

The Courier Herald

\$1

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

County school board OKs \$88.7 million budget

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Laurens County School Board approved its fiscal year 2027 budget, with the cost of the new East Laurens Elementary School showing up as the biggest expense for the upcoming fiscal year.

"We didn't have anything that was out of the norm in next year's budget," said Laurens County Superintendent O.J. Hall. "We are maintaining where we are, and we are thankful for that."

Before the meeting, the board held its second public hearing for the FY 2027 budget. Chief Financial Officer Mary McCullough, who went over the budget during

the first public budget hearing in late May, was prepared but not required to go over it again last Thursday because only one person from the public attended, and they had already heard it during the previous meeting.

During that meeting, McCullough explained that the anticipated revenues are \$88.7 million. Of that, 73 percent comes from state funding, 24 percent from local funding and 3 percent from federal funds. She said the local taxes were \$20.1 million. Of that, about \$17.1 million is from property taxes and \$13 million from other taxes.

Property taxes are based on last year's millage rate, which was set at 14 mills.

The other \$3 million is comprised of real estate taxes, intangible taxes, railroad taxes, motor vehicle and title ad valorem tax.

Other local funding comes from Medicaid billing (\$400,000), tuition (\$65,000), interest earned (\$700,000), rebates (\$25,000) and rental income (\$10,000).

State funding is \$63.85 million. Of that, \$48.9 million is QBE formula earnings, \$1.6 million is funding for pupil transportation, \$142,000 for nursing services, \$13 million in educational equalization funds and \$765,570 in state grants.

SCHOOL BOARD
Continued on page 7



Superintendent O.J. Hall (left) shares information to the Laurens County Board of Education during a meeting last Thursday/PAYTON TOWNS III

Dublin VA honors veterans at Flag Day ceremony

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The American flag waved in what little breeze there was on a hot Friday morning as the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center honored veterans for their service during its Flag Day ceremony.

"We pause to reflect on what this flag represents: the sacrifice of our veterans, the resilience of our service members and the shared commitment to freedom that unites us as Americans," said Carmen Adeboye, acting medical center director. "The colors we raise this morning are more than fabric, they remind us of courage shown, battles endured and lives dedicated to the service of others. ... May this ceremony renew our gratitude and deepen our commitment to serving those who have served our nation."

She thanked the veterans

for their courage, sacrifice and resilience.

"You are the reason we stand here today," Adeboye said. "Thank you for your service to our great nation."

She also acknowledged all the veterans' families and their caregivers.

"Thank you for the love, support and steadfast commitment that sustain those who served," Adeboye said. "Our veterans could not do what they do for our country if not for the support they receive from family and friends. Your support is truly crucial."

She thanked her co-workers at the VA.

"Thank you to my teammates for all that you do to care for America's heroes every day," Adeboye said. "The work you do and the commitment that you make are indispensable in our mission to provide the highest quality healthcare possible to our veterans."

Keith Griffin, center for development and civic engagement chief, welcomed everyone to the ceremony.

"Flag Day is a day that holds special meaning for every American," Griffin said. "Today, we honor our nation's flag - not just as a symbol of our country, but as a representation of the unity, ideals and freedoms that bind us together."

He reminded the audience that the flag has stood as a silent witness to America's history, which also included its struggles, victories and ongoing commitment to liberty and justice



Members of the Dublin VA Police Department raise the American flag during a ceremony held Friday morning/PAYTON TOWNS III

for everyone.

"As we reflect on what the flag means to us, let us also remember the countless men and women who have served, both at home and abroad, under its colors, safeguarding the freedoms we cherish. Thank you for joining us in this celebration. Let us raise our hearts and voices in tribute to the Stars and Stripes and all that it represents."

Three Dublin VA Police officers unfolded and raised a large American flag at the pole in front of the main building on campus. After Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance, Chaplain Raynard

Churchwell said a prayer before Alexis Brantley sang the national anthem.

When closing the event, Griffin reminded everyone about the Freedom 250 that will be hosted at the VA on Saturday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The celebration will feature live music, other entertainment, food trucks and outreach tables offering information about VA services and programs.

"Help us celebrate this great country," Griffin said.

The VA is inviting community members to perform for the event. Anyone interested can contact Griffin at Keith.Griffin@va.gov.



The American flag flies in front of the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center/PAYTON TOWNS III

'They needed me:' Urologist brings needed care to Dublin

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

For at least a year, Fairview Park Hospital has been without a urologist. Patients needing that type of care were referred to a doctor outside of the county.

That was unacceptable for officials at the hospital who knew the importance of having an on-site urologist in Laurens County. It turned out, they did not have to search too far to find Dr. Trent Sterenchock, who made the decision to make the move from Warner Rob-

ins to Dublin's FPH.

"Dr. Sterenchock will be joining the Fairview Park Hospital team and our community at the right time," said Brad Griffin, president and CEO of Fairview Park Hospital. "Urology is a vital service line for patients in Dublin-Laurens County. Healthcare is always best when it's delivered close to home, and we are always aiming to offer that at Fairview Park Hospital. We are very excited to be adding Dr. Sterenchock to our medical staff and are thrilled that our patients and com-



Fairview Park Hospital Welcomes

Dr. Trent Sterenchock
Board-Certified Urologist

Offering quality urologic care to Dublin-Laurens County.

Beginning May 18th

FAIRVIEW PARK HOSPITAL

An image from the hospital welcoming Dr. Sterenchock to town/FAIRVIEW PARK HOSPITAL

munity will have consistent access to urologic care right here at home."

Sterenchock's first day was May 18. He has nearly

30 years of experience practicing urology. He knew this area had a need and he had heard good things about Fairview Park Hospital.

A urologist treats the urinary tract and is trained for

NEW DOCTOR
Continued on page 7

INDEX

OBITUARIES	2
POLICE BEAT	4
EDITORIAL	4
TELL IT!	4
COMICS	5
KIDS' CORNER	6

1 section, 8 pages • Vol. 112,
No. 67, Pub. No. 161860



OBITUARIES



Diane Darsey

Graveside services for Ms. Diane Darsey were held Monday, June 15, 2026 at 4 p.m. in the Red Bluff Baptist Church Cemetery in Treutlen County. Rev. Clayton Tanner will officiate. Ms. Darsey died Friday, June 12, 2026 at Treutlen Health & Rehab.

Ms. Darsey, 72, was born in Dublin, Ga. on Feb. 2, 1954 to Robert Lee Darsey and Vinney Shumans Darsey and was a lifelong resident of Treutlen County. She attended Treutlen High School, was a member and employee of the Treutlen Service Center for many years and was Baptist by faith. Her father, Robert Lee Darsey and brother, Bobby Lee Darsey, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her mother, Vinney Darsey; her sister, Estella M. Darsey; two nieces, Angela Daniels and Cindy (Pete) Chadwell; nephew, Jimmy (Jamie) Darsey and numerous great nieces and great nephews.

The family will receive friends 30 minutes prior to the service in the cemetery.

Higgs Funeral Home (higgsfuneralhomeandflorist.com and Facebook of Soperton has charge of arrangements.



Gayle Edney

Memorial services for Gayle Edney, 68 will be held privately for family in the Chan Stanley Memorial Chapel of Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory. Mr. Thurmon Foskey will officiate.

A visitation for the public will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory.

Mrs. Edney was born Oct. 26, 1957, in Dublin, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late Billie Fulford and Adalene Fulford. She is also lovingly remembered by her late golden retriever, Reese, and by her family pets at home. She was a retired Registrar for the State of Georgia. She was a devoted wife, loving mama, and cherished Yaya. Mrs. Edney passed away peacefully at home with her family on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

Mrs. Edney is survived

by her husband of 42 years, Randy Edney; 3 children, Sarah Evans (Nathan), Laura Edney, and Ben Edney (Meagan); 6 grandchildren, Peyton Edney, Norah Evans, Walker Evans, Tallulah Edney, Millie Evans, and Irie Edney; a brother, Jeffery Fulford; a sister, Donna Smith, and her children, Jenny Woodard (Josh), Danny Cartie (Maggie), and Michael Cartie (Tiffany); a brother-in-law, Kenny Edney (Robin); and by her great nieces and great-nephews.

In accordance with Mrs. Edney's wishes the family ask that live plants be sent in her memory instead of flowers.

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



Leola Taylor

Funeral services for Mrs. Leola Taylor, of Wrightsville, Georgia, will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the Community Missionary Baptist Church, 863 James Grove Church Road in Wrightsville. Reverend Brian Ashley will deliver the eulogy.

Leola Taylor was born in Wrightsville, Georgia to her parents, the late Charlie and Ola Bell Hightower on Thursday, Jan. 19, 1939. Leola graduated from Dock Kemp in Wrightsville, Georgia class of 1957. Although Georgia was her birthplace, she relocated to New Jersey for several years. Leola met and was joined in marriage to the late Robert Lee Taylor,

and they eventually moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania until they relocated back to Wrightsville in their later years. Leola worked for Bell South Telephone Company for many years before retiring. Leola was a proud member of Community Missionary Baptist Church.

Leola peacefully departed this life on Friday, June 12, 2026, at the age of 87.

Leola was preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Ola Bell Hightower, her husband Robert Lee Taylor, son Omarr Taylor, daughter Robyne Samuels, her Brother-in-law, Jasper D. Pullen, Jr. and her nephew, Jasper Eric Pullen.

She leaves to mourn, her sister, Mrs. Juanita Pullen (Linden, N.J.), grandsons Robert Hand (Wrightsville, Ga.) and Omarr Taylor Jr. (Philadelphia, Pa.), granddaughter, Mrs. Nicole Mims (Darius Mims) (Charlotte, N.C.), step-daughter, Valarie Wideman (Baltimore, Md.), son-in-law Fred Samuels (Wrightsville, Ga.), niece Bevelyn Crouch, (Linden, N.J.), great nieces, Tarrah Massey (Linden, N.J.) and Erica Crouch (Carrboro, N.C.) and a host of other family and friends.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Bernestine Higdon

Funeral services for Mrs. Bernestine Higdon, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Green Grove Baptist Church, 2418 Highway 441 South, Dublin. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Ms. Bernestine Higdon was born on Sunday, Dec. 11, 1949. She passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2026. Please post your con-

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

How to help a person who's experienced a tonic-clonic seizure

By **KEITH ROACH**
King Features

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband suffered a grand mal seizure about six months ago. He was in the hospital for seven days. When he came out of the seizure, he was very combative and experienced memory loss. He still deals with short-term memory loss, and his neurologist says that it could take up to a year for him to get back to normal. Is there anything I can do to help him? -- L.H.

ANSWER: Seizures can happen for many reasons, and there are different types of seizures. When a person has the type of seizure that is often shown on TV or in movies, where they have uncontrollable shaking movements and aren't conscious, it's called a generalized tonic-clonic seizure, which used to be called "grand mal."

Most people have memory loss in the minutes before and after a generalized seizure, and they are often confused for a period of time afterward. However, prolonged memory loss and personality changes can happen due to damage to the brain during the time of the seizure, because of low oxygen and excess brain activity.

What happened to him is similar to a stroke, and the recovery period is variable. Being older and being male will cause him to have a slower recovery period, but I agree with the neurologist that recovery is possible for up to a year after the event.

You can help him recover by making sure that you discuss any treatment

he might be getting for his seizures with his neurologist, as some treatments are more likely than others to cause memory problems. Of course, preventing further seizures is critically important. You can also ask about memory rehabilitation programs, although these are specialized and aren't easy to find.

DEAR DR. ROACH: You mentioned in a recent column that prospective randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are a powerful type of study. Can you tell me if the original COVID vaccine or any of the boosters were part of a trial like this? -- C.W.

ANSWER: There have been 33 RCTs that looked at the effectiveness of vaccines for COVID-19, including over 50,000 people who were given the vaccine and almost just as many who received a placebo. Studies on the initial vaccines and boosters are included.

A 2021 review of all trials that were published at the time found strong evidence that the vaccines had high efficacy and low rates of serious adverse effects. There's no such thing as a perfect vaccine, and the rate of mutation in the virus has led to challenges in making sure that the vaccines are effective against the types that are currently circulating.

It's the same case with the flu vaccine. However, public health officials have decades of experi-

ence predicting flu strains, whereas the changes in the COVID-19 virus are harder to predict.

An infectious disease doctor, Dr. Jake Scott at Stanford Medicine, and his colleagues have made an easily accessible list of RCTs of vaccines, a link to which is on my page at [Facebook.com/KeithRoachMD](https://www.facebook.com/KeithRoachMD). As of the day I write this, there are 1,683 vaccine trials on the spreadsheet, and all are available vaccines.

Not all RCTs are placebo-controlled. A placebo-controlled vaccine trial is ethical when a safe and effective vaccine doesn't exist (as was the case at the beginning of the pandemic). RCTs may also be ethical when populations who weren't included in the previous trials get tested or when there's limited access to the existing vaccine. In 2026, further placebo-controlled RCTs for COVID-19 would be unethical.

A new vaccine should be tested against the best available treatment, including any of the COVID-19 vaccines like Moderna or Pfizer.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

(c) 2026 North America Synd., Inc.

All Rights Reserved

NEWS DIGEST

THE DUBLIN-LAURENS LAND BANK will hold its next board meeting in the Dublin City Hall International board room at noon on Tuesday, June 23. The agenda follows:

- Meeting called to order
- Invocation

- Approval of minutes and treasurer's report
- Welcome of guests
- New business
- Old business
- Property updates
- Executive session
- Meeting adjourned

JM Enterprises & More

478-234-6632

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Land / Lot Clearing | Building Demolition |
| Tree Removal / Clean Up | Driveway Installation |
| Privacy / Farm Fencing | Grading |
| Basement Excavation | Road Building |
| Pond Clearing and | House Pads |
| Restoration Under Brush | Food Plots Excavation / |
| Mowing Landscaping | Trenching |

Call For Free Estimate

478-234-6632

Owner/Operator: James G. Moss - Sparta, GA.

Hometown Supply

203 S Jefferson St., Dublin, GA 31021

Appliance Repair
(478) 272-0345

Social Security Disability Help

Experienced and Specialized Legal Representation

- Specializes in Social Security Disability Law
- Previously Worked for Social Security Disability
- No Fee unless you are granted Disability Benefits
- Successfully Represents Clients at Disability Hearings
- Files Disability Appeals at all Levels



Attorney
Brian Arnold

ARNOLD & ARNOLD
www.GeorgiaDisabilityLaw.com

1607A Rice Ave. Dublin, GA 31021 478-272-2300
111 E. Cherry St. Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-4561
544 Mulberry St., Ste. 619 Macon, GA 31201 478-745-9644

Call 1-478-272-2300 for FREE CASE EVALUATION

Oconee EMC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS AND BILLING REFUNDS

Notice of Last Date to Claim Capital Credits

In compliance with O.C.G.A. 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, Oconee EMC is attempting to locate former members whose unclaimed capital credit checks were issued in 2020, but have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable" or otherwise been unclaimed.

The last possible date to claim these refunds is August 31, 2026. If not claimed by this date, they will be donated for approved uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.

Notice of Last Date to Claim Billing Refunds

Likewise, Oconee EMC is attempting to locate former members whose billing refund checks were issued in 2021, but have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable" or otherwise been unclaimed.

The last possible date to claim these refunds is August 31, 2026. If not claimed by this date, they will be turned over to the state of Georgia.

Visit both lists online at www.oconeeemc.com, our headquarters in Dudley, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 478.676.3191 and speak with an MSR.

Dublin Police Department

- Daniel Payne, 57, was charged with criminal trespass on Claxton Dairy Road at the Laurens County EMS Station 4 around 1:18 a.m. on May 17.

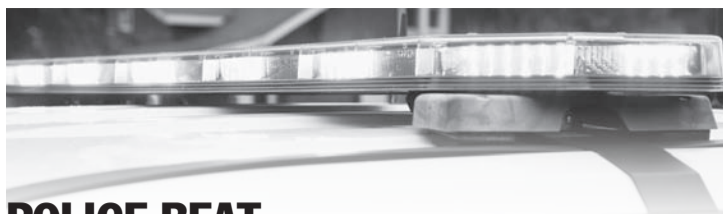
An officer was dispatched to the location in reference to a suspicious man loitering around the EMS station and attempting to enter the building. When he arrived, the officer met with Payne, who was asked to leave the premises. This is when the man began arguing with officers on scene. Payne was ordered to leave, but refused to comply.

The officer tried to escort Payne away from the location by placing his hand on the man's shoulder and guiding him toward the road. Payne resisted the escort by going limp and refusing to walk unless the officer applied forward pressure to his shoulder. The officer stopped the escort attempt and asked Payne if he would voluntarily leave. The man continued arguing with officers.

Payne was arrested and transported to the LEC and turned over to the booking staff. The officer talked with a complainant who said Payne entered the building, and after a few minutes, was asked to get out. Payne did, but refused to leave the premises.

- On May 23, around 7:30 p.m., an officer was patrolling the area of North Jefferson Street and the Shadow Pond subdivision area when the officer ran the tag of a gray Honda Accord through GCIC.

The officer was told through GCIC that the registered owner of the Honda returned with a suspended license and a warrant. The officer made a traffic stop on the vehicle on North Jefferson Street. The driver, Kristi Cross, 41, had a suspended license after dispatch informed him that she



POLICE BEAT...

had a warrant with Twiggs County.

The officer allowed Cross to call someone to pick up the vehicle. Cross was transported to the Laurens County Detention Center where she was released to the booking staff. She was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked.

- Dedric Fionne Roberson, 31, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked, around 11:44 p.m. on May 24 on Kingsby Street.

An officer made a traffic stop on a silver Hyundai Genesis for a passenger headlight out. The officer met with Roberson who said he did not have a driver's license. Roberson's information returned that his license was suspended.

The man was arrested, transported to the police department, fingerprinted and released on citation. Roberson's vehicle was turned over to a licensed driver.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- On May 20, around 1:45 p.m., a deputy responded to Field Street in Dudley in reference to an aggressive dog call.

- Xavier Talik Robinson, 27, of Dublin, and Marquanes

Daquelle Bledsoe, 19, were charged with possession of marijuana on Barton Drive around 9:45 a.m. on May 21.

- On May 21, a deputy met with a man at the sheriff's office in reference to a theft by conversion case that happened on Highway 257 around 9 a.m. A report was completed to document the incident.

- A woman contacted a deputy about making a fraud report on Southern Pines Road around 8 a.m. on May 26.

- A deputy respond to a hit-and-run that happened around 5:32 a.m. on May 22.

- Property was damaged on North Lake Drive around 10:10 a.m. on May 22.

- Property was damaged on Sycamore Lane around 9:57 a.m. on May 22.

- On May 21, around 4:01 p.m., a deputy met with a man in reference to a report about a scam call.

- Michael Earl Roberson II, 33, of Rentz, and Majorie Ann Jones, 63, of Rentz, were both charged with obstruction of officers on Highway 117 in Rentz. Around 1 p.m. on May 24, a deputy saw a black motorcycle traveling at a high rate of speed. He activated his radar and it confirmed his suspicion that the driver was going 87.

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.

City of Dublin marks Municipal Court Clerks Week



City of Dublin officials and staff gathered to recognize local municipal court clerks with a proclamation signing /SPECIAL PHOTO

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Mayor Joshua Kight, Municipal Court Clerks Marissa Moon, Regina McDaniel and Dustyn Clements, along with City of Dublin staff, gathered for a proclamation recognizing Georgia Municipal Court Clerks Week, observed June 8-12. The proclamation honors the vital role municipal court clerks play in the judicial system and local government. Their responsibilities include maintaining court records, processing cases, coordinating court proceedings, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations,

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On June 29, 1967, Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards faced charges stemming from the raid of his Redlands estate five months earlier. No drugs were found but he was sentenced to a year in prison, spending just one night there, however, as he was granted bail the next day. His conviction was later overturned.

* On June 30, 1908, a fiery explosion flattened 800 square miles of forest in Siberia's Tunguska region, believed to have been caused by an asteroid or comet. It remains Earth's biggest recorded cosmic collision.

* On July 1, 2003, a female employee at a Colorado resort filed sexual

misconduct charges against basketball star Kobe Bryant. Bryant was questioned by authorities, provided a DNA sample and eventually admitted to what he insisted was a consensual encounter. In early March 2005, he and the accuser settled her civil lawsuit for an undisclosed sum.

* On July 2, 1977, Hollywood composer Bill Conti, a relative unknown in Hollywood, scored a No. 1 pop hit with the single "Gonna Fly Now" (the theme from "Rocky"). The film went on to launch both his and Sylvester Stallone's careers.

* On July 3, 1988, during U.S. naval operations in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Navy cruiser Vincennes shot down an Iranian passenger

jet that it mistook for a hostile military aircraft, killing everyone aboard. The U.S. Navy report blamed crew error caused by psychological stress on men in combat for the first time, and in 1996 the U.S. agreed to pay \$62 million in damages to the families of those who died.

* On July 5, 1937, George A. Hormel & Company debuted a canned luncheon meat called Spam, which not only gained rapid popularity for its convenience and affordability, but eventually launched annual festivals such as the wittily named Spam Jam and Spamarama.

(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

and providing professional and courteous service to the public. The proclamation also recognizes the dedication of municipal court clerks to accuracy, impartiality, confidentiality, and public service, all of which help strengthen public trust in the justice system. In recognition of their contributions, Mayor Kight officially proclaimed June 8-12, 2026, as Georgia Municipal Court Clerks Week and encouraged citizens to acknowledge and appreciate the important work performed by municipal court clerks throughout the state.

CLASS NOTES

ELE announces honor roll for fourth nine weeks

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Mr. J.T. Dean, Principal of Northwest Laurens Elementary, announces Honor Roll for the fourth nine weeks.

Third Grade: Raylan Baeumel, Griggs Bennett, Walker Brantley, Barrett Brinson, Mar'Kia Brown, Kaelyn Brummett, Ella Cady, Andie Cannon, Raelynn Carter, Peighton Carter, Joanna Chen, Caroline Collins, Lylah Jane Crews, Addison David, Shelby Denny, Madelyn Dixon, Josiah Duckworth, Kylan Garrett, Paisley Germany, Mercci Kate Godbee, Raelynn Green, Skylar Green, Thomas Green, Andrew Griggs, Ava Hart, Justice Haynes, Tatum Herring, Kolbie Jo Holmes, Anna Horne, Claire Knight, Charlie Lewis, Latroy Lewis, Arjo Manalo, Greyson McManigal, Tabatha Melton, Wylder Michelsen, Emmie Moorman, Nova Nesmith, Kendall Olson, Kennedy Olson, Isabella Patungan, Elizabeth Phillips, Arianna Reyes, Hadley Rowland, Rae'Lyn Slade, Kaden Smith, Ace Stephans, Andrea Walker, Chazten Willhouse and Ruger Willhouse.

Fourth Grade: Desean Adams, Cambree Anderson, Paul Ballard, Lane Bradshaw, Nikolai Brantley, Whitley Brantley, Jonathan Campos, Emma Cernin, Troy Clanton, Erin Consulta, Aanylah Coombs, Huck Crawford, Rhyder Crawford, Kennedy Daniel, Claire Dean, Shelby Duskin, Lydia Edwards, Abe Flanders, Daniel Francis, Addison Garrett, Jada Garrett, Holden Graham, Landon Graham, Kamille Graham, James Green, Prince Green, Mia Hall, Henry He, Ashton Jenkins, Lottie Ladson, Mia Liborio, Max Loera, Olivia Mathew, Calah Mathis, Violet Mccorkle, JP Mimbs, Logan Moore, Jonah Nesmith, William Newsome, Noah O'Neal, Owen Osburn, Olivia Powell, Jaiden Ricks, Kaylee Roberson, Walker Rogers, Kerah Shannon, Weston Smith, Alayah Smith, Noah Studstill, Amara Swint, Sophie Turner, Anna Kate Webb, Isaiah Wells, Lane Williams, Makenna Williams, Immi Williamson, Logan Womack, Tyler Wood and Avery Young.

Fifth Grade: RJ Auten, David Berzins, Norah Best, Madison Chapman, Aubrey Clark, Cecily Craft, Gage Driscoll, Jansen Finley, Morgan Green, Mya Hall, Tanna Rae Herring, Tanner Sagie Holmes, Edan Howard, Sarina Jiang, Skylar King, Suganitha Dinesh-Kumar, Witt Ladson, Ford Lawhorn, Brooklyn Leigh, Chloe Loftin, Cora Moorman, Joe Morris, Aarav Patel, Jax Patel, Shlok Patel, Be'nt Patisaal, Vivian Pham, Camilla Poole, Andrew Pritchett, Colton Reeves, Jacie Shepard, Aerolynn Sikes, Thomas Taylor, Chandler Thomas, Ian Thomas, Malcolm Vickers, Hilton Wilkes, Trindon Williams, Ivey Rae Williamson, Carter Willis, Eli Wright, Marshall Wynne, Angelina Xiong and Sophia Yanken.

Classifieds

Real Estate

For Rent/Lease

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

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia, a bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Dublin ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes; and for other purposes.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia, a bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Rentz ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes; and for other purposes.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia, a bill to provide a homestead exemption from City of Cadwell ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes; and for other purposes.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia, a bill to provide a homestead exemption from Laurens County ad valorem property taxes; and for other purposes.

real estate auction

Price Reduced on Dublin, GA Home
View 2-5pm Sunday June 21

- 100 Parks Ridge
- 4BR 3BA 4,762+/- sf home built in 2009 on 0.78+/- ac lot. Located in EARLWOOD SUBDIVISION just minutes from the hospital, shopping, work, and restaurants. Many flexible living spaces throughout the home to claim as your own living suite! Upstairs includes a balcony, half bath, walk-in closet, and private entrance through the garage. The exterior is complete with a circle drive in front, large parking pad, and spacious front porch.
- Nominal Opening Bid: \$550,000**

Bid Online at auctionnetwork.com

HOMESAIL **800.801.8003 • auctionnetwork.com**

GA XCEL REALTY GROUP, LLC, TIFFANY GREEN, LLC, NO. 334480, 5% BUYER'S PREMIUM.

TELL IT!



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

Kudos to everyone that was involved with the Buddie Ball activity at Warnock Park. Such a wonderful event for kids that don't always get to join in. And a BIG shoutout to the ones that participated with those awesome kids. I know it was a fun time for all. And thank you Clay Reynolds for the article so that we could learn about this fun activity.

I appreciate local officials taking gun violence seriously. However, the root of the problem lies up in Atlanta. Georgia's lax gun laws will always prevent Dublin from making any real progress.

I have been attending and/or watching Dublin City School board meetings. I can tell that most members are really trying hard to work together. But you always have one!

I think implementing the neighborhood watch plan is a fantastic idea. But I was wondering if there should be a curfew. Maybe for 12 to 18 year olds, say from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m.? And possibly a break if some of the kids have a job. I'm just saying there seems to be a great deal of young people out in the streets after midnight.

The Dublin City School Board managed to kick the can down the road with the state BOE. This board has learned to dodge a bullet better than anybody. If I understood their attorney, the DCS board expects to have the new superintendent hired by the end of June. Hired, not actually working. Who in the world would want this job? Facing loss of accreditation, bankrupt system, ongoing investigation by the GBI, lawsuits by fired teachers, an infighting school board, a school board facing suspension, an angry/growing hostile community... someone desperate or deluded?

I think it's exactly stupid that they knew that this big meeting was coming up ahead of time, and yet our board members wanted to postpone it even further. They wanted to get it that children are in school and then they will say that they don't want to interrupt the children. That is a disgrace. They should have went ahead and have the hearing today like it was scheduled.

Thanks to Matt Donaldson for giving a true no on the extension of the Dublin City Board of Education. He did not want to kick the can down the road, and that was a good thing.

Editor's note: All Tell It! calls and emails are subject to editing before publication. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Will never regret spending time with dad

A friend of mine came to me with a situation that took me back in time to a similar situation that happened to me.

In his case, he and his father had made plans to attend a concert six months before something he had been working and practicing in was scheduled. His options were to go on to the once-in-a-lifetime concert with the understanding that he may be replaced or do not go, do not spend time with his father and attend the practice and perform.

His decision was not hard. It was what I would have done - in fact - I had been through a similar situation. And I took the time to tell him.

Back in 1991, the Atlanta Braves became one of the best teams in Major League Baseball. My dad surprised my brother and I with tickets to a double-header that year against the L.A. Dodgers in June. We had never seen the Braves win in our previous trips to Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium (where the Braves played at that time).

In the first game of the twin bill, the Braves rallied to win on a walk-off-walk by relief pitcher Kent Mercker to win the game. From 1992 through 1996 my dad made it a priority to attend at least one Braves game a month during the season. Throughout those years, we would try to pick different teams to go watch.

In 1993, like we did every year, we selected one game a month and decided to pick the Braves playing the San Francisco Giants in September. That June, I picked up a summer job



By **PAYTON TOWNS III**

cutting grass, doing yard work and painting at Forstmann's shop division in Milledgeville, working from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Sometimes, though it was rare, they had us young people work on Saturday.

With a few weeks left before I was scheduled to return to college, our bosses called us part-time summer workers in for a meeting. Some important people from elsewhere were coming down to tour the plant the next week and everyone in the shop had to work from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. that next week and weekend. This included the summer workers. There would be no excuses not to work.

Well, of course, I had a ticket to the hottest Braves game around. During the offseason, the Giants signed Barry Bonds. The Braves and Giants were in a two-way-race for first place. I talked this over with my dad, who also worked at Forstmann, but in a different department.

I needed to inform my boss that I already had plans

and would have to miss one of those extra evenings of work. That did not go well at all. My dad even went to talk to my boss.

When we went home that day, my dad informed me my boss was expecting me to make a decision the next day. My choice was missing the game and working or going to the game and face the possibility of being told not to come back the next day.

When I arrived that next morning, I went to my boss' office. Offering me a chair, I sat down and didn't beat around the bush. I was going to the game. I was prepared at that moment to go home. That job was only for the summer. I had no plans to return after I went to college.

My boss tried to impress upon me the importance of having everyone available to work, even though we all knew he and other big wigs were not going to stay one minute after 4 p.m. to work themselves. In fact, my boss wanted to know if he could have my ticket to the game because I was going to be working.

I told him he would not be needing the ticket because I was going. He asked if there was anything he could to help me change my mind. I said no. I was going to the Braves game that night and it would be up to him if he wanted me to show up and work the next morning.

Of course he did not make his decision known at that time. He needed me to work that day before he made a decision. About 30 minutes before 4 p.m., my boss walked up to me and

asked me one more time if I had changed my mind. I politely said, "No sir." He told me to go with my dad and have a good time. He wanted to know the details the next morning when I returned to work.

We made our way to Atlanta and saw a good game with the Braves winning in a thriller. My dad, siblings and I had a good time. We made memories that have stayed with us for years.

Three years later, my family returned to Atlanta-Fulton County to watch the first game of the final series of the year against the Montreal Expos (who are now the Washington Nationals). It was the final series of the 1996 season, the last one in Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. The Braves would be playing in Turner Field in 1997.

It would also be the final Braves game we would see with our dad. A few weeks before that game, he was diagnosed with colon cancer and passed away four months later.

A look back now on those games to Atlanta as a special time with my father. And I told my friend that no matter what the option was, he needed to attend that once-in-a-lifetime concert with his dad. Though I went to many Braves games with my dad, missing that one would have mattered.

I, like my friend, did not really have a hard decision to make. Yes, in both scenarios there would have been consequences. But in both of our decisions, we choose to spend time with our fathers.

And that is a call I have never regretted.

Will our legacy be to leave this a better world than we found it?

Have you ever thought about your legacy? Legacy being defined as "the lasting impact one leaves on the world, both the tangible assets they pass down and the intangible influence they have on others."

For some reason, I have been pondering that subject lately. Maybe it is because I have more years in the rearview mirror than I have ahead of me. What am I leaving behind when I am gone? (By the way, I have no immediate plans to leave, but the timing is not up to me.)

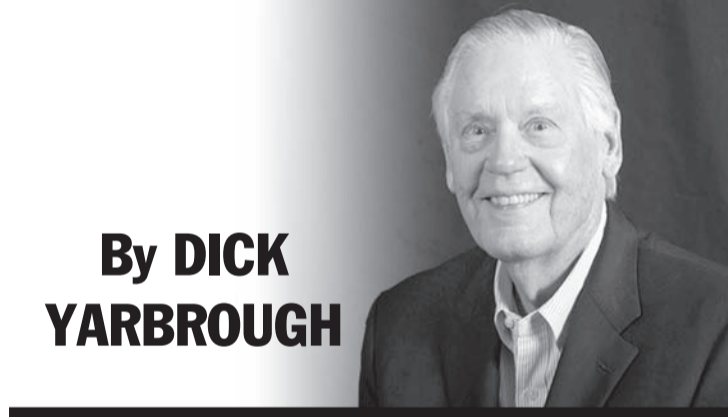
My mentor, the late Jasper Dorsey, was vice president of Southern Bell's Georgia operations. He taught me a lot about the business world and played an important role in my progress up through the corporate ranks, for which I am grateful. More importantly, he taught me a lot of lessons about life. He constantly reminded me that we all have an obligation to leave this a better world than we found it. Otherwise, we have just wasted time and space.

I am pretty much set on the tangible assets I plan to pass on, but what about the intangibles? One of the most important things I can pass down is my good name. I inherited it from my parents. They were not wealthy people, but their reputation was solid gold. That was their legacy. The intangible assets that they bequeathed me. I pray I can pass along to my heirs. But that depends on me.

I have a term I call "walking sermons" and it means how we and our actions are

perceived when we aren't aware people are watching us. In other words, do we walk our talk? One of my favorite stories concerns evangelist Billy Graham and it occurred many years ago, back when trains were the principal mode of travel.

He was in line seeking to change his ticket, dealing with a recalcitrant and rude clerk behind the counter. Billy Graham tried to explain to the clerk why he needed to take a different train, but to no avail. After several unsuccessful attempts, he thanked the clerk and left. Standing behind Billy Graham in the line was a newspaper reporter who recognized Graham from his television crusades and waited on him to remind the clerk who he



By **DICK YARBROUGH**

was or to demand to see his supervisor. He did neither.

The reporter later wrote that was probably Billy Graham's greatest sermon because it showed that he was the same person in the pulpit that he was in line to change his train ticket. A walking sermon.

I witnessed something similar some years ago

when I was in New York to attend the Peabody Awards, given by the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Georgia. It was late afternoon and famed radio commentator Paul Harvey walked into the hotel restaurant and was told the lunch hour was over. He asked politely if they could

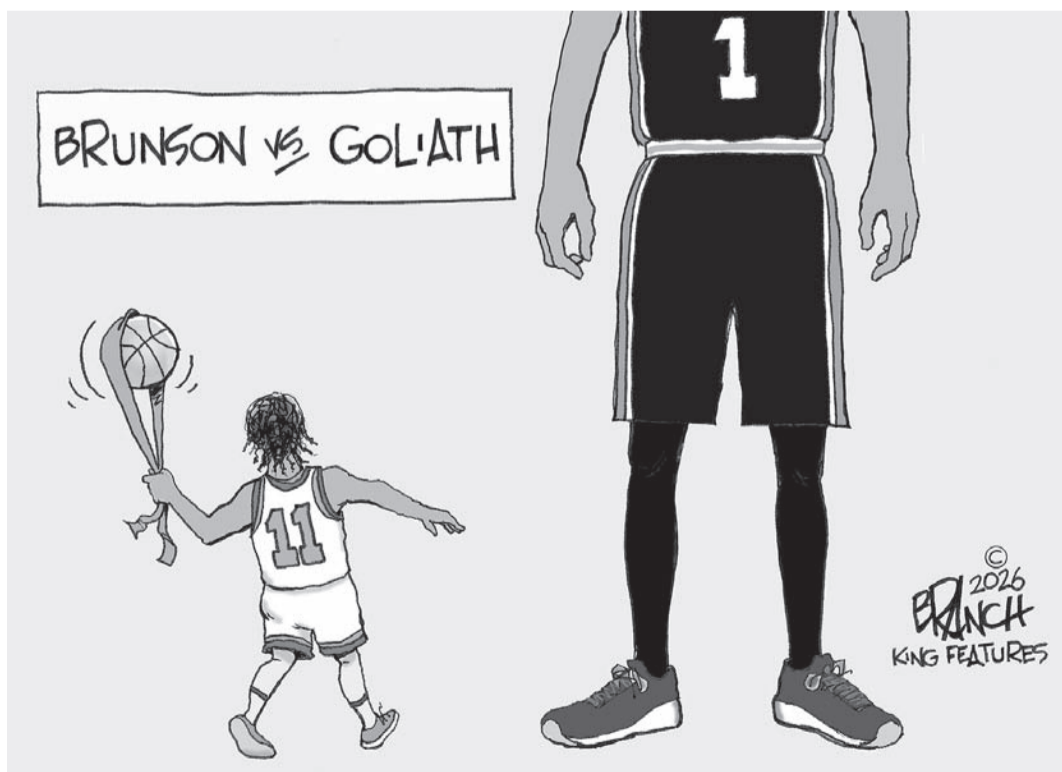
just fix him a sandwich and he would take it with him to his room. He had not eaten all day. He was told no again. After some more conversation, to no avail, he, like Billy Graham, thanked the waitress and left. I had always admired Paul Harvey's commentaries, but my admiration for the man grew that day as well.

I pass these anecdotes along because as eminent both were in their respective fields, what you saw and heard was genuine. I have a feeling that is how they would both want to be remembered.

How do you want to be remembered? What do you want your legacy to be? And will this be a better world as a result of your efforts? Or mine? I am fairly sure at

this stage of the game I'm not going to discover a cure for cancer or get nations to turn their swords into plowshares or unlock the mysteries of the universe. But I can be a good role model for my grandsons and great-grandkids and hopefully influence their behavior in a positive way. I can be a good friend without wanting something in return. I can be loyal to people who know I can be trusted. I can keep things in perspective - remember the Serenity Prayer - and swallow my ego and say "I'm sorry" when I deserve to be.

We are only going to pass this way once. But if we do it right, we will leave things better than we found them. That is and should be our legacy.



THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"(My father) didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."
- Clarence B. Kelland

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
- Ephesians 6:4

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

- June 16, 2026 is...
 - Fresh Veggies Day
 - National Fudge Day
 - International Day of the African Child
 - Bloomsday

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Phone: (478) 272-5522 • Fax: (478) 272-2189
115 S. Jefferson St., Dublin, GA 31021-5146

Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

News: tchnewsreporter@gmail.com
Subscription: courtney@courierheraldtoday.com
Advertising: advertsingtch@gmail.com
Sports: tchsports77@gmail.com
Obituaries: tchobits77@gmail.com

GET IN TOUCH

SUBSCRIPTION RATES Print: \$12.50/month Digital: \$10.50/month

Periodicals Postage Paid at Dublin, Georgia (USPS 161-860) - Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Courier Herald, 115 South Jefferson Street, Dublin, GA 31021

GEORGIA TRUST

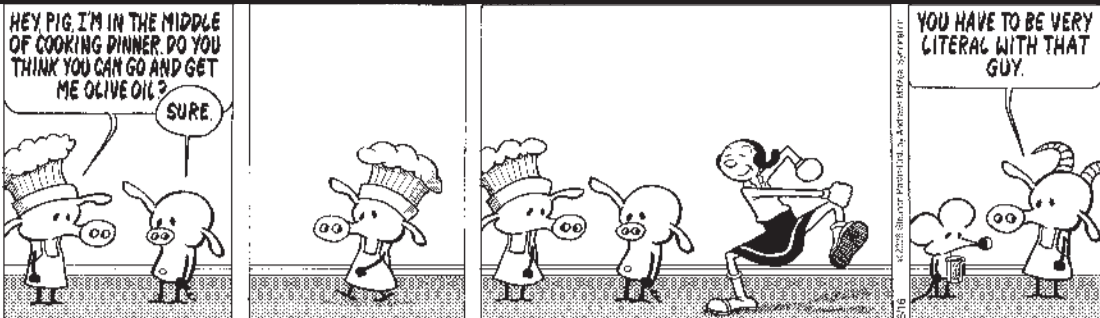
— for Local News —

DuBose Porter/PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Pam Burney/GENERAL MANAGER
Courtney Vessell/CIRCULATION MANAGER

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

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



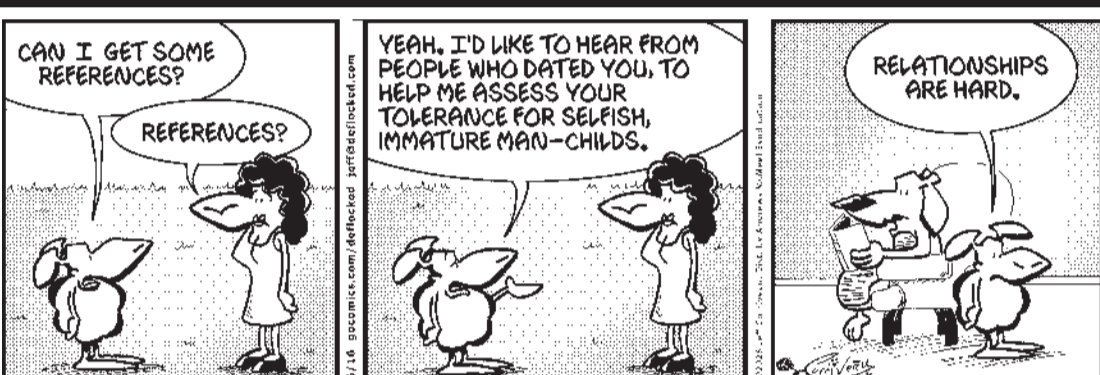
OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY



Additional Dinner Invitation upsets Birthday Girl!



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I invited a friend, "Sybil," to dinner at a fine dining, special occasion restaurant to celebrate her birthday. About a month before, I called to say I had also asked someone else to join us, as it was also her birthday. I thought the three of us would have fun, as we rarely go to fine dining establishments.

I was the host, so I said that I would pay for all of us. Sybil said she wouldn't go unless I "uninvited" the third person! A week after I refused to do that, I received an email saying "leave me alone" after I'd unsuccessfully tried to phone and set up an alternative date to celebrate, but at a less expensive restaurant. I could not afford to host two fine dining nights out.

That was five months ago. Now what? I won't apologize for including another person at a dinner party I was hosting, but I am willing to move on. It took a mutual friend to explain to me why I got the "leave me alone" email. It never occurred to me that I could be wrong. I don't think I was. Do you? -- GOOD INTENTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GOOD INTENTIONS: It might have been better form to have asked Sybil if she would mind your including another

his wife a Christmas card, which he acknowledged with a phone call. He says that he's so glad I reached out to him. I also call him around his birthday but do not send a card.

Is it weird for me to acknowledge Father's Day with him? I have just been letting it pass by. He wasn't a dad to me, but we all know he's my father (as does his one other daughter). For whatever reason, I want to send him a card. Or should I call? Maybe this is a "me" thing. I'd like your advice. -- WONDERING IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WONDERING: I can understand why, having lost the man you always regarded as your father, you feel a desire to have a father figure in your life. Why not ask your biological father how he feels about a card and a call and what he would prefer?

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.

birthday girl at the dinner before you did it, but not having done that was insufficient reason to excommunicate you. I do not think you owe her an apology. On the contrary, she owes you one for overreacting the way she did.

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago, I found out that the man who raised me wasn't my biological father. I suspected it for many years and asked my mother about it twice. She angrily denied it both times. The man who raised me was definitely my dad. He passed away in 1989. I recently found out that he knew of my parentage all my life.

Through a cousin, I found my DNA profile. I reached out to my biological father in 2020. We met twice and have a cordial relationship. I sent him and

GOREN BRIDGE

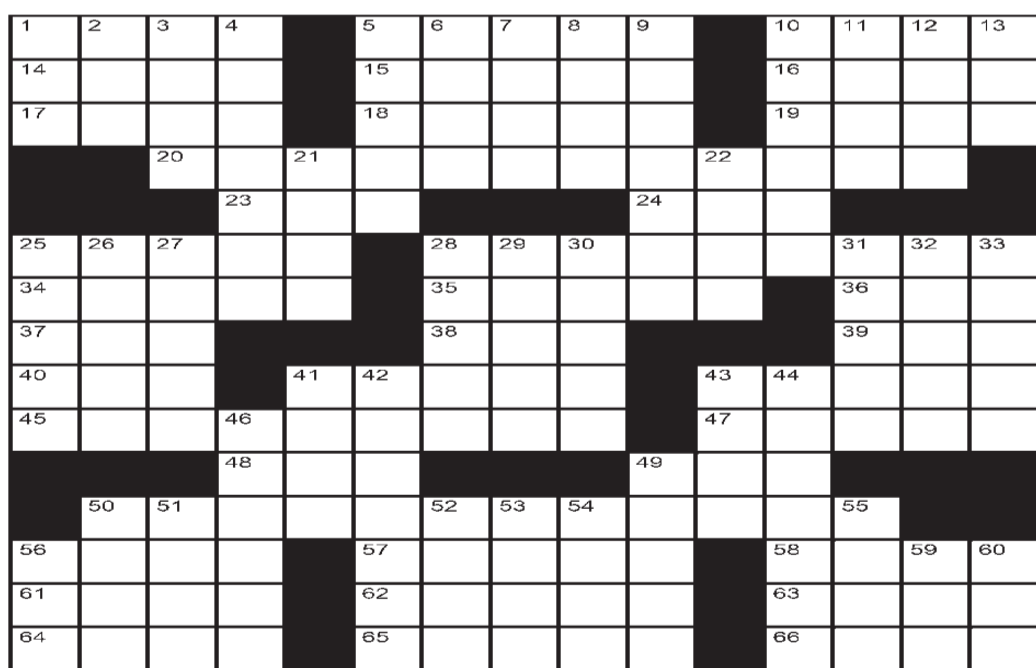
WITH BOB JONES

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

- Q 1 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ J 9 7 ♠ A Q 3 2 ♠ 7 5 4 2 ♠ K 3
- Q 2 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ K 9 8 6 ♠ Void ♠ A 6 5 3 2 ♠ K 8 7 2
- Q 3 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ A 10 ♠ 9 7 5 ♠ J 10 6 2 ♠ A K Q J
- Q 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ J 3 ♠ A 7 5 ♠ A Q J 3 2 ♠ A 10 5
- Q 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ K 8 7 ♠ A Q 5 4 3 ♠ 7 2 ♠ Q 9 2
- Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ 6 3 ♠ Q 8 ♠ 8 7 5 ♠ A K J 10 8 2

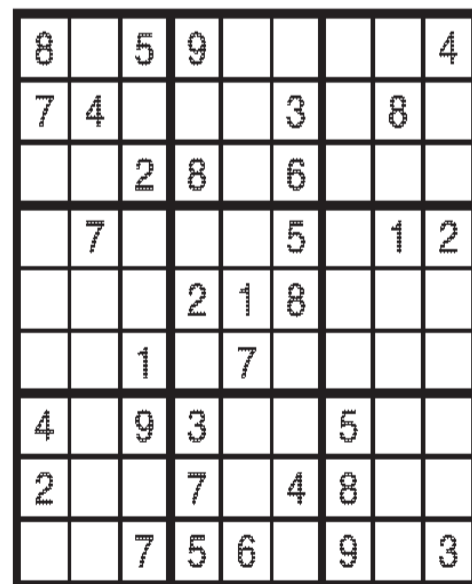
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- 1 Fried rice morsels
- 5 Bits of data, for short
- 10 Opening-day pitchers
- 14 "I'm ___ you!"
- 15 Fortune-telling deck
- 16 Brown soda
- 17 False god
- 18 Place for gladiators to fight
- 19 Party thrower
- 20 Trail rider's equipment: 2 wds.
- 23 "___ be an honor!"
- 24 Is able to
- 25 Wood for models
- 28 Dish cleaning fluid
- 34 Author Wharton
- 35 Where a belt goes
- 36 Pick up the tab
- 37 ___ or nothing
- 38 Make a mistake
- 39 Half a pint
- 40 Mob informant
- 41 Esther of "Good Times"
- 43 Household task
- 45 Like whiskey and gin
- 47 "The White ___" (HBO show)
- 48 Singer Orbison
- 49 Hip-hop genre
- 50 "One-armed bandits": 2 wds.
- 56 Playwright Coward
- 57 God-fearing
- 58 Froth
- 61 Spoken exam
- 62 How to sign a check: 2 wds.
- 63 Beef-rating agency: Abbr.
- 64 Gets married
- 65 Family nickname
- 66 Gone astray



- DOWN
- 1 Taro dish
- 2 Conclusion
- 3 Basic chemistry unit
- 4 Unaccompanied performer
- 5 Get up
- 6 Pop- (breakfast pastry)
- 7 Square footage
- 8 Actress Collette
- 9 Batting positions
- 10 "Oh, my ___ back!"
- 11 Work in a kitchen
- 12 If not
- 13 Plopped on the sofa
- 21 Provo's state
- 22 Lisa Simpson's brother
- 25 Facial growth
- 26 Politician Stevenson
- 27 Cheerful tunes
- 28 Reside
- 29 Singer Steve
- 30 Fatigued
- 31 Disney park
- 32 Country in Micronesia
- 33 Varieties
- 41 Hilarious person
- 42 Washington's capital
- 43 Large family
- 44 Optimistic
- 46 Internet nuisances
- 49 Hazardous
- 50 Angry
- 51 Be in charge
- 52 Japanese indigenous people
- 53 Dime or nickel
- 54 Look for game
- 55 Mediocre
- 56 At this time
- 59 YouTube interruptions
- 60 Wrestling surface

SUDOKU

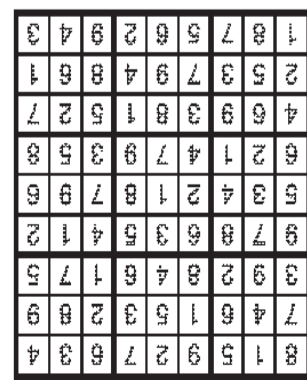


Fun By The Numbers

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:



KIDS' CORNER

Vol. 015 | A fun page designed for kids from [The Courier Herald](#)

Brought to you by



National Pollinator Month: Herald takes a trip to the Laurens County Library



Herald the Hound paid a visit to the place that represents all things books and reading - the Laurens County Library. Every Tuesday the library hosts story time and Herald was welcomed by an excited crowd of young people stopping in to hear a tale or two while enjoying their summer break. June marks National Pollinator Month, so the kids learned all about bees, butterflies and all the other insects that help plants and flowers grow. Herald's favorite pollinators are bees, though he's no fan of a bee's sting. It hurts! Other animals can serve as pollinators too, including birds, bats and even possums. What's your favorite pollinator? Write your answer and send it to read@courierheraldtoday.com and you may see it in the Kids' Corner.

Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

XIZ JT IJTUPSZ UIF TXFFUFTU

TVCKFDU?

CFDBVTF JU JT GVMM PG EBUFT

MINI SUDOKU

2					
1	6				2
6	1	2			4
5	2		1	4	
4					6

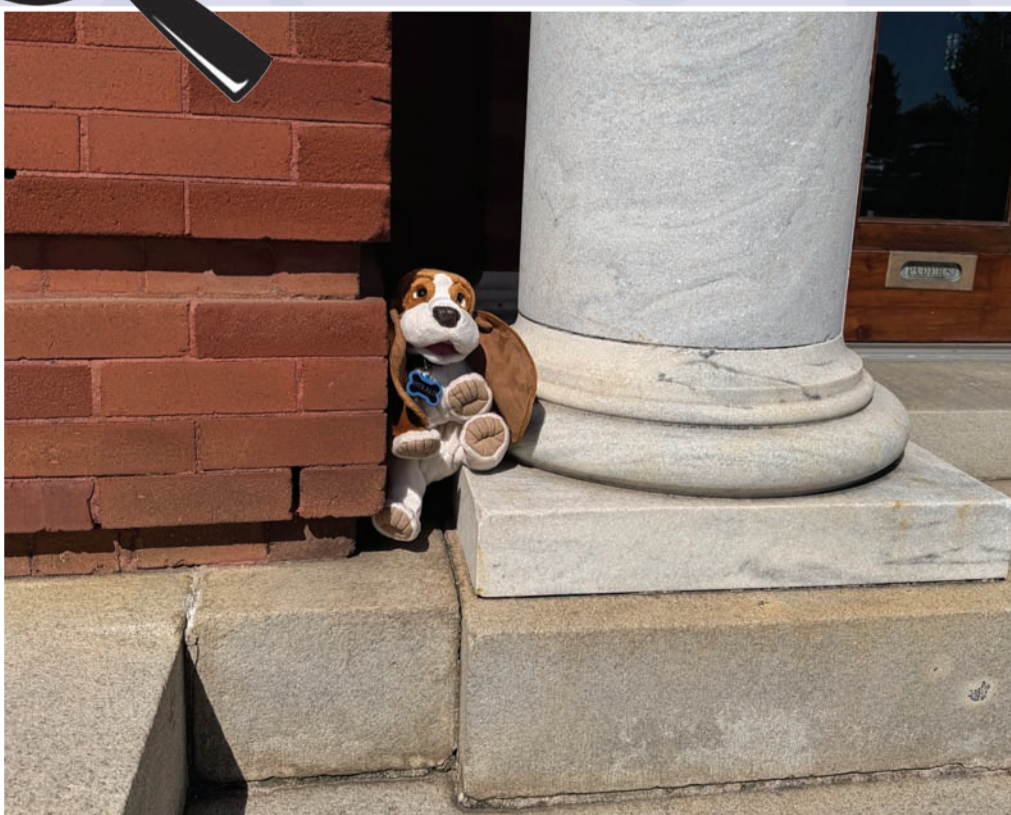
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

6	2	5	1	4	3
3	4	1	6	2	5
4	3	5	2	1	6
1	6	2	3	5	4
2	1	6	5	4	3
5	4	6	1	5	2

ANSWERS
MINI SUDOKU

ANSWER KEY

THERE'S HERALD!



You might have heard of being between a rock and a hard place, but what about between a column and a brick wall? Well, that's where Herald the Hound was hiding during his visit to Dublin Carnegie Library building.



6/14

©2022 Joe Wos Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Joe Wos

Kemp jumps in late, endorses Jones for governor

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — With less than two days to go until polls close in the Republican runoff election for governor Tuesday, Gov. Brian Kemp threw his support behind Lt. Gov. Burt Jones to succeed him.

“Over the last eight years, we’ve accomplished a lot and we’ve had a strong ally in Burt Jones. Burt knows how to get things done,” Kemp said in a 36-second YouTube Short video released Sunday night.

The endorsement aligns with President Donald Trump’s pick for Georgia governor.

Trump has been backing Jones since August, when he posted an endorsement on social media. The president has been promoting Jones in public telephone calls since then, each cast as a “tele-rally,” including one on Thursday.

Jones’ opponent, Rick Jackson, has run ads that some construed as promoting an endorsement by Kemp. Kemp subsequently

posted a clarifying video on social media saying he had endorsed neither candidate.

Sunday’s post clarified where Kemp stands now.

Although Kemp and Trump are now aligned on their candidate for governor, the two leaders are at odds over who should win the GOP race for U.S. Senate.

Trump announced on social media just before 1 a.m. Sunday that he had decided to back U.S. Rep. Mike Collins as the GOP nominee who can take on incumbent Democrat U.S. Sen. Jon Os-

soff in November.

Kemp has been publicly backing Derek Dooley for about a year as his candidate to topple Ossoff, appearing with Dooley in August at Sanford Stadium before a University of Georgia football game.

In his Sunday YouTube video, Kemp, standing with his wife Marty, said Jones will give voters “a clear choice” this fall against the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms.

Days before runoff, Trump picks a side in U.S. Senate race

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat

ATLANTA — With two days to go before the runoff election, President Donald Trump sided with U.S. Rep. Mike Collins in his race for U.S. Senate against Derek Dooley.

Trump said in a 12:56 a.m. post Sunday on Truth Social that Collins “has my Complete and Total Endorsement.”

The support came weeks after Collins beat Dooley 40.5% to 30.2% in the May primary.

Collins posted a brief reaction on X later in the morning, saying he would be the one to unseat Demo-

cratic U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff in November.

That is also the goal for Dooley, who posted on X a half hour after Collins that he respected Trump but still expected to beat Collins in Tuesday’s runoff. The former football coach touted his own support from Gov. Brian Kemp.

It is not the first disagreement between Kemp and Trump over a pick for U.S. Senate. Differences over Kemp’s appointment of Kelly Loeffler to an open U.S. Senate seat in 2019 triggered years of attacks by Trump, which were exacerbated by Kemp’s refusal to call a special legislative session over

Trump’s 2020 election loss.

(Trump had wanted Kemp to appoint then-U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, who is not related to Mike Collins, according to an interview with the latter first published by the Jackson Progress-Army in 2022.)

Trump said Mike Collins had been with him “from the very beginning” and offered a genteel critique of Dooley, basically calling him a carpetbagger.

“I don’t know Derek Dooley, and neither does anyone else, but he seems like a nice person. Unfortunately, he has lived outside of Georgia for most of his life,” Trump’s post said. Trump also dinged

Dooley for saying Trump had lost the 2020 election.

Dooley has been careful not to alienate Trump supporters, publicly praising the president while bashing his opponent.

“Donald Trump is doing a great job trying to make change,” Dooley said at a debate in April, adding that Congress had not done enough to support the president.

Late on Sunday morning, Ossoff responded with his own social media post, calling both Collins and Dooley “Trump puppets” who had “made themselves both unelectable and terminally inseparable from the toxic president.”

NEW DOCTOR

Continued from page 1

prostate care, reproductive care, urinary care and kidney stones.

“It was good to come to a place like here where you walk in and you are accepted in the hospital, in the community, people are glad you are here and you can do some good,” Sterenchock said. “They needed me. So far in the process, everything I needed to do my job and serve the community has

happened.”

Sterenchock, who grew up in Delaware, wanted to move a short distance away from Warner Robins and liked what he saw in Dublin. He came to Georgia in 2004 when the Army sent him to Augusta.

“I was in Texas for a while, but there is something different about living down here,” he said. “Where I grew up, there are hardly any green spaces and it’s wall-to-wall people and traffic.”

Sterenchock served in the Army for 13 years as a medic.

“They paid for medical school, and I trained in the military,” he said.

He served in Saudi Arabia and in Iraq. Sterenchock said the best thing about the Army was the people he met.

“You meet a lot of cool people along the way, and that is the same with any branch of the military,” Sterenchock said. “And you travel. The only thing I never did was get into a helicopter.”

He has been out of the military and serving as a civilian doctor since 2009.

“It is hard to believe that I have been out (of the military) longer than I have been in,” Sterenchock said.

When it comes to Dublin, he has liked the small-town feel. And he is ready to meet people.

“We are open for business and ready to get busy,” Sterenchock said. “If somebody needs something come on to the office.”

SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

McCullough said the district will have an increase of \$1.1 million in QBE formula earnings. That can be attributed to employee advancement on the state salary scale, increased health insurance and teacher retirement costs and the funding of literacy coaches. Health insurance increased by \$150 per employee per month.

The district will receive more than \$216,000 from the state to hire literacy coaches for its elementary schools, she added. The federal funding will be approximately \$2,697,216.

McCullough showed the anticipated expenditures by function for FY 27 to be \$88.7 million. In FY 24, the county’s budget was about \$75.2 million.

“It has increased quite a bit over the last few years,” she said. “Most of that is from instruction, which has increased from \$49 million (in 2024) to \$58 million (in 2027). Salary is about 90 percent of the expense.”

The new school construction will be funded through a special local option sales tax, or SPLOST.

In other meeting news, the board:
- Recognized the West Laurens High School girls and boys golf teams for their accomplishments this past season.

- Approved Middle Georgia Business Products to replace 24 copiers in the county schools in the teacher work rooms. The current copiers had been in use since 2017. MGBP was the low bid of \$5,801.85 for a total of \$139,244.40 for all 24 copiers.

- Hall informed the board that its School Climate Star Rating.

“That’s a combination of surveys as well as looking at things like our discipline,” Hall said. “At our district, we were a four out of five so we are absolutely proud of that because it is a testament to our leaders, teachers, students and parents, guardians and those in the community who send their precious students to us.”

- Approved the transfers of Ronnie Bloodshaw (custodian from ELMS to ELMS), Ashley Johns (parapro from ELE to ELHS) and Sonya Ward (parapro from SWLE to WLMS).

- Approved the change of duties of Shabrina Jones (from teacher at ELHS to a parapro at ELHS); Timmy Walker (from maintenance to teacher at ELHS); Angie Woodall (from administrative assistant for transportation to administrative assistant special education department); and Kyleigh Wynn (parapro at ELHS to parapro at ELP).

- Approved the following resignations of Melissa Churchwell (teacher at ELMS); Donald Darsey (custodian at ELMS); Thomas Hale (bus driver at Laurens County Schools); Jamie Jackson (parapro at ELHS); and Andrew Satterwhite (teacher at ELHS).

- Approved the following new hires: Jeffery Askew (bus driver at Laurens County Schools); Steven Crumley (maintenance at Laurens County Schools); Sara Davenport (teacher at NWLE); Corey Dudley (parapro at ELHS); Amber Gaillard (parapro at NWLE); Wanda Little (parapro at NWLE); Jenny Lord (parapro at NWLE); Kaylee Loyd (parapro at NWLE); Melissa Palmer (parapro at NWLE); Marla Newsome (administrative assistant at Laurens County Schools); Ben Sinclair (bus driver at Laurens County Schools); Ashley White (teacher ELHS); and Joshua Young (teacher at ELMS).

Max Brown Pharmacy

& Uniform Carousel

(478) 272-8086 | 502 North Jefferson St., Dublin, Georgia

New Drive-Thru - Free Delivery within city limits

Compounded GLP1 medication available July 1

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM to 6 PM | SATURDAY 9 AM to 1 PM | SUNDAY CLOSED

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Friday, June 19th, 2026

from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Hot Dogs | Drinks | Chips
Chick-Fil-A | Cookies

A new name for a familiar way of banking

Morris Bank is now Vallant Bank.

The same local bankers, relationships and community commitment you've counted on for generations are now part of a stronger statewide bank built to serve Georgia communities even better.



Discover more

Member FDIC



VALLANT
BANK

Vallant.Bank