



You will want to watch one of these movies

OVATION, 1D

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE WEEKEND

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“We made it because we invested in education and democracy. We focused on the things we had in common,” says Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of the tribe’s resilience. NICOLE HESTER/NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

Tracing history on the Trail of Tears

Atrocity also illustrates lessons of resilience, unity

Keith Sharon Nashville Tennessean USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

NEW ECHOTA, GA – Horror lingers in the knotted sweet gum and bent magnolia trees. To stand here is to feel shock, cruelty and despair emanating from the red clay of north Georgia. Blood is as much a part of this landscape as the honeysuckle reeds. This site, the former capital of the Cherokee Nation, sits in a green valley carved by the confluence of Georgia’s Coosawattee and Conasauga rivers. Traveling through this part of the southeastern United States requires passing over land and water routes that have long been labeled The Trail of Tears. Even today, people along its path are shaped by the trail, including a singer in



Cheryl Wolfinger weaves baskets at the New Echota State Historic Site in Calhoun, Georgia. The historic site is recognized as where the “Trail of Tears” officially began. NICOLE HESTER/NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

Columbia student scores improve, but gaps persist

Charles Dunlap Columbia Daily Tribune USA TODAY NETWORK

Students in Missouri take the Missouri Assessment Program test at the end of the school year. The Columbia Public Schools board took a look at preliminary results during its meeting this week with school leadership. Roughly 25,000 assessments were administered among the core subject areas of English language arts, social studies, science and math, said Joe Lauchstaedt, the district’s executive director of assessment intervention data and innovation. This preliminary data is separate from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Annual Performance Report. Once fully analyzed it will play into the eventual APR release in November, however. “It will get us in the ballpark of what we’ll see in November. We do use this data to make heat maps that our curriculum coordinators use during curriculum camps to make any adjustments to curriculum moving into the 2026-27 school year,” Lauchstaedt said. The heat maps drill down to individual subgroups of students, he added, answering a question from board vice president Suzette Waters. The district wants to catch students who are struggling, so assessment programs are used throughout the year to do that and the MAP testing gives a picture for the end of the school year and what is needed the next school year, Lauchstaedt said. MAP is the umbrella term for grade-level assessments (elementary and middle schools) and end-of-course assessments (high school). The data shared with the school board includes both GLA and EOC results and also separates these results out, along with reviewing certain student group assessments (minority students, students with disabilities) under the GLA and EOC divisions. “What we see looking at these over-all trends is we are up in every area over last year and over the five-year trend,” Lauchstaedt said. Even student groups have improved when looking at both GLA and EOC results combined. When things go more granular, that’s where it shows a clearer picture of the rate of improvement, or

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