

Officials investigating 'suspicious fire'

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A blaze that totaled a business Saturday was called a "suspicious fire" by Dublin's fire chief as local and state officials continued their investigation.

Fire Chief Matthew Cutler said interviews concerning the blaze at Middle Georgia Truck Parts were expected to be held Monday. Around 12:18 a.m. Saturday, April 11, firefighters received a call about a structure fire that was reported to have been off the U.S. 441 Bypass near Firetower Road. As fire trucks were



responding, they received another call about a fire at 2110 Academy Avenue Ex-

tension. The fire alarm system at the business notified the alarm company there was a fire there.

"They figured out quickly that the first call was the same place as the structure fire," Cutler said. "When they arrived they had heavy smoke and fire showing from outside of the building."

No one was in the building when firefighters arrived. They set up their ladder truck because the fire had already broken through the roof. The goal was to



Fire officials are looking into a suspicious fire at the Middle Georgia Truck Parts early Saturday morning/PAYTON TOWNS III

BUSINESS FIRE
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In good time ...

MGSU buries time capsule to be dug up in 39 years

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Middle Georgia State University officials buried time capsules on all their campuses Friday, with the plan to dig them back up in 39 years.

By then, MGSU will celebrate its 50th year as a public university on July 1, 2065, said Victoria Fowler, executive director of marketing and communications.

Time capsules were buried in Macon, Warner Robins, Cochran and Eastman before the final ceremony at the Dublin campus.

"Each of our time capsules had some common themes for each university that we want to think are unique to each campus," Fowler said.

One by one, officials took turns throwing dirt onto the capsule until it was covered.



Dublin campus director Steven Svonavec shovels dirt onto the time capsule/RODNEY MANLEY

In the Dublin capsule were memorabilia from 2026, COVID vaccination cards, sunglasses, a list of every employee working at the university that year, items representing the nursing program, a penny with an AI prompt to tell people

TIME CAPSULE
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MGSU's capsule included school memorabilia (right) along with items specific to the Dublin campus/RODNEY MANLEY and PAYTON TOWNS III



Poll workers needed for November elections

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Laurens County officials are looking for more poll workers for upcoming elections.

Susan Rooks, election supervisor for the Laurens County Board of Elections & Registration Office, said the office has poll workers for the upcoming May 19 general primary/partisan election but will need them going forward, including for the general election Nov. 3.

"We've had a few come and make applications for this next one, but anyone interested in being a poll worker for future elections can call us and we'll send an application," Rooks said. "We'll be glad to put them on our list."

Poll workers must be 18 or older and be registered to vote. They cannot be a convicted felon. People can call for an application at (478) 272-2841 or visit www.laurensco.ga.gov.

The following areas are the polling locations in Laurens County:

- Calhoun Park at Stubbs Park Community Center Gym, 309 N. Calhoun St.
- Fire Department Station No. 5, 580 Parker Dairy Road
- Buckeye, Buckeye Fire Station, 876 Ben Hall Lake Road
- Burch, Cedar Grove Fire Station, 2669 Ga. Highway 46
- Brewton, Brewton Lovett Volunteer Fire Department, 510 S. Peachtree St.

POLL WORKERS
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Five graduate from local drug court

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Five men graduated from a local second-chance program that even the judge admits is tough to complete.

The Dublin-Laurens Drug Court recently held its latest graduation in the Laurens County Commissioners office. Superior Court Judge Trey Taylor praised graduates Tamargo

Wells (veterans treatment court), Stephen Dixon (accountability court) and Devin Mullis, Bill Madison, Doryan Gorham (all from drug court) for following all of the steps to complete graduation.

Taylor said alumni, family and friends of the graduates attended, along with Drug Court participants, and heard from keynote

speaker Clay Tapley, Dublin Judicial Circuit public defender. The participants are required to attend Drug Court graduations.

"If they go into the program and successfully complete the program, that will resolve their criminal charges," Taylor said. "For some of them, it is part of their plea deal that they have to successfully complete the drug court program. I'm super proud of these guys. It's an opportunity for them to change the trajectory of their lives. They can tackle their addiction and deal with the problems that have plagued them, often times, for years



Judge Trey Taylor, Tamargo Wells (veterans treatment court), Stephen Dixon (accountability court), Devin Mullis, Bill Madison, Doryan Gorham (all from drug court) and Mark Bowers, accountability court coordinator/PAYTON TOWNS III

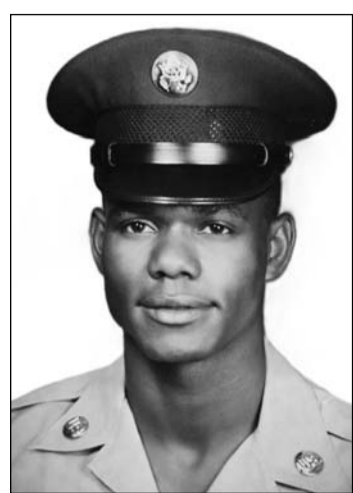
DRUG COURT
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OBITUARIES



Albert Tillman Jr.

Funeral services for Deacon Albert Tillman, Jr., of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the William Grove Baptist Church, 104 West Mary Street in Dublin. Interment will follow in the Georgia Military Cemetery in Milledgeville.

Albert Tillman, Jr., was born on Thursday, Oct. 15, 1942, in Lyons, Georgia, to the late Albert Tillman, Sr. and Elizabeth Baker Tillman.

As a native of Toombs County, Deacon Tillman attended the public school system and graduated in 1962 from Lyons Industrial High School. Following graduation, he worked various jobs before enlisting in the United States Army in 1967. During his military service, Deacon Tillman was honored with several commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Bronze Star(s), Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), and Expert Rifle (M-14). After faithfully serving his country during the Vietnam War, he was honorably discharged.

Following his military service, Deacon Tillman relocated to Newark, New Jersey, where he built a career as a dedicated long-haul truck driver. After retiring, he returned to Georgia to reside with his mother in Vidalia. Shortly thereafter, he met the love of his life and later settled in Dublin, Georgia.

On June 29, 1996, Deacon Tillman was united in holy matrimony to Deaconess Clara Lewis Tillman. Their union was blessed for 29 years. A humble servant behind the scenes, Deacon Tillman was a faithful and devoted deacon at William Grove Baptist Church, where he served diligently until his health began to decline.

Deacon Tillman peacefully departed this life in the early morning hours of

Gov. Kemp has a lot of bills on his desk after lawmakers wrap up

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers went home in a flurry of ripped paper, as is the custom at the end of the 40-day legislative session.

The shreds floating through the House and Senate included some of the 2,241 bills introduced during the biennial assembly that started last year, plus more than 3,000 resolutions.

Here is a highlight of some bills that passed, and failed, when the legislators finally decided to leave the Gold Dome after midnight on April 3, about an hour past “Sine Die,” the last scheduled day of the legislative session.

Some bills found bipartisan support while others were pushed through by the Republican majorities in each chamber. Gov. Brian Kemp has already signed a couple of measures, but most of them await his pen.

Consumers

The federal government will stop making pennies because the metal costs more than they are worth. House Bill 1112 would require that cash transactions are rounded to the nearest nickel.

Another bill sought to move the state east on the time zone map, out to the Atlantic. House Bill 154 would have kept clocks on the same standard year-round; no more bouncing back and forth by an hour. It did not pass.

Culture

The killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk inspired the passage of Senate Bill 552, which would make it illegal for public schools that allow student meetings on campus to discriminate based on political or ideological content.

Other ideologically driven measures triggered many hours of partisan debate and failed to pass.

Senate Bill 74 sought to strip librarians of their criminal immunity from a law that makes it illegal to give “harmful” books and other material to minors.

Senate Bill 499 and House Bill 1324 would have ensured gun silencers remained legal in Georgia. Republicans contended silencers protect hunters’ hearing. Democrats asserted they make it harder to locate school shooters. “This body surely is aware that earplugs exist,” Rep. Michelle Au, D-Johns Creek, said on the House floor when Democrats voted the bill down, assisted by the absence of 11 Republicans.)

The House also killed Senate Bill 175, which sought to protect Confederate monuments.

Education

House Bill 1193 seeks to improve the teaching of reading in kindergarten through third grades. The heart of the measure would give schools \$70 million a year to put 1,313 literacy coaches into classrooms.

Teenage students got a bill that aims to help them, but in a different way: House Bill 1009 would ban cellphones in public high schools starting in the 2027-28 school year. The devices were roundly criticized as an academic distraction.

College students got Senate Bill 556, an omnibus education measure that snuck across the finish line

the evening of April 2 (technically the final legislative day though lawmakers kept voting past midnight). The House commandeered the bill, which was about something else (a common tactic when time is running out) and stuffed it with other language, including a \$325 million need-based scholarship program that had been in a different bill that did not pass.

House Bill 328 would increase the \$120 million annual cap on tax breaks for donors to one of the state’s K-12 private school tuition subsidy programs. The Senate had sought to nearly double it to \$225 million but settled for \$150 million.

Senate Bill 513 would have suspended the driver’s licenses of chronically absent high school students had it passed.

Elections

House Bill 369 would require Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties to hold non-partisan elections for county commissioner, district attorney, and other county offices. Democrats blasted it as a GOP attempt to cling to power in areas with a waning Republican electorate. Sen. John Albers, R-Roswell, countered that “the reason we’re doing this is because of that strong consolidated government, in order to make it safer.”

Republicans were able to agree on that bill, but could not converge on a solution to their self-imposed deadline to stop using QR codes to tally election results at polling places. Those will become illegal July 1, raising doubts among election officials about the conduct of the midterm elections Nov. 3.

Health

Pharmacists would be authorized to dispense contraceptives to women without a doctor’s prescription under House Bill 1138. Lawmakers also approved increasing the strength of THC dosages prescribed to patients, passing Senate Bill 220.

Housing

About one in four Georgians live in a condominium or home governed by an association that has the authority to levy fees and fines and then foreclose when owners do not pay. Senate Bill 406 would curb that power. Lawmakers decided

not to counteract another housing force: corporate owners of rental homes. Senate Bill 463 died in the House in the last days of the legislative session.

Insurance

House Bill 1344 would increase fines on wayward insurance companies while cracking down on uninsured motorists and on fraud. There were numerous other provisions in the omnibus insurance measure that grew from a study committee last year and was a priority of House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington.

House Bill 506 would protect those with health insurance from outsized ambulance bills.

Policing

Senate Bill 443 would increase the fine for blocking a road during a protest to \$5,000 and expose protesters to lawsuits. Senate Bill 443 would help de-escalate police encounters with people in vehicles who have autism by providing training and creating identifying license plates.

Senate Bill 542 would make it illegal for clergy to have sexual contact with people taking their counsel, much like existing law that prohibits such contact when there is a power imbalance. That law forbids sexual encounters between school employees and students, parole officers and their charges, hospital employees and patients, psychotherapists and their clients, police and those they arrest, and correctional officers and inmates with a disability.

House Bill 1409 would modernize the Georgia law that requires people who interact with children to report suspected child abuse. It would require the Division of Family and Children Services to establish a secure website for reporting. It would also make claims of sexual harassment or discrimination against a member of the General Assembly a public record if they were made after Jan. 1, 2019. Various Republican senators tried to attach what came to be known as the “Epstein amendment” to a half dozen bills. The update to the mandated reporter law became a vehicle for passage.

House Bill 1187 would end secrets around sexual abuse lawsuits. Trey’s Law was named after an

Atlanta-area resident who was sexually abused at a Missouri camp along with other victims. Trey Carlock settled a lawsuit against the camp, but a nondisclosure agreement prevented him from talking about what happened to him. He died by suicide. The measure would prohibit settlements that contain such agreements.

Taxes

House Bill 463 would gradually reduce the income tax rate to 3.99% (from the current 5.19%). Senate Bill 33 would restrain increases in the taxable valuations of owner-occupied homes. It would also allow let counties implement a penny sales tax, with the proceeds used to subsidize homeowner property taxes.

Cities and counties can keep raising their tax rates as much as needed, but schools cannot and could have to start laying off teachers in a few years if Kemp lets the measure become law, their advocates say.

Both bills passed the General Assembly after midnight on April 3, hasty alternatives fashioned by Republicans after they failed to pass their top tax priorities. Senate Republicans had wanted to abolish income taxes. House Republicans had hoped to eliminate homeowner property taxes.

Kemp had asked to reduce the income tax rate to 4.99%, but the Legislature did not pass House Bill 1001, introduced by an ally of the governor.

But workers in Georgia are guaranteed an income tax rebate: Kemp signed House Bill 1000 into law last month when he also signed House Bill 1199 suspending the excise tax on gasoline. HB 1000 will give individual filers \$250, heads of household \$375 and married couples \$500. The 33 cent a gallon gas tax will be in place until Georgians go to the polls on May 19 to vote in the midterm primary election.

BIRTHDAYS

April 14
Stepven Jones

April 15
Gal Tharpe

At 70, you're not getting older ;
you're just becoming a classic!

Happy 70th
Birthday, BO-j!

From Hayley, Karen & Michelle

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POSSUM Hollow 2.0
Dexter, Ga

Friday, April 17
Southern Gospel Sing 6:00-9:00
Featuring The Generations, Dexter Baptist Praise Choir, In One Accord, and The Rowe Family
Free Admission!

Saturday, April 18
Arts & Crafts Festival
Food Trucks & Live Music
Car & Tractor Show, Kid Activity Korner
\$5 Admission Ages 5 & Up

Possum Hollow Ballfield & Park
202 W Main St, Dexter, Georgia

BUSINESS FIRE
Continued from page 1

knock it down so that firefighter could get inside and put out the rest of the fire. Cutler said the building has been a lot of different businesses throughout the years. Many people remember it as the John Deere place and the New Holland Tractor plant. At some point it was TNT Truck Parts. The sign outside the business shows it is now Middle Georgia Truck Parts. "From what I was told, there were some renovations going on at the building," Cutler said. "Once our local investigators were able to get in there and start its investigation, it was clear that something happened there that caused that fire that was not accidental in nature."

Because of this, the state fire marshal's office was notified. Evidence was gathered and photos were made of the scene.

"We did receive automatic aid from the Laurens County Fire Department, which was greatly appreciated," Cutler said. "That is one of the areas where the county actually comes into the city and assists us just like we would respond into

the county to assist them. We appreciate their assistance. We definitely needed help on this one especially with the size of building that it was. The building appears to be a total loss."

Laurens County EMS was on the scene and set up a rehab station to help with hydration. Cutler said none of the firefighters were injured. Law enforcement officials directed traffic in and out of the scene.

"We hope to have further information later this week," Cutler said. "The State Fire Marshal's Office is going to meet with me and get me up to speed."

Anyone with information on this case can call Cutler at (478) 277-5032, the Dublin Police Department at (478) 277-5023 or the Georgia Arson Hotline at 1-800-282-5804.

"Those who call the hotline with a tip that leads to the arrest and conviction, may actually receive a reward," Cutler said. "Make a report of what you know and they may be able to receive up to \$10,000. I believe people in Laurens County received money for tips not too long ago. The information received, no matter how small they think it may be, is helpful."



Dublin campus staffers gather for Friday's ceremony to bury the time capsule /RODNEY MANLEY

TIME CAPSULE
Continued from page 1

about it, different items from the student body and photos from various activities that happened lately which included the pickleball courts grand opening. They also included an item that gave details about Dublin in 2026.

"We wanted to celebrate all five of our campuses," Fowler said. "We had a

student who earlier today asked if someone would call her when we open these. I told her that she may not have the same phone number or contact. Hopefully, somebody will look her up and ask her if she remembers doing this. But that will be the 50th anniversary of us being named Middle Georgia State University. We hope the future generations will look back and see what life was like and see how things have changed."

DRUG COURT
Continued from page 1

upon years. It's really a great opportunity for them to put their criminal charges behind them."

The cases are identified by the local district attorney's office.

"As an accountability court team, we staff those cases and decide which people are appropriate to participate in our court," Taylor said. "They work the program from anywhere to 18 months to two years. They are required to a drug test two to three times a week. They go to multiple treatment meetings per week. They have accountability components that require them to do something every single day. It is a lot of work on their part. It's not easy."

In fact, it may have been easier to be on probation.

"They don't get the benefit of just having their charges dismissed," the judge said. "The program is pretty tough and they have to work. To be honest, some of the participants I didn't think they were going to make it. At some point they just buckled down and got with the program."

Then there are those who never cause a problem.

"They just zoom right through," Taylor said.

Moral Recognition Therapy is a 12-step program participants have to successfully complete.

"It helps them self-evaluate and identify problems and help them develop a plan to help them move forward," Taylor said. "It is very in depth."

Taylor and attorneys involved in the Drug Court do not receive payment for this program.

"We do this because we think it's a good thing for the community," Taylor said. "We want to have this opportunity available for those people who are willing to take advantage of it. It requires a lot of buy-in for them. It's an incredibly valuable thing for those who take advantage of it."

"I'm incredibly grateful and thankful for the support with get from the district attorney's office for this program," he added. "They have dedicated staff members who work hand-in-hand with us as do the public defenders who work hand-in-hand with us also to make sure our program is a success and these folks have opportunity to work the program and change their lives. The commissioners are the ones who provide us the funding component on this. Without the commissioners' support of this program, it would cease to exist."

POLL WORKERS
Continued from page 1

- Dudley, Dudley Fire State No. 4, 1127 Main St.
- Hampton Mill, Dexter Community Center, 303 Mill St.
- Minter, Minter Fire Station, 2040 Ga. Highway 29 S.
- Rural Fire Station No. 17, 1411 S. Poplar Springs Ch Road
- WT Adams, 2897 US Highway 441 N.
- Reedy Springs, Rentz Fire Department, 2115 Davidson St.
- Smith, Precinct Building, 102 Broad St.
- Laurens County Fire Station No. 10, Valambrosia, 128 Valambrosia Road

"I want to build my poll worker list up," Rooks said. "A lot of them are getting older. I really need some men to help. It is mandatory that we will hold training usually a week before early voting begins. We will pay them for training."

Early voting for the next election will be held from April 27 through May 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will also be early voting on Saturday, May 2 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is May 8.

"We are encouraging people to consider early voting," Rooks said. "We are in the annex building across from the courthouse. We'll have a banner up in front of our office."



OFTC's respiratory care graduates Lauren Loftin, Kailey Forehand, Shannon Waller, Landon Carey, Macy Rose, Erika Delcid-Lopez and Ashley Brown/SPECIAL PHOTO

OFTC respiratory care grads post 100 percent pass rate on exams

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

For the fourth year in a row, recent graduates of Oconee Fall Line Technical College's Respiratory Care program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Board for Respiratory Care exams which are required to earn the Registered Respiratory Therapist credential needed to work in the state of Georgia. The 2025 cohort included Lauren Loftin (Dublin), Kailey Forehand (Hull), Shannon Waller (Macon), Landon Carey (McRae), Macy Rose (Dublin), Erika Delcid-Lopez (Athens), and Ash-

ley Brown (Dublin).

"We are incredibly proud of our graduates and the dedication they've shown throughout the program," shared Kelley Braxton, clinical coordinator for OFTC's Respiratory Program. "A 100% pass rate reflects not only their hard work, but their readiness to provide high-quality care to patients from day one." In their final semester of the program, students take an Advanced Respiratory Care Seminar course to prepare for both the Therapist Multiple-choice and Clinical Simulation Examinations. OFTC's

Respiratory Care instructors make it a priority to ensure each student is prepared and ready to pass these exams. "We are incredibly proud of this group and all they've accomplished," added Natalie Smith, Respiratory Care instructor at OFTC. "One of the most rewarding parts of working in this field is seeing OFTC graduates everywhere I go—providing care, leading teams and making a difference. That speaks to the strength of our program. This cohort is now part of that legacy, and we're excited to see the impact they will make."



Jeremi Hightower, PA-C

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Madeleine Price, PA-C

OUR TAKE...

Investing in literacy is a good spending move

Reading is more than just a hobby. There is a direct connection between literacy and quality of life. People who are able to read proficiently have better career opportunities, better health outcomes and are more effective members of society than their counterparts.

As Georgia leaders continue to tout our state as the "best place to do business," we have to face the unfortunate truth that we are not the best place for literacy. And that's a statistic that will surely come back to haunt us, sooner more likely than later.

According to data from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, only 38.4 percent of Georgia's third graders were reading at or above grade level in the 2023-2024 school year. The figure was only slightly improved for Georgia eighth graders, with only 44.7 percent reading at proficient or distinguished levels. The numbers are even more dismal when broken down further. Barely half of white third graders across the state are reading at the appropriate level, while over 70 percent of black and Hispanic students are struggling to keep up.

And it doesn't get much better on a national level. Based on the National Assessment of Education Progress, which tracks fourth and eighth graders across the country, on 33 percent of our nation's fourth grade students are proficient or above in reading. Georgia's fourth graders are at 32 percent based on that metric.

Georgia lawmakers are aware of this trend and are now hoping a sudden investment in literacy can boost reading rates. Earmarked in the latest state spending plan is \$70 million to get 1,300 literacy coaches in third grade classrooms. The budget still requires the signature of Ga. Gov. Brian Kemp.

Though this fails to tackle older students struggling with reading, we hope this line item stays in the budget and is a benefit to elementary schools. Its never too late to learn how to read and we need to see more investment from our leaders.

— Kyle Dominy

YOUR TURN:

Share your opinion on current events, or topics covered in The Courier Herald by emailing us: tchnewsreporter@gmail.com

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"There are two ways to be. One is at war with reality and the other is at peace."

— Byron Katie

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

— Titus 2:13-14 (KJV)

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

April 14, 2026 is...

- Reach as High as You Can Day
- Pan American Day
- Pathologists' Assistant Day
- National Pecan Day
- National Dolphin Day
- National Look Up at the Sky
- International Moment of Laughter Day
- Dreams of Reason Feast Day
- Children With Alopecia Day
- National Gardening Day
- National Library Workers Day
- International Be Kind To Lawyers Day

Kick it when you pull out in front of others

I do not like to make a left without a traffic signal to assist.

It may have begun when I was 15. My grandparents would allow me to go maybe a mile or two out of the way by turning right. My father, well, he wanted me to drive the shortest distance and more direct way from point A to point B.

I remember when we were leaving a shopping center in my dad's black Oldsmobile. He wanted me to turn left and traffic was heavy. As it seems to normally happen, when traffic clears in one direction, it gets heavy in the other.

I could have easily made a right turn, but he wanted me to go left. Why? I don't know except for the fact that it was just slightly shorter route to go that way.

Finally, I had a small window so I eased my foot to the accelerator and the vehicle made its way into the road and into the proper lane. As I made the turn, my dad said, "If you are going to pull out in front of someone, punch it!"

So I hit the gas pedal and put more distance between me and the car that had been approaching us. My father's point was that when you pull out in front of someone - and you will have to do that from time-to-time - hit the gas and go.

That has stayed with me, though I will try to go

MAN ABOUT TOWN...



By PAYTON TOWNS III

the safest way even if that means going a little bit out of the way.

No one likes it when another driver pulls out in front of them and either slow pokes along or slams on their brakes a few seconds later to make a turn (it doesn't matter if it is right or left).

When other drivers pull out in front of me, the first thing I do besides tapping my brakes is glance up into my rearview mirror. Because I am always checking my mirrors, I usually already know if there is someone behind me. But I want to see how close they are from my bumper.

Majority of times though, there is no one behind me when another vehicle makes a turn to get right in front of me. This leaves me to wonder: First, why didn't they wait and let me

pass since there was no one behind me? And second, would they want me to do that to them?

Of course not. So then, why did they do that to me?

I am sure this has happened to everyone. And yes, I have jumped out in front of others, but you better believe I put the pedal to the metal to get some distance between me and that vehicle.

About a year ago, I turned out in front of a van in downtown Dublin. I was making a right and it was hard to see around a parked vehicle. Once I started to make my right, I saw the van coming up the road. Well, like an airplane pilot who has already passed the point of no return (called V1) I felt like I had to go so I pressed down on the gas and created distance.

It wasn't even close. But

that did not stop the driver of the van from holding down on their horn. I couldn't help but laugh at them as we both stopped at the next traffic light. She was hitting her steering wheel and probably cussing up a storm.

When the light turned green, I eased on the gas pedal and made my way safely home. Which is what our aim for driving should be.

Back to refusing to make a left. A few years ago, GPS changed our directions because of a wreck on the route. As we were making our way down a subdivision, the GPS kept wanting us to turn right and make a left at the end of the next block.

As we pulled up to each block, every right led us to another stop sign, and we could see that the traffic on the main road was backed up. We kept proceeding until we could not go straight anymore. At that final stop sign, I looked to the right and saw there was a traffic signal at the end of that road.

By refusing to make an earlier turn, I got the traffic light I needed to make a safer left turn. Yes, I went a little out of my way, but I did it with less stress and issues.

Now, it is time for me to get into my car again. Wonder if that van driver is coming up the road?



Some sweet news: Vidalia onions are coming to town

This is a high and holy time. As you read these words, Vidalia onions are being shipped across the nation from sea to shining sea. If you aren't from around these parts, let me tell you what we natives already know. There is nothing like a Vidalia onion. They are sweet enough that you can eat them like an apple and in this whole wide world, they are grown in just 20 counties in South Georgia, including Toombs County whose largest city is, of course, Vidalia.

Folks over in Glennville in Tattnall County will remind you that about half the annual crop comes from there and that at one time it was referred to the Glennville sweet onion, but everybody got together and agreed to call it the Vidalia onion. That's the way we do things in this great state. We may be divided on our politics, but not our onions.

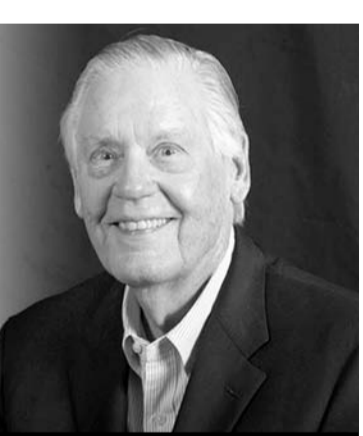
Where does the Vidalia get its sweetness? It is because the soil in these particular counties is sandy and low in sulfur. That contributes to their sweetness. Onions grown in soil high in sulfur compounds tend to have a hot, bitter flavor from the sulfur. That is why people cry when they slice into an ordinary onion. With the sweet Vidalia, you weep with joy.

During the Depression, a farmer named Mose Coleman discovered that the onions he had planted were not

hot, as onions are supposed to be. They were sweet. It took a while to catch on, but Mose was soon selling his onions like, well, hotcakes. Only better.

Other farmers, who had suffered through the Depression years, followed suit and started producing their own sweet, mild onions. Today, Vidalia sales total around \$90 million and some 5-million 40 lb. boxes are shipped out each season to 49 states and Canada. That's sweet.

By the way, you cannot call an onion a "Vidalia" unless it was grown in the above-mentioned areas of Georgia. Don't even think about it. If you try to foist off a substitute on unsuspecting consumers, you will get a visit from the Georgia Department of Agriculture wherever you are. Federal Marketing Order No. 955 was established in 1989 to help reinforce Georgia state laws and in 1992, the Vidalia onion was trademarked by the state. We don't mess



By DICK YARBROUGH

around when it comes to our onions.

If you are in the area, you might want to check out the Vidalia Onion Festival, April 23-26. There's all kind of stuff going on, including concerts, a rodeo and Mimosas and Onions Art where you can "create a one-of-a-kind piece of onion art to take home while sipping on mimosas." Give me enough mimosas and I will create onion art that would make Rembrandt suck wind. The weekend will be capped off by a performance of the Blue Angels. I get goosebumps writing about them, let alone seeing them in person.

Not to be outdone, Glennville has its own festival planned - the 50th annual Glennville Sweet Onion Festival on Saturday, May 9. I note they don't refer to it as the Glennville-Vidalia Sweet Onion Festival, even though Glennville agreed to call it the Vidalia onion back years ago. I am sure there is a reason but I'm staying out

of this one. Suffice it to say, I feel strongly both ways.

Glennville won't have the Blue Angels at their festival, but they will have some neat stuff of their own - a Sweet Onion Run, a Sweet Onion Parade, a Sweet Onion Street Dance and a Turtle Race. The Chamber of Commerce says some 6,000 folks will attend. Not bad for a town of 3,800.

Don't you find it interesting that in the 3.8 million square miles that make up these, the United States of America - including Alaska and Hawaii and the District of Columbia - God saw fit to carve out just 6,000 square miles of sandy and low sulfur soil in 13 counties in Georgia and parts of seven others so we could grow sweet Vidalia onions?

There is no question God loves us. We have the greatest state song in the history of the world, Georgia on My Mind, sung by Ray Charles Robinson, of Albany, Georgia. We have the oldest state-chartered university in the land with four national football championships and 27 Rhodes Scholars. We have the Masters golf tournament. We have the Blue Ridge Mountains and the silver sands of the Georgia coast. And the sweet Vidalia onion. 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



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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.

Dublin Police Department

- On March 31, around 9:21 p.m., an officer responded to a fight on Highway 19 South.

The officer made contact with an anonymous employee who said a black vehicle and a white vehicle had been involved in an accident, which escalated into a physical altercation. The employee said that both parties left the scene, stating they were going to a park to continue the fight.

Dispatch then advised that the complainant from the accident had called and was located at West Garner Street, requesting to speak with an officer. Officers responded to the location and met with the people involved.

The driver of one of the vehicles, Asia Loryonna Whitehead, 27, initially provided her name as Tymeria Whitehead. She said a woman driving a black Ford Taurus hit the rear of her vehicle while she was at Friendly Gus. Whitehead said that during the collision, Savannah Vanard Young, 20, was in the process of entering the front passenger seat and was thrown from the vehicle due to the impact. She further stated that after Young re-entered the vehicle, she drove to a family member's residence to call 911.

Young said that he had driven himself and Whitehead to Friendly Gus and



POLICE BEAT...

had both exited the vehicle to go inside. Upon returning, he was in the process of sitting in the front passenger seat when the vehicle was stuck from the rear by the Ford. Young said the impact caused him to be thrown from the vehicle and that he suffered back pain as a result.

The officer saw Young had visible road rash on the middle of his back. He was treated on scene by Laurens County EMS but refused transport.

An officer began verifying Whitehead's identity using the name and date of birth that she initially provided. Whitehead admitted she had given false identifying information. She was arrested. She then provided her correct identity.

Whitehead further said that prior to the accident, she had been involved in a physical altercation at a stop sign with the woman who had previously hit them. She said the woman produced a pink-colored firearm and sprayed her with mace. Whitehead said that was the reason Young drove her to Friendly Gus, so she could use milk to re-

lieve the effects of the mace.

Whitehead complained of ankle pain but refused medical treatment. It was unclear whether the injury occurred during the accident or the earlier altercation. Dispatch later advised that Whitehead had an active warrant through the Bleckley County Sheriff's Office, which requested a hold. Whitehead was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked, giving false name, address or birthdate to law enforcement.

Dispatch also advised that Young had an active warrant through the Dublin Police Department. Young was then arrested and also charged with driving while unlicensed. Both were transported to the Laurens County Jail.

The officer attempted to locate the other involved vehicle at Riverview Heights Apartments. He found a vehicle matching the provided description. The officer was unable to make contact with the owner.

- Jacobi Ian Dandre Rozier, 33, was charged with criminal trespass on East Jackson Street around 1:59

a.m. on April 4.

An officer was dispatched to the Hop-In on East Jackson Street in reference to a removal. The officer met with an employee who requested Rozier to be removed from the store because he had been causing a disturbance and behaving rudely toward her and other customers. The employee wanted Rozier removed from the property for the remainder of the evening.

The officer met with Rozier in the parking lot. While speaking with him, the officer detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the man. The officer also observed signs consistent with intoxication. The officer saw Rozier causing a disturbance with a customer who was attempting to leave the premises.

Rozier told the officer he had done nothing wrong when the officer told him the store wanted him to leave the property. The officer gave Rozier multiple lawful commands to leave the property, but Rozier refused to comply. During the interaction, Rozier repeatedly stepped closer to the officer, requiring him to step back to maintain distance. Rozier was again advised to leave the property and he continued to refuse.

Because he refused to leave after being given multiple lawful commands, the officer told Rozier he was

under arrest. The man was transported to the Laurens County Jail without incident.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- On March 28, a deputy was dispatched to Alice Brewer Road in Montrose in reference to a hit and run.

- Around 7:40 p.m. on March 26, a deputy was given a phone number to call in reference to a report of an incident that happened on North Line Street in Dexter.

- On March 26, around 7:58 p.m., a deputy received a phone number to call in reference to a report about an incident that occurred on North Line Street in Dexter.

- A deputy responded to Nathaniel Drive in East Dublin in reference to an active burglary that happened around 2:25 a.m. on March 27.

- Around 10:12 a.m. on March 28, a deputy responded to Pond Road in reference to a gunshot.

- On March 28, around 4:20 p.m., a deputy responded to Arthur Graham Road to meet with a man in reference to him having to shoot at his neighbor's dog.

- Cortavius Deandre Floyd, 28, of Dublin, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked around 2:29 a.m. on March 29. A deputy made a

traffic stop at the intersection of Central Drive and Nathaniel Drive due to no tag lights on the vehicle.

- A deputy talked with a woman at her house in reference to a dog slinging trash across her yard from her trash can on March 28 around 7:32 p.m.

- A theft occurred on Highway 80 East around 6:59 p.m. on March 27.

- Brian Heath Raffield, 46, of East Dublin, was charged with convicted felons, possession of firearms prohibited. On March 31, around 11:30 a.m., a deputy was patrolling the area of Brickyard Landing Road when he saw a suspicious vehicle parked on the roadway.

- Property was damaged on Highway 19 South around 8:30 p.m. on March 30.

Editor's note: This information is public record and was taken from reports of local law enforcement agencies. These reports do not reflect guilt or innocence. An "arrest" does not always indicate incarceration. Readers are cautioned that people may have similar names. Police Beat does not identify minor children, victims of sexual assault, suicide attempts or medical conditions. Cases dismissed do not appear if the newspaper is notified before deadline.

Georgia legislature backed bill that would give residents new rights against homeowner associations

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Among the more popular bills to pass out of the Georgia General Assembly last week was a measure that would make it more difficult for homeowners' associations to foreclose on members' homes over disputes about money.

Sen. Matt Brass, R-Newnan, told fellow lawmakers during hearings on the bill that he had heard numerous anecdotes about associations that had abused their authority to levy fines, piling up bills that had led to liens on homes and then to foreclosure.

"You might have a rogue board member or a bad management company that wants a neighbor out or they want to try to get possession of that property," he said at a hearing last month. "And they start fining and feeing people."

Senate Bill 406 passed the Senate unanimously and it passed the state House by

an overwhelming bipartisan margin. If Gov. Brian Kemp allows it to become law, it will put guardrails around the associations' authority to fine residents and place liens against their properties.

It would require associations to register annually with the Georgia Secretary of State if they plan to collect fines and fees. It would limit the types of debt that associations could use to place a lien on a property. It would double the current \$2,000 debt threshold for filing a lien provided owners are not in arrears for at least a year. It would require associations to upload certain records to the state and open their financial books to members. And it would establish a hearing process for disputes to be overseen by the Secretary of State.

Caroline Simmons has been in a long-running dispute with her Decatur-area condominium association over the cost of new water

eters. She asserted that the meters were not needed and that the board had failed to follow protocol to contract for them. She then sued.

SB 406 would give her an alternative to the courts.

"It means I have someplace other than the court to go to be able to rectify everything that I believe that the board is doing in violation of not only our declaration but of Georgia law," Simmons said in an interview this week.

She was among several homeowners who testified about aggressive association behavior at that hearing with Brass last month.

One man described a battle over the pavers he placed in the mud to give his pregnant wife safe passage through the yard. He said the association levied thousands of dollars in fines after ordering them removed.

Another man said he had spent \$25,000 dealing with water runoff from a neighbor's property. The association did not like the work he had done, which led to a costly legal fight. He called the associations "judge, jury and executioner."



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In regard to the comment in [Tell It!], "anyone think Fred Williams is great?" I have known him since he was first hired by Dublin City Schools. When he came he was young, eager to do a good job and worked hard. Everyone liked him. I don't know what happened. Greed maybe. Did he want all of these added opportunities for DCS without realizing the money was not there?

Why did the board go along with (Fred Williams) if they too knew that the money wasn't there? I personally do not think Fred took any money. I wish he would come out and make an apology. The Fred I knew in the 90's would have.

Consolidation of county and city governments is not just about saving money — it is about building one identity, one direction and one future for everyone who calls the community home.

When city and county move as one, decisions become less divided, progress becomes more intentional, and the whole community

grows stronger together. It's a must!

I wonder if the people who keep complaining about coaching supplements even know that supplements are the only pay these people get for their coaching duties?

I see where the county school superintendent has decided to give all of the employees a \$2,000 bonus. That's great, considering that my wife and I are over 80 years old and haven't had any kids in schools in 50 years. And we're still having to pay school tax. At least the city, in as bad shape as they are in, gave the 80 year olds a break. Obviously, the county would rather give the \$2,000 bonus to everybody and forget the 80 year olds.

I have been all over Dublin and East Dublin and I have heard the complaints of the homeless people. The big thing is why can't we get a homeless shelter here in Dublin, Ga? We have all of these empty buildings. Whoever it is who is charge, Laurens County needs to reach out to the homeless.

What a wonderful ed-

itorial by Payton Towns in Tuesday's paper. Cancer is such a horrific disease and has touched so many people. As Payton wrote it not only affects the person that has been diagnosed it includes their loved ones. I am so happy that his wife is on the road to complete recovery and may God continue to bless both of them.

I'd like to see some information about the major league baseball standings in the paper or a schedule.

What a beautiful article in Thursday's paper wishing Juanita Neighbors a happy 100th birthday. She is definitely a remarkable woman. Such a sweet loving person inside and out. I know her family are so excited for this special celebration for her. She definitely deserves it! Happy Birthday Juanita!

Classifieds
Real Estate
For Rent/Lease

Houses for Rent: 2 bedroom \$1,050/month and 2 bedroom \$725/month. No Animals; References required. 478-278-9012

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

TUESDAY: Mostly sunny and very warm.
89°
Sunrise: 7:04 a.m.

TUESDAY NIGHT: Clear to partly cloudy.
56°
Sunset: 8:01 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: Very warm with sunshine and a few clouds.
90°
Sunrise: 7:03 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: Partly cloudy.
60°
Sunset: 8:01 p.m.

Thursday 4/16 HIGH/LOW 89/61 Partly sunny and very warm. Sunrise: 7:01 a.m. Sunset: 8:02 p.m.	Friday 4/17 HIGH/LOW 90/60 Remaining very warm with sunshine. Sunrise: 7:00 a.m. Sunset: 8:03 p.m.	Saturday 4/18 HIGH/LOW 92/61 Hot with times of clouds and sun. Sunrise: 6:59 a.m. Sunset: 8:04 p.m.	Sunday 4/19 HIGH/LOW 88/59 Very warm; sun and areas of high clouds in the morning. Sunrise: 6:58 a.m. Sunset: 8:04 p.m.	Monday 4/20 HIGH/LOW 84/61 Sun through high clouds. Sunrise: 6:57 a.m. Sunset: 8:05 p.m.
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River levels...
Oconee (at Dublin) 3.24'
Ocmulgee (at Macon) 6.61'

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PLAY BALL!: EAST DUBLIN RECREATION OPENS NEW BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SEASON

Saturday morning marked the start of a new baseball and softball season for the East Dublin Recreation Department, whose opening ceremonies drew a few hundred out to East Dublin's Warnock Park. Players, coaches and a few pups (below, right) took part in a parade of teams leading up to a ceremonial first pitch delivered by Ira Warnock (below, left), before taking the field for their first games of 2026 against opponents visiting from various neighboring counties. Eastside Recreation's eight teams are made up of roughly 90 players, ages 5-14/**ZACH DAWSON**



PREP SCHEDULE

- BASEBALL**
Monday
 West Laurens at Appling Co./6 p.m.
- Tuesday**
 East Laurens at Northeast Macon/4:30 p.m.
 Baldwin at WL Dodge Co. at Dublin /5:30 p.m.
 Trinity at CGAA/6 p.m.
- Wednesday**
 Montgomery Co. at EL WL at Pinewood/6 p.m.
- Thursday**
 CGAA at Trinity WL at Baldwin/5 p.m.
 GMC at Dublin/5:30 p.m.
- Friday**
 Dublin at Dodge Co. /5:30 p.m.
 Northeast Macon at EL /6 p.m.
- SOCCER**
Monday
 Trinity at Robert Toombs /5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
 Dublin at Vidalia Fitzgerald at EL Hephzibah at WL Trinity at Covenant /5 p.m.
- Thursday**
 EL at Vidalia/5 p.m.
 Dublin at ACE Charter WL at Aquinas/5:30 p.m.
- Friday**
 Trinity at Central Fellowship/5 p.m.
- TENNIS**
Monday
 WL at Bleckley Co./4 p.m.
 Trinity at Region 6-AA Tournament (Milledgeville) /9 a.m.
- Thursday**
 WL at Region 4-AAA Tournament (Augusta) /10:30 a.m.
- GOLF**
Monday
 WL at Neil Graham Invitational (Douglas CC) /1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday**
 EL at WL/3:30 p.m.
- Thursday**
 Trinity at Region 6-AA Tournament (Dublin CC) /10 a.m.
 Veterans and Vidalia at WL/3:30 p.m.

CONTACT US:
 Email sports information to tchsports77@gmail.com, or call (478) 272-5522, ext. 110

The all-around interests of the Masters' all-time greats...

AUGUSTA – A highlight of Masters week, especially if you are getting long in the tooth, is the press conference following the ceremonial tee shots to start the tournament on Thursday morning.

Gary Player, 90, Jacklaus, 86, Tom Watson, 76, have to get up before first light and drive down Magnolia Lane when most of the competitors are sleeping unless they happen to be among the amateur contingent and those playing the tournament for the first time. They probably experienced sleepless nights.

The honorary starter tradition began in 1963 when Senior PGA champions Jock Hutchinson and Fred McLeod played 18 holes; then it became nine holes and eventually the format of today when it is a tee shot off No. 1 and the press conference which follows and is moderated by member Rob Johnston.

The three former champions have won 11 Masters

Green Jackets collectively with Jack having won six times, Gary, thrice, and Tom, twice. The most fanatical when it comes to exercise and fitness is Player. I can remember him saying after his first Masters victory in 1961 that he would do pushups and sit-ups before going to bed. He is still enthusiastically exercising today.

Throughout his life Player has had the body fat of a marathon runner in his prime years. Gary has always been diet conscious. He has never been a party guy and pretty much abstains from alcohol. After his third win, I remember a handful of writers gathering around him following his third victory and he ordered a mixed cocktail in celebration.

When I took a small tour group out to his ranch in South Africa years ago, he provided soft drinks and water to our group. He walked a fine line when it came to politics having to



By **LORAN SMITH**

segue from apartheid to democracy, but he has always been an outspoken supporter and admirer of the late Nelson Mandela.

Gary's first Masters was 1961, Nicklaus came along in 1963 and Tom Watson's debut was 1977. They are always insightful at the press conference which follow their ceremonial tee shots. They are relaxed, in a good mood, and bring a lot of levity to the conversation.

As they talked, I reflected on their contributions to golf and their interests

away from the game. Nicklaus designed courses and was an avid fisherman and still is.

During his prime years on the tour, he maintained a commitment to his family and if an event or activity was taking place within a couple of hours from North Palm Beach, he would fly home to support his kids and then return to the golf course the next day.

He is a very bright man who has excess energy and appetite for the great outdoors. Among his trophies displayed at his home in

Lost Tree Village are things like trophy mounts from his hunts around the world and other displays such as a black marlin on the breeze-way between his home and his guest cottage.

Once, I visited him in early January when he was hosting and running his own tennis competition for friends and neighbors which he calls, "Wimbledon East," and was complementing him on the superb condition of his grass courts. "We have these two here but we also have a couple of Seashore Paspalum across the street. He paused and asked, "You do know about Seashore Paspalum, don't you?"

After admitting that I did not, he said, "Well you should, it was developed by University of Georgia scientists." Jack knows much about many things. Here was the world's greatest golfer telling me something about my own University. Seashore Paspalum is a grass that can be watered by

saltwater.

Tom Watson's greatest golfing accomplishment must be his winning the British Open five times. I was fortunate to see him win three claret jugs. I also enjoyed working with Executive Sports and helped managed Tom's one day golf outing for Kansas City's favorite charity, "The Children's Mercy Classic."

The event raised several millions dollars from 1980 to 2004 as Tom brought the top players to his fun raiser, including Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino and others for a good cause.

Tom, who is a graduate of Stanford, is very principled person who resigned from the Kansas City Country Club when they refused to grant membership to Henry Bloch of H&R Block, his Jewish friend.

These three great names in golf were men who had multiple interests and have been great ambassadors for this great gentleman's game.

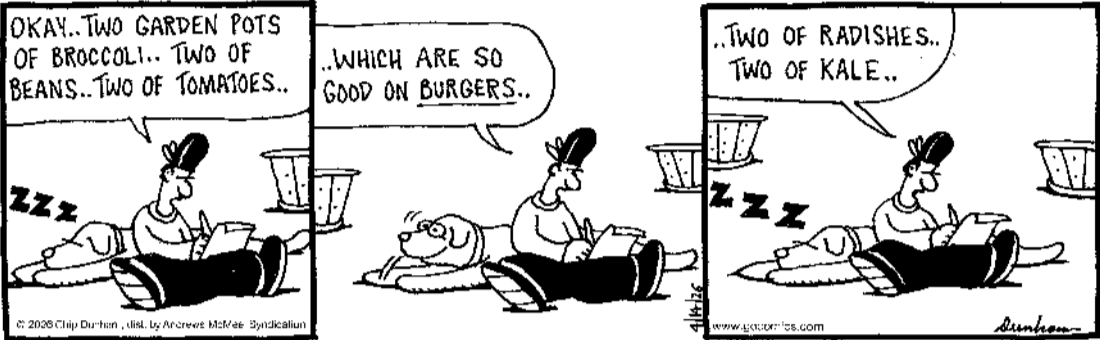
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Eye exams can save more than your vision!

DEAR ABBY: I'm an ophthalmologist, a physician who specializes in medical and surgical eye care, and I'm hoping you can help me debunk a common myth about eye health. Many assume eye disease happens only to older adults. While age does increase the risk of developing certain vision-threatening diseases, such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and cataracts, younger people can also develop vision-threatening eye conditions.



DEAR ABBY

my's EyeCare America program may be able to help. ALL healthy adults should have a comprehensive eye exam by age 40, when early signs of cataract, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration may begin to emerge. -- LAURA FINE, M.D., OPHTHALMOLOGIST AND EYECARE AMERICA VOLUNTEER

DEAR ABBY: My son and his wife work full time. They have two kids, ages 11 and 9. Their house is filthy. It smells awful, and it's dirty and very dusty. My breathing is affected every time I go to their house.

I have suggested a housekeeper, but my son refuses to have one. Although his wife works full time, she is the only one who cleans and does the laundry and shopping. My son and the kids do nothing. They have asked me on several occasions to watch their animals when they go on vacation, and I have. However, it is becoming more and more difficult for me to do that because I can't stand being in their house.

I'm not sure how to tell them without hurting their feelings that I cannot do this anymore. It really is affecting my breathing. Can you help me with how to tell them their house is filthy or maybe what else to say? -- COVERING MY NOSE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR COVERING: If your breathing is being affected when you visit your son's house, you may be allergic to something in the home. It might be dust or, more likely, animal dander. Discuss this with your doctor so you can be tested. Then tell your son and his wife that because it is affecting your health, you can no longer take care of their animals when they travel.

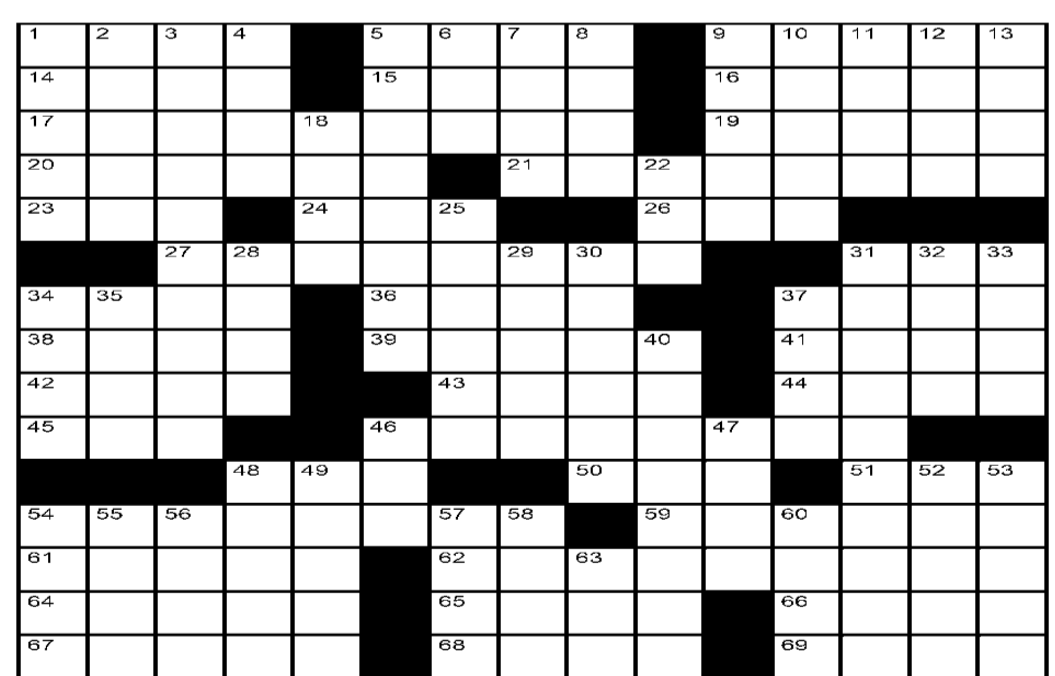
DEAR DR. FINE: I am pleased to share with my readers that EyeCare America has expanded from a seniors-only program. Readers, EyeCare America is a national public service program, and it offers no-out-of-pocket-cost medical eye exams with volunteer ophthalmologists to qualified individuals aged 18 and over. To find out if you or your loved ones are eligible, visit www.aao.org/eyecare-america/patients.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS
Q1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠AK93♥AQ93♣J106♦J2
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♠ Pass 1♠ ?
What action would you take?
A - Double. This hand would routinely open 1NT, but don't make that bid now. You don't have a stopper in either of their suits and you are 4-4 in the unbid suits. Double is perfect.
Q2 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠KJ4♥86♣AK653♦QJ7
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass
What is your re-bid?
A - It is sometimes correct to raise partner's major suit with only three-card support. Decent trump quality and a ruffing value are the keys telling you when to do it. Bid 2S.
Q3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠7♥AJ9862♦KQ54♣83
You are the dealer. Pass, one heart or two hearts?
A - With exciting distribution and two decent suits, this hand is worth opening at the one level. Bid 1H.
Q4 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠J♥K85♦QJ5♣AKJ1075
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♠ Pass 1♠ ?
What is your re bid?
A - It is tempting to jump to 3C but overcome the temptation and settle for 2C. This hand is not quite worth a jump rebid.
Q5 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠A52♥1096♦Q104♣A942
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
Pass Pass 1♠ Pass
What bid would you make?
A - Partner may have opened light in third seat. Do not punish his enterprise by jumping to the three level. If you play the Drury Convention, where a 2C bid shows 10-plus points and a fit, now is the time to use it. If not, settle for the conservative 2S.
Q6 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠AKJ♥AKQ64♦64♣K74
You are the dealer. What is your opening bid?
A - The choice is between 1H and 2NT. We like telling partner our exact strength and that our hand is balanced. Open 2NT.
(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper.)

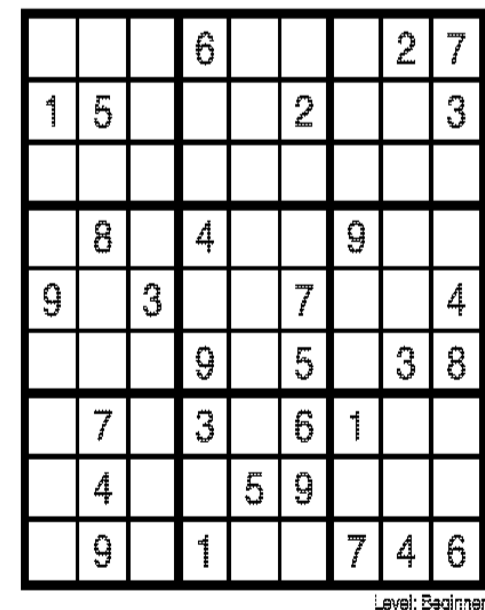
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
1 Spice-jar holder
5 Numbered musical work
9 Lattice-work structure
14 Arthur of tennis
15 "Raise Your Glass" singer
16 Onion relative
17 Pasta served with meatballs
19 Nature walks
20 Individual
21 Adversary
23 Spanish woman's title: Abbr.
24 "Frontline" network
26 Cow's sound
27 Detergents
31 Sing with closed lips
34 Singing part
36 Indian musical form
37 Actor Wilder
38 Brewski
39 Indications
41 Purple flower
42 Epic poet
43 Brand's emblem
44 Docs who treat pets
45 Web banners, e.g.
46 Confidently stated
48 Sticky black goo
50 Stag's mate
51 Little demon
54 Maraschino fruits
59 Leased item
61 Paramour
62 Shreveport's state
64 Battle royale's location
65 Has to
66 Shoe with holes
67 Fine and
68 Kill
69 Literary governess Jane
DOWN
1 Hoarse sounds
2 According to: 2 wds.
3 People in fiction
4 Small barrels
5 Areas with free drinks: 2 wds.
6 Peach's center
7 A thing itself
8 Hop, and jump
9 Sneezing sound
10 Big zoo animal
11 Pedaled vehicle
12 Kiln, e.g.
13 Take a nap
18 Optimism
22 British bigwigs: Abbr.
25 Slow-moving creatures
28 " of the Rings"
29 Some waffles
30 Traveled far and wide
31 Passed from parent to child
32 Foot or inch
33 Untidy area
34 "Waterloo" band
35 Be in front
37 Donate
40 Women's college group
46 Director Aster
47 Stretchy tops
48 Fashion fad
49 Impressive display
52 Fancy home
53 Location
54 Wearing clothes
55 Israeli round dance
56 Make uniform
57 Shade trees
58 2020 Pixar film
60 Pleasant
63 Canada neighbor: Abbr.



Created by Stella Zawistowski 10/27/25
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P E E L E L A S T E D
C A D E M U P A I L E S
P A R S A P R O D
M I S T S S I S S I N
V E S S E L L E G O S
P R O N A H T R U S H H
U L T R A T I L A P I A
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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!

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!
ANSWER:
3 9 5 1 2 8 7 4 6
6 4 1 7 5 9 3 8 2
2 7 8 3 4 6 1 9 5
4 6 7 9 1 8 2 5 3
9 1 3 2 8 7 6 5 4
5 8 2 4 6 3 9 7 1
7 2 6 5 3 4 8 1 9
1 5 9 8 7 2 4 6 3
8 3 4 6 9 1 5 2 7



KIDS' CORNER

Vol. 007 | A fun page for kids from The Courier Herald

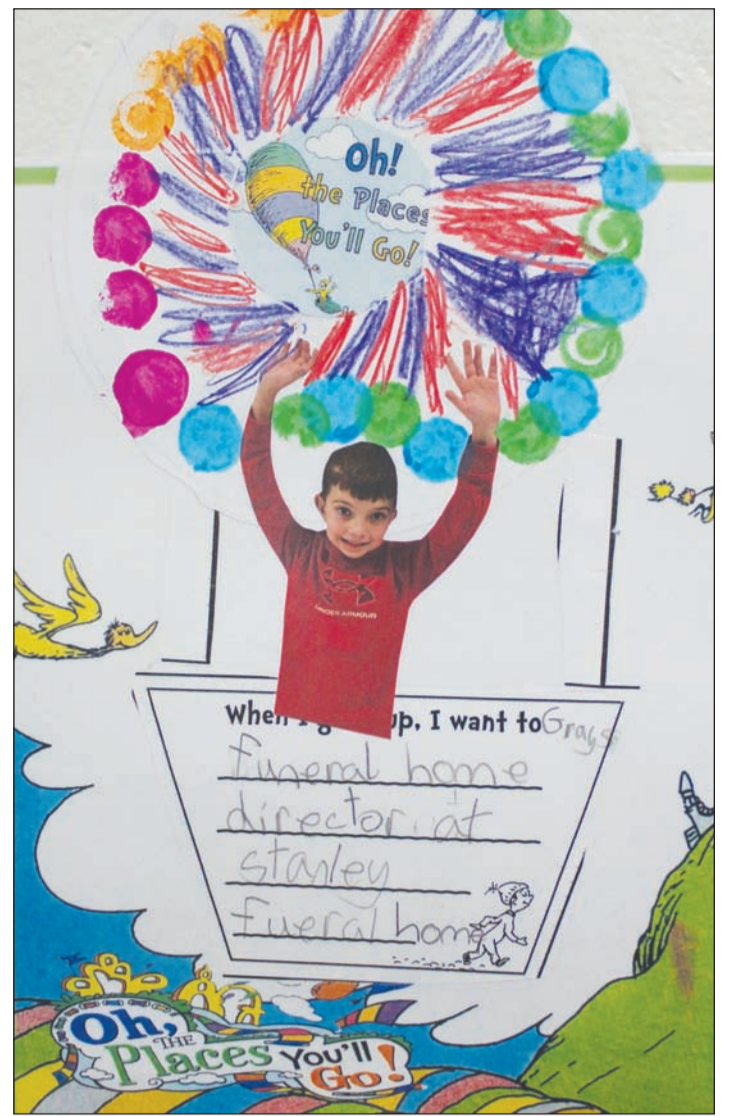
Brought to you by Dublin-Laurens County Chamber Community Foundation

Herald the Hound's coloring challenge



Hey kids! Herald the Hound wants to see how good you are with your crayons, color pencils or markers! Color the picture above, cut it out and send it to 115 South Jefferson St. Dublin, GA 31021 or ask your parents or teacher to snap a photo and email it to read@courierheraldtoday.com. You may see it on the Kids' Corner page!

HERALD'S ART GALLERY



The halls of Southwest Laurens Elementary School were lined with student artwork in honor of Dr. Seuss Week. One project, above, tasked students with listing their future career goals. While many students are hopeful-future teachers, veterinarians and star athletes, this second grader has local ambitions for a job at Stanley Funeral Home. Below, another student illustrated a rendition of the classic Dr. Seuss tale "The Cat in the Hat."



Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH – ALL ABOUT SANDWICHES

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **When do sandwiches go to sleep?**

AVOCADO
BACON
BALONEY
CHEESE
EGG
HAM
HUMMUS
JAM
JELLY
LOX
MAYO
MEAT
OLIVE
ONION
PEPPER
PICKLE
SALAMI
SALT
TOMATO
TUNA FISH
TURKEY

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

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Riddle answer: _____

Fun Fact

The most popular snack foods in America include Heinz Ketchup, M&Ms, Kit Kat bars, Snickers candy bars, Tostitos chips, Cheerios cereal, Hershey's chocolates and Lay's potato chips.

Source: yougov.com

MINI SUDOKU

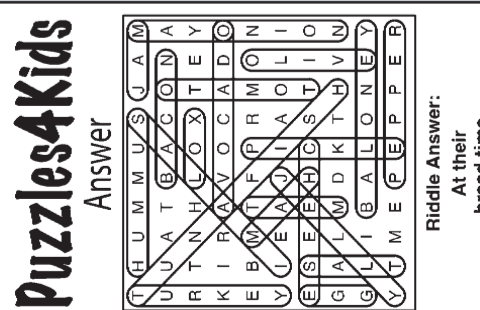
1					5
		5		6	1
				3	
		6	4		
2				1	

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.

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ANSWER KEYS

MINI SUDOKU ANSWERS	4	6	3	1	2	5
	1	5	2	3	6	4
	6	3	5	2	4	1
	2	4	1	5	3	6
	3	1	6	4	5	2
	5	2	4	6	1	3



Riddle Answer: At their heart time

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

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



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Joe Wlos