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August 8, 2026 (7:30 AM to 12:30 PM)

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Shemeka Smith

Hair & Body Care, Juices

Off the Farm Produce

Produce

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Handmade Knives

Jewelry by Keen

Handmade Jewelry

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Baked Goods

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Sea Moss & Teas

Muddy Cups & Coffee

Iced Coffee

Crumbs of Joy

Baked Goods

Minter Hill Homestead

Baked Goods

MC Sweets

Cake Pops

Frost Bites

Freeze Dried Candy & Veggies

Colbey Asbell

Baked Goods & Lemonade

Cathaleen Traylor

Farm Fresh Eggs

Simply Magnolia

Candies

Lord's Coffee

Roasted Whole Bean Coffee

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Homemade Cookies

O'neal Honey Farm

Local Raw Honey

919 Bakery

Baked Goods

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Baked Goods

Break Bread with Winnie

Baked Goods

Crown & Spore

Gourmet Mushrooms

Bev's Sewing Room

Handmade Accessories

We are an authorized SNAP/EBT market.

Lawmakers urge 'prompt action' after state BOE hearing

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

Dublin's state lawmakers have written the Georgia State Board of Education, urging "prompt action" after next week's hearing on the Dublin City Schools' accreditation status.

The formal hearing before the Georgia Board of Education is required by law after Cognia, the district's accreditation agency,

downgraded Dublin City to "accredited with conditions" – the agency's lowest status and a required step toward dropping accreditation altogether.

The state school board must decide after the required hearing whether to recommend to the governor that the local board members be suspended and replaced.

"Dublin's students, parents and educators deserve stability and a

school system fully focused on their success," state Sen. Larry Walker, president pro tempore, wrote in a letter with Rep. Matt Hatchett.

"Chairman Hatchett and I are asking the State Board to conduct a thorough hearing, consider the full record and take prompt action to ensure effective governance and restore public confidence. Dublin's families, educators and taxpayers should not have to wait any longer

for this process to move forward."

An initial hearing was held in July when the Dublin school board asked for and received a continuance until Wednesday.

In their letter, Hatchett, who chairs the House Appropriations Committee, and Walker asked that the hearing not be delayed again

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
Continued on page 8

50-year flood ...
Sunday's flash flooding believed to be Dublin's worst in a half-century

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

City officials called Sunday's flooding something that has not happened in downtown Dublin in 50 to 100 years as residents and businesses continued to clean up water damage sustained from the downpour over such a short amount of time.

Dublin City Manager Josh Powell said the city documented at least 3.5 inches of rainfall at the city's water plant within a one- to two-hour period on Sunday. Mayor Joshua Kight said the unusually intense flooding caused water to back up into some of the town's streets, houses and businesses.

"Unfortunately, as a result, several residents and owners were severely impacted by the flooding," Kight said. "City department employees showed up on Sunday afternoon to help clear drainage inlets, route traffic and clean up debris. At the same time, I was glad to see community members pitching in to help their neighbors as well."

This was seen at The Ice House, owned by Moises Acosta. He and his daughter were driving downtown and noticed how bad the water was and decided to check on The Ice House.

They found a significant amount of water inside the building. He believed there was about 14 inches of water inside. At first, Acosta thought he would go home and return Monday to work on the cleanup. The next thing he knew Jason Keyton and other people were there to help him.

"They showed up out of nowhere," said Acosta, who also praised the Dublin Police Department and other city employees for their response to the flood. "All of a sudden I looked and people were grabbing furniture and helping out.

Floodwaters surround the family life center at First African Baptist Church/SPECIAL PHOTO

It was nice to see the community's support. This is one of the reasons we fell in love with Dublin. People want to

help out and help others."

Keyton received a call from Jack Walker who lives near the Ice House. Keyton

drove to where Walker lives and checked on other buildings. He saw five to six inches of water inside the Mackey-Perry-Prior Building.

"I called them back and told them there was water everywhere and the trash dumpsters had floated around the block," Keyton said. "I saw all of the water there at Moe's place."

Keyton walked inside and saw Acosta on the phone. He walked up and told the owner they were there to help.

"That is what our community does," Keyton said. "When we see somebody in need, we roll our sleeves up and we'll get to work."

Walker said they had water flowing through their garage just a few feet down from the Ice House.

"You could see the water outside of the garage door was about seven to eight

FLOODING
Continued on page 8

Water was backed up around the Ice House and Mackey-Perry-Prior Building/SPECIAL PHOTO

It's Dublin! Diamond Youth Baseball to hold its World Series here

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The World Series is coming to Dublin.

The Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority-Legacy Sports won the opportunity to host the 10U and 12U 2028 Diamond Youth Baseball World Series to the area, bringing with it an estimated economical impact of more than \$2 million.

The DLCRA made the announcement Tuesday afternoon, a week after Brian Mallette, Jack Walker, Tracie Morgan, Eli Floyd and Casey Cullens took a trip to Laurel, Mississippi to secure the votes to become the host site. This will be the first time since 2008 that a city in Georgia will host the two-week tournament, which will have a total of 72 teams and their families from across the Southeast.

"We are excited about the DYB World Series coming to Dublin, Georgia," said Mallette, executive director of the DLCRA. "We had to go and spend some time talking to many people to get on board and bring this thing to Dublin. We saw first-hand how (the tournament) works and operates and we are super grateful and fortunate."

Mallette thanked Louie Curry for being a big part

WORLD SERIES
Continued on page 8

Man critical after car catches fire

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A 66-year-old Dublin man is in critical condition at the Augusta Burn Center after police officers removed him from a burning car Tuesday evening.

Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler said police received a call about a vehicle on fire on Sunny Lane around 7:39 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4. The caller said the vehicle was parked between the house and a garage. They also believed there was a man, later identified as Richard Wells, still in the vehicle.

"Two Dublin police officers found the man unresponsive in the driver's seat and was able to remove him from the car," Cutler said. "We are thankful the police officers were in the area because another minute or so it could have been a much different outcome. They gave him the best chance of survival."

When firefighters arrived, some quickly put out the flames while others

A 66-year-old Dublin man was pulled out of this burning car after it caught on fire Tuesday evening on Sunny Lane /SPECIAL PHOTO

helped EMS with Wells. The man initially went to Fairview Park Hospital before being transported to the Augusta Burn Center.

"He did have smoke inhalation and some burns," the chief said. "The fire

started in the engine compartment and was working its way into the passenger's compartment when the fire was discovered."

CAR FIRE
Continued on page 8

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1 section, 8 pages • Vol. 112, No. 87, Pub. No. 161860

OBITUARIES



Annett Butler Carr

Annett Butler Carr, 94, passed away peacefully on Aug. 3, 2026. She was born on Sept. 3, 1931, in Dothan, Alabama, to Beachum Butler and Nora Lee Butler and was their only daughter. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 62 years, Alton Carr; her parents, Beachum Butler and Nora Lee Butler; and her son-in-law, Thomas Tarpley, husband of her daughter Lavelle. Growing up on a farm, Annett learned the value of hard work at an early age. That strong work ethic remained with her throughout her life. Whether working outside the home or caring for her family, she devoted herself wholeheartedly to providing for those she loved. She spent 25 years as a dedicated employee of J.P. Stevens Company before retiring.

More than anything, Annett's greatest joy and purpose in life were her family. She believed her most important responsibility was to ensure her children knew God, loved their family, and treated others with kindness and respect. One of her favorite sayings was, "To have a friend, you must be a friend." She lived those words every day through her generosity, compassion, and unwavering love for others. Annett was a selfless and giving woman who willingly shared her time, care and encouragement with friends, neighbors and family. She loved her neighbors unselfishly and gave her family all she had. Her gentle spirit, steadfast faith and unconditional love made her an extraordinary wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. No one could have asked for a more loving mother or a more devoted family member. She is survived by her loving daughters, Lavelle Carr Tarpley and Joany Carr

ANNIVERSARIES

- Aug. 6
Jack & Nancy Campbell
- Aug. 7
*Nathaniel & Linda Isaac
George & Emily
Sleighmon
Mark & Thelia Smith
Brad & Sheila Yancey*

BIRTHDAYS

- Aug. 6
*Jaden Cole Austin
Saul "Trae" Fluker
Kelly Knight
Danny Tolbert*
- Aug. 7
*Chris Coney
Gay Grimes
Travis Roberts
Tony Shelley
Dr. Latrice Wright*

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Harden (Wayne), of Dublin; her grandsons, Craig Benjamin Ayres of Dublin and Matthew Ashton Slaughter (Megan) of Dexter; her treasured great-granddaughters, Avery Grace and Emery Quinn Slaughter of Dexter; along with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends. Annett's legacy of faith, hard work, kindness, and unconditional love will continue to live on through the many lives she touched. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who were blessed to know her. Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at Bethesda Baptist Church with Brother Al Daniel officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Mrs. Carr's family received friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026at the funeral home. Matt Slaughter, Ty Herrington, Chris Hamrick, John Ballard, Travis Craft and Brian Ellington will serve as pallbearers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bethesda Baptist Church, 2519 US 80, Dublin, GA 31021. Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com to sign the online memorial register. Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Delores Jean Bramblett

Funeral mass for Delores Jean Bramblett, 94, will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church followed by graveside services at 2 p.m. at Saint Joseph's (Bay Branch) Catholic Church Cemetery in Sylvania. Father Robert Phillis and Father Louis Lussier officiating. Mrs. Bramblett was born on June 9, 1932, in Pontiac, Michigan. She was a former resident of Millen, Georgia and was a member of Saint Bernadette Catholic Church. She also worked with the Catholic Glenmary Sisters operating a Catholic thrift store for the needy for over 40 years. In 2018, she moved to Dublin and joined the Immaculate Conception Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Gertrude Richway, husband Johnnie Bramblett, daughter Patricia Bramblett, and two sons Michael Bramblett and Johnny Bramblett. Mrs. Bramblett passed away on Monday, Aug. 3, 2026, at her residence.

She is survived by her children, Kathy Underwood of Sylvania, Donna "Angel" James of Shady Valley, Tenn. and James Bramblett (Penny) of Dublin; daughter in law Holly Bramblett of Millen; brother Gerald Richway of Michigan; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Pallbearers will be Coty James, Billy James, Andrew James, Johnathon James, Casey Myers, Robbie Underwood, James Bramblett, Dillan Bramblett and Christopher Hayden.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the St. Joseph's (Bay Branch) Catholic Church in Sylvania, Georgia. Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Dublin Chapel has charge of the funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit www.stanleyfuneralhome.com.



Willie Pearl Lanier

Funeral services for Mrs. Willie Pearl Lanier, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the Williams Chapel Baptist Church, 1142 Hwy 29 S, East Dublin. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery. Mrs. Willie Pearl Lanier was born on June 2, 1936, to the late Myrtle Burney and William Lanier. She lived a life marked by love, strength, kindness, and unwavering devotion to her family. On Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026, she peacefully departed this life, leaving behind a legacy of cherished memories that will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. Willie Pearl was preceded in death by her parents, Myrtle Burney and William Lanier; her beloved son, Tommie Lanier; her grandson, Rodney Lanier; and all of her siblings. She leaves to cherish her precious memories her loving sons, Wayne Peacock, Larry Chain, and Tony (Brenda) Chain. She also leaves behind daughters Sheila (Roger) Fluker, and Kathy Cason, and grandchildren, Erica (Rev. Thomas) Hall, Roderick Lanier, Erin Lanier, Kendrick (Jenny) Edmond, Kendal Edmond, Vangela Hines, Brandon Chain, and Brian Howell, who was a bonus grandson, along with ten great-grandchildren, two great great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and devoted friend, Miss Janie Wilson and Bonus Sister Charlie Mae Payne and many other dear friends who will forever treasure the love, wisdom, and kindness she shared throughout her life. Willie Pearl Lanier was a faithful member of Williams Chapel Baptist Church. She

Metro Atlanta water authority investigates outage as authorities warn of Iran-linked hackers

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A water utility that serves 300,000 homes and businesses in metro Atlanta is still investigating whether a hacker caused a service outage last week. That July 27 shutdown in northern Clayton County occurred the same day that water utilities in at least seven states started reporting incidents to the federal government involving the computers that automate their processes. On Thursday, the FBI and Environmental Protection Agency issued a joint announcement that “malicious cyber actors” had been attacking utilities’ programmable logic controllers, or PLCs, sometimes degrading water operations. The attacks reportedly caused flooding and loss of water pressure, which can allow untreated groundwater to seep into service pipes. That is what happened for three hours after midnight in Clayton County, when the water authority had to issue a boil-water advisory for several communities after a pump station failed. “We’re still investigating what exactly caused the outage,” Erin Thomas, the spokeswoman for the Clayton County Water Authority, said Tuesday. “Some of our equipment just lost power, so we can’t confirm that somebody hacked into it.” Thomas said that kind of failure had never happened before. “Most of the time when you have any type of outage of that sort, it’s typically due to a main break,” Thomas said, adding that the authority’s technology experts were trying to determine whether the PLCs were involved.

COUCH THEATRE

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

"The Shards" (TV-MA) -- Teen drama lovers, you continue to be fed this year, and this latest thriller series hails from none other than creator Ryan Murphy ("The Beauty") and screenwriter Bret Easton Ellis ("American Psycho"). This series is based on Ellis' semi-autobiographical novel from 2023 and takes place in 1981 Los Angeles. Igby Rigney ("Devil in Disguise: John Wayne Gacy") lands his first main role in a TV series as he plays 17-year-old Ellis during his senior year of prep school. He feels like he's on top of the world with his girlfriend and group of friends, until the arrival of a new student named Robert (Homer Gere) shakes up their dynamic. Simultaneous with Robert's arrival is the unexpected presence of a serial killer named the Trawler, who begins abducting people across the city. The first

two episodes premiere on Aug. 5. (Hulu)

"The Devil's Mouth" (PG-13) -- Speaking of teen dramas, this survival thriller film features a cast with a couple of actors who got their big breaks in one! Lana Condor ("To All the Boys") and Gavin Casalegno ("The Summer I Turned Pretty") star alongside Kathryn Newton ("Ready or Not 2") as a group of friends who wish to have one last adventure together in Thailand before graduating from college. So, the friends decide to sign up for a guided swim tour through a cave system called The Devil's Mouth. All is well upon entering the cave, until they probe deeper into the cave and discover a deadly bull shark. With it out for blood, these amateur cave dwellers will have to play the longest waiting game of their lives to see if they can escape this hell in one piece. Out now. (Amazon Prime Video)

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The et cetera chronicles - vol. 137

TAKING A DIP FOR THE FIRST TIME - Anyone who has been outside in the summer knows that a pool is a good place to go to cool off. Stubbs Park had the first public pools, three in all. The last was leased by the Jaycees and closed when integration drove many citizens away. Black people were not allowed in the pool under restrictions in a deed from the Stubbs family to the city about 1907. On Aug. 14, 1953, a large pool was erected on the grounds of the Georgia Negro 4-H Club, the only such facility in the United States. Macon Telegraph, Sept. 6, 1953.

TWO VETERAN COUNSELORS - Malcom Towson and Dale Thompson both attended law school at Mercer University in Macon, where they graduated with a law degree in the late 1940s. Both men came back to their home areas to practice. Towson and Thompson were veterans of World War II. Both men were members of either the Dublin VFW Post or the Dublin American Legion Post. Both men continued to serve veterans on a statewide basis, Towson as State Judge Advocate of the Veterans of Foreign Wars beginning in 1952, and Thompson, who was appointed as Judge Advocate of the Georgia American Legion in 1951 for the first of three one-year terms. Macon Telegraph, Aug. 24, 1953. Macon News, July 27, 1952.

LYMAN! IS THAT YOU? - Lehman and Lyman were walking down the streets of London when they approached each other. The Keen brothers knew that each of them was stationed in England during the winter of 1944. They had arranged a meeting in early 1943, but the boys lost track of each other. Macon Telegraph, Jan. 1, 1944.

WHO WAS MONTROSE, GEORGIA NAMED FOR?

DID YOU KNOW ...?

When were the first airbags installed in U.S. automobiles?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

August! The hottest month of the year (in most places, anyway). And yet, it's also the month in which most kids go back to school.

That, in itself, isn't much of a problem. The problem comes up when the systems get the electric bills for all the air conditioning they have to use.

If schools didn't start in the hottest month of the year, the bills wouldn't be so high. Duh.

That's your public service thought for the week. Now, on to the trivia!

Did you know ...
... Leonardo da Vinci needed ten years to paint the Mona Lisa? Da Vinci (1452-1519) completed the work in 1503, having spent ten years working on the portrait of Lisa del Giocondo (1479-1542). It was one of the first paintings to depict its subject in front of an imaginary background landscape. Additional trivia note: The Mona Lisa is not painted on canvas, but rather on a plank of poplar wood. The painting also receives fan mail each year, and under French heritage law it cannot be bought or sold, despite being literally priceless. (That smile ... that smile.)

... a professional wrestling organization had to change its name because of an animal-rights group? The World-Wide Wrestling Federation (WWWF) was founded in 1952 by two promoters, Roderick "Jess" McMahon (1882-1954) and Joseph "Toots" Mondt (1894-1976). For marketing purposes, the name was shortened to

World Wrestling Federation (WWF) in 1979 – almost immediately catching the ire of a group that was already using those initials, the World Wildlife Fund. The animal-rights organization sued over the use of the WWF trademark, and in 2002 the wrestling organization lost. Forced to rebrand itself, the company became World Wrestling Entertainment, or WWE, and removed any trace of the old branding. (That's called laying the smack down.)

... your brain makes decisions seven seconds before you are aware of it? In an article in Wired magazine in 2008, it was reported that scientists using scanning devices on the brains of volunteers noted brain activity seven seconds before the subject announced what the decision to be made was. Those results were common across all of the test subjects. (They didn't scan my brain. It makes decisions I'm not ever aware of.)

... a popular game show host was once on three different shows at the same time? On February 4, 1991, Alex Trebek (1940-2020) took over as the host of the NBC revival of To Tell the Truth. At the same time, Trebek was hosting Classic Concentration on the same network and Jeopardy! in syndication. It was the first time in television history that one host had three different game shows on the air at the same time. (Alex always was something of an over-achiever.)

... airbags are not a new thing in the automotive industry? Autos in the U.S. began being equipped with the air cushion restraint

For the better part of the last 125 years, most people think that Montrose was the middle name of Col. Dudley M. Hughes, of Allentown. Hughes had an enormous amount of land in the area. He founded the Macon, Dublin and Savannah, which ran through the town. In point of fact, Hughes' middle name was Mays. Mrs. Gertrude Stubbs, wife of Col. John M. Stubbs and daughter of Gov. Herschel Johnson of Georgia, suggested the name of Montrose after a town in Scotland. It has been said that the name is a contraction of a Latin phrase, a Mountain Rose. Macon Telegraph, March 15, 1937.

PLAYING ARMY - The older men of Georgia, along with some boys under the age of 18, joined the Georgia State Guards in the first full year of World War II. The Dublin Unit, 46, under the command of Lt. Morris Hankin, and Unit 275, under the command of Lt. Thomas H. Hobbs, under the command of Major Marshall Chapman, commander of District 24. In the dead of winter, the two local units held maneuvers at Sessions Lake, the current site of the Dublin Country Club before it opened in 1947. Then men hiked from downtown Dublin to the training site. The members of the American Legion Post 17 prepared a barbecue lunch around 12:00 hours. Macon Telegraph, Jan. 27, 1943.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE - Russell Smith, an ordinary man, was fighting for his country in the South Pacific. In May of 1942, his mother, Mrs. Richard Smith, opened a telegram which informed her that Russell was missing in action. Around the same time she got the distressing notice, a letter from her son was placed in her mailbox. She was assured that all was A-OK. Russell was scheduled to leave the Panama Canal Zone aboard a navy ship. Before



By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.

the "shove off" command came, Russell and a friend decided to take a ride around the bay. A stronger-than-normal current drove the men of course. The boat capsized, and the men had to swim back to safety. By the time they back to the shoreline, the boat which they were ordered to board was sunk by a Japanese submarine. Russell and his Buddy were not among the list of survivors, so once again he was listed as "missing in action." In February 1943, Smith made it home, and his mother and family got to hold him. He was not missing anymore. He had left the "Twilight Zone." Macon Telegraph, Feb. 8, 1943.

A PROUD GRANDSON - George W. Daniell came from Brunswick County, North Carolina to eastern Laurens County at an early date. His paternal grandfather was Robert Daniell, Colonial Governor of South Carolina. His maternal Grandfather was General George Howe, commander of the Southern Colonial Armies in the American Revolution. The Weekly Standard, Feb. 11, 1846

MOMENTS IN TIME

- * On Aug. 17, 1579, Francois, Duke of Alencon and Anjou, visited Queen Elizabeth I of England with the design of winning her hand in marriage -- the only suitor to court her in person. He was 23 and Elizabeth 45. Though they became quite close, the queen's subjects heartily disapproved of the idea of a French king, and two years later Elizabeth declined the proposal with what appears to have been genuine regret. She remained single for the rest of her life.
 - * On Aug. 18, 1826, Scottish explorer Alexander Gordon Laing made his way across the Sahara and became the first European to reach the fabled trading city of Timbuktu. Merely weeks after leaving it, he was murdered in his sleep by his own Arab escorts.
 - * On Aug. 19, 1914, Elmer Rice's courtroom drama "On Trial" debuted at New York City's Candler Theatre. It ran for 365 performances and became famous for pioneering the use of the cinematic "flashback" and reverse chronology on stage.
 - * On Aug. 20, 1957, the U.S. Air Force's ultra-high balloon flight Project Manhigh broke the existing altitude record by reaching 101,516 feet over Minnesota and South Dakota with physician and scientist David G. Simons in an aluminum capsule suspended from a helium balloon. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for the achievement.
 - * On Aug. 21, 1980, the animal-rights organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) was incorporated in a basement office in Takoma Park, Maryland.
 - * On Aug. 22, 1992, FBI sniper Lon Horiuchi, while aiming at a fleeing suspect, shot and killed Vicki Weaver during an 11-day siege at her home at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. Weaver was unarmed and holding her infant daughter behind the door of her cabin. Horiuchi was initially charged with manslaughter but the charges were dismissed.
 - * On Aug. 23, 2018, the discovery of a bone from a 90,000-year-old hybrid human, half Neanderthal, half Denisovan and thought to be a girl of at least 13 years old, from Anuy River, Siberia, was published in Nature magazine.
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The Courier Herald



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New year of education investment starts now

While “thinking” about this week’s column it I did a frequent development technique, which is to scroll through my various social media channels. I can assure you this is to help get ideas on paper and in no way should be construed as procrastination.

It was a productive detour. In much of Georgia, classes begin again this week. Post after post was the bright smiles of kids on their first day of the school. Parents were quite proud to show the milestones the families were marking together.

One video reel in particular stood out, as it was a friends’ daughter setting out for her first day of first grade. Though it’s been more than half a century since I took that step, I can still relate to the fears of the unknown for the kid, and for the parents. It’s a huge step.

I sent her dad a quick text, noting of course that I couldn’t believe she’s already in first grade. Watching kids instantly turn into adults is one way we know we’re getting old. I’d rather not speak about former college interns turning 40.

He let me know that she’s “excited”, and had met her teacher last week who seems nice. She’s most looking forward to art class.

I sat with that for a moment and realized that the original topic of today’s “serious” column can wait a week. Maybe more.

Instead, I’d like to linger vicariously a bit with some childlike wonder.

We’re the adults. Whether the parents of these children or not, we know the trepidations and fears of sending them off into the



By CHARLIE HARPER

unknown. We also have the responsibility to ensure they have an environment where they are safe, reasonably comfortable, free of distraction, and able to learn.

More than one half of our state’s budget goes to education. Between two thirds and three quarters of local property tax dollars are also earmarked for local schools. In most counties one quarter of the local option sales taxes collected are added to the pot as well. The federal government then contributes between ten and fifteen percent of total education spending in Georgia, again as a portion of the tax dollars we pay returning to local schools.

We, the adults, spend a lot, from almost every form of tax we pay at each level of taxation, for education. This isn’t what is on the mind of the kids smiling for pictures today.

They want a teacher who is nice. They want a class that seems fun.

They’re going to learn a lot over the next twelve years. They’ll make friends. They’ll find that some of the classes that seemed fun might not be. Hopefully they’ll learn that a few sub-

jects that once seemed icky are quite enjoyable.

Along the way, they’ll become adults. They’ll realize at some point that they’re the working product of a large bureaucracy. They’ll learn that there’s a system that places constraints on their individual outputs in the name of an easier to manage conformity. They’ll learn that a lot of what they have to do are things they have no interest in doing.

In short, they’re going to learn about life. Some lessons are great. Some are forgettable. And many will stick with us, whether good or bad.

What we as adults can and should be doing is considering how we measure these lessons, and the value they create. We tend to measure education on spending. Those who put the emphasis here always conclude the answer is “more”.

We have others at the state level who are asking different questions. “How” is a good start.

The kids starting first grade today don’t know about Covid learning loss. The benchmarks used that show a lot of kids didn’t master reading by third grade

during that shut down are now starting middle school.

Too many are behind. “Literacy” is now the rallying cry.

How to fix the problem won’t just require spending. It’s about how we’re spending it, and what tangible results need to be measured.

We’re also trying to figure out how to keep kids interested in school in an era where screens are everything, answers to any question are readily available on the internet, and individual thinking is too often optional.

A second video I saw while scrolling this morning was of some guys trying to see how many balloons lined up in a row they could pop using one throw of different implements. I immediately thought of my high school physics teacher. We learned a lot by dropping things, throwing things, and breaking things.

He walked a fine line with the school’s administration. He occasionally got called into the principal’s office for crossing it. Yet my classmates can remember him and some of those lessons 40 years later.

Kids like to build things and break things. Today it might be an art class. Tomorrow that creativity might morph into applied physics.

Adults need to lean in to creative destruction in education. Twelve years is two lifetimes to a first grader. It’s a very short time we adults have to ensure our investments in education pay dividends later. We need to take that childlike wonder seriously as the platform for exploration and learning that it is.

A few days later, he was told that state law dictated that no state employee was allowed to make more than the governor who was making something like \$7,500. Howard’s replay was, “Well, y’all better change the law.”

When the dust settled, the law was changed. Coach Howard got his \$10,000, but every president of every four-year institution and the governor all got raises for \$10,000 or more which brought about this exclamation from Coach Howard: “That’s one time those so-and-so’s didn’t think there was too much emphasis on football.”

As a UGA alumnus, it was enriching to get to know Ben and his wife, Marilyn, appreciating their support of the community. There is something special about the Ayerses. They love the small college-town atmosphere; they are advocates of the power of education for our nation and give of themselves to town and gown compatibility.

They will be enthusiastic fans of Clemson and its constituency, and I am sure Ben will reside in the forefront of trying to help solve the current issues with college sports. After all, he is a natural leader who is selfless and altruistic, and he is also a creative thinker.

Georgia’s loss is Clemson’s gain.

Ben Ayers

Benjamin Campbell Ayers is the sort of guy who has a measured style that keeps him not too far right or left of center, with an ability to relate to those who lean to the extreme in either case.

He has a distinguished resume, which began in Heflin, Alabama, where he was born and raised, after which he matriculated at the University of Alabama. Underscoring academic excellence, he was a very good student who had aspiration for advanced academic opportunity. That led him to a master’s degree in Tuscaloosa and then a doctorate at the University of Texas.

Having spent the last 30 years at the University of Georgia, he had become a campus staple and as entrenched as the Arch, the Chapel Bell, and the hedges of Sanford Stadium.

This means that he has had an exposure from assistant professor to department head to dean to provost, connecting him with faculty, students, and alumni—a versatile academician who also has the common touch. His old-shoe fit has enabled him to grow, excel, and lead wherever he has been, which has enabled him to manage issues and problem solve with a vi-



By LORAN SMITH

sionary inclination that will serve him well in his new role as President of Clemson University, 79 miles east of Athens. He will identify well with the constituents in this burg where many of its inhabitants are in touch with the land, keen on hunting and fishing like what he was familiar with in Tuscaloosa and Athens.

The locals will see him at the grocery store and around town, patronizing local establishments (maybe not the Esso Club), and at the golf course—but not right away. He has too much on his plate for that at this point, but he does enjoy the game.

He already knows about the tradition of Howard’s Rock, which the Tiger players rub for good luck before they cascade down the slope to Frank Howard Field on gameday.

His biggest problem will be his wardrobe. He is leav-

ing one that was tastefully overwhelmed with red, which now will transition to orange. In Clemson he will be a Damn Good Tiger. It begins with the fact that Ayers really does enjoy college football, but with his background, he knows from time spent in Tuscaloosa, Austin, and Athens, how important football is to the community and the alumni.

With a longtime friendship with Coach Howard, I shared a few with Ben over dinner recently. A favorite had to do with Clemson defeating Miami in the 1951 Orange Bowl, 15-14, which brought ultimate euphoria to Pickens County.

Coach Howard was the toast of the state and knew he would be considered for a big raise. While I don’t remember all the facts, I know that he shocked all state officials when the game ended in Miami, he became a “ten-thousand-dollar man.”

TELL IT!



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

I have been associated with Dublin City Schools as a student, mother of students, employee and supporter for many years. And I have never been so disappointed as I am at this time. I worked under five superintendents, and never did I hear that the board was divided or hear of disagreements between the board members. What has happened? Again I ask, why do we have to have these academy’s or magnet schools? Why can’t the students go into a regular classroom and be taught? Folks it’s a real mess and I for one do not see it getting any better. As I said it’s very disappointing and I for one am very sad about everything going on.

I applaud the group that has started the cleanup downtown. I agree it can be a reflection of the citizens when there is trash lying around everywhere. So let’s see if something can be done about the land fill that has been created on North Jefferson Street by a local company. After all North Jefferson is one of Dublin’s main through fares.

We are called to be good stewards of God’s money. After all, it all belongs to Him anyway. Dublin isn’t a good steward of God’s money. Just about every community citizen is aware of the wasteful and corrupt spending of our school board, but we see that same mindset in our city council. Before we plant more flowers in the middle of our streets or build more useless roundabouts, we need to invest into our homeless population. The city council’s stance is to keep our homeless problem a secret in fear that industry will not choose to invest in our community. It’s a good thing that Warner Robins had no such fear.

I can’t understand why I’ve been late for work lately. But I do understand now because I’ve been going by the clock on the bank in East Dublin.

The bank in East Dublin has its clock on eastern standard time instead of daylight savings time and it’s one hour off.

I read the letter in Tuesday’s paper about the

community of Dudley. And I agree. While I do not live in Dudley I do have friends and relatives who do live there so I am a frequent visitor. Dudley is a very nice, friendly, clean area. Those of you who seem to be upset about things may need to move. I hope you can find that perfect place.

So, it’s \$75,000 for the city gas department, I get that. But, if the gas department supplies gas to people in this community, wouldn’t that be like paying twice at the pump? We’ve got to pay you to get a truck that should be taken out of the gas department money.

I want to tell the Dublin Police Department H.E.A.T. that they are doing a good job with the speeders. In the county, we call in and tell them what roads are having a lot of speeders on them. Even the deputies come by here at a high rate of speed with no lights on just a speeding. I reckon we’re going to have to get the Georgia State Patrol out here about it. But I wish the Laurens County Sheriff would do something about it. *Editor’s note: Please inform us what road, or roads, you are talking about.*

For those that have complained about not getting your paper since changes have been made. It’s not the fault of the Courier Herald. Every time I have a substitute carrier I don’t get mine.

Why doesn’t Fairview Park Hospital have their own patient ground transport?

It appears that the ex-superintendent that retired is still placing his children and other people in the school system the way he’d like to have them. The taxpayers are tired of paying for the ex-superintendent and his children to teach at Dublin City Schools.

It’s been close to a year now and no one has been held accountable for stealing all of the money. Where is the GBI, where is the FBI and where is our district attorney? Someone took that money. All they have to do is follow the money. They know where it went.

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said to Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."

- II Kings 2:9

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good just because it's accepted by a majority."

- Booker T. Washington

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

August 6, 2026 is...

- Corporate Baby Name Day
- National Fresh Breath Day
- National Fresh Breath Day
- Wiggle Your Toes Day
- Cycle to Work Day
- Hiroshima Day

YOUR TURN:

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

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



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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

- On July 26 at 1:27 p.m., an officer responded to Best Buy Road regarding a physical domestic dispute between a man and woman. When the officer arrived, he saw a man, identified as Peter Lerone Owens Currie yelling at Best Buy warehouse employees in a confrontational manner. The officer met with Currie and asked him to explain what happened. Currie said he and his fiancée had been involved in a dispute and that he did not like arguing in public. Currie initially denied that the dispute had become physical. He later admitted that he grabbed the front of his fiancée's shirt but did not elaborate further. When asked what

caused the dispute, Currie would only say that it involved something that happened the previous night. The officer entered the Best Buy warehouse guard shack and spoke with an employee who showed camera footage of the incident. The footage showed Currie and his fiancée standing near the passenger side of a commercial truck and trailer. Based on their actions and body language, it was apparent that they were arguing. During the incident, the woman appeared to be attempting to distance herself from Currie. The footage showed Currie physically grabbing her shirt several times. He grabbed the front of her shirt, her arm, the back of her neck and her hair. After seeing the video, the



officer arrested Currie and then talked with witnesses. One witness saw the whole thing and told someone to call 911. The woman explained how she and Currie had been arguing when she exited the commercial truck. She walked away because she no longer wanted to remain in his company. Currie drove alongside her as she attempted to leave. He got out and demanded that she get back into the truck. The woman confirmed that Currie grabbed her in

the manner shown on the security footage. **Laurens County Sheriff's Office** - A deputy responded to a person's complaint on July 15 about a fraud that occurred on June 30. - A possible burglary happened on Claxton Dairy Road around midnight on July 21. - Dan Haskin Knight, 65, of Dexter was charged with possession of methamphetamine at the intersection of Highway 257 and North

Line Street in Dexter. A deputy saw Knight riding a bicycle going down the opposite lane of travel with no lights. - William David Blan, 37, of Rentz was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine on Central Drive around 10:15 a.m. on July 21. An investigator came into contact and arrested Blan. - Around 12:26 p.m. on July 16, a deputy met with a man at the sheriff's office in reference to a fraud case. A report was generated to document the incident. - Around 6 p.m. on July 16, a deputy responded to Ed Beckham Road in reference to a burglary. - On July 17, around 9:36 a.m., a deputy responded to a citizen on Hall Road who needed to file a police report. - A warrant was taken on a man for interference with electronic monitoring device on July 15 on Moore Station Road. *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.*

Georgia Power breaks ground on natural gas expansion at Plant Bowen

By ALANDER ROCHA GEORGIA RECORDER

EUHARLEE, Ga. — A major natural gas expansion at Georgia Power's Plant Bowen will hurt air quality in the Atlanta region, which is already struggling with ozone pollution, according to environmental groups challenging a state air permit for the project. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division in January issued a permit authorizing Georgia Power to build new turbines that will be powered by natural gas, a fossil fuel that is mostly methane, at the Bartow County power plant, which can currently produce about 3,500 megawatts of coal-fired power. The utility backtracked on plans to retire the coal-fired units by 2028, saying it would need those units to

help meet growing demand from data centers. The expansion, which is part of nearly 10,000 megawatts of new electric generating capacity approved by the Public Service Commission in December, largely to power data centers, will add about 1,500 megawatts of natural gas-fired capacity and 500 megawatts of battery energy storage. During a groundbreaking event on Tuesday, state and federal officials called the expansion a step toward energy reliability and a stronger economy. "We need this additional generation for Georgia. Georgia is growing. It's an exciting time to be in Georgia," said Georgia Power President Kim Greene. "Many of you may have seen just last week an announcement outside of Savannah,

where a customer is coming and needs almost as much generation as is produced at this plant." The project is being supported by a \$26.5 billion federal loan Southern Company received to prop up projects in Georgia and Alabama that will eventually add over 16,000 megawatts of electric power capacity. The loan, which is the largest in the Department of Energy's history, will also allow Georgia Power to build nearly as much natural gas generation at Coweta County's Yates Power Plant as at Bowen, but James Danly, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, said Tuesday that the increased demand for energy is a sign of a growing economy, and that growth "is not a problem."

"That is in fact great news. The more demand you have, that means the more driving your economy. Every time you need more electricity, it's because people are doing things that are valuable and worthwhile with that electricity," Danly said. Alex Fitzsimmons, a senior adviser to the Department of Energy secretary, said after the groundbreaking that President Donald Trump administration "is focused on building the most affordable, reliable, and secure energy system possible" and that natural gas infrastructure is a major part of that effort. "Natural gas is now 44%, roughly, of U.S. power generation. That will only continue to grow for communities that opt into that

investment because it is one of the most affordable, reliable baseload sources of energy that we have in the United States," Fitzsimmons said. But the buildout faces legal pushback. The Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of Sierra Club, is challenging the Environmental Protection Division's approval of the air permit and claimed in a court filing that the greater Atlanta area is violating air quality standards again, just four years after it was cleared from federal monitoring to bring down ozone levels. The increase in ozone levels would have triggered its contingency plans for the seven counties in the Atlanta area that were subject to the regulations.

NEWS DIGEST

The Dublin City Council will meet for pre-council at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6 followed by its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. The agenda follows: - Call to order - Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Approval of July 16 city council minutes - Approval of bills over \$15,000 - Approval of purchases over \$15,000 - Second reading and public hearing on ordinance #26-10 to amend the ordinance related to alcohol distance requirements

- First reading on ordinance #26-11 to rezone D15Do77 and D15D 036 from R-3 to B-3
- First reading on ordinance #26-12 to amend ordinance related to certain weeds, grasses and plants that are declared a nuisance
- Discussion and action on board appointments (if needed)
- Citizens comments
- Council comments
- Executive session if needed to discuss real estate, pending litigation or personnel
- Adjournment

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

Classifieds

Employment

WATER CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The City of Dublin is accepting applications for an Equipment Operator in the Water Construction Department. This Team Member must have a positive attitude and initiative. The successful applicant duties will include performing skilled work in the operation of moderate to heavy equipment. Work involves the responsibility for the safe and efficient operation of moderately heavy or specialized equipment. This employee must be able to operate a diverse range of equipment which includes a variety of trucks and construction equipment. The operation of this equipment requires considerable manipulative skill and the ability to perform specialized tasks to which the equipment is assigned. Performs semi-skilled and some manual labor tasks in construction repair and maintenance of City water and sewer facilities. Work involves the performance of a variety of tasks in constructing, maintaining, and repairing water and sewer lines. This employee may supervise or act as a lead worker with a crew. Supervision is received from the Water Construction Superintendent who makes oral or written assignments and inspects work while in progress and upon completion. Applicant must pass a drug screen, have a high school diploma or GED and possess a minimum of a Georgia Commercial Driver's License. Salary range for this position is \$42,463.67 – \$65,818.68 annually. An extensive fringe benefit package including health, dental and life insurance is also offered. Applicants may apply online through our www.cityofdublin.org website until position is filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Wanted

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

Yard/Estate Sales

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

Real Estate

For Rent/Lease

Apt. for Rent - 806B S. Washington St., 2 BR, kitchen, LR & shower, inc. pest control. \$600 dep., \$600 mo. City gas heat & window ac, stove & refrigerator. Call 478-697-6817. Located in Southside in Dublin.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Sewer Extension to Septic Users
Town of Cadwell (Laurens County)
GEFA Loan No. CW-HRF-2026-005

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP). EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, no further environmental review is planned. The proposed project consists of installation of sanitary sewer lines, force main lines, and two lift stations to connect existing developments currently using septic systems. The proposed project will also involve acquiring land for the proposed lift stations. All construction will be located on existing right-of-ways.

The project will not be located in the 100-year floodplain as indicated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map. Hurricane Helene exacerbated the existing poor conditions for septic tank users in Cadwell, and this project aims to alleviate these issues by providing reliable public sewer service.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the SERP: construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent to existing facilities that do not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility. Furthermore: the project will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters; the project will not substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants; the project will not provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; the project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment; the action will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, habitats of endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas; and the action is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy.

This determination is effective immediately. This exclusion may be revoked at any time if: 1) the project is altered and no longer meets the requirements of a categorical exclusion, 2) new evidence shows that serious environmental issues exist, or 3) a local, State or Federal law is being or may be violated. The information which supports this decision can be viewed online via the Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS) at https://geos.epd.georgia.gov/GA/GEOS/Public/Client/GA_GEOS/Public/Pages/PublicApplicationDetail.aspx and is available for public review upon request with the Georgia EPD.

If you have any questions about this determination, please contact Rhiannon Bishop of my staff at rhiannon.bishop@dnr.ga.gov or (478) 681-2811.

Jeffrey W. Cown
Jeffrey W. Cown, Director
Environmental Protection Division

Issuance Date: 07/15/2026

August 15th 2026

FARM & CONSTRUCTION AUCTION

389 WEST MEADOWLAKE PKWY- SWAINSBORO, GA 30401

AUCTION STARTS AT 8:30 AM

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EFFINGHAM YOUNG FARMERS AUCTION AT

HONEYRIDGE AGRICENTER IN GUYTON GA!

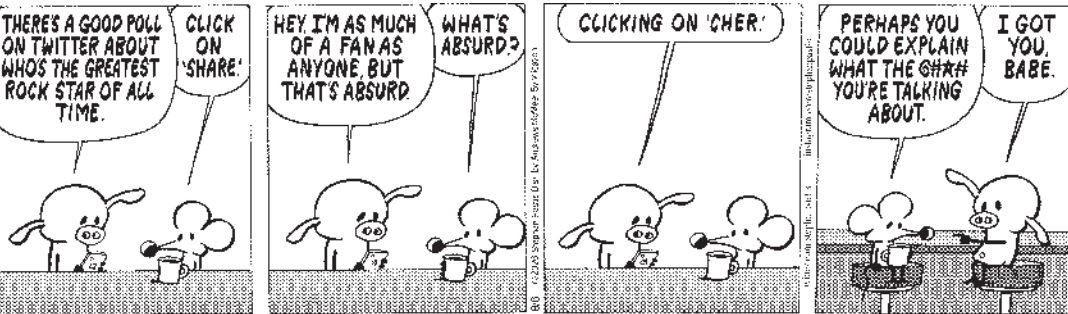
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



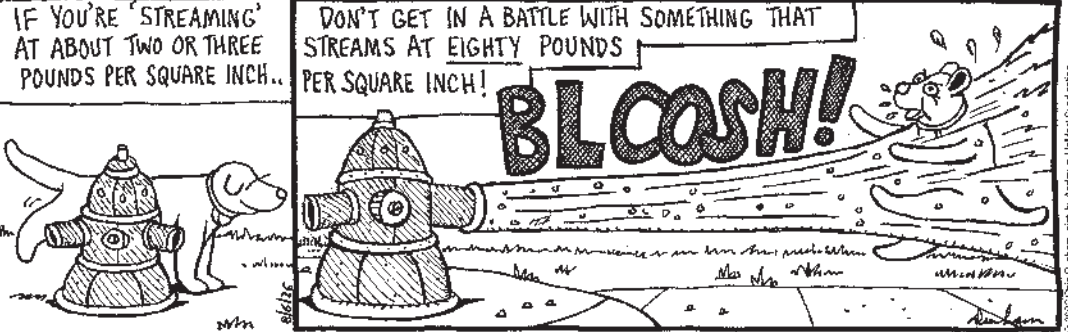
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



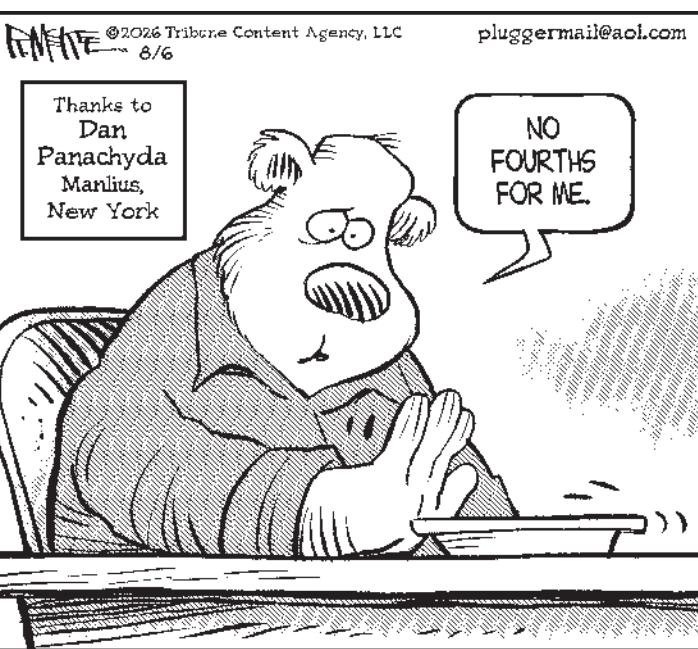
ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS

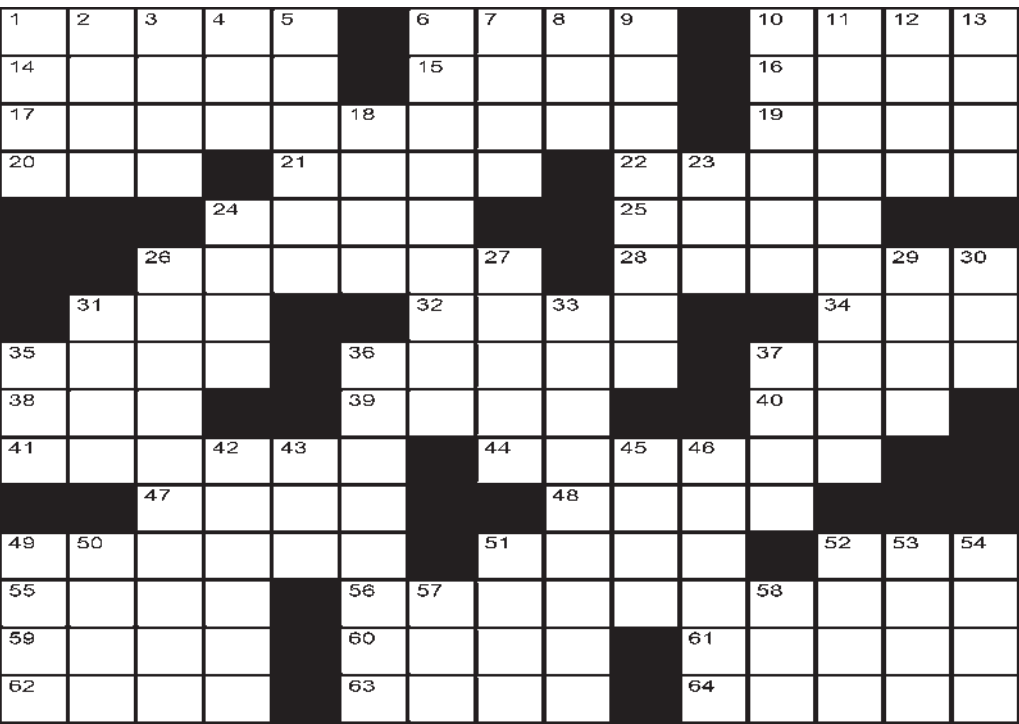
BY JEFF MACNELLY



A plugger knows his limitations.

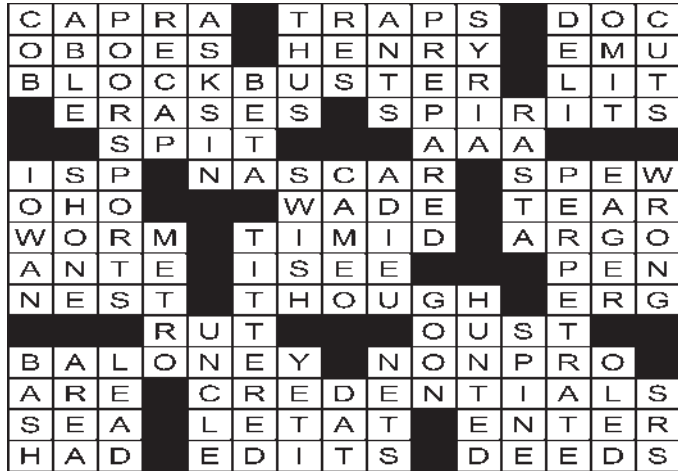
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- Geography reference book
 - British baby carriage
 - Price
 - Neighbor of Mongolia
 - "Duh"
 - Part of an opera
 - Jergens product: 2 wds.
 - Performed a 16-Across
 - Female sheep
 - Tree liquids
 - Consumes a liquid
 - Alliance since 1949: Abbr.
 - Breathing organ
 - Bible book before Judges
 - Sufficient
 - "Sure"
 - Barbecue entree
 - "Three" prefix
 - Golf target
 - Actress Ana de ____
 - Remitted
 - The whole amount
 - Fishing spot
 - Industrious insect
 - Airport helper
 - Flashlight batteries: 2 wds.
 - Brown fruit
 - Test
 - Place to store clothes
 - Storyline
 - Easter egg coloring
 - Tirade
 - Bali native
 - Blue, in Spanish
 - Better ____ nothing
 - Make purchases
 - Alonso of baseball
 - "Frozen" queen
 - Jobs to do



Created by Stella Zawistowski

- DOWN**
- Feel sore
 - Defrost
 - Part of a script
 - "The King ____ I"
 - Mexican dips
 - Sachet filler
 - MLB stats: Abbr.
 - Green sandwich topping, for short
 - Unthinking
 - Place to gamble
 - Shaggy apes
 - Washbasin
 - Marks with graffiti
 - Solemn vow
 - Manage, as a business
 - Have a ____ for news
 - Dunkin' offering: 2 wds.
 - Intended (to)
 - Gravel
 - Laid low
 - Yellow part of an egg
 - Spanish city
 - Owns



- 36 Desire to eat
- 37 Surface of the hand
- 42 Royal's home
- 43 Ingested
- 45 Coding part of a gene
- 46 Most recent
- 49 "Darn it!"
- 50 Lounge around
- 51 Smartphone precursors: Abbr.
- 52 Perishes
- 53 Sharp tug
- 54 Finales
- 57 Bruins' group: Abbr.
- 58 Restful resort

Woman has no clue why friends ousted her



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: Four years ago, my cousin "Roy" introduced me to his friends, who, once a month, have a party at the home of one of the couples. We would eat and then play a form of dominoes. It was raucous and fun. The second time I went, a couple in the group told me that now I was "part of the family." I always had fun and laughed a lot, which I hadn't experienced much after my husband died years ago. Roy even invited me to go on a couple of cruises with six people from the group.

At the end of the last cruise, everyone shunned me, except for Roy, who instead was cruel and insulting to me. Abby, no one will tell me what horrible thing I could've said or done to make everyone so furious. I told Roy that he knew I'd never do anything to deliberately hurt or offend someone I loved. He never explained anything to me, and although I reached out to five members of the group, they won't answer me either.

How can I apologize if I don't know what I said or did wrong? Roy has since died, so I can't pursue the matter with him, and I'm wondering if I should try again with any of them to find out why they ghosted me? -- LONELY WITHOUT THEM IN MISSOURI

DEAR LONELY: If the reason you want to keep pursuing this after four years is to reestablish so-

cial relationships with these people, I think the ship has sailed on that score. If, for your own peace of mind, you would like an answer, consider approaching your cousin Roy's friends one last time and asking about it. Whatever the answer may be, however, it is important that you enlarge your social circle and move forward. Continuing to dwell on this hurt will not be helpful at this point.

DEAR ABBY: Six months ago, my wife and I hired a cleaning company to help around the house once a month. It has been a big help because my wife has arthritis. Even though her arthritis is debilitating at times, she insists on still working at least part time.

When "Helen," the woman who cleans our home, arrives, we offer her tea or something before she starts to clean. Recently, she asked my wife if she worked, and

my wife responded that she works part time as a librarian. Helen's response was, "Oh, I wish I could work part time."

My wife is 64 and worked full time until two years ago. Helen is probably in her 30s. I didn't appreciate Helen's demeanor. Her response had a hint of jealousy. My wife and I are quiet people. We dislike strife. How can we politely tell Helen she talks too much? We don't mind for a little while, but she talks almost the entire time she's at our home. -- UNRECEPTIVE AUDIENCE IN NEW YORK

DEAR U.A.: A way to accomplish that would be to stop offering Helen "tea or something" when she arrives, which should give her less time to socialize. Another would be to make it a habit not to be in the same room with her while she's working. I'm sure you and your wife can find something else to do while the place is being cleaned. You could even go out for coffee or lunch unless your intuition is telling you she can't be trusted. If that's the case, you need another cleaning person.

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, August 6, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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THREE CHANCES INSTEAD OF TWO

Both vulnerable, South deals.

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

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
INT Pass 20* Pass
3♥ Pass 4♠ Pass
4♦ Pass 4NT Pass
5♠ Pass 6♥ All pass
*Transfer to hearts

Opening lead: King of ♣

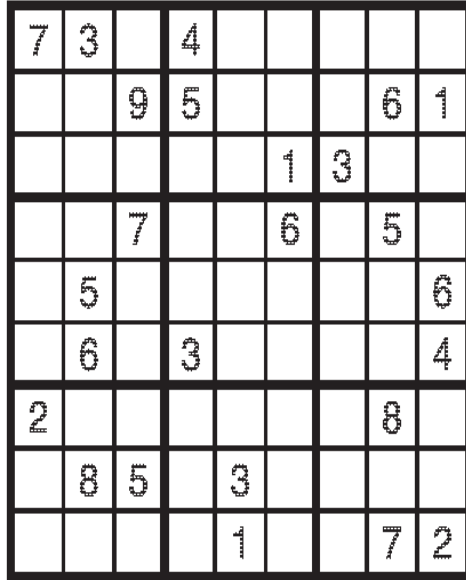
A nice sequence enabled North-South to reach an excellent slam. They had nine top tricks plus two club ruffs in dummy for 11 tricks. One extra trick from either the spades

or the diamonds would bring the total to 12. One out of two finesses is a 75 percent chance, and many declarers would be happy with that. They would draw trumps and try the spade finesse. When that lost, they would try the diamond finesse. When that lost also, they would be down one feeling very unlucky. Can you see a better line of play?

After winning the club lead, declarer should draw trumps ending in dummy and lead a spade to his nine! That makes the slam anytime East holds the 10 – just as likely as West holding the queen. Should the nine lose to the 10, South can cash the ace and king of spades, discarding one diamond. A club ruff or two on the way will help with any entry problems. He would have 12 tricks if the queen of spades falls in two or three rounds. Should both of those chances fail, declarer can still try the diamond finesse as a last resort. Three chances instead of two – a bargain we would all make.

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

SUDOKU



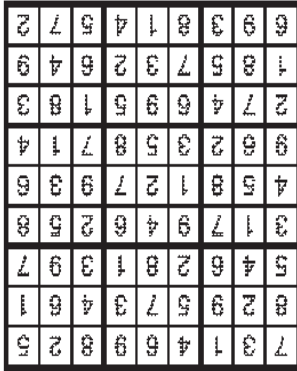
Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: 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!



ANSWER

Softball outlook: Dublin determined to keep making strides in year 1 for Young Irish open with positive showing in loss to Treutlen

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

It wasn't a win, but Monday's season opener against Treutlen was an encouraging start all the same for a Dublin softball team that showed plenty of signs it's getting better.

Though runs were tough to scrape across against an overpowering starter (their only one scored in the bottom of the fourth as El Stubbs led off with a double, and came in on a throwing error), the Irish were competitive thanks to some worthy pitching of their own, and noticeably consistent defense out of several returning starters in the field.

The Vikings scored runs in five out of the seven innings, but never more than two at a time as Dublin repeatedly rallied for key outs to keep things under control, and never allowed any breakdown to progress into a meltdown.

An 8-1 loss at Southern Pines felt a lot more like a positive step than a setback for the Irish, who have grown a lot in the year since most in its existing core of players debuted last fall, but in many ways remain a team dominated by inexperience.

"We are so young, we're chock full of ninth and 10th graders," said new Dublin head coach Brian Young. "I'm just super proud of the way the girls fought today. We've come a long way in the last six weeks, and I'm looking forward to a lot of improvement throughout the season. The girls are a special group. They work really hard, great attitudes."

Stubbs, who drew the opening-night nod, had a few ups and downs in the circle, striking out as many (five) as she walked, but was one of the brightest bright spots in Monday's debut.

The junior, who is one of several returning upperclassmen who are now the better for having been forced into the fire as immediate contributors their freshmen and sophomore seasons, increasingly had the look of a veteran pitcher who's coming into her own.

Her stuff, in itself, forced



COULDN'T HAVE DRAWN IT UP BETTER: New Dublin head coach Brian Young reacts after Monday's game started in ideal fashion for the Irish in the field, with a 1-2-3 top half of the first inning/CLAY REYNOLDS

Treutlen hitters to adjust at the plate. But the Vikings were kept off-balance as much by her increased poise, and a dimension of mental toughness that allowed her, anytime trouble ensued, to dial things back in quickly.

"Her velocity is up. She's been hitting the weight room, and a lot stronger than she was last year, not only playing experience but she's been conditioning and lifting weights," Young said. "You look in the dictionary under the word competitor, and you'll see a picture of El."

In contrast to some recent seasons when inexplicable slip-ups were frequent on routine flies, grounders and throws, the Irish took care of business on all except a handful of the plays they were expected to make.

The afternoon started off with three of them in a row as Stubbs collected a comebacker to the circle, and her infield mates two subsequent ground balls that were each converted to outs in the first inning.

Many of those same defenders would go on to outdo themselves with some more impressive plays over the course of the afternoon.

Easily the most eye-catching flash of the leather came in right field from senior Anya Stanley on a running catch that robbed a hit for the last out of another 1-2-3 frame in the fifth.

Some teamwork among several led to a few more in the sixth, when infielders

combined to deny a run via pitchout, and nearly recorded a second out by chasing a Viking back to third in a rundown moments before.

Dublin minimized the damage of its three errors, but overall had to deal with too much Treutlen baserunning traffic that originated from the five passes, and nine hits (Ruthie Blair, Taylor Gillis and Jayden Rogers had two apiece).

A walk led to an unearned first run in the second inning, before the Vikings doubled their slight lead in the third, as a low throw gave up three free bases, and ultimately the second via fielder's choice.

Gillis' leadoff solo homer, and a subsequent bloop RBI, gave the Vikings their first crooked number in the fourth, though Stubbs recovered for back-to-back strikeouts to end the inning just before her singlehanded rally to get Dublin on the board.

The Vikings were foiled on the first couple scoring opportunities of the sixth, but ultimately tacked on thanks to a passed ball and infield hit to go up 6-1. They'd score twice more in the seventh on an error and a seeing-eye single.

The Irish, following the Stubbs run in the fourth, briefly threatened to get something going and climb back in the 4-1 game, but another runner was caught stealing, and the remainder of the opportunity fell through.

Otherwise, Monday's

game was an uphill battle against Treutlen freshman Mackenzie Beasley, who struck out seven and walked two as she held Dublin to only two additional base hits.

Hit batters, her only real issue, opened the door to some Irish opportunities early. But there just wasn't enough offense to stay in it.

Hitting saw a considerable uptick on Tuesday as Dublin out-hit Rutland 16-4, and rolled to its first win, though freebies – five walks, seven HBPs and 23 bases, stolen or conceded – helped the Irish out just as much in the 21-1 beatdown that lasted only three innings.

Stubbs led the way with three hits and RBIs, and Bri Daniel with three for two (also picking up the win in the circle with four hits, no walks and six strikeouts), while Rainna Wyatt and Zoey Bell added two each.

Still green, still growing...

The Dublin roster taken over by former Irish head coach Josh McLendon last summer was made up of an overwhelming majority of first-time softball players, who spent much of 2025 learning the game in real time, although there were plenty of games down the stretch where you wouldn't have realized it.

The Irish, who won 11 games and fell just one or two more shy of a chance to reach the state playoffs, were a work in progress all season, but had some moments when they strung together strong innings against quality competition.

Rarely, outside of games against teams they had decidedly outmatched, were they able to put seven of those together. But Dublin, which largely got to pick up where it left off in that process this offseason with all but two or three of its returning starters back in the field this year, seems to be getting a lot closer.

Monday, there were many on the field and in the box who were much more wide-eyed a year ago that now had the look of confi-



HEAD COACH: Brian Young (first season)

2024: 11-17 (6-12 region)
FINISH: Missed playoffs

KEY LOSSES: OF Mylee Wicker (Andrew); Emily Maddox (Brewton-Parker); IF Jaymi Kate McLendon (transfer)

IRISH TO WATCH:
IF/P El Stubbs, Jr.; IF/OF Morgan Allen, Sr.; C/OF Lizzie Brantley, So.; IF/P Addy Bardell, Jr.; OF/IF/P Bri Daniel, Jr.; OF Rainna Wyatt, Jr.; IF/OF Anya Stanley, Sr.; IF Zoey Bell, Jr.; OF Dynasti Darrisaw, Fr.; OF Armonie Darrisaw, Fr.; IF Janiyah Pugh, Fr.

THE UPSIDES: Growing experience; reliable pitching
KEY CONCERN: Rallying for runs

dent ballplayers, a year better prepared to hold their own.

This week's early pitching and defensive performances provided plenty of results to confirm that. But the offensive piece of the puzzle, which had yet to truly emerge on Monday, is usually the toughest to get into place, because hitting quality pitching – even for lifelong softball players – is still tough to do.

Besides maintaining the consistency they've already shown in the field, finding ways to improve at the plate will be a key focus for the Irish as the season gets going.

"We can't get deep in the counts, 0-2, 1-2 and then get caught looking for the third strike," Young said. "We've gotta be aggressive earlier in counts... but that comes with experience, obviously. We're going to work on that and give the girls a lot of batting practice every week of the season. We look to be able to get better at swinging the bat as the season goes on."

Dublin will continue its opening week with one more Thursday at Howard, in the second leg of a three-game road trip that was slated to conclude with a return to campus for their true home debut Tuesday against Portal.

This season, in a new-look region that will feature some outstanding teams in ACE Charter, East

SCOREBOARD

SOFTBALL
Monday
Treutlen 8, Dublin 1

Tuesday
Dublin 21, Rutland 1
Gateway at Trinity/PPD

PREP SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL
Thursday
Dublin at Howard
East Laurens at Perry
/5:30 p.m.

Friday
West Laurens at Vidalia
/6 p.m.

Saturday
(at Patriots Park, Harlem)
EL vs. Franklin Co./11 a.m.
EL vs. Tri-Cities/3 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL
Thursday
WL at Mary Persons/
Stratford/5 p.m.

FOOTBALL
(scrimmages)
Friday
Baldwin at EL
Dublin at Jeff Davis
Mary Persons at WL
Johnson Co. at Treutlen
Bleckley Co. at Hawkinsville
Wilkinson Co. at Stratford
GMC at Montgomery Co.
George Walton at
Brentwood

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Left: Anya Stanley makes a terrific catch in right field to end Monday's 1-2-3 fifth inning. Right: Catcher Lizzie Brantley tags out Treutlen's Kylie Phillips at the plate for an early out in the sixth inning/CLAY REYNOLDS



Treutlen's Taylor Gillis is congratulated by head coach Emily Barrs (left) on her trot around third, and received by teammates at the plate (right) after her solo blast to lead off the fourth inning gave the Vikings a 4-0 lead/CLAY REYNOLDS



Starting pitcher El Stubbs was solid, with five strikeouts for Dublin in Monday's season debut/CLAY REYNOLDS



Casey Cullen, Eli Floyd, Tracie Morgan, Brian Mallette and Jack Walker recently traveled to Mississippi and won the chance to bring the 10U and 12U 2028 Diamond Youth Baseball World Series to Southern Pines/SPECIAL PHOTO

WORLD SERIES
Continued from page 1

of having Southern Pines built where it is, because its location played a big role in Diamond Youth Baseball choosing this area.

“We are grateful for all of the people who made everything happen,” Mallette said. “We sold them on the park and our community.”

Miriam Lewis, executive director of Visit Dublin GA, knows the DCLRA put a lot of work into bringing the tournament to the area.

“It is so exciting for the community,” she said. “The economic benefits are going to reverb around our region. For this to come to Georgia is huge, especially for our county. All of these families, coaches and extended families are going to fill our restaurants and our shops. Also, they are going to meet all of the good people, attractions and amenities that Dublin has to offer.”

There will be 36 teams the first week followed by a different 36 during the second week of the tournament.

“This will be great,” said Walker, chairman of the board of directors for the DLCRA. “The DYB is a big deal and there is a lot of publicity around it.”

The group gave a presentation about Southern Pines and the community on July 29 and then had to wait until the vote was held by the board on July 31. During that time, the DLCRA representatives were able to attend ball games

and talk with people in the crowds.

“We had a fantastic video about Southern Pines and the community that Tracie put together,” Walker said. “The location of the tournament this year was 30 minutes to nearest motel. It was a brilliant move to have Southern Pines built where it is.”

The vote was held on July 31. Walker believed they were the underdogs in the process of trying to get the Diamond Youth Baseball to Dublin.

“Our team went after it and won it,” he said. “I’m really proud of the group and the effort we put in.”

Not only will the families have the chance to take a short trip to the nearby hotels and restaurant, but there is also a water park in view of the fields.

“Many teams will want to take advantage of that,” Lewis said. “They will also be able to go to our restaurants not only off the interstate but the short trip to others and in the downtown area.”

Lewis hopes the experience people have at the Diamond Youth Baseball World Series in 2028 will bring them back to Dublin, Laurens County in the future.

“I think Dublin has always been super strong in being so hospitable,” she said. “While they are here spending money and seeing what we have to offer, maybe they’ll come back. It’s going to take all of us because we want to show them the very best of Dublin.”

FLOODING
Continued from page 1

inches,” Walker said. “All of the water came through here. We had about 14 inches downstairs, which included the Mission Bake Shop.”

Water filled up the parking lot at First African Baptist Church and flowed inside their family life center. Jerry Davis, deacon at First AB Church, had never seen that amount of water at the church.

“Some of the members sent me pictures from people who passed by,” Davis said. “It was amazing to see. It looked like a building on an island. It’s amazing about how much water we had and then how quickly it went away.”

The family life center had water damage. Davis said church members went to work cleaning the building up.

“For the most part, we did get that done,” he said. “We’ve got a lot of fans going (Monday) to dry it out. There is no visible water that we can see, but we know underneath the flooring and stuff there are still some more so we’re trying to get all of that out.”

Walker saw people’s comments on social media slamming the city of Dublin for its drainage. He disagrees with the comments.

“I’ve been defending



The floodwaters at Madison and Monroe streets receded in less than an hour/SPECIAL PHOTO



them,” Walker said. “We had 14 inches of water. I put a tape measure up to the wall where the debris line was. That 14 inches of water was completely gone in one hour. We didn’t have to get pumps in here. The drainage system took it out.

“There is nothing that can handle that amount of rain in that short of time.

I was impressed with the city’s response. In my opinion, it was not a drainage issue for the city of Dublin. It was just a force of nature. This didn’t even happen during Hurricane Helene.”

According to information from a rain gauge app, Keyton showed that this area had about five inches of rain in about an hour Sun-

day. The alleyway between the former radio station and The Ice House had 18 inches of water and was up almost to Keyton’s knees.

“It had become like a small swimming pool,” Keyton said. “It was a lot of rain. That amount of water moved two trashcans. You have to realize (the infrastructure) did its job, but it has to all float back to the river.”

Unfortunately, many who were affected from Sunday’s storm do not have flood insurance.

“Nobody is covered for any of this,” Walker said. “I don’t know if there is any way to ask for disaster relief funds. If there is something there to be able to help people that would be great.”

Kight said the city is currently planning to spend more than \$2 million in general citywide drainage and stormwater improvements over the next few years.

“In addition, when we do street projects, we always try to incorporate drainage and stormwater upgrades, including the current \$1 million Mary-Moore Street project and the Woodlawn roundabout. The city is already using data and photos from this flood event to help map out areas where our town’s future investments can have the biggest positive impacts.”

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
Continued from page 1

and that the state board “conduct a thorough review of Cognia’s decision and take action to restore effective governance, financial accountability and public confidence in Dublin City School System.”

“During this year’s legislative session, the General Assembly took meaningful steps to strengthen accountability in Georgia’s public schools by passing House Bill 1164 and providing additional funding in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget to expand the Department of Audits and Accounts’ ability to conduct public school audits,” Hatchett wrote. “Those actions reflect our commitment to identifying problems sooner and ensuring school systems have the oversight necessary to protect

students and taxpayers. The situation in Dublin City Schools demonstrates why our actions were so important.

“While we recognize that our current school board, under new leadership, is making progress to rectify this situation, there’s still much more work ahead. Through this letter, we are urging the State Board of Education to move forward with its review without further delay and carefully consider every available option to restore effective governance and public confidence in the Dublin City School System.”

The letter was also sent to Gov. Brian Kemp.

The Cognia Global Commission voted in April to downgrade the Dublin City’s accreditation status based on the report of a review team from the agency.

In the report, parents, teachers, even board members and high-ranking staff told interviewers they were left in the dark as the district burned through \$4 million in federal COVID funds to cover payroll and other bills from 2021 to 2025 — when it employed more than twice as many staff members whose salaries were funded through local and federal funds as peer systems. Staffing decisions “lacked sufficient transparency,” with pay levels and positions often decided at the top with no input, the report said.

Dublin City officials have filed an official response with Cognia to make its case for keeping the district’s accreditation intact.

The school district has struggled financially for years, but the severity of its most recent cashflow problems were revealed last fall

when state officials determined the district owed more than \$6 million in overdue payments to the State Health Benefit Plan. State School Superintendent Richard Woods later said officials found widespread issues with budgeting and spending controls that had put the district on a “path to insolvency,” with a projected deficit of \$13.4 million.

A subsequent examination by the state Department of Audits and Accounts revealed a widespread lack of financial controls, patterns of overspending, over-hiring and lax bookkeeping and even personal usage of district credit card. Also, for at least eight months the district withheld insurance and benefit premiums from employees’ paychecks, but never paid that money to the state until it got caught.

CAR FIRE
Continued from page 1

Because there was a serious injury involving a fire, the State Fire Marshals’ Office was notified and sent officials to the scene to be-

gin an investigation Tuesday night. A nearby camera showed Wells arriving home around 5:30 p.m. They do not believe he ever got out of the car, remaining in it until the officers removed

him.

“At some point, something happened that made him not responsive enough to get out of the car when it caught on fire,” Cutler said. “It doesn’t appear that the

fire was intentional, but the cause of the fire is still undetermined.”

Anyone with information can call the Dublin Fire Department at (478) 277-5030.

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