



VICTORY CELEBRATION: RAIDERS EARN FIRST TRIP TO STATE SEMI-FINALS

West Laurens' J.D. Hogan and Braylen Robinson admire the confetti under the Friday night lights after the unbeaten Raiders defeated Jenkins Friday night to advance to the school's first-ever state playoff semi-finals. The Raiders, now 13-0, will play Jefferson on the road on Friday. For more, see Sports on page 7/DANNY SCARBORO

City joins grant application for work at 257 site

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Dublin City Council approved a resolution to join the Dublin-Laurens County Development Authority in a grant application for infrastructure improvements to the Ga. Highway 257 Rail Served Site.

City Manager Josh Powell reminded the council that in 2024, the city jointly applied for an Economic Development Administration grant for improvements related to the Hwashin development.

"This is for the road to be constructed, which is the main road that is giving access to the greater 257 Rail Served Site," Powell said. "It also included the cost of running the sewer from where we left off with our

project at the corner of 257 and the (U.S. 441) Bypass and up into the property to serve the different sites that may develop there, including the Hwashin site. It also covered the cost of the water infrastructure to be run and storm water retention."

After the development authority received the initial grant, it was awarded just over \$2.9 million for that grant. It has about \$907,000 in access funds. The authority wants to do some work to further improve the site, Powell said.

"EDA is requiring that to be a whole new grant application," he said. "This is not for additional money. It is for retaining all the funds we originally applied for

CITY COUNCIL
Continued on page 10

Dexter Christmas parade pushed back a week

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The town of Dexter has announced plans to push back its Christmas parade because of the weather and the fact that the West Laurens High School football team will be playing on the road in the Final Four this Friday.

Dexter Mayor Emmett "Rod" Waites said the town took into account that the WLHS' game in Jefferson meant that members of the Raider Brigade band would not return home until early Saturday morning.

"They might not be getting back home until 2 or 3, and that would have been rough for the band," Waites said. "It's not a parade without the band there. They will be more likely to be there the following Saturday, so we moved it back. Plus the weather's forecast is supposed to be bad."

Waites planned to call businesses, individuals, churches and groups who have already committed to being in the parade Monday. Line-up for the Dexter parade will begin at 8 a.m. at Possum Hollow Ballpark area.

PARADE
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Morris Bank has put up a new 27-foot-tall Christmas tree in Founders Park/PAYTON TOWNS III

Kick off Christmas downtown with Jingle & Mingle, lighting of new tree

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Though the weather outside might be warmer than one would assume for this time of year, the Downtown Development Authority is making plans to have a merry Christmas this season.

Jingle & Mingle will be the next event on its list going from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. this Friday, Dec. 5. Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Glenda Berry said vendors will be set up in front of Theatre Dublin, Carnegie Library and down Bicentennial Plaza.

"The vendors will be set up around 4 p.m. that Friday and inside the Carnegie," Berry said. "Jingle & Mingle officially starts at 5:30 p.m. That is when G Rhythm will be doing entertainment across the street at Founders Park. Inside the Carnegie we'll have members of the Laurens County Library who

will be reading children's Christmas stories."

At 6:30 p.m., a new 27-foot-tall Christmas tree in Founders Park, located next to Morris Bank, will be lit.

"It's comparable in size to our previous tree but it is newer with brighter lights and some Christmas-themed ornaments that are around it with a Nativity star on top," said Whitney Kilgo, marketing director at Morris Bank. "We wanted to give it a refresh since it has been several years since we purchased a new tree. This is just a great way to show the community that we are here to spread some Christmas cheer, as well. We're excited about that."

"It is something we always look forward to each year. The DDA has done a great job with all of the events through Jingle & Mingle. They have done a great job for setting up opportunities for vendors and

for kids to go get treats from different local merchants."

Santa Claus will be available for photos in the Carnegie, children will be able to do crafts and there will be a hot chocolate station set up.

"Also, intertwined with the entertainment by G Rhythm, we will hopefully have some of our local performers leading the crowd in singing Christmas carols," Berry said. "If anybody is interested. We'll be putting an appeal to the different casts to see if they'll come out and help the crowd sing. That will be something fun to do."

They will have stockings at Theatre Dublin for children who can visit the vendors and merchants and some of them will give out treats.

"We're just trying to bring back the entertainment and singing, and we love working with the li-

DDA CHRISTMAS
Continued on page 10

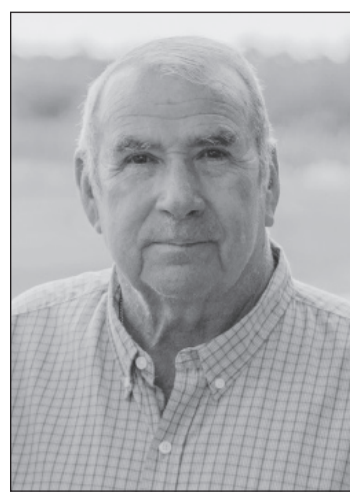


SALVATION ARMY DOUBLES NUMBER SERVED THROUGH ITS THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

The Dublin Salvation Army was able to double the amount of people it typically helps through its Thanksgiving Program for Laurens County residents. Charika Todd, director at The Salvation Army of Dublin, said they helped 88 families with a turkey and food this Thanksgiving. Vehicles pulled up to the Dublin Civitan Fairgrounds where each family received a turkey and a bag of food to go/PAYTON TOWNS III



OBITUARIES



Ricky Carl Pope

Graveside funeral services for Ricky Carl Pope, 72, were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025, at Dublin Memorial Gardens. Mr. Thurmon Foskey and Rev. Tyler Daniel will officiate.

Mr. Pope was born Dec. 14, 1952, in Dublin, Georgia. He was the son of the late Carl Pope and Leola Daniels Pope. He was also preceded in death by his son, Anthony Neal Pope; and two brothers, James "Jimmy" Carl Pope and Hilton Pope Sr. He was a member of Marie Baptist Church. He retired from the Fire Department for the City of Dublin. Mr. Pope passed away, Friday, Nov. 28, 2025, at his residence.

Mr. Pope is survived by his wife, Jan Pope of Dexter; a son, Drayton (Danielle) Pope of Dexter; a brother, Douglas Pope of Dublin; two sisters, Thelma Foskey of Dublin, and Glynda Rowland of Dublin; and 10 grandchildren, Cayse Thomson, Cartar Pope, Brendan Pope, Caden Pope, Riley Pope, Luke Pope, Colton Pope, Abigail Pope and Harper Jo Pope

Pallbearers will be Cayse Thomson, Caden Pope, David Register, Brendan Pope, Robert Lee and Luke Pope.

Honorary Pallbearers will be the Fire Department for the City of Dublin.

The family received friends from 12 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025, at Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Dublin Chapel.

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



Emily Laura McDuffie Pope

Emily Laura McDuffie Pope, 44, of Eastman, Ga., died Friday, Nov. 21, 2025.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, in Rockwell Baptist Church, with interment in Rockwell Baptist Church Cemetery in Milan, Ga.

She is survived by her husband - Eddie Pope;

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 1
Bill & Sue Evans

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1
Quino Green

Dec. 3
Elloweese Branham Lesia Jones

daughter - Elissa Lee Pope; mother - Dianne Marchant Walker; brother - Jay McDuffie; nephew - Joseph McDuffie; mother-in-law - Judi and Madison Kirkley; aunts and uncles - Laura Phillips (David), David Marchant (Sandy) and Tommy Marchant (Dianne).

Stokes-Southerland Funeral Home of Eastman is in charge of arrangements.



Waletha O'Neal Rozier

Funeral services for Waletha O'Neal Rozier, 80, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the First African Baptist Church, 405 Telfair Street in Dublin. Reverend J.R. Travick, pastor of the Nu-Hope Baptist Church, will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow at the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Waletha O'Neal Rozier was born on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1945, in Dublin, Georgia, to her parents, Saxton Kinsey and Hazel K. Wilson. She graduated from the B.D. Perry High School in 1963. Waletha joined the New Bethel AME Church at an early age and later became a member of the Nu-Hope Baptist Church in the late 1970s, where she faithfully served until God called her home. She enjoyed a fulfilling career as a seamstress and retired from Easter Seals.

Ms. Rozier passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents, Saxton Kinsey and Hazel K. Wilson, along with her siblings: Ralph James, Elizabeth, Geneva, Robert, Retha Mae, Eddie Howard, James Earl, Charles, Harry and Karen. She is also preceded in death by her husbands, Johnny O'Neal Sr. and Eugene Rozier.

She leaves to cherish her memory six children, Johnny (Cheryl) Oneal, Rodney (Alma) O'Neal, Tony O'Neal, LaRetha (Kenneth) Holloway, Thurmond (Tongela) O'Neal and Priscilla (Edgar) Boston, nine grandchildren: Carlos (Amanda) O'Neal, Lashana O'Neal, Andrea (Terrell) Clay, Darius (Auke-la) Holloway, Rodney O'Neal, Jr., Brianna (Darrell Jr.) Plummer, Johnny O'Neal, III, Jamila Holloway, and Jasmine Boston, one sister: Cornelia (Melvin) Boston, eight sisters-in-law: Mary (Jessie) McGirt, Gladys Rozar, Eloise Ellington, Hattie White, Dorothy O'Neal, Shirley O'Neal, Mary O'Neal and Bertha Taylor.

She also leaves behind nieces, nephews, and many other family members and friends who will remember her fondly.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home of Dublin.



Nelmarie Linton

Nelmarie Linton, 91, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025, at Fairview Park Hospital.

Mrs. Linton was born on Oct. 25, 1934, in Rentz, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late Marvin and Berta Rountree. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Linton, two sons, Douglas Dale Carver and Richard Alan Carver. She worked 35 years in the payroll department for Honeywell.

She is survived by her daughter, Cathy Lynn Brogan [Mike Brogan] of East Dublin; six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren and one on the way.

"Grandma Neenaw," was generous, loving and kind, ready to help family whenever the need arose.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date in the Rentz City Cemetery.

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



Frank James Westbrook

Frank James Westbrook, 61, of Eastman, Ga., died on Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

Frank was born in El Paso, Texas, on Oct. 6, 1964, to the late Elizabeth Aschrich Westbrook and William Ralph Westbrook. He worked for Coffee Construction Company for several years before later working for Reynolds Metals.

He is survived by his daughter - Jill Filichia; son - Cody Westbrook; grandchildren - Dustin, Keira, and Silas; sisters - Nancy Westbrook and Mary Westbrook.

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



Mary Elizabeth Taylor Brown

Matthew 25:21, "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025, Mary Elizabeth Taylor Brown, better known as "Liz," passed away suddenly but peacefully in her sleep at her residence in Elberton. She was three days shy of her 76th birthday.

Surviving are her sons and daughters-in-love: Bruce Michael Brown and Tracy Gurley Brown of Elberton and Brian Andrew Brown and his wife Erin Kea Brown of Dublin; grandchildren and their significant others: Michaela Allison Brown, Madison Renae Brown and Ty Smith, Keaton Andrew Brown and Graycee McNease, and Tucker Walden Brown and Brayleigh Rowland; siblings: June Delores Taylor, Louie Taylor of Vanna, and Roger Taylor and his wife Alice of Hartwell; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She has been reunited in Heaven with her husband, James Andrew "Jimmy" Brown Jr.; parents, Howard Odell Taylor and Mary Frances Vernon Taylor; parents-in-love, James and Rachel Brown; and sister-in-love, Sara Bertha Anderson.

Liz was born in Royston on Nov. 28, 1949, and grew up in Franklin, Stephens, and Hart Counties. She was a proud 1967 graduate of Hart County High School. On Nov. 4, 1967, she married her best friend and the

love of her life, James Andrew "Jimmy" Brown, Jr., and they celebrated 50 years of marriage prior to his death on Nov. 7, 2017.

Working in finance for most of her career, Liz spent many years serving the Elberton Community as a bank teller at both Granite City and First National banks. She later worked for Dr. Don Dye's Optometrist Office before working as a collection specialist at the Department of Family and Child Services, from which she retired after many years of service.

Liz was a faithful member of Elberton Christian Church where she was active in the Ladies Ministry as well as the Messenger Sunday School class. She looked forward to outings with her "lunch bunch" and enjoyed her involvement with the WOW group, a social circle for widows at Deep Creek Baptist Church. Liz was an honorary member of the Barney Parker Class at Dudley Baptist Church. She was a longtime member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

Of all of things that can be said about Liz, it is most important for everyone to know that her family was her most prized possession. Not only was she "Meme" to her immediate family, she was "Meme" to many. She relished quality time spent with her family and friends alike, always ready to give and receive the best hugs ever - "BIG HUG" until we meet again!

The family received friends on Friday, Nov. 28, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Elberton Christian Church. During other times, the family was at the residence, Villa 3 at Magnolia Estates.

Funeral services celebrating Liz's life were conducted on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 10 a.m. at Elberton Christian Church. Interment followed in Forest Hills Memorial Park.

Flowers were accepted and contributions may be made in her memory to Elberton Christian Church, 1128 Calhoun Falls Highway, Elberton, GA 30635 or to T.J. & Friends Foundation, PO Box 6161, Elberton, GA 30635.

Those wishing may sign the online guestbook at ber-ryfh.com.

Berry Funeral Home & Crematory of Elberton was respectfully in charge of arrangements Mrs. Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Taylor Brown.

Nellie Jean Lamb Bryant

Nellie Jean Lamb Bryant, 81, a native of Dublin, Ga., entered eternal rest on Nov. 24, 2025, in Atlanta.

She was born in Bell Glade, Fla., to Ethel Mae Lewis Lamb and Isadore Lamb on Sept. 25, 1944, the youngest of seven children. She spent her childhood in Dublin and was a member of Sandy Ford Baptist Church.

She graduated from Millville High School in 1961, and attended Savannah State College for one year before moving to Providence, R.I. There she met and married Lonnie Bryant, and raised their two children, Stacy and Remi.

Mrs. Bryant resided in Providence for 25 years before returning to Georgia and settling in Ellenwood. She lived there for 31 years.

She was employed for many years with H&R Block before establishing her own income tax filing business.

An artist at heart, she enjoyed painting, making mosaics and sewing.

Her son, Stacy, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her husband, Lonnie; daughter, Remi Chante Bryant; sister Yvonne Lamb-Castillo (GEHOVA-Ruiz-Castillo), and a host of nieces and nephews.

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Town of Dexter's **CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. 2025

CALL DEXTER AT 478-875-3838 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

ALL BEGIN AT 8:00 AT POSSUM HOLLOW BALLPARK AREA.

Morris Bank robber pleads guilty

Dublin Courier Herald

By Doug Hall

When Sergeant Kent Craft fled the Dublin Mall Branch of Morris State Bank in October and headed through downtown Dublin in the peak of afternoon traffic, only to be apprehended on the Oconee River Bridge, police theorized that the man was attempting his first holdup.

Friday, Craft pled guilty in U. S. District Court to five charges, Leon M. Gaskill, special agent in charge of the Savannah office of the FBI, said.

The Columbia, South Carolina, man will serve concurrent 25-year terms for his admission to robberies of the Central Bank and Trust Co., Forest Park, Georgia, April 25, 1972; Farmers Bank, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October 8, 1973; National Bank of Georgia, Decatur, May 14, 1975; and Morris State Bank, Dublin, October 13, 1975, Gaskill said.

Two of the robberies were aborted much the way that the Dublin robbery was when Craft apparently became nervous and ran from the bank.

In the Dublin case, Craft left behind \$19 of his own money when he grabbed bank manager Darrell Stephens hostage and hurried from the building.

Stephens was released minutes later - shaken but unhurt.

Agent Gaskill praised the Dublin and East Dublin Police Departments for the quick response in arresting Craft and in cracking the other four bank robberies.

"The investigation of the matter resulted in the solution of four additional bank robberies due to the diligent work of Detective F.M. Burch and Lt. Wayne Fuqua of the Dublin Police and Chief Charles Howell and Officer Ronald Fulford of the East Dublin Police Department, who arrested the suspect," Gaskill said.

Craft's behavior has been a mystery to police since the October 13 burglary. Bank employees said that the man made tough, loud threats while he attempted to rob the teller drawers, but then he fled nervously the moment he felt the bank's alarm had been touched.

At police headquarters the heavysset man sat quietly and mild mannered while he was told the charges that he faced.

Craft confessed that he had successfully gotten away with four earlier robberies. Yet, he had driven his late model Lincoln Continental into heavy downtown traffic although a lightly traveled interstate

highway was less than three minutes away.

And police have been unable to understand his motive. Detective Burch said that the 31-year old man is a member of a prominent South Carolina clothing store family. The trunk of his Lincoln contained golf clubs and expensive leather coats.

But police began to consider his possible involvement in other robberies when two bank money pouches containing several hundred dollars in small bills were found in his suitcase. Craft said that the money was his.

A map with a number of Georgia and South Carolina towns encircled was also discovered.

Dublin was one of those towns.

DOUG HALL NAMED EDITOR

Doug Hall, a native Dublinite, was named Executive Editor of the Dublin Courier-Herald yesterday in a joint announcement made by W.E. Lovett, President of the Courier-Herald Publishing Company, and W.H. Champion, Editor and Publisher of the Dublin Courier Herald.

Hall has been associated with the Courier-Herald for the past two years. He has been general assignment reporter, news editor, and photo editor. He will continue these assignments and will have added to his duties, assistant to the Publisher.

The new Executive Editor is a graduate of Henry W. Grady School of Journalism of the University of Georgia. While at the University, he served on the news staff of Governor Jimmy Carter.

He is a member of Sigma Delta Chi and is a charter member of the Middle Georgia Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi Society of Professional Journalists.

He is the son of Mr and Mrs. F.L. Hall of Dublin and is a member of the First Methodist Church.

Also announced yesterday in the staff of the Dublin Courier-Herald was the naming of Griffin Lovett, son of W. E. Lovett, to the position of Vice President of the Courier-Herald Publishing Co. Young Lovett is presently the Photo Editor and general assignment reporter for the Dublin newspaper.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING

Dublin downtown streets will be filled with spectators, most of them youngsters, hoping to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus when the annual Dublin Christmas Parade begins at 4:00 on Saturday,

December 6.

The parade, sponsored by the Dublin Exchange Club, will line up along West Moore Street for the mile and a half parade route. The parade will travel south on Jefferson Street, around the Courthouse Square and west of Jackson Street. The parade will end at the Martin Theatre.

Bands, floats, and units from the Al Sihah Temple of Macon will accompany Santa Claus through downtown Dublin.

Al Scarborough, parade chairman, hesitated to single out just a few Exchange Club members who work in the parade preparations since everyone in this active organization gives of their time and energy to make the parade a success. But he noted that Ed Bell, Butch Miller, Johnny Payne, Robert Brown, Herbert Rowe, and Kenny Flanders have helped to coordinate floats, bands, and judging.

Three cash prizes will be given to the best non-commercial float.

Exchange Club officials announced that Santa will visit the Pancake Supper at the Central Elementary Cafeteria following the parade. The supper begins at 5:00 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are available from all Exchange Club members, especially Brawnner Smoot, the all-time champion ticket salesman for the Exchange Club.

Proceeds from the supper will be used to help Laurens County Boy Scouts to attend the Summer Scout Camp at Camp Benjamin Hawkins near Byron. The boys receiving help would not otherwise be able to attend.

Santa is expected to make his way back to the North Pole immediately after the supper to put the finishing touches on millions of toys he will distribute later this month.

NOTICE: "ACCENT ON GIVING"

During the Christmas season, the Courier-Herald will spotlight persons or groups donating their time and resources to make Christmas happier for other persons.

If you know of an individual or group which is doing something to make Christmas brighter and more joyous, let us know. We would like to tell everyone about it in "Accent on Giving."

You may phone us at 272-5522 or write us at Drawer B, Court House Square Station, Dublin 31021.

TOWN ELECTIONS

Dudley
John W. Chappell and

Tom English were elected to Dudley City Council on Wednesday in a city election that attracted 72 per cent of the town's registered voters.

English, an employee at Warner Robins Air Base, led the balloting in the three-man race with 89 votes. Chappell, a farmer and former operator of Chappell-Hogan in Dudley, got 86 votes.

Although the election was decided on a plurality basis, both councilmen-elect tallied a majority of the 111 votes cast. Dudley has 154 registered voters.

James E Ramage, the third candidate in the race, was defeated with 39 votes.

Both Chappell and English are newcomers in city government.

Bennie Davis and Dillon Logue, the incumbent councilmen, did not seek reelection.

Dudley's Mayor Delano Butler and Councilmen Cliff Crews, Gerald Miller, and Howell Hudson were not up for election this year.

Rentz
A mayor and five coun-

LOOKING BACK... 50 YEARS AGO DECEMBER 2, 1975



By HARRIETT CLAXTON

citizens will be elected when Rentz voters go to the polls on January 28.

Qualifying for the six posts ends January 13, Town Clerk Janice Wyatt stated.

Voter registration books are open at Town Hall and will remain open until December 28.

As of this morning, no candidate had signed to run for any of the six offices.

The present City Council includes Billy Wyatt, mayor pro tem; J.C. Fordham, M.L. Knight, Ralston Davidson, and W.C. Etheridge.

The mayor is Foster C. Taylor, who was elected by acclamation last Septem-

ber when no one decided to seek the unexpired term of former mayor, C.L. Woodward, who retired due to ill health.

Taylor received 83 of the 89 votes cast.

1950 BREWTON CLASS REUNION

The 1950 graduating class of Brewton High School recently held their class reunion at the Holiday Inn in Dublin.

A very delicious meal and delightful fellowship followed.

Attending with wives and husbands were Ruth (Dent)

50 YEARS AGO
Continued on page 4

HUGE TWO DAY AUCTION

DECEMBER 5TH & 6TH

389 W. Mcadowlake Pkwy Swainsboro, GA 30401

AUCTION STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. ON BOTH DAYS!

CONSIGNMENTS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 4TH

<p>DAY 1 - RING 1 - FRIDAY CONSTRUCTION, HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS, SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, SALVAGE, AND MORE!</p> <p>DAY 1 - RING 2 - FRIDAY OVER 400 ATTACHMENTS, STEEL SHELTERS, AND CARPORTS - SELLING ABSOLUTE!</p>	<p>DAY 2 - RING 1 - SATURDAY AG EQUIPMENT, IMPLEMENTS, PERSONAL AUTO, AND GEORGIA POWER VEHICLES</p> <p>DAY 2 - RING 2 - SATURDAY MISCELLANEOUS ROW - EVERYTHING INCLUDING THE KITCHEN SINK!</p>
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UPCOMING AUCTIONS

FEBRUARY 7TH - FARM & CONSTRUCTION - SWAINSBORO, GA

FEBRUARY 21ST - CHESTER KIGHT FARMS RETIREMENT SALE - TARRYTOWN, GA

MARCH 21ST - FARM & CONSTRUCTION - SPRINGFIELD, GA

APRIL 11TH - FARM & CONSTRUCTION - SWAINSBORO, 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.

Dublin-Laurens Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Committee

P.O. Box 354
Dublin, Georgia 31040-0354



Presents the Thirtieth (30th) Annual
DUBLIN-LAURENS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE
January 17, 2026
11:00am In Downtown Dublin
Line up Starts at 9:30am
Deadline for entries is December 17, 2025

Theme:
"Mission Possible II: Uniting a Nation. Building a Future. The Nonviolent Way"

\$50.00 Entry Fee

Name of Organization/Entry: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Name: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____

Type of Entry: (X one) Float Car Van/Truck Marching Unit
Motorcycles Tractor/Trailer Horses Other

The parade participants need to be in place by 10:00a.m. and the parade will start at 11:00am.
The parade route will be the same as previous years, starting on Telfair Street. Entry numbers will be posted along Telfair Street for your convenience. **Your entry number will be emailed and/or texted to you by or on January 15, 2026.**

MAIL ENTRIES TO:
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE COMMITTEE
POST OFFICE BOX 354
DUBLIN, GA 31040-0354
E-mail: dublingamlkjrparadecommittee@gmail.com

I/We will participate.
 I/We will NOT participate.

Please send a brief narrative (2 to 3 sentences) of your organization to be used to announce your entry during the parade. See next Page

*By participating in the Martin Luther, Jr. Parade, you agree that the City of Dublin and the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Committee will not be held liable for any liability, damages or injury that may occur in relation to this event.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For further information, you may contact Secretary Royce J. Hall at 478-697-1107.

50 YEARS AGO

Continued from page 3

Tyson, Carolyn (Wommack) Morgan, Frankie (Peavy)Stewart, Miriam (Clements) Kight, Bronelle (Kaney) Slade, Martha (Sheppard) Brantley, Mary Frances (Snipes) Lewis, Bobby Watson, Sally (Morgan) Jackson, Stokes Jackson, Binion Mimbs, Mark Boone, Betty (Outlaw) Canady, and Beeman Keen, Jr.

DUBLIN JR. HIGH HONOR ROLL

First Quarter Honor Roll
November 25, 1975

7th grade:

Jim Shoptaw
Tim Smith
David Kellam
Judy Gunn
Irving Dawson
Alan McTier
Lynn Jordon
Lee Blanchett
Pete Jump
Patti Miller
Ricky Fordham
Sherrilyn Hodges
Joyce Moore
Leigh Phillips
Cindy Paark
Jeff Hall
Bobby Boyer
David Bethea
Gale Horne
Nanette Clayton
Dana Bell
Lisa Hicks
Stephanie Powell

8th grade:

Shirley Williams
Pam Ballard
Cassandra Jackson
Cathryn Smith
Allyson Watson
Lynn Fagan
Tom Grimes
Robin Ladson
Terry Mercer
Delica Veal

DUBLIN HIGH HONOR ROLL

The Dublin High School Honor Roll for the first grading period of the 1975-76 term is below.

9th grade:

Melody Hutto
Davey Stevenson
Beth Wyatt
George Evans

Terri Brown
Craig Jones
Lisa Mondes
Angel Sanders
Ellen Griffith
Greg Thomas
10th grade:
Nancy Mullis
Rena Cresman
Mark Hobbs
Ennis Law
Jim Moran
Cheryl Taylor
Betsy Frost
Karly Hay
11th grade:
Cheryl Cook
Robbie Howell
Ruthanne Council
Jimmy Williams
Bruce Miller
Eddie Roberts
Terry Windham
Cathy Hess
Lisa Kisalus
Angela Graham
Beverly Grimes
Karen Carswell
Janet Hobbs
Ann Wagner
12th grade:
Vicki Browning
Kathy Hood
Ethel Pittman
Candy Cochran
Jan Kibler
Theresa Law
Alexia Neighbors
David Smith
Peggy Smith
Lee Weaver
Bo Edwards
Judy Griner
Janie Baker
Dianne Hammock
Dee Griner
Linda Jones
JoEllen Lowery
Marlene Sculatti

OUR MEN IN SERVICE

Marine Sergeant Larry C. Reid, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Page of 732 Central Drive, East Dublin, Georgia, has reported for duty with 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa.

A 1973 graduate of East Laurens High School, he joined the Marine Corps in May 1973.

Biloxi, Mississippi - Airman First Class Charles S. Hobbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.N. Hobbs, Jr. of 1938 Green Street, Dublin, Georgia, has

graduated at Keesler AFB, Mississippi, from the Air Training Command's basic course for electronic specialists.

The airman, who received instruction in communications and electronic systems principles, is remaining at Keesler for advanced training.

Airman Hobbs is a 1972 graduate of Dublin High School.

San Antonio, Texas - Airman Mickey L. Hobbs, son of Mrs. Annie L. Hobbs of Dexter, Georgia, has been selected for technical training in the U.S. Air Force aircraft maintenance field at Chanute AFB, Illinois.

The airman recently completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where he studied the Air Force mission, organization, and customs and received special instruction in human relations. Airman Hobbs is a 1969 graduate of Dexter High School.

Marine Private First Class Charles H. Maddox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene W. Maddox of Route 7, Dublin, Georgia, has been meritoriously promoted to his present rank upon graduation from recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

He received the early promotion for his superior performance in all phases of the training, which emphasizes physical conditioning, discipline, and teamwork.

Ft. Campbell, Kentucky - Army Private First Class William C. Manross, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Manross, 526 Hudson Drive, Dublin, Georgia, was awarded the Air Assault Badge at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, on November 14.

Pvt. Manross earned the award by successfully completing physical fitness tests and the Air Assault School.

The private entered the Army in September 1974 and completed basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

He is a 1974 graduate of Dublin High School.

Election case against Trump dismissed

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol-Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Nearly half a decade after it started, the election fraud case against Donald Trump and his fellow indicted allies has ended, with a Fulton County judge on Wednesday granting a special prosecutor's request for dismissal of the conspiracy case against the president and his 14 remaining co-defendants.

Peter Skandalakis, executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, wound up in charge of the case after the Georgia courts removed Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis over ethical concerns.

Skandalakis, who formally took over as the prosecutor less than two weeks ago, concluded that many of the charges would not stand up under free speech grounds. But he also offered pragmatic reasons, such as the fact that Trump would not be exposed to criminal prosecution again until after leaving office in 2029.

Realistically speaking, a trial could not begin for a decade until after the 2021 events that led to the indictments against Trump and 18 alleged co-conspirators, and it would likely take many years to conduct, Skandalakis observed.

"Continuing this litigation under these circumstances would neither serve the citizens of Georgia nor fulfill our statutory obligations," Skandalakis wrote in his motion to dismiss the case Wednesday morning. "Our agency is simply not equipped to

carry out this case while meeting the essential duties required under the current budget—or under any realistically conceivable budget the State could provide."

He added that he did not think Georgia citizens would be served by pursuing the prosecution for another five to 10 years.

Fulton County superior Court Judge Scott McAfee immediately issued an order granting the motion to dismiss, ending a case that started in February 2021 when Willis announced her investigation.

Her case was grounded in two main events: Trump's phone call to Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger asking him to find enough votes so he could be declared the winner in Georgia, and the convening of Trump allies who positioned themselves as alternative electors to those who cast their votes for Joe Biden.

Skandalakis detailed his reasoning in each of the charges. In some cases, free speech was a core issue. For instance, he wrote that Rudy Giuliani had told lawmakers "wrong and baseless" things about the election during unsworn testimony, but he did not think the circumstances merited prosecution.

"Criminalizing such unsworn testimony would have a chilling effect on witnesses appearing before the Legislature on important issues," Skandalakis reasoned.

In the case of David Shafer, accused of false statements to a prosecutor working for Willis,

Skandalakis determined that Shafer had not said anything false or misleading.

In the events surrounding the breach of election equipment in Coffee County, Skandalakis noted that two participants had already pleaded guilty to misdemeanor counts. One of them, Sidney Powell, an attorney, had advised others under indictment that it was legal to access the election machines to gather evidence for a lawsuit. Another who pleaded guilty, Scott Hall, had arrived by chartered plane to supervise the work, conveying "the appearance of acting under the color of law," Skandalakis wrote.

He decided it would be an "inefficient" use of state resources to prosecute the others after those two had already resolved their cases "favorably" through negotiations with Willis.

Then, there was incident at the center of everything that unfolded in Georgia: Trump's call to Raffensperger.

Mark Meadows, Trump's chief of staff at the end of his first term, was also among those charged due to his involvement in arranging that call and in observing election verification processes.

"The White House Chief of Staff's job duties are varied and fluid. We could have a debate if arranging phone calls, observing the signature-verification audit, or messaging an investigator to expedite the vote audit process falls within Mark Meadows's duties," Skandalakis wrote.

CITY OF WARNER ROBINS

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

DECEMBER 4, 2025
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
PERKINS FIELD
105 MULBERRY ST

LIVE PERFORMANCES
FOOD TRUCKS
FAMILY FUN
AND SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA!

WARNER ROBINS GEORGIA

OUR TAKE...



Workers put a box filled with a turkey and other food items to make up a Thanksgiving meal into a car during Greater New Friendship Baptist Church's event held at Old West Laurens on Nov. 22/PAYTON TOWNS III

Giving back should always be on our minds

It began with Greater New Baptist Church handing out 100 turkeys in 2022. It went up to 250 the next year and 400 in 2024. This year, the church, along with Journey Church, Dublin-Laurens Teen Court and the Dublin-Laurens NAACP Youth Group, gave out more than 500 turkeys and other fixings in boxes on Nov. 22 at the Old West Laurens.

This is what happens when people come together to accomplish a goal of helping others. The line of vehicles stretched back so far that event organizers began a little early. People rode through the line, one in a tractor trailer, to pick up a box of food.

Music played loud as children, youth, adults and senior residents joyfully placed parcels in vehicles and told the occupants "Happy Thanksgiving."

It is truly a blessing to give and may it be a feeling that continues not only throughout this Christmas season but all of 2026.

— Payton Towns III

YOUR TURN:

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

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love."

— Linus Van Pelt in "A Charlie Brown Christmas"

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Moreover the Lord spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

— Isaiah 7: 10-14 (KJV)

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

Dec. 2, 2025 is...

- World Trick Shot Day
- World Pollution Prevention Day
- World Computer Literacy Day
- National Skip School Day
- Play Basketball Day
- Special Education Day
- National Fritters Day
- International Day For The Abolition Of Slavery
- National Day Of Giving
- Business Of Popping Corn Day

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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— for Local News —

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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.

Shutting things down for one thing

I hate losing things, no matter what it is.

When you cannot find the remote to the TV you will turn the whole living room upside down to find it, even if you don't need to change the channel. There are some things you have to find to be able to leave the house.

I remember I went to my grandmother's house after my first class of my freshman year in college. When it came time to return to campus I could not find my keys. I looked around every room and could not see the keys. I began to grow frustrated. I knew I made it home with my keys because I would not have otherwise been able to arrive at my destination.

My grandmother saw my frustration and told me to sit down in the front room and talk with her. I, of course, tried to brush that off, pointing to the clock and saying that I needed to find those keys so I could get to my next class. The ticking of that clock was a reminder that time was counting down and I felt no where closer to finding the object I wanted most at that time.

Finally I sat down, and started having a conversation with her. She asked me a few questions that had nothing to do with my keys. I put the missing key thoughts out of my head for a moment and answered her questions. Suddenly, while speaking, out of nowhere I remembered where my keys might be and sprung up and went to the exact location. My grandmother had a big smile on her face when I returned into the room holding my keys out for her to see.

But sometimes we lose something and we have to rely on others to find it. A few years ago my wife, Jill and I and some of our family made a trip to Orlando to Disney World. Jill had never been to Disney and had wanted to go to celebrate our 25th anniversary. We started making plans about 15 months in advance.

In November of 2023, on

MAN ABOUT TOWN...



By PAYTON TOWNS III

the week of our anniversary, we arrived at Disney and of course we had fun going to Animal Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios and Magic Kingdom.

During our time at Magic Kingdom, which was the last park we did on the trip, it was raining just about all day. We did all of the rides and went to the shows. Because that day happened to be Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party, we would have to leave the park by 6 p.m. We had already done the party experience earlier in the week, and it was fun to ride Space Mountain with Christmas music booming throughout the ride.

As the time got to be 4 p.m., we rode the fun interactive Buzz Lightyear. After that, my nephew and niece and I wanted to ride Space Mountain while Jill and the rest wanted to ride something a little simpler - the PeopleMover. When we were done with Space Mountain, we returned to the location we agreed to meet. My brother saw us and said we had a situation - Jill had lost her cellphone.

Jill and my sister-in-law had gone back to the PeopleMover ride to see if anyone had turned in her cellphone. Because the last time she remembered using her cell phone was before we rode the Buzz Lightyear, I was tasked with going to that ride and asking the attendant if anyone had turned in a cellphone. Before I walked over to Buzz Lightyear, I walked over to Jill. Naturally, she was up-

set and concerned. Those working the PeopleMover ride had to wait until the current group of riders completed their turn before they put a stop to it and see if they could find it.

I walked over to the Buzz Lightyear ride and they told me that a phone had not been turned in. They asked if I wanted them to stop the ride and look. I told them what was going on at the PeopleMover and that I would return if it was discovered there. I returned to an almost distraught Jill as we waited at the exit of the ride. We could tell that Disney had stopped it to conduct a search.

From where we stood we could see people being stopped from entering the line for the ride. I recall hearing a few voice displeasure about the ride that is supposed to keep moving being stopped. What they didn't know was basically our trip - and possibly the rest of our vacation - had come down to this one little device we all so commonly place in our pocket.

And oh yeah, the clock did not stop and the second hand was quickly ticking toward the time we needed to be leaving the park. Truthfully, Jill did not know how long she had been without her phone. It had been almost a full hour since we left Buzz Lightyear. We were basically looking for a needle in a haystack - or in our case - a phone in the Magic Kingdom.

And there was nothing we could do but wait.

So many thoughts creep through your head and there were some suggestions I wanted to verbalize but kept them to myself. Like the realization that it may be lost, someone may turn it in later or it is simply gone and we are going to have to move on to our next destination without it. As I thought over those comments, I quickly realized there was no way I was going to say them at this moment.

From a distance I saw a worker with a device in his hands that looked like my wife's cell phone case. My eyes locked on it and this feeling of relief came over me as he got closer and closer. We were all excited and happy that Jill's phone had been found. The light rain fell on us, but inside we were as happy as we could be. On a side note, her cell phone stopped working a few months later and she had to get another one - I know - figures.

I bring all of this up as a reminder that it is worth it to look for that one item we lose. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:12-14 about a shepherd who will leave his 99 sheep to find the one that wandered away and got lost. It may not make sense at times to do something like this, but when we lose things, we stop everything to find it and make things right.

This Christmas season there are people who have strayed from their family, loved ones or maybe even their faith. The things we do, rather we know it or not, maybe what is needed to bring them back. It is worth it to go looking for that one who may need to be gathered up and returned, showing them that someone cares.

We never really know what we have lost until it goes missing. And when that happens, we - like Jesus said - should stop and go look for it, moving everything we can to make sure we find and bring that which was lost back home.

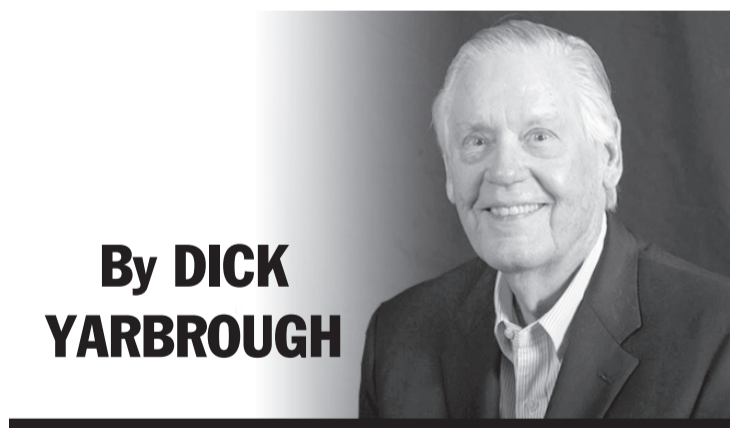
Turning down all those York dukedoms was a saving grace

I got a lot of mail encouraging me to take the job as Duke of York, which I appreciated. I thought long and hard about it but decided to take my name out of the running. I hope you aren't disappointed with me but looking back on it, I believe it was the right decision.

Andrew Whatshisname messed the job up royally and I don't think the people of York were very happy with him. I know King Brother wasn't. He took him off the royal dole and now the poor guy gets to find out what it is like to be a commoner. Probably had to give back all the medals he didn't earn. Bless his heart.

Also, there was the matter of travel. York, England, is about four thousand miles away, or 67 hundred kilometers if you want to be British about it, and that would mean a lot of travel going to look after my subjects. As I understand the job, I'd have to collect taxes from vassals and peasants, manage large estates, hold court where you have to wear one of those silly wigs, raise an army when the king told me to, lead the Boxing Day parade (I don't even like the sport) and cut the ribbon when one of my lieges opened a new coin-operated washateria in town. That's too much work.

And then I remembered there is a York in Pennsyl-



By DICK YARBROUGH

vania. It's only about 700 miles from here or 1183 kilometers if you want to be British about it. The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name had an aunt and uncle and several cousins who lived in York, Pennsylvania, and I have visited the place. Once, it was just after the meltdown at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station which wasn't all that far away from where they lived. I didn't say anything to her because she was partial to her relatives, but I could swear they glowed in the dark.

Whether the town is ready for a duke was a consideration. Referring to the locals as vassals and peasants and then trying to collect taxes from them might prove to be a bit of a challenge. Also, they have their own court system and I suspect silly wigs are frowned upon. And I don't think there is much need to raise an army because I don't sense that Donald Trump

has plans at the moment to invade York. But if I was Philadelphia, I would be on the lookout.

However, York, Pennsylvania, is home to the Rainbow Rose Center, which says it is "the gathering place for the local LGBTQIA+ community." If Donald Trump finds that out, they might want to start planning to raise their own army. Just saying.

There is a York in Nebraska, too. It has about eight thousand inhabitants and is home to the York University Panthers and has the World's Largest Collection of Marbles. It is also the birthplace of Fred Niblo, the silent era film director, but I suspect you already knew that. It sounds like a nice place but I don't see a lot going on that would interest me as a duke. I doubt seriously that I could raise an army there and being that it is Nebraska, I suspect the locals wash their own clothes so likely

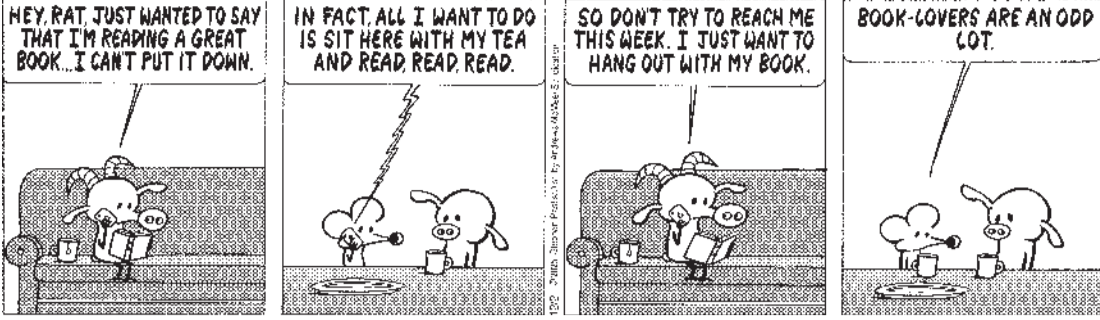
no one would be opening a coin-operated washateria in town.

And then I remembered there is a York right up the road in South Carolina. It's a lot closer to home, which would be a big plus. I could just hop in the car and be there by lunchtime. Then it occurred to me that dukes don't just hop in cars. It is probably considered very undukely. I'm thinking some guy in knickers and a red coat drives you everywhere. And that is not the way I would have wanted to arrive in York, South Carolina. They aren't crazy about Georgians in South Carolina to start with and having some guy in knickers and a red coat running around to open the door for me would get my dukedom off to a bad start.

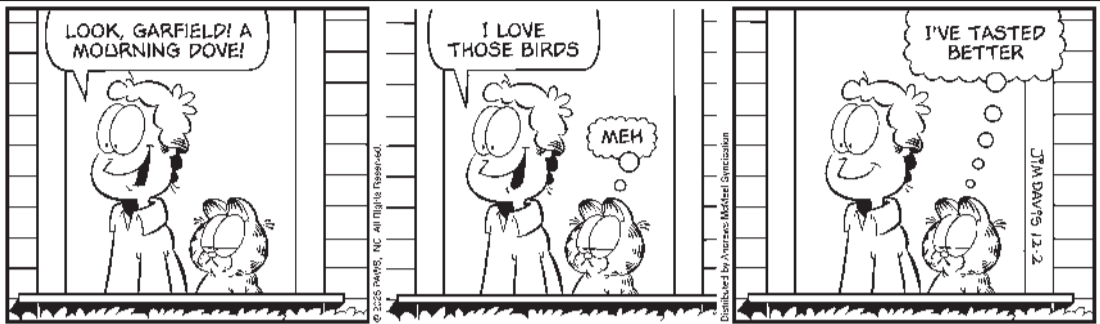
So, there it is. Being the Duke of any York isn't going to work. So, I do hereby decree that I will continue to do what I have been doing and that is to be a royal pain in the you-know-what to humorless wingnuts on both ends of the political spectrum. And I won't have to change my name to Grace.

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

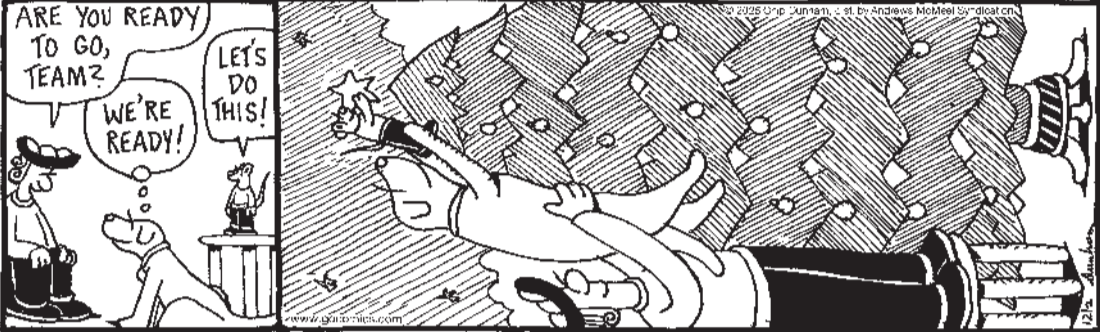
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



GARFIELD



OVERBOARD



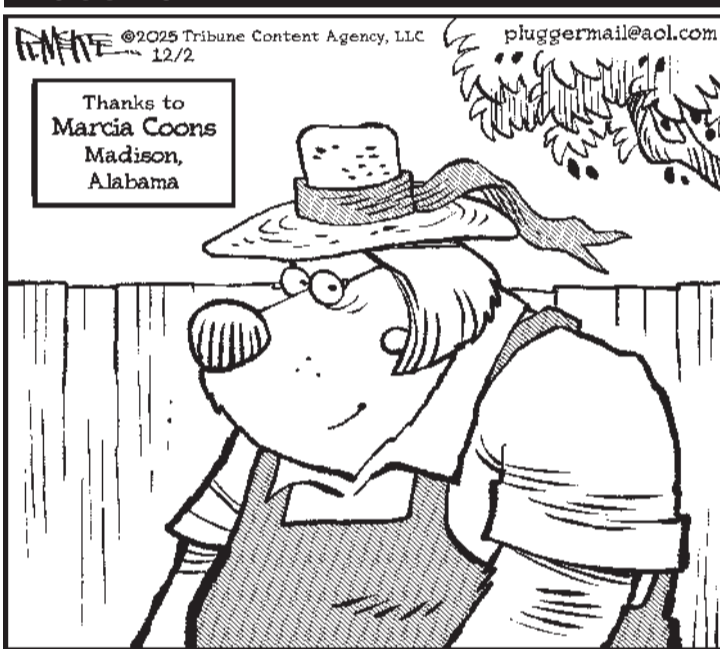
DEFLOCKED



ZIGGY



PLUGGERS



If you have a fancy hat, a sun hat and a warm hat, you're a plugger.

Early arrival sets off a silent feud!

DEAR ABBY: Our adult daughter has children we adore. She asked if we could help out by watching them for a few hours occasionally, and we jumped at that. We had done this regularly before the delivery of the newest addition (three months ago), and the kids would occasionally spend the night. With the new addition, she wanted us to come to her house to watch them, and that was OK as well -- anything to ease her anxiety about leaving the baby.

On our first visit, she asked that we not come early, to allow her time to get ready. The second time, we showed up about 10 minutes early. I didn't realize we were early. I habitually run slightly late. When she opened the door (hand never leaving the door), she said, "I thought I asked you not to come early." I handed her the food we had brought for the older children, along with some of her things, and started to head back out, because she announced she would just call their father to get off work early. I kissed her cheek, said "I love you," and told the children I loved them. Her hand never left the door.

We've talked about it since, but she says she did nothing wrong. Now she's gaslighting me, saying I seemed "off" and asking if I was going through anything. While I was early, I really don't see how it was such a big deal. She hasn't asked us to watch them since, and when I've invited them over, she says



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

they have plans. Advice, please? -- PUNISHED IN NORTH CAROLINA

and gifts, the big wooden box was gone. The bartender said the couple had already taken it to their room, but he would take the envelope and make sure they got it. I gave it to him.

After six months, I hadn't received a thank-you note, so I asked my friend if the couple had gotten my gift. I told her I was concerned because it was cash and I had given it to the bartender. She asked her daughter, who told her to tell me, "We got it." Since then, my friendship with this friend seems to have become very distant. Tell me, was I wrong? -- MYSTIFIED IN NEW YORK

DEAR MYSTIFIED: You weren't wrong. Considering the odd circumstances, you did exactly the right thing by asking if the cash had been received. Your friend, however, may have interpreted your question as criticism of her daughter because, after six months, you hadn't received an acknowledgment of your generous gift.

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.

DEAR PUNISHED: It is interesting that your daughter is asking whether you were "going through something," because the opposite may be true. Your daughter may be dealing with emotional problems, a hormone imbalance or having problems coping now that there is a new baby in the mix. If you need an interpreter to give you some insight about the abrupt change in routine, I suggest asking your son-in-law.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my husband and I were invited to the wedding of a close friend's daughter. We stayed two nights at the destination and gave a \$300 cash gift to the newlyweds. The evening of the wedding, when I went to put my gift into the box for cards

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ K J ♠ 8 6 4 ♠ Q 7 6 3 ♣ A 8 6 5

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
2♣ Pass 2♠ Pass
2NT* Pass ?

*22-23 points
What call would you make?

A - Experts have a way to look for a minor-suit fit, but most of us can't do that. Bid 4NT, quantitative. Partner will pass with 22 points and bid slam with more.

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ K 9 7 6 ♠ A K ♠ 10 9 8 7 4 ♣ K 7

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♣ Pass 1♠ ?

What call would you make?

A - You can't overcall at the two level on that weak diamond suit. What can you do? Pass.

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ J 10 4 ♠ J 7 3 ♠ Q 7 5 4 2 ♠ A J

Partner opens 1NT, 15-17, and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

A - This is a pretty soft 9 points, but 9 points and a 5-card suit should force to game. Bid 3NT.

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ Void ♠ K Q J 10 3 ♠ A 5 ♠ A Q 10 9 7 6

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

What call would you make?

A - 3H is not enough. You must insist on game with this hand. Bid 4H.

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A K Q 3 ♠ 5 ♠ 7 3 ♠ K Q 10 9 7 4

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

*Diamond raise, invitational values
What call would you make?

A - Even at unfavorable vulnerability, this hand is worth one more bid. Bid 3C.

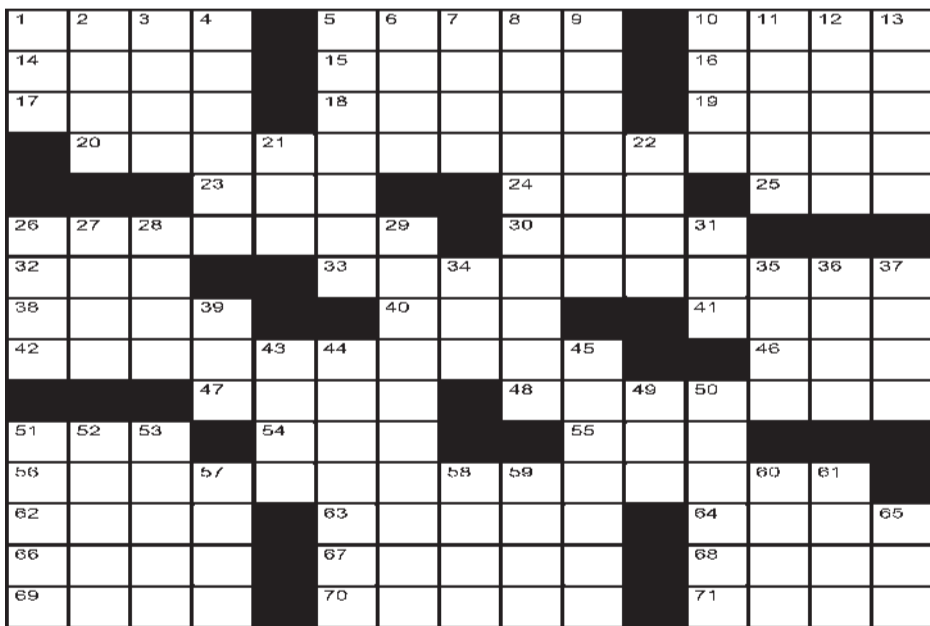
Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ K 10 6 2 ♠ A ♠ Q 6 5 ♠ Q 8 7 6 4

Right-hand opponent opens 1D. What call would you make?

A - Overcalling in a weak 5-card minor at the 2 level is usually a poor choice. The spade suit is not strong enough for an overcall on a 4-card suit. What's left? Pass.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Apple computers
 - 5 ___ and field
 - 10 Cried
 - 14 Reflected sound
 - 15 Hank of baseball
 - 16 "___ my dead body!"
 - 17 Perform perfectly
 - 18 Italian first courses
 - 19 5-Across contest
 - 20 Treat with hot fudge: 3 wds.
 - 23 Calf's cry
 - 24 Three-letter Christian symbol
 - 25 Finish
 - 26 LGBTQ pride symbol
 - 30 Exam
 - 32 "___ be my pleasure!"
 - 33 "Correct!": 2 wds.
 - 38 Entryway
 - 40 Here, in French
 - 41 Having little money
 - 42 Informs
 - 46 Ghostly shout
 - 47 The "B" in ROY G. BIV
 - 48 Silly present: 2 wds.
 - 51 ___ and aah
 - 54 Sailor's military branch: Abbr.
 - 55 Toothpaste type
 - 56 Sinatra classic: 5 wds.
 - 62 Conical tent
 - 63 54-Across rank: Abbr.
 - 64 Region
 - 66 Tied
 - 67 Lauder of cosmetics
 - 68 Shed a ___
 - 69 Sparrow's home
 - 70 "Bye!": 2 wds.
 - 71 Put in order
- DOWN**
- 1 Dudes
 - 2 Purple berry
 - 3 Stylish
 - 4 Very serious
 - 5 Underground plant part: 2 wds.
 - 6 Seldom seen
 - 7 Opera solo
 - 8 Perpetrating
 - 9 Jewish dumplings
 - 10 Shabby
 - 11 Get out of
 - 12 Pie nut
 - 13 Unable to escape
 - 21 Corn on the ___
 - 22 Cold War nation: Abbr.
 - 26 Car trip
 - 27 Lots: 2 wds.
 - 28 False god
 - 29 Aural sleep aid: 2 wds.
 - 31 Hint
 - 34 Star pitcher
 - 35 Asian desert
 - 36 Horse's foot
 - 37 Horse's gait
 - 39 Bone in a cage
 - 43 Adhesive liquid
 - 44 Shakes a leg
 - 45 Fragrant herb brew: 2 wds.
 - 49 Precious stone
 - 50 Acts smug
 - 51 Frequently
 - 52 Tapenade fruit
 - 53 Talks up
 - 57 Toothpaste flavor
 - 58 Head, in French
 - 59 Brother of Dewey and Louie
 - 60 Sandwich cookie
 - 61 Close to
 - 65 "How Great Thou ___"



Created by Stella Zawistowski

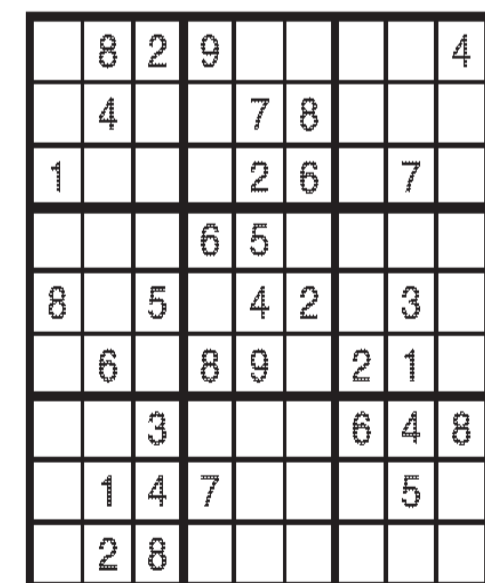
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SUDOKU

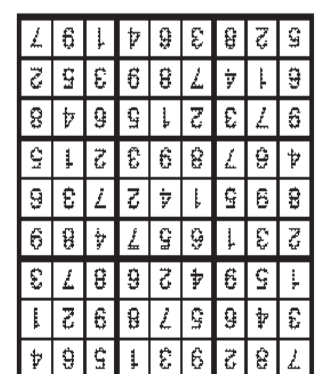


Fun By The Numbers

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!

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:

GHSA STATE QUARTERFINALS: WEST LAURENS 21, H.V. JENKINS 16

Semifinal destination...

Clutch TDs, key tackles help Raiders survive trouble vs. Jenkins, keep remarkable run alive en route to Jefferson

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

With each successive game this fall, West Laurens' season of history has looked more and more like a season of destiny.

Friday's quarterfinal round brought another installment of the first, in a 13th win to get the Raiders closer to the improbable second than they've ever come before.

Some state championship dreams that — weeks ago, even on the heels of a 10-0 regular season finish and the region 4-AAA title, still seemed a bit fantastic — are now realer than ever as they sit just one more victory from reaching Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and two from winning it all.

Trends of physical defense, Ty Cummings' explosiveness and clutch third-down conversions each continued (though mistake-free football will have to be excluded from this week's list) as West Laurens did what it's done in the three phases for most of the season to take the upper hand in an intense game, and hold off a literal last-minute rally by sixth-ranked Jenkins to win 21-16 and advance to the GHSA state semifinals for the first time in school history.

"We're excited to be here," said Raiders head coach Kip Burdette. "I'd love to be able to take all the credit, but it's just not the case. It's these kids and these assistant coaches. They got it done tonight. I'm really proud of the effort."

The fifth-seeded Warriors had won back-to-back fourth quarters, after trailing Whitewater and ninth-

ranked Peach County early in the two previous weeks, to reach the round of eight, and were once again at their toughest to beat in the last 12 minutes.

This time, though, the Jenkins deficit was a bit too big, too late as it left a slim margin for error and too little time in the end for a chance at its third come-from-behind playoff win in a row.

West's Shannon Adkins shed a block for the tackle of scrambling quarterback Demetrius Holloway that forced a turnover on downs to seemingly slam the door with the Raiders up 11, and 3:27 left to play.

But Jenkins conjured some hope by getting the ball back in the final minute for a lickety-split scoring drive, then recovering an onside kick to set up a one-play shot that failed as time expired.

There were some huge plays: Two Cummings rushing touchdowns and a clutch fourth-down scoring completion between Cason Pollock and Juvon Hill that stretched the West Laurens lead to the final 11 late in the third quarter. But the game seemed to hinge mostly on some small particulars that, with one different turn or another, might have produced a different outcome.

Among those were a key Jenkins drop of a potential pick-six and some Raider tackles to save bigger plays, and likely long touchdowns by some playmaking weapons who were dangerous in the open field.

Another remarkably pivotal moment came just before the aforementioned West Laurens stop, as the Warriors moseyed to the



HORSESHOE HYSTERIA: Juvon Hill (1) and some West Laurens faithful looking on from the end zone celebrate after his touchdown catch, on a long fourth-down pass from Cason Pollock, to take the Raiders' lead to double-digits, and send The SHU into a frenzy late in the third quarter/DANNY SCARBORO

line for a must-have fourth down, and had to burn a timeout against the ticking play clock.

That would cost them a chance to preserve some key extra seconds on the eventual drive to pull within a score of the lead, as a Jayce Blash-J.D. Hogan tackle at the 1 kept Jaden Hooper out of the end zone on a 29-yard Holloway completion that threatened to punch it in with a solid 20 still left.

Instead, the clock sank to nine as Jenkins had to hustle to the line and run another play to score.

Holloway found an open Dominique Johnson in the right corner for the single-yard TD, though his conversion (backed up five yards by a costly delay of game penalty) was pressured incomplete by a hot rush from Jayden Watkins to leave it a five-point game, rather than a more workable field goal margin.

All of the above left Jenkins in a desperate position after it got a fortunate bounce on the onside kick of Joshua Woodley, with a leaping Pollock unable to



ELITE PROTECTION: Trey Williams (left) and Jonathan Toney (65, right) maintain blocks to give Pollock time, and a clean pocket to get set for the above touchdown pass in a continuing theme of durable blocking that ran the course of the night/DANNY SCARBORO

bring the ball in as he leapt to grab it off a springy second bounce. The Jenkins recovery left seven seconds for a play from the 46 on its own side of midfield.

The Warriors, once again plagued by some miscommunication, went with a short checkdown to the left flat that, judging from reactions, was supposed to be a lateral to set up a forward pass.

So Jaylen Elliott's short chuck forward to Hooper, as Blash and Leroy Mack

attempted to wrap him up, would in fact have been an illegal pass.

The point was moot, as Mack, Adkins and Jermidous Brown tackled the secondary receiver, and officials had already ruled Elliott down before the release, therefore negating a penalty that would have been declined to end the game one way or the other.

Flags, up to the last minute, were a recurring theme on both sides. And as much as the repeated mistakes would hurt the visitors down the stretch (Jenkins was penalized 12 times for 55 yards), a good many preventable ones hampered the Raiders early in a game that had them facing two opponents: Jenkins and themselves.

West Laurens committed 11 penalties, at the cost of 85 yards, and at least a handful of big plays.

There were no turnovers, although both sides came very close to forcing a handful... the Raiders narrowly avoiding three of them in the first half,

as Cummings had trouble with the ball on two punt returns and the Warriors nearly came up with a pick-six that was dropped as Michael Jackson undercut the pattern on a long pass across the field.

West's Jaden Stanley nearly had a diving interception earlier in that ill-fated Jenkins series late in the fourth, but the pass was ruled incomplete a few plays before the eventual turnover on downs.

The uncharacteristic night, fortunately, wasn't too much to overcome.

"We did not play our best football tonight, and you would like to be playing your best football this time of year," Burdette said. "We kind of sputtered along in the first half and didn't want to come out all systems go. But came out after half, played pretty good defense all night, and kept them out of the end zone. We had a pretty good night all around, played good complimentary football and ran the ball pretty well in the second half. There were a bunch of knucklehead penalties we're going to have to fix before next week."

Despite the challenges, the Raiders were able to start fast, defensively with a hard-hitting three and out, then offensively with an 80-yard scoring drive their first chance with the ball.

Two Pollock throws and a determined Cummings run moved the chains on thirds-and-medium (each on series that began with a first-down loss) before the Georgia Southern-committed tailback ripped his way through a big hole on the right, and into the open field with one of his patent-

RAIDERS
Continued on page 8



'WHOOPI!': You could almost hear the Marvin James sound effect as Jenkins' Akeviyahn Haynes (3, left) flew past West Laurens running back Ty Cummings, when the senior paused on a dime to make him miss early in his 36-yard run for a touchdown on the Raiders' first drive of Friday's quarterfinal game/DANNY SCARBORO



George beats buzzer to help Lady C's stun Westfield; Trinity boys split Thanksgiving-week tests with Hornets, Piedmont

By JEREMY PAYNE
Correspondent

Trinity's basketball teams finished their pre-Thanksgiving action early last week at home.

The girls got a dramatic last-second win over Westfield, 55-53, in their only contest of the week Monday night. The boys went cold in the fourth quarter of Monday's set to fall 56-41, but rebounded the following night for a resounding 63-44 win over Piedmont.

Monday's girls game was back and forth throughout between two of the best teams in their respective classifications.

Trinity led 13-11 after one quarter and still had a lead at the half 27-23.

Cold shooting and turnovers plagued the Lady Crusaders out of the locker room, and Westfield would outscore them 14-9 in the third to take a slight 37-36 lead into the final stanza.

They still held a two-point lead with less than five seconds remaining. The Lady Hornets essentially just had to inbound the ball cleanly to come away with a victory, but Trinity's Chloe Rozier and Maddy George had other ideas.

Rozier got a hand on the inbound pass and came up with a steal. She then fired a pass to George, who drilled a 3-pointer as time expired to give Trinity the improbable 55-53 win.

George led Trinity with 19 and Addie Kendrick added 11. The Lady Crusaders drilled eight 3s

in the contest, and went 15-of-21 from the foul line.

Mary Blake Brannon led Westfield with 15. Maddie Gunningham had 14 and Kate Lane added 11.

The boys' contest was nip and tuck through the first three quarters. Trinity came out cold but played solid defense and trailed 11-7 after one.

The second quarter was better offensively, as they managed 16 to the Hornets' 11 to lead 23-22 at the half.

The Crusaders again couldn't find the range from outside in the third period as they were outscored 12-8 and trailed 34-31 going to the fourth.

Hudson Hodge exploded for 15 of his game-high 29 in the fi-

nal quarter as the Hornets pulled away for the 56-41 win.

Jagger George was the only Crusader in double digits with 20. Ben Hulbert added 13 for Westfield.

Tuesday's game against Piedmont was a much better for Trinity on both ends of the floor.

The Crusaders came out strong as they jumped out to a 15-11 lead after a quarter.

Unfortunately, they went a bit cold in the second as they managed just nine. Piedmont would heat up a bit from the outside with 16 of their own to take a 27-24 halftime lead.

Coming out of the locker room, the Crusaders dominated on both ends of the floor. The offense caught fire with 21 in the third

while holding Piedmont to just 10 to give Trinity a 45-37 lead.

The fourth was even better defensively as the Cougars managed just seven points. Trinity was nearly as good offensively in the fourth with 18 to pull away for the 63-44 victory.

George would lead the way again with 24 and made six of the Crusaders' 15 3-pointers in the night. Kolbi Grooms had 14 and Hayden Bowles had 12, with both connecting on four triples.

Corbett Cross led Piedmont with 21 while Cam Moss added 12.

Trinity starts the month December Monday night as its boys play at Thomas Jefferson. Both teams return to action at Stratford on Tuesday, then home for two with FPD on Friday.

TACKLE-TURNED-TD: Ty Cummings broke free from all of these Jenkins defenders on the other of his two touchdown runs, this one easily among his most impressive of the season, on the first play from scrimmage of the third quarter. At least five defenders who thought they had him corralled were left stunned as Cummings kept running, and went 80 yards to put West Laurens back on top/**DANNY SCARBORO**



RAIDERS
Continued from page 7

ed shake-outs to leave a defender frozen at the 25, from 36 yards for the game's first touchdown.

But West Laurens was penalized for taunting after the score, and had to kick from its own 25 in a mishap that probably led to Jenkins' first points in response.

The Warriors, whose feared playmaker Johnson had hauled three returns on the season, started their second possession off a short squib kick at the West Laurens 46, and scored in a matter of plays. Holloway found Johnson on a swing pass, and the senior slipped a tackle and tightroped the sideline to reach the end zone, for a Woodley kick that tied it at 7.

But his big plays were mostly nonexistent the rest of the night.

"I asked coach (Kenny) Murphy on Sunday what he thought about him, and he said if we do what we're supposed to do, I think we can slow him down. And we did," Burdette said. "Excellent job by our defensive staff and defensive players."

All three other Jenkins drives in the first half, starting in much deeper territory, ended with punts.

Save for the ending sequence, West Laurens gave them just four more good possessions in the second, forcing one other punt and a turnover on downs in between two sets of points — a first three as the Warriors settled for a 25-yard Woodley field goal early in the third quarter.

The Raider defense allowed only 89 yards rushing, and held the top-scoring offense in AAA to only 240 total yards, the remaining 151 belonging to Holloway on a 13-for-22 passing line, and just three pickups on 10 third downs.

Mack led the bunch with 10.5 total stops. Adkins added nine and Watkins 8.5, with Maxx Chafin and Zorian Willis picking up tackles for loss.

"They had quick guys," Hill said. "We just had to execute."

The West Laurens offense faced a loaded box, as Jenkins sold out heavily to stopping the run, and still had some trouble slowing the Raiders down when backs were able to find lanes to cut north-south.

Gains were hard-earned, but Cummings was able to grind out 234 of the Raiders' 288 rushing yards. Adkins carried six times for an

additional 25 and multiple short-yardage conversions. Branden Brooks picked up 18 on nine attempts.

"It was physical, fist-fight," said senior O-lineman Grady Howell, who is set to sign with Georgia Southern this week. "Most physical team, strongest team, that's how we get it done."

The Warriors' defensive posture created some openings in the secondary that Pollock took advantage of on six completions (out of 11) that were all difference-makers.

Of Hill's four catches for 73, three were chain-movers (on perfectly-timed hitch patterns to keep scoring drives moving in the first and third) and a fourth scored the night's biggest set of points.

Pollock, who also found Cummings on an underneath drag to re-set the sticks on the Raiders' opening drive, credited some rock-solid protection from his blockers for the ability to literally step up in the clutch performance.

"It was huge," Pollock said. "They were really big up front and the line held up well... Without them, I'm not able to step up in the pocket like I was on all the balls tonight. I never really had any type of bad footwork or anything. I was able to step into pretty much everything, and that's all credit to them and my wide receivers making plays."

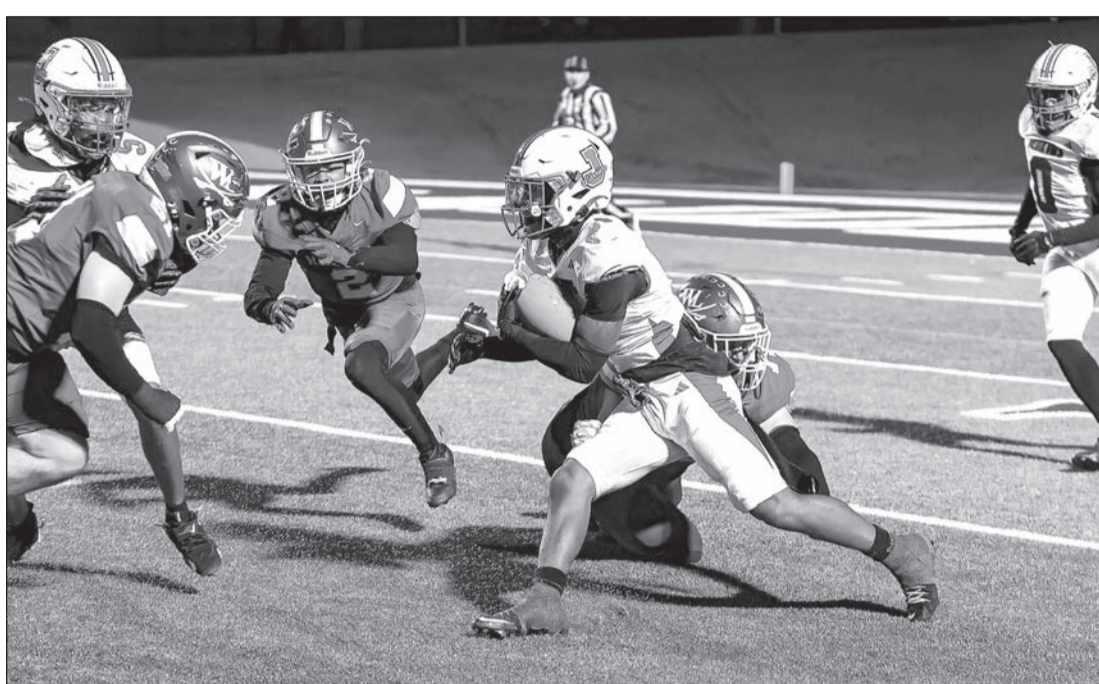
West Laurens continued its long opening streak of third-down conversions (five in a row leading to an 8-of-13 mark for the night) on a second drive, but came up empty for the first time after Cummings' long second-down run was called back on a penalty that set them way behind the chains.

The next reached midfield and survived another third and long to mount a threat, but ended on downs after another series of costly penalties.

The only sack of the game was taken by Cummings to conclude the first half as Pollock left the game for a play after being shaken up on a run for a first down.

"It was good pass pro," Howell said. "It's surreal being in the semifinals, and we just got the job done."

Cummings quickly broke the game's 7-7 half-time tie as he crashed his way through a closing window as a play that Jenkins defenders had presumed a foregone wrap-up turned



DOMO, NO! Jenkins' top athlete Dominique Johnson got loose only once, as he escaped capture on the perimeter for a 22-yard Jenkins touchdown (below) to answer the Raiders' first in the opening quarter. Though the Warriors were able to find him from a yard out on their second touchdown in the last minute of play, West Laurens kept their biggest-play threat contained to minimal yardage (above on a punt return in the second half) the rest of the game/**DANNY SCARBORO**

into an 80-yard takeoff down the left sideline.

"We just knew we had to battle adversity," he said. "We came out of halftime, set the tone early and hey, we're in the final four now."

A roughing the passer penalty gave Jenkins a leg up on its way to the red zone in an effort to answer, and a third-down completion from Holloway to KeMari Wright set up a goal-to-go series that stood a strong chance of tying the game.

It got tense... Willis flipped Wright like a pancake on a tackle in space. Then, the Raiders dodged a bullet on a bust, as they had to concede a pass interference penalty to prevent a touchdown. But an offsetting illegal shift provided a mulligan, and Stanley and Watkins combined on a tackle of Ryan Scott before Holloway missed Johnson on a throw to the left of the end zone to bring on the field goal unit, which cut the Westside lead to 14-10.

Woodley proceeded to nail his third touchdown of the game on the ensuing kickoff to force the Raiders to go 80 yards in response. But they did to increase the spread to 11.

The drive encountered more various toils and snares after Cummings was caught, by Jackson and the sideline, on consecutive double-digit carries that had a chance to go the distance. Back-to-back Jenkins tackles, as the Raiders



moved just over midfield, forced them into a fourth and 11 on which Pollock again climbed a comfy pocket to sail one to a wide-open Hill in the middle of the end zone.

"It was a long route," Pollock said. "The line did a great job all night long, honestly. Juvon's gonna go make plays if I throw him the ball. When we get the chance to throw, we can't miss 'em."

The 36-yard touchdown strike, and Duggan Malone's point-after, made it 21-10.

"It was very exciting," Hill said. "I saw them going man-to-man I knew my boy Cason could put it on the money and make a play happen. We've got good chemistry together, all since elementary school. We've just got to keep going."

The Raiders head to the semifinals with a few questions about the health of their top runner.

Cummings got a little banged up at separate

points in Friday's game, leaving briefly in the first half with an injury unrelated to the ailing ankle that he aggravated before a permanent exit midway through the fourth quarter.

His loss for the last few minutes, which may have prevented West Laurens from running out the clock on its own, put a slight damper on the late-game excitement, though post-game feelings from both Cummings and coaches, were optimistic.

"I think he's all right," Burdette said. "If you ask him, he's always good to go. We'll get him some treatment and see what he feels like."

"It's great," Cummings said, roundly dismissing any concern. "I feel perfectly fine."

Top-seeded Jefferson, the defending AAA state runner-up, will be the matchup Friday as the Raiders go on the road for the first time since October in search of a win to clinch a



CATALYTIC CONVERTER: The diving Calvin Wallace can't trip up Cummings on his run for one of four West Laurens third-down conversions along an 80-yard scoring drive that sparked some early momentum/**DANNY SCARBORO**



FOUR, FLUSHING: Jenkins' Demetrius Holloway (4) didn't have nearly as smooth a time in the pocket, as West Laurens brought near constant pressure via blitz (here, from Zorian Willis, to force an early incomplection) and its three-man rush to hurry his throws or force him to scramble/**DANNY SCARBORO**



THE FINAL TACKLE: An onside kick recovery gave Jenkins one last chance, but its short pass play didn't develop as intended, and Jayce Blash spun down Torean Wilson as time expired in Friday's fourth quarter/**DANNY SCARBORO**

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL
Friday
West Laurens 21, Jenkins 16
Clinch Co. 27,
Wheeler Co. 22

GIRLS HOOPS
Tuesday
Screven Co. 53, WL 34
Trinity 55, Westfield 53

BOYS HOOPS
Tuesday
Trinity 63, Piedmont 44

PREP SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL
Monday
Trinity (boys) at
Thomas Jefferson/6:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Wheeler Co. at Dublin
Trinity at Stratford
Baldwin at WL/6 p.m.

Wednesday
East Laurens at
Johnson Co./6 p.m.

Friday
Westside Augusta at WL
FPD at Trinity/6 p.m.
Tattnall Co. at EL/7 p.m.

Saturday
EL vs. Hancock Central
(at Baldwin)/TBA
Wilkinson Co. at Dublin
/4:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL
Friday
GHSAA State Semifinals
West Laurens at Jefferson
/7:30 p.m.

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spot in the state championship game.

The Dragons (12-1, 5-0 region 8-AAA) overcame a sticky first half, and an early 21-0 deficit, to advance past Cairo 47-28 Friday at Jefferson Memorial Stadium, which remains one of the state's most difficult places to win in the playoffs.

It is host to a current nine-game postseason win streak, and just four Jefferson losses since the school's last state championship in 2012.

"They've been a good team," Cummings said. "We've just gotta come in, battle adversity, battle the home field advantage from them and have a good game."

But the facility will be a familiar one for Burdette, as much as others around the West Laurens program who visited last nine years ago — prior to some recent upgrades — for a second-round matchup in the 2016 state playoffs.

"It's going to be a really nice venue," Burdette said. "The state track guys and I have been up there a million times for that state track meet. It's a really nice place... We're looking forward to the challenge."

I called the Dublin city tax office yesterday, Nov. 21, to get more information about the city's Homestead exemptions. I was told by Miss No Name, call the county. Dublin, doesn't have any.

What is a floating homestead exemption property tax?

No one will discuss the seniors being exempt from the unfair school tax.

It sure is sad to see so many complaining about paying taxes for schools. "I don't have kids in school!" But you live in this society! An educated populace has lower crime, poverty and inequality.

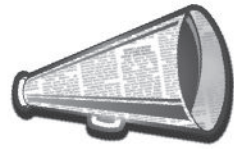
People complaining about property taxes but according to the numbers, the increase is less than \$40 a year for a \$200,000 home. Y'all are whining about one dinner for two extra per year to educate kids.

The doctor who spoke cares deeply about this community. He pays city taxes, employs locals and treats patients like me who need him. Wanting answers for one school doesn't mean ignoring the others.

Our city must elect school board members for talent and leadership, not for their politics. Our kids deserve qualified people who put kids first, not play race politics to when asked hard questions.

We need a real plan for our shrinking number of private practice doctors. Each year more retire, pass away or close their doors. It's a serious problem, and honestly, it's scary for our community.

Too many people are misinformed about IGA. More than 50 percent of the students are truly gifted students and Black students with potential from the base schools in DCS. Get your



TELL IT

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facts right before posting!

The lights strung across the street downtown need to be replaced. They are looking pitiful. It's too dark. You can barely see to walk downtown the street/string lights are so dim!

I love how the Dublin City School board and company spin the new tax increase as "it's only 3.5 percent"... no it's 28.5 percent. You just got 25 percent. "It's only \$38 more a month" isn't the point. The point is you have misappropriated the money you stole from tax payers. You have misappropriated the Fed government out of the COVID funds. You just shrug, blame the city and county (in very poor grammar) and say we'll take I from the tax payers. The point is the public does not want to give you another penny. But you will ignore the taxpayer and pass the hike anyway. And the kicker is you'll raise them again next year. Save this email, see if I'm right.

The state school superintendent has put three options for the Dublin City School board to achieve. Option one - achieve a balanced budget. There is no way that the current board of education can continue to reduce spending levels, increase revenues and/or improve cash flow procedures to ensure a future, balanced budget.

In Thursday's, Nov. 20 Dublin paper, according to Roger Woods, the state superintendent, the teachers, school-leveled staff or the taxpayers did not create the crisis. The number two option is to go into the Laurens County District to temporarily combine oper-

ations and help reduce the overall administrative cost. The administrative cost, in my opinion, is what has caused Dublin City Schools to be in such a financial bind. It's a shame that Dublin City Schools has the reputation that it does. We should get the school board out and all of the administrative cost. We should consolidate Dublin City Schools into the county. People trust the county school district. They do not trust Dublin City Schools.

The Laurens County School System has more educated people than the Dublin City School Board.

Good evening, I just noticed about the tax meeting today. I pray that people won't start moving out and selling their property. It's not the citizen's fault that the city schools did what they did. Somebody needs to be investigated and quit trying to raise taxes and covering this up.

I was just reading in the paper where a 13-year-old boy was hit by a SUV while on a golf cart. You can blame the sheriff's office because they allow this. Out here on my road, sometimes there are six or eight going through there with little young'uns driving them. The sheriff's office needs to do something about this instead of just sitting out there on the interstate.

This article about the 13-year-old airlifted driving a golf cart on a public road. There was nothing in there about who was charged. Now, I love our sheriff's office. But I think they need to be out there stopping these vehicles with the young people. This is terrible with what's happen-

ing and you see it all of the time. Have a nice day!

Explain to me like I'm 5 years old why DCS board is still sitting in their seats, making decisions, raising taxes and killing not just the school system but the city as well. They hiked taxes last year, this year, and bet on next year too. These are the geniuses who thought Fred was a good choice, voted him a \$60k raise, let him early retire and flee the scene of the crime, raised taxes 25 percent, lost \$13 million, won't account for the loss, hasn't filed a state audit since 2022, and is raising taxes again. Would a competent businessman invest in Dublin with these clowns in charge?

Concerning this Dublin City School mess, the first question to be answered is "who decided to meet payroll with employees' insurance premiums." They knew exactly what they were doing and they knew it was wrong. Probably, several unethical heads came together to plot this scheme.

If a (store) register comes up short \$13, they'll call a SWAT team until it's found. Dublin City Schools comes up \$13 million short and it's "just be patient, pretend it never happened and let's raise taxes 28 percent in two years."

Your taxes will not be going up if you are a part of the connected few here in Laurens County. Ironically those connected few are also the leading voices in favor of consolidating the school districts.

I think I've heard this song before. ESPLOST passes then property taxes go

up. Oh what short termed memories we have. Shaking my head.

classroom and discuss how the environment affects learning.

Maybe ask all the pro athletes that program has produced to offer financial assistance. After all, they wouldn't be where they were without the program, right? Some former pros still live here.

Wow! Just saw and read about an outdoor classroom. Looks like a new way to teach financial responsibility. It's 32 degrees or 92 degrees, now what? Where is the HVAC? I know, it is environmentally

It's 85 degrees, 95 percent humidity, hey class, let's go to our new outdoor

I love when I leave the gym in the morning I get to see all the sparkling trees they wrapped at James Senior Living. It is a lovely touch for the season and makes me smile.

I would appreciate if the Dublin City would keep the Laurens County School System out of this that is going on with the Dublin City School System. And also, it would be a good idea to get a hold of President Trump about this and maybe he can Linda McMahon behind this. I'm just trying to be civil but this is ridiculous.

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

	TUESDAY: 58° Periods of rain, some heavy in the morning. Sunrise: 7:16 a.m.
	TUESDAY NIGHT: 33° Low clouds, then perhaps some clearing and chilly. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY: 59° Mostly sunny. Sunrise: 7:17 a.m.
	WEDNESDAY NIGHT: 36° Clear to partly cloudy. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.

Thursday 11/20 HIGH/LOW 57/44 Sun and areas of high clouds. Sunrise: 7:17 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.	Friday 11/21 HIGH/LOW 54/48 Occasional rain; there can be ponding on roadways. Sunrise: 7:18 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.	Saturday 11/22 HIGH/LOW 62/43 A brief morning shower or two; otherwise, cloudy. Sunrise: 7:19 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.	Sunday 11/23 HIGH/LOW 65/43 Plenty of sunshine. Sunrise: 7:20 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.	Monday 11/24 HIGH/LOW 61/39 Mostly sunny. Sunrise: 7:21 a.m. Sunset: 5:25 p.m.

River levels...
Oconee (at Dublin) 2.33'
Ocmulgee (at Macon) 6.95'

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A member of the Ocmulgee Antique Tractor Club drives a decorated tractor in the 2024 Dexter Christmas Parade/HORACE AUSTIN

PARADE
Continued from page 1

The road will be closed around 10 a.m. The grand marshal for this year's parade will be Don Bryant, former Laurens Coun-

ty EMA director and fire chief. The last day to register to be in the parade is Thursday. Anyone with questions can call Dexter City Hall at (478) 875-3838.



Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight looks over material during Tuesday morning's called meeting /PAYTON TOWNS III

CITY COUNCIL
Continued from page 1

and were awarded so that they can be used to further the scope of the project that was awarded. They are requiring a new application to be submitted, and we are co-applicants because at the end of all of the infrastructure improvements, we'll be accepting the new right-of-way and the new sewer and water lines for maintenance and will continue with service thereafter."

The development authority will be responsible in managing the grants and funds and bidding out the work to be done.

"We received this about a hour (before

the meeting), and it is my understanding that the economic development authority board has a meeting that will happen in the middle of December," Kight said. "In order for us to get the grant application to the board staff in time to put it on the agenda for that meeting, we need to approve this now. We can't wait until our next regular council meeting on Dec. 11."

The council also passed a resolution to approve an application for the One Georgia Disaster Relief grant for improvements to Ferry Branch sewer main. This will sanction the application for the grant.

"I can think of no downside for applying for a grant," Kight said.

Lawmakers, including former defendant, react to dismissal of Trump election case in Georgia

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The only lawmaker among the group of co-indictees with President Donald Trump who were dismissed from the election fraud prosecution this week lashed out at the Fulton County district attorney who brought the charges more than two years ago.

"I genuinely believe that Fani Willis knew from the beginning that there was no evidence of any criminal intent on my part," Sen. Shawn Still, R-Johns Creek, said in a statement after a judge in Fulton County dismissed all defendants Wednesday at the request

of a special prosecutor.

Still was among three of 16 Republican electors whom Willis indicted in her election conspiracy case. Still said he got nothing out of joining with them and voting for Trump and never thought he was doing anything wrong.

He also said he never got an explanation for why 13 of the other electors were not indicted along with him and two others — former Republican state Sen. David Shafer and GOP activist Cathy Latham.

They had met at the state Capitol a month after the 2020 election and had cast electoral votes for Trump in an election that was decided for Joe Biden.

"I relied on the legal advice of a qualified elections attorney in the meeting, and did what he advised me and the other electors to do," Still said. "I thought I was fulfilling my duties as an elector."

Peter Skandalakis, who took over the prosecution this month after Georgia courts sidelined Willis on ethical grounds, used the same logic for recommending dismissal in the portion of the conspiracy case involving Still and the other two electors.

He pointed to what he identified as a similar situation observed by U.S. Special Counsel Jack Smith who had brought a different election-related case against Trump.

DDA CHRISTMAS
Continued from page 1

brary," Berry said. "With all of the vendors over in this area, instead of at the market like it has been in the past, we are keeping all of the activities in the same area. The Dublin Police Department will be out there to help people safely cross the street, which is always really helpful and appreciated."

In other meeting news, the board: - Heard that the Carnegie Library roof repairs have been completed. The work was done by Franco's Roofing Co., led by Franco Sotero.

"They did it in less than a week," Berry said. "They really did a great job."

- Discussed the DDA's parking lot behind restaurants off Madison Street.

"Now that Madison Street is completely open again, we are moving into a really hard stance on people

over-parking," Berry said. "We sent something to all of the merchants to make sure their employees are not parking back there. If people stay past the two-hour parking limit between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday and Friday, they will be towed."

- Heard results from a Farmers Market survey. Berry said people would like to see more fresh produce and would like to have more local farmers involved.

"We will be working on doing everything we can so that we can become a better source of vegetables, fruits and fresh flowers," Berry said. "Nichole Padgett (DDA operations manager) is committed that we are going to try to work even harder to make it an even better Farmers Market for our community."

- Heard about Friends of the Carnegie plans to hold a special about the life and times of Hub Dudley in February.



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OBITUARIES



Martha Robinson

Funeral services for Martha Robinson, 75, of Dublin, Georgia, were held on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Church of Christ on Hillbridge, 433 Hillbridge Road Dublin, Ga. Elder Ernest Simmons of Church of Christ on Hillbridge will deliver the eulogy, and interment followed in the Church of Christ on Hillbridge Road Memorial Gardens.

Martha Robinson was born on Saturday, Jan. 14, 1950, in Dublin, Ga., to his parents Charles Robinson Sr and Martha Gibson Robinson.

Martha entered the arms of the lord on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025.

Martha graduated from Oconee High School in 1967. Ms. Robinson started her career as a Paraprofessional with Laurens County Board of Education. Ms. Robinson was a private sitter for Judge William Towson & Dorothy Towson for many years. Ms. Robinson worked for Dogwood Terrace for many years. Ms. Robinson continued as a private sitter until her death. Ms. Robinson joined Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church and was an Usher until she changed her membership to Church of Christ Dublin, Ga. Among her favorite

pastimes were completing crossword puzzle books and cooking warm meals for her great grands after they got out of school when she was not working.

Ms. Robinson is preceded in death by her parents, Charles & Martha Robinson. Sisters Louise Evans, Sylvia Robinson, Jacqueline Robinson-Rouse, Leila Blackshear and brother Sammy Robinson. Nieces & nephews Sherrell Robinson, Darrell Rouse, Kevin Blackshear, Kabretta Robins, Jordin Robinson and Marlon Robinson. Son Kerry Bernard Robinson.

Martha leaves to celebrate and cherish her legacy her loving daughters Jurea Robinson of Dublin, Georgia, LaShaunya Rollins of Riverdale, Georgia, LaTonya (Terrence) Rozier of Dublin, Georgia, and her granddaughter Jonquil Robinson of Dublin, Georgia, who was raised by her and remained deeply devoted to her. Granddaughters Brittany Robinson of Dublin, Georgia, Lyntrell Robinson of Dublin, Georgia, Kiera Robinson of McDonough, Georgia, LaTravia Rozier of Dublin, Georgia and Lyntoria Rozier of Dublin, Georgia. Grandsons Andreakeas Watkins Sr. of Birmingham, Alabama, Gerald (Charmaine) Watkins Jr. of Prattville, Alabama and Lavadrick Turner of Riverdale Georgia, Great Grandsons Jalen and Jamorris Parks of Dublin, Georgia, Andreakeas Watkins Jr. and Mason Watkins of Birmingham Alabama, Legend Tobridge of Dublin, Georgia and Malachi Watkins of Prattville, Alabama. Great granddaughters Maleah Watkins of Prattville, Alabama and Saniyah Williams of Montgomery, Alabama, Taraji King and London Stephens of Dublin, Georgia. Her devoted siblings Charles (Belinda) Robinson Jr. of Decatur Georgia, Sandra

Robinson, Dublin, Georgia, Carol Roberson, of Dublin, Georgia, Mary Robinson of Dublin, Georgia, and Kay Robinson of Dublin, Georgia. A devoted Great Aunt Mary Swann of Philadelphia Pennsylvania. She leaves behind nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and many other family members who will remember her fondly.

Steven Lee "Steve" Stafford

Steven Lee "Steve" Stafford, 56, of Milan, Ga., passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025.

A celebration of life service was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, at Southerland Funeral Chapel.

He is survived by his wife - Laurie Doody Stafford; daughters - Taylor Dowdy, Taylor Sandfur, Susanna Stafford and Stacy Stafford (David Bailey); sons - Samuel Stafford and Matthew Stafford; seven grandchildren; mother - Teresa Watts (Earl); and six siblings.

The family received friends in Southerland Funeral Chapel on Sunday, Nov. 28, from 1:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Demetria L. Blackshear

Ms. Demetria L. Blackshear of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Go to www.ServicesByDudley.com for updates.

Willie Horne

Mr. Willie Horne of Dublin, Georgia of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Saturday, November 29, 2025. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Go to www.ServicesByDudley.com for updates.

Dublin Police Department

- William Wells, 61, was charged with disorderly conduct on Sunny Lane around noon on Oct. 26. An officer responded to the location in reference to an assault.

Wells told police that he had a verbal altercation with another man at his residence. During the altercation, Wells admitted to slapping the other man in the face. The man told police that Wells was making him leave the residence to find another home. He confirmed that Wells slapped him on the left side of his face.

Wells was handcuffed and transported to the sheriff's office.

- Teah Lashayla Guyton, 36, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked, suspended, cancelled or revoked registration and no insurance at 3:10 p.m. on Oct. 26 at the intersection of Marion and Industrial Boulevard.

The officer initiated a traffic stop on a Kia Sorento. The officer ran the tag and license through GCIC and discovered Guyton's vehicle had no insurance, suspended registration and the driver had a suspended license. Guyton is the registered owner of the vehicle.

The woman was arrested,



POLICE BEAT...

transported to the police department, fingerprinted and released on summons.

- Courtney Keon James, 42, was charged with possession of marijuana less than one ounce, no insurance, suspended, canceled or revoked registration and use of license plate with intent to conceal at Citgo on South Jefferson Street around 4:28 p.m. on Oct. 27.

- On Nov. 1, at 9:27 a.m., an officer responded to a vehicle collision located on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The officer made contact with Teresa Cruz, 62, who was driving a silver Kia that had been involved in a collision.

Cruz pulled off of Ga. 19 into the apartment complex when she pulled to far into the other lane and struck another vehicle. An officer ran her information through GCIC and it returned suspended due to failure to appear.

Cruz was arrested, transported to the police department, cited for driving while license suspended or revoked.

- Clinton Alton Teston, 42, was charged with possession of cocaine on East Jackson Street around 6:29 p.m. on Nov. 1.

An officer stopped a blue truck traveling on South Washington Street for a seat belt violation. Teston, the driver of the vehicle, told the officer that he was on probation from another county.

During a search, the officer found a small white rock that looked like suspected

cocaine in Teston's right pants pocket. The man said it was just a pill from the hospital.

The officer tested the suspected cocaine with positive results. Teston was handcuffed and transported to the county jail.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- Around 3:34 p.m. on Nov. 1, a deputy received a phone message in reference to trespassing on Chic inn Road in Montrose.

- On Oct. 29, around 3 p.m., a deputy responded to Interstate 16 west at mile marker 54 in reference to vehicle damage.

- On Nov. 1, around 1:54 p.m., a deputy responded to I-16 eastbound rest area in reference to a man damaging property.

- On Nov. 1, around 12:20 p.m., a deputy met with a man in reference to a report about an incident that happened on Highway 441 South.

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

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