

## School board OKs bonds for EL construction

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

The first step toward financing the construction of a new East Laurens Elementary School and East Laurens Middle School athletic complex occurred last week. The Laurens County Board of Education approved issuing revenue bonds with Raymond James Financial during a meeting held last Thursday. Superintendent O.J. Hall said the approval of a

bond resolution allows the board to move forward in the process of receiving the bond money. "This was allowed by the voters last fall when they approved the ESPLOST and the bonds at the same time (last November)," Hall said. "The voters allowed us to move forward with obtaining bonds, and of course we go through the process with Raymond James of securing the bonds. This meeting met all of the approvals for the bond resolution,

the purchase agreement, the program resolution and the tax recommendation so that we now can receive the funds." The Laurens County Commission is scheduled to hear about this during its Tuesday meeting at noon, because it is the collection agency. The LCBOE's attorney Ryan Dixon was on the county commissioners' agenda. "That project will help with the beautification of the whole campus," Hall said. "We already have

the new East Laurens High School and a phenomenal athletic complex that goes with that. East Laurens Middle School has a newly renovated building because they moved into what was the old East Laurens High School. We spent the whole year renovating it." Now ELE will have a brand new school and ELMS will get its own new athletic complex. Hall hopes construction for new elementary school will begin this summer. The school must be completed

before work on the ELMS athletic complex can start. "Once everyone from the elementary school moves into the new one, we can start demolition on the old East Laurens Elementary School, because we will need that space for the athletic complex," Hall said. "It will be done in stages." In other meeting news, the

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## Local group encouraging 'Second Chances'

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

Standing in front of a shelter near the Southern Pines nature walking track, Melisha Johnson knew that the jail was just off in the distance. It is a place she knows well.

On Thursday, April 9, the Laurens County Jail was in her past. She is now on a mission to help those leaving the prison system re-enter society to become productive members of the community.

This is where the non-profit group The Compassionate Advocate comes in. "One thing I know is if they don't have anything, they are going to go back to the one thing they know," Johnson said.

Which is a life of crime. Johnson has personal experience after she spent 10 years of a 12-year prison sentence.

"I felt lonely when I was in there," she said. "Yes, I had my family but I felt the church was missing. One of the things I wanted to do when I came out was to make sure that other people don't feel that way. When they come out, I wanted them to know they would have somebody who would be with them because a lot of people burned their bridges at home."

Johnson, the executive director for The Compassionate Advocate, said they have been around for five years while serving as a nonprofit for the last year. Last week, they held their



Melisha Johnson and others cross a bridge at Southern Pines park during the Second Chance walk/PAYTON TOWNS III

first Second Chance Prayer Walk. "This is to help people who have come out of prison," Johnson said. "Our goal is to give them support so that they don't go back. I'm from Dublin and I have been locked up in the Laurens County Jail. It's a good feeling to be here."

The group wants to provide opportunities for those coming out of prison to have a job, housing and resources they need to have a successful re-entry back into life.

Johnson knows it is hard for a convicted felon to find a job.

"As soon as you clicked that box asking if you are a convicted felon, they throw

that application into the trash," she said. "That is disheartening."

Johnson is a part of Prison Fellowship, which was founded by Chuck Colson who served time in a federal prison for his involvement in Watergate. She is also a Chamber of Commerce ambassador. She talks to the other members and encourages them to help convicted felons.

"I let them know the benefits of doing this," she said. "People pray for us to change and we change, so give us a chance."

April is known as Second Chance Month.

"It is a chance to say a second chance is needed,"

Johnson said. "We have made it, and God is good."

The Compassionate Advocate teams up felons with a pastor, one like Bruce Howard, Jordan Grove Church of God in Christ in East Dublin.

"I would tell people to open their hearts and allow God to do a work in you," Howard said. "He is a God of second chances and a God of people. He is a God who meets needs. I'm excited about this opportunity to be able to come and answer this call. We want people to know there is hope, and they can receive a second

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## City approves bid for U.S. 441 resurfacing work

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

The Dublin City Council has entered a memorandum of understanding with the Georgia Department of Transportation for work on U.S. 441 resurfacing.

GDOT notified the city's engineering department that they plan to resurface U.S. 441 from East Jackson Street all the way to I-16.

"The city has a lot of utility infrastructure under that roadway, including sewer and water lines and there are manhole covers and valves that will need to be adjusted during that process to make sure their height is corrected," said Dublin City Manager Josh Powell. "If you have gone down a road that has been resurfaced and the manholes have not been adjusted, you hit a bump. We're hoping to not do that on this project to make it as smooth as possible."

Normally, this work would be done separately from GDOT's work because the city is responsible for the utilities. GDOT is willing to include the adjustments as part of this project.

"It makes sense for their resurfacing contractor to do this work as part

of their overall contract," Powell said. "They are asking us to reimburse them and pay up front for their expected cost in doing that."

GDOT has submitted a cost estimate, and city officials are expecting the cost to be around \$69,000.

"This agreement is for us to ensure we will pay for (the work)," said Powell, adding that this will be paid for out of the water fund. "We do have funding available to cover that."

Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight asked about the \$69,000 and was informed that it may be lower or higher.

"(The work) needs to be done," Powell said. "During the construction part of the project, when they are doing the resurfacing, we will have city staff that will monitor their contractor to make sure the work is being done."

Councilwoman Sara Kolbie asked if the city had a cap for its part.

"If it is over (\$69,000), will you notify us and then it will have to come back before the council for approval?" she said.

Powell explained when GDOT bids it out, they will include it as a line item

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## 18 students graduate for East Laurens leadership programs

By PAYTON TOWNS III  
Senior Reporter

Eighteen students from East Laurens High School recently graduated from leadership programs by either receiving a jacket or crown.

The annual Growing Young Men and Queening Unique Triumphant Elegant Young Women induction ceremony was held last Thursday in the ELHS auxiliary gymnasium.

KeiLyangee Clayton, Laylah Curry, Xionajai Devoe, Katie Lampp and Ninya McClendon received their crowns while Adrian Beacham, Jermayon Chapman, Logan DeLoach, Kendrick Graddy, Marcus Hudson, Caleb Jackson, Gavin Knight, Javier Lopez, Dylan Rocho, Ja'Mariyon Stewart, Nolan Walker, TyTravion Washington and Josiah Wright received their jack-

ets. When Q.U.T.E. students' names were called, they stood up and went receive a crown from Pat Brock, the Laurens County School System's public information officer, and ELHS assistant principal Erica Johnson.

When G.Y.M. students were called, they received a jacket from Laurens County Superintendent O.J. Hall and retired educator Woodrow Carswell.

"You are now part of the Q.U.T.E. and G.Y.M. graduates at East Laurens High School," said program director Will Smith. "This program is never about Mr. Smith. It is about you."

Brock was the guest speaker for the event.

"I feel very honored," she said about the chance to talk to the students.

Brock grew up in a big family. She admitted that they were a poor farming



A member of the Queening Unique Triumphant Elegant Young Women class receives her crown/PAYTON TOWNS III

family that did not have running water.

"Growing up, I was la-

beled," Brock said as she displayed an elementary school picture of herself near the podium. "I was smart, fast and funny. But I was poor and weird. All of these labels characterize us. When we are labeled, we have to think if what they are saying is true."

Brock recited the saying that "sticks and stones may break my bones but words

will never hurt."

"Words will hurt," she said. "What and how we say something means something. Your words can be moving."

Brock calls herself an advocate.

"I fight for the underdog," she added. "This program is helping you be the best version of yourself. In order to be your true self,

you can't be the problem. Don't let where you came from define you. Use it to fuel you."

Brock encouraged the students to pour into others. Tell others, "Thank you," and how much they mean to them.

"Be on the right side of building someone up and not tearing them down," she said. "I make it my business to let my light shine. If you do, there are no limits you can't accomplish."

Chapman ended the program with a testimony about time in the G.Y.M. program. At first, he thought it was just another program.

"I did not realize it would be a foundation for my growth," Chapman said. "I was surrounded by young men who taught me and supported me."

He also thanked Smith for his leadership.

"Mr. Smith saw something in me," Chapman said. "He always tells me to be comfortable about being uncomfortable. This G.Y.M. has been a launching point for me."

Smith thanked Bank of

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OBITUARIES



**Lena Mae Rhyne**

Funeral services for Mrs. Lena Mae Rhyne of Dublin, Georgia will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 11 a.m. The service will take place at Second A. B. Church, located at 800 North Decatur Street in Dublin, Georgia. Reverend Korie Baker will officiate the ceremony. Interment will follow at Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Lena Mae Lewis was born on Friday, March 31, 1939, in East Dublin, Georgia. She was the third of five siblings born to the late Isaiah (Coot) and the late Lula Spikes Lena Lewis. Lena Mae received her education at Royal Chappell School in East Dublin, Georgia. She worked at Forstmann for 20 years.

Lena Mae Lewis was baptized at Williams Chapel Church as a child. After marrying Ulysses Rhyne, Jr. in October 1962, she joined Second A.B. Church and served on the Kitchen Committee, Senior Usher Board, and as a Deaconess.

She leaves behind cherished memories with her three beloved children: Sheila (Ronald) Caldwell of Landover, Maryland, Valerie (Kenneth) Fuqua of Dublin, Georgia, and Ulysses (Yolanda) Rhyne, III, of Augusta, Georgia. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, her sister Annie Ruth Plummer of Dublin, Georgia, and brother-in-law Oscar Jones of Dublin, Georgia. She is remembered by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and friends. She also enjoyed traveling and ceramics.

Lena Rhyne transitioned from her earthly home to her heavenly home on Sunday morning, April 12, 2026. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Ulysses (Gus) Rhyne, Jr.; one son, Bruce Lorenzo Rhyne; and one grandson, Christopher Carr and her emotional support pet, Sherry. Additionally, she was preceded in death by her three sisters Evelyn Outler, Rita Mae McClendon, and Mildred Jones. Three brothers-in-law, Grady McClendon, Billy Thomas, Ambrose Rhyne, one brother, Johnny C. Mincey.

The family and friends are invited to gather at the Verline Copenny Center on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 6-9 pm, 205 West Mary Street, Dublin

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

**Jack Guyton**

Mr. Jack Guyton of Dublin, passed away on Friday, April 17, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete but will be announced later.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin. Servicesbydudley.com.

**Anthony King**

Rev. Anthony King of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Sunday, April 19, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com.



**Carrie Lee Mitchell Wiggins**

Funeral services for Mrs. Carrie Lee Mitchell Wiggins, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at Christ Deliverance Temple, 403 East Garner Street in Dublin. Reverend Eric Carswell will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Carrie Lee Mitchell Wiggins was born on July 5, 1950 to late Deacon Henry Mitchell and Carrie Spivey Mitchell. She was educated in the Laurens County School System.

Carrie worked at several jobs in her lifetime including at Superior Laundry, Hayloft Restaurant, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Shamrock Nursing Home and as a school crossing guard. She was affectionately known to most that saw her as the "bicycle lady." Most people have their automobile for transportation but Carrie's bike was her transportation. Her bike took her to the grocery store, doctor and where else she needed to go. She took care of it with pride and joy.

She was preceded in death by her parents Deacon Henry Mitchell and Carrie Spivey Mitchell, her siblings: Joseph Bill Mitchell Sr. (Roberta, Viola Coney, and Willie Mitchell (Betty); grandson, Marcus Chappell; nephews: Rayfield Thompkins Sr. (Willie Mae), Albert Thompkins, James Thompkins, Otis Mitchell, Roy Mitchell and Robert Earl Mitchell.

Mrs. Wiggins entered into eternal rest on April 22, 2026 and leaves to cherish her memories her children; Nathaniel Wiggins (Barbara) of Lithonia, Ga. and Brenda Wiggins (Randi) of Douglasville, Ga. Grandchildren: Shakira Neal, Aaron Chappell, Chitqueta Wiggins and Ashley Wiggins. Her siblings: Hattie Mae Thompkins, Dublin, Ga.; Cora Sims, Atlanta, Ga.; Mary Davis, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and Bethenia Mitchell of Riveria Beach, Fla., and six great-grandchildren, a devoted niece and caregiver Margaret T. Wheeler.

She also leaves to cherish her memories a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends at Dudley Funeral Home on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

**NOW HERE'S A TIP**

By JOANN DERSON King Features

\* "If you add a teaspoon of sugar to your biscuit mix or to the dough for rolls, it will help them to brown well and they will come out of the oven with golden tops." -- J.R. in Michigan

\* Two ways to save money on laundry expenses: First, spring and summer are an excellent time to get into line drying clothes -- especially towels and jeans, which take longer to dry thoroughly in a dryer. Then, clean out and shorten your dryer's vent hose to make machine drying more energy efficient. It cuts down drying time, too, saving you



**Gloria Jean Axson**

A Celebration of Life service was held for Mrs. Gloria Jean Axson on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the First Seventh Day Adventist Church. Pastor Daryl Howard did officiate and the interment was followed in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Mrs. Gloria Jean Robinson Axson was born Tuesday, Sep. 4, 1945 in Dublin, Georgia to the union of Sammy Lee, Sr. and Lillian Robinson.

She departed this life and entered into the arms of the Lord on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Mrs. Gloria Axson attended Oconee High School. She had a wonderful career of being a wonderful and loving wife and mother to her husband and children.

Gloria was employed for over 20 years at the former May's Nursing Home, now referred to as Laurens Convalescent Rehabilitation Center. She worked also as a private aide for Jake and Merle Evans.

Although growing up in the Baptist faith, loving the Lord and singing psalms, after marrying the love of her life, she joined the First Seventh Day Adventist Church of Dublin, Georgia where she served in many positions. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed serving others.

Mrs. Axson was preceded in death by her parents, Sammy Lee, Sr. and Lillian Robinson, sisters, Lillie Mae Taylor, and Velma Burch, brothers, Sammy Lee Robinson Jr. and Charles Robinson, niece, Andrea Robinson and nephew, Rudolph Robinson.

Mrs. Axson leaves to cherish her memories and celebrate her home-going, and her life legacy, her loving husband of 58 years, Marshall Axson, her children, Beatrice (Wade) Jackson, Raddiff, Ky., Areta Knight, Dublin, Ga., Anthony (Roberta) Axson, Hampton, Ga., Joseph Axson (Katrina) and Livena Axson both of Dublin, Ga. Mrs. Axson has 21 grandchildren, a host of great-grandchildren and 13 great-great grandchildren. Her devoted siblings Francis (Joseph) Sneed, Jonas (Carolyn) Robinson, Dorothy (Arthur) Giles and Benjamin (Cynthia) Robinson, sister-in-law, Mellisa Robinson, brother-in-law, Albert Burch and Willie Ogburn, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, associates and many other family members loved her greatly. The family received friend at her residence, 307 Duncan Street.

Arrangements entrusted to Wyche's Funeral Home.

time AND money.

\* "Got an odd job coming up? Before you go out and purchase an expensive limited-use tool, check with your friends and neighbors to see if you can borrow instead of buying. Check with local hardware stores to see if it's cheaper to rent it, too." -- S.L. in Kentucky

\* Add a small bit of boiling water to a glass of iced tea to clear it up if it is cloudy. You can do this to a pitcher just before serving.

\* "Call and schedule your chimney service for a date in the next couple of months. Prices drop during the summer and the sweeps are not as busy." -- C.C. in New York

Valdosta manufacturer to add hundreds of new jobs

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Governor Brian P. Kemp today announced that Blue Ops Inc. will invest \$30 million in its new manufacturing facility in Valdosta, which is expected to create 200-plus jobs over the next several years in Lowndes County.

Blue Ops is the maritime division of Red Cat Holdings Inc. (Nasdaq: RCAT), a U.S.-based provider of advanced all-domain drone and robotic solutions for defense and national security.

"Our strategic focus on workforce development, reliable infrastructure, and pro-business environment attracts job creators to every part of the state," said Governor Brian Kemp. "We are excited for the opportunities Blue Ops will create for families in Valdosta-Lowndes County."

Blue Ops is leasing the former Regal Boats facility at 601 Gil Harbin Industrial Boulevard in Valdosta. The 155,000-square-foot facility will manufacture the company's uncrewed surface vessels (USVs). The company plans to hire up to 100 people in 2026. Interested individuals can learn more about working at Blue Ops at blueops.com. Red Cat's recently announced partnership with HADDY will accelerate Blue Ops' USV manufacturing capacity, which will create demand for hiring personnel to complete the production of the boats after the hulls are built with large-scale 3D printers.

"This investment in Valdosta is about building a modern, scalable, and domestic USV manufacturing base from the ground up," said Barry Hinckley, President of Blue Ops. "By leveraging advanced production technologies, Blue Ops is accelerating how quickly we can deliver mission-ready maritime systems for defense and national security customers. At the same time, we will create high-quality jobs here at home, reinforcing Red Cat's commitment to a secure, domestic supply chain."

"We are thrilled to welcome Blue Ops

to Valdosta," said Valdosta Mayor Scott James Matheson. "Their decision to invest here shows just how strong our workforce is, the great location we offer, and the powerful partnerships that help our local economy grow. With a high-tech company like Blue Ops joining us, it's clear that Valdosta is attracting exciting new industries and moving into advanced technology fields."

"This announcement marks another significant milestone for our community as we welcome Blue Ops to Valdosta," said Niki Ogletree, President and CEO of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority. "In the past several years, Valdosta-Lowndes County has experienced tremendous economic momentum, attracting major investments and creating hundreds of new jobs. Bringing a high-tech industry leader like Blue Ops to our region not only builds on that progress, but also further diversifies our economy, creates higher-wage opportunities for our workforce, and positions our community for continued growth in advanced manufacturing and technology."

Senior Regional Project Manager Andrea Taylor represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development on this competitive project in partnership with the City of Valdosta, Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority, and Georgia Quick Start.

"There's never been a more important time to expand our defense and national security manufacturing base. Georgia's military presence across nine installations statewide provides companies in this ecosystem with a stable foundation to grow and compete," said GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson. "Blue Ops' decision to locate here highlights the depth and diversity of innovation happening across the sector, and we congratulate Valdosta-Lowndes County on continuing to expand the region's industry base."

Chatham County men sentenced to prison for stealing mail from Postal Service collection boxes

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Two Chatham County men have been sentenced to prison after investigators caught them stealing mail from blue collection boxes.

Brandon Chavonte Mincey, 34, and Antwan Williams, 52, both of Savannah, each pled guilty to possession of a stolen mail key, said Margaret E. "Meg" Heap, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. U.S. District Court Chief Judge R. Stan Baker sentenced Mincey to 40 months in prison, and Williams to 15 months in prison, and each man also must pay a fine of \$1,200 and serve three years of supervised release upon completion of their prison terms.

There is no parole in the federal system.

"This case is an excellent example of good police work stopping a crime in progress and holding the criminals accountable," said Heap. "These sentences should send a warning to mail thieves: We will find you and put you in prison."

In July 2025, investigators from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducting proactive surveillance observed a vehi-

cle pull up to a blue collection box at 10701 Abercorn Street in Savannah and later to another box at 1348 Eisenhower Avenue. In each incident, one of the occupants of the vehicle opened the box, removed the mail and dumped it in the rear of the vehicle.

Police pulled the vehicle over, with Mincey and Williams inside, and recovered a trash bag full of mail and a U.S. Postal Service key used to access the collection boxes. Investigators determined that checks recovered from 310 pieces of mail from 58 businesses or individuals added up to more than \$58,000 in potential losses. All of the mail was returned to the victims.

"The theft of mail has consequences, and the sentencing of these defendants sends a message that if you steal mail then you will go to

jail," said Rodney M. Hopkins, Inspector in Charge of the Atlanta Division. "Postal Inspectors have a duty to protect the integrity of the mail and will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to combat mail theft."

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service with assistance from the Savannah Police Department and the Chatham County Police Department, and prosecuted by Southern District of Georgia Assistant U.S. Attorney Ryan E. Bondura.

The City of Rentz Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is completed for fiscal year 2025. Any resident within the City of Rentz can stop by Rentz City Hall located at 2124 West Railroad St. Rentz, Ga. to view or obtain a copy. If you would like to discuss this report please contact Amy Mimbs at 478-984-4415.

ANNIVERSARIES

April 21  
Al & Sandra Crafton

BIRTHDAYS

April 21  
Sydney Bass  
Caleb Wilson

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**Dublin Police Department**

- Willie Nesbitt, 62, was charged with pandering on Camellia Drive around 1:10 a.m. on April 7.

An officer arrived at the location in reference to threats that had been made. The officer made contact with Nesbitt who said that an unknown woman had made threats toward him, stating that she was going to get her cousin to come "shoot him up" due to not paying for sexual services.

Nesbitt openly stated to the officer that he had met with the woman earlier in the day and had given her \$20 to get something to drink from the Z-Mart on Telfair Street.

Nesbitt continued by saying when he arrived at home, he called the woman and asked her to come over, at which time the woman told him the prices for her sexual services.



**POLICE BEAT...**

He said that he told the woman that he could not afford to pay for the sexual services but asked if she could come over just to talk. Nesbitt said the woman agreed and came over.

He then stated that once the woman arrived, they were talking and he began to massage the woman's back. Nesbitt said that when he felt that, "it wasn't going anywhere sexual," he told her to leave and he paid her \$40.

Nesbitt said the woman became irritated and demanded more money from him, which he refused. The men said that was when the

woman left, but not before making threats. Nesbitt told officers that in the past he had invited the woman over for sexual services and had paid her for those services.

The man was arrested and transported to the Laurens County Jail.

- On April 8, a deputy was on Kellam Road near Marcus Street watching for traffic violations. He saw a gray vehicle traveling at a speed greater than the posted speed limit.

He activated his radar unit which indicated the vehicle was traveling 50 mph in a 35 mph zone.

The officer made a traffic

stop on the gray 2022 Honda Accord. The driver was identified as Jaquez Wallace, 30. The officer ran the vehicle and driver information through GCIC and was notified that Wallace's driver's license was suspended due to failure to appear, with no service date.

The man was arrested and transported to the police department. He was given a warning for speeding and a citation for driving while license suspended.

- Jeriod Stuckey, 60, was charged with criminal trespass on East Jackson Street around 5:24 a.m. on April 11.

An officer responded to Hop-In in reference to a man who had previously been trespassed from the property and was seen outside soliciting customers as they entered the store. An officer entered the store and confirmed with the re-

porting party that the man wearing a green jacket was the individual in question.

The man was arrested and transported to the Laurens County Detention Center.

**Laurens County Sheriff's Office**

- A deputy responded to US 1 Recycling Center on South Highway 199 in reference to two possible stolen vehicles around 3:02 p.m. on April 2. The deputy had talked with the complainant on the phone. The man said he had dropped two vehicles off at a man's house for him to do work.

Since then, that man had been locked up. The complainant said that the man's mother hired people to clear the yard. The individuals who cleared the yard took the vehicles and sold them to US 1 Recycling Center.

- A deputy responded to

Mount Olive Road in reference to a civil complaint that happened between March 1 and April 3.

- A deputy met with a woman in reference to a theft by taking that occurred on North Peachtree Road around 12:30 p.m. on April 5.

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



**TELL IT!**

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

**Everyone in the city** that is a taxpayer should buy The Courier Herald on April 18 and read Rodney Manley's article. That goes to show people that the citizens have been trying for several years to tell how the school system has been run. It is time for the powers that be to shut the thing down and consolidate the schools down to one government.

**For many years for** the past two administrations, the Dublin City School Board members didn't question what the superintendent wanted to do. He put in front of them his proposal and they approved it without checking it out. They are responsible and they should take the responsibility.

**One reason the Dublin City School system** is in the trouble that it is in today is because you had non-business people running the system. The board members who paid \$300,000 a year in order to save \$100,000, and are still doing that. No wonder they lost \$13 million. Help us!

**The Dublin City School board** will not have credibility until we get a new board. Mr. Hatchett, Mr. State School Superintendent, we need to - except for one - get a new school board for the city of Dublin or we will not have a school system.

After reading the ar-

**ticle in Saturday's The Courier Herald** about the Dublin City School System, I think every member of the Dublin City School Board should be replaced by the governor or resign.

**Dublin City Schools stole** money from a teacher because (the financial director) stopped paying their part of a state supplement. They are now refusing to make it right, even after plainly saying they owed it.

**Until we have a gubernatorial candidate** to tell us what he or she is going to do about the out of control deer population in Georgia, I'm not voting for any of them.

**Evidentially the first commandment** with promise has been lost on a lot of people. If you'll go to Ephesians chapter 6, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother" - which is the first commandment" with a promise - "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." This promise has been overlooked. That is so sad today. Please keep in mind what this promise is all about.

**You talk of faith** when you are up on the mountain, but talk comes so easy when life is at its best. But it's down in the valley of trials and temptations, and that's when faith is really put to the test.

**Consolidation? You just want a bailout.** East Laurens and West Laurens has their own problems with spending. They aren't as bad as you, but you want everybody to pull you out. You have to learn to stay within your means with your expenditures.

**At least teachers at WLHS** are dressed more professionally than WLMs staff. I saw jeans with holes, shorts that were too short, and hair not fixed. It surprises. Send them home.

**Senior Center, I hope** the City Council and County Commissioners will entertain the building of a new senior center at Southern Pines Regional while keeping the existing one in East Dublin. A new one would serve about 3/4 of county. Southern Pines did bingo this month at their location and it was great.

**All you people who believe** that the head football coach at Dublin High is going to work next year for a total of \$15,000, please get in touch with me immediately for a good deal for some ocean front property in Arizona.

**Mrs. Smith, please don't lay** all of the blame on the last two financial officers. Fred Williams is to blame as well. If the board was given false financial conditions, in my opinion, Fred controlled everyone in his employment.

**To the 82 school taxer,** of 2,300, I am 85. My 2026 school tax was 3,594.32. Who gets to laugh the loudest?

**West Laurens teachers have** the option to contribute a small monthly amount in order to wear jeans; however, this is completely voluntary and occurs at other district schools as well. Participation is not required and is in no way connected to teacher appreciation, recognition or any

other status. All teachers and staff will be celebrated equally during Teacher Appreciation Week and at various times throughout the year. Funds collected from August through April were used to support our students and families in need. These contributions have helped provide assistance with utilities, housing, clothing, food, and other essential needs to better support our students. I for one am thankful our leadership has found a creative way to fund celebrations for their staff members and help our students have the resources they need to be safe and healthy students.

**How come Laurens County** has to stink so bad? This has been a farming community for decades and didn't stink until the last few years (except for the East Dublin rendering plant). Fertilizer?

**When is Claxton Dairy Road** gonna be paved? It is the worst road in town and county.

**School will be out soon** and I am already seeing young people riding scooters on the highway that aren't equipped for riding on highways. Please law enforcement officers, come to 441 North, Country Club Road and Blackshear Ferry Road and stop these kids before something tragic happens.

**The miraculous new 2027 budget** the Dublin City School announced, is this the same one the State Department of Education said wouldn't work and is one of the reasons they pulled their support? What voodoo economics is this budget based on?

**One time I believed** Dublin City Schools was the best place for our kids to be for their education. And when it was, I fought so hard for it. But now my heart is breaking for the kids that will be hurt by them.

**Yep, gas prices have** really jumped up. I often wonder how, that when oil goes up, it is immediately reflected in the gas prices by 8 a.m. the next day at most of

the pumps? I reckon it must be a gas genie.

**As I recall some of the** Dublin City School financial shenanigans included misuse of school system credit cards. Have the culprits been arrested? Will the culprits ever be arrested? Probably not based on how this investigation has been handled. Shame Dublin doesn't police itself as well as other cities, like Ivey, Ga.

**Dublin City can't hide** anymore. It is all coming to light. Every board member there from 2020-2025 should be removed. And look at Dr. Williams - he got off scotfree!

**Can the Superintendent of The Year** be revoked from Dr. Williams? He destroyed this system. How could anyone defend him now? He knew at all or should have known it all as the superintendent.

**Replace the entire board** and start over. There is no confidence in the current board and they are still sports minded.

**If Dublin City keeps IGA** open now then it is all on them when the system goes under. They have been told and told.

**Mrs. Poole - no one** feels like it is getting better. You still had inflated supplements until y'all were called out on it. You still act like this will go away with just a little hard work.

**Will the Dublin Board finally** admit they were asleep at the wheel and part of the problem? They let Dr. Williams run the system in the ground with ideas and personnel he couldn't afford.

**I hope the accreditation board** takes over the Dublin City system. No one has any trust in anyone currently there.

**Everyone knows Dublin's** numbers have been manipulated for years - their graduation rate, their attendance rates, their finances - nothing was authentic. Just an expensive show to get at-

tention.

**When the principal** at IGA resigns, you know it is going down. Everyone thought IGA was the place to go - it was just a costly show boat for Dr. Williams. Close it down!

**Classifieds**

**Employment**

**PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE TECHNICIAN I**  
The City of Dublin is currently accepting applications for team members with positive attitudes and initiative. A Service Technician I in the Public Works Street Department is needed. Work involves the performance of a variety of tasks in constructing, maintaining and repairing water and sewer lines, streets, sidewalks, storm drains and related facilities. Applicants must have a valid Georgia driver's license, high school diploma or GED, and pass a drug screen. Starting salary is \$15.98 an hour. 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.

**WATER CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

The City of Dublin is accepting applications for an Equipment Operator in the Water Construction Department. This Team Member must have a positive attitude and initiative. The successful applicant duties will include performing skilled work in the operation of moderate to heavy equipment. Work involves the responsibility for the safe and efficient operation of moderately heavy or specialized equipment. This employee must be able to operate a diverse range of equipment which includes a variety of trucks and construction equipment. The operation of this equipment requires considerable manipulative skill and the ability to perform specialized tasks to which the equipment is assigned. Performs semi-skilled and some manual labor tasks in construction repair and maintenance of City water and sewer facilities. Work involves the performance of a variety of tasks in constructing, maintaining, and repairing water and sewer lines. This employee may supervise or act as a lead worker with a crew. Supervision is received from the Water Construction Superintendent who makes oral or written assignments and inspects work while in progress and upon completion. Applicant must pass a drug screen, have a high school diploma or GED and possess a minimum of a Georgia Class A Commercial Driver's License. Salary range for this position is \$38,705.37 - 59,993.33 annually. 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. 478-278-9012

**Local 7-day Forecast:**

**The next 48 hours:**

**TUESDAY:** **80°** Mostly sunny and pleasant. Sunrise: 6:56 a.m.

**TUESDAY NIGHT:** **50°** Partly cloudy. Sunset: 8:06 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY:** **83°** Sunshine and a few clouds. Sunrise: 6:55 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT:** **47°** Clear. Sunset: 8:06 p.m.

<b>Thursday 4/23</b> HIGH/LOW <b>87/56</b> Mostly sunny and warm. Sunrise: 6:53 a.m. Sunset: 8:07 p.m.	<b>Friday 4/24</b> HIGH/LOW <b>87/57</b> Partly sunny and warm. Sunrise: 6:52 a.m. Sunset: 8:06 p.m.	<b>Saturday 4/25</b> HIGH/LOW <b>89/62</b> Intervals of clouds and sunshine. Sunrise: 6:51 a.m. Sunset: 8:09 p.m.	<b>Sunday 4/26</b> HIGH/LOW <b>83/61</b> Not as warm with sun through high clouds. Sunrise: 6:50 a.m. Sunset: 8:09 p.m.	<b>Monday 4/27</b> HIGH/LOW <b>85/64</b> Mostly cloudy in the morning; sun through high clouds in the afternoon. Sunrise: 6:49 a.m. Sunset: 8:10 p.m.
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**River levels...**  
Oconee (at Dublin) ..... 1.80'  
Ocmulgee (at Macon) ..... 5.98'

**Housing Administrative Assistant**

The Dublin Housing Authority is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Housing Administrative Assistant. The successful applicant must possess superb communication and computer literacy skills. Must be able to multi-task with moderate supervision in all areas of the DHA departmental structure. The ability to prepare clear, concise reports is a plus in this position. The position also performs the centralized collection of all rental payments. Qualifications for the job include an associate's degree in a related work-related field or business training in secretarial sciences or three years' related experience in a money-handling environment is desirable. The starting salary for this position is \$17.50 per hour depending on qualifications. Resumes may be addressed to Brenda B. Smith, Executive Director, Dublin Housing Authority, PO Box 36, Dublin, GA, 31040. They may also be received via email to [dhousing@dublinhousingauthority.net](mailto:dhousing@dublinhousingauthority.net). Deadline for submittal is May 15, 2026.

The Dublin Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

**Director of Facility Maintenance**

The Dublin Housing Authority is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Director of Facility Maintenance. The successful applicant must demonstrate key skills in the area of people management, budgeting, with a strong demonstration in communication and trouble shooting. The desired applicant must have experience in multi-family apartment management, property management or manufacturing/healthcare/education/real estate or educational facility management. An associate's degree in Facilities Management, Engineering, HVAC, electrical of related field or in these classes are a desired plus. Must possess a valid Georgia's driver's license; submit to pre-employment as well as random drug testing, and a criminal background check. The starting salary for this position is \$30.00 per hour depending upon qualifications, Resumes may be addressed to Brenda B. Smith, Executive Director, Dublin Housing Authority, PO Box 36, Dublin, GA, 31040. They may also be received via email at [dhousing@dublinhousingauthority.net](mailto:dhousing@dublinhousingauthority.net). Deadline for submittal is May 15, 2026.

The Dublin Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

OUR TAKE...

Take a rain check on outdoor burning until drought is over

The month of March is typically the wettest on our calendar.

Not this year.

With just over 2 inches of rainfall, last month was one of the driest in Georgia since we started keeping weather records in 1895. That was right at 3 inches below normal, and which puts the state more 6 inches below normal for the year.

April has been even worse, with rain last falling here on April 3.

As a result, the state finds itself smack dab in the middle of a full-fledged drought.

Almost all of Middle Georgia is in at least severe drought conditions, with the lower half of Laurens County and some of our neighbors classified by the National Weather Service as in an extreme drought. Parts of Wheeler and Montgomery counties are in the worst of categories – exceptional drought. In all, 98 percent of Georgia is facing drought conditions.

Things, unfortunately, will likely get worse before they get better. The next decent chance of rain is Sunday.

So far, no additional water restrictions have been put in place (although state law already limits Georgians to watering their outside plants and gardens to between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m.). However, most of Georgia, including us, have been under constant warnings for high-fire conditions, and even several red flag warnings have been issued here, when low humidity, gusty winds and dry vegetation and conditions combine to present an elevated danger.

So far, only a few counties have imposed burn bans, although in some counties an annual summer ban begins May 1. Until it rains, we encourage putting off all outdoor burning. However, if you burn, Laurens County emergency and fire officials urge taking some precautions.

Always have a water hose handy, and for larger fires consider constructing a firebreak.

When grilling, always stay aware of surroundings to make sure a spark has not caught fire nearby. And if a smoker, always extinguish and dispose of cigarettes properly.

So as our spring drought drags on, be more careful. And perhaps say a prayer or two for some rain.

– Rodney Manley

YOUR TURN:

Share your opinion on current events, or topics covered in The Courier Herald by emailing us: tchnewsreporter@gmail.com

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it."

– Robert Frost

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."

– Ecclesiastes 3:9-11 (NKJV)

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

April 21, 2026 is...

- International Hemp Day
- Keep Off the Grass Day
- Israel Independence Day
- Big Word Day
- Battle of San Jacinto
- National Bulldogs Are Beautiful Day

Why did you throw a stapler at my dad?

A few years ago, I was sitting in my recliner enjoying a nice snack when my brother called me from Virginia.

He along with my nephew and niece were making their way home from a Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls meeting. All of a sudden, out of nowhere, my niece asks me, "Hey Uncle P, what color was the stapler you threw at my dad when you were little?"

Yes, I spit out the water I had just sipped from my cup. Out of everything, I was not expecting that question. I needed more information because I did not recall this incident. My brother said it happened when we lived in an apartment in Milledgeville.

For a stapler to have been thrown by me toward my brother, we had to have been left alone. If the walls in that apartment could talk, they would have rattled us out for all the crazy things we did.

We liked cheese toast. I knew our mother made us cheese toast for breakfast during the week. I had never watched her do this, but I assumed she used the pop-up toaster. I took the wrapper off the cheese, placed it on bread and put it in the toaster. Did not think anything about it until mom tried to cook our pop tarts the next day and the toaster started smoking.

I tried to blame our dog, Scruffy. My parents never fell for that.

Another time we opened a bottle of Flintstone vitamins. We liked them so much we kept taking them. We stopped short from eating all of them, but our mom knew she had placed a brand new bottle on the counter for us to take what we needed for the day.

Once we threw the drink coaster to each other like Frisbees. Somehow, one of them broke.

When my dad asked how it broke, I started to open my mouth but before the first syllable of the words, "Scruffy" came out, he told me not to say, "the dog did it." Well, that sure cut to the chase, didn't it?

My brother has since

MAN ABOUT TOWN...



By PAYTON TOWNS III

told me that he believes we could have gotten away with blaming Scruffy if I didn't give it away with a certain kind of look on my face.

During the summer, my brother and I were allowed to stay in the apartment while our parents worked. Our sister was taken to a babysitter's house. We would watch TV most of the day, but of course we would get bored.

Since our parents did not want us to go outside when they were not there, we thought we could throw a tennis ball from the kitchen into the front room. We would take turns pretending to be a pitcher while the other would crouch down as the catcher.

My brother remembers

there was an unfortunate incident with a window getting broken because somebody forgot that the other person was only 5 feet tall and threw the ball about 5 feet and one inch over his outstretched glove.

So we flipped sides and put him near the window because he claimed to be the better catcher. This put me in the middle of the apartment.

Well, apparently, there was a real metal, heavy office stapler near me. After we threw the ball with no drops or misses, my brother was feeling confident and boasted, "I could catch anything you throw at me."

He said I picked up the stapler and threw it.

End over end it went

through the air and hit my brother's glove right in the pocket. The thing was, the stapler is not a ball and a glove is not designed to catch a heavy stapler. The result was the stapler spun over the top and smacked my brother right on his eyebrow.

My brother, who is also a Sunday school teacher at his church in Virginia, has told each class this story. How this comes up, I don't know. But I have visited his class from time to time and I am introduced as the one who threw a stapler at their teacher.

Honestly, I do not remember much about this. Maybe, since it didn't happen to me, it does not have as big of impact to me. But, my brother does still have the mark from the incident, so I guess I will claim it.

A few months went by before my niece asked me another question. Sometimes I wonder what kind of conversations my brother is having with his children.

She asked me if I remembered the time I got in trouble for using a spoon to put mayonnaise on a sandwich? Well of course I do. But that's another story for another time.



A tale of war, of passports and good constituent service

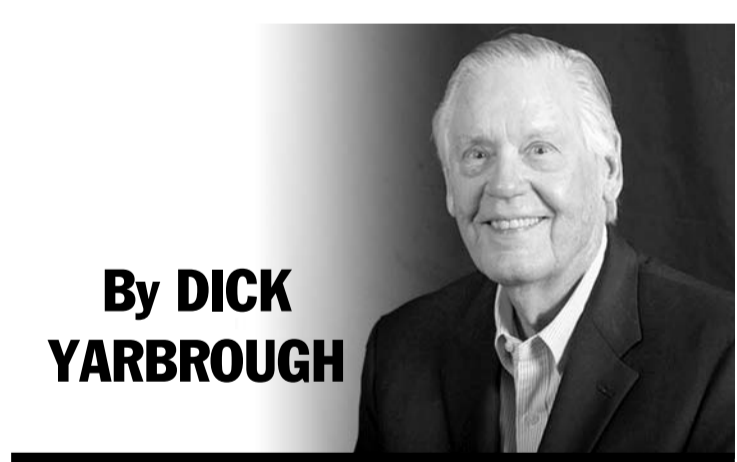
While most of us have viewed the war with Iran on television from the comfort of our home, to Shelly Corgel in Cobb County, it has been up-close-and-personal.

Her daughter, Leah, has lived and worked in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, for the past 10 years. For security reasons, I have agreed not to get into the details of her work. Suffice it to say it is in a dangerous part of the world.

The UAE, along with other Arab countries, had come under attack from missiles and drones being launched by Iran, resulting in injuries and fires and damage to industrial sites. It was a dangerous place to be.

Ms. Corgel told me, "When I saw the headline that the U.S. and Israel had attacked Iran, I immediately contacted Leah. She was very frightened and distraught. Not only was she terribly afraid because of not knowing exactly what was happening, she was hearing extremely loud explosions, which it turned out were missiles being shot down by the UAE defense system." (According to reports, the UAE was hit by some 2,300 drones and over 500 missiles and their defense systems had intercepted 90% of them.)

As a result of what was happening, Leah Corgel was being told to shelter in place by the UAE government. If she chose to evacuate, she



By DICK YARBROUGH

would have to go alone.

Because of the nature of his work, her husband could not leave. That brought up a problem. No passport.

According to Leah, "I sent my passport for renewal on February 17, which was about two weeks before the conflict started. While I was not planning to return to the U.S., I was very frightened by the initial and confusing 'Depart Now' orders on from the State Department and not having a travel document in hand and no way to get out."

Shelly Corgel said, "My fear was that if she didn't get out soon, the whole Middle East might erupt into war and then she wouldn't be able to leave."

She had several dealings with the US authorities there but by Tuesday, March 3, there was still no passport.

One option was to get an Emergency Passport which would allow her to get out of the country but then she would not be able to get

back in the UAE. Also, she was not sure which countries would allow her entry with that kind of passport.

In desperation, Shelly Corgel called Sen. Jon Ossoff's offices. A friend who had hosted fund raisers for Jon Ossoff gave her his cell phone number.

She called that number (A worried mom has no shame when it comes to her children, she told me) and left a message. After reminding him that they had met previously and had talked at length about her daughter living in Abu Dhabi, she got to the issue at hand: Her daughter desperately needed a passport, and they were following every avenue they could to get it.

Ms. Corgel said within 2 hours of calling Ossoff's office, "I got a call from his constituent services representative to follow up on Leah and the passport situation and was told that Senator Ossoff personally instructed them to check in with her about Leah if

anything else was needed." Leah now has her passport.

Shelly Corgel says, "Thinking about this now brings back so many emotions about that time and the situation. I was so touched by Senator Ossoff's compassion and his staff's personal response to our situation that I cried."

A number of former members of Congress from both sides of the aisle read this column on a regular basis and I suspect they would be the first to tell you that while their political positions got them elected, it was good constituent service that kept them there. I know of several who were so busy creating a national profile for themselves, they were not responsive to their constituents' needs and lost reelection.

We may forgive you on how you voted on a political issue. We won't forget if you failed to help us in our time of need. First things first.

As of this writing, Leah Corgel says things have been calm in Abu Dhabi since the ceasefire and that life is relatively back to normal.

"It's important for your readers to know that their representative or senator can help in these situations," she says and adds, "That said, let's hope they are never in this situation."

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@pickyarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



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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.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP...

# Irish, Falcons finish out strong; RBIs remain elusive for Raiders in final non-region tests

By CLAY REYNOLDS  
Sports Editor

The regular season ended with victories for each of the county's GHSA baseball programs late last week, three of them apiece for Dublin and East Laurens squads who swept their final region foes and an additional team to enter the playoffs on confident streaks.

West Laurens also completed its league schedule in spotless fashion with 20-plus run routs of Baldwin for two of its last four. But the remaining pair were a continuation of some discouraging late-season offensive trends as the Raiders suffered their seventh and eighth consecutive non-region losses on the road.

All three will open the GHSA playoffs on Friday.

West Laurens is seeded No. 5 in AAA, and will host Gilmer. The Irish are also set to be at home on the 15-v-18 line facing Jasper County. The Falcons (in a last-minute adjustment after they originally drew a region rematch with ACE Charter) will go on the road to face No. 8 Fitzgerald.



Dublin (19-9, 14-4 region 2-High A) won the two nail-bitingest games of the bunch as it pulled out tight ones with Dodge County, 2-0 at home on Tuesday, then 8-7 Friday in Eastman.

The Irish also marked senior night Thursday by rolling past GMC 9-2 in their finale at Bush Perry Field.

Xavier Reese had the Indians stumped in a complete-game shutout to begin the series Tuesday.

The senior — with the help of two double plays — pitched around seven hits, while striking out six and walking only one, to hold Dodge off the scoreboard.

He also contributed a difference-making run to his own cause with a ground ball for an RBI to open the scoring in the third. Will Wallace brought home the only other run to insure the lead during inning 4.

Wallace, Jeff Davis, C.J. Stubbs and Ryland Yates had the only four Irish hits off of Dodge County's Kain Mincey, who also went the distance, with six strikeouts and only three walks. But seven stolen bases, of which Yates was responsible for three, moved some key runs up to scoring position to allow the Irish to strike.

Friday's rematch was higher scoring, but also came down to some plays on the margin as Dublin stole the same number of bases (eight) as it had hits, and once again put itself in position to capitalize when mistakes were made or balls put in play with less than two outs.



**WHO'S GONNA DRIVE YOU HOME?:** Bryceton Evans was one of multiple RBI machines in the Dublin lineup, with three on his three hits in last week's final two games. This single Thursday came with nobody on, but eventually led to another run that increased its lead to 7-1/CLAY REYNOLDS

Bennett Lake, who had two of those stolen bases, scored from second base on a dropped third strike to tack on an extra run to the two already scored on RBIs by Tal Duke (who led off his 3-for-4 day with a solo home run) and Bryceton Evans that gave the Irish (down 1-0 coming in) their first lead in the second inning.

After Dodge County tied with two to answer in the third, the Irish got a go-ahead home via ground ball (an RBI to the credit of Lake) with a couple on in the top of the fourth. Additional baserunning traffic allowed a two more to cross the plate back-to-back to extend the lead to 6-3 on a Dodge wild pitch-error combo in the fifth. The Indians, who took advantage of five errors and nine walks to stay in the game, narrowed the lead to one later in the inning.

But Dublin answered right back with two of its own, as RBIs via base hit by C.J. Stubbs and a Lake ground ball that became a second out via fielder's choice bookended Wallace's second hit of the game, and another fielder's choice grounder by Morgan Davis to keep things moving along.

The Irish pitching staff, with Morgan Davis, Yates, Duke and Wallace taking the hill for no more than two innings apiece, combined for eight strikeouts.

Three-run second and third innings were a major boost behind a wire-to-wire outing from starting pitcher Jeff Davis in the Thursday win. The senior struck out five, walking four and giving up only three GMC hits.

Dublin stole 10 more bases, a couple in the second that helped it grab two more after becoming the first to reach the scoreboard on an error. One was caught trying to move up early in the third, but the Irish were successful in at least six other instances on their way to three more in the frame that doubled the run total, and elevated the lead to 6-1.



Last week's three wins lifted East Laurens (16-13,

11-7 region) to its first winning season since 2017, and also solidified its second-straight state berth in a state tournament.

The Falcons won by double figures in each, with finals of 21-7 Tuesday and 13-0 Friday making up its sweep of Northeast and a score of 13-3 in its rematch with Montgomery County on Thursday.

The week's opener in Macon, however, was tied at 7 ending the fifth, just before East Laurens busted loose for the 14 unanswered runs, in equal installments during the top halves of the last two innings that won it going away.

In the total accounting, things didn't look remotely close. The Falcons piled up 20 hits against nine, with Logan Gibson going 4-for-6 with two RBIs to lead the lineup, and five others chalking up multi-hit games.

Myles Burke, Conner Lawrence (with three driven in) and Konner O'Neal all had three. Grayson Edge and Brody Kight added two each.

But Northeast, after grabbing three in the first, found ways to crank out a run per inning through the fifth and keep its standing in an exciting back-and-forth.

The Raiders held the game's first two leads, and tied the game back up with one in their half of the fifth after East grabbed it back in a three-run fourth.

But the flood gates opened after Jaiden Center walked the bases full early with the score knotted at 7 in the sixth.

Edge broke the tie with a single, then three scored on wild pitches, one on an error and another pair on Sam Wynn's two-run double to put the Falcons squarely on top.

Edge, on for the starter Lawrence (who allowed seven hits and three earned runs with two walks and eight strikeouts in his five innings) proceeded to face the minimum despite two Northeast hits in the remaining innings.

East Laurens kept Northeast much more quiet on Thursday, as Kight limited

the Raiders to just two hits in the game's five innings. He struck out seven and walked only one, while also driving in three supporting runs at the plate.

Lawrence and Cade Oliver had two hits each and combined for three RBIs. Nollan Scott, Edge (both with triples), Wynn, Kight, Gibson and O'Neal also hit safely for the Falcons as they piled up three or more runs in each of the four innings they came to bat.

Thursday's MoCo game was the closest of the three, though East Laurens led the hit count 8-6, and the game from the start thanks to five runs off the bat in the first inning. The Eagles got it briefly to a three-run game before giving up the first four of seven final unanswered runs in the fourth when things split open.

Wynn had three hits for five RBIs to lead the Falcons at the plate. Edge also drove in four on two. Lawrence stole three bases.

Jakeb Logue got the win on the hill in five innings, surrendering only six hits and three runs (two earned), and a couple of walks against five strikeouts.

Jaxten Thomas faced three in one inning of relief, and had one strikeout.



Since walking off to beat Appling County in eight innings March 5, West Laurens has had a perplexing streak of rotten luck against non-region opponents.

Among six-straight losses leading into the Raiders' final week of the schedule were a sundry mix of one-sided affairs, close calls that got away and late comeback efforts that couldn't quite clear the hump... the last two sharing a common theme of pitfalls with runners in scoring position.

They were hungry for some redemption with two more chances to bounce back Monday and Wednesday, but instead saw the uncanny trend of missed opportunities intensify even further on trips to Baxley, where Appling County took the teams' long-anticipated rematch by 6-0 shutout, and Bellville, where the offensive frustration spiraled even further in a 3-1 loss to Pinewood Christian.

West Laurens (18-9 overall) would bounce back from both setbacks by lighting up Baldwin by 20-0 and 22-0 finals Tuesday and Thursday in its remaining games to complete region play a perfect 14-0.

Appling ace Harrison Hickox struck out 13, walked only two and limited West Laurens to six hits — all singles — in the process of completing seven dominant innings within a pitch or two of his max Monday night.

The Raiders created a handful of opportunities, but couldn't cash in on any of them, their best after back-to-back base hits by Nathan Hester and Grant Baker to open the sixth, and another pair in the seventh by Cohen Cardwell and Buck Shepherd, that each went by the boards in the absence of a the elusive RBI.

The Raiders' Kolby Clark struck out six and walked four in a start that kept things scoreless through three innings. But Appling broke through for its six runs on the same number of hits in the fourth and fifth innings, forcing a pitching change in the latter for Cardwell, who worked around a couple more hits to prevent further damage with two strikeouts in the seventh.

He and Clark both picked off a runner.

Solid swings were even more abundant for the Raiders Wednesday afternoon, but they once again couldn't buy a run.

Baserunners — 11 total — were stranded aboard in every inning, and golden chances went unredeemed in both the first and third when they were left loaded.

Fewer opportunities presented in the rest, but they were just as haunted by missed opportunities, as two more were left marooned in the fourth and the fifth, though a Nathan Hester sacrifice fly in the latter would finally break the drought.

Pinewood starting pitcher Luc Oates gave up the only six West Laurens hits, walking three with five strikeouts, and that lone unearned run. All the Raiders would have to work with were a couple of walks issued by reliever Mattox Elrod, who set them down readily in the sixth and seventh to pick up the save.

The West Laurens staff — Duggan Malone and Brycen Milton tossing three innings each, and combining to walk two and strike out seven — held the Patriots to only four hits, all confined along with their runs to the first two innings.

Both Baldwin victories were straightforward against a winless squad that had just nine players available for Tuesday's game in Dexter. The Braves were no-hit by the tandem of Gunner Coleman, who struck out four, and Grant Baker, who fanned the side in the third.

The Raiders walloped 11 hits, with highlights including triples by both Clark and Cason Pollock.

Thursday's proceeded similarly, with 11 hits on top of a three-inning perfect game for Tripp Mascaro, who struck out eight of the nine he retired in order.

The Raiders were led by two-hit efforts from Micah Wells, Tyler Clark, Landon Norton and Luke Shepard.

## SCOREBOARD

**BASEBALL**  
Friday  
Dublin 8, Dodge Co. 7  
East Laurens 13,  
Northeast Macon 0

**GIRLS SOCCER**  
Friday  
Central Fellowship 2,  
Trinity 0

**BOYS SOCCER**  
Friday  
CFCA 2, Trinity 2 (2-0 PKs)

## PREP SCHEDULE

**SOCCER**  
Tuesday  
Vidalia Heritage at Trinity  
/5 p.m.

**GHSA Playoffs, Round 1**  
West Laurens (girls) at  
Bainbridge/5:30 p.m.  
East Laurens (girls) at  
Bremen/6 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
**GHSA Playoffs, Round 1**  
EL at Dodge Co.  
Howard at WL (boys)/7 p.m.

**Thursday**  
FPD at Trinity/5 p.m.

**BASEBALL**  
Tuesday  
Trinity at Vidalia Heritage  
/4:30 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Vidalia Heritage at Trinity  
/6 p.m.

**GHSA Playoffs, Round 1**  
Friday  
(doubleheaders)  
Gilmer at WL/4 p.m.  
EL at Fitzgerald  
Jasper Co. at Dublin/5 p.m.

**Saturday**  
(Game 3s, if necessary)  
Gilmer at WL/11 a.m.  
Jasper Co. at Dublin  
/12 p.m.  
EL at Fitzgerald/TBD

**SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL**  
**GHSA State Championship**  
(Woodstock)  
**Wednesday**  
Cherokee vs. EL  
WL vs. Jefferson/9 a.m.  
Losers' games/11 a.m.  
Winners' games/1 p.m.

**TENNIS**  
**GHSA Playoffs, Round 1**  
Tuesday  
EL (girls) at Armuchee  
/4 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
East Hall at WL (girls)  
/3:30 p.m.  
EL (boys) at Swainsboro  
/4 p.m.  
Dougherty at WL (boys)  
/5 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Dublin (boys) at Fannin Co.  
/2 p.m.

**GOLF**  
**Monday**  
Dodge Co. at WL  
(Green Acres)/3:45 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
WL at Southeast Bulloch  
/3 p.m.

**CONTACT US:**  
Email sports information to  
tchsports77@gmail.com, or  
call (478) 272-5522, ext. 110

# Tayt, Asher Evans power Crusaders' sweep of CGAA

By JEREMY PAYNE  
Correspondent

The Trinity Crusaders returned from their spring break road trip for a two-game set with Central Georgia Arts last week. They were able to beat the Mustangs 5-2 in eight innings in Tuesday, then run-ruled them 11-1 on Thursday.

Tuesday in Macon, the Crusaders took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first on an RBI single by Tayt Evans. Trinity had three hits in the inning but made two outs on the base paths to quell the chance of a big inning.

CGA was able to knot the game in the second on a double, a sac bunt, and a

ground out to make it 1-1.

The Mustangs took the lead in the fourth as they got two runners in with an error and a single. The Crusaders turned a double play to prevent a big inning, but a run scored in the process to make it 2-1.

Asher Evans led off the sixth for the Crusaders with a single. Following a sac bunt, Carter Lee would come through with an RBI single to make it 2-2.

That score held to force extra innings. In the top of the eighth, Asher Evans led off with a double. Kolbi Grooms followed with a bunt single to put runners at the corners. Lee gave the Crusaders a 3-2 lead with a

sac fly. Tayt Evans came up next and blasted a two-run homer to center to make the score 5-2, and Trinity held on to win.

Both Asher and Tayt Evans had three hits each to lead the offense. Grooms also had a pair.

Asher Evans pitched all eight innings to earn his fifth win of the season. He allowed seven hits and one earned run, while striking out six without a walk.

In the home matchup Thursday, the game looked like it may be another pitcher's duel early on.

Trinity got on the board in the bottom of the second. Tayt Evans reached on a two-base error to lead

off. Brayden Underwood came up next and blasted a drive to deep center. Mustang center fielder Maddox Brooks made an incredible effort play just to get to the ball on the warning track. But just as he got a glove on it running full speed, he crashed into the fence, sending the ball over the wall for a two-run homer.

The Crusaders added to the lead in the third. An error, a Grooms bunt single and a single by Lee made it 3-0.

Anderson Bloodworth led off the fourth for the Mustangs with a liner to center that was misplayed into a triple. He would then score on a groundout to

make it 3-1.

Trinity started to pull away in the home half of the fourth. Grooms helped his own cause with a two-out, two-run single to make it 5-1. Following another single by Lee, Tayt Evans came through with an RBI single to make it 6-1.

Underwood led off the fifth with a single and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Pinch hitter Jake Johnson would drive him home with a single to push the lead to 7-1.

After a Helton single and an error made it 8-1, Asher Evans delivered a two-run double to make it 10-1. Following a Grooms walk, Lee came through with another

RBI single to end the game. Lee and Helton had three hits apiece to lead the offense. Grooms and Underwood both had a pair of hits, while Asher Evans, Tayt Evans and Johnson also had hits in the contest.

Grooms earned his fifth win of the season as he allowed just one hit in his five inning complete game. He struck out eight and didn't walk a batter.

Trinity (12-6 overall) currently sits at fourth in the GIAA power rankings. The Crusaders will play at Vidalia Heritage on Tuesday, and host the Eagles on Thursday.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM

DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU

ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON

PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY

Husband's shrinking world invades wife's space!



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 59 years. As he has gotten older, he has less to do to keep himself busy, and he no longer drives due to Alzheimer's. He is now doing things inside the house without asking my opinion, including moving things around.

Abby, as the woman of the house, this has always been my role. He is now trying to take over, which irritates me no end. He washes every dirty dish even though the dishwasher is empty, and I have to watch him after I caught him washing them without soap a couple of times. Am I wrong? He has no social life anymore, and his doctor keeps suggesting he try the senior center, to no avail. What can I do? -- DOMESTIC ENGINEER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR D.E.: Your husband may be trying to create order even as his organizational skills are diminishing. It would be wonderful if you could come up with some tasks he could do that don't impinge on you. (I'm thinking things like watering the plants, taking out the garbage, sorting the laundry.)

Another thought: Why not take your doctor up on his idea and go with him to the senior center to

no issue with me, but having me in his life isn't good for him because of how things ended between us.

Abby, as much as everyone tells me what happened wasn't fair to begin with, I still miss him badly. It feels stupid feeling this way over someone who clearly wants nothing to do with me. Do I keep hoping? Do I try reaching out here and there (which is hard when I'm blocked, but I know his friend group and could get in touch IF you say I should)? Or is this just one of those painful losses one must accept -- that some people aren't meant to stay forever? -- FRIEND WHO STILL CARES TOO MUCH

DEAR FRIEND: I understand that you are grieving the loss of this friendship, but for your sake, quit hoping you can revive it.

What you are hoping for isn't likely to happen. This former friend has made it clear that he wants nothing more to do with you. Do not intrude upon his friend group, trying to maneuver back in, because it will not end well. As you opined in your letter, not all friendships last forever, and this appears to be one of them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES  
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

- Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠KQ5♥KJ4♦72♣AJ1095  
As dealer, what call would you make?  
A - Many of today's experts will add a point to this hand for the nice 5-card suit and open 1NT. It's not a bad idea.
- Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠A105♥A954♦8♣KQJ86  
Right-hand opponent opens 1D. What call would you make?  
A - If you double, this hand is not strong enough to bid clubs later. Better to bid 2C and double next time if they persist in diamonds.
- Q 3 - Fast-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠AK♥Q43♦9754♣AKQ9  
As dealer, what call would you make?  
A - When choosing which minor suit to open, we always open 1D with 4-4 in the minors. This hand is no exception. Open 1D.
- Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠A8♥KQ1054♦5432♣AQ
- Right-hand opponent opens 2S. What call would you make?  
A - To make a vulnerable overcall at the three level, we would prefer a stronger hand or a longer suit, but this hand is good enough. Bid 3H.
- Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠A9♥AKQ84♦74♣K973  
As dealer, would you open 1H or 1NT?  
A - With the same suit and 5-3-3-2 distribution, we would open 1NT. This hand should open 1H.
- Q 6 - Fast-West vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠10♥K863♦KQJ85♣QJ8  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass  
2♥ Pass 2NT Pass  
? What call would you make?  
A - Partner's bid is invitational, showing a balanced hand with only four hearts. Bid 3H, declining the invitation but promising 4-card support.
- (Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent to Tribune Content Agency, LLC, 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- Foot treatment, for short
  - Hunk of bacon
  - Top of the head
  - Corn holder
  - "... is short!"
  - Become narrower
  - Naked
  - Land area measurement
  - Essential \_\_\_ acids
  - Halloween question: 3 wds.
  - Pen liquid
  - Bobby of hockey
  - Citified
  - Amazes
  - Smartphone programs
  - The Eagles, on scoreboards
  - Engraves
  - \_\_\_ and pepper
  - Brooch
  - Ends one's career
  - "... what I mean?"
  - Wraps up
  - Make fun of
  - Spigot
  - Valentine's Day flower
  - Not occupied
  - Eggs on
  - \_\_\_ Simbel, Egypt
  - Enjoyable
  - Big Bird's show: 2 wds.
  - Financial review
  - Sailor's greeting
  - "My mistake!"
  - Very easy task
  - Ice-cream holder
  - Run away
  - Amount being wagered
  - Legal successor
  - \_\_\_ as a pancake

- Created by Stella Zawistowski 10/30/25
- Not taut
  - Kiss from a dog
  - Jimi Hendrix's hairstyle
  - Budweiser, e.g.
  - Ringo of the Beatles
  - Video recording devices
  - Capital of Samoa
  - Loaned
  - Paid player
  - \_\_\_ peace (serenity)
  - Gently threw
  - Bunk-bed option
  - Creature with horns
  - Predicaments
  - Was in a movie
  - Spin rapidly
  - Spine-tingling
  - Italian menu category
  - Earnestly beg
  - Staircase parts
  - Monotony
  - Smooth transition
  - Feeling ill aboard a boat

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

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- Event that's not repeated
- Wash yourself
- Donut-making machine
- Befit
- Dame \_\_\_
- Average
- Apiece
- Sneaker or loafer
- Actress Collette
- 58 Bridge fee
- Cooling appliances: Abbr.
- Sphere in a pod
- Game, \_\_, match

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

**CITY COUNCIL**

Continued from page 1

in its bid package. The city will know the cost when the bids are received and have a chance to decide if they want to go forward with GDOT's contractor.

"This is an agreement to allow GDOT to include (the city's work) in the package," Kight said.

Powell confirmed that they will move forward with the plan if the bidding is within the \$69,000 range. Councilman Chris Smith asked about an estimated start date. Powell said GDOT will bid out the work later this year.

When work begins, the city will let people know about road closures and dis-

ruption of traffic.

"That is probably a year out from now," Kight said.

The council followed this by approving a contract with JSI for Telecom regulatory compliance with JSI. The city began providing telephone service in connection with its internet service.

"That world is heavily regulated at the federal level," Powell said. "There are a lot of special requirements we have to adhere to. Robert Jefferson (telecom director for the city of Dublin) has recommended that we enter into an agreement with this firm who has expertise in the area."

The cost will be \$1,200 a month, with a one-time onboarding fee of \$1,000. This cost will be for the first 12

months.

"It will also be educational for staff to learn what needs to be done and make sure we can maintain in compliance," Powell said. "As we look into future fiscal years, we may adjust this agreement with them to be on an as-needed basis."

When asked by Councilman Paul Griggs about who is receiving telephone service from the city, Powell informed them that they have seven or eight commercial locations. Councilman Bennie Jones wanted to know if the city plans to offer its telephone service to residents, and Powell said they have discussed it. Jones encouraged them to do it.

"I think this (service) would pay for itself and

then some," Jones said. "Why not get into it? This is a game changer."

In other meeting news, the council:

- Approved a well drilling for irrigation pond at Riverview Golf Course. Powell said they had been filling a pond near hole No. 10 with a hose from a fire hydrant. Sam Martin Well Drilling, Inc., put in a \$16,250 bid. He said this will be paid for out of the golf course fund.

- Approved the purchase of a 2026 police Interceptor after a 2022 Ford Explorer was totaled when a deer hit it. The city received an insurance payment of \$23,375. They will receive the new vehicle from Hardy Chevrolet.

- Approved purchase of

fire hydrant replacement at Brookwood and Shamrock after a vehicle accident. A quote to replace it was provided by TES.

- Approved an infrastructure street drainage project. A vehicle parked in the right-of-way on North Decatur Street near Gaines Street on a concrete slab fell into a sinkhole caused by a deteriorated corrugated metal pipe. A quote was secured from TES to replace 160 feet of pipe with ADS HP storm pipe between two existing catch basins.

"Thankfully nobody was injured and the vehicle was able to drive away," Powell said.

The cost of the purchase is \$59,722.

- Heard budget presen-

tations from Glenda Berry from the Downtown Dublin Authority, Miriam Lewis from Visit Dublin GA and Sonya May Calvin of Dublin-Laurens Land Bank Authority.

- Tabled a discussion to amend the permit fees and other associated fees for certain residential construction projects.

"The purpose of tabling this is so that staff can continue to look at various options to reducing the building permit fees," Kight said.

- Powell announced that the next city council meeting will be at 9 a.m. on May 5.

"We will have a budget workshop with full council," he said. "That usually takes most of the day."



A member of the Growing Young Men dons his jacket/PAYTON TOWNS III

**EL STUDENTS**

Continued from page 1

Dudley, Betta Focus Photography, Chick-fil-A, Delta Kappa Gamma, Dublin Chevrolet-GMC-Nissan, Georgia Power, Kid's Cup, Exchange Club of Dublin, Morris Bank, Pitts Toyota, Robins Financial Credit Union, Trucker Catering Services

and Unique Kreations Event Planner, LLC., for being sponsors for the GYM and QUTE.

"It's good to partner with these sponsors," Smith said. "Everyone here today has been with us. Every time I've called on these sponsors have helped out and not shy away."

**SECOND CHANCES**

Continued from page 1

chance if they connect to the right source."

That source is God.

"If we connect to him, we'll have everything we need," Howard said.

Dublin Mayor Pro Tem Bennie Jones was on hand to say a few words of encouragement.

"I do believe that God is a God of second chances and a God of forgiveness," Jones said. "I do believe in prayer. Today, you are getting the physical exercise of walking and with prayer you are being spiritually nurtured."

Jones was willing to leave his contact information for participants to reach out to him if they needed a resource.

"We can point you in the right direction," Jones said. "Stay prayed up. God is a God who will provide."

The toughest challenge while Johnson was in prison was missing time with her son. He went to proms, graduated and was married during that time.

"I missed a whole lot of things," Johnson said. "I had a fear of losing a family member. I had support from the family but I did not have the support of the church."

According to Johnson, one out of three Americans have a criminal record. Just because they have a record, does not mean they served time in prison.

"They could have been in for a DUI," Johnson said. "The recidivism rate in Georgia is very high. I was talking to a Department of Corrections worker the other day and they told me that we have the highest number of people who are on probation and parole."

She brought up the fact that background checks are done for those wanting an apartment.

"We then have a lot of homeless people because they won't give us another chance," Johnson said.

People can help by giving convicted felons a job, a chance to have a place to live. They can help The

Compassionate Advocate by providing assistance and donations of items.

"We will help them find jobs, even if it is at a restaurant," Johnson said. "That's what we do. We've been forgiven and people are still bringing up something they did 20 years ago. We want to reduce the stigma as much as we can. We want to let them know they matter and that they do have support."

To help The Compassionate Advocate, call (478) 349-3269.

"I'm excited about this," Howard said.

"When you can see a need and service a need, I want to be able to connect to something like that. If you went through prison (like Johnson), you can come back and share your story with others. All of us have made mistakes. When someone has fallen, it's our job to pick them up. That's what the kingdom of heaven is about. We're about helping one another."

**SCHOOL BOARD**

Continued from page 1

board:

- Approved new furniture for Southwest Laurens Elementary School.

"Clifford Garnto (former LCBOE superintendent) began this a few years ago," Hall said. "Each year, there is a new school in rotation to have furniture replaced. That allows us to keep from getting backlogged and our teachers and students are learning in environments that are safe. Each year a school is in rotation until we get it all replaced. It had been so long since furniture had been replaced, and we were kind of piecemealing it, so we decided to start putting everybody on a cycle until we ran everybody through one time."

- Approved the revised board policy for public participation in board meetings.

- Congratulated custodians Mark Denson, William Coleman, Jackey Lewis and Lynn Cutler at East Laurens Elementary School for winning the Clean School Award.

- Heard the first reading of revised board policy for internet acceptable use. This will be voted on during the May 8 meeting.

- Approved the retirement of Randy Gay, CTAE director at Laurens County Schools.

- Approved the resignation of Bill Carman, teacher at ELHS, and Leslie Watson Sowell, teacher at SWLE.

- Approved the transfers of Josh Back, from teacher at ELMS to WLMS,

and Jessica Bracewell, teacher from ELE to SWLE.

- Approved the change of duties for Robyn Meeks, from counselor at NWLE to LCSS as mental health counselor; Laura Sanders, from teacher at NWLE to assistant principal at NWLE; Leidy White, from teacher at ELHS to instructional coach at ELHS.

- Approved the following new hires: Jackie Anderson, teacher at ELE; Broughton Bellamy, teacher at WLMS; Theresa Booker, teacher at ELMS; Harley Chalker, teacher at ELMS; Melissa Churchwell, teacher at ELMS; Nurka Holmes, teacher at ELMS; Brit-tany Hood, teacher at ELMS; Daryl O'Neal, teacher at ELMS; Chastity O'Neal-Willis, teacher at ELMS; Jon Eric Senn, teacher at ELMS.

**NEWS DIGEST**

THE DUBLIN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION will hold a called meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the board office. The agenda:

- Call to order
- Invocation/pledge to flag
- Approval of agenda
- Public comments
- Superintendent comments/announcements
- General session
- Approval of the Touchdown Club Raffle
- Recommendations from the state regarding financial improvements
- (1) Moore Street School
- (2) Irish Gifted Academy
- Board Member Comments
- Executive Session
- Discussion of Personnel
- Discussion of Real Estate
- Discussion of Litigation
- Return to Regular Session
- Approval of Personnel
- Adjournment



**Jeremi Hightower, PA-C**

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**Madeleine Price, PA-C**



# KIDS' CORNER

Vol. 008 | A fun page for kids from The Courier Herald



## Class of the week: Mrs. Kaitlin Tyson's class at East Laurens Primary



Herald the Hound was back on the Eastside last week with a visit to Mrs. Kaitlin Tyson's class at East Laurens Primary School. After hearing the story "We Found A Hat," the tale of two turtles deciding what to do when they find a single piece of headwear, the students showed off their own reading skills with an edition of The Courier Herald. Once again the kids made short work of the games and puzzles featured on the Kids' Page and even had time to work on Herald's coloring challenge. See below for this week's featured artwork.



### HERALD'S ART GALLERY

## Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

### CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

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

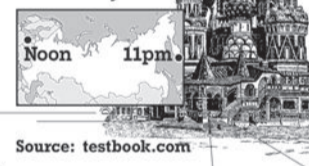
X I B U E P Z P V D B M M B

D P X F B U J O H H S B T T ?

B M B X O N P P F S.

## Fun Fact

The country of Russia is so vast that the time difference between its westernmost and easternmost points is about 11 hours. For example, when it is noon in Kaliningrad, the westernmost part of Russia, it is 11pm in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the easternmost city.



Source: testbook.com



THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM: 9-year-old Waylon was the first to submit his coloring of Herald the Hound, so he is this week's featured artist. Keep the pictures coming and you may see them in future editions!

## MINI SUDOKU

	1			
3				5
			2	
	2			6
		3		
6				1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

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## ANSWER KEYS

MINI SUDOKU ANSWERS	2	1	5	6	3	4
	3	4	6	1	5	2
	6	5	1	4	2	3
	4	3	2	5	1	6
	1	2	4	3	6	5
	5	6	3	2	4	1

**Puzzles4Kids**  
Answer  
What do you call a cow eating grass?  
A lawn mower.

## TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Teachers, do you want us to visit your classroom next? Students, do you have artwork, poems or stories you want to submit for possible publication? Email us at [read@courierheraldtoday.com](mailto:read@courierheraldtoday.com).



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Joe Wos