



STORYTIME: BUSINESS' EVENT RAISES MONEY FOR SALVATION ARMY

The local Salvation Army received a \$4,000 check from Smith's of Dublin Jewelry during a holiday event where people were entertained by well known storyteller Donald Davis at the Carnegie Library. People who attended heard Davis' Christmas-related stories and saw a check presentation from Natalie Curry, owner of Smith's, to Charika Todd, Dublin Service Center director at The Salvation Army /SPECIAL PHOTO



Archway parking report shows ample spaces

Downtown to improve parking lot visibility

By KYLE DOMINY Staff Reporter

There are an ample number of parking spots in downtown Dublin, even during major events, according to a study facilitated by the University of Georgia Archway Project. The report, conducted by university graduate students for the City of Dublin, suggests the need for more signage and parking management during peak hours as opposed to more spaces. "Even large annual events such as Super Saturday, Bon Temps Crawfish and the Christmas Parade only temporarily exceed capacity for short periods," the report concluded. "These findings confirm that Downtown Dublin has sufficient parking overall, and future efforts should focus on improved signage, digital mapping and event-day parking management rather than new construction." A perceived lack of parking in downtown Dublin has long been a complaint of residents, leaving city officials seeking ways to promote public parking lots

and encourage shoppers and diners to walk along the city's streets. The recent changes of some spaces to allow for the new pedestrian crosswalk on Jackson Street, caused many to take to social media and The Courier Herald's Tell It! to complain. Some signage has been installed around downtown, but local leaders are looking to do more. "Time has passed and we probably could do a better job to promote parking," said Miriam Lewis, executive director of Visit Dublin. Lewis said Visit Dublin is working with the Downtown Development Authority to design new signs and parking management strategies to be released next year. There are about 840 public parking spaces in downtown according to the report. The UGA students used data from Visit Dublin, the U.S. Census Bureau and information from Placer AI, a firm that tracks foot traffic for public and private entities, to calculate parking demand during regular business hours and special events. The research showed that during normal weekday hours, downtown only reached 75 percent

PARKING Continued on page 10

Red Cross celebrates 2025, looks for more success in the new year

By PAYTON TOWNS III Senior Reporter

The Dublin American Red Cross had a busy 2025, moving from outside of town on U.S. 441 South to across the street from the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center. When officials gathered recently to celebrate 2025, they could not help but look forward to bringing in more volunteers to help provide support to people and families who encounter disasters in the area. "These people mean more to me than just being volunteers," said Peggy Bentz, community disaster program specialist for the American Red Cross. "They have been my family and been my backbone, helping hand and shoulders to cry

on when I needed it." Jackie Shoemaker, executive director for the South Central Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross, called this group "a family." "We not only work together to help others but we work together to help each other," Shoemaker said. "It is easy to see in events like tonight. We all just have the joy of giving with each other and the joy of giving to this community." Kelly Crane, senior disaster program manager for South Georgia Red Cross, was at the group's Christmas celebration at Moore Station Village on Dec. 18. "This group has something special with each other," Crane said. "I believe Peggy has been here for 14 years, and she is our oldest tenured employee. She

has been through a lot of change with the Red Cross, and Peggy had gone with that flow. She has managed to build a team here in the Dublin area. These folks really work well together." It is important to have a Red Cross in the area. "Our whole mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in a variety of ways," Shoemaker said. "We collect lifesaving blood. We respond to disasters big or small. Most of them being home fires, which happens just about every day in our chapter." The Red Cross trains people on lifesaving skills such as first aid, CPR and how to be a lifeguard. They

RED CROSS Continued on page 10



Red Cross volunteers celebrated 2025 with a Christmas party at Moore Station Village. Red Cross official Peggy Bentz is hoping to gain more volunteers in 2026 to help with home fires and other disasters/PAYTON TOWNS III

Bring One for the Chipper to take live Christmas trees, electronic waste

By PAYTON TOWNS III Senior Reporter

Christmas is over, and an opportunity to start 2026 out right will be available this weekend. Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful will offer its annual live Christmas tree recycling program, Bring One for the Chipper, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at The Home Depot, 1833 Veterans Blvd. For those who cannot wait until then to drop off their live, undecorated

Christmas trees, they will have the chance to drop them off in a rolloff bin that will be placed in the parking lot of The Home Depot on Dec. 26. "I like the fact that we are repurposing the trees," said Chip Wilson, with KDLB. "Most of these trees at The Home Depot will be put through the shredder." Boy Scout Troop No. 65 will be on hand to help unload the trees and handout seedlings. Electronic waste also can be brought to this event.

People can also take their live trees to one of the following six county collection centers: Parker Dairy Road, Nathaniel Drive, Valambrosia Road, Bethlehem Church Road, Rentz/Dexter Road and Old Hawkinsville Road. Wilson said people will be allowed to bring their live trees to the collection centers until Jan. 10. "The people at those collection centers know people

CHIPPER Continued on page 10

GBI investigating fatal shooting in Dexter

STAFF REPORTS

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Laurens County Sheriff's Office continue to look into the killing of man shot multiple times in Dexter on Saturday. Around 6:50 p.m., deputies with the Laurens County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a home located on Shy Street in Dexter after a report of shots being fired. When officers arrived, they found Joseph Burch unresponsive in the yard, with multiple gunshot wounds. Burch was pronounced dead at the scene by Laurens County Coroner Richard Stanley. Burch was transported to the GBI

Crime Lab in Atlanta for an autopsy. No arrests have been made at this time. The investigation and remains active and ongoing. Once the investigation is complete, the case file will be given to the Dublin Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for review. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact the GBI regional office in Eastman at 478-374-6988. Anonymous tips also can be submitted by calling 1-800-597-TIPS (8477), online at https://gbi.georgia.gov/submit-tips-online, or by downloading the See Something, Send Something mobile app.

Local lawmen looking for suspect in shooting

STAFF REPORTS

Local law enforcement agencies are looking for a man suspected in a shooting of a Dublin man early Sunday morning. According to a Georgia Bureau of Investigation press release, Dublin Police Department officers responded to an individual being shot in the 800 block of Lily Street around 2 a.m. on Dec. 28. When officers arrived, they found Alex Horn, 34,

with a gunshot wound to the head. Witnesses were interviewed and said an altercation happened between Horn and Demetrice Voneric O'Neal, 37, of Dublin. Arrest warrants were issued on O'Neal for aggravated assault and aggravated battery. Horn was transported to a hospital and being treated for his injuries.

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# 2025: Trump policies, big tech become big issues for Georgia

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The year started with news about presidents past and present, as Donald Trump was sworn in for a second term and Georgia mourned the loss of Jimmy Carter.

The Trump administration implemented major changes to immigration and trade policy that reverberated across the country and in Georgia. Developments driven by technology companies also rocked the state, as the words “data center” came into common use.

The Peach State also made its own news, from a shooting at a military base to a split between a high-profile Republican and Trump and a surprising statewide election outcome that threatened the status quo.

Here is a look at the top Georgia stories of 2025

Jan. 7: The celebration of the life of a native son and former president, Jimmy Carter, moved from Atlanta to the nation’s capital for a memorial service in the Capitol Rotunda.

Feb. 12: The state economist warned that Trump’s tariffs would probably drive up prices for Georgia consumers while suppressing exports.

March 21: The Georgia General Assembly passed Gov. Brian Kemp’s top priority — an overhaul of tort law to create a friendlier environment for insurance companies.

March 25: Lawmakers pushed back against big tech, passing a law that will prohibit student cellphone use in public elementary and middle schools starting next fall.

March 31: Reacting to the mass

shooting at Apalachee High School last year, the legislature passed a sweeping school safety bill that sought to identify malevolent students before they could do harm and to bolster mental health services.

July 25: About 8,500 students secured approval to begin the school year in private schools, their tuition covered by a new state-funded voucher program that was expected to cost taxpayers \$55 million.

July 28: State authorities announced an investigation of a company accused of operating a Ponzi scheme that bilked investors while funding Republican political campaigns. The announcement by Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger followed the filing of a lawsuit by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission against First Liberty Building and Loan and its operator Edwin Brant Frost IV.

Aug. 6: Four soldiers and a civilian were shot by a gunman at the U.S. Army’s Fort Stewart near Savannah. All survived and a sergeant was charged with attempted murder

Aug. 25: Kemp announced his decision to deploy about 75 military members across the state to aid U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Sept. 4: Federal agents detained 475 workers at Hyundai’s electric vehicle battery plant near Savannah, most of them Korean nationals, causing friction with the South Korean government.

Sept. 5: Kemp announced plans to send 316 members of the Georgia National Guard to Washington, D.C. to support Trump’s use of troops to patrol the nation’s capital.

Nov. 4: Republicans felt a chill as voters soundly defeated two GOP incumbents on the Public Service Commission, choosing two Democrats instead. The monopoly regulator had raised electricity rates several times, leading to a backlash that pushed “affordability” to the top of the political agenda.

Nov. 21: U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Rome Republican who forged a political brand as a staunch ally of Trump, solidified her break with the president by announcing her resignation a year early, in January. She disagreed with Trump on several issues, including artificial intelligence, military action overseas and release of the federal files concerning deceased sex abuser Jeffrey Epstein.

Nov. 26: A Fulton County judge granted dismissal of the criminal election conspiracy charges against Trump and his remaining co-defendants after a prosecutor took the case from District Attorney Fani Willis when the courts sidelined her over ethical concerns.

Dec. 19: The state Public Service Commission, with less than two weeks to go in the terms of two Republicans ousted by voters in November, granted a controversial expansion of electrical generation capacity for Georgia Power. The monopoly secured approval to build five gas-powered plants while sourcing other power to supply speculative demand by future data centers. The expansion raised concerns about the environmental impact of burning more fossil fuel and the cost to current customers if the nearly 10 gigawatts in new capacity proved unnecessary.

## DID YOU KNOW ...?

### Is there a professional pitcher with two perfect games?

By JACK BAGLEY  
Georgia Trust Columnist

Happy New Year!  
Time to begin making those wonderful New Year’s Resolutions, friends. You know - the ones you make today, then forget about in two or three days.

Things like losing weight, quitting smoking or drinking, getting your act together, etc. The things we all say we should do, then don’t do.

Yep, those things. If you’d like to share your resolutions with me, send me an e-mail at [didyouknow-columnn@gmail.com](mailto:didyouknow-columnn@gmail.com) and we can both laugh at them.

I am making two resolutions, one of which I shall immediately break. I resolve not to make resolutions; and I resolve to share trivia with you each week. Let’s go!

*Did you know ...*  
... a poet tried a novel way to generate book sales? When Walt Whitman (1819-1892) wanted to stir sales for his collection *Leaves of Grass*, he sent in reviews for the book to the New York newspapers without a byline. His reviews (of his own work) called the book “transcendent” and proclaimed “An American bard at last!” Sadly, the reviews didn’t help. *Leaves of Grass* sold only a few copies during its first print run. (Gives a new meaning to “reading one’s own press releases,” if you

ask me.)

... one of the oldest candies available has been around since the mid-19th Century? Love them or hate them, everyone who likes candy has an opinion about Necco Wafers™, flat round slabs of candy about the size of a quarter, which come in rolls of about 35. The candy was first produced in 1847 by the New England Confectionary Company, the initials of which incidentally form the candy’s name. They are the oldest American candy brand still in production. Additional trivia note: The oldest continually produced candy brand is Good & Plenty, the candy-covered licorice treat. Production of those began in 1893, but because of a break in production of Necco Wafers from 2018 to 2020, Good & Plenty are the oldest brand in continuous production. (And suddenly I want some candy.)

... only one pitcher in all of professional baseball history has thrown two perfect games? A perfect game is one in which a pitcher retires all 27 opposing batters without allowing a single base runner. While the first perfect game in Major League Baseball was thrown in 1880 by Lee Richmond (1857-1929), and the feat has been done only 23 times since then, no MLB or minor league pitcher has thrown more than one. The only professional ballplayer to throw two perfect games was Jean Faut (1925-2023), who pitched in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League from 1946 to 1953. Faut, who played for the South Bend, Indiana Blue Sox, threw her first on July 21, 1951 against the Rockford Peaches, and did it again on September 3, 1953, against the Kalamazoo Lassies. Additional trivia note: Faut’s two perfect games were two of only five pitched during the entire



JEAN FAUT

existence of the AAGPBL. The others were thrown by Annabelle Lee (1922-2008) of the Minneapolis Millerettes, Carolyn Morris (1925-1996) of the Rockford Peaches, and Doris Sams (1927-2012) of the Muskegon Lassies. The AAGPBL was featured in the hit 1992 movie, *A League of Their Own*.

... tropical storm classifications are based on wind speed? For a tropical storm to be considered a hurricane, its sustained winds must be at least 74 miles per hour. From 39 to 74 miles per hour, it’s called a tropical storm, and with winds less than 38 miles per hour, it would be a tropical depression. (Thar she blows!)

... the design for a popular video game character was inspired by food? Toru Iwatani (born 1955), the game designer who creat-

ed the popular “Pac Man” game, got the inspiration for the design of the title character from a pizza. Iwatani said he took a slice from a pizza and noticed how the remaining pie looked like a character, and used that as the design for the yellow dot-gobbler. (Good thing he wasn’t having a dish of sushi or something.)

... a prolific director of horror movies got his start working for a children’s show host? George A. Romero (1940-2017), the director who brought us classic horror films such as *Night of the Living Dead* and *Creepshow*, got his first paid directing job working for Fred Rogers (1928-2003). Romero filmed a segment for the children’s program *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* in which Rogers underwent a tonsillectomy. Romero credited that project as the catalyst which made him want to direct zombie and horror films. (From Mr. Rogers to horror ... what’s the transition?)

... a rock musician has a doctoral degree? Brian May (born 1947), guitarist for the group Queen, has an earned Ph.D. in astrophysics from Imperial College in London. (I’ve heard of spaced out, but this ...)

... noted author and political activist Helen Keller was related to a Confeder-

## New laws will address professional services, homeowner protections, car owners and politicians

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Most new laws from this year’s legislative session took effect in July, but a handful of significant bills become law on New Year’s day.

They address shortages in accounting and dentistry, and they increase homeowner protections. They update campaign finance and vehicle licensing requirements. One adds a new look for car tags.

House Bill 148, The Public Accountancy Act of 2025, was brought by Rep. John Carson, R-Marietta, a certified public accountant trying to address a shortage of accountants. It updates a licensing framework established nearly three decades ago by offering new paths to becoming a certified public account. It also lets accounting firms do some work in Georgia without having an office in the state.

House Bill 551 by Rep. Jason Ridley, R-Chatsworth, updates rules for owning and operating a motor vehicle, adding numerous new requirements around the issuance of temporary operating permits and setting standards for a new electronic system for issuing them. It also lets permitted property owners install an immobilization device on trespassing vehicles rather than just having them towed.

House Bill 567 by Rep. Katie Dempsey, R-Rome, address regional shortages in dentistry, authorizing licensed dentists to practice online, with regulation by the Georgia Board of Dentistry. It also permits coverage of teledentistry by dental benefits plans. “Geography should not be a barrier to dental care,” Kristen Morgan, the Georgia Dental Association executive director, said in May when Gov. Brian Kemp signed the bill into law.

Senate Bill 35 by Sen. Larry Walker, III, R-Perry, gives homeowners more time to prepare for loss of insurance. It doubles the minimum notice period for nonrenewal of certain residential policies to 60 days, from 30.

Senate Bill 112 by Sen. Clint Dixon, R-Buford, requires that manufacturer warranties of residential HVAC systems transfer to home buyers. It also requires that warranties take effect on the date a system is installed by a licensed contractor and prohibits requiring product registration as a condition of warranty.

Senate Bill 199 by Sen. Sam Watson, R-Moultrie, prohibits the State Ethics Commission initiating investigations of candidates within 60 days of their election. It also requires that local elected officials file mandatory financial disclosures with the Commission rather than locally. And it requires that political action committees maintain bank accounts with detailed reporting when they contribute to candidates in the state. It also establishes uniform reporting dates for campaigns for all levels of office and requires redaction of home addresses from any records the Commission makes available to the public.

Last but not least is America First: Senate Bill 291. The act, by Sen. Steve Gooch, R-Dahlonega, establishes a special license plate featuring the American flag and the words “America First.” Funds raised from the sale of this plate will go to the state general fund. Gooch pushed the bill through as Senate majority leader, a post he left after the legislative session to run for lieutenant governor.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 1  
*Anthony & Anouska Edwards*

Jan. 2  
*JC & Margaret Billue  
David & Marion Stuckey*

## BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1  
*Janice Moore*

Jan. 2  
*Wayne Hines  
Cheryl Jackson  
Hellen Pittman*

Jan. 3  
*Luciana Kemp*

Jan. 4  
*Jacquelyn Smith Mills*

**The Courier Herald office will observe reduced hours on Wednesday, December 31st and Friday, January 2nd. We will be closed on Thursday January 1st.**

### PLEASE NOTE:

Your Thursday, January 1st and Saturday, January 3rd editions will be a combo paper.

## Happy New Year

## OBITUARIES

### Joseph Burch

Mr. Joseph Burch of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025. Funeral arrangements are not complete at this time.  
[www.ServicesByDudley.com](http://www.ServicesByDudley.com).

### Willie Earl Ford

Willie Earl (Cooney) Ford, born Feb. 10, 1955, formerly of Dublin, passed away on Dec. 24, 2025 in Marrville, Ind. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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# Crowd turns out for council meeting

Dublin Courier-Herald, Dispatch, and Press

One of the longest and best attended sessions of City Council in years was held last night with the following developments highlighting the gathering:

A resolution was passed by a vote of 5 to 2 asking Rep. W.H. Lovett and Rep. Dawson Kea to extend the City Limits of Dublin, effective January 1, 1942.

A resolution was unanimously passed asking that the two representatives pass a bill abolishing the present 3-man Board of Tax Assessors and provide, for Council creating a one-man Tax Commissioner. In asking this, Council expressed belief that fairer and more efficient collection and valuation of property could be attained with a Tax Commissioner than under the present system.

A petition to allow Sunday motion picture shows, with a provision that substantial donations would be given to the city's charitable fund was heard. Council first decided to call a referendum so the people could vote on this and later someone pointed out that a Council might not have the right to do this. Mayor Dee Sessions then said he would secure a legal opinion of the City Attorney before calling an election.

A petition signed by 23 of the 25 barbers here requesting passage of an ordinance providing for appointment of a board of barbers to fix prices, closing hours, and regular barber shops, was tabled for further consideration.

City finances were discussed and the necessity of retrenchment agreed upon by council. Several tentative suggestions were advanced, but there was no definite action.

License to sell beer was granted seven firms here and a license to sell beer and wine was refused to W.M. Chandler. Police Chief J.W. Robertson was instructed to notify Mr. Chandler to remove his stock from the store now being operated by February 1.

While a considerable delegation was present to request the Sunday shows, the most vocal group present was that of the property owners who objected to being incorporated within the city limits.

Among those ether speaking against this or seconding talks of others against being incorporated were W.P. Roche, W.R. Werden, W. R. Hodges, T.C. Waldrep, Irwin Montford, Frank Hodges, Henry Wood, and W. W. Larsen, Jr.

Rep. Dawson Kea and Rep. W.H. Lovett told Council that they would abide by whatever recommendation Council made about introducing the bill, and after a long discussion by the protesting delegation and Council, it was voted to ask that such a bill be introduced, effective 1942.

A request that a Sunday show be allowed at once - the entire proceeds to be turned over to the infantile paralysis fund of Laurens County - was turned down by Council on the ground

that it would prejudice the referendum contemplated on the Sunday show question.

Cost of holding a referendum on Sunday shows would not be borne by the City, Council ruled. If one is held, and citizens present immediately donated most of the estimated cost, handling the money over to City Clerk M.A. Rogers. He estimated that about five more dollars would be needed above the cash handed to him last night.

(Eastman settled this question not so long ago by holding a vote in which Sunday shows won.)

A resolution inviting the Division of Traffic & Safety of the State Highway Board to make a survey of traffic hazards in Dublin was passed. The survey would merely be an advisory recommendation to Council, made by traffic experts, about the best way to handle traffic difficulties in Dublin.

### COMMITTEES NAMED

A few changes in City Council committees were announced today by Mayor Dee Sessions. The list of chairmen announced for 1941 is as follows:

*Finance*  
M.Z. Claxton, Chairman  
Martin Willis, Vice Chairman  
E.B. Mackey  
W.P. Tindol

*Police & Ordinance*  
Bruce Suggs, Chairman  
Milo Smith, Vice Chairman  
W.P. Tindol  
Martin Willis

*Street & Sanitary*  
E.B. Mackey, Chairman  
W.P. Tindol, Vice Chairman  
Martin Willis  
Milo Smith

*License & Tag*  
Milo Smith, Chairman  
E.B. Mackey, Vice Chairman  
P.C. Hutchinson

*Public Property & Parks*  
P.C. Hutchinson, Chairman  
Martin Willis, Vice Chairman  
W.P. Tindol  
M.Z. Claxton

*Light & Water & Printing*  
W.P. Tindol, Chairman  
Martin Willis, Vice Chairman  
Bruce Suggs  
Milo Smith

*Cemeteries & Buildings & Aunings*  
W.P. Tindol, Chairman  
P.C. Hutchinson, Vice Chairman  
Martin Willis  
M.Z. Claxton

*Fire*  
Martin Willis, Chairman  
W.P.Tindol, Vice Chairman  
Bruce Suggs  
Milo Smith

### DRAFT ORDERS MAILED

Draft Board Number Two of Laurens County yesterday mailed questionnaires to registered men whose order numbers are between 283 and 332 and today questionnaires were

mailed to registered men with order numbers between 333 and 382.

Three colored registrants were also sent to the Army today. All three were volunteers, however. Board No. One sent Frank Ladson and Leo Hue Hester, and Board No. Two sent one man, Henry Coley. They will be inducted into service at Fort Benning, but local officials were not informed whether or not they would serve at the Georgia camp or elsewhere.

Attention was again called to the County Advisory Committee which is always ready to help anyone in filling out questionnaires. There is no charge for this service. The committee is composed of Blakeley Parrott, W.F. Moxley, O.B. Overstreet, and C.D. Devereaux of Dublin and M.S. Mullis of Cadwell. Those wishing assistance in filling out questionnaires can see any one of the above gentlemen.

### HEALTH REPORT FOR 1940 BIRTHS

Births almost doubled deaths in Laurens County during 1940, according to Laurens County Health Commissioner O.H. Cheek in his annual report which was made public today.

By a coincident, the number of deaths recorded was exactly the same as that of the previous year, 1939,

Births totaled 871 last year, the report showed and deaths were 451.

The birth rate was slightly off as compared with 1939, when 898 births were recorded.

The county appeared to be doing its part in furnishing manpower for possible future national emergency with a majority of the births listed as male. They totaled 465 as compared with 406 for females.

White births numbered 483, according to the report, and Negro births 388.

*Deaths*  
Of the deaths, there were also more fatalities among males than females. A total of 221 male deaths were reported with 180 female.

Accidents were listed as the cause of 29 of the deaths, and homicides accounted for 12 more. Only one suicide was recorded.

Heart disease led the list as cause of deaths, with a total of 72 victims. Pneumonia accounted for three deaths; cancer, 4; malaria, 3; tuberculosis, 8; typhoid fever, 3; colitis, 2; influenza, 2; syphilis, 2; maternal deaths, 2; and deaths from unknown diseases, 22. Cause of one death was listed as malnutrition and infants who died from unknown causes numbered 27.

### EASTMAN BRANCH DISCONTINUED

Services of the Wrightsville and Tennille Railway between Dublin and Eastman will be discontinued on March 1, B.H. Lord, general manager of the road, said today.

The last trains will run on February 28, Mr. Lord said, and dismantling of the old railway will begin early in March.

The line to Eastman was built originally by the E.P. Rentz Lumber Company in

1904 and known as the Dublin & Southwestern Railway. It was acquired by the W&T system in 1906.

There are a number of stations on the route between Dublin and Eastman. The principal ones are Rentz, Cadwell, Plainfield, Garretta, and Mayberry.

General Manager Lord also announced that application for a hearing is now being made to ask for authority to discontinue operating the road between Dublin and Hawkinsville.

### RENTZ HAS YOUNG LEADERS

This being often referred to as the "day of young people," the Town of Rentz looks forward with a great deal of anticipation to a new year of progressive accomplishments with probably the youngest set of leaders in the state. The ages of the mayor and five members of council range between 22 and 31 years.

In an uncontested election, the new officials are

Mayor  
O.H. Grant  
Council:  
F.C. Taylor  
A.O. Hadden  
H.H. Beddingfield  
Barron Smith  
Alton Davidson  
Retiring officials who did not choose to run are  
Mayor  
J.O. Proctor  
Council:  
H.Y. Grant  
W.T. Phelps  
J.A. Davidson  
E.J. Woodard  
Z.C. Register

### W.O.W. MEETING

Installation services for the new officers of the local Camp of the W.O.W. will be held on Monday night, January 27th, at the Lodge Hall at 7:30.

Joe Branch of Davisboro, Head Consul of Georgia, will be present for the installation. Officers to be installed are

Charles E. Baggett - Consul Commander  
D.A. Moorman - Advisor  
Lieutenant  
J.L. Lord - Financial Secretary  
J.E. Townsend - Banker  
G.B. Dunn - Escort  
J.C. Raffield - Watchman  
J.S. Kittrell - Secretary  
Physicians -  
Dr. R.G. Ferrell  
Dr. E.B. Claxton  
Dr. A.T. Coleman  
Auditors,-  
Emory S. Baldwin,



## By HARRIETT CLAXTON

Chairman  
J.R. Cherry  
S.F. Beasley  
A fish fry will follow the installation services, and this promises to be a most enjoyable part of the program, according to the announcement made today by J .L. Lord and M.A. Kendrick, who urge all members to be present.

### DONKEY FUN

The "Cowboys" rode out a hard fought victory last night over the "Indians" in the burro basketball game. It was hard on the fans, too, who got stitches in their sides watching local business men try to manage unmanageable donkeys.

The score, someone said, was 30 to 24, but most of the spectators and the players were too amused to care who won.

Among those taking part in the game were Parrott, Ward, Jarrard, Robertson, Bennett, White, Driver, Jewell, Powell, and Jones.

In a preliminary to the donkey game, Dublin and Brewtpn payed an ordinary basketball game with Brewton on the short end of the 29-10 score.

Brewton players were  
Moye  
Garnto  
Walker  
Sapp  
Jordan  
Forte - substitute  
Dublin players were  
Thompson  
Walker  
Clark  
Smalley  
Bradshaw  
Mills - substitute  
Bryans - substitute

### COLORED NEWS

Kingdom of God Singers  
The Kingdom Gospel Singers will sing at the Church of God in Christ on Monday night, February 3rd.

Seats will be reserved for white friends desiring to attend.

Funds will be used for education.

The pastor, Elder R.D. Fields, will preach on Sunday, day and night. Your are invited.

Lincoln Civic League  
A call meeting was held in the office of C.L. Harrison, on Tuesday night. The Lincoln Civic League elected new officers for the ensuing term and made plans for a more progressive organization. Though only a few men were present, the spirit and enthusiasm was high, and the meeting was carried out as planned.

Preceding the business session, an open forum was held with all participating in an active manner. Following the forum, the out-going president, Dr. H.T. Jones, assisted by Professor W.L. Hughes, fully explained the purposes of the Lincoln Civic League history.

The following officers were elected:

C.L. Harrison - President  
L.T. Bacote - Vice President  
E.C. Thomas - Secretary  
T.J. Simmons - Assistant Secretary

W.L. Thomas - Reporter  
H.T. Jones - Chaplain

The newly elected officers were installed and sworn into office by Professor Hughes after which, each expressed and indicated his desire to serve faithfully in his capacity.

Missionary Circle  
The Missionary Circle of Williams Grove A.B. Church met at the home of Mrs. Phoebe Linton with the President in the Chair.

The Bible lesson was read and discussed by the pastor.

Delicious refreshments were served after the meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 20th, at the home of Mrs. Tillery Walker. Come to the meeting.

Mrs. Maggie Moman, President

Mrs. Nealy Warren, Secretary

## MISS CRIMSON AND CREAM PAGEANT 2026 ATTENTION: Infant through 3-Year-Old Girls AND ATTENTION: Pre-K through Eighth Grade Girls

The information session and registration for the Miss Crimson and Cream Pageant will be held virtually on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 5:00p.m. and in-person on Sunday, January 11 at the Verline P. Copenny Community Center (205 West Mary Street, Dublin, GA 31021) at 5:00p.m. Registration fee is \$40. Registration may be mailed (money order only) to **P.O. Box 1511**, Dublin, GA 31040. The pageant will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at Theatre Dublin.



### Contact Information

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, Post Office Box)

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code) (Number)

Parent(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

The pageant is open to girls residing in our service area: Laurens, Washington, Treutlen, Telfair, Johnson, Wilkinson, Dodge, Wheeler, & Montgomery counties.

For more information, please contact Marquita O. Timmons at 478-290-4273, Chair or Letitia Render at 478-279-8928, Co-Chair.

Sponsored by the Dublin-Laurens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
**P.O. BOX 1511**, Dublin, GA 31040

## NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON  
King Features

\* "Want to keep your pants from creasing on the hanger? Grab an empty paper towel tube, and slit it down the side. When you slip it over the bottom of the hanger, it creates a curve for the pants to lie across, and no more crease!" -- M.U. in Colorado

\* To prevent candle wax from sticking to a candleholder, swipe the inside with a little olive oil. It'll do the trick!

\* Just in time for soup season (and my new year's resolutions), here's a great fat swap: Drain and rinse two cups of white beans and puree with a cup of no-sodium

vegetable broth. You can use this as a thickener in place of heavy cream for soups and stews.

\* Experts say that those who write down or journal their nutrition and exercise are more likely to keep it up. This can be as simple as a pencil and notebook paired with a calorie guidebook or one of the many great apps for your smartphone. In any case, set yourself up for success this year. You deserve it!

\* A can opener's crevices can be cleaned by "opening" a length of waxed paper. Kitchen scissors can be sharpened by folding a piece of aluminum foil and cutting it with the scissors.

OUR TAKE...



Father, Here we Dedicate

Father, let me dedicate, all this year to Thee,  
In whatever worldly state Thou wilt have me be:  
Not from sorrow, pain or care, freedom dare I claim;  
This alone shall be my prayer, glorify Thy Name.

Can a child presume to choose where or how to live?  
Can a Father's love refuse all the best to give?  
More Thou givest every day than the best can claim  
Nor withholdest aught that may glorify Thy Name.

If in mercy Thou wilt spare joys that yet are mine;  
If on life, serene and fair, brighter rays may shine;  
Let my glad heart, while it sings, Thee in all proclaim,  
And, whate'er the future brings, glorify Thy Name.

If Thou callest to the cross, and its shadow come,  
Turning all my gain to loss, shrouding heart and home;  
Let me think how Thy dear Son to His glory came,  
And in deepest woe pray on, "Glorify Thy Name."

— Laurence Tuttiett (1825)

Happy New Year from The Courier Herald

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."

- Benjamin Franklin

DAILY SCRIPTURE

"To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

- Ephesians 4:22-24

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY

- January 1, 2026 is...
- World Day of Peace
  - Public Domain Day
  - Polar Bear Plunge Day
  - National Hangover Day
  - Global Family Day
  - Apple Gifting Day

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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GEORGIA TRUST  
— for Local News —

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Pam Burney/GENERAL MANAGER  
Courtney Vessell/CIRCULATION MANAGER

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

American Innovation provides optimism

With the move into a new year, we take the time to look forward, and also look back. We reflect on where we've been. We measure. What did we accomplish? Where did we fall short.

Along the way we often lament that time is passing faster and faster. We want things to slow down. We know everything continues to speed up.

The speed of change can at least partially attributed to advancements in technology. Our advancements are coming faster and faster. They're forcing change in our everyday lives. We as a people are resistant to change, even when things become easier or take less of our time to accomplish routine tasks.

We even have groups of people willing to quickly mobilize to stop change. Often these folks consider themselves "progressive", but when you look at their agendas they seem to be willing to stop almost anything that moves America forward – while often exempting our biggest and fastest growing industrial competitors. That linkage is a topic that deserves discussion on another day.

As for this piece, we want to end the year and begin anew on a positive note. By way of example, we'll use a specific company that is looking to move us forward in an area that America pi-

oneered, currently dominates, but haven't really moved the needle forward in a half century.

The Wright brothers first flew at Kitty Hawk just before Christmas in 1903. A half century later, Boeing introduced the first jet powered passenger aircraft. Today, many airlines are still flying us around in planes designed in the late 1970's and last manufactured more than two decades ago. Sure, there have been updates, but they have been incremental.

Blake Scholl and his company, Boom Aerospace, seek to change that. They're working on a replacement for the Concorde – a modern passenger aircraft that can fly at supersonic speeds. Their test aircraft has demonstrated it can eliminate the "sonic boom" and thus federal regulations have been relaxed which previously banned supersonic travel over land.

Airlines have taken notice. United, American, and Japan Airlines have placed orders for the plane still in development. The company hopes to have production specification aircraft flying by the end of this decade, breaking the current technology stagnant duopoly between Boeing and Airbus.

That alone makes Boom a remarkable case study, and one of a "disruptor" tech company that is outside the

GEORGIA POLITICS

By CHARLIE HARPER

typical software/IT industry we normally associate with that term. And yet, there appears to be even more to this story that brings with it a bigger lesson: Innovation begets innovation.

The folks that want to stop anything that looks like progress have turned their sights on data centers. Suddenly, the people who wanted to ban gas stoves while mandating we electrify everything have realized that we have capacity constraints on producing electricity – at least in the short run.

We're not going back to coal, we still don't have enough battery manufacturing capacity nor raw materials to make solar power a 24/7 baseload supply, and new nuclear plants will take a decade or more to come online if they're even proposed and permitted. That leaves natural gas as the easiest way to expand power generation, and the current manufacturers are booked up on their capacity for years.

Enter Mr. Scholl again. His company announced earlier this month that they've adapted their jet engine technology to create power generating turbines. In three months, the company went from concept to a signed deal for a powerplant that will generate 1.21 gigawatts of electricity. The company believes it can meet the needs to power the rapidly expanding data center demand, with a better product than currently produces electricity using the same natural gas.

There are two ways we can approach the future. We can look at what we have – be it money, food supply, energy, or any other form of wealth – as a fixed stock that is eroding away or taken by a growing population. Or, we can look at the chance to grow. We can do things better, quicker, or more efficiently.

America's history is one of seeing the opportunity when others see a problem. We created the highest standard of living in human history not by redividing the same pie, but by growing not only the pie but the entire bakery.

Change is hard. The payoff is worth it. Let the resolution of the new year to see our challenges head on, but with the vision to leverage the good while mitigating the bad.

How breaking government breaks democracy

GUEST COLUMN

By STACEY ABRAMS

Step 4 in the authoritarian playbook is simple: break the government by breaking the people who make it function. You don't have to abolish agencies outright. You just take away their funding, politicize them and push out anyone who won't comply.

That's what we're watching with the gutting of the CDC and the broader federal workforce.

What began with the CDC is spreading. In a few weeks, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plans to slash 35,000 health care jobs, including here in Georgia, a state where 7.6% of the population – or nearly 700,000 residents – are veterans.

Despite being chronically understaffed, the VA, like the CDC, will be asked to do critical, life-saving work with fewer people, fewer resources and fewer backup plans.

When Republicans eviscerate funding, freeze hiring, conduct mass firings or shut down the government entirely, they are sending a message: Do not trust us. Public service doesn't matter. The needs of the people don't matter. Only power does.

For Georgia, the stakes are enormous. The CDC helps protect us from outbreaks of measles, flu, food-borne illnesses and emerging diseases. It supports state and county health

departments – especially in rural communities that already struggle to get basic care.

Given that agriculture is an economic engine, we have long relied on the CDC to spot problems before they can ravage communities. So, when the CDC is weakened, Georgians pay the price first.

Now, with cuts decimating veterans' health care, the harm will spread – and the solutions will be even harder to come by. But that's the point.

Authoritarians want the government to fail in visible ways so people stop believing it can help them at all. When inspections slow, data disappears and responses lag, people understandably ask, "Why doesn't government work?"

When those who defended our nation cannot get a doctor's appointment or a prescription, they will wonder if their sacrifices were in vain. Yet most good people won't blame sabotage – they will simply believe democracy failed to deliver because it's useless.

They won't use the words, but the sentiment will take root. Disappointment becomes disengagement, and shared trust in the social contract transforms into disbelief that it's worth the fight.

What's happening now builds on years of attacks – politicizing public health, demonizing scientists and using budget battles as leverage to further erode services. This Republican authoritarian regime has been explicit about their goal: dismantle government and remake it into a hotbed of privatization and corruption.

However, the most insid-

ious truth is that the damage is not always immediate or dramatic. The CDC will still issue reports, but the science is sketchy. VA offices will stay open, but getting an appointment takes even longer. Public service will feel more broken due to teacher shortages at Head Start and a lack of help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Fewer people will be willing to speak up when something's wrong. Over time, competence drains away, and trust follows. Eventually, a small "d" democratic government stops being something that serves everyone and becomes something that only serves the powerful.

That's why defending good government matters and why speaking up for civil servants and bureaucrats is an act of bravery. Making sure democracy delivers is not a talking point; it's a matter of self-interest.

These workers are scientists, nurses, inspectors, veterans and public servants who chose stability over profit because they believed in serving the public. Attacking them is attacking Georgia families and our future.

If Trump and Republicans succeed, the consequences ripple outward and include weaker public health, fewer protections, more privatization and a public that's been taught not to expect anything from democracy at all.

That's the warning – and Georgia is once again on the front lines.

Stacey Abrams is a best-selling author, entrepreneur and podcast host.

TO THE EDITOR

By reading the Courier-Herald, the newspaper-buying public was under the impression that the Dublin City School Board had a surplus. Now we're told they anticipate a deficit of \$13,000,000 dollars.

Where did the money go?

Beyond stating that there was mismanagement, inefficiency and an inability by officials to understand fiscal management, there have been no details.

The public wants details.

Those city officials with the power to ask the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to launch a criminal investigation into the matter - (we are told) - have not asked for an investigation. We do not have their reasons on record. It should

be the responsibility of the Courier-Herald reporters to ask each official for those reasons and publish them in the newspaper. If they choose not to answer, that should be reported as well.

Make me a Courier-Herald reporter if no one will force officials to react on this issue.

My property tax bill for the next payment of Dublin City taxes has increased by 65 percent. I want answers. I want reactions to questions. I'm sure I'm not alone.

Sincerely,  
Terry (Terrance J.) Light  
Dublin, Ga.

# Black-eyed peas: The history of a humble good luck charm

Being a Southerner by birth, lineage and residency, I’ve eaten a lot of black-eyed peas over the past few days. Actually, I’ll partake in this humble food stuff, which is really a type of bean and not a pea, any time of year, but they are a staple for New Year’s celebrations, along with greens and cornbread. They allegedly bring good luck, and though I don’t really believe in that sort of thing, I’m not letting a Jan. 1 pass by without gobbling up as much as I can.

Remember that board game Hungry, Hungry Hippos? The one where you make toy hippopotamuses eat marbles? That’s me on New Year’s Day. I always win. You didn’t finish yours? Dump ‘em on my plate. I’ll take all the help I can get for 2026.

Black-eyed peas also ward off the evil eye, according to West African tradition, so just having them around the house is a good idea. That’s where the legume originated and is still a popular item for marking momentous events. They are served during the observances of both births and deaths, as well as any other special occasion families and friends deem fit to gather.

The vegetable made its way to the United States via the slave trade, where they were cultivated in the gardens of the captive people, who carried on their traditions. During

## For a good time call ...



**THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD**

**By KYLE DOMINY**

the Civil War, black-eyed peas were left behind by the Union soldiers fighting across the South, and they began to be served on tables everywhere. The lore behind the food

grew because folks considered themselves lucky just to have something to eat.

Some people say you have to eat exactly 365 black-eyed peas at New Year’s, one for each day on the calendar. I’ve never counted my servings so accurately and could be shorting myself a month or two. I don’t think eating more than the required amounts helps, either. There’s no rollover credit for 2027. You can also add a penny to the pot while cooking for added luck. Whoever finds the coin will be extra lucky in the new year. Unless they eat it, then they’ll possibly kick off January with a doctor bill. Hopefully they ate a lot of greens, too, you know, for the ensuing bill.

It’s kind of like the baby in the king cake. Whoever finds the plastic toy while enjoying a slice of brightly colored dessert gets a boost of luck. That’s a good backup plan if you missed your black-eyed peas this year. Mardi Gras is right around the corner.

Other food -related good luck charms: honey, because it brings sweetness to life; grapes and pomegranates, because they are round like coins; and long noodles, because the longer the noodle, the longer you’ll live.

I don’t really believe in luck, but I think I’ll try to eat my way to prosperity in the coming days.

Happy New Year.

# 30 years of sharing our history

Thirty years is a long time. For each week of the last three decades, it has been my serendipitous privilege to bring you “Pieces of Our Past” in this, my hometown newspaper. My English teachers in school would have laid down big bets with long odds that I would have never written a word that anyone else would care or bother to read.

As a young boy, I listened to the radio and television news, in particular, the correspondents of CBS - Walter Cronkite, Charles Kuralt, Eric Sevareid, Douglas Edwards, Richard C. Hottelet, Robert Trout, Harry Reasoner, Charles Collingwood, and more. I was fascinated with their voices and their words. I even asked that my baby brother Henry’s name be “Charles Collingwood Thompson.”

Oh, how I wish I had the opportunity to be one of them now, to tell the stories of remarkable people in our country. But life came along, and I took a different course until 1996, when Dubose Porter asked me to write random snippets taken from my first book, “Tales of the Emerald City and the Land of Laurens.” Soon, Dubose asked me to write a weekly 1200-plus-word column. Fearful at first that I could never find enough material, the material came flowing freely as if someone had placed it there like an Easter egg in a sandy,

open field. The stories emanated from new books, old newspapers, good friends, and unimaginable sources. Divine guidance figured in somewhere as well. So, here I am now, still telling stories about old and everyday people, more than 1500 of them.

Without a solitary shadow of a doubt, my most enduring inspiration comes from the late Charles Kuralt, who took his writer’s pad and two-man crew on the road to tell us the stories of ordinary people in our country doing extraordinary things with no hope of recognition or reward.

So, as I complete my 30th year, I beg your leave to tell you why I write, written partially in the words of my writing hero, Charles Kuralt. His words are inserted in quotations. The rest, well, they are my own - ones which I most likely borrowed from someone else whom I have heard or read. You English majors, please pardon my frequent instances of poor grammar. I write from my soul, not from a grammar textbook.

I had superior teachers in Dublin city schools. “Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students. When we become a really mature, grown-up, wise society, we will put teachers at the center of the community, where they belong. We don’t honor them enough, we don’t pay them

enough.”

I have learned in my long life that history is not simply the story of tangible things, but the stories of people. “The stories are true and about people who really live in the country. You learn that the country isn’t in flames and there are people in the country besides politicians, entertainers, and criminals. I think it’s nice to be reminded of that.”

I have been blessed with a most wonderful and wise family, along with a seemingly endless force of friends. “The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege. My parents encouraged me in everything I ever wanted to do.”

I knew my grandfather Scott for only ten years, but I do remember that he loved to get in his car and just ride around looking for that special sight somewhere along the side of the road. He told me lots of stories, which I don’t remember. Forgive me, as I was only a little boy.

My parents, Jane and Dale, gave me the gift of loving all people and the love of the history of our past, as well as the importance of the history of our future. My father had more stories to tell than there are fish in the sea. I still remember most of his jokes. I repeat the clean ones whenever I get a chance. He rode me by all of the old home plac-



**PIECES OF OUR PAST**

**By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.**

es, the burial grounds, and along the old, narrow, dirt roads while he told me the stories of a time when life was fun and good, but often tough and hard. My mother was my link, my portal to my past, riding with me to Virginia and to the places where her family once lived. She wrote many thousands of words, but none of them were ever published. It is from her loving, brilliant mind that my words flow.

It was my grandmother, Claudie Thompson, who passed on the genes of storytelling from her Braswell forefathers. She kept her family tree book beside her sofa. It was from that little, green, tattered book that I began my search for the people who came before me.

I think she knew everyone from East Dublin to Soperton to Swainsboro to Wrightsville and back. She had a love for all things old, the interesting, and the unique. She saved keepsakes, knick-knacks, and clipped historical and people-related clippings from every newspaper she could find.

On my writing style, I can only say that it comes from sixty-nine years of listening. “I could tell you which writer’s rhythms I am imitating. It’s not exactly plagiarism; it’s falling in love with good language and trying to imitate it. I believe that writing is derivative. I think good writing comes from good reading. I don’t know what makes a good feature story. I’ve always assumed that if it was a story that interested or amused me, that it would have the same impact on other people.”

Why I write about certain uncelebrated people these days of constant trials and tribulations is simple. “To read the papers and to listen to the news... one would think the country is in terrible trouble. You do not get that impression when you travel the back roads, and the small towns do care about their country and wish it well.”

President Harry Truman once said, “The only thing new in the world is the history we don’t know.” So, for as long as my aging heart will keep beating and my crooked, narrowing spine will keep me walking, I will be telling you stories. I will keep wandering through the pages of our past and reporting the deeds of the people of our present, with my failing eyes focused on the future. “Above all else, I have learned to love my native land.”

So, as I begin my fourth decade of writing this column, I deeply and most humbly, thank all of you for your kind words of gratitude and inspiration. It is for you and for those who follow us that I have been given the gift of storytelling. Please remember your history. Your family’s history and the history of your community are no less important than any others. I beg you to study it, learn from it, and build a better world because of or, more importantly, in spite of it. Remember this above all, that our most important history is yet to come. And finally, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “You too can find yourself through the service of others,” and Theodore Roosevelt, who said, “No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care, and Sir Winston Churchill’s greatest maxim, “We make our living by what we earn - we make our lives by what we give.

## John Jay: First chief justice of the Supreme court

John Jay (1745-1829) was born in New York City and shortly moved with his family to Rye, New York, where he grew up.

He graduated from King’s College (later Columbia University) in 1764, and after reading law was admitted to the New York bar to practice law in his home state.

He helped to get the U.S. Constitution ratified and is regarded as one of the Founding Fathers of America.

Jay was an American statesman-diplomat of the Christian faith. He was a member of the First and Second Continental Congress and served as president of the Continental Congress in 1778-1779.

He, with John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, helped negotiate and then signed the Treaty of Paris that ended officially the American Revolutionary War.

He also helped write America’s first military manual and later served as governor of the State of New York, 1795 to 1801.

President George Washington appointed Jay as the first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, and in 1821, Jay helped found and then served as President of the American Bible Society.

He was a Christian



**By JACK BROWN**

statesman.

Let’s consider a few personal statements regarding his faith.

In 1824, in his address to the members of the American Bible Society, he said this: “The Bible (when read by people) will inform them that our gracious Creator has provided for us a Redeemer, in whom all nations of the earth shall be blessed; that this Redeemer has made atonement for the sins of the whole world, and thereby reconciling the Divine justice with the Divine mercy has opened a way for our redemption and salvation; and that these inestimable benefits are of the free gift and grace of God, not of our deserving, nor in our power to deserve.”

In his last will and testament, he wrote:

“Unto Him who is the Author and Giver of all good, I render sincere and humble thanks for His merciful and unmerited bless-

ings, and especially for our redemption and salvation by His beloved son.”

As Jay was drawing near death on May 17, 1829, he was asked if he had any final words for his family. His short reply was, “They have the Book.”

America has a rich spiritual heritage as so many of our founders and their wives were professing and practicing Christians.

We are so blessed to have such a godly heritage.

May God be acknowledged and praised throughout our land, for He is absolutely necessary for the health and survival of America.

Our founders laid the foundation; let us take care how we build upon it.

Peace!

*Writer’s note: The above quotations from 'America's God and Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations, Fame Publishers, 1996.*



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### Moment of Inspiration

**Walking with Jesus in 2026**

A new year brings new beginnings, but our greatest confidence is knowing we don’t walk alone. Scripture reminds us, “For we walk by faith, not by sight” 2 Corinthians 5:7

As we step into 2026, we may not know what lies ahead, but we know Who walks beside us. Walking with Jesus means trusting Him one day at a time, seeking His guidance, and staying close to Him through prayer and His Word. Some days will be easy, others challenging—but every step with Christ is a step in the right direction.



This year, don’t focus on having all the answers. Focus on staying connected to Jesus. When you walk with Him, you can face the future with faith, hope, and peace.


Prayer:

Lord, as I enter this new year, help me walk with You daily. Guide my steps, strengthen my faith, and draw me closer to You. Amen.

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

Pastors if you would like to share a devotional please email to: [advertisingtch@gmail.com](mailto:advertisingtch@gmail.com)

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

Legals

**25-596**  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
Georgia, Laurens County  
All creditors of the Estate of Thad Haynes, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render in writing their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
This 12th day of December, 2025.  
Gloria Younger Larkins, Executrix of the Estate of Thad Haynes, deceased c/o J. Jackson Dixon Smith Dixon Law Group, LLC 205 N. Franklin Street Dublin, GA 31021  
December 27, 2025, January 3, 10, 17, 2026.

**25-580**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF DAVID WILLIAMS DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 25-276**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: whom it may concern: VICKI WILLIAMS has petitioned for to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of DAVID WILLIAMS deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before Feb. 2, 2026.  
**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.  
Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court P.O. Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566  
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

**25-583**  
**The Rizzo Law Firm, PLLC**  
**Ballantyne One**  
**15720 Brixham Hill Avenue, suite 300 Charlotte, NC 28277**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Bobbie Leeann Blizzard, deceased, late of Laurens County, Georgia, does hereby make notification to all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned's attorney on or before March 13, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.  
All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned's attorney.  
This 10th day of December, 2025.  
Scott J. Rizzo The Rizzo Law Firm, PLLC Attorney for Administrator for the Estate of Bonnie Leeann Blizzard 15720 Brixham Hill Avenue, Suite 300 Charlotte, NC, 28277 Hailey Blizzard, Administrator for the Estate of Bobbie Leeann Blizzard  
December 13, 20, 27, 2025, January 3, 2026

**25-582**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF Laurens COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
In Re: Christopher Alan Kemp Civil Action File No. 25-CD-0978-WT  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
GEORGIA, Laurens County  
Notice is hereby given that Christopher Alan Kemp, the undersigned, filed his petition to the Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia on the 29 day of September, 2025, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Christopher Alan Kemp to Christopher Alan Taylor. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.  
This 28 day of Oct, 2025.  
Christopher Alan Kemp Petitioner  
December 13, 20, 27, 2025 January 3, 2026

**25-575**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
In re the name change of: Dana Ray Gibbs Civil Action File No. 25-CD-0965-JG  
**NOTICE TO PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
I, Dana Ray Gibbs, filed a petition in the Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia on the day of to change my name from Dana Ray Gibbs to Dana Christian Gibbs. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections. Signed this 4 day of Dec, 2025.  
231 Broad Meadow Road Dublin, GA 31021 478-595-8776  
December 13, 20, 27, January 3, 2026.

**25-587**  
State of Georgia County of Laurens  
**Notice to Debtors and Creditors**  
All creditors of the Estate of **Mattie Manning Thomas**, late of Laurens County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law; and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.  
This 11th day of December, 2025.  
Estate of Mattie Manning Thomas Robyn Melanie Thomas, Executor 2696 Claxton Dairy Road Dublin, GA 31021  
December 20, 27, 2025 January 3, 10, 2026

**25-600**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF LAURENS**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID STATE AND COUNTY**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF DELORES WHITTINGTON**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

All creditors of the estate of **DELORES WHITTINGTON** deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.  
This 23rd Day of December, 2025  
Emily F. Kight Attorney for the Estate of DELORES WHITTINGTON Kight Law, LLC P.O. Box 2056 Dublin, Ga. 31040  
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

**25-597**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF Marsha A. McCurley Buhrmaster DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 22-3022**  
**NOTICE**  
IN RE: Petition to Reopen and for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed TO: Robert Christopher Buhrmaster and Jonathan Paul Buhrmaster  
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before Feb 2, 2026.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.  
Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court P.O. Box 2098 Dublin, GA 31040 478-272-2566  
January 3,10, 17, 24, 2026

**25-576**  
**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER**  
LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA  
**THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**  
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Ryan D. Griffey to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., ("MERS") as grantee as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC D/B/A Veterans United Home Loans dated March 9, 2018 and recorded on March 9, 2018 in Deed Book 2854, Page 177, Laurens County, Georgia Records, and later assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by Assignment of Security Deed recorded on December 6, 2021 in Deed Book 3237, Page 209, Laurens County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of Ninety Thousand Five Hundred And 00/100 Dollars (\$90,500.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Laurens County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on January 6, 2026 the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 1st Land District, Land Lot 179 of the City of Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, containing 0.32 acres, more or less, being Lot 6, Block A, Section 1, according to a plat of survey prepared by Billy Flanders & Associates Land Surveyors, dated October 1, 1990, records in Deed Book 597, Page 04, records of the Clerk of Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia; said plat being by reference incorporated herein for a more accurate description. Said tract of land is more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the Southwesterly margin of Jeffrey Drive, 500 feet North 37 degrees 57 minutes 44 seconds West from the intersection of the Southwesterly margin of Jeffrey Drive with the Northwesterly margin of Springdale Road; thence South 46 degrees 14 minutes 39 seconds West distance of 140 feet to an iron pin; thence North 38 degrees 10 minutes 23 seconds West a distance of 100.08 feet to an iron pin; thence North 46 degrees 14 minutes 39 seconds East a distance of 140.37 feet to an iron pin on the Southwesterly margin of Jeffrey Drive; thence South 37 degrees 57 minutes 44 seconds East a distance of 100.12 feet along the Southwesterly margin of Jeffrey Drive to an iron pin, the same being the point of beginning. Subject to covenants, restrictions, reservations, and easements of record. Said property is further identified by Laurens County Tax Assessor as 1310 Jeffrey Drive, Dublin, Georgia, 31021, Map/Parcel: D30A/002. Tax ID #: D03A 002 The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Nationstar Mortgage LLC can be contacted at 877-888-4606 or by writing to 8950 Cypress Waters Boulevard, Coppell, TX 75019, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the parties in possession of the property is Dawn Michelle Griffey or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as 1310 Jeffery Drive aka 1310 Jeffrey Drive aka 1310 Jeffery Drive, Dublin, GA 31021. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Nationstar Mortgage LLC as Attorney in Fact for Ryan D. Griffey McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260 Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 404-474-7149 MTG File No.: GA2023-02639  
December 13, 20, 27 January 3

**25-590**  
State of Georgia County of Laurens  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and debtors of the Estate of Floyd Martin, deceased, you are hereby notified that J. David Gay, the duly appointed executor of the estate, has petitioned the Probate Court of Laurens County, Georgia, for letters of dismissal as Executor and that

he has completed all the business of the estate. You are hereby directed to file any objections with the Probate Court prior to January 16, 2026.  
Please contact J. David Gay at 1701 Rice Avenue, Dublin, GA 3102 if you need any other information.  
J. David Gay  
December 20, 27, 2025, January 3, 10, 2026

**25-579**  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
Georgia, Laurens County.  
All creditors of the Estate of Mary Hobbs, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render in writing their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
This 4th day of December, 2025.  
William Franklin Hobbs, III and Mary Ellen Hobbs Ross, Co-Executors of the Estate of Mary Hobbs, deceased c/o Jackson Dixon Smith Dixon Law Group, LLC 205 N. Franklin Street Dublin, GA 31021  
December 13, 20, 27, 2025 Jan 3, 2026

**25-514**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA LAURENS COUNTY**  
WHEREAS, Tisha McDonald, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, Lender which was dated 7/22/2016, and recorded on 7/22/2016, in Instrument No.: Deed Book 2712, Page 232, securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$81,645.00 in Laurens County, Georgia Register of Deeds.  
NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 1/6/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash Before the Courthouse door of the Laurens County Courthouse, 101 N Jefferson Street, Duplin, Georgia 31040 of Laurens, the following described property situated in Laurens County, Georgia, to wit:  
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN, LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 3 OF A REARRANGEMENT OF BLOCK "C" OF GARDENALE ESTATES SUBDIVISION AND FORMERLY PARTS OF LOTS 2 AND 3 OF BLOCK "C" OF SAID SUBDIVISION BEING RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 184, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF LAURENS SUPERIOR COURT. THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN THAT IS LOCATED ON THE SOUTH MARGIN OF CAMELLIA DRIVE 120 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF CAMELLIA DRIVE AND LANCASTER STREET; THENCE RUNNING ALONG THE SOUTH MARGIN OF CAMELLIA DRIVE IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION 100 FEET TO AN IRON PIN THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION 112.83 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION 100 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION 118.66 FEET BACK TO THE SOUTH MARGIN OF CAMELLIA DRIVE AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PROPERTY IS IMPROVED BY A RESIDENCE KNOWN AS 1502 CAMELLIA DRIVE, IS SHOWN ON A PLAT PREPARED BY J.D. CLOVER, SURVEYOR, DATED NOVEMBER 1, 1966, AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 246, PAGE 477, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF LAURENS SUPERIOR COURT, AND SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF ARE BY REFERENCE INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION. SAID PROPERTY IS FURTHER IDENTIFIED BY THE LAURENS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR AS 1502 CAMELLIA DRIVE, DUBLIN, GA 31021, MAP/PARCEL: D10F/187 SUBJECT TO COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS OF RECORD. Tax Parcel ID: D10F-187 Being real property commonly known as 1502 CAMELLIA DR DUBLIN, GA 31021

The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower.  
Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgagors to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are "as is", "where is". The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee.  
Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows:  
Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 1600 South Douglass Road, Suite 200-A Anaheim, CA 92806, Telephone No.: 800-561-4567  
The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein.

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Tisha McDonald  
Attorney Contact: Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax: 404-738-1558  
TS # 25-34150

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 January 3, 2026

**25-588**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF LAURENS**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**  
All Creditors of the Estate of **Betty Anderson Williams**, deceased, late of Laurens County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned Administrator.  
This 11th day of December, 2025.  
**LaNessia Rache Miller, Administrator of the Estate of Betty Anderson Williams**  
Harold D. McLendon Jr. Attorney for Estate P.O. Box 2003 Dublin, Georgia 31040  
December 20, 27, 2025, January 3, 10, 2026

**25-598**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF VIVIAN R. WATERS, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 25-75**  
**NOTICE**  
TO: This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before Feb 2, 2026.  
**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.  
Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court PO BOX 2098 Dublin GA 31040 478-272-2566  
January 3, 2026

**25-578**  
**TRADE NAME REGISTRATION OFFICE OF JACKIE H. DALTON CLERK SUPERIOR COURT LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA PERSONALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT:**  
**Jason Lody**  
**Eventus Education, LLC and 10565 Fair fax Blvd, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030, USA**  
**IS/ARE DONG BUSINESS IN LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA UNDER THE NAME OF:**  
**TRADE NAME: Dublin Academy**  
**ADDRESS: 905 Claxton Dairy Road Dublin, GA 31021**  
**AND THAT THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE CARRIED ON IS:**  
**Child Care**  
**SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 5 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.**  
**Alejandra Ayala**  
December 13, 20, 27, 2025 January 3, 2026

**25-594**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF LAURENS**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated October 2, 2002, from Iva Jean Lattimore and Marcia Lattimore to Mortgage Electronic Registrations Systems, Inc. as nominee for Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp, recorded on October 8, 2002 in Deed Book 1339 at Page 98 Laurens County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated October 2, 2002, in the amount of \$71,600.00 said note being modified by Loan Modification agreement and recorded on October 7, 2014 in OR Book 2567 OR Page 8 in the real property records of Laurens County, Georgia, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Laurens County, Georgia, on February 3, 2026 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):  
ALL THAT TRACT OF LAND IN LAND LOT 48 OF THE SECOND LAND DISTRICT OF LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING 1.11 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING PART OF LOT 11 AND PART OF LOT 12 OF TOWSON PLACE SUBDIVISION AND BEING SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY BY LARRY C. JONES, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED MARCH 18, 1998 AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 1032, PAGE 120, LAURENS COUNTY RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IS BY THIS REFERENCE INCORPORATED. SAID LOT FRONTS 100 FEET ON THE NORTHEASTERLY MARGIN OF TOWSON DRIVE. THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS CONVEYED SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE COVENANTS FOR TOWSON PLACE, DATED DECEMBER 1, 1995, AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 834, PAGE 274, LAURENS COUNTY RECORDS, WHICH COVENANTS ARE BY THIS REFERENCE INCORPORATED.  
The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note and has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is/are Iva Jean Lattimore and Marcia Lattimore. The property, being commonly known as 1045 Towson Dr, Montrose, GA, 31065 in Laurens County, will be sold as the property of Iva Jean Lattimore and Marcia Lattimore, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above described mortgage is as follows: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019, 888-480-2432. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend

or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.  
Albertelli Law Attorney for Nationstar Mortgage LLC as Attorney in Fact for Iva Jean Lattimore and Marcia Lattimore 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1000 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone: (770) 373-4242  
THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
- 25-011799  
December 27, 2025, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026

**25-581**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF EVA L. MAYWEATHER DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 23-49**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: Frank Mitchell, Delvonta Mitchell and to whom it may concern: MARGARET MITCHELL has petitioned for to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of EVA L. MAYWEATHER deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before Feb. 2 2026.  
**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.  
Genola O. Jackson Judge of the Probate Court By: CWarren Clerk of the Probate Court PO BOX 2098 7393 Hodgson Memorial Dr. DUBLIN, GA 31040 Suite 202 Savannah, GA 31406 912-352-3999  
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

**25-599**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Pursuant to the official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 10-4-210 there will be a public sale at Little House Self Storage, 1854 Marion Street Dublin, on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 beginning at 10:00 A.M. The proceeds of said sale will be used first to satisfy the storage fee and expenses of the auction. Any other proceeds will be used to satisfy such creditors as present their claims in advance of sale.  
#46 Rhonda Wells #113 Hans Cone  
December 27, 2025, January 3, 2026

**25-603**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia, Annotated Section 10-4-210, et seq., there will be a public sale by Curry Management Corporation on January 20, 2026, starting at StorageAuctions.com. The proceeds of said sale will be used to first satisfy the storage fee and other expenses of the auction. Any other proceeds will be used to satisfy such creditors as present their claims in advance of sale.  
SPACE Skykira Lewis Kellam Road C11  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Jasmina Taylor Kellam Road D5  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Melinda Brown Kellam Road F1  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Joe Wells Market Square AAA19  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Yamekia Brown Market Square AAA2  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Johnard McLendon Market Square C12  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
January 3, 10, 2026

**25-604**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia, Annotated Section 10-4-210, et seq., there will be a public sale by Curry Management Corporation on January 20, 2026, starting at StorageAuctions.com. The proceeds of said sale will be used to first satisfy the storage fee and other expenses of the auction. Any other proceeds will be used to satisfy such creditors as present their claims in advance of sale.  
SPACE Barbara Sherman Claxton Dairy A14  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Altanese Thomas Claxton Dairy A15  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Marcia Hall Claxton Dairy B11  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Shawanna Guyton Claxton Dairy C16  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Anshunette Pruitt Claxton Dairy D3  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Charlotte Dolfi Claxton Dairy F18  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Hope Gregory Claxton Dairy F4  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Ilean May Claxton Dairy H2  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Fannie Hughes Claxton Dairy H8  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Robert Wilder Hillcrest 18  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SPACE Marcus Knuckles Claxton Dairy I-23  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
January 3, 10, 2026



**TELL IT!**

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

**Why hasn't the NAACP investigate IGA - it is simply a thinly disguised segregated school to pull kids away from the county and trinity. With a few minorities students added.**

**My heart hurts for the staff in Dublin City being affected by a crooked super and incompetent board members. The teachers are not at fault and yet they are suffering.**

**You know why Chad McDaniels and vocal board members were trying to convince you a tax increase was needed? Because it was about to hit the fan and they were out of money to move around. So wrong.**

**I just wonder why The Courier Herald doesn't give us news on what's going on in the (other parts) of Georgia. I talked to a friend in New Jersey and they told me that a farmer in Georgia lost all of his chickens because of the virus. They are paying \$7 or even \$11 for a dozen eggs. Can't the Tell It! keep up with everything going on instead of having to keep up with it from people in New Jersey.**

*Editor's note: The Courier Herald feature stories from the area and surrounding counties. Our statewide news is from the Capitol Beat News Service.*

**Was wondering why the Christmas banners downtown were orange and green instead of red and green? Just wondering?**

**Stacey Abrams' articles have a lot of interesting information in them. The information is accurate and the truth. Unfortunately, we have a lot of people who don't want to hear the truth or information. We need some kind of medical attention here in Georgia so that people who need healthcare who can get it. It's sad that people are passing away because they cannot get health insurance.**

**It would be interesting to know if the Dublin City Schools received an advanced for November and December in order to meet their expenditures.**

**TELL IT**  
Continued on page 7

**The City of East Dublin will be accepting applications for the position of a State of Georgia certified firefighter.**  
Must hold a valid GA Drivers' License along with a clean driving history. Applicants must be able to pass drug screen and physical. Applications may be picked up at the Clerk's Office at the East Dublin City Hall from 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. Monday Through Friday.  
Deadline on returning application is Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

**Dublin Police Department**

– Jamal Lowe, 26, was charged with disorderly conduct at the South Jefferson Street Apartments on South Jefferson Street around 12:55 a.m. on Dec. 7.

Police responded to the location in reference to a report of a person attempting to kick in a door.

An officer made contact with the complainant who said her brother was attempting to forcibly enter her residence by kicking the door. While speaking with the woman, the officer heard loud banging noises coming from the rear of the apartment.

The officer proceeded to the back of the residence, along with two additional responding officers, where they were able to make contact with a man who was actively attempting to kick in the rear window of the apartment.

The man, identified as Lowe, was placed under arrest and transported to the

sheriff's office.

– On Dec. 11, around 12:49 p.m., an officer responded to Dewey Street in reference to a person making threats and possibly possessing a handgun.

An investigation led to James Antwon Woods, 40, being charged with terroristic threats and acts.

He was transported to the sheriff's office and released to the jail staff for booking.

– Barnoski Bernard Bloodsaw, 41, was charged with obstruction of law enforcement officers around 12:08 a.m. on Dec. 11 on Penn Avenue.

Law enforcement responded to the location regarding an individual attempting to gain entry to a residence. Officers arrived and arrested Bloodsaw who was seen in the front yard. They asked him his name and he told them to ask the woman. An officer asked him multiple times but Bloodsaw refused to say his name.



POLICE BEAT...

The woman gave police Bloodsaw's name. The man said that he and the woman were upset with each other and she did not let him back inside. The woman did not want him at the residence due to his level of intoxication and behavior.

The man was transported to the sheriff's office and booked by the jail staff.

– On Dec. 8, around 7:48 p.m., an officer observed a silver 2016 Nissan Altima traveling on Hillcrest Parkway with no driver's side mirror. The officer pulled the vehicle over at the intersection of Hillcrest Parkway and Brookhaven Drive.

The driver, identified as Anthony Haas, 38, told the officer that he did not have a valid driver's license. All

of the occupants in the vehicle were requested to exit. It was discovered that Haas was on active probation with a fourth amendment waiver. An officer searched both Haas and his vehicle, but no contraband was found.

Haas' vehicle was turned over to a licensed driver. Haas was transported to the police department where he was fingerprinted and cited. Haas was released without further incident after signing and receiving a cop of his citation.

– Ivory Shaheed Tah-Mont Williams, 24, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked at the intersection of Hillcrest Parkway and Haynes Point Drive on Dec. 8. An officer made a traffic

stop on a white Nissan Sentra regarding a seat belt violation.

The officer made contact with the driver, Williams. His license came back as suspended for failure to appear.

Williams was arrested and transported to the police department where he was fingerprinted and released on summons.

**Laurens County Sheriff's Office**

– Ruthven Thorance Gibbs, 71, of Savannah was charged with DUI on I-16 at mile marker 44 around 3 p.m. on Dec. 20. A deputy made a traffic stop on a black Toyota Highlander for speeding.

– Deputies responded to Pinecone Trail in reference to a theft around 5:45 p.m. on Dec. 18. They returned a second time in reference to a battery.

– A vehicle was damaged on Claxton Dairy Road around 3:26 a.m. on Dec. 18.

– On Dec. 12, a deputy made a traffic stop on a sil-

ver Nissan Altima for defective equipment on 441 Bypass around 8:38 a.m. An investigation led to Kristin Nicole Williams, 45, of East Dublin, being charged with possession of methamphetamine.

– A burglary occurred on North Line Street in Dexter around 12:49 a.m. on Dec. 22.

– On Sunday, Dec. 21 around 1:41 a.m., a deputy responded to Isaac Watkins Road for a 911 hang up call.

*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.*

FROM THE RECORD

**Complaint for divorce:** Amelia Beaver v. Chad Beaver; Tammy Hackle v. Ronnie Hackle; Kathryn Knight v Justin Knight;

**Complaint for legitimacy:** Frederick Ray v. Daisy Brown

**Divorce:** Devon F. Mitchell v. Michelle J. Mitchell

**Complaint for change of custody:** Ernest Hall v. Beverly Coady

**Divorce, ex parte relief & appt. guardian ad litem:** Kathryn Dally v. David Dally

**Contract:** Bankers

Healthcare Group LLC v. Kenneth Darley; Truist Bank v. Victoria Keen; Opportunity Financial LLC v. Jimmy White; Barclays Bank Delaware v. Deborah Rudd; Jon McCormick Automotive LLC v. Joe Maus Dublin CDJR LLC; Wells Fargo Bank v. Darrin Wiggins; Bank of America v. Ashley Young; LVNV Funding v. Preston Moss; Global Lending Services LLC v. Rachel & Jeffrey Tomberlin

**Complaint against contractor:** Heating & Air Conditioning Services Inc. v. Dreamworks Residential Builders Jorge & Eileen Ortega

**Affidavit of continuing garnishment:** Cal-

vary v. William Lanigan & Ducts Unlimited Inc.; Republic Finance v. Christy Smith & Friendly Gus Travel Center & Truck Stop; LVNV Funding v. Matthew Hobbs & Complete Site-work Services

**Security deeds:** Ethan Thomas Hart to Georgia First Bank; Sheila Daniel Mullis v. Bank of Dudley; Keshia L. McRae to Colony Bank; Eric William Brandt to Crosscountry Mortgage LLC; Michael Perry to Robins Financial Credit Union; Diamond Aviation LLC to United Community Bank; Jacob Lanier Howell, Clarissa Noel Howell to Bank of Dudley; Gisela Gwinnette Cordy to Rocket Mortgage LLC; Mathew Mallette, Ra-

chel Mallette to Farmers State Bank; Joey D. Smith to First Laurens Bank; Tracy B. Castellaw, Steve C. Castellaw to Morris Bank; Leonard Davis to Bank of Dudley; Jonathan McElhaney to Tim Davidson, sheriff of Telfair County, Georgia; Wesley Ballenger Smith, Britney Ward to Georgia First Bank (2); Kailey Elizabeth Perkins to Citizens Bank of Laurens County; Danny Allen Gilileo, Christiana Danielle Jakita M. Luten, Jack Luten to Alcovia Mortgage LLC

**Warranty deeds:** Eugenia Daniel Phillips to Sheila Daniel Mullis; Willie R. Warnock, Amanda D. Warnock to Keisha L.

McRae; Jason Farrell Nichols, Ashley Elizabeth Nichols to Eric William Brandt; Kara Lynn Barnes, Cameron O'Neal Barnes to Paul Simonton, Patricia Simonton; Nichol E. Upshaw to Russell E. Ferris, Lorretta Ferris; WSH Properties LLC to First Baptist Church of Dudley, Georgia Inc.; Jacob Lanier Howell to Jacob Lanier Howell, Clarissa Noel Howell; Sally Vera Capes, Joshua Ray Capes; Bradley Shane Smith, aka Bradley Smith, Maranda Smith to Golden Farm LLC; Joanne C. Shiver to George H. Gornto (2); Mildred Dunn to Gisela Gwinnette Cordy; Edward B. Martin Jr., John A. Martin to Joey D. Smith; Coleman Bradley Kimbro to Coleman Bradley

Kimbro, Teresa Ann Kimbro; Coleman Bradley Kimbro, Teresa Ann Kimbro to Nathan Kennison; Justin Stewart Construction LLC to Kenneth Thomas, Laurie Thomas; Bentco LLC to UNC Properties LLC; Brandi Nicole Mimbs to Marshall Ricky Mimbs, Nancy Kavanaugh Mimbs; Hughie Dillon Douglas, aka Dillon H. Douglas, Mollie Brantley Douglas to Wesley Ballenger Smith, Britney Ward Smith; Samuel S. Jarrell to Betty J. Levasseur; C&C Better Living LLC to Robert C. Lewis; Jason Kelly Thigpen, Amy Dale Thigpen to Danny Allen Gilileo, Christiana Danielle Gilileo; WJH LLC to Jakita M. Luten, Jack Luten

**TELL IT**

Continued from page 6

**The joke that is going** on about the Dublin City School fiasco will not come to an end as long as the school is operating under the Dublin City School board and the Dublin City government. I blame the government just as bad as I do the school system for letting this go on. They need to implement an injunction and appoint new board members and relieve those people of their duties immediately.

**As the Bible says:** The sins of the father are not the sins of the child. In this scenario, the father being Board of Education and the

child being the taxpayers! But we are being punished for their sins like a whipping boy for the king and the escape goat sent out of the city. We are the goat, carrying the Board of Education's sins on our back.

**I don't know about** you all, but it seems to me that the GBI was called in quicker for the church versus the young lady over a much smaller amount.

**Watch out for two** boys with rakes that go to people's houses in the Bellevue Road area. I saw them recently. They came to my house last year and robbed me.

**We need a new school** in this community and I am excited about the proposed middle school preparatory academy that was just announced! I attended the info session earlier and it was great info!

**Consolidation works best** when citizens are invited in early. Show clear cost savings, better services and shared goals, and start with viewing our neighboring Bibb county that has clear results.

**Contact your county commissioner** to get fair government in the works with consolidation. Consolidation in 2026 is a must.

**Every time a new article** comes out about Dublin City, it is just more em-

barrassing. They knew last January there was a deficit but yet said they were bet-

ter than they had ever been. Straight up lies!

NEWS DIGEST

The Dublin City Council will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026 at Henry "Bud" Hicks Jr. at Memorial Chamber at city hall. There will be no pre-council for this meeting. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation and Pledge to Flag
- Approval of Dec. 11, 2025 city council meeting minutes
- Approval of bills over \$15,000

- Approval of purchases over \$15,000
- Appointment of the city attorney
- Administration of the oath of office of the city attorney
- Administration of the oath of office of the at large council members
- Election of the mayor pro tempore
- Election of the chairman of council
- Appointment of the official gazette

- Discussion and action on board appointments
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-01 for an easement to Morris Bank to locate a natural gas generator
- Citizens comments
- Council comments
- Executive session if needed to discuss real estate, pending litigation or personnel
- Adjournment

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 12/28/25

CELLULAR

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-446-1847

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Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening

to schedule your screening. Special offer – 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-391-2065

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Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-939-2151

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-781-0206

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-833-871-2090. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

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MISCELLANEOUS

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DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: A co-worker, "Erin," has been allowed to work from home since the COVID-19 pandemic, while the rest of us came back to the office. We function alongside each other much like a small family. We have no drama, no office politics and an overall great atmosphere. Erin's absence has caused a strain on our team and has fueled resentment. Many feel it's unfair, although these feelings have not been shared with Erin.

It so happens that Erin has accepted a new job and hasn't told our boss because she's worried about how the boss will react. When I found out, I did tell the boss even though Erin told me not to. So now I am caught in the snare of my own little trap of deceit. Advice? -- TANGLED WEB IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR TANGLED WEB: I'm sorry you didn't mention what the benefit structure is at your company. Erin took a job on the Q.T. while still on your boss's payroll. In the state where I live (California), that would be a reason to fire her. I do not regard enlightening your boss about what Erin did as deceitful. I think what you did was the right thing to do and loyal to the company.

DEAR ABBY: I'm nearly 70, and suddenly I'm remembering things from the past that I haven't thought about in years -- mostly conversations in which I wish I had responded differently. (I've never been really quick about responding to things.) Now they keep popping up, and I can't seem to stop thinking about what I wish I had said. I don't know why this is happening or how to stop it. Any advice? -- MEMORY-RIDDEN IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MEMORY-RIDDEN: If this is how you are spending your leisure time, you may have too much of it on your hands. When this happens, try to redirect your thoughts to something else. Then remind yourself that none of us can change the past, but we can LEARN from it so we don't repeat our mistakes (or errors of omission) in the future. If what's happening leads to depression or anxiety, you might benefit from consulting a therapist about it.

\*  
DEAR ABBY: I have been an avid reader my entire life, and you have always given solid advice, especially when it comes to topics regarding proper etiquette. That's why you were the first person I thought to ask when my friend shared this information from our Catholic priest on how to attend Mass with reverence. "Don't cross your legs. Crossing your legs is considered a disrespectful posture." I'm all for proper manners and posture, but I have never heard this before. -- WONDERING IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR WONDERING: This is the first I have heard of it, but your friend may be correct. In some Orthodox cultures outside North America, crossing one's legs is considered to be very disrespectful. Here in America, however, it is not taboo, but it is considered to be "too casual and relaxed" for church.

SUDOKU

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

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!

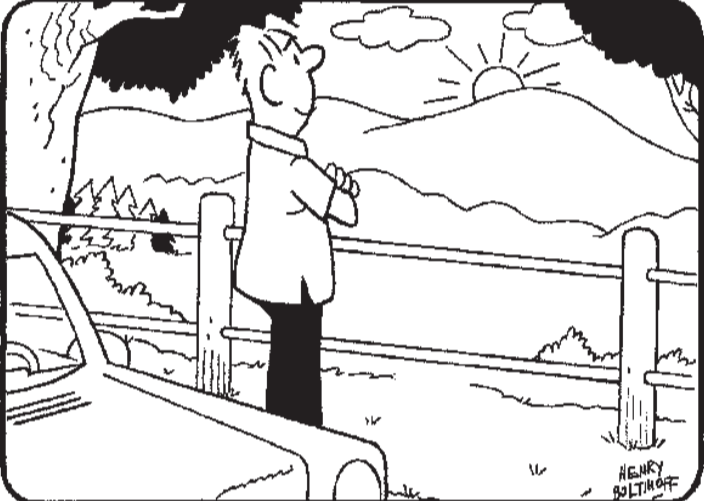
Here's How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear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

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

ANSWER:

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sun is smaller. 2. Fence post is taller. 3. Headlight is different. 4. Side mirror is missing. 5. Bottom of shirt is different. 6. Tree branch is missing.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Pig's enclosure
- 4 More despicable
- 9 Plays 18 holes
- 14 Pitcher's stat: Abbr.
- 15 Cynthia of "Harriet"
- 16 Currency in India
- 17 Bruce Springsteen's state: 2 wds.
- 19 Perspective
- 20 Pavarotti, e.g.
- 21 Extremists
- 23 Includes secretly on an email: Abbr.
- 26 Queue
- 27 \_\_\_ the cuff
- 30 Postmortem exam
- 32 Sound booster
- 35 "Push It" group
- 37 "Dark Lady" singer
- 38 Hint
- 39 Magic incantation
- 41 Protagonist
- 42 Largest continent
- 43 Einsteins
- 45 Traffic stopper
- 46 Wondrous event
- 48 Artificial coloring
- 49 Puerto \_\_\_
- 50 Line from Caesar: 2 wds.
- 52 Cupboards
- 56 Immature insect
- 60 Up in the sky
- 61 October 31 holiday
- 64 Not fresh
- 65 Walter \_\_\_ Disney
- 66 Great noise
- 67 Carried along
- 68 Oboe inserts
- 69 "That's \_\_\_ I haven't heard"

DOWN

- 1 Mailed
- 2 Family diagram
- 3 Exhibit sleepiness
- 4 Budweiser
- holder: 2 wds.
- 5 Flight info: Abbr.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				17
18								19				
20							21		22			
23							24	25		26		
27	28	29		30			31				32	33
34							35				36	
37							38				39	
40							41				42	
43							44				45	
46							47				48	
49							50				51	
52	53	54					55			56	57	58
59							60				61	
62							63				64	
65							66				67	
68							69				70	

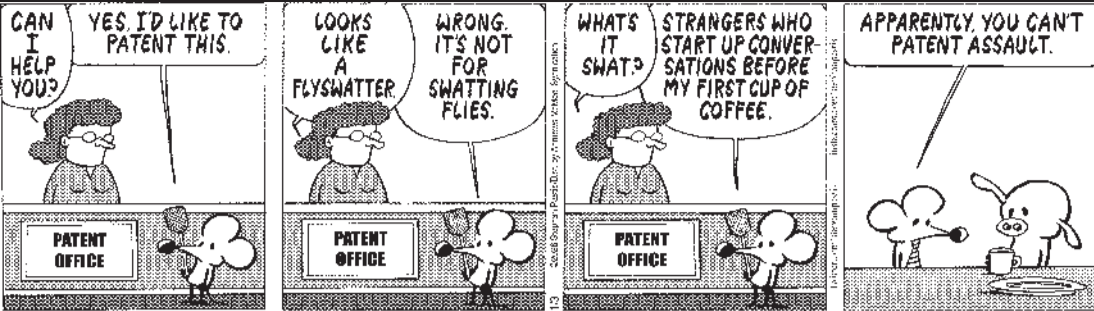
Created by Stella Zawistowski

S	K	I	D	B	A	L	L	S	P	E	P	A
A	N	N	E	O	C	E	A	N	H	A	R	P
D	A	D	S	R	H	I	N	O	I	S	E	E
V	I	E	N	N	E	S	E	W	A	L	T	Z
E	A	R	S				Y	U	L			
T	A	I	N	T	S		N	Y	L	O	N	
D	O	G	S	C	A	R	P	E	T	E	V	E
I	R	A	R	E	D	I	A	L	S	T	E	X
S	A	G	I	D	I	O	M	S	I	S	N	T
C	L	A	S	P	A	S	S	E	N	T		
S	P	A	N	I	S	H	O	M	E	L	E	T
B	E	A	T	T	H	E	S	E	I	D	O	L
R	A	R	E	C	E	L	L	S	A	I	R	Y
A	R	T	S	H	A	L	O	S	N	A	M	E

- 46 Made coins
- 47 Frozen water
- 49 Hunter's gun
- 51 Detroit union: Abbr.
- 52 Group of actors
- 53 Voice part above 20-Across
- 54 Small ship
- 55 Discount event
- 57 Make over
- 58 Kind of blood vessel
- 59 Heche or Hathaway
- 62 Commit perjury
- 63 Young boy

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEVE PASTIS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



Mistletoe

This plant is a parasitic perennial; its white or translucent berries grow on the trunks and branches of deciduous trees. American mistletoe (*P. serotinum*) is widespread across the U.S., while its European cousin (*V. album*) can only sometimes be found in California. Often used as a winter holiday adornment in the home, these plants are potentially deadly for children and pets, as they contain phoratoxin, a toxic protein. It is best to avoid real mistletoe in favor of artificial versions - Brenda Weaver

Sources: pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, onlinelibrary.wiley.com

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Saturday, Janaury 3, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠63♥8653♦A87♣J874

♠A Q 10 9♥8 2♦A K Q 2♣10 8 5

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

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

♠987♥K J 6 4♦9865♣J 9

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
1♠ 2♦ 3♦\* ?  
\*Spade raise, at least invitational values

What call would you make?

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

♠75♥A Q J 8 7 4 3♦A Q ♣A 2

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♥ Pass 1NT Pass  
? What call would you make?

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

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

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

♠A K 8 6♥Q 9 3♦K 10 7 5♣5 2

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
1♠ 2♠\* Pass ?  
\*Hearts and a minor, at least 5-5

What call would you make?

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

♠A J 9 5 4♥7 6 2♦Q J 4♣Q 7

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

Look for answers on Monday.

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

HIGHLIGHT REEL: THE TOP SPORTS PHOTOS OF 2025

With another year in the books, let’s take a quick look back at a few of the most memorable sports moments captured by our team of photographers as they documented the many outstanding performances and historic achievements that took place across the Heart of Georgia over the past 365 days...



STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONS: West Laurens’ J.T. Bowers (left) and Dublin’s Domimarkeyo Walden (right) celebrated state wrestling titles at the Macon Coliseum in February. Bowers’ victory at 165 lbs. made him the Raiders’ fourth three-time state champ. Walden, clinching gold in the 285-pound weight class, became the first Irish wrestler to win it all in 11 years/SPECIAL PHOTOS, by Danyale Starley and Dublin City Schools



10 WINS, AND COUNTING: West Laurens defeated Westside Augusta on Oct. 30 to not only claim its fourth all-time region championship, but to also complete a perfect 10-0 regular season for the first time ever. The Raiders’ year of milestones continued with three more wins to surpass another single-season high mark, and break a longtime playoff barrier as they advanced to the state semifinals/DANNY SCARBORO



CAPTURED THE FLAG: West Laurens head golf coach Whitney Alligood collects the flag from the 18th pin at Highland Country Club in LaGrange after the Raiders won the AAA state title in May/JANICE BALLARD



HARDWOOD DREAMS: It was a storybook season for three local basketball teams. The East Laurens girls won the region 2-High A championship (above) and advanced to their first-ever Final Four. Highlight machine Rashund Washington Jr. (left) and the Falcon boys followed suit after his return from injury, with this spectacular dunk, vs. WACO in the region tourney. Trinity’s girls (right) also defeated Brentwood to reach the state finals for the first time since 2010/CLAY REYNOLDS, DANNY SCARBORO



MAKING A SPECTACLE: "You need glasses!" is a common taunt directed at officials by jeering fans. But that went literally for this MGFOA umpire who lost the eyewear as he took a nasty stiff arm from Dublin’s Trav Bostic on this run during an Irish win over Jefferson County/HORACE AUSTIN



DEUCES!: East Laurens’ Norrion King throws up two fingers en route to the end zone on a 70-yard punt return touchdown that sealed out a second-straight and third-overall Falcon win over Southwest Macon in early October/ZACH DAWSON



A GAME FOR THE AGES: West Laurens’ Ty Cummings (3) celebrates one of the eight rushing touchdowns he scored in a 615-yard performance against Baldwin that not only broke several school records he’d been pursuing, but also shattered a state single-game mark as well/DANNY SCARBORO



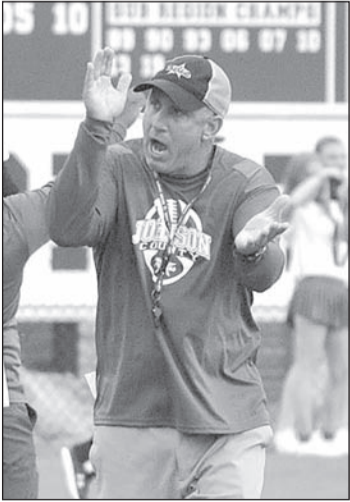
JUST FOR KICKS: Trinity’s Wade Register signed in December to punt at UGA, but spent his senior season doing far more for the Crusaders than just dominating special teams. The senior, shown here counting off one of his three touchdowns against Augusta Prep, also led the team in rushing and INTs/DANNY SCARBORO



GOOD GOALKEEPING: East Laurens’ Carson Smith (left) and Deanna Lowther (center), and West Laurens’ Clyde Warren (right), made the paper with these great saves in goal over the course of the spring season/CLAY REYNOLDS, DANNY SCARBORO



HOME RUNS, AND HIJINKS: Some noteworthy moments from local ballfields... Above: Trinity’s Carter Lee (left) and West Laurens’ Ava Collins (center) are received at the plate after home runs, while East Laurens players (right) pretend to shoot skeet from the dugout entrance. Below: Elijah Moorman (left) scores for the Dudley Little League 11U all-stars at the state tournament and Dublin head coach Brian Brown (right) gets a stinging high-five from catcher Mikey Patisaul/CLAY REYNOLDS, JANICE BALLARD



STARTING IT OUT RIGHT: A fired-up Johnson County head coach Don Norton applauds his sideline after an opening-drive score in the Trojans’ debut vs. East Laurens, and what would be the first win of 11 on their way to a perfect regular season and fourth straight region title/CLAY REYNOLDS



THE THRILL OF VICTORY: A roar of celebration followed these winning moments on the Westside... from Judd Walker after a clinching goal against Harlem (above), Cason Pollock (below, left) following a go-ahead RBI in the playoffs vs. Jefferson and Charlie Barfield (below, right) with a winning third singles point to beat Heritage and send the Raider boys tennis team to the state quarterfinals/CLAY REYNOLDS, DANNY SCARBORO



...AND THE AGONY OF DEFEAT: Trinity football players complete up-downs in a large water puddle on Cleve Warnock Field during a summer exercise called "The Crucible." These were the cold, wet consequences for losing teams after each activity making up the night of competitive training and team-building intended – in the words of head coach Bruce Lane – to teach players that they have to hate losing more than they enjoy winning/CLAY REYNOLDS

SCOREBOARD

GIRLS HOOPS  
Monday  
Stratford 63, Trinity 52

BOYS HOOPS  
Monday  
Stratford 51, Trinity 41

PREP  
SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL  
Tuesday  
Trinity at Tattall Square  
/3 p.m.

Friday  
John Milledge at Trinity  
/5 p.m.  
Johnson Co. at  
East Laurens/6 p.m.

Saturday  
Johnson Co. at Dublin  
/4:30 p.m.  
EL at Tattall Co./5 p.m.  
West Laurens at  
Cross Creek/6 p.m.

CONTACT US:  
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PARKING  
Continued from page 1

occupancy, while on a typical weekend, only 85 percent of spots were occupied. Only during major events, particularly ones that closed traffic on Jackson St., such as the Bon Temps Crawfish Festival and Christmas Pa-

rade, did parking become strained. 2025's Super Saturday, the climax of the Dublin-Laurens St. Patrick's Festival, saw parking at 95 to 100 percent capacity at peak event times. The crawfish festival that same year only saw parking at as much as 95 percent, while

the 2024 Christmas parade drew overflow crowds, though the strain lasted less than 90 minutes, the report noted. The number of available spaces was also ample to supply downtown businesses. "With approximately 120 storefronts and offices

in the downtown core, the current inventory provides an average of seven spaces per business. This significantly exceeds the typical small-downtown benchmark of four to five spaces per business, confirming that the parking supply is robust," the report noted. The report recommend-

ed the installation of new signage that clearly directs motorists parking lots, a digital map to promote and direct visitors to parking spots and the utilization of an employee parking program, better managing central, convenient spaces for customers and visitors. "The primary challenge

is not a shortage of parking spaces, but rather the management, visibility and distribution of the existing supply," concluded the report. "The public perception of a parking shortage stems from the difficulty in locating available spaces quickly and easily, not from an actual lack of capacity."

RED CROSS  
Continued from page 1

also provide service to the military and veterans, which is why it is good to be located across from the VA. "I think there is so many people in the community who do not know the extent of what the Red Cross does," Crane said. "They think blood or when we respond to a hurricane but we are there day-in and day-out responding to home fires. And we help people recover from everything from the small disasters and up to the big ones." Janine Cameron, a local Red Cross volunteer, said the smoke alarms are needed in every home. "These are free," Cameron said. "We will either come install them or we'll get the fire department to come install them in their homes. There are several people who have been saved by a working smoke alarm in their homes. They worked and have allowed people to get out. We want to keep people safe. They only have two minutes to get out, so that smoke alarm is critical."



Volunteers and Red Cross officials gather for a photo (above) at the event, which included some gift-giving (right)/PAYTON TOWNS III

Unfortunately, there have been a few fatal fires. Those needing and wanting a smoke detector can call 1-800-RED-CROSS to get their names on the list. Besides volunteers, the Red Cross also need monetary donations. "Our new building is not big enough to hold everything we used to hold,"

Bentz said. "With the house fires going up that means we have to put out more. We sometimes have to help multiple people in a house. That is why monetary donations are important." The Red Cross still needs volunteers, which can be done at redcross.org. "I will never turn them

away," Bentz said. "My target is to get them as part of our Disaster Action Team. We have 25 counties and not every county has volunteers who can respond to fires. We go out and help our clients who have been involved in a fire and other disasters. My volunteers work hard throughout the year."



Christmas trees brought for the Chipper at the 2025 event/PAYTON TOWNS III

CHIPPER  
Continued from page 1

will be bringing (live) trees and they will show them where to drop them," Wilson said. "I will get some of the Scouts to help me and possibly the folks at the Hugh Gillis Pond to help me. These will make fish habi-

tats in the ponds that people will be able to enjoy, including the fish." Wilson thanked Georgia Power, Georgia Forestry Commission, Boy Scout Troop 6 5, the city of Dublin, The Courier Herald and State Broadcasting for promoting the event.

NEWS DIGEST

THE LAURENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 5, at 5 p.m. in the Board of Elections and Registration Office of the Laurens County Courthouse Annex Building, 117 E. Jackson St., suite A. The agenda follows:

- Call to order/Invocation
- Roll call
- Recognition of visitors
- Minutes of previous meeting
- Old business
- Discussion of office procedures
- Revenue expenditures and outlay
- New business
- Preparing for the 2026 election year
- Executive session

The LAURENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. The agenda includes:

- Approve meeting minutes for Dec. 2, 2025

- Discussion/approval of the purchase of two sets of extrication tools
- Discussion/approval of a language access plan for the CDBG grant
- Discussion/approval of qualifying fees for 2026 election cycle
- Discussion/approval of District Attorney request to amend budget to retain assistant DA positions
- Discussion/approval of bid to construct EMS substation
- Discussion/approval of appointment to the Landbank Authority
- Discussion/approval of Sikes Aviation contract
- Discussion/approval to continue fiscal agent status for family connection
- Discussion/approval to surplus sheriff department vehicle
- Discussion/approval of striping proposal

SHOOTING SUSPECT  
Continued from page 1

Once the investigation is complete, the case file will be given to the Dublin Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for review. Anyone with information is asked to

contact the GBI in Eastman at 478-374-6988. Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling 1-800-597-TIPS (8477), online at gbi.georgia.gov/submit-tips-online, or by downloading the See Something, Send Something mobile app.

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