

DUBLIN FARMERS MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY, APR 4 TO OCT 11

7:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

MARKET ON MADISON

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National Cinnamon Roll Day at the Farmers Market! Free cinnamon rolls while supplies last!

VENDORS FOR SATURDAY
October 3, 2026 (7:30 AM to 12:30 PM)

Sweet Rubys

Cheesestraws

Jos'Pee Berry Farm

Blueberries, Chicken Salad

Backyard Shed

Bread, Jellies, Cakes

Eden Organics

Produce

Shemeka Smith

Hair & Body Care, Juices

Off the Farm Produce

Produce

Boyd's Knives

handmade knives

Jordan Farms

Produce

Kaleigh Jordan

Produce

Hot Rod's Ohoopie Grilling Sauce

BBQ Sauce

Riverbend Meadow Market

Produce

Moss & Bloom

Sea Moss & Teas

Colbey Asbell

Baked Goods & Lemonade

From Andrew's Oven

Baked Goods

Crown & Spore

Gourmet Mushrooms

Jewelry by Keen

Handmade Jewelry

Breaking Bread with Winnie

Baked Goods

Lord's Coffee

Roasted Whole Bean Coffee

Donna Todd

plants and flowers

Muddy Cups & Coffee

iced coffee

The Mustard Seed Farm

Baked Goods

Holi Crop Micro Farm

Micro Greens

Parker Dairy Flower Farm

Flowers

Core Matcha

Matcha Drinks

Cathaleen Traylor

Farm Fresh Eggs

Willhouse Creations

Baked Goods & Handmade items

Beth Wood Natural Guru

Essential Oils

Oneal Honey Farm

Raw Local Honey

Pack's Home & Kitchen

Baked Goods

The Citrus Social

Lemonade

Crumbs of Joy

Baked Goods

We are an authorized SNAP/EBT market.

Teen dies after being thrown from truck

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A teenage passenger died Sunday night after she was thrown from a truck that ran a stop sign and struck two vehicles, the Georgia State Patrol said.

Ella Grace Jenkins, 18, of Gray, was transported to Fairview Park

Hospital and pronounced dead by an emergency room doctor at 9:02 p.m. Sunday, said Laurens County Deputy Coroner Nathan Stanley.

"It's a sad situation," he said.

According to the Georgia State Patrol, troopers from Post 20 responded to the crash that happened at the intersection of U.S. 441 South and Springhaven Road

around 8:29 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27.

The investigation revealed that a 2020 Chevrolet Colorado, driven by Kuper Knowles, 18, of Macon was traveling east on Springhaven Road and entered U.S. 441. The Colorado hit the left side of a flat-bed trailer being pulled by a 1995 Peterbilt 379, driven by Chandler

Clay Stuckey of Rhine, that was heading north on 441. The impact caused the Colorado to rotate as it began traveling north in the south-bound lane.

The Colorado then struck the front of a 2015 Chevrolet Camaro, driven by Edie Evette Daniel of Rentz, that was heading south on 441.

Members of the Trinity honor choir wave American flags while singing/PAYTON TOWNS III

Franklinia trees return to Dublin as part of Liberty Trees for America's 250

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Franklinia tree is back in Dublin.

The John Laurens Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, in partnership with the City of Dublin, Erin Garden Club and Home2Suites, held a Liberty Trees for America's 250 – A Constitution Day Tree Dedication Ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 17 at Mayor Grady Wright Park, 300 North Church St.

Karen Haggard, with the NSDAR, said their organization has been finding ways across the country to find different ways to commemorate the 250th year of America.

"It is our hope that these Liberty trees that we plant today, on Constitution Day,

A Franklinia tree was dedicated in Mayor Grady Wright Park/PAYTON TOWNS III

FRANKLINIA TREES
Continued on page 8

Theatre Dublin seeks more outside lighting

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

When it comes to entertainment, the first word out of the director's mouth is normally "lights" followed by "action." While the action has been on the rise at Theatre Dublin during the last four years, there is a big need for more lights around the venue.

"We have asked the city of Dublin if we can have additional lights outside of the building," Glenda Berry, Theatre Dublin director, informed the Dublin Downtown Development Authority during its recent meeting held on Sept. 26. "I just want people to be safe around there."

The theater's marquee needs repair and a floor for the stage is also needed. Berry said there is always something that needs to be done at the theater.

"I am so grateful for the chance to do live theater," Berry said. "We are expecting to gross at least \$160 thousand for our shows. I think we will have a strong upcoming season."

Berry mentioned multiple Dublin Community Theatre productions in the works, including "Elf Jr. The Musical" (Nov. 20-22), "Greater Tuna" (Jan. 28-

30) and "Steel Magnolias" (Feb. 19-21).

Berry reported that the use of Theatre Dublin has tripled since 2022.

"We went from 71 days of use, and that's outside the use of Connection Church, to 236 days of projected in 2026," she said. "I'm proud that we are using the theater more. I'd like to see us get up close to 300 days of use."

Board members appreciated the information about the use of the theater.

"That theater has never been used like it is right now," said board member Jack Walker. "It's amazing."

Berry said they have been asked to make a presentation for the Georgia Presenters at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta on Oct. 5.

"We will be talking about what we have been doing to grow our theater," she said. "I'm really happy and excited that they have asked us to do that."

Office space

The board talked about a new office needed and a plan to move at least two of its members – Berry and Cochran - out of Theatre Dublin. Currently, Padgett,

DOWNTOWN
Continued on page 8

Homecoming 2026: West Laurens High crowns its queen and king

West Laurens High School celebrated homecoming last Friday during the Raiders' 21-0 win over Southeast Bulloch. Marleigh Johnson was crowned homecoming queen, and Jalen Cordy was crowned king/LYLE DORMAN

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Miss Black Dublin Scholarship Pageant contestants gathered for a photo at the fountain downtown near Theatre Dublin/SPECIAL PHOTO, Betta Focus Photography

Miss Black Dublin Scholarship Pageant to be held Saturday as event returns to fall

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

The Miss Black Dublin Scholarship Pageant returns to its fall origins for its 13th year of competition.

This reformatting program focuses on providing monetary scholarships to eligible young women seeking advanced educational opportunities. The event will be held at the Dublin High School Auditorium on Saturday, Oct. 3 starting at 5 p.m. Seven young ladies representing Dublin/Laurens County school systems will vie for the title of Miss Black Dublin as well as the winner of the eight different award categories.

The program operates under the umbrella of the Dublin-Laurens Black History Festival Community Committee.

Meet the contestants:

- Kendall Chapman - 16-year-old junior at Dublin High School daughter of Mrs. Amber Guyton and Mr. Christopher Guyton
- Aquene Coleman- 14-year-old freshman at West Laurens High School daughter of Mrs. Tawatha and Mr. Germany Coleman
- Chelsi Dennard- 15-year-old sophomore at West Laurens High School daughter of Mrs. Erika and Mr. Chad Dennard
- Sydney Howard- 16-year-old junior at West Laurens High School daughter of Mrs. Tammy and Mr. Charles Howard

MISS BLACK DUBLIN
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OBITUARIES



Michelle West Foskey

Michelle West Foskey, passed away on Sept. 27, 2026, at the age of 62, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on March 21, 1964, and lived a life marked by love, service, and devotion to the people around her. She will be remembered as a loving, passionate, and selfless woman whose presence brought comfort, strength and kindness to her family and all who knew her.

Michelle was preceded in death by her mother, Mozelle Conner Sanders; her father, Peter West; her nephew, Brad Neesmith; and her grandson, Colten Foskey. Though her passing leaves a deep void, her memory remains a lasting source of comfort to those who loved her most. Her life was a reflection of the values she held dear, and her legacy will continue through the generations of family she cherished so deeply.

She is survived by her children, Amber Graham and her husband Jon; Jaime Foskey and his wife Hannah; and Dusty Foskey and his wife Haley. She also leaves behind a beautiful family of grandchildren, Blake Graham, Tex Edge, Terrie Lynn Edge, Aimee Grayce Edge, Hunter Foskey, Makinlee Cox, Brody Foskey, Briah Foskey, Knox Foskey, and Brinley Foskey, as well as her great-grandchild, Hadee Layne Mimbs. She is also survived by several sisters, brothers, nieces, and nephews. She treasured each member of her family and found great joy in being a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her love for them was steady, unconditional, and deeply felt in every part of her life.

Michelle graduated from Montgomery County High School in 1982. She later earned her paralegal degree from Heart of Georgia in 1998, where she also served on the student council. She was proud of her education and the opportunities it created for her, and she carried herself with determination and purpose throughout her life. In her community, Michelle was known for her involvement and her trail-blazing spirit. She served as the first female board member with the Laurens County Sportsman's Club, a role that reflected both her strength of character and her willingness to step forward and lead. Her presence in that role helped open doors for others and stood as a testament to her courage and perseverance.

Above all else, Michelle loved her family deeply. She was always giving, always helping, and always ready to support those in need. Her life was defined by compassion and generosity, and she touched many lives through simple acts of kindness and steadfast care. Those who knew her will remember her warm heart, her selfless nature, and the way she made others feel seen, valued, and loved.

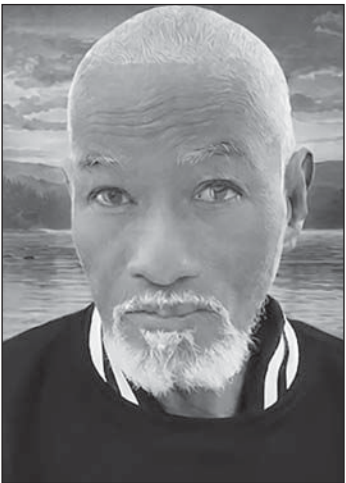
The family will receive friends from 5: p.m. until 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Blackville Church of God in Adrian, Ga. Committal will follow at

Faith Christian Assembly of God Cemetery in East Dublin, Ga.

Honorary pallbearers will be Shawn NeeSmith, Steven Garrett, David Warnock, Jody Ivey, Ken Johnson, Keaven Williamson, Tyler Stone, Christopher Guthrie, Caleb Guthrie, John Kight and Kelvin Kight.

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please visit www.townsendfuneral-home.com for service updates and to sign the online memorial register.



Kenneth Wiley

Graveside services for Mr. Kenneth Wiley will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Murray Family Cemetery, 439 Barnes Road in East Dublin.

Kenneth was born on March 11, 1952, to the late Mary Dean Lattimore and the late Blanche Wiley. Though his parents preceded him in death many years ago, the love and values they instilled in him remained a part of who he was throughout his life.

Kenneth was a proud military veteran who dedicated years of his life to serving his country. After completing his military career, he entered retirement, where he was able to spend more time enjoying the people and things that brought him happiness. His service was a meaningful part of his life and a testament to his dedication, strength and commitment.

Above all else, Kenneth was a father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. His three beautiful daughters held an especially precious place in his heart. He cherished and loved them deeply: Kenisea Wiley, affectionately known as “Baby Girl,” in Italy; Vandricka Murray, “Half-Pint,” in Atlanta; and Alexis Wiley, “Small-Fry,” in Indiana. No matter where life took his daughters, the bond between a father and his girls remained strong. They were a source of love, pride and joy in his life.

Kenneth leaves behind his beloved siblings, Mamie Pierce, Juanita Davis, Mary Outlaw, Jerry Wiley and his devoted sister-in-law Barbara, Ricky Wiley (Mary) and Debra Young, along with a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends who were blessed to know and love him.

Among those especially dear to his heart was his devoted and beloved niece, Alice Gordon, affectionately known as “Black Gal.” Their special bond was one of the many relationships that brought warmth and meaning to Kenneth's life.

Kenneth was a man who believed in helping others whenever he could. He was truly a jack of all trades—if something needed fixing, building, cooking, figuring out, or simply getting done, Kenneth was often the person people called. He had a giving spirit and was the kind of man who would lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it.

He enjoyed the simple pleasures of life; being by the water with a fishing rod in his hand was one of his favorite pastimes. There was something peaceful about the water that Kenneth appreciated, and fishing gave him the opportunity to relax, reflect, and enjoy the moment.

Although our hearts are broken by his passing, we

find comfort knowing that his suffering has ended and that the love he gave so freely will never leave us. His stories will be told, his favorite sayings will be remembered, his recipes will be cherished, and the lessons he taught through his life will continue through generations.

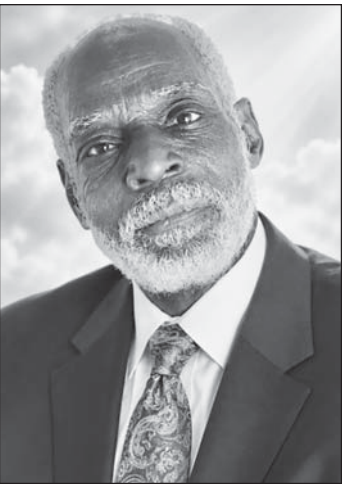
Kenneth may have left this world, but he will never leave the hearts of those who loved him. His daughters, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews, family and friends will carry his memory forward, honoring the life he lived and the love he gave.

Rest peacefully, Kenneth. Your work here is done. Your legacy lives on.

You will be deeply missed, forever loved and never forgotten.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Jimmy Lee Gregory

Funeral services for Mr. Jimmy Lee Gregory will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the C.D. Dudley Memorial Chapel in the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street in Dublin. Interment will follow in the Carter Cemetery.

Mr. Jimmy Lee Gregory was born on Dec. 16, 1953. He departed his earthly tabernacle on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, at the age of 72 years old.

He attended Johnson County High School and received his diploma in 1974. During his high school years, he joined the band and played the drums. After high school he went on to work for Hicks Grocery Store, Crowntex, J.P. Stevens, and Graham and Global Construction. He enjoyed spending time with family, friends, fishing, watching football, playing pool, eating soul food – especially fried chicken and fish. Lastly, he was known for cruising the neighborhood and the town in his truck.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents, Mrs. Maudie Lue Hurst Gregory and Elmo Gregory; siblings, James Elmer, Willie Cleveland, Johnny Edward, Herbert Eugene, Samuel Hurst Gregory; and one son, Broderick Butler.

He leaves his memories to be cherished by his surviving brothers, Walter Lee “Pete” (Tressie) Gregory and Thomas Hayward (Calvary) Gregory; two sisters-in-law, Willene Gregory and Brown; son, Kevin Butler; grandson, Notorious Smith; bonus daughter, Kenyanna (Ken-Ken) McClendon; two great-granddaughters, Maelani Averhart and Khia Johnson; two great-grandsons, Kelvion & Kelvin King; devoted niece, Shelia Mc Gregory; and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Larry "Whirl" Smith

Funeral services for Mr. Larry "Whirl" Smith will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026 at 11 a.m. at the C.D. Dudley Memorial Chapel in the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street in Dublin.

Larry "Whirl" Smith was born on Nov. 28, 1956, in Dublin, Georgia. On Sept. 26, 2026, Larry departed this life, leaving behind a legacy of love and cherished memories.

Larry was born to Geraldine (Smith) Whirl and Joe Solomon. He was lovingly raised by his mother, Geraldine, and James Whirl.

He attended West Laurens High School, where he played basketball. In his early years, Larry held several jobs, including work as a truck driver, landscaper and he worked for Mohawk. Larry was a member of St. Luke Baptist Church in Dexter, Ga. He loved doing transportation for the community in his own vehicle. Through the years, he was known for the love he had for his family and for cherishing the moments they shared together.

Larry leaves to cherish his memory his uncle, James (Naomi) Smith of Macon, Georgia; his aunts, Lois Mitchell and Shirley Smith, both of Marietta, Georgia; Iris Rozier of Dublin, Georgia; Wilful Jean Davis (Clifford Smith, deceased) of Dublin, Georgia; Barbara Jean Howard, a cousin who was like an aunt, of Dublin, Georgia; and a host of cousins, family and friends.

Though Larry is no longer with us in the way we once knew, the memories, laughter, love, and moments shared with him will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
King Features

* Here's a tip for you waist-watchers out there: Wait until Halloween Day to buy the candy. The in-house sweets won't be haunting you throughout October.

* Update window treatments to compensate for dropping temperatures. Trade your sheers for sturdy, draft-blocking panels.

* "To keep sauces from splattering and dirtying the inside of your microwave, cover the food with a damp paper towel or a coffee filter." -- E.C. in Utah

BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 1

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Ricky Jones
Malina McClendon

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TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

Shingles patient feels no pain due to vaccination

By DR. KEITH ROACH
King Features

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was reading your recent column about shingles. Several years ago, I contracted shingles, even after getting the vaccine. It hit me in my left eye, so I went to my eye doctor. (I wasn't sure what the problem was.) He took one look at my eye and diagnosed me with shingles.

He gave me an antibiotic that cleared up the problem. At no time was I in any pain, which I attributed to my getting the vaccine. Do you concur with my observation? I'm aware that getting shingles can be very painful. -- L.J.

ANSWER: Shingles is caused by a reactivation of the chicken pox virus, which most older adults acquired as children with chicken pox. But it can also be acquired through the chicken pox (varicella) vaccine. Usually, shingles is painful as it grows in the nerve, causing inflammation and damage. The vaccine helps reduce the risk of getting shingles; however, it isn't perfect, and people can still get shingles despite being vaccinated.

Fortunately, the vaccine has two additional benefits. The first is that, as you correctly surmised, it reduces the pain of acute shingles. It also reduces pain medication use by 40% and the duration of pain meds by 50%. I think you're relatively fortunate to not have any pain at all. The second benefit is that vaccination reduces, by about 90%, the likelihood of getting continued pain for weeks and months after the infection -- a condition called postherpetic neuralgia.

Shingles is sometimes so obvious that any experienced clinician can make the diagnosis at a glance. However, it can be misdiagnosed as herpes simplex (and vice versa), other viruses, or even bacterial infections. The laboratory can be very helpful when the diagnosis isn't clear.

Antiviral medicines such as valacyclovir (Valtrex) are effective at reducing pain and inflammation, and it's best to begin them as soon as possible (ideally within 24 hours, but certainly within 72 hours of the onset of the rash).

Shingles of the eye should be urgently seen by an ophthalmologist, who has equipment and expertise that primary care clinicians don't. There are complications of the eye that may require intravenous antiviral medicine. All adults over 50 and immunocompromised adults of any age should get the shingles vaccine, unless there's a good reason for them not to get it.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Should one get the COVID vaccine when they suspect that they have active long COVID? How can one rebuild a good immune system after long COVID? -- C.B.

ANSWER: Yes, a COVID vaccine is indicated. The vaccine is safe in people with persistent symptoms after a COVID infection, which is commonly called "long COVID." Most people don't see a change in their symptoms. About 20% of people experience improvement, while an equal number experienced a (usually temporary) worsening of their symptoms. The vaccine helps protect people against getting long COVID with future infections.

Regaining normal strength, vitality and resilience after long COVID takes time. The recommended interventions include a tailored exercise program, as people with long COVID have a reduced ability to exercise, and standard recommendations may be too strenuous. At least one study found a benefit for six months of probiotics and prebiotics helping people to recover. Proper sleep hygiene with a goal of 6-8 hours may help. Stress management and psychological support may also play important roles.

There's not a magic bullet when it comes to recovering from long COVID. I have several patients who continue to struggle after getting a severe infection during the beginning of the pandemic, which was more than six years ago now.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.
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James W. Bedingfield - Semper Fidelis

They called it “island hopping.” It was the methodical but deadly process of re-taking one Japanese-held island after another to regain control of the Pacific Ocean. The United States Marine Corps bore the brunt of the vicious amphibious assaults on these small islands, which were well defended by Japanese soldiers, who fought until the last man was standing or hiding in small caves or other concealed positions. Sixty years ago this Friday, a young Laurens County man exhibited extraordinary courage and heroism in saving his fellow soldiers from sure death. This is the story of Corporal James W. Bedingfield.

James W. Bedingfield grew up during the Depression on a farm two miles west of Cadwell, in Laurens County, Georgia. As a young child, he had never heard of far away places like Saipan, Kwajalein, or Iwo Jima. He begged his father William Henry Bedingfield, to let him enlist in the Marine Corps at the age of seventeen. At the end of the second decade of his life, Bedingfield would learn all too well the indescribable horrors that would happen on the otherwise enchanting islands.

Bedingfield’s untested and newly-formed 4th Marine Division was assigned to take a portion of the Kwajalein Atoll, known as Roi-Namur, on Feb. 1, 1944. The sight of a great naval armada supporting the amphibious invasion made a lasting impression on the country boy from Cadwell. Bedingfield and his fellow Marines climbed down from their ship on a rope ladder into a landing craft, which was waiting below for the short trip to the beach, the deadliest place to be in an invasion. Strong waves rocked the L.C.I. as it approached the shoreline. As the boat came ashore, it slammed into the sand. Its cargo of Marines lunged forward. Lt. Davis was stabbed by one of the fixed bayonets. The platoon evacuated the craft and headed for the beach. Corporal Bedingfield was among the last to disembark into the shallow water. Straight ahead was his only move. Only four of his men were in sight. Bedingfield instinctively moved toward a large concrete structure, where his platoon had stopped - a fact unrealized by the corporal until he arrived.

As the platoon moved forward, Bedingfield kept one eye fixed forward, while the other was scanning the trees for any signs of lethal snipers. As he approached a small lane, Bedingfield looked around and saw only one other Marine. The platoon members spread out to a distance of ten yards from each other. Bedingfield saw movement ahead. It was a Japanese soldier who had not noticed his presence.

The Marine corporal dropped to his knees, slowly moved his M-1 rifle from his shoulder, and fired one round at the chest of the enemy soldier. He caught spasmodic glimpses of a rifle in the bushes. After two more shots, the movement stopped.

Bedingfield looked around again. He saw a blockhouse and then turned his head toward where he had just fired. About three hundred yards down the road, there was a group of Japanese soldiers scrambling around without any apparent purpose. Bedingfield, now basically alone, decided to look for the best way out. He made an instant decision to fire in the direction of the Japanese soldiers in hopes that his firing would entice other members of the platoon to begin firing so that he could make it back to his unit. What happened next is best described by Bedingfield himself.

“As I opened fire, I realized that my rifle was not properly zeroed in as I had never had the chance to fire it on the rifle range to properly adjust the sights. Consciousness came back slowly and I thought it was raining. It was not rain, but blood flowing from my head and neck onto the dry leaves. As I determined the nature and place of my injury, I realized that I had been shot from the location of a small blockhouse. This was quickly verified by the sound of a tank approaching our position. It stopped in the position that placed me halfway between the tank and the blockhouse. I don’t know who fired first, but as far as I was concerned, the battle of Armageddon broke out and I was in the middle. After an eternity, the firing ceased, and I quickly ran to the tank and asked about our unit and told the tank driver that I would get my buddy and follow the tank to an infantry unit. At that moment I felt something tugging at my sleeve and backpack. I realized that it was bullets tugging at my clothing and gear. I went back and pulled the other Marine up, and we followed the tank out,” Bedingfield recounted.

Corporal Bedingfield had wondered where that tank, that beautiful tank, which saved his life, had come from. More than fifty-five years after that day, he received a letter from Ed Brown. Brown was positioned behind a tree and witnessed the entire incident. “A machine gun opened up on you and wounded you several times in the back and the shoulder,” Brown wrote. “He didn’t do your pack any good either,” Brown added. Brown managed to evade being wounded and eased back toward the sound of a tank approaching from his rear. He directed the tank commander toward Corp. Bedingfield’s position. “I thank God, they got



By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.

you out,” exclaimed Brown. Bedingfield was flabbergasted to learn who had actually saved him that day - a day in which a bullet had penetrated his helmet and lodged in his neck and upper back - where it would remain for the rest of his life.

Bedingfield was evacuated to a hospital ship and returned to Maui for treatment. He returned to his unit in time to take part in the invasion of Saipan. It was on this island that Corporal Bedingfield was promoted to Sergeant. After the cataclysmic invasion of Iwo Jima, he received a battlefield commission as a lieutenant. By the end of the war, this country boy from Cadwell was promoted to Captain. After the war, Bedingfield returned to Georgia and obtained his Ph. D. in counseling. He retired after serving as the head of the Guidance Counselors of Muscogee County in Columbus, Georgia.

Marine Corporal James W. Bedingfield was awarded a Silver Star, the nation’s third-highest award for heroism, by Admiral Chester Nimitz for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the Japanese at Roi-Namur Island, Kwajalein Atoll, on Feb. 6, 1944. In summary, the order cited that Corp. Bedingfield, of the 4th Marine Division, took over command of his rifle squad after the leader was mortally wounded. He was wounded in the neck and shoulders, but refused to be evacuated until the squad was relieved. He directed his squad in the face of heavy enemy fire with skill, courage and devotion to duty with utter disregard of his own safety. The squad was finally relieved after four hours of fighting. Bedingfield’s actions were definitive of a true Marine. He was faithful to his God, faithful to his country, and faithful to his fellow soldier. In other words, he was as the Marine Corps proudly proclaims, “Semper Fidelis,” Always Faithful.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Did the lead of the movie 'Airplane' initially refuse to be in the movie?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

Now that the nonsense about my birthday is over, let’s get ready for something really special. I won’t get into it here. Just be sure you’re back with the column one week from today. It’s big. It’s huge. It’s something I have been working to achieve for a very, very long time. So don’t miss it. Be here. In the meantime, I hope you have a great time with the silly stuff that follows. Enjoy, as always!

Did you know...

... a European country existed for only 24 hours? On March 15, 1939, a tiny portion of eastern Europe declared itself the independent Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine. And they were ready. The people of the new nation had already elected a president, Rev. Augustin Voloshyn (1874-1945); designed a flag; and even wrote a national anthem. However, their time in the Sun was destined to be brief. The very next day, March 16, the Hungarian army invaded and annexed the country to Hungary. The Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine existed for one day. (But they made the best of it, it seems.)

... you can find a National Leprechaun Museum in Ireland? Located in Dublin, the museum is not just about the wee folk; it includes exhibits encompassing all kinds of Irish mythology and folklore. (Of course it’s located in Dublin. Where else would it be?)

... the first woman to own a professional baseball team did so in 1911? Helene Britton (1879-1950) assumed ownership of the St. Louis Cardinals that year. She sold the team in 1917. (I wouldn’t touch that with a baseball bat with cardinals sitting on it.)

... a dead jellyfish can still sting? (They just don’t realize they’re doing it.)

... an inventor built a huge mansion, spent one night in it, and nobody has lived in it since? In 1894, a man named William Wyckoff (1835-1895), who designed a new kind of typewriter for the Remington Arms Company, commissioned the construction of a house on Carleton Island on the St. Lawrence River in upstate New York. When the mansion was completed, Wyckoff moved in, spent one night, then died of a heart attack. The family lost its fortune in the Depression and had to sell the mansion, having never lived in it. Planned uses for the mansion and property never panned out, and it’s been vacant since 1895 – and for sale since 2012. (A bargain at any price.)

... one of the actors in the classic 1980 comedy film Airplane! initially rejected being in the movie? Peter Graves (1926-2010), a serious dramatic actor, was at first repulsed by the script for the spoof, calling it “the worst taste” and “the most disgusting piece of trash I ever read in my life.” He gave a hard pass to playing the role of Captain Clarence Oveur, but following a

meeting with producers Jerry Zucker (born 1950), Jim Abrahams (1944-2024) and David Zucker (born 1947), Graves reconsidered and (somewhat reluctantly) accepted the role. Later, Graves said, “They say you’re supposed to stretch as an actor,” as a reason for playing the part. It must have worked; Graves reprised the ridiculous role two years later in Airplane II: The Sequel. Additional trivia note: Graves’ change of heart may have also been helped by the reaction of another classic dramatic actor in the film, Robert Stack (1919-2003). Stack, whose last comedy role had been in 1942, finally realized that “we are the joke,” meaning serious actors like himself being parodied in the film. (And don’t call me Shirley.)

... a supermarket chain’s name came about because its founder did not like credit? The Safeway chain of grocery stores was founded in 1915 by Marion Barton Skaggs (1888-1976), a businessman and preacher who thought credit purchases were evil. The name of the store came about because Skaggs felt a cash-only store was the “safe way” to shop. Shoppers only bought what they could pay for with cash on hand, and that kept the company from sinking during the Great Depression of 1929-1935. (Wonder what he’d think of a “cashless society”?)

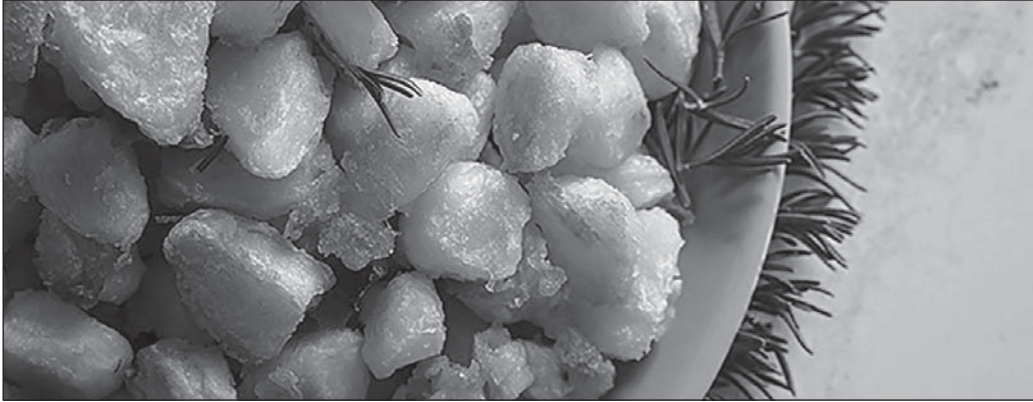
... the people who make major league baseballs are very poorly paid? A worker in Costa Rica who makes baseballs earns about \$2,750 a year. Looking at modern MLB player salaries, that means the pitcher who throws the ball probably earns more per pitch than the maker of the ball earns annually. (Which is troublesome on many levels, if you ask me.)

... on average, men marry women who are three years younger than themselves? That’s a world-wide average. In the United States, it goes a bit further. Men who remarry in the U.S. choose a wife about five years younger; those going for a third time down the aisle generally choose a wife eight years younger. (I have a line here, but it would close the show.)

... you should be careful about burying your pet in the back yard? You could have an experience like the one had by a family in Modesto, California. When the pet owner dug a hole to bury a beloved pet in 2018, the man discovered something had already been buried there – a person, in an advanced state of decomposition. (How would you like to read that police report?)

... a Japanese rail station had a stationmaster that was not human? From 2007 to 2015, the Kishi rail station in Japan’s Wakayama prefecture was run by Tama, a calico cat. Tama (1999-2015) was the actual stationmaster, too, wearing a special cap and greeting visitors at the gate. (And he worked for a low salary, too.)

Now... you know!



DIVA ON A DIME

My mother’s roast potatoes: Shaken not stirred

By PATTI DIAMOND
King Features

My mother was not what anyone could call an enthusiastic cook. She cooked because her family insisted on needing dinner every evening. But she could make a roast potato better than anyone.

Her potatoes came out of the oven deeply golden and crisp outside, with soft, fluffy centers. They were flavorful enough to eat just as they were, no butter, toppings or gravy required. Although, if you enjoy gilding lilies, a little gravy never hurts.

Like many British cooks, Mom began with russet potatoes, peeled and cut into generous chunks. She boiled them until nearly cooked through, drained them and gave the covered pot a vigorous shake. That rough treatment wasn’t incidental. It created ragged, floury edges that became extraordinarily crisp in the oven.

Her seasoning was salt. Pepper was considered “spicy” to her cautious British palate. My American father compensated by adding enough pepper at the table to make his potatoes blackened.

Her big trick was adding a little baking soda to the cooking water. The alkaline water helps soften the potatoes’ outer surfaces and release more starch. Shaking creates a craggy coating that becomes wonderfully crunchy in the oven.

Moderate heat matters, too. Starting potatoes in cold water helps the centers and outsides cook evenly. Bring them to a boil over medium-high

heat, then reduce the heat promptly. High heat can leave the centers lagging while the outsides soften excessively and begin breaking apart. Remember this when making mashed potatoes, too; unevenly cooked potatoes is what causes lumps.

Finally, let the potatoes steam dry, preheat the oil and leave room between pieces. Crowd them and they steam politely. Give them elbow room and they develop bronzed, brittle shells that make people stand there and eat them right off the baking pan.

**MOM’S
MAGNIFICENT
ROAST POTATOES**
*Yield: 4-6 servings
Total Time: 1 hour 30 minutes*

3-4 pounds russet potatoes
1 tablespoon kosher salt, plus more for serving
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 cup olive oil, divided
Black pepper, optional

Preheat oven to 400 F. Peel potatoes and cut them into 2-inch chunks. Place in a large pot and add enough cold water to cover them by 1 inch. Add kosher salt and baking soda. The water should be well seasoned. Think ocean water, not bathwater.

Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, reduce heat and simmer 10 to 15 minutes, until nearly cooked through but not falling apart. A knife should meet just a little resistance in the center. Meanwhile, pour 3 ta-

blespoons olive oil onto a large, rimmed baking sheet. Place it in the oven for about 10 minutes, until the oil is hot and shimmering.

Drain potatoes thoroughly and let them steam dry in the colander for 2 minutes. Return them to the pot with lid and shake vigorously. Like James Bond’s martini, they should be shaken, not stirred. Their surfaces should become rough, floury and slightly mashed around the edges.

Drizzle with the remaining tablespoon olive oil and turn gently to coat. Carefully transfer potatoes to the hot baking sheet; they should sizzle on contact. Turn each piece in the oil and arrange with space between them. Give them a liberal sprinkle of salt.

Roast without disturbing for 25 minutes. Turn the pieces and roast 15 to 20 minutes longer, or until deeply browned, crisp and audibly crunchy. Optional: Broil them a few minutes for extra color and crunch.

Serve hot, after sampling at least one directly from the pan for quality control purposes. This is both wise and necessary.

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 [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com (c) 2026 King Features

If the election were held today ...

“If the election were held today” is how questions for polls are framed. It’s used to get a snapshot of where things are now. There is sleight of hand involved to then use the results to project what will happen later. The chasm in between makes a huge difference.

Let’s first differentiate between two kinds of polls. There are those done mostly for media purposes. Some are done by news outlets themselves, while others are done by groups who wish to generate news coverage. Some of the latter are by supporters of a candidate, often laundered through “independent, nonpartisan” organizations. Others are from interest groups that want to influence a particular issue by injecting it into a campaign.

These are usually the cheapest to perform, and are thus often shallow or superficial to the point that they should be ignored. Instead, they are amplified as was the intent of their design, to reinforce today’s snapshot as the foundation for what the sponsors wish the future to be.

Other polls, often commissioned by candidates or some of those same interest organizations for internal use, are much more complex and dive into subject matters more deeply. They cost several times more to produce than the others, because the data actually matters. While those who construct and conduct them fully understand the fleeting nature of asking how someone feels today, they also understand the purpose is to figure out what they must do to get the results they need much later.

This isn’t about whether or not you can or should believe polls. It’s about under-



By CHARLIE HARPER

standing what they are and are not.

Polls when properly constructed and executed remain fairly accurate in representing where things stand with public opinion on an issue or candidate on the day the questions are asked. The problem comes when we try to either assume that opinions are locked in stone, that others aren’t actively trying to change those opinions, or that someone will motivate or de-motivate some respondents. That’s before we consider that most people forget that in any statistical sample there is a “margin for error” which often can totally change the results if pushed to the extreme.

Let’s ignore the math and just focus on the concept and construct. Polls do not predict the future. They only tell you where things stand right now.

One of the most profound examples of this was the re-election campaign of President George H. W. Bush. In the spring the prior year, he had an 89% approval rating. Bill Clinton was fighting just to remain relevant while mired in multiple scandals. Even in the following June, Bush still led Clinton by 5 points.

Voters are fickle. More

importantly, they vote with self-interest – in private. Too many candidates and campaigns forget that while many recite the approved party lines and clap on command, what actually happens when it is time to make a decision in private can be a very different thing. Just ask a lot of skilled union members.

So now we approach the midterms, and the polls aren’t looking great for many Republicans. Many from the MAGA wing are still celebrating their achievements from 2024’s election, as if it were a permanent victory. Many voters are looking at promises that not only said that the rate of inflation would decrease, but that actual prices would come down.

The voters were angry in 2024. Inflation was too high. Our borders weren’t just open, but the Administration was flying immigrants in as asylum seekers by the tens of thousands. Americans who had just endured forced lockdowns and closed schools suddenly saw a new class of non-citizens at the front of the line for essential services.

President Trump’s initial approval ratings were higher than his first term. But as illustrated in the example

above, that was a snapshot in time.

Some Republican candidates chose to make their primaries about fealty to the President. They’re having a hard time now, as circumstances have changed.

Others, while not distancing themselves from the President, charted their own path and message. They were better suited for this stage of the cycle.

Chief among them here at home is Rick Jackson. While a self-made billionaire who has tailored his narrative as an outsider to mirror President Trump, he wasn’t the President’s endorsed candidate in the GOP primary. He’s thus had a wider birth to position where voters’ minds will be next month, as opposed to where they were a year ago.

Which brings us to a brief post on Twitter/X, from Washington pundit and UGA Alum Mary Katherine Ham. Sharing the campaigns most recent ad, she noted “Rick Jackson’s is the only campaign that has figured out how to effectively remind people how 2020 felt and that Dem leadership from that time will take you back there (because) they have never reckoned with mistakes. “Woke 1 was crazy” doesn’t answer this critique.”

The decision on who will lead Georgia will be made based on how voters feel between October 13th, the beginning of early voting, and November 3rd. The next month will be a battle between current grocery and gas prices versus memories of Covid shutdowns, protests, and unchecked lawlessness. Georgians will choose their future based on which days they remember the least fondly or more profoundly.

TELL IT!



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

Let me get this straight, Laurens County has \$20 million in the bank. That’s not enough... not clear what it’s not enough for, but it’s not enough for the commissioners so they want 30% more in taxes to add to the \$20 million they already have. It’s the stereotypical politician. More is never enough.

Is the county collecting rent on the grain cart at the end of Maddox Royster Road? Maybe they could sell it to keep the millage rate low. Could the sheriff department use it?

New houses on a new road between Claxton Dairy and Blackshear Ferry do not have street name signs. The sign bandit is not happy about it. What will it take to get signs put up? Can 911 help?

There are several Trinity Road signs missing. Claxton Dairy and Trinity Hills Dr. The sign bandit must be the only one that sees the missing signs. Help get them put back up.

The intention is not to prohibit prisoners from receiving quality medical care. The thought is that the state should build their own facility for this purpose. No one is safe at Fairview.

Is it normal for the mail to not be delivered until 5:30- 6 in the afternoon? I used to get it around 1-2. Have to check it several times throughout the day cause you never know when it’s coming.

I am really sick of

hearing the city manager, mayor and county administrator stating Dublin is a HUB all while trying to sell the FLOST tax increase. This is a joke and the citizens are not fed up with sales and property tax increases. Enough is enough.

I don’t have the authority to make someone leave a park. But someone with authority needs to go by the new Stubbs Park and get those big teenagers out of the playground playing football. There’s no reason for them to be playing football right there where the swings are.

Reference to homecoming, parents please have a nice talk with your kids. They can't play with everyone's house or vehicles. We laugh now and will be crying later. People work hard for the personal items.

It's a waste of time attending these county tax meetings. The school board and commissioners have already made up their minds. They are just going through a formality meeting policy. Just get ready!

They raised the rates and now they want you to vote on giving them more money with a FLOST. They will say approve it and it will lower your taxes. They always want more never less. Gaslighting at its finest!

Everyone pays bills in the whole wide world. Budgeting has been a problem for many. The storms of life period. Pray, pray, pray.

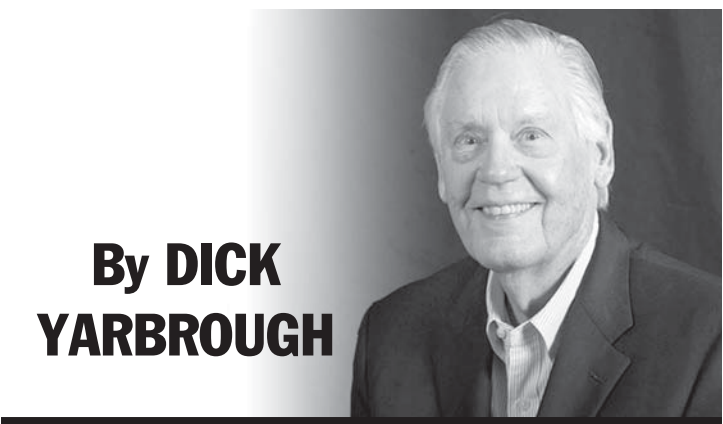
No debate that these should be great debates

Unless you have been living in a cave, you have no doubt been inundated with political ads from businessman Rick Jackson and former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who are running for governor; and incumbent Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican challenger Cong. Mike Collins, the two candidates vying for the U.S. Senate seat in Georgia. The ads are so incessant, we almost know them by heart. But what about the candidates themselves? How much do we know about them when they step out from in back of their ads?

You will get the chance to find out for yourself on Oct. 6 and Oct. 8. All four have agreed to face-to-face debates on WAFN in Atlanta and streamed on Gray Media stations live and statewide. The gubernatorial debate will take place on Oct. 6 at 8 p.m. and the Senate debate on Oct. 8 at 7p.m.

Frankly, I was surprised to hear the news. With the election just a bit more than a month away, why would the candidates want to expose themselves to their opponent? I asked WANF news anchor, Rick Folbaum, the man behind the project. How did he make it happen?

“As much as I’d like to take credit that I was able to earn the campaigns’ trust with my decades of experience and dazzling charm,” Folbaum quips, “the truth is these candidates want to be able to reach as many voters as possible and Gray



By DICK YARBROUGH

gives them that ability. This was our main selling point.” Gray owns stations in every major media market in Georgia, making them the only outlet that could offer live, primetime statewide coverage.

Folbaum says: “Back in February, I approached my bosses with the idea that WANF and Gray Media should host political debates ahead of the November midterms. They said, ‘Sure, go ahead and get the campaigns on board.’ That’s when I started reaching out to the campaigns to tell them what we wanted to do and make the case we could be trusted to do it.”

Since this was before the primaries, Folbaum called everyone. Once he knew the nominees from each party, he was able to focus on the two candidates for governor and the Senate.

Folbaum, a 30-year broadcast veteran, says he had contacted Ossoff’s office first, since he was running unopposed in the Democratic primary. Then he was in contact with communications directors and cam-

paign managers with the other candidates. “I wrote up proposals outlining our vision and shared them with the campaigns,” Folbaum told me. He followed up with regular phone calls offering to answer anyone’s questions or concerns.

“Deciding whether to take part in a debate and which debates to sign on to is no easy decision,” he says. “There is so much at stake in these elections and the campaigns, understandably, want to make sure they’re signing on to an event that will be carried out fairly for everyone involved.”

The gubernatorial debate is a town-hall-style debate. Some of those asking questions will be in the debate hall. Those who don’t live in metro Atlanta will have their questions recorded and played back for the candidates during the debate. Most importantly, the people asking the questions will go through a thorough vetting process to make sure they don’t have any affiliation with the campaigns or with any other political organization.

In the Senate debate, a panel of journalists from Gray Media stations in Albany, Macon, Savannah, Columbus and Augusta will ask the questions that reflect the concerns of voters in their particular area.

Folbaum says polls show most voters have already made up their minds. I agree, based on the “see-no-evil” responses I get from those who would support their candidate if he or she were seen running jaybird-naked down I-75. But the debates can also change minds if a participant does extremely well or very poorly. There is no safety net.

Your assignment: Tune in. Take off the blinders. Watch. Listen. Then decide who best can serve us in Washington and in the governor’s office. As for Folbaum, who will moderate the debates, he talked to Chris Wallace, with whom he had worked at Fox News. “Chris’s main piece of advice to me,” he said, “was to be as invisible as possible. If the headlines the next day are about the moderator, then you’ve done something wrong.”

Not much chance of that happening. So far, everything he had done has been right. Let the debates begin. And may they be great debates.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"In October any wonderful unexpected thing might be possible."

- Elizabeth George Speare

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord."

- Jeremiah 1:8

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

October 1, 2026 is...

- Bring Your Bible To School Day
- Balloons Around the World Day
- World Ballet Day
- National Hair Day
- National Squirrel Awareness Day
- Model T Day
- International Raccoon Appreciation Day
- International Music Day

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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

- Around 5:43 p.m. on Sept. 18, an officer responded to Stonewall Street in reference to an assault.

When the officer arrived, he met with a woman who said her son, identified as Mr. Page, had gotten into an argument with her, during which he began waving a gun around and pushed her to the ground. She said the argument began because she did not want to drive him to a baby shower.

The argument became heated and Page pulled out a gun and began waving it around. That is when she called 911. The officer talked with Page, who said he and his mother got into an argument. Page said he never touched his mother and that she was blowing the situation out of proportion.

A witness saw both of them get into an argument and saw Page push his mother to the ground. The witness did not see a firearm during the incident. The young man was arrested for the unwanted touching and pushing of his mother. He was transported to the sheriff's office and released to the booking staff.

- Danny Boston, 67, was charged with theft by shoplifting and obstruction of law enforcement officers at Dollar General on South Jefferson Street around 12:05 p.m. on Sept. 19.

The man was wearing all gray with a book bag heading toward Smith Street. An officer saw a man matching the description near the Cash and Carry. The man, later identified as Boston, was told by the officer that he was there to



POLICE BEAT...

investigate a theft at Dollar General. That is when the man ran away toward South Franklin Street. The man fell to the ground and the officer was able to arrest him.

While searching the man, the officer found multiple tide pods inside his clothing and other items. His book bag had other merchandise from Dollar General. Later, when the man's identification card was run, it turned out that Boston had nine prior shoplifting convictions.

The items taken from the store totaled \$125.90.

- Derek Kawliga Downs, 27, was charged with aggravated assault and cruelty to children in the third degree, around 3:44 p.m. on Sept. 23 at the Claxton Pointe North Apartments.

A woman called 911 and told them a man had pulled a knife on her.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- At 10 p.m. on Sept. 4, a physical altercation occurred

involving multiple people in a local restaurant on South Jefferson Street.

- Property was damaged on Ga. 257 at 4:35 a.m.

- At 10:24 a.m. on Sept. 9, a deputy was dispatched to a location on Pointe West Place in reference to an entered auto with a stolen gun.

- A deputy responded to the sheriff's office in response to a report of fraud that happened on Patisaul Road in Rentz around 11 a.m. on Sept. 10.

- A deputy met with a person at the sheriff's office about a report of fraud that occurred on Whittle Road in Cadwell around 3:40 p.m. on Sept. 10.

- Shaquail Latrice Dixon, 32, of Dublin was charged with disorderly conduct from a fight that happened on Brower Court at 4:25 p.m. on Sept. 11.

- On Sept. 11, a deputy was dispatched to Shaddock Creek Circle in reference to trespassing.

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.

Debate over data center growth in Georgia heats up race for governor

By ALANDER ROCHA
Georgia Recorder

As Georgia becomes a national leader in new data center construction, debate over how to regulate the booming industry has become a hot issue in the race for governor.

The two candidates have proposed contrasting visions for how to deal with the massive, power-hungry facilities that help power and advance artificial intelligence, but voters don't seem entirely sold on either's plan.

Democratic nominee Keisha Lance Bottoms, the former mayor of Atlanta, is pitching a statewide temporary "pause" on new data center construction to study the strain these facilities place on local communities, the environment and electricity bills, as well as potential benefits they may provide to some communities.

"Let us take a pause, assess fully, assess comprehensively, assess the impact that these data centers are having on our environment, on our utility bills, what it means to have them in communities," Bottoms said in a recent press conference in Cobb County, where local opposition to data centers has grown.

Her Republican opponent, healthcare executive Rick Jackson, a billionaire who has invested in a data center in Texas that has faced local opposition, has argued that local elected officials should have the authority to welcome or reject these projects. Jackson pitched his plan as an opportunity for local governments to bolster the

tax base and decrease – or even eliminate – residential property taxes.

"Every community should decide," Jackson said at a September press conference in Cobb County. "And every community should get a financial benefit to lower their property taxes or anything else, with the right guardrails on these data centers and making sure that they do everything right, this could be one of the biggest economic benefits to a community if they want one."

But some advocates and residents living near proposed data centers across the state worry that local communities lack the leverage to negotiate with data center developers, wonder whether the promise of lower property taxes will ever come true and question whether a temporary pause might lead to policy that effectively regulates these mammoth facilities.

Bottoms' push for a pause

In Cobb County, where county commissioners extended its local data center moratorium until early 2027, Bottoms said temporarily pausing construction on data centers would be one of the first things she would pursue as governor, though she was unsure whether it could be accomplished through an executive order or if it had to be done legislatively.

"We're going to use every tool in the toolbox to make sure that that pause takes place statewide," she said.

Peter Hubbard, a Democrat who was elected to the Georgia Public Service Commission in 2025, joined

Bottoms in Cobb County where he outlined four policy proposals aimed at regulating data centers. Hubbard said that data centers should be powered with clean energy sources and pay for that infrastructure, operate with full transparency without the use of non-disclosure agreements, enact safeguards that protect the local community and natural resources and mandate the use of union labor "wherever possible."

"I think if we take these actions, if we raise the barrier for data centers to do business in the state, and we make them pay their fair share, then we will be better for it," Hubbard said.

Bottoms kept her speech focused on a data center pause, but when asked if she supports Hubbard's proposal, she said that she was "in complete alignment with what Commissioner Hubbard has proposed."

"You will hear me talk more about it as I look to his leadership to help guide how we need to move forward as a state," she said.

Other states, including ones led by governors from both major parties, have temporarily halted data center development. New York's governor, a Democrat, became the first to order a statewide moratorium on large-scale data centers in July. Texas' governor, a Republican, ordered his own ban in August and broadened that order this month.

Jackson punts to local control and touts lower taxes

Jackson disagrees with Bottoms' approach and has said on the campaign trail

that he believes communities should be able to decide whether data centers are built. Currently, local governments make decisions on data center projects and propose regulations, and Jackson said it should stay that way.

"The county commissioners are voted by the people, so they need to decide," Jackson said at the Cobb County press conference.

But Jackson also said that local governments can make those decisions with "guardrails" in place. In an Atlanta Journal-Constitution op-ed Jackson balanced his support of data centers with five conditions for their development. He said he would sign an executive order establishing stricter environmental standards for approving data center proposals and requiring the state to be transparent about tax incentives, utility costs and projected benefits.

At the recent press conference, Jackson added that he wanted "to educate people on the benefit if they want (a data center)," saying that some counties are expecting they "will have zero property taxes after the data center goes in." Some counties, like Effingham County where OpenAI plans to build a \$20 billion data center, pledged to lower property taxes with revenue they bring in.

Jackson's stance aligns with Georgia's business community, with Chris Clark, president and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, agreeing with the local control approach. Clark said Jackson's pro-

posal allows communities to continue negotiating with developers while giving them the opportunity to diversify their tax base. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Jackson.

"I think what Rick Jackson has said has been clear. It's the community's decision," Clark said. "If this fits with what you want in your community, then you need to be able to do that project, move forward, just like if it's a manufacturing, a distribution, or a Buc-ee's."

Industry backs local control, but residents push back

In suburban and rural Georgia communities, residents and advocates interviewed for this story say Jackson's stance maintains the status quo.

Bill Wright, who spent four years organizing against data center projects in Northern Virginia before relocating to Chatham County near Savannah, dismissed Jackson's proposal and said that developers and tech companies hold much of the leverage during negotiations.

"They're completely outgunned by these developers. They don't have the where-withal to push back. They're susceptible to financial incentives, and they're wooed by campaign donations," Wright said. "So, when you say 'leave it up to the local community,' of course you have to do that to some extent, but you have to give the community help."

Wright, who's been advocating against the OpenAI development in Effingham County, which neighbors Chatham, said leaving reg-

ulatory decisions to individual counties ignores the footprint data centers have beyond the county's border and argued that statewide regulations are "absolutely essential."

"Let's say Effingham County approves Project Camellia. Well, that has an effect on the surrounding counties as well that have absolutely nothing to say about what's going on there," Wright said.

Data centers in Georgia are largely unregulated statewide. Developers usually submit a "development of regional impact" review in the initial stages that outlines basic information, such as project size, revenue and estimated water usage. That review, however, is designed to be a communication mechanism for local officials.

Classifieds

Yard/Estate Sales

Yard sale: 1801 Rice Ave Williamsburg Shopping Center. Oct 3rd 7a-until. Variety items.

Real Estate

For Rent/Lease

For Rent: 2 and 3 Bedroom. Located in East Dublin. No Pets! 478-272-8090

Albany Classifieds

MERCHANDISE

Miscellaneous for sale

U Pick Sweet Potatoes, \$10 per 5 gal. bucket, bring containers. Randy Deloach: 912-282-4300 day, 912-739-4124 night. 1026 Herman Lynn Rd, Claxton, GA.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL OUTLOOK

On the road again: Local teams head opposite directions toward Macon, Savannah for week 7

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

The song of this season's first half, for local teams, could authentically channel the poignant Gregg Allman lyric, "The road is my only true friend."

Laurens County schools, so far, have had considerably more blues at home than away from it, holding a 2-8 combined record playing locally against a much-sunnier mark of 7-3 elsewhere.

All three who are in action this Friday will put that win percentage to the test as they head their separate di-

rections on I-16.

Trinity (2-4 overall) travels to South Macon to take on a tough Windsor Academy (4-1). East Laurens (1-4, 0-1 region 2-AA) will go the same direction, and have its hands full on the north side against unbeaten (5-0, 1-0 region) ACE Charter. West Laurens (2-3, 1-0 region 3-AAAA) will go the opposite way to Pooler to visit New Hampstead (1-4, 0-1 region).

The Crusaders will need to slow down the pace of play, where their defensive side of the ball matches an intended time-consuming tempo on offense, as

well as Windsor's productive QB-running back duo of Heath Woodard and Jaquan Lewis to have a shot at snapping their two-game losing streak.

The Falcons have played well against ACE both the last two seasons, and beat the Gryphons in one of their season highlights a year ago. But they will probably have the toughest time of any matchup so far containing the multiple big-play weapons at the disposal of quarterback Ace Hatcher in an offense (averaging 31 points per game) as finely-tuned as any the Gryphons have fielded since their back-to-

back eight-win seasons in 2022 and 23.

For the Raiders, something similar to last week's performance – easily their most complete and balanced so far – should have them in position to grab a second-straight win against a Phoenix team with some matchup issues at positions (particularly running back, where the stocky Christian Kinlaw features heavily in their overall attack), but a track record of inconsistency.

The rest of a fairly busy week 7 will feature some more key region bouts, a clash of state title contend-

ers in the GIAA and a few must-wins for some Class A teams vying to maintain a healthy playoff standing.

Two more big ones are lined up in a second helping of top-10 competition in 2-AA, where Bleckley County (4-1, off of last week's narrow loss to Dublin) and Swainsboro (2-3, 1-0 region), along with Vidalia (2-3, 0-1 region) and Dodge County (2-2) will fight it out for some more key region real estate.

Brentwood (4-2) will face a stiff challenge "Between the Pickets" against a 6-0 Edmund Burke.

Montgomery County (4-

1) the same against the ever-salty Warren County (3-2).

Wheeler County (1-3) and Hawkinsville (2-3) both go after a much-needed region win in Alamo, and No. 1 Johnson County (5-0, 1-0 region 5-A) will try to stay undefeated on a visit to Bud Dupree Stadium, where Wilkinson County (2-3, 1-0 region) put up half a hundred last Friday.

Washington County (2-3, 1-0 region) is back home looking to make it two wins in a row against Cross Creek (0-5), Twiggs County (1-4, 0-1 region 5-A) tries to rebound as it hosts Glascock County and Treutlen (4-1, 0-1 region 4-A) goes on the road in search of a win to balance its league ledger at Turner County (1-4, 1-0).

WEEK 6: HOW THE REST OF THE AREA FARED...

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

Washington Co. 38,
Westside Augusta 14

The Patriots scored twice in the second quarter to erase WACO's two-touchdown lead from the first. But the Golden Hawks responded with another string of unanswered points, this time 24 consisting of a hook and ladder style touchdown relay from Aiden to Lance Watts, then Tahj Bryant late in the first half, an Aiden Watts keeper, a Kade Swint sweep and a James May field goal, to pull away to their first region win. Daveion Holmes had 15 carries for 157, and the first touchdown of the night on a 48-yard dash up the middle less than two minutes in. Kamden Reaves carried one home from 40 five minutes later to continue the strong start.

Telfair Co. 39, Treutlen 23

The Trojans, a perennial stumbling block for the region's most confident teams, forced three turnovers and a missed field goal that were key in tripping up their unbeaten rival just a week following one of its biggest wins ever. Treutlen rushed for 305 yards, but had a tough time overcoming two interceptions, by Decardiya Ellis and Jykelvius Grimmest (off a tip), and a fumble that each scuttled key possessions. As it was, the Vikings had no answer for multiple Telfair County rushers who struck for a couple of touchdowns early, and broke big plays for two more in the third and another in the fourth that put it out of their reach. Stokes scored on a run and a reception from Major Morton. Peanut Tobler carried for a touchdown on one of 19 attempts for 175 yards.

Montgomery Co. 35,
Atkinson Co. 12

The Eagles got back to their winning ways in Pearson with a strong all-around performance. Despite two interceptions, Rilynn Dees was 8-of-14 passing for 107 yards and a touchdown to Kam Henderson. Zaden Waller carried 21 times for 144, and a pair of scores. Hayden Hayes made 16 total tackles, and two for loss. Kenya Tate had nine total and three for loss, and returned a fumble (forced by Jai Grissom) for a defensive touchdown.

Brentwood 42, Pinewood 22

Quez Collins had 93 all-purpose yards on a carry, three receptions and an 80-yard fumble return, and scored once in all three phases to help put the Eagles in an undoubtable lead before the lights were hot. No Baylor, no problem. The Eagles' all-state quarterback was sidelined with an injury, but reserves Corbin Bloodworth and Hut Archer were 7-of-9 for 98 yards and one touchdown. Tristan Robinson ran for two TDs, and picked off a pass. Jones Sheppard rushed for another. Jesse Middleton also had an interception.

Wilkinson Co. 57, Twiggs Co. 0

This was the rivalry's most lopsided win by either side, ever, with the only game to come close in total margin a 52-0 shutout of the Cobras by James Hagins' Wilco squad in 2013. Quenterrion Stanford was 8-of-11 passing for 144 yards and three touchdowns, and scrambled for a fourth. Amare Todd scored on a rush and a catch, with a defensive line of 13 total tackles, four for loss and a fumble recovery. Tyler Hogan had a TD reception, three covered fumbles and a punt block. Makhi Johnson and Chammarion Hall added scores on the ground.

Jeff Davis 29, Fitzgerald 20

Mark Durden and Kobe Hill rushed for 100 yards and two touchdowns each, the latter for a game-sealing touchdown after a two-point conversion stop on Fitzgerald's final touchdown kept the Jackets on top by one late in the fourth quarter. Hill (17, with a pass deflection and forced fumble) and Jude Worthington recorded double-digit tackles.

Toombs Co. 28, Pierce Co. 7

Donterrius Mincey's first touchdown run, of two on 16 carries for 174 yards, broke a 7-point tie for the Bulldogs in the third quarter. Mincey and Joseph Owens, who was 8-of-17 passing for 131 yards and threw to Brandon Stevens for the game's first touchdown, rushed for scores to put away Toombs' fifth win out of five, and hand second-ranked Pierce County its first loss. Alex Scott and M.J. Burton had a dozen tackles, and two for loss. Nick Carroll also blocked a field goal. The Bears were held to 275 yards, 266 coming on the 41 carries of Jaeve-

on Williams, who had their only touchdown.

ACE Charter 17,
Vidalia 7

Ace Hatcher completed two touchdown passes in the second half, both to Jaylon Davis, to add onto the Gryphons' field goal-to-nothing lead through two quarters. Hatcher threw for 142 on eight completions, and rushed for 147 on 18 carries, with Davis (77 receiving) and Brady Balkcom (57 receiving, 32 passing) contributing the only other significant yardages. Jack Perry had an interception and William Winters a fumble recovery to assist the ACE Defense in limiting Vidalia to a single fourth-quarter touchdown on a run by Andre Jackson, who had three tackles for loss on D. The Indians were held to 225 total yards.

Veterans 24,
Northside 21

The Eagles led most of the night, until Veterans pulled off its second-straight fourth quarter comeback. Davareon Lightning struck for a 32-yard touchdown run with around five minutes to go to give the Warhawks the lead following a fourth-down stop. The Veterans defense came through again as Northside drove back into scoring range, but a diving interception by Quinton Eichelberger, off a tip, secured its win to go to 4-1. Northside quarterback K.T. Tate was 10-of-23 for 181 yards and passing touchdowns to Jereion Wims and Bryan Tuck Jr, along with a rushing score.

Troup 24, Mary Persons 21

The Bulldogs rallied twice in the second half for touchdowns, on a Jordan Singleton pass and L.J. Zellner run, to take a one-point lead and tie the game at 21, answering Troup scores to take the lead on a second of two unanswered McCarthy Harrelson field goals and a touchdown pass from Chase Mosley (12-of-21 for



Decardiya Ellis goes up to pick one off over the head of Treutlen's Zan Stokes. This was one of three takeaways for the Telfair County defense that aided in spoiling the Vikings' unbeaten streak/LOGAN REYNOLDS, GTLN

214 yards) to Blaize Bell. But the Tigers drove from their 36 to win it on third Harrelson kick of the night as time expired. Troup's Javaris Warner carried 33 times for 215 and a touchdown.

Other week 6 scores...

Central, Macon 23, Southwest 12
Baldwin 55, Westside Macon 21
Jones Co. 17, Ola 14
Troup 24, Mary Persons 21
Veterans 24, Northside, W.R. 21
Stratford 20, FPD 12
Tattnall Square 27, Mt. de Sales 6
Hawkinsville 21, Dooly Co. 6
Howard 32, Upson-Lee 0
Jackson 52, Rutland 8
Jenkins Co. 20, GMC 0
Northeast 31, Lamar Co. 8
Peach Co. 62, Spalding 21
Perry 57, Locust Grove 14
Social Circle 30, Jefferson Co. 14
Warner Robins 55, E. Landing 0
Briarwood 42, T. Jefferson 13
Edmund Burke 49, RTCA 12
Westminster-Augusta 42, Central Fellowship 17

SCOREBOARD

SOFTBALL
Monday

Gatewood 18, Trinity 2
Bleckley Co. 22, Dublin 0
West Laurens 8,
East Laurens 1

Tuesday

Edmund Burke 14, Trinity 5
Long Co. 8, WL 1
Swainsboro 11, Dublin 3

PREP
SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL
Wednesday

Telfair Co. at West Laurens
/5 p.m.

Thursday

Dublin at ACE Charter
/5:30 p.m.
Bleckley Co. at East Laurens
/6 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL
Thursday

WL at Baldwin/5 p.m.

Saturday

WL at Region 3-AAAA
Tournament

FOOTBALL
Friday

EL at ACE Charter
Trinity at Windsor
WL at New Hampstead
Bleckley Co. at Swainsboro
Brentwood at
Edmund Burke
Cross Creek at
Washington Co.
Glascock Co. at Twiggs Co.
Hawkinsville at
Wheeler Co.
Johnson Co. at
Wilkinson Co.
Treutlen at Turner Co.
Vidalia at Dodge Co.
Warren Co. at
Montgomery Co.
/7:30 p.m.

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PIGSKIN
PICKS

THE PANELO	RODNEY MANLEY	PAYTON TOWNS III	KYLE DOMINY	JEREMY PAYNE	JANICE BALLARD	RAUL JACKSON	DON GARSWELL	FORREST KILEO
Last week/OVERALL	10-2/54-18	8-4/48-24	7-5/40-32	8-4/53-19	8-4/48-24	10-2/49-23	8-4/55-17	10-2/51-21

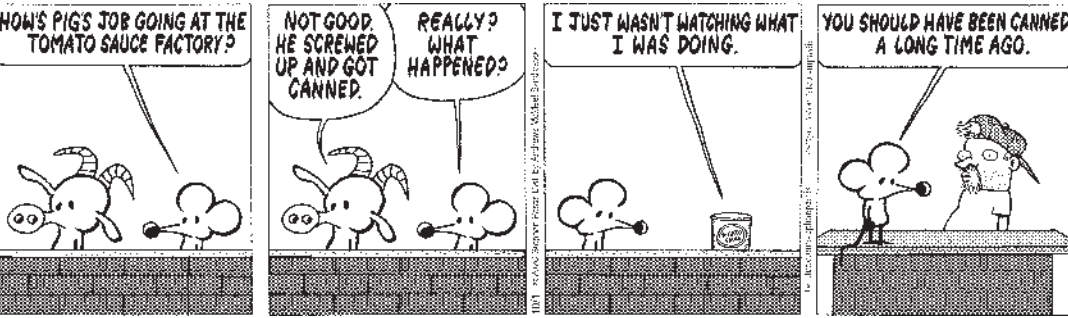
THIS WEEK'S MATCHUPS...

East Laurens at ACE Charter
Trinity at Windsor
West Laurens at New Hampstead
Bleckley Co. at Swainsboro
Brentwood at Edmund Burke
Glascock Co. at Twiggs Co.
Hawkinsville at Wheeler Co.
Vidalia at Dodge Co.
Warren Co. at Montgomery Co.
Tift Co. at Houston Co.
FPD at John Milledge
Mary Persons at Peach Co.

ACE Windsor West Laurens Swainsboro Edmund Burke Twiggs Co. Wheeler Co. Dodge Co. Montgomery Co. Tift Co. John Milledge Peach Co.	ACE Windsor West Laurens Bleckley Co. Edmund Burke Twiggs Co. Hawkinsville Dodge Co. Montgomery Co. Tift Co. John Milledge Peach Co.	ACE Windsor West Laurens Bleckley Co. Brentwood Glascock Co. Wheeler Co. Dodge Co. Montgomery Co. Houston Co. FPD Peach Co.	ACE Trinity West Laurens Bleckley Co. Brentwood Twiggs Co. Wheeler Co. Dodge Co. Warren Co. Houston Co. John Milledge Peach Co.	ACE Windsor West Laurens Bleckley Co. Edmund Burke Twiggs Co. Hawkinsville Dodge Co. Montgomery Co. Houston Co. John Milledge Peach Co.	ACE Windsor West Laurens Bleckley Co. Brentwood Glascock Co. Wheeler Co. Dodge Co. Montgomery Co. Houston Co. John Milledge Peach Co.	ACE Windsor West Laurens Bleckley Co. Brentwood Twiggs Co. Wheeler Co. Dodge Co. Montgomery Co. Houston Co. John Milledge Peach Co.	ACE Windsor West Laurens Bleckley Co. Brentwood Glascock Co. Wheeler Co. Dodge Co. Montgomery Co. Houston Co. John Milledge Peach Co.
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



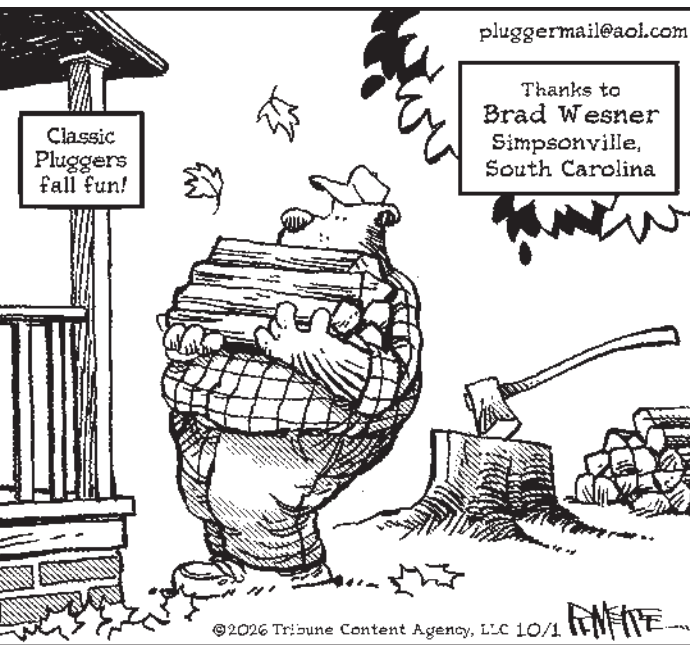
ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY



A plugger logging in.

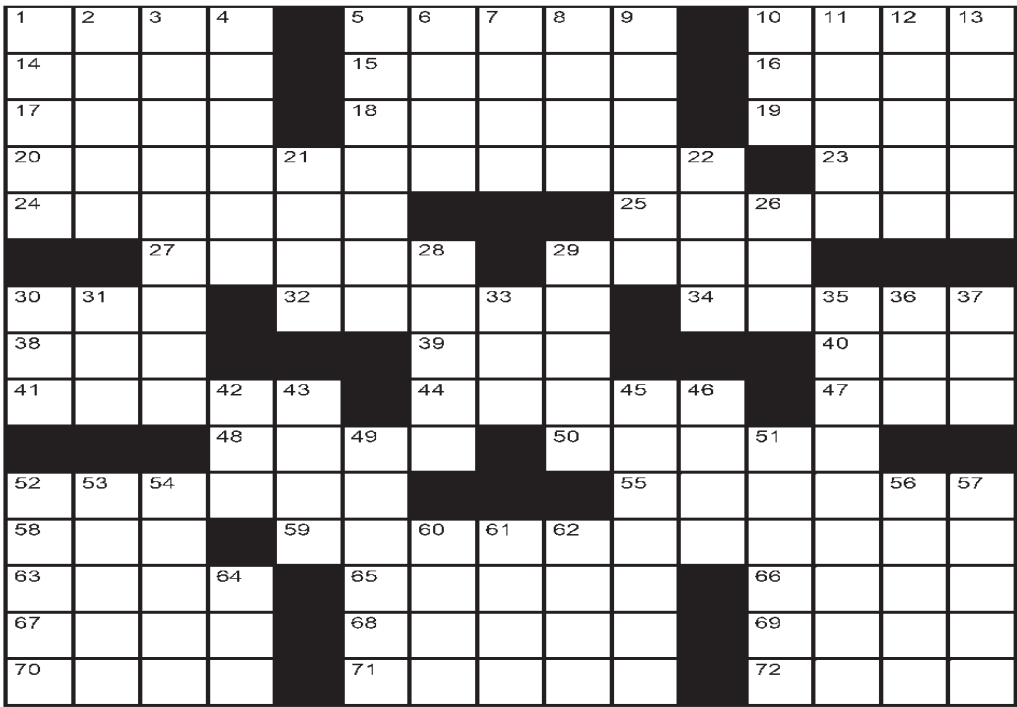
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- Fill a suitcase
- Japanese poem
- Wired undergarments
- Hand cream additive
- Elizabeth ____ (cosmetics brand)
- Narrow passage
- Part to play
- Hybrid garment
- Group of three
- Apollo 11 or Artemis II: 2 wds.
- Flightless bird
- Scared
- Comedian Stan
- New Delhi's land
- Calculates a sum
- Promotional pages
- More frozen-over
- Regarding: 2 wds.
- Successful at-bat
- Male sheep
- Be in debt
- Ore analysis
- Wear away
- GOP group: Abbr.
- Uppercase letters
- Transplant, as a flower
- Video recorder
- Obtaining gold or coal
- Gorilla, e.g.
- Shame-worthy
- Badly behaved kid
- Director Christopher
- Von Teese of burlesque
- Part of a phone plan
- Current fashion
- Obtains
- Otherwise
- Looks for
- Ice cream brand

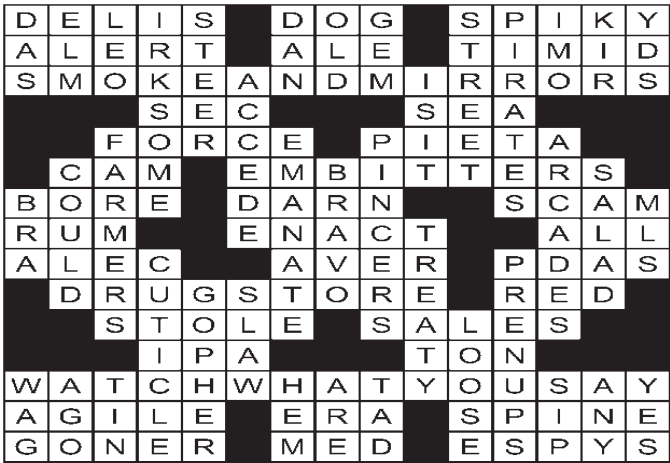
DOWN

- City near Cleveland
- Socially distant
- Dye experts



Created by Stella Zawistowski

- Ivory Wayans
- Like some observant Jews
- Torah holders
- Wedding vows: 2 wds.
- Actress Russell
- Kept secret
- Crunchy sandwich: Abbr.
- Harder to find
- Cartoon film genre
- South Korea's capital
- Calf-length skirt
- Zilch
- Battleship letters: Abbr.
- Buenos ____ Argentina
- Knight's protection
- "Eureka!"
- Smack-talk
- Listening organ
- Nutritionally enriched
- Possess



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- league
- Get 100% on
- House's lawn
- Insists upon
- Long narrative poem
- Palette colors
- Tense: 2 wds.
- Strong rope
- Fourth month
- Intends
- Full of pecans, perhaps
- Window material
- Achy
- Merriment
- Military level
- Cotton top

Disappearing meds lead to massive rift

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 16 years, married for 14. I was injured in a bad car wreck 12 years ago, and I stockpiled the leftover pain medicine. We scheduled a cruise nine years ago, and I was going to take a few with me just in case. When I went to get some, they were all gone! My oldest son had been staying here for a few months, and my immediate thought was that he may have taken them. Nobody else had been in our house. When I confronted my son, he denied it. He also stopped talking to me for months. Every so often I would ask him about it, and he continued to get angry when I did.

I recently had two major surgeries, and they sent me home on pain meds. I went to get one about a month ago, and they were all gone! Again! I questioned my husband, and he said, "No, someone else must have taken them." This went on for a few weeks, and I finally figured it out. It had been him the entire time. To say the least, I was devastated. My trust in him was shattered because he let me blame my son all this time, putting that relationship in jeopardy. I left our home and went to stay at a week-end place we own. I made my husband call his parents in front of me and tell them what had happened, because I knew he would



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

otherwise make up some lie about why I left. Even so, I somehow became the scapegoat because I'm not "standing by my man." They fail to recognize that I am the victim here. He started outpatient rehab two weeks ago, but we have done nothing for our marriage. Can this trust ever be rebuilt? -- NEEDING DIRECTION IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NEEDING DIRECTION: Let me postpone the answer to your question until after I urge you to apologize to your son. You and your son should consider joining a group called Nar-Anon (nar-anon.org). It is composed of people who have been affected by the drug addiction of a loved one or friend. It has meetings everywhere.

Your husband is an addict who has broken your trust. Before deciding

whether to continue being married to him, you need to know what that will mean. After initially overcoming his addiction, he may fall off the wagon. Do not allow your in-laws to guilt you into reuniting with their son. Your husband would have to be sober for a long time before you can trust him again.

DEAR ABBY: I have a standing appointment with the hairdresser I've been seeing for many years for my cut and style. I highlight my own hair at home. I'm wondering if coloring at home is considered in poor taste while having your hair cut professionally. -- BEAUTY CLIENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR CLIENT: No! If you prefer to color your hair at home, that is your privilege. You don't owe anyone an apology or explanation for doing it. If someone you know implied that it is wrong, that person was misinformed.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. For nearly four decades, Jeanne Phillips penned this column, which was founded in 1956 by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 270135, Kansas City, MO 64127.

Thursday, October 1, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
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ODD REVERSAL

Neither vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ 10 8 2
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ 8 6 5 4
♣ Q 2

WEST
♠ 3
♥ 10 9 5 4
♦ Q 10 9
♣ A 9 8 6 5

EAST
♠ 9 7 6 5
♥ A J 8 7 6
♦ K
♣ 10 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 4
♥ Void
♦ A J 7 3 2
♣ K J 7

NORTH
♠ 10
♥ 3 2
♦ 6
♣ Void

WEST
♠ Void
♥ 9 5
♦ Q
♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ Q J
♥ Void
♦ J 7
♣ Void

The bidding:
SOUTH 1♠
WEST Pass
NORTH 2♠
EAST Pass

Opening lead: 10 of ♥

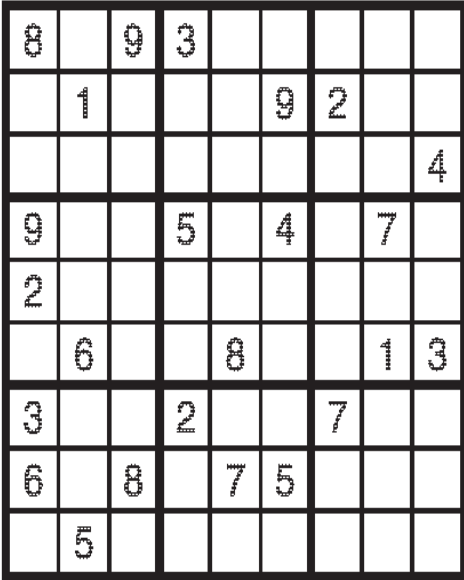
Today's deal is from a recent tournament in Australia. The opening heart lead was covered by the king and ace and ruffed by South. Two high trumps revealed the poor trump split. What next? South abandoned trumps and led a low club to dummy's queen. West took the second club and led another heart. South discarded a diamond from his hand on the

queen of hearts, led a diamond to his ace, and discarded a diamond from dummy on the jack of clubs. South led a low diamond from his hand to West's 10, leaving this position:

West lead a heart, forcing South to ruff. South led a diamond to West's queen, and the defense could not prevail. West led another heart and South had a high cross ruff for the last two tricks. East might have ruffed the diamond and led a trump, but that would draw the last trump and leave South in his hand to enjoy the long diamond. Well done!

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

SUDOKU



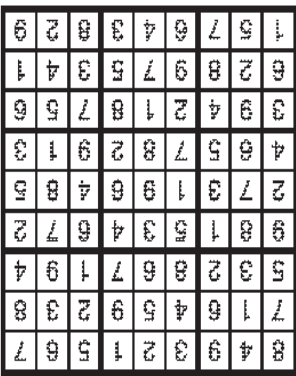
Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:

Savannah terminal renovations 60 percent complete



The Port of Savannah's Ocean Terminal now has a 2,650-foot berth ready for two large ships/SPECIAL PHOTO, Georgia Ports Authority

2650-foot berth is done and working ships

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

SAVANNAH – Renovations at the Port of Savannah's Ocean Terminal are now more than 60 percent complete, according to the \$1.6 billion project will grow the facility's annual container capacity from 200,000 twenty-foot equivalent container units to 1.75 million TEUs.

"Ocean Terminal is a major part of our strategy to prepare Savannah for future growth. The renovated berth is fully completed and ready for big ships," said Georgia Ports Authority CEO Griff Lynch at the GPA Board meeting Tuesday.

GPA will work smaller vessels at Ocean Terminal until mid-fall 2027, when the first phase of the container yard renovation is complete. The entire Ocean Terminal yard will be completed by the end of 2028.

The truck gate at Ocean Ter-

minal is fully operational and will feature 12 inbound and six outbound lanes. A \$29 million port-funded overpass routes departing trucks from Ocean Terminal directly onto U.S. 17 and Interstate 16, bypassing neighborhood streets.

"Transforming a 200-acre terminal while keeping the port operating is a tremendous undertaking, and the progress at Ocean Terminal is a testament to the hard work of our GPA team and our partners," said Georgia Ports Authority Board Chairman Alec Poitevint.

Improvements at Ocean Terminal are part of GPA's port master plan.

Over the next 10 years, Georgia Ports plans to invest \$5 billion in capacity enhancements to support future supply chain requirements, adding five container berths in Savannah and one RoRo berth in Brunswick.

FRANKLINIA TREES

Continued from page 1

will stand as an example to all of us," Haggard said. "They will exhibit strength, beauty and a beautiful spirit."

Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight said the decision to plant Franklinia trees on Constitution Day was because of Benjamin Franklin, one of the founders of America.

"The Declaration of Independence was signed 250 years ago," Kight said. "Two hundred thirty-nine years ago the Constitution was signed and 238 years ago it was ratified. Dublin became a tree city 26 years ago. So we are part of a great celebration today."

Sgt. Owen Bracewell, with the Dublin Fire Department Honor Guard, presented the American flag, followed by patriotic music from the Trinity Christian School Honor Choir.

Melodie Smith, with the Erin Garden Club, introduced Heather Gladfelter, who is considered the nation's expert on the Franklinia tree.

"She has helped tremendously over the summer for this event today," Smith said. "I am extremely thankful for the guidance and emails between the two of us."

Gladfelter called the Franklinia tree her favorite.

"This is much more than simply planting a beautiful tree," Gladfelter said. "We are planting a piece of Georgia history. We are also planting a survivor."

Franklinia has not been found naturally in the wild for more than two centuries.

"It is extinct in the wild," Gladfelter said. "And yet, here we are today preparing to put Franklinia into Georgia soil."

Kight hopes the Franklinia will be rediscovered in the wild again. If not, he knows the city of Dublin is doing its part to preserve the species.

"It took a lot of effort to get this here," Kight said. "When I became mayor, I told Melodie Smith that I would like to get a Franklinia tree planted. It took years but we found the right person in Dr. Gladfelter."

Kight said it was not easy to have the tree planted where they wound up. Franklinia trees cannot survive where cotton had previously been and that area used to be a farm.

"We had to send soil samples to Clemson to make sure that the soil was appropriate for the Franklinia trees," the mayor said. "We are very happy to honor the people that made this possible."

Gladfelter went over the history of the tree. On Oct. 1, 1765, American botanist John Bartram and his son, William, discovered the Franklinia tree growing along the Altamaha River in Southeastern Georgia.

"They would never find this tree anywhere else," she said. "William later returned and collected seeds in 1773 and brought it back to the Bartram family garden in Philadelphia. That simple act saved it."

The last observation of Franklinia in its native habitat was in 1803.

"Despite many search-



Liberty Trees for America's 250 – A Constitution Day Tree Dedication Ceremony drew a sizable crowd to Mayor Grady Wright Park/PAYTON TOWNS III



Heather Gladfelter (right), who is considered the nation's top expert on the Franklinia tree, talks about its history during the event/PAYTON TOWNS III

Bartram became the source of Franklinia.

"Think about how incredible that is," she said. "Had those plants not been preserved, Franklinia might not exist today. More than 200 years later, we can still see its beautiful white flowers. We can grow it, we can study it and we can conserve it. These trees will have a story of their own. People will see it and a child will ask about Franklinia. Two centuries ago, William Bartram carried those seeds away and he could not have possibly known how important his act was for the future. Today, in our own way, we are doing something similar. We are planting for the future. When you look at these trees, you are looking at a survivor. Today, its story passes into the hands of the people here in Dublin. These trees here are part of the next chapter."

es since then, no naturally occurring population has ever been found," Gladfelter said. "We still don't know with certainty why it disappeared. Whatever the cause, it vanished."

The plants grown from seeds collected by William

MISS BLACK DUBLIN

Continued from page 1

- Madison Jones- 17 year old senior at Dublin High School daughter of Mrs. TaShena and Mr. Cornelius Jones
- Dealdria O'Neal - 17 year old senior at West Laurens High School daughter of Ms. Alecia Crafton
- Kennedy Walters-15 year old Sophomore at West Laurens High School daughter of Ms. Tanisha Taylor, Mr. Kendall Walters, and granddaughter of Kenya Carswell

The price of admission is \$15 for ages five years and above.

The Miss Black Dublin Scholarship Program offers African American young women, ages 14 to 19, the chance to earn financial scholarship awards to support their educational or military pursuits after high school. Since its inception, the program has awarded approximately \$65,000 to contestants. These scholarships are made possible by financial contributions from community investors.

DOWNTOWN

Continued from page 1

Berry and Cochran work in very small office spaces at the theater.

"The theater office is kind of tight with three people working in there," said DDA chairman Rob Miller. "I think it will be well worth it."

Board members will look at a particular location soon and make a decision later.

Website needs improvement

The need to improve the DDA's website is something that needs to be done.

"It is on life support," Miller said. "We had somebody now on staff (Hannah Cochran) who is going to start bios correct, updating pictures and basically, we'll take over operating and maintaining our website on Nov. 1. We have her on staff and we'll let her do it."

Everybody on the DDA board has new titles.

Cochran, marketing and events coordinator assistant, would like to get photos of the

board to run on the website.

"Obviously, that needs to be updated," she said. "I promise I will make it a site you are proud of."

She informed the board that they will do more videos for social media. The DDA is also on Tik Tok.

"We are trying to get our younger audience more involved," Cochran said.

October events

DDA MainStreet Director Nichole Padgett announced that Dean Brown and Dubshak will perform during their First Friday event, the last of this year, at 7 p.m. at the Market on Madison. There will also be giant outdoor games from The GameBoys and food and drinks from Deez Shrimp, Island Pot JA and Muddy Cups. Admission is free.

"We're going to have a fun time," Padgett said.

DDA employees Padgett, Berry, Jason Keyton, director of business development, and Miriam Lewis, executive director of Dublin Visit GA, will be speaking at

the First Friday Means Business.

Padgett went over a list of events coming up beginning with The Prehistoric Inhabitants of Southeast Georgia – From Ice Age to Spanish Contact by guest speaker Joseph Sumner speaking at the Carnegie Library on Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

The next Downtown Coffee Break will be on Oct. 16 at Valant Bank's downtown branch at 8 a.m.

The Eagles tribute, "Take It To The Limit," will be held at Theatre Dublin on Oct. 16.

"That consistently does well for us," Berry said.

On Oct. 17, the DDA will hold its annual Chili Cook-off.

"I'm really excited about this," Padgett said. "Things are coming along great. We have about 12 cook teams and we have about 32 vendors. We'll have kid zones, pumpkin painting contest, cake walks and DJ (Brandon) Chain will be the DJ."

It is not too late for a team to join the competition. The cut off date is Oct. 2, though Padgett said they have been known to add

teams at the last minute. The cost is \$25 for a company, \$10 for individual and free for nonprofit. For more information, call (478) 272-2560 or email Padgett at nichole@dublinmainstreet.com

The DDA will also hold its annual Spooky Treats in the streets from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 22.

The Farmers Market will end on Oct. 10. The market is open from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"It's a sad time because this is my favorite season," Padgett said.

At the movies

Berry mentioned that they plan to have a week of Christmas movies in December, which will include other special entertaining features like singing Christmas carols, wearing ugly Christmas sweaters and more.

"People really love that instant connection, and it makes the movie experience fun for those attending," Berry said.

She also informed the board that they plan to hold a youth film festival in Dublin in June 2027, for young filmmakers who are 13 to 18 years old.