

The Courier Herald

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COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

DHA set to begin \$42M rebuild of Vinson Village

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

For years, residents of Dublin Housing Authority apartments have waited for some good news about neighborhood improvements. Things are now falling into place, and within the next year and a half, there will be 150 brand new units for the Vinson Village area.

"We started having meetings with the residents in 2024," said DHA executive director Brenda Smith. "The process has taken longer than what we anticipated. I think I started telling them then to pack up their things and not wait until the last minute. At our last resident council meeting, I had some people tell me that their stuff had been packed up for a long time."

The DHA, in partnership with Sepia Transformation Partners, will lead the redevelopment of Vinson Village, an affordable housing initiative serving low-income families not far from downtown Dublin. Smith said this project is

part of the Housing and Urban Development Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program which will see the DHA repositioning 150 existing public housing units into modern, high-quality, energy-efficient homes under long-term Project-Based Section 8 contracts.

In all, the entire project's cost will be approximately \$42.1 million.

Through the work, residents will continue paying 30 percent of their income toward rent, which will ensure long-term affordability. In 2024, DHA hired Sepia to help them redevelop Vinson Village, which was built by HUD in 1951.

"The thing that we liked about them was that they were a different type of development company," Smith said. "Sepia made the application to the Department of Community Affairs for the tax credit and we were awarded \$24 million. This will demolish 150 units in Vinson Village



Executive Director Brenda Smith and the Dublin Housing Authority will lead a \$42 million project to demolish and rebuild of 150 units at Vinson Village, a public housing neighborhood built in 1951/PAYTON TOWNS III

VINSON VILLAGE
Continued on page 5

Bank of Dudley doubles down on local with expansion of downtown HQ

By KYLE DOMINY
Staff Reporter

The Bank of Dudley is doubling down on its local operations with an expansion to its downtown Dublin headquarters.

The financial institution has purchased a portion of Jackson Square adjacent to its main street branch, and with that portion of the old office building already demolished, intends to add 7,500 square feet to its downtown footprint.

"This is to prove our commitment to this community," said Josh Crews, bank vice president, "and to give our employees the resources to better serve our customers."

Jackson Square remains

fenced off to the public, with groundwork to prep the site for construction already under way. Exact plans for the new facility, which will house a commercial lending hub on its first floor and additional office and meeting space on the second, and how large of an investment the move is for the bank have not been finalized, but Crews said construction should take about eight months and be completed in two phases.

"There's a lot still in the works, but it should be open by the first quarter [of next year]," he said.

Founded in 1905 in Dudley, the Bank of Dudley opened its first downtown branch in 1988. The company moved its seat of operations to Dublin in 1999 and has been an integral part in the revitalization of the downtown corridor. Besides investing in the area, bank executives and employees past and present, have served on the Downtown Dublin Development Authority, as well as other civic and community groups. The bank currently has a 22,000-square-foot facility on Jackson Street.

A second Dublin branch opened in 1994, and the Bank of Dudley began its East Dublin operation in 1998. It was just over a decade ago that the bank ventured out of Laurens County,



A portion of Jackson Square has been cleared to make room for the Bank of Dudley's downtown Dublin expansion. The new building will serve the banks commercial clients and provide additional office space/KYLE DOMINY

ty, with branches now in Jeffersonville, Forsyth, Perry and Locust Grove.

"We've never just thrown a dart and landed in a community," said bank president Sam Beall. "Our best marketing is referrals from our customers. We've gone to where they've asked us."

Now boasting more than \$500 million in assets, bank leaders intend on keeping the bank housed in Dublin. Its founding family remains represented with descendants serving on the bank's governing board. The Bank of Dudley will celebrate 121 years of operation in October.

"We're the oldest bank in Laurens County," Beall said. "We still have the same colors and the same name."



Dublin fire chief urges caution with Fourth of July fireworks

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

America is preparing to celebrate its 250th anniversary. With that comes a lot of fireworks.

The Fourth of July is typically a time for family and friends to come together for a lot of fun, food and games. Shooting off fireworks will more than likely also be on the agenda for Saturday's holiday. With that in mind, Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler wants people to be aware of the instructions that come with all of the fireworks.

"One thing they should do is only use the state of Georgia-approved fireworks," he said. "Adults, who are sober, need to supervise the use of fireworks.

Whatever you are doing, be safe and follow the manufacturer-suggested instructions. They need to make sure the lighters, or whatever is being used to light the fireworks, are being managed by an adult. Do not let a child walk away with a fire source. Children get curious and may want to see what else they can light on fire."

They need to make sure they use fireworks far away from structures or vehicles.

"You don't want something landing on the top of a house and setting a house on fire," Cutler said. "You don't want to damage other people's property or your property."

For a professional firework display, the Dublin-Laurens County Recre-

ation Authority will hold its celebration around 9 p.m. Friday, July 3, at Southern Pines.

"People can come out to the park and hang out," said DLCRA director Brian Mallette. "We will have the same group who comes in every year to shot off fireworks. Usually thousands of people come out to this."

He added that law enforcement will help with traffic afterwards.

According to the state Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, the majority of all firework injuries happen around the four-week period close to July Fourth.

Fireworks normally start more fires across the country than all oth-

er causes combined. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that between 13,000 to 15,000 people are taken to the emergency rooms every year for firework injuries. Many of these involve children.

Sparklers can also be just as dangerous. Sparklers are often dropped on the ground and can cause injuries if people who are not wearing shoes step on them.

"They also don't need to put them in a trash can immediately after using it," Cutler said. "That may start a fire."

When it comes to shooting fireworks, the chief urged people to be respectful of others.

"Some people will more

than likely have to go back to work the next morning," he said. "You also want to be considerate of people's pets. A lot of people's pets do not enjoy fireworks. People need to enjoy the holiday, but be mindful of others and be safe."

Earlier that day, a water slide and about 50 cupcakes for children to decorate at the Farmers Market between 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., said Main Street Director Nichole Padgett.

"We'll have decorations to celebrate the birthday of the country," she said. "A couple of weeks ago we had a water slide (at the Farmers Market) and it was so much fun. The mommas shopped, and the kids went to the water slide to have fun."

INSIDE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

INDEX

OBITUARIES 2-3
EDITORIAL 4
TELL IT! 4
KIDS' CORNER 6

2 sections, 14 pages • Vol. 112, No. 73, Pub. No. 161860



OBITUARIES



Ronnie Lee Rowland

Ronnie Lee Rowland, passed away on June 25, 2026, at Emory Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 57.

Ronnie was born on June 16, 1969, in Dublin, Georgia. He was the son of the late J.W. Rowland and Carol Jones Rowland. He was also a beloved brother to Sherrie Crooms and her husband Terry of Dudley, Georgia and his brother Mark Rowland and his wife Melessia of Dalton, Georgia. Ronnie was a proud uncle to Melanie, Megan, Mac, Micah, Bo and he was blessed with several great-nieces and great-nephews who brought joy to his life.

Ronnie graduated from West Laurens High School with the Class of 1987, and he carried the values of hard work, loyalty and perseverance throughout his life. He was a certified ginner and also held a small engine certification, both of which reflected his practical skills and his natural ability to understand how things worked. Ronnie spent many years serving others through his work, including a long career with Dexter Supply Company from 1994 to 2021. In recent years, he was employed with Dublin Outdoor Power Sports, where he continued doing the kind of work he knew well and took pride in every day.

Ronnie had a gift for tinkering with small engine repair, and he enjoyed the satisfaction that came from taking something broken and making it run again. He was the kind of man who could see value in a machine that others might overlook, and that same steady patience was evident in the way he lived his life. He was dependable, hardwork-

ANNIVERSARIES

June 30

*Kyle & Lana Dominy
Jeff & Tonya Durham*

BIRTHDAYS

June 30

*J.T. Dudley Jr.
Jimmy L. Edwards Sr.
Gregory L. Jones Sr.
Linda Ussery*

ing and known for his quiet strength and willingness to help when needed.

He was a member of Little Bethel Freewill Baptist Church, where he served as a song leader. His church family knew him as a faithful presence and a man who used his voice to lift others in worship.

A funeral service celebrating Ronnie's life was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 29, 2026, at Little Bethel Freewill Baptist Church with Rev. Russell Horne officiating. Burial followed at the church cemetery. The family received friends from 10 a.m. until the service hour at the church.

Pallbearers were Jeffrey Hobbs, Ricky Hobbs, David Wyatt, Mac Rowland, Brian Wyatt and Billy Francis.

Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com to sign the online memorial register.

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Cecil Neal Clark Jr.

Cecil Neal Clark Jr., known to family and friends as Neal, entered the gates of Heaven, on June 25, 2026, in Dublin, Georgia, at the age of 75.

Neal was born on May 24, 1951, in Dublin, Georgia, to the late Cecil and Audrey Clark Sr. He lived his life with a steady faith, a generous spirit, and a deep devotion to the people he loved. Those who knew him best will remember him as a faith-filled, loving and thoughtful man whose presence brought comfort and encouragement to others.

Neal was a veteran of the United States Air Force, and he carried the values of service, discipline, and commitment with him throughout his life. He later became the owner, founder, and operator of C&C Towing, where he worked with dedication and pride. Through his work and his daily life, he earned the respect of many in the community for his honesty, dependability, and strong work ethic.

A current member of Rentz Baptist Church, Neal was known for his willingness to share his faith with everyone he met. He was always witnessing to others, and within minutes of meeting someone, he would often ask, "Are you my brother or sister in Christ?" His boldness in speaking about his

beliefs reflected the sincerity of his heart and the importance of his relationship with the Lord. His faith was not something he kept to himself, but something he lived openly and shared freely. One of his favorite traditions was dressing up as Santa every year, a role he used not only to bring joy to children but also to share the message of Jesus with them. He even served as Santa on mission trips to Mexico, where his kindness and joyful spirit touched many lives.

Neal found great joy in simple pleasures, especially riding his tractor and spending time with his family. He treasured the moments gathered with loved ones and valued the bonds that connected generations of his family. His life was marked by devotion to those closest to him, and his family will forever cherish the memories they made together.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his late wife, Kathie Clark, and his great-grandson, John Layfield.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa Clark of Rentz; his sons, Cecil Neal Clark III and his wife Macy of Dublin, Casey Clark and his wife Renae of Dublin, and Matt Peebles and his wife Shannah of Dudley; his daughter, Tasha Newsome and her husband Marco of Rentz; his grandchildren, Kayleigh Layfield and her husband Brian, Josie Clark, Megan Spires, Noah Clark, Addie Peebles, Tracy Clements, Landon Holland, Emberly Peebles, Dru Clark, and Ryne Clark; and his great-granddaughter, Brynleigh Layfield. He is also survived by his siblings: Don Clark, Cecelia Clay and her husband Mike, and Debra Brooks and her husband Keith, as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Neal's family and friends will remember him for the strength of his character, the warmth of his love and the sincerity of his faith. His life was a testimony to perseverance, kindness and devotion to God and family. Though he will be deeply missed, the example he set and the love he gave will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

The family received friends on Monday, June 29, 2026, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home. A Celebration of life for Mr. Clark will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30 at Rentz Baptist Church. Burial will follow at Pinehill Church Cemetery. Rev. Tom Vann and Rev. Tommy Veal will officiate.

Pallbearers will be Noah Clark, Jim Brown, Benji Davis, Pete Oliver, Chad Harrison and Eric Young.

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



Frances Mae Sneed

Funeral services for Mrs. Frances Mae Sneed, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 1601 S. Popular Springs Road in Dublin. Rev. Dr. Willie Edmond will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Frances Mae Sneed was born on Oct. 2, 1950, to the late Sammy Lee Robinson Sr. and Lillian Hagins Robinson. She was raised in Dublin, Georgia, where she graduated from Oconee High School. Following graduation, Frances pursued a degree in nursing, beginning a career marked by compassion, dedication and excellence. She faithfully served in various healthcare roles before retiring from the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center after more than 35 years of devoted service to our nation's veterans.

At an early age, Frances accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour at Driskill Tabernacle. She later moved with her husband to Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, where she faithfully served in numerous ministries. Her unwavering commitment to the Lord was evident through her service as a member of the Hospitality Committee, Sunday School teacher, the Intercessory Prayer Team, Deaconess and choir member.

Blessed with a beautiful, strong, and unmistakable voice, Frances found great joy in praising God through song. Singing was more than a talent—it was a ministry through which she expressed God's love, encouraged others, and glorified Him. Whether leading worship with the Mt. Calvary Choir or simply singing from her heart, her voice carried a message of hope, faith and love that touched all who heard her.

Above all else, Frances cherished her family. She was a devoted and loving wife who shared 54 beautiful years of marriage with her beloved husband, Joseph Sneed. Together, they built a home rooted in faith, love and unwavering commitment. As a mother, she was nurturing, patient, and selfless, always placing the needs of her children before her own. She celebrated their accomplishments, offered wisdom through life's challenges, and filled their home with warmth, encouragement and unconditional

love. Her greatest joy came from spending time with her children and grandchildren, creating treasured memories that will forever remain in their hearts. Her family was her greatest blessing, and she embraced every opportunity to love, support and pray for them.

On Friday, June 26, 2026, surrounded by love and sustained by the faith that guided her throughout her life, Mrs. Frances Mae Sneed peacefully answered the Master's call and entered into eternal rest. Though her earthly journey has come to an end, her legacy of unwavering faith, unconditional love, joyful service, and heartfelt worship will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know and love her.

Frances leaves to cherish her precious memory her devoted husband, Joseph Sneed; her three beloved children, Christopher (Allyson) Sneed of Woodbridge, Virginia, Christina Sneed of Covington, Georgia, and Alicia Johnson of Albany, Georgia; and her five treasured grandchildren, Aliyah Allen, Makayla Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Cienna Sneed, and Christopher Sneed Jr. (CJ).

She is also lovingly survived by her devoted siblings, Jonas (Carolyn) Robinson, Dorothy (Arthur) Giles, and Benjamin (Cynthia) Robinson, along with a host of cherished nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends whose lives were forever enriched by her love, kindness, and steadfast faith.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, Sammy Lee Robinson Sr. and Lillian Hagins Robinson; her sisters, Lillie Mae Taylor, Gloria Axson, and Velma Burch; and her brothers, Sammy Lee Robinson Jr. and Charles Robinson.

Mrs. Frances Mae Sneed will be remembered for her unwavering faith, gentle spirit, servant's heart, and compassionate nature. She loved deeply, served faithfully, and worshipped wholeheartedly. Her life was a testimony to God's grace, and through her loving example, steadfast prayers, joyful songs, and unwavering devotion to her family, she left an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire generations. Though she will be greatly missed, her voice now joins the heavenly chorus, forever singing praises to the One she loved so dearly.

The family will receive friends at Dudley Funeral Home on Friday, July 3 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Tamai "Mai" Najae Butler

Funeral services for Ms. Tamai "Mai" Najae Butler, of Wrightsville, Georgia, will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the Dock Kemp School, 227 Crawford Road in Wrightsville. Rev. Dr. Carla P. Hill will deliver the eulogy.

Tamai was born in Dublin, Georgia on Saturday, April 25, 1998, to Tamiko Cason and Eric Cason. She attended Johnson County High School. Anyone acquainted with her understood her love and passion for socializing was unparalleled. Enjoying quality time with family and friends was a significant aspect of her life.

Tamai departed this life on Thursday, June 25, 2026. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Sarah Graddy and Frankie Taylor.

Tamai leaves to cherish her memories, her son, Zavian Sailem; mother, Tamiko Cason; father, Eric Cason; grandparents, Ella Mae Butler, Evelina Cason and Willie Brown; godparents, Danielle Graddy and Octavious Ervin; sisters, Ty'kearra (Darren) Butler, Erionna (Quantavis) Cason, Tanijah Pullen, Ambria Taylor and Zarrria Graddy; brothers, Deavious Butler, Tontasious King, Antonio (Crystal) King, Eli Sumpter and Terron Pullen; aunts, Angela (Octavious) Butler, Pamela Butler, Ebony Smith, Nashawnda Smith, Sharon Graddy, Lakeshia Brown; uncles, Craig Cason, Randall (Felicia) Graddy, Clifton Graddy, Harrell Graddy; nieces and nephew, Deziyah Hudson, Alillah Cason, and Alijah Cason; companion, Zacharian Sailem, Sr.; mother-in-law, Lanise Sailem; close friends, Jasmine Jenkins, Ronesha Wright, Monica Willis, Chalae McMillian, Dayquan Sailem, Aries Mercer and Kadeem Wicker; and a host of other aunts, uncles, relatives and friends.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

With deepest gratitude, the family of the late **Daryle Keith Walker** would like to thank all who supported us during bereavement. Your presence, kind words, phone calls and acts of kindness have provided us with comfort and strength. May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

*The Walker Family,
Valencia, Zachery, Zaria*

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July 4th Holiday Publishing Schedule for The Courier Herald
The Courier Herald will publish on Tuesday, June 30, and a combo paper for Thursday, July 2, & Saturday, July 4.
Deadlines for the Thurs-Sat combo paper will be **Tuesday June 30 at 1 pm**
The Courier Herald office **WILL BE CLOSED** on Friday July 3.
Happy Independence Day!

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OBITUARIES



Malcolm Raymond Harwell

Graveside funeral services for Malcolm Raymond Harwell, 93, were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 28, 2026, at Dublin Memorial Gardens. Mr. Dennis Waldrep and Rev. Robbie Passmore officiated.

Mr. Harwell was born Aug. 24, 1932, in Cedartown, Georgia. He was the son of the late Reese Harwell and Loie Fields Harwell. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Sarah Frances Stone Harwell; a son, Chuck Harwell; a brother, Charles Wayne Harwell. He was a retired FBI agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was also a former Laurens County Deputy Coroner. He was an Eagle Scout. He was a member of First Baptist Church where he proudly served as a Deacon since 1973. He was a member of Gideons International. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who cherished his family. He was a longtime supporter of the Dublin Fighting Irish where he filmed and kept score for over 50 years. Mr. Harwell passed away Friday, June 26, 2026, at his residence following an extended illness.

Mr. Harwell is survived by his daughter, Cindy (Kevin) Corbin of Dublin; a daughter-in-law, Robin Harwell of Dublin; a sister Evelyn Harwell Collier of Cedartown; four grandchildren, Corey (Jade) Harwell of Atlanta, Caleb (Jenny) Harwell of Atlanta, Sarah (Michael) Edge of East Dublin and C.J. Corbin of Dublin; six great-grandchildren, Olivia Edge, Harper Corbin, Bennett Edge, Luca Jade Harwell, Nico Charles Harwell and River Raymond Harwell; and two nieces, Ramonia Raurk and Regina Leadbetter.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made in memory of Mr. Harwell to the Gideons International at P.O. Box 27, Dublin, GA 31040 or go to www.stanleyfuneralhome.com and click on Donate at Bible Tab on the home page.

The family would like to offer a special thanks to Georgia Hospice Care, his nurse Larsen Garrett, CNA Chala Holliman, and to Home Instead and his caregivers, Dot Wiggins and Lori Gay for all the care they showed Mr. Harwell.

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



Vivian Walden

Vivian Walden of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Monday, June 29, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by the funeral home later.

Serenity Funeral Home – Dublin has charge of arrangements.

Coaching carousel: Who's new on local high school sports staffs for 2026-27?

From STAFF REPORTS

With every new school year comes a number of new faces on the local high school sidelines, as coaching positions change hands with the annual comings and goings of teachers and staff.

This offseason had its share of turnover involving various sports at Dublin, East Laurens, Trinity and West Laurens. Here's a look at the adjustments in store for each school's coaching roster in 2026 and 27...

Dublin

District-wide upheaval, resulting from the past year's financial issues, will have as significant an impact on the Irish athletic department for the upcoming season, most noticeably in three major sports – basketball, baseball and softball – that will be led by new head coaches.

They went in-house to fill openings at the head of both their varsity hoops teams, tapping longtime boys assistant Cortez Chapman (who also stepped in as temporary girls head coach for the final week of last season) to take over for the departed Michelle Mitchell and Carlos Hope.

New baseball and softball skipper Brian Young comes by way of Tennessee in a similar two-for-one arrangement, following previous stints as head coach at Memphis-based LeMoyné-Owen College, Rossville Christian Academy and Fayette-Ware High School.

He replaces Brian Brown – who's headed just down the road to join Treutlen Middle/High School in the same capacity (former multi-sport assistant Matthew Pogue is also a new Viking) – on the baseball side, and Josh McLendon – moving on to a new teaching/coaching position at Houston County High – in charge of softball.

Stephanie Stubbs, who will continue as part of the softball staff, is stepping up to fill McLendon's post as DHS athletic director.

District AD and head football coach Roger Holmes is back for his 24th season this fall, though his staff will see some shake-ups after the loss of several longtime deputies.

Son Riley (bound for Lamar County), Don Vandygriff (now at Jeff Davis), Gary Morton (slated to join Treutlen) and Joel Ingram (landing with northwest Georgia powerhouse Bowdon, under a former Dublin assistant in its new head coach Jamie Abrams) each moved on to new opportunities.

Returning assistants Joe Stubbs (as defensive coordinator), Brad



New Dublin football assistant Jake Brock chats with a player during the Irish half-pad camp last Wednesday/CLAY REYNOLDS

Wallace, Bin Turner, Brandon Walden, Fred Williams II and Keaton Wilson will be joined by a handful of newcomers this fall including Jake Brock, a former Reinhardt offensive lineman who hails from Dalton and a most recent coaching gig at Southeast Whitfield, and recent Irish running back J.T. Wright.

Dublin, as of earlier this summer, was still working on filling vacancies on its middle school football coaching staff (whose outgoing head coach is Seth Watts), and in soccer, where boys head coach Matt Starley is moving out to West Laurens.

East Laurens

Besides in the brand new sport of flag football, for which girls head track coach Shumara Carswell will lead the Falcons' inaugural season, there will be no new head coaches on the Eastside for the 2026-27 season.

The school's only big changes amount to some tweaks, primarily on the football staff where Emmanuel Boone (off his first season as head wrestling coach) has been elevated to offensive coordinator to succeed the outgoing Andrew Satterwhite.

Coach Jesse Hicks has also added former Falcon QB Zaylen Boston and past Trinity star Patrick Evans as community coaches (Evans will also assist in slowpitch softball) and promoted Jeremiah Hicks to serve as co-defensive coordinator alongside Ryan Selby.

Former East Laurens girls soccer player Cayleigh Allen will also be reunited with head coach Chris Robinson as a new inclusion on the



East Laurens flag football head coach Shumara Carswell (right) speaks to her new team before their first summer workout earlier this month/CLAY REYNOLDS



Jim Coleman (left, in visor) will continue to grow his role in various Trinity sports this year; Christian Lane (at right) is departing to become the new head football coach at Vidalia Heritage Academy/CLAY REYNOLDS



Outgoing Dublin boys soccer head coach and football assistant Matt Starley is making a move to West Laurens, where he will coach football and wrestling/RODNEY MANLEY, File

girls soccer staff.

Trinity

The Crusaders' only athletic staffing adjustments this fall are concentrated to the football program, where there will be some sizable shoes left behind by defensive coordinator Christian Lane, the new head coach at Vidalia Heritage, and former assistants Rob and Ben East, who have both opted to step away from coaching.

Third-year Trinity head coach Bruce Lane cast a wide net to find the fresh faces he'll welcome to his staff this fall.

Former Dublin state champion running back Thomas Barnes comes from closest by to serve in a part-time capacity. Two others, Quinton Cooley and John Scargle, make their way to Dublin from well out of state to sign on in full-time teaching positions.

Cooley, who will teach elementary PE and also assist in track and field, is a former all-conference running back at Liberty University who played a season in the Canadian Football League with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Scargle, set to teach PE and help out in soccer, was most recently the defensive backs coach at Pennsylvania's Westminster College, but worked previously in a variety of

college and high school positions concentrated mostly to Florida, where the California native played his college ball at UCF, over more than 20 seasons.

Mitchell Clegg, who once held a more extensive coaching role at the school before joining CrossFit DGA full-time, is also coming back in a partial capacity to serve as the Crusaders' strength and conditioning coach.

Former Trinity QB Jim Coleman, who got his feet wet helping out in several sports last school year, will also be continuing his role on the staff as a student assistant.

West Laurens

There's little change of note for the upcoming year on the Westside, where the Raiders' only major adjustment comes on the offensive side of the football staff after Montgomery County's hire of playcaller and quarterbacks guru Gabe Gay as its new head coach.

West will elevate third-year assistant Matt Janufka to take his place as OC, and has added Dublin's Matt Starley (he will also be a wrestling assistant) to the staff.

Other additions to the school's roster of assistants in other sports include Shermika Harris (boys basketball) and Cailyn Snellgrove (fast-pitch softball).

Atlanta ready to handle diseases if World Cup crowds bring them

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — As Ebola rages in the Democratic Republic of Congo, that country's national team will play a World Cup match in Georgia Saturday.

The odds of the disease reaching Atlanta are remote given international travel restrictions, but if it did, few other places could match this city's preparedness — a city that successfully treated two health care workers with Ebola in 2014.

On Wednesday, France confirmed its first case of a new strain of Ebola imported from Congo after a humanitarian doctor fell ill with symptoms midway through a commercial flight from the country's capital, Kinshasa.

The outbreak, which has infected more than 1,100 people and killed more than 300 in Congo and Uganda, is driven by a rare strain for which there is no vaccine or treatment.

Also on Wednesday, Congo imposed a 21-day quarantine requirement for anyone seeking to travel abroad after returning from an Ebola-affected area.

But the United States had already imposed travel

restrictions weeks ahead of the World Cup.

"I think the overall risk to the public is not as high as many may think," Dr. Gavin Harris, a critical care and serious communicable diseases specialist, said in an interview before Ebola reached France.

Harris, who is with Emory Healthcare, said Atlanta is unusually qualified to handle such a dangerous disease.

Emory has a biocontainment unit and has been collaborating for years with specialists at Grady Memorial Hospital, the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, down the street from the Emory School of Medicine, where Harris is an assistant professor.

In 2014, two American health care workers who were infected while treating Ebola patients in Liberia were isolated and treated at Emory University Hospital. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol were cured.

Emory's Serious Communicable Disease Unit had been established a dozen years before with help from the CDC, which wanted such a service available for any of its employees who fell ill during

overseas assignments.

"We are probably more prepared than a lot of other places are and especially in the metropolitan area of Atlanta," Harris said.

He said fans attending Saturday's game between Congo and Uzbekistan or any other FIFA World Cup match at Mercedes-Benz Stadium should be more concerned about domestic diseases.

Ebola and other viral hemorrhagic fevers require close bodily contact to spread, traveling through bodily fluids.

But diseases such as measles, chicken pox and flu can fly quickly through a crowd because, as respiratory viruses, they are airborne.

Harris advised precautions. Those who are immunocompromised should consider wearing a mask, and everyone should practice hand hygiene, using hand sanitizer or soap and water when possible.

Those who arrive home feeling respiratory distress, nausea or feverishness, or who develop a rash, should call for help, Harris said, noting that 911 call takers have been trained to recognize symptoms for serious communicable diseases.

Anyone who thinks they might have the measles should quarantine at

home, he said, adding that the disease has been on the rise, in part due to waning rates of immunization.

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

TUESDAY:
94°
Variably sunny and humid.
Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.

TUESDAY NIGHT:
70°
Partly cloudy and humid.
Sunset: 8:43 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:
93°
Partly sunny and humid.
Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:
67°
Clear and humid.
Sunset: 8:43 p.m.

Thursday 7/2 HIGH/LOW 95/69 Partly sunny and humid. Sunrise: 6:28 a.m. Sunset: 8:43 p.m.	Friday 7/3 HIGH/LOW 95/69 Mostly sunny. Sunrise: 6:29 a.m. Sunset: 8:43 p.m.	Saturday 7/4 HIGH/LOW 96/70 Variably sunny with isolated afternoon thunderstorms in the clouds. Sunrise: 6:29 a.m. Sunset: 8:43 p.m.	Sunday 7/5 HIGH/LOW 94/72 Partly sunny with showers/storms in the afternoon and evening. Sunrise: 6:30 a.m. Sunset: 8:43 p.m.	Monday 7/6 HIGH/LOW 93/71 Partly sunny. Sunrise: 6:30 a.m. Sunset: 8:43 p.m.
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River levels...
Oconee (at Dublin) 2.1'
Ocmulgee (at Macon) 6.3'

Watch out! Which way did that wayward rocket go?

"No!"
That was my wife's response when I pointed out the firework display the other day in a local store. I did not even ask. I just pointed them out.

For months we have been walking by this section and I can't help but glance at it and remember there was a day when fireworks like that were not available in Georgia.

To purchase similar fireworks, you used to have to go to another state. This involved my brother and I waking up early and making a run up to the South Carolina line. Thankfully, it was legal to go there, make our purchases, and return to Georgia.

I can recall walking into the firework warehouse and seeing all of those packages

lined up. We picked up each box and read the instructions to make sure we knew enough about what we were doing to not get hurt.

We would make our purchases, jump back into our grandmother's car and skeddadle back to Milledgeville where we unloaded them. A few days later, we packed them into one of three vehicles as our family of eight made our way south to our annual trip to Jacksonville Beach, Fla., for the Fourth of July.

We would pack the vehicles the night before, taking just about everything but the kitchen sink. Of course, we had to remember to pack the fireworks so that we could let them rip on July 4th.

Wake up time came early the next day. It was so early

MAN ABOUT TOWN...



By **PAYTON TOWNS III**

the sun had not popped up yet. We left our grandparents house and made the trek down the then two-lane 441 highway to Dublin where we stopped for breakfast.

Then we hit I-16 and headed south on I-95 to

Florida and Jacksonville Beach. We always stayed at Eastwinds Motel, and over the years, made friends with other families who stayed at the motel at the same time. We made great memories and friendship. One of our friends was Adrian.

When it came to July 4th, my brother, Adrian and I would gather up the fireworks and make our way to the beach. My favorite thing to launch was a bottle rocket. Not only did we make sure to take fireworks to the beach every year, we also took plenty of root beer, which basically served as the launch pad for the little rockets.

Some of the fireworks spun around in a circle, made noises and of course the bottle rocket that in theory flies upward before making a pop. When it came to the bottle rockets, it was fun to light up the fuse and run a short distance a way before turning around and watching it take flight.

There was always that moment of anticipation waiting for it to lift up.

There was also a time or two when the rocket would not take off. No one, I mean no one, really wanted to approach the bottle for fear that it may zoom past your head.

For some reason our buddy Adrian had a bad habit of not knowing the direction his bottle rocket was going to travel. It got to the point where I would walk further away when it was his turn to light one. I remember one of his rockets going down the beach and thankfully missing a group of people.

As they looked our way, my buddy asked us "which way did it go?"

Thinking back on that memory now, maybe that is why my wife said no to me purchasing fireworks.

Remembering a big brother and his big influence

This is going to be a bit up-close-and personal.

For the first time in my life, I am without my big brother. Robert Earl Yarbrough Jr. passed away and it feels surreal. He has always been there.

Had he not, I probably wouldn't be here today. He was not my big brother by size. He was big by his influence in my life. He was like an extra parent.

Bob was a generation older, which tells you my arrival was likely not a planned event. When I started grammar school, he was finishing high school. When I graduated high school, he had already graduated college, was married and had a child.

What could we possibly have in common other than the same last name? The answer is complicated. He was a role model that I spent years trying to emulate. It wasn't always easy and I didn't do it well at times.

There was no question in anyone's mind that Bob was going to be successful. He was buttoned down from the start.

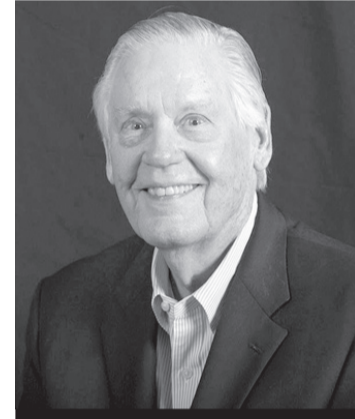
Quiet. Disciplined.

I was the bratty little brother who once hid in the backseat when he took his squeeze to the drive-in. He wasn't happy. He was even less happy when I pulled the same stunt as he headed off to Florida with his buddies.

However, he was forgiving enough that when I got written reprimands from teachers that my parents were supposed to see and sign, I could talk him into signing because his handwriting was identical to our mother's.

It required a lecture that I not do it again. We both knew that wasn't going to happen. Just sign the note, please.

It was a bit of a surprise when Bob announced he going to college. Our parents, growing up in the rural



By **DICK YARBROUGH**

South never got beyond the seventh grade.

Our cousins on both sides of the family, with one exception, did not go to college. Some never even finished high school.

It was a turning point in my life, as well. As I mentioned, he was my role model.

Anything he did I was going to do. Graduating from the University of Georgia is

one of the seminal events in my life, but it never would have happened had he not graduated from there himself.

Had he chosen to become a mechanic, I would have been changing points and plugs in Ford Fairlanes as soon as I was out of high school.

Bob joined the magazine publishing business in the mailroom while in high school and – no surprise – worked his way up to executive vice president of the company.

In the meantime, I spent a few years in broadcasting before joining Southern Bell, determined to work my own way up the corporate ladder. It became a competition, at least on my part, and brought with it some tension.

As spokesman for the company, my name and face were in the media frequently. That was not always a good thing.

Sometimes, I was trying to explain a corporate gaffe. But, nonetheless, his little brother was high profile, and I think he got tired of hearing about it.

Bob moved to Chicago and became president of a trade magazine company there. I went off to Washington as a public affairs director for AT&T and later became an officer of Bell-South.

He retired and moved to Gainesville to be close to his two daughters and their families. He became a hospital chaplain and was involved in a ministry that taught financial principles. I moved on to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and then to churning out these opinions weekly.

We stayed in touch nominally, but each in his own orbit.

And then things changed. After Bob lost his soulmate of 69 years, Bebe,

and I lost The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name, we began an occasional phone call to check on each other.

That soon turned into a regular Sunday night at 6 p.m. ritual.

We called it the No News call because all we talked about were our aches and pains, our families and how much we hated technology. We dropped all the barriers we had built up over the years. The competition was gone, replaced by brotherly love and mutual respect. A memory I will treasure.

I will miss Bob, but I am glad I got to tell him what an enormous influence he had on my life.

I am here because he was there. Thank you, big brother. Rest in peace.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

TELL IT!



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

And we thought things couldn't get worse? Someone please explain to everyone what a resource officer would know about being a superintendent and rescuing the schools from their quagmire. Administration, budgeting, accounting and personnel? Wait, don't tell us... the DCBOE has him as a finalist. Sure fits the current scenario.

Is there any way that we can get a list of items that is considered household trash vs what we leave on the side of yard to be picked up?

People in the City of Dudley needs to know what the council is doing.

Who can fix the street-light on the 441 bypass and Claxton Dairy Road? We want our little light to shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!

I've noticed lately the amount of Tell Its! in the paper has significantly decreased. Bring back the half page of them. We need

to know the temperature of our community members.

A school board member was quoted as saying that, "the new superintendent was the best in the bunch." He also said that Fred Williams was the best superintendent in Georgia and he was thought more of out of Dublin, Ga., than in Dublin, Ga.

You say your friends that has a business don't want to move here because of police with blue lights pulling people over. What kind of business does he run?

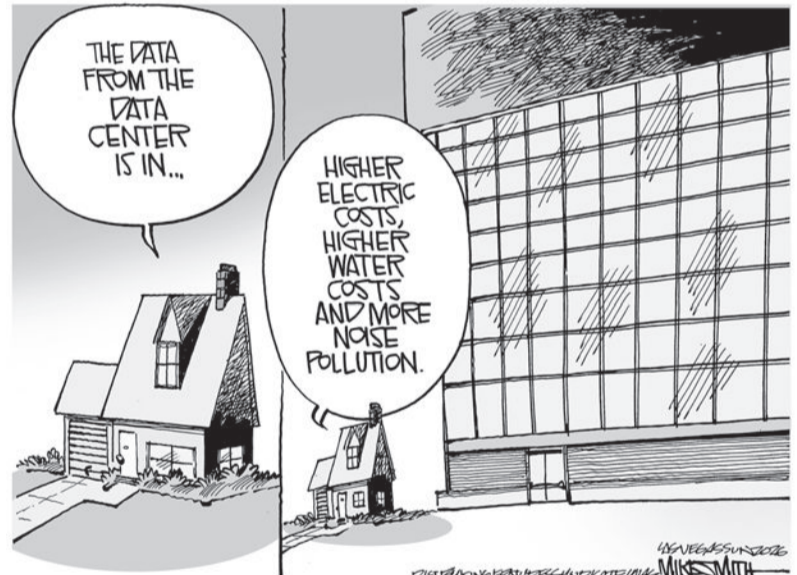
The citizens of Dublin need to know for sure that the GBI is conducting an investigation into the wrongdoings of the Dublin School Board and Fred Williams. It has been six months and still nothing from the GBI or the district attorney. Please let us know what's going on.

I would like to know what has happened to the case where the treasurer

stole all the money from the church. When will she be punished? It is ridiculous that there could even be a chance that she might get out of it. Please don't let that happen.

Thank you, The Courier Herald, for making it possible to get my Saturday paper at 11:30am on Monday.

To the county whiner, I am a 95-year-old veteran of 35 years in the Army. I paid \$5,985.24 fed taxes, \$885.66 county, \$1,667.06 for Dublin City, \$3,594.32 for the Dublin City School tax. Then you cry foul about \$3,594.32.



Shame on you!

More citizens need to attend the City of Dudley council meetings.

TELL IT! GUIDELINES

Have something to say about life in Dublin and Laurens County? We want to hear it. Tell It is a space for community voices: praise, frustration, questions, and everything in between.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Keep it local. Submissions should focus on issues, people, and places in Dublin and Laurens County. We are not the right venue for commentary on national politics or public figures outside our community.

Be civil. Personal attacks, profanity, and hate speech will not be published. Criticism is welcome; name-calling is not.

Stick to the facts. Submissions must not contain false statements of fact about identifiable individuals or organizations. We cannot publish content that is defamatory or exposes the Courier Herald to legal liability.

The Courier Herald reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity, and to decline any submission at its sole discretion. Submission does not guarantee publication.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right."

- Peter Marshall

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life."

- Romans 6:22

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

June 30, 2026 is...

- National Outfit of the Day
- National Meteor Day
- National Corvette Day
- International Asteroid Day
- Social Media Day

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



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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.

VINSON VILLAGE

Continued from page 1

and replace them with new development.”

The most asked question for Smith has been where will the families go while their unit is being demolished and rebuilt.

“That is usually the first question we get,” she said. “In this RAD program residents return to the properties. It also has a very stringent relocation plan. When our units are vacant, we’ll start replacing a certain number, and we’re not going to tear them all down at one time. They will be done in phases.”

The redevelopment will replace three obsolete public housing sites in Vinson Village, Vinson Village Extension and Claxton Homes located on West Mary Street. In all, there will be 26 one-bedroom, 80 two-bedroom, 38 three-bedroom and six four-bedroom homes. The construction will incorporate new HVAC, plumbing, electrical systems, energy-efficient appliances and improved site infrastruc-

ture, including enhanced traffic flow, safety improvements and upgraded parking and landscaping.

When it comes to moving, there is money set aside to pack and move the residents.

“We are hoping now that we have the financial parts together to move forward,” Smith said. “We shared our initial plans with the city of Dublin because we want everybody’s partnership and buy-in. We had meetings with the city and showed them initial plans, allowing them to give us their ideas of what would make a safer environment.”

On June 4, the Dublin City Council approved a resolution to authorize funding for the project in order to finalize the site plan and move closer to its construction.

“This is a major project, and those are very old units that aren’t in great shape,” Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight said during the meeting.

Smith agreed they want the rebuilt Vinson Village to be safer than the current version.

“Presently, there are six



The Vinson Village public housing area was built in 1951, two years after the formation of the Dublin Housing Authority /PAYTON TOWNS III

streets that lead in and out of here,” she said. “That has caused problems with criminal aspects. With the city’s buy-in, we were able to do a blueprint that had only two access to the properties.”

The DHA offices, community center, library, be-

nevolent center and maintenance building will be demolished.

“We hope those will be rebuilt or relocated,” Smith said. “The Verline Copenny Center will be added on to. It is the only building that will be kept.”

Smith likes Community Construction LLC’s work, and if the company stays with what the DHA has seen so far, the finished product “will not look like public housing,” she said.

“It will be a big and tremendous upgrade. We are

hoping to develop a new mindset for the residents who will be occupying the homes. The management will take an even greater approach in helping people to understand the obligations they have once they sign the lease.”



FLAMENCO DANCER ENTERTAINS, INFORMS AT LIBRARY

A dancer from La Candela Flamenco shared treasures unearthed while dancing, telling stories to children and adults last Wednesday during the Summer Reading Program at the Laurens County Library. There will be no Summer Reading Program entertainment this week because of July 4. Storyteller Josie Bailey will present the next program event at 2 p.m. on July 8/PAYTON TOWNS III



Feds: Ring allegedly flew drugs, weapons into prisons

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat

ATLANTA — They were allegedly flying to help prisoners get high and to maybe escape, but now nine people, all but one from Macon, are behind bars themselves after federal agents arrested them in connection with delivering drugs, phones and weapons into prisons from above.

The bust, announced Wednesday, involved a “vast alleged conspiracy using drones to smuggle contraband,” according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The nine suspects and three inmates are accused of coordinating deliveries of methamphetamine, marijuana and other controlled substances, as well as cell phones, tobacco and objects such as saw blades to be used as weapons for escape.

The eight of the accused who are from Macon are Leviticus Blash, 42; Chrystal Dunn, 37; Ira Christopher Jackson, 42; Xavier Maxwell, 30; Kenna Middleton, 45; Glenn Middleton, 70; Jeff Richardson, 23, and Tysean Richardson, 23.

The accusations were in an indictment unsealed Wednesday that described drone deliveries to 10 prisons in eight states, including two in Georgia, in Atlanta and in Jessup.

The joint announcement by the federal government included U.S. Attorney William R. “Will” Keyes for the Middle District of Georgia and William K. Marshall III, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Drones have been an ongoing problem for Georgia prisons.

During a legislative hearing at the Atlanta Capitol in December, Matthew Wolfe from the Georgia Department of Corrections said that for the year through

June 2025 there were 120 inmates charged and 362 civilians arrested in connection with contraband deliveries.

The schemes sometimes involved simple methods, such as wrapping contraband with duct tape into the shape of a football and tossing it over a prison fence. But they often involved drones, said Wolfe, who displayed a photo of a confiscated unmanned aircraft that could carry hundreds of pounds.

“Civilian involvement remains the most common threat vector, with throwovers and drone drops continuing to be the primary method used to infiltrate our institutions,” Wolfe said.

Corrections Commissioner Tyrone Oliver said technology existed to stop such drones.

“We just don’t have the authority, the legal authority, to be able to do it,” Oliver told lawmakers.

The General Assembly responded by passing House Bill 1230, which takes effect Wednesday.

The new law will make it illegal to fly a drone over a prison. It will also authorize law enforcement agencies and officers who suspect drone use for criminal intent to detect, track and identify the aircraft and then intercept and disable them with jamming, hacking or other

methods. That law is for state and local authorities.

The indictment unsealed Wednesday involved a take-down by the federal government using sophisticated tracking technology.

Classifieds
Employment

MECHANIC
The City of Dublin is accepting applications for a team player with a positive attitude. This individual will work as a Mechanic in the Mechanical Maintenance Department. Applicants' work involves the repair, maintenance and servicing of a variety of all City vehicles. Work requires the use of specialized tools and special types of equipment and gauges. It also involves the repair, maintenance and servicing of a variety of all City vehicles.
Diesel Experience as well as CDLs is preferred. Applicant must have a high school diploma or GED, pass drug test, and possess a valid Georgia Driver's License. Applicants must provide their own basic hand tools. Starting salary is \$45,011.20 annually. An extensive fringe benefit package including health, dental and life insurance is also offered. To apply, visit our website www.cityof-dublin.org. Position will remain open until filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of East Dublin Mayor and Council will hold a Public Hearing on July 13, 2026 at 5:30 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 of the proposed rezoning application of JAC Holdings, LLC property located at 618 Nathaniel Drive, East Dublin, GA from M-2 to R-1. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Fairfield
BY MARRIOTT

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Some gave all!

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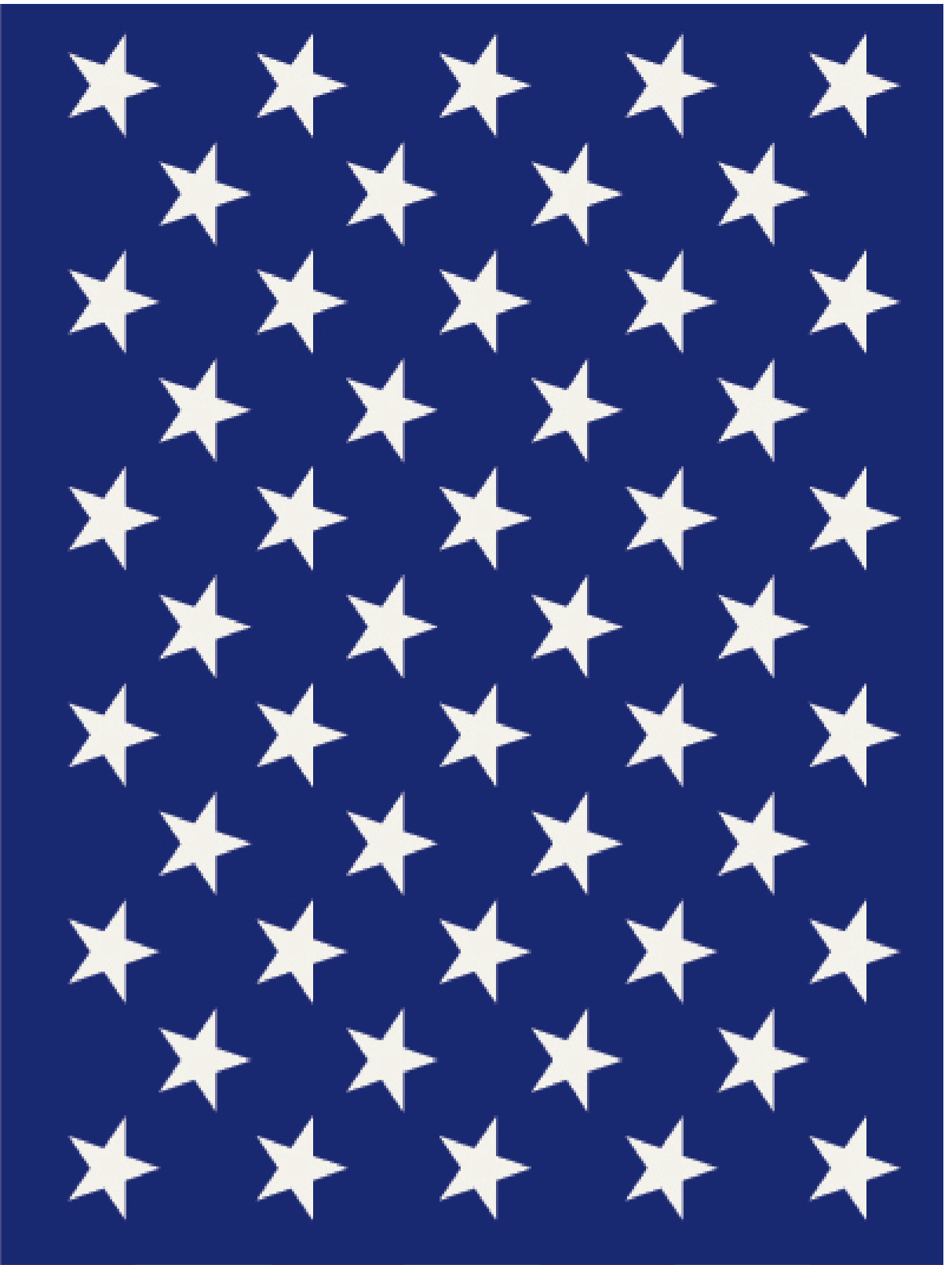
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Matt Hatchett

State Representative

District 155

Paid for by Hatchett for House



Gateway  **250** *SR*

BIRTHDAY

AMERICA

A Special Supplement to The Courier Herald

Hang this flag with pride, and please support the local businesses who made it possible.

Lesser known founding fathers of The United States

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

When Americans celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States throughout 2026, names like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams are bound to come up. While those four men played notable roles in the establishment of the United States of America, many more Founding Fathers bore significant influence as well.

America's semiquincentennial is a great time to celebrate all who have helped make the country into what it is today, and that includes some of the Founding Fathers who have not become household names over the last 250 years.

• **William Livingston:** Born in Albany, New York, in 1723, William Livingston was a prominent attorney prior to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War. The Historical Society of the New York Courts notes Livingston moved to Elizabethtown, New Jersey, in 1772. Within two years of that move, Livingston became New Jersey's representative to the Continental Congress. By June 1776, Livingston was appointed brigadier general of the New Jersey militia, a position he held until 1777, when he became the Governor of New Jersey. Livingston was a target of British forces, who offered a reward for his capture. But Livingston remained Governor of New Jersey until his death in 1790, and even served as the New Jersey delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, when he signed the United States Constitution adopted at that convention.

• **William Hooper:** William Hooper was born Boston in 1742, but he made his name as a Founding Father

after relocating to Wilmington, North Carolina, as a young adult. The National Constitution Center notes Hooper, like Livingston, was a successful attorney. Hooper was appointed Deputy Attorney General of the North Carolina colony in 1770, and even supported the Royal Governor's efforts to suppress a taxation-related rebellion of North Carolina farmers during this pivotal period, when he was notably dragged through the streets by angry rioters. By the mid-1770s, Hooper had changed course, and was even among the three delegates chosen to represent North Carolina at the First Continental Congress in 1774. Prior to that conference, Hooper wrote to a friend that the colonies were destined to win independence from the Crown, an assertion that ultimately earned him the nickname the "Prophet of Independence." Hooper signed the Declaration of Independence but illness forced him to retire from politics. He continued to support the war effort, donating much of his legal earnings to the colonists' cause, and was so reviled by the British that his home was burned down when Wilmington was taken by Crown forces in 1781.

• **John Witherspoon:** John Witherspoon was born in Scotland in 1723 and moved to what would become the United States in 1768. Witherspoon is unique among signatories of the Declaration of Independence because he is the only active clergyman and the only college president to sign the document. Witherspoon later signed the Articles of Confederation and supported the ratification of the Constitution. Witherspoon came to New Jersey to become president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), which educated many no-



table figures from the era, including James Madison and Aaron Burr. All told, 12 members of the Continental Congress studied at the school while Witherspoon was president. The Presbyterian Witherspoon supported colonial indepen-

dence for various reasons, and was especially opposed to the Crown's attempt to appoint an American Anglican bishop, speaking out against British interference in colonial affairs in a sermon titled "The Dominion of Providence Over the

Passions of Men" during a 1776 sermon. Like Hooper, Witherspoon was convinced independence was the path forward for the colonies.

• **Roger Sherman:** Born in Newton, Massachusetts, in 1721, Roger Sherman was a multitalented Founding

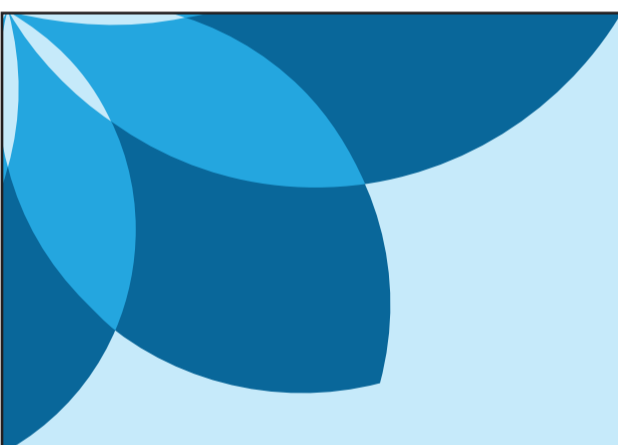
Father who began to study law in the mid-1750s after working as an author, general store owner, and surveyor, among other jobs. By 1766, Sherman was so established in the legal profession that he was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut. Though he initially expressed reservations regarding colonists' resistance to the Crown, by 1774 he agreed to serve as a Connecticut delegate to the First Continental Congress. Sherman joined the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence in mid-1776, and later represented Connecticut on the drafting committee of the Articles of Confederation. Sherman also holds the unique distinction of being the only person to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.



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Tips on tracing your history while celebrating America's

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Millions of Americans will spend some time in 2026 commemorating 250 years of United States history. The U.S. turns 250 in July 2026, and the summer figures to be an especially celebratory time across the 50 states.

As Americans engage with their nation's history, they might be compelled to learn more about their personal history as well. Genealogy has become a popular pastime in the twenty-first century, and the National Archives offers these tips to anyone looking to do some digging into their personal history as they celebrate 250 years of the United States.

- Start with yourself. The National Archives recommends starting with the person you know best: yourself. Your own personal details can serve as a starting point as you work toward more unknown facets of your family history. After you note all of your own details, learn and document all you can about your parents and then do the same in relation to your grandparents.

- Emphasize four vital components. The National Archive notes that names, dates, places, and relationships are the tools of the family researcher. That's because these nuggets of information have long been used to identify people in public records.

- Peruse any existing family archives. Many families have kept their own archives over the years, even if that record-keeping was not widely known within a family. A relative might have kept various types



of documents that help to paint a picture of your genealogy. Ask around in the family to see if anyone has kept records, which might include:

- Newspaper clippings
- Birth, death certificates
- Military certificates
- Marriage licenses
- Letters
- Diaries
- Photos/photo books
- Scrapbooks

- Let others know. Inform family members near and far that you're working on a genealogy project. A relative might have beaten you to it, and that person could have lots of valuable information and documents to share. Others might be able to point you toward a relative who has become the unofficial family historian. In addition, cousins and aunts and uncles might have records from their own immediate families,

which can help you as you conduct your own research.

- Access government records. The U.S. federal census dates all the way back to 1790, which makes it a potentially excellent source of information for your project. State and county archives also can be wonderful resources that keep records of births, deaths, marriages, and other notable events that can help people trace their family histories. Even local libraries might have records of your family, especially if your family has been settled in the same area for a significant amount of time.

American history might be the focal point in the United States in 2026. But that renewed emphasis on history also makes 2026 a great time to study your own family's part in helping the nation make it to its 250th birthday.

Notable events in colonial America

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

The year the United States came to be was an interesting time to be alive, particularly for those living in colonial America. The American Revolutionary War began in 1776, and much of the year was marked by events stemming from that conflict. Below are some of the more notable events to take place during a year that has come to symbolize so much to generations of Americans.

- Thomas Paine publishes his 47-page pamphlet *Common Sense* in Philadelphia on January 10. Initially published anonymously, the pamphlet is considered a watershed moment in American history, as Paine's easily digestible writing style appealed to the masses, helping promote his arguments that encouraged common people to fight for an egalitarian government.

- The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge takes place near Wilmington, North Carolina on February 27. The battle is sparked when loyalists, after storming across a bridge over Moore's Creek, attack a group of men they believe to be rebels. Though the engagement was brief, two loyalist leaders are killed, another is captured and the force is scattered. The failed attempt later complicated efforts to recruit loyalists in the area to fight.

- The Fifth Virginia Convention is held in Williamsburg between May 6 and July 5. The meeting of the Patriot legislature of Virginia ultimately leads to the declaration of Virginia as an independent state and the production of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which asserts the state's right to reform or abolish any form of government it deems inadequate.

- Thomas Hickey becomes an early casualty of the burgeoning conflict between the colonies and England when the Irish-born soldier is the first to be executed by the Continental Army for "mutiny, sedition, and treachery" on June 28 in New York City. Hickey had been part of a protective detail for General George Washington but was briefly jailed for passing counterfeit money. During that brief incarceration, Hickey told a fellow prisoner he was part of a conspiracy, and reports ultimately indicated he might have been part of a plot to assassinate General Washington, which proved enough to warrant his execution.

- An uptick incidents of violence between Native Americans and settlers in Kentucky was a ripple effect of the American Revolutionary War, and that increase in aggression was behind the capture of Jemima Boone and the Callaway girls on

July 14. Days later Daniel Boone led a successful attempt to rescue his daughter and Elizabeth and Frances Callaway, who were the children of Colonel Richard Callaway, one of the first white settlers in Kentucky. A fictionalized version of the incident was included in James Fenimore Cooper's novel *The Last of the Mohicans*.

- The Great Fire of New York destroys as much as 25 percent of all buildings in New York City as it burns through areas in lower Manhattan on September 20 and 21. The fire broke out shortly after British forces began occupying the city. While each side accused the other of arson in the aftermath of the fire, historians dispute such assertions, noting the fire likely started with burning rooftop debris before windy conditions spread the conflagration to surrounding buildings.





Happy

Independence Day!

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

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Nicknames for all 50 states

The United States is the fourth largest country in the world in terms of total area. According to The World Factbook, the U.S. features more than 9.8 million square kilometers (roughly 3.8 million square miles), and the country's terrain is as diverse as the people who call the nation home. Each state in the United States has at least one nickname, and those monikers can be a fun way to spark discussions and learn more about each of the 50 states that make up the country.

- Alabama**
Cotton State, Yellowhammer State
- Alaska**
The Last Frontier
- Arizona**
Grand Canyon State
- Arkansas**
Natural State
- California**
Golden State
- Colorado**
Centennial State
- Connecticut**
Nutmeg State, Constitution State
- Delaware**
The First State, Diamond State
- Florida**
Sunshine State
- Georgia**
Peach State, Empire State of the South
- Hawaii**
Aloha State

- Idaho**
Gem State
- Illinois**
Prairie State, Land of Lincoln
- Indiana**
Hoosier State
- Iowa**
Hawkeye State, Corn State
- Kansas**
Sunflower State
- Kentucky**
Bluegrass State
- Louisiana**
Pelican State, Creole State, Sugar State
- Maine**
Pine Tree State
- Maryland**
Free State, Old Line State
- Massachusetts**
Bay State, Old Colony State
- Michigan**
Wolverine State, Great Lake State
- Minnesota**
North Star State, Gopher State, Land of 10,000 Lakes, Land of Sky-Blue Waters
- Mississippi**
Magnolia State
- Missouri**
Show Me State
- Montana**
Treasure State, Big Sky Country
- Nebraska**
Cornhusker State, Beef State
- Nevada**
Silver State, Sagebrush State, Battle Born State
- New Hampshire**
Granite State



Georgia is the Peach State, but did you know the other states' nicknames?/SPECIAL PHOTO

- New Jersey**
Garden State
- New Mexico**
Land of Enchantment
- New York**
Empire State
- North Carolina**
Tar Heel State, Old North State
- North Dakota**
Flickertail State, Sioux State, Peace Garden State
- Ohio**
Buckeye State
- Oklahoma**
Sooner State
- Oregon**
Beaver State
- Pennsylvania**
Keystone State
- Rhode Island**
Ocean State, Little Rhody

- South Carolina**
Palmetto State
- South Dakota**
The Mount Rushmore State
- Tennessee**
Volunteer State
- Texas**
Lone Star State
- Utah**
Beehive State
- Vermont**
Green Mountain State
- Virginia**
The Old Dominion, Mother of Presidents
- Washington**
Evergreen State, Chinook State
- West Virginia**
Mountain State
- Wisconsin**
Badger State, America's Dairyland
- Wyoming**
Equality State



Happy Birthday.

America

We hope you enjoy a safe and happy Semiquincentennial Celebration!
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As we Commemorate and Celebrate our Nation's 250th Birthday, we recognize how blessed we are to be a part of it.

United we stand, and thank you to all who serve our country!



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Getting to know the Declaration of Independence



SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

The Declaration of Independence is a formal document that served as the signatory colonies' statement that they were now "free and independent States." It is a vital document in American history.

On July 1, 1776, delegates from the original 13 colonies, making up the Second Continental Congress, met in Philadelphia to vote on Richard Henry Lee's motion for independence. After some deliberation, ultimately 12 of the 13 delegates voted in favor. In recognition of those 12 delegates, here are 12 facts regarding the Declaration of Independence.

1. The drafted document was officially adopted on July 4, 1776, two days after freedom from Britain was approved. However, most delegates signed the document on August 2, 1776, while others signed on a later date. John Dickinson and Robert R. Livingston never signed the Declaration of Independence.

2. John Dunlap was the official printer of Congress at the time. He worked all night and into the morning of July 5 to produce the large, single-sided sheet, known as a broadside. About 200 copies of Dunlap's broadside were made.

3. The University of Virginia owns two copies of a rare early printing of the

Declaration. It is on display in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library. It is believed the copy once belonged to George Washington.

4. Benjamin Franklin, George Read, Roger Sherman, Robert Morris, George Clymer, and James Wilson signed both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

5. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were hidden at Fort Knox during World War II, two weeks after Pearl Harbor was attacked.

6. Despite what the movie "National Treasure" will have one believe, the message on the back of the document is visible and reads "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776."

7. Richard Stockton, a lawyer from New Jersey, was a signer of the Declaration who later recanted his support of the American revolution. He subsequently swore his allegiance to King George III after being captured by the British.

8. In 1989, an original Dunlap Broadside was found hidden behind a picture a Philadelphia man bought at a flea market for \$4. It later sold for \$8.1 million. Ultimately, 26 copies of the original prints have been found.

9. The United States celebrates Independence Day on July 4th, even though independence was accepted on July 2nd.

10. Early on, not everyone in America was supportive of the Declaration of Independence. Partisan politics led to discord. Federalist John Adams was feuding with Republicans and Thomas Jefferson. The anniversary date of the signing was not widely celebrated until the Federalists were no longer involved in politics.

11. The one-year anniversary of Independence Day and the celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence slipped the minds of Congress in 1777. When they remembered it was July 3rd, they planned a last-minute celebration on July 4th, and each year thereafter.

12. John Trumbull's painting "Declaration of Independence," which was made into a lithograph replica by Ralph Trembley, hangs in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. It is a fictional depiction of the five-man drafting committee presenting their draft to Congress, and not the signing. The painting shows 42 of the 56 signees, since Trumbull couldn't get likenesses of all involved. The men featured in the painting were never all in the room at the same time during the Declaration's debate and signing.

The Declaration of Independence is a key document in American history, and its words are celebrated each Independence Day.

Notable quotes from American presidents

"If we can but prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy."
— Thomas Jefferson, 1802

"Peace is the best time for improvement and preparation of every kind; it is in peace that our commerce flourishes most, that taxes are most easily paid, and that the revenue is most productive."
— James Monroe, 1817

"Officeholders are the agents of the people, not their masters."
— Grover Cleveland, 1886

"In the history of mankind, many republics have risen, have flourished for a less or greater time, and then have fallen because their citizens lost the power of governing themselves and thereby governing their state; and in no way has this loss of power been so often and so clearly shown as in the tendency to turn the government into a government primarily for the benefit of one class instead of a government for the benefit of the people as a whole."
— Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

"Governments do not make ideals, but ideals make governments."
— Calvin Coolidge, 1926

"No government is perfect. One of the chief virtues of democracy, however, is that its defects are always visible and under democratic processes can be pointed out and corrected."
— Harry S. Truman, 1947

"Mankind must put an end to war — or war will put an end to mankind."
— John F. Kennedy, 1961

"A president's hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right."
— Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965

"American has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens."
— George W. Bush, 2001

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."
— Barack Obama, 2008



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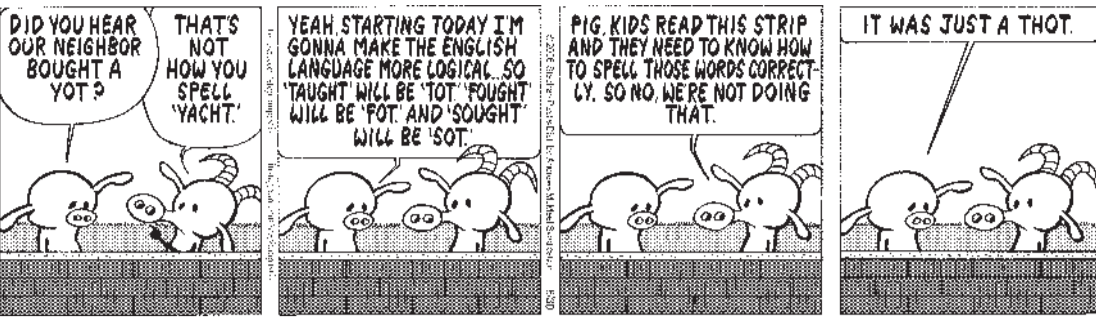


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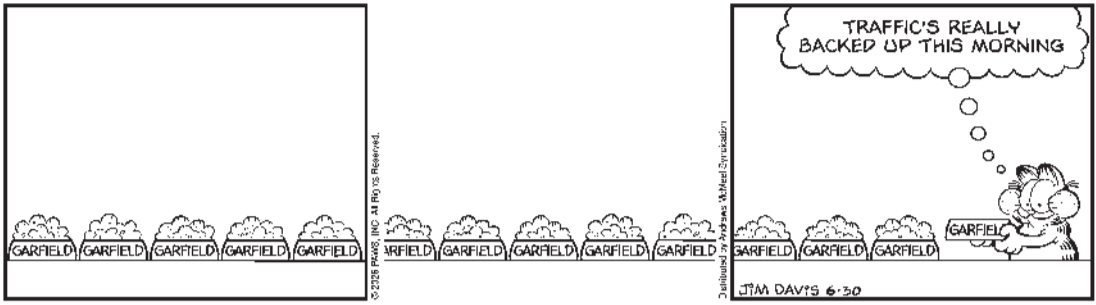
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



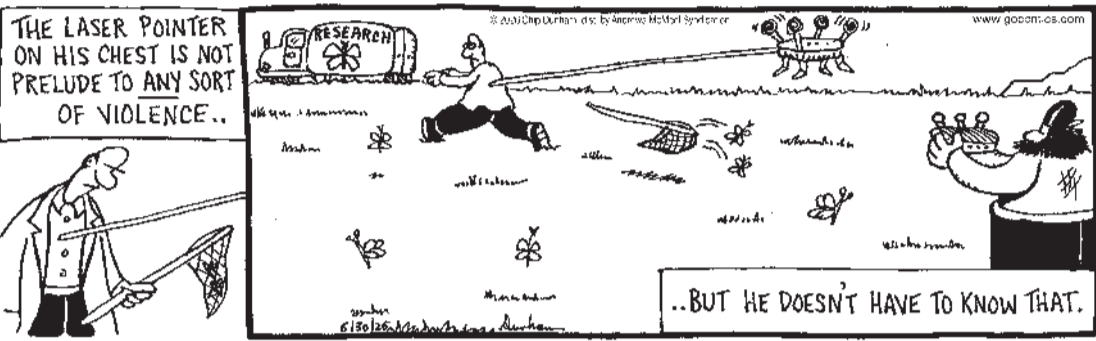
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



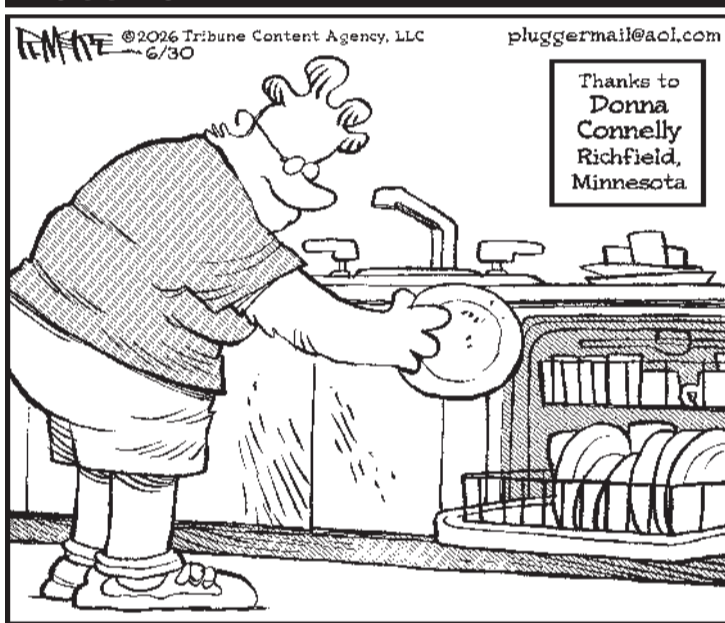
ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY



You're a plugger when "Tonight's the night" means you have to run the dishwasher.

Mother disappointed by son's girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: I don't care for my son's girlfriend, "Trish," and he knows it. He seems to date needy women. It may boost his ego, but it doesn't reflect well on the young lady.

Our initial encounter with Trish wasn't a good one. We found her to be rude and disrespectful. He claims she was "nervous." It's common courtesy to acknowledge those in a room when you enter if they're the only ones in the room.

I don't know if my son plans to marry Trish, but this isn't the relationship I assumed I'd have with my son's wife. I don't want to just tolerate my daughter-in-law; I want to love her. Trish has made no effort to know my son's family, not even his brother. She doesn't view us as factors in his life at all. How do I get him to launch his net into the deep end and find a good wife? -- ANXIOUS MOM IN VIRGINIA

DEAR MOM: I don't know whether your son intends to marry this young woman either, and you could be worried for no reason. But one thing I do know is how important it is for you to extend yourself and try to make a friend out of Trish rather than an enemy. Without being nosy, get to know her background. Does she have a healthy relationship with her own mother?



DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Does she know any of the rules of etiquette? (She may never have been taught.) If you reach out and make the attempt, you may wind up having a daughter-in-law you can love rather than one you have to tolerate. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: A year and a half ago, I met someone online who I'll call "Drew." We immediately hit it off and have talked every day since then, often multiple times a day, with near-constant texting, etc. Drew quickly became my best friend. After a while, I realized that I don't just love him, I am IN LOVE with him. Deeply.

We've met in person a few times, and that has only served to confirm my feelings. I feel safe, happy and cared for in his company, and there is nothing

the world I wouldn't do for him if he asked. Yet he asks nothing of me.

Drew has a partner, and I assume the feelings I have for him are not mutual, although I know he considers me a very good friend. I wish I knew how to proceed. Telling him how I feel is not an option, nor is ending the friendship I rely on. Is it possible to continue as we are? How am I supposed to deal with these feelings? -- HIS NON-BOYFRIEND IN CANADA

DEAR NON-BOYFRIEND: Here's how: Recognize that you and Drew are overdue for an honest conversation about what has been going on. Ask if his partner knows about you. When someone spends as much time as you two have on the phone and texting, there is usually more going on than just friendship. If there isn't on Drew's part, you need to know that. However, if your feelings are mutual, then you and Drew have some serious thinking and planning to do.

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.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES ©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

- Q1 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ A 8 6 5 ♥ J ♠ A Q J 8 ♣ K 10 9 8
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 Pass INT 20? What call would you make? ♠ A 8 6 5 ♥ J ♠ A Q J 8 ♣ K 10 9 8
- A - It is very unusual, after opening 1D, to re-bid in clubs holding only 4-1 length in the two suits. This is an unusual case. Partner's response denied a 4-card major, therefore, he must have a 4-card or longer minor. Bid 3C! Partner will never give you a preference back to diamonds with only 3-card diamond support.
- Q2 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ Void ♥ K J 6 ♠ A J 10 7 2 ♣ A K 9 7 4
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 2A Pass INT? What call would you make? A - Playing negative doubles, partner's pass may not denote weakness. He might have a good hand with spade strength. For this reason, you must keep the bidding open whenever you are short in the opponent's suit. You should choose to double if your hand can stand a penalty pass by partner. Your aces and kings will contribute plenty to the defense. Double.
- Q3 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ Q 4 3 ♥ A J 5 4 ♠ 2 ♣ A K J 7 6
- EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH 10 Pass 1A Pass INT? What call would you make? A - Double. You have minimal, but acceptable, values for this bid. Although four hearts are not promised by your double, it is good to have four when you are minimum.
- Q4 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ A K J 8 4 3 ♥ K 10 5 4 ♠ Void ♣ K Q 8
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1A Pass INT? What call would you make? A - Resist any temptation to bid 3S. Partner might have short spades with 4 or more hearts and an easy game, or more, could be missed. Bid 2H. You can bid 3S next if you get another chance.
- Q5 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ A ♥ 8 7 6 5 4 ♠ A K 9 6 ♣ A K 2
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 Pass 1A Pass? What call would you make? A - Resisting temptation seems to be our theme this week. Should you bid 3D, partner might well have to give preference back to hearts with only two-card support? You would have to bid 3NT with few tricks. Bid 2D.
- Q6 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ Q 9 ♥ A K J 3 ♠ K 9 8 ♣ 10 9 6 3
- Fast opens one spade. What call would you make? A - Double. You have minimal, but acceptable, values for this bid. Although four hearts are not promised by your double, it is good to have four when you are minimum.

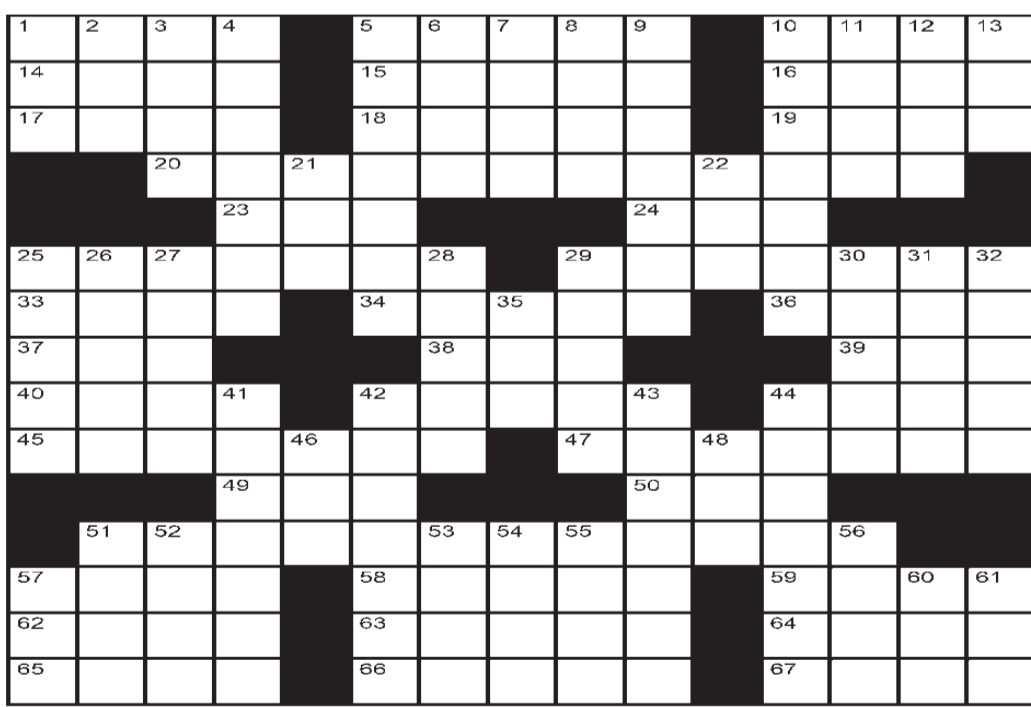
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Facts and figures
- 5 Deep cleft
- 10 Enjoys the slopes
- 14 Coats in frosting
- 15 Casual greeting
- 16 2.54 centimeters
- 17 Chest muscles, for short
- 18 Big poker bet: 2 wds.
- 19 Trout of baseball
- 20 Character who had a great fall: 2 wds.
- 23 Place to wipe your feet
- 24 Classic ISP: Abbr.
- 25 Provided food for
- 29 Unexpectedly successful film
- 33 Told falsehoods
- 34 Goes up
- 36 Singer McEntire
- 37 Military branch: Abbr.
- 38 Run for exercise
- 39 Use a trowel
- 40 Sound of a hoof
- 42 Wooden rod
- 44 "For Pete's ___!"
- 45 Toenail's makeup
- 47 Made small waves
- 49 "Uh-huh!"
- 50 CBS show since 2026
- 51 Ozone layer's locale
- 57 Akron's state
- 58 Accustom (to)
- 59 No longer feral
- 62 Opinion survey
- 63 Yellow citrus
- 64 Largest continent
- 65 Narrate
- 66 Speech impediments
- 67 On deck

DOWN

- 1 Quick swim
- 2 Star pitcher



Created by Stella Zawistowski

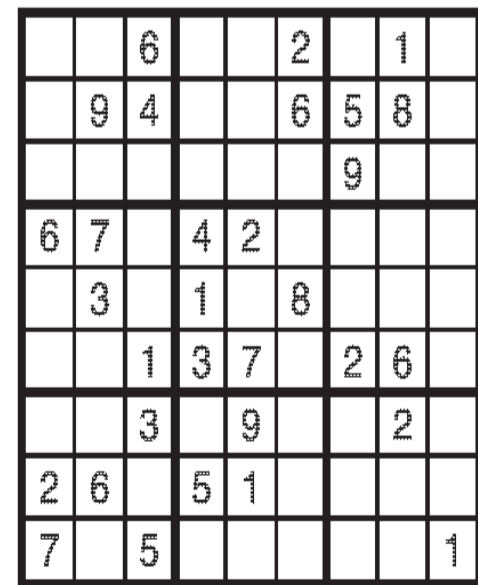
- 3 Silicon Valley field
- 4 Taken for granted
- 5 Section of a book
- 6 Journalist Lester
- 7 Friend in battle
- 8 Lost traction
- 9 Handbooks
- 10 Less complicated
- 11 Make socks, perhaps
- 12 Disgusting
- 13 "___ sells seashells..."
- 21 Deface
- 22 "Eeny, meeny, miney, ___"
- 25 Chicken's sound
- 26 Church path
- 27 Choral part
- 28 ___ mustard
- 29 Singer Bob
- 30 Unicycle part
- 31 Motorized ride
- 32 Showed anger
- 35 Scatter seeds



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- 41 Employer's expense
- 42 Refine, as liquor
- 43 Mossy growths
- 44 MSU athlete
- 46 Oolong or pekoe
- 48 Crusty dessert
- 51 Piece of footwear
- 52 Cash drawer
- 53 "That's ___ haven't heard": 2 wds.
- 54 Totals
- 55 Stage accessory
- 56 Lack of difficulty
- 57 Make a selection
- 60 Stir together
- 61 Consume

SUDOKU



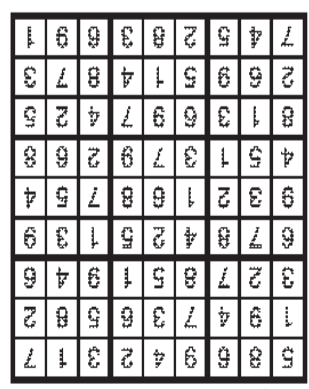
Fun By The Numbers

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!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:



KIDS' CORNER

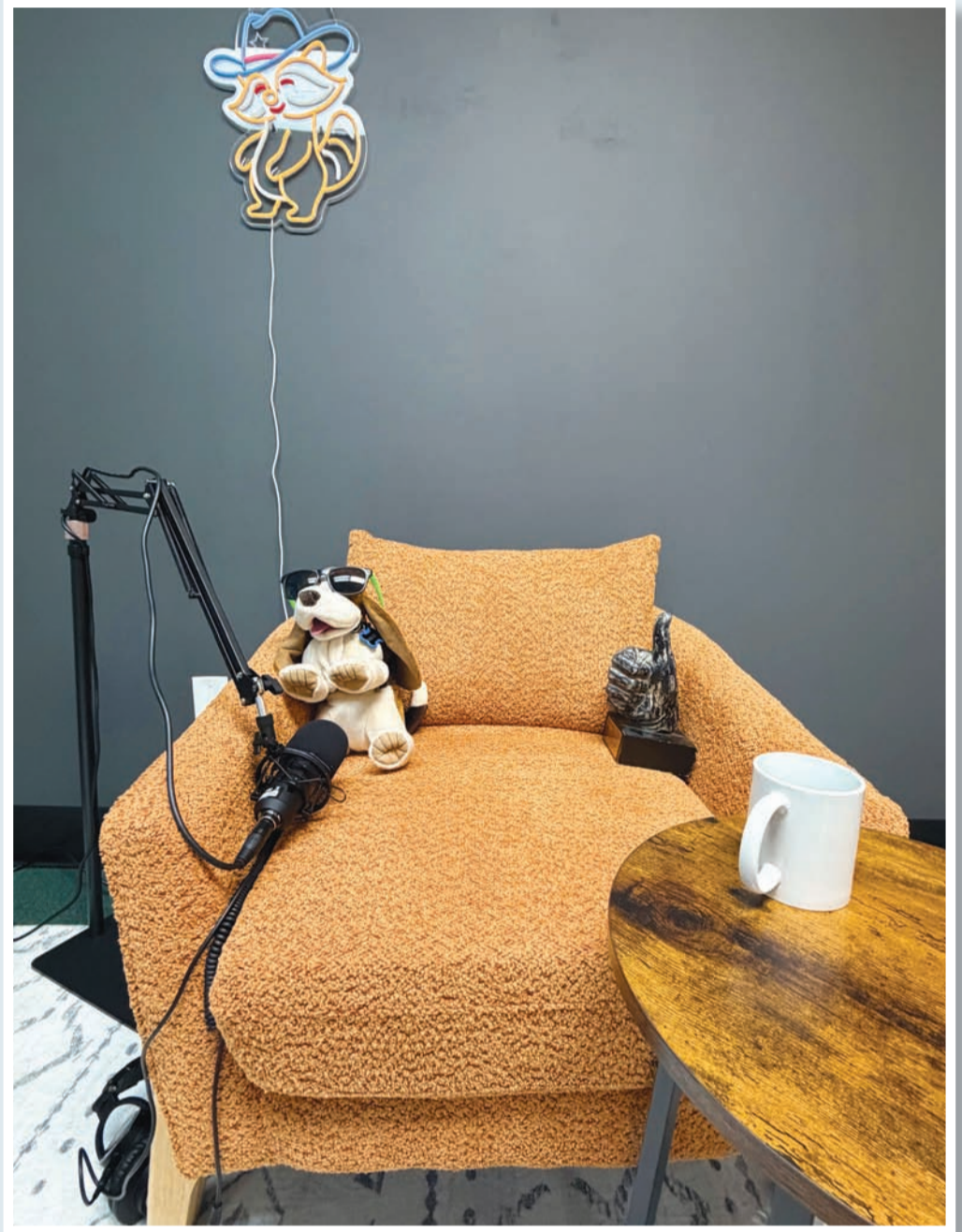
Vol. 017 | Join Herald the Hound every Tuesday on Kids' Corner from [The Courier Herald](#)

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Herald the Hound makes a visit to the podcast studio



Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the ONE letter in the left column that is NOT in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read DOWN to answer this riddle:

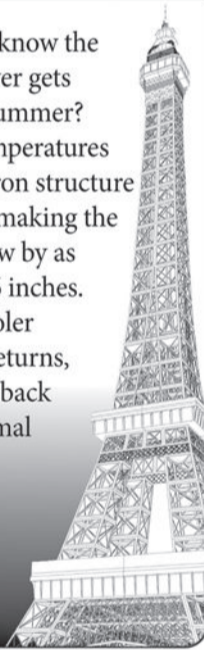
WHAT FRUITS ARE ALWAYS COMPLAINING?

SECRET	___	STEER	CASHEW	___	CHEWS
PHRASE	___	HEAPS	SIMPLE	___	MILES
APACHE	___	PEACH	CASPER	___	RACES
GARBLE	___	LARGE	GRILLS	___	GIRLS
			RECIPE	___	PRICE
			MESSES	___	SEEMS

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Fun Fact

“Did you know the Eiffel Tower gets taller in summer? When temperatures rise, the iron structure expands, making the tower grow by as much as 6 inches. When cooler weather returns, it shrinks back to its normal height.”



PODCAST FACTS

Podcasting is big business for kids and adults. New research shows that nearly half of kids 6-12 years old in the U.S. have listened to a podcast and 25 percent of those kids reported listening to a podcast daily. And with an endless supply of family-friendly options, podcasts are quickly becoming the No. 1 way people of all ages learn about the world around them. Herald the Hound spent some time this week in The Courier Herald's new podcast studio. Can you spot the difference in the two photos above?

- 1) Raccoon light is turned off; 2) Headphones are moved;
- 3) Microphone is different; 4) Thumps up statue is added;
- 5) Coffee cup is moved; 6) Herald is wearing sunglasses

ANSWER KEY

MINI SUDOKU

5			1	
	2		3	5
2	5			
1				3
			1	4

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

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ANSWER KEYS

MINI SUDOKU ANSWERS	5	3	4	2	1	6
	6	1	2	4	3	5
	2	5	3	6	4	1
	1	4	6	5	2	3
	4	6	1	3	5	2
	3	2	5	1	6	4

Puzzles4Kids Answer	C	STEER	A	CHEWS
	R	HEAPS	P	MILES
	A	PEACH	P	RACES
	B	LARGE	L	GIRLS
			E	PRICE
			S	SEEMS

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Teachers, do you want us to visit your classroom next? Students, do you have artwork, poems or stories you want to submit for possible publication? Email us at read@courierheraldtoday.com.



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Joe Wos