

Laurens voters to decide on new sales tax

FLOST could cut county property taxes in half, eliminate city taxes

By KYLE DOMINY
Staff Reporter

Local officials have long touted Dublin-Laurens County's status as a hub for retail, healthcare and other services, as well as our centralized location along I-16 making us the perfect place for weary travelers to make a pitstop. This, coupled with growing interest in Dublin as a top spot for youth sports, especially baseball, means a lot of people are visiting the area. This high volume of visitors makes sales tax collections across Laurens County a lucrative endeavor. Shoppers currently pay 8 percent in sales tax. Half goes to the state while the rest, at 1 percent each, goes to voter approved special purposes, such as funding transportation infrastructure initiatives and school capital im-



Swimmers enjoy the water park at Southern Pines. Events at Southern Pines draw high volumes of out-of-town visitors, who along with travelers on nearby Interstate 16 spend and pay local sales taxes while here/PAYTON TOWNS III, File

provement projects. Local officials are now asking voters to consider an additional 1 percent sales tax aimed at lowering property tax rates across the county and its seven municipalities. Laurens County is one of the latest Georgia counties to ask voters for the new Floating Local

Option Sales Tax – a penny tax on purchases authorized by Georgia HB 581, which went into effect in 2025. Money collected through the tax would go directly toward lowering area property taxes for homeowners, businesses and even farms. "FLOST can only be used to lower property taxes," said state Rep. Matt Hatchett. "Based on the number of people who come into Laurens County it's a win. It's a win for any county." State lawmakers have made property tax relief a priority in recent years, working to limit how much local governments can increase property values without dampening tax digest growth. HB 581 attempts to do just that, limiting property evaluations to no more than the rate of inflation and allowing for the sales tax to make up for potential losses in revenue. Each dollar collected through the new tax, however, must be met with a reduction in property tax collections.

SALES TAX
Continued on page 8

EL Band of Gold to play the hits of the Jackson 5

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The East Laurens Band of Gold will bring the sounds of the Jackson 5 to the field this year. Band director Jaimee Blanchett has 65 students. She meets with her student leadership every morning at 7:30 a.m. during band camp, which ran from July 20-31. "We were talking about how much fun everybody was having," Blanchett said. "Today is the fourth day of 10 hour days, and they are tired. But they are excited and ready for the season." Blanchett decided that she really wanted the band to do some Motown and thought the Jackson 5 would be good for her students to march to on the field. "It's good to expose the students to some great artists," she said. "Michael Jackson is by far the king of pop." And with the movie "Michael" hitting the screens this past summer, it was a good time to bring Jack-

son's music to the students' attention. "Several of the band members got together and went to watch the movie," Blanchett said. "It was a good bonding time." The Band of Gold will open with "I Want You Back." They will play the ballad "I'll Be There," followed by "Never Can Say Goodbye," before closing with the classic hit "ABC." "We're hoping through some energetic body movement, some expressive choreography and vibrant visual designs, our show is going to be entertaining and really heartfelt," Blanchett said. "We'll have large props on the field again. We are going to have visual effects to help transform this whole field into a stage that is hopefully worthy of the Jackson 5 and their unforgettable style and energy." Drum majors Maggie Foskey and Emaurie Nino, both seniors, will lead the band on the field. Foskey moved up to this position after serving as band captain last year.



Members of the Band of Gold practice drills for their halftime show during band camp/PAYTON TOWNS III

"This is pretty cool," Foskey said. "It's good to get to lead everybody and watch them grow. Band camp has been really fun and our leadership has been really good too." Foskey, who plays clarinet, is excited about the halftime show. "We played some Michael Jackson songs a couple of years ago," she said. "With the Jackson 5, everybody likes the music and it is really catchy." Nino, who plays bari-

tone, has also enjoyed his new role as a drum major. "I feel like we're coming along well as a band and I'm stepping into this role more and getting more comfortable with people," he said. "It's coming along great so far. Our group is more connected this year and the morale is really high. We're more excited and they are very hard working. They are all putting in the effort to



BAND OF GOLD
Continued on page 8
Drum major Maggie Foskey helps a fellow band member find the right spot on the field/PAYTON TOWNS III

Laurens' Moss returns home to help first responders with PTSD

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A former Laurens County man recently returned here to share knowledge and advice for first responders dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. In a busy hallway in the main building of the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Tim Moss recently set up a display to promote his books. Moss, who graduated from East Laurens High School in 1984, said it felt

good to be back in town. "It's always good to come back home," said Moss, who served in the U.S. Air Force. "It is really humbling." PTSD is a big issue with veterans who have flashbacks and do not want to deal with the trauma. First responders are in the same boat, Moss said. "First responders really put their heart out there and they have a desire to serve the community," he said. "The veterans get the focus while first responders do



Tim Moss' books were on display during his visit to the Dublin VA/PAYTON TOWNS III

not usually get that because we believe they are fine. If they have issues, they don't bring them up." Many cannot name their trauma. "Your brain wants to heal and when you calm down, your brain wants you to talk about this," Moss

said. "You get up, can't sleep and start drinking or taking medications. When it comes to most veterans, they have a habit of taking more pills than needed." According to Moss, the body is designed to deal with one trauma a lifetime. First responders are dealing

with more. "They don't want to feel like they are crazy or weak," he said. "It's not an issue of weakness. The body is trying to survive and work through the experience. The

PTSD HELP
Continued on page 8

Dublin CWC hosts 'Treasure Hunt' luncheon

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

All ladies are invited to the Dublin Country Club on Thursday, Aug. 27, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.. to join us for an exciting August “Treasure Hunt.”

A delicious buffet lunch will be served, with lovely buffet music provided by talented pianist Brenda Holloway.

We will be treated to a sampling of the beautiful antiques, home décor, artwork, and collectibles that can be found at Emerald City Treasures and Emerald City Treasures, Too! Co-owners Nicole Yanken and Jeana LaRock Dean have turned each of these Dublin antique malls into a destination for treasure hunters!

Musical entertainment will be provided by Fredia Blanchette and her daughter, Lee Pohto. Fredia has loved music her whole life and spent many years directing children’s, youth and adult choirs. Lee is a speech pathologist at Fairview Hospital. She inherited her love of music from her mother. Their harmony of voices and a very close family is truly a treasure!

We are excited to present as our guest speaker Marilyn Sitton from Richmond

Hill, Georgia. She is a former beauty queen, a top 10 finalist in the Miss Indiana State Pageant of the Miss America Pageant. As a professional model, she was featured in Glamour Magazine. She was an antique store owner for several years and still enjoys “treasure hunting” in antique stores whenever possible. She will share the priceless nuggets of wisdom she has gleaned through the years through “Expectations, Disappointments, and Joy.”

This event is sponsored by the Dublin Christian Women’s Connection. Each month, this group hosts a luncheon with a fun theme, great music, door prizes, and an inspiring speaker.

All ladies of the community are welcomed to come and enjoy a great meal and a chance to make new friends. The cost is \$21, inclusive.

Reservations must be made by Monday, Aug. 24, at 5:00 pm by calling Emily at 478-278-7829. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Merle Norman Cosmetics at 1801 Rice Avenue for sponsoring our invitations.

Invite a friend, make your reservations, and join the Treasure Hunt!

Discover the magic of the honeybee

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Dublin After Five Women’s Connection cordially invites all ladies to join us at the Dublin Country Club on Thursday, August 27, 2026, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for an evening filled with fellowship, music and inspiration.

Beekeeping is the world’s oldest profession. Someone has said “the work the bee does is worth more than all the gold in the world”. Bees have a history and importance that has always fascinated humanity. A local beekeeper, Spencer Bryan of Dexter, will be sharing some of his beekeeping experiences and the importance of the honeybee.

Life is a journey that brings a mix of letdowns and happiness. Billy Graham said, “unless we learn



SITTON

to deal with disappointment, it will rob us of joy and poison our soul.”

Guest speaker Marilyn Sitton of Richmond Hill, Georgia, will speak on the topic “Expectations, Disappointments, and Joy”. Marilyn will share how life left her challenged after she suffered from amnesia following an accident. She grew up in Indiana and

spent most of her adult life in Atlanta area. Marilyn is a former beauty queen, ballroom dancer, model and was a feature in Glamour magazine. Come and hear how Linda eventually found joy and fulfillment in life.

Trent Hester, a dentist at Middle Georgia Family Dentistry, will be sharing his gifted singing talent with us. Our buffet music will be provided by the talented Regina Rowe.

Please call Dianne (478)272-6341 or Marge (478)875-3948 for reservations or cancellations by Tuesday, August 25, 2026. The buffet cost is \$21.00, inclusive, and requires a reservation. We ask that you honor your reservation, cancel it or give it to a friend. The printing of our invitations is a courtesy and generosity of Vallant Bank.

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Aug. 31, 2005, the World Music Awards honored Destiny’s Child as the best-selling female group of all time, having sold more than 50 million records globally, including four No. 1 hits and 10 top-10 songs on the Billboard Top 100.

* On Sept. 1, 1917, American soldier Stull Holt wrote a letter home in which he described some of his battlefield experiences on the Western Front in Verdun, France. The most arresting part of his missive recounted being struck by a shell containing poisonous gas, which he likened to "the extreme terror of the man who goes under in the water and will clutch at a straw."

OBITUARIES

Rega McRae

Miss Rega McRae of Dublin, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete but will be announced later.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin. servicesbydudley.com.

Johnny A. Warthen

Mr. Johnny A. Warthen of Wrightsville, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete but will be announced later.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin. Servicesbydudley.com.

Carol Rowland

Carol Rowland passed away Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026 at Fairview Park Hospital. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time but will be announced later. Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.

Jeremy Nascimento

Jeremy Nascimento passed away Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026 at Fairview Park Hospital. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time but will be announced later. Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.

BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 18
Matt Lybrand
Marsha Perry
Teresa Upshaw

Aug. 19
Wilful Jean Davis

* On Sept. 2, 1945, Vietnamese communist Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam's independence from France hours after Japan's surrender in World War II, though it would take another 30 years for his vision of a united communist Vietnam to become a reality.

* On Sept. 3, 1935, professional bowler Andrew Varipapa, considered by many "the greatest one-man bowling show on Earth" for his trick shot artistry still emulated by modern bowlers, set a record of 2,652 points in 10 games.

* On Sept. 4, 476 A.D., Romulus Augustulus, the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, was deposed by Odoacer, a German barbarian who declared himself the king of Italy, presaging what many historians consider the fall of the Roman Empire.

* On Sept. 5, 1957, New York Times writer Gilbert Millstein delivered a rave review for "On the Road," the second novel by a Columbia University dropout Jack Kerouac. As his girlfriend, writer Joyce Johnson, quipped to a reporter, "Jack went to bed obscure and woke up famous." Though he wrote a total of more than 25 books, "On the Road" remains his most noteworthy.

* On Sept. 6, 1651, King Charles II of England, after losing the Battle of Worcester and his attempt to reclaim the British throne, disguised himself by cutting his hair, staining his skin with walnut oil, donning peasant clothes, and spending a day hiding in an oak tree while searchers passed beneath him, before eventually making a successful escape to France.

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2026 Nutcracker auditions at Theatre Dublin



A favorite Christmastime tradition kicked off over the weekend as dancers from across the region auditioned for the 2026 production of The Nutcracker at Theatre Dublin /SPECIAL PHOTOS



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Carl Vinson VA Medical Center receives funding for continued infrastructure improvements

By FRANK JORDAN
Carl Vinson VA Medical Center

The Carl Vinson VA Medical Center received funding for Non-recurring Maintenance projects in the third quarter of fiscal year 2026, after receiving funds earlier in the year. The funding is part of a record \$4.8 billion in nationwide VA spending to modernize, repair, and improve health care facilities in FY2026 via the Veterans Health Administration's Non-recurring Maintenance program. Funding projects for Dublin VA in the third quarter of FY2026 are:

- Correct Critical Roofs and Exterior Wall Deficiencies Dublin (Carl Vinson)
- Correct Safety and FCA Deficiencies in Building 2 with Renovation of Kitchen for Nutrition and Food Service Dublin (Carl Vinson)
- EHRM Infrastructure Data Center Upgrades-Dublin, Dublin (Carl Vinson)

- Renovate Building 9A for EHRM Administrative Space Dublin (Carl Vinson)
- Renovate Urgent Care Dublin (Carl Vinson)

“This funding allows Carl Vinson to continue modernizing and improving, so our facility remains safe, efficient, and equipped to provide high-quality care for our Veterans in Middle and South Georgia,” said Chandra Miller. Of the total \$4.8 billion committed for fiscal year 2026, VA has obligated a total of \$2.2 billion. That obligation of funds in the third quarter includes:

- \$915 million to repair and upgrade outdated infrastructure systems in medical facilities.
- \$229 million for maintenance and modernization of facility infrastructure to support future electronic health record system updates.
- \$11 million for major building upgrades like elevators, electrical systems, and boiler plants.

This investment is just one of many ways the Trump

Administration is making VA work better for Veterans. For example, VA has:

- Enrolled more than 180,000 new Veterans in VA health care in 2026.
- Opened 38 new VA health care facilities since Jan. 20, 2025, expanding health care access for Veterans around the country.
- Reduced the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by 72% since Jan. 20, 2025, after it increased 24% during the Biden Administration. In February, this backlog fell to less than 100,000 claims for the first time since 2020.
- Offered Veterans more than 2.8 million appointments outside of normal operating hours. These early-morning, evening, and weekend appointments are giving Veterans more timely and convenient options for care.
- Permanently housed 51,936 homeless Veterans across the country in FY25, the highest total in seven years.



Georgia Farm Bureau President Tom McCall, right, and his wife, Jane, left, present Rep. Lynn Smith with the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Commodity Award during the organization's annual commodity conference held Aug. 13 in Tifton/Courtesy of Georgia Farm Bureau

State Rep. Lynn Smith receives Georgia Farm Bureau award

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

MACON – Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) presented Rep. Lynn Smith its 2026 GFB Commodity Award during the annual GFB Commodity Conference held Aug. 13 at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. The GFB Commodity Award, one of the organization's highest honors, is given to individuals who have supported and promoted Georgia agriculture. The GFB Board of Directors selects the award recipient from nominees submitted by the organization's commodity advisory committees. “Lynn always kept the interest of farmers’ success in the forefront of policy decision that came before her committee,” said GFB President Tom McCall. “Her leadership and passion for Georgia and the state's invaluable and varied natural resources will be carried into the future for generations to come.” A Florida native, Smith is a University of Georgia graduate, a former educator, business owner who completed her 30th year in the Georgia House of Representatives earlier this year representing Georgia District 70. Since being elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1996, Smith has been a trusted champion for Georgia's farmers, foresters, and rural communities. She served as chairwoman of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee beginning in 2005. During her tenure, she led efforts to protect Georgia's natural resources while supporting the continued growth of the state's agricultural economy. Smith helped establish Georgia's regional water planning framework. Beginning with the Flint River Drought Protection Act and legislation introduced in 2002 and culminating in the successful implementation of regional water planning in 2008, she helped create what she described as “the bridge” that provided state agencies with the tools needed to develop long-term, science-based water management solutions for Georgia's future. During her three decades in the House, she also served on the Appropriations, Rules, and Reapportionment committees. In addition to her service in the Georgia House, Smith served as chair of the Southern Legislative Conference Energy and Environment Committee and is a member of the Southern States Energy Board. After earning her degree from UGA in 1968, Smith worked as a teacher, including a stint at Newnan High School, where she taught French, history and civics. She and her late husband, Charles, were married more than 52 years. A master gardener, Smith lives in Newnan, attends Central Baptist Church and enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren. Founded in 1937, Georgia Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization and has 158 county offices. Its volunteer members actively participate in local, state and national activities that promote agriculture awareness to their non-farming neighbors. GFB offers its members a wide variety of benefits, including insurance, but enrollment in any of the member benefits is optional and not a requirement for membership.

Fairview Park Hospital welcomes inaugural class of UGA medical students

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Fairview Park Hospital was honored to welcome the inaugural class of the University of Georgia School of Medicine as part of the medical school's orientation and rural healthcare experience. Ninety medical students, faculty members, and university leaders visited the hospital for a three-hour immersive tour designed to introduce them to the unique opportunities and impact of practicing medicine in a rural community. During their visit, students toured several key service areas, including the Emergency Department, Cardiology Cath Lab, Women's Services, Intensive Care Unit, and Inpatient Rehabilitation. They also met with hospital executives, physicians, and clinical leaders to gain a firsthand understanding of how a community hospital delivers high-quality, comprehensive care to patients across Dublin and the surrounding region. The visit provided students with valuable insight into the essential role rural hospitals play in expanding access to healthcare while highlighting the collaboration, innovation, and personal connections that define rural medicine. Experiences like these also support Fairview Park Hospital's ongoing commitment to developing relationships with future physicians and strengthening the rural healthcare workforce. "It was a privilege to welcome the inaugural class of the University of Georgia School of Medicine to Fairview Park Hospital," said Brad Griffin, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Fairview Park Hospital. "We were honored to give these future physicians an opportunity to experience rural healthcare firsthand—not just by touring our facilities, but by meeting the dedicated physicians, nurses, and team members who provide exceptional care to our community every day. Rural hospitals play a vital role in the health and well-being of millions of Americans, offering unique opportunities to build meaningful relationships with patients and



make a lasting impact. We hope this visit inspires these students to recognize the value, challenges, and rewards of practicing medicine in rural communities and perhaps even consider making rural healthcare part of their own future." The University of Georgia School of Medicine was established to help address Georgia's growing physician shortage by educating future physicians who are committed to serving communities across the state. Through experiences like this rural healthcare tour, the school seeks to inspire students to pursue careers in underserved and rural areas where access to quality healthcare is needed most.



Minute Grill marks 63 years

The Minute Grill celebrated its 63rd anniversary on Aug. 1. People lined up for burgers, fries, drinks and hotdogs that cost 63 cents that day. We had a fun and exciting day celebrating The Minute Grill's 63 years of service. Friends, family and customers traveled from near and far to make this milestone truly unforgettable. This was just our way of saying thank you for supporting us through the decades," said owner Donna Shinholster/SPECIAL PHOTOS



Band camps bring back good - if not heated - memories

While local football teams have been out all summer preparing for the upcoming football season, the marching bands spent July getting ready to entertain their fans when the Friday night lights turn on in a few weeks.

Band camp is always a trip down memory lane for me. I spent four years attending band camp at Baldwin High School. I can remember having to be on the practice field from 8 a.m. to noon before eating lunch and having inside sectionals from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. I then had a two hour break before having to return for the final two hours of the day at 6 p.m.

I don't recall it being as hot then as it is now when I head out to find out about the upcoming season for the Dublin, East Laurens and West Laurens high schools bands.

First, I had to find them. One would think that is easy, but it can prove difficult at times. Some of our local bands have to share the fields with football teams. And like anyone who has been trying to deal with the heat this summer, nobody wants to be out during the hottest parts of the day.

Because Dublin began the school year first, new band director Anthony Williams had to start band camp in the middle of July. Because of scheduling, the Dublin Fighting Irish Marching Band practiced in the Shamrock Bowl. It was a very toasty Thursday afternoon when I caught up with the band as they marched from the gym to the Shamrock Bowl.

Thankfully, I had talked with Williams in the air conditioning band room earlier that day. Now all I had to do was take some pictures and



By PAYTON TOWNS III

make my way back to my car.

I watched as Williams clapped and led the band in drills on the far end of the football field. They marched along the warm-turf-field, while the auxiliary team practiced their routines on another side of the facility.

I was sweating more than I did when I had to trim a bush in front of my house a few weeks ago. Thankfully I made it to my car and looked forward to my next band camp experience, which just happened

to be at West Laurens that next Tuesday.

Before I made my way to check out the Raider Brigade, I received a call to slow my roll. It seemed that bulldozers were on the track to do some work. While the construction work is not bad, it did delay the band from taking the field.

A few hours later, on another plot of hot turf, I watched as the West Laurens band ran through its practice during band camp at The Shu. The heat was once again pouring down as West Laurens band director Richard Horne quickly went through a drill for a part of the halftime show.

The little breeze that was blowing did nothing to cool me down as I took pictures and made my way back to my car.

Almost 48 hours later, I pulled up to East Laurens soccer field and saw nobody. After driving to the new ELHS football field, I put in a call to band director Jaimee Blanchett to tell her I could not find them.

I had looked everywhere but the old ELHS football

field, which is where they were. The Band of Gold was on a water break when I walked up, but they were quickly called to attention and began learning a drill as I talked with Blanchett about this year's halftime show.

While all of our local bands had to deal with the heat, there was something else they had in common. They are all playing at least one Michael Jackson song. In fact, the Band of Gold's halftime theme is the Jackson 5.

And just like the other bands, I took pictures before returning to my car and turning the air conditioner on to full blast. I am always glad to have the chance to walk down memory lane by attending band camps and having the chance to sweat one more time.

On second thought, I'll take the memories of band camp and leave the hot weather for the young musicians.

It is time for football, so strike up the band.



Some thoughts on love and loving well

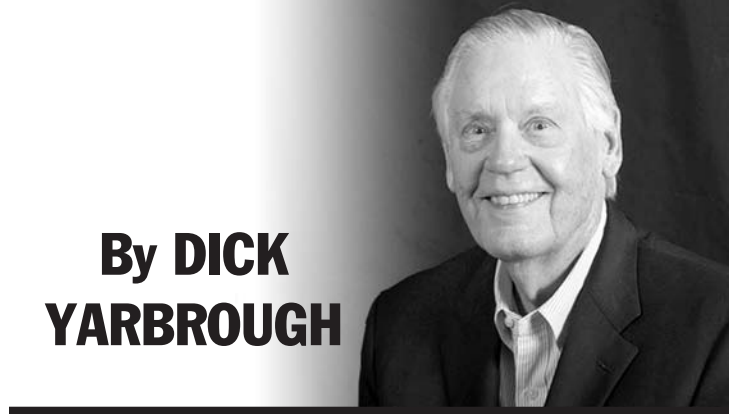
A change of pace today. I am going to give politics and those who practice it the week off. They aren't going anywhere and I am tired of them and their blather. Instead, let's talk about love. Love? Yes, love.

Dr. Bill Burch, my spiritual guide and Preacher Extraordinaire, whose efforts to save my sorry soul have been commendable but remain a work in progress, recently broached the subject in his weekly post.

He said, "Life is judged by a simple question, 'Did I love well?' At the end of each day as we drift off to sleep, we ask, 'Did I love well today?' At the end of our lives as we drift off to death, we ask, 'Did I love well?'" How do we respond to that? As we drift off to sleep, do we say, "I'm going to bed mad and I'm going to wake up mad and I'm going to be mad all day." Or, as we drift off to death, do we say, "I wonder if all that stuff I got mad about over the years was really that important?"

My mother had an iron-clad rule about love. The last words she and my dad spoke before going to sleep at night were, "I love you." Nothing after that. If either were to pass away during the night, the other would remember the last thing they ever said to each other.

We sometimes toss the term around like a Frisbee. We love certain TV shows. We love weekends. We love football. We love cooking



By DICK YARBROUGH

out. As for me, I love banana pudding, the University of Georgia and anything Ray Charles Robinson, of Albany, Georgia, has ever sung, especially "Georgia on my Mind."

But love is deeper than that. In the famous passage in 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul says that love is patient and kind, not jealous or proud or selfish or easily angered. That is real love.

Speaking of love, it is mentioned 574 times in the New International Version of the Bible. Those of us who identify ourselves as being of the Christian faith would do well to read closely, including Christ's admonition to love others as you love yourself. Easy to say. Hard to do. According to my mail, some self-proclaimed Christians are still at the eye-for-an-eye stage.

The author and theologian C. S. Lewis identified four types kinds of love: Romantic, Affectionate, Friendship and Uncondi-

tional, or Agape. Some other sources slice love up into seven parts, including ego, or self-love, a trait most commonly exhibited by our intrepid public servants in Washington and elsewhere. (Oops! I think I said no politics today. My bad.)

I didn't always treat the subject as seriously as I should. It was my very first class in college at what was then Georgia State College, now Georgia State University, in Atlanta. Fall quarter. Freshman English. 8 a.m. An environment begging for some levity.

Somehow the subject was love although to this day, I'm still not sure how love fit in among conjugating verbs and present participles. Frankly, I didn't love either one, especially at 8 o'clock in the morning.

The professor said love could not be simply defined. I said yes it could and belted out "Love is a Many Splendored Thing." The class thought it was hilari-

ous. I did, too. Not surprisingly, the professor was not amused and I was asked to gather my belongings and leave.

Great. One week in school and I am about to be out of school and trying to explain to my parents that, unlike my strait-laced brother who had sailed through college, I didn't last a month. Fortunately, a little humility on my part and a lot of forgiveness on the professor's part and I was allowed back in and decided to stick to conjugated verbs and participles, past and present, and leave the jokes to the professionals.

So here I am all these years later back on the subject of love. Wiser and more mature than the jokester in freshman English. And more serious. Today I am wrestling with the questions proposed by Dr. Burch. Did I love well today? If not, why not?

Composers Hal David and Burt Bacharach wrote, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. Not just for some, but for everyone." I agree. We need to focus on loving well. After all, "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing." And I love that we have had this conversation.

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

I read in the paper where they talk about suspending the school board in Dublin. They are going to penalize these people and you're going to let Fred Williams go away scot-free, because he is the one that probably started this mess. It ain't right. There is something missing somewhere.

If it is true that the HR department at the Dublin city school board approved the relatives of Fred Williams for the fiscal year of 2027, they should be dismissed from their job. Dr. Williams and the board have already caused enough problems. When will this end?

The governor should suspend all the school board members and they should go back and pay all the teachers the contracts they promised to pay.

Just a shout out to whoever is charge of Huey McGoos. Get a crew out there and get that thing going. Please get on that thing and let's get it up and running.

I'm sure the retired superintendent of the Dublin City Schools children are well educated and grown and respectfully. However, they knew probably better than anybody else what was going on with the money.

I'd like to know why it's so important to have deputies at the Northwest Laurens school zone in the mornings but the afternoons are a free for all. Is it less dangerous in the afternoon? I disagree.

A [data] center reuses water to generate their own power, reduces taxes where they are located and create lots of jobs from the time and info they contribute to business, nothing to fear but fear it's self - other then the Democrats are trying to keep them out and this gives China a big help but does nothing for America.

I'm done. I've viewed the live stream of the State BoE accreditation meeting with DCS legal counsel & board. Absolutely disgusting attempt by DCS to paint the state BoE as the villain and DCS as the victim. DCS lying and ma-

nipulating before the state. The lowest of the low.

After listening to the hearing in Atlanta to vacate the Dublin Board of Education, I will not be telling anyone I'm from Dublin. The level of dysfunction is embarrassing.

Its a real negative on the community's image that no local businesses are willing to step forward and sponsor Dublin football on the radio since the WWII era.

How interesting is it that the newest DCS board member doesn't send his child to his own system

If you care so much about the city why do you live out of state?

Greed and pride is what took down Dublin City Schools. Trying to do too much and doing things they couldn't pay for. It didn't have to be this way.

If you still think Fred Williams was a hero, you are part of the problem. He destroyed this system for his own recognition and glory. These poor kids.

A proposed hotel on the corner of Jackson and Jefferson in downtown Dublin, Ga. would be great addition. Downtown would seem like a different place. Let's not hold back on progress. Downtown Dublin needs building up.

Pride goes before a fall and these board members were arrogant and prideful. They didnt think their poor decision making would catch up to them. So thankful for the states decision.

With a new board, hopefully they get a budget that is doable, begin to save money and eventually bring down property taxes. Ready for a new way of doing things.

For the ones complaining of the penny sales tax, FLOST will reduce property taxes and could completely eliminate them, which I am all for. It is not an additional tax like the (E)SPLOST is.

Dubling Housing Authority needs to get Kerry Smith back to Dublin, back in his old office.

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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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.

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."
- Psalm 95:1(King James Version)

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"You know, if I can survive marching band, I can survive anything."
- Nellie McKay

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

Aug. 18 2026 is...
• National Poetry Day
• National Couple's Day
• Mail Order Catalog Day
• National Fajita Day
• National Ice Cream Pie Day

YOUR TURN:

Share your opinion on current events, or topics covered in The Courier Herald by emailing us: tchnewsreporter@gmail.com

Dublin Police Department

– Delvecchio Demond King, 21, was charged with tag lights required and possession of marijuana, less than one ounce, around 11:32 p.m. on July 31.

The officer saw a gold Mercedes traveling south on North Franklin Street without tag lights. He maneuvered behind the vehicle and pulled it over. The officer issued King a warning for the tag light. While this was happening, a K-9 officer and his dog walked around the vehicle. The dog alerted to the car.

During a search, officers discovered a multi-colored bag with marijuana residue in the center console, as well as another similar bag in a backpack in the back seat that also had empty marijuana residue.

An officer noticed part of a plastic bag sticking out of King’s underwear. It contained marijuana. The man also produced another bag from his underwear that contained additional marijuana. The total weight of marijuana recovered was 13.6 grams.

King was arrested and transported to the police department where he was fingerprinted and cited. After signing and receiving a copy of his citation, King was released without further incident.

– Around 4:50 p.m. on Aug. 2, an officer responded to Walmart on Highway 80 West in reference to shoplifting.

The officer met with a store employee as he exited the store with the suspect identified as Antonett Smith, 45, who was on a store’s shopping scooter. Smith refused to stop for the officer when asked. The officer continued to follow her and Smith agreed to stay on scene once she was able to place her purchased items in her vehicle, which was being driven by another woman.

The employee said the stolen items were in Smith’s purse. The woman denied the officer permission to check



her purse. She then got into the passenger seat of the vehicle. She was then seen reaching into the purse but the officer could not tell if she was removing anything.

The officer talked with the owner of the vehicle and advised her that if Smith remained in her vehicle she was not able to leave until the investigation was over, or the woman exited the vehicle. The officer told the driver that if the video showed Smith stealing from the store, he would have to retrieve the items from her vehicle. She gave the officer permission to search the vehicle.

Smith got out of the vehicle. The officer did not find the Walmart merchandise in the vehicle, and Smith continued to refuse him to look inside of her purse. The officer detained the woman, telling her she was not allowed to leave the scene or return to the vehicle. Smith advised the officer if she was allowed to get back in the vehicle, she would allow him to look inside her purse. The officer agreed.

While searching, the officer found multiple items of the store’s merchandise. The total of the items taken was \$205. Walmart staff said they wanted to have Smith trespassed and pressed charges. The woman was arrested for shoplifting, transported to the police department, cited and released. Smith was not fingerprinted that day because the fingerprint machine was down.

Laurens County Sheriff’s Office

- Allen Michael Bruner, 34, of Dublin was charged with possession of drug-related objects after a deputy responded to a dispute between two people on Highway 257 around 10:09 p.m. on Aug. 1.

- Waylon Toler, 46, of East Dublin was charged with criminal trespass on Highway 80 East around 3:53 p.m. on Aug. 2. A deputy responded to that area in reference to a disturbance.

- On Aug. 3, around 9:45 a.m., a deputy was dispatched to Windsong Drive in reference to a missing firearm.

- Edward Lamar Seawright, 43, of Dublin was charged with disorderly conduct and obstruction of law enforcement officers on Brower Court. A deputy was dispatched to the location in reference to a person causing a disturbance.

- A deputy responded to an auto theft on Hall Road around 6:43 p.m. on Aug. 4.

- Property was damaged on Scofield Lane around 12:30 p.m. on July 31.

- Robert Keith Ogletree, 54, of Rentz was charged with possession of methamphetamine on Omega Street around 4 p.m. on July 29. A deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black Nissan Frontier for a busted windshield. The traffic stop led to the arrest of Ogletree who was the passenger.

- A deputy met with a man about a scam that happened on Chicken Road in Dudley around 8 a.m. on July 30.

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.

The cost of child welfare services has jumped in Georgia. A new panel is about to dig into why

By ROSS WILLIAMS
Georgia Recorder

Taking care of vulnerable children in Georgia has gotten a lot more expensive, and lawmakers are hoping to figure out why.

“We’re trying to figure out what happened,” said state Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, a Marietta Republican. “And unfortunately, nobody had a whole lot of notice that we were in a deficit situation with that particular population.”

In late 2025, the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, which oversees the state’s foster system, cut services for families and terminated contracts for nonprofits as they faced a projected budget deficit of about \$85 million.

“We ended up having to backfill the deficit for the department to the tune of about \$80 million,” Kirkpatrick said. “What we need to do is figure out what the right number is without affecting services for the kids, because they should not be the victim of budgetary issues.”

Kirkpatrick is co-chairing a joint House and Senate committee investigating the cost of foster care, alongside Concord Republican state Rep. Beth Camp. The committee is set to hold the first of three hearings Thursday before presenting a report at the beginning of December ahead of next year’s legislative session set to begin in January.

Camp said she plans to enter the process without preconceived notions about where the money is going, but one likely avenue of investigation will be the rising costs of foster services for children. Lawmakers found that those costs were projected to rise 159% since 2022.

“What we’re hoping for and what we’ve requested is to get some actual numbers,” Camp said. “Because we know that the number of children in care has remained static, but from what we’re being told, there are a number of children who are in care who require more services than perhaps children did before in the past.”

Problems obtaining mental health treatment

Mental health policy advocate Roland Behm said he will testify at a future meeting that private companies that contract with the state to deliver Medicaid benefits increase costs by delaying or denying treatment for mental health.

Children who enter foster care are covered by the Georgia Families 360 program, which is administered by Amerigroup. Amerigroup did not respond to an emailed request for comment. Many children who enter into foster care were also covered by Medicaid before entering, Behm said.

Amerigroup has faced

criticism from parents and others for allegedly denying claims for mental healthcare.

The companies that administer Medicaid benefits are supposed to provide all medically necessary care covered under Medicaid, but Behm said that’s often not how things work in practice.

“The care that’s needed is oftentimes something that looks slightly different than medical care,” he said. “It’s not like ‘I need to go to an appointment, I need to go to the doctor.’ It’s actually ‘I need behavioral health aides, perhaps at school or at home. I need education for my foster parents to help them understand what the concerns are.’”

Behm said in many situations, that care is denied because the companies do not consider those kinds of interventions to be clinical care.

“But we did away with the concept of purely clinical or medical care with the adoption of the Mental Health Parity Act in 2022,” he said, referring to the law passed that year requiring insurers to cover mental health treatments equally to physical healthcare.

When care that should have been provided by the companies isn’t provided, Behm said the state pays twice, first for to the companies as part of their contracts and again when they have to arrange for and provide the care themselves.

John DeGarmo, founder of an advocacy group called the Foster Care Institute and a foster parent to more than 60 kids in Georgia, said it’s becoming harder for foster parents to access mental and behavioral healthcare at the same time the need for it is increasing.

“There’s a rise of teenage suicide attempts in America,” he said. “There

is a rise of child anxiety and depression, teen anxiety. All of these are post-COVID mental health issues, and a lot of the foster parents today really aren’t equipped for that.”

“Even putting aside all the abuse, neglect and trauma issues a child may have before coming into foster care, when they come into foster care, that’s a time of great anxiety as well,” he added. “Because now they’re being placed into a home with strangers. They may have questions like, ‘What did I do wrong? Will I ever see my mom or dad again? Does anybody love me? Who can I trust?’ so it’s a great time of anxiety when they come into foster care, and now on top of that, we have so many other issues.”

Support from the next governor’s office

Kirkpatrick, who also chairs the Senate’s Children and Families Committee, said she has faith that the committee’s report will inspire legislation when lawmakers return in January with new leadership after November’s election.

“I am very confident because of who the people are, the gubernatorial nominees,” she said.

Georgia’s next governor will be an advocate for foster care and adoption, whether it’s Republican Rick Jackson or Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms.

Jackson often speaks about his own time as a child in the foster care system and his rise to business success, and Bottoms and her husband adopted all four of their children after she previously worked as a court-appointed advocate for children in the system.

“I’m optimistic that that’ll be a priority for the new governor, and we’ll be able to continue our work,” Kirk-



State Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, a Marietta Republican, is co-leading a legislative effort to investigate what is driving up the cost of child welfare services in Georgia/ROSS WILLIAMS, Georgia Recorder



Montgomery County Attorney Ron Daniels reads a land use ordinance during the Board of Commissioners’ regular meeting on Aug. 10/LOGAN REYNOLDS

Montgomery Board of Commissioners move forward with land use ordinance reading

By LOGAN REYNOLDS
GTLN

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners voted to move forward with the readings of a land use ordinance on data centers during their regular meeting on Aug. 10 in Mount Vernon.

“This is not an invitation to data centers,” said Commissioner Amie Vassey. “There is currently no alert system of any kind. If someone wanted to come and build a data center, we wouldn’t know about it, and there’d be nothing we could do about it. So, the goal of this ordinance is to regulate that process so that there is a notification piece.”

Vassey offered the motion to begin the reading, which passed unanimously.

All nine pages of the ordinance were read aloud by County Attorney Ron Daniels during the meeting. The ordinance requires two readings on separate meetings before it can be passed into law.

The ordinance lists definitions of the terms “data center” and “data center campus,” and requires companies looking to build a data center to purchase a business license, pay an application fee of \$10,000 for each data center, apply for a special use permit, host community information meetings for county residents, comply with buffer requirements for the construction, building fencing, regulate noise levels, provide the county with an environmental impact analysis, swear under oath to not seek tax abatements and remain subject to a five-person review board comprised of residents, among other requirements.

The ordinance has been in the works since May, when the issue of data centers was first brought up by Commissioner Vassey. According to Vassey, the local tax assessor had been approached in January regarding a parcel which could be used to build a data center.

While no data center has begun construction, the board began workshoping the ordinance as a potential “alert system” in the event a company wished to build a data center in the county.

“Currently, we have nothing at all to protect us, and we’re very vulnerable,” said Vassey during the board’s work session. “These companies know that. They could come in right now and do anything they want. This ordinance creates an alert system.”

Commissioner Leland Adams proposed a zoning board as an alternative to the ordinance, claiming the ordinance would only provide “hurdles” for companies to overcome rather than stopping data centers outright.

“Commissioner Adams is 1,000 percent correct,” said Daniels. “This will not stop a data center. The only way to do that would be to enact zoning.”

While Commissioner Vassey was not opposed to zoning, she maintained it would be unpopular with residents compared to a land use ordinance.

The board will have a second reading during their next regular meeting on Sept. 14. Chair Ginger Morris also requested printed copies of the ordinance be made available during the meeting for residents to review.

BRIARWOOD 47, TRINITY 6

Young Crusaders show bright spots, but can't solve speed of Bucs in season opener

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

The season's first game always teaches you a lot about your team.

Friday's revealed there's a lot to like about the scrappy defense, physical rushing attack and young upside the 2026 Trinity Crusaders bring to the table.

But it also showed they'll need a good bit more speed in order to hang with teams like the top-rated Briarwood Bucs, who separated themselves with the quickness of a few top athletes in the open field.

It was two in particular – tailback Orrin Wynn and receiver Carson Callaway – that Trinity couldn't catch any time either was able to gain a step. Both stamped the gas pedal, and easily held off the Crusaders' fastest in pursuit, on footraces after carries or catches that were the pivotal plays.

After matching the game's methodical early pace for about a quarter and a half, Briarwood throttled up and rattled off touchdowns on six possessions in a row to win it 47-6.

"Their speed was the difference in the ballgame," said Trinity head coach Bruce Lane. "I was really pleased with how we played other than giving up the big plays, and that's something where we've got to get better on the back end of our defense coming up tackling, taking better angles. Being able to break down and make an open-field tackle. I think if you go back and look at their big plays, we missed a lot of tackles, or we were not in position to make plays."

Wynn rushed for 153 yards and two big scores in the second half. Callaway had 105 on his pair of touchdown catches bookending halftime.

The Crusaders kept Bucs quarterback Cutler Fleming under some slightly better wraps than they could a year ago, as his 400-plus total yard effort led a rout of similar margins on the scoreboard that got away much more quickly. The senior was 9-of-15 passing for 206 yards, and rushed for an additional 46.

"They have a lot of weapons," Lane said.

Trinity's offense, decidedly less the big-play type, took on a ground-and-pound identity with bruising backs Will-J Harris and Tayt Evans the best match-up they had for a defense that might have been a touch undersized, but didn't lack for any of the toughness typically displayed by Briarwood teams under head coach Bo Fleming, for whom this was an eighth-straight victory over the Crusaders.

Harris rushed for 68, Evans for 51, and the team for 127 out of a decent 180 yards total offense.

Passing success, for an all-new signal caller and receiving corps, was hit or miss. Freshman quarterback Jude Evans completed six of 14 attempts for 53, with a touchdown and a pick. Tayt Evans, Jacob Helton, Mason Lane and Hein Schaaf had receptions.

Trinity's longest pass went only 15, and its biggest rushing gain was 22. Big plays, which the visitors used to roll up 483 total yards (277 rushing), were nonexistent for an offense that, at present, is able to rely on only one dimension.

Third and fourth downs with less than five to go were a strong proposition all night, but the Crusaders put themselves in only three of those situations, and converted just two, while pick-



Carson Callaway chugs down the sideline on a return of a fourth quarter interception. The receiver/DB also turned two passes into earlier touchdowns/CLAY REYNOLDS

ing up the same number out of eight against longer yardages.

"We are going to have to be very methodical in trying to move the ball until we develop some guys with some confidence catching the ball, because probably everybody that caught a pass tonight, that was their first catch in a varsity football game," Lane said. "And for some of them, it was their first carry, and for our quarterback, it was his first pass in a varsity football game. I'm not disappointed. I'm disappointed in the score, but not disappointed in how we played overall."

Time, not on their side...

Though the Crusaders made some considerable progress, a little at a time, on their first-half possessions, they somehow weren't successful at chewing clock.

As a result, the second quarter kind of ambled along. And a stubborn four minutes-or-so remained on the clock as hopes of getting a 7-0 deficit most of the way to halftime were frustrated on a couple more of those thirds-and-long as Trinity punted it away for a fourth and fifth time.

The Bucs, starting from their own territory on both opportunities, and needed only two minutes and change to get down the field and punch in a second touchdown of the night via Dominic Aviles with 2:26 remaining.

The Crusaders moved the chains once, with the help of a clever hook-and-ladder play followed by a several-yard Harris rumble for a fourth-down conversion, on the following possession. But they still only managed to consume another minute.

A key first down conversion fell through as a roughly 22-yard completion from Evans to Sam Owens was wiped out by offensive pass interference, ultimately forcing Trinity to kick it back again.

This time, Briarwood ran six plays, and scored for a third time, in only 26 seconds.

Fleming found Callaway with a 25-yard ball into double coverage on the left side of the end zone to make it 21-0 with 47 seconds to play. And what was a manageable game moments before quickly became unmanageable, considering the Crusaders' state on offense, as things went to halftime.

The Bucs' biggest hit of the night put it fully out of reach just after their return from the locker room.



Orrin Wynn found space for several big plays, but not on this second-quarter sweep with Trinity's Mason Lane Johnny on the spot for the tackle to prevent him from getting outside/CLAY REYNOLDS

Trinity was on the verge of turning momentum with a big stop, as its D backed 'em into a third and 20 on the opening series.

But Callaway went unaccounted for up the seam on the following snap, and Fleming dumped the ball off to him for an 80-yard spring into a four-score lead.

Trinity denied that slightly with its lone scoring drive in response, and one of only two possessions eclipsing four minutes on the night.

Harris and Tayt Evans carries, plus an acrobatic Schaaf catch near the sideline, helped get the 'Saders to the Briarwood 5, where they'd recover from two lost-yardage plays to finally punch one in on Jude Evans' 7-yard touchdown pass to Lane.

A blocked point made the score 28-6 with 3:28 to go in the third.

"We just started running right at them," Lane said. "Will-J had a few big carries on that drive. He's a load."

But the Bucs responded with three more touchdowns going away, and all on sub-minute drives, as Trinity got increasingly worn down.

Wynn got outside and shook the pursuit the whole way on a 40-yarder, then hit a 33-yard play to start the next drive. Caden Johnson finished it off with 9:30 left in the fourth quarter.

Callaway jumped a route and picked a pass a couple plays into the next Trinity possession, and Wynn found the field again to go 27 to the house on the very next snap.

Briarwood relented on threats to break 50, taking a knee after Jey Edwards broke free on a 35-yard pickup against Trinity reserves who caught him with 10 yards to spare in the last couple minutes.

An encouraging start...

The first of the Bucs' many big plays keyed their 92-yard scoring trip that was the lone exception to a pattern of punts in the



Trinity's Will-J Harris keeps his balance on a run that got the Crusaders goal-to-go on their lone scoring drive of the night during the third quarter. Harris was their leading rusher with 68 yards/CLAY REYNOLDS



Corbin Albritton hits Briarwood quarterback Cutler Fleming as he releases a pass on the Bucs' opening series/CLAY REYNOLDS

game's first 19 minutes.

Wynn broke loose for the longest so far on an exterior run to launch Briarwood from its own red zone to over midfield late in the first quarter, and that seemed to open something up for the Bucs inside, as Fleming kept for another decent gain on the next play.

Briarwood pieced together some smaller plays to reach goal-to-go, as the field flipped ends with the change of quarters, and used space again on a lateral sweep for Banks DeMore, who kept the chase at arm's length on an angle for the end zone.

And the first of Callaway's five successful extra point kicks, each testing just how close he could cut it between the crossbar and right upright, just good to make it 7-0.

Other than that, Trinity's defense played the Bucs well for most of the early going, showing off some strong pass rush with pressures (and a combined sack by Lane, Corbin Albritton and Gavin Hightower) on some ill-fated drop backs to force a punt their first series.

The Crusaders rebounded after the score, with Lane (who was all over several big defensive plays on the night) sniffing out a Wynn sweep to force a 10-yard loss on first down of Briarwood's next turn, and eventually another punt.

They played some impressive bully ball on the first handful of drives, even a first that failed just before midfield due to some early jitters.

"We were a little nervous," Lane said. "We had three penalties in four plays, and we had great field position. You can't get behind the sticks like that."

But the second got rolling and got a ways into Briarwood territory before a key second-down loss also led to a punt.

Lane saw some good early glimpses, as well as growing pains, from his reworked offensive line that will have to find ways to prevent the type of negative plays that

knocked things off track.

"I don't want to say we need to do a better job on the line of scrimmage, but we've got to be more consistent on the line of scrimmage and we can't allow penetration," he said. "We've got to be able to step up and double team a guy and not let guys get penetration."

Trinity had a slight edge on the Bucs in total numbers, and definitely in size at several positions too. But Briarwood's lineup, returning most of its core from a nine-win season that reached last year's semifinals, was sound, well-rounded... and fast.

All are marks of potential to go far again.

"They'll be playing into November," Lane said. "They're a Final Four-type team."

As for the Crusaders, this was the first of many learning experiences to come in the early part of the fall. And some more really good teams are coming up soon on the schedule.

A visit to last year's Class A state champ Robert Toombs in Lyons is next week before the Crusaders host its runner-up Edmund Burke on Aug. 28. Dreaded two-time defending AA champion Brentwood comes to town Sept. 11.

"We've just got to keep plugging away," Lane said. "I think we'll have a good little football team before we get through with this whole thing."

There are some steps to go before a shot to compete with this caliber of team for four quarters. But that Trinity was able to hold its own for portions of this game was a sign that this young roster has potential to get there with time.

"After having watched (Briarwood) play last week in their scrimmage, I thought we played really really well in the first half, and then it kind of got a little out of hand in the second half," Lane said. "But overall, I'm encouraged going forward."

COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF...

The Heart of Georgia Football preview section is

2 days away!

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

Friday

Briarwood 47, Trinity 6
John Milledge 31,
Brentwood 7

SOFTBALL

Saturday

West Laurens 10,
Greenbrier 4
WL 6, Jeff Davis 6

PREP SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL

Friday

Bleckley Co. at
West Laurens
Dublin at Jasper Co.
Johnson Co. at East Laurens
Trinity at Robert Toombs
Brentwood at Bulloch
Claxton at Twiggs Co.
Montgomery Co. at
Portal at Wheeler Co.
Telfair Co.
Treutlen at Bryan Co.
Washington Co. at Baldwin
Wilkinson Co. at
ACE Charter/7:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Monday

David Emanuel at Trinity
/5:30 p.m.
Dublin at Fitzgerald/6 p.m.

Tuesday

Dublin at EL

WL at Johnson Co./5:30

p.m.

Thursday

Veterans at WL/5 p.m.
Jefferson Co. at Dublin
/5:30 p.m.
EL at Swainsboro
Trinity at Robert Toombs
/6 p.m.

Saturday

(Crisp Co. Watermelon
Classic, Cordele)
EL vs. Westfield/11:30 a.m.
EL at Crisp Co./1:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday

WL, Veterans, Crisp Co.
at Perry/5 p.m.

Thursday

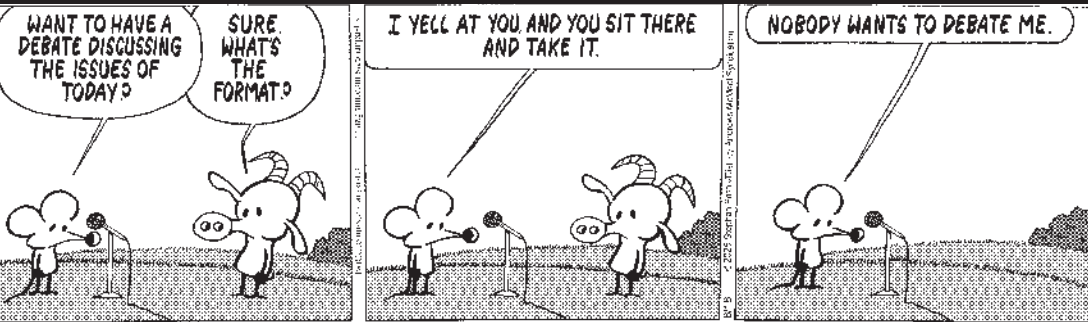
Crawford Co., Northside at
WL

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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



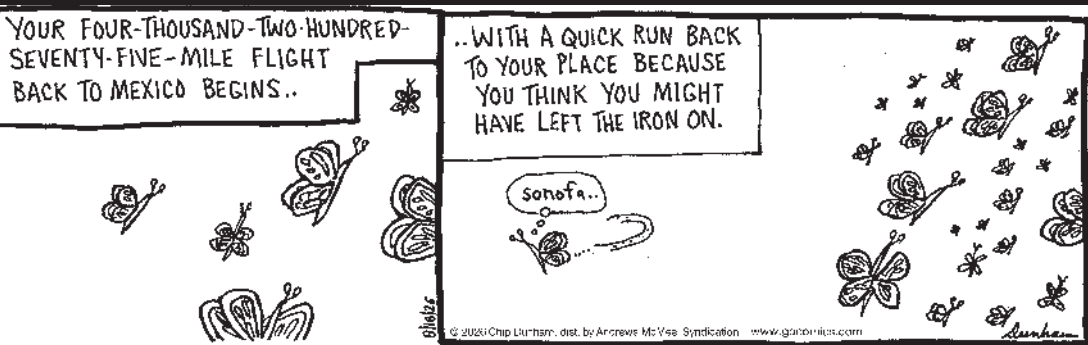
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



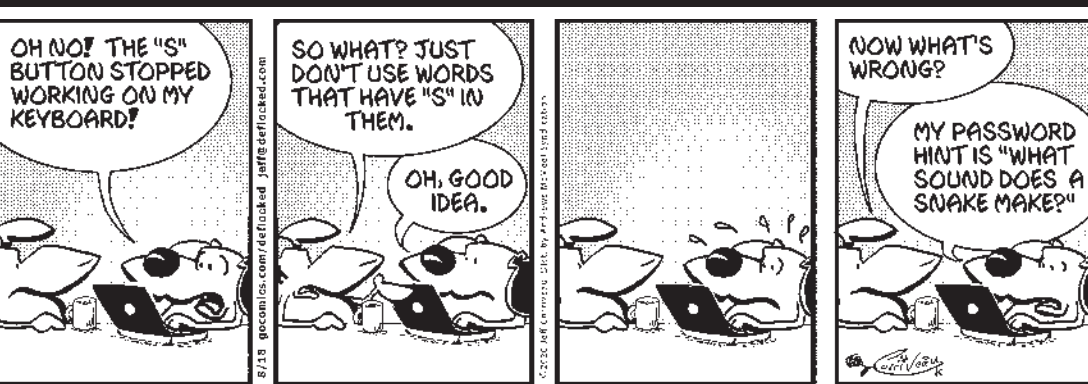
OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



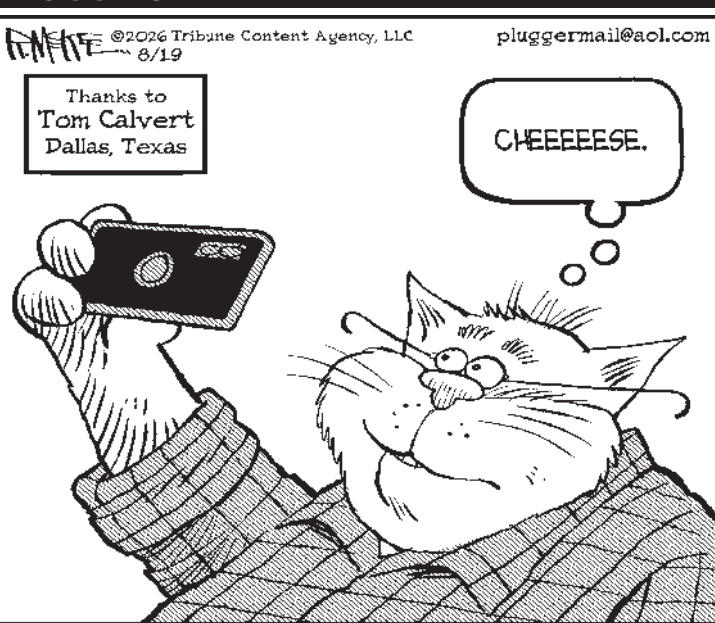
ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY



A plugger's phone has a cool app that shows what he will look like as an old person. It's called a "camera."

Monday, August 17, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

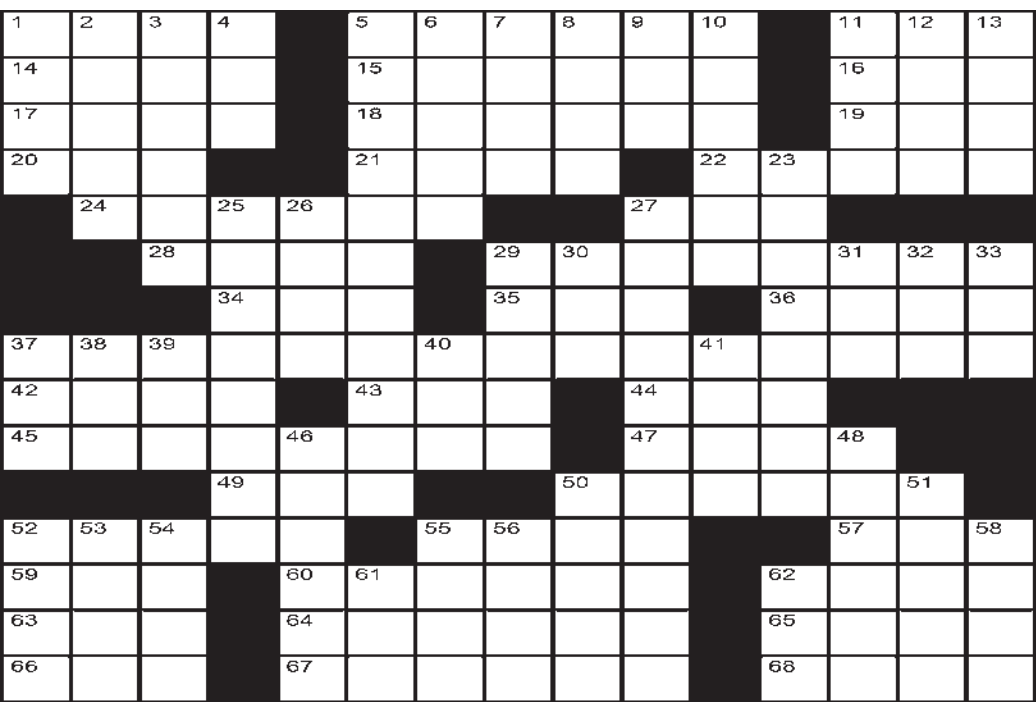
Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ 10 4 ♡ A J 9 8 5 2 ♢ J 8 3 ♣ A J
Three passes to you. What call would you make?
A - You can pass the hand out and redeal, so it makes no sense to open unless you feel you can make a plus score. This hand has prospects. Fourth-seat pre-empts don't exist - bad hands just pass. This hand would be about minimum for a fourth-seat two-bid, but we like it. Open 2H.
Q 2 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ J 10 7 4 ♡ A 10 9 8 5 2 ♢ J 9 3
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♣ Pass 2♠
3♣ Pass Pass ?
What call would you make?
A - The popular "Law of Total Tricks" tells us that we are safe competing to the three-level if we have nine trumps between us. Bidding again on this junk will stretch that "Law" to its limits, but at least we'll have something to blame if it doesn't work. Bid 3S.
Q 3 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ J 10 7 ♡ K 10 6 ♢ A 5 ♣ A Q J 9 6
Right-hand opponent opens one club. What call would you make?
A - It is usually right to pass when right-hand opponent bids our best suit, but this hand is an exception. A INT overall shows the same strength as a INT opening, but it also guarantees a stopper in the opponent's bid suit.

This hand qualifies. Bid INT.
Q 4 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ Q 6 2 ♡ A K 7 5 ♢ A 10 8 5 3 ♣ 9
As dealer, what is your opening bid?
A - There has been much discussion among experts as to the correct opening with four goodish hearts and five diamonds. Some always open 1H, some 1D, and others decide based on their re-bid choices if partner responds one spade. This hand can happily raise a 1S response. Open 1D.
Q 5 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ K 8 5 4 ♢ K 10 5 4 ♣ K Q 9 5 2
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
INT Pass ?
What call would you make?
A - Nine tricks is so much easier than eleven. Don't even think about a minor-suit contract. Bid 3NT.
Q 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ J 10 8 4 ♡ K 4 2 9 7 ♣ A K J 10
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 1♥
1♠ Pass 3♥
?
Invitational What call would you make?
A - You couldn't be faulted much for passing. Partner's bid is only invitational and you have a minimum - but this is an excellent minimum - good trump support on the auction and a ruffing value that should be useful. Bid 4H.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

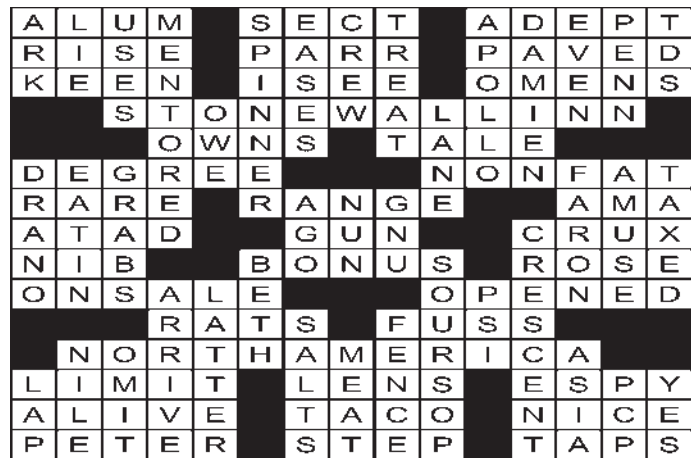
- ACROSS
- 1 Symbol of Ireland
 - 5 Loosened, as laces
 - 11 TV-show interruptions
 - 14 Las Vegas WNBA team
 - 15 Piece of spaghetti
 - 16 Checking-account charge
 - 17 Sushi serving
 - 18 Thieves
 - 19 Not cooked
 - 20 Medical scan: Abbr.
 - 21 Makes a request
 - 22 Pokes with a stick
 - 24 Get cozy
 - 27 Dairy-farm sound
 - 28 Gas, for a car
 - 29 "Not just yet!": 3 wds.
 - 34 Cover in frosting
 - 35 "Breaking Bad" network
 - 36 Twosomes
 - 37 Yearly gift: 2 wds.
 - 42 "The Little Mermaid" prince
 - 43 Fish's appendage
 - 44 Japanese sash
 - 45 Curly leafy green
 - 47 Created
 - 49 Knight's title
 - 50 Sections of a cake
 - 52 Author Larsson
 - 55 Actor Alda
 - 57 Go to the ___ for
 - 59 Holder of peas
 - 60 Canada's capital
 - 62 High-quality
 - 63 "How ___ you doing?"
 - 64 Yelp statistic
 - 65 Colony insects
 - 66 Not my cup of ___
 - 67 Thinly distributed
 - 68 Pulse of a song

- DOWN
- 1 Injure
 - 2 Oak tree's seed
 - 3 Alleviation of pain
 - 4 Fall Starbucks drink: Abbr.



Created by Stella Zawistowski

- 5 Rude and inappropriate: 2 wds.
- 6 Like Odin and Thor
- 7 Seized
- 8 Altar vows: 2 wds.
- 9 Big forest animal
- 10 Tyrant
- 11 Natural Black hairstyle
- 12 Out of batteries
- 13 Makes stitches
- 23 ___ assistance
- 25 Travel bag
- 26 Silicon Valley field
- 27 Control to an excessive degree
- 29 Gretzky of hockey
- 30 Guitar attachment
- 31 Take to court
- 32 Very long time
- 33 Chicago clock setting: Abbr.



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- 37 Spelling contest
- 38 Tax agency: Abbr.
- 39 Rocker Ocasek
- 40 Feel ill
- 41 Auction website
- 46 Hardships
- 48 Royal fur
- 50 Suburban yards

Toxic relationship affecting woman's health

DEAR ABBY: I am a 54-year-old woman who, after 40 years, reconnected with my childhood best friend, "Neil." We are now engaged. I have no children, but Neil has two girls ages 11 and 13. The 11-year-old is in therapy and on medication for depression and anxiety. I love them as if they were my own. Their mother is useless and irresponsible, and Neil can't stand her.

My problem is that his behavior is not much better. Neil has severe anger issues. He has cursed at me and called me horrible names (in front of the girls) many times. Since we started couples therapy, he has improved, but he still displays anger issues, has a drinking problem and has no control over his children. They have no rules, discipline or any kind of parenting from him or their mother.

I am miserable and want to leave. We've been together almost five years, and I don't want to hurt him again. He'd be destroyed. Worse, the girls would be devastated. I'm scared about how the younger one would react. I would also be devastated.

I am bipolar, and my mental and emotional health have been severely affected. My physical health is also deteriorating because of so much stress -- stomach issues, weight loss, psoriasis. My personal therapist is not much help. What do I



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

do? -- OVER MY HEAD IN NEW YORK

DEAR OVER: My first thought is that you should change therapists if this one isn't helpful. Then, after you regain some strength, stop worrying about Neil. You might find it helpful to attend some Al-Anon meetings. If you do, you will come to understand that his anger and alcohol issues aren't something you can solve by staying with him.

Neil's children are not and should not be your responsibility. If you haven't been able to establish a healthy, stable environment for them (at least when they are staying with their dad), accept that it isn't likely to happen. Explain to the children that it is not their fault that you are leaving, and then move on.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 26 years. I have often felt as if we were growing apart, often finding interests in different things. We seem unable to discuss our emotions without one of us getting hurt feelings and the talk devolving into awful arguments. There has never been any real question of extramarital affairs.

One night, I playfully asked if I could go through his computer. He immediately became defensive, saying he just doesn't like people getting into his computer, messing with his stuff. I get that. I wouldn't want just anybody getting into my computer, either. However, I am not just anybody; I'm his wife. He has full access to all of my computers, phones and digital accessories. Why do I feel like he's got something to hide? I don't know what to do. -- PRESUMPTION OF GUILT

DEAR PRESUMPTION: Pressing your husband on this issue right now will only lead to more arguments. If you want to repair the marriage, you both need to learn to communicate more effectively. Without mentioning his computer, invite your husband to see a licensed family therapist with you. If he refuses, go without him. If he agrees, work on the basics now and save the privacy issues and your suspicions for future sessions.

SALES TAX

Continued from page 1

The downside to this method, though, is that the law does not include the school portion of property taxes, the heftier portion of property owners' tax bill.

FLOST referendums are proving successful across the state. Last year 34 Georgia counties approved the collection of the new sales tax.

More counties held referendums in May.

Nearby Washington County was one of the first areas to adopt the FLOST. That county's five-year sales tax went into effect on July 1, 2025 and is expected to bring in about \$4.6 million.

If allowed, a local FLOST is expected to raise \$13.5 million to be distributed between the Laurens County, Dublin, East Dublin, Dudley, Dexter, Cadwell, Rentz and Montrose governments. Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight said the new revenue stream would cut county taxes by 50 percent or more and likely eliminate city property taxes, while forcing visitors to the area to share the tax burden.

"Thousands of people come into Dublin-Laurens from outside the county every day," Kight said. "These visitors use our roads, emergency responses and other services – but they don't own property here and they don't pay property taxes. So this sales tax

would get visitors to pay their fair share of these costs. And for local residents, the sales tax reduces, dollar-for-dollar, their property taxes."

With a state enforced 9 percent cap on sales tax collections, the FLOST will be the final such tax that can be imposed locally.

Since the FLOST benefits business and industrial properties as well as homes, the measure could come with a second benefit - a draw for potential investors.

Mitch Griggs, president of the Dublin-Laurens County Development Authority, said lower millage rates could be used to spur economic growth.

"Businesses are just like people. They want to pay less taxes," he said. "Lowering the millage rate in one way or the other is a good thing from an economic development standpoint. [FLOST] is an exciting prospect and an interesting tool, but it's up to the voters to decide."

The existing sales taxes prove to be a steady stream of revenue. Shoppers currently fund a Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), to fund general operations; a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), which can only be spent on capital projects; an Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), collected by the school systems to pay for technology and building upgrades; and a Transportation

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST), a regional tax used to fund road and highway improvements.

Last month Laurens County collected more than \$1.1 million in SPLOST funds according to Georgia Department of Revenue records. The TSPLOST brought in nearly \$1 million for road projects.

The taxes collected trickle down to even the smallest municipalities in the county. Records show the City of Montrose added about \$2,400 to its coffers through the LOST.

"Because Dublin is a regional retail center with major interstate stops, a sales tax is just a good deal for our residents," Kight said.

BAND OF GOLD

Continued from page 1

learn and they are very dedicated."

Which includes the music.

"It something that can bring out the fun for all ages," Nino said. "Young people and old people love it. Who doesn't love a little Michael Jackson and the Jackson 5."

While the majority of the Band of Gold is made up of eighth through 11th grade students, Blanchett has been impressed with her seniors.

"This is one of the largest senior classes that we've had in recent years," she said. "I'm really leaning on them. They are going to provide a lot of experience and a lot of maturity. Their mentorship is really guiding the young people in this group."



Left: Drum major Emaurie Nino (right) talks with fellow drum major Maggie Foskey/PAYTON TOWNS III



Band of Gold members rehearse during summer band camp/PAYTON TOWNS III

PTSD HELP

Continued from page 1

mind says I'm not sure I can work through this or I'm not sure society is going to let me work through this."

For anyone with PTSD, they should contact someone who can help them with mental health.

"Hurting people hurt people," Moss said. "The simplest things are what is right in front of you. I have talked with many people who have 5,000 friends on Facebook and yet when they have something they are going through when it comes to trauma, they feel alone."

Moss lectures around the country. His books, which can be found on Amazon, are written about what he does in clinical practice as a trained psychotherapist.

"I help people deal with trauma," Moss said. "I did a book about members in the military who were subjected to military-sexual trauma. Typically I write books dealing with the things I do and a passion for me. Coming from a small town, I want to expand my horizon and I came from a strong family with strong religious values. That undergirds a lot of the things that I do."

He is excited about his book dealing with veteran suicides.

"What we found out in 2000, there was an increase in this," Moss said. "Post Iraq and Afghanistan, a lot of veterans came back and they felt like those who came back from Vietnam. They started doing drugs and alcohol. If you take out the drugs and alcohol, suicide becomes a non-issue. Like any civilians, if you have pain and you don't get it addressed, it leads to other things and makes you more desperate."

Moss, who currently lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C., had advice for those attending school in Laurens County. For one, they need to set their horizons high.

"They can achieve anything in life no matter the obstacles," he said. "Anything in life that is worth obtaining, is worth the work put in to it."

At ELHS, Moss was a member of the Junior Beta Club, he wrestled, played football and ran track.

"Pursue your dream and never give up on your dream," Moss said. "I would say most of us have dreams but we have to wake up and do it. Some people want to be an astronaut. Are they doing the work to be able to do it?"



Tim Moss' books were on display during his visit to the Dublin VA/PAYTON TOWNS III

HERE'S A TIP ...

By JOANN DERSON
King Features

• Soaking window decals with baby wipes will soften the adhesive, allowing you to remove a decal from glass easier.

• "Potty training can be stressful for both the child and the parent. We tried many things, but in the end, you have to wait for the

child to want to train. One thing that helped keep our daughter motivated was a sticker chart. Be bought all kinds of stickers, and whenever she used the potty, she would get to choose a sticker to put on the chart. We would remark on how many stickers she had and the variety, which made her feel successful!" -- D.R. in Iowa

• "Last week, we found my son's favorite sippy cup half-filled with sour milk under the couch. I washed it very well with hot soapy water, but it still smelled bad. I stuffed the cup with newspaper pieces and screwed the top back on. The newspaper absorbed the smell. I took about a week, but it's back in use." -- T.L. in Texas

• "My pup loves to ride in the car, and my car seats love his hair, too. Seems like it's impossible to get out! A vacuum didn't work, so my neighbor suggested I

use dish gloves. Just put a latex rubber glove on your hand and wipe over seats. A very lightly damp sponge can work as well." -- P.I. in Washington

Classifieds

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Wanted: Live-in caretaker for disabled woman. Cleaning, cooking, personal care. Call 478-676-2151. Old Macon Road, Montrose.



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Public Notice to Interested Bidders

East Laurens - Elementary School & Middle School Athletic Complex Project

Laurens County School District

East Dublin, Georgia

Lentile Construction Company is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified trade partner contractors for the East Laurens Elementary School & Middle School Athletic Complex Project for the Laurens County School District.

Bid Documents Available: August 7, 2026
Pre-Bid Conference (Non-Mandatory)

- Date: August 12, 2026
- Time: 9:30 am
- Location: **East Laurens Middle School Gym (House of Gold) 920 US-80 E, East Dublin, GA 31027**
- **Deadline for Requests for Information (RFIs):** August 19, 2026

Bid Deadline: September 2, 2026, 1:00 pm

Bid documents will be available through Building Connected. To request bid documents, confirm attendance at the pre-bid conference, or submit Requests for Information (RFIs), contact Matt Chambers
Email: mchambers@garbuttconstruction.com

"Lentile Construction Company will be totally responsible for all aspects of the build, but to further enhance our proposal we have asked Garbutt Construction Company to consult with us by providing the latest technology to produce scheduling, estimating, and trade packages for bidding."



KIDS' CORNER

Vol. 024 | Join Herald the Hound every Tuesday on Kids' Corner from The Courier Herald



Herald the Hound loves living at the newspaper office. The newsroom, the place where reporters and page designers work, has everything a dog that likes reading needs to survive. There's shelter from the weather (and it's been a hot, stormy summer!) and plenty of food and water (thanks to Herald's friends at The Courier Herald). It's the perfect habitat for any season!

WORKSHEET OF THE WEEK

Match the word with its definition:

- Water**
The natural home or environment of an animal or plant
- Weather**
To continue to live or exist
- Shelter**
The divisions of the year by weather patters and daylight hours (spring, summer, autumn and winter)
- Needs**
The state of the atmosphere; heat, dryness, wind, rain, etc.
- Food**
A place giving protection from weather and danger
- Season**
Something consumed by people or animals for nutrition
- Habitat**
a colorless liquid that forms lakes, rivers and rain; the basis of the fluid of living organisms
- Survive**
of necessity; important to daily life

Write a description of the habitat for the animals and plants listed below?

- A Bullfrog - _____
- A Raccoon - _____
- A Cactus - _____
- A Penguin - _____

Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH – CAR PARTS

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **What happens when a frog's car breaks down?**

AIR BAG
BATTERY
BRAKES
DOOR
ENGINE
FLOOR
FUEL CAP
GAUGE
GEAR
HOOD
LIGHT
RADIATOR
RADIO
ROOF
SEAT BELT
SPEAKER
TIRE
VALVE
VENTS
WHEEL

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

Riddle answer: _____

Fun Fact

The Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean is over 1,500 miles long and almost 7 miles deep. Mankind has explored further and much more often into outer space than we have ever yet ventured into the Trench's very cold, very dark depths. Mount Everest would fit very comfortably down in it, and still have water above it.

Source:
www.scientificamerican.com

Americanisms



“The two things you can't fake are good food and good music.”
— Etta James

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MINI SUDOKU

	6				
		2		1	
	2				
			3	6	
1			2		5
	5				6

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

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ANSWER KEYS

MINI SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

Puzzles4Kids

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

Riddle Answer:
It gets toad.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Teachers, do you want us to visit your classroom? 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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20
Years

Proudly Serving This Community for 20 Years!

Twenty years wouldn't have been possible without this community. **We're celebrating this milestone with an open house at our new location**, and we'd love for you to be part of it. Stop by and say hello to our team on **Wednesday, August 19th**, from **3:30–5:00 PM** at **1700 Veterans Boulevard**. **Come celebrate with us, Dublin!**



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