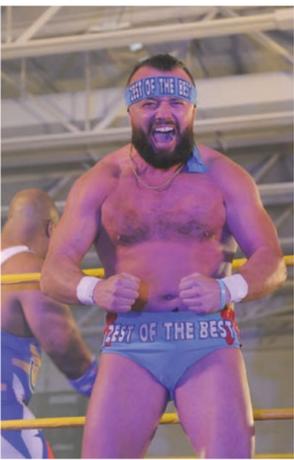




FROM THE TOP ROPE: ST. PATRICK'S 'SHAMROCKMANIA'

A big St. Patrick's Festival crowd turned out for another rough and rowdy night of pro wrestling at the old West Laurens High School on Saturday for the Lariato Pro Wrestling Guild "Shamrockmania '26." The fan-favorite event featured a full-card of high-flying bouts, including an appearance by WWE hall-of-famer Billy Gunn (see page 8)/RODNEY MANLEY



Board denies petition for new charter school

Parent group can appeal to state officials

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

The Dublin City Board of Education voted Monday night to deny a parent group's petition for a new public charter school over concerns it would draw students and resources from district's own Irish Gifted Academy.

The group needed the school board to authorize the charter for the proposed Middle Georgia Preparatory Academy. Its self-appointed school board now can appeal to the State Charter Schools Commission and the Georgia Board of Education.

"We've got to decide that as a board, but our intention is to apply to the state," one of the parents, Will Curry, said after the meeting.

The school district faces a projected multi-million dollar deficit by fiscal year's end, raising concerns about state funding and property tax revenue that



Irish Gifted Academy principal Matt Taylor updates the school board on the gifted program. The board denied a petition for a new charter school that would offer similar programs/RODNEY MANLEY

could be redirected toward the charter school. The district's financial crisis sparked fears about Irish Gifted Academy's future, and led some parents to petition for the charter school.

"Is this going to have any effect on our finances for our district?" asked city board member Kenny Walters. Interim School Superintendent Marcee Pool said the district would receive funds for the charter school from the State Charter Schools Commission for three

years, with the Dublin district actually receiving 3 percent of that.

"After three years, we would not collect any funds for them," Pool said. "They would be in charge of their budget, so any of the FTE (full-time enrollment) money that the city schools normally would receive goes directly to the school, and they would manage that."

The board's vote to deny the petition was

SCHOOL BOARD
Continued on page 8

Leadership group leading cleanup effort downtown

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Some members of a local organization are teaming up with Keep Dublin Laurens Beautiful to make downtown a cleaner place, and they encouraged Dublin City Council members to join them in their effort.

Arilyn Erickson, member of Leadership Dublin-Laurens' current class, discussed the biweekly downtown trash pick-up campaign with members of the city council last week.

"During the month of March, we draw hundred of thousands of visitors," Erickson said. "This month we are hosting Leadership Georgia and that is going to bring in 150 people during Super Saturday

and that week. I want to express the importance of having pride in our community."

The importance of this is the fact of the heavy amount of liter, especially in the downtown area.

"It is everywhere really, but downtown is important to me because this is the face of Dublin," Erickson said. "This is what draws our visitors in. I took it upon myself, with my leadership class, and called Keep Dublin Laurens Beautiful to do a trash pickup in our downtown area (on March 3). I want to try to do that at least twice a month."

Erickson, who works at Visit Dub-

CITY COUNCIL
Continued on page 8

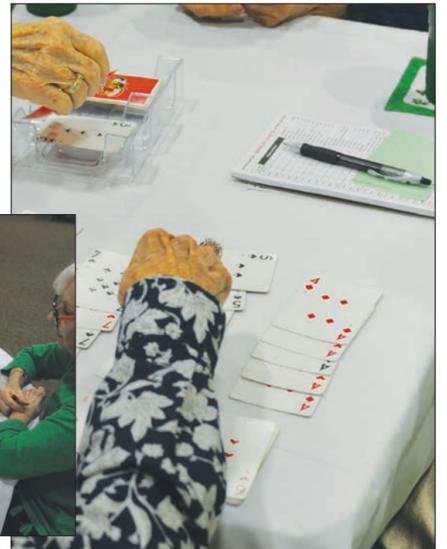


Arilyn Erickson discusses with City Council efforts by Leadership Dublin-Laurens and Keep Dublin-Laurens Beautiful to organize downtown trash pick-ups e/PAYTON TOWNS III



GET YOUR GAME ON: RECORD CROWD FOR 'GAME NIGHT'

A record number of players turned out for the Alpha Delta Kappa Game Night on March 2. Nearly 40 tables were booked for the event, held at Grace Baptist Church. Attendees enjoyed an evening of socializing and playing popular card and table games like Mahjong and Bridge/KYLE DOMINY



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1 section, 8 pages • Vol. 112,
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Student artists featured at Art Dublin's annual show

By DAHLIA ALLEN
Correspondent

Young artists from local schools and home schools will display their talent at Art Dublin's annual student art show. Their art will be on display Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center.

Entry into the art show is open to all youth from pre-K through 12th grade, said Katrina Waters who, with Suzanne Dukes, is co-president of Art Dublin.

Dukes teaches art at East

Laurens Elementary School. Waters is the Dublin High School art teacher.

The art association has sponsored an annual student show for more than 20 years, Waters said, adding, "Last year, we had between 400 and 500 entries."

Art Dublin's vision includes fostering a love for art among youth and to encourage and help them develop their talent, she said.

Entry categories include watercolor, oil, acrylic, 3-D, 2-D and digital. Judges will name first-, second- and third-place winners from

each school, private-lesson students and home-schooled students and a Best Overall winner, as well as honorable-mention certificates. The awards will be presented at 4 p.m. March 14, Waters said.

Art teachers in East Laurens, West Laurens, Dublin and Trinity schools and private-lesson teachers should bring their students' entries to the Family Life Center between 4 and 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12. Home-schooled students should bring their work at the same



Dublin High students' art is displayed in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center/FILE

time. Admission to the art show is free. First Baptist Church is located at 405 Bellevue Ave. in downtown Dublin.

OBITUARIES



Lois L. Cummings

A home-going celebration of life service for Mrs. Lois L. Cummings Smith will be held Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 11 a.m. in Mt. Tilla Baptist Church, 2424 Hwy. 441 North, Irwinton, Georgia. The Rev. Harold J. Banks will officiate, and the interment will follow in the Mt. Tilla Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Lois Lee Cummings Smith was born in Dublin, Georgia, on Oct. 29, 1927, to the parentage of the late Deacon Lee Cummings and Annie L. Cummings. She received her education in the public schools of Laurens County.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cleo Smith; her grandson, Tyrone Smith; her sister, Gussie Robinson; her grandmothers, Georgia Carswell, and Lilla Cummings; and her grandfather, George Carswell.

After marrying in 1945, she and her husband Cleo relocated to Miami, Florida. In 1954, she joined Mount Tabor Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. J. N. Byrd, where she became a dedicated, committed, and faithful member. She served as President of the Number One Usher Board, worked closely with the Junior Ushers, and faithfully supported several other ministries within the church.

Beyond the church walls, Mrs. Smith was deeply involved in her community. She served as president of the Twelfth Avenue Citizens Crime Watch, volunteered with the Metro Dade Police Department at the Northside Station, assisted with Advocates for Victims, and faithfully worked with the church's kitchen ministry. She was also an expert in needlepoint and proudly displayed her beautiful work throughout her home.

Mrs. Smith earned her Master of Cosmetology license from Sunlight Beauty School. She worked at the Duval Hotel Beauty Salon before opening her own beauty salon. Her passion was serving the elderly, a calling that brought her great joy, peace and fulfillment.

To cherish her loving memory, she leaves behind: her devoted daughter, Shirley Shelman, of Miami, Florida; two beloved grandsons, Terence Shelman and Jovan Sails; four great-grandchildren, all of Miami, Florida; her dear friend and caretaker, Reta Hamilton; friend, Christine Holliman; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Arrangements entrusted to Wyche's Funeral Home. www.wychesfuneralhomeinc.com.

BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 12
Carla Pooler Smith
Alvin Way

Mar. 13
Kelvin Evans Sr.
Merelyn NeSmith
Debra Newkirk
Regina Rozier
Sara Tolbert



Prentis "Papa" Williams

Services for Mr. Prentis "Papa" Williams, of East Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Holly Spring Baptist Church, 705 Buckeye Road in East Dublin. Interment will follow in the Holly Spring Baptist Church Cemetery.

Prentis Williams was born on Friday, March 8, 1935, to Tom and Florence Williams. Prentis was raised by his stepfather, Wyman Wells. He joined the Williams Chapel Baptist Church at an early age and was in the male choir.

Mr. Prentis Williams passed away on Monday, March 3, 2026. He was preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Florence Williams; stepfather, Wyman Wells; his siblings, Willie Williams, Julian Williams, Nelson Williams, Nathaniel Williams, Oscar Williams; and his sister, Tommy Lee Stanley.

Prentis leaves to cherish his memories: his wife of 70 years, Mrs. Ruby Lee Williams; his sons, Rufus Williams and Melvin Williams; his daughters, Gloria Bostic, and JoAnn (John) Tolbert; his grandchildren, Latonya Williams (Richengra), Carla (Darnell) Smith, Rachal Jackson, Damien Williams, Leah Hodges, John Tolbert, Kendra Tolbert, Brianna Hall; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at 301 Daley Street in East Dublin. Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

Robert Darriel Joiner

Robert Darriel Joiner, 95, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2026.

Born on Jan. 31, 1931 in Dublin, Georgia, he was preceded in death by his parents, the late Alvin and Eudelle Mullis Joiner; a daughter, Linda Fulford; his brother, Ray Joiner; and his sister Helen Harrell. Darriel's life was one marked by dedication, service and the love of his family.

Darriel's early years in Dublin laid a strong foundation for the man he would become. After bravely serving his country in the Korean Conflict as a member of the United States Army, he returned home to continue his life of service. Darriel's commitment to his community was further exemplified through his work with the Laurens County Sheriff's Office, where he eventually retired as a deputy. His dedication to his role was recognized when he was once honored as Deputy of the Year, a testament to his hard work and the respect he earned from his colleagues.

Despite his professional accomplishments, Darriel's heart was always with his family. He is survived by his wife, Christine C. Joiner; his daughters, Sheilah J. (Steve) Smith and Connie L. (Ronnie) Wilson; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a nephew, Hilton Joiner.

Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, March 13, 2026 at Oakdale Baptist Church Cemetery, with Rev. Grady Mimbs officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the

Local ministry launches publishing company

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Founded by Love Them Enough Outreach Ministry, Angel With a Voice Publishing is a faith-based publishing company dedicated to giving a platform to voices that inspire, uplift, and encourage. Its mission is to help authors — especially those with stories of hope, faith and personal transformation — share their message with the world.

Angel With a Voice Publishing believes every story has the power to impact lives. We provide professional guidance and resources to ensure authors' messages are shared clearly, creatively, and widely. Whether it's a testimony, a devotional, or inspirational literature, our goal is to amplify voices that bring light, healing, and encourage-

ment to readers of all ages.

The company was founded to fill a gap in faith-based publishing: offering authors a supportive environment where their stories of faith, redemption, and perseverance can be fully realized. By combining professional publishing services with a ministry-driven heart, Angel With a Voice Publishing ensures that each book not only reaches readers but also transforms lives.

The publisher announces the release of its first book, "The Power of the Almighty God" by George Clark, which shares his remarkable testimony of faith, endurance, and the transformative power of God's guidance. George Clark's story takes readers on a journey through life's challenges, trials, and moments of uncertainty, revealing how God's hand was present every step of the way. His testimony is

a powerful reminder that even in our darkest moments, God's power and love can guide, strengthen, and restore us.

George's journey includes personal experiences of overcoming obstacles, navigating hardships, and embracing God's calling, all while maintaining unwavering faith. Through his story, readers will find encouragement, hope, and practical examples of how trusting in God can lead to breakthrough, healing, and purpose.

Beyond publishing books, Angel With a Voice Publishing seeks to create a community of authors and readers united by faith and purpose, believing that when one voice rises, it can inspire thousands, and through its ministry-focused platform, aims to make that impact tangible. The company is committed to providing opportunities for new and established

authors to share their message, build their platform, and impact lives with their words. Angel With a Voice Publishing is more than a company — it is a mission to uplift, empower and share stories that matter. Through this ministry-driven publishing company, Love Them Enough Outreach Ministry continues its commitment to serving communities, sharing the Gospel, and supporting individuals in their journey of faith.

For readers who are interested in inspiring, faith-based stories or for authors looking for guidance to publish their own testimony, Angel With a Voice Publishing is ready to help voices be heard. Its first release, "The Power of the Almighty God" by George Clark, is available now and marks the beginning of a journey to touch hearts and transform lives, one story at a time.

Election to replace Greene in heading to a runoff

By **MARK NIESSE**
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The crowded race to succeed former U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene will come down to a runoff between a Republican endorsed by President Donald Trump and a Democrat seeking an upset in a conservative northwest Georgia district.

Republican Clayton Fuller, a former prosecutor, and Democrat Shawn Harris, a retired Army brigadier general, will meet in an April 7 runoff, according to unofficial results of a special election Tuesday.

They emerged as the leaders among a field of 17 candidates seeking to replace Greene, who resigned in January after splitting with Trump on foreign policy and the release of files related to convicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein.

Neither candidate received a majority of votes needed to win the special election outright Tuesday night. Harris led the field, while Fuller garnered the most votes among 12 Republican candidates who split the GOP electorate.

Fuller's second-place finish eliminates from contention pro-Trump firebrand and former state Sen. Colton Moore, R-Trenton.

Trump's backing of Fuller helped boost him into a head-to-head runoff with Harris, who lost to Greene with 36% of the vote in 2024.

"Voters in Georgia are fired up to send a strong conservative to represent them in Washington. Clay will be a strong ally of President Trump and help House Republicans grow the economy, secure the border, and keep Americans safe," said Reilly Richardson, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Harris recognized the challenge of winning the runoff but said voters are increasingly supporting his



Voters cast their ballots at Northstar Church in Cobb County during a special election for Georgia's 14th Congressional District seat in Kennesaw, Georgia, on Tuesday, March 10 /ASHTIN BARKER, Capitol Beat News Service

campaign.

"This race isn't over. Northwest Georgia showed up in a BIG way, and now we head to a runoff," Harris said on X. "Momentum is real. The coalition is growing. Let's finish what we started. On to the runoff."

The winner of the April runoff will fill the remaining months of Greene's two-year term.

After the runoff, a primary in May and potential runoff in June will decide each party's nominees for the November general election.

Three other special elections Tuesday for seats in the Georgia General Assembly also appeared to be heading to runoffs April 7.

Republican Lanny Thomas will face Democrat Jack Zibluk in the race for Moore's former seat in the state Senate, which covers the northwest corner of Georgia including Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, and Walker counties.

A state House race between four Democrats in DeKalb and Gwinnett counties was too close to call Tuesday night. Venola Mason will face either Audrey Lux or Ikenna Ugwumadu in a runoff to replace former state Rep. Karen Bennett, D-Stone Mountain, who resigned in January and pleaded guilty to charges that she fraudulently obtained \$13,940 in unemployment supplements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Classifieds
Employment

ENGINEERING AIDE II
The City of Dublin has an opening for an Engineering Aide II. This individual performs basic civil engineering functions as related to the construction and inspection of street construction, water main construction, sewer main constructions, storm drain construction and other associated civil engineering functions in conjunction with improvements to the infrastructure of the City of Dublin. The work will involve basic application of streets, water, sewer and gas systems. Also, heavy emphasis will be placed on traffic control signals and coordination of these with the Georgia Department of Transportation. This position reports to the Engineer Director. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and have a high school diploma or GED. Applicants should have at least three (3) years of related work experience. The successful applicant must pass a drug screen. Salary range is \$48,864.64 - \$75,740.19 annually 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
For Rent/Lease

Houses for Rent: 2 bedroom \$1,050/month and 2 bedroom \$725/month. No Animals; References required

Notice of Public Hearing

The Dublin Housing Authority has developed its Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Authority's Administrative Northside Office located at 500 West Mary Street beginning February 26, 2026. The hours of Plan availability are Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. These administrative offices are closed daily from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

The Public Hearing for the 2026 Annual Plan will be held on April 9, 2026, at the Verline P. Copenny Center, 2B(C) West Mary Street, Dublin Georgia beginning at 5:00pm.

All citizens are invited to attend this hearing to discuss this plan. Should special requirements for foreign language interpretation or accommodation related to disabilities necessary, please contact Brenda B. Smith, Executive Director, before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026, to ensure that necessary arrangements can be made.

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The et cetera chronicles - vol. 127

HANG ME FROM THE HIGHEST TREE! - Dublin's Mrs. Amanda Jones admitted that she killed Frank Hamilton, a well-known African-American politician. In her mind, Hamilton needed to be killed. Declared guilty by the jury, the judge sentenced the satisfied woman to ninety-nine years in prison. Jones began to smile and begged Judge Smith to hang her by the neck to a high tree instead. The County Record, Kingtree S.C. Jan. 5, 1898.

THE FLAMES OF WRATH - As fires in downtown Dublin go, the greatest or worst massive fire in the history of Dublin took place in May 1889. The fire destroyed every structure on the southern side of West Jackson Street except the brick office of Dr. R.H. Hightower Sr. Another horrible conflagration took place on New Year's Day of 1894. The two-story building, known as the largest and handsomest structure in Dublin, was owned by Whitehead and Watkins and was actually made of four stores with retail shops and professional offices on the second floor. The flames took only two hours to reduce the fine structure to ashes. Lost in the fire on the north side of the first block of West Jackson were Tarpley and Kellam's pharmacy, E.J. Tarpley's Millinery Store, and the stores of G.W. Bishop & G.W. Maddox. The professional offices of F.G. Corker, Ira Chappell, J.P. Walker, Mercer Haynes, A.T. Summerlin, Charles Hicks and A.L. Wade. Atlanta Constitution, Jan. 2, 1894.

WHERE'S THE LOOT? - Dublin's businessmen found themselves in a defuddled quandary. Night after night, their goods were slowly disappearing. No one could figure out who was taking their stuff and, more importantly,

where it was hidden. Some residents of the downtown area reported that they have heard weird, blood-curdling groans coming out of an abandoned building near the City Cemetery. The merchants rounded up a posse to venture into the suspected hiding place. It was almost midnight when the men broke open the door. They were taken aback when they observed a stack of coffins. Just then, the searchers heard a loud groan coming from one of the coffins. A lid was taken off one of the coffins. Inside a bright-eyed man rose and asked them what they were doing. The thief was arrested and taken to jail. A subsequent search revealed a large amount of the missing goods in the other coffins. None of the victims, still shaking, wanted their stuff back. Boston Globe, Dec. 20, 1893.

THE IDIOT ARSONISTS - Turner Hill, an accused rapist, Lewis Griffin, accused of attempting murder, Exum Pitts, an accused thief, and Pink Flanders, who was charged with murdering his brother-in-law, Sam Monford, knew that they were in big trouble. In their time, Negro men were severely charged with these types of crimes.

It was about 10:30 o'clock in the evening when the cries of fire rang out throughout the area of the county jail. A horde of bystanders rushes to the sound of the alarm.

The quartet of prisoners, hoping to pull off a last chance to escape. The men lit a fire, which raged out of control and prevented their escape. Some of them cried out for help. Jailer Hudson was the first to appear on the scene of the fire. He let out the miscreants, who once again attempted to remove themselves from the front door. Henry Hudson, the jailer's son, tripped the men as they descended the staircase. City Marshal Cowart, George Bang and a band

PIECES OF OUR PAST



By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.

of citizens drew their guns at the dazed criminals, ending their attempt to flee. Atlanta Constitution, Oct. 25, 1890.

YOU'RE KILLING US, MAN! - The temperance folks needed to take drastic steps to stop the consumption of demon rum. Dublin and Laurens County's infant communities were suffering from way too many fights, many of which ended in death. So for most of the last two decades, the non-drinkers proposed and sometimes obtained a license fee to sell spirituous liquors and beer in the amount of \$10,000 per year, or in today's world, about \$325,000.00 a year. Savannah Morning News, Feb. 11, 1891.

A SHOT IN THE ARM - Carson Keen, a young boy from Alston, Georgia, was brought to the Coleman Hospital in Dublin. The young man was suffering from "rabbit fever." For the first time in Laurens County, the doctors used penicillin to cure the young man. Macon News. May 16, 1944.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

What were the results of the last duel ever fought in Canada?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

I find it amazing that, over the past few weeks, there is one very important thing I have neglected to mention in the opening lines of the column ... baseball.

The greatest of all sports is now deep into spring training, and the 2026 season will begin in just a couple of weeks. I hope your favorite team does well, but not at the expense of my favorite team, the Chicago Cubs.

Baseball is underway, as is trivia! That makes spring worth waiting for!

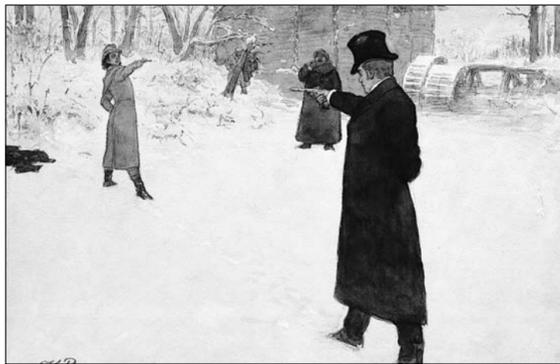
Did you know ...
... the hair of Elvis Presley (1935-1977) was not as dark as you think it was? Presley's natural hair color was a mid to light blond. As a youth, he dyed his hair dark, and that became the color fans associated with him. (Thankyouverymuch.)

... there's a difference between "the Moon" and a moon? The proper name of Earth's only satellite is "the Moon" and, as such, should be capitalized. All other natural satellites of other planets, however, are just "moons" and have their own proper names. (Lunacy. Look it up.)

... four of the five main characters in the long-running animated series The Simpsons are named after family members of the show's creator? Homer, Marge, Lisa and Maggie are the names of the real-life parents and sisters of creator Matt Groening (born 1954). But what of Bart? Well, Groening says Bart is based on himself. (Cowabunga.)

... a scene in the classic 1972 film, The Godfather, features some reality-based acting? The scene in which movie mogul Jack Wolz, played by actor John Marley (1907-1984), awakens to find the severed head of a race horse in his bed features Marley screaming in terror - and the scream was real. Producers did not tell him that an actual horse's head, acquired from a dog food company, was going to be used; Marley expected a papier-mâché prop. (They weren't horsing around, were they?)

... the last duel ever fought in Canada was one in which no one was hurt? In 1873, two men who had once been friends found that they'd fallen in love with the same woman, and that led to a bitter quarrel between them. One man



What happened during last duel fought in Canada? Read on to find out/SPECIAL PHOTO

challenged the other to a duel, and the two then proceeded to settle their differences in the "honourable" way. But as the two men stood back to back with upraised pistols, their better nature kicked in and they started wondering what the heck they were doing. As the two paced off away from each other, terror started to set in, and at the proper ten yards, the two turned and fired. One man fell, but he had not been shot - he'd fainted in his fear. Besides, unknown to the participants, both guns were loaded with blanks. Despite that fact being a serious breach of dueling etiquette, the two men agreed that their "honour" had been satisfied.

... King Charles III of the United Kingdom (born 1947) does not have a passport? He is not required to have one, as he is the monarch and can come and go as he pleases. (It's good to be the king.)

... a British man set a world record for spending time locked in a room with poisonous snakes? In 2010, Sussex carpenter David Jones (born 1965) spent a total of 121 days locked in a room with forty venomous snakes, including cobras, puff adders, and even the most deadly of them all, the black mamba. The attempt broke the old record, but it was all for naught - Jones was stunned to learn, upon his release, that the Guinness Book of World Records no longer accepted entries for records involving snakes and humans forced together for a long period of time. (That had to hurt.)

... an 8,650-year-old mushroom can be found in Oregon? Qualifying as both the largest and the oldest organism on Earth, a honey mushroom (Armillaria ostoyae) in Malheur National Forest, Oregon, is said by scientists to be 8,650 years old, covers 3.4 square miles of land, and is still growing. It has countless little

"mushroom caps" coming up through the forest floor, and random samples taken from various areas all show it is one huge living organism. If the estimates of its age are correct, the first spore that would become this huge ... thing ... began to grow in 6630 BC.

... a crime ring once ran a fake U.S. Embassy? In Accra, Ghana, visitors to a certain building who thought they were at the U.S. Embassy saw an American flag and a photo of the then-President. But the building was actually a front for Ghanaian and Turkish organized crime rings running immigration scams. Amazingly, the "Embassy" operated for about ten years, as the crooks paid off Ghanaian politicians to look the other way and obtained official documents they could counterfeit. Finally, in 2016, the real U.S. Embassy in Accra working with Ghanaian police raided the fake embassy and shut it down. (That's what happens when you don't pay your cut to the government.)

... until 1932, kidnapping was not a federal offense? That year, the nation and world were shocked by the abduction of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr. (1930-1932), infant son of aviator Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974) and Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906-2001). A ransom was paid, but the child was not returned, and his body was found 172 days later. Reacting to the public outcry over the kidnap-murder, Congress passed the Federal Kidnapping Act - also known as the "Little Lindbergh Law" - that finally made kidnapping across state lines a federal offense. Prior to that, the crime was a local or state issue.

... it takes more than 500 years for a disposable diaper to decompose? (But what about the ... uh, no, I don't really want to know anything about that.)

Now ... you know!

DIVA ON A DIME



Celebrate St. Patrick's with frugal Irish stout bread and pub cheese

By PATTI DIAMOND
King Features

St. Patrick's Day always invites celebration, but celebration doesn't have to be expensive. Some of the most satisfying traditions begin with humble ordinary ingredients transformed into something extraordinary.

A warm loaf of beer bread, paired with a rich Irish cheddar pub cheese, captures that spirit perfectly. It's simple, inexpensive and yet feels downright luxurious.

Guinness, Ireland's iconic stout, brings complex malt flavor and essential moisture to the dough, resulting in a tender crumb and a beautifully golden crust.

Alongside the bread, a simple pub cheese spread made with Irish cheddar completes the occasion. Sharp, creamy and deeply savory, it transforms everyday snacks into a proper pub experience right in your own kitchen.

This is frugal cooking at its best. A couple of bottles of stout, a chunk of good cheddar and pantry staples create something worthy of celebration without overspending.

While Guinness offers traditional flavor, any stout beer will work well, and any sharp cheddar can be used in place of Irish cheddar with excellent results. Use what suits your budget.

IRISH STOUT OAT BREAD

Yield: 1 loaf
Total Time: 1 hour 5 minutes

1 cup oats, divided + 1 tablespoon for topping
2 1/2 cups AP flour, or whole wheat flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
2/3 cup dark brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
12 ounces Irish stout beer, such as Guinness
Preheat the oven to 350 F degrees. Lightly coat a loaf pan with cooking spray and set aside.

In a mini food processor, blitz 1/2 cup of oats to make oat flour. In a mixing bowl, combine the oat flour, regular flour, baking powder, remaining 1/2 cup oats, brown sugar and salt. Slowly pour in the stout, stirring gently, until just combined. Don't overmix. The batter will be thick.

Pour the batter into the prepared loaf pan and smooth the top. Sprinkle with the remaining tablespoon of oats.

Bake for 45 to 50 minutes, until the loaf is golden and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

Allow the bread to cool in the pan for 15 minutes, then remove and transfer to a rack to cool before slicing (or at least try).

IRISH PUB CHEESE

Yield: 8 servings
Total Time: 30 minutes

8 ounces Irish cheddar cheese or other cheddar, shredded
2 ounces cream cheese
1 small clove garlic, minced
1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/2 teaspoon prepared mustard, Dijon or grainy
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1 to 3 tablespoons Irish stout beer

Shred the cheese and place it in a mini food processor. Add the remaining ingredients and process until smooth and creamy. Begin with a small amount of stout, then adjust to your preferred consistency. The spread should be soft, rich and easily spreadable.

Transfer to a small bowl or jar and allow to stand at room temperature for about 15 minutes before serving. Finish with a sprinkle of smoked paprika for color and flavor.

Serve alongside warm slices of beer bread for the full pub experience at home.

This simple combination is proof that celebration doesn't depend on extravagance, only intention. Frugal cooking gives us the power to create warmth and festivity in our everyday lives. You'll find more inspired recipes and practical ideas at DivasOnADime.com, and I hope you'll sign up for my free newsletter while you're there. It's where I share my best recipes, tips and encouragement to help us all live well and spend wisely.

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

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OUR TAKE...



Super Saturday fun brings out the kid in all of us with the highlight of a parade bringing excitement to the downtown area/CLAY REYNOLDS

Time to celebrate a Super Saturday

From the Leprechaun contest last Monday, an Irish breakfast on Tuesday, it has already been a big week for the St. Patrick's Festival. Well, hang on to whatever you got, it is about to get even bigger.

With pancakes flipping off the hot griddles Thursday and local citizens receiving awards Friday, the stage will be set for an even bigger day known as Super Saturday.

For those who have never experienced this particular Saturday, they are in for a whole lot of green, fellowship and fun, which begins with some running at Dublin High School for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Leprechaun Road Race. From there, many will leave to make their way to downtown Dublin where everybody will be mostly wearing green for the Dublin Civitan St. Patrick's Parade, where the grand marshal's will be members from Leadership Georgia.

After the parade, or before if one wants to get an early start, people will be able to shop and shop with vendors or maybe nibble on some food at the Arts & Crafts Festival near Market on Madison starting at 9 a.m. Following the parade, the Quilt Show will have quilts on display at the Dublin First Methodist Church. While there, they may be able to smell food from the annual Irish Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in the fellowship hall of the same church.

Then, for those who hang around or return later that evening, Super Saturday winds down with Music and Munchies in downtown Dublin.

We live in a community where we take the time each year to not just celebrate a month - or a day - but almost two months where there is quite literally something for everybody. So don your green and join in on all of the leprechaun fun.

- Payton Towns III

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"At any given moment you have the power to say: this is not how the story is going to end."

- Unknown

DAILY SCRIPTURE

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

- Zephaniah 3:17

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY

- March 12, 2026 is...
- World Day Against Cyber Censorship
 - National Plant a Flower Day
 - National Alfred Hitchcock Day
 - National Baked Scallops Day
 - Girl Scout Day
 - Popcorn Lovers Day
 - National Working Moms Day
 - National Skin Barrier Day

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS  Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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This newspaper is committed to the idea that the press should tell the truth without prejudice and spread knowledge without malicious intent.

Exports, driving growth, driven by tax policy

Georgia has been claiming it is the "number one state to do business" for long enough that it often seems it's more of a branding exercise than an objective measurement. With November's elections will come a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and enough changes in the legislature that significant changes in direction and policy are not only possible but likely, regardless which party wins the top positions.

A press release from Governor Kemp last week helps us benchmark where we currently are - objectively - while we debate current legislation and future elections. Georgia has now moved into the top ten exporting states, landing at the 9th position in total value for exports. The picture is even better when total trade is considered, as Georgia ranks seventh when imports are also considered.

Why should anyone get excited about being 9th? That kind of ranking in the SEC gets you to the Music City Bowl and not too many remember the achievement.

It's about trend and direction.

Georgia's exports increased by 12.7% last year. The average state did a healthy 5.6% in export growth, but Georgia's growth rate was more than double that.

Statistics are nice, but they're only representative of the underlying story. This isn't about numbers and percentages. It's about our state's and our country's growth, health, and competitiveness.

At the core, more exports means more jobs. It means more Georgians are creating value for themselves and the companies who hire them. And it means Georgia and America are competitive on the world stage. Trade only occurs when both sides see value on their side of the transaction.

Our biggest export in dollar terms may surprise some, especially those in the northern half of the state. Aircraft and aircraft parts are our most valuable exports, at \$16.4 billion annually. Gulfstream, the maker of the world's most prestigious private jets, employs 10,000. Lockheed Martin, the defense contractor, has a Georgia headcount of about 6,000. Engine maker Pratt & Whitney has about 1,000 employees

GEORGIA POLITICS



By CHARLIE HARPER

here. Upstart air taxi maker Archer Aviation also has about 1,000 employees.

Other categories we make here and sell to other countries include Computer Hardware, Motor Vehicles, Networking Communications Equipment, and Medical Devices. Those categories combine for an additional \$11.4 billion in annual sales abroad.

This growth wasn't by accident. While Georgia's governing leadership is still made up of avowed capitalists, they're not above using the tools of federalism to help the market's invisible hand with a thumb on the scale.

While markets are international, the competition for employers to locate and expand domestically is fierce. Every state has natural advantages and disadvantages. States then have a lot of leeway to craft tax and regulatory structures that leverage their advantages and mitigate shortcomings.

Georgia's rankings in economic development indicate a mastery of these concepts.

The biggest and most frequently used tool in the Department of Economic Development's arsenal are tax credits. While the headlines associated with trophy level deals often demonstrate the value of incentives given to an employer to grow with Georgia, the math is often vaguely described as to where the money comes from. Most of the dollars don't come from the state's checkbook. They are instead conceptual, and come from "opportunity cost".

The standard template - open to virtually any employer of size willing to relocate to Georgia or for an existing employer wanting to expand their presence here - is to credit them with taxes that the state wouldn't collect if the factory was never built and Georgians were never hired. The companies instead enter into an

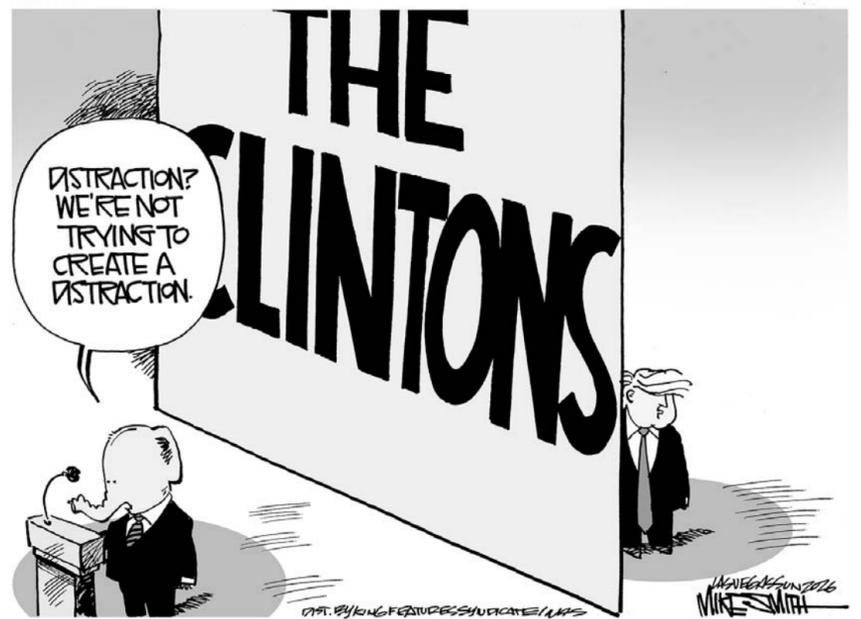
agreement to pay local governments a fixed fee over a period of years that is more than the vacant land currently generates in taxes but far less than they would pay on a new factory.

The difference is the "incentive." The state isn't writing checks for most of the package, save for some specific infrastructure upgrades and some site preparation. They're just agreeing not to collect taxes that never existed.

Populists in both political parties grumble about these "giveaways." These grumblings grow louder in election years. Many are now even louder still as they believe taking away many of these incentives will pay for various versions of tax reform currently under debate.

Many of those making these proposals will stand for re-election on the long internalized brand of that Georgia is the number one state to do business. They simultaneously want to change the underlying tax structure and incentive packages that have led to demonstrable economic growth in all corners of the state.

Current and future employers are watching both legislative proposals and campaign rhetoric closely. They may not yet be taking everything that is said literally, but they are quite certainly evaluating them seriously.



Darien and the Coast: A fine place along the Atlantic seaboard

DARIEN - I have a habit of coming here occasionally, staying at a favorite hotel, "Oaks on the River." The Darien River is a ten-mile tributary of the Altamaha River, which is pronounced "Altama-haul," by locals all the way up to Lumber City where it begins.

Darien had its beginnings when Gen. Oglethorpe, asked the Crown to send a few Scottish Highlanders to the Georgia coast to become a buffer for Savannah which was concerned about the Spanish encroaching from St. Augustine.

Initially, Darien was a timber stronghold which appealed to one Tommie Hunter who was the son-in-law of the famous Scottish golfer, Old Tom Morris.

When Hunter came with the Highlanders in 1736, he was married to Old Tom Morris' daughter who gave birth to the famous golfer's grandson, "Tommie Morris Hunter," who died in infancy. His remains, however, were sent to St. Andrews where they were interred in the family plot at the Cathedral Graveyard.

Many visitors go there annually to pay tribute to the man who has been called the father of the British Open. I have never been to St. Andrews when I



By LORAN SMITH

did not go by and visit Old Tom's grave and also that of his son, Young Tom Morris. Each of them won the Open championship four times. After learning about Tommie Morris Hunter, I have always paid tribute to him and his connection with Georgia.

The shrimp business here is not what it once was, but it remains viable. It is fun to walk down to the docks and see the shrimp boats at sunrise. We are a little more than a month away from an annual event for which Darien is highly regarded—the blessing of the fleet.

Dating back to 1970, the blessing of the fleet began and thousands of visitors have found their way to this coastal town where priests pray for a "bountiful" harvest and to protect shrimp-

ers from the dangers of the sea.

As you watch the sun come up over the Atlantic and the marshes, you are reminded that Betty Foy Sanders, wife of former Governor Carl Sanders painted a fleet of shrimp boats at these docks that became an award-winning piece of art.

When you look out to the sea, in any direction, you are given an opportunity to survey the marsh and its glorious contents. Fish moving about, seagulls overhead with cacophonous squawking—how can such a beautiful bird sound so disharmonious?

I am a collector of sunrises and sunsets. They remain in my mind's eye for me to dial up wherever I need a quiet time interlude. If you are good at day-

dreaming the coast and the seashore are the best venues for this exercise.

I have been traveling to the Georgia coast since high school and cannot think of a more attractive place on the Atlantic seaboard. You can't beat the quaint villages and the lobster menus of Maine; the Outer Banks make you swoon and the Florida Key's are stunning and impeccable.

The Georgia coast with its barrier islands is as pristine as there is, however, and I have often fantasized about taking a boat down the intercostal from Maine to Key West. That would be something artists, novelists, and adventurers would give the highest priority.

Enjoying the Georgia coast offers varied opportunities. I have been fortunate to fish the "Marshes of Glynn," and many other areas from Savannah to Blackbeard's Island and beyond over the years.

The Great Outdoors are for everyone. You don't have to be expert at fishing to enjoy the natural scenery and the picturesque scenes. However, if you have ever hooked a 30-pound spot tail bass, and he is in a bad mood, then you will never have a finer experience in life.

Dublin Police Department

- On Feb. 27, around 1:24 p.m., conducted a traffic stop on a gray Dodge Charger after seeing that the driver was not wearing his seat belt.

The officer pulled over the Dodge and asked the driver, identified as Virgil B. Linder, 54. He refused to provide his license and said that he had not done anything wrong. Linder became argumentative and continued to refuse to comply with lawful commands.

Linder exited the vehicle but resisted and refused to comply with commands. A backup unit was called, and responding officers were able to handcuff Linder and transport him to the police department where he was charged with obstruction of law enforcement.

- Taylor Dyneshia Brown, 33, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked, on

South Jefferson Street on Feb. 27 around 10:50 a.m.

An officer pulled over a vehicle after the driver failed to obey a traffic device. Brown informed the officer she did not have a driver's license but was on her way to address the issue. The officer ran her information through the Georgia Crime Information Center, which indicated that her license had been revoked.

Brown was transported to the county jail.

- On Sunday, March 1, an officer was called to Fairview Park Hospital to address a trespassing situation involving a man later identified as Willie Arthur Turner, 52.

While heading to the hospital, the officer learned that Turner had caused disturbances there earlier in the day. Despite repeated requests to leave the premises because he did not need medical treatment, he



POLICE BEAT...

had entered the emergency room. A security officer informed the officer that the man had fled toward Shamrock Drive.

At that moment, another officer saw the suspect at the intersection of Industrial Boulevard and Shamrock Drive. The officer quickly approached the man, arrested him, transported him to jail and issued a citation.

- Gabriel Shanice Sanders, 19, was charged with theft by shoplifting at Walmart, Highway 80 West at 1:50 p.m. on Feb. 25.

An officer met with an employee with loss prevention, who said Sanders had skip scanning at the

self-checkout by failing to scan a Game Boy LEGO set valued at \$59.97.

Sanders was arrested and transported to the police department where she was fingerprinted and issued a citation before being released.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- Kevin L. Butler, 42, was charged with reckless conduct around 9:17 p.m. after a deputy was dispatched to the East Dublin Police Department.

- Property was damaged at Laurens County Landfill on Old Hawkinsville Road around 9:08 a.m. on Feb. 23.

- A deputy met with a man at the sheriff's office in reference to a report of something that happened on Holliday South Drive around 8:30 a.m. Feb. 23.

- A deputy talked with someone in reference to a possible stolen firearm on Oconee Church Road around 12:33 a.m. on Feb. 23.

- A deputy met with a victim at her house about her dog being injured during the night on Lake Road on Feb. 19.

- On Feb. 24, around 2:27 a.m., a deputy was conducting speed enforcement on I-16 stationed at the exit 58 overpass. The deputy made a traffic stop on a Toyota Camry for speeding. The driver, Keith O'Brien Ponsell, 37, was charged with driving under the influence and speeding.

- On Feb. 24, around 7:35 a.m., a deputy was dispatched to the Laurens County Landfill in reference

to stolen property.

- A deputy met with a man at the sheriff's office about a report to be made about an incident that happened on Master Moore Road around 12:45 p.m. on Feb. 24.

- Shots were fired around 8:40 p.m. on Robert Webb Road on Feb. 24.

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.

We aren't but a few months into a new super-independent and the Eastside has lost two principals and a west side person is replacing one. Choose Eastside people.

I work at East Laurens Primary and we are about to get our fourth principal in just a few years. Why does no one stay? I am so sick of this county and the way it does things.

Heard that East Laurens High School principal is leaving too - so three new principals on east side. Make it make sense. My kids don't hardly know who they will have year to year.

Why does Mr. Lanier think that anybody that questions the money or is mad about the finances is



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

against Dublin City kids? We aren't against the kids. We are for accountability, transparency and responsibility.

It appears from the editor's notes that The Courier Herald is adopting an excuse I used as a child... "well everyone else is doing it..." by printing a justification for DCS financial catastrophe, "the federal government doesn't have a balanced budget.." Did that logic ever work out as a child much less as an adult? So the paper is closing ranks with city officials & DCS to

ignore and minimize the theft of millions of tax dollars. Not even the hint of a criminal investigation is beyond irresponsible. It's criminal too. I know the DA finally asked the GBI, but where are they?

Editor's note: No, we're just having fun arguing with you.

Dublin City needs to confirm it will cut IGA at the end of the year. It's a program they can't afford. While it's good, it's too expensive. Take care of the majority of your students.

It will always be jump to the west side after starting on the east side ...won't change under new super-independent either. Westside will always be viewed as being the better place to be.

Since you think a roundabout on a 55 mph road is such a bad idea you should sit back and watch how many lives are saved at the great intersection of death 441 and 112 once the roundabout is built. *Editor's note: The only proposed roundabout in Laurens County is at the intersection of Woodlawn Road and*

Claxton Dairy where the speed limit is not 55 mph.

If you want consolidation, don't let the door hit you on the way out. To one of the eight consolidated city/counties in the state of Georgia, Macon is the closest. I'm sure you will find solace there.

I am your boss. Monthly, you give me \$250 to pay for your health insurance. Until I am caught, I spend your money on other stuff. Is this a crime or allowable business practices?

Has everyone ordered their green ribbons! Let's clean up the whole town and for a great cause to TLC Casa... For the children.

Energy assistance

has been very scarce this year. We need energy assistance. I am a 68-year-old senior. I'm asking the organizations to contact people in charge so that we can be able to receive the assistance we need for the low income, poor and elderly.

Actually the new charter school might turn out to be the very thing that saves the city school system. Enough students will leave the city system that the city system can then consolidate four schools and four buildings with four administrations into two schools, two buildings and two administrations. They can then sell the two empty buildings for enough money to pay off the deficit and have money left over going forward. Sometimes you have to make lemonade out of lemons.

Taxes, electricity costs, and elections emerge as top topics for final weeks of Georgia General Assembly

By MARK NIESSE
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia legislators are preparing for fierce debates on tax cuts, data centers, and voting during the final sprint of lawmaking this year.

After last week's deadline for bills to pass either the House or Senate, the General Assembly's priorities have come into focus. The Republican majority's surviving proposals include reducing Georgia's income tax rate from 5.19% to 3.99% over time, along with a cap on annual property tax increases at 3% or the inflation rate. Meanwhile, many other bills failed to advance this year, including proposals to eliminate all property tax-

es, legalize sports betting, allow breweries to sell beer in stores, and make lemon pepper wings Georgia's official wing flavor. House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, called the income tax cut that his chamber sent to the Senate on Friday a "historic effort by the General Assembly to deliver meaningful relief."

"Tax dollars belong to the people, not the government. That's why the Georgia House was proud to pass legislation to put more money back in the pockets of the people who earned it," Burns said.

House Minority Lead-

er Carolyn Hugley, D-Columbus, said Republicans blocked bills focused on making life more affordable, such as proposals to expand health insurance, build more homes for people with low incomes, and subsidize child care.

"Georgia families are sitting at their kitchen tables tonight doing math that doesn't add up: working more hours, falling further behind, choosing between prescriptions and groceries, wondering if they'll ever be able to afford a home in the community where they grew up," Hugley said.

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

	THURSDAY: 70°	Partial sunshine with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm. Sunrise: 7:46 a.m.
	THURSDAY NIGHT: 37°	Clear and chilly. Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
	FRIDAY: 71°	Plenty of sun. Sunrise: 7:45 a.m.
	FRIDAY NIGHT: 41°	Clear. Sunset: 7:38 p.m.

Saturday 3/14	Sunday 3/15	Monday 3/16	Tuesday 3/17	Wednesday 3/18
HIGH/LOW 79/56	HIGH/LOW 81/60	HIGH/LOW 68/34	HIGH/LOW 76/45	HIGH/LOW 61/38
Pleasant with pleasant sun.	A couple of showers in the morning, very warm and humid.	Cooler and less humid with times of clouds and sun.	Mostly cloudy and warmer.	Cooler with times of clouds and sun.
Sunrise: 7:44 a.m. Sunset: 7:39 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:42 a.m. Sunset: 7:40 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:41 a.m. Sunset: 7:40 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:40 a.m. Sunset: 7:41 p.m.	Sunrise: 7:38 a.m. Sunset: 7:42 p.m.

River levels...
Oconee (at Dublin) 6.65'
Ocmulgee (at Macon) 11.69'

SEND US your best pictures of Hunting, Fishing and the outdoors and you may be included in our March 31st Edition of

Porter's Guide to Hunting & Fishing in Middle Georgia

Email it to: tchsports77@gmail.com
The Courier Herald
Subject: Porter's Guide

Please include your name and phone number and brief description of the photo, story or recipe. *All submissions may not be printed. Photo publication is left to the discretion of the Editor. Submission deadline 3/20/26.

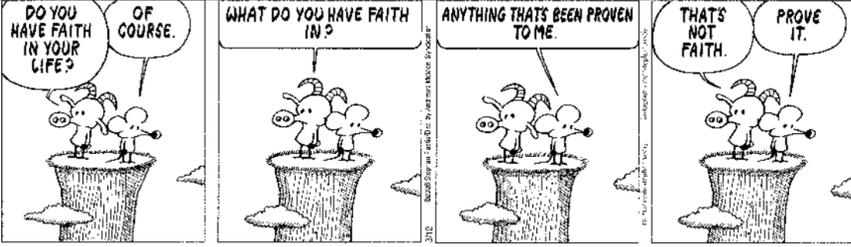
NEWS DIGEST

The Board of Commissioners for the Dublin Housing Authority will meet in a special meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 500 W. Mary St., Dublin in the Dr. James W. Strickland Board Room beginning at 5 p.m. The agenda item is the bid award selection for the John A. Bell Homes - HVAC Renovations project.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Nu Xi Sigma Chapter will hold annual Youth Symposium full S.T.E.A.M. ahead at the Old West Laurens High, 338 West Lauren School Road, with check from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 21. The program, which will go from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., is for third through fifth graders who attend Dublin City, Laurens County and Wilkinson County schools. The vent is free but registration is required because space is limited. For more information, go to www.nuxisigma1922.org

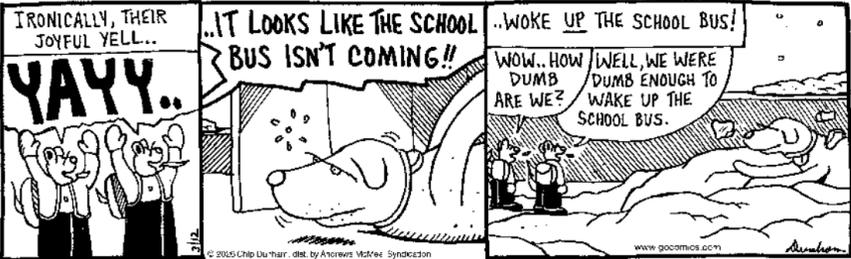
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



GARFIELD



OVERBOARD



DEFLOCKED



ZIGGY



PLUGGERS



Pluggers wonder why stopping a phone alarm takes several tries, but a text sends before auto-corrects can be fixed.

Wife plays second fiddle to husband's reputation!

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Al," and I are retired and live on a farm with a great son and daughter-in-law. Al is the best person I have ever known, and he adores me. Everyone loves and respects him, and they seek his friendship, approval and advice, which is usually right. He's a rarity. Our son "Trent" and his wife idolize him.



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

My issue? When people, especially the kids, need advice or have questions, they call Al. If they need help, they call me and ask for Dad. (I am never asked or called.) The kids do love me, but Al has the "magic." I'm terrified at the idea of him passing before me. I'm afraid everyone will be mad at me for not dying first. This is not self-pity. I'd just like to feel needed and wise, too. Please advise me on how to not feel worthless because I'm not like my husband. -- OVERLOOKED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

ship with your daughter-in-law. Because you feel so deep in Al's shadow, it's time to talk to him and your son about this. They may not realize how sad you feel.

As to your fear about him "dying first," women usually outlive their husbands. No one would "hate" you for surviving. You are neither worthless nor a nonentity; you are simply someone who is unaware of her own value.

DEAR OVERLOOKED: In your marriage, your husband is the dominant partner, the figure who gets the majority of the attention. This happens often with politicians and entertainers. It takes a special kind of spouse to be as supportive as you are and have been.

I'm sorry you don't value yourself more highly. You have successfully raised a son and have a healthy relation-

texting, I get updated on their drama every day. I have muted their texts and respond less often. Despite all of this, I still find it very difficult knowing the struggle they are experiencing. It makes my chest hurt and my heart heavy. How do I navigate this and protect my sanity? -- LISTENER IN TEXAS

DEAR LISTENER: Navigate this and protect your sanity by being honest with these friends. Tell them you care very much that they are having marital troubles, but you are not qualified to help solve their issues. (It's the truth.) Then advise them to consult a marriage counselor, psychologist or an organization that supports victims to help them break the cycle. If you do, it may lessen your stress level as well as theirs.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: Some of my very good friends are married to less-than-stellar partners. There are money issues, infidelity, abuse and everything in between. I hear about their issues constantly, and I don't know how to respond anymore. It's difficult seeing close friends struggle when there's not much I can do to help.

I know these friends are not asking for help -- just venting -- but thanks to phones and

Thursday, February 12, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
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TRICKY DEAL?

North-South vulnerable, South deals

NORTH			
♠	A 6 2		
♥	Q 7 3		
♦	A Q 6 4 2		
♣	4 3		
WEST			
♠	K 9		
♥	9 8 6 4		
♦	3		
♣	Q J 10 6 5 2		
EAST			
♠	Q J 7 5		
♥	A 10 5		
♦	8 5		
♣	K 9 8 7		
SOUTH			
♠	10 8 4 3		
♥	K J 2		
♦	K J 10 9 7		
♣	A		

The bidding:
SOUTH 1♣ WEST 3♣ NORTH Dbl* EAST 4♣
4♣ Pass 5♣ All pass
*Negative

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Today's deal is from a recent team match. North had an awkward bid over West's pre-empt. He was too strong to bid three diamonds and he did not want to go past three no trump, which was the most likely game contract. He chose to make a negative double in the hope that

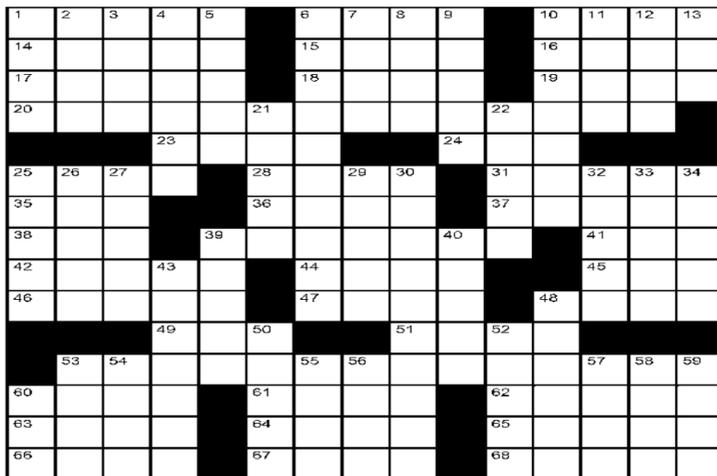
partner would bid three no trump if he had a club stopper. South never had a chance to do that and would not have done so holding a four-card major anyway. Five diamonds became the final contract.

South won the opening club lead in hand, drew trumps in two rounds ending in dummy, and led a heart to his king. A heart to dummy's queen lost to the ace. East decided to shift to a spade. Leading the queen would be fatal for the defense, as South would win, ruff a club, cash the jack of hearts, and exit with a spade. West would win and be forced to give up a ruff-sluff. East passed this test by leading a low spade. South played low from his hand and West made the routine play of the nine! This forced the ace from dummy, but subjected West to the same endplay three tricks later. Making five! At the other table, West led the king of spades to start with, hoping to get a ruff. That neatly unblocked the spade suit and the contract was defeated.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- Helpful: 2 wds.
 - Best Buy offering: Abbr.
 - Rapid
 - Opposite of heavy
 - "Jane ___" (Brontë classic)
 - Fascinated by
 - Islamic deity
 - Intend
 - Small, pesky insect
 - Cinderella's helper: 2 wds.
 - Socket insert
 - Wrestling surface
 - Ewes and does
 - Large family
 - Alabama city
 - Bad review
 - Cat of "Iron Chef America"
 - Elms and maples
 - Make a selection
 - Freedom
 - Product promotions
 - Drama with singers
 - Regarding: 2 wds.
 - Compete
 - Words of a song
 - Indian flatbread
 - Beef or pork
 - Make a wager
 - Theater award
 - Doctrine of divine foreordaining
 - Kill, as a dragon
 - Serb or Pole
 - "God willing": 2 wds.
 - Peel, as potatoes
 - Ripped
 - Soda-bottle unit
 - "The ___ have it"
 - Hardens
 - Burn with hot water
- DOWN**
- "Frozen" snowman
 - Rival of Avia and Nike
 - Jamaican tangelo
 - ###, in music
 - ___ alcohol
 - Protein in blood
 - Added color to
 - Streetcar
 - Snake's poison
 - Aircraft for attacking
 - Diarist Frank
 - Celebrity
 - Small child
 - Luxury Italian brand
 - Delicious
 - Bobbin of thread
 - Delighted
 - Go inside
 - Sporting event venue
 - Stories
 - Time off from work
 - Newspapers and radio



Created by Stella Zawistowski



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- Good thing to have
- Spiked, as punch
- Mortise and
- Fatty steaks
- Larger-than-life
- Exams
- Does perfectly
- Stage drama
- Very uncommon
- Gin flavoring
- Sour
- Tiny amount
- German car brand
- Geeky person
- Relaxing resort

SUDOKU

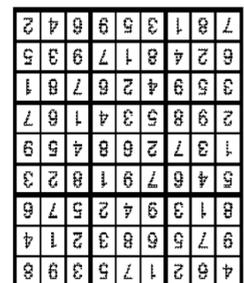


Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:

SOCCER ROUNDUP...

Trinity's teams transition to hot starts

WL boys stay perfect; Other county teams looking streaky good at end of first month

From STAFF REPORTS

Each year's GIAA sports calendar makes for a tight turnaround as Trinity's teams transition almost overnight between the winter and spring sports seasons.

Last week, basketball finally gave way to soccer as plenty of its athletes, upon their teams' elimination from the state playoffs, hung up the court shoes and brought out the cleats and shinguards.

The Crusaders' first few gulps of the grassy spring-time air were fairly refreshing as they picked up five wins, and a draw, in their first six matches of the campaign.

The girls chalked up three shutouts — 7-0 over Windsor March 2, 10-0 of East Laurens March 5 and 8-0 against FPCA this past Monday. The boys, after concluding their opener against St. George's in a 2-2 deadlock last Tuesday, took down the Falcons 5-3 on Thursday and the Highlanders 4-3 Monday.

Both continued Tuesday night with victories over Robert Toombs, and were set to continue their home-stand Thursday against separate teams, the boys facing Bulloch on the early side of the doubleheader, and girls Windsor to close it out.

Maeson Brantley and Addie Kendrick scored twice each in the Lady Crusaders' debut at Windsor, with Maddy George, Bristol Batchelor and Chloe Rozier also adding their first goals of the season. Batchelor had two assists.

Addie Kendrick, with a hat trick and an assist, led their shutout of East, in which Rozier and Kaylee Gille both had a pair of goals, and Reese Cobb, Batchelor and George each tacked on one.

Rozier pulled off her own hat trick Monday, while Brantley added two to the eight scored on FPCA. Batchelor, Gille and Kendrick added one each, and George tallied two assists.

The boys, in their opener with St. George's Episcopal of Milner, gave up the first goal of the match 20 minutes in.

"We struggled to find our footing, with it being the first game of the season," head coach Noah Hendrix said.

But the Crusaders evened it up by scoring their first with five minutes to go on a fast-break, as Brooks Barrs sent an assist over to Parker Smith for a shot into the back left corner.

They'd go in front early in the second half as Josh Mosley drew a foul in the box, and Jagger George knocked in the penalty kick.

But the chance for an opening win, with no extra time in the plans, would be spoiled by an own goal with five minutes to go.

Trinity led an active first half in East Laurens' visit to Cleve Warnock Field on Thursday, as Hein Schaaf opened the scoring off an assist from Mosley.

George had a hand or foot in the next three... He scored on his own, Mosley hit one in off his throw-in and then Barrs converted his cross for a 4-2 lead at halftime.

East Laurens got within a goal by knocking home a well-placed free kick in the box within the first four minutes of the second half. And it remained anybody's

match until Trinity finally slammed the door with six minutes to go as George assisted a Mosley score for the second time.

Monday's FPCA match was scoreless through a half, but a George PK (after an FPCA handball in the box) two minutes in broke the stalemate.

The Highlanders answered back to level the score with 27 minutes to go. Trinity held serve two minutes later, as Mosley converted a George corner. An FPCA response via through-ball with 22 minutes to go once again squared things up.

The cycle repeated once more as Mosley found the net with 17 to go on a 40-yard shot that just cleared the keeper's hands. FPCA, down to its last few minutes, slotted one into the side net to equalize one more time late in the match.

But the Crusaders avoided overtime as goalkeeper Graham Forth punted one over midfield, Mosley picked it up and played ahead toward the middle, where George and Barrs got a touch to set up Mosley's game-winner, as the junior completed his hat trick with only 48 seconds left in regulation.



The West Laurens boys soccer team remained undefeated as it picked up two more 4-AAA match wins (5-2 at Baldwin and 9-1 at Hephzibah), then aced a non-region test Monday night in Macon, to continue what would become a season-opening streak of nine as the Raiders took care of Aquinas 3-1 in another at home on Tuesday.

The Lady Raiders improved to 5-3 (4-1 region) in shutouts of Baldwin (7-0) and Hephzibah (11-0) March 5-6, before dropping one at ACE, 6-0, March 9.

West's girls, with at least a half of play required before mercy rules kicked in, scored 11 before last Thursday's match with the Rebels ended with only 40 minutes in the books.

Landry Hall started the night with a curling shot into the side of the net with only a minute gone. Emree Warren followed by rolling one through the hands of the keeper on the left side for a 2-0 lead.

After a third Lady Raider goal, Kristin Ivey got in on the scoring to make it 4-0 with 23 minutes to play.

The downhill pace only quickened from there as Kamryn Sweat hit a long shot from a ways out, then followed a goal from Selah Lanton on a second of back-to-back with 15 minutes left.

Jiya Patel bombed in a free kick with 11 minutes to go to stretch the lead to 8-0. Sweat completed a hat trick with 9:43 left, Ivey blasted in a 10th with eight remaining, and Marley Yearwood sent home the 11th with four left to play.

The tables turned Monday in Macon as the Lady Raiders wound up on the receiving end of a shutout from defending Class A semifinalist ACE.

The Gryphons caught a break to get on the board by thumping in a ball in the box that West Laurens missed a chance to dispose of. But a



HIGH-SCORING STARTS: Trinity's Josh Mosley (5, above) slides to knock a ball past East Laurens' Javier Lopez (15) early in his two-goal night, and the Lady Crusaders' Addie Kendrick (right) reacts after one of her three as their offensive hot streaks continued with a sweep of the Falcons Thursday/**DANNY SCARBORO**



good many of their five additional shots to open leads of four at halftime and six by the final whistle — including three long, soaring shots from 30-plus yards — were ones you could only tip your hat to.

The Raider boys scored three times in the first half, before the Braves' David Bulux scored twice to keep the home team within striking distance, en route to their 5-2 win to open last week in Milledgeville.

The following Hephzibah victory, by a 9-1 final, held true to the lopsided trend from the first of the night.

Jack Yearwood almost had the night's first goal in the opening minute, as his shot was brought back by the Rebels' keeper just a half roll from crossing the line. But Payton Everly was right on hand to clean up the rebound, and Yearwood would add his first and second goals on a penalty kick and header less than five minutes later.

Hephzibah picked up its first goal later in the first half, but West continued pounding away with two scores by Bryson Morgan, and another by Corban Kersey, in a cluster of three to take the lead up to 6-1 entering halftime.

Morgan would complete a hat trick with one of the Raiders' two in the second half, and picked up where he left off Monday at ACE with a right-footer from 20 yards to draw first blood 15 minutes into the highly competitive battle.

They scored the night's only other goal in the second half off a free kick that sailed into the box with several candidates to punch it in. Though the ball didn't go off an initial touch by Everly, Yearwood was eventually able to stab it home to seal the 2-0 final.



Dublin's girls closed the month of February on a three-match win streak, adding a shootout victory over Johnson County to their previous wins in region action over Jefferson County and Northeast (via forfeit) Feb. 24.

But the Lady Irish would fall in their next two to open March, dropping a 4-0 decision to Swainsboro in their home opener last Tuesday, before a different PK shootout just go away Thursday at Central of Macon.

Dublin (3-4, 2-2 region 2-High A) also fell this past Tuesday to Dodge County, 4-1, in Eastman.

The shootout tally of 4-3 favored the Lady Irish for another win in Wrightsville, after their Brayleigh Edmond — by virtue of an assist from Amariah Taylor

— scored one of the teams' dueling goals in the first half.

JoCo's Makenzie Barber had the counter to knot it 1-1, and the score remained through the end of regulation and overtime.

Successful Dublin PKs in the showdown belonged to Brayleigh and Bianca Edmond, Jaymi McLendon and Jemimah McClendon.

Lizzie Brantley saved seven of JoCo's eight shots on goal, and two of its six PKs.

Brantley had another solid game in goal as the Lady Irish opened the Shamrock Bowl on Tuesday, but a close match — which had the Tigers up just 1-0 through a half — got away in the second half as Swainsboro's Gracie Beneteau completed a hat trick.

Thursday's Central match was scoreless all the way through regulation, and five rounds of kicks produced no winner as Dublin got one in on its first try and Central answered in the top of the second, but no one else could strike until back-to-back hits by the Chargers in the first of two rounds of sudden death.

Their goalkeeper knocked one in, and Bianca Edmond answered to keep Dublin alive. But Central held serve, and a shot rolling wide of the mark doomed the Lady Irish as the shootout ended 3-2.

The Irish boys (1-3, 0-2 region) were shut out by Swainsboro in their home opener Tuesday, as the Tigers' Kamm'rynn Bell and Angel Castillo scored two goals each.

There was no score between the teams at Central until the six-minute mark of the second half, when the Chargers connected on a shot from about 20 yards out to win it.

The Irish will play East Laurens in a crosstown region showdown at the new Falcon Field on Thursday.



PUSHING IT UPFIELD: Dublin's Urick Andrews dribbles free of a tandem of Tigers last Tuesday/**JASON HALCOMBE, Dublin City Schools**



DIVING DENIAL: Lizzie Brantley pounces on a loose ball near the line for an Irish save that helped keep it a 1-0 match at halftime against Swainsboro/**CLAY REYNOLDS**

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL
Monday
Johnson Co. 3, Dublin 2
GIRLS SOCCER
Friday
ACE 6, West Laurens 0
Monday
Trinity 8, FPCA 0
Tuesday
WL 5, Aquinas 4
Dodge Co. 4, Dublin 1
Trinity 4, Robert Toombs 0
East Laurens 3, Washington Co. 0
BOYS SOCCER
Monday
Trinity 4, FPCA 3
Tuesday
WL 3, Aquinas 1
Dodge Co. at Dublin (no score reported)
Trinity 10, RTCA 2
EL 3, WACO 1

PREP SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL
Friday
GHSAA Finals
(Macon Coliseum)
East Laurens (girls) vs. Elbert Co./1 p.m.
BASEBALL
Wednesday
Dublin at Jefferson Co. (doubleheader)/4 p.m.
Morgan Co. at West Laurens/5:30 p.m.
Friday
Westside at WL/5:30 p.m.
Dodge Co. at EL
Trinity at Gatewood/6 p.m.
SOCCER
Thursday
Bulloch at Trinity (boys)/4:30 p.m.
Windsor at Trinity (girls)/6:30 p.m.
Friday
Dublin at EL
Westside Augusta at WL /5 p.m.
TENNIS
Thursday
CCA at Trinity/3:30 p.m.
Hephzibah at WL/4 p.m.
Friday
Trinity at Gatewood /3:30 p.m.

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pez and another by Thang went along with a Wilkes own goal in the second to widen the gap.

Thang answered a Warrior penalty kick to knot it at a goal apiece in the last 10 minutes before the half against JeffCo, but dominated the second with three more goals — a 25-yard free kick with 30 minutes left, then back-to-backs at the 19 and 17-minute marks — to put the Falcons in command.

Jefferson County's own goal was the last at 5:46. KaMari LaGroom knocked in the rebound from a blocked PK for the East boys' only goal against Central last Tuesday.

SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

preceded by a "School Spotlight" presentation by IGA principal Matt Taylor, who highlighted some of the gifted academy's achievements, as growth in enrollment.

"We just saw a presentation about our successful program," said board member James Lanier. "I don't understand why we would have need for (a charter school), to split our students."

A committee of teachers, parents, principals, central office staff and community members was appointed by the city school board to study the petition. Pool said the committee met with the proposed school's board members and "asked all the questions they had ... related to the rationale for establishing the new school, the projected enrollment, financial sustainability, curriculum instruction, transportation, nutrition services, maintenance and operations, and technology."

The committee recommended that the board deny the petition.

So did Dublin resident Peter Lipski, who earlier during public comments speculated that despite the "public charter school" label, the new school would enroll only "handpicked students."

"That's not for these students," Lipski said, turning toward several attending the meeting.

Taylor noted during his presentation that Irish Gifted Academy is "a program, not a school," with its students all connected to a "base school," such as Dublin Middle School. Its enrollment is diverse – about 51 percent black and about 44 percent white – with 14 percent of students "gifted identified," Taylor said.

He also noted that IGA began in 2019 with 90 students and currently enrolls 254 in pre-K through eighth grade – an increase of 182 percent.

"If they're not identified as gifted, still, all they have to do is apply. We have not denied many students."

Taylor highlighted many of the IGA's current accomplishments, including 92 percent content mastery scores for grades 3-8 on the Georgia Milestones Assessment – 24 percent higher than the state average.

Walters said the presentation "cleared up some myths about who all is attending" the IGA.

ST. PAT'S SNAPSHOTS: MORE FROM 'SHAMROCKMANIA,' SORORITY GAME NIGHT



CITY COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

lin GA, said people can call her there for more information.

"I wanted to make us as leaders, as well as citizens and individuals, aware of what our community looks like to people on the outside," she said. "We want people to keep coming back and tell their friends that this is such a beautiful town and they had such a great time. We don't want them to say they were walking down the street and piece of trash flew into my face. This actually happened while we were having a tour in downtown."

Dublin City Mayor Joshua Kight commended Erickson for starting this effort.

"It is really great when somebody sees a problem and comes up with a solution," Kight said. "The fact that you saw the issue and organized a litter pick-up yourself, and you are doing something about it is a real credit to you. I appreciate you taking that leadership and for doing this."

Erickson extended an invitation to the council to meet them around 5:30 p.m. on March 17 at the parking lot across the street from the Episcopal Church and city hall.

"I'd like to see our city leaders and other leaders in the com-

munity to come out and do this," Erickson said. "We did this for a hour. I would do it longer, but we were doing it as long as the sun was up. We had five people so we could not cover more ground."

Councilwoman Tess Godfrey also appreciated Erickson and her group.

"I plan to join and help," Godfrey said.

Godfrey also announced that the Great American Cleanup for the Oconee Alumni Association, will start on April 4 through April 11.

"I hope we can get a lot of teams involved," Godfrey said. "We have four wards, so if we can get a team in every ward, that would make a huge, huge impact."

Councilwoman Sara Kolbie told Erickson she would have a lot of support from the council.

"Trash is a constant issue," Kolbie said. "Litter is not a pick up one time. Another thing we need to talk about is the fact that a lot of people have pickup trucks and they put their trash in there and it goes flying out as they go down our street."

Kolbie said there are more people coming in during the end of March, including students from Osaka, Japan.

"They have been sister cities with us for more than 25 years

now through a relationship formed with Mayor Bob Walker through YKK," Kolbie said.

She said the students will be in town on March 25-29.

In other news, the city council:

- Approved a DetectaChem Apex Raman Spectrometer, a device that can determine the type of drug police are encountering without having to take a sample from the plastic bag or container. This will allow officers to determine the type of drug without risking exposure to drugs that contains fentanyl, said Dublin Police Chief Keith Moon.

"We have participated in opioid settlement class actions," said Dublin City Manager Josh Powell. "We have received some funding for different things related to combating the terrible effects of opioids on our community."

The device, which costs \$35,900, will be paid from the opioid settlement funds, Powell said.

- Approved two businesses to do work at the Quail Hollow lift station that needs a replacement pump. This station was installed in the 1980s. DW Industrial LLC, out of Hawkinsville, will do the electrical work at the pump station for \$16,600 while Southern Diversified Services, out of

Wrightsville, will do the rest of the work for \$17,620.

- Held a second reading to amend the ordinance regarding fire safety for mobile food service units.

"We want to make clear what provision comply for mobile food service units," Powell said. "We want to make clear that there is an annual inspection of those mobile food service units."

- Heard a first reading on an ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2026 budget.

- Approved Dublin Construction Co. for the renovation project of the Stubbs Park amphitheater stage and walking bridge, that were both damaged during Hurricane Helene. Cost will be \$42,903.

"We are able to get some money from both the federal and state government for this work," Powell said.

- Approved Garbutt Construction as the construction manager at risk for the renovation and repair for the city of Dublin water works building.

"Our groundwater plant, that has not been touched since it was built in the 1930s," Powell said. "It needs some substantial renovations done to it."

- Approved AR-15 stocks as declaration of surplus.



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