

**DUBLIN FARMERS MARKET**  
 EVERY SATURDAY, APR 4 TO OCT 11  
 7:30 AM TO 12:30 PM  
 MARKET ON MADISON  
 314 West Madison Street  
 Dublin, GA 31021

**HAPPY Father's DAY**  
 HATS OFF TO DADS!  
 All dads sporting their hats will receive \$2 in market tokens!

**VENDORS FOR SATURDAY**  
 June 20, 2026 (7:30 AM to 12:30 PM)

- Sweet Rubys
- Cheesestraws
- Riverbend Meadow Market
- produce
- Phillips Farm
- produce
- Beasley Farms
- veggies and eggs
- Jos' Pee Berry Farm
- blueberries, chicken salad
- Backyard Shed
- bread, jellies, and cakes
- Beth Wood Natural Guru
- essential oils
- Eden Organics
- produce
- Shemeka Smith
- hair & body care, juices
- Tasty Paws Pets
- dog treats & bandanas
- Infused & Rooted
- infused olive oils
- Off the Farm Produce
- produce
- Boyd's Knives
- handmade knives
- Jewelry by Keen
- handmade jewelry
- The Blossom Barn
- flowers & baked goods
- Fields of Dewy Flowers
- flowers and plants
- Willhouse Creations
- baked goods
- Taino Farms GA
- soaps & candles
- Donna Todd "The Flower Lady"
- plants and flowers
- Sonrise Farms
- fresh berries
- Elevated Eatery
- baked goods and juices
- Kelly Pop
- kettle corn popcorn
- Stitchihatchie Creek Farms
- produce
- Twisted Sister Bread Co.
- baked goods & lemonade
- Frost Bites
- freeze dried candy & veggies
- Colbey Asbell
- baked goods & lemonade
- Simply Magnolia
- candles
- Megan Harrison
- baked goods & crafts
- Peachtree Oven
- baked goods
- Cathaleen Traylor
- fresh chicken eggs
- Jordan Farms
- produce
- Kaleigh Jordan
- produce
- Hot Rod's Ohoopie Grilling Sauce
- BBQ sauce
- Holi Crop Micro Farm
- micro greens
- Kristie Creations
- door hangers & signs
- Moss & Bloom
- sea moss, teas
- Grain & Goat Co.
- cutting boards & crosses
- K&D Sweets
- baked goods

*We are an authorized SNAP/EBT market.*

## Man sentenced to life for child molestation

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**  
 Senior Reporter

A 38-year-old man was sentenced to life without parole Tuesday morning a few weeks after he was found guilty of child molestation of his stepdaughter.

Dublin Circuit Superior Court Judge Jud Green

sentenced Jonathan Luis Nieves, 38, after a Laurens County jury found him guilty of three counts of enticing a child for indecent purposes, three counts of aggravated child molestation, two counts of rape, one count of grooming of a minor and one count of aggravated sexual battery.

A victim impact statement from the girl, who is now 13, was read to the judge by her uncle.

"He did things to me that never should have happened," the uncle read. "I at one time felt safe and trusted people. I'm not safe at home or in my own skin."

She admitted to feeling

more confused than ever before.

"Sometimes I have trouble sleeping and think about it when I don't want to. I still have memories about what happened to me and that can't change. I hope no other child will have to experience what I've experienced."

During the trial, the evi-

dence showed the victim informed officials that everything started when she was in the fourth grade. Cheryl Banks-Hightower, assistant district attorney, said the stepdaughter told school officials following the Christ-

**MAN SENTENCED**  
 Continued on page 8

## Young patriots parade downtown ...



Participants parade up and down Madison Street for the first Patriotic Children's Parade/PAYTON TOWNS III

## Children's parade celebrates America's 250th

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**  
 Senior Reporter

The sun was heating things up, but that did not stop children from donning red, white and blue clothing and hats for a parade to celebrate America's big upcoming birthday.

With patriotic music playing loudly on a speaker, children rode their bikes and scooters or were pulled in wagons or walked with their parents in the first Downtown Dublin Patriotic Children's Parade on Madison Street.

Downtown Development Authority, the city of Dublin, Visit Dublin GA, Dublin Police Department, Dublin Board of Realtors, Main Street Advisory Council and Friends of the Carnegie helped with bringing this event together on Saturday, June 13.

**PATRIOTIC PARADE**  
 Continued on page 8



## City board to pick finalist for school chief job

By **RODNEY MANLEY**  
 Staff Reporter

The beleaguered Dublin City School District might have found its new superintendent.

The City Board of Education called a special meeting for 6 p.m. Wednesday to announce a sole finalist for the position. A finalist or finalists must be announced two weeks before a vote on the hiring can be taken.

Former curriculum director Marcee Pool has served as interim superintendent since last September, when Superintendent Fred Williams stepped down to take an early retirement after the severity of the school district's recent financial troubles surfaced.

The new leader will be tasked with turning around the struggling school system, which last fall was projected to end of the current fiscal year with a \$13 million deficit. The district has significantly cut spending – which included mid-year terminations of several dozen teachers and other staffers – but still owes the state about \$5 million in overdue payments to the State Health Benefit Plan.

The superintendent search, which has been led by the Georgia School Board Association, drew a total of 25 applicants. The GSBA screened the applicants and checked references before narrowing the field for the interview process.

The school board went in-house for its hiring of Williams, who took office in 2015

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
 Continued on page 8

## Uniform Carousel merges with Max Brown Pharmacy

New store to celebrate ribbon cutting Friday

By **KYLE DOMINY**  
 Staff Reporter

Al Purser understands the importance of preserving a brand.

The veteran pharmacist has helmed Max Brown Pharmacy since 2021, and he has worked to maintain the legacy established by the founder of the now nearly 53-year-old business. Now sporting a new storefront on North Jefferson Street, Purser is preserving another longtime local business – Uniform Carousel.

Max Brown Pharmacy purchased the 30-year-old business, with scrub and medical uniforms now available in the recently opened store.

"It has been a great fit so far," Purser said. "It adds a

lot to our retail space."

Joining the pharmacy's team is previous Uniform Carousel owner Gwen Pittman and other members of her staff.

"If we couldn't keep them, I wouldn't know what to do," Purser said.

Pittman can be found working the sales floor and on the road meeting with client doctors' offices.

She bought Uniform Carousel in 2012. Pittman said she was ready to step down as a business owner, and she was glad to find a local buyer to keep serving the Dublin-area customers.

"The previous owners really valued the company, and you need to live up to that," Pittman said. "This is a great opportunity. It was time."



Max Brown Pharmacy has opened at its new location on North Jefferson Street/KYLE DOMINY

Purser is hoping to grow the new portion of his business by launching a sales website maintaining the brand name. The site,

going live in the coming weeks, will be theuniform-carousel.com.

"People have strong feelings about supporting

local businesses," Purser said. "And we want to add

**PHARMACY**  
 Continued on page 8

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## Seventh annual Juneteenth parade, festival Saturday

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**  
 Senior Reporter

The seventh annual Taste of Juneteenth Festival, presented by CultureSHOCK of Dublin, will look to bring fun and history to the event.

The festival will be held between 4 and 10 p.m. at the Market on Madison.

A parade will also be featured, and it will travel through Downtown Dublin beginning promptly at 5 p.m.

"The only thing different for the parade is we do not go up to the post office," said one of the event organizers, Ieshia Austin. "We cut across the road between city hall and Theatre

Dublin, leading the parade back to the market."

Austin said they are still accepting parade participants until at least Friday. Barbara J. Martin will be the grand marshal for this year's parade.

**JUNETEENTH**  
 Continued on page 8



**OBITUARIES**



**Jimmy Eugene Garner**

Graveside service for Mr. Jimmy Eugene Gardner was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 10 a.m. Location – Bluewater Baptist Church – 2681 US-441 Dublin, Georgia 31021. Rev. Joey Diers will officiate.

Jimmy Eugene Gardner, 76, of Rentz Ga passed away on June 13, 2026, at the Villa. He was born in Dublin, Ga. on Aug. 11, 1949, to the parentage of late Jim and Dolly Gardner.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ann Gardner, his parents, and a sister Louise (Tommy) Williams of Rentz Ga.

He is survived by his niece and caregiver, Debra Eaves; caregivers, Brenda Fordham and Teresa Swank whom he adored; and four stepchildren.

Eugene loved his other family at the Villa they cherished him also, they spoiled him rotten. He loved ice cream and watching racing.

Eugene was a delivery driver and was an employee at Big Truck Parts until his health declined. Before employment at Big Truck Parts, he was employed at Bassett Furniture for many years.

A huge thanks to Remarkable Hospice for stepping in to take good care of him, Eugene cherished everyone who looked after him, neighbors and friends. A special thanks to Mrs. Frances Ward and her husband, they were very good neighbors. She would often cook country meals and invite him to come and eat. He thought the world of them.

The family would like to let them know we appreciate them for taking such good care of him.

Serenity Funeral Home – Dublin has charge of arrangements.



**Roger Lee Nesbitt**

Roger Lee Nesbitt of Indianapolis, Indiana passed away on Tuesday, June 10, 2026. He had been battling Small Cell Carcinoma and Pulmonary Fibrosis for over five months and developed sepsis during hospital stay due to pulmonary fibrosis and fluid build-up in his lungs.

He is preceded in death by his father Joe Nesbitt; mother Bette Nesbitt; and aunt Elizabeth “Buff” Eubanks.

He is survived by his wife Cindy (Crow) Nesbitt, his

daughters Rachael Nesbitt, Hannah (Brady) Boles, and Abby Nesbitt, granddaughter Violet Boles, his brother Brian Nesbitt, Aunt Reba (Nesbitt) Heirs, sister-in-law Jenny (Crow) Buchanan, brother-in-law; Jerry Buchanan and their children Jake (Allie) Buchanan, Haley (Kyle) Endres and Grace Buchanan. He also had great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

He was born on Saturday, Oct. 10, 1953 in Great Falls, Montana. His family moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Then moved to Carmel, Indiana during his High School years where he attended Carmel High School. He went to Indiana University and received a BA in Political Science in 1980. He married his wife Cindy Nesbitt on Aug. 4, 1984. They would have celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary this year. Roger had many career paths he was a Realtor for Century 21 and Baldwin Brothers Real Estate. He was also an Assistant Varsity Coach/Junior Varsity Head Coach for the Lawrence North High School Softball team. Roger was also a regular attendee along with his family to Geist Community Church until 2018. He joined Bible studies, small groups and taught Sunday school with his wife to preschool children. Roger spent his summers volunteering his time with Oaklandon Youth Organization by coaching softball. He became Vice President of 12/14U softball 2000-2008 and Head Travel Softball coach for 14U Red Storm 2008-2015.

Roger will be remembered for being a man of faith, dedicated to his family, a role model to athletes who learned the game of softball and bringing those skills to their future careers, going on fishing trips with his three best friends, and supporting causes like Animal Protection League, political leaders he supported, and groups that support Riley Hospital, Community Heart Hospital, and the Indy Anderson Cancer Community Hospital.

Services will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at Indiana Funeral Home (1307 Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, IN. 46219). Visitation will be from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. with a service at 6 p.m. The service will be officiated by Todd Townsend.

Roger's family would like to thank the amazing staff (doctors, nurses, technicians, and physician assistants) of Community North Hospital and Anderson Community Cancer Center for their work and support through his cancer treatment and hospital stays.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Animal Protection League of Anderson, Indiana. This is a non-profit animal shelter that gives all animals a second chance for a new life. This is the shelter that the family has supported financially, by donations, fostering, and adoptions.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

June 19  
*Virgil & Catherine Rozar*

**BIRTHDAYS**

June 19  
*Regina Madison  
Catherine Walker*



**Anthony Ralph Lord**

Anthony Ralph Lord, 77, of Wrightsville, Georgia, passed away peacefully at his home on June 15, 2026.

Born on Oct. 1, 1948, Anthony was the son of the late Ralph Eugene Lord and Evelyn Boatright Lord. He was a hardworking man who loved farming and his family. A lifelong resident of Wrightsville, he was known for his strong work ethic, kind heart and unwavering devotion to his family. He retired from the kaolin industry in Sandersville, Georgia, after many years of dedicated service.

Anthony was a devoted husband, father, papa and friend. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Pamela Tanner Lord; his children, Anthony Neil Lord (Wendi) and Shae Lord Keyton (Shane); his grandchildren, Brittany Lord Oliver (Will), Kala Lord Wombles (Chad), Mitchell Anthony Lord, Blake Keyton (Brittany) and Zac Keyton; his great-grandchildren, C.J. Wombles, Beau Bryan, Waylon Wombles, Cam Keyton, and K.K. Keyton; his sister, Marsha Lord Warner (John); his special friend, Shirley Taylor; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends.

Anthony was a deacon and faithful member of Union Hill Baptist Church, where he served the Lord throughout his life. He enjoyed farming, helping with his son's logging business, and spending time with his family. Among his greatest joy was his beloved dog, Buddy, who was his constant companion and faithful friend. Though he is no longer with us, we find comfort in knowing that he is now healed and at peace in the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In addition to his parents, Anthony was preceded in death by his brother, Allen Lord.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 17 at Union Hill Baptist Church with Pastor Donnie Baker and Pastor Chad Drew officiating. Interment will follow at Westview Cemetery.

The family received friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16 at Stanley Funeral Home in Wrightsville, Ga.

Serving as pallbearers

will be Phil Boatright, Josh Lord, Bobby Miller, Blake Keyton, Zac Keyton, Larry Powell and Edd Tanner.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to Shirley Taylor and Pruitt Hospice for the devotion, kindness, and care shown during Mr. Lord's illness.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Georgia Baptist Children's Home, 9420 Blackshear Highway SE, Baxley, GA 31513.

Anthony's legacy of faith, hard work, and love for his family will continue to live on in the hearts of those who were blessed to know him.

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



**Anthony Laroy Graham**

Funeral services for Anthony Laroy Graham “Tony,” 84 will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 19, 2026, at Graham Memorial Church of the Nazarene, with interment to follow in the church cemetery. Rev. Jordy Barwick will officiate.

Mr. Graham was born April 19, 1942, in Dublin, Georgia. He was the son of the late Lester Graham and Dollie Drew Graham. He was also preceded in death by his siblings, Prentice Graham, Prescott Graham, Joyce Smith, JoAnn Collins, Juanita Frost and Phillip Graham. He was a member of Graham Memorial Church of the Nazarene where he served as the Sunday School Superintendent and Music Director for many years. He retired from the Public Works Department for City of East Dublin. Mr. Graham passed away Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at Dublin Trails.

Mr. Graham is survived by his wife, Retha Mae Horton Graham of Scott; three children, Mark Graham (Lorraine) of East Dublin, Jeff Bruce (Kim) of Blairsville, and Becky Lawson of Rockledge; eight grandchildren, Jennifer Wynn, Shanna Scott, Brandy Kapp, Sarahbeth Kemmerling, Tyler Graham, Kyalla Rowlett, Ashley Williams and

**Two aging nuclear reactors cleared to power another generation of Georgians**

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A nuclear power plant in Georgia that predates the presidency of Jimmy Carter got a new lease on life to operate for an additional two decades, Georgia Power announced this week.

The licenses for the reactors at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant near Baxley were set to expire in the 2030s. The two reactor units will be 79 years old when the renewed licenses issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission expire in 2054 and 2058.

Georgia Power Chairman, President and CEO Kim Greene said in a statement accompanying the announcement that the company's nuclear portfolio provides reliable energy at a stable cost.

“This license extension is great news as our state continues to grow and demand for electricity continues to increase,” she said.

Plant Hatch's first reactor unit came online in 1975, two years before Carter took office as president. Unit 2 entered service in 1979.

Together they produce about 1.8 gigawatts of power, or about 40% of Georgia Power's nuclear energy.

Altogether, Plant Hatch and Plant Alvin W. Vogtle near Waynesboro produced nearly 30% of the company's energy last year.

The larger Vogtle has four reactor units, two that date to the late 1980s and two that began generating power in 2023 and 2024. It produces a total of about 4.7 gigawatts.

Both plants are co-owned by Georgia Power, Oglethorpe Power Corp., the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and Dalton Utilities. The plants are operated by a Birmingham-based subsidiary of Georgia Power's owner, the Southern Company.

Over the past two decades, the partnership replaced the Unit 2 cooling tower at Plant Hatch and replaced transformers, water pumps and feedwater heaters.

The federal renewal was based in part on safety and environmental reviews and on aging management programs.

**NOW HERE'S A TIP**

By JOANN DERSON  
King Features

\* "The best way to get a bloodstain out of clothing is by dousing the stain with hydrogen peroxide and washing as usual. For clay stains, you absolutely

must have a Fels-Naptha bar. It looks like a bar of soap, and you wet the material and rub in the soap. It's magical. This, coming from a softball mom whose daughter loves to slide." -- A.A. in Florida

\* Add these to the list of items to eliminate the odor of cooking cabbage: a heel of bread, a whole walnut or a pinch of baking soda.

\* It's easy to make your own spreadable butter. Simply whip 1 pound of softened butter and 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Slowly add 1 cup of olive oil. Beat up to 5 minutes to add air and increase volume. Pour into two 1-pint containers and refrigerate. It's economical, spreads like soft margarine, tastes great and you get the benefits of olive oil in a natural product.

Jonathan Williams; and 8 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at the funeral home.

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



**Beverly Bloodsaw**

Ms. Beverly Bloodsaw of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Wednesday, June 17, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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

**NEWS DIGEST**

THE LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM, A Juneteenth Celebration will be held Friday June 19 at the First African Baptist Church Family Life Center, 405 Telfair St. from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call (229)449-1891.

**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 the City of East Dublin ad valorem property taxes; 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 the City of Dexter ad valorem property taxes; and for other purposes.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of East Dublin Zoning Board will hold a meeting on June 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Terrie E Drew Council Chambers located at the East Dublin City Hall. The meeting will be held for the purpose of discussion and approval/disapproval of the proposed rezoning application of JAC Holdings, LLC, located at 618 Nathaniel Drive, East Dublin, GA from M-2 to R-1.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

\*\*The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 10 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "1st rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Subject to credit approval. Ask for details. \*Promotional offer includes 50% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified online and/or in-store for those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. CO: 4222222222 AZ: 4200 544222 AZ: 0288503026 CA: 1032788 CT: 440 071020 FL: 030200678 ID: 36304 LA: 022222 LA: 06864 MD: 46184488 MA: 21026 MI: 26230026 MN: 26230026 MO: 26230026 NC: 26230026 ND: 47264 OR: 262324 PA: 61864 RI: 02824 SC: 26230026 TN: 02822020 TX: 462682 VA: 47264 WA: 462682 WI: 027 DC: 0281

# The et cetera chronicles - vol. 134

**NAME THAT TEAM** - Under the leadership, funding, and determination of Herschel Lovett, a baseball team was founded in the Class D Georgia State League. Lots of suggestions came into his office, where he was the owner of the city's newspaper, the Dublin Courier Herald. The winner was a 14-year-old boy, Wade Kittrell, whose suggestion of "The Green Sox" was declared the winner. Macon Telegraph, Feb. 10, 1949.

**YOUR SQUARE** - Gov. George M. Troup is the most famous citizen of Laurens County in the first century of the state. During the first third of the 19th Century, Troup served as a United States Senator and Congressman. He also served two terms as Governor of Georgia. In the latter years of the 19th Century, the City of Savannah named a public square in his honor. Troup Square was one of new squares created for large public gatherings. Savannah Morning News, June 10, 1894.

**WE STAND FOR KOREA** - In the fall of 1950, many Dublin citizens wanted to support America's presence in Korea. The committee placed an advertisement for a seamstress to make a suitable flag of the Republic of South Korea to display in the city. Originally, sponsors wanted to display flags in every church in Laurens County. Mrs. Frank H. Johnson was the first to volunteer. Macon News, Oct. 1, 1950.

**WE KNOW NOTHING** - In the 1856 presidential election, Laurens County's white male adults cast 406 (85%) votes for former president and Know Nothing Party candidate Millard Fillmore and only 70 (15%) for the eventual president James Buchanan. John C. Fremont, a Georgian

running as a Republican, received not a single vote in the county. Weekly Macon Telegraph, Nov. 11, 1856.

**MR. GAMECOCK** - At the beginning of World War II, Earl Dunham, a native of Dublin and an All-American football player for the Lanier Poets in Macon, Georgia, was playing all over the place for the South Carolina Gamecocks. Dunham spent three years as a lieutenant in the Parachute Corps. Dunham returned to South Carolina, where he set a University and possibly an NCAA record by being elected as the captain of the football, baseball, and basketball teams. After his career ended, Dunham became the backfield coach for the Gamecocks. The State, Columbia, May 28, 1947. The Columbia Record, Jan. 2, 1956.

**MY STREET KEEPS CHANGING ITS NAME** - Once part of Highway 257, one of Dublin's most well-known streets has had its name changed four times. Originally, in the later decades of the 19th century, the name of the street was changed to Academy Avenue when Dublin High School was located in the rear of the former Dublin Elk's Club. In the euphoria following the end of World War I, city leaders reacted swiftly to change the name to Wilson Avenue in honor of the fallen president, Woodrow Wilson. Once the mourning had settled, the street's former name was returned to Academy Avenue. Savannah Morning News, March 2, 1897.

**YOU ARE TOO YOUNG, YOUNG MAN** - Not too many Georgia state representatives are twenty years old. The all-time youngest member of the Georgia House of Representatives was the legendary Georgia defense attorney, Bob-



## PIECES OF OUR PAST

By **SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.**

by Lee Cook of North Georgia. From South Georgia was Hamilton Kellam, of Dublin. Kellam, who graduated from Dublin High at the age of 16, went on to North Georgia College and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, all before he became an adult. Kellam qualified to run against a political giant, R.I. Stephens, who would become a judge of the Superior Court in the next decade. Stephens dropped out of the race and left it wide open for Kellam to run unopposed. Kellam was elected in July 1948 and began his service in Atlanta while he was a mere 20 years old. MACON NEWS, July 23, 1948

**TEN - FOUR** - In the first half of the 20th Century, police, sheriffs, and some State Patrol cars did not have two-way radios. Officers often made periodical stops at stores, homes, and businesses to borrow their phones to call headquarters. On New Year's Eve 1948, Laurens County Sheriff Carlus Gay announced that he had installed two-way radios in his deputies' cars. Macon News, Dec. 31, 1948.

### DID YOU KNOW ...?

## Did a West Virginia town turn to the Soviet Union for help in getting a new bridge built?

By **JACK BAGLEY**  
GTLN

Well, if this ain't a kick in the head!

Last week, this column - the silliness you're reading right now - won an award! For the second year in a row, my little exercise in trivia was voted second place in the Lifestyle/Feature Column category in the Georgia Press Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest.

Apparently, this makes me (gasp) an award-winning columnist!

I didn't make mention of it last year because it was such a neat, new thing, but now ... read on for some award-winning trivia!

Thanks, Georgia Press!

*Did you know ...*

... it was once considered bad luck to bathe during the last week of the year? Pennsylvania Germans in the early 20th Century considered it bad luck to bathe or even change clothes between Christmas and New Year's Day. (Gross.)

... we know more about the planet Mars than we do about the floors of our oceans? There are a lot of reasons for this, but the biggest one is darkness - light from the Sun does not penetrate far into the ocean water, and the bottoms are in total pitch blackness. (We know more about Mars than we want to know.)

... cartoons have been lying to us for years? I'm specifically talking about the Road Runner series of cartoons, in which the hapless Wile E. Coyote tries - and consistently fails - to catch the speedy bird. Despite the laughs, there's a strong factual error here - road runners in real life are much slower than coyotes. The average speed of a road runner when it does what it does is about 27 miles per hour, while coyotes can run at speeds up to 42 miles per hour. (Meep meep indeed.)

... how many officially recognized constellations are in the night sky? While there are literally an uncountable number of stars in the universe, the International Astronomical Union officially recognizes 88 constellations. The official list was promulgated in 1922. (I have to get me one of those jobs counting constellations.)

... the most popular sit-down meal ordered in U.S. restaurants is fried chicken? After that comes roast beef, spaghetti, turkey, baked ham, and fried shrimp.



Did the Soviets help build this West Virginia bridge? /SPECIAL PHOTO

Steak and hamburgers are farther down the list, as are fish and other seafood items. (Interesting, since I never order fried chicken at a sit-down restaurant. But then, I am not average, either.)

... a West Virginia town used Soviet help to get a bridge built? During the mid 1970s, the footbridge connecting the tiny town of Vulcan, West Virginia, with the state of Kentucky across the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River - a single-lane swinging bridge - collapsed. Local leaders tried to get the state to replace the bridge to no avail, until 1977, when the town's self-appointed "mayor" John Robinette (born 1935), frustrated by the lack of support, turned to the Soviet Union for assistance. Robinette sent two letters to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev (1906-1982) asking for help in replacing the bridge but got no reply; however, New York-based Soviet journalist Iona Andronov (1934-2024) did learn about the letters and traveled to the West Virginia town. The Soviets saw a tailor-made way to embarrass the United States, and promised that if the state or federal governments did not fund a new bridge, the Soviets would. Within an hour of Andronov's arrival, the West Virginia legislature passed an emergency bill providing \$1.3 million for the construction of a new bridge, which was completed in 1980. Robinette christened the bridge with two bottles of Russian vodka. (Comrade, we build bridge if decadent Americans will not.)

... two countries on Earth are doubly landlocked? For a country to be "doubly landlocked," it has to be landlocked itself, and then surrounded by countries that are also landlocked. (Landlocked, you know, means that a country does not have a sea coast.) Uz-

bekistan and Liechtenstein are the only two doubly landlocked countries on Earth; you would have to cross two national boundaries to get to a sea coast from either one. (I guess it's easy to enlist in the navy in either country, then.)

... a video game series has had numerous lawsuits filed against it? Take-Two and Rockstar's Grand Theft Auto series of video games has had a stunning total of more than \$1 billion in lawsuits filed against it. Some of the reasons for the suits are, shall we say, out there: one suit claims a man was interviewed by the game creators, and then found some of the particulars of his life in the game; another claimed damages because the online version of the game wasn't available until two weeks after the game itself launched; and actress Lindsey Lohan (born 1986) claimed that the in-game character of Lacey Jonas was based on her. All of the suits were dismissed. Additional trivia note: And then there's attorney Jack Thompson (born 1951), who has seemingly taken on the entire video game industry in court. Thompson has filed dozens of suits seeking to remove what he considers "violent" video games from the market. Thompson's tactics got him disbarred in Florida at one point. (And they were worried that the game would teach you how to steal a car!)

... the healthiest place on Earth to live is in Panama? A small valley near the town of Volcán in Panama was named the "Healthiest Place on Earth" in 2018 by International Living magazine. The area, unsurprisingly called Shangri-La Valley, boasts beautiful scenery, a very low cost of living, and a significantly higher life expectancy than anywhere else. (Book me a ticket on the next boat to Panama.)

Now ... you know!

### DIVA ON A DIME

## Give pork chops the steakhouse treatment for Father's Day

By **PATTI DIAMOND**  
King Features

Father's Day meals don't have to be elaborate to feel special. Sometimes all it takes is setting aside a little extra time and serving something that says, "I thought you'd enjoy this."

Many Father's Day menus revolve around steaks, burgers and the backyard grill. This year let's give the humble pork chop the star treatment. Stuffed with apples and onions and finished with herbs and Dijon mustard, they deliver steakhouse flavor without the steakhouse price tag.

One of the things I love about cooking is its ability to turn ordinary ingredients into something extraordinary. A celebration doesn't come from the price tag attached to the meal. It comes from the thought behind it. Whether it's Father's Day, a birthday or simply a Tuesday when everyone is home at the same time, a little extra effort can make dinner feel like an occasion.

#### APPLE & HERB STUFFED PORK CHOPS

Yield: 4 Servings  
Total Time: 50 mins.

- 4 thick-cut pork chops with bone if possible, about 1 1/2 inch thick
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus more as needed
- 1 teaspoon sea salt, plus more to taste
- 1 tablespoon butter, or more olive oil
- 1 apple, Granny Smith or similar, cored and thinly sliced
- 1 medium sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme or 2 teaspoons fresh thyme, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary or 2 teaspoons fresh rosemary, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper, plus more to taste
- Toothpicks to secure the stuffing

Preheat the oven to 375 F. Using a small sharp knife, cut a deep pocket into the side of each pork chop, being careful not to cut all the way through. Season the chops inside and out

with salt.

Heat an oven-safe skillet over medium heat. Add the oil and brown the pork chops on both sides, about 4 to 5 minutes per side. If the chops have a fat cap, briefly brown it as well. Transfer to a plate. The centers will still be undercooked.

Add the butter to the skillet. Cook the onion for 2 to 3 minutes until softened. Add the apple and cook until tender. Stir in the vinegar, then add the panko breadcrumbs and cook for 1 minute more. Remove from the heat.

In a small bowl, combine the Dijon mustard, garlic powder, thyme, rosemary and pepper. Spread the mixture over the pork chops and inside the pockets.

Fill each pocket generously with the apple mixture and secure with toothpicks if needed.

Arrange any remaining apple and onion mixture in the center of the skillet and place the pork chops on top. Cover and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until the pork reaches 145 F in the thickest part. Let rest for 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

#### Make It Simpler

Don't feel like stuffing pork chops? No problem! This recipe is just as delicious served without the extra step. Simply skip cutting the pockets and reserve the apple-onion mixture. Before baking, spread the apples and onions into an even layer in the skillet and place the seasoned pork chops on top. Roast as directed until the pork reaches 145 F. You'll get all the same sweet-savory flavor with a little less fuss.

Serve with mashed potatoes, sauteed green beans and a simple green salad for a complete meal. Then bring out dessert. Life offers plenty of reasons to skip dessert. Father's Day isn't one of them.

*Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADime-DotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com*  
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**Fairfield**  
BY MARRIOTT

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# TELL IT!



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

**Isn't it a disgrace** that the people who are in charge of investigating Dublin City Schools have not come up with anything now? Either come up and say you cannot see it and you don't know where it is, or just say I give up. Let the citizens investigate it. I'm sure the citizens can come up with it.

**I wish somebody** would inform the police stations and the police officers, please leave the senior citizens alone and round up these gang members who are walking up and down the streets. I thought there was a law about pants being down below their knees.

**Who is going to** move here, or want to live here in Dublin when all they see is blue lights and people being pulled over left and right and cameras all over the place? I had a friend who wanted to move his business here, but he says there is no way he's moving here with all of this going on. I don't know. They need to be careful with this stuff.

**Why is the Dublin City School** board opposed to zero based budgeting? Does it make it too difficult to hide the graft? I'm also confused about board

member Lanier's statement concerning Dublin City School hiring: "...the district has had little trouble filling open positions and that community confidence is building..We've had a lot of interest in the system," he said. "A lot of people like the direction it's heading and the things that we're doing." I thought the system just fired teachers, etc. to try and balance a budget. Now the system is hiring? How? What are they using for money? Or is this more of the voodoo accounting.

**Mr. Tillery and your** Laurens County supporters, it's time you get your signs down. Please remove those ugly signs. Thank you.

**I have heard that** there are people speeding on Country Club Road and the sheriff won't do nothing about it except put his deputies on the over past on the interstate.

**I am sure the** former school board member that is so vocal about the Dublin City Schools has forgotten that she was on the board when all of the problems were going on and she voted for all of it.

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

## Republican need some serious thought into what's next

I've been thinking. It's what I do, of course, but there's a bit of extra time right now. This column has a deadline for print publications that is prior to Tuesday's Georgia primary run-offs, for a piece that these papers won't run until results are known.

I can't yet explain what the November matchups between Republican and Democratic nominees mean, despite the Democrats having already selected their candidates for Governor and U.S. Senate and having them kick off the general election as a ticket. I've long ago renounced the title of "pundit", so I'm not going to pretend to predict something that would be right or wrong anyway by the time you're reading this.

I've instead been thinking ahead a bit. About "what's next".

Columnists, pundits, and voters alike will be rushing to the 2028 elections momentarily. We're a people much more interested in the horse races than actual governance. Almost half the country is willing to do anything for anyone to move on from President Trump. The other half is now firmly rooted in MAGA for this moment in time.

Time is a fleeting asset. It remains to be seen if MAGA holds beyond President Trump's tenure as President.

It's likely to extend at least into the nomination of his successor. President Trump's political operation has been successful in ensuring loyalists are in most positions within the Republican party apparatus.



By **CHARLIE HARPER**

Voters of both parties have been largely unsuccessful in grassroots challenges to an entrenched party establishment.

President Trump doing this himself was likely the exception, not a go-forward rule. This was made possible, in large part, by major media outlets giving him fourteen times the coverage of the entire rest of the crowded primary field and appealing to the anti-establishment, Tea Party base.

Republicans were baited into that nomination. They took it, and the White House with them.

Democrats, on the other hand, had "super delegates" save Hillary Clinton from Bernie Sanders, and the same party essentially shielded President Biden from a primary, only to then swap him out for Vice President Harris despite her lacking a single primary vote.

It's not as fashionable to be an anti-establishment

Republican these days, at least when it comes to bucking the President. Majorie Taylor Greene and Thomas Massie tried it. They were last seen on a boat together, sharing the title "former member of Congress", and aligning in every media hit they can generate with views of the progressive far left.

The eventual problem for Republicans here is the sustainability of MAGA. Those who have tried to claim they were the heir to MAGA have heard directly from the President. "MAGA is me" and "MAGA is whatever I say it is."

At some point, a party has to have core beliefs that unite its members. President Trump will leave office in January of 2029. He may continue to influence Republicans for some time after. The party must have some defined shared values that extend beyond one person.

President Trump is one of the best ever to create a brand. His family name is a brand. MAGA is his political brand. The political brand has a shelf-life.

These days it is somewhat entertaining to watch hyper-partisan Republicans argue over their self-identified brands. It's long been trite to hear the lowbrow insult "RINO" (Republican In Name Only) when a partisan wishes to claim purity over another. A slightly more upscale version of this rhetoric is to anoint oneself the "true conservative."

The reality is, in the age of MAGA, what is truly conservative has become fungible. People who were proud

Democrats a couple of elections ago now routinely call those who put in the work to take control from their former party a couple of decades ago RINOs.

Don't take from this observation that this is written out of anger or resentment. Elections have consequences. To the victor goes the spoils.

MAGA won. Now what? Both parties are preparing for voter realignment. All either side really cares about at its core is keeping power, and keeping the other side away from it. Everything else seems negotiable.

If that seems harsh, consider MAGA's softened views on most core social issues. On the Democratic side, see Plattner, Graham.

What has mostly held the Republican coalition together for the past half century was one of economic liberty. Though somewhat out of vogue, I call it capitalism.

MAGA has successfully battled Democrats for votes of populists. Now many current and would-be future leaders are happy to join in some of the populist rhetoric, which approaches and sometimes crosses the line against capitalism.

In a couple of years, Republicans will have a different messenger as their standard bearer. It's time to do some serious thinking about what that message will be, what are the core underlying values that will shape it, and how the coalition that is currently held together by a one-man brand can successfully transition to what is next.

## Rural America is still out there but can change with the weather

**GOOD HOPE** – Rural America is still out there, but it is changing as often as the weather forecast. Young people clamor to get off the farm. Little farms and little farmers are disappearing. Folks in these parts, however, make do and some continue to live off the land.

Maybe there is a soothsayer who might confirm this possibility. Will the problems of the cities, in the by and by, force people back to the farm? I am not clairvoyant, but have high hopes that the rural communities will continue to dot our landscapes and give us respite from the mess we often make of our cities – where vegetable gardens are as scarce as an ATM machine is in Good Hope.

In the last year, I have seen a lot of Rural America: Powderly, Texas, and just across the border of the Red River into Oklahoma; the grain fields and corn rows of South Dakota, where pheasant abound; the horse farms and bluegrass of Kentucky; the backroads of Cashiers, North Carolina; the wooded acreage of North Florida, just over the Georgia line; the land that grows nothing much but weeds in the low country, which ushers you into Charleston, provided you choose a route other than the Interstate. Then there are the settlements throughout Georgia including places named Kite, Adrian, Pocatigo, Ochlockonee, Knoxville, Hoboken, Waverly, and Sasser.

Right under my nose is

Good Hope in East Walton County. Incorporated in 1905, Good Hope got its name from the early settlers' optimism that the future of their community was good. When I stopped here recently, my consciousness was tweaked by the belief that there will always be communities like Good Hope in our world.

When you drive through Good Hope, you know this is where laid-back living is a staple of existence. There is one caution light, a post office, a veterinary clinic, and one general store. That store is the business landmark, which will bring me back as soon as I can get to it. They start drinking coffee at the Good Hope General Store, owned by Wade and Harold Edmondson, at 5:30 a.m. I want to sit with Mr. Tommy and Mr. B. who have their own designat-



By **LORAN SMITH**

ed rocking chairs and hear them pontificate near a sign which suggests "Lies are bigger at Good Hope General Store."

I want to return for a "cocaine" hot dog. "That's one that is so tasty you become addicted after you take the first bite," said Margaret Stapp, a friendly and hospitable lady, who gave me a tour of the premises.

She and Amy Hughes

even let me see the forty-gallon crock pot where the Edmondsons make good barbecue, based on my tasting experience, and great Brunswick stew. Margaret let me have a sample of each. When I return to drink coffee with Mr. Tommy and Mr. B. maybe I can hang around for lunch and enjoy more of the Good Hope General Store's delectable Brunswick stew.

This is a place where if you like it hot, it doesn't get any hotter. When you dip into the crock pot, the marinade includes onions and jalapeno peppers. This is the kind of hot that folks south of the border would respect.

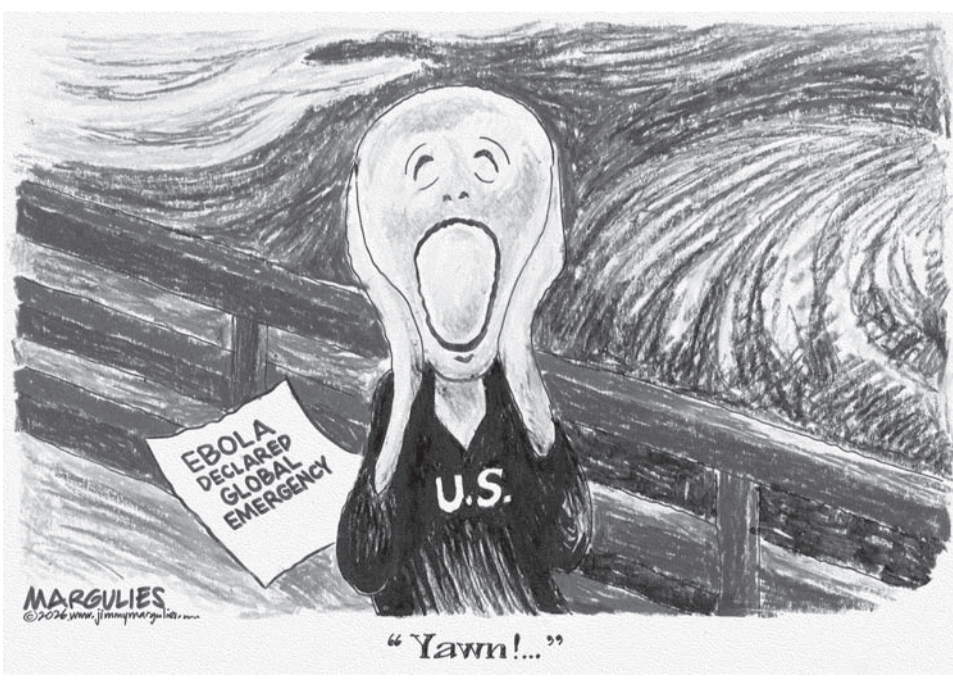
Good Hope has a mayor, Jimmy Guthrie, and a council. Government here recently made a landmark decision. They voted to allow the Good Hope General Store to sell cold beer. For a long time, the Edmondsons had to sell their beer hot, the theory being that if imbibers bought their beer hot, they were not as likely to drink and drive – confirming that everywhere there are people, there are issues and solutions, pros and cons, yeas and nays.

Good country music

sounded forth on the speaker system. My guess was that it was coming from nearby WMOQ where my friend Julio entertains each day. If I make it back for lunch I want the eminently popular Julio to join me.

The Veterinary Clinic, operated by Dr. Ross Kittrell and his assistant Sheila Ogle, is where I stopped first. "If you want to know anything about Good Hope and anything that goes on here, you have to go next door to the General Store. You not only learn something, you will enjoy yourself. That is a great place," Sheila advised.

I can confirm Sheila is right. So right, I can't wait to return to see Margaret and Amy and enjoy a cocaine hot dog.



"Yawn!..."

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"Courage is the power of the mind to overcome fear."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

### DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased."

- Proverbs 9:10-11

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

June 18, 2026 is...

- National Cherry Tart Day
- National Splurge Day
- International Panic Day
- International Picnic Day
- Go Fishing Day
- International Sushi Day
- Autistic Pride Day
- National Dump the Pump Day
- National Career Nursing Assistants' Day
- Recess at Work 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.

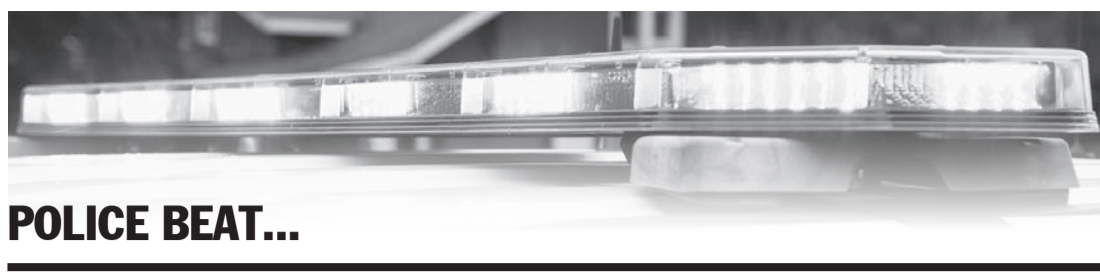
**Dublin Police Department**

- On May 19, at 9:58 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Riverview Park Drive at Riverview Heights Apartments in reference to a fight in progress.

The office met with a woman who said a juvenile had assaulted her physically while her child was in her arms after a verbal argument and caused damage to a screen projector owned by her. The juvenile said she had damaged the projector, but it was in response to the woman causing damage to her cellphone, to which the woman admitted.

The officer later talked with the mother of both individuals, who said a verbal argument started in the house between the two. The mother said the woman had damaged the cellphone after the physical altercation and the juvenile then damaged the screen projector in retaliation.

The juvenile agreed with both stories given at the time. The juvenile was de-



**POLICE BEAT...**

tained and transported to the police department. The Department of Juvenile Justice was contacted and the officer was instructed to transport the juvenile to Cadwell RYDC. The juvenile was charged with simple battery and cruelty to children in the second degree (family violence).

- Toney Andrews, 66, was charged with theft by shoplifting, on Ga. 80 around 6:23 p.m. on May 20.

An officer responded to Walmart in reference to shoplifting. The officer met with loss prevention employee who said he saw footage of a man stealing three items of merchandise including a GI Joe toy and two DVD movie sets that totaled up to be \$172.88.

The employee told the officer that Andrew stole a shirt off the clothing section and placed it on himself near the toy aisle towards the back of the store. The officer saw the footage and asked Andrews where was the original shirt he had on was. Andrew said he placed it into the trash can near the electronics department. The officer advised Andrew to return the stolen merchandise that he was wearing and to put on his original shirt back on himself.

The employee told Andrews he was trespassing from Walmart. Andrew was transported to the police department for fingerprints. He was released on citations.

- On May 28, around 6:33

a.m., an officer responded to Shane's Body Shop in reference to the removal of Ronnie Peacock, 50, who had been previously trespassed on May 27.

An officer met with Peacock who was seen sleeping in the driver's seat of a gray SUV. An officer had Peacock step out of the vehicle, and he was asked if he had been trespassed from the property. He advised he was just sleeping and waiting for the business to open the shop.

Peacock was arrested and transported to the county jail. A warrant will be obtained for criminal trespass.

**Laurens County Sheriff's Office**

- On May 21, around 1:20 p.m., a woman came to the sheriff's office to file a report for identity fraud. A report was completed to document the incident.

- A deputy responded to Red Top Grocery Store on Highway 117 Cadwell in reference to reckless conduct around 6 p.m. on May 20.

- On May 20, around 8 p.m., a deputy was dispatched to Proctor Street in Rentz in reference to recovering a firearm that was found in the roadway.

- Around 2 p.m., a deputy was dispatch to Strange Lane in reference to a stolen

**Local 7-day Forecast:**

The next 48 hours:

	<b>THURSDAY:</b> <b>83°</b>	A couple of heavy showers and thunderstorms from tropical rainstorm in the afternoon. <b>Sunrise: 6:24 a.m.</b>
	<b>THURSDAY NIGHT:</b> <b>71°</b>	A couple of heavy showers and thunderstorms from tropical rainstorm. <b>Sunset: 8:41 p.m.</b>
	<b>FRIDAY:</b> <b>85°</b>	Cloudy with a couple of showers and thunderstorms from tropical rainstorm. <b>Sunrise: 6:24 a.m.</b>
	<b>FRIDAY NIGHT:</b> <b>69°</b>	Partly cloudy and humid with a stray thunderstorm. <b>Sunset: 8:42 p.m.</b>

	<b>Saturday 5/23</b> HIGH/LOW <b>90/67</b> Humid with times of sun and clouds. <b>Sunrise: 6:24 a.m. Sunset: 8:42 p.m.</b>		<b>Sunday 5/24</b> HIGH/LOW <b>91/70</b> Humid with partial sunshine; widely separated thunderstorms in the afternoon. <b>Sunrise: 6:25 a.m. Sunset: 8:42 p.m.</b>		<b>Monday 5/25</b> HIGH/LOW <b>91/71</b> Partly sunny and humid; an afternoon thunderstorm. <b>Sunrise: 6:25 a.m. Sunset: 8:42 p.m.</b>		<b>Tuesday 5/26</b> HIGH/LOW <b>92/68</b> Sun and some clouds with widely separated thunderstorm. <b>Sunrise: 6:25 a.m. Sunset: 8:43 p.m.</b>		<b>Wednesday 5/27</b> HIGH/LOW <b>89/69</b> Sun and some clouds. <b>Sunrise: 6:25 a.m. Sunset: 8:43 p.m.</b>
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**River levels...**  
Oconee (at Dublin) ..... 3.4'  
Ocmulgee (at Macon) ..... 6.8'

**Less clutter, less stress at Dublin After 5 Women's Connection**

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Dublin After Five Women's Connection cordially invites all ladies to join us at the Dublin Country Club on Thursday, June 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for a lovely evening filled with fellowship, music and inspiration.

Robbie Curry will delight us with his guitar and singing talents. Curry has spent most of his life in California working with electronic control systems in the pharmacy industry. He and his wife Edith moved back to Dublin in 2020. The talented Regina Rowe will be playing our buffet music.

We are excited to have Anna Marie Peterson of Waxhaw, N.C. as our speaker. She will be presenting a special feature on decluttering and organization. Decluttering has lots of benefits and truly can be life changing. Oftentimes, it is a



Anna Marie Peterson will be the guest speaker for two events next week/SPECIAL PHOTO

battle of willpower and emotional goodbyes to things we don't like. Stop waiting for the perfect time to get organized, just begin to do it. Peterson will share organi-

zational tips that could be life changing for you.

It is not easy to find serenity in the chaotic world we live in. You can't control the world around you, but you can control your own world. While you may not make any sense of everything that's happening in your life, you can control your own actions and responses. Our speaker, Peterson, will be sharing her story as to how her life went from "Chaos to Serenity!"

Please call Dianne (478) 272-6341 or Marge (478) 875-3948 for reservations or cancellations by Tuesday, June 21. The buffet cost is \$21, inclusive, and requires a reservation. We ask that you honor your reservation, cancel it or give it to a friend. The printing of our invitations is a courtesy and generosity of the Bank of Dudley.

**Conquer the chaos luncheon hosted by Dublin CWC**

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

All ladies are invited to join us at the Dublin Country Club on Thursday, June 25, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. for a time to enjoy a great meal, meet new friends and learn how to tame the chaos in your life.

The festivities will begin with a delicious buffet luncheon, with lovely buffet music provided by pianist Brenda Holloway.

The musical entertainment will continue as vocalist Kathryn Thomas shares her powerful and beautiful voice with us. Thomas has lived in Dublin since she was two. She

and her husband Jason are both educators. He is the assistant principal at West Laurens High School and she teaches English and Social Studies at East Laurens Middle School. They have three children and became proud first-time grandparents on June 4.

We are thrilled to welcome our special guest speaker Anna Marie Peterson. Originally from Gibbsboro, N.J., she now resides in Waxhaw, N.C. She tells how her life went from chaos to security and shares ingenious tips for organization and conquering the chaos in your life!

This event is sponsored by the Dublin Chris-

tian Women's Connection. Each month, this group hosts a ladies' luncheon with a fun theme, beautiful music, a great meal and an inspirational message. The cost is \$21, inclusive. Reservations must be made by Monday, June 22, at 5 p.m. by calling Emily at (478) 278-7829. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Tracy's Beauty Shop in East Dublin for the printing of our invitations.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a delicious lunch and be inspired to get your chaos under control! Call your friends, make your reservations and plan to join us on June 25!

**AT THE LOCAL LIBRARY**

Art Night at the Laurens County Library will be held on Thursday, June 18, from 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the learning lab. Teens are invited to a cozy night of arts and crafts. Bring your own project or create something new. Supplies will be provided to create a fossilized amber magnet.

The Laurens County Library will be closed in honor of Juneteenth on Friday, June 19. The library will reopen on Saturday, June 20 at 10 a.m. Enjoy eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines & more anytime by visiting [ocrl.org/lc-resources](http://ocrl.org/lc-resources).

Children, teens, and adults are invited to register for the Summer Reading Program at the Laurens County Library by July 15. Everyone who completes their Summer Reading Program challenge by July 31 receives a prize bag. Teens and adults can complete additional activities for chances to win additional prizes.

Classic Movie Monday will be held at the Laurens County Library on Monday, June 22, from 10 a.m. - noon in the auditorium. The night watchman at a museum finds himself face-to-face with an ancient curse that brings all the exhibits to life at night. Rated PG, 1 hr. & 48 min. Coffee, tea and popcorn will be served. For movie title, please visit: [ocrl.org/lc-event](http://ocrl.org/lc-event)

Mechatronics Monday: Summer Edition will be held at the Laurens County Library on Monday, June 22, from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Drop by our LEGO technic lab. Build with LEGO gears, motors, and more! Learn coding, too. Ages 8 plus recommended.

Children's Story Time will be held at the Laurens County Library on Tuesday, June 23, at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the children's center. Join us for our weekly story time where little ones can enjoy stories, dancing, and crafts.

Dig into 3D Design: Make Your Own Dino Keychain! at

the Laurens County Library on Tuesday, June 23, from 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the learning lab. Learn how to find, upload and personalize a retro 8-bit dino keychain with your name. We will print your creation for pickup after the program. Seats limited. Registration required.

La Candela Flamenco at the Laurens County Library on Wednesday, June 24, at 2 p.m. in the reading room. Join us for a performance of live dancing, storytelling, and audience participation.

BUILD! will be held at the Laurens County Library on Wednesday, June 24, from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the children's center. For teens to toddlers, it's our weekly LEGO and Duplo building event!

Tech Time: Cave Car Fun with LEGO SPIKE Essential will be held at the Laurens County Library on Thursday, June 25, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the learning lab. Build and create your LEGO SPIKE Essential Cave Car. Seats limited. Registration required. Recommended for ages 7-11. Can't make it? Join the waitlist for future events.

More Than Dirt: Unearthing the Story of Soil will be held at the Laurens County Library on Thursday, June 25, from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in auditorium. Explore the hidden world of soil. Discover how "dirt" shapes our gardens, forests, agriculture, and more. Learn about different soil types and how healthy soil supports healthy communities. An educational talk best suited for older children, teens, & adults. Presented by UGA County Extension ANR Agent, Blake Carter.

Join us at the Father's Family Fest at the KWG Resource Center on Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Enjoy food, fun, and other activities as we celebrate family togetherness! Sponsored by Fathers Among Men and Heart of GA Healthy Start Coalition.

**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

**NEWS DIGEST**

The Dublin City Council will hold its pre-council meeting at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 18 followed by a council meeting at noon. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation and Pledge to Flag
- Approval of June 4 city council meeting minutes
- Approval of bills over \$15,000
- Approval of purchases over \$15,000
- Second reading and public hearing of ordinance #26-05 to rezone D09F 068 from B-2 to R-4
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-25 to approve and adopt an amendment to the future land use map of Dublin in the joint

- comprehensive plan
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-39 to approve water and sewer easements at MGVG Living Apartments
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-40 to approve and accept the renewal of supplemental insurance with the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency for first responders
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-41 to accept and approve service agreement and equipment purchase with Paladin drones
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-42 to approve a contract agreement with L&L Utilities for Rice

- Avenue sewer replacement project
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-43 to authorize a contract with Brenntag, Univar and Riverland Trading for water treatment chemicals
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-44 to approve local agreements for the Oconee Gym, culture center and associated parks
- Discussion and action on board appointments
- Citizens comments
- Council comments
- Executive session if needed to discuss real estate, pending litigation or personnel
- Adjournment

**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](http://auctionnetwork.com)

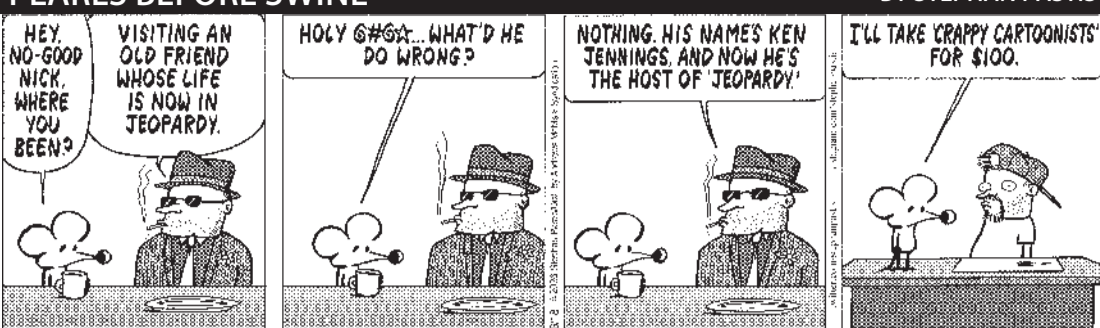
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



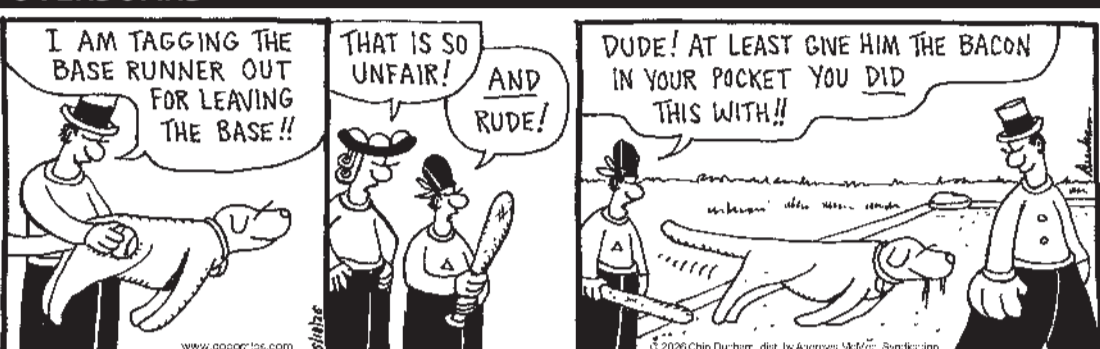
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



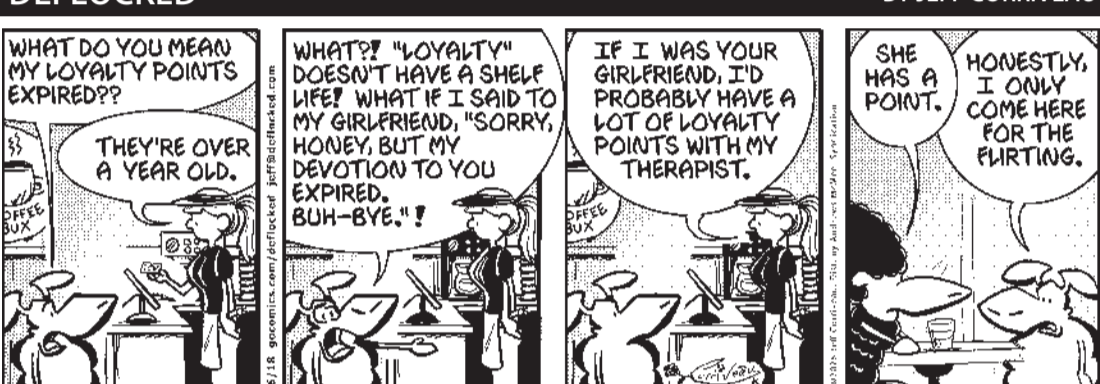
OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



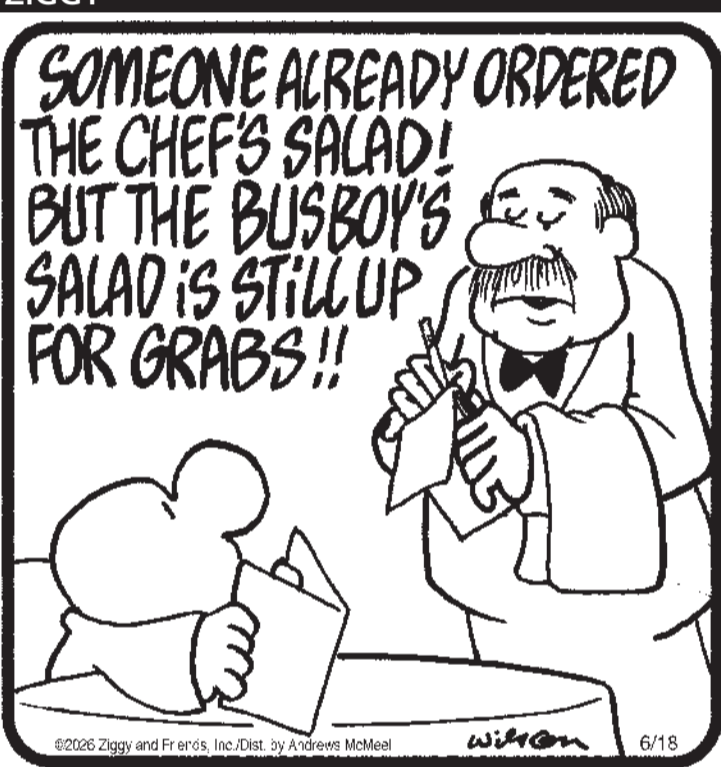
DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



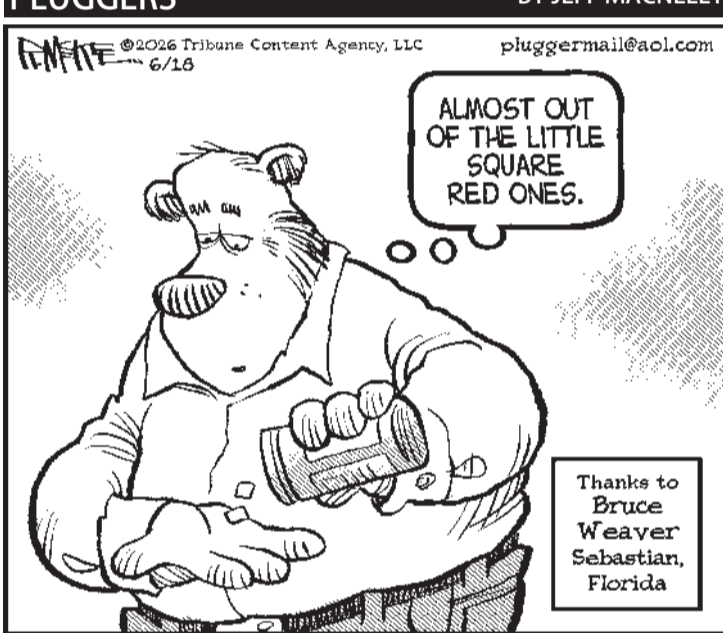
ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY



Pluggers don't know their meds by name. They know them by size, shape and color.

Estranged Daughter's return proves bittersweet!

DEAR ABBY: For years, my only daughter and I got along pretty well. Then she stopped visiting or speaking to us, meaning we didn't see our grandchildren or my son-in-law. That went on for six to eight years. Suddenly, she has responded on Facebook but refuses to tell me what the problem was.

When you don't communicate with somebody for this long, it's difficult because so much has happened in the interim that conversations are now as if I'm speaking to a stranger. I deeply resent this, though I pretend I'm fine because if I don't, all communication will cease again.

As I near the end of my life, I don't want her to know or come to my "deathbed" (whenever that might be) because the only thing I'm going to want to know is "why," and she will never tell me. It interfered with my relationship with my three granddaughters, so I don't want to see her.

I truly feel if she didn't want any part of me all these years, she shouldn't bother paying lip service now. When that time comes, I only want to be around people who truly loved and cared about me. I can't get my son and my best friend to understand that when the time comes, I just want peace. How can I? -- WEARY IN WASHINGTON



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR WEARY: Tell them the truth -- that you maintain contact with your daughter only because you love your granddaughters and don't want to be further estranged from them. Then explain that when your time comes (hopefully, many years from now), you only want at your side those who showed you love, which does not include the daughter who iced you out for years with no explanation, and you do not want to discuss it further. (From your description of your history with her, she's unlikely to show up.)

DEAR ABBY: I would like to offer some advice to your readers over 50: Think carefully before getting a dog. You may be active and able to care for a pet now, but where will you be in 15 years?

My husband and I are in our 70s and caring for an el-

derly dog. When we got our puppy 13 years ago, I figured even if things went wrong, one of my three kids would be able to take the dog. Well, for various practical reasons, they can't. So, guess who has to take "Skip" out in the rain and snow, risking life and limb (his and mine) four times a day?

In addition, traveling -- something we always hoped to do in retirement -- is difficult to arrange. So think twice, people! Your dog depends on you to care for it until it arrives at the Rainbow Bridge. -- TIED TO SKIP

DEAR TIED: I'm sure you love your senior dog despite the hardships advanced age has brought to both of you. Thank you for hanging in there even though it's not always easy.

People of all ages take in pets without thinking of the long-term responsibilities involved. An important part of the pet adoption process is considering how you will provide for it when you travel or are no longer physically able to handle it yourself. Skipping this step is unfair to the animal.

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

Thursday, June 18, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

North-South vulnerable, East deals

<b>NORTH</b>				<b>EAST</b>			
♠	10 5 4 3	♥	6 4 3 2	♠	J 2	♥	Q 10 7
♦	5 3	♣	10 3 2	♦	A J 7 6 4	♣	A 8 4
<b>WEST</b>				<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠	A K 6	♥	K J	♠	Q 9 8 7	♥	K J
♦	A 9 8 5	♦	Q 9 2	♦	K 10 8	♣	K Q J 7
♣	9 6 5	♣	9 6 5				

Pass	INT	Pass	2♠
Pass	2♠	DBL	DBL
Pass	2♠	DBL	All pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

North in today's deal was Gunnar Hallberg. Hallberg is a native of Sweden, but he has lived in London for many years, playing rubber bridge for very high stakes. You may not like South's overall of one no trump. Well, neither did Hallberg! He expected a bloodbath in one no

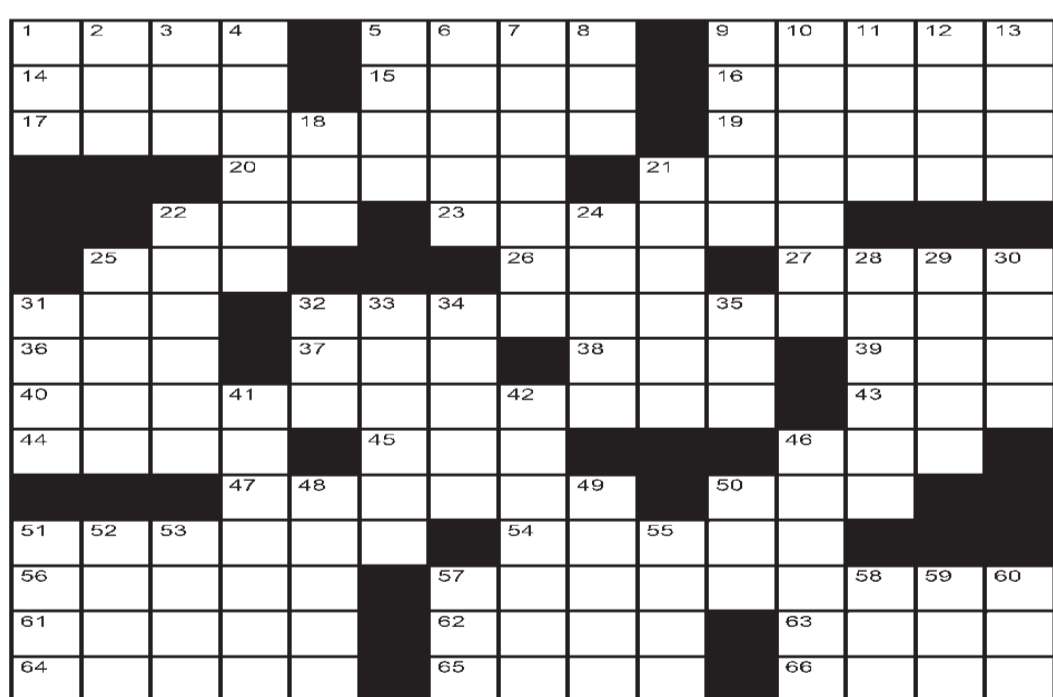
trump doubled, so he bid two clubs, ostensibly natural. His redouble was an SOS redouble, meaning "Partner, get us out of here. I don't want to play in two clubs." Had South bid two diamonds, Hallberg was prepared to redouble again and force partner to pick a major suit. He subsided when South bid two spades, feeling he had done his best to limit the damage.

West shifted to a low diamond at trick two. East won with his ace and shifted to a low club. South played the king, winning the trick, cashed the king of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond in dummy. South might have led a heart at this point, but he led a club from dummy and unblocked his jack when East rose with the ace. A third club went to dummy's 10 and South led a heart to his jack and West's ace -- nice guess -- and won the heart continuation in hand. South put the final nail in the East-West coffin by leading the queen of spades from his hand! This pinned the jack and South made his doubled contract. Well done by both North and South.

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

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 fail (huge disaster)
  - 5 Inch or yard
  - 9 "All kidding ...."
  - 14 Deep slash
  - 15 Irritated
  - 16 Scatter about
  - 17 Wedding attendants
  - 19 Track down
  - 20 Sandal fastener
  - 21 Beverages
  - 22 Pastor's title: Abbr.
  - 23 Captured again
  - 25 Author Kesey
  - 26 Chile neighbor: Abbr.
  - 27 New Haven trees
  - 31 Apple computer
  - 32 "Delicious!": 2 wds.
  - 36 Stock-market event: Abbr.
  - 37 Curved path
  - 38 Itinerary word
  - 39 Bearded antelope
  - 40 Quality of being better
  - 43 Tight \_\_\_ (NFL position)
  - 44 Greek underworld river
  - 45 Mineral spring
  - 46 One or more
  - 47 Inducing unease
  - 50 Contribute
  - 51 Car add on
  - 54 Denture parts
  - 56 Pillages
  - 57 Buzzing insect
  - 61 Concur
  - 62 Geometry calculation
  - 63 Hindmost
  - 64 Things to eat
  - 65 Say no to
  - 66 Singer James



Created by Stella Zawistowski

5/29/26

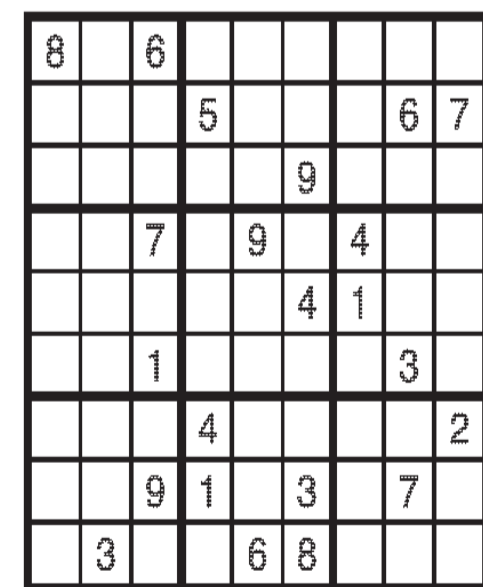
- 6 Garciparra of baseball
- 7 "Once again...": 2 wds.
- 8 Five times two
- 9 Houston MLB player
- 10 Protesting worker
- 11 Tehran's land
- 12 All hands on \_\_\_
- 13 Milk-giving sheep
- 18 "RuPaul's Drag Race" network
- 21 Care for a pup
- 22 Xerox again
- 24 Roman fountain
- 25 Totally broken
- 28 Traditional tale
- 29 Actor Jacinto
- 30 Small earring
- 31 Failed catch
- 32 Sticky black stuff
- 33 Out of bed
- 34 Mouthwash brand
- 35 The "G" in LGBTQ
- 41 Enthusiastic
- 42 Intense joy



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- 46 Stick like glue
- 48 Bouquet flowers
- 49 Oman neighbor
- 50 Georgia's capital: Abbr.
- 51 "Frozen" snowman
- 52 \_\_\_ stick (bouncing toy)
- 53 Lawnmower brand
- 55 Auction website
- 57 Awful
- 58 Wager
- 59 "\_\_\_ my dust!"
- 60 Pitching statistic: Abbr.

SUDOKU

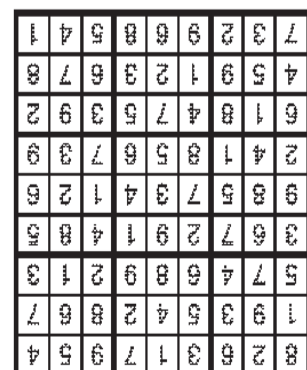


Fun By The Numbers

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

# Former local hoops coach launching postgraduate prep school in Douglas

## Nonprofit program, based at SGSC, to honor memory of Demaryius Thomas

By CLAY REYNOLDS  
Sports Editor

When contemplating his impending retirement from coaching high school basketball, Paul Williams wasn't certain exactly what his next steps would be, except that he wasn't yet ready to completely walk away from the sport.

That's when a dream he shared with a former player and longtime friend years ago came back to mind.

Williams, who recently called it a career after a 31-year coaching journey that included local stops at West Laurens, Dublin and Trinity, and the late NFL receiving great Demaryius "Baybay" Thomas, with whom he shared a close relationship, had long discussed some imaginative plans for what they'd do together at the point in the future both decided to hang it up.

As the Denver Broncos Ring-of-Famer envisioned it, they'd set out on a nationwide tour of speaking engagements at places like Boys and Girls clubs with a motivational message inspired by his journey from humble roots in Montrose to stardom as a pro athlete.

"He wanted me and him to travel around the country telling kids that it doesn't really matter the color of your skin, how much money you made or where you live at, and show everybody our relationship and that all you need is love to help people become successful," Williams said.

Sadly, the two never got a chance to revisit those plans due to Thomas' tragic death only months after retiring from the league in 2021.

But his old high school coach, five years later, is taking steps to honor the spirit of those designs by giving back to younger generations in a different way.

Williams, this summer, is launching a postgraduate basketball prep school that will be based in Douglas. The program, established through a partnership with both South Georgia State College and the Douglas-Coffee County parks and recreation department, will offer athletes who aspire to play basketball at the next level, but don't yet been offered an op-

portunity to do so, a landing spot as they work to continue their development while getting a head start on pursuing a college degree.

Its name, "Flight 88 Elite," is a nod to the title Williams had playfully proposed for their tentative venture, as a take-off on the well-known Michael Jordan-branded chain of retail stores "Flight 23," in their hypothetical conversations.

"He lit up and he was excited about that," he said with a laugh. "It was probably the only thing he really liked that I ever suggested."

Williams and colleague Roger Whitehouse (an assistant on his staff at two schools, most recently Worth County) will serve as co-head coaches of the nonprofit organization, which has around 26 players currently committed to join for its inaugural season.

Each, officially, will be SGSC students with regular academic commitments, on-campus residence and access to the school's meal plan and amenities. But they will practice at off-site facilities offered by Douglas parks and rec, and travel as two teams (a regional and national squad) to compete against similar postgrad programs at regular tournaments around the country.

Early plans have events in West Virginia, Orlando, Mississippi, Pittsburgh and North Carolina — as well as a tournament they will host on MLK Jr. weekend, Jan. 16-18, 2027 — on the season calendar.

Flight 88's incoming class of players will have a number of states represented, and even a foreign country in Nigeria. Its U.S.-based players will feature natives of New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, Minnesota, Virginia and Florida, along with a handful from the Peach State including local products Nas Jones, of West Laurens, Josiah Billups, of Baldwin, and a few already attending SGSC.

In addition to offering training, academic support and mentorship, the program's main goal will be bringing exposure to players, some of which left college on the fringe of college recruitment, in hopes that they can earn an opportunity to ultimately prove themselves at the next level.

For those not yet ready to give



Coach Paul Williams and former player Demaryius Thomas interact during a youth fun day at Dudley's Scott Brown Field in the summer of 2017/BALI SMITH, File

up that dream, the prep school model — which has existed for years in various sports — is now an option that allows players to continue pursuing it while beginning their college studies, without having to sacrifice a year of actual eligibility.

"The main thing is just helping kids," Williams said. "That's what Baybay would want, to just give kids the exposure and experience."

His enduring bond with Thomas went back to their time at West Laurens — an era highlighted by the 2004 AAA state championship that was only the school's second all-time.

The two would go their separate ways from there, Thomas on to Georgia Tech, where he earned All-America honors before his 2010 draft selection, and 10 seasons in the pros (with four franchises, though the bulk of his time in Denver), and Williams to a new opportunity at Camden County before his more recent return for stints as head coach at both Dublin and Trinity.

He departed his hometown again in 2022, spending one year as an assistant at Marietta's Sprayberry High School before making his final head coaching stop at Worth County, and coaching son Ashton (who played this past year at Southern Wesleyan) to a 2025 all-state nod ahead of this past year's final season.

Williams has now moved from Sylvester to Statesboro, where wife Lori recently took a new job as an assistant middle school principal with Bulloch County Schools, but will commute to Douglas each week during the season.

The ball got rolling on the project when he and Whitehouse were tossing around some of the same speculative post-retirement possibilities during a recent season, and the two started putting their heads together on how to put a unique spin on Thomas' dream that Williams was eager to keep alive.

They settled on the idea of founding a postgrad basketball program.

"Coaches always say that you can tell when it's your last days of coaching high school. You can kind of feel it," Williams said. "We kind of started saying, this is what we need to do."

Their heart for the venture is forging the same type of family-like relationship that Williams and Thomas shared. And the two often reflected on how reticent many athletes can be to communicate that compassion with others simply due to the ultra-competitive and often cutthroat nature of high level sports, whose continuing evolution into a bottom-line business in the years to come have only reinforced the false notion that money and notoriety are all that matters.

"We're going to pour a lot of love into all these kids," Williams said.

That new world of college athletics is likewise something he hopes he's able to help the current generation of young players navigate, as the transfer portal makes it more and more difficult to earn a "look" from coaches and programs until they've become more established prospects.

"I've been in the game a long time. I know a lot of coaches, and

I've sent kids to every level possible," Williams said. "We're going to travel around the country getting kids exposure, this is really their best shot if they didn't get the big-time offer out of high school."

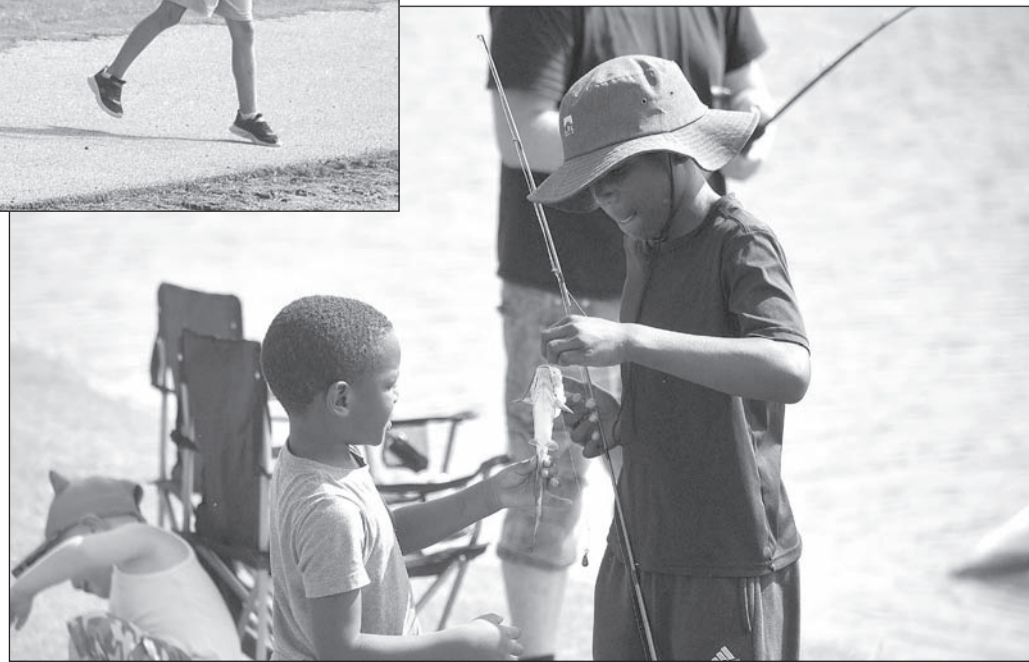
As the duo began laying the groundwork to get the program started, both were a touch surprised at how seamlessly all the pieces of the equation, from business to basketball, came together.

For Williams, that was a sign from above confirming his calling to this new mission.

"It just, all of a sudden, started happening at once," he said. "I always believe God's got a plan for everyone. I just loved the game so much, and talking to these kids all over the country about their dreams and what they want to do. How many of these kids knew Demaryius Thomas and his story, that's really what I love doing, telling the story of Demaryius Thomas and how he became so successful by working his behind off and believing and by surrounding himself with the best people. I feel like this is God's plan for me to carry on the next stage of my career."

Flight 88 Elite was set to mark its official launch Thursday with a media day at the Coffee-Douglas Recreation Center, where school and local officials as well as several members of Thomas' family are scheduled to be in attendance. The program will also be sponsoring a free youth basketball camp as its introduction to the community on June 25-27.

"It's really blowing up right now," Williams said. "I'm really excited about what's about to happen."



### FISHING FUN: KIDS CATCH A GOOD TIME SATURDAY AT DLCRA'S SOUTHERN PINES FISHING RODEO

These youngsters got a chance to wet a hook for a few hours Saturday morning during the Dublin Laurens County Recreation Authority's summer fishing rodeo, one of the rare occasions that Southern Pines opens its fish-stocked pond to angling. There were plenty of bites, big and little, for the kids age 16 and under who participated with some prizes up for grabs to those with the largest catch/CLAY REYNOLDS

# Georgia voters choose statewide candidates for November

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat

ATLANTA — Two current state senators defeated two former state senators in the Georgia runoff for lieutenant governor Tuesday, with Sens. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, and Josh McLaurin, D-Sandy Springs, set to face each other in the November general election.

Dolezal defeated John F. Kennedy of Macon, who resigned from the Senate in December to focus on his campaign for the GOP nomination. McLaurin defeated Nabilah Parkes of Gwinnett County, who resigned from the Senate for the same reason in March.

Dolezal campaigned as

an ardent supporter of President Donald Trump, noting he was among a handful of senators who called for a special legislative session to investigate Trump's 2020 election loss to Joe Biden.

McLaurin campaigned as a foil of Trump loyalists and as a skilled legislator, saying he could work effectively across party lines while ridiculing his Republican colleagues for their support of the president.

Whoever wins in November will lead the state Senate and fill in for the governor when necessary. Voters in both parties also chose nominees for secretary of state.

Republicans picked state Rep. Tim Fleming, R-Cov-

ington, over Vernon Jones, a former Democratic lawmaker and DeKalb County CEO who switched parties. Fleming won with nearly two-thirds of the vote.

Democrats chose former Fulton County State Court Judge Penny Brown Reynolds over Fulton County Commissioner Dana Barrett by a similarly wide margin.

The winner of the general election will oversee elections and business registrations and licensing.

Engineer Josh Tolbert defeated businessman Bobby Mehan in the Republican runoff for Public Service Commission District 5, another statewide race. Tolbert campaigned on technical expertise, saying his

engineering background would help the five-member commission rein in electricity costs.

In November, Tolbert, of Bremen, will face Democrat Shelia Edwards of Cobb County, who won her party's primary outright in May.

Democrats also chose nominees for two statewide commissioner posts.

Nikki Porcher defeated Michelle Michi Sanchez for labor commissioner and will challenge Republican incumbent Barbara Rivera Holmes in the general election.

Democrats also chose Keisha Sean Waites over DeAndre Mathis to challenge Republican John King

for insurance commissioner.

The last statewide race on the ballot was close as Fred "Bubba" Longgrear tried to deny incumbent Richard Woods the Republican nomination for state school superintendent.

Woods held on to advance to the general election and defend his seat against Democratic challenger Lydia Powell.

In Laurens County's Republican races, Collins defeated Dooley 2,698 to 1,357 (US Senate), Burt Jones edged Jackson 2,126 to 1,990 (Governor), Kennedy barely beat Dolezal 2,096 to 1,974 (Lieutenant Governor), Fleming beat Jones 2,405 to 1,434 (Secretary

of State), Longgrear beat Woods 2,207 to 1,764 (State School Superintendent) and Tolbert dominated Mehan 2,275 to 1,393 (PSC District 5).

In Laurens County's Democrat races, McLaurin beat Parkes 572 to 434 (Lieutenant Governor), Reynolds dominated Barrett 714 to 295 (Secretary of State), Waites defeated Mathis 587 to 419 (Commissioner of Insurance), Porcher crushed over Sanchez 666 to 333 (Commissioner of Labor) and Smith beat George 560 to 426 (US House of Representatives - District 12).

— Payton Towns III contributed to this article.

## PATRIOTIC PARADE

Continued from page 1

Dublin City Manager Josh Powell was pleased to see a good crowd on a warm Saturday morning.

"We are so excited to have this first inaugural children's patriotic parade on the newly renovated Madison Street," Powell said. "This is a great way to celebrate our 250th birthday for our country."

He watched as his children, and others, made their way down the brick street. The road was blocked, keeping traffic from turning onto Madison. At the turnaround point before Jefferson Street, a hydration station was set up by members from Dublin Board of Realtors.

Will Curry, chairman of the Friends of the Carnegie, thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the parade. The idea for this parade came from a similar event held in LaGrange.

"They have been doing this around the Fourth of July there, and it is a really great way to engage the community," Curry said. "Parents bring their kids out and this is only a parade for the kids. In most pa-



Parade participants make their way down Madison Street on scooters/PAYTON TOWNS III

rades, there are big trucks and, yes, kids are able to be in those parades, but this is solely focused on kids. For Flag Day (June 14), what better way to celebrate than

kids and our patriotism." Curry's wife, Natalie, remembers participating in the Sweet Land of Liberty Parade in LaGrange that has been going on for 41 years.

"I have this one picture of my dad carrying a big boom box sometime in the 1980s and we're all riding in downtown (LaGrange)," Natalie said. "Their parade

loops the whole square in downtown. For me this is sentimental to look out here and see this and have our kids participating in this. I hope this is a tradition that

we can do every year."

She was also happy that Dublin held its children's parade near Flag Day instead of July 4.

"It is not around the craziness of the Fourth of July," Natalie said. "I believe we can get more people out to this when it is a little ahead of the Fourth of July travel. Plus, it's good to kick it off this year when we celebrate the country's 250th."

Before the parade, there were different booths set up for children to decorate their bicycles, scooters or wagons. And after completing the parade, participants were treated to ice cream from Dexter Ice Cream.

"We are just trying to engage the community, support our children and have fun," Curry said. "To continue to the next 250, we've got to come together as an entire community, and I think events like this helps foster that. We're hoping this will grow into a long-standing tradition and this is an event that the community will really rally behind. We didn't know how many people would come to this first one, but we're hoping people will be really excited about it during the next upcoming years."



Gwen Pittman will continue working the Uniform Carousel area in the store/KYLE DOMINY

## PHARMACY

Continued from page 1

that level of convenience."

The new Max Brown Pharmacy will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday at 11 a.m. The event will include food, a raffle and store specials, as well as the unveiling to a plaque honoring the legacy of Max and

Memory Brown. "This will be an opportunity for everyone to see the new store," Purser said.

Construction on the new facility began earlier this year, with the doors officially opening a few weeks ago. The more than \$500,000 investment doubles Max Brown's footprint to a

6,000 square-foot building. The drug store employs 20 workers.

Besides expanding its retail offerings, Purser is adding more to the pharmacy side of the business. He is currently adding equipment to serve nursing home and assisted living facilities.



Pageant queens wave to the crowd during the 2025 Juneteenth Parade/PAYTON TOWNS III

## JUNETEENTH

Continued from page 1

"A lot of people know her as the owner and operator of KIDS Kingdom," Austin said. "My kids actually went through that daycare before they made their way to school. We decided to honor her as one of our hometown heroes and wanted to give them their flowers. We love of them and we see the work they put into the community."

Juneteenth, which will be observed on Friday, is held in remembrance

of the day Union troops made it to Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the American Civil War. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation and that all slaves were free. In 1865, the slaves in Galveston had no knowledge of the president's actions and were still being treated as slaves. The troops read a letter on June 19, 1865, letting the slaves know they had been liberated.

Juneteenth became a federal holiday five years

ago when it was signed into law by President Joe Biden on June 17, 2021. This year's theme is "Freedom: The Marathon Continues."

"I'm glad people are learning about Juneteenth and the awareness is catching up," Austin said. "It is most definitely American history. I feel like if you value humanity, you should feel welcome to come and celebrate freedom."

For more information about the event, call Eugene Smith at (478) 595-9279.

## MAN SENTENCED

Continued from page 1

mas break when she was in the fifth grade.

"She was taken to Stepping Stone for an interview and she disclosed everything he had done to her," Hightower said.

Hightower described what Nieves did as "nasty." Laurens County Sheriff's Investigator Angie Strickland was notified after officials at the Division of Family & Children Services were

called. "The Laurens County Sheriff's Office investigated this and proved this young girl was molested in several different ways," Hightower said. "He kept doing little things until it got worse. It was a difficult trial but necessary for it to have justice for this child."



NIEVES

Emily Brookshire, executive director at Stepping Stone Child Advocacy and Sexual Assault Center, was pleased they were able to help a victim get justice.

"It is so important when jurors, our valued community members, perpetuate the values of that Laurens County holds dear: The safety and well-being of our children," Brookshire said. "This is yet another example of our community saying that there is absolutely no excuse for child abuse."

## SUPERINTENDENT

Continued from page 1

with the district in similarly dire financial straits. He inherited a multi-million dollar deficit and, with the aid of COVID funds, managed to get the system out of the red briefly in 2021, but left with it in even worse shape.

State officials contacted the Dublin district in August after learning the system owed \$5.6 million to the State Health Benefit Plan after not paying in contributions for the entire fiscal year 2025. After a closer look at the finances, state School Superintendent Richard Woods declared the district on a "path to insolvency" with

a \$13.4 million projected deficit.

A subsequent special examination by the state Department of Audits and Accounts, requested by local lawmakers, confirmed the root causes — overhiring and overpaying employees, wasteful spending and lax oversight — but also identified specific concerns ranging from late tax payments to the IRS, "abnormally" high credit card spending and unwarranted travel and expenditures.

The audit also pointed to instances of family members traveling on out-of-town leadership retreats at the system's expense and undocumented payments to a local florist.