

Moore Street School move draws criticism

Residents, some board members want vote rescinded

By **RODNEY MANLEY**
Staff Reporter

Concerned residents joined the Dublin City Board of Education's three black members Monday night in calling for the board to rescind its controversial vote to move the district's alternative students from Moore Street to make way for a new magnet school.

The magnet school eventually would be a feeder school for Dublin High's international baccalaure-

ate program, but critics see it as a means of preserving the Irish Gifted Academy, a hot button even before the district's most recent financial crisis. The IGA, which serves grades K-8, is widely perceived as a means of recruiting white students to the district, which is about 90 percent black.

The school board's three black members say they were blindsided, having learned of the proposal at their April 27 meeting before it passed 4-3, despite

their pleas to delay the vote.

Board member Kenny Walters said the board violated its own protocol of "no surprises," as well its code of ethics requiring that board members respect each other.

"I know they violated that," Walters said of the four who voted "yes."

"How are you supposed vote on something you just heard about five minutes before? We say we love all the children. That was just not a good way of showing

it."

An in-house summary of the IB magnet school proposal, presented at the April meeting, confirmed a number of long-held suspicions about the gifted academy. Only a small percentage of the program's students have tested as "gifted," and the academy's structure was described as so confusing that the cash-strapped district cannot say for sure how much it costs to operate.

Because the gifted academy is a program, and not a

school, it is not fully funded by the state, and even the school board now admits that IGA siphons funds from other schools in the district.

However, board member James Lanier noted the magnet school would qualify for additional state funding for a principal and other positions that currently are out-of-pocket costs for the district, while not taking funding from other schools.

"It ends that process," he said. "Each school will have to stand on its own."

Proponents say the plan

makes sense logistically, as well as financially. Moore Street School has an enrollment of about 70 students, while the gifted academy has 300 students and is housed on the high school campus.

Board member JoAnna Glover suggested placing gifted students in regular classrooms and leaving Moore Street as the alternative school.

"Why should we uproot these kids from where they

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
Continued on page 8

Remembering Harrison

Fallen officer's father waits for justice

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

Editor's note: This is the second-part of a 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 in recognition of National Police Week.

Dylan Harrison was not even supposed to work the only shift he did as a part-time officer for the Alamo Police Department.

Sitting at a table in his house in Dudley, Jeff Harrison recalled that his son's first shift for the Alamo police was supposed to be Saturday morning – not Friday night.

"Somebody was going to have to pull an extra shift, and he didn't want them to do that," Harrison said. "So, he told them he was coming in."

Dylan, a member of the Oconee Drug Task Force, and his wife, Heather, had a son – Brody. Dylan wanted to make extra money for the family so he prepared to go to his first shift as a part-time officer on the night of Oct. 8, 2021.

That day just so happened to be Jeff's birthday. He and his wife, Kathy, had been out to dinner that evening. On the way back, Dylan

called them and asked them to stop by and see them before he headed off to Alamo.

"We had just got finished eating, and I was full and tired," Harrison said. "We went on to the house. It was the worst mistake I ever made."

Harrison's regret can be heard in his voice as he continued to speak, saying, "Now I think, man, if I would have gone to that house and postponed him a hour or two, my son may still be here."

October 9, 2021

The ringing of the phone woke Harrison up. He recalled the time of the call – 12:08 a.m.

He was told that Dylan had been shot in the shoulder and was being transported to the hospital in Vidalia. Harrison and his wife quickly got out of bed, got dressed and jumped into the truck that would take them through the fog to the hospital.

"I was running like a bat out of hell trying to get to Vidalia," Harrison said. "We get to the emergency room and they took us into a small room. They told us that the doctor would be with us in a little bit."

This left Harrison with a bad feeling. That feeling was confirmed when the doctor came in to talk.

"They told me my son had not been shot in the shoulder," he said.

What led up to the shooting started from an incident about a hour before at the Alamo Circle K



Jeff Harrison poses with a photo of his son, Dylan Harrison, at Dylan's memorial in Dudley. Harrison was killed in 2021 while working for the Alamo Police Department/**JASON VORHEES, Georgia Trust for Local News**

across the street from the police department. According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Harrison had arrested a man for a traffic violation. Harrison asked the man for his name and identification. He refused. The man got into a verbal altercation with Harrison, which escalated to the man pushing the officer. Harrison attempted to place the man

under arrest and had to use his taser.

Not long after this, Dylan called and talked to his wife. Heather later told Dylan's parents about that conversation.

"He told her he was worried," Harrison said. "He tried to get him to leave. He didn't get the chance."

Around 1:01 a.m. Saturday,

Dylan walked outside the police station. According to the GBI, that is when Damien Ferguson, a friend of the man Dylan had recently arrested, shot Dylan. The GBI believed the ambush-style attack on Harrison was retaliation for the incident and arrest of

HARRISON
Continued on page 8

Phones, electronic devices banned in Laurens courtrooms

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

Starting immediately, people attending courtroom proceedings at the Laurens County Courthouse will no longer be allowed to carry their electronic devices into the courtroom.

Laurens County sheriff's Office Lt. Colby Clements said the ruling went into effect Friday, but since there were no court proceedings, Monday was the first day deputies had to inform people entering the courthouse.

The order was signed by Superior Court Chief Judge Jon Helton, Superior Court Judges Jud Green and Trey Taylor, Probate Court Judge Genola Jackson, Magistrate Court Judge Colby Crabb and Juvenile Court Judge Penny Snipes last week.

"One of the main issues we had was there were not supposed to be any recording devices, photographing or any of that within the courtrooms, and it has been happening consistently," Clements said. "This is a way to put a stop to it. Basically, it got abused as far as too many people trying

to film, cell phones going off and people watching videos in the middle of court. This is going to help with witness tampering, jury tampering and any of that kind of stuff."

According to the order, "electronic devices" include mobile cellular phone, smartphone, tablet, laptop, smart watch or any device capable of communications, recording, photographing or transmitting data. No cellphones will be allowed in any of the four courtrooms inside the courthouse.

"We will not hold them for people," Clements said. "The judge specifically put in that the court will not assume any responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged devices. It does say that court security personnel may prohibit entry of electronic devices into the courthouse or courtroom. We are not holding on to them for anybody."

Those entering the courthouse will go through a security checkpoint, where they will be asked to place the items in their pockets in a container and bags will go through a scan while the person walks through a

metal detector.

"We will generally ask where they are going," Clements said. "We will inform them about the signs, which are temporary right now but we will get some permanent signs made."

If they need to make a phone call for a ride, people can use one of the courthouse phones or ask a deputy. Electronic devices can be used within common areas of the courthouse, except for the following:

- No photographing, audio recording or video recording anywhere in the courthouse without prior authorization of the court.

- No live streaming, broadcasting or transmission of any court-related proceeding is permitted without express court approval.

- All devices must be used in a manner that does not disrupt courthouse operations or interfere with court security.

Security will be authorized to enforce these and may restrict possession or use of devices as necessary.

The following are exempt from the ban on electronic devices in the



A sign on a courtroom door announces the new no-phones policy/**PAYTON TOWNS III**

courtrooms: attorney licensed to practice law, employees of attorneys, law enforcement officers, court personnel and any other individual granted express permission by the court.

In compliance with Uniform Superior Court Rule 22, any self-represented party will have to obtain prior approval from the presiding judge before going into the courtroom with an electronic device. Those allowed to have an electronic device in the courtroom will need to make sure the device is off or placed on silent mode to make sure the proceedings are not disrupted.

Unless they have a specific order from the court, no one will be allowed to photograph, record audio, record video or capture images or sounds within any courtroom. No one will also be allowed to livestream, broadcast or transmit courtroom proceedings. This goes for everyone, including those authorized to have electronic devices in the courtrooms.

CELLPHONE BAN
Continued on page 8

Duluth teenager wrecks car during high-speed chase

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

A 19-year-old Duluth man was arrested by Treutlen County sheriff's deputies after he deliberately wrecked on the U.S. 441 North in Laurens County, after he reached speeds of approximately 120 mph through downtown Dublin Saturday morning.

At 8:46 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, a Treutlen deputy clocked a Kia Optima, driven by Ahmed MacPhee, going 117 mph while traveling west on I-16, said Georgia State Patrol Sgt. Brian Jones.

Deputies attempted to pull the Kia over, but the vehicle continued at a high rate of speed, exiting onto Ga. 19. MacPhee saw law enforcement officials behind him and later told deputies that he made the decision to crash on purpose in a suicide attempt.

"He didn't want to go to jail," Jones said. "All of his information was clean. He had a valid license, valid vehicle information and he had no warrants. I think it came down to being a teenager and getting caught up with that type of speed. He gave in to the fear."

MacPhee was transported to a hospital for minor injuries.

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OBITUARIES



Aliah Michelle Smith

Aliah Michelle Smith, 16, of Dublin, passed away on May 4, 2026.

Aliah was born on Feb. 9, 2010, and currently attended Treutlen High School where she was an honor roll student and a member of the Beta Club. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

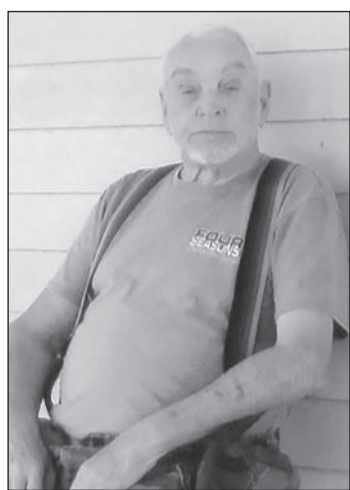
She was preceded in death by her mother, Chelsea Wilson.

Survivors include her step-father, Matthew Chad Clements; sister, Destynn Marie Smith; brother, Liam Gavin Wilson; grandfather, John Wilson; step-sisters, Addison and Abigail Clements; her boyfriend, Jack Moore; and many extended family members.

The family received friends on Monday, May 11 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home.

A funeral service celebrating her life was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12 in the Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel. Rev. Dwayne Clements will officiate.

Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com for service updates and to sign the online memorial register.



Johnie Herman Conner

Graveside funeral services for Johnie Herman Conner, 83 was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at Bluewater Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Dwayne Clements will officiate.

Mr. Conner was born June 28, 1942, in Dublin, Georgia. He was the son of the late Vernon Conner and Pauline Fountain Conner. He retired from Robins Telecable. He was of the Baptist faith. Mr. Conner passed away Sunday, May 10, 2026, at Southland Nursing Home and Rehabilitation.

Mr. Conner is survived by his son, Brian Conner (Tina); a daughter, Kim Veal (Lee); two sisters, Loette Depoy (Terry) and Debra Silverman (Bruce); five grandchildren, Hannah and Dylan Logue, Cheyenne Conner, Austin and Glenn "G.G." Veal, and Owen Veal; and two great-grandchildren, Jakeb Logue and Camden Claxton.

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Dublin Chapel has charge of funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit www.stanleyfuneralhome.com.



Chelsea Elizabeth Wilson

Chelsea Elizabeth Wilson, 35, of Dublin, passed away on Sunday, May 4, 2026.

Chelsea was born in Americus, Ga., on Aug. 9, 1990. She was employed with Caring Hands as a CNA and loved spending time with her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother, Alisha Davis Wilson, and her daughter, Aliah Michelle Smith.

She is survived by her father, John Wilson; daughter, Destynn Marie Smith; son, Liam Gavin Wilson; fiancé, Matthew Chad Clements; brother, Blake Wilson; step-daughters, Addison and Abigail Clements; grandmother, Doris White; uncles: Eric Davis, James Wilson (Lisa) and Seth Wilson; aunts: Vickie Welker, Patty Fordham and Ellen Sowell (Cline); and numerous cousins and extended family members.

The family received friends on Monday, May 11 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home.

A funeral service celebrating her life was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12 in the Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel. Rev. Dwayne Clements will officiate.

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Ellinore von Thenen Stimpson Nicholson

Ellinore von Thenen Stimpson Nicholson, 86, passed away on May 6, 2026, at her daughter's home in Dexter, Ga.

She lived a storied and meaningful life marked by devotion to her family, her community, her beloved Georgia 4-H'ers, and those fortunate enough to know her. Ellinore, Elly, mother, Mama Nick, and Mimi was a woman with a tremendous personality, who never met a stranger. Packed with enthusiasm for life, she was joyful, electric, loving and always had a smile for everyone she encountered.

Ellinore was born in Aachen, Germany Nov. 21, 1939 at the onset of WWII, and after the war at 10 years-old her family moved to the United States, living initially in Ft. Devens, Ma. These early years were quite formative and led to her jubilant personality and unique view of life.

For years, she was the Society Editor for the Sand-

ersville Progress weekly newspaper. After moving to Dexter, she worked many years, again as a Society Editor for the Laurens County News, which kept her integrated in the community through her many feature stories, editorials and coverage of community events.

While all three of her children were active 4-H members, she entered the 4-H world through volunteering locally with the Laurens County 4-H program.

She later served as a Georgia 4-H Volunteer leader Association (GVLA), secretary-treasurer and president. She led the district and State Student Board of Directors for 20 years, all the while coaching and mentoring these young adults and future leaders.

This led to her being chosen to attend the National 4-H Leader Forum in Washington D.C. as the representative from the state of Georgia. Upon the conclusion of this forum, she was selected by representatives from the other 50 states to be the lead facilitator for the following year's national forum.

Concurrent to her volunteering, she was an employee of the Laurens County Extension Service. This was the pinnacle of her working years in that it gave her the path to touch many lives of young people throughout the state of Georgia.

Indeed, she lived and embodied the 4-H motto, "to make the best better."

Ellinore was married to Eubergene Nicholson for 52 years before his death in 2011. She is survived by her children, Margret Nicholson Menzies (Alexander), Clayton Nicholson (Tonya), and Kimberley Nicholson Warren (John), her grandchildren Logan (Beth) Nicholson, Daniel Warren, Joshua (Marissa) Nicholson, Kristen (T.J) Holley, Seth (Lori) Nicholson, and Caroline Warren and five great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 at Dexter Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Kel-land Waldrep officiated.

Mrs. Nicholson's grandsons served as pallbearers.

Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com for service updates and to sign the online memorial register.



Sylvia Gilbert Barton

Sylvia Gilbert Barton, "Dee", 52, was born Oct. 4, 1973 and passed away on May 7, 2026, at her home in Dearing, Georgia. Born in Macon and raised in Laurens County, Dee was known for her free spirit, kind heart and deep love for her family.

Dee's love for her dog, Gypsy, was only surpassed by the love she had for her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed dancing, listening to good music and spending time near the water—whether at the lake, the

beach, or simply beside a backyard fishing pond. Her presence, laughter and love will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Barton; father, William Gilbert; brother, Billy Gilbert and her grandparents.

She is survived by her mother, Diane Rich,m; brother, Randy Toole; sister Brandi Jordan (Adrian); her sons, Kenny (Callie) Ricks and Eric (Sabrina) Ricks; her daughters, Kellie Ricks and Kimberly (John) Smith; and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A visitation and memorial service held by the family will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at 1006 Bellevue Avenue in Dublin, Georgia.

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Dublin Chapel has charge of funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit www.stanleyfuneralhome.com.



Angela Nicole Davis

Funeral services for Ms. Angela Nicole Davis of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the First African Baptist Church, 405 Telfair Street in Dublin. Rev. William Harvey will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Miss Angela Nicole Davis was born on Nov. 7, 1991, to the late Lula Bell Davis and Lonzie Lee Walker.

Ms. Davis departed this life on May 9, 2026. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Quintin Lashawn Davis, Leslie Mae Daniel and her half-brothers, Wayne Walker and Leroy Walker and her uncle, Charlie Dudley.

She leaves behind her precious children, Ah'yanah Davis, Demon Davis, Ja'niya Lattimore, Ah'Lilyah Johnson, Kel'vyon Johnson, Ke'layah Johnson and a special niece who is considered her daughter, Ja'leal Fisher, her siblings, Janice Davis, Shanta Davis, Tyrone (Michelle) Davis, Gerone Davis, Margie (James) Fisher, Maxine (Brandon) Davis, Gerran Davis, Shaquita Davis, her half-brothers, Billy Walker Jr., Grover Walker, Lorenzo Josey, Allen Josey, Ken Josey, all of Wrightsville and her half-sister, Sandra D. Gatewood, a special friend, Kelvin Johnson, her closest niece, Tyesha Daniel and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin

Harlow Grace Chambers

Harlow Grace Chambers, lovingly known as "My Little Strawberry Girl," was born on Dec. 10, 2025, in Macon, Georgia, and peacefully entered eternal rest on May 11, 2026 at Children's Hospital of Atlanta.

Though her time on earth was brief, Harlow touched the hearts of everyone who knew and loved her. She had the sweetest little soul and a beautiful way of expressing herself through her eyes. One of her favorite places to be was resting peacefully in her mother's lap, surrounded by love and comfort. Harlow also enjoyed watching Moana and other television shows that brought joy and calm to her little world.

Harlow leaves to cherish her precious memories her loving parents, Hannah Coney and Jalen Chambers; maternal grandparents, Karen (Freddie) Womble and Bernard Coney; paternal grandfather, Derrick (Shmenia) Chambers, preceded in death by her maternal grandmother, Tiesha Davis, grandmother in love, Van Chambers, godparents, Carol and Kelvin Carswell; aunts, Porsche (Shawn) Stanley, Angel Coney, Omyri Coney, Zakira Coney, Kami-

yah Coney and Abby Chambers; uncles, Victor Coney, Zion Coney, Jacquez Vann, and James Vann; along with a host of other loving relatives and friends who will forever hold her memory close to their hearts.

Although words cannot ease the pain of this loss, the family finds comfort in the promises of God through Psalm 91:1-2:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: My God; in him will I trust."

The family will accept visitors at 105 Limestone Landing, Cochran, Georgia 31014.

Celebration of Life Services for Harlow Grace Chambers will be held on May 16 at 3 p.m. at Central Baptist Church, 706 Hayes Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021.

Burial will follow at Dudley Memorial Cemetery in Dublin, Georgia.

The repast will be held at Central Baptist Church fellowship hall following the burial.

Though her tiny hands stayed with us for only a short while, the love Harlow gave will remain in our hearts forever.

Kemp trims budget

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — State lawmakers passed a budget that was about \$1 billion larger than what Gov. Brian Kemp expects Georgia will collect in tax revenue next fiscal year, so he took a scalpel to their spending plan.

The fiscal year 2027 budget he signed Tuesday trims \$300 million from spending that the General Assembly had added.

"They may not be happy, but they also realize we've got a hole in the budget that we've got to fix," Kemp said, before signing House Bill 974, which will govern spending starting in July.

The Legislature passed a \$38.5 billion budget, but Kemp told reporters that revenue estimates for next year are only \$36.6 billion. Part of the reason: income tax cuts that lawmakers passed in the waning hours of their legislative session and that Kemp signed into law Monday.

Richard Dunn, director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, said Georgia now has a \$1.3 billion "structural deficit."

He said Kemp's cutbacks will address \$300 million of the excess spending and that growth in revenue should take care of much of the rest. The state will likely have to dip into its surplus to fill whatever gap remains, he added.

That amount can change depending on the rate of economic growth.

"The state must now address a reduction in revenue for the coming fiscal year of nearly \$1 billion," Kemp said, "and that's assuming we don't have an economic downturn."

The income tax cuts, which Kemp embraced, tipped his budget off balance.

On Monday, Kemp signed House Bill 463, which rolled back the income tax rate to 4.99% from 5.19% for the current year.

It also waived income tax on the first \$1,750 of overtime pay and cash tips, retroactive to the beginning of the year, and it increased by \$5,000 the amount of excluded retirement income for those 65 and older.

But that new law is designed to continue cutting the tax rate if state revenues remain strong, reducing the rate by another percentage point over eight years, to 3.99%. The rate is scheduled to fall 0.125 percentage points (an eighth of a point) next year.

HB 463 also increased the dependent and standard deductions by 25% this year and calls for gradually increasing both by that same amount over eight years, depending on the same revenue triggers as the tax rate cuts.

The standard deduction for single filers rose to \$15,000 from \$12,000 when Kemp signed HB 463. It is scheduled to go up another \$375 next year, ultimately reaching \$18,000. The amounts are doubled for couples filing jointly. The dependent deduction rose to \$5,000 from \$4,000 and would top out at \$6,000 after eight years of steady increases.

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The et cetera chronicles - vol. 133

LEFTOVER TATERS - J.A. Burney went out to his field to prepare the ground for a new crop of sweet potatoes. He had a good crop the previous year and was hoping for a repeat. Before he could get started, the farmer was astonished that the ground was full of year-old spuds. He managed to gather a couple of bushels of good, sweet potatoes. Georgia Weekly Journal, March 31, 1882.

THE FOUR-LEGGED ATHEIST - There was once a dog that lived in Dublin's boarding office. The little dog was never seen anywhere around Dublin's solitary church. However, on Sunday evenings, the mongrel showed his consternation when he began to vociferously howl every time the church bell rang. Macon Telegraph, August 18, 1880.

THE COACH IS SMART TOO - Captain John R. Masline was sent by the U.S. Navy to supervise the engineering during the construction of the U.S. Naval Hospital, which began in earnest in early 1944. Twenty years before, Masline served as the Captain of the basketball team of New York University during the 1923-1924 season. Captain Masline served for several years as the athletic director of the New York Athletic Club. N.Y.U. Press Guide. Macon News, March 15, 1943, December 11, 1943.

LONG TIME, NO RAIN - The rain stopped falling in Dublin's official rain gauge on September 21, 1943. It was almost seven weeks later when drops of rain started dropping back in on November 8 with a total rainfall of 0.54 inches. Macon News, November 10, 1943.

THE FIRST SUBURBAN GROCERY - Gene and David Mercer, grocers, opened their first grocery store in

the rear of the Henry Building in the center of downtown Dublin. The Mercers saw what was happening in Dublin; there was tremendous growth in the western and northern parts of the city. When they lost their lease, the Mercers sought and were granted permission to erect their grocery store at the five-pointed intersection of what is now Veterans Boulevard, Bellevue Road and Lancaster Street. It proved to be a brilliant choice for all of the residents of the area. Although the store was only in operation for forty years, the shopping center is still active 70 years later. Macon Telegraph, July 5, 1951.

NEVER MIND - The Laurens County District Attorney, W.W. Larsen, Jr., instituted a proceeding to padlock Bracewell's store on the Glenwood because of some alleged but not yet illegal activities taking place on the premises. Over the July 4th weekend, the building was cremated by an unknown miscreant. Solicitor Larsen announced to Superior Court Judge J. Roy Rowland, Sr. that he was asking the court to dismiss the padlock proceeding since there was nothing to padlock. Macon Telegraph July 8, 1951.

HEY MULE, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST - The city of Dublin had ordinances governing animals within the city limits. Police Chief Wesley Stubbs ran upon a mule one night. Stubbs led the mule into a pen to keep him until his owner was found. Chief Stubbs' main concern was the cost of feeding the beast of burden. The week before a cop on night duty spotted a possum that was enamored with the neon lights of a sign of Jernigan's Soda Shop. The captured marsupial was presumably released into the woods or made into possum stew. Macon Telegraph, September 27, 1951.



PIECES OF OUR PAST

By **SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.**

HONEYMOON HORROR - Mr. and Mrs. Bradberry were anxious to get back to their home in Dublin following their wedding in Baltimore, Maryland. Just about four miles from Dublin on the Wrightsville highway, Mrs. Bradberry attempted to pass a slow-poking truck. She lost control of her car. Mrs. Berry was ejected from her vehicle, which came to rest pinning her to the cold ground. Mr. Bradberry, swelling with adrenaline, and a passerby lifted the Bradberry car off the ground. Mrs. Bradley was grateful that she only sprained her ankle, but spent their honeymoon night in a hospital in Dublin. Mr. Bradberry, grateful and still scared, told officials that he was glad to be able to get his wife back to her home in Dublin, Texas, that is. Macon News, December 14, 1951.

EGGS FROM THE SKY - On April 14, 1903, residents reported hailstones fell on Dublin as large as a small chicken egg. Atlanta Journal, April 15, 1903.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Did a billionaire's stinginess cause injury to his kidnapped nephew?

By **JACK BAGLEY**
GTLN

Let's just get into the trivia this week, shall we? I've already pontificated about spring, showers, flowers, and baseball ... and there isn't much else to go on and on about.

If I'm going to go on and on, I should do it with the trivia. So on and on we go!

Enjoy!
Did you know ...

... the original vampire novel has never been out of print? Dracula, written in 1897 by Irish author Bram Stoker (1847-1912), ties together the vampire bats of the New World with the actual story of Transylvanian prince Vlad III Tepes (1431-1476), known as Vlad the Impaler. Scholars are divided on the true meaning of the work - some say it is a clear allegory of Christianity, while others say it is a lampooning of Victorian-era mores in the United Kingdom. Whichever (or both), the book has never been out of print since it was first released. (I wish I could say that about my books.)

... a common condiment was once thought of as a medicine? Ketchup, the humble condiment that makes hamburgers and other dishes taste better, was at one time prescribed as a medicine for rheumatism, jaundice and other ailments. In the 1830s it was sold in a pill form by Dr. John Cook Bennett (1804-1867). Competitors soon followed, but some were not quite honest - they used laxatives instead of tomatoes in their "medicine." (Well, they also used to think tomatoes were poisonous, so ...)

... one of the most famous pieces of Star Trek lore came from a Jewish ritual? The Vulcan salute, made by holding up the hand with the middle and ring fingers split in a "V" shape, was created by actor Leonard Nimoy (1931-2015). Nimoy, who played Mr. Spock on the classic series, had observed his rabbi using the hand symbol in a benediction while a boy and never forgot it. The hand symbol is made to represent the Hebrew letter shin, the first letter of the Hebrew word "shalom," which means peace. (Nimoy wasn't supposed to look, but he peeked.)

... a dentist was forced

to legally change his name because of his advertising? Dr. Edgar R.R. Parker (1872-1952) was a rather flamboyant dentist in his home town of Philadelphia, but following his graduation from Philadelphia Dental College he went six weeks without seeing a patient. So, he decided to advertise. Parker billed his dentistry as "painless," but his patients said he was lying. To avoid charges of false advertising which could have put him out of business, Parker legally changed his first name to Painless. (Clever, very clever!)

... the first embroidery pattern book was published in the 16th Century? The Modelbuch, published in Germany in 1524, contained 29 pages of designs for embroidery and lace. As far as knitting patterns, the earliest pattern books combining knitting and embroidery came out in the 17th Century, with the first devoted exclusively to knitting printed in 1761. (They just made up their own patterns prior to that.)

... a billionaire's alleged stinginess caused his grandson to suffer? On July 10, 1973, John Paul Getty III (1956-2011), 16-year-old grandson of the then-richest man in the world, was

kidnapped from the Piazza Farnese in Rome. The kidnapers demanded \$17 million in ransom, but the young man's grandfather - billionaire J. Paul Getty (1892-1976) - refused. The elder Getty's reasoning, apparently, was that if he paid, his other grandchildren could become kidnapping victims as well. The younger Getty was held by the kidnapers for five months, and the only movement in the case came in November of 1973, when a package containing a lock of Getty's hair and his severed ear arrived at a newspaper. The note threatened to mutilate the young man even further if a ransom of \$3.2 million was not paid. Even in the face of the injury done to his grandson, J. Paul maintained his parsimonious ways - he only agreed to provide \$2.2 million, because that was the most that was tax deductible, and loaned another \$800,000 to his son, John Paul Getty, Jr. (1932-2006), the victim's father, on condition that it be paid back at four percent interest. Nine of the kidnapers were apprehended, but only two received prison terms. Additional trivia note: When the younger Getty was finally released in December, he

telephoned his grandfather to thank him for paying the ransom. The elder Getty refused to come to the phone.

... you probably can't afford the world's most expensive tea? I certainly can't. Called Da-Hong Pao Tea and only available in China, the most expensive tea in the world will run you \$1.2 million for one kilogram. This rare form of tea is grown only in the Wuyi mountain region of China's Fujian province, from a kind of tree of which only six exist. (One cup, please.)

... only one pitcher has ever appeared in all seven games of the same World Series? In 1973, Darold Knowles (born 1941) was pitching for the Oakland A's in the World Series against the New York Mets. Knowles appeared in all seven games of the Series as a relief pitcher, and in his 6 1/3 innings of work through the games he did not give up a run. He was credited with the save in games one and seven of the Series, which went to the A's.

... a famous musician tried to broker peace between two Los Angeles street gangs in one of his videos? Michael Jackson (1958-2009) cast about 80 members of the rival street gangs Crips and Bloods in

the video for his hit song "Beat It." Jackson was hoping to foster peace between the two groups. He also wanted the video to be as realistic as possible,

and it was. As far as building peace, the video didn't work. (Well, he tried, anyway.)

Now ... you know!

Computation, Canvassing and Tabulation Notice

LAURENS COUNTY
(O.C.G.A.) 21-2-492 & 493

The Laurens County Board of Elections and Registration will compute and canvass all returns for the May 19, 2026 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and continuing until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026.

Certification will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Consolidation and Certification will be conducted in the Laurens County Board of Elections and Registration Office located at 117 East Jackson St, Suite A, Dublin, GA 31021.

Susan H. Rooks
Election Supervisor
Laurens County
This 12th day of May, 2026

Public Hearing City of Dublin

100 South Church Street, Dublin, GA 31021

A Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 12:00PM in the Henry "Bud" Hicks, Jr. Memorial Chamber-City Hall at which time any person wishing to be heard on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget may appear.

The Dublin City Governing Authority does hereby announce its intention to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 budget on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 5:30 PM in the Henry "Bud" Hicks, Jr. Memorial Chamber-City Hall and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. 36-81-5, a copy of the FY2027 budget is available in the Clerk's Office at City Hall and also on the city's website.

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF LAURENS

EARLY PROCESSING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-386(a) (2) (A), notice is hereby given that the Laurens County Election Superintendent intends to begin early processing of absentee ballots cast in the General Primary / Non-Partisan Election to be held on May 19, 2026, beginning Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 4:00 P.M. Processing will continue from hour to hour until completed. The public is entitled to be present during the processing of absentee ballots. The location of the processing is the Laurens County Board of Elections & Registration Office located at 117 E Jackson St. Suite A Dublin, GA 31021. The early processing of absentee ballots before the closing of the polls shall be a controlled process in order to maintain the secrecy of all ballots and to protect against the collection or disclosure of any balloting information before the close of the polls at 7:00 P.M. on Election Day.

This 12th day of May, 2026.

Susan H. Rooks
Election Supervisor
Laurens County Board of Elections & Registration

Slightly
OFF THE RECORD

A production of **THE COURIER HERALD**
Sponsored by **SERVPRO**

Check out the first two episodes airing **May 5, 2026**

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Tune in with the newsroom every Tuesday and catch up with some of Laurens County's most influential figures as we go (slightly) off the record.
slightlyoff@gtn.org | www.courierheraldtoday.com

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CHTELLIT@GMAIL.COM, OR
TELL IT! AT
COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Uncle Townsman, why don't you tell your nephews that their daddy use to stick his fingers down in the peanut butter jar and got in trouble?

There is no difference in the 300 students than the other students of the city schools or Laurens County schools. They should not be treated differently. They are not any more intelligent than the rest of the group so they should be mixed in with the school instead of renaming the IGA to something else. I don't blame the parents. I would be mad.

Why is the City of Dudley having council meetings at lunch now instead of normal times? What are y'all trying to hide?

Teachers never actually get their own day to be appreciated! For Teacher Appreciation Week the entire school gets all the same things. Yet teachers get nothing on support staff's recognition days.

Dear Dublin City School Board: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." Attributed to Albert Einstein

Since when can we not use half dollars to pay for what we buy? Several times when I go to fast food places they will not take a half dollar to pay on my bill? Do they not know what it is?

To the persons driving the loud black truck and muscle cars up and down Village Circle all night, cut it out and get a life. This is not a speedway. The police need to be sent to this area.

Village Circle is not a motor speedway! We have speed humps that do little to stop the race car drivers coming through here. This is a residential neighborhood, not your personal race track.

If the Dublin City Schools are financially "in the black" why won't they pay the money they stole from a teacher that they have already said they owed? They promised they'd make it right. Why the wait?

Every time I read these articles about Dublin City Schools my heart breaks a little more. I feel so sorry for the students, teachers and everyone that has given so much. When did all of this start? Whose fault is it? Why did the board give in to everything Superintendent Fred Williams ask for? Why did they approve the enormous salaries for certain employees? So many questions but no answers. And now supposedly closing down the academy but creating another school. Does this really make any sense? No! Not to the citizens of Dublin.

Teachers should dress professional, not like a student. You are an authority figure not their

friend. Also, you picked your career and knew the pay scale now deal with it. Excess taxes go to taxpayers.

Westside sports has always been about politics. Where have you been? They'd rather lose playing favorites than put the most talented, deserving players on the field and win. It's a back scratch fest.

Professionalism isn't about the jeans, it's about presentation. Jeans can be appropriate, but wearing t-shirts or hoodies with them every day can come across as too casual for a school setting.

Can we get a road name sign for TC Payne Road at Mt. Olive Road? The sign bandit.

To the person who found a wallet with money and my driver's license in the parking lot at Pine Forest Church: please send part of the money to The Methodist Home in Macon, Ga. for those who need it more than I. Use the rest for your needs. And I know who found the money, so if you come to my address for any reason, the police will know who it was!

Dublin City Schools end March in the black with \$2.4 million. Does that mean they have paid off state health or do they still owe state health? In that case, this is not true. Also, how much will it cost to redo Moore Street School to get it ready for some sort of academy? They need to stop all of that and focus on the kids that they have. In a few years, turnaround, go back and look at that academy.

When financial reports were presented by Dublin City Schools, did they reflect all current bills and obligations had been paid? For many years, Dublin City Schools presented reports that did not reflect what was still owed to vendors and state health. Otherwise, they wouldn't be in the mess they are in.

For approximately nine months, we the citizens of Dublin and Laurens County have heard the excuses of the Dublin City School Board about the terrible situation the Dublin City Schools are in. From the mishandling of COVID funds, outrageous salaries, from paying bills without invoices, for not paying the state health insurance plan and the list goes on and on. To me, the worse one of all is naming an IT director to become the finance director. That was not a very wise decision.

All of the politicians running for state school superintendent, has not one time say anything they would do with the situation like Dublin City Schools. If they want to be the state school superintendent, they need to be involved in the way that the taxpayers money is spent on the school system. It needs to be just for education and not for football and not for a party.

Virginia redistricting a lesson in civics, federalism

Virginia's Supreme Court made some important national news last week. They did it by affirming a lower court's ruling on clearly written law. The process by which Virginia Democrats attempted to redraw their Congressional maps violated their state laws and Constitution.

The only real surprise here is that the Justices of Virginia's Supreme Court didn't bow to extreme political pressure and invent a loophole to reinterpret words. A lower court spelled it out clearly.

Circuit Court Judge Jack Hurley found numerous problems with the legality of the referendum itself. The authorization for the vote was illegal based on a late inclusion to a special session of the Virginia legislature, which is not allowed. The timing of the vote itself is against Virginia's Constitution because there hasn't been an ensuing general election of the House of Delegates, so that the earliest this vote could legally happen after a legal passage would be 2027.

The language of the question imposed to voters was ruled "flagrantly misleading". Legislators also violated the law by issuing the vote less than 90 days after passage. The legislature then again overstepped by mandating election procedures and locations that are beyond the powers given them under Virginia's constitution.

That's a lot of legalese. When dealing with the foundations of our Republic, legalese is important.

So why was the vote even allowed to happen? Be-



By CHARLIE HARPER

cause those pushing to ram the changes through cited law and precedent saying the court couldn't intervene until the election was over.

This, too, was a raw political calculation. It, too, failed.

The Supreme Court directly answered this criticism, knowing it would be a talking point to foment anger for the losing side. The opinion noted that they had already sided with those wanting the maps redrawn that they could not rule prior to the vote. With those same people now arguing that the court can't or shouldn't rule after a vote, they were effectively saying the Supreme Court can't rule on the legality of a constitutional amendment at all.

Lost to those claiming this ruling subverts the will of the majority and thus undermines democracy is that there was another vote for a constitutional amendment just six years ago regarding redistricting. That ballot

question, posed through a legal process with a fair ballot question, indicated that roughly two thirds of Virginians favored and enshrined into law an independent redistricting commission.

Now, the people who demand the will of the people be followed will only point to the razor thin margin of an illegally held snap vote. They want everyone to completely ignore an opposite opinion of voters who changed Virginia's constitution via an open and legal process.

It's getting harder and harder to take seriously the loyal opposition party who looks at a duly elected President who also won the popular vote and has a quarterly "No Kings" rally. The mantra is that they wish us to "return to norms" by ignoring both Constitution and law.

When Republicans object, they're told their words are violence. Meanwhile, Virginia's new Attorney General has a series of text messages saying he wanted to kill the children of his former Speaker of the opposing party because "only when people feel pain personally do they move on policy."

Virginia's new Governor Spamberger stood by him despite his violent texts. She also told voters she didn't favor a mid-cycle redistricting. One that she ultimately flip flopped on as soon as she had power. Because of "fairness".

Georgia isn't Virginia. This piece, however, ties two of my last columns together.

Georgia is in the early

voting period of an election that ends May 19th. This voting was already underway when a separate court ruling set off a wave of Southern states redrawing maps that will likely add more Republican seats.

Each state has their own Constitution and laws. Each has separate elections. It's not clear that Georgia has the legal standing or process, nor that voters have the political appetite, to force new maps for the 2026 election. Each state must stand on its own laws when deciphering guidance from the Supreme Court.

We are also electing Justices for our Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. There is significant overlap from national Democrats and their donors seeking to oust Justices and Judges who have bipartisan support and have pledged fair interpretations of Georgia's laws.

The challengers are walking the line of judicial code by promising predetermined outcomes. They are hiding behind ads paid for by third parties, but the clear intention is to politicize our courts.

Virginia's courts stuck by the law. The result is that no less than the New York Times is helping float the trial balloon that Virginians in a power grab may force every State Supreme Court Justice to retire and be replaced by political plants.

These are not the norms we're looking for. We have two political branches of government. It is imperative that Georgians re-elect our incumbent judges and reject attempts to have a third partisan branch of government.

The alluring backyard of Gary and Joan Bertsch

Last weekend, there was an informal gathering of UGA aficionados, some retired from the oldest chartered state university and others who are friends of the group. It took place in the charming backyard of Joan and Gary Bertsch on Henderson Avenue. If there is a more becoming plot of ground in our town, I have not seen it.

Gary and Joan are a team, but the tender loving care and the trimmings of the signature complex belong to Joan, whose handiwork elicits gushing kudos. There is greenery everywhere, and flowers, rocks, and pebbles are efficiently integrated into the landscape.

While it is not on a par with the Luxembourg Garden in Paris or Monet's place at Giverny, with weeping willows and lily pads, Bertsch's place certainly is rare and becoming.

A fire pit with embers and wafting smoke added to the allure of the ambient setting, which is a reminder that when we commune with nature, we are royally blessed.

Then there is Gary's study, a free-standing building to which he can repair any time of the year. He can open his door in the spring and summer, letting the sunshine in. When fall and winter's chill come our way, he has a wood-burning fireplace for ambient warmth. A lot of intellectual thought has emanated from that cozy setting.

I have long been an admirer of Gary Bertsch, who is an Idaho farm boy, one of the most well-rounded faculty members ever to share his wisdom, research, and connections with our community.

He taught at the University of Beijing and invited former Russian premier Mikhail Gorbachev to the UGA campus. His work with Senator Sam Nunn and others to reduce atomic weapons arsenals is remarkable.

While I am not scolding our local citizens and don't want to bite the hand that has fed me over the years, it is interesting that so many in this state know the shoe size of our third-string left tackle on the football team but don't make the effort to get to know professors like Gary Bertsch.

Everybody in our state is impressed by the brilliantly successful football program and its coaches, but we don't similarly lionize the exalted professors and researchers on our campus. How about singing the praises of both?

As an emeritus professor in the School of International Affairs, Gary is an avid Bulldog fan of all sports teams at UGA. He plays golf, and when he takes respite in the afternoon, his biggest challenge is determining where to enjoy a glass of wine: his front porch, his den, his backyard, or his study.

His entire environment is an inspirational venue for reading and keeping up with what goes on in the world.

Recently, he and Joan hosted a fun group to interact with Greg Bluestein, political columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. A Georgia alumnus, Bluestein is an indefatigable reporter-writer whose enthusiasm and commitment to his profession are extraordinary.

He analyzed the nasty gubernatorial campaign



By LORAN SMITH

with insights on what all this means. He gave high marks to Athens native and governor, Brian Kemp, for his family bent.

Bluestein made no predictions but is curious about the governor's race where the two leading candidates seem likely to spend

a hundred million dollars collectively in the fight to win the right to move into the Governor's mansion at 391 West Paces Ferry Road.

While at Georgia, Bluestein was editor of the Red & Black, the campus newspaper, and took great delight in following the Bulldog football team—and he's still at it.

He has written an insightful book, "Flipped: How Georgia Turned Purple and Broke the Monopoly on Republican Power." Often referred to as the state's "chief political reporter," Bluestein is a very knowledgeable reporter and columnist. He also is a popular speaker.

The setting in the Bertsch's backyard garden was perfect for Bluestein's insightful remarks. Shall we say, "a good time was enjoyed by all."

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"A day without laughter is a day wasted."

- Charlie Chaplin

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength."

- Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

May 14, 2026 is...

- Ascension
- International Dylan Thomas Day
- National Underground America Day
- National Dance Like A Chicken Day
- National Buttermilk Biscuit Day

Dublin Police Department

- Ricardo AB Coney, 18, was charged with affray on South Washington Street around 4:20 p.m. on May 3. An officer responded to a domestic incident.

Upon arrival, an officer circled behind the location and saw a blue minivan surrounded by several individuals. The officer saw a man, later identified as Coney, assaulting a passenger who was still seated inside the van on the passenger side.

The officer saw Coney pull the wig of the victim, and swing his fist in an attempt to strike the man while he remained seated in the vehicle.

Upon noticing the officer, Coney walked toward the front of the van. The offi-

cer and ordered Coney to remain in place and not leave.

The victim said he was seated in the passenger seat when Coney began hitting him.

When asked about the cause of the altercation, the man said Coney wanted to fight him because someone told Coney that he had been speaking about him on social media. Two separate witnesses advised the officer that they attempted to stop Coney from fighting the man. The victim had a small amount of blood on his lower lip.

Coney later told officers that the altercation happened because he had been told that the other man was speaking negatively about him.

Coney was transported



POLICE BEAT...

to the police department where he was fingerprinted and issued a citation before being released on a summons.

- On April 28, around 7:48 a.m., an officer saw a seat belt violation at the intersection of Country Club Road and North Jefferson Street and initiated a traffic stop on a blue Nissan Altima.

The officer met with driver, Aurora Bennett, 21. He smelled a strong odor of a fragrance, spray or perfume.

The officer asked if there was anything illegal in the vehicle and she essentially said yes. She had a blunt in the vehicle.

Bennett went into the middle console and showed the officer the bag containing marijuana. She was arrested and transported to the police department where she was fingerprinted and charged with possession of marijuana less than an ounce and cited for the seat belt ticket.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- On April 16, around 12:29 p.m., a deputy talked with someone who walked in the sheriff's office in reference to a stolen vin number.

- Maurice Martin, 33, of Dublin, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol at the intersection of the bypass and Highway 80 around 5:27 a.m. A deputy came in contact with a broken down vehicle.

- An officer was dispatched to the area of Highway 257 and Cauthen Lane in reference to a vehicle fire around 10:01 a.m. on April 21.

- Around 1:21 p.m. on April 29, a deputy talked with a woman at the sheriff's office in regards to fill-

ing a report about her being defrauded.

- On April 29, around 1:35 p.m., a deputy received a phone call in reference to a lost money order.

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.

Kemp signs legislation to cut income taxes and reduce homeowner property tax increases

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers started the year with talk of eliminating both the state income tax and the property tax for homeowners.

The goal proved elusive, but they did compromise on a scaled-back income tax cut and on legislation to decelerate the rapid increases in local property tax costs for homeowners.

And on Monday, Gov. Brian Kemp signed those two measures into law.

"We believe it is your money, not the government's," Kemp said.

The Senate had at first voted to eliminate the income tax on the first \$50,000 in annual earnings for individuals and the first \$100,000 for married couples filing jointly. The goal was to increase the cuts for higher earners over time until the tax was abol-

ished altogether. But the bill Kemp signed into law is more modest.

House Bill 463 will immediately reduce the income tax rate to 4.99% from the current 5.19%, then gradually reduce it by another percentage point over eight years if state revenues remain strong. Income tax deductions would also rise by 50% over that period, from the current \$12,000 for single filers, to \$18,000 — and double that for married couples. Dependent deductions also would rise by \$2,000 over eight years from the current \$4,000.

The new law also waives income tax on the first \$1,750 of overtime pay and cash tips retroactive to the beginning of the year and increases the amount of excluded retirement income for those 65 and older by \$5,000.

The increase in income tax cuts depends on a continual rise in state revenue

estimates and collections. The governor's annual revenue estimate must increase 3% and the prior year collections must have exceeded those in each of the three prior years. Also, the state must have enough in reserves to absorb the cost resulting from the increasing cuts.

Last week, Kemp's office announced that revenues were continuing to rise, with April net tax collections up 5.9% over April of last year. However, nearly half of the nearly \$4 billion came from the income tax. Those collections were up 10.1%.

Lt. Gov. Burt Jones said before Kemp signed the measures that it took months of negotiation between the Senate and House to reach a consensus. But Jones, a Republican candidate for governor, said they accomplished their goal on both income taxes and property taxes.

Senate Bill 33 was also a compromise. The House had hoped to eventually abolish property taxes. Instead, the measure will keep homeowner property taxes in check by restraining the increase in the official value of their homes.

The idea of eliminating the property tax altogether faced resistance from local governments and schools, which are funded in large part through that tax.

The new law will cap valuation increases at the rate of inflation.

"Property tax valuations have skyrocketed in every corner of this state," said House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington. "Mileage rates have remained the same or even increased in some cases, placing a significant financial strain on families, homeowners and retirees living on fixed incomes."

The amount paid for property taxes depends on two variables: the tax rate — called a millage rate — and property valuation. Cities, counties and schools could simply bump the tax rate



Winners from the Ms. Dublinair 2026 Beauty Pageant/SPECIAL PHOTO

Winners named in Ms. Dublinair beauty pageant

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

The ladies at Dublinair had a great time in its beauty pageant held recently.

Getting ready for a beauty pageant was a lot of work. The ladies at Dublinair had a great time from getting their nails polished

to having their hair and make-up done and getting dressed for this special day.

Dublinair had 17 contestants and they were so beautiful. The smiles on their faces said it all. Our Ms. Dublinair Queen was Dianne Hobbs. Bonnie McMullan was first place and

Brenda Lausch was second place.

We all had so much fun making this special for our beautiful ladies. A special "thank you" to everyone who took their time to make this a special event that brought many lasting smiles to our residents.

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

THURSDAY:
81° Pleasant and less humid with plenty of sun.
Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.

THURSDAY NIGHT:
47° Clear and cool.
Sunset: 8:22 p.m.

FRIDAY:
83° Pleasant with plenty of sun.
Sunrise: 6:33 a.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT:
53° Clear.
Sunset: 8:23 p.m.

Saturday 5/16 HIGH/LOW 91/63 Sunny to partly cloudy and warm. Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 8:24 p.m.	Sunday 5/17 HIGH/LOW 93/66 Partly sunny and warm. Sunrise: 6:32 a.m. Sunset: 8:24 p.m.	Monday 5/18 HIGH/LOW 93/66 Partly sunny and remaining warm. Sunrise: 6:31 a.m. Sunset: 8:25 p.m.	Tuesday 5/19 HIGH/LOW 90/63 After a cloudy start, sun returns. Sunrise: 6:31 a.m. Sunset: 8:26 p.m.	Wednesday 5/20 HIGH/LOW 92/67 Partly sunny and warm. Sunrise: 6:30 a.m. Sunset: 8:27 p.m.
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River levels...
Oconee (at Dublin) 3.70'
Ocmulgee (at Macon) 6.8'

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. Deadline for submittal is May 15, 2026.

The Dublin Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

Invitation to Bid

Dublin Housing Authority Yard/Lawn Care Maintenance Services

The Dublin Housing Authority will receive sealed bids in the Dr. James W. Strickland, Jr. Boardroom at the Dublin Housing Authority, 500 West Mary Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021 until 2:30pm, on Wednesday, May, 27, 2026, for the selection of the Lawn/Yard Maintenance labor servicing contractor for the three-year period of July, 2026 to June 2029. The following Scope of Work includes the cutting of grass, trimming of shrubbery, hedges, disposal of litter, and blowing of lawn debris as the primary responsibilities of the successful lowest and responsible bidder. A detailed list of DHA properties may be obtained by contacting the Administrative Offices at Dublin Housing Authority, 500 W. Mary Street, Dublin, GA or by calling 478-272-2450.

A formal work- through of properties included in the service contract will be conducted on Thursday May 21, 2026, beginning at 9:30am beginning at the DHA Administrative Office.

Kemp signs law increasing tax credits for private school scholarships

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — More taxpayers will be able to contribute to a private school scholarship fund while re-

ceiving a state tax credit for the full amount after Gov. Brian Kemp signed House Bill 328 Monday.

The measure increases the aggregate cap on tax-credited contributions to organizations that distribute scholarships to attend private K-12 schools or to pay for homeschool costs.

The annual cap was \$120 million. It rises to \$150 million.

Kemp signed the measure at the Capitol along with other tax measures Monday.

HB 328 also relaxes requirements for to obtain the scholarships, which are generally available only to those who attend a low-performing public school.

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HB 328 also relaxes requirements for to obtain the scholarships, which are generally available only to those who attend a low-performing public school.

Now, students from military families and those with intellectual or developmental disabilities can obtain a scholarship without enrolling in a low-performing public school.

Classifieds

Yard/Estate Sales

Yardsale: 203 Fox Ridge Drive Dublin. Off Claxton Dairy Road. Sat May 16th 7a-noon. Clothes, furniture, toys, home decor, shoes & much more.

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

LIVE AUCTION

197± ACRES IN LAURENS COUNTY
Offered Individually, In Combinations Or As A Whole

Property 1 - 105± Acres on Highway 80

- Located Adjacent to East Laurens High School with frontage on Highway 80.
- Laurens County Tax Parcel: 200B 007

Property 2 - 92.4± Acres on Jerry Hester Rd

- Frontage on Jerry Hester Road and McCord Road
- Laurens County Tax Parcel: 201B 012

Thursday, May 21st @ 7:00 PM

Sale Site: Oconee Fall Line Tech. College
560 Pinehill Road, Dublin, GA 31021

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BY JEFF MACNELLY

Three's a crowd in family's housing arrangement



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my husband and I bought a home together with his sister. We share the bills and chores and, for the most part, it works. We live in a nicer home than we could afford on our own.

Frequently, though, my husband and his sister have discussions and make decisions regarding the house without including me. I have complained loudly and clearly each time I've learned this has happened. I don't always find out. Usually, they'll apologize, but the behavior does not change.

We have recently experienced significant damage to the house from a bad storm. Insurance and contractors will be involved. I have already learned about decisions that were made without my input. I think this is highly disrespectful, and I'm ready to move out. I would love your advice. -- DISCOUNTED IN FLORIDA

DEAR DISCOUNTED: You need to make your husband and your sister-in-law understand that you are an equal partner in this deal. Why they think your input is of little value is anyone's guess. Whether this will require the help of a mediator or marriage counselor depends upon how cooperative they are willing to be. However, if you continue to be ignored, you may want to consult a lawyer about what your legal rights are in this situation.

your husband are grieving. Contact your veterinarian, explain your emotional state and ask for a referral to a grief support group. (Yes, they do exist.) With time, your overwhelming emotions will ease, and you will remember "the little guy" and be able to smile again.

DEAR ABBY: Because the cost of cards and postage is so high, I have started sending fancy e-cards for many occasions (except Christmas). I spend as much time selecting the right e-card as I would in a store selecting a paper card. I do send paper cards to friends and family who have expressed a preference. Are e-cards less acceptable than paper cards? -- SENDER OF GREETINGS IN OREGON

DEAR SENDER: E-cards have gained in popularity for the reasons you mentioned. I do not consider them less appropriate (or welcome) than paper cards. It's the thought that counts. Readers, would you like to weigh in on this? I am interested in your opinion.

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 or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Thursday, May 14, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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SLIM EXTRA CHANCE

Fast-West vulnerable, North deals

South hand. Why give up on it?

NORTH
 ♠ 8 4
 ♥ 10 6
 ♦ A 10 8 7 6
 ♣ 10 8 5 2

WEST
 ♠ 10 9 7
 ♥ K 9 8 2
 ♦ Q 2
 ♣ K Q J 7

EAST
 ♠ 5
 ♥ J 7 5 4
 ♦ K J 9 5
 ♣ A 9 6 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A K Q J 6 3 2
 ♥ A Q 3
 ♦ 4 3
 ♣ 4

The king of clubs held the first trick and West shifted smartly to the 10 of spades. He was trying to prevent a possible heart ruff in dummy. That was good defense. It looked to South as if his only chance was to draw the trumps and rely on the heart finesse for his contract. He gave it a bit more thought and saw a tiny extra chance. Instead of drawing any more trumps, he led a low heart toward dummy's 10. What could the defense do? West could rise with his king and lead another trump, but the queen of hearts would be declarer's tenth trick. Should East win with the jack, he would not be able to lead another trump and South would be able to ruff a heart in dummy for his tenth trick. If a defender was able to win the jack of hearts and lead another trump, South would have lost nothing. He would still be able to try the heart finesse for his contract. Nice play!

The bidding:
 NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
 Pass Pass 4♠ All pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

South opened four spades because his partner was a passed hand. He gave up on any slam chances and tried to make life difficult for his opponents. Most experts, we believe, would not agree. There are many passed hands that would provide good play for slam opposite this

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Social sensitivity
 - 5 German artist Albrecht
 - 10 Do as you're told
 - 14 Longing feeling
 - 15 "Fingers crossed!": 2 wds.
 - 16 Golf target
 - 17 Eating plan
 - 18 Not liquid or fluid
 - 19 Gentle throw
 - 20 High-cocoa-content treat: 2 wds.
 - 23 Chart shape
 - 24 British grandma
 - 25 Low voices
 - 28 Foretells
 - 33 Noah's boat
 - 34 Outdoor dining area
 - 36 Upper limb
 - 37 Actress Mowry
 - 38 Shoulder blade
 - 41 Architect I.M. _____
 - 42 Beanie or bowler
 - 43 _____ Cottontail
 - 44 Animal in the family
 - 45 Raises
 - 49 "Take your time": 2 wds.
 - 51 Climbing plant
 - 52 Apple desktop
 - 53 Extinction
 - 60 Singer Braxton
 - 61 "Send me!": 2 wds.
 - 62 Eyelash treatment
 - 64 Voice lower than soprano
 - 65 "Swoosh" sneakers
 - 66 Prefix with "scope"
 - 67 Element #10
 - 68 Crystal-lined rock
 - 69 Medicinal amount
- DOWN**
- 1 Wee bit
 - 2 Corrosive chemical
 - 3 Penny-pincher
 - 4 Video game with blocks
 - 5 The "D" in CD
 - 6 "We're in trouble"
 - 7 Caramel candy brand
 - 8 Big-budget film
 - 9 Made over
 - 10 Shohei of baseball
 - 11 Hard kick
 - 12 If not
 - 13 "Sure thing!"
 - 21 Retains
 - 22 Young boy
 - 25 Wash up after a workout
 - 26 Sans-serif font
 - 27 Biological pouch
 - 28 Church organ parts
 - 29 Disorderly retreat
 - 30 Starbucks order
 - 31 Ornament holders
 - 32 Economist Adam
 - 35 Audiocassette
 - 39 Former "DWTS" judge Goodman
 - 40 Pleasant smell
 - 46 Eyesight
 - 47 Director DuVernay
 - 48 Using a keyboard
 - 50 Shouted angrily
 - 53 Mete (out)
 - 54 Liking a lot
 - 55 Dancer's knee bend
 - 56 Nevada city
 - 57 Matured
 - 58 Went up
 - 59 Finishes up
 - 60 Light brown
 - 63 Sock tip

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

Created by Stella Zawistowski 5/13/26

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER

** Due to an error, the incorrect Daily Commuter Puzzle ran in the Tuesday, May 12, 2026 edition. We apologize for the inconvenience. **

GHSOCCER PLAYOFFS

Raiders respond, but can't recover from rough start against East Hall

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

There was a lot over the course of Friday's state semifinal that didn't go its way, but West Laurens wasn't at any point satisfied with simply conceding that this wasn't its night.

East Hall, when openings presented, capitalized to take a lead as big as three goals by the midpoint of the first half, where a sudden slide had the Raiders in danger of entering a tailspin.

Instead, they battled to twice narrow the lead to one, and get back in the match.

Despite not ultimately scoring an extra goal needed to tie things up, West Laurens forced the Vikings to work to put the victory away. And they'd finally seal the deal with two unanswered in the last eight minutes to win 6-3 and advance.

"That's what we've always done is fight, and we proved to ourselves that we can do it," said Raiders head coach Nate Smith.

East Hall and Savannah's Islands, which squeaked out a 1-0 result over Jefferson Friday, were set go at it Tuesday afternoon at Duluth High School in the AAA state title game.

West Laurens (21-2, 13-1 region 4-AAA) finishes this historic year as close as it's ever been to getting there. But unlike the typical season-ending loss, usually accompanied by some harsh truths about what still separates you and that ultimate goal, this one left the Raiders with a distinct sense of belonging among the four remaining teams at this final stage of the playoffs after their ahead-of-schedule arrival as a state title contender.

"Every year's different," Smith said. "The thing about this one is we just didn't know. We had no idea. We'd been bounced out of the first round for the last couple of years. I told the boys, at this point we're playing with house money, so let's just go get it. Let's not let anybody take it away from us. And I didn't feel like it was taken. It was a little unfortunate there on the scoreboard, but it didn't feel like a 6-3 loss."

The match got higher scoring than any either team has experienced so far in postseason play, and East Hall (13-8, 4-1 region 8-AAA) the entire season,

with a combined seven goals between itself and Monroe Area in late March the most it had previously seen scored in one night.

The Vikings knocked in the first three and last two out of nine that were traded between the squads in a few wild momentum swings both would likely consider to be well outside the norm.

East's early barrage of goals, all in corner-kick situations, fit within a 10-minute span starting with a header by Jair Aldaco on the end of a volleyball point with a little less than 12 minutes gone. Joshua Zavala connected on another six minutes later, and Aldaco kicked in a third-unanswered with 18 to go in the half.

All three opportunities, Smith said, were the result of breakdowns you rarely see once in a game from a West Laurens back line that's been as solid as any at locating the ball and heading it away on set pieces. Having three in such a short period of a state semifinal match was especially costly.

"Maybe we were kind of a little too cautious in the first half, and that led to really some really uncharacteristic kind of goals from them, just some unfortunate mistakes in the back which we haven't done in a long time, or maybe at all this season," he said. "It's like these mistakes just happened at the wrong time in a game where it's the playoffs and they're going to put them away."

Hall's steady control of possession, via skilled dribblers at every position who were able to back the ball out and remove it from pressure with some seamless movement behind midfield, added some extra frustration for the Raiders as they tried to devise any method of reprisal with an overall inability to get much organized going the opposite direction, save for a few bustling attacks that were few and far between.

But they finally made the best of a chance, and struck just as suddenly to flip the match on its head after forcing the ball to the other end, and making it stick for a series of set pieces that got the Vikings into a defensive mode for the first time.

East Hall cleared the first few in a sequence of Judd Walker throw-ins directly out of bounds before the senior delivered a low-tra-



JUST OVER THE LINE: An East Hall defender makes a desperate play on a threatening ball that just snuck inside the frame of the goal off the head of Dalton Oxford to get the Raiders on the scoreboard/CLAY REYNOLDS

jectory ball that Dalton Oxford would head along from the top left corner of the box. The low burner cut a path through traffic and got to the back post before any Vikings could swing around to make a play on it.

One defender with a chance circled back and extended a leg into the goal in an unsuccessful effort to dig it out, but he wasn't in time to prevent the ball from breaking the plane, and West Laurens was on the board with seven minutes left in the half.

The Raiders went right back to the well not a minute later, as a perfectly placed ball from the left corner found Walker on a back-side header to quickly make it 3-2.

Just like that, West Laurens was back in it.

But in the same blink of an eye, East Hall had answered back on a goal by Wilder Velasquez with about 4:31 left to the half to put momentum back on the side of the visitors.

"It was a little unfortunate timing of their fourth goal," Smith said. "Instead of going into the locker room down 3-2, 4-2's kind of a stinger."

West Laurens rallied again out of halftime, scoring within 15 minutes as Graham Rozar dribbled one deep toward the end line in the right corner, and succeeded in slipping a relay pass toward Oxford in the middle, where West Lau-



BACK WITHIN ONE: Judd Walker (22, above), Dalton Oxford and Jack Yearwood (right) celebrate after their separate goals, late in the first half and early in the second, cut East Hall's lead down to just a goal/CLAY REYNOLDS

rens had East Hall outnumbered around the box.

Keeper Christian Velasquez cut off his initial look, but the ball ricocheted left where a sliding Yearwood was able to cram it in. And the 4-3 deficit was once again doable with a full 27 minutes left to go.

"We came out swinging in the second half," Smith said. "We weren't going to adjust anything, we were just going to go."

Several openings followed that threatened to even the score, but shots that either missed or wound up in the keeper's hands had the Raiders down to their last few chances as the clock got inside 10 minutes.

While some loose ends may have helped leave the door ajar for the Vikings' first four goals, their fifth was one you could only tip your hat to as a dribbling forward worked his way into position deep on the left

wing, and crossed one perfectly for the header of Domingo Mojica that bounced into the right side of the net.

West Laurens' last opportunity to narrow it, on a Yearwood free kick with two to go, missed left just before East Hall drove home one more dagger on a Wilder Velasquez free kick with seconds remaining.

"Brick-by-brick," the Raiders' season-long motto, applies as much to their one-game-at-a-time approach to 2026 as it does to the steady progress they've made as a program over about a decade's time with teams that raise the bar just a bit more every few years.

The latest leap forward Smith credits to the standard set by a senior class that "grinded for five years" and helped push this team to its potential.

"We always start off our offseason the year before telling the seniors it's all

PREP SCHEDULE

SOCCER
GIAA Quarterfinals
Thursday
Heritage (Newnan) at
Trinity (girls)/6 p.m.

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

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

Friday
Southland at Trinity
(game 3, if necessary)
/1 p.m.

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

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about you," he said. "The coaching staff can lead everybody to water, but they pay attention to what the seniors do. And if the seniors are bought in, then the program can continue to move forward. And they've been bought in. There's nothing more than they can do."

The promising core of underclassmen that remains will now set sights on doing what's needed to go a step further, although there admittedly aren't too many left to close the rest of a continually-shrinking gap between West Laurens and a state championship.

The Raiders' work toward building back will begin anew this summer.

"Now we go straight into the offseason," Smith said. "The boys get a few weeks off, maybe a month off, and then we're plugging away."

GIAA SOCCER PLAYOFFS

Crusaders close strong, flip early deficit to defeat FPCA

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

The timing of Saturday's game-tying goal, with only about 12 minutes to spare, made things a little too close for comfort as Trinity fought off a third-straight frightening challenge from Hinesville's FPCA in the first round of the GIAA AA soccer playoffs at Cleve Warnock Field.

But the Crusader boys, same as in two regular-season meetings in which they won by last-minute goals, rallied to defeat the notoriously tough-to-put-away Highlanders 3-2 in a single overtime to advance to the state quarterfinals.

"It was a dogfight, and we knew it was going to be a dogfight," said acting Trinity head coach Camden Cannon, filling in for an under-the-weather Noah Hendrix. "Beating a team three times, that's a tough thing to do. The guys in the second half, in overtime, they wanted it, and they wanted it more."

Though Trinity, once again, went pretty much step-for-step with its evenly-matched rival, little was coming together on the Cru-



THE EQUALIZER: Brooks Barrs reacts after knocking in the game-tying goal with 12 minutes to go in regulation/CLAY REYNOLDS

saders' end of the field early or late in the evening.

FPCA could have said the same, with the exception of a flash counterattack that led to its goal for the first lead only 14 minutes into the match, as a ball through the middle got moving a little quicker than Trinity defenders

could react after a sudden change of possession just over midfield.

An impromptu flick pass found Joshua Okoro with a step on his defender, whose leaping effort to head the ball away failed as the junior bumped the ball in.

The Crusaders quickly recovered from the setback, but needed

until late in the second half to find the answer that they felt was right there all along.

"We just started hammering it through the midfield," Cannon said. "On our right side, we found some weak spots on them, and we were just hitting them."

The long-awaited equalizer followed one of their many missed opportunities in the second half, and a turn of momentum coinciding with a penalty kick for FPCA's Rory Miles that had potential to shut the door on their comeback chances then and there.

But keeper Hudson Shirley read the ball perfectly, and didn't have to move far to make a kneeling save that turned out to be a huge boost for his team.

"That was probably the biggest spark of the game right there," Cannon said. "That was huge."

From there the Crusaders, with a reinvigorated crowd at their back, rallied to quickly punch one in off a corner kick, as an extra bounce kept the ball in play near the left post for Brooks Barrs, who finished off the opportunity and tied things up with 12 minutes to

go. Nothing else unfolded in regulation, but a moment for Trinity to catch its breath before the start of overtime was enough to get that wave of momentum rolling anew.

The Crusaders pushed it hard downfield on a couple of attacks, and closed in for goals by Josh Mosley, from the left two and a half minutes in, then Jagger George from the right at the 5-minute mark, to grab a firm upper hand.

Miles punched one home for the Highlanders with 1:47 left in the overtime period to keep it tight, but no other last-minute openings emerged. A bang-bang whistle with half a second remaining that could have set them up with a free kick instead went Trinity's direction, and time expired as soon as the ball reentered play.

Hendrix, who was following the match from home, still got to deliver the team some postgame words via phone call, as well as an assurance that he'd be back in time for practice early this week, as the Crusaders start their prep for a state quarterfinal match Saturday at No. 2 seed Augusta Prep.

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
Continued from page 1

are?" Glover asked.
Member Peggy Johnson said the board deserved more information on costs and savings from the proposed magnet school before a vote was called. She also took offense to some saying out-of-district students brought in by the Irish Gifted Academy "saved the school system" during its earlier financial troubles.

"How about the students who stayed? The students that remained saved the school system," Johnson said.

Community members have organized their opposition into an effort resident Peter Lipski called "Dublin United."

"What you did was wrong. ... We're uniting against the four of you that voted yes," Lipski said to Lanier, chairwoman Amanda



Dublin resident Jerry Davis addresses members of the Dublin City Board of Education during the board's meeting Monday night in the Dublin High auditorium/RODNEY MANLEY

Smith and board members John Bell and Jeff Davis.

"The three that voted no, we're your fourth vote out here," Lipski said, turning toward the crowd of about three dozen people in the

Dublin High auditorium. "We're standing behind you. We're not going anywhere."

Former board member Regina McRae, who lost a bid for re-election last fall, was among the residents who asked that the Moore Street School decision be reconsidered. She requested that any "specific written recommendations" from the state on deficit reductions, along attached cost savings, be made public. The Moore Street move and magnet school were listed on the April 27 agenda as state recommendations.

"How can you ensure that the other schools will not suffer as a result of the district creating a new school? At what point do you focus on the serious concerns at other schools?" McRae asked.

"There is a feeling in the community that the board is simply managing the demise of the school system."

HARRISON
Continued from page 1

the man.
"That was senseless," Kirk Dinkheller said after hearing what happened to Dylan. "Just like what happened to Kyle."

Dinkheller's son, Kyle, a Laurens County sheriff's deputy, was killed during a traffic stop in 1998. His killer, Andrew Brannon, was put to death in January 2015.

"(Brannon) was going to kill someone that day. It just happened to be Kyle because (Brannon) was tired of taking orders. The last thing on (Dylan's) mind is that somebody is going to ambush him when he walked out of the police department."

Ferguson was taken into custody without incident a few days later by the state of Georgia SWAT Team and the U.S. Marshals Service Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force during a search warrant at his house in Alamo. When the arrest was made, officers used Dylan's handcuffs on Ferguson.

Those handcuffs are currently in the Harrisons' house.

Waiting for the trial

This October will be five years since that tragic night. Ferguson pleaded not guilty to murder, aggravated stalking,

bias-motivated intimidation of a first responder and criminal damage to property.

He is awaiting trial. Harrison said there have been four hearings, and at the previous hearing the judge said that enough was enough.

"He wanted this to move on, but that has been almost a year ago now," Harrison said. "It's been tough. This is a death penalty case, and I was told those take longer. I was asking why is this dragging? It's frustrating."

Dinkheller agreed.
"A law enforcement officer was killed, that should take priority over other cases," he said.

Harrison has stayed in touch with Oconee Judicial Circuit District Attorney Tim Vaughn and his staff about his son's case. He called them a month ago wanting to know its status.

Vaughn's office just tried a death penalty case against Roy-heem Deeds, who was accused of shooting and killing Eastman police officer Tim Smith on Aug. 13, 2016. That case ended in a mistrial.

Harrison understands that Smith's family wants justice. His family does, too.

"I hate to be this way," Harrison said. "I know (the DA's office) is trying to do the best they can, especially with Smith and

his family in Eastman."

Dylan was a lot like Kyle

While listening to Dinkheller talk about Kyle, Harrison could not help but shake his head. Though they did similar things in their lives, they never knew each other.

"It's funny hearing Kirk (Dinkheller) talk about Kyle because our two boys were basically the same," Harrison said. "They were young and had just started their careers. Dylan grew up here in Dudley. He loved hunting and fishing, and he loved people. He cared about people and helping people."

Dylan played football at West Laurens High School, where he met Heather. Harrison remembered when Dylan and Heather started dating. She would come over to their house where the family got to know her better. He recalled Dylan telling him Heather was the girl he wanted to marry.

"She did the same things he liked," Harrison said.

Dylan volunteered as a firefighter. He wanted to help people. While in high school, he went through a training course to become a volunteer firefighter. He worked with the station at Dudley and, really, wherever a station needed help.

"When Dylan was here we had a scanner," Harrison said. "We would be sitting around and we would hear him flying down the steps because he heard something on the scanner, and out the door he would go. I could remember other times when Kathy and I were getting ready to go to bed and he would let us know that there was going to be some bad weather and he planned to stay up and go out if somebody needed help. That is who he was. He was just a good kid."

Dylan worked with a fire department in Savannah for about a year. He decided to make a change in vocation, and some of his other friends were already in law enforcement. He returned and went through mandate.

"When he graduated from mandate we all went to the ceremony," Harrison said.

One of the leaders in the ceremony said that a number of those graduating from that class would not live "to see an old age."

"It struck me then, and now I think about it often," Harrison said. "Even while he was in law enforcement, you are always scared and always concerned. This is a crazy world that we live in."

CELLPHONE BAN
Continued from page 1

The media can request photographing, recording or broadcasting proceedings as governed by applicable Georgia law and court rules. The requests must be submitted in advance to the presiding judge. The court will approve or deny these requests, impose limitations or conditions on coverage and revoke previous granted permission at any time.

Jurors and witnesses will not be able to bring cellphones or other electronic devices into the courtrooms unless authorized by the court. Failure to comply may result in confiscation of the device, removal from jury service or contempt proceedings.

For those who try to sneak a cell phone or electronic device inside one of the four courtrooms, they may face the following results:

- Denial of entry to the courtroom or courthouse
- Removal from the courtroom
- Confiscation of the device for the duration of proceedings
- Revocation of permission to possess a device
- Contempt proceedings or other sanctions as deemed appropriate.

"Judge Green made an announcement in his court that the phone would be confiscated and they would be looking at contempt," Clements said. "The order also gives us the authority to kick people out of the courtroom and courthouse."



May 16, 2026
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