The Courier Herald

$1 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 | COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Dexter, Dublin both to hold Christmas parades Saturday

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The town of Dexter and city of Dublin once again hold their Christmas parades on the same day. Only this year, they will be more of a distance between the end of the Dexter parade and the start of the one in downtown Dublin.

The Dexter Christmas Parade will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 7, while the Dublin Christmas Parade will begin at 6 p.m. that evening.

Line-up for the Dexter parade will begin at 8 a.m. at Possum Hollow Ballpark area, said Dexter Mayor Emmett "Rod" Waites.

"We had to cancel last year because of the weather," Waites said. "We're going to do it rain or shine this year. I believe the last time we had the parade we had 96 entries. We're hoping for that again. We're hoping to see everybody come out and enjoy the parade. We have a pretty good turnout for it. It's not too long, and it takes maybe 30 minutes at the most to get through it. It's just a small little parade, and it's just the right amount of time."

The grand marshals for this year's parade are retired teachers.

"We tried to have them last year, and we had a good turnout before we canceled due to weather," Waites said.

For more information about the Dexter Christmas Parade, call (478) 875-3838.

The Dublin Christmas Parade entrants will begin lining up at 4:30 p.m. and will follow the normal parade route, said Dublin Exchange Club member Phil Bazemore. The club held the parade on a Friday night last year.

PARADES
Continued on page 10



Santa and some helpers arrive by sleigh float in last year's Dublin Christmas Parade/KYLE DOMINY

Story of Christmas told at Dudley tree-lighting event

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Santa Claus rode into the town of Dudley on an old firetruck before making his way to the middle of Dylan Harrison Memorial Park on a cold Saturday evening.

There, Mr. Claus not only reminded the audience about the meaning of Christmas, but listened as Logan Wyatt, student at West Laurens Middle School, read the story from the Bible. This annual Christmas tradition has been going on for more than 20 years, said Dudley Mayor Jason Locke.

"We look forward to this night each year, just to kickoff the Christmas season and what this is really about, which is the birth of our savior Jesus Christ and what he did for us on the cross," Locke said. "I help with Club 56 (at Dudley Baptist Church) and with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in our schools, and I get to see many different students who are eager to share the story of Jesus Christ and the fact he came and was born and he sacrificed his life so that we can spend an eternity with him."



Logan Wyat (left) reads the Christmas story from the Bible with some flashlight assistance from Dudley Mayor Jason Locke /PAYTON TOWNS III

The lights from the Christmas tree popped on after Mr. Claus had the crowd count down from 10. Wyatt read the story from Luke Chapter 2:1-20. Mr. Claus

DUDLEY
Continued on page 10



Children converse with Santa Claus after the Christmas tree lighting/PAYTON TOWNS III

LIT UP FOR CHRISTMAS: 'JINGLE & MINGLE,' TREE CEREMONIES KICK OFF HOLIDAYS IN DUBLIN, RENTZ



Downtown Dublin ushered in the holiday season with its annual Jingle & Mingle on Saturday, which included the lighting of the Christmas tree in Founders Park. After the tree was lit, families took time to take selfies. Throughout the day, people could shop at participating downtown businesses and have their card punched for a chance to win a downtown goodie baskete/SPECIAL PHOTOS





Rentz held its Christmas tree lighting over the weekend. The crowd came out to watch Santa Claus help light the tree and talk with children/SPECIAL PHOTO, Lynda Prymula

INDEX

OBITUARIES 2
50 YEARS AGO 3
EDITORIAL 4
TELL IT!/POLICE BEAT 5
COMICS 6
SPORTS 7-8

1 sections, 10 pages • Vol. 109, No. 143, Pub. No. 161860

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Tickets for Habitat's Daddy-Daughter Dance go on sale Dec. 7

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

If last year was any indication, tickets for Dublin-Laurens County Habitat For Humanity's Daddy-Daughter Dance will go fast.

Habitat wll offer up its only pre-Christmas sale for the dance from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Pine Forest Methodist Church, 400 Woods Ave.

The dance will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, in the DuBose Porter Center on the campus of Oconee Fall Line Technical College. Tickets are $30.

"I want to remind everybody that we sold out of tickets early last year," said Habitat Executive Director Tracy Kinney. "People do not need to wait until the last minute."

After the sale on Dec. 7, the next tchance to purchase tickets will be Jan. 2 at The Olive Branch, Classic Florist and Tanner's Service Center.

But, if all of the tickets are sold on Dec. 7, there will be none available on Jan. 2.

"Those who want to go should make sure they get them," Kinney said. "If you want to go, you should come to Pine Forest on Dec. 7. The parade this year is a night parade, so the sale and the parade will not overlap."

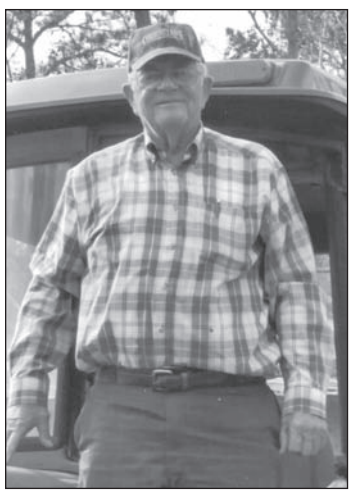
Habitat can accept Ven-

DANCE
Continued on page 10



Daddies and daughters pause to have their photos taken by Habitat Executive Director Tracy Kinney/PAYTON TOWNS III

OBITUARIES



Rabon Weston Price

Funeral services for Rabon Weston Price, 97, were held at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, 2024, at Union Hill Baptist Church with Rev. Burton Dixon officiating. Burial will follow in Westview Cemetery.

Mr. Price was born on Jan. 15, 1927, in Johnson County, Georgia. He was the son of the late Weston E. and Pauline F. Price. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Eleanor Garrett Price; son, Glen Elery Price; and an infant son. He was a lifelong farmer and enjoyed attending Kite First Baptist Church. He was a member of the Johnson County Young Farmers, the Woodmen of the World, and past vice president of the Johnson County Farm Bureau. Mr. Price passed away on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at Wrightsville Manor Nursing Home.

He is survived by his son, Gary R. Price; sister, Winifred (Billy) Price, nephew, Kevin Price all of Wrightsville and daughter-in-law, Jan Price of Brunswick.

The family received friends from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Friday at Union Hill Baptist Church.

Pallbearers were Chris Holmes, Fred Jackson, Barry Powell, Jeff Powell, Matt Powell and Edd Tanner.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that contributions, in memory of Mr. Price, be made to the Johnson County Young Farmers Glen Price Memorial Scholarship Fund % Kent Foskey, 150 Herschel Walker Dr, Wrightsville, GA 31096.

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Wrightsville Chapel had charge of funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit www.stanleyfuneralhome.com



Charles Billy Spivey

Funeral services for Charles Billy Spivey, 86, were held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, in the Chan Stanley Memorial Chapel of Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory, with interment at Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Henry Lamb and Mr. Eason Spivey officiated.

Mr. Spivey was born on Dec. 8, 1937, in Dublin, Georgia. He was a United States Air Force veteran. He was the son of the late Charlie Eason and Inez Keen Spivey. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Eunice McCoy Spivey, and his brothers, Harold Winston Spivey, Jimmy Spivey and Tommy Spivey. Mr. Spivey passed away on Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024, at the Community Hospice of Vidalia.

Mr. Spivey is survived by three sons, Randy "Spook" Spivey of Dexter, Mike (Laura) Spivey of Lyons and Andy McCoy of Wrightsville; five grandchildren, Eason (Kelli) Spivey of Gainesville, Laura (Jesse Knight) Spivey of Pooler, Kaitlin (AJ) Mullinnix of Dublin, Charles Spivey, and Cameron "Peanut" Spivey; one great-grandchild, Brinley Spivey; and family friend, Jesus Ginjauma.

Pallbearers will be Charles Spivey, AJ Mullinnix, Henry Green, Van Savage, Matt Mallory and Jesse Knight. Honorary pallbearers will be Mike Faircloth, Ronnie Green, Frank Estep, Bobby LeRoy, Kendel Vaughn, Craig Potter and Thomas Benton.

The family received friends on Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the funeral home. The family will also be meeting at the home of Kaitlin and AJ Mullinnix at 304 Payne Pl, Dublin, Ga. 31021.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Community Hospice House, 904 Mt. Vernon Rd Suite 2, Vidalia, Ga. 30474.

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

Carrol Ray Giddens

Carrol Ray Giddens, 88, of Plainfield, Ga., died Friday, Nov. 29, 2024.

Services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 2, at Plainfield Baptist Church, with interment in Middle Ground Cemetery.

Survived by his wife, Rossie; sons, Randy Giddens (Cheryl), and Greg Giddens (Kim); grandchildren, Will Giddens (Shannon), Holly Martin (Adam), Skylar Rae Giddens, Kelly Giddens, and Jack Giddens; 6 great-grandchildren; sister, Betty Ann Smith (Gerald).

The family received friends in Plainfield Baptist Church from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Monday, Dec 2.

Stokes-Southerland Funeral Home of Eastman has charge of SSFH arrangemen ts.

www.stokes-southerland.com



Clarence Lowery Jr.

Funeral services for Mr. Clarence Lowery, Jr, of Dublin, Ga., will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Turkey Creek Baptist Church, 828 Scotland Road in Dublin. Reverend Andrew Bethea will deliver the eulogy. Burial will be in the Mount Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mr. Clarence Lowery, Jr., was born on Wednesday, April 11, 1923, in Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia to the late Gertrude Samuel Smith and Clarence Lowery, Sr.

On Sept. 27, 1947, Clarence united in Holy Matrimony to the late Eva Lee Pauldo Lowery. Their union was blessed with seven children. Clarence was a devoted husband and father who worked tirelessly to provide for his family.

He began his career as a farmer and later worked as an orderly at Claxton Memorial Hospital. His final job was at the Laurens County School Bus Shop, where he worked diligently until a work-related accident led to his retirement. Following in his father's footsteps, who was a mechanic, Clarence became a skilled "Mr. Fix it" and used his talents to help others. In his free time, Clarence enjoyed playing checkers with family and relaxing while watching his favorite TV shows.

Mr. Clarence Lowery, Jr., passed away on Friday, Nov. 29, 2024. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Eva Lee Pauldo Lowery; his parents, Gertrude Samuel Lowery and Clarence Lowery, Sr.; his siblings, JC Parks, Clara Bell Kellam, Helen Louise Lowery Davis; as well as by two of his children, Mary Lee Lowery and Clarence "Gushy" Lowery III.

Clarence leaves to cherish his memories five of his seven children, Lillian (Donald) Ham, Robbie (Lachaun) Mosley, Willie Mae Lowery, Christine Lowery and Marvin Earl (Kay) Lowery; 13 grandchildren, Michelle (Morris) Hill, Donald (Tiffany) Ham Jr., Candiss (Kennedy) McFarland, Darren (Kerry) Mosley, Garry (Tara) Duty, Christopher (Nicole) Duty, Erica (Andrew) Wilson, Kenya Lowery, Katrice Lowery, Jenniya Lowery, Kayla Lowery, Antoine Bostic, Jermaine Watkins, and Shakita Green; along with great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family and friends.

Mr. Clarence Lowery Jr. will be remembered as a hardworking, kind and loving man who was devoted to his family. His legacy of love, strength, and service will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin



Reginald Lachaun Kellam

Funeral services for Mr. Reginald Lachaun Kellam, of East Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ Full Gospel, 759 Vernon Woodard Road in East Dublin. Reverend Peggy G. Sapp, pastor, will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Reginald Kellam was born on Thursday, Dec. 4, 1975, to Ruth Wiggins, Ricky Kellam and John Wiggins. Mr. Kellam graduated from East Laurens High School. He was employed by YKK AP America, Inc, for 24 years.

Mr. Kellam passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024.

He is survived by his mother, Ruth Wiggins; his four sisters, Ricketa (Michael) Carr, Brenda (Randy) Wiggins, Tameika Curry, Kaywonna Roberts; his four brothers, Nathaniel (Barbara) Wiggins, Jarvis (Candice) Wiggins, Anthony (Leticia) Wiggins, John (Shameka) Kellam, devoted nieces and nephews, a host of great nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

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

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin



Tressie Mae Lewis

Funeral services for Ms. Tressie Mae Lewis of Dublin, Georgia, were held on Sunday, Dec 1, at 1 p.m. at the Church of Jesus in East Dublin. Brother Daryl Lewis delivered the eulogy. Interment followed in the Church of Jesus Cemetery.

Ms. Tressie Mae Lewis was born Friday, March 27, 1942, to the late Elizabeth Mason and the late George Lewis.

She was preceded in death by three children, Allen Lewis, Glynn Lewis, and Mamie Mason.

Ms. Lewis worked for McAfee Packing Company as well as the McAfee family for over 45 years. She joined Church of Jesus in 1986. She was a faithful servant of the Lord who believed in prayer and the power of Jesus.

Ms. Lewis departed this life on Thursday, Nov. 26, 2024.

She leaves to cherish her memories to her children, Shirley (Billy) Hall, Willie (Sharon) Mason, Daryl (Diane) Lewis, Carolyn (Frederick) O'Neal, Jackie Lewis Hooks; siblings, Terry (Pauline) Mason, Georgia (L.C.) Darrisaw, Eloise Fleming, Gloria Walker, Mary (Jessie) McGirt, Geraldine Norris, Martha (Melvin) Washington, Ira (Mary) Mason. She is also survived by two granddaughters that aided in extra care, Patricia Dupree, and Timikie Roberts and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other close relatives and friends.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesbydudley.com

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin

James Leon Morris

Mr. James Leon Morris of East Dublin, passed away on Thursday, November 28, 2024. Funeral arrangements are incomplete but will be announced later.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin.

servicesbydudley.com

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1
Quino Green
Karen Hester

Dec. 3
Elloweese Braham
Diann Harrison
Lesia Jones

Dec. 4
David Hall
Jay Edwards
Oscar Hardy
Algerine Stanley



Corene Griffin Lewis

A celebration of life memorial service for Corene Griffin Lewis, 81, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, at Jefferson Street Baptist Church Chapel. Rev. Kyle Giddens will officiate.

Mrs. Lewis was born on July 19, 1943, in Brantley County, Georgia. She was preceded in death by her parents, Onimus Melvin and Alma Medlin Griffin, and her siblings, Barney Griffin, Jesse Griffin, Troy Griffin, Mildred Harris, Loran Griffin, Lonzo Griffin, Marvin Griffin, Chan Griffin, Melvin Griffin, Vera Blocker and Hazel Lee. She was a member of Jefferson Street Baptist Church and the Sunshine Sunday School Class. She was a homemaker. Mrs. Lewis passed away on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024.

She is survived by her husband, James E. Lewis, Sr. of Dublin; a son, James E. Lewis Jr. of Dublin; a daughter, Dana Lewis Moore and her husband Eddie Moore of Dublin; a brother, Coleman Griffin of Fort Valley; a grandchild, Conner Moore; a grand dog, Rex Moore; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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



Gladys Runnell "Skinny" Churchwell

Graveside funeral services for Mrs. Gladys Runell "Skinny" Churchwell, 77, will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024 at Bluewater Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Churchwell was born June 22, 1947 in Dublin, Georgia; she was preceded in death by her parents, the late Roy Lee Tucker and Gladys Rowe Tucker; her brother, Downan Tucker and a sister, Rowe Nita Register. She was employed as an Associate with J.C. Penney & Company before becoming a partner with her husband in J&R Tools and J&R Trucking Company. Mrs. Churchwell passed away Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024 at her home.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Joe Churchwell of Dublin; a brother-in-law, Freddie (Linda) Churchwell; a sister-in-law, Linda Churchwell and her nieces and nephews, Paul Churchwell, Jessica Landrum, Terry Register Dale Tucker, Monty Tucker, Marvin Tucker and Dena Ankey.

The family will greet friends one hour before the service at the cemetery.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Reva Hobbs Woodard

Reva Hobbs Woodard, 96, of Dublin, passed away on Saturday, November 30, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, Dec. 4 from 3 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 4 p.m. at Dublin Memorial Gardens.

Mrs. Woodard was born on Jan. 16, 1928, to the late Henry J. Hobbs and Pearl Fountain Hobbs. She retired from the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center where she loved serving veterans from all walks of life. She was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Dublin where she loved serving her Lord and Savior above all else. She was a prayer warrior and wonderful friend to many. Reva was more than an aunt to her nieces and nephews and her love and devotion to her family will be deeply missed.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, D.A. Woodard; and siblings, Grace Cleveland, Hilton Hobbs, T.J. Hobbs, and Mavis Brewer.

Survivors include her nieces and nephews: Christyl H. Kersey (Curt) of Rentz; Cheryl Hobbs (Dwayne) of Griffin; Carol H. Burke (Jamie) of Tellico Plains, TN; Retta Resnick (Quinn) of West Palm Beach, FL; Tommy Hobbs (Connie) of Macon; Chris Hobbs (Sujeny) of East Dublin; Jan Payne (Mark) of Dublin; Debbie Walker (Meredith) of Preston, and Zeb Cleveland (Frankie) of Macon, and numerous great-nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Navigators at the University of South Carolina at http://johnson.carolinanavs.org or to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering at First Baptist Church, 405 Bellevue Ave., Dublin, GA 31021.

Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com for service updates and to sign the online memorial register.

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City manager question for council



LOOKING BACK...
50 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 3, 1974

By HARRIETT CLAXTON

DUBLIN COURIER HERALD

By Doug Hall

Whether an acting city manager should be appointed, and if so who should it be, will probably be the center of discussion in a closed meeting of Dublin City Council which Mayor Robert E. Cochran will call after tonight's regular council meeting.

Although Mayor Cochran would not say that an interim city manager would be the order of business in the executive session, he said that such possibility would be discussed.

Present City Manager Jack Crane notified the Mayor and Council last week that he intended to resign effective December 27 to become city manager of Marietta, Georgia.

Speculation that Administrative Assistant Ron McLemore is in the running for the acting city manager, if not permanent city manager, has been heard frequently since the resignation of Crane last Tuesday.

Several councilmen said this morning that they believed tonight's meeting would deal primarily with the possibility of naming McLemore acting city manager.

Alderman Louis Alexander said he would go along with giving McLemore the acting title. "I would lean toward asking Ron to be acting city manager until we have a chance to interview others," he said, and added "I would hope that he would do a good job."

Apparently, the decision will be a split one. Two councilmen contacted this morning said they would oppose appointing McLemore, but asked not to be quoted. Both men noted that McLemore has fine qualifications, but were concerned that he is not "ready" to become city manager.

One alderman known to favor McLemore is John Reed Deamer. When asked who he thought should be selected to the interim position, he responded, "We have a man here that is well qualified, and he will be considered." Deamer said that he was referring to McLemore.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, McLemore came to Dublin eight months age as personnel manager-administrative assistant. Since then he has been actively involved in securing a federal grant for the well publicized firemen training program and is now in the midst of a federal community development grant application.

The administrative assistant position on the city payroll was opposed by Alderman Glen Harden when it was discussed before Council, and Harden is expected to oppose elevating McLemore to the acting role. Alderman Buddy Adams said that he would go along with McLemore as acting city manager, but only if there was no change in the "status quo."

He explained that he meant that the manager would not be able to effect any changes in the present personnel makeup of the city.

Alderman Roy Banks said that McLemore is the "likely choice" to take over while the search is on for a new city manager.

Every alderman contacted said that interviewing for a permanent city manger will go on despite action taken to name an acting city manger. Under Georgia's "Sunshine Law," no formal action on this matter can be taken during the closed meeting. Meetings such as this which discuss "the appointment, employment... of a public officer or employee" are exempted from the open provisions of the open meetings law which requires most meetings of City Council to be public.

As things now stand, McLemore will likely get the nod as acting city manager if a vote is taken later. Four of the seven councilmen told The Courier Herald this morning that they would vote for McLemore.

GOATMAN NOW HOOFING IT

By Doug Hall

Imagine walking 26 miles to see the dentist and finding his office being closed twice in one week.

Chess McCartney did. And when he got to the dentist's door the second time after walking 78 miles, he just shrugged his shoulders and let fly with one or two smutty remarks, and said, "Well, I guess I'll just have to come back another day."

To most of us Chess' perambulatory trips to see about new false teeth may seem amazing, but to the Iowa native, known to us as "The Goat Man," there's nothing to it.

For more than forty years he crossed the country in his "depression wagon" pulled by 35 goats.

Now all of the goats are dead, and "the goat man" is footing it. Occasionally a friendly bus driver stops to give him a lift, but mostly he walks.

McCartney describes himself as a "Vagabond Preacher," "an odd fellow," a "damn Yankee," and the "original hippie."

He has lived 85 years and has not accomplished a thing.

Although he looks and acts the part of a penniless hobo, people have said for years that he has hoarded thousands of dollars during his forty years on the road. He flatly denies that.

When he was traveling with his goats, McCartney used them as "electric blankets."

"The colder it gets, I cover up with more goats: 30 degrees is a a one-goat night, and below zero is a five-goat night," he remembered.

Now McCartney's life has boiled down to his compound near Jeffersonville. He lives there in a small frame church delivering sermons every Sunday at 4 p.m.

"People don't like me because I'm odd. They don't like the way I dress," he observed.

Through the years, he and Twiggs County Sheriff Earl Hambrick have constantly been at odds with each other, but they have remained friends, McCartney says. He claims he is 85, but in a book written about him and filled with pages about the American presidency, his birthdate is given as July 6, 1901. But, whatever his age, he is still going strong. Next month he plans to marry for the fourth time. This time the bride-to-be is "a pretty little thing of 24, " he says. But first he has to get that new set of false teeth.

IRISH, IRISHETTES OPEN HOME SEASON

Dublin's Irish and Irishettes open their home season on Friday night, hosting the Perry Panthers in a Region 3-AA counting game.

The Irishettes tipoff at center following a 9th Grade Junior High boys tilt that starts at 5 p.m. The Irish will take the court following the Irishette fray.

Both Dublin teams will be looking for their first win of the season as they both are 0-1 after losing to Telfair County on Thanksgiving Eve.

Coaches Joyce Brown and Jim Richardson have been working hard with their charges since that first game defeat, however, and both teams expect to better their performances.

Starting positions are not nailed down yet on either team as the coaches continue to experiment with combinations, hoping to come up with the right one.

Participating in Region 3-AA in basketball are the same as the teams that played football, namely, Dublin, Dodge County, Peach County, Jones County, and Americus together with BiTech which does not play football.

One wrinkle is that Americus will not play a Region 3-AA schedule which means that the two Americus teams will be seeded last at tournament seedings. Each of the other six teams will play one another twice during the schedule to arrive at the order of tournament seedings. On Saturday night the Irish teams will travel out to West Laurens to take on the Raiders and Raiderettes.

RAIDERS, WHEELER COUNTY SPLIT IN OPENER

The West Laurens Raiders took a 65-58 decision from Wheeler County last night in a game so close it could have gone either way until George McDaniel clinched the Raider win with less that 40 seconds remaining.

But fans should not have been surprised by the photo finish in the boys' tilt after witnessing the girls' game which was 19-18 26-26, and 33-33 at the second, third, and fourth quarter buzzers.

Earning an overtime chance was not enough for the Raiderettes who again failed to score in their second overtime of the year. Wheeler County outscored the West Laurens lassies 5-0 in the deciding period to gain the 38-33 win.

Last week the lassies failed to score in an overtime chance and lost 34-30.

The story was almost identical last night as Peggy Foreman sank two last minute free throws to force the overtime. She pulled the same trick against Johnson County last week to cause the overtime.

The Raider girls had led at the end of the first and second periods and were tied at the end of the other two regulation periods. A missed basket with the Raiderettes ahead by two late in the game could have won it.

Brenda Edmonds, Judy Kemp, and Foreman paced the Irishettes with 13, 11, and 8 points respectively.

Angela Jones with 15 rebounds led that department. Other rebounders were Bonnie Gainey with 11 and Foreman with 10.

Turnovers, 38 of them, again hampered the West Laurens game. The Raiderettes shot 14 for 40 from the field and 5 for 14 a at the line. The boys' game was almost a replay of the girls' - close and exciting.

George McDaniel scored 8 of his 10 points in the final period, and 5 of those in the important last two and a half minutes, including the clincher with less than a minute to go.

Ahead at the first period buzzer for the first time this year, the Raiders could hardly buy a basket in the second quarter as Wheeler pulled ahead 27-23 at the half. The second half surge was spurred by McDaniel and Marble Taylor, who controlled 18 rebounds during the night. Clayton Jones, starting at center for the first time, had a good night, scoring 10 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. Willie Smith had 15 rebounds to go with his 10 points.

The Raiders got off 73 shots from the floor and hit on 31 of them for 42 per cent. They were 3 of 11 at the line.

HEAVY VOTER TURNOUT

A remarkable 75.2 per cent of the registered voters went to the polls in the Dudley city election yesterday, and what's more unusual: there were not any contested races.

Long-time mayor Delano Butler was returned to office with 83 votes, and incumbent councilmen Clift Crews, Howell Hudson, and Gerald Miller were also re-elected.

Crews got 93 votes, Hudson and 90, and Miller 86.

There were a number of write-ins: Clay Slaughter got 31 votes for Mayor. In the council races, Mrs U.J. Hogan got 13 votes, Joyce Chappell, 11, James Ramage, 17; and Bea Weaver, 2.

Mrs. Anne Bozeman, city clerk, said the mayor and council will take the oath of office on January 2 and serve for two-year trerms.

Dudley has 153 registered voters, and 115 voted yesterday.

IRISH "B" TEAM WINS

Dublin Irish "B" Team boys were victorious in their opening game at McRae, defeating the Telfair County Trojans "B" Team by 10 points. They are coached by Jim Richardson. The manger is Tony Keen.

The team is composed of Matt Roberts, Ed White, Dallas Allen, Joe Moran, Lorenza Kates, Steve Douglas, Don Anderson, Joey Uliano, Dennis Beall, Johnny Freshley , Greg Dixon, James Smith, Mark Kalada, Jim Moran, Frank Helton, Todd Collins, Derek Radney, Vince Perry, Samuel King, Reggie Kitchens, Jimmy Edmonds, and Ray Barrentine.

MARCHING FALCONS IN PARADE

On Thanksgiving Day the Marching Falcons of East Laurens High School made their second appearance at the Macon Christmas Parade. The band was well received by the thousands of people on hand for the annual event.

The Marching Falcons displayed their fine marching style and playing ability under the direction of Ronnie Cox, Drum Major. The band chose two selections for the parade, "Rockin' 50's" and a medley of Christmas tunes entitled, "Christmas Greetings."

The Twirler for the event was Cammie Fennell.

Majorettes included Pam Brown, LeNeve Dominy, Vickie Montford, and Parissa Fennell.

The Flag Corps consisted of Gail Spivey, Captain; Macbelle Montford, Co-captain, Pat Maddox, Kay Donaldson, Patty Mercer, Cynthia Outlaw, Tammie Parish, Elaine Raffield, Michele Hartley, Hope Bradshaw, and Debra Banch.

Banner carriers were Karen Lord and Judy Brown.

1956 CLASS REUNION

The first reunion of the first class to graduate from East Laurens High School met for a reunion on November 30 at Brown's Restaurant.

Sixteen of the twenty-three graduates were present for the festivities.

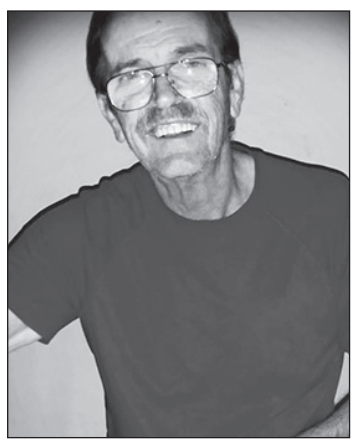
Attending were Eveline Flanders Ballard, Nell Young Maddox, Martha Fulford Chafin, Earline Mimbs Simmons, Shirley Andrews McWilliams, Lenora Slade Brantley, Arnold Maddox, Pete Wicker, Bobby Bradshaw, Tommy Hester, John Wayne Lampp, Billy Wicker, Wendell Woods, Lacy Curl, Fred Kilgore, and Donald Maddox.

Graduates who were not in attendance were Virginia Bush Jones, Doris Wynn, Nell Kyzer Smith, Wayne-Jackson, Joel Young, H. T. Lindsey, and Johnny Ivey.

WESLEYAN CIRCLE MEETS

The Wesleyan Service Circle of First United Methodist Church enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner in the church social hall with Mrs. N.G. Reeves, Jr. in charge. After the thanks for the meal was offered by Judge Reeves, Mrs. Marvin Mercer presented the program. Mrs. Betty Parker sang several familiar Christmas songs, and Mrs. J.D. Pinholster told of her recent trip to the Holy Land. The meeting closed with all 50 visitors and guests singing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

OBITUARIES



Leonard Randall Dukes

Graveside services for Mr. Leonard Randall Dukes, 73, will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024 at the Evergreen Methodist Church Cemetery with Mr. Thurman Foskey officiating.

Mr. Dukes was born Sept. 6, 1951 in Hardwick, Ga; he was preceded in death by his parents, the late Leonard Elberry Dukes and Della Mae Hendricks Dukes and his sister, Shelby Miller. He was a United States Army Veteran for six years. He retired from the Carl Vinson Veterans Hospital where he worked in medical billing. Mr. Dukes loved his family dearly and enjoyed history.

Mr. Dukes passed away on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024.

He is survived by his daughter, Roseanne Crosslin (Scott); two sons, Chad Dukes (Elizabeth) and Brandon Roberson (Stephanie); grandchildren, Scottie Crosslin, Raegan Crosslin, Isabel Dukes, Isaac Dukes, Isla Dukes, and Ivy Dukes; sister, Julia Kilgore; several nieces and nephews, and a very good friend, Hiawatha Farmer.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.

Lorann Bloodsaw Rozier

Mrs. Lorann Bloodsaw Rozier of Dublin, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024. Funeral arrangements are incomplete but will be announced later.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin.

servicesbydudley.com



OUR TAKE



Small Business Saturday has come and gone, but you can still shop local for Christmas

Black Friday traditionally has signaled the start of the holiday shopping season. The day after Thanksgiving still sends early birds flocking to the long lines at the big box and department stores, but more and more consumers are doing their bargain hunting online.

That certainly makes sense for some purchases. Every one likes a bargain, especially at Christmas, and not many Mom-and-Pop stores carry discounted 80-inch TVs. But there are lots of reasons to shop local, right here in Dublin.

Shopping local is a great way to support your neighbor, the hometown business owner. According to the U.S. Small Business Index, eight in 10 small businesses say the holiday season is important for their overall profit, and most of them rely on holiday shopping for at least one quarter of their annual revenue.

Shopping local is a great way to support our local economy. Small businesses create two-thirds of net new jobs and account for 40 percent of our nation's economic output, according to the Small Business Administration.

Finally, shopping local is a great way to add a personal touch to your Christmas gift-giving. Local shops often feature one-of-a-kind items, and buying local is a clear sign that some thought and effort went into the present-buying.

Dublin is fortunate to have a growing number of locally owned shops, boutiques and restaurants, and many of them depend on the holidays to make ends meet.

Small Business Saturday, the annual effort to encourage people to shop local, was held this past weekend, but there are three more Saturdays left before Christmas. Let's make them all Small Business Saturdays.

- Rodney Manley

DAILY SCRIPTURE

"And a shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."

- Isaiah 11:1

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights."

- Maya Angelou

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY

December 3, 2024 is...

- Let's Hug Day
- National Day of Giving
- National Roof Over Your Head Day
- National Green Bean Casserole Day

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS — Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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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.

The things that I'm thankful for



By LORAN SMITH

The Thanksgiving season is a wonderful time of the year, and we should never tire of giving thanks on this glorious holiday for the many good things that come our way.

I'm thankful for the wonderful season of the year that culminates with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's all packed into a five-week period in which the partying seems never to end.

I'm thankful for the charitable organizations that try to bring holiday joy to those in need; a meal here, a toy there, and prayers and messages of peace and Thanksgiving for all.

I'm thankful for the goodwill and good tidings that friends heap on neighbors for the holidays.

I'm thankful for the many professors in our state's communities, the scientists and researchers whose daily toil may make life better in so many ways for us all.

I'm thankful for Steve and Tracey Stice, co-founders of Aruna Bio on the University of Georgia campus. Their research focused on the rehabilitation and treatment of strokes brings about rave review not only within the UGA academic community but also nationally and internationally.

I'm thankful for the bright students who are enrolled in the School of Social Work. Likely, they will never own condos at an exclusive beach resort or drive a Mercedes Benz coupe but will get the ultimate emotional fulfillment from their altruistic work.

I'm thankful for country roads on the backside of rural counties where there are clapboard churches with modest steeples where humble congregations sing songs such as "Whispering Hope," and "Shall we Gather at the River."

I'm thankful for the farmers of our state and their labors to make our day at mealtime. Many of them are reeling from being blindsided by recent hurricanes. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

I'm thankful for "Georgia Grown" products in our state which rank among the best in the world and salute Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper for the work he does in promoting what our enterprising farmers produce.

I'm thankful for the Okefenokee Swamp and its pristine environment and urge you to speak out against the mining interests which countless scientists say will bring consequential harm to the Swamp and our environment.

I'm thankful for weekend gatherings with friends when Stripling's sausage is on the menu for breakfast, accompanied by cheese and eggs, Mayhaw jelly from Colquitt; followed by a vegetable lunch and a Bubba Burger on the grill for dinner—all Georgia products that rank with the best.

I'm thankful for the voices of children at recess during their school day as they play with energy and compatibility. Those sounds bring pause to your routine as their laughter lifts upward, reminding us that we should never neglect them.

I'm thankful for the Golden Isles of our state, the barrier islands and the opportunity to fish its waters which yield trout and bass which provide the most tasting and fulfilling meals. (I am happy to salute the memory of John Donaldson, former Georgia player and coach, who took me fishing for many years in those creeks, never coming home with an empty cooler.)

I'm thankful for high school coaches who coach and teach for the right reason, to help kids grow and develop; coaches who will never sign a million-dollar contract, who will never be given a new car, but will find great reward in helping a kid realize his/her potential and contribute to society.

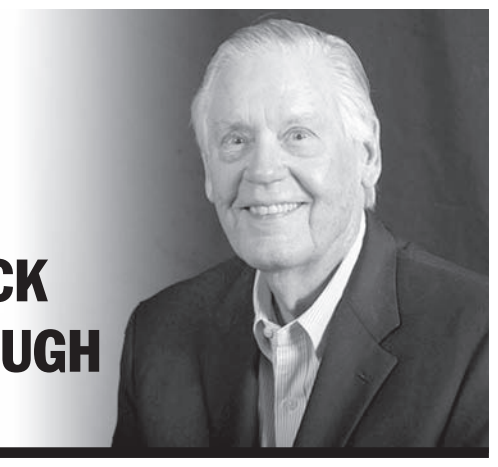
I'm thankful for the Pine Mountain Range on the west side of our state which is one of the prettiest places in Georgia. Its beauty enraptured President Franklin D. Roosevelt and is one of the few areas where you might find a chestnut tree.

I'm thankful for loblolly pines, Little St. Simons Island, the University of Georgia Redcoat Band, the UGA chapel bell ringing after victory on Saturday, strawberry ice cream pie at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, and grandchildren.

I'm thankful to be an American.



Fannin County sheriff's department ham-handed in dealings with local mother



By DICK YARBROUGH

It seems as though my mother was a criminal and I am just now finding out about it.

All this time, I thought she was a conscientious parent who fixed my school lunch, washed and ironed my clothes, made sure I went to church and was active in the PTA. Little did I know.

When I was 10, we lived in College Park, south of Atlanta. Both my parents worked, which made me a latchkey child, although I had no idea what that meant at the time since we didn't own a latchkey. We didn't need one. We never locked our doors. No one did.

From Labor Day to Memorial Day, I could be found at S.R. Young Elementary learning long division, diagramming sentences and trying to find Uruguay on the map for reasons that escaped me.

Come June, I was out of there. The next three months were mine.

I remember those summer days as mostly idyllic. Sleep late. Eat when I got ready.

And in the afternoon, hop on my bike and pedal to downtown College Park and enjoy an ice cream treat at Gordy's Drug Store. Afterwards, I would cruise up and down Main Street and finally home.

I haven't been to College Park in a number of years, but I am guessing that from our house to the drug store was at least a mile and I probably added another mile or so touring the town.

Where was my mother? At work, operating a switchboard (look it up) at an insurance company. I didn't see the need to bother her for approval of my ice cream excursions.

Fortunately, that was a long time ago and was in College Park. Were it today and in Fannin County, Momma would be in a heap of trouble.

Just ask Brittany Patterson. Her son, Soren, 10, unbeknownst to her, was walking toward the little town of Mineral Bluff, less than a mile from their house when he was spotted by a passerby who followed him, interrogated him and decided to call the police.

I have a great respect for law enforcement and rush to their defense whenever I hear yammers of police brutality and defunding the police. However, in this case, there is no way I will give the Fannin County Sheriff's Department a pass on their ham-handed dealing of the situation.

Instead of what should have been a simple, "Please tell Soren to let you know the next time he wants to walk to the store," two knuckleheaded deputies arrested Patterson and handcuffed her in front of her children.

Nice.

The arrest warrant calls her action a "gross deviation from the standard of care a reasonable person would exercise."

I call the Fannin County Sheriff's Department's actions a gross deviation from the standard of common sense a law enforcement agency should exercise. Is this all they have to occupy their time? Let's buy them a radar gun.

According to a bodycam recording the action, Patterson told the two Barney Fife wannabes, "Last time I checked, it wasn't illegal for a kid to walk to the store."

"It is when they're 10 years old," responded a female deputy (I'm thinking maybe Aunt Bee here) before leading the handcuffed Mom off to the pokey.

Now, the Georgia Division of Family & Children Services is involved. (This gets more asinine by the minute.)

Authorities told Patterson they'd let her go with a "safety plan," which includes Soren having a GPS tracking app on his phone. She declined. "I did nothing wrong," she said. "I'm going to fight for that."

Good for her.

The legal ball is now in local district attorney Frank Wood's court to see if he actually chooses to prosecute her. If convicted, Brittany Patterson could face a fine up to $1,000, spend up to 12 months in jail, or both.

The incident has gotten Fannin County, home of the town of Blue Ridge and one of my favorite places to visit, national attention, none of it good and all of it deserved, thanks to the Fannin County Sheriff's Department and the nosy-Nellie who started all this.

As for me, when you get upset with my hyperbolic screeds, please cut me some slack. It's not my fault. I am an emotional wreck. I have just discovered my sweet momma was actually a criminal for not authorizing and supervising my one-mile bicycle rides to Gordy's Drug Store to eat ice cream. Where was the nanny state when I needed it?

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



POLICE BEAT...

Dublin Police Department

- A 42-year-old man was charged with possession of amphetamine around 4:32 p.m. on Oct. 18 at the intersection of Roberson Street and Veterans Boulevard.

An officer stopped a vehicle because the driver had failed to yield the right-of-way.

The officer smelled an odor of marijuana as he approached the vehicle. During the officer's investigation, he found a black bag with assorted items on the passenger side.

One of those items was a small black plastic container that had a white rock wrapped in a clear plastic bag, which was later test ed and proved to be meth. Two hand-rolled cigars with suspected marijuana were also found.

The driver was issued two summons while the passenger was arrested and transported to the Laurens County Jail.

- Around 12:08 p.m. on Oct. 18, an officer was monitoring traffic at the intersection of East Jackson and North Union when he saw a maroon Chevrolet Impala traveling east at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was clocked going 56 in a 40 zone.

When the officer asked the driver for his license, the man said, "Why did you stop me?"

The officer said they would talk about that as soon as he had his license. The driver stated, "Why did you stop me first?" The officer said that the man needed to give him his license, which was followed by the man saying, "But first tell me what happened, then I will give you my license." The officer advised the man that he had two choices - hand over the license or go to jail for failure to provide identification.

At that time, the man took off his seat belt and stepped out.

The officer grabbed the man's wrist and placed it into a restraint. The man became combative and pulled away. The officer had to pin the man, who was 6-0, against the car while trying to get his left arm behind his back. The officer, who called for other units, was able to get the other restraint on the man.

The man asked to speak to a supervisor who did come to the scene. The man told the supervisor that his primary complaint was that under Georgia law, officers have to tell people why they are being stopped. The supervisor said that was not a law. The man then became compliant and asked for his son to get the car.

The man was charged with speeding, failure to provide identification and misdemeanor obstruction.

- A 35-year-old woman was charged with driving under the influence of 0.08 grams or more on Hillside Drive around 7:53 p.m. on Oct. 19.

An officer responded to the location in reference to a possible DUI investigation. The officer could smell alcohol coming from a woman when he talked to her. Despite this, she told the officer that she had not had anything to drink. When talking with a different officer, the woman said she had some beers and a glass of wine.

After blowing a 0.210, she was transported to Fairview Park Hospital for a blood draw and then taken to the Laurens County Jail.

- Around 3:19 p.m. on Oct. 19, a 52-year-old woman was charged with theft by shoplifting at Walmart on Highway 80 west.

An officer met with the asset protection operations coach who said another employee had seen the woman skip scanning an item at the self-checkout. The woman admitted to stealing the items when the officer asked her.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- A man talked with a deputy on Nov. 4 about a shotgun that was stolen on Scotland Road.

- A deputy conducted a traffic stop on a white Ford Fiesta at the intersection of Main Street and Omega Street around 9:03 p.m. on Nov. 1.

- On Oct. 29m around 11 a.m., a deputy responded to a walk-in at the sheriff's office in reference to harassing communications that happened on Alice Brewer Road in Dudley.

- A 34-year-old McRae man was charged with possession of cocaine on Valambrosia Road around 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 2. A deputy responded to the location in reference to illegal contraband found inside of a repossessed vehicle.

- A firearm was reported as missing on Claxton Dairy Road around midnight on Oct. 9.

- On Nov. 4, around 11:30 a.m., a deputy responded to the Dollar General on Ed Beckham Road in reference to an assault.

- Around 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 4, a deputy answered a walk in at the sheriff's office in reference to identity theft that happened on Hall Road between Aug. 20 and Nov. 4.

- A deputy met with a man at the sheriff's office in reference to a theft that had occurred between Dec. 28, 2023 and Aug. 7, 2024.

Editor's note: This information is public record and was taken from reports of local law enforcement agencies. These reports do not reflect guilt or innocence. An "arrest" does not always indicate incarceration. Readers are cautioned that people may have similar names. Police Beat does not identify minor children, victims of sexual assault, suicide attempts or medical conditions. Cases dismissed do not appear if the newspaper is notified before deadline.

TELL IT!

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

Once again, I have received my second notification for this month about my records being breached. Both notifications were from a physician's office. Why must we provide our Social Security number and drivers license number to see a physician? I realize it is so they can garnish our wages if we do not pay our bill. It is like the commercial says I do everything I can do to make sure that my identity is not stolen. However, my identity may be stolen anyway. The way I see it is they ask for my co-pay upfront or I cannot be seen so why do I need to provide them with such delicate information especially if that information is breached?

The schools and the recreation authority don't both need to be in the athletics business. It's time our schools got back to the basics of educating our kids instead of it all being sports in school.

There are individuals and organizations here using the promise of every kid being a pro athlete wasting our tax money and personal money on what statistically we know will not happen.

It's been over a week since the county allowed the manure to be spread at the airport and it still smells bad. I'm all for farming, but there has got to be a better way. Please call your commissioner.

Hey nut, the problem is how long it's taking to fix the temperature unit? The bigger problem is the pattern of lack of care from the county on a lot of items. Don't get me started on the courthouse.

I would caution about movies like "The Saints" like they are advertising on TV. Hollywood doesn't know how to make movies anymore. Watch it with caution and then go back in the Bible and read about it.

I'd like to know how the illegal alien who killed the Georgia student got such a quick trial after a couple of three months at the most, yet here in Laurens County, we've got murderers sitting out at the jail for three, four or five years who haven't been to court yet?

While looking at Clemson's football season for a year, and hearing about how great they are doing, I noticed that they have only played one team this year that was ranked and that was Georgia. And that resulted in a beatdown.

I agree the school board members don't have to have a college education. They do need common sense. Also, the students are not producing what they should.

When the next Dublin City Board of Education election comes up, we need to select some people that will not let the school superintendent tell them when he should get a raise.

I would like to thank the bikers that came around on Saturday, Nov. 23 to give away plates for Thanksgiving and the many churches and other places who were giving away Thanksgiving plates. A lot of people is not going to have Thanksgiving. These people went out of their way to make sure people will have something. God bless each and every one.

Apparently the economy is so bad that the stores are packed, and in some places, you have to wait in line for an empty buggy. When the economy gets good, I suppose were going to have to bring our own buggies.

Residents of Dublin City need to start a petition to recall the city school board. This will solve the problems if they would come up with a new board.

Please, please, please get us a Hobby Lobby.

17 Republican governors urge Congress to pass Farm Bill

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - A group of 17 Republican governors has sent a joint letter to Congress urging passage of an updated Farm Bill.

The most recent Farm Bill, which federal lawmakers approved early in President-elect Donald Trump's first term in the White House, expired in September. Different versions of a reauthorization bill are pending in the U.S. House and Senate, while Republicans and Democrats are divided over funding for food stamps.

The letter, dated Monday, cites "high inflation, high input costs, high interest rates, catastrophic weather events, natural disasters, regulatory uncertainty, and a growing agricultural trade deficit" as lending a sense of urgency to the need for congressional action.

"Our nation's agriculture industry is in trouble, and if meaningful support is not provided soon, the well-being of the nation is at risk," the governors wrote. "Reauthorization of a Farm Bill and immediate assistance in the interim will allow farmers and ranchers to do what they do best - provide for America and feed the world."

Georgia Republican Gov. Brian Kemp joined the GOP governors of Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and West Virginia in signing the letter.

Cumberland Island Museum transferring collection

The Cumberland Island Museum is donating its entire collection to further knowledge of the ecology of Georgia's largest barrier island.

The museum, incorporated as a nonprofit in 1985, houses a collection of thousands of items including marine and terrestrial mammals, fish, birds, mollusks, reptiles, and amphibians, as well as flora collected on the island.

"My hope is that these items will be reunited with the remainder of the collection that is already housed at the University of Georgia," said Carol Ruckdeschel, the museum's founder, who began collecting in the mid-1960s when she started visiting Cumberland Island as a Georgia State University student.

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

TUESDAY: 49° — Clear skies and cold. Sunrise: 7:17 a.m.

TUESDAY NIGHT: 24° — Clear and cold. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: 55° — Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. Sunrise: 7:18 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: 37° — Partly cloudy skies. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.

Thursday 12/5	Friday 12/6	Saturday 12/7	Sunday 12/8	Monday 12/9
HIGH/LOW	HIGH/LOW	HIGH/LOW	HIGH/LOW	HIGH/LOW
60/29	50/27	57/37	61/47	67/50
Cloudy.	Adundant sunshine.	Partly cloudy.	Partly cloudy.	Cloudy with showers.
Sunrise: 7:18 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:19 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:20 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:21 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:22 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.

River levels...
Oconee (at Dublin) ..... 2.73'
Ocmulgee (at Macon) ..... 7.6'

NEWS DIGEST

The Laurens County Board of Commissioners will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 3. The agenda follows:

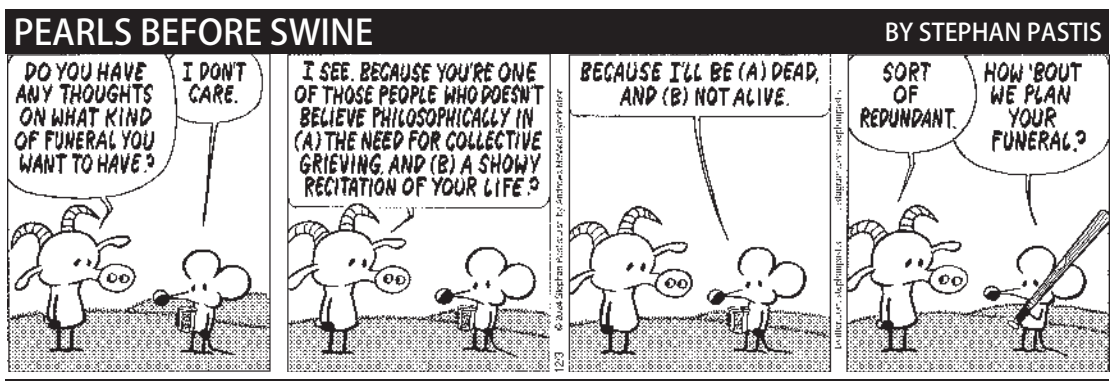
- Call to order
- Invocation
- Approve meeting minutes for Nov. 12 and called meeting of Nov. 15
- Discussion/approval of airport well
- Discussion/approval of the creation of the board of elections and bylaws
- Discussion/approval of increase to board of health fees
- Discussion/approval of existing alcohol beverage licenses
- Discussion/approval of existing licenses for rehab homes
- Discussion/approval of truck purchases for public works and rural fire
- Discussion/approval of board of health appointment
- Discussion/approval of library appointment
- Discussion/approval of tax assessor board appointment
- Comments from Harold McLendon incoming district attorney
- Other business
- Citizens comments
- Adjourn

The city of Rentz will have a council meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 9 at city hall. The agenda follows:

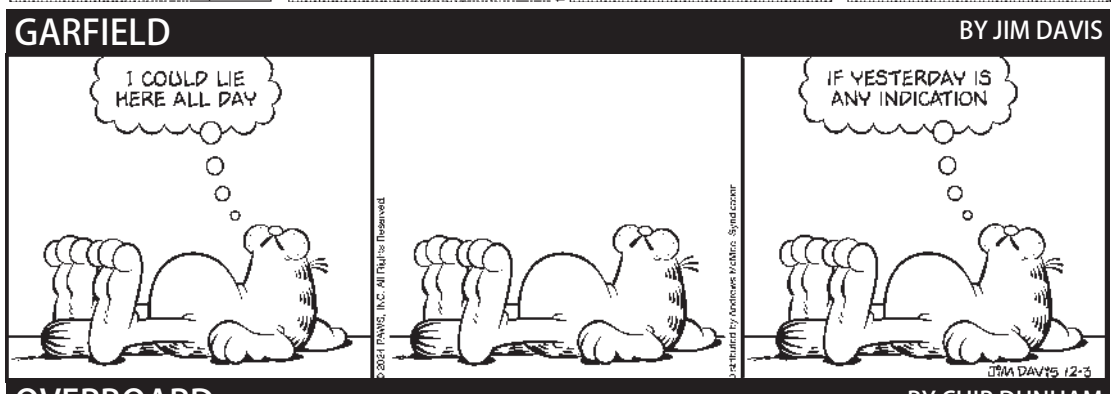
- Call to order
- Invocation
- Approval of November minutes
- Approval of financial statement
- Acknowledge visitors
- Old business
- New business
- Comments
- Adjourn



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



Woman holds life insurance policies on son's wife!



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I've recently discovered that my mother-in-law has two life insurance policies on me, neither of which I knew about, and one of which is close to 20 years old. I never asked nor authorized her to take out these policies, and I am very concerned.

We do not have a good relationship. She isn't welcome in my life or our home because she is disrespectful and meddlesome. My husband has very little to do with her but doesn't seem to be bothered by the fact that she took it upon herself to get these policies. Because she sells insurance, she makes it seem like it's no big deal, but it is to me.

I have my own insurance and have for all of my adult life (I am nearing 50), and I'm appalled at the idea of her collecting a payout from my demise. She has never provided us a copy of the policies, nor do we know who the beneficiaries are. In fact, we know of their existence only because she let it slip in a conversation when we told her that because she is so rude and disrespectful, we are limiting our contact with her.

Am I crazy, or are my concerns justified? Is it even legal for her to have these? Why is she wagering on my dying before her? -- LIFE INSURED IN NEVADA

DEAR LIFE INSURED: You have my sympathy. Your mother-in-law appears to be a handful. Discuss this with your own insurance agent. Explain what you have learned and ask whether what your mother-in-law has done is legal, because it may not be. That she is in the insurance business makes this even worse. That you became aware of this information during an "unpleasant" conversation strikes me as possible retaliation for telling her something she didn't want to hear. She may even be lying about it.

Your insurance agent can explain what remedies can be taken to correct this if it is true. If she is a licensed broker who has done something illegal, she could lose her license.

DEAR ABBY: I have been alienated from my daughter, "Bonnie," for 30 years. Her mother and I divorced, and I remarried. Bonnie was in her late teens and early 20s at the time. For a time, she lived with me, my new wife and my wife's daughter. Bonnie was an absolute "queen" and thought we should defer to her every wish. She offered no help around the house and paid no rent.

I finally asked her to leave. It was either get her out of the house or lose my new wife. Later, Bonnie married and asked me to come to her wedding, but not bring my wife. I told her, "Sorry, I won't be there." She was angry at me for it and still is, according to her brother.

I have written her off but have been encouraged by a friend to try and reconnect with her. I think Bonnie has a grudge, and it would be useless to attempt reconciliation and open myself up to more pain from being around her. I think she's stuck in what happened 30 years ago and isn't about to let go. Your opinion, please? -- DEJECTED DAD IN OREGON

DEAR DAD: Has this friend or Bonnie's brother given you any impression that Bonnie would like to reconcile with you and your wife? If the answer is yes, give it a try. If not, let sleeping dogs lie.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

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

♠ 8 ♡ K J 10 4 2 ◇ J 7 4 ♣ K J 6 5

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1NT	Pass	2◇*	Pass
2♡	Pass	?	

***Transfer to hearts**

What call would you make?

A - This hand is worth forcing to game, so show your other suit and help partner decide where to play. Bid 3C.

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

♠ A 10 8 5 4 ♡ A Q 10 7 2 ◇ K 7 ♣ 8

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♡	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

A - Bidding 3H might catch some magic, but this hand isn't good enough to bid again. Pass.

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

♠ 10 9 4 ♡ K ◇ A K J 10 9 7 3 ♣ J 3

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♡	1♠	2◇	Pass
2NT	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

A - Any bid over 2NT by you is forcing, so show your 5-card major and let partner decide where to play. Bid 3H.

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

♠ J 7 6 3 ♡ A 8 6 ◇ A Q J 5 ♣ K 8

Partner opens 1H and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

A - You would rather play a 4-4 fit than a 5-3 fit, so bid 1S. You can get back to hearts later.

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 10 4 ♡ Q ◇ K 8 7 4 ♣ A K J 6 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Pass	1♡	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

A - Bid 2D, a "reverse" bid. That shows extra values – about right with this hand.

Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

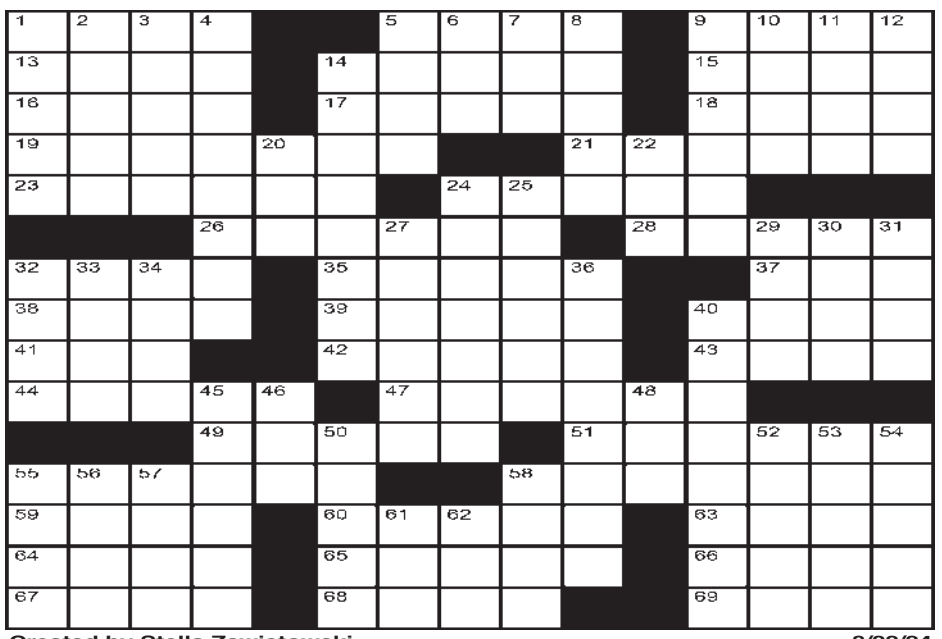
♠ 10 3 ♡ K 7 5 4 2 ◇ Q 9 ♣ K 8 5 3

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

A - Any bid over 2NT by you is forcing, so show your 5-card major and let partner decide where to play. Bid 3H.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski



Created by Stella Zawistowski — 8/22/24

ACROSS

1 Dwell
5 Raining ___ and dogs
9 Unlock
13 Word at the end of grace
14 Swampy area
15 Secret writing
16 Beach surface
17 Identical
18 Machine parts
19 Self-centered view
21 Good-luck charm
23 Done over
24 Under-sink part
26 Singer Streisand
28 Fading away
32 Spoken aloud
35 Pleasant scent
37 Pee ___ River
38 Be brave
39 Add up to
40 Lima or fava
41 Casino cube
42 Volunteer's offer: 2 wds.
43 Hard to find
44 Unforeseen hangups
47 Swimwear brand
49 Goes by bus
51 Search engine giant
55 Place to work
58 Labor dispute tactic
59 Tehran's country
60 Following later
63 "Copacabana" name
64 Non-kosher cooking fat
65 Like spinach and kale
66 Pained cry
67 Addition results
68 Phone message
69 Wall Street institution: Abbr.

DOWN

1 Eye surgery tool
2 Picture
3 Snake toxin
4 Furniture by a sofa: 2 wds.
5 Serene
6 Mogul Onassis
7 Sound of disapproval
8 Cut wool from
9 Reside in
10 Swimming spot
11 Barely defeat
12 Home of twigs
14 Italian car make
20 Journalist ___ B. Wells
22 Angry
24 Expert advice: 2 wds.
25 Husk-wrapped food
27 Use Firefox, say
29 Notion
30 Pretty close
31 Chromosome part
32 ___ and ends
33 Cause of a game delay
34 Locale
36 Tale with a hidden meaning
40 NYC's most populous borough
45 Uses a coffee mill
46 Attack dog command
48 "What's up, ___?"
50 Dispensed
52 Soft and sticky
53 Quiet periods
54 Military march
55 Frying liquids
56 German lady's title
57 Silo's place
58 Departed
61 Entry charge
62 Government levy

A	D	J	U	S	T	■	E	A	R	S	■	M	A	D
T	R	E	N	T	A	■	G	L	E	E	■	E	G	O
M	E	N	T	A	L	■	G	E	L	S	■	L	E	G
■	■	■	I	N	K	S	■	R	E	A	S	O	N	S
■	■	O	L	D	T	E	S	T	A	M	E	N	T	■
S	A	C	■	S	O	A	K	■	S	E	A	■	■	■
I	C	E	■	■	■	N	A	M	E	■	T	A	C	T
F	L	A	G	■	A	C	T	E	D	■	S	C	A	R
T	U	N	E	■	N	E	E	D	■	■	■	U	S	E
■	■	■	T	I	S	■	R	I	P	S	■	T	H	E
■	T	H	A	T	W	A	S	C	L	O	S	E	■	■
L	O	A	T	H	E	S	■	S	A	F	E	■	■	■
A	N	T	■	A	R	I	D	■	S	T	A	T	U	E
W	E	E	■	C	E	D	E	■	M	E	M	O	R	Y
S	R	S	■	A	D	E	N	■	A	N	Y	O	N	E

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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:

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

DUBLIN 35, THOMASVILLE 13

Irish stay hot on bitter night in bowl, freeze out Bulldogs for berth in semis



SWALLOWED UP: Willie Batts (1) and Brandon Chatman (21) combine on a tackle of Thomasville's Cam Hill during the third quarter/HORACE AUSTIN

By CLAY REYNOLDS and HORACE AUSTIN

The only thing colder than the temperature Friday night was the Dublin defense.

And the Irish were pretty frosty when it came to denying Thomasville scoring chances throughout a frigid GHSA state quarterfinal showdown that ended in a 35-13 win.

The Bulldogs broke the ice with some big plays, but were able to chisel their way over the goal line only once. Dublin, with three red-zone stands and two fourth-down stops in plus territory, limited them to a pair of chip shot field goals in the game's first 46 minutes. And it took a circus catch late, with the game's outcome already firmly set, for Thomasville to put its lone touchdown on the board.

Some more stone cold execution on offense helped the Irish crank out 440 total yards, and the 28 points in quarters 2 and 3 that buried the Bulldogs before a bundled-up crowd at the Shamrock Bowl.

As has been the case for much of this still-unbeaten season for Dublin (13-0, 9-0 region 2-High A), the three phases worked well hand-in-hand to produce another of the complimentary performances that win games deep in the playoffs.

"I just felt like it was a tremendous team victory," Dublin head coach Roger Holmes said.

The No. 2 Irish – among the state's last four standing for the sixth time in the 23-year Holmes era, and the 12th season in program history – will welcome top-ranked Toombs County to the Bowl Friday night.

In the High A bracket's other semifinal matchup, Fitzgerald and Northeast Macon (emerging the victors from respective shootouts with higher seeds Worth and Fannin counties) will battle it out for the opposing spot in the state title game set for Tuesday, Dec. 17 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Thomasville (10-3, 5-1 region 1-High A) proved a worthy match-up.

Though Dublin outgained them by over 150 yards and held a nine-minute edge in possession time, the Bulldogs created more scoring opportunities on the night.

The Irish, though, cashed in five of their six, while the Bulldogs converted for points at a 3-for-8 clip, and came up with a touchdown on just one.

For Holmes, the win came down to not only some detailed, disciplined play on both sides of the ball, but also to the strong will to win and chemistry that's defined this Irish team all-season.

"This football team cares about each other, they love each other, and that in itself is very very important," he said. "When I was asked the other day what my thoughts were going into this game, I don't know because I know they're a good football team. But I can promise you, our guys are going to play with phenomenal effort. I think they did that again tonight."

Dublin had built a 35-6 lead before giving up its only touchdown, with just more than two minutes left, on an impressive grab by Thomasville's Demario Sawyer that you could only tip your hat to.

The Bulldogs' junior secured the 17-yard pass of Cam Hill from the other side of his defender, pinning the ball to the back of Trav Bostic and hanging on as the two fell to the turf in the end zone.

Thomasville, which gained 275 total yards, would get much closer to six on a handful of previous drives that were each held out of the end zone. A pair of third-down stops inside the Dublin 5 forced the Bulldogs to settle for short field goals by Camdon Christie that bookended a first Irish score of the night early in the second quarter.

Azontae Walker, who scored one Dublin's five touchdowns as a rusher, leapt to pick off a third-quarter pass in a similar doorstep situation that took away Thomasville's last shot to get back in the game.

Willie Batts, with a team-leading eight tackles (including two for loss and a sack), and Xavier Bostic, with seven tackles (plus one for loss, and two hurries), led the way for the Irish on D.

Dublin had success with nearly every feature of its offense, though its biggest plays of the game belonged to Batts, who posted a team-high 147 rushing yards on 15 carries, plus a catch for 11, and its first two touchdowns.

The senior wingback routinely found the edge on sweeps to the perimeter, taking one 69 yards to the house on the first play of the third Irish possession for the first of their four unanswered scores to widen an existing 7-6 lead.

Walker and Trav Bostic, who carried seven times for 64 yards, followed with touchdown runs on either side of the half. Xavier Bostic, with 70 on 11 rushes, barreled in for the last in the fourth quarter.

Quarterback Micah O'Neal, who was 3-for-5 passing with 35 yards and rolled up 109 on 10 keepers, was also instrumental in coordinating an attack that not only had the Thomasville defense out-maneuvered, but also repeatedly drove the Bulldogs off the football to grind out key first downs.

Hill was 16-of-28 for 148 yards, and rushed 11 times for 28 of the Bulldogs' 127 on the ground.

The Thomasville signal-caller delivered some key throws or scrambled to move the chains on six out of 11 third downs.



WILLIE GO ALL THE WAY?: The answer was yes on this speed sweep for Batts, who cut the corner just beyond the reach of these would-be tacklers and took off for a 69-yard run for a second of two touchdowns in Friday's first half. Batts finished with a team-leading 158 all-purpose yards/HORACE AUSTIN

He did so on two with strikes to A.J. Hill and Si Wilson to keep the Bulldogs' opening drive moving, then scrambled for back-to-back first downs that got them inside the 10 to threaten a touchdown.

Dublin's defense rose up to stuff a first-down run and tip a second-down dump to the end zone before Walker stormed in to pressure Hill into an off-balance throw that fell incomplete on third down.

Christie's 22-yard kick salvaged points to put Thomasville up by an early count of 3-0.

A bang-bang call along the sidelines – as a Hill strike to tight end Rex Schofill was ruled O.B. preceding a third-down stop – kept Thomasville from driving to add to the lead before Dublin found the scoreboard.

But the Bulldogs' response to the first opposing touchdown was swift. Ant Anderson spun out of a tackle to break their first double-digit run of the game 49 yards to the Irish 20.

IRISH
Continued on page 8

Tough stretch continues for Trinity in home debuts vs. GWA



BLUE STEAL: Lauren Williams (15) jumped a pass headed for George Walton's Ashley Hill (10) in the corner and forced a turnover with this steal during the second half of Monday's game/CLAY REYNOLDS

By JEREMY PAYNE
Correspondent

The Trinity Crusaders played one game each over the Thanksgiving break as they hosted George Walton Academy last Monday.

The girls fell to a loaded Lady Bulldog squad 68-46 while the boys kept it close early, but a big second half led to a 67-40 loss.

The Crusaders return to the court at home Tuesday night against Stratford.

Girls

The Lady Crusaders hosted a George Walton squad that won the AAAA state title two seasons ago and were runners-up last year. The Lady Bulldogs still had plenty of firepower and it showed early against Trinity.

George Walton used full court pressure and hot shooting early to race out to a 26-9 lead after one quarter.



AT YOUR BACKDOOR: Ben Castro-Poveda lays it in on one of two backdoor cuts for the back-to-back baskets that opened the game for the Trinity boys/CLAY REYNOLDS

The Lady Crusaders found their rhythm offensively in the second, responding with 20 points of their own while just allowing 13. They trailed 39-29 at the half.

The third quarter did not go well against the Lady Bulldogs' stifling pressure. They outscored Trinity 25-8 to build a huge lead, 64-37. George Walton called off the press in the fourth, and the Lady Crusaders made up some ground with nine more points.

Maddie-Grace Alligood led Trinity with 16 and Maddy George added 11.

GWA's Ashley Hill led all scorers with 26. Rosemary Ferguson had 13 and Leila Mathis added 11.

Boys

The boys faced off against against a Bulldog squad that made the GIAA Final Four last season as well.

The game started out well for the Crusaders as they traded baskets with the visitors throughout the opening quarter and trailed just 11-10.

The score continued to go back-and-forth early in the second, and was 15-14 midway through. The Bulldogs got hot from outside late in the period, and closed the half on a 13-2 run to take a 28-16 lead to the break.

The hot shooting continued for the visitors to open the third as the run continued. They would outscore Trinity 21-10 in the quarter go up 49-26 after three.

Trinity scored 14 in the final eight minutes, but George Walton would get 18 more of their own to continue to pull away for the 67-40 win.

Ben Castro-Poveda led Trinity with 13 and Anthony Frank-Woji added 11.

Tiedrell Ashley led George Walton with 22 and Adrian Thomas had 18. The duo combined for nine of the Bulldogs' 10 3-pointers in the contest.

East Laurens beats buzzer, Calvary Day in opening wins

From STAFF REPORTS

East Laurens swept Calvary Day in two buzzer finishes to open their seasons Saturday, Nov. 23.

The Cavaliers came back from sizable deficits to take a one-point lead in the final minute of both games, but the Falcons – via the steal and layup of McKayela Tanner and buzzer-beating 3-pointer of Rashund Washington Jr. – got the last word to come out on top.

The East Laurens girls, re-taking the lead with considerable time left, hung on to win 60-59. Washington's straightaway triple turned the boys' one-point deficit into a 50-48 victory in a second-straight thrilling finish to close out the afternoon.

Both the Falcons' 1-0 teams return to action after Thanksgiving in a pair of region-opening matchups at Central Macon Tuesday, Dec. 3.

The Eastside girls, led by the 20 points (on a 6-of-7 night from 3) by Brenda Tanner, were in fairly steady control of their game until the fourth quarter, when Calvary – trailing 47-38 after three – made up eight points of net ground with its late rally.

The Cavs had the game within two by the 1:16 mark of the fourth, and converted a Lady Falcon turnover on an inbound play into a 3-pointer by Destiny Gooddine to suddenly grab the lead.

East missed a shot on the other end with 60 seconds left, but McKayela Tanner picked the pocket of a Calvary ball-handler working to clear the backcourt and put the Lady Falcons back on top, 60-59, with a quick lay-in.

EAST
Continued on page 8

IRISH

Continued from page 7

Another Anderson carry, and a Dublin facemask penalty on the end of it, had Thomasville poised to go back in front with goal to go.

But the Dublin D rose to the challenge once again.

Jarvis Wiggins restrained Anderson at the 2 to save a touchdown, then Walker dove off the edge to tackle him behind the line on second down.

The Bulldogs went student body left for the quarterback Hill and third down, and were stonewalled by Xavier Bostic. Dublin didn't go for the hard count on fourth-and-goal, and Thomasville trotted out Christie for a 20-yard attempt to cut the deficit to one.

Jamarcus Knight's rush forced the issue on a third-down screen pass, and Wiggins combined with Jalen Dardy for a fourth-down tackle on the back-to-back stops that got Dublin the football back twice more before the half.

The Irish lead was 22 before Thomasville's first touch of the third, and another promising drive that turned into a do-or-die.

The surgical Hill made some key throws to navigate to plus territory, where Lavonte Cole's 19-yard run got the Bulldogs inside the 10 again.

But the opportunity came up empty as Hill threw the ball back to the middle of the field off a roll, but failed to see Walker lurking in the tall grass before the Dublin linebacker had leapt up to steal the pass.

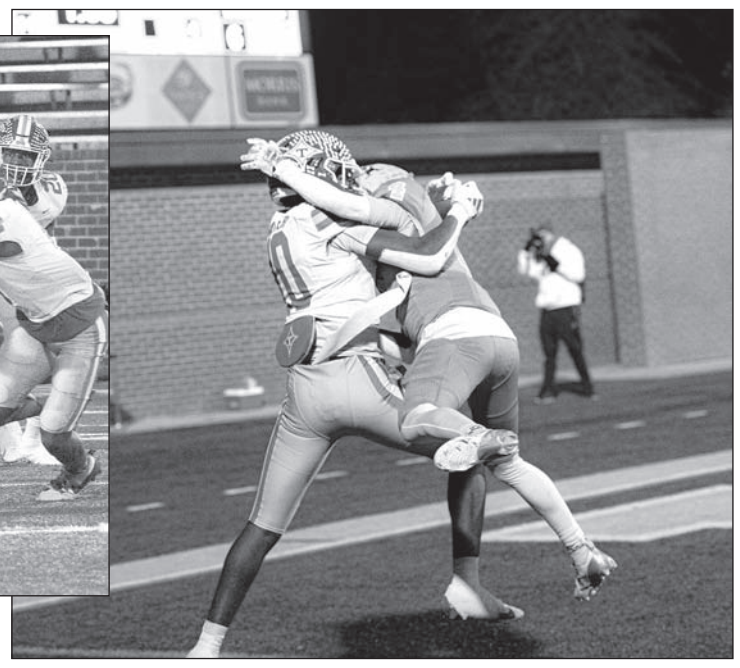
Thomasville got it back in a hurry after the rare Irish punt, but suffered another costly misfire on a bad snap on play 1 of the fourth quarter. Hill recovered, and threw the ball away to retain a two-yard distance on fourth down, but Anderson was tripped up by Batts in the backfield, and stumbled shy of the line to give the ball over on downs.

Penalties restrained Irish progress on a first possession that was forced to punt after two series. But they got things rolling on the next opportunity from their own 31, as O'Neal opened things up with a 55-yard scamper off a midline read to reach the red zone after just two plays.

Moments later, Batts scored from 10 yards to complete the 69-yard procession on a reverse handoff, and also create a highlight clip that got some prominent play among coaching gurus on social media.



DASHING FOR DAYLIGHT: Micah O'Neal takes off through a huge crease on a quarterback keeper for about a 55-yard gain that got Dublin's offense in gear early in a first scoring drive, which concluded with a first of two Willie Batts touchdowns in the second quarter/**HORACE AUSTIN**



GOING BEHIND YOUR BACK: If you're going to give up a touchdown, it might as well be on an amazing play like this one from Thomasville's Demario Sawyer, who had Dublin's Trav Bostic, and the the football, within the grasp on this catch in the end zone with about a minute left in the fourth quarter/**HORACE AUSTIN**



'GET OUT THE WAY, YEAH': The umpire had to shuffle clear of Xavier Bostic's path, or he would've likely gotten stiff-armed on this run up the gut that picked up a first down for the Irish on their determined drive for a third touchdown just minutes out from halftime. Bostic would find the end zone in the fourth quarter to wrap up his 11-carry, 70-yard night/**HORACE AUSTIN**



4-WHEEL DRIVE: Trav Bostic found just as much space to run in as any, but certainly had the highest percentage of physical carries, grinding through traffic and tacklers for first-down yardage, of backs in the Dublin rushing attack. His seven attempts yielded a hard-earned 64 yards, and a second-half touchdown/**HORACE AUSTIN**

The artful play design, which faked the staple "buck sweep" to the right-hand side, had left guard Antwain Hudson pinwheeling back to the left as Batts got the football on a second exchange, and combining with O'Neal on a block that took Thomasville defender Tyler Ivey clear into the sideline, and out of the picture for the Batts walk-in.

He turned the left corner with hardly anyone home on a next touch later in the quarter, as the Bulldogs overran an Irish jet sweep in the backfield, and everyone with an angle on the potential tackle again got stuck in a block.

Urick Andrews kicked a second point-after, and Dublin's lead was 14-6.

The Irish came with more wrinkles at the start of the 59-yard march that would increase its halftime lead to two scores.

O'Neal ran the midline again, but this time waited an extra beat after pulling the ball for Batts to lead block to the left, and rode his way out of bounds after a quick pickup of 15.

All three of his backfield mates got a touch in the next sequence of plays, as Batts went left and out to stop the clock, Trav Bostic fought his way over the first-down line to the right and Xavier Bostic ripped up the middle down to the 12 with time winding short.

Batts pushed his way down to the 4 on back-to-back carries, then Dublin went to a fifth ball-carrier of the drive in Walker, who followed a clearing block from Trav Bostic to the left side and into the end zone with 1:08 to go in the half.

A stop on downs got the Irish one more shot with just 21 seconds remaining, and they impressively got four snaps out of the minimal time to move within range as O'Neal scrambled out of bounds after a chunk, then hit Batts for nine over the middle before a "Statue of Liberty" draw to Xavier Bostic that got close to the 20 to set up a slightly ambitious Ethan Spivey field goal try of about 40 yards.

The kick, though, never came to fruition after Dublin was flagged for presnap illegal procedure. The offense came back out, and an incompletion on the final play sent it to half.

The Irish picked up where they left off in the third quarter, taking the opening kick and driving 77 yards to a touchdown to go up 28-6.

O'Neal completed a pass to Sirius Tobridge to convert a third down, then Xavier Bostic broke a big run up the gut, for the key plays that set up the 18-yard run of Trav Bostic – on a triple-option pitch – to finish it off.

Dublin's final score concluded a 59-yard trip, with Trav Bostic taking the lead on a couple of key carries before O'Neal hurdled a sprawled defender on a run to convert a fourth-and-five.

Xavier Bostic punched it in from the 4 for the score a few plays after.

Toombs County's will be a second pack of Bulldogs visiting the Shamrock Bowl in as many weeks, and these armed with an even sharper set of offensive teeth, and defensive claws.

The Irish expect a particular handful for their defense against Georgia State-committed quarterback T.J. Stanley, and his slew of college-caliber receiving targets who have carved up most of the teams they've played this fall. And Toombs is also rushing for over 200 yards per game.

"We made some mistakes in our secondary, fundamental mistakes that you can't afford to make right now," Holmes said. "We've got a great football team coming in here next week. The bottom line in all that is, we've gotta sharpen up some things on and off to hang on and win."

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL
Friday
Dublin 35, Thomasville 13

GIRLS HOOPS
Saturday
Treutlen 49, Dublin 39

BOYS HOOPS
Saturday
Dublin 86, Treutlen 85

PREP SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL
Tuesday
Dublin at Bleckley Co.
East Laurens at Central Macon
Stratford at Trinity
West Laurens at Baldwin
/6 p.m.

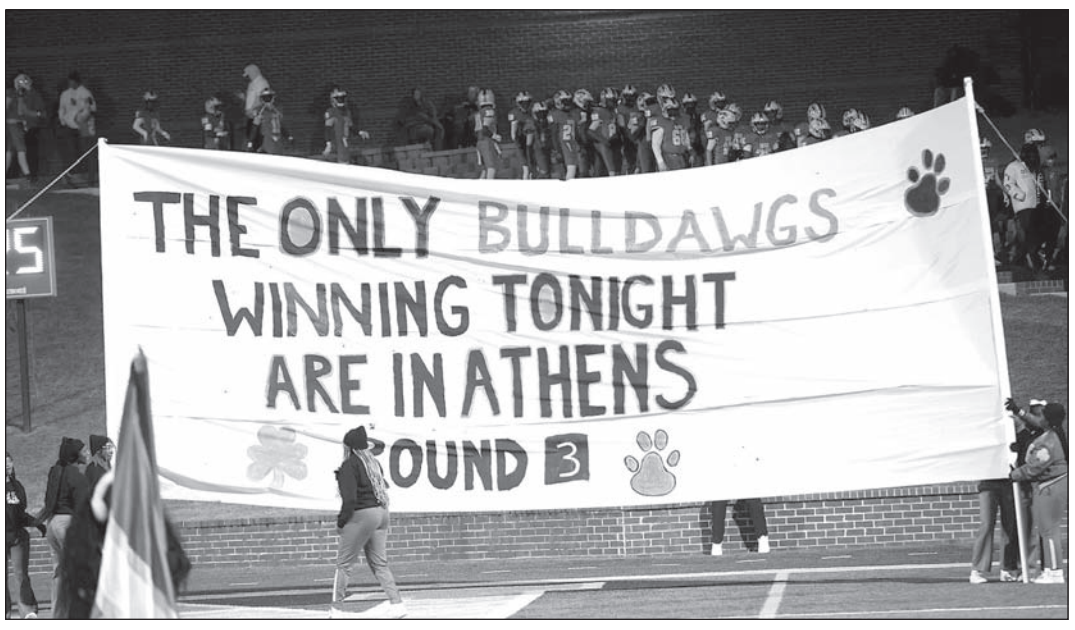
Thursday
Central Macon at Dublin **/5 p.m.**
Trinity at Twiggs Co./**6 p.m.**

Friday
Northeast Macon at EL
Trinity at FPD
WL at Westside Augusta
/6 p.m.

Saturday
EL at WL
Wilkinson Co. at Dublin
/6 p.m.

FOOTBALL
GHSA Semifinals
Friday
Toombs Co. at Dublin
/7:30 p.m.

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...AND THEY WEREN'T WRONG: But this bold prediction on Dublin's run-through banner, and fortunes for the Bulldogs of Athens, weren't looking as promising when Friday's playoff win for the Irish was wrapping up. Things turned around for Georgia in a second-half comeback to force overtime, and pull out a 44-42 victory over Georgia Tech that will boost its College Football Playoff odds/**JASON HALCOMBE, Dublin City Schools**



PLAYOFF ATMOSPHERE: The cold weather didn't keep Irish fans from turning out with their cowbells and shakers to bring some postseason energy to the Shamrock Bowl. And this week's semifinal matchup with Toombs County promises just as packed and rowdy a house as two area neighbors battle for a spot in the state title game/**JASON HALCOMBE, Dublin City Schools**

EAST

Continued from page 7

The score held thanks to a handful of East Laurens stops, though the Lady Falcons couldn't insure the lead on any subsequent opportunities to add points, including on two free throws that missed with seconds to go. Calvary Day, however, couldn't get a clean handle on the rebound or advance the basketball in time for any last-chance shot.

Deanna Lowther added 15 key points (plus 10 rebounds for a double-double) to join the Tanner sisters (McKayela with 14 points) in double-figures. Lowther and Brenda Tanner also contributed five steals each to the team's total of 15.

Another wire finish, under similar circumstances, followed for the Falcon boys, whose lead of 10 earlier in the first half was whittled down to five by the break.

East worked it back up to eight, 41-33, by the start of the fourth quarter, when it hit a dreadful six-minute scoring drought that allowed Calvary to stage a 12-2 run and jump back into the lead, 45-43.

Washington, with a heads-up play, stole the ball back from Calvary after a defensive rebound, which followed the block of a Falcon shot in danger of leaking out of bounds, and took it to the rim for a layup to tie the game.

The Cavaliers missed a key layup with 1:30 to go, and East Laurens went back to the recent Illinois-Chicago commit for the go-ahead bucket, as Washington attacked in isolation and split a triple-team to score on a contested scoop shot.

The lead was 47-45 with about a minute left.

Calvary Day missed a 3-pointer, but East Laurens committed a turnover to put it back with the Cavs at around 30 seconds to play.

They narrowly avoided the same fate, though Demetrius Brown recovered a loose ball in traffic, and sprayed it out to Oliver Fetzner in the left corner for a triple with eight seconds to go that lifted Calvary into a 48-47 lead.

East Laurens took a timeout to talk things over, though there was no guesswork for the Falcons as to who'd get their last look.

Facing no backcourt pressure, Washington brought it over and exchanged with Ty Snead on the right wing before getting it back at the head of the key with Brown doing the best he could to honor the 24-foot 3.

Washington pulled the trigger anyway, and swished the game-winning shot with less than a second to go.

The final basket gave him 21 points on the game to lead all Falcons, and finish as East's only scorer in double figures. His 11 rebounds were also good for a double-double. Ty and Skyler Snead finished with eight apiece. Kelvion King had six.

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TUES 3 | WED 4 | THUR 5 | FRI 6 | SAT 7 | SUN 8 | MON 9

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–$2.00 WITH DIGITAL COUPON AND $10 ADDITIONAL PRE-TAX PURCHASE
FINAL PRICE $1.99

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WITH DIGITAL COUPON
LIMIT 1 OFFER PER CUSTOMER
4/$5 ADVERTISED PRICE
FINAL PRICE 5/$5

CALLAWAY BLUE SPRING WATER
24 PACK 1/2 LT BOTTLES
$8.99 ADVERTISED PRICE
–$2.00 WITH DIGITAL COUPON USE UP TO 2 TIMES IN ONE TRANSACTION
FINAL PRICE $6.99

LIL' DUTCH MAID HOLIDAY COOKIES
9 OZ
$1.49 ADVERTISED PRICE
–50¢ WITH DIGITAL COUPON USE UP TO 3 TIMES IN ONE TRANSACTION
FINAL PRICE 99¢

MEAT

FRESH CUBED SIRLOIN PORK CHOPS
FAMILY PACK
$2.49 LB

CHOICE CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP STEAKS
FAMILY PACK
$5.99 LB

CAROLINA PRIDE ORIGINAL COCKTAIL SMOKIES
24 OZ
$4.99

OSCAR MAYER BEEF OR CHEESE HOT DOGS
15-16 OZ
$3.99

GEORGIA BOY SMOKED SAUSAGE
2 LB
$4.99

DANDY RED HOT LINKS
1 LB
$2.79

OLE SOUTH SAUSAGE & BISCUITS
28 OZ
$8.99

save on season's eatings

USDA HEAVY WESTERN SELECT T-BONE STEAKS
FAMILY PACK
$8.99 LB
CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF T-BONE STEAKS $12.99 LB

FRESH ALL NATURAL SPRINGER MOUNTAIN FARMS WHOLE FRYERS
$1.79 LB

FRESH SMALL BONELESS CHICKEN BREASTS
FAMILY PACK
$2.99 LB

FRESH CENTER CUT BONE-IN PORK CHOPS
FAMILY PACK
$2.49 LB

FRESH QUARTER LOIN PORK CHOPS
$1.99 LB

CHOICE CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP ROASTS
$5.79 LB

BRYAN SLICED BACON
12 OZ ORIGINAL OR THICK
$3.99 ADVERTISED PRICE
FINAL PRICE $2.99
–$1.00 WITH DIGITAL COUPON USE UP TO 2 TIMES IN ONE TRANSACTION

IDAHO POTATOES
4 LB BAG
2/$5 ADVERTISED PRICE
–$1.00 WITH DIGITAL COUPON USE UP TO 2 TIMES IN ONE TRANSACTION
FINAL PRICE 2/$4

WONDER CLASSIC BREAD
20 OZ
2/$5

FRESH GREEN CABBAGE
69¢ LB

FRESH AVOCADOS
6 CT BAG
$3.99

FRITO LAY VARIETY PACKS 18 CT	$8.99
HAWAIIAN PUNCH GALLON FRUIT JUICY RED, ORANGE, OR LEMON BERRY	2/$6
KINGSFORD ORIGINAL CHARCOAL 16 LB BAG	$11.99
HIDDEN VALLEY ORIGINAL RANCH DRESSING 16 OZ	$3.99
HUNT'S MANWICH ORIGINAL 15 OZ	2/$3
CHARMIN ESSENTIALS BATH TISSUE 6-MEGA ROLL PACK	$4.99
MARGARET HOLMES 14.5-15 OZ ITALIAN GREEN BEANS, FIELD PEAS WITH SNAPS, GREEN LIMA BEANS, OR TOMATO/OKRA/CORN	10/$10

DAIRY

SUNNY DELIGHT CITRUS PUNCH
SMOOTH ORANGE OR TANGY ORIGINAL
64 OZ
2/$3

BLUE BONNET MARGARINE
45 OZ ORIGINAL OR WITH CALCIUM
$3.99

PIGGLY WIGGLY SHREDDED CHEESES
16 OZ ASST
$3.99

DAISY SOUR CREAM
8 OZ ORIGINAL OR LIGHT
2/$3

FROZEN

MAYFIELD SELECT ICE CREAMS
48 OZ TUBS
$3.99

HOT POCKETS
9 OZ ASST
3/$8

TOTINO'S PARTY PIZZAS
9.8-10.9 OZ ASST
3/$5

PICTSWEET CHUB CORN
16 OZ YELLOW OR WHITE
2/$3

DRINKS

DEAL OF THE WEEK

COKE & FLAVORS
6 PACK 1/2 LITER BOTTLES
BUY 3 GET 1 FREE WITH DIGITAL COUPON AND $10 ADDITIONAL PRE-TAX PURCHASE
LIMIT 1 PER CUSTOMER
3/$12 ADVERTISED PRICE
4/$12 FINAL PRICE

PRODUCE

SWEET PERUVIAN ONIONS
3 LB BAG
$3.49

FRESH RIPE TOMATOES ON THE VINE
$1.99 LB

DOLE AMERICAN, ITALIAN BLEND, OR HEARTS OF ROMAINE SALAD MIXES
9-12 OZ
2/$5

FRESH BLUEBERRIES
PINT
$2.99

CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGES
4 LB BAG
$4.99

We pride ourselves on customer service at piggly wiggly

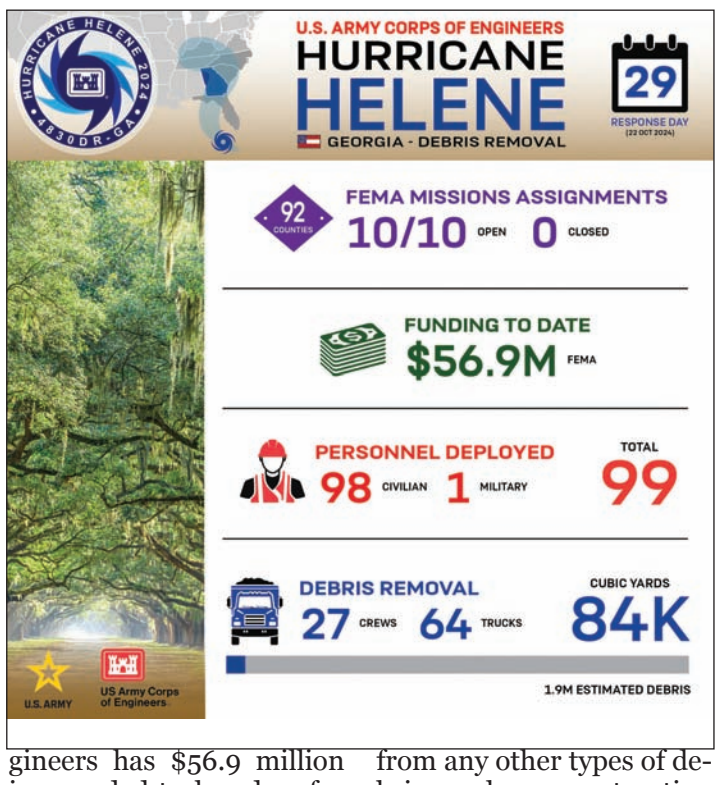
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We are locally owned and operated.
No waiting in line to be checked out.
No additional fees at checkout.
No preferred customer cards are needed.

All quality rights reserved. No sale items to dealers. We accept MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express, debit cards, SNAP cards, and Georgia eWIC cards.

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Army Corps of Engineers awards contract for hurricane clean-up in Ga.

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD



SAVANNAH - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with local government officials, announces the task orders for debris removal activity in 10 counties within Georgia have been awarded and work has begun under the direction of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) and Federal Emergency Management Agencies (FEMA), as part of the FEMA debris mission assignment.

The first haul took place in Ben Hill and Laurens counties on Nov. 6. For the next several months vegetative debris will be picked up by contractors operating under the direction of the Corps of Engineers, GEMA/HS and FEMA. The counties are: Ben Hill, Brooks, Candler, Dodge, Jenkins, Laurens, Lowndes, McIntosh, Montgomery, and Screven.

As recovery operations continue, the Corps of Engineers will assist local authorities with best management practices to determine the amount of debris, the characteristics of the debris, and the best avenues for disposal. Currently, FEMA is assisting with debris removal in 92 counties affected by Hurricane Helene, 10 of which are receiving Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) Debris Removal. The Corps of Engineers has $56.9 million in awarded task orders for removal of approximately 1.9 million cubic yards of debris. At this time, there are 98 civilians and one military deployed in support of the mission. So far, there are 27 debris removal crews and 64 hauling vehicles assigned to the mission, and they have re amoved 84,000 cubic yards of debris.

Contractors will not collect debris from private property. Collection will only occur on the right-of-way curbside of public roads. This right-of-way extends 10 feet from the edge of the road outward. The contractors are collecting vegetative debris, which should be separated from any other types of debris, such as construction debris or regular household trash before placing the vegetative debris curbside for collection.

Debris removal in Ben Hill, Dodge, Laurens and Montgomery counties has already begun, and debris removal contracts in Brooks, Candler, Jenkins, Lowndes, Montgomery, and Screven counties will begin soon. Work in each county will be concurrent, but the amount of debris in each area will dictate the length of time for each county's cleanup effort.

For more information or questions regarding debris removal, please contact your local county officials.



SCENES OF THE SEASON: MORE FROM RENTZ TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY





SPECIAL PHOTOS, Lynda Prymula

DUDLEY

Continued from page 1

enjoyed hearing what Wyatt read.

"We all get caught up in the hustle and bustle of exchanging presents, going to festivities and all kind of celebration things," he said. "Let's always remember the real reason for this season is the birth of God's son, Jesus Christ, who is our savior. That is the most important thing and should be a priority in our lives. We need to share that truth to others."

Mr. Claus met and had his picture taken with children. Hot chocolate and snacks were available also.

"This was pretty good for a cold night," Locke said. "Santa got here and got the tree lit. Everything looks great. Santa is a lot of fun and is good to have him bring in the Christmas season. But the most important part is the birth of our savior. There is the fact that we can celebrate here but we will be able to celebrate in eternity when we'll be with Jesus."



Santa arrives in a vintage Dudley firetruck at Dylan Harrison Memorial Park just after dark Saturday/**PAYTON TOWNS III**

PARADES

Continued from page 1

"We just had too many concerns with the traffic and people able to get off work and get downtown in a timely manner," Bazemore said. "So, we decided to give Saturday a try again. We were interested in having lit floats and other entries like that. We feel like this will be a better day to have it. We won't have to deal with rush hour traffic and anything else going on."

Bazemore said they reached out and talked with the city of Dublin, Downtown Development Authority and downtown merchants.

"We ask as many people as we can and we get as much input as we can before we make a decision," he said.

One of the reasons for moving the parade to night was the number of entries in last year's parade.

"We did have a really good turnout," Bazemore said. "This year so far it was less than it was last year.

"We think that was due in part because people are still recovering from the hurricanes and everything else. We are probably back at around a normal rate of about 50 entries."

The parade is a family event. The club does have the right to refuse or remove any participant they deem inappropriate for the event. The grand marshals for the parade will be the Dublin Exchange Club's law enforcement officer and firefighter of the year.

As for the rules, they are asking for participants not to throw any items such as candy from floats and vehicles or while walking in the parade.

"We have to follow the city rules, and those are posted on the city website," Bazemore said. "Everyone who has entered has signed saying they will agree to those rules."

For more information about the Dublin Christmas Parade, call (478) 983-0210.



Dexter officials plan to have their parade "rain or shine" after the weather canceled last year's/**HORACE AUSTIN, File**

DANCE

Continued from page 1

mo, PayPal, credit card, check or cash. Kinney stressed that they only give out paper tickets that can be checked at the door.

"When I post that we have sold out, scammers will go and find people who are commenting that they are looking for tickets (on Facebook) and they'll try to sell them electronic tickets," she said. "We've had people who have never been to the dance before and they don't know what the ticket looks like. We've been trying to let people know that we only use paper tickets. We feel like it's better to stay old school. We certainly don't want anybody walking up there with their little girl who is all dressed up and cannot go in and it breaks a little girl's heart."

For more information about the dance, call Habitat at (478) 275-1818.