

The Courier Herald

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COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Not Their First Rodeo: Easterseals gearing up for 9th annual rodeo

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Joel Prawucki remembers when Easterseals of Middle Georgia first thought of holding a rodeo. At the time, they were hoping it would be an event that would catch on and be popular.

It has done that, and exceeded expectations.

"I'm surprised by the amount that it has grown," Prawucki said. "Plus, we have learned since that first year."

And now they can honestly say that this is not their first rodeo. The Southeastern Professional Rodeo Association will head to Dublin, Ga. for the 8th annual Easterseals of Middle Georgia Rodeo.

The two-night event will be held Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7. The festivities will begin at 7 p.m. each night with gates opening at 5:30 p.m. Tickets can be bought at bigtickets.com or at the gate. Prices are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. They take cash

and credit cards.

"We are hoping this will be our biggest crowd ever," Prawucki said. "It's going to be huge."

The rodeo will have food trucks, vendors and more. Prawucki, president/CEO at Easterseals Middle Georgia, and Bill Hudson, owner of Double Creek Rodeo Company, enjoy bringing the rodeo action to this area. Those attending will have a chance to see bull riding, breakaway roping, calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling, bareback

riding and barrel racing.

Those competing in this rodeo are fighting for a chance to compete in the final in early 2027 in Philadelphia, Miss.

What has amazed Prawucki is not just the number of people who attend but from where.

"We sold a lot of tickets last year," he said. "We had one from as far away as Los Angeles, Calif. The outreach is pretty good."

Not bad, especially since this rodeo was voted the best indoor arena rodeo in



Easterseals rodeo action from past events held at the Southern Pines Ag Center/FILE PHOTO

the Southeastern Professional Rodeo in 2025.

Friday night at the rodeo is known as Kid's Night. A boys and girls bicycle will be given away. They will

also have members from the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center attend. Saturday's night will be Ladies Night.

RODEO

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The Henry's shared workspace serves unexpected tenants

By KYLE DOMINY
Staff Reporter

Less than a decade ago, The Henry building was one of the worst in downtown Dublin.

The historic structure - built in 1898 by its namesake, riverboat captain Robert C. Henry - had seen better days. The 14,000-square-foot building had once been home to banks, offices and even Dublin's first Piggly Wiggly grocery store. But by 2018, The Henry's lower floor housed a furniture outlet, one of downtown's dwindling storefronts, while the upper level had fallen into disrepair.

However officials with Curry Companies saw potential. With the city investing in streetscape projects and parking improvements, the time was perfect to refurbish and repurpose the landmark facility.

"It was one of the ugliest buildings in Dublin when we started," said company president Will Curry. "The upstairs had been shuttered and was used for storage, like most buildings downtown. Pigeons were living up there."

The Henry was converted into a multi-use commercial space, anchored on the concept of shared office space, fully-equipped work stations, conference rooms and communal areas that could be leased long or short term, that could be rented by large employers or parceled out to smaller operations.



The 7,000 square-foot second floor was initially leased to government human resources contractor GovStrive. Citizens Bank claimed the corner office. Bridal gown shop Bar Bridal recently claimed another portion of the building facing Jackson Street. About 1,500 square feet remain dedicated to co-working space with five office suites, a conference room, break area and open work space.

"It was a stretch," Curry said of investing in such a business model. "Dublin is such a traditional real estate market. A lot of businesses want to own their own building or operate with a long term lease. But there are a lot of businesses that just need a few feet, a place to put a computer and not have to worry about utilities."

But the idea tapped into a new line of customers. Curry said the spaces have proved popular, and while some months are better than others, there has been a proven need for short term office space or quick access to a conference room, whether from out of town lawyers in need of a room for a deposition or a young entrepreneur in need of a physical address to receive mail and meet with clients.

"Its been a good space for start-up businesses, creative workers who need a

place to focus or just small teams of two or three people," he said. "It does hit a pretty big vein."

Recent developments have unveiled another market for the space - a quick, temporary location for businesses in need of a hurried move.

With GovStrive moving its operations across Jackson Street to the Stubbs building, another historic property restored by Curry Companies, the second story of The Henry was a natural location to house the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority while its building is under renovation. After The Courier Herald's headquarters was damaged in recent storms, the lower level conference room has served as the home of the newspaper's editorial department.

"That spurred the conversation of when you have a disaster, a fire or a flood, the space can serve as a good stopgap. We can work with speed and serve as a quick alternative," Curry said.

With the chamber and development authority to soon return to its Bellevue office the upstairs of The Henry will be in need of new tenants. Extending the multiuse space could be in the plans.

"Its been a unique thing," Curry said.



Participants opened a small package containing a butterfly during the WINGS luncheon held on Oct. 8/PAYTON TOWNS III

Local organization remembers domestic violence victims

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

On the count of three, those who attended the Women In Need of God's Shelter's (WINGS) Domestic Violence Awareness Month luncheon opened a small package containing a butterfly.

One by one, they flew off into the nice fall air while participants smiled. The small packages contained a name of a domestic violence victim, one of 156 killed in Georgia in 2025.

"The goal is to increase awareness to the community about domestic violence and how they can help," said WINGS Executive Director Heather Mullis. "Everybody deserves a healthy relationship and if they are struggling with that, there is help there and they don't have to be stuck in a potentially dangerous or fatal situation."

One of those names included Dublin woman Detrenell Michelle, who was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend Lenton O'Bryant Jones at the Hillcrest Apartment Complex at 5:20 a.m. on March 7, 2025. Jones turned himself in on March 10,

2025. He was charged with malice murder, first-degree cruelty to children, aggravated assault and weapons offenses.

Mullis called on a domestic violence survivor to tell her testimony. She talked about how her husband isolated her from her family. He controlled her. He yelled at her and her children. They walked on eggshells. He would she felt trapped. She had been looking for ways to escape, and one day, it happened.

While he was choking her, she remembered reaching for her Bible. As she read the passages, her husband stopped choking her. He walked out the door and left it open.

"God was there," the woman said as people clapped. "I believe God will open the door."

She took this opportunity to grab her children and call the police. Eventually, she wound up at WINGS.

"I was not trapped anymore," she said. "I am not powerless or afraid anymore. I

VICTIMS

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Dublin High's Noromo Stanley named DCS Teacher of the Year

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER
HERALD

Dublin High School's Noromo Stanley has been named the 2027 Dublin City Schools District Teacher of the Year.

Stanley is in his fourth year at Dublin High School, following 11 years as an educator in his home nation of Cameroon.

It was during his formative years in Cameroon, where he said "education was a luxury," that he discovered his passion for education.

"I was fortunate to be among those who had an education," Stanley said. "It was my responsibility to see that other students, other children can have some sort of education. So, I decided from a very tender age to involve myself



Dublin City Schools' human resources director Shannon Green, Teacher of the Year Noromo Stanley and interim School Superintendent Marcee Pool/DUBLIN CITY SCHOOLS, Jason Halcombe

in education."

While still attending school, Stanley and several friends would tutor other children, setting him on a path toward becoming a teacher in 2011.

Stanley pursued higher education, working toward a Ph.D. in gender and development from the Uni-

STANLEY

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OBITUARIES



Linda Louise Wynn

Funeral services for Linda Louise Wynn, 65, will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, in the Chan Stanley Memorial Chapel of Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory with interment to follow at Pleasant Springs Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Milton Thomas and Curtis Koscheski will officiate.

Mrs. Wynn was born Sept. 5, 1961, in Dublin, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late William Grady "W.G." Brantley and Louise Braswell Brantley. She was also preceded in death by her siblings, Sue Williams and Randy Brantley. She was of the Baptist faith. She retired from Dublinair Nursing Home. Mrs. Wynn passed away Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, at her residence surrounded by family.

Mrs. Wynn is survived by her husband, Tommy Wynn of Rockledge; a son, Terrence (Jennifer) of Rockledge; a daughter, Courtney Wolfe (Jordan) of Dublin; three brothers, Wayne Brantley of East Dublin, Danny Brantley of East Dublin, and Allen Brantley of East Dublin; and three grandchildren, Lily M. Wynn, Lora Lee Wynn and Lexi Wynn.

Pallbearers will be Derek Horton, Brandon Horton, Dakota Hood, Morgan Wynn, Brian Wynn and Landon Wynn. Honorary Pallbearers will be Keller Horton and Clint Sellers.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, at the funeral home.

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



Larry Dixon

Mr. Larry Dixon of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. Go to www.ServicesByDudley.com for updates.

Trump and accusations of extremism were dominant themes in Georgia's U.S. Senate debate

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The first debate between Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff and U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, the Republican nominee challenging him, centered on President Donald Trump.

It was also an opportunity for the two opponents to paint each other as dangerous extremists.

The matchup, hosted by Atlanta News First on Thursday night, featured television journalists peppering the two with questions about the economy, healthcare, the Iran war, immigration and other issues.

Unlike Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Jackson, who tacked more toward Gov. Brian Kemp than the president in a similar clash with Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms on Tuesday, Collins hewed closely to Trump, defending the president's policies.

Collins, who represents a district between Atlanta and Augusta, painted Ossoff as a liberal extremist who sides with U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and supports transgender athletes while opposing tax cuts.

"He wants to take control of this country with these weird and dangerous ideas with his radical friends," Collins said.

Ossoff attacked Collins over Collins' son-in-law, who lives on Collins' property and has been posting social media content that promotes white supremacy and borrows from Nazi propaganda.

Ossoff also pointed to reports about former Collins congressional staffers' links to white supremacists, saying Collins had "hired half the Third Reich" and had himself amplified neo-Nazi content online.

When moderator Rick Folbaum asked Collins what he had said to his son-in-law about his online posts and whether Collins would "once and for all denounce white supremacy," Collins blamed Ossoff's attacks for a recent death threat against Collins and his son-in-law that led to the arrest of a man in New York.

Then, Collins said he had "condemned racism, antisemitism, hate. I don't care where the source is and I tell him that too. It's wrong."

Ossoff called Collins a

"bigot" and said his proximity to white supremacists should disqualify him from office.

"Imagine running for the U.S. Senate while neo-Nazi propaganda is disseminated to an audience of millions from your home," Ossoff said. "That's Mike Collins."

Ossoff started the debate by criticizing Collins for his ties to white nationalists and also for his "pathetic, childlike devotion" to Trump.

Collins tried to tie Ossoff to Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic Senate nominee in Michigan who has been critical of Israel's military campaign in Gaza and, as Collins put it, "hates Israel, loves Iran."

When Folbaum asked Ossoff whether he believed Israel had committed genocide, Ossoff, who is Jewish and said he had family in Israel, deferred judgment to the International Criminal Court. But he said he believed Israeli forces in Gaza had "violated the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law."

Ossoff attacked Collins over the war in Iran, blaming rising fuel costs

on Trump and on Collins' support for the president's policies. Collins said Trump had to stop Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Ossoff also attacked Collins over tariffs and their effect on the cost of living.

Collins said he supported an "America first" policy and that the country had "bowed down" to other countries and their tariffs. American "tariffs now are making it fair," he said.

Ossoff shot back: "You just heard Mike Collins say the tariffs are working. Go buy groceries."

The debate also touched on the rising cost of fertilizer, a concern for farmers.

Ossoff blamed the war and tariffs. Collins blamed a reliance on imported fertilizer.

Collins pivoted to Democrats' role last year in the government shutdown, blaming Ossoff for delaying Hurricane Helene relief funding to farmers. Ossoff said he had helped Georgia farmers by meeting repeatedly with India's ambassador to get that country to reduce its tariff on pecans.

Collins criticized Os-

soff and Democrats on immigration policy, saying his Laken Riley Act — the first bill signed by Trump in his second term — had secured the borders. Ossoff blamed the Trump administration's aggressive deportation enforcement for the deaths of American citizens.

Collins blamed Democrats for rising health-care costs. Ossoff blamed Republicans for cutting Medicaid and for allowing enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies to expire, saying that a hospital in Collins' district had closed its labor and delivery unit partly due to Medicaid cuts. Ossoff said the Congressional Budget Office had warned that service cuts at rural hospitals could result from passage of Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Collins blamed the subsidies. "The only people getting rich on these subsidies are our health insurance carriers out there," he said.

In a rare instance of agreement, both suggested that more price transparency could help restrain rising healthcare costs.

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

Woman weighs peritoneal dialysis against hemodialysis

By DR. KEITH ROACH
King Features

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter, age 44, has had chronic kidney disease since she was 10 years old. She had a renal transplant at 23, then another at 32. The second graft started gradually failing a year back. In January, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

This past month, she had a total hysterectomy, along with the removal of malignant tumors and nodules. She's since been on hemodialysis without any output of urine. What are the possibilities with peritoneal dialysis? Will this enable her to have a near-normal life? -- R.S.

ANSWER: Peritoneal dialysis uses the immense lining of the abdominal wall (the peritoneum) to act as a kind of kidney. A special dialysis fluid is instilled into the peritoneal space through a catheter. Excess potassium and acid, along with metabolic toxins that are normally removed by the liver, get diffused into the peritoneum and the dialysis fluid. The fluid is then drained through a second catheter, which removes these unwanted

chemicals from the body.

This may be repeated multiple times at night through an automated machine (continuous cyclical peritoneal dialysis, or CCPD). It can also be done manually throughout the day (continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, or CAPD). I've asked many kidney experts which type of dialysis they'd want if they needed it, and most preferred peritoneal dialysis to hemodialysis. (The only ones who didn't prefer peritoneal dialysis wanted home-based hemodialysis.)

The main issue for your daughter is the surgical scarring from her ovarian cancer surgery. Scars greatly reduce the amount of peritoneal tissue for fluid to diffuse across and limit the effectiveness of peritoneal dialysis. Furthermore, some women with ovarian cancer have cancer disease within the peritoneum itself, which would make peritoneal dialysis a bad option due to concerns with the cancer treatment and the risk of infection.

Experts recommend a peritoneal catheter via laparoscopic surgery, which would allow the surgeon to see if she's a good candidate for peri-

toneal dialysis. Her cancer surgeon and kidney specialist need to discuss this.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My granddaughter, who's only 18, experiences crashes with her blood pressure. She has to put on compression hose before she even gets out of bed, and she also requires a very strict diet. I know she gets these IV drinks that have something to do with salt.

I also know she had a lot of tests done, and a tilt table test showed postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS). I'm not sure which medicine they're giving her; is this something that you can look into? -- R.W.

ANSWER: POTS has been more frequently diagnosed within the past five years, and experts believe that it's a frequent result of COVID infections, especially in younger women. Different people may have different major symptoms with POTS. For people who have low blood pressure, like your granddaughter, compression stockings as well as plen-

ty of salt and water are the first-line treatments.

A graded exercise program helps many people but can be a problem for some. Medication isn't always needed, but midodrine and fludrocortisone are sometimes used symptomatically. However, these need to be used with caution. Most people will gradually improve, but there's a subset of people who may continue to have

symptoms for even longer than a year.

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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RODEO
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“It is always a good time,” Prawucki said.

This year’s specialty act will feature Cowboy Kenny and the Steel Rodeo.

“He is a motorcycle stunt driver who likes to jump things,” Prawucki said.

Georgia United Credit Union is the event’s title sponsor.

The money from the rodeo is used to help the organization with transporting its clients. Prawucki said they gave about 17 thousand rides to get their people to and from work last year.

“Being in rural Georgia, there is no good way to get around if you don’t have a car,” he said. “It’s a service that we provide and (the rodeo) offsets a good part of it.”

Easterseals has seven or eight vehicles in Dublin, three vehicles in Soperton



and a van in Eastman.

“We have a fleet of vehicles,” Prawucki said. “You have to have a driver, the upkeep and insurance. It’s quite the undertaking.”

Easterseals provide vocational rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities.

STANLEY
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University of Buea in Cameroon. His academic work has included research focused on family planning outcomes and household wealth in Cameroon.

Despite his years of experience in education, Stanley said being named Teacher of the Year came as a surprise.

“The very first thing that came to my mind, I was first very surprised because I wasn’t expecting being honored as the Teacher of the Year,” Stanley said. “Then, the second thing that came to my mind was joy.”

Stanley began teaching at Dublin High School in 2023, bringing his wife and their three daughters to the United States. Stanley and his wife later welcomed a fourth daughter, “making me the father of four girls,” Stanley said with a laugh.

Dublin High School principal Michael Overstreet praised Stanley for the impact he has made on the school and its students.

“He’s one of the better decisions I’ve made, in terms of personnel, because he’s been such a tremendous asset to Dublin High School in so many ways,” Overstreet said.

During his tenure at Dublin High School, Stanley has helped students develop financial literacy through participation in the Georgia Council on Economic Education’s Stock Market Game. He also serves as head coach of the Lady Irish soccer team.

For Stanley, the relationships he builds with students are at the heart of his work.

“Every day, as teachers of Dublin City Schools, we always come to class ready and prepared to do our work,” Stanley said. “(And) every little moment that we (the students and myself) spend together makes it special to me.”

Dublin City Schools interim Superintendent Marcee Pool said Stanley exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator.

“Mr. Stanley embodies



Noromo Stanley reacts after being announced as the Dublin City Schools’ Teacher of the Year during a ceremony at Yates Lodge/DUBLIN CITY SCHOOLS, Jason Halcombe

everything you could ask for in a great teacher,” Pool said. “His willingness to do whatever is needed for the children is evident by the programs and activities, both academic and athletic, in which he continues to engage students every

day. We are so thankful to have him as part of the DCS family.”

As the 2027 Dublin City Schools Teacher of the Year, Stanley will now move forward in the process for the 2028 Georgia Teacher of the Year.

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VICTIMS
Continued from page 1

escaped. The abuse may have been a chapter in my life, but that was not the end of my story. I am still here.”

Kayla McLendon, assistant District Attorney in the Dublin Judicial Circuit, told those in attendance that one of the crucial parts is building relationships with the victims. She is happy that her office has good victim advocates.

“Sometimes we have to tell victims that the road to justice can be long,” McLendon said. “I like to meet with our victims one-on-one. Many times you learn this has been going on for years. I can’t tell you how many times the victims will call us to say thank you.”

McLendon said her office is always meeting the victims as strangers.

“Many times victims are afraid to be dealing with law enforcement,” she said. “I’ve had victims come to the office with their abuser, wanting us to drop the charges.”

Many of the victims are worried about who is going to pay the bills or feed their children if the DA goes through with the charges. McLendon said domestic violence goes on behind closed doors.

“We want to hold accusers accountable,” she said. “If you come in possession of a picture, text or voicemail, that is evidence we need to make a successful prosecution. We need people ready to testify. When arguing crosses into violence, we as a community have a right to try to stop that.”

WINGS mostly serves women and children but they also serve men too.

People can call WINGS 24/7 helpline, which is (478) 272-8000.

“It can be the victim themselves, a friend, a family member or anybody who is concerned about somebody,” Mullis said. “We can talk to them about the situation and maybe just give them some support and



Kayla McLendon, assistant District Attorney in the Dublin Judicial Circuit, talked about her office’s role in bring abusers to justice/PAYTON TOWNS III



A woman reacts after her butterfly, representing a domestic violence victim in 2025, flies away/PAYTON TOWNS III



These small packages contain butterflies, each one representing a domestic violence victim in 2025. Detrenell Mitchell, 31, was a Dublin woman killed in a domestic violence situation in March of 2025/PAYTON TOWNS III

guidance about what the next steps are to take.”

WINGS, who covers Laurens, Bleckley, Johnson, Dodge, Wilkinson, Telfair and Wilcox, will also take monetary donations or consumable supplies like paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent and cleaning products.

“That stuff you get at the store every time you go, that’s the stuff we need,” Mullis said.

To find ways to help WINGS, call (478) 272-5880.

You can help us find a home for “Chase”.



Chase is a boy who loves his toys.

Chase has lived here at the Dublin/Laurens County Humane Society for more than a year.

We took in Chase from the married couple who adopted him years ago when he was a puppy. Unfortunately, the husband passed on and the wife had to go into a nursing home.

Chase is a Redbone Coonhound. This breed is known for its ability to track and tree raccoons. Because of their size and toughness, these hounds also can take on big game such as bears and cougars.

Chase is one of the heaviest and tallest dogs currently at the shelter. He weighs around 70 pounds. Despite his size, Chase acts like a puppy when it comes to his squeak toys and chew toys. He absolutely loves playing with his toys.

Chase would be an excellent guard dog for an animal herd or his owners’ property, as long as he has frequent access to the indoors.

Chase would be happiest in a home with a family who appreciates his size and energy. Despite that energy, Chase sleeps like a baby at night.

You can come see Chase Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shelter is located at 618 Firetower Road, just east of Hwy. #441 where it crosses I-16.

Help us find the home Chase so richly deserves. He is truly a sweet, loving, wonderful dog!

Do not have to leave town for entertainment

Now that the Atlanta Braves have made their postseason exit - which except for 1995 and 2021 has become an annual tradition - some may be thinking what can they do now, especially in Dublin, Laurens County?

Many have said there is nothing to do here. That is not the case when I look at my calendar and see the number of live shows in different theaters and schools throughout the city and county.

Just look at the list of shows coming up, starting with performances from three One Act Teams from Dublin High School, West Laurens High School and Trinity Christian School. All are currently working on their performances for competitions in the next couple of weeks.

West Laurens' One Act competition is up first in New Hampstead High School in Pooler on Oct. 24, performing "Hush Little Celia Don't Say A Word." The public will have two chances to see this production on Oct. 22 and 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Theatre Dublin before the group competes in the competition.

Trinity Christian School will perform "The Rainbow Fish." Their competition will be held on Oct. 29 in Watkinsville. They will hold a public performance on Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. and school performance on Oct. 28. Dublin High School will hit the stage with its show, "Tracks," on Oct. 29, Nov. 2 and 3 at its auditorium. The show starts at 7 p.m.

A One Act Competition is where a high school group of actors has 55 total minutes for the school to set up, do their performance and then remove all of the props or anything they used off the stage. They are judged on their



MAN ABOUT TOWN...

By PAYTON TOWNS III



Dublin High School One Act team practiced a scene for their upcoming show/PAYTON TOWNS III

performances and penalized if they go over their allotted time.

I have been in three shows for Dublin Community Theatre and I am glad we were not on a clock. Of course an important thing in my mind is to make sure the pace of the scene does not drag. I will applaud the students on their efforts to learn their parts and perform while moving props on and off the stage in a timely manner.

I hope I will be able to come to each of these school's performances. Just like I hope people will make a dash to Colleen's China, Emerald City Treasures (on Telfair Street) and at Visit Dublin GA with Arilyn Erickson and

pick up tickets for one of the two performances of "Polter-Heist," put on by the Dublin Main Street Players on Oct. 30 and 31 at The Ice House. The cast continues to work hard on this show, which will provide dinner, dessert and a chance for the audience to win prizes throughout the evening as well as playing a part in determining the murderer and their motive.

Also, there will be me as the Master of Ceremonies. It has been a blast getting to work with this cast, and with the exception of one part, fill in for those who were not able to make practice that day. This gave me a chance to play a wide range of char-

acters - and yes that did include three roles played by women.

Thankfully, when Oct. 30 and Halloween roll around, those attending the show will see me play the Master of Ceremonies. My job is to kick off the show and have some fun with the part I have been asked to play.

A few weeks after this, it will be time for young people to hit the stage for DCT's production of "Elf Jr. The Musical." I know this will be a fun show and as Glenda Berry said during a recent meeting, "an early Christmas present," for our community.

And of course, there is Theatre Dublin's "The Nutcracker" that will be held twice on Dec. 12 and once on Dec. 13.

We are blessed in Dublin, Laurens County to have so much talent that is displayed many times throughout the year at Theatre Dublin or at other venues in the community.

Sure there is nothing wrong with going to shows in big towns. But unless you know a particular actor, you are there just for the show. If you go to the shows here, you are more likely to see someone you know and the opportunity to have an one-on-one conversation with the director and actors after the shows.

Plus, you don't have too far to travel and little traffic to worry about.

Students from our local schools, and actors from DMSP and DCT along with dancers for The Nutcracker are working hard to bring entertainment to our area. It would be nice for each performance to have a large and excited audience to watch our local talent and cheer them on.

To my fellow actors, the best I can say is "Break a leg!"

Tom Johnson

Thomas Wyatt Johnson was a UGA classmate at the Henry Grady College of Journalism in the late fifties. I was living an extraordinarily good life, writing sports for the *Red and Black*, serving as a stringer for the *Atlanta Journal*, and imbibing with the classical and colorful character, Dan Magill.

To tell the truth, I didn't see how life could be any better. This being the pre-family time in my life, I would have been happy if time and circumstances never changed. It was so good that if I could relive it, I'd sign up for an encore before sundown.

Tom's career was all set when he enrolled in his first class at UGA. The *Macon Telegraph* was underwriting the cost of his education, owing to his benefactor, Peyton Anderson. As it turned out, the newspaper paid for his year of graduate study at Harvard.

All he had to do was to graduate, return to Macon and "pay back" his scholarship in service. I sometimes wonder if he had returned to Macon, he might have become publisher and found a way to keep newspapers from folding across the landscape. He was always destined to succeed.

Next thing you know, he is in Washington, D.C.,

working at the White House with Bill Moyers, who was a boy wonder himself. At the time, I seemed to be making three or four trips to the nation's capital each year, and on one of those trips Tom invited me to have lunch with him one day in the White House staff dining room.

Then I spent time in the press building with the network news reporters and others. I remember seeing Harry Reasoner of CBS taking a nap, snoring quite audibly. I got up the courage to go over to speak to Merriman Smith, celebrated reporter for United Press International, who was from Savannah.

Tom had stashed me there while he was at a meeting and then took me to lunch, which was followed by a private tour, which included a stop at the Oval Office. Lyndon Johnson was president, and had he been present, Tom would have introduced me.

I was prepared to tell LBJ I had spent time in Maxeys, 24.1 miles east of Athens and the ancestral home of his paternal great grandfather. However, he autographed a photo to me, which is now lost in a filing cabinet somewhere.

These scenes and many others flashed back last weekend when Tom came



By LORAN SMITH

to Athens and spoke to a small group of mostly UGA faculty and friends, which meets quarterly.

Tom reviewed his book, *Driven*—published by the University of Georgia press—which is principally his autobiographical recollections of his time in the White House, highlighted by his being the official note keeper of all LBJ conferences and meetings.

He became a favorite of LBJ ("the son LBJ never had," says Judy Woodruff, who wrote the foreword to Tom's book), and when the Johnsons left Washington and returned to Texas, Tom knew there was opportunity with LBJ—and it wasn't roping cattle and baling hay.

After working in the family communications business, he moved on to the *Dallas Times Herald* as publisher. That led to his next move, which was to LA as publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*. Then he came

home.

In 1990, Ted Turner hired him to become President of CNN, and while there is more ahead for this accomplished UGA graduate and passionate Bulldog, he has always been charity oriented, has openly talked about his brush with depression, and supports causes that deal with mental health.

His wife, Edwina, is from Athens, and she was in our wedding. Therefore, we had the opportunity to enjoy seeing them in all locations where they lived, finding them warm, hospitable, and always interesting—to say nothing of the people they cavorted with in a multifaceted career.

I have always enjoyed seeing anyone with UGA training reach exalted heights, and few have risen as far as Tom Johnson. He has always maintained strong feelings for his alma mater. Perhaps there is another book lying in wait.

TELL IT!



CALL 272-0375, EMAIL
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COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Too much gang activity and drug activity going on throughout Village Circle. The Dublin Police should continue to ride through. Catch the criminals eventually! Continue to show up!

Before the big ball tournament gets here is it too much to ask to get the parking lights at southern pines, tall interstate lights, and ones under the 441 bridge working?

I said the county city consolidation person was confused and disoriented. Boy was I wrong. Can the city take over the county? Serious question. These folks got to go. Dublin-Laurens County now!

Why are the schools forcing families to buy junk to fund the schools when they just voted to rake in a pile of tax money in part to fund the schools? When tax gouging isn't enough, you turn to extortion? Too much is never enough for these local politicians is it.

City residents fasten your seatbelts. Dublin City Schools is still millions in the hole, so you know where they'll get the money from? Not the state. Yes, your property is about to get very expensive. The city and the county are in a contest to see which one can gut the tax payer the worst.

What ever happened to the promise of putting speed pads on Brookwood Drive and Brookhaven Drive? Both streets need them end to end because both are plagued with speeding vehicles, including electric bikes driven by riders with no helmets or other protection. We were promised these quite a while back and while some were put in nearby, this area has been neglected and the speeding is getting worse.

The city knows of the speeding problem because we watched the Dublin Police Department catch three of them recently. We really need these.

If fuel costs are stressing your budget, imagine what they are doing to school systems across rural Georgia.

People do not care about others property, landlords please start pres-

suring or washing these houses down. Makes other neighborhoods look awful.

City counselors do your job and stop collecting checks wanting people to vote for you. Let's clean Dublin, Ga. up with these neighbors. Tear houses and let's start giving fines out for these yards, etc.

Why would you think the FLOST is going to lower anything, when the taxes have already been raised?

It's simple. We just want to see the tax digest. Is there a reason you won't show it? Ask your commissioner.

Everyone in upper management at Dublin City Schools back in 2025 knew something was going to happen. They should not have renewed the teachers' contracts unless they needed them. They should not have terminated them in the middle of the contracts they renewed. The Dublin City School Board should hire them back and pay them back pay. Even though we've got a new board, it is nothing but fair.

These schools are serving our kids meals that aren't nutritious at all. I don't see why the parents have not complained. They need to go out there and see and then they will complain.

The person making the rude comments about the prisoners being treated at Fairview Park Hospital should be ashamed. First of all, they are human beings. You will count your blessings if your family has never been affected by addictions or had a loved one gone to prison.

By the way, all prisoners are watched by a guard at all times so you are not in any danger. If you happen to call yourself a Christian, I hope you chose to ask God to forgive your hateful heart. Please do some research and pray for the prisoners.

I bought a freezer (from a local store) and in less than a month it was icing up. Went back to the company and they told me that when a repair man was in the area they would check it. It has now been five months and they haven't done anything.

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

- Philippians 4:4

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

- Jimmy Dean

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

Oct. 13, 2026 is...

- Disaster Day
- Navy Birthday
- National Transfer Money to Your Son Day
- National M&M Day
- World Thrombosis Day
- Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day
- International Skeptics Day
- International Day For Failure

The Courier Herald

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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 27, SWAINSBORO 12

TDs through air, 3 takeaways help Irish tackle Tigers

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

On a night when running the ball was a definite grind against a strong Swainsboro front seven, some big plays through the air were a massive boost for the Dublin Irish on their way to a fifth win, 27-12, Friday in the Shamrock Bowl.

The skies were not necessarily friendly on a drizzly night that had both physical football teams in a run-first mode. But Dublin was more effective on roughly half the number of passing attempts,

and hit two of the big plays the Tigers largely found elusive.

Irish QB Ryland Yates was 5-of-7 for 161 yards, and touchdowns on back-to-back drives in the first half that pried the lid off a scoreless game as he sailed it to a miles-open Jamarcus Knight for a 56-yard touchdown pass to begin the scoring late in the first quarter, and found Trav Bostic in a tighter window for an even longer 63-yard strike through the air early in the second.

Swainsboro's Joshua Gray countered with a 7-of-15 line for only 75, with some op-

portunities for a few of the same – a good many on third downs with a ways to go – that either didn't come to fruition, or resulted in fumbles on the end of long runs after the catch.

Dublin, which had denied the Tigers' bid for a game-tying score late in the first half on an interception by Jakarian Jones, successfully dislodged the ball to turn potential big ones into two other takeaways in the second half.

The last, coming as Swainsboro knocked on the door late in quarter 3, had

Dublin starting from deep in its own on a possession that had fairly high odds of going three plays and out.

Instead, the Irish – leading 21-6 – drove close to 85 yards and chewed up the first seven minutes of the fourth quarter clock to threaten a dagger touchdown.

They crept toward midfield a few plays at a time before Yates pulled a keeper and went left for a huge gain that broke into Swainsboro territory.

IRISH
Continued on page 6



Will Wallace (foreground) reacts as Travion Bostic (4) covers his last two steps to the end zone on a touchdown reception from Ryland Yates early in the second quarter, the second 50-plus yard passing score for Dublin in Friday's first half /HORACE AUSTIN

DODGE COUNTY 49, EAST LAURENS 21

Indians impress, improve to 2-0 in region as Falcons flounder in frustrating loss

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

After one over Vidalia at home to open October and its region schedule, make it back-to-back statement wins for a Dodge County team that's intent on being taken just as seriously as its fellow contenders in the 2-AA title race over the season's last four weeks.

The Indians knocked out East Laurens, and a second victory in as many league matchups, with their latest impressive performance Friday at the new Falcon Field.

It was a dominant three-quarter showing by their varsity defense, and a productive night for pretty much all their main offensive playmakers, that wasn't also without some key plays on special teams. Dodge wasted no time racing past the Falcons, 49-21, to continue rounding the midseason corner and enter a challenging home stretch of the schedule that begins with rival Bleckley County back at Memorial Stadium this week.

For East Laurens, a short trip to Vidalia is next on the region itinerary, after a homecoming loss that seemed to carry over zero of the momentum gained the week before in a potentially galvanizing upset of ACE for its second win in three weeks.

The Falcons (2-5, 1-2 region 2-AA) were beset by mistakes and miscommunication throughout the night, and unable to gain a first down until the fourth quarter as early-series sacks and short-yardage stuffs frustrated their every effort to move the ball.

Demarcio Holliman's 80-yard return of the second half kickoff for their first touchdown, and two fourth-quarter scores by the offense against Dodge County reserves, were the only bright spots on the overwhelmingly

dreary night.

The runback briefly cut the Indians' lead to 29 points, but they would score twice before the East Laurens offense could find its footing.

Dodge didn't get much going on the first drive until Mincey's short dump-off pass to Jeremiah Burns, for what probably should've been a 15-yard at best, turned into a 55-yard catch and run after three or four broken tackles.

Dianco Murray jumped a route to pick off a pass and offset the muffed kick, but there was still nothing doing on the Falcons' first offensive possession of the second half.

The Indians ran into an impenetrable red zone barrier multiple times in search of their seventh TD of the night, but Fountain finally finished off the odyssean sequence from a few inches out to put the final Dodge tally on the board.

Skyler Snead hit Tawan Horne on a 55-yard catch and run against Dodge County backups for the first official move of the chains, then took a keeper a little over 20 yards to get the Falcons on the board early in the fourth period.

JaBryan Bigham's fumble recovery gave them one more shot to chip away late, and Aveone Wicker took one off the right side for a run to set up the touchdown on Snead's pass to Major Floyd.

Dialing it in...

The Indians (4-2, 2-0 region 2-AA), who have been playing some of their best football since a second bye week, shined in the rain with multi-touchdown efforts by their traditional and wildcat quarterbacks.

The main starter Kain Mincey fired two passes for scores in the first half, and a

FALCONS
Continued on page 6



Jonathan Toney (65), Tre'J Germany and Dameon Palmer, among others, get a piece of some Harlem defenders on blocks ahead of a Raider run play on the opening drive of Friday's predictably physical ballgame/DANNY SCARBORO

HARLEM 20, WEST LAURENS 17

Tough third quarter, Bulldogs' grinding ground game, gets best of Raiders again

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

It would've been hard to have a better third quarter than Harlem did on its last visit to The SHU back in 2024, with four touchdowns and three Jayden Futrell interceptions that broke a scoreless halftime tie, and helped hand the Raiders their first loss.

But the Bulldogs very well may have topped it this past Friday, as they returned to Dexter and once again made the most of the 12-minute slice of action out of halftime to to turn a 10-0 deficit (that was very close to becoming 17-0 if not for a key touchdown-saving tackle on the last play of the first half) into a three-point lead, and a game headed one way the complete opposite direction.

A pair of scoring drives,

with an onside kick recovery in between, used up 11 of the period's 12 minutes to give Harlem the lead, and completely deflate a home sideline that had previously held all the momentum.

A few other key plays, including a third touchdown run of the night by bruising tailback Keaton Tillery, helped the Bulldogs shock West Laurens again with a 20-17 victory that will once again put them on track to win the region title.

"I thought we played really hard," said West Laurens head coach Kip Burdette. "But we just didn't play well enough to win, and didn't get the first downs when we needed to and points when we needed to, and then they kept the chains moving so long, it just kept us off the field."

Harlem (5-2, 3-0 region 3-AAAA) now holds a share

of first place with Liberty County, which remained unbeaten in league action Thursday with a win over Long County – the Raiders' next opponent coming up Friday in Ludowici.

The stumble, after a two-game win streak coming in, sets West (3-4, 2-1 region) back below .500, and now turns what were some sure-fire chances of repeating as region champion into questions about whether it can do what's needed in three remaining games to get back to the state playoffs.

"We're gonna go back, get healthy and get back at it," said senior linebacker Leroy Mack.

For the first time in three meetings between the two fast rivals (they had never played each other in football before that '24), the winner of the turnover battle didn't win the game.

West Laurens intercepted two passes late in the second quarter, while Harlem recovered possession only once... on the shrewd third-quarter onside kick that was one of many game-changing special teams plays.

The ball, on most of them, bounced the Bulldogs' way.

But especially so after Harlem's confident 66-yard march down the field to score on a single-yard run by Tillery on its opening third-quarter possession.

The Bulldogs' head coach Mark Boiter, known for picking the right times for a calculated gamble, rolled double sixes on the call as his kickoff specialist Yehudi Morales-Acosta slid one over midfield that two diving Raiders were unable to secure.

RAIDERS
Continued on page 6

2-for-1 special: Wins over Wilco, Twiggs all in a week's work for Trojans

By RALPH JACKSON
Correspondent

Two games, 117 points scored.

The Johnson County Trojans bookended the workweek with twin wins, defeating Wilkinson County 61-16 on the road Monday night before returning home Friday to shut out Twiggs County 56-0.

It was anything but an ordinary week for the Trojans. Scheduling difficulties pushed the Wilkinson County contest from Friday, Oct. 2 to Monday, Oct. 5, while the threat of a hurricane moved this past Friday's homecoming game against Twiggs County to an earlier kickoff. Both games began at the unusual hour of 6:30 p.m.

The odd schedule did little to slow Johnson County, which improved to 7-0 while outscoring its opponents 117-

16 in just five days.

Monday's contest at Wilkinson County did not begin quite as smoothly as the final score might suggest. The Warriors struck first and took an 8-0 lead before Johnson County settled in and began to take control. The Trojans led 14-8 after the opening quarter and stretched that advantage to 41-8 by halftime.

Coach Don Norton acknowledged that it took his team a little time to find its footing.

"It's always good to come here, and it's a tough place to play, especially on a Monday night," Norton said. "I thought our kids played well. It kind of took a little bit of time to get going, but once we did, we rock-and-rolled."

The Trojans finished with 438 yards of offense, including 314 on the ground. Jeremiah Scott rushed for 142

yards and two touchdowns, while Chance Wombles completed all four of his passes for 124 yards and two scores. Daezon Devero added a 58-yard interception return for a touchdown as Johnson County pulled away.

Perhaps as important as the final score was the opportunity to get players onto the field and come away healthy with another game just four days away.

"Everyone got to play tonight. We came out of here injury-free, getting ready for our next region game," Norton said. "I thought our kids hit pretty well tonight."

By Friday, the Trojans were back at the Blue Monster for homecoming, and this time there was no slow start.

Johnson County raced to a 42-0 halftime lead and added 14 more points after intermission to complete a 56-0 shut-

out of Twiggs County.

The Trojans scored in a variety of ways, including rushing touchdowns, touchdown passes and a 58-yard punt return by Scott. Just as impressive was the defensive effort, which limited Twiggs County to 54 yards of total offense.

Norton was pleased with both the shutout and the opportunity to give his younger players more experience.

"It's always tough on homecoming," Norton said. "I'm glad to get a win. Everyone got to play tonight. Glad to get a shutout."

Among those gaining experience was freshman quarterback Easton Ivey, who completed both of his pass attempts against Twiggs County. Ivey said playing in actual games teaches him things that cannot be learned on the practice field, and he believes

the younger Trojans are responding well to their opportunities this season.

"The young guys are really doing good. We haven't let up," Ivey said.

While two games in one week might seem like the biggest challenge, Norton suggested that the distractions surrounding homecoming were actually the greater concern.

"It's more about trying to get their attention with homecoming, worrying about rolling people's houses and all that kind of stuff," Norton said.

"Homecoming is much more of a distraction than two games in a week."

Devero, who made his mark in both contests, offered a different perspective on

TROJANS
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Jeremiah Scott leaps for an impressive catch against Twiggs County/ RALPH JACKSON

IRISH
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Dublin reached the red zone several plays later, and went back to the well on a play-action pass in hopes of putting the game away. But the ball would be picked off by a stooping Ja'Bios Smith.

The Tigers still had a little life, and suddenly a bunch of it after rising-star tailback Kyle Johnson broke loose over the right side for a 75-yard touchdown run on the very next play to trim the lead to 21-12, and give the Irish some flash-backs of 2025, and a two-score Swainsboro comeback to beat them with this little time left in the fourth quarter of the season opener.

But an extra point or points would be critical in turning the gap of nine into a single score.

The Tigers, perhaps unwisely, opted to try for the deuce, and got held out as Johnson was stuffed in the middle of a direct snap.

Swainsboro wouldn't get the ball back anyway.

A post-play unsporting foul backed the Tigers' kick to their 25, ensuring Dublin a chance to score on Yates' recovery of the onside kick attempt. And that, the Irish did to put the game fully away.

It got kind of complicated after a massive third-down loss put them in a fourth and long. But Dontavius Cannon blew his way through a crack on the right side, then several tackles, to pick up the 20-yard balance and reach goal to go.

The senior blasted his way into the end zone as time expired two plays later.



Ryland Yates cuts it loose on the throw toward Trav Bostic that turned to his second long touchdown pass of the night. The sophomore QB completed five passes for 161 yards in the win/**HORACE AUSTIN**

A tough one to put away...

Though the passing game didn't come through as hoped, Swainsboro was able to run with the Irish thanks to some of the increasingly superb work of its feature back Johnson, who averaged eight yards on his 21 attempts for 176.

The 5-foot-11, 205-pounder proved tough to bring down, and over the course of the night began picking up more and more after contact on his way to the big break-away on that final touch late in the fourth.

But the Tigers needed some complimentary success in the passing dimension that wasn't quite there in the moments they needed it.

Some potentially big

catches were close to materializing early in the game, when a juggled and partially broken-up pass cut short Swainsboro's first drive on a third-and-fairly long. Another failed early in the second possession that also punted.

Dublin's offensive success mirrored the pattern of early progress, followed by a setback, for most of the first quarter.

An opening drive was going strong for the Irish until D.J. Cuyler and Derek Hughes stopped a third-down run in the backfield to set up a turnover on downs, as a defender knocked the ball from Yates' hands on a rush from his back.

Dublin was faced with a fourth down from deep in its

own territory on the next opportunity, but got the Tigers to jump on a false count, and then took a shot on the next play that caught Swainsboro totally off-guard.

Safety Jayvion Sherrod bit hard on some run action to the right side that allowed Knight to slip right by him downfield to score on an easy pitch-and-catch.

The Irish scored in similar fashion on their next offensive snap, after a fourth-down stop as Knight and V.J. Bond led a torrent of Green that poured into the backfield to drop Gray on a 10-yard sack.

The book always says teams are liable to go deep after a change of possession.

This time, Sherrod was alert and picked up Bostic out of the backfield despite good work by Yates to hide the ball on a speed sweep fake.

But the Irish wingback still sped by him, and the throw once again had some GPS precision to hit him in step for another TD.

NaZyon Mitchell points-after both scores made it 14-0 Irish.

Swainsboro overcame a Blake Luecke sack, thanks to a pass interference flag for a free first down, to respond on a five-yard Joshua Gray rushing touchdown to get within eight, after his 40-yard completion (a biggest of the night) flipped the field.

The Tigers threatened again with time winding short in the half after a sack forced a Dublin punt, and an Irish facemask foul added 15 to the end of a large run.

It was Gray's turn to look

to the end zone, and he hung it back-shoulder on a fade for Shannon Benjamin. The senior wideout went up for a one-hander, but inadvertently tipped it for Jones to catch on the rebound just before halftime.

The third quarter, save for a Dublin touchdown to add on, was a bit messy.

Just after an Irish punt, Jones got in on a second takeaway as he clubbed the ball loose from behind Sherrod on a catch that would've picked up a Swainsboro first down. Jaydon MCRae recovered the loose rock just outside the red zone, although Dublin was unable to convert on a Swainsboro stand with goal to go that forced a field goal try on a fourth and 11 that drifted a little left.

The Tigers put together another quality drive that, once again, almost hit the big play on a deep pass that just missed completing over midfield.

But a bad snap would lead to a turnover on downs, and Dublin wouldn't be denied on a return possession that finished on McRae's 23-yard scurry up the middle to pad the lead, 21-6.

Another shot to score fell through for Swainsboro as Gray found Sherrod up the seam for a long catch-and-run into Irish territory. But once again, it got punched loose from behind by Matthew Batts.

Dublin (5-1, 2-0 region 2-AA) goes to Macon to take on ACE Friday. Swainsboro will face the Gryphons after its bye on Oct. 23.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL
Thursday
Bleckley Co. 45,
ACE Charter 15
Wheeler Co. 28, Treutlen 16
Hephzibah 42,
Washington Co. 35 (OT)

Friday
Harlem 20,
West Laurens 17
Dodge Co. 49,
East Laurens 21
Dublin 27, Swainsboro 12
Johnson Co. 56, Twiggs Co. 0
Wilkinson Co. 14, GMC 12

SOFTBALL
Thursday
Thomas Jefferson 8, Trinity 0
Treutlen 11, Dublin 0
EL 1, Johnson Co. 0

PREP
SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL
GHS A Playoffs, Round 1
Monday
Social Circle at East Laurens
(doubleheader)/4 p.m.

Tuesday
Social Circle at EL
(game 3, if necessary)
/6 p.m.

Wednesday
Hardaway at West Laurens
(doubleheader)/3 p.m.
Thursday
Hardaway at West Laurens
(game 3, if necessary)/TBD

FLAG FOOTBALL
Tuesday
Statesboro at EL/5 p.m.

FOOTBALL
Friday
Dublin at ACE Charter
East Laurens at Vidalia
West Laurens at Long Co.
Flint River Academy at
Trinity
Bleckley Co. at Dodge Co.
Brentwood at Briarwood
Dooly Co. at Treutlen
Jenkins Co. at Twiggs Co.
Montgomery Co. at Portal
Thomson at Washington Co.
Wilkinson Co. at Glascock Co.
Wheeler Co. at Turner Co.
/7:30 p.m.

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the physical demands of the schedule.

"Very tiring, but if you want to make it, you've got to push through it," Devero said.

For Johnson County, the two victories were about more than adding another pair of wins to the record. The Trojans showed they could respond after falling behind, maintain their focus through an unusual schedule, and continue developing younger players without sacrificing the results on the field.

Through seven games, Johnson County has scored 350 points while allowing 71, an average of 50 points scored and just over 10 allowed per game. The Trojans have recorded three shutouts and scored at least 48 points in five consecutive games.

Scott supplied 142 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns against Wilkinson County, then added a 58-yard punt return for a touchdown against Twiggs. Devero scored on a 58-yard interception return Monday and caught a touchdown pass Friday. Grayson Jackson converted 15 of 16 extra-point attempts across the two games, while freshman Easton Ivey completed both of his passes Friday.

The Trojans will be off this week before returning to action the following week against Hancock Central.

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.

RAIDERS
Continued from page 5

It tumbled a little further, where Eric Williams made the recovery to steal a key possession that would yield a second-straight touchdown with only a little north of 60 seconds remaining in the quarter.

On the previous drive, the Bulldogs had moved the chains on two third downs, and one fourth, as Harlem survived Ayden Moore's third-down sack and a fumbled snap to convert with Tae Hudson bringing in a double-covered pass inside the West Laurens 5.

They did more of the same as Tillery carried them over the line to gain on a fourth and 1, and then inside the Raider 10 on a 27-yard carry the following play. He would dive in for the go-ahead TD only moments after.

The short-yardage menace had few big plays on nine carries for 47 yards, but used his 220-pound build to gouge out a handful of yards per carry that kept Harlem drives moving to match the clock-grinding pace that West Laurens has made its signature over the last three games.

The Bulldogs turned that philosophy against the Raiders, limiting them to just six possessions in a game that, without the third-quarter swing to give Harlem an eighth, would have otherwise been even.

"They possessed the ball the whole third quarter, pretty much, other than like a minute," Burdette said. "Then we gave up an onside kick right there, probably the difference in the game, and then they just kept getting first downs



Kaden Bloodsaw gets loose between Harlem defenders for one of his multiple big runs along West Laurens' 65-yard scoring drive to open the game, which ended in his short run for a touchdown/**DANNY SCARBORO**

on fourth (downs)."

The loss of impact-making defensive end Maxx Chafin to a leg injury may have been one of the biggest setbacks in that cause of getting Harlem off the field.

The junior, who exited early in the first half, was a major missing presence on the West Laurens front line that rotated in top-rated offensive linemen Jonathan Toney and Christian Rozier as frequently as ever for some extra bulk that was still not quite enough to stem the Harlem tide.

"He's a big part of the D-line," said Mack, who picked up a good bit of slack as the defense's leading tackler, on 14 stops with two for loss. "He makes a lot of plays. I knew when he got out, we had to buckle up, get down and get ready."

Mack, himself, was a little banged up for a defense with several others battling various limitations, Jamari Blash leaving the game briefly at one point for a secondary that's already been without corner Jaden Stanley for a

few games in a row.

"They play their hearts out, now," Burdette said. "They battle through injury. We haven't been full tilt since back in the summer. But our kids play hard, and we're proud of 'em, and we're going to keep fighting and keep trying to get better."

Bulldog bounces...

There were plenty of other important plays in the kicking game, not the least of which was a 28-yard Duggan Malone field goal just before halftime that stretched the Raiders' lead to 10-0.

They would open the third quarter with a pooch kick that nearly altered the game's fateful course as Malone spun one in the air high above up-man Tae Hudson. But the ball stayed close on a bounce after glancing off his hands, and Harlem managed the recovery to begin its scoring drive.

The teams traded a series of punts after the Bulldogs claimed the lead, but a second of those by Harlem's Hayden Youmans pinned the Raiders inside their own 10 for a se-

ries that went nowhere, forcing a second-straight West Laurens kick that would be blocked by Jax Stadler for a recovery at the West Laurens 4.

Tillery shoved his way in on the very next play, and Harlem increased its lead to 20-10 with a little south of four minutes to go.

The Raiders, in dire straits, managed the needed drive with the help of some key receptions by J.D. Hogan and Jeremy Brownlee – on a contested grab between two defenders to help set up the touchdown – on Malone's sprint-out pass to Hogan from three yards away.

Stadler (whose multiple game-changing plays in the last two weeks also included a first-half pick-six at Southeast Bulloch) gobbled up the West Laurens onside kick try to prevent any chance at the Raiders chipping further away.

The first chapter in Friday's tale of two halves was a direct contrast to the second.

West Laurens had the supreme confidence and momentum, and looked poised to potentially win the game convincingly as Harlem – with a quarterback room in crisis mode after its two rotating passers had thrown back-to-back picks – in danger of coming apart at second quarter's end, when the last of those threatened to change the game even sooner.

There was a second and change left on the clock after Malone's field goal that remained following a Malone touchback on the kickoff, giving Harlem the option of running one more play.

The Bulldogs, opening from their 20, not only threw

time out, and wound up punting from their own end zone after Snead narrowly avoided a safety as he got rid of the ball while reeling into the end zone from a straight-on rush by Jakavion Harris

A flag came out for intentional grounding, but officials gave the benefit of the doubt and spotted the foul at the 1, giving East a chance to kick the ball away.

That turned out to be better for the Indians, whose Fountain would storm through to block the ensuing punt of Logan Gibson, and make the touchdown recovery.

FALCONS
Continued from page 5

third in the second, while situational QB Aamaury Fountain added runs in both, and a recovery of his own blocked punt, for another.

But the visitors' outstanding night got off to a somewhat shaky start as Peyton Butts got a ball knocked loose for a fumble on just their second play from scrimmage.

Holliman got in on his third turnover in two games with the recovery to seemingly put East Laurens in business.

But nothing came of three minimal runs, and a busted play, leading to a turnover on downs.

The teams traded two more threes-and-out before Dodge finally got to work from its 40, and strung together several quality gains on runs from its newly converted running back Kawaski Robinson to set up the first touchdown of the night, as Mincey found Jauriel Bray on a corner route from 17 yards.

The Indians would drive roughly 60 to score on a second-straight Mincey pass that was perhaps his prettiest

of the season: a 49-yard raindrop into the arms of Burns to double the lead.

East was close to moving the chains twice on its next drive, but had a long Bryson Hazley run called back on a foul, and then fumbled the ball on the end of a likely chain-mover on a fourth and short.

Fountain took a touchdown pass off the hands, but Dodge converted the plus field position anyway as Robinson finished off another scoring drive early in the second with a four-yard run.

The Falcons could only move backwards their next

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GOAT? FILLING OUT AN END-OF-LIFE PLAN... IT'S WHERE YOU MAKE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER PLANS FOR WHEN YOU DIE.

CAN I SEE IT? SURE.

WHERE'S THE LITTLE BOX YOU CHECK TO BE IMMORTAL?

NOT AN OPTION.

I'LL NEED A DIFFERENT FORM.

GARFIELD

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?

IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND...

PLEASE BRING LUNCH TO THE PENTHOUSE.

OVERBOARD

SIX YEARS AGO, MY GREEN SHIP GUY BECAME ALLERGIC TO ME..

AND I GUESS NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

I'M SORRY, SCRATCH..

..BUT YOU KNOW YOU ALWAYS HAVE A HOME WITH US, RIGHT?

THANK YOU, HEN-

AH-CHOO!

OH NO! NOT YOU!

KIDDING, BUDDY. BAD JOKE. KIDDING!

DEFLOCKED

OK, FAMILY, LET'S SET SOME GROUND RULES FOR THIS GROUP CHAT.

YEAH! WHO'S AGAINST ABORTION?

WHAT TIME IS DINNER?

CAN EVERYONE SEE MY THUMBS UP?

REPLY ALL: MAMET, IT'S MOM. DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A MOLE OR A PIMPLE?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO THROW MY PHONE IN THE LAKE.

ZIGGY

BIG BROTHER IS TELLING MOM!!

PLUGGERS

OH DARN, IT'S EMPTY.

Considering the high price of gas, pluggers now have a good excuse to not mow the grass.

Student Eager To Move Despite Mental Health Struggles

DEAR ABBY: I'm 34 years old and have been diagnosed with schizoaffective bipolar disorder. I have been in treatment for years with a psychiatrist and a therapist, and I take my medication daily as instructed. I do not drink or use drugs. I am committed to my mental health to prove that people like me can lead full lives.

My family wants me to stay where they live forever, but I dream of moving back down south, where I lived on my own before. I loved the culture, art, weather and friends. Whenever I bring it up, they dismiss it. I think they're afraid that I will start hallucinating again and not have a support system there.

I will be graduating soon from a master's program in counseling, and I look at jobs online all the time. Is it wise to move away from my family with my disorder? Do I sit them down and explain that I was my happiest when I lived there and want to return? I love them and don't want to hurt them. I think if I have a plan in place and stay on track with medication, it would be safe. -- CONFLICTED IN THE NORTH

DEAR CONFLICTED: Have you discussed this with your therapist and psychiatrist? If they both sign off on the move, your family will have less cause for concern. Bring a family spokesperson with you and have your therapist go over the support plan for your new environ-



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

ment. The spokesperson can then help you ease the worries of the rest of the family.

If, however, your care providers don't think it's wise to move right now, please listen to them. Ask them to outline some milestones you can work toward to make moving south a healthier goal for the future.

DEAR ABBY: My brother died a year ago. I have been visiting his widow, "Cheryl," twice a month ever since. She lives an hour away and doesn't get around very well. I drive to her house, and I treasure my time with her. She was the love of my brother's life.

My problem is my sister, "Kate." Kate is self-centered, whiny, disruptive and generally unpleasant. I spend as little time as possible with her. I know that as soon as

she finds out about them, Kate will expect to be included in my visits with Cheryl. I haven't mentioned them, as I would rather not include her. What I would like to see happen is for Kate to come up with her own plan to visit with Cheryl. I love Kate and don't want to hurt her, but on the other hand, I don't want her to ruin my visits with Cheryl either. What should I do? -- BAD SISTER IN MISSOURI

DEAR SISTER: There's no reason for you to hurt your sister's feelings. Tell Kate you feel one-on-one visits with your brother's grieving widow are more beneficial than overwhelming her with additional company. Then (with Cheryl's permission) suggest that Kate call Cheryl and make some plans to visit with her on her own. If Kate argues, see if you can get Cheryl to back you up.

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. (EDITORS: If you have editorial questions, please contact Clint Hooker, clint.hooker@andrewsmcmeel.com.)

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Monday, October 12, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠A1053♥K3♦AK♣AKQ95
Partner opens a weak-two bid in spades. What call would you make?
A - Should partner hold the ace of hearts, you can likely make a grand slam. Partner is unlikely to hold that ace and may not hold the queen either, so you will have to protect your king by bidding the small slam in no trump. First step is to find out about the heart ace. Bid 4NT, Blackwood.

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠Q♥K8762♦73♣KJ875
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♣ 2♣ 4♣ ?
What call would you make?
A - At any other vulnerability, this would be an automatic 5C bid. At this vulnerability, down two - minus 500 - would be a disaster. Pass.

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠3♥J10974♦KJ109♣A87
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass 2♣ ?
What call would you make?
A - Should this get passed around to partner, he may not have any suitable action. You are the one with lively shape, so get involved. Double.

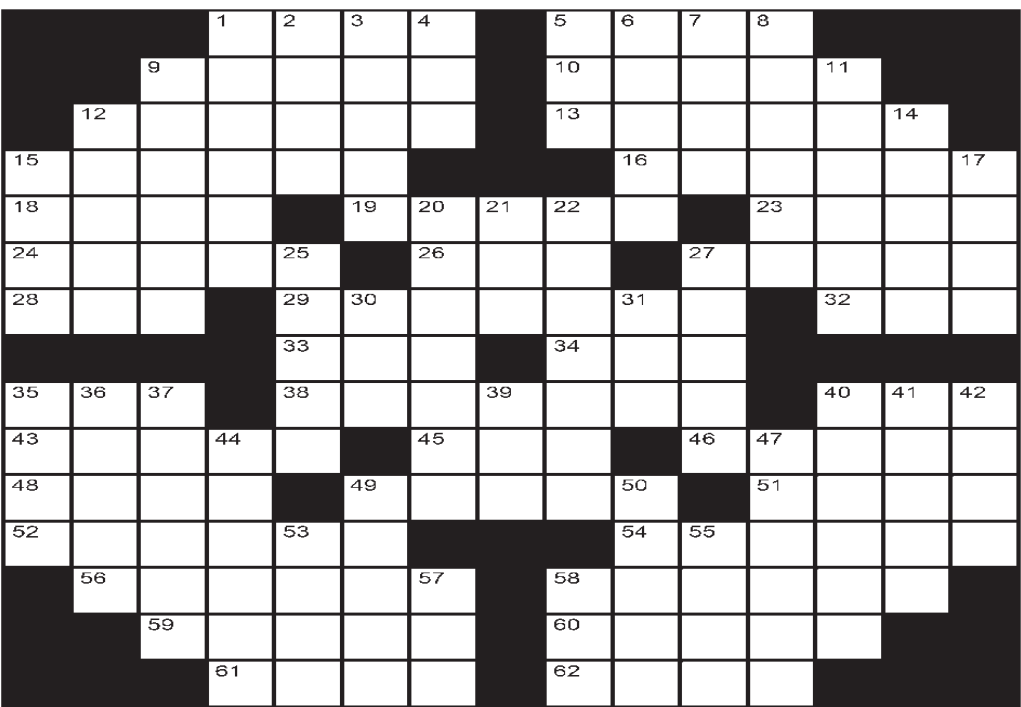
Q 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠932♥A103♦K5♣AK983
Right-hand opponent opens one club. What call would you make?
A - There are some brave souls about who would overcall 1NT. That would not be the worst bid ever made, but it is usually right to pass when the opponents bid your best suit. This hand is no exception. Pass.

Q 5 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠QJ6432♥Void♦Q106♣AJ84
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
2♥ Pass ?
Weak, six hearts with 6-11 points
What call would you make?
A - It doesn't look good for your side at the moment but bidding on rates to make things worse. You haven't been doubled yet, so go quietly. Should the opponents double, then you can bid. For now, pass.

Q 6 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠10865♥A5♦A85♣AJ94
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass ?
What call would you make?
A - Partner will occasionally bid 2S with only three-card support, so don't commit your side to four spades just yet. Bid 3NT. Partner won't leave you there with four-card spade support.

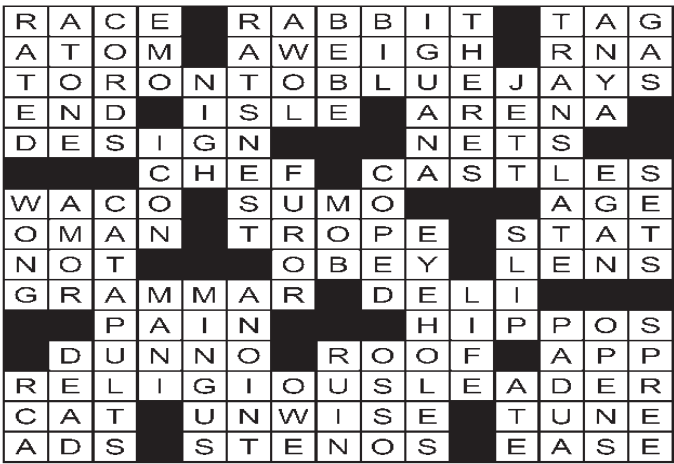
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- 1 Opposite of pull
- 5 Audiocassette
- 9 Canada's national tree
- 10 "You're ___ friends!"
- 12 Weekly time for a church service
- 13 Sounded like a cat
- 15 Fast-paced film genre
- 16 Pilfered
- 18 Enter: 2 wds.
- 19 The ___ Stooges
- 23 Shoestring
- 24 Loose-fitting top
- 26 Intention
- 27 Table in a church
- 28 Pen for pigs
- 29 Musician who plucks strings
- 32 Ancient
- 33 Type of tuna
- 34 Bone in a cage
- 35 Volcanic residue
- 38 Eyelash cosmetic
- 40 Vietnamese soup
- 43 Very inexpensive
- 45 Took a chair
- 46 Eagle's claw
- 48 Singer Martin
- 49 Yard entrances
- 51 "The unmitigated ___"
- 52 Domesticated bovines
- 54 Currently fashionable
- 56 Alleviation of pain
- 58 Relentlessly mocks
- 59 Closely packed together
- 60 Feels resentful about
- 61 Tall, slender grass
- 62 Actress Swenson



Created by Stella Zawistowski

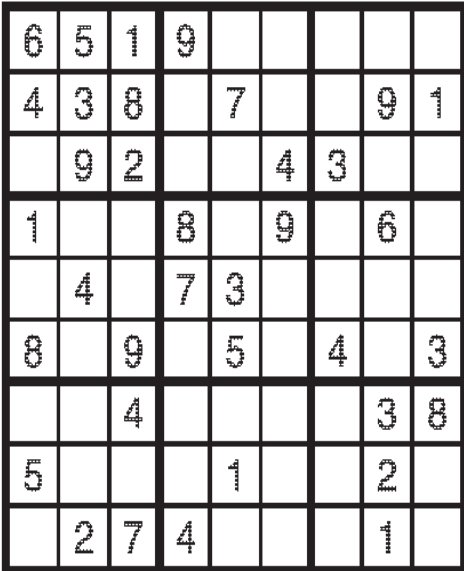
- 5 Noisy dance style
- 6 Bring delight to
- 7 Coastal city
- 8 Sign up for a class
- 9 Rebellion on a ship
- 11 Italian frozen dessert
- 12 Talent seeker
- 14 Bumper sticker, e.g.
- 15 Reps: Abbr.
- 17 Geeky person
- 20 Spicy pepper paste
- 21 Tear
- 22 Dubai, e.g.
- 25 Winner, for short
- 27 Attempt at the plate
- 30 "I've got it!"
- 31 Polite title
- 35 Angus Young's band
- 36 Trim wool from
- 37 "___ Rivalry" (hit Netflix show)
- 39 Jazz fan



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- 40 What seeds become
- 41 Grasps
- 42 "If ___ I could help you!"
- 44 Part of a deer's rack
- 47 Plan for a meeting
- 49 Birds that fly in a V
- 50 Discoloration
- 53 Part of a film script
- 55 Part of a ladder
- 57 Gave a meal to
- 58 "Why did you tell me that?": Abbr.

SUDOKU

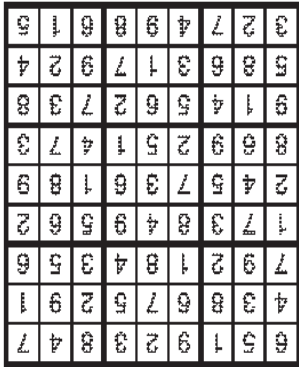


Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER



KIDS' CORNER

Brought to you by



Vol. 032 | Follow Herald the Hound every Tuesday on Kids' Corner from [The Courier Herald](#)

HERALD'S ARTS & CRAFTS: Coloring challenge and the perfect Halloween slime

With the days getting shorter and the weather getting cooler, Herald the Hound is enjoying the change of seasons. He was on fall break last week, getting ready for the upcoming Halloween holiday, so today it's time for more of Herald's Arts & Crafts. Color the picture to the right and have a grown-up send a picture to read@courierheraldtoday.com and you may see it in the Kids' Corner. Be as creative as you can! For more fun, see below for a recipe for the perfect Halloween slime!

Jack's Halloween Slime

- The toothy grins of jack-o'-lanterns can be seen just about everywhere come Halloween, and the bright orange color of pumpkins heralds the start of fall. What better way to say "Halloween is here" than with a craft that can be displayed and also played with? Slime is something that's always a big hit with kids. Here's a recipe for slime, courtesy of The Best Ideas for Kids.
- 6 ounces of Elmer's glue (substituting with another brand of glue may not produce the same results)
 - Orange food coloring to create desired hue
 - 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda
 - 11/2 tablespoons of contact lens solution (one that contains boric acid in the ingredient list, as that is what causes the chemical reaction to form slime)
 - Optional: 2 tablespoons of water added to the glue before the baking soda if you desire a stretchier slime
 - Black felt or black construction paper, cut into the eyes and mouth of a jack-o'-lantern
 - Small mason jar with lid
- Decorate the mason jar using a bit of glue to stick the black paper or felt face pieces to the outside of the jar. Mix all the ingredients of the slime in a small bowl and pour into the decorated jar.



Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

CODED RIDDLE

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

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

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
XIBU EP ZPV HFU JG ZPV DSPTT
DPMVNCVT EBZ BOE IBMMPXFFO?
HIPVM - VNCVT EBZ.

Fun Fact

The year 2019 has become the standard by which all years are judged, as far as the film industry is concerned. With the year's global take of over \$39 billion in movie ticket sales, 2019 set the record for worldwide box-office success.
Source: [boxofficemojo.com](#)

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Americanisms



"What a day for new day,
And our star shines like a
miracle, And our world is
almost beautiful again ..."
— Dan Wilson

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MINI SUDOKU

		5		6	
4					
		6	1		
	3				5
6					4
		2			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

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ANSWER KEYS

MINI SUDOKU ANSWERS	3	2	5	4	6
	4	6	1	3	2
	2	5	6	1	4
	1	3	4	6	2
	6	1	3	2	5
	5	4	2	3	1

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What do you get if you cross
Columbus Day and Halloween?
Ghoul - umbus Day.



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Jul 1/15

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

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