



Dublin City Manager Josh Powell and others look over a crash statistic map during the public meeting/PAYTON TOWNS III

Dublin holds meeting on plan for safer roads

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The city of Dublin took its first step in a plan for making streets in its area safer for everyone.

Dublin's Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) Community Safety Action Plan meeting was held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Feb. 24 in the Dublin City Council chambers. The goal for the city of Dublin's SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan is to provide safe transportation for everyone living and driving through the city. The CSAP will help Dublin move toward Vision

Zero, a road safety project geared toward eliminating traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. The CSAP gives Dublin access to dedicated SS4A federal funds.

"(SS4A) is a grant that the city applied for and received to create a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan," said Claire Jaffe, transportation planner for the Foresite group.

Residents had the opportunity to walk in and talk with members from the Foresite group who showed up with charts and data compiled from the Georgia Department of Transporta-

tion that reflects crash data for Dublin between Jan. 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2024.

On average, there were 707 crashes per year between 2020 and 2024. During that time, there were 18 fatal crashes with six in 2024, five in 2022, four in 2023 and three in 2020. Dublin has a lower fatality rate compared to Laurens County – 25 percent for the city and 28 for the county. Georgia has a rate of 16 percent, while the USA's rate was 12.

TRAFFIC PLAN
Continued on page 3

MOSELEY PACKS MARKET ON MADISON FOR PIG IN THE PARK

Singer Will Moseley was the featured act at a packed out Market on Madison during the opening night of Pig in the Park Friday. Thousands attended the event as Moseley sang songs and told the crowd that Dublin was one of the band's favorite places to perform. During the show, Moseley gave away a guitar to 6-year-old Colten Waldun-Daniels. BBQ teams began their competition to see who had the best chicken, pulled pork and ribs. For results, and to hear from the winners, see The Courier Herald later this week/PAYTON TOWNS III and CLAY REYNOLDS



Witnesses in arson cases rewarded by state officials

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Georgia Arson Control office recently paid a visit to Laurens County to hand out checks to two local residents whose tips led to the conviction of two different people who were put in prison for their involvement in starting fires.

GAC consultant Kenneth LeCroy handed the checks to Laurens County Fire Chief Josh McCard and fire department investigator Adam Hobbs during a recent trip to the area.

"Laurens County successfully prosecuted two arson cases and people involved in those cases are receiving rewards from us," LeCroy said.

Both of the individuals wanted to remain anonymous and were able to receive their checks.

"We feel like what they did was very valuable and important to the cases," LeCroy said.

McCard thanked the residents for helping in the investigations.

"Adam was the lead in those," McCard said. "We have always had pride in doing our jobs in going to put the fire out and also determining the cause of it."

ARSON REWARDS
Continued on page 3

STAR students, teachers honored by Dublin Exchange Club

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

An East Laurens student was selected as the county system winner to go along with the city system winner during the recent Dublin Exchange Club's Student Teacher Achievement Recognition program.

East Laurens High School student Hannah Wyatt, who selected Erica Johnson as her STAR Teacher, was named the STAR Student to represent the Laurens County system at the regional level. Dublin High School STAR Student Jeff Davis, who selected Cynthia Scott as his STAR Teacher, will be the Dublin City representative.

According to Eric Hornick, chairman of the STAR student committee for the Dublin Exchange Club, Wyatt is the first East Laurens student to be selected as the county STAR Student since he has been over this program.

"I'm very happy about that," Wyatt said after the program. "East Laurens deserves it."

Johnson agreed. "She is absolutely amazing," she said about Wyatt. "I'm so proud of her. I love this type of program for the students. They have worked so hard and they all deserve this. This is bigger than just East Laurens. She will represent East Laurens and the

county well."

The system winners are invited to attend the STAR Region event which will be held at Middle Georgia State University on March 19 at 6 p.m. At that event, a Region STAR Student and STAR Teacher will be selected to attend the State Star Banquet on April 25.

Trinity Christian's STAR Student Luke Foskey, selected Allison Rogers as his STAR Teacher, while West Laurens' STAR Student Kayne King, who selected Alex Knight as his STAR teacher, were recognized by the club.

Each student received a

STAR STUDENTS
Continued on page 3



Bottom, from left: STAR Students Jeff Davis (Dublin High School), Hannah Wyatt (East Laurens High School), Luke Foskey (Trinity Christian School) and Kayne King (West Laurens High School). Back, from left: Will Jarrard (Dublin Exchange Club president), STAR Teachers Cynthia Scott (DHS), Erica Johnson (ELHS), Allison Rogers (TCS), Alex Knight (WLHS), Eric Hornick (chairman of the STAR student committee for the Dublin Exchange Club) and Laura Clements (Professional Association of Georgia Educators)/PAYTON TOWNS III



INDEX

OBITUARIES	2	COMICS	7
EDITORIAL	4	KIDS' CORNER.....	8
SPORTS	5-6		

OBITUARIES



Jackie Colter Garbutt

Jackie Colter Garbutt, a cherished soul known for her loving nature and creative spirit, passed away peacefully on Feb. 27, 2026, at the age of 80.

Jackie was born on Nov. 29, 1945, in Laurens County, Georgia, to the late Allix Ezra and Mary Lou Thompson Colter. She was also predeceased by her beloved son, Luke Garbutt and her brother, William Colter.

Left to treasure her memory is her daughter, Charlie Ussery (Tim) of Dublin, and her son, Colter Garbutt of Rentz. Her legacy of love is further carried on by her granddaughter, Adele Ussery. She is also survived by her sisters, Nancy Russell (George) of Spartanburg, S.C. and Sue Colter of Milledgeville and several nieces and nephews.

Jackie's role as a devoted and loving mother and grandmother was the cornerstone of her life, and her absence will be deeply felt by her family.

A respected art teacher and educator within the Laurens County School System, Jackie inspired countless students to explore their creativity and embrace their individuality. Her career was more than a profession; it was a testament to her belief in the transformative power of art. Jackie's own work as a folk artist was infused with her playful and joyful spirit, capturing the essence of her free-spirited nature. Her creative talents were matched only by her capacity to love, making her a treasured friend and mentor to many.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Art Dublin or to a charity of choice.

Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com to sign the online memorial registry.

William "Bill" Murphy

Mr. William "Bill" Murphy, age 80, of Eastman, Ga., died Friday, Feb. 27, 2026.

A family and friends memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 2026, at his niece, Carla Johnson's pond, 466 Bedsole Road, Eastman, GA 31023.

He is survived by his daughter – Susan Ellis (Justin); grandsons – Luke Ellis and Layton Ellis; several nieces and nephews including – Lisa Johnson (Lynn Bowen), Ginger Moody (Morris), Carla Johnson and Deedee Tindall (Mike); and several great-nieces and nephews.

Stokes-Southerland Funeral Home of Eastman has charge of arrangements.



Lula McLendon Mack

Funeral services for Mrs. Lula McLendon Mack, of East Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Holly Spring Baptist Church, 705 Buckeye Road in East Dublin. Interment will follow at the cemetery at the Valdosta Missionary Baptist Church.

Lula McLendon was born in Laurens County, Georgia to her parents, Queen Scott Moore McLendon Snell and Warren Mc Lendon Sr. Affectionately called "Lula," she was the youngest girl of 12 children. As the matriarch of the family, she lived an extraordinary life rooted and grounded in her belief in God.

Foundationally, Lula's Christian background was built on faith in God, prayer and dedicated work in the church. She accepted Christ at an early age and joined the Valdosta Missionary Baptist Church where she was involved in many ministries until she could no longer serve. Her love for God and passion for the church kept her singing in the choir, attending Sunday school, and working with the hospitality ministry. Additionally, she served as a deaconess, involved in the Missionary Society, supporting the church, attending associations, conferences, and conventions to further her Christian growth. She enjoyed attending the Congress of Christian Education of GMBC of Georgia.

Educationally, Lula attended schools in Laurens County and Dublin City. She graduated from the Oconee High School. Her aspiration in life was to become a registered nurse. With that goal in mind, she attended Albany State College Nursing School. But her love for children changed her mind. She graduated from Albany State with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. Later, she earned a Master's of Education in early childhood education.

It was in Albany, Georgia, where Lula met the love of her life, Sgt. Willie Mack. They were married for 60 years and became the proud parents of three children: The late Gregory Mack Sr, and twins – Tammy Mack Blackshear, and Timmy Mack.

Willie and Lula Mack lived in Fayetteville, N.C., Okinawa, Japan, and Georgia and got the opportunity to travel extensively. They decided to live and raise their family in Dublin, Georgia. Their love for each other developed into a partnership that inspired others.

Professionally, Lula taught kindergarten at Susie Dasher Elementary School. As an excellent educator,

ANNIVERSARIES

Mar. 3
Kelvin & Lindy Evans

she had a deep love and sincere passion for teaching young children. Teaching was the highlight of her educational experience. She retired on Jan. 5, 1998, after 30 years of teaching. She also taught in the Department of Juvenile Justice. She was affiliated with the Dublin Laurens County REA and the Georgia REA. She was also involved with The Flower Club, The Black History Planning Committee, the Salt Ministry and many other community organizations.

Lula endeared herself with deep affection and sincere love for her family, her church, and her community. Because of her deep love for humanity, she fought for her family, church and community. Dublin was her home and she represented her city in various capacities. She wanted you to be "Your Best Self" in all endeavors.

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, she transitioned from this life to receive her crown of glory in heaven. Five brothers and six sisters preceded her in death: John Wesley Moore, Samuel Moore, Warren McLendon, Daniel McLendon, Otis McLendon, Beatrice Miller, Daisy Moore, Minnie Hunter, Sadie Smith, Madie Albritten and Ethel Terrell.

As a classy, sassy, tough loving woman of inspiration, she will be remembered for her energy, willingness to go beyond the call of duty, for multitasking in her home and in the home of her sister, Sadie to help take care of her niece, Barbara and many others. She will be forever cherished in the hearts of her children, grandchildren, great grands, nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives. We passionately "loved" Lula!

Her legacy of love will be forever celebrated by her twins: Timmy Mack (Lisa), Fayetteville, N.C., Tammy Mack Blackshear (Gabriel) of Newport News, Va.

She will forever be cherished in the hearts of her grandchildren: Nicki Taylor, Brooke Mack, Emanuele Blackshear (Bud), Gregory Mack, Jr. (Vanessa), Bridget Crocker (LarMarcos), Paris Matticx, TreShad Mack, Ryan Mack, Nicholas Blackshear, Alysia Mack, Tybrianna Hall (Lakeith), Aubrey Mack and Lovable great grands; sisters-in-law, Barbara Mack, Ella Mack, Patsy McLendon, Alice Moore, Patricia Pitts; brother-in-law, David Mack; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives including beloved and cherished friend, Rosetta May and the dear members of Valdosta Missionary Baptist Church.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesByDudley.com. The family will welcome friends at 1166 Highway 199 in East Dublin.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

NEWS DIGEST

The City of Dudley will hold its next council meeting on Mar. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Dudley Fire Station. The agenda is as follows:

- Call to Order
- Invocation/ Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Previous minutes
- a. Feb. 10th, 2026

Georgia lawmakers seek to reduce insurance costs

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — After approving one-time income and property tax rebates for Georgians earlier this week, the state House returned with four more affordability measures, this time aimed at insurance costs.

The legislation passed by the House Thursday aims to curb excess insurance industry billing and profits while increasing what's covered and punishing drivers for inadequate insurance.

"Georgia is leading the nation in tackling affordability and driving down the cost of living for our neighbors — from energy and healthcare to housing and now insurance," House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, said in a statement after the insurance bills passed with commanding bipartisan majorities, one of them unanimously.

This was one day after the House and Senate approved a midyear budget that returns \$2 billion to taxpayers in the form of one-time property and income tax rebates.

The insurance measures now headed to the Senate take several approaches.

House Bill 1262 would increase fines against insurance companies for surprise billing, failure to cover mental health treatment, and other violations. House Bill 1263 would reduce the amount of time companies can take before seeking refunds for premium tax payment errors.

House Bill 1274 would require rate decreases by insurance companies that notch profits exceeding 5% of projections for three straight years.

House Bill 1344 would increase nearly 40 outdated insurance fines in state law,

and it would hand the Office of the Insurance Commissioner John King more authority to levy fines. It also would amend uninsured motorist laws by allowing police to cite drivers who operate a vehicle while "excluded" from the owner's insurance. Owners who give excluded drivers the keys would face a misdemeanor charge that could result in up to a year in jail, plus a \$1,000 fine.

Rep. Matt Reeves, R-Duluth, introduced the latter two bills. He also led a study committee on insurance rates that Burns appointed last year and that shaped the House's new approach to insurance.

Reeves said King asked for some of the measures, adding that the insurance commissioner told him a Florida bill like HB 1274 had resulted in a \$1 billion rebate to customers there.

It might be a while before something like that happens in Georgia. Insurance companies would need to be highly profitable first.

During a hearing in mid-February on HB 1274, a fellow Republican asked Reeves to remind him the last time a Georgia insurer had profits over 5%.

"For three straight years?" Reeves asked him.

"For three straight years," responded his colleague, Rep. Bruce Williamson, R-Monroe, a member of the House Insurance Committee.

"That's been a while," Reeves said.

Williamson said insurance company profitability was the problem in Georgia. He said he applauded the goal of limiting profits. "But I do want to point out for the benefit of the audience that this has not happened in a very long time."

Reeves agreed.

Alabama and Georgia end decades-long legal conflict

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — No blood was shed, but it will go down as one of the longer conflicts in memory.

Last week, Alabama finally raised a white flag after nearly four decades of legal battles with Georgia in one front of what came to be known as the "Tri-State Water Wars," which included Florida.

The Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta granted Alabama's request to dismiss its appeal that challenged water use in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin.

"For the first time since 1989, there is no litigation between the states in this

basin," said Anna Roach, the executive director and CEO of the Atlanta Regional Commission, a party in the case.

"This agreement heralds a new era of cooperation that will benefit both states and all stakeholders," Roach said in her statement after the Feb. 19 court order by a three-judge panel.

The cessation of legal hostilities between the two states, the commission, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other parties resolves the decades-long dispute over the Corps' management of the basin's water.

The compromise will maintain metro Atlanta's supply from Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River while giving Alabama what it sought, the commission said.

Although the war with Alabama is over, some skirmishes continue.

Florida environmentalists appealed a 2021 federal court ruling affirming the Corps' 2017 manage-

ment plan for water from the lake and the Chattahoochee River below the Buford Dam.

And Alabama still has a pending federal court challenge in Washington, D.C. against a 2021 Corps water plan.



NOW HIRING

Need 2 people for Janitorial cleaning at Best Buy warehouse, 100 Best Buy Way, Dublin, GA.. must be able to work day shift 6-7 hours a day, 6 days a week, 5am-11am, 7:30am- 2:30pm, 10:30am-3:30pm, or evening shift, 6 hours, from 3pm-10pm... 6 days a week, Sun.,- Fri., off on Saturday. Please contact Mr. Davis at 912-674-9240, you will be trained for the job. Pay starts at \$14 per hour.

BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 3
Jeremiah Street

Mar. 4
*Mattie Mason
Ethel Rozier
Steven Rozier
Devaughn Salter*

JM Enterprises & More

478-234-6632

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Land / Lot Clearing | Building Demolition |
| Tree Removal / Clean Up | Driveway Installation |
| Privacy / Farm Fencing | Grading |
| Basement Excavation | Road Building |
| Pond Clearing and | House Pads |
| Restoration Under Brush | Food Plots Excavation / |
| Mowing Landscaping | Trenching |

Call For Free Estimate

478-234-6632

Owner/Operator: James G. Moss - Sparta, GA.



Attorney
Brian Arnold

Social Security Disability Help

Experienced and Specialized Legal Representation

- Specializes in Social Security Disability Law
- Previously Worked for Social Security Disability
- No Fee unless you are granted Disability Benefits
- Successfully Represents Clients at Disability Hearings
- Files Disability Appeals at all Levels

ARNOLD & ARNOLD

1607A Rice Ave. 544 Mulberry St., Ste. 619
Dublin, GA 31021 Macon, GA 31201
478-272-2300 478-745-9644

Call for FREE CASE EVALUATION

1-478-272-2300

www.GeorgiaDisabilityLaw.com

TRAFFIC PLAN

Continued from page 1

When it comes to crash types, angle wrecks are the most common.

"These are usually a little more of a higher impact," Jaffe said. "Almost 70 percent of all crashes are no injuries in Dublin. Vision Zero is about reducing (bad crashes) and getting rid of them."

Although pedestrian, bicycle and motorcycle crashes are infrequent, the likelihood of a fatal or serious outcome was shown to be significantly higher com-

pared to other crashes, Jaffe said.

The data shows where nighttime crashes represented 20 percent of all crashes.

"It is important to have more lighting in places where there are not," Jaffe said.

The other important stat was the behavioral factors that lead to serious and deadly accidents. The top three were distracted driving, speeding and not wearing a seat belt.

"We also looked at impaired driving and hit and

run, but these had the higher percentages," Jaffe said. "Distracted driving is a big issue that needs to be addressed."

In terms of age, young adults and young drivers are more likely to be involved in bad crashes, though each represent six percent of Dublin's population. Those 65 and up made up 22 percent of the fatal and serious crashes. Jaffe said about 17 percent of the population is over 65.

Drivers 20 to 24 made up 21 percent of the fatal and serious crashes while those

15 to 19 made up 15 percent.

There were two maps that showed where all of the city's 3,500 crashes between 2020 and 2024. It showed that in Dublin, 55 percent of all crashes are occurring on 10 percent of the roads.

These roads include Hillcrest Parkway, Lassiter Drive, Jefferson Street, Grant Street, North Washington Street, West Gaines Street, West Madison Street, Hudson Street, East Garner Street, Bellevue Avenue, Shamrock Drive, Industrial Boulevard, U.S. 80, Walke Dairy Road, Valambrosia

Road, Honeysuckle Road and Firetower Road.

"These are pretty spread out," Jaffe said.

For now, people in Dublin and Laurens County are encouraged to take a survey at safestreetsdublin.com before the end of March.

"We are asking people how safe do they feel when driving or walking around Dublin and what their biggest safety concerns are," Jaffe said. "They can add any other comments and they can identify where they would like to see safety improvements. The goal is to

hear from people online."

The next step is to look at everything before the Fore-site group makes recommendations.

"We will come back and present the projects," Jaffe said. "We'll recommend to put a crosswalk here, a traffic light here, a dedicated turning lane here or a roundabout here. It'll be things that will have a proven, data-backed safety improvements. We'll wrap it all together into a final plan. Before that final plan is delivered, we'll have another final meeting."

SNAPSHOTS: MORE MOSELEY ON MADISON



From right: Kenneth LeCroy, Georgia Arson Control consultant, presents checks to Josh McCard, Laurens County Fire Department chief, and Adam Hobbs, LCFD fire investigator for two anonymous local residents who gave information that led to convictions in different arson cases/PAYTON TOWNS III

STAR STUDENTS

Continued from page 1

\$1,000 scholarship award while the teachers received a \$75 gift card to Deano's.

Davis was the first student to speak about his teacher, Scott.

"She has always been very kind to me, and she is always checking up on me to make sure I am doing alright," Davis said. "She doesn't make me feel like any other student. She works to make a personal connection, and I appreciate all that she does for me."

Davis plans to attend Georgia College & State University where he will major in chemistry. Scott thanked Davis for selecting her as his STAR Teacher.

"I think this is one of the greatest honors that a teacher can receive because it is from a student," said Scott, adding that she met Davis when he was a freshman in an honor English class. "He immediately stood out because of his strong work ethic. ... He always strives to be the best whether it is on the sports field or in the classroom. I'm extremely proud of him and the young man he has become. I can't wait to see what great success his future will bring."

Wyatt, who plans to major in accounting at Georgia Southwestern University, followed by stating her father was a STAR Student when he was in high school four decades. She said Johnson was one of the first teachers she met.

"What I remembered most about her class was the joy I had being there," Wyatt said about Johnson's biology class. "We felt less like students and more like family."

Wyatt was still Johnson's student after leaving the class, even when the teacher became an assistant principal.

"Even when it was a busy day, she still offered a smile," Wyatt said. "Her kindness helps everyone get through a tough day. She is truly an inspiration for everyone at East Laurens."

Johnson had tears after hearing the words from Wyatt. She thanked God for giving her the opportunity to teach students.

"It has truly been a honor and privilege to have



East Laurens High assistant principal Erica Johnson (left) was selected as STAR Teacher by STAR Student Hannah Wyatt (right)/PAYTON TOWNS III

taught Hannah," Johnson said. "Hannah has distinguished herself academically at East Laurens High School. What truly sets her apart is her character and work ethic. She is mature, thoughtful, responsible, compassionate and she consistently conducts herself with integrity."

Foskey, who plans to be attending Georgia Southern University where he plans to major in finance and pursue a master's degree, enjoyed Roger's class, but warned everyone to not let her laidback-style fool you.

"You did not want to get on her bad side, but that balanced with what makes her such a great teacher," Foskey said.

Foskey said Rogers taught his SAT prep class during his junior year.

"That class was what gave me the edge over my classmates," he said. "It led me to get this reward and to where I am today. Academically, she helped strengthen my foundation and pushed me to approach problems with patience and discipline. She made learning enjoyable and created a classroom that was engaging and memorable."

Rogers thanked Foskey for choosing her as his STAR Teacher.

"When I taught you math your sixth grade year, I quickly came to realize how gifted you were," she said. "You were the kid who always got the questions right. As the years have passed, I have been impressed with your academic endeavours. Most importantly, I have been impressed with the young man you have become."

King said Knight knows

how to keep his classroom engaging.

"He was one of those few teachers who put in the work to connect with his students on a more personal level," King said. "He is a pleasant person to be around."

King plans to attend Georgia Tech to major in mechanical engineering with a concentration in automotive.

"This (STAR) honor is the first major milestone in making my dreams come true," he said. "Some of the people here today are the reasons I have made it this far. They have been encouraging, challenging and working with me to mold me into the person I am today."

Knight thanked the Exchange Club for honoring the students and teachers.

"This honor was not something I pursued, it was given to me by (King)," Knight said. "It reminds me of the greatest gift any of us could ever receive, and that is the gift of grace, mercy and salvation through Jesus Christ. He is truly the star and the greatest teacher of all time. ... Kayne, I'm proud of you and thank you for the honor of being named your STAR Teacher."

Knight recalled getting to know King in his classroom.

"When he was first in my class, I don't think of the grades, rankings or test scores or anything like that," Knight said. "What comes to mind is his presence. Kayne is not loud or showy. He didn't just want an answer. He wanted to know the why. ... It has been a privilege to watch your mind at work."

ARSON REWARDS

Continued from page 1

Arson is tough to prosecute. Many times it takes help from witnesses.

"Having witnesses or people who help out, and doing the right thing, is important," McCard said. "We have several things that we do during an investigation that hopefully leads us toward the right outcomes. We appreciate (the witnesses) for doing the good deeds that they did to help with these investigations. That is why we are here. We stand between good and evil. We hope that by showing that we successfully prosecuted two cases, will be like a warning for people to think twice before doing something."

In both of the cases, the suspects received significant jail time.

"This keeps the community safer," McCard said.

Hobbs said the testimonies from the witnesses gave authorities the information they needed to pull the cases together.

"Without that involvement, we wouldn't have gotten the outcomes," Hobbs said. "Without (them), we may have never gotten a conviction or arrests."

One of the anonymous individuals relayed that all they did was what they felt was right.

"In one case, (the person) had no way to know they would be put in for a reward," LeCroy said. "That is why we like to promote it. We can say that Laurens County has been arresting arsonist. If you are going to go around and do this type of crime, we are going to do everything we can to catch them."

In one of the cases, video was played a big part in convicting the suspect.

"That led to everything," the fire chief said. "We are fire investigators. We may determine if it is an arson or not. With information, we'll take the smallest little clue and check out that tip to the fullest. We pride ourselves with finishing a job."

LeCroy wants people to co-operate with fire investi-

gators and law enforcement when they see something suspicious relating to fire cases.

"Their information could potentially lead to a reward," he said. "Georgia Arson Control was established in 1979 in order to help offset the number of arsons in Georgia. They wanted to see what insurance companies could do to help public safety and fire investigators with arson cases. The insurance companies donate money into a fund that funds Georgia Arson Control. What the investigators get is 100 percent free to advertise the reward program that will help them solve their cases."

At least one of the anonymous witnesses had no idea they were up for a reward.

"I did not tell (that person)," McCard said. "They just found out about the reward."

When it comes to the reward amount, the money could be up to \$10,000.

"This gives people a little incentive to come forward," McCard said. "And that is awesome."

INVITATION TO BID

The Dublin Housing Authority will receive sealed bids in the James W. Strickland Boardroom at the Dublin Housing Authority, 500 W. Mary Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021, until 3:00 P.M., at the time legally prevailing in Dublin, Georgia, on Thursday, March 12, 2026, for the **JOHN A. BELL HOMES – HVAC RENOVATIONS** for the Dublin Housing Authority, located in Dublin, Georgia. At the time and place noted above, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. No bids or bid bonds by facsimile (fax) will be allowed.

Bid documents may be obtained through the office of the Architect, BTBB inc., 609 Cherry Street, Suite A / Macon, Georgia 31201 / Phone (478) 742-1208.

- Bid documents will be provided electronically by the Architect in PDF format to interested bidders.
- The Bid Documents provided by the Architect contain a full and complete set of plans and specifications for bidding this project. Bidders shall examine all bid documents carefully in order to prepare a complete bid for the project.
- All parties receiving Bid Documents are deemed by receipt to acknowledge the Architect's copyright to the documents contained on the Bid Documents. The documents may be used only for the purpose of preparing a bid for the **JOHN A. BELL HOMES – HVAC RENOVATIONS** for the Dublin Housing Authority. Use of these documents for any other purpose is not permitted under any circumstances.

A project site visit has been scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., beginning at 503 Williams Street, Dublin, Georgia. The site visit is not mandatory but recommended so contractors and subcontractors may examine the existing buildings and areas affected by the work of this project.

Contract, if awarded, will be on lump sum basis. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after time has been called on date of bid opening. Bids must be accompanied by a bid bond or certified check made payable to the Dublin Housing Authority, in amount not less than 5% of the base bid. Both a Performance and Payment Bond will be required in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price.

Attention is called to the provisions for equal employment opportunity and to the requirement that not less than minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.

The Dublin Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

DUBLIN HOUSING AUTHORITY

BY: **BRENDA B. SMITH, PHM - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

OUR TAKE...



City of Dublin held a Dublin's Safe Street and Road for All (SS4A) Community Safety Action Plan meeting was held in the council chambers seeking input from the public about /PAYTON TOWNS III

City looking to community to help make roads safe

"Help me, help you," is a line said by Tom Cruise in the movie "Jerry Maguire." It came to mind after a very low turnout during last week's Dublin Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) Community Safety Action Plan meeting. Not many showed up to look at the data and analysis compiled by the Foresite group. The publicized meeting was held at city hall between on Tuesday, Feb. 24. A story on these results will be featured in a future edition of The Courier Herald.

The data showed results from our town. It included charts showing where fatality crashes have occurred throughout the town. Some of this may not be surprising, but the whole purpose was to hear from people who live, work and shop in the city of Dublin. The good news is there is still time to let your voice heard by filling out the survey at safestreetsdublin.com before the end of March.

Officials from the Foresite group, want to hear from us. So, instead of just typing your feelings about our traffic frustrations on Facebook, go to the survey and make a difference by voicing your opinion. The website is provided for you. Take the few minutes and fill it out. After all, it may be your advice that helps the city make a decision that will one day save other's lives.

- Payton Towns III

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"As for difficulties, they were made to be overcome."

- Jules Verne

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head"

- Psalm 23:4 (KJV)

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

March 3, 2026 is...

- Unique Names Day
- National Cold Cuts Day
- National Soup It Forward Day
- I Want You to be Happy Day
- National Anthem Day
- 33 Flavors Day
- Peace Corp Day
- National Sportsmanship Day
- What if Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs Day
- Peach Blossom Day
- National Mulled Wine Day

Wanting results from the Leprechaun Contest

My phone rang and I really did not need to look at it. I knew who was calling and I did not have an answer for what she wanted to know.

I looked around the small room at the people who were hard at work crunching the numbers to determine the winners of the second and third grade boys and girls division of the 2019 Leprechaun contest.

Before long my ring tone was going off again. This time I did not look at it. I just slowly walked out of the door and down the hallway next to the auditorium at Dublin High School. There was no hurry, and all I could really say was we needed more time.

The quote, "Time is a luxury you don't have, Admiral," a line said by Khan to Admiral James T. Kirk in "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" came to me as I slowly made my way to Lindsay Black, the president of Leadership Dublin-Laurens, who was also the one who kept calling wanting an update.

As I took my slow stroll to the stage area of the theater where Black and emcee Don Avery were, I could not help but recall how I got into this situation to begin with.

In 2018, I was part of the Leadership Dublin-Laurens class. We came together to learn about local businesses, industries and travel to different locations in the city and county. We also had one trip to Atlanta where we had the opportunity to go visit the Gold Dome with State Rep. Matt Hatchett.

During the annual St. Patrick's Festival Leadership Dublin-Laurens is in charge of running is the Leprechaun Contest. Each class member is given a job to do during the event. My task was right up my alley - taking pictures.

A few months later, we graduated from the class. I was asked to serve on the board of directors and I accepted. During one of our first meetings, the new members had to choose what role they wanted to lead in the group. When it came to me, the only roles remaining were serving as the vice-chairman (with the understanding you would be

MAN ABOUT TOWN...



By PAYTON TOWNS III

the chairman of the board the next year) or being the chairman of the Leprechaun Contest.

I took the contest. At that time, the Leprechaun Contest was months away. Of course that went by in a hurry. Before I knew it, we were in March and the Leprechaun Contest was hours - not months - away.

Hours before the contest was set to begin, it was discovered that the list of the contestants on the judge's sheets were all wrong. My wife and friend and fellow Leadership board member Keith Griffin, quickly found the correct names and were able to make the changes less than an hour before the contest.

Once the event started, everything was basically out of my hands. The first, second and third grade boys and girls were judged for their leprechaun outfits and the judges' sheets were

taken to a small room as we had people there to help tabulate the results.

Ideally, the first grade results would have been completed by the time the second grade judging sheets went back to the room, and the second grade results would be ready by the time the third grade competition was finished. Then, following some performances by members from Fancy Dancers, the third grade results should be finalized.

As the dancers took the stage, I stepped into the room to see how things were going. For some reason - and no, I cannot recall what had happened - but they were still tabulating the first grade group. They were way behind.

When I got the results for the first graders, the dancers were walking off the stage. We still needed at least another 15 minutes before we would be ready to

announce all of the winners.

I gave the first grade results to Black and advised her and Avery to stall the crowd as I walked back to the room. Apparently, my message was not received because they went ahead and announced the first grade winners.

This is when I began receiving phone calls about the remainder of the results. But as you know, I did not have those and was not close to getting them. I walked up to Black and Avery and informed them we needed more time.

Approximately 15 minutes later, and two or three unanswered calls, I received the final results we needed and presented them to Black to give to Avery. With the results read out, and the pictures taken, my role in that year's Leprechaun Contest was completed and passed to the next chairperson.

As for me, I have not sought to be a chairperson of any other St. Patrick's event. I like staying behind the camera with my trusty notebook in my back pocket. I plan to enjoy the St. Patrick events that I attend. If I am not there I am more than likely at another event or practicing for Dublin Community Theatre's presentation of "Annie."

Either way, I will be like those in the audience, waiting to see the outcomes from all the annual St. Patrick's fun.

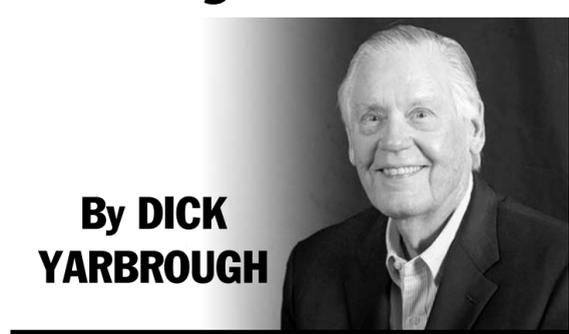


Some random thoughts on random subjects

A reader in Calhoun sent my column on the Monks Walk for Peace that appeared in the Calhoun Times to a Facebook page devoted to that extraordinary event. As of last week, it had received over 3,000 likes, more than 200 comments and 20 Facebook users had posted it to their own page. I suspect that number has grown since. I also heard from people across the country who had read the column online. The power of the Internet. Who I haven't heard from are the bigoted Bible-thumpers who purportedly worship the Prince of Peace but can't abide anyone else advocating peace on earth. Just as well. As my daddy used to say, consider the source. ...

If it be any consolation to Andrew Whathisname, onetime Royal Highness, former Duke of York and a lot of other titles, he got off pretty easy being arrested a couple of weeks ago for allegedly sharing state secrets with convicted sexual pervert Jeffery Epstein. He was questioned by police and released, looking like a deer in the spotlight while being driven home to his castle. The last royal guy that got arrested was King Charles I in 1647. He got himself beheaded. ...

Racism cuts both ways. A good example is beleaguered Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis,



By DICK YARBROUGH

whose record for success is nothing to write home about. She was disqualified from the racketeering case against Donald Trump and his allies in 2024 due to a "significant appearance of impropriety" regarding her romantic relationship with special prosecutor Nathan Wade. Her much-vaunted effort to prosecute gangs in Atlanta was a spectacular dud. Her response? She runs to Ebenezer Baptist Church and blames it all on the fact that she is being picked on because she is a Black woman. That's the only way she can defend her record and she is shameless to do so. It's not the color of her skin, it's how thin it is. ...

The entry of Rick Jackson into the Republican gubernatorial campaign seems to have caught political observers by surprise. Jackson, 71, is a self-made billionaire who rose from the

foster care system to lead a company with over \$3 billion in annual revenue. He has positioned himself as Georgia's version of Donald Trump and has pledged to put \$50 million of his own wealth into the race. Give me \$50 million and I could get elected Pope. ...

Speaking of Trump, while most Republican candidates in Georgia grovel for his blessing before the upcoming May primary, people seem to forget that only one candidate that he endorsed in 2022 won. That was Burt Jones, who was elected lieutenant governor. Everybody else got waxed. Go back and look at Pres. Roosevelt's efforts in 1938 to unseat Sen. Walter George. Despite FDR's enormous popularity, he failed. We Georgians don't like to be told who to vote for. Grovelers please take note. ...

What is it going to take

to get the scholar-athletes at my alma mater to quit the reckless driving? 100 miles an hour? Please. We've already had one person killed. Hasn't anybody learned anything? There is no excuse for it. Grow up players or go somewhere else. I'm tired of reading about it. ...

Word comes to me that state Rep. Lynn Smith (R-Newnan) may call it quits after the current session. Big whoop-de-doo. Smith chairs the Natural Resources & Environment in the House where she managed to sit on a bipartisan bill to ban mining on Trail Ridge, adjacent to our Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Actually, I can't blame her totally. She is just pawn, doing what her leadership told her to do and leadership is just doing what the land barons tell them to do. ...

Finally, it is the Lenten season in which we are encouraged to give something up. In the spirit of the season, I am giving up broccoli. I also gave it up for Christmas, President's Day, Memorial Day, Columbus Day and any other day you can think of. For broccoli and me, Lent runs all year long. Can I get an Amen?

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Phone: (478) 272-5522 • Fax: (478) 272-2189
115 S. Jefferson St., Dublin, GA 31021-5146

Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

GET IN TOUCH

News: tchnewsreporter@gmail.com
Subscription: tchcirculation@gmail.com
Advertising: advertisingtch@gmail.com
Sports: tchsports77@gmail.com
Obituaries: tchobits77@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES Print: \$12.50/month Digital: \$10.50/month

Periodicals Postage Paid at Dublin, Georgia (USPS 161-860) - Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Courier Herald, 115 South Jefferson Street, Dublin, GA 31021

GEORGIA TRUST for Local News

DuBose Porter/PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Pam Burney/GENERAL MANAGER
Courtney Vessell/CIRCULATION MANAGER

This newspaper is committed to the idea that the press should tell the truth without prejudice and spread knowledge without malicious intent.

GHSA STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Lady Falcons' full-court press hounds Herons

EL girls will battle Bacon Co. Tuesday in bid for back-to-back berth in Final Four

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

Anytime you ask East Laurens head coach Danielle Lowther what her team plans to focus on in its next few practices, the answer is always "defense."

Her reply was no different Friday night after a second-round playoff performance in which the Lady Falcons' recent emphasis clearly paid off. The area of their game they'd spent a good bit of time polishing shined as brightly as it has all season in a 62-37 dismantling of Brantley County.

Though no game can truly be won in just six minutes, this one was effectively over after their devastating 1-2-1-1 zone press fueled a run of 23 unanswered points to open the night.

"Our defense was on point," Lowther said. "We've been practicing, and it looked really good those first few minutes of the game."

The Herons, after finding their footing roughly eight minutes in, would play some tough D of their



WORKING TRAPS: The Lady Falcons showed they haven't been skipping defense day, which it turns out is every day they spend in the gym, with this elite ball pressure that kept Brantley County flustered for most of Friday's first quarter. Here, DeAndrea Lowther (5, left) and Zahmaria Robinson (10, right) execute a trap toward the end of their 23-point run to open the game/CLAY REYNOLDS

own to prevent East Laurens from engaging its cruise control anywhere between there and the final buzzer, which turned out to be a winding, uphill road dotted with stop signs.

But the Lady Falcons never let Brantley County gain much ground in their rearview mirror, and made it through the last three quarters with no problem to win comfortably, and advance to

the state quarterfinals for a third-straight season.

They held off on cranking up the full-court heat until the end of the first minute, by which point Eastside defenders had already come up with two steals, and rebounded a missed jumper, over a series of three half-court sets.

The Lady Falcons, leading 3-0, finally turned it loose after a fast-break travel gave the ball over, and didn't back off from there until halftime.

Herons were forced to dribble or pass it between four East Laurens defenders who were spread out in a diamond pattern between the baseline and half court, trained to trap and squeeze ball-handlers into long passes that their deepest back-liner was waiting to pick off.

Brantley County frequently turned it over as Lady Falcons got hands on the ball or jumped a pass before it left the backcourt, but its possessions that did manage to clear the timeline often ran into more trouble in the form of miscommunica-

tion, and pickpocket steals, on the other side.

Jameria Bing, Garyunna Mitchell and Deanna Lowther each had field goals in the resulting wave of East Laurens scoring. Zahmaria Robinson joined in on the effort at the foul line, where the Lady Falcons were an impressive 9-of-12 in the first quarter.

Their streak of consecutive points paused after 23 with about 90 seconds to go, as a 3-pointer finally got Brantley County on the scoreboard.

East Laurens would add four more in the remaining time to lead 27-3 after a quarter.

That kind of all-out pressure is tough to sustain for long stretches, and to the Lady Falcons' credit, they stayed in it for another quarter.

But they'd lose a few steps as a bit of weariness began to set in, and their offense also became a little disjointed.

The Herons found some cracks and exploited them to start the second with eight unanswered points. East, meanwhile, stubbed its toe on several consecutive possessions before a Lowther timeout

LADY FALCONS
Continued on page 6

Big nights by Dupree, Howard help Southwest sink Falcons

By MICHAEL A. LOUGH
For the Macon Melody

MACON — The Southwest Patriots rode big scoring evenings from Chase Dupree and CJ Howard to hold off the pesky East Laurens Falcons 70-58 Saturday in the second round of the GHSA state tournament.

It was a much-needed bounceback for the defending state runners-up in the ways of body language and mental fortitude, as Dupree and the rest of the Patriots showed more focus than they did in Tuesday's play-off opener.

When Dupree dinked an open dunk and then muffed a reverse layup by not getting far enough from underneath the basket, he didn't pout.

He came back and drained a pair of long 3-pointers to give Southwest its first double-digit lead at 30-20 with 1:55 left in the first half.

When the Falcons made a few rallies in the second half and didn't let Southwest pull away, the Patriots calmed down and ran some clock and answered at the free-throw line down the

stretch.

The fourth-seeded Patriots will host fifth seed Model — a 70-53 winner over Elbert County — on Wednesday.

It was a game Southwest head coach Monquencio Hardnett needed to see after some irregularities in Thursday's first-round win over Woodville-Tompkins. "Much happier," he said. "As far as sharing the ball and playing as a unit, very satisfied. Probably the best we played all year, as a complete team."

"Way better (body language)." But the Patriots will need much more offense from those not named Dupree or Howard. Dupree had 28 while Howard netted 27 points, good for 79 percent of the Patriots' output.

Hardnett was happy with other aspects of the game and performances even if there weren't points involved.

That said, he still was not satisfied — unsurprisingly, for a coach with such high standards.



TAKING IT TO THE BANK: The Falcons' Zion Dixon (12) scores two of his team-high 15 on a first-half layup against Octavius Raglin (2) /MARK S. POWELL, for the Macon Melody

"Just getting back," Hardnett said. "We're definitely not rebounding as well. That tells me we're not boxing out. A couple times, we have rebounds and just lost it."

Wing Zion Dixon went for 15 points — four above his average — to lead East Laurens, which also got nine points from Major Floyd and Jeremiah Rozier. Those three along with Skyler Snead got between eight and 11.4 points per game this season.

"We knew we had to control (Snead); that kid has grown into a pretty good player," Hardnett said. "He's a guy that stirs the drink. We wanted to stay

close to a really good shooter."

Snead struggled to a 2-for-8 night from the floor and four points, but Braylon Makaya gave a nine-point boost from the bench.

The Patriots led 32-24 at halftime despite East Laurens getting a buzzer-beating bucket off a loose ball by Floyd.

The margin grew to 14 on a sweet lob pass from Dupree to Jonathan Hurdley for a bucket and 38-24 lead, only for East Laurens to creep back within nine momentarily.

Two early buckets in the

FALCONS
Continued on page 6

Potent Putnam County lineup too much for Irish boys

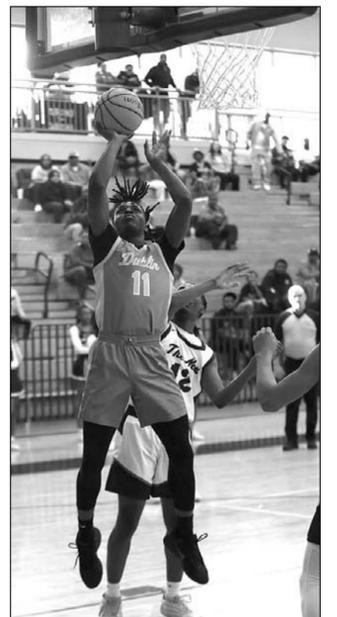
From STAFF REPORTS

A high-powered Putnam County squad put up nearly 80 to put Dublin out in the second round of the GHSA playoffs Saturday night in Eatonton.

The War Eagles' two-headed attack of Tamaud Woodson, who scored 26, and Jmari Greene, adding 23, led the way in a 79-50 rout of the Irish boys that gets the No. 6 seed back, for a second season in a row, to the state quarterfinals where Putnam County will host Fitzgerald later this week.

Dublin, after winning four out of its five games in the region tournament to gain an improbable playoff berth and then advance to the state's round of 16 with another Wednesday night, saw its inspiring end-of-season run brought to an end with a final record of 9-22 (4-14 region 2-High A).

The Irish sunk some 3s to remain competitive through a half, but still couldn't score with enough frequency to keep pace with a well-rounded Putnam County lineup that seemed to be firing on all cylinders.



INSIDE MAN: Quan Lovett scores for the Irish early in Saturday's game, but was their only scorer who could get things going close to the basket. He led Dublin with 18 points/SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy Dublin City Schools

The War Eagles, in the second and third quarters, seemed to put up between 4-6 points for every Dublin basket. And the 51-24

IRISH
Continued on page 6

State wrestling lookback: Walden reflects on overcoming injury to win second-straight title

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

Winning a state wrestling title is no easy task in and of itself.

Domimarkeyo Walden encountered some unexpected challenges, in addition to more stiff competition, in his bid for a second in a row at last month's GHSA championships.

The stars were aligning just as perfectly for the Irish junior on his road back in the 285-pound weight division, when some adversity struck midway through his second match of three in the preliminary stage of the tournament.

He had to make some adjustments, but still managed to outlast his opponent, and two more Wednesday and Thursday, to reach the top of the podium again.

"It was way harder this year than it was last year, I felt like, cause I got hurt in the quarterfinals, hurt my foot, and just fought through it all the way to the finals," Walden said. "It was pretty difficult."

Coming into the event with an overall record of 29-4 for the season, he needed only 22 seconds in his debut match to pin Oglethorpe County's Shoo Moo for another in the long streak of wins going back through both sectional and area tournaments the previous two weekends.

The rest wouldn't be nearly as straightforward, as the sudden setback forced Walden to ride out a full three periods on the bad wheel to get past Bremen's Alonzo Edmerson by 15-5 decision, and Lamar County's Robert Erickson, 15-8, to advance to the

state title match.

Though it wasn't a severe limitation, the injury kept him from going as all-out as he normally would.

"I couldn't wrestle like I really wanted to," Walden said. "I was just sitting there playing straight defense the whole two rounds."

That complicated the matchup in what would be a fourth meeting with season-long rival Jordan Handsom, of Emanuel County Institute, in the state finals.

Walden had gotten the best of two in the previous three, winning rematches in the finals of area and again at sectionals after taking the loss, 3-1 in triple overtime, their first time wrestling very early in the regular season at Vidalia's Sweet Onion Invitational.

His plan in this final showdown was to "play physical."

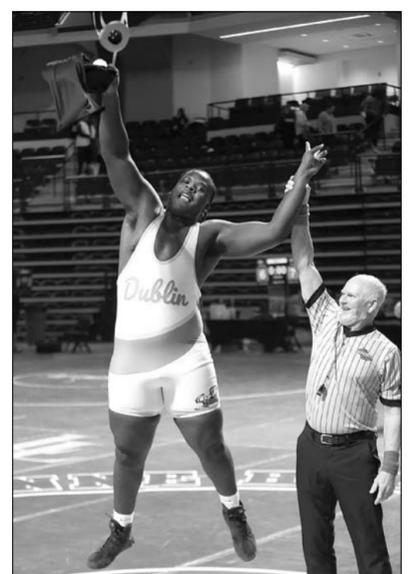
"He was not a real physical guy," Walden said. "He didn't like when somebody was in his face, so that's what I did: Try to work some and get him hit with a couple of stalling calls."

Period 1 was mostly that head-to-head, with some arm fighting that came to a stalemate until Walden was able to go up 3-1 on a takedown with about 30 seconds to go.

Handsom won the second period toss and chose upper position, but never overturned him during the two following minutes.

In the third, Walden elected to re-start from neutrality, and repeated the first-period cycle.

WRESTLING
Continued on page 6



JUMPING FOR JOY: Domimarkeyo Walden leaps off the mat after being presented as the winner of his state championship match Feb. 12/SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy Dublin City Schools

LADY FALCONS
Continued from page 5

returned its game to the tracks. The Lady Falcons, still unflappable by the opposing rally with a lead of at least 16 all the way through, recovered to score seven and finish the half on top 34-16.

Brantley County, for most of the night, struggled on the offensive end.

But the Herons were able to slow the second half down to a painful crawl with some full-court D of their own. And they continued challenging and trapping right up to a final possession with a second and a half left.

East Laurens, with a set of Robinson free throws to reach 19 points in the last 30 seconds of the third quarter, just managed to clear the 30-point threshold required to shorten the fourth to six minutes, though the stop-and-start pace of play that seemed to pause every few seconds for a foul or jump ball still drew it out long past a point where the outcome still in question.

The authoritative start notwithstanding, fatigue and the increasingly physical demeanor of the game past a lopsided first quarter turned it into a somewhat grinding win, and kept the Lady Falcons from feeling too satisfied with their performance.



EASTSIDE ENERGY: The Falcon student section (left) goes crazy after Deanna Lowther dropped one off to Garyunna Mitchell (right) for a fast-break basket late in the third quarter. Excitement remains high around the East Laurens hoops program as its girls, off their second-straight region crown, make another deep playoff run/**CLAY REYNOLDS**

"I think we kind of let up a little bit, because we thought we had won the game, which we had," Lowther said. "But we've still gotta keep our toughness. And I think for the most part, Brantley County stayed tough throughout the whole game, and then at the end, they got a little bit tougher."

Deanna Lowther had 18, Bing 17, Mitchell 15 and Robinson nine

for the bulk of the East Laurens scoring. Each, along with DeAndrea Lowther, Alasia Wiggins, Miyah Smith and Amari Kellam, also had a hand in keeping up the early full-court pressure, which you can be sure the Lady Falcons will continue to working to improve as they get ready to host No. 6 seed Bacon County Tuesday night.

For Coach Lowther, the run-



SCOREBOARD

GIRLS HOOPS
Friday
East Laurens 62, Brantley Co. 37

BOYS HOOPS
Saturday
Putnam Co. 79, Dublin 50
Southwest Macon 70, EL 58

BASEBALL
Thursday
Bleckley Co. 16, EL 0

Friday
West Laurens 4, Franklin Co. 3

Saturday
Alexander 11, WL 4
WL 9, Heard Co. 6
Tallah Falls at Trinity/PPD

PREP SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL
Tuesday
GHSAA Quarterfinals
Bacon Co. at East Laurens (girls)/6 p.m.

BASEBALL
Monday
Dublin at Southwest Macon /4:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Central Macon at EL
Dublin at Washington Co.
Trinity at CCA/6 p.m.

Wednesday
Jefferson Co. at EL/6 p.m.

Thursday
Appling Co. at WL
Treutlen at Trinity /5:30 p.m.
Dublin at Swainsboro /6 p.m.

Friday
EL at Central/4 p.m.
David Emanuel at Trinity
Dublin at WACO/6 p.m.

SOCCER
Monday
Trinity (girls) at Windsor /5:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Swainsboro at Dublin /5 p.m.

Thursday
EL at Hephzibah/5 p.m.
Dublin (girls) at Central Macon/5:30 p.m.

Friday
WL at ACE Charter/5 p.m.

TENNIS
Monday
David Emanuel at Trinity /3:30 p.m.

Tuesday
WL at Coffee/4 p.m.

Friday/Saturday
WL at Viking Invitational (Valdosta)



LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE: Southwest's Chase Dupree, shown here attempting to dribble by East's Major Floyd in the second half, took charge with 28 points to lead the Patriots in Saturday's second-round win/**MARK S. POWELL, for the Macon Melody**

FALCONS
Continued from page 5

fourth quarter by Rozier got it back to single digits before a patented Howard drive and score returned it to double figures, where it stayed.

East Laurens head coach Dwayne Lowther saw a little more than he expected from his group.

"Some dogs came out

today," he said. "We left everything on the floor. We see where we need to be, to get where we want to be."

And in the process, pushed Southwest a little in ways that will be beneficial.

"We're going to have to do even better on Wednesday, because I know Model or Elbert County will be talented as well," Hardnett said. "We'll continue to preach and clean it up."

IRISH

Continued from page 5

scoring differential over the 16-minute stretch bore that out.

Triples (five total combined between Kam Stanley, Jaydon McRae and Chris Dixon) were the bulk of points for most Irish guards, who had little success shooting closer to the basket.

Top scorer Quan Lovett, who finished with 18, was Dublin's top offensive threat inside. JaKarian Jones, Stanley and McRae added only six apiece.

The Irish started out the game hot, opening things up with a McRae 3 before Lovett answered Putnam's first basket to get the lead to 5-2.

Green scored a second of two in a row to put the War Eagles ahead for the first time, 6-5, but Dublin responded with a Dixon 3.

Putnam County took a firm hold of the game's momentum with a 6-0 run to close the first quarter, then started the second on a 9-0 to lead by 11.

That number fluctuated from a single to a double digit on some dueling rallies from there, but Putnam County managed to outscore the Irish 21-13, and they were 10 points back entering the half.

Another six-point Putnam County streak began the half before Stanley hit a much-needed 3.

But another long drought followed, and the Irish were down 60-29 before McRae



RIDING THE TRIPLES: Jaydon McRae lifts up a second-half 3-pointer. He knocked down two of the roughly five that served as most of Dublin's offensive lifeblood in Saturday's matchup with a high-scoring Putnam County attack/**SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy Dublin City Schools**

broke it with a triple late in the third.

The War Eagles, who would lead the third by a total score of 30-11, had the game well in hand, up 63-37, by the start the fourth.

WRESTLING

Continued from page 5

Both danced around the mat as the clock ticked down. Handsom, trailing 3-1, made a last lunge around the knees that Walden dodged and turned into a second takedown that all but sealed it, and what seemed like a whole section of the Clayton County Convention Center went wild as the final seconds ticked off.

The group of Dublin supporters, joined by wrestlers and fans of neighboring teams East and West Laurens, made its presence felt during both the evening's final matches for Irish contenders. And Walden said the hometown backing was a huge boost.

"That was pretty cool," he said. "When I got ready to wrestle my final match, I saw them come from one side of the stadium all the way to the other side just to come support me that was pretty cool. I liked that."

Dublin's other finalist was Quinton Lovett, who pinned three preliminary matches over Rabun County's Andrew Wall, Gordon Central's Hayden Thompson and Social Circle's Kaleb Jones.

But Gordon Lee's Noah Brown got the best of him after a little over a minute in the championship match.

Lovett was able to weather Brown's earliest attempt at a takedown, but not the second as his opponent got leverage after about a 30-second struggle, and never allowed him to escape.



CELEBRATING A HOMETOWN HERO: Walden is mobbed by supporters that included wrestlers and fans of other local teams competing who again stuck around to cheer him and a second Irish state finalist on in the last of the night's matches/**SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy Dublin City Schools**

The rest of Dublin's five-man representation, including Alan Myers (106), Keymontae Sanders (126), Kye Young (132) and Major Morton (175) was eliminated in the early rounds.

Three for West Laurens reached the podium, and Jayden Watkins almost made the finals in a dead-even semifinal match that ended up swinging on a hotly-contested call that awarded Jefferson's Fischer West a late stalling point for the 6-5 difference.

Watkins pinned Dade County's Ronan O'Keeffe, but lost to East Hall's Lukas Pruitt by 12-5 decision in the third-place match.

Jarek Giles placed fourth in the 106-pound bracket in the bounce back from a loss by heart-breaking 5-4 decision against Lumpkin County's Jude Goss to open the day.

He'd recover to win by



DUELING DRAGONS: Jayden Watkins was neck-and-neck with Jefferson's Fischer West in this semifinal battle, but was denied a chance to win it in overtime as a controversial stalling point tipped the scales/**DANYALE STARLEY**

two decisions, a pin and a tech fall to reach the consolation match, which Bainbridge's Alex DeLeon won by an 8-3 count.

Sebastian Rodriguez was knocked from the 120-pound winner's bracket in a 6-5 loss by margins just as slim, thanks to a go-



LEAVING IT ALL ON THE MAT: Dublin's Quinton Lovett, shown against Gordon Lee's Noah Brown in his title match, was another local contender who reached the state finals/**SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy Dublin City Schools**

Damien Cummings (138), Jayden Starley (132), John Howell (144), Keith Walker (285) and Maxx Chafin (215) were each put out before Thursday's finals.

East Laurens finalist Cayson Wadley wrestled six matches over the two days, winning three of his four on Thursday to advance to the consolation semifinals, the lone loss against McNair's Houston Simmons coming between pins of Elbert County's Jaylen Davis and Toombs County's Jordan Brannen, before a final win over Gordon Lee's Jenz Martin by tech fall.

Thursday's semifinal was a 17-0 shutout by Thomas Morgan, of Commerce, and Simmons took the fifth-place match by 5-1 decision.

The Falcons' Brady White (144) and Jeremiah Wright (190) both bowed out in the early rounds.

Classifieds

Employment

ENGINEERING AIDE II
The City of Dublin has an opening for an Engineering Aide II. This individual performs basic civil engineering functions as related to the construction and inspection of street construction, water main construction, sewer main constructions, storm drain construction and other associated civil engineering functions in conjunction with improvements to the infrastructure of the City of Dublin. The work will involve basic application of streets, water, sewer and gas systems. Also, heavy emphasis will be placed on traffic control signals and coordination of these with the Georgia Department of Transportation. This position reports to the Engineer Director. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and have a high school diploma or GED. Applicants should have at least three (3) years of related work experience. The successful applicant must pass a drug screen. Salary range is \$48,864.64 - \$75,740.19 annually based on experience. An extensive fringe benefit package including health, dental and life insurance is also offered. Applicants may apply online through our www.cityofdublin.org website until position is filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Yard/Estate Sales

Rentz Baptist Church Women on Mission Yard Sale Sat. March 7, 7 am - 2 pm, Family Life Center 1011 Bates Ave. Rentz

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

STEP 1: Every single person in the world goes to the nearest cafe and gets a cup of coffee.

STEP 2: They then have friendly conversations with all the people around them for hours and hours and hours.

WHATS THAT A PLAN FOR?

With every single person in cafes, there will be no one left to fight any wars.

A WORTHY GOAL.

WHY HAS NO ONE THOUGHT OF THIS?

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

SIGH

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

IT'S BRING YOUR CAT TO WORK DAY.

OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM

DUDE, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU KEEP LUNGING UP THROUGH THE ICE TOWARD ME!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO GET YOUR SMELLING CHECKED!

THANK YOU, BIG GUY!

DON'T THANK ME YET, LOUIE. LET'S SEE IF HE COMES BACK.

DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU

I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING A BAKER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY ONE OF MY COOKIES?

WHY -- ARE THEY POISONED?

IS THAT YOUR PLAY? YOU POISON ME AND TAKE ALL MY MONEY? STEAL MY IDENTITY? MARRY MY GIRL-FRIEND?? YOU MONSTER!!!

NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAM.

ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON

FRANKLY, IT'D BE EASIER IF YOU JUST ASK YOUR CARTOONIST TO USE WITE-OUT!

PLASTIC SURGERY

PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY

Thanks to Ken Lynch, Durham, New Hampshire

HEY CHAT, WHAT AISLE IS THE MAYO IN?

THREE.

Pluggers don't know why they need an AI app when they have their wives, who know everything.

After months of couples therapy, things haven't improved!



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I have been married more than 20 years to my best friend. She's the love of my life. We have been through a lot together and have been in couples counseling for eight months. We almost divorced last year because of an emotional affair I had seven years ago. (She had a similar distraction last year.)

We are friends and do everything together. I try to do everything right. I'm there for her emotionally. I have stopped drinking every day and developed a positive, mindful and kind mindset. I got myself into shape physically. I earn a good living, help around the house, prepare dinner for all of us and help with kids' appointments and activities.

The problem? My wife has physically withdrawn from me. Anything beyond hugs and kisses is too much for her. Physical intimacy happens less than once a month. I feel alone in my own home because I thrive on touch and affection but receive none. I love my wife and don't want to be with anyone else. The counselor says things "may" turn the corner "in time." In the meantime, how do I function while feeling undesired and rejected on a daily basis? -- FORGOTTEN HUSBAND IN THE SOUTH

DEAR HUSBAND: You have my sympathy. It is possible that as much as you and your wife like and love each other, you are better friends than spouses. Because after eight months of counseling with your wife nothing has changed, there are no gestures of affection and you feel alone in your own home, it's time you found a psychotherapist of your own. It's clear that joint counseling has not been helpful.

DEAR ABBY: How do I get my daughter-in-law, "Darlene," to clean up after herself? I live in the house, pay rent and help with the bills, but she constantly creates a mess in the kitchen and everywhere else. She fills the sink with dishes daily and never washes pots and pans, to the point I can't use the kitchen to cook. Darlene doesn't work

and has nothing to do all day but create a disaster and wait for me or my son (her husband) to clean up behind her.

My son and I each work full-time. He does all the laundry, cleaning and cooking. If I say anything, Darlene gets defensive and makes all kinds of excuses why she can't. (It's sheer laziness.) If I say anything to my son, he defends her because she whines and cries about how "tired" she is and claims to have all kinds of illnesses (her stomach hurts, she's on her period or just too tired). She stays up late every night and can't wake up to get my grandson to school, so my son does it every day.

I'm at my wits' end, but I don't want to create an environment where Darlene will ignore me and turn my son against me. Help! -- OUT OF BALANCE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR OUT OF BALANCE: You cannot change the unhealthy dynamic in your son's household unless he and his wife agree to do so. From what you have written, that isn't likely to happen. Be glad that you are fully employed, because the healthiest situation for you would be to make other living arrangements.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠K85♥K8♦AK1075♣KJ10
As dealer, what call would you make?
A - The 5-card suit and the 2 working 10's make this hand too good for INT. Open 1D, intending to rebid 2NT.

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠987♥73♦J98542♣76
Partner opens 1NT, 15-17. What call would you make?
A - This hand will probably play at least 3 tricks better in diamonds than in no trump. Use whatever method you have to sign off in diamonds. For us, it is 2NT - a transfer to diamonds.

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠J83♥KQJ106♦K8♣763
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
Pass Pass ?
What call would you make?
A - Opening 1H in third position would not be a crime, but we prefer to ramp up the pressure and take advantage of the position and the vulnerability. Open 2H.

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠KJ86♥53♦AKQJ♣875
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
INT Pass 2♣ Pass
What call would you make?
A - This hand is not quite worth a slam try. Just bid 4S.

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠K1085♥AQJ93♦9864♣Void
Right-hand opponent opens 1C. What call would you make?
A - Bid 1H. Should they persist in clubs, you can double at your next turn without showing extra values.

Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠KQ74♥QJ10874♦KJ7♣Void
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
? Pass 2♣ Pass
What call would you make?
A - Bid 2H. Partner will bid 2S next if he has four of them.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper.)

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- Taste of a lollipop
 - Club in a Manilow song
 - "Fidelio" or "Idomeneo"
 - Factually correct
 - Baking appliance
 - Top picks
 - "Finding ____" (Pixar sequel)
 - Trickle out
 - Not stale
 - 2024 WNBA champs: 3 wds.
 - Your and my
 - Garden of ____
 - Scaremonger
 - Samurai sword
 - Take care of
 - Lose traction
 - Made disapproving sounds
 - Trail behind
 - Wedding cake layers
 - Cool, '80s-style
 - "All kidding ____"
 - Fourth-down play
 - Golf target
 - Controls a car
 - Like Snow White's apple
 - Annoying brat
 - Sphere in a pod
 - EPCOT ride: 2 wds.
 - "Here ____ trouble!"
 - Chief Norse god
 - 24-hour periods
 - Sales rep
 - Tournament ranking
 - Jane Austen classic
 - World, in Italian
 - Hearing organs
 - Say no to
- DOWN
- Old Ford model
 - Remove wrinkles from
 - Restore to health
 - Search engine criterion
 - Dye job specialist
 - Finished
 - Mountaintop
 - Lower-leg joint
 - Quirky
 - Moms and dads
 - At any time
 - Take a breather
 - White as a sheet
 - "Delish!"
 - Texter's "no idea": Abbr.
 - Book of maps
 - Smallest possible
 - Singer Stone
 - Omit
 - Traffic snarl
 - Northeast Ohio city
 - Zora ____ Hurston
 - Contributed
 - First 007 film: 2 wds.
 - Fixed allowances
 - Go down
 - "Che" Guevara
 - Collected to excess
 - "Help!"
 - Whale's home
 - The ones over there
 - Grifter's scheme
 - ____ stick (bouncy toy)
 - Prayer's ending
 - Notion
 - Place to dock
 - Domesticated
 - Church song
 - For example

Created by Stella Zawistowski 10/6/25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21					22				
23				24					25				
26	27			28	29				30		31	32	33
34				35					36				
37				38					39				
40				41					42				
43	44			45					46				
47				48					49				
50				51					52				
53				54	55	56			57	58			
59				60					61				
62				63					64				
65				66					67				
68				69					70				

Created by Stella Zawistowski 10/6/25

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

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:



KIDS' CORNER

Vol. 001 | A fun page for kids from [The Courier Herald](#)



Herald the Hound named mascot

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD KIDS' CORNER

Local students overwhelmingly named Herald the Hound the mascot of The Courier Herald's kids' page.

The new feature, launched in today's edition, is designed to promote literacy and community engagement, as well as highlight the work and accomplishments students in local classrooms. Each Tuesday, look for the kids page for fun puzzles, work from area kids and lots of pictures from classroom across Dublin-Laurens County.

Last week, second grade students with Dublin City Schools and the Laurens County School System took part in a poll to select a mascot to represent the page. Herald the Hound ran for the spot against Herald the Fox and Herald the Frog. The hound claimed victory hands down.

"I chose the dog, because, man, kids like dogs," wrote a young voter from Dublin's Susie Dasher Elementary.

Be on the lookout for



Herald the Hound poses for a victory photo on a downtown Dublin newspaper box/SARA KOLBIE, for the Kids' Corner

Herald as he begins visiting a school each week.

Thanks to the teachers and staff of the city and county schools for assisting in the project, and a special

thank you to Ronda Walker, literacy coach for Laurens County, and Sara Kolbie with the Dublin City Council (and other organizations) for helping launch this page.

Right, students at Hillcrest Elementary fill out their ballots. Below, a student at Northwest Laurens Elementary casts her ballot for Herald the Hound



Though Herald the Hound was the clear winner in the mascot poll, some students showed some love to the other candidates. Below top, a Hillcrest Elementary voter shows support for the frog, while, at bottom, a voter at East Laurens supports clever foxes (and newspapers)

Check the box for the Courier Herald Kid's Page Mascot and tell us why you choose that animal.



I chose the dog because many kids like dogs.

The ballot from a Susie Dasher second grader declaring how much kids love dogs



I chose the frog because it stands for my school and I like frog and they wake me up by making that noise to be at school on time that's why I like frog.



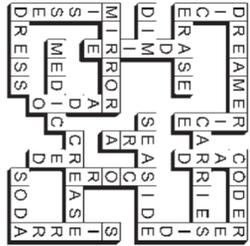
I chose fox, you can rely on it. It also is clever and smart and a newspaper does that. It also help you find clues Also indenafy stragers.

MINI SUDOKU

	3			
6		4		
5				1
			5	4
	6			4
		1		6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



Puzzles4Kids

Answer

4	2	1	3	5	6
3	6	5	1	4	2
2	1	6	5	3	4
5	4	3	6	2	1
6	5	4	2	1	3
1	3	2	4	6	5

MINI SUDOKU

Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

CRISSCROSS – READ ACROSS AMERICA WORDS*

Each word will fit into one spot in the grid. Use the starting letters as a guide and fit each word into its spot. All words will be used, so cross off each one after you put it into the grid.

*All words are formed from the letters in READ ACROSS AMERICA

3 Letters

- DIM
- ERA
- RED

4 Letters

- CARD
- DICE
- RICE
- SODA

5 Letters

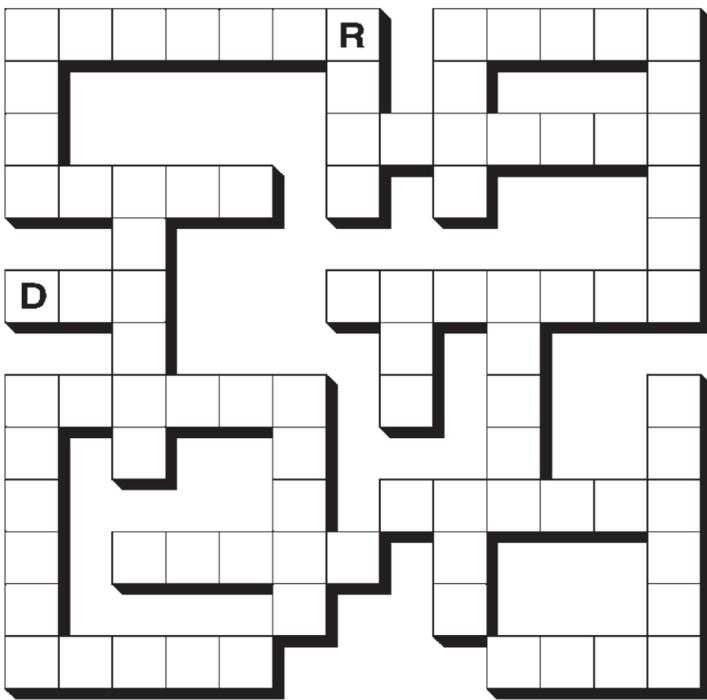
- CODER
- DRESS
- ERASE
- MEDIC
- RADIO
- SCORE

6 Letters

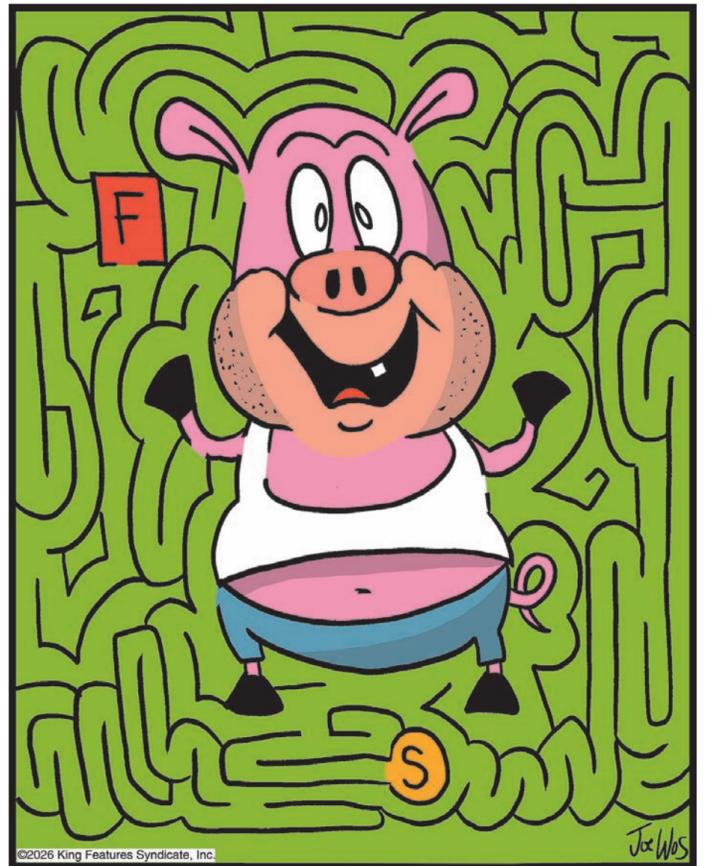
- ADMIRE
- CREASE
- MIRROR
- MISSED
- RESIDE
- SIERRA

7 Letters

- CARRIES
- DREAMER
- SEASIDE



© 2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Teachers, do you want us to visit your classroom? Students, do you have artwork, poems or stories you want to submit for possible publication? Email us at kyle@courierheraldtoday.com.