

The Courier Herald

\$1

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

'Waste and abuse' of funds by Dublin City Schools confirmed by special state audit

By KYLE DOMINY
Staff Reporter

The special state audit looking into finances of the troubled Dublin City school system names potential waste, overstaffing and a lack of proper budgeting processes for the district's dismal financial state, and says that officials used the influx of COVID-era cash to keep the system afloat.

"Our examination of the Dublin City School System (the School District) identified purchases that raised concerns about potential waste and abuse of public

funds, along with weaknesses in staffing and compensation practices," the report, conducted by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, concluded. "While the use of temporary COVID funds to support ongoing personnel and operating expenses masked these problems for years, the issues ultimately resulted from absent or weak expenditure controls and deficient budget processes."

The much-anticipated report, released Wednesday, confirmed what has already been identified as the cause of the city schools' financial

woes — overstaffing, hefty salaries and lax oversight. The report noted four specific deficiencies within the school system: Potential waste and abuse, overstaffing, excess personnel costs and the use of temporary funds for ongoing expenditures caused by "weak and/or absent expenditure controls" and "deficient budget development processes."

The school system has spent the better part of a decade languishing in financial turmoil. The true state of the district's financial state came to light in late August after state officials notified

district leaders of a \$6 million debt to the State Health Benefit Plan and a projected \$13 million budget deficit.

The revelations led to the resignation of former finance director Chad McDaniel and the early retirement of superintendent Fred Williams. Members of the Dublin City Board of Education have long attested that they were kept in the dark about the true extent of the budget crisis. The report noted that the poor budgeting processes led to "significant variances and the presentation of inaccurate financial projections to the

Board of Education." However financial documents filed with the state, and signed by board members, showed a deficit since July 2024.

As part of its deficit reduction plan, the school district cut more than 50 positions, including more than a dozen teachers. Five have filed suit against the school system. Superior Court Judge Jud Green heard the first complaint last month and has yet to issue a verdict. A ruling for the plaintiff could spell disaster for the school system's effort to remain financially viable.

The special audit reviewed expenditures through fiscal year 2021 to 2025 and identified several items that "lacked documented justification" and "often exceeded what would be considered reasonable or necessary" for a school system the size of Dublin's. Specific concerns were:

- Costs for out-of-town leadership retreats unrelated to education goals that included permitted family member participation at the expense of the system

STATE AUDIT
Continued on page 10

'Very high' level of flu cases in Ga.

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The flu is kicking Georgia's butt.

According to Melissa Brantley, program manager and public information officer for the South Central Health District, the Georgia Flu Surveillance Report showed that the state flu activity was "very high" during the final week of 2025.

"It was 13 on a scale of 1 to 13," Brantley said. "That activity level is based on the percent of outpatient visits in Georgia due to influenza-like illness during that period. We would like to see that number come down."

There is a concern that the number of flu cases rose this high without students being in school. As of this week, schools have reopened and people have returned to work.

"Now that we are back, what will it mean? This means people need to be extra vigilant with protecting themselves, especially those who already have compromised immune systems," Brantley said.

Dr. Thomas Craft, who serves as the District Health Director of the South Central Health District, said the situation was so bad that the Georgia Department of Public Health released a statement about the severity of flu activity throughout Georgia.

"So far, the national numbers of flu cases have already passed the total number for last year," Craft said. "Last year was the worst flu outbreak we've had in 15 years or so. We are seeing real significant numbers nationwide. On a per capita basis, Georgia was the highest of all the states."

When it comes to limiting the flu, officials ask people to wash their hands with soap and warm water or

use an alcohol-based hand gel. Other tips from health experts include the recommendation of coughing or sneezing into the crook of the elbow or arm, and to avoid touching the face because flu germs can get into the body through the mucus membranes of the nose, mouth and eyes.

"Of course, stay home if you aren't feeling well so that you don't spread your illness," Brantley said.

Officials say those with the flu should be free of a fever, without the use of a fever reducer, for at least 24 hours before returning to school or work. If a person is caring for a sick individual at home, keep them away from common areas of the house and other people as much as possible.

"Try to avoid close contact with others if you are feeling bad," Craft said. "Don't share drinking glasses, utensils and those kind of things. Keep a safe distance."

Flu symptoms and their severity vary from person to person, and can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people are at higher risk of developing serious complications. This includes those 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease, pregnant women and children younger than 5, but especially those younger than 2 years old.

Those who had not received a flu shot yet, and have no medical conditions preventing them from doing so, are encouraged to gain the health benefits the flu vaccine provides. The vaccine is available at public

FLU
Continued on page 10



This drone photo shows the view from above as firefighters work to put out a blaze in two downtown Dublin buildings Wednesday evening/SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy of Dublin Fire Department

Firefighters attack blaze at downtown businesses



Firefighters returned to look at the aftermath of Wednesday's blaze/SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy of Dublin Fire Department

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The Dublin Fire Department is investigating a Wednesday-night fire that totaled an old building and caused slight damage to a neighboring business in downtown Dublin.

According to Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler, they received a call around 7:54 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, about a structure fire at Dublin Glass, 109 Union St. When they arrived, they discovered that the fire did not originate from there, but had moved over to it from the business next door at 806 E. Jackson St.

Cutler said that the business was being used by RR Towing.

"That building is totally destroyed," the chief said. "There was a tractor-trailer and some sort of work truck that was in the building, and both were totally destroyed. They were using it as a tow yard and possibly for some mechanic work."

The heat and flames coming from the building wound up catching the back

FIRE
Continued on page 10

INDEX

OBITUARIES	2
85 YEARS AGO	3
NEW SOUTHERN DAD	4
WEATHER/TELL IT!	5
POLICE BEAT	5
LEGALS	6,7
FROM THE RECORD	7
SPORTS	8
COMICS	9

1 section, 10 pages • Vol. 112,
No. 4, Pub. No. 161860



Woman banned from local grocery store following outburst

From STAFF REPORTS

A 20-year-old woman was charged with theft by shoplifting, simple battery, terroristic threats and acts and obstruction of an officer, and handcuffed in the parking lot of a local grocery store Tuesday afternoon.

According to a Dublin Police Department incident report, officers responded to a shoplifting call at Kroger on Hillcrest Parkway. When they arrived, a Kroger employee was waving an officer toward a white Chevrolet Impala. While approaching

that vehicle, the officer saw that several individuals were looking at a baby inside.

At this point, officers heard yelling coming from the store and the store manager pointed to a woman, who was later identified as Doreonna Ford.

The officer approached Ford and asked her to stop so that they could talk while the store manager informed him that the woman had hit him when she left the store. The officer asked Ford to stop again, but the woman cursed at him. While the officer tried to grab Ford, the

woman struck him on the side of his face, injuring his elbow.

The officer spun the woman around, pinned her against the car and, with assistance from another officer, handcuffed Ford.

While the other officer was restraining the woman, she continued to kick and attempted to head-butt him, the report said. Once placed in the back of a patrol unit, the woman began kicking the door. When the officer opened the door, the woman threatened both officers. Ford's legs were re-

strained in order to keep her from destroying the back seat of the vehicle. While placing the restraints on, the woman fought by kicking at both officers.

Officers were able to get in touch with Ford's cousin, who took possession of the vehicle and the infant who was inside.

An officer watched a recorded video showing Ford leaving the store without paying for items, which were placed in a baby car seat in the video. An employee tried to stop Ford, but the woman struck him with the car seat. Ford then saw another employee recording her and told her to stop before striking her with the car seat.

Ford was transported to the sheriff's office. When the officer returned to Kroger, the store manager wanted the woman barred from the store.

He said Ford returned to the store because she was looking for her car keys she believed were lost in the store.

While looking for the keys, she was seen throwing and pushing items off of shelves, causing damage.

OBITUARIES



Gayle Wilson Spikes

A celebration of life services for Mrs. Gayle Wilson Spikes will be held Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026 at 3 p.m. in the G.O. Wyche Sr. Memorial Chapel in the Wyche's Funeral Home. The interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery

Gayle Spikes last gleam was peaceful and took place on Jan. 1, 2026 at her home. Her first glimmer was on Aug. 14, 1953 in Dublin, Georgia to the late Anderson Charleston Wilson Sr. and Althea Bates Wilson McClendon. She had a step-father, the late James McClendon. Gayle attended Dublin City Schools and graduated from Dublin High School in 1971. After high school, she attended Savannah State College and Swainsboro Technical School and received her Nursing license in 1981. Gayle went on to work for the VA Medical Center in Dublin, Georgia. She worked there from 1984 until retirement.

Gayle was known for her medical intelligence, quick wit, sassy spirit, and desire to help whomever she could. Even when she didn't have it, she made efforts to help. If she was trying to borrow it, chances are, it was to help someone else. As a daughter, Gayle was devoted, as a sister, Gayle was tolerant, as a parent, she was intentional, defending, and lead via tough love. As a cousin, Gayle was protective, and as a friend she was an absolute joy to be around. Gayle, also known as "Koolaid" carried herself with confidence and authenticity. She was never afraid to be exactly who she was and say exactly what she meant. She knew how to enjoy life and encouraged others to do the same... laugh louder, love harder, sacrifice, work hard and play hard. That was how she lived her life. She will be lovingly remembered, tenderly missed and eternally held

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 10

Brain & Patti Portwood

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 10

Danni Leigh Barwick
Robert Perry

Jan. 11

Freda McCloud Council
Joseph Gray
Hershel Hardy
Cameron Lindsey

Jan. 12

John Smith Jr.

dear.

She is preceded in death by both sets of grandparents, Clifton "Needham" Wilson and Sallie Mae Wilson, Edwin Bates and Slater Moore Bates, parents, Anderson Charleston Wilson Sr. and Althea Bates Wilson McClendon, stepfather, James McClendon, brother, Anderson Charleston "Luke" Wilson Jr., Aunts, Jessie Bates Ballard, Melba Baker, and beloved friend of many years, W.L. Marshall.

Gayle is survived by her husband, Carl Spikes, daughter, LaChante Thomas of Virginia, granddaughter, Leyna Thomas of Virginia, son, Nicholas Spikes of North Dakota, cousins; Raymond Bain of Nevada, Tina Baker-Ivey (Johnny) Hansel Baker III, Edwin Maxell of Tennessee, Edwin Maxwell Jr., Aleah Maxwell and Brixton Maxwell all of Georgia, Mae Ruth Johnson of Illinois, Ardena Jenkins of Kentucky, Robina Jenkins, Rhonda Jenkins both of Alabama, Kathy Sims and Roy Johnson both of Illinois; extended family, Karen Stanley, Miah Stanley and TJ Thomas all of Georgia; longtime friends, Willie Mae Wynn and Velma Vickers both of Georgia and a multitude of friends and community members who will hold on to her beautiful heart and contagious laughter.

Friends are being received at the family residence, 502 Marcus Street, Dublin, Ga.

Arrangements entrusted to Wyche's Funeral Home. (www.wychesfuneralhome-mcinc.com).



Theresa Johnson

Mrs. Theresa Johnson, 60, of Dublin passed away Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, at Donaldsonville Hospital in Donaldsonville. She was born in Lynwood, California on Nov. 5, 1965, to the late Lucian Elsie Stapleton and Pamela Jean Dukes Stapleton. Theresa had a contagious smile. She was soft-spoken, sweet-natured and she was very encouraging to everyone. Theresa loved to swim, read and was always ready for a walk. She was a member of Northside Baptist Church.

Theresa was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Charles Alvin Wat-

son Jr., Lisa Darlene Stapleton, Pamela Yvonne Stapleton, and James Joseph Stapleton.

Survivors include her husband, Stephen Johnson; daughter, Holly Ann Johnson; siblings, Lynn Stapleton, Ronald "Sam" Stapleton, Deborah Rose Stapleton; several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Graveside Service will be 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, at Rehoboth Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Chad Kennison officiating.

Condolences may be expressed at www.chapmanfhofswainsboro.com.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of the arrangements for Mrs. Theresa Johnson, 60, of Dublin.



Mitzi Taylor Studstill

Mitzi Taylor Studstill, age 66, passed away peacefully the morning of Jan. 7, 2025 at Emory Winship Cancer Center in Atlanta, Georgia, following a three month fight with an aggressive form of endometrial cancer. She was born on Dec. 29, 1959, in Eastman, Georgia.

Mitzi was a devoted wife, mother and Nana. She is survived by her husband, Jay Studstill; her sons, Jason Studstill (Annie DeAngelo) and James Studstill; her grandchildren, Daniel, Noah and Dawson Studstill; and her siblings, Clarence (Lori) Taylor, Fay (Tim) Reich, and Lee (Gerry) Taylor.

Mitzi spent her formative years at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, where she earned a business degree and formed lifelong friendships. She later earned a Master's degree in business education from Valdosta State University. Known for her intelligence, curiosity, and attention to detail, Mitzi approached everything she did with care and intention.

After marrying her husband of 42 years, Mitzi and Jay lived in Valdosta, Georgia, where both of their sons were born, later moving to Lawrenceville and then Statesboro, Georgia, where they raised their family and became deeply involved in the community. In recent years, they made their home in Dublin, Georgia.

She was actively involved in her children's schools and community organizations, supporting PTO, academic boosters and Statesboro football and band programs. She also contributed to fundraising efforts, including editing the Women of Georgia Power cookbook. In her later years, she was a member of Dublin First Baptist Church.

Above all, Mitzi will be remembered for her generous heart, strong character, and the quiet care she showed to everyone around her. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home.

A funeral service celebrating her life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 11 at the First Baptist Church of Dublin. Burial will follow the service at 4 p.m. at Old Daniel Baptist Church Cemetery in Eastman, Ga.

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



Susie May Wiggins

Funeral services for Mother Susie May Wiggins, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, at 3 p.m. at the Church of Anointed Vessels Restoration Center, 218 Joiner Street in Dublin. Pastor Greta Smith will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery. The family will receive visitors on Saturday, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Dudley Funeral Home.

Susie M. Wiggins was born in Dublin, Georgia, on Oct. 11, 1931, to the late Julia Woodum and Elisha Wiggins. She was retired from Fairview Park Hospital on the 3 'til 11 shift. She was an employee of the month two times and received the culture awards thirteen times including returning money, checkbook, jewelry, and billfolds. Susie Wiggins was Mother of the Church of Anointed Vessels Restoration Center where she was a member until her health declined. She was a volunteer at Dublinair Nursing Home. And she loved working in her beautiful yard un-

til she was 92, and she was a spiritual mother who loved the Lord.

Mother Wiggins passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2026, as she peacefully entered eternal rest, answering God's call with family. She was preceded in death by a loving daughter, Ann (Coot) Walker, three brothers and three sisters.

Mother Wiggins leaves to

cherish her memory devoted goddaughter and great niece, Ashlynn Griffin, devoted nieces and great nieces, Julia McClendon, Cynthia (Demetrice) Wright, Barbara (Daniel) Jolley, Betty Edwards, Damyla Wright, Ryann Griffin, and Aria Griffin, devoted nephews, Kenneth (Linda) Griffin, Tony (Tina) Griffin, several other nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Please post your condole-

ences online at ServicesbyDudley.com. Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

His family will receive friends on Saturday, from 10 a.m. until the hour of service at Sammons Funeral Home.

Please share a memory, leave a condolence message and sign the online guest register at www.sammonsfuneralhome.com.

Sammons Funeral Home – Family Owned and Operated Since 1917
912-529-4411 or 478-455-0671

HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
King Features

* "Here's a great chore for little kids. Our family seems to leave shoes all over the house. I will have my 4-year-old collect the shoes and deliver them to the room of the person to whom the shoes belong. It's a very easy chore and even like a game sometimes." -- A.J. in Texas

* "When cooking from a recipe that I'm not super familiar with, I tape it to the front of my kitchen cabinet. It's in a central location, easy to see and won't get dirty. If it turns out to be something I like, I put it in a plastic sleeve protector in my cookbook. I can still pull it out and tape it to the cabinet when necessary." -- R.G. in Georgia

Appreciation,

The family of the late Benny Brantley Jr. (B.J.) would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your acts of kindness, prayers and love that you showed during the loss of our loved one. May God bless you.

The Brantley Family

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

DIVORCED OR SEPARATED?
WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU FIND
HOPE AND HEALING

DIVORCE *Care*

MEETS ON TUESDAYS FROM 6:45-8:15 PM
1ST MEETING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH

TO JOIN OUR 13-WEEK DIVORCE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP,
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 478-272-4031

**WANT TO FIND FREEDOM FROM
LIFE'S HURTS, HANG-UPS, & HABITS?**

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU FIND FREEDOM
FROM THE ISSUES CONTROLLING YOUR LIFE

**C
R** Celebrate
Recovery

A CHRIST CENTERED RECOVERY
SMALL GROUP

MEETS ON THURSDAYS AT 6:15 PM
1ST MEETING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH

TO JOIN OUR SMALL GROUP RECOVERY COMMUNITY,
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 478-272-4031

BETHSAIDA BAPTIST CHURCH

www.bethsaidabaptistchurch.org

2519 Hwy 80 West

Dublin, GA 31021

NEWS DIGEST

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 10

Brain & Patti Portwood

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 10

Danni Leigh Barwick
Robert Perry

Jan. 11

Freda McCloud Council
Joseph Gray
Hershel Hardy
Cameron Lindsey

Jan. 12

John Smith Jr.

NEWS DIGEST

The Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce Foundation in collaboration with the Mary Frances Early College of Education and the Archway Partnership is

conducting a survey to identify and understand the gaps in current and desired child care access in the county. Public input will help inform future decisions and planning to better support families, educators and the community.

Survey details:

-Online and anonymous
-Takes only 15-20 minutes
-Opportunity to win one of five \$100 prepaid Visa gift cards

Take the survey at: <http://uga.questionpro.com/DLCsurvey>

The next regular meeting of the East Dublin mayor and city council will be held at East Dublin City Hall in the Terrie E. Drew Council Chambers on Monday, Jan. 12 at 5:30 p.m. with pre-council beginning at 5 p.m. The agenda is as follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge to flag
- Old business
- New business
- Recognition of residents

JM Enterprises & More

Land / Lot Clearing

Tree Removal / Clean Up

Privacy / Farm Fencing

Basement Excavation

Pond Clearing and

Restoration Under Brush

Mowing Landscaping

Call For Free Estimate

478-234-6632

Owner/Operator: James G. Moss - Sparta, GA.

Richard Baker:
Downtown Dublin's
"Sole Man," is operating

RICHARD'S
SHOE SHOP

out of 142 Academy Road

in Dublin 3 days a week.

Please call (478) 262-6949

to schedule your

appointment.



Draft board seeks whereabouts of 2 men

Dublin Courier-Herald,
Dispatch, And Press

Laurens County Draft Board No. 2 today sought information on the whereabouts of two registrants so that questionnaires can be delivered to them.

One man was listed as Arthur Lee Robertson, who was registered as of Glenwood, Route 2. The Board reported that it was informed that he now lives in Dublin, but his address is not known.

The other is Josephus Parker, also known as James Temple, whose original address was given as Dublin, Route 1, and whose last known address is Valdosta. He wrote about his grandmother, Vinnie Coney of that city, but inquiries about his selective service mail have failed because he failed to give his address.

Anyone knowing where these two men are should tell them to get in touch with the Board at once, since it is not the Board's responsibility to keep up with their registrants.

Persons changing their addresses should notify the Board at once, and those failing to do so are subject to penalty on the discretion of the Board.

ABSENCES CLOSE CITY SCHOOLS

Dublin city schools closed this afternoon until next Monday due to what Superintendent A.J. Hargrove described as "an unusually large number of absences on account of illness."

The superintendent added that he did not know "how many of those ill have influenza," a malady that is reportedly widespread over this and other sections of the nation.

Laurens County School Superintendent Elbert Mullis said that a conference of school heads of the county system will be held tomorrow afternoon to de-

termine what course they shall take in regard to continued operation.

Meanwhile, the number of cases reported over the city and county continued to mount, a survey of physicians showed. Most of these are mild, however, and no deaths in the section have been attributed to the outbreak so far.

Superintendent Hargrove, stressing that the condition is probably not as serious as some reports would indicate, said that the decision to close the schools for the balance of the week was reached when it was shown that average daily attendance upon which is based teacher allotments, had fallen below the required number for the present city system.

Dr. O.H. Cheek, city-county Commissioner of Health, said that although the number of cases unofficially reported over the county appeared to be heavy, only 26 had been recorded at his office during the past week and this is about the same number as reported at this time last year.

However, Dr. Cheek said, "I am aware that the malady is prevalent throughout the county, but many persons are not seeking medical aid and some of the doctors are not reporting the cases that come to their attention.

"The Health Department mails every physician an official card for reporting to the Health Department. When they are received, the county health office makes a report to the State Health Department.

"Official reports in the Health Department here show no complications and most cases are mild," he concluded.

CADWELL GETS BIG CAMP

The state public works camp located at Soperton for the past four years is now being moved to Cadwell, and it is expected to be in full operation there within the next week.

The camp, one of the largest in the state, is constructed on a semi-permanent basis wherever located and carries a considerable payroll for guards and other employees. The largest of the barracks for housing prisoners has already been moved, and a number of guards have located at Cadwell.

While at Soperton, highway work has been carried on in all directions, including construction on roads leading from that city toward Dublin, Mt. Vernon, Metter, Adrian, Vidalia, and the new Oconee River bridge west of Soperton.

A number of employees and prisoners at the camp has been recently reduced due to completion of most of the projects, but it is expected to be increased again upon removal to Cadwell. At present, there are about 40 guards and other paid employees and approximately 175 prisoners.

Among projects awaiting completion and expected to be undertaken from the new base are the Dublin-Eastman road, on which all of the grading in Dodge County is yet to be done; the Soperton-Eastman road from the new Oconee River bridge, and the road branching off from the Soperton-Eastman route below Cadwell, running through Cadwell, Chester, and on to Cochran.

While on most of the projects grading and building of culverts is yet to be done, the portion of the Dublin-Eastman road from Garretta on the Dublin-McRae highway to the Dodge County line beyond Cadwell is ready for paving, and it is likely that the camp's forces will also be employed for that purpose since sufficient equipment

is kept on hand for such work.

Considerable of the paving around Soperton was done by the camp's forces.

DEFENSE CLASS FORMED

Applications for inclusion of the Dublin High School in the federal government's defense education program has been approved, Superintendent A.J. Hargrove announced today, and a class in acetylene welding is being formed as the school's initial project.

The class will receive instructions at Rawls' Garage, under supervision of Otis Rawls, manager, and will also be given a laboratory course. Sessions will be held three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and will continue for 12 weeks.

Appropriations for the defense education program are disbursed through the State Board of Education, and both the city and rural schools are eligible.

At Dudley, a class in woodworking and mechanics got under way this week, according to an announcement made by Superintendent R.O. Powell.

Other schools of the county are also expected to take part in the program.

RAT PROOFING CONTINUES

Rat proofing buildings in Dublin has been going on steadily for some time, with the city furnishing the labor, the State Health Department the supervision, and the business houses the material used. It is hoped to have complete cooperation in the drive, as that will make it most effective.

FEDERAL SAVINGS OFFICERS NAMED

All officers and directors of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Dublin were re-elected for another year at a meeting of the stockholders last night.

They are
Cecil E. Carroll - President
Mrs. H.D. Beacham - First Vice President
E.B. Mackey - Second

Approximately 950 hogs were sold, 384 head being

Vice President
F.N. Watkins - Secretary-Treasurer
C.C. Crockett - Counsel
Mr. Carroll, Mrs. Beaucham, Mr. Mackey, John H. Mahoney E.G. Simmons, Mrs. E.B. Middleton, Sam V. Conyers, George T. Morris, and Doyle C. Knight are the Directors.

COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL NOT CLOSE

Schools of the Laurens County system will not be closed as a result of the reported widespread outbreak of influenza, it was decided at a meeting of superintendents at the office of County Superintendent Elbert Mullis here yesterday afternoon.

The decision to take no action in the situation followed reports by the various school heads that absences now are no greater than at the same time last year, average daily attendance being only about 20 per cent off.

Superintendent Mullis stated that opinion at the conference appeared to be that the crisis has passed and that the number of cases reported will now rapidly decrease.

Schools of the Dublin city system will reopen on Monday after having been closed for three days.

However, courts scheduled to convene here this month have been postponed mainly because of the difficulty of assembling witnesses and other interested parties who have been stricken or who have not sufficiently recovered to appear.

United States District Court was to convene on Monday and Laurens Superior Court the following week.

AUCTION SALES MOUNTING

Sales at this week's livestock auction here increased again this week for the fourth successive time, a total of \$13,286 being paid for hogs and cattle.

Top price for hogs was \$7.10, and feeder cattle brought up to \$825.

Approximately 950 hogs were sold, 384 head being

LOOKING BACK... 85 YEARS AGO

JANUARY 10, 1941



By HARRIETT CLAXTON

No. 1's and 2's. A total of 347 cows were auctioned.

In connection with next Thursday's sale, M.E. Cochran, manager of the stockyards, announced that auctions would begin at 2:30 so that they could be completed by night, and he requested that all who plan to sell on that day bring in their stock early enough to enable the sale to get under way at that time.

BARBERS SEEK BETTER PRICES

Passage of an act to permit regulation of barbering prices in Dublin will be sought at the next session of City Council, it was learned today.

The proposed ordinance, patterned after similar acts in Atlanta and Macon, would create a barbers' board with authority to enforce health regulations and require establishments to stabilize prices at a level sufficient to maintain shops in a sanitary condition.

Under this set-up, spokesmen said, the price of haircuts would be set at 35 cents and shaves at 20 cents.

Only one shop in Dublin maintains the 35-cent price for haircuts; most of the others charge 25 cents, and one only 20 cents. Shaves, with the exception of two shops, which charge 15 cents, are already 20 cents.

Other barber services would also be regulated.

A delegation of barbers interested, headed by S.F. Beasley, are expected to appear before the Council to present the request for such an ordinance. They will bear a petition containing the names of most of the barbers here favoring such an act.

HARGROVE NAMED AGAIN

Superintendent A.J. Hargrove of the Dublin schools has been re-elected for his twelfth consecutive year, beginning next July 1, the City Board of Education announced today.

It was also announced that Marshall A. Chapman had been re-elected Chairman of the Board, James L. Keen, Vice Chairman, and S.M. Alsup, Treasurer.

Other members of the Board are Paul Hudson, W.S. Jones, Jr., Dr. F.R. Zetterower, and C.U. Smith.

JOBLESS PAID

Unemployment workers in Laurens County were paid \$10,403.92 in benefits by the Bureau of Employment Compensation in 1940, Commissioner of Labor Ben T. Huiet announced today.

They received a total of 2,806 checks.

Benefit payments, Commissioner Huiet said, showed an upward trend from January until August, when a record peak was reached. Thereafter, he reported, payments declined steadily and in December fell to the lowest point since November 1939. This drop was accounted for in the employment opportunities in connection with the National Defense program.

Since January of 1939, when the benefit-paying program was inaugurated, benefit checks have averaged about \$6.27 and ranged in amounts from a dollar to the maximum of \$15 a week, depending on the previous earnings of workers.

OBITUARIES



Johnny Franklin
"Sonny Boy" Mitchell

Funeral services for Mr. Johnny Franklin "Sonny Boy" Mitchell, 67, of Atlanta, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Rucker Funeral Home, 2199 Candler Road in Decatur.

Johnny Franklin Mitchell was born in Dudley, Georgia, on June 25, 1958. He passed away on Dec. 25, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roosevelt Mitchell and Francis Butler, son, Keith Mitchell and sisters, Bertha "Sussie" Flowers, Clairia "Bay Bay" Mitchell, and Deon Edmond.

Johnny is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Stanley, his son, Devon (Michelle) Mitchell, granddaughter, Ryleigh Oliver, longtime companion, Jessica Hollis, sisters, Beatrice Lynn, Latha O'Neal, Brenda Mitchell, Gladys Brimah, Terry (Roy) Walter, Rhonda (Alvin) Austin Lorin (Will) McCloud, brothers, Roosevelt Mitchell, Ralph (Kaysheila) Mitchell, Kenneth (Pamela) Mitchell, Micheal (Katrina) Mitchell, and a host of other relatives and friends.

This announcement is courtesy of Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

What does growth in 2026 look like for you?

MORRIS
BANK



Member
FDIC
HOME LENDER

Shopping carts and living at the end of civilization

Collect them all!

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

He hired beautiful people to walk around his shops pushing the carts.

It's funny what happens to humans when we see attractive people doing something. We think doing the same thing makes us attractive. Soon, people everywhere were shopping for groceries with the aid of buggies.

To get revenge on people for at-first rejecting his revo-

lutionary retail aid, Goldman later invented shopping cart advertisements, selling only to real estate and insurance agents and wheels that last no longer than six months and cause carts to constantly drift to the left.

Have you ever pushed a brand new shopping cart? It's one of the greatest pleasures a body can experience. I'm talking heaven on earth, up there with holding your baby for the first time.

Now we can't imagine going into a store and not seeing an abundance of carts, neatly lined up waiting for our arrival. Men and women alike, shudder at the thought of carrying groceries around like a pack mule. My wife called me from a popular chain grocer the other day. Not a buggy to be found. She left the store.

I returned to the location the next day with my son, the black-belt in taekwondo. There were only a couple of carts available, the rest abandoned and scattered across the parking lot like a scene in a post-apocalyptic movie. Shoppers moaned and shuffled around like zombies. I managed to get my hands on one, beating an overweight man wearing a fedora and flip flops to the last cart in the corral.

We did our shopping as quickly as we could and got out of the store. After loading the haul into the car, I made a great show of returning the buggy to the proper receptacle, demonstrating to passersby appropriate behavior.

I just hope and pray I'm attractive enough to make a difference.

DIVA ON A DIME

Super foods on a shoestring: Eating well for less than \$1 a serving

By PATTI DIAMOND

King Features

When food prices rise, many people assume that eating well is the first thing that has to go. But some of the most nourishing foods in the grocery store are also the least expensive and they've been quietly holding the line for years.

You don't need specialty products, protein powders or a long ingredients list to feed yourself well. You need a short list of reliable foods that are affordable, versatile and easy to use.

Here are some of the most powerful "everyday super foods" you can still buy for a dollar a serving or less, even in 2026.

Eggs: Few foods offer as much nutrition for the price. Eggs provide protein, healthy fats and key vitamins, and they work for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Beans and Lentils: Canned or dried, beans and lentils are among the most budget-friendly sources of protein and fiber available. They're filling, shelf-stable and endlessly adaptable.

Oats: Plain old-fashioned oats are inexpensive and versatile. Beyond being my favorite breakfast, they can be used in baking, to thicken soups or to stretch meat dishes.

Brown Rice and Other Whole Grains: Brown rice, barley and other whole grains provide steady energy and form the backbone of many low-cost meals.

Cabbage: Inexpensive, long-lasting and packed with nutrients, underrated and overlooked, cabbage works roasted, sautéed, shredded into salads or added to soups and stir-fries.

Carrots: Affordable year-round and naturally sweet, carrots add nutrition, color and substance to meals.

Frozen Vegetables: Frozen vegetables are picked at peak ripeness, often cost less than fresh and help reduce food waste.

Plain Yogurt: Plain yogurt is economical and versatile and can be used for breakfast, sauces, marinades, baking or as a sour cream substitute.

Seasonal Fruit: Apples, oranges and bananas remain some of the best values in the produce department.

Now, here's an easy recipe that brings several of these foods together.

EVERYDAY BEAN, VEGETABLE & GRAIN BOWL

Yield: 4 servings

Total Time: 40 minutes

4 large eggs, hard- or soft-boiled
1 to 2 tablespoons olive oil
3 cups frozen mixed vegetables
3 cups cooked rice or other grains
(brown rice, barley, farro or quinoa)
3 cups cooked beans or lentils (about 2
15-ounce cans), drained and rinsed
1/2 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Optional Toppings:
A pinch of garlic powder, cumin or
smoked paprika
Plain yogurt or sour cream
Lemon wedges or a splash of vinegar
Fresh or dried herbs

Place eggs in a single layer in a saucepan and cover with cold water by 1 inch. Bring to boiling, then cover and remove from heat. Let sit 6 minutes for soft-set yolks or 10-12 minutes for hard-boiled. Drain and transfer to cold water to stop cooking. Peel when cool.

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the vegetables and cook until tender, 5 to 8 minutes. Stir in the rice and beans and season with salt and pepper. Cook until everything is heated through.

Divide the mixture among four bowls. Top each serving with an egg and finish with any optional toppings you like.

This is the kind of flexible, affordable meal that adapts to what you have and keeps you happily full.

Eating well doesn't require perfection or expensive ingredients. It requires choosing foods that work as hard as you do. When your pantry is stocked with affordable, nourishing staples, healthy meals become easier and far less expensive. And that's a habit worth keeping all year long. Happy New Year!

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

(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

George Beverly Shea (1909-2013) 'America's beloved gospel singer'



By JACK BROWN

Erma died of cancer after 42 years of marriage. Ten years later, Bev met and married Karlene Aceto.

Both Erma and Karlene were devoted wives and fully committed to Bev's music ministry.

His singing was never a performance but always a ministry.

He also played in piano, organ, violin and harmonica. His family moved from Ontario to Houghton in Upstate New York in 1917, where Bev later attended Houghton College.

He met and married his sweetheart Erma Scharfe in 1934, and the year before at age 23 he wrote the music to "I'd Rather Have Jesus" that became one of his signature songs. He turned down secular and contract offers to insist that his God-given musical talents be used for the Lord.

He became "the most influential and most popular gospel singer of the 20th century."

Rather Have Jesus," "It Is No Secret," and "How Great Thou Art."

While en route by ship for a crusade in Scotland in 1955, he wrote the words and music to "The Wonder of It All."

He recorded more than 70 albums, was physically strong in his 90s, and was "promoted to glory" on April 17, 2013, at the age of 104.

He had sung to more people than anyone else in history, estimated to be over 220 million people in about 185 countries.

What a musical legacy George Beverly Shea has left the world as a musical ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace!

Writer's Note: This sketch has relied on information gleaned from a recent biography of George Beverly Shea by Paul Davis.

Moment of Inspiration

Are You Really Listening?

God's Word was never meant to be heard and forgotten. James 1:22 reminds us, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." True listening always leads to obedience.

It is easy to hear Scripture, agree with it, and still walk away unchanged.

But when we truly listen to God, His Word shapes our choices, our attitudes, and our actions. Listening means being willing to obey—even when it challenges us or calls us out of our comfort.

Today, ask yourself: Is God's Word just reaching my ears, or is it reaching my heart? When we listen and do what He says, our lives begin to reflect His truth and His grace.

Prayer: Lord, help me not only hear Your Word, but obey it. Give me a heart that listens and a life that follows. 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

Dublin

Roche
FARM & GARDEN
803 E. Jackson St.,
Dublin
478-272-3340

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

Fairfield BY MARRIOTT

620 Pinehill Rd., Dublin, Georgia 31021 • 478-277-0333
www.marriott.com/DBNFI

Dublin Police Department

- Jerry Vernard Mackey, 48, was charged with criminal trespass at Roberts Street Apartments around 4:40 p.m. on Dec. 15. An officer was contacted by the Dublin Housing Authority in reference to two individuals refusing to vacate an apartment located within the Robert Street Apartment complex after being directed to leave by a DHA representative.

The officer, who was familiar with the ongoing situation, responded to the scene. Prior to arrival, the officer had been advised by DHA staff that an elderly male tenant had been taken advantage of by two individuals who were attempting to unlawfully occupy and take control of his apartment.

DHA staff investigated the situation and revealed that Mackey and another person identified as Tracey Butler, 42, had been residing in the apartment with the elderly tenant with-

out authorization. Mackey claimed to be acting as a "caretaker." DHA staff confirmed he was not listed on the lease, including as a registered caregiver. Butler was also confirmed not to be listed on the lease.

On Dec. 15, officers saw Mackey and Butler inside the apartment. A DHA employee said both had been allowed temporary entry to retrieve personal belongings after the locks had been changed. Once inside, both Mackey and Butler refused to leave.

They verbally told officers they were not leaving. Mackey was advised that he had previously been barred from DHA property and neither had lawful authority or permission to remain inside the apartment. Both were arrested and charged with criminal trespass.

- Around 10:40 p.m. on Dec. 16, officers were ending a call on Kingsby Street when they saw a white SUV run the stop sign.

The officers stopped the

**POLICE BEAT...**

vehicle on Academy Avenue. One of the officers smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage or heavy aftershave coming from inside the vehicle.

The driver, Aaron David Ashley, 31, was asked to step out of the car where the investigation continued. Ashley was eventually charged with DUI, failure to stop at stop sign and tag, registration requirements. He was also charged with possession of amphetamine.

- Lacorie Desherrick Wright, 47, was charged with expired registration and marijuana possession less than one ounce on South Lawrence Street around 8:01 p.m. on Dec. 16.

An officer was patrolling the area when the auto-

mated license plate reading alerted for a positive match for an expired registration on a white 2024 Volkswagen. Wright, who was the driver, told the officer that the vehicle belonged to his uncle.

The officer told Wright that he was in possession of the vehicle, so he would be receiving a citation for expired registration. Wright's information was run through dispatch where it was confirmed he had an outstanding warrant through Laurens County Sheriff's Office.

Wright was transported to the sheriff's office where he was released to the booking staff.

- On Dec. 16, an officer advised a man about private

prosecution on a vehicle that had been worked on but the service had not been paid on East Jackson Street.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- Marcus John Hood, 19, of Macon, was charged with driving under the influence of drugs, on I-16 around mile marker 55 around 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 13. A deputy made a traffic stop on a red Honda Accord for failing to move over.

- A deputy responded to a possible theft that occurred on Hall Road around 8 a.m. on Dec. 13.

- On Dec. 14, a deputy got out with a vehicle parked on the side of the road on 441 Bypass at Highway 257. This led to Keith Russell Regentine, 34, of McIntyre being arrested for driving under the influence of drugs.

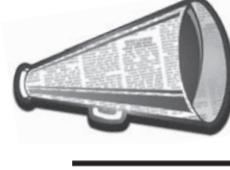
- A woman talked with a deputy over the phone in reference to money missing from her CashApp card on Dec. 12.

- Kenneth Lewis II, 52,

of Dublin, was charged with theft by stolen property on Dec. 15 around 3:15 p.m. after a deputy conducted a traffic stop on Highway 441 Bypass at the intersection of Walke Dairy Road. He was also charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance.

- On Dec. 12, around 3:05 p.m., a deputy was dispatched to Field Street in reference to property damage.

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

**TELL IT!**

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

I hope the school saved some of those flowers they bought from the local florist. They'll need them for the funeral and burial when consolidation takes place and they don't exist anymore.

Hey Uncle Tell It! master, you said for a good time call, well I found it on the wall, "singing 8,6,7,5, 3,0,9."

The interim superintendent of Dublin City Schools says it is legal to let a donor finance three peoples' salary. It might be legal but it is sure the heck unethical. That gives a bad taste in the student's and the teacher's mouths. Shame on you!

The anonymous donor is not anonymous no more. The \$250,000 is funding three coaches, not classroom teachers. Like it has always been at Dublin, it is not always about education, it is about sports. But if we are foolish enough to let them use our tax money that way, I guess we'll get what we deserve.

I think everyone in Laurens County probably got a flier this past week attacking Jon Ossoff. It starts off saying Jon's bad votes in Washington, D.C. hurt our state. The thing is he didn't vote for any of them. This is just a total outrageous lie.

Why don't you try looking at the overall figures of how much the city school system fraudulently took pandemic money from 2019 to 2025? I bet you it would wind up being in the \$40 or \$50 million they took by false pretenses when they tried to hire 50

people to make their school so elite knowing it is against the law to do something like that. Yet, they won't be held accountable and they'll just keep rocking on.

I received my tax bill today. They say I owe almost \$300 in school board taxes. I am 82-years-old and have not had a child in school for 38 years. What the hay? That is h-a-y!?

Hello, to the people who want consolidation to Dublin and Laurens County, why don't they take a vote and see how many people don't want Dublin in our schools? Thank you!

Residents in Dublin City need to start a petition to recall the city school board. This would solve a lot of problems if they came up with a new board. I believe if somebody runs a petition, they would get a lot of signatures.

Hello, I live in Rentz. My property tax has doubled and so have my neighbors. Yet some other people's are the same as last year or even gone down some. Why is this happening that we have to pay so much more than other people?

Our city is littered with yard signs. They cover everything from mattress sales to Christmas plays to realtors. They don't belong on the side of the street and should not be allowed.

Do not award the city schools bad behavior with your tax money. Wait until the day they are due to pay them. Make them wait. Let's sink this ship and get it floating again with consoli-

dation.

Why is there no mention of the Dublin homestead exemptions voted in the November election for the city property tax, and the Dublin city school tax exemptions for the seniors living in Dublin?

Let's call the E- PLOST what it really is. Don't hide it. It's nothing more than a sports tax. It's the SSPLOST. We need to educate our kids. Most of them will never see a MLB or NFL field.

Well after much deliberation and thought, I've had to make a difficult decision. I'll be selling my wisdom teeth. Serious inquiries only. Thanks.

What The Courier Herald failed to say in their article concerning the donor and salaries, was that this pay salary is from Jan. 1 to Sept. 1 and includes the school's portion of health-care payments and retirements. The coaches are educators with doctorates and masters degrees with 20 plus years of education. Thank you to this kind donor.

I have an even more important message to add to Stacey Abram's New Years column. She had four columns to illustrate her truth. I'd like a somewhat equal opportunity. Editor's note: To this caller, your response was long (two minutes total) for Tell It. Please consider sending this in as a Letter to the Editor.

Salaries for Georgia teachers are determined by state pay schedule. Not so

for employees at the board office. For example, in 2025 Bleckley County spent \$107,143 for curriculum directors and Dublin City Schools spent \$254,644.

In 2025, a slightly larger, high achieving neighbor school system spent \$158,481 for school nurses while the Dublin City Schools system spent \$350,000. Their superintendent cost \$180,943 while DCS's required \$309,866.

Our neighboring high academic achieving school system of 2,600 students managed the school year in 2025 without paying any money for public relations. The Dublin City Schools system spent \$208,000.

What exactly is the role of School Improvement Specialists? How are their results measured?

If a school superintendent requires \$15,000 in travel should the BOE request ways this travel was beneficial to the students? Just asking.

According to Open Gov Ga, in 2025, our high achieving neighboring school system's Board of Education members collectively, for pay and travel, received \$19,100. The Dublin City Schools Board of Education members received \$51,500

Better criminally investigate the travel expenses and credit card misuse. Better call Fred back and ask for receipts and it's time to lock him up.

Fred and his people were having a field day with the funds. All the years in the audit were under his watch. He wasn't the all powerful that y'all thought he was. He took his salary and left.

Local 7-day Forecast:**The next 48 hours:**

SATURDAY: Partly sunny and remaining warm. **79°** Sunrise: 7:34 a.m.

SATURDAY NIGHT: A couple of evening showers, then partly cloudy late; cooler. **46°** Sunset: 5:44 p.m.

SUNDAY: Cooler and less humid with partial sunshine; breezy in the afternoon. **58°** Sunrise: 7:33 a.m.

SUNDAY NIGHT: Clear and colder. **27°** Sunset: 5:45 p.m.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
56/29 Plenty of sunshine.	62/38 Plenty of sun.	59/41 Intervals of clouds and sunshine.	58/33 Mostly sunny.	54/32 Plenty of sunshine.
Sunrise: 7:33 a.m. Sunset: 5:46 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:33 a.m. Sunset: 5:46 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:33 a.m. Sunset: 5:47 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:33 a.m. Sunset: 5:48 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:33 a.m. Sunset: 5:49 p.m.

River levels...
Oconee (at Dublin) 3.28'
Ocmulgee (at Macon) 7.12'

RELIGION DIGEST

The Jordan Grove Church of God in Christ Women's Department presents its annual candlelight service on Sunday, Jan. 11 at 5 p.m. The guest speaker will be Pastor Evangelist Ann Blair of Augusta, Ga. The attire for this event is white. You are invited to attend.

Pastors appreciation night will be held at Free Vision Deliverance Outreach Ministry, 540 Charles W. Manning Sr. Way at 7 p.m. on Jan. 30. The guest speaker will be

Prophetess Robin Griffin of Greater Victory in Vidalia. The climax service will be held on Sunday, Feb. 1 at 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Chief Apostle Shirley Parker. Everyone is invited to come out.

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

**Balanced Aesthetics Weight Loss & Wellness holds ribbon-cutting ceremony****SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD**

Balanced Aesthetics Weight Loss & Wellness celebrated a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, March 3, at its new location, 1022 Hillcrest Parkway.

The event brought together the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce, Chamber ambassadors, Dr. Souza and partners, staff, community members, and friends to mark a milestone in expanding local health and wellness offerings.

Balanced Aesthetics Weight Loss & Wellness provides comprehensive weight management and wellness services designed to support sustainable health outcomes.

Under the leadership of Dr. Souza and partners, the practice combines evidence-based approaches with personalized care to help clients achieve and maintain their wellness goals in a supportive, community-focused environment.

For questions please call (478) 205-5227

Legals

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 **Skykiera 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

26-003

TANYA ROGERS, CLERK

LAURENS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION

PERSONNALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT: CKH ENTERPRISES INC

715 S. LEWIS STREET. METTER, GA

30439

IS/ARE DOING BUSINESS IN LAURENS

COUNTY, GA., UNDER THE NAME OF:

TRADE NAME: TOM'S PAWN CENTRAL

ADDRESS: 915 HILLCREST PARKWAY

DUBLIN, GA 31021

AND THAT THE NATURE OF THE BUSI-

NESS TO BE CARRIED ON AT SUCH

ADDRESS IS: PAWNSHOP/RETAIL

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE

ME THIS 29 DAY OF DEC, 2025.

LISA D. THIGPEN

NOTARY PUBLIC

January 10, 17, 2026

26-002

TANYA ROGERS, CLERK

LAURENS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION

PERSONNALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND

SAYS THAT: Jennifer Foskey

460 Robert Plummer Road, East Dublin,

GA 31027

478-595-9837

IS/ARE DOING BUSINESS IN LAURENS

COUNTY, GA., UNDER THE NAME OF:

TRADE NAME: Jen's Blends

ADDRESS: 460 Robert Plummer Road

East Dublin, GA 31027

AND THAT THE NATURE OF THE BUSI-

NESS TO BE CARRIED ON AT SUCH

ADDRESS IS: Making Soap.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE

ME THIS 30 DAY OF Sept., 2025.

CYNTHIA STRANGE

NOTARY PUBLIC

January 10, 17, 2026

25-588

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF LAURENS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBT-

ORS

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.

LaNessa 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

26-005

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY

Under and by virtue of Power of Sale

contained in the Deed from **Anitra Raquel Sabine a/k/a Anitra Sabine and Todd Steven Kapp, Jr. a/k/a Todd Kapp, Jr.**

to 21st Mortgage Corporation, dated September 8, 2020, filed for record September 10, 2020, recorded at Deed Book 3087, Page 125, Laurens County, Georgia Records, in the original principal amount of \$111,289.75 of the aforesaid records. Said Deed being given to secure the obligations of Grantor to Lender as set forth in a Promissory Note ("Note") of even date as amended, modified, or revised from time to time with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold, by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse Door at **LAURENS** County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in February 2026, the following described property:

All that lot, tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 293, 17th Land District, Laurens County, Georgia, consisting of 5.00 acres, more or less, being a portion of Lot D, as shown on a Plat of Survey, prepared by Ronny Barron, GRLS, dated June 11, 2020, recorded in Plat Book 11, Page 568, Laurens County Superior Court Clerk's Records, which said

plat is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference.

This being a portion of that property conveyed unto Debora Brantley n/k/a Debora Brantley (Fanner) by Warranty Deed of Jim E. Brantley dated April 30, 1990 with a life estate reservation for Jim E. Brantley and Gladys D. Brantley, recorded in DB 580, PG 141, Laurens County Superior Court Clerk's records.

Said legal description is controlling however, the property is commonly known as 1041 Roy Bracewell Road, Dublin, Georgia 31021.

PARCEL # 183-087C

The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed and Note, including, but not limited to, the nonpayment of the indebtedness as and when due. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees and other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed and Note. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9 17.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC as Attorney in Fact for GRACE SIMMONS. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 0000010076073 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341 5398.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and of the Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the subject property known as 303 WEST END LANE, DUDLEY, GEORGIA 31022 is/are: GRACE SIMMONS or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9 17.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC as Attorney in Fact for GRACE SIMMONS. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 0000010076073 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341 5398.

TO: Joshua D. Parrish, Defendant Named Above: You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking Complaint for Divorce was filed against you in said court on Dec 11, 2025 and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on Dec 18, 2025 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon Morgan D. Parrish, Plaintiff, whose address is 310 Willis Court, Dublin, GA 31021, an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Witness the Honorable Judge Green, Judge of said Court.

This 18 day of December, 2025.

Georgia Jeffcoat

Deputy Clerk of Superior Court

Laurens County.

January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026

25-604
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Morgan D. Parrish, Plaintiff vs. Joshua D. Parrish, Defendant

Civil Action file No. 25-CD-0991-JG

NOTICE OF SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Joshua D. Parrish, Defendant Named Above: You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking Complaint for Divorce was filed against you in said court on Dec 11, 2025 and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on Dec 18, 2025 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon Morgan D. Parrish, Plaintiff, whose address is 310 Willis Court, Dublin, GA 31021, an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Witness the Honorable Judge Green, Judge of said Court.

This 18 day of December, 2025.

Georgia Jeffcoat

Deputy Clerk of Superior Court

Laurens County.

January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026

25-605
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARSHA A. McCURLEY BUHMASTER

DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 22-3022

NOTICE

IN RE: Petition to Reopen and for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed

TO: Robert Christopher Buhmaster and Jonathan Paul Buhmaster

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

CW Warren

Clerk of the Probate Court

P.O. Box 2098

Dublin, GA 31040

478-272-2566

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

25-606
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF LAURENS

IN VIRTUE OF A POWER OF SALE CONTAINED IN CERTAIN SECURITY DEED FROM AMBER GILBERT TO MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR MORRIS BANK, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, DATED 10/31/2016, AND RECORDED ON 11/01/2016 AS BOOK NO. 02735 AND PAGE NO. 0250, AS AFFECTED BY MODIFICATION AGREEMENTS BOOK 2955, PAGE 270, BOOK 3295, PAGE 194 AND BOOK 3425, PAGE 47 55, LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, RECORDS, AS LAST ASSIGNED TO PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC (THE SECURED CREDITOR), BY ASSIGNMENT, CONVEYING THE AFTER DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO SECURE A NOTE OF EVEN DATE IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$195,252.00, WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE SPECIFIED THEREIN, THERE WILL BE SOLD BY THE UNDERSIGNED AT PUBLIC OUTCRY TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH AT THE LAURENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE WITHIN THE LEGAL HOURS OF SALE ON THE FIRST TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY 2026, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: ALL THAT TRACT OF LAND, CONTAINING 1.28 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, BEING LOT 9 OF NORTHWOOD OF DUDLEY SUBDIVISION, PHASE II, SECTION I, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY BY BILLY FLANDERS, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED OCTOBER 3, 2003, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 8, PAGE 455, LAURENS COUNTY RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IS BY THIS REFERENCE INCORPORATED. SAID LOT LIES AT THE CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHWESTERLY MARGIN OF TURNER LANE IN THE SOUTHEASTERLY MARGIN OF NORTHWOOD TRAIL. THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS CONVEYED SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE COVENANTS WHICH ARE RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 954, PAGE 244, DEED BOOK 1380, PAGE 173, DEED BOOK 1383, PAGE 11, AND DEED BOOK 1385, PAGE 71, LAURENS COUNTY RECORDS.

THIS IS A PORTION OF THAT PROPERTY CONVEYED TO THOMAS M. VEAL IN A WARRANTY DEED FROM MILL ROCK FARM, INC. AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 1691, PAGES 34, AFORSAID RECORDS. THE DEBT SECURED BY SAID DEED TO SECURE DEBT HAS BEEN AND IS HEREBY DECLARED

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, and containing 0.84 acres, designated as Parcel A on a plat of survey prepared by Billy Flanders, Surveyor, dated May 5, 1988 and recorded in Plat Book 6, page 73, Laurens County Records, he courses and distances of said plat are incorporated into and made a part of this description by reference.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property are KYUNG HOON CHUNG, and is known as 902 HILLCREST DRIVE, DUBLIN, GEORGIA, 31021.

Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; (2) O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172-1; and (3) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided within 30 days of the date of sale. Final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph may not be rendered prior to the expiration of this 30-day period. A delivery of the Deed Under Power earlier than 30 days after the foreclosure sale date specified hereinabove shall be subject to the direct approval of the holder of the Security Deed.

Scott B. Thompson, Sr. P.C. PRICE FAMILY PROPERTIES, LLP, P.O. Box 1586, as attorney in fact for Dublin, Georgia 31040 KYUNG HOON CHUNG.

January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026

26-006

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in the Security Deed given by Tommy Ricks III to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Ameris Bank, its successors and assigns dated March 23, 2018, recorded in Deed Book 2859, Page 210, Laurens County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Ameris Bank by assignment recorded in Deed Book 3557, Page 162, Laurens County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$47,200.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the court-house door of Laurens County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in February, 2026, the following described property:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

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 the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned.

Ameris Bank is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Ameris Bank, 1 Corporate Drive, Suite 360, Lake Zurich, IL 60047, 8475507300.

Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Tommy Ricks, III or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as 201 Coleman Ave, East Dublin, GA 31021. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

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.

Ameris Bank

as Attorney in Fact for

Tommy Ricks III
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
1544 Old Alabama Rd

Roswell, GA 30076

www.foreclosurehotline.net

EXHIBIT "A"

Tract I: Those tracts or parcels of land, lying and being in Smith District (52nd District G.M.) and being known as Lots No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Block "E" of survey of Lakehurst Subdivision made by E. K. Hatten, in July of 1947, plat of which said survey is recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 62, Clerk's Office, Superior Court, Laurens County, Georgia, and to which reference is made for further description of the real estate conveyed. Each of said Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 fronting on Coleman Avenue (formerly known as Darien Street) 50 feet, and extending southwesterly with a uniform width a distance of 250 feet, the total frontage on Coleman Avenue (formerly known as Darien Street), being 200 feet.

This is also the same property described in a Warranty Deed from J. Z Thomas to Annie Catherine Lake Thomas and recorded in Deed Book 267, Page 410, on April 10, 1969, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Laurens County.

Tract II: All that tract or parcel of land, lying and being in the 52nd District G.M. of Laurens County, Georgia, and being a part of Tract No. 23 of Block "E" of Lakehurst Subdivision, plat of which Subdivision is recorded in Deed Book 2, Page 62, Clerk's Office, Laurens County, Georgia, and further described as: BEGINNING at a point on the southeast side of Poplar Street a distance of 250 feet from the south corner of intersection of Poplar Street and Darien Street (now known as Coleman Avenue) and running thence in a southwesterly direction along Poplar Street a distance of 87

feet to property of Ned Z. Collins; thence in a southeasterly direction a distance of 175 feet to property of R. D. Brown; thence in a northeasterly direction a distance of 87 feet to Lake property; thence in a northwesterly direction a distance of 175 feet to the point of beginning, said tract being bounded on the northwest by Poplar Street; on the northeast by Lake Property; on the southeast by R. D. Brown and on the southwest by property of Ned Z. Collins.

This is also the same property described in an Executor's Deed of Assent from Jim Zenus Thomas to Catherine Thomas and recorded in Deed Book 1608, Page 276, on December 15, 2004, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Laurens County.

MR / GW February 3, 2026
Our file no. 25-16857GA-FT18
25-16857GA

January 10, 17, 24, 31, 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

25-594

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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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

East Laurens edges Dublin, West Laurens girls win in Tuesday-night split with ARC

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

No matter what you might be sure of in a given season, rivalry games never seem to play out in predictable fashion.

That was true of Tuesday's meeting — a first of the season — between Dublin and East Laurens, which rightly delivered its share of the unexpected in two games that ran at least partially counter to what the teams' records and recent trends might lead you to presume.

Though they still wound up completing a sweep, the Falcons had their hands full in both, as Dublin's girls hung around fairly deep into the third quarter of a competitive game, and the Irish boys the whole way in an upset bid that remained alive right up until the final buzzer.

East Laurens broke things open midway through the second half to ultimately run away with the girls' game 53-25, before surviving a nailbiter to win the boys', 55-53.

The wins, for each a third in a row, keep its teams perched near or at the top of the region 2-High A standings.

The Lady Falcons (9-2, 4-0 region) remain in a first-place deadlock with Washington County that's due to be broken up when the Golden Hawks visit their home floor Friday.

The Eastside boys (8-3, 3-1 region 2-High A) trail WACO and top-ranked Southwest Macon in a three-way tie of teams just a game out of first.

Dublin's are near the back, the girls (4-7, 1-3 region) eighth and boys (2-7, 0-4 region) 10th, in the present standings, though some positive recent trends in their play going back to late December continued Tuesday in two more strong starts.

The Lady Irish were composed and consistent on the offensive end, and reliably got the ball into the post for scoring opportunities that turned into free throws early in the game, as East Laurens played at its usual pace but struggled to capitalize in many of the same situations.

The foul shots helped them span an early six-point gap to tie things up near the end of the first quarter as Jordan Renfroe sunk a pair to make it 10 apiece, though a couple more by D'Nya Rozier on the other end got the Lady Falcons back up 12-10 after one.

Their offensive fortunes improved in the second, but East didn't pull away.

Dublin caught fire after dropping behind by nine,



TOUCHDOWN FALCONS!: A wide-open D'Nya Rozier (3) lays one in to convert the diving steal of Amari Kellam and deep football pass of Alasia Wiggins on a perfectly executed East Laurens fast-break late in Tuesday's game/CLAY REYNOLDS

sandwiching a Rainna Wyatt 3-pointer with multiple field goals to get back within a few before the Lady Falcons closed the half with some answers, and finishing up by eight.

East Laurens only began bringing some full-court pressure a few minutes into the third, but the Lady Irish had far fewer issues advancing the basketball than scoring, as their shooting success completely fell off.

Keasia Jackson, on a short hook shot with a minute to go in the period, wound up with the only bucket of the quarter after the Lady Falcons had strung together 13 unanswered points.

In all, Dublin was outscored 25-5 the duration of the second half.

East's Deanna Lowther (16 points, 20 rebounds) and Garyunna Mitchell (10 and 10, plus six steals) each posted double-doubles. The Lady Falcons' Alasia Wiggins added 10 points and five boards.

Renfroe's six points, and five each by Wyatt and Khalil Maddox, led the Lady Irish scoring count.

Ja'Mya Tinsley had four of Dublin's five blocked shots. Jackson brought in 11 rebounds.

Some pieces that have seemed a bit scattered for the Irish boys this season finally came together over four quarters that were some of their most focused, organized and consistent to date.

Their increasingly cohesive basketball likely owed to several different factors, including the ongoing 3-point shooting hot streak of Jaydon McRae, who had four and 13 points. But none of them were bigger Tuesday night than the emergence of QuanTavis Lovett — playing only his third game of the season — as a presence inside that's largely been nonexistent.

The senior led the team in points (16) and rebounds (7), but swatted seven East



LOVETT IS IN THE AIR: QuanTavis Lovett spent a good bit of time aloft denying East Laurens shots (above) and grabbing boards in a game-altering performance Tuesday night. The senior finished with seven of each to lead the team in both categories, in addition to scoring with 16 points/CLAY REYNOLDS

Laurens shots for perhaps his most head-turning impact.

And for what seemed like the first time in a while, Dublin was able to reciprocate some of the disruption near the basket that's taken a heavy toll on its penetration-reliant offense going the other direction.

Though Skyler Snead (14), Major Floyd (11) and Zion Dixon (10) each made double-figures, and Bryson Hazley (9) and Jeremiah Rozier (7) were right on the verge, Lovett's authoritative rim-protection kept the Falcons from rallying.

East Laurens baskets were mostly isolated in a first half that the Irish started and finished confidently, growing their tip-to-horn lead all the way to 12, 31-19, before powering into the locker room with a final stop as time expired.

But the Falcons, well off their game in the first 16 minutes, got things together as they got into the third quarter.

Dublin started just as fast, running the lead back out to 13 thanks to a couple of triples by McRae and Chris Dixon (who finished with nine points) in the first three minutes.

But a Snead answer reversed the momentum as



SCREAMING BACK IN FRONT: Skyler Snead (2), Major Floyd (1) and Zion Dixon (12) shout in celebration after a go-ahead basket in the final minute of play put East Laurens on top for good/CLAY REYNOLDS

both in a set of two. But Zion Dixon tracked down the ball off a long kick to the corner for an offensive re, and went to the line to add one onto the lead on the front side.

Dublin rebounded his miss of the second, advanced it and called time with 18 seconds, but couldn't get the ball back in play as its in-bounder froze up, and failed to beat the five-count.

East Laurens again declined to slam the door as two more foul shots clanked away, and the Irish had ample time to set up two final heaves — one by McRae and a second by Harris off an offensive board at the last second — that wouldn't go.

It was a fourth loss in a stretch of five games for Dublin that have been decided by a total of only 13 points.

West Laurens girls 46, Richmond Academy 37

The visitors staged a late run to narrow the Lady Raiders' 16-point lead down to the final margin of nine, but overall had no defensive answers for either in the duo of Maddie Ridgway, their leading scorer with 17, or Brooklyn Jackson, who was right behind with 15. Both also contributed multiple fast-break assists along the way.

Jackson had eight out of 10 unanswered over about a four-minute span in the first quarter to help them grab control early, then Ridgway scored seven in a row to go up double digits, 17-6, by the end of the period.

West Laurens (5-7, 4-4 region 4-AAA) built on a 10-point halftime lead with a 9-0 run to open the third.

ARC 44, West Laurens boys 42

The Raiders (3-11, 1-7 region) were in a tight one the whole way, but came up just short in their efforts to make it three-straight home wins.

Their biggest lead, and deficit, through three quar-

PREP SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL

Friday

Jefferson Co. at Dublin
West Laurens at Baldwin
/6 p.m.
Washington Co. at
East Laurens/7 p.m.

Saturday

WL at Dublin/4:30 p.m.
EL at Bleckley Co./5 p.m.

Monday

CCA at Trinity/6 p.m.

Tuesday

EL at Jefferson Co.
Dublin at Toombs Co.
Trinity at Gatewood
WL at Westside Augusta
/6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16

Trinity at Brentwood
Howard at WL
Washington Co. at Dublin
/6 p.m.
Dodge Co. at EL/7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17

EL at Treutlen/5 p.m.
Dublin at Johnson Co.
/6 p.m.

CONTACT US:

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

ters numbered just four points.

ARC took its biggest of the night on a 6-0 run to break a 37-all tie near the 4-minute mark of the fourth quarter.

A Shannon Adkins 3-point play narrowed the number to one with 44 seconds left, and West Laurens forced a turnover and runout for a chance to grab the lead, but a blocked shot by Reggie James denied the opportunity with 15 seconds remaining.

The Raiders had to foul and Jacobian Sturgiss split free throws to set up a chance at the tie on a final possession. Brandon Stephens' contested runner — he was looking for a foul that wouldn't be called — sailed over the goal and out of bounds as time expired.

Next...

Region play continues into the weekend for Dublin, East and West Laurens, who will each start it out with key league matchups on Friday night. The Falcons, who host WACO in a pivotal set Friday night, will have another one to follow Saturday as its teams take on two more tests at Bleckley County.

The Irish continue their homestand with Jefferson County in town Friday night before a shot to avenge two losses from December against the Raiders, who are set to visit the Stuckey Court after playing a Friday-night rematch at Baldwin.

Big second halves for Trinity's top scorers in split with JMA

By JEREMY PAYNE
Correspondent

The Trinity Crusader basketball teams played their first games of 2026 late last week against John Milledge. The girls came away with a resounding 70-46 win, but the boys fell short as they lost 70-59.

The girls game was never much of a contest as Maddy George came out of the gate on fire. The senior sharpshooter drained five 3-pointers in the opening quarter, and scored 17 overall in the period to put Trinity ahead 26-12.

The scoring pace slowed a bit in the second quarter, but Trinity still led 35-22 at the half.

The Lady Crusaders really put the game on ice coming out of the locker room. Brinley Vinson scored 10 in the quarter, and they outscored the Lady Trojans 18-10 and 17-14 in the third and fourth.

George ended with 23 and made seven 3s in the contest. Vinson added 21, with 17 of those



EVERYTHING GOES: Neither Brinley Vinson (21, left) nor Will Foskey (right) could seem to miss in last Friday's second halves. Though multiple Crusaders who had explosive nights, these two seniors had some noticeable luck from all parts of the field as they went off to score 21 and 19 points respectively/CLAY REYNOLDS



coming after intermission. Chloe Rozier also reached double figures with 11.

Pierce Moore led John Milledge with 14.

The boys contest was far from an offensive masterclass early

on as neither team could find much rhythm. John Milledge led 11-9 after one.

Trinity continued to struggle to score in the second, managing just eight in the quarter. The Trojans fared better with 15 to take a 26-17

halftime lead.

The Crusaders still could not find their offense in the third as they failed to reach double digits again with just nine in the stanza. JMA scored 14 to take a 40-26 lead.

The offense finally found its range in the fourth. Will Foskey caught fire and the Crusaders exploded for 33 fourth-quarter points, making their only six threes of the game.

Unfortunately the Trojans also got red hot and nearly matched the Trinity production, scoring 30 and making all eight foul shots down the stretch to hold on for the 70-59 win.

Jagger George led Trinity with 22 and Foskey had 19. They had 14 and 13 respectively in the fourth quarter.

Max Cowart led JMA with 21 and Maddox Kilby added 20. Bryce McDonel also reached double digits with 13.

Trinity's seasons are set to resume after this week's layoff coinciding with local service projects and international mission trips involving a majority of players. The Crusaders will host Citizens Christian Monday night, and open region play at Gatewood on Tuesday.

STATE AUDIT**Continued from page 10**

- Payments to a florist with no documentation to justify the purchase
- Late IRS payroll tax payments leading to penalty and interest payments

- Travel expenses that lacked evidence of meeting district needs

The report also raised concerns over credit card activity, saying that credit card use was "abnormally" high, creating a risk for abusive spending.

Also identified was the contentious solar panel agreement, costing the school system about \$300,000 annually through 2037. It noted that the school district has not verified that the panels, in-

stalled outside Dublin High School, have achieved their anticipated energy cost savings or are even operational.

In staffing, the report showed that the Dublin City School System had more non-state funded positions than school systems of comparable size. In 2023, 23 percent of DCS staff were funded through non-QBE sources, compared to 7 percent in similar-sized school systems. That figure remained at 16 percent in 2025, compared to 10 percent. Highlighted in the report was that the school system employed two CFOs or finance directors, two maintenance directors and two public relations staffers. Some of those positions have since been eliminated.

Residents have long complained of the school system's top-heavy pay structure and the audit confirmed that the city schools shelled out more funds for employees than peer systems. On average the system paid over \$1 million more for central office staff than comparable districts; more than \$2 million more for instructional staff; and about \$750,000 more for operational services. Topping the list was the superintendent role, which was compensated an average of about \$237,000, over \$60,000 more than other systems.

Keeping the school system running, the report concluded, was COVID relief funds masking problems that began in 2012.

"The School District used temporary COVID funds to pay for ongoing personnel and operating expenditures and did not appropriately plan or budget for the expiration of these funds," the audit reported. "This practice temporarily masked preexisting budget deficits and contributed to the re-emergence in subsequent fiscal years."

The report showed that the school district received over \$19.7 million from The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. The funds were used to cover existing costs, mostly salaries and benefits, from FY 2020 to FY 2024.

The report cites a myriad of reasons behind the budget crisis including lack of

processes and sufficient approval procedures and poor management. Furthermore, budgets were approved without accurate information being presented to the board.

"Our review of the budget development process revealed that budget assumptions were not supported by evidence or reconciled to known personnel and benefit obligations, resulting in significant variances and the presentation of misleading financial projections to the Board of Education," the report said.

Board meetings seldom include public discussion of school system finances and spending practices.

The school system responded to the report in a

Wednesday press release.

"We are extremely grateful to the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts for this deep dive into the causes of our current situation," said Interim Superintendent Marcee Pool in the release. "Diligent doesn't begin to describe how we are working alongside our financial advisors, the Georgia Department of Education, the DOAA, and state officials to address every item outlined in this report and to implement best practices at every level to protect the district's financial stability and ensure its integrity moving forward."

— Staff reporter Rodney Manley contributed to this report

FIRE**Continued from page 10**

side of Dublin Glass on fire as firefighters arrived. There is a narrow alley that separated both buildings. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to a storage room in Dublin Glass.

"They do have some water damage from us putting that fire out in their building," Cutler said. "Their building is definitely going to be repairable. We were thankful for that."

Another small building between the two that Cutler said used to be a radiator shop did not sustain any damage.

"We do not suspect foul play, but we will be returning (to the scene)," Cutler said. "We had to force entry into the fences and everything. It didn't look like anything was out of place but we'll take another look at it."

While fighting the blaze, firefighters had to access three different hydrants. The use of hydrants in front of Roche Farm & Garden Inc. and Dairy Queen forced East Jackson Street to be temporarily closed.

"There was only one hy-

drant on the side of the road that we were on," Cutler said. "The other two that we needed were across the road and we can't have people driving across the fire hoses. We had to shut the bridge down and we are sorry for the inconvenience. We got it opened up as quickly as we could, but we had a large scene and a large amount of fire going on."

Fighting a fire at night is challenging because it is hard to see all of the potential hazards.

"It was a big blaze," Cutler said. "Our objective was to contain the fire to the building where it started. We were primarily concerned that no other buildings were damaged more than they were."

DFD received automatic aid from the East Dublin and Laurens County fire departments, as well as from the Johnson State Fire Team. At one point, Cutler believes that 30 firefighters were on the scene.

"That was great," he said. "Mutual and automatic aid are life savers. Having good relationships with your neighbors is a great thing."

The DFD's tower truck was set up on the building where the fire began. The roof had already fallen in by the time they set up to work.

"We had hand lines trying to keep the fire out of Dublin Glass, but the storage room had exterior windows that failed, and it also got into an attic space through an attic vent," Cutler said. "We had another engine on the Dublin Glass side and attacked the fire from that side of it. We had a pretty big scene."

One firefighter was treated for a laceration. He was transported by Laurens County EMS to Fairview Park Hospital where he was treated and released, Cutler said. It took firefighters a little more than a hour to get the fire under control. He thanked local law enforcement for helping to shut down traffic. Officials were able to clear the scene around midnight.

"According to the tax assessor's office, that building was built in 1945 and was almost 3,000 square feet," Cutler said. "It was an older building and a guy talked about some electrical issues."



This drone photo shows an overhead view of the fire scene looking into East Dublin. Multiple fire hoses had to be stretched across Jackson Street, forcing temporary closure of the road and bridge/SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy of Dublin Fire Department

FLU**Continued from page 1**

health departments, doctors' offices, grocery stores, neighborhood clinics and pharmacies.

Craft "strongly recommends" getting the flu vaccine.

"It's the best way to either prevent or decrease the severity of the flu if you should get it," he said. "The flu vaccine is not a guarantee that you are not going to get influenza, but as long as you've had (the vaccine) at least two weeks before you get influenza, it should

make a drastic difference in how bad the flu is."

For more information about flu and how to stop it, go to dph.ga.gov/flu. To monitor Georgia's weekly influenza reports, which are normally updated on Fridays, visit dph.georgia.gov/flu-activity-georgia.

FEBRUARY 7, 2026

10AM-4PM



MIDDLE GEORGIA

Lit Fest

MIDDLELITFEST.COM

NORTH HOUSTON SPORTS COMPLEX
900 NORTH HOUSTON ROAD
WARNER ROBINS, GA 31088