



The new ordinance requires rental property developers to submit a development plan to the county before building/RODNEY MANLEY

## County OKs rules for rental developments

By RODNEY MANLEY  
Staff Reporter

The Laurens County Commission has adopted an ordinance setting "bare-bones" rules for apartment and duplex developments in unincorporated areas.

"With all the development going on in Laurens County, we need some standards," County Administrator Bryan Rogers told the board at its meeting last week. "It basically just outlines the guidelines for

developing an apartment complex or duplex-type development."

The ordinance requires that developers get approval from the commissioners before building, altering or expanding a rental unit development. It defines a development as consisting of three or more "stick-built structures" used for rental purposes located on a single tract or multiple contiguous tracts under unified ownership or management.

A rental unit must be a

minimum of 600 square feet and contain living, sleeping, cooking and bathroom facilities.

A development plan must be submitted and include basic information such as the location, shape and dimensions of existing and proposed structures, as well as existing and proposed roads, ditches, driveways, etc. The plan should also explain provisions for water

**RENTAL ORDINANCE**  
Continued on page 7

## Remembering Dinkheller ...

Fallen officer's father says video of son's death plays in his head '24 hours a day, 7 days a week'

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

*Editor's note: This is a three-part series on two Laurens County men whose sons were law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. These stories are done in remembrance of the more than 24,000 law enforcement officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and in recognition of National Police Week.*

On a bright Monday afternoon, two men stand outside a park in Dudley. Both have known each other for a long time.

In fact, they used to work together at in the early 1990s at Allen-Bradley Co., off Industrial Boulevard.

Kirk Dinkheller and Jeff Harrison eventually went their separate ways. Unfortunately, tragedy brought them back together.

As they stood in front of the park named after Harrison's son, they held up pictures of their sons - Kyle Dinkheller and Dylan Harrison. Both were in their uniforms. Both were smiling.

When they talked about their sons, they found out that they were similar in ways besides working in law enforcement.

The former co-workers came together last week to talk about their sons as many across the country prepare to honor the more than 24,000 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty during what is known as National Police Week 2026, which is held May 11 through May 16.

Both Kyle and Dylan were killed in the line of duty. Kyle was shot during a traffic stop in January of 1998. Dylan was ambushed and killed, on his first night as a part-time officer with the Alamo Police Department in October of 2021.

The latter shooting brought the two men together.

"We hadn't seen each other until this stuff happened," Dinkheller said.



Kirk Dinkheller with the memorial made for his son, Kyle, along Whipple Crossing Road near Dudley. Kyle was killed in 1998 while working for the Laurens County Sheriff's Department/JASON VORHEES, Georgia Trust for Local News

Looking at the pictures, both men noticed something at the same time.

"They died too young," Harrison said.

Dinkheller nodded his head in agreement and said, "Yes they did."

### January 12, 1998

At 5:38 p.m. on Jan. 12, 1998, Kirk Dinkheller was bowling in the Allen-Bradley bowling league. Somebody called the desk and

asked to speak to him. He was informed to get to the hospital because his son had been shot.

According to the footage from Kyle's dashboard camera, he pulled over Andrew Brannan, 49. Kyle had clocked Brannan driving 98 mph in a white truck on I-16. The deputy pursued the truck as it exited the interstate and turned off the ramp onto Ga. 338. In 2017, this exit would be named the

Deputy Kyle W. Dinkheller LCSO 37 Memorial Interchange.

Kyle chased Brannan's truck after it turned right onto Whipple Crossing Road. Brannan pulled his truck over to the right side of the road as Kyle pulled behind. The time on his camera showed 17:34 (5:34 p.m.). Kyle asked the driver to step back to him as traffic continues on I-16.

The camera was witness

to the horror that followed. Eventually, Brannan returns to his truck and retrieved a M-1 carbine. Both exchange gunfire. Kyle was shot 10 times. Brannan returned to his truck and drove away. The time stamp on the camera was 17:37.

After Dinkheller received the phone call about his son, he drove to Fairview

**DINKHELLER**  
Continued on page 7

## TLC CASA volunteers step up to be voice for children

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

Their numbers may be small, but that does not stop the volunteers for TLC CASA from stepping up and speaking out.

With 29 volunteers, TLC CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is currently serving close to 250 children in the following 15 counties: Laurens, Johnson, Bleckley, Montgomery, Treutlen, Twiggs, Wheeler, Washington, Telfair, Dodge, Jefferson, Toombs, Emanuel, Pulaski and Candler.

"Our volunteers are recruited through the community through newspaper, social media, magazines and people speaking about it," said Marie Townsend, community outreach engagement coordinator. "Our volunteers are every-day citizens that are recruited to advocate for these kids. We have retired teachers, grandparents, stay-at-home moms and a lawyer."

The criteria to be a volunteer is to be 21 or old, have a clean background, go through training which includes courtroom observation before being sworn in by the juvenile court judge.

"It's their case and they are the

advocate," Townsend said. "We advocate what is in the best case of the child in foster care."

While April was child abuse awareness month, TLC CASA celebrated volunteer awareness week between April 19-25.

"Of course we want to honor them all year long, but we want to give a special shoutout for the amazing job they do," Townsend said. "Our goal is to continue to recruit."

Some of CASA's volunteers have been with the organization for many years. Mary Thomas has 24 years as an advocate.

"I feel like every child should live in a safe and happy home," she said. "A child should live somewhere where they feel safe physically, medical, mental and loved. A child should not be neglected or abused in any form. I love the feeling I feel when a child is back with their family or a safe and caring adoptive family."

Alan Yauck has been a CASA volunteer for 10 years.

"All my adult life I have worked with the young," Yauck said.

**VOLUNTEERS**  
Continued on page 7



A banner outside TLC CASA's office/ PAYTON TOWN III

## Deputy arrested on domestic violence charges

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

A Laurens County Sheriff's deputy is being investigated after fellow deputies responded to a domestic situation last weekend.

According to sheriff's Maj. Alan Baggett, deputy Justin Padgett was charged with battery under domestic violence and cruelty to children in the third degree, which mean a child under 18 years old witnessed the event. Both are misdemeanors.

Deputies responded to a domestic call around 3 a.m. Sunday, May 3. Padgett was arrested and transported him to the sheriff's office.

"He bonded out the next day and was immediately put on administrative leave with an internal affairs investigation," said Maj. Alan Baggett. "Right now he is suspended pending the investigation."

This case was also turned over to Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), Baggett added.

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1 section, 8 pages • Vol. 112, No. 55, Pub. No. 161860



OBITUARIES



**Marsha Johnson Smith**

Marsha Johnson Smith, 70, of Wrightsville, received her heavenly reward, Thursday, May 7, 2026. Marsha was born on Oct. 23, 1955, in Dublin, Ga. to Lester and Ernestine Lyles Johnson. She graduated from Johnson County High School. She was a member of Union Grove Calvary Holiness Church in Wrightsville where she faithfully played the piano for over 60 years. She retired from Johnson County Support Services.

Marsha is preceded in death by her father and mother, two infant siblings, and her husband Donald Timothy (Tim) Smith.

She is survived by her daughters Wendy Smith and Lori Rogers (Neal); granddaughter, Laila Rogers, grandson Jacob Grant Rogers, all of Wrightsville. Two sisters, Gail Morris (Michael) and Rachel Veal (Bruce) of Wrightsville. Two sisters-in-law Donna Rhoten (James) of Greenville, S.C. and Darlene Daniel (Kenny) of Dublin, and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday, May 10, 2026, at Stanley Funeral Home in Wrightsville. The funeral was held at 11 a.m. May 11, 2026, at Union Grove Calvary Holiness Church. Pastor Jim Yeomans, Rev. Donnie Morris and Rev. Brent Morris officiated the service. Interment will take place in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Seth Yeomans, Bill Middlebrooks, Isaiah Yeomans, Adam Morris, Trent Morris, Drew Morris, Jonathon Beck and Keith Bouwkamp.

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Wrightsville Chapel has charge of the funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit [www.stanleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.stanleyfuneralhome.com).



**Joseph Wayne White**

Joseph Wayne White, 73, of Eastman, Ga., died Friday, May 8, 2026.

A memorial visitation will be held from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, at the residence of Candice Hernandez.

He is survived by his wife - Gwendolyn Rape White; daughters - Tonya White and Candice Hernandez (Carlos); sons - Justin Kemp White and Brandon White; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; step-mother - Sara Mullis Smith; sisters - Jackie Horne (Buford), Martha White, Melissa Howell and Mary Mathis; brothers - Morris White, John White, and Benji Smith.

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

**BIRTHDAYS**

May 12  
*Margaret Billue*

May 13  
*David Jones Jr.*

# Georgia schools caught in nationwide Canvas hack as extortion threat emerges

By **TY TAGAMI**  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A shadowy group that claims to have hacked a popular educational platform is reportedly trying to extort money from colleges and schools across the country, including in Georgia.

The group, which calls itself “ShinyHunters,” claims to have hacked the Canvas platform, a popular digital hub for submitting assignments, taking quizzes, checking grades and communicating with instructors.

The product was developed by Instructure, a global education technology company with a U.S. headquarters in Salt Lake City.

Instructure told users Thursday that it was investigating problems they were experiencing when they tried to log into their online portfolios. The company also said it had placed its platform in “maintenance mode,” although a recent update said the platform was available for “most” users.

The outage affected students at all levels, including at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where students were alerted by email

Thursday of a “major cybersecurity breach” affecting Instructure.

The student newspapers at universities across the country reported on the hack.

The Daily Pennsylvanian at the University of Pennsylvania reported Thursday that ShinyHunters had claimed to have stolen emails and private messages, student names and ID numbers, and course enrollments. At Duke University, The Chronicle reported Thursday that the group was threatening to release the data if it wasn’t paid a ransom.

By Friday, Georgia Tech was telling students that Canvas access had been partially restored and that students should communicate directly with instructors about affected assignments and exams.

Thursday was the last day of classes at Tech, but some or many K-12 school systems use Canvas and are

weeks away from summer break.

“We understand that there is a worldwide Canvas/Instructure outage impacting over 9,000 institutions,” a spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Education said by email Friday. She said Instructure had not provided information yet about the full scope of the incident.

The state agency oversees, but does not directly operate, Georgia’s 180 school districts. However, it does directly operate a handful of specialty schools, including Georgia Virtual School.

“Out of an abundance of caution, GaDOE has implemented security protocols and directed Georgia Virtual School students and staff not to use the platform until further notice,” the spokeswoman wrote. “We continue to coordinate with the Georgia Technology Authority and the Georgia Emergency Management

and Homeland Security Agency on this matter.”

The education agency encouraged school districts that contract with Instructure to monitor the company’s user information page. The spokeswoman said the education department would offer support as the situation evolves.

It is unclear how many school systems rely on Canvas as their main learning management system. The Fulton County School System in metro Atlanta does and announced Thursday that Canvas “is completely down and inoperable for students, parents, and teachers.”

Fulton said on a web page about the outage that Instructure said student passwords, Social Security Numbers, and financial information were not involved but that names, email addresses, school assignments, and internal Canvas messages might have been.

The district said it was collaborating with law enforcement and was trying to identify workarounds for the remainder of the school year.

The disruption could make it difficult to report grade point averages for college scholarships, even for schools that do not use Canvas.

That is because many districts have students who turn to the Georgia Virtual School for Advanced Placement classes that are unavailable locally. Without Canvas, the systems cannot access their official grades.

“They’re going to have trouble calculating salutatorians and valedictorians unless they find another way around that,” said John Zauner, executive director of the Georgia School Superintendents Association. “They’ve got two weeks to get it resolved.”

## Amazon warehouse coming to Montgomery County

By **LOGAN REYNOLDS**  
GTLN

Montgomery County Development Authority Director Michael Stanley publicly announced the construction of an Amazon warehouse in Montgomery County during the Board of Commissioner’s monthly work session on May 7.

Specifically, Amazon is constructing a 60,000 square foot last mile delivery center. “Last mile delivery” refers to the final part of the shipping process, where a package is stored and processed before being delivered to a specific address.

“In the chain that stuff goes through in order to get packages to consumers, the last mile distribution center is the last place, where the vans go out and deliver packages,” said Stanley.

According to Stanley, this distribution center allows Amazon to avoid using third party distribution services and deliver packages directly to customers in Montgomery County and the surrounding areas.

“So, whereas you have facilities, such as the UPS center in Swainsboro, instead of packages that are [sent] through there, now packages in our area will be able to come through [the

distribution center], and we’ll directly service us, as well as the surrounding communities,” said Stanley.

Stanley estimated the center will bring between 50 to 100 jobs to the county, including roles such as delivery drivers and floor workers.

The center will be built on Carver Street, just down the road from J & S Produce. According to Stanley, there were some issues concerning the railroad during discussions, which runs alongside Carver Street, but those issues have since been rectified.

“There was an issue towards the end that we were dealing with the past few months where, because the railroad runs right there. We just had to ensure that right of ways and everything, that we weren’t going to mess anything up there,” said Stanley.

Amazon will also perform landscaping work on the property with what Stanley describes as “a landscaping package... that would make you blush.”

“Overall, I think it’s going to be a great opportunity,” said Stanley.

As part of the construction process, Amazon will also pave Carver Street to

“assist in getting Carver Street up to par,” as the section of the street in front of the construction site is a dirt road.

Stanley estimates construction to be completed by the fall of 2026, which he attributes to the company’s quick construction pace.

“They said that whenever they get to the point where they’re actually getting ready to stand up the building, that you’ll go by there one day, and it’ll just be open,” said Stanley. “And then you’ll go by a day or two later, and there’s a building there, because the progress that they’re able to make is pretty great.”

He also confirmed Amazon did not receive any kind of tax abatement, which will result in more tax revenue for Montgomery County.

While contracts were signed in March, discussions on the project stretch back much further into the tenure of Stanley’s predecessor, Joe Filippone.

During this time, the deal with Amazon consumed much of Stanley’s time, with specifics kept under wraps to maintain the security of the deal.

Now that the deal has been finalized, Stanley said he is working with county officials to make development authority meetings more standardized and more transparent to the public. These measures will include an altered meeting schedule and the posting of meeting minutes to the Montgomery County official website.

“I think it’s important that we be transparent to the citizens while still protecting the confidential information,” said Montgomery County Commissioner Amie Vassey. “So, I was just hoping that the development authority can establish a regular cadence for meetings, post their schedule on their website, post their meetings on their website at a bare minimum.”

**Director of Facility Maintenance**

The Dublin Housing Authority is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Director of Facility Maintenance. The successful applicant must demonstrate key skills in the area of people management, budgeting, with a strong demonstration in communication and trouble shooting. The desired applicant must have experience in multi-family apartment management, property management or manufacturing/healthcare/education/real estate or educational facility management. An associate’s degree in Facilities Management, Engineering, HVAC, electrical of related field or in these classes are a desired plus. Must possess a valid Georgia’s driver’s license; submit to pre-employment as well as random drug testing, and a criminal background check. The starting salary for this position is \$30.00 per hour depending upon qualifications, Resumes may be addressed to Brenda B. Smith, Executive Director, Dublin Housing Authority, PO Box 36, Dublin, GA, 31040. They may also be received via email at [dhousing@dublinhousingauthority.net](mailto:dhousing@dublinhousingauthority.net). Deadline for submittal is May 15, 2026.

The Dublin Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

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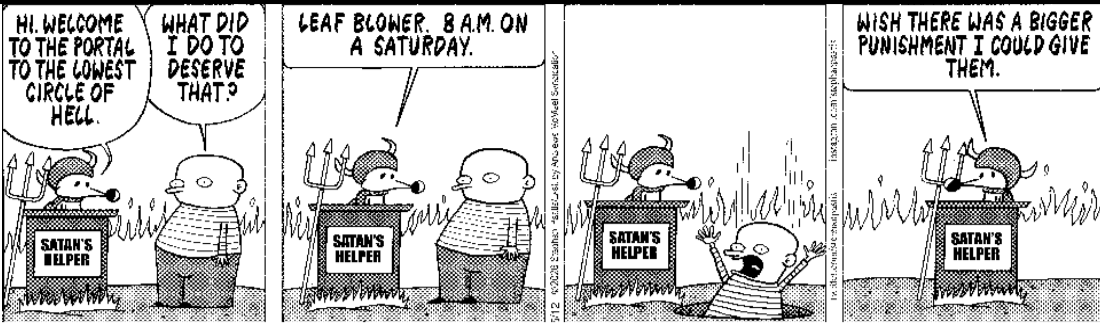
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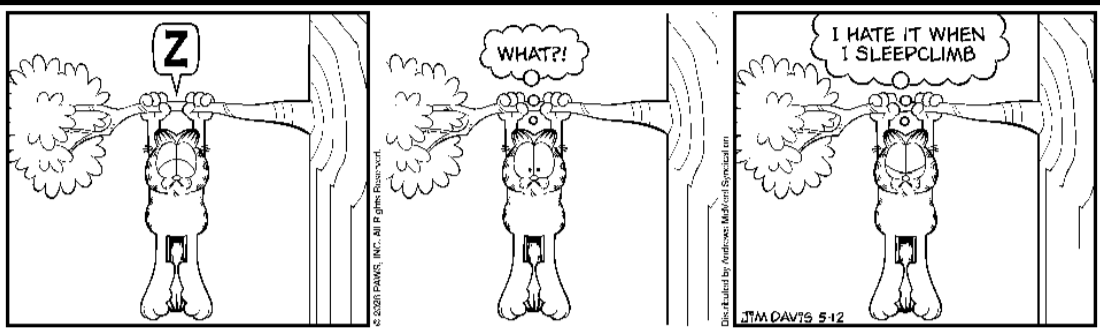
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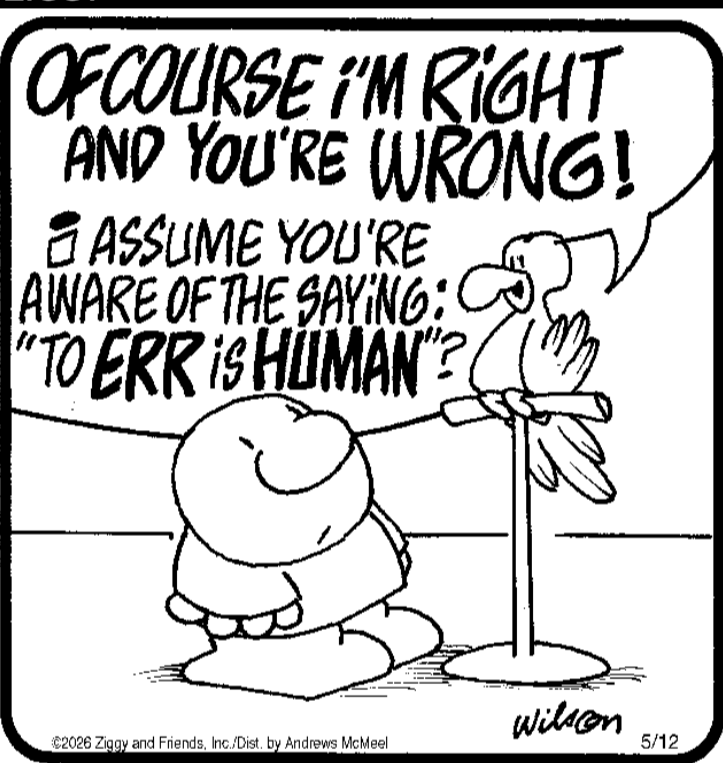
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PLUGGERS



Spring yard work for a plugger is raking up last fall's leaves.

Husband's friend has shown himself to be a cheater

DEAR ABBY: I'm engaged to a wonderful man. We are incredibly happy, and I cannot wait for our life together to begin. There's just one problem -- his best friend, "Joey." Joey is wonderful to my fiance and a nice person overall, but he's a serial cheater.



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

In the five years I've known him, Joey has dated and cheated on multiple women, some of whom I befriended before recognizing the pattern. It's always the same -- Joey meets a woman, quickly gets into something deep and monogamous, and then, after six months, he starts sleeping with other people.

Six weeks into meeting his most recent woman, they got married in a courthouse wedding. I'm having trouble bringing myself to meet his bride. I know Joey will cheat after their honeymoon period ends. She certainly won't be around very long.

I feel myself getting angry, and I'm nervous about actually being in a room with them. His friends have accepted what he's like and are used to the revolving door. I want to be respectful to my fiance and meet his best friend's new wife, and I realize this is something I am going to have to deal with our entire lives, if they remain friends.

As a feminist, however, I am having trouble watching him do this to woman after woman, and I'm still expected to meet and befriend

mom cheated on Dad for years, and our youngest sib, "Dana," has a different father. At first, I was angry at her (though not surprised), but I'm calmer now.

In today's age of DNA testing, I imagine Dana might find out. Wouldn't it be better if Dana knew while our parents (who are in their 80s) are alive and could explain? Dana's biological father is deceased, and Dad has been a wonderful father to all of us kids.

I don't want to cause any pain, yet I'm having a hard time keeping this to myself. My spouse suggests I talk with Mom, gently let her know that I'm aware of the situation, and ask if Dana already knows. I'm torn. -- HEAVY SECRET

DEAR SECRET: Your spouse's instinct is correct. You need to talk about this, so it makes sense to speak to someone who already knows the secret. Clearing the air with your mom will make you feel better, and it may give her the strength to come clean with Dana if that's what she thinks is best.

DEAR W.O.T.W.: Deal with this by being a lady, meeting the new "Mrs. Joey," and being as kind to her as you would want her to be if the situation were reversed. And while you're at it, hold a good thought. This is the first woman to get Joey to the altar, and while the odds may not be great, the union might just work out. Stranger things have happened.

\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced nearly 50 years ago, when I was 11. Both of my parents remarried, though Dad is now a widower. A few years ago, Dad decided he couldn't keep the secret anymore and shared it with another of my siblings and me. Our

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

GOREN BRIDGE

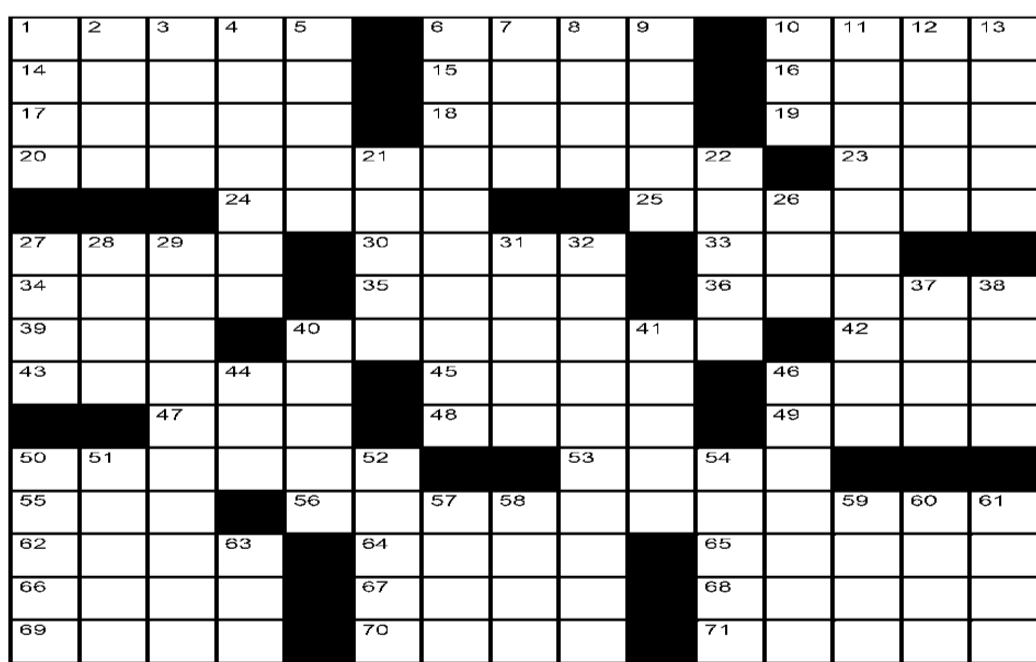
WITH BOB JONES ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

- Q 1 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ J93♥AKQJ4♦KQ102♣J
- Q 2 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ 73♥KQ532♦AJ73♣J3
- Q 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ J8♥K53♦KQJ76♣J62
- Q 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ AK53♥QJ9832♦3♣ 105
- Q 5 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ A64♥98543♦94♣742
- Q 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ AK105♥KQ1032♦K♣743
- Q 7 - North-East-South-West INT Pass ?
- Q 8 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ AK105♥KQ1032♦K♣743
- Q 9 - North-East-South-West INT Pass ?
- Q 10 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ AK105♥KQ1032♦K♣743

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Has difficulty pronouncing S's
  - 6 Felines
  - 10 Egyptian bird
  - 14 At rest
  - 15 Leave out
  - 16 Vaccine type: Abbr.
  - 17 Heart chambers
  - 18 Bossa \_\_\_
  - 19 Serving of beer
  - 20 "The Road Not Taken" poet: 2 wds.
  - 23 Actress Ruby
  - 24 \_\_\_-Ball (arcade game)
  - 25 Base-clearing hits
  - 27 True statement
  - 30 Spanish ladies: Abbr.
  - 33 Negative replies
  - 34 Makes a mistake
  - 35 Pre-Easter season
  - 36 Addams Family dad
  - 39 Summer zodiac sign
  - 40 Plane shelters
  - 42 Broad street: Abbr.
  - 43 Siberian forest
  - 45 Actor Michael
  - 46 Eating regimen
  - 47 Family car type: Abbr.
  - 48 K through 6: Abbr.
  - 49 Dame \_\_\_ Everage
  - 50 Small handgun
  - 53 Small tastes
  - 55 Actress de Armas
  - 56 Fancy light fixtures
  - 62 Karaoke performance
  - 64 Designer Gucci
  - 65 Bandleader Shaw
  - 66 Location
  - 67 Cole \_\_\_ (side dish)
  - 68 Stop
  - 69 Otherwise
  - 70 Trade group: Abbr.
  - 71 Ruhr Valley city



Created by Stella Zawistowski 11/9/24

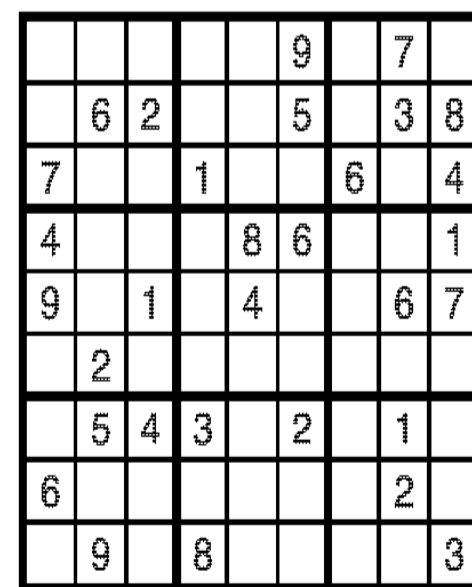
- DOWN**
- 1 Trickster
  - 2 Vanish \_\_\_ thin air
  - 3 Belgrade native
  - 4 Some clergymen
  - 5 "Game of Thrones" name
  - 6 Business meeting
  - 7 Love: Spanish
  - 8 DVR brand
  - 9 Secret hoard
  - 10 Little demon
  - 11 Wedding attendant
  - 12 Not external
  - 13 Fills completely
  - 21 Cybertruck maker
  - 22 Salad utensil
  - 26 Cow's sound
  - 27 Fedora fabric
  - 28 Region
  - 29 French rolls
  - 31 \_\_\_ hair pasta
  - 32 Intimidates by looking at: 2 wds.
  - 37 Tied up
  - 38 Catherine \_\_\_-Jones



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- 40 Mayhem
- 41 Cottonlike fiber
- 44 Eviscerate
- 46 Wants
- 50 Out of style
- 51 How food may be fried: 2 wds.
- 52 Tibet city
- 54 Location
- 57 "\_\_\_ Well That Ends Well"
- 58 Secrecy documents: Abbr.
- 59 Schedule data: Abbr.
- 60 Go up
- 61 Noticed
- 63 "Golly!"

SUDOKU

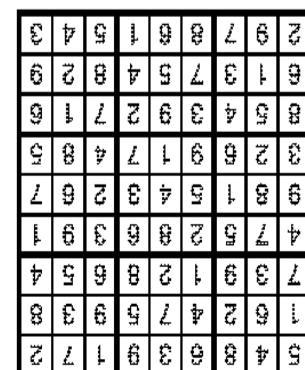


Fun By The Numbers

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:

# TELL IT!



CALL 272-0375, EMAIL CHTELLIT@GMAIL.COM, OR TELL IT! AT COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

**While y'all are arguing** about these schools, the 441 Speedway on Country Club is getting worse. The speed limit is 35, not 55 to 75. You need to do something about that instead of arguing about these darn schools.

my haircut last Sunday. You are very much a young gentleman. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

**Man y'all had me guessing** about the mayonnaise deal (in Man About Town), putting a spoon down in the mayonnaise. The grandfather knew what he was thinking. When you get down low in the mayonnaise jar, have you ever tried to dig some of it out with a butter knife?

**How many in the Dublin City Schools** currently take IB classes? How many take the test and how many pass? Has this information been looked at when determining this "new" IB feeder program?

**When we came up in** the country, mayonnaise was a redneck word as far as the term goes. You would say, man, there's a lot of mayonnaise on that bread. That is referring to the spoon being slopped some down on one piece. What was left on the spoon, you raked it to the other piece.

**Please pray that the state board of education** recommends that the governor terminate and appoint a new board of education. This is the only way to save Dublin City Schools. The current group has no credibility.

**I also have concerns** about paper delivery by the postal service. However, my delivery person does not value the job and failed to delivered the paper or tossed it short of the box. This morning, the paper was on the ground at least 10 feet from the box and was wet. Back in my day, there was pride in doing a good job.

**The IGA needs to be replaced** with the charter school. I am sure a lot of the parents complaining don't have a clue how the day really goes for the teachers. If the system was good the students would not be going to the county schools period.

**Thank you, thank you,** thank you for the young man who paid for

**Ben Lanier's father is** on the school board. Ben Lanier should not be making suggestions to the school board because it is a big conflict of interest.

**Something needs to be done** about the traffic out here on Country Club Road. They've done made it into the 441 Speedway. The speed limit is 35 but traffic is coming from Sandersville, Wrightsville and Buckeye going 65 to 75.

# The sun has set for me in DCT - for now

I glanced at my Fitbit and saw my heart rate was over 100. That was not normal, then again, I was not in a position I was normally used to either.

From backstage I heard the scene unfolding and heard the character say their lines. I knew it was soon time for me to walk onto the stage and do my scene. I could feel my heart beating faster as I heard my cue.

I walked out and went straight into my lines, just as I had practiced for many months. I went into my spill and got to the end of my first statement, which always brought a laugh to the audience inside Theatre Dublin. As Grace, played by Nicole Bellflower, started reciting her comeback, I suddenly could not remember my next lines. My mind went blank.

I knew she would be finished with her lines soon, and if I did not recall mine, there was more than likely going to be a little bit of silence. Just as she finished her last line, I remembered what I was supposed to say and I recited the rest of my lines without issue.

During the break between the morning and evening shows of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," I watched NCAA football, while going over my scene - the only one I had in that production - multiple times. I had no problem reciting my lines during the third and final show.

When it came to "Annie," I made sure to not only learn my lines, but read over them every night. That included looking at them many times before my scenes during practice and during the four performances we did between April 23 and 25.

When the sunset on the

## MAN ABOUT TOWN...



By **PAYTON TOWNS III**

night of April 25, it also set on a very talented cast. From the youngest orphan to the eldest adult part, this was a fun group to be around. Those in this cast joined a long list of others my wife, Jill, and I have come to know during the past 11 months.

In May of 2025, we stepped inside Theatre Dublin to audition for "Guys and Dolls." When Jill's name was called to take the stage and sing, I went with her and we sang "Amazing Grace." We then took the stage to attempt a few dance steps to show that we could move and then we all read from the script. A few days later I found out I was Liver Lips Louie, and we met the rest of the cast for a read through in the Carnegie Library.

After two months, practice was over and we performed the show in July. Friendships were made but it was time for the curtain to close. The thing was, whenever I saw other cast mates from that show around town, it was easy to stop and talk for more than just a few seconds.

In September, we were once again cast in another DCT production of "The Best Christmas Pageant

Ever." More friendships were made as Jill, and I performed our small scenes and helped with the action that was going on backstage.

Our friends from DCT production once again grew during "Annie," a fun - but tiring production. It was awesome to be able to share the stage with my good co-worker Kyle Dominy, and his daughter Lily during the "NYC" song. Kyle and I had many discussions about our parts and movements during the songs that we shared the stage in. Not long into working on "NYC," Lily walked over to my side of the stage and told me her dad wanted her to be part of whatever we were doing in the background.

Every day before a show, I went over my scenes in my head. There was one practice, the first time we were off book, where my first line came up and I went blank - just like I did in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Thankfully, it was practice. Even though I asked for my line, something else had happen on the stage and Glenda Berry, our director for "Annie," asked us to start the scene over again. By then, thanks to Jodie Jarvis reminding me of my line, I was ready to recite

when it came time. One of the things that the audience is not aware of is the fact that the actors arrive about a hour and a half before the show. We warm up our voices to sing and have a microphone sound check before gathering in a circle to pray and prepare for the show. Then we must gear down our emotions and quietly wait about an hour before the show begins. That would be like the football coach giving the big speech at 6 p.m. of a 7:30 p.m. kickoff.

There are many things said and done, and sometimes a few "come to Jesus" moments when it comes to being part of a big-play production. I have been in three shows in the last 11 months. During this span, I have seen two other stage productions at Theatre Dublin. When we saw "Over the River and Through the Woods," last October, it felt weird sitting in the audience.

That is where we will be though when we walk inside Theatre Dublin to see West Laurens High School's production of "The Wizard of Oz," led by my "Guys and Dolls" cast mate Chase Boatright on May 21 and 22. Chase is also set to lead the music on DCT's production of "Grease," which will be directed by Parks Baird, another "Guys and Dolls" cast mate.

My wife and I - for now - will be supporting them from the audience where we can grab some of that wonderful theatre popcorn and just enjoy the show. Will we be on the stage again? Who knows.

But until then, I hope everyone who stars in a DCT production - or other shows at Theatre Dublin - breaks a leg.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Courier Herald team,

First, I want to thank y'all for inviting feedback from your readers regarding the decision of the discontinuing of the Jailbook. In your statement, you stated that you expected pushback and that you were listening. I just wanted to respectfully share my perspective as a loyal reader.

I fully understand and appreciate the concerns that were outlined in the text regarding fairness and context.

I do not disagree that journalism should be thoughtful and rooted in truth. However, I also believe there is another side to

this discussion that many in the community feel as overlooked.

To be honest, the timing of the decision makes it difficult not to question whether recent public reaction has influenced this decision more than ethical concerns described in the text.

The Jailbook has existed for as long as I can remember, and the realities surrounding the arrests and public records are definitely not new concepts or concerns. Only after a high-profile arrest received backlash does the weekly publication suddenly become ethically concerning with your mission. From a reader's perspective,

the connection is hard to ignore.

What frustrates many of us is not simply the removal of mugshots, but the implication that readers who valued the Jailbook now value humiliation of civilians over journalism.

For many people, including me, that was never the purpose. It served as a public record of locals in a small community where accountability matters. No matter what position someone may hold in the community, the principle should remain the same: public records are public records.

Your statement says "arrest is not conviction," and I

whole-heartedly agree.

The public has always understood that an arrest does not equal guilt. Many readers actually followed cases much further after first becoming aware of them through the Jailbook because of this. Removing the visibility does not eliminate arrests; instead, it simply limits access to information that was previously equally accessible to everyone.

I also found it interesting that the text repeatedly emphasizes the potential harm done to those previously arrested. Responsible journalism 100% requires compassion, but it also requires consistency.

If the standard is now that information should be withheld because it may negatively affect someone's reputation before conviction, that becomes a very difficult line to apply evenly across all future reporting.

I say all of this not out of hostility, but because I genuinely value the role The Courier Herald plays in our community. Loyal readers care enough to speak up when they disagree, and I hope this feedback is received in the spirit it was intended.

Thank you for your time,  
Ryleigh Dial



## THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid."

- Ronald Reagan

## DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

- John 15:13 (NIV)

## EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

May 12, 2026 is...

- International Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day
- National Fibromyalgia Awareness Day
- National Nutty Fudge Day
- Odometer Day
- Limerick Day
- International Nurses Day

## The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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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**

- Author Eugene Seals, 69, was charged with burglary in the second degree at CSI Behavioral Company on Telfair Street around 6:38 p.m. on May 3.

An officer was told that a man was still inside the location. Officers escorted Seals from the building adjacent to the property. The complainant said that when she arrived at her property, Seals was inside the location.

She further advised that this was not the first time Seals had been on her property and that officers had previously been called to the location regarding him. The officer reported that upon entry, they had to force their

way inside due to a dresser being propped against the door.

The complainant said Seals had caused damage to the door locks. Seals was transported to the sheriff's office.

- Amy Deon Brown, 19, was charged with theft by shoplifting at Belk, on Veterans Boulevard around 1:01 p.m. on April 23.

An officer responded to the location in reference to a shoplifter in custody. The officer met with the complainant who said Brown was being detained for attempting to steal four packs of men's underwear. The complainant, a store employee, stated that he had recovered the merchandise from Brown.



**POLICE BEAT...**

The woman admitted to the theft, stating she was persuaded by friends to commit the act. Her information was run through dispatch, and a criminal history check revealed no prior shoplifting convictions.

Brown was transported to the police department. She was issued a citation for shoplifting, fingerprinted and released on a summons.

- Tokeyo Darrisaw, 46, was charged with simple

battery at Oconee Street Apartment around 3:03 a.m. on May 2.

An officer responded to the apartment in reference to an active domestic dispute. The officer talked with a woman who said Darrisaw entered the residence late in the morning and woke her up. This eventually led to a physical altercation where the woman said the man pulled her hair. She was later shoved her to the floor.

Darrisaw was arrested and transported to the sheriff's office.

of WR Self Road and Highway 199 in reference to stolen property.

*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.*

**IN OUR LOCAL LIBRARY**

Coloring, Cards, & Coffee at the Laurens County Library on Monday, May 18, from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium. Start your week with creativity. Bring your own craft, enjoy the library's adult coloring supplies, or relax with card games and other tabletop games. Coffee and tea provided.

Mechatronics Monday at the Laurens County Library on Monday, May 18, from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the learning lab. Drop by your LEGO® Technic lab every Monday. Build with LEGO gears, motors, and more! Learn coding, too. Ages 8+

recommended.

Children's Storytime at the Laurens County Library on Tuesday, May 19, at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in our children's center. Join us for our weekly storytime where little ones can enjoy stories, dancing and crafts.

Homeschool Hangout at the Laurens County Library on Wednesday, May 20, from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Meet other homeschooling families and enjoy board games, puzzles, and more! All ages welcome.

**NEWS DIGEST**

The Laurens County Board of Education will hold its next workshop at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at the Old West Laurens High School Gym. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- Student recognition: WLHS boys and girls track; WLHS boys and girls tennis; Superintendent Wood Student Advisory Council representative
- Discussion: Second reading of revised board police IFBG: Internet acceptable use
- IXL learning resource

- HMH ELA resource adoption for 6-12
- Spending resolution
- Executive session: Personnel
- Adjourn

The Laurens County Board of Education will hold its next workshop at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14 at the Old West Laurens High School Gym. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- School/staff/student/ recognition
- Clean School Award
- Board room art - ELHS

- ELHS girls basketball
- WLHS baseball
- WLHS boy soccer
- Approval of the second reading of police IFBG: Internet acceptable use
- Approval IXL learning resource
- Approval of HMH ELA resource adoption for 6-12
- Approval of spending resolution

- Consent agenda: Approval of April 13 work session minutes, the April 16 regular board meeting minutes, the April accounts payables, the April financial report and the school nutrition report

- Audience participation
- Executive session: Personnel

- Approval of personnel
- Superintendent and board member comments
- Adjourn

The Laurens County Democratic Committee will meet Saturday, May 16 at 10 a.m. at Our Place, 114 E. Johnson St.

The Historic Review Board will hold its next meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19 in the Henry "Bud" Hicks Jr. Memorial Chamber, located in city hall.

**Local 7-day Forecast:**

**The next 48 hours:**

**TUESDAY:** Pleasant and less humid with plenty of sunshine.  
**79°**  
 Sunrise: 6:36 a.m.

**TUESDAY NIGHT:** Mainly clear.  
**53°**  
 Sunset: 8:21 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY:** Mostly sunny and nice.  
**84°**  
 Sunrise: 6:35 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT:** Clear.  
**57°**  
 Sunset: 8:22 p.m.

 <b>Thursday</b> 5/14 HIGH/LOW <b>83/50</b> Pleasant and less humid with plenty of sun. Sunrise: 6:34 a.m. Sunset: 8:22 p.m.	 <b>Friday</b> 5/15 HIGH/LOW <b>83/56</b> Plenty of sun. Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 8:23 p.m.	 <b>Saturday</b> 5/16 HIGH/LOW <b>91/63</b> Mostly sun. Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 8:24 p.m.	 <b>Sunday</b> 5/17 HIGH/LOW <b>90/64</b> Mostly cloudy. Sunrise: 6:32 a.m. Sunset: 8:24 p.m.	 <b>Monday</b> 5/18 HIGH/LOW <b>90/64</b> Warm with clouds yielding to sun. Sunrise: 6:31 a.m. Sunset: 8:25 p.m.
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**River levels...**  
 Oconee (at Dublin) ..... 5.70'  
 Ocmulgee (at Macon) ..... 7.56'



Fellow Farmers,

We write today as state legislators. More importantly, we write to you as Georgia farmers who have had the unique experience of witnessing the intersection of governmental policy and the effects those policies can have on our family farms.

We each fight in Atlanta every day during the legislative session on behalf of the Agriculture community. In the environment under the Gold Dome, we learn pretty quickly who has the backs of our state's farm families and rural Georgia. **We can tell you unequivocally that Lt. Governor Burt Jones has been a steadfast friend to agriculture and rural Georgia. Even during times when it would've been easier, and perhaps even more politically prudent to go in a different direction, he has stood by and fought for the interests of the agriculture industry and farming families in both his former role as a State Senator and now as Lt. Governor.**

Combined, those who signed this letter represent families who have farmed for generations. Burt and his family have farmed on the same land in Butts County for six generations. We may be Senators and Representatives while the legislature is in session, but we are always full-time farmers.

**We each know, without a doubt in our hearts, that Burt Jones is the person we trust most to fight for our family farms and yours too. That is why we are supporting him in his campaign to be our next Governor and humbly ask you to join us in doing the same.**

May God bless your families, your farms, and our shared future. Your friends,

**Senator Russ Goodman**  
 Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee

**Senator Lee Anderson**  
 Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee

**Representative Angie O'Steen**  
 House Agriculture Committee

**Representative Robert Dickey**  
 Chairman, House Agriculture Committee

**Senator Drew Echols**  
 Chairman, Senate Economic Development Committee

**Representative Jutt Howard**  
 House Agriculture Committee

**Senator Sam Watson**  
 Senate Agriculture Committee

**Representative John Corbett**  
 House Agriculture Committee

Paid for by Friends of Russ Goodman, Sam Watson for State Senate, & Committee to Elect Robert Dickey.

GHSA BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

# Powerful Pickens pitching prevails despite Raiders' pesky performance in QF series

By CLAY REYNOLDS  
Sports Editor

JASPER – West Laurens was matched more than evenly enough to hold its own, but the highly-touted pitching of third-seeded Pickens proved just too difficult to hit as the Raiders met a similar fate to the Dragons' two previous playoff opponents last Thursday in the AAA state quarterfinals.

Cairo, in the first round, managed only three hits over 12 innings. Second-round foe Adairsville? Just four over 14.

West Laurens, held to only three in the doubleheader, couldn't find any additional answers as its recently surging bats were likewise rendered ineffective by a quartet of hurlers who combined to strike out 21.

Cason Pollock's solo home run, in a high point of game 1, represented the Raiders' only hit off of Auburn-committed ace A.J. Rice in the opener, which went to Pickens 3-1.

Tripp Mascaro singled twice for the remaining two in a combined effort by three hurlers in the finale, a 5-0 shutout to send the Dragons on to their second-straight state semifinal.

Pickens, dead set on redemption after falling via game 3 walk-off to eventual champion Troup in this round a year ago, will travel a touch north to face No. 2 Calhoun (a winner in three games over Oconee County in the quarters) next week.

West Laurens' season comes to an end with a final record of 22-11, following a third region title in four seasons and the program's deepest state playoff run since 2021.

Though his stuff wasn't quite as pristine as it was in a walkless

no-hitter against Adairsville a week earlier, Rice struck out the same 13, and carved through the Raider lineup in a fashion almost just as impressive with his five-pitch mix featuring a low-90s fastball, slider, curve, changeup and cutter.

Pollock got ahold of his heater for a drive over the left center field fence that gave West Laurens the first lead. But that was the only productive contact of the day.

Rice – likely to be a high pick in this summer's MLB Draft – would go on to face just four in addition to the minimum.

The Raiders' patience at the plate was rewarded in four instances where hitters drew walks.

J.D. Hogan led off with one in the top of the first inning, but was immediately thrown out attempting to steal second as West Laurens tested the arm of Pickens catcher (and Rice's fourth-year battery mate) Kamden Jenkins on the first pitch to the next batter.

Kolby Clark reached the same way to open the fourth, but wouldn't advance; Grant Baker and Buck Shepherd the same with the Raiders down to their final chance in the seventh, just before Rice recovered to record three swinging strikeouts in a row.

The Raiders' staff pitched admirably to keep both games winnable despite a handful of big innings for Pickens that were the difference on the scoreboard.

In game 1, the Dragons scored their only three runs in the third, when Matthew Davis Jr. (who drew a one-out walk), Robert Turner, Jennings Allen and Rice (following up with RBIs) were among nine men who came to the plate.

Four hits, a walk and a hit bat-

ter played into the go-ahead inning, which would end with the bases loaded on a fly ball, and Pickens in front 3-1.

Duggan Malone was still sharp.

The sophomore hit plenty of corners with his signature front- and backdoor curve, striking out two and working around the other pair Pickens hits – by Jenkins who just missed a home run with his two-out double off the wall in the first inning, and an Everett Grubbs single in the sixth – to keep the remainder of innings scoreless.

Pickens, as the visitor, started game 2 in optimal fashion with back-to-back singles from Turner and Allen off of West Laurens ace Kolby Clark, whose start was shifted to game 2 in order to maximize chances of salvaging a split.

The inning got a bit troublesome as Jenkins was plunked to load the bases, and Rice hit a sacrifice fly to left to send home the game's first run. A walk then re-loaded the bases, and a fielder's choice (on a potential inning-ending double play that didn't unfold in time) brought in another to get the Dragons ahead 2-0.

They'd sneak home a third as Starks' runner, Cooper Helmuth, stole second to draw a throw that got mishandled, and Caden Kirchoff scored to take the lead to three.

Pickens tried a similar stunt with Grubbs to create a rundown between first and second, but the Raiders' Cohen Cardwell kept eyes peeled and fired a rope to catch Helmuth as he broke for the plate and end the inning.

Clark bounced back with a 1-2-3 second before more trouble ensued in the Pickens third. One-out singles by Jenkins, Rice and Starks fit

around a walk to chase home two more, make it a 5-0 ballgame and force a pitching change that brought on Brycen Milton to get the last out.

The freshman would carry things the rest of the way, covering the final four innings with just one more hit (a double in the fourth to give Turner a two-hit day), three walks, three strikeouts and two runners picked off.

Mascaro singled in both the fifth and seventh to help West Laurens manufacture some desperately-needed offense in the last several innings.

But each of their eight baserunners to reach – four more via walk and three on throwing errors – were left on base.

The first two frames were spotless for Starks, before two errors and a walk gave the Raiders their first pair of baserunners in the third. Pickens recovered in the field to get out of the inning on two nice catches, one on a Hogan liner to third by Grubbs and another via fly ball to Turner in center.

Starks would leave the mound after four innings of no-hit ball, and only two walks, before Mascaro's one-out single off of Turner, and a J.J. Giles base on balls in the fifth, got West Laurens back in position to chip away.

The Dragons' reliever recovered for a strikeout and groundout, then took care of the sixth inning side 1-2-3.

A third pitcher in Grubbs walked Pollock to lead off the seventh, then Mascaro singled with one out and Giles took advantage of an error at short to load the bases.

But Grubbs got the final two to complete a strikeout of the side that ended the game.

## SCOREBOARD

**BOYS SOCCER**  
Friday  
East Hall 6, West Laurens 3

**Saturday**  
Trinity 3, FPCA 1

**BASEBALL**  
Friday  
Trinity 4,  
Thomas Jefferson 2

## PREP SCHEDULE

**SOCCER**  
**GIAA Quarterfinals**  
Friday  
Heritage (Newnan) at  
Trinity (girls)/TBA

**Saturday**  
Trinity (boys) at  
Augusta Prep/4 p.m.

**BASEBALL**  
**GIAA Quarterfinals**  
Friday  
Southland at Trinity  
(doubleheader)/1 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Southland at Trinity  
(game 3, if necessary)  
/TBA

**GOLF**  
**Monday-Tuesday,**  
**May 18-19**  
West Laurens at AAA State  
Tournament  
(Highland CC, LaGrange)  
/8:30 a.m.

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

# GHSA fishing finals: EL bass teams make splash at Sinclair

From STAFF REPORTS

East Laurens anglers made some waves at Lake Sinclair Saturday in the GHSA bass fishing state championship tournament, where both its teams finished in the top 50 out of 111 in the competition.

Each set of Falcon fishermen brought a full catch to shore among the 100 two-man boats that made weigh-in.

The bag of Hunter Welsh and Jonathan Aldridge, tipping the scales at 10 pounds, eight ounces, placed 26th overall. A five-fish haul for Lucas Owens and Jacob Warnock measured a 45th-best eight pounds and five ounces.

Saturday's top catch of 20 pounds, five ounces earned Jefferson High School's Jacob Janning and Ben Wilson the 2026

state title.

Coveted spots in the final event are reserved for only a small portion of top finishers in the GHSA's regular-season tournaments.

Owens and Warnock placed 31st out of 184 at Clark's Hill Lake in March with a 12-pound, four-ounce catch to punch their ticket. Welsh and Aldridge posted a 7-6 to finish 31st out of 98 who put in Feb. 7 at West Point Lake.

Four other Falcons – Gavin Washburn, Emily Hobbs, Brody Owens and Sam Davis – have also earned spots in the 118-boat field that will compete for a separate state championship on Lake Seminole in the Georgia Bass Nation State Classic in June, with their performances over multiple tournaments on the non-GHSA affiliated circuit this spring.



**STRONG SHOWING AT SINCLAIR:** Hunter Welsh and Jonathan Aldridge (left) placed 26th overall, and Jacob Warnock and Lucas Owens (right) 45th with their impressive catches in Saturday's GHSA state championship tournament in Eatonton/SPECIAL PHOTOS

# Tough losses for Trinity on final pre-playoff road trip

By JEREMY PAYNE  
Correspondent

April was very successful for Trinity's baseball team as it went 7-2 and did not lose to a team from the state of Georgia.

Unfortunately, May did not start out as well as the Crusaders lost three out of their final four games of the regular season.

They fell in walk-off losses to Piedmont (7-6) and Thomas Jefferson (8-7), and were crushed by Tallulah Falls (15-0), on the road trip leading up to a final home game last Friday.

The Piedmont game started great as Asher Evans crushed a homer to lead off the ballgame. One batter later, Carter Lee also homered to put the Crusaders up 2-0.

They would add to the lead in the third when Tayt Evans reached on a two-out error. Braden Underwood came up next with an RBI double to make the score 3-0.

Piedmont would knot the score in the home half of the frame on a two-run double and a groundout

to make it 3-3.

Levi Malin singled home the go-ahead run in the fourth to put the Cougars up 4-3. They added two more runs on bases loaded walks in the sixth go up 6-3.

Asher Evans would slug his second home run of the game in the seventh, this time a two-run shot, to cut the deficit to 6-5. Following a groundout, Lee would blast his second homer of the contest to tie the score back up at 6-6.

Unfortunately the Crusaders couldn't hold the lead. Piedmont loaded the bases with one out of a pair of singles and a walk. Malin would come through again with a single to end the game at 7-6.

Asher Evans had three hits to lead the way for the offense and Lee had two. Underwood, Jakob Sahli and Andrew Helton also hit safely.

Trinity beat Tallulah Falls in a slugfest the weekend before in Dublin. The rematch wasn't pretty as the home team did all the slugging, and Trinity left its bats and

pitching at home.

The Crusaders got the first two batters of the game on, but couldn't get any runs on the board.

The Indians went right to work off of Trinity starter Asher Evans. A leadoff homer would be the first of six straight batters to get hits to open the contest. The singles, a double and another home run would put the home team up 4-0 before Trinity could record an out.

Following two straight outs, another single and double would push the lead to 7-0 and chase Evans from the contest.

Things went from bad to worse as it took two Crusader relievers to record the final out of the frame. Five hit batters, two walks and just one hit would plate six more runs as Trinity trailed 13-0 after one inning.

The Indians added a couple more runs over the next few innings to get the 15-0 mercy-rule win.

Asher and Tayt Evans had the

only two hits for the Crusaders.

Last week's trip to Louisville to face Thomas Jefferson did not start out very well as the Jaguars scored four times in the second on four hits, a hit batter and a costly Crusader error to put Trinity in an early 4-0 hole.

Four-straight hits by the Crusaders would cut into the deficit in the third. Sahli and Asher Evans got hits to start the frame and Kolbi Grooms drove home Sahli with a hit. Lee came up next with a two-run single to make the score 4-3.

TJA would get a run back in the bottom of the third on a stolen base and an error on the throw to make it 5-3.

Lee would deliver another RBI single in the fourth for Trinity to cut the deficit to one run again at 5-4.

Again the Jaguars got that run back in the home half of the inning, this time on a wild pitch, to make the score 6-4.

The Crusaders would battle back again in the sixth. Sah-

li scored a run on a wild pitch to make it 6-5. Lee would deliver a sac fly to tie and Grooms also scored on a wild pitch to give Trinity a 7-6 advantage.

Thomas Jefferson would tie the game up again in the bottom of the sixth on a groundout.

Trinity loaded the bases in the top of the seventh with one out and the top of the order coming up. Unfortunately, an infield fly and a flyout to center ended the threat.

The Jaguars got a leadoff double in the bottom of the frame. That was followed by a sac bunt and a walk-off single as Trinity fell 8-7.

Asher Evans led the way again with three hits. Lee added a pair and drove in four. Grooms, Underwood and Sahli all had hits as well.

Trinity is now 15-9 on the year and will be the third seed in the GIAA AA state tournament. The Crusaders, who had a first-round bye, will host Southland in a three-game series starting Friday.

**DINKHELLER**

Continued from page 1

Park Hospital and recalled busting through the doors.

“A nurse said, ‘They are bringing him in. He was shot in the head,’” Dinkheller recalled. “I left out and was going to Whipple Crossing Road.”

When he walked outside, Johnnie B. Hall, Georgia State Patrol trooper was there.

“He asked me where I was going, and I told him,” Dinkheller said. “He told me that I would, ‘have to get past me.’” He knew what had happened. He was coming to find me, and he wouldn’t let me leave.”

The next thing Dinkheller knew, the sheriff and chaplain arrived.

“That’s when I knew for sure,” Dinkheller said.

Brannan was found the next morning with a gunshot wound to his stomach. He was taken to the hospital Dinkheller went to see his son’s killer.

“I wanted to try to talk to him,” he said. “I got off the elevator, and all of the cops saw me. I just wanted to ask him why? I was asked to leave.”

He never got to talk to Brannan. Dinkheller recalled being kicked out of court during Brannan’s trial in Brunswick in 2000.

“The first time I was kicked out because every time Brannan turned around to look back, I was staring at him,” Dinkheller said. “He told the judge he felt intimidated and I was threatening him. The judge asked me to leave so I had to go out into the hall.”

Brannan was declared guilty on Jan. 28, 2000. The jury sentenced him to death.

On the day Kyle was killed, his wife found out she was pregnant. He never



Kirk Dinkheller (left) with Jeff Harrison visit the memorial made for Dinkheller’s son, Kyle, in Laurens County. Kyle was killed in 1998 while working for the Laurens County Sheriff’s Department. Harrison’s son was also killed in the line of duty/JASON VORHEES, Georgia Trust for Local News

met his son.

Kyle grew up in California and along with his wife, followed his father to Dublin, Kyle mentioned to his dad about being in law enforcement, but it did not get serious until he was introduced to Laurens County Sheriff Kenny Webb. Kyle eventually became a deputy for the LCSO.

“He started off in the jail and then he went to mandate,” Dinkheller said. “Kyle was an easy-going guy. He didn’t want to have to write a ticket or anything like that. He loved to hunt and fish and spend time with his daughter. But he didn’t get to spend but a year and a half with her. Between his kids and me being cheated, it has been a tough 27

years.”

**January 13, 2015**

Dinkheller sat on the front row of the execution chamber in Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison in Jackson.

It had been 17 years and one day since Brannan had killed Kyle. Around 8 p.m. that night, there was no stay of execution.

Dinkheller recalled being mad when the victim’s advocate told him to sit down in the chamber and not say anything because what was about to happen that night was not about him.

“He had all the rights, and he gets to say whatever he wanted to, to the family,” Dinkheller said. “He basically said he wanted to get it

over with.”

Dinkheller looked at his watch and noticed it took Brannan eight minutes to die. Brannan was 66.

“From the first time he got that first dose until the time they pronounced him was eight minutes,” Dinkheller said. “That was it. I went back out to the front where everybody who was there was waiting. The first question I got was, ‘Now that he’s dead, you can go back to being Kirk.’”

He shook his head. There was no going back.

“The old Kirk is no longer here,” Dinkheller said. “After this, I’m not the same person I was. I’m more compassionate now for different things.”

Looking at Harrison,

Dinkheller described his time in Jackson.

“I have told Jeff that I don’t wish that on anybody,” Dinkheller said. “That is the most scared I have ever been my entire life. I knew what was about to happen. I was waiting for a stay of execution, then it didn’t come and they escorted you out and put you in a van and take you all the way around to the back of the prison to the death chamber. It was scary.”

**The video**

Anyone who wants to see what happened to Kyle can do so. Type in his name and it will pop up. Be aware, it is horrifying to watch.

The murder, caught on Kyle’s dashboard camera,

has been shown to countless law enforcement classes for training. And in many of those classes, Dinkheller walks out at the competition of the video.

“I tell them that’s my son,” Dinkheller said. “They have asked me how I can watch my son being murdered. I tell them it is in my head 24 hours a day.”

His hope is that they will learn from what happened to his son.

“If this saves one officer then Kyle didn’t die for nothing,” Dinkheller said. “In my heart, you can die twice. You die physically the first time. The second time is when people stop talking about you or bringing your name up. That is why I do what I do.”

Not long after the shooting, Dinkheller made Darren Mitchum, current Twiggs County Sheriff who was Kyle’s boss at the time of the shooting, play it for him. The first time Mitchum played it, the sound was turned down. Dinkheller asked him to play it again, and turn the sound up.

“When I go around and show that video, they can’t believe I do it,” Dinkheller said. “I don’t need to see the video. It is playing in my head 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I re-live the whole thing.”

Dinkheller described his situation as being in a boat he never wants anyone to be in. On Oct. 9, 2021, he heard about his former co-worker’s son Dylan.

“When I heard the name Harrison, it kind of registered who it was,” Dinkheller said. “I was like No! No! I preach that I don’t want anybody I know to go through what I’ve gone through. Now, it hits home. We worked together. ... He is in the same boat I’m in.”

**VOLUNTEERS**

Continued from page 1

“Teaching high school, teaching in college and coaching. It was natural to work with youth through CASA. You meet all kinds of people from all types of situations. If you can help one, that is great. It is a joy when a young child sees you and runs up to give you a hug. It is amazing when a teenager says, ‘I love you.’ You know at that point you have had some influence on them. For some, you may be the first positive influence in their life for some time. I may be tough at times, but it is very rewarding.”

Camryn Jones, who has been a CASA volunteer for three years, knows that children who are removed from their families often face uncertainty and trauma. Jones wants to bring a consistent, supportive presence in their lives.

“CASA’s mission to advocate for these children - whether that means helping them reunite with their families or find a permanent home - aligns deeply with my values,” Jones said. “Volunteering with CASA allows me to make a meaningful difference by ensuring each child’s voice is heard and their best interests are prioritized.”

Trudy Sampson wanted to help in some small way.

“I want to do more than just sit back and complain,” said Sampson, who has been a volunteer for seven years.

Debbie Little Crisp has been a volunteer for a short period of time.

“Volunteering with CASA, as a child advocate, gives an opportunity to stand up for a child who needs support and a caring voice during a difficult time,” Crisp said. “As a retired school counselor, I find it extremely rewarding to help a child feel heard, supported and equipped

with tools to improve their present and shape a stronger future. CASA provides a powerful way to change a child’s story and make a meaningful difference in their lives and our community.”

Laura Leigh Moore recalled Psalm 82:3, which reads, “Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.”

“I can’t think of a better way to defend and champion children in the court system than to be their advocate,” Moore said. “I am striving to provide light in a dark period through love and respect.”

Townsend recalled teenagers who had been displaced, and the one sole connection they had with their CASA volunteer, was that they felt the home they were placed in, “was the only home they felt loved and safe in.”

“When you have a CASA volunteer go to bat and made sure the teenagers, were safe, that is what being a CASA volunteer was all about,” she added. “They make sure their needs are taken care of. But most importantly, we make sure they find a loving, safe, permanent home. If we can make the difference in one child, that’s what we need to do.”

She recalled “The Starfish Poem,” which tells of a young woman who sees a child picking up starfish and throwing them back into the ocean. When the woman asked the child why she was doing that, they replied that it was in order to keep them from dying. The woman told the child she was crazy to do that because there were many miles of beach and starfish. She informed the child that, “You can’t possibly make a difference!” The child picked up another starfish, threw it and told the woman, “It

made a difference for that one.”

“That’s what we do here,” Townsend said. “We help one child at a time. Our volunteers are passionate about what they do. They take what they do to heart. We’ve had volunteers that drive two or three hours when kids are moved just to be there when they get to their new placement just to have a familiar face. We do the little things. If these kids are in group homes, our volunteers can love on them and be there for their child. That means something. The need is still there for volunteer and foster parents.”

For more information about becoming a CASA volunteer, call (478)

275-8100, email at casatownsend@gmail.com or visit [www.tlchildrens-services.org](http://www.tlchildrens-services.org)

“People just need to call up and inquire about becoming a CASA volunteer,” Townsend said. “We will guide them through each step that needs to be given. One, we want them to have loving compassion for children and know that when they are a CASA volunteer, we ask them to see their child or children once a month - sometimes more. We want to make contact with the placement the children are in and make sure it is safe. Check with schools, counselors, the staff at DFCS but mostly stay in touch with the coordinators.”

**RENTAL ORDINANCE**

Continued from page 1

and sewer. All roads, including private ones within a development, must be constructed and paved in accordance with county road standards.

Commissioner Trae Kemp described the ordinance as “bare-bones” and “vanilla.”

“Most landlords should be able to adhere to this. It’s a very low bar,” he said.

Violations of the ordinance could be pursued in magistrate court.

Commissioner Gerad Mathis commended County Attorney Brad Childers for his work in crafting the ordinance. Mathis said he shared the proposed ordinance with several developers, and “they thought it was well thought-out.”

“As a builder, I’m in favor it,” said Commission Chairman Jimmy Rogers.”

**Classifieds**

**Employment**

**JOB OPENING FOR MINISTRY ASSISTANT**

Dudley Baptist Church is seeking a full-time Ministry Assistant. For a copy of the job description and/or to send resume contact Debra at [dsmith.dudley@gmail.com](mailto:dsmith.dudley@gmail.com). Additional questions, contact Pastor Matt Greene at 229-206-7875 or [mrgpacker45@gmail.com](mailto:mrgpacker45@gmail.com).

**Parks/Center Attendant**

The City of Dublin is accepting applications for a Parks/Center Attendant in the Recreation Department. This team member must have a positive attitude and initiative. The Parks/Center Attendant is responsible for a variety of semi-skilled and routine grounds, facility maintenance, and janitorial tasks. The Attendant is responsible for providing a safe, clean and aesthetically pleasing system of public parks, nature center, and gyms by providing general care, repair, servicing and inspection. This position will report to the Parks Superintendent.

Applicants must have a valid Georgia driver’s license, High School Diploma or GED, and successful applicant must pass a drug screen. Salary range is \$33,435.15 – \$51,824.49 annually and starting salary is 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](http://www.cityofdublin.org) website until position is filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Part Time Parks/Center Attendant**

The City of Dublin is accepting applications for a Part-time Parks/Center Attendant in the Recreation Department. This team member must have a positive attitude and initiative. The Parks/Center Attendant is responsible for a variety of semi-skilled and routine grounds, facility maintenance, and janitorial tasks. The Attendant is responsible for providing a safe, clean and aesthetically pleasing system of public parks, nature center, and gyms by providing general care, repair, servicing and inspection. This position will report to the Parks Superintendent.

Applicants must have a valid Georgia driver’s license, High School Diploma or GED, at least 6(six) months experience in recreational programs, and successful applicant must pass a drug screen. Starting salary is \$15.49 hourly. This position is part time.

Applicants may apply online through our [www.cityofdublin.org](http://www.cityofdublin.org) website until position is filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**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



# KIDS' CORNER

Vol. 011 | A fun page for kids from The Courier Herald



## Class of the week: Mrs. Findlay's class at Hillcrest Elementary School



Students around Dublin-Laurens County have wrapped up their end-of-the-year testing, so that means Herald the Hound was back out visiting local classrooms. This week he stopped by Mrs. Rochelle Findlay's second grade class at Hillcrest Elementary School. Students heard the story "Max and Bird," a tale about the unlikely friendship between a kitten and a baby bird learning to fly, before taking on puzzles and games in the kids' corner. The school year is quickly coming to a close, but Herald plans on visiting schools until summer vacation starts. Below left, artwork with a positive message lined the halls of Hillcrest Elementary. Below, students during Harold's visit.



### Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

#### WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the ONE letter in the left column that is NOT in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read DOWN to answer this riddle:

**WHAT HAS THIRTEEN HEARTS, BUT NO OTHER ORGANS?**

ARMIES	___	MISER	ROAMED	___	DREAM
THAWED	___	WHEAT	FASTER	___	RATES
NICKEL	___	CLINK	PRICED	___	PRIDE
CHEERS	___	SHEER	BRAIDS	___	BIRDS
TAKING	___	GIANT	NOSIER	___	NOISE
			DETOUR	___	ROUTE
			THROBS	___	BROTH

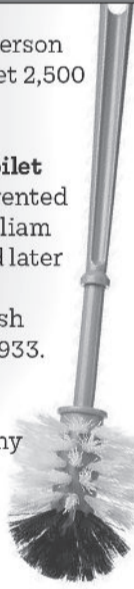
### Fun Fact

The average person visits the toilet 2,500 times a year.

The **plastic toilet brush** was invented in 1932 by William C. Schopp and later patented by the Addis Brush Company in 1933.

In 1890, Scott Paper Company introduced toilet paper in a roll.

Source: [www.conwayservices.net](http://www.conwayservices.net)



### MINI SUDOKU

		4	5		
	6			4	
		2	3	6	
5					
				5	2

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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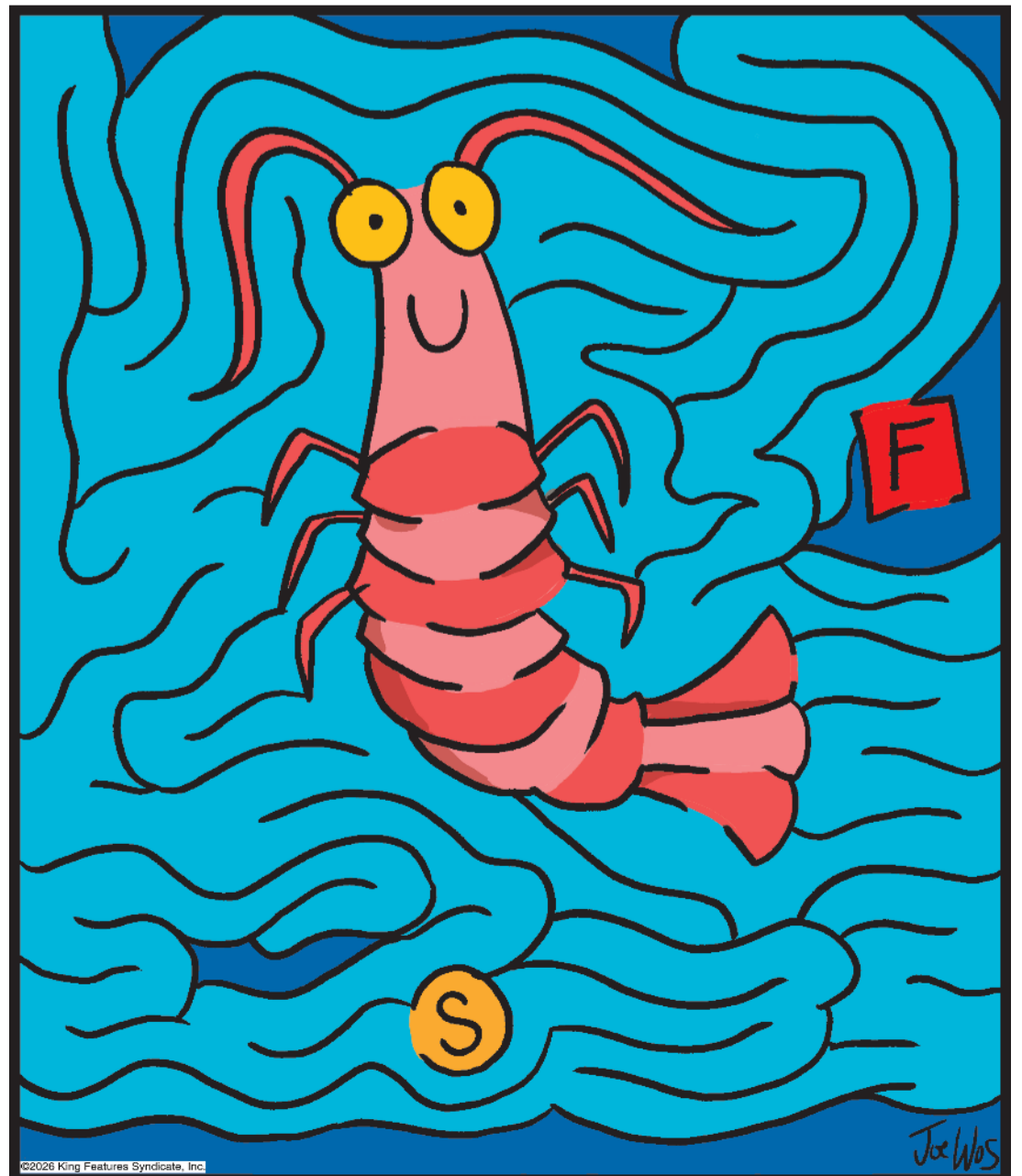
### ANSWER KEYS

<b>MINI SUDOKU ANSWERS</b>	3	2	4	5	1	6
	1	6	5	2	4	3
	4	1	2	3	6	5
	5	3	6	4	2	1
	2	5	1	6	3	4
	6	4	3	1	5	2

<b>Puzzles4Kids Answer</b>	A	MISER	WHEAT	CLINK	SHEER	GIANT	DREAM	RATES	PRIDE	BIRDS	NOISE	ROUTE	BROTH
	D	THAWED	NICKEL	CHEERS	TAKING	ROAMED	FASTER	PRICED	BRAIDS	NOSIER	DETOUR	THROBS	
	E												
	C												
	F												
	S												

### 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](mailto:read@courierheraldtoday.com).



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Joe Wos