The Courier Herald

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First local Souls to the Polls event set for Oct. 24

By KYLE DOMINY
Staff Reporter

There is a long history of churches helping mobilize voters during election season. Most notably during the Civil Rights Movement, in the wake of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Black congregations across the country worked to get people to the polls.

Known as Souls to the Polls, the events are organized measures that have regained notoriety during the Covid pandemic, as laws around voting have been tightened in states across the country.

While local churches have long held their place in the local political landscape, the Laurens County Democratic Committee is organizing the area's first official Souls to the Polls event. Set for Saturday, Oct. 24, organizers are calling on congregations to volunteer their time, and vehicles, to help get their members to the polls to cast their vote.

"What we're trying to do is get people out to vote," said Angela Williams, the party's community involvement committee chair. "Get out and make a choice. Let your vote by your voice."

Early voting in Georgia kicked off on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Voters get a three week, including two Saturdays, window to cast a ballot ahead of Election Day. Advance voting is held at the Laurens County Registrar's Office on Jackson Street in downtown Dublin.

Meeting at 114 East Johnson Street at 9 a.m., Williams said her goal is to have 200 voters that day, ready to walk, drive or ride to the polls.

All area churches are invited to participate and voters are reminded to bring their government issued photo I.D. card.

"We're expecting the best," Williams said. "We're looking for a great turn out and to do this every year."



The first local Souls to the Polls event is set for this Saturday, Oct. 24/SPECIAL PHOTO


City Councilwoman Tess Godfrey asks a question about a vote concerning the Dublin City Schools fees during the Oct. 15 meeting/PAYTON TOWNS III

Dublin City Council to give city schools a little break from collection fees

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Dublin City Council did not approve a total waiver for when it comes to the tax collection fees it places on the Dublin City School System, but it will be less than normal.

After only receiving three votes for a total waiver, the city council approved a $200,000 cap for collection fees for the city school taxes during Thursday's Oct. 15 meeting.

"The state has a 2.5 percent collect fee that the city charges the school system for levying and collecting their taxes," said Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight. "That 2.5 percent collection fee would have been about $375,000 that the school system would pay to the city for us handling their tax collections."

What council agreed to was to waive the whole fee above $200,000.

"We'll take the first $200,000 but we'll waive everything above that," Kight said. "So it should be a $175,000 benefit to the school system."

Dublin City Manager Josh Powell informed council that the Dublin City School System has advertised a millage rate of 18.772.

"That will be a small tax increase for them," Powell said. "They are going through their public hearings now. Because of the time gap between this council's meeting and the next regular council meeting, which is three weeks away, we are asking the council to approve us to levy and collect up to the advertised rate."

He said the DCS could adopt a rate lower than 18.772, but they could not go higher than that rate without starting that process over.

"That would delay everything," Powell said. "The goal for us is to get the property tax bills out sooner rather than later."

The DCS' expected total levy is more than $14 million. The city schools' final public hearing and vote on the tax rate is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 26. Kight said they are required by

DUBLIN COUNCIL
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Public a no-show at hearing on school tax hike


Members of the Dublin City Board of Education listen to a presentation on the tax digest and millage rate increase during Friday's public hearing/RODNEY MANLEY

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

The Dublin City Board of Education's proposed tax increase drew no interest – much less protests or objections – from residents at Friday's public hearing, the first of three on the rate hike.

The public was a no-show at Friday's hearing, held at 11:45 a.m. and attended by just a handful of school staffers and a relative of a board member. The board has scheduled the two remaining public hearings in the evening when more people are likely to attend.

The school board has advertised a millage rate of 18.772 mills, a 3.9 percent increase from last year. To offset inflationary growth in the tax digest and avoid a tax increase, the board would need to roll the millage rate back to 18.067.

Members had considered a rollback, as well as keeping the millage at its current rate of 18.564, but were told both options would result in a loss of net revenue from last year. Even with the tax increase, the district would gain just $40 more in taxes.

That's just a few dollars more than the owner of a $125,000 home would pay in additional city school taxes if the increase passes, Chief Financial Officer Teresa Lounder told the board.

Although the city's gross tax digest grew by $39.3 million – to $963 million – exemptions increased by $46 million. That left the net tax digest – the official list of all taxable properties – at about $791 million, about $8.9 million decrease from a year ago. At least some of the additional exemptions are from a senior citizen homestead exemption on city school taxes passed by voters last November.

Rolling back the millage rate would result in a net loss of $557,923 in tax revenue from last year. Keeping it unchanged would cost the district about $164,802.

"The tax digest shows no increase in proposed levied taxes from the prior year using this new millage rate." Lounder said. "In an attempt to be conservative, we are setting it to account for disputed property values still in review and possible exemptions costing $300,000."

The district's fiscal year 2027 budget projects finishing the year with $821,000 surplus. The budget does not include about $3 million in back payments owed to the State Health Benefit Plan. The system is monthly installments of almost $300,000 to the plan.

"Our budget is based on the actual collected tax dollars last year," Lounder said. "The higher millage will aid in reduction of our

SCHOOL BOARD TAX
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Third times the charm for Wavrick's chili in downtown competition

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

For Tami Wavrick, the third time was a charm.

Wavrick, who led Wave's OG Chili, won first place in the fourth annual Chili Cook-Off held by Downtown Dublin at the Market on Madison Saturday afternoon.

"It feels good to break through," Wavrick said. "This feels good. I have finished second the last two years. It's nice to step up. I tweak it a little bit each year, but it's basically the same."

Buckeye Preferred finished second and Collision Chili was third. Spiciest chili and People's Choice went to Big Mike's Sweet Heat Chili while Victory Venison Chili received an award for the best decorated tent.

Wavrick's named the chili Wave because it is her husband's nickname, while OG stands for traditional chili, she said. Wavrick, who works at The Vallant Bank, was glad to represent it since the men participate in the annual Pig in the Park during the Saint Patrick's Festival.

"It's nice to see everybody show up and participate," Wavrick said. "We were pretty busy. I met a lot of people today that I have never seen before, which is great. I love that Downtown Dublin puts on an event like this. It gives people stuff to do. I just love this weather (on Saturday)."

Jason Keyton, director of business development for the DDA, also enjoyed the weather.

"That is crucial and a key for an event like this," he said. "Every year it keeps growing and growing and that's what we love seeing in our downtown. The number of people and vendors grow every year. The chili recipes are tweaked and get better every year. People are serious about their chili. This is a serious competition."


Tami Wavrick holds up her first place trophy and check/PAYTON TOWNS III

CHILI COOKOFF
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OBITUARIES



Fannie Mae Watkins

Funeral services for Ms. Fannie Mae Watkins will be held on Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the Liberty Church, 900 Hillcrest Parkway in Dublin. Interment will follow in the Braddy Family Cemetery.

Ms. Fannie Mae Watkins was born on April 9,1962 to Addie Ruth and Iziah Braddy of Danville, Georgia. Ms. Watkins was employed at Academy Sports warehouse in Jeffersonville, Georgia and served as a faithful member of Liberty Church in Dublin, Georgia until her passing on Oct. 12, 2026. Fannie was a loyal devoted mother, grandmother and loving partner.

Ms. Watkins was preceded in death by her parents, Addie Ruth and Iziah Braddy; her sister, Iva Jean Fullwood; niece, Jlyalla Braddy; and nephews Devant'e Jackson and Timothy O'Neal.

Fannie Mae leaves to cherish her loving memories to her fiancé, Jeffery Miller of Rentz, Ga; two sons, Tyrone Watkins of Rentz, and Lorenzo (Karena) Watkins; three grandsons, Dorian, Devyn and Dillan Watkins of Dublin; siblings, Betty O'neal of Rentz, Early B. Braddy of Danville, Linda Bryant, Annie Ashley and Lois (Alfred) Williams all of Dublin, Sandra (Rufus) Jackson of Macon; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin

Virginia Schell Stanley

Virginia Schell Stanley, 97, of Dublin, passed away peacefully on Oct. 15, 2026, following a long and faithful life marked by love, devotion and quiet strength.Virginia was born on May 19, 1929, in Dexter, and she carried the values of her hometown with her throughout her life. She was the daughter of the late Thomas Alfred Schell and Jennie Register Schell. She was also preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jernigan Stanley; her daughter, Ginny Stanley Brown; her son, Lee Jernigan Stanley; and her siblings, Jimmy Walton Schell and Winnie Ruth Schell.

Virginia was a Christian woman whose life reflected her deep faith in God and her steadfast commitment to her family and church. She was a longtime member of Dexter Baptist Church, where she was known as a prayer warrior and a faithful presence. Her life was defined by kindness, humility, and a generous spirit that touched everyone who knew her. She was loving, faith-filled and selfless in all that she did.

Virginia retired from JP Stevens after years of dedicated work. She approached her responsibilities with diligence and grace, and she carried that same dependable spirit into every part of her life. More than anything, she treasured her role as a supportive wife, loving mother and caring grandmother. Her family was the center of her world, and she found great joy in being present for those she loved.

She is survived by her daughter, Velinda Stanley of Dublin; her son-in-love, Paul Brown of Dexter; her grandchildren, Eric Brown and his wife Katie, Kaitlin Tyson and her husband CJ, Reagan Bassett and her husband Chase, and Avery Brewer; and her great-grandchildren, Jack Brown, Sam Brown and Dani Tyson. She is also survived by her sisters, Claudia Garner, Shirley Raffield and Pat Jones. Each of them will carry forward her memory with love and gratitude.

Virginia's life was a beautiful example of faith lived out through service, compassion, and devotion to others. She had a gentle way of making people feel cared for, and her presence brought comfort and encouragement to those around her. Her legacy will live on in the family she loved so dearly, in the church she served faithfully, and in the many lives she blessed along the way.

Those who knew Virginia will remember her as a woman of prayer, a woman of strength and a woman whose heart was always turned toward others. Her family and friends will forever cherish the memories of her warmth, her wisdom, and her unwavering love. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who were blessed to know her.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 at Dublin Memorial Gardens. Rev. Jeremiah Sluss will officiate. In lieu of flowers you may donate to St. Jude Children's Hospital or to Gideons.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.

BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 20
Jeff Durham
Wells Mitchell
Jared Street

Oct. 21
April Carswell
Lee Orange
Della Sevilla

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 21
Derrick & Deidra McCloud

Stepping Stone



709 reports of child abuse/neglect in Laurens County for the fiscal year of 2000.

United Way

Court lifts block on Georgia law that restricts children's access to social media

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia can enforce a 2024 state law that seeks to limit social media companies' access to children under a new ruling by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act passed the General Assembly with broad bipartisan support, but an organization representing online platforms sued and secured a preliminary injunction last year.

On Thursday, a three-judge appellate panel voided the injunction after determining that NetChoice had failed to demonstrate that it was likely to succeed on its claims.

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, who defended the state, called the decision a major win for families.

"This is about keeping our children safe from online predators and mental health harms," Carr said in a statement.

A brief filed by Carr's office blamed social media for a litany of harms to minors, including rising rates of anxiety, body-image problems, depression, self-harm and suicide.

The dangers go beyond mental illness, Carr's brief added.

"Bullying, intimidation, harassment, and sexual predation thrive on social media platforms," it said.

The law at issue requires covered social media companies to make "commercially reasonable efforts" to verify users' ages and mandates parental consent for those under 16 to open accounts. It also bans advertising to children when the ads are based on personal information other than age and location.

Senate Bill 351 passed the General Assembly in 2024. Gov. Brian Kemp signed it, despite a request by NetChoice that he veto it.

NetChoice sued in May 2025, two months before the law was supposed to take effect.

The trade association represents companies and platforms, including Meta, YouTube, Reddit, X and Pinterest.

A federal judge in Atlanta issued a preliminary injunction against enforcement.

The June 2025 ruling by Judge Amy Totenberg of the Northern District of Georgia determined the industry group was likely to prevail on claims that the law violated the First Amendment's free speech protections.

The appellate court opinion, written by Judge Kevin C. Newsom, said NetChoice had standing to sue. But it vacated the preliminary injunction and sent the case back to district court for further proceedings.

The opinion found several flaws in NetChoice's arguments, including that the organization had failed to account for the differing constitutional protections for the full range of speech and platforms the law regulates.

Newsom wrote that "it's not necessarily true that social-media websites engage exclusively in 'fully protected' speech. The state contends (and no one seems to dispute) that some platforms, like X and Reddit, do host at least some pornography — which is protected for adults but, importantly, not for minors."

The opinion referred to those companies' products as "hybrid" platforms distinct from "conventional" platforms that host fully protected speech and from "rogue" platforms with "exclusively unprotected" speech.

NetChoice said it was evaluating its legal options and remained committed to fighting for free speech online in Georgia.

"While we are disappointed in the Eleventh Circuit's ruling, the court notably did not hold that SB 351 is constitutional," Paul Taske, Director of the NetChoice Litigation Center, said in a statement.

The decision comes amid a public criticism and civil lawsuits alleging that Meta's platforms addict children and cause mental health harms.

In August, Georgia joined other states and jurisdictions in proposing a multistate settlement of a lawsuit against the company, which operates Facebook and Instagram.

Carr participated in the suit with 46 other states, the District of Columbia and several U.S. territories.

The settlement would require up to $17.1 billion in payments by Meta, with up to $135 million going to Georgia. In addition, the settlement terms would require that Meta impose new limits on teen accounts while giving parents the option for more control.

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

By DR. KEITH ROACH
King Features

Pneumonia patient most likely has a Legionella infection

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was recently admitted to the hospital with pneumonia in both lungs. Given the recent outbreak of Legionella where I live, I was concerned whether I might've had this instead. They did do some tests in the hospital to try to find out. -- R.C.

ANSWER: I looked at the labs you sent me, and several of them are consistent with Legionella. You had a very high C-reactive protein level, a relatively low procalcitonin level, pneumonia in both lungs, low blood sodium, and a relatively low heart rate. All of these suggest Legionella rather than pneumococcal pneumonia (the most-common type). However, your doctors did two urine tests for Legionella, and they were both negative.

The urine test for Legionella isn't perfect. It detects 70% to 80% of only one of the several serogroups of Legionella (serogroup 1 -- the most-common type and what's implicated in the current outbreak in New York). It doesn't detect the other serogroups at all.

Physicians often need to reconcile conflicting clinical information, and sometimes there are formal mathematical models to help. In your case, you meet at least three of the four criteria for Legionella. In one study, people with three or more criteria points had a 98% to 100% likelihood of having Legionella. Busy clinicians who are taking care of sick patients usually don't have the time to read research papers and calculate point scores to help determine the likelihood of a Legionella infection versus pneumococcal pneumonia.

However, clinicians need to know that they shouldn't exclusively rely on one test result against the results of many other tests. When there's uncertainty, clinicians should choose a treatment that will be effective against both possibilities. Many patients have a hard time understanding that our lab tests aren't perfect.

Now that you're out of the hospital and (presumably) mostly recovered, it still may be prudent to complete a course of an effective treatment for Legionella, such as azithromycin. I advise a consultation with an expert in pulmonology or infectious diseases.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Last week, I had some blood work done. Some tests for my liver didn't come back well. My thinking is that it's because I no longer have a gallbladder. My alkaline phosphatase level was 151 U/L. (Normal in my lab is up to 104 U/L.) My AST level was 31 U/L (normal being up to 35 U/L), and my total bilirubin level was 1.5 mg/dL (normal being up to 1.2 mg/dL). Is my thinking correct? -- T.

ANSWER: Immediately after surgery, liver enzymes such as alkaline phosphatase and AST (aspartate aminotransferase) transiently increase. However, when a person is 10 or more years out from surgery, there's still an increased risk of an elevated alkaline phosphatase level (but not AST or bilirubin).

Your alkaline phosphatase level is mildly elevated, and your AST is normal. Your bilirubin level, however, is also mildly elevated. I can't tell you definitively whether this is worrisome, but I don't think that the gallbladder surgery explains everything. Some people have a benign condition called Gilbert's syndrome that causes elevated bilirubin levels of no clinical significance.

What's important is why these tests were obtained. It's not recommended to get them just for screening. If your doctor ordered them because they were worried about a medical issue, then the next step might be an ultrasound to look for a liver problem that blocks bile flow, such as a retained gallstone or primary biliary cholangitis.

If there wasn't a particular reason for you to get these tests, then my suspicion of there being something wrong is small. There are simple reasons as to why the lab tests might be abnormal. (A fatty meal right before testing is one, but your normal levels simply being higher than others is another.)

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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New board member are sworn in to District 1 seat

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

For the first time in 12 years, a new person represented District 1 in a Laurens County Board of Education meeting.

Jennifer Stone, who was the only one to run for the district 1 seat earlier this year, was sworn in by Probate Judge Genola Jackson at the beginning of the Oct. 8 meeting. Her husband Ronnie held the Bible as Stone said her oath in front of her family and board members.

"I'm very excited," Stone said. "I'm hoping we can start fresh and pick up where they have left off. They have been very patient with me. I loved having my family and my friends here. It was great to have them here."

Stone was originally set to take the district 1 seat at the beginning of 2027. That changed when Kathy Sweat stepped down at the end of the September LCBOE meeting.

"(Stone) will be finishing the rest of Mrs. Kathy Sweat's term," said Laurens County Superintendent O.J. Hall. "She will be sworn in again in a few months for her elected (four-year) term."

Hall was glad Stone was willing to go ahead and get three months of experience as a board member.

In other board meeting news:

- The board approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price for East Laurens Elementary School and the East Laurens Middle School Athletic Complex.

"Once the contractor makes a selection of those who will be working on the project, it will give us a timeline of the project," Hall said.

A tentative completion date for ELE is December 2027. The completion date for the ELMS softball field, concession stand and dugout is August 2027. The ELMS baseball field and dugouts completion is scheduled for December 2027.

"For the demolition of the existing East Laurens Elementary School we are looking at March 2028," Hall said. "That would then allow for the track and field to be completed by August of 2028."

- The board chose option D for the Fiscal Year 28 school calendar.

"We let our superintendent-teacher council take a look at it and give us some ideas and suggestions before sending it out to our staff for voting," Hall said.

Teacher's pre-planning days will be Aug. 2-5 with students returning for the first day of school on Friday, Aug. 6. There will be a fall break (Oct. 7-11), Thanksgiving holidays (Nov. 22-26), Christmas holidays (beginning with a half day for students on Dec. 17 before continuing from Dec. 20-31), first day back on Wednesday, Jan. 5 and spring break (April 3-7). The last day of school, which will be a half day for students only, is Thursday, May 25. East Laurens High School will hold graduation on Friday, May 26 while West Laurens High School will hold graduation on Saturday, May 27.

- Approved the WLHS FFA Nationals Trip to Indianapolis from Oct. 20-24.

"We are excited for them," Hall said. "They did well at state and now they get to travel to Indianapolis. We're excited for them to have this opportunity to have that exposure. Hats off for our Ag teachers who get them prepared for their competitions and hats off to the parents who endure those long hours. We are just proud of the students, and we know they will represent West Laurens High School and the Laurens County School District well.

- Hall also mentioned that the East Laurens High School softball team won a region title. WLMS softball also won their region championship recently.

- Custodian crew from WLMS won the Clean School Award. The custodians are Pearl Bell, Wesley Bell, Patricia Coney, Kenneth Griffin, Demetress Holmes, Philip Johnson, Shymeka Murray and David Price.

- Charisma Alvarez (bus driver for Laurens County Schools), Asiauna Edmond (parapro at East Laurens Primary), Marie Hatchett (bus driver for Laurens County Schools) and Sage Stewart (parapro at ELP) were approved as new hires.

- The board accepted the resignation of Abby Freeman (parapro at Northwest Laurens Elementary), Cameron Simpson (custodian at East Laurens High School) and Kayla Snelgrove (food nutrition assistant at NWLE).



New board member Jennifer Stone, left, looks at Jarvis Wilcher as he speaks during the meeting/**PAYTON TOWNS III**



New board member Jennifer Stone, middle, placed her hand on the Bible, held by her husband Ronnie, while she was being sworn in by Probate Judge Genola Jackson /**PAYTON TOWNS III**

DUBLIN COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

law to adopt the DCS' rate and collect it for them.

"The city council does not change the rate," Kight said.

After approving the levy and collection, the council looked into a request from the DCS to waive the collection fee. The first motion made by Councilman Bennie Jones and seconded by Chris Smith was to totally waive the fee. Councilwoman Tess Godfrey abstained from the vote after she asked if the waiving of the fee "would be a one-time thing," and was told by Kight they were at the voting stage of the motion.

"What if I don't know how I want to vote," Godfrey asked.

"You can abstain," Kight said.

Council members Bill Brown, Paul Griggs and Sara Kolbie voted against it while Jones, Smith and Brandon Chain voted for it and Godfrey abstained. The council was informed that the motion failed because it needed four "yes" votes.

Brown made a motion to set a maximum fee of $200,000, and seconded by Griggs, which passed.

"This is an effort to show good faith with the school system as they prepare to get their financial house in order," the mayor said.

The council then approved a suspension of park insurance for 30 days.

"We are still trying to figure out the best and fairest way to insure against any kind of events or problems we have when people rent a park," Kight said.

City staff had created a lease insurance requirement for those who were leasing a park, pavilion or playground for an event.

"They would need to get a $1 million insurance policy to cover them and the city," Kight said. "The cost of that ended up being a little bit more than we were expecting. So, we wanted to suspend that for 30 days while we get our attorney to help us understand how we can stay protected without imposing such a large cost on community events."

During council comments, Kolbie explained why she voted against this resolution.

"I want to be consistent across the board," Kolbie said. "I think at some point we have to implement and enforce park policies."

Kight hopes the council will receive a report and make a decision for a policy that will go into effect in 2027.

Also happening next year, the council voted to move their second meeting of the month to 5:30 p.m. Currently, the city council holds its second meeting of the month (which is the third Thursday of every month) at noon.

The council holds its first meeting of the month (which is the first Thursday of every month) at 5:30 p.m.

In other meeting news, council:

- Passed a resolution to renew the health insurance package for its employees for 2027.

"We are expecting that the over increases should be less than 15 percent," Powell said. "Open enrollment for the city is going to be on Oct. 29 and 30. There is no expected cost increase, on the premium side, for employees of the city."

- Approved a resolution for a guaranteed maximum price contract with Dublin Construction Company for the Springdale Park Project for phase 1 and improved an addendum to the contract with Thomas and Hutton engineering company for the phase 2 part of the park.

SCHOOL BOARD TAX

Continued from page 1

prior year deficit if taxes do come in higher than last year."

During last fall's cashflow crisis, the district relied on advances of its monthly state funding allotments to meet payroll and other operating expenses until property taxes were collected. Lounder said the board will need advances again this year until taxes come due.

"Our goal is to dig our way out as much as we can. There are a lot of things impeding us from doing that," Lounder told the board.

The district should see some additional unbudgeted revenue, after Dublin City Council voted Thursday to approve a one-time cap of $200,000 on its fee for collecting school taxes. The city charges 2.5 percent, the most common collection rate charged for collecting school taxes in Georgia, though metro-Atlanta counties charge less.

The break could potentially save the district about $171,000, interim Superintendent Marcee Pool said.

Two more public hearings will be held before the board votes on the increase – on Monday and again on Oct. 26, both at 6 p.m.



The Chili CookOff and Fall Festival was well attended on what was a cool Saturday afternoon /**DONNELL SUGGS**

CHILI COOKOFF

Continued from page 1

And they like to see people come downtown.

"People will go somewhere else to eat or hangout downtown," Keyton said. "That's a win for everybody."

Keyton was one of the judges for the competition. In all, he tasted 17 chilis.

"Some we made a decision quickly and some we had to deliberate on," he said. "We tasted all 17 chilis and everyone had a different flavor profile. What was crazy was that all five judges picked the same winner. It was unanimous."

The contest also featured a cake walk, a kids zone, food trucks and vendors underneath the Market on Madison.

Britt Boone, who led Boone Docks Buckin' Good Chili, has lived in Albany for 35 years. His mother lives in Dublin while his wife's mother lives in Wrightsville. Boone also used to work at Fairview Park Hospital before moving to Albany to be a surgeon.

"We love coming here and meeting people and the vendors," Boone said. "I love people getting the chance to sample my chili and food. It's just a good feeling."

Boone's team participated in the first chili cook-off, winning the people's choice award.

"We go around to other competitions," Boone said. "I will take my chili to work and we just like competing and talking with people."



A vendor holds up a 4th annual Chili CookOff Fall Festival t-shirt /**DONNELL SUGGS**

When the storms come, let go and let God

MAN ABOUT TOWN...



By PAYTON TOWNS III

There was a time where it seemed like every movie preview had someone saying the following statement, "a storm is heading this way."

In reality, we always have a storm on our horizon. A storm can literally be the weather or something big and bad happening in our life. How we handle those storms are the lessons we build on for the next one that will eventually show up on our radar.

A few weeks ago we had Hurricane Isaias closing in our area. On Friday, Oct. 9, I was looking at the clock near my side of the bed and could not help but have that deja vu feeling. It was the same feeling I had on Thursday, Sept. 27, 2024.

That was the night that we knew Hurricane Helene was coming. And like Isaias, Helene was predicted to hit us in the early morning hours and on the right side of the storm - also known as the dirty side - which normally brings heavier rainfall, stronger winds and tornado threats.

Helene started affecting us after midnight on Friday, Sept. 27. A few hours before that, I turned out the light praying that the storm would not be as bad as advertised. I closed my eyes and hope to sleep through the night.

The howling of the wind woke me up around 12:30 a.m. I had never heard wind like that in this area before. Between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m., the power flickered off and on every few minutes. From what the weatherman said, Helene was almost out of our area and we still had power. I was feeling good. Just a few more minutes and we would be in the clear. Then the power flickered a few times before going out and staying out.

I could barely make out the ceiling fan blades as its spinning slowed down, eventually coming to a complete stop. From 5 a.m. on, all I heard was the wind. I looked out the window but could not see anything until the sun came up around 7 a.m.

Daylight revealed what Helene had left behind. Standing from my driveway, I could see a wall of trees down in two different directions. Traffic was passing my house only to turn around and pass me again because their path was blocked.

It took hours before the roads were cleared and traffic could resume like normal. A ride around town showed the destruction. Trees and power lines down all over the place. Grocery stores that were emptied before the storm were packed with people looking for anything, especially non-perishable items.

For me, since my wife Jill had just had her latest round of chemotherapy because of her breast cancer she had surgery on earlier in 2024, I was concerned with how it was affecting her. She was tired and just wanted to rest in an air conditioning house. Well, that's a problem when the power was out, and the early diagnosis was it was going to take days - not hours - to be restored. Thankfully, my uncle in Milledgeville had power and we were able to make his house our home for the next three days.

As the days went by, power was restored, while the clean up continued. These were the things I thought about before I turned off my bedside light knowing that Isaias was going to hit us during the night. I was expecting the storm to wake me up. Instead, the next thing I knew it was about 6:30 a.m. I laid in bed listening and heard nothing but vehicles pasting my house as they drove toward or away from town.

My wife said the wind picked up some during the night, but not enough to wake me up. Daylight revealed that everything was where it was the evening before. Sometimes in life we can build up things and dread what is about to happen.

I once saw a picture that had the words Let Go and Let God. I am reminded of Luke 8:22-25. Jesus and his disciples are in a boat on a lake. Jesus went to sleep and a storm of wind came upon them and the boat was filling up with water. They were in trouble so they woke up Jesus. He rebuked the storm and everything calmed down. He then asked his disciples one question, "Where is your faith?"

Before something happens, we need to turn it over to God and let him take control. After all, the next storm is brewing. It is on its way. The question is, how are we going to handle the storms?

FIRMER GROUND: MIDTERM REIMAGINING? From a *ME* AMERICA to a *WE* AMERICA

GUEST COLUMN

By STEVE BULLINGTON

"Yes, we need the heat of imagination's sun to cut through our bonds of cloud. And oh, can the great and golden light warm our flesh that has grown so cold?"
Denise Levertov

Historians and many political observers liken this moment in our country to the Gilded Age of the late 19th and early 20th century. In the 1970s and 1980s the idea of a social contract began to give way in the face of the twin cults of individualism and profit. The gap between rich and poor has widened ever since. This has happened under the watch of both of major political parties, although it may be argued that generally speaking Democrats have given more attention to this in their policies and push for regulation.

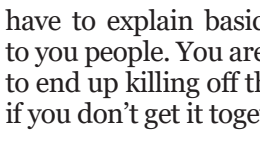
As a candidate and president, Donald Trump tapped into the frustration and cynicism that so many have felt. But aside from a catchy slogan, to Make America Great Again, it's hard to say what the vision and policy has been other than to dismantle government, including what safeguards were in place. And the inequality and the cynicism have only increased. In an interview last week Pew researcher Paul Taylor said as much: "So we're in a gilded age ... I think Donald Trump this last decade has done a very good job of exploiting some of the grievances that flow from this economic inequality, although it seems to a lot of people that his is a government of, by, and for billionaires."

No wonder then that affordability has become a rallying cry as the midterm election approaches, and no wonder there is growing concern on all sides about graft in our political life. But the concern being expressed is not only economic. It goes deeper. We just seem to have lost our way. Increasingly we find ourselves at the mercy of forces beyond our control. As a country we are adrift.

And while there should be no illusions that a change in control of one or both houses of Congress in January will suddenly right the ship, one can be heartened by the quality and messaging of some of those running for office. Three in particular I'm watching are Rob Sand, Adam Hamilton, and James Talarico. Sand, currently the state auditor, is running for governor in Iowa. Hamilton, pastor of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, is running for Senate in Kansas. Talarico, state legislator and seminary student on leave, is running for Senate in Texas. Each, I think, would describe himself as a centrist, less focused on party than on finding solutions. And for each, their vision is strongly shaped by their faith. In his endorsement of Sand, the Reverend Dr. Frantz Whitfield wrote, "Rob's faith shapes how he sees the world, how he treats people, and how he approaches politics and his vision for what public service is – or should be." If any of these three win in what are steep uphill races, I think that it will be because people are hungry for a politics of goodness and integrity and hope.

We have a long way to go, and no one of us has all the answers. The reimagining, the reconstruction of hearts and minds, and work at the local level must finally happen from the bottom up and involves all of us. And I give a shout-out and last word here to Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, whose book *The Crisis of the Common Good: The Fight for Meaning and Connection in a Broken America*, is a hopeful call to go to work: "The America my generation has inherited remains singular and exceptional ... But our six transitions, from a we America to a me America, have come with a deep spiritual cost. ... We need a concerted effort to build a more communitarian society: a common-good capitalism that balances bootstraps individualism with fairness, neighborliness, and shared prosperity."

TELL IT!



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

I don't care if it is just $40 or $1, the Dublin Board of Education just doesn't get it. We are not your personal checkbook. Your knee jerk answer to your stealing $20 million is just to raise more taxes. Twenty-five last year, a little more this year and then more next year. If you can't balance your finances then cut your expenses. Central office, principals, secretaries, assistant principals, coaches, assistant coaches, athletic programs, keep cutting until you balance your budget. Cut to the bone and then cut more.

You can't run Dublin City School like a political cash cow. You have to run it like a business. Cash not coming in to meet expenditures? You cut expenditures. Business 101. I shouldn't have to explain basic math to you people. You are going to end up killing off this city if you don't get it together.

I wish the Dublin Police Department would start policing the Kroger parking lot. There has been an altercation in the parking lot on each of my last three visits.

I prayed for our community, our state and our nation today. Standing for biblical values at the ballot box helps protect our families and future generations. May the votes we cast in this election reflect God's truth and shine His light throughout our nation. Please seek God's wisdom and not your own as you contemplate rather you should participate in the upcoming election. I assure you that your faith and courage will help save America. John Hancock stated in 1774, "I conjure you, by all that is dear. By all that is honorable, by all that is sacred, not only that you pray, but that you act..."

Give the prisoners the Healthcare they deserve. No one is trying to take that away from them. However, render care at a prisoners only facility not Fairview Park Hospital. It's a money game.

Have you ever seen some of the guards that are sent to Fairview Park with the prisoners? If the prisoners were in good health we would all be at risk of an escape.

It saddens me to see the homeless population growing in Dublin. Please let's find help for these people in need. This is more than what churches can handle. Government assistance, where are you? Help!

To the one that has full confidence in the guards watching the inmates at Fairview Park Hospital... Have you seen the guards? I wouldn't let them protect my dog...

Isn't it a simple thing for the city to require the removal of fallen trees in the beautiful Bellevue/Hodges area. If uncut grass is a problem certainly this an eyesore, disrespectful of other homeowners

The same prison guards that are so capable of protecting us are the same ones that do not follow simple protocol to park the transfer vans in the back parking lot.

TELL IT! GUIDELINES

Have something to say about life in Dublin and Laurens County? We want to hear it. Tell It! is a space for community voices: praise, frustration, questions and everything in between.

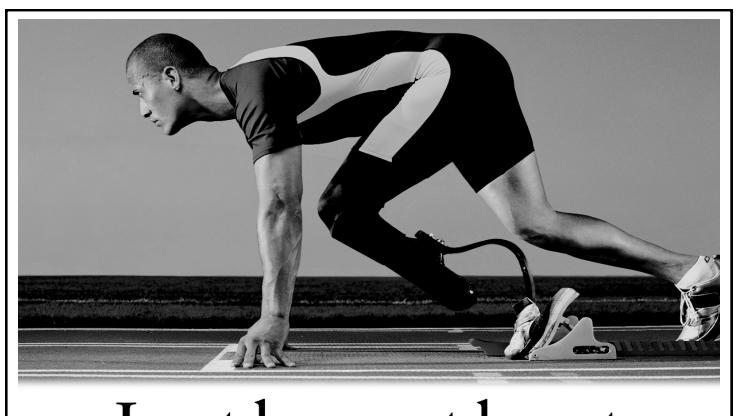
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Keep it local. Submissions should focus on issues, people and places in Dublin and Laurens County. We are not the right venue for commentary on national politics or public figures outside our community.

Be civil. Personal attacks, profanity and hate speech will not be published. Criticism is welcome; name-calling is not.

Stick to the facts. Submissions must not contain false statements of fact about identifiable individuals or organizations. We cannot publish content that is defamatory or exposes the Courier Herald to legal liability.

The Courier Herald reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity, and to decline any submission at its sole discretion. Submission does not guarantee publication.





DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 4:7(KJV)

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow."

- Walt Whitman

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

Oct. 20, 2026 is...

- International Chefs Day
- Information Overload Day
- World Statistics Day
- Suspender's Day
- National Pharmacy Technician Day
- Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity
- World Osteoporosis Day

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS

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Phone: (478) 272-5522 • Fax: (478) 272-2189
115 S. Jefferson St., Dublin, GA 31021-5146

Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

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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.

EAST LAURENS 21, VIDALIA 19

Floyd, Falcons rebound in third-straight road win

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

For the most part this season, the East Laurens Falcons have played their best football away from home, in four games to date that have each included fourth-quarter comebacks.

They forced overtime in the lone loss out of the bunch at Southeast Bulloch back on Aug. 28, before back-to-back wins on trips to face Metter and ACE.

The Falcons' latest road rally helped them pull off another thrilling victory, 21-19 over Vidalia, that breathed some new life into their dwindling playoff hopes Friday at Buck Cravey Field.

Those weren't looking great headed into the last three games of the regular season, this one likely their best shot to turn things around ahead of tall orders against top-10 ranked Bleckley County and Dublin on the other side of this Friday's open date.

The result boosts East Laurens (3-5, 2-2 region 2-AA) to 42nd in the GHSA's Post Season Rankings, which would have them in by several spots if the season ended today.

Major Floyd played no minor role in the final outcome, catching the game-winning touchdown pass, and then sealing it with an interception from the red zone that denied Vidalia's attempt to answer with around a minute to go.

The junior's impactful performance finished with 123 all-purpose yards between the pick and seven offensive touches, plus five tackles, a stop for loss and a pass break-up on the defensive side.

The Falcons were haunted by as many of the missed opportunities that have plagued them in every close game this fall, coming up empty on their first three red zone visits, and also a next-to-last that left the Indians on top by five as it began to get late.

But Vidalia failed to score, nor sustain a drive, after closing the first half with the last of its three touchdowns, and left the door well ajar, and around eight minutes on the game clock, with a punt just a few plays after its big stop on downs ended a tense goal-to-go series.

A short punt started East six yards into Indian territory for the go-ahead drive. And the Falcons used up over four minutes with some methodical gains leading to the 10-yard touchdown strike to Floyd from Skyler Snead in the back right of the end zone, and a successful point-after.

Vidalia began from its own 33, and covered some good ground on a series of completions by its quarterback Henry Adams, who ripped a key pass over the middle that Ja'Marcus Bouyer caught to reach the East Laurens 20, a realistic range to win it with either a touchdown or field goal.

But the Indians didn't see Floyd lurking as they went right back his way on a post pattern into the center of the end zone the very next play, and the Power-4 target picked the pass off easily to put his team a couple of kneel-downs away from win No. 3.

Snead, who was 14-of-25 for 180 yards and two touchdowns, orchestrated some magic on the fly to keep multiple key drives on the move down the night's stretch, though he and the Falcons kept running into stubborn dead ends early in the game.

They took over at Vidalia's 38 on a muffed punt to set up a first chance with 18 yards on a well-executed scramble drill completion between Snead and Floyd.

With the exception of a five-yard jet sweep touchdown that was reversed by a penalty, four shots with goal to go couldn't punch it in, and East settled for a 27-yard field goal try that was no good.

Vidalia drove 80 yards to get on the board, striking on a 19-yard touchdown pass from Adams to Jah Robinson on a wide-open slip up the seam, in between a set of reciprocal punts. A bad snap cost the Indians' the extra point, and

FALCONS
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Trinity's Tayt Evans gets a lift from teammate Andrew Helton after his catch of a Jude Evans pass for the Crusaders' first touchdown/DANNY SCARBORO

FLINT RIVER ACADEMY 34, TRINITY 13

Crusaders can't keep up with Wildcats

By JEREMY PAYNE
Correspondent

The Trinity Crusaders returned home Friday night for the first time in over a month to face a new region foe in Flint River Academy. The game was close early on, but an offensive surge late in the second quarter and early in the third swung the momentum for the visitors as the Crusaders fell 34-13.

Trinity got the ball to open the contest and went right to work moving into Wildcat territory. Unfortunately a couple of penalties would stall the drive and the Crusaders turned it over on downs.

The defense did its job, forcing a three and out, but Flint River would pin Trinity inside its own 10 with a punt.

On third down, Jude Evans was able to find an open receiver for what appeared to be a big gain, but the Crusaders were called for yet another penalty. After an unsuccessful third down attempt, Trinity was forced to punt from its own end zone. The snap on the punt got away, resulting in a safety and a 2-0 Flint River lead.

After the free kick, the Wildcats started their drive from midfield. They would need 11 plays but eventually found paydirt. Nate Mizzell would score from three yards out to make the score 8-0 early in the second period.



Jude Evans threw for 112 yards, and both the Crusaders' touchdowns, on his seven completions/DANNY SCARBORO

Following another Crusader punt, the Wildcats would cash in again. This time they needed just six plays to go 59 yards to extend the lead. Jack Ballard punched it in from five yards out to make it a 14-0 contest.

Trinity was able to answer that score with an impressive drive of its own. The Crusaders would march 61 yards on eight plays to get on the scoreboard, as Jude Evans found Tayt Evans for a 14-yard scoring strike to make the score 14-7 with under two minutes remaining in the half.

Unfortunately they left too much time on the clock for the visitors.

CRUSADERS
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DUBLIN 60, ACE CHARTER 14

Nightmare on ACE Lane...

Irish DBs terrorize Gryphons again, intercept four passes to highlight three-phase bloodbath

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

The ACE Gryphons weren't hoping to relive the memory of their visit to the Shamrock Bowl in 2024, when Dublin's secondary had one of its biggest nights in recent history with five interceptions that served as a rude introduction between new region rivals.

The Irish brought the same horror show to Perkins Field – nearly duplicating the feat with four picks, but also topping it with returns of two for touchdowns – as they paid their second-straight visit and claimed a biggest win so far in the now-well acquainted teams' three-year series Friday night.

Dublin, with just as dominant a performance by its offense and special teams unit, took ACE as its third region victim in the 60-14 massacre.

Kye Young, who was in on one of the beforementioned takeaways two seasons back, reprised his role with another in the sequel, while new villains JaKarian Jones and Trav Bostic took over the mantle of the now-graduated D.J. Woodard, Sirius Tobridge and Micah O'Neal in putting a new twist on the familiar plot for Gryphons' third-year quarterback Ace Hatcher.

The senior, this time, was much more wary of taking the deep shots the Irish preyed on two years ago, focusing instead on shorter, higher-percentage routes on screens and swing passes to the perimeter. But Dublin defenders were lurking around those corners, as well.

Jones jumped a weakly-thrown bubble ball to get his first of two, and set up a third Irish touchdown of the opening quarter. He had been sitting on another intended for Brady Balkcom as ACE's best drive so far threatened points in the red zone just after their fourth to go up 27-0, and picked off the wheel for a 92-yard return that made the lead 33.

Two more came in the running-clock second half as Young brought one in off a set of Gryphon hands, and outran Hatcher the remaining 47 yards to a second-straight pick-six, and Trav Bostic was forced out of bounds by Jedd Kenley a few steps from a potential third after ripping one away from a receiver.

There was some non-offensive scoring on special teams, too.

Jamarcus Knight returned a second-quarter kickoff – following ACE's first of two touchdowns – 90 yards to re-establish that early five-score lead.

The Dublin offense, just as unfettered, produced the remaining six TDs on rushes by a range of backs: Bostic and Dontavious Cannon scoring twice, and Knight and Jaydon McRae once apiece.

Seven carriers combined for 233 yards, with Ryland Yates adding a 15-yard completion to Will Wallace on his only attempt for the balance of the offensive total.

Knight posted six carries for 97, V.J. Bond added a 60-yard single and Bostic toted seven times for 41 to lead the backfield.

The Irish (6-1 overall) took the football first and opened the game with a 60-yard scoring drive laden with highlight runs by Knight, Bostic and McRae, who had the score from a yard out.

ACE took two shots and a sack, then punted it back for a two-play trip concluding on a 43-yard Knight jet sweep.

A penalized point-after drifted wide, but Dublin's lead was 13-0.

The Irish cashed in the Jones interception on its first play, running a speed option pitch from Yates that Bostic took the opposite direction of the play for a 17-yard score. Knight ran for two to recoup the lost point, and it was 21-0.

The Gryphons picked up a little offensive steam with a few first downs in response, but got off track after Hatcher lost his helmet and had to leave the game for the early portion of a series that wound up in a fourth-and-long.

Their final play of the sequence, much like an elaborate flea flicker a play or two earlier, ended in an incompletion.

Dublin mixed it up on a roughly 65-yard drive back the other way, and scored for a fourth time just before the end of the first on a 10-yard jaunt by Cannon.

ACE finally found the scoreboard on a 21-yard strike from Hatcher to Jaylon Davis to recover some distant comeback hopes just after the Jones pick-six.

IRISH
Continued on page 6

WEST LAURENS 48, LONG COUNTY 26

Raiders' wide-ranging rushing attack sweeps away Blue Tide

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

LUDOWICI – Conventional wisdom would suggest that West Laurens – whose smashmouth ground attack has monopolized the clock in five consecutive games – would be in for yet another of those low-scoring and short-lived affairs as it met up with perhaps the likest-minded opponent so far in 2026 on Friday's trip to take on Long County, whose T-formation based offense was averaging just a touchdown more per game with the same grinding mentality.

As it turned out, 3+3 and two clouds of dust would instead produce a miniature shootout, and a season-high in scoring for the Raiders as they increased their cumulative point total by almost half in a 48-26 win, and pulled to an even 4-4.

West Laurens (3-1 region 3-AAAA) will go back on the road to challenge co-leader Liberty County next week.

There were pleasant surprises on both sides: For Long County, the game's two biggest plays on runs of 69 and 82 by Markyl Allen, for a couple of his four touchdowns that matched the total on a record-breaking night three weeks earlier at Harlem.

West's unlikely X-factor was the speed of quarterback Duggan Malone, who ran for just more than double the yardage (44) he had in seven previous games combined, and the first two rushing scores of his career.

He was the tip of the iceberg on what was easily the Raiders' most productive and balanced night running the football all season.

They rushed for 361 as a team, with Malone, Jace Williams and J.D. Hogan also contributing to the efforts of usual suspects Justin Blash, who led the backfield with 14 carries for 104, and Kaden Bloodsaw, who chipped in 17 attempts for 93, in carrying the load.

Malone was also 7-of-8 passing for 80, with Williams as his leading target on three receptions for 16 yards. Hogan's 26-yard catch went along with a pair of rushes to give the junior 59 yards from scrimmage. Jeremy Brownlee added a 27-yarder, and Ezekiel Floyd one of 11.

Long County, in a continuation of some season-long trends, had comparable success in the ground game, which accounted for 327 of its 369 total yards, but struggled just as much slowing it down.

The Blue Tide, playing their first home game of the season on an unusual schedule that was built around the timeline of some offseason stadium renovations, went back-and-forth with West Laurens all night. It would've stayed neck-and-neck on the scoreboard if not for a couple key swings at the beginning and end of the first half that allowed the Raiders to set the pace, and lead wire-to-wire.

RAIDERS
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RAIDERS

Continued from page 5

A first came at the opening kickoff, which Blash returned 75 yards for the game's first touchdown. The other was a lone turnover, as J.D. Hogan lowered the boom on receiver Charlie Johnson several steps after his catch over the middle for what would've been a first down to produce a fumble that Kingston O'Neal snatched up for a return inside the Long County 5.

Williams cashed it in for a second of two more offensive touchdowns that would make up a 21-13 Raider lead at halftime.

In all, West Laurens failed to score just once on its seven offensive possessions, punting on its first drive before scoring on six in a row to comfortably pull away.

But Long County refused to go away at any point before Bloodsaw's 15-yard touchdown run, following its turnover on downs, stretched the Raiders' lead to three scores for the first time.

Each of the three Blue Tide touchdowns after the first, which came close to tying the game on the end of a 96-yard drive, would cut their lead down to either eight or nine.

That early march, following punts on both teams' first offensive turns, took the game well into the second quarter as Allen scampered free of some broken tackles and into the end zone from five yards.

But West Laurens held out a two-point conversion run at the 1 to retain the lead, and covered 60 yards in response to go up eight on a 27-yard Malone keeper (and PAT), as the junior quarterback kept to an unoccupied right side off a read.

Williams scored from the same concept following the change of possession, and the lead grew to 15. But Long County punched right back with its own 60-yard drive, mixing runs and passes by quarterback Zane Vaughn, to also score on a six-yard Allen run.

A celebration foul enforced on the try scrapped Long County's plans to go for two, but Jhon Rioja's extended extra point was good to keep the Raider lead to a single score.

West Laurens took it back to the end zone from 71 yards on its first possession of quarter 3, with Blash taking the ball home from less than a yard out.

Allen's longest breakaways, which used a burst of speed following a handful of failed tackles near the line of scrimmage, bookended the eight-yard Malone keeper that opened the fourth quarter.

Devin Watkins was the Raiders' leader in tackles with 17.5 total. Hogan added 8.5, forced a fumble and broke up a pass. Jamari Blash and Stephen Odom had seven tackles and a break-up each.

CRUSADERS

Continued from page 5

Quarterback Brayden Waddle, who provided most of the offense on the drive with several big runs, capped a six-play, 69-yard drive with a four-yard touchdown run. The drive took just over a minute, and made the score 20-7 with less than 20 seconds remaining in the half.

As if the late score wasn't bad enough for the Crusaders, the Wildcats also got the ball to open the second half. Flint River took no time to extend its lead even further.

On the first offensive play of the half, Mizzell took a handoff and raced 65 yards for a score, and the two point conversion would make it 28-7.

Knox Fountain would add an 11-yard touchdown run later in the third to put the visitors up 34-7.

Trinity struggled to keep up as it turned the ball over on downs twice and threw an interception on its next few possessions.

The Crusaders were finally able to get back on the board midway through the fourth following a Flint River turnover.

Jude Evans would connect with Tayt Evans again, this time on a 43-yard catch and run, to make the score 34-13 with just under five minutes remaining.

The Wildcats would take the ensuing kickoff and not give the ball back, grinding out 60 yards and five first downs to milk away the rest of the clock.

Flint River didn't complete a pass all night, but racked up 367 yards on the ground and picked up 15 first downs. Waddell led the way 105 yards on 14 attempts. Mizzell had 88 on just three carries, while Ballard had 73 on 10 attempts.

Jude Evans was just 7-of-24 on the evening but did have 112 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Tayt Evans finished with 45 yards rushing on 11 carries and added the two touchdown catches for 57 yards.

Trinity, now 2-6 on the season, will be back in action on Friday, Oct. 23, as they travel to Monticello to face Piedmont Academy in another region tilt.

IRISH

Continued from page 5

But Knight's response on the kickoff – and a Yates run for two to make the score 41-7 – sent the game back on its snowball's course entering the half.

Young's pick-six came on a Gryphon fourth-and-one at the start of the third. Ghosts from the secondary gave Hatcher a break on the next ACE possession, though a ghoul descended from the frightful Irish defensive line in the form of Bond to sack him for a massive loss early on the first series.

Balkcom's contested catch salvaged the drive, which would continue on to find the end zone as Peyton Burden evaded defenders on a screen that went 38 yards for a catch-and-run touchdown.

Once again, Dublin's reply was immediate. Bond took the first carry of the ensuing possession 48 yards around the left-hand side, and two short Bostic runs yielded six more points just after the start of the fourth to make it 53-14.

Cannon scored just after Bostic's INT for the parting shot.

FALCONS

Continued from page 5

their 6-0 lead survived two more Falcon forays inside the 20 that went for naught.

Jeremiah Rozier and Bryson Hazley logged double-digit runs before Snead found Ja'Bryan Bigham for another key first down. But East gave the ball over on downs when Tawan Horne lost his footing after a catch in the flat, and went down before the chance to make a move for the marker a few yards further downfield.

The Falcons' goldenest opportunity so far came shortly after that as Rhajon Fullwood blocked a Vidalia punt to set them up inside the Indians' 5.

Floyd very nearly swept his way in on a right-side run from six yards out, but was knocked over the sideline at the 1. And the next play ended in a fumble as an East Laurens ball-carrier entered a scrum, and lost control to give possession right back with time in the half winding down.

Vidalia worked its way out of the field house shadow, and broke a big play to double the lead as Ja'Marion Lanier sliced right up the middle of the Falcon defense for a 64-yard touchdown.

The Falcons would shake the red zone curse on a deep push in the final minute, scoring on the "Falcon Special," a reverse pass from Hazley to Gary Stockton, to get on the board and make it a 13-7 game with only 10 seconds to go.

But if this was when you left to get a head start on the rest in the concession stand line, you missed a lightning response by the Indians to go back up two scores as Tyler McKinney ran back the ensuing kickoff 94 yards to make it a 19-7 Vidalia lead going to the half.

But from there, the East Laurens defense managed to keep a lid on the big plays, and the Indians mostly in check as three of their next four possessions ended in punts from minus territory.

The Falcons played along in the battle of field position with one of their own to pin Vidalia deep, and then got it back almost right at midfield after another following a key Floyd break-up on third down.

Snead completions to Hazley and Aveone Wicker set up his 32-yard fade pass that Floyd caught a step from the goal line before taking a defender the final few to the score to cut the Indians' lead to 19-14.

Vidalia responded with a three-play push to the East 25, but suffered its second-straight critical drop as a touchdown pass fell off the hands of a receiver in the end zone, and a Dianco Murray tackle got the Falcons off the field on fourth down.

They were marching inside Vidalia's 30 as the quarters changed, and bearing down on a go-ahead score with just under 10 minutes left in the game.

But the Indians held the line, refusing a likely touchdown run on a third-down hit by Marquis Harvey that knocked the ball loose from the arms of Bigham, though the Falcons recovered around the 5 for a chance on fourth down, and a pass that fell incomplete.

Jaden Griffin and Floyd led East Laurens rushers with four carries for 45 yards each. Bigham added 37 on the same number.

Wicker caught four passes for 32, and Hazley two for 41.

Rozier, with nine and one for loss, and Murray, with eight total, led tacklers.

Classifieds

Employment

DEPUTY CITY MARSHAL

The City of Dublin is accepting applications for a Deputy City Marshal to assist with billing, collecting and record keeping of City taxes, licenses, and other fees. The ideal candidate is a self-motivated professional with a strong commitment to accuracy, the initiative to work independently with minimal supervision, and a dedication to ongoing learning and professional development. Applicant Performs responsible cash handling and general clerical work in the billing, collecting, and record keeping of City taxes, alcohol licenses, hotel-motel taxes, and occupation taxes. Work involves collecting and processing taxes and licensing fees; balancing collections against receipts; mailing tax and assessment notices and other clerical work related to the collection of city taxes and fees. Work requires accuracy in collecting and courtesy in dealing with the public. Work is checked by daily balancing of collections and receipts, and is reviewed and evaluated through observation conferences, and inspection of computer records. Work is performed in accordance with well-established procedures and practices under the general supervision of the City Marshal.
The salary range is between $45,011.49 – $69,767.81 annually. An extensive fringe benefit package including health, dental, and life insurance is also offered. The successful applicant must pass a drug screen, possess a bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Public Administration, or a closely related field., and possess a valid State of Georgia class C driver's license. Applicants may apply online through our www.cityofdublin.org website until the position is filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Real Estate

For Rent/Lease

Efficiency-House for rent at 715 Blaine St, Dublin, GA. One bed/full bath, combined kitchen & dining room, with large yard. Rent $500, Deposit $500. Contact Jerry Davis 478-697-6817.

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.



Dublin Christmas Parade
Sponsored by the Exchange Club of Dublin
Saturday, December 5th, 2026

Check out our Facebook page, Dublin Exchange Club for more information!

All entries must be decorated with a Christmas Theme and well Lighted.
The parade will begin at 6:00 P.M. Line-up starts at 4:30 P.M.
Entry Fee: $100 – Check/Cash/Venmo Deadline for Entry: November 20, 2026
Before November 27, 2026, late applications will be considered with an entry fee of $150
No entries will be accepted after November 27, 2026 – NO EXCEPTIONS

Entry Name: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature of Primary Contact: _____

By signing above entrant and all participants within your group agree to hold the Exchange Club of Dublin harmless from any loss or injury resulting from participation in the Christmas Parade and follow all rules and regulations of the City of Dublin for Parades. See Parade Rules at the following website: **www.cityofdublin.org/business/permits-and-licenses**

Please select your type of entry (Circle One):

Float (Truck and Trailer); Car (2 Cars Per Entry); Motorcycle or Bike (6 Per Entry); Walking (30 Per Entry)

Do you want your entry to be judged (circle one): YES or NO

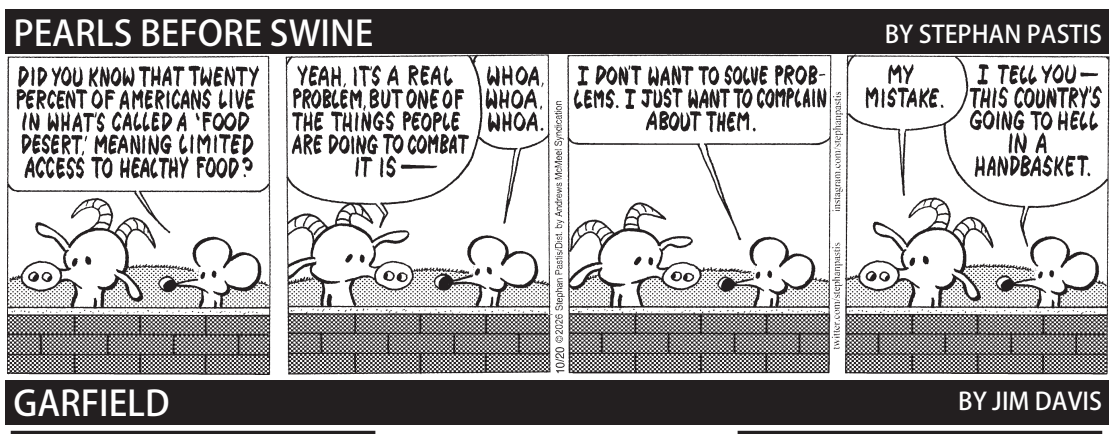
If yes, please select your category (circle one): Church or Organization or Commercial/Business

1st Place - $100 2nd Place - $50 3rd Place - $25

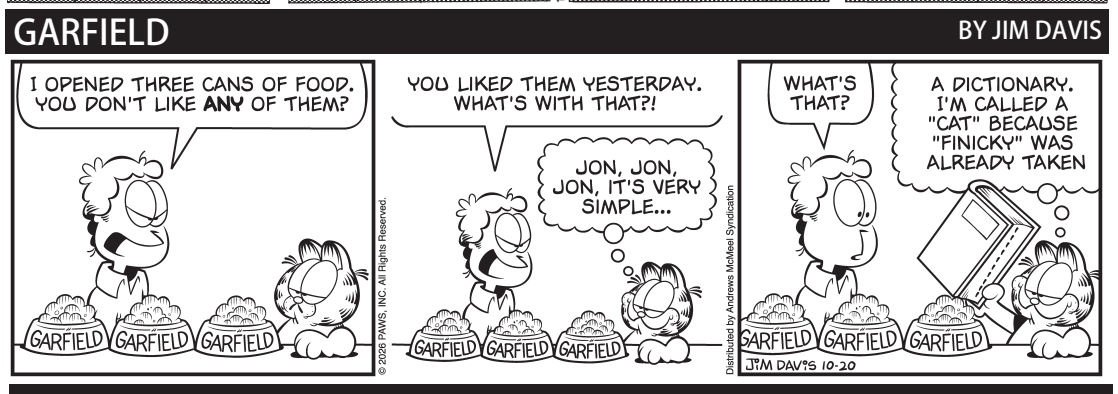
- Entry forms must be received with valid payment and be properly filled out to be considered for entry.
- We will contact you on the week of the parade with your line-up number.
- Please be sure that your entry can maintain a steady pace through the entire parade route.
- Per City Ordinance, Horses must be bagged while inside the city limits and during the Parade.
- Due to safety requirements, please do not throw any items, including candy, from floats, vehicles, or while walking during the parade.
- Floats will not be allowed to unload passengers until they reach the Christ Chapel parking lot.
- It is the desire of the Exchange Club of Dublin to have only one Santa Clause participate in the Parade. The Santa Float will be at the end of the Parade.
- The Christmas Parade is a family event. The Exchange Club of Dublin reserves the right to refuse or remove any participant that we deem inappropriate for this event.
- If the Parade is cancelled, refunds will not be given.
- Make checks for Christmas Parade Entry payable to:

Exchange Club of Dublin Christmas Parade
P.O. Box 381, Dublin, GA 31040
For more information, please contact us at 478-697-2866 (Michael Edge)
Entry forms can be dropped off at 702 East Jackson Street, Dublin GA (Middle Georgia Mechanical)
or
1006 Bellevue Avenue, Dublin GA (Redeemed Realty)

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE — BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



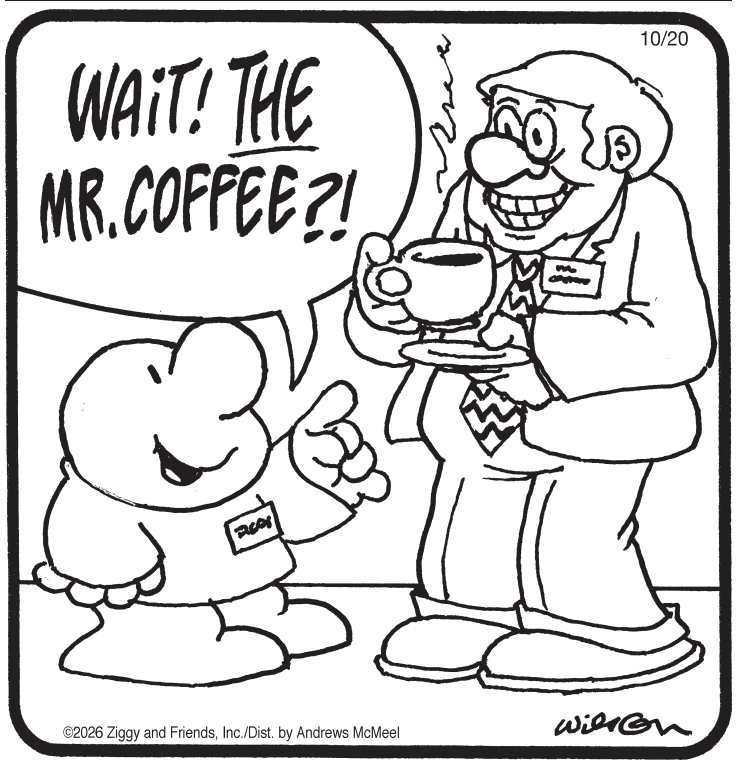
OVERBOARD — BY CHIP DUNHAM



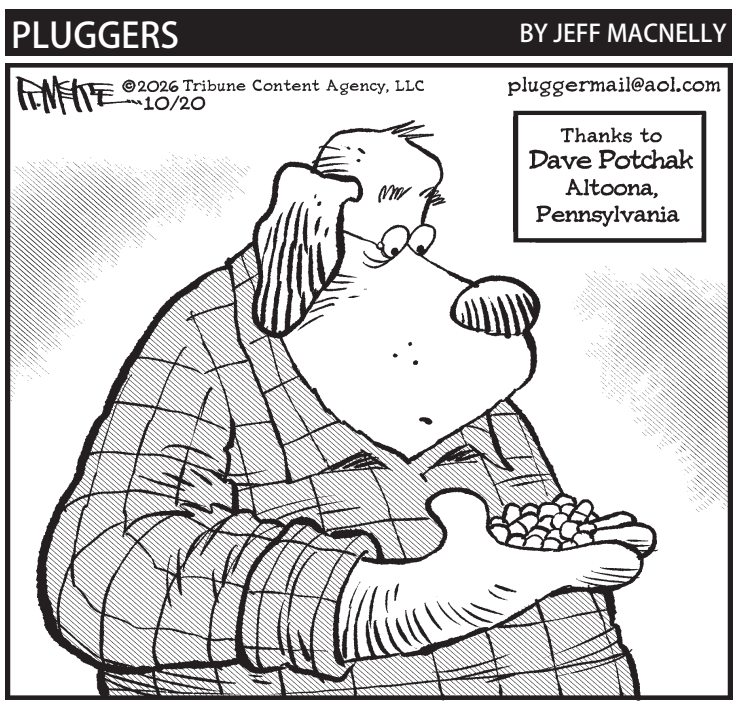
DEFLOCKED — BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



ZIGGY — BY TOM WILSON



PLUGGERS — BY JEFF MACNELLY



A plugger discovers it's not as easy to swallow a palmful of pills compared to the single one prescribed years earlier.

Grandpa lives closer but still keeps to himself



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced when I was 5 years old, and my father moved out of state shortly afterward. For many years, I rarely saw him in person. However, he stayed in touch through phone calls and letters, and he always called on my birthday and holidays. Eventually, he settled in Alaska, far from where I lived. Even with the distance, he remained a consistent presence by phone in my life.

He recently retired and now lives about an hour and a half away from me. I'm a father myself now, and I want him to be a part of both my life and my children's lives while he has time left. The problem is that he's a hermit who seems content to stay at home. Over the years, he has missed many important moments in my life, like my wedding, my college graduation and most of my children's milestones.

My youngest son graduates this month, and although I've invited my father, he says he has other plans. I have even offered to pick him up and take him home if driving is difficult. I know he loves his grandkids; he texts them and tells them he's proud of them. I can't force him to be more involved, and I'm beginning to wonder whether I should stop trying. What advice do you have? -- MISSING DAD

DEAR MISSING: Unless your dad seems bothered by your attempts to include him, continue inviting him to every event. He may not attend, but his texts indicate that he's interested in his grandkids' lives.

It can be hard for older people to get around, and he may feel it would be too burdensome to let you play chauffeur. You didn't mention any health problems, but 90 minutes in a car is more than even some healthy seniors would want to consider. Why not make time to take your kids to his town for a visit? I'm not suggesting you invade his home, but an announced day trip to get him out of the house might be good for everyone.

****

DEAR ABBY: My spouse passed away from pancreatic cancer more than two years ago. We were together for 13 years and stood by each other during good and bad times. I was recently contacted by my first love from 44 years ago. We've been emailing, and I've been feeling emotions about him like when we were younger. My heart beats faster when he writes, yet I feel guilty because I was prepared never to care for anyone again. Is it possible to find someone to love me in my early 60s? Part of me feels scared to make a fool of myself, so it's confusing. -- FUTURE LOVE IN FLORIDA

DEAR FUTURE LOVE: Yes, it is indeed possible. The emotions you're feeling are proof that you're alive. Folks in their 60s and beyond have been known to find love again. You may be one of the lucky ones. The important thing is to let this relationship play out in its own time and not try to rush it.

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.

Monday, October 19, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

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

♠ A Q 7 6 5 3 ♡ Void ◇ J 8 4 ♣ 9 8 6 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♡	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

A - A 3S bid might work, but it could also lead to disaster. When the hands are a misfit, it is usually right to stop bidding before the doubling starts. Pass.

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

♠ A K Q 6 3 ♡ 6 5 ◇ 10 8 3 ♣ 9 8 5

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

A - Partner has made a reverse bid, showing extras – 17 points or more. Your first duty is to show a fifth card in your major, so bid 2S. This is forcing. Should partner show no interest in spades or no trump, your club fit should be adequate for play in that strain.

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

♠ Q 6 5 ♡ 3 ◇ Q J 5 4 3 2 ♣ 10 7 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♠	2♡	?

What call would you make?

A - When the auction is competitive, the most important thing you can do is show support for partner. Your assets are meager, but they are worth a raise. Bid 2S.

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

♠ A 4 ♡ Q 10 2 ◇ A 7 5 3 ♣ J 6 4 3

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	Pass	1◇	Pass
1NT	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

A - Partner has at most 14 points, so game is unlikely. This hand should play well in no trump, so ignore the club fit. Pass. A raise in no trump might strike gold, but it is against the odds.

Q 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ J 9 8 7 ♡ A K J 9 4 3 ◇ 3 ♣ A 9

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♡	Dbl	Pass	2♣
?			

What call would you make?

A - Partner couldn't bid so neither should you. They have you outgunned on this one. Pass.

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

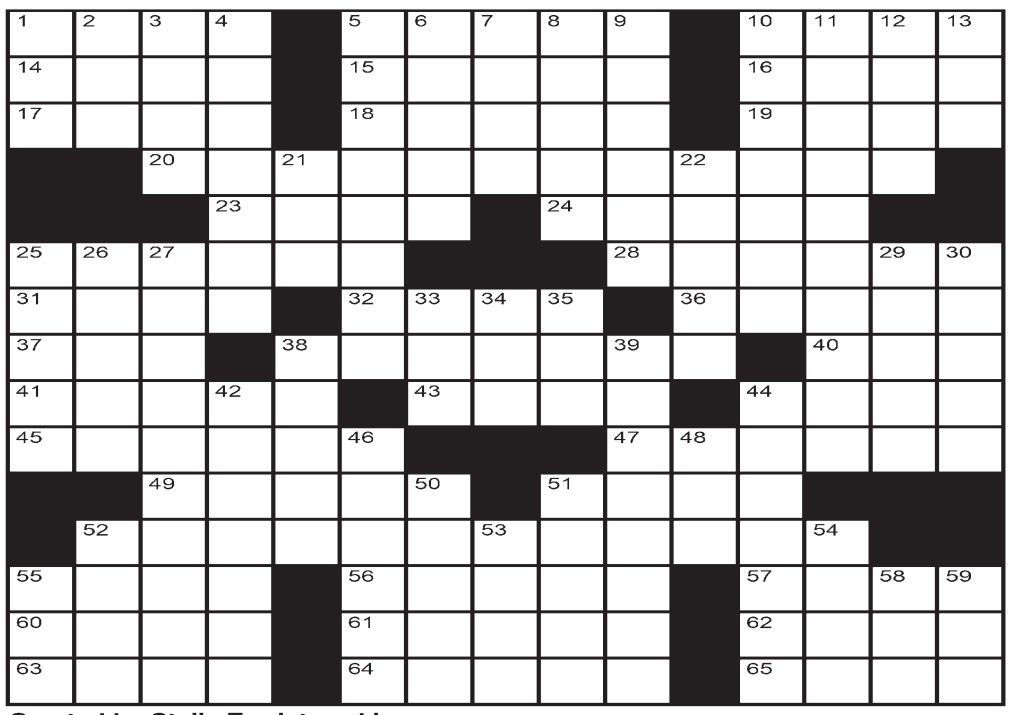
♠ 5 ♡ A 8 6 5 3 2 ◇ Q 7 ♣ Q 10 7 6

Right-hand opponent opens one no trump. What call would you make?

A - The most important requirement for overcalling a 1NT opening is a good suit. This hand doesn't have one. Pass.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski



Created by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

1 Unwilling to work
5 Sports data, for short
10 ___ von Bismarck
14 Indiana neighbor
15 Airline employee
16 Cage for chickens
17 Bird's appendage
18 Flared skirt style
19 Compete in a joust
20 NYC performance venue: 2 wds.
23 Periodicals, for short
24 Deeply desire
25 One of the Twin Cities: 2 wds.
28 Was perfect for
31 Shampoo brand
32 Revise prose
36 Wormlike insect stage
37 Imitate
38 Keynote ___
40 Author Fleming
41 Out of bed
43 City cab
44 Repair, as socks
45 Formal decrees
47 ___-eyed stare
49 Famed Florence cathedral
51 Get rid of
52 Spread paired with jelly: 2 wds.
55 Hit the ground
56 Metes (out)
57 "Othello" villain
60 Fascinated by
61 Sparkly-centered rock
62 Iranian currency
63 Cold War nation: Abbr.
64 Lauder of cosmetics
65 Prefix with "chamber"

DOWN

1 Close to the ground
2 Yellowfin tuna
3 Brass component
4 Exercise accessory: 2 wds.
5 "The Star-___ Banner"
6 Mosaic parts
7 Sacha Baron Cohen character: 2 wds.
8 Gin and ___
9 Controls a car
10 Actress Spencer
11 Travel-kit items
12 Highway fee
13 Make a choice
21 Author Santha Rama ___
22 Lugs
25 Tire in a trunk
26 Lukewarm
27 U.S. leaders
29 Actor Chris
30 Fine and ___
33 Banned insecticide: Abbr.
34 Lyricist Gershwin
35 Houston's state: Abbr.
38 Composer Bruckner
39 Be a tourist
42 Peru neighbor
44 Portuguese wine
46 Smear
48 Allow
50 Native Americans of Oklahoma
51 Nappy leather
52 Negative reviews
53 Ink stain
54 Wet weather
55 Figure skater Alysa
58 Slang for a firearm
59 Soccer cheer

C	R	I	B	■	■	A	C	T	S	■	O	D	O	R
B	O	R	E	■	S	N	O	R	T	■	L	I	V	E
S	O	R	T	■	A	T	R	I	A	■	Y	V	E	S
■	F	I	R	E	D	E	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T
■	■	T	A	M	■	■	S	T	R	A	P	■	■	■
P	L	A	Y	O	F	F	■	H	Y	G	I	E	N	E
L	O	T	S	■	E	L	A	L	■	S	A	L	O	N
U	R	I	■	■	D	A	T	E	S	■	■	E	D	T
M	E	N	S	A	■	S	E	T	S	■	S	C	A	R
E	N	G	L	I	S	H	■	E	N	T	I	T	L	E
■	■	■	A	R	E	P	A	■	■	E	R	R	■	■
T	R	A	N	S	P	O	R	T	A	T	I	O	N	■
H	A	N	D	■	T	I	T	A	N	■	A	D	D	S
A	C	N	E	■	I	N	U	I	T	■	N	E	A	L
T	E	A	R	■	C	T	R	L	■	■	O	S	S	O

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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:

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

KIDS' CORNER

Brought to you by Dublin-Laurens County CHAMBER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Vol. 033 | Follow Herald the Hound every Tuesday on Kids' Corner from The Courier Herald

CLASS OF THE WEEK: Mr. Reuben Morris' class at Susie Dasher

Herald the Hound resumed his travels to schools across Dublin-Laurens County with a stop at Mr. Reuben Morris' class at Susie Dasher Elementary School. Students enjoyed the classic story "Where the Wild Things Are," before passing Herald around and enjoying the games and activities on the Kids' Corner page.









WORKSHEET OF THE WEEK

If you could interview anyone in the world, who would it be and what would you ask?

Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH – INDEFINITE AMOUNTS

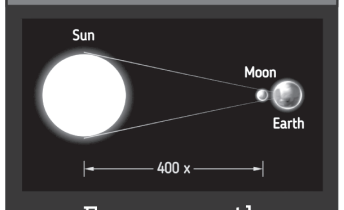
Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **Which Halloween monster is good at math?**

A FEW
ANOTHER
AROUND
EITHER
LESS
LITTLE
LOTS
MANY
MOST
NONE
NUMEROUS
OTHERS
PLENTY
SEVERAL
SOMEWHAT
THESE
THOSE
TONS
WHATEVER

C	N	O	N	E	I	T	H	E	R
E	A	O	O	T	H	E	R	S	U
L	R	E	V	E	T	A	H	W	N
T	O	T	S	M	S	S	S	E	L
T	U	E	D	A	M	O	S	T	A
I	N	R	A	N	O	T	H	E	R
L	D	A	F	Y	C	U	L	T	E
O	P	L	E	N	T	Y	A	O	V
T	A	H	W	E	M	O	S	N	E
S	U	O	R	E	M	U	N	S	S

Riddle answer: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

Fun Fact



From our earth, the moon and the sun appear to be virtually the same size in our sky. The sun is about 400 times wider than the moon, but it's also about 400 times farther away. This allows us to see spectacular displays and prominences during eclipses.

Sources: astronomy.com, fastforward.com.cy

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MINI SUDOKU

4			2		
		6			
		3			4
2					
	1		3		
		4		5	

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

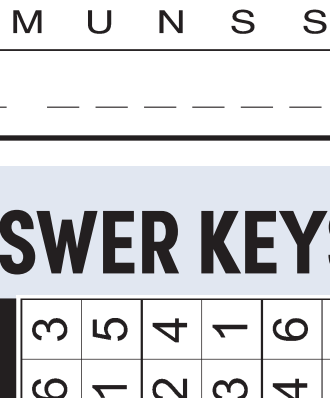
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ANSWER KEYS

MINI SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

Puzzles4Kids Answer



Riddle Answer: Count Dracula.

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.