

Kemp picks replacements for suspended school board

Former members could still petition for reinstatement

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

Gov. Brian Kemp appointed replacements Wednesday for the suspended Dublin City Board of Education, and the new members include former educators, a banker, government consultants and a former human resources director.

Kemp's executive order describes the appointments as "temporary," because the suspended board members can still petition the governor for reinstatement. Should no one appeal, the new board members will become permanent and serve until their respective seats come up for election.

The new board members are:

- District 1 – Teresa Holliday,

program manager with Community Service Board of Middle Georgia

- District 2 – D'Andrea King, retired Dublin City elementary school teacher
- District 3 – Randy Frederick Green, an energy and sustainability consultant and retired manager for Georgia Tech's Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership
- District 4 – Priscilla Adams, former director of Georgia Military College's Dublin satellite campus
- Super District 1 – Angela Wright, banking officer and local bank branch manager
- Super District 2 – David West-erfield, former Mohawk human re-sources director and Communities in Schools board chairman
- At-Large – Douglas Eaves, lo-

cal business owner and longtime government consultant.

Kemp suspended the Dublin board Aug. 17, at the unanimous recommendation of the state Board of Education, following a 10-hour suspension hearing, convened under state law after a yearlong financial crisis put the district's accreditation in peril.

Dublin City faced a projected \$13.4 million deficit after the state revealed last August that the district owed \$6 million in past-due health plan payments. Suspension hearing testimony highlighted the district's long history of financial struggles and how the board has repeatedly



New school board appointee Doug Eaves addresses the Dublin school board during a tax increase hearing last November. Eaves encouraged the board to convert to a zero-based budget, starting from scratch each fiscal year. "If you don't want to consolidate, you're going to really have to look at your programs," Eaves said /RODNEY MANLEY, File

SCHOOL BOARD
Continued on page 10

'I want to help people'

First recipient of rodeo-funded scholarship is following in fallen officer's footsteps

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The recipient of the first Dylan Harrison scholarship has the same passion for helping others as the late law officer, something Harrison's mother has seen up close.

Dayten Yarbrough stood behind Harrison's family just before the start of the second Shields & Spurs Pro Rodeo last weekend at the Southern Pines Ag & Expo Arena. Harrison's father, Jeff, and mother, Kathy, announced Yarbrough as the first recipient of the Harrison scholarship, which came from funds raised from the Shields & Spurs event last year.

"I knew what he had done, and he is just a good-hearted, selfless boy," Kathy said. "I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Dylan would have picked him as well. He would have



Children chase a calf during a game at last weekend's Shields & Spurs Rodeo at the Southern Pines Ag & Expo Center/DANNY SCARBORO

handpicked him."

Yarbrough, who graduated from West Laurens High School last May, is currently taking a fire class until January and is testing for his National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Once he passes that tests Yarbrough will get to work in an ambulance.

"It was definitely a honor when I got the scholarship," Yarbrough said. "It has given me the courage to go out and be good in the community like Dylan was. I am grateful Mrs. Kathy and them thought of me."

Yarbrough knew of Harrison but did not know him

personally. He was glad to know that he walked the same hallways that Harrison did when he attended WLHS.

"At West Laurens, we are definitely pushing more public safety," said Yarbrough, adding that the school has an emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder and fire courses.

"It really gets kids my age into it. Laurens County EMS and Laurens County Fire Department does a really good job putting this on for people like me."

Yarbrough's ultimate goal is to be a flight nurse

on Air Evac.

"I want to help people to the best extent that I can," he said. "Me being as small as I am, I feel like that would be the perfect job for me. The helicopter space is so small, and I love helping others."

Yarbrough is currently a youth leader at Baker Baptist Church. Besides helping people physically, he also likes to help them spiritual-ly.

"I love getting into our community to help people and spread the gospel



Jeff and Kathy Harrison with Dayten Yarbrough (center), the first recipient of the scholarship awarded in the honor of their late son, Dylan/PAYTON TOWNS III

SHIELDS & SPURS
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Local students encouraged to FLEX their entrepreneurial skills

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Time is running out for local high school students to take part a program that will teach them more about becoming an entrepreneur.

Laurens County recently announced its second year in partnership with the Georgia FLEX (Foundational Leadership and Entrepreneur Experience) program, which is an initiative that equips high school students to learn real-world

business skills, along with a chance to win money and prizes. Not to mention, gain a lot of business experience.

This program is only available to 27 rural communities in the state. Students get to create their own businesses while learning about leadership and business skills, said Sara Kolbie, who is the Laurens County FLEX team leader.

FLEX
Continued on page 10



Jazzel Diggs, a senior at West Laurens High School, was the local FLEX winner last year /PAYTON TOWNS III, File

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OBITUARIES



Hellen Coney Pittman

Funeral services for Mrs. Hellen Coney Pittman will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 at 2 p.m. at the New Birth Church, Inc., 900 MLK Jr. Drive in Dublin. Interment will follow in the Hatoff Baptist Church Cemetery, 1466 Hatoff Church Road in Dublin.

Hellen Coney Pittman, of Dublin, Georgia, was a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, godmother and cherished member of her family. Her life was marked by her love for family, lasting relationships, and the many lives she touched. Hellen was educated in Dublin, Georgia, and was a proud graduate of Mary Fleming High School. Throughout her life, she remained deeply connected to those she loved, creating memories that will be treasured for generations.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Nelson Lemose “Lamar” Pittman; her parents, Tommie Lee and Eunice Coney; her sisters, Mae Evelyn Davis, Grace Sewell, and Juanita Coney; her brothers, Ronnie Coney, Maxie Coney, Bennie Earl Coney, Danny Coney, Tommie Lee Coney, Jr., and James Coney; and her stepdaughter, Patricia (William) Hood.

Hellen leaves to cherish her memory her loving daughters, Connie (Willie) Lattimore and Kimberly Coney Turner; and her stepdaughter, Jackie (Shawn) Curtis, all of Dublin, Georgia.

Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: granddaughters Jurnee Turner (Travon Harris), Tyranee Turner (Fabrice Valentine), Tinsley Curtis, and Jasmine Hood, all of Dublin, Georgia; and grandsons Cedric Hood of Atlanta, Georgia, and Christopher Hood of Dexter, Georgia.

She also leaves her precious great-grandchildren, Trayce Turner Harris, Paige Harris, Aliyana Hood, Serenity Jade Southern, William Jayden Southern, Elijah Hood and Naomi Hood, all of Dublin, Georgia.

Hellen is also survived by her sisters, Eddie Mae Ellington, Dorothy Coney Boston, Amigene Wright, Brenda (Tony) Chain, Shelia (Wayne) Hines, and Shirley Coney, all of Dublin, Georgia; Jacquelyn (Alex) Davis of Evans, Georgia; and Valene Coney of Hempstead, New York; her brother, Bonnie Gene Coney of Dublin, Georgia; and her brother-in-law, Gerald Wright of Dublin, Georgia.

Her beloved great-niece, Tangea Moore of Dublin, Georgia, held a special place in her heart, and the two shared a very special bond.

Hellen also leaves her beloved niece and nephew, Vangela Hines and Carlos Coney of Dublin, GA who she had a special part in raising. Also, her special goddaughters, Tonya Clover Sutton and Chiquita Pooler of Dublin, Georgia, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, loved ones and her special “Sunday Crew” who carry treasured memories of her.

Though Hellen will be deeply missed, her legacy of love and devotion to family will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-

Dudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Mary Ann Moore

Mary Ann Moore, known to family and friends as Ann, passed away on Sept. 2, 2026, in Macon, Georgia, at the age of 80.

Ann was born on Nov. 5, 1945, in Dublin, Georgia, to the late John Robert and Lorriene English Durden. She lived a life marked by faith, devotion to family and quiet strength, and she carried those values with her throughout her years. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Donald Eugene Moore.

Ann was a 1964 graduate of Dudley High and later completed her education at Crandall Business College. She went on to build a long and respected career, working for a number of years at C&S Bank before eventually retiring from Farmers Furniture. Through her work, she was known for her dependability, kindness, and strong sense of responsibility. She approached each season of life with grace and a steady spirit that left a lasting impression on those who knew her.

A devoted Christian, Ann was a faithful member of Jefferson Street Baptist Church. Her faith was an important part of her life and guided the way she cared for others and met the challenges of each day. She found comfort and joy in her church family and in the fellowship that came from sharing her beliefs with others. Her life reflected the values of compassion, humility, and perseverance.

Ann had many interests that brought her happiness over the years. She loved music and was a talented soprano singer whose voice was a gift to those who heard it. She was also an avid Dublin Fighting Irish fan and enjoyed cheering with enthusiasm and pride. One of her greatest joys was spending time with her daughter, Candace Jean Moore, and she especially cherished her weekly lunch dates with her sister, Betty Jo Price. These moments of companionship and conversation were among the treasures of her life.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Candace Jean Moore, and her sister, Betty Jo Price. She also leaves behind many extended family members and friends who will remember her with affection and gratitude. Ann’s life was one of devotion, faith, and love, and her memory will continue to live on in the hearts of those who were blessed to know her.

Services were held at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, at Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel. The family will greet friends before the service

at 2 p.m. The burial will follow at Dublin Memorial Gardens in Dublin, Georgia. Reverend Kyle Giddens will officiate.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Linton Evans

Celebration of life services for deacon Linton Evans will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, at 2 p.m. Location: Christian Hope Baptist Church – 1792 GA Hwy 26 E Cochran, Georgia. Pastor Gregory Cutts will serve as eulogist. Interment will follow at Kurtz Cemetery.

Linton Evans was born on May 4, 1955, in Dublin, Georgia to Edward Evans Sr. and Doretha Perry Evans.

He retired from Bassett Furniture after 25 years of service as a supervisor. He enjoyed fishing, driving his convertible mustang, being and active member and deacon in church, spending time with his wife and family and was a devoted Dallas Cowboys Fans.

He was preceded in death by his parents Edward Evans Sr. and Mrs. Doretha Perry Evans; brothers, Clinton Evans "twin," Ulysses Evans and Albert Evans, Sr.

Deacon Linton Evans leaves to cherish his memory to his devoted wife of 52 years, Mrs. Myrtle Kurtz Evans; son, Nicholas (Wendy) Evans; daughter, Nicole (Antonio) Ingram; Goddaughter, Sierra Lashay Young; Goddaughter Misty (Myion) Farrow; special nephew and niece, Albert (Alice) Evans Jr.; special niece, Debra Rozier; sister, Dorothy (Prentice) Rozier; brothers, Eddie Evans and Edward Evans Jr.; grandchildren, Courtney Burch, Taylor Thorpe, Aaliyah O’neal, Chelsea Evans, Joshua Evans, Dorian Evans, Christian Evans, Amiya Harvard, Justin Evans, Angel Evans; 6 great grandchildren; sister in laws, Earlene Harris, Vivian (Joe) Rudolph, Margaret Kurtz, Stacie (Tyrus) Miller; brother in laws, Rodney Kurtz and J.L. Edmond and a host of other relatives and friends.

He will forever be remembered as “Papa.” He will be remembered for his love, his kindness, his love for his grandkids and how he loved his family and friends. His favorite soap opera was “The Young and The Restless.” He had many that called him brother. He gave his heart in all he did daily. He loved sitting outdoors listening to great music. He leaves behind his best pal, his dog Parker. He will be greatly missed but forever honored and celebrated by his family.

Public viewing was held Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, from 10 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Serenity Funeral Home

& Crematory - Dublin has charge of arrangements.



Clayton Tyrone Gordon

Funeral services for Mr. Clayton Tyrone Gordon will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, at 12 p.m. at the First African Baptist Church, 405 Telfair Street in Dublin. Rev. Donald Gordon Jr will officiate. Rev. Keith Anderson will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Clayton Tyrone Gordon was born Jan. 24, 1947 in Dublin, Lauren County Georgia to Evelyn Gordon and Earnest Meyers.

Clayton spent his early year in Dublin and attended Oconee High School where he graduated in 1965. Clayton was an active athlete and play football and basketball. He enjoyed swimming and would often spend the entire day at the local pool.

Clayton joined the First African Baptist Church where his family worshiped, and where he received baptist youth training as a young man.

Clayton relocated to Rochester New York after graduation and worked at Schlegel Manufacturing before leaving for military service. He served in the U. S. Army and spent time in South Korea. After his tour was complete, he returned to Rochester N.Y. and was employed at Delco Product Division, GMC. Clayton loved the stage and formed his own acting company, writing and performing plays thru-out western New York. Clayton was a creative minded person, always checking out the new fashions looking for new things to wear create a new look.

Eventually life lead him back to Dublin Georgia where he enjoyed the life style and he had many friends. Always the leader, he was concerned more about others and cared enough to always lend a hand when needed. He will be missed but always live in our hearts.

Clayton leaves to mourn, son Allen (Amy) Clemmons of Hagerstown Md., siblings Donald (Sheree) Gordon, Vanessa Flahn, Charles (Rosa) Sutton, Robert Sutton, Ralph Sutton and Kenneth Sutton all of Rochester, New York, a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation will be held prior to the service on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

Nayfield Rivers

Mr. Nayfield Rivers of Glenwood, Georgia passed away on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com.

Mary Lynn Reid

Mary Lynn Reid, known to everyone as Lynn, passed away on Sept. 2, 2026, in Dublin, Georgia, at the age of 78.

Lynn was born on July 17, 1948, in Eastman, Georgia, to the late S.J. and Velma Pridgen Grubbs. She lived a life marked by love, devotion, and a warm spirit that touched the hearts of many. Her life reflected the values of kindness, loyalty, and a genuine appreciation for the people around her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tony Michael Reid; her son, Danny Gillis; her grandchildren, Kristin Gillis and Tyler Gillis; her brother, Charles Grubbs her sisters; Peggy Spires, Judy Boutwell, and Jackie Conley; and her parents. Their memories remained close to her heart throughout her life. She also carried the love of those who survive her, including her sons, Dewayne Gillis and his wife Ann, and Keith Gillis and his wife Katie. She is also survived by her sisters, Patsy Peacock and Susan Woodard and her husband Bill, as well as several nieces and nephews who will cherish her memory.

Lynn spent 20 years working at the peanut stand for Hardy Farms, where she made numerous friends and became a familiar and beloved face to many. Her work was more than a job, as it was a place where her cheerful personality and easy conversation brightened the days of those she met. She took pride in the relationships she built there and in the simple kindness she showed to others. Her presence left a lasting impression on coworkers, customers and friends alike.

Outside of work, Lynn enjoyed music, karaoke, and dancing. These interests brought her joy and reflected the lively and spirited nature that so many loved about her. She appreciated the moments that allowed her to laugh, sing, and share time with others. Whether listening to a favorite song or stepping out on the dance floor, she embraced life with enthusiasm and heart.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026 at the Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel of Townsend Brothers Funeral Home with Mr. Keith Gillis officiating. Burial will follow at Northview Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026 at the funeral home.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.

Garry Gene Oliver

Garry Gene Oliver, known lovingly as Garry, passed away on Aug. 31, 2026, in Dublin, Georgia, at the age of 77.

He was born on Sept. 29, 1948, in Dublin, Georgia, and spent his life rooted in the community he called home. Garry lived a life marked by hard work, loyalty, and devotion to the people he loved. He was a proud veteran of the United States Navy, and his years of service reflected the same strength, discipline, and commitment that guided him throughout his life.

Following his military service, Garry built a respected career through his work with Rockwell Automation and later with Georgia Public Television, where he eventually retired. He was known as a dependable and dedicated man who took pride in doing his work well. Those who knew him will remember his steady presence, his strong character, and the quiet dignity with which he carried himself.

Garry was also a man who enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and he found great enjoyment in the outdoors. He loved sports as well, having played football for Dublin High School and later continuing his athletics while serving in the Navy, where he also boxed.

Family was central to Garry’s life, and he treasured the many relationships that surrounded him. He was married to his beloved wife, Faye Oliver, for 38 years, and their marriage was a lasting example of love, partnership, and devotion. He is survived by his son, Scott Oliver; his son, Ritchie Mullis; his daughter, Deanna Morgan; his brother, Billy Oliver Sr.; his brother, Jackie Oliver; his sister, Peggy Ivory; and his grandchildren, Chase Oliver, Cam Oliver, and Olivia Brantley. He was preceded in death by his father, Gaston Oliver; his mother, Mavis Oliver; and his brother, Danny Oliver.

Garry will be remembered for the love he gave to his family, the pride he took in his service, and the many ways he contributed to the lives of those around him. His life was one of perseverance, dedication, and quiet strength. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work, family devotion, and cherished memories that will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Laurens County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. for the purpose of closing that portion of Lowery School Road between the intersection of HatOff Church Road and Greg Couey Road. The hearing will be held at the Commissioner’s meeting room located at 117 East Jackson Street, Dublin, Georgia.

If you have any questions or would like to make comments concerning the proposed abandonment of the aforementioned portion of road, please contact the Commissioner’s office or attend the public hearing.



Attorney Brian Arnold

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From the school carpool line: Thoughts on traffic

The city of Atlanta is known for a lot of things, but none more so than its traffic.

The Phoenix City consistently ranks as the worst place in the country when it comes to the daily commute of the people who live and work there. Coincidentally, Atlanta has the largest ratio of tree coverage of any city, so at least it feels like you're in nature while actually rotting away in the driver's seat.

According to the internet insurance broker The Zebra, about an extra 33 hours per year is spent in the car by Atlanta drivers than their counterparts in other urban areas. The average commute in Hotlanta (the city also has a lot nicknames) is about 33 minutes each way. And that's only to go a mile or two down the street.

To make matters worse, Georgia has one of the highest rates of fatal car crashes at about 16 per every 100,000 people per year. And the drive time is only getting worse. Last year over 200 minutes were added to the rush hour commute time.

I'm not sure how this data is collected, probably cell phone tracking. What an age to be alive, when the little computer in our pocket can tell us exactly how long we've been sitting on the downtown connector. Or maybe there's a man with a telescope on top of the Bank of America Plaza counting cars every morning and afternoon. It's a hell of a way to make a living, but it's honest work.

Baby, you can drive my car



THE NEW
SOUTHERN
DAD

By KYLE DOMINY

I can vouch for A-Town's terrible traffic, though my experience was more than a decade ago. In another life I was one of those daily commuters, strapped into an automobile sitting idle in a sea of brake lights under the haze of exhaust-polluted air. The side effects of sitting in traffic

include elevated stress levels, physical and mental strain, high blood pressure and, of course, breathing in those noxious vehicle fumes, not to mention the abuse from verbal drivers, car horns and the obnoxious music coming from one lane over.

The job that had me sitting in the car more than I was working didn't last long. I didn't even look for a new line of employment, but abandoned my post as soon as I was financially able. Shortly thereafter, I fled the ATL altogether and returned to my rural nativity never to sit in daily traffic again.

What a fool I was.

A new town should be topping the traffic list, sleepy little Dudley, Georgia. And it's all thanks to the carpool line at the elementary school. Schools only been in session for a few weeks and each endeavor to pick up my child has taken no less than 30 minutes. No matter how I plan arrival, early or late, I'm stuck in a long line of cars, sometimes stretched beyond the city limits. I think some people drop off their child and then immediately claim a spot in the pick up line.

I lay the blame at no one but myself. I think it's a little cosmic payback for the foul words uttered under my breath, horn honked at a slow driver ahead of me and fist shaken at the stand-still traffic of my youth.

Payback is a you-know-what, and I'd better get comfortable in the driver's seat again.

Truett Cathy: Leadership by example

Recently a friend of mine and former manager of a successful business enterprise shared in my presence the leadership he had witnessed in Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A. Before that unplanned evening experience in the Macon, Georgia Chick-fil-A, my friend admits to being a "hard-charging" and demanding manager of his employees.

He had patterned his leadership style on what he saw in some of his company's national leaders. My friend admits that he was not sensitive enough to the lives and needs of his employees.

That "hard-charging" and demanding concept of leadership changed for my friend that night at that Chick-fil-A by what he witnessed in the life of Cathy. He watched this senior Christian gentleman and very successful businessman move among the employees to affirm each one for his or her service to the public and to show his respect



By JACK
BROWN

for each employee ... especially so to a special needs employee who was cleaning the floor and tables.

Cathy embraced with kindness and respect this particular employee as if that employee were his own son. What a powerful example of good and caring leadership. He was a visible role model for my friend without being aware of the influence he was having on another customer who had stopped to eat. My friend's own leadership style was changed that night.

Cathy of course was not

perfect, but he put people and principles ahead of profit. Besides finding this highly successful restaurant chain, he taught eighth grade boys in Sunday school for many years, teaching them biblical standards on which to build their lives, and he founded the Win Shape Foundation in 1984, to help, "young people succeed in life through scholarships and other youth support programs." (The Christian Index, Sept. 18, 2014, p. 2)

He was a man of God who practiced his faith in his everyday life and taught

those principles to his family and to his employees. At age 93, he was promoted to glory on Sept. 8, 2014, at his home surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived

by his wife of 65 years, by his two sons and one daughter, by 19 grandchildren and by 18 great-grandchildren. My friend adopted the leadership of this outstand-

ing Christian businessman who had unknowingly that night passed on the caring leadership style of Jesus of Nazareth. Peace!

Moment of Inspiration

What’s in Your Heart?

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” – Psalms 119:11

What we put into our heart matters. Our thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions are often a reflection of what we have allowed to take root within us.

The psalmist understood the importance of filling his heart with God’s Word. He didn’t simply want to read Scripture; he wanted to hide it in his heart so that it would guide him when temptation came.

When God’s Word is in our hearts, it gives us wisdom when we need direction, strength when we are weak, and truth when the world tries to deceive us.

So today, ask yourself: What’s in your heart?
Is it anger, bitterness, worry, and worldly influences – or is it God’s Word, His truth, and His love?
Fill your heart with God’s Word, and let His Word shape your life.

Prayer: Lord, help me to hide Your Word in my heart. Give me a heart that desires Your truth and help me to live according to Your Word each day. Keep me from sin and guide my thoughts, words, and actions. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Dr. Curt Lysaker, Pastor Shady Grove Baptist Church, East Dublin, GA

Pastors if you would like to share a devotional please email to: advertisingtch@gmail.com



These merchants and The Courier Herald take pride in presenting this message and encourage you to attend the church of your choice.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By LUCIE WINBORNE
King Features

- * An isolated Israeli city with a high rate of deafness created their own sign language as a way of communicating.
- * Pakistan was the first official Muslim nation in the world.
- * An emoji of a building underneath a pink heart originally symbolized an invitation to meet at a Japanese "love hotel," where rooms can be rented by the hour.
- * At many European operas, whistling actually means boo.
- * The Aetherius Society, a UFO religion, was founded by George King in 1955 after he claimed interplanetary sources instructed him to become "the Voice of Interplanetary Parliament."
- * Cats have more bones than humans.
- * According to several legends, if someone was bitten by a suspected vampire, he or she should drink the ashes of a burned vampire.
- * Rock climbing can improve emotional or attention problems, such as anxiety and ADHD.
- * First performed in 1999, the Sandpaper Ballet includes a musical number that sounds just like someone scratching sandpaper.
- * An EF-3 tornado near Pampa, Texas, was so strong that it drove a corn stalk into a car's radiator.
- * A mother admitted to attending her clique's "chickenpox party," a social gathering where parents expose unvaccinated children to the virus, even though her daughter had been vaccinated, because she feared rejection by the group if she didn't show up.

- * Nearly 90% of London's police officers don't carry firearms.
- * Before the invention of electricity, the only elec-

tromagnetic wavelengths present on Earth in any significant amount were those corresponding to the colors seen in a rainbow.

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%

9/11, a day our country should never forget

What is that one moment in time when you received news that just everything stopped?

This was the question posed to us attending a men’s Bible study on the evening of Monday, Sept. 10, 2001.

My answer was the Challenger explosion in 1986. Majority of the other men mentioned President John F. Kennedy’s assassination and one even brought up the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

After everyone had their chance to speak, one of the senior adult men said, “We will never have another moment like what happened at Pearl Harbor.”

That next Monday, when we reconvened for the study, the senior adult man said, “When it comes to what I said last week, I was wrong.”

What would be wrong is forgetting the events of September 11, 2001. That morning began with me reading a book about people who survived the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor. While I was preparing to go to work, many miles and states away, everyday people were making their way to airports or work.

First responders were gearing up for what appeared to be a nice fall day



MAN ABOUT TOWN...

By PAYTON TOWNS III

in the second week of September.

Nothing could have prepared them, or the rest of our country, from what was about to unfold.

I knew something was different when I walked into the newsroom. Two of my co-workers were standing at the small TV on the cabinet in the back of the room.

The North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York was on fire, and right about the time I walked in, a second plane had struck the other tower.

Mesmerized, we stood there watching everything as it happened. In one way, it seemed like a movie, but we knew it was real. Then out of nowhere, the camera switched from the chaotic scene in New York to

somewhere on the streets in Washington, D.C.

That’s when we found out a plane had hit the Pentagon. Someone had taken over our commercial planes and used them as weapons. Was anywhere safe?

We watched the South Tower of the World Trade Center come down, which was followed shortly by another plane crash in a field in Pennsylvania. Of course we later learned that this was United Flight 93 and it crashed because the passengers fought back and tried to take the plane back from terrorists.

On 9/11, one of the darkest days in American history, we saw and heard about first responders who bravely ran into burning buildings to fight fires and get

people out.

We heard about people assisting their co-workers or even strangers as they worked to get out of the buildings.

We heard about passengers and flight crews on United 93 who found out what was going on and made the decision to try to take the plane back from the terrorists. They did not regain control but they made sure it never reached its destination.

In the next couple of days, we will more than likely see many shows transporting us back to Sept. 11, 2001.

We will hear the stories of those who made it out of buildings and those who just missed being inside when the planes hit.

Twenty-five years later, there are many who had not been born when 9/11 happened.

They need to know the importance of that day and why we stop to remember those who perished that day and those who have died since from the various illnesses that came with working in the rubble of the World Trade Center.

They need to know that America took a hit, but did not stay down. We got back up and showed the world what it means to be united.

TELL IT!



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Boy you can sure tell you are not appreciated. When your job description is to fix a broken water main and you may be out there a few hours after dark. You get treated like a hero. I have been out there many a night with gas breaks all night long trying to find it. I didn’t get a thank you one.

Man that yard sheriff is going to be trouble to you all. All will be paying fines before it is over with. How come every time we call in about a bad place in the road that needs to be fixed ASAP, and it’s bad and they ignore you and it goes on for months and months, do we get to fine them? Just saying.

Please yard sheriff, don’t come to our neck of the woods. We like growing our grass long and having our junk cars. That way when the city gangster ride through and shoot, we have somewhere to hide.

Could someone please let Matt Hatchett know the election is over and the signs need to be picked up? Thank you! *Editor’s note: Actually, no, the election isn’t over yet.*

Dublin’s appearance and reputation has spent a lot of time and energy trying to upgrade it and make it look good. What we have going on right now between the courthouse and city hall, particularly on a Saturday afternoon, is people going by with loud music or mufflers to the point where it jars the windows in the stores. We have about six or seven young guys that are young teenagers that panhandle and annoy the customers. There needs to be some police presence down here. Do something like you do when getting people without having seat belts when it comes to the loud music and noise.

Dudley’s infrastructure didn’t become outdated overnight. Today’s council is doing everything possible to fix and modernize systems neglected by previous council for 20–30 years. The more you know.

Maybe spraying crops with drones is not the way to go ... you should see the trees along Catlin Spur Road. They look dead

like the crop.

My insurance man told the Dublin City School years ago that all this would happen. How can they say they didn’t know?

To the (employee) that works at a convenience store, please stop licking your finger to grab a bag for your customers. Thats very rude and nasty.

I guess that poor deer will never live it down hitting your car. You better seek some professional help before you end up in the nervous hospital.

To the post office, please stop letting your employees dress from the streets. A worker delivery to West Laurens High School with a whole pink bodysuit on. Have respect for the children.

Someone please remind me why we passed ESPLOST because I vividly remember it was to keep school tax down. Remember this at the polls people. Even your county schools will mislead you. This is a fact.

We were told to pass ESPLOST to keep property taxes low. Look at where it got us. County schools have the chance not to increase taxes and they are going to increase them anyway. They care not.

Posted enough Tell It! until the people found out who you were. Priceless. Now they not only ignore your rants in person, but in this outlet. There’s always pigeon mail or maybe call it cardinal mail.

You cry separation of church and state until you load your buses to go vote for your cause. Just remember this at the polls, am I voting biblically or worldly.

The city of Dublin will wind up in worse shape than the Dublin City School Systems. Wait and see.

Good job Payton for reminding us that we have a savior who rescues and welcomes whose sheep have wandered away.

Bobby Poss II

For years in the Athens-Clarke community, the name Poss conjured up images of beer, barbecue, and Brunswick stew—and the colorful proprietor who not only oversaw the production of “Poss Famous Foods,” but who also might be seen dishing out hash at a catered event.

He was hands on when it came to good food and good service. With his down-home style, he often provided entertainment with his engaging personality and his colorful story telling.

His father began the company, but it was the son, Robert E. Poss Jr., who expanded the business into regional sales and developed a popular catering service. For years, he was the concessionaire for Georgia football and basketball game and built “Poss’ Lakeview,” which became a banquet and catering venue.

He was jovially inclined to self-deprecation such as, “If you eat my product, you will think about me all night.” He laughed loudest when the joke was on him.

Eventually, his son, Bobby Poss, came along and followed in his dad’s footsteps as a player at Athens High and later the University of Georgia. The senior Poss was a journeyman player, but the court jester of the team. He was popular with his teammates.

Line coach J. B. Whitworth was given to telling the team before a road game, “We are going to take 40 players and Poss,” who took the quip good naturedly. He loved Georgia and also loved being part of the team.

He often said, if there was a poker game, he would join the table only if Frank Sinkwich pulled up a chair. He knew Coach Butts was not going to discipline Sinkwich for being a participant in a card game.

With time running out in the Rose Bowl, Jan. 1, 1943,



By LORAN SMITH

Poss ran on the field, passing the referee who was the timekeeper. Poss shouted to the ref as he sprinted to the huddle, “Don’t fire that pistol, I’m going to play in the Rose Bowl.”

Bobby, the son of the colorful R.E. Poss, Jr., lettered in 1969-70-71 as a snapping specialist for Vince Doolley. He often carried on a conversation with defensive linemen who would fall victim to Bobby’s conversational chicanery. His antics either distracted them,

reducing them to inconsequential inaction on a play, or caused them to jump off-sides, bringing about a penalty that frequently resulted in a first down for the Bulldogs.

Like his dad, he was the court jester of his teams. Bobby, who passed away last weekend, was always a good teammate and enjoyed good food and good times at the Poss home on Riverhill Drive in the Beachwood section of Athens.

Many kids who needed a job often found opportunities at one of the Poss’s venues. Like father, like son, they always found ways to extend a helping hand to enterprising students. They worked in the best environment where there were plenty of laughs.

After R. E. Poss liquidated the company, he owned significant real estate holdings and retired from the food business. Bobby grew up in the family food production and catering activities and worked his last years with Northeast Sales Distributing Co., now under

the direction of Frank Sinkwich III. With Miller Lite Beer a staple of the business, Bobby in his down-home vernacular would say, “If it ain’t Lite, it ain’t right.”

For years he provided a “warm-up” for the Athens Touchdown Club, in his red coat with championship hashmarks on his sleeve—a reminder that he carried on the Poss tradition of down-home cooking, accenting everything with a colorful comment and a good story that often brought about uproarious laughter.

His best friend, Arthur Steedman, buddies since grade school, has been privy to more escapades, practical jokes, and pranks that defy belief. “There will ever be another one like Bobby, and when you tell stories about him, people say, ‘That can’t be true; that’s got to be fiction.’”

However, it was their deep and abiding love of the Bulldogs that best identified them—both father and son—as Damn Good Dawgs.



DAILY SCRIPTURE...

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

- Galatians 6:9 (King James Version)

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

“College football is the only game in the country, of any kind, that the college game is longer than the pro game.”

- Nick Saban

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

- Sept. 5, 2026 is...
- International Bacon Day
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 - National Be Late For Something Day
 - International Day of Charity
 - National Shrink Day
 - National Cheese Pizza Day
 - National Hummingbird Day
 - Franchise Appreciation Day
 - International Culture Awareness 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 Police Department

- Richard Grant McMiller, 43, was charged with theft by shoplifting at Walmart on Highway 80 West at 2:05 p.m. on Aug. 23.

An officer responded to the store and talked with an employee who identified a person at the cash register skip scanning. The associate there noticed the machine was paused twice and moved the customer. At the next register, the person continue to skip scan and did not pull merchandise out of the shopping cart.

The man then passed the last point of sale. An employee met with him and took him to customer service. The officer met with the man. The officer then watched camera footage and saw an item that did not appear to be scanned. A trespass form was completed. The total amount stolen per staff at Walmart was \$96.89 that was shown on a receipt.

McMiller was transported to the police department where he was fingerprinted and charged.

- On Aug. 29, around 2:25 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the intersection of South Washington and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in reference to a vehicle collision. Torre Tremayne Bouyer, 42, was charged with driving under the influence, obstruction of law enforcement officers, failure to maintain lane, criminal damage to property (second de-



POLICE BEAT...

gree), reckless driving and giving false name, address or birthdate to law enforcement.

- Keyondra Reed, 26, was charged with sexual battery around 1:50 a.m. on Aug. 23 on West Moore Street.

A woman was lying on a couch at a friend's house when the incident happened involving Reed. The man said he returned home and handed the woman a cover when she asked him for it. He then left out the front door and when he returned the woman was crying in a nearby bedroom.

The officer detected an odor consistent with an alcoholic beverage coming from Reed. A witness said Reed had been drinking alcoholic beverages throughout the day.

He was transported to the Laurens County Jail without incident.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- At 12:55 p.m. on Aug. 25, a deputy received a call in reference to a walk in about an incident that happened on Highway 126 in Cadwell.

- Emarian Jamad Bivins, 21, of East Dublin was charged with possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain crimes, failure to stop at stop sign and possession of marijuana. Bivins was after a traffic stop in the city of East Dublin around 7:34 p.m. on Aug. 22.

- A deputy responded to Gregory Lane in reference to possible threats made at 3:30 p.m. on Aug. 23.

- A possible assault happened around 11:47 a.m. on Aug. 22 at Fairview Park Hospital.

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.

DIVA ON A DIME



A colorful mezze board turns late-summer produce into an easy, elegant feast /SPECIAL PHOTO

A Labor Day late-summer mezze board

By PATTI DIAMOND
King Features

Labor Day weekend is summer's grand finale, the last big bash before we begin pretending we are ready for sweaters, schedules and pumpkin-spiced everything.

Let's make a late-summer mezze board: a relaxed Mediterranean-style feast of smoky vegetables, creamy dips, warm pita and salty little nibbles. It looks lavish, but its principal players -- beans, bread and seasonal produce -- are happily inexpensive. And because Labor Day is supposed to be a holiday free from labor, nearly everything can be prepared ahead and the board assembled with fresh, no-cook ingredients.

The secret here is restraint. Otherwise, what starts as a casual graze board becomes 17 tiny bowls and a grocery receipt requiring smelling salts.

Build your board around a few contrasting elements: grilled zucchini, sweet peppers and red onion; baba ghanoush and hummus; sliced cucumber and tomatoes; olives, feta and toasted pita wedges. Fill any gaps with pepperoncini, grapes, watermelon, fresh herbs or whatever looks delicious and reasonably priced.

Arrange everything in generous, overlapping piles. Mezze should look invitingly abundant.

The smoky centerpiece is baba ghanoush, a creamy eggplant dip with variations found throughout the Middle East and Mediterranean. Grill the eggplant alongside the vegetables, and one cooking session accomplishes most of the meal. No grill? The oven will do nicely.

There is absolutely no shame in buying the hummus. Labor Day is, after all, a holiday devoted to avoiding labor.

GRILLED BABA GHANOUSH

Yield: about 2 cups or 6 servings
Total Time: 1 hour 40 mins.

- 2 small globe or Italian eggplants
- 1/4 cup tahini
- 2 to 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 teaspoon each kosher salt and black pepper
- 1 teaspoon sumac
- 3/4 teaspoon Aleppo pepper or 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes, optional

Extra-virgin olive oil and chopped parsley, for serving

To grill: Heat the grill to medium-high. Grill the whole eggplants, turning occasionally, for about 30 minutes, until deeply charred, collapsed and completely soft.

To oven-roast: Heat the oven to 425 F. Halve the eggplants lengthwise and place them cut side down on a lightly oiled baking sheet. Roast 35 to 40 minutes, until very tender.

Let the eggplant cool. Peel grilled eggplant and discard the stems; scoop roasted eggplant from its skin.

Place the flesh in a colander and drain for 15 minutes, pressing gently to release excess liquid. Transfer to a bowl and mash with a fork. Stir in the tahini, lemon juice and zest, garlic, yogurt, salt, pepper, sumac and Aleppo pepper.

Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Spoon into a shallow bowl, drizzle with olive oil and garnish with parsley. Serve with pita and vegetables. Refrigerate leftovers for up to four days.

Prepare the dip a day ahead, grill the vegetables at the same time, and add fresh produce and herbs shortly before serving. For outdoor gatherings, bring out smaller portions of dips and cheese as needed. Perishable foods should not remain unrefrigerated longer than two hours, or one hour when the temperature exceeds 90 F.

To turn the board into dinner, keep the grill working and add chicken or pork kabobs, sausages or a steak cut into bite-size pieces, an economical way to share steak with a crowd. Round out the meal with herbed couscous or lemony orzo, both inexpensive and delicious served at room temperature.

Then gather everyone around, pour something cold and toast the last long, golden days of summer. They deserve a proper farewell.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADime-DotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com
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Ragan named to community bankers board of directors

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Georgia First Bank is proud to announce that Jeremy Ragan, Dublin Market President, has been selected to serve on the Community Bankers Association of Georgia Board of Directors for the 2026–2027 term.

Ragan will represent the association's Southern Division and will be formally inducted on September 26 during CBA CONNECT, the association's annual convention, at the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina.

The Community Bankers Association of Georgia Board of Directors is composed of community banking leaders from across the state who help guide the association's priorities, advocacy efforts and professional-development initiatives. Through its work, the board supports and strengthens Georgia's community banking industry and the communities its member banks serve.

"Jeremy is an outstanding leader who is deeply committed to his customers, his community and the future of community banking," said Maury Beasley, President and CEO of Georgia First Bank. "His selection for the CBA Board of Directors is a tremendous honor and a reflection of the leadership and banking expertise he brings to Georgia First Bank and the Dublin community. We are extremely proud to have him represent our bank and our region at the state level."

As Dublin Market President, Ragan leads Georgia First Bank's banking and business-development efforts in the Dublin-Laurens County market. He is committed to building lasting customer relationships, supporting local businesses and helping the bank remain responsive to the financial needs of the community.

"It is an honor to be selected to serve on the Community Bankers Association of Georgia Board of Directors," Ragan said. "Community banks play an essential role in supporting local families, businesses and economies. I look forward to working alongside banking leaders from across Georgia to advocate for our industry and help ensure that true community banks continue to thrive."

Ragan's appointment reflects Georgia First Bank's continued commitment to developing strong leaders, serving its communities and advancing the important work of community banking throughout Georgia.

About Georgia First Bank

Georgia First Bank is a locally owned community bank serving customers through its Soperton, Vidalia and Dublin markets. The bank offers personal and business banking, lending and cash-management solutions delivered with local decision-making and personal service. Georgia First Bank is committed to helping the people, businesses and communities it serves grow and prosper.

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Sept. 5

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Jovanni JuanCarlos
Rozier
Wanda Kaye Street

Victor Johnson
Doris Worthen Stanley
Ramy Wilkins

ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 5

Sam & Kim Wilson

Sept. 7

Kevin & Tenecia Smith

Sept. 6

Coleman Phillips
Chynell R. Way
Paula Dominy Ward

Sept. 8

John Ballard
Stephanie Bell
Braylen Robinson

Sept. 9

Catherine Pugh

Sept. 7

Kelvin Edwards

Softball, lately: EL splits with Perry, WL wins five in row, Dublin spars with Swainsboro; Trinity continues recent tough stretch

From STAFF REPORTS

Local softball teams are coming into midseason form as they roll into September. Here's a glance at how things are going for East Laurens, West Laurens, Dublin and Trinity about a month into their schedules...

East Laurens

The Falcons split a double-header with Perry Wednesday to take their record to a strong 11-5. They are perfect in five region 2-AA matchups so far, winning by DeAndrea Lowther shutout against all except ACE Charter. East defeated the Gryphons in a come-from-behind effort last Tuesday in Macon, with both key runs coming on passed balls in the sixth. It's taken some recent losses in non-region tests against the likes of Westfield, FPD and ECI, but got a big confidence builder Wednesday in the rebound from a 3-1 loss in the pitching-dominated opener, piling up 11 hits to take the second with Perry 4-1.

West Laurens

The Raiders (9-4, 4-0 region) closed this week with a fifth-straight victory, and probably their biggest so far over defending 4-AAA champion Harlem, which ended their streak of region titles last year. The Bulldogs, a lone former rival to carry over into this year's league (3-AAAA) couldn't muster a run against Peyton Crabb, who anchored Thursday's 3-0 win. West used hits from Paisley Powell and Maggie Shea Lord to score two in the second, and by Powell and Chandler Malone to add insurance in the third. Other recent highlights for the Raiders included a sweep of Liberty County Aug. 27, and an 11-2 road win at Southeast Bull-och to open region play, plus a getback win over Jeff Davis (7-6 Sept. 1) and 6-0 shutout of Hous-ton County Aug. 25.

Dublin

The Irish (4-10, 0-5 region 2-AA) have lost four in a row since their last win over Rutland, 18-1, Aug. 26, but traded multiple leads in a back-and-forth affair at Swainsboro Thursday to make their best run at a region win so far. The Tigers scored three in the sixth inning to go back on top for the 8-6 win.

Trinity

Crusaders, who have had to climb from some big early holes in most of their games so far, remain in search of a first win through eight games, the latest an 11-3 loss at Brentwood on Tuesday, and a 15-3 final back at home vs. Pinewood to start a two-game homestand on Thurs-day.



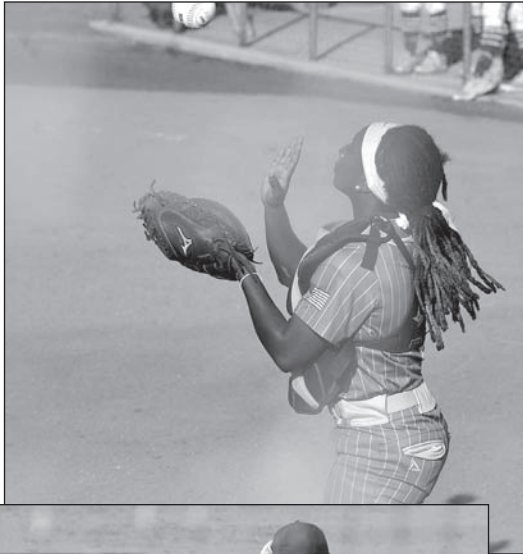
Brynne Moody beats a Perry throw on the slide into third base (above), and the unflappable Amiya O'Neal makes another of her smooth plays at shortstop (right) for East Laurens in the first game of Wednesday's doubleheader. The Falcons dropped game 1 of the set 3-1, but recovered to win the second 4-1/CLAY REYNOLDS



RALLY BABY?: Different teams have their unique traditions tied to dugout props. Perry's is this baby doll, which players left hanging out on the dugout netting to watch the game while they were in the field, and took turns holding during at-bats. The good luck charm may or may not have played a role in the Panthers' two-run surge in the top of the fourth that made the difference in their 3-1 game 1 win Wednesday/CLAY REYNOLDS



TWO-BY-TWO: Runs came in pairs for West Laurens in its 6-0 home shutout of Houston County on Aug. 25. Here, Ella Thompson doubles to lead off the two-run fifth inning that doubled her team's 2-0 lead/CLAY REYNOLDS



Dublin left fielder Morgan Allen (above) ran down this shallow fly ball for an out, catcher Zoey Bell (top right) barely had to leave her stance for a simple catch on a foul tip that turned to the easiest pop-out ever and later (bottom right) got this ACE runner at the plate on a relay throw from shortstop El Stubbs on a few of the top defensive plays for the Irish Wednesday afternoon/CLAY REYNOLDS

At 50, Smart still has burning ambition to bring glory to old Georgia...

In his 50th year, Kirby Smart has accomplished enough success, winning countless games and championships, has made enough money, and has been quoted as much as Winston Churchill—enough that he could ride off into the sunset. That way he'd have three decades and more to fish, hunt, play the world's elite golf courses, and strike off every item on his bucket list if he wanted to. But that's not what he wants. He has never addressed what he plans to do "down the road." His life is coaching the Georgia football team and spending time with his family, which has been his modus operandi since he returned to Athens in December 2015. The winningest coach in NCAA history for the first 10 years, he seems more relaxed these days, but make no mistake about it—the fire in the belly remains supreme. He is more seasoned as he starts his eleventh campaign. He is doing exactly what he wants to

do, and he anticipates with deep and abiding pleasure the opportunity to take his team to the playoffs and is happy to be in the hunt for another national championship. I have never seen him more comfortable in his skin than he is as we approach kickoff of the 2026 collegiate campaign. It is the seasoning that makes him seem a little more relaxed, but when he speaks into the mic at football practice, you know, and his team knows that he is in his element. His sharp tongue is as sharp as ever. His insights are as keen as ever, and his philosophy has not changed from the day he walked on the practice field as Georgia's 26th head football coach—he has a burning ambition to win football games for his alma mater. The first opportunity I had to sit down with him following the press conference that announced his appointment, he talked about how he wanted to bring success to the title-starved



By LORAN SMITH

constituency, saying that he really wanted to win games because what the business is all about and he wanted for doting alumni to enjoy what other schools had enjoyed. He wanted to bring glory to old Georgia in the most emphatic way possible. Even today, he understands that one of his biggest challenges in the NIL era is complacency. I see him coaching as hard today as he did the first week of fall camp, his first season in 2016. When he speaks, people listen. He endures the most stupid of questions but gives responsive answers. He is

always insightful. In speaking to the pre-season meeting of the Atlanta Touch-down Club, he explained that he and his staff try to find out as much about potential recruits as possible. If they disrespect their coach, they won't waste their time recruiting him. The first rule in recruiting is finding out how kids respect their mother. Disrespect means he won't be welcome in Athens. Then there are nuggets such as the one about Hines Ward, former all-purpose back for the Bulldogs. "The single best football player I

ever saw." Hines mother worked three jobs to support the family. "Today," Kirby says, "She would be a millionaire." He is all about football come August each year. Those around him can't imagine any coach being more efficient. He doesn't sleep at the office like Dick Vermiel was famous for doing with the Eagles and Rams, but you won't hear him castigating another coach for anything they do. If it works for them, he has no reason to second guess them. Other insights as kickoff approaches: • Recalling that at Alabama, the coaching staff had access to private planes when recruiting. "We didn't know anything about Delta," he quipped. That meant that coaches had more time for their families and could get more done at the office, too. • In the off season, he will search for insights and stats that resonate from

other teams—including the professionals. A stat that stood out with the Oklahoma Thunder when they won the NBA title two years ago was that they led the league in claiming loose balls. • His staff also "studied" the most successful team of all, the New Zealand "All Blacks." The conclusion included these takeaways: • Better Never Rests. For sure, the head coach never takes a day off. • Intrinsic Motivation. Learn to block out external noise, media hype, and outside narratives and focus strictly on internal accountability. • No Ego/Team first. He will forever be a proponent of "No one will ever be bigger than the team." The view here is that had NIL not come along, there is no telling what he might have accomplished, but he still believes he can keep ringing the chapel bell, and he has the fire in the belly to bring more glory to his own alma mater.

SCOREBOARD

SOFTBALL
Wednesday
Perry 3, East Laurens 1
EL 4, Perry 1

Thursday
West Laurens 3, Harlem 0
Pinewood 15, Trinity 3
Swainsboro 8, Dublin 6

PREP SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL
Friday
Trinity at Augusta Prep /7 p.m.
Baldwin at Dublin Washington Co. at East Laurens
West Laurens at Dodge Co. Jasper Co. at Bleckley Co. Robert Toombs at Brentwood
Montgomery Co. at Lanier Co.
Twiggs Co. at Mt. de Sales Treutlen at Tattnall Co. Jefferson Co. at Wilkinson Co./7:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday
Brentwood at Trinity
East Laurens at Johnson Co. Wilkinson Co. at Dublin /5:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Portal at Dublin
Wilcox Co. at WL/5 p.m.

Thursday
Trinity at Briarwood/4 p.m.
WL at Long Co./5 p.m.
Dublin at Dodge Co. /5:30 p.m.
Vidalia at EL/6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12
(at Georgia College)
WL vs. Mary Persons /10 a.m.
WL vs. Jones Co./2 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 14
Trinity at Edmund Burke /4:30 p.m

Tuesday, Sept. 15
EL at Dublin
Vidalia at WL/5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday
WL, Appling Co. at Vidalia /5 p.m.

Thursday
WL, Warner Robins, Southwest Macon at Northside/5 p.m.

CONTACT US:
Email sports information to tchsports77@gmail.com, or call (478) 272-5522, ext. 110



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Son Feels Shunned by Father Over Physical Appearance

DEAR ABBY: I am a 62-year-old man. I was born with a cleft lip and cleft palate. Growing up, I had several surgeries and much dental work to improve my appearance. I had wonderful friends who never teased me about it.

Now, looking back at my childhood, I realize that my father hated me because of the way I looked when I was born. He has never asked me to spend time with him and was always angry with me. Even now, when he sees me, I can feel the hatred he has toward me. I really hate being around him, but I sometimes have to see him at family gatherings. How should I handle this? -- ANGRY AND CONFUSED

DEAR ANGRY AND CONFUSED: Start by remembering to cherish your wonderful friends and consider yourself lucky to have so little contact with dear old Dad. Handle family functions by limiting your direct interaction with him. Be cordial, but maintain a comfortable distance. Focus on the rest of the family and enjoy their company. Many families have members who don't get along, but it doesn't have to cause drama.

DEAR ABBY: Several weeks ago, I got a phone call from a stranger. She asked if I was the "Steve Hall" who had been in the Marines, and whom she remembered from high school. I told her I was not, and that I grew up in a different part of the country. Then I got a letter from her, asking essentially the same thing. She called again, and I repeated my answer and wished her luck.

I'm writing because I am concerned for her. She appears obsessive or perhaps very forgetful. She seems able to use the internet and make phone calls, she is calm and polite, her letters are brief and lucid, and she has neat handwriting. Like I said, though, her persistence seems odd. I'm just a little concerned. What would you do in this situation? -- STEWING STRANGER

DEAR STEWING STRANGER: This interaction has all the signs of a scam. You have already allowed this person to identify you as someone who answers calls from unknown numbers. If you mentioned the letter to her, you have verified the physical address that goes with your phone number.

Be aware that the caller herself may not perpetrate the scam. She may be merely a scout who identifies possible victims for the real scammers. In the future, block all calls from unknown numbers. Also be wary of mail from unexpected sources. Do not respond to any offer that seems too good to be true or to anyone demanding payments that don't make sense to you.

DEAR ABBY: I am approaching 80 and am healthy and fairly active. When I look in the mirror, I see a pleasant-looking old woman, but when photos are taken at holidays, I look even older than I am -- and scary -- like the granny in the old Addams Family comics. What do you suppose is wrong with these modern cameras? -- BETTER THAN THAT IN ATLANTA

DEAR BETTER THAN THAT: The problem is they are taking photos in high definition. However, this problem is easily solved. You can ask the photographer to touch up the photos electronically to make everyone appear flawless, or you can wear sunglasses while viewing them.

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

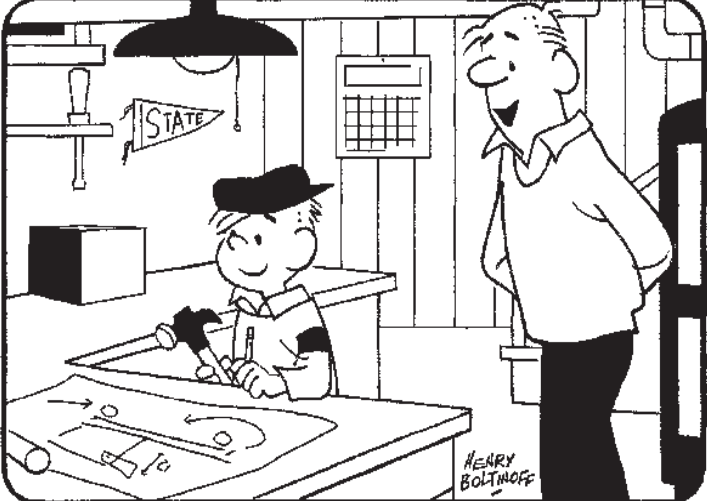
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

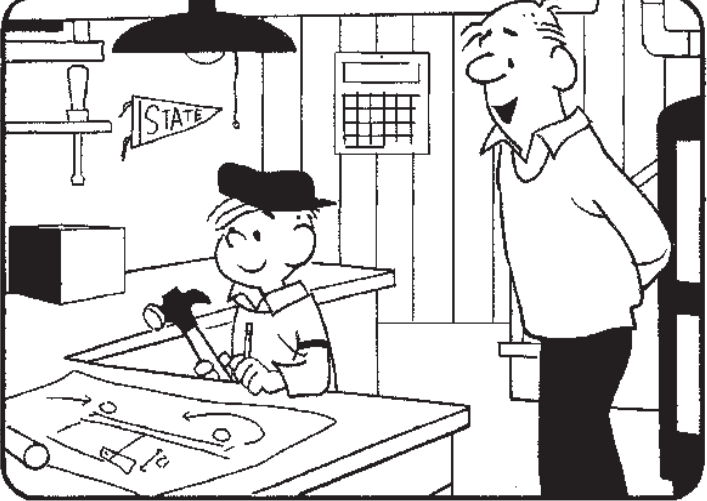
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Hammer is longer. 3. Box on sleeve is smaller. 4. Cap is lifted back. 5. Lightbulb is smaller. 6. Stripe

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

1 Yale students

5 Jell-O shaper

9 Repair, as ripped jeans

14 Comedian Jay

15 Samoa's capital

16 Colombian corncake

17 Actor Bomer

18 ___ State (Ohio university)

19 High-fat part of milk

20 Process in winemaking

23 Dudes

24 Gerund suffix

25 Mayo and butter, e.g.

28 Box-office smash

32 In the style of: 2 wds.

33 Desert refuge

35 Lymph ___

36 Fluffy pets

38 Fish feature

39 Short-armed dino, for short

40 Leg joint

41 Previously aired TV show

43 Took a chair

44 Comedian Amy

46 Accomplishment of goals

49 High spirits

50 Plant's anchor

51 South African metropolis

56 In the know

58 ___ Field (the Mets' park)

59 Acquire

61 Ocean ray

62 ___ the plot: 2 wds.

63 Bee's home

64 Top of a wave

65 Karaoke tune

66 Huge amount (of)

DOWN

1 Tree with gray bark

2 Green growth on a tree

3 Harmoniously combined

4 "Amen!": 2 wds.

5 Gets by: 2 wds.

6 Unlock

7 Dryer fuzz

8 Scientific info

9 Walking back and forth

10 Overly confident

11 High schooler, usually

12 Tax pro: Abbr.

13 Cured pork

21 "Case of the Ex" singer

22 Makes a knot

25 Burlap bag

26 Pilot's vehicle

27 Places to store cash

28 Opposite of plus

29 Riding path: 2 wds.

30 Notions

31 Phone messages

34 Knight's title

37 Harbor towns

41 Kelly of TV

42 Healthcare career

45 Put in the microwave

47 Male swan

48 Cold symptoms

51 Scientist Goodall

52 CBS show since 2003

53 Composer Rota

54 U.K. boarding school

55 Donate

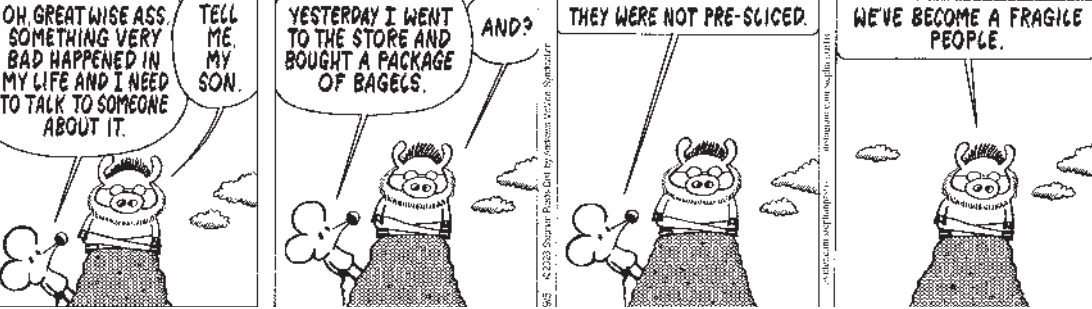
56 Regal competitor

57 Seven Years' ___

60 Freshly minted

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEVE PASTIS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



Gomphrena

This compact and colorful plant produces flowerheads that brighten any garden. It is excellent for use in freshly-cut bouquets, or dried to use in dried flower arrangements. Gomphrena likes well-drained soil in full sun, typically growing about 12" to 24" tall. It may need support for its stems. These plants show good tolerance for drought and high heat, and do very well in borders, rock gardens or cutting gardens.

Source: www.gardening.cornell.edu

- Brenda Weaver

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Saturday, September 5, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K 7 5 4 ♥ K 5 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ A Q 8

Right-hand opponent opens one diamond. What call would you make?

♠ A J 6 4 ♥ K Q 9 4 ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ 9 2

SOUTH Pass **WEST** Pass **NORTH** 1♥ **EAST** Pass

? What call would you make?

Q 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ J 9 5 ♥ 7 ♦ K 5 3 2 ♣ A K Q J 7

As dealer, what call would you make?

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

♠ Q J 9 4 ♥ 10 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ K Q 8 4 2

Right-hand opponent opens one club. What call would you make?

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

♠ J 10 6 4 ♥ 10 8 ♦ A K ♠ 10 8 7 4 3

NORTH 1♣ **EAST** Pass **SOUTH** 1♠ **WEST** Pass

2NT Pass ? What call would you make?

Q 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K J 8 7 5 4 ♥ Void ♦ K 6 4 3 2 ♣ 7 2

NORTH 2NT **EAST** Pass **SOUTH** 3♥* **WEST** Pass

4♠** Pass ?

*Transfer, 5+ spades

**Good spade fit, maximum

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

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

FLEX
Continued from page 1

This is the second year of the program which is opened to all ninth-12th graders in local schools, and includes those who are homeschooled or taking classes online. Students wanting to be a part of this have to attend business plan workshops between Sept. 2 and Sept. 11 at their school. Last year, approximately 700 students attended the business plan workshops at the four local schools, Kolbie said.

“This year we hope to exceed a thousand students getting that opportunity to hear about how to write a business plan or come up with a business idea,” she said. “They will listen to instructions for about 35 minutes and they’ll hear about the FLEX program and how they can win cash in the Shark Tank-style pitch competition along with running their own business and how that works with the business mentors in the community throughout this school year.”

Those wanting to participate will have about six



Shane Stribling and Armani Williams discuss their business model with Craig West during last year’s FLEX competition at the Dublin Country Club/PAYTON TOWNS III. File

weeks to submit their own business plan. Of the plans submitted, the top 10 business companies will be selected to provide a seed loan to and they will receive mentorship as they run their companies. The students will take business finance classes, customer service, sales and marketing classes

and dress for success classes during the school year.

“It culminates at the end of the year in those top 10 companies competing for the local cash prizes,” Kolbie said. “The top company then goes to state for a chance at a \$10,000 grand prize along with a lot of other prizes as well.”

Jazzel Diggs, a senior at West Laurens High School, was the local FLEX winner last year. She was the owner of Sands of Time Jewelry, a company that designs and creates custom beach-themed jewelry products. Paiden Rozier, a freshman at Trinity Christian School, took second place with his

business called PlanPal, which sells customized student planners. Shane Stribling and Armani Williams, both seniors at Dublin High School, came in third with their company Drift Guard, which focuses on customization and repairs of video game controllers.

“We had a great representation,” Kolbie said. “More than 60 percent of these business statewide that are started through the FLEX company are still going on today. Regardless if they continue on with their businesses after FLEX, they have learned amazing soft skills, business finance skills and it equates into a more-well rounded workforce. It stretches you in a lot of different ways. It makes the students think about what is profitable, who their customer is, what customer service actually looks like and how to invest a small amount of money to multiply. We give them a \$200 seed loan and we have seen companies take that money and made several thousand dollars by the end of the school year from that initial investment.”

This lets them see the

value of hard work, and its a good addition to students' resumes. But before they can get a chance to win money, all of the students have to attend the business plan workshop.

“That requires zero commitment,” Kolbie said. “You just show up. You have to take this workshop to understand what the submission requirement is for the local FLEX.”

The last day for a workshop is Friday, Sept. 11. The local FLEX leadership will choose the top 10 business plans from across the county. The deadline to submit those plans is October.

“We’ll announce those top 10 business companies,” Kolbie said. “Up to three students can participate in a single company. They can form a company and complete the business plan together. Once the top 10 are chosen, those companies will go through the more intense workshops. They’ll learn about business finance from local business finance professionals. They’ll learn about customer service and marketing from local business owners.”

'Empty Stroller Walk' to raise awareness of infant mortality

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A local organization is inviting the community to come out and push an empty stroller to draw attention to Infant Mortality Awareness Month.

Heart of Georgia Healthy Start Coalition will host its Empty Stroller Walk at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8, to bring community members together to remember babies who were lost and to raise awareness about the ongoing fight to reduce infant mortality in local communities.

The walk will begin at the Laurens County Library and end at the Dublin City Hall, and everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

“We are going to push empty strollers,” said Latoshia Elbert, executive director at Heart of Georgia Healthy Start Coalition. “We have people who have

lost their babies to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or they are stillborn. It is heartbreaking. When they categorized infant mortality, they are looking from birth to 1 years old. Even if a baby dies as a miscarriage, that is counted.”

According to Georgia data, the state's infant mortality rate was 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2025, compared to the U.S. rate of 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births. Tragically, 866 babies in Georgia died before reaching their first birthday in 2025 (only 16 were within the South Central Health District). These numbers are heartbreaking and are a reminder why the Heart of Georgia Healthy Start Coalition’s work is so important.

“We have had several stillbirths within the last couple of years,” Elbert said. “We’ve had some that died from (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) a couple

of years ago. Our rates in the South Central Health District are not as bad as Georgia’s rates.”

Elbert said people pushing empty strollers is a powerful visual reminder of the babies who should be in them.

“Each empty stroller represents a life that mattered, a family that grieves, and a community committed to making sure every baby has the opportunity to survive and thrive,” she said.

“The event will provide an opportunity for families, community partners, healthcare professionals, faith-based organizations, local leaders, and advocates to come together in remembrance while also shining a light on the importance of maternal and infant health.”

For more information, call (478) 274-7616 or go to heartofgeorgiahealthystart.org.

SCHOOL BOARD
Continued from page 1

promised but failed to fix its long-running deficit. It also revealed how the district, with little to no oversight from the local board, nearly misspent and mismanaged its way into insolvency after an influx of more \$19 million in federal COVID money led to over-hiring and overpaying staff.

State and federal criminal investigations into the district's finances are ongoing.

After a 30-day waiting period, which should end next week, the suspended

board members have the next 30-day window to petition the governor individually for reinstatement, which would be decided at another hearing. Any board member who does not petition would be permanently removed.

The law calls for the governor to suspend the board with pay, which Dublin's members were. However, board members are paid only for meetings they attend, and the suspended board members already had agreed to forfeit their pay with the system struggling.

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.

NEWS DIGEST

THE LAURENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION will meet for a work session on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 5 p.m. in the Laurens County Board Room. Following that meeting, the board will hold its first public hearing on the millage rate at 6 p.m. On Thursday, Sept. 10, the board will meet for their regular monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. also held in the board room.

The following is the agenda for the work shop, at 5 p.m. on Sept. 8:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- Discussions:
- Spending resolution
- Board policy GARH: Employee leaves and absences
- Board policy IDE (3): Competitive interscholastic activities
- Board policy JCDAF: Use of electronic devices by students
- Board policy JBC: School admissions
- Board policy: JAA: Equal educational opportunities
- Board policy: IHF: Graduation requirements
- Board policy: Promotion and retention
- FY 26 local school board governance annual report
- FY 27 local school board training plan
- Executive session - personnel

- Adjourn

The following is the agenda for the first public hearing at 6 p.m. on Sept. 8:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- First public hearing - millage rate
- Adjourn

The following is the agenda for the regular board meeting, at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 10:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- Clean school recognition
- FY District academic update
- Approval of spending resolution
- Approval of the FY 26 local school board governance annual report
- Approval of the FY 27 local school board training plan
- Second reading and approval of policies:
- Board policy GARH: Employee leaves and absences
- Board policy IDE (3): Competitive interscholastic activities
- Board policy JCDAF: Use of electronic devices by students
- Board policy JBC: School admissions
- Board policy: JAA: Equal educational opportunities

- Board policy: IHF: Graduation requirements
- Board policy: Promotion and retention
- Consent agenda
- Audience participation
- Executive session - personnel
- Approval of personnel
- Superintendent and board member comments

The City of East Dublin Mayor and Council does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at City Hall located at 116 Savannah Avenue, East Dublin, Georgia on <u>September 14, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.</u> pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A 43-5-32, 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 TAX DIGEST AND 5-YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY					
City of East Dublin	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Real & Personal	49,689,851	53,571,802	65,161,060	69,975,649	75,528,814
Motor Vehicles	893,552	879,041	824,016	744,645	776,464
Mobile Homes	421,304	538,996	694,718	842,771	1,179,243
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	0	3,528,708	434,609	1,676,879	353,131
Gross Digest	51,004,707	58,518,547	67,114,403	73,239,944	77,837,652
Less M&O Exemptions	642,697	876,306	828,130	3,413,905	4,607,881
Net M&O Digest	50,362,010	57,642,241	66,286,273	69,826,039	73,229,771
Gross M&O Millage	9.696	10.343	11.311	10.798	11.354
Less Rollbacks	-6.046	-6.703	-7.671	-7.330	-8.074
Net M&O Millage	3.650	3.640	3.640	3.468	3.280
Net Taxes Levied	183,821	209,818	241,282	242,157	240,194
Net Taxes \$ Increase/Decrease	2,650	25,997	31,464	875	-1,963
Net Taxes % Increase/Decrease	0	0.1	0.1	0	0



SHIELDS & SPURS
Continued from page 1

Pros — and amateurs — compete at the second annual Shields & Spurs Rodeo at Southern Pines/DANNY SCARBORO

while I'm doing it," Yar-brough said. "I have worked on an ambulance for seven months to do clinicals and I did 12-hour shifts. I kind of have a good idea what I would be doing. That's how I know this is for me."

Harrison, who was a member of the Oconee Drug Task Force, was killed in the line of duty on Oct. 9, 2021 outside the Alamo Police Department. That was his first shift working part-time for the APD.

Funds from this rodeo will help the foundation assist others with their public safety careers.

"I am hoping that this rodeo will get bigger each year," Kathy said. "We have more law enforcement here this year. The businesses and sponsors have been wonderful. It means the world to us that so many people have come out."

She also thanked Misty Brantley, the director and founder of the rodeo, for what she put to making the rodeo a success.

"She is amazing," Kathy said. "(Brantley) has put so much into this."



A LEADER FOR DUBLIN

A Voice for Community Banking Across Georgia

Jeremy Ragan

Named to Community Bankers Association
Board of Directors





Herald the Hound stopped by Dublin's Susie Dasher Elementary School last week and visited with students in Mrs. Sierra Smith's class. After reading the classic book "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," a story about a bird over eager to get behind the wheel of a large automobile, the students broke out their pencils and wrote about their favorite animals.



Dogs, cats and monkeys were the favorite animals of the kids in Mrs. Smith's class. See below for one of the responses from last week's worksheet.

After story time, the students dove into the newspaper and completed the Kids' Corner worksheet.



Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

X I F O E P B T U S P O B V U T F B U

U I F J S N J E - E B Z N F B M ?

B U M B V O D I U J N F .

WORKSHEET OF THE WEEK

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

baby muck
it Live in my home it is
so cute it ned to edt baby
muck fube!

MINI SUDOKU

	3				
6		4			
		1			6
	6			4	
			5		4
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

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

Puzzles4Kids Answer

When do astronauts eat their mid-day meal?
At launch time.

WORKSHEET OF THE WEEK

Write the definition of each word:

Character _____

Challenge _____

Problem _____

Solution _____

Feeling _____

Brave _____

Choice _____

Lesson _____