

County school board sets tax increase hearings

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Laurens County Board of Education announced its plans to raise the property tax it will levy this year by 2.8 percent over the rollback millage rate.

According to school of-

ficials, the budget adopted by the LCBOE requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate, but before it can set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held, allowing the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the

increase.

People are invited to public hearings on this tax increase which will be held at the LCBOE, 467 Firetower Road, at 6 p.m. on Sept. 8 and at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sept. 17.

"We have to have three hearings to set the millage

rate," said Laurens County Superintendent O.J. Hall. "They have to take place at certain times to ensure you are having them at times so that multiple facets of the community will be able to come hear it."

According to news release from the LCBOE, the

board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any spe-

cific property, the board of tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of that property and adjust the assessment, which is called a reassessment.

"When the total digest of

SCHOOL TAXES
Continued on page 11

'We have to keep sharing the story'

Ceremony to mark 25 years since 9/11 attack

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Local first responders and the public are invited to attend a ceremony honoring the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks 25 years ago this year.

This annual program will begin around 8:30 a.m. Friday at the Public Safety Memorial, 320 S. Jefferson St., approximately 16 minutes before American Airlines Flight 11 flew into the north building of the World Trade Center in the first of several attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"It seems like yesterday and also a million years ago," said Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler.

There were firefighters, police, paramedics and citizen heroes who helped others inside the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.

After the first plane crash, United Airlines 175 then hit the south building of the World Trade Center at 9:03 a.m. and American Airlines 77 struck the west side of the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m. The reports of these attacks made its way to passengers on United Airlines 93, which had also



Local first responders and residents at last year's 9/11 ceremony/PAYTON TOWNS III, File

been hijacked. They fought back, causing their plane to crash into a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, at 10:03 a.m.

The south tower of the World Trade Center collapsed at 9:59 a.m. The north tower collapsed at 10:28 a.m. At the end of the day, 2,996 people were killed and many were injured.

Many firefighters did not return to their stations in New York.

"Anybody in the public can relate to somebody who

passed away that day because thousands of people were just going to work on a normal day or getting on an airplane and did not know what their final destination was," Cutler said. "I have a handful of people who work in the fire department but had not been born or were young on Sept. 11. We have to keep sharing the story of what the country went through."

During this year's program, the fire department's honor guard will present

the American flag, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem and a devotion led by Matt Taylor, member of Christ Chapel Dublin. "Taps" will be played by Matthew Pack.

"That and the national anthem hits me," Cutler said. "Those are two of the most emotional times from the whole ceremony."

Cutler will give remarks and updated statistics about

9/11 CEREMONY
Continued on page 11

Teen charged in shootings at Vinson Village

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A 16-year-old Dublin man was arrested Friday night on multiple charges in connection with a shooting that sent two people to regional hospitals on Aug. 22.

Darius Frazier was charged by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation with aggravated battery, aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and possession of a firearm by minor.

The case will now be turned over to the Dublin Circuit District Attorney's Office.

Around 4:54 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, Dublin Police Department officers responded to a shooting of two people in the 500 block of Vinson Village. DPD officers found two men with gunshot wounds.

According to Dublin Police Chief Keith Moon, both men remain in stable condition.

Sen. Walker wants more info about traffic cameras

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

State Sen. Larry Walker is concerned about the number of law enforcement officers who have gotten in trouble and fired for their abuse of Flock traffic cameras.

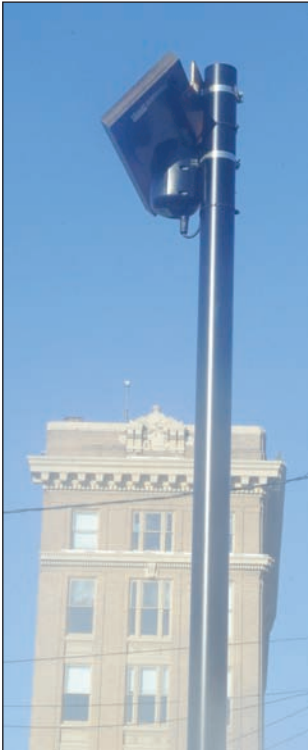
Walker, who represents Laurens County in Senate District 20 and serves as the body's president pro tempore, expressed his concerns in a letter to the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Director A.A. "Butch" Ayers and J. Terry Norris, who serves as the executive director of the Georgia Sheriff's Association.

The senator is currently in what he calls an information-gathering mode as he prepares for next January. He is confident there will be some legislation introduced about this.

"I want to have the facts," Walker said. "Because of all of the furor about it, I wanted to get up to speed on it. We continue to hear about the misuse of automatic license plate readers. Agencies do an audit and finding out that some are abusing the information or they are not using it lawfully or properly. I'm just trying to understand who authorizes the use (of Flock cameras) and who has access to the data."

Among the questions he submitted, Walker wants to know is the data owned by the private entity or the law enforcement agency, how long is the data retained and is it being deleted after a certain period of time?

He has heard from an amount of constitu-



A Flock traffic camera stationed on the sidewalk on Madison Street /RODNEY MANLEY

ents and members in law enforcement about this issue.

"They all have concerns," he said. "I think we need to put some guardrails around it and make sure it is being used in a lawful manner and there is accountability if somebody is abusing it and have an appropriate punishment."

He believes there needs to be some transparency when Flocks cameras are installed. Walker thinks local municipality should pass a local act so there is some public input and transparency.

Walker said Flock cameras are too valuable.

"They have saved lives and restored children to their families," he said. "They have been a great crime deterrent and crime-solving tool. I just think we need some

FLOCK CAMERAS
Continued on page 11

45 indicted by Laurens County grand jury

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Forty-five cases were true-billed, or indicted, by the Laurens County Grand Jury in early August.

According to Dublin District Attorney Harold McLendon, people have a

constitutional right to be indicted by a grand jury when serious charges are brought against them. Once a person is arrested, the district attorney's office will prepare an indictment and bring in an officer who has to testify to the factual basis of the case.

If the grand jury believes there is probable cause, they will bring back a true bill, which means the indictment will go forward. If they bring back a no bill, the indictment will not happen.

"In cases like murder, armed robbery and rape, all of them have to go through the indictment process," McLendon said. "Every felony through a serious nature has to go through the indictment process. Our grand jury system is key to our whole criminal process. If we had 20 people who saw a man shot down and murdered, without the grand jury bringing back a true bill we can't get to first base. Once there is an indictment, the case goes to a jury to see if there is guilt beyond a reasonable doubt."

McLendon stressed that an indictment does not mean a person is guilty.

Many things can happen.

"It's just saying the case is worthy to go further," the DA said.

The following people were indicted:

- James Cecil Barber (rape, two counts of enticing a child for indecent purposes, statutory rape, aggravated child molestation and contributing to delinquency of a minor).
- Jala Ikima Beauchamp (terroristic threats and acts).
- Ellis Ray Blankenship (burglary in the first degree and theft by taking).
- Destiny Nicole Boatman (theft by taking - felony).
- Stephanie Rose Boyd (trafficking in illegal drugs and driving under the influence).
- Jahquez Jakilo Brinson (aggravated child molestation, rape and child molestation)
- Debbie Lynn Brown (theft by shoplifting).
- Robert Burch (two counts of aggravated assault, possession of firearm during commission of a felony, four counts of pointing gun or pistol at another and simple battery).
- David Howard Cooper

Jr. (aggravated assault).

- Tyniaze Ari Edmond (theft by receiving stolen property).
- Darreonna Samone Ford (three counts of obstruction of an officer, two counts of simple battery, one count of theft by shoplifting and two counts of terroristic threats).
- Donnie Taz Francis (two counts of aggravated assault, one count of possession of firearm during commission of a felony and four counts of cruelty to children in the third degree).
- Joshua Bernard Hankins (two counts of aggravated battery and aggravated assault).
- Patrick Alan Hess (possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug-related objects and crossing the guard lines with drugs).
- Kiawanna Vonshay James (two counts of forgery in the third degree).
- Tydreikas Rayqyuan Joiner (aggravated assault and battery).
- Alexandra Jones (criminal damage to property in the second degree).
- Quantavis Marcus Jones (criminal damage to property in the second degree).
- Troyvon Demond King (burglary in the second degree).
- Jerriun Mikelle McMiller (five counts of financial transaction card fraud).
- Vernon McRae (terroristic threats).
- Troy Kendrick Outlaw

INDICTMENTS
Continued on page 11



INDEX

OBITUARIES	2	SPORTS	6-8
TELL IT!	4	COMICS	9-10
EDITORIAL	4	KIDS' CORNER.....	12

OBITUARIES



Steven George Tribble

Steven George Tribble, 74, passed away at his home on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026.

Mr. Tribble was born Jan. 1, 1952, in Atlanta. He was the son of the late Wilbur (Buddy) and Faye Tribble. He was also preceded in death by his sisters, Nancy Tribble and Suzanne Tribble, and aunt Mary Kate Tribble. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam Era. He had an unwavering allegiance to his alma mater, Auburn University. War Eagle. He lived in Dublin for the past thirteen years and in Macon for over twenty. Steve spent his formative years in Social Circle. He was a man of faith and member of Riverside United Methodist Church. He retired from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Environmental Protection Division.

Steve was a master of the honey-do list, an avid reader, and lifelong student of history. He was a kind soul, thoughtful and dedicated to his family and friends, who went out of his way to lend a helping hand. His love and devotion were evident in everything he did. He cherished Amy, his wife of 34 years. However, his proudest accomplishment was guiding his sons, Joseph and Jared, and watching them become wonderful men.

Steve is survived by his devoted wife, Amy Allums Tribble of Dublin; sons, Joseph Malcolm Tribble of Arlington, Va. and Jared Allums Tribble of Nashville, Tenn.; brothers, Randy Tribble (Cory Ditman) of Decatur and Robb Tribble of Decatur; sister, Janet Tribble of Washington, DC; mother-in-law, Alice Allums of Dublin; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Vic and Carol Allums of Decatur; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Lori and Wayne Taylor of Chapel Hill, Tenn.; and nieces and nephews, Emily and Jonny Corcoran (grandnieces Amelia and Olivia), Murfreesboro, Tenn., Rachel and Sam Sullivan (grandnephew Sonny and grandniece Charlotte) Columbia, Tenn., Coleman and Caroline Allums, Athens, Jordan Allums and Evan Jager, Nashville, Tenn., Madison Allums, New York, N.Y., and Drew Tribble, Decatur. And canine partners in crime, Max and Luke.

To honor Steve's memory, contributions may be made to Camp Sunshine at mycampsunshine.com.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. His ashes will be spread by his family along the Blue Ridge Parkway and on their other travels where he will be sincerely missed.

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



Michael Billy Spivey

Funeral services for Mr. Michael Billy Spivey were held Monday, Aug. 31, 2026 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Higgs Funeral Home in Soperton. Burial will be in the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery in Laurens County. Reverend Henry Lamb will officiate. Mr. Spivey died Friday, Aug. 28, 2026.

Mr. Spivey, 57, was the son of the late Charles Billy Spivey and Eunice Lee McCoy Spivey. He was born in Dublin, Ga. on Aug. 26, 1969, was a recent resident of Santa Claus, Ga. but had lived most of his life in East Dublin. He was a graduate of Brewton Christian Academy and was a retired truck driver of 36 years. He loved the Georgia Bulldogs, NASCAR, the Huddle House but most of all "he loved his family." He always said, "If he called you his friend, you were his family."

He is survived by his wife, Laura Mitchell Spivey of Lyons; two sons, Charles Michael (Lydia) Spivey of McRae and Cameron Matthew Spivey of Lyons; three brothers, Randy "Spook" Spivey of Dexter, Andrew (Jade) McCoy of Wrightsville and Jesus Gynjuama of Dublin and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Pallbearers will be Matthew Mallory, Matthew Lamb, Tom Benton, Jordan Kelley, Jarad Kelley and Camrin Benton.

Mr. Henry Green will serve as an Honorary Pallbearer.

The family received friends at the funeral home beginning at 10 a.m. Monday.

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

Jayci Pruett Cox

Jayci Pruett Cox, age 48, of Eastman, Ga., passed away on Aug. 27, 2026.

The family will receive friends in Southerland Funeral Chapel from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30. Funeral services were held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30, in Southerland Funeral Chapel, will have a private interment in Orphans Cemetery.

She is survived by her triplet children – Trinity, Kennedy and Seth; father – Jimmy Pruett (Casey); sister-in-law – Misty Pruett; nieces and nephews – Gracie, Brycen, Addison, Nicole and K.J.; several aunts and uncles.

Stokes-Southerland Funeral Home of Eastman has charge of arrangements.



Teresa Lynn Woodard

Teresa Lynn Woodard passed away Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, at her home surrounded by her family.

She was a Baptist by faith and was a homemaker. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was loved by many. A lot of people depended on her. She was the glue that held the family together.

Teresa was preceded in death by her parents, Joe Chapman and Mary Louise Poole Chapman, a son Robert David Woodard and a brother, John Allen Chapman.

Survivors include her husband, Ed Woodard, children, Holly (Bennie) McCoy, Bobby Woodard, Carry Hutto, Catherine (David) Schien, Grandchildren, Makayla (Bobby) Landmesser, Suzanne (Skyler) Luna, Brittany Phillips, William McCoy, Christopher McCoy, Elizabeth McCoy, Jessica Sigmon, Henry Sigmon, Rhyleigh Evans, Jacob Evans, Kinsley Evans, Liam Evans, Colby Woodard, Hunter Woodard, Cameron Schien, Bethany"Pumpkin" Schien, great grandchildren, David Eli Luna, Colson Woodard and Hunter Phillips. She is also survived by her siblings, Doug (Nora) Chapman, Bonita Pegg, Esther (Joe) Patisaul, James (Debbie) Chapman, Peter Chapman, Scott Horwitz and numerous other cousins, aunts, uncles and several good friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday Sept. 2, 2026, at Townsend Brothers Home from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Funeral Service will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026, in the Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel with burial to follow in the Gay Cemetery. Rev. Grady Mimbs and Rev. Jeff Handley will officiate.

Colby Woodard, Henry Sigmon, Hunter Woodard, Randy Patisaul, Jacob Evans and Cameron Schien will serve as pallbearers.

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

Ernestine Horne

Mrs. Ernestine Horne, aged resident of Dublin, passed peacefully Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026. Final rites are incomplete at this time, but will be announced later.

Arrangements entrusted to Wyche's Funeral Home (wychesfuneralhomeinc.com)



Earnell Wynn

Funeral services Mrs. Earnell Wynn of Stone Mountain, Georgia, will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, at 11 a.m. in the C.D. Dudley Memorial Chapel in the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street in Dublin,

Earnell Wynn was born on Feb. 27, 1948, in Dublin, Georgia, to McGrath Stephens Sr. (deceased) and Juanita Brinson (deceased). She was a graduate of Oconee High School of Dublin. She attended Morris Brown College. She was an active member of World Changers International Church and Deeper Life Ministries. She retired from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and prepared taxes for Jackson Hewett.

Earnell, who passed away on Aug. 7, 2026, was a wife, mother, sister and grandmother. She leaves two daughters, Kandis Williams (Dread) of Springfield, MA and Georgia Keilman (Wynn) of Westminster, Colo., and her son, Leonard Wynn Jr. of Stone Mountain, Ga. She is also survived by her ex-husband, Leonard Wynn Sr., the father of Georgia and Leonard Jr. She leaves grandchildren: Darryl J. Williams Jr., David J. Williams, and Dawn S. Williams, all of Springfield, Mass.

She leaves also a niece; Juarlisia Stephens of Detroit, Michigan, and nephews: Tre Rozier, Marlo Foreman and Brandon Foreman of Dublin.

She was a sister to Ronnie Stephens (deceased) and McGrath Stephens, Jr. (deceased).

Please post your condolences online at ServicesByDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

Alvin Leon Denson

Mr. Alvin Leon Denson passed away on Monday, Aug. 31, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. www.ServicesByDudley.com.

BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 1
Vivian Foreman

Sept. 2
Ida Cartwright
Jerry Chapman
Pearlene Johnson
Quentin Terry Orange

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

World-recall difficulty causes concern in 70-year-old female

By DR. KEITH ROACH
King Features

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a healthy 70-year-old female who still works full-time and plays tennis regularly. I'm 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh 140 pounds. My concern is my memory, especially my speech. English is my second language, but I've been in the United States for over 40 years. Words often disappear from me when I need them and come back later when the subject is closed.

When I shared my concern with my friend, I was told that nicotine patches are helpful for memory loss, even though I'm no longer a smoker. I quit smoking 15 years ago after decades of smoking. What's your opinion on nicotine patches for memory loss? -- M.M.

ANSWER: First, occasional word-recall difficulty isn't abnormal for healthy 70-year-olds, even native English speakers. Many people who are aging normally have tip-of-the-tongue word-recall problems and usually find the word that they're looking for later. Unless you have significant progression with this problem or have other memory or thinking problems, this may be nothing to worry about.

To answer your question, nicotine patches were shown to have small improvements in memory and attention in healthy older people and in people with mild cognitive impairment (some but not all of whom will develop dementia later). But they aren't approved by the Food and Drug Administration for this purpose.

These findings are small and aren't replicated. An ongoing trial is underway and may be published soon. In the meantime, I don't recommend nicotine patches for memory, attention or word recall.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 76-year-old man, and I have to urinate at least every 2 hours every night. My urologist did a digital check on my prostate and found that it was of normal size. He recommended a cystoscopy. He said that they numb the penis beforehand, but I'm concerned about the pain. I forgot to ask the doctor if I could be given a strong sedative. Can they give me a sedative before this procedure? -- K.O.B.

ANSWER: They absolutely can give you sedation for this procedure. I personally think that people shouldn't feel compelled to try to get through medical procedures without medication to make the procedure less painful, uncomfortable or scary, especially because procedures can sometimes seem this way.

Men in particular seem to have a hard time asking for relief. On the other hand, physicians are less likely to offer pain relief to women during procedures. Both men and women deserve a discussion about their options to reduce pain and discomfort.

You should discuss this well ahead of time with your urologist, who may want to have an anesthesiologist administer the sedative. People who undergo moderate sedation should have someone to help them get home and get information about how the procedure went. The sedative can make it hard for a patient to form new memories for a while, meaning that patients may forget some of the explanation they get after the procedure.

Additionally, your urologist can take steps to make the procedure more comfortable, such as adjusting the pressure of the fluid that flows through the cystoscope; allowing you to watch what's happening on the screen if you want; and allowing you to choose the music that you'd like during the procedure. These are relatively simple steps that have been proven to reduce pain, discomfort and anxiety.

*Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.
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The City of Dublin we be closed on Monday, September 7, 2026, in Observance of Labor Day.

Garbage p/u will be as follows:
No garbage p/u on Monday, September 7, 2026
Tuesday, September 8, 2026, will be Monday and Tuesday route customers.
All other routes will stay the same.

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is also hereby given that the City of Dublin is considering amending the Code of Ordinances to provide for a revision to the Zoning Ordinance to allow for increased height limits in the B-2 District for hotels located in an I-16 Interchange.

The Mayor and Council will hold the *Public Hearing* in the Council Chambers of the Dublin City Hall in Dublin, Georgia on Thursday, **September 17 at 12:00 P.M.**

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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New partisan-linked Georgia website sites mix news with divergent political messages

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — In late July, a new website popped online carrying local news stories from Georgia.

There was an article about a disgraced former Atlanta City Council member, another about President Donald Trump’s visit to Cobb County and one about Georgia coach Kirby Smart.

The stories were copied and pasted from other journalism sites, including Capitol Beat, and carried the original authors’ bylines, with links to the original publications.

But two pieces with no bylines have appeared on the Peach State Post’s website.

Both attack Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff for his votes against Republican tax initiatives.

Then, there is another new website with a shared interest in publishing local news but with a divergent take on partisan politics.

It carried articles about Flock Safety cameras and a data center proposed in Columbia County, both originally published by USA Today Network properties and shared via Reuters Connect.

The site, called Courier Georgia, launched in May with one correspondent and features her original articles. Her reporting covers topics that are priorities for Democratic politicians, such as Medicaid expansion and the social media posts by the son-in-law of U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, the Republican running to unseat Ossoff in November.

The Courier also runs unbylined videos, with one featuring Collins walking away from a news conference about his son-in-law as Collins’ guards block the videographer following him. Another shows Ossoff calling Trump a “draft-dodging crook president.”

Both news sites have something in common besides being new: they’re run by people with partisan ties.

The Peach State Post site discloses it is paid for by One Nation.

It is part of a “fake news network” and Republican dark money, according to an article on a Substack site called Popular Information.

The article, published in early August, reported that One Nation was a dark money group that had given more than \$70 million to the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with Senate Republicans. And it said One Nation had started six news sites in states with key U.S. Senate races, including Georgia.

Judd Legum, the author, was a campaign researcher for Hillary Clinton who switched to independent publishing.

Legum said in an interview that in addition to tracking campaign contributions he linked One Nation to the GOP Senate fund through technical methods, such as the track-

ing pixels on their websites.

An article published in July by Axios quoted an anonymous source who said One Nation’s executive director had said in a conference call with GOP donors and Senate Majority Leader John Thune that the group would be spending about \$100 million against Democratic Senate incumbents in Georgia and two other states.

The Peach State Post and One Nation websites do not list contact information. A request for comment left by Capitol Beat on One Nation’s web contact portal in mid-August yielded no response.

Georgia Republican Party Chairman Josh McKoon did not respond to text messages asking about Peach State Post.

“I personally doubt that they’re involved,” Legum said. “I think that this is an extension of the super PAC and One Nation spending.”

Courier Georgia is part of the Courier Newsroom, which is owned by Good Information, Inc.

The Courier sites list Tara McGowan as publisher of Courier Georgia and as publisher and CEO of Courier Newsroom. The Poynter Institute, a nonprofit journalism school and research organization, identifies McGowan as the founder of Good Information.

The news site Notus reported in 2024 that McGowan was a Democratic operative who had pitched the Courier in a 2019 memo as an answer to GOP and right-wing investment in digital media. Axios reported in 2021 that Good Information was launching with millions of dollars in seed money from wealthy left-leaning donors, including Reid Hoffman and George Soros.

The Georgia Democratic Party said it had no comment, but Courier Newsroom responded in writing to an email asking about the organization’s reported partisan links.

“Every day, our award-winning reporters, editors, and social teams tell the stories shaping people’s lives — from Medicaid cuts and ICE raids to education battles,” wrote Mariela Rosario, the Courier Newsroom state managing director.

The email touted Courier’s presence on TikTok and said the network had an audience of millions and planned to have 20 newsrooms by year’s end.

“As local news disappears in too many places, we’re proving independent, values-driven journalism can grow without sacrificing credibility,” Rosario wrote.

Courier Georgia and Peach State Post started publishing in Georgia ahead of an election that could help decide which party controls the U.S. Senate.

Both sandwich real news around what journalism expert Karin Assmann described as political advertorials.

“It’s political branded content hiding behind real news,

so it’s just muddying the waters,” said Assmann, an associate professor at the University of Georgia’s journalism school.

Assmann and Burton Speakman, an associate professor at Kennesaw State University, collaborated on a research article published in June that examined websites posing as news outlets while promoting a partisan worldview.

The industry term, they wrote, is “pink slime,” a metaphor ripped from headlines over a decade ago about the food-industry term for ammonia-treated beef trimmings.

It applies to digital sites masquerading as news, they wrote, because both the meat and the sites are slippery and hard to digest.

Assmann said the two new news entrants in Georgia look more sophisticated.

“It is more subtle than obvious propaganda, like an advertorial with political messaging disguised as news to encourage people to believe it — and without disclosing whose money is behind the message,” she said. “It’s actually a political ad, and it should be marked as such.”

Speakman, when asked if he thought Peach State Post was propaganda, sighed.

“Well, yeah. Of course it is. I mean, it’s being funded by One Nation,” he said. “The Peach State Post is trying to use legitimate news sources’ articles to provide them some credibility for the other stuff that they’re trying to slide in.”

Speakman called it “an advancement of the technique” used by the 30 sites in Georgia that he and Assmann characterized as pink slime in their paper.

But Speakman said the Post and the Courier, which were too new to have made it into their paper, are also misleading readers.

“They’re trying to legitimize themselves by using mainstream sources to manipulate the public into having a worse understanding of what’s going on in politics in the world,” he said.

Both Speakman and Assmann said that mixing partisan messaging with republished reporting was a dangerous development for democracy.

But Speakman thought the new projects would be short-lived, particularly those operated by One Nation.

“Unless there’s some sort of unforeseen runoff in one of these six states, those six sites are going to disappear,” he said. “They only bought their web domains, each of the web domains, for one year.”

As for the Courier properties, Speakman said Democratic media projects have often struggled to attract sustained funding.

“The history of liberal and progressive media sticking around has not been good historically,” he said. “Air America fizzled out, most of the liberal talk radio fizzled out.”

Georgia FLEX program seeks student entrepreneurs

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER
HERALD

Laurens County is proud to announce its second year in partnership with 2026–2027 Georgia FLEX (Foundational Leadership and Entrepreneurial Experience) program, a statewide initiative that empowers high school students to develop real-world entrepreneurial and leadership skills through hands-on learning and community engagement. Laurens County is one of only 27 rural communities in Georgia chosen for this program, which lasts one school year. Open to all Laurens County high-schoolers, Georgia FLEX (www.georgiaFLEX.org) leads students to create their own businesses while providing mentorship opportunities. The school year culminates in a local “Shark-Tank” style business pitch competition where

the local FLEX champion will win up to \$3,000 cash, and compete at state for a \$10,000 grand prize.

Do you know a student with a special skill or talent they could market? Do you know a high schooler with drive and looking for a way to earn extra cash? Would it be beneficial to add “Company Owner/CEO” to your resume or scholarship application? Come join Laurens County FLEX!

Every 9th-12th grader is encouraged to sign-up for a no-strings attached one-hour information session and business plan workshop to be held at schools between Sept. 2 - 11 or attend the virtual workshop. You will learn about choosing a business based on your skillset, how to write a business plan, and details of the FLEX competition, where you can win up to \$13,000 in cash.

“FLEX doesn’t just pre-

pare students for careers—it prepares them to lead,” said Melissa Dark, Executive Director of Georgia FLEX. “Communities that participate in FLEX invest in their future workforce and cultivate the kind of entrepreneurial thinking that drives local progress.”

FLEX continues to inspire high school students, immersing them in real-world entrepreneurial experiences by helping students start real businesses and providing them with mentorship opportunities. Through FLEX, students learn to identify problems, develop innovative solutions, and pitch viable business ideas, all while building confidence, communication skills, and a deep understanding of their local economies.

FLEX also benefits the wider community by nurturing a culture of collaboration through connecting



youth with local business leaders. By supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs, Laurens County is investing in a stronger, more resilient local economy. For more information about the

Georgia FLEX program, visit www.georgiaflex.org or contact the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber Community Foundation to learn how you can support our local program.

State finalists from 2025-2026 Georgia FLEX program included several students from Laurens County /SPECIAL PHOTO

NOTICE

The City of Montrose Council does hereby announce that the City of Montrose millage rate will be set at its Tuesday meeting, September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1090 First Street, Montrose, Georgia 31065. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sec 48-5-32, as amended, the Council hereby publishes the following presentation for the current year’s tax digest and proposed levy.

In accordance with Georgia law, all taxable property shall be assessed at forty percent of its fair market value, which will be determined by the Tax Commissioner of Laurens County. The taxable property shall then be taxed by the City at a millage rate of **5 mills**. By way of an example:

The average home in Montrose, Georgia has a fair market value of \$200,000. The property owner of the \$200,000 home would pay \$400 in property taxes, as calculated below:

40% of said value is \$80,000. Considering the millage rate to be 5 mills, the property owner shall pay \$5 per \$1,000 taxable value:

$$\$80,000 \times (5/1,000) = \$400.00 \text{ taxes owed.}$$

All concerned citizens are invited to attend the three public hearings regarding this tax implementation, millage rate adoption, and the tax increase to be held at **1090 First Street, Montrose, Georgia 31065** on:

- 1. Tuesday September 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM,**
- 2. Saturday September 12, 2026 at 9:00 AM, and**
- 3. Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM.**

All concerned citizens are invited to join these public meeting.

Please take further notice that the City of Montrose is hereby moving its regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026 from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**

Please take further notice that the City of Montrose is hereby setting a specially set meeting to adopt the millage rate and tax levy implementation for **Tuesday September 15, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. at 1090 First Street, Montrose, Georgia 31065.**

City Council will render its final vote regarding the implementation of ad valorem property taxes and the proposed millage rate of 5 mils at 7:00 P.M. on September 15, 2026.

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.”

Thankful we have a savior who rescues his sheep

The instructor continued giving directions as I sat in the conference room waiting.

Though I was amongst 20 or so other people, I felt like I was by myself and all alone. As the instructor continued to talk, I sat there becoming frustrated.

A conference to learn some new technology had seemed like a good way to spend a day. Unfortunately for me, my phone did not have the same capability as everyone else's in the room. I offered a solution. The instructor said she would get back to me in a few minutes and began teaching the class.

It would have taken a few minutes to do what I suggested and then everyone in the room would have been on the same page. Nope. The instructor went on and I sat there waiting. And waiting. And waiting. She came by all of our stations to hand out sheets, took a look at my screen and kept on going.

I would like to think that the instructor did not forget about me, but it didn't matter. I might as well have been in another room, part of the building, part of the city, down the road or even not there.

As the rest of the class was being taught, I was



MAN ABOUT TOWN...

By PAYTON TOWNS III

mumbling about being overlooked. This was not funny to me, but hilarious to those sitting around me. I knew I would hear about it later on the ride back home.

Eventually, I had enough and got up and walked out of the room. I grabbed my cell phone and placed a call to my wife. Of course she took my side and told me she was sorry.

After I completed my woe is me diatribe, I walked back into the conference room. Actually, I had to knock on the door to be allowed back inside. This brought the instructor's attention back to me along with a look of oops, I forgot to get back to you.

Once I was acknowledged, and able to somewhat catch up with the rest

of the group, I felt like I once again belonged. And yes I did complain when the topic was brought back up on the trip home.

Later that night, my wife and I talked about what happened. I told her I felt like a sheep that had wandered off and I could relate to that 100th sheep that left the rest of the herd.

Many times in church I have heard Jesus's parable of the Lost Sheep found in Luke 15, verses 1-7. The Pharisees and teachers were watching Jesus who was around the tax collectors and sinners. They muttered about how Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them.

Then Jesus started telling stories. The first one was about the sheep. He simply said that if a man had 100

sheep and lost one, does he leave the 99 to go look for that one lost sheep?

Many would say this does not make sense. Why would the shepherd leave the 99 to look for one sheep that for some reason wandered off? When I was at that conference, I wandered off. Now, I was able to find my way back, but we know many people in different situations - big or small - who have not come back to safety.

We recently bought a piece of art of a muddy, dirty sheep looking like it is wandering down a path it should not be heading. In the background, running toward it is a picture of a man - Jesus. It hangs in our home as a reminder that no matter what happens or how dirty we get during the day, we know Jesus will be there for us and bring us back into his arms.

It is also a reminder that we should look for those who have wandered away and bring them back to the group. No matter what we have done, at one time or another, we have wandered away thinking we are all alone and no one cares.

The good news is Jesus is running after you and it doesn't matter how far you have roamed or how dirty you are.

those Purina commercials, I felt that he was talking to me personally. I certainly wanted to buy Purina Dog Chow for the family hound dog.

The Friends of Georgia Radio, led by Dr. Dale Van Cantfort, are enterprising in one very special way. They raise money and donate scholarships to aspiring college undergraduates who are interested in pursuing a radio career.

Those honored many very well become a star of tomorrow trying to make the day of their peers and generation as the aforementioned Hall of Famers have done in their time.

To make everybody's day, how about these Internet radio quips?

- What do you call the average radio? Stereo-typical.
- How do radios say goodbye? They wave.
- Why was the radio tired after work? It had too many watt hours.

It was a good evening, and reminded all in attendance that local radio

is not just entertainment, it is the home of goodwill with an accent on giving back to their communities. How nice!

Friends of Georgia radio

SANDY SPRINGS – The friends of Georgia Radio Hall of Fame gathered here for its annual awards banquet last weekend. The event drew old friends and honorees, new faces, and a litany of supporters who appreciate local radio.

The "friends" also inducted five radio personalities into its Hall of Fame, including Dallas McCade, the robust personality of Kicks 101.5; Greg Street, V103 (VEE); Marcy Williams, a trailblazing female anchor at WSB's 95.5 FM; and Joel Williams, perhaps Northeast Georgia's best-known radio morning host on WCON's My Country 99.3 in Cornelia.

Dallas McCade is not only known for her love of country music, she, if she could afford it, would take in every stray animal in the state. Greg Street, a fishing buddy of Georgia's Jonas Jennings, still working with the Dawgs, has been a mainstay on WVEE since the 90s, an afternoon anchor with his 6:00 p.m. theme: "It's 6:00 o'clock, it's 6:00 o'clock. It's time for Greg Street to Rock." He has entertained Atlanta audiences for years and has never met a charity he didn't like.

Marcy Williams, a graduate of Princeton, is the only Ivy Leaguer in the group. She is an iconoclast who has gone where women have never gone before. She had gigs in Los Angeles and San Francisco before settling in with WSB's 95.5 FM in 1993.

Joel Williams has reached "beloved" status with his morning show, which he co-hosts with Rebecca Biddy at My Country, 99.3 WCON, Cornelia.

I know Joel best among the inductees, and beyond our on-air conversations each week in the fall, I enjoy the occasional interludes with his family, including his charming wife, B.J., who

also has a long on-air relationship with WDUN in Gainesville.

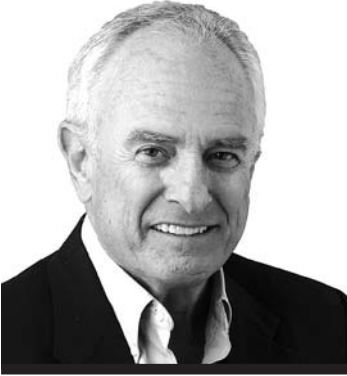
When you preview the resumes of these local stars, you find them all keen on community support and making people feel good when they might be having a bad day.

They initiate and throw their support for the communities they serve. They never take their status for granted, and they are all about reaching out to others, underscoring charity and having fun.

When on air, they are proponents of goodwill, and if they could they would build a campfire and invite the whole world to embrace and sing kumbaya.

One of the things I have always enjoyed about local radio stars is that, in addition to entertaining the constituency, are keen on extending a helping hand. I was taken by the selflessness these local stars have in their communities and the goodwill that comes from what they do in their respective neighborhoods.

With this group, you have a rap star, country music stars, and the con-



By LORAN SMITH

summate storyteller who has been a breaker of icons for women in radio, whose theme is to put the listener first.

Neil Williamson, longtime sports executive at WSB and who has for decades been the host of the UGA Tailgate Show, was the emcee. He brought levity and insightful remarks relating to the inductees, which made it a lively evening.

When these exceptional radio personalities have a guest on the air with them, you feel you are sitting in on a fireside chat. I remember growing up when country singer Eddy Arnold did



DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

- Psalm 103:12 (King James Version)

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

- Dolly Parton

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

- Sept. 1, 2026 is...
- National No Rhyme Nor Reason Day
 - National Cherry Popover Day
 - Emma M. Nutt Day
 - American Chess Day
 - Building and Code Staff Appreciation Day

YOUR TURN:

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

TELL IT!



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

Election time is in November. Take your family, friends, neighbors and church members to the polls to vote. We are the people. Don't talk about it. Get up and make it happen.

Calling all churches, synagogues and places of worship with vans, buses or cars: drive your flock to the polls. Why do you tithe if you cannot offer support to change democracy!

How about we look into the city salaries and do a forensic audit to find fraud or embezzlement? We will find that the school is not the only place with nepotism.

I was wondering if the businesses and residences along Bellevue would pick up their trash out front? It is in such a mass quantity and it is so unsightly. Let's keep the city clean.

Is anyone else concerned about Moore Street School? The kids were forced out of the IGA into a school that has not had any renovations done to it in 20-something years. The gym is not fit for anything and they don't have a playground. What's going to be done about that? Something needs to be done and I want to know when, where and how?

Kudos to Clay Reynolds for the excellent coverage of the area football teams. For each school and team it was well written and gave us a great insight to what to expect for the upcoming season. Thank you Clay!

I have noticed that for the last few years, the rosters of the teams are not included with the articles of the teams. Do you think that we could at least get the rosters of the Laurens County teams West Laurens, East Laurens, Trinity and Dublin? They do not have programs at the games anymore. It would be nice to have the player name, player number and grade of the local players. They only stay four years and I do not know half of the kids and they only get recognition if the PA announcer calls their name out over the PA system.

GSP hides behind the Vallant Bank wall on Bellevue and drives reckless towards the post office. An innocent person could be injured or killed from this irresponsibility shown by the law officer.

When and how will the public know the new board applicants? Will all who submitted applications be public knowledge or just the ones chosen by the elite board?

Can we get an open records report showing whether all the new city kids going to county paid the \$300 fee? Or was some type of relief offered? Just curious how that was handled.

Luckily, we personally know our city council and what they stand for. The downside of anonymity is, can't put a name with the complaint—because if we could, this "outrage" might look a little differ.

Gosh ... if you live in and love Dudley, why have you sat idly by and let lack of leadership basically ruin your quality of life? Some things just make one say hmm? Wake up before it's too late.

First the Dublin City School Board ... maybe its time the Dudley City Council and Mayor get investigated by the state.

How could someone so anti-Dudley use the cardinal to promote their own business! Seems like you might have chosen a skunk! (More appropriate)

I noticed a sign in front of the Dublin School that we have a Win Academy now. I'm sure you have to be really smart to go to that. How many people can go to that academy? I guess you have to go through the gifted program to go through that. How about somebody writing in the paper and telling us what this Win Academy is? *Editor's note: The W.I.N. Academy replaced the Moore Street alternative program. Its creation was covered extensively in The Courier Herald.*

Yard sheriff needs to ride through Green Acres in Dublin - or else.

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Print: \$12.50/month
Digital: \$10.50/month

Periodicals Postage Paid at Dublin, Georgia
(USPS 161-860) - Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Courier Herald, 115 South Jefferson Street, Dublin, GA 31021

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— 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

- Lourosa Deloris Brown, 27, was charged with aggravated assault at 7:33 p.m. on Aug. 14 at Family Dollar on Telfair Street.

An officer responded to Flanders Street in reference to a removal. The officer met with Brown who said another woman came to her house trying to fight her from the roadway. Brown said that they had been having verbal altercations in the past due to dating the same man.

Brown said the altercation started at Family Dollar on Telfair Street. She was in the parking lot about to leave when the other woman walked up to the front of her vehicle trying to get her to step out of the car to fight. Brown said the woman wouldn't move out of the way, so she hit her with my car.

When Brown arrived at home, the woman showed up and tried to get her to come to the road and fight. She said the woman got back into her vehicle after law enforcement was called. Brown was advised of the TPO process.

The officer went to Family Dollar and met with the other woman who said that she pulled into the parking lot of the store and Brown hit her with the car and kept going. The woman had a scape mark on her left elbow. She refused treatment, saying she would drive herself to the hospital. She was advised of the TPO process. The officer checked the store for the security footage but was unsuccessful because the incident occurred out of camera view.

A witness said they saw Brown hit her sister with the vehicle. The officer returned to the apartments on Flanders Street and arrested Brown.

- Joshua Lawrence McCoy, 40, was charged with aggra-



vated stalking and entering automobile or other motor vehicle around 10:56 a.m. on Aug. 14 on Lassiter Drive.

- Cathy Gardner, 62, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while license suspended or revoked and failure to maintain lane on Pinehill Road around 10:55 p.m. on Aug. 14.

An officer was patrolling the area of Highway 441 South when she saw a white Nisan Altima traveling south at a very slow rate of speed. The officer also saw that the vehicle fail to maintain its lane of travel several times.

The officer watched the Nissan attempt to make a left turn toward the interstate by stopping at a green traffic signal. There were no other vehicles approaching the intersection that would have prevented the driver from proceeding through the intersection. The Nissan began traveling south before striking a concrete median located in the road.

The officer pulled over the Nissan and made contact with the driver, identified as Gardner. Gardner said she was trying to make it to Adrian and initially stated she had not had anything to drink. A male passenger then stated, "Yes, you have." Gardner subsequently changed her response and said she had consumed three alcoholic drinks.

She then denied knowing she had hit the median. The male passenger then said, "Yes, you did."

Gardner refused to submit to the requested implied-consent testing. The officer conducted a records check through NCIC and it showed Gardner's driver's license was suspended and that she had two prior DUI charges.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- On Aug. 12, around 4:24 p.m., a deputy responded to the Laurens County Sheriff's Office at Southern Pines Road regarding a walk-in that turned into a theft case on Rum Creek Trail.

- Deputies met with a man at the sheriff's office in reference to a fraud case that happened on Addie Trail around 3:27 p.m. on Aug. 17.

- On Aug. 15 at 11:30 a.m. a deputy responded to Thairdell Road in reference to a burglary.

- Property was damaged at mile marker 65 West on I-16 at 4:34 p.m. on Aug. 14.

- On Aug. 14, a deputies talked with two people at the sheriff's office in reference to card fraud that happened on Coleman Street in Cadwell around 3:05 p.m.

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.

Bradshaw retires from First Laurens Bank

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

First Laurens Bank, a Division of BankSouth, announced the retirement of President Ben Bradshaw, marking the conclusion of an extraordinary 49-year career in banking and a lifetime of service to Laurens County and its surrounding communities.

Bradshaw's banking career began nearly five decades ago with C&S Bank. Throughout the years, he held leadership roles at C&S Bank and Farmers and Merchants Bank before joining First Laurens Bank as President. His steady leadership, commitment to customer relationships, and dedication to community banking have helped shape the institution and positively impact generations of customers and employees.

"Ben has made such a positive impact on so many in this community," said Bill Brown, Market President of Dublin/Laurens County. "Ben's heart for people, our customers, our employees, and our community has made the deepest impact. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service."



Ben Bradshaw will retire from First Laurens Bank after 49 years working in the finance industry/SPECIAL PHOTO

Outside of banking, Bradshaw is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who treasures time with his six grandchildren. He is a member of the Primitive Baptist Church, a retired member of the Exchange Club, and a baseball enthusiast from Little League to the major leagues. Many know him affectionately as "Mr. Joe" at the local Chick-fil-A, a

testament to the friendships and connections he has formed wherever he goes.

Bradshaw shared, "I am truly thankful for my banking career that enabled me to work in a profession that I have such a passion for. I also have been blessed to have dedicated employees who are my First Laurens – BankSouth family. What I will miss the most are all

my co-workers and my loyal customers and friends."

In retirement, Bradshaw looks forward to spending more time with his family, especially attending his grandchildren's activities. He will also throw in a few baseball trips with his family and friends. He looks forward to enjoying the community he has served so faithfully for nearly half a century.

About BankSouth
Today, BankSouth is a leading community bank headquartered at Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia, and is recognized as a top-performing bank nationwide. With over \$1.6 billion in assets, BankSouth serves customers with branches in Atlanta, Cochran, Dublin, Greensboro, Savannah, Watkinsville, and beyond with a full suite of consumer, commercial and digital banking and lending products. Currently, BankSouth Mortgage originates over \$1 billion in home loans with over 30 experienced loan officers across Georgia. For BankSouth locations and more information, please visit bank-south.com.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- * On Sept. 14, 1964, author John Steinbeck was honored with the U.S. Medal of Freedom. He had previously received a number of other honors and awards for his work, including a Pulitzer Prize in 1940 for "The Grapes of Wrath" and a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1962.
 - * On Sept. 15, 1931, a small dirigible docked briefly at the mooring mast on top of the new Empire State Building before winds forced it away. While hopes were high for the creation of an airship port in midtown Manhattan, they were never realized.
 - * On Sept. 16, 1810, Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla launched the Mexican War of Independence with the issue of his Grito de Dolores ("Cry of Dolores"), a tract calling for the end of 300 years of Spanish rule in Mexico, redistribution of land and racial equality. Thousands assembled at his banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe and soon after a peasant army was marching to Mexico City.
 - * On Sept. 17, 1976, NASA publicly unveiled the Enterprise, its first space shuttle, in Palmdale, California. The following year it became the first space shuttle to fly freely when it was lifted to 25,000 feet by a Boeing 747 airplane and then released to glide back to Edwards Air Force Base.
 - * On Sept. 18, 1981, the 20,000-car parking lot at Canada's West Edmonton Mall earned a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest parking lot in the world, a distinction it's held for years, though some have disagreed, saying that because the lot is half indoors and half outdoors, it's not one structure but two.
 - * On Sept. 19, 1955, after a decade-long rule, Argentine president Juan Domingo Perón was deposed in a military coup.
 - * On Sept. 20, 2012, 16 members of a dissident Amish group in Ohio were convicted of federal hate crimes and conspiracy for forcibly cutting the beards and hair of fellow Amish with whom they had religious differences.
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NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Laurens County Board of Education has tentatively adopted a 2026 millage rate which will require an increase in property tax by 2.82 percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on the tax increase to be held at the Laurens County Board of Education, 467 Firetower Road, Dublin, GA on September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at the Laurens County Board of Education, 467 Firetower Road, Dublin, GA on September 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 14.0 mills, an increase of zero mills. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 13.616 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$200,000 is approximately \$30.72 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$300,000 is approximately \$46.08.

NOTICE

The Laurens County Board of Education does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Laurens County Board of Education Building on September 17, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2026 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

BOARD OF EDUCATION		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
V A L U E	Real & Personal	957,029,723	1,092,812,112	1,124,850,416	1,233,096,197	1,444,297,558	1,566,677,263
	Motor Vehicles	16,584,980	15,353,600	15,227,590	14,789,860	13,710,090	12,777,220
	Mobile Homes	13,415,244	15,310,882	16,370,685	16,086,830	18,469,599	22,895,155
	Timber - 100%	24,539,868	20,968,606	28,389,387	14,002,434	17,558,079	9,615,687
	Heavy Duty Equipment	1,100,859	1,639,748	5,451,112	2,183,521	2,877,707	2,656,073
	Gross Digest	1,012,670,674	1,146,084,948	1,190,289,190	1,280,158,842	1,496,913,033	1,614,621,398
	Less Exemptions	92,680,345	122,753,425	128,554,778	130,292,993	214,683,893	290,766,996
	NET DIGEST VALUE	919,990,329	1,023,331,523	1,061,734,412	1,149,865,849	1,282,229,140	1,323,854,402
R A T E	MILLAGE RATE (Maintenance & Operation)	14.6460	14.4850	14.3500	14.2000	14.0000	14.0000
TAX	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$13,474,178	\$14,822,957	\$15,235,889	\$16,082,885	\$17,951,208	\$ 18,533,962
	Net Tax \$ Increase	\$719,669	\$1,348,779	\$412,932	\$846,996	\$1,868,323	\$582,754
	Net Tax % Increase	5.64%	10.01%	3.06%	5.27%	10.41%	3.25%

BIBLE TRIVIA

By WILSON CASEY
King Features

1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Proverbs 27:3, a stone is heavy and the sand weighty, but whose wrath is heavier than them both? Fool's, Beggar's, God's, Wind's
3. In the King James translation there are more than how many references to gems and precious stones? 100, 500, 1,700, 2,200
4. From 2 Samuel 14, how many shekels did Absalom's hair weigh after he cut it off? 2, 10, 50, 200
5. Where did Jesus attend a wedding where the wine was exhausted? Sardis, Antioch of Syria, Joppa, Cana of Galilee
6. In Mark 6:9, Jesus tells his disciples not to put on two ...? Sandals, Coats, Headdresses, Girdles

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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ANSWERS: (1) Old, (2) Fool's, (3) 1,700, (4) 200, (5) Cana of Galilee, (6) Coats

DUBLIN 41, PERRY 20

AAAAA+ effort...

Irish ace stiff test against Panthers to go to 2-0

By CLAY REYNOLDS Sports Editor

It's widely known that Dublin has a penchant for punching well above its weight.

But only once in a while does a much larger school pick a fight with the Irish, and find out.

Nearby AAAAA powerhouse Perry, presumably expecting a more comfortable week 2 matchup than its opener with Peach County, ended up as the predicate of another statement win Friday night as the Green and Gold delivered a second-straight K.O.

Dublin (2-0 overall) rushed for 568 yards, and spurned the Panthers on downs four times, as it put away a 41-20 victory to loudly declare something that many already knew: This Irish team is a real-deal contender.

"It's a big statement," said sophomore quarterback Ryland Yates, who ran for three of Dublin's six touchdowns. "It shows who we are and who we can beat."

Though there are plenty of Irish teams of years gone by who would put their play up against any challenger in the state, opportunities like this to measure yourself against one this high in classification, and with a built-in advantage in roster numbers and depth, only seldom actually happen.

Ahead of Friday, the only opponent in the modern era with more than four A's beside its name to pay a visit to the Shamrock Bowl was Perry's county neighbor Veterans, which they would also send home with a loss in 2016 after Tyler Strickland's pick-six and a pulled fourth-quarter extra point kick swung the 21-20 upset.

Friday, everyone on the home sideline was eager for a similar chance to prove their mettle.

"When they've got 1,700 kids and we've got less than 600, I think that's a big win," said Irish head coach Roger Holmes. "We pride ourselves in playing up."

The door was a stubborn one to close, but Dublin jammed it shut in the final nine minutes of the fourth quarter with two stops inside its own 20, and close to a 97-yard drive to add a clinching touchdown after the last.

Perry stuck around with some substantive comeback hopes despite the back-to-back Irish touchdowns in the third quarter that had them trailing 34-13.

"I thought we lost our composure a little bit there in the fourth quarter," Holmes said. "Did enough things to cause you to let a team like that back in it, but our defense kept coming up with big red zone stops."

Quarterback Jhamard Cobb's 76-yard touchdown bomb to J.D. Arnette, on a much-needed deep strike, kept the Panthers in the ballgame, down 14 with nine minutes to play in the fourth.

Then they kicked outside and recovered, as Carson Camp's dribbler toward the Perry sideline escaped four sets of



Jamarcus Knight (8) eyes the end zone from just off the left hip of Dontavious Cannon, who escorted his sweeps to the edge on multiple big plays, including this touchdown that put the Irish in front, 19-13, for the first time late in the first half/CLAY REYNOLDS

Irish hands before getting covered up by J.J. Scott.

The Panthers reached the Dublin 16 for a chance to narrow the gap to a touchdown, but Ja'Karian Jones batted down a pass, made a tackle and rendered the tight coverage on a partial drop in the end zone to prevent a score on the final series.

"It felt good, it felt amazing, just shutting them out so they couldn't score," Jones said.

Dublin set to work grinding clock with about eight minutes to play, and things were going well after two first downs until a fumble occurred on the hit by Perry's Kyle Jones, and teammate Trystan Rhoades recovered to give the Panthers another small glimmer of hope.

Despite the benefit of a 15-yard hands to the face penalty to reach the red zone again, the Panthers couldn't take advantage.

The Irish rallied for a fourth stop by stuffing three-straight runs, and Arnette took a touchdown pass off the hands on fourth down.

"Hopefully a big statement, all around the world," Jones said. "We're ready, we're coming for it. They thought they could walk in here and take over... Can't do that. Not in Dublin."

Continuing their early-season rise...

Yates completed his hat trick with a short run after commanding the longest Irish advance of the night from the shadow of their own end zone to the other tip of the field in the final four minutes.

It was another confidence-building win for the first-year starting quarterback, who rushed for 79 yards on 10 carries and completed two clutch passes to Will Wallace, totaling 22, from the driver's seat of an efficient attack.

On nine possessions, Dublin was stopped short of a touchdown only three times... twice by turnover and only a third by the first-half clock as a potential touchdown pass to take an earlier two-score lead drifted just out of Wallace's reach in the corner of the end zone as time expired.

"I thought he had a great night," Holmes said. "He beat himself up a little bit there, after he had a wide-open pass...



Dublin quarterback Ryland Yates races to the end zone on the 22-yard touchdown keeper, his first of three on the night, that got the Irish on the scoreboard late in the first quarter/CLAY REYNOLDS

and he missed him on the last play of the half. He had his head down, and I said, 'Hey man, you're gonna make some and miss some. Just go play and do what's right.' But I thought he did a phenomenal job of running the option game tonight, and he made a lot of checks at the line of scrimmage."

Yates said he felt his feel for the game and confidence making decisions under pressure all improved in a second start.

"Some reads and some clutch throws, I would say," he said. "That's probably what got us to keep going forward. The option, reading it was pretty key tonight, and then that throw on third down and 12, I want to say, the fish flat to Will Wallace (in the second quarter), was a really good spark to keep us going."

Jamarcus Knight led Irish running backs with 189 and a touchdown on 10 attempts of his own, which included a couple of big plays that provided an early spark for the offense.

Trav Bostic broke the biggest run of the night from 80 yards for Dublin's first third-quarter touchdown, his second on 13 attempts for 154. Fullback Dontavious Cannon contributed 85 more on 12 touches, and V.J. Bond 61 on seven.

Ball-security was only aspect of the performance that left anything to be desired, as the Irish put the ball on the ground

IRISH Continued on page 7

SOUTHEAST BULLOCH 26, EAST LAURENS 20

Fumbles leave Falcons flustered as chance at win escapes in OT

From STAFF REPORTS

Turnovers gave and took away, but were far more costly than they were beneficial for East Laurens Friday on a self-destructive night in Brooklet that ended with another frustrating loss.

The Falcons, who hit the road in hopes of a rebound after dropping their opener with Johnson County the week before, had a much more winnable game get away as Southeast Bulloch erased a late lead, and capitalized on the last of their four giveaways in overtime to pull it out by the final of 26-20.

Jordan Dawson spilled outside to the left on a run of eight yards for the winning touchdown, just two plays after East surrendered possession on a first and goal.

Just four and a half yards from re-taking the lead, the Falcons' Jabryan Bigham got the football from the up position in an I-formation, but absorbed about three hits just behind the line of scrimmage that sent the ball spewing ahead, and the Yellow Jackets' Jayden Mabry fell on top of it.

Three other fumbles haunted East Laurens earlier in the game, and two of them also led to points as SEB converted a bad snap into its first touchdown late in the first quarter, and a sack fumble helped it chip away at an earlier lead in the third.

But the Falcons would chalk up a recovery and defensive touchdown on their side of the ledger during the first half as well when Jamari Harvey scooped and returned one to the house to atone for a fumble of their own only a few plays before.

Penalties were just as recurring a theme for both teams in the sloppy contest, getting each behind the chains a lot early, and wiping out several big plays late that might have led to a decision in regulation.

Amid the struggles with mistakes, there were some encouraging developments for East Laurens on offense as several of its big-time playmakers shined with some key plays.

The return of Bryson Hazley to the lineup was noticeable, as the junior wideout caught three passes – including an early bomb – for a total of 39 yards. He had a fourth quarter catch-and-run to top them all that might've led to a different outcome, if not for a penalty that brought it all back.

Major Floyd pulled in another five balls for 56, with Skyler Snead batting 13-for-22 with 139 yards behind center. The senior QB rushed for 32 and two of the Falcons' three touchdowns.

Aveone Wicker, who starred with some lengthy kickoff returns in the JoCo opener, got to light the afterburners on a 28-yard touchdown run that gave the Falcons their first lead in the second half.

He spun out of a backfield tackle, and cut the run back to the right on his way to paydirt just a play after Snead dialed up Hazley on a long completion down the right sideline to open the third quarter with a bang.

The confident start, as the theme of penalties took a brief pause for both sides, had East Laurens up 14-7 only two minutes in.

Southeast Bulloch responded to tie just as quickly, breaking off a long Dawson run to set up a 16-yard touchdown by quarterback

FALCONS Continued on page 7

EDMUND BURKE 42, TRINITY 0

Big plays, fourth down woes get best of Crusaders in second home loss

From STAFF REPORTS

Trinity had a lot go well, but still would've needed a good bit more happening in its favor for a shot at a more positive outcome.

In a story similar to the Crusaders' first home game Aug. 14, the top-flight team on the other side had them pretty well outmatched in experience, and explosive plays.

Though Trinity competed in situations, it again struggled to keep pace on the scoreboard as Edmund Burke used a six-touchdown surge in the second and third quarters to run away with a quick 42-0 win and remain undefeated Friday at Cleve Warnock Field.

The Spartans busted a series of big plays to break open a game that remained scoreless for the first 14 minutes. Their quarterback Noah Hickman ran and threw for one each of the four scored before the half, and Sam Hickman rushed for three of the four others.

The Crusaders (1-2 overall) had much better hold of the clock, as they milked time over some



The slippery Sam Owens wriggled free of multiple tacklers for a big pickup on this run, one of several by the freshman that highlighted Trinity's last drive late in the fourth quarter/DANNY SCARBORO

long drives that frequently made it a decent ways into Edmund Burke territory.

But they'd have nothing to show for any of them, including an

early-game red zone chance that suffered some of the same hard luck sustaining drives that has plagued Trinity's young offense throughout the season's first three

weeks.

A frustrating trend of key injuries, dating back to early last season, also reared its head for the first time this fall in the second quarter as Will-J Harris, one of the Crusaders' top running backs and defensive linemen, went down and could not return.

All things considered, it was still a night with some positives for Trinity, whose first-year quarterback Jude Evans had his best game so far with completions on half his 24 attempts for 118 yards, 53 of those on five receptions by his leading target Tayt Evans.

Tayt and Mason Lane also combined for nearly 200 all-purpose yards on kickoff returns.

Harris, prior to the injury, carried four times for 13 yards and caught two passes for 26 with multiple chain-moving plays, though in his stead came a breakout for freshman Sam Owens, who wound up leading rushers with five carries for 54 yards, and caught three passes for 19.

He would lead Trinity's bid to go out on a high note after a defen-

sive stand, to force a missed field goal try, denied Edmund Burke's efforts to add on points early in the fourth quarter.

The Crusaders took back over with 80 yards to drive, seven minutes left and a running clock, but strung together several good plays to reach scoring range, most of them featuring Owens, who had both a resilient run for double-digits on a toss play, and a catch off a bootleg in the flat to advance the possession.

Their race with the clock couldn't get to the finish line, as progress stalled near the red zone with just under three minutes to go, and Owens was bottled up on a final play.

A great start, but no finish...

Trinity took more of its time on a first drive of the night that consumed a majority of the first quarter, with key plays that included a wheel route catch by Griffin Lane, both a run and reception by Har-

CRUSADERS Continued on page 7

CRUSADERS

Continued from page 6

ris, and a connection down the seam to Tayt that had the biggest gain attached, and reached goal to go.

But the last few yards were stubborn. Buddy Woodard's defense ate up a dive and a toss, then a play-action pass arced just out of reach in the right corner of the end zone for Lane.

The Crusaders reluctantly settled for a field goal try, but the kick of Aiden George drifted a bit off to the right.

Edmund Burke got right to work, and moved the ball over midfield in the remaining three minutes and change, before scoring after about three more on a keeper by Noah Hickman to draw first blood.

Things went downhill kind of quickly from there.

Trinity gained a first down, but then punted, and it took EBA five plays to traverse 70 yards and double the lead, Ryan Reddick breaking loose for the final 43 on a left-side run.

Harris helped the Cru-



Tayt Evans (3, left) and Griffin Lane (22, right) both had catches for considerable gains as the Crusaders marched deep into Edmund Burke territory on their opening drive. Evans, who'd bring in another moments later to take the possession inside the Spartans' 10, finished as the team's leader with five receptions for 53 yards/DANNY SCARBORO



saders pick up a first down on the ensuing possession, but stayed down after the tackle on the far side of the field, and had to be helped off with an apparent knee injury.

Two plays after action resumed, Cohen Felix intercepted a floating pass for the Spartans, and caught a deep shot in the end zone on the next play with 1:36

left in the half.

That was still enough time for EBA to score once more, as Trinity picked up the pace and drove to the opposing 35 with their quick drill.

But another fourth down went for naught on a sack by William Reindl to get it back for the Spartans with next to no time.

They were only a little

past midfield with a matter of seconds to go and a third down, but Sam Hickman reversed field and broke some tackles to bounce outside right on the final play, and crossed the goal line with about two remaining on the clock left to make it a 28-0 score at the break.

He'd do it again from 43 yards, in very similar fashion, no less than a minute

from the second half kickoff, then stride home from five to complete a final 56-yard scoring drive following another Trinity turnover via downs, as a fourth-down heave was bobbled and dropped.

Trinity heads on the road again this Friday for a 7 p.m. kickoff at Augusta Prep.

IRISH

Continued from page 6

five different times, though favorable bounces led to recoveries on all but two, and efforts of the defense, which stood tall on two other first-half drives that reached plus territory to force field goals, were more than adequate to atone.

Perry's young D, which replaced all 11 starters this offseason, continued its early-season search for consistency. Though the Panthers had comparatively few busted plays to last week, when Peach scored numerous explosive touchdowns in a 63-24 rout, decent-sized gains were still pretty routine for Dublin, which found a lot of success with speed sweeps to the outside, and misdirection playing off the possibility that opened some running lanes inside.

By the end of the night, just about every element of its offense, and backfield, had gotten involved in the productive game.

"Our biggest question going into this game was what defense were they going to play?" Holmes said. "(Against Peach County), they'd been in three or four different things, and they picked one and they stayed in it all night, and they never changed. It gave us an opportunity to kind of mix it around a little bit on what we were trying to do."

Though it meant the game wouldn't finish up till post-11 p.m., a roughly hourlong lightning delay that came with about 2:31 remaining in the first quarter might've been the best thing that happened for the Irish, by giving them a chance to get their bearings and adjust some things in the locker room prior to halftime.

"We watched all the plays on the film and tried to show 'em what we thought we were doing right and wrong," Holmes said.

Though it was mostly defensive questions that needed answering, the time was



Left: Blake Luecke (55) and DB Trav Bostic (4) combine to tackle Perry's Marquez Ragin (28) in the backfield to force a turnover on downs late in the first half. Right: JaKarian Jones delivers a hit that helped break up this likely touchdown pass to J.D. Arnette at the goal line for another fourth-down stop with eight minutes left in Friday's game/CLAY REYNOLDS



valuable for the offensive staff to solidify their thinking after hitting big plays on the last two of their five snaps before the hiatus.

"We really didn't know what defense they were going to be in at the start of the game," Yates said. "Coach Holmes had no clue. It was only five plays, but it was enough for Coach Holmes to get a read on what they were doing and the best plays to run."

The Panthers had hit with near-lightning quickness as they took the ball on a scripted sprint down the field lasting every bit of two minutes and 15 seconds to score the game's first touchdown after taking the opening kick.

Their second drive, after an untimely fumble two plays into Dublin's opening series at its own 27, got two chances to punch it in, after an Irish stop was nullified by a penalty for roughing the kicker, but ultimately settled for a Carson Camp field goal after an illegal substitution turned its yardage to go on the ensuing fourth down from one, to six.

Cobb found Arnette up the seam for a big play to start their third possession, though a defensive rebound had another Camp kick pending on fourth down as play was stopped with some

flashing and rumbling in the near distance.

He immediately connected from 40 on the return to play to take Perry's lead to 13-7. But by that point, the tide was already turning.

Earlier, the Irish had needed only three plays to reach the other house on their second possession, as Knight swept left and took it just shy of 50 yards over midfield, and Yates scored on a 22-yard keeper to carve out a much-needed foothold in the game, down 10-7.

Post-delay, they got right back to work, and rattled off an 80-yard drive to tie things up, though a troublesome PAT snap cost them a shot at the lead after Bostic rounded the right edge for the score from 20 yards early in the second quarter.

There were a few snags early in the drive, as Dublin survived another fumble, and rolled the dice to go for a fourth and one from their own 29, though Yates easily picked it up on a dive over his interior blockers. The remaining 71 yards went pretty smoothly, with double-digit gainers by himself and Knight setting up the Bostic score.

Fumbles plagued the Irish after a Perry three-and-out started their next session from the 17. The rock popped loose twice more

on the end of an early first-down run, and on a Perry hit in the backfield in plus territory. But both times, it bounced favorably into the arms of green shirts, and the drive rolled on.

A shot to the end zone just missed, but Yates dialed up Wallace on a big third-down connection to keep the threat alive. Knight, on another patient cutup on a wide run to the left, got around the corner to score and put Dublin on top by a score of 19-13 with 3:28 remaining in the half.

The defense that came back down the hill was ready to dominate.

Though its immediate stop had already been signed and sealed just prior to the delay, Dublin forced a quick three-and-out Perry's next turn with the ball around midfield, and got the football back for an opportunity to go ahead as the Panthers took a chance on a fourth-and-two from their own territory, and Blake Luecke drove back Marquez Ragin for a tackle behind the line that set Dublin up at their 37.

"We came in the game everywhere, all out of place," Jones said. "But our coaches put it on the board, helped us out and we just got it right."

Adjustments made

during a second intermission seemed to have Dublin's attack even more finely tuned.

The Irish opened with the football from their own 20, and Bostic hit the accelerator on a run to the right perimeter for a footrace touchdown on the second play to extend their lead to 27-13 without a minute gone from the third quarter clock.

Perry's best drive since the first mixed the runs and screens to reach a scoring chance in response. The Panthers fed it to Ragin on four straight plays with a few yards left to score, but Jaydon McRae took him down short of the goal line on both the last two, then joined Knight and NaZyon Mitchell in eating up Cobb left of the formation on fourth down.

Dublin covered 93 yards on a scoring drive in response to add a third touchdown to the lead.

Yates snuck it in for his second touchdown run to make the score 34-13.

With two wins down, the Irish will be back in the Bowl looking to pick up a third as they welcome fellow unbeaten Baldwin (2-0, off wins over WACO and Hep-hzibah) Friday to conclude what will be their most eventful week of game prep so far.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

Friday

Dublin 41, Perry 20
Edmund Burke 42, Trinity 0
Southeast Bulloch 26,
East Laurens 20 (OT)
ACE Charter 23,
Washington Co. 20
Dodge Co. 30, Lamar Co. 13
Bleckley Co. 34, Cook 19
Brentwood 49,
Gatewood 27
Twigg's Co. 34,
Central (Talbotton) 12
Greene Co. 24,
Wilkinson Co. 18
Montgomery Co. 15,
Wheeler Co. 14

PREP
SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL

Monday

Central Macon at Dublin
/5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

West Laurens at
Southeast Bulloch/5 p.m.
ACE Charter at Dublin
East Laurens at
Bleckley Co./5:30 p.m.
Trinity at Brentwood/6 p.m.

Wednesday

Perry at EL/6 p.m.

Thursday

Warner Robins at EL
(doubleheader)/4 p.m.
Harlem at WL/5 p.m.
Pinewood at Trinity
/5:30 p.m.
Dublin at Swainsboro
/6 p.m.

Saturday

Lowndes at WL/10 a.m.
Treutlen at WL/2 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday

Pierce Co., Veterans at WL
/5 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Friday

Trinity at Augusta Prep
/7 p.m.
Baldwin at Dublin
Washington Co. at EL
WL at Dodge Co.
Jasper Co. at Bleckley Co.
Robert Toombs at
Brentwood
Montgomery Co. at
Lanier Co.
Twigg's Co. at
Mount de Sales
Treutlen at Tattnall Co.
Jefferson Co. at
Wilkinson Co./7:30 p.m.

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"It's homecoming, which is great for the fans," Holmes said. "Coaches hate it, so you've gotta stay with-in the concept that the football team's job is make sure everybody leaves happy. I don't know anything about Baldwin, except I saw where last week their quarterback (Kamden Patterson) was responsible for six touchdowns. So it means that they've got a stud back there. We'll get to work on them in the morning."

FALCONS

Continued from page 6

Jakalian Small, who got everybody stepping the wrong way on a misdirection fake, and sliced his way right up the middle on an untouched keeper.

Brant Horst made the strip sack, and the Jackets another recovery in plus territory, before Turner's 32-yard field goal put them back in front 17-14.

The Falcons once again summoned a mistake-free stretch of football to drive 81 for the lead.

A long completion to the far side got things going, then Snead finished the third quarter on two solid carries to reach the red zone.

Just shy of 60 seconds into the fourth, he took a left-side keeper over the goal line to put East Laurens on top 20-17.

If the Falcons could have done

the ensuing try over, they'd likely have kicked another extra point knowing a four-point lead would have prevented Turner's kick to tie later in the game.

But from a swinging gate alignment, they opted to go for two with a sweep handoff to Floyd, who was swarmed in the backfield to leave it a three-point game.

That equalizing field goal came in between some false breakthroughs by both teams.

Penalties invalidated Aaden Peterson's long runback of the next East Laurens kickoff, which was backed up 15 yards by a post-touchdown penalty.

The sides traded punts, and this time a short one had the Jackets officially in business at the Falcon 30.

Dawson nearly scored on the first play, but a touchdown-saving

trip up by Hazley at the East Laurens 2 stopped him shy.

The Falcons rallied and stood their ground with two group TFLs and a pressure by Amaree Daniels to force an incompletion, and the chip shot of Turner that tied it up.

East took back over with 4:49 left, and went nowhere on its initial possession.

But SEB reciprocated its punt, and this time, Floyd made some magic on a 35-yard return to midfield that was similarly called back on a flag. Same story as Hazley caught one on the left side and took off to the house moments later.

The Falcons again had to punt, and it didn't go far, giving the Jackets a small chance at reaching range for some game-winning points at the plus-23.

But they'd concede the remain-

der of the final 30 seconds after Antonio Hargrove slung down Small for a loss, and OT commenced.

Most of East Laurens' first-half drives were sabotaged by penalties or turnovers.

The first two were three plays and out, and a third was headed that direction from inside the East Laurens 9, where a low snap trickled off to the right after hitting off the ankles of both Falcons in the backfield.

Southeast Bulloch recovered for the touchdown, and Parker Turner added the point-after to give the home team a 7-0 lead with a minute or two remaining in the first quarter.

East Laurens' next possession overcame some key third downs to reach the red zone, but Snead took a sack on fourth down, and

the threat came up empty.

The Jackets took their turn making some progress, but ultimately punted.

Once again, the Falcons were poised to get something going as a solid Floyd punt return sparked a good opening series, which finished on a Gary Stockton third-down conversion.

But disaster struck on the next play as Dianco Murray took off running after a catch in the flat, but lost a handle and fumbled the ball right to a defender.

Fortunately for East, SEB would give it back in similar fashion just two plays later as Jeremiah Rozier delivered a hit on Dawson to dislodge it for Harvey to return 46 yards to the end zone.

John Thang added the point to tie, and a 7-7 score went to the half.

JOHNSON COUNTY 35, WARREN COUNTY 0

Trojans silence Screamin’ Devils in Thursday-nighter

By RALPH JACKSON
Correspondent

The Johnson County defense delivered the Screaming Devils a defeat Thursday night, shutting out Warren County 35-0 in the Trojans’ home opener at the Blue Monster.

While the defense forced four turnovers and kept Warren County off the scoreboard, Jeremiah Scott supplied plenty of offense, scoring four touchdowns in a second-straight game as Johnson County improved to 2-0 on the season.

The victory on Herschel Walker Field at Herschel Lovett Stadium followed the Trojans’ 32-15 season-opening win over East Laurens in the Border War.

Johnson County wasted little time taking control.

After the JoCo defense stopped Warren County on fourth down, the Trojans went 56 yards in five plays on their opening possession. Scott broke loose for 16 yards early in the drive and finished it with a 31-yard touchdown run. Grayson Jackson added the first of his five successful extra points to give Johnson County a 7-0 lead with 6:50 remaining in the first quarter.

The defense quickly permitted the offense another opportunity by forcing a three-and-out.

This time Johnson County needed six plays to cover 40 yards. Kelsey Waters contributed runs of four, seven and seven yards before Jacaden Webb scored from 10 yards out, extending the lead to 14-0 with 2:07 left in the opening quarter.

The Trojans struck again on their next possession



4x4x2: Thursday was a second-straight memorable night for Jeremiah Scott (4), who scored another four touchdowns (three rushing and one receiving) on 179 all-purpose yards/RALPH JACKSON

with their most explosive drive of the first half.

Jeremiah Taylor opened the four-play, 76-yard march with a 21-yard run. Quarterback Chance Wombles then connected with Dae’zon Devero for 19 yards before Taylor ripped off another 25-yard run. Wombles finished the drive with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Scott, making it 21-0 with 11:21 remaining in the half.

Scott found the end zone again less than six minutes later.

Johnson County used eight plays to cover 50 yards, getting contributions on the ground from Waters, Zacorian Graddy and Webb before Scott scored on an 11-yard run. Jackson’s extra point made it 28-0 with 6:09 remaining before halftime.

The Trojans nearly added another score late in the second quarter. Facing third-and-15, Wombles

found Devero for 29 yards to the Warren County 17, but the drive eventually ended on downs.

Warren County then put together one of its best offensive stretches of the night, breaking runs of 29 and 28 yards before the half. But once again the JoCo defense kept the Screaming Devils out of the end zone, sending the Trojans to the locker room with a 28-0 advantage.

Johnson County head coach Don Norton was particularly pleased with the defensive performance.

“Always glad in getting the win, but we were proud of our defense,” Norton said. “Getting a goal-line stand for the third week in a row, and everyone got to play. You know, always good to get a Thursday night win versus Warren County.”

The three-week stretch Norton referenced dates back to Johnson County’s second and final preseason

scrimmage, and has continued through the regular-season victories over East Laurens and Warren County.

Any thought of a Warren County comeback disappeared almost immediately after halftime.

Scott fielded the opening kickoff and raced 75 yards to the Warren County 11. Four plays later, on fourth-and-goal from the 5, he scored his fourth touchdown of the night. Jackson’s fifth PAT pushed the lead to 35-0 and completed the scoring.

Scott finished with 77 yards on seven carries and three rushing touchdowns while adding an 11-yard touchdown reception. He produced 88 yards from scrimmage on only nine offensive touches, in addition to a 75-yard kickoff return and 16 yards on three punt returns.

The Trojans did most of their damage on the ground, rushing for 244 yards on 35

attempts — an average of 7.0 yards per carry.

Taylor gained 46 yards on only two carries, Waters added 41 yards on five attempts and Webb finished with 36 yards and a touchdown on eight carries.

Norton also praised the big guys up front who do much of their work without showing up in the statistics.

“Our offensive line played well,” Norton said. “I was proud for them.”

Wombles accounted for Johnson County’s 59 passing yards and threw the touchdown to Scott. Devero caught two passes for 48 yards, including the 29-yard reception late in the first half.

As productive as the offense was, the defense repeatedly prevented Warren County from turning its yardage into points.

The Screaming Devils finished with 228 yards of total offense, including 227 on the ground, but turned

the ball over four times. Webb intercepted two passes, while Taylor recovered two fumbles.

Warren County converted only two of 14 third-down opportunities. Johnson County also kept the Screaming Devils off the scoreboard despite Warren converting three of four fourth-down attempts and finishing with 12 first downs.

The Trojans finished with 303 yards of total offense and 18 first downs. Johnson County converted four of 11 third downs and one of two fourth downs while playing turnover-free football. The Trojans were penalized nine times for 81 yards.

Norton said the effort and pursuit of his defense stood out.

“We hustled to the ball very well,” Norton said. “I was extremely proud of that, and came out and had some good hits. You know, I was very proud and saw some good leadership out there.”

The victory did come with a significant loss for the Trojans. Backup quarterback Gus Ragan suffered a season-ending injury during the first half, but his attention afterward remained on what his teammates could accomplish.

“I think we have a chance to go a long way,” Ragan said. “Everybody wants to put in the work. There’s nobody that likes to take days off. It’s well-led by seniors, and even though I can’t play anymore, I’m excited to see what they can do.”

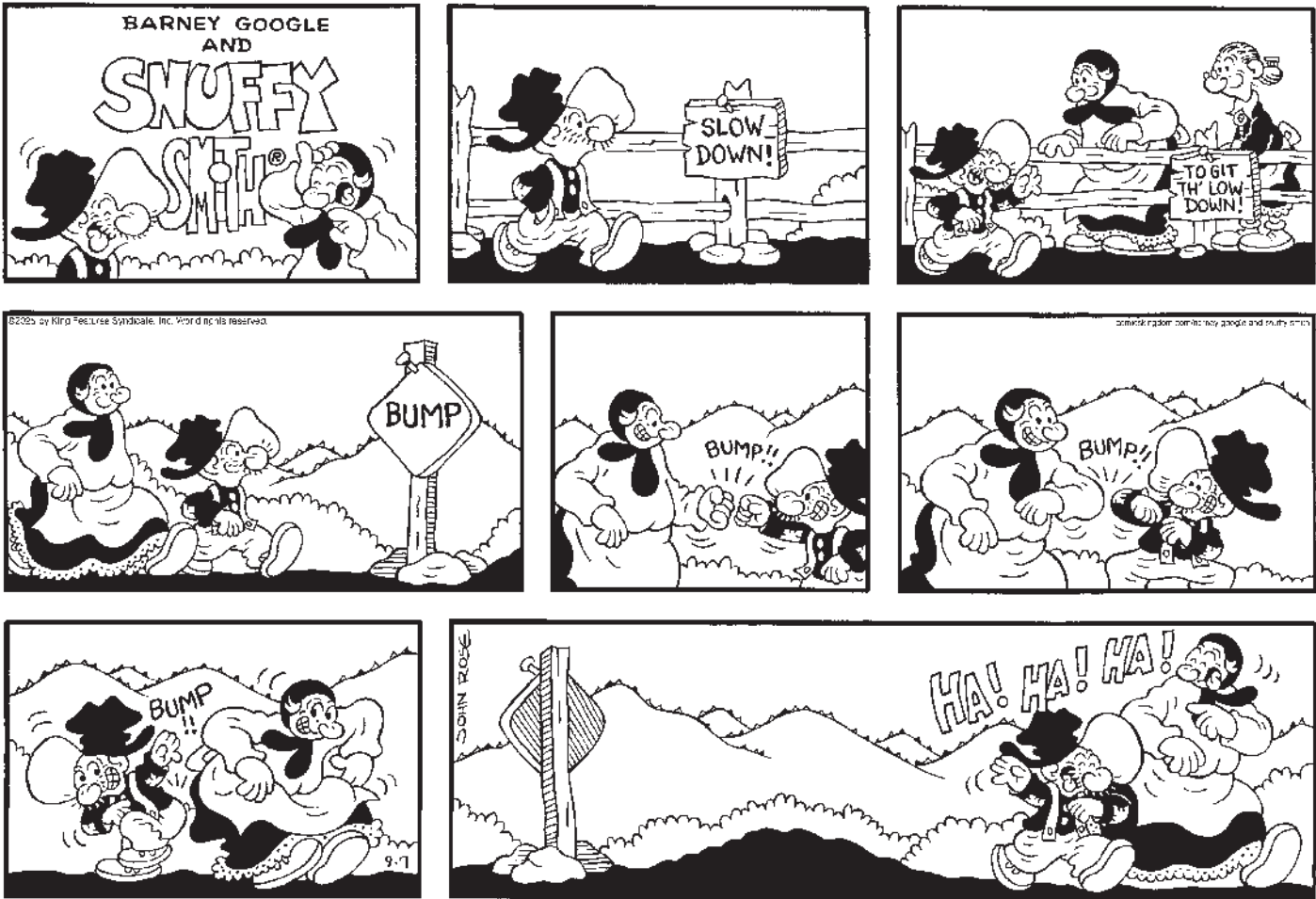
Johnson County will now have an open week before returning to action on the road against the Wheeler County Bulldogs.

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Subject: Porter's Guide

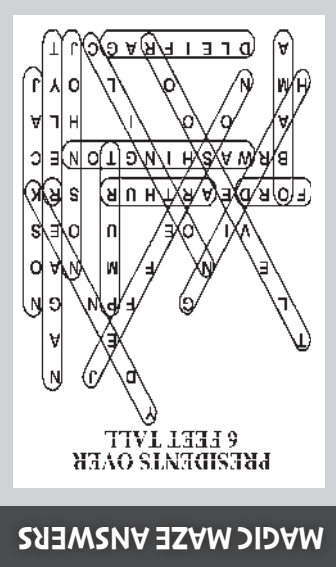
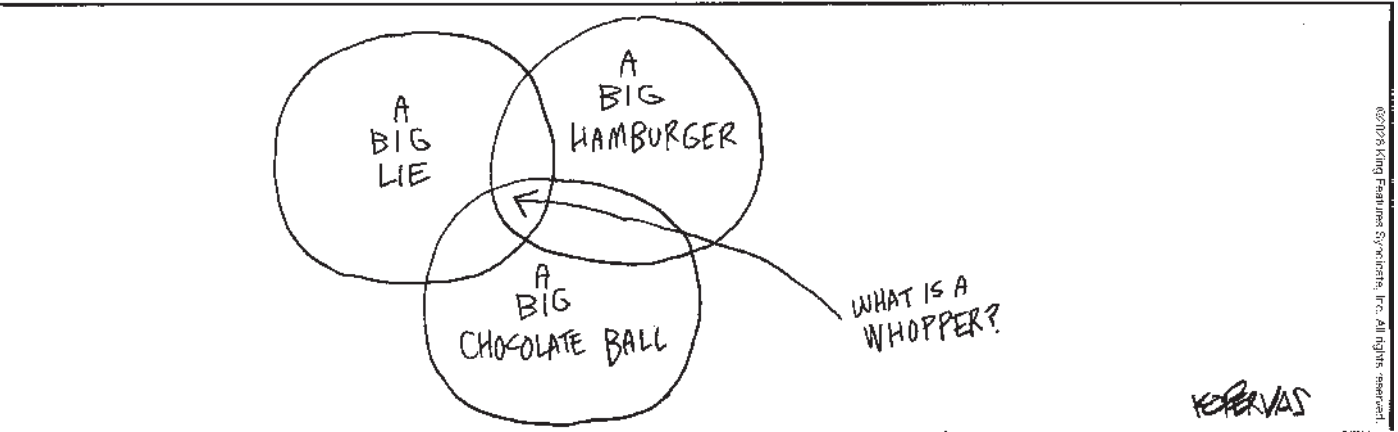
Please include your name, phone number, and a brief description of the photo, story, or recipe. *All submissions may not be printed. Photo publication is left to the discretion of the editor. Submission deadline is 9/25/2026.



The Spats



Out on a Limb



MAGIC MAZE

PRESIDENTS OVER 6 FEET TALL

PBYWTROLYJGEBYW
URPNKIGDBDZJXNV
TSQNLLOCNILEOMAK
ILGECAGYWFPNUGN
SQEPNNLJFHMFNAO
ECAVIYOEXVUUOES
FORDEARTHURSSRK
QBRWASHINGTONEC
PANMOKOJHIFEHLA
HMCNBZYOXVLUOYJ
TARDLEIFRAGCJTQ

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: TALLEST PRESIDENT

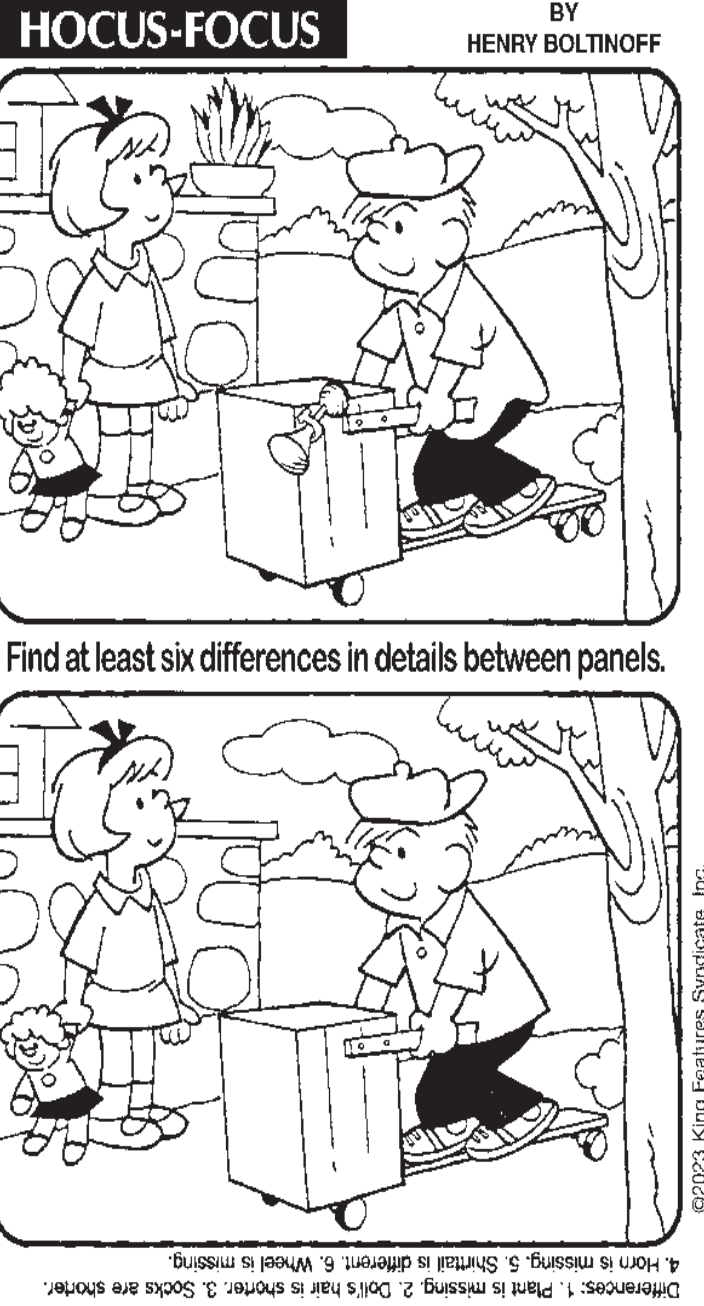
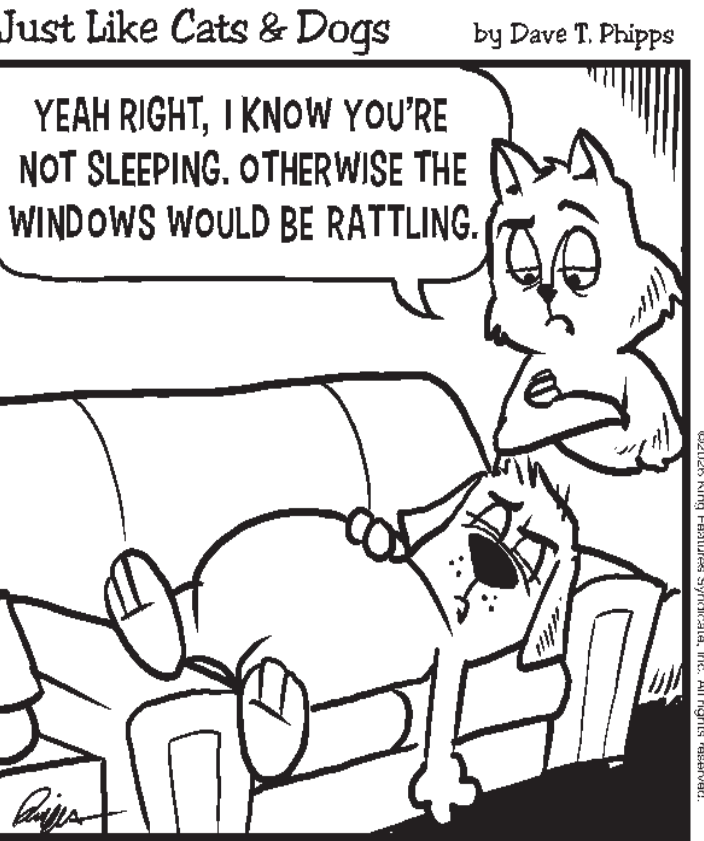
Arthur
Clinton
Ford
Garfield

Harding
Jackson
Jefferson
Johnson

Kennedy
Obama
Reagan
Roosevelt

Trump
Tyler
Washington

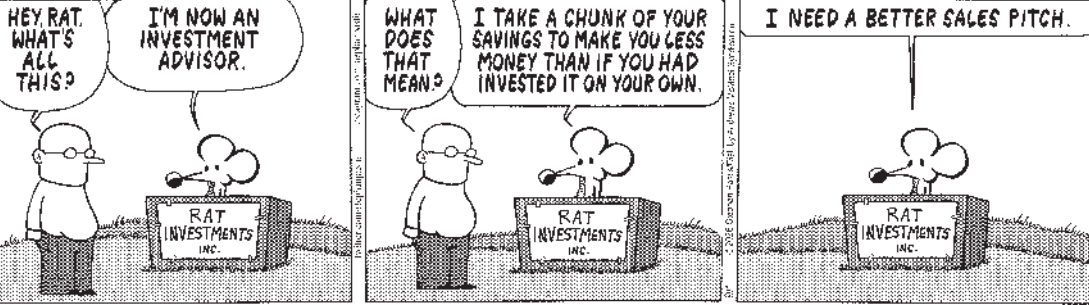
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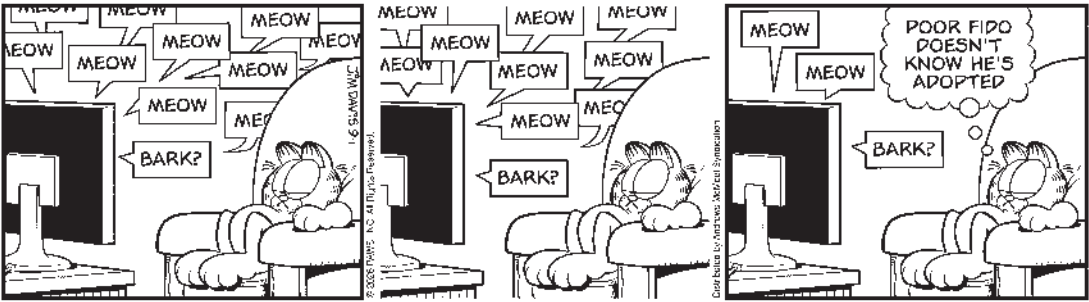
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS

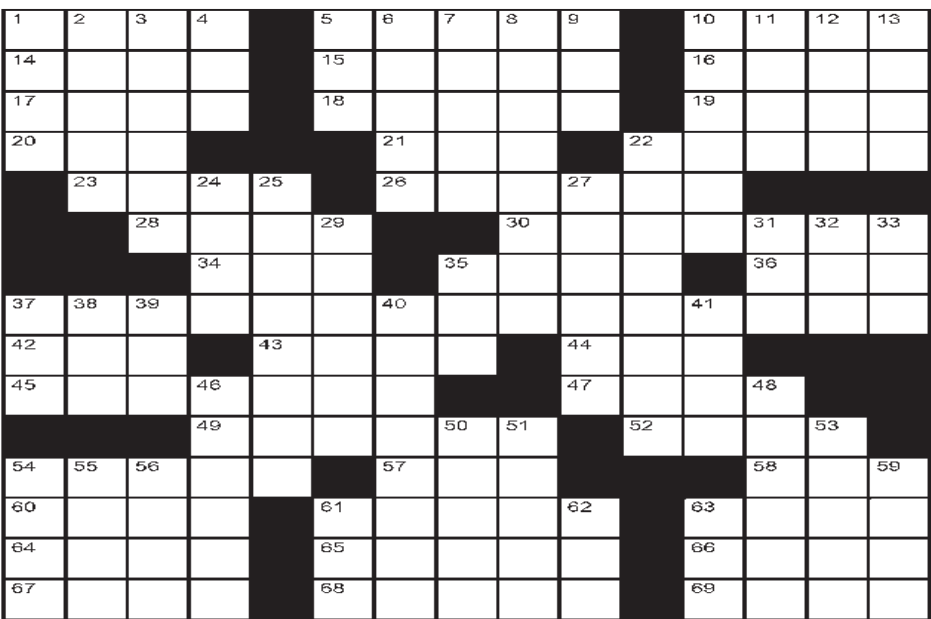
BY JEFF MACNELLY



Pluggers may grow to a 42-inch waist, but they continue to wear a 32-inch belt.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Big party
5 Let in
10 Killed, as a dragon
14 ___ and beans
15 April Fools' Day gag
16 City cab
17 Word that ends a prayer
18 Trunk of the body
19 Bun in the ___
20 Japanese money
21 Be untruthful
22 Group in a school
23 Potting soil, e.g.
26 Place where something happens
28 Ringlet
30 Spoon or fork, e.g.
34 Female deer
35 Remove wrinkles from
36 Gold, in Spanish
37 The Fourth of July: 2 wds.
42 No vote
43 "___ only kidding": 2 wds.
44 "Eureka!"
45 Middle-leg bone
47 Not as much
49 Graphic designer's creation
52 Pack of cards
54 Go ___ (spread online)
57 Baton Rouge school: Abbr.
58 Owns
60 Polish, as prose
61 Bridle attachments
63 Innermost part
64 Thick cord
65 Ice-cream holders
66 Rounded roof
67 Ran in the wash
68 Persistent dread
69 Close loudly
- DOWN**
- 1 Donkey's cry



Created by Stella Zawistowski

- 2 Prepared to fire
3 Picturesque
4 Female chicken
5 Fit for the occasion
6 Dryly funny
7 Andretti of racing
8 Not confident
9 Boxing result: Abbr.
10 Pilfered
11 Volcanic flow
12 Former spouses
13 Victories
22 Made a fist
24 Impolite
25 Like Malaysia's climate
27 Without a key, as music
29 Flexibility
31 Roll of grass
32 Lyricist Gershwin
33 Actress Myrna
35 Passports, e.g.: Abbr.
37 Tattooing fluid
38 British granny
39 Artificial color
40 ___ Bonaparte



- 41 Simplicity
46 Gladdened
48 Place to learn
50 Drawing upon
51 Melodious
53 Buddhism concept
54 Action word
55 False god
56 Ready to eat, as fruit
59 Come across as
61 SZA's record label
62 Former fast plane: Abbr.
63 Savings options: Abbr.

Oldest sibling needs help with mom

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away three months ago, leaving my mom alone for the first time in her life. She lives nearby, so my wife and I have been doing what we can. We have her over several times a week, and we visit and call to check in often.

Mom is having a hard time and sometimes forgets to eat or get dressed if we don't remind her. There has been a lot of legal stuff to do following Dad's death, decisions she's not up for, so we're doing that, too. I'm trying to get her professional help (counseling and help at home), but there are waiting lists, and it's going to take time. I'm also mourning Dad, and it's been a lot.

What I'd really like is for my brothers to step up. One lives in the next town. The other is only a couple of hours away. Neither one has been to see Mom since the funeral, and it doesn't sound like they've been calling her often.

I'm the oldest, and they are used to me taking care of things, but this is more than I can handle alone. I have told them that directly. They both say they want to help, but then they don't. I have tried giving them specific tasks (for example, to call Mom in the morning before 10 on a certain day), and they agree but then



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

don't follow through. We usually get along.

They are both successful people with good jobs and families, so I don't understand why they are slacking here. I think they're just used to Mom being the caretaker and can't see that the roles are reversed now even though we're all in our 40s and no longer little boys. How do I get them to start shouldering their share of the responsibility here? -- IN CHARGE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR IN CHARGE: Because your brothers cannot be trusted to step up and give your mother more time, there is another way they can take some of the responsibility off your shoulders. They can offer money in lieu of time. Each could chip in so that their mother has a caregiver or companion to

help her with the household chores. They should also contribute toward grief or psychological counseling until she is stronger. If you suggest all of that, you may find they magically begin calling Mom more often!

DEAR ABBY: I am at my wits' end. I support myself and my boyfriend of 14 years. I have no extra money to support anyone else. My boyfriend's mother, who is our neighbor, treats him like a dog and always has. She constantly asks him for stuff. He gives her things that I have worked for -- cigarettes, soft drinks, food, etc. It all adds up, and I can't do it anymore. Please give me any advice that you have. -- TIRED

DEAR TIRED: You have learned the hard way that your boyfriend and his mom are a package deal, and they are both deadbeats. Get out of there and stop letting them use you. Find a place of your own, block his calls, and experience the satisfaction of living on your own. Once you've done that, I'm sure you can find yourself a much better man -- or you may decide you don't need one.

Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 270135, Kansas City, MO 64127.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A K 10 6 ♥ 8 4 3 2 ♦ A 3 ♣ J 4 3

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass

What call would you make?

A - Those hearts are ugly, especially compared to the spades, but partner could have four cards in either major and we don't want to miss our fit if we have one. Bid 1H.

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A Q 10 7 2 ♥ K 6 5 ♦ 3 ♣ J 8 7 3

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♣ 2♣ Pass 2♥ Pass

What call would you make?

A - We have an excellent club fit, but our best game might still be in spades. Give partner one chance to support spades before raising clubs. Bid 2S.

Q 3 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ 5 4 3 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A Q 7 6 5 ♣ A 3 2

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1NT 3♣ ? 2♥ ?

What call would you make?

A - We would have bid 3NT had East passed. The only cause for concern after the overcall is whether we have a club stopper. We have one! Bid 3NT.

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A 9 ♥ A Q 10 5 ♦ Q 7 3 2 ♣ A K 5

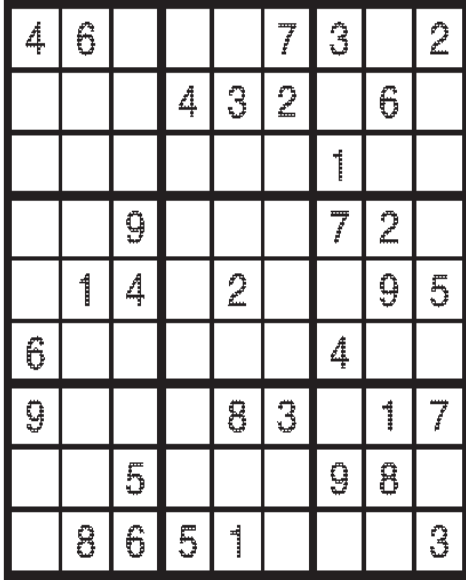
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1♥ 1♣ 3♥ 2♦

What call would you make?

A - Do not even think about bidding spades. Partner's double is purely for penalties, and you have good defense for a hand with such exciting distribution. Four hearts might be there, but we'll take the money. Pass.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper.)

SUDOKU

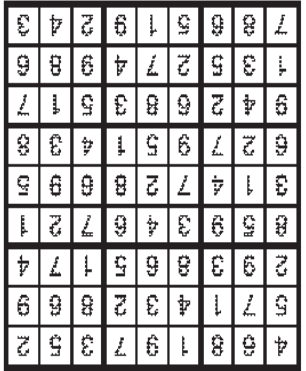


Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:



Laurens County Schools Finance Director Mary McCollough will present budget information during three tax increase public hearings set for later this month/PAYTON TOWNS III

SCHOOL TAXES
Continued from page 1

taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires a rollback millage rate be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessment occurred," the release said.

Hall said he does not believe the board will increase the actual millage rate, which

was set last year at 14 mills. Despite this, the board will be bringing in more revenue, which is technically a tax increase, Hall said, and the reason for the three meetings where Laurens County Finance Director Mary McCollough will have a presentation about the tax increase.

"We are not dropping the millage rate to the point of bringing in the exact amount of money that we brought in last year," Hall said.

INDICTMENTS
Continued from page 1

(serious injury by vehicle).

- Malei Ryan Parrish (cruelty to children in the first degree and simple battery).
- Christopher Bernard Pullen (aggravated assault and terroristic threat).
- Brandon Ashley Reed (three counts of elude a police officer).
- Henry Ison Rouse Jr. (theft by receiving stolen property).
- Tyrell Rodriguez Stanley (theft by receiving stolen property).
- Malik Deshawn Swint (criminal damage to property in the second degree, crossing the guard lines with drugs and possession of a controlled substance).
- Reginald Lamontae Walker (battery, family violence and possession of firearm by convicted felon).
- Lawyer Fredrick Wells (trafficking methamphetamine or amphetamine).

- Jamie Lamar White (burglary in the second degree, theft by taking and criminal trespass).
- Terry Lee White (cruelty to children in the first degree).
- Jessup Trevonne Wells (two counts of child molestation, one count of aggravated child molestation, aggravated sodomy and enticing a child for indecent purposes).
- Willie Eugene Woodward (aggravated assault and possession of knife during commission of a felony).
- Quavon Kentae Worthen (theft by receiving stolen property, obstruction of an officer, driving without a valid license and failure to yield right of way).
- Cynthia Lourdes Wright (aggravated assault, family violence and affray).
- Jamir Antwan Wright (seven counts of stalking, one count of distributing obscene material and

three counts of aggravated stalking).

- Jamir Antwan Wright (two counts of aggravated stalking).
- Kiddreakus Tyshawyn, aka Kid Dreakus Tyshawyn Clover (burglary in the second degree and criminal damage to property in the second degree).
- Kiddrick Dashawn Clover (burglary in the second degree and criminal damage to property in the second degree).
- Jasmine Renee Haynes (two counts of aggravated assault).
- Austin Kelly Thigpen (terroristic threats).
- Timothy Wayne Casper (five counts of cruelty to children in the second degree).
- Megan Ann Tanner (four counts of cruelty to children in the second degree and one count of cruelty in the first degree).
- Selena Mae Tanner (four counts of cruelty to children in the second degree and one count of cruelty in the first degree).

9/11 CEREMONY
Continued from page 1

9/11. He reminds people attending that some of those who worked at the World Trade Center site continue to die from 9/11-related health issues.

"I've got some updated numbers looking at it in a little different way," Cutler said. "It will be another eye-opening experience of the deaths that continues to happen from 25 years ago."

After Cutler took the position as chief, many of the firefighters wanted to do something on the day of Sept. 11, even if they just went down together to the public safety memorial.

"We wanted to be there," he said.



Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler speaks during last year's 9/11 program /PAYTON TOWNS III

FLOCK CAMERAS
Continued from page 1

guardrails."

In the letter, he points out that the cameras have helped find stolen vehicles, support investigations and protect communities.

"We also value recent initiatives by law enforcement agencies to self-regulate and improve internal practices in regard to the use of these systems," Walker wrote. "At the same time, recent allegations of improper use - resulting in stalking, misidentification and unjustified arrests - have understandably heightened privacy and accountability concerns for our constituents. In light of this, I believe we must begin a cooperative, transparent conversation so state policymakers and law enforcement agencies can work together to preserve effective public-safety tool while addressing legitimate public concerns."

Walker would like to hear from Ayers and Norris about their top concerns about deploying this type of technology in the communities.

ACA premium prices insuring 900K Georgians to shoot up - again

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Affordable Care Act health insurance program that covers 900,000 Georgians is on track to see price hikes of as much as 20% or more when open enrollment begins this fall for 2027 coverage. That's according to state data obtained by the Georgia Recorder for the ACA exchange run by the state and called Georgia Access.

Next year's inflation is on top of massive price increases that already occurred for 2026 coverage after Congress and President Donald Trump allowed pandemic-era extra ACA subsidies to expire.

The insurance companies' proposed price increases on the Georgia marketplace are not final. First, the numbers might still change because they are from the mid-summer negotiation point, said Bryce Rawson, a spokesman for the Georgia Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. Prices are finalized before open enrollment begins Nov. 1.

In addition, the premium price changes that consumers see when they go to sign up at open enrollment will also be affected by how federal and state subsidies are calculated.

But the news is a signal and a blow to customers, as well as to the hospitals who wonder if this means more are going to walk in uninsured next year in need of free care. A lobbyist for hospitals in Georgia, Monty Veazey, said that the massive price increase that already took effect this year threw so many people off the ACA exchange that Georgia hospitals lost \$441 million, based on his calculations of the average value per insured person.

tomers in coastal Georgia, was terse when told about the coming price increases. Smith juggles multiple part-time jobs and has depended on her ACA plan to keep a life-threatening infection at bay.

Smith's premium insurance skyrocketed seven-fold earlier this year, and she managed because she had just paid off her car. She couldn't say exactly how she plans to pay her premium if it increases yet again. Hearing the possible numbers, Smith said, simply, "Wow."

Nora Pullen, a self-employed life and wellness coach and math and testing tutor in Fayette County, already dropped her ACA

coverage this year after prices skyrocketed. She had little hope that prices would come back within reach this year but this seals it.

"I honestly don't think this is sustainable for people," Pullen said, when told about the planned increases.

Pullen is a Democratic activist but the decisions

are being felt across the political spectrum.

However, the decisions to drop coverage are weighted in one camp: those who are healthy, like Pullen. Those who are in immediate need of care, like Smith, are more likely to stay. And that becomes a corporate Catch-22 where it's even more expensive for insurance compa-

nies to keep providing coverage, causing them to raise prices yet again.

"It is not a good indication of where the market's going, to see two years of extremely steep increases like this," said Cynthia Cox, senior vice president and director of the Program on the ACA at the health research nonprofit KFF.

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Navigating Medicare

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Carry Smith, an ACA cus-

What is a dog’s favorite plant? Collie-flower!
That terrible joke made Herald the Hound howl, but he had a great time visiting Ms. Rosie Meeks’ class of second graders at Northwest Laurens Elementary School. After reading a story, Herald and the students labeled the parts of a plant and learned more about living things. Be on the lookout for Herald as he continues to visit schools across Dublin-Laurens County. He may be in your class next!



Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

WORD FUN

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

WHAT VEGGIES SHOULD YOU EAT IF YOU WANT TO RUN FAST?

HERMIT	___	MERIT		DRIEST	___	TRIED
OUNCES	___	CONES		PHOTOS	___	SHOOT
CHARMS	___	MARCH		ALERTS	___	STALE
FASTED	___	FADES		OLIVES	___	VEILS
BLAZER	___	ZEBRA		UPDATE	___	TAPED
URGENT	___	GRUNT		ITCHED	___	CHIDE
				THROBS	___	BROTH

WORKSHEET OF THE WEEK

Write a paragraph about your favorite animal, where it lives and what it needs to survive

MINI SUDOKU

	1		6	
2			4	5
	5	1		
			5	
		2	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

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

Puzzles4Kids Answer

HERMIT	OUNCES	CHARMS	FASTED	BLAZER	URGENT	DRIEST	PHOTOS	ALERTS	OLIVES	UPDATE	ITCHED	THROBS
H	U	S	T	L	E	S	P	R	O	U	T	S

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

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