

State: DCS could need QBE advances next year

District has borrowed against state funding to pay bills during cash crisis

By **RODNEY MANLEY**
Staff Reporter

The Dublin City Schools continues to make progress toward reducing its massive projected deficit, but the district likely will need to borrow against its state funding again next fall to make ends meet, state officials say.

The district appears to be "on track to achieve solvency" in February 2028 – once it makes the final installment on more \$6 million in past-due payments to the

State Health Benefit Plan – but it must continue to cut expenses, Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods said in a letter to local school officials. The superintendent also noted the unusually long delay in collecting this year's property taxes, which pushed the tax deadline back two months.

"We strongly recommend the district continue to reduce costs where it can and work with local officials to ensure property tax revenues are received in a timely manner, to gain financial inde-

pendence that is not dependent upon QBE advances," Woods said.

The system at one point faced a projected deficit of more than \$13 million, but officials now believe – after job and spending cuts – the cashflow shortage will be closer to \$5 million when the fiscal year ends in June. As of Feb. 13, Woods wrote, the district actually had a \$3.4 million surplus as property tax revenue begins to come in.

However, the district was to receive its final monthly allotment of state QBE funding, \$1.2 million, this month. It is also expected to receive about \$5 million in property taxes in February, the letter explained, but it must rely on taxes

for the final months of the school year, and next year state funding alone likely will not be enough to cover both monthly operating expenses and back-payments to the state health plan.

State officials discovered last August that the school district had not paid contributions for employees to the state health for more than a year, along with another \$780,512 withheld from employees' pay but not sent to the Department of Community Health. The school board began a repayment plan this month.

"Looking ahead to FY27, we project Dublin City Schools would need resumed QBE advances be-

ginning in September 2026, until the district begins receiving its next annual cycle of property tax collections," Woods wrote. "While the district currently has a surplus, its monthly operating expenses will continue to exceed its regular monthly QBE allotment while it completes its current SHBP repayment plan. The current surplus is being used to support ongoing operations and does not eliminate the need for advances prior to the receipt of property tax revenues."

Dublin school officials responded to Wood's letter, touting

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
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\$1.6M contract awarded for new roundabout

Funded by a regional sales tax, project will take about a year to complete

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

An Dublin intersection that has been the site of bad wrecks will soon see work done that will hopefully keep the traffic moving safely.

The Dublin City Council approved a bid in the amount of \$1,697,506.11 to Total Earth Services LLC to do the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of Woodlawn Drive and Claxton Dairy Road. During the council's Thursday morning meeting, Dublin City Manager Josh Powell said the project had been in the works for a while and the city had completed the right-of-way acquisition and easement that were needed.

"This is a (Transportation Investment Act) T-SPLOST-funded project, so it will be 100 percent funded by the TIA funds," Powell said. "We will get a construction be-

gin date as soon as we are able to get them the notice to proceed. The total project is expected to take 12 months to complete. There will be some times where there will be interruptions in the area, and we'll work to get the message out on that during those times."

According to Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight, the bid was a good price for the project, that will include drainage and utility work.

"That is a very large intersection and one of the most dangerous intersections in town," Kight said. "We've had some accidents there and the roundabout will dramatically improve the safety of that intersection, and it will keep the cars flowing. Claxton Dairy is an artery route for people coming into Dublin to work. This will keep that traffic moving so that they don't get stopped at the stop sign, trying to figure out whose



City officials believe a roundabout at Claxton Dairy Road and Woodlawn Drive will make the "dangerous" intersection safer/PAYTON TOWNS III

turn it is to go. They will just keep moving safely."

Will Curry, president of Curry Companies, attended Thursday's meeting to speak about a subdivision they plan to build off Woodlawn Drive (more on this in a later edition of The Courier Herald). The subdivision will add traffic to the Woodlawn/Claxton intersection.

"There is a lot of traffic there, especially with the proposed development on Woodlawn," Kight said. "We are going to have even more people who will be coming

into that intersection. Going ahead and doing this before those houses are built, and preparing the infrastructure, is going to meet the future number of cars is great planning and getting ahead of the problem."

Curry liked the idea of a roundabout at this intersection.

"I'm a very strong proponent of roundabouts, especially at that location," he said. "There is high traffic there, and we've had a lot of accidents at that four-way stop. I think the four-way

stop has slowed down some of those accidents, but now we have moving congestion and traffic. I think the roundabout will help with safety and will keep traffic moving."

Kight agreed, adding that the funding is coming from regional TSPLOST.

"It's not coming from local property taxes, and it's not even coming from local people's sales taxes," the mayor said. "It's mostly coming from sales tax revenue that

CITY COUNCIL
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City to hold open house for input on safer streets

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

City of Dublin officials want the public's input on making roads safer in the city limits.

Dublin's Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) Community Safety Action Plan meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, in council chambers at Dublin City Hall, 100 S. Church St. Residents are encouraged to learn about the project and the city's initial data analysis as well as giving input into what they believe is the biggest safety concerns on the streets of Dublin.

"We received a grant for doing some planning as far as our transportation infrastructure," Dublin City Manager Josh Powell said during the Dublin-Laurens County Chamber of Commerce's First Friday program on Feb. 6. "It's money to help us bring in a consultant to help us develop a safety action plan. It is targeting towards us coming

OPEN HOUSE
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Marc Miller, dean of the school of business for Middle Georgia State University, discusses Dublin's economy/PAYTON TOWNS III

Middle Georgia State business dean says Laurens County's economy in good shape

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

The dean of Middle Georgia State University's school of business told Dublin Rotary Club members that things look good when it comes to the economy in Dublin-Laurens County. And he predicts it will continue to be that way.

Marc Miller gave a disclaimer about the economic forecast right from the beginning of his speech.

"If it is all correct I came up with it," he said. "If it's incorrect, then somebody else did it."

Miller worked closely with Greg George, who is a tenured associate

professor of economics and the director of the center of economic analysis at MGA. They looked at the data, and George had a slightly optimistic viewpoint of the economy while Miller's are slightly less optimistic viewpoint. But they were kind of in the same agreement.

"We are looking at really messy kind of data," Miller said. "We can't say these things are going to happen. We have to keep that in mind and remember that all models are wrong, but some are very useful to help us understand what direction we need to be going in."

For indicators when it comes to the future economy, Miller looks at

population, participation and productivity. When looking at Laurens County population, Miller saw it is heading in the right direction.

"You continued to grow," he said. "In terms of population, you are doing pretty good."

He compared Laurens to Baldwin County because it is similar.

"Their population grew, but they are starting to decline, whereas you are not in a decline mode," Miller said. "That's a good indicator that says your economy is fairly strong and it should be fairly vibrant going

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AT THE FINISH LINE: NEW BUSINESS HOSTS COFFEE BREAK EVENT

Biscuits and coffee were served during the Downtown Coffee Break held at Finish Line Nutrition, 116 E. Jackson St., on Thursday. Owner Hagen Evans talked about her new business, which opened recently in downtown Dublin across from the Laurens County Courthouse. Announcements were made about several Saint Patricks Festival events coming up during the next couple of weeks/PAYTON TOWNS III



OBITUARIES



Myra Fordham Childers

Myra Fordham Childers, 78, passed away peacefully on Feb. 17, 2026, in Dublin, Georgia. Born on Christmas Eve in 1947, Myra's life was a reflection of her loving nature and unwavering spirit. She was predeceased by her parents, Alva J. and Pearl Fordham; her husband, Clayton Childers; her children, Scott and Laura Childers; and her sister, Darlene Fordham.

Myra's memory will be treasured by her daughter and son-in-law, Sherrie and Charles Taylor; daughter-in-law, Tracy Childers; grandsons, James (Amber) Childers and Nick Childers; great-grandchildren, Liam Michael Childers and Levi Scott Childers; two sisters, Alva Garnell Scoggins and Gloria Kenure; and many nieces and nephews who will miss her dearly.

During her younger years, she attended Brewton Parker College; Myra's intellectual curiosity and work ethic led her to a distinguished career. She dedicated many years to the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) at Fort Lee, Virginia, and later served the Carl Vinson Veterans Administration as an administrative assistant until her well-earned retirement.

Myra's zest for life was evident in her love for traveling. She embraced the opportunity to explore new places and cultures, infusing her life with adventure and stories to share. An avid reader, Myra could often be found engrossed in action-packed and mystery novels, delighting in the twists and turns of each plot.

Described by those who knew her as fiercely loving, Myra's legacy is one of compassion and kindness. She had a heart that knew no bounds, and her unwavering support for her family and friends was the cornerstone of her existence. Her laughter, warmth, and guidance will be profoundly missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at the Mary Whitaker Townsend Me-

morial Chapel at Townsend Brothers Funeral Home, with Rev. Robbie Passmore officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com to sign the online memorial register.

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



David Alan Cole

David Alan Cole, a devoted husband, loving brother and respected retired law enforcement officer, passed away on Feb. 18, 2026, at the age of 64 in Dublin, Georgia. Born on Oct. 29, 1961, in Germany, David's life was marked by a commitment to service and a deep-seated compassion for others.

David's career as a police officer and paramedic reflected his dedication to his profession. His colleagues and those he served with will remember him not only for his professionalism but also for his kindness and willingness to lend a helping hand in times of need. He embodied the qualities of a selfless protector and an invaluable member of the team.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Suzanne Cole, who stood beside him through thick and thin, sharing the joys and challenges of life. David is also survived by his sister, Lisa (Joe) Smith of Post Oak Bend, Texas, and his brother, Jamie Cole of Temple. The bonds of family were integral to David's life, and he cherished the moments spent with his loved ones.

David is preceded in death by his parents, Henry Buren Cole and Joanne Dunn Cole, who nurtured and instilled in him the values that guided his life. He also mourns the loss of his son, Joshua David Cole, whose memory will forever be a source of love and inspiration.

A visitation to honor David's life will take place on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Bethlehem-Sandhill Methodist Church. Following the visitation, a graveside service will be held at Bethlehem-Sandhill Methodist Church Cemetery at 2 p.m.

David Alan Cole leaves

behind a legacy of service, love, and dedication, and he will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Online condolences may be expressed at vaughnfh.com.

Vaughn Funeral Home of McRae is honored to be entrusted with arrangements.



Mattie H. Walker

Funeral services for Mattie H. Walker, 87, will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, 2026, in the Chan Stanley Memorial Chapel of Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory, with burial to follow in Westview Cemetery. The Rev. Hank Melton and Bishop Simon Yoder will officiate.

Mrs. Walker was born on July 30, 1938, in Emanuel County, Georgia, and made Dublin her home for many years. She was a retired secretary at the East Laurens Middle School and was a member of Buckeye Christian Church. She enjoyed traveling, especially to Outer Banks, and she loved to fish in her pond. She was preceded in death by her parents, Yome Lee Heath Sr. and Annie Powell Heath; and siblings, Viola Rogers, Linnie Mae Rauwald, Yome Lee Heath, Jr., Andy Heath and Shirley Johnson. Mrs. Walker passed away Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, at Piedmont Hospital in Macon.

She is survived by her husband, Bennie Ray Walker, Sr.; a son, Bennie Ray Walker Jr. (Rhonda); sister, Lorene Beasley; granddaughter, Monica Walker; great-grandson, Nolan Walker; great-granddaughters, Lani Tyson and Chloe Reed; several nieces and nephews; and extended family.

Pallbearers will be Lamar Yoder, Paul Yoder, Mark Yoder, Ray Yoder, Wendell Martin, and Gary Martin. Honorary pallbearers will be Tommy Walker, Mike Johnson, Hubert Leo Rogers, Donald Peeples, Curt Mayo and John McAfee.

The family received friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Buckeye Christian Church or to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

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



Samuel Ross

Funeral services for Mr. Samuel Ross, of East Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at 2 p.m. in the C. D. Dudley Memorial Chapel at the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East

Jackson Street, Dublin.

Samuel Ross, the youngest son of the late Abe Lizzie Ross Sr. and Mary Lizzie Ross, was born on April 26, 1942, in Johnson County, Scott, Georgia. He was raised alongside seven siblings, all of whom preceded him in death: Abe (Betty) Ross Jr., James (Betty) Ross, Robert (Ann) Ross, Otis (Evelyn) Ross, and three sisters—Marie (Talmadge) Reese, Mary Ross and Annie Ruth Reese.

Sam began his education at Royal Chapel Elementary School and later attended B.D. Perry High School. He completed his formal education at Northwestern High School in Washington, D.C., where he earned his certification as a Master Plumber. He dedicated many years of service to his profession, beginning his career with Fludd Plumbing and continuing to work as a master plumber well into retirement.

Sam was united in marriage to the love of his life, Celestine Ross. Together, they built a life and raised their family in Hyattsville, Maryland, before relocating to Dublin, Georgia upon retirement.

Sam had a deep appreciation for life's simple pleasures. He loved fishing—especially for catfish—cooking, gardening, and fixing just about anything that needed repair. Known for his strong will, warm heart, and infectious laughter, Sam was kind to everyone he met and was always willing to lend a helping hand.

A strong-willed and resilient life came to a peaceful close on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, when Samuel L. Ross, affectionately known as Sam, passed away at his home on Shady Lane. In addition to his parents and siblings, Sam was preceded in death by his beloved daughter, Trisha Ross, and his son, Samuel Ross Jr.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Celestine Ross; his sons, Frank (Michele) Willoby, Steven (Melissa) Willoby, and Dennis Willoby; his daughters, Casey Willoby and Arleathy (Donnell) Haskins; eleven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends who will forever hold his memory close to their hearts.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin



Larry Butler

Celebration of life services for Mr. Larry Butler, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Mount Moriah Baptist Church, 1106 Academy Ave., Dublin.

Mr. Larry Butler was born on Sunday, Aug. 14, 1955, in Laurens County. He attended the B.D. Perry School in East Dublin, and subsequently worked various jobs, including at Barry Livestock, Jeffway, and Craig Meat Market and at the East Dublin Animal Shelter. Mr. Larry's passions included fishing and socializing with his large network of friends and family.

Mr. Larry's time on earth expired on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, in Hospice Savannah in Savannah, Georgia. He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Doris Daniels and Sidney (Dock)

Wright, Sr.; his spouse, Katherine Butler; one son, Kevourious "Dimwim" Butler; and eight siblings; Odesa Moss, Sidney Wright, Jr., Lena Mae Wright, Ella Mitchell, Jimmy Jackson, Leroy Sims, Wayam Butler and Ronnie Daniels.

Larry leaves to cherish his memory: two sons, Larry "Buck" Hicks and Larry "Jawaski Freeman; eight siblings, Linda Ann Butler of Dublin, Alfred Daniels of Soperton, Ricky (Sharon) Daniels of Stockbridge, Doristine Daniels of Dublin, Shirley Burley of East Dublin, Jennifer Blair of East Dublin, William Wright of Dublin, and Eddie Moss of East Dublin; a devoted cousin, Ben Lee Wright of Dublin; eight grandchildren; as well as a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and many friends.

Please post your condolences online at [Services by Dudley.com](http://ServicesbyDudley.com).



Linda Sue Garner

Linda Sue Garner, 78, entered into the presence of her Lord and Savior on Feb. 19, 2026 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She is free and at peace.

Linda was born on Dec 14, 1947 in Boone, N.C. to Louise Herold. She came to live with her aunt and uncle, Ezra and Florence Porter at the age of three. She was soon adopted and became part of the Porter family. She graduated from Dublin High School in 1965.

Her work career spanned some 43 years rising to administrative assistant to the CEO of the company. She was the last person to leave the company after 60 years of operation in Dublin.

She married Jim Garner in July of 1969. They welcomed a son in December 1970, and a daughter in March of 1985. Both were their pride and joy.

She also was known for her poetry, often done for friends and family, and special occasions. She even wrote one for an Atlanta Braves announcer for a special occasion.

She was funny, kind and compassionate to everyone. She never met a stranger and always offered a helping hand. She was active in her church life, spanning over 50 years. She taught Sunday School for 47 years, sang in the choir, and various other duties along the way. Always faithful in her service to the Lord, she was known to help others, with a caring touch. She touched countless lives along the way, never accepting reward or praise. She was known for her kind heart and humble spirit. Her loving spirit touched those around her and brought smiles to faces. She was known to be a doer of the word, not just a hearer. Her generosity helped many lives through the years. Her life was hallmarked by obe-

dience and sacrifice to her Lord, Jesus Christ.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Jim Garner, her parents Ezra and Florence Porter.

She is survived by her children, Jimmy Garner (Sharon), and Laurie Garner, and one grandson Caleb Garner.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026 in the Chan Stanley Memorial Chapel, with interment to follow at Northview Cemetery. Rev. Max Rodgers will officiate. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Pallbearers are Jimmy Garner, Ken Allen, Eli Holmes, Paul Holmes, Jeff Porter, and Richie Porter. Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Dublin Chapel has charge of funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit www.stanleyfuneralhome.com



Charles Randall Carr

Charles Randall Carr, 75, of Eastman, died Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at Roddy Cemetery.

He is survived by his companion, Cheryl Sheffield; daughter, Angela Gail Carr; son,

Randall C. Carr; stepdaughter, Denise Adams (Mike); granddaughte, Kayla Rozier; sisters, Margaret Register and Sharon Bender; brothers, Theron Carr (Barbara) and Russell Carr (Marie); and brother-in-law, Buddy McDaniel (Jenny).

The family will receive friends in Roddy Cemetery from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 23.

Stokes-Southerland Funeral Home of Eastman has charge of arrangements. (www.stokes-southerland.com)

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 21
*Carl & Diane
Coley*

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 21
*Delores Holliman
Sean Harrison*

Feb. 23
*TimiKie Roberts
Shelia Jordan
Jeffery Rozier Sr.
Courtney Bate*

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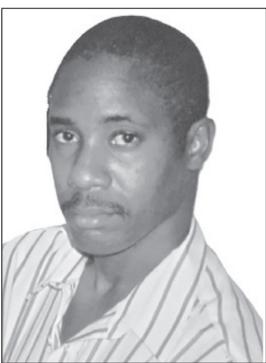
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OBITUARIES



Kenneth L. Marshall

Funeral services for Mr. Kenneth L. Marshall of Burlington, New Jersey, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at 11 AM in the C. D. Dudley Memorial Chapel at the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street, Dublin. Interment will follow in the Whitey Chapel Cemetery.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin



Dora Dean Veal Tanner

Dora Dean Veal Tanner, 94, entered into the presence of her Lord and Savior on Feb. 18, 2026, at her home in Wrightsville, Georgia.

She was born Aug. 12, 1931, in the Buckeye community of Wrightsville to Mae Jessie Colson Veal and Cleon Adam Veal. The third of seven children, Dora Dean grew up on a working farm where she thrived outdoors — milking cows, tending gardens, gathering eggs, and even competing with her brothers in jumping fences. Those early years shaped her strong work ethic and joyful spirit as she faithfully shared in the daily chores of farm life during the 1930s and 1940s.

She grew up in the Bay Springs Methodist Church in Oconee, Georgia, where she enjoyed participating in Methodist singing schools. Her love for Jesus, her family, and music remained constant throughout her life.

Dora Dean graduated from Wrightsville High School in 1948 and, one week later, married James Russell Tanner, who had recently returned home from World War II. Together they built a life on Tanner Hill in Wrightsville, working faithfully in their family dairy and farming business. They were blessed with five children.

Her devotion to her family was unparalleled. She modeled godly principles, unconditional love, and a life of service. For 65 years, Dora Dean faithfully played the piano at Union Hill Baptist Church, continuing until the age of 92. Over the years, she was part-owner of Tanner's Department Store and later served as director of Food Services at Wrightsville Elementary School.

She cherished her role as Nana to 16 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren, where she delighted in baking tea cakes, skipping rocks across the pond, and exploring the woods with them. She was known for her sewing, quilting, cooking, and remarkable problem-solving abilities — which her family fondly described as “engineering skills.” Her heart overflowed with the joy of the Lord, and the fruit of the Spirit was evident in her daily walk. Her legacy of

faith and love will continue for generations.

She is survived by her five children: Jeanie Maria Tanner Revell (Dr. Walter Revell, Jr.) of Rock Hill, South Carolina; James Rocky Tanner (Teresa Simmons) of Wrightsville; David Russell Tanner (JJ Blackburn Rowland, dear friend) of Wrightsville; Cleon Edward Tanner (Kim Price) of Wrightsville; and Deana Krystal Tanner Bibb (Kenneth Allen Bibb) of Sandersville.

Survivors also include 16 grandchildren: Dr. Letty Jean Revell Peterson (Tom Peterson IV) of Vidalia; Maria Tanner Revell Tull (Trey Tull) of Corinth, Miss.; James Rocky Tanner, Jr. (Amy Moye) of Harrison; Justin Matthew Tanner (Hillary Smith) of Bishop; Ashley Amber Tanner Gheesling (Chuck Gheesling) of Wrightsville; Jonah Jeremiah Simmons (Tiffany Gillis) of Wrightsville; Toby Gene Tanner (Krystal Powell) of Wrightsville; David Shane Tanner (Barbara Scarborough, dear friend) of Statesboro; Christopher Brent Tanner (Kandi Durden) of Dublin; Jake Duran Tanner (Eva Brown) of Wrightsville; Alivia Lyn Tanner of Wrightsville; Russell Thurston Tanner (Shelley Stuckey) of Bishop; Kimberly Tess Tanner Puzio (Scott Puzio) of Locust Grove; Callie McGuire Bibb Clark (Ben Clark) of North Augusta, S.C., McFerrin Dean Bibb and Kessler Ann Bibb of Sandersville.

Great Grand Children (29) are: Jean Houston Peterson, Thomas Alexander Peterson V, Stella Redgrave Peterson, John Calhoun Peterson, Lillian Elizabeth Tull, Claire Revell Tull, James Rocky Tanner III (Tripp), Ashley Elizabeth Tanner, Colson Matthew Tanner, Justin Baker Tanner, Tanner Copeland Gheesling, Izabella Jean Simmons, Cloey Jo Simmons, Willa June Simmons, Declan Walter Simmons, Knox Simmons Tanner, Piper Dailey Tanner, Sidney Hope Tanner, Bryson David Tanner, Jericho Brett Tanner, Mae Jessie Tanner, Carleigh Deborah Tanner, Russell Edward Tanner, Maddox Joseph Tanner, Elijah Major Tanner, Adam Andrew Jones, McKenzie Garrett Jones, Levi Walker Moon and Lucas William Clark.

She is also survived by her sister, Sarah Brinnette Veal Caneega; sisters-in-law, Velma Jones Veal and Pearl Franklin Tanner; and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 44 years, James Russell Tanner; her siblings, Nellie Pauline Veal Tanner, Roger Wilmer Veal, Hazel Jane Veal Hardin, Burley Washington Veal II, and Sally Kay Veal Snell; and two grandchildren, Angela Danielle Tanner and John Walter Revell.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the home caregivers and Georgia Hospice Care for the exceptional devotion, kindness, and care shown during Mrs. Tanner's illness.

Visitation will be held Friday, Feb. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Stanley Funeral Home in Wrightsville. The funeral service will be Saturday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. at Union Hill Baptist Church in Wrightsville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Union Hill

Baptist Church Music Fund at 301 Lords Pond Road, Wrightsville, GA 31096.

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Wrightsville Chapel has charge of funeral arrangements.



Louis Preston McLendon Jr.

Funeral services for Mr. Louis Preston McLendon Jr., affectionately known as “Mac,” of Wrightsville, Georgia, will be held on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026 at 3 p.m. at the C. D. Dudley Memorial Chapel at the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street, Dublin.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, he was the son of the late Louis P. McLendon Sr. and Doretha V. McLendon (Mincey). Mac was a graduate of Alfred E. Beach High School, Class of 1965, and served honorably in the United States Navy and the National Air Guard. He dedicated 32 years to the Savannah Fire Department, retiring in 2000, as the city's first African American Chief Arson Investigator. He was a faithful deacon at Harrison Spring Baptist Church.

Mr. McLendon entered eternal rest on Feb. 17, 2026, at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Bonnie Mae McLendon; his mother, Doretha V. McLendon; children, Louis Preston McLendon III (Roena “Peaches”), Melinda Ann Pullen, and Brianna S. Causey (Ronald); grandchildren and great-grandchildren; siblings; and a host of extended family and friends.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin



Robert R. Anderson

Robert R. Anderson passed away on Feb. 5 at Fairview Park Hospital, after an illness. His family and friends will gather at Dexter Community Center for a celebration of life on March 1 at 2 p.m.

Robert was a kind and hardworking man. He put others before himself. He was a loving husband, father, papa and friend. He will be missed by many.

Robert was preceded in death by his mother and father. He leaves behind his

children, John Russell Britt, Jr. (Ashton), Nichole Strickland (Lee), Dana Hall (Clay) and Christina Hibbs (Taylor); and five great-grandchildren, Dawson Strickland, Joanna Strickland, Leah Hall, Kinsley Hall and Sterling Britt.



Maxine Carey

Maxine Carey, 86, passed away Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, after a sudden illness.

Ms. Carey was born January 31, 1940, in Hazlehurst, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late Hugh Wilson and Daisy Brooks Wilson. She was also preceded in death by her husbands, John F. Britt and Howard “Pete” Warren, and a sister, JoAnn Smith.

She was a homemaker who had a deep love for her family, and she cherished each of them immensely. She showed expressions of her love by cooking for her family and having them over to share a meal together. She loved flowers and watching sunsets. She enjoyed gardening, sewing and crocheting. She made many special and beautiful afghans for her children and grandchildren. She was a member of Liberty Church.

Ms. Carey is survived by her son, John Russell Britt (Julie) of Peachtree City; a daughter, Melinda Lewis Carr of Dublin; four grand-

children, John Russell Britt, Jr. (Ashton), Nichole Strickland (Lee), Dana Hall (Clay) and Christina Hibbs (Taylor); and five great-grandchildren, Dawson Strickland, Joanna Strickland, Leah Hall, Kinsley Hall and Sterling Britt.

Ms. Carey will be memorialized by her wishes at a private family service at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the charity of your choice or to Soul (Serving Others Unconditional Love/link provided)

a non-profit that was near and dear to Maxine's heart, as it was founded at UGA by her granddaughter, Christina. www.servingsoul.org

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



Son of First Liberty founder fined and referred for potential prosecution

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A Republican activist and former employee of a family-run financial firm accused of bilking mostly conservative investors out of millions of dollars could face criminal prosecution after the Georgia Secretary of State's office referred his case to a local prosecutor Wednesday.

Edwin Brant Frost V, former chairman of the Coweta County Republican Party, was also fined \$500,000 by the state agency in connection with his alleged actions at First Liberty Building & Loan. Frost is the son of the firm's founder, Edwin Brant Frost IV.

“First Liberty misappropriated investors' funds by failing to use investor funds as it represented to investors,” said the order issued by an assistant commissioner for Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

The agency referred its investigative file for potential prosecution to the Coweta County district attorney and sent it to the Georgia Office of the Commission-

er of Insurance and Safety Fire, where Frost V holds an insurance agent license, according to the order.

“The Secretary of State did not provide him an opportunity to address his baseless accusations before rushing to judgment and to the press,” Frost V's lawyer, Christopher J. Huber, said.

The Coweta district attorney's office had no immediate comment. The insurance commissioner's office did not immediately respond to queries about the case. Frost V is accused of interacting with investors without the required registrations as a broker deal agent and as an investment adviser representative. The secretary of state's order also said he failed to disclose risk to investors and made unsuitable recommendations while personally profiting by investing in loan agreements that he then solicited to investors.

The order said he received \$47,000 in bonuses and \$88,000 in commissions and was receiving \$4,000 a month from First Liberty by November 2023.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of East Dublin Mayor and Council will hold a Public Hearing on March 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Terrie E Drew Council Chambers located at the East Dublin City Hall. The meeting will be held for the purpose of discussion and approval of the proposed rezoning application of AKS Holding aka Cherokee Block & Brick, located at 220 Savannah Avenue, East Dublin, GA from A-1 to M-1. All interested parties are invited to attend.

On fast cars, keeping notes and hoarding

On fast cars, keeping notes and hoarding
 “How do you let someone know that you want to race?” my daughter, only 8 years old at the time, asked from the back seat.

“The customary way,” I replied, “is to make eye contact with the driver next to you and rev the engine.”

“Can we do that?” the little voice behind me said.

Unfortunately, the driver stopped at the red light next to us was a sheriff's deputy in his patrol car, so we did not race that day.

This interaction occurred two years ago, on Aug. 8, 2024 to be precise. I know that because I wrote it down and I came across the note recently. It pays to write things down. Somewhere in a vast, and steadily growing, archive of notes, drawings and scribbles is a contract I had drawn up that said my little girl could not get married until she was 40 years old. I signed it, she signed in (in kindergarten penmanship) and I may have gone as far as getting it notarized.

My wife scolded me and reminded me how old, or young rather, I was when we tied the knot. I kept the paper anyway; it will make a fun wedding present, hopefully 30 years from now.

But back to cars. I've always been very utilitarian when

Lily wedding note notarized by Trevor

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By **KYLE DOMINY**

it comes to vehicles, and had I tried to start a drag race I would have not only gone to jail but also lost the race. I've ever been impressed much by fast cars or felt the need for speed. That could change if I ever find myself behind the

wheel of car designed for something besides hauling kids and groceries around.

I am long past due for a car upgrade, but, like drawings by kids, I can't seem to part ways with my 15-year-old SUV. It's almost old enough to get its own driver's license. Call me a sentimental person with slight hoarding tendencies.

The first internal combustion engine automobile land-speed record was set back in 1902. The vehicle and its death-defying driver astounded the world by going a whopping 76 mph. Can you imagine living in a world where the speed record is now common interstate cruising speed? What an age to be alive. The current land speed record stands at roughly 763 mph and was set in 1997 by driver Andy Green. Green strapped himself into a seat attached to two jet engines and tore through the Nevada desert.

My car starts shaking a little at 70 mph, so I reckon I won't be challenging the record, current or past. And I should probably be more worried about keeping my daughter from behind the wheel of a fast car and not so much about how old she is when she gets married. Sixteen years old is right around the corner.

If she plays her cards right, she could inherit my car. Maybe by then I'll have a vehicle built for speed. And I am going to challenge her to a race.

Dublin Police Department

-Quantavis Marcuis Jones, 31, was charged with giving false name, address or birthdate to law, driving while license suspended or revoked and tail lights and lens required on South Decatur Street 9 p.m. on Jan. 30.

An officer was patrolling when noticing a dark-colored car pass with the passenger side taillight out. The officer turned on the vehicle's emergency lights to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle, which came to an abrupt stop in the middle of the road.

The driver told the officer that the vehicle did not belong to him. The driver, identified as Jones, said he did not have his license on him at the time. After giving his name and birthdate, the officer came back and told him to give them his real name. The driver gave another name and date of birth of someone who did not have a license in Geor-

gia. The driver then gave his real name and advised that he had a warrant through JAG probation.

Jones' license has been suspended since 2023. He was transported to the county detention center where he was released to the booking staff.

- Lauren Candice Lee, 40, was charged with driving under the influence and impeding the flow of traffic on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive around 11:06 p.m. on Feb. 4.

An officer was called to the location of a suspected impaired driver. The driver was passed out behind the wheel, and it took a while for her to wake up. The woman said she had been at a friend's house but did not know where it was. The investigation led to Lee being arrested and transported to Fairview Park Hospital for blood to be drawn, before going to the sheriff's office.

- Chadwick Slaughter, 37, was charged with disorderly conduct and ag-



POLICE BEAT...

gravated stalking around 4 a.m. on Feb. 7. An officer responded to a location on North Church Street in reference to a trespassing.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- A deputy met with a person at the sheriff's office in reference to a civil complaint that happened on Chieftain Trail around 6:14 p.m. on Feb. 3.

- A deputy responded to Flucker Maddox Road in reference to a removal subject call around 11:40 a.m. on Feb. 3.

- A person needed a report about an incident that occurred on Flucker Road around 4:29 p.m. on Jan. 29.

- A deputy met with a

woman about a situation that happened on Buckeye Road around 2:23 p.m. on Feb. 2.

- On Feb. 2, around midnight, a deputy was dispatched to Fourth Street in Dudley in reference to a theft.

- On Jan. 31, around 4:54 p.m., a deputy received a phone message for a harassment that occurred on Windsong Drive.

- A theft happened on Ga. 199 around 9:49 a.m. on Jan. 30.

- On Jan. 30, a deputy talked to a person over the phone about a lien being placed on her home on Baker Church Road.

- Cynthia Spires, 40, of East Dublin, was charged with tampering with evidence. A deputy was patrolling the area of Highway 441 South around 2:30 a.m., which led to the arrest of Spires.

- Amy Elizabeth Herrin, 36, of Dexter, was charged with possession of methamphetamine at the intersection of Lauren Woods and Quail Run around 3:51 a.m. on Feb. 2.

- A deputy talked with a person around 8:35 a.m. in reference to an incident that happened on Highway 441 on Jan. 30.

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



TELL IT!

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

I totally disagree that the superintendent committee and the accreditation committee are waiving their fees because of DCS "situation". I have to pay all my bill not matter the "situation."

Can we get a road name sign at Holly Ridge Drive at the intersection with 441 North? The sign bandit.

I am writing as a concerned resident to highlight the growing need for improved maintenance and beautification efforts in both Dublin and East Dublin. Our towns have considerable charm and potential, but the lack of regular upkeep is becoming increasingly evident.

Overgrown grass, untrimmed weeds, and

un-edged sidewalks and curbs are not only unsightly but also diminish the pride we take in our community. These issues are especially visible along main roads and public walkways, where a clean, welcoming environment should greet residents and visitors alike.

One area that could especially benefit from attention is the town bridge. As a key connector between Dublin and East Dublin, it deserves to be a point of pride. Planting flowers or shrubs along the bridge would be a simple yet powerful way to beautify this shared space and reflect our care for our towns.

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

	SATURDAY: 72° Cloudy with a couple of showers. Sunrise: 7:09 a.m.
	SATURDAY NIGHT: 50° Mostly cloudy. Sunset: 6:23 p.m.
	SUNDAY: 61° Mostly sunny, breezy and cooler. Sunrise: 7:08 a.m.
	SUNDAY NIGHT: 31° Breezy in the evening; otherwise clear and colder. Sunset: 6:23 p.m.

Monday 2/23 HIGH/LOW 50/28 Mostly sunny, breezy and cooler. Sunrise: 7:07 a.m. Sunset: 6:24 p.m.	Tuesday 2/24 HIGH/LOW 55/31 Mostly sunny and cool. Sunrise: 7:05 a.m. Sunset: 6:25 p.m.	Wednesday 2/25 HIGH/LOW 65/47 Cloudy with rain overspreading the area in the afternoon. Sunrise: 7:04 a.m. Sunset: 6:26 p.m.	Thursday 2/26 HIGH/LOW 67/52 A couple of morning showers; otherwise, clouds yielding to sun. Sunrise: 7:03 a.m. Sunset: 6:27 p.m.	Friday 2/27 HIGH/LOW 72/51 A couple of morning showers; otherwise, clouds yielding to sun. Sunrise: 7:02 a.m. Sunset: 6:27 p.m.

River levels...
 Oconee (at Dublin) 4.68'
 Ocmulgee (at Macon) 7.16'

Moment of Inspiration

Two Paths

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” — Proverbs 14:12

Every day, we stand at a crossroads. One path follows our own instincts, feelings, and plans. The other follows God's wisdom and direction. Often, our way feels right—but Scripture warns us that feelings can mislead. God's path may not always be the easiest or most popular, but it leads to life, peace, and truth. Choosing His way requires humility and trust, especially when we don't fully understand the outcome. Today, pause and ask: Which path am I choosing? When we surrender our way to God and walk in obedience, He leads us where our own wisdom never could.

Prayer:

Lord, help me choose Your path over my own. Guide my steps and keep my heart aligned with Your truth. 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



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

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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 website until position is filled. The City of Dublin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

26-075
NOTICE:
TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
An action to abate a nuisance was filed in rem on the 17 day of February, 2026 and is pending in the Municipal Court of the City of Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, City Docket No. 2026-03-03.

The Parties to the action are: The City of Dublin and the real estate described as follows:
All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying, and being in the City of Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, and being Lot No. 4, Block 141A, as shown by a plat of survey, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Laurens Superior Court, in Plat Book 2, Page 46, and as shown by plat of Survey made by Jack C. Brantley, Land Surveyor, dated August 22, 1960, and recorded in Deed Book 185, Page 319, to which plat reference hereby is made for the purpose of a more minute description. Said property being known as **806 North Church Street** according to the present numbering of the City of Dublin.

For Informational Purposes Only: Street Address is **806 N Church Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021**
Tax Map and Parcel No. D15E 054
Interested Parties Include:
Owners: Verna Harden-Baker
Other Interested Parties: N/A
The relief sought is the abatement of a nuisance pursuant to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Dublin, Georgia, remedies include, but are not limited to, debris/trash removal, and securing, repair, or demolition of any structures located thereon and a lien on the property for costs of the same. A hearing will be held before the Municipal Court of Dublin, Georgia, located at 346 S. Jefferson Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021 at 2:00PM on the 4th day of March, 2026.

Jacob W. Poole
Staff Attorney
City of Dublin, Georgia
P.O. Box 690
Dublin, Georgia 31040
(478) 410-5422
February 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

26-051
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, Shalandia Moore, Yhonnai 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

26-071
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

26-013
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

26-065
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

26-076
NOTICE:
TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
An action to abate a nuisance was filed in rem on the 16th day of February, 2026 and is pending in the Municipal Court of the City of Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, City Docket No. 2026- 03-01.

The Parties to the action are: The City of Dublin and the real estate described as follows:
All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin at the southeast corner of Williams Street and South Franklin Street; thence North 58 degrees 26 minutes East along the southeast margin of Williams Street 117.88 feet to an iron pin; thence South 31 degrees, 34 minutes East 100.21 feet to an iron pin; thence South 58 degrees 26 minutes West 167.96 feet to an iron pin; thence North 7 degrees 15 minutes West 73.85 feet (chord) to an iron pin; thence North 0 degrees 27 minutes West 38.43 feet to an iron pin at the point of beginning. Said property is more particularly described according to a plat of survey prepared by Marvin D. Clements, Land Surveyor, dated December 13, 1982, a copy of said plat being recorded in Deed Book 402, Page 673, Laurens County Records and being incorporated herein by reference as a part of this description.
For Informational Purposes Only: Street Address is **403 Williams Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021**
Tax Map and Parcel No. D16C 228
Owners as Interested Parties: Betty Jean Brown and John T. Willis
Other Interested Parties Include: Jeriod Anthony Stuckey and Charles Brown
The relief sought is the abatement of a nuisance pursuant to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Dublin, Georgia; remedies include, but are not limited to, debris/trash removal, and securing, repair, or demolition of any structures located thereon and a lien on the property for costs of the same. A hearing will be held before the Municipal Court of Dublin, Georgia, located at 346 S. Jefferson Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021 at 2:00PM on the 4th day of March, 2026.
Jacob W. Poole
Staff Attorney
City of Dublin, Georgia
P.O. Box 690
Dublin, Georgia 31040
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

(478) 410-5422
February 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

26-060
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, 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 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

26-052
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 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

26-056
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF LAURENS
IN RE: ESTATE OF Elizabeth Kellam, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Elizabeth Kellam, deceased, late of Laurens County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
Januita 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

26-052
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 Lands 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
Stonewalk Dublin RPMP LLC
Edward B. Claxton III
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 16459
Dublin, Georgia 31040
478-272-9965
ebccatty@bellsouth.net
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 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. Prospective bidders must perform their own due diligence. 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.
Upon information and belief, 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 shall control.
ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicious Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.
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, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258.
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
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
17:00:032026-01-14T21:57:00Z
2
age 2
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

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
Stonewalk Dublin RPMP LLC
Edward B. Claxton III
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 16459
Dublin, Georgia 31040
478-272-9965
ebccatty@bellsouth.net
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 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. Prospective bidders must perform their own due diligence. 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.
Upon information and belief, 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 shall control.
ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicious Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.
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, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258.
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
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
17:00:032026-01-14T21:57:00Z
2
age 2
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

#209 Angelette Linton
#172 Angelette Linton
#60 Donna Vose
#119 Treva Waters
#319 Jarvis Blackshear
#128 Laval Watkins
#263 Ricky Rozier
February 21, 2026

26-038
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

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

26-057
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 I 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 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 Center, 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

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF LAURENS**
IN RE: ESTATE OF Charles E. Scarborough, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Charles E. Scarborough, 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. Scarborough
Executor of Charles E. Scarborough, 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 weekins in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified..."
January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 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

26-069
NOTICE OF SALE
Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia, Annotates 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

26-032
**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

26-055
**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

26-014
**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

26-015
**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

26-016
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**
**IN RE: ESTATE OF ANNIE ELLEN SMITH, 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: 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

26-078
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on March 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Laurens County Courthouse, 101 North Jefferson Street, Dublin, Georgia 31021, Judge William D. Taylor of the Superior Court of Laurens County will hear the case of **STATE OF GEORGIA vs. CITY OF DUBLIN AND COUNTY OF LAURENS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY and YKK AP AMERICA INC.**, Civil Action File No. 26-CG-0149-JH in the Superior Court of Laurens County, the same being a proceeding to confirm and validate a City of Dublin and County of Laurens Development Authority Taxable Industrial Development Revenue Bond (YKK AP America Inc. Project), Series 2026 (the "**Bond**"), in a maximum principal amount of \$50,000,000, which is to be issued by the City of Dublin and County of Laurens Development Authority (the "**Issuer**") pursuant to the terms of a resolution adopted by the Issuer (the "**Bond Resolution**"), for the purpose of acquiring and leasing the below-described Project and thereby furthering the public purposes of the Act, which are to develop, promote and expand for the public good and general welfare, industry, agriculture, commerce, natural resources, and vocational training and for the making of long-range plans for the coordination of such development, promotion and expansion within the territorial limits of the City of Dublin (the "**City**") and County of Laurens (the "**County**"). The "**Project**" is

FROM THE RECORD

Complaint for divorce: Candice Cameron v Landon Cameron; Albert Stanley v Brittney Stanley

Contract: Capital One v Laura Stewart; Public School employees retirement system v Doris Pittman; One-main Financial Group v Jerome Edwards; Credit Corp Solutions, Inc. v Lenora Ivory

Complaint- child support: Ga. DHS ex rel Cameron West v Dylan West

Complaint on contract: Credit Acceptance Corporation v Jerry Tyson; Citibank v Anna Clark; Citibank v Mary Knight

Bond violation: State of Georgia v Laurens County School District

Complaint for forfeiture: State of Georgia v Marcus Scrutchins

Automobile tort: Danny and Malissa Parks v Robert Jones

Liens: Ethan Knight to Midland Credit Management; Matthew M. Wohlra-be to Georgia Department of Revenue (2); Davin Edwards to Aman Food Mart; Donnie Taylor McArthur to Prestige Financial Services, Inc.; Chase Dillon Davis to Fairview Park Hospital; Frank James to Department of Community Health; Marci Tharpe Mulkey to Urdirec, LLC; Jonathan W. Raburn to First Franklin Bank; Josie Herring to Truist Bank; Tonisha Sherrod to The Credit Union Loan Source, LLC; Perry Quinn to Credit Corp Solutions, Inc.; Lacorie Wright to Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC; Robert Hession to Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC; London Ezell to DNF Associates LLC

Warranty deed: Sarah Lee Dean, Debra D. Roach, Barbara Gail Dean nka Barbara Gail Cox, Kayla M. Dean, Nicholas G. Dean, Kendell L. Floyd, Jeffrey S. Dean to Sara Lee Dean; Melania Allen Windham to Purple Dog Properties, LLC; Kenneth Ricks and Callie Ricks to Laura Bland Pelham; Buckeye Preferred Services, LLC to Arnold Lamar Yoder; James Robert Evans to James Anthony Evans; Hubert W. Sears Jr. to UNC Properties, LLC; Layton Properties, LLC to Valentin Capital Ventures, LLC; Southeastern Pizza Real estate company, LLC to Karma Properties Holdings LLC; Oconee Holding Company to Joshua Blake Knight and Lindsey Brownlee Knight; Freddie Pooler and Calen Pooler to Rusty Pierpoint and Jocydelle Pierpoint; Jackson Steven Knight to Carlos Romulo-Perez; Franklin B. Barbee aka Franklin Buford Barbee and Betty Ann Barbee to Agustín Jimenez; Sakhi Investments,

a capital project consisting of equipment, machinery, personal fixtures, cabling and other personal property installed or located, or to be installed or located, at the Company's manufacturing facility at 1229 US-441 Bypass, Dublin, Georgia 31021 in the County (the "**Facility**"), which Project is to be owned by the Issuer and leased to YKK AP America Inc. (the "**Company**"), a New York corporation, for use in its manufacturing operations, all in accordance with the terms of the Bond Resolution. The Project will be undertaken in Phases (as defined in the Bond Resolution), as more particularly described in the Bond Resolution. The Project is more fully described in the Economic Development Agreement (as defined in the Bond Resolution) and in materials on file with the Issuer. In such proceeding, the Court will also (a) hear and determine the validity of instruments relating to and providing security for the Bond, and (b) hear and determine such other questions of law and fact pertaining to the right of the Issuer to issue the Bond and to provide the security therefor. The Bond shall be a special and limited obligation of the Issuer, payable from funds provided by the Company or its successors, shall not be payable from taxes or other public funds, and **NO PERFORMANCE AUDIT OR PERFORMANCE REVIEW SHALL BE CONDUCTED WITH RESPECT TO SUCH BOND ISSUE.** Any citizen of the State residing in the County, or any other person wherever residing who has a right to object, may intervene and become a party to these proceedings.
Clerk, Superior Court, Laurens County, Georgia
February 21, 28, 2026

LLC to Steven Michel Ward Jr. and Robin Kristen Ward

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RELIGION DIGEST

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

The First Rehoboth Baptist Association of Montrose

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 Af-

rican 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 welcome.

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REGION 2-HIGH A TOURNAMENT

Worst to first?

Magical tournament run continues as third, fourth-straight wins get Irish from last place into state playoffs, region championship game

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

SANDERSVILLE – It was hard not to get a few chills as yet another emotional postgame scene – this one summed up in a shot right out of one of those sports movies about the underdog getting hot when it counts and making a run to win it all – unfolded in the aftermath of Thursday's 2-High A semifinal.

A vantage point opposite the benches in the corner offered a glimpse of it all... The dismayed faces of Dodge County players as they left the court after watching a potential game-tying 3-point shot fall short as time expired, and the jubilation of a Dublin bench that climbed to its feet and stormed the court – players shouting and a beaming head coach Carlos Hope with both arms extended in the air – in front of a scoreboard showing the 50-47 final that was good for a fourth Irish region tournament win in as many days.

This latest chapter in their long-shot story, just when you thought it couldn't get any better, has turned

Dublin's postseason from storybook material to Hollywood script, and what would have been an utterly fantastic suggestion at the point its journey from last place in the bracket began on Monday to a proposition much closer now to reality than the stuff of dreams: Friday night, the Irish will be playing for the region championship.

If their enthusiasm in the celebration didn't hit you somewhere in the feels, the words offered by a choked-up Hope as he summed up his sentiments on the way into the locker room definitely would.

"We give God all the glory, man," he said. "For these young men not to quit when they could've quit, that just says a lot about their character... I'm getting emotional about it... But I'm super excited about this opportunity here, and we're excited that we get a chance to play tomorrow night."

Much like in a quarter-final win over No. 3 East Laurens on Wednesday, this one against the second-seeded Indians was back-and-forth the whole way, and came down the



ON TO THE FINALS!: The Irish celebrate after Dodge County's game-tying 3-point attempt missed at the horn, sealing their fourth-straight victory in this week's improbable region tournament run. After finishing the regular season with an 0-13 league record just a week ago, Dublin is now one win away from the 2-High A championship/CLAY REYNOLDS

last handful of possessions as Dublin relied on more of the strong defense that had carried it to this point on the three-night win streak, as well as the great free-throw shooting (tonight, 11-for-14) that had been just as pivotal.

But once again, the Irish were also going to need some strokes of fortune, and the ball to kick their way a time or two to make it a fourth-consecutive miracle.

Things weren't looking great as Dodge took its biggest lead of the night, 45-41, with a pair of free throws at 3:09 to go.

Dublin, since the half, had struggled both getting shots to go down, and getting them up altogether against the fly-swatting Kyler Johnson inside.

But in familiar fashion, the Irish conjured just the right looks in the last few

minutes to score and work their way back.

"It was just grit right there, man," Hope said. "Our guys were just playing. I don't gamble or anything, but I told them we're playing with house money. Nobody expects us to be here, so our kids are able to play free and loosely, and they just believe."

Chris Dixon, who scored 16 to lead Dublin for a second night in a row, quickly slipped one home off the glass to cut the Dodge lead back to two, and though the Irish missed a shot to tie on their next trip, they'd atone by forcing a turnover as Quan Lovett came up with a steal on the Indians' inbound pass after a foul.

The outlet found Ar'Dreakius Taylor, who found "Boogie" McRae ahead in transition for a

contested lay-in that tied the game, and drew a foul. McRae tacked on the extra point to get to 12 on the night, and put Dublin back ahead 46-45 with roughly 90 seconds to go.

The slight lead, somehow, would survive several quality shots on the Dodge County end that somehow rolled away, a first as Johnson missed a layup and Lovett pulled down the rebound, which went down among 14 for the game.

Desperate for insurance, the Irish put it in the hands of Dixon, whose shot attempt on a drive to the right of the basket looked to be blocked clean by Terrence Fordham, but with a slight body check on the follow-through.

IRISH

Continued on page 8

GIAA STATE BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Tough quarter haunts Trinity boys in first round

By JEREMY PAYNE
Correspondent

The Trinity Crusaders saw their basketball season come to an end on Wednesday with a 46-41 loss to Southland in Americus.

Trinity almost battled back from a historically slow start, but could not quite pull off the upset.

Playing against a Raider squad that prefers a deliberate pace, the Crusaders knew possessions would be at a premium.

They failed to take advantage of those limited possessions as they scored exactly zero points in the first quarter. Southland didn't exactly light up the scoreboard either, but managed to lead 11-0 after one.

The Crusaders finally found some offense in the second. They would put up 14 while holding the Raiders to just 10 and trailed only 21-14 at the half.

Southland picked up their scoring pace a bit in the third quarter, mustering 15 in the period while Trinity would score 12. The Crusaders went into the final quarter trailing by double digits at 36-26.

TRINITY

Continued on page 9

No problems for short-staffed Lady Falcons in Central rematch; Northeast next for region title

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

SANDERSVILLE – While the odds against the East Laurens girls weren't nearly as steep as those facing the Laurens County neighbor who joined them among 2-High A's eight semifinalists, the Lady Falcons definitely had some of their own to conquer as they carried a short-handed squad into Thursday's region tournament debut.

Their nine-member delegation, with several starters and key rotation members still out serving the remainder of suspensions left over from late in the regular season, handled business in a rematch with Central Macon, 49-39, to advance to the region championship game Friday, at which point their roster promises to be back at full-strength.

The skeleton crew, which had struggled over a rough second half in its two-point loss to Northeast that concluded the regular season last Friday, responded much better to challenges of the five-player outage after a full week to rest and pre-



TOURNAMENT RUNNER: Zahmaria Robinson had her floater in postseason form during Thursday's second half, using it for most of the 14 points that got her scoring total to 20, good for the Lady Falcons' team lead in a second-straight game/CLAY REYNOLDS

pare.

"We just had to get them to believe," said East Laurens head coach Danielle Lowther. "That's all we talked about at practice, them be-

lieving that they were just as good as our first group of girls, they just had to believe it."

Both the Falcons and Chargers were handed stiff penalties by the

GHSA in connection with the fracas that broke out at the end of their game in East Dublin last week when a spectator entered the court of play and turned a small shoving match into a full-on altercation.

But unfortunate timing of the two-game bans affecting a total of 11 players across the two teams enabled Central's, thanks to the region tournament's irregular bracket structure, to finish serving their time a game in advance during Wednesday's play-in round.

And the Chargers, with only six players dressed out, somehow managed to battle their way past Dublin before getting to double that roster for Thursday's semis, where the Lady Falcons – for whom the coveted triple bye afforded both top two seeds turned out to be as much a curse as a blessing – would still be five members down.

East Laurens, however, didn't appear to hold much back from its usual style of play emphasizing all-

FALCONS

Continued on page 8

BASEBALL ROUNDUP...

Mascaro 9-for-9 in Raiders' three-game win streak; Irish get win in exciting series opener with Falcons

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

Streaks don't get too much hotter than the one West Laurens sophomore Tripp Mascaro had in progress through this past Tuesday night, in a third of four wins by the Raiders to open the 2026 season.

Since catching fire after entering the game in the latter innings of last Thursday's win at Aquinas, he's come up with a hit in nine consecutive trips to the plate.

Mascaro singled and doubled for one RBI late in the Raiders' 16-4 win to close out their first week of the regular season, before going 4-for-4, with all singles, to drive home two in a 9-7 victory at Veterans on Monday. Tuesday, as West Lau-

rens cruised past ARC 13-2 in five innings, he'd plate four with a single and two doubles on a 3-for-3 line.

"He has been a force this week at the plate, barreling up baseballs and hitting 100 percent for QAB (Quality At-Bat)," said West Laurens head coach Parker Gordon. "He has sparked our offense from top-to-bottom. He is batting over .800 for us with just incredible approaches."

But the Trinity transfer didn't impress with his bat alone, playing some right field in both this week's games, and making at least a few noteworthy plays – one Tuesday to chase down a short bloop in the shallow gap that had a high chance of getting in for a hit by the Musketeers' Mike Sims.

"(We were) able to throw him out in an outfield position he's not ever played in



POWER TRIPP: West Laurens' Tripp Mascaro connects on the RBI double that was the first of his three hits in Tuesday's win over Richmond Academy, which extended a wild streak of now nine-consecutive plate appearances that's taken his batting average above .800/JANICE BALLARD

an organized game, and I thought he went out there and did a solid job for us," Gordon said.

Mascaro's addition

hasn't been the only unexpected boost for the Raiders in this year's early games.

Junior Gunner Coleman, pitching for the first time in

his life Monday night, came on and nailed down the Veterans win with five strikeouts in three innings of two-hit, walk-free ball. His only run, which his lineup made provision for with one of its own in the top half of the same inning, was unearned.

Kolby Clark toughed out four hits and walks to strike out three and give up only six runs, three earned, in the start.

"(He threw) over 60 percent strikes," Gordon said. "We had to get him out there towards the end when his pitch count got a little high, and we trusted Gunner... He goes in and shoves for us for three innings."

Errors and walks plagued both teams, and though West Laurens had more

BASEBALL

Continued on page 8

REGION 4-AAA TOURNAMENT

Lady Raiders crushed by Creek in semis

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

West Laurens came prepared for a physical, defensive game as they took on top seed Cross Creek in Thursday's 4-AAA semifinal, and that it was.

The Lady Raiders were able to dig in to keep the low-scoring battle from getting completely out of hand until late, but a lopsided fourth quarter helped the Razorbacks bust it open to win 50-16 and advance. They will oppose Baldwin in the finals.

West's deficit averaged double digits for most of the night, but was only 20 before Cross Creek dominated the fourth 22-2.

The Lady Raiders will play for third Friday at 4 p.m. in Milledgeville.

"Hopefully we'll get back on track vs. Hepzibah," head coach Tyler Rogers said, passing along a bit of unfortunate news that guard Maddie Ridgway has been ruled out for the season with an ankle injury suffered earlier this week. "The girls are playing hard, and that's all we can ask for."

IRISH

Continued from page 7

Refs blew the whistle and called a foul that left Eastman-ites more than a bit disgruntled. Dixon stepped up and made both free throws to put the Irish on top by three.

Dodge responded on the other end with a Galvin Hilburn jumper to get within a point at 48-47.

But the Indians only got the ball back in exchange for some key time, as Dublin ran the clock inside of 10 seconds with two timeouts to prevent a turnover against the press, and two free throws.

A discrepancy over whom they'd fouled ended up forcing a trade of potential shooters in JaKarian Jones for the preferred Dixon. But the junior – Dublin's nightly hero with scoring in multiple clutch situations amounting to 10 points – sunk both anyway to force Dodge to hit a 3-point shot that it had only made two of on the night, and both way back in the early part of the first half.

The ball found J.T. Northcutt right at the top of the key for the do-or-die, which in fact died well short of the basket and took a couple of extra bounces in bounds to allow the last second and a half to drain from the clock.

The Irish set the pace for most of the first half, jumping out to a 10-4 lead off the bat, and remaining in front amid a back-and-forth barrage of jumpers that were falling for everybody in the last handful of minutes.

Dodge narrowed the lead to a point, and almost went back up right at the end as Michael Powers' layup missed at the buzzer to keep it 15-14 Dublin after one.

The pattern repeated in the second, as Dodge once again pulled within one via Jayden Stephens free throw, though this time Jones responded with a putback to make it a 28-25 Irish lead at the half.

The third wasn't pretty from either point of view. But despite getting outscored 8-2 in the first six minutes, Dublin once again emerged with a slight advantage thanks to a late hook shot by Jones to make it 36-35.

McRae knocked down a 3 to break the Irish out of some slop



BREAKING QUICKLY: Jaydon McRae beats three Indians to the rack for a game-tying basket, plus a point via foul to go up, as a sudden fast-break chance flipped not only the floor, but also the lead late in Thursday night's win/**CLAY REYNOLDS**



C'S HOUSE: Wednesday's return to Central, after late 3 to force OT at the end of the regular season last Friday, was another huge game for Dublin's Chris Dixon (4), who led the Irish with 19 points and was 12 of 12 on free throws against East Laurens/**JASON VORHEES, GTLN**



DIALING LONG DISTANCE: Jordan Renfro puts up a 3-point shot for the Lady Irish during the second half, when the deep ball started hitting for both teams after a 3-less first half. She had two, but the four of Central's JaMyree Simmons helped the Chargers ultimately win the second half to take Wednesday's quarterfinal game/**JASON VORHEES, GTLN**

early in the fourth, before Dodge took two leads with a 4-0 run, and a sweet Johnson stepback from 17 feet that wound up as the Indians' next-to-last basket.

Dublin will face top seed Southwest Macon, which defeated Washington County 60-44 in the last of Friday's semifinal games, Friday night at 8:30. In addition to rematching last year's region finalists for a second time, the battle will fittingly extend the Irish one more redemptive opportunity as they seek to avenge a 100-49 loss to the Patriots back in December.

Macon magic...

Worst-to-first may still be one more win from happening as the region tournament concludes Friday.

But worst-to-playoffs? That's definitely a thing for the Dublin boys basketball team after their third-straight upset in this storybook region tournament run Wednesday night.

The Irish, playing on a neutral floor at Macon's Central High School, knocked off crosstown rival East Laurens 58-55 to not only snag a spot in the final rounds, but more importantly guarantee themselves a place in next week's state tournament draw as one of the region's four automatic qualifiers.

Dublin's girls fell one game short of nailing down another as a

shorthanded Central Macon squad cut short their equally remarkable three-day run earlier in the night by a final of 38-33. But the Lady Irish (13-15, 7-9 region 2-High A) are in the running to gain an at-large berth from their current spot at No. 40 in the most recent set of GHSA postseason rankings, and will learn their fate once brackets are set early next week.

Ditto for the third-seeded East boys, who had little to worry about sitting 14th, but saw Wednesday's game slip through their grasp after failing to take advantage of some late opportunities, and stubbing a talon on consecutive last-chances in the final minute.

It was there for either team's taking down the stretch of the fourth quarter, and neither ever led or trailed by more than a possession after Dublin (7-20, 3-13 region) caught back up from a 35-31 halftime deficit for a tie and lead late in the third.

Both traded baskets in rapid fire – with their leads averaging a point – over an exciting sparring match that began the fourth.

Five different Falcons combined to score 17 in the period, Jeremiah Rozier hitting a 3, while Dublin had only five field goals, two of them massive 3s by McRae to keep pace.

In the end, the difference for the Irish was free throws, which they made count down the stretch with misses on just three of 17 sec-

ond-half attempts, and six out of 23 total.

Dixon, their leading scorer with 19, remained a perfect 12-for-12 with the final few that served as the last word.

The count sat tied at 52 for a couple minutes before Dublin made its big move with two to play as Kam Stanley connected on a jump hook for a two-point lead.

East (20-6, 10-4 region) would answer after reciprocal stops, grabbing an offensive re to even it back up on a Major Floyd second effort with about a minute still on the clock.

The ball was in the Falcons' court for a shot to seize the upper hand on consecutive trips, but came away with only a point as Floyd hit the back end of a free throw pair (East was 11-of-16 for the game) for a 55-54 lead with 40 left.

Dublin, out of a timeout, got a fortunate whistle that came a good bit after the play as Dixon attacked the baseline to find a great look, but missed a floater. He still wound up at the line, and continued the streak to place the Irish back in front 56-55.

Another timeout, and East Laurens suffered a critical misfire as a pass toward the middle came straight to Dixon, who dribbled the clock down to eight before a foul, then buried two more foul shots to stake Dublin to a three-point lead.

Time was of the essence for the

Falcons, who fired one up the court and into the corner for the 3-point-er they needed to square the game. Sadly, their shooter was backed up a little too close to the sideline, and inadvertently stepped out of bounds on the catch to give it back.

With 1.5 left, it was Stanley at the Dublin line holding the ice pick. Though he failed to jab it home on back-to-back misses, the Irish came up with the rebound to kill the clock anyway.

McRae had 14 points and Quan Lovett tacked on 12 to the Irish total. Floyd's 14 and Rozier's 13 led East Laurens. Skyler Snead and Bryson Hazley had nine each.

It was a slightly better second half for Central's girls that made five points' difference in the Lady Irish quarterfinal, as the Chargers pulled free of a halftime tie to survive and advance for a Thursday rematch with East Laurens, which we'll get to in a minute.

They outscored Dublin 26-21 over the last two periods with the help of five 3-pointers, four of them by top scorer JaMyree Simmons, who finished with 17.

The Lady Irish knocked down three of those in response, two factoring into the 16-point night by leader Jordan Renfro, but weren't otherwise able to break the overall sluggish pace of offense that carried over from the first half.

Khalil Maddox, with 10, was Dublin's only other player in double figures.

BASEBALL

Continued from page 7

issues in the field overall with a lead of 4-1 in the "E" column, Veterans gave out plenty of its own complimentary bases to supplement an 11-hit Raider total made up entirely of singles.

The Warhawks, after starting out in a 4-0 hole, rallied to go back up 6-4 in a four-run half of the fourth. But they'd promptly give back four in the fifth, as Steven Hafeychuck walked in three runs around a Mascaro RBI single.

Coleman's scoreless seventh, after an insurance run in the sixth, helped the Raiders hold on to avenge their lopsided scrimmage loss to Veterans a little more than a week before.

Other early-season bright spots were things largely anticipated for a team that's building on a lot of learning experiences from last year.

Clark, Malone and Cardwell, the three heads that make up their pitching monster, were all sharp in their first outings of the spring (the active Cardwell logging appearances in three of four games so far).

Tuesday, Jeremiah Baker made a couple of great line-drive catches at second, one to turn a first-inning double play. New catcher Grant Baker also threw out a stealing base runner for a third out that closed the book on a rally in the ARC third.

Through four games, the Raiders are hitting over .450 with 40 RBIs and a .551 on-base percentage.

"As a team, our bats have started off on fire," Gordon said. "I'm proud of the guys buying into Quality At-Bats and now they are being rewarded. Our base running has also been at a high level. We challenged the guys this summer to improve on base



BIG INNINGS: West Laurens has played only 24 innings through four games, but Cohen Cardwell has pitched a third of them in three appearances, Tuesday's shown here his first start and win of the spring. The junior, so far, has scattered only three opposing hits and two unearned runs along with his 11 strikeouts in the solid start/**JANICE BALLARD**

running. You can tell they have accepted the challenge. We have had tons of success taking bags and moving into scoring position."

But the attribute of this young team that most excites its head coach is the resiliency showed in the comeback win Monday night.

"We're proud of the guys," Gordon said. We're proud of the effort of this squad. Like I've told the boys before, we're gonna fight and keep fighting, and I'll go with them to the end right here, because I think they're gonna battle all year long like that."

The prior Thursday at Aquinas, 17 different players got involved on a 16-hit effort. In addition to Mascaro, Grant Baker, Kolby Clark and Jeremiah Baker all had two each, Clark's for a total three RBIs.

J.J. Giles, Chase Devaney, Cardwell, Cason Pollock, Buck Shepherd, Landon Norton, Micah Wells and J.D. Hogan one apiece in support of Duggan Malone, whose four innings of two-hit action, with two

walks and nine strikeouts, produced a winning debut on the hill.

The Raiders' 16-0 lead through five innings survived a four-run Aquinas fifth to get the night over with.

Hogan, with three singles, had the Raiders' other multi-hit day on Tuesday, while Cardwell drove in two runs on sacrifice flies.

West Laurens scored runs in every inning, its biggest a five-run fourth, to put away ARC in only four and a half.

Johnson Co. 3, Dublin 2 (8 innings)

Back-to-back errors in the bottom of the eighth inning spoiled Irish chances of a 2-0 start, as Chance Wombles reached base on Dublin's fourth defensive mistake of the game, then scored from second on a fifth to walk things off last Thursday in Wrightsville.

The Irish out-hit the Trojans 6-2 in the game, logging singles by Morgan Davis and Bryceton Evans in the top of the fifth, when a wild pitch

and Tal Duke groundout brought runners home for a 2-1 lead.

Morgan Davis had two hits, before taking the mound in relief with two walks and two strikeouts over three innings of relief. Starter Jeff Davis pitched five, giving up two hits and no earned runs, with three walks and eight strikeouts.

Dublin 3, Swainsboro 1

The Irish bounced back in their home opener Friday night, with Ryland Yates firing nine strikeouts in five innings on the mound to get the pitcher's duel off to a great start.

His RBI double would bring home the first of two go-ahead runs in the fourth, after Will Wallace drove in an equalizer to answer Swainsboro's first in the bottom of one. Dublin, with added base knocks from Reese, Evans and Morgan Davis, out-hit the Tigers 5-4, with Kason Edenfield providing half the visiting total, and Peyton Mason the lone RBI.

Xavier Reese faced the minimum, giving up a hit but striking out four, in the last two innings to pick up the save.

Dublin 5, East Laurens 3

This 2-High A opener for crosstown rivals was mostly Irish after Dublin jumped on the board with four runs in the first, with the help of an error and a Jeff Davis two-RBI single. Tal Duke's RBI provided a fifth unanswered run before the Falcons' Conner Lawrence settled in, and kept things scoreless in the last four innings of his six, which proceeded with eight strikeouts and only one walk.

East was kept to a single run through the sixth by the Dublin tag team of Reese

(who allowed two hits with a walk and six strikeouts in his four innings), Morgan Davis, Duke and Wallace (who combined to strike out six, and avoid any major damage from three walks).

The Falcons leveraged singles by Lawrence and Sam Wynn for its third-inning run, but left runners at the corners with a shot for more as Konner O'Neal was robbed on a lineout.

The rest scored in the bottom of the sixth on a Logan Gibson RBI single and a Grayson Edge sacrifice fly.

East Laurens 7, Bacon Co. 5

The Falcons logged seven hits in support of Edge (who had two and a couple of RBIs to help his own cause), who threw six innings, struck out six and walked two in an impressive start to claim the win in the first of a Friday doubleheader.

Myles Burke and Brody Kight rode out a somewhat bumpy final inning to close it out.

Bacon Co. 19, East Laurens 1

The Red Raiders out-hit the Falcons 13-2 in the second of their 19 runs in the first inning.

Wynn and Jakeb Logue pitched for East Laurens, combining to walk three and strike out five. Bacon's Scotland Hennesy had three hits and five RBIs, while O'Neal and Lawrence had the Falcons' only hits in response.

East Laurens 9, Johnson Co. 5

After letting a close one with the Trojans slip out of its reach on opening night, East was able to finish the job after going on top by what would've ultimately

been more than enough in a six-run second inning.

The Falcons were out-hit 7-6, but kept JoCo out of any huge innings with their pitching tandem of Brody Kight, who gave up all six with two walks and five strikeouts in just over five innings, and Logue, who finished things up with a strikeout and hit against six final batters.

East's Gibson and Kight had two hits each.

TRINITY

Continued from page 7

Trinity had its best offensive showing of the game in the fourth as it attempted to come back and got within striking distance, but could never catch all the way up.

Southland's Ben Haugabook was the difference in the ballgame as he scored 18 on six 3-pointers. Max Kelley added 10.

Will Foskey led the Crusaders with 15 in his final career game. Jag George added 13 to finish an excellent sophomore season that saw him average over 22 points per game.

In spite of several injuries and losing a key player mid-season, Trinity still improved from three wins last season to 11 this year. The Crusaders will lose five seniors in Foskey, Hayden Bowles, Kolbi Grooms, Carter Lee, and Alston Bryan, who all finish their careers with a region title, a state title and a state runner-up finish.

The Trinity girls, off a first-round bye, will open their state playoff run in the quarterfinals against Windsor at 6 p.m. Friday night at Tattnell Square.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL
Thursday
 Toombs Co. 2, Dublin 1

GIRLS HOOPS
Wednesday
 Central Macon 38, Dublin 33

Thursday
 East Laurens 49, Central 39
 Cross Creek 50,
 West Laurens 16

BOYS HOOPS
Wednesday
 Dublin 58, EL 55
 Southland 46, Trinity 41

Thursday
 Dublin 50, Dodge Co. 47

GIRLS SOCCER
Tuesday
 Dublin 1, Jefferson Co. 0

BOYS SOCCER
Tuesday
 Jefferson Co. 3, Dublin 2
 (PKs)

PREP SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL
Friday
Region 2-High A Finals
 (at Washington Co.)
 East Laurens (girls) vs.
 Northeast Macon/7 p.m.
 Dublin (boys) vs. Southwest
 Macon/8:30 p.m.

Region 4-AAA Consolation
 (at Baldwin)
 West Laurens (girls) vs.
 Hephzibah/4 p.m.

GIAA Quarterfinals
 Trinity (girls) vs. Windsor
 (at Tattnell Square)/6 p.m.



Check out **Region Tournament Central** at courierheraldtoday.com/sports for all of Friday night's region consolation and finals results.

BASEBALL
Friday
 WL at ARC/5:30 p.m.
 EL at Dublin/6 p.m.

Tuesday
 Hephzibah at WL (doubleheader)/4 p.m.
 Southwest Macon at Dublin/5:30 p.m.
 David Emanuel at Trinity
 EL at Bleckley Co./6 p.m.

Wednesday
 EL at Treutlen/5:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 27
 Dublin at Southwest/4 p.m.
 Bleckley Co. at EL/6 p.m.
 WL vs. Franklin Co.
 (at Lakepoint)/6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 28
 WL vs. Alexander (at Lakepoint)/10 a.m.
 WL vs. Heard Co.
 (at Lakepoint)/12:30 p.m.
 Tallulah Falls at Trinity /2 p.m.

SOCCER
Friday
 EL at Hawkinsville/5 p.m.
 Harlem at WL/5:30 p.m.

Monday
 EL at WL/5 p.m.

Tuesday
 Dublin (girls) at Johnson Co.
 Washington-Wilkes at EL /5 p.m.
 WL at Baldwin/5:30 p.m.

Thursday
 Jefferson Co. at EL/5 p.m.
 WL at ARC/5:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 27
 EL at Wheeler Co./5 p.m.

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



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RACING THIS WEEK...

Reddick grabs Daytona win

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Tyler Reddick waited for the last moment to make his move—and it paid off with victory in Sunday's 68th running of the Daytona 500.

In the final 500 yards of the Great American Race, Reddick got a push from teammate Riley Herbst, muscled his way past Chase Elliott and powered his No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota toward the finish line.

As the track exploded in chaos behind him, when Herbst tried an ill-fated late block on Brad Keselowski and a knot of cars slid sideways across the finish line, Reddick already was celebrating a 0.308-second victory over 2023 Daytona 500 winner Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

Reddick was the 25th different leader—a record for the race—and the only lap he led was the last one.

After a winless 2025, Reddick expressed both satisfaction and relief at doing what 23XI co-owners Denny Hamlin and Michael Jordan hired him to do.

"Last year was really hard for all of us, hard for me," Reddick said. "When you're a Cup driver and you get to this level and drive for Michael Jordan, it's expected you win every single year."

"For us to go on that drought it made us look hard in the mirror, and I am really proud of everyone on our Chumba Casino Toyota Camry. Worked really hard in the offseason, and there were many points in this race where we weren't making decisions we wanted to, but we just reset, and every opportunity we got to reset, we went back at it."

"Just speechless. I didn't know if I'd ever win this race. It's surreal, honestly. The best part is my son asked before this race, 'Are you finally going to win this race?' Something about today just felt right."

The final two laps produced more plot twists than a dime novel. Spire Motorsports driver Carson Hocevar led at the white flag but spun in Turn 1 and fell out of the lead pack, taking Erik Jones and Michael McDowell with him. Elliott took control and appeared ready to win his first Crown Jewel race before Reddick gained momentum off Herbst's bumper.



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 Chumba Casino Toyota, takes the checkered flag to win the Cup Series Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday. (Sean Gardner/Getty)

Moments later, Herbst's attempted block stopped Keselowski's huge run near the outside wall and sealed the win for Reddick.

Behind Stenhouse, 2015 Daytona 500 winner Joey Logano slid across the finish line in third place, followed by Elliott and Keselowski.

"Yeah, a lot of chaos," said Keselowski, who raced while still recovering from a broken right femur. "Last restart I gave William Byron a great push, and just wasn't enough to move our lane. I was giving him all I had, and then right here at the end I had this huge run and the 35 (Herbst) wrecked us. Really disappointed."

As wild as the finish was, the biggest melee of the afternoon came much earlier.

With seven laps left in the second stage, contact between the No. 40 Chevrolet of Justin Allgaier and the No.11 Toyota of three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin ignited a 20-car wreck in the tri-oval.

Allgaier was leading the top line but left a narrow lane open to his right. As Hamlin attempted to fill the hole, Allgaier's car twitched toward the wall, turned across the nose of Hamlin's

Camry and lit the fuse of chaos behind him.

Even though Herbst was listed in that incident, his car was not severely damaged and survived to become a key component in the 23XI victory, as Jordan acknowledged after the race.

"I thought Riley did an unbelievable job pushing at the end," Jordan said. "That shows you what teamwork can really, really do. He doesn't get enough credit. He won't get enough credit. But we feel the love. We understand exactly what he did."

"We hung in there all day. Great strategy by the team, and we gave ourselves a chance at the end. Look, I'm ecstatic. I don't even know what to say. It feels like I won a championship, but until I get my ring, I won't even know."

Smith, Chris Buescher, Herbst, Josh Berry and Bubba Wallace finished sixth through 10th, respectively. Byron, trying for a third straight Daytona 500 win, was 12th; pole winner Kyle Busch 15th.

The lead changed hands among the record 25 different drivers 665 times. Smith took the first stage win—the first of his career—and Wallace won the second under caution for the 20-car accident.

NEXT RACE: AUTOTRADER 400



EchoPark Atlanta
 3 p.m. ET Sunday, FOX

- Location: 30 miles south of Atlanta on Highways 19 & 41 - 1500 Tara Place.
- Constructed: Original track was built in 1959-1960. The reconfiguration was completed in 1997. Repaved and re-profiled to 28 degree banking in 2021.
- Track size: 1.54 mile quad-oval.
- Size and bankings of turns: Approximately 1/4 mile each banked at 28 degrees.
- Banking of straightaways: Each are banked at 5 degrees.
- First race: July 31, 1960 (Dixie 500); winner, Fireball Roberts.
- Fastest Cup qualifying lap: Geoffrey Bodine, Nov. 15, 1997, with a time of 28.074 seconds and a speed of 197.478 mph.
- Formerly Atlanta Motor Speedway, the next evolution of the track debuted June 2025 with rebranding of the track to EchoPark Speedway.



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 DEWALT Toyota, celebrated in Victory Lane after winning last season at Atlanta. Getty

FALCONS

Continued from page 7

out pressure and its weapons around the basket.

Other than the lack of a long-range game to spread the floor, with top 3-point shooter Jameria Bing among the inactives, you couldn't see much of a difference separating this game from the ordinary night. And it'd be hard to make the case this performance — marked by some postseason intensity on the defensive end — didn't well exceed the average for a group of Lady Falcons with a good bit to prove in addition to its already well-established ends of winning a second-straight region title.

Central returned serve with some physical play in the grinding game, but saw their production taper off in the fourth quarter as East Laurens pulled away to win confidently.

And it'll be an unexpected rematch in the finals, where Northeast Macon will greet the Lady Falcons in Friday's 7 p.m. game after upending top-seeded tourney host Washington County 43-41 later Thursday night.

Junior guard Zahmaria Robinson, scoring 20 to lead the team in a second-straight game, stepped up as much as any remaining member of the Eastside starting lineup Thursday afternoon, inviting the ball as the Lady Falcons' go-to shooter and favoring a 10 to 14-foot runner that seemed to miss only once in the whole second half.

After finding that rhythm following a scoreless first quarter, she'd finish the first half with six, and go off down the stretch for 14 more.

"She's been getting better game after game," Lowther said. "She started to turn it up like three games ago. We

were expecting her to do the same thing today too."

Deanna Lowther, adding 18 points, also hauled in her usual double digits around the glass with a team-high 15 boards to keep their interior game strong on both ends of the court.

Central, making the most of its advantage in depth, substituted freely with changes in personnel coming at every available opportunity for head coach Tamara Bolston-Williams.

Though seven Chargers of the 12 available registered points in the game, only one went for double-figures.

That was JaMyree Simmons, who once again heated up coming out of the half. After sinking four triples over the difference-making second half stretch against Dublin, the sophomore sunk three for nine of their 14 in the third quarter of this one.

But she'd be held scoreless after a back-to-back set that tied the game at 31 just inside two minutes left in the period. And following a continuation of the exciting exchange with dueling baskets from East's Robinson and Central's Lawren Anderson to finish it up, the Chargers would muster just a trio of field goals — and no further scoring from Simmons — as East Laurens put up 16 in the last eight minutes.

Most of those were concentrated to the early minutes of the fourth as Central broke ties with two go-ahead baskets. But East Laurens grabbed final control on an 8-0 run that began with a catch-and-shoot jumper from out of bounds by Miyah Smith. Lowther added a mid-range J, and Robinson two of her signature floater, to put the Lady Falcons up 43-39, and they'd continue pulling away with seven more unanswered points.

East Laurens and Central



'WE JUST HAD TO GET THEM TO BELIEVE': Head coach Danielle Lowther and players celebrate after Thursday's gritty performance carried the shorthanded Lady Falcons to a tough semifinal win/CLAY REYNOLDS

both pressed heavily — and neither team's was easy to break — throughout the defense-dominated first half, in which baskets both ways mostly seemed to follow offensive rebounds.

The Chargers enjoyed a 12-10 lead after one thanks to a 3-point shooting foul that put Caylin Mathis at the line as time expired.

East Laurens went into the half up 23-18 after overcoming a slight deficit with the last six points of the second, via putbacks by Robinson and Deanna Lowther, then a final pick-six on a steal by DeAndrea Lowther.

The Lady Falcons ran their lead out to 27-18 early in the third, but Central pressed its way back into the ballgame with the help of the three Simmons 3s in about a three-minute stretch that was bookended by 5-0 and 6-0 runs by the Chargers.

East will have a full complement of players back at its disposal on Friday. But a gameplan of "pounding in to the bigs" that's been a winner all year will once again be the Lady Falcons' focus against Northeast.

"I don't think that really any team in our region can stop our big girls," Coach



CATCH-AND-SHOOT: Miyah Smith knocked down this 17-foot jumper off an East Laurens out of bounds play for the first of about eight unanswered points that put the Lady Falcons in the clear/CLAY REYNOLDS

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 — Timothy 5:17-19

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DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My late husband was ill for six years. He experienced some dementia. He wasn't able to work, and our life together changed a lot. I focused on supporting him through his decline until he eventually ended his own life.

After his death, I discovered several secrets. He hadn't been honest about his medical condition, possibly out of shame or because he wanted to protect us from the seriousness. There were also secrets about his family he may have been ashamed about. He also changed his estate plan without telling me. These secrets and betrayals show he wasn't thinking about the impact of his death upon me, and they have made me question my beliefs about our marriage.

I know his decisions weren't about my worth -- they were about his fear, shame, illness and preoccupation with other family issues. But I can't tell any of this to people because I want to preserve our adult children's love and respect for their father. Also, I don't want to deal with other people trying to understand this crazy situation. This feels so unfair, and I may never be able to trust again. Do you have any advice? -- KEEPING SECRETS IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR KEEPING: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. From what you have written, it seems the problems in your marriage started with the family secrets in addition to your husband's increasing dementia. My advice is to put an end to all of those secrets now. Telling your children the truth should not make them lose respect for their late father. Whether the people in whom you choose to confide will understand is beside the point.

What's most important is that you free yourself from the prison of lies in which you find yourself and talk with a mental health professional if it will help you better understand how to move forward.

DEAR ABBY: My family is American, through and through. We had some European ancestors back in the Ellis Island days, but we've been here for generations and identify only loosely with our European heritage. That being said, my husband and I were discussing names for our future children, and I mentioned that I would love to have a son named after my great-grandfather. His name was Jacques, but it was always pronounced like "Jack."

If I used the name, I would want to spell it the same way to honor him, but I'd feel weird pronouncing it with a French accent when I don't identify as French, nor do I have an accent. Is it OK to use the French spelling of a name and then pronounce it in an Americanized way? -- PLANNING AHEAD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR PLANNING: You are the parent, and you can call your son whatever you wish. Jacques will be his formal name if you choose to use it on his birth certificate, but he can use "Jack" if he wishes. When he starts school, don't forget to communicate to his teachers and the administrators how his name is pronounced.

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

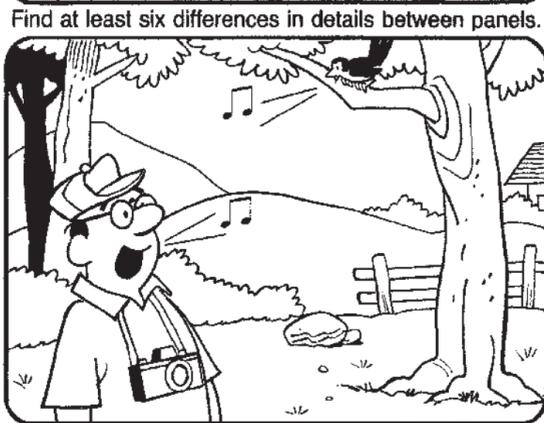
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

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

Level: Advanced

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

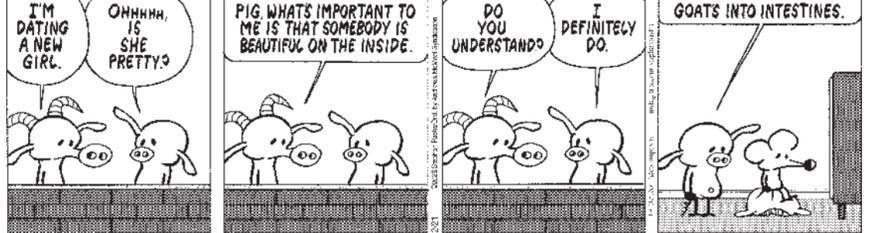


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Camera is thicker. 2. Tree trunk is added to fence. 3. Hill is added. 4. Cap is different. 5. Music note is higher. 6. Kall is added to fence. 7. Camera is thicker.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEVE PASTIS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM



DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What is a ghost's favorite month?
Feb-boo-ary.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Price tag
- 6 True statement
- 10 End of a sleeve
- 14 "Tosca" or "Aida"
- 15 Large green citrus
- 16 Norway's capital
- 17 Begin
- 18 Act as a guide
- 19 Software customer
- 20 Anything goes: 3 wds.
- 23 Sales agent, for short
- 24 Slowly drinks
- 25 Opposite of near
- 28 Wealthy
- 31 Rewards for dogs
- 35 Gorilla or chimp
- 36 Perfectly tidy
- 38 Edition of a magazine
- 39 Sleep for a short time
- 40 In the middle
- 42 Feeling sick
- 43 Plot of data
- 45 Color on a Jaguars uniform
- 46 Low-lit
- 47 Hairdos
- 49 Expectorate
- 51 Clean air watchdog. Abbr.
- 52 Punching tools
- 54 Basketball hoop attachment
- 56 Flower with ball-shaped heads
- 62 Big jump
- 63 "Doctor Zhivago" role
- 64 Before surgery
- 67 "Primal" instinct
- 68 Spoken aloud
- 69 Steak cut
- 70 "Where have you ___?"
- 71 Widely shared image
- 72 Spread, as seed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Created by Stella Zawistowski

DOWN

- 1 ___ Angeles
- 2 Fitting
- 3 Pinto or kidney
- 4 Mistake
- 5 Shaving foam
- 6 Well-stocked
- 7 Got older
- 8 School group
- 9 Morsel
- 10 Appetizers and entrees
- 11 Gorbachev's country: Abbr.
- 12 Run away
- 13 F-150 maker
- 21 Give one's thoughts
- 22 Spring month
- 25 Vampire's teeth
- 26 Not together
- 27 Satisfy a debt
- 29 Copper-plated coin
- 30 Can't stand
- 32 "All kidding ___"
- 33 Dutch flower
- 34 Actress Blair

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

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- 37 Lint catcher
- 40 The fat
- 41 Flared dress shape
- 44 Baby's enclosure
- 48 Kind of ski race
- 50 Lures
- 53 Part of a drum set
- 55 Powerful engine
- 56 Triple-decker sandwich
- 57 "___ we go again!"
- 58 Intense anger
- 59 Streetcar
- 60 ___ and hearty
- 61 Kitten's cry
- 65 Dollar bill
- 66 NO XING

Saturday, February 21, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ J 7 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ A Q J 6 ♣ 9 8 6 5
- As dealer, what call would you make?
- Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ A K 4 ♥ K 9 8 6 ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ A 10 5
- As dealer, what call would you make?
- Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ K 9 5 ♥ K 7 6 3 ♦ A J 10 6 5 ♣ 8
- As dealer, what call would you make?
- Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ 6 5 3 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A K J 6 ♣ A K 7
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
INT Pass 20* Pass
? *Transfer to hearts
What call would you make?
- Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ A K 4 ♥ K 9 8 6 ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ A 10 5
- Right-hand opponent opens 4S. What call would you make?
- Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠ J 5 ♥ 3 2 ♦ 6 4 2 ♣ A K J 9 8 5
- Right-hand opponent opens 1H. What call would you make?
- Look for answers on Monday.
(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

Judge says at least 500 people selling liquor in Laurens

DUBLIN COURIER HERALD, DISPATCH, and PRESS

No fewer than 500 persons in Laurens County are engaged in the sale of liquor in this county, dry under Georgia local option system.

Superior Judge R. Earl Camp told the Laurens County Grand Jury today that he had been informed of this situation.

Commenting on this news, Judge Camp, in his charge to the investigating body at the opening session of Superior Court here this morning, reminded it that it was not up to the Jury to pass on the wisdom of the law, but to see that it is carried out.

"Especially is the liquor situation a menace to our young manhood and womanhood," the jurist declared.

However, he took cognizance of the difficulty of securing convictions in the face of opposing public sentiment and called on the body to take such steps in remedying the conditions that "seem feasible, and if none so occur to you, then have the courage not to recommend a change in the law."

"The law requires me to call your attention to the whiskey laws," Judge Camp said.

"This is a subject on which there is a great diversity of opinion and judgment. The wisest men in our nation differ among themselves on this question

"When your adjoining counties sell whiskey and your county is under prohibition, you have a mammoth problem. Laws that are made to regulate the conduct of a human being as to his personal habits when he doesn't do injury to others are always difficult to enforce.

"Additional difficulties are added to the proposition of enforcement when the municipality on the one hand and the county on the other hand licenses the sale of beer and wine. Some of the wines equal a large percent of alcohol and are just as bad as whiskey.

"There is no father or mother in Georgia or in America who does not love his family and children but who realizes that whiskey has always been a challenge to civilization and its best citizenship. Every man should have the courage and the back bone to regulate himself as to his personal habits."

GRAND JURY CALLS FOR DRY LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Laurens County Grand Jury today called for strict enforcement of the county's dry law and recommended that two county policemen be employed to aid other enforcement officers in controlling liquor traffic and slot machines.

LOOKING BACK...
85 YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 21, 1941



By HARRIETT CLAXTON

The body also went on record as "not recommending a referendum on the liquor question."

Judge R. Earl Camp, in his charge to the Jury said that he had been informed that 500 persons were engaged in the selling of liquor in Laurens County and called on the body to "take such steps as seem feasible to correct the evil, and if none so occur, then have the courage to recommend a change in the law."

Under Georgia's local option system, counties are dry until they vote to legalize liquor

The Jury also recommended a program of education in the schools and various youth organizations to "impress upon our boys and girls the wisdom of law abiding."

All law enforcement agencies in the county, including the sheriff's office, police officials of Dublin, and other municipalities were requested to cooperate in enforcing the law, and the public was reminded that "in order to carry out such enforcement, our citizens should become conscious of the need for their cooperation."

POST OFFICE TO CLOSE

Washington's birthday, February 22, being a National Holiday, the Dublin Post Office will be closed.

All rural delivery will be suspended, and only one city delivery will be made. There will be no window service at the post office except general delivery and the stamp window, which will be open for 2 hours, from 9 to 11:00 a.m.

Persons are requested to take notice of the change and transact their postal business before then.

NOT BE DRAFTED NOW

Isaac Jordan Martin, who earlier this week was ordered to report for selective service as Laurens County's first draftee, will not go after all, draft board officials said today.

Instead, state selective service headquarters has reduced the quota of Board No. 1 to include only volunteers on hand and increased Board Two's quota, which can still be filled with volunteers.

Martin was drafted when Board One's quota for February 19 called for five men, and the Board had only four volunteers.

Board Two, which also was scheduled to send five men, will send six men now instead. The volunteer to take Martin's place will be Clifford Merrill Lee of Dublin, Route who came in and asked that if possible he might be selected.

BUSINESS SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS UP

With the opening date of Dublin's new commercial school, Herrin School of Business, tentatively set for a late February time, organization plans have been completed, and enrollments are being taken by the organizer.

According to the organizer, news of the opening of the school is being cordially received by the public, thus bearing out early surveys of the Dublin market showing the need for such a school in this section.

It is pointed out by the organizer, however, that the opening of a commercial school is always dependent upon sincere co-operation of the citizens of the community in which the school is organized. This cooperation is best expressed by a willingness of everyone being interested in securing one.

Everything is to be gained by such action, on the part of your people and their parents, thus assuring a business school near by.

CHURCH VESTRY REMODELING

Work of remodeling the basement of the Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church building into an attractive vestry for all services apart from the Sunday services and for recreational purposes, began on Tuesday, under the supervision of Dr. Ralph Gilliam, supply pastor of the church.

Plans for the remodeling work were laid several months ago by Dr. Gilliam. It is through his earnest endeavor and his desire that the congregation have a smaller yet comfortable and modern assembly room that the success of the project is being realized. Money for the work is already at hand, and all bills will be paid when the work is completed,

according to Dr. Gilliam.

Remodeling of the basement, which is 60 feet in length and 26 feet in width, will include a sheet rock ceiling overhead, placing of baseboard around the walls, building of a petition at one end of the room which will make an assembly room and a kitchen, and a curtained partition will be used to separate the kitchen and furnace room. A new lighting system will be installed, and all necessary repairs made to assure comfort and convenience.

The entrance to the room, which is at the side of the church building, will be covered, and a new walk from the street to this side entrance will be opened.

The front entrance will also be improved with addition of crushed and powdered stone.

Two Sunday School rooms in the building will also be improved.

Painting, where necessary, will be applied, and the sheet rock, where used in the basement, will be finished with black walnut strips.

The contractor, J.J. Flanders, expects to complete the job within week.

When ready for use, the Woman's Auxiliary will dedicate the room with a social to which members will be invited. Members of the church are manifesting great interest in the work and lending assistance to the minister.

F.C.A. NEWS

The F.C.A. Society met at the home of Miss Eloise Williams, 610 West Mary Street, on February 10.

The meeting was opened in its usual way with the President of the Ladies Department presiding. After the devotion, many matters were brought before the house for discussion.

President Walters appointed these committees:

Cooking: Miss Florine Wilson - Chairman

Miss Rheda Wright - Vice Chairman

Miss Tinnie Chappell, Miss Jewel Wright, Miss Ruby Curry - Co-workers

Decoration: Miss Emma Perry - Chairman

Miss Smith - Vice Chairman

Miss June Wilkes, John Irvin, J.H. Thomas, Homer Pearson - Co-Workers

Buying: Miss Irene Pearson - Chairman

Rev. W.R. Walters - Vice Chairman

Miss Johnnie McAfee, Miss Tinnie Chappell, Leroy Winfield - Co-Workers

Writing: Coleman Shine - Chairman

Miss Jewel Wright - Vice Chairman

Miss June Wilkes, Miss Lilly Perry - Co-Workers

Finance: Leroy Winfield - Chairman

Secretary of Treasury - S.T. Bloodsaw

Secretary of F.C.A. - Thomas Williams

After the meeting, the Society was served with hot dogs, cookies, and hot tea by Miss Johnnie McAfee, hostess.

Everyone stated an enjoyable time.

The next meeting will be at the home of Rev. W.M. Kelly on 501 South Jefferson Street at 8:00 p.m. Miss Irene Pearson will act as the hostess. Every member is asked to be present. There will be a program for this meeting. Rev. W.M. Kelly will be the speaker.

Rev. W.R. Walters - President

Thomas Williams, Secretary

Leroy Winfield - Treasurer

Miss Irene Pearson - President of Ladies Department

Miss Jewel Wright - Secretary

June Wilkes, Miss Lilly Perry - Co-Workers

Leroy Winfield - Chairman

Secretary of Treasury - S.T. Bloodsaw

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Miss Jewel Wright - Secretary

June Wilkes, Miss Lilly Perry - Co-Workers

ANOTHER MAN FOX VICTIM

Another man, Tommie L. Davis, is being treated today for prevention of rabies after being bitten by a fox.

Davis was bitten at his home in East Dublin, Dr. J.L. Smalley said, when he went to investigate a commotion in his chicken yard. The fox, instead of running away, savagely attacked Davis, but he escaped.

A few weeks ago, a fox bit a Mr. Rogers near Dudley under exactly the same circumstances, but this animal was killed, and when its head was sent to Atlanta by Dr. O.H. Cheek it was reported to have rabies.

Last week a fox bit two horses on the farm of Julian Witherington and the next day Marcelle Mercer shot a fox that was acting queerly a short distance from Mr. Witherington's field.

The public is warned to keep a close watch and to not handle any fox killed, as the disease can be contracted through scratches on the hands.

Davis lives near the Wrightsville & Tennille railroad shops.

Virgil Brantley of near Scott was in Dublin today seeking medical attention for a mule which he fears has rabies. Mr. Brantley does not know whether the mule has been bitten by a fox or by anything. He said, however, that the he has all indications that the mule has rabies.

DUBLIN ROUTE 2

By Irma Brown

Mrs. I.H. Fisher was a Sunday guest of Mrs. H. L. Dominy.

Miss Ruth Payne recently visited Mrs. Saxon Wells.

Friends of little Sadie Summer regret her illness with an infected tooth.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Dominy and children were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Dominy.

Mrs. W.E. Joiner has returned to her home after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Morton of Glenwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Stevens and son, F.M., of Savannah were recent guests of Mr and Mrs. Bob Rozier.

BOWLING QUARTETTE WINS

Snows took their third consecutive victory in the county bowling tournament last night by defeating the Georgia Power Company by a margin of 173 pins at the Sessions Lake Bowling Alley.

Those taking part in the game for Snows were: Donaldson

Towns

McCullars

Beasley

Those playing for the Georgia Power Co. were Snider

ONEAL

Braddy

Horn

Snows rolled a total of 1125 pins for three games against the Power Company's 952.

L.B. CLAXTON FETED

L.B. Claxton, who celebrated his 81st birthday anniversary this week, is a patient at Claxton Hospital, where he is recuperating from an illness, and on his anniversary he was feted by relatives and friends here as they called to visit his room at the hospital.

Two prettily decorated birthday cakes, gifts, and flowers were presented to him, and he was showered with many good wishes by his friends.

Mr. Claxton, who is a resident of Bartow, is the father of Dr. E.B. Claxton and of Dr. M.Z. Claxton.

He is beloved throughout this section by a host of friends who are happy he is recovering from his illness.

Georgia's famous lemon pepper wings could become state's official wing flavor

By MARK NIESSE
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Move over, peaches, peanuts, and pecans.

Lemon pepper wings could soon join the ranks of official Georgia foods, according to a bipartisan bill considered by lawmakers Wednesday.

Lemon pepper wings are a "cultural and culinary phenomenon," said state Rep. Eric Bell, D-Jonesboro, the bill's sponsor.

"Lemon pepper is something that's synonymous with the state of Georgia, and people across our nation have come to know Georgia as famous for its

lemon pepper wings," Bell said. "This is a homegrown identity."

The renown of Georgia's lemon pepper wings has grown in recent years through references by hip-hop artists Rick Ross, Quavo and Gucci Mane, Bell told the House Special Rules Committee. Forget Buffalo wings, invented in Buffalo, New York.

Lemon pepper wings have become a source of Georgia pride and heritage that could attract tourists to local restaurants, Bell said.

Based on the reaction from the committee's chairman, the bill has a chance of becoming law.

House Speaker to retire after two decades as legislative leader

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A fixture in the leadership of Georgia's House of Representatives will step down when her term ends this year, declining to run for re-election after nearly a quarter century in office.

Rep. Jan Jones, R-Milton was first elected to the House in 2002. In 2010, her fellow representatives voted to make her the speaker pro-tempore then re-elected her to that post every term after. It made her second in command and the most powerful woman in a legislative body that has 180 members when all seats are occupied.

House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, said he and his wife count Jones as a friend, and he de-

scribed her as an accomplished leader.

"Jan's 16-year tenure in House leadership reflects the abiding faith and admiration her colleagues have for her," Burns said in a statement Thursday. "She will close her career in the General Assembly with a long record of accomplishments but also a long list of great friends, including me and Dayle."

Jones served as speaker pro tem under both Burns and former Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, who died in 2022. She served briefly as speaker after his death, until the House selected Burns for that role in 2023.

Jones developed a reputation as a detail-oriented tactician who could get key bills passed into law. She

said in a statement that she will miss her colleagues and the work, adding that she was "incredibly proud" of educational policies enacted during her tenure.

Under Gov. Brian Kemp, the General Assembly restored recessionary cutbacks to public school funding and raised teacher pay. Jones also led on expanded access to pre-kindergarten, bolstering charter schools and putting more tax dollars into private school education.

Jones shepherded Senate Bill 233, The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act, through the House in 2024. It established \$6,500 a year in direct state funding for each K-12 student who switches from a low-performing public school to a private school or home

school.

The measure established what is commonly known as a voucher program. It faced concerted opposition from public school advocates who were concerned about the shift of state funding from public to private education.

It was so controversial that it failed on the House floor in 2023, when some Republicans allied with the vast majority of Democrats who opposed it. But Jones rallied and got the measure passed in a close vote the next year.

Jones was known as an advocate for "parent choice" in education, a position that she said had been good for the economy and would inform her legacy.

CITY COUNCIL
Continued from page 1

is generated by people who shop here and come here from out of town, so this is a TSPLOST-funded project. The city submits projects of regional impact and this is one that was approved by the TSPLOST board because they understand that Claxton Dairy has become this route that moves people

from the county, and even outside the county, into the city of Dublin.”

Just down the road from the Claxton Dairy and Woodlawn intersection is a roundabout built years ago at Claxton Dairy and Moore Street. Since it was built, the roundabout has allowed the traffic to keep moving at a safe speed.

“There are a couple of other benefits to round-

abouts,” Kight said. “They are expensive to install initially, but you don’t have all of the maintenance that comes with traffic signals.”

Traffic signals need electricity and can be damaged or knocked out by storms. When they do not work, law enforcement has to respond to direct traffic.

“Roundabouts are put in one time and you are done,” Kight said.

“Over a long period of time, they create a tremendous cost savings for the city. And when there are accidents at roundabouts, they are usually fender benders. When you have wrecks at a stop sign intersection, it is usually because somebody runs through it and those cause very serious accidents. So, the roundabouts reduce serious accidents tremendously.”

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
Continued from page 1

“significant progress in addressing priorities” outlined in its Financial Improvement Plan with the Georgia Department of Education, “completing multiple major action items while advancing several additional initiatives designed to strengthen long-term fiscal stability and operational effectiveness.”

The letter noted several “tasks” assigned the system by the state that had been completed, with others listed as “in progress.” It also listed “additional tasks” for the school system, which includes reviewing all existing contracts for potential savings.

The state asks that the district:

- Complete the development of “sustainable financial staffing” within the school district, hire a chief financial officer by March 13, which will allow the new hire to obtain the necessary training “to ensure sound financial management.” The district is currently recruiting a new finance director and new school superintendent.

- Begin confirming personnel costs, salary schedule and supplements for FY27, along with estimated operational costs. Salary schedule information must be provided to GaDOE’s financial consultants in order to project FY27 expenditures, including the effects of the increase in SHBP costs.

- Review all existing contracts and determine whether they should be resubmitted for a competitive bid to reduce district overhead.

- Respond promptly to auditor requests and provide necessary documentation to complete the FY24 and FY25 Audits with the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. As of last August, the school board had not completed an audit since 2021. It has since finished the 2022 audit, and 2023’s is awaiting “final sign-off,” district officials said.

- Cooperate with and respond promptly to any requests from Cognia. The accreditation agency is scheduled to be in Dublin next week for a “monitoring review” stemming from the financial crisis.

Dublin Interim Superintendent Marcee Pool said in the district’s response that progress made on the financial front “reflects a unified commitment across the district and community.”

“Our district, board of education and staff continue to be vigilant in accomplishing every necessary step to reach financial solvency — not just for FY 2028, but for the long-term future of Dublin City Schools,” Pool said. “We are grateful for the continued partnership and guidance of the Georgia Department of Education, and we remain fully committed to transparency throughout every phase of this process.”

Some of the “meaningful progress” highlighted by the district included:

- Finalizing an amended FY26 budget for board approval.
- Completing all remaining bank reconciliations.
- Expanding a sustainable financial staffing and training plan to support long-term self-sufficiency.
- Conducting a comprehensive review of district contracts for potential cost savings.
- And preparing personnel cost and operational projections for FY27.

ECONOMY
Continued from page 1

forward.”

The unemployment rate in Laurens County is at 3.8 percent. Miller called that “good.”

“An unemployment rate is something you don’t want to go too high and you don’t want it to go too low,” he said. “A low unemployment rate is a bad-leading indicator. Eventually, you will have too few people trying to get a job. If supply is down, the demand is up and the price goes up. You are in good shape when it comes to the participation of labor.”

Baldwin County’s unemployment rate was a little bit higher. Laurens County’s ranking for employment of productivity 226 out of 2,000. It was Miller and George’s belief that the Carl

Vinson VA Medical Center has helped with this stat. Another plus was the agribusiness in Laurens County.

Will there be a recession? Miller believe there will be a mild one by the third and fourth quarter of this year, while George thinks it will be so mild people will not notice.

“There is still a lot of uncertainty,” Miller said. “Inflation will happen, and it will continue to go up. With that said, we are still nowhere near what the inflation period we were just even seven years ago. Inflation is still manageable.”

Miller looks at population trends and he has been predicting for approximately 15 years about what is currently happening.

“Almost 20 years ago, we stopped having babies in this country,” he said. “You

are seeing in multiple places, high schools shutting down. It’s not because they were bad high schools. It was because they don’t have enough kids to go into them anymore. Our birthrates have gone down significantly. We think there is a better than 50 percent chance that the United States will experience something it has never felt before - and that is a decline in population.”

Immigration is an unknown. Miller said the border cannot be completely open or completely shut. Those who are 65 or older, will soon not be working anymore.

“They are going to retire,” he said. “That makes sense. If you retire, you are not creating as much money any longer. We have to figure how we are going to get people to come back here,

stay and work in the area. One of the ways is to have colleges here.”

Overall, Miller believes Laurens County is doing well.

“I come from a very small community in Arkansas,” he said. “They didn’t have a lot of the things you have right here. We weren’t at a place where everybody left the town to go work someplace else. You have some people leave here to go work elsewhere. You are a stand-alone economy and you are doing very well. The forecast we have is that you will continue to do well.”

The main thing is keeping people in the area and attracting new ones to move here.

“You will need that younger demographic,” Miller said. “You are really doing very well.”

OPEN HOUSE
Continued from page 1

up with a plan. It will have specific task that we can do to improve the transportation and structure of the city as well as other things we can do through ordinances.”

A safety action plan will be developed and the city will be able to apply for implementation money in order to make the actual improvement.

“There is currently a survey on our website or on

our Facebook page,” Powell said.

He said the survey does not take long to fill out. Participants who take the survey will also be able to see an interactive safety map and leave questions and comments.

“I will encourage people to take the survey,” Powell said. “We all drive up and down the road and see what might be the issues. The goal overall is to eliminate accidents involving pedestrians.”

NEWS DIGEST

The Dublin City Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the board office, 207 Shamrock Drive. The agenda:

- Invocation/pledge to flag
- Approval of agenda/minutes (Jan. 12, 2026)
- DCS board norm/protocol
- Board code of ethics
- Public comments
- Superintendent comments/announcements
- General administration

- Student recognition
- Perkins V Monitoring and Risk Assessment Review Summary Report and CTAE Academic Data
- Financials
- January financials
- February expenditures
- Bank account closure
- Board member comments
- Executive session
- Return to regular session
- Approval of personnel
- Adjournment

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GA pricing shown. Pricing may be different in some areas, subject to change, and does not include any land allowances or wind zone requirements.