

DUBLIN FARMERS MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY, APR 4 TO OCT 11
7:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

MARKET ON MADISON

Presented By 314 West Madison Street
Dublin, GA 31021

FAIRVIEW PARK

VENDORS FOR SATURDAY
July 25, 2026 (7:30 AM to 12:30 PM)

Sweet Rubys
cheesestraws
Phillips Farm
produce
Jos'Pee Berry Farm
blueberries, chicken salad
Backyard Shed
breads, jellies, and cakes
Eden Organics
produce
Shemeka Smith
hair & body care, juices
Off the Farm Produce
produce
Boyd's Knives
handmade knives
Jewelry by Keen
handmade jewelry
Stitchihatchie Creek Farms
produce
Twisted Sister Bread Co.
baked goods & lemonade
The Blossom Barn
baked goods
Jordan Farms
produce
Kaleigh Jordan
fresh produce
Hot Rod's Ohoopie Grilling Sauce
BBQ sauce
The Mustard Seed Farm
baked goods
Grain & Goat Co.
cutting boards & crosses
Farmhouse Bread Co.
baked goods
Infused & Rooted
infused olive oils
From Andrews Oven
baked goods
Pearson Farms
peaches
Beasley Farms
produce
Willhouse Creations
baked goods
Riverbend Meadow Market
produce
Tasty Paws Pets
dog treats
Holi Crop Micro Farm
microgreens
Moss & Bloom
sea moss, teas
Muddy Cups & Coffee
iced coffee
Crumbs of Joy
baked goods
Minter Hill Homestead
baked goods
MC Sweets
cake pops
Grandpa Jerry's Cookies
cookies
Heavenly Harvest Pecans
pecans
O'neal Honey Farm
local raw honey
Peachtree Oven
baked goods
Crown & Spore
mushrooms

We are an authorized SNAP/EBT market.

County: No plans for data center here

Large crowd
voices opposition
to project officials
say never existed

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

Laurens County is not pursuing a data center, members of the County Commission assured dozens of concerned residents who packed their noon meeting on Tuesday.

In fact, they've never discussed it, Chairman Jimmy Rogers said.

"There is nothing going on with data center in Laurens County," said Rogers. "It is not in our vocabulary. In my seven and a half years on this board, we have never even talked about it."

The standing-room-only crowd turned out after social media posts and media reports over the past two weeks called attention to a federal grant application that mentioned the for-



Vonda Morton states her case against data centers as fellow concerned residents listen in at Tuesday's meeting of the Laurens County Commission/PAYTON TOWNS III

mer Mohawk carpet plant as a possible location for a data center. The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission, a quasi-governmental planning agency, applied for funding to potentially test sites for environmental contamination.

The Mohawk property was among them, and one of its identified uses suggested in the application was as a data center. The application, Regional Commission executive director Brett Manning told the crowd, was rejected anyway.

"We had to list some potential uses. There was no government entity, no industry tied to this

COUNTY COMMISSION
Continued on page 8

Historic Dublin church
bell finally rings again
after 50 years of silence

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

For the first time in decades, the bell at First African Baptist Church rang out Sunday afternoon following an almost \$20,000 restoration.

The church, located at 405 Tel-fair St., held a Sunday afternoon celebration to mark the occasion, which was also a Georgia 250 event.

"I want to thank God for those who gave their money to be used so that this (restoration) went from a vision to a reality," said Rev. Keith Anderson during Sunday's program. "As of today, it is ringing again."

The plan is for the bell to ring every Sunday morning at 11.

The restoration, which took place between March and July, happened after members of Leadership Georgia's Class of 2026 visited the church during a church program called "One Day: Dublin's Civil Rights Experience."

Davis told the group that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his first public speech at the historic church in 1944. He also mentioned that getting the bell to ring again was on the church's wishlist. That resonated with the group.

About a week later, members of

the group reached out to the church to inform them they wanted to take this on as a project.

Jenna Riddle, a member of Leadership Georgia's Class of 2026, talked about the group's role in the bell restoration. The class wanted to do something in return for the hospitality they had received in Dublin, and knew that helping make the bell's restoration a reality was the answer.

"We are honored to be a small part of the restoration of this historic bell in this historic place," said Riddle, who grew up in Laurens County. "Our hope is that the dedication of this bell helps people see the power of listening, learning and building relationships with this community for years to come."

Anderson, along with Deaconess Laura Irvin and Deacons Earnest Wade and Jerry Davis, pulled the rope hanging from the bell, which weighs approximately 3,000 lbs.

"Hearing the bell ring brought joy into our hearts and souls for the first time in 45 to 50 years," Davis said.

The bell did not ring out too loudly, but Davis said they were able to find out what happened when they showed a video of the event to Russ



Deaconess Laura Irvin, Rev. Keith Anderson and deacons Earnest Wade and Jerry Davis pull the rope to ring the bell at First African Baptist Church for the first time in almost 50 years Sunday/PAYTON TOWNS III

Richards, who helped in the restoration project.

"He realized that with all of us pulling on the rope at one time, and not letting it release like it is supposed to, that is why the bell did not sound as loud as it should have," Davis said.

The bell is located above the main entrance of the sanctuary. The only way to get to the restored bell is by climbing up a ladder inside the church.

When Davis moved back to Dublin, he was told about the bell and began researching it. He discovered that their bell was cast by the C.S. Bell Company in Hillsboro, Ohio. The bell assembly's total weight is 3,150 pounds, making it the largest bell cast by the company.

In 1897, the 54-inch bell sold for \$168.75. By 1934, the price was \$375. Today the price of this bell would be between \$3,000 to \$5,000, Davis said.

Eventually, Davis said the

CHURCH BELL
Continued on page 8

Roundabout work on pace to allow traffic by end of July

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Work on the new roundabout at the Claxton Dairy and Woodlawn Drive intersection is on schedule to be open for traffic by the end of July.

Engineer Director at the city of Dublin Matthew Bradshaw said Total Earth Services, and workers they subcontracted out to, are grading the asphalt in order to prepare for paving while also doing the concrete, curb and gutter work.

"The goal is to have all of the curb done and the pavement down so that traffic can ride through it," Bradshaw said. "There will be temporary striping. After it is open, they'll still be working on the sidewalks,



Construction workers are on pace to have the roundabout at the Claxton Dairy Road/Woodlawn Drive intersection opened for traffic by the end of this month/PAYTON TOWNS III

landscaping and things like that which can be done with traffic going through the intersection."

The main thing is to open it up for traffic when students return to Dublin City Schools. Bradshaw said they want to have the intersection open for people to use again.

"I'd like to thank the public for working with us on the road closure and finding alternate routes," Bradshaw said. "This area being closed to traffic has sped the construction up."

The intersection has been closed since the end of May. When the roundabout is opened, drivers need to remember to go to the right and yield to traffic on the left. Cpl. Brian

Evans, with the Dublin Police Department's Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (HEAT) said the roundabout will slow down traffic and keep it moving while clearing up the intersection faster.

Evans recalls the times when this intersection used to give those traveling on Claxton Dairy the right-of-way. Because of so many bad wrecks, the intersection became a four-way stop in 2020. That helped, but it did create issues when traffic increased or multiple vehicles came to a stop at about the same time.

A roundabout will make it easier, Evans said.

"This should cut crashes down to almost zero," he said.

If there is an accident, hopefully, it is just a fender-bender.

"The majority of the accidents at the roundabout on Highway 257, which is in

ROUNABOUT
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OBITUARIES



Warren Luther Brantley

Funeral services for Mr. Warren Luther Brantley, of East Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Friday, July 24, at 1 p.m. at the Williams Chapel Baptist Church, 1142 Georgia Highway 29 South, East Dublin. Rev. Benny Brantley, Sr., will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Brantley was born on Thursday, Jan. 18, 1962, in Wrightsville, Georgia, to Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Lula Brantley. Warren was educated in the public schools of Johnson County and graduated from Johnson County High School. He began working at an early age with his father and brothers for the City of Wrightsville. In 1984, he began his career at JP Stevens, which was later bought by Victor Fortsmann. He worked there for many years until it closed. He kept cleaning businesses on the side until he stepped out on faith with his cleaning business full-time. He was blessed to grow a business that allowed him to employ and fellowship with family, friends, and others until he retired.

Warren dedicated his life to God, family, work and sports. In his early years, he was a longtime member of Brantley Chapel Baptist Church. Later, he served on the Usher Board at the New Bible Believers Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of his brother, Pastor Benny Brantley, Sr. He met the love of his life, Gwen, over 43 years ago and loved her endlessly. Although he loved his wife and kids dearly and his grandchildren even more, his great grandchildren stole his heart. Throughout the years, he loved taking his family fishing, trips to the mountains, beaches, theme parks, and cruises. He supported his children and grandchildren on the basketball courts as well as the football and track fields. Furthermore, so many priceless memories were made on his very own back porch with family and friends.

Warren was received into the arms of his Lord and Savior on Sunday, July 19, 2026. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Gwen; mother and father, Lula and Lewis; and by brothers David, Herbert, and John.

BIRTHDAYS

July 23
Monica Morales
Dewell Morris
Willie Newkirk
KaDareuntaye Pauldo
Margaret Smith

July 24
Aaron Coney Jr.
DeAsia Johnson
Forbes Mitchell

Warren leaves to cherish many fond and loving memories to his son, Traune (Alicia) Buie of Dublin, Georgia, daughters, Kenisha Buie of Warner Robins, Georgia, and Shakeira Brantley-Parsons of Warner Robins, Georgia; grandchildren, Jakiyah Hollingsworth, Keynon Williams, Amiyah Buie, Jacoby Parsons, Ethan Buie, and great granddaughters, Aaliyah Buie and Jakayla Tate; sisters, Carolyn (Keith) Davis, Geri Sebastian of Atlanta, Georgia, and Ernestine Lilley of Dublin, Georgia; brothers, Anthony (Shirley) Brantley, Benny (Marie) Brantley, Wyman (Tricia) Brantley of East Dublin, Georgia; sisters-in-law, Marilyn Lewis of Dublin, Georgia, Mary Ann (James) Ridgell, Laura (Alphonso) Wynn, both of Swainsboro, Georgia, plus a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com.

Services By Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Mahala Minter Nix

Funeral services for Mahala Minter Nix, 67 will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 23, 2026, at Marie Baptist Church, with interment to follow in the church cemetery. Rev. Bobby Hutto will officiate.

Mrs. Nix was born June 23, 1959, in Macon, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late James Milton Minter and Betty Jean Smith Minter. She was a retired court clerk for the City of Dublin. She was a member of Marie Baptist Church. She was a loving wife, mother and grammie. Mrs. Nix passed away Monday, July 20, 2026, at her residence surrounded by family.

Mrs. Nix is survived by her husband of 49 years, Dwain Nix of Rockledge; a son, Jason Nix (Brittney Slusher) of Rockledge; a daughter, Mandy Nix Joiner (Matt) of Dublin; a brother, Randall Minter of East Dublin; two sisters, Debbie Melton of Dublin and Millie Pierce of Dublin; and five grandchildren, Kanyon Nix, Kason Nix, Carlie Criswell, Brooklyn Oxford and Winter Criswell.

Pallbearers will be Kanyon Nix, Kason Nix, Dusty Nix, Blake Nix, Phil Gay, and Tim Gay.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at Marie Baptist Church.

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



Lucious Hill

A celebration of life for Ret. SFC Lucious Hill will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, July 24, at Columbus New Bethel Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2423 Woodruff Farm Rd., Columbus, Ga. Interment will follow with military honors at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell, Ala.

Ret. SFC Lucious Hill transitioned on Saturday, July 11, 2026. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 23, from 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. at the Hill-Watson Memorial Chapel in Columbus.

This announcement is courtesy of Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Demetria E. Whipple

Funeral services for Ms. Demetria E. Whipple, of East Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 12 p.m. at the Rice Hill Baptist Church, 2706 Moore Station Road, Dublin. Rev. Abraham Crockett will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Ms. Whipple was born on Monday, Feb. 13, 1978 to the late Louise Boynton and the late Rufus Wilmore Jr. She received her Associates, Bachelors and Masters in criminal justice. She was employed with Home Instead for six years as a home health aide. She loved yard sales, walks, Chinese foods, trying restaurants, and puzzles.

She passed away on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. She was preceded in death by her mother, Louise Boynton, father, Rufus Wilmore Jr, and uncle, Rev. Marcus Anthony.

She leaves to cherish her memories her sons, Ja'Kenzea Boynton and Quintez Thompkins; brother, Derrick Boyton; grandchildren, Celeste Boynton, Cyun Boynton, and Ja'Kira Boynton; nephew and nieces, Kendall Boynton, Kendra Boynton and Alliyah Boynton; aunt, Cora Anthony; and a host of other family and friends.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Maxine Frost Driggers

Funeral services for Mrs. Maxine Frost Driggers will be held Friday, July 24, 2026 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Higgs Funeral Home in Soperton. Burial will be in the Red Bluff Baptist Church Cemetery in Treutlen County. Rev. Al Soles will officiate. Mrs. Driggers died Sunday, July 19, 2026.

Mrs. Driggers, 90, was the daughter of the late George W. and Mollie Hern-don Frost. She was born in Montgomery County on July 7, 1936 and had lived most of her life in Laurens County. She was a retired supervisor from Oxford Garment Company in Dublin and was a member of Wilkes Church of the Nazarene in Laurens County. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy Driggers; two brothers, C.W. and Edward Frost and two sisters, Eulene Graham and Annette Branch.

Survivors include sons, Larry (Lucy) Driggers of Frisco, Texas, David Driggers of Willis, Texas and Terry (Janece) Driggers of Brazoria, Texas; daughter, Debra Fiori of Richmond, Texas; adopted daughter, Debbie Reid of Rockledge; also Billy & Debra Graham, Mitchell Graham, Willidean Garrett and son Chris, all of Rockledge; niece, Carol Cordry and several other nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Donald Warnock, Joey Etheridge, David Harrell, Mark Warnock, Lewis Foskey and Phillip White.

The family will begin receiving friends at 10 a.m. Friday at the funeral home.

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



Linda Colson Garrett

Graveside funeral services for Linda Colson Garrett, 79, were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Ken Rodgers will officiate.

Mrs. Garrett was born July 12, 1947, in Sandersville, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late David Franklin Colson and Gladys Hesters Colson. She was also preceded in death by her twin sister, Glynda Colson, and sister, Helen Thomas.

She was a retired L.P.N.

at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center and Dublinair Nursing Home and Rehab. She was a member of New Bethel Baptist Church. Mrs. Garrett passed away Monday, July 20, 2026, at her residence surrounded by family.

Mrs. Garrett is survived by her husband, Gilbert S. Garrett Sr. of Dublin; three sons, Christopher "Chris" S. Brewer of Soperton; Timothy "Tim" Wade Brewer of Dexter, and Gilbert Stanton "Stan" Garrett Jr. (Julie) of Dublin; a sister, Dee Mitchell of Dublin; grandchildren, Callie Gibson, Ashlee Garrett, Emilee Garrett, Avery Brewer, Lauren Brewer, and Nolan Brewer; a caregiver, Michelle Lampp (Doug); and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers the family asks the donations be made in memory of Mrs. Garrett to Regency South-care Hospice Services at 1006 Mount Vernon Road, Suite B, Vidalia, GA 30474.

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



Marice "Bookie" Turner

Funeral services for Ms. Marice "Bookie" Turner of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the New Canaan Baptist Church, 317 Carolina Street, Chester. Rev. Dr. Charlie Robinson will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Marice Turner was born on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1961, in Chester, Georgia, to Willie Charles Turner and Marjorie Faye Blackshear Turner. She graduated from Dodge County High School in Eastman in the Class of 1979. After high school, Marice left home and moved to Fairborn, Ohio, to become the babysitter and bonus big sister for Cousin Nikki. They enjoyed six years (1979 - 1986) of sisterhood. Over that point of time, Marice traveled and lived with her Aunt Edna and Uncle Will to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and Luke AFB, Arizona.

Marice moved to Atlanta and was employed with several manufacturing companies. Her favorite job was

working for a bakery factory. She loved pleasing her nephews and nieces by bring them various types of cookies from her job.

Marice worked in the bakery until her health failed.

Marice dedicated her life to Christ by joining New Canaan Baptist Church in Chester, Georgia at a young age and later she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

She worked on the usher board at the church until her health failed. Her passions included spending time with her nephews and nieces, and watching the Lifetime Network. Her gentle spirit led to her being loved by many people and known for her soft voice and attractive smile.

Marice, passed away on Monday, July 20, 2026. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Brantley, sisters, Linda Faye Turner Plummer and Margaret Turner Mercer, grandmothers, Ellen Hall Blackshear and Willie Lee Butler Turner, grandfathers, John H. Blackshear and Otis Turner, aunts, Bertha Brook and Jeannie Blackshear, and uncles, Roger Lee Turner, and Rev. James K. Smith Sr. and nephew, Michael Jasper Plummer II.

Survivors include her father, Willie C. Turner of Dublin, brothers, Rev. Dr. David C. (Anna) Turner of Dublin, and Timothy L. (Glenda) Turner of Cochran, aunts, Lavada Kirtz of Chester, Christine Smith of Dublin, Oline (Thomas) Frazier of Miami, Florida, Louvenia Parker of Atlanta, Edna (Will) Barnes of Fort Worth, Texas, Hazel Plummer of Dublin, and Geraldine Blackshear of Chester, uncles, William H. Blackshear, Eastman, and John H. (Vannessa) Blackshear Jr., Dublin, and grandaunts, Rozenia Butler Gooch of Eastman, Emma L. Mosley of Jackson, Florida, and Ella L. Way of Chester, nieces, Tramitra Nicole Turner of Fairmont, NC, Taylor Turner, Fe'ria Mercer, and Fatiyah Mercer of Savannah, GA, nephews, David C. (Jessica) Turner, II, of Flowery Branch, and Makael A. Turner of Dublin, great-niece, Mi'Cayla Faye Plummer and great-nephew, Michael Jasper Plummer III, of Dublin.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

COMMUNITY NEWS

'Chips & Tip'
The Love of Hope Ministry will present Child of the Loft, a back to school event with the theme of "Chips & Tip," encouraging kids to be the best student he or she can be, to think positive and, even at a young age, mental health matters. The event will be held July 23 at 2 p.m. at The Loft, 311 Grady St. in Dublin.

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Why remembering history matters

The history of the country and the history of the world for that matter often changes on a single, solitary event. Such is the case with a native of England, who immigrated to America and became one of the leading and most prominent members of the Colony of Virginia.

Few men of colonial Virginia contributed more to the development of the colony—and received less recognition from history—than Colonel Joshua Fry. A distinguished mathematician, surveyor, legislator, cartographer and military commander, Fry stood at the crossroads of science, government and war during the formative years of British America. His untimely death in 1754 unexpectedly elevated a young lieutenant colonel named George Washington to command, thereby altering the course of American history.

Joshua Fry was born about 1700 in Crewkerne, Somersetshire, England, the son of Joseph Fry. He attended Wadham College, Oxford, where he studied mathematics and the sciences. Like many educated Englishmen seeking op-

portunity, he emigrated to Virginia around 1726. He was a scholar at William & Mary. Soon after arriving in Virginia, Fry joined the faculty of the College of William & Mary. His academic appointments included: Master of the Grammar School (1729) and Professor of Natural Philosophy and Mathematics (1732–ca. 1737)

He quickly established a reputation as one of Virginia's foremost mathematicians. At a time when educated scientists were rare in the colonies, Fry taught astronomy, mathematics, surveying and natural philosophy—the practical sciences that underpinned colonial expansion.

Around 1736, Fry married Mary Micou Hill, a wealthy widow from Essex County.

Although remembered as a soldier, Fry's greatest professional accomplishments were in surveying. During the 1740s he became one of the colony's principal surveyors. Among his assignments were: surveying county boundaries; helping establish the Fairfax Proprietary line; rveying portions of the Virginia–North Carolina boundary; mapping newly settled western lands.

His technical skill made him indispensable to the colonial government and led to his partnership with

Peter Jefferson, father of the future iconic president, Thomas Jefferson. Together they produced one of the greatest maps in American colonial history: The Map of the Inhabited Part of Virginia (1751) The map was commissioned by Virginia's government for the British Board of Trade and became the definitive map of 18th Century Virginia.

Its achievements included: accurately depicting Virginia's river systems; improving knowledge of the Appalachian Mountains; illustrating western settlements and Indian trails;identifying roads, forts and frontier communities.

Joshua Fry served as: Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Coroner, First Lieutenant of Albemarle County, Member of the House of Burgesses (1745–1754). He also became a commissioner at the Treaty of Logstown (1752), negotiating with representatives of the Six Nations concerning British claims in the Ohio Valley. These negotiations foreshadowed the coming conflict with France.

In 1754, Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie appointed Joshua Fry as: Colonel and Commander-in-Chief of the Virginia Regiment, His second-in-command wasa twenty-two-year-old George

Washington, who held the rank of lieutenant colonel. Their mission was to lead Virginia troops westward to resist French expansion into the Ohio Valley.

Before reaching the frontier, tragedy struck. Near present-day Cumberland, Maryland, Colonel Fry was thrown from his horse. His injuries proved fatal, and he died on May 31, 1754.

Because of Fry's death, command immediately passed to Lieutenant Colonel George Washington. Within weeks Washington fought the skirmish at Jumonville Glen; the construction of Fort Necessity; and the Battle of Fort Necessity. Those events marked the opening of the French and Indian War, which ultimately expanded into the global Seven Years' War. Virginia tradition has long maintained that Washington visited Fry's grave and inscribed the words: "Here lies the just and noble Fry."

Why does the life of Joshua Fry matter to me? If Joshua Fry never existed. Well, I now let you know. He was my fifth great grandfather. His daughter, Jane, a possible playmate of Thomas Jefferson, who lived only four miles apart and were of the same age. Jane married John Scott, the third wealthiest man in Albemarle County, the home of three of first tive Presidents.



By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.

Their son, Charles Scott, William Scott Sr., William Scott Jr., Irving Scott, my mother and me.

The larger and more important questions why did Joshua Fry matter to America. Aside from his role and the preeminent map maker and surveyor of Virginia, whose maps helped guide thousands of settlers through Virginia and beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains. Actually, it was his tragic, accidental fall from his horse that catapulted the twenty two year young Virginian to command the Virginia Militia and rise to the command of the Continental Army, who's victory directly led to the freedoms that we enjoy today.

On a side note, another 5th great grandson, Adlai Stevenson II, twice attempted to keep Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon out of the White House. Under president John F. Kennedy, U.N. Ambassador Stevenson told his Russian

counterpart during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson famously told the Ambassador to answer "yes or no" regarding the presence of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba. When Zorin hesitated, Stevenson told him, "I am prepared to wait for my answer until hell freezes over." What might have happened if Stevenson defeated Eisenhower?

On a current note, the movie “Young Washington” would not be in theaters today. Without Fry's death, Washington may have been relegated to the junior commander of the Virginia Regiment and never became the “Father of His Country.” I think the wise man Forrest Gump said it best. “Are our lives guided by fate, or are we simply carried along by chance? "I don't know if we each have a destiny, or if we're all just floating around accidental-like on a breeze. But I think maybe it's both."

Chicken recipe you’ll use every week

By PATTI DIAMOND
King Features

"What is there to eat?" That question plays on repeat in households everywhere.

Today I'm sharing one of the handiest short cuts to give you a great answer when the inevitable question is asked. Now you can say, "There's chicken in the fridge, go make yourself something!"

I call this recipe "Every Week Chicken" because I make this chicken nearly every week for my family. And once you try this, you might do the same. Chicken breast can be troublesome because they're so lean, it's easy to overcook. You'll find this recipe produces tender, juicy chicken every time.

This is a simple recipe for oven-roasted chicken breasts. It's perfect for an easy dinner or to make in advance for meal prep all week long. Moist and flavorful, this is the chicken you want waiting in the fridge to expedite your dinner, stick in a salad, slam on a sandwich, toss in a pasta, put on a pizza. You get the idea.

This simple salt and pepper seasoning gives the chicken tons of flavor yet keeps it neutral enough to play well with other flavor profiles. As always, feel free to adjust to your personal preferences.

EVERY WEEK CHICKEN

- 4 pounds boneless skinless chicken breast (about 6 breasts)
 - 2 teaspoons kosher salt
 - 1 teaspoon fresh ground pepper
 - Olive oil or your choice of cooking spray
- Preheat oven to 375 F degrees. For easy clean up, line a baking sheet with parchment or foil. Brush the chicken with olive oil or give it a quick spray of cooking spray. Mix the salt and pepper in a small bowl and season both sides of the chicken breasts with the mixture, then put them on the prepared baking sheet, uncovered. Place them in oven and bake for 30 minutes. Remove the chicken when it reaches 160 F. Carryover heat will bring it to a safe

final temperature while it rests. Remove the chicken and rest, covered with foil, for 15 minutes.

This cooking time works on chicken breasts of nearly all sizes, 3/4 inch to 1 1/2 inches thick. If your chicken breast is thinner than 3/4 inch thick, reduce cooking time to 25 minutes.

To store, place in a storage container with the accumulated pan juices over the chicken for flavor and to keep the chicken moist. Store in the fridge for up to five days.

So, what do you do with all that chicken? Well, besides chicken salad, sandwiches and wraps, here are three fabulous ideas:

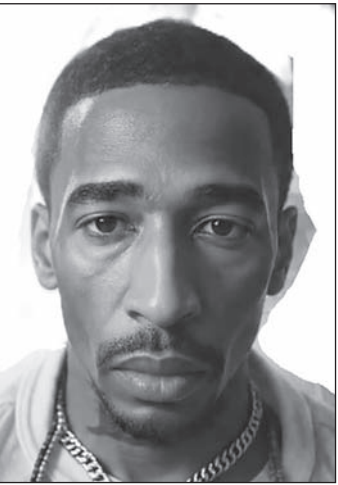
BBQ Chicken French Bread Pizza: Split a loaf of French bread lengthwise and spread with barbecue sauce. Top with shredded mozzarella, cooked shredded chicken and chopped red onion. Bake at 400 degrees until the bread is crisp and the cheese is melted and bubbly, about 15 minutes. Finish with a drizzle of additional barbecue sauce and a sprinkle of chopped cilantro before slicing and serving.

Chicken Avocado Quesadillas: Layer shredded mozzarella, cooked chicken and diced avocado between two flour tortillas. Add a drizzle of your favorite sauce, such as ranch, barbecue or teriyaki, if you'd like. Cook in a skillet over medium heat until both sides are golden brown and the cheese is melted, then slice into wedges and serve.

Quick Chicken Alfredo: Make sliced leftover chicken into a fast comfort meal by simmering it with jarred Alfredo sauce, a splash of milk, butter and Italian seasonings. Spoon over cooked egg noodles and finish with chopped parsley.

Sometimes the simplest recipes become the ones you reach for again and again. I have a feeling this will be one of them. Enjoy!

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime.



Telvin Tyrone McCloud

The homecomig celebration for Mr. Telvin Tyrone McCloud, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Friday, July 24, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the Greater Victory Temple, 511 North Franklin Street in Dublin. Reverend Robert Fullwood will deliver the eulogy.

Kelvin MacLeod was born on Friday, Aug. 16, 1991, in Dublin, Georgia, to Robert Tyrone McCleod and Diane Cassandra Fields. He attended Dublin schools and received his GED. Telvin loved to tattoo, draw and he loved music. And he also loved his nieces and nephews.

He departed this earth on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 in Dublin. He was preceded in death by his mother, Diane Fields, and his grandfather, Eddie Lee Fields, his uncle, Sammy Taylor.

He leaves to cherish his many memories his father, Robert Tyrone (Stephanie) McCloud, both of Warner Robins, siblings. Michele McCloud, Gabriel (Jerico) Anderson, Ja’ Mayjah McCloud, Shambria Fields, all of Dublin, aunt, Catrinia (Chandler) Edmund, all of Dublin, uncle, Retired 1st Sgt. Eddie Lee Fields, Jr., of San Antonio, Texas, grandmother, Haloise Walker of Detroit, Michigan, Lena Jackie Taylor of Dublin, grandfather, Virgil (Belinda) Shivers, both of Cochran, Georgia, stepbrother. Elmante Richardson of Savannah, Georgia, D’Andre Richardson of Fayetteville, NC., devoted aunt, Elizabeth Pullin, nieces, Ava Brown. Aaliyah McLeod, Kaitlyn Anderson, nephew, Symere Anderson and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Please post your condolences at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Did a popular TV show of the 1960s happen because of a Broadway play?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

I know what you must be thinking. “How in the world does this guy come up with different trivia each week?” That’s got to be it.

Well, if you are indeed thinking that, then I just made the best guess I’ll ever make. And I’ll answer it: I have a storehouse of trivia that may last into the 22nd Century, or beyond! I’ve already mined it; each week I polish up a few nuggets and leave them here for you to enjoy.

That’s my story, and I’m sticking to it. Now, enjoy this week’s collection!

Did you know ...

... a British gymnast survived a four-story fall thanks to his skills? Steven Jehu (born 1987), a gymnast from Exeter, England, fell from the fourth floor of a hotel in Slovenia in 2004. Somehow, Jehu had the presence of mind to go into a somersault during the fall, and he landed – almost fifty feet below – on his feet, suffering only a broken ankle. Doctors who set the ankle later said Jehu would have died had he not instinctively gone into his gymnastic training. (Good training beats just about everything else!)

... the “I’m Feeling Lucky” feature on the Google™ search page actually costs the company money? Estimates are that Google loses \$110 million in ad revenue per year when people use that feature to avoid advertising in their searches. (So when you’re feeling lucky, Google isn’t.)

... in the popular video game, “Super Mario Brothers,” the character of Mario the Plumber does not use his head to get bonus points from blocks? He uses his hand, which – if you freeze-frame the game – you can see above his head. It’s his left hand, by the way. Additional trivia note: The bushes in the background of the game are just re-renditions of the clouds in the sky, re-colored green. (You always wondered about that, didn’t you?)

... one of the most popular television shows of the 1960s indirectly happened because of a Broadway play? In 1965, ABC tried hard to acquire the rights to the character of Superman, in order to make a new series, but those rights were tied up in a not-too-successful Broadway musical titled It’s a Bird, It’s a Plane, It’s Superman. So the network then tried to get the rights to Dick Tracy, but creator Chester Gould (1900-1985) was already negotiating with NBC. Finally acquiring the rights to Batman from DC Comics, the network hired producer William Dozier (1908-1991) to make the show happen, and happen it did. Airing twice a week during its first two seasons, Batman demolished the competition with its lampooning of the entire superhero genre. (To the Bat-poles, Robin!)

... television can be a very bad influence? Yeah, you needed me to tell you that. But consider this: when the television series Breaking Bad finished its run, police agen-

cies throughout the country noted a sharp uptick in the popularity of crystal methamphetamine, the drug created by the show’s central character Walter White, played by Bryan Cranston (born 1956). Manufacturers of the illegal substance actually dyed their drug blue in an effort to resemble the drug shown in the series. (I’ve heard of emulating your heroes, but this is ridiculous.)

... a singer’s vegetarianism caused a popular parody artist to not perform one of his songs? When “Weird Al” Yankovic (born 1959) wanted to do a parody version of the Wings song “Live and Let Die,” he asked permission from the composer, Sir Paul McCartney (born 1942). McCartney did not object to the parody, but he did object to Yankovic’s change of the title line to “chicken pot pie.” McCartney is a vegetarian, and did not want his work to be used to promote the eating of meat. Yankovic tried to work around the restriction but could not come up with a suitable substitute, so the parody was scrapped. (Now that I would have liked to hear.)

... no firm consensus exists on what a popular McDonald’s™ character is supposed to be? Beginning in 1971, advertisements for the restaurant chain began using a cast of characters in “McDonaldland,” which were ads aimed primarily at children. Most of the characters – Ronald McDonald™, Mayor McCheese™, the Hamburglar™, etc. - are pretty obvious, but for decades, there’s been disagreement over what The Grimace™ is supposed to be. The purple, teardrop-shaped character doesn’t look like anything living on Earth, but it’s supposedly a living milkshake. At least, that’s what some think. Others, however, maintain the Grimace is a taste bud. (Having never seen either a purple milkshake or a purple taste bud, I can’t offer an opinion – well, I can, but I’m not allowed to say stuff like that here.)

... a man once went to a great length to prove the afterlife is real? He killed himself. In 1921, Thomas Lynn Bradford (1872-1921), a spiritualist, decided once and for all to prove there is an afterlife. He got in touch with another spiritualist, Ruth Doran (1877-1938), and made an agreement to prove the existence of the afterlife. On the agreed-upon date, Bradford went into his Detroit apartment, sealed it, blew out the pilot light on his gas stove, and turned on the gas. He died ... but Doran said she never received any messages from him. (I have a line here, but it would close the show.)

... the average person in the United States eats about 100 pounds of sugar a year? Sugar currently represents about 50% of a person’s daily carbohydrate intake for the day. Amazingly, just a century ago, the average American (whoever that is) only ate around 10 pounds of sugar per year. Scientists say that ideally, only about 10% of a person’s diet should come from sugar. (How sweet!)

Now ... you know!

There is no fix for daylight complaining time

To most of us, there are truly more important matters to deal with than Daylight Saving Time.

A smaller few of us realize that this “problem” won’t actually be solved, regardless if and when a “solution” passes Congress.

Most people are just out there living their lives, content to let Apple or Alexa update their clocks twice a year, dealing with the brief personal and/or pet adjustment, and moving on.

Then there’s the people who demand someone must do something now. And because they’re noisy and need something to complain about, politicians are reacting.

Five years ago, Georgia legislators mostly took it off their plate by doing...something. They passed a law adopting permanent Daylight Saving Time...but only if Congress first amended the Federal Uniform Time Act. The noisy people felt heard. The rest of us were able to continue to live our lives while prioritizing other matters.

About 10 semi-annual time changes later, the noisy people were back. They continued to tell their legislators that their lives are disrupted by their dogs or small children who must adhere to the same schedule every day or civilization as we know it will end. No one wanted to tell these people that a basic human function is resistance to change and that most of us just deal with it, so once again, legislators got involved.

The Georgia Senate tried to “fix” the problem last year with a late session Hail Mary to move Georgia to... Atlantic Standard Time? Wait. What?

This was not a solution anyone had been asking for, but would have fixed the problem of changing clocks twice a year.

In return, it would have meant the sun would set two hours earlier and people flying in and out of Georgia would have to figure out what time zone or Daylight Saving Time was being observed in each connecting state. It would also mean

GEORGIA POLITICS



By CHARLIE HARPER

that television broadcasts – marked along the east coast by Eastern Standard Time – would be an hour later for part of the year, and two hours later when the rest of the country was observing Daylight Saving Time.

That trial balloon quickly deflated. The House refused to take up the measure, and few have spoken of it again.

The noisy people remain undeterred.

Now, the U.S. House has taken up the measure. It has passed a bill that would make Daylight Saving Time

permanent. At last, it appears the problem could be solved.

Except one thing: It isn’t just the noisy people who resist change. Everyone does.

It’s fairly easily to remain blissfully unaware of legislation that moves through the Georgia Legislature but doesn’t ultimately take effect. When a chamber of Congress passes a bill, it gets a bit more attention.

The folks who assumed the country would be ecstatic that we would get “an extra hour of daylight” year

round were instead greeted by charts demonstrating zero-sum math.

The “extra” hour of sunlight we would get in the winter months would, in fact, be taken away from cold winter mornings.

Maps began showing up on local weather forecasters social media pages showing the latest sunrise for cities around the country during the winter. In Western Georgia, the sun would be rising as late as 8:45am on a few cold winter days. That’s hours after many have been waiting at a bus stop. That’s after most have finished a morning commute in pure darkness.

As is usually the case, “solving” a problem does not quiet the noise. It just transfers the noise from one group to another group.

There’s a simple solution to this simple solution, as many responded to these social media posts. Just quit Daylight Saving Time altogether. Then we don’t have the “problem” of twice a year changes. We just have normal time again.

Suddenly, a large subset of the original noisy people rose up again. They want their extra hour of sunlight in the summer.

Perhaps it wasn’t really about their kids’ or dogs’ feeding time after all? After all, what kind of adult would use a child or a dog as a political vehicle to achieve something they wanted for themselves?

There’s a maxim that transcends all levels of politics. Beware when anyone claims a simple bill is “for the children”.

The reality of this “problem” is that it won’t go away with any proposed solution. It’s just going to transfer who is complaining about it.

At the end of the day, the ones who would stop complaining about this would just find something else to complain about.

That is just human nature. And there is no bill that can be proposed to the General Assembly nor Congress that will fix human nature.

Who can argue politics with a mouthful of barbecue?

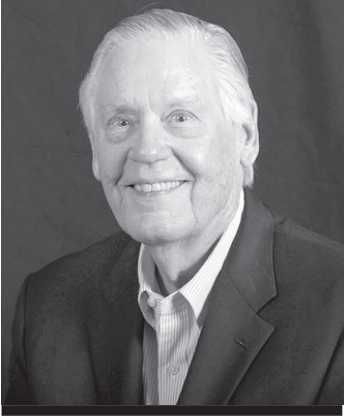
Is there any way we can bridge the political, cultural and social abyss in which we find ourselves today? How about a plate of baby-back ribs, pulled pork slathered in Kinder's Original Barbecue Sauce, a slice of Texas Toast, baked beans, corn on the cob, sweet tea and some peach cobbler topped with vanilla ice cream? It's hard to argue about stolen elections or letting boys play girl sports with your mouth full of such exquisite cuisine. Besides, what could be more American on our 250th anniversary than a good ol' barbecue? Yum! Yum!

That’s the intention of Builders Movement, a non-partisan, nonprofit group that seeks to overcome "us vs. them" thinking and has organized an event -- the Builders BBQ -- which challenges Americans across the country to "bite to unite" by inviting groups they see as different or who they don't usually

hang out with, to host barbecues. The summer-long campaign kicked off this past month and as of this writing, Builders Movement says it has received more than 100 signups and an estimated 3,000 people are expected to attend in 30 states. And the numbers are growing.

"The response and enthusiasm for Builders BBQs has blown us away," says Kristin Moss, the organization's chief marketing officer. "As the hosts were encouraged to invite someone who sees the world differently from them, this demand clearly shows us Americans have an appetite for the Builders Mindset -- connecting with people in their communities and re-inforcing there's more that unites us than divides us. And what better way to do that than over a cherished American tradition like BBQ!"

The Builder’s BBQ even offers some conversation



By DICK YARBROUGH

starters to get the ball rolling: “Is there something you admire about the other political side?” “Who is someone you admire that you don’t always agree with?” “Think about the last 250 years in America. What’s an example of a creative solution that required both sides to come together?” With all due respect, I have some conversation starters I would offer just in

case the participants don’t admire someone on the other political side or would rather have a beer instead of having to come up with any creative solutions at the moment.

Some suggestions: “Hello, stranger. Did you know that there is no word that rhymes with orange?” Or: “Hi, there! Did you know Napoleon Bonaparte was once attacked by a horde of rabbits?” Or: “The average person burps approximately 30 days per day. That says we’ve got us some serious burping to do, friend. Bring on the barbecue!” (Note to the Builder’s BBQ: Feel free to use these conversation starters. Just be sure I get credit.)

Are Georgian’s are showing up? The Builder’s BBQ says yes. Why? According to the organization, “To build connection with community and immediate neighbors. One host shared that their guest list included a range of people from different

circles: coworkers, school friends, church friends. They’re single, married, kids, no kids, different beliefs, different politics, different incomes.”

That’s encouraging because the midterm elections will be here before you know it and the angry rhetoric that will precede it will tend to make us an even more divisive group of people than we already are. Maybe having chewed on a chunk of brisket with somebody who has a different political point than yours will make you a bit more empathetic. As Americans, we all have the right of the freedom of expression but that doesn’t mean we have to insult each other.

If I thought it was a possibility, I would send a barbecue plate to our Insult-in-Chief in Washington. Maybe if he consumed a dish of pulled pork with a sliced Vidalia onion on the side, he might understand that he is the president of

all the whole United States of America and not just president of a bunch of angry right-wing zealots. On second thought, I’m not sure there are enough pigs and cows willing to sacrifice their lives at the thought that it could actually happen.

So, applause to Builders Movement for coming up with a civilized way to seek out what unites us rather than what divides us and doing it over a plate of barbecue with all the trimmings. They describe it as a summer event, but I would suggest that barbecue, like love, knows no season. The late American celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain once said, "Barbecue may not be the road to world peace, but it's a start." Amen.

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

Hello. There are so many people moving into Dudley and building houses

in Dudley, that I think I'll move out. Thank you!

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...

"Then came July like three o'clock in the afternoon hot and listless and miserable."

- Allie Ray

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

- Hebrews 11:1-3

To the editor concerning the editor’s note regarding funding for the Dublin City School clinic being funded by a state grant: To me, that’s temporary funding. Does that grant run forever or at some point will DCS have to provide funding? From the taxpayers, will the board roll the dice and kick the can down the road and hope for miracle money to pay for it?



EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

- July 23, 2026 is...
- National Vanilla Ice Cream Day
 - Hot Enough For Ya Day
 - National Refreshment Day
 - Gorgeous Grandma Day

I agree with the comment that was made last week about the landfill on North Jefferson Street. It looks terrible. Really going to give a good impression of our town to newcomers. It needs to be cleaned up or at least an explanation about what’s going on with that company.

Funny, when I drive through Dudley I don’t see all of the issues that someone keeps call in about.

I don't like it when the road I used is changed because of construction. But if it is being done to make my commute better, that's good with me.

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

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GEORGIA TRUST

— for Local News —

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Pam Burney/GENERAL MANAGER

Courtney Vessell/CIRCULATION MANAGER

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

Dublin Police Department

- Miguyel J'Manuel Moss, 39, was charged disorderly conduct at the Loves Truck Stop on Highway 257 around 1:30 a.m. on July 5.

An officer responded to the location after a caller on a passenger bus said another passenger was causing a scene and being aggressive, scaring the other passengers. When the bus arrived at the store, the driver got off and pointed out the passenger he wanted removed from the bus. Moss, who is from Florida, got off the bus.

He was talking gibberish and was not making communicating with the officer, who told him the bus driver did not want him back on the bus. Moss removed his bag and sat it on the ground. He clinched his fist and began to yell. The officer asked Moss several times if he needed medical attention but never received an answer.

Moss slammed a glass bottle on the ground, shattering it. He then took off his clothes down to his under garment and put on other clothes twice. He became aggressive again and picked up his bag and slammed it to the ground and began to dump all of the contents in the parking lot, causing the officer to arrest Moss and transport him to the sheriff's office.

- On July 5, at 1:54 a.m., an officer was dispatched to an apartment at Fair Street in reference to threats with a knife made toward the occupants.

- Dusty Lane White, 31, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked at the intersection of South Washington Street and Madison Street around 4:30 p.m. on June 27.

An officer saw a tan Chevrolet Silverado with a brake light violation. White's license came back as suspended due to child support obligation and failure to appear. White was informed that he would be transported to the police



POLICE BEAT...

department to be fingerprinted and released.

The officer noticed an open container of an adult beverage in the vehicle that was closer to the passenger side of the vehicle. The beverage was mostly full and the passenger had taken a drink of it. The alcoholic beverage was disposed of.

- Wesdeondric Josey, 26, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked at the intersection of North Jefferson Street and West Moore Street around 12:47 a.m. on July 5.

An officer pulled over a Dodge Charger for having a headlight out. Moss told the officer that he believed his driver's license was suspended because of a super speeder citation he had received the previous year.

Josey's information came back as a suspended driver's license. He was arrested and transported to the police department where he was fingerprinted and released on citation.

- Around midnight on June 29, an officer responded to South Jefferson Street in reference to damage.

The officer talked with a woman who saw a hole in her wall from the bedroom and the bathroom from what appears to be a bullet. The investigation led to the arrest of Jamarion Zentorious Stewart, 22. He was charged with reckless conduct.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- A deputy responded to a fraud case that happened on Trailwood Lane around 1:36 p.m. on July 7.

- A theft occurred on Patisaul Road in Rentz around 2:28 p.m. on July 1.

- A deputy responded to a vehicle accident at mile marker 49 on I-16 around 1:09 p.m. on July 5.

- On July 6, around 12:17 p.m., a deputy was dispatched to Wyatt Martin Road in reference to theft of electricity.

- Eric Brandon Doss, 33, was charged with driving under the influence on I-16 at mile marker 39 West around 2:12 p.m. on July 1 after a deputy saw a white Chevrolet Tahoe for window tint and driver brake light not working.

- A vehicle was damaged on Shuman Lane around 11:37 a.m. on July 4.

- Freddie Lee Steward, 30, was charged with driving under the influence at the intersection of Riverview Heights and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive around 3:01 a.m. on July 5.

- Around 12:48 p.m. on July 6, a deputy was dispatched to an accident with injuries on Highway 257.

- A deputy met about an incident that happened on Rockledge Road on June 25.

Editor's note: This information is public record and was taken from reports of local law enforcement agencies. These reports do not reflect guilt or innocence. An "arrest" does not always indicate incarceration. Readers are cautioned that people may have similar names. Police Beat does not identify minor children, victims of sexual assault, suicide attempts or medical conditions. Cases dismissed do not appear if the newspaper is notified before deadline.

Elaris Duo to perform benefit concert at Dublin First Baptist

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

The internationally-acclaimed Elaris Duo, Dr. Larisa Elisha, violin and Dr. Steven Elisha, cello, will perform a benefit concert at Dublin's First Baptist Church, 405 Bellevue Avenue, on Tuesday, July 28 at 6 p.m.

The program includes famous works from the Classical Era, composed for violin and cello by Luigi Boccherini, Franz Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The concert is sponsored by the Bank of Dudley. The proceeds from the ticket sales will benefit the Dublin Youth Vocals and Instruments for the purchase of electric keyboards.

Admission is \$15 general, \$5 student and \$10 advanced ticket sale. For more information, please contact Nadine Allen at dublin-youthvocal@gmail.com or (478) 220-9747

Larisa and Steven Elisha are each internationally acclaimed soloists, chamber musicians and pedagogues. Individually, and together as the Elaris Duo, the Elishas have gained national and international renown, performing in venues that include the Concertgebouw, Karajan Hall-Berlin Philharmonie, Warsaw National Philharmonic, Weil Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, the DiMenna Center for Classical Music in New York, Jerusalem Academy, University of Haifa, Grieg Hall - Bergen International Festival, Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy, National Taiwan University of the Arts, Summit Music Festival, Sunflower Music Festival, and solo appearances with Washington Square Music Festival Orchestra, Hastings Symphony, Topeka Symphony, Gulf Coast Symphony, Lawrence Chamber Orchestra, Sunflower Music Festival Chamber Orchestra and National Taiwan Arts Orchestra.

From a recent review appearing in Sound-Word-Sight Arts Magazine, Mark Greenfest wrote, "The Duo's performance was emotional and poignant and also quite fascinating and memorable...gorgeous sound showing the exquisite tonal control of the performers...the Elaris Duo shines with their golden tone and intimate ensemble...They have a remarkable depth of range and interpretive artistry. "Bill Blankenship of the Topeka Capital-Journal wrote, "Steven and Larisa Elisha [...] bring new meaning to violin and cello music". "Their performances of the Brahms double concerto for violin and cello



The Elaris Duo will perform at Dublin First Baptist on July 28/SPECIAL PHOTO

was revelatory...the Elaris Duo presented a unanimity of phrasing and tonal projection that was stunning in its conception and execution. The synchronicity of the unison passages alone was a marvel" The Elaris Duo's live broadcasts and CD recordings are frequently heard on National Public Radio. As advocates of contemporary music, the duo has premiered new works by Joel Feigin, Malcolm Solomon and other composers.

The Elishas regularly present master classes, workshops, lectures and performances at national and international conferences, universities and conservatories that include the American String Teachers Association National Conference, the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Lithuanian International Music Theory and Composer's Conference, College Music Society Conference, Georgia Music Educators Association Conference, National Orchestra Festival, Jerusalem Academy, University of Haifa, National Taiwan University of the Arts, Grieg Academy and Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy. The duo has been the recipient of a 2018 Global Music Award in the "Duo and New Release" categories for their MSR Classics release, Duo Virtuoso II – Works for Violin and Cello by Honegger, Ravel and Schulhoff, as well as the 2008 Kansas Governor's Arts Award and a Chamber Music America Residency Grant.

While members of the Kansas Arts Commission's Arts on Tour Roster, they were featured artists for the Kansas – 'As Big as You Think' State Tourism campaign, appearing over 600 times on New York's Times Square Building, during the World Cup Championship. Both MSR-Classics releases,

Duo Virtuoso and Duo Virtuoso II, were featured in articles and received critical acclaim from Gramophone, Fanfare Magazine, Atlanta Audio Society, American Record Guide, Malcolm Tattersall's Music & Vision, Turok's Choice, BBC Music and other leading publications. Currently, Steven and Larisa Elisha are Directors of the String Program of the Fred and Dinah Gretsches School of Music at Georgia Southern University, Strings at Southern Music Festival and the Elaris Summer Academy.

Classifieds

Yard/Estate Sales

Huge Estate Yard Sale: August 8th 7am- until. 114 Larsen Street East Dublin. Everything must go! Come & Explore!

Crews elected to leadership GBA board

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Josh Crews, senior vice president of consumer and retail lending at Bank of Dudley, has been elected to serve a three-year term as an At-Large representative on the Leadership GBA Board of Directors.

Leadership GBA supports the advancement of career bankers by providing leadership development training, serving as a forum through which career bankers can network and exchange ideas and promoting industry advocacy activities at the local, state and federal levels.

"Josh's deep banking experience, strong community involvement and commitment to developing others make him an excellent addition to the board," said GBA Chairman Susan Moss, president and CEO of Planters and Citizens Bank in Camilla. "He understands the important role banks and bankers play in communities across



CREWS

our state."

A third-generation banker, Crews has more than 25 years of experience with Bank of Dudley. He joined the bank in 1999 and has held roles in operations, consumer and commercial lending, branch management and security oversight.

Crews earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in finance from Georgia Southern University. He is also a graduate of the Georgia Banking School at the Uni-

versity of Georgia and the Graduate School of Banking at LSU.

Crews is active in the Dublin and Dudley communities. He has served in several leadership roles with the Dublin Exchange Club, including president and board member, and was named Exchangite of the Year. He also serves on the Dudley Little League Board and as vice chairman of the Downtown Dublin Development Authority.

Founded in 1892, the Georgia Bankers Association promotes the general welfare and usefulness of banking and the preservation of a sound banking system. For 134 years, GBA has been the resource that empowers Georgia's banks, providing effective government relations and public advocacy, a community of professional peers, top-quality education and professional development and revenue-enhancing products and services.

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, US Economic Development Administration, Laurens County, City of Dublin, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Laurens County under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation, as required by Executive Order 11990, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the wetland will have on the human environment for a Community Development Block Grant funded by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. This project will include renovations of the Senior Center on 112 Nathaniel Drive, East Dublin, Georgia. Approximately .25 acres of wetland are in the project area. No work is being done outside of the Senior Center to disturb the wetland, and Laurens County has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Laurens County Commissioners Office at 117 E Jackson St., Dublin, GA 31021, on or before August 7, 2026 (478) 272-4755, Attention: Bryan Rogers, County Administrator, during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A full description of the project may also be reviewed at 5405 Oak St., Eastman, GA 31023 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Comments may also be submitted via email at rbennett@hogarc.org.

Date: July 23, 2026

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478-205-5464

PADDED PREVIEW: EL, WL, DUBLIN CONTINUE SEASON COUNTDOWN WITH FOOTBALL JAMBOREES

Another round of padded camps last Tuesday and Wednesday put local football teams on the home stretch of their summer preseason prep work, which concludes for each this week over a final series of workouts that make up the GHSA’s acclimation process – for players, a mandatory precursor to full-contact practices that begin July 27. Similar events were being held all over the state, but much of Middle Georgia converged on Laurens County for a couple of two-day jamborees hosted by East Laurens and Dublin, and a Wednesday-only occasion at West Laurens, that had the participation of 14 schools. The Falcons welcomed Crisp County, along with Central and Southwest Macon, for the second of their two sessions Wednesday, while the Raiders enjoyed the company of Mary Persons, Thomasville, Treutlen, ACE Charter and Charlton County at The SHU. After hosting their first half-pad camp in late June, the Irish had Hawkinsville, Macon County and Vidalia as guests when they opened The Shamrock Bowl once again.



The Falcons’ Lagen Mack takes on a Central Macon blocker/DANNY SCARBORO



East’s Aveone Wicker takes the sweep handoff/DANNY SCARBORO



Thomasville QB Christian Hayes rolls from the Raider pursuit of Braden Willis (94)/HORACE AUSTIN



The Raiders’ Tripp Mascaro turns downfield after a catch/HORACE AUSTIN



Dublin’s Royce Harrell makes a cut between Bulldogs/SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy Dublin City Schools



Irish pass-rusher Jalen Dardy leaps to break up a pass at the line of scrimmage/SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy Dublin City Schools

Macon’s Russell Henley makes another strong finish at The Open

By MICHAEL A. LOUGH
GTLN Sports Correspondent

Russell Henley turned a trip to Northwest England into something of a roller coaster. On the first day, there was a little tentativeness and queasiness, maybe wondering when it would become really fun. The second day was not much fun at all. Then there was the third day, where things finally settled in — and the amusement park ride became fun. The Stratford graduate went from barely missing the cut to barely missing a run for the Claret Jug down the stretch with a sizzling Sunday en route to a tie for ninth at the 154th British Open. “Today, I felt like I played really well,” he said. “I had one bad hole, and other than that, I played really solid. I was just kind of just hoping that eventually my game would show up and that I would get the

scores that I knew I could shoot.” In two days, Henley improved his paycheck by tenfold, ending up with \$336,380, as did Adam Scott, Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen and Ryan Gerard. It pushed him over \$6 million for the year and to \$52.8 million for his career. Had Henley been able to simply make par on No. 16 and 18, it would’ve been worth \$100, or so. The three players tied for sixth earned \$550,883. Nevertheless, Henley returned home after his second-best majors finish of the year, after tying for third in the Masters. It’s his seventh top-10 finish in 46 majors in his career, and third straight in The Open. The PGA Championship remains an issue, having missed three of the last four cuts. Unofficially, the Rocket Classic in Toledo in two weeks is up next for Henley, who is 14th in the Fe-

dEx Cup rankings and fifth in the Official World Golf Ranking. The playoffs start Aug. 13-16 with the FedEx St. Jude Championship in Memphis, followed by the BMW Championship in St. Louis and Tour Championship at East Lake in Atlanta. Henley seems mostly back to form with a strong finish in which he was almost suddenly in contention. “I didn’t really think I was in it, but just because there’s so many guys right around the top,” he said. “It felt good to play well. Any time you can get a good round going over here, you’re doing a lot of things right. You’re managing your game well. You’re managing the wind well. You’re managing the spin well. “Everything is clicking when you can get it in the hole here. So that felt really good.” It wasn’t that Henley played

poorly the first two rounds. “I didn’t feel like I was way off with my game the first two days,” he told reporters. “I just kind of felt like maybe I wasn’t attacking the course, not enough drivers or whatever. Was just enough off to where I wasn’t giving myself birdie looks close enough.” Still, he hovered around the cut line on Friday. “I just felt like everything was there, but this course is tricky,” he said. “I just felt like I was just enough off to not make a bunch of birdies.” He had six birdies before those two bogeys at the end, and they were more frustrating bogeys than usual. On the par-4 No. 16, he missed a putt of less than five feet for par. On the par-4 No. 18, the second-hardest hole of the day, he got out of a fairway bunker nicely, but couldn’t convert on a 12-footer for

par. He finished the tournament 11th on par 5s and 12th on par 4s, struggling on the par 3s. Henley struggled in shots gained off the tee and on approach, and had a below-average weekend in driving accuracy, about eight percentage points below his PGA-leading 72.8 percent. But he boasted that up to normal on Sunday, a clear difference. Henley was a little more aggressive. “I realized watching it on TV guys are just hitting it everywhere and getting away with it,” he said. “I just started hitting some more drivers. “I mean, some of the lines I saw off the tee this week with driver on TV and stuff, and then guys would still make par or birdie. I just realized I’ve got to be a little more aggressive and not go back to playing back so far.”

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

Dear Powers That Be
in the Universe...
Yesterday I heard someone
say that everyone has their
own special gift to offer
the world.

I do not.

Is it possible that
mine got shipped to
someone who now
has two?

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, I'M
CALLING FEDEX.

GARFIELD

I ATE ALL THE FOOD
IN THE HOUSE

YOU DON'T HAVE
TO COOK TONIGHT!

YOU'RE
WELCOME!

OVERBOARD

HEY, THANKS FOR
THESE TERRIFIC
BURGERS!

YOU'RE WELCOME, CHAR.
MY PLEASURE!

WELL, NOW THAT
THEY'RE DONE, LET
ME THANK THE
REAL HERO!

OH, YOU'RE SO NICE TO
SAY THAT, BUDDY! DID
I KEEP YOURS RARE
ENOUGH?

DEFLOCKED

SO, MAMET, WHEN ARE
YOU GOING TO RETURN
MY GOOD SPATULA?

OH -- I THOUGHT
THAT WAS A GIFT.
I KILLED SOME ANTS
WITH IT AND THEN
IT BROKE.

HAND ME MY ARTHRITIS
PILLS SO I CAN STRANGLE
YOU.

BAD TIME TO
DISCUSS MY
ALLOWANCE?

ZIGGY

ANY WISHES,
BESIDES WISHING
I WAS BARBARA
EDEN?

PLUGGERS

Thanks to
Teresa
Maag
Leipsic,
Ohio

A plugger is much more likely to
gut-dial than butt-dial someone.

Boyfriend sings different tune about children

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Adam," and I have been together for four years. We are very much in love and share similar views on most things. We agree that a marriage license is just a piece of paper and our relationship is already a marriage, so we don't need one.

We have also discussed the idea of having children in the future, and we agreed we didn't want any. I have never had the drive to be a mother, although I have been told I would make an excellent one. Even Adam has said it. But we both have been adamant that we don't want children. We love our freedom way too much (or at least I do), not to mention the finances involved, and we want to travel a lot.

Because I can no longer take birth control, I have been considering tying my tubes. Adam volunteered to get a vasectomy because he said he doesn't want me to go in for surgery. Well, this week he confessed that he hasn't gone through with it because he's scared and he still might want a baby.

Adam has flip-flopped back and forth over the last two years about having or not having a child, while I have stayed firm on not wanting any. Should I consider having a child if that's what he wants? I love him. He's the man I see myself growing old with, and I don't want to break his heart. -- PERPLEXED IN



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

CALIFORNIA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Parenthood is a joy that should be embarked upon because you sincerely want a child, not to please your boyfriend. The truth is that motherhood is a lifetime responsibility. It doesn't end when the child turns 21. I implore you not to make such an important decision to please anyone but yourself, because if something happened to Adam, you would have to raise that child alone.

There are other options besides birth control medications you should discuss with your doctor. Unless you are absolutely certain you want to become a mother, you should utilize them religiously.

As to a marriage license "just being a piece of paper," let me point out that it is much more than that. It entitles a spouse to partici-

pate in medical decisions if a husband or wife becomes incapacitated, and it also guarantees rights of inheritance if, heaven forbid, something should happen to either of you. Yes, I know there is such a thing as common law marriage, but a marriage certificate is better -- trust me on that.

DEAR ABBY: We have a morbidly obese 30-year-old grandson (at least 300 pounds) coming for dinner along with family. We don't have any chairs that will accommodate him. We are concerned that he will be embarrassed. Can you help us in handling this dilemma? -- HOSTESS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOSTESS: I'll try. Go online or start calling around to furniture rental companies or catering companies that may have chairs you can rent that will accommodate your grandson. If that isn't an option, consider buying something sturdy, perhaps from a secondhand or thrift store, to have available for him during family gatherings.

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, July 23, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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INSTINCT, PREMONITION, OR GENIUS?

Both vulnerable, North deals

NORTH

♠ Q 10 6

♥ K 8 4

♦ 10 9 3

♣ A J 7 3

WEST

♠ 9 5 4 3 2

♥ Q 9 2

♦ 6 5

♣ Q 6 5

EAST

♠ A 7

♥ A J 10 6 5

♦ J 8 7

♣ 8 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 8

♥ 7 3

♦ A K Q 4 2

♣ K 10 9

The bidding:

NORTH

Pass

3NT

EAST

Pass

DBL

SOUTH

INT

All pass

WEST

Pass

Pass

Opening lead: ♠

Sometimes great players will take actions that are very hard to understand and bridge journalists will try to explain them. We would rather admire this one than try to explain it. East in today's deal was Michal Klukowski, who many consider the best player in the world today. West was his regular partner Jacek Kalita. Klukowski, a passed hand, doubled

the final contract.

Why? There was no partnership agreement about the double. Klukowski surely thought that a heart lead would be best for the defense, but why would his partner find a heart lead? The double suggested a pretty good suit and alerted West that he should try to find it on lead.

Kalita did not think his partner could have "enough" spades to warrant a double and the opponents had not tried to find a major-suit fit, so Kalita decided to lead a heart. Good reasoning, but the two of hearts would not be good enough. South would play low from dummy and could make his contract by guessing the club position. After considerable thought, Kalita led ... the queen of hearts! Declarer was helpless as the defense took the first six tricks for down two. Hats off! At the other table in this team match, West led a spade. East won and shifted to a diamond. Declarer won and ran the 10 of clubs, making sure that the king of hearts in dummy was protected and made 11 tricks.

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

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- 1 Financial obligation
- 5 Halt
- 9 Ghana's capital
- 14 Inactive
- 15 ___ or less
- 16 Former Utah Jazz coach Jerry
- 17 "Don't touch that ___!"
- 18 Seep (out)
- 19 Cookbook author Nosrat
- 20 1982 Alice Walker novel: 3 wds.
- 23 Big tubs
- 24 Actor Epps
- 25 Pungent veggie
- 28 Inland body of water
- 30 Make a choice
- 33 Are real
- 34 Hay bundles
- 35 Nick or dent
- 36 Suffer defeat
- 37 Delicious
- 38 Add to the staff
- 39 Know the ___ and outs
- 40 Trunk of the body
- 41 Spaghetti, for example
- 42 "___: Vegas" (CBS show)
- 43 Black-and-white cookie
- 44 Tract with trees
- 45 Actress Sorvino
- 47 Index ___
- 48 Protagonists: 2 wds.
- 54 God of Islam
- 55 Draped garment
- 56 Clean and orderly
- 58 Blow your top: 2 wds.
- 59 Spoken exam
- 60 Competitive advantage
- 61 Varieties
- 62 Elaborate party
- 63 Amount of medicine
- DOWN
- 1 Accomplished

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
	20			21					22					
			23						24					
25	26	27					28	29			30	31	32	
33						34					35			
36					37					38				
39				40					41					
42				43					44					
		45	46					47						
48	49					50	51				52	53		
54						55				56			57	
58						59				60				
61						62				63				

Created by Stella Zawistowski

- 2 Prepare for publication
- 3 Boring
- 4 Put on the air
- 5 Even-surfaced
- 6 Handyman's items
- 7 Rice-shaped
- 41-Across
- 8 Social equal
- 9 Takes for granted
- 10 Barton of nursing
- 11 Come to an agreement
- 12 Commuting option
- 13 Actress Bancroft
- 21 Throw
- 22 Prison, slangily
- 25 Old artifact
- 26 Nerve-cell projections
- 27 Unlike
- 28 Cowboy's rope
- 29 Countertenor
- 31 Segments
- 32 Good dog's reward

U	P	T	I	C	K			B	L	O	T	C	H
T	A	I	P	E	I			H	E	A	V	E	H
E	N	R	O	L	L			S	O	L	D	E	R
R	E	I	D			O	O	M	P	A		M	E
U	R	N	S			H	O	O	E	Y		S	I
S	A	G				E	M	T	S		A	U	T
				C	A	R	P	E		R	A	C	E
				M	O	N	T	H		J	E	R	K
				P	A	L	T	Z		T	O	P	P
				C	R	I	E	S		M	A	K	O
				Y	E	N	S		P	A	P	E	R
				P	S	I			A	V	A	S	T
				R	E	D	W	I	N	E	S		A
				U	N	E	A	T	E	N		G	A
				S	T	A	N	D	S			E	X

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- 34 Totally naked
- 37 Jewish holy text
- 38 Became solid
- 40 Burning sticks
- 41 Dessert wine
- 44 Too easily achieved
- 46 Not suitable
- 47 Gem weight unit
- 48 Periodicals, for short
- 49 ___ gobi (curry dish)
- 50 Since: 2 wds.
- 51 Highly unusual
- 52 Make over
- 53 Droops
- 57 Golf ball support

SUDOKU

5		4		8				9
1	8				9	4		
			2	4		6		
				6		3	8	
	2		5		8			
					6			
	7							1
		2		3	1	8	6	4

Level: Intermediate

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!

4	6	8	1	5	7	2	9	3
3	1	2	9	6	7	8	4	5
5	6	7	9	2	8	4	1	3
7	4	6	8	1	5	9	3	2
2	8	9	6	7	9	6	1	4
1	5	9	6	7	2	8	6	7
8	3	5	4	7	1	6	9	2
9	2	4	7	9	6	1	8	5
6	7	1	2	8	9	4	3	5

ANSWER

COUNTY COMMISSION

Continued from page 1

application," said Manning, who later admitted that section of the grant application "could have been written better."

Residents came prepared with research and prepared statements on the detrimental effects that data centers can have on communities, ranging from harm to wildlife and livestock to depleted water supplies and diminished quality of life from constant noise and light.

"We're here to demand that data centers be banned outright. Not delayed. No moratoriums," said Vonda Morton, one of almost a dozen residents who addressed the board. "We're being proactive, not reactive. ... We do not want and we do not need data centers in Laurens County."

Rae Bloodworth also asked that the commission adopt "protective ordinances" for when a data center does try to locate here.

"Please protect our resources," she said.

Rogers encouraged residents to contact their commissioners with concerns



County Commission Chairman Jimmy Rogers told the crowd that the commission is not recruiting or promoting a data center at the Mohawk plant or anywhere/PAYTON TOWNS III

rather than accept rumors on social media. He blamed the data center controversy on "misinformation" spread for political purposes.

"We don't hide 'behind closed doors' or meet in 'backrooms,'" Rogers said. "When misinformation gets out, it runs like wildfire."

The chairman noted that social media posts about the

potential data center included messages encouraging the public to show up for a county commission meeting last Monday that was never scheduled. County Administrator Bryan Rogers and County Attorney Brad Childers stayed after-hours to inform the eight to 10 people who showed up that there was no meeting.

Joe Powers, the Democrat candidate for state representative for District 155, admitted to being "the person who created this conversation," saying he posted about the application to generate community involvement.

Powers asked that the commission consider an 18-month moratorium on



Lynn Whittle of West Point Beverage voices concern over an application for another liquor store on Industrial Boulevard /PAYTON TOWNS III

data centers and related businesses.

In other business, the commission:

- Tabled consideration of an alcohol license at 55 Industrial Boulevard after objections were raised to the application.

- Heard a presentation from Makayla Hughes, an intern with the Laurens County Extension Service. Hughes described her work this summer, which ranged

from showing livestock to teaching "farm-to-table" lessons to youngsters. Hughes thanked the commission for providing funding for the internship.

- Voted to deed several parcels of property on Stanley Cemetery Road, formerly used as right of way, back to the landowners.

- Renewed a rental agreement with the State Properties Commission for the driver's license facility.

CHURCH BELL

Continued from page 1

church would like to have a timer to ring the bell at certain times. But since that is still a work in progress, he added that the main thing about Sunday's celebration was having the bell ring out once again.

"We'd like to have the bell sound with different tones and people will be able to hear it," Davis said. "To see all of the people turn out, it was such a wonderful occasion. I think people in the community were glad to hear the bell ringing again, which was like renewing history."

The First AB Church was

built in 1867 and re-built in 1914. The bell was installed in December 1920. Davis said C1 Contracting Co. in Eastman and Chuck White's Clock and Carillon Co. out of Sharpsburg, Ga., did the restoration.

Davis thanked Richards, Miriam Lewis, with Visit DublinGA, Jason Faircloth, Jenna Riddle, all with Leadership Georgia Class of 2026, Khadine Ritchie, with The Home Depot in Dublin, Seth Adams, with Britt, Peters & Associates, Inc., Dylan Connell, with C1 Construction, LLC, Chuck White, with White's Clock & Carillon, Garbutt Construction Co., Dublin Construction

Co. Inc., and all of the donors that contributed to the project.

Kaden Johnson, 12, a member of church, welcomed everyone to the ceremony, saying that church bells used to bring people together.

"They have called families to worship, celebrated joyful moments and reminded communities of God's presence," Johnson said. "Today, we celebrate the restoration of our historic church bell, so its voice can ring out once again for generations to come. ... May its sound not only call people to church, but also lead hearts to Christ."



Jenna Riddle, a member of Leadership Georgia's class of 2026 and native of Laurens County, speaks at the bell-ringing ceremony. Leadership Georgia raised money to help fund the bell's restoration/PAYTON TOWNS III

Georgia building first state psychiatric hospital since landmark disability case

By ELLIE FIVAS
Georgia Recorder

After spending 16 years moving away from a psychiatric care system centered on institutionalization, state officials are preparing to build Georgia's largest state hospital in decades.

More than 700 Georgians in the criminal justice system are currently waiting for a spot in a state psychiatric facility, according to Kevin Tanner, commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. That's why state lawmakers made room for \$409 million in the budget for a 300-bed forensic state hospital, which will be built near Georgia Regional Hospital, located in south DeKalb County, during the 2026 legislative session earlier this year.

The waiting list is putting pressure on county jails across Georgia. According to Tanner, the hospital will serve only forensic patients — people who have a mental illness or disability and have been charged with or convicted of a crime. When lawmakers announced the hospital project at a February press conference, several sheriffs were standing alongside them.

Tanner said patients come to state hospitals in two main ways. In Georgia, when a judge decides that a person charged with a crime isn't fit to stand trial because of a psychiatric condition or a disability, they order the person into a state-run long-term hospital. Similarly, some individuals with a mental illness or disability are found not guilty because of their mental state — courts also order these people into state care.

But when state hospitals are at capacity, forensic patients who cannot be admit-

ted are forced to remain in local law enforcement custody, usually waiting months for their court-mandated place in a state hospital.

Putnam County Sheriff Howard Sills, along with other local law enforcement across the state, sees the effects of this backlog every day.

According to Sills, one Putnam County inmate with a psychiatric illness sat in her 5-by-10 foot cell for over a year while waiting for a state hospital bed before she was admitted to Central State Hospital in June.

Sills, who's been sheriff for nearly 30 years, said he worries long-term detainment threatens the civil rights of the patients.

"It is my belief ... that it is unconstitutional to keep a person in a penal institution if they are mentally ill and incompetent to stand trial," he said. "I'm holding this person here, in my opinion, in violation of the Constitution of the United States."

While Sills said he's pleased about the new hospital, he is skeptical that just 300 beds will solve the issue facing county jails and hopes more facilities for forensic patients will be built in the future.

Tanner said the shortage is motivating the department to finish the new hospital as soon as possible. While a facility of this scale typically takes 36 months to be completed, he said the department hopes to expedite the process.

"We need the bed capacity today," Tanner said. "As soon as we can get the hospital open, the better it will be for the system."

Tanner said the department has already secured Atlanta architectural firm Jericho Design Group and Batson-Cook Construction

to work on the project.

The new hospital has been in the works for several years, Tanner said. A 2023 capacity study predicted that without an additional facility, the state would be unable to accept any more patients by 2034, since many spend the rest of their lives in a state hospital.

For now, the facility will only serve forensic patients. But Tanner left open the possibility for the hospital to treat other types of patients in the future.

"We'll design the hospital to be able to house either population, but for the foreseeable future, it will be just a forensic population," Tanner said. "We don't want to design a hospital that couldn't be used for adult mental health patients when needed."

An April settlement addresses long wait for forensic healthcare

Tanner and other state government officials have been under pressure to address the backlog from mental health and disability advocates along with county sheriffs.

In April, the department reached an agreement with the Georgia Advocacy Office and the Southern Center for Human Rights to reduce the amount of time forensic patients spend waiting in jails.

"This agreement is a critical step toward prioritizing treatment over incarceration and restoring dignity and due process for people with mental illness who are arrested swiftly and then stranded in jail simply because the system did not respond in time," said Atteyah Hollie, deputy director of the Southern Center of Human Rights, in an April press release.

By the time the agree-

ment expires in late 2029, the department must have each forensic patient evaluated within 30 days and admit them to an appropriate restoration program within another 30 days.

For county officials like Sills, the Putnam County sheriff, the department will also be required to provide training, education and other support related to engaging with forensic patients.

While the new hospital did not emerge from the April settlement, Georgia Advocacy Office Litigation Director Devon Orland said the two are related and the hospital will be a temporary solution to some issues cited in the agreement.

Georgia's complicated legacy of institutionalization

Funding the hospital created buzz when the state Senate first unveiled it in February. Additionally, a week prior, a federal judge released the state from part of a 2010 settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, which Tanner hailed at the time as a "historic moment."

The settlement had originated from a landmark court case: in 1999, the Supreme Court ruled in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that unjustified institutionalization of people with disabilities violates the Americans with Disabilities Act. The two Georgia plaintiffs were unlawfully held at Georgia Regional Hospital.

The court's decision led to what is known as the *Olmstead* settlement agreement between the federal government and Georgia, which has guided expansive reforms to the state's mental health and disability care for nearly two decades. The settlement mandated that Georgia develop a network

of more localized health services for these patients, often referred to as a community-based care system, rather than relying on institutions.

Now, after a federal judge decided to release Georgia from part of the agreement in February, there will be less oversight over how the state provides services for people with behavioral health issues.

While some lawmakers tied the new hospital announcement to the release, Tanner clarified to the Recorder that the agreement did not govern forensic services and the hospital could have been built regardless.

However, the commissioner said the media attention created a "springboard" for the project.

"I'm obviously not in the minds of policymakers and legislators," Tanner said. "But I do feel like there is a general feeling that it's good timing to be able to build a hospital now that we're out of the settlement agreement."

ROUNDAABOUT

Continued from page 1

the county, have not been because of people speeding," Evans said. "It is because somebody comes up to the roundabout, slams on brakes and doesn't know what to do. The vehicle behind them ends up hitting them."

When the new roundabout opens for traffic at the end of the month, there will be two roundabouts in almost eyesight of each other. A few years ago, the city had a roundabout placed at the intersection of Claxton Dairy Road at Moore Street.

"I think we've had zero issues right there that I know of," Evans said. "A lot of people have made comments that we basically have two on the same street. They will help with the traffic flow, and it will keep traffic moving."

"Nobody wants to sit at a stop sign trying to figure out who goes next. I think once it is opened, everybody will see how efficient it will be."

CELEBRATING
63
ANNIVERSARY

OPEN

THE
MINUTE GRILL

BACK IN THE DAY - SINCE 1963

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Join us on August 1st, 2026 as we celebrate 63 years in business as Dublin, Georgia's original All-American Burger Joint!

63¢

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Offer exclusive to August !!

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M-F 10:15 AM - 4:30 PM | SAT 10:15 AM - 3 PM