

## Survey: Parents stressed over childcare needs

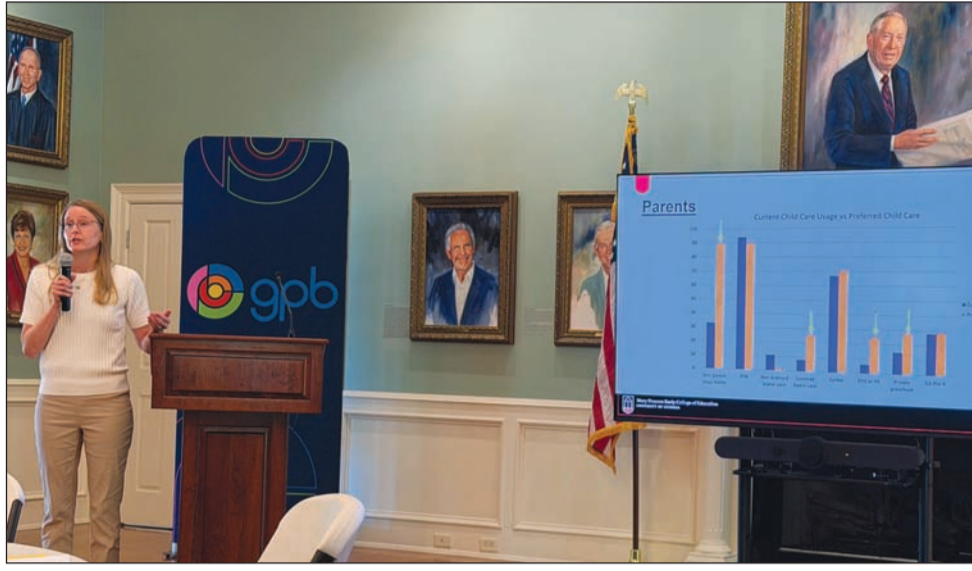
By KYLE DOMINY  
Staff Reporter

Local parents often find themselves stressed about balancing work and family responsibilities, according to survey data from the University of Georgia Archway Partnership.

Access to quality, affordable childcare has been named a top priority by local officials as area leaders work to bolster Laurens County's workforce and economic development initiatives. The Archway Partnership, a UGA program that pairs mainly rural cities and communities with university resources, and the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber Community Foundation surveyed parents, teachers, employers and other members of the community to begin to paint a picture of how childcare, or lack of, affected daily life.

More than 330 people, mostly parents, responded to Child Care Needs Assessment of Dublin-Laurens County, organized by UGA's Mary Frances Early College of Education, with the results released at a recent event. Of 338 respondents, 237 of them were parents, primarily mothers.

Less than 20 of the survey takers



Erin Hammel, a professor with the University of Georgia's Mary Frances Early College of Education, presents data from the Child Care Needs Assessment of Dublin-Laurens County. Access to affordable, quality childcare has been identified as a top need in area workforce development and business recruitment initiatives/KYLE DOMINY

reported never being concerned with balancing work and dealing with family responsibilities, while nearly 50 respondents said they were stressed daily. The rest reported varying levels of

stress juggling the duties of parenting and work.

Parents are turning to a variety of

**CHILDCARE**  
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## Three killed in head-on wreck

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

Three people, including a mother and daughter, were killed in a two-vehicle wreck in East Dublin late Sunday night.

According to Laurens County Deputy Coroner Nathan Stanley, a vehicle driven by Damarcus Tyrell Wim-bush, 29, from Millen, Georgia, was involved in a head-on collision with a vehicle driven by Chelsea Elizabeth Wilson, 35, of Soperton, around 11:51 p.m. Sunday, May 3, at the intersection of Ga. 29 South and J.W. Warren Road in East Dublin.

According to the Georgia State Patrol, Trooper First Class Andrew Thompson responded to the location around 11:54 p.m. The crash investigation determined that a Chrysler 300 was traveling north on Ga. 29 and failed to maintain its lane. The vehicle entered the southbound lane and hit a Kia Sorento head-on.

This crash led to the deaths of the driver of the Chrysler, Wim-bush. Wilson, the driver of the Kia, and her daughter, Aliah Michelle Smith, 16, of Soperton, who was a passenger, were transported to Fairview Park Hospital.

**FATAL WRECK**  
Continued on page 8

## Re-introduction: Visit Dublin shows off revamped center

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

Visit Dublin GA took the time Tuesday to reintroduce itself to the community.

A big cheer went up after Miriam Lewis, executive director of Visit Dublin GA, cut a green ribbon and invited the community inside to see the visitors center.

"In the last couple of years, we have gone through the rebrand and we have gone through the renovations on the inside of the visitor center," Lewis said. "We have also added a lot of things within the last year, so we thought this was a great time to reintroduce ourselves to the people in the community and those we partner with."

This was a time for people to come together to see what the visitor center has to offer. In addition to Dublin-Laurens County

merchandise, Visit Dublin also served a taco bar in conjunction with Cinco de Mayo.

"We wanted those who live here to come out and see what we had to offer," Lewis said. "We do offer things to our locals."

They have a pollinator garden at the center that was made to attract monarchs. "They have been endangered," Lewis said. "The kids have come out and counted the pollinators. We've partnered with the 4-H group and little things like that. Everyone can learn a little something or experience something."

Visit Dublin GA is the only place people can buy Dublinopoly.

"We also have a vintage one from 1990 that we found in a thrift store," Lewis said. "It is here at the visitors center on display."

Before the ribbon cutting, Bill Brown, Visit Dublin GA chairman, mentioned some trivia about the center. The first visitors center was open in Dublin on June 5, 1963, and was originally located on U.S. 441 North.

"This location opened in 2002," Brown said. "Visit Dublin GA was formed in 2011. We have been here for 15 years, and we have had good leadership throughout that timeframe. We've seen growth that has happened

tremendously through Dublin and Laurens County. We are so thankful for the relationship we've had between hotels and restaurants who send people our way."

One feature in the center is a digital kiosk. In addition to English, the kiosk can be used by those who speak Japanese and Korean.

"When the students from our sister city came through, they were able to experience the kiosk in their own language," Lewis said. "It is basically the little things we do to make many people as possible feel com-

**VISIT DUBLIN**  
Continued on page 8



Following a ribbon cutting (below), locals checked out "Dublinopoly" and other community-themed items available at the visitors center (above)/PAYTON TOWNS III



## City Council wants to encourage people to build, live in town

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

The Dublin City Council members have approved a resolution they hope will encourage families to build and live in houses in the city.

The council voted Tuesday to amend the permit fees and other associated fees for certain residential construction projects.

"We want families to build houses in Dublin," said Mayor Joshua Kight. "We want families to move back within the city limits and we'll make that economical for them. With today's action, we have reduced the cost by 80 percent to build new homes in the city of Dublin."

"I consider this a big moment for the city of Dublin as far as reducing government fees to stimulate single-family investment in

our town, single-family development," he added. "So, the building permit fee has been reduced from over \$2,800 to \$375 for your typical 2,000-square-foot home in the town. I hope that if there are any builders or developers out there who are interested in building homes that you'll take a second look at building single-family homes within the city limits of Dublin."

City Manager Josh Powell said this will go into effect on May 11.

"That is to allow time to build the new fee structure in the system so that will give us some time to make sure that's implemented correctly, but it will be effective by then," Powell said.

The permit fee of \$375 is the same fee charged by the county, the mayor said. The difference though is in the city, builders do not have to dig a well or put in a septic

tank.

"All you have to do is hook up to the city's water and sewer," Kight said. "That makes it a whole lot cheaper now to build within the city. It's a major reduction in the government fees. I think the council is doing this so that we'll have families building homes within the city limits."

During the last five years, the city, mayor and council have been trying to make Dublin a "great small town," Kight said.

"We want it to be a safe, fun and affordable place for families to live," he said. "To be a great small town, you have to have families and the energy they bring."

In the city there is connection to community, civic engagement and the use of its parks.

"We offer so much within the city, from places to go eat, easy access to shopping,

medical care right around the corner, the traffic is not bad and the neighborhoods are beautiful," Kight said.

"The thing that has sometimes stopped developers from building homes in Dublin is the cost of the fees and the taxes. We have reduced our millage rate during the last five years from almost seven to barely four. Now, we're taking those construction fees way, way down. You can build a house in Dublin now for probably \$15,000 cheaper than you can buy a lot and put in a well and septic in the county."

It will be almost a \$600,000 savings for a developer wanting to do a large subdivision, Kight said.

"The point is, we want to see families living in the city limits of Dublin," said Councilwoman Sara Kolbie. "That's my desire."

Another important decision was when the council approved an awarded bid to Total Earth Services LLC for the West Mary Street Road and drainage improvements project and the West Moore Street Road and drainage improvements projects.

TES was the low bid for both projects.

"We feel like we got a better bang for the buck by putting the projects together," Powell said.

TES submitted the low bid of \$1,177,787.68 for the West Mary Street project (also known as Division 1) and the low bid of \$173,624.20 for the West Moore Street (also known as Division 2) project. Powell said the West Mary Street project will be paid for through a combination of the 2024 SPLOST (special purpose local option sales

**CITY COUNCIL**  
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**OBITUARIES**



**Danny Lynn Jones**

Memorial services for Danny Lynn Jones, 67 will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 1241 Holiday South Drive, Rentz, Georgia 31075.

Mr. Jones was born Dec. 26, 1958, in Dodge County, Georgia. He was the son of the late Austin Franklin Jones and Rosa Lee Burnham Jones. He was also preceded in death by his son, Justin Lawrence Jones and his siblings, Austin Franklin Jones Jr., Wayne Jones, Mel Ray Jones, Ronnie Jones and Alice Jones Thompson. He was of the Pentecostal Faith. He was a retired self-employed house painter. Mr. Jones passed away Saturday, May 2, 2026, at his residence.

Mr. Jones is survived by his daughter, Kellie Jones Holt (Ken) of Rentz; a son, Austin Lynn Jones of Dudley; mother of his children, Kathryn Smith Jones of Dudley; a brother, Jack Jones (Frances) of Dublin; a sister, Debra Jones (Ricky) of East Dublin; three grandchildren, Lainey Templeman (Cameron) Anderson Holt, and Addysen Holt and one great-grandchild, Sadie Templeman.

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



**Ruby Wilson Sheppard**

Funeral services for Ruby Wilson Sheppard, 89 were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at the Chan Stanley Memorial Chapel of Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory, with interment to follow at Dublin Memorial Gardens. Rev. Tommy Veal and Rev. Jake Hughes officiated.

Mrs. Sheppard was born Feb. 18, 1937, in Kite, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late William Leslie Wilson and Sarah Smith Wilson. She was also preceded in death by her husband,

John M. Sheppard. She was a retired seamstress. She was a member of Gethsemane Church. Mrs. Sheppard passed away Sunday, May 3, 2026, at her residence surrounded by family.

Mrs. Sheppard is survived by her sons, Mike (Marilyn) Sheppard of Danville and Rob Sheppard of East Dublin, three grandchildren, James (Hollie) Sheppard of Danville, Wilson (Desiree) Sheppard of Ocean Springs, MS, and Jessica Sheppard of Crestwood, Ky., a sister, Viola Stephens of Augusta, and six great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be James Sheppard, Wilson Sheppard, Noah Shedd, Ben Reinbold, Rex Stephens, Billy Luckey and Chris Bush.

The family will receive friends from 9:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at the funeral home.

The family would like to give a special thanks to her caregiver Amy Hawkins, Scott Health and Rehabilitation, and Georgia Hospice Care.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions may be made to Gethsemane Church at 501 Soperton Avenue, East Dublin, Georgia 31027.

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



**Levearn Young Gregory**

Celebration of life services for Mrs. Levearn Young Gregory, of Wrightsville, Georgia, will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Sand Hill Baptist Church, 1793 Gumlog Road in Wrightsville. Rev. Jerry Walden will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Gregory was born on July 19, 1950, to the late Herbert Young Sr., and the late Mrs. Daisy Lee Young. From an early age, she was rooted in faith and values that would guide her throughout her life.

She was a 1970 graduate of Doc Kemp High School in Wrightsville where she developed the foundation of discipline and determination that carried her throughout her life. At an early age, she joined Sand Hill Baptist Church, where she faithfully served and lifted her voice in the choir until her health began to decline. She was also a dedicated member of the pastor's aide ministry and the missionary ministry, serving with humility, faithfulness

and a willing spirit.

On July 14, 1984, she was united in holy matrimony to her devoted husband, Harvey Gregory, and together they built a life grounded in love, family and perseverance.

Mrs. Gregory was a hardworking and dedicated woman. She was employed at Buckeye Industry of Wrightsville until its closing. She later continued her career at Mohawk Industries in Dublin, Georgia, where she faithfully worked for many years before retiring.

She found joy in life's simple blessings. Her hobbies and interests included attending church, spending time at family gatherings, cutting her lawn and walking, shopping, and cooking for those she loved.

Mrs. Levearn Young Gregory entered into eternal rest on Thursday, April 30, 2026. She was a woman of grace, strength and unwavering faith; she lived a life devoted to God, her family and her community.

Mrs. Gregory leaves to cherish her precious memories, her loving husband, Harvey Gregory, her daughters, Teresa (Kelvin) Stanley of Wrightsville, Georgia, Kimberly (Eric) Carswell of Montrose, Georgia, Chantea (Aaron) Smith of Warner Robins, Georgia, and Yolanda Gavin of Florida; her siblings: Freddie (Annie Pearl) Young, Herbert Young (preceded in death by his wife, Hattie Pearl Young), Alexander Young, Iona (Johnny) Cephus, and David Young, all of Wrightsville, Ga.; her grandchildren: Terriona Perry, Tykeiundria Smith, Miah Cook, Trevor Reynolds, Julian Singleton, Justin Garvin and Jordan Garvin, along with a host of nieces, nephews, great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Gregory will be remembered as a loving wife, devoted mother, caring grandmother, faithful sister and a true servant of God. Her quiet strength, kind spirit and her radiant smile will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew her.

Though she has departed this earthly life, we rejoice in knowing that she has gained eternal rest. Her legacy of faith, love and dedication will continue to inspire generations to come.

The family is receiving friends at the Dudley Funeral Home on Thursday, May 7, 6-8 p.m. Please post your condolences online at [ServicesByDudley.com](http://ServicesByDudley.com).

Services by Dudley Funeral Home & Cremations of Dublin.

**BIRTHDAYS**

May 7  
**Sam Wilson  
Jalen Wright**

May 8  
**Ron Foreman  
Asia Kinsey  
Irene Madison  
Whitley McCloud  
Fannie Rozier**



**Shelby Jean Sanders**

Shelby Jean Sanders, 89, passed away on May 4, 2026. She was born on Oct. 2, 1936, and lived a life marked by faith, love and service to others.

Shelby was a devoted florist who found great joy in serving her community through her flower and wedding shop, Garden Gate. She spent over 30 years as owner and operator, pouring her heart into her work. She loved every minute of helping others celebrate life's most meaningful moments, bringing beauty and care into everything she touched.

A woman of deep faith, Shelby cherished her church families at Oconee Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Dublin, where she was a member of the Winsome Sunday School Class. She also faithfully taught Sunday School at Oconee Baptist Church for 30 years. Her life reflected her love for the Lord, and she lived each day as a kind and faithful servant.

She attended Dudley High School, where she played basketball, and carried that same energy and love for life into her many friendships over the years. She treasured time spent with her "Golden Girls" later in life, sharing laughter, stories and many special adventures.

Shelby had a gift for sewing and lovingly made many of her children's and grandchildren's clothes over the years. She found joy in creating for her family, friends, and neighbors, always adding a personal touch that made people feel special.

To all who knew and loved her, she was simply "Jama," a name that carried warmth, joy and a deep sense of home.

Shelby will be remembered as hardworking, generous, and full of grace. She had a way of making everyone feel special and loved. With her warm Southern charm and class spirit, she often left others with her signature words, "I love you, Shugga." She loved people well and found joy in making their lives more beautiful and full of sparkle.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Julian Sanders; her parents, Debenion and Mary Gilbert; and her siblings, Virginia Brown and Wendell Gilbert.

She is survived by her daughter, Gail Brooks Clark and son-in-law, O.E. Clark; her son, Mike Sanders and daughter-in-law, Bonnie Sanders; and her daughter, Melinda Fowler and son-in-law, Tommy Fowler; her grandchildren, April Bragg and husband Terry, Amy Church and husband Nate,

David Sanders, Ashleigh Wright and husband Alan, Kali Perez and husband Hansel, and Lane and Blake Fowler; her great-grandchildren, Abi and Drew Bragg, Brooks Wright, Wes Perez, Bailey and Blair Church, and Shelby Lou Wright; and a host of extended family members and dear friends.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, May 8, 2026, at 3 p.m. in the Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel at Townsend Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Robert Rogers, Rick Statham, and Darrell Paulk officiating. Burial will follow at Oconee Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Friday from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be David Sanders, Lane Fowler, Blake Fowler, Terry Bragg, Alan Wright, Nate Church and Hansel Perez.

Honorary pallbearers are Larry Woodard, Danny Woodard, Jerry Woodard, Clinton Woodard, Earl Bracewell, Vernon Holloway, Claude Vines, Charlie Garbutt, and the Winsome Sunday School Class of First Baptist Church.

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



**Patricia G. Crowder**

Patricia G. Crowder, 73, peacefully passed away on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at her residence surrounded by her family.

Mrs. Crowder was born on June 6, 1952, in Dublin, Georgia. She retired as a paraprofessional from Dublin City Schools and was a charter member of Grace Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edwin Graham and Avis Warnock Hatcher; and two grandchildren, Noah Ellington Karoly and Julia Graham Karoly.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, James Michael Crowder of Dublin; three daughters, Dana Karoly (Mike) of Dublin, Cathy McWhorter (Ben) of Lincoln and Christy Carter (Brian) of Dublin; brother, Harry Edwin Graham (Angie) of Dublin; grandchildren, Britt Karoly, Bennett Karoly, Kate McWhorter, Molly

McWhorter, Max McWhorter, Evan Carter and Emma Carter and several nieces and nephews.

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

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



**Hilbert Fullwood**

Mr. Hilbert Fullwood of Dublin, Georgia, passed away on Monday, May 4, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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

**MOMENTS**

\* On May 18, 1974, India became the world's sixth nuclear power after successfully detonating its first nuclear weapon, a fission bomb similar in power to the American atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in Japan. The test occurred on the anniversary of the Buddha's enlightenment.

\* On May 19, 1836, Cynthia Ann Parker, at about 9 or 10 years old, was kidnapped by Comanche, Kiowa and Caddo Native Americans in Texas. She was adopted into the Comanche tribe and later married a chief, by whom she had three children. Parker lived with the Comanches until Texas Rangers recaptured her and forced her to return to live among whites again.

\* On May 20, 1506, Christopher Columbus died in Valladolid, Spain, at the age of 55, still erroneously believing that he had reached Asia. His last months were spent in poor health with what modern doctors suspect was Reiter's syndrome, and making futile attempts to recover his titles and wealth from King Ferdinand.

\* On May 21, 1994, the Flavr Savr tomato made its first appearance in grocery stores. Engineered to delay ripening, it was the first genetically modified food product approved for human consumption in the U.S. and was priced at 70 cents more per pound than its more conventional counterparts.

\* On May 22, 2004, Michael Moore's documentary film "Fahrenheit 9/11," a sharp critique of George W. Bush's foreign policy decisions, won the Palme d'Or, the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

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# The et cetera chronicles - vol. 132

**PASS THE WINE!** - Many people want a little wine to drink when they don't feel good or want to relax. In fact, the Bible directs it. In 1 Timothy, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Drink not only water, but a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." (1 Tim. 5:23). There are many people who follow the verse literally. The matter came up in the Superior Court when a Laurens County man was charged with selling blackberry wine. The defendant's attorney asserted that the state had to prove that drinking blackberry wine to excess would intoxicate a man and the matter was up to the Solicitor General to prove that it would. The prosecutor asked the court to take judicial notice of the intoxicating qualities of wine. The judge may have remembered the command in Timothy and refused to rule as a matter of law that drinking wine will get one soused. Savannah Morning News, July 20, 1898.

**AND GOOD LUCK UNTO YOU TOO!** - The number seven is the basis for many myths and folklore. Ancient philosophers from around the world believed that the seventh son of the seventh son would be gifted with magical powers. In the Bible, scholars claim that God created the world in six days and used the seventh day to rest (Reader's Digest). For whatever reason, seven engaged couples decide that they would all be married at one time. Hundreds and hundreds of folks from adjoining counties gathered at Valdosta Baptist Church on the Old River Road to witness the unusual holy matrimony. The weddings came off without a single hitch. Savannah Morning News, Nov. 21, 1895.

**HOLY BAPTISM!** - It was a remarkable day - perhaps an historic day. Two hundred and six Laurens Countians, all dressed in white, assembled to show their faith in God

by undergoing the rites of Holy Baptism. One by one, over ninety minutes, the aspirants waded into the edge of a muddy pond to be forgiven and cleansed of their sins through their faith in Jesus Christ. Savannah Morning News, Sept. 30, 1891.

**BRIDGES OVER TROUBLED WATERS** - Bridges over creeks were not as safe as they once were. Concrete-pillared bridges are designed to sustain the tremendous force that raging waters can generate. In the early summer of 1884, Laurens County was subjected to a series of floods. During that time, at least seventeen bridges were washed away. The repair bill was estimated at \$10,000.00, a right hefty sum in those days. Two years earlier, a rampaging flood took out one hundred feet of the bridge over Turkey Creek. Savannah Morning News, Mar 25, 1882; July 22, 1884.

**THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS** - There was a small rift among the Baptists in Georgia. One group was against mission work and new practices. They were more conservative and called themselves "Primitive Baptists." Their first church in Laurens County was established in 1879 as Silver Leaf Primitive Baptist. The church was constructed by A.G. Odom along the Old Savannah Road. Today, one hundred and one hundred and forty three years later, there is a building and cemetery still standing and in use. Other churches in the area were Norris Chapel in Rockledge and Union Baptist in the same area. Laurens County News, Dec. 29, 1982.

**DO OVER** - In the 1818 election for Laurens County's representative in the Georgia General Assembly, Hardy Griffin and George Linder received the exact same number



## PIECES OF OUR PAST

By **SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.**

of votes. The assembly asked the governor to call a new election to break the tie. Milledgeville Reflector, Nov. 10, 1818.

**THE DEFIANT ONE** - Georgia Governor and Laurens County resident George M. Troup staunchly believed in the right of states to govern themselves with absolutely no interference from the Federal government, especially one headed by John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts. Adams wanted to protect the rights of Native Americans within the state. Troup wanted to remove the state's earliest inhabitants to the Midwest. Adams sent a communication to Troup warning him that he had sent General George Gaines to Georgia to enforce the Indian Treaty. Troup responded, "Sir, I have ordered General Gaines to forbear all with this government. Should he presume to infringe this order, I will send your Major General home to you in irons." Savannah Morning News, July 22, 1889.

### DID YOU KNOW ...?

## Was the Roman Empire once put up for auction?

By **JACK BAGLEY**  
GTLN

Okay, my trivia friends, I want to ask a question of you.

Many of you purchased the first collection of silly trivia from this column gathered into a book, back a few years ago. I am now contemplating collecting more from the columns since then into another book.

Since the first book bears the title of the column, I thought I'd call the second one Now ... You Know!

The question is ... would you buy it? Drop me an e-mail and let me know.

Meanwhile, here's some of what might make it into that new book! Enjoy!

*Did you know ...*

... the writer of To Kill A Mockingbird was able to write the book because of a Christmas gift? Harper Lee (1926-2016) was having a difficult time balancing her job with her writing. In 1956, she confided in friends about the issue, and her friends gave Lee an entire year's salary as a Christmas gift, enabling her to take the next year off work and just write. Out of that came the classic novel which went on to win a Pulitzer Prize and sell more than 30 million copies. (I'd have time to write a Pulitzer winner myself if I had a year off with pay.)

... a museum exists dedicated to sea monsters? In Iceland, you can visit the Skrimslasetrið, in the city of Bíldudalur. This museum goes into great detail regarding the area's history of sea monster sightings. Inside you will find displays, literature, and even eyewitness events. (I'll believe it when you pronounce Skrimslasetrið for me.)

... the oldest version of the Medal of Honor belongs to the Navy? Authorized in 1861 for sailors and Marines, the Medal of Honor - the highest military award for bravery and valor in the United States - wasn't authorized for soldiers until the following year. Additional trivia note: the Medal of Honor was originally only authorized for enlisted personnel. Army officers were allowed to receive it beginning in 1863, but the Navy did not allow officers to earn it until 1915.

... the Roman Empire was once put up for sale in an auction? In 193 AD, the Roman Praetorian Guard decided they'd had enough of the shenanigans of Emperor Pertinax (126 AD-193

AD) and assassinated him, then found themselves faced with a quandry - exactly who would take over? The Guard decided to essentially sell the throne to the man who would pay the highest price, and two very wealthy men, Titus Sulpicianus (137 AD-197 AD) and Didius Julianus (133 AD-193 AD) began to bid. When Julianus offered 25,000 sesterces to each soldier, the Guard declared him the winner and new Emperor of Rome. His "reign" lasted 66 days, and came to an end when an army led by General Septimius Severus (145 AD-211 AD) entered the city. Severus had heard about the so-called auction and then led - and won - a battle against the Praetorian Guard. The Senate passed a motion proclaiming Severus as Emperor, and Julianus was hunted down and killed by a soldier in the palace. Severus was the last of the five men who had held the imperial throne of Rome during 193 AD. (I would say Julianus got the short end of the deal, wouldn't you?)

... turkeys are named after Turkey? No, I'm not trying to confuse you. The bird we know as the turkey was named after the nation of Turkey. Helmeted guinea fowl (what a turkey really is) came from Africa, but British merchants introduced them to Europe through Turkey, and

people assumed the bird was from there. (Well, you know what happens when you assume, right?)

... who the last English king to die in battle was? King Richard III (1452-1485) fell in battle at Leicester Cathedral in the Battle of Bosworth Field. Richard's remains were discovered under a parking lot at the site of the old cathedral in 2012 and after DNA testing to confirm his identity, he was reburied in a tomb inside the cathedral. He was the last of the Plantagenet kings, succeeded by Henry VII (1457-1509) who was of the House of Tudor. (My kingdom for a horse, or something like that.)

... the U.S. government once experimented with insects as weapons? In 1955, the government carried out "Operation Big Buzz" in Georgia. The program called for the producing, storing, loading into munitions, and dispersing from aircraft a huge number of mosquitoes. The idea was to see if the mosquitoes could be used as weapons, once infected with the yellow fever virus. The 330,000 that were dropped into Georgia in May of 1955 were not infected, however; it was just a test to see if the wacky idea would work. And it did work, to an extent: mosquitoes from the drop were located as far as 2,000 feet from the release site. No further use was

made of the idea, thankfully. (The mosquitoes showed very little interest in the job, it seems.)

... when the U.S. War Department was established in 1789, the Army had a total of 840 soldiers? Their job was to supervise public lands and guard the frontier of the young na-

tion. (If you were wondering when the idea of drawing down the service after a war started, here you go.)

... we find many examples of irony in history? Case in point: Patrick Henry (1736-1799), famous for his speech including the phrase, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" At the time he made that speech on March 20, 1775, Henry

owned 65 slaves. (Practice what you preach, Patrick.)

... executive fraud is very common? While most occupational fraud schemes are committed by accounting departments, upper management is not immune. Most executive frauds result in a median loss of \$850,000. (No comment.)

*Now ... you know!*

*Slightly*  
**OFF THE RECORD**

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# TELL IT!



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**I just got my paper today, Saturday, May 2, through the mail.** I say kudos to you at The Courier Herald. My paper was in the mailbox when I went to the mailbox today. It was dry and not wet. Usually when it rains, sometimes my paper is soaking wet when I get it out of the paper box. Thank you very much! If the paper is printed Monday for Tuesday, maybe, we'll get our paper on time. The mail is so slow and gets everything mixed up at times.

one burning leaves. People, there is a burn ban because of the dry weather and southeast fires. We don't need fires!

**I have been affiliated with Dublin City School system for 43 years.** As a student, children attending, an employee, and following of athletics and band programs and I have never seen such a long list of transfers, retirements and just leaving in all those years. It's so sad. And still no real truthful answers.

**Thank you Church of the Nazarene** for being proactive by purchasing property and maintaining a clean and precise sweep on South Church street. Progress towards a safer and beautiful Dublin. Praise God!

**Concerning the 4/28/26 article** about mass DCS teacher exits: Dublin City School Board chairwoman Amanda Smith claims that some of the teachers who resigned are reapplying ... What? I do not believe that's true. Why would anyone resign from a job then immediately reapply for it? Does that sound remotely logical?

**Does anyone have a clue** what's going on at the old Big Lots building? Please not another nail, hair salon, spa or vape shop. Please send retail back in that shopping center. Maybe a Whole Foods?

**Again from Amanda Smith:** "We have to ask what do our kids need?" Let's start with having a certified teaching staff and developing an accredited school system that's not being investigated by the GBI for criminal activity.

**Is there still no Dublin City Homestead exemptions?** Senior, Veteran wants to know!

**What percentage of DCS teachers** are currently certified?

**I think cellphone conversations** should be banned from restaurants. I just left a burger restaurant. I didn't finish my meal. A guy in there laughed and said profanity on a phone conversation. Everybody in the restaurant could hear it. What kind of society do we live in now?

**Explain to me like I'm a first grader** why the DCS board still functions in DCS. When they have proven over the past few years that they lack the ability to run a lemonade stand much less a school system.

**Yesterday on Highway 80,** I saw a yard with a small fire, probably some-

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"A good laugh heals a lot of hurts."

- Madeleine L'Engle

## DAILY SCRIPTURE

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God."

- Philippians 4:6

## EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY

- May 7, 2026 is...
- National Day of Prayer
- National Tourism Day
- National Paste Up Day
- National Roast Leg of Lamb Day
- National Barrier Awareness Day
- National Day of Reason
- World Password Day

# The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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# GEORGIA TRUST

— 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.

# No redraw of Georgia's maps ... for now



By CHARLIE HARPER

The United States Supreme Court struck down Louisiana's Congressional district maps last week, setting off a wave of redistricting sessions in legislatures across the South. Louisiana is in a court-ordered situation as their map was specifically ruled unconstitutional. Alabama had a pending case, and their Governor has already called for a special session of as well to remedy the map according to the SCOTUS decision.

Tennessee has elected to do the same, with Texas and Florida having already completed redrews. On the other side, Virginia and California have completed partisan redrews this year – both having to ram through changes to their constitution to add Democratic seats. Virginia's process and map has been declared unconstitutional by a state judge, with the resolution to the changes pending before their state Supreme Court.

"Gerrymander" has become partisans favorite word when one of the states they are aligned with perform it, and an unfair anathema when they're on the opposite side. Those trying to make sense of talking heads making opposite arguments for and against, but always using the word "fairness" to apply to their side.

Too often the benchmark for "fairness" rests on who started it. New York redrew maps in 2024 to gain more seats for the Democrats. Illinois has had maps that look as if drawn by Rorschach himself for decades. All of New England wildly overrepresents Democrats by population, though Republicans posting their map on social media should quit highlighting Vermont (with its one Congressional district) as evidence of systematic gerrymandering for obvious reasons.

The people appealing to your sense of fairness want you to be motivated and/or shamed by it. They have no interest in holding themselves or their party to the same standard.

Reapportionment – the act of redrawing districts – is not about fairness. It's the most raw act of power you can witness from a

legislative body. It is where friends will metaphorically stab friends in the front because there's little time to arrange a clandestine back stabbing. Those who have power want to keep it or expand it. Those who do not will exploit every angle to attain it.

Georgians are currently voting for member of Congress using maps drawn by the same restrictions stuck down in the Louisiana case. There is a lot of pressure from segments of the Republican party and their griftersphere to force Governor Brian Kemp to cancel the ongoing election, call a special session, redraw maps, and start the process over.

There is little chance this is going to happen. It's something that Governor Kemp has already ruled out for this year. It's not even

clear the Governor has this power under Georgia's Constitution.

Votes have already been cast. Throwing out legally cast votes for a do-over isn't something courts are likely to mandate as a remedy.

Most of those who immediately called for the Governor to cancel elections and immediately redraw maps are candidates for statewide office, including some (but not all) of the current candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

When voters hear red meat being thrown to the base, they often see the first order operation, say "yeah, they're appealing to their people" and move on. Hyper-partisans don't care as much about communities of interest as they do larger majorities. Appealing to the base with rhetoric that isn't legally or logistically possible sends a signal that they're on the right side, and costs them nothing.

A special session would require five legislative days for a bill to be introduced and pass both chambers. Candidates for statewide office who are currently state elected officials cannot raise money when the legislature is in session.

Not only would a special session upset the election currently underway, but would halt last minute fundraising if done "immediately" as several have requested. Those self-funding their campaigns would have a clear advantage over those

still trying to fund their last minute get out the vote ads. This would affect those incumbents trying to win their legislative seats in addition to the statewide races.

Those seeking maximum advantage with weirdly drawn maps may also end up losing it all. Few in Georgia media want to remind you what happened the last time Democrats were in charge of redrawing Georgia's congressional and legislative maps. House members in Republican areas were drawn into multimember districts. Senate districts in rural areas connected remote parts of the state with land bridges several hundred yards wide. A Congressional district ran from suburban east Atlanta to Savannah, with others having zig zag shapes through towns and counties segregating neighbors based on party, and on race.

The statewide election that year yielded the first partisan flip of state control since Reconstruction. Some credit the flag issue. Some cite angry teachers. But in a race decided by a slim margin, every disaffected voter can claim they were the reason.

Normal Georgians rejected the sacrifice of their communities of interest to maintain partisan power. When Republicans do eventually meet to address redistricting concerns, they would be wise to balance partisan desires with the will of local communities.



"...WHICH GIVES IRANIAN HARDLINERS SOMETHING TO SHOOT FOR."



# A fitting epitaph for a great woman

The recent death of Marilyn Kehoe brought grief to a broad spectrum of people from Athens to Cortona, Italy, her longtime second home where she ably assisted her husband, Jack, in establishing the premier studies abroad program throughout collegiate America.

They spent their summers in the hilltop town in Tuscany where you are often hailed with "Go Dawgs" when you walk down the street and that included natives as well as the colony of Georgia students who have spent time there.

Count me among the many who have been charmed by this Tuscan community which became the focal point of UGA's studies abroad program. With their easy-going manner and selfless lifestyle Marilyn and Jack were revered in Cortona by the natives.

Over the years, my wife, Myrna and I made a half-dozen stops, or more, in Cortona and often stayed in their guest bedroom at the top of the hill which requires considerable stamina to climb the steps to the Kehoe flat.

With advancing age, the two of them, nonetheless, considered it a daily function that was healthy to the extent I don't ever remember anybody confirming that they hailed a taxi to return home, unless there was a relentless downpour.



By LORAN SMITH

They made friends with the merchants and townspeople; they rubbed shoulders with the local gentry, the city fathers, and the politicians. Jack was an amicable sort who got along with local leaders even when Cortona was led by a Communist mayor.

The story of how the Kehoes settled on Cortona as the place they wanted to develop a study abroad program under the UGA banner is enlightening. Several years before he died, he told me how that came to be: "In honest reflection, one must go back to 1969.

At that time, most American universities located their programs in three major cities: Rome, Florence and Venice, all wonderful cultural centers and major tourist attractions," Jack explained.

"After experiencing a period of living and work-

ing in a sculpture studio in Rome in 1966, I observed one surprising factor. The American students took advantage of the museums, galleries, and churches, but did not take advantage of Italy's most important cultural aspect—its people."

Jack and Marilyn learned to speak Italian and were conversant with all levels of the social structure on Cortona. Marilyn learned to cook to the extent that if she and Jack invited you to dinner, you would be served pasta that would become convinced it was the best you ever tasted.

They were connoisseurs of Italian wine and traveled throughout Italy becoming expert on the historic sites and cultural masterworks, memorials and classic arts.

It was Jack and Marilyn who outlined a tour for us one year which included the suggestion that we take in the Palio di Siena where city center is turned into a horse track twice a year.

The jockeys ride bareback and the town goes out of its mind over this scintillating event. I have been to major horse tracks over the years, including several times to the Kentucky Derby. If I had a choice to see one last race, I would choose the Palio.

Celebrated author Frances Mayes, the Georgia native who was captivated by Cortona's breathtaking views and picturesque hillsides and the Etruscan her-

itage, wrote a bestselling book, "Under the Tuscan Sun," which was also made into a movie.

That heightened Cortona's international fame and caused real estate values to escalate. Cortona has been good to the University of Georgia, but you could say, UGA has been good to Cortona.

The mutual admiration society which exists became so firm, that when other universities tried to unseat Georgia with the Cortonese, they were roundly rebuffed.

"Jack was the brain and brawn of the Cortona program," says Rick Johnson, a former director of the program after Jack Kehoe retired. Then he added, "Marilyn was the heart and soul of the program."

"A southern belle from North Carolina, she was the silent partner, but when emotions were fractured, Marilyn was the one who provided a warm embrace. Homesickness was a challenge, and kids found Marilyn to be their savior. Kids looked to her often and came away healed and smiling."

"She provided counseling and tender loving care at critical times while raising her own four kids. Jack could not have made Cortona the best study abroad program there is without Marilyn's help. They were a great team."

That is a fitting epitaph for this great lady.

**Dublin Police Department**

- Zyinn Andriquez Martin, 19, was charged with fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, failure to stop at stop sign and failure to maintain lane on North Church Street around 1:08 a.m. on April 23.

While an officer was in the parking lot of Roses, he heard multiple gunshots that possibly originated from the Vinson Village area. The gunfire sounded consistent with automatic fire.

The officer immediately responded toward the area. While en route, dispatch advised a Flock alert indicating multiple gunshots in the area of North Church Street. As the officer turned onto North Church Street from Hillcrest, he saw a vehicle and an individual dressed in all black standing outside of it.



**POLICE BEAT...**

As the officer approached, the individual ran on foot toward Central Avenue and the vehicle turned right onto West Mary Street. The officer attempted to catch up to the vehicle but it failed to stop at stop signs on Dewey Street, West Mary Street and North Church Street.

The officer saw that the vehicle was failing to maintain its lane and was being driven in a reckless manner.

The vehicle turned left onto Central Avenue.

That is when both the driver and the passenger exited the vehicle while it was

still in motion.

The driver, later identified as Martin, was wearing a white hood and black pants and exited from the driver's side. The passenger, later identified as De'On-drae Strickland, 17, ran into a vacant residence, entering the side door.

Martin ran into the same place through the front door.

Officers discovered a firearm under the left rear passenger seat. Strickland was later charged with obstruction of law enforcement officers and aggravated assault.

**Laurens County Sheriff's Office**

- A deputy responded to a possible theft that happened around 9:44 a.m. on April 16.

- Joshua Tidwell, 37, of East Dublin, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, at the intersection of Nathaniel Street and Broad Street around 1:38 p.m. on April 17 after a deputy made a traffic stop on a vehicle.

- On April 18, around 11:03 p.m., a deputy was dispatched to Firetower Road in reference to a firearm being stolen.

- A deputy was dispatched to Southern Pines in reference to an in-person report about an incident that occurred on Clayhill Road around 6 p.m. on April 17.

- A theft occurred on Tipton Road in Dexter around 12:30 p.m. on April 17.

-A deputy responded to an accident with unknown injuries at the intersection of Highway 257 and Alcorn Road in Dexter around 12:01 a.m. on April 21.

- On April 19, around 8:12 p.m., a deputy was dispatched to Highway 80 East in reference to assisting with property removal. This led to Amanda Mimbs, 30, of East Dublin, being arrested for miscellaneous incident report.

Editor's note: This in-

formation 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.

**Director of Facility Maintenance**

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

The Dublin Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

**Housing Administrative Assistant**

The Dublin Housing Authority is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Housing Administrative Assistant. The successful applicant must possess superb communication and computer literacy skills. Must be able to multi-task with moderate supervision in all areas of the DHA departmental structure. The ability to prepare clear, concise reports is a plus in this position. The position also performs the centralized collection of all rental payments. Qualifications for the job include an associate's degree in a related work-related field or business training in secretarial sciences or three years' related experience in a money-handling environment is desirable. The starting salary for this position is \$17.50 per hour depending on 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 to [dhousing@dublinhousingauthority.net](mailto:dhousing@dublinhousingauthority.net). Deadline for submittal is May 15, 2026.

The Dublin Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

**In 'monumental step' Kemp signs education package led by new literacy law**

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat

ATLANTA — A bipartisan education initiative that seeks to boost reading skills among young public school students in Georgia will go into effect this year after Gov. Brian Kemp signed it into law Tuesday, along with a package of other education bills.

The Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026 is a sweeping overhaul of prior legislation that targeted literacy and dyslexia.

The new measure, which was a top priority of House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, adds numerous new requirements for curriculum, teacher training and student testing.

It also adds about \$70 million to the formula that drives state education budgeting, enough to hire a classroom literacy coach in more than 1,300 schools that have kindergarten through third-grade classrooms.

"This bill is a monumen-

tal step in our years-long work to ensure students have the literacy skills they need," Kemp said before signing House Bill 1193.

The governor signed eight other education bills, including House Bill 1009, which will ban cellphones in public high schools starting in the 2027-28 school year.

The legislation expands a ban passed last year on devices in kindergarten through middle school. Although the lower grades ban does not go into effect until the upcoming school year, many schools have already prohibited personal cellphones ahead of schedule.

Surveys of parents and teachers at many of those schools last fall indicated the bans were popular. Studies also showed academic gains associated with removing the devices.

"The improved outcomes following last year's bill have been incredible," Kemp said, "and this common-sense step will help both students and faculty learn

in safer, distraction-free environments."

Among the other bills that Kemp signed are measures that will require public schools to expand access to afterschool programs for pre-kindergarten students enrolled in those schools (House Bill 1123), require closer collaboration between public schools and "completion schools" that offer credit recovery for students at risk of dropping out (House Bill 907), and expand a program allowing retired teachers to fill teacher shortages by returning to the classroom for pay while collecting a pension (Senate Bill 150).

The literacy act was the most expansive measure. Starting this summer, the state will have to identify at least one test to measure whether incoming students are reading on grade level.

By fall, state leaders will convene a literacy task force that will vet literacy curricula for use statewide, with the state ensuring at least

one option is free to public schools.

The methods will be grounded in phonics and what proponents have labeled the "science of reading" and "structured literacy," with approaches based on decades of research. State universities will also be tasked with overhauling the way they teach future teachers.

Burns said literacy levels affect mental health and health care outcomes, employment and even the prison population.

"Only one in three of our children can read on grade level when they leave the third grade. Unacceptable," he said. "But I'm hopeful and I'm confident with Governor Kemp's signature of the Early Literacy Act of 2026 today, we are well on our way to rewriting that narrative."

**NEWS DIGEST**

The city of Rentz is having a council meeting Monday, May 11 at 6 p.m. at city hall. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Approval of April minutes
- Approval of financial statement
- Acknowledge visitors
- Old business
- New business
- Comments
- Adjourn

The city of Dudley will hold its next council meeting Tuesday, May 12 at noon at the Dudley Fire Station. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll call
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of previous minutes
- April 14th, 2026
- Approval of bills
- Old business
- Update on the abandonment of the well at City Hall
- Update on well filters
- Update bar screen construction at sewage treatment pond
- New Business
- Consideration of contract for rehabilitation of 3,700 L.F. of 8 inch sanitary sewer
- GEFA grant application
- 9. Citizen comments
- 10. Council comments
- 11. Executive session (if needed)
- 12. Adjournment

**Classifieds**

**Employment**

JOB OPENING FOR MINISTRY ASSISTANT  
Dudley Baptist Church is seeking a full-time Ministry Assistant. For a copy of the job description and/or to send resume contact Debra at [dsmith.dudley@gmail.com](mailto:dsmith.dudley@gmail.com). Additional questions, contact Pastor Matt Greene at 229-206-7875 or [mgpacker45@gmail.com](mailto:mgpacker45@gmail.com).

**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.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM**

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

Visit our Website For Additional Information



**478-743-1511**  
**HudsonMarshall.com**

GAL #274

**Dublin Community Theatre**  
**AUDITIONS**



**SATURDAY, MAY 9**

**10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM & 2:00 to 5:00 PM**

**Theatre Dublin**

Who Can Audition? Ages: 13 to "youthful" 26 years old.  
You only need to attend morning or afternoon audition.  
Bring recent 4 x 6 photo to submit with audition form.  
Be prepared to sing one minute of a song, move on stage, and read from the script.

Out of town student? Virtual vocal audition accepted until May 8. Text or email your video to Parks Baird, Director, at 478-484-6312 or [parks@bairdstreet.tv](mailto:parks@bairdstreet.tv).  
For any questions, please contact Parks.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



GARFIELD



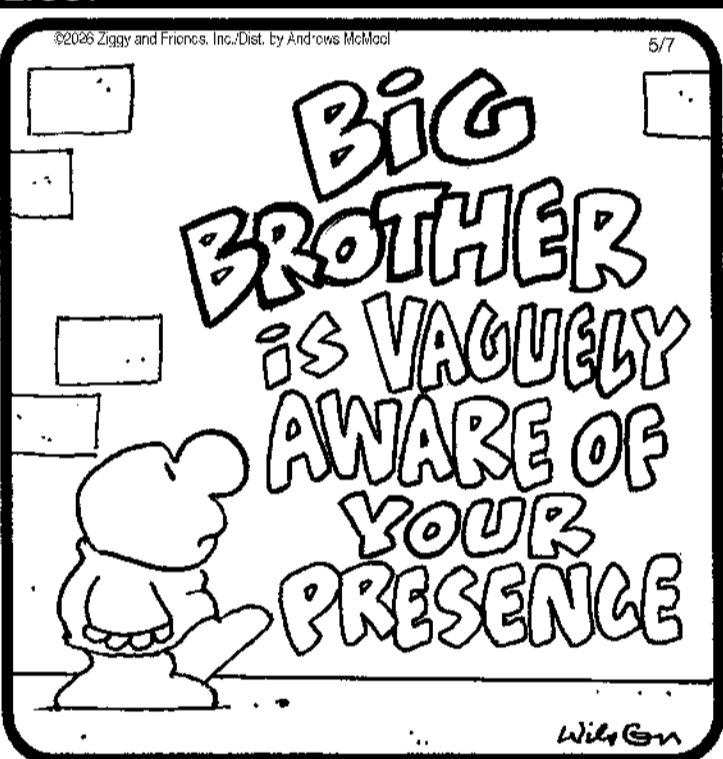
OVERBOARD



DEFLOCKED



ZIGGY



PLUGGERS



The Plugger Smart Home Device is activated by the word "Honey."

Man wishes good friendship was something more



DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 60-year-old man. I have a close female friend who is 20 years younger. We see each other just about every day and call each other to talk about our day. We have supper together just about every night. The only thing we don't have is a romance. I have strong feelings for her and want to tell her how I feel, but I'm worried that if I do, it will ruin our friendship. Do you have any advice for me?

- CLUELESS IN ALABAMA

DEAR CLUELESS: What's going on is unsatisfying for you. This younger woman knows you care about her and have much in common. She may not be aware that you have more in mind. If you don't speak up, your relationship with her stands no chance of moving to a higher level. If you do, and she tells you the chemistry isn't mutual, you will then be free to find a woman who reciprocates.

\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: I recently retired after a 25-year career in law enforcement. My mother, whom my family and I see a lot of and have gone on vacation with in the past, didn't get me a congratulatory card. I was hurt by it because she's usually more thoughtful than that.

Mom also lectured me about going on vacation after

paralyzed by the possibility that she might do something incorrectly. When writing reports or sending emails, she checks her work again and again, asking multiple people to confirm that she's taking the right approach before proceeding. This is much too slow. It annoys the people she's badgering.

How can I help her relax and understand that there are no negative consequences for being wrong occasionally? We're not brain surgeons. If we make a mistake, it's likely someone will catch it before it comes close to causing a serious problem. Reassuring her that she can be bold only seems to cause more terror. Please help.

- LOSING PATIENCE

DEAR LOSING PATIENCE: It's time to stop coddling your co-worker. The way to show her that mistakes are OK is to let her make mistakes. Praise her after she has done something right, and gently correct her occasional blunder. She may be uncomfortable for a while, but everyone will be happier in the end.

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

Thursday, May 7, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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SURPRISE RESULT

Neither vulnerable, North deals

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 7  
 ♥ J 2  
 ♦ A K Q 10 7  
 ♣ Q 8 6 4

**WEST**  
 ♠ 8 4 3  
 ♥ K 9  
 ♦ 6 5 4 2  
 ♣ 10 9 5 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ A J 9 6 2  
 ♥ Q 8 7 4  
 ♦ J 9  
 ♣ K J

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ Q 10 5  
 ♥ A 10 6 5 3  
 ♦ 8 3  
 ♣ A 7 3

The bidding:  
 NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
 1♣ 1♠ Dbl Redbl Pass  
 2♣ Pass 2NT 2NT Pass  
 3NT All pass

Opening lead: King of ♥

Today's deal was played some years ago in Munich, Germany. At that time, we are told, there were 11 bridge clubs in Munich. They apparently play six-card majors in Munich, as neither East nor South bid their five-card major when they

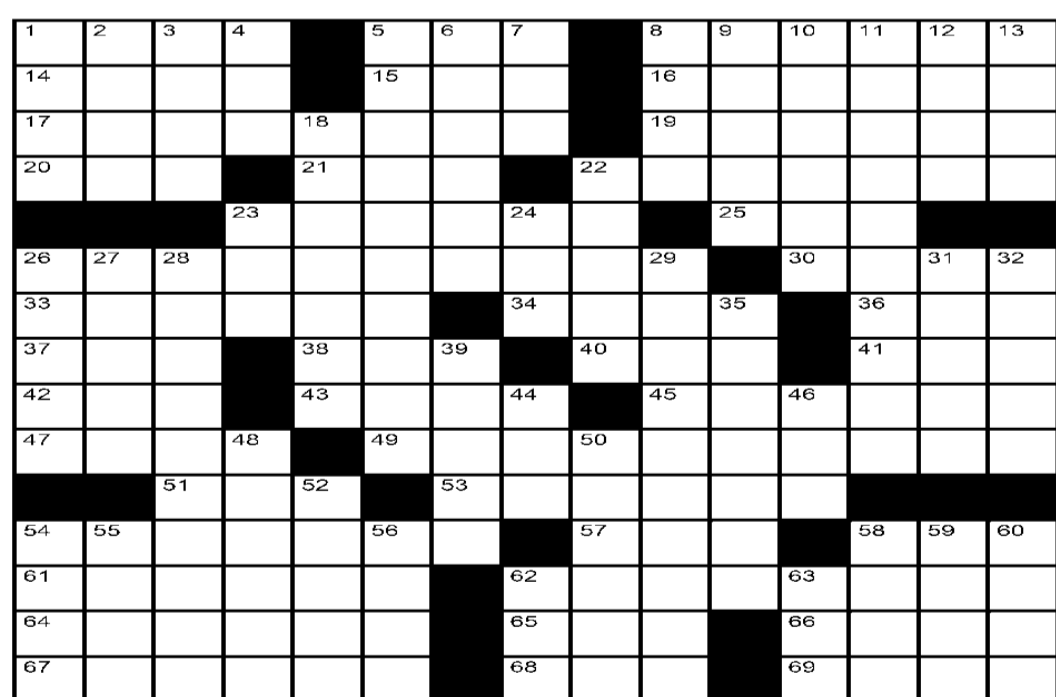
had a chance. The final contract seemed destined to succeed, with the jack of diamonds coming down and the jack of spades well placed. East was Boris Yavilinski. West, trying to hit partner's suit after the take-out double, led the king of hearts - low, low, low around the table. Thinking he was onto something good, West continued hearts to the jack, queen, and ace. South led the eight of diamonds to dummy's ace and Yavilinski followed smoothly with the jack! Seeing the road to nine tricks, or so he thought, declarer led a spade to his queen and a diamond to dummy's seven. Yavilinski took his nine and cashed four spade tricks.

Yavilinski exited with the eight of hearts to South's 10. South might have found the end play against Yavilinski to escape for down three. Perhaps disenchanted with the hand at this point, declarer did not find it and finished down four. An ugly result! Credit to Yavilinski for a nice deceptive play.

(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 Played the trumpet
  - 5 "\_\_\_ sells seashells..."
  - 8 "Caught you!"
  - 14 Car or truck
  - 15 "Annabel Lee" author
  - 16 Italian cheese
  - 17 Chain with chalupas: 2 wds.
  - 19 Frisbee golf equipment: 2 wds.
  - 20 "What?"
  - 21 TV screen type: Abbr.
  - 22 "That's me to a tee!": 3 wds.
  - 23 Spuds
  - 25 Runner's achievements: Abbr.
  - 26 Complicated explanation "\_\_\_ girl!"
  - 33 Recognition
  - 34 School book
  - 36 Steal from
  - 37 AFL-\_\_\_: Abbr.
  - 38 Neither here \_\_\_ there
  - 40 Sticky black stuff
  - 41 "TBH" relative: Abbr.
  - 42 Director Lee
  - 43 Got bigger
  - 45 Life's work
  - 47 Very uncommon
  - 49 Official's overseas travel: 2 wds.
  - 51 Guitarist Rose
  - 53 Religious retreat
  - 54 Passing on a track
  - 57 Baseball stat: Abbr.
  - 58 Help
  - 61 Apple device
  - 62 Come together
  - 64 Actor Paul
  - 65 Picnic bug
  - 66 Untruths
  - 67 Go upward



Created by Stella Zawistowski

11/7/25

- 68 Honey maker
- 69 Halloween costume part

DOWN

- 1 Tub soak
- 2 Hawaiian party
- 3 Engrave deeply
- 4 Wine and dine
- 5 Onlookers
- 6 Container
- 7 "Electric" fish
- 8 Flying mammals
- 9 Deplete: 2 wds.
- 10 \_\_\_ Madre
- 11 Woven artworks
- 12 Quaint "Oh my!"
- 13 Extinct bird
- 18 Accusing
- 22 Tiny land mass
- 23 Wee bit
- 24 Go bad
- 26 Battery-powered toy: 2 wds.
- 27 Model Shayk
- 28 National \_\_\_ (magazine since 1888)
- 29 Make worse

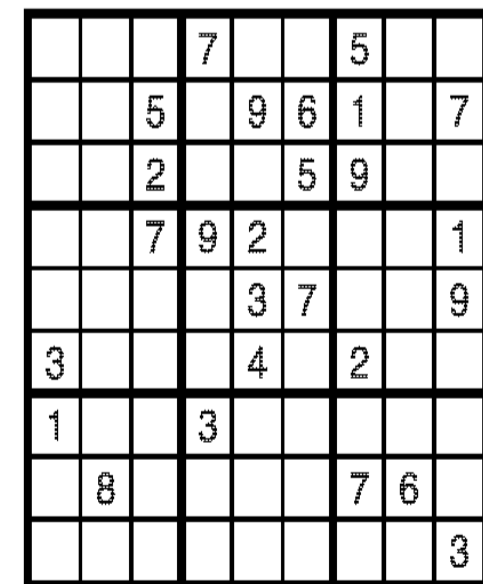


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- 31 Actress Marisa
- 32 Call off
- 35 Hard effort
- 39 Label again
- 44 Used to be
- 46 Canyon's edge
- 48 Reveal
- 50 King's seat
- 52 Bedsheets
- 54 Old Italian coin
- 55 Imitates
- 56 Geeky person
- 58 Largest continent
- 59 Puts frosting on
- 60 Office furniture
- 62 Taxi
- 63 National Mall tree

SUDOKU

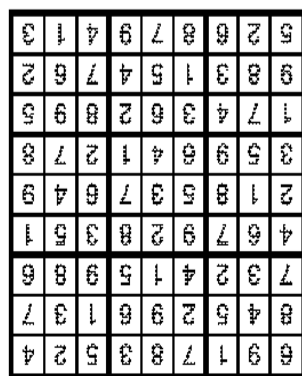


Fun By The Numbers

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:



**BATTLING:** Matthew Gibbs (left) and Jax Crawford (right) overcame a tough challenge in two tight sets at No. 1 doubles to pick up one of last Thursday's two match wins for the West Laurens boys/**DANNY SCARBORO**

**IN COMMAND:** Hannah Wells (right) hits a forehand as partner Anna O'Neal looks on during Tuesday's first doubles match, which the duo stood a couple games from winning when time was called/**CLAY REYNOLDS**

# GHSA tennis playoffs: Raiders reach round of 8; eliminated by Oconee Co., Southeast Bulloch

From STAFF REPORTS

West Laurens' tennis teams reached the end of their playoff roads with losses in the GHSA quarterfinals last Thursday, and this past Monday.

Both were back home for the round of eight after collecting 5-0 victories earlier last week, the boys over Spalding and Lady Raiders against region rival Richmond Academy.

No. 5 seed Oconee County handed the boys a 3-2 heartbreaker on Thursday. The West Laurens girls were eliminated in a 3-0 loss to Southeast Bulloch on Monday.

Both clubs' seasons conclude with identical records 17-9 (10-0 region 4-AAA), and another in their long streak of region championships.

Each of the Lady Raiders' five wins, for Brooke Collins, Elynn Alligood and Augusta Rogers on the singles courts, and the teams of Anna O'Neal and Hannah Wells, and Laney Shields and Jaelynn Walker in doubles, went in straight sets.

The boys faced resistance in only one of their five against the Jaguars, as Kenneth Reyes overcame a couple of tight sets to win 7-5, 6-3 at No. 1 singles.

It was straightforward on the



**HANGING IN THERE:** Elynn Alligood (left) and Aiden Payne (right) hit returns while fighting to keep their teams' seasons alive in the latter sets of recent quarterfinal matches/**CLAY REYNOLDS, DANNY SCARBORO**

second and third courts, where Landon Gentry and Charlie Barfield were also straight-sets winners. Aiden Payne and Cullen Christian, and Matthew Gibbs and Jax Crawford gave up just one game out of 24 they played on the doubles side.

Thursday's boys quarterfinal came down to the wire, and a neck-and-neck first doubles match in which Payne and Christian had split a pair of 6-3s with Rohan Patel and Levi Patch. The Warrior duo took the rubber set 6-2 to clinch the match.

Vance Patterson swept the first

set, and fought off a rally from Reyes to win the second 7-5, to pick up the Warriors' first point. Gentry broke back with a win at second singles in straight 6-2 sets.

Gibbs and Crawford won a close one for the Raiders at second doubles, getting the first set 7-6 in a tiebreak, and putting the second away 6-3. Oconee's Saahil Doshi pulled out an extended tiebreak to get his first set 7-6, and won the second to sweep 6-4 at third singles.

Tuesday's girls match ended somewhat suddenly, with four matches in progress after the sec-

ond doubles point went to the Yellow Jackets.

SEB got a quick 12-game victory on the first singles court, and prevailed 6-2, 6-0 on the second to capture the match, though Raiders at third singles and first doubles were making strides toward a chance to win, O'Neal and Wells ahead by a set and a 4-3 score in the second. Rogers was similarly in front 6-1, 4-0 when it was called.

Oconee County and Southeast Bulloch each move on to face No. 1 seed LaGrange in the semifinals.

## SCOREBOARD

**BOYS SOCCER**  
Tuesday  
West Laurens 2,  
Calhoun 1 (OT)

**GIRLS TENNIS**  
Thursday  
Southeast Bulloch 3,  
West Laurens 0

**BASEBALL**  
Tuesday  
Thomas Jefferson 8,  
Trinity 7

## PREP SCHEDULE

**SOCCER**  
Friday  
GHSA Semifinals  
East Hall at West Laurens  
/TBA

**Saturday**  
GHSA Playoffs, Round 1  
FPCA at Trinity (boys)  
/6 p.m.

**Friday, May 15**  
GHSA Quarterfinals  
Robert Toombs or Heritage  
at Trinity (girls)/6 p.m.

**BASEBALL**  
Thursday  
GHSA Quarterfinals  
WL at Pickens  
(doubleheader)/5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Thomas Jefferson at Trinity  
/6 p.m.

**Friday**  
GHSA Quarterfinals  
WL at Pickens  
(game 3, if necessary)  
/5:30 p.m.

**GOLF**  
Thursday  
Vidalia at WL (Dublin CC)  
/3 p.m.

**Monday-Tuesday,**  
May 18-19  
WL at AAA State  
Tournament  
(Highland CC, LaGrange)

# Track & field: Crusaders capture second at region, put three on podium at GIAs; Falcons, Irish, Raiders compete at sectionals

From STAFF REPORTS

Trinity's track and field teams both placed second at their recent region championship meet, and went on to produce three runners-up – out of six athletes to make top eight in their events – at the GHSA state finals this past weekend.

Both girls and boys teams were overall runners-up to the Robert Toombs girls and Central Fellowship boys (by only two and a half points) at the region event, hosted by Brewton-Parker on April 22.

Twenty Crusaders clinched one spot or more individually in the state championship meet, which was held as always at Locust Grove's Strong Rock Christian School, last Thursday through Saturday.

Top finishers Lily Kidd (discus, 105-4), Linza Pettis (pole vault, 7'9") and Hudson Shirley (pole vault, 10') each claimed silver medals at state, while Anna Hazel Preston (seventh, triple jump), Griffin Lane (sixth, triple jump) and Grayson Knowles (eighth, 3200-meter dash) were also among the best in the running. The girls placed 12th overall, and boys 15th.

Here were each of Trinity's state qualifiers from the region event:

- Brinley Vinson, 400-meter dash; runner-up, long jump; runner-up, triple jump
- Reese Cobb – fourth, 800-meter; fourth, 1600-meter
- Bethany Sumner – runner-up, 3200-meter; third, 100-meter hurdles; third, 300-meter hurdles
- Bethany Hawkins – third, 3200-meter
- Anna Hazel Preston – third, triple jump
- Linza Pettis – first (8'), pole vault



**SILVER METTLE:** Lily Kidd (left), Hudson Shirley (center) and Linza Pettis (right) rose above a tough field of competitors to reach the second step of the medal stand as runners-up, Kidd in the discus and Shirley and Pettis in pole vault/**SPECIAL PHOTOS**

- Lily Kidd – first (95-6) discus; fourth, shot put
- Girls 4x100 relay, fifth
- Girls 4x400 relay, runner-up
- Griffin Lane – sixth, 100-meter dash; sixth, long jump; runner-up, triple jump
- Mason Lane – sixth, 400-meter dash; first (21.82), 110-meter hurdles
- Grayson Knowles – third, 800-meter; runner-up, 1600-meter; runner-up, 3200-meter
- Hudson Shirley – fourth, 1600-meter; first (10') pole vault
- Blaze Milburn – fourth, 3200-meter
- Kennedy Beasley – third,

- 110-meter hurdles; third, 300-meter hurdles; third, pole vault
- Brooks Barrs – first, (45.93) 300-meter hurdles; third high jump; third, triple jump
- Alec Preston – sixth, discus
- Boys 4x100 relay, fourth
- Boys 4x400 relay, fourth
- Boys 4x800 relay, runner-up



Local GHSA track and fielders took the next steps in their post-season journey Saturday, and a number of athletes representing Dublin, East Laurens and West

Laurens advanced as the former two made a short ride back to Cochran and the latter a more lengthy jaunt to Jefferson to compete in GHSA sectional meets.

There, competitors must place top eight in their events (or post one of the six next-best times behind winners in events that are broken down into heats) to advance to the state championships, set for next week, May 11-14, at the University of Georgia's sparkling new Spec Towns track complex in Athens.

Athletes who punched their ticket to the Classic City are as follows...

### Dublin

- Major Morton – seventh, discus
- Girls 4x200-meter relay, eighth
- Boys 4x100 relay, eighth
- Boys 4x200 relay, eighth

### East Laurens

- Caleb Jackson – first, discus (154-2); second, shot put
- Garyunna Mitchell – seventh, 100-meter dash; eighth, 200-meter
- Kimora Dudley – third, 400-meter
- Kalise Williams – second, 100-meter hurdles; fifth, 300-meter hurdles
- Girls 4x400 relay, fifth
- Deanna Lowther – third, discus; eighth, shot put

### West Laurens

- Levi Dailey – sixth, 1600-meter dash
- Justin Blash – heat winner (14.99), 110-meter hurdles; fifth, 300-meter hurdles
- Boys 4x100 relay, sixth
- Boys 4x200 relay, seventh
- Boys 4x800 relay, fifth (with another school record-breaking time of 8:42.84)
- Juvon Hill – first, triple jump (47-9.5)
- Bryson Campbell – sixth, pole vault
- Leroy Mack – third, shot put
- Girls 4x100 relay, heat winner (49.44)
- Girls 4x200 relay, sixth
- Sydney Howard – sixth, triple jump
- Sophie Kavuri – first, pole vault (8-0)
- Leah Wells – sixth, discus
- Jerniya Mack – eighth, discus

**CITY COUNCIL**

Continued from page 1

tax) and the Community Development Block Grant, while the West Moore Street project will be paid for through T-SPLOST.

"We have been dealing with a significant drainage issue on West Mary Street," Powell said. "It will divert rain water and storm water from going on to people's property from the roadway as we've seen in the past. It will also re-surface West Mary Street and it will also add a sidewalk, and connect to the existing sidewalk on the housing authority side."

On West Moore Street, there has been a culvert underneath the road that is failing, Powell said. It needs to be replaced as well as some additional storm water pipe that extends beyond that.

"This is something we have been wanting to do for a long time," Kight said. "It was a combination of federal money and state agencies that award-

ed the city of Dublin close to \$900,000 to allow us to do this project right. We are very appreciative to the grant funding that we have received."

A budget workshop was held following Tuesday's city council meeting for the upcoming fiscal year which begins on July 1.

"For those who stick around, you'll be able to see how important grants are to many of the projects we pursue in the city," Kight said. "It allows us to keep our property taxes low and still accomplish these projects."

In other meeting news, the council:

- Heard first reading of ordinance rezoning parcel from B-2 to R-4 near Woodlawn Drive and Hillcrest Parkway and a resolution to amend the Future Land Use Map were withdrawn at the start of the meeting.

- "The purpose for this is the applicant has withdrawn their rezoning request," Kight said.

- Heard a first reading



City Manager Josh Powell (left) discusses a resolution at Tuesday morning's meeting of the Dublin City Council/PAYTON TOWNS III

of ordinance rezoning 540 Charles W. Manning Sr. Way from R-1 to R-2. The rezoning request will allow the addition of afterschool and summer childcare at Free Vision Deliverance Outreach Ministry, across from the Oconee Gymnasium.

- Heard a first reading to amend the ordinance

for subdivision and variance fees by resolution.

- Approved purchasing CPE (customer premise equipment) and professional services from Calix Inc., in the amount of \$53,756.40. The city has been using Calix equipment since 2014, providing internet service to business customers throughout the

years. Robert Jefferson Jr., telecom director for the city, wrote that the new equipment will allow them to offer faster speeds in the future and to meet future demands.

- Passed a resolution to secure property and casualty insurance benefits for the 2027 year for the city of Dublin.

## Visit Dublin GA announces grant funding for two businesses

**SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD**

Visit Dublin GA announced that it has awarded a total of \$7,500 in tourism grant funding to Stillwater Endeavors and W.P. Candle Co. to provide marketing support for their respective projects: City Passport - Dublin and Dublin's Glow Experience, both dedicated to expanding tourism in Dublin.

This grant funding is cycle 2 of two for fiscal year 2026.

W.P. Candle Co. was awarded \$5,000 to assist in the launch of Dublin's

Glow Experience, a bookable creative wellness tourism attraction located in downtown Dublin. The immersive experience invites visitors to participate in guided candle-making workshops paired with cultural storytelling, seasonal themed events, and curated wellness activations, with an aim to attract group travel while strengthening Laurens County's arts portfolio.

Stillwater Endeavors received \$2,500 to expand the reach of City Passport - Dublin, a multimedia guide that highlights local businesses, experi-

ences, and cultural assets throughout the community. The project serves as a tool for visitors, helping them discover and engage with Dublin in an interactive and accessible way.

"These projects represent exactly the type of forward thinking initiatives our tourism grant program is designed to support," said Visit Dublin GA Director Miriam Lewis.

"By investing in experiences that attract visitors and encourage them to stay longer, explore more, and return again, we continue to strengthen Dublin's position as an en-

gaged and welcoming destination."

The Tourism Grant Program is designed for qualified applicants whose tourism projects or events clearly align with Visit Dublin GA's mission to enhance the economic base of the community through tourism.

Visit Dublin GA announced the opening of the FY26 Cycle 2 Tourism Grant Program Feb. 12, to provide funds for marketing, product development, and other qualified expenses that foster local economic impact, result in increased overnight vis-

itors, and enhance destination appeal for Laurens County. FY27 Cycle 1 of the Tourism Grant Funding opens Aug. 7.

Visit Dublin GA promotes Laurens County as a destination for tourists and conventions, invests in local community resources that encourage tourism and conventions, and coordinates and stages events with regional and statewide interest.

Visit Dublin GA is the marketing brand of the Dublin-Laurens Tourism Council, Inc., a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization.

**VISIT DUBLIN**

Continued from page 1

fortable and welcome."

This week is National Travel and Tourism Week, a celebration of tourism's impact in communities and cities. After kicking off with the America The Beautiful: Celebrating 250 Years, at Theatre Dublin on Sunday, Visit Dublin GA held a hospitality event for hotel and restaurants Monday evening.

"That went really good," Lewis said. "This was the first time we have ever done that and we had a nice small group. It went really well. I think we should do this every year and build momentum. The hospitality workers are the front faces to all



of the travelers who come through here."

The Good Info Expo will be held on Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Market on Madison. This community event will feature organizations who offer services to visitors and those who live in the area. The final event will be the Bubbles, Balloons and Bouquets at

the visitors center from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

"We really love when our locals come by and check out what we are doing out here," Lewis said. "We are always busy and always on the go. I have an excellent staff who welcomes people so graciously every day of the week."

## Woman arrested for stealing mail

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

A 42-year-old woman was charged with theft by taking after she allegedly stole mail from a box on Ridge Circle last week.

According to a Dublin Police Department report, Ann Elizabeth Talbird was arrested around 9:46 p.m. on May 1. An officer was dispatched to that area in reference to theft of mail from a man's mailbox.

The man said a woman, who was driving a red Chevrolet Malibu, had removed mail out of his mailbox. The officer talk-

ed with the woman, identified as Talbird. She told him she had not taken any mail.

The man saw Talbird place the package under her seat before the officer arrived. The officer, who was standing on the passenger side, saw a white package barely sticking out from under the seat.

Another officer removed Talbird from the vehicle and checked the package, which had the man's name on it.

Talbird was arrested and transported to the Laurens County Jail.

**FATAL WRECK**

Continued from page 1

Wimbush was pronounced dead by Stanley on the scene around 1 a.m. Monday. Wilson and her daughter, Smith, were transported to Fairview Park Hospital. A doctor pronounced Wilson dead at 1:12 a.m. A doctor also pronounced Smith, a student at Treutlen High School, dead at 2:37 a.m.

Stanley said two other children were also in the Kia. The GSP said they were transported with non-life threatening injuries.

The cause of death for all three deaths was multiple blunt trauma due to a motor vehicle crash.

"It's sad," Stanley said. "A lot of lives changed in the split of a second."

**CHILDCARE**

Continued from page 1

sources when it comes to local childcare. The data showed that majority of the parents relied on friends, family and neighbors to care for their children. Licensed care centers was the second most popular form of childcare. Only about 30 respondents reported a parent staying home with children, but about a third of survey takers listed stay-at-home parenting as their preferred method of childcare.

"A lot of parents want to stay home with their child, but for whatever reason they couldn't do that," said Erin Hamel, a UGA professor who assisted with the survey.

Employers, making up just 27 of the survey responders, were split on reporting if their workers had unmet childcare needs, with 11 saying yes, 10 no and six reporting they didn't know. Only 30 percent of the employers reported childcare accessibility affected their ability to attract and retain employees.

Increasing access to childcare has become a top priority for the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce and its non-profit wing the Chamber Community Foundation. The business advocate group is working with local childcare centers to help improve state quality ratings and fund improvements.

Data shows that Laurens County has a deficit of seats in licensed childcare facilities. There are over 3,000 children under 5 years old in Laurens County and just over 1,000 available seats, with less than 900 taken. And those seats can cost parents over \$6,000 a year per child.

The University of Georgia is continuing to study area childcare needs and is now conducting in person interviews with parents. The results will be released later.

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