



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."



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

**TASK FORCE**  
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## Teacher sentenced to prison on sexual contact charges

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

A 51-year-old Dublin man was sentenced for a total of 50 years – with the first 20 to be served in prison – after he pleaded guilty to eight counts of sexual contact by employee or agent in the first degree with a Johnson County High School student in 2024.

Charles "Chuck" Beale was sentenced by Dublin Circuit Chief Superior Court Judge Jon Helton on Tuesday.

Chief Assistant DA Kelly Weathers said Beale will serve the first 20 in prison and the remainder on probation. Johnson County Sheriff Greg Rowland was pleased with the sentence.

"We are here, and we are going to protect our kids while they are in school at any cost," said Rowland, who also thanked his investigator, Troy Fallin, and Weathers for the work they did in this case.

"He is a big asset to the sheriff's office. I really want to give credit to Kelly Weathers who prosecuted the case. She did a great job."

Weathers thanked the investigation led by Fallin and the JCISO.

"He is so detailed and thorough when he works his cases," Weathers said. "There was a confession and DNA confirmation. It was a very solid case. Had we presented it to a jury, it would have been a very easy choice to have convicted him beyond a reasonable doubt."

During the sentencing hear-

ing this week, prosecutors offered victim impact statements from the student and her mother, father and sister.

"The judge imposed his sentence, which I think speaks volumes about the desire to not allow this kind of behavior to happen," Weathers said. "This undermines the trust, not just of the student but their family and any parent who would send their child to public schools. We were very pleased with Judge Helton's sentence. It met the expectations of the state."

When he was arrested in November 2024, Beale was a teacher at Johnson County, as well as the varsity softball and varsity baseball coach. Weathers said the duration of the crimes was from July to November of that year.

"There was a rumor that the sheriff's office became aware of and Troy tracked it down immediately," Weathers said. "He developed the identity of the student and the teacher, and contacted the parents of the student and took the investigation from that point on. This wasn't something where someone came forward. This was something where law enforcement was alerted and primed to potential criminal activity and opened an investigation upon



BEALE

**TEACHER**  
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## 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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## 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 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**  
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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

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](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)*

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**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

## Who says romance is dead?



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.

## DIVA ON A DIME

### A love letter to chocolate

By PATTI DIAMOND  
King Features

## 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.



By JACK BROWN

also on that same mission flying his Corsair, and knew Brown was in trouble. Hudner purposely crash-landed his place 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.*



# 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.**



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# 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 packaged 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 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 Line'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 y 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, Commission 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.

## 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 SHOOL 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

to cover the recent addition of the bathrooms at the parsonage.

## 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 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 and splendidly prepared meals are served in a very systematic way.

## Moment of Inspiration On That Day

Jesus warns us that a day is coming when appearances and words will no longer matter. “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 7:21). On that day, God will not be looking for religious activity, but for a genuine relationship with His Son.

Knowing about Jesus is not the same as knowing Jesus. True faith is revealed through obedience, surrender, and a life that seeks God’s will. Our works cannot save us—but a real walk with Christ will shape how we live.

Today is the time to examine our hearts. Let us seek to know Jesus personally and follow Him faithfully, so we are ready when that day comes.

Prayer:

Lord, help me truly know You and live in obedience to Your will. Prepare my heart today for that day. Amen.

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

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



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



**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. Pellgrino, 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 upcoming** 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.

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.



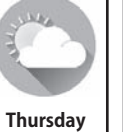
**Monday**  
2/16  
HIGH/LOW  
**68/41**  
Times of clouds and sun.  
Sunrise: 7:14 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:18 p.m.



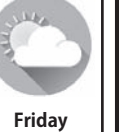
**Tuesday**  
2/17  
HIGH/LOW  
**73/48**  
Partly sunny and warm.



**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: 7:10 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:22 p.m.

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

# HOMER

## SUITES BY HILTON

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478-205-5464







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 fiancé 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 fiancé 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

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

Level: Advanced

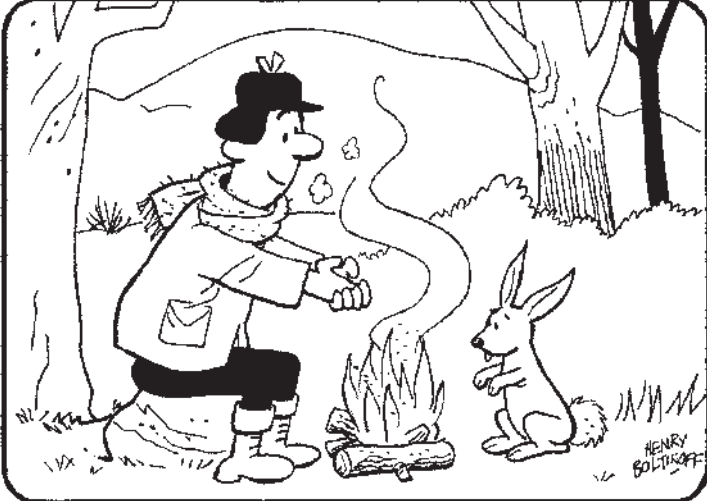
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear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

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

ANSWER:

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

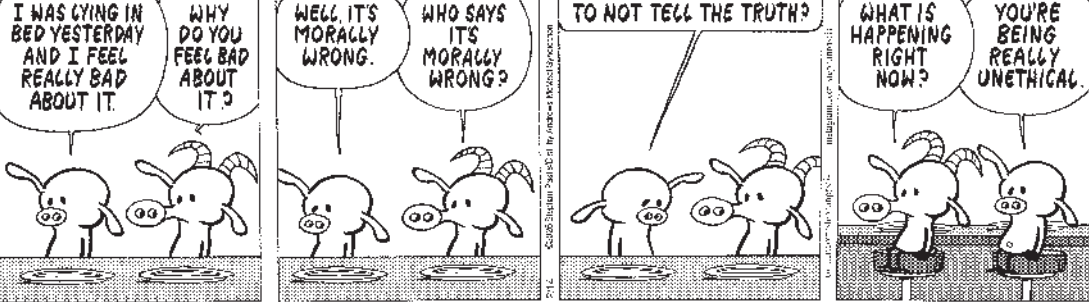


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Differences: 1. Tail is smaller. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Rabbit's car is moved. 4. Log is different. 5. Leaflet is longer. 6. Rabbit's car is different.

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 ♦ A K 10 9 5 ♣ A J

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

\*Weak

What call would you make?

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

♠ Q 8 6 ♥ 10 9 7 6 3 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ 6 5

Partner opens 1H and right-hand opponent doubles. 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?

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

♠ A K 6 ♥ A 6 5 2 ♦ K 8 5 ♣ 9 7 5

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♣ 2♠ 3♣ Pass  
? What call would you make?

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

♠ Q 10 7 ♥ Q J 6 5 ♦ K 10 6 3 ♣ 7 4

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♦ Dbl 1♥ Pass  
2♣ 2♠ ? What call would you make?

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

♠ K 7 ♥ A 10 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ K Q 9 8 5 3

As dealer, what call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- Warning letters online: Abbr.
- Dummkopf
- \_\_\_ and ends
- Canton's state
- Civil War winners
- Steady boyfriend
- Actor Harmon
- Struck, Biblically
- Tardy
- Promotional spots
- Argentina's capital: 2 wds.
- Alternate route
- Rowing machine
- Winter melons
- Tin or gold
- Take a stroll
- Subtle distinction
- Sense of self
- Actor Butterfield
- Unrefined
- Lower limb
- Sibling's nickname
- Written message
- Mulligan
- Copy and \_\_\_
- Poet Hesse
- Journalist
- Navarro
- Shoe cushion
- National Museum of Immigration site: 2 wds.
- Actor Kilmer
- Not take
- Actress Kelly
- Thermos brand
- Spherical hairdo
- Put into office
- Narrow cut
- Celebrity
- Firmly packed
- Relay racer's path

DOWN

- Wanderer
- Relief from the sun
- Pokey airline option: 2 wds.
- Stir-fry pan
- Aetna's field

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

Created by Stella Zawistowski

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

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6/27/25

- Got older
- Company emblem
- Stinging insect
- Biggest continent
- Fire from a job
- Microscope part
- Medical pros: Abbr.

- One who alters clothes
- "What's more..."
- Prepared to fire
- Caesar's language
- Top-class
- Taylor Swift's \_\_\_ Tour

- Opposite of right
- "Doctor Zhivago" role
- Only
- Property claim
- Curved paths
- Fashion monogram: Abbr.



# 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 spotty 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 Lawrence 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 allowable 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 games.

"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

## GIAA REGION 2-AA TOURNEY

# 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. 11.



## 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 LaGroon (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/CLAY REYNOLDS](http://courierheraldtoday.com/sports/CLAY REYNOLDS)



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: Kelvin 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 Hephzibah. 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 Hephzibah /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.

early RBI that put Dublin on the board in the first inning. The Bulldogs answered to tie in the bottom of the second.

BASEBALL

Continued from page 7

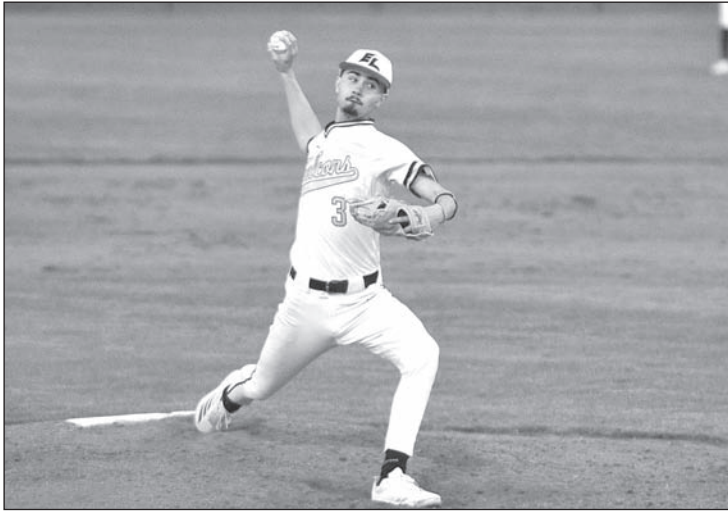
turning as a member of this year's senior class. "Our hitting isn't bad... The other day and we hit pretty good, we just didn't take it all into that one game."

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 Wombles 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 Wombles 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 Wombles, Turberville and Blake Glenn added two hits each.

West Laurens 10,  
Aquinas 1

The Raiders were held to a straight or circular number in every inning before the fifth, when they finally busted Tuesday's tight game open against a third Aquinas pitcher.

Single runs in the first (to tie) and fourth (to go up for the first time) on RBIs by Grant Baker and Cason Pollock that directly followed extra-base hits by Nathan Hester and Dugan Malone were all they could do in two frames each against Irish hurlers James Sherry and Grady Kelley. But West Laurens jumped on Whit Hankinson (as well as fourth reliever in Michael Koltz), bringing up 13 for five hits to score eight, with the help of two errors and three walks.

A flyout with an early winner at third extended

Dublin 3, Toombs Co. 1

Tal Duke's one-out RBI single in the top of the seventh broke a 1-1 tie for the difference in a thrilling Tuesday-night pitching duel.

Bryceton Evans singled, Morgan Davis reached on a sac bunt-single and C.J. Stubbs grounded into a Toombs County error that loaded the bases for Duke's second of two hits on the night.

He'd come on to save the win in a three-up, three-down seventh, securing the win for Will Wallace, who'd tossed the inning prior in out of the bullpen. Starter Xavier Reese struck out six and gave up Toombs County's only three hits in his five innings of work.

Wallace provided the



FROM THE RECORD

**Marriages:** Hunter Gregory Thrasher to McKenna Grace Coleman; Pren-tice Mandel Beauchamp to Davannah Shamica Smith; James Byron Spires to Ash-ley Anna Marie Persall

**Complaint for di-  
vorce:** Tina Jones v. Carl Jones

**Paternity/legitima-  
tion:** Jared Warren v. Cas-  
sidy Ballew

**Complaint for legiti-  
mation, custody & child  
support:** Leroy Mack v. Leeann Dwyer

**Contract:** Bank of America N.A. v. Mario Webb; Southwood Finan-  
cial Trust v. Alexandra & Aliah James; Jefferson Cap-  
ital Systems LLC v. Nishika Williams; Preferred Capital Funding v. Gregory Smith; Capital One v. Jennifer An-  
derson

**Affidavit for foreclo-  
sure of personal prop-  
erty:** Word Omni Financial Corp. v. Regina Gibson

**Affidavit for continu-  
ing garnishment:** One-  
main Financial Group v. Reginald Jones & Ryland Environmental Inc.; Mid-  
land Credit v. Tamika Miles & Middle Georgia Business Products; Capital One v Roy Grenade & Dublin First Methodist Church Inc. Mid-  
land Credit v. Joshua Prat-  
er & Hitchiti Mobile Home Park

**Automobile tort:** Zy-  
cheria 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 San-  
tiago

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

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

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

**Complaint - con-  
tempt:** Ga DHS ex rel Asi-  
ana Anderson v. Juwone Anderson

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

**Contempt - child sup-  
port:** Ga DHS ex relSh-  
aquille 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 relAntonio J. Guy-  
ton v. Anthony Guyton

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

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

**Liens:** Anthony Ron-  
ald Hall to Fairview Park Hospital; Ja'Quan Bennett to US Auto Credit Purchas-  
ing Center LLC; Dell Rico Allen to First Franklin Finan-  
cial; Morriston Abram Walker to First Laurens Fin. Corp; Laquisha Howard to Crown Asset Management LLC; Teresa Helton to Mar-  
iner Finance LLC; Victoria B. Johnson to JP Morgan Chase Bank NA; Jessica Soles to Houston Medical Center; Perry E. Quinn to Midland Credit Manage-  
ment Inc. Derrick Tharpe to US Auto Credit Purchas-  
ing Center LLC dbs US Auto Credit; Thomas Walker to Bank of America; Destiny Wicker to Jefferson Cap-  
ital Systems LLC; Jennifer A. Psomos to Credit Accep-  
tance Corporation; Terri Dixon to Midland Credit Management Inc.

**Warranty deed:** R&B Properties to Stephen An-  
thony 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 In-  
vestments Inc. to Jackson Williamson and Victoria Williamson; Myra Childers and Dan Childers to Trust, dated Feb. 3 2026 execu-  
tor of the Roscoe Childers Es-  
tate; Myra Childers to Jerry Childers; Dwayne Knight aka Dewayne Knight to Alex D. Knight and Caitlyn Jo. Knight; John Warthen Chappell Jr. to Deer Pine-  
lands LLC; John Warthen Chappell Jr. to Chappell Family Holdings LLC; John Warthen Chappell Jr.Mag-

nolia Rental Properties LLC; John Warthen Chap-  
pell Jr. to Mulberry Place Subdivision LLC; John Warthen Chappell Jr. to John Warthen Chappell Jr. and Rebecca Ragan Chap-  
pell trustees of the Chap-  
pell Family revocable living trust; John Warthen Chap-  
pell Jr. to Montrose Solar LLC; George Lee Taylor to George Lee Taylor and Ger-  
ry E. Taylor; Alpa M. Vakha-  
ria 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 Kar-  
en Sue Losey; Johanne Me-  
sidor Dorsainvil to Joseph Mathews Jr.; WJH LLC to Michelle Hendley; M&SPC Properties Inc. to Takerielle T. Travis and Jared T. Quar-  
terman; Chris Chappell to CHCH Property Hold-  
ing 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. Millerf 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; Cyn-  
thia K. Sheffield to Cynthia K. Tant; Hinesville Home Center Inc. to Stephanie Jean Mayer; Country Lots LLC to Danyielle Pauline Smith; Rosemary Bergeron Johnson to Chris Wood-  
ward; 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 Ham-  
bros LLC; Hugh Gibbs Flan-  
ders Fr. to Kevin Baggett trustee of the Kevin Hugh Baggett living trust; Francis Dalia to Michael James Ahearn; Willie Foster trust-  
ee of the Artis Lee Watkins revocable living trust

**Security deed:** Ste-  
phen Anthony Perry and

JaydaNichole Perry to Bank of Dudley; Foskey Enter-  
prises LLC to Bank of Dud-  
ley; David Ritchie to Guild Mortgage Company LLC; Dyes Home Builders Inc. to Morris Bank x2; Eleazer Epps Jr. to Mortgage Re-  
search Center LLC dba Vet-  
erans United Home Loans; Tonya L. Hudson to Rock-  
et 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. Tay-  
lor and Leaser Taylor to Sec-  
retary of Housing and Ur-  
ban Development; Cincere Properties LLC to First Lau-  
rens Bank; David Lee Losey II and Karen Sue Losey to Banksouth Mortgage Com-  
pany 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 Lo-  
ren Woods Scrivner to Em-  
porium TPO LLC; Tkerielle T. Travis and Jaredn Quar-  
terman to Towne Mortgage Company; Joshua A. Satter-  
white and Crystal M. Satter-  
white to First Federal Bank; Michael Thomas to Mort-  
gage research Center LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans; David Joshua Scott to Bank of Dudley; David Grayson Toler to Robins Fi-  
nancial Credit Union; Uni-  
versal Maintnance Supply LLC to Georgia First Bank; April Jamie Finley and Ja-  
son 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., Cynthis Ann fka Cynthia Ann Dellinger to Farmers State Bank; Deborah John-  
ston and Joshua Johnston to Crosscountry Mortgage LLC; Donovan Otis Cooper to Bank of Dudley; K&J Ser-  
vices LLC to Citizens Bank of Laurens County; Richard Breedlove to Lend-A-Loan LLC; Stephanie Jean May-  
er to 21st Mortgage Corpo-  
ration; Alisa Elliott to First Laurens Bank; Danyielle Pauline Smith to 21st Mort-  
gage 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

# 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



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)

 Planning for Brighter Futures









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 HULTQUIST**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

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 ADMINISTRATION 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, 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  
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 ADMINISTRATION 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, 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

**26-061**  
**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:  
THEREFORE, 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  
**PERSONALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT:** O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES INC  
233 S PATTERSON SPRINGFIELD, MO 65801  
IS/ARE 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  
**PERSONALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT:** O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES INC  
233 S PATTERSON SPRINGFIELD, MO 65801  
IS/ARE 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 CREDITORS**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF LAURENS**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF Charles E. Scarbrough, 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

**26-028**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF LAURENS**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID STATE AND COUNTY**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF RODNEY REED WEBB**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**  
All creditors of the estate of **RODNEY REED WEBB** 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 **RODNEY REED WEBB**  
Kight Law, LLC  
P.O. Box 2056  
Dublin, Ga. 31040  
January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 2026

**26-052**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF Justin Lawrence Jones, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 26-07**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: whom it may concern:  
Austin Jones has petitioned for Austin Jones to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Justin Lawrence Jones deceased, of said county. (The petitioner- er 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 held on 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

**26-029**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF LAURENS**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID STATE AND COUNTY**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF JUSTIN LAWRENCE JONES**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

All creditors of the estate of **JUSTIN LAWRENCE JONES** 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 **JUSTIN LAWRENCE JONES**  
Kight Law, LLC  
P.O. Box 2056  
Dublin, Ga. 31040  
January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 2026

**26-069**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia, Annotated Section 10-4-210, et. Seq., there will be a public sale at the location listed below, the proceeds of said sale will be used first to satisfy the storage fee and other expenses of this auction. Any other proceeds will be used to satisfy such creditors as present their claims in advance of sale. The sale will be held as follows:

a05	Shaquan Washington
a08	Vincent Lewis
a13	Angellet Linton
a15	Darrell Mitchel
b01	Melissa Young
b32	Tytanna Smith
c10	Tanjankia Smith
c25	Chris Holmes
c27	Latravia Wilcher
d09	Tanjankia Smith
d20	Patrick Revel
d37	Jeremy Blackshear

Name and address of storage facility: ORR SELF STORAGE 1705 CLAXTON DAIRY ROAD DUBLIN GA 31021  
Time and date of sale: **Tuesday, Feb 24 at 10:00 a.m.**  
Place of sale: ORR SELF STORAGE 1705 CLAXTON DAIRY ROAD DUBLIN GA 31021  
Manner of sale:  
February 14, 21, 2026

**26-068**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia, Annotated Section 10-4-210, et seq., there will be a public sale by Curry Management Corporation on **February 24, 2026**, starting at **StorageAuctions.com**. The proceeds of said sale will be used to first satisfy the storage fee and other expenses of the auction. Any other proceeds will be used to satisfy such creditors as present their claims in advance of sale.  
**SPACE Julie Smith Claxton Dairy D4**  
**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
**SPACE Nickarai Chapman Claxton Dairy E23**  
**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
**SPACE Samuel Starks Market Square C5**  
**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
**SPACE Kelly Jones Market Square D16**  
**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
**SPACE Sammy Rozier Market Sqaure E1**  
**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
**SPACE Deborah Foster Woodlawn A - C21**  
**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
February 7, 14, 21, 2026

**26-038**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEROGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM EDWARD STEPHENS SR, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 25-254**  
**NOTICE**

The petition of VANESSA DENISE STEPHENS, for an order declaring no administration is necessary in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,  
TO: whom it may concern  
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition, in 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  
P.O Box 2098  
Dublin, GA 31040  
478-272-2566  
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-051**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF RUBY DELL JEFFERSON DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 24-181**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

Annie B. Jefferson, James Jefferson, Wesley Jefferson, Gwendolyn J. Reeves, Brady Jefferson, Gary Jefferson, Erick Jefferson, Derrick Jefferson, Quinton Jefferson III, Shalanda Moore, Yohonci Brown, Nairobi Brown  
TO: whom it may concern:  
MAUDINE JEFFERSON-WOOD has petitioned for to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of RUBY DELL JEFFERSON, 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

**26-062**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF BARBARA H. KENNEDY, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 22-90**  
**NOTICE**

IN RE: The Petition to Reopen the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.  
TO: The Heirs and Assigns of Alfons Stolpe, Deceased  
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

**26-013**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM E. PRESTON, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 25-226**  
**NOTICE**

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.  
TO: Jennifer Preston Smith  
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 FURTHER NOTIFIED:** 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  
P.O Box 2098  
Dublin, GA 31040  
478-272-2566  
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-036**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
In Re: Amanda Elizabeth Lindsey Howell  
Civil Action File No: 26-CD-0041-JH  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
GEORGIA, LAURENS County  
Notice is hereby given that Amanda Elizabeth Lindsey Howell, the undersigned, filed petition to the Superior Court of LAURENS County, Georgia on the 16 day of Jan, 2026, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Amanda Elizabeth Lindsey Howell to Elizabeth Lindsey Howell. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition. This 23 day of December, 2026.  
Amanda Elizabeth Lindsey Howell  
Petitioner  
January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 2026

**26-050**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY  
By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from WAYNE

STEVENS and ZYCHERIA STEVENS to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC. AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR CITYWORTH MORTGAGE LLC, dated April 16, 2024, recorded May 9, 2024, in Deed Book Q3477, Page 00043-00058, Laurens County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of Two Hundred Six Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$206,000.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to VILLAGE CAPITAL & INVESTMENT LLC, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Laurens County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:  
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE NORTH DUBLIN DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN, LAURENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND IN THE FIRST (1ST) LAND DISTRICT, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON A PLAT OF SURVEY BY MARVIN D. CLEMENTS, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED 10/22/75, AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 333, PAGE 542, RECORDS OF THE CLERK OF THE LAURENS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PROPERTY IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ACCORDING TO SAID PLAT AS FOLLOWS:BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN LOCATED 340.58 FEET ON THE EASTERNMOST SIDE OF MAPLE DRIVE FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHERNMOST SIDE OF LASSITER ROAD, THENCE RUNNING NORTH 14 DEGREES 00 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 15 FEET ALONG MAPLE DRIVE TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE RUNNING SOUTH 84 DEGREES 00 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 225.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE RUNNING SOUTH 12 DEGREES 48 MINUTES WEST A DISTANCE OF 126.7 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE RUNNING NORTH 76 DEGREES 58 MINUTES WEST A DISTANCE OF 225.0 FEET TO AN IRON PIN AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PLAT AND THE DESCRIPTION THEREON ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED AS PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION BY REFERENCE.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as **101 MAPLE DR, DUBLIN, GA 31021**.

The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable); the right of redemption of any taxing authority; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is WAYNE STEVENS, ZYCHERIA STEVENS, or tenants(s).

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Village Capital & Investment, LLC, Loss Mitigation Dept., 2460 Paseo Verde Parkway Suite 110, Henderson, NV 89074, Telephone Number: 1-800-919-0068. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

**VILLAGE CAPITAL & INVESTMENT LLC** as Attorney in Fact for WAYNE STEVENS, ZYCHERIA STEVENS THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Attorney Contact: Rubin Lublin, LLC  
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peachtree Corners, GA 30071  
Telephone Number: (877) 813-0992 Case No. VCI-25-05417-1  
Ad Run Dates 02/07/2026, 02/14/2026, 02/21/2026, 02/28/2026  
[rslaw.com/property-listing](http://rslaw.com/property-listing)  
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-057**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, LAURENS COUNTY**  
Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Paula M Mimbs to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for CBC National Bank, A National Bank, its successors and assigns dated 5/7/2009 and recorded in Deed Book 2100 Page 256 Laurens County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by CitiMortgage, Inc., conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$64,865.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Laurens County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 3, 2026 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property: All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being l the 52nd  
G.M. District of Laurens County, Georgia, containing 1.29 acres, more or less, as shown on a plat of survey dated February 1, 1980, signed by Marvin D Clements, Registered Land Surveyor, recorded in Deed Book 375, page 584, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Laurens County, Georgia, which plat and the record thereof are by reference incorporated herein and made a part of this description for the purpose of showing the courses, distances, location and boundaries of said tract of land This property is improved by a residence known as **1769 S Highway 29 Dublin, Georgia 31027**. This is the same property deeded to Mickey L. Mimbs and Paula M Mimbs by Warranty Deed with Right of Survivorship, dated February 5, 1980, and recorded in Deed Book 375, page 585, in said Clerk's Office, Mickey L. Mimbs died July 23, 2001, and title now vests in Paula M. Mimbs. as his survivor. Subject to covenants, restrictions, reservations and

easements of record The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said property is commonly known as **1769 Highway 29 South, East Dublin, GA 31027** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Paula M Mimbs or tenant or tenants. Cenlar, FSB is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage. Cenlar, FSB Mortgage Servicing Representative 425 Phillips Boulevard Ewing, NJ 08618 [customerservice@loanadministration.com](mailto:customerservice@loanadministration.com) 1-800-223-6527 Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan. Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. CitiMortgage, Inc. as agent and Attorney in Fact for Paula M Mimbs Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Court, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400. 1010-2314A THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1010-2314A  
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-049**  
State of Georgia  
County of Laurens.  
**Notice to Debtors and Creditors**  
All creditors of the Estate of Sarah Weaver Malone, late of Laurens County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law; and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.  
This 28th day of January, 2026.  
Estate of Sarah Weaver Malone  
James Malone, Jr., Co-Executor  
1809 Roy Malone Road  
Dexter, GA 31019  
  
Pamela Malone Mullis, Co-Executor  
1860 Roy Malone Road  
Dexter, GA 31019  
Gail Malone Poole, Co-Executor  
3820 GA Highway 257  
Dexter, GA 31019  
  
Margaret Greer Evans  
  
Attorney at Law  
  
State Bar No. 488189  
(478) 272-2885  
January 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 21, 2026

**26-042**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER IN DEED TO SECURE DEBT**  
GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY.  
By virtue of the power of sale contained in the DEED TO SECURE DEBT given by STONEWALK DUBLIN RPMP LLC to FIRST LAURENS BANK dated December 29, 2022, and recorded in Deed Book 3356, Page 101, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Laurens County, Ga., conveying the below-described property, to secure that certain Promissory Note given by STONEWALK DUBLIN RPMP LLC to FIRST LAURENS BANK in the original principal amount of \$916,109.00 with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder before the Courthouse Door at Laurens County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale, on the first Tuesday in March, 2026, the following described property:  
All that tract or parcel of land located in Land Lots 67 & 68 of the First Land District, G.M.D. 342, Laurens County, Georgia, containing 2.86 acres, more or less, and being more particularly shown on that certain plat of survey prepared by Brian T. Ellington, Registered Land Surveyor, Georgia RLS 3454, dated December 9, 2022, and recorded on December 12, 2022, at Plat Book 12, Page 473, Laurens County records.  
THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT: **2271 U.S. 441 S., DUBLIN, GA 31021**  
To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the person or persons who may be in the possession of such property is STONEWALK DUBLIN RPMP LLC. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make payments in accordance with the terms of said Promissory Note. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees.  
Said property will be sold subject to all outstanding ad valorem taxes and/or assessments and/or restrictions and/or zoning ordinances and/or covenants; matters that may be disclosed by an accurate survey and/or inspection of the property; and matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt.  
Notice has been given of intention to collect attorney's fees in accordance with the terms of the Promissory Note secured by the property.  
Additionally, this sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U. S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Deed to Secure Debt.  
**THIS LAW FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**  
The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the Deed to Secure Debt is Mr. James Battles, 18 West Bryan Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.



First Laurens Bank  
Attorney-in-Fact for  
Stonewall Dublin RPMP LLC  
Edward B. Claxton III  
Attorney at Law  
P. O. Box 16459  
Dublin, Georgia 31040  
478-272-9965  
ebcatty@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 person 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.worksourceheartof-georgia.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. Attendance 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, GA 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 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 O'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, Shelia 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 Sherryll Anita Herndon, DECEASED**

All creditors of the Estate of Sherryll Anita Herndon, 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.  
Shane Lanier Herndon, Executor of Sherryll 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.  
Genola O. Jackson  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: CWarren  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
P.O. Box 2098  
Dublin, GA. 31040  
478-272-2566

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**26-031**  
State of Georgia  
County of Laurens.  
Notice to Debtors and Creditors  
All creditors of the Estate of **Carol L. Evans** AKA Carol Lord Evans, late of Laurens County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law; and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 16th day of January, 2026.  
Estate of Carol L. Evans AKA Carol Lord Evans  
Evans  
Hobert E. Evans, Jr., Executor  
112 Ridge Circle  
Dublin, GA 31021

Margaret Greer Evans

Attorney at Law  
State Bar No. 488189  
(478) 272-2885  
January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 2026

**26-048**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
**GEORGIA, LAURENS COUNTY**  
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Taneika S Kurtz to Capital City Bank dated November 18, 2008, recorded in Deed Book 2059, Page 207, Laurens County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to

Georgia Housing and Finance Authority by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2067, Page 132, Laurens County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$47,000.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Laurens County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2026, the following described property:  
SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF  
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 having been given).

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

Georgia Housing & Finance Authority is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: State Home Mortgage, 60 Executive Park South, Atlanta, GA 30329, 404-679-4908/-3133.

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

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Taneika S Kurtz or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **104 Broad Street, East Dublin, GA 31027**. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Georgia Housing & Finance Authority as Attorney in Fact for Taneika S Kurtz  
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP  
1544 Old Alabama Rd  
Roswell, GA 30076  
[www.foreclosurehotline.net](http://www.foreclosurehotline.net)  
EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Town of East Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as part of Lots 17 and 18, Block "C" Lakehurst Subdivision, as shown on plat of survey prepared by Greenway & Flanders, Surveyors, dated December 16, 1985, a copy of which is of record in Deed Book 439, page 23, Clerk's Office, Laurens Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by reference thereto for all purposes.  
MR / JD March 3, 2026  
Our file no. 25-21079GA-FT17  
25-21079GA

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 in 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

**26-064**  
**IN THE PORBATE 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 BROOKELYN 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 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. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date. If no objection is filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.  
Genola O. Jackson  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: CWarren  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
P.O. Box 2098  
Dublin, GA 31040  
478-272-2566

February 7, 14, 2026

**26-071**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**LAURENS COUNTY**  
**26-CG-0133-WT**  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice to the public is hereby given that on Feb 26, 2026, at 9:00am., in the Superior Court of Laurens County, at the courthouse in said county, a hearing will be held in the case of the State of Georgia v. Laurens County School District, on the petition to validate general obligation school bonds of the Laurens County School District in a principal amount not to exceed \$40,000,000 to pay the costs of acquiring, constructing, and equipping a new East Laurens Elementary School, a new athletic complex for East Laurens Middle School, and a new multipurpose athletic building for West Laurens High School, as authorized by the voters of Laurens County in an election held for that purpose on November 4, 2025. At said hearing all persons having a right to be heard with respect to said general obligation bonds and the validation thereof and all other issues to be presented to the court may be heard.  
This Feb 11, 2026.  
Georgia Jeffcoat  
Deputy Clerk of Superior Court  
Laurens County, Georgia

February 14, 21, 2026

**26-016**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF ANNIE ELLEN SMITH, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 25-228**  
**NOTICE**

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.  
TO: WILLIAM WESTOVER  
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  
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

**26-015**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**JAMES HORACE TURNER, JR., DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 26-02**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT**

The petition of Martha Sears Turner, for a Year's Support from the estate of James Horace Turner, Jr., deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show, cause, if any they have, on or before March 9, 2026 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 on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. 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

**26-014**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: TAMEIKA ROSHELLE HAMBRICK-LLOYD, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 25-278**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEARS SUPPORT**

The petition of Antwain Hambrick-Lloyd, for a year's support from the estate of TAMEIKA ROSHELLE HAMBRICK-LLOYD deceased, for decedent's (surviving spouse)(and)(minor child(ren)), having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before march 9, 2026, 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 on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. 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

**26-018**  
**Notice of Sale Under Power**  
State of Georgia, County of Laurens  
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Donald G. Hett and Susan M. Hett to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, a Missouri Limited Liability Company (the Secured Creditor), dated December 30, 2024, and Recorded on January 16, 2025 as Book No. 3544 and Page No. 38, Laurens County, Georgia records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$291,000.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, as last assigned to Mortgage Research Center, LLC d/b/a Veterans United Home Loans by assignment that is or to be recorded in the Laurens County, Georgia Records, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Laurens County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2026, the following described property:

**All that property situate in the County Laurens, State of Georgia, more prop-**

**erty described as follows:**  
**All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the First Land District in the City of Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, being known as Lot 68 and Part of Lot 67 in Rollingwood Estates Subdivision, and being more particularly shown and described according to a plat of survey prepared by Marvin D. Clements, Surveyor, dated August 22, 1980, and recorded in Deed Book 380, Page 519, Laurens County Records. The courses and distances of said plat are incorporated into and made a part of this description by reference.**  
**Subject to all easements, ordinances, covenants, conditions, restrictions, and rights-of-way of record, if any. Being the same property conveyed to Donald G. Hett and Susan M. Hett, as joint tenants with survivorship by Jerry Davis and Delois Davis, in deed dated 05/31/2022 recorded 06/01/2022 in Book 3298 Page 299, in the County of Laurens, State of Georgia.**  
Tax ID:D14E 123

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Mortgage Research Center, LLC d/b/a Veterans United Home Loans holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. Nationstar Mortgage, LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan.  
Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, Nationstar Mortgage, LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper may be contacted at: (833) 685-2565 or by writing to 350 Highland Drive, Lewisville, TX 75067.

Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **504 DUNWOODY DRIVE, DUBLIN, GA 31021** is/are: Donald G. Hett and Susan M. Hett or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph.

Funds used at sale shall be in certified funds and payable to "Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC".  
Mortgage Research Center, LLC d/b/a Veterans United Home Loans as Attorney in Fact for Donald G. Hett and Susan M. Hett.

Any information obtained on this matter may be used by the debt collector to collect the debt. Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC, 339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201 (803)-509-5078. File:25-46014.

January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**NEWS DIGEST**

The Laurens County Board Of Commissioners will meet at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 17. The agenda:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Approve meeting minutes For Feb. 3, 2026
- Other business
- Citizen comments
- Adjourn

**RELIGION DIGEST**

The Mount Tilla Baptist Church will be honoring their musicians at 11 a.m. on Feb. 15. Everyone is welcomed.

Greater New Friendship Baptist Church will celebrate the fourth Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Ernest Jones on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. Rev. David A. Clarke Sr. and the congregation of the Union Grove Baptist Church in Warner Robins will be the special guests. Music will be provided by Minister Dot & Company. People are invited to celebrate. Dinner will be served.

The Mount Tilla Baptist Church family will celebrate Black History with a program on Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcomed.

The First Rehoboth Baptist Association of Montrose

**HIGHWAYS**  
**Continued from page 9**

speed. The maximum speed limit on some highways is 70 mph.

"I want to limit the number of rear-end collisions," said state Rep. John Carson, R-Marietta, the sponsor of House Bill 809. "I've received fatality reports ... It's horrific."

The max speed limit in Georgia has steadily increased over the last few decades from 55 mph to 70 mph, but the minimum speed limit has remained at 40 mph, Carson said.

Col. William Hitchens, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety, said Georgia State Patrol officers have seen significant damage and injuries involving slow-moving vehicles.

"Driving below the speed limit can, in some cases, be as dangerous as traveling above the posted speed limit," Hitchens wrote in a letter last month to Carson about his proposal. "Vehicles that are traveling below the minimum speed can cause traffic issues such as long backups and cause motorists to take evasive actions due to approaching the vehicle faster than expected."

Senior citizens and student drivers might struggle with a higher minimum speed limit, said state Rep. Rhonda Taylor, D-Conyers.

"It would be a better solution ... (to) move to the right," Taylor said. "It almost feel like I'm being penalized because I can't drive 50 miles an hour."

Violations of Georgia's minimum speed law are punishable by fines up to \$1,000, but local jurisdictions across the state generally set penalties much lower, in the \$100 to \$200 range. Fines wouldn't change under HB 809.

The bill calls for the 50 mph minimum speed limit on any part of a highway in Georgia with a speed limit 65 mph or greater.

The House Motor Vehicles Committee didn't vote on the bill after a hearing Tuesday while lawmakers gather more information about crashes and research the cost of replacing speed limit signs. The bill could be brought up for a vote afterward.

**COMMUNITY DIGEST**

The Laurens County Democratic Committee will meet Tuesday, Feb. 17 at Our Place, 114 E. Johnson St.

will have worship services the first Sunday, March 1 at 3 p.m. Rev. Carl Wardlaw and Green Grove Baptist Church of Dublin will lead the service. Everyone is invited.

Greater Strawberry African Methodist Episcopal Church, 630 Country Club Road, will observe their annual Black History & Birthday Calendar Tea Program Sunday, Feb. 22 following morning worship service. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcomed.

*Religion Digest is for special services and events at our local churches. Please send in announcements to*



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

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.”

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

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**  
560 Pinehill Road, Dublin, GA 31021

**For more information or sponsorship opportunities contact:**  
[ruralrecoveryrally@gmail.com](mailto:ruralrecoveryrally@gmail.com)

Food, Music, Speakers, Community Leaders, Recovery Stories



*Legacy Readers Theatre presents ...*

**IN PURSUIT OF TRUTH:**

*—A Hand Is On the Gate—*

*An enriching experience of Poetry, Story, Dance and Song*

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

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

