



# The Courier Herald

\$1

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM



Hershey's Hugs and Kisses sit in a pile before they are placed on "Spoons Full of Love" / PAYTON TOWNS III

## Domestic Violence Task Force to give out 'Spoons of Love' to raise awareness

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

The Dublin-Laurens County Domestic Violence Task Force is back, and they will soon be handing out what they call "Spoons Full of Love" to people in the community.

The task force, which was restarted recently, will distribute the spoons as their service project for February.

"We know that there is a lot of domestic violence during the month of February because of Valentine's Day," said task force chairwoman Cheryl Banks Hightower. "A lot of couples will not have the finances due to economics, and we want them to know that it is about love and that love is real, love is never abusive and that if they have any problems or need to call someone they can."

**TASK FORCE**  
Continued on page 12



Members of the Dublin-Laurens County Domestic Violence Task Force put the spoons together / PAYTON TOWNS III

## Garnto takes over former boss's job - for a third time

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

It didn't take long for the former Laurens County Schools superintendent to find a new job. Ironically, he will take over a post vacated by the same man he followed in two previous positions.

Clifford Garnto became the Heart of Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency's new executive director at the beginning of this year. He replaced Hugh Kight, who served in the position for two years before retiring at the end of December.

For those with a *deja vu* feeling ... yes, this has happened more than twice

now. Garnto took over when Kight left as head coach of the West Laurens High School wrestling team. He also became the WLHS principal when Kight moved out of that position.

"Now he's doing it again," Kight said. "I know him well. I taught him in elementary school, coached him in high school. He served as my assistant wrestling coach, assistant principal and now he is following me the third time. He's going to do well. I have full confidence in him."

Garnto knew his retirement was going to be short-lived. Toward the end of last year, Kight believed it was time to hang it

up and he knew just who to pass the reins to.

"He says that I clean everything up for him and he comes in and keeps things moving," Kight said. "We began talking about me retiring and him coming on board. He talked to our board, and they were OK with it, and he was voting in. It makes me feel better about leaving, knowing that it is going into good hands. I have no regrets."

Garnto expressed his interest in the job with RESA's board of control. At 54, he was not necessarily ready to quit working. Dialing it back, yes.

"The RESA director's job is to provide staff development and resources



Then-RESA Executive Director Hugh Kight (standing, right) introduced Clifford Garnto (center) as the man to take his place during an event at RESA last December / PAYTON TOWNS III

for our 10 school districts," Garnto said. "We also have three GNets (Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support) sites that serve our special-needs

kids. We probably average 30 kids on site (for GNets)."

RESA serves the school districts in Laurens, Dublin, Bleckley, Montgomery, Treutlen, Wheeler, Dodge,

Pulaski, Telfair and Wilcox.

"We offer staff development, training and

**GARNTO**

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1 section, 12 pages • Vol. 112,  
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## Severe Weather Awareness: Tornadoes bring nature's most violent storms

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

Tornadoes are not what people want to see or hear, unless they are watching a movie or a documentary featuring storm chasers.

Officials say it is important for people to know that a "tornado watch" means it is possible in the area, while a "tornado warning" is a tornado has been spotted and people should take shelter immediately.

"A tornado can form in just a matter of minutes," said Bill Laird, director of Laurens County Emergency Management Agency/E-911.

"Whether it is a watch or warning, the likelihood and conditions exist for a tornado."

According to the National Weather Service, tornadoes are the No. 1 severe weather-related killer in Georgia. Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes can vary in shape, size and intensity. Most tornadoes are weak, lasting a few minutes and producing winds of less than 100 mph. However, some tornadoes are strong or even violent. These tornadoes last from 20 minutes to more than an hour and can produce wind speeds higher than 166 mph.

And they have occurred in Laurens County.

"It's been a year or two," Laird said. "We had a tornado in the spring in 2024."

"If the National Weather Service issues a warning for a community anywhere in Laurens County, we'll activate the tornado sirens," Laird said. "Some people take the tornado sirens for granted. They are for outdoor warning. They are not designed to wake you up in the middle of the night when you are sound asleep. If you are indoor, you can't rely on hearing the tornado siren. People need to think about signing up for (the county's) Hyper-Reach

or things like that."

This is where the Hyper-Reach notification service is important. People can also sign up for Hyper-Reach alert, which is a communication service for those in Laurens County through CivicReady in case of an emergency. There is no charge for this service, and people can sign up by going to the city of Dublin or Laurens County websites.

"You need to make sure you have a reliable outlet to receive alerts," Laird said. "It can be a NOAA

**TORNADOES**

Continued on page 12

## OBITUARIES



Annette Donaldson Johnson

Annette Donaldson Johnson, 90, peacefully passed away on Feb. 11, surrounded by her loving family. Annette was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Van Buron Johnson, and by two daughters, Jewel Johnson and Brenda Johnson. She is survived by her daughter Marquita Hicks (Don), grandchildren Candice Moore of Greenville, South Carolina, Clark Hicks (Hannah) of Irwinton, Georgia, Catie (Bill) Ballard of St. Simons Island, Georgia, great-grandchildren Rivers Moore, Delaney Moore, Willow Cate Ballard, Ellie Hicks, Mason Ballard, Corban Hicks and Sunnie Hicks, brother Garland Donaldson (Genelda) of Soperton, Georgia and sister-in-law Pam Donaldson of Wrightsville, Georgia.

She enjoyed a long and distinguished career in civil service, which included highly specialized service to the commander of Robins Air Force Base. Annette took great pride in her work and served with professionalism, discretion and dedication throughout her career. A woman of deep faith, Annette was a faithful member of Dublin First Church of the Nazarene, where she was actively involved in the Terry Soles Sunday School Class and served as director of the senior adult Prime Time group. Known as a devoted prayer warrior, Annette considered it a true privilege to participate in the ministry of intercession, faithfully lifting others in prayer throughout her life. Her heart and greatest joy were found in her family. Her legacy of faith, love and service will live on through them.

A graveside service was held on Friday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Olive Church of the Nazarene Cemetery. Visitation was prior to the service from 1:30 p.m. until service time.

Pallbearers will be Clark Hicks, Rivers Moore, Steve Moore, Bill Ballard, Mark Coursey and Henry Donaldson.

In lieu of flowers dona-

tions can be made to the following:

Dublin First Church of the Nazarene Youth Ministries, PO Box 489, Dublin, GA 31040

-Georgia Hospice, 1111 Hillcrest Pkwy., Dublin, GA 31021

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Dublin Chapel has charge of funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit [www.stanleyfuneral-home.com](http://www.stanleyfuneral-home.com).



Annette Donaldson Johnson



Virginia Copeland Frady Josey

Mrs. Virginia Copeland Frady Josey, 81, entered into rest peacefully on Feb. 11, 2026.

Mrs. Josey was born July 13, 1944, to the late Eillies Sheppard Copeland and Ernest Copeland. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, A.J. Frady; her brother, Jimmy Copeland; and her grandparents, Freeman and Missy Dixon Sheppard and Idoma Claxton Copeland Merritt and Isma Copeland.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 52 years, Mr. Henry Claxton Josey of Harrison; her loving daughter, Linda Mae Loeffel of Glenwood; her cherished granddaughter, Amy Mae Dalton; her stepson, Derek Dalton of Kite; her sister, Elaine Thaxton (Jay) of Sandersville; her brothers, Dale Copeland (Cindy) of Sandersville, Ronnie Copeland (Lynn) of Kite, and Henry Copeland of Wrightsville; along with several nieces, nephews and many friends who will miss her dearly.

Mrs. Josey was a gifted seamstress who owned and operated her own clothing line and alterations shop for many years. She also worked in factories in Wrightsville and sewed from her home, blessing many with her talent and careful handiwork. She took pride in her work and in serving her community.

She was a member of the

## Georgia Senate Republicans approve lower income taxes as their answer to affordability

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Republican-led state Senate adopted an historic income tax cut plan Thursday that Democrats decried as an election year ploy that would undermine the state budget.

There was no official estimate of the cost of Senate Bill 476, which calls for no income tax on the first \$50,000 in annual earnings by an individual and

\$100,000 for a married couple.

The absence of an official analysis of the impact to the more than \$40 billion budget led Democrats to assert the plan would cost \$9 billion while Republicans touted it as a boon for working people.

"It would represent the largest tax cut in state history," Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, a Republican, said after the measure passed 32-18, with all Republicans in favor and nearly all Democrats opposed.

Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, the lead co-sponsor of the legislation, said it would help firefighters, teachers, restaurant employees and middle-class workers in general, ridiculing Democrats' arguments against it.

"The mental gymnastics you have to jump through to vote against this bill are astounding," he said.

Democrats said the wealthy would benefit more, since the bill would also reduce the base income tax rate to 4.99% from the current 5.19%. They said it would result in budget shortfalls in the long run, forcing budget cuts and sales tax increases that would drive up prices for groceries, child care and other expenses that are making life difficult for many Georgians.

They called the measure a trick to mislead voters.

Several Senate Republicans are running for higher office, including Jones, who wants to succeed Brian Kemp in the governor's office, and Tillery, who hopes to follow Jones as lieutenant governor.

Sen. Kim Jackson, D-Stone Mountain, called the bill "a scam." Sen. Derek Mallow, D-Savannah,

### TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH



#### Robert Burns

Mr. Robert Burns of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

#### Sylvia Ann Knight Pittman

Sylvia Ann Knight Pittman, 91, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026. Services are incomplete at this time. Townsend Brothers Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please visit [www.townsend-funeralhome.com](http://www.townsend-funeralhome.com) for service updates and to sign the online memorial register.

#### Larry Butler

Mr. Larry Butler of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

[www.ServicesByDudley.com](http://www.ServicesByDudley.com)

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 14  
P.O. & Connie Adams  
Danny & Beverly  
Tolbert

#### BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 14  
Gus Allbritton  
Shenetra Carswell  
Tina Watson

Feb. 15  
Dannell Barwick  
Diane Coley  
Brianna Stanley

Feb. 16  
Tracy Holliman

said it was "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Sen. Nikki Merritt, D-Grayson, said it would "devastate" the economy. "It's not a plan for working families," she said. "It's a plan working families will pay for."

Kemp's own budget proposal would reduce the income tax rate to 4.99%, but it does not include increases in the standard deduction for income.

That led Sen. Josh McLaurin, D-Sandy Springs, also running for lieutenant governor, to say SB 476 was a "senseless tax cut that Brian Kemp's going to veto on sight ... this is election year stuff."

McLaurin said reducing the base rate to 4.99% would cost \$3 billion a year while deducting the first \$50,000 thousand in income per tax filer (and \$100,000 per couple) would cost \$6 billion.

Tillery had a much lower estimate, less than \$3 billion for the package, which he said would be balanced by cuts to tax credits and exemptions that collectively cost the state treasury about \$30 billion.

SB 476 would eliminate them initially for a variety of recipients, including business headquarters, banks, medical manufacturers, telecommunications facilities, boat repairers, crab fishermen and for low- and zero-emission vehicles and electric vehicle chargers.

It would end new exemptions for the manufacture of machinery to reduce or eliminate air or water pollution and for high-technology companies. There would also be no new exemptions for data centers.

Then, all tax credits and exemptions would end in

2032.

The plan had Republicans gloating that they had seized the issue of affordability from Democrats.

"There's a reason, y'all, why the Republican Party is becoming the party of the working class," said Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, who is running for lieutenant governor. Sen.

Bill Cowser, R-Athens, who wants to be Georgia's next attorney general, said Democrats used to be the party of the working class while Republicans represented the wealthy.

"That narrative is completely flipped now," he said.

The Republican-led Senate also passed a backup plan in Senate Bill 477, which Tillery acknowledged was not as beneficial for the middle class. It would also reduce the base income tax rate to 4.99%, then continue dropping it until it reached 3.99% in 2028. It would increase tax deductions by a much smaller amount, raising the untaxed portion of income by a third, to \$16,000 for individuals and to \$32,000 for married couples. The state tax on corporate income would drop to 4.99% but no further.

Both bills would need consent from the House to become law. So, the Senate extended what Tillery described as an "olive branch" to that chamber by gutting two House bills and replacing them with the language in the two Senate bills, so the House could claim credit.

Meanwhile, House Republicans have their own tax priority. They are targeting local property tax relief as their answer to affordability.

## Learn the proper inhaler technique

By KEITH ROACH  
King Features

and when it's published. So, I am often not much help to readers for urgent matters.

There have been a handful of times when a reader has written to me with a concern that has terrified me. Very early on when I started writing this column, a reader wrote in that he had an aortic aneurysm of over 7 centimeters and didn't think that he needed surgery. (The risk of a rupture at this size is very high, and it would likely be immediately fatal.)

This letter came via the postal service, so I had no way to get a hold of him beyond taking my response (for him to please get this repaired as soon as possible) to the post office and mailing it back to him.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am confused by your re-

mark in a recent column about blood thinners being a good thing to take for the rest of your life. My brother was put on them after suffering from a stroke and ended up dying due to esophageal bleeding because of them.

Why can't doctors prescribe a natural way to thin blood without medication? Are there not natural alternatives like apple

cider vinegar or something else? This confuses me as I would not take any long-term medication. -- G.B.

ANSWER: Anticoagulants, which reduce the blood's ability to clot, are only a "good thing" to take if you are at a high risk for a dangerous blood clot. In the column that you mention, the reader actually had his heart stop due to a large blood clot in his lung before being brought back by his wife.

In this case, anticoagulants are more likely to keep people alive by preventing a fatal blood clot than they are to cause serious bleeding. I am sorry for the experience of your brother, but physicians always need to weigh the risk of doing something against the risk of not doing something.

Apple cider vinegar has no effect on blood clotting. There are natural products that do. Warfarin (Coumadin) is based on a compound made by a fungus that grows on wet, sweet clover hay. For decades, it was the most common anticoagulant. Newer drugs are safer and more effective for most people, but there are still a few conditions that require warfarin.

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# A great American romance story for Valentine's Day

I'm not the person you want to come to when seeking advice on relationships. I have been in a relationship with the same woman since I was 17 years old. I'm 40 now and we have been married for nearly 19 of those years, so you do the math. If I was good with figures I would not be doing this for a living.

My late grandmother always told me to play the field, but I did the exact opposite. There are a lot of fish in the sea and I latched onto the first one I was able to reel in. Though I must be a rather good angler, because she swallowed the hook, line and sinker. A couple kids, several moves across the state and countless pets and we're still going strong. As strong as we can anyway. My wife hasn't left me or tried to kill me in my sleep, though I am sure my parents would take her side in either scenario, so I must be doing something right.

In honor of St. Valentine's Day, the feast day honoring the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, among other things, turned commercial holiday endorsed by chocolate and greeting card companies, allow me to tell the story of how I met my better half.

In high school I was an active member of the National FFA organization (they dropped Future Farmers of America years ago, because very few of their members took to the agrarian lifestyle). Each term I took every available FFA class because A) it beat math, and B) after the work was complete the instructor would let us play cards. One semester the only such class offered was floral design. Yes, there is a high school class that teaches kids how to make

## DIVA ON A DIME

### A love letter to chocolate

By PATTI DIAMOND

King Features

Chocolate doesn't need a holiday, but Valentine's Day gives us permission to notice it. Chocolate melts patiently. It waits. It forgives mistakes. When treated gently, it rewards you with far more than the sum of its parts. That's not a bad lesson for life or love.

Most of us think we know chocolate, but the labels tell an important story:

\* Dark chocolate is made from cocoa solids, cocoa butter and minimal sugar. Higher cocoa percentages mean deeper flavor and less sweetness.

\* Bittersweet and semi-sweet are both dark chocolates and interchangeable in most recipes. Exact cocoa percentages matter less than choosing chocolate you enjoy.

\* Milk chocolate includes milk solids and more sugar, giving it a softer, creamier flavor.

\* White chocolate contains cocoa butter, sugar and milk solids but no cocoa solids. When well made, it's still real chocolate.

You may have noticed that some chocolate costs more than others. The difference often lies in better cocoa beans, higher cocoa butter content, fewer fillers and ethical sourcing.

Some of chocolate's higher cost reflects how cocoa is grown and who benefits. When you're able, choosing fair trade or ethically sourced brands is a small way to support better practices.

That said, not every recipe asks for your very best chocolate. Cakes, brownies and bark loaded with toppings do just fine with good grocery-store chocolate. Save higher-end bars for simple recipes, where flavor and texture truly shine.

If chocolate has a greatest magic trick, it's ganache. It sounds fancy, but it's simply chocolate and cream, and one of the most useful techniques a home cook can learn. By adjusting the ratio of chocolate to cream, ganache can be thin and pourable or thick and scoopable, serving as a sauce, glaze, frosting, truffle filling or the thing that makes a simple cake feel extraordinary.

#### HOW TO MAKE CHOCOLATE GANACHE

8 ounces chocolate chips  
1 cup heavy cream

Place the chocolate chips in a heatproof bowl. Heat the cream, on the stovetop or in the microwave, just until steaming

with small bubbles at the edges. Pour the hot cream over the chocolate and let it sit undisturbed for 3 minutes. Starting in the center, gently stir outward until smooth and glossy.

Use warm as a pourable glaze, dip or sauce. Let it cool to thicken for spreading or frosting. Strawberries are always welcome.

And if you want the simplest Valentine's dessert of all, these straightforward chocolate cupcakes never fail. No fuss, just rich flavor and a tender crumb.

#### EASY CHOCOLATE CUPCAKES

*Yield: about 16 cupcakes*

*Total Time: 30 minutes*

*What You'll Need:*  
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup coffee  
1 tablespoon white distilled vinegar  
1/3 cup vegetable oil  
1 large egg, room temperature  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

#### *Here's How:*

Preheat oven to 350 F with rack centered. Line a muffin tin with cupcake liners.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt. In a second bowl, whisk coffee, vinegar, oil, egg and vanilla until blended. Pour wet ingredients over dry and whisk just until combined. Do not overmix.

Using an ice cream scoop, portion batter into liners, filling each about two-thirds full. Bake for 20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes in the pan, then transfer to a rack to cool completely before frosting.

Chocolate doesn't ask for perfection. It teaches patience, provides us with self-care. Say it with me: "Chocolate, will you be my Valentine?"

*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](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com).*

*(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.*

## Who says romance is dead?

### THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD

By KYLE DOMINY

flower arrangements.

Given the content of such a course, my usual gang of card-playing friends did not enroll. In fact, only the names of two young men, including yours truly, were among a roster of young ladies. I almost dropped the class. I was afraid of being ridiculed, but my counterpart persuaded me to stay.

"Look at all the girls in here," he said. "You've got to

stick around."

Wiser counsel has never been given.

Soon I found myself making new card-playing buddies, ones that were much easier on the eyes and didn't know all of my jokes, but one particular one caught my attention. Attempts to draw her interest seemed to go nowhere though, or so I thought.

One afternoon the class was tasked with dismantling an old greenhouse. While the girls busied themselves removing broken pots and dead plants, the two boys were in charge of discarding bits of machinery and debris: dented vent fans, seized motors and filters. The filters particularly caught our eyes and, boys will be boys, we soon found creative ways to dispose of them.

"I bet I can punch through one of these things," I said to my comrade.

Is there a better way of impressing a woman than showing off your physical strength? I think not. So I called out to the girl I was trying to impress.

"Hey, watch this!" I shouted as I let loose a flying fist that would have made Bruce Lee proud.

What I did not know at the time is that greenhouse filters are made with glass fibers. As my fist shredded the filter, beautifully I might say, the filter shredded my fist. My feat of prowess was damped by a row of bloody knuckles. The girl I was trying to impress, didn't laugh or walk away. She brought the first aid kit and cleaned up my hand.

The rest, as they say, is history, because I knew then and there that I would never find anyone better.

## Ensign Jesse L. Brown

Ensign Jesse L. Brown was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., into a farming family.

His father was a veteran of War World I and a share-cropper. Brown worked on the farm and worked at other jobs to help supplement the family income. He was also a good student in school and desired to attend college and high school. He and his family were Christians and active church members.

Brown saved his money, and with the financial assistance of friends and employers where he worked, he was able to attend Ohio State University for two years.

While at OSU the Korean War began in June 1950, and a Navy on-campus poster indicated a need for Navy aviators. Brown applied and was accepted for flight training. Before going to Rhode Island to flight school, he married his sweetheart, Daisy, and they moved to Quonset Point, Rhode Island.

Upon completing Navy flight school, Brown received his wings and was commissioned an ensign in the U.S.

Navy, the Navy's first African-American fighter pilot. He and his fighter pilot friends were assigned to a Corsair squadron aboard the aircraft carrier USS Leyte, which soon departed to the coastal waters off Korea. His squadron's mission was to give close ground support to the First Marine Division and other American ground forces that were engaged in ground combat with the North Koreans in the mountains near the Chosin Reservoir.

En route to Korea, Brown also assisted the chaplain in preparing for chapel services.

Brown was on a combat mission on Dec. 4, 1950, when his plane was damaged by ground fire forcing him to crash-land his plane in the mountains of North Korea. The ground was snow-covered, and the temperatures were near zero.

In the crash that buckled Jesse's plane, he was pinned by the cockpit panel and was unable to extract himself from the cockpit. His close friend, Tom Hudner, was

also on that same mission flying his Corsair, and knew Brown was in trouble. Hudner purposely crash-landed his plane near Brown and began efforts to help release Brown, but he could not lift the cockpit equipment off his friend. Hudner called in a rescue helicopter for help, and both Hudner and the helicopter pilot tried to free Brown but could not.

Brown's life was ebbing away, and his last words to Hudner were, "Tell Daisy that I love her." Communist forces were fast closing in, and Hudner and the chopper pilot had to leave their friend's lifeless body in the plane. Hudner made a promise to return to his friend, but Brown's body was never recovered. Brown was the Navy's first African-American officer to die in combat.

Hudner was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic and extraordinary efforts to help rescue his friend in that frozen North Korean battle-zone.

The award was presented by President Harry S. Truman. This writer was touched deeply by this story, for he was also in Korea as a young Marine during that war.

Peace!

*Note: Two books were helpful in preparing this sketch: "On Desperate Ground" by Hampton Sides and "Devotion: A Higher Call" by Adam Makos.*

By JACK BROWN



# SHAMROCK Your Ride 2026

FRIDAY

February 20<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Downtown Branch

SATURDAY

February 21<sup>st</sup>

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Mall Branch

Purchase your vinyl shamrock decals and gear up for the month of March. All proceeds from this event will go to support the City of Hope Homeless Shelter.

This is an annual community fundraiser and official event of the Dublin-Laurens St. Patrick's Festival. Get your shamrocks while supplies last.



[www.morris.bank](http://www.morris.bank)

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LENDER



# Wine license issue decided

Dublin Courier-Herald,  
Dispatch And Press

Dublin City Council has decided to restrict sale of wine in Dublin to packaged goods only, prohibiting the sale "by the drink."

This action resulted after W.M. Chandler of Albany appeared before the Council and called attention to the fact that the Georgia law makes it mandatory that licenses to sell wine be granted.

Council had previously refused Mr. Chandler a license.

A large group of barbers appeared before Council to ask for the approval of an ordinance to provide that the mayor appoint three men to regulate sanitary conditions, rates, hours and other conditions of the barber shops in Dublin.

One barber, C.D. Braswell, spoke against the passage.

The vote was 5 to 2 with the Mayor not approving of the ordinance at the time but taking it "under advisement."

Council rescinded a previous vote to hold an election on whether Sunday movie shows would be allowed in Dublin. Alderman Milo Smith said that the city charter makes no provision for such an election, and the previous action was rescinded without a roll call.

A request for allowance of Homestead Tax Exemption for 1946 was turned down. It appeared that the applicant was out of town when the time came to make tax returns and the exemption was not claimed.

He had applied to City Hall, but exemption had not been allowed, resulting in the application last night.

Beer licenses were granted to L.M. Barron, Jr. and James Canady.

In connection with the discussion of the wine license, which is \$250, it was brought out that a town can refuse to sell a license to beer dealers or whiskey dealers but must grant wine licenses.

This is a state law.

The city, of course, has the right to revoke a wine license if evidence is provided showing it to be a nuisance.

Council gave local wine dealers two weeks to dispense of any broken packages of wine and ruled that after that time only sealed bottles can be sold.

The buyer must take the bottle out of the store to drink it.

## DRAFT BOARD LOSES A MAN

Stories in the Courier-Herald recently about some half dozen men who had moved since registering for the draft and asking for help in notifying the Laurens County draft boards resulted in all but one man being found.

This one, Josephus Parker, colored, is apparently not a draft dodger since he has written to his mother, who lives on Route 1, Dublin, telling her specifically to send him his war mail. However, he forgot to tell her where to send his mail, and the postmark on his letter can not be made out, and it is impossible to tell from it even the state from which the letter was mailed.

Anyone who happens to know Parker's address will be doing him a favor by sending him a copy of this story or by writing him a post card, telling him to write the Laurens County Draft Board at Dublin at once.

Attention is called to all persons who have registered for the draft to write to the draft board if they move. They should give their names as they registered and both their new and old addresses.

Considerable trouble and delays have been caused by

those persons who failed to give both addresses.

## TRAFFIC SURVEY IN DUBLIN

"Dublin does not have any unusually difficult traffic problems," George Papageorge, Traffic Engineer of the State Highway Department, said after he and several assistants made a two-day survey of conditions here.

Mr. Papageorge also complimented Dublin Chief of Police J. W. Robertson on his grasp of the local traffic situation. "Mr. Robertson had studied the problems here, and I agree with the majority of his opinions of what is needed," the chief engineer said.

He will now make a full, written report to City Council. While he would not go into details about the recommendations likely to be made, Mr. Papageorge did say that he thought a stop and go traffic light at the intersections on Jefferson and Jackson streets (in front of the courthouse) would be a handicap, rather than a help.

He added that it was a real pleasure to visit Dublin again, having been here several years ago when he was with the construction division of the Highway Department.

## SCHOOL BUS RULE CITED

Laurens County School Superintendent Elbert Mullis stated today that he had been informed that a few people are insisting on putting themselves and others on the buses when drivers and children are on the school buses on their regular school route runs.

"This is entirely against the rules of the County Board of Education, and bus drivers should not allow this to be done," Mr. Mullis said.

The school buses are run for the hauling of school children, and we should make it our first business.

"The public should not manifest any ill feelings against bus drivers for refusing to let them ride, for they are obeying their orders, and the public should help them to make better servants of the people," Mr. Mullis added.

## CITY LICENSE PENALTY

Clerk M.A. Roberts today called attention to the approaching deadline on paying city business licenses, which is March first.

All licenses were automatically and uniformly increased 11 per cent the first of this year, but this increase will not be collected provided the licenses are paid by March first.

In other words, those who fail to pay by March first will pay 11 per cent more than if they pay between now then.

## DUBLIN LOSES 44-34

By Barney Price

Air Lane High of Gainesville won an easy victory over Dublin High, 44-34, in the Hargrove Gymnasium last night.

The Irishmen took the lead at the beginning of the game but lost it after the first two minutes, and Air Lane led the rest of the play.

However, at the beginning of the final quarter, the locals came within three points of tying the score.

At the end of the first quarter the locals were trailing by 11 points. The visitors' team would break fast and had plenty of speed which enabled them to net 15 points in the first period.

The second quarter brought more excitement but the locals still trailed by 8 points at the half, although netting 13 points to the visitors' 10. Score at half was Dublin 17, Air Lane 25.

In the third quarter,

Dublin came back to make 11 points to Air Lane's 8, but still trailed by 5 points. The line-up:

F Smalley 11  
F Thompson 2  
C Clark 7  
G Kersey 9  
G Bradshaw  
Substitutions: Waller  
Braddy 4

## BREWTON HOSTS TEACHERS

Brewton Consolidated School was host to the Laurens County Teachers' Association at its regular monthly meeting on Saturday.

Delegates to the Georgia Education Association convention at Augusta in April were selected as one matter of business.

Delegates named are G.E. Currie, President of the Laurens County Teachers Association

R.O. Powell, Superintendent of Dudley Consolidated School

Miss Marguerite McKinney

J.E. Love  
B.A. Jackson  
J.H. Williams  
M.W. Outz

One feature of the meeting was an "open house," for the teachers to tour the building. Several students of the school conducted the teachers and pointed out various types of work being done by the pupils.

During the business session, which was held in the gymnasium, a salad course was served by the patrons of the school.

Decorations of flags and colored streamers were used for a patriotic theme.

The program rendered was as follows:

Prelude - Miss Evie Norris

Introduction - Superintendent J.E. Love of the Brewton School

Devotional by Rev. J.L. Brown of Montrose

Address by Laurens County School Superintendent Elbert Mullis

Violin Solo by B.I. Keel, Band Director

Vocal Solo by Mrs. B.I. Keel

## CADWELL ROUTE 1

By Mrs. J.C. Watson

Mrs. O.D. Knight and children are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elige Evans, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lennie Gay and children were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Dixon and family recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Corris Coleman and children recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Melton Watson and children of Rentz.

Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Register had as their Saturday guests Mr. and Mrs. K.C. Watson and family and Mr. and Mrs. Carris Coleman and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Gay and children were guests of Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Watson recently.

Miss Mary Lee Evans recently visited Mr. and Mrs. O.D. Knight in Rentz.

## HOWARD ROWE HONORED

Tenth grade student of Harmony High School Howard Rowe has received an Honorable Mention Certificate in the essay contest conducted by the Cotton Manufacturers Association on the "Importance of the Cotton Mills to Georgia."

D.H. Knight, principal of Harmony School, pointed out that Young Rowe has received "A" marks all through his high school career and is an outstanding student.

He will attend Berry Schools near Rome, probably leaving for Berry in April.

## UNEMPLOYMENT TAX PAYMENT

All employers subject to the State Unemployment Compensation Law have now been granted permis-

sion to make their reports and remittances to the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner of Labor Ben T. Huiet last week, by regulation, extended the privilege to approximately 2,000 employers who were reporting on a monthly basis. He previously had granted the authority to employers who filed applications and whose accounts were in a satisfactory condition.

Under the new plan, all employers will be able to file their returns to both the state and federal governments at the same time.

In a letter to employers notifying them of the change, Commissioner Ben Huiet said that he desired to cooperate with them in every possible way and to relieve them of any unnecessary expense in the preparations of reports, and elimination of any unnecessary forms.

## NAZARENE CHURCH ZONE MEETING

February 21st will be a special day at the Church of the Nazarene, located at 112 Telfair Street.

Reverend Victor E. Coursey, pastor, announces a program of interest and spiritual value for this one-day East Central Zone meeting.

Rev. K.C. Mathis, Dallas Superintendent of the Dallas, Texas, District, will be the main speaker, delivering two addresses, one at 11 a.m. and again at 2:30 in the afternoon. He is conducting a successful program in the Dallas District after having served as a National Evangelist.

Nazarene churches which are expected to have representation at the zone meeting in

Dublin are Mt. Olive, Emanuel, Manassas, St. Paul, and St. John.

Visitors are also expected to attend the sessions.

Rev. P.P. Belew, Georgia District Superintendent, from Atlanta, is accompanying Rev. Mathis on his visits to zones in the Georgia District.

A basket lunch will be spread at the noon hour, and Dr. Coursey urges all who attend to bring a lunch so that the entire group may enjoy a meal together and a season of good fellowship.

## DUBLIN ROUTE 4

By Mrs. H.J. Cauley

Friends of Mrs. G.B. Daniels regret to learn of her illness and wish for her a speedy recovery.

Saturday, February 14, 2026 • 4

## LOOKING BACK...

50 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 14, 1941



By HARRIETT CLAXTON

Friends of Wedle Ussery are pleased to learn that he is improving after a recent illness.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John O'Neal, who announce the birth of a son.

Mrs. Calvin Gray and Miss Frances Flowers were the Sunday guests of their sister, Mrs. Y.B. Cauley.

Mrs. Mollie Bell was a recent guest of Rev. and Mrs. J.L. Manning.

Mrs. Aubrey Lee Dukes and Mrs. H.J. Cauley spent Thursday with Mrs. A.J. Starley.

Friends of Hardie Ussery regret his illness and wish for him an early recovery.

## CONDOR SCHOOL NEWS

The chapel program at Condor Consolidated School on last Friday was given by the sixth grade under the direction of Miss Mary Rountree, teacher.

Prayer and Scripture were given by Miss Ruby Jones, and a short biography of Mark Twain followed.

Then Mary Hildee Watson followed with a play, "The Glorious White Washer" by Samuel Clements.

The parts were taken by the following:

Tom Sawyer -Laura Lee Wasden

Aunt Polly - Martha Lake Jim - Franklin Lawrence

Friends - Ben Rogers, Elmo Beacham, Billy Fisher, Marvin Darley, Johnny Miller, and Lennie Scott

Condor basketball teams

played the Lowery School on Friday afternoon. All the high school students accompanied the team.

The scores were

boys - 14-10 - Condor

girls - 14-2 - Lowery

The time lost by the school is now being made up on Saturdays. The WPA lunchroom was closed on Saturday so the teachers had lunch together, with Mrs. Kirkpatrick in charge.

On Friday night there was a Hill Billy program. The PTA got a fine percentage as there was a good crowd.

After the program, the ladies of the Methodist church sold cakes. They made almost enough money

## FOX KILLED

J.M. Hester killed a fox late yesterday when he was called to the home of Miss Annie Chambers on Route 80 East, a few miles from Dublin.

Mr. Hester said today that he was passing the place and Miss Chambers called to him. When he stopped, she told him that a fox was in the barn. He secured a gun and shot it.

So far as is known, it had not bitten anyone or any livestock.

Mr. Hester said he had not seen there would be any point in sending the animal's head to the state chemists for a rabies test.

Several foxes with rabies have been seen or killed near here recently.

## MARIE SCHOOL NEWS

Marie School, five miles north of Dublin, is among the few small schools in the county. Two teachers, Mrs. Paul Jones and Mrs. Hughes Pullen, with six grades, are kept busy from eight until four o'clock each day.

The Marie school bus provides free transportation for all school students. The upper grades are carried to the Dudley Consolidated School.

Marie School can boast that it has had a nine-months term year in and year out for the past 25 years.

Cleanliness is encouraged among the students through a "wash room," which is available at all times. Each child is urged to bring 1 cent each week to purchase paper towels for their use. This plan proves very beneficial to the students and to the faculty.

A WPA lunch room has been added this year. Two splendid cooks, Mrs. West Wood and Miss Carrie Garner, are in charge.

Every child is fed a hot lunch in the middle of the day for the small charge of three cents per day. Nourishing, well-balanced

**Dublin Police Department**

- Wayne Bledsoe, 51, was charged with obstruction of law enforcement officers, giving false name, address, or birthdate to law enforcement and wearing mask, hood or device which conceals identity of wearer, at the intersection of West Mary Street and North Church Street around 7:11 p.m. on Jan. 30.

An officer was patrolling the location when he saw a man wearing a ski mask and carrying a pocketbook leaving the Vinson Village area. Because of recent burglaries and entering auto incidents in that area, the officer found the circumstances suspicious. The person removed his ski mask and was questioned regarding the pocketbook. Officers explained their suspicions to the man, who was later identified as Bledsoe.

The man said he was attempting to sell the purse for a friend. The officer requested the man's name and he told him Tyrone Bledsoe. This met with negative results when the

officer ran this name and birthdate through his in-car computer and through a 911 dispatcher. The officer could tell that the man was "extremely nervous" and repeatedly attempted to walk away.

An officer told the man that he was going to be placed in handcuffs until his identity was confirmed. The man began to pull away and a brief physical struggle ensued, which moved off the roadway and ended on the ground. During the struggle, Bledsoe hit an officer in the face, causing a small laceration to the interior of his upper lip. Officers were able to gain control of the man and placed him in handcuffs.

Dispatch advised that Bledsoe had active warrants through the Laurens County Sheriff's Office. Bledsoe was transported to the Laurens County Jail and released to jail staff for booking.

- On Jan. 26, an officer was dispatched to Belk on Veterans Boulevard in reference to a shoplifting incident that occurred around 4:14 p.m.

**POLICE BEAT...**

The officer talked with an employee who provided him with video footage showing Brandon Michael Waters, 33, concealing several shirts under his jacket. The shirts totaled \$185.

Waters was charged with theft by shoplifting and transported to the police department. He was fingerprinted before being released on a summons.

- Kenya Lashon Brown, 21, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked on Hillcrest Parkway on Jan. 28 around 5:10 p.m.

An officer was sitting stationary monitoring traffic when he saw a maroon Nissan Rogue traveling at a high rate of speed. The officer estimated the speed to be 55 mph. The officer was able to clock the vehicle going 57.

The Nissan stopped in the middle of the roadway. The officer asked the driver to move the vehicle into the parking lot of All Star Car Wash. After running Brown's information, it came back suspended through GCIC for failure to appear.

Brown was transported to the police department to be fingerprinted. She also received a citation for speeding.

**Laurens County Sheriff's Office**

- Brannon Ray Barlow, 50, of Chester, was charged with driving under the influence of multiple substances around 2:02 p.m. on Jan. 17. A deputy met with Barlow at the sheriff's office.

- Taurus Brashun Willis, 36, of Dublin, was charged

with driving under the influence of alcohol around 11:14 p.m. on Jan. 17. A deputy made a traffic stop of a silver Chevrolet Silverado in reference to a tag cover obstructing the tag.

- On Jan. 17, around 3:40 p.m., a deputy responded to Buckeye Road in reference to property damage. A man talked with the deputy, telling him he was working on a mobile home when a yellow Ford came into the drive way, spun tire and left.

- On Jan. 16, around 1:14 a.m., a deputy responded to Roundtree Drive to assist other deputies with a possible intoxicated driver. This led to Wanda Scott, 40, being charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

- Around 10 a.m. on Jan. 15, a deputy was doing an eviction on North Jefferson Street, which led to the recovery of multiple tobacco products, money and a stolen firearm.

- Around 12:35 a.m. on Jan. 15, a deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a silver Mazda 6 due to the

vehicle having a defective driver's side headlight.

- David Sidney B. Pellegrino, 24, of Columbus, was charged with possession of methamphetamine around 9:37 a.m. on Jan. 15 when a deputy stopped him in a black Mazda 3 for speeding on I-16 East at mile post 49.

- A deputy met with a person at the sheriff's office on Southern Pines Road for a theft that happened around 12:30 p.m. on Highway 19 South.

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

## TELL IT!

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

**After five franchises** is there anyone in Lauren's county with 100K for a United Parcel Service in the city or county? Please. Our citizens and merchants need a viable community.

**I'd like to know** what's going on with the crossword puzzle in The Courier Herald. The letters are blurry and you cannot read it. I only buy The Courier Herald for the obituaries and crossword puzzles. Please fix this if you can.

**Who in the world** presented Fred a flag? He certainly doesn't deserve a flag or anything else here in town.

**I'm glad to read** today about the assistance program for the elderly. I'd like to have a phone number or something that I could call and report. Some people don't pay any light bills. For me, I can get online for three or five minutes and I have somebody else online. When we get through, all of the assistance had been taking up.

**Uncle Tell It Master,** I told you all of these things because you said you are the

most interesting man in the world.

**Please explain how** the Laurens County Public Facility Authority approved Dublin City Schools' SOLAR LEASE. Name the members of the Laurens County Public Facility Authority that got us in this mess.

\$25,000 monthly for 360 months. That's a lot of salaries...

**No there should not** be a flag downtown honoring Dr. Fred Williams. If one would be placed there it would degrade the ones of the men and women that have been honored.

**Call or write your** state representatives asking them to vote no on GA SB 74 which attacks libraries and librarians ability to do their jobs! GA SB 74 is un-American! Communists ban books, not America!

**Shoutout to our local** restaurants for serving us every single day, and the owners for putting in more hours than most of us could imagine.

**Excited for the up-**coming events St. Patrick's

events! The committee and community works so hard to provide us with a fun festival!

**Gratitude goes** a long way. I'm grateful for the people behind the scenes that keep our city running every day.

**If lucky loot is not a** bonus but instead money that is owed to the teachers what is it? Is it some sort of leprechaun trick to make teachers think they are getting more than they deserve? All lies!

**This is for the instigator** making accusation. Why would the county care if you pay higher for school taxes? Why, why, why?

**I'm wondering why** there is a delay on our food stamp money? We need our food stamp money to get our food and to be able to buy our groceries. Where is the money?

**I've been up and down** the road where the street department is now and there has never been a problem. I did that for 10 years. Why move it to somewhere on Madison Street when we are supposed to be having a riverwalk? That's going to look real nice.

**I want to say** Happy Valentine's Day to everyone and remember Jesus loves you.

**Moose Legion makes donation to Lighthouse**

The Moose Legion made a donation to Advocates for Alzheimer's Care, Inc. for the Lighthouse Adult Day Care Center. Pictured from left: Mary McDaniel, Moose Legion, Calvin Halcomb, Advocates for Alzheimer's Care President, Carroll McCullars, Moose Legion, Kris Harden, Director of the AFAC Lighthouse Adult Day Care Center and Bobby Williamson, Moose Legion. Thank you to the Moose Legion for your support of Advocates for Alzheimer's Care, Inc. Lighthouse Adult Day Care Center/SPECIAL PHOTO

**War of words erupts over Fulton Co. elections after FBI raid**

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A verbal skirmish over Fulton County's elections management unfolded at the Georgia Capitol Wednesday, as a Republican Senator said the state should take over the county elections office and the county's Democratic leader ridiculed the notion as "laughable."

Sen. Greg Dolezal pointed to a recently unsealed FBI affidavit for the search warrant that led to the raid on a Fulton election facility last month. The document showed that the Ful-

ton election in 2020 was a "mess," he said.

"It's past time for the state to take over Fulton County elections," said Dolezal.

Fulton Commission Chairman Robb Pitts then came to the Gold Dome to hold his own news conference, telling reporters that numerous reviews and audits had given the county's election operation "a clean bill of health."

He said the warrant affidavit was a "very weak, weak, weak" document.

"There's no such thing as a perfect election," Pitts said. "There's always a pos-

sibility of human error. There's always a possibility of mechanical failure. But there has not been any organized effort in Fulton County, Georgia to manipulate the outcome of any election."

Pitts called the raid a "sinister plot" by the administration of President Donald Trump to disrupt upcoming elections. And he said the county was prepared to fight against it in court, adding that he had contacted other local leaders across the country to warn them. "Fulton County is the poster child here," Pitts said.

# HOME 2

## SUITES BY HILTON

[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)  
105 Travel Center Blvd., Dublin, GA 31021  
478-205-5464



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

**SATURDAY:** 66°  
Cloudy most of the time.  
Sunrise: 7:16 a.m.

**SATURDAY NIGHT:** 49°  
Overcast with late showers.  
Sunset: 6:17 p.m.

**SUNDAY:** 62°  
Mostly cloudy with showers, heavy at times.  
Sunrise: 7:15 a.m.

**SUNDAY NIGHT:** 49°  
Low clouds with a couple of evening showers.  
Sunset: 6:17 p.m.

Monday 2/16 HIGH/LOW 68/41 Times of clouds and sun.	Tuesday 2/17 HIGH/LOW 73/48 Partly sunny and warm.	Wednesday 2/18 HIGH/LOW 76/55 Partly sunny and warm.	Thursday 2/19 HIGH/LOW 78/58 Mostly cloudy and warm.	Friday 2/20 HIGH/LOW 77/57 A possible early shower; otherwise warm with clouds
Sunrise: 7:14 a.m. Sunset: 6:18 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:13 a.m. Sunset: 6:19 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:12 a.m. Sunset: 6:20 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:11 a.m. Sunset: 6:21 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:10 a.m. Sunset: 6:22 p.m.

River levels...  
Oconee (at Dublin) ..... 2.9'  
Ocmulgee (at Macon) ..... 6.3'



## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: A good friend of mine, "Louis," has big problems. He is in his 60s, and although he's 50% disabled, he can still work custodial jobs. His sister, "Gayle," who lives 500 miles away, asked him to move in with her and her husband, saying they would help take care of him.

Louis moved, not realizing his sister was a severe alcoholic. She'd come home from work, have six or eight drinks and become really belligerent with both her husband and Louis. She even gave Louis 30 days to get out of her house. He has nowhere to go because he severed ties with everyone in his prior location.

I loaned Louis enough money to keep him from starving as he tried to find a means of support. He has applied for several custodial jobs. His brother-in-law is a great person but is not strong enough to do anything. Gayle has hit her husband on several occasions. They are at their wits' end and need advice. Gayle refuses to seek any kind of help. -- THERE FOR MY FRIEND IN FLORIDA

DEAR 'THERE': Louis and his brother-in-law might find some support if they start attending Al-Anon or Smart Recovery meetings. Because they are dealing with a raging alcoholic, it may make them feel less isolated.

As to what you should advise Louis about his living situation: Since he burned his bridges in the town from which he relocated and doesn't have the funds to move out of his sister's home, all you can do is continue to listen to him and be as supportive as you can until he finds work. Because Louis is partially disabled, he may qualify for some services and assistance in his new community. Encourage him to look into these potential options further.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law and mother-in-law are going to court against each other. My mother-in-law acknowledges that she wasn't a good mother when her children were younger. My sister-in-law claims her mother was harassing her by dropping off gifts, notes and money on birthdays.

Unfortunately, my fiance and I were dragged into the middle of the situation because we were speaking with both of them prior to the court proceeding. Now, they have both cut us off! I'm pretty sure it was because we wouldn't pick sides, but why should we have to? We love them both.

My fiance had a close relationship with his sister and mother. I know this is hurting him. How can I help bring their relationships back together? My sister-in-law has blocked me from all of her accounts, and if I mail a letter, I'm afraid she will accuse me of harassing her, too. -- TOUGH POSITION IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR TOUGH POSITION: There is no way you can force a reconciliation between two parties who don't want to mend fences. You do not know whether your mother-in-law's motive for dropping off unwanted gifts was to harass her daughter. (It may have been.) My advice is to stay firmly out of the line of fire until after that court case has been resolved.

## SUDOKU



## Fun By The Numbers

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

## Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Dog is different. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Pocket is moved.

## THE Daily Commuter Puzzle

## ACROSS

1 Warning letters online: Abbr.

5 Dummkopf

10 ends

14 Canton's state

15 Civil War winners

16 Steady boyfriend

17 Actor Harmon

18 Struck, Biblically

19 Tardy

20 Promotional

spots

21 Argentina's

capital: 2 wds.

23 Alternate route

25 Rowing machine

26 Winter melons

30 Tin or gold

34 Take a stroll

36 Subtle distinction

38 Sense of self

39 Actor Butterfield

40 Unrefined

41 Lower limb

42 Sibling's

nickname

43 Written message

44 Mulligan

45 Copy and

47 Poet Hesse

49 Journalist

Navarro

51 Shoe cushion

54 National Museum

of Immigration

site: 2 wds.

60 Actor Kilmer

61 Not fake

62 Actress Kelly

63 Thermos brand

64 Spherical hairdo

65 Put into office

66 Narrow cut

67 Celebrity

68 Firmly packed

69 Relay racer's path

## DOWN

1 Wanderer

2 Relish from the

sun

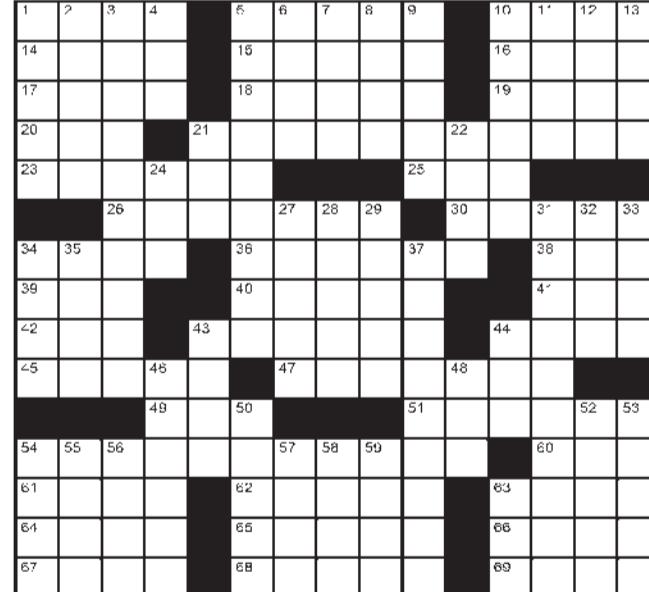
3 Pricy airline

option: 2 wds.

4 Stir-fry pan

5 Aethra's field

Created by Stella Zawistowski



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02/27/25

46 One who alters clothes

48 'What's more...'

50 Prepared to fire

52 Caesar's language

53 Top-class

54 Taylor Swift's Tour

55 Opposite of right

56 "Doctor Zhivago" role

57 Only

58 Property claim

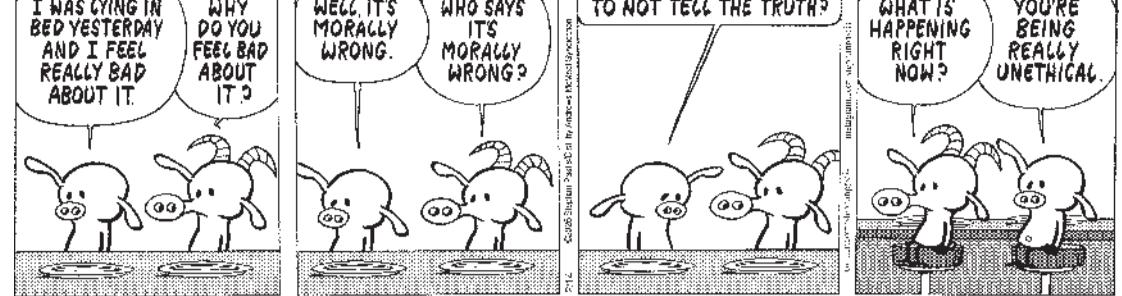
59 Curved paths

63 Fashion monogram:

Abbr.

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEVE PASTIS



## GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



## OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



## DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



## Southern start

In Texas, Georgia, Florida and other southern states, February is the start of garden season.

- It's time for southerners to plant root vegetables, including carrots, beets, and onions sets. Plant your peas if you haven't already, and get your cabbages, kales, and broccoli in the ground.
- Cut back ornamental grasses and dead stalks on perennials.
- Transplant snapdragons and pansies. Direct seed poppies and sweet peas.
- Give the compost pile a flip. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.bhg.com

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Saturday, February 14, 2026

## GOREN BRIDGE

## WITH BOB JONES

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## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

**Q 1** - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A J 5 ♦ A 8 2 ♠ K 10 5 ♣ A J

♠ A K 6 ♦ A 6 5 2 ♠ K 8 5 ♣ 9 7 5

**WEST** **NORTH** **EAST** **SOUTH**  
1♦ Pass 2♠\* Dbl  
3♦ Pass Pass 3♦?  
3♦ Pass Pass ?

What call would you make?

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

♠ Q 10 7 ♦ Q J 6 5 ♠ K 10 6 3 ♣ 7 4

Partner opens 1H and right-hand opponent doubles. What call would you make?

♠ Q 8 6 ♦ 10 9 7 6 3 ♠ K 10 6 ♣ 6 5

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♦ Dbl 1♦ Pass

2♦ 2♦ ?

What call would you make?

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

♠ Q 9 8 7 5 4 ♦ 7 2 ♠ 8 5 ♣ 9 7 6

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

As dealer, what call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

# A few good innings...

Falcons' opener gets away after great start; Raiders, Irish break through with big hits late for early wins

By CLAY REYNOLDS  
Sports Editor

The final score of Monday night's opening game won't show it, but the East Laurens Falcons came away with a lot to feel good about from their first two outings of the new baseball season.

It got off to an unofficial start last Friday as they scrimmaged and defeated Thomson on the road. And that confident, competitive play carried over to the early innings of a regular season debut the first of this week at home.

But a neck-and-neck ballgame, with East and Johnson County tied up at six runs each, came unraveled in the fifth as a good bit of what had plagued some much younger versions of this year's team during the last two seasons reared its ugly head, and the Trojans poured on 16 unanswered runs to win comfortably, 22-6.

"It was four good innings, and the last two we just couldn't throw

a strike," said Falcons head coach Vic Thigpen. "When we did throw a strike, they put the ball in play and we made errors."

As disastrous as it was, Monday's ending didn't at all diminish the noticeable improvement in consistency and composure that was evident in their start to the night.

What could only be seen at certain moments from game to game and inning to inning of a splotchy 2025, in which East Laurens (12-16, 9-9 region 2-High A) showed flashes of its potential amid some drastic ups and downs, was more the norm than the outlier in this performance.

Starting pitcher Conner Lawerence was pounding the zone and challenging hitters. Not every play was there, but the Falcons' defenders were getting to the baseball

and taking care of the routine outs. When mistakes were made, they didn't allow more to pile up and overwhelm them.

At the plate, Eastside hitters made some good contact, came up with a few clutch swings with men in scoring position and put together even more quality at-bats to work walks (three of them for bases-loaded runs).

The home dugout, after many of those key highlights, was buzzing as much as at anytime in recent memory.

Key for this year's Falcons — whose roster isn't huge, but features a lineup serviceable at every spot in the batting order and field,

along with a core of pitchers who can hold their own — will be keeping all that going for seven full innings, and doing so on a regular basis.

Monday's performance still fell a bit short of that benchmark, but for what felt like the first time in a while, it wasn't a long way out of reach for a club that feels strongly about its chances of a strong season if it can shake the habit of beating itself.

"We're good, we just have to work on cleaning up the errors," said Konner O'Neal, one of East's handful of 3-4 year starters re-

**BASEBALL**  
Continued on page 8



'LET'S GO!': A fired-up Logan Gibson (16) and Grayson Edge (15) are welcomed to the plate by Nollan Scott after scoring to put East Laurens back on top 4-2, on the two-RBI single of Sam Wynn, in the bottom of the third inning/CLAY REYNOLDS

## EL ends eventful night with wins over Central

Lowther reflects on 1,000th rebound; Race for No. 1 region tourney seed to be decided in finales for Lady Falcons, WACO Friday

By CLAY REYNOLDS  
Sports Editor

What's the secret to being a great rebounder?

East Laurens senior Deanna Lowther contends it's a matter of effort and determination, more than simply a player's technique alone.

"Never giving up, really just staying up," she said. "Even when you're doing bad, and even if you're at the point where you're not where you're supposed to be, just keep pushing."

The Lady Falcons' gritty forward definitely knows her way around the boards, as their standard-setter in the front court from pretty much her freshman season.

Lowther, who's averaging right at 10 rebounds per game for her career and has led the team in the stat each of the last three seasons (former teammate Jayla Givens had her beat to the top spot by only six tenths of one her freshman year, recently reached a career milestone in the category as she gathered her 1,000th

early in a win at Washington County on Jan. 28.

Hitting that mark in anything — points being the most widely attainable target — is rare to see in the few short years that most high school players get a chance to play at the varsity level.

Typically, you need four full seasons (the max available in the GHSA) to get a good run at the number in scoring alone. And for what it's worth, Lowther — who's been a regular in the Eastside lineup since her start as a freshman — is only about 150 away from making it a potentially legendary double-quadruple in her all-time stats, with just enough potential games left to make it a remote possibility.

But the first half of the accomplishment — one pretty seldom sought out and achieved — might be the more impressive feat of the two.

"I'm gonna be honest, I take a lot of pride in it, because when you're talking about a thousand points, you can get those in 2s and 3s, but with rebounds,

you've got to get them one by one, a thousand times," said Deanna's mom and East Laurens girls head coach Danielle Lowther. "She's probably the first person over here at East Laurens to ever do that. That's just will, skill and want-to to get a rebound, to control a game. It's different, and it's a lot more work than just scoring."

Deanna was recognized for the career exploit between games in Saturday's crosstown tilt against West Laurens, just after the Lady Falcons extended their recent win streak to 11

"It meant a lot," she said. "After a long time, after four years, all my hard work shows."

An early exit for starters with a huge lead in this one meant a cap on her rebounds total at eight, but Deanna got back into double figures (which she's



TIPPING THE SCALES: East Laurens center Deanna Lowther, shown challenging Central's Caylin Mathis for Tuesday's tip-off, has had a significant hand in the Lady Falcons' season-long success as their leader in rebounds and steals, and third-best scorer. The senior also recently achieved a unique feat with her 1,000th career rebound last month/DANNY SCARBORO

done 15 times in 24 games this season) with 17 as the East Laurens girls returned home Tuesday night, and held off Central Macon, 41-38, to record a 12th in a row. The Falcon boys prevailed 75-63 to complete the sweep in their final home games of the regular season... though perhaps not the last before the state playoffs, as a slight chance still remains that the Eastside might get to host the final rounds of

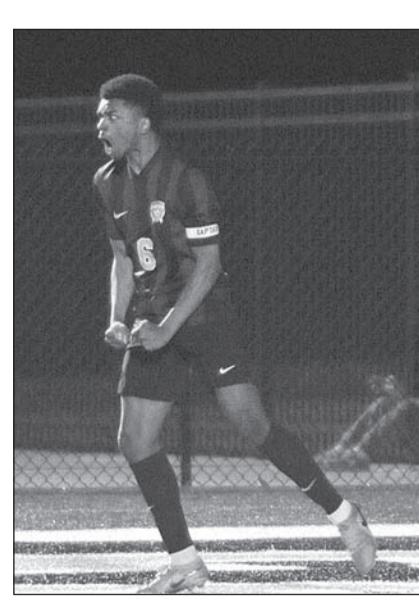
next week's region 2-High A tournament.

The honors, this year, go out to the No. 1 seed on the girls' side.

And the Lady Falcons, already a shoo-in for at least the triple-bye and automatic state playoff berth that come with one of the top two spots in the bracket, are pretty much dead even

**HOOPS**

Continued on page 8



## RIGHT BACK AT YA: FALCON BOYS TURN LAST-MINUTE 2-FOR-1 TO TOP TIGERS

De'Avion Rountree (3, left) scored to put Swainsboro's boys soccer team up 2-1 late in Tuesday's second half, but the Tigers couldn't get back down from the post-goal high quickly enough with eight good minutes still to play in a season-opening match against East Laurens. The Falcons, catching them flat-footed, took the ball right down the field on the ensuing kick, and Kamari LaGron (6, right) knocked home a shot (center) in under a few seconds to re-tie the match. East's Lerri Lopez, off of a corner not a minute later, got one to bounce in off the hands of the Swainsboro keeper, and the Falcons held the 3-2 lead for the remaining time to leave the Tigers. Things didn't go as well on the early side of the split for the Eastside girls, who fell 11-2. Both teams returned to action Thursday against Toombs County. Read more from both sets of matches, and the rest of this week's opening-week soccer action around the county, in Tuesday's edition or online at [courierheraldtoday.com/sports](http://courierheraldtoday.com/sports)/CLAY REYNOLDS

## GIAA REGION 2-AA TOURNAMENT

Lady C's get all of Gatewood, advance to title game for Friday rematch vs. B'wood

By JEREMY PAYNE  
Correspondent

Both Trinity basketball teams avoided the play-in round of this week's region 2-AA tournament, and played in the 2-v-3 matchups Thursday afternoon at Brentwood School.

The Lady Crusaders rolled to a spot in the finals with a 57-33 win over Gatewood, but the boys were unable to follow suit as they were blown out by a short-handed Central Fellowship squad 74-44.

After splitting two tight games with the Lady Gators in the regular season, Trinity's girls left little to chance in this one.

The Lady Crusaders jumped out to an 18-6 lead after one quarter and never looked back.

They pushed the lead to nearly 20 at the half as they outscored Gatewood again, 16-10, in the second quarter for a score of 34-16.

Trinity really put the game away in the third as its defense clamped down again to hold Gatewood to just seven. The Lady Crusaders scored 16 of their own to take a commanding 50-23 lead into the fourth.

The Lady Gators matched their best quarter with 10, while Trinity scored only seven with its bench, but the game was well in hand.

Brinley Vinson led Trinity with 19 and Maddy George added 13 to lead the way.

The Lady Crusaders (18-8, 5-3 region 2-AA) will face Brentwood, which defeated CFCA 43-40, in the region championship game Friday night at 6 p.m.

Despite entering the tournament on a three-game losing streak, the Crusader boys had some hope in Thursday's semifinal because Central Fellowship's two leading scorers are apparently no longer with the team.

Unfortunately, those hopes were dashed quickly.

The Lancers jumped out to a 21-5 lead after the first quarter, and were never challenged by the Crusaders in a rout.

Trinity did manage 16 in the second quarter, but CFCA scored 21 again to make the score 42-21 at the half. The deficit grew even larger in the third as the Lancers outscored Trinity again, 16-8, to make it 58-29 headed to the fourth.

The last quarter was just six minutes, and while Trinity scored 15, CFCA again scored 16 to roll into the region finals, where it will take on the top seed Brentwood.

Jagger George led Trinity with 18 and Will Foskey added nine.

Febien Journey led a balanced Lancer attack with 14. Sirron Chambers had 13, Abram Austin had 12, Judson Walls added 11 and Deshonvaris Lundy finished with 10.

The Crusaders (10-15, 3-5 region) will now face Windsor in the third-place game, potentially needing a win to secure a spot in next week's state tournament.

Current rankings have them right on the bubble, one away from the cutoff in the 12-team AA bracket at No. 10.

## HOOPS

Continued from page 7

with co-leader Washington County in the race to claim that driver's seat.

The two squads, who each beat each other once, and both times by eight, are so deadlocked in first place that unless either team weeds itself out with a loss in Friday's region finales – as both go on the road to Macon, East to take on Northeast and WACO to play ACE – there's no remaining tie-breaker in the by-laws besides a good old-fashioned coin toss to separate them.

The quarter, as both contenders commenced to odd-man in advance at Wednesday's region meetings to lay out plans for next week's tournament, came up favoring the Golden Hawks... which means the Lady Falcons will be pulling for the Gryphons from across town as they try to take care of business.

Though some home-court accommodations in the event – a luxury that fate has denied East Laurens for much of recent memory – would be preferable, they're plenty excited to be in their current position, with a better record (21-3, 11-1 region) and stronger standing than they had at this point last year, before runs to the region championship and state semifinals.

That fact carries a great sense of gratification for a program that was able to reload in the strongest sense, and build a new core of players back into a contender with the same amount of confidence and chemistry.

"When we lost the twins and Jayla, everybody was like, 'Y'all are gonna be sorry,' but we know the work we put in over here," Coach Lowther said. "Gary(unna Mitchell) came in and took over. She's doing very well as a freshman, then the other ones, Jameria (Bing) stepping up and doing some good stuff too, and leading us that way as a senior. Then Deanna's been doing what she's doing. And everybody else is just playing a role. They're having fun. They like each other. They're like sisters, and it shows on the court."

## 'An unfortunate situation'

With Tuesday night's games came some larger concerns than the region race, as the Falcons' senior night celebration was marred by an ugly brawl that broke out as time expired in the girls' game.

The fourth quarter was



STRETCHING THE LEAD: Kelvion King uses his extensive wingspan to reach for a reverse layup, and one of the numerous baskets that helped lengthen the Falcons' huge first-half advantage/DANNY SCARBORO

down to its final seconds as two players got into it while grappling for a held ball.

A whistle sounded to stop play, and the clock froze at :3 left, just as a spectator ran onto the floor from the home seating area and struck the Central player that was involved in the brief shoving match.

A larger confrontation ensued as additional players got involved, and coaches and law enforcement officers intervened to calm things down. Tensions cooled for a few moments, but as other fans entered the floor – one from the visiting side in particular storming on to confront an East Laurens player – several other spats broke out that led to pockets of pushing and shoving in a big crowd flocking to the corner of the gym behind the home bench.

After several minutes, administrators and sheriff's deputies had managed to restrain identified brawlers and escort them from the building, and the congregation dispersed.

What fraction of the game that remained was called, although senior night recognitions planned between games had to be put on hold until a man who collapsed with a medical condition while leaving the floor could be attended to.

An initial report released by the Laurens County Sheriff's Office Wednesday listed charges of disorderly conduct and battery that were pending for three men involved in the fray, but did not indicate any arrests had yet been made.

It was unclear at press time whether the GHSA might levy any penalties or

suspensions for members of either team going forward.

"It's just an unfortunate situation," Coach Lowther said. "We'll wait and see what Georgia High School does."

Though the East Laurens girls held the lead for most of the game, some late runs by the Chargers tightened things up enough to bring about the tense ending, and a consequential last few seconds with Central fighting to regain possession one more time as tempers flared in the heat of the game's last moment.

The Lady Falcons added two onto their five-point lead from the break in a low-scoring third quarter.

Things picked up in the final eight just in time for the visitors, who rattled off six unanswered points in a two-minute span to even it at 31 with three and a half minutes to go.

Zahmaria Robinson's tip-back basket with 1:11 left flipped a one-point East-side deficit back into a permanent lead. And the rest of the game's scoring came at the free throw line as the Chargers, after mutual stops, were forced to begin fouling when East squeezed them into a turnover near midcourt.

A subsequent Central technical foul led to two final Falcon shooting opportunities that yielded the last two points in their victory margin.

"We didn't play like we normally play," Coach Lowther said. "I think it was all the emotions. But we fought back in the end, we were up by 10 at one point and let them get back in it, and then still fought back.

That's what I told the girls, I was proud of that, that we didn't fold, we still came out on top."

Robinson posted a 12-point, 10-rebound double-double, with five assists and four steals tacked on, to lead East Laurens.

Mitchell added 10 points, and Bing scored nine. The pair had seven rebounds each.

The Lady Falcons are hopeful Friday's trip to Northeast will bring a more consistent, cohesive effort than Tuesday's somewhat out-of-character showing.

"Well, first things first, we want to make sure all of our players are going to be here," Coach Lowther said. "The second thing is we've got play defense and score like we're supposed to. Our big three's gotta make sure they continue to be our big three. Jameria, Gary and Deanna. Then everybody else has gotta play their role."

The East Laurens boys (19-5, 9-3 region) ran into some similar issues late in their matchup, as Central rallied back from a lopsided first-half to make it a competitive finish.

The Falcons scored the first 13, and had the Chargers down double digits for most of the first three quarters.

Central would figure things out, shaving the deficit from 15 at the half down to 12 going to the fourth, then hitting an eight-point run just a couple minutes in to cut it all the way to eight.

The number would be thrice narrowed to six near the four-minute mark, and once cut to four around two minutes to go.

But a bounty of free throws in the remaining time allowed the Falcons to regain most of the cushion as the Chargers' time and momentum ran out.

## Cross Creek 39, West Laurens girls 15

A Demmie Moss free throw at the end of a scoreless first minute put the Lady Raiders (12-12, 9-7 region 4-AAA) on the board first, but the first chapter of their really long night would kick in from there as Cross Creek scored 15 in a row before a first West Laurens field goal, from 3, by Leah Wells with 90 seconds left in the first.

The Razorbacks ran out to a 19-4 lead by the end of the quarter, and ground out a 6-3 advantage in the second before putting the game away with a 17-0 shutout in the third.

## Cross Creek 103, West Laurens 40

Baldwin's runners-up in the final 4-AAA regular-season standings scored with ease, and gleaming polish in their offensive sets, on the way out to leads of 30-10 at the quarter, and 65-23 by the half.

Cross Creek's assorted defensive looks included multiple flavors of full-court pressure, though its half-court D, with the 6-foot-6 A.J. Luke anchoring the middle, did more than enough to keep West Laurens (4-21, 2-14 region) from locating its rhythm.

The Razorbacks kept hoof on the gas pedal, and starters in at full go, to break 80 in the reduced third quarter. Reserves added 26 in the fourth to "bust the clock."

## Bleckley Co. 48, Dublin girls 38

The Lady Royals outran Dublin (11-13, 5-7 region 2-High A) by eight points in the second half to pull free in a close game.

Kalyria Jones (13) and Camya Harris (11) made double figures for Bleckley. Khalil Maddox had 14, and Jordan Renfroe eight for the Lady Irish lead. Keasia Jackson also brought in 11 rebounds.

## Bleckley Co. 44, Dublin boys 39

The Irish offense picked up along with the pace of scoring in an interesting fourth quarter, but three really slow ones to start the game were too much to overcome as Bleckley held off their threats down the stretch.

Chris Dixon scored 10, Jaydon McRae nine and Glen Harris eight to help keep Dublin within striking distance. But the Irish (4-19, 0-12 region) had only 17 rebounds. QuanTavis Lovett chalked up eight of them, and blocked two shots.

## Next...

Dublin visits Central and East Laurens travels to Northeast to conclude the regular season Friday night in Macon.

West Laurens, whose teams are already in the clubhouse, now looks ahead to the 4-AAA tournament, which begins for the eighth-seeded Raider boys Monday at No. 5 Hepzibah. Their girls, seeded fourth, will play Monday's winner between No. 8 Aquinas and No. 5 Harlem Tuesday at Westside-Augusta.

## SCOREBOARD

## GIRLS HOOPS

Thursday

Trinity 57, Gatewood 33

## BOYS HOOPS

Thursday

Central Fellowship 74, Trinity 44

## BASEBALL

Thursday

Johnson Co. 3, Dublin 2 (8 innings)

West Laurens 16, Aquinas 4

## GIRLS SOCCER

Thursday

WL 7, Howard 0

Toombs Co. 9, East Laurens 1

## BOYS SOCCER

Thursday

WL 2, Howard 1

Toombs Co. 5, EL 1

## PREP

## SCHEDULE

## BASKETBALL

Friday

Dublin at Central Macon

## East Laurens at

Northeast Macon/6 p.m.

GIAA 2-AA Tournament (at Brentwood)

Trinity (boys) vs. Windsor (consolation)/4:30 p.m.

Trinity (girls) at Brentwood (finals)/6 p.m.

## GHSA 4-AAA Tournament

Monday

WL (boys) at Hepzibah/7:30 p.m.

## Tuesday

WL (girls) vs. Aquinas or

Harlem (at Westside)/6 p.m.

## BASEBALL

Friday

Bacon Co. at EL (doubleheader)/4 p.m.

Swainsboro at Dublin/6 p.m.

## Monday

EL at Johnson Co.

WL at Veterans/6 p.m.

## Tuesday

Richmond Academy at WL/5:30 p.m.

Dublin at EL/6 p.m.

## Thursday

Toombs Co. at Dublin/5:30 p.m.

## Friday, Feb. 20

WL at ARC/5:30 p.m.

EL at Dublin/6 p.m.

## SOCCER

Tuesday

Dublin at Jefferson Co./5:30 p.m.

## Thursday

EL at Wheeler Co./5 p.m.

## Friday, Feb. 20

EL at Hawkinsville/5 p.m.

Harlem at WL/5:30 p.m.

## CONTACT US:

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

## BULLETIN BOARD...

Registration is under way for the East Dublin Recreation Department's 2026 boys baseball and girls fastpitch softball season, open to any

Laurens County resident ages 4-14. Sign-up forms are due along with \$50-per-child registration fee (scholarships are available for families with more than one player) to East

Dublin City Hall by 5 p.m. Feb. 16. Call or text Dawn

Wood at (478) 609-4381 for more information.

## BASEBALL

Continued from page 7

turning as a member of this year's senior class. "Our hitting isn't bad... The other day and we hit pretty good, we just didn't take it all into that one game."

His 4-for-4 line came a triple short of the cycle, while Lawrence, Grayson Edge and Logan Gibson collected three hits each of the team's 17 (against only five given up by the pitching tandem of Edge and Jakeb Logue) in Friday's drubbing of Thomson.

"We looked really really good," Thigpen said. "We hit the ball well and had good pitching. We started two sophomores, they pitched really well and we had good defense."

Despite coming back with only six base hits to counter JoCo's 14 on Monday, East Laurens created what it needed at the plate to stay in it early, with Edge and Sam Wynn chalking up two knocks each, Wynn's for a pivotal RBI in the four-run third inning that was the biggest of the night.

Lawrence was the tone-setter on the hill, and showed as much seasoning and competitive edge as anyone on the field as he pumped his fastball by a pair of Trojans each for strikeouts in scoreless first



GUNSLINGER: East Laurens ace Conner Lawrence, wearing a Doc Holliday-style mustache to boot, was your huckleberry in Monday's opening day start. The senior hit his mark for strikes with a lively fastball, and struck out nine in his four innings of work/CLAY REYNOLDS

and second innings.

Location wavered a bit in the latter two of his start, as JoCo loaded the bases on walks, and chased home two on hits by Beau Bryan and Chance Womble in the third to take the lead. Some errors in the field caused a similar situation to develop in the fourth as JoCo picked up three hits and a few more freebies to score four and do the same.

Both times, Lawrence and the Falcons got the inning back under control, and got out of it. But with his pitch count nearing the 90s by the end

of four, the Falcons were forced to move on to Wynn and Cade Oliver from their bullpen, and the two subsequent frames would both get out of hand.

"Once we did that, a lot of walks and errors hurt us," Thigpen said. "We've gotta get better, and I think we will. It was hopefully just the first-game jitters."

The Falcons chased the Trojan starter Womble from the game in the bottom of the fourth, when a passed ball scored Lawrence to re-tie the game, but were pretty much shut down the rest of the way by Nathan

Turberville, who brought that inning to a quick end and tossed up two more scoreless frames to finish it up after the JoCo lead had skyrocketed in the fifth and sixth.

The Trojans' Tailyn Norris finished the night 4-for-4 with two RBIs, and Womble, Turberville and Blake Glenn added two hits each.

## West Laurens 10, Aquinas 1

## FROM THE RECORD

**Marriages:** Hunter Gregory Thrasher to McKenna Grace Coleman; Prentice Mandel Beauchamp to Davannah Shamica Smith; James Byron Spires to Ashley Anna Marie Persall

**Complaint for divorce:** Tina Jones v. Carl Jones

**Paternity/legitimation:** Jared Warren v. Cassidy Ballew

**Complaint for legitimation, custody & child support:** Leroy Mack v. Leeann Dwyer

**Contract:** Bank of America N.A. v. Mario Webb; Southwood Financial Trust v. Alexandria & Aliah James; Jefferson Capital Systems LLC v. Nishika Williams; Preferred Capital Funding v. Gregory Smith; Capital One v. Jennifer Anderson

**Affidavit for foreclosure of personal property:** Word Omni Financial Corp. v. Regina Gibson

**Affidavit for continuing garnishment:** One main Financial Group v. Reginald Jones & Ryland Environmental Inc.; Midland Credit v. Tamika Miles & Middle Georgia Business Products; Capital One v. Roy Grenade & Dublin First Methodist Church Inc. Midland Credit v. Joshua Prater & Hitchiti Mobile Home Park

**Automobile tort:** Zycheria Beck v. Carissa Hall; Zycheria Beck as parent for Za'Varrien Beck v. Carissa Hall x2; Regie Jenkins v. Carissa Hall; William Sisk v. Dixie Auto Sales & Kari Santiago

**Real property:** Dept./Transportation v. Rebecca Humphrey, American Advisors Group and Comm. of Housing

**Petition for review - appeal from magistrate court:** Darrell Edge v. Peyton ONeal

**Complaint:** Three Rivers Remodeling v. Pecan Ridge TIC One & Pecan Ridge TIC Two; Three Rivers Remodeling v. Claxton Pointe North TIC One & Claxton Pointe North TIC Two

**Complaint - contempt:** Ga DHS ex rel Asiana Anderson v. Juwone Anderson

**Motion to add Child(ren) to existing order:** Ga DHS ex rel Cayden Stanley v. Albert Stanley

**Contempt - child support:** Ga DHS ex rel Shasquale Nelson v. Anthony Carswell; Ga DHS ex rel Blakley Cox v. Jesse Cox; Ga DHS ex rel Evan Guyton et al v. Anthony Guyton; Ga

DHS ex rel Antonio J. Guyton v. Anthony Guyton

**Complaint - child support:** Ga DHS ex rel Demari Seals et al v. Demaris Seals

**Modification - child support:** Ga DHS ex rel Legacy Hodges et al v. Tyke Hodges

**Liens:** Anthony Ronald Hall to Fairview Park Hospital; Ja'Quan Bennett to US Auto Credit Purchasing Center LLC; Dell Rico Allen to First Franklin Financial; Morriston Abram Walker to First Laurens Fin. Corp; Laquisha Howard to Crown Asset Management LLC; Teresa Helton to Mariner Finance LLC; Victoria B. Johnson to JP Morgan Chase Bank NA; Jessica Soles to Houston Medical Center; Perry E. Quinn to Midland Credit Management Inc. Derrick Tharpe to US Auto Credit Purchasing Center LLC d/b/s US Auto Credit; Thomas Walker to Bank of America; Destiny Wicker to Jefferson Capital Systems LLC; Jennifer A. Psomas to Credit Acceptance Corporation; Terri Dixon to Midland Credit Management Inc.

**Warranty deed:** R&B Properties to Stephen Anthony Perry and Jayda Nichole Perry; Express Oil Change LLC to CG Dev KPA LLC; Doyle Robert Foskey to Foskey Enterprises LLC; BWN Properties LLC to David Ritchie; Berhat Investments Inc. to Jackson Williamson and Victoria Williamson; Myra Childers and Dan Childers to Trust, dated Feb. 3 2026 executor of the Roscoe Childers Estate; Myra Childers to Jerry Childers; Dwayne Knight aka Dwayne Knight to Alex D. Knight and Caitlyn Jo. Knight; John Warthen Chappell Jr. to Deer Pineyards LLC; John Warthen Chappell Jr. to Chappell Family Holdings LLC; John Warthen Chappell Jr. Mag-

nolia Rental Properties LLC; John Warthen Chappell Jr. to Mulberry Place Subdivision LLC; John Warthen Chappell Jr. to John Warthen Chappell Jr. and Rebecca Ragan Chappell trustees of the Chappell Family revocable living trust; John Warthen Chappell Jr. to Montrose Solar LLC; George Lee Taylor to George Lee Taylor and Gerry E. Taylor; Alpa M. Vakharia and Manoj R. Vakharia to Shri Krishna Vallabha Inc.; Lucas Land LLC to Cristina Williams Paul W. Brooks and Ashley Paige Brooks to David Lee Losey II and Karen Sue Losey; Johanne Medidor Dorsainvil to Joseph Mathews Jr.; WJH LLC to Michelle Hendley; M&SPC Properties Inc. to Takerielle T. Travis and Jared T. Quarterman; Chris Chappell to CHCH Property Holding LLC; Wallace E. Miller Family partnership LP to Robert Family Estate LLC; Chandley Investments LLC to David Grayson Toler; Earl D. Turner to Universal Maintenance Supply LLC; Cole H. Miller to Roy Gene Miller to Roy Gene Stuckey; Lanier Capital Group LLC to Edmond Hutt; Seth Andrew Sitzman and Anna Sitzman to Donald Joe Brown and Sharon Kay Perkins; Cynthia K. Sheffield to Cynthia K. Tant; Hinesville Home Center Inc. to Stephanie Jean Mayer; Country Lots LLC to Danyelle Pauline Smith; Rosemary Bergeron Johnson to Chris Woodward; John C. Thomas, Colleen Hunter, Patricia Thomas and Angela Wilson to Robert Lee Law Jr. and Gwendolyn Latimore Law; Anthony David Kirkland and Denise Keels to Hambrs LLC; Hugh Gibbs Flanders Fr. to Kevin Baggett trustee of the Kevin Hugh Baggett living trust; Francis Dalia to Michael James Ahearn; Willie Foster trustee of the Artis Lee Watkins revocable living trust

**Security deed:** Stephen Anthony Perry and

Jayda Nichole Perry to Bank of Dudley; Foskey Enterprises LLC to Bank of Dudley; David Ritchie to Guild Mortgage Company LLC; Dyes Home Builders Inc. to Morris Bank x2; Eleazer Epps Jr. to Mortgage Research Center LLC d/b/s Veterans United Home Loans; Tonya L. Hudson to Rockett Mortgage LLC; Slater Farms LLC to Georgia First Bank; Jackson Williamson and Victoria Williamson to Sunmark Community Bank; The Towers LLC to Barclays Bank PLC; Donnie M. Taylor and Leaser Taylor to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Cincere Properties LLC to First Laurens Bank; David Lee Losey II and Karen Sue Losey to Banksouth Mortgage Company LLC; Scott L. Hall and

Caroline M. Hall to Rocket Mortgage LLC; Christopher Scrivner and Loren Woods Scrivner; Michelle Hendley to Inspire Home Loans Inc.; Christopher Scrivner and Loren Woods Scrivner to Emporium TPO LLC; Tkerielle T. Travis and Jared Quarterman to Towne Mortgage Company; Joshua A. Satterwhite and Crystal M. Satterwhite to First Federal Bank; Michael Thomas to Mortgage Research Center LLC d/b/s Veterans United Home Loans; David Joshua Scott to Bank of Dudley; David Grayson Toler to Robins Financial Credit Union; Universal Maintenance Supply LLC to Georgia First Bank; April Jamie Finley and Jason Finley to Planet Home Lending LLC; Edmond Hutt to Mortgage Research LLC

dba Veterans United Homes Loans; Donald Joe Brown and Sharon Kay Perkins to Plaza Home Mortgage Inc.; Wayne Robert Bland Jr., Cynthia Ann fka Cynthia Ann Dellinger to Farmers State Bank; Deborah Johnston and Joshua Johnston to Crosscountry Mortgage LLC; Donovan Otis Cooper to Bank of Dudley; K&J Services LLC to Citizens Bank of Laurens County; Richard Breedlove to Lend-A-Loan LLC; Stephanie Jean Mayer to 21st Mortgage Corporation; Alisa Elliott to First Laurens Bank; Danyelle Pauline Smith to 21st Mortgage Corporation; Manning Holding LLC to Georgia First Bank; Kevin Baggett, trustee of the Kevin Hugh Baggett living trust to Hugh Gibbs Flanders Jr.

## INVITATION TO BID

The Dublin Housing Authority will receive sealed bids in the James W. Strickland Boardroom at the Dublin Housing Authority, 500 W. Mary Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021, until 3:00 P.M., at the time legally prevailing in Dublin, Georgia, on Thursday, March 12, 2026, for the **JOHN A. BELL HOMES – HVAC RENOVATIONS** for the Dublin Housing Authority, located in Dublin, Georgia. At the time and place noted above, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. No bids or bid bonds by facsimile (fax) will be allowed.

Bid documents may be obtained through the office of the Architect, BTBB inc., 609 Cherry Street, Suite A / Macon, Georgia 31201 / Phone (478) 742-1208.

- Bid documents will be provided electronically by the Architect in PDF format to interested bidders.
- The Bid Documents provided by the Architect contain a full and complete set of plans and specifications for bidding this project. Bidders shall examine all bid documents carefully in order to prepare a complete bid for the project.
- All parties receiving Bid Documents are deemed by receipt to acknowledge the Architect's copyright to the documents contained on the Bid Documents. The documents may be used only for the purpose of preparing a bid for the **JOHN A. BELL HOMES – HVAC RENOVATIONS** for the Dublin Housing Authority. Use of these documents for any other purpose is not permitted under any circumstances.

A project site visit has been scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., beginning at 503 Williams Street, Dublin, Georgia. The site visit is not mandatory but recommended so contractors and subcontractors may examine the existing buildings and areas affected by the work of this project.

Contract, if awarded, will be on lump sum basis. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after time has been called on date of bid opening. Bids must be accompanied by a bid bond or certified check made payable to the Dublin Housing Authority, in amount not less than 5% of the base bid. Both a Performance and Payment Bond will be required in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price.

Attention is called to the provisions for equal employment opportunity and to the requirement that not less than minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.

The Dublin Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informality in the bidding.

DUBLIN HOUSING AUTHORITY

BY: BRENDA B. SMITH, PHM - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mary Frances Early  
College of Education  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

## Do You Work or Live in Dublin-Laurens County?

We want to hear from you! The Dublin-Laurens County Chamber Community 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. Your insights will help inform future decisions and planning to better support families, educators, and your community.

[Survey Details >>](#)

- ✓ Online & Anonymous
- ✓ Takes only 15-20 minutes
- ✓ Opportunity to win one of five \$100 prepaid Visa Gift Cards
- ✓ Take the survey here:  
<https://uga.questionpro.com/DLCsurvey>

[Questions? >>](#)

Contact Erin Hamel, Ph.D  
Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Psychology

[erin.hamel@uga.edu](mailto:erin.hamel@uga.edu)



## Minimum speed limit on Georgia highways could rise by 10 mph

By MARK NIESSE  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Get out of the way, slow drivers. The minimum speed limit on Georgia highways might increase to 50 mph.

Georgia lawmakers are considering raising the speedy minimum speed limit from 40 mph as a safety measure to reduce crashes caused by disparities in

**HIGHWAYS**

Continued on page 11

Archway Partnership  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Dublin-Laurens County  
CHAMBER  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## CLASSIFIEDS

## Employment

## MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

The City of Dublin is accepting applications for a Supervisor of the Mechanical Maintenance Department. This employee supervises and participates in servicing and maintenance of a variety of automotive and industrial equipment. Work involves the supervision of mechanics and automotive service workers engaged in the servicing of automotive and industrial equipment. The position is responsible for managing the maintenance shop including the scheduling of incoming work and determining how work should be done within established policies and procedures. Work is performed under the direction of the Public Works Director. Applicants must have a valid Georgia commercial drivers license, high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED), and will be required to furnish own tools. Successful applicant must pass a drug screen. Salary range is from \$48,864.00 - \$75,740.00 and will be based on experience. An extensive fringe benefit package including health, dental and life insurance is also offered.

Applicants may apply online through our [www.cityofdublin.org](http://www.cityofdublin.org) website until position is filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Yard/Estate Sales

## Estate Sale – Phase 4 Art Sale

Home décor, collectibles, frames & more! Stunning new pieces of art never seen! We still have lots at 75% OFF! 202 South Calhoun St., Dublin, GA 31021  
Thurs, Feb 12th 9a-5p  
Fri, Feb 13th 9a-6p  
Sat, Feb 14th 10a-3p  
Sun, Feb 15th 1p-4p 50% off  
Mon, Feb 16th 10a-2p 50% off

## Real Estate

## Land For Sale

4-25+ ACRE Tracts on Hwy 80 East, Adrian GA: 2 parcels with pond; 2 parcels with pecan orchard and pasture. Abundant Deer & Turkey: \$225,500. Brokers welcome 478-957-9734 owner

## Legals

## 26-030

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF LAURENS  
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID  
STATE AND COUNTY  
IN RE: ESTATE OF GREGORY HUL-  
TQUIST  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBT-  
ORS

All creditors of the estate of **GREGORY HULTQUIST** deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me. This 16th Day of January, 2026  
Emily F. Kight  
Attorney for the Estate of **GREGORY HULTQUIST**  
Kight Law, LLC  
P.O. Box 2056  
Dublin, Ga. 31040  
January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 2026

## 26-063

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF  
LAURENS COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY WILSON  
KENNEDY, DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. 26-16  
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMIN-  
ISTRATION  
NOTICE

TO: whom it may concern:  
JAMES ALBERT HOOD has petitioned for JAMES ALBERT HOOD to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of JIMMY WILSON KENNEDY deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Genoa O. Jackson  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: CWarren  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
PO Box 2098  
Dublin, GA 31040  
Address  
478-272-2566  
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

## 26-054

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF  
LAURENS COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARIE ROGERS DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. 26-01  
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINIS-  
TRATION NOTICE

TO: SHARMEN RODGERS and to whom it may concern:  
RAKENDRICK ROGERS has petitioned for RAKENDRICK ROGERS to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of MARIE ROGERS, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a

hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Genoa O. Jackson  
Judge of the Probate Court

By: CWarren  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
PO Box 2098  
Dublin, GA 31040  
478-272-2566

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

## 26-061

MAGISTRATE COURT OF LAURENS  
COUNTY, GEORGIA

Date Filed: 1/22/2026

Case No: MC26-0255

Tanner Service Center Inc,  
746 Central Drive  
East Dublin, GA 31027

Plaintiff

vs

**One Main Financial**

1634 Veterans Blvd, Ste D  
Dublin, GA 31021

Lien Holder

**Motor Vehicle Description and VIN**

2005 Honda Element

PMR5572 GA

5J6YH18645L000884

**OneMain Financial Group LLC**

P.O. Box 278

Wilmington, OH 451770278

Lien holders Notified

**ORDER ON THE PETITION FOR  
ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE LIEN  
FORECLOSURE**

The above-referenced petition coming before this Court for a motion for judgment pursuant to O.C.G.A. 40-11-19.1(d) a hearing on the merits pursuant to O.C.G.A. 40-11-91.1 (e), and the Court further finding that the petition should be granted.

THIS COURT HEREBY ORDERS that the lien be foreclosed on the above-referenced vehicle for the following amounts:

Removal (towing) fee: \$298.00

Storage: \$4,983.00

Total: \$5281.00

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the vehicle shall be sold at public auction to satisfy this lien in accordance with O.C.G.A. 40-11-19.2.

**ANSWER TO PETITION FOR ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE LIEN FORECLOSURE**

NOW COME RESPONDENT, Owner of the above-referenced vehicle, and files this answer to the petition to foreclosure lien on the above-referenced abandoned motor vehicle.

Owner Name: One Main Financial

Owner Address: 1634 Veterans Blvd, Ste D, Dublin, GA 31021/OneMain Financial Group LLC P.O. Box 278 Wilmington, OH 451770278

Date owner obtained an interest in the motor vehicle:

check all that apply, and explain in the space provided:

The towing or storage was not authorized to remove the vehicle for the following reasons:

The lien claimed in not valid because:

Additional facts that support why the lien should not be foreclosed upon:

I dispute the following charges:

THEFORE, Respondent prays for a hearing on all relevant issues within ten (10) days.

February 7, 14, 2026

## 26-066

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION  
OFFICE OF  
TANYA L. ROGERS,  
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT  
LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA

**PERSONNALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT: O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES INC**

233 S PATTERSON SPRINGFIELD, MO 65801

IS/A/DOING BUSINESS IN LAURENS COUNTY, GA., UNDER THE NAME OF:  
TRADE NAME: O'REILLY'S AUTO PARTS 5313

ADDRESS: 2412 US HIGHWAY 80 W DUBLIN, GA 31021

AND THAT THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE CARRIED ON AT SUCH ADDRESS IS: RETAIL AUTO PARTS AND RELATED SUPPLIES

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 23 DAY OF January, 2026.

Lana Tanner

NOTARY PUBLIC

February 7, 14, 2026

## 26-067

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION  
OFFICE OF

TANYA L. ROGERS,  
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT

LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA

**PERSONNALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT: O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES INC**

233 S PATTERSON SPRINGFIELD, MO 65801

IS/A/DOING BUSINESS IN LAURENS COUNTY, GA., UNDER THE NAME OF:  
TRADE NAME: O'REILLY'S AUTO PARTS 1461

ADDRESS: 706 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET, DUBLIN, GA 31021

AND THAT THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE CARRIED ON AT SUCH ADDRESS IS: RETAIL AUTO PARTS AND RELATED SUPPLIES

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 23 DAY OF January, 2026.

Lana Tanner

NOTARY PUBLIC

February 7, 14, 2026

## 26-044

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDI-  
TORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF LAURENS

IN RE: ESTATE OF Charles E. Scar-  
brough, Deceased

All creditors of the Estate of Charles E. Scarbrough, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all person indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

Mary E. Scarbrough

Executor of Charles E. Scarbrough, deceased

1573 Buckeye Road, Dublin, Georgia 31027.

O.C.G.A 53-7-41 states:

"...Every personal representative shall, within 60 days from the date of qualification, publish a notice directed generally to all of the creditors of the estate to render an account of their demands. The notice shall be published once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified..."

January 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 21,

2026

## 26-054

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF

LAURENS COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARIE ROGERS DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 26-01

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINIS-  
TRATION NOTICE

TO: SHARMEN RODGERS and to whom it may concern:

RAKENDRICK ROGERS has petitioned for RAKENDRICK ROGERS to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of MARIE ROGERS, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a

hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Genoa O. Jackson  
Judge of the Probate Court

By: CWarren

Clerk of the Probate Court

PO Box 2098

DUBLIN, GA 31040

478-272-2566

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

## 26-062

MAGISTRATE COURT OF LAURENS  
COUNTY, GEORGIA

Date Filed: 1/22/2026

Case No: MC26-0255

Tanner Service Center Inc,

746 Central Drive

East Dublin, GA 31027

Plaintiff

vs

**One Main Financial**

1634 Veterans Blvd, Ste D

Dublin, GA 31021

Lien Holder

**Motor Vehicle Description and VIN**

2005 Honda Element

PMR5572 GA

5J6YH18645L000884</

First Laurens Bank  
Attorney-in-Fact for  
Stonewalk Dublin RPMP LLC  
Edward B. Claxton III  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 16459  
Dublin, Georgia 31040  
478-272-9965  
ebatty@bellsouth.net  
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-056  
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF LAURENS  
IN RE: ESTATE OF Elizabeth Kellam,  
DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Elizabeth Kellam, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

Juanita K. Harvey  
Executor of Elizabeth Kellam, deceased

979 Salters Square East Dublin, GA 31027

O.C.G.A. § 53-7-41 states:

"Every personal representative shall, within 60 days from the date of qualification, publish a notice directed generally to all of the creditors of the estate to render an account of their demands. The notice shall be published once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified"

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-065  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY.  
IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN LEONARD POWELL, JR.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

All creditors of the Estate of JOHN LEONARD POWELL, JR., deceased, late of Laurens County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are hereby notified to make immediate payment.

CARRON D. POWELL and CONNIE L. SCOTT, CO-EXECUTORS

Joseph C. Sumner, Jr., LLC

Post Office Drawer 248

Dublin, Georgia 31040

(478) 272-7933

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-070  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTIFICATION OF FORMAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Region 9 Workforce Development Board (WDB) in cooperation with the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission, is soliciting a Request for Proposals (RFP). The purpose of the RFP is to identify an appropriate service provider to provide One-Stop Operator services for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funded Comprehensive One-Stop located in Evans County. The resulting contract will be for one initial year and subsequent years may be funded contingent on funding from the US Department of Labor (US DOL) and evaluation of successful performance.

A copy of the RFP will be available for mailing by calling (478) 374-4771, on the website at <https://www.worksourceheartofgeorgia.org/>, or direct pick-up on February 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission office located at 5405 Oak Street, Eastman, GA 31023. (Attn: One-Stop RFP Staff). There will be a bidder's conference on March 10, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. to be held at the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission office located at 5405 Oak Street, Eastman, GA 31023. Attention at the conference(s) is not required. No formal questions relating to this bid will be accepted prior to the bidders' conference.

The proposed services will be funded under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The first-year award will be for Program Year 2026, beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. Subsequent years may be awarded based on availability of funds and performance. The total amount of WIOA funds to be allotted for this first-year project is \$42,000.00.

An original "Letter of intent" to bid must be submitted to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission office located at 5405 Oak Street, Eastman, GA 31023 - Attn: One-Stop RFP Staff, or Faxed to Attn: One-Stop RFP Staff at (478) 374-0703. The letter of intent must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2026. No letters of intent will be accepted after this date and time. No proposal can be accepted without the letter of intent to bid.

Completed proposals for One-Stop services must be received at the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission office located at 5405 Oak Street, Eastman, GA 31023 - Attn: One-Stop RFP Staff, NO LATER THAN, 5:00 p.m. (EST), on April 2, 2026 WITHOUT EXCEPTION, LATE PROPOSALS WILL NEITHER BE ACCEPTED NOR CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.

WorkSource Heart of Georgia, a Proud Partner of the American Job Center network Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Georgia Relay Service - TTY/TDD - Dial 7-1-1

February 14, 2026

**26-059  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY.  
IN RE: ESTATE OF RUTH S. DURANT

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

All creditors of the Estate of Ruth S. Durant, 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.

Ruthie D. Brown  
Executor of the Estate of

Ruth S. Durant  
C/O Edward B. Claxton III  
Attorney for Executors  
P.O. Box 16459  
Dublin, Georgia 31040

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-060  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**COUNTY OF LAURENS**

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID STATE AND COUNTY**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLES E. GARRETT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

All creditors of the estate of CHARLES E. GARRETT, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 3rd Day of February, 2026  
Emily F. Kight  
Attorney for the Estate of

Charles E. Garrett  
Kight Law, LLC  
P.O. Box 2056  
Dublin, Georgia 31040

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-041  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**COUNTY OF LAURENS**

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID STATE AND COUNTY**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLES E. GARRETT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

All creditors of the estate of CHARLES E. GARRETT, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 3rd Day of February, 2026  
Emily F. Kight  
Attorney for the Estate of

Charles E. Garrett  
Kight Law, LLC  
P.O. Box 2056  
Dublin, Georgia 31040

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID STATE AND COUNTY**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN FRANCIS CROWE, SR.**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

All creditors of the estate of JOHN FRANCIS CROWE, SR., deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 22nd Day of January, 2026  
Emily F. Kight  
Attorney for the Estate of

JOHN FRANCIS CROWE, SR.  
Kight Law, LLC  
P.O. Box 2056  
Dublin, Ga. 31040

January 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 21,

2026

**26-055  
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF VIONA NEAL GINN, DECEASED**

**ESTATE NO. 25-203**

**NOTICE**

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed. [For use if an heir is required to be served by publication]

TO: Odessa Latimore, Dorothy Bell, Robert Bell Jr, Linda Oneal, Antwane Oneal, Sheila Morrison, Denise Oneal, James Oneal, William J. Oneal and to whom it may concern This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before March 9, 2026.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Genola O. Jackson  
Judge of the Probate Court

By: CWarren

Clerk of the Probate Court

PO BOX 2098 Dublin GA 31040

478-272-2566

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-027  
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**COUNTY OF LAURENS**

**IN RE: ESTATE of Sherryl Anita Herndon, Deceased**

All creditors of the Estate of Sherryl Anita Herndon, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

Shane Lanier Herndon, Executor of Sherryl Anita Herndon, deceased

182 Smith Road, Haddock, GA 31033

O.C.G.A. § 53-7-41 states: "...Every personal representative shall, within 60 days from the date of qualification, publish a notice directed generally to all of the creditors of the estate to render an account of their demands. The notice shall be published once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified..."

January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14,

2026

**26-032  
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF LINDA JOYCE FAULK, Deceased**

**ESTATE NO. 26-05**

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

**NOTICE**

TO: whom it may concern:

BRUCE MICHAEL FAULK has petitioned for Bruce Michael Faulk to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of LINDA JOYCE FAULK, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before March 9, 2026

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Genola O. Jackson  
Judge of the Probate Court

By: CWarren

Clerk of the Probate Court

PO BOX 2098 Dublin GA 31040

478-272-2566

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-035  
State of Georgia**

**County of Laurens.**

**Notice to Debtors and Creditors**

All creditors of the Estate of John Edward Buckins, late of Laurens County, Georgia, deceased, 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.

This 16th day of January, 2026  
Estate of John Edward Buckins

Steve Edward Buckins, Executor

427 Blackshear Ferry Spur

Dublin, GA 31021

Margaret Greer Evans

Attorney at Law

State Bar No. 488189

(478) 272-2885

January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14,

2026

**26-044  
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF KAYLIN SCARLETT ROSE STEPHENS, MINOR**

**ESTATE NO: 26-15**

**NOTICE**

Date of second publication if any FEBRUARY 14, 2026

TO: DON CRAIG RAYBURN AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

You are hereby notified that BROOKLYNN CHEYENNE-DENISE RAYBURN has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed the temporary guardian(s) of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of temporary guardian(s) or the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s), must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia 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.

NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed.

**GARNTO**

Continued from page 1

updating for any new curriculum coming out," Garnto said. "We offer services for transportation and host their meetings here. We'll do the same thing for food services and of course curriculum. Training will range from 10 people to up to 150. We'll also host some state events as far as professional learning."

They are also over RESA competitions. They host the RESA Awards banquet that will be held at the DuBose Porter Center in the spring.

"Younger in your career you hear a lot about RESA, but you really don't know about it," Garnto said. "The longer you are in education, the more opportunities you get to have staff development through RESA, and you become very familiar with the people who work here as well as the programs that are offered here. We are a small staff, but we of-

fer a lot of stuff."

RESA used to be located in Eastman, but in 2020 it moved to the former Saxon Heights Elementary School. The board of control is made up of superintendents in the RESA. Overall, there are 16 RESAs serving Georgia school systems.

"I'm very familiar with them," Garnto said. "We have a monthly meeting, and we generally have a vendor in to give superintendents new ideas. We'll talk about legislative movements, things that are going on at the Capitol and things that will affect education. It's a good time for the 10 superintendents to get together, bounce things off of each other and receive feedback."

One of the things Kight began was professional training for new principals. Garnto will keep that going and add professional training for new assistant principals.



Former Laurens County School Superintendent and new Heart of Georgia RESA Director Clifford Garnto chats with students at a RESA event in December/PAYTON TOWNS III

"It's been asked for, so we'll start that in the fall," Garnto said.

When it comes to Kight, he'll be enjoying retirement. But he is also waiting for

Garnto to follow him in retirement, too.

"I've told him that may-

be the next time he retires, he can follow me and we can go fishing," Kight said.

**TORNADOES**

Continued from page 1

Weather Radio, notifications on your phone or reputable local media. I believe some have learned lately with the winter storms that everybody wants to be a meteorologist, especially on social media."

The other important bit of information is to know where to go in the house for protection against a tornado. Laird said it varies for every house.

"It depends what type of structure you live in and how it was built," he said. "Someone who lives in a mobile home may want to go to another structure if it is safe to go to, or do so ahead of the storm. This is also where planning comes in ahead of time to know where to go. You want to go into a small interior room that does not have windows. You don't want to be on an exterior wall."

Here are some tips to help people with tornadoes:

**Prepare a Home Tornado Plan**

- Pick a place where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be your basement or, if there is no basement, a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Keep this place uncluttered.
- If you are in a high-rise building, you may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building.
- Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing
  - First aid kit and essential medications.
  - Canned food and can opener.
  - At least three gallons of water per person per day.
  - Protective clothing, bedding, or sleeping bags.
  - Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
  - Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.

• Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to restore natural gas service.)

Stay Tuned for Storm Warnings

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio and television stations for updated storm information.
- Know what a tornado WATCH and WARNING means:
  - A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area.
  - A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately.
  - Tornado WATCHES and WARNINGS are issued by the National Weather Service.

**When a Tornado WATCH is Issued**

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio and television stations for further updates.

• Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say it sounds like a freight train.

When a Tornado WARNING is Issued

- If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. The tornado may be approaching your area.
- If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety.

After the Tornado Passes

- Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.
- Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage.
- Do not use candles at any time.

For more information, contact Laurens County EMA at (478) 277-2911 or visit these websites: [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov), [www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/) or [www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov).

**TEACHER**

Continued from page 1

that."

Weathers also thanked Ebony Blake, victim's advocate for Dublin DA's office, for her role in helping the victim.

"This put the victim in a very uncomfortable place for a high school student to be in," Weathers said. "In a case where the trauma runs deep for not only the victim but the family as well, (Blake) was critical for me to be able to do my job in terms of managing the expectations and answering

**TASK FORCE**

Continued from page 1

The spoons will include Hershey's Hugs and Kisses, along with information that includes the hotline number for those involved in domestic violence situations.

"We will give out 500 spoons into the community," Hightower said. "The task force is still about bringing awareness about domestic task force in our community. We are back, and trying to do a project once a month or at least quarterly."

The task force includes members from the Dublin Judicial District Attorney's Office, DA Victim's Assistance Program, DA's PAR Program, Laurens County Sheriff's Office, Dublin Police Department, East Dublin Police Department, WINGS, Stepping Stone, Laurens County Courts, Georgia Legal Services, Community Services Board of Middle Georgia, Laurens

questions and guiding the family on the court process. I had the whole family present in court. I had four people speak and had about 15 other family members who came to support the young lady and the state's position on the case."

That support also included Dublin DA Harold McLendon.

"He took time out of his busy day to come sit beside me," Weathers said. "That always matters. I appreciate working for a man who is invested and is making sure we are doing the right thing to the very best of our ability."

County Probation, JAG Probation, Department of Family and Children's Services, Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Laurens County Animal Control, the Family, Violence Intervention Program and at-large members who have heard about the task force and decided to be a part of the group.

Meetings are at 10 a.m. on the fourth Friday of every month in the magistrate courtroom of the county courthouse.

"We're trying to get back started full-force," Hightower said. "We are asking people in the community to feel free to attend. We just want to remind everyone that love is never abusive. We have law enforcement officers who respond to domestic violence situations. We want people to know that they don't have to stay in a domestic relationship. There is help out there. They can leave the situation because there are people who will be able to help them leave safely."

# Dublin Edition!

## 5th Annual! RURAL RECOVERY RALLY

### #GARecovers

**FEBRUARY 21, 2026**  
11:00am -2:00pm

Dubose Porter Business & Industry Training Center  
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For more information or sponsorship opportunities contact:  
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A painting of a Southern plantation house at sunset with figures in the foreground, including a couple dancing and others in chains.

**Saturday, February 21, 2026 @ 5:00pm**

**Dublin Middle School**  
1501 N Jefferson St  
Dublin, GA 31021