

Dublin schools cut jobs, days to reduce deficit

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

After cutting more than 50 positions last week, the cash-strapped Dublin City Board of Education approved a second phase of its deficit reduction plan Monday, looking to save another \$3 million through steps that include cutting calendar days, reducing and realigning select staff and the suspension of all district-paid travel.

Also under the second phase, school board members will waive their salaries for the current and next fiscal years, and all board travel for FY26 will be eliminated.

According to state education officials, the Dublin City Schools faces a \$13.4 million deficit by the time the current fiscal year ends next June. The schools got an advance of \$1.4 million in state QBE funding last month to meet payroll and other obligations, but state School Superintendent Richard Woods told the board last week that he wants a "viable" deficit reduction plan before he asks the governor's office for another advance.

Last week, the school board approved a deficit reduction plan that eliminates 51 positions – including nine central office staffers

and more than a dozen teachers – and reduces local supplement pay for others. Some of the job cuts were immediate, while others take effect later in the year. The plan was obtained Monday by The Courier Herald through an open records request filed with the school district. It does not say how much money the cuts will save.

The board met Monday in a called meeting to approve Phase II. Details of that plan were included in a news release from the district.

"While these decisions are some of the hardest we've ever had to make, they are vital to securing

the long-term stability of Dublin City Schools," Interim Superintendent Marcee Pool said in the release. "Our focus throughout this process has been on maintaining the quality of instruction for our students and minimizing the impact in the classroom as much as possible. Every decision was made with that commitment in mind."

The district struggled with debt for most of the 2010s before finally climbing of an operating deficit in 2020. Cuts then included pay freezes and furloughs.

Board member Regina McRae said the recent cuts are "really hard" but necessary to build a

stronger and "sustainable" school system.

"It's not worth just putting a Band-Aid on," McRae said. "We needed to do the serious work. I know it's hard, and it's painful and it's resulting in people losing their jobs at the end of the day."

"We don't want to keep putting our kids through this. We don't want to keep putting our teachers through this. It's just one ugly cycle that we've got to get out of."

Board members also asked that residents be patient until more

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
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PAVING A WAY FOR A NEW CROSSWALK

Employees from TES (Total Earth Services) began working on the crosswalk and raised flower bed on Jackson Street this week. The bid for the project, which was approved by the Dublin City Council in May 2024, is for relocating the crosswalk to line up with the Jackson Street Plaza/PAYTON TOWNS III



County rolls back property tax rate

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

The Laurens County Commission voted Tuesday to roll back its millage rate and avoid a property tax increase.

The commissioners voted to lower the millage rate to 5.376, down from last year's rate of 5.744. Keeping the millage at its current rate would have generated about \$800,000 in increased taxes under the new tax digest, County Administrator Bryan Rogers told the board.

The tax digest grew to a net worth of just over \$2 billion, up from \$1.9 billion last year.

"The inflationary growth was pretty strong this year," Rogers said.

The millage rate is only for property taxes levied by the county. The city of Dublin and both the Laurens County and Dublin school boards set their own millage rates.

Rogers noted the county's millage rate is among the lowest in the state.

"There's nobody anywhere around that's even close," he said. "It's really, really low."

The commissioners said county staffers work hard to ensure that county residents still get the services they deserve.

"We keeping the millage rate down and still giving good service," said Commissioner Kevin Tanner.

"I'm very happy to see that with the commissioners that we have here, that were doing a great job on improvements and still are able to roll the millage back with all we are doing," said Chairwoman Brenda Chain. "I hope the people are happy, too. The county is in very good shape."

Also Tuesday, the commission approved a tentative list of road resurfacing projects to complete an application for state LMIG (Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant) funding. The funding amount, including the local match, is expected to total about \$2 million.

Using this year's paving costs, that figures to pay for about 16 miles of resurfacing. The project list compiled by Rogers includes about 21 miles from suggestions by commissioners, leaving about five miles that must be cut. Each of the five commission districts will get at least one project.

"We've done so much lately, we don't want to overextend ourselves like we have done," said Rogers.

Mayor: Internal investigation after clerk's arrest shows no city money missing

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

An internal investigation after the arrest of Dublin's former city clerk showed there was no financial loss to the city.

Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight made the announcement during the last Thursday's City Council meeting. He reminded everyone that the council had a called meeting on Oct. 1 to approve City Treasurer Blake Daniels as the interim

city clerk after Heather Browning resigned earlier that week before she was arrested and charged with theft of deception by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

"Mr. Daniels and the finance team reported during pre-council (last week), that based on available information and investigation that he had conducted through our city finances over the past few weeks, there appears to be no loss to the city related to our former city clerk," Kight said.

Browning was arrested and charged with theft by deception by the GBI after the Laurens County Sheriff's Office requested the agency to investigate. According to the GBI, the investigation showed Browning breached her fiduciary duty by falsely writing and cashing checks from the bank accounts of members from Cedar Grove Methodist Church who reported money missing from church accounts.

"Of course it was devastating to

the church that was affected, but it has does not appear that anything inappropriate happened to the city of Dublin funds," Kight said. "All of us at city council is comfortable about the fact that everything turned out OK for the city of Dublin. Thank you, Mr. Daniels, for conducting that investigation and for taking on this role as city clerk."

Nicole Graham, manager of marketing for the Gas Authority, presented Sara Kolbie with the

American Public Gas Association's first place 2025 Communication & Marketing Award for a marketing video created by the Gas Authority. The purpose was to promote the Renewable Natural Gas Project the city is a part of along with Sustain RNG, the city of Eatonton, the Gas Authority and Smurfit-Westrock.

"This award was for the video

CITY COUNCIL
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1 section, 10 pages • Vol. 111, No. 123, Pub. No. 161860



Election supervisor: Early voting continues at a 'slow trickling'

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Early voting continues in its second week with what county Elections Supervisor Susan Rooks called "a slow trickling" of people coming in cast a ballot.

As of Tuesday, Rooks said, approximately 670 voters had taken advantage of early voting since it began on Oct. 14. She said about 100 voters had come Tuesday by early afternoon.

Voters have the opportunity to vote from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through

Friday in the Laurens County Board of Elections & Registration Office, 117 E. Jackson St., Suite A. Saturday voting on Oct. 25 will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last day of early voting will be Friday, Oct. 31.

The office has mailed out 112 ballots. Out of those, four have been returned.

"If they can't get them in the mail by Friday, Oct. 31, I will advise them to bring them to the office by election day (Nov. 4)," Rooks said.

The final day her office can mail out a ballot is Fri-

day, Oct. 24.

Voters who live in the city of Dublin can vote for the Dublin City Council at-large races, the Dublin City Schools at-large race, two referendums on local homestead exemptions and the ESPLOST referendum. People who live in the county will only be able to vote for ESPLOST and bonds. Those who live in Montrose and Rentz will also be able to vote on their town's election at the Laurens County Board of Elections & Registration Office. Everyone will be able to vote on two

Public Service Commission elections.

In the race for Dublin City Council, Rae Bloodworth, Brandon Chain, Tess Godfrey (incumbent), John Hall, Sara Kolbie (incumbent), Ben Lanier, J. Roy Rowland and Mitch Whittington are running for three at-large positions. In the Dublin City Schools elections, incumbent Regina McRae will face challenger Jeff Davis in at-large race for school board. Incumbents John Bell and James Lanier are running unopposed.

Rooks said three people from Montrose have voted and one ballot from there returned. No one has voted so far from the city of Rentz.

"I like for it to be busy and for people to get out and vote," Rooks said. "Not a lot of people in other countries get the privilege to do that and have the freedom to vote. There is something for everybody to vote for (this election)."

For more information, call the Laurens County Board of Elections & Registration Office at (478) 272-2841.

OBITUARIES



Yolanda Shavell Wright

Funeral services for Yolanda Shavell Wright, of East Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025 at 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus, 1265 U.S. Highway 319 North in East Dublin. Bishop H.B. Turnley Jr., will deliver the eulogy.

Yolanda was a loving mother, daughter, sister, niece, cousin and friend. She accepted Jesus as her personal savior at an early age and continued to keep the faith in good and bad times. She always kept a smile on her face and loved to joke with everyone. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She held many nicknames from family and friends including “Spur,” “Midget,” “Spook,” “Ma Flower No. 2” and “Sister Cell Phone” only to name a few.

She was a graduate of East Laurens High School in the Class of 2000. She graduated from Southeastern Technical College in 2011 as a Medical Assistant and also completed her correctional officer training. Yolanda was a very independent woman, who worked several jobs over the years, including at Best Buy and Georgia Department of Corrections as an officer. She had a genuine love for people. Yolanda always wanted the best for everyone and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone.

Yolanda passed away on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Johnny and Gussie Wright, Ernestine Rawlings, bonus grandfather Mr. Otis Snell, brother, Sharone Rawlings, and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Survivors include her children, Zy*Travious Franklin, La*Tyren Baker and Kamera Baker of East Dublin, Georgia. her parents, Evelyn (Lambert) Snell Sr., of East Dublin, Georgia, her siblings, Lambert (Ashton) Snell, Jr, Eric (Dominique) Snell, Shedrica Cannon and Shakauri Snell, all of East Dublin, Georgia, Vincent Rawlings of Meriden, Connecticut, Chenekee Rawlings, Tony(Camilla) Rawlings, Cedric Rawlings, Jurrell Graddy, Shakeed-riah Norris, Alexis Walker, Kenbreenae Hurst, all of Wrightsville, Georgia, and Daphne (Justin) Sutton of Sandersville, Georgia, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

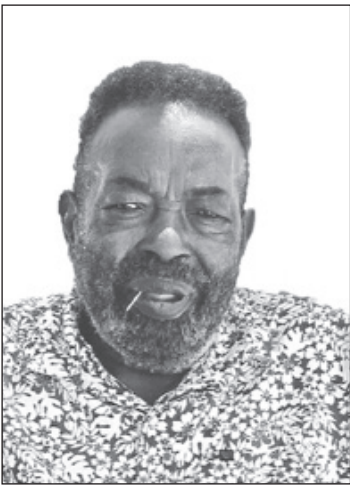
Please post your condolences at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin.

BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 23
Gabby Jones

Oct. 24
Josh Ringwood



Herbert Odie Butts

Funeral services for Mr. Herbert Odie Butts, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Green Grove Baptist Church, 2418 U.S. 441 South in Dublin. The eulogy will be delivered by Reverend Dr. Carl A. Wardlaw, pastor. Interment will follow in the Robinson Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mr. Butts was the beloved son of James Eddie Butts and Addie Mae Butts, who was born on Sunday, Jan. 2, 1949, in Rentz, Georgia. He was united in holy matrimony to Cecelia Linder Peacock, and together they shared 50 years of love and devotion. At an early age, Mr. Butts accepted Christ as his personal Savior and joining the Robinson Chapel Baptist Church where he faithfully served for many years. He was a dedicated and hardworking employee of Forstmann Incorporated, from which he later retired after many years of loyal service. He loved playing checkers and doing his yard, and he was a true outdoors-man.

Mr. Butts peacefully departed this life on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025, after a brief illness. He was preceded in death by his loving parents, James Eddie Butts and Addie Mae Butts, and his siblings, Hubert Butts, Jerome Butts, and Algerine McGirt. He leaves to cherish his precious memories, his devoted wife, Cecilia Butts, his loving children, Christopher (Reba) Peacock of Sacramento, CA, Rhonda Newkirk, and Elizabeth (Christopher) Johnson of Dublin, Ga., his cherished grandchildren, Crystal Peacock of Baltimore, M.D., Brittney Beasley of Macon, Ga., Alexis Channel, C.J. Johnson Jr., and Madison Newkirk of Dublin, Ga., great-grandchildren, Kaiden Smith. Meilah Mitchell and Zy*Aire Mitchell of Dublin, Ga., his loving siblings, Larry (Bessie) Butts, James (Cornealus) Butts, Martha Ross, Walter (Barbara) Butts, and Patty (Marvin) Josey of Rentz, Georgia, brother-in-law, Charles Peacock of Chattanooga, Tenn., and sister-in-law, Nona Blue of Dublin, Ga.

Mr. Butts will be remembered for his kind spirit, unwavering faith, and deep love for his family and friends. His legacy of strength, compassion, and humility will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

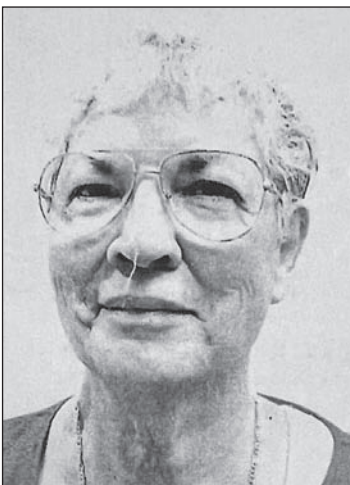
Please post your condolences at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin.

Clifford Johnson Jr.

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Jr. of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Monday, Oct. 20, 2025, Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com.



Pamela "Pam" Holton

Pamela "Pam" Holton Adamson, 77, of Jacksonville, Fla., passed away on Sept. 18, 2025, at Baptist Medical Center South. She was born on March 23, 1948, to the late George S. Holton and Susie Mae Holton.

On June 23, 1973, Pam married her best friend and lifelong companion, Lewis "Butch" Adamson. Together they shared 51 and a half years of marriage and were blessed with their daughter, Lori.

Pam was preceded in death by her parents and husband.



Jacob Carter "J.C." Snell

Funeral services for Mr. Jacob Carter “J.C.” Snell of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Monday, Oc. 27, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Second African Baptist Church, 800 North Decatur Street in Dublin. Reverend Jonathan Lewis will deliver the eulogy.

Jacob Carter Snell was born an only child on Monday, Sept. 8, 1947, to the late Gladys Snell. He attended Millville High School where he was a dynamic drum major. Serving in the Vietnam War, J.C. was a soldier in the United States Navy, as well as the United States Marines. Additionally, he was affiliated with the Masonic Lodge - Rose Hill No. 418.

J.C. met no strangers. He was self-employed for most of his life, owning his own construction company. J.C. was also one of the best debaters of any topic. One of his greatest passions was being a club manager. As a member of the NAACP and Neighborhood Watch, he was for civil rights, as well as voting rights. He was a member of Sandy Ford Baptist Church. He transitioned at Fairview Park Hospital on Oct. 19, 2025.

Those left to celebrate his memory are his devoted wife of 18 years, Rose Mary Snell, daughters, Amie Sandford, Brittany King and Rica Smith; stepdaughter, Krystal Mills (Jaworski Blue); sister, Patricia Chappell; sisters-in-law, Ethel Wright, Marjorie (Bobby) Ashley, Vivian Spikes; and brother-in-law, David St. George. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews and grandchildren, one of which is his devoted grandchild, Jordan Blue.

Please post your condolences at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin



Hugh Dorsey Moore Jr.

Hugh Dorsey Moore Jr.; of Dublin, Georgia; passed away at his residence on Oct. 21, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was known for his gentleness, integrity, compassion for others and lifelong commitment to service.

A devoted and beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, he was affectionately known as “Poppy” by his family and “Mr. Hugh” by countless friends and community members.

Born March 4, 1938, in Washington County, Georgia, he was the son of the late Hugh Dorsey Moore and the late Sara Davis Moore. His family moved to Dublin during his childhood, and he graduated from Dublin High School in 1956.

Mr. Moore was honored to have served his country from 1955-1961 in the U.S Army National Guard and continued in the Inactive National Guard (ING) for many years thereafter.

In 1959, Mr. Moore married the love of his life, the former Aimee June Dixon of Laurens County. Together they shared 66 years of marriage. They had one daughter, Wendy, and have always been a close knit family.

Mr. Moore graduated from John A. Gup-ton College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1962. Finishing first in his class, he was invited to join on staff as an instructor. However, he chose to return home to Dublin, to honor his previous commitment to Townsend Brothers Funeral Home, where he began what would become a remarkable 66-year career of service.

During his tenure, Mr. Moore presided over more than 10,000 funeral services, compassionately serving five generations of families.

He was deeply involved in his profession, serving as President of John A. Gup-ton Alumni Association in 1990 and maintaining membership of The Academy of Embalmers of Georgia, the Georgia Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors Association and the Georgia Forestry Association.

Mr. Moore and his wife, June, were members of First Baptist Church of Dublin, where they served faithfully in many ministries. He was a former President of the Men’s Brotherhood and a steadfast supporter of the church’s mission.

An avid outdoorsman all of his life, he found endless pleasure in fishing, hunting and being in nature. Some of his happiest times were spent cooking for his family and friends at their country farm.

He is survived by his wife, June; his daughter, Wendy Tiegs, and her husband, Thomas (Thom), of Dublin;

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granddaughter, Callie Clark, and her husband, Benjamin (Ben); and great-grandsons, Levi and Lucas, all of North Augusta, South Carolina. He is also survived by his sister, Martha Taylor, and her husband, Lester Lord, of Tennessee; brother-in-law, Lee Dixon, and his wife, Rhonda, of Dublin; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was pre-deceased by his sister, Betty Stagg; a sister in law, Carolyn Linder and her husband, William (Bill); a brother-in-law, Dr. William (Bill) Taylor; and a son-in-law, George Leverett III.

The staff of Townsend Brothers Funeral Home will serve as pallbearers. All active and retired funeral directors are invited to serve as honorary pallbearers.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home, 215 West Jackson Street, Dublin, Georgia.

A service will be held on Friday, October 24, 2 p.m., First Baptist Church of Dublin, Georgia. Interment will follow at Dublin Memorial Gardens.

A link to watch the service will be available upon request.

Donations may be made in Mr. Moore's memory to First Baptist Church, 405 Bellevue Avenue, Dublin, Georgia, 31021.

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



Hugh Ronald Ikner

Hugh Ronald Ikner, passed away peacefully on Oct. 19, 2025, at the age of 83. Born on Oct. 18, 1942, in Dublin, Georgia, he was the cherished son of the late Odis and Vesta Etheridge Ikner. Hugh's journey through life was marked by his unwavering dedication to his family, his love for his girls and his strong work ethic, which were the cornerstones of his character.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Odis Ikner Jr., Raymond Ikner, and Donald Ikner, as well as his sisters, Evelyn Ikner, Avis Vann, and Agnes Gillis. His legacy continues through his wife, Joy Garrett Ikner, and his devoted daughters, Christine (Henry) Miller, and Lisa (Mike) Allred. Hugh's joy was multiplied by his grandchildren, Matthew and Brandon Miller, Austin (Faith) Allred and Sydney Allred.

Hugh is also survived by his brothers, Ray (Gerda) Ikner, Bob Ikner, Randy (Lynette) Ikner and Danny (Diane) Ikner, and his sis-

ters, Dorothy Davis and Nita (Ralph) Hall. His brothers-in-law, Grady Gillis and David Vann, along with numerous nieces and nephews, also survive him.

A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, Hugh served his country with honor and distinction. After his military service, he embarked on a career with Kroger, where he retired after many dedicated years.

Hugh's life was a reflection of his values—loving, faith-filled, and friendly. He was a man who greeted everyone with a warm smile and an open heart.

He was a man who cherished every moment spent with his family, whether it was a quiet evening at home or a lively family gathering. His love for his girls and his family was evident in every action, every sacrifice, and every decision he made.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025, in the Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home. Pastor Jeremy Ikner will officiate. Mr. Ikner will be laid to rest at the Georgia Veterans Military Cemetery in Milledgeville at a later date.

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

OFTC to host Georgia Match Day event

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Oconee Fall Line Technical College will host a Georgia Match Day event on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 2 – 7 p.m. at its campuses in Sandersville, Dublin and Louisville, inviting local high school seniors and their families to explore college and career opportunities close to home.

The event is part of the statewide Georgia Match initiative, a program supported by Governor Brian Kemp and the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). Through Georgia Match, every high school senior in the state receives a personalized letter in October listing the colleges and universities they are already accepted to based on their GPA. This makes higher education more accessible by simplifying the admissions process and connecting students with opportunities that fit their goals.

During OFTC’s Georgia Match Day, students can:

- Learn more about OFTC’s 130+ programs of study in high-demand fields.
- Get help with the application process and financial aid.
- Meet with faculty, staff, and admissions counselors.
- Tour campus facilities and explore student life opportunities.

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The et cetera chronicles - vol. 119

Wilkinson County edition

THEY WERE WRONG - It has been said for many, many years that lightning does not strike in the same place twice. Well, they were wrong. The Toombsboro High School was struck by lightning near the end of World War II. The revered building burned to the ground. The community immediately rebuilt the school as a symbol of the resiliency of the town. In January 1947, another bolt of lightning hit the school, which suffered substantial damage, much to the joy of several apathetic students. Middleton, N.J., Times, Jan. 16, 1947.

AH! THAT’S BETTER! - Messers Hiram Larnsey and Mr. Friese were figuring out how to move a large hollowed-out log on the outskirts of Irwinton. They attached chains to the old, dead tree and a team of mules on the other end. The hennies pulled the chains taught. Larnsey and Friese popped the whip to encourage their mules to pull. Well, the mules pulled, and they pulled. The log did not budge. The two unhooked the chains to make a closer investigation. Inside the puzzled duo found 11 snakes, which were summarily executed. Once the void was opened and the mules hooked up, the mission was easily accomplished. The Daily Republican, Anthony, Kansas, April 18, 1889.

HONEY I’M HOME - W.C. Horn served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, which was called “The Late Great Unpleasantness” by the grand, socially prominent ladies of the South.” Horn joined the Carswell Guards, Third Georgia Infantry Regiment, a company based out of Wilkinson County, in the spring of 1861. During the horrific Battle of Gettysburg in the first three days of July

COMMUNITY NEWS



WLMS cheer team wins again

The West Laurens Middle School cheer team won first place in the Sweet Onion Cheer Classic recently held in Vidalia. The girls have won first place in the first three competitions this year/SPECIAL PHOTO

MOMENTS IN TIME

- * On Nov. 3, 1883, California bandit and stagecoach robber Black Bart, born Charles E. Boles and famous for his daring as well as his habit of occasionally leaving short poems at the scenes of his crimes, held up his last stagecoach. While he initially made a quick getaway, he was done in by the handkerchief with a laundry mark he'd inadvertently dropped and spent four years in San Quentin prison.
- * On Nov. 4, 1928, Arnold Rothstein, a legendary New York gambler with a fortune estimated at about \$50 million, was shot during a poker game at Manhattan's Park Central Hotel. He died in the hospital two days later without revealing the name of his assassin, though the fellow gambler who'd invited him to the game was tried for the crime, and acquitted.
- * On Nov. 5, 2024, former President Donald Trump was elected to a second term in office, becoming the first president to serve nonconsecutive terms since 1892.
- * On Nov. 6, 1977, the Toccoa Falls Dam in Georgia collapsed just hours after a volunteer fireman inspected it and found everything in order, with 39 people dying in the resulting flood.
- * On Nov. 7, 1943, Roberta Joan Anderson, now known to the world as Joni Mitchell and dubbed the greatest female guitarist of all time by Rolling Stone magazine, was born in Fort Macleod, Alberta, Canada. She cemented her status in the music world as a composer rather than performer, with David Geffen of Geffen Records noting in 1994 that, "Even though we lost money on every one of her records, we always treated Joni as one of the most important artists in the world."

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

LAURENS COUNTY EMS STATION

The Laurens County Board of Commissioners is accepting proposals from licensed general contractors for the construction of an EMS station until 10:00 A.M. Monday, November 24, 2025. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 A.M., on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at the Commissioner’s Office. Plans may be downloaded from the Laurens County website, Laurensco.ga.org, or picked up at the Commissioner’s Office located at 117 East Jackson Street, Suite B Dublin, Georgia. Laurens County reserves the right to reject or accept any and all bids as it deems to be in the best interest of Laurens County.

1863, word was sent out that Horn was killed in action. The 3rd Georgia was heavily engaged late on the afternoon of July 2nd, when a few Confederate brigades breached the strong point in the center of the Union line at the “Angle” on Cemetery Ridge. Horn’s family was shocked and went into mourning. Turns out that during the retreat to the southwest after the battle, Horn argued with his captain. Horn had had enough of the slaughter and bugged out of the column and returned to Gettysburg to turn himself in. Horn became a vagabond wandering around the country. In the Indian Territory, Horn was told that his wife was still alive and asking about him. The stranger told Horn that his daughter was grown and married to J.S. Brady. Months later, Horn, heavily bearded and stooped over, walked into his home in Toombsboro and surprised his wife, who thought she had seen a ghost and collapsed on the floor. Coincidentally, the story was published in newspapers around the country the day before General Lee surrendered to General Grant in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, the next day. Kansas Critic, April 8, 1865.

SNAKE IN A BOTTLE - B.H. Freeman, a resident of Toombsboro, Georgia, fell into an unbridled curiosity. Freeman encountered your average fanged, man-killing water moccasin during the peak of “Dog Days.” He thought about what might happen if he took the reptile and placed it in a suitably sized bottle and left it there. For two years, the serpent was squeezed in a cylindrical glass tomb with no food or drink. Much to his Freeman’s astonishment, the snake was still alive and in fact had gained weight. Yazoo City Herald, Aug. 30, 1895.

THE YANKEES IN ATLANTA STOLE OUR SODA FOUNTAIN - The World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta has a DID YOU KNOW ...?

Why were the Soviets able to put a man in space first?

By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust for Local News

Another week or so and we'll have the annual parade of kids dressed in wild, weird outfits, extorting candy from households behind the seemingly-innocent statement, "Trick or treat!" Since everyone gets the treat, what exactly would the "trick" be if one did not comply?

The mind boggles. What follows is not a trick of any kind, it's a treat - and you don't even have to dress up in a strange costume or ask for it. It's just ... here. Enjoy!

Did you know a popular candy was originally manufactured with war machines? Smarties™, the cute little sweet-and-sour pill-like candy that comes in wrapped rolls, were created in 1949 by Edward Dee (1924-2019) at his Ce De Candy Company in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Dee purchased surplus pellet machines, which were used to create gunpowder pellets for the Army in World War II, and repurposed them to make a pill-like tablet candy. Additional trivia note: Smarties are peanut-free, gluten-free, fat-free and dairy-free, and are vegan. In Canada they are called Rockets™, to avoid confusion with a British chocolate candy sold there called already Smarties (which are more like M&Ms™). (Thanks to Ed for the tip!)

... great white sharks fear one creature in the water? The only thing that strikes terror into a great white shark's heart is a killer whale, or orca. In a 2019 study published in Nature, scientists said the great white is so afraid of the orca

that the sharks will avoid an entire area of the ocean for up to a year if the shark encounters an orca, even just passing by. (Good to know even sharks have enemies.)

... only one European nation is larger than the state of Texas? The Lone Star State is bigger than every European nation except Russia. (Well, everything's big in Texas.)

... only one ATM in the world conducts its transactions in Latin? The Automatic Teller Machine at the Vatican Bank in Vatican City uses Latin for its transactions. (So Latin isn't dead after all!)

... had it not been for an additional rocket test, an American would have been the first man in space? On January 31, 1961, NASA sent a chimpanzee named Ham (1957-1983) up atop a Redstone rocket in a suborbital test of the Mercury spacecraft. The rocket did not perform optimally, as they say in the space agency, and the capsule splashed down off target and too hard. Ham survived, but wasn't too happy about the flight, and neither were NASA brass. Director Dr. Wernher von Braun (1912-1977) insisted on another test flight of the Redstone. The test, called MRBD (Mercury-Redstone Booster Development), was conducted March 24, 1961, and was flawless - so much so that Alan Shepard (1923-1998), the astronaut selected to be first in space for the U.S., was very upset, as he felt that should have been his flight. It would take about a month to put his Redstone rocket onto the launch pad, and during that time the Soviet Union sent Yuri Gagarin (1934-1968) into



By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.

grand, ancient soda fountain. Somehow, the soft drink king acquired their magnificent 19th-century soda fountain from the drug store in Toombsboro, Georgia. Port Charlotte, FL Sun, May 5, 2007.

IS THAT ALL YOU GOT? - Mr. L.T. Mercer, of Irwinton, Georgia, was right proud of his dog. One day, the dog was out playing in Mercer's field. The hound discovered a snake, which he took to be a new playmate. The curious pup barked and barked until he grew tired of the snake, which was in no mood to have fun. As soon as the dog retreated, the venomous reptile sprang forward and speared the dog between the eyes. The dog squalled and wailed until he alerted Mercer, who came running with his gun. When Mr. Mercer saw his friend's predicament, he shot the attacker with full and deadly force. The master scooped up his pet and ran to the house, where he doused the injured creature with alum water, which appeared to rid the rascally dog of the poison almost instantly. Parsons, Kansas Daily Sun, Nov. 18, 1893.

orbit and achieved the first human spaceflight. Shepard's suborbital Mercury flight took place a month after Gagarin's. (You can't blame Shepard for feeling that way. And thanks to Amy at The Vintage Space for providing the tip!)

... a popular character on a television series was never referred to by his name? During the run of That '70s Show on Fox, from 1998 to 2006, the popular character of Fes was played by actor Wilmer Valderrama (born 1980). But "Fes" was not the character's name. The other characters called him that from his status - Foreign Exchange Student. The character's real name was never used and was said to be unpronounceable. One of the show's longest-running gags was Fes' country of origin - it was never explained, always handled in funny roundabout ways. (I always wondered about that.)

... the Explorers Club still meets in New York? Founded in 1904, the Explorers Club was created by some of the world's most distinguished polar explorers such as Roald Amundsen (1872-1928), the first man to reach the South Pole; Robert E. Peary (1856-1920), first man to reach the North Pole; and Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922), one of the pre-eminent Antarctic explorers of the day. The Club meets in a Jacobean mansion known as the Lowell Thomas Building, and it contains many artifacts from various expeditions. The mansion is also open to

the public. (Gotta visit that one day.)

... one of India's most popular tourist attractions was supposed to have been torn down? The Taj Mahal, built between 1632 and 1653 in Agra, India, was constructed as a tomb for Mumtaz Mahal (1593-1631), the young wife of Shah Jahan (1592-1666), ruler of the Mughal Empire. Today people come from all over the world to view the beautiful building and its grounds, but in the late 1800s, after decades of neglect, some officials voiced support for tearing down the structure. It was saved by a decision of the British Viceroy in India, Lord Curzon (1859-1925), who ordered a sweeping restoration of the entire area. The restoration was not completed until 1908. (Thank goodness!)

... music tempo in a shopping mall affects how you shop? Check it out for yourself: if the background music in a store or mall is bright and peppy, people tend to shop faster. Slower-tempo music, however, causes people to walk through more slowly and take their time purchasing.

... Scandinavian nations publish everyone's tax returns? In Sweden, Finland, and Norway, the tax returns of all citizens are published each year, meaning you can find out what anybody earns and pays in taxes. The tradition is called jantelag, which roughly translates as, "nobody is better than anybody else." (Well, they aren't.)
Now ... you know!



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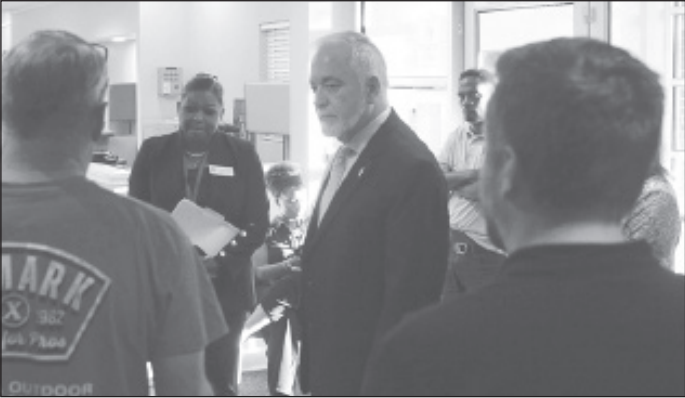
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OUR TAKE...



State School Superintendent Richard Woods talks to community members during a recent Dublin City Board of Education meeting/RODNEY MANLEY

School budget safeguards a little too late for Dublin

The fiduciary crisis of the Dublin City School System is about to have statewide implications. As if it is not troubling enough for a school system to fall to near financial ruin, it is equally troubling that the state seemingly wasn't prepared to intervene.

State School Superintendent Richard Woods is calling state legislators to tighten regulations on schools system financial reporting, mandating more transparency between school boards and stakeholders, and, more notably, clearly define when and how the state should be involved in troubled district.

In his "Blueprint for Reforms to School District Financial Safeguards" sent to legislative leaders last week Woods outlined several requests to help prevent this sort of situation from arising again here or at other school systems. Requests range from expanded financial training for school boards and district staff and mandated annual public hearings to limits to superintendent contracts in high-risk districts and quicker reporting between state agencies when financial obligations have not been met, specifically the state employee benefit program.

Most importantly, Woods is calling for school boards to be required to post financial documents online for all to see, including corrective action plans and audits. Additionally Woods wants it clearly defined when superintendents and school boards should be forcibly removed.

Unfortunately these safeguards will be a day late and a dollar short for the people of Dublin, especially now that front-line school jobs could be on the line and there is still much doubt to the system's future. But we encourage our representatives to adopt such measures in the next legislative session in hopes to keep this from happening again.

– Kyle Dominy

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"If you smile through your fear and sorrow, smile and maybe tomorrow you'll see the sun come shining through for you."

- Nat King Cole

DAILY SCRIPTURE

"O Lord God, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?"

- Deuteronomy 3:24

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY

- Oct. 23, 2025 is...
- National Paralegal Day
 - National Croc Day
 - National Ipad Day
 - National Boston Cream Pie Day
 - Slap Your Annoying Co-worker Day
 - TV Talk Show Host Day

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This newspaper is committed to the idea that the press should tell the truth without prejudice and spread knowledge without malicious intent.

How to weigh a vote for a SPLOST

While some of the ink in this space has already been spilled on the 2026 elections, I've been remiss in giving a nod to the 2025 items Georgians have on the ballot right now. Early voting is already underway to decide two races for the Public Service Commission, races put on hold from a prior cycle by a judge.

We also have some local races and ballot measures in various parts of the state, one of which as a new resident of Savannah has piqued my interest. Voters in Chatham County and quite a few others around the state are voting to enact or renew Special Purpose Option Local Sales Taxes, or SPLOSTs.

I'm going to focus on those today as they often don't get the attention they deserve. One often used criticism is that these measures often appear at random times when voters aren't paying attention. At least those on this ballot get some billing with a statewide race and some local elections to help boost turnout.

I'll also use the Chatham SPLOST renewal as a guide for how I decide to support or oppose these kinds of measures as someone who is generally a right of center conservative, but also tries to be more pragmatic than idealistic. Idealism is best suited for national races where party identification will decide the tone and tenor of who sets an agenda. The pendulum should swing a bit more to pragmatism where filibusters aren't an option and problems actually have to be solved.

The first is understanding that a SPLOST has those first two letters for a reason. The "special purpose"

GEORGIA POLITICS



By CHARLIE HARPER

means voters have the opportunity to decide on infrastructure projects of some type that are above and beyond the usual operating budget of a local district.

Sometimes they are even more specialized, as they can be transportation or education specific. The one proposed for Chatham is a general purpose tax that will fund various types of projects, from transportation, drainage and flood mitigation, public safety, and beach renourishment among other projects.

Therein lies my first test. In looking at the projects voters are asked to fund, I would count the vast majority of them as "needs" instead of "wants." I've lived in places where it was clear leaders looked at the time-frame for a SPLOST, calculated how much revenue could be generated by "just a penny" and then filled it with their whims of the moment.

At a recent press conference promoting Chatham's SPLOST, a reporter asked what was different about this measure, in that some prior divisiveness seemed quelled this time around. As a newcomer not knowing the history, I leaned in to

hear the answer.

In the past, the project list was usually decided by the mayor of Savannah and the chairman of the County Commission. From both a political and geographic perspective, that tended to make the project list Savannah-centric.

This time, the Mayors and Commissioners and their staff went to the same meeting. Elected officials worked in one group, their administrative staff worked in another. The product was a list that addresses needs county wide, from the islands to the western suburbs.

One criticism of these ballot measures is that once passed, they never go away. That is largely and unfortunately true. That said, the "T" in SPLOST doesn't stand for temporary. If at any time a majority of voters believe that they're not getting a return on this infrastructure investment, they can and should vote no.

On the upside, the vote in Chatham won't actually raise my taxes. It will continue the current sales tax rate I'm now paying, which is in line with most other counties in the state.

What am I getting for

that money? More than twice the amount I'm investing in new infrastructure. A selling point for me is that more than 40% of the sales taxes paid in Chatham are from tourists who live more than 50 miles away. Add in the sales taxes paid by commuters in neighboring counties and my fellow residents are only paying about half.

Then we get to leverage that money for more money. Both the state and federal governments have matching funds available for many of the projects on the list. The local penny I pay is matched by a penny paid by a non-local resident. Those dollars are then matched against state and federal tax dollars I've already paid, bringing them back home.

This benefits us again as those dollars are infrastructure, meaning all that money creates jobs back here at home as the projects are completed. Those workers become part of our economy and, somewhat ironically, also end up helping pay these taxes.

In summary, the proposed Chatham SPLOST is a way to fund projects we would almost certainly have to fund out of other taxes if SPLOST were not an option. This mechanism allows us to draw in dollars from non-residents while speeding up the timeline of needed upgrades.

I'm voting yes. If you have a SPLOST on your ballot, hopefully this thought process can help you decide if you also want to support a local sales tax, or if you need to ask your leaders to wait until their list matches real needs in your communities.

How public education saves democracy

Welcome to my new column, "Fine Print."

My ambition is simple: to take national discussions about democracy and the rise of authoritarianism and translate them into Georgia realities. As someone who has been privileged to represent Georgia on local, national and international stages, I feel compelled to go beyond the headlines and help us understand what's actually at stake.

Let's lay the ground rules: I believe in America's democracy, and according to all the signs, we are in the middle of an autocratic regime — an erosion of democracy that is affecting all of us: urban, suburban and rural parts. There are 10 steps to autocracy and authoritarianism, but there are also 10 steps to freedom and power. One of the most pernicious is when democracy fails to deliver under Step 4 — when the government is gutted.

I was reminded of this step on a trip to Montezuma a few months ago. At a town hall meeting, a visibly frustrated resident bemoaned the lack of good job opportunities finding their way to Macon County. He rightly and vigorously outlined the host of consequences that come with stagnant growth. Young people move away. Housing stock deteriorates. Hope dwindles but never disappears entirely.

That spark of possibility brought out nearly 100 residents to the conversation hosted by a group of Democratic state legislators on their statewide listening tour. I joined them as a former member of the Georgia House of Representatives and a constant cheerleader for investment south of the Gnat Line. He didn't need me to explain why things



felt stuck. He and his neighbors live it every day — and so do the local leaders working to change it.

The gathered crowd soon agreed that education was at the center of the issue. Georgia uses a failed public education finance system that relies on property taxes, which inherently harms rural communities. Unlike cities and suburbs, the bulk of the land in rural Georgia is exempt from contributing. On their own, some of the policies might seem reasonable, but the consequences are dire.

Over the past two decades, state leaders have steadily chipped away at Georgia's investment in education, even as the costs — and the burdens on rural school systems — have grown. Transportation, technology and teacher retention all get harder to fund, not easier. But then the Republican megabill passed Congress and DOGE came to town, slashing 50% of the U.S. Department of Education, freezing education funding, gutting food security for children and making it harder to serve rural kids.

The education department has never been about indoctrination. When President Jimmy Carter created it in 1979, his goal was to make education a national priority, especially for communities too often overlooked. He recognized that

"rural" often meant higher poverty, fewer teachers and greater barriers for students with learning differences, language challenges or limited opportunities. That shouldn't be the case, but it still is.

The math doesn't lie. The federal budget plan cuts \$12 billion from education. That's less than what schools receive today. And if Georgia's leaders have spent the last 20 years failing to equitably deploy the resources it has, why would anyone believe it will do more with even less?

President Trump and his regime have consistently taken steps to decimate education funding in Macon County and in dozens of other Georgia school districts. Here's why: it breaks the promise of public education — through federal cuts or state-sponsored vouchers that divert millions of public dollars to private schools. Public education is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and authoritarianism is much easier when the people no longer believe that there's no point.

We also have to connect the dots to the cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, the food assistance program that guarantees meals for kids at school and helps out at home. In rural Georgia, these aren't bloated programs full of waste — they're lifelines. They help keep children in class be-

cause they can see a doctor through PeachCare for Kids.

We already know how few health care professionals currently cover rural Georgia: 63 of our counties have no pediatricians. Cut Medicaid — which includes PeachCare for Kids — and that number will certainly rise, further weakening our health care system. (I'll save the full breakdown of our refusal to expand Medicaid for another column.)

Then there's SNAP — one of the few successful tools we have to respond to Georgia's unacceptably high rates of child hunger. One of every five kids sitting in a classroom is likely facing inconsistent access to enough food. It is a moral failure, and it's a barrier to learning, growing and thriving — another way to weaken trust in government and to undermine who is prepared to demand more.

If we want Georgia's children to succeed — no matter their zip code — we have to invest in the foundations that make learning possible. That means compelling Georgia legislators to finally update how we fund our schools. It means holding our congressional leaders responsible for protecting programs like Medicaid and SNAP that keep kids healthy and fed rather than voting to slash benefits and blaming the families for being poor. It requires us to demand that the government do its job for all of us. Democracy demands public education, and so must we.

Stacey Abrams is a best-selling author, entrepreneur and host of the podcast "Assembly Required." She previously served as minority leader in the Georgia House of Representatives.

Dublin Police Department

- Keith Charles White, 49, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and obstruction of law enforcement officers at the intersection of South Decatur Street and Madison Street around 10:32 p.m. on Sept. 27.

An officer was patrolling on South Washington Street when he saw a man riding a bicycle on Madison Street with no lights on. The officer met with White who told him his name was Charles White. The officer ran this name through GCIC/NCIC and found no record of him. He then told the officer his first name was Keith. It turned out White had an outstanding warrant from the Laurens County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear.

White resisted officers and they had to put him on the ground and handcuff him. While going to



POLICE BEAT...

the ground, the officer saw White pull out a small bag from his shirt pocket and throw it. The officer recovered what was 1.9 grams of meth in the bag. It was tested and came back positive for meth.

- Around 8:12 p.m. on Sept. 26, officers were advised of a trespass at Dollar General on South Jefferson Street. An employee said she had seen the offender in the back of the store eating out of a box of Twinkies.

An officer met with the offender and saw him eating ice cream. William Garvey, 38, was arrested. The officer found that the man had concealed more ice cream, a can of mushrooms

and two packs of spam in his pants. Garvey also had an active warrant from the police department.

Garvey was given a citation for theft by shoplifting, received a ban from Dollar General and the active warrant was served.

- Jeffery Lamont Stuckey, 51, was charged with theft by shoplifting at Walmart on Highway 80 around 3:01 p.m. on Sept. 26.

An officer talked with a store employee who said she observed Stuckey place \$35 worth of merchandise into his backpack. Stuckey admitted to the employee that he had stolen the items after he went past the final

point of sale. The man said he stole the items because someone outside the store stopped him and told him to go steal the items. In exchange, they would buy him baby formula.

Stuckey said he did not know the person, just that they stopped him and asked him to do it. He was banned from Walmart for two years. He was transported to the sheriff's office.

- Darrien Elanah Cawthorn, 31, was charged with theft by shoplifting at Walmart on Highway 80 around 11:39 a.m. on Sept. 29.

Officers responded to the store and talked with an employee who said another store employee asked to see Cawthorn's receipt. The woman said she did not have a physical copy but had it sent to her phone. The employee retrieved a physical copy of Cawthorn's receipt and noticed that some of the items did not

match the receipt. The employee saw that one item had a clearance sticker from another item placed over the barcode.

Employees searched Cawthorn's items in her buggy and noticed multiple items with clearance stickers overing the original barcodes. All items not paid for totaled to \$238.99.

Cawthorn was arrested, transported to the police department, fingerprinted and release on citation.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- On Sept. 26, around 12:30 p.m., a deputy talked with a woman in regard to her ex-boyfriend stealing her Apple watch out of her vehicle on Pointe West Loop.

- A deputy met with three complainants in reference to fraud and theft on Sept. 26.

- Around 11:20 p.m. on Sept. 25, was dispatched on New Buckeye Road in East

Dublin in reference to vandalism.

- Krisitie Nichole Janes, 44, was charged with possession of methamphetamine on Soperton Avenue around 12:08 a.m. on Sept. 26 after a deputy made a traffic stop due to the vehicle's tag lights not illuminating the rear registration plate.

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!

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Mr. Mathis was the only reasonable voice in the entire article. We must demand accountability. This board can't be trusted with a dime. And no Mrs. Pool, we don't feel DCS can or will clean up.

DCS leaders are desperate and that is scary. They are begging everywhere for money but still haven't publicly admitted to creating this mess and they thought it would go away. Fire them all!

Dublin City board has members that can't be honest, can't manage their own businesses, and still want to smile and pretend the sky isn't falling. You fooled many for years but your time is up.

Anybody heard a real plan yet? It was taxpayer money they blew through and mismanaged but they want us to just "trust" they are making cuts and fixing it.

It will take more than a few 26-27 cuts to make up \$13 million and counting . Better wake up and cut it all but what is absolutely necessary .

Mrs. Pool - are you

willing to fix it? Make the tough cuts - protect teachers and those in the trenches and be willing to make some people mad. Cut IGA and serve those students in schools.

I can't wait for the chili cook off, and all the fun festivities...this cooler weather finally has it tolerable to be around people.

That huge skeleton by the garden in downtown is awesome! I love folks that share their festive spirit with the rest of us!

I know the paper is obsessed with DCS at the moment, but don't they think the City Clerk being arrested by the GBI is at least worthy of a single article? Interesting. *Editor's note: There was a story in the Oct. 2 edition and in the Oct. 4.*

I love it. Woods pounds the table in front of the Board demanding 100% transparency. What do they do? Immediately go into a close door budget session and provide zero information. Interesting that Woods said he needed "factual numbers"... "the numbers have to add up"... makes you wonder if the numbers he's been getting aren't factual.

And no more money from the state without a "viable budget reduction plan." So DCS still hasn't submitted a plan?! When do the fraud investigations happen? Before or after the DCS insolvency?

What lawn company (persons) lost the DCS \$100,000 contract for lawn services? Are they independent or do they have a DCS connection? Are all the funded programs necessary for this small of a system?

Board members saying "this" happened before coming to office. What is "this?" It sounds like somebody knows what happened to that \$13 million. Fred knows. So why aren't they talking? Is it something criminal? Four months and no one has said a word. Somebody better start talking before the handcuffs come out.

We've just seen why it's important to have a candidate of the county to run for county office. We could be hearing a much different response had a certain candidate not won his district.

So the DCS board's answer to their and Fred's misappropriation of funds bankrupting the city schools

is to make it the county's problem and again hold the taxpayers hostage. Brilliant. If this goes through Dublin/Laurens county will no longer be a viable place to live.

Who is going to bail out the Dublin City School Board of Education on Oct. 31 when it is time for the teachers to be paid again?

We might be willing to listen if someone on the board or in admin would just tell the truth - there was no surplus, we overspent, we will make real and tough cuts starting at the top.



Notice of Public Hearing

The Dublin Housing Authority has prepared an Amendment to its 5 Year Public Housing Plan 2025-2029 as a result of the successful application in the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program (RAD) for the redevelopment of Asset Management Property 1 consisting of 150 units (500 Vinson Village, 600 Vinson Village and Claxton Homes). As a result, DHA will be converting to Project Base Rental Assistance (PBRA) under the guidelines of Notice H 2019-09/ PIH 2019-23, REV-4 and any other Implementation successor Notices. The schedule for Plan availability is Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. The administrative offices are closed daily from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. The Amendment to this Plan will be located at 50 West Mary Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021.

The Public Hearing for RAD-Specific Amendment will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at the Verline P. Copenny Center, 2B(C) West Mary Street, Dublin, Georgia beginning at 5:00pm.

All citizens are invited to attend this hearing to discuss the plan. Should special requirements for foreign language interpretation be necessary, please contact Brenda B. Smith, Executive Director, before 4:30 pm on Thursday, November 6, 2025, so arrangements can be made.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Join Fairview Park Hospital this Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon as they join the fight against the opioid crisis. Gather any expired, unused, or unwanted prescription or over-the-counter drugs, and drive through Fairview's Outpatient Therapy Center located on Fairview's campus right down from the Fairview Fitness Center. The first 50 attendees will receive a free Chick-fil-A chicken biscuit as a thank you for joining the fight against the opioid crisis. Together, we can make an impact!

NEWS DIGEST

The regular meeting of the board of commissioners of the Dublin Housing Authority will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. at the administrative building in the James W. Strickland boardroom located at 500 W. Mary St. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Roll call of members
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Recognition of guests/presentations
- Approval of the regular minutes of Sept. 25
- Financial reports
- Check history reports

oid crisis. Together, we can make an impact!

Join Fairview Park Hospital this Saturday, Oct 25 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. for their eighth annual Movie On the Lawn event. This event invites the public to Fairview's front lawn for fall festival style booths and activities offering games, candy and education – all for free! Enjoy food from delicious food trucks while you're with them, and top the night off with a free view-

- TAR reports
- 90 day forecast
- Old business
- Update on RAD development
- Strategic planning session scheduling
- Policy review and action (travel, vehicle use)
- New business
- Budget for emergency safety and security grant acceptance
- Executive director's report
- Commissioners comments
- Adjournment

ing of the movie "The Wild Robot" on a giant screen. Wear your costumes, bring a friend, and bring a blanket to bundle up, because it's going to be a great time!

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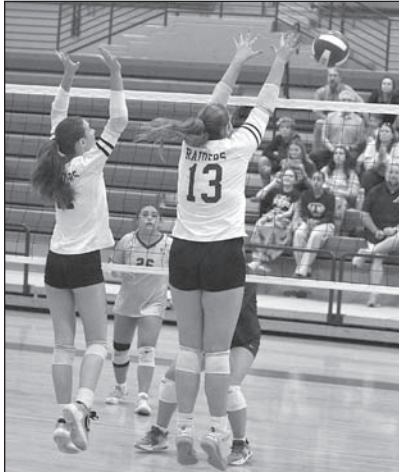
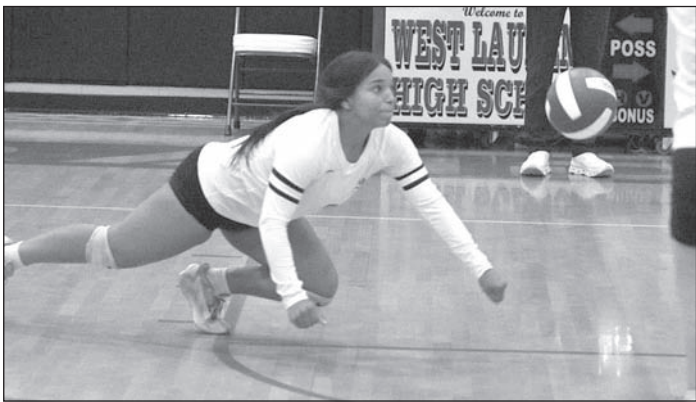
Trinity girls XC team wins region crown

Trinity's girls cross country runners (above) captured the region title, and Grayson Knowles (right) the boys individual gold, as the Crusaders' home course hosted the 6-AA championships last Wednesday. Bethany Hawkins, with a time of 26:26, was the top finisher for the girls' squad, whose other finishers Elise Jenkins, Lea Yoder, Clarita Yoder and Ansley Kilpatrick made it the only school out of five represented with the minimum entries required to score as a team. Knowles finished first overall among boys with a time of 17:49.42/SPECIAL PHOTO



VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS: RAIDERS TRIPPED UP BY TROUP

Troup won a key point to capture the first set, then rolled through the final two on its way to a 3-0 sweep of West Laurens last Wednesday in the teams' first-round GHSA playoff match. The Tigers snuck a winner in the back line to edge the Raiders 27-25 as their first stanza came down to the wire, and didn't let go of the momentum. Troup quickly ran away with set 2 thanks to a long streak of points that included multiple aces by Addison Walker. West Laurens rebounded from the 25-7 loss as it faced elimination in the third, but the Tigers again pulled away to win 25-14. The Raiders finish their season with a record of 14-24 (9-3 area). Top: The West Laurens bench reacts just as what was thought to be a point in its favor during set 3 was reversed on a close call. Bottom (clockwise, from top left): Shots during the match by Leah Wells, Allie Moore, Chloe Kemp and Emma Darley (13), Hannah Wells (1) and Skylar Fountain (16)/CLAY REYNOLDS



WEEK 11 FOOTBALL OUTLOOK: HEAVY THURSDAY-NIGHT SLATE IN NEXT-TO-LAST GAMES OF REGULAR SEASON

Believe it or not, there's just two weeks left to go in the regular season. But you wouldn't realize that given the state of many region championship and playoff races around the Heart of Georgia which still have a lot of unfinished business to be taken care of before month's end. Most, if not all, are headed toward some winner-take-all showdowns next Thursday and Friday. But multiple key dominoes figure to fall with the outcomes of some equally important battles coming up in week 11. And its two-night slate will have a spread of heavy hors d'oeuvres on Thursday, ahead of Friday's main course. Each of the early-bird specials will involve region 2-High A teams, and have at least some significance in the standing of one or more teams in the playoff or region championship hunt. East Laurens (3-5, 3-4 region) will celebrate its seniors in a regular-season home finale with Jefferson County (1-6, 1-7 region) that likely represents its last good chance to strengthen position on the friendly side of the postseason bubble. Though it's going to be close one way or another, a fourth win would leave less of the Falcons' fate up to the whims of math when brackets are set in two weeks' time. The Warriors, at this point, are a long way out of contention. But this season, in multiple region games they've kept close through a half and in many cases three quarters of football, has been their most competitive in years. If Jefferosn's recent trends of disruptive defense and sporadic big plays continue, look for more of the early back-and-forths that have defined most of its league schedule. But also don't rule out another reoccurrence of the Warriors' nasty habit of giving up pick-sixes, which Dodge County took advantage of twice last Friday, and East Laurens' secondary (of which several members are intact this fall) the same last year in Louisville. Up the road, it'll be a Macon double-feature as Dublin (6-2, 6-1 region) challenges Central (0-8) at the Ed DeFore Sports Complex and Washington County (3-5, 3-4 region) takes on Southwest (2-6, 1-6 region) at Thompson Stadium. It's a take care of business game for the Irish, who are likely to make fairly quick work of a seventh victory that's needed to keep them in the mix for the region crown going into a high-stakes home game with Dodge County next Friday. Plenty will be riding on the outcome as the Golden Hawks and Patriots — both seemingly playing their strongest ball of the season — go after a badly-needed win that's likely to assure one a spot safely within the 32-team playoff field, and leave the other lingering within a few spots of the final cut-off. Friday night, West Laurens (8-0, 6-0 region 4-AAA) will try to get a step closer to perfection in the first of two monumental tests to close out its regular season. A lot of anticipation is already building for next week's Thursday finale with Westside of Augusta, but the Raiders should be equally concerned with this week's road trip to play Aquinas (6-2, 4-2 region), whose only two losses are by a combined 13 points to region heavyweights. Though their small roster has been rattled by injuries (the biggest to its league-leading quarterback Turner Stevenson) since late September, the Fightin' Irish have lived up to their nickname with a scrappy, underdog demeanor West Laurens saw in action over the course of a high-scoring win at the SHU last year. Their little-to-lose mentality entering this game, and the mostly unscouted matchup possibilities created by the recent move of

OUTLOOK
Continued on page 8

MIDSTATE FOOTBALL ROUNDUP...

Treutlen survives late scare; Dodge, Wheeler, Brentwood stay on the warpath in week 10

From STAFF REPORTS

Treutlen 15, Dooly Co. 13

Deciding factor: Though neither team had an ultra-clean special teams performance, it was some slightly more consistent execution in the kicking game made the difference for the Vikings in a win to maintain their unbeaten region record and spot in a share of first place with two weeks to go. Key offensive and defensive plays were a virtual dead heat over a scoreless first half, the Treutlen-dominated third quarter and five final minutes that encompassed Dooly County's comeback. The Bobcats were two points short after their second touchdown thanks to an offside penalty as Treutlen opened the scoring on its first drive of the third quarter, taking advantage of the free yard or so by going for two and converting on a run by Zan Stokes. They were still chasing that point after kicks following either teams' ensuing touchdowns forced a two-point try on the last that threatened to tie the score. The Vikings' defense,



BUCKLE UP: Brexton Gaston returns a blocked punt for the touchdown that got Dooly County on the scoreboard, and back in the game, with about five minutes to go. The Bobcats scored twice, but Treutlen stopped their game-tying two-point try to hold on for the 15-13 win at the end of the unexpectedly wild ride/LOGAN REYNOLDS, GTLN

which posted interceptions by Zion Brown, Nate Miller and Peyton Miller along with a fumble to the turnover board, kept its end of a first-half shutout with three red-zone stops. Treutlen did itself in with a fumble and interception

ROUNDUP
Continued on page 8



THE PANE... Last week/OVERALL	RODNEY MANLEY 11-1/87-30	PAYTON TOWNS III 11-1/92-25	KYLE DOMINY 8-4/75-42	JEREMY PAYNE 9-3/87-30	JANICE BALLARD 7-5/77-40	RAUL JACKSON 10-2/73-32	DON GARSWELL 8-4/82-35	FORREST KILGO 9-3/88-29
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THIS WEEK'S MATCHUPS... Dublin at Central Macon Jefferson Co. at East Laurens Robert Toombs at Trinity West Laurens at Aquinas Bleckley Co. at ACE Charter GMC at Wilkinson Co. Hawkinsville at Treutlen Northeast Macon at Dodge Co. Hancock Central at Twiggs Co. Wheeler Co. at Wilcox Co. Houston Co. at Thomas Co. Central Telfair Co. at Dooly Co.

Dublin East Laurens Robert Toombs West Laurens Bleckley Co. Wilkinson Co. Treutlen Northeast Hancock Central Wheeler Co. Thomas Co. Central Telfair Co.	Dublin East Laurens Robert Toombs West Laurens Bleckley Co. Wilkinson Co. Treutlen Northeast Hancock Central Wheeler Co. Thomas Co. Central Telfair Co.	Dublin East Laurens Robert Toombs West Laurens Bleckley Co. GMC Treutlen Dodge Co. Hancock Central Wheeler Co. Thomas Co. Central Dooly Co.	Dublin East Laurens Robert Toombs West Laurens Bleckley Co. Wilkinson Co. Treutlen Northeast Hancock Central Wheeler Co. Thomas Co. Central Telfair Co.	Dublin East Laurens Robert Toombs West Laurens Bleckley Co. GMC Hawkinsville Dodge Co. Hancock Central Wheeler Co. Houston Co. Dooly Co.	Dublin East Laurens Robert Toombs West Laurens Bleckley Co. Wilkinson Co. Hawkinsville Northeast Hancock Central Wheeler Co. Thomas Co. Central Telfair Co.	Dublin East Laurens Robert Toombs West Laurens Bleckley Co. Wilkinson Co. Hawkinsville Northeast Hancock Central Wilcox Co. Thomas Co. Central Dooly Co.	Dublin East Laurens Robert Toombs West Laurens Bleckley Co. Wilkinson Co. Hawkinsville Dodge Co. Hancock Central Wheeler Co. Thomas Co. Central Dooly Co.
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A chance to strike the pose...

Heisman trophy in residence at Dublin Nissan for photo ops through Oct. 27

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

One of the biggest names in college football is making a rare pit stop in Dublin this week—and it's not a player, but the legendary Heisman Trophy.

The Heisman, awarded annually since 1935 to the most outstanding player in college football in the United States, will be on display at Dublin Nissan on Veterans Blvd from October 22-27.

Everyone is invited out to strike that famous Heisman pose with the legendary trophy. No touching allowed, but feel free to bring a friend for a memorable event.

The Trophy will be available for viewing from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily, excluding Sunday, when the store is closed.

OUTLOOK

Continued from page 7

Virginia-committed wideout Jack Rhodes to a majority-time role behind center, could make this matchup with Aquinas another wild experience where the only thing the Raiders can count on is that there's nothing they'll be able to count on.

Back home, **Trinity** (5-4, 0-2 district) will host **Robert Toombs** (4-5, 1-1 region) in its final regular-season game with hopes of ending a scoreless streak going back to its last game at some semblance of full strength in September, and perhaps also a three-game drought in the win column as a send-off for its senior class.

But the continued outage of multiple injured starters, a handful likely lost for the season, will make that effort — much like the challenge of limiting the rushing and passing production of hot-handed RTCA quarterback Drew Edwards — a very steep climb.

In the area's remaining top games, several title contenders in separate regions — **GMC** (4-4, 3-0 region 5-Low A) at **Wilkinson County** (2-6, 2-1 region), **Treutlen** (6-2, 4-0 region 4-Low A) hosting **Hawkinsville** (6-2, 2-2 region) and **Wheeler County** (8-0, 4-0 region 4-Low A) hoping to dispel more longtime demons at **Wilcox County** (6-2, 3-1 region) — will try to avoid getting picked off as they try to keep their league records unblemished a week out from prospective winner-take-all games.

It's a similar situation, just for once-beaten region 2-High A contenders **Dodge County** (7-1, 6-1) and **Northeast Macon** (6-2, 6-1 region), in another virtual elimination game that — barring some chaos at the Shamrock Bowl next Friday — should cut the league's title race down to two teams. **Bleckley County** (6-2, 5-2 region) and **ACE Charter** (5-3, 4-3 region) will also fight it out in Macon to decide which gets first dibs on the last of the region's four outright playoff bids, and which will probably have to qualify at-large.

Scoring might vary in the separate games, a first likely on the low side and the second projecting as more of a shootout, but defensive wins — in the form of turnovers and key stands — should be the same deciding factor it has been in most of the region's many competitive matchups this fall.

Brentwood (8-1, 4-0 district 4) has already captured its league crown, but will look to finish up at **Gatewood** (3-6, 2-2 district) with a once-beaten record before a week of in advance of the playoffs, and a likely top-seeded bid at repeating as state champ.

In two other 5-Low A matchups, **Johnson County** (8-0, 3-0 region) returns to action against **Glascoc County** (2-6, 1-2 region) and **Twiggs County** (0-8, 0-3 region) welcomes **Hancock Central** (2-6, 0-3 region) to The Pit with both in search of a first region win.

— Clay Reynolds

ROUNDUP

Continued from page 7

to spoil similar chances from scoring range, but finally converted when Stokes stripped the ball to force a fumble early in the third, then scored the first of two-straight rushing touchdowns.

Pivotal moment: Dooly blocked a Treutlen punt, and Braxton Gaston returned it 26 yards for a momentum-swinging touchdown that broke the shutout with only five minutes to go. The Bobcats forced a punt to get it back, and drove to score again on a short completion from Jayden Sanders to Jamonte Taylor, but failed to pick up the two additional points needed to extend the game as a conversion pass fell incomplete.

Game ball: Stokes carried 16 times for 139 yards and both Treutlen touchdowns, and caught a 45-yard pass.

Next: Vikings vs. Hawkinsville, Friday

Brentwood 46, Augusta Prep 16

Deciding factor: The Eagles made 308 yards go a long way, as their offense scored all seven touchdowns on fairly short fields, thanks to two long kickoff returns and three Augusta Prep turnovers, plus a handful more on downs. They would put up six, for a 39-0 lead, in the game's first 15 minutes, then keep the shutout through the break, tacking on a last with a minute or two to go in the second quarter before Augusta Prep found the scoreboard once each in the third and fourth. Baylor Cobb led the dominant effort each way, but featured Tristan Robinson (with three receptions and a rush for touchdowns, and 126 yards from scrimmage), Quez Collins (with an 11-yard touchdown) and Abe Williams (whose 54-yard carry to set up a scoring chance was good for the team rushing lead).

Pivotal moment: Abe Williams' 51-yard kickoff return to open the game set Brentwood up in prime position at the plus-24, and Cobb found Robinson from 26 yards for the first touchdown with under a minute gone. The Cavs turned over on downs at their own 41 just before Robinson broke a 35-yard run for the touchdown to go up two scores. Cobb intercepted a pass to set the Eagles up with a third-straight plus start, and ran from 23 to make it 19-0. Augusta Prep's first punt gave Brentwood its deepest start, the minus-44, on a fourth possession. But turnovers (an interception by Grady Boutelle and fumble recovery by Tucker Collins) initiated two more takeovers on the Cavalier half of the field for quick touchdowns.

Game ball: Cobb was a near-flawless 7-for-8 with 140 yards and three touchdowns passing, rushed for two scores, picked off a pass and recorded a tackle in the tremendous all-around performance.

Next: Eagles at Gatewood, Friday

Dodge Co. 51, Jefferson Co. 12

Deciding factor: The Warriors were just as much a handful for Dodge, through two quarters, as for several other teams in the top half of region 2-High A that would each eventually pull away to beat them soundly. The Indians did the same here, with a big thanks to their defense, which forced five turnovers and provided two out of three (and very nearly a third of four) non-offensive touchdowns to bail their offense out of a rough start. All told,

Kain Mincey bounced back from a couple interceptions to complete 14 of 19 passes for 187 yards and two touchdowns to Jauriel Bray, who made six grabs for 50. D.J. Gibson and Jamal Smith added rushing touchdowns, as Dodge finished the night with 289 total yards. Peyton Butts and Cam Hughes had 10 tackles each, and combined to make five for loss. Smith added two out of five sacks for the defense, which also doled out credit for 16 hurries. Terrance Fordham recorded two picks. Jordan Spady and Jeremiah Carr added interceptions for touchdowns, and Jerimiah Burns another whose return to the house was negated by a penalty.

Pivotal moment: Jefferson County put a lot of early heat on the Indians, matching their first touchdown on a run by Timothy Nelson (though failing to add any points-after, for a 7-6 deficit), as its defense got a red zone stop on downs, and two takeaways via fumble and interception. But Dodge atoned for the slow start with two early interceptions, as Spady jumped a route and returned the ball for its earliest touchdown, and Fordham leapt for one in the end zone to deny the Warriors a go-ahead early in the second. The Indians continued to go nowhere on offense, but added to their lead with a big special teams play as Tanner Williams returned his own blocked punt for a score. Another pick by Burns helped boost the offense out of the rut, as Mincey hit Bray for a touchdown to make it 22-6 before the half. Dodge would pad its lead with two more unanswered scores before Jefferson County's last in the second half.

Game ball: In addition to his 10 tackles and team-high three for loss, Butts added one sack and another defensive best with six hurries off the Indians' front line.

Next: Indians at Dublin, Friday

Wheeler Co. 35, Telfair Co. 7

Deciding factor: The Bulldogs have seldom come to McRae and won the battle at the line of scrimmage (much less the game, in which their official losing streak against Telfair went back to 2011). After a slow start, they broke through up front, and in the rivalry series, with a dominant effort on both sides of the ball to stay undefeated. A heroic night from Alvin Ricks played a big role, but so did a stand-out performance from Reco Wooten that included a 4-for-8, 79-yard passing line and a pick-six. Laith Davis, with nine total tackles, two for loss and a sack, led the charge on defense. Justin Culver and Lane Connell, adding sacks, and Jaden Bridges, with seven and two for loss, also contributed to the swarming tackling effort that, over four quarters, had the Trojans' offense a little overwhelmed.

Pivotal moment: Ricks juked out the only prospective tackler on a short touchdown run to open the scoring early in the second quarter. Telfair drove back down the field, and was 10 yards away from a response when it got backed up by a penalty, and Culver forced a fumble for the recovery of Wheeler's Lane Connell. The Bulldogs capitalized rode the wave of momentum on a quick scoring drive that finished on a Wooten pass to Bridges, and led two scores at halftime. Their defense pounced again to open the third as the Trojans started their opening drive with a first down. But the quick pressure forced a hurried throw that Wooten

picked off and took back to the house, and that was when it was all but over. Telfair would come up with a quick touchdown to get on the scoreboard, as a deep pass set up the six-yard touchdown run of Cam Williams, but never got closer.

Game ball: Ricks carried 20 times for 206 rushing yards and three scores, adding a catch of 45 to account for 251 of the team's 372 total yards. He also made two tackles for loss.

Next: Bulldogs at Wilcox Co., Friday

Hawkinsville 46, Montgomery Co. 7

Deciding factor: Their defense was taken apart by both dimensions of the Hawkinsville attack that rolled to 365 yards, but the Eagles cost themselves any chance to stay in the game with turnovers that repeatedly kept them frustrated on drives that were nearing a chance at points. Hawkinsville's Quan Brown, Niem Blair and Jakori Pickett each picked off passes. Zaden Waller and Landon Williams had the bulk of MoCo's 177 yards rushing, but a fourth-quarter score was all the Eagles could produce on a total of 259 yards. The Red Devils' Sebastian Clark was an outstanding 6-of-7 passing for 182 yards and two touchdowns. Jakori Pickett also came on to complete two for a third TD. Quan Brown, Jaden Collins and Johnathan Solomon each had a touchdown catch. Niem Blair rushed for three more on just 60.

Pivotal moment: Hawkinsville takeaways quickened the snowball effect in an early string of touchdowns that put the game in hand early. The Red Devils broke a roughly seven-minute defensive stalemate with their first touchdown, then cashed in interceptions on fairly deep MoCo drives (a second as far as the opposing 6) to double, and triple the lead. The Eagles were driving again, and reached the 23, before a turnover on downs stymied another scoring shot, and the Red Devils turned around drove for a last-minute touchdown to go up 27-0 on the way to halftime.

Game ball: Waller rushed nine times for 79 yards and Montgomery County's only touchdown late in the night.

Next: Eagles vs. Wilcox Co., Oct. 31

Aquinas 27, Baldwin 20: The Fightin' Irish plugged their Virginia-committed receiver Jack Rhodes into a vacant slot at QB midway through the first half, and the senior threw for a pair of big touchdowns, a first of 61 yards to Billy Barrett to help tie the game at 14 as time expired in the half, and the last a catch-and-run of similar length for Christian Kates (on a broken play that followed a wayward snap) for the game-clinching score in the fourth quarter, after the Irish brought a slight lead of only 21-20 out of the third. Baldwin was stopped for a third time in the Aquinas red zone (after coming up empty on two previous visits via fumble and downs) on its last chance to tie the game. Rhodes was 10-of-15 for 204 yards. Kates had five catches for 111. Rhodes and starting quarterback Colin Nixon (who was a not-too-shabby 7 out of 9 for 50 passing) also rushed for touchdowns, as they combined for the bulk of the team's 125 rushing yards. The Braves' Kamden Patterson was 15-for-19 passing, with 154 yards in his return from a one-week hiatus. Tavares Hooks rushed for 83 yards and two of the three Baldwin

TDs.

Houston Co. 45, Coffee 21: The Bears, up only seven after a high-scoring half of football, put 17 unanswered points on the board in the fourth quarter to pull away and improve to 8-0 ahead of next week's top-10 showdown with Thomas County Central. Ryan Maxwell completed 21 of 29 passes for 226 yards and touchdowns to M.J. Mathis and Austin Stinson, who rushed for another to help roll up a team-leading 219 all-purpose yards total. Westen Ard had eight total tackles and three for loss to lead a defense that gave up only 206 rushing yards, and a mere 109 passing.

Thomas Co. Central 70, Northside 0: The Jackets also ran their record to 8-0, and offered some payback to Northside head coach Daniel Williams after being put out by his Langston Hughes team in last year's quarterfinal. Pick-sixes by Tyson Johnson and Tyson Guion factored into the beatdown, which ran on a mere 383 yards of offense. Jaylen Johnson completed nine of 11 passes for 168 yards and two touchdowns. Christian Lawrence caught one of those, and rushed for two more, on 202 yards from scrimmage.

Jeff Davis 42, Rutland 6: Triple-digit nights and a hat trick for both R.J. Simms (169 yards) and Jacob Laney (123) powered the Jackets' ground attack, which accumulated five shy of 500 rushing yards. Simms added two sacks, Latrell Sellers 13 tackles and two for loss and Mark Durden an interception for the Jeff Davis D.

Peach Co. 41, Bainbridge 7: There were plenty of big plays, but a lot more for the Trojans and top playmakers Caiden Ivory (who completed 12 passes for 137 yards and two touchdowns, and rushed for another) and Ashton Barton (with 19 carries for 128 yards, a touchdown and two catches for 24 and another). A lone Bainbridge score followed the completion of a 59-yard bomb from Brooks Hines to Vontrey Willingham, as Rye'heem Lowe punched in the short touchdown to get the Bearcats within six, down 13-7. But the Barton run above was a first of four unanswered for Peach, which rattled off three more in the third quarter to run away with it.

ACE Charter 35, Southwest 21: The Patriots held a 21-0 lead only 14 minutes in, as Chase Dupree threw (to Lavaris Harris) and rushed for a score, Rinaldo Callaway intercepted an ACE pass and "Drop" Davis crossed the goal line on one of 21 carries for 119 yards. But the Gryphons got things turned around just before halftime with an Ace Hatcher touchdown run, and scored four unanswered coming back out from the break. Hatcher and Brady Balkcom (on a double pass) threw to Jack Perry for touchdowns early in the third. Another trick-play TD tied the score at 21 early in the fourth before runs by Hatcher and Bryson Vincent added the difference-making points.

Swainsboro 35, Vidalia 20: The Indians capitalized on a fumble that fell in between their back-to-back touchdowns in the second quarter, and by virtue of another stop on downs near midfield, took a 12-8 lead into halftime. But Swainsboro's Marco Danford, who accounted for three touchdowns, stuffed one in for the lead to close a 4.5-minute scor-

PREP SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL
Wednesday
GHSA Playoffs, Round 2
West Laurens at Cairo (doubleheader)/2 p.m.
East Laurens at Bacon Co. (doubleheader)/4 p.m.

Thursday
WL at Cairo (game 3, if necessary)/3 p.m.
EL at Bacon Co. (game 3, if necessary) /6 p.m.

FOOTBALL
Thursday
Dublin at Central Macon
Jefferson Co. at EL
Washington Co. at Southwest Macon/7 p.m.

Friday
Robert Toombs at Trinity
WL at Aquinas
Glascoc Co. at Johnson Co.
Brentwood at Gatewood
Bleckley Co. at ACE Charter
GMC at Wilkinson Co.
Hancock Central at Twiggs Co.
Hawkinsville at Treutlen
Northeast Macon at Dodge Co.
Wheeler Co. at Wilcox Co. /7:30 p.m.

CONTACT US:
Email sports information to tchsports77@gmail.com, or call (478) 272-5522, ext. 403

ing drive right out of the break, and the Tigers never trailed again. Kyle Johnson, adding two touchdowns and the team rushing lead of 162 yards, punched in another after Swainsboro returned the favor of a fourth-down stop on Vidalia's first possession of the half to make the lead double digits.

Ware Co. 21, Perry 14: Isaiah White's 27-yard touchdown pass to Jamario Rice gave the Gators their final lead with about nine mintues to go, after Perry had tied the game a few minutes earlier with a second of two rushing touchdowns by Decorrior Daniels (on 20 carries for 111 yards). Ware County forced a punt less than two minutes later, then ate up the final seven on the clock. White was 18-of-23 for 218 yards passing, and had a hand in all three scores, one rushing and the other also to Rice, whose 10 receptions yielded 136 in yardage.

Windsor 16, Central Fellowship 14: The Knights, in a stunning upset, reclaimed the South Bibb Trophy for the first time since 2008, only a year since rejoining the GIAA's ranks of 11-man football teams. A 27-yard field goal by Santiago Medina was the difference after two fourth quarter touchdowns by CFCA, the first on a 51-yard run by Terrell Coley Jr., chipped away at an original 13-0 Windsor lead that lasted to halftime. Heath Woodard, with 22 completions for 304 yards, 36 rushing and a touchdown in each department, hit Dawson Sims 10 times for 189 and the other of the Knights' two early scores.

Other week 10 finals...
John Milledge 52, Tattnall Square 7
Northeast 61, Central Macon 6
Howard 40, Cross Creek 0
Lee Co. 48, Veterans 3
Mary Persons 26, Spalding 0
Toombs Co. 42, Savannah Country Day 7
Warner Robins 34, New Hampstead 26
Briarwood 36, Thomas Jefferson 22
Edmund Burke 20, Gatewood 0
Robert Toombs 27, Southland 21
Stratford 49, Mount de Sales 3
Westfield 17, Brookstone 7

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RAT?

LOOKING AT THIS BOOK I JUST FINISHED WRITING. HAVE A LOOK IF YOU WANT.

Why Do Good People Do Bad Things

It's fun.

THAT'S THE WHOLE BOOK.

SOME BOOKS ARE EASIER TO WRITE THAN OTHERS.

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

GARFIELD

I NEED TO GET IN MY 10,000 STEPS

THREE...

THIS COULD TAKE A WHILE

BY JIM DAVIS

OVERBOARD

YOU HAVE SUCH A HAPPY GLOW! I'D FOCUS ON YOUR SMILE.

AND YOU? I WOULD BRING OUT YOUR INNER FIERCENESS! YOU AND I COULD SCARE SOME PEOPLE!!

NO MORE INTERVIEWS, SWEETIE— SHE'S WHO I WANT SCULPTING US NEXT WEEK!

OH, I AGREE, HON.. SHE GETS US!!

BY CHIP DUNHAM

DEFLOCKED

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UNIVERSE ...

STOP PROMOTING AI LIKE IT'S A MAGIC GNOME THAT CAN SOLVE ALL THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS.

CHATGPT JUST SAID MY LOVE OF SALSA MEANS I'M LIKELY RABID. GUESS I'LL QUARANTINE MYSELF FOR SIX WEEKS.

NEVER MIND, YOU'RE DOING GREAT.

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU

ZIGGY

I'VE BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT VISITING MY ANCESTRAL HOMELAND!

TRAVEL AGENCY

OH, WOW... I DIDN'T REALIZE THE SHIRE WAS A REAL PLACE!!

BY TOM WILSON

PLUGGERS

DARN.

Thanks to Bob Erik Boynton Beach, Florida

A plugger never has leftover bacon in the refrigerator.

BY JEFF MACNELLY

Sister flips out over intended name for unborn nephew!

DEAR ABBY: I am pregnant with the first-born grandson on both sides. My husband and I plan to use my husband's middle name for our son's first name and my father's middle name for his middle name. My father is "the III" but has no sons, so we thought this would be a way to honor him and represent my side of the family.

My sister is the first person we shared our son's name with. The following day, she called me to express her displeasure, because she always planned to use our father's middle name as a first name for a son. I knew this, but I didn't think using it as a middle name would be an issue. Additionally, she's younger than I am, unmarried and childless. She was so upset with me that I had to end the phone call because it escalated to yelling.

During the call, she suggested I forgo using the name but honor our father by changing the baby's middle name to our father's first name (which my husband and I don't think flows well) or use my maiden name for my son's middle name. Must I change my son's intended name because my sister wants to be the first to use our father's middle name for a potential future son? -- PICKING A NAME IN THE EAST



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR PICKING: How your sister got into the middle of what you and your husband decide about your baby's name is beyond me. Of course you don't have to alter your plans to suit your sister. Stop being a people-pleaser, particularly where your offspring is concerned. Name your baby boy what you think is best, and do not look back.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 40-year-old woman dating a wonderful man my age. I purchased a house in my 20s, earned several degrees, own my own business and have achieved success. However, I haven't had the best luck with the last few guys I've dated. The man I'm dating now doesn't seem to grasp some of life's necessities. He doesn't shower often, wears the same attire several days in a row, drinks daily and stays out all

night every weekend. When we met, he had no job and no car and was living with a friend.

It's been three months, and he has secured a job. He has practically moved himself into my home and is helping with the finances, but he still doesn't shower. (He does do housework, though.) I have had several conversations with him about his hygiene, and he makes promises but doesn't deliver. My family thinks I'm desperate for love and that I should let this guy go. What do you think? -- LOSING HOPE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LOSING HOPE: More important than what your family thinks about this is what do YOU think? Because your wonderful man's body odor is offensive, give him an ultimatum. Tell him that as much as you are beginning to care for him, this is a deal-breaker, and if he wants to continue living with you, he'll have to shower regularly. Then give him a schedule or show him the door. (Whew!)

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.

Thursday, October 23, 2025

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
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AN EXTRA CHANCE

East-West vulnerable, East deals

NORTH			
♠	J 9 7 4		
♥	7		
♦	A K 5 2		
♣	A 9 8 6		
WEST			
♠	6 5		
♥	J 10 9 6 2		
♦	8 6		
♣	K J 10 3		
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♣	Q 5		
SOUTH			
♠	A K Q 10 2		
♥	3		
♦	J 9 7 3		
♣	7 4 2		

The bidding:
EAST 1♥ SOUTH 3♦ WEST 4♥ NORTH 4♣**
Pass 4♠ All pass
*Pre-emptive
**Strong raise to 4S

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

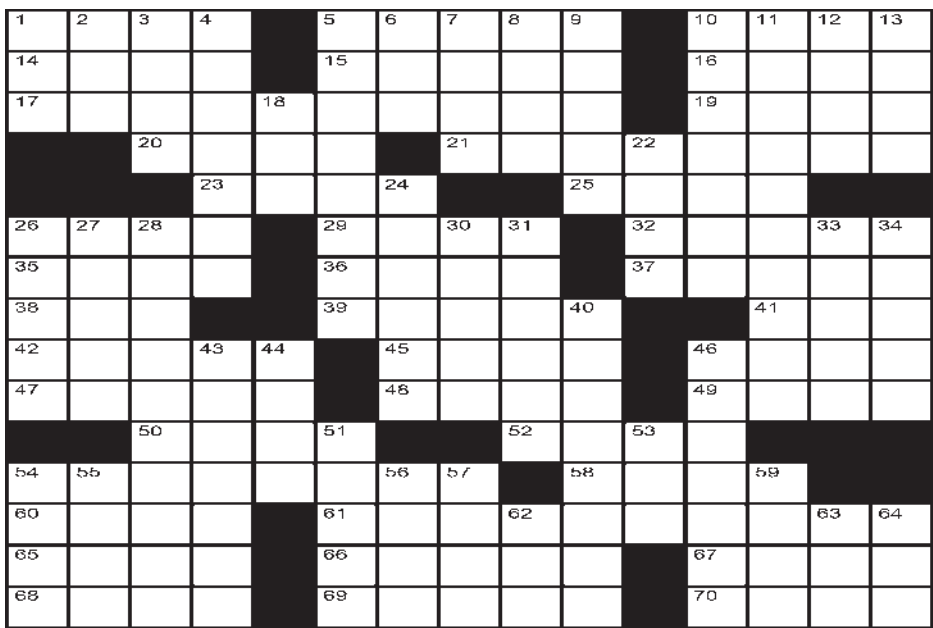
North cue bid four hearts, rather than bidding four spades, to tell partner that his game bid was based upon solid high-card values and not just a good spade fit. This information

might have been useful in the unlikely event that his vulnerable opponents chose to keep bidding. South had a minimum overall so even four spades took very good imagination to bring home. South was up to the task. West's jack of hearts lead held the first trick and he shifted to a trump. South won in hand and cashed another high spade, drawing trumps. His main chance was a lucky lie of the diamonds. Either opponent might have a doubleton queen or West might hold the singleton queen. He also saw an important extra chance — the player with the queen of diamonds might only hold two clubs! He led a low club from his hand and ducked in dummy, allowing West's 10 to hold the trick. South won the diamond shift with dummy's ace and cashed the ace of clubs before playing the king and another diamond. The extra chance paid off when East won the queen of diamonds and had to give up a ruff-sluff. Very nicely played!

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

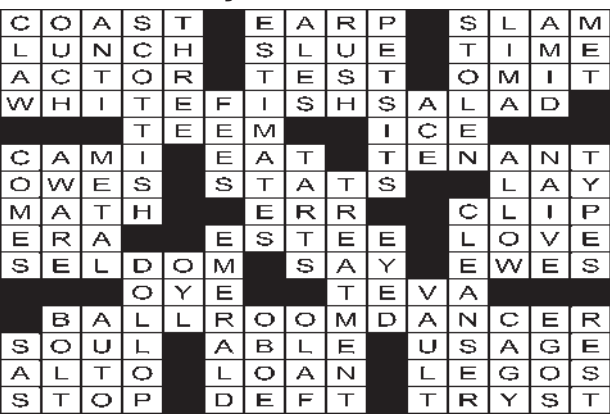
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- Narrow-waisted insect
 - Knitting or woodworking
 - Bible book after John
 - ___anxiety medication
 - Alvin of dance
 - Holier-than-___
 - Begin modestly: 2 wds.
 - Deserve
 - New Mexico art city
 - Committing larceny
 - Ballerina's balance points
 - Undoing
 - Gave an order to
 - Hype up
 - Easily irritated
 - Hitter's stats: Abbr.
 - Melody
 - Gardening brand
 - Sit-up muscles
 - Go in
 - Vinaigrette part
 - Cleans with a cloth
 - ___ von Teese
 - Early education setting
 - Get an education
 - Winter toy
 - Soccer officials
 - Commuting option
 - Latvia's capital
 - Stretchy hair holders
 - Soda holders
 - Hourly pay
 - Home of the Royals: 2 wds.
 - At any time
 - Computer message
 - Otherwise
 - Cincinnati's MLB team
 - Company divisions: Abbr.
 - Open-handed hit



Created by Stella Zawistowski

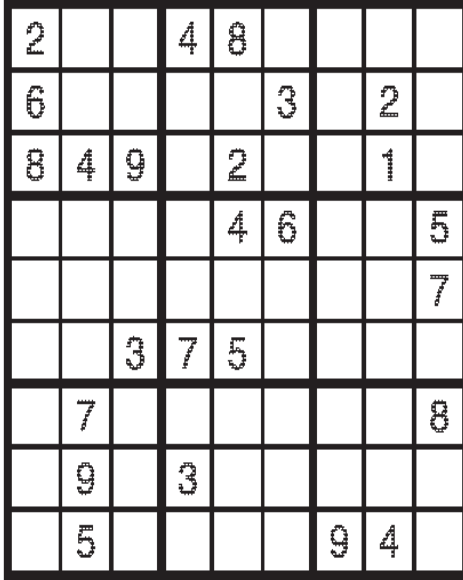
- DOWN**
- Used to be
 - Picnic insect
 - Right away, in the ER
 - Pittsburgh's MLB team
 - Audio tape
 - Edge of a glass
 - "Unfortunately..."
 - Pool table fabric
 - Steven of Aerosmith
 - Artist's workshop
 - Target or Walmart: 2 wds.
 - Unable to decide
 - Performed by a chorus
 - Overly
 - Highway vehicle
 - "___ like a plan!"
 - Unruly fight
 - Actress Cornish
 - Belittled
 - "___ we meet again!"
 - Balance unsteadily



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- Burglar
- Yellow egg parts
- Extremists
- Ends of pencils
- Foul mood
- Struts like a horse
- Was fond of
- Car's fuel
- Water pitcher
- Wash
- Showed up
- Lose your temper
- Window ledge
- Take a chair
- Airport security group: Abbr.
- "Uh-huh"

SUDOKU



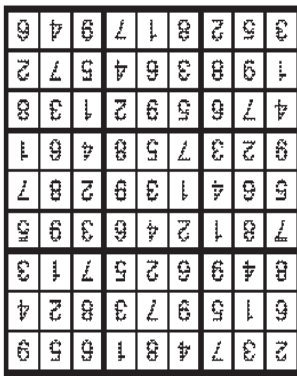
Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:

DUBLIN SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1

information is available on the current financial crisis and how it happened. The controversy led to the resignation of finance director Chad McDaniel and early retirement of Superintendent Fred Williams.

"We know there are gaps there, and we're trying to fill those gaps," said board member JoAnna Glover.

In addition to its operating deficit, the school system owes about \$6 million to the State Health Benefits Plan after not paying employer contributions for the entire fiscal year 2025. State officials looking into those overdue payments found other "operational deficiencies" that included the system not having completed an audit since 2021, before recently wrapping up 2022's.

Local lawmakers have since asked the Georgia Department of Audits & Accounts to conduct a "special examination" in the system's finances.

"Everything is being audited," said board member John Bell. "Everything's being looked at to make sure it's going where it's supposed to be going."

Board member Peggy Johnson said learning that the system had not been paying employer contributions to the State Health Benefit Plan "was like a gut punch," especially after serving on the board during the previous deficit years.

"I thought I had been through something when we closed Saxon (Elementary), when we froze salaries," said Johnson. "We do have support out there, though sometimes when I pick up the paper, it doesn't feel like it."

Chairman Kenny Walters cited Georgia Code 20-2-61 that defines the duties of local school board as not to include "micromanaging" the local school superintendent. However, the law goes on to state that it is the board's role to hold a superintendent accountable and that requesting and reviewing financial documents "does not constitute micromanaging."

"Nobody can really define clearly what is micromanagement," he said. "I guess it's letting people do their jobs and trusting

them."

Dublin's dire financial situation has led state Superintendent Richard Woods to ask legislators to pass sweeping reforms that include giving the state more oversight in local school board's fiscal practices, demanding more accountability and transparency from school boards and limiting contracts for superintendents in high-risk districts to just two years.

"This situation is not only going to help Dublin, it's going to help the whole state because there are some things that happened here that shouldn't have happened," Walters said.

Last week the school board approved a deficit reduction plan that eliminated positions "due to severe and unprecedented budget restraints, a need to reduce the district's budget deficit by approximately \$13 million and to provide for more efficient operations." Under the plan, the following jobs will be eliminated, effective on the included dates:

PHASE I
District/Central Office

- Director of Strategic and Crisis Communication, Oct. 8
- Director of Gifted Services (49 percent), Sept. 29
- Literacy position (49 percent), Sept. 29
- Maintenance Director, Dec. 18
- Curriculum Director, Feb. 1
- CTAE Coordinator, Feb. 1
- Mental Health Counselor, Dec. 18
- Data Collections position, Oct. 31
- Technology Specialist, Dec. 18

Irish Gifted Academy

- P.E. Teacher, Dec. 18
- Assistant Principal, Dec. 18
- Museum Coordinator (49 percent), Oct. 1
- Nurse, Dec. 18

Hillcrest Elementary

- Art Teacher, Oct. 8
- Family Engagement Coordinator, Aug. 1
- Nurse, Dec. 18

Susie Dasher Elementary

- P.E./Health Teacher
- Second Grade ELA/SS Teacher

Dublin Middle

- (2) Interventionist positions, Dec. 18
- Paraprofessional/Bus Driver, Feb. 1
- Family Engagement Coordinator, Oct. 31
- Custodian, Dec. 18

Dublin High

- Environmental Specialist, Dec. 18
- Special Education Co-Teacher/Bus Driver, Sept. 1
- P.E. Teacher, Dec. 18
- Art Teacher, Dec. 18
- Nurse, Dec. 18
- Fifth Grade Science Teacher, Dec. 18
- Coach/Fields position, Dec. 18
- SPED position, Jan. 1

Dublin High

- Long-term Substitute Teacher, Oct. 31
- Environmental Specialist, Oct. 8
- Counselor, Dec. 18
- Assistant Principal, Dec. 18
- (3) Paraprofessional/LLDC positions
- Writing Coach (49 percent), Oct. 8
- Guidance Office Secretary (49 percent), Oct. 8
- (2) Teachers, Dec. 18
- Teaching as a Professional teaching position, Dec. 18
- Biology Teacher, Dec. 18
- Art Teacher, Dec. 18

Moore Street

- (2) Teachers, Dec. 18
- (2) Teaching positions (49 percent), Dec. 18
- Assistant Principal, Dec. 18
- Family Engagement Coordinator, Dec. 18

More cuts ...

The following positions will be reduced as described:

- Safety Director will be cut to a 50 percent position
- Extended day pay will be eliminated for the following positions, effective Dec. 18:
 - Grades 5-8 Band/DHS Band
 - Engineering/Mechatronics at Irish Gifted Academy
 - IGA Chorus
 - Dublin High School administrative duties
- The director supplement and local supplement will be removed for the Director of Marketing and

Sports Information position, effective Oct. 25

The following positions will be reduced by 10 days:

- Elementary Principal
- High School Principal
- Middle School Principal
- Director of Special Education
- Superintendent
- Director of CTAE
- High School Principal

PHASE II

The second phase of the deficit reduction plan approved includes cost-cutting measures "designed to improve operational efficiency and strengthen long-term sustainability." Those measures include:

- Reduction in calendar days – A reduction of 10 calendar days for FY26.
- Transportation adjustments – Elimination of school choice routes.
- Travel restrictions – suspension of all district-paid travel, with all professional development to be conducted virtually.
- Board compensation – Board members will waive their salaries for FY26 and FY27, and all board travel will be eliminated in FY26.
- Lucky Loot Program – Rescheduled to February 2026 following receipt of property tax revenues, as this funding is tied to staff compensation. Lucky Loot is a lump sum payment of employees' salaries typically paid each January.
- Staffing adjustments – Reduction and realignment of select positions across all schools and departments effective Dec. 18, 2025, as well as a reduction in work days for certain administrative and support roles.

Additional reductions may be required during FY26 and are anticipated as part of a future plan for the 2026–2027 school year, the district said in Tuesday's news release.

"Through this process, we remain focused on our mission—ensuring every Dublin student has access to high-quality learning opportunities," Pool said. "We are deeply grateful to our staff and community for their continued understanding and support as we work to strengthen our district for the future."

CITY COUNCIL
Continued from page 1

and we so appreciate Dublin's involvementinit," Grahamsaid. "It'sa really innovative and creative project that probably would not have happened without Dublin and the industrial customer being able to take on this gas. We appreciate your time to be able to do this video."

The video was shown before the award presentation.

"This has been a real benefit to some of the industrial customers of our gas product," Kight said. "The gas department of the city of Dublin is a primary engine to creating money and revenues that we are able to put into our city infrastructure, our parks and other services that we are able to offer. It's a very important part of the city financial plan and this is just adding another aspect to it."

In other business, the council:

- Honored deputy municipal court clerk Regina McDaniel as the employee of the second quarter, and firefighter Jacob Bond as employee of the third quarter.
- Approved a tire balancing machine for the city shop from Lewis Tool & Equipment LCC out of Baxley for \$16,860.33.
- "Our city shop had an unexpected issue with our current tire balancing machine that is incapable of being repaired," said Dublin City Manager Josh Powell. "As you can imagine it is a very important piece of equipment for the shop."
- Heard a first reading of an ordinance to amend the zoning code regarding buffer zones, parking lot requirements for certain developments and fence requirements. The second reading and public hearing will be held at the 5:30 p.m. Nov. 6 city council meeting.
- Approved a contract with Carter and Sloope Engineering Services and grant application services for the One Georgia Authority Infrastructure Grant for the replacement of a portion of the Ferry Branch sewer line. The cost of the service with Carter and Sloope Engineering Services is \$24,138.

For more, visit courierherald-today.com.



DIA DE MUERTOS

Cultural Fest

November 1 & 2, 2025
Saturday - 3:00-9:00 PM
Sunday - 1:00-5:00 PM

North Houston Sports Complex
900 North Houston Road
Warner Robins

VISIT
WARNER ROBINSON
GEORGIA

