See **FAWOHODIE**, 2A

Strother's District 4 seat headed to March 16 special election

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Dougherty County Board of Education accepted Melissa Strother's resignation Nov. 9. It also asked for a special election on March 16, 2027, so District 4 voters can choose who will fill the term she won but will not serve.

The request now goes to the Dougherty County Board of Elections and Registration, which must formally call the election.

Strother's move left two openings, according to the resolution the board adopted.

Under state law, a school board member who moves out of the district they represent stops being a member, and the seat becomes vacant. That opens the last weeks of her current term, which ends Dec. 31. Strother had also been reelected to a new term beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

When someone elected to office withdraws and does not take the oath, state law requires the elections board to call a special election. During the meeting, Coleman told members they could fill

See **STROTHER**, 2A



Photo Courtesy of Melissa Strother

Melissa Strother resigned from the Dougherty County Board of Education after moving outside District 4. The board has requested a March 16, 2027, special election to fill her seat for the new term.

Radio personality tackles teen violence with 300-mile walk



Special Photo

Radio personality Todd "TCB" Burnett plans to walk 300 miles to Orlando, Fla., to bring awareness to the local issue of teen violence.

By Carlton Fletcher
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ALBANY – Like the majority of Americans, Todd Burnett will visit his relatives during the holidays.

He'll just take a little longer getting there.

Burnett, a long-time local radio personality known communitywide as "TCB," will start his holiday journey to visit relatives in Orlando, Fla., on Thanksgiving Eve, leaving the east Albany Walmart parking lot – on foot – to kick off a 300-mile journey Burnett is undertaking to draw attention to the teen violence problem that plagues Albany and southwest Georgia.

"I'm calling it 'The Walk Against Teen Violence: Making a Way for Teens to Be Here Today and Strong Tomorrow,'" Burnett said. "I've always been into doing physical stuff, so I decided to make this small sacrifice to try and focus attention on an issue that is important to our community."

Burnett is walking from Albany to Orlando under the sponsorship of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization. He sought a local sponsor to help promote his trek but found no takers.

"Yeah, I wanted to hook up with a local organization, but that didn't happen," Burnett said. "The Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization said they were glad to get on board. My goal is to raise $100,000 by April to support the organization."

Burnett said recent violence that left two 15-year-olds dead in the community made it clear that something needed to be done. His ties to the region as a radio personality and his service as an Army infantryman led him to plan the walk.

"I'm calling it a walk of faith," Burnett said. "I just wanted to do something on a larger scale. I don't think, even with all the churches in our community, that enough emphasis is being placed on taking care of the temples – our bodies – that we receive from God.

"People can go to the TCBinthecommunity.com website to make donations. They can

See **RADIO**, 2A

Dougherty school board extends Westover construction schedule, adds $750,000 to allowance



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Westover Comprehensive High School's new gymnasium is under construction in Albany. The Dougherty County Board of Education voted Nov. 9 to extend its substantial completion deadline to Dec. 22.

By Kathryn Crockett
kathryn@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Dougherty County Board of Education extended construction deadlines for Westover Comprehensive High School's new gym and classroom tower Nov. 9 and approved a $750,000 increase in the project's construction contingency allowance.

The changes move the substantial completion date for the health and physical education complex from Nov. 4 to Dec. 22, a 48-day extension. The classroom tower's deadline moves from Dec. 18 to Jan. 14, an additional 27 days.

The board also increased the construction contingency allowance from $200,000 to $950,000 to cover outstanding obligations, anticipated changes and unforeseen conditions during the remaining work. The additional funding will come from the district's Capital Projects Fund.

Board members approved the adjustments as part of their consent agenda.

Superintendent Kenneth Dyer attributed the need for more time to unforeseen conditions and revisions requested by the district. His written recommendation said the extensions were based on the general contractor's assessment of project conditions.

"Because of the changes that were required and the unforeseen conditions, the allowance has been used," Dyer told board members.

The larger allowance would help the district address additional changes as crews work toward the revised

See **DOUGHERTY**, 2A

Periodical — Mail Label

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Thomasville set to celebrate 40th Victorian Christmas

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Special Photo
The city of Thomasville will host its 40th Victorian Christmas celebration Dec. 10-11.

THOMASVILLE – Southwest Georgia is encouraged to step back in time into a sparkling winter wonderland as Thomasville celebrates its 40th annual Victorian Christmas.

This beloved holiday tradition will return to downtown Thomasville on Dec. 10-11 from 6-9 p.m., bringing two evenings of holiday cheer, timeless traditions, festive entertainment, and seasonal treats for the entire family.

As Victorian Christmas celebrates its 40th anniversary, the city looks back on four decades of holiday tradition and community spirit. Founded by downtown merchants in 1986 to encourage local shopping and dining during the holiday season, Victorian Christmas has grown into one of Thomasville's most beloved annual events.

The Victorian theme was a natural fit for Thomasville, a community known for its historic architecture, charming Victorian-style homes, and beautifully preserved downtown buildings. What began as an innovative effort to bring shoppers downtown has transformed into a two-night holiday celebration that welcomes more than 30,000 attendees each year.

Today, Victorian Christmas continues to bring together residents and visitors to experience the charm, history, and holiday spirit that make Thomasville so special. Visitors can look forward to an enchanting lineup of activities and entertainment, including horse-drawn carriage rides, blacksmith demonstrations, a live nativity scene, live reindeer, train rides, visits with St. Nick, and so much more.

This year's celebration will feature exciting additions, including aerialists, adding even more magic to the holiday experience. Guests can enjoy marshmallow roasting, live music, and local entertainment throughout both evenings. Horse-drawn carriage rides will follow a scenic route near the historic Big Oak, while visitors can capture special memories with live reindeer and explore the many festive attractions throughout downtown.

Of course, no Victorian Christmas would be complete without delicious holiday treats. Street-food favorites such as kettle corn, chicken pitas, funnel cakes, and other seasonal specialties will fill the streets. Many downtown restaurants also will remain open late, giving visitors plenty of opportunities to enjoy a meal. With most downtown shops open both evenings, Victorian Christmas is also the perfect opportunity to get a head start on holiday shopping. Visitors can browse beautifully decorated storefronts, enjoy in-store entertainment, and discover unique gifts, local craftsmanship, and special holiday keepsakes.

"What makes this event so special is the collaboration behind it," city of Thomasville Community Engagement Manager Brandy Avery said. "From small businesses and performers to volunteers and city staff, everyone plays a part in creating a holiday experience that's uniquely Thomasville. The joy this event brings to our community, along with the support it provides to our local shops and restaurants, is something we're incredibly proud of."

Victorian attire has always been part of what makes this celebration so special, and guests are encouraged to join in the fun by dressing in their holiday best. Due to ongoing renovations at the Municipal Building, the Victorian costume closet will not be available to the public this year. However, visitors can find inspiration in the Victorian Christmas costume lookbook at thomasville.org/victorian-christmas.

Victorian Christmas also provides countless opportunities to capture magical holiday photos. From large-scale photo displays and trees wrapped in glittering lights to charmingly decorated storefronts, families and visitors will find plenty of picture-perfect settings to create lasting memories.

No tickets are required, and most activities are free and open to the public.

For more information about Victorian Christmas, visit thomasville.org/victorian-christmas or contact (229) 227-4136.

From 1A

STROTHER

the rest of the current term themselves.

"I don't think this makes any difference to you, but the code does say that you can appoint somebody to fill the remainder of the term, which is only a few weeks," Coleman said. "But I just want to let you know that that's available to you if you want to."

The board accepted Strother's resignation in one voice vote and adopted the special election resolution in another. No member voiced opposition to either. The board did not name anyone to serve out the remaining weeks of Strother's term.

Strother, who first won the seat in 2014, said in October that she was stepping down because her family had moved outside the district. Her Oct. 26 resignation letter to Superintendent Kenneth Dyer and the board noted the timing: early voting was already underway, and she was the only candidate on the November ballot for the seat.

"I recognize the uncertainty this creates for the voters who have entrusted me with their representation, and I sincerely apologize for the unfortunate timing," Strother wrote.

Strother won reelection Nov. 3, according to the resolution. But she had already told county election officials, in a letter dated Oct. 26, that she would not serve the new term.

Nickerson said the March 16 date comes from the state's election calendar, not from the school board. "The date is provided by the Secretary of State, it's not a date that they've suggested," she said. "The state Secretary of State creates the election dates. The 2027 calendar is out, and the first date for a special election is that March date that they have provided."

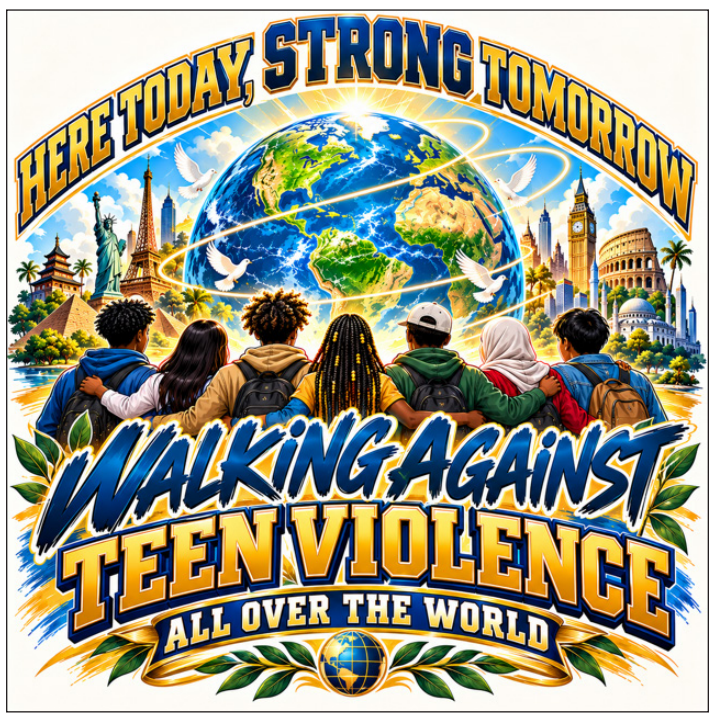
Once the election is called, county election officials will set the dates for candidates to qualify, run advance voting and notify residents about where and how to vote, Nickerson said. Because it is a special election, candidates will qualify at the county elections office.

Only registered voters in District 4 can vote in the election.

"We have 23 precincts, and only six of those are included in this district," Nickerson said.

The next step is for school board attorney Tommy Coleman to present the request to the Dougherty County Board of Elections and Registration, which must formally call the special election, county elections supervisor Ginger Nickerson said.

Nickerson said she hopes to coordinate with Coleman about presenting the request at the elections board's Dec. 7 meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m. in Room 100, and is open to the public.





Special Photo
Learning how to grow food in an urban setting is one of the activities participants can learn through the Fawohodie Cultural Sustainability Center's programs.

From 1A

FAWOHODIE

season they're growing turnips, cabbage, carrots, lettuce ... whatever is seasonably available so they can distribute it."

Participants in the urban farming program also learn about food deserts, which are an issue in the region, and the importance of giving back by donating food to others. Through the program, Fawohodie partners with the Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, which was founded by Shirley Sherrod and the late Charles Sherrod.

"The first thing they get out of it is it is a safe social space," Davis said. "But they also learn with the urban farm that they can be more in control of their food sources."

The organization is also looking to build and expand those relationships.

"This has been kind of our growing year," Davis said. "We're building partnerships within the school system. There are so many organizations that focus on youth. I think if we all continue, the community will adapt and kids will learn there's something positive."

From 1A

RADIO

donate to Big Brothers, Big Sisters directly or donate to me to support this journey. I'm not asking for donations, but some people have given directly to me to help provide meals and hotel rooms during the walk."

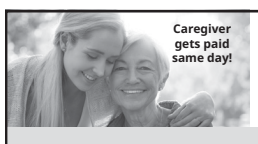
Burnett said he had not set up a specific itinerary for the trip he expects will take "18 to 22 days." He will travel only in the daytime, moving from town to town and staying nights in hotel rooms along the route.

"I'll probably do some long stretches, moving to the next city, but I don't have a plan where I strive for certain goals each day," he said. "Everyone talks about the walking part of it, but I've always been able to walk a lot. It's usually the mental part that's a challenge."

So Burnett, the man known wide as TCB, will set out over the river and through the woods during the Thanksgiving holiday season this year, determined to make a difference in his community. He says he's up for the challenge.

"I'm ready physically and mentally," he said. "It's a walk of faith, just putting one foot in front of the other. As I think about this whole thing, I can see myself leaving and see myself arriving."

With a lot of steps in between.



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From 1A

DOUGHERTY

deadlines, he said.

"Considering the compressed timeline that we have for completion, it will facilitate any adjustments that are needed without having to stop and wait for board approval at each interval," Dyer said.

The $950,000 allowance represents approximately 3% of the original construction contract amount, according to Dyer's recommendation. It sets aside money for construction changes and obligations; the recommendation does not provide an itemized accounting of how the original $200,000 was used or how much of the expanded allowance is already committed.

The latest schedule extends a project that initially was expected to deliver a new gym this fall.

When district officials held a groundbreaking in September 2025, they estimated the gym would be finished around Oct. 31, 2026, with the remainder of the project completed around mid-December. The work includes a new health and physical education complex and a three-story academic tower.

The Albany Herald reported Sept. 30 that plumbing and equipment issues, including equipment that had not arrived on schedule, had pushed the gym's expected completion to Dec. 10. Principal William Chunn said then that Westover planned to begin playing home basketball games in the new facility after the Christmas holidays, allowing teams time to practice there first.

The approximately 2,000-seat gym is being built on the school's former baseball field. Plans include locker rooms, coaches' offices, weight and training rooms, and concessions. Until the move, the Patriots will continue playing in their longtime gym, known as Boston Garden.

The Westover work is part of a broader district construction program. In February, the Herald reported that a $50 million bond issue would help fund additions and renovations at Westover and Dougherty high schools, along with conversion of the former Sylvandale Elementary School campus into a public safety complex.

The Nov. 9 approval authorizes Dyer to execute the contract modifications needed for the revised deadlines and allowance. The recommendation establishes construction milestones but does not specify when students will begin using the classroom tower or set an opening date for the gym.

Daily Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's time to step into a bigger, broader world. Add to your knowledge-base and experience-base through travel to new places, connecting with new people, or studying a new topic of interest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't spend to prove a point to yourself or anyone else — a purchase made from a disgruntled place isn't likely to suit you later. Same with an investment or other financial move.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Determination and authenticity both serve you well but don't always please others. You might end up feeling crosswise with the world late today, but don't act on this feeling which should pass within hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Freedom urges could come from deep within for a few hours, later you could be cranky for a similar amount of time without knowing exactly why. It could be time to get all your ducks in a row.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A friend or even a friend group could swing from pillar to post over the course of the day. Instead of reacting, let things settle overnight. The vibe could be quite different tomorrow. Find creative solutions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You could be a little bit of a babe in the woods for a few hours early today, be especially discerning and do plenty of homework before you buy in to anything. A new domestic project could bring big improvement.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Wordsmiths and verbal creatives are in for a month or so of heightened abilities unless your personal transits say otherwise. Be somewhat wary of new ideas for a few days; don't decide emotionally.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go slow in setting up a new situation with shared resources, you're likely working out of feelings and could miss some trip wires that could tip everything over. Revisit and rethink in about 3 days.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Partnerships or other significant relationships could pendulum for a few days and it's better not to react or decide anything until things settle. But always take note of patterns.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The earlier or later you get things done the better. As the day progresses you could feel more rebellious and more frustrated, but these feelings won't last. Put something down and come back to it if you need to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your spirit could yearn to soar, but earthly concerns could keep you tied down for part of today. Don't fight this short limitation, it will only aggravate your spirit. Acceptance of what is is part of maintaining your peace.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Moods could shift fairly rapidly on the domestic scene today and potentially into tomorrow. Don't fight fire with fire, which could only create new problems. These flames should self-extinguish fairly quickly

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The next few weeks could be relatively quiet in terms of what the Universe brings. About mid-December, a situation or relationship that's long been unresolved could get worked out in a very beneficial way, or, someone's health could take a significant turn toward healing, a wonderful gift for the holidays. Right about year-end, something could allow you to step into your potentials in a very powerful way — super personally-satisfying, yes, but more than that. Your capacities could be visible to important people whose appreciation could continue to roll into the new year. Later in January some rebellious feelings could push you toward self-sabotage — don't do it, it's not worth it. Right near month-end, new confidence could land, along with a potentially strong new opportunity. It could be great, but it's imperative that you look carefully before you leap.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- **1190** - Upon his marriage to Isabella I of Jerusalem, Conrad of Montferrat becomes King of Jerusalem
- **1359** - After his father, Hugh IV of Cyprus abdicates his throne, Peter I of Cyprus ascends the throne of Cyprus
- **1642** - Abel Tasman is the first European to discover the island Van Diemen's Land which was later renamed Tasmania in 1856, and became an Island State of Australia in 1901
- **1835** - The Texas Rangers, a horse-mounted police force were authorized by the Texas Provincial Government
- **1877** - Black Beauty, by English Author Anna Sewell is published. It became an immediate best seller and eventually sold over 50 million copies
- **1932** - In Washington, D.C., the FBI Crime Lab opens (officially known as the FBI Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory
- **1943** - During World War II, at the battle of Makin, the USS Liscome Bay is torpedoed by the Japanese near Taraw and sinks killing 53 officers and 591 enlisted men
- **1963** - The assassin of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald is killed by Jack Ruby
- **1969** - The Apollo 12 command module splashes down safely in the Pacific Ocean, after it completed the second manned mission to land on the Moon
- **1971** - Dan Cooper, aka D.B. Cooper parachutes from a Northwest Orient Airlines plane during a thunderstorm over Washington state with $200,000 in ransom money. He was never found.
- **2016** - Columbia ends the Country's 50 year long civil war when the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia-People's Army sign a revised peace deal

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

- Brownielocks Day
- Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day
- D.B. Cooper Day
- National Sardines Day
- National Use Even if Seal is Broken Day

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly."

William Shakespeare,
playwright (1564-1616)

CORRECTION

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

Weather Forecast

Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
71°	61°	59°	65°	66°	66°	68°
54°	44°	40°	45°	45°	44°	52°

Daily Bridge Club

Winners and losers

By Frank Stewart
Tribune Content Agency


Frank Stewart

With apologies to all the mulelovers out there, there is (as the expression goes) more than one way to skin a mule. Today's declarer might have kept that in mind.

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

WEST
♠ K 10 7 4
♡ J 8 7 6
◇ K 5 3 2
♣ J

EAST
♠ A Q 9 8 6 3
♡ 10 9 5
◇ None
♣ K Q 10 5

SOUTH
♠ None
♡ 3 2
◇ J 10 9 8 6 4
♣ A 9 8 3 2

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

Opening lead – ♠ 4

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North-South could have nipped East-West's four spades by a trick, but South introduced his club suit and played at five diamonds. (It seems that North might have raised to four diamonds at his second turn.) South ruffed the first spade and led the jack of trumps, winning the finesse. He led a second trump to the queen and cashed the ace, but West's king was high. South could see no way to avoid two clubs losers, so he glumly conceded down one.

WINNERS

South indeed had three losers; he can succeed if he focuses instead on obtaining 11 winners. After the queen of trumps wins, declarer can ruff a spade, go to the ace of hearts, ruff dummy's last spade and take the K-Q of hearts. He ruffs dummy's last heart, as West must follow suit.

Then South has won nine tricks and still has his ace of clubs and dummy's ace of trumps for two more. He has managed to compress three losers into two.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K 10 7 4 ♥ J 8 7 6 ♦ K 5 3 2 ♣ J. Your partner opens one diamond. The next player overcalls one heart. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partnership methods vary, but most pairs would double (negative), showing enough strength to respond with four cards in spades. A bid of one spade would promise five or more. The diamond support can wait while you look for a spade fit; but if the next player raised to two hearts and two passes followed, you would compete with a bid of three diamonds.

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

Advice Columnist

Pushy friend demands to be hosted for winter visits

By Eric Thomas
Tribune Content Agency


Eric Thomas

Dear Eric: I am semi-retired and live in the Sunbelt, which has become attractive for a self-inviting, pushy and demanding wintertime guest.

Normally, I enjoy hosting guests anytime. But after not enjoying one particular guest's visits twice for multiple reasons, I definitely want to set boundaries.

I do hope to maintain a casual long-distance friendship. This person doesn't drive and would expect me to be their exclusive tour guide, even if they stayed at a hotel. I suspect free lodgings and transportation are their goal.

What is your opinion on my following solution? I simply tell this person that I am not inviting guests at this time. If pressed for details, I simply say it's a private matter.

– Don't Want to Hurt a Snowbird's Feelings

Dear Feelings: I see the logic in your solution. A white lie like this, in theory, spares the snowbird's ego and saves you from a more awkward or in-depth conversation. There are certainly times when a, let's say, judicious deployment of the truth is the path of least resistance. But I find that lies, even the simplest ones, have the rangy tenacity of English ivy, spreading far beyond where they're planted and resisting containment.

You write that your friend is pushy and demanding. So, it seems unlikely that this person would take "it's a personal matter" as a final answer. Wouldn't they more likely ask a bunch of follow-up questions? And wouldn't the attempts to answer those questions while still holding your boundary lead to more white lies?

It's also possible that even if you manage to resist disclosing what this personal matter is, they could find out that you did invite others to visit and the fib would be for naught.

Kind directness is going to be your best bet here. You don't have to go into all your reasons, but it will be more helpful to say, "Although you came last year, I'm not able to host you this year." Your no should be enough but if they push, you can either say that you'd rather not debate it and you'd appreciate it if they would drop it, or you can tell the truth: "I appreciate your friendship but the last visit caused some problems for me and I want to preserve our friendship by avoiding future issues."

Dear Eric: Three years ago, I found my biological father. I never knew about him. I always believed the man my mother was married to was my biological father.

I must admit as I got older, I became suspicious, only because I didn't really look like my mother or any of my siblings. So, I decided to do an Ancestry DNA test. I found one relative that led me to him.

I learned that there are other children. I reached out to one of them, and I was rejected once they learned who I was.

I eventually reached out to him. I'll just say we spoke briefly once, and he said we'll meet and talk. It never happened and I never spoke to him again. After all this time, should I reach out to him again, or should I just let it go? There are other children I didn't reach out to because of the rejection. What are your thoughts?

– Feeling Confused

Dear Confused: I'm sorry you were treated this way. The answer lies in whether there's something else you want from him or want to tell him. This is complicated, of course, by the very natural desire to want to just have any relationship at all with a father. So, I understand the pull to keep trying.

However, after getting such an unkind and brusque treatment, it may help to be a little more self-protective and pragmatic.

Ask yourself if it will help you to express something to him, to close a chapter in your life, or to ask a question. You may find that the desire to reach out is a one-way street, meaning you may not really want a conversation, but you do have something you need to get off your chest, good, bad or neutral.

In that case, it might be helpful and cathartic to write a letter. Try to do a couple drafts. The first draft of a letter like this is helpful for you. It will be your chance to put anything and everything on the page and then decide what of that you actually want to share and what you just needed to get out.

Perhaps you'll find that you still want to have a relationship with him, despite his behavior. That's fine, too. But it will help to manage your expectations a bit by thinking about what kind of relationship this person may actually be capable of offering you. It's fine to decide that's not what you want.

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

Murder after murder, and our commissioners do nothing. Just the same selfishness. Pet projects that pay their friends. More scam housing that overfills elementary classrooms and overwhelms nurses even more. No new jobs. Nothing combating crime or drugs. No police in neighborhoods. Corrupt churches get rich. Poor children have no opportunity. Nurses and teachers are exhausted.

Just got my Medicare insurance cost increases for 2027. Thank you, Donald, for your big ugly bill that cut Medicare. My 2027 coverage will increase 45%; that's on top of the 22% increase that I paid this year. I'm not going to forget. See you Republicans again in 2028.

It's time for the Democrats to get to work and fix the mess the Republicans have created. Democrats are destined to lead for the next 50 years.

I'd like an accounting of how the latest preacher got $1 million last year.

The parents in Dougherty and Lee counties should teach their children how to resolve disputes without violence.

The county is headed for insolvency, and our crooked little chairman is working his little heart out to get Rambo, Pike -- and, of course, himself -- $3 million of tax money the county doesn't have. I'm stunned at the corruption we see on a daily basis.

Before the Nazis collected all those wedding rings and gold teeth, they collected all the guns.

You make an excellent point, Fletcher. As long as these weirdos who feel so masculine when they get to ride around with their guns on display and terrorist groups like the NRA get their way, we'll continue to see 15-year-old kids being shot by other 15-year-old kids. When some freak/monster shoots up a bunch of 6-year-olds with an automatic weapon and supposed leaders say it was a "hoax," you know this country has lost its soul.

Carlton's new favorite quote of the day: "Being hated by idiots is the price you pay for not being one of them." -- Friedrich Nietzsche

I hope Gov. Bottoms legalizes Casino Gambling to fund Pre-K and SNAP. The Civic Center could be turned into a casino and All Benny could become "Little Las Vegas."

So-called "parents" here don't care if their kids join gangs, sell drugs, rob decent people or shoot and kill each other. As long as they bring everything home to mama. That's one symptom of ignorant teens having babies while they're still babies. It's also a sign of a community that has no concept of decency.

Hiring Lorenzo's buddies to do the reval in Dougherty County has really worked out well, eh? Because of this group's inability to do a job it was paid a lot of money to do -- minus kickbacks, of course -- hard-working, taxpaying county citizens are paying the price for a corrupt, incompetent government.

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Perspectives

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Carlton Fletcher
EDITOR

Georgia Trust for LOCAL NEWS

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.
Luke 6:27

COLUMNIST ■ JAY BOOKMAN

Welcome, y'all, to Blueorgia

Is Georgia now blue?

With every statewide office in the hands of Democrats, you'd probably have to say yes. And while the abruptness of the transformation has been stunning, it's also true that it has been coming for a long time. The signs were there.


BOOKMAN

For example, you now have to go back an entire decade, to 2016, to find the last time a Republican won a U.S. Senate race in Georgia. Since then, Democrats have won four consecutive Senate races, two by Raphael Warnock and two by Jon Ossoff. The first two were extremely close, but the margins grew in the more recent two, with Ossoff putting a cherry on top by winning his re-election race by 18 percentage points.

As they say in the sports world, you are what your record says you are. And the record says we're blue.

You also have to consider that Joe Biden carried the state in 2020, and while Donald Trump won it narrowly in 2024, I doubt even the most optimistic Georgia Republican would put big money on winning the state's 16 electoral votes in 2028. It's just hard to imagine the trend line reversing so quickly.

So for the state Republican Party, it's time to stare into a mirror and be honest about what you see. How did you get here, and what do you do next? If your spouse has left you, your kids won't talk to you, you lost your job and the mortgage is past due, what now?

Do you keep doing what got you in this situation, or do you alter course?

They got in this predicament because the state of Georgia and the state Republican Party have both changed significantly in the last decade, but they've changed in different directions.

While the state has grown more diverse and less conservative, the state GOP has done the opposite. Instead of making peace with that diversity, instead of embracing it and adapting to it, Georgia Republicans have used it to fuel a backlash against such changes.

That strategy worked, for a while, and in large parts of the state it still does. Those GOP state legislators who survived the midterm debacle did so because they represent districts that remain deep red to this day, so they may not feel pressured to alter course.

But in statewide races such as a U.S. Senate campaign, that strategy does not work and never will again. The demographic changes have simply become too profound to overcome: Every voter they win by advocating an aggressive anti-immigrant platform, for example, is offset by two voters who they drive away with that policy.

Look at the Mike Collins campaign for Senate. He took a hardcore, juice-the-base MAGA strategy that ought to work well in his deep-red home congressional district – a district that Trump won by 21 points – then used it as a blueprint from which to run a statewide campaign.

He lost by more than 700,000 votes.

The details are even more damning. Even though Collins sat at the top of the ballot, he got 200,000 fewer votes than the Republican candidate for agriculture commissioner. That means even Republican voters went out of their way to reject him and his message. His performance was so bad that he won his own deep-red 10th District by less than a percentage point. Two years ago, he had won re-election in that district by 26 points.

So blue state or not, Georgia is not a MAGA state. In fact, you could even argue that it never was. One of our last Republican senators, the one we elected a decade ago, was the late Johnny Isakson, a moderate who today's GOP base would run off as a RINO. Our three most recent Republican governors, Sonny Perdue, Nathan Deal and Brian Kemp, were all conservative, and were all re-elected to second terms, but none of them governed in the MAGA fashion.

If Republicans fear that Democrats are going to do real harm to the state, they need to become competitive again as quickly as possible. That process begins by understanding that the Georgia they once knew no longer exists, because the people of this state have decided it shouldn't.

Jay Bookman covered Georgia and national politics for nearly 30 years for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, earning numerous national, regional and state journalism awards. He is the author of "Caught in the Current," published by St. Martin's Press.

COLUMNIST ■ YONATAN HAMBOURGER

Who are we really thanking?

The combine broke down in October, just as the harvest was getting underway. For two days, the farmer worked beneath the machine, his hands covered in grease and hydraulic fluid, while watching the weather forecast. Rain was coming, and if the soybeans remained in the field too long, much of the crop could be lost.


HAMBOURGER

He finally got the machine running. The rain held off just long enough. By Thanksgiving, the harvest was safely gathered, and his family was seated around the dinner table. Before anyone began eating, he bowed his head and thanked God.

Yet he knew exactly how much work had gone into that harvest. He had prepared the soil, planted the seeds, maintained the equipment, and spent countless hours in the fields. His family had sacrificed alongside him. So why was he thanking God for something he had worked so hard to accomplish?

After 20 years of difficult labor in the household of his father-in-law, Laban, Jacob was finally returning home. He had arrived with almost nothing. Now he had a large family, flocks, servants and considerable possessions. But his return was overshadowed by fear. His brother, Esau, from whom he had fled years earlier, was approaching with 400 men. Jacob did not know whether he was coming to welcome him or attack him. In that moment of uncertainty, Jacob turned to God:

"I am unworthy of all the kindnesses and all the faithfulness that You have shown Your servant; for with my staff, I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps." (Genesis 32:11)

The Hebrew word translated as "I am unworthy" is katonti, which literally means "I have become small." Jacob had spent 20 years building a family and earning a livelihood. By every ordinary measure, he had become a man of considerable means. Yet his success made him feel smaller, not larger. He remembered crossing the Jordan River with only his walking staff. Looking at everything he now possessed, he recognized that his own efforts, however necessary, could not fully explain the distance between those two moments.

Jacob's gratitude did not deny his labor. It acknowledged that his labor was never the whole story.

The farmer could repair his combine, but he could not command the weather. He could cultivate the soil, but he could not guarantee that every seed would grow. Gratitude begins where control ends.

Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, saw in Thanksgiving an expression of something deeper than gratitude for a successful harvest. The holiday reflects faith in divine providence: the conviction that God not only created the world but remains attentive to what happens within it.

Drawing on the teaching of the Baal Shem Tov, founder of the Chassidic movement, the Rebbe emphasized that God's concern extends even to the smallest details of creation. Yet he insisted that such faith carries responsibility. If God remains attentive to human life, we cannot be indifferent to the lives of those around us.

The Talmud gives that responsibility a practical expression. It teaches that we should follow God's ways. Just as God clothed Adam and Eve, we should provide clothing for those who need it. Just as God visited Abraham during his recovery, we should visit the sick. And just as God comforted Isaac after his father's death, we should comfort mourners. (Sotah 14a)

Belief in a God who cares about human life calls us to become people who care about it, too. But Thanksgiving is not equally joyful for everyone. Some families gather with an empty chair at the table. Others face illness, financial hardship, or worries about what the coming year will bring. Gratitude should never become a demand placed upon someone who is grieving. Jacob himself expressed gratitude while facing the possibility of danger. His prayer was not a declaration that everything in his life was going well. And his prayer was not the end of his response. Jacob went on to prepare a generous gift of livestock for Esau, the brother whose intentions he feared. (Genesis 32:14–16) He could not know how their meeting would unfold, but he could still take steps toward reconciliation.

Throughout the autumn, the farmer had passed his neighbor's property on the way to his own fields. The two men had helped each other with equipment over the years. But when both combines developed problems, each man had been racing the same approaching storm. The farmer's machine had started in time. His neighbor's hadn't. Much of the crop across the road was ruined.

Now, seated at his Thanksgiving table, the farmer remembered the house across the road, where his neighbor lived with his wife. Why had his own machine started when his neighbor's had not? He had no answer. He certainly could not claim that his good fortune meant God favored him, or that his neighbor's loss revealed anything about the man's worthiness. He knew how narrowly he had escaped the same hardship, and how little either man had controlled the outcome.

He also knew that the family across the road was facing a difficult Thanksgiving. Before his own family began eating, he asked his wife to help prepare a covered dish. They filled it generously with food from their Thanksgiving table. Then he put on his coat, picked up the warm dish, and walked across the road.

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

COLUMNIST ■ THOMAS KNAPP

A declaration of intent to cling to power, not peace

On Nov. 19, following an ostentatious "summit" in Shenzen, China, the chief executives of the United States (Donald Trump), Russia (Vladimir Putin), and China (Xi Jinping) issued what the White House titles a "Heads of State Declaration Toward Peace."


KNAPP

The declaration, as titled, sounds like a fantastic idea. The U.S. and Russia remain bogged down in expensive, seemingly interminable, wars with, respectively, Iran and Ukraine. China seems to always be one flashpoint confrontation away from open conflict in the seas off its coast. Getting all those affairs settled without further hostilities would make the world not just more peaceful, but more prosperous as well.

The devil, of course, is in the details.

Of the declaration's four points, only one (the fourth) really has anything to do with peace, and that point (like the others) is weasel-worded to signal that the three parties intend a lot of talk and none of the simple action to implement its sentiment.

In Point One, the parties (all of them permanent members of the United Nations Security Council) commit "to reform the UN so that the UN can respond more effectively to global challenges and conform to its fundamental mission of international peace and security."

It sounds like they want a more active United Nations. Whether that would make the world a more peaceful place is certainly up for debate, but the key to a more active UN would be the Security Council's five permanent members (the U.S., Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France) giving up their veto power.

Any time a conflict involves one of those permanent members, that permanent member can — and usually does — veto any UN action that might resolve the conflict in ways it considers unfavorable. The declaration mentions no veto reform intent. Any contemplated "reforms" are likely intended to increase, not decrease, the parties' power to stymie UN action at will.

Point Two commits (if the declaration can be said to truly commit any of the parties to anything) to "increase the production and supply of refined petroleum products for the benefit of all nations," due to "the importance of stable energy flows."

How to achieve a return to "stable energy flows?"

The U.S. could end its war with Iran on terms that open the Strait of Hormuz and end U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil.

Russia could end its war with Ukraine on terms that stop getting its depots and refineries bombed.

That would presumably make China, the world's largest oil importer, quite happy ... but neither Ukraine nor Iran rate minor mention in the declaration.

Point 3 gives away the real agenda. That point, in full: "The three heads of state recognized that the principle of state consent and respect for immunities of state officials are of paramount importance, and concurred that the International Criminal Court and other similar bodies must not abuse their jurisdiction."

In plainer English: Trump, Putin and Xi are apoplectic at the (tiny) possibility of ever being held to any standard of justice for crimes committed in places under the ICC's jurisdiction.

"Peace," you see, is an international court not applying laws agreed to by its member states, for crimes in those member states, if the criminal in question happens to be a non-member head of state.

Which is pretty much like me saying the French courts can't try someone for murder in Paris, France, if the alleged murderer happens to be from Paris, Texas.

Point 4 at least nods in the direction of "peace" before veering off. The Big Three agree that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," and agree to "conduct a dialogue on reducing nuclear risks and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

The obvious way to "reduce nuclear risks" would be for the three powers in question, per their obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to get rid of, or at least dramatically reduce to plausible "deterrent" numbers, their nuclear stockpiles.

No mention of any such intent. The focus is on "proliferation." They just don't want anyone else to develop nuclear deterrents against U.S., Russian or Chinese attack.

I'm used to government "declarations" full of empty calories — goals that will never be met, flowery language to make the politicians involved look "statesmanlike," and life goes on.

The "Heads of State Declaration Toward Peace" doesn't even get over that low bar. It's just a declaration that the Big Three declining imperial powers want and intend to remain the Big Three imperial powers.

Kinda gives new meaning to the phrase "dying declaration."

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

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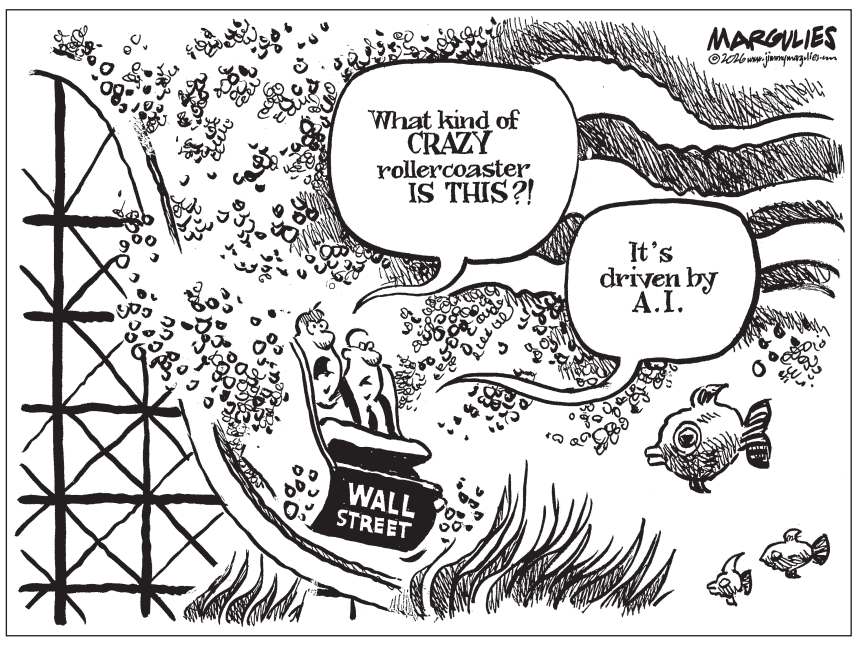

What to watch

TUESDAY

November 24, 2026

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

Dancing With the Stars

ABC, 8 p.m. Live ■ Season Finale

Find out which couple wins the Len Goodman Mirrorball Trophy in the Season 35 finale. Alfonso Ribeiro and Julianne Hough host.

NBA Basketball

NBC, 8 p.m. Live

NBC's *Coast2Coast* regional NBA matchup features Emirates NBA Cup group-play games with viewers seeing either the Boston Celtics at the Washington Wizards or the Dallas Mavericks at the Denver Nuggets.

NHL Hockey: Vegas at Edmonton

TNT, 8 p.m. Live

Jack Eichel and the Vegas Golden Knights are at Edmonton's Rogers Place for a clash with Connor McDavid and the Oilers.

Lot Patrol

BET, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

The mockumentary series about a mismatched squad of eccentric security guards patrolling the chaotic back lot of a major Hollywood studio wraps up Season 1. DeRay Davis, Carl Anthony Payne II, Skeet Carter and Tamera Kissen star.

American Masters

PBS, 9 p.m.

This new *American Masters* installment, "Liz Diller & Ric Scofidio: Architect Provocateurs," looks at Liz Diller, who, together with her late partner, Ricardo Scofidio, began as a radical conceptual artist to become one of the most influential and powerful architects of her generation. Diller reshaped not only buildings, but also the way cities think about democracy, culture and public life.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com


'Dancing With the Stars'

MATT SAYLES, DISNEY

Everybody Hates

Vice, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Cristiano Ronaldo, the global soccer icon from Portugal, is the subject of this new episode. *Los Angeles Times* journalist Kevin Baxter, former player Neil Shaka Hislop and others explore how Ronaldo the man became indistinguishable from Ronaldo the brand.

Frontline

PBS, 10 p.m.

In the new episode "Iranians Under Siege," *Frontline* presents dramatic stories of Iranians living through a year of protests, crackdowns and war, with rare footage and firsthand accounts of the regime's campaign to crush dissent and of life under U.S. and Israeli bombing.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Star of the Month: Burt Lancaster

TCM, beginning at 4 p.m.

Burt Lancaster's later screen roles get their turn in today's tribute. **Executive Action** (1973) opens the lineup, followed by **The Cassandra Crossing** (1976) and **Airport** (1970), with the latter finding Lancaster managing an airport during a blizzard and a suicide bomber onboard a plane. In 1989's **Field of Dreams (pictured)**, he plays "Moonlight" Graham, the ballplayer who found a different calling as a doctor. It was Lancaster's final feature film, and his scenes with Kevin Costner make a lovely



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

farewell. **Atlantic City** (1980) follows, with Lancaster as an aging small-time crook opposite Susan Sarandon in a role that brought the last of his four Best Actor Oscar nominations. **Ulzana's Raid** (1972) and **Local Hero** (1983) finish the tribute.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE


'Uncharted'

CLAY ENOS

Back to the Future (1985, Comedy) Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd **AMC, 6 p.m.**

Stolen by Their Father (2022, Docudrama) Sarah Drew, Kimonas Kouris **LMN, 6 p.m.**

A Bug's Life (1998, Children) Dave Foley, Kevin Spacey **Disney, 6:20 p.m.**

The Santa Clause 2 (2002, Family) Tim Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell **Freeform, 6:30 p.m.**

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (2022, Action) Benedict Cumberbatch, Elizabeth Olsen **FX, 7:25 p.m.**

The Nights Before Christmas (2026, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Laci J Mailey **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

Turning Red (2022, Children) Rosalie Chiang, Sandra Oh **Disney, 8 p.m.**

Splash City (2026, Crime drama) Christopher Ammanuel, Reed Shannon **Starz, 9 p.m.**

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2002, Children) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint **Paramount, 9:30 p.m.**

My Christmas Family Tree (2021, Romance) Aimee Teegarden, Andrew Walker **Hallmark Mystery, 10 p.m.**

Uncharted (2022, Adventure) Tom Holland, Mark Wahlberg **FX, 10:25 p.m.**

Die Hard 2 (1990, Action) Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia **SYFY, 11:30 p.m.**

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What to watch

WEDNESDAY

November 25, 2026

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

NBA Basketball

ESPN, beginning at 5 p.m. Live

Three Emirates NBA Cup games are featured tonight with the Miami Heat at the Philadelphia 76ers, the Minnesota Timberwolves at the Oklahoma City Thunder and the San Antonio Spurs at the Portland Trail Blazers.

NHL Hockey: Carolina at Tampa Bay

TNT & truTV, beginning at 7 p.m. Live

The Carolina Hurricanes storm into Benchmark International Arena to face the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Women's College Volleyball: Big Ten Championship

FOX, 8 p.m. Live

The championship match of the first Big Ten Women's Volleyball Tournament takes place at the Fishers Event Center in Fishers, Indiana. The winner receives an automatic bid in the NCAA tournament next month in San Antonio.

Countdown to Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

NBC, 8 p.m. Live

Live from the famous starting line on the eve of the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, this special gives viewers a sneak peek at the incredible stories behind the floats, balloons and bands on their journey through the streets of New York.

NFL Football: Green Bay at L.A. Rams

Netflix, 8 p.m. Live

The NFL starts a new Thanksgiving Eve tradition with this matchup between Jordan Love's Green Bay Packers and Matthew Stafford's L.A. Rams at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.


'The Lowdown'

SHANE BROWN, FX

Nature

PBS, 8 p.m.

The new episode "Christmas in the Alps" takes viewers to an Alpine winter wonderland, complete with snowy spruce forests, ibex herds, wolf packs, marmots in cozy underground homes and chamois racing across the highest peaks.

The Lowdown

FX, 9 p.m. ■ Season Finale

The gritty exploits of citizen journalist Lee Raybon (Ethan Hawke), a self-proclaimed Tulsa "truthstorian," conclude Season 2 with "The Tower." Keith David, Tommy Lee Jones and Betty Gilpin also star.

A 'Saturday Night Live' Thanksgiving

NBC, 9 p.m.

Feast on a collection of Thanksgiving-themed sketches from 51 seasons of *Saturday Night Live* in this two-hour special.

South Park

Comedy Central, 10 p.m. ■ Season Finale

Trey Parker and Matt Stone's satirical animated comedy concludes Season 29. The adventures of Kyle, Stan, Cartman and other South Park residents have been picked up through Season 31.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Monkeying Around

TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

TCM starts the monkey business with Judy Garland's trip down the Yellow Brick Road in 1939's **The Wizard of Oz (pictured)**, before Charlton Heston encounters a society ruled by apes in **Planet of the Apes** (1968). The latter's makeup earned John Chambers an honorary Oscar. **Monkey Business** (1952) lets Cary Grant and Ginger Rogers behave like children after an experimental youth serum works a little too well. Howard Hawks directed the comedy, which also features Marilyn Monroe. Ron-



MGM

ald Reagan then plays a professor raising a chimpanzee in **Bedtime for Bonzo** (1951), before Clint Eastwood and orangutan Clyde take over in **Every Which Way but Loose** (1978).

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE


'Fred Claus'

JAAP BUITENDIJK

Deadpool & Wolverine (2024, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Hugh Jackman **FX, 6 p.m.**

A Goofy Movie (1995, Children) Bill Farmer, Jason Marsden **Disney, 6:35 p.m.**

The Roses (2025, Comedy) Benedict Cumberbatch, Olivia Colman **HBO, 7:10 p.m.**

Oscar Shaw (2026, Action) Michael Jai White, Tyrese Gibson **Starz, 7:30 p.m.**

Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights (2002, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Jackie Titone **Encore, 7:40 p.m.**

My Christmas Cowboy (2026, Romance) Amy Acker, Luke Macfarlane **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

The Twin Who Lived (2026, Suspense) Kristina Clifford, Johnny Ramey **LMN, 8 p.m.**

The Wizard of Oz (1939, Family) Judy Garland, Frank Morgan **CW, 8 p.m.**

A Knight's Tale (2001, Action) Heath Ledger, Mark Addy **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

Risky Business (1983, Comedy) Tom Cruise, Rebecca De Mornay **SHO, 9:35 p.m.**

Shazam! Fury of the Gods (2023, Action) Zachary Levi, Asher Angel **TBS, 10 p.m.**

Fred Claus (2007, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti **TNT, 10:30 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

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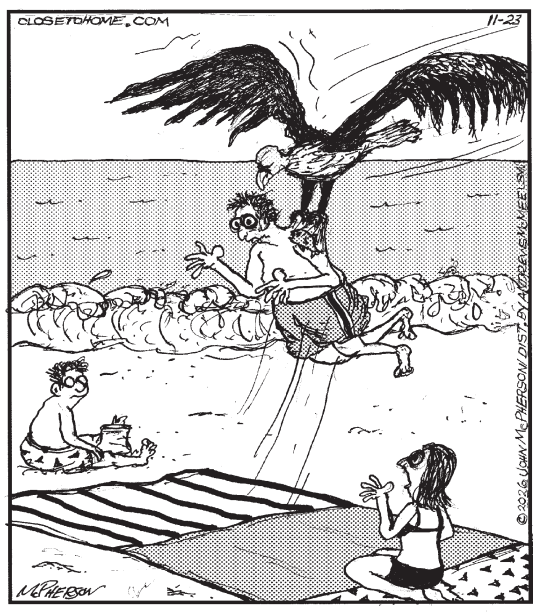
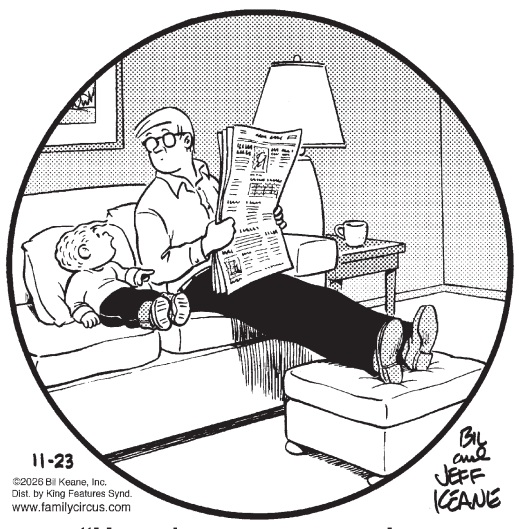
CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



The fish tattoo on Brian's arm turned out to be much more realsitic then anyone knew.

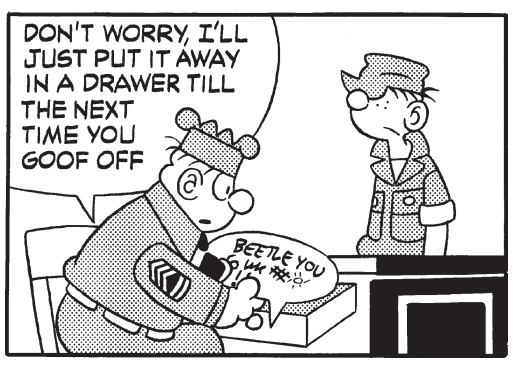
THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



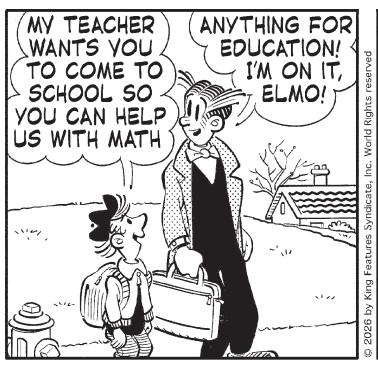
"How do you get your legs to stretch so far?"

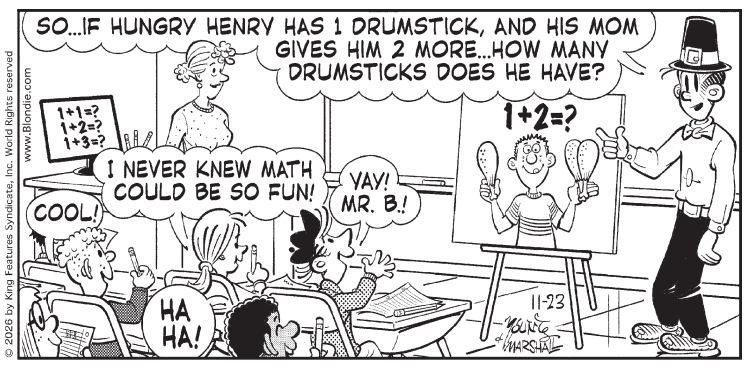
BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker





BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall





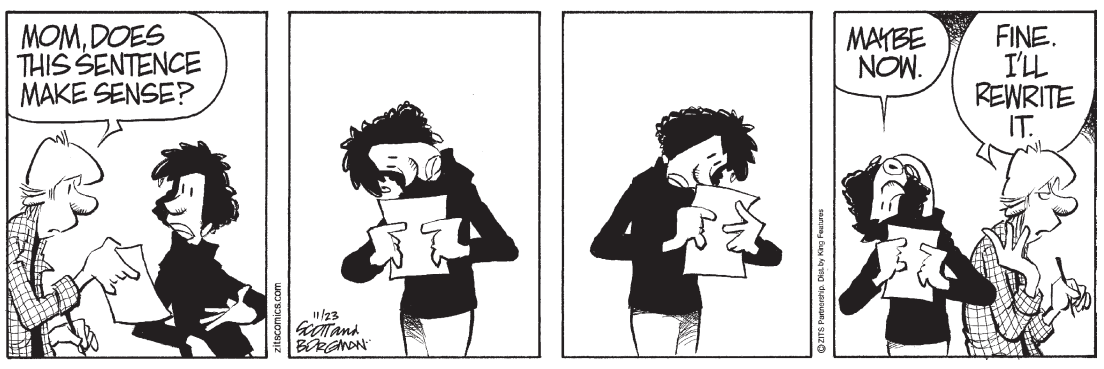
THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



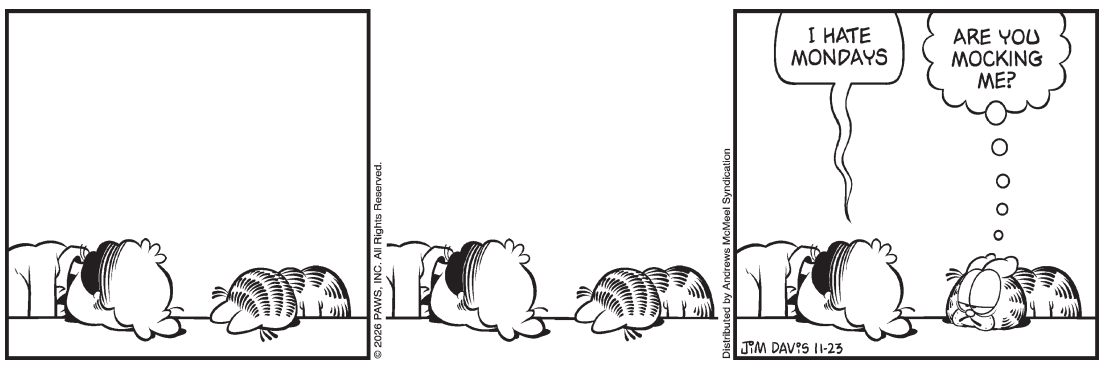
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



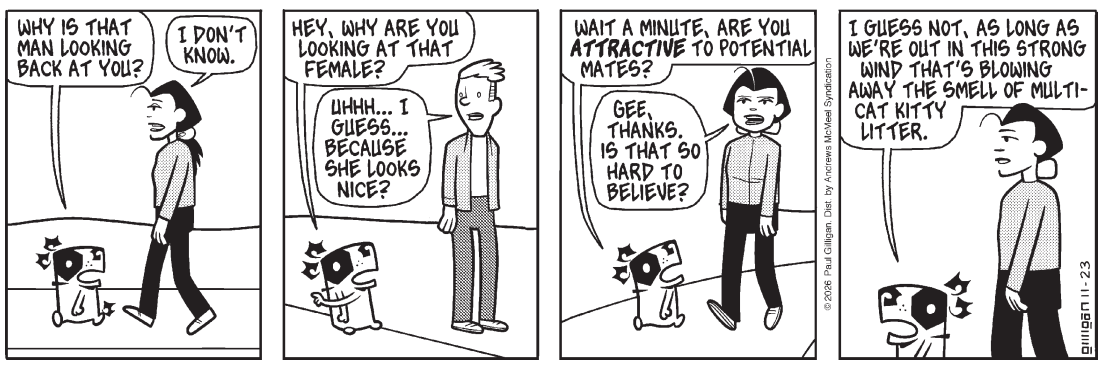
PEANUTS Charles M. Schulz



GARFIELD Jim Davis



POOCH CAFE Paul Gilligan



PICKLES Brian Crane



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS

1 Pertaining to
6 Fine spray
10 Home of Iowa State
14 Slacks material
15 "If u ask me"
16 Trim, as a photo
17 Jeans reinforcer
18 Gas in bright signs
19 Peewee
20 Gala attire
23 "Barefoot Contessa" host Garten
24 "Tsk!" kin
25 Utter
28 "My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic" winged unicorn
34 Rowboat necessity
35 Plane reservation
36 Snaps up
37 Bathtub blockage
39 "One __ time, please!"
40 Self-soothe with repetitive movements
41 "True, except ... "
43 Muscle twitches
45 Ambient music producer Brian
46 Wes Anderson film about two runaway tweens
50 Tolkien tree creature
51 Lucky blackjack card
52 Scand. country
53 Theater premiere, or an apt description of the starts of 20-, 28-, and 46-Across
59 Clash of clans
62 "The Thin Man" dog
63 Panache
64 __ of one's existence
65 Gunk
66 Similar
67 Colorful eye part
68 Winged god
69 Fax forerunner

DOWN

1 Hundred __ Wood: Milne location
2 Sarah Snook's "Succession" role, familiarly
3 Number of 10-Down in every Shakespeare play
4 Score of the 2026 World Cup final
5 Spiral pasta
6 Vase-making Chinese dynasty
7 Chatted online, briefly
8 Small order of pancakes
9 Become buff
10 Play divisions
11 CT scan kin
12 Forever and a day
13 Secret agent
21 Reminds incessantly
22 Male deer
25 Trained for roller derby
26 Like a white rat
27 Possible reply to "Have you cleaned your room?"
28 Up ahead
29 Bit part
30 Isaac Asimov story collection
31 Device in infrared goggles
32 Spud, in Yorkshire slang
33 B&O and Reading, briefly
38 Paintball __
42 Atlanta hip-hop style
44 Do karaoke
47 Global cold spell
48 Word in the dairy aisle
49 Framework on the front of a car
53 Praiseful poems
54 "Was __ hard on them?"
55 Siestas
56 "Top Chef" judge Simmons
57 Follow a wooded path
58 Big dino with small arms
59 DOJ arm
60 Cochlea locale
61 "One" prefix

TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

11/23/26

By Ian Goldwire
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11/23/26

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.**

ARTHRITIS RELIEF — **Solution: 11 letters**

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

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Acupuncture, Aerobics, Ankle, Back, Bike, Bones, Brace, Care, Cartilage, Cream, Cushion, Doctor, Eucalyptus, Feet, Fingers, Flexible, Hands, Health, Hips, Hydrate, Joints, Knee, Lotion, Ointment, Orthotics, Range of Motion, Relax, Resistance Band, Rest, Shoulder, Strength, Supplements, Tape, Therapy, Thumb, Warmth, Water, X-ray

TODAY'S ANSWER: Circulation

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

11/23

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WHATZIT?™

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

T RN

Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

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

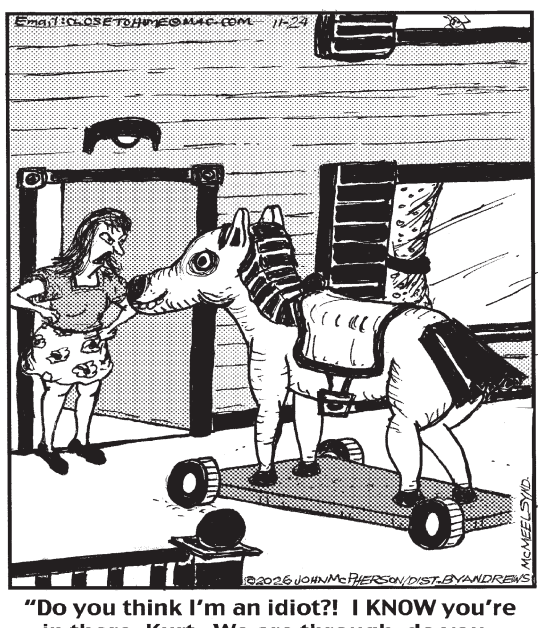
TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

No U-turn

CLOSE TO HOME John McPherson



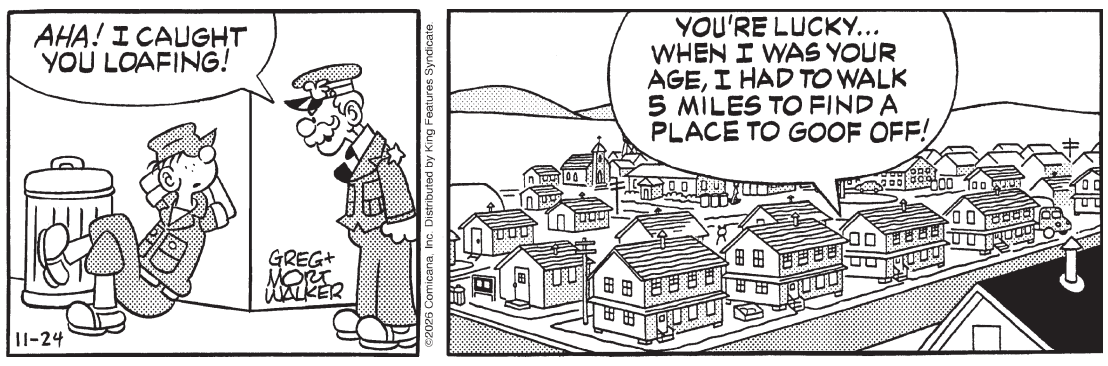
"Do you think I'm an idiot?! I KNOW you're in there, Kurt. We are through, do you hear me?! THROUGH!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS Bil Keane



"Which channel do you turn on to make a milkshake?"

BEETLE BAILEY Mort & Greg Walker



BLONDIE Dean Young & John Marshall



THE BORN LOSER Art & Chip Sansom



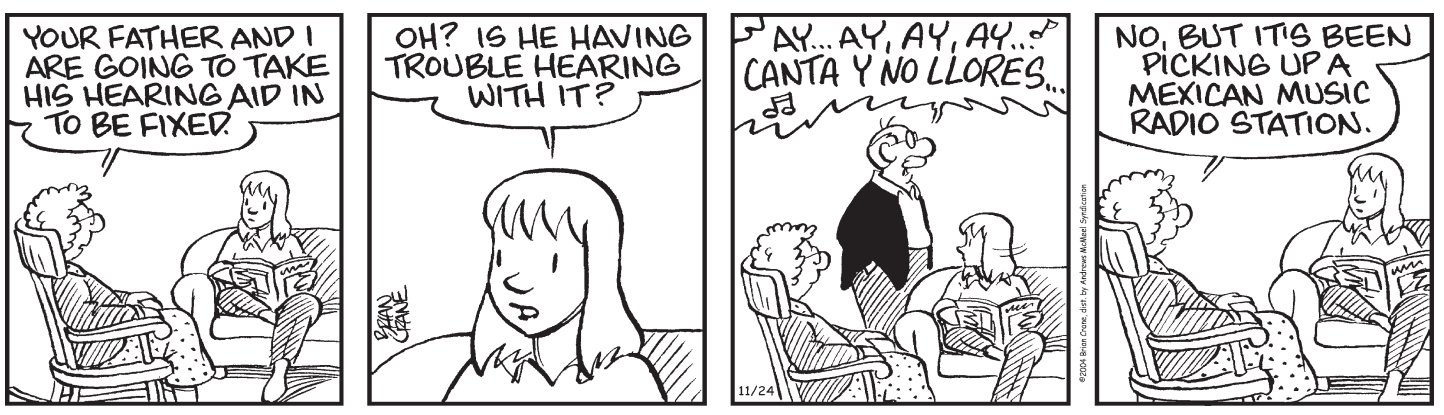
ZITS Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



GARFIELD Jim Davis



PICKLES Brian Crane



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Bottom line
4 Treasure —
9 Singer — Cooke
12 Chimpanzee
13 Small songbird
14 Swelled head
15 Shark feature
16 — acid
17 Animal doc
18 Lure
20 City in Oregon
22 Halloween mo.
23 Fellows
24 Inter
26 Strength
29 Employ
30 From — — Z
31 Strikebreaker
35 Miami- — County, Florida
37 Sawbuck
38 Be in the red
39 Motif
41 Ran away
42 Play part
45 Low
46 Blue hue
48 Painter — Rockwell
51 Popular card game
52 Airman
54 Life story, for short
55 Outlaw
56 Overact
57 Bed and breakfast
58 "— Given Sunday"
59 Kingly
60 Stopped a fast

DOWN

1 Secure
2 Go — — smoke
3 Gave guidance to
4 Land area
5 The Eternal City
6 Kimono sash
7 Trailing plant
8 Sufficient
9 Lucky number
10 Emissary
11 Airborne specks
19 Glacial
21 Acquires
24 Unopened flower
25 — Today
26 Partner
27 Particular
28 Departed
32 Panama neighbor
33 Solemn fear
34 Cot
36 Lab burner
40 Aide
41 In favor of
42 Diver's gear
43 Sir Arthur — Doyle
44 Black wood
45 Roadside stopover
47 Clock reading
48 — bene
49 "— Misbehavin'"
50 Not any
53 Fireplace fuel

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

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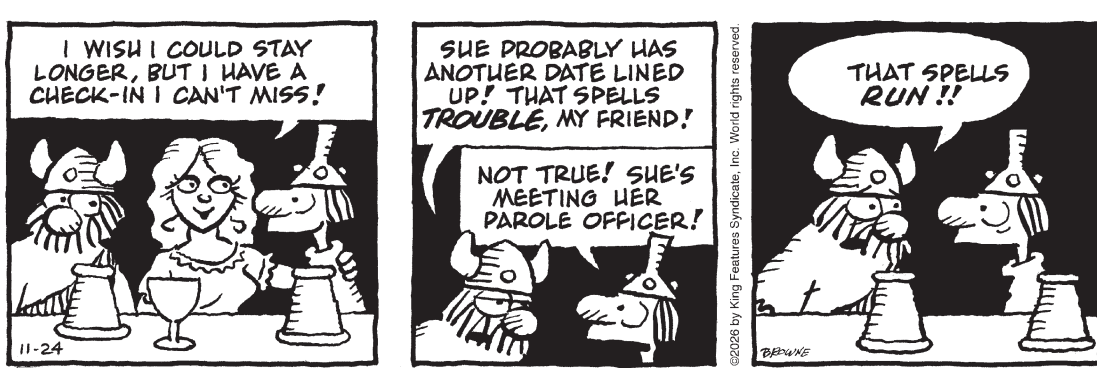
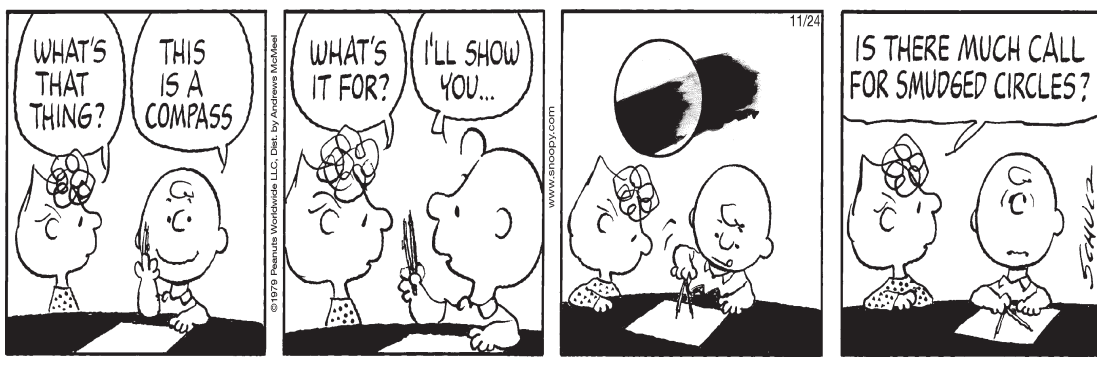
TODAY'S SOLUTION:

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

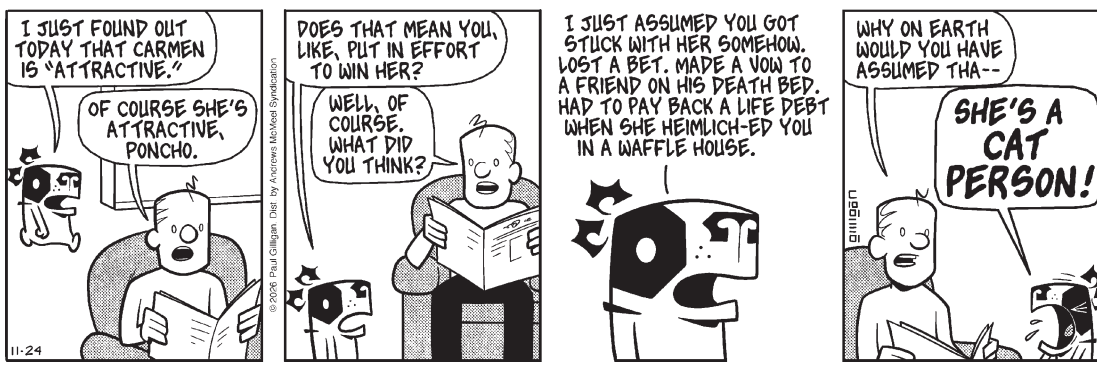
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE Chris Browne



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.**

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'ROCKY' **Solution: 5 letters**

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

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Adrian, Apollo, Award, Balboa, Bell, Best Picture, Boxing, Burgess, Burton, Butkus, Carl, Clubber, Creed, Dolph, Drago, Fight, Goldmill, Gonna Fly Now, Guts, Italian, Ivan, Lang, Lundgren, Meredith, Mickey, Oscar, Paulie, Philadelphia, Punch, Push-ups, Referee, Ring, Robert, Rocky, Sage, Stallion, Stallone, Steps, Sylvester, Train, Weathers, Young

TODAY'S ANSWER: Tiger

WHATZIT?™

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

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Whatzit ©2026 Paul Sellers

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

TODAY'S WHATZIT SOLUTION:

Green with envy

TODAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTION:

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

Scroll Labs transforms 6th-12th-grade ELA classrooms into publishing studios

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ATLANTA — Scroll Labs has announced the rollout of its Interactive Writing Lab, an end-to-end classroom publishing pipeline engineered specifically for 6th-12th-grade English Language Arts educators and secondary writing programs.

Designed to boost student engagement, writing stamina, and literacy outcomes, the platform transforms standard 4- to 10-week classroom writing units into professionally printed classroom anthologies and individual author collections distributed through major retail channels.

For decades, middle and high school ELA teachers have struggled to motivate reluctant writers within a routine where student work is written solely for a grade and quickly forgotten. Scroll Labs solves this challenge with a structured, zero-prep studio model that requires no lengthy professional development workshops, allowing teachers to launch a complete publishing unit after a single 15- to 30-minute virtual orientation.

"Educators want their students to see that their voices matter beyond the classroom walls, but managing printing, formatting, and safety logistics is impossible on top of a full teaching load," Mariah Jackson, managing member at Scroll Labs, said. "We built Scroll Labs to handle the entire publishing pipeline, from standards-aligned daily prompts to print manufacturing and global retail distribution, so ELA teachers can focus entirely on mentoring young writers."

Built in collaboration with ELA curriculum specialists, the Scroll Labs Interactive Writing Lab integrates directly into existing school workflows via Google Workspace for Education, Google Classroom API, or simple CSV roster uploads. Every prompt is mapped directly to Common Core State Standards, Georgia K-12 ELA Writing Standards and Language Standards.

The four-phase classroom workflow includes:

• Zero-Prep Onboarding & Setup: Teachers gain instant access to the Scroll Labs Teacher Portal, daily grade-appropriate prompts, prep guides, and student rubrics, alongside automated distribution of dual-track parental consent forms.

• Active Writing Lab: Over 4 to 10 weeks, students draft daily across memoir, poetry, and short story modules. Embedded peer-review rubrics, self-editing workflows, and AI-assisted content checks provide continuous formative assessment while teachers track submission rates, word counts, and writing stamina via real-time analytics.

• Manuscript Finalization & Teacher Gatekeeping: Students curate their strongest pieces for a classroom anthology or compile individual author collections. A mandatory Teacher Approval Checkpoint requires educators to review and digitally sign off on every manuscript to ensure thematic appropriateness and copyright compliance prior to print.

• Flexible Publishing & School Royalties: Classrooms can publish through three accessible pathways, ensuring no classroom is left behind regardless of budget.

Middle and high school ELA teachers, department chairs, and district curriculum directors can explore the platform, review standards alignments, or launch a Free Digital Pilot by visiting Choose Your Classroom Pathway.

Scroll Labs converts 6th-12th-grade ELA classrooms into professional publishing studios. By combining standards-aligned writing curricula, real-time analytics, strict student data protections, and end-to-end print distribution, Scroll Labs empowers secondary educators to turn standard writing units into lifelong keepsakes and published works. Learn more at https://www.scrolllabs.org.

UGA celebrates completion of new entrance project for State Botanical Garden

By Laurel Clark
UGA Today



Special Photo: UGA

Visitors to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, located at the University of Georgia, will now arrive through a larger, more welcoming entrance designed to accommodate the garden's growing popularity.

ATHENS – Visitors to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia will now arrive through a larger, more welcoming entrance designed to accommodate the garden's growing popularity.

The Gateway to the Garden project relocated and expanded the garden's entranceway to accommodate the increased number of visitors seeking to enjoy the garden, its facilities and programs.

"The State Botanical Garden of Georgia advances the university's land-grant mission through research, conservation, hands-on learning and public engagement," UGA President Jere W. Morehead said. "The Gateway to the Garden will expand access to this important resource for visitors from across Georgia and beyond, and I am deeply grateful to the donors and partners whose generosity made this project possible."

When the State Botanical Garden of Georgia was founded in 1968, the garden entrance was designed to accommodate 50,000 visitors annually. This past year, the garden welcomed nearly 500,000 visitors to explore its curated garden spaces and trails.

In addition to the relocated and enlarged entrance, a new parking area has been added and will soon include an additional trail. The Parking Garden Trail will open in early 2027 and will connect the new parking area to the garden's existing trail network and formal gardens. This new trail will offer a gentle walk through forested areas and showcase the garden's daffodil collection.

The new entrance and parking lot will be open for Winter WonderLights, which will run on select nights through Jan. 15. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit wonderlights.uga.edu.

Man charged with international money laundering tied to ISIS

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MACON – A Lavonia resident is in federal custody charged with international money laundering and destruction of evidence following an FBI investigation into allegations of sending more than $26,000 to individuals and groups affiliated with a designated foreign terrorist organization, the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS).

Younes Moustafa Younes, 34, of Lavonia was charged with one count of international money laundering and one count of destruction of evidence. If convicted, Younes faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and a $500,000 fine for international money laundering, and a maximum of 20 years in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and a $250,000 fine for destroying evidence.

He made his initial appearance in federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Weigle and will remain in federal custody pending his preliminary and detention hearings in Macon.

According to the complaint, between December 2025 and June 2026, Younes sent $16,807 through cryptocurrency transactions using multiple phone numbers and accounts intended to conceal his identity. Investigators allege that at least some of the funds were intended to promote the efforts of ISIS in Syria.

In addition, Younes is alleged to have altered and destroyed evidence up until his arrest when FBI Atlanta agents executed warrants to search his apartment, car, electronic devices and workplace. The FBI found three cellular phones submerged in an unknown solution inside his Lavonia apartment, including one device that was smashed and another with its identification number removed. Agents also found shredded documents submerged in an unknown solution in a bathtub.

The FBI first identified Younes in 2020 after he allegedly accessed ISIS propaganda online. When interviewed by law enforcement, Younes acknowledged viewing the material but denied supporting extremist ideologies. The complaint alleges that, over time, Younes became increasingly radicalized, expressing support for ISIS and other terrorist figures and organizations through encrypted communications with associates.

The complaint further alleges that in 11 separate transactions between December 2021 and April 2022, Younes sent approximately $9,206 to cryptocurrency addresses associated with this effort, using an alias to conceal his support. Encrypted communications cited in the complaint allegedly show Younes sharing extremist content, discussing support for ISIS, and praising individuals associated with terrorist organizations.

In September 2022, Younes traveled to Turkey on a one-way ticket and remained there for approximately two years after allegedly selling his vehicle, cashing out retirement funds, and leaving his employment in the United States. Following his arrest and deportation from Turkey back to the United States, investigators allege that Younes continued to express support for extremist causes and maintained contacts with individuals previously convicted on terrorism-related charges.

FBI Atlanta is investigating the case, with assistance from FBI Newark and the National Counterterrorism Center. Criminal Chief Leah McEwen and Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Peach with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia, Assistant U.S. Attorney Sammi Malek with the U.S. Attorney's Office for New Jersey, and the U.S. Department of Justice's Counterterrorism Section of the National Security Division are prosecuting the case for the government.

HDI America invests $47 million in Candler County

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com



Pat Wilson

Industrial Park in Candler County. The site is Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development-certified and received a Rural Site Development Initiative grant, programs that support a portfolio of shovel-ready sites in every corner of the state. The facility is projected to be fully operational in 2028.

MUNICH, GERMANY – HDI America plans to invest $47 million in a new manufacturing facility in Candler County, creating 185 new jobs over the next several years, officials with the company announced.

"Georgia's automotive industry has become a key driver of opportunity for Georgians in all four corners of our state," Gov. Brian Kemp said. "HDI America is the latest company to recognize the value Georgia brings through our reliable infrastructure and programs such as GRAD. This investment will create jobs for hard-working Georgians and support prosperity in this community for years to come."

Based in Georgia, HDI America is a U.S. subsidiary of Hyundai Industrial Co. Ltd., a South Korea-based automotive parts manufacturer. The company produces automotive seating components, including foam pads, headrests, armrests, and related products, emphasizing product quality and advanced manufacturing capabilities to serve automotive manufacturers and suppliers across the United States.

"Georgia has been an important part of HDI America's growth, and we are pleased to expand our manufacturing operations in Candler County," Seung Yong Park, CEO of HDI America, said. "The region's strategic location, access to major automotive manufacturers, and strong support from state and local partners make it an ideal place for our next chapter.

HDI America's new approximately 175,000-square-foot manufacturing facility will be located at the Metter-Candler Interstate 16

"We are delighted to have HDI America, our third automotive supplier, join Metter's growing industrial base," Hannah Mullins, president/CEO of the Candler County Industrial Authority, said. "The addition of more skilled labor positions within our own community will continue to positively affect Metter's economic vitality, as well as support our region's workforce development initiatives."

Director of Project Implementation and Supplier Strategy Alyce Thornhill represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development on this competitive project in partnership with the Candler County Industrial Authority, Georgia Ports Authority, Georgia Quick Start and Georgia Power.

"It's incredible to see another HMGMA supplier locate in Metter and Candler County," GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson said. "Site readiness to meet today's demanding speed-to-market needs is one of the most-cited requirements for companies looking to grow in a high-demand market. We appreciate the community's investments into site preparation and applaud their resounding success."

DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF APPROVED LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROJECTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026

	ORIGINAL ESTIMATED COST (1)	CURRENT ESTIMATED COSTS (2)	AMOUNT EXPENDED IN CURRENT YEAR (3)	AMOUNT EXPENDED IN PRIOR YEARS (4)	TOTAL COMPLETION COST	EXCESS PROCEEDS NOT EXPENDED (5)	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
SPLOST VI							
(a) The renovation, improvement and equipping of existing schools, administration, athletic and related facilities, including the provision of safety and security equipment for these facilities	67,250,000.00	67,250,000.00	37,319,509.90	25,275,232.85	-	4,655,257.25	June 2028
(b) acquisition, construction and equipping of new schools, administration, athletic and related facilities							
(c) the acquisition of school buses and vehicles for maintenance and transportation use	7,750,000.00	5,000,000.00	81,224.00	2,473,977.40	-	2,444,798.60	June 2028
(d) acquisition of software, hardware and computer equipment for the use of both staff and students	15,000,000.00	17,750,000.00	7,665,471.02	8,889,923.47	-	1,194,605.51	June 2028
(e) acquisition of energy savings equipment							
(f) acquisition of real and personal property necessary for the foregoing							
	90,000,000.00	90,000,000.00	45,066,204.92	36,639,133.72	-	8,294,661.36	
Total - SPLOST VI	**$ 90,000,000.00**	**$ 90,000,000.00**	**45,066,204.92**	**$ 36,639,133.72**	**$ -**	**$ 8,294,661.36**	

(1) The School District's original cost estimate as specified in the resolution calling for the imposition of the Local Option Sales Tax.

(2) The School District's current estimate of total cost for the projects. Includes all cost from project inception to completion.

(3) The voters of Dougherty County approved the imposition of a 1% sales tax to fund the above projects and retire associated debt. Amounts expended for these projects may include sales tax proceeds, state, local property taxes and/or other funds over the life of the projects.

(4) In addition to the expenditures shown above, the School District has incurred interest and other fees to provide advance funding for the above projects as follows:

Prior Years	$ 3,385,705.00
Current Year	4,151,783.41
Total	$ 7,537,488.41

Burgess lifts Dougherty into Elite Eight; Lee County rolls



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Dougherty senior wide receiver David Burgess scores his fourth touchdown during the Trojans' 27-26 win over Hampton Friday night at Hugh Mills Stadium. Burgess' final touchdown tied the game 26-26 and Christian Hernandez booted the extra point to give Dougherty the 27-26 win. The Trojans will host Mary Persons Friday night at Hugh Mills in the Class AAAA Elite Eight.

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — David Burgess caught the pass near the sideline, ran past Hampton's Kemauri Dorsey and took it into the end zone. It was his fourth touchdown catch of the night, and it gave Dougherty the lead for good.

The Trojans edged Hampton 27-26 Friday at Hugh Mills Stadium to reach the GHSA Class 4A quarterfinals. They'll host Mary Persons on Friday. Lee County also earned another home game, shutting out Kell 35-0 to set up a Class 6A quarterfinal against Woodward Academy at Trojan Stadium.

Dougherty 27, Hampton 26

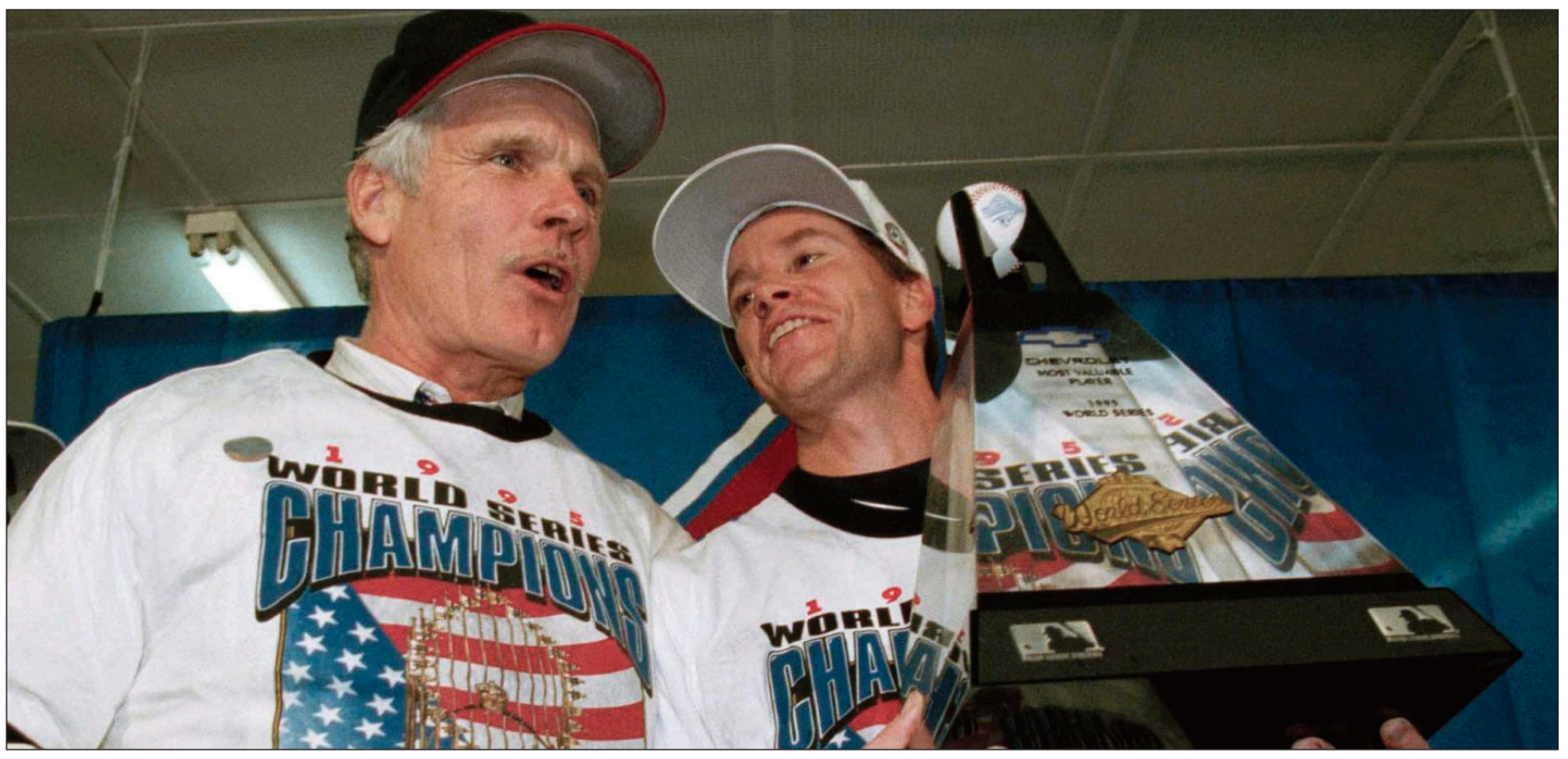
Micah Joyner completed 21 of 25 passes for 314 yards and four touchdowns, all to Burgess, who finished with eight catches for 123 yards.

Hampton fumbled on its first snap after Burgess' go-ahead score, but the Hornets' defense forced fourth-and-12 with 1:46 left. Joyner's pass to Burgess fell incomplete in the end zone. A pass interference flag gave Dougherty a first down at the 12, and the Trojans ran out the clock.

Dorsey scored all four Hampton touchdowns. The Hornets missed the extra point after his first.

"When they missed that PAT, I said to myself, that's the one we need," Dougherty

See **ELITE**, 10A



Special Photo: Braves.com

Braves owner Ted Turner, left, celebrates Atlanta's 1995 World Series title with pitcher Tom Glavine, who holds the series MVP trophy. Turner is on the ballot for the Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2027.

Turner put the Braves on America's TV screens

The former owner who made Atlanta's games a cable staple is on the Hall of Fame ballot

By Mark Bowman
Braves.com

ATLANTA – When evaluating the impact Ted Turner had on baseball and the entire sports world, you can look at the incredible power sports television has gained in the five decades that have passed since Turner had this crazy idea to use his new satellite network to beam Braves games into living rooms across the world.

"Ted Turner was a visionary whose impact on the media landscape transformed how fans experience sports," MLB Commissioner Robert Manfred said in a statement issued when the former Braves owner passed away in May.

Turner is one of eight individuals on this year's Contemporary Baseball Era ballot, which is reserved for managers, executives and umpires who made significant contributions to the game dating back to the late 20th century.

This year's ballot also includes Dusty Baker, Bruce Bochy, Sandy Alderson, Joe Maddon, Lou Piniella, Brian Sabean and Bill White.

A 16-member panel consisting of Hall of Fame players, Major League executives, media members and historians will consider each of the eight candidates, who must receive at least 75% of the vote to be elected. The results of the Class of 2027 ballot will be announced on Dec. 6.

One of the world's great media moguls, Turner founded WTBS, which is now known worldwide as TBS, and CNN, the first 24-hour cable news channel. Other ventures included spending time as the owner of three Atlanta professional sports teams, including the Braves, which he purchased before the 1976 season.

During Turner's time as the Braves' owner, the team experienced its greatest sustained run of success in franchise history, including an MLB-record run of 14 consecutive division titles from 1991-2005, five National League pennants and the 1995 World Series title.

"Ted was awesome, because you knew he owned the team but he wasn't there day in and day out like George Steinbrenner," Braves Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Glavine said. "But you knew if there was anything you needed as a team, you got it."

Turner's success with his family's billboard business led him to purchase some television stations, including UHF Channel 17 WJRJ (which is now Peachtree TV), despite the fact that UHF channels had very little coverage area at the time.

Knowing the television market was going to change, Turner's gamble was rewarded in 1976, when the FCC began allowing the satellite feed to be transmitted to cable providers across the country. Turner's newly purchased baseball team served as content for the satellite station the world would come to know as SuperStation WTBS.

Baseball fans from Maine to Hawaii now had a chance to watch baseball on a daily basis. This was at a time when teams weren't even televising every game within their local market. So there was certainly some blowback from MLB officials and other owners.

Current Braves chairman Terry McGuirk and current Dodgers president and CEO Stan Kasten were Turner's right-hand men assigned to deal with some of this backlash.

"Terry and I were the first sacrificial lambs who had to go and explain to these National League

See **TURNER**, 10A

AMS, Radium split conference games

By Joe Whitfield
Sports Editor

ALBANY — Albany Middle School's full-court press helped the Lady Indians take control early, and Radium Springs' boys pulled away with nine straight points after halftime as the schools split a basketball doubleheader Thursday at Albany Middle.

Aria Simpson scored 13 points and Katlyn Mathis added eight to lead Albany Middle to a 35-13 win in the girls game. The Lady Indians pressed from the opening minutes and built a 19-10 halftime lead. They tightened up in the second half, holding Radium Springs to a single 3-pointer while scoring 16 points of their own.

Radium Springs took the boys game 30-22. Drew Bryant hit a deep 3-pointer midway through the first quarter to put the Panthers ahead 6-3. They led 8-5 after one quarter and 14-11 at halftime.

The Panthers opened the second half with a 9-0 run. Jayce Hatcher capped it with a 3-pointer that stretched the lead to 23-11.

Bryant hit another 3-pointer in the fourth quarter to make it 30-17. Albany Middle closed with a basket and a 3-pointer from Tavion Anderson. Anderson's five led Albany Middle's scoring while Hatcher and Marquavious Jones scored nine each to lead the Panthers.



Staff Photo: Joe Whitfield

Radium Springs' Marquvious Jones shoots for two over Albany Middle's Jamikel Tiller during Thursday's game at Albany Middle. Jones and teammate Jayce Hatcher each scored nine points to lead the Panthers over the Indians.

Georgia's Cole a finalist for two national award

Staff Reports

ATHENS — Georgia linebacker Chris Cole has returned two fumbles for touchdowns this season and leads the Bulldogs in tackles and sacks. Now the junior is a finalist for two national awards.

Cole was named one of four finalists for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy on Thursday, adding to his selection as a Lombardi Award finalist. The Nagurski Trophy goes to college football's top defensive player, while the Lombardi Award honors the top linebacker or lineman.

The Salem, Va., native leads Georgia with 64 tackles, including 12 for loss, and five sacks. His three fumble recoveries

See **COLE**, 10A



MLB owners dig in on salary cap

Field Level Media

Commissioner Rob Manfred said owners will not budge on their demand for a salary cap, increasing the likelihood of a lockout that could threaten the 2027 baseball season.

"I will say there's plenty of room for compromise," Manfred said Wednesday, the second day of owners meetings in New York. "But there's one thing I will not compromise, and that's the issue that we're hearing from the vast majority of our fans: They want a salary cap and floor, and on that, we will not compromise."

Bruce Meyer, interim executive director of the MLB Players Association, has called implementing a salary cap a "nonstarter."

"We made the proposal way back in May," Manfred said. "Another word for 'nonstarter' over months is a refusal to bargain. I think it's time that the MLBPA needs to realize that this proposal is serious. I'm not suggesting they need to accept it whole cloth. I think they need to look at the proposal and try to find some ways to move to the middle as opposed to making no proposal at all."

The current collective bargaining agreement expires on Dec. 1 at 11:59 p.m. ET, at which point it widely is expected the teams will lock out the players. That means all contact between players and teams and all signings and trades would cease.

In 1994, the last time the owners formally proposed a salary cap, the players launched a strike that lasted more than seven months and saw the cancellation of the World Series.

"There can be no clearer example of the league's lack of seriousness than their insistence that they will not negotiate over the economics outside of a radical change to the system that would dramatically reduce overall player compensation for all categories of players and strip fundamental rights from players like the ability to have truly guaranteed contracts," Meyer said in a statement released after Manfred's news conference.

"There should be no illusions about the owners' true motivation in pushing for this system. They want to make more money in profits and franchise values by artificially suppressing player salaries."

The MLB proposal on the table includes a hard cap of $258.2 million and a floor of $180.2 million, starting with the 2028 season.

In 2026, the Los Angeles Dodgers had MLB's highest payroll at $415.2 million and the Cleveland Guardians had the lowest at $74.2 million.



Special Photo: Troy Taormina / Imagn Images

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred says owners are standing firm on a salary cap and payroll floor as the Dec. 1 deadline for a new labor agreement approaches.



Special Photo: Cara Owsley / The Enquirer

Pete Rose gives a thumbs-up as the Cincinnati Reds unveil his statue outside Great American Ball Park in 2017. President Donald Trump posthumously pardoned MLB's all-time hits leader for his federal tax convictions.

Trump posthumously pardons Pete Rose

Field Level Media

President Donald Trump posthumously pardoned Major League Baseball's all-time hits leader Pete Rose, who was convicted of filing erroneous tax returns and barred from the Hall of Fame.

"I have just given a Complete and Total Pardon to the Late, Great Pete Rose, a true Baseball SUPERSTAR & LEGEND, whose record of 4,256 Hits ... will never be broken," Trump wrote in a social media post on Thursday.

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred posthumously removed Rose from the ineligible list in May 2025, admitting Trump had pushed for the change in his eligibility status. The next opportunity for Rose to be chosen for the Hall of Fame won't come until December 2027. He would need 12 of the 16 voters on the veteran's committee to vote him into Cooperstown.

Rose was MVP in 1973 and World Series MVP in 1975. Rose was the 1963 National League Rookie of the Year and played until 1986, earning All-Star selections 17 times. He was a three-time batting champion.

Rose died in 2024 at age 83.

He agreed to a permanent ban from baseball in 1989. But Manfred implemented a change impacting permanently ineligible players this year, allowing their statuses restored at death. The change impacted Rose, Shoeless Joe Jackson and more than a dozen others.

Rose gambled on baseball while serving as manager of the Cincinnati Reds and pleaded guilty to two felony counts of filing false tax returns in 1990. Rose admitted he failed to report $354,968 during a four-year period and served a five-month prison sentence, paid a $50,000 fine and received 1,000 hours community service working as a gym teacher's assistant in Cincinnati.

Koepka reinstated to PGA Tour

Field Level Media

Five-time major winner Brooks Koepka will be back on the PGA Tour sooner than expected after a Returning Member Program was revealed Monday.

Koepka announced last month he would part ways with LIV Golf despite a year remaining on his contract with the Saudi-backed league. It was originally believed that LIV members would have to sit out a full year from their last event before returning to the PGA Tour.

In "an open letter" from PGA Tour CEO Brian Rolapp on Monday, standards for immediate reinstatement were revealed that not only impact Koepka, it could also provide a path for three other LIV members to return: Bryson DeChambeau, Jon Rahm and Cameron Smith.

Koepka confirmed the news in a social media post, sharing he plans to return to the PGA Tour for the Farmers Insurance Open at La Jolla, Calif., from Jan. 29-Feb. 1. He is also expected to play one week later in the WM Phoenix Open at Scottsdale, Ariz.



Special Photo: Aaron Doster-Imagn Images

Brooks Koepka, a five-time major champion, plans to return to the PGA Tour at the Farmers Insurance Open after leaving LIV Golf.

"When I was a child, I always dreamed about competing on the PGA Tour, and I am just as excited today to announce that I am returning to the PGA Tour," Koepka said on social media Monday. "Being closer to home and spending more time with my family makes this opportunity especially meaningful to me."

Koepka referenced an equity program in the PGA Tour "that gives players a meaningful ownership stake." But Koepka's participation in that equity program would appear to be on hold.

Rolapp revealed penalties in the Returning Member Program that mandate "heavy and appropriate limitations to both tournament access and potential earning that we believe properly holds returning members accountable for substantial compensation earned elsewhere."

According to the PGA Tour, Koepka agreed to a five-year forfeiture of participation in the player equity program that Rolapp said could amount to a $50-85 million penalty. Koepka has also agreed to make a $5 million charity donation.

Only players who have won a Players Championship, Masters Tournament, PGA Championship, U.S. Open or Open Championship between 2022-25 are eligible to return under the program announced Monday. DeChambeau, Rahm and Smith are the only other former PGA Tour members that fit that criteria.

The current Returning Member Program will remain open through Feb. 2. The PGA Tour said there are no guarantees that a similar program will be offered in the future.

"We will continue to aggressively pursue anything that enhances the fan experience and makes the PGA Tour stronger," Rolapp said. "This is part of our commitment to fans, who expect the world's best players to compete on the PGA Tour week in and week out."

From 9A

TURNER

owners, who were now having games shown in their territories, why this wonderful new era of the superstation was good for everyone," Kasten said.

Turner didn't know much about baseball, and thus he was viewed as a maverick among the fellow owners he repeatedly irritated. But whether he was tampering with a free agent like Andy Messersmith or Gary Matthews or deciding to make himself manager for a day, like he did in 1977, he was having fun and trying to make money.

When NL president Chub Feeney informed Turner there was a rule that prohibited owners from serving as managers, he had a witty response.

"They must have put that rule in yesterday," Turner told The Washington Post the next day. "If I'm smart enough to save $11 million to buy the team, I ought to be smart enough to manage it."

Turner was smart enough to give Bobby Cox his first managerial job and wise enough to support the decision to bring him back to the organization as the team's GM in 1985. With Kasten and McGuirk's guidance, Turner also approved the hiring of Hall of Fame GM John Schuerholz, who transformed the Braves into one of the game's model franchises.

But Turner's lasting impact on the baseball and sports worlds can be seen via the incredible financial impact created by both in-market and out-of-market sports television packages.

Turner's desire was to simply fill his station with the regular content sports teams would bring. In the process, he promoted a vision that continues to enrich the sports world, emotionally and financially, on a daily basis.

Golden Rams look for first win in home opener

Staff Reports

ALBANY — Albany State opens its home schedule against Shorter on Tuesday night after coming one shot short of beating the defending Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion on the road.

Tipoff is at 7:30 p.m. at West Campus Arena. The Golden Rams (0-3) opened with losses to Lynn and Rollins before falling 60-59 to Morehouse in their SIAC opener in Atlanta.

With 7.6 seconds left and Albany State down one, the Golden Rams kept possession after Morehouse blocked Kenneth Brown's 3-point attempt out of bounds. Shemarion Hardy found Jamean Moore on the right wing. Moore's shot caught the back rim, and Morehouse escaped.

Albany State had led by as many as 17 in the first half. Jaxson Yancy, making his first start, hit a 3-pointer 15 seconds into the game and scored all 10 of his points in the first 7:21. Trevon Taylor's jumper made it 23-6 before Morehouse closed the half on a 17-5 run to pull within 33-32.

The Maroon Tigers led 57-49 with 6:54 left, but Albany State erased the eight-point deficit and went ahead 59-58 with 3:15 to play. Morehouse reclaimed the lead on a turnaround in the lane with 48.2 seconds remaining. It was the last basket of the game.

With preseason All-SIAC first-team selection Cameron Evans out, Hardy scored 25 points and made four of Albany State's eight 3-pointers. The junior point guard added five rebounds, four assists, three blocks and two steals.

Brown finished with 10 points, and Taylor had nine points and five rebounds. Logan McCormick led Morehouse (3-1) with 18 points and eight rebounds.



Special Photo: Sofia Yaker, UGAAA

Georgia linebacker Chris Cole celebrates with Bulldog fans. The junior is a finalist for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and the Lombardi Award.

From 9A

COLE

rank third nationally. He returned one 85 yards for a touchdown against Oklahoma and another 66 yards for a score against Florida.

Cole has helped Georgia rank ninth nationally in scoring defense, allowing 14.7 points per game. He is also a semifinalist for the Bednarik and Butkus awards.

Texas' Colin Simmons joins Cole as a finalist for both awards. Notre Dame's Leonard Moore and Wake Forest's Langston Hardy round out the Nagurski field. UCLA's Sammy Omosigho and Indiana's Tobi Osunsanmi are the other Lombardi finalists.

The Nagurski Trophy winner will be announced Dec. 7 in Charlotte, N.C. The Lombardi Award will be presented Dec. 9 in Houston.

From 9A

ELITE

coach Uyl Joyner said.

Lee County 35, Kell 0

Trey Bush broke up an endzone pass on Kell's opening drive, and the Longhorns missed a 47-yard field goal. Lee County held Kell to 135 total yards for its fourth shutout in six games.

The Trojans led 14-0 at halftime and scored three touchdowns in the third quarter. Dominique Ball opened the quarter's scoring with a 28-yard run and finished with 181 yards on 15 carries. Jaquavian Sheard ran for 96 yards and a touchdown and caught five passes for 140 yards, including scores of 48 and 58 yards.

Also advancing in Class A

Randolph-Clay beat Schley County 36-28, and Mitchell County defeated Trion 38-27.



Special Photo

Results of the Nov. 3 midterm elections in Georgia were certified by the secretary of state's office Friday.

It's official: Secretary of state certifies Nov. 3 election results

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Democratic candidates who swept Republicans out of power on Nov. 3 no longer have an asterisk beside their names.

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger certified the election results on Friday, declaring the official winners, including his own successor, Penny Brown Reynolds, a Democrat.

"The Nov. 3 General Election results are certified," Raffensperger posted on X, saying the results follow the largest statewide risk-limiting audit in Georgia history.

Georgia Democrats routed Republicans as part of an historic blue sweep across the nation.

Eight women, all of them black Democrats, will be sworn in to statewide office in January after defeating Republicans, both incumbents and challengers for open seats.

When she is sworn into office, Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, the former Atlanta mayor, will become the first black woman governor of any state in the 250-year history of the nation.

State Rep. Carolyn Hugley, D-Columbus, the state House minority leader, has already been nominated as speaker by her caucus, after the unofficial tally had Democrats flipping the chamber. For the first time in more than two decades, Democrats will hold a slim majority in the House when they meet in January and vote on the next speaker.

Democrats will swear in at least 92 House members when Republicans swear in at least 87. The caveat: Rep. Mike Cheokas, R-Americus, will face Democrat Ethan Wolfe in a Dec. 1 runoff after neither won a majority of the votes in a three-way race with an independent on Election Day. The result could widen or narrow the Democratic advantage, but it will not flip the House back to Republicans.

One mishap temporarily widened the Democrats' margin in the House.

In the days after Election Day, Nov. 3, incumbent Rep. Gerald Greene, R-Cuthbert, was trailing Democratic challenger Harry James by fewer than 100 votes, according to the unofficial tally.

But on Nov. 6, after additional votes were uploaded and included in Seminole County's totals, Greene moved ahead of James in the unofficial state tally. Greene is now the official winner and will be sworn in in January to a 45th year in office.

Democrats also made inroads in the state Senate. They didn't win enough seats to take control, leaving Republicans with a one-seat majority. But a Democrat will preside over the chamber after state Sen. Josh McLaurin, D-Sandy Springs, won the statewide race for lieutenant governor.

Georgia also played a part in handing control of Congress to Democrats by keeping Georgia seats in the party's hands. Voters sent U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff to Washington for another six years, and elected the party's candidates in five of the state's 14 U.S. House races: incumbents Lucy McBath, Sanford Bishop, Henry "Hank" Johnson Jr. and Nikema Williams won, along with newcomer Jasmine Clark, a state representative from Lilburn.

Obituaries



Nancy Nunn Beavers

Nancy Nunn Beavers, 83, of Leesburg, Georgia, passed away on November 17, 2026, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

Born on June 23, 1943, in Albany, Georgia, Nancy was the first child of William Nunn of Warm Springs and Polly Joiner of Oglethorpe. She graduated from Albany High School in 1961 and spent many years serving the people of Albany as a bank teller, first with First State Bank and later with Regions Bank. Through her long career working with the public, she came to know just about everybody in town and rarely went anywhere without running into someone she knew.

After nearly eight years of dating, she married James "Jim" Beavers of Dawson, Georgia, on March 17, 1989, in a small ceremony in Albany. In 1991, they built their home in Leesburg, where they remained for the rest of their lives. That house and its yard were Nancy's pride and joy; she spent countless hours in the gardens she loved so much. In addition to being an avid gardener, she also enjoyed ceramics, reading, and crossword puzzles. She possessed a huge vocabulary, a quick and biting wit, and a wonderful sense of humor that those who knew her will always remember.

Above all, Nancy was a devoted mother. She raised her three sons with quiet determination and deep love, often working extra jobs so they would have what they needed. Despite setbacks and difficult circumstances, she never gave up on her boys. She made each of them feel special, never missed a birthday, holiday, or family meal, and always found a way to provide. Christmas held a particularly special place in her heart, and she went out of her way every year to make it magical for her family, creating traditions and memories that will live on long after her. No matter the challenges she faced, her commitment to her boys never wavered. That steadfastness, more than anything, defined the kind of mother she was.

Nancy is survived by her sister, Billie Mitchell of Albany; her sons, Reed Mitchell of Albany, Chris Mitchell and his wife Dana of Tifton, and Joshua Sarno and his wife Angie of Suwanee; and her six grandchildren, Brad Mitchell, Jack Mitchell, Abigail Mitchell, Peyton Hocker, William Sarno, and Polly Sarno.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Beavers, and by her parents.

A small visitation will be held on Tuesday, November 24, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Home.

Nancy was deeply loved and will be sorely missed.

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.

"PYVAPGVLY VE P XLG LU URY ... QLR FWG GL EWW GTW KRXAVYPGVLY LU EL APYQ PHGVEGE PYO PYVAPGLHE DRGGVYF VG GLFWGTWH." — DPGHVKC BPHSRHGLY

Previous Solution: "Acting, you can ... go by instinct. Or you can go to school ... but right now people look for kids with instinct." — Millie Bobby Brown

TODAY'S CLUE: E = W

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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.

"FV UBTV IE ABZV IUV WUEXWV ... IE VJVAMSXLC IUV INOIU, IUV NVKMVWI BGH IUV YNBWV IUBI FV FXKU LEN IUXK FENSH." — EMNBU FXGLNVC

Previous Solution: "Animation is a lot of fun ... You get to see the culmination of so many artists and animators putting it together." — Patrick Warburton

TODAY'S CLUE: I = X

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JOBS

Full-Time

Property Manager
Vacancy Announcement
November 16, 2026

The Tifton Housing Authority is now accepting applications for the position of Property Manager. Employment applications may be picked up and returned to the Administrative Office located at 1425 North Tift Avenue Bldg. 15, Tifton, GA between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. beginning Monday, November 16, 2026. Applications must be received no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 16, 2026. They may be mailed to the Tifton Housing Authority, P. O. Box 12, Tifton, GA 31793 or emailed to info@tiftonhousing.org.

The employee hired for this position will be responsible for the day-to-day supervisory work involved in planning, coordinating and managing the rent collection, leasing and continued occupancy functions of the housing authority. Duties require thorough knowledge of policies governing rent collection, eligibility, admissions and occupancy. Position requires 2 years' experience in office administration or a related area. Prefer project based rental assistance and public housing experience. High school diploma and valid Georgia driver's license required. Salary is based on experience. Full benefits. Drug screen and criminal background check required.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 what adrenaline junkies seek (7)	
2 coerce with threats (5)	
3 inferior AI output (4)	
4 Winger and Messing (6)	
5 passing the bucks back (11)	
6 LA hockey players (5)	
7 they simmer their eggs (8)	

RI	TH	BU	DE	SL
LLY	BR	NG	GS	IM
CH	POA	LLS	AS	BUR
ERS	SI	KIN	RE	OP

Saturday's Answers: 1. BLOSSOMING 2. HONOLULU 3. AFFRONT 4. AORTA 5. CHIPTUNE 6. MERCKX 7. MIGHTY 11/23

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 breaking to bits (8)	
2 storage canisters (4)	
3 the "S" in USC (8)	
4 tracksuit material (6)	
5 modus operandi (6)	
6 Bergen native (9)	
7 like a lummox (6)	

RW	BI	SM	TH	HI
NG	HOD	NS	VE	MET
SOU	EG	LO	AS	OAF
IAN	ISH	NO	UR	ERN

Monday's Answers: 1. THRILLS 2. BULLY 3. SLOP 4. DEBRAS 5. REIMBURSING 6. KINGS 7. POACHERS 11/24

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

ACROSS
1 Small dog
4 Light purple flower
9 Organize into piles
13 Woodshed tool
14 Everything considered
15 Tread stealthily
17 Fermented ingredient in many Japanese soups
19 Día de los Muertos construction
20 Ballroom dance moves
21 Brewery oven
23 Team for skater Alysa Liu: Abbr.
24 Shimmery mineral
25 "Chicago" song with the lyrics "He loves me so / And it all suits me fine"
28 Hardy shrubs in the rhododendron family
30 Extremely serious
31 Fox's home
32 Person over 18
35 Space race initials
36 Site that calls itself "the world's best music blog"
39 "Swan Lake" skirt
42 Skin openings
43 Overly emotive actor
46 Liqueur similar to Campari
49 Violin effect with rapid, repeated bow strokes
51 Rush-hour annoyance
54 Gucci of fashion
55 Most populous city in Can.
56 Sheet of ice
57 Toledo's lake
58 Belt holders
60 Villain's comeuppance, or a feature of 17-, 25-, 36-, and 51-Across
64 Piano exercise
65 Brawl
66 Absolute mess
67 "Pronto!"
68 Sweet sandwiches
69 Merch table buy

DOWN
1 Scottish cap
2 Turn rusty
3 Rebuff to one's doubters
4 "My ___ are sealed!"
5 Food Network host Garten
6 The "L" of UNLV
7 Food Network host Brown
8 Scrub
9 Lambaste
10 NBA team in Fla.
11 Takes another A from the piano
12 Short promotional ads
16 Title word in hits by Madonna and Bon Jovi
18 Shimmery gem
22 Pt. of GPS
24 Apoplectic
25 Tapered haircut
26 Take over
27 Egg cell
29 Dine
33 Summer zodiac sign
34 Mexican sandwich
36 Ride the waves
37 Hand sanitizer target
38 Employ
39 Snitch (on)
40 Pulls from the ground
41 Pull from the ground
43 Most pious
44 Like firm pasta
45 Holstein sound
47 Counterbalance
48 Adjective in some rap names
50 Painter Cassatt
52 Pink cocktail, for short
53 Derek whose No. 2 was retired by the Yankees
57 Barely gets (by)
59 Couple's indiscretion, for short
61 __-de-France: Paris's region
62 Corp. leader
63 Indigo, for one

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

11/24/26

By Amanda Cook
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11/24/26



Special Photo: Joshua Haiar via Georgia Recorder

Children can receive their first dose of the MMR vaccine after 12 months of age. The United States lost its measles elimination status in mid-November after more than 25 years.

It's official: Measles endemic again in U.S.

By Shalina Chatlani & Kelcie Moseley-Morris
Georgia Recorder

WASHINGTON -- A panel of global health authorities has announced formally that the United States is no longer a country that has eliminated measles, urging public health leaders to step up vaccinations and stop the spread of outbreaks.

The determination by the Pan American Health Organization had been expected after 12 continuous months of measles outbreaks in the country, the first beginning in West Texas in fall 2025, and the most recent surging through Pennsylvania. This year, at least 10 people have died of measles, including two deaths announced last week.

Also this week, nearly a dozen scientists with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention independently published a public health alert noting that at least 112 pregnant women and 13 newborns have been infected with the virus, some with dire outcomes.

"Once the measles gets a foothold in a community, it's very contagious, and can include people who are pregnant," Dr. John Gaudet, a retired pediatrician and associate professor at the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Mississippi, who was unaffiliated with the public health alert, saidt.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus with symptoms that include fever, cough and rash. The disease can cause complications including pneumonia, encephalitis and blindness and can lead to death. But it also can be prevented through a two-dose vaccine known as MMR, or measles, mumps and rubella.

The Pan American Health Organization, a regional office of the World Health Organization, concluded in 2000 that the U.S. had essentially eliminated measles because spread had been squashed for 12 months or more.

After convening last week, a panel of experts at PAHO determined the United States' "measles elimination status" has been reversed. The organization made the same determination for Bolivia and Mexico. Canada, which lost its status a year ago, was determined to have disrupted transmissions and to be making progress toward regaining elimination status.

PAHO noted in its announcement that measles outbreaks can be concentrated in particular communities or geographic regions within a country.

"National vaccination figures can mask these disparities, while barriers to health services, missed vaccinations, misinformation and vaccine hesitancy leave children, adolescents and adults vulnerable to infection," the statement said.

In the United States, many public health experts are worried because children, who generally don't get their first MMR dose until at least one year of age, are highly susceptible, including those who contract the virus before birth.

There were 112 confirmed cases of measles in pregnant women and 13 cases of congenital measles between Jan. 1, 2025, and Sept. 28, according to the public health alert published Monday in the journal NEJM Evidence. The authors defined congenital measles as cases transmitted to newborns in utero or with a positive test or febrile rash within 10 days of birth to a woman with confirmed measles. All but two of the women had not received the MMR vaccine or had an unknown vaccine status.

Among the pregnancy cases with reported outcomes, 19 women experienced live births and two lost their pregnancies, the alert said. Of the live births, eight were preterm and eight had to be admitted into the neonatal intensive care unit.

Thirteen of those newborns tested positive for congenital measles, and six developed measles-related symptoms, including one infant who showed symptoms related to a life-threatening brain-swelling condition, according to the health alert. The other pregnancy cases either had unknown outcomes or were in women who were still pregnant as of Sept. 28.

Infant mortality rates in the United States are high compared with other high-income countries worldwide, with a rate of about 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2024-2025, according to provisional CDC data. That rate is more than double among black infants.

"Health care systems and clinicians should be prepared to provide care to pregnant women and their infants with measles, particularly in communities with a high proportion of unvaccinated people," the health alert said.

The United States had 5,412 reported measles cases as of Nov. 12, according to the CDC, more than double the 2,289 cases through all of 2025. Among this year's cases, nearly 18%, or 951, were among children below the age of 5.

Throughout his leadership, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has been an outspoken critic of vaccinations and is opposed to many vaccine mandates, including recommending fewer vaccines for children at the same time that many Republican-led states have ended vaccine mandates for their populations. At least 39 states now have MMR vaccination rates below 95% — the threshold considered necessary for herd immunity.

In a statement posted to the social media site X on Tuesday, Kennedy blamed the decline in vaccinations on the COVID-19 pandemic and said that the agency has been responding to measles outbreaks.

"I continue to recommend MMR vaccination as the most effective way to prevent measles," Kennedy wrote.

Dr. Susan Kansagra, chief medical officer of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, a group representing local health officials, told Stateline that it's critical that state health departments are well-funded enough to carry out a public health campaign to vaccinate their populations.

But without vaccination mandates, she said, pediatricians play a pivotal role in informing parents about the safety and efficacy of the MMR vaccine.

Gaudet said in his three decades as a practicing pediatrician, he never saw a case of measles. But as he teaches medical students, he said he shows them textbook pictures and gives them as much information as he can.

"I tell them, 'I've never seen the measles, but you will. Be ready,'" he said.

City of Albany to conduct online housing survey

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The city of Albany is conducting an online survey initiative to determine the housing needs in the community.

The survey will be used to collect data to determine housing readiness in the community and is not related to a housing development plan, city officials said.

Respondents have until Dec. 30 to fill out the survey, which asks about:

-- Interest in purchasing a newly constructed home;

-- Home ownership readiness mortgage preapproval;

-- Financial education and resource availability;

-- Preferred home size.

Special Logo

The survey is not an application and does not obligate anyone to any housing project in the community.

To take the survey, go online to bit.ly/4Cci90N.

Albany Area YMCA announces facilities upgrades

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — The Albany Area YMCA has announced a full overhaul of its cardio room and strength training areas on the Albany Campus. The upgrades were unanimously approved by the Board of Volunteers under the leadership of Board President Trent Blalock and Treasurer Haley Prescott.

Cardio equipment will feature state-of-the-art technology. Strength spaces upstairs and downstairs will receive all new equipment, including an 11-piece AI-powered digital strength circuit with applications across all training areas.

One racquetball court will be converted into a multi-functional training space featuring dumbbells, benches, and two turf lanes for sled training. Plans are to have the upgrades completed by Jan. 1.

Special Logo

"The future is now," YMCA President/CEO Tony Duckworth said in a news release. "This ambitious transformation will position our 80,000-square-foot facility with the best equipment and technology in the Albany area. These upgrades are an investment in our valued members today and in the future of the Albany Area YMCA."

Upgrades will include:

• New state-of-the-art cardio equipment; CORE Health & Fitness;

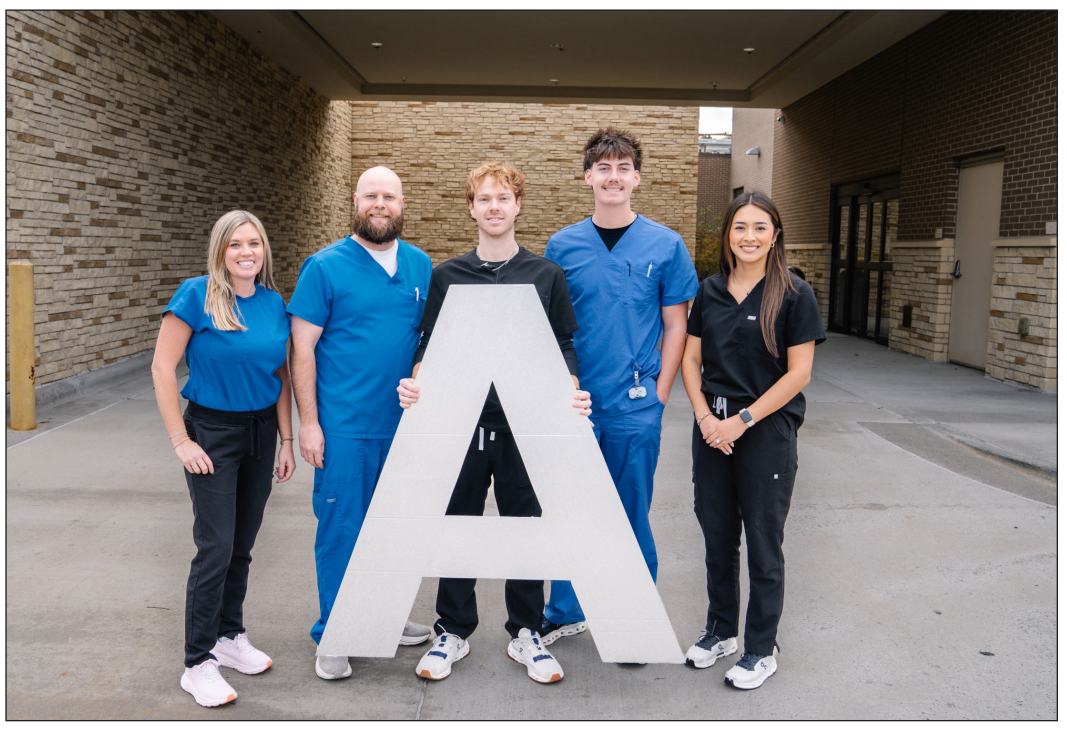
• Digital strength + AI-powered Workout Builder across training areas, Echelon Fitness;

• New flooring upstairs and in the racquetball space, Thor Performance.

An announcement regarding upgrades at the Lee YMCA branch will occur in the coming months.

The Albany Area YMCA's Board of Volunteers includes Jamie Baggett, Ben Barrow, Trent Blalock, Matt Fox, Jonathan Gibson, Dr. Amanda Green, Connie Hayes, Bo Johnson, King Randall, Annie Love, Eddy Meeks, Jim Moore, Eric O'Neal, Michael Persley, Haley Prescott, Tommy Sharpe and Carl Windom.

The Albany Area YMCA has served the Albany Area since 1910.



Special Photo: Colquitt Regional

Colquitt Regional Health System has earned its 23rd "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, recognizing the hospital's continued commitment to patient safety and quality care.

Colquitt Regional earns 23rd 'A' hospital safety grade from Leapfrog Group

Staff Reports
news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE — Colquitt Regional Health System has earned its 23rd "A" hospital safety grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit organization committed to healthcare transparency and patient safety. The Leapfrog safety grade is widely recognized as the standard for measuring how well hospitals prevent medical errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

The Leapfrog Group assigns hospitals a letter grade of "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F," based on more than 30 measures of safety performance. Colquitt Regional once again earned an "A," reflecting its continued commitment to maintaining high standards in patient safety and quality of care.

"We are honored to receive our 23rd 'A' safety grade from The Leapfrog Group," Colquitt Regional President/CEO Jim Matney said. "This recognition reflects the dedication of our physicians, nurses and employees across every department. Patient safety is a responsibility we take seriously, and our team works each day to ensure that the care we provide meets the highest standards. We are proud of their continued commitment to our patients and community."

Colquitt Regional maintained a score of 100% across key patient safety measures, including computer-based medication ordering, safe medication administration practices, ICU physician qualifications, error prevention leadership, staff teamwork, bedside nursing care and hand hygiene. The hospital also continued to achieve high marks in patient communication, scoring 94% in communication with nurses and 95% in communication with doctors.

Earning another "A" grade reflects Colquitt Regional's ongoing focus on safety practices, teamwork and continuous improvement, hospital officials said. The health system continues to prioritize initiatives that help reduce preventable harm, strengthen infection prevention, improve medication safety and support high-quality patient care.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only national hospital ratings program focused exclusively on preventable errors, injuries and infections. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and available to the public, with updates released each spring and fall.

To view Colquitt Regional's full safety grade and detailed scoring, visit https://www.hospitalsafetygrade.org/h/colquitt-regional-medical-center.