

# The Courier Herald

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

## Chain re-elected to County Commission

### Taylor wins seat on Dudley City Council

By **RODNEY MANLEY**  
Staff Reporter

Incumbent Brenda Chain defeated challenger Carolyn McCune in Tuesday's Democratic primary to win a third term on the Laurens County Board of Commissioners.

Chain faces no Republican opposition in November. On Tuesday, she garnered 490 votes – or 55 percent – to McCune's 403.

"I always knew I was the better candidate because of my experience," Chain said Tuesday night as votes were tallied at the county courthouse annex. "I'm glad the people of District 1 saw the job I'm doing as a job well done."

Fellow Commissioners Jimmy Rogers and Kevin Tanner, who both ran unop-

posed, joined her on election night as results came in. She said she looks forward to "finishing all the work I want to do in Laurens County."

In Dudley, Jenny Taylor won an at-large seat on Dudley City Council. Taylor claimed 104 votes (68 percent) to Jay Powell's 48 (32 percent).

"I am delighted and humbled that the people of Dudley chose me to represent them," Taylor said. "Thank you to all those who supported me. I am looking forward to serving this community that I love so dearly."

Senior reporter *Payton Towns III* contributed to this article.



Brenda Chain discusses early election returns with County Administrator Bryan Rogers Tuesday night at the courthouse annex/PAYTON TOWNS III



State Rep. Matt Hatchett talks to a supporter on the phone as he waits for votes to be counted Tuesday/PAYTON TOWNS III

## Hatchett wins primary in landslide

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**  
Senior Reporter

State Rep. Matt Hatchett easily won his primary with 90 percent of the vote during Tuesday's election.

Hatchett, incumbent for Georgia House District 155, received 4,969 votes (91 percent) while his opponent, Cayce Cook received 497 (9 percent). In Johnson County, Hatchett picked up 1,087 (90 percent) to 116 (10 percent) for Cook. Overall, Hatchett received 6,056 votes to Cook's 613.

"The support has been overwhelming," Hatchett said. "It has been 12 years

since I've had opposition. It has been fun getting out there and seeing more of the people. It's been nice to get out and it has felt good to listen to people and hear how much they support me. Hopefully, people have recognized that I will work, and I do take it seriously."

Hatchett will face challenger Joe Powers, who ran unopposed in the Democrat primary. Powers received 2,858 in Laurens County and picked up 365 in Johnson County for a grand total of 3,223.

Overall, 5,881 cast a ballot on election day for 16.72 percent, while 3,145 (9.42

percent) took advantage of advance voting and 255 (0.76 percent) were absentee by mail. Out of 33,379 registered voters in Laurens County, only 8,981 (26.91 percent) cast votes.

For U.S. Senate, Republican Mike Collins won Laurens County with 2,706 votes. Earl L. "Buddy" Carter followed with 1,542 and Derek Dooley finished with 994. Overall, Collins had the most votes and will face Dooley in a runoff. The winner of the June 16 runoff will face Democrat incumbent Jon Ossoff in November. In Laurens County, Ossoff picked up 1,686 votes.

In the Republican race for Georgia Governor, Burt Jones received 2,356 votes in Laurens County and was followed by Rick Jackson who picked up 1,895. The two will face off in a runoff in June. The winner will face Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms who easily won over six challengers. Bottoms received 1,967 votes in Laurens County.

John F. Kennedy was first in Laurens County for Lt. Governor, as the Republican picked up 1,921. Greg Dolezal was second with

**ELECTION**  
Continued on page 8

## Stolen car from East Dublin found on fire near Dublin's water plant

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**  
Senior Reporter

A vehicle that was stolen from East Dublin was found on fire near the city of Dublin's water plant early Tuesday morning.

Employees at the water

plant, which is right next to "Cross the Creek Cemetery" at 106 Parker Dairy Road, could see flames and heard what they thought were explosions around 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, said Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler.

"Not knowing exactly what it was, 911 dispatched us for a possible structure fire that could be seen from the water plant," Cutler said.

Dublin police officers responded quickly and notified firefighters that it was a car fire.

"All of the doors and the trunk were opened and no one was around the vehicle," Cutler said. "We got the fire put out. Thankfully, we have had some rain or we would have had a wild-fire because (the car) was

parked on the grass and not on the paved surface. There were some houses very close to where this happened. Some of the first 911 calls were potential shots fired. That was most likely the tires exploding and other parts from the car. It was more likely results from the fire that they heard."

Nobody was found in the car.

"That is always a concern," Cutler said. "We began investigating. At some point during the investigation, East Dublin police received a report that a vehicle had been stolen."

East Dublin Police Chief Bill Luecke confirmed that a woman's vehicle was stolen a few hours before the re-



Local officials are looking for those responsible for stealing a car in East Dublin and setting it on fire in Dublin near the city's water plant/SPECIAL PHOTO

**BURNING CAR**  
Continued on page 8

## Nursing home staff praised for quick actions in fire

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**  
Senior Reporter

The Dublin Fire chief is praising the staff at Dublin Trails for their quick actions in containing a fire that started in the restroom between two rooms Tuesday morning.

While working on a car fire investigation on Parker Dairy Road, the DFD received a call about a fire at the Dublin Trails nursing home around 7 a.m. on May 19.

"The staff called in and said the building was on fire and there were multiple subjects still in the building," said Chief Matthew Cutler. "The fire was in a shared bathroom between two of the rooms in the back hall of the nursing home."

The ventilation fan caught fire and dropped into the bathroom. The nurses discovered the fire and used a fire extinguisher to contain the fire until officials arrived, Cutler said.

"We put it out and ventilated the building," he said. "(The staff) did an excellent job on realizing there was a fire and grabbed fire extinguishers. They had training on how to use them and they did everything right. They were able to evacuate the residents outside or into a safe place. The other halls were not affected, so they were able to relocate them to a different hall."

No one was injured. EMS was on scene, and they evaluated anyone who was close to the flames.

They did not have to transport anyone for more care, Cutler said.

"It was important for (the staff) to have this type of training," he said about the use of the fire extinguishers. "Especially in a facility like a nursing home where many of the residents need help to walk or cannot walk at all. We're going to get there as fast as we can, but they were able to knock the fire down and get people out of harms way. They did an excellent job."

There was some fire damage and Cutler said the area needed some "deep cleaning" before returning the residents to that portion of the building.



Damage to the ceiling in a restroom at Dublin Trails/SPECIAL PHOTO

**FIRE**  
Continued on page 8

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**OBITUARIES**



**Leona B. Hurst**

Leona B. Hurst passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 92 years old.

Leona was born on Nov. 10, 1933, in Newberry, Florida to the late David Irvin and Mary Pearl Bass. She graduated from Alachua County High School. She devoted her life loving her family, serving her community, and living out her faith.

In 1951, Leona married the love of her life, David William Hurst. She was the wife of a military man, and the couple traveled throughout the US before eventually landing in Eastman, Georgia in the 1950s. They lived in Eastman for around 30 years before moving to Byron, Georgia in 1988. Leona moved to Dublin in 2016.

Leona was the Executive Director of the Housing Authority in Eastman and surrounding towns.

She loved fishing, scrap booking, crafting and gardening. Above all, Leona loved spending time with family. She was also a devoted member of Bellevue Church of Christ in Dublin.

In addition to her parents, Leona was preceded in death by her husband, David William Hurst, her brother, Irvin Bass, and her son-in-law Jack Wahl.

Her memory will forever be treasured by her children, Connie Wahl of Fountain Inn, S.C., Monty Hurst (Celeste) of Reynolds, GA., Randy Hurst (Rhonda) of Perry, GA., and Lynne Brown (Jeff) of Dublin, GA.; her grandchildren, Joe Beck (Jennifer), Scott Beck, Kimberly Knuchel (Scott), Eli Hurst (Kelsey), Ethan Dennis (Keisha), Dakota Dennis, Peyton Dennis (Jon), and Maranda Sauls (Shane); and her sisters Catherine Whatley and Jean Branam; as well as seventeen great grandchildren, eight great great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family may be contacted at the home of Lynne and Jeff Brown in Dublin, Ga.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at McCullough Funeral Home. Immediately following the visitation, a funeral service was held at 11 a.m. in the chapel of McCullough Funeral Home. Afterward, Leona will be laid to rest in Glen Haven Memorial Gardens in Macon, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully suggests memorial donations be given in memory of Leona B. Hurst to Bellevue Rd. Church of Christ at 2214 Bellevue Rd., Dublin, GA 31021.

**BIRTHDAYS**

May 22  
*Dorothy Wilbur*

For friends unable to attend at this time, the service will be streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/@McCulloughFuneralHome> via the McCullough Funeral Home's YouTube page.

McCullough Funeral Home and Crematory has the privilege of being entrusted with these arrangements.



**Jennie Carole Hogan Edenfield**

Jennie Carole Hogan Edenfield, 78, of Dublin, Ga., passed away just before midnight on the night of May 1, 2026. Our beloved Mom, Nana, Ms. Carole was loved by everyone who met her; she radiated kindness and love.

Born to George Griffin Hogan and Mildred Winnelle Wilkinson Hogan on July 14, 1947, in Dexter, Ga., she spent most of her life as a proud resident of Laurens County. She was an outstanding student, pianist, and seamstress in her teenage years at Dexter High School. Carole attended Candler Nursing School in Savannah, Ga., and upon returning to Dublin, worked for 30 years as a Registered Nurse at the Carl Vinson Veterans Administration Medical Center. Her co-workers praised her knowledge, skills, and compassion. Anyone who knew Carole knew that she had too much energy and love to retire, which led to a short time working at Fairview Park Hospital and a much longer position as a nurse with ABC Women's Clinic.

Carole was born to a love of service. In addition to working as a nurse, she was an active member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Although raised Baptist, Carole converted to Catholicism in the late 1970s and threw herself into the faith. She was a long-time member of the various choirs, a frequent lector, and a member and leader of the altar guild.

Being a nurse was important to Carole but the most important titles to her were Mom and Nana. Carole sacrificed to provide a full and happy upbringing for her two children, even forcing them to endure long days of sight-seeing and amusement park experiences to help them squeeze the most out of each day. To her grandchildren, Nana was a constant presence, attending T-ball, lacrosse, band concerts and football games. Her grandsons were her pride and joy.

Carole was preceded in death by her parents and her younger brother, Don. She is survived by her son George David Jr. (Cynthia) of Augusta, Ga.; her daughter Kelly Winnelle of Athens, Ga.; her grandsons Andrew David (Kaylee), Logan Michael (Camille) and Grayson Patrick of Augusta, Ga., and Jordan Christopher (Hannah) of Fort Stewart, Ga.;

her brother George Griffin Hogan Jr. of Dexter, Ga.; nephews George Griffin (Justine) Hogan III, and family of Savannah, Ga., and Brian Edmund (Simpson) Hogan and family of Dallas, Texas. Carole is also survived by the members of her vibrant Immaculate Conception Church family, the Tuesday Tilers MahJongg ladies, and countless other extended family and friends.

Carole loved traveling and amusement parks, loved the thrill of the fast roller coasters and the steep drops. She loved God, her family and her countless friends. To her last moments, strangers would comment on how sweet Carole was, and we knew--we lived it everyday. We will miss our Mom, Nana, friend more than we can even fathom but we know that she is at peace in our Father's loving embrace.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 22, 2026, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home.

A funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Dublin, Ga.

In lieu of flowers, Carole has asked that donations be made to ABC Women's Clinic or to one of the many local charities (e.g., Widow's Oil, Kid's Cup, Wings).

Please visit [www.townsendfuneralhome.com](http://www.townsendfuneralhome.com) to sign the online memorial registry.

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



**Larry Gardner**

Funeral services for Mr. Larry Gardner, Navy Veteran, will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026 in his hometown of Fitzgerald, Ga.

Mr. Gardner was born on June 14, 1950. He took his wings and transitioned from this earth on May 14, 2026.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Velteen Gardner; daughter, Lavetra Gardner; son, Courtney Gardner; four grandsons, Devin Dixon, Jordan Dixon, JaCorey Gardner and Jeremiah Gardner; three sisters, Faye Jones, Brenda Wright and Phyllis Crawford. He was loved by many friends.

Courtesy of Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

**James Vickers**

Mr. James Vickers of East Dublin, Georgia passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

[www.ServicesByDudley.com](http://www.ServicesByDudley.com).



**Claire Alyss Terry**

Funeral services for Ms. Claire Alyss Terry, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the Word of Harvest Church, 1609 Academy Avenue in Dublin. Interment will follow in the Mt. Tilla Baptist Church in Irwinton.

On May 7, 2026, Claire Alyss Terry, 25, peacefully transitioned from this life. Claire was born on Jan. 6, 2001, in Kansas City, Kansas, to Vanessa Storay and Lester Terry. As the youngest daughter, Claire brought joy, light and love to all who knew her. She spent much of her childhood in Dublin, Georgia, and Kansas City, Kansas, before eventually making El Paso, Texas her home, where she blossomed into the remarkable young woman so many came to know and love.

Claire attended Bassett Middle School, where she discovered her love for soccer and track. She later attended Chapin High School, where she participated in track and field, cheerleading and color guard. Her passion for color guard continued to flourish, leading her to attend the University of Texas at El Paso, where she proudly became a UTEP Diamond, serving on the official color guard team for the UTEP Marching Miners.

Dedicated to health and wellness, Claire found fulfillment in fitness and became a personal trainer. She inspired others through her belief that consistency was the key to growth and success. While pursuing her bachelor's degree in education, she also served students throughout the El Paso Independent School District as a substitute teacher.

Claire had a vibrant spirit and a love for all things beauty and fitness. She was self-taught in hair and makeup and enjoyed expressing her creativity through both. Above all, Claire deeply cherished the time she spent with her beloved fiancé and best friend, Eric Diaz, whose love brought her immense happiness and comfort.

Grounded in faith, Claire accepted Jesus Christ at a young age and carried that faith with her throughout her life.

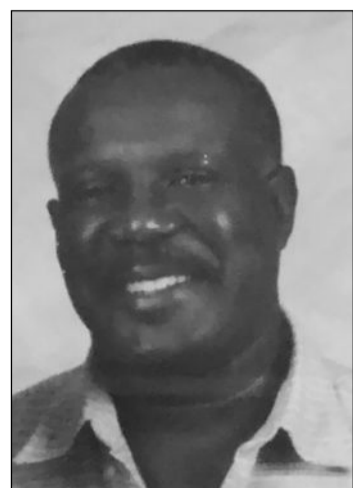
Claire was preceded in death by her grandmother, Lucy M. Terry; her great-grandfather, Columbus Holliman Sr.; her great-grandmother, Laura Mae Holliman; along with many beloved aunts, uncles and cousins.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory: her loving mother, Vanessa (Ivan) Storay of Fort Knox, Kentucky; her father, Lester (Tahjzia) Terry of Kansas

City, Kansas; her Godparents, Quentin and Michelle Holmes of Dublin, Georgia; her devoted fiancé, Eric Diaz of El Paso, Texas; her siblings, Dashon Terry and Cheyane Terry of El Paso, Texas, Lester Terry Jr. and Noah Terry of Kansas City, Kansas; her step-siblings, Cedric Storay III, Jada Storay, Nasya Storay, and Terrell Storay of Hawaii; her grandmother, Dorethea Billue of McIntyre, Georgia; her grandfather, Royce (Ludie) Smith; along with a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, loved ones and dear friends who will forever treasure her life, love and memory.

Please post your condolences online at [ServicesByDudley.com](http://ServicesByDudley.com)

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



**Shine Coney Jr.**

Funeral services for Mr. Shine Coney Jr, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Holly Springs Baptist Church, 705 Buckeye Road in East Dublin. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery in Dublin.

Mr. Shine Coney Jr. transitioned peacefully on Sunday, May 17, 2026, after an extended illness. He was born to the late Mr. Shine Coney Sr. and Mrs. Susie Wynn Coney.

Shine was educated in the Laurens County School System and was known for his hardworking spirit and kind heart. He was employed with Forstmann for many years until the company closed. Later in life, he became the proud owner and operator of Mr. C's Pine Straw, which he faithfully operated until his health declined.

He had a special love for dogs and enjoyed fast cars, hobbies that brought him much joy throughout his life. Shine will be remembered for his warm personality, strong work ethic and the many lives he touched over the years.

In addition to his parents,

he was preceded in death by his siblings: Nathaniel Coney, Marvin Coney, Robert Coney, Betty Mitchell and Ida Pearl Gillis.

He leaves to cherish his loving memories his devoted wife, Essie Walker Coney; three children: Felicia (Wesley) Ashley, Yolonder (Steven) Coney-Carter and Lance Coney; four grandchildren: Dalvin Ashley, Jalen Carter, Brianna Coney, and Lauren Coney; a devoted niece, Sarah Stanley; along with a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

Though he has departed this earthly life, the love and memories he shared will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Please post your condolences online at [ServicesByDudley.com](http://ServicesByDudley.com).

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

**Daniel "Bodie" Cummings**

Daniel "Bodie" Cummings is the son of the late Griner Cummings and the late Dena Mae Pryor Cummings. He entered into eternal rest on Sunday, May 10, 2026. Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. until celebration of life service at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 23 at Central Union Baptist Church, 4401 Foote Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20019. Interment Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. Services by Henry S Washington & Sons Funeral Home.

**Janice Marie Johnson**

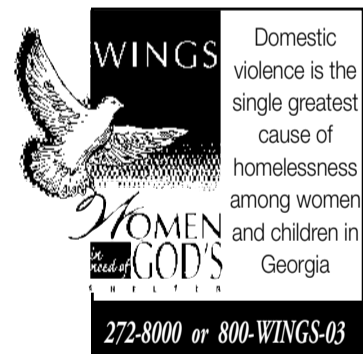
Ms. Janice Marie Johnson of Dexter, Georgia passed away Tuesday, May 29, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

[www.ServicesByDudley.com](http://www.ServicesByDudley.com).

**Constance Howard**

Mrs. Constance Howard of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

[www.ServicesByDudley.com](http://www.ServicesByDudley.com).



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**The Courier Herald**

will closed on  
**Monday, May 25th,**  
in observance of  
**MEMORIAL DAY.**

Normal business hours will  
resume Tuesday, May 26th,  
at 8:00 a.m.

**PLEASE NOTE YOU WILL RECEIVE  
A COMBINATION EDITION FOR  
SATURDAY, MAY 23 AND  
TUESDAY MAY 26.**

**The City of Dublin will be closed  
on Monday, May 25th, 2026,  
to observe Memorial Day.**

Garbage routes as follows:  
Tuesday, May 26th, 2026, will be Monday  
and Tuesday route garbage customers.  
All other days will stay the same.  
Friday, May 29th, 2026, will be recycle day  
for Wednesday and Thursday route  
customers.

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# The blood of heroes never dies

With another Memorial Day upon us, let us take a brief moment and salute those men from our county who have given their lives in the service of the United States of America.

These are the men who have given the last true measure of devotion so that we may be free.

Take a few minutes and read the 200 plus names and say a prayer in their memory. I pray that this list shall never be added to, except through the discovery of names from distant wars which are now only known to God.

Note: This list contains 40 or more men whose names were not included on the local monuments. Their names come from newspaper sources around the country.

WAR OF 1812 - William Kemp and John Perry.

WORLD WAR I - Tom Watson Bryant, Sammie Burke, David Burton Camp, Freeman Coley, Ashley Collins, William Coney, Alvin T. Coxwell, Samuel Evans, James W. Flanders, Clarence David Fordham, Oscar Fulwood, John W. Green, James C. Hall, Archie Hinson, Syril P. Hodges, Delmar M. Howard, Ben F. Howell, Wallace C. Huffman, Jesse Kelley, Frazier Linder, Dewitt Lindsay, Ed McLendon, Walter E. Martin, James Mason, George McLoud, Jessie Mercer, Rayfield Meacham, George C. Mitchell, Robbie New, Cecil Preston Perry, Wilbur Pope, John H. Sanders, Roger O. Sellers, John Stevens, Ed Stuckey, Louis M. Thompson, Edgar Towns, Fleming du Bignon Vaughn, Ed Washington, George Windham, James A. Williams, Henry K. Womack, Wayman Woodard and McKinley Yopp.

WORLD WAR II -John W. Adams, Robert T. Adams, Hardy B. Alligood, Emmett Asbell, Connie Ashle Early S. Allen, George L. Attaway, Walter Berry, James Bradley, Leon F. Brannon, Fisher Brazeal, Linton T. (Leon)

ard) Bostwick, Joseph J. Bracewell, William T. Bracewell, James Brown, y, Jack Baggett, Charles E. Barron, Clinton H. Barron, Robert B. Bidgood, Cary H. Braddy, Palmer Lee Braddy, Eldridge D. Branch, Howard W. Brantley, Bobbie E. Brown, Walter C. Browning, Gurvica A. Clark, James Coleman, Jerome W. Collins, Robert A. Colter, Hilton F. Culpepper, John C. Culpepper, John M. Dalton, Blanton T. Daniel, David G. Daniels Jr., James B. Davis, John R. Deamer, Walter B. Dixon, Capt. Thomas Eidson, Daniel C. Fordham, Thurman Foskey, James E. Fountain, Lester Graham, Robert C. Graves, Horace J. Green, Joe R. Griener, Joseph C. Hall, Talman B. Hanley, Robert C. Harden, Freeman L. Harrison, Carice L. Harvey, E. Clay Hawkins, Hansford D. Heath, Edmond S. Hobbs, John C. Huffman, Willie T. Holmes, John W. Holt, Nathaniel Hooks, Billy Y. Horton, Robert L. Horton, James B. Hutchinson, Quien W. Johnson, Henry Will Jones, Wexell Jordan Jr., Joel L. Keen, William A. Kelley, Albert H. Knight, Peter Fred Larsen, Robert M. Leach, Robert E. Lee, Otis C. Leverette, Kirby R. Lewis, Embree W. Loague, Christopher C. Lowery, W. Carson McMullen, Chester C. Miller, Thomas L. Miller, Hugh M. Moore, Clem Moye, Carlton L. Mullis, Albert F. Nobles, Harris O'Dell, Blakley A. Parrott, Jr., Martin H. Patisaul, J. Felton Perry, L. Cleveland Pope, Julian Rawls, Vernice Ricks, Randall Robertson, Henry V. Rogers, Jonnie F. Rowland, Roy C. Rozier, Thomas J. Russell Jr., James Scarboro, Emory F. Scarborough, Hiram F. Scarborough, John Roy Scarborough, Roy W. Shepard, Jonnie W. Shinholster, John A. Shirley, Paul Sly, Fred L. Smith, George B. Snellgrove, J. Frank Snellgrove, John H. Spivey, Hudson L. Stanley, G. Bert Stinson, Grady N. Strickland, Charles L. Taylor, Vivian Moreland Thomas, Emil E. Tindol, Zollie L. Tindol, Willie J. Tingle, Jace M. Waites, Grady M. Walters, Cleveland A. Warren, James R. Warren, John H. Warren, Columbus Watkins, Walter P. Watson, Rodger Watts, Wil-



## PIECES OF OUR PAST

By **SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.**

liam R. Werden, Jr., Oliver W. Wester, Olson W. Wilkes, Robert E. Williams, J. Miller Windham, Luther B. Word Jr. and Frank R. Zetterower Jr..

KOREAN WAR ERA - James E. Daniel, Robert H. Grinstead, Roy T. Hughes, Albert A. Lewis, Joseph E. McCullough, T.J. McTier, Walter E. Nesmith, James C. Rix, Bobby Robinson, Ralph B. Walker, Bobby R. Wood and Lonnie G. Woodum.

VIETNAM WAR ERA - George W. Baker, Jimmy Bedgood, Tommy N. Bracewell, Billy E. Brantley, Charlie Cain, Harlow G. Clark, Jr., James E. Cook, James E. Cooper, David L. Copeland, Robert E. Davis, Jimmy Harlan Evans, Bobby L. Finney, Gerald C. Fordham, William Z. Hartley, Walter C. Hurst, Jr., James Linder, Jr., Edward B. Lindsey, J.D. Miller, Billy Mimbs, Felton Lee Mimbs, Eddie L. Smith, Bobby Stanley, Donald E. Stepp, Ralph W. Soles, James A. Starley and William C. Stinson Jr.

IRANIAN CONFLICT 1980 - Dewey Johnson.

### DID YOU KNOW ...?

## Did a popular band lose all the money they made from their best-selling album?

By **JACK BAGLEY**  
GTLN

Everybody's going ga-ga about AI (artificial intelligence) and what it can and can't do. So, on a whim, I went online and asked an AI generator to write a two-paragraph introduction for this week's column. Here it is:

"Think you know your world, your history, and the odd bits of trivia in between? Welcome to our weekly trivia column, where we dig into the delightful, the surprising, and the downright peculiar facts that make our world endlessly fascinating. Whether you're a seasoned quiz fanatic or someone who simply enjoys a good 'Huh—I never knew that,' you'll find plenty here to spark curiosity and maybe even win you a future bet or two.

"Each week, we'll serve up a mix of brain-teasers, behind-the-scenes stories, and unexpected nuggets pulled from science, culture, politics, and everyday life. Some answers may astonish you, others may make you laugh, but all are guaranteed to give you a fresh appreciation for the extraordinary hiding in the ordinary. Ready to test your knowledge? Let's dive in."

Sheesh, that's not bad. I might just find myself out of a job. Let's get into this week's silly stuff, okay? I thought you'd agree.

*Did you know ...*

... one country's snow ski resorts only operate in summer? The city of La Paz, Bolivia, has an elevation of almost 12,000 feet above sea level. Nearby ski resorts, which can be found up to 17,000 feet above sea level, can only operate during the months of November to March, which in South America is summertime. The resorts are too cold to operate during winter in South America because of their elevation. (Too cold to ski? Nonsense!)

... the oldest recipient of an Academy Award was 82 when he received it? Actor Christopher Plummer (1929-2021) received the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the 2012 movie Beginners. The oldest actress to win an Oscar was Jessica Tandy (1909-1994), who took home the award for Driving Miss Daisy in 1989, when she was 80 years old. Additional trivia note: Tandy managed to beat out another Oscar winner for the title of oldest recipient by just a few months. George Burns (1896-1996) was also 80 when he won an Oscar for The Sunshine Boys in 1975. Tandy's feat was eclipsed by that of Plummer.

... the longest average lifespan in the world can be found in a small European country? In the nation of Andorra, a tiny enclave between Spain and France, the average lifespan of the people is 83.5 years. (Ah, but what do they do with those years in Andorra? Hmmm?)

... a popular musical group lost all the money they made from their greatest album? In 1973, the British rock group Pink Floyd released Dark Side of the Moon, one of the most critically acclaimed rock music albums in history. The hit single, "Money," came from

the album. Sales rocketed into platinum territory, and the group earned well over \$45 million in sales. Members of the group invested their money in various ways – a floating restaurant, a hotel in which fudge was made, a computer game, a movie (which apparently nobody saw), a skateboard company, a car-for-hire business, and a shoe factory. All of the investment venues failed. The group eventually fled to France as tax exiles from Great Britain and recorded their next major hit album, The Wall, in 1979. Additional trivia note: Dark Side of the Moon holds the record for the longest time spent on Billboard's Top 200 Albums chart. It spent 950 weeks – over 18 years – on the chart. (Well, the group had to make money somehow.)

... the decoration outside a popular restaurant chain was inspired by a movie? In-and-Out Burger locations feature a display of crossed palm trees outside the restaurant, and those were inspired by the 1963 movie It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World. Co-founder Harry Snyder (1913-1976) said he liked the imagery from the film, in which the characters hunted for a buried treasure hidden beneath a pair of crossed palm trees. (Don't go digging for treasure there, though.)

... lobsters have rubber bands around their claws in aquariums for a reason? It appears that in captivity, lobsters become cannibalistic. The bands keep the lobsters from eating each other. (And yes, I know they don't eat through their claws. They're banded so they can't ... oh, the heck with it.)

... a Tinder match was once made in Antarctica? In 2014, two lonely scientists stationed in Antarctica put in their profiles on the global dating app, only to find that they were a match – and the man was working at McMurdo Station, while the woman was on a scientific camping expedition about 45 minutes away by helicopter. Yes, they met each other. (And I sincerely hope they lived happily ever after.)

... a newspaper once ran an April Fool's prank that wasn't a prank? On April 1, 2015, the New Zealand Herald newspaper ran a front-page advertisement that offered a free BMW automobile to the first person who brought their old car in and asked for "Tom," a salesman. Everybody who saw the ad thought it was a hoax – except for one person, Tianna Marsh (born 1985) of Auckland. Marsh showed up at the dealership with the ad coupon and her 15-year-old station wagon, asked for Tom, and was presented the keys to a brand-new BMW worth \$37,000. Marsh's old car was auctioned off for charity, and her new car – an April Fool's joke that wasn't a joke – had the license plate, "No Fool." (She certainly wasn't.)

... all websites containing "ahh" are owned by one company? The Coca-Cola Company went to the expense of purchasing all websites that contain "ahh," up to 62 h's. (What a relief!)

*Now ... you know!*

## Recipe: A smoky-sweet Memorial Day menu

By **PATTI DIAMOND**  
King Features

Memorial Day weekend doesn't have to mean elaborate menus or expensive cuts of meat. Some of the best gatherings happen around simple grilled food.

There's a nostalgic happiness around a backyard grill: cut grass, glowing charcoal, drifting conversations, overloaded paper plates, kids running through the yard with sticky hands.

This menu leans into easy gathering food: inexpensive chicken legs brushed with sticky smoky glaze, alongside grilled zucchini and sweet peppers lacquered with the same sauce. Meant for lingering outside as evening stretches on, with beer in the cooler and a seat waiting.

### SMOKY ORANGE BALSAMIC GLAZE

Yield: 1 cup  
Total Time: 25 mins.

- 1 large orange, zest and juice
- 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon coconut aminos or Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 3 garlic cloves, finely minced
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Whisk all ingredients together in a saucepan and bring to a gentle boil over medium heat. Reduce heat and simmer 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until thickened and glossy. Makes about 1 cup. Use on grilled meats, vegetables or as a dipping sauce.

### GLAZED DRUMSTICKS

Chicken legs are technically safe to eat at 165 F, but they're far better when cooked to 185 F to 190 F. The higher temperature breaks down connective tissue for juicy, tender meat that pulls easily from the bone.

Yield: 6 servings  
Total Time: 45 mins.

- 5 pounds chicken drumsticks
  - 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
  - 1 teaspoon kosher salt
  - 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
  - 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- Season the chicken with garlic, salt, pepper and



smoked paprika.

Total Time: 25 mins.

### Grill Directions:

Heat grill to medium-high heat, about 425 F. Place chicken over indirect heat and cook, covered, for about 30 minutes, until nearly cooked through and the skin is crisp. Add wood chips if desired for extra smoky flavor.

Brush generously with Smoky Orange Balsamic Glaze and continue cooking 10 minutes more, turning and glazing once or twice, until sticky, caramelized and cooked through to 185 F.

### Oven Directions:

Heat oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and lightly coat with non-stick spray. Arrange chicken on the pan and bake 40 minutes, turning halfway through, until browned and crisp.

Brush generously with glaze and return to the oven 5 to 10 minutes more, until caramelized. Chicken should reach at least 185 F internally. Let rest a few minutes before serving.

**GLAZED VEGETABLES**  
Yield: 6 servings

- 4 medium zucchinis
- 16 ounce bag mini sweet peppers
- 1 small red onion
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Slice zucchini into thick diagonal slices. Halve peppers lengthwise and remove seeds. Cut onion into thick rounds, leaving slices mostly intact. Toss vegetables with olive oil, salt and pepper.

### For the grill:

Grill over medium-high heat 8 to 12 minutes, turning occasionally, until lightly charred and crisp-tender. Brush with glaze during the final few minutes of cooking.

### For the oven:

Spread vegetables on a foil-lined baking sheet and roast at 425 F for 20 to 25 minutes, stirring once halfway through cooking, until tender and lightly caramelized. Brush with glaze during the last 5 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

## 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.

# TELL IT!



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

**The Dublin City Council** and the mayor failed to mention that if you live in the city, you pay city, school, and county taxes. If you live in the county, you only pay county taxes.

**The Dublin mayor failed** to say that the Dublin school board is a separate taxing body. They will tax you to death even if you were born free. Skip living in Dublin, Georgia, city limits, and live.

**I think it would be wonderful** if people would build homes in the city. Dublin is such a great place to live and raise a family. My family and I live in town for 35 plus years. My husband and I worked in Dublin our kids went to Dublin City schools. We went to church, shopped and enjoyed our lives here. But over the years things changed, seemed like some areas were forgotten, and too many blue collar neighborhoods were left behind. That's the reason for the move to the county. And now with so many unanswered questions about the school system I'm not sure how many would like to move back. I hope people do decide to come back. Dublin is a great place to live.

**While making it cheaper** to build in the city there are two things that work against this. One is the cost of the city school tax as opposed to the county and the other is I hear people don't want to put their kids in the city school system till that's fixed. Dublin will have a tough time drawing people to live in the city.

**So now we're going** to be able to walk the streets in town sipping on a cocktail? And whose bright idea was this? And what sort of message will this give our young people? We are not Savannah, or Atlanta. We are a small southern town with Christian values. Whoever is coming up with these big-city ideas needs to go back to the big-city.

**When the city of Dublin** was comparing living in the county and having to pay for a well to be drilled, they didn't mention that if you lived in the city and washed your car or watered your grass that they would charge you a sewage charge for doing that. I think it is still cheaper in the long run to live in the county and drill you a well.

**The article regarding city council** wanting to encourage people to build and live in town, changes have to be made first. The crime rate is high as we've ever seen it. Taxes are through the roof and the school system is imploding on itself. Maybe city council needs to work on making corrections so that people will want to live in the city of Dublin again.

**Come on people of Dublin**, give Dublin High School a chance. There are teachers retiring all over the state that are going back to work. Quit being so negative.

**They talk about keeping** the streets safe in Dublin. If they re-route these log trucks, it sure would make it safer. They fly up and down the road and the law doesn't nothing with them.

**Now that we get the paper** in the mail, I guess can't enjoy my morning coffee anymore. I guess I'll wait for the mail all day and maybe I'll enjoy it with an after dinner cocktail. Thank you very much.

**Recently, we've had some tragedies** on the road on the eastside. On Thursday, while driving east on Bellevue where the left lane ends, I saw a red Maximum driving at a high rate of speed in the left lane and cut off the drivers in the right lane, causing us to slam on our brakes. Her lane ended, therefore, she should have waited for the right lane to clear. The same driver almost rear-ended a car avoiding a stalled truck at the River Bridge. Enough with the distracted and erratic driving please.

**I'm calling about my Saturday paper.** We have been to the mailbox three times already and it is 6 in the afternoon. We still do not have a paper. I am highly disappointed in this decision to have mail deliver it. Y'all don't know that the mail is a mess. I don't appreciate this decision when I pay a year for the paper.

**The entire Dublin City School board** needs to resign.

**I'll sing you one** for the board of education. This is 1994 Cedar Hills. "Insane of the membrane. Insane of the brain. Insane of the membrane. Insane of the brain." *Editor's note: It was Cypress Hill released in June 1993.*

**The city of Dublin** ought to do something the hold time of the red light at Moore Station Road and Industrial Boulevard.

**Saw in the paper** that county commissioners voted to put up signs stopping semi's from driving on some roads. Thank goodness! I'm sitting on my porch on Blackshear Ferry Road now and the ones that are coming by seem to think it is 441 Speedway. Put those signs up quick! And hopefully our law enforcement will watch out for them.

**If "arrest does not equal conviction"** is the reason Jail Book is no longer published, The Courier Herald should not ever publish an article about a case until it has reached its verdict. Or just admit the pushback over one arrest was the reason they chose to stop publishing it.

**I encourage every parent** at the Irish Gifted Academy to remove your student. Dublin only wants you there so they can "save their system" and show off. If they really cared, they would take care of their own.

## Graduations represent an investment in the future

We have primary and judicial elections this week in Georgia. As timelines aren't often convenient, the deadline for this column is before the votes are counted, but most will be reading it as or after the votes are counted. This gives us an opportunity to look at what others are doing outside the barrage of negative tv ads, overflowing mailboxes, and increasingly unwanted unsolicited text messages.

In the real world, it's graduation season. Social media feeds are overflowing with pictures of college graduations. High School graduations are now also in full swing. The pictures posted by parents and grandparents depict pride and accomplishment, with smiles all around.

Beneath the smiles of the newly minted grads often lies at least a bit of apprehension. Some have their plans fully thought out, with either college acceptances or job offers in hand. Others may still be figuring things out.

Either way, big changes are happening. They are marching through an exit door to something new. There are great opportunities ahead.

There are also new found responsibilities. While the transition from adolescence to adulthood is different for each person, a graduation puts them closer toward real world responsibilities where choices have consequences and opportunity costs.

Opportunity costs are not discussed enough during an education path, at least in future terms. The



By **CHARLIE HARPER**

concept is fairly well understood. It's difficult for a student to play football and be in the band. The practice schedules usually overlap. So the opportunity cost of playing football is not being in the school band (and all other extracurricular activities that mandate the football team's practice time).

Students understand money even if not given a formal personal finance course. Too many of us, including adults, fail to account for the value of our time – our opportunity costs. Our time, ultimately, is our most precious asset. It is impossible to create more of it, and none of us know exactly how much of it we will ultimately have.

College is now an expensive endeavor. The rising amount of student debt outstanding is emblematic of the monetary cost. It's also a good sign of the opportunity cost.

Too often absent in the choices made in education is the concept of return on

investment. Students who choose an AP course in High School or those who choose dual enrollment do at some level. The extra time and expense for these tracks in high school saves tuition spent at the next stage when getting a degree. Those savings are usually a lot greater than any nominal expenses incurred in high school. They're good investments.

They also save the student time. They can complete their next degree sooner, or spend that time earning a double major, perhaps taking fewer classes to reward themselves with extra leisure time. Again, that time saved or spent represents opportunity cost.

Opportunity costs in education can also have a downside. A student who chooses a degree without employment opportunities or, perhaps worse, a student spending years paying tuition without a clear focus or major, could find themselves without job prospects and with tens of thousands in new debt. They then have to figure out how to pay their adult bills and make payments on student loans representing the opportunity costs of a delayed or suboptimal decision on a major.

Georgia's technical colleges are starting to understand how to make this argument more persuasive. While many will still cite salary statistics which show college grads make more money than non-college grads, most of these studies are using decades old data and don't reflect either the wide disparities between colleges and majors, nor

the recent rise in salaries for those with specific skills taught in our technical colleges.

Many of the programs taught in Georgia's technical college system offer tuition assistance or waivers similar to HOPE, offer a quicker path to a degree than many university programs. They also provide graduates to employers facing skilled worker shortages, which is good for employment prospects now and into the future.

University graduates are openly wondering if artificial intelligence will take their jobs away. Some larger companies are blaming A.I. for eliminating many formerly entry level positions – the ones where college grads often get their first corporate experience and opportunities to start moving up the ladder.

Too many attach a stigma of "blue collar" to jobs from our technical colleges, and project a certainty of "the good life" to university diplomas. The employment and salary data paint a different picture.

The time and resources spent in our education system are valuable. The monetary costs consume roughly half of all state revenues. The time invested by a student from kindergarten to graduation can easily be 20% of a long and well lived life.

Each family – the parents and the students – needs to take a long look at these investments, consider all costs, and ensure choices made provide the best return on investment for the graduates' future.

## The activity of Georgia trout on the Chattahoochee

It is about time for the trout to disappear in North Georgia streams, as the water temperatures will soon become too warm for them to remain active. Their preferred temperature is 50 to 65 degrees.

Temperatures are pleasant this time of the year for the most part, but not if you are a serious fisherman. Trout, which flourish when the temperatures are low, literally run away and hide as June rolls around.

When summer's heat blankets the upper part of the state, trout seek colder, deeper, and shaded higher-elevation waters. In addition to that, the state halts stocking many of the smaller streams after July, which causes fish populations to decline.

Nonetheless, you can still enjoy the mountains of North Georgia if you cannot catch fish. There is something special about the mountains of our state any time of the year, except for when the ice storms wreak havoc.

Because the trout become inactive in summer, that doesn't mean you can't find fishing opportunities, such as striper fishing, in many of the lakes that abound throughout the mountains.

As I think about the forthcoming summer heat, which eliminates that wonderful experience of fishing the Chattahoochee in October and November—even the cold days in December and the first quarter of the New Year—I found time this week to sit on my back porch and recall the good times I've had on the Chattahoochee.

"Out of the Hills of Habersham,  
"Down the valleys of Hall,  
"I hurry amain to reach the plain  
"Run the rapid and leap the fall."

That stanza of Sidney Lanier's poem, "Song of the Chattahoochee," is my constant companion wherever I go. I recite those words driving down the backroads of our state and when I am zoned out on a plane, moving through smooth air to a distant location.

There is so much fuss and so many squabbles in our world today. I humbly recommend that mudslinging politicians succumb to a pow wow on the Chattahoochee. Maybe we ought to coordinate a session of the legislature on one of the campgrounds where the Creeks and Cherokees once congregated.

And whenever a Republican speaks ill of a Democrat and vice versa, we wash their mouths out with soap. If they act like children, then they ought to be constrained to endure that old-fashioned foul-language remedy.

Despite the heat that envelopes our state, the mountains are cool and the coastal ocean breezes invite you in. Remembering this makes you pine for the voices of Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald singing "Summertime."

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy,  
"Fish are jumpin, and the cotton is high,  
"Oh, your daddy's rich and you ma is good-lookin',  
"So hush, little baby, don't you cry."



By **LORAN SMITH**

George Gershwin composed that tune for the 1935 opera Porgy and Bess with lyrics by DuBose Heyward, which describes a peaceful, lazy summer.

Growing up, I remember that on the hottest days – without air conditioning to count on – we could repair to the pecan orchard in our back yard, relax under the shade of the cluster of the trees and escape the sun's

burning rays. Those were laid-back times. And a good book in a peaceful setting always makes the summer's heat more tolerable.

Signing off, I'm here to say, I have already begun to pray for rain. A few well-placed rain showers between now and Labor Day will make living easy in the forthcoming summertime—even if we must wait till fall to catch a few trout.

## The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



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— for Local News —

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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...

"It is never too late to be what you might have been."

- George Eliot

### DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

- II Timothy 2:15

### EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

May 21, 2026 is...

- American Red Cross Founder's Day
- National Strawberries and Cream Day
- National Talk Like Yoda Day
- National Dance Like A Chicken Day
- National Memo Day
- National Notebook Day

**Dublin Police Department**

- On April 28, around 11:45 p.m., an officer was monitoring traffic on Ga. 19 South near Southern Pines Road. Weather conditions consisted of light rain, and the roadway was wet. The officer saw a silver 2016 Toyota Camry traveling at a speed greater than the speed limit.

The officer clocked the vehicle going 72 in a 55 mph zone. The officer initiated a stop as the vehicle pulled into Friendly Gus on Ga. 19 South.

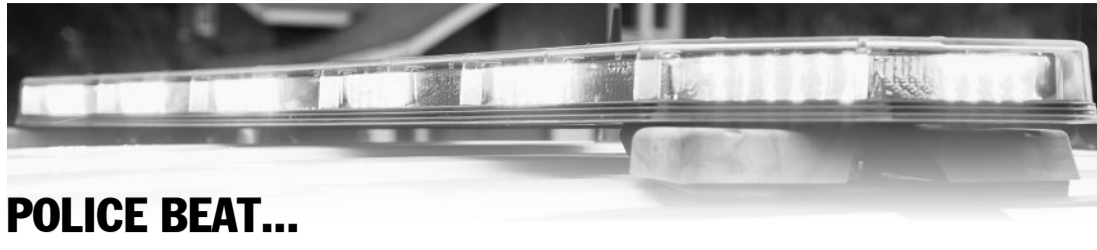
The driver identified himself as Jahmel Carr. The officer ran his information through GCIC and the photograph did not match the driver. Another officer identified the driver as Thomas Demarcus Jones, 32. He was arrested.

The officer ran Jones's information and it came back that his driver's license was suspended for failure to appear and that he had an active warrant through the police department.

While placing Jones into the patrol vehicle, another officer was instructing the right back passenger to remain inside the vehicle. The passenger repeatedly exited the vehicle despite the commands to remain seated. The officer detained the passenger, later identified as Montavious L. Mercer, 23. He also had an active warrant through the police department.

Jones was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked. Both Jones and Mercer were transported to the sheriff's office.

- Donedrycke Samaj Pittman, 18, was charged with disorderly conduct on Freds Lane around 2:52 p.m. on May 6. Officers responded to the location regarding a do-



**POLICE BEAT...**

mestic dispute.

Upon arrival, the officers met with a woman who said her brother became involved in an altercation regarding him allegedly bringing a woman guest to their mother's residence the previous night. While the argument continued inside the house, she decided to leave. Her brother allegedly exited the front door, grabbed her and hit her in the face with a closed fist.

The officer talked with Pittman who said the dispute stemmed from his sister accusing him of having his girlfriend at the residence the previous night, which he denied. Pittman said he was frustrated with ongoing issues involving his sister in the household. He admitted that during the struggle, he struck his sister in the face with a closed fist.

Pittman was arrested and transported to the police department where he was fingerprinted and released on summons.

- On May 7, around 6:54 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the area of 441 bypass and Waldrep Industrial Boulevard in reference to a motor vehicle accident without injuries. Dispatch advised that the accident involved an 18-wheeler and a passenger car.

Upon arrival, the officer witnessed a black passenger car traveling on Waldrep

Industrial Boulevard pull out in front of an 18-wheeler traveling on 441 bypass.

The driver of the 18 wheeler said he was traveling on the bypass toward Ga. 257 when he saw a black Mazda stopped at the intersection. The man said as he continued traveling on the bypass, the Mazda pulled into his path. The front passenger side bumper area of the 18 wheeler struck the driver's side of the Mazda.

The officer talked with the driver of the Mazda, Nia Amani Reid, 26. She said she stopped at the stop sign at the intersection of Waldrep Industrial Boulevard and 441 bypass. She said there was an 18 wheeler turning onto Waldrep Industrial Boulevard. Reid said she looked both ways and did not see any oncoming traffic. She said she entered the intersection and noticed a large truck approaching.

Reid further said she was traveling with her two children, neither of whom were secured in a car seat. A check on Reid's license revealed that her license was suspended. Reid was determined to be the at-fault driver for failure to yield after stopping at a stop sign.

She was transported to the police department where she was fingerprinted and issued three citations.

**Laurens County Sheriff's Office**

- Property was damaged on Buckeye Road in East Dublin around 10 a.m. on May 2.

- A theft was reported on U.S. 441 North on May 1 around 3:08 p.m.

- On May 2, a deputy was dispatched to Old Toombsboro Road for a wrecked and abandoned vehicle around 5:52 a.m.

- Around 9:07 p.m. on April 30, a deputy was asked to call a citizen regarding a scam call impersonating the sheriff's office.

- Keyondra Spikes, 30, of Dublin, was charged with intimidation or obstruction of jurors or court officers, around 1 p.m. on April 29. During superior court, Spikes was an observer during a hearing. Upon the judges verdict, she began screaming in the courtroom and followed the victim to her vehicle making verbal threats to her.

- A man went to the sheriff's office on May 1 to talk with a deputy and request a report to document his wife married someone else while they were still married. A report was completed to document the incident.

- A deputy responded to vandalism on Macey Street around 9:53 a.m. on May 5.

*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.*

**DLC Chamber celebrates HD Financial ribbon cutting**

**SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD**

The Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce proudly welcomed HD Financial to the local business community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held recently in Dublin. Chamber Ambassadors, community leaders and local business representatives gathered to celebrate the occasion and show their support for the growing business.

HD Financial provides financial services designed to help individuals and businesses make confident financial decisions and build a secure future. Their commitment to personalized service and community involvement makes them a valuable addition to the

Dublin-Laurens County business community.

During the ceremony, Chamber representatives welcomed the HD Financial team and congratulated them on their investment in the community. The event also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the services HD Financial offers and to connect with the team.

"The Chamber is excited to celebrate this milestone with HD Financial," said Marcia Dixon, President/Interim of the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce. "Businesses like HD Financial play an important role in strengthening our local economy and serving the needs of our community."

The Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Com-



merce invites the community to join in welcoming HD Financial and supporting their continued success.

For more information about HD Financial or Chamber membership opportunities, please contact the Dub-

lin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce at 478-272-5546 or visit [www.dublin-georgia.com](http://www.dublin-georgia.com)

**Kemp extends gas tax break for holiday**

ATLANTA — Georgians and people visiting or just passing through the state will get a 33-cent per gallon break at the gas pump while traveling for Memorial Day.

Gov. Brian Kemp used his authority under state law to declare a state of emergency due to spiraling fuel prices. That in turn allowed him to re-suspend collection of the motor fuel excise tax a minute after the current suspension expires Tuesday night.

The renewed suspension goes into effect at midnight Wednesday. It will remain in effect for two weeks, until 11:59 p.m. on June 2.

**Judicial ethic panel targets Georgia Supreme Court hopeful over abortion remarks**

**By TY TAGAMI**  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A Georgia agency that investigates complaints of ethical misconduct by judges says two candidates for the Georgia Supreme Court may have violated its code of conduct

by stating their positions in favor of a woman's right to abortion.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission, which oversees judicial ethics under state Supreme Court rules, published the notices on its website Monday after sending copies to the two

candidates, Jen Jordan and Miracle Rankin, on Sunday night.

That was immediately after an emergency order by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals that blocked a district judge's pending order to temporarily silence the commission on the grounds that its code might violate the First Amendment rights of candidates.

Jordan is running against Justice Sarah Warren while Rankin is seeking Justice Charlie Bethel's seat.

The incumbents, Warren and Bethel, first reached the state's high court through appointment by former Gov. Nathan Deal, a Republican.

Two of the three Eleventh Circuit judges who ruled Sunday in favor of the commission's release of public statements against the can-

didates were appointed by President Donald Trump during his first term. The third, who dissented, was appointed by President Joe Biden.

The campaigns of Jordan and Rankin argue that the commission's action was unconstitutional.

"The JQC has called into question my efforts to educate Georgians about who I am and what I believe, violating my First Amendment right to free speech," Rankin said in a statement, referring to the commission by its initials.

"Georgians have made it clear that they care deeply about abortion rights and women's health," Jordan said in a statement. "It is both my responsibility and my First Amendment right to keep talking about these serious issues that affect every person in our state,

because voters deserve the truth."

The Democratic Party of Georgia's chairman, Charlie Bailey, called the commission's disclosures "a cynical attempt by a mere bureaucratic arm of the Georgia Republican establishment" to silence Jordan and Rankin.

The commission's statements say Jordan and Rankin might have violated a rule against publicly endorsing others' campaigns, noting they openly supported each other. The statements also say the candidates' positions on abortion could be a violation of a rule that "prohibits judicial candidates from making statements or promises that commit candidates with respect to issues" that could come before the court.

The Jordan and Rankin campaigns say they plan

to seek intervention by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Eleventh Circuit ruling said a district judge's order that would have prevented the commission from enforcing its code "will irreparably harm the state."

In 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Minnesota Republican Party's lawsuit against that state's judicial conduct board when it tried to bar judicial candidates from stating their views on disputed legal and political issues, writing that "avoiding judicial preconceptions on legal issues is neither possible nor desirable" and that pretending otherwise to preserve an appearance of impartiality "can hardly be a compelling state interest either."

**Local 7-day Forecast:**

**The next 48 hours:**

**THURSDAY:**  
Partly sunny and warm; a couple of showers.  
**92°**  
Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.

**THURSDAY NIGHT:**  
Partly cloudy and humid.  
**66°**  
Sunset: 8:27 p.m.

**FRIDAY:**  
Partial sunshine with a stray thunderstorm.  
**91°**  
Sunrise: 6:29 a.m.

**FRIDAY NIGHT:**  
A couple of evening thunderstorms.  
**65°**  
Sunset: 8:28 p.m.

<b>Saturday</b> 5/23 HIGH/LOW <b>91/66</b> Mostly cloudy and humid with a thunderstorm.	<b>Sunday</b> 5/24 HIGH/LOW <b>91/67</b> Mainly cloudy and humid with a thunderstorm possible.	<b>Monday</b> 5/25 HIGH/LOW <b>92/68</b> Mostly cloudy and warm; a thunderstorm possible in the afternoon.	<b>Tuesday</b> 5/26 HIGH/LOW <b>92/67</b> Cloudy; a thunderstorm in parts of the area in the morning.	<b>Wednesday</b> 5/27 HIGH/LOW <b>90/66</b> Humid with times of clouds and sun.
Sunrise: 6:30 a.m. Sunset: 8:27 p.m.	Sunrise: 6:29 a.m. Sunset: 8:28 p.m.	Sunrise: 6:29 a.m. Sunset: 8:29 p.m.	Sunrise: 6:27 a.m. Sunset: 8:30 p.m.	Sunrise: 6:27 a.m. Sunset: 8:31 p.m.

**River levels...**  
Oconee (at Dublin) ..... 1.5'  
Ocmulgee (at Macon) ..... 6'

**NEWS DIGEST**

The Dublin City Council will hold a pre-council at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 21 followed by a city council meeting at noon. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation and Pledge to Flag
- Approval of May 5 city council meeting minutes
- Approval of bills over \$15,000
- Approval of purchases over \$15,000
- First reading and public hearing of ordinance #26-07 to approve the FY 27 budget
- Second reading and

public hearing on ordinance #26-04 to rezone D20E 040A from R-1 to R-2

- Second reading and public hearing on ordinance #26-06 to amend the ordinance for subdivision and variance fees by resolutions
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-22 to authorize a contract with ABS, Inc. for wastewater treatment services
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-28 authorizing an agreement with state broadcasting corporation for advertising
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-29 to ap-

prove an application for the Georgia Historical Society's Marker review for Emery Thomas Auditorium

- Discussion and action on resolution #26-30 to adopt the SS4A Safety Action Plan
- Discussion and action on declaration of surplus
- Discussion and action on board appointments (if needed)
- Citizens comments
- Council comments
- Executive session if needed to discuss real estate, pending litigation or personnel
- Adjournment

**Classifieds**

**Yard/Estate Sales**

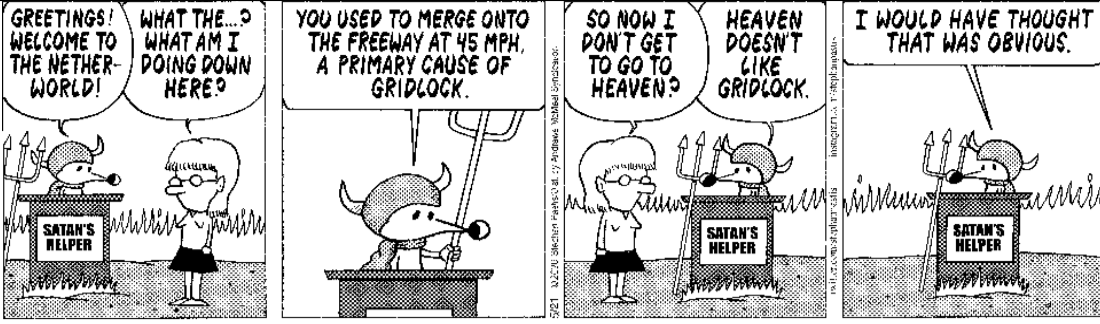
Estate Sale: 110 Holly Lakes Drive. Fri. May 22nd 9 - 4, Sat 8 - until, Sun 1 - until. Queen Bedroom suite/Dining Room Set, kitchen table & chairs, Exec desk & hutch, Fridge, side tables, books, china, teapots, mission; recliner chairs. Designer women's clothing.

**Real Estate**

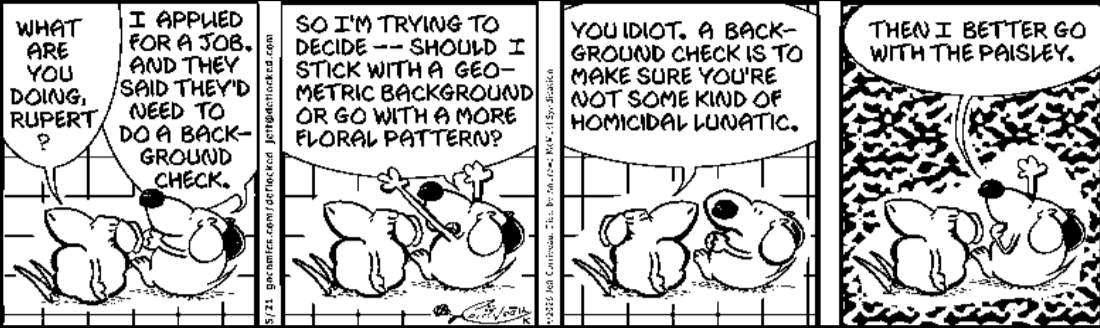
**For Rent/Lease**

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

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



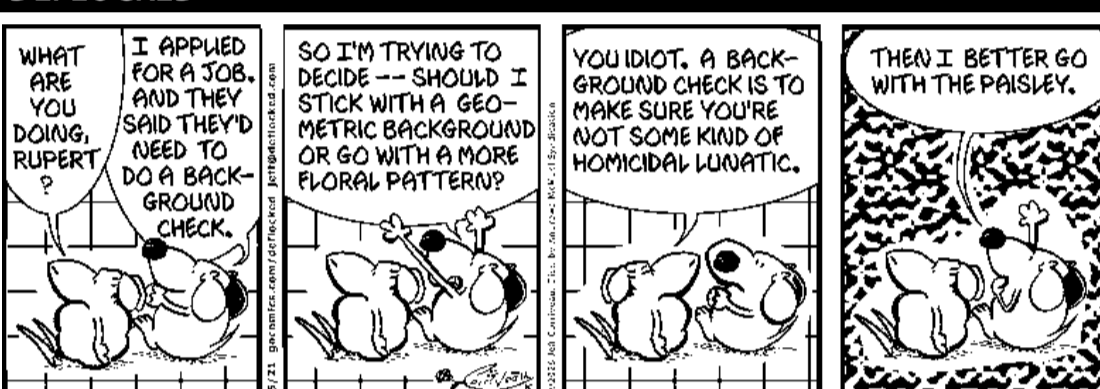
GARFIELD



OVERBOARD



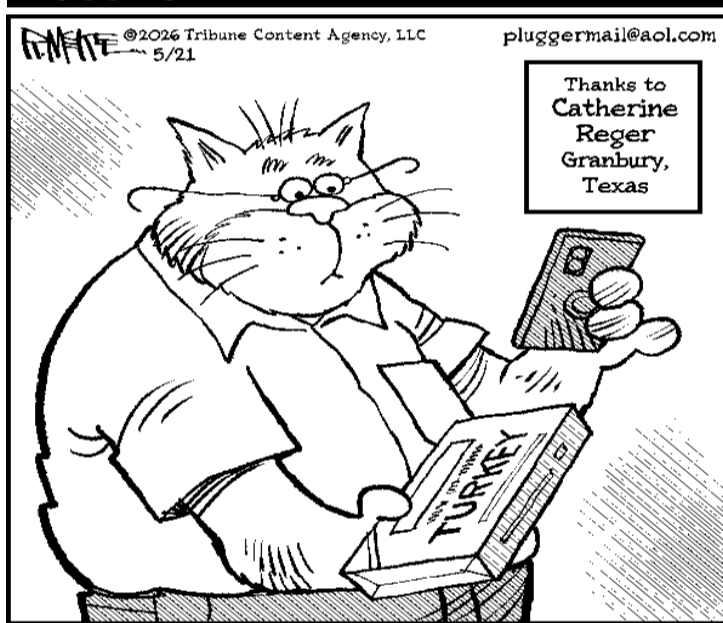
DEFLOCKED



ZIGGY



PLUGGERS



A plugger takes a picture of his microwave dinner so he can enlarge the cooking instructions.

Happy date clouded with sad reminders of late Mother!

DEAR ABBY: Our dear mother passed away 2 1/2 years ago, which was very sad for me and my three siblings. Her passing happened on my adult son's birthday. I try hard to focus only on the happy occasion of celebrating my wonderful son on his day, but my older sister sends me sad messages, stories, pictures, etc., usually starting a few days before. How do I tell her I prefer she not remember this day as the day our mother died, but rather the day my son, who is her godson, was born? It doesn't mean I didn't love our mother, or that I don't think about her all the time, but I need this date back. -- SAD BUT HAPPY SISTER



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR NO MORE GIFTS: You can't stop random gift-giving, but you can stop feeling guilty about gift-receiving. The idea behind a gift is that it is given freely, with no expectations attached. If you have been giving return gifts to your shopper friends, they probably think you enjoy the back-and-forth. To break the cycle, stop reciprocating. If that doesn't curb the random gifts, please bear in mind that most people don't regard generosity as a character flaw.

DEAR ABBY: Some people love to shop and love to give gifts. There are also people who don't enjoy shopping and would prefer not to receive random gifts. Those who don't enjoy shopping have a difficult time coming up with gift ideas. When they do, it is often regarded as unwanted or not to the recipient's liking. Why should

absence. No one knows the reason. I'm not nosy; I just want to know if he is all right. It crossed my mind that he might have passed away. I was told he is due back in several weeks, maybe. I have told him how much he has meant to me, so he had to know I would be concerned about him. My question is, shouldn't he have tried to find a way to contact me to let me know he is all right? Just a little note or email would have been fine. There have been many nights when I have cried due to worrying about him. If and when he returns, should I let him know how concerned I have been? -- WORRIED IN THE WEST

DEAR WORRIED: When your boss returns, do not quiz him about his absence. Simply say, "I'm glad you're back. I was concerned about you." If he chooses to share with you why he was absent, listen with a sympathetic ear. Then turn your attention to the tasks at hand.

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.

DEAR ABBY: I am very fond of my boss and have worked for him for over four years. Several months ago, he took a medical leave of

Thursday, May 21, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES  
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

THE BEST?

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH  
♠ Q J 8 7 4  
♥ K 9 4 3 2  
♦ A  
♣ 7 3

WEST  
♠ A K 10 9 5 2  
♥ 7 6  
♦ Q  
♣ K 9 8 6

EAST  
♠ 3  
♥ A J 8  
♦ 10 8 6 5 3 2  
♣ 10 4 2

SOUTH  
♠ 6  
♥ Q 10 5  
♦ K J 9 7 4  
♣ A Q J 5

watching Klukowski play the hands. West had a difficult shift at trick two. He chose a low club. That was not best on this lie of the cards but it was a reasonable play. Klukowski won the queen, cashed the ace, and ruffed a club in dummy. He cashed the diamond ace and ruffed a spade. Klukowski led the king of diamonds, ruffed by West and over-ruffed with the nine in dummy. He ruffed another spade, leaving this position:

SOUTH  
♠ Q J  
♥ K 4 3  
♦ Void  
♣ Void

The bidding:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♣ 1♠ 2♣\* Pass  
3♥ 3♠ All pass  
\*Hearts

WEST EAST  
♠ A 10 9 ♠ Void  
♥ 7 ♥ A J 8  
♦ Void ♦ 10 8  
♣ K ♣ Void

Opening lead: King of ♠

Many believe that young Michal Klukowski, from Poland, is the best player in the world right now. He was South, in today's deal. Transfer bids are all the rage in some parts of the world, and experts are finding many innovative ways to use them. North's two-diamond bid is an example. West's three-spade bid was a reckless adventure and could have been defeated by at least three tricks. North let him off the hook by bidding four hearts. Perhaps he likes Klukowski led the queen of hearts. Fast chose to take his ace - ducking would be no better - and led the jack of hearts. Klukowski won with dummy's king and led the last trump to East, who had to lead a diamond from his 10. The jack-nine of diamonds took the last two tricks. A beauty!

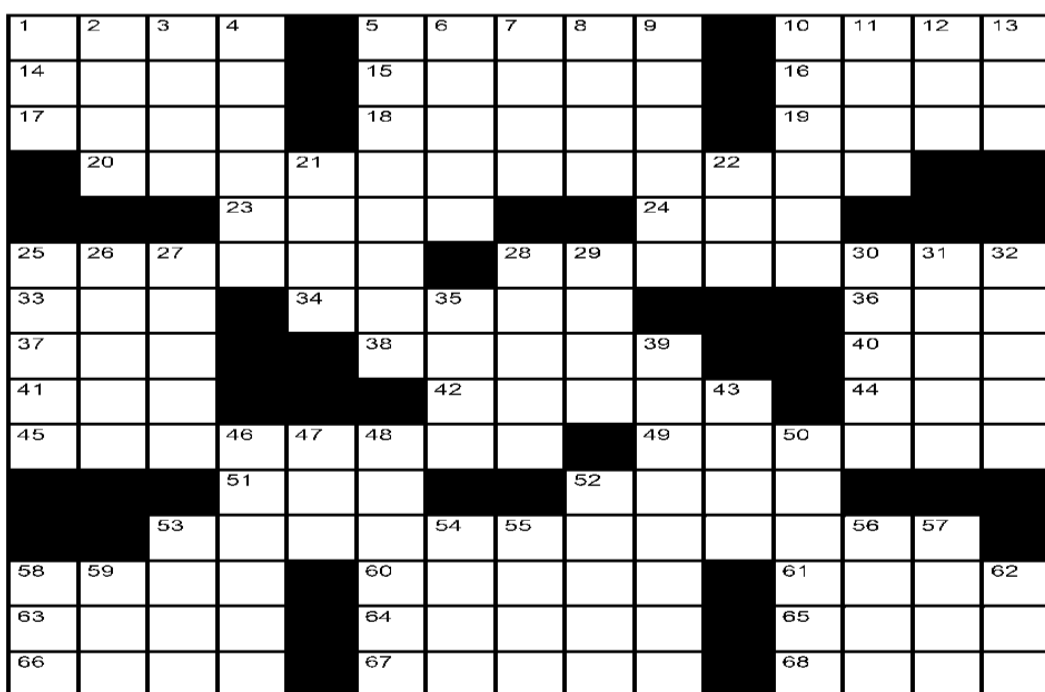
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Rung of a ladder
- 5 Get on the highway
- 10 Extinct bird
- 14 "\_\_\_ we met?"
- 15 Large pelvic bone
- 16 Profoundly immoral
- 17 Former lovers
- 18 Instrument played while sitting
- 19 Require
- 20 Quarterback's mishap
- 23 Four-award achievement: Abbr.
- 24 Extra on "The Pitt": Abbr.
- 25 Sacred Egyptian beetle
- 28 Tape cartridge
- 33 Moisturizer
- 34 Evening coffee order
- 36 Long \_\_\_ of the law
- 37 "The Gilded Age" character
- 38 Native Israeli
- 40 Quick punch
- 41 Tarnish or taint
- 42 Lumbers
- 44 Frozen water
- 45 Totally unspoiled
- 49 Muscular, slangily
- 51 "I've never met \_\_\_"
- 52 Chipotle option
- 53 "Control" singer: 2 wds.
- 58 School grad
- 60 Not sleeping
- 61 Thunder god
- 63 Have supper
- 64 \_\_\_ Deadly Sins
- 65 Well-ventilated
- 66 Perceives
- 67 Fermenting fungus
- 68 Italy's capital

DOWN

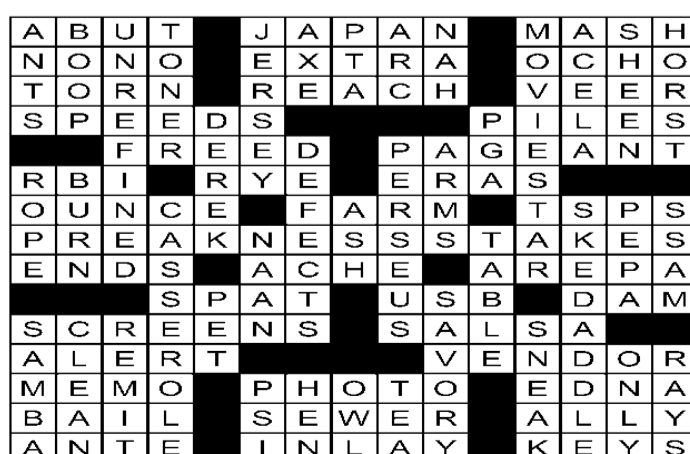
- 1 "That's all \_\_\_ wrote"
- 2 Yellow NYC vehicle



Created by Stella Zawistowski

5/16/26

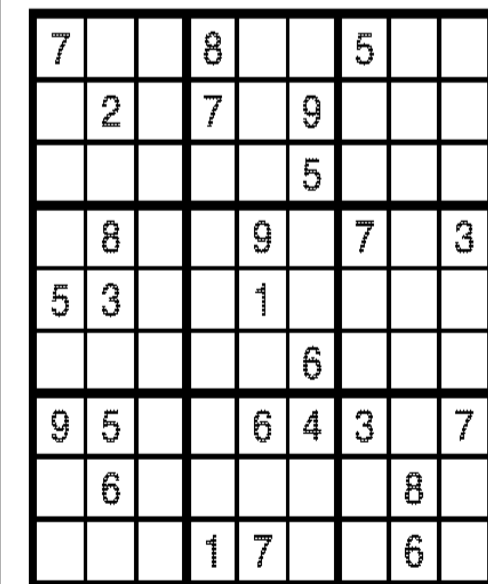
- 3 All tied up
- 4 Badger or bother
- 5 Bacteria and viruses, e.g.
- 6 Vote in
- 7 Make mad
- 8 Big swallow
- 9 Hams it up
- 10 Signify
- 11 Baking appliance
- 12 Run out of power
- 13 Elderly
- 21 "My heavens!"
- 22 WhatsApp notes: Abbr.
- 25 Everglades area
- 26 Fragrant wood
- 27 Pong company
- 28 Computer cord
- 29 Natural Black hairstyle
- 30 People of central Asia
- 31 Vestige
- 32 Implant snugly
- 35 \_\_\_ Crunch (cereal brand)
- 39 Neighboring
- 43 Burlap bag



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- 46 Embarrasses
- 47 Silvery-white metal
- 48 "Whatever you choose": 2 wds.
- 50 One who shares top billing
- 52 Seizes
- 53 Sixth month
- 54 Overly cutesy
- 55 Coffee, slangily
- 56 Indiana neighbor
- 57 Social standard
- 58 Promos
- 59 Tell a fib
- 62 Whiskey in a Sazerac

SUDOKU

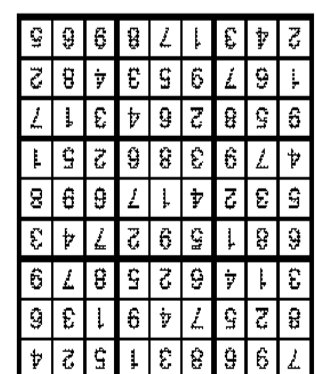


Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:

GIAA SOCCER PLAYOFFS

# Crusaders overpowered late in quality quarterfinal showing at Augusta Prep

By CLAY REYNOLDS  
Sports Editor

Trinity held its own with one of AA's top teams for most of the match.

But fatigue, attrition and an athletic Augusta Prep attack ultimately wore the Crusaders down late in a GIAA quarterfinal that their head coach Noah Hendrix described as a "super physical, hard-fought game."

They kept it scoreless until pretty deep in the second half. But when the second-seeded Cavs finally broke through, they broke through in a big way, scoring a half-dozen goals over the final 25 minutes, or so, to prevail 6-1 Saturday at Blanchard Field.

Augusta Prep, one of four top seeds in the bracket that each advanced after first-round byes, will host No. 3 Holy Spirit Prep in the semifinals.

The final count – hardly a fair indication of how

competitive a match it really was – might have been unsavory, but the Trinity boys (10-6-1, 8-2 region) still walked away satisfied with the quality of fight they were able to put up in a last stand of 2026, and the latest resilient effort by a group of players that carried a reputation for punching above their weight.

"I'm super proud of the fight this team had during the season," Hendrix said. "There are a few games that they got down in that we never gave up and came back. We've got lots to build on for next year."

For Saturday's first 40 minutes, and a little bit further after halftime, that demeanor was personified in Crusader goalkeeper Hudson Shirley, who almost singlehandedly held the Cavs at bay as he reeled off amazing play after amazing play under continual fire in the net. The senior secured any-

thing and everything Augusta Prep sent at him, even in some sticky situations he'd come out of clean to keep the scoreboard spotless.

His highlight reel included multiple diving saves and deflections, and even a daring rescue of a ball from the bottom of a several-player scrum feet from the goal line off a corner kick.

Augusta Prep opportunities came over and over, with the ball scarcely leaving the home half of the field in the last 20 minutes before halftime. But the Cavs couldn't find a way to break the hot streak, even after a Crusader defender drew a whistle for a tackle in the box that set them up in prime position to score via penalty kick.

Shirley lunged to his left to knock the try away, and a redirected shot by a teammate airmailed the goal shortly before the match went to intermission.

Hendrix estimated his

keeper had compiled 16 saves by the point Augusta Prep finally came up with a successful shot.

The Cavs' first, following several more stops and misses in the early minutes after half, would be nullified by an offside call.

But they finally got numbers and a friendly bounce the next time down as a long pass found Nathan Shepherd, who slipped between defenders poked the ball in the air and got it to spin by Shirley and into the left side of the goal.

He'd follow with the next in an eventual hat trick as Augusta Prep suddenly opened the valves and unleashed a torrent of offense in a short amount of time.

Kees Van Zelst got involved in two and Nouri Tamaddon another of the four the followed.

Trinity was outflanked as defenders scurried to drop back amid a drawn-

out counter on the sudden charge that unfolded to make it 2-0. The Cavs' third score also developed in a hurry as Shepherd sent a sideways pass to a teammate on the left who buried a shot to get the lead to three.

"They slipped that goal in and scored two more pretty quick," Hendrix said, noting that multiple factors seemed to come to a head simultaneously to create such a drastic tipping point. "We had a few people get injured in the second half. That also contributed to the onslaught."

Prep's fourth came with about 13 minutes left as blue shirts outnumbered Shirley and defenders in the box, and poked in a rebound of his diving deflection. Shepherd, on the receiving end of a deep ball, struck for his third within the minute as the Cavs got off and running and flipped the field following the gathering for a Trinity corner kick.

## PREP SCHEDULE

**BASEBALL**  
GIAA Semifinals  
Thursday  
Trinity at Gatewood  
(doubleheader)/4 p.m.

**Friday**  
Trinity at Gatewood  
(game 3, if necessary)  
/2 p.m.

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

The Crusaders just missed on a chance to find the scoreboard around the 10-minute mark as a long free kick from midfield just missed ducking in below the crossbar.

But they'd finally get one with a minute or two left as another set piece begun by Josh Mosley downfield got popped into the box and headed home from the left-hand side by Thomas Polhill.

Augusta Prep stormed back and scored one more time with about 90 seconds left to play.

## SPRING STATEMENT: DUBLIN LIGHTS UP LONG COUNTY IN SCRIMMAGE

Dublin took on (and took it to) the Long County Blue Tide in its spring scrimmage game last Friday at the Shamrock Bowl. The Irish alternated between their starting, second-string and JV units throughout the game, but were fairly dominant on offense and defense with each group – the first two combining to force three turnovers and score 52 points by halftime – in an impressive 80-0 shutout that will springboard them into summer workouts starting soon. More spring action is coming up on Thursday, when East Laurens was set to host Augusta's Lucy Laney High School in a 7 p.m. exhibition at the new Falcon Field/CLAY REYNOLDS



**BOND BREAKOUT:** Vicente Bond Jr. pulls away from the pursuit on the way to his first touchdown, one of multiple explosive carries, in Friday's opening quarter/CLAY REYNOLDS



**OUR BALL!** Jalen Dardy (51) and teammates celebrate after the second-quarter fumble recovery of Kye Young (3) for a third Irish takeaway of the first half/CLAY REYNOLDS



**AWASH WITH PRESSURE:** Blue Tide quarterback Ayden Vaughan tries to get a throw off under duress from Dublin D-linemen Roberto Santos/CLAY REYNOLDS



**TOUCHDOWN CONNECTION:** Ryland Yates (17, right) finds Travion Bostic (left) off of play action for a second-quarter score/CLAY REYNOLDS



**ISAAC INT:** Malik Isaac goes up to bring in his second of two picks early in the second quarter/CLAY REYNOLDS



**ON STRANGER TIDES:** Irish fans could spot the familiar face of former Dublin and East Laurens assistant coach Steve Verprille (right), just wearing a different color than anyone's used to, as he made his return to the Shamrock Bowl for Friday's scrimmage on the Long County sideline. The former Alabama linebacker sports the Crimson of his collegiate Tide quite often, but has added Columbia and Navy to his palette after joining the staff of Blue Tide head coach Mike Pfeister (left) a couple seasons ago/CLAY REYNOLDS

# Man shot by men asking for ride in Vinson Village

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**  
Senior Reporter

A 26-year-old man drove himself to the local hospital after being shot in Vinson Village Monday evening.

According to a Dublin Police Department report, officers were advised of an alert on Flock of multiple gunshots in the area of Vinson Village around 6:49 p.m. on May 18.

At 6:58 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Fairview Park Hospital in reference to a gunshot wound victim who was in route in a purple Nissan Maxima.

The officer arrived four minutes later and talked with the victim, who said he left his house to get something to eat and decided to drive through the Vinson Village area.

The man did not know the area well, but told the officer that

he was on West Mary Street and made a right onto Dewey Street, which ends in a cul-de-sac.

The man went to the dead end to turn around and that is when two to three men flagged him down. The man stopped to see what the men wanted. The man said the men wanted a ride to the store. He told them, "no," and that was when they began to pull on his driver's side door handle.

The man put his vehicle in drive

and proceeded to drive away at a high rate of speed. This is when the men began shooting at his vehicle.

After driving away, the man said he realized he had been shot in the left arm and left leg and decided to drive himself to the hospital.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Dublin Police Department at (478) 277-5023 and ask for detective Amelia Contreas.

## ELECTION

Continued from page 1

1,264 and Blake Tillery followed with 1,218. Kennedy will face Dolezal in a runoff. Josh McLaurin led Democrats in Laurens County with 1,122, Richard N. Wright had 1,107 and Nabilah Parkes followed with 827. McLaurin and Parkes will face off in a runoff.

For attorney general, Republican Brian Strickland led Laurens County with 3,488 while Bill Cowsert finished with 1,556. Democrat Tanya Miller won Laurens County with 2,685 while Robert Trammell received 439. Strickland will face Miller in November.

In the race for U.S. House of Representatives District 12, Republican incumbent Rick Allen received 4,432 votes in Laurens County, beating Tori Brannum who received 1,001. On the Democratic side, Ceretta Smith led the way with 999, Traci "Acree" George followed with 720 and Brianna Woodson had 606. Smith and George will face each other in a runoff.

# Bottoms dominates Democratic governor primary as Jones, Jackson appeared headed for GOP runoff

By **TY TAGAMI**  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgians who pulled a Democratic ballot Tuesday had a clear preference for governor, giving former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms a commanding early lead over six challengers Tuesday night before all votes had been counted.

But Republican voters were divided, giving no GOP contender for governor a majority. They mostly went for two candidates out of the field of eight, putting Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and billionaire entrepreneur Rick Jackson in the lead with a similar number of votes.

With Fulton County and nearly two dozen other counties remaining to be counted, Jackson took the stage and looked ahead to the June 16 primary runoff election.

"The job is not done. We have 28 days to finish it," he told supporters at the Omni Hotel at The Battery Atlanta.

Jackson, who founded and leads a health care staffing and services company, dropped tens of millions of dollars of his own money on political ads, and quickly took a lead in polling, in a race that had seemed to be Jones' to lose.

Jones, a former state senator who won the lieutenant governor's office four years ago, had some-

thing no other candidate did: an endorsement from President Donald Trump.

The pair go back many years. Jones faced the risk of prosecution after supporting Trump's effort to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss to Joe Biden. Jones served as one of 16 fake electors for Trump and was investigated by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis until the courts disqualified her from the case due to a conflict of interest.

Earlier this month, Trump held a "tele-rally" to boost Jones' campaign.

He "has my complete and total endorsement," Trump said in the May 6 call. "He blows his competition away."

Even so, Jackson pitched himself in Trump's image, telling supporters Tuesday that he opposed "illegals" and "woke ideology" and supported law enforcement, working moms and foster children, having been one himself.

"I'll be President Trump's favorite governor," Jackson said.

Jones pushed back Tuesday night, issuing a statement that noted his slight edge in the results.

"Tonight Georgia sent a clear message — you can't buy this state and now, Georgia, it's time to finish the drill," the Jones campaign said in a statement. "Georgia is too important

to risk handing it to a billionaire Never Trumper with a checkbook."

He was referring to Jackson.

No one on the Democratic side came close to Bottoms' lead late Tuesday, with the caveat that Fulton, Georgia's most populous county, had not yet reported results due to delays at a polling site.

The former Atlanta mayor turned off many voters when she declined to run for a second term, instead choosing to serve in the Biden administration.

But she was a known quantity and all but one of the others in the Democratic field were men, which was a factor for voters such as Juliette Morgan.

The retired public health worker emerged from Ormewood Church in Atlanta Tuesday afternoon and said she had considered voting for Geoff Duncan, a former Republican who had switched parties after clashing with Trump. She had seen him a lot on CNN and said he seemed amiable.

"Of all people, I would have (voted for) him," Morgan said. "I just, I don't know, I'm inclined to vote for women lately."

Her husband, Bob Maxfield, a high school science teacher, followed her lead and cast another vote for Bottoms.



The fire at Dublin Trails damaged this medical toilet seat /SPECIAL PHOTO

## FIRE

Continued from page 1

"When you set off a fire extinguisher, that dust goes well past wherever the fire was," Cutler said. "They have to get all of that cleaned up before moving them back in."

He thanked the Dublin Police Department and EMS for responding to the scene.

"We were thankful they were on the scene," Cutler said. "They came out not only for us but for the people we were trying to protect."

## BURNING CAR

Continued from page 1

port of it being on fire. Cutler said all of the paint was burned off, but they found one place on it to help establish that it was a light-color car.

"Police were able to get with the ones who reported it was stolen in East Dublin and found out that we had found their stolen vehicle," Cutler said. "We do not know who stole the vehicle."

Anyone with information about who stole the vehicle or anything to do with the fire, is asked to call the Dublin Fire Department at (478) 277-5032 or the Dublin Police Department at (478) 277-5023. People can also call the East Dublin Police Department at (478) 272-6883.

# Republicans send two to runoff in Georgia's U.S. Senate race

By **TY TAGAMI**  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Republican voters winnowed their field of candidates for U.S. Senate Tuesday, sending U.S. Rep. Mike Collins and former college football coach Derek Dooley to the June 16 primary runoff election.

Collins had the most votes in the field of five candidates, with Dooley and U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter vying for second place.

Just before 11 p.m., Dooley told supporters at Park Bench Battery at The Battery Atlanta that Carter had given him a call.

"Tonight, guys, we punched our ticket to the runoff," Dooley told the cheering crowd.

Dooley's wife, Allison, stood by his side, along with Gov. Brian Kemp and his wife Marty.

Last year, the term-limited governor bucked expectations, announcing he would not run for U.S. Sen-

ate against the incumbent Democrat, Jon Ossoff.

Instead, he backed Dooley, son of famed University of Georgia football coach Vince Dooley.

Ossoff's team had a tart retort after seeing the outcome.

"After Brian Kemp's crushing refusal to run for Senate, Trump puppets Collins and Dooley have made themselves terminally inseparable from the toxic president," the Ossoff campaign said.

# IT'S VIDALIA ONION TIME!

# \*FREE\*

## Vidalia Onions

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# IT'S TIME FOR THE SWEET ONION DEAL!

Expires May 31, 2026

*Slightly*  
**OFF THE RECORD**  
A production of THE COURIER HERALD  
Sponsored by SERVPRO

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slightlyoff@gtn.org | www.courierheraldtoday.com

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