

The Courier Herald

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Madison Street project nears completion

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Dublin City Manager informed members of the Downtown Dublin Board of Directors last week that the finish line for the work on the Madison Street project is within sight.

Josh Powell said they hope to be able to celebrate this, hopefully by the second week in November.

"I know we want to do some type of ceremony to celebrate the completion of the project," Powell said. "We will be reaching out and wanting downtown merchants to be a part of (the celebration). We are working with the contractors

to see if they'll place the last bricks as part of the ceremony."

DDA Chairman Rob Miller wants people to know they support the Madison Street Project.

"The whole intent is to make the whole downtown more walkable," Miller said. "As a whole our job is to promote downtown as a great place to come hang out, shop and eat. By cleaning up the streets, making the walkways more accessible, raised and slowing down traffic is all good stuff, and we need to be on board and behind that. I think it's going to be great when it

MADISON STREET
Continued on page 8



END OF THE ROAD: Workers finish laying brick pavers on Madison Street last week/RODNEY MANLEY

Shamrock Bowl practice a homecoming for local Redcoats

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Members of the University of Georgia Redcoat Band had to rise early Friday as they made their way to Jacksonville, Florida, for the Bulldogs' rivalry game against the Florida Gators.

But before getting anywhere close to the Georgia/Florida line, the band's bus made a stop at the Shamrock Bowl in Dublin for its final practice before last Saturday's game, bringing with them alumni from the Dublin High and West Laurens High School marching bands, now on the same team cheering for the Bulldogs.

"Being back here was kind of like full-circle for me," said Madelynn Rayner, the daughter of Dublin High School's band director Marcus. "I recorded my audition for the Redcoat Band on this field. This has really been magical, especially to come back to this community."

Olivia Craft, who graduated from WLHS, was also excited about coming back home.

"It was fun to have all the people that I care about to be here all at the same stadium," she said. "To have so much of my family who can't come to the games in Athens, it was so much fun."

Jason Dollar, Lily Collins and Chole Harber are also former Raiders performing in the Redcoat Band. WLHS graduate Rylie Claire Cardwell and Trinity Christian School graduate Zae Morgan, are both members of the Georgettes, were also at the Shamrock Bowl for the practice while Brayleigh Rowland, a WLHS graduate, is a member of the



UGA band director Brett Bawcum talks to Redcoat Band members before they dismiss to grab a Chick-fil-A lunch box and board the buses for Jacksonville/PAYTON TOWNS III



West Laurens graduate Olivia Craft (left photo) and Dublin High graduate Madelynn Rayner (right photo), now bandmates at UGA, perform with the Redcoat Band on Friday at the Shamrock Bowl/PAYTON TOWNS



Dance Dawgs.

Dollar, along with other former students, had the chance to catch up with former WLHS band director Michael Dukas after

their practice last Friday.

"I'm glad my family got to see us perform," Dollar said. "This is not my home stadium, but the sights around here are familiar.

There is a lot of nostalgia here with all my time with the Raider Brigade."

Being a part of the Redcoat Band means they travel where ever the Bulldogs

play.

"We went to New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl,"

REDCOAT BAND
Continued on page 8

ELECTION DAY
November 4, 2025

Voters to decide city races, tax measures

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Early voting ended Friday at 5 p.m. with 2,628 people taking advantage of it, meaning the remainder of the ballots cast in Tuesday's election will be at voters' respective precincts.

Election Supervisor Susan Rooks said voters will have between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to vote in this election. Unofficial results will be revealed on the evening of Nov. 4 in the Laurens County Commissioner's office.

"The official results will be announced Monday afternoon by 4 p.m.," Rooks said.

Of 171 mailed-out ballots, 130 have been returned as of Monday morning. People have until 7 p.m. Tuesday to get them to the Laurens County Board of Elections & Registration Office, 117 E. Jackson St., Suite A.

"Those need to be brought in to the office," Rooks said. "I would not mail them."

Voters who live in the city of Dublin can vote for the Dublin City Council at-large races, the Dublin City Schools at-large race, two referendums on local homestead exemptions and

ELECTION
Continued on page 8

RISEUP hosts recovery bus to mark National Recovery Month

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The 2025 Georgia Recovers and Community Bus Tour, which will make 75 stops throughout the state, rolled into the Farmer's Market recently to let people know recovery is real.

Jeff Breedlove, chief of communications and policy

for the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, thanked Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, Kevin Tanner, commissioner of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities and the Georgia General Assembly working group of addiction and recovery to making the bus tour possible and for making the

funds possible for organizations like RISEUP (Recovery in a Supportive Environment Utilizing Peers) all across the state.

RISEUP Program Director Ashley Black said this was the second year that the bus has stopped in Dublin.

RECOVERY BUS
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A woman signs the Recovery Bus after its arrival at the Farmers Market/PAYTON TOWNS III

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OBITUARIES



Derrick Desawn Rooks

Funeral services for Mr. Derrick Desawn Rooks of Ellenwood, Georgia, will be held on Friday, Nov. 7, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Greater Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 1824 Claxton Dairy Road in Dublin. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery. Viewing will be on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street in Dublin.

Derrick touched the lives of many as a beloved son, brother, nephew, uncle, cousin and friend. On Friday, Oct. 24, 2025, at the age of 46, he transitioned from this life

Born on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1979, in Dublin, Georgia, Derrick was the cherished son of the late Patricia A. Rooks. He was educated in the Dublin City School System, where he formed lifelong friendships and lasting memories. He continued his education at Albany State University and later earned his associates degree in fashion design from Bauder College. His friends have affectionately called him "D-Bo."

Gifted with extraordinary creativity and skill, Derrick was a master of many trades, from meticulous handy work and culinary talents to an exceptional eye for fashion design. He carried a gentle spirit, a generous heart, and a love that he poured freely into those he held dear. His presence brought comfort, kindness and joy to all blessed to know him.

Derrick passed away on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025. He was preceded in death by his mother, his grandparents, including his devoted grandmother, Annie Beulah Rooks, and his brother-in-law, Bennie Williams.

He leaves to cherish his memory three devoted sisters: Olympia (Kinyum) Thomas of Dublin, Heather Williams of Cartersville, and Kelsey Rooks of Ellenwood; his uncles, Darryl "Butch" Rooks of Dublin, LTC (RET) Gregory (Joan) Rooks of Fayetteville, and Sgt. (RET) Zachary (Renee) Rooks of Garden City; his aunt, Judge Shana (Robin) Malone of Jonesboro; his nephew, Justin Williams and niece, Caleigh Williams; and a host of loving cousins, extended family members, and friends who will continue to carry his light in their hearts.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin.

Tracy Lewis Coleman

Tracy Lewis Coleman, 54, of Eastman, Ga., died Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025.

The family will receive family and friends in Eastman First Methodist Church from 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4 with funeral services to be held in Eastman First Methodist Church at 3 p.m.

He is survived by his wife - Caroline Horne Coleman; parents - Terry and Carol Cofield Coleman; daughters - Josephine and Olivia; brother - Brett Coleman; nephew - Liam; step-daughters - Libba, Mary Margaret and Isabelle; father and mother-in-law - Wendell and Lisa Horne; and several aunts and uncles.

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



Sandra Jane Warren

Loved by many, Sandra Jane Warren, 80, affectionately known as Sandy, passed away on Oct. 30, 2025 in Dublin, Georgia. Born on Nov. 11, 1944, in Alexandria, Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Clyde and Virginia Edwards Hottle. Sandy's life journey began in Alexandria, where she was the youngest of ten siblings, a majority of whom have preceded her in death. She was married to the late James Marion Warren Sr. for 55 years, until he passed away in 2016.

Sandy was primarily a wife and homemaker and is survived by her step-daughters, Mrs. Lynn W. Russo (Jerry) of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Dr. Susan W. Thornton (Steve) of Dublin, Georgia, stepson, Mr. James M. Warren, Jr, address unknown, as well as, several step-grandchildren, step-great grandchildren and various nieces and nephews. Sandy was of the Baptist faith and loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to whom she gave all praise and glory. She loved decorating her home and working in her yard until her health would no longer allow her to continue.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, at Turkey Creek Missionary Baptist Church, 828 Scotland Rd in Dublin, Georgia, with the Rev. Dr. Frederick C. Williams, pastor of Turkey Creek Missionary Baptist Church, officiating. A private burial will follow at Georgia Veterans Cemetery in Milledgeville, Georgia. According to Sandy's wishes, there will be no official designated time for visitation; however, the family will receive visitors in the church following the service.

Pallbearers are Mr. Anthony Smith, Mr. Chad McDaniel, Mr. Matt Taylor, Mr. Brian Brown, Mr. Fred Wil-

liams II, and Mr. Will Brantley.

The family wishes to extend their sincere appreciation to the staff of Georgia Hospice Care, specifically Mrs. Peggy Johnson and Mrs. Faye Oliver. Also, much gratitude goes to Administrator, Mrs. Joy Shepherd, and her wonderful team of caregivers at Dublinoir Health and Rehab. Both groups provided excellent loving and compassionate care and the family truly appreciates them.

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

Ruth Lee Kiessling Carter

Ruth Lee Kiessling Carter, 83, died on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025.

The family will receive friends in First Baptist Church of Warner Robins one hour before the service on Saturday, Nov. 8. A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at First Baptist Church of Warner Robins.

She is survived by her daughter - Tiffany Faulk (Daniel); grandsons - Kyle Haney, Daniel Faulk Jr. and Nathan Faulk; brother - Roy Kiessling (Pam); and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

Patsy E. Thompson

Patsy E. Thompson, 83, of Eastman, Ga., died Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, at her residence.

The family received friends in Southerland Funeral Chapel from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3, in Southerland Funeral Chapel, with interment in Harrell Cemetery.

She is survived by her daughter - Mona Thompson; sons - Dale Thompson (Kim) and Daniel Thompson (Betty Jean); four grandchildren; sisters - Polly Sheffield (Larry), Peggy Evans and Susan Deal (Ronnie); and brother - Greg Thompson (Patricia).

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

William Marvin Giddens

William Marvin Giddens, 101, of Eastman, Ga., passed away on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025.

The family will receive family and friends in Southerland Funeral Chapel from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 with funeral services to follow at 2 p.m., in Southerland Funeral Chapel, with interment in Middle Ground Church Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife - Elizabeth "Liz" Davis Giddens; daughters - Ginger Hightower (Jim) and Ashley Newman (Robbie); three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister - Clarice Sheehan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Mary Elizabeth "Sissy" Maddox

Mary Elizabeth "Sissy" Maddox began eternal life on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025. A celebration of her life will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, in the Chapel of Stanley Funeral Home with interment to follow at Bluewater Baptist Church Cemetery. The Rev. Dr. Stanley L. Roberts will officiate.

Sissy was born April 4, 1941, in Dublin, Georgia, where she lived all of her life. She was the daughter of the late Robert Lenton Robinson and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Young Robinson Dominy. Sissy was preceded in death by her husband, Aaron Maddox, and their son Chris Lenton Maddox to whom she gave extraordinary devotion. She was baptized at Bluewater Baptist Church and loved and served the Bluewater Church family all of her life. She was an Administrative Secretary for J.P. Stevens and Company for many years. Many fortunate family and friends were the recipients of her beautifully decorated cakes for weddings and other special occasions. An avid gardener, her daylilies were admired by all her loved ones.

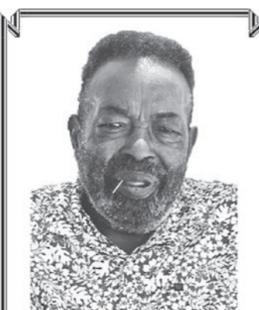
Sissy is survived by her only sibling, Loretta Robinson Jarriel, and her brother-in-law, Ted C. Jarriel; two nieces, Marie Jarriel Roberts and Janet Elizabeth Jarriel; grandnephews Blake and Beau Roberts and Haiz Webb; grandniece Marie Claire Webb; and many Robinson family cousins. From the Maddox family, she is survived by DeWitt and Jan Moses and their daughter, Deidra Moses Tompkins, and many other cousins from her husband's family. She was especially close to and is survived by her lifelong friend, Mazie McLendon.

Sissy lived at Addington Place of Dublin for the last four years of her life where she became special to many of her caregivers, to whom the family is grateful.

The family will receive friends and relatives from 1 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, at the funeral home. Stanley Funeral Home has charge of funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit www.stanleyfuneralhome.com.



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Thank you

The Butts and Peacock Family wishes to thank everyone for the acts of kindness shown to us during the loss of our loved one. Thanks for your prayers, your cards, and food.

Thank you, Remarkable Hospice. Thank you, Dr. Carl A. Wardlaw and the Green Grove Church family.

Cecilia Butts and children
The Family of Herbert Butts

Court orders fed to fund food program, but some prepare for disruptions

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Judges in two federal lawsuits Friday ordered President Donald Trump's administration to continue funding its food assistance program during the government shutdown, but it was unclear how quickly payments would resume to recipients, who had been warned that no more money would be coming starting Saturday.

The news created some measure of relief — but also uncertainty — for communities and organizations that were preparing to fill the gap.

The group Feeding GA Families, with more than 30 locations across Georgia, called the court decisions "a moment of hope and relief," but said in a statement that it would carry on with enhanced operations, anticipating a disruption in funding despite the judges' orders due to "the complexity of the current situation and the potential for appeals or delay."

The group's CFO, Alicia Rivera, said while driving to middle Georgia Friday evening to hand out Halloween snacks and treats, that her group would continue sourcing products for families. Earlier in the week, she had been expecting a 25% to 50% increase in food requests in November.

"We are not changing our strategy because nothing is set in stone," she said.

In metro Atlanta, DeKalb County Commissioner Ted Terry said officials were still expecting to increase the allocation to the local food program by 50%, by adding \$500,000 to its \$1 million budget at an upcoming meeting.

He remained worried that federal funding for SNAP would be constrained and did not expect DeKalb to change course just yet. He said more than 50,000 households — or about 100,000 people — qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, adding that an expanded county food budget of \$1.5 million would still fall far short of the need.

"It really is a drop in the bucket. I mean we're talking about tens of millions of dollars," Terry said. "We can only stand in the gap so much and for so long."

The announcement last week by the Trump administration that it would not fund SNAP during the shutdown led to political finger pointing.

Sen. Nabilah Islam Parkes, D-Duluth, called on Gov. Brian Kemp to tap the state's more than \$14 billion in reserves to buy food for the poor, suggesting that he declare a state of emergency.

Kemp said his hands were tied. Normally, the federal government uploads money onto electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards that SNAP recipients use to buy food. "There is no mechanism by which the state can replace benefits on customer cards," his office said. Kemp's office also said the federal government would not reimburse state funds spent on federal programs.

Yet other states were determined to intervene.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, declared a state of emergency then issued an executive order to fund EBT cards with state money.

"Due to Virginia's prudent fiscal management we have available budget surplus to reduce disruptions in food access and ensure that Virginia's families in need remain supported during the federal shutdown," Youngkin's office said Tuesday.

North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein, a Democrat, announced that his state would grant \$10M to food banks.

Roughly 1.4 million Georgians rely on SNAP, but a smaller group of vulnerable residents was not immediately exposed to the uncertainty with that program.

The Georgia Department of Public Health said Friday before the judges' orders that the SNAP program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as Georgia WIC, probably had enough money to cover benefits through mid-November. That program covers pregnant women, new mothers and children up to age 5.

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 4
Geneva Rozier

Nov. 5
Marie McKinley
Gail Jones Pomare

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Changes in Dublin's elections

Dublin Courier Herald

By Doug Hall

It has been a long, long time (if ever) since a mayor ran unopposed in Dublin.

There has never been a black, nor a woman, on City Council.

Voters in Dublin are accustomed to voting in each ward race regardless of the ward in which they live. Nobody really pays much attention to what ward they live in anyway.

Dark horse candidates stake their chances on making the run off - and then beating the favorite.

And everybody knows in America that the majority rules.

Well, all of that has - or could - change Monday when Dublin voters elect a mayor and four ward aldermen.

The incumbent, Mayor, Robert E. Cochran can prop up his sprained ankle and rest his broken hand. He is the only candidate in the election who drew no opposition, a rarity in Dublin politics.

In Ward One, where the population is 82 per cent black, the odds are that a black will be elected to City Council for the first time, and it could be a black woman, another first. That is, unless Hank Wahrlabe, the only white in the race, pulls an upset.

A woman could also be elected from Ward Four where former City Clerk Lena Opie is challenging incumbent Louis Alexander.

Each of the city's 5,863 registered voters who go to the polls will vote in only one contested race. Contrary to previous elections, voters will cast ballot only for a candidate from the ward in which the voter resides.

So, if you live near the Dublin Mall in Ward Four, you can forget about voting for a candidate who lives near Saxon Street School in Ward Two. That old practice was thrown out the window when a suit challenging the city election process was settled.

Every voter in the city will have a vote in the mayor's race, but that race is not contested.

And, everyone will have to know what ward they live in before they sign for their ballots.

About those dark horses - they better start thinking up another strategy quick. Only if there happens to be a tie will there be a runoff.

Which brings us to another matter. The majority does not rule. The plurality does.

That was one of the major concessions yielded by the city in negotiations which settled the election suit.

In a nutshell, a candidate in the Fourth Ward could win with one vote more than 25 per cent of the total vote since the four hopefuls could conceivably split the vote equally. All it will take to win is one vote more than the next guy. The old 50 per cent plus one dictum no longer applies.

Since all of this is new, Dublin voters are asking many questions about Monday's election. Here are some of those questions and the answers:

First, who's running?

The election is for the mayor and four aldermen. Those elected Monday will take office in January and will serve for two years.

Mayor Robert E. Cochran has no opposition and should be swept into a second term.

It was learned this morning that an informal mayoral write-in campaign is underway on behalf of former Councilman Dr. Henry Raymaker.

Reached this morning at his home, Dr. Raymaker acknowledged that he knew

of the campaign, but minimized it.

"Some friends are going to write-in my name. Some people wanted to show some expression of choice or competition," he remarked.

Dr. Raymaker called the move "spontaneous" and stated that he is not actively campaigning.

In Ward One, the candidates are these:

Lillian Brown, owner and operator of Lillian's Beauty Shop

Otis McLendon, an employee with the Laurens County School System

Emery C. Thomas, a retired agriculture teacher

Hank Wahrlabe, a grocer

Only Thomas has sought City Council before.

Wahrlabe is the only white candidate in the race.

In Ward Two, the candidates are these:

Glen Harden, a food store owner

Jerry Keith, industrial relations manager of Uniroyal

Charles Robinson, Jr., administrator of May's Nursing Home

W.C. Walters, Sr., a diet cook at Robins Air Force Base

Other than Harden, Walters is the only candidate with previous experience in city politics.

In Ward Three, the candidates are these:

John Reed Deamer, school principal

Buddy Adams, Carnation Company account manager

In Ward Four, the candidates are these:

Louis Alexander, owner of Alexander Office Equipment Co.

Lena Opie, bookkeeper for South Construction Co. and former City Clerk

What ward am I in?

That's tough. Part of the election suit settlement called for redistricting the city's four single member council districts, or wards. The easiest way to find out what ward you are in is to examine the city map elsewhere in this issue.

When, where, and how will I vote?

The polls open at 7 a.m. Monday, November 3, and close at 7 p.m.

Voting is at City Hall.

Upon entering the building, voters will first stop at one of two master tables. These tables will be set aside for names beginning with A through L and M through Z. At one of these tables, you will sign an affidavit that you live in the ward in which you register to vote.

If you are still unsure about your ward, you can check a large city map hanging in the lobby of City Hall.

Election officials will be available to assist you in determining your ward.

Once you know your ward and swear to it, you will be given your ballot and will cast it.

Remember, you can vote for only one candidate in only one ward council race. Each ballot will carry the mayor's race with Robert E. Cochran listed as the only candidate. However, there

is space for write-in candidates.

After the poll closes, returns will be counted ward-by-ward in each room.

Will all this be slow?

Probably a little bit slow, but election officials have been working to make the process as simple as possible. Too, a light turnout is predicted. Since each voter will be able to vote in only one election and the mayor's race is uncontested, interest in the election has not reached the peak that was first forecast. Absentee ballots, usually an indicator of election day turnout, have been coming in very slowly. At noon yesterday, fewer than 40 absentees had been cast.

Finally, who should I vote for?

You answer that question.

MISSISSIPPI PAIR TO BUY WMLT

An agreement to sell has been executed by stockholders of Dublin Broadcasting Company (WMLT Radio Station) and has been accepted by Mr. Charles Dowdy of Gulfport, Mississippi, and Mr. Wayne Dowdy of McComb, Mississippi.

The sale is subject to approval by the Federal Communications Commission, at which time the new ownership will begin operation of the station.

The Dowdys at present are operating radio stations in Bainbridge, Georgia; Gulfport, Mississippi; and McComb, Mississippi.

Radio Station WMLT went on the air in January 1945 and studios were located on North Franklin Street.

The late George T. Morris, Wilmer Lanier, and Newton Thomas were the original owners, their

last names still signified by the call letters -(W) M-L-T.

IRISH WHIP PERRY

By Bush Perry

It wasn't a piece of art, and the Irish didn't follow the script as set down by coaches Tom Simonton, Travis Davis, and Richard Johnson.

But they got the job done, for they defeated Perry last night, 13-7, at Perry to win their third Region 3-AA game of the season and their seventh over all victory against only one defeat.

No one knew it at the time, but when the score of the game became 13-7, Dublin with 9:37 remaining in the second period, all the points were on the scoreboard.

Dublin scored on the first two possessions, and Perry on their first. And that was it - except for the rock'n, sock'n defense and the final 3:40 of holding on by the Irish against a tough Perry passing attack.

Dudley's running was again outstanding as he netted 137 yards on 22 snaps and picked up many more yards on kick returns.

Blash came through with

58 yards on eight chances while Hodges got 19 on six calls.

Williams was credited with a 12-yard run when he picked up a fumble and went that far with it, almost coming clear. Allen had a 10-yard end-around while Edwards had a seven yard sneak.

Edwards was 3-4 with one interception and 28 yards passing. Allen caught one for six yards, Dudley one for 20, and Freddie Burch one for two yards.

Stand outs on defense for the Irish were Raymond Walker, Alan Crabb, Stan Stanley, Glen Jackson, Larry Johnson, who was shaken up but said he was O.K after the game; Bill Larsen, Dudley, Joe Beard, Matt Roberts, Arthur Robinson, Bill Pollard, Jimmy Williams, Edwards, Allen, and Jimmy Edmonds.

OUR MEN IN SERVICE

Rantoul, Illinois - Airman Tim Lindsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry N. Lindsey of 212 Roberts Street, Dublin, Georgia, has graduated at Chanute AFB, Illinois, from the U.S. Air Force aircraft mechanic course conducted by the Air Training Command.

The airman, who learned to maintain and service multi-engine jet aircraft, is being assigned to Travis AFB, California, for duty with a unit of the Military Airlift Command.

Airman Lindsey is a 1975 graduate of Dublin.

Marine Private Jeffrey L. Roberts, 22, son of Mr and Mrs. W.C. Roberts of 102 Woodrow Court, Dublin, Georgia, has reported for duty at Force Troops, Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

A 1974 graduate of Dublin High School, he joined the Marine Corps in June 1975.

Marine Sergeant John G. Johnson, whose wife, Phyllis, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert P. Martin of 115 Gettys Street, East Dublin, Georgia, has been promoted to his present rank while serving at the Marine Corps Air Station, New River, Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Wackernheim, Germany - John L. Parker, 22, son of Mrs. Annie B. Parker, 1002 South Jefferson Street, Dublin, Georgia, on October 24 was promoted to Army Private First Class while serving with the 8th Infantry Division in Wackernheim, Germany.

An assistant Vulcan missile gunner in Battery A, 1st Battalion of the division's 59th Air Defense Artillery, Private Parker entered the Army in June 1974, completed basic training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, prior to his arrival in Germany in November of last year.

Marine Private First Class Frankie L. Dardy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Dardy of 111 West Garner



LOOKING BACK...
50 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 4, 1975

By HARRIETT CLAXTON

Street, Dublin, Georgia, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with the 3d Marine Division, Okinawa.

A former student of Dublin High School, he joined the Marine Corps in August 1972.

Navy Hospitalman Recruit Mark A. Alverson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle G. Alverson of Dublin, Georgia, was graduated from recruit training at the Naval Training Center, San Diego, California.

Classes include instruction in seamanship, military regulations, fire-fighting, close order drill, first aid, and Navy history.

JOSEY CLOSSES SEASON

Josey Academy's Warriors finished their football season on a winning note on Saturday at Savannah, defeating Pathway, 12-7, winning their fourth game of the season, the first time any Josey Academy football team has won this many games.

Coach Barney Hester's athletes now turn their energies towards basketball as the Warriors play their first game on November 18th at Stillmore against David Emanuel.

Josey Academy scored in the first and second quarters but had to hold off a last half surge by Pathway to win. With less than a minute and a half to play and Josey with the ball on their 18, 4th down and four, the Warriors went for a first down and made it when Roy Yates dived six yards. They ran out the clock to cement the victory.

A pass from Danny Brown to Jim Graham for 45 yards scored the first Josey touchdown, ending a 73-yard march in the first quarter. Brown's run for the extra points failed.

In the second period, starting from their 15, the Warriors moved out to the 35 from where Jeff Aaron burst up the middle for 65 yards and the touchdown. This time a bad snap forced Yates to run for the two points and this failed.

Pathway scored in the third quarter, cutting the advantage to 12-7. They threatened twice in the fourth period, getting to the Josey six on both occasions,

but hard tackling forced two fumbles, both recovered by Josey.

Aaron rushed for 128 yards on 21 carries, giving the senior halfback 973 yards rushing in nine games.

Roy Yates accumulated 91 yards on 18 chances, running his total to 647 yards for nine games.

Brown added 37 yards, Jim Graham 23, and David Williams, nine.

STATE YOUTH KING AND QUEEN

Queen Jacqueline Isaac and King Marcus Mayweather were recently chosen to these positions at the annual Youth Camp of the Church of God in Wadley.

They will reign over the festivities at the Georgia State Inspirational Convention of the Church of God to be held at the Community Church of God in Macon on November 28-30. The theme is "Help Wanted: Youth Crusaders for Christ."

The criteria for the crowning of the King and Queen includes Christian Involvement, Conduct and Manners, Responding to Instructions, Cooperation, Personality, and Participation.

Jackie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Isaac. She is a senior at Dublin High School, where she is active in the Co-ed Y, FBLA, and the Dublin High Times.

Her Dublin congregation of the Church of God activities include past president of the Youth Fellowship, past secretary of the Sunday School, and former cadet teacher. She is now a teacher of the kindergarten and secretary of the senior choir. She plans to become a teacher.

Marcus, son of Mrs. Gertrude Kennon, is a sophomore at Dublin High School. He is president of the youth choir, vice president of the youth fellowship and usher board at the Wabash Street Church of God. He plans to become a minister.

EAST LAURENS JR. BETA CLUB

Last Friday morning, East Laurens Elementary School initiated twenty-seven members into a new Junior Beta Club Chapter of the National Junior Beta Club.



SKILLED MACHINIST NEEDED!

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Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

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

OUR TAKE...

Appreciate the arts - and our local artists - at Art Dublin's Annual Show and Sale

As downtown Dublin has grown, so too has its art scene.

Theatre Dublin has proven to be an invaluable asset for the performing arts, providing a superb venue for plays, concerts and other shows. And though the visual arts have yet to find a singular home downtown, more and more of our restaurants and businesses have begun to dedicate space to show off the works of local artists. (Shameless plug: Our former colleague, photographer Joey Wilson, is featured now at Mulberry Kitchen.)

Visual arts will take center stage downtown this weekend when Art Dublin returns with its Annual Show and Sale at the Dublin Carnegie. The two-day event is held each year to celebrate local artists and their paintings, photos and sculptures.

The celebration kicks off Friday night at the Carnegie with an evening gala and a "Shamrock Showcase," from 6 until 9 p.m. that Friday. The show will continue Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Art Dublin is the visual arts alliance serving Laurens and surrounding counties, with members ranging from professionals to beginners to art lovers. Members, as well as other artists from the community, will display their work and offer it for sale, starting at Friday night's opening gala from 6 until. Tickets are \$25 each or two for \$40, and each include a cocktail buffet and two beverages. Tickets are available from Art Dublin members and at locations listed on the Art Dublin Facebook page.

The show and sale continues Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Carnegie. Admission on Saturday is free.

A thriving visual art community is important, just as much here in Dublin and Laurens County as in Atlanta or any other big city. Visual art can be used to preserve our history, voice change for the future or simply capture a beautiful scene or moment.

Art Dublin's Annual Show and Sale offers a great opportunity to boost awareness of the local art scene, and for us to appreciate local works and the artists behind them.

— Rodney Manley

YOUR TURN:

Share your opinion on current events, or topics covered in The Courier Herald by emailing us: tchnewsreporter@gmail.com

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"If you look at how long the Earth has been here, we're living in the blink of an eye. So, whatever it is you want to do, you go out and do it."

- Rikki Rogers

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light."

- Psalm 36:7-9

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

Nov. 4, 2025 is...

- Election Day
- National Candy Day
- National Waiting for the Barbarians Day
- National Day of Community Service
- National Easy-Bake Oven Day
- Use Your Common Sense Day

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



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

Liver Lips Louie returns to the stage

My phone lit up on a Tuesday evening a few months ago, notifying me I was receiving a call from the director of "Guys and Dolls" - Glenda Berry.

After a little small talk, Berry jumped right to her reason for calling, which was the fact that I was who they thought of when it came to playing the part of Rev. Hopkins in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

Not only did they have a role for me but for my lovely wife Jill. Both of us would have lines and one scene in this production. After briefly talking, we accepted the parts and received our schedule for upcoming practices. When I hung up, I looked at Jill and said, "Looks like we are returning to the stage."

And honestly, I could not be any happier than a group of children wanting to be a part of a Christmas pageant and yet do not know anything about it - thus the premise of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

The shows begin next week with a 7 p.m. show on Friday, Nov. 14 and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15. Tickets can be purchased at purplepass.com/best, cost \$15 for VIP and \$10 for regular seats. People will be able to buy seats at the door on the day of the show, but not in the VIP area.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," is based on the book by Barbara Robinson and hit the small screen in a 1983 television movie starring Loretta Swit, before making a big splash on the big screen last year.

While I have not seen the latest movie, I repeatedly watched the TV movie version every year on HBO. My siblings and I eventually got the show on video tape and wore it out within a few years. We loved the story of how the Herdman children took over the pageant and brought their world to the Christmas story.

While doing "Guys and Dolls," the production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" was talked about, but I really never thought about joining up. Then, when Berry called us, Jill and I thought, "Why not, let's go."

It has been noticed that I have gone from playing the gambler known as Liver Lips Louie to Rev. Hopkins in this show. Someone asked me when did I turn

MAN ABOUT TOWN...



By PAYTON TOWNS III

from my heathen ways of Louie. I told them I changed my ways at the end of "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat," one of the last big group songs in "Guys and Dolls."

We had such a great experience with "Guys and Dolls," especially with it being our first production. We have kept in touch with our cast mates and others who worked behind the scenes. It has been great to see them perform in other shows since then, and hopefully, they will come out and see us in this show.

Days before the opening of "Guys and Dolls" Hudson Hatcher, who has been in "The Music Man" and starred as Charlie in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," was able to watch one of our practices. Now we get to share the stage with him as he plays one of the Herdman kids. The next night, Misty Mullis and her family, which included her daughter Lorelei, who is the assistant director for next week's show, were the only ones in the audience as we went from beginning to end

in one of our last practices before opening night.

Mullis gave us positive feedback after we did our bows at the end of the performance. Outside the theater we were able to talk more with Mullis and her family who loved the show. I remember telling Mullis that my wife and I would be glad to help backstage with "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." And though it took Berry calling us to ask about performing in the show, we are happy to be working with Mullis, the director of this production, and helping with the many starring in the show.

It has been great to watch our good friend and church member Kyle Wells on stage as Bob Bradley. And it was fun when we ran into Nicole Belflower, who plays Grace - the woman who the church enlists to do the pageant - in the store a few weeks ago where my wife got to practice her one line in the show with her.

We join our "Guys and Girls" cast mates Elaine Eversy and Adam Lausch, who is starring as a firefighter

and pulling double-duty as the production's stage manager. We also have Dottie Ladson and Dublin Main Street Players veteran Nicole Padgett joining us on the stage.

But this show is not about the adults, it is really about the kids. Along with Hatcher, Kardyn Kuzner, Cavan Kelly, Coy Lausch, Hadley Thompson and Caroline Lunzmann make up the Herdman children. Sarah Clements and Witt Ladson are the Bradley's children who not only interact with the Herdman's but the rest of the cast including Nora Warnock, Beate Valeskalne, Brekin Kelly, Renlee Belflower, Brielle Wells, Lottie Ladson, Lily Morton, Kellyanne Benton, Nyzha Brown along with angels Bella Benton, Juliette Brack, Raelynn Morris, Elizabeth Johnson, Aisling Kelly and Sunny Ladson.

It has been fun watching Mullis lead this group in a story that is really a play within a play. We are almost a week before the curtain rises for what will be a great way to kick off the Christmas season. The show is approximately an hour long and there are really no bad seats in the house we call Theatre Dublin.

This year, Dublin Community Theatre is offering an early Christmas gift by offering this show a month before Christmas. So come on down to the best theatre around, get some snacks and drinks and watch organized chaos with a bunch of Herdman children showing a slightly different, but meaningful, Christmas pageant.



Majority of the cast and crew of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" ready to kick off the Christmas season for the community at Theatre Dublin next week/SPECIAL PHOTO

Some random thoughts on some random subjects

Color me bummed. I found out last week that despite my sterling silver credentials, it seems my chances of being appointed Duke of York have been flushed down the loo. I got a note from a reader who says I made a "serious factual error" in my column. (Editor's aside: So what's new?) He says it is a hereditary appointment and that he has the inside track to the job - if it is a job. "I have traced my lineage, confirming that the individuals who held the title back to the 1300s are my ancestors," he writes, and says that he can confirm the status of the title directly from the UK government. The bad news is I can't make you address me as "Your Grace" when writing to tell me to slither into my closet. The good news is I don't have to change my name to Grace. . . .

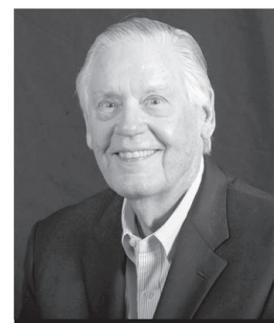
Since the Duke of York gig tanked, I am now considering applying for a position as a college football coach. My plan is to lose a bunch of games and get paid \$50 million to go away. It seems to have worked out well for some coaches recently. Ten schools have gotten rid of their head coaches who are owed \$169 million. Who says losers can't be winners? . . .

How religious are we in Georgia? According to the Pew Research Center, our state ranks 10th as Most

Religious overall with 49% of us saying religion is important in our life and 38% attending church regularly. Sixty three percent believe in hell. Three percent consider themselves atheists and God is one hundred percent sure He will deal with them personally when they show up claiming they were just kidding. By the way, the least religious state in the survey was Vermont. I'm no theologian but I suspect God doesn't care what Vermont thinks. I know I don't. . . .

Congratulations to Andrea Ibrig, of Douglasville, and Brooke "Moth" Cope-land, of Murrayville. They are enrolled in the Wellstar School of Nursing at Kennesaw State University and are this year's recipients of the Jane J. Yarbrough Scholarships, established in honor and memory of the Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name. I have not met them yet but when I do I will tell them about the remarkable person for whom the scholarship is named. She got her nursing degree from KSU and became a registered nurse after our kids were in college. It was difficult but she persevered. May she be an inspiration to the current recipients and all those to follow. . . .

Tim Echols, a member of the Georgia Public Service Commission sent me a note after my column on the cur-



By DICK YARBROUGH

rent PSC races in which he and fellow Republican Fitz Johnson are running for reelection. It wasn't a "serious factual error" like the Duke of Whomsoever's tut-tut. It was a nice response. I said there had been six rate increases for Georgia Power customers since 2022. Not so, Comm. Echols said. Only three. The first one was phased in over three years. So that counts as only one. Three or six, the net effect on Georgia Power customers still amounts to about \$43 per month or over \$500 annually. Speaking of Georgia Power, Comm. Johnson says he and Echols are running against Democrats "who think it's right for taxpayers to fund gender-affirming surgeries for prisoners (and) want control of your

power bill." Only if Georgia Power approves. Not much happens at the Public Service Commission without Georgia Power's approval. Not even gender-affirming surgeries for prisoners. . . .

In case you missed it, our commander-in-chief and leader of the free world recently posted an AI-generated video of himself wearing a crown and dropping a planeload of feces on protesters. George Washington, who turned down an offer to be king and declined a third term, and Abraham Lincoln, who worked to keep our nation united instead of dividing it, have to be shaking their heads in amazement. . . .

Finally, the above-mentioned Pew Research Center report on religion didn't mention it but God does love columnists. Just when I think I've run out of material, Republican Senator Ted Cruz says Marjorie Taylor Greene has become a (shudder!) liberal. MTG says. "I don't obey Republican men's demands that I, as a woman, don't remain seen but not heard," and calls Cruz and others "pathetic Republican men." Thank you, Lord.

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

JOHNSON COUNTY 42, GMC PREP 3

Turberville throws for four TDs, Trojans take care of business vs. Bulldogs to finish 4-peat

By RALPH JACKSON
Correspondent

WRIGHTSVILLE — The Johnson County Trojans beat the Georgia Military College Bulldogs 42-3 Friday to cap a perfect season, and capture their fourth consecutive region championship.

Coming into the last game of the regular season, the Trojan defense had only given up 15 points in a first quarter the entire season, and none in the second.

GMC received the opening kickoff and drove 57 yards in 11 plays. The Trojans stopped them on the Johnson County 19.

The Bulldogs' Zac Koehler kicked a 36-yard field goal with

5:51 in the first quarter. The Trojans, down 3-0, trailed for only the third time this season.

Fortunes changed quickly. The next drive, six plays and 57 yards, changed the lead. Jeremiah Scott ran for 23 of the yards, and Tayshawn Norris for 12.

Daezon Devero caught a 19-yard pass from Nathan Turberville for touchdown with 3:02 to go. The point-after attempt failed, but the Trojans led 6-3.

"We started off slow," said JoCo senior Cedric Bridges. "We had to lock in and get focused, and we executed."

At 10:43 in the second, Scott intercepted a Bulldog pass in the Trojan red zone.

Then began an eight-play, 81-yard drive. Turberville threw to Norris for a nine-yard touchdown at 6:42. Scott ran the conversion and Johnson County was up 14-3.

On the Bulldogs' next drive, Bridges recovered a fumble and advanced it 14 yards to put the Trojans on the GMC 48.

Turberville connected with Scott again on a 48-yard pass with 37 seconds in the half. Will Peoples kicked and the score was 21-3.

The Trojan kickoff was backed 15 yards due to an unsportsmanlike penalty, and afterwards the Bulldogs started at the 50.

On the final play of the half, their quarterback lost 11 yards and

fumbled. Jalen Daniels scooped and scored, 39 yards, with no time left on the clock. Peoples kicked and the Trojans led 28-3 at half.

On the Trojans' first possession of the second half, Turberville threw a 28-yarder to Daezon Devero and another 28-yard touchdown pass to Cory King. Peoples kicked and the Trojans led 35-3.

With Chance Wombles at quarterback, Johnson County moved eight plays and 58 yards. Zacarion Graddy had a 34-yard run during the drive. Jamie Wadley had the 4-yard touchdown carry. Preston Kilpatrick kicked, and the Trojans led 42-3.

Jeremiah Taylor led JoCo tacklers with five and four assists.

Zion Wesley had four with five assists. Cory King had four with one.

Jeremiah Scott Trojan rushers with five carries for 63 yards. Jeremiah Scott had two receptions for 58. Nathan Turberville, who was 6-for-6 passing, said it was a great feeling to win the region championship.

He felt like his team made some mistakes, but he's glad they were made in the final game instead of the playoffs.

"This team is resilient and we showed that we are the better team," Turberville said.

The Trojans will be at home for the first round against McIntosh County Academy on November 14.



HEADSY PLAY: Jamarcus Knight got his helmet on the football to knock the ball loose, then returned it for a touchdown that dramatically reversed the heading of Friday's first half, which was almost all Dodge up until the sudden shift late in the second quarter/HORACE AUSTIN

DUBLIN 22, DODGE COUNTY 18

Irish rally past Indians to clinch second, first-round home game

By J. ROY ROWLAND IV
Correspondent

An assertive second half helped Dublin overcome a very slow start to its last contest of the regular season Friday.

Dodge County scored the game's first 13 points, and controlled most of the first half. But the Irish turned things around starting with two turnovers and a defensive touchdown in the second quarter, then wore the Indians down at the line the rest of the way to a 22-18 win to clinch second place in the region.

The all-important home field advantage will have Dublin (seeded eighth with a final record of 8-2) at home for its first-round game, a rematch with Washington County on Nov. 14. Dodge, which is No. 18 in the draw, will go on the road to 15th seed Rabun County.

The Indians, for a second-straight year in the rivalry, were the hotter team out of the gate.

They took the football first, and drove to score on Kain



DON'T GET BURNED: Dublin's coverage kept the Indians' passing game from hitting big plays for most of the night, but two early drives in the first quarter were a different story as Kain Mincey found Jeremiah Carr in a one-on-one matchup, then Jeremiah Burns (12, above) wide open for fourth-down scores on Dodge's first two drives of the game/HORACE AUSTIN

Mincey fourth-down touchdown passes both their first two times with the ball.

The nine-play opening possession consisted of positive runs by Jeremiah Alston, and two completed passes by Mincey, the touchdown in stride to

Jeremiah Carr on a 34-yard slant with 9:29 still left in the first quarter.

A missed point-after left the lead at 6-0.

IRISH
Continued on page 6

NORTHEAST MACON 29, EAST LAURENS 8

Falcons put up fight, but fall in finale as Raiders finalize first-place finish

By MICHAEL A. LOUGH
For the Macon Melody

MACON — Northeast head coach Jeremy Wiggins has had better half-times.

For one, his top-5 team was up by only seven points, at home, against a team it beat 32-7 a year ago and that lost last week at home to the least successful Region 2-High A team the past few years.

And it looked like his quarterback — also his son — would be out the rest of the game.

Northeast had to grind and battle more than expected, but did just that to ease further ahead for a 29-8 win over East Laurens at Thompson Stadium in the regular-season finale.

The Raiders move on at 8-2 overall and 8-1 in region play, a record good enough to win the region championship. Northeast and Dublin both finished 8-1, but the Raiders got the tiebreaker nod courtesy of their 20-0 win over the Irish. The region title marks the first for Northeast since 2009 and the first region trophy of Wiggins' career as a head coach.

The Raiders, seeded fifth, are set to host Fannin County in the first round of the state playoffs. East

Laurens, which just avoided the cut as the 32nd team in, will travel to take on No. 1 Heard County on Nov. 14.

Wiggins may wield some discipline when the Raiders return to work after a night of emotions, face-to-face discussions and penalties, to the point where officials called Wiggins and East Laurens head coach Jesse Hicks to midfield with 4:30 left in the game to advise them to get their teams under control.

Hicks, who in the final minute lost his quarterback to a physical hit, wasn't happy and felt the officials didn't corral players enough or early enough, although there were no real scuffles or ejections.

"Referees are supposed to control the game and call the game," he said. "When things start to get like that, you have to send kids out. If you don't do that, it's going to continue. That stuff happened the whole game."

Neither team was sharp, although the Falcons played well enough to hang around longer than expected.

"I just love the way that my kids competed," Hicks said. "You know, at the end of the day, nobody

FALCONS
Continued on page 6



REPLY HAZLEY, TRY AGAIN: Passing success in Friday's game was often as unpredictable as shaking a magic 8-ball, as defenses of East Laurens and Northeast combined to pick off five passes. Bryson Hazley (above) came up with two to help the Falcon defense keep the outcome in question until fairly late in the second half/ZACH DAWSON

GHSA STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

West Laurens battles back to walk off wins Friday; Missed chances vs. Cherokee Bluff bring run to end in consolation

From STAFF REPORTS

After falling to the secondary bracket with a loss to eventual state champion Heritage Thursday night, West Laurens ground out wins in elimination games against Pickens and Monroe Area on Friday to advance as one of the final three teams left standing in the GHSA state softball tournament.

The Raiders would drop a 3-2 heartbreaker to Cherokee Bluff

early Saturday to rule out chances of a second shot at the Generals in the finals, where the Bears would be defeated by a run to finish as runner-up.

But a power surge from their earliest victory Thursday carried over into both games of day 2, which West Laurens (31-5 overall) would walk off with home runs 5 and 6 of their trip in dramatic finishes to beat Pickens 13-4, and Monroe Area 7-6.

The grand slam of Maggie Shea Lord put finishing touches on a six-inning run ruler in the early matchup. K.K. Wilson hit her second of the tourney to complete the Raiders' remarkable three-inning comeback from a 6-0 hole to survive late that evening.

Lord had one other hit in addition to the slam, singling to spark a four-run fourth inning that broke the Pickens game open as the Raiders almost doubled their ex-

isting lead of 5-0.

Chandler Malone's single, followed by a Jacely Hogan two-run homer (also her second of the week) put them up 2-0 in the first inning. The lead grew by three thanks to Malone's second base hit, a Hogan single and RBIs by CheyAnn Phillips and Ava Collins.

Malone drove in Lord for run No. 6 early in the fourth, but the rest of the West Laurens scoring came with two outs as Wilson sin-

gled to right, Phillips doubled to left and Collins and Demmie Moss reached base on errors.

Some Pickens scoring in the succeeding frames necessitated a few more runs to put the game away. Those came in the bottom of the sixth as Collins got aboard, and Allie Sahli and Madison Brown singled to load the bases.

Lord's grand slam flew out to

STATE
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STATE
Continued from page 5

center for the winning runs. A lengthy wait between games led to a sluggish start against Monroe Area, which came out hot with four runs in the second inning and two more in the fourth to build a 6-0 lead. Things weren't looking great until West Laurens got

to work, and cut the deficit to just three with four runs in the fifth inning. Moss doubled to start it out, and eventually scored on a wild pitch, as Sahli and Hogan drew walks around a Lord single to re-load the bases. Wilson's single cleared them off to make it a two-run game. The Raiders chipped

away one more in the sixth on two errors and a Lord RBI single, though a third out left both the tying and go-ahead runs in scoring position. But West Laurens had two more clutch hitters coming back around in the seventh, and quickly reeled off two big swings to steal the win as Hogan singled,

and Wilson cranked a 2-2 pitch out to right center for the winner. The Raiders and Bluff traded a run each in the second inning of Saturday's matchup. The Bears assumed a 3-1 lead in the third, cashing in on an error and walk to follow the double of Audrey Graham with Jaycee Archer's sacrifice fly

and an RBI by Lillie Diehl. West Laurens was only able to score one more in the bottom of the inning as Malone singled to drive in Brown for an unearned run. But Peyton Davis, who'd keep the Raiders silent the rest of the way, got a flyout and strikeout to end the chance with multiple runners on.

IRISH
Continued from page 5

The Irish came out cold on their first drive, and punted to give Dodge the ball at its own 34-yard line after a few minutes had ticked off the clock.

After just a few short plays that gained positive momentum, the visitors used their first timeout of the game facing a fourth down and 4, with 5:38 left.

With the ball at the 43-yard line, Mincey completed a short 5-yard pass, and ended the drive after a couple of short runs on a 36-yard strike to Jeremiah Burns to give Dodge a 13-0 lead with 2:42 left in the quarter.

Dublin started the next drive moving the ball in the positive direction, starting at their own 40-yard line with a 9-yard run by Trav Bostic.

Dontavius Cannon drove it just past midfield, and Jeff Davis connected with Will Wallace on a 6-yard pass to get the Irish were moving towards the end zone as the quarter came to a close.

But the drive stalled as the second began, and the Irish were forced to punt from their 42.

After both teams traded punts, Dublin's big moment of the first half came with just five minutes left before the teams hit the locker room.

Jalen Dardy, Jamarcus Knight and Dorian Carcomo had kept the Indians off-balance on the drive. Facing a third and twelve at the 45-yard line, QuanTavis Lovett picked off a short pass for the Irish. Dublin fumbled soon after, but Knight got



SECOND-HALF PUSH: Jamarcus Knight (8) uses a stiff-arm to ward off a reaching tackle by Dodge County's Cam Hughes (5) on a run during Dublin's first of two go-ahead scoring drives in the third/**HORACE AUSTIN**

it back within a few plays, forcing another loose ball, then going 53 yards on a scoop 'n score to put the Irish on the board just before the half.

They trailed 13-7. Dublin came out of the locker room and started at its own 25. Cannon carried the load on the drive with multiple runs over five yards each, and Bostic picked up the rest, setting up a Davis 2-yard plunge into the end zone to give the Irish their first lead, 14-13 with 3:20 left to play in the third quarter.

Dodge would start fourth with a field goal by Julius Roberts, after a sack forced a Dublin inside its 10-yard line, and the Indians took a two-point advantage 16-14.

But Dublin answered right back on the ensuing drive, taking just eight plays after starting at their own 35 to tack on the final points of the contest.

It was again Cannon that was too much for the Indian defense, and Knight finished with the 7-yard touchdown run. He went back in

for the two-point conversion to give Dublin the lead for good with 8:35 left 22-16.

Dublin flocked to the football on a Dodge completion behind the line of scrimmage on the fourth-down stop in its own territory to seal the game with about five minutes to go.

The Irish, picking up several first downs on their way over midfield on the ensuing drive, ran out the clock without giving the ball back.

Mincey was 15-of-25 passing for 127 yards, but Dublin held Dodge to just 66 yards on the ground.



ONE STOP'LL DO IT: Trav Bostic makes the wrap-up after a catch by Dodge receiver Gabe Yeomans at midfield. It was one of back-to-back Kain Mincey completions that helped get the Indians into Irish territory, as they drove in search of a go-ahead score on what would be their last possession. But Dublin made a fourth-down tackle a few plays later to hold them/**HORACE AUSTIN**

FALCONS
Continued from page 5

thought we would come in here and play football.

"Football is a game that is played with execution and it's played with sharpness, and you can't win football games off reputation and I told our kids that we got to make them play football and I think we did a good job with that."

It looked early on like a running clock in the second half might be on tap, when the first pass of new quarterback Bryson Hazley was picked off by Jaiden Center.

The Raiders moved 45 yards in three plays, 33 coming from quarterback Jordan Wiggins on the first play, who hit then Tavares Tinsley Jr. for the 7-yard touchdown pass.

Three plays later, Hazley was intercepted again by defensive lineman Chad Manuel on an ill-advised short pop pass into a pile.

But Northeast went nowhere. Hazley then re-

turned the favor by intercepting a pass himself in Raider territory, but the Falcons fumbled it back at the 10.

Northeast covered 84 yards on six plays, the final 41 coming on Scottavian Thomas's curl, catch and burst upfield for a 15-0 lead at the 11:26 mark of the second quarter.

The Falcons answered four plays later. Hazley, who spent the night scrambling and buying time, found a remarkably wide open J.J. Wright, who made a move to avoid one Raider just before two Raiders took themselves out of the play to give East Laurens a 55-yard touchdown pass.

The muddling resumed for both teams. The Raiders mounted a late drive, getting all the way to a first and 10 at East Laurens' 16-yard line, but the drive imploded with two negative plays,



WRIGHT BACK IN IT: J.J. Wright outruns two Raiders to the end zone after catching a pass from Bryson Hazley for a 55-yard East Laurens touchdown early in the second quarter. The score cut an early 15-0 Northeast lead to seven points, and the Falcons stayed close the rest of the night/**ZACH DAWSON**

including an intentional grounding and the play Wiggins got hurt on.

"We had some good big plays early in the half because we were spreading the ball," Jeremy Wiggins said. "We tried to get our

running game going, and we were a few blocks away from hitting a big one, but they kept the shoe-string tackling.

"We weren't executing, we weren't finishing,

we weren't finishing drives, weren't protecting."

Neither team showed that any half-time speech was impactful. A shanked punt set up the Raiders on the Falcons' 20, and Bam Glover — last year's starting quarterback and this year's jack of all offensive trades — hit Jacory Sherman, who made a nice reaching catch, for a 20-yard touchdown and a 22-8 lead with 2:08 left in the third.

East Laurens, which battled ball control and muffed snaps all night, got to Northeast's 22-yard line only to lose eight yards and then the ball. Hazley got his second interception three plays later, and the Falcons crossed midfield and lost the ball on downs.

All the while, players on both teams offered reviews

after a few plays and had to be separated. The Falcons' final threat ended when Maurice Wilson picked off a pass and returned it 40 yards down the right sideline with 2:33 left in the game.

Wiggins said the Raiders had a quality week of practice, but he was still concerned.

"Homecoming week, not really focused on anything, just came out and played bad," Wiggins said. "I kind of knew what type of a trap game this was, and luckily, we didn't fall in the trap. We were able to (stay) out of it."

His son suffered a shoulder injury, and there'll be no prognosis for a day or two. Regardless, Northeast will have some work to do.

"Probably this and Peach County," Wiggins said if it was the Raiders' worst game of the year. "First and last game. We just didn't play good at all."

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL
Friday
Dublin 22, Dodge Co. 18
Northeast Macon 29, East Laurens 8
Johnson Co. 42, GMC 3
Wheeler Co. 58, Treutlen 14
Wilcox Co. 56, Montgomery Co. 6
Washington Co. 27, ACE Charter 21
Wilkinson Co. 43, Twiggs Co. 30

SOFTBALL
Friday
West Laurens 13, Pickens 4
WL 7, Monroe Area 6

Saturday
Cherokee Bluff 3, WL 2

PREP SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL
Friday
GIAA Quarterfinals
Trinity at Briarwood
Windsor at Brentwood
/7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 14
GHSAA Playoffs, Round 1
Beach at West Laurens
East Laurens at Heard Co.
Washington Co. at Dublin
McIntosh Co. Academy at Johnson Co.
Dodge Co. at Rabun Co.
Jeff Davis at Bleckley Co.
Jenkins Co. at Wilkinson Co.
Manchester at Wheeler Co.
Treutlen at Mt. Zion (Carrollton)/7:30 p.m.

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

Classifieds

Employment

CREW LEADER PUBLIC WORKS

The City of Dublin is accepting applications for a Crew Leader in the Street Department. Work involves the responsibility for the safe and efficient operation of heavy or specialized equipment. This employee must be able to operate a diverse range of equipment which includes a variety of trucks, heavy motor equipment, and construction equipment. Front-end loaders, motor grader, backhoe, trencher, are examples of the types of heavy motor equipment that will be used. Air hammers, power saws, and compactors are examples of the types of construction equipment that will be used. This employee will supervise and be the lead worker for a construction crew of five or more employees. The operation of this equipment requires considerable manipulative skill and the ability to perform specialized tasks to which the equipment is assigned. Worker will also perform various unskilled/semi-skilled duties. Supervision is received from the Public Works Director and/or Street Superintendent who makes oral or written assignments and inspects work while in progress and upon completion.

The successful applicant must possess a high school diploma or GED

and three (3) years of related work experience. Applicant must also pass a drug screen and have a valid Class A Commercial Driver's License. Salary range is \$48,029.81 - \$61,333.69 annually based on experience. An extensive fringe benefit package including health, dental and life insurance is also offered.

To apply online, visit our website www.cityofdublin.org. until position is filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

GREENS SUPERINTENDENT

The City of Dublin is currently accepting applications for a team member with a positive attitude and initiative for the Golf Course. This individual will be responsible for daily oversight of gold course maintenance employees, ensuring crew assignments are completed. Schedule and supervise landscape maintenance and the use of and maintenance of equipment; planning, cultivating, pruning, and caring for plants, shrubs, and trees; the characteristics and proper use of various fertilizers and soil conditions, herbicides, and pest control methods and materials; drainage control methods; and irrigation systems, including wells, pumps, and automatic and manual controls. Work requires considerable amount of independent judgment. Works directly with the Pro-Shop Supervisor to coordinate course play and tournaments to ensure the course is ready for such events. Reports directly to assigned supervisor.

Applicants must have experience in turf management or related field or trades training, thorough knowledge golf course operations and practices and the equipment and supplies necessary to effectively manage the same. Applicants will need possession of a valid State of Georgia Driver's License; able to pass a drug test and background check, eligibility to be bonded; and eligible for possession of pesticide applicators license. Preferred applicant with a pesticide applicator's license with 2 or more years' experience in turf management and educational background in turf management with a related degree. Starting salary range is between \$54,904.31 - \$85,101.69 based on experience. An extensive fringe benefit package including health, dental, and life insurance is also offered. To apply, please visit our website: www.cityofdublin.org. The position will remain open until filled and interviews will be scheduled upon receipt of applications for qualified candidates. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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.

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.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE BY STEPHAN PASTIS

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

OVERBOARD BY CHIP DUNHAM

DEFLOCKED BY JEFF CORRIVEAU

ZIGGY BY TOM WILSON

PLUGGERS BY JEFF MACNELLY

Sister's "gifts" can do more harm than good!



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My sister is cheap. She's also not good at choosing gifts for people. Often, the things she gives are worse than if she'd done nothing at all. An example: She was just here visiting and brought my 4-year-old a toy car she'd picked up at a garage sale (fine, so far), but one of the wheels was broken off. She had the wheel in her purse and said something about gluing it back on, but never did. Once she left, we tried to glue it, but it turned out the toy wasn't fixable, and my son was very disappointed.

This isn't the first time this has happened. There's a history of clothes that are too small, ripped or dirty, toys sent so late the child has long outgrown that stage, etc. It's not a matter of money. She's the director of a large law school, so she can buy anything she likes. It is a matter of attention.

I've spoken to her several times about not bringing gifts anymore, but she glosses over the disappointment and says she loves seeing kids open the things she brings. Someday, my kids will be old enough to see her behavior as quirky, but for now I want it to stop. Am I right? -- GIFT RIFT IN THE WEST

DEAR GIFT RIFT: You aren't wrong. Your sister appears to be "a little off-center." I agree with you that one day in the not-too-distant future, your children will be discerning enough to notice the "gifts"

down in a storm. The current owners are a young couple with a small baby. We have had occasional, friendly driveway conversations but don't really know them. Would it be presumptuous to ask if they would be willing to let us pay to have their tree removed? People can be prickly about their property. But maybe they wouldn't mind someone else covering what is probably an inevitable cost.

We want to continue having a friendly relationship, while also moving forward with our project. Thoughts? -- UPGRADING IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR UPGRADING: Because you have a cordial relationship with these neighbors, it shouldn't be offensive to point out that their tree presents a problem. When you do, tell them that a falling branch had damaged their front windows and gutter, which caused an expensive repair. Explain that the cracks in the tree could present a danger to their little one, then volunteer that you are more than willing to pay the cost of having it removed.

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

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES ©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
 ♠ 9 5 2 ♥ J 8 7 5 2 ♦ K ♣ K 8 7 5
 EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
 1♠ Pass 1♥ Dbl
 2♦ ?

What call would you make?
 A - After the opponents bid 2 suits, a double promises 4 cards in each of the other 2 suits. This hand is worth a bid. Bid 3C. Partner will have 4-card support.

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
 ♠ A 10 3 ♥ 10 9 6 3 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ J 10 6

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 1♠ 2♣ 3♠* Pass
 3♠ 4♣ Pass ?
 *Spade fit, invitational values

What call would you make?
 A - How can this hand not be worth a raise? Bid 5C.

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
 ♠ K Q J 9 4 ♥ K 9 ♦ K J 4 ♣ A J 8

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 1♠ Pass 2NT* Pass
 ?
 *Game forcing spade raise

What call would you make?
 A - A game try might help West with the opening lead. Just bid 4H. This hand is worth it.

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
 ♠ Void ♥ A K 9 6 5 ♦ A 8 ♣ - A K J 8 7 3

As dealer, what call would you make?
 A - Non-experts love to open 2C, and many would choose that bid. That is usually a poor choice with a 2-suiter, and experts would open 1C. Open 1C. Please!

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
 ♠ 6 5 4 ♥ A K Q 9 8 ♦ A 8 7 3 ♣ A

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

What call would you make?
 A - A game try might help West with the opening lead. Just bid 4H. This hand is worth it.

Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
 ♠ A 4 ♥ K Q 10 7 4 3 ♦ J 3 ♣ 9 7 5

As dealer, what call would you make?
 A - 1H or 2H? It's OK to have a maximum once in a while. Open 2H.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Play, as a guitar
 - 6 Intelligent
 - 11 Fall behind
 - 14 Van Cliburn's instrument
 - 15 Lake boat
 - 16 Mineral-bearing rock
 - 17 Extraterrestrial
 - 18 Command
 - 19 Animation collectible
 - 20 Royal flush card
 - 21 U.K. conservative
 - 23 Whale's home
 - 25 Boast about
 - 26 ColorSilk dye brand
 - 29 Very fast run
 - 32 ___ or the other
 - 34 Light beige
 - 35 "Alas": 2 wds.
 - 36 Not too bright
 - 37 "___ the ramparts..."
 - 38 Wrapped dim sum food: 3 wds.
 - 42 Inquire
 - 43 "Wise" bird
 - 44 Remove from office
 - 45 Stay on your ___
 - 47 Camping gear chain: Abbr.
 - 48 Accustomed (to)
 - 49 Silly behavior
 - 51 Requires
 - 53 To and ___
 - 54 Lawyer's assignment
 - 55 That lady
 - 58 Bearded antelope
 - 60 Some toy bricks
 - 63 Race with a baton
 - 65 Actor Vigoda
 - 66 Plentiful
 - 67 Paperless Post rival
 - 68 Chum
 - 69 Get to your feet
 - 70 Went out with
- DOWN**
- 1 Petty quarrel

Created by Stella Zawistowski 8/11/25

2 Scramble piece
 3 Wet weather
 4 French indefinite article
 5 Billings native
 6 Look down on
 7 1860s First Lady: 3 wds.
 8 Salt ___ pepper
 9 Fish eggs
 10 Using few words
 11 Neighborhood's flavor: 2 wds.
 12 "You ___ too much!"
 13 Toothpaste type
 22 Not inside
 24 Adam's wife
 25 Mood, for short
 26 Medical treatments
 27 Vague threat: 2 wds.
 28 Breastfed
 29 Rock layers
 30 Cyanide, e.g.
 31 SpaceX supply: 2 wds.

33 Nothing
 39 Be in debt
 40 Provided, as a service
 41 Musical work
 46 Knight's title
 50 Brown sodas
 52 Made simpler
 55 Narrow cut

56 Detest
 57 Peered at
 58 Open space
 59 The Thunder's league: abbr.
 61 CPR pro: Abbr.
 62 Transcript number: Abbr.
 64 Actress Longoria

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Level: Beginner

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!

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

ANSWER:

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

the ESPLOST referendum.

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

People who live in the county will only be able to vote for ESPLOST and bonds. Montrose and Rentz will vote for those along with its city council races. Everyone will be able to cast a ballot for the two Public Service Commission races.

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

MADISON STREET

Continued from page 1

is done.”

In a previous meeting, the DDA approved the purchase of the old Roberts Electric Building on Madison Street.

“It aligns with the development of Madison Street, which is exciting,” Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Glenda Berry said.

In other meeting news:

- Berry reminded the board that “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” (Nov. 14-15) and “A Charlie Brown Christmas Live on Stage” (Dec. 20-21) will be coming to Theatre Dublin for Christmas this year.

“We have two great holiday shows and also ‘The Nutcracker’ coming to the stage,” Berry said.

Charlie Brown will return most of the cast from last year’s production.

- The board approved Franco’s Roofing Co., led by Franco Sotero, to work on the roof at the Carnegie Library.

- Berry announced that board members could let her know when they want to tour the Lovett Tharpe Building.

“It is a fascinating building, and there’s a lot of history in there,” Berry said. “If we can get that building restored in the middle of downtown, it could change our downtown.”

- DDA operations manager Nichole Padgett mentioned that Betta Focus’ roof was having leaks and needed to be replaced.

- Berry announced that the Friends of the Carnegie plans to hold a special about the life and times of Hub Dudley. They are also planning to do an Andrew Carnegie Day.

- Board member Jason Keyton announced the first Sip and Shop to be held on Thursday, Dec. 11.

“We are still putting together some ideas,” he said. “We have been getting a lot of response from this. I think we’re going to have a really good event.”

- Jingle & Mingle is set for Friday, Dec. 5.

“We don’t want people to be so spread out this year,” Keyton said.

- Board member Josh Crews said the Saint Patrick Pig in the Park will be held on Feb. 27 and 28 next year.



The Redcoat Band performs its pre-game and halftime shows for a packed home side of the Shamrock Bowl/PAYTON TOWNS III

REDCOAT BAND

Continued from page 1

Rayner said. “I feel like if I had not been a part of the Redcoat Band I would have never been able to go to New Orleans. Because I am a part of the band, I get to travel and do so much and step outside my comfort zone in ways I probably would not have been able to if I was not part of the band.”

During his freshman year at UGA, Dollar traveled with the Redcoat Band to California where the Bulldogs beat TCU for its second-straight National Championship.

“We have been to Miami, New Orleans and to Atlanta a whole bunch,” he said. “I am excited about the rest of this year. Who knows, we may have an opportunity to host a home playoff game. The trips have been a lot of my favorite things. This Georgia/Florida game has been one of my favorites that we do. This is a really fun weekend where we get to watch a lot of great football and make some fun mem-

ories. It has been a really good time.”

The home side of the stadium was packed as members of the Redcoat Band stretched and warmed up early while listening to instructions from UGA Band Director Brett Bawcum, who has been involved with the band since he was a freshman in 1992. He has been the band director since 2019. Bawcum said they used to travel to Waycross and Valdosta on their way to Jacksonville but decided to mix it up a few years ago.

“We like to go some place in South Georgia that we know UGA needs to reach out to,” he said. “Every time we go somewhere pretty much there is going to be some kind of homecoming involved in it. That is definitely true today.”

Bawcum likes that local high and middle school bands were given an opportunity to watch their practice, which featured them doing drills and going through their pre-game show.

“We know somebody is hearing us for the first time,” Bawcum said. “Wherever they go to college, we want them to participate in band. We are pretty confident that if they play their freshman year, they’ll be involved for most of their lives. We know it will make their life better.”

With former WLHS and DHS practicing for the Red and Black of the Redcoat Band, current band students from DHS, WLHS, East Laurens High School, Bleckley County and other nearby schools watched from the stands. Both ELHS band director Jaimee Blanchett and WLHS band director Richard Horne hope their students will see what it takes to practice for a university college’s band.

“They can see what the rehearsal is like, and hopefully this will let them see what options there are in music to still play after graduation from high school,” Horne said. “I want them to see that this is a real possibility.”

And having former WLHS students in UGA’s band is helpful.

“It is great to see them continue utilizing their music skills,” Horne said. “I hope my current students walk out of here believing they can do this too.”

Dollar said Horne helped him with his audition for the Redcoat Band.

“The leadership and communications skills I learned at West Laurens were super important,” Dollar said. “This is a very high caliber, so being to take that next step and make it an easy transition was helpful.”

Craft also enjoyed her time at WLHS.

“That is where I really began to love music, she said. “I love playing my trumpet and putting on a good show with all the hard work that goes into that with the discipline and the fun. Of course, I made so many friendships there.”

Being a member of the Redcoat Band will probably define her college experience.

“Almost all my closest friends are Redcoats,” Craft said. “It has truly shaped who I am as a college student as band has always done. It is wonderful to root for the Bulldogs. They seem to be keeping us on our toes every week. But they are so much fun to watch. There is so much traveling. I’ve been able to go to all of the away games this year and that has been so much fun.”

She has been able to play in some big stadiums, making the trip to Atlanta

to play in Mercedes-Benz Stadium a couple of times a year.

“I think we take for granted how wonderful that venue is,” Craft said. “It is really, really cool to play there. Of course, I’ve been to New Orleans and Miami and that has been wonderful. Those have been good trips and venues to have played in. I’m thankful to have been given those chances to doing those things.”

Blanchett said the Redcoat Band does not currently have a member from East Laurens Band of Gold - yet.

“We have a few that are marching at Georgia Southern, but we are looking forward to having somebody in the Redcoat Band,” she said. “There are auditions and rigorous process that they have to go through in order to be part of the Redcoat Band.”

She not only had her high school members but also her fifth grade band in attendance.

“It was important for the fifth graders to see that there is something after high school and they can be involved in and continue their musical journey,” Blanchett said. “We can talk about college band (in the classroom), but this is in person. It is good to see them here, because they have made being in this band their life’s journey.”

For a chilly start to the day, Bawcum was happy to see such a large turnout at the Shamrock Bowl.

“This was fantastic,” he said. “It was a cold morning and early. They showed up for us today and it always better to play for an audience instead of playing to yourself. It is great to get the feedback and having a crowd enjoying what you are doing makes all of the difference in the world.”



RISEUP Program Director Ashley Black, state Rep. Matt Hatchett, Laurens County Commission Chairwoman Brenda Chain, Georgia Recovery Bus Tour manager Jasmine Turner, and Jeff Breedlove, chief of communications and policy for the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse/PAYTON TOWNS III

RECOVERY BUS

Continued from page 1

“This year you are part of the largest National Recovery Month event and celebration in the entire United States,” Breedlove said. “It’s a great pleasure to be here.”

Breedlove was a 30-year addict but has been in recovery for the last eight years.

“I get to travel across the state on this bus with a lot of great leaders,” he said.

Jasmine Turner, the Georgia Recovery Bus Tour manager, said it has been since April 12, 2011, since she used any drugs, alcohol or mind-altering substances.

“I have the pleasure of being the bus tour manager, and I get to travel this great state of Georgia,” Turner said. “We are going around to just lift up the name of recovery.”

Laurens County Commissioner Chairwoman Brenda Chain and state Rep. Matt Hatchett were presented with overdose reversal kits.

“These will save lives,” Turner said. “We ask that both of you please hang



Pamela Otts with Widows Oil Ministry Inc. received the RISEUP Recovery Champion Award Community Partner of the Year/PAYTON TOWNS III

these up in a public place in a public building where anybody who needs access to these. Thank you so much for embracing recovery right here in Dublin.”

Chain read a proclamation, which was followed by comments from Hatchett.

“To each of you in recovery, I know it is real and it’s a constant that you have to remember you are in recovery,” Hatchett said. “Congratulations to you. The

state of Georgia invest more money in recovery than any other state in the nation.”

Hatchett let the crowd know that Black comes to the Capitol in Atlanta to represent recovery.

“She comes to the Capitol as much as I am I think,” Hatchett said. “She is up there advocating for you all the time. She is well respected and they know who she is and she is a leader in recovery in the state.”



1st
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BANK
A Division of BankSouth

Gru and his minions agree – Banking is better when you have a great team!
Happy Halloween from First Laurens Bank (a Division of BankSouth)

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