

The Courier Herald

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Sweat resigns from LCBOE District 1 seat

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Following last Thursday's school board meeting, Kathy Sweat felt that she had done all that she could do.

Sweat, who was set to step off the board as the District 1 representative at year's end, resigned toward the end of the meeting.

Sweat was first elected to the school board in 2014, and was just three months away from completing her 12th year.

"I have been involved with the school system for 71 years," she said. "It has been my heart and I've really tried what I thought was best for the children and the staff. But the time comes when you feel like you are drained and don't have anything else to give."



Sweat

Jennifer "J." Stone, who was the only candidate who qualified for the District 1 seat earlier this year, will officially start her first term on Jan. 1, 2027.

Laurens County School Superintendent O.J. Hall said Sweat means a lot to the county school system and many on the LCBOE.

"She has served three terms and has been dedicated to the board," Hall

SWEAT
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Jamie Lawhorn and Janelle Butler speak to the Laurens County School Board about the Georgia Milestone Achievement scores/PAYTON TOWNS III

Board happy about results from Georgia Milestones assessments

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Laurens County School Board members are proud of the results they recently received from Georgia Milestones assessments.

Associate superintendent for secondary education for curriculum and instruction (for grades sixth-12th) Jamie Lawhorn and associate superintendent for elementary education (third-fifth grades) Janelle Butler presented an overview of SY 26 Georgia Milestones achievement data during last Thursday's Laurens County Board of Education meeting.

"This is state standardized assessment data from FY26, last school year," said Laurens County Superintendent O.J. Hall. "This is the first board meeting

we've had since the embargo has been lifted, so now we can publicly discuss the scores, and we wanted to share them with our board."

Lawhorn's discussion focused on middle and high school students while Butler's comments focused on elementary students' results. They displayed charts with data showing each subject, beginning with mathematics.

The third-grade math scores went from 63.2 percent to 68.3, resulting in a 5.1 percent increase. The state score for third grade was 48.3 percent while the Heart of Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) score was 50.8 percent. Compared to the other schools in the RESA, Laurens County third graders were ranked No. 2.

Fourth-grade math

scores went from 64.1 percent in 2025 to 67.1 percent for a 3.0 percent increase. The state's score for fourth grade was 50.1 percent while the RESA was 47.2 percent. Compared to the other schools in the RESA, Laurens County fourth graders were ranked No. 1.

Fifth-grade math scores went from 50.4 percent in 2025 to 56.4 percent for a 6.0 percent increase. The state's score for fifth grade was 44.1 percent while the RESA was 41.9 percent. Compared to the other schools in the RESA, Laurens County fourth graders were ranked No. 2.

"We have increased in all three of those grade levels," Butler said. "We are on excellent track, and we are

SCORES

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Members of the Official Dublin Walking Club run or walk at the nature trail at Southern Pines. The club meets every Saturday to walk/PAYTON TOWNS III

The Official Dublin Walking Club taking steps for better health

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

At 9 a.m. every Saturday morning, a group of people gathered near the Southern Pines Nature Trail with a goal in taking steps to better health.

It was all part of The Official Dublin Walking Club, which was co-started in August by Sharod Darrisaw and Patrick Evans. More than 50 people gathered ready to walk the four to five laps around the nature trail to get a mile of walking completed.

The club began with Darrisaw and his wife walking and exercising every day. His friend Tom Young had a walk club in Warner Robins.

"I saw that and I was interested in doing that in Dublin," Darrisaw said. "I wanted to bring something positive here and get people moving. I just wanted to put that positive light on Dublin while getting healthy at the same time."



Members walking on Saturday, Sept. 5 included Laurens County Superintendent O.J. Hall/PAYTON TOWNS III

All Darrisaw did was put a notice on social media to meet at Southern Pines and walk.

"This is what you can get by just posting it on social media," he said. "We meet here every Saturday at 9 a.m. I want to make sure that I want a diverse crowd. This is not for one race. We all need to be healthy."

Some days they walk the nature trail and sometimes they use the road at

the complex. The crowd grows every Saturday.

"This is a great turnout," Evans said. "It keeps getting bigger and bigger every week."

He understands the importance of walking. Evans had been in an accident, and he needed to do something to improve his health.

"Ever since I started coming back out here and walking, my asthma and my lung problems have been better," he said. "We welcome everybody and

WALK

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Sons of the American Revolution to participate in local Bells Across America

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Bells will be ringing across the country next week, celebrating the 238th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

The annual Bells Across America will be held Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Railroad Park, with the bell ringing around 4 p.m. as part of Constitution Week for the John Laurens Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

DAR Constitution Week Chairman Diane Clark said there will be patriotic music performed by the Southwest Singers. Lee Herron, President of Brier Creek Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, will lead a group portraying colonial patriots in the elite Skunk Brigade as they demonstrate authentic American Revolution era cannons and muskets.

"They will be in costume and some of the DAR members will be in costume,"



Members of the Sons of the American Revolution will demonstrate era cannons and muskets/SPECIAL PHOTO

Clark said. "People are encouraged to dress in that time period or at least wear red, white and blue. We are also asking them to bring a bell. We want to be proud to be there to participate and ring out the bells. The reason that we are doing more this year is because of the 250th anniversary. We are

hoping to get people out for this event."

Clark hopes many Laurens County citizens will bring a bell and join them and citizens all across the nation.

"During colonial and ear-

BELLS

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Sorority gearing up for annual breast cancer event

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A local sorority held a breast cancer survivor's brunch recently as it geared up for its annual walk aimed at raising money to beat the disease.

The Dublin-Laurens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. held it Shades of Pink Breast Cancer Survivors Brunch at Williams Chapel Baptist Church on Sept.

5. During the event, sorority members Lillie Hobbs and Tammy Howard talked about the sorority's 17th annual 3-Mile Walk for the Cure, which will be held at 9 a.m. Oct. 3 at Fairview Park Hospital's walking track.

"Money raised will continue to help with breast cancer research," Howard said. "(The survivors) are the light for us all."

SORORITY
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Breast Cancer survivors gathered for a picture during the annual Dublin-Laurens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s Shades of Pink/PAYTON TOWNS III



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OBITUARIES



Freddie Willis

It has been said that the qualities of a godly man include: someone who fears and loves God, lives a life of prayer, takes responsibility, practices humility, shows integrity and honesty, exercises self-control, works diligently, extends grace and forgiveness and finally leads with love. Such is the soul of Freddie Willis who was born Jan. 1, 1936, and went to his heavenly home on Sept. 10, 2026.

Freddie was married to Gail Odom Willis for 68 years. They have two children, Jeff and Dianne. Freddie and Gail built a home filled with love.

Freddie was predeceased by his parents, Jake and Lois Willis; two brothers, James Edward and Bobby Willis; two sisters, Ruby Walker and Marjorie Peacock and his beloved horse Cubby. He is survived by his wife, Gail, their two children, Jeff and Dianne (Jim) and his sister, Linda Dykes (James). He is also survived by his four grandchildren: Chase Cannon (Elizabeth); Taylor Trueblood; Courtney Absher (Travis) and Tori Kuchenbrod (Joe), as well as ten great grandchildren: William and Oliver Cannon; Cason and Cannon Absher; Avery Grace and JAK Kuchenbrod and Nolan, Brynlee, Colson and Peyton Trueblood and numerous nieces and nephews.

Most people will remember Freddie for his servant's heart and his work ethic. Freddie loved his Lord first and foremost, and he loved his family and friends from the depths of his heart and prayed daily for them. Freddie was in church every Sunday and Wednesday night that he could be there. For many years, he attended and served Lothair Church. Every time there was a need or project at the church he was among the first to volunteer. Also, he was an active member on the Administrative Board as well as the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and Lothair Men's Group.

At the age of 18, Freddie took a job at Fowler's Freezer Locker where he began cutting meat. This job turned into a career. At twenty-two, he accepted a position as a meat cutter with Piggly Wiggly Southern. He thrived and prospered with Piggly Wiggly. He loved serving people, and his skill as a butcher was exceptional. He received many promotions taking him and his family all over Southwest Georgia. He retired from Piggly Wiggly as a Regional Meat Consultant. Many young men were trained to cut meat by Freddie; and throughout his life, he would run into many he trained or worked with and they would almost always comment, "Mr. Freddie is a fine man."

Freddie and Gail's home was always open to family and friends. Many Sunday afternoons after church were spent riding horses, playing croquet, water skiing or playing a fun softball game in the horse pasture. Over his lifetime, Freddie loved spending time with his family. Family vacations were a priority to him-one week at the beach for his wife, daughter and son and one week in the mountains, which was his favorite place. Freddie's soul will never die, and his legacy will con-

tinue to live on. He will always bring together all who knew and loved him through the lessons he taught us and the exemplary life he lived.

Funeral Services were conducted on Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. at Lothair Church with Pastors Tommy Veal and Jonathan Shephard officiating. Mr. Willis was laid to rest at Westview Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Chase Cannon, Keith Clements, Joe Kunchenbrod, DJ Sellers, Travis Absher and Tom Bush.

His family received friends on Monday, at the church, from 10 a.m. until the hour of the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial gifts be sent to Lothair Church. Please make these gifts payable to Lothair Church and indicate Lothair Building Fund or Lothair Mission Fund. The mailing address is Lothair Church, Attention: Robbie Hardy, 1725 Church Loop Road, Rockledge, GA 30454.

Please share a memory, leave a condolence message and sign the online guest register book at www.sammonsfuneralhome.com.

Sammons Funeral Home – Since 1917



Betty Frances Dominy

Betty Frances Dominy passed away on Sept. 11, 2026, in Dublin, Georgia, at the age of 86.

Frances was born on Aug. 2, 1940, in Dublin, Georgia, to the late Robert Mills Clements and Joe Belle Watson Clements. She was a lifelong resident of the Dublin area and carried with her throughout her life a deep love for her family, her community, and the place she called home.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Willie Eugene "Gene" Dominy Jr., her son, Donald Eugene Dominy, her great-grandson, Jude Glenn, and her brothers, James Clements, John Clements, Wendell Clements, and Willie Clements. Frances worked faithfully throughout her life and was employed at J.P. Stevens, JCPenney, and Belk's before taking on the role of director of the Laurens County Senior Citizens Center.

Those who knew Frances will remember her as the kindest, strongest and most determined woman. One person once said of her, "Your mom is one tough lady. She never gave up." That statement reflected the truth of who she was. She was a wonderful friend, sister, aunt, devoted wife and loving mother. She was a gentle and caring grandmother and great grandmother. She loved them with her whole heart. Her presence brought comfort, strength and warmth to those blessed to know her.

Frances was a homemaker who created a loving home and a welcoming spirit for her family. She was a devoted Christian and a member of Bethsaida Baptist Church, where her faith guided her life and strengthened her through every joy and challenge. She was also a member of the Eastern Star, reflecting her commitment to service, fellowship, and a life lived with purpose and grace.

She is survived by her sons and their wives, Darrell and Patti Dominy and Allen and Linda Dominy,

her daughter and her husband, Susan and Tod Glenn, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, her sister, Sara Allen, and her brother, Cullen Clements and Kathy. She also leaves behind many dear family members and friends who will cherish her memory always. The family is especially grateful for the wonderful and loving caregivers, Tashia Browning and Anita Blue, and they would have never made it without them.

Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Sept., 18, 2026 at Bethsaida Baptist Church with Rev. Cullen Clements officiating.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Friday at the cemetery.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Jacquelyn Delores Whitley

Funeral services for Ms. Jacquelyn Delores Whitley will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Adrian Chapel CME Church, 320 West Pine Street in Adrian. Rev. Elgin "Neal" Dixon will be officiating. Rev. Dr. Valerie Tate-Everett will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Adrian Memorial Cemetery in Adrian.

Ms. Jacquelyn Delores Whitley was born on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 1937, in Johnson County, to the late Willie and Mamie Whitley. She was the 6th child born. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by siblings, Jessie Whitley, Willie Curtis Whitley, Johnny "Candy" Whitley, Horace Whitley, Bobby Whitley, Juanelle Bailey and a nephew, Clifford Whitley.

She attended Adrian Public Schools. She was a graduate of Fort Valley State college in Fort Valley Georgia where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education in June 1963. She was employed in Emanuel County as a librarian for several years. She relocated to Atlanta to teach in the Atlanta Public School System for over 30 years. She retired from the school system and then became active within her community NAACP and missionary work. She was well known throughout Atlanta. She received several awards and accolades. On Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, she gained her heavenly wings.

Ms. Whitley leaves behind to cherish her memories to her nieces and nephews, John Whitley, Marie Ward, Marcia Baldwin-Agee, Kelvin Bailey; great nieces and nephews, Terrence Williams, Trevis Holder, Tara Glover, Tracy Holder, Tshombe' Baker, Taronda Smith, Terrence Whitley, Tanisha Gulley, Patrick Wilcher, Bryan Bailey, Camisha Bailey, Kandice Trent, Brianna Hawkins and several great-great nieces, nephews and cousins.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

The National Trust for Local News expands to Vermont with acquisition of five publications

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Stowe, Vt. – The National Trust for Local News is expanding to a fourth state with the acquisition of the Vermont Community Newspaper Group, a family of award-winning weekly newspapers and digital platforms covering more than a dozen northern Vermont communities.

Thanks to a community-first decision by VTCNG's owners, the National Trust will acquire five weekly newspapers and their websites serving more than a dozen communities in Northern Vermont. The titles are:

- The Stowe Reporter
- News & Citizen (covering greater Lamoille County)
- The Other Paper (covering South Burlington)
- The Citizen (covering Charlotte/Hinesburg)
- Shelburne News

The deal will close this month. The entire VTCNG team, which includes 15 full-time and two part-time employees, will be retained. The group's office will remain at its current location on Mountain Road in Stowe.

Citing increased financial stresses on their business, VTCNG majority owner Bob Miller and minority owners Judy Kearns and Biddle Duke earlier this year decided to establish nonprofit ownership by the end of 2026. They identified the National Trust, a nonprofit operating dozens of news organizations in three states, as the right home for VTCNG. They are selling the papers for a nominal fee. VTCNG will also continue to publish the biannual Stowe Guide & Magazine.

Under the National Trust, these publications will exist solely for public benefit. They will continue to operate under local leadership, ensuring continuity for readers, advertisers, employees and vendors.

"Establishing a sustainable future for our community newspapers has been our priority for several years," the owners said. "By selling these publications to the National Trust, not only can they survive but there will be investment in expanding coverage to thrive in a climate where local news is so important and increasingly difficult to find."

The National Trust will preserve these well-known titles while providing the capital, expertise and infrastructure needed to

unlock the group's growth potential.

"These publications have a solid foundation from which a stronger future can be built," said Tom Wiley, chief executive officer of the National Trust. "They are vital local news sources for Northern Vermont, led by an experienced team that has trusted relationships with readers, advertisers and a wide range of community partners." The acquisition ensures VTCNG publications continue to provide enterprising hyperlocal journalism for their communities, while benefiting from the National Trust's model of investment in news innovation, audience growth and community engagement.

News industry veteran Bill Stille will immediately begin working with the VTCNG team as a transition and transformation adviser provided by the National Trust. Stille is an experienced news media leader, having held key roles at The Detroit News, The Columbus Dispatch and The Buffalo News. His work will include identifying opportunities to strengthen partnerships and collaborate with statewide stakeholders.

The entrance into the Vermont market marks the latest stage of growth for the National Trust, which in July acquired two Georgia newspapers from McClatchy Media.

The National Trust is a nonprofit news organization providing quality, hyperlocal community news across more than 50 newspaper titles in Maine, Georgia and Colorado. It uses philanthropy to invest in local newspapers but relies on earned revenue from subscriptions, advertising, events and more to sustain it. The Trust's goal is to harness the power of local newspapers to build a more resilient, equitable and vibrant future for local news nationwide. Learn more at www.nationaltrust-forlocalnews.org

The VTCNG is a media company based in the picturesque and bustling town of Stowe in the mountains of central Vermont. The group's publications consistently rank among the best in Vermont and New England for both editorial and advertising excellence, winning numerous awards for journalism and design, including the prestigious General Excellence Award from the New England Newspaper & Press Association, and best weekly newspaper in the state from the Vermont Press Association.

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Sept. 28, 1542, Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo became the first European to sail into San Diego Bay, which he named San Miguel and claimed for Spain. The bay was given its present name in 1602 by Sebastian Vizcaino, who was also the first person to note certain ecological features of California's coast.

* On Sept. 29, 1885, the world's first practical public electric tramway, designed by Michael Holroyd Smith, opened in Blackpool, England, using an underground "conduit" system to supply electricity rather than overhead wires. The

route is still active today, operating modern light rail vehicles.

* On Sept. 30, 1934, St. Louis Browns coach Charley O'Leary "unretired" to good effect by becoming the oldest player to get a hit and score a run in the major leagues, at age 58.

* On Oct. 1, 1962, Barbra Streisand signed her first recording contract with Columbia Records. Her manager, Marty Erlichman, negotiated full artistic and creative control, including the right for Streisand to choose her own songs, in exchange for a lower initial pay rate of a \$20,000 advance.

* On Oct. 2, 1985, Hollywood heartthrob Rock Hudson died of AIDS related complications, just a few months after publicly acknowledging he had the disease at a hospital in Paris where he was seeking treatment.

* On Oct. 4, 2011, Michael Morton, who served 25 years in prison for the murder of his wife, Christine Morton, was released after DNA evidence implicated convicted felon Mark Alan Norwood in the crime. The prosecutor in the case later was accused of withholding evidence indicating Morton's innocence.

BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 15
*Andrew Bethea
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Shirley Knight
Chloe Mathis*

Sept. 16
David Childers

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SWEAT
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said. “She has been engaged to the Laurens County School System and the community her entire life. She has gone from a student, to an educator to a board member. She has been involved in the county school system in some capacity for a majority of her life. She has a passion for supporting our educators, students and she has loved sports and athletics. She is an all-around great educator.”

Hall said they are required to submit a letter about Sweat’s resignation to the secretary of state.

“Once we get that part squared away, we’ll move forward with an appointment of someone to fill her seat for the remaining three months,” Hall said.

BELLS
Continued from page 1

ly days of our country, bells - church bells, firehouse bells, town and city hall bells - were used to call people together, to alert them to some announcement or event,” Clark said. “Bells called the people of Philadelphia together to hear the Declaration of Independence read publicly for the first time on July 4, 1776. Then again, just over 11 years later, on Sept. 17, bells were used to call people together for the first public reading of our new Constitution.”

Since 2002, and in honor of this historic event, President George Bush declared the week of Sept. 17-23, as Constitution Week.

SORORITY
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Sorority President Regina Jackson greeted the survivors and guests.

“Cancer does not have the final say,” she said. “Stay encouraged! Every shade of pink in here tells a story. Thank you for your perseverance. No one says you have to walk on this journey alone.”

Breast cancer survivor Earnestine Pinkston led the group in prayer.

“Thank you, God, for every survivor and care person here,” she said. “God, we know that you can make a way out of no way.”

Sylvia Rozier followed with words of inspiration.

“To all of you survivors, I was diagnosed with cancer and I’m still here,” she said. “You battle-tested. I want people in my life who have been battle-tested. I want people who have been through things in their life. When you are dealing with some difficulties, you have to separate pride from priority. My priority is I’m going to beat this. All you have to know is God is able.”

All of the survivors received gifts before brunch was served. For more information about the walk, or to register, call (478) 290-2995 or (478) 290-6381 or register online via Google form and PayPal.



Regina Jones was one of many who talked about their breast cancer experience during the Shades of Pink event/PAYTON TOWNS III

SCORES
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very proud of the work they have put in. Our teachers have worked very diligently to make sure that the children have wonderful mathematics instruction, and it shows.”

The sixth-grade math scores went from 44.8 percent to 48.9, resulting in a 4.1 percent increase. The state score for sixth grade was 40.8 percent while the RESA score was 32.3 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County sixth graders were No. 1.

Seventh-grade math scores decreased from 50.4 percent to 47.4, resulting in a 3.0 percent decrease. The state score for seventh grade was 42.1 percent while the RESA score was 33.8 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County seventh graders were No. 3.

Eighth-grade math scores increased from 54.5 percent to 63.2 percent, resulting in a 8.7 percent increase. The state score for eighth grade was 46.4 percent while the RESA

score was 42.4 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County eighth graders were No. 2.

Algebra 1 scores went from 49.2 percent to 49.0, resulting in a 0.2 percent decrease. The state score for Algebra 1 grade was 48.0 percent while the RESA score was 43.0 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County Algebra 1 students were No. 2.

“We are really proud of our math results from last year,” Lawhorn said.

In science, fifth grade scores decreased from 58.3 percent in 2025 to 48.1 percent in 2026 for a 10.2 decrease. The state score for science was 44.2 percent while the RESA score was 39.5 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County fifth graders were No. 3.

About the 10.2 percent in fifth grade science, Butler said the schools are looking into why they had such a drop.

“Two or three schools had a dip,” she said. “They think they may not have spent as much time as they had in previous years on

certain standards. They are going back and have recalibrated that so they can get that back in order.”

Eighth grade science scores increased from 45.1 percent to 50.9 percent, resulting in a 5.8 percent increase. The state score for eighth grade was 29.7 percent while the RESA score was 30.1 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County eighth graders were No. 1.

Biology scores increased from 44.7 percent to 47.2 percent, resulting in a 2.5 percent increase. The state score for biology was 47.2 percent while the RESA score was 42.2 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County eighth graders were No. 3.

For Georgia history, the scores went up from a 46.4 percent in 2025 to 52.9 percent in 2026, resulting in a 6.5 percent increase. The state score was 40.2 percent while the RESA score was 39.4 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County was No. 2.

For U.S. History, the scores went down slightly from 50.4 percent in 2025

to 50.0 percent in 2026, resulting in a 0.4 percent decrease. The state score was 38.6 percent while the RESA score was 33.8 percent. In the RESA, Laurens County was No. 1.

“I was glad to see this,” said board member Kathy Sweat. “I’m proud of these results.”

Lawhorn said ELA results are expected to be released in mid-to-late November.

“A lot of what you have seen is a testament to the work that our teachers and our parents are doing,” Hall said. “It takes the parents working with their children to get this type of data. We have a very competitive RESA, so we’re proud to hang in there and compete academically just as a lot of RESA members are able to do as well. We finished in the top 3 in every RESA tested subject.”

In other meeting news, the board:

- Celebrated the Clean School Award, which went to the janitorial staff of East Laurens Middle School.

- Approved the FY26 local school board governance annual report that stated that the LCBOE members met their required hours and obtained all of their required training for the 25-26 term.
- Approved the FY27 local school board training plan.
- Approved numerous policies by the state that the board was required to update.
- Approved the following new hires of Robert Gaddis (bus driver), Kiana Williams (food nutrition assistant at ELE) and Caleb Wilson (maintenance director).
- Approved Reed Waldrep as a 2026-2027, 50 percent employee as a career readiness coordinator.
- Approved the following resignations: Amanda Carter (food nutrition assistant at ELE), Mark Denson (custodian at ELE), Kyleigh Hughes (para pro at ELP), Tosha Shiggs (bus driver) and Jacqueline Ann Thigpen (bus driver).



The group gathers for a photo before making their one-mile walk at Southern Pines/PAYTON TOWNS III

WALK
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every age.”

Young, whose walking club meets on Wednesday in Warner Robins, can make the trip over to Dublin and walk here.

“It is amazing to see what they are doing here,” Young said. “I feel like Dublin needed this in the community. I feel like this is going to keep growing because people need this. The facility is great because you have walking trails, a playground for the kids and just a good area.”

Young started his walking club five months ago.

“I did it for mental health, wellness, reset,” he said. “I wanted people to have a chance to reset during the middle of the week and it just started growing.”

The club dedicated the Sept. 5 walk to Samantha Lee, who was paralyzed in an accident. Various members of the club gave Lee gifts after she talked to them before they began their walk that day.

“I hope everybody here stays healthy,” Lee said. “It feels good to see these faces.”

O.J. Hall, Laurens County Schools superintendent, went to the walk for the first time on Sept. 5. He was there to support Darrisaw, a former student.

“I saw it on social media and saw that one of my former players and students was heading it



Members stretch before walking/PAYTON TOWNS III

up,” Hall said. “I believe this is a great event. It promotes good health and positivity. I just wanted to come out, support him and get my exercise in at the same thing.”

Hall was impressed to see young children at the event.

“It’s good to see they are having fun,” he said. “They are getting outside to join this, exercise and just laugh and have fun. We are grateful to be able to have a facility like this to be able to bring people together and have something positive.”

For Teresa Holliday, a newly appointed member of the Dublin City Board of Education, the Sept. 5 event was her third time.

“I love the fellowship and the different people from different aspects of the city of Dublin,” Holliday said. “We are even getting people from Warner Robins and Milledgeville who are pulling together to making this work.”

She pointed out Hall, as

well as other community leaders from the city of Dublin including Tess Godfrey and Brandon Chain coming out to the walk.

“That speaks volumes,” Holliday said. “I love this

because it is bridging that gap. This is going to open up the doors of communications and builds relationships.”

She added that the leaders of the club are patient

with everyone who comes out to walk.

“Nobody is holding you to a certain standard,” Holliday said. “I love the dedication of them doing this every Saturday. When my daughter brought me the first time, I had been wanting to get out and move a little bit and exercise. I’m so busy during the week. I needed something during the weekend.”

And it is good that the walk is held at 9 a.m. every Saturday.

“I love that it is in the morning,” Holliday said. “It wakes you up and gets you ready for the day.”

There is no charge to come out and walk with the group.

“All you need to do is show up and show out,” Evans said.

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 mills at 7:00 P.M. on September 15, 2026.

I have no problem wearing pink

“I do not like pink.”
That was the statement I heard in the store and I knew it was directed toward me. It came out of nowhere. I had not said a word while waiting for items to be scanned by the store employee. But for some reason, from behind me, came those words.

A lot of comments flowed through my brain as I thought about what to say. For one, I did not recall asking this young man what he thought about the color of the shirt I was wearing. Apparently he had no problem telling me his opinion.

I was aware that he did not see the front of my shirt and what it said until I turned around. For if he had, I doubt he would have made his comment.

If I could pause that part of the conversation, which turned out to be a short one, I may have replied that there was a time when he would not have caught me wearing a shirt or maybe anything involving the color pink. But that was before March of 2024 when breast cancer took aim at my wife, Jill.

That was before I received a phone call at work from her telling me that the results of a biopsy confirmed she had breast cancer. That was before meeting with



MAN ABOUT TOWN...

By PAYTON TOWNS III

doctors and coming up with a plan for surgery. That was before I had to watch her get sick days after each chemo treatment.

By the time the young man told me his thoughts on the color pink, she was done with the chemo and preparing to go through the radiation part of her recovery.

I turned to the young man, so he could see the pink breast ribbon along with the words, “Together We Fight,” and informed him, “I wear it to support her.”

We both wore that shirt recently when we attended the Dublin-Laurens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.’s Shade of Pink Breast Cancer Survivors Brunch. The sorority

holds this event each year as a kickoff for its 3-Mile Walk for the Cure.

Jill has been invited to the Shades of Pink Breast Cancer Survivor Brunch for the last three years. It is emotional to hear these survivors stand up and tell their stories on how they found out they had breast cancer and then watch them testify about how good God has been with them during their health journey.

We are thankful to God for the advancements in the fight against breast cancer, and an organization like the Dublin-Laurens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and others who aim to win the fight against breast cancer.

This year will be the 17th walk held by the sorori-

ty, which does this to raise money. It will be held at the Fairview Park Hospital track at 9 a.m. on Oct. 3. The cost to register is \$25. Those hoping to snag the official Walk for the Cure t-shirt have to register by Sept. 19.

For many years before my wife’s diagnosis, I have covered this walk. Jill would also attend, standing beside the track and clapping with other spectators as the survivors completed their first lap. Neither of us knew that 2023 would be the last time Jill would watch from the sidelines.

In October 2024, I watched as my wife stood with the other survivors and took her first lap with them around the track. As I take pictures, I smile more because I know this group has battled a disease to wind up at this track and show the world that they are indeed survivors.

I went from having no pink colored shirts in my closet to at least five, maybe more, and a black and white hat with a pink breast cancer ribbon on it. I plan to wear that same hat when the walk is held on Oct. 3, a day our community has the chance to come together and walk all over breast cancer while wearing a lot of pink.

TELL IT!



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

Just wondering, curious, why is it taking longer for someone in town to get rid of these stupid forever red lights than it is to get rid of the most incompetent school board in the state? Somebody needs to fix these forever lights if they would.

Mr. Hayslett, I don’t know how many times you are going to tell us there are more deaths in the state of Georgia than there are births? I know you’ve told us four or five times. I get it.

One other thing you forgot in your data Hayslett, you didn’t put how many abortions there have been since there are more deaths in the state of Georgia than there are young people. We had 600,000 abortions last year through state’s rights.

Onion fields use a lot of water from the ground. You say data centers won’t use as much and asks what’s the difference? Well here’s the difference - I’d rather eat onions because I can’t eat data from a data processing factory.

The commissioners are going up on taxes to force in the new FLOST by selling it as a way to cut property taxes. Meanwhile you will be back where you are now and they will get both! This is 100 percent true.

Remember the new FLOST you will be voting on in November is not the same as the SPLOST that was already voted in. The county will get \$7 million if it's voted in, and they wanna go up 30 percent. Umm, no!

Our county govt. officials are true politicians. First, we get an increase on our property tax assessment and now we're looking at a potential 31 percent increase. We need senior discount rates.

Why can't we just wait to see if the "FLOST" is put on the November ballot? That would relieve all property tax issues. Why are the commissioners so anxious to move on it now?

I understand the need to go up on county

taxes and I just hope the increase covers the cost to get the clock back working at the courthouse. Bring back the working clock.

What’s next for our county commissioners? How about vape and CBD shops in the school cafeterias? That’s another revenue stream on top of a 30 percent hike in taxes. Think of all the profits you’ll make. How do you commissioners live with yourselves?

I need everyone to understand this. When you hear the schools or local government tell you to vote for a SPLOST tax so taxes don’t go up, do not fall for this. It’s a trap. Say no to any new tax.

Every single week since The Courier Herald swapped to postal delivery of the paper, I only get Tuesday’s paper. They don’t come late, they just don’t come! I pay for three papers per week, not one!

No excuses. Budget the taxpayer’s dollars. Don’t rob from us one day, wells will go dry or we will have another tax revolt. Remember 1776. Do not punish the home owner for working hard for their homes!

“GBI arrests Milledgeville couple in \$50K theft case from Greene County schools.” Dublin can’t even figure out what to do with the people who stole \$20 million through the city schools. Why is it easy for Milledgeville over \$50,000 theft and so hard for Dublin over a \$20 million theft?

It seems the city and county government do a lot of taking from the public, double digit tax increases, sales taxes, taxes on taxes, but what do they do for the public? Can The Courier Herald list those accomplishments? I’ll wait.

To the Tell-It! reader. No the election is not over. We get to vote for Matt again in November. Hence: The reason that his signs are still visible.

Even though TES is operating a landfill on North Jefferson Street they are doing a great job keeping it neat and in order.

September weather II

While I am not addicted to The Old Farmer’s Almanac unlike so many others, I am often intrigued with what I learn when I do take a dip into its contents.

With the oppressive heat of the recent weeks, I searched for what the forecast allows for the next fortnight, hoping that the thermometer will be trending downward.

Not likely, unfortunately. We all know that October usually is when we can expect the temperatures to give us relief from late summer’s debilitating heat and humidity.

Looks like it will be sometime down the road when we can get out our sweaters, which means that the firewood on my side porch will not be utilized for a while.

This time of the year, I am always thinking about sweater wearing, fire building, and planning to find my way to the Chattahoochee for that glorious opportunity to catch a couple of rainbow trout.

October also means that we won’t be drenched in perspiration when we fol-

low our favorite football team. The long-range forecast is that this weekend, the weather should be in the 80s when Georgia plays its second game of the season. However, it is not often that the weather forecasters get it right.

Perhaps I should place a call to my favorite Marine scientist, Samantha Joye, and she if she can shed light on the heat index for the rest of the summer. She reads The Old Farmer’s Almanac, dating to her time growing up on a farm in South Carolina.

Likely any scientist would remind any inquisitor that global warming is certainly a factor in what seem to be quirky weather trends. Looking back, I always felt that we were going to get cooler temperatures soon after Labor Day.

At some point, the weather will mellow and we will move into October, the greatest month of the year, but we need to send up prayers of thanksgiving for the advent of air conditioning.

When I finally get to the Chattahoochee and cast



By LORAN SMITH

away for a nice rainbow, I will forget about having to fret about the heat during the month of September.

Conversations about the weather stimulate recall of the Mark Twain quote, “A great, great deal has been said about the weather, but very little has ever been done.” While those words are clever and poignant, he was not the author, or so the experts say.

A modicum of research will confirm that while the publishers of almanacs claim to be accurate 80% of the time, studies confirm that they get it right only about 50% of the time.

That makes sense when you become aware that The Old Farmer’s Almanac is published in September and forecasts the weather months in advance—like a

dozen or more.

Credibility with the almanac remains high with most subscribers, and that has been going on since 1792, which is how long the almanac has been published. We can forgive them if their vague interpretation of their accuracy continues to make their findings and preachments credible.

According to the internet, “The independent global forecast evaluations by ForecastWatch rank The Weather Company (which powers The Weather Channel) as the world’s most accurate weather forecaster.”

All I know is that September is far from my favorite month and when October gets here, I feel like I have felt after paying off a 90-day note at the bank—all is right with the world.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:
There is a lot happening in Dublin right now-our schools are changing, our community is discussing the millage rate and local government and November's elections are approaching.

With all of this, I hope we remember something very important: There is Life after politics.

There are neighbors after elections. There are teachers and students who still need us. There are families who still call Dublin home.

And there is a community we all still share when the signs come down and the votes are counted.

We don't have to agree on everything. We don't have to vote the same way. But we can choose to listen, respect one another, ask questions, expect accountability and still lead with kindness.

Our elected officials deserve our respect, just as the people they serve deserve theirs. They have a responsibility to be proactive and

engaged-not only with the people in their circles, but with all of us, the people who elected them and entrusted them to serve.

When citizens take the time to stand before their elected officials and speak, they deserve to be met with respect, patience and an open mind. And those who serve deserve the same respect in return.

Public service is not easy. We may disagree with decisions, without becoming disrespectful or divided.

Our children are watching us. I want them to see adults who can disagree while still treating one another with dignity.

I love this community. I believe in our children, our schools and Dublin's future.

Let's choose unity over division, people over politics and remember that there is life-and a community-after politics.

With love and respect,

Rae S Bloodworth
Dublin, Ga.

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

- Psalm 23:4 (King James Version)

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"Work hard in silence, let your success be your noise."

- Anonymous

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

Sept. 15, 2026 is...

- National IT Professionals Day
- World Engineers Day
- National Tackle Kids Cancer Day
- National Online Learning Day
- National Double Cheeseburger Day
- National Cheese Toast Day
- National Felt Hat Day
- Google.com Day
- International Dot Day
- National Linguine Day

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



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

DUBLIN 33, WASHINGTON COUNTY 7

Irish return to form, resume winning ways at WACO

From STAFF REPORTS

Dublin's divergence from a pattern of winning football to open the season was only a brief one, after its stumble in a week 3 loss to Baldwin.

Friday, the Irish made a quick course-correction as they returned to their usual dominance, and centered their season back in the win column with a 33-7 victory at Washington County to reach the first rest stop on their schedule with a 3-1 record.

They got things rolling again on the ground, as seven rushers – including two different quarter-

backs who showed off the wheels and made trips to the end zone – combined for 332 yards.

The performance wasn't without some bumps in the road, as Dublin turned the ball over twice. But its defense was able to limit the damage to a single touchdown on WACO's lone big play.

Half the Golden Hawks' 138 rushing yards on the night came on that 71-yard touchdown run by Marderius Poole to briefly tie the ballgame in the first quarter.

But it represented the only real breach in Irish confidence that was ironclad leading up to and following the two-score swing

comprised of both their recent bugaboos: A fumble, followed by a WACO big play.

Dublin, leading 7-0, had just crossed midfield with designs on a second-straight scoring drive to open the game, and had just picked up another first down as Travion Bostic took a handoff and burst outside for a 16-yard gain, only for the ball to come loose at the end of his run.

The recovery set WACO up to spring Poole to the end zone on a counter play. The misdirection didn't exactly get the Irish fooled, but three or four tacklers in position to catch him were caught a lit-

tle flat-footed as the senior burst through a hole and pulled away.

Christian Hunt's point-after evened the score at 7.

Dublin was unflapped, and returned the squib kickoff about 25 yards to start its next drive in opposing territory.

The Irish picked up a few at a time for two first downs, then overcame a holding foul to get a third. Dontavious Cannon picked up 15 yards on a pair of plays to set up goal to go, then Ryland Yates snuck in behind his interior blockers to put them up permanently.

WACO's defense got Dublin off the field in some situations, but

never produced much else offensively as the night progressed and the Irish lead slowly increased.

A dual pass rush completed their first three-and-out as Blake Luecke batted a pass that was almost picked off by Domimarkeyo Walden.

Deontae Walker got a hand on another third-down pass to end its second series, and force a second-straight punt that started Dublin on the plus side of midfield.

In between the two series was an opening touchdown, nearly

IRISH
Continued on page 6

COOK 6, WEST LAURENS 0

Shortage of offense, haunting mistakes leave Raiders feeling sting of defeat in Adel

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

ADEL – West Laurens had more than enough defense and special teams to get by in Friday's low-scoring rock fight. But the Raiders' offense, down a few key starters who were out with injuries, was too short in supply to make up for a few critical mistakes that cost them a shot to scrape one out a little more than two hours from home.

Cook, whose rushing attack never got to the end zone but kept the chains and the clock moving on an average of five yards per carry, broke the stalemate with its kicking game to come away with the 6-0 win.

The Hornets' David Del-Angel knocked through his first two field goals of the season to grab points on drives that West Laurens had seemingly stonewalled outside of their established scoring range early in the fourth quarter.

But the sophomore, after an earlier miss in desperation that amounted to a half-court heave as time expired in the second quarter, surprised with two outstanding kicks from essentially the same spot on back-to-back possessions.

He nailed a 38-yarder to make the night's first set of points stick to the scoreboard only seconds into the final period, and returned to do it with virtually identical form from 37 on the same hash less than five minutes later.

West Laurens, in do-or-die mode with about seven minutes left, would reach Cook territory for its last of only seven turns with the football, but wound up giving it over on downs.

But what stung a good bit worse than the Hornets' two

late triples and final stop was a red zone disaster back in the first half that cost the Raiders a surefire chance at six points. In an alternate destiny, those would have had them battling to preserve the lead, or at least a tie, rather than clinging to some dwindling hopes by that point in the night.

"We played great on the defensive side of the ball," said West Laurens head coach Kip Burdette. "They gave us a chance to win, and we're still one mistake from really winning the game. Hindsight's 20/20. We've gotta learn from it. We've gotta get better."

The battle was even in two of the phases. But it was uneven on offense.

The Raiders' options on that side were limited with a list of injuries that included running back Braylen Robinson, the leading rusher in the Dodge County win the week before, as well as Jace Williams and J.D. Hogan, two other important skill athletes in the rushing and receiving mix.

That left Justin Blash, the only remaining tailback, to grind it out.

The senior was on the field for every snap, and carried the ball every time they handed it off.

Blash finished with 81 yards on 23 attempts. The other seven out of a mere 30 rushing plays on the game were keepers by quarterback Duggan Malone.

Deducting 18 in team losses, the Raiders' total on the ground was minuscule 65 yards. A single screen completion that went for seven, out of six passes for Malone, accounted for the rest of their 72 yards for the night.

RAIDERS
Continued on page 6



Trinity's Mason Lane is upended by a Brentwood tackler on a return during Friday's second half/DANNY SCARBORO

BRENTWOOD 48, TRINITY 19

Explosive plays put Eagles up big early; Crusaders close well, but can't climb back

By JEREMY PAYNE
Correspondent

So far, Trinity's home schedule has included nothing but state title-contending teams.

Friday's homecoming game was no exception to the rule as likely the best of those so far, two-time defending AA state champion Brentwood, visited Cleve Warnock Field.

The Crusaders put up valiant effort, but couldn't fight out of an early hole as they fell to the Eagles 48-19.

Trinity got the ball first but couldn't do much and was forced to punt. The punt was a good one to flip the field and pin the Eagles inside their own 20.

But Brentwood was unfazed by the bad field position. On its second play from scrimmage, Tristan Robinson ripped off a 77-yard touchdown to give the Eagles a 7-0 lead just four minutes into the contest.

Following another Trinity punt, Brentwood went to work again. Senior QB Baylor Cobb connected with Jackson Bragg on a 53-yard touchdown pass to put the Eagles up 14-0 with just under four minutes left in



The Crusaders' Sam Owens stretches to bring one in on a wheel route/DANNY SCARBORO

the opening period.

A third Crusader punt would set up another Robinson touchdown run, this time from 18 yards out, to make the score 21-0 after one quarter.

Trinity punted for a fourth time in as many drives on its next possession, and again the Eagles took advantage.

CRUSADERS
Continued on page 6

JOHNSON COUNTY 48, WHEELER COUNTY 18

Backfield goes berserk; Devero picks two passes as Trojans win third-straight

By RALPH JACKSON
Correspondent

ALAMO – Three rushers each ran for more than 100 yards as Johnson County defeated Wheeler County 48-18 Friday night for the Trojans' third win of the season, and the 400th victory in program history.

Light rain fell before kickoff, but by game time had stopped, and Johnson County's ground game was ready to go.

Jeremiah Scott led the way with 175 yards and four touchdowns on 13 carries. Jeremiah Taylor added 107 yards on 10 carries. Kelsey Waters rushed for 105 yards and a touchdown on nine attempts.

"I was very, very impressed with our blocking up front, with our line and our backs and wingbacks and wide receivers," head

coach Don Norton said. "That allowed us to run the ball effectively tonight."

The Trojans showed that ability from the opening possession, driving from their own 35 to the Wheeler 5 before a fumble ended the threat. Scott broke a 30-yard run during the drive, but the Bulldogs recovered the fumble and kept Johnson County off the scoreboard.

The JoCo defense answered by forcing a Wheeler punt, and the Trojans went 64 yards on their next possession for the game's first touchdown. Taylor broke a 17-yard run and Waters ripped off a 28-yard gain before Scott scored from eight yards out. Grayson Jackson added the extra point for a 7-0 lead late in the first quarter.

Johnson County threatened again early in the second quarter,

driving to the Wheeler 1 before Scott was stopped on fourth down.

The Bulldogs took over deep in their own territory, but the JoCo defense allowed them only three yards before forcing a punt. A 17-yard punt gave the Trojans the ball at the Wheeler 21, and Scott needed only one play to reach the end zone. Jackson's kick made it 14-0.

After Wheeler turned the ball over on downs at the Johnson County 41, the Trojans struck again. Jacaden Webb broke a 23-yard run during the drive, and Waters followed with runs of 15 and 29 yards, with the latter putting Johnson County in the end zone. Jackson's extra point stretched the lead to 21-0.

Wheeler answered when John

TROJANS
Continued on page 6



Jeremiah Scott (4) follows blocks from Kelsey Waters (5) and two of his offensive linemen on a first-half carry. The junior wingback kept up his impressive four-touchdown per game average on a season-high 175 rushing yards Friday in Alamo. He leads JoCo skill athletes through the season's first three games with 540 all-purpose yards/RALPH JACKSON

IRISH
Continued from page 5

scored by Bostic as he kept his feet despite an attempted trip-up and broke off a 42-yard run, though WACO's Dontrell Griffin caught up and saved the score.

Cannon rolled in from four on the next play to give the Irish their early lead.

The Hawks were without a true first down until their fourth possession of the game early in the second quarter, when what would've been a Bostic interception (an Irish penalty offset a WACO hold earlier in the play, and forced a re-do) on an ill-fated double pass turned into the spark that got the home team some momentum.

They moved the chains twice and entered the red zone, but stalled on a fourth down as Dublin's Matthew

Batts made a tackle just short of the first-down stick at the Hawks' 15.

The teams would punt away the remainder of the quarter, and the Irish broke with a lead of 14-7, the final score they won by the last time playing here last September.

This year's second half wouldn't prove to be nearly as much of a nail-biter.

Yates, who also made his quarterbacking debut in an injury pinch during that game, got the inert offensive cylinders back firing as he pulled a series of keepers for double-digit gains on the first drive back, fired a completion to Will Wallace to set up first and goal, then ran for his second touchdown from six yards away on consecutive plays.

The point was no-good, but Dublin's lead was two scores for the first time, 20-7.

Yates enlisted Jamarcus Knight as co-pilot on the next drive, one of the most eclectic of the night, of 90 yards to add on again.

WACO took a deep shot that was intercepted over the shoulder by J-Karian Jones to set it all up.

The first big play was a reverse carry by Knight. A second was reversed by a hold, as Yates scampered for another 35 yards that would've put him in triple rushing figures. The Hawks committed pass interference on an ensuing third-and-long to offer a free first down in their own territory, but forced the next series to a fourth and 2.

Dublin put it back in the hot hands of Knight, and he carried it 27 yards to the end zone on a power play.

Yates was stopped a little short on his attempt to recoup the lost

point on a try for two, but the Irish now led 26-7.

WACO, forced to punt on all of its remaining chances with the football, stymied Dublin's next threat as Aiden Watts jumped a tight end out pattern and picked the ball off from his own red zone.

But a Wallace-led drive covered 66 for the final set of points after a swift kick back, with the junior emulating his teammate as he motored in on a 39-yard keeper.

Bostic led the Dublin backfield with 93 yards. Cannon had 78, Yates 66 and Knight 54.

Following this week's open date, the Irish open their region 2-AA schedule with a top-10 showdown at Bleckley County. Same for the Golden Hawks, who open up league play at defending 4-AAA runner-up Westside of Augusta on Sept. 25.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL Friday Brentwood 48, Trinity 19 Cook 6, West Laurens 0 Dublin 33, Washington Co. 7 Johnson Co. 48, Wheeler Co. 18 Treutlen 36, Lanier Co. 0 Bleckley Co. 42, ECI 7 Fitzgerald 28, Dodge Co. 14 Rutland 12, Wilkinson Co. 6 Lake Oconee Academy 40, Twiggs Co. 16	SOFTBALL Saturday WL 12, Mary Persons 4 WL 6, Jones Co. 4
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PREP
SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL Monday Trinity at Edmund Burke /4:30 p.m. ECI at East Laurens/6 p.m.	Tuesday EL at Dublin Vidalia at West Laurens /5 p.m.	Wednesday Perry at WL/5 p.m. Northside at Dublin /5:30 p.m.	Thursday WL at Liberty Co./5 p.m. Dublin at Jefferson Co. /5:30 p.m. Trinity at Pinewood Swainsboro at EL/6 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL Tuesday Long Co., WL at New Hampstead/5 p.m.	Thursday Windsor Forest, Liberty Co. at WL/5 p.m.	FLAG FOOTBALL Tuesday EL at Treutlen/5 p.m.	Thursday Telfair Co. at EL/5 p.m.

FOOTBALL Friday EL at Metter Monroe Area at WL Wilcox Co. at Johnson Co. Brentwood at Lake Oconee Academy Dodge Co. at Dooly Co. Treutlen at Montgomery Co. Wheeler Co. at Taylor Co. /7:30 p.m.

RAIDERS
Continued from page 5

Cook ran for 256 of its 292.

Still, the game's only turnover had West Laurens just two yards away from scoring a touchdown that appeared to be a foregone conclusion, before its most glaring of mishaps set in motion a sequence of unfortunate events.

The Raiders recovered a gift as Cook's return man got a bit too casual, and touched a rolling punt that wound up in opposing hands at his own 17.

Blash broke a 15-yard run to the left on the next play, skipping one tackle around the 7, but getting knocked off balance by the finger of a second defender just shy of the end zone.

West Laurens had it first and goal from the 2, but then airmailed the snap way over the head of Malone, who'd retrieve it standing, but soon after take a sack for a two-yard loss from the drive's original starting po-

sition.

The next two plays got none of it back, and Malone ended up trying a field goal that impressively soared through from 40 for what would have been a new career best. But the successful save was invalidated by illegal motion before the play.

He'd try once again from 45, but this time didn't get all of it, and the low kick bounced short to keep the game scoreless.

"We had our chances to win the ballgame, and we made the mistakes that you can't make," Burdette said. "We had points on the board, we got them taken off. We were on the 1-yard line, we didn't get any points. We had a first down here, and we had a bad snap right there, driving to move the ball again. It's just, we're going to have to learn how to get out of our own way a little bit."

Both sides possessed it four times in the half, and made one venture each into the opposing red zone.

Cook's opportunity

came on drive No. 1 after an opening Westside three-and-out, and a short punt that expired near midfield.

Its 34 yards of progress led to the West Laurens 15, but Leroy Mack and Nicholas Hester held the line on a fourth and short to turn the Hornets away.

Punts, and a Del-Angel's miss on an ambitious end-of-half field goal try concluded the rest.

The same trends continued in the second half – West's of mostly woe-ful field position (besides the plus takeover, its best start was at its 35 on the final drive), and Cook of time-consumption.

The Hornets held the football for six minutes on a drive that ultimately punted to open the third quarter, then used up the rest after the Raiders kicked it directly back. Their tiebreaking field goal came just 17 seconds into the fourth.

The Raiders got the ball only one other time, and also punted, before their last shot.

Blash busted through the middle for his second fourth-down conversion of the night to keep the final drive moving on one fourth down, but minimal gains on two of the next three plays, and another shaky snap, ended up resulting in another with a bunch to go for the ballgame.

Malone was chased to his right on a roll, then had the ball knocked loose from a defender behind. He recovered the fumble, but Hornets were everywhere in sight, and made a quick tackle to end the threat.

Time got away from the Raiders on the way to the line for their fourth down play, forcing the use of a precious first timeout before the giveover... So a double-digit Cook gain by leading rusher Dawson Davis on first down of its series effectively sealed the deal, if it wasn't already.

The Hornets took two knees to make them burn the other two, but didn't have to snap it on fourth down after a third ran out

the remaining time.

Mack, Hester, Jaden Stanley and Devin Watkins all had eight or more tackles for the West Laurens defense.

After starting the month of September with two on the road (and this matchup a third against a member of AA's top 10), the Raiders (1-2 overall) will finish it with a two-game home-stand beginning this Friday with Homecoming against Monroe Area.

Hopes, by then, are to have some things cleaned up, and most if not all of the above healthy enough to get back on the field.

But those disadvantages weren't, by any stretch, things that Burdette felt this one could be blamed on.

"We expect to get them back, but injuries are part of football," he said. "It is what it is. We've got to get them healthy, gotta get ready, and whoever's out there's gotta be ready to play."

CRUSADERS
Continued from page 5

vantage. Bragg would break off a 47-yard touchdown run to make it 28-0 early in the second quarter.

The Crusaders finally put a nice drive together on their next possession. They marched down the field and found paydirt as Jude Evans connected with Mason Lane on a 22-yard scoring pass with just under five minutes left in the half to make it 28-7.

Unfortunately, the Crusaders had no answer for Robinson as he added a 15-yard scoring run on the Eagles' next drive and caught a 20-yard touchdown pass just before the half to make the score 41-7.

Brentwood's lead would grow to 48-7 on a Chase Daniel 49-yard run early in the second half.

Will-J Harris finished a long Trinity drive late in the third to make it 48-13, and Andrew Helton capped the scoring with his first career touchdown on a 10-yard run in the fourth.

Harris led the way offensively with 116 yards on 16 carries for Trinity. Helton added 40 yards on just five carries and led the team with seven tackles. Evans finished 4-of-7 passing for 57 yards. Lane had two catches for 42 yards.

Robinson was nearly unstoppable for the Eagles as the gained 127 yards on just 6 carries. He also had three catches for 41 yards.

The Crusaders (2-3 overall) are off next Friday, but will begin region play on September 25 at Gatewood. Brentwood continues its road swing this Friday at Lake Oconee Academy.



Baylor Cobb (6) slings a first-quarter touchdown pass for Jackson Bragg (right) that went 53 yards to put the Eagles ahead 14-0/DANNY SCARBORO



Tristan Robinson takes off on a 77-yard sweep for Brentwood's first touchdown, just two snaps into the Eagles' first drive/DANNY SCARBORO



Two Eagles get to Trinity quarterback Jude Evans on a third-down tackle for loss/DANNY SCARBORO

TROJANS
Continued from page 5

Miller broke loose for a 52-yard touchdown run. The conversion failed, cutting the lead to 21-6.

Johnson County needed little time to respond. After a holding penalty backed the Trojans up, Taylor gained 11 yards and Waters added seven before Scott broke free for a 55-yard touchdown. Jackson's extra point sent them into halftime leading 28-6.

"I knew this was going to be a tough place to play, and it was," Norton said. "We had a couple of uncharacteristic penalties, but we turned it on and made a couple of adjustments."

Wheeler threatened early in the third quarter, but Daezon Devero intercepted a fourth-down pass at the Johnson County 20.

The Trojans then went 80 yards in six plays, all on the ground. Scott started the drive with a 14-yard gain, Taylor had runs of nine and 16 yards, Waters added nine and Webb broke a 19-yard run before Scott finished the drive with a six-yard touchdown. Jackson's kick pushed the lead to 35-6.

Wheeler took advantage of a Johnson County fumble later in the quarter, with Malik Madison scoring from 20 yards out to make it 35-12.

Johnson County answered

again when Jamir Wadley broke a 35-yard touchdown run, and the Trojans weren't finished.

Devero intercepted Wheeler for the second time and returned this one 35 yards for a touchdown. Jackson's extra point gave Johnson County a 48-12 advantage.

Wheeler added a late touchdown on Miller's 10-yard run to produce the 48-18 final.

Johnson County finished with 486 rushing yards on 39 carries, averaging more than 12 yards per attempt. In addition to the three 100-yard rushers, Wadley finished with 55 yards and a touchdown on three carries, while Webb added 47 yards on three attempts. The

Trojans attempted just one pass and did not complete it.

The performance wasn't without mistakes. Johnson County was penalized 12 times for 108 yards and lost two fumbles, something Taylor acknowledged afterward.

"It was a good game. It was about playing as a team and not as individuals," he said. "We could have done some things better on defense, filling holes and making stops, but we did pretty good. Our O-line blocked pretty well. We made some plays, and it was a good team win."

The victory improved the Trojans to 3-0 and marked the 400th win in Johnson County football

history. The Trojans have increased their scoring output in each game this season, scoring 32 points against East Laurens, 35 against Warren County and 48 against Wheeler County.

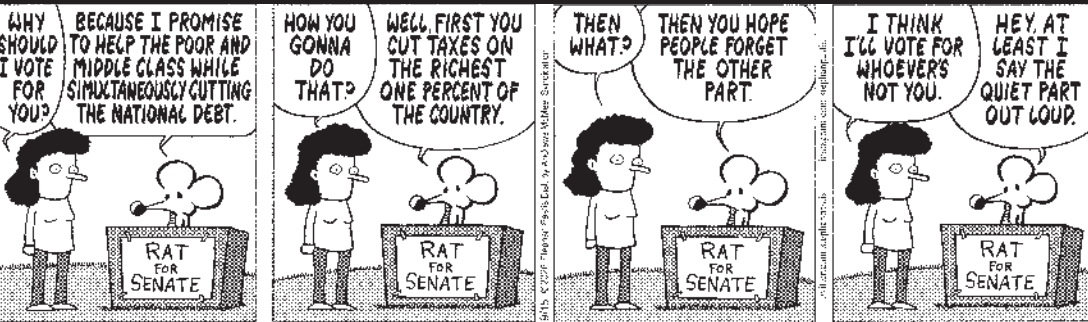
Through three games, Johnson County has outscored its opponents 115-33.

"We're going to be great if we keep working together, coming together, bonding together," Scott said. "We can go to the championship back-to-back."

Johnson County will return home Friday to face the Wilcox County Patriots (0-3). Wheeler (1-2) will be on the road at Taylor County.

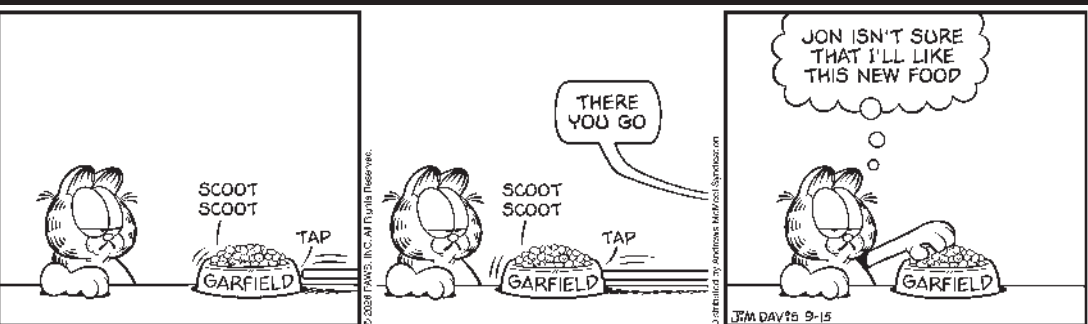
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



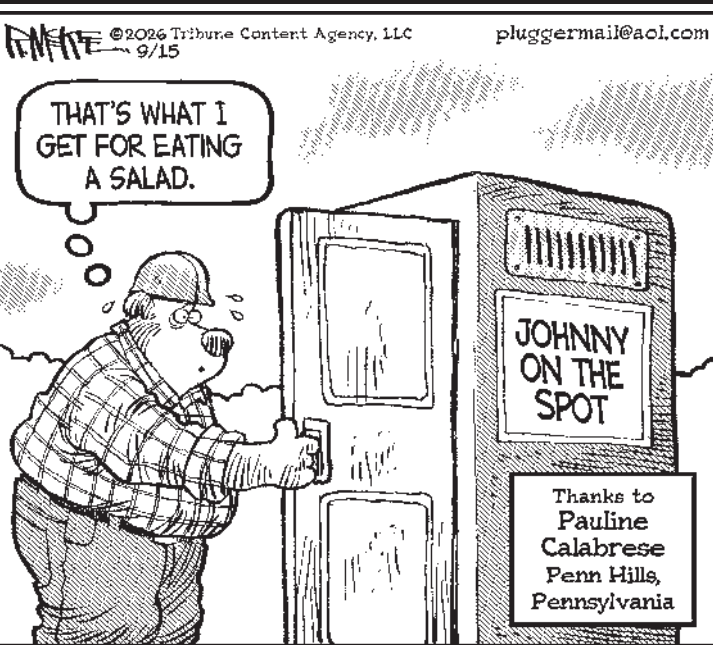
ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY

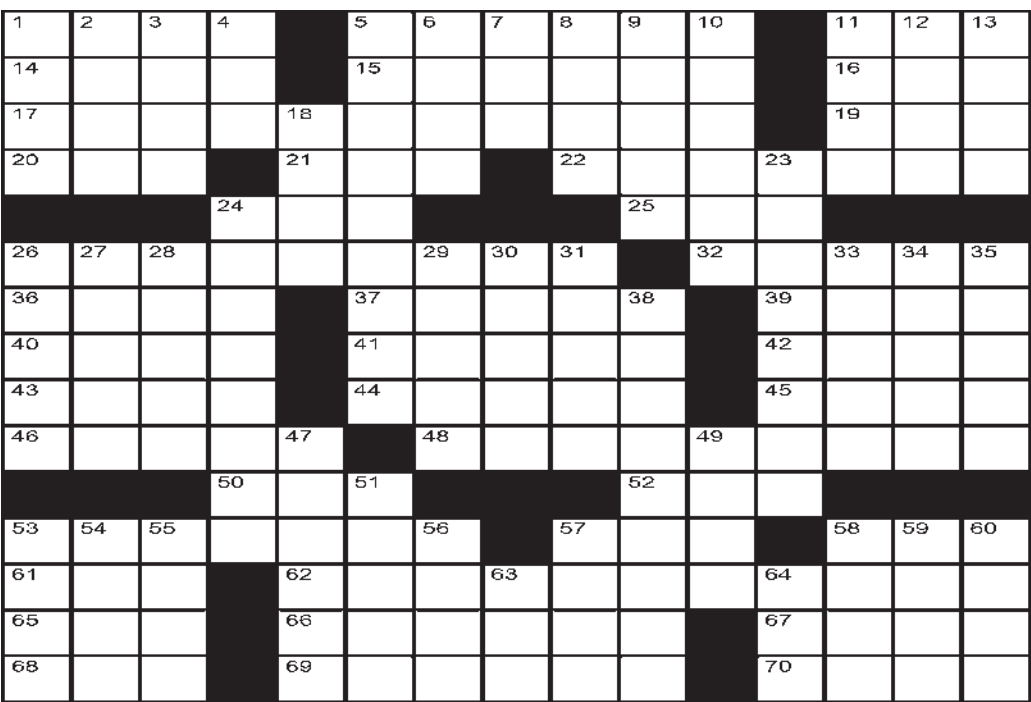


Cyclosporiasis is the first trend pluggers have been a part of in decades.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Head coverings
 - 5 Do a pub crawl
 - 11 Current unit, for short
 - 14 Boo-boo
 - 15 Totally relaxed: 2 wds.
 - 16 Summer star sign
 - 17 Elite competition for athletes with disabilities
 - 19 ___ way or another
 - 20 Look over
 - 21 Tummy muscles
 - 22 Betrays: 2 wds.
 - 24 ___ Elton John
 - 25 Word before "league" or "room"
 - 26 City areas
 - 32 Housing payments
 - 36 Peak
 - 37 Tavern game
 - 39 Wyle of "The Pitt"
 - 40 Clutter-free
 - 41 Be boastful
 - 42 As well
 - 43 Road vehicles
 - 44 Mexican corn dish
 - 45 Evaluate
 - 46 Highly praise
 - 48 Mountain range in Italy
 - 50 DC MLB player, for short
 - 52 Business bigwig: Abbr.
 - 53 Orchestra leader
 - 57 Bowling target
 - 58 Comedian Wong
 - 61 Pitching stat: abbr.
 - 62 Air circulation
 - 65 "Wait just a ___"
 - 66 Quantity eaten
 - 67 Anvil metal
 - 68 "Yeah right!"
 - 69 Really loved
 - 70 Inquires

- DOWN**
- 1 Optimism



Created by Stella Zawistowski

- 2 Not at home
- 3 Become fatigued
- 4 Narwhal's home
- 5 SF-Oakland connector: 2 wds.
- 6 Cash access points: Abbr.
- 7 Agent, for short
- 8 Scalp covering
- 9 Movie award
- 10 Harass
- 11 ___ gobi
- 12 List of choices
- 13 Verse writer
- 18 Animal den
- 23 Best-case ___
- 24 Texas toppers
- 26 Samba or salsa, e.g.
- 27 Mountaineer's tool: Abbr.
- 28 Intelligent
- 29 Funnel-shaped lily
- 30 Group of soldiers
- 31 New Jersey, e.g.
- 33 Ryan of baseball



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- 34 Take a sip of
- 35 Paired footwear
- 38 Wrote with a template
- 47 Riga's land
- 49 "99 Luftballons" singer
- 51 Latest fashion
- 53 Muscle-tee fabric

Drama queen disrupts gathering without being there



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: A good friend in our prayer circle, "Diane," has a friend, "Suzy," with whom several of us once socialized. We've all distanced ourselves because Suzy has anger and stability issues that have become increasingly frequent since her former spouse has begun dating again. Diane allows Suzy to verbalize all kinds of half-truths and act out with volatile behavior, which some of us feel is basically encouraging destructive mental health.

While some of us suspect Diane enjoys the drama of recounting Suzy's latest issue, others believe she thinks she's "being there" for Suzy. Since so much of each meeting is now focusing on Diane's description of Suzy's latest tantrum, how can we encourage her to help Suzy get the counseling she needs to get past not only her divorce, but also the results of several years of negative behavior, and focus on the real reason we are gathering? -- CARING FRIEND IN OHIO

DEAR FRIEND: Has it occurred to you that instead of praying, which is what those meetings are supposed to be about, Diane has hijacked the purpose of the meeting with gossip when she describes in detail poor Suzy's antics? What an invasion of Suzy's privacy! Tell Diane that if she really wants to help her friend,

she should encourage her to get professional help and, if she's reluctant to do it, to pray (as will you all!) that Suzy summons up the courage.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a neighborhood that has no sidewalks, and I vacation in a busy coastal area that also has narrow roads. My dog and I walk at least once a day along these roads, and I've noticed that many pedestrians don't know which side of the road to walk down.

According to the Scouts, you should walk facing traffic. This makes sense because you can see vehicles coming toward you and can move out of the way if they do not or cannot move around you. These days, electric cars are so quiet that many walkers don't hear them coming. Driving

when you never know where walkers will be is dangerous, too. Please get the word out to walk or jog facing traffic, but not down the middle of the road. Thanks! -- DOG WALKER IN IOWA

DEAR WALKER: I have long thought that my column serves as a sort of extended "community billboard." Your safety message is an important one. Thank you for taking the time to share it.

DEAR ABBY: We need advice on the polite thing to do when you observe something on the face of a person you are talking to. Should you: a) Motion with your finger on your face that an object has been observed; b) Tell the person discreetly; c) Say or do nothing? Does it make a difference if the person is a friend, spouse or casual acquaintance? In the case of a spouse or good friend, should the observer suggest removing it? Does the same thing apply if you notice a zipper undone, button unfastened, clothing untucked, a smudge, tear or wet spot? -- DIFFERENT OPINIONS

DEAR OPINIONS: I think the kind choice would be to inform the person of the problem discreetly, which would cause the least confusion and embarrassment. If appropriate, offer to help and see if it is welcome.

Monday, September 14, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K Q ♠ 8 7 4 3 ♦ Q 7 6 5 ♣ 9 6

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
What call would you make?

A - Ignore your fifth heart and send a clear message — you have an invitational hand with a good diamond fit. Bid 3D.

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K J 7 3 ♥ 10 9 5 ♦ A ♣ K 9 4 3 2

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 1♦
What call would you make?

A - Had your ace of diamonds been in any other suit, you would have opened the bidding — some would have opened anyway. It is important to act now and the choice is between a take-out double and overcalling 2C. Your suit is poor, so let partner pick the trump suit. Double.

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A J 10 5 ♥ 8 7 5 ♦ A 4 ♣ A K Q 6

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
What call would you make?

A - Bid 2NT, showing a balanced 18-19 points. It does not deny four spades. Should partner be interested

in your spade or heart length, he will bid 3D and give you a chance to show it.

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 9 2 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ A K J 10 3 ♣ A 5

As dealer, what call would you make?

A - That lovely five-card diamond suit is worth at least one extra point. Open 2NT.

Q 5 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ Q 3 ♥ A J 10 7 6 3 2 ♦ Q 8 ♣ K 5

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♥ 2♠ 3NT
What call would you make?

*Six spades, 5-10 points

A - You have a pretty good seven-card suit, but the hand is otherwise semi-balanced, with "pushers" in every side-suit. This contract should be a good one. Pass.

Q 6 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

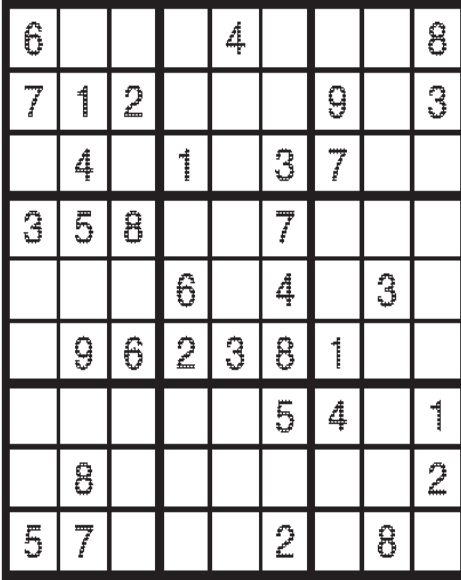
♠ A 5 ♥ 5 2 ♦ Q 3 ♣ A K Q 9 8 6 4

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ 1♠ 1♦
What call would you make?

*Negative — values with no clear bid

A - It is likely that you can take eight tricks in your own hand. That nine trick game bonus is just sitting there — bid 3NT!

SUDOKU

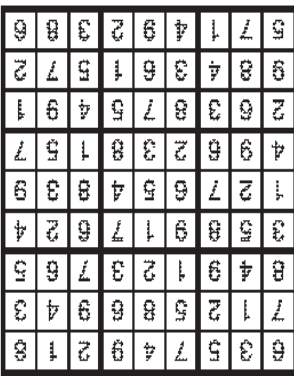


Fun By The Numbers

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:



KIDS' CORNER

Vol. 028 | Join Herald the Hound every Tuesday on Kids' Corner from The Courier Herald

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Dublin-Laurens County
CHAMBER
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Class of the week: Mrs. Nicole Belflower's class at ELP

Herald the Hound traveled across the Oconee River for a visit to Mrs. Nicole Belflower's class at East Laurens Primary School. After story time the students talked about their own favorite stories and characters. The theme of the week was how to face challenges with bravery and the students shared examples of how they overcame their fears.



Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH – CRAYON COLORS

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **Why do crayons go to school?**

AMBER
AQUA
BLACK
BLUE
BRONZE
COPPER
GOLD
GREEN
GREY
INDIGO
IVORY
LEMON
LILAC
ORANGE
PINK
PUMPKIN
RED
SILVER
TURQUOISE
WHITE
YELLOW

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

Riddle answer: _____

Fun Fact

Titanoboa was a real species of giant snake thought to have lived 58 to 60 million years ago. It was about 45 feet long on average, and weighed about 2,500 pounds. It survived on the large crocodiles and turtles also found to be living nearby at that time.

Source:
discover
magazine.
com

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Americanisms



“When I no longer thrill to the first snow of the season, I’ll know I’m growing old.”
— Lady Bird Johnson

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MINI SUDOKU

			2		
				5	3
1				4	
3		4			
	3		5		
5					1

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

Puzzles4Kids

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

Riddle Answer:
To get brighter.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

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

