

The Courier Herald

\$1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Worth the wait: City opens Madison Street

\$4 million project's completion faced hurricane, other delays

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

As of early Thursday afternoon, Madison Street was once again open from Jefferson Street to South Church Street following a more than yearlong project to improve the street and sidewalks.

Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight placed the ceremonial final brick, thus completing the project that he hopes will be "a benefit to our community for generations."

The city of Dublin held an event to celebrate the completion of the street's facelift at 11 a.m. Thursday. Many business owners from Madison Street and the downtown area attended the ceremony, along with city and county officials.

"The city of Dublin needs some good news and today we have great news," Kight said as he began his remarks from a podium near the intersection of Madison Street and South Church Street. "Today we are here to put the last bricks in the ground in this monumental project, to accomplish something great and build a big project like this demands grit. And Dublin has grit."

Kight said they had to be stubborn in order to overcome the many obstacles they have faced during the more than a year-long operation. He mentioned Hurricane Helene, a subcontractor's bankruptcy and numerous delays which were beyond the city's control.

"We persisted and the team on this project found a way to get us here today where we are placing this final brick," Kight said. "Through all of the obstacles, we are here marking the triumph of our stubbornness as a city and a people."



Mayor Joshua Kight praises Dublin's "stubbornness" in finishing the Madison Street project/RODNEY MANLEY

Kight reminded everyone how Madison Street looked two years ago, calling it a "pot-holed eyesore."

"There were broken sidewalks, baking in the summer sun without any trees, and power lines overhead and tangled masses," he said. "And look at it today. It has been completely overhauled. We have restored the look of Madison Street to the classic brick street. The way we previously had this street, it was in disrepair and had not been taken care of. People didn't want to have their businesses here and they did not want to walk here. And now, all of that has changed because it is beautiful."

Along with the bricks, the project included the widening of



Madison Street business owners Moises Acosta and Brenda Chain enjoy a laugh as they sign bricks at Thursday's ceremony/RODNEY MANLEY

MADISON STREET
Continued on page 10

County board OKs school tax increase

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reports

The Laurens County Board of Education rolled back its millage rate Thursday night but not enough to avoid a property tax increase.

The board lowered the millage rate to 14.0, down from 14.2 but not enough to completely offset annual growth in the county's tax digest. A true rollback would have required a millage rate of 13.190.

The county school board has rolled back its millage rate every year since 2016.

The new millage rate is expected to generate about \$17.9 million in property taxes, a net increase of about 10.4 percent, or \$1.86 million. County officials say the additional revenue is needed for employee health insurance costs.

Under the new rate, the owner of a \$200,000 home can expect to pay about \$37.52 in additional taxes.

Also Thursday, the board took several steps to get construction going on the new East Laurens Elementary School, including a vote to change the grade configuration planned for the building. The board had planned to put grades 2-5 in the school but decided to stick with its current arrangement of third through fifth grades.

COUNTY SCHOOLS
Continued on page 10

Local family returns to popular TV game show

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Stanley family will be back on TV this Monday, returning to "Family Feud."

Sisters Angela Stanley, Pat Brock, Barbara Wright, Bernice Nelson and Dorothy Simmons will be appearing on "Family Feud" at 6 p.m. Monday on WXGA Fox 24. The family had appeared on one show last year.

Stanley — who is the team captain — received a call from the game show wanting to see if they were interested in returning to "Family Feud," which is hosted by Steve Harvey.

"I was thankful," she said. "I surprised my sisters and told them we have a second chance. Some laughed, some were excited and screamed, and some tears rolled down. Even though we had a good time the first time we went, we had just lost our brother. But going on 'Family Feud' was just a blessing."

"I couldn't lift my arm and



The Stanley family returns to Family Feud on Monday at 6 p.m. on local Fox stations /SPECIAL PHOTO

The sisters returned to the Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta for the taping in February. Harvey remembered the Stanleys.

"That was so great," Stanley said. "We knew a little bit of what to expect, but we still went with the mindset like we didn't know anything. We didn't want to be prideful and thinking that we knew it all."

Stanley injured her arm before the most recent taping.

"I couldn't lift my arm and

was having extreme muscle spasms," Stanley said. "We jumped on that, and I went to the doctors so that I would be able to at least lift my arm. Since I was the team captain, so I had to be able to lift my arm and be excited. God graced me, touched me and we were able to do the show very smoothly, and I didn't experience that level of pain that I had."

Stanley, who could not talk about the results on "Family Feud," was happy

that they were able to represent God, hometown and family.

"We want to encourage people to soar and do whatever their hearts desire and they are able to obtain it," Stanley said. "I pray that our light shined and people saw (Christ) in us. There were a lot of other fellow believers there on the other teams. The staff and the entire production company is amazing and we are grateful to God for that."

Church official describes tense confrontation with armed man

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Days after the Laurens County Sheriff's Office finished its investigation, a Brewton Baptist Church official discussed the response to an 18-year-old man who brought a semi-automatic weapon on church property last weekend.

According to LCSO Capt. Robbie Toney, the young man was charged with carrying a concealed weapon without a permit and possession of a pistol by an underage person. They do not believe he was there with any "ill intent."

"We checked his phone and there was nothing on his phone, and we even had Homeland Security check and they had nothing on him or any correspondence," Toney said. "His story lined up with what (another person) told us."

A church security team member involved in the incident, who asked to be identified as a spokesperson for the church, said another Brewton Baptist member saw a car pull into the parking lot and a young man, later identified as Duzten Smith, got out wearing a coat with a hoodie and a backpack. He walked to the pavilion, which is more than 30 to 40 yards behind the church.

"He was dressed in dark clothing. The church member who saw this was concerned."

GUN AT CHURCH
Continued on page 10

Salvation Army bell ringer remembered with balloon launch

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Almost a week before his birthday, Ivan Lewis' family gathered at The Salvation Army in Dublin to release balloons to remember him,

five years after he passed away.

Lewis' daughter, Michelle, reminded family and friends who gathered in front of The Salvation Army store, that they will be ringing the bell in his honor

since it was something he spent many years doing at this time of year.

"We just want to release our balloons up with our good energy and spirit and let them go up to him," Michelle said.

Charika Todd, The Salvation Army Dublin Service Center Director, said they wanted to honor Lewis as close to his birthday (Nov. 16).

"Today we come together for Mr. Lewis," Todd said. "We gather to honor his memory. It has been five years since he passed away and today we celebrate the impact he made on our lives."



Ivan Lewis' family releases balloons during the ceremony /PAYTON TOWNS III

BELL RINGER
Continued on page 10



7 36211 57521 0

1 section, 10 pages • Vol. 111, No. 133, Pub. No. 161860

OBITUARIES



Eva Sue Lann Taylor

Eva Sue Lann Taylor, passed away peacefully on Nov. 13, 2025, in Dublin, Georgia, surrounded by her loving family. Born on July 27, 1958, in Lubbock, Texas, Eva was the cherished daughter of the late George Lenwood Lann and Mary Jo Tribble Lann. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, the late Bobby and James Lann.

Her family expanded to include her devoted husband of 50 years, Thomas Taylor, and their loving daughters, Tiffany Wyatt (married to Lee) and Stephanie Harrison (married to Nick). Eva's joy was multiplied with the arrival of her grandchildren, Ryan Jones, Lauren Jones, Chandler Harrison, Ella Wyatt, Maddison Harrison and Taylor Wyatt, who will carry her legacy forward.

She is also survived by her brothers, George Lann (Pat), Gary Lann (Kaye), and Chris Lann, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Eva dedicated 42 years of service to Husqvarna in McRae, where she not only excelled in her work but also formed lasting friendships and connections. Her commitment to her career was paralleled only by her involvement in her beloved Bethsaida Baptist Church, where she was a beacon of faith and fellowship.

Her interests were as varied as they were heartfelt. Eva found joy in crafts and shopping, but nothing compared to the time she spent with her children and grandchildren. Eva's kitchen was the heart of her home, where she cooked not just meals but memories that would nourish her family for years to come.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16, in the Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Bethsaida Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Darren Talley will officiate. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until service hour on Sunday at the funeral home.

Ryan Jones, Chandler Harrison, Nick Harrison, Lee Wyatt, George Lann, and Bruce Daniels will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to United in Pink, at www.unitedinpink.org.

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

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 15
Damien Roberts

Nov. 16
*Kristopher Edwards
Conner Rozier
Leon Wilcher*

Nov. 17
*Alicia Ballard
Valery Pooler
Ricky Roberts
Maureen Smith*

Donna Stone Swearingen

Donna Stone Swearingen, 61, of Chester, Ga., died on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, November 16, at Southerland Funeral Chapel, with interment in Pine Level Church Cemetery.

Survived by her husband – Wendell Swearingen; sons – Ricky DeVane (Hillary), Ryan DeVane (Samantha), Jody Swearingen (Tonina), James Swearingen, and Brian Swearingen (Iris); 12 grandchildren; Siblings – Cheryl Barefoot (Johnny) and John Stone (Angela).

The family will receive friends in Southerland Funeral Chapel from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Sunday, November 16.

Stokes-Southerland Funeral Home of Eastman has charge of arrangements.



Lucindy D. Allen

Funeral services for Mrs. Lucindy D. Allen, of Dublin, Ga. will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, at 2 p.m. in the C.D. Dudley Memorial Chapel at the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street in Dublin. Rev. Horace Austin will officiate. Interment will follow in Dudley Memorial Cemetery in Dublin.

Mrs. Lucindy D. Allen was born on Aug. 18, 1947, in Dublin, Ga. to the late Mr. Cleveland Dudley Sr. and Mrs. Rosa Mae Dudley. She made her peaceful transition Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2025, at Scott Rehab in Adrian, Ga. She was a member of New Vision Missionary Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her father, Mr. Cleveland Dudley Sr., mother, Mrs. Rosa Mae Dudley, her siblings, Mr. Eddie, Mr. Billy, Mr. Larry, and Mr. Bobby Dudley, Mrs. Beauty (Daniel) Walker, and Mrs. Katherine (Johnny) Walker, her brother-in-law, Mr. Walter Bell, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Ernestine Dudley.

Mrs. Allen leaves to cherish her precious memories, her three daughters Renee (Eddie) Miller, Soperton, Ga., Alesia Edmond, Little Rock, Ar., and Tamika (Paul) Brown, Dublin, Ga., a bonus son Minister Bruce (Terry) Brown, Boston, Mass.. Her grandchildren Cory (Abbie) Phillips, Chesapeake, Va., Alexia (Kenneth) Baker, Louisville, Ky., Kendrick Ol-

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 17
*Saul & Lakeisha Fluker
Jeremy & Regina Rozier*

iver, Virginia Beach, Va., Daylon Oliver, Soperton, Ga., Tony Edmond II, Knoxville, Tenn., Adrianne (Josh) Teats, Columbus, Ga., William Charles Edmond, Cooksville, Tenn., DeMarcus Allen (Jessica), Columbus, Ga., Paula (Eric) Briscoe, Fallon, Nev., Jaden Brown, Dublin, Ga., Latoya Brown and Cortnei Brown, Boston, Mass., Quinton Elmore, Dallas, Texas., and 17 great grandchildren. Her siblings Mrs. Mary Alice Bell of Irwinton, Ga., Mrs. Janice (Theodis) Reese, of Dublin, Ga., and Mr. Cleveland Dudley of Las Vegas, Nev.. Her sister-in-law Mrs. Essie Dudley, of East Dublin, Ga. and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mrs. Lucindy Allen's family would like to express our sincere gratitude to Scott Rehab in Adrian, Ga. for the excellent care and comfort.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesByDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dudley.com.



Koaknee Sherelle Ricks

Funeral services for Ms. Koaknee Sherelle Ricks, of Soperton, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Christ Deliverance Temple, 403 Garner Street in Dublin.

Koaknee Sherelle Ricks was born on Aug. 22, 1978, in Dublin, Georgia, to Beverly Ricks and the late Eddie Smith Sr. She was raised in Atlanta and educated in the DeKalb County Public School System, where she formed lifelong friendships and created cherished memories. Koaknee's presence brought joy, laughter, and warmth to everyone who knew her. She was known for her loving heart, her compassion for others, and her unwavering devotion to her family and friends.

She was preceded to Heaven by her father, Eddie Smith Sr.; brother, Kawasiki Ricks Sr.; sister, Ida Mae, and two nephews, Zekia and Kyrese.

Koaknee leaves to cherish her loving memories: her devoted mother, Beverly Ricks Phillips; two beloved sons, Keith and Jakoi; brothers,

Eddie and Reginald Smith; sister in law Javana, and a host of nieces and nephews—Kyiah, Makyiah, Kayla, Terrance, Kalen, Jamari, Kawasiki Jr., Malik, and Kemario, her aunts, Elizabeth, Melinda, Monica, Ruby, and Valerie; her uncles, William, Tony, Thomas, Clint, Danny, and Tony of Florida; her great-aunts, Essie, Linda, and Gladys; and numerous cousins, extended family members, and dear friends. Koaknee's light will continue to shine through the love she shared and the lives she touched. Her memory will forever live in the hearts of all who knew her.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesByDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin.

Cassamary Redd

Ms. Cassamary Redd, of Dublin, Georgia, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025.

The family will receive visitors starting on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, and will continue until Friday, Nov. 21, 2025, daily from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the home of Ramonica Kemp, 239 Werden Road in Dublin. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin.

De'Vauris Lewis

Mr. De'Vauris Lewis of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com.

Katherine F. Dudley

Mrs. Katherine F. Dudley of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025. Funeral arrangements are not complete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com.

Tallie Daniel

Mr. Tallie Daniel of Warner Robins, Georgia passed away on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025. Funeral arrangements are not complete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com.



MR. APPLIANCE
SPEEDY EXPERT SERVICE™
A neighborhood company
Locally Owned and Operated Franchise

Calling Mr. Appliance Ensures:

- A solid quote before the work begins - no surprises
- Prompt, efficient attention
- Never an overtime charge - We charge by the job, not by the hour
- Our "Leave No Trace" clean-up commitment
- All work & parts guaranteed
- Courteous & skilled in-home service professionals

478.309.5961 MrAppliance.com

JOHNSON
Tree & Stump Removal
Tree Removal • Stump Grinding
Bobcat Service • Lot Clearing
- INSURED -
478-275-8003 Home 478-279-1709 Truck

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Nov. 24, 1947, the House of Representatives voted 346 to 17 to approve citations of contempt against 10 Hollywood writers, directors and producers who'd refused to cooperate at hearings dealing with communism in the movie industry held by the House Un-American Activities Committee. The men were sentenced to one year in jail.

* On Nov. 25, 2000, after passing a resolution earlier in the year, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the first International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The resolution marked the anniversary of the death of three sisters -- Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabal -- who were murdered in the Dominican Republic in 1960.

* On Nov. 26, 1968, Air Force 1st Lt. James P. Fleming and four other Bell UH-1F helicopter pilots received an urgent message from an Army Special Forces team pinned down by enemy fire. While the first rescue effort failed, Fleming, accompanied by a second pilot, managed to land and pick up the team before discovering upon return to his base that he was nearly out of fuel. He was eventually awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

* On Nov. 27, 2015, Pope Francis released a progressive-rock album titled "Pope Francis: Wake Up!" featuring excerpts of the pontiff sermonizing on subjects including peace, the environment and family, and hymns rearranged with guitar and synthesizer.

* On Nov. 28, 1929, a month after the stock market crash, Ernie Nevers, of the Chicago Cardinals, scored a record 40 points in a single game, playing against the Chicago Bears.

* On Nov. 29, 2004, Japanese movie monster Godzilla, a mutant born of nuclear radiation fallout, got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame -- quite a present on his 50th birthday.

* On Nov. 30, 1965, attorney Ralph Nader published "Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-in Dangers of the American Automobile." An immediate best-seller, it also launched the passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, seatbelt laws in 49 states and other road-safety initiatives.

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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

Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays
News: tchnewsreporter@gmail.com
Subscription: tchcirculation@gmail.com
Advertising: advertisingtch@gmail.com
Sports: tchsports77@gmail.com
Obituaries: tchobits77@gmail.com

GET IN TOUCH

SUBSCRIPTION RATES Print: \$12.50/month
Digital: \$10.50/month

Periodicals Postage Paid at Dublin, Georgia
(USPS 161-860) - Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Courier Herald, 115 South Jefferson Street, Dublin, GA 31021

GEORGIA TRUST
— for Local News —

DuBose Porter/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Pam Burney/GENERAL MANAGER
Courtney Vessell/CIRCULATION MANAGER

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

Millville High School Alumni Association, Inc.
Annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale
Saturday, Nov. 22nd • 8 am - 1 pm
Millville High School, 997 Hwy 338, Dudley
All varieties of cakes and pies. For special orders, please call Dorothy Hall at (478) 278-5317 or Catherine Rozar at (478) 290-6163.

DUBLIN WASH - GRAND OPENING

We're back and shining brighter than ever!
Join us on Saturday, November 15th!

- ✓ FREE vacuums all day
- ✓ Special wash discounts
- ✓ Giveaways & prizes

2404 US-80, Dublin GA

Open Daily | Follow us on Facebook for deals & updates **DUBLIN WASH**

WOODLAWN SENIOR VILLAGE
200 Woodlawn Drive, Dublin

- One and Two Bedrooms
- Stove, Refrigerator, Dishwasher & Microwave
- On-Site Laundry Facilities
- For ages 55 and older.
- Income Restrictions do apply.

Accepting applications
Call 478-274-8619
TDD # 1-800-225-0056
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Thanksgiving Holiday Publishing Schedule for The Courier Herald
The Courier Herald will publish on Tuesday, Nov. 25, and a combined paper for Thursday, Nov 27, & Saturday, Nov 29.

Deadlines for the Thurs-Sat combo paper will be
Tuesday Nov. 25th at 9 am

The Courier Herald office **WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH AND WILL BE CLOSED** Thanksgiving Day and Friday Nov 28.
Happy Thanksgiving!

Local surgeon called to service

Dublin Courier Herald, Dispatch, And Press

Dr. John Allen Bell, Jr., prominent Dublin physician and surgeon, today received final and official orders to report for a year's service with the United States Army.

He will leave on Monday for Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, where he will have the rank of First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps. It is believed that he will be at the Pennsylvania post for a short time and that he will probably go from there to a fort in Virginia.

Dr. Bell, who has been connected for some years with Claxton Hospital here, is a member of the Medical Reserve Officers Corps; hence the summons to active duty in service of the United States.

He is the first physician to be called into active service, at least in this section. It is understood, however, that five thousand other expert physicians are to be called in by the War Department within a short time.

Dr. Bell expressed much regret at being forced to leave his many friends here, but said that his duty to the nation makes his service a willing one.

Expansion of the nation's Armed Forces has caused the need for services of expert medical men, which resulted in the call to Dr. Bell and other doctors throughout the country.

FOX HUNTERS END MEETING

Winners in the Happy Fox Hunters Association field trials here were announced today, as the group's most successful annual hunt in its history was brought to a close.

George Bedingfield won first place in the trials for highest score dog, Red Joe, which rating was given for his speed and driving ability on the runs.

Second and third places went to Henry McKenzie of Ashburn for White Beauty and Nellie, which were judged the best hunting dogs in the trials.

Fourth place winner was Stump Prescott of Wrightsville, with Scottie, best derby hound, which was judged on speed and driving.

A number of other dogs won compliments for their owners on their excellent performance.

Loving cups were awarded to Mr. Bedingfield and W.V Ward, whose dogs were high scorers in the bench show on Monday night, and to Mr. Prescott, as owner of the field derby winner.

Judges for the bench show and field trials were Frank Howard of Barnesville, A.B. White of Logansville, and Albert Barnes of Ashburn.

Election of officers was postponed to a later meeting.

Dr. J.E. Bedingfield, Secretary-treasurer of the Association, expressed his appreciation of the group for the co-operation of businessmen and other citizens here in making the meet a most successful one.

Several of those attending from elsewhere over the state expressed the opin-

ion that the hunts were the best they had ever witnessed, from the standpoint of number of foxes and the ease with which they were taken.

Local business firms which contributed prizes included R.L Stephens Department Store, Churchwell Brothers, Lovett & Tharpe Hardware Company, Laurens Hardware Company, Kendrick Auto Supply Company, and Smith's Jewelry.

Gordon Edwards prepared the barbecue which was served on Wednesday night at Stubbs Park. Many compliments were passed on his ability to make such an event a thoroughly enjoyable one.

"AFTER" DRUNK DRIVER NOW

Driving under the influence of alcohol has grown to be a serious offense in Georgia - as 5,019 drivers can testify from experience, and the State Patrol is now "going after" the drivers.

For, according to Department of Public Safety records that many drivers have had their licenses temporarily revoked or suspended by the courts or the Department.

In addition, another 97 drivers have forfeited their licenses temporarily for leaving the scene of an accident; 101 for repeated violations of safety rules, and 290 for reckless driving.

Major Lon Sullivan, Public Safety Commissioner, pointed out that it is an automatic procedure with the Department to suspend for 60 days the license of any driver convicted of operating "under the influence." Many courts go even further and force the offender to surrender his license for three or even six months or longer.

Major Sullivan said that: 4,445 of the total of suspensions and revocations included white drivers, 1,062 Negroes, 101 women.

He said also that about 12 per cent of fatal accidents involve drinking drivers.

"Therefore, while suspending a driver's license is a severe penalty, it is justified in the interest of saving human lives," the Commissioner said. "Georgia's continued reduction in traffic fatalities is due, at least in part, to the fact that these 5,507 drivers, who committed major violations, were taken from the highways temporarily."

The commissioner said that the Department's advice to drivers is "if you drive, don't drink; if you drink, don't drive."

SUPT. SMITH TO LEAVE CADWELL

President I.S. Ingram of West Georgia College at Carrollton announced today that Superintendent Wilkins Smith of the Cadwell High School will join the college faculty as Educational Coordinator of the Residential NYA group, effective January 1.

Professor Wilkins Smith has served two terms as Superintendent of the Cadwell school where he has established a good record, the school being accredited the year he accepted the superintendency. Since then

the curriculum has been enlarged and improved and special interest given to those students who will never attend college.

ARMISTICE DAY PROGRAMS

Johnson Street School The sixth grade of Johnson Street School and their teacher, Miss Ida O'Neal, presented the following Armistice Day program:

Reading: "What America Is" - Beeman Price

Song: "America for Me" - School

Poem: "In Flanders Field" - Gene Register

Poem: "America's Answer" - Fay Scarborough

Song: "There's Something About A Soldier" - First Grade

Wreath Presentation - School Patrol

Reading: "The Red Cross Speaks" - Annie Mary Hudson

Flag Presentation - Sonny Vaughn

Song: "The Star Spangled Banner" - School

Reading: "Our Flag" - Edward Mimbs

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag - School

Song: "God Bless America" - School

Saxon Heights School

The Armistice Day program in the Saxon Heights School was very interesting. The sixth grade and Mrs. George Barbre, the teacher, were in charge.

The program was Presentation of the Flag - Leron Warnock and T.W. Sikes

Introduction - Talmadge Fennell

Prayer - Mrs. Barbre

Poem: "In Flanders Field" - Betty Butler

Reading: "America's Answer" - Carolyn Watson

Medley of War Songs - School

Tribute to the Heroes of 1914-1916 - Isabel Fausett

"Fosdick's Prayer of Peace" - Emmett Leverett

Taps - School

Talk: Talmadge Fennell

Song: "God Bless America" - School

Condor High School

A most impressive Armistice Day program was held at Condor High School around the school flag pole.

Ronald Harden led in the Salute to the Flag.

Others taking part in the program were Mrs. F.H. McDaniel, Mrs. Monte Kellam, Mrs. Izzie Bashinski, and Superintendent Roberts.

LIGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS TREES

A committee of men from the Georgia Power Company, with Glasgow Snider as Chairman, is fast completing work of preparing a large number of electrical drapes for the several hundred Christmas trees to be placed on the Court House Square Lawn on December 12th.

Twenty-five hundred lights are being strung into special lighting effects for the silvered trees which will outline the large Court House Square by the electrical committee members who are giving a great deal of time to complete this important part of the civic

Christmas lights program.

These men will also give aid and information on the square and at other points in the city. They are George Smith, K.M. Snider, H.E. Burnham, John H. Jones, E.M. Malcolm, Willie Souther, John B. Floyd, E.M. Neal, J.B. Williamson, O.T. Sutton, T.G. Camp, and B. Redwine.

Bob Hightower, General Chairman of the project, has asked Dr. C.H. Kittrell to act as Master of the Ceremonies at the formal dedication of the lights and Nativity Scene. Upon his acceptance, further plans will be made for a complete and impressive dedicatory program.

RAILROAD RATES REDUCED

Effective November 20th, all rates applying between M.D.& S. railroad stations and Southeastern points and from and to North Atlantic ports when moving water and rail are on Trunk Line scale, which has the effect of materially reducing transportation costs to the public.

As an illustration:

The first class rate prior to November 20th between Dublin and Louisville, Kentucky, was \$2.00, Cincinnati, Ohio, \$2.04, and Atlanta, \$1.11.

Effective November 20th, the rate will be Louisville, Kentucky, \$1.89; Cincinnati, Ohio, \$1.93; and Atlanta, \$1.00.

Between Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Baltimore, Maryland, and Dublin, the first class rates were reduced 9 cents per 100 pounds.

Additional amendments affecting rates from and to other territories are expected to be made effective not later than December 15, 1940.

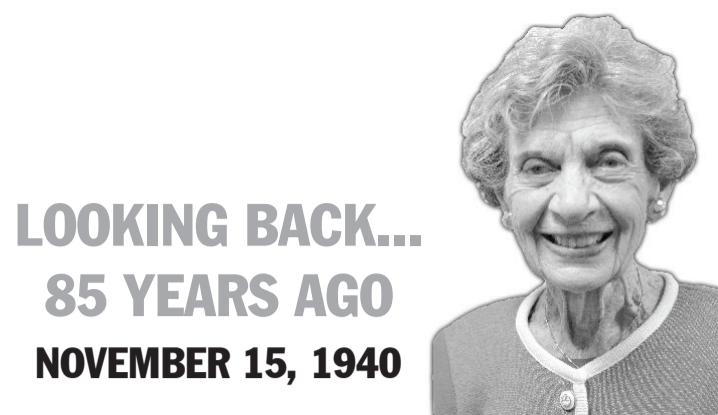
KING AND QUEEN AT CARNIVAL

The big event at Condor School on Friday night was the crowning of the King and Queen of the Halloween Carnival.

Politics ran high over the election all of the week until the climax when it was found that Miss Ila Mae Bush and Herschel Johnson had won the coveted honors.

Miss Bush is the President of the senior class, a petite brunette with a most pleasing personality. Mr. Johnson has all of the qualities of a good King.

At the carnival the special feature was the Grand March, played by Mrs. Monte Kellam. The processional



LOOKING BACK...
85 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 15, 1940

By HARRIETT CLAXTON

was headed by the recently elected King and Queen, followed by other candidates in the order in which the contestants stood:

Miss Gerie Graham and Rollin Boone

Miss Florine Steward and Bonnie Ogburn

Miss Capaline Beasley and Claude Farthing.

All of the young ladies were attired in lovely evening dress, and corsages were of the king's court. The crown was placed by Miss Elizabeth Bush, campaign manager of both of the successful candidates.

The program opened with a skit, "At the Stroke of Twelve" by an all-star cast of the 10th grade, under the direction of Miss Ruth Porter. The maid in the skit was Miss Elizabeth Bush, who was very amusing indeed in her interpretation.

The playlet, "The Pumpkin Headed Servant" with a cast of the 9th grade was under the coaching of Mrs. Izzie Bashinski. Edward Hilliard was the servant.

Each grade had a great part, as follows:

Miss Rubie Coleman and Mrs. Cleo Beacham had the bingo table. Their gifts were unique and attractive.

Mrs. Frank Johnson had the Hall of Horrors.

Miss Mary Rountree conducted the fortune telling booth.

The cakes that were used in the contest sponsored by the 9th grade were made by the best cooks in Dublin and Laurens County, and this feature of the show was greatly enjoyed.

Mrs. B.C. Jarrard and Miss Ruth Porter had charge of a booth oddities.

Mrs. Monte Kellam had a fishpond and was busy filling orders.

Most important was the refreshment stand presided over by Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. McDaniel. There was scarcely standing room at any time around the stand. Wieners, drinks, ice cream, peanuts, popcorn, and other goodies that are found at a fair were found at the stand.

Proceeds of the Carnival will be used by the recently organized Parent Teacher Association of which Mrs.

Herschel Whitehurst is President. The Association is equipping the new lunch room, which has been a new feature this year and is a very much appreciated one by the patrons and friends of Condor.

RENTZ PTA MEETS

Rentz Parent-Teacher Association had its October meeting in the school auditorium with 35 members present.

Last year's president, Mrs. Theron Woodard, had charge of the program, and those taking part were the high school quartet, Mrs. Sidney Smith, Mrs. A.O. Hadden, and Mrs. B.F. Grant.

The following officers were elected for the new school term:

President - Mrs. Sidney Smith

First Vice President - Mrs. W.W. Fordham

Second Vice President - Mrs. Walter Daniel

Secretary and Treasurer - Mrs. E.M. Knight

The Executive Committee is composed of Rev. C.L. Lowery, Mrs. L.H. Cook, and Mrs. Walter Thomas.

Hospitality Committee - Mrs. O.D. Barron and Mrs. J.R. Chambless

Program Committee - Mrs. Theron Woodard, Mrs. E.R. Davidson, and Mrs. Alton Dominy

Budget and Finance Committee - Mrs. R.S. Collins and Mrs. G.J. Burch

Publicity - Mrs. L.N. Mullis and Mrs. Johnnie Lindsey

Membership Committee - Mrs. F.C. Taylor and Mrs. J.C. Waites

Study Group- Mrs. Bevis Register and Mrs. E.M. Williamson

PTA Magazine - Mrs. W.E. Bedingfield and Mrs. J.A. Davidson

Room Representatives - Mrs. Alva Register and Mrs. George Thomas

Reporter - Mrs. W.D. Goodrum

A delightful social hour was enjoyed in the Rentz Home Economics room, and delicious refreshments were served by Misses Martha Sue Rivers and Martha Williams.

Moment of Inspiration

"Why should I place my trust in a God I can't even see?"

Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

We live in a world that says, "Seeing is believing," but God calls us to something greater—believing before we see. Even when we can't see Him, we can still trust Him because His fingerprints are all over our lives.

Every sunrise reminds us of His faithfulness. Every answered prayer whispers His love. Every moment of peace in chaos is His presence holding us together.

Faith means trusting that God is working, even when our eyes can't see the evidence yet. Remember—He proved His love once and for all at the cross. That same Jesus who died and rose again still walks with us today, unseen but never absent.

So when life feels uncertain and God feels distant, hold on to faith. You may not see Him, but He sees you—and that's enough.

Prayer:

"Lord, even when I can't see You, help me to trust You. Strengthen my faith to believe that You are working all things for my good. Amen."

Dr. Curt Lysaker, Pastor Shady Grove Baptist, East Dublin, GA

Pastors if you would like to share a devotional please email to: advertisingtch@gmail.com



These merchants and The Courier Herald take pride in presenting this message and encourage you to attend the church of your choice.

Employment Opportunity - Driller

Thiele Kaolin Company, a leading provider of tailored mineral solutions, is currently recruiting for a Driller. This position is located in Deepstep, Georgia.

JOB DESCRIPTION, SKILL REQUIREMENTS, AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Assist Lead Driller in obtaining core samples on the drill rig
- Operate water truck when appropriate
- Assist Lead Driller in performing maintenance on equipment
- Ability to visually assess the presence of kaolin and kaolin color with accuracy
- Ability to properly log geologic formations and to extract a representative sample of kaolin
- Experience operating drilling equipment a plus
- CDL license (good driving record), or the ability to obtain it

Qualified Candidates should email a resume to careers@thielekaolin.com. Please note "Driller" in the subject line.

Any job offer will be contingent upon the successful candidate passing a physical exam, including a drug screen and a background check as warranted.

Thiele Kaolin Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Thiele Kaolin Company is a Drug Free workplace.

No, it's still not time to decorate for Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas – and I don't like it.

I drive by several houses each day with decorated yards. Some still have giant skeletons and spiders, lingering far too long from Halloween, while others already hold twinkling lights, and houses adorned with wreaths and garland. It seems we're stuck in holiday purgatory, and nobody knows what to do. Just put a Santa Claus hat on the skeleton and let's call it a year; buy a green top hat and let it ride until March.

I was sweeping off my front porch recently and I looked down to see that I had left the Christmas rug out all year. Does that count as decorating early? This is the most wonderful time of the year to be a scrooge. Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas, but I'll wait until after Thanksgiving to get into the spirit.

Thanksgiving doesn't get the appreciation that it deserves. It has been reduced to just a day off work and the starting line for the Christmas shopping season. Modern Thanksgiving has its roots in the Great Depression. Thanksgiving had traditionally been recognized as the last Thursday in November. In 1939, there were five Thursdays on the November calendar and President Franklin D. Roosevelt, eager to appease the interests of a worried and worn-out retail sector, bumped Thanksgiving up a week. That year

Ho, ho, ho!

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By **KYLE DOMINY**

there was an extra week of Christmas shopping. Republicans of the time decried to move as an affront to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, who had established the precedent of Thanksgiving. For a while Thanksgiving was known as Franksgiving. It took three years for Congress to

pass the joint resolution establishing Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday in November.

See? Government dysfunction is nothing new.

I've heard tell of a time when people didn't even put up a tree until the day before Christmas, and by New Year's it was long gone. What happened to that tradition? I seem to be one of the few left in the world who refrain from all things Christmas until December.

There is much research that suggests decorating for the holidays early is good for mental health. Trimming the tree and hanging stockings evokes nostalgia for a lot of people, which releases serotonin and other beneficial chemicals in the brain. The decorations also encourage general feelings of happiness, helping fight off the depression that comes during the coldest time of the year. Decorating also encourages physical activity, because you can't do it sitting down, and social activity. Someone to hold the ladder while stringing lights on the eaves is encouraged, every fall needs a witness.

I could use a positive mental boost. Maybe I should abandon my humbug ways and embrace the spirit of the season earlier. Perhaps it is time to have the halls decked before the turkey goes into the oven.

But then again, I'm happy enough, and I think I'll wait a couple more weeks.

Roger Sherman: Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Roger Sherman was born in Newtown, Massachusetts, in 1721, and was educated at home ... becoming proficient in math, law and theology.

He became a county surveyor, judge and a member of the state legislature. In 1774, as the colonies were moving toward independence from Great Britain, he was sent to the First Continental Congress.

In 1776, he signed the Declaration of Independence, and in 1787, he signed the U.S. Constitution, one of only six founders to sign both of these historic doc-

uments. Furthermore, as one of America's founders, Sherman helped in forming the Electoral College System in helping to select our presidents.

He was also instrumental in framing the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the Constitution). And, he encouraged President George Washington to

officially declare a national Thanksgiving Day holiday, justifying this practice for our young nation from the Bible, particularly the praise and thanksgiving of Israel after the temple was built during King Solomon's reign (see 1 Kings, Chapter 8).

Sherman was a dedicated Christian gentleman and statesman who wrote the doctrinal statement for his denomination, the Congregational church. In his church he served as deacon, clerk and treasurer. (Commentary from "The Founder's Bible" p. 1,750).

Here is the epitaph engraved on his tomb: "In memory of the Hon. Roger Sherman, esq.

Mayor of the City of New Haven, and senator of the United States.

He was born at Newtown, Massachusetts, April 19th, 1721 and died in New Haven, July 23rd, A.D. 1793 Aged LXXII

... He ever adorned the profession of Christianity which he made in youth; and, distinguished through life for public usefulness, died in the prospect of a blessed immortality." (America's God and

Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations, William J. Federer, Fame Publishing, Inc., 1996, p. 561)

Most all of the founders of America were men and women of the Judeo-Christian faith who were dedicated to serving God by serving others. All Americans are benefactors of their dedication.

Peace!

By **JACK BROWN**



DIVA ON A DIME: CUT COSTS, NOT COMFORT WITH LENTIL SOUP

By **PATTI DIAMOND**
King Features

When times feel uncertain and grocery prices make you wince, there's comfort in knowing that a wholesome, hearty meal doesn't have to cost much. This lentil soup is proof that good food can still be simple, satisfying and kind to your budget.

Lentil soup is one of those beautiful, budget-friendly meals that has been feeding families for centuries and checks every box: It's inexpensive, easy to prepare and full of plant-based protein and fiber. It freezes beautifully, too, which makes it a lifesaver during the upcoming holiday madness. Make a big pot now, freeze some for later, and you've got instant comfort waiting in your freezer -- no drive-thru required.

This base recipe is delicious as-is, but the beauty of lentils is how easily they adapt. Add a handful of sausage if you like, stir in extra veggies or season it with herbs and spices to change the flavor profile from classic to global. You'll find a few of my favorite variations below -- because even comfort food deserves a little variety.

utes. Add garlic and cook for one minute more. Stir in lentils, tomatoes, broth, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer, covered, for about 35 minutes or until lentils are tender. Stir in spinach until wilted. Taste and adjust seasoning.

Instant Pot: Follow saute instructions as in stove-top directions up to "bring to a boil." Cook on Manual/Pressure Cook for 9 minutes, then allow a natural release for 10 minutes. Add spinach after cooking.

Slow Cooker: Combine all ingredients (except spinach) and cook on Low for 6-8 hours. Stir in spinach at the end.

Optional Add-Ins for Variety

Smoky Sausage: Saute 1 (13 ounce) smoked sausage (like kielbasa) with the vegetables. Add 1/2 teaspoon

smoked paprika and 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme.

Easy Being Green: Add 1 (8 to 10 ounce) package of mixed power greens such as kale, chard or spinach. Top with avocado and a squeeze of lemon juice.

Mediterranean: Add 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning and 1 (15 ounce) can cannellini beans. Top with Parmesan.

Curry Comfort: Stir in 1 tablespoon curry powder, 1 teaspoon turmeric, and finish with a squeeze of lime and a swirl of coconut milk.

Southwest Style: Add 1 tablespoon chili powder, 1/2 teaspoon cumin and 1 (14.5 ounce) can fiesta style corn. Top with a dollop of sour cream or avocado slices.

When you need an easy, nourishing meal that keeps you grounded through the holiday hustle, lentil soup

is your new best friend. It's hearty, healthy and humble -- proof that comfort food doesn't have to cost much.

And here's a little secret: Every bowl you freeze now is a gift to your future self. On a cold blustery night, when the house is busy and you're too tired to cook, you'll have homemade comfort ready in minutes.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

POSTING DATE NOVEMBER 15, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY EDWIN MAY FOR A 1,838 SQUARE FEET MINIMUM LOT SIZE VARIANCE FROM 7,500 SQUARE FEET TO 5,662 SQUARE FEET. SAID PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 712 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET, DUBLIN, GEORGIA.

A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 1, 2025 AT 5:30 P. M. IN THE HENRY "BUD" HICKS JR MEMORIAL CHAMBERS, LOCATED IN CITY HALL AT 100 S. CHURCH STREET IN DUBLIN GEORGIA AT WHICH TIME YOU MAY APPEAR IN PERSON, OR AND IN WRITING, BY AN AGENT OR BY AN ATTORNEY AND PRESENT ANY REASONS WHICH YOU MAY HAVE IN GRANTING OR DENYING THIS PETITION.

Sharon Eveland, City Planner

If you should have any questions, please call (478) 277-5070.

POSITION: CITY CLERK
SALARY: \$12.00/HR – COMPETITIVE WITH EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

The City of Adrian is now accepting applications for an Office Clerk position. This position will support daily administrative tasks such as data entry, filing, scanning, drafting correspondence and responding to phone and in-person inquiries. The office clerk will be assigned to various duties. The clerk will assist with maintaining and organizing records, providing internal support to the City Clerk and performing basic clerical functions as well as excellent customer service. The ideal candidate is a dependable and adaptable team player with strong organizational skills, attention to detail and commitment to providing courteous, professional support. The candidate must have accounting and computer skills. Any City or Governmental experience is preferred. Applications may be obtained at the Adrian City Hall. Please contact the Adrian City Hall at 478-668-3376 for additional information.



SKILLED MACHINIST NEEDED!

OPEN POSITION: CNC OPERATOR/MACHINIST

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

- MUST BE RELIABLE
- Read blueprints, sketches, specifications, or CAD and CAM files for making parts.
- Compute and verify dimensions, sizes, shapes, and tolerances of workpieces.
- Set up, run, and disassemble conventional, manual, and CNC machine tools.
- File, grind, and adjust parts so that they fit together properly.
- Test completed tools and materials to ensure that they meet specifications.
- Smooth and polish the surfaces of tools and materials.
- Monday – Friday
- \$15.00 - \$31.00 PER HOUR
- Drug free environment

WHY WORK WITH US?

- Competitive pay
- Growth and Career Development
- Flexible hours, Supportive work environment, etc.

SEND RESUME TO OR CONTACT

Shave@obsessionbows.com

478-945-3340

VERY VERSATILE LENTIL SOUP

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 4 carrots, chopped
- 3 celery ribs, chopped
- 3-4 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 cups broth (vegetable, chicken or beef)
- 1 1/2 cups dry green or brown lentils
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes with juices
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups fresh chopped spinach, optional

Stovetop Method: In a large pot, saute onion, carrot and celery in olive oil until softened, about 5 min-

IT'S TIME TO SEND IN YOUR SANTA LETTERS!

tchsanta@gmail.com

Deadline to submit Santa Letters: Dec 8th, by 5 pm.

ALL SANTA LETTERS MUST BE EMAILED TO tchsanta@gmail.com

Letters will print in the Christmas Eve edition.

Trinity girls make impression in Macon with season-opening wins over FPD, St. George's

By JEREMY PAYNE
Correspondent

Fresh off a 19-win campaign and an appearance in the GIAA championship game, the Trinity Lady Crusaders are looking for even better results this season as they return four starters and nearly all of their offensive production.

They got off to a fast start this week with a pair of wins to open the season, defeating AAAA First Presbyterian Day 55-51 on Tuesday and following that up with an impressive 62-46 win over St. George's on Thursday.

Both games were played at FPD's Middlebrooks Athletic Center.

Tuesday's against perennial power FPD was back and forth throughout. Trinity led 12-10 after one quarter, but the Lady Vikings edged them in the second quarter for a narrow 22-21 advantage.

The Lady Crusaders came out of the locker room on fire, erupting for 21 third-quarter points. FPD managed just 12 and Trinity led 42-34 going to the fourth.

FPD fought back in the fourth to cut it to one possession several times. But Trinity was able to con-

vert from the charity stripe down the stretch to hold on for the 55-51 win.

Brinley Vinson, who entered the contest 23 points shy of 1000, came up just short of the mark, but led the way with 23. Maddy George added 19.

Morgan Ford led FPD with 14 and Bri Crosby added 10. The Lady Vikings converted just 14 of 30 shots from the line while Trinity went 9-for-14.

Thursday's contest was the first-ever meeting between Trinity and St. George's Episcopal, which also played in a state finals last

season in class A.

Trinity wasted no time getting going as Vinson scored her 1,000th point early in the opening quarter and the Lady Crusaders raced out to 19-6 lead after one.

SGES picked up the defense in the second quarter, holding Trinity to just six, and adding 12 of its own to cut the Crusader lead to 25-18 at the half.

Again, the Lady Crusaders exploded out of the locker room, outscoring St. George's 18-9 in the third to take a commanding 43-27 lead into the final period.

The fourth saw great offense

on both side as each team scored 19, but Trinity came away with a solid 16-point victory.

Vinson again led the way with 19. M.G. Alligood had 16 and George added 12. Trinity drained six 3-pointers in the contest and finished 12-of-16 from the foul line.

SGES' Jules Gotell led all scorers with 24 and Pressley Bunson added 12.

The Lady Crusaders will return to the court Tuesday, as Trinity's boys join to make their season debut at home against Stratford.

The legend of Flintwood... 40 years later, area HS coaches look back on little-known local sports hoax

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

ROCHELLE — The world of sports has its share of legendary hijinks, like George Plimpton's invention of flamethrowing Mets pitching prospect Sidd Finch in a Sports Illustrated cover story and a one-time New York City press conference to announce its acquisition and planned relocation of the Green Bay Packers.

There are a number of stories to be told — and hopefully laughs to be shared — about these good-natured pranks that the public, or media, fell for hook, line and sinker.

Coincidentally, both of the above happened to occur the same year — 1985 — as a much-lesser known sports spoof that originated in Middle Georgia four decades ago this fall.

The story originates with a group of area high school football coaches who — in the spirit of pranksters that filed bogus sports reports from the fictional Plainfield Teachers College in 1941 — pulled one over on the sports department of a Macon newspaper.

At least one of those involved — who we promised to keep nameless — is hesitant to admit his participation, for fear of being perceived as a troublemaker. Several others were plenty outspoken when reached for a few of their recollections, and some more good laughs about a story they retell with colleagues on at least an annual basis.

The statute of limitations on practical jokes, we hope, is less than 40 years. But, to rule out any persecution or scorn, they assure us that the following may or may

not have actually happened...

If you were to make up a private school, it'd be a good idea to name it something ending in either -wood, -gate or -field (as is true for what seems like a majority of Georgia's small-town independents) to make it sound as believable as possible.

The late John Milledge head coach Bob Peck, along with several on his staff who now represent branches of a coaching tree reaching across the area and state, imagined an archetypal South Georgia institution when they conceived of the completely imaginary Flintwood Academy somewhere in the midst of the Trojans' 6-0 run to open the '85 season.

The school, based in Wilcox County, attributed the first half of its name to the nearby Flint River, and carried a combination of red and yellow as its colors.

"I think the joke was they were like maroon and gold plaid," said Coach Peck's son Tyler, who was only two years old at the time of Flintwood's creation.

Its mascot, the Spartans, was merely the best-sounding of suggestions also including Lions, Tigers and Bears that were tossed around the room one day as the group killed time after a film session.

"We just love cutting up with each other as coaches like to do," said former JMA assistant Tommy Cain, who's now coaching in semi-retirement at Brentwood. "It was us four coaches sitting around the office."

This collection of tricksters, Peck in particular, was especially notorious for the running antics that were quite common within the "fraternity" of area high school

coaches at the time.

"They were always messing with each other, and they'd mess with the media, too," said mid-state journalism legend Ed Grisamore, a longtime Macon Telegraph staffer who now writes for the Macon Melody, a sister publication to The Courier Herald.

To fully understand their game of pretend, though, you have to go back in time to what most media types would look back on as a golden age in the industry, pre-dating social media, scoreboard apps or even the Friday-night football highlight shows that are now among the many ways fans can follow the local high school action.

In that era, unless you attended games or listened on the radio, the only way to find out what happened was to pick up the next morning's newspaper to read about them.

At the time, Middle Georgia's largest daily newspaper was the Telegraph. And it, like The Courier Herald and other community print outlets on a smaller scale, made a practice of gathering as much on area games as it could before evening deadlines to print as box scores and blurbs in the next edition.

But as was the case for most events not being covered by a dedicated reporter, the responsibility fell to coaches or other close followers of schools to call their game results into newsrooms where an army of folks would be working the phones and jotting down scores and short recaps all evening.

These JMA coaches faithfully made sure that the details on scores and scorers from their



SPARTAN PRIDE: A 40th anniversary T-shirt design commemorating the fictitious Flintwood Academy Spartans, invented by a group of John Milledge football coaches in 1985 as part of a successful prank whose story has developed a cult following, and continues to be celebrated by their friends and colleagues/SPECIAL PHOTO

weekly games were submitted each Friday night.

So they found it a bit bemusing when, over a few seasons leading up to 1985, those scores and results, upon a glance at the Saturday sports pages, were usually nowhere to be found.

"We had tried for what had seemed like forever in the previous years to call our scores in religiously after the game, win or lose," said the active area coach who requested to remain anonymous. "You'd have your stats, give them to them, and you'd get a little recap in there. But it never seemed like our stuff made it in there."

"We'd call our game in and get up Saturday morning and look in the paper, and no John Milledge," Cain said.

At some point during that '85 season, Coach Peck and those assistants — sensing some type of snub — cooked up a mischievous idea to poke a little fun in the other direction.

And the mythical Flintwood Academy was born.

"I don't know whether it was during film session or what, but one of the four people in the room said I bet we could make up a school, and we could get more coverage than we received as a legitimate school," the nameless coach said. "So we tried it one Friday night. This was also before Caller ID and all that stuff, so most folks weren't expecting somebody to play a practical joke on them. But as I've learned, we

FLINTWOOD
Continued on page 6

The career and charisma of Texas legend Darrell K. Royal...

There are new faces in the inner circle in almost every profession nowadays, including sports and country music. While I was never directly connected to the heyday of Darrell Royal and Willie Nelson and the sphere they created, I was fascinated by the down-home atmosphere they preferred and the headlines they made that enriched the lives of so many without either of them being driven by ego and greed.

You just couldn't be more downhome than the long-time Texas coach who was a deep and abiding aficionado of country music and a close friend of Willie's.

I first met Royal at the annual convention of the American Football Coaches Association in the late sixties. Bill Dooley, Vince Dooley's younger brother, played football at Mississippi State when Royal was the head coach in Starkville for two seasons, 1954 and 1955. He introduced me to Royal who later was generous with his time, analyzing Texas's victory over Joe Namath

and Alabama in 1965 for a book I was writing for the Orange Bowl's 50th anniversary.

It would be hard to imagine a coach who was a better fit for a college football community than Royal was for Austin. He coached fundamental football, which enabled him to win big in the old Southwest Conference.

He enjoyed golf and the outdoors and had such affection for country music that he engendered deep and abiding respect from the elite fraternity of country music superstars. Wille, Waylon and the boys, Larry Gatlin, Chis Kristofferson, Charlie Pride, and other country stars admired Royal and his success with the Longhorns as much as he did their concerts and their number one hits. There could not have been a greater mutual admiration society.

By the time Mack Brown became the head coach at Texas, I began making occasional trips to Austin and would always check Coach Royal's schedule to make



By LORAN SMITH

sure he was in town before booking a flight.

You couldn't enjoy a conversation with an iconic person that would be more fulfilling than one with Royal. His favorite breakfast place, Cisco's Restaurant, Bakery & Bar on East 6th Street, was an emporium of reminiscing, homespun philosophy, and unflappability.

As soon as the waiter took our order, a couple of railbirds gathered around and joined the conversation as if it were a fraternity and they were full-fledged members. It didn't frustrate or irritate the coach. He never

shooed them away. If there ever were a man who could walk with kings and not lose the common touch, it was Darrell K. Royal.

With Texas coming to town for a marquee SEC game with Georgia this weekend, I have spent my early morning coffee time reminiscing about those times Coach Royal and I talked on the phone or had breakfast at Cisco's Bakery.

Early in his career, Royal came under the influence of coaches who were schooled by Tennessee's great coach Robert Neyland. "I think General Neyland had more influence on the game

of football than any other coach that ever lived," he said during one of our breakfast meetings.

Coach Royal was enamored with the Neyland view that if you can't run off tackle, you can't win in football. You play defense, first and foremost. Further, you best underscore all phases of the kicking game if you want to win games and championships.

My files on Royal contain highlights of the Darrell Royal lifestyle and legacy, which leaves one with constant admiration for his ability to maintain success and leave an enduring legacy that will forever identify him as one of America's greatest college coaches.

Famous for his homespun humor, Royal once said of his All-America running back, James Saxton, "He could run faster than small town gossip." When he introduced Masters champion and Austin resident, Ben Crenshaw, to country singer Don Williams, Royal said of the singer, "He's straighter than six o'clock." In your

mind's eye, you conclude that is damn straight.

Perhaps Royal's best quote, one that reflects the humility with which he lived life, was, "There ain't ever been a horse that can't be rode, and there ain't ever been a man that can't be thrown."

When he beat his former coach, Bud Wilkinson, for the first time, it was hard on Royal emotionally. Naturally, he wanted to win the biggest game on the schedule, but he told a friend, "It just didn't seem right to beat Mr. Wilkinson." It was Royal who once said about his profession, "Climbing is a thrill, maintaining is a bitch."

His friendship with Arkansas coach Frank Broyles was the epitome of what coaching and competition ought to be. Fight it out on the field, but embrace warm friendship and fellowship afterwards. Broyles, a member at Augusta, often took his friend to play this

LORAN
Continued on page 6

FLINTWOOD

Continued from page 5

weren't the only ones that have done that through the years."

Grisamore, at the time, had recently stepped down from an editor position – in which he at first presided over the paper's prep sports coverage, and later the full sports department – in order to rejoin the rank-and-file of reporters and get back to his first love of writing.

While he doesn't recall this specific instance of misinformation coming to his attention, it was one of many efforts over the years by clever callers to sneak something by them during what was always a week-night frenzy.

"That was that generation's version of fake news," he said.

And covering at least 80 different high schools from 26 or more Middle Georgia counties, with results of games coming in just about all at once over a couple hours on Friday nights, made for a mad dash getting the sports section to print.

"People are always trying to mess with you," Grisamore said. "It was very easy in the heat of battle for some things to kind of slip through."

If you're going to pull a prank, you might as well put some work into it.

And this self-appointed committee went well out of its way to dream up a proper storyworld, and characters, to make this private school of make-believe seem legitimate.

Flintwood played in a league made up mostly of recently defunct Georgia private schools (like Gordon Ivey, One Way Christian, Beechwood, Pathway Christian and Ravenwood, its inaugural opponent) with a roster of players sharing the names of various people in their rolodex.

Somehow, they managed to pass off the scores and results from a previously unheard-of program as real upon calling in, separately, to submit the parody results along with their usual game report.

"Sure enough, after we did it the first time, we got up the next morning, there it is," Cain said. "Flintwood, and no John Milledge. That's how it all got started."

Their game continued the rest of the football season, and after a few weeks, began to take on a life of its own as a couple of the fictitious athletes quickly became Spartan legends.

Ricky Burgess, who in real life was an Albany-based sporting goods sales rep, and running back Dan Henry, whose name was shared with a well-known local football historian out of Sandersville, got some of the most weekly ink.

"Henry was an All-American high schooler," Cain said. "Nobody could stop him."

Plenty of others would

Flintwood..... 26

Southwood..... 21

WAYCROSS—Flintwood Academy improved its record to 4-0 Friday night as it defeated Southwood 26-21. Flintwood's Dan Henry rushed 101 yards and scored two touchdowns in the game. Southwood's record is now 2-2.

LOOK WHAT MADE THE PAPER! Clippings of the box scores and game recaps from fictional Flintwood Academy that were published in the Macon Telegraph during the football and basketball seasons of 1985. Top left: A Sept. 21 write-up has the Spartans adding to their unbeaten record. Right: A Dec. 4 dispatch recounting a Flintwood split against the real-life Bulloch Academy. Below: One of Flintwood's final game dispatches Dec. 21/SPECIAL PHOTOS

moonlight in the box scores, often names that would be recognizable only to certain others in their circles who they knew would be perusing the sports pages.

"I don't remember a lot of the other names, but I thought that was pretty creative from the coaches just using different guys that most of the coaches around Middle Georgia knew," said Edwin Cook, who became a faithful Flintwood fan after playing under Peck at John Hancock Academy.

Most of these knew to keep an eye out for something new and surprising that would be hidden between the lines of each week's box score.

"A lot of the coaches back then knew it, but they weren't in on it," Cain said. "They looked forward to looking for it, too. It just grew and grew and grew. It was just fun. I hope we didn't get anybody in trouble."

The scheme turned out to work so well, they carried it over into basketball season, in which the paper's game capsule format – listing out each of a team's scorers next to their point totals – presented some new creative opportunities.

While Flintwood's core of players remained the familiar football names, the opponents' came from a number of places. Eventually, coaches from other schools in the association would begin making cameo appearances in the write-ups.

"They would look ahead and see who was playing who so they could pick a team that wasn't on the schedule," Tyler Peck said. "That would be who Flintwood was playing, and I know that they would use like other coaches' names as the players. Coaches in the league would go buy the paper and see if their name was used."

The Spartans' girls basketball roster, in another wrinkle, was made up of re-spelled names of professional wrestlers, their lead-

Flintwood boys top Bulloch

STATESBORO — Flintwood and Bulloch split a pair of games Tuesday night in SEAIS action. Flintwood's boys kept Bulloch at bay with a 59-55 victory, while Bulloch's girls returned the favor with 40-36 win.

Ricky Burgess scored a game-high 21 points to lead Flintwood, which stayed undefeated with a 3-0 record. Flintwood's girls fell to 0-3, but Bobbie Slaughter put in 19 points to lead all scorers.

Girls
FLINTWOOD (34) — Slaughter 19, Lucy 2, Hodgman 10, Woodard 2, Miller 1, Collins 2.
BULLOCH (40) — Gay 14, Pinkston 10, Watson 10, Veal 2, Lewis 2, Hanson 2.
 Halftime — Bulloch 21-12.
Boys
FLINTWOOD (59) — Burgess 21, Baldwin 3, Stewart 4, Johnson 9, Fountain 11, Davis 10, Brinson 1.
BULLOCH (55) — Waites 6, Roller 12, Windham 15, Atkinson 11, Webb 7, Welch 3.
 Halftime — Flintwood 28-26.

Flintwood Tournament

ROCHELLE — Screven and Flintwood's boys and girls teams advanced to the championship games of the Flintwood Christmas Tournament with first-round victories Friday night.

In girls play Friday night, Screven beat Wilkes 41-35 and Flintwood beat One-Way 42-35. In boys games, Flintwood beat Wilkes 56-49 and Screven

beat One-Way 50-49. The championship games are scheduled for tonight.

Girls
SCREVEN (41) — Massey 16, Couch 9, Frazier 8, Pate 9, Wright 7.
WILKES (35) — McDonald 7, Summers 7, Ginn 13, Harper 3, Herrington 1, Lowe 4.
 Halftime — Screven 21-19.
FLINTWOOD (42) — Slaughter 17, Lucy 4, Hodgman 11, Woodard 1, Miller 3, Collins 2, Young 2.
ONE-WAY (32) — Perrin 6, Tucker 4, Black 11, Farmer 3, Lorrick 5, Eaton 1, Goode 2.
 Halftime — Flintwood 23-17.
Boys
FLINTWOOD (65) — Burgess 28, Baldwin 1, Henry 4, Stewart 7, Johnson 13, Fountain 5, Davis 9, Brinson 3.
WILKES (49) — Earlington 14, Brown 4, Evans 6, Green 10, Ford 4, Hunter 11.
 Halftime — Flintwood 38-25.
SCREVEN (50) — Johnson 11, Hammock 4, Jonnett 14, Lowe 8, Scoggins 7, Boyd 1, Pounds 2, Sudstill 2, Blomberg 1.
ONE-WAY (49) — Faulkner 12, Hodden 6, Lucas 4, Pittman 10, G. Smith 12, J. Smith 2, Dora 3.
 Halftime — Screven 27-26.

ing scorer Bobbie Slaughter taking after the well-known "Sgt. Slaughter."

They'd go even further, when reporting certain games, to have the listing of top scorers spell out a cryptic or humorous message that only those skimming over the lines of copy would be able to pick out.

"The football, it was mainly just the stats and all, but they got even more creative during basketball season, and they would get a story that was actually a headline story in the Macon Telegraph, then they would use that in the box score of the basketball games, and they would kind of repeat the story that was in the headlines," Cook said.

The stunt lasted through about Christmastime, but would ultimately run its course as the ruse became more and more challenging to keep going.

Soon enough, they were bound to overlook an issue of script continuity that would tip their hand, and that's what happened with a late-December report from Flintwood's holiday hoops tournament that incidentally included a team they didn't realize was playing in a different event on the same night. The duplicate score likely alerted the Telegraph to the scam, although recollections differ about whether a member of the group was ever directly informed they'd been found out, or that they only feared as much, and decided to stop on their own.

"Somebody's game got rescheduled and they didn't know, and apparently they used a team that had already played or something. They said, 'We've already got a score for them,'" Tyler Peck said. "They realized what happened, and they basically said, don't call in a Flintwood score again."

Though that was the end of its run in the papers, the school's folklore has lived on for 40 more years as an inside joke among members of that JMA staff, as well as their colleagues and assis-

tants who continue to re-tell the tale.

"It definitely became a legendary story amongst GISA coaches," Cook said.

In fact, you'll probably hear more about it from people who were never directly involved, but keep the tradition alive by, every few years, writing out social media posts in the form of those old game dispatches.

And it would so happen that Flintwood's football squad hasn't lost a game since that 1985 season.

"It's cool that after 40 years, people are still talking about it," Tyler Peck said.

They also went so far as to print up some pieces of Flintwood Spartans memorabilia that have circulated amongst the large community of folks who can now say "IYKYK."

"Some of the folks that I see on that chain of text messages, they weren't even coaching when it came up, and they were buying T-shirts and stuff, so it's kind of become cult fiction," the unnamed coach said.

To what extent did the Telegraph actually catch onto the hoax?

It's unclear, given that most of its sports staff has long since moved onto other things. And the coaches, for their part, never got around to letting anyone on the paper's end in on the joke.

"I'm sure they had to catch wind of it at some point," Cook said.

There's a good chance, Grisamore confirms, that the spurious information would have been a simple oversight for one of the part-timers, mostly local high-schoolers, they had on hand to take the reports.

In fairness, it was also much more difficult in 1985 to verify many facts that are now a Google search away from being confirmed, or debunked. And even to this day, it would also probably surprise you how many tiny private schools exist in certain places that you've never heard of until a local sports

team happens to schedule them.

For even the most experienced and scrupulous editor, on that short timetable, it was quite easy to get duped.

"You have a window of time where everything's just kind of flying around, it's like being in battle," Grisamore said. "The phone's ringing constantly, and you're handling a lot of stuff in an hour and a half to two-hour time period. It's just the bullets are flying on deadline. I can remember sending stuff down last minute and barely reading it at all. You just have to kind of trust that whoever typed this up got it right, and they didn't always do that."

Each of the coaches who were involved have long since moved on from that younger, rebellious side that, now, probably seems a good bit out of character, especially for those who have gone on to become respected head coaches and administrators that aren't at all known for stirring the pot.

"I don't know that I would say I'm proud of it," the anonymous coach said. "But it was fun."

The adventure, reminding a lot of those youthful, carefree days in coaching, is one they mostly relive on the rare opportunities that come along to catch up and share a few good laughs over what, if it were more widely

SCOREBOARD

GIRLS HOOPS
 Thursday
 Trinity 62, St. George's 46

PREP SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL
Friday
GHSAA Playoffs, Round 1
 Jenkins Co. at Wilkinson Co.
 McIntosh Co. Academy at Johnson Co./7 p.m.
 Beach at West Laurens
 East Laurens at Heard Co.
 Washington Co. at Dublin
 Dodge Co. at Rabun Co.
 Jeff Davis at Bleckley Co.
 Manchester at Wheeler Co.
 Treutlen at Mt. Zion
 (Carrollton)/7:30 p.m.

GIAA Semifinals
 Briarwood at Brentwood
 /7:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL
Tuesday
 Stratford at Trinity/6 p.m.
 Dublin (girls) at Burke Co.
 /6:30 p.m.

Thursday
 Trinity vs. CCA
 (at Fullington, boys early)
 /5 p.m.
 West Laurens at Claxton
 (scrimmage)/6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 21
 Trinity vs. Frederica
 (at Fullington)/6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22
 WL (girls) at Vidalia/5 p.m.
 WL vs. Toombs Co.
 (at Jeff Davis)/11:30 a.m.

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

publicized, might rival many of history's great sports careers.

"Every now and then, somebody'll post on Saturday mornings as kind of a coaches thing we've got going on," Cain said. "Flintwood defeated so and so. We make up stats and everything, and everybody just loves it. Flintwood still lives today... in infamy."

ONLINE AUCTION

258Acres in Laurens County
 Offered Individually or Combinations

Planted Pines, Recreation/Timber Property and Creeks Frontage on Hall Road and St. Mark Road

- Lot 1 - 70 Acres with 58 Acres Planted Loblolly
- Lot 2 - 70 Acres with 52 Acres Planted Loblolly
- Lot 3 - 74 Acres with 54 Acres Planted Loblolly
- Lot 4 - 44 Acres with 30 Acres Planted Loblolly

ONLINE BIDDING

OPENS: Mon., November 24th @ 9:00 A.M.
 BEGINS CLOSING: Tues, Nov 25th @ 1:00 P.M.

See Website for Complete Terms of the Auction

HudsonMarshall.com
800-841-9400

LORAN

Continued from page 5

famous course. They would frequently play 36 holes, a reflection on how much they enjoyed the game.

Broyles once told me, "Darrell and I truly loved the game. We were not scratch golfers, but our wives were scratch shoppers."

The late Spike Dikes, who became the head coach at Texas Tech, after spending time with Darrell at Texas as an assistant coach came to Athens to speak once and stayed at my address. We were having a beer on my back porch and Spike had this to say about Royal. "He absolutely had no ego, but you never had a problem figuring out who was the head coach. His relationship with Emory Bellard was a fine example of who he really was. He gave Emory credit for the wishbone, always saying, 'That's Emory's deal.'"

In 2010, the AFCA honored Royal at its annual convention, but he was not up for making the trip to Orlando to be honored. I put together some thoughts that were published in several papers. A few friends

sent him clippings. This prompted a call from him to say thank you.

I was out and he left word on my telephone recorder, which I regrettably did not save, but I have always thought about the fact

that I was the beneficiary of a rare tip of the cap.

Most coaches never have a kind word for a columnist. They only comment when you write something they don't like.

| NOTICE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| The Laurens County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Commissioner's Office on November 18, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CURRENT 2025 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | O | U | N | T | Y | W | I | D | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | County Wide | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| A | R | E | A | L | L | U | E | Real & Personal | 1,535,732,451 | 1,574,002,282 | 1,774,929,768 | 1,843,385,423 | 2,120,244,642 | 2,362,448,058 |
| | | | | | | | | Motor Vehicles | 26,905,230 | 21,458,360 | 19,655,540 | 19,426,420 | 18,855,570 | 17,196,250 |
| | | | | | | | | Mobile Homes | 14,275,790 | 14,646,206 | 16,989,136 | 18,285,915 | 18,226,540 | 20,575,589 |
| | | | | | | | | Timber - 100% | 16,454,078 | 24,539,868 | 20,968,606 | 28,389,387 | 14,002,434 | 17,558,079 |
| | | | | | | | | Heavy Duty Equipment | 4,648,080 | 1,800,992 | 1,674,948 | 7,427,228 | 2,332,313 | 2,937,627 |
| | | | | | | | | Gross Digest | 1,598,015,629 | 1,636,447,708 | 1,834,217,998 | 1,916,914,373 | 2,173,661,499 | 2,420,715,603 |
| | | | | | | | | Less Exemptions | 195,604,402 | 205,608,399 | 260,573,452 | 281,738,252 | 251,229,924 | 346,831,740 |
| | | | | | | | | NET DIGEST VALUE | 1,402,411,227 | 1,430,839,309 | 1,573,644,546 | 1,635,176,121 | 1,922,431,575 | 2,073,883,863 |
| | | | | | | | | Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage | 10.8310 | 10.8970 | 10.5440 | 10.7360 | 9.3460 | 9.0620 |
| | | | | | | | | Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax) | 3.6620 | 3.7400 | 3.7900 | 4.0380 | 3.6020 | 3.5640 |
| NET M&O MILLAGE RATE | 7.1690 | 7.1570 | 6.7540 | 6.6980 | 5.7440 | 5.4980 | | | | | | | | |
| A | R | E | T | A | X | E | S | TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED | \$10,053,886 | \$10,240,517 | \$10,628,395 | \$10,952,410 | \$11,042,447 | \$11,402,213 |
| | | | | | | | | Net Tax \$ Increase | | \$186,631 | \$387,878 | \$324,014 | \$90,037 | \$359,767 |
| | | | | | | | | Net Tax % Increase | | 1.86% | 3.79% | 3.05% | 0.82% | 3.26% |

Classifieds

Miscellaneous For Sale

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

Yard/Estate Sales

Huge Estate Sale – House is filled with furniture, including patio set, washer, dryer, Xmas, Nell Smalley painting, Tom Patterson books, lots of smalls, tools, yard art, jewelry, etc. Cardinal Drive off of Claxton Dairy, Sat. 11/15 9 AM, Sun. 1 PM. Southern Estate Sales

Storage Unit Sale – at Curry Storage. Units G& G9. Thurs, Fri, & Sat. 8a - Until.

Legals

Legals

**25-509
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY**

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from JOHN B. GETTYS, SR. and TONYA D. GETTYS to J. WYATT AND ASSOCIATES, dated December 18, 1995, recorded December 22, 1995, in Deed Book 00836, Page 0052, Laurens County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of Fifty-Six Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$56,000.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Series 2019-3, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Laurens County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the **first Tuesday in December, 2025**, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING ALL OF LOT 70 AND THE WESTERNMOST 50 FEET OF LOT 69 OF GREEN ACRES SUBDIVISION EXTENSION IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN, LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING BOUNDED NOW OR FORMERLY AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTHEAST BY THE REMAINING PORTION OF LOT 69 IN SAID SUBDIVISION; ON THE SOUTHEAST BY LOT 175 AND LOT 72 OF SAID SUBDIVISION; ON THE SOUTHWEST BY LOT 71 AND LOT 72 OF SAID SUBDIVISION; AND ON THE NORTHWEST BY THE SOUTHEASTERN MARGIN OF GREENWOOD DRIVE. SAID LAND IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY MARVIN D. CLEMENTS, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 1991, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 630, PAGE 266, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF ARE BY REFERENCE INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF. THIS IS THE SAME LAND AS DESCRIBED IN THE SURVIVORSHIP WARRANTY DEED FROM JOHN B. GETTYS, ALSO KNOWN AS JOHN B. GETTYS, SR., TO JOHN B. GETTYS AND TONYA D. GETTYS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 630, PAGE 269, IN SAID CLERK'S OFFICE.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as **508 GREENWOOD DRIVE, DUBLIN, GA 31021**.

The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable); the right of redemption of any taxing authority; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is JOHN B. GETTYS, SR., TONYA D. GETTYS, or tenants(s).

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., Loss Mitigation Dept., 3217 S. Decker Lake Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84119, Telephone Number: 888-818-6032. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FREDDIE MAC SEASONED LOANS STRUCTURED TRANSACTION TRUST, SERIES 2019-3 as Attorney in Fact for JOHN B. GETTYS, SR., TONYA D. GETTYS

THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Attorney Contact: Ruben Lublin, LLC
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
Telephone Number: (877) 813-0992
Case No. SPS-22-02253-10
Ad Run Dates 11/08/2025, 11/15/2025, 11/22/2025, 11/29/2025

rlselaw.com/property-listing
November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025

**25-524
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DONALD HUGH FOUNTAIN, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25-248
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE**

To: EULITA KAY FOUNTAIN and to whom it may concern: MARCUS FOUNTAIN AND SARAH BAGGETT has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the Estate of DONALD HUGH FOUNTAIN, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before DECEMBER 1, 2025. **Be Notified Further:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court PO Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-516
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

Georgia, Laurens County

All creditors of the Estate of Mary Bivins, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render in writing their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 15th day of October, 2025. Sarah Johnson, Administrator of the Estate of Mary Bivins, deceased c/o J. Jackson Dixon Smith Dixon Law Group, LLC 205 N. Franklin Street Dublin, GA 31021

October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 2025

**25-528
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DORETHA DAVIS, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25-253
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE**

TO: ROBIN DAVIS AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN KIMBERLY SINKFIELD has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of DORETHA DAVIS, deceased, of Laurens County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. Section 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before December 1, 2025. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court PO Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-534
Notice to Debtors and Creditors**

All creditors of the Estate of Patricia S. Cochran late of Laurens County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 15th day of November, 2025. Name: Joshua Buffa, Esq. Title: Attorney for Executors Address: 1100 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 690, Atlanta, GA 30309

November 15, 22, 29, December 6, 2025

**25-531
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF LAURENS
NOTICE OF SALE**

Under and by virtue of the Consent Summary Final Judgment in the civil action First Federal Bank v. SME Dublin LLC, Mathis Family Holdings, LLC, Smisson Energy, LLC, Dawn Smisson Lipfert, Dr. Hugh F. Smisson, Smisson Mathis Energy, LLC, and Franklin Mathis, Civil Action No. 23-CG-0486-JG, in the Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia, as well as the power of sale contained in that certain Deed to Secure Debt from SME-Dublin LLC, to First Federal Bank dated July 15, 2019, filed for record July 23, 2019, and recorded in Deed Book 2974, at Page 56, Laurens County, Georgia Records, said Deed to Secure Debt having been given to secure a Note dated July 15, 2019, in the original principal sum of Five Million Dollars and 00/100 (\$5,000,000.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the usual place for conducting Sheriff's sales in Laurens County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on December 2, 2025, the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan, and pursuant to the aforementioned Consent Summary Final Judgment. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees.

The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: First Federal Bank. Please understand that the secured creditor is not required to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument. Said property will be sold "as-is" without any representation, warranty, or recourse against the above-named creditor or the undersigned, and subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes and/or assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and other matters of records, if any, having priority over this Deed to Secure Debt. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is SME-Dublin LLC, and/or tenant(s).

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Deed to Secure Debt. First Federal Bank, as Attorney-in-Fact for SME-Dublin LLC

Plaintiff's Attorney Contact: C. Brent Wardrop Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. 365 Northridge Rd, Suite 230 Atlanta, GA 30350 Email: brent.wardrop@qpwbllaw.com

**EXHIBIT "A"
Legal Description**

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 52nd G.M. District of Laurens County, Georgia, containing 5 acres, more or less, and being that five acre tract of land shown on that plat of survey prepared by Thompson Land Surveyors, Inc., dated March 11, 2008, and recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 379, Laurens County Records. Said plat of survey is incorporated into this description by reference and reference is made thereto for a more accurate description of the property. This property is known under the current 911 addresses for Laurens County, Georgia, as 330 Dewey Warnock Road, East Dublin, Georgia, 31027.

Said property is better identified as Map 201, Parcel 044-A by the Laurens County Tax Assessors

This being the same and identical property conveyed from IMOR PROPERTIES, LLC to SME-DUBLIN LLC by deed dated August 24, 2018, recorded in Deed Book 2896, Page 273 of the records of the Clerk of Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia.

Subject Property Address: 330 Dewey Warnock Road East Dublin, GA 31027

Parcel ID: 201 044 A
November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025

**25-515
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF BOBBIE LEANN BLIZZARD, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25-238
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE**

To whom it may concern: Hailey Blizzard has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of Bobbie Leann Blizzard deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in OCGA 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before December 1, 2025. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court PO Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-537
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

Georgia, Laurens County
All creditors of the Estate of Dennis T. Lau, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all person indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 6th day of November, 2025. Deeanne Lau Casey, Executrix of the Estate of Dennis T. Lau, deceased c/o J. Jackson Dixon Smith Dixon Law Group, LLC 205 N. Franklin Street Dublin, GA 31021

November 15, 22, 29, December 6, 2025

**25-522
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: OSCAR LAMAR RODRIGUEZ CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 25-CD-0858-WT
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

GEORGIA, Laurens County
Notice is hereby given that Oscar Lamar Rodriguez, the undersigned, filed his petition to the Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia on the 21st day of October, 2025, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from OSCAR LAMAR RODRIGUEZ to CALEB LAMAR RODRIGUEZ. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested of affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition. This 21st day of October, 2025. /s/ Oscar Lamar Rodriguez

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-535
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
In Re: Sherry Lewis Watkins
Civil Action File No. 25-CD-0892-WT
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

GEORGIA, Laurens County

Notice is hereby given that SHERRY LEWIS WATKINS, the undersigned, filed a petition to the Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia on the 25 day of September, 2025 praying for a change in the name of petitioner from SHERRY LEWIS WATKINS to SHERRY ANN LEWIS. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition. This 25th day of September, 2025. /s/ Sherry Lewis Watkins Filed in office the 7th day of November, 2025. Rhonda Spires, Deputy Clerk

November 15, 22, 27, December 6, 2025

**25-510
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF PAUL DEWAYNE HOBBS, SR., DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25-232
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE**

TO: Whom It May Concern: PAUL DEWAYNE HOBBS, JR. has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of PAUL DEWAYNE HOBBS, SR. deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in OCGA section 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: Clerk of the Probate Court PO Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-532
NOTICE OF SALE**

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia, Annotates Section 10-4-210, et. Seq., there will be a public sale at the location listed below, the proceeds of said sale will be used first to satisfy the storage fee and other expenses of this auction. Any other proceeds will be used to satisfy such creditors as present their claims in advance of sale. The sale will be held as follows:

Occupant:
C37 Corniya Abrams
c20 Brittany Batts
a49 Andre Manning
a11 Jordana Nelson
b29 Greg Smith
B45 Keshia Willis
B43 Jordan Jackson
b41 Raven Whitfield
c47 Deborah Woodfork

Name and address of storage facility: ORR SELF STORAGE 1705 CLAXTON DAIRY ROAD DUBLIN GA 31021

Time and date of sale: Tuesday, November 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Place of sale: ORR SELF STORAGE 1705 CLAXTON DAIRY ROAD DUBLIN GA 31021

Manner of sale: November 8, 15, 2025

**25-529
State of Georgia
County of Laurens.
Notice to Debtors and Creditors**

All creditors of the Estate of George Addison Hogan, late of Laurens County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law; and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me. This 29th day of October, 2025. Estate of George Addison Hogan Lucy Gwen Cramer, Executor 93704 Newmarket Lane Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 Margaret Greer Evans Attorney at Law State Bar No. 488189 478-272-2885

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-516
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**

GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from JOHN EPPS, SR. to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC. AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR URBAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC., dated September 26, 2011, recorded October 19, 2011, in Deed Book 2296, Page 254, Laurens County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of Sixty-One Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$61,500.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GV Trust 2025-1, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Laurens County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the **first Tuesday in December, 2025**, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE FIRST LAND DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN, LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: 0.33 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN BY A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY BILLY FLANDERS, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, DATED OCTOBER 19, 1995, AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 826, PAGE 91, IN THE RECORDS OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE LAURENS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT. THE ANGLES, DISTANCES, AND DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN BY SAID PLAT ARE INCORPORATED IN THIS DESCRIPTION BY REFERENCE THERETO. A ONE-STORY FRAME DWELLING IS LOCATED ON THE PROPERTY WHICH IS FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS LOT 7, BLOCK "B", HILLCREST SUBDIVISION.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as **109 HILLCREST DR, DUBLIN, GA 31021**.

The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable); the right of redemption of any taxing authority; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is JOHN EPPS, SR., ESTATE AND/OR HEIRS-AT-LAW OF JOHN EPPS SR., or tenants(s).

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: GITSIT Solutions, LLC f/k/a Kondaur Capital, LLC, Loss Mitigation Dept., 333 South Anita Drive Suite 400, Orange, CA 92868, Telephone Number: 888-566-3287. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

GITSIT SOLUTIONS, LLC, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS SEPARATE TRUSTEE OF GV TRUST 2025-1

as Attorney in Fact for JOHN EPPS, SR.

THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Attorney Contact: Ruben Lublin, LLC
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
Telephone Number: (877) 813-0992
Case No. KCP-25-04520-1
Ad Run Dates 11/08/2025, 11/15/2025, 11/22/2025, 11/29/2025

rlselaw.com/property-listing
November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025

**25-525
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF OSSIE LEE WRIGHT, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25-247
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE**

To: whom it may concern: WESLEY KELSON WRIGHT has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the Estate of OSSIE LEE WRIGHT, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court PO Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-526
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF JUNE DELORES WRIGHT, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25-246
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE**

To: whom it may concern: WELSEY KELSON WRIGHT has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the Estate of JUNE DELORES WRIGHT, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before DECEMBER 1, 2025. **Be Notified Further:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court PO Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-526
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF JUNE DELORES WRIGHT, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25-246
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE**

To: whom it may concern: WELSEY KELSON WRIGHT has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the Estate of JUNE DELORES WRIGHT, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before DECEMBER 1, 2025. **Be Notified Further:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing. Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court PO Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

**25-533
Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice Storage Max - Kellam located at 707 Kellam Rd Dublin GA 31021 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale to the highest bidder will occur at the facility on 12/5/2025 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Michael Oneal unit #GS06; Sherry Peavy unit #GT06. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

November 15, 2025

**25-514
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA
LAURENS COUNTY
WHEREAS, Tisha McDonald, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, Lender which was dated 7/22/2016, and recorded on 7/22/2016, in Instrument No.: Deed Book 2712, Page 232, securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$81,645.00 in Laurens County, Georgia Register of Deeds.**

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 1/6/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash Before the Courthouse door of the Laurens County Courthouse, 101 N Jefferson Street, Duplin, Georgia 31040 of Laurens, the following described property situated in Laurens County, Georgia, to wit: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN, LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 3 OF A REARRANGEMENT OF BLOCK "C" OF GARDENDALE ESTATES SUBDIVISION AND FORMERLY PARTS OF LOTS 2 AND 3 OF BLOCK "C" OF SAID SUBDIVISION BEING RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 184, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF LAURENS SUPERIOR COURT. THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIB

Pursuant to the official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 10-4-210 there will be a public sale at Little House Self Storage, 1854 Marion Street Dublin, on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 beginning at 10:00 A.M. The proceeds of said sale will be used first to satisfy the storage fee and expenses of the auction. Any other proceeds will be used to satisfy such creditors as present their claims in advance of sale.

#257 Jessica Vickers
#297 Tishanda Lewis
#71 ConstaneBlash

November 15, 22, 2025

25-520
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: LOSEN WATERS
CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 25-CD-0826-WT
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that Losen Waters, the undersigned, filed his petition to the Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia on the 17th day of October, 2025, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Losen Waters to Lawson Waters. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition. This 17th day of October, 2025.

/s/ Losen Waters
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

25-521
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF LAURENS
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID STATE AND COUNTY
IN RE: ESTATE OF BUNNIE NANNETTE DOMINY
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the Estate of Bunnie Nannette Dominy deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me. This 27th day of October, 2025.

Emily F. Kight
Attorney for the Estate of
Bunnie Nannette Dominy
Kight Law, LLC
P.O. Box 2056
Dublin, GA 31040

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025

25-512
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF LAURENS
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated September 26, 2023, from Charlene Fry and Mark Fry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, recorded on December 11, 2023 in Deed Book 3439 at Page 71 Laurens County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated September 26, 2023, in the amount of \$143,010.00, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Laurens County, Georgia, on December 2, 2025 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN, LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA AND BEING PART OF LOT 10, CITY BLOCK 27, CITY OF DUBLIN AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN ON THE WEST SIDE OF NORTH DECATUR STREET AND RUNNING FROM SAID BEGINNING POINT IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION A DISTANCE OF 134 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, THENCE TURNING AND RUNNING IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION 708 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, THENCE TURNING AND RUNNING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION A DISTANCE OF 140 FEET TO AN IRON PIN LOCATED ON THE WESTERN MARGIN OF SAID NORTH DECATUR STREET AND THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE WESTERN MARGIN OF NORTH DECATUR STREET A DISTANCE OF 73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PROPERTY IS IMPROVED BY A ONE STORY FAMILY DWELLING KNOWN AS 210 DECATUR STREET. THIS IS THE SAME PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY JACK C. BRANTLEY, LS, DATED MAY 12, 1962 AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 203, PAGE 165 OFFICE OF CLERK, LAURENS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT IS BY REFERENCE INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

SAID PROPERTY IS BOUNDED NOW OR FORMERLY ON THE NORTHEAST BY THE SOUTHWESTERN RIGHT-OF-WAY OF NORTH DECATUR STREET, ON THE SOUTHEAST BY LANDS OF ALONZO EDWARDS ET AL, ON THE SOUTHWEST BY LANDS OF ANTHONY EDWARDS AND SHARON BLACKWELL AD ON THE NORTHWEST BY THE SOUTHEASTERN RIGHT-OF-WAY OF EAST COLUMBIAN STREET.

SUBJECT TO EXISTING EASEMENTS FOR PUBLIC ROADS AND UTILITIES.

The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note and has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is/are Charlene Fry and Mark Fry. The property, being commonly known as 210 N Decatur St, Dublin, GA, 31021 in Laurens County, will be sold as the property of Charlene Fry and Mark Fry, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed.



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

Why can't Dublin be okay cutting back to one school per level and just do that well. Why you trying to be something you aren't and over spending? Be humble and get back to basics.

I want to respond to Mr. Kenny Walters' comments in the paper about property tax and grant money, It's my understanding is they were using the grant money where it wasn't supposed to be used. They shouldn't rely on tax money and grant money all the time. They got themselves in this mess, let them dig themselves out on their own.

Dublin City needs to just admit they didn't have the money for all these flashy programs, that they over spent, that the board was clueless financially and that they were wrong.

I hope the Nov 20th DCS board meeting is packed! Let's stand up to this board and for our rights as tax payers.

Everyone better show up on Nov 20th. I wish they would all resign that night and we can have a special election. Don't let this board bully us once again.

No more taxes until changes are made! I don't trust the same board to do what is right. They still won't make all the needed cuts. Scared to cut the IGA that they couldn't afford in the first place.

The taxpaying citizens should try to get the GBI to investigate the Dublin City School Board, especially about the ones who said they were going to bring

the GBI in themselves.

Way to go Dublin. Give the Dublin City School more money as they raise taxes again. Maybe they can lose another \$13 million. If you're lucky maybe you'll get another tax hike next year.

Please bring back Steak N Shake. Culver's would be okay also. Please someone bring us a Huey Magoo's.

Why does WLHS need multi purpose athletic facility? Continue giving EL seconds. You need to redesign the parking at ELHS athletic complex. Multiple sports on same day and nowhere to park.

LCBOE will build a school at EL to replace one build in 1971. ELMS is a lot older than that. I went to first grade there and I'm over 60. Parents on the Eastside pay taxes too. EL deserves new schools. *Editor's note: ELMS is now housed at the former ELHS.*

Trying to keep IGA is costing Dublin tax paying citizens again. Dublin board needs to reevaluate the eliminating the program. Do what's best for Dublin, not what best suits a selected few.

LCBOE board members are a joke. They want ESPLOST to continue to pay off loans. What are we teaching our children? Don't borrow from tomorrow because, you don't know what it holds.

When will Kenny Walters understand his story? In his words, everybody is to blame for the

board increase. Yet, they signed the financial reports that went to the state that they had a deficit. Kenny said they were told they had no deficit. The reason for this is that the board and Fred did not do their jobs.

We really need to generate more news in this town so the newspaper has something to print besides the words of Stacey Abrams. I don't think most of us are interested in the word she has to say.

The Dublin City taxpayers in Dublin, Ga., is really upset because of the tax increase this year with everyone in the Dublin City Schools throwing money away. Where is Chad McDaniel? We'd like to hear from him.

One of the board members back some time ago was quoted as saying, "it was just noise, that's all it was." Well it wasn't just noise. It was the taxpayers expressing their opinion about the Dublin City Schools and the Dublin City Board. This time, I do not think it will pass over. Everybody wants someone to be held accountable. Somebody needs to be charged.

Stacey Abrams said in her column on Nov. 6 that the secretary of state targeted the very people whose participation has expanded our nation's pluralistic democracy. I was curious on more information from that statement she made. She also said, "Voter purges work by labeling registrations, "inactive," sending confusing mail." I'd like to have a definition of how the mail was confusing and can-

celing voters who don't respond in time. I thought that the voting in Georgia was for Georgia residents and you have to vote in the area that you live in. I'm curious why it would still be effective if they had moved.

We often hear from both schools that we should pass ESPLOST so that property taxes won't have to be raised. We are the fools. We passed ESPLOST and both system raised (taxes).

I would like to say that now that the paper isn't undated with disgruntle citizens about the Dublin City School dilemma, maybe the governor and the state should revamp the Georgia school systems totally.

I love the Visit Dublin videos but aren't they missing what most visitors see. The I-16 corridor has many businesses thriving in Dublin. Other cultures visit and live here too. Why not show all?

Oh look! The ridiculous median down town has already caused a car accident and everyone still jay walks. Just saw folks jay walk 10 feet from the crosswalk rather than use it. What a waste of money.

People, let the hate go. Where is the love? A better future is what races should strive for and let the hatred go. The snobiness and the feeling of that's their problem and not ours is taboo.

Now we are seeing more posts about Susie Dasher and Hillcrest - when for years they were ignored in favor of IGA. Close IGA and focus on all kids.

Is IGA even legal? It's basically a segregated population, only a hand full are actually gifted, and it is pulling money from general fund. And it isn't doing anything that special.

What happened to the solar street lights on South Jefferson Street in the area of the Dublin Police station? Thought they were supposed to be the next best thing to sliced bread and now they are gone!

May not be important but this is my theory of the missing money. I don't think anyone has taken it. I think it was used trying to keep all those different programs that Dr. Williams started up. IGA, free day care, hiring family members and giving them high salaries and the same with coach Holmes' family. There just wasn't enough money for all that and keep a school system working. It's so sad. So many people hurt. So many good people have lost their jobs. And not following guidelines for the state. How was that supposed to be over looked? Dublin City School System will never be the same as it was. And that is a terrible shame.

IGA wants to so badly to be the Ron Clark Academy. Ron Clark brought in inner city Atlanta students ...IGA brings in county rich kids. There is a major difference in these two programs.

Folks are already getting into the Christmas spirit decorating with spectacular lights in Dublin! People that decorate are trying to give joy to others, and they're just plain ol' good people.

Just reading the paper where Mr. Kenny Walters blames the city council, Laurens County commissioners and even the development authority for the recent teacher layoffs. Instead of pointing fingers and the county and the other places, they didn't work out there. It was them and they need to clean it up. Stop blaming other people!

FROM THE RECORD

Complaint for divorce: Tricneshey Munoz v. Hector Munoz; Erin Stokley v. Cai N. Stockley; David Underwood v. Morgan Underwood

Divorce: Heather Johnson Brooks v. Travis Dean Brooks; Thomas Edmond v. Martha Edmond; Rickey Nelson Evans v. Anna Clements

Petition for name change: In re: Sherry Watkins

Petition for review: Eric S. Zorn as Trustee of Wal-mart v. Laurens County Board of Tax Assessors

Affidavit of continuing garnishment: OneMain Financial v. James

McCorkle & Ryland Environmental Inc.

Complaint on contract: OneMain Financial Group v. Heather Gibson

Complaint on breach of contract: Credit Acceptance Corporation v. Jo Ann Denson

Automobile tort: Harold Ezelle v. Auto-Owners Insurance Company & Rosalez Sandoval

Real property: The Cincinnati Ins. Co a/s/o Jimmy Coleman v. Bethany Davis

Declaratory Judgment & Damages: Chelsea Taylor v. Dublin City School District & Dublin

City BOE

Complaint - child support: Ga DHS ex rel Khyrie Mekhi Green v. Lindsey O'Neal; Ga DHS ex rel Dallas Williams v. Dominique S. Williams; Ga DHS ex rel Ryleigh Syncere Coney v. Tiquavious Coney; Ga DHS ex rel Braxton Mimbs v. Christopher H. Mimbs; Ga DHS ex rel Dace Symonette

Contempt - child support: Ga DHS ex rel Jonathan Eck v. Kyle Eck

Liens: Theodore Hale to LVNV Funding LLC; Tisha McDonald to LVNV Funding LLC; Jill Smith to Absolute Resolutions Investments LLC; Froncine Brantley to LVNV Fund-

ing LLC; Jojo Darkcloud to JP Morgan Chase Bank NA; Suzanne Alyssa Ellis to Fairview Park Hospital; Jamal Orlanda Dixon to Fairview Park Hospital; Emilio Medina to Fairview Park Hospital; Jakota Ayanna Allen to Fairview Park Hospital; Gussie Edmond to Fairview Park Hospital; Nikko Minnefield to Calvary SPV I LLC; Jeffrey Gore to Capital One Bank; Emory McMillan Jr. to Salander Enterprises LLC; Pamela Middlebrooks to Axiom Acquisition Ventures LLC

Correction - Notice of commencement: Pope Construction Co. Inc./Pope Group, Roche Farm & Garden Fertilizer Plant to Pope Group, Roche Farm & Garden Fertilizer

NEWS DIGEST

The Laurens County Board of Commissioners will meet at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 18. The agenda follows:
- Call to order
- Invocation
- Approve meeting minutes for Nov. 4
- Discussion/approval of the 2025 millage rate
- Discussion/approval of the delivery method for the senior center CDBG renovation project
- Discussion/approval of

EMS rates
- Discussion/approval of YKK memorandum of understanding
- Discussion/approval of the replacement of jail fire alarm
- Discussion/approval of

to surplus old radio equipment
- Discussion/approval existing alcohol
- Other business
- Citizens comments
- Adjourn

RELIGION DIGEST

Howard Chapel UMC, located at 508 South Washington Street, will host a Community Health Fair, Saturday, Nov. 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme for this event is, "A Harvest of Healthy Living." Please come out and learn about more healthy life options and alternatives to better managing your body's response to improving on a "healthier" life style.

Sonny D. Wilkes Min-

istries presents Community Service about "Rap-ture Ready (R&R), "Whose Trumpet is That?" and "What's Going on in that Graveyard" at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15 at City on a Hill , 2778 Ga. Highway 257.

The Sandy Ford Missionary Baptist Church, 2614 Highway 80 West, will be celebrating its 152nd church anniversary on Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. Rev. Carl An-

thony Wardlaw of the Green Grove Baptist Church will be the guest speaker.

Free Vision Deliverance Outreach Ministry, 540 Charles W. Manning Sr. Way, will hold their annual Leadership Impartation service at 7 p.m. on Nov. 21. The guest speaker will be Chief Apostle Curtis Carswell from New Generation Worldwide Ministries. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Rose Hill Baptist Church will be sponsoring a youth rally for Christ at noon on Nov. 23. Everyone is invited.

Religion Digest is for special services and events at our local churches. Please send in announcements to tchnewsreporter@gmail.com by 9 a.m. every Thursday to appear in the upcoming Saturday edition of The Courier Herald.



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

EX-HUSBAND'S TREATMENT OF SON BREAKS MOTHER'S HEART

DEAR ABBY: My ex, "Hank," and I have two sons together. Both are smart, kind, college-educated, hardworking and independent young adults. Hank is estranged from our younger son, "Andrew." Andrew could never live up to his father's expectations. This is one of the reasons I fell out of love with my husband. He would initiate a verbal confrontation with Andrew and say things like, "You are not my son." Later, he'd clarify that he meant Andrew doesn't ACT like his older brother does. Another example: "You didn't call me last week, so I'm not going to help you out today."

It has been painful to watch as a mom, and for a child to experience. The one blessing is that both boys love each other. I believe children should know they are loved by their parents. They should NOT have to continually prove they are worthy of their parent's love. It crushes me that Andrew doesn't have a father he can count on to be there for him unconditionally.

Andrew had emergency surgery this week, and Hank never bothered to check in to ask how he was doing. We have tried therapy. Is there anything else that would help with the estrangement between a father and a son? -- MOM WHO MUST ALSO BE DAD

DEAR MOM: What a sad letter, and what a poor excuse for a husband and father. Your ex-husband engineered the estrangement, and nothing you or Andrew can do will fix it. You didn't mention how Andrew's lack of a healthy relationship with his father has affected him. Was the therapy that was tried family therapy? Marriage counseling for you and your ex? Individual therapy for your son? It's possible that a licensed mental health professional might help Andrew come to terms with the years of emotional neglect he has suffered, but only if he agrees he needs it.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 36-year-old woman from Pakistan. I read your advice with great interest. Since childhood, it was always hard for me to make friends. People who I liked I pushed hard to be friends with, but I guess I came across as too clingy. I'm the one who initiates most contact with my old school friends.

Now I see the same thing happening with my 7-year-old son. When his cousins or my cousins' kids come and he plays with them, he wants to maintain friendships with them through video calls, voice messages, etc. I can see that the other kids and their parents aren't as interested in maintaining friendships, including my brother and his daughter.

My son is sensitive like I was. How do I explain to him that he shouldn't expect everyone to be his friend without giving him the impression that "nobody cares"? -- SAD MOM IN PAKISTAN

DEAR SAD MOM: Friendships have to evolve naturally. Often this happens through shared interests. What is your son interested in? Is he involved in sports or other activities outside of school? While it is true that no one can "expect" others to be close friends, relationships form as a result of exposure to a variety of activities and individuals. Your fear that your son will turn out to have the same social difficulties that you do may be groundless. He may need exposure to more kids than he has had in order to find his way socially.

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

SUDOKU

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

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: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

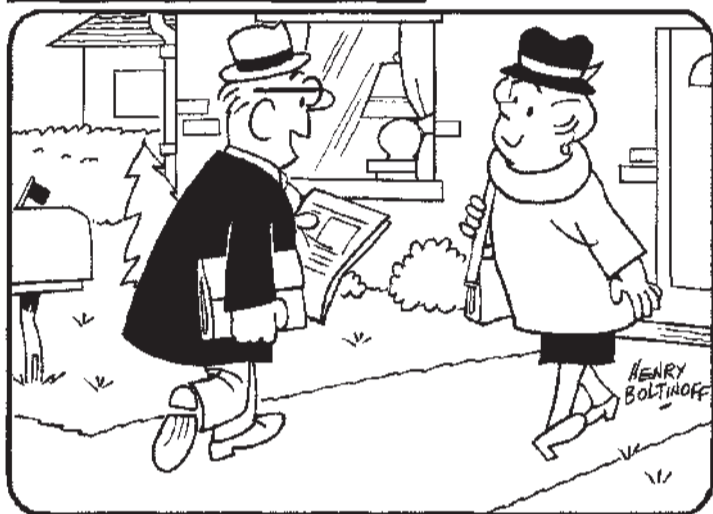
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

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

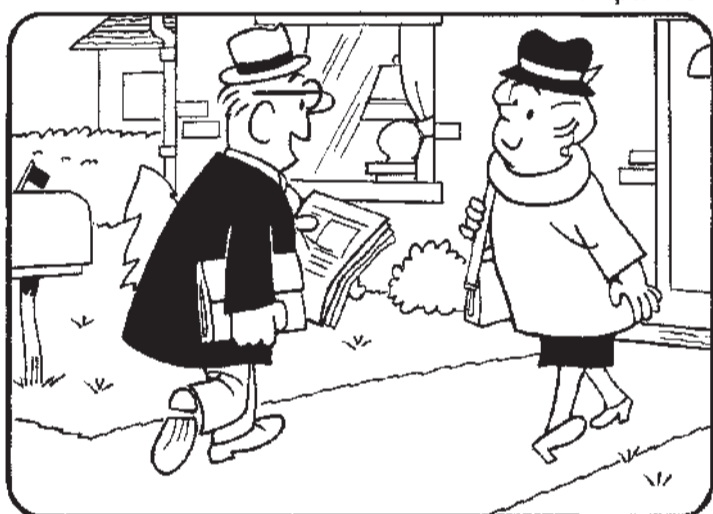
ANSWER:

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Door is taller. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Mailbox is taller. 5. House in distance is not as wide. 6. Pages are added to newspaper.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Foot treatment, for short
 - 5 "Morning Joe" network
 - 10 Tiff
 - 14 Pressing appliance
 - 15 "Aida" or "Tosca"
 - 16 Golf target
 - 17 Paid players
 - 18 Suffers defeat
 - 19 Romantic flower
 - 20 "The Irishman" star: 3 wds.
 - 23 Final
 - 24 Hither and ___
 - 25 Beginning
 - 28 Coppertone stat. Abbr.
 - 31 "The issue will be ___ with"
 - 35 Subway rodents
 - 36 He flew too close to the sun
 - 38 Director Daniels
 - 39 Expected in
 - 40 Eye surgery tool
 - 41 Government levy
 - 42 Historical period
 - 43 Get less good
 - 44 The majority
 - 45 Cuban dance
 - 47 Fleur de ___ (French seasoning)
 - 48 Menus, e.g.
 - 49 TV spots
 - 51 Chief Norse god
 - 53 Religious messengers
 - 58 "Golly!"
 - 59 Swap
 - 60 Evaluate
 - 63 Part in a play
 - 64 Beasts of burden
 - 65 "So be it"
 - 66 ___car salesman
 - 67 Sounds from crowds
 - 68 Be in charge
- DOWN**
- 1 "Great Expectations" protagonist
 - 2 Screw up
 - 3 Entryway
 - 4 Shoe cushions
 - 5 Beauty marks
 - 6 Corvettes and Mustangs: 2 wds.
 - 7 Home made of twigs
 - 8 Propagated
 - 9 Stengel of baseball
 - 10 Holy place
 - 11 Opposite of rich
 - 12 As well
 - 13 Piece of golf equipment
 - 21 Piece of baseball equipment
 - 22 Head signals
 - 25 Law and ___
 - 26 Country in Micronesia
 - 27 Be furious
 - 29 Out of style
 - 30 Mooch
 - 32 Choir section
 - 33 "It's the ___ I can do"
 - 34 Phone messages
 - 36 U.N. agency: Abbr.
 - 37 Spigoted container
 - 43 Lumps of gum
 - 44 Quartz or mica
 - 46 Criticized
 - 48 2018's Super Bowl
 - 50 Indian instrument
 - 52 Gown
 - 53 Cow sounds
 - 54 Land in the ocean
 - 55 Thereabouts: 2 wds.
 - 56 Apollo agency: Abbr.
 - 57 Identical
 - 58 "Minions: The Rise of ___"
 - 61 Hot brewed drink
 - 62 Finish

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | 19 | | | |
| | 20 | | 21 | | | | | 22 | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| 35 | | | | 36 | | | | 37 | | 38 | | |
| 39 | | | | 40 | | | | | | 41 | | |
| 42 | | | | 43 | | | | | 44 | | | |
| 45 | | | | 46 | | 47 | | | 48 | | | |
| | | | | 49 | | 50 | | 51 | 52 | | | |
| | 53 | 54 | | | | 55 | 56 | | | 57 | | |
| 58 | | | | | | 59 | | | 60 | | 61 | 62 |
| 63 | | | | | | 64 | | | | 65 | | |
| 66 | | | | | | 67 | | | | 68 | | |

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

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEVE PASTIS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



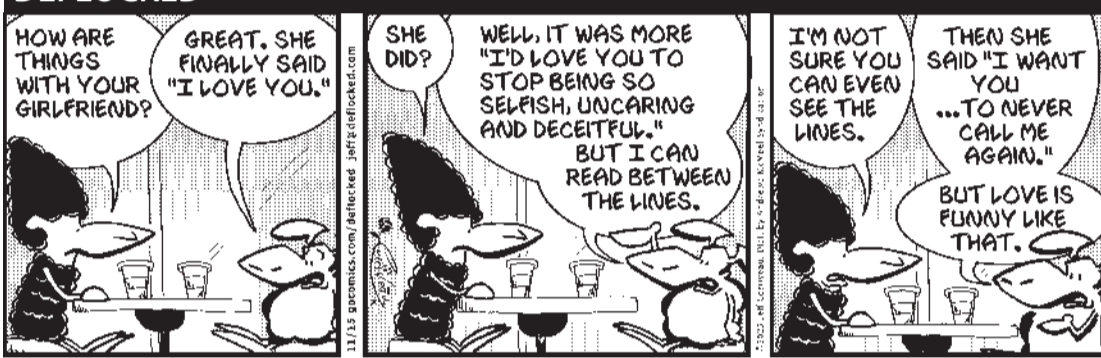
OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



The Garden Bug

Unlike "florist mums" that are grown only for fall flowering and treated as annuals, "hardy mums" are cold-hardy garden perennials. These plants grow best in rich soil with a slightly acidic to neutral soil pH (6.2 to 7.0). Good drainage is needed to avoid root rot. Hardy mums are photoperiodic, meaning they bloom in response to shorter days and longer nights, so don't plant them near street lights; artificial lighting wreaks havoc with their flowering.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.thespruce.com

© 2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Saturday, November 15, 2025

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 7 ♥ K Q 10 6 ♦ 10 8 7 4 ♣ A 8 6 ♠ 10 8 ♥ 9 8 4 ♦ A 8 6 5 ♣ A 9 7 2

Right-hand opponent opens 1C. What call would you make? Partner opens 1H and right-hand opponent bids 2H, showing spades and a minor, at least 5-5. What call would you make?

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

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

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1♦ 2♠ Pass 3♠ ? Right-hand opponent opens 1S. What call would you make?

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

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

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass ? As dealer, what call would you make?

What call would you make? Look for answers on Monday.

MADISON STREET

Continued from page 1

the sidewalks, planted trees and landscaping. This project has set the stage for millions of dollars of private investment that will follow along, he added.

“People and businesses will want to locate on Madison Street now because it is beautiful,” Kight said. “It’s going to be a virtuous cycle. We do something great and it will encourage and inspire other people to do something great. We will see a full renaissance on this street.”

Moises Acosta, owner of Moe’s on Madison, and his wife bought their building in April of 2024.

“We have never seen the street open,” he said. “We are happy to see the polished version with the bricks laid down. We’re happy to see the investment.”

Kight acknowledged that it took a whole bunch of people and groups who helped with the project, which was primarily funded through grants from the Department of Community Affairs. The city received \$3.3 million.

“Tara Bradshaw submitted this grant to the state and was an advocate for it,” said Kight, adding a special thanks to other city of Dublin employees.

Thomas & Hutton Engineering was responsible for the designs of the project. He mentioned Pride



Mayor Joshua Kight places the final brick of the Madison Street project as his sons look on/RODNEY MANLEY

Contracting and thanked them for staying with the project through the difficult times.

“I appreciate you staying with it and helping us work through those difficulties with the subcontractors,” Kight said.

Kight thanked T. Lake Environmental and Cherokee Brick. He also thanked Total Earth Services and recognized them for working hard to complete the project.

“Every morning we would see these guys out here and really go-

ing above and beyond,” Kight said.

The grant application for the project was done in 2022. The design took a year and it was awarded in July of 2024. Kight thanked the city council for its decision-making throughout the whole project, which included \$1 million in T-SPLOST funds.

“Thank all of you for your support of this project,” Kight said. “City Manager Josh Powell was behind the scene working crazy. He loves the city and is really ded-



Special bricks recognized some of the companies that played big roles in the Madison Street improvement project/RODNEY MANLEY

icated to our town.” Before Kight laid down the final brick, business owners on Madison Street had an opportunity to write on a brick and place it in the road.

“This was tough on you,” Kight said to Madison Street merchants. “It was a project that had an extra four months tagged on to the end of it. For a period of time the street was dirt and it was frustrating to all of us, but it was especially frustrating to you because that is your business and your lifeline. I just want to say thank you. Thank you for staying positive. Thank you for communicating and thank you for placing your trust in this downtown environment. I am a big believer that your downtown

is the heartbeat of the community. It should be the place where your local businesses are proud to be located and where citizens should love to come and stroll around.”

“This sacrifice you have made I think will be a benefit for generations to come,” he added. “This project was 18 months of a messed-up road, and it should last 75 to 100 years.”

Acosta, who also owns the Ice-house and radio station building, smiled after he placed the brick.

“We are happy to see the investment and we know the future is going to get better and it will be more of a walkability,” he said. “Compared to like a year ago, it looks a lot better. It is really amazing.”

GUN AT CHURCH

Continued from page 1

Officials looked at the camera footage and watched the man’s behavior. It was decided to go ahead and call 911. The spokesman and another member of the church’s security team – who both had prior military or law enforcement experience – walked out and watched the young man, who was on his cellphone, for a while before approaching him.

“We went down to ques-

tion him. We had him approach us and gave him a series of questions and his answers did not seem to match up. We had him show us his hands, which he kept wanting to put in his pockets.”

The young man was asked to empty his pockets and he did. They also asked him several times if he had any weapons, and he said no. He was asked to pull up his pants because they were sagging.

“When he did, there was a bulge that came out

at his chest level,” the security team member said. “I reached in, grabbed it and asked what that was? He said, ‘That’s my AR,’ as he pushed my hand away. That was when we drew our guns.”

A third member of the security team joined them and he removed the gun, discovering it had a 30-round clip and a round in the cham-

ber. The gun was described as an AR-style weapon loaded with rifle rounds.

“We held him at gunpoint until the sheriff’s office and Georgia State Patrol responded,” the security team member said. “They took him into custody, and while they were doing that, the automobile that dropped him off returned and law enforcement stopped the

driver and questioned them as well.”

He said they also were wondering why he was dropped off at the church and what was he doing being with that type of weapon.

“We responded to him (originally) because of the fact of the location he was at,” the security team member said. “He was dropped

off by a car that drove off, he was wearing a hoodie and he went straight to our pavilion behind the church. Those were all red flags. The vantage point of where he was, prompted us to confront him.

“There were a lot of precursors to this that were screaming red flags and caused us to challenge his presence.”



Michelle Lewis speaks about her father, Ivan, at The Salvation Army office/PAYTON TOWNS III

BELL RINGER

Continued from page 1

Michelle thanked Todd and The Salvation Army for willing to honor her father. Before releasing the balloons, she had another comment to make in order to celebrate the occasion.

“Dad was tone death but he loved to sing and jam,” she said. “But, I want to play one of his favorite songs.”

With that, Michelle played the song “Brick House” as the balloons floated up toward the heavens.

“Mr. Lewis was a beloved figure at The Salvation Army,” Todd said. “He always brought joy through his cheerful ringing of bells. His spirit radiated happiness throughout the year, especially throughout the Christmas season. He brought joy to our community. He was so glad to be able to do this every year. It was always a joy having him come in because I knew that even if you were having a bad day, when he came in to get his kettle he would be able to change ones attitude.”

For more information about ringing bells for The Salvation Army, call (478) 275-7336.

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1

In addition to that revision of its capital outlay fund application, the board also approved a resolution certify the election results that extended the local education sales tax and authorized the school board to issued general obligation bonds for the elementary school and other projects. Bonds will allow the board to borrow money against the future sales tax collections so that construction projects can begin.

The board also voted to advertise RFPs (requests for proposals) for the new East Laurens Elementary and a new athletic complex at East Laurens Middle.

Board members recognized the West Laurens’ boys and girls cross country teams, both of whom finished as region champions and posted their best-ever finishes at the state meet, at sixth and eighth respectively. Superintendent Clifford Garnto noted that coach Danny Johnson, also the school’s tennis coach, now has more than 40 region championships to his credit.

Residential-Land-Commercial
“Get It Done The Wright Way”
478-998-9730



128 Trinity Road
 Dublin, GA 31021

REAL ESTATE SERVICES, LLC.

Donna Wright Harmon
 BROKER / OWNER/ REALTOR®



Apply to OFTC for free in November

Thinking about college? Oconee Fall Line Technical College is waiving its admission application fee for the entire month of November, making it the perfect time to get started.

This initiative is part of Georgia Apply to College Month, proclaimed by Governor Brian Kemp and supported statewide to help more students access higher education.

With 130+ programs of study in high-demand fields, OFTC offers hands-on training that can be completed in as little as one to six semesters. Serving 11 counties across Middle Georgia with campuses in Sandersville, Dublin, and Louisville, the college provides students with affordable tuition, small class sizes, and a supportive learning environment close to home.

“Whether you’re starting fresh or continuing your education, now is the time to take that step toward a rewarding career,” said OFTC President Erica Harden. “We’d love for you to choose to become a part of the OFTC family.”

Contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@oftc.edu or (478) 553-2064 for more information.

HOME
SUITES BY HILTON

www.hilton.com

105 Travel Center Blvd., Dublin, GA 31021

478-205-5464

