

The Courier Herald

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Dublin school board fills financial staff positions

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

Two state consultants who had been assigned to help Dublin City Schools navigate its severe money crisis have been hired by the district to lead its finance department.

At a called meeting Tuesday night, the City Board of Education approved Betty Corbitt as chief financial officer and contracted with Joyce Davis to continue providing "professional financial and administrative support services." Both contracts are part-time and

run through June 30. In the meantime, the school board will continue to look for a permanent finance director, a position five months vacant.

The school district has relied heavily on assistance in both money and manpower from Georgia Department of Education since state officials discovered the system's cashflow troubles last August, and the hirings are seen as a big step back toward self-reliance.

"They are state employees who have been in our office, helping us, so they are familiar with our situ-

ation," school board Chairwoman Amanda Smith said Wednesday. "We're trying our best to formulate an exit plan soon. We're showing so much progress, and they can help us build up our finance department."

Corbitt is a former finance director at Jeff Davis County schools. Davis also lives in Jeff Davis County. The contracts call for Corbitt to work no more than 30 hours each week and Davis no more than 20. Both will be paid \$75 an hour and be reimbursed for mileage traveled to work for up

to 12 days each month.

Corbitt will be a part-time employee and will have oversight of the district's financial operations, budgeting and accounting processes. Davis will work part-time as a contractor. In addition to her financial responsibilities, which include "ensuring the accuracy, integrity and cleanliness of district data," Davis' contract also calls for her to provide human resources support, as requested.

Also Tuesday, the school board approved the hiring of a former employee, Carolyn Rozier, as bookkeeper at Dublin Middle

School.

On Monday, Smith traveled to Atlanta to meet and share the school district's progress with State School Superintendent Richard Woods and with local lawmakers, state Rep. Matt Hatchett and Sen. Larry Walker. What had been projected as a \$13.4 million deficit by fiscal year's end has since been cut in at least half – mostly through staff reductions. However, the schools now must rely on local property taxes to fund the

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
Continued on page 10

Old 911 center now new home for sheriff's patrol division

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

For many years, the location of the new Laurens County Sheriff's patrol division was home to where 911 emergency calls were received. This past week, it became home to patrol deputies.

Laurens County Sheriff Larry Dean said he appreciates the County Commissioners allowing them to have and transform the former 911 center. The sheriff's office and the 911 center was built in 1991. Since then, they have more than doubled the number of employees who work at the LCSO.

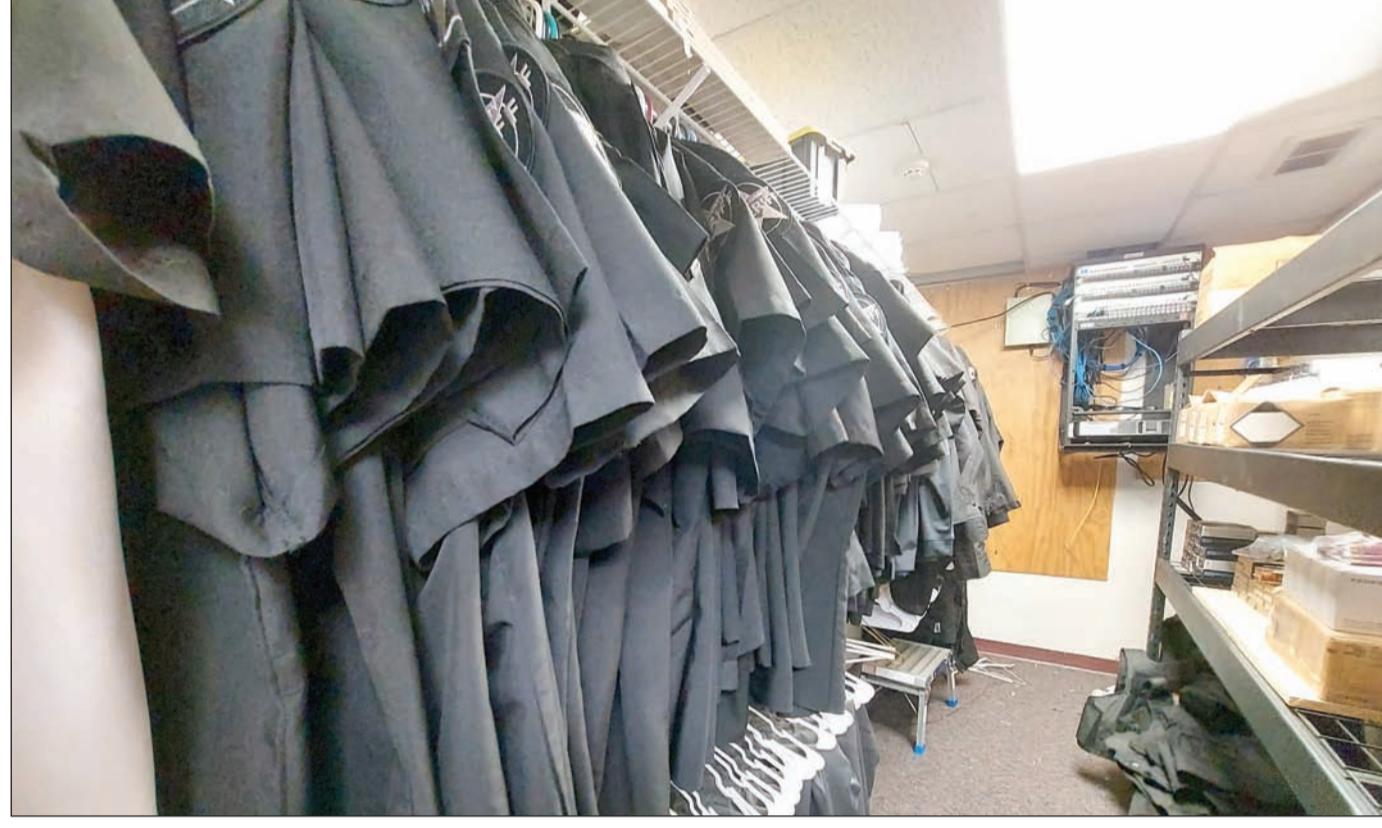
"When 911 got the new building, the county commissioners kindly gave us their old building," Dean said. "Our patrol and traffic division moved over there and that gave us a lot more space and room for the deputies. We were able to get more computers and stuff over here. The county gave us so much money for furniture and to redo the building, and that's what we spent it on and we stayed in budget with that."

The majority of the work was done by inmate labor.

"It is nice to have this new building," Dean said. "The deputies really appreciate this and absolutely love it that the county commissioners gave us that building."

The deputies moved into their new digs last Tuesday, said sheriff's Cpl. Brandon Zuckerman. Deputies used to have to log their reports in a smaller room in the main building of the sheriff's office.

"Now we have more computers,



Sheriff's deputy uniforms hang in a storage closet in the new patrol division/PAYTON TOWNS III

and deputies don't have to wait on a computer to come free," Zuckerman said. "We have four for patrol. The lieutenants and sergeants for all of the shifts have their own offices. They do not have to take another computer to do their work. When we are all here for shift change, we aren't all piled up in a little room. We now have a big wide open room and space where we can move around."

The new space has its own kitchen area, which is a little more quiet. They also have a place to park closer to their part of the building.

"It is a little more secure, too," Zuckerman said.

For the public, especially those wanting to file a report,



Laurens County sheriff's deputies have more space and more computers available to work on reports/PAYTON TOWNS III



New East Dublin City Councilman Rob Sheppard was sworn in by Judge Trey Taylor, taking the seat that was held by his late father, John Sheppard/SPECIAL PHOTO

Man honors father by filling term on East Dublin council

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

The son of a former East Dublin city councilman was used to taking his father to his meetings.

And when John Sheppard passed away last October at the age of 90, his son John thought his time going to those meetings was over. That did not turn out to be the case.

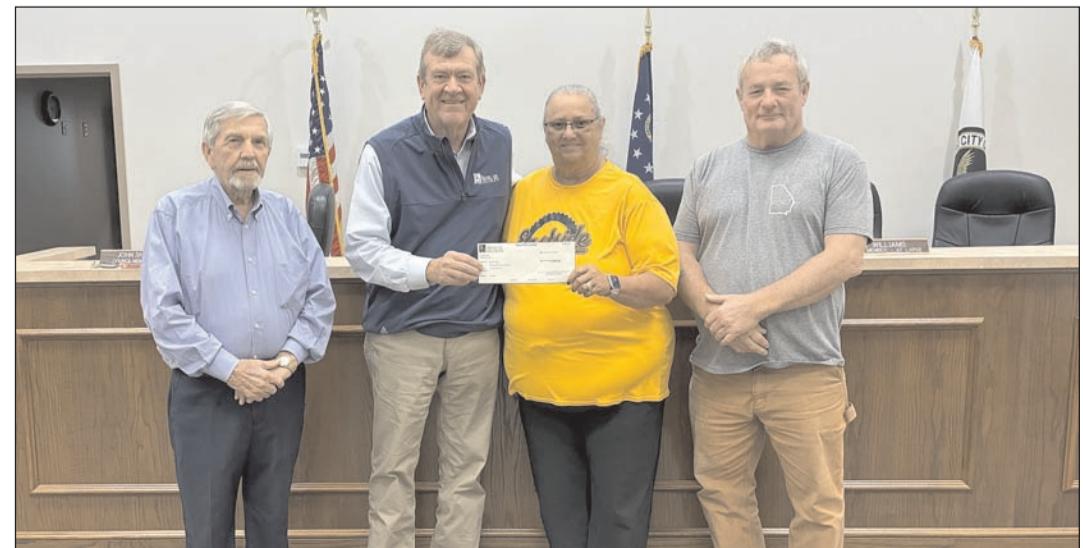
"The mayor came to me and asked me if I would be interested in running out the two years of his term," Rob said. "I thought, 'What better way to honor him than to do that,' so I agreed. I know I have big shoes to fill."

On Dec. 1, Rob was sworn in by Superior Court Judge Trey Taylor. His daugh-

EAST DUBLIN COUNCIL
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BUSINESSES GIVE TO EAST DUBLIN RECREATION

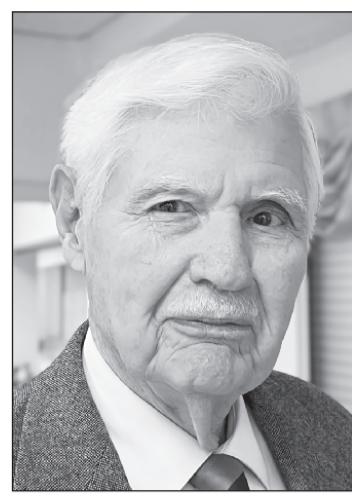
Total Earth Services and the Bank of Dudley both presented \$6,000 checks, for a total of \$12,000, to the East Dublin Recreation Department recently to help with new scoreboards for Warnock Park. Right, from left: Curtis Warnock, grounds manager; Mayor George Gornto; Julie Graham of Total Earth Services; and Dawn Wood, recreation director. Below, from left: Gornto, Bank of Dudley's Sam Beall, Wood and Warnock/SPECIAL PHOTOS



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OBITUARIES



Robert Owen "Bob" Fussell

Robert Owen "Bob" Fussell, 96, of The Rock Rd., passed away Sunday Feb. 1, 2026 at his residence.

Services will be held at a later date.

Mr. Fussell was born in Leesburg, Florida the son of the late O.B. Fussell and Rhoda Mae Whittman Fussell. He was preceded in death by his twin brother James Fussell, his brother Marvin Fussell and his sister Dorothy Wilson. Mr. Fussell was a former Men's Clothing Buyer for 25 years with Belk, and was a former Breakfast Host with Hampton Inn for over 20 years. Bob was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church in Dublin, Ga. and was a member of the American Legion. He was a Veteran of the United States Army serving in the Korean War.

Survivors include his wife, Faye H. Fussell; daughters, Lisa D. (Stan) Touchstone and Kae (Elton) Sylvia; son Patrick Williams; grandchild Mattison Touchstone; and several nieces and nephews.

Visit www.reecefuneralhomeinc.com to express tributes.

Reece Funeral Home in Jeffersonville has charge of arrangements.



Patricia Ann Adams

Graveside funeral services for Patricia Ann Adams, 69, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at Dublin Memorial Gardens. Rev. Nathan Morris will officiate.

Ms. Adams was born Jan. 23, 1957, in Macon, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late Ollie Luttrell McAfee, DVM and Jacqueline Elise Wasden McAfee. She was a homemaker, loving mother and grandmother. She was of the Christian faith.

Mrs. Adams passed away Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at Fairview Park Hospital.

Ms. Adams is survived by her son, Will Adams (Cece).

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 4
Consuela "CiCi" Carter

Feb. 7
Dorothy Cummings
Tamaqua Smith

Feb. 8
Eric Brian Clark

Feb. 9
Brenda Wiggins

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

lia) of Dublin; a sister, Melissa Thompson of Bonaire; and a grandchild, Brynlee Adams of Dublin.

Pallbearers will be Chris Walton, Eric Walker, Kenny Hodges, Will Adams and Tarl Killingsworth.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at Dublin Memorial Gardens.

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



Kathy Lynne Dominy Hoffmann

Kathy Lynne Dominy Hoffmann, 71, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, after a brief battle with cancer.

She was born in Dublin, Georgia, to the late Richard Edward Dominy and Mary Love Shannon Dominy on Dec. 16, 1954. She graduated from East Laurens High School in Dublin in 1972. In 1981, she married William Paul "Scott" Hoffmann, and they were married for 33 years until Scott's death in 2014. In 1994, she gave birth to her son William Richard Hoffmann, her only child. She lived in various cities in the South due to Scott's work, including Charlotte, North Carolina, where she lived for twenty years and where her son William was born. She was a member of Seacoast Church in Mount Pleasant and loved Jesus with all her heart.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Scott, parents-in-law Blair and Lillie Hoffmann, brother-in-law Joel Hoffmann, and many aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her son William. Brother Lance Clegg Dominy. Brother-in-law Robert Hoffmann and his wife Debra. Uncle Oscar Shannon. Nieces and nephews Corey Dominy, Kellie Howell and her husband Blake, Kristyn Jackson, Kyler Dominy and his

wife Kelli, Angela Mercer and her husband Zeke, Gay Tranum and her husband Stuart, Honey Hoffmann, Kristen Johnson and her husband Craig. Great-nieces and great-nephews Cooper Smith, Landrie Howell, Harper Howell, Branson Howell, Axton Howell, Addisyn Jackson, Waylon Jackson, Kylie Dominy, Kysen Dominy, Kenton Dominy, Ella Black, Anna Elizabeth Mercer, Samuel Mercer, Tristan Tranum, Luke Johnson, and Andrew Johnson.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026 at Dublin Memorial Gardens. Dr. Robert Hoffmann and Dr. Mark Davidson will perform the service.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Daisy Cherry

Funeral services for Mrs. Daisy Cherry, of East Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at 12 p.m. in the C.D. Dudley Memorial Chapel at Dudley Funeral Home, located at 617 East Jackson Street, Dublin, Georgia. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Mrs. Daisy Cherry was born on Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1945, to David Lee Christian and Elizabeth Grace Christian. Mrs. Cherry was a dedicated employee of Ford Motor Company, and retired after more than 30 years of faithful service. In her leisure time, she found great joy in traveling the world, with Detroit, Michigan, holding a special place in her heart as her second home. Fondly known as the "lottery lady," she also loved shopping and, most of all, helping others whenever she could. Her generosity, warmth, and vibrant spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

She entered eternal rest on Monday, February 2, 2026. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Robert Lee Cherry; her parents; and her brothers, Samuel Green, Ronald Christian, Willie James Christian, and Billy Hazley.

Mrs. Cherry leaves to

cherish her precious memories her brother, Willie (Rosa) Green; her sisters, Minnie Adams Rozier and Patricia Rozier, all of Dublin, Georgia; her step-daughter, Sandra (Jerry) Lumpkin; her sister, Diane (Errol) Cummings of Fort Myers, Florida; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

Kenneth L. Marshall

Mr. Kenneth L. Marshall

of Burlington Township,

New Jersey passed away

on Wednesday, February

4, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com

Jack Foreman

Mr. Jack Foreman of

Dublin, Georgia passed

away on Wednesday, Feb.

4, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 6

Jerry & Katherine Dunlap

Job Opening: Maintenance Supervisor

Housing Authority of the City of Wrightsville

The Housing Authority of the City of Wrightsville is seeking a **Maintenance Supervisor** to lead and manage our maintenance operations. This position reports directly to the Executive Director and plays a key role in ensuring the upkeep and modernization of our properties.

Key Responsibilities:

• Supervise and schedule maintenance staff for work orders, routine and preventive maintenance, and vacancy preparation.

• Completion of daily work orders and unit turnovers.

• Oversee modernization projects and ensure compliance with HUD standards.

• Conduct inspections of units, grounds, and facilities.

• Manage inventory, procurement, and vendor relations.

• Train staff in safety procedures and regulatory compliance.

• Respond to emergency maintenance issues promptly (Will be required to be on call every other weekend for emergencies only)

Qualifications:

• High School diploma or GED required; college education preferred.

• Minimum two years of maintenance-related experience with knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and grounds maintenance.

• Valid Georgia driver's license and ability to pass background and drug screening.

• Certifications in HVAC, Plumbing, or Electrical are highly desirable.

Benefits:

• Competitive salary

• Paid leave

• Company-provided insurance

• Company-provided vehicle

• 4-day work week

• Retirement plan

• Opportunities for training and professional development

• Positive work environment serving the community

Resumes can be emailed to kevin@wrightsvillehousing.com or Mailed: Kevin Price C/O Wrightsville Housing Authority P.O. Box 190 Wrightsville, GA 31096.

Proposed law would expose librarian to jail risk for loaning 'harmful' materials

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Legislation that seeks to expose librarians to criminal prosecution for loaning the wrong books to children has resurfaced at the Georgia Legislature.

Senate Bill 74 passed the Senate last year, the first half of the biennial legislative session, and now it is advancing through the House.

The senator sponsoring the bill said library books have become a controversial topic in the area he represents, which is between Augusta and Savannah.

Constituents complained, so he investigated and decided that it was wrong to exempt librarians from the law.

"The objective is simple: protect children from harm," said Sen. Max Burns, R-Sylvania. He said he knows his legislation is controversial, given the volume of comment on both sides of the issue before it passed the Senate last year.

cherish her precious memories her brother, Willie (Rosa) Green; her sisters, Minnie Adams Rozier and Patricia Rozier, all of Dublin, Georgia; her step-daughter, Sandra (Jerry) Lumpkin; her sister, Diane (Errol) Cummings of Fort Myers, Florida; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

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Mr. Kenneth L. Marshall of Burlington Township, New Jersey passed away on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com

Jack Foreman

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• Conduct inspections of units, grounds, and facilities.

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• Train staff in safety procedures and regulatory compliance.

• Respond to emergency maintenance issues promptly (Will be required to be on call every other weekend for emergencies only)

Qualifications:

• High School diploma or GED required; college education preferred.

• Minimum two years of maintenance-related experience with knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and grounds maintenance.

• Valid Georgia driver's license and ability to pass background and drug screening.

• Certifications in HVAC, Plumbing, or Electrical are highly desirable.

Benefits:

• Competitive salary

• Paid leave

• Company-provided insurance

• Company-provided vehicle

• 4-day work week

• Retirement plan

• Opportunities for training and professional development

• Positive work environment serving the community

Resumes can be emailed to kevin@wrightsvillehousing.com or Mailed: Kevin Price C/O Wrightsville Housing Authority P.O. Box 190 Wrightsville, GA 31096.

"Kids are being exposed to pornography at such an early age," said Mike Griffin, lobbyist for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

This drives them to commit sexual abuse against peers, he testified Tuesday. "It's so very important that we deal with limiting this type of access because it's creating perpetrators."

Other faith-based advocacy groups back the bill, too.

Lucia Frazier, who described herself as a "simple mom," said children were being exposed to what she saw as "immoral" books in schools.

"I don't think the curriculum should even have anatomy," she said. "There is a level

Laurens County calls first draftee

Dublin Courier-Herald,
Dispatch, And Press

Isaac Jordan Martin of Route 3, Dublin, today became the first Selective Service registrant ordered drafted for army training from Laurens County.

Martin was selected by Draft Board No. 1 for induction February 19 along with five others, all volunteers. The five volunteers will also be sent on that date from Board No. 2.

All men taken from this county in the two previous draft calls since the Selective Service Act became operative have been volunteers.

Board Clerk I.F. Maddox said that even yet if another volunteer should come in at once Martin would be held over until the next call.

The first white registrant in this county to be placed in Class I, he was ordered out because there were not sufficient volunteers to meet the third call.

Martin's order number was assigned by the board following the national draft lottery in Washington is 12. Thus, 11 registrants under Board I were passed over, ten of them because of deferment, and the other negro who is to be taken in the next call for colored trainees, the clerk explained.

Volunteers to be sent with Martin for induction from Board 1 are

Ashley Merle Webb
James Hilliard Stewart
Roderick Javy Avant
Grady Nathaniel Strickland

Jimmie Green - Green is a replacement for call No 2.

Listed for replacements if required for this call are

Leland Claxton Kight - Order number 14

Thomas Lamar Morris - Order number 15

Paul William Robinson - Order number 21

Others with order numbers from from 13 to 20 inclusive have been deferred or will be taken in a call for colored trainees.

Those who will go from Board No.2 as listed by Clerk Walter Daniel :

U.A. Morgan
Thomas Judson Windham

Willard Oscar Mullis
Prentice Albert Williams
Roy Carlton Ward
All are volunteers.

The men from both boards are required to report at the Board's office in the federal building in Dublin (Postoffice) at 9:40 Wednesday morning, February 19, ready to leave.

They will be sent to Fort McPherson, Atlanta.

NOTIFY DRAFT BOARD QUICK

Registrants under the Selective Training and Service Act who change addresses are required by law to notify their local boards promptly.

Brigadier General Sion R. Hawkins, Acting State Director of Selective Service for Georgia warned today. Those who fail to do so become liable to severe penalties, the Director pointed out. Director Hawkins said that he has been advised by National Headquarters that investigations by the Department of Justice of many delinquencies reported by local boards revealed that carelessness on the part of registrants other than willful intent on their part was often responsible for these violations of the law.

CITY LIMITS EXTENSION

Notice was given today that the Bill to extend the city limits of Dublin had been introduced in the General Assembly in line with the recent action of Dublin City Council in requesting that such a measure be proposed.

The extended limits, agreed upon by Council after consultation by Mayor Dee Sessions with engineers in regard to the lines to be run.

An amendment to the City Charter is necessary to extend the limits. Section 3 of Article 1 of the charter would be repealed and a new section would be substituted thereafter.

The Bill was drawn by City Attorney Carl Nelson and introduced by Representatives W.H. Lovett and Dawson Kea.

ABATTOIR MORE POPULAR

January was the biggest month in the history of the Dublin Abattoir, Dr. J.L. Smalley, City Sanitary Inspector, reported today.

Slaughtering of livestock under sanitary conditions has been increasing steadily as it offers another source of income in farming.

In January, 1,594 head of livestock - cows, sheep, goats, and hogs - were butchered at the abattoir here, the report shows.

CITY TAX BOOKS OPEN

Tax books are now open at City Hall for making city tax returns, Clerk M.A. Rogers has announced.

All persons who are entitled to homestead exemptions must make application for them each year, and no allowance can be made if such exemption is not applied for each year, Clerk Rogers reminded.

CHURCH NEWS

Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church

The Woman's Auxiliary of Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church invites every woman in the community to join in the observance of the Interdenominational World Day of Prayer, February 28th, at the hour of four in the Presbyterian Church.

In issuing this invitation, Mrs. C.C. Crockett, Auxiliary President, said,

"If ever there was a time in history when we need to know the meaning of the Kingdom of God, it is now. We know that the world cannot be run by brain and brawn alone. Realizing this, we know there can never be permanent justice, peace, or hope without the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

"The voice of Prayer bids you welcome. Won't you come and have a part in this united prayer for God's Kingdom to come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven?"

All churches of the city will take part in this inspirational and prayerful program. Interspersed with messages and prayers will be music by Mrs. Glasgow Snider, Mrs. M.Z. Claxton, Miss Leah Kittrell, Miss Maybelle Stith, Mrs. Sam Swinson, and Edgar Evans.

Glad Tidings Assembly of God

A missionary prayer council will be held in the Glad Tidings Assembly of God on February 24th and 25th. Services begin on Monday night at 7 p.m. and on Tuesday there will be services at 10 a.m. 2:30 p.m. and at 7 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend all services.

Christian Church

A Brotherhood Supper, an annual observance among members of Christian Churches, was attended by a large group of members at the local church here on Thursday evening. Dr. Charles A. Hodges presided over the enjoyable program.

The recreation room of the church building was made decorative with quantities of spring flowers which centered the tables where members were seated.

ed for supper. A delicious chicken menu was served by ladies of the Christian Woman's Auxiliary.

Dr. Hodges brought greetings to the members and visitors and presented those taking part on the program.

Everett Ellis brought the devotional, and Mrs. M.A. Shewmake spoke of "The Significance of Brotherhood Observance." Rev. Robert Bennett, pastor, expressed his pleasure in the fine fellowship of the occasion.

Miss Evie Jean Rachels gave a dramatic reading, and Miss Annette Hodges played an organ solo.

Unison singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" closed the program.

The offering taken during the evening will be contributed to the British Church Fund.

First Methodist Society

Young women of the First Methodist Church - between the ages of 18 and 25 - are urged and cordially invited to meet in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Anthony Hearn on West Gaines Street when Mrs. Hearn and Mrs. Viola Neal, President of W.S.C.S., will begin the organization of a Young Woman's Society of Christianity Service.

A large attendance is urged.

PATRIOTC OBSERVANCES

Johnson Street School

This patriotic program in observance of the birthday anniversaries of George Washington and of Frank L. Stanton was given at chapel exercises at Johnson Street School:

Song: "Faith of Our Fathers" - School

Scripture: "Psalm I" - School

Prayer

Song: "Are You Able?" - School

Reading: "Frank L. Stanton" - Fay Maddox

Song: "Mighty Like A Rose" by Frank L. Stanton - Fourth Grade

Poem: "Keep A Going" by Frank L. Stanton - Fourth Grade

Poem: "The Melon Patch" by Stanton - Jimmy Page

Song: "Mount Vernon Bells" - School

Talk: "Characteristics of Washington" - Jimmy Hobbs

Song: "My Dream of the U.S.A." - School

Sketch of Washington's Life:

1. "His Youth" - John Knox Porter

2. "Learning by Living" - Patricia Allen

3. "As Soldier" - Murel Bass

4. "Services to His Country" - Ann Hobbs

5. "Washington" by Margaret Sangster - Ray Wyatt

Song: "God Bless America" - School

Saxon Heights School

Fifth grade pupils of Saxon Heights Elementary school presented this Georgia Day program in the school auditorium on Tuesday morning:

Song: "Georgia Land" - School

Talk: "Life of James Edward Oglethorpe" - Leta Hatcher

Song: "The Red Old Hills of Georgia" - School

Talk: "Oglethorpe" - Annie Clydene Stinson

Talk: "Georgia Builders" - Jimmy Ladson

Song: "Georgia School Song" - School

Talk: "It's Great to be a Georgian" - Billy Wynn

Talks: "Why I Think It's Great to be a Georgian" - Betty Sue Hitson, Pard Ward, Edrin Stinson

Song: "Cherokee Rose of Georgia" - Fifth and Sixth Grades

Song: "Georgia" - School

TAG DEADLINE

W.L. Joiner, head of the State Motor Vehicle Department, who visited here today, reminded that March 1 is the deadline for obtaining 1941 automobile license plates and stated that in his opinion the time limit will not be extended.

He urged that applications be filled out correctly and sent with a cashier's check or money order.

Personal checks are not acceptable.

Mr. Joiner added that he would be glad to render any assistance possible in case of difficulty in receipt of tags ordered if the matter is called to his attention directly or by other means.

Formerly of Dublin and now residing in Atlanta, he assumed his duties in the capital early in January and returned here for a short visit with relatives and friends.

NEW JAIL NEEDED

Construction of a new county jail was virtually recommended today by the Laurens Grand Jury.

In a committee report made part of the jury's presentations, it was declared:

"This committee believes that it is a waste of money to do much repairing until efforts are exhausted to get a new jail. If more of the taxpayers of the county would inspect the jail as we have, a new jail would soon be under construction."

The committee, however, stated that its inspection showed the jail to be "clean, sanitary, and well-kept, considering the obsolete building, wiring, and plumbing."

P.M. Watson, J.R. Daniel, and R.A. Roach composed the committee.

MECHANICS CLASS FORMING

Dublin Schools Superintendent A.J. Hargrove announced today that a class in automobile mechanics is being formed under the National Defense Education Program, and he invited those interested to make application for inclusion in the program.

Young men 17 to 24 years of age are eligible for the training which will be conducted three nights a week for 12 weeks.

A second welding class is also being formed under the setup, Mr. Hargrove stated. One class is already taking instruction.

The classes are formed under the direction of Su-

LOOKING BACK...

85 YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 7, 1941



By HARRIETT CLAXTON

perintendent Hargrove, and all applications should be made to him.

Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Kendrick, Secretary, and Mrs. Lindsey, Treasurer.

Mrs. Warner Callan and Mrs. D.G. Adams were welcomed into the club as new members.

MAKES PLEA FOR DUDLEY LIBRARY

Dudley Consolidated School since 1937 has grown from a six-teacher to a school of sixteen literary teachers, two vocational teachers, and two music teachers. These twenty teachers are busy every minute of the day. Courses are given in what is called a straight literary course, commercial course, French studies, vocational agriculture, Home economics, wood work in shop, motor mechanics, cabinet work, brass band, and athletic contests.

Another record was in the number of consecutive games played and won in one week. The outfit was in action each night of last week, from Monday through Saturday, while the Southern Division tourney was on at Cadwell and later was on at Cadwell and later at the district finals.

The Cadwell team will enter the state basketball tournament in Athens as the district's representative from class "C" schools.

GARDEN CLUB DONATES PLANTS

At a recent meeting of the Dublin Garden Club held in the Woman's Clubhouse on North Drive, Mesdames Carl Nelson, D.Z. Lindsey, Marion Peacock, and W.M. Kendricks donated abelia plants for the Court House grounds.

Other members will donate plants later.

Mrs. U.T. Joiner was awarded first prize for her artistic arrangement of spring flowers; Mrs. R.C. Garrard received second place, and Miss Kellie Ballard was awarded third place.

The flower quiz, arranged by Mrs. W.H. Adams and Grady Wright, was conducted by Mrs. Hargrove. In this contest, Mrs. P.T. Williams won the prize, a box of perennial plants.

The business session was conducted by President

LAURENS COUNTY BAND DIRECTOR

B. J. Keel, formerly of Leary, Georgia, is now band director for the Laurens County Schools, it was announced by School Superintendent Elbert Mullis.

Mr. Keel and his wife are to teach band music in the schools.

Moment of Inspiration

LET JESUS CALM YOUR STORM!

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalms 46:10 In an every changing world full of turmoil and fear its hard to have peace in our life much less to be still. This past year has been full of unexpected things that have shaken the very foundation of many people. There seems to be nothing that is certain anymore. But there is one unmistakable truth that you can always count on and that's Jesus Christ. You see scripture teaches us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we can take peace in knowing that Jesus is still in charge. No matter the world may want you to think Jesus can calm the storms of your life and he can and will give you peace.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. True peace can only come from Jesus Christ. Dr. Curt Lysaker Shady Grove Baptist Church

Pastors if you would like to share a devotional please email to: advertisingtch@gmail.com

Dublin
GMC
NISSAN

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

On giant rats and other ways to predict the weather

A bunch of guys in Pennsylvania, dressed in 1800s costume, pulled a giant rat out of the ground the other day and said we had six more weeks of winter headed our way. The same thing happened in Georgia, except the giant rat is extracted from a Civil War era-style plantation house.

It was not the news I wanted to hear after seeing snow falling from the sky more times in one month than I have in a decade and temperatures cold enough to make a snowman put on more than just a scarf, though I've never understood why people put scarves on snowmen. It's easier than a pair of britches, I guess.

I'm beginning to understand why depression rates are higher in the winter, especially in places more prone to arctic storms. I've been inside too much, developed a touch of cabin fever, and long for some warm weather.

Everyone complains about the weather, but no one does anything about it. Everyone thinks Mark Twain said that, but it was actually penned by Charles Dudley Warner, a contemporary of Twain, though not as fondly remembered.

Now, you can't say I never taught you anything.

A groundhog predicting the weather is an odd thing. One of my children asked me about this strange custom and, to be honest, I had to admit I did not know. My kids know how to use the internet, so my days of making things

DIVA ON A DIME



A customizable bowl of lentils, rice and warm spices makes an easy, high-protein pantry dinner/SPECIAL PHOTO

When meat is optional: A high-protein dinner

By PATTI DIAMOND
King Features

You don't have to serve meat at every meal for it to be healthy, filling or high in protein. Lentils, rice and other plant-based proteins have fed generations of families around the world for millennia, quietly and affordably. When you understand how to combine them, they create meals that are satisfying, flexible and surprisingly substantial.

TVP, or textured vegetable protein, isn't new or exotic. It's been used for decades as an inexpensive way to stretch ground meat or replace it entirely. Made from defatted soy flour, it's similar in texture to ground meat once rehydrated. It's shelf-stable, high in protein, neutral in flavor and absorbs whatever seasonings you give it. For budget-conscious cooks, it's a useful ingredient that adds substance without adding much cost.

If you've ever eaten canned or frozen chili, burritos or meatballs, there's a good chance you've already eaten it. You can find TVP in the bulk section of the grocery store, sometimes labeled textured soy protein. If not, check near dry soup mixes or ask an employee.

WARM SPICE LENTIL RICE BOWLS

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Total Time: 40 mins.

These warm spice lentil rice bowls use TVP to boost protein while keeping

costs low. Cooked in broth with onion and warm spices, it creates a hearty base that can be served as-is or customized with vegetables, sauces or toppings depending on what you have on hand. Each serving contains about 18 grams of protein.

6 cups water, divided
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup brown lentils
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium onion, thinly sliced

1/2 teaspoon white or brown sugar
1 teaspoon coconut aminos, optional

1 cup long-grain white rice
1 cup textured vegetable protein (TVP)

2 tablespoons dried parsley flakes

1 tablespoon vegetable or chicken bouillon granules

2 teaspoons curry powder

1 teaspoon ground cumin

Black pepper to taste

Topping ideas: plain yogurt, sauteed greens, roasted carrot or sweet potato, pickled onions, green onions, fresh herbs, cucumber, or sliced lemon or lime.

Bring 3 cups of water and 1/4 teaspoon salt to a boil in a large saucepan. Add the lentils and reduce heat to low, simmer uncovered for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, warm the olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook slowly, stirring occasionally, allowing

it to soften and caramelize, about 10 minutes. After the first 5 minutes, add the sugar and, if using, the coconut aminos to deepen the flavor.

Once the onions are golden and fragrant, add the rice and stir to coat the grains in the flavorful oil. Cook for 1-2 minutes, then transfer the onions and rice to the saucepan.

Add the remaining 3 cups water, TVP, parsley, bouillon, curry powder and cumin. Stir to combine. Bring to a vigorous boil, then remove from heat, cover and let stand undisturbed for 20 minutes.

Fluff with a fork, season with black pepper and serve.

Think of this as a grain-bowl style meal and let everyone customize their own bowl. Try topping it with chopped fresh herbs for brightness, roasted veggies bring sweetness, garlicky greens for depth and a dollop of yogurt, tahini or another simple sauce. A spoonful of something pickled or spicy adds contrast and keeps the dish lively from bite to bite.

Knowing how to prepare satisfying meals without relying on meat is a useful skill, especially when food prices feel unpredictable. Dishes like this are about flexibility, resilience and feeding yourself well with what's affordable and available. That kind of confidence in the kitchen is always worth having.

Lifestyle expert Patti Di-

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

up are long gone.

It turns out that Groundhog Day comes from an old German custom. If a hibernating animal, traditionally

a bear, comes out of its hole on a sunny day, winter isn't over. When bears became scarce in Germany, they looked to foxes. When foxes got hard to come by, folks looked for badgers.

To carry on this practice the Pennsylvania Dutch settled on the groundhog. They are safer to ask about the weather than a hungry bear or angry badger.

Looking up the history of Groundhog Day led me down a rabbit hole, or groundhog hole, of weather lore. Harsh winters can also be predicted by produce. If apples and onions have a thick skin, you know it's going to be cold. If squirrel tails are extra bushy, the cold season will be bitter. You need to be very observant of your local squirrel population for that one. If the ones around my house haven't put on some extra fur yet, they have most likely frozen to death.

Storms can be predicted by the movement of cows. If your herd comes back to shelter in the middle of the day, chances are it will rain that night. The same goes for bees. Somehow animals always seem to know what is going on, better than any meteorologist.

What I did not discover, however, is if there is a sign for a pleasant, warm spring. At this point I'll believe anything that tells me it's going to warm up soon.



By JACK BROWN

'Any bonds today?'

This writer was a boy growing up in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. during World War II.

During those critical war years, 1941-1945, citizens young and old were very much involved in the war effort, and mom and dad encouraged my sister and me to save a portion of our weekly allowance to purchase war bonds which we did.

It was the patriotic thing to do.

Day after day we heard the war bond song on our radio, the tune and words still remembered by me.

In fact, this song registered with me for a lifetime, and I am certain that there are Laurens County seniors who also remember this song.

It goes like this:

Any bonds today?

Bonds of freedom, that's what I'm selling

Any bonds today?

Scrape up the most you can,

Here comes the freedom man,

Asking you to buy your share of freedom today.

Patriotism in America was alive and well during those tough times.

And, we are living in tough times today as there are anti-American forces pulling at the seams of our

country.

Standing strong for America is as patriotic today as buying war bonds was many years ago.

A young Christian ministerial student wrote these words in 1832: "... Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, Great God, our King." (Samuel F. Smith, 1808-1895)

Let us renew our love for America during these turbulent times, for we are "one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all."

This writing closes with Irving Berlin's song that was made famous by singer Kate Smith in 1938, as World War II was on the horizon. Note that this patriotic song becomes a prayer with a comma after God:

God, bless America, land that I love,

Stand beside her and guide her

Through the night with the light from above;

From the mountains, to the prairie,

To the ocean white with foam,

God bless America, my home sweet home,

God bless America, my home sweet home.

Peace

P.S. Any bonds today?

Thank You

Thank you to The Courier Herald and to everyone who helped me celebrate my retirement on Thursday, January 29th, 2026, at The Carnegie.

Harriett Claxton

Road woes for Trinity at Windsor; EL girls get win at Dodge

By JEREMY PAYNE and CLAY REYNOLDS

The Trinity Crusaders returned to hardwood action Tuesday with a road trip to Macon to face Windsor in their next-to-last games of the season.

After being swept in close games last week, the Knights returned the favor and defeated Trinity's girls 57-54. The Crusader boys struggled offensively most of the night, and lost 59-46.

The girls dug a big hole early, but fought back to take a lead.

The first quarter was about as bad as possible offensively as Trinity managed just six points. Windsor put up 18 to take a big early lead.

It was the Lady Crusaders who scored 18 in the second quarter. Windsor cooled off a bit with just 11 and Trinity trailed only 29-24 at the half.

The Lady Crusaders stayed hot out of the locker room, scoring 18 more. The Lady Knights managed just 10 and Trinity took a 39-36 lead into the fourth.

Unfortunately Trinity went cold again in the last quarter, managing just 12 points. This time it was Windsor scoring 18 to finish with a three-point lead.

Again, Trinity had no answer for Kennedi Harris, who finished with 32.

Brinley Vinson led Trinity with 19. Maddy George had 14, and Chloe Rozier added 11.

When the Crusaders and Knights met in Dublin last week, Jagger George scored 47 to lead the Crusaders to a close win. This time around, the entire team couldn't muster that much in a loss.

The boys started out almost as slowly as the girls, managing just seven first quarter points. Windsor put up 15 to take the early lead.

The Knights managed just seven in the second quarter, but Trinity was somehow worse, scoring just five. The Crusaders trailed 22-12 at the half.

Trinity scored more points in the third period than it did the entire first half with 13. Unfortunately, the Crusaders' defense let them down, allowing Windsor to put up 19, and they trailed 41-25 after three.

The offense finally got going in the fourth as Trinity put up 21, but it was too little, too late as the Knights made enough free throws down the stretch to hold onto their double-digit lead.

George again led Trinity, but only had 20, with 15 of those coming after halftime. Will Foskey finished with 14 before fouling out midway through the fourth.

Jaquan Lewis led Windsor with 20. Greg Brooks had 13, and Dawson Sims added 10.

East Laurens girls 72, Dodge Co. 36

The Lady Falcons (19-3, 10-1 region 2-High A) put the clamps on Dodge after finishing a fast-paced first quarter on top 19-15. They'd go on to score 18, 23 and 12 in the remaining quarters, while holding the Squaws to a single digit each in the same, to build a cushy margin by night's end.

Jameria Bing (18), Garyunna Mitchell (16), Deanna Lowther (16) and Zahmaria Robinson (12) all



CO-SIGNING: PAIR OF RAIDERS, FALCONS CELEBRATE NSD

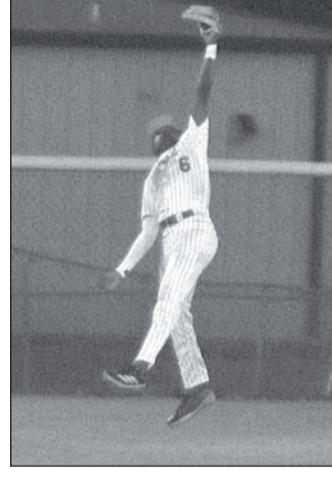
Commitments were made official side-by-side Wednesday for a couple of football teammates each at East and West Laurens who put pen to paper, with crowds of supporters looking on, during programs marking National Signing Day. The Raiders (at left) celebrated defensive back Juvon Hill, who's headed to Fort Valley State, and defensive lineman Ethan Cason-Guyton, slated to attend North Carolina-based HBCU Shaw University, who are among seven seniors on this past year's region championship squad currently pledged to play at the next level. They join December signees Shannon Adkins (Charleston Southern), Ty Cummings and Grady Howell (Georgia Southern), along with running back Branden Brooks (Dodge City CC) and O-lineman Michael Dasher (Livingstone), who also faxed in their commitment paperwork on Wednesday. The Falcons are sending two (at right) to the next level, defensive tackle Caleb Jackson to in-state D2 powerhouse Valdosta State, and defensive back Norrion King to Arkansas Baptist. See next week's editions and courierheraldtoday.com/sports for more coverage/CLAY REYNOLDS

BASEBALL IS BACK: SCRIMMAGE GAMES GET SEASON STARTED

It doesn't quite feel it yet, but springtime – at least on the high school sports calendar – debuted this week as some freshly defrosted local baseball fields opened up for preseason exhibition games. Dublin hosted Evans on Tuesday, and East and West Laurens were scheduled to follow with scrimmages of their own Friday (both that were postponed a day over field conditions), the Falcons at Thomson and the Raiders at home against Veterans. Each of the three are set to open their regular seasons next week. The Irish start off with early-week visits to Toombs County and Johnson County before their first home game against Swainsboro Friday. East will play both JoCo, Monday, and Bacon County, on Friday, at home. West will have region 4-AAA foe Aquinas for a home-and-home beginning Tuesday in Dexter. Below are some highlights from Tuesday's action at Bush Perry Field...



DUCKS ON THE POND: Hits for either team were fairly scattered, but both Dublin and Evans had a good bit of traffic on the basepaths in Tuesday's matchup. A good bit of it was by design as the teams, under a coaches' agreement, began several innings with a predetermined number of men on to simulate various baserunning and defensive situations, one in which C.J. Stubbs (at left) was able to swipe second. Walks and some small ball – shown (at right) as an Evans runner beat out this throw to Irish first baseman Jeff Davis on a nubber up the third base line – kept things moving, and the early runs flowing for a 4-4 tie through about three innings/CLAY REYNOLDS



PRESEASON UPS: Stubbs extends for the leaping catch in center on an Evans sacrifice fly/CLAY REYNOLDS

CLASSMATES IN ARMS: Fellow sophomores Ryland Yates (17, left) and Will Wallace (right) both got in some work for the Irish pitching staff on the mound/CLAY REYNOLDS

went for double digits in the scorebook. Lowther and Mitchell doubled up in rebounds as well, with 15 and 13 respectively, and combined for seven of East's 15 steals.

Dodge's Paige Ingram had 18.

Dodge Co. 59, East Laurens boys 49

The Indians, with a much better shooting night on their home court than they had in last month's visit to the Eastside, maintained a nice offensive pace in the last three quarters that East Laurens (17-5, 8-3 region) couldn't match.

The Falcons led 16-12 after one, but gave back five as Dodge led a 21-15 second quarter, then seven along with the lead as they countered the home team's 12 with only seven in a mutually sluggish third.

Kyler Johnson reached 22 points, and Galvin Hillburn 12, as the Indians added another three to their lead in the last eight minutes. Dodge, with the win, takes control of second place in the region standings.

Washington Co. 60, Dublin girls 38

The Lady Irish (10-11, 4-6 region 2-High A) controlled a little more than eight minutes of defense-dominated basketball, before WACO's Jade Kitchens (20 points) and Aeria Hagans (15) got to their usual mid-game hot spot in the second quarter.

The Lady Hawks, after trailing 8-6 at the end of one, doubled their output with 19 the rest of the way to half. They traded Dublin three for six in the early minutes, then rattled off 13 unanswered before the

break to take as big an advantage as they'd need into the break, but pulled completely away with another net eight in the third-quarter count.

Washington Co. 52, Dublin boys 40

The Golden Hawks out-ran Dublin 37-20 in the second half to turn the game's tide after a slow start. But much like earlier in the night, the Irish (3-17, 0-10 region) held their own in the two low-scoring quarters that started things out.

QuanTavis Lovett had a double-dozen, with a team-high 12 each in the points and rebounds columns, plus four steals and three blocked shots that bolstered the early defensive effort. Dublin, whose Ar'Dreakius Taylor, Jaydon McRae and Glen Harris added nine, seven and six respectively,

was in front by six after one, and five at the half.

Jaden Atkinson and Zion Cordy sparked a WACO resurgence post-intermission just as Irish confidence sputtered, with few free throw opportunities (the teams shot a total of only five each) as an offensive jump-start.

McRae had their only make out of 12 attempts from 3-point range.

Next...

With its long late-season road trip finally over, Dublin will get back to the Jaroy Stuckey Court Friday night as it welcomes Dodge for senior night, on the front end of a three-game homestand that continues Saturday against ECI.

East Laurens gets a break from region ball until next Tuesday, with its lone weekend game a home

PREP SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL

Friday

Brentwood at Trinity
Dodge Co. at Dublin
West Laurens at Richmond Academy/6 p.m.

Saturday

ECI at Dublin/3 p.m.
WL at East Laurens/4 p.m.

Tuesday

Cross Creek at WL/5 p.m.
Bleckley Co. at Dublin
Central Macon at EL/6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13

Dublin at Central Macon
EL at Northeast Macon
/6 p.m.

BASEBALL

Friday

(scrimmages)

Veterans at WL/4 p.m.
EL at Thomson/5:30 p.m.

Monday

Johnson Co. at EL/6 p.m.

Tuesday

Aquinias at WL/5:30 p.m.
Dublin at Toombs Co.
/5:45 p.m.

Thursday

WL at Aquinas/5:30 p.m.
Dublin at Johnson Co.
/6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13

Bacon Co. at EL
(doubleheader)/4 p.m.
Swainsboro at Dublin
/6 p.m.

SOCER

Tuesday

Dublin (girls) at Treutlen
Swainsboro at EL
WL at Westside Augusta
/5 p.m.
Dublin (boys) at Hawkinsville/5:30

Wednesday

Dublin (girls) at Northeast Macon/5:30 p.m.

Thursday

Howard at WL
Toombs Co. at EL/5 p.m.

CONTACT US:

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

BULLETIN BOARD...

Registration is under way for the East Dublin Recreation Department's 2026 boys baseball and girls fastpitch softball season, open to any Laurens County resident ages 4-14. Sign-up forms are due along with \$50-per-child registration fee (scholarships are available for families with more than one player) to East Dublin City Hall by 5 p.m. Feb. 16. Call or text Dawn Wood at (478) 609-4381 for more information.

rematch against West Laurens set for Saturday afternoon. The Raiders, who were inactive due to a postponement on Tuesday, will visit Richmond Academy Friday night.

Trinity's teams return home to finish out the regular season Friday night against Brentwood.

Special recognitions are planned for three of the above fixtures. The Irish are set to remember the late Tawaski King, a forward off of their 2009 state championship team, between girls and boys games Friday night. The Falcons will pay tribute to two former girls basketball coaches, Bernie Snellgrove and Charles E. Turner, during Saturday's games against West. Trinity, in addition to senior recognitions Friday night, will honor its all-time 1,000-point scorers during the boys' halftime.

Classifieds

Wanted: Assistant/Manager to help write a book and publish it. Contact Martha Jo at 478-212-6277

Yardsale: 1275 Baker Church Rd Rentz. 7am Furniture, clothing, kitchenware, books/magazines, etc.

Yardsale: 860 Blackshear Ferry Road West. Friday 12pm-4pm, Saturday 8am-2pm. Madame Alexandria dolls, jewelry, vintage/antiques, clothing, glassware

Yardsale: 498 Fairfield Drive Dublin, Saturday February 7th. 8am-2pm.

Real Estate

Apt. for Rent - 808A S. Washington St., 2 BR, kitchen, LR & shower, inc. pest control. \$600 dep., \$600 mo. City gas heat & window ac, stove & refrigerator. Call 478-697-6817. Located in Southside in Dublin.

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

Wanted: Small travel trailer for The Church of Jesus Christ. 478-290-5304 or 478-275-2741.

Legals

26-018

Notice of Sale Under Power

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

All that property situate in the County of Laurens, State of Georgia, more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the First Land District in the City of Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, being known as Lot 68 and Part of Lot 67 in Rollingwood Estates Subdivision, and being more particularly shown and described according to a plat of survey prepared by Marvin D. Clements, Surveyor, dated August 22, 1980, and recorded in Deed Book 380, Page 519, Laurens County Records. The courses and distances of said plat are incorporated into and made a part of this description by reference.

Subject to all easements, ordinances, covenants, conditions, restrictions, and rights-of-way of record, if any.

Being the same property conveyed to Donald G. Hett and Susan M. Hett, as joint tenants with survivorship by Jerry Davis and Delois Davis, in dated date 05/31/2022 recorded 06/01/2022 in Book 3298 Page 299, in the County of Laurens, State of Georgia.

Tax ID:D14E 123

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed.

Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba/Veterans United Home Loans holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. Nationalstar Mortgage, LLC dba/Mr. Cooper is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, Nationalstar Mortgage, LLC dba/Mr. Cooper may be contacted at: (833) 685-2565 or by writing to 350 Highland Drive, Lewisville, TX 75067.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Georgia Housing& Finance Authority a s 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

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

26-022

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

C&F FINANCE COMPANY VS.

Malik Linder

639 Ed Beckham Rd

East Dublin, GA 31027, DEFENDANT

CIVIL ACTION CASE NO. 25-CG-0404-JH

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: MALIK LINDER

Defendant Named Above:

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action was filed in said court on May 21, 2025, and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the Court on

January 6, 2026, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said Court and serve upon

Alexandria Capers, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Lefkoff, Rubin, Gleason, Russo & Smith, P.C., 5555 Glenridge Connector, Suite 900, Atlanta, Georgia 30342, an answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication and shall bear costs in the name of the Judge and shall be signed by the Clerk of Court.

Witness the Honorable Jon F. Helton, Superior Court Judge.

This the 6th day of January, 2026.

Rhonda Spires

CLERK OF COURT

SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY

Prepared and presented by:

The Law Office of

LEFKOFF, RUBIN, GLEASON, RUSSO &

SMITH, P.C.

Attorney for Plaintiff

By: Alexandria Capers

Georgia State Bar No. 808823

5555 Glenridge Connector, Suite 900

Atlanta, Georgia 30342

January 17, 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 2026

26-068

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia,

Annotated Section 10-4-210, et seq., there

will be a public sale by Curry Management

Corporation on February 24, 2026,

starting at StorageAuctions.com. The

proceeds of said sale will be used to first

satisfy the storage fee and other expenses

of the auction. Any other proceeds will be

used to satisfy such creditors as present

their claims in advance of sale.

SPACE Julie Smith Claxton Dairy D4

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Nickarai Chapman Claxton

Dairy E23

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Samuel Starks Market Square

C5

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Kelly Jones Market Square D16

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Sammy Rozier Market Square

E1

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Deborah Foster Woodlawn A -

C21

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Julie Smith Claxton Dairy D4

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Nickarai Chapman Claxton

Dairy E23

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Samuel Starks Market Square

C5

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

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C21

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Julie Smith Claxton Dairy D4

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SPACE Nickarai Chapman Claxton

Dairy E23

26-064
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF KAYLIN SCARLETT ROSE STEPHENS, MINOR
ESTATE NO: 26-15
NOTICE

Date of second publication if any FEBRUARY 14, 2026
TO: DON CRAIG RAYBURN AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
You are hereby notified that BROOKLYNN CHEYENNE-DENISE RAYBURN has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed the temporary guardian(s) of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of temporary guardian(s) or the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s), must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia probate court clerk and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees.

NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date. If no objection is filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

Genia O. Jackson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: CWarren
Clerk of the Probate Court
P.O. Box 2098
Dublin, GA 31040
478-272-2566

February 7, 14, 2026

26-036
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
In Re: Amanda Elizabeth Lindsey Howell
Civil Action File No: 26-CD-0041-JH
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, LAURENS County
Notice is hereby given that Amanda Elizabeth Lindsey Howell, the undersigned, filed petition to the Superior Court of LAURENS County, Georgia on the 16 day of Jan, 2026, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Amanda Elizabeth Lindsey Howell to Elizabeth Lindsey Howell. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition. This 23 day of December, 2026.

Amanda Elizabeth Lindsey Howell
Petitioner
January 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 2026

26-027
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF LAURENS
IN RE: ESTATE OF Sherrill Anita Herndon, DECEASED

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

Shane Lanier Herndon, Executor of Sherrill Anita Herndon, deceased
182 Smith Road, Haddock, GA 31033
O.C.G.A 53-7-41 states..."Every personal representative shall, within 60 days from the date of qualification, publish a notice directed generally to all of the creditors of the estate to render an account of their demands. The notice shall be published once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified..."

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

26-054
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

26-052
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

26-028
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF LAURENS
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID STATE AND COUNTY
IN RE: ESTATE OF RODNEY REED WEBB

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

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

This 16th Day of January, 2026

Emily F. Kight
Attorney for the Estate of RODNEY REED WEBB

Kight Law, LLC
P.O. Box 2056
Dublin, GA 31040

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

26-032
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF LINDA JOYCE FAULK, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26-05
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

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

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

Genola O. Jackson
Judge of the Probate Court
By: CWarren
Clerk of the Probate Court
PO BOX 2098
DUBLIN, GA 31040
478-272-2566

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

26-014
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

26-053
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LAURENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN J. HUEBNER, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25-66
NOTICE

IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative

TO: whom it may concern:

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before March 9, 2026.

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 held 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

26-043
NOTICE OF ELECTION OF CENTRAL GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

February 1, 2026

To all qualified voters in Laurens County:

Notice is hereby given that on

November 3, 2026, a non-partisan election

will be held to elect 1 supervisor(s) for

Laurens County in the Central Georgia Soil

and Water Conservation District. District

Supervisors serve as unpaid state officials

who represent their counties in support of

soil and water conservation activities.

March 6, 2026, is the last day on which

nominations for candidates for the election

will be accepted. The signatures of at

least 25 qualified electors of the county are

required to nominate a candidate.

Candidates must also be qualified electors

of the county. Nominating petitions must

be received in the office of the Laurens

County Election Superintendent at P O

Box 2130 Dublin, GA 31040, no later than

12:00 noon on March 6, 2026. Petitions

may be obtained from the Conservation

Commission at the address below, from

the Commission's website at

<https://www.gaswcc.org/> or from the

Election Superintendent of Laurens

County.

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mitch Ataway, Executive Director

4310 Lexington Road

Athens, GA 30605

January 31, 2026, February 7, 2026

26-045
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 to the undersigned.

JOHNNY HAL HALDEAN

Executor of the Estate of

JEWEL R. HALL

C/O Edward B. Claxton III

Attorney for Executor

P. O. Box 16459

Dublin, Georgia 31040

478-272-7933

January 17, 24, 31, 2026, February 7, 2026

26-046
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF LAURENS

IN RE: ESTATE OF Charles E. Scarbrough, DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Charles E.

Scarbrough, deceased, late of Laurens

COMMISSION

Continued from page 1

"I appreciate the confidence you've got in me. I'm just asking for patience," he told the commissioners.

"Most of my career was in criminal court, but I'm ready to learn new laws, new ordinances."

Commissioner Kevin Tanner said Childers' hiring "was an easy decision for us."

Also Tuesday, the commission:

- Approved a low bid of about \$681,000 by Reeves Construction for the county's next list of smaller re-facing projects.

County Administrator Bryan Rogers said about 90 percent of the projects are in the county's smaller cities and towns.

- Approved the purchase of three new pickup trucks



From left: County Administrator Bryan Rogers, Commissioners Kevin Tanner and Brenda Chain, new County Attorney Brad Childers, and Commissioners Jimmy Rogers, Trae Kemp and Gerad Mathis/RODNEY MANLEY

- at \$48,500 each – two for Rural Fire and one for Emergency Medical Services. The purchases will be

made with SPLOST (special purpose local option sales tax) proceeds, but will be delayed until more sales tax

revenue is collected.

- Tabled discussion on the purchase of the new flashing-message signs.



Mostly inmate labor was used to renovate the old 911 center into a new patrol division /PAYTON TOWNS III

EAST DUBLIN COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

ter, Jessica, was on hand from Kentucky to see her father's special occasion.

"My main reason for doing this was to honor my dad," Rob said. "I knew he would probably be proud on stepping in and keeping this going for him."

East Dublin Mayor George Gornto knew Rob was looking after his parents and had seen him bring John to their meetings. Rob would sit out in the audience and listen to the details of what was happening in the city of East Dublin.

"John was an icon over here in East Dublin," Gornto said. "He was in recreation, and this was his second term as a councilman. He was a councilman 50 years ago. He has been here and paid his dues."

So when it came time to fill John's seat, Gornto and the City Council did not look far for his replacement.

"It seemed this would be a fitting tribute to John," Gornto said. "We asked Rob, he accepted it and it fell right into place. Rob knew what had been going on since he had been sitting through the meetings. We talked about it as a council and decided he would be the best choice. I think he's going to make a great councilman."

Gornto also likes the fact that Rob is younger than the other council members.

"He has gotten into the meetings with us, and it looks like he is enjoying it," Gornto said. "He is a good person. He has to be John and Ruby Sheppard's son."

John is a member of Gethsemane Church. He

had moved to Florida for about 20 years before moving back to East Dublin in August 2021 to help take care of his mother – and, later, his father.

In a few weeks, Rob will travel to Athens for some council training. His plan is to make the city of East Dublin the best that it can be.

"When my dad passed away, I had neighbors tell me that they hoped I would run and get his spot," Rob said. "They are concerned about the city, and they will call me. I feel like I can get some information to the council from regular citizens' points of views."

He is getting used to being a councilman instead of an audience member. Rob is employed by Publix in Bonair. He has been in management all his life and was

an operations manager for a produce company in Florida.

"I've had kind of a leadership role my whole life," Rob said. "I feel like that can bring something to the table."

When it comes to the end of this two-year term, Rob will see how he feels then about running for office.

"Two years seems like a long time, but it'll be over before I know it," he said. "My mom is in pretty good shape and I'm looking after her. We'll see how it goes. ... When my father passed away, it never occurred to me that I would get a call from George to think about this. I thought it was a good way to honor my father. My dad really put his heart and soul into this town his whole life. Hopefully, I can make him proud."

State House tweaks governor's mid-year budget

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The state House completed its proposed adjustments to the current year budget, sending the Senate its changes to Gov. Brian Kemp's spending plan for the state through June.

The \$42.3 billion amended fiscal year budget approved overwhelmingly Thursday left the governor's plan mostly intact, but there were a few significant changes.

The House trimmed \$80 million from Kemp's \$1.8 billion project to add express lanes to I-75 south of Atlanta. The lawmakers also cut \$25 million from the governor's \$325 million proposal to establish a college scholarship fund for students from low-income households. The House instead put money into myriad projects, including

prison cells, mental health facilities, rural infrastructure and medical education.

One major switch saved a bit of money. Kemp wanted to return \$1 billion to taxpayers in the form of one-time income tax rebates averaging \$250 per filer (\$500 for married couples). The House wants to return \$150 million less, and to different people. The proposal passed by a 167-5 vote would return \$850 million to homeowners through property tax relief grants.

"This grant will reduce next year's tax bills for homeowners, and we will continue to eliminate property taxes on your home," said Rep. Matt Hatchett, R-Dublin, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Property tax relief is a priority for House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington. He has said he wants to gradually reduce homeowner property taxes un-

til 2032 when they would be abolished.

The Senate, meanwhile, wants to reduce and then eliminate the state income tax.

The House added several big-ticket items. It wants to spend \$220 million to design and build a new private prison for low-risk inmates, which would free up 480 beds in state prisons.

The House proposal also adds nearly \$30 million to retrofit a building at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro for a new optometry college. And it puts \$27 million towards a new hospital in Atlanta to create bed space for mental health and forensic patients and adds \$50 million for rural infrastructure projects. It also puts nearly \$83 million toward a deficit in the Division of Family and Children Services, with \$1.6 million to restore four foster care support contracts that had been cut to save money.

Woman sentenced to prison for bank fraud, aggravated identity theft

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

A Columbia County woman was sentenced to federal prison for using stolen and counterfeit business checks to commit bank fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Dechanta Benning, 35, was sentenced to 70 months in prison, along

with substantial financial penalties and five years of supervised release upon completion of any prison term, said Margaret E. Heap, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. U.S. District Court Judge Randall Hall also ordered Benning to pay a \$2,500 fine and \$300 in special assessments. There is no parole in the federal sys-

tem.

As described in court documents and at sentencing, the defendant obtained business checks stolen from the United States Postal Service, altered them, deposited the altered checks into the bank accounts of co-conspirators as well as her own accounts, then withdrew the money.

DUBLIN SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1

final four months of the school term after borrowing its remaining monthly allotments of state QBE funding as advances to make ends meet since September. Also, starting this month, the district must begin paying off about \$6 million it owes in unpaid contributions.

"The state is excited. They were very pleased with the progression from us," said Smith. "They have been so good to us, but it is time for us to take this back and not depend on the state so much."

Corbitt steps into a post that has been vacant since former finance director Chad McDaniel resigned in late August. The school board is also searching for a new superintendent to fill the vacancy created by the early retirement of Fred Williams on Sept. 30. Curriculum director Marcee Pool has been serving as interim superintendent and, Smith said, has been "working really hard on internal controls" to correct some of the financial missteps that contributed to the massive budget deficit.

"We have to make sure we're never in this situation again," Smith said. "We've just got to keep this going on until we find the right people. We don't want to depend on the state anymore."

NEWS DIGEST

The EAST DUBLIN MAYOR AND COUNCIL will meet at City Hall in the Terrie E. Drew Council Chambers on Monday, Feb. 9, at 5:30 p.m., with pre-council beginning at 5 p.m.

The meeting agenda:

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

THE DUBLIN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the board office at 207 Shamrock Drive.

The agenda includes:

- Call to order
- Invocation/pledge to flag
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of minutes (Jan. 12, 2026; Jan. 20, 2026; Jan. 21, 2026; Jan. 26, 2026; Feb. 3, 2026)
- DCS board norm/protocol
- Board code of ethics
- Public Comments
- Superintendent comments/announcements
- General administration
- Approval for heating units
- Contracted finance positions
- COGINA update
- Board member comments
- Executive session
- Discussion of personnel
- Discussion of real estate
- Discussion of litigation
- Return to regular session
- Approval of Personnel
- Adjournment

THE DUDLEY CITY COUNCIL will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Dudley Fire Station.

The agenda includes:

- Call to order
- Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll call
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of previous minutes (Jan. 13, 2026)
- Approval of bills
- Old business
- Update on the abandonment of the well located in City Hall
- Update on the progress of the filters
- Discuss city's meeting with Turnipseed Engineers
- New business
- Citizen comments
- Council comments
- Executive session (if needed)
- Adjournment

THE LAURENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION will meet for a work session at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the board office on Firetower Road.

The agenda includes:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- Discussion
- FY27 Salary Schedules
- Executive Session
- FY27 Certified Administration
- Personnel
- Adjourn

THE LAURENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION will meet for a work session at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at the board office on Firetower Road.

The agenda:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- School/staff recognition
- Clean School award
- Board room art - NWLE
- FY27 Budget revenue update
- Approval of FY27 Salary Schedules
- Consent Agenda
- Approval of the Jan. 6 work session minutes, the Jan. 8 regular board meeting minutes, the Jan. 20 called work session minutes, the Jan. 22 called board meeting minutes, the January accounts payables, the January financial report, and the school nutrition report
- Audience Participation
- Executive Session
- Personnel
- Approval of personnel
- Approval of FY27 certified administration
- Superintendent and board member comments
- Adjourn