

DUBLIN FARMERS MARKET
 EVERY SATURDAY, APR 4 TO OCT 11
 7:30 AM TO 12:30 PM
 MARKET ON MADISON
 314 West Madison Street
 Dublin, GA 31021

Presented by **FAVORITE PARK**

Grease is the Word! Cast of Grease will perform some hit songs from the show at 10 am!

VENDORS FOR SATURDAY
 July 11, 2026 (7:30 AM to 12:30 PM)

- Sweet Rubys** cheesestraws
- Phillips Farm** produce
- Jos'Pee Berry Farm** blueberries, chicken salad
- Backyard Shed** breads, jellies, and cakes
- Beth Wood Natural Guru** essential oils
- Eden Organics** produce
- Shemeka Smith** hair & body care, juices
- Off the Farm Produce** produce
- Boyd's Knives** handmade knives
- Jewelry by Keen** handmade jewelry
- All-N-Style** Jamaican food
- Taino Farms GA** soaps & candles
- Donna Todd "The Flower Lady"** plants and flowers
- Stitchinatchie Creek Farms** produce
- Twisted Sister Bread Co.** baked goods & lemonade
- Colbey Asbell** baked goods & lemonade
- The Blossom Barn** baked goods
- Jordan Farms** produce
- Kaleigh Jordan** fresh produce
- Hot Rod's Ohoopie Grilling Sauce** BBQ sauce
- The Mustard Seed Farm** baked goods
- Grain & Goat Co.** cutting boards & crosses
- Farmhouse Bread Co.** baked goods
- MC Sweets** cake pops
- Peachtree Oven** baked goods
- Infused & Rooted** infused olive oils
- From Andrews Oven** baked goods
- Cathaleen Traylor** farm fresh eggs
- Frost Bites** freeze dried candy & veggies
- Pearson Farms** peaches
- Minter Hill Homestead** baked goods
- O'neal Honey Farm** local raw honey
- Kelly Pop** kettle popcorn
- Grandpa Jerry's Cookies** cookies
- Charles Moore** mushrooms
- Beasley Farms** produce
- Willhouse Creations** baked goods
- Crumbs of Joy** baked goods
- Moss & Bloom** sea moss & teas
- Simply Magnolia** candles

We are an authorized SNAP/EBT market.

Dublin school board responds to audit with plans to tighten controls on finances

By **RODNEY MANLEY**
Staff Reporter

The Dublin City Board of Education approved a corrective action plan last week to address findings in its 2023 audit to include tighter controls on finances, personnel records and credit card usage.

Lax financial controls landed the district in a cash-flow crisis last fall, when state officials described the system as teetering near insolvency and facing a projected \$13.4 million deficit.

The district owed almost \$6 million in unpaid contributions to the State Health Benefit Plan – including almost \$800,000 withheld from employees paychecks – and had not completed an audit since 2021.

The school system survived the school and fiscal years through a combination of spending and job cuts, monthly advances on state funding and a later-than-normal influx of local property tax revenue. The school board missed the July 1 deadline to ap-

prove its budget for FY 2027, instead passing a spending resolution for the month until it can finalize a full budget.

Both the 2022 and 2023 audits, once completed, showed the district ending the years with surpluses of up to \$3.3 million, but the latter audit showed school officials already on a course of overspending and deficient financial controls that eventually put them in crisis.

Audits for 2024 and 2025 are in progress, but a

special state examination earlier this year confirmed the root causes of the crisis – overhiring and overpaying employees, wasteful spending and lax oversight – while also identifying specific concerns ranging from late tax payments to the IRS, "abnormally" high credit card spending and unwarranted travel and expenditures. The special audit also pointed to instances of family members traveling on out-of-town leadership retreats at the system's expense and undocumented

payments to a local florist. The special report also cited the system for poor budgeting processes that led to "significant variances and the presentation of inaccurate financial projections to the Board of Education."

New finance director Teresa Seeley Louder detailed the corrective action plan at Wednesday night's called meeting. Here are some of the changes:

DUBLIN SCHOOLS
Continued on page 8

DDA makes staff changes, will add new position

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

Staffing changes are happening for the Downtown Development Authority.

As of July 1, Glenda Berry, who has been the DDA executive director, became the Theatre Dublin director, while Nichole Padgett, who had been serving as the DDA operations manager, took the MainStreet director's role.

DDA Chairman Rob Miller explained the situation at the beginning of a recent DDA meeting, saying that the authority's governing board discussed roles and positions with Dublin Mayor Joshua Kight. Their goals were to make the organization stronger and have a four-headed approach when it came to the DDA.

"We are very fortunate that Glenda is very talented on the theater side and we are grateful for all she

did (as DDA executive director)," Miller said. "Now we're going to allow her to step in and be nothing but the Theatre Dublin director. She will do all things theater, and she will be the theater contact for any play or show. Anything like that will go through her."

Berry has started a season ticket package for Theatre Dublin beginning with "Grease" (July 16-19) and continuing with "Elf Jr." (Nov. 19-21), "Greater Tuna" (Jan. 28-30, 2027), "Steel Magnolias" (Feb. 19-21) and "Hairspray" (July 22-24).

"I see nothing but positive [things] coming from her and that theater," Miller said. "Her new job title will allow her time to work her schedule like she wants to because of the nature of the business."

Berry will be in charge of renting the theater, the concession stand and mainte-



New Downtown Development Authority-Main Street Director Nichole Padgett discusses downtown during a recent DDA meeting. Glenda Berry (right) has been named Theatre Dublin director/PAYTON TOWNS III

nance of the building.

"Thank you for trusting me and for giving me a chance to share my passion for the arts," she said. "I hope it will have a positive impact. I love working with Nichole and I'm so excited about the things that are go-

ing to happen for the DDA and downtown Dublin.

"We are trying to give people something to do," Berry added. "Things look really positive for the theater. At this point, we have had more than 13,000 people who have seen a Dublin

Community Theatre production in less than three years. That is pretty amazing. We know that number is going to keep growing."

Berry announced a Rock

DDA CHANGES
Continued on page 8

Locals prepare for annual Bible reading event

By **PAYTON TOWNS III**
Senior Reporter

Local Christians are encouraged to take part in Project 7-14 as other believers all over Georgia, the United States and the world prepare to participate in annual Bible reading event.

The local Project 7-14 will be held in front of the Laurens County Courthouse with people gathering around 7 a.m. and the program beginning at 7:14 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14.

"We are looking forward to this," said local pastor the Rev. Curt Lysaker, adding this is the eighth year the event has been held in Laurens County. "I would encourage anybody to come, whether they read or not. We just want people to come participate."

Anyone interested in reading can contact Debra Higgs at (478) 697-1370.



Participants break out their Bibles at last year's event/PAYTON TOWNS III

The local event is in charge of reading Isaiah chapters 11 through 19. Lysaker is hoping to have a big crowd at the reading, adding that approximately 500 people attend the

Bleckley County event.

"It does not matter what denomination they are from, they are welcomed to join us," he said. "This is not for just those in the Baptist faith.

Any Christian is welcome to come. Any pastor or worship leaders are welcomed to come too. We

BIBLE READING
Continued on page 8

Bleckley County deputy arrested in Dublin in domestic case

By **CAROLINE WEATHERSBY**
GTLN

A Bleckley County sheriff's deputy has been arrested and charged with battery and three counts of cruelty to children following a domestic violence incident.

Deputy James Austin, who served in the Uniform Patrol Division of the Bleckley County Sheriff's Office, was arrested at his residence in Dublin on July 2.

According to a police report, during an altercation with his wife, Austin became aggressive, causing her bodily injury, as well as property damage. He also reportedly threatened her and used "abusive language."

Austin was charged with one count of battery.

DEPUTY ARREST
Continued on page 8

INDEX

- OBITUARIES 2-3
- PIECES OF OUR PAST.....3
- DID YOU KNOW?.....3
- EDITORIAL.....4
- TELL IT!.....4
- SPORTS.....5
- COMICS.....6
- POLICE BEAT.....7

1 section, 8 pages • Vol. 112, No. 76, Pub. No. 161860

OFTC alum honored with new scholarship

By **RODNEY MANLEY**
Staff Reporter

At a recent ceremony to award new scholarships in his honor, Doug Brownlee was remembered as a "gentle soul," as well as one of the "most skilled and professional electronics techni-

cians" around.

Six electronic technology students at Oconee Fall Line Technical College were the first recipients of the Charles Douglas (Doug) Brownlee Memorial Scholarship. Brownlee, an OFTC alum, was killed in 2024 in a Hurricane Helene-relat-

ed accident, and several of his friends established the scholarship as way to remember him.

"I was so glad they wanted to do that for Doug," said his wife, Keela.

Bill Beckham and brothers Richy and Bobby Everly spearheaded the effort

to create the scholarship. Beckham approached Kathy Aaron, executive director of the Oconee Fall Like Technical College Foundation, with the idea. He recalled becoming "like brothers"

OFTC SCHOLARSHIP
Continued on page 8



7 36211 57521 0

OBITUARIES



Teneisha "Neicy" Simone Walker

Funeral services for Ms. Teneisha "Neicy" Simone Walker, of Dublin, Georgia, were held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the C.D. Dudley Memorial Chapel in the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street in Dublin.

Ms. Walker was born on Sunday, Jan. 21, 1973. She attended Dublin City Schools and did cosmetology work for many years. She departed this life on Monday, June 29, 2025. She was preceded in death by her mother, Marie Newsome; father, Charles Jones; grandmother, Dorothy Stevens; grandfather, Booker T. Newsome; and uncle, Lonnie Charles Newsome.

Ms. Walker leaves to cherish her memories, three daughters, Briahnda Walker, Tranorris Walker and Taprecoose Walker all of Dublin; two sisters, Wanda (Chief) Marion, Sandra (Donald) Pittman all of Dublin; aunt, Renee Newsome; uncle, Antonio (Katrina) Green all of Dublin; grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

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

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

Vivian Bernice Walden

Celebration of life services for Ms. Vivian Bernice Walden will be held Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 11 a.m.. Location: Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. Carl Anthony Wardlaw will serve as eulogist. Interment will follow at Dudley Memorial Cemetery.

Vivian Bernice Walden was born to the parentage of the late Lula Mae Walden Ray and the late Joseph Plummer Sr. on April 17, 1959. She was raised by her stepfather, the late Prentice Ray. She attended Dublin City School and Job Corps.

Sis. Walden was a faithful member of Green Grove Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Carl Anthony Wardlaw. She loved her church and her pastor. Her hobbies included getting her nails done, shopping at Goodwill, going to yard sales and sitting on her front porch.

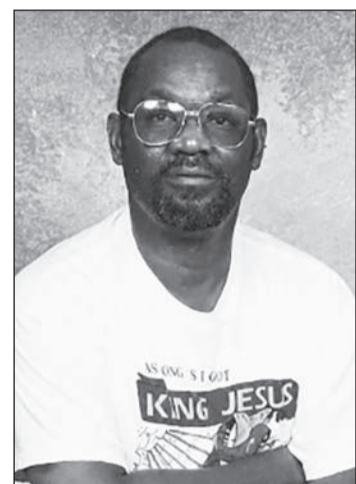
On the morning of Monday, June 29, 2026, God called her home after a brief illness.

Bernice leaves to cherish her memories two sons, Terrance Le'Ron of Dublin, Georgia and Torrance Rashad of Macon, Georgia; two grandchildren, Sahara Nelson of Warner Robins, Georgia and Messiah Nelson of Perry, Georgia; sisters, Chynell (Rev. Donald) Way of Dublin, Georgia, Barbara (Ricky) Ellington, Tara (Charlee) Robinson, and Julia Hazely, all of East Dublin, Georgia; brothers, Joseph Plummer, Darrell (Amy) Plummer, Jimmy (Debbie)

Plummer, and Barry (Ketta) Plummer, all of East Dublin, Georgia; a devoted friend, Wallace Stephens, of Dublin, Georgia; a devoted God daughter, Daisy Bouyer, of Dublin, Georgia; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Public viewing will be held Friday, July 10, 2026, from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Serenity Funeral Home - Dublin has charge of arrangements.



Ralph Green Price

Funeral services for Mr. Ralph Green Price, of Wrightsville, Georgia, will be held on Sunday, July 12, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the Zion Hope Baptist Church, 4507 Watermelon Road, Tennessee. Rev. Grady Bell will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Price Family Cemetery, 195 Cypress Grove Church Road in Wrightsville.

With heavy hearts, yet comforted by God's promises, we celebrate the life of Deacon Ralph Green Price, who was embraced by his Heavenly Father and peacefully called home on July 2, 2026.

Mr. Ralph Green Price was born on Dec. 29, 1949, in Macon, Georgia, to the late Mr. James Price and Mrs. Evelyn Green Price.

Mr. Ralph Green Price attended Dock Kemp School in Wrightsville, Georgia, where he received his education. He dedicated more than 50 years of his life to the construction industry, earning a reputation as a hardworking, dependable and skilled craftsman. He retired from Graham Construction in the late 1980s, but his passion for his trade led him to continue working as a self-employed landscaper for many years. He remained committed to serving others through his work until declining health in recent years made it necessary for him to step away from the profession he loved.

More than 30 years ago, Ralph accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and united with Community Church of Jesus #2 of the Apostolic Faith, where he faithfully worshiped and served the Lord. He later became a devoted and active member of Zion Hope Baptist Church, where he continued to grow spiritually and faithfully fellowship with his church family. His faith in God remained steadfast throughout his life, and he trusted the Lord through every season, always believing that God would see him through.

Ralph was a loving husband, devoted father, proud grandfather, faithful friend, and a man whose kindness touched everyone he met. He was known for his gentle spirit, playful personality, wonderful sense of humor, and his ability to make others smile. He loved to joke, laugh and bring joy to everyone around him.

Ralph will be remembered for his unwavering faith, his compassionate heart, his willingness to help

others and the unconditional love he showed to his family. His legacy of faith, strength, love, laughter, and perseverance will forever live in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories: his loving and devoted wife, Mary Price (Rene); his loving, devoted, and caring children who took great care of him: Mishann Price, Timmy Price, Theresa Price-Gilbert (Anthony Gilbert) and Eric Price (Tracy Price).

Ralph deeply loved and treasured his son-in-law, Anthony Gilbert; his very devoted niece, whom he loved very much, Angelene Jackson-Harris, who faithfully stood by his side and cared for him with unwavering love and devotion; and his devoted sister-in-laws, Brenda McCloud-Brantley, Patricia Williams and his loving brother-in-law Tommy Knight.

His devoted grandchildren are Jasmine Price (Antonio King), Gene Mack Jr., Timar Loyd Jr. (aka T.J.), TyNeisha Loyd (aka Ty), Angel Price, Eric Price Jr., Brittany Price, Jeremiah Price, Joshua Price, Darius Price, and Melieck Price.

His very devoted niece, whom he loved very much, Angelene Jackson-Harris, and his devoted, loving, and caring cousins, Faye Mays, Linda Green, and Cynthia Green-Stanley; siblings who preceded Mr. Ralph Green Price in death: Willie James Price, Ms. Emma Price-Strowbridge, and Ms. Janice Price-Jackson; his extended family, church family, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends whose lives were forever touched by his love and kindness.

Mr. Ralph Price was also blessed with three great-grandchildren, all of whom brought tremendous joy to his life.

Ralph shared a special bond with his loving and caring cousins, Faye Mays, Linda Green, and Cynthia Green-Stanley, whose love and support meant so much to him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. James Price and Mrs. Evelyn Green Price, and his siblings, Willie James Price, Emma Price-Strowbridge, and Janice Price-Jackson.

He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, his church family, and dear friends whose lives were forever touched by his kindness, generosity, laughter and love.

Although our hearts are saddened by his passing, we rejoice in knowing that Ralph has entered into eternal rest and has been reunited with the loved ones who preceded him in death. We find peace in God's promise that one day we will meet again.

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

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

BIRTHDAYS

July 9
Robert Lee Deese

July 10
**Denise Billue
Aliyah Coney
Morgan Pooler**



Eula Bertha LaValle Walters-Tolbert

Funeral services for Mrs. Eula Bertha LaValle Walters-Tolbert, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 11 a.m. in the Dublin High School Auditorium, 1127 Hillcrest Parkway in Dublin. Rev. Horace Austin will preside, and Rev. Ralph Taylor will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in Dublin Memorial Gardens.

Eula Bertha LeValle Walters-Tolbert was born on Saturday, April 9, 1927, in Millen, Georgia, to the late Colonel Livingston and Ella Clark LeValle. She peacefully entered into eternal rest on Sunday, July 5, 2026.

Eula was educated in the Jenkins County School System before pursuing her passion for healthcare, earning her degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Following graduation, she dedicated many years of service to Claxton Memorial Hospital as a surgical nurse. Later in life, she also brought her warm personality to the retail community, working at Dunn's Department Store and The Tog Shop. She also served on the Middle Georgia Mental Health Board.

A woman of profound faith, Eula was a lifelong and devoted member of Howard Chapel United Methodist Church, where her father once served as pastor. She lived her faith through action, serving as the president of the United Methodist Women, teaching Sunday school and holding numerous other church offices over the years. She was passionate about picking up kids to take them to Sunday school. Deeply committed to helping those in need, she also founded the church's soup kitchen, leaving a lasting legacy of charity in her community.

Eula was a beacon of love, kindness and godly devotion, a warmth she extended not only to her family but to everyone she met.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Colonel Livingston and Ella LeValle; her husbands, Wilmer Cecil Walters Sr. and James Tolbert; her brothers, Colonel, John, Isaiah, Ike, Governor, Fred and son; her sisters, Mattie, Fannie, Hedy, Hattie, Daisy, Roberta and Julia; and her beloved son, Joe.

Her beautiful memory will be cherished by her loving children: Barbara (Jess) Kendrick of Plano, Texas, Merita (MacArthur) Evans of East Dublin, Georgia, Kenny Cecil Walters of Dublin, Georgia, Linda (Willie) Graham of Ludowici, Georgia, Valerie Godfrey of Dublin, Georgia, Cynthia Walters of Dublin, Georgia, and Pamela Brown of Dublin, Georgia.

She also leaves behind a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family,

and dear friends who will miss her deeply.

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

The family will receive friends at the Howard Chapel United Methodist Church, 508 South Washington Street, Dublin, on Friday, July 10, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Anne Whiddon Kirkland

Anne Whiddon Kirkland died in Dublin, Ga. July 1, 2026. Anne attended Georgia Southern and the University of Georgia where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi. She went on to Atlanta to become the managing editor of The Medical Journal of Georgia. After her sons were grown, she taught school in Dublin.

Anne was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. James Jeffrey Kirkland, her son Dr. James Jeffrey Kirkland Jr. and a sister, Mary Lowry Atchley.

She is survived by her sons Douglas Randolph Kirkland (Lisa) and John Owen Kirkland (Pam), grandchildren, Kristin Blair Kirkland Rutherford, James Jeffrey Kirkland III, Rachel Kate Kirkland and Elizabeth Lane Kirkland, great-granddaughter Blair and also her sister Harriet Lowry.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at Dublin First Methodist Church. Rev. David Thompson will officiate.

The family will receive friends prior to the service from 10 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. at the church.

Donations can be made to the Dublin First Methodist Church.

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



Robert A. Evans Sr.

Robert A. Evans Sr., 91, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of July 5, 2026. Born in 1934 in Dublin, Georgia, he lived a long and extraordinary life defined by love, service, and quiet excellence — as a devoted husband, a loving and supportive father, an adoring grandfather, and a proud great-grandfather.

Mr. Evans was preceded in death by his beautiful and loving wife, Louise Boyer Evans (Dublin, Ga.). He is survived by his four children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was a caring brother, uncle and friend to many.

Mr. Evans lived a life of honor and distinction. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for over 20 years. He was a hero not only to his family but to all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

A memorial service will be held at Schoedinger Margarum Northeast, 1051 E Johnstown Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230, on July 18, 2026, at 11 a.m.

NEWS DIGEST

THE LAURENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION will hold its regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- Consent agenda: approval of the June 11 second public budget hearing minutes, the June 11 regular board meeting minutes, the June 12 whole board training minutes, June accounts payables, the June financial report and the school nutrition report
- Approval of board norms and protocols
- Approval of spending resolution
- First reading of board policy IHE: promotion and retention
- Audience participation
- Executive session - personnel

- Approval of personnel
- Superintendent and board member comments
- Adjourn

THE CITY OF DUDLEY will hold a city council meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14 at the Dudley Fire Station. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll call
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of previous minutes - June 9
- Approval of bills
- Old business
- New business: discussion/action - citizen emergency notification system
- Citizen comments
- Council comments
- Executive session (if needed)
- Adjournment

Hometown Supply
203 S Jefferson St., Dublin, GA 31021
Appliance Repair
(478) 272-0345

JM Enterprises & More
478-234-6632
Land / Lot Clearing
Tree Removal / Clean Up
Privacy / Farm Fencing
Basement Excavation
Pond Clearing and Restoration Under Brush
Mowing Landscaping
Building Demolition
Driveway Installation
Grading
Road Building
House Pads
Food Plots Excavation / Trenching
Call For Free Estimate
478-234-6632
Owner/Operator: James G. Moss - Sparta, GA.

Consumer Cellular
OVER 50?
UNLIMITED
FOR JUST
\$35/MONTH.
Backed by #1 Network Coverage and Customer Satisfaction.*
Switch & Save Today.
833-446-1847
© 2026 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. For unlimited plans, high-speed data is reduced after 35GB on single-line plans and 50GB of combined usage on multi-line plans for the remainder of your billing cycle. Unlimited data plans only for customers age 50+. 2025 ACSPI Survey of customers rating their own wireless service provider. ACSPI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSPI, visit www.theacspi.org.

The et cetera chronicles - vol. 135

PIONEER SURGEON - Dr. Adrian J. Delaney served as a surgeon and ear, nose and throat doctor at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Dublin after World War II. A Navy surgeon since 1931. Dr. Delaney was chief of the otolaryngology service of the Bethesda Naval Hospital from 1948 to 1954. He was a pioneer in the development of the surgical treatment of otosclerosis and published a number of papers on the subject. Dr. Delaney was a graduate of Columbia University. He earned a degree from Georgetown University's School of Medicine in 1931. Washington Post Nov. 25, 1977, Macon News.

AN AFRICAN AMERICAN HERO - Horace Green was the first and only African American from Laurens County to lose his life in combat in World War. Pvt. Green was buried not very far from his farm. There was no musical instruments, no fancy flowers, just prayers and tears. Macon Telegraph, Nov. 11, 1948.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME - Dublin policemen Bill Holton and Pat Hanvey were out on patrol on a cold January night in 1951. The duo noticed a teenager sleeping in the car of Mrs. W.L. Lake. The boy's name was Jimmy, and he left his home in New York when his parents died and left him an orphan and alone. For eight years he had lived with members of his family. The men in blue fed the boy a hot meal and put him to bed for the first time in two days. With no decent and warm clothes, Jimmy had nowhere else to go. That is until these two good Samaritans came to his rescue.

Jimmy woke up surrounded by other angels who came to comfort him. Mrs. Lake brought him food. Freeman Shepard gave the boy an overdue haircut. Merchants donated new clothes. Bryant Carroll gave him a new pair of

shoes. That day, Jimmy went home with Officer Holton to sleep in a warm bed. The young boy was overcome with emotion. Stating that "Dublin is the most wonderful place that I have ever known," he began to beg his rescuer to adopt him and be the daddy that he so desperately needed. Macon News, Jan. 15, 1953.

TURNING THE TABLES ON AXIS SALLY - Mildred Gillars and Rita Zucca were two American-born women who were sympathetic to the Third Reich in World War II. They were known around the world and especially in prisoner of war camps in Germany as "Axis Sally." These two traitors broadcast anti-American rhetoric, primarily to American prisoners of war. One of those prisoners was S.A. Warren of Dublin, who spent years in a prisoner of war camp. Warren, disabled by injuries during the war, was subpoenaed to Washington, D.C. to testify against the treasonous Gillars, the first woman ever convicted of treason against the United States. Macon News, Jan. 31, 1949.

HOW ABOUT GREENSOX? - When Herschel Lovett's baseball team was ready to hit the field in their inaugural season in 1949, they needed a team name. Lovett, a Brooklyn Dodgers fan, could not use that moniker for Eastman had taken it first in 1948. So, Lovett used his newspaper, the Courier Herald, to advertise a contest to name the newest entry in the Georgia State League. Wade Kittrell, a Dublin High student, suggested "Greensox" and the rest is history. Macon News, Feb. 11, 1949.

WORLD CIRCLING PILOT - On Feb. 15, 1949, George Truman flew into the Dublin Airport to visit his friend, airport manager "Bud" Barron.

He flew in a 100-horsepower Cub, a fairly famous

PIECES OF OUR PAST



By **SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.**

plane. In August 1947, Truman and his buddy flew their Piper Super Cruisers all the way around the world. Truman was the first pilot in history to fly non-stop from Toronto, Canada to Miami, Florida. Macon News, Feb. 14, 1949.

NOW SHOWING AT THE MARTIN - Southeastern theatre magnate Roy Martin owned dozens of theatres around the southeast. Most of them were named for their locations. Martin was killed in a plane crash in February 1948. His heirs changed all of their "A" theaters to honor their father by naming them "Martin Theaters." Macon Telegraph, Feb. 24, 1949

FM RADIO! - Most people think that FM came to this area in the late 1960s. Actually, it began in the winter of 1949. WNEX, based in Macon, was the parent station with six other stations, including Dublin, as the Georgia Broadcasting System. Macon Telegraph, Feb. 16, 1949.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Did a classic Christmas television special have its ending changed?

By **JACK BAGLEY**
GTLN

Now that I have your attention, may I let you know that the second book from these columns is now available?

Now ... You Know! is the follow-up volume to my first trivia book, released in 2022. It's available from Amazon.com and I hope you'll go on line and check it out.

I'd be honored if you would add my silly book to your collection. It was a lot of fun to compile, and I think you'll enjoy it.

Let's get on to this week's trivia!

Did you know ...

... the tongue of a blue whale weighs as much as an elephant? The tongue of the largest mammal on Earth can weigh up to 8,000 pounds - and so can the largest elephant. (Put that in your trunk and smoke it.)

... the second-oldest restaurant in the world is in Spain? Restaurante Sobrino de Botín opened in Madrid in 1725. It was founded

by a Frenchman, Jean Botín (1680-1740), in a building which was constructed in 1590. The name of the restaurant means "Botín's Nephew," so called after a nephew of Botín took over the business in 1740. Legend says that the fire in the restaurant's oven has never been extinguished. Additional trivia note: While the Guinness Book of World Records lists Sobrino de Botín as the world's oldest restaurant, other sources say that title is held by the Historische Würstküche of Regensburg, Germany, which has been selling sausages without interruption since 1135. (To be in business that long, the food has to be good!)

... the inventor of the Frisbee™ was turned into one after his death? Ed Headrick (1924-2002) invented the toy flying disc, which he called the Frisbee, for the Wham-O company in 1948 at the start of the flying saucer craze. Following his death, Headrick's ashes were incorporated into a

limited number of Frisbees, at his request. Most of the discs were given to family and friends, with a few put up for sale to benefit the "Steady Ed" Memorial Disc Golf Museum. (So many good lines here ...)

... an opera house straddles the U.S.-Canada border? The Haskell Free Library and Opera House, built in 1904, is located in Derby Line, Vermont - at least, part of it is. The stage portion is located in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, while most of the audience sits in Vermont. There's no entrance or exit on the Canadian side except for one emergency exit, and Canadian patrons are allowed to enter the building on the U.S. side without going through Customs provided they go back to Canada immediately after the program in the theatre is over. The border is marked by a thick black line under the seats in the audience and into a nearby reading room. (Wonder if the operas are performed in French?)

... a classic Christmas television special had its ending changed after its first airing? In 1964, the now-iconic Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer premiered on NBC. The story, about the reindeer and the Misfit Toys, became one of the best-loved parts of the holiday season, but in its first airing it ended on a rather dismal note - the end credits rolled over the delivery of packages (with the show's credits on them)

from the sleigh, but the Misfit Toys were just left behind, despite Rudolph's promise to tell Santa about them. Hundreds of viewers (mostly children) wrote the network in protest, and before the special was shown again in 1965, the production company Rankin-Bass filmed and added a scene where Santa visits the Island of Misfit Toys and rescues them. Additional trivia note: The revised ending meant the credits had to be redone, and in the process the voice actor for Rudolph, Billie Richards (1921-2010), had her name misspelled. She was credited as "Billy" in the revised credits, which to this day have not been fixed. (She didn't get top billie-ing, either.)

... several classic horror movies have their basis in a real-life crime? Movies like Psycho in 1960, The Texas Chain Saw Massacre in 1974, and The Silence of the Lambs in 1991 are based in part on the real-life crimes of a man named Ed Gein (1906-1984). Gein was a serial killer and body snatcher known as the Butcher of Plainfield, Wisconsin. Ironically, the movie made about him, Monster: The Ed Gein Story, was a flop, while the fictional horror movies made millions. (Sometimes fiction is stranger than truth.)

... a despised dictator was also a decorated war veteran? Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) served in the German Army during World War I. He received the Iron Cross

Second Class in 1914 and in 1918 received the country's then-second-highest military decoration, the Iron Cross First Class. Additionally, he received the Black Wound Badge in 1918. As was the custom in Germany at the time, Hitler continued to wear his Iron Cross and Wound Badge on his civilian clothing and, later, on his Nazi uniforms.

... Carnegie Hall was built out of a sense of guilt? The famous performing venue in New York was constructed by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) because he felt responsible for the 1889 Johnstown Flood in Pennsylvania. Carnegie had been one of a select group of industrialists to purchase Lake Conemaugh on the South Fork River and convert it into a fishing and hunting club. The lake had been formed by an earthen dam on the river, which had been built between 1838 and 1853. The dam gave way after heavy rains on May 31, 1889, and the resulting flooding killed more than 2,200 people. Guilt caused Carnegie to build the musical hall in New York as a tribute.

... your nostrils register smells differently? In most people, the right nostril catches odors and aromas which are more pleasant. However, accurate smells are made more by the left nostril. (That's why it's important to blow your nose.)

Now ... you know!

BIBLE TRIVIA

By **WILSON CASEY**
King Features

1. Is the book of Nehemiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Nehemiah 10, what was the most common starting letter of the 87 names listing priests, Levites, chiefs and fathers? C, B, T, H
3. In Matthew 10:34, who said, "I came not to send peace, but a sword"? Herod's guard, Judas, Roman centurion, Jesus
4. Which prophet foretold about the ministry of John the Baptist? Levi, Isaiah, Aaron, Mordecai
5. What was unique about Balaam's donkey? Fast galloper, Could speak, Turned to stone, 6-legged
6. From 1 Chronicles 20, Elhanan slew Goliath's ...? Father, Brother, Mule, Oxen

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 'H, 3) Jesus, 4) Isaiah, 5) Could speak, 6) Brother



OBITUARIES



Corbitt Eugene White II

Celebration of life services for Mr. Corbitt Eugene White II, of Dublin, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Byrd Hill Baptist Church, 2430 Old Hawkinsville Road in Dudley. Reverend Warren Harris Sr., will deliver the eulogy.

Corbitt Eugene White II, the son of the late Corbitt White Sr. and Carrie Holder White, was born on Monday, Aug. 9, 1943, in Laurens County, Georgia. Gene was united in holy matrimony to Mildred Ann White for 21 years. He was a deacon at Byrd Hill Baptist Church in Dudley, Georgia, and served his fellow congregants as he felt the Lord called him. He retired from Dodge County Correctional Institute and enjoyed working at Lau-

rens County Recycling to keep himself active. Along with his retirement, he was a proud Vietnam veteran. He served his country, family, friends and community well. Gene was called home on Sunday, July 5, 2026, at Fairview Park Hospital after a battle with cancer.

Corbitt Eugene White II, was preceded in death by his parents, Corbitt and Carrie White, six brothers and by one sister.

He leaves to cherish his memories his wife, Mildred Ann White, children, Corbitt Eugene White III (wife) Cilicia Ann White, Yolanda Jackson (husband) Earnest Jackson, Clarissa Sirva Davis, Dr. Michelle Cooper and Tammy Goodwin, devoted grandchildren, Corbitt Eugene White IV, Corrine Elizabeth White, Kimual Little Bear Israel, Taqiy Red Eagle Cousins, Dr. Michael Hall, Markita James and Celeste McCoy, his sisters, Ethel Mae Mack of Georgia, Leatha Russell of Ohio and Jerlene Blanton of Ohio, are the bridge to parts of his life many of us were not privy to, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends at the Dudley Funeral Home on Friday, July 10, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesByDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

HOMER

SUITES BY HILTON

www.hilton.com
105 Travel Center Blvd., Dublin, GA 31021
478-205-5464

We need to return to the Spirit of 1976 in 2026

The lead up to our Bicentennial summer was more than a year in the making, with almost everyone participating. My main present for Christmas 1975 was a Tyco train set. "The Spirit of '76" engine was in a beautiful red white and blue scheme.

Mrs. Darden had our first grade class anxiously expecting a huge July 4th party. Stores seemed to be competing on who could have the most bunting in a stars and stripes motif. Patriotism wasn't questioned, and it didn't need to be encouraged. It just was who we were, and we were proud to show it.

Nostalgia has a way of converting past struggles into "the good old days." When this period of history is studied, it was on merit a less than happy chapter.

In the years immediately prior to our Bicentennial, we had our President resign in disgrace. We had just withdrawn from Vietnam in what was the first real loss of an American military campaign. We wouldn't for another decade or more

even begin to recognize and honor those who served appropriately.

We had just suffered our first oil embargo. Inflation was out of control. We discovered that we could import goods much cheaper from overseas and had begun to hollow out our manufacturing base of the Northeast and Midwest. The patriotism was real. So was the anxiety.

We were entertained by sitcoms like "Happy Days." A generation later we skipped forward in time to focus on this period with "That '70's Show."

The plots in both focused on the teenagers. The historical tethers were demonstrated by the concerns of the parents.

Red Forman, to the viewers focused on the kids just wanting to be kids, was the out of touch scold too rooted in the past. To those who remember the concerns of the 1970's, he was a haunting reminder of what was then very much the present.

Every parent worries about the changes happening and how their kids will



GEORGIA POLITICS

By CHARLIE HARPER

adapt and survive in a world they struggle to understand. In Red's world of the 1970's, factories were closing. Jobs were becoming more and more scarce. The skills he and his peers had were not easily transferable to the newer jobs being created - with many being geographically distant. Paychecks were getting smaller as groceries and gas cost more and more.

Despite all of the well-earned stress and angst over the prospects of where America was and what our future as Americans would

be, we celebrated. We were genuinely happy.

What changed? Some of the easy answers start with the problems already mentioned. To be able to buy goods cheaper, we outsourced a lot of our jobs. Economists will tell you we're better off doing this. Trade only happens when both sides are better off. But there are tradeoffs.

It's difficult to move directly from high school into a job that can support a family. We've gutted most technical programs in our public schools and at the

same time gutted standards for the basics. Even our best colleges are now offering remedial classes.

The outsourcing didn't stop there. We collectively outsource almost everything now, but have quit participating and inspecting what we're consuming.

In the '70's, civic participation was still somewhat of an expectation. In the area where I grew up, parents were almost always a member of a Kiwanis, Rotary, or Optimist Club. Church attendance and participation on boards and committees was real. The overwhelming majority of my friends' parents were involved in the PTA. At one point we had five local newspapers in a county of 100,000 people to inform us of the things we didn't have time to attend to in person.

These things, too, we have outsourced. We are worse off for it. We tell ourselves we're just too busy. We often tell ourselves lots of things to justify doing what is easiest.

With our decline in civic involvement has come an

alarming decrease in civic literacy. Too many of us and our peers don't know anything about our local elected officials, what our city, county, and school budgets look like, nor how the funding that comes from local, state, or federal dollars originate nor are spent.

We no longer wear red white and blue, but red or blue. Our civic involvement was outsourced with a white flag of surrender.

There's a movement underway to onshore critical industries. The Covid shutdowns and increased global turmoil have demonstrated the weak links in international supply chains.

That will take some risk out of our economic cycles. It won't fix many of our deeper, more pressing problems.

We need more focus on the very basics of American civics. This means we need to return to personal involvement with our time and efforts, and encourage our friends and neighbors to do the same.

Looking right in at a write-in campaign for Georgia governor

A number of you agreed with my description of the recent Republican gubernatorial runoff between billionaire businessman Rick Jackson and Lt. Gov. Burt Jones as a mudslinging pig fight and told me you were turned off by them both. On top of that, you were overwhelmed at the Democrat's choice of former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who bailed out on a city she couldn't manage after one term. So, what to do?

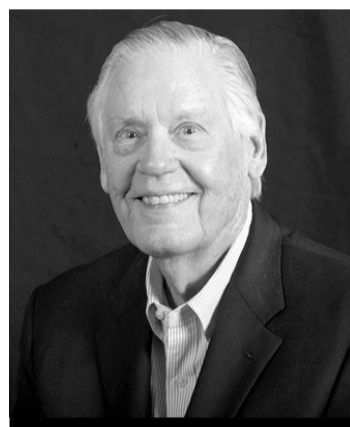
One reader has come up with his idea of a solution. He has proposed me as a write-in candidate. Moi? A candidate for governor?

Were The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name not occupying a prominent seat in God's kingdom and still around to tell me what I could and could not do, we would not be having this conversation. She wasn't keen on politics or those

that practiced that black art with the exception of our late U.S. senator Johnny Isakson. She loved Johnny Isakson.

If I had confessed to her that I had picked up a painted lady in a smoky bar and gambled away our life savings, she would weep softly and sigh deeply. If I told her I was running for public office, she would pick up an iron skillet and crack my skull.

I am concerned about my opponents poking around in my past life, seeking to damage my sterling reputation. I will confess I have not been perfect. I have never picked up a shady lady in a smoky bar and gambled away our life savings, but I did sneak (or maybe the word is, broke) into the book repository in high school and "borrowed" an extra set of textbooks to keep at home so I wouldn't have to lug books back and



By DICK YARBROUGH

forth. It seemed like a good idea at the time. Unfortunately, our principal didn't think so when he found out.

I guess the first thing I would have to do is come up with some reasons for you to vote for me beside the fact that I am the spitting image of a young-looking Brad Pitt before he became an old-looking Brad Pitt.

And like Brad Pitt, but unlike Rick Jackson, my smile doesn't look like a sneer.

Like Jackson and Bottoms and every candidate running for every office everywhere, I promise I will: (inhale) Lower our taxes. Reduce crime. Shrink the size of government. Create jobs. Stand up to powerful special interests groups. Fight bureaucracy. Secure our borders. Take care of our veterans. Improve education and fix Medicare (exhale). I would get rid of Muslim invaders, too, except Republican lieutenant governor candidate Greg Dolezal has beaten me to it. He seems to have made this a top priority, if elected. After they execute their solemn duties of appointing senators to committees and then sitting around listening to them babble for 40 days, lieutenant governors have a lot of free time on their hands to do stuff like

this. If any Muslim invaders are reading this, don't say I didn't warn you. You don't mess with lieutenant governors.

One of my first acts as governor would be to erect a statue of Ray Charles Robinson, of Albany, Ga., on the lawn of the capitol and require all members of the General Assembly to sing "Georgia on my Mind" every day before undertaking the people's business. They might get along a lot better if they did.

I would create legislation for boys who want to play girl sports to be able to do just that. Only they would have to play other boys who want to play girl sports. Seems fair to me and if they don't like it, the boys who want to play girl sports could always play boy sports.

Of course, the major plank in my campaign would be to stop drilling

our Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for toothpaste whitener so you can wear the enamel off your teeth. My budget would include providing every family in Georgia their own box of baking soda which is better for your teeth, anyway. Albert the Alligator tells me that he and his friends in the Okefenokee will gladly eat any legislator who disagrees with this plan.

So, there it is. If you should consider me a write-in candidate, you know where I stand on the issues. Just know that I haven't made up my mind. The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name could always zap me with lightning. Or do they have iron skillet in heaven?

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

TELL IT!



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

The Dublin City Board of Education is still up to no good. How can you hire somebody who has been in a lawsuit and they are still litigating on it? That is the reason we've got to get all of those board members off of the board. *Editor's note: DeMarcos Holland is no longer a defendant in the lawsuit filed in 2024 against Marietta City Schools.*

The Dublin Board of Education hasn't learned anything yet. They're hiring another one who has lawsuits and stuff against them. When are they going to learn that there are people around here locally who could do just as good of job instead of getting somebody out of Marietta?

The school board is the superintendent's boss. The board commands, the superintendent executes. So the superintendent can not get rid of the board.

So Dublin City Schools is operating within budget as long as you ignore the \$6 million they owe the state. Now this Tax Anticipation Note... a loan based on anticipated future tax revenue... if that doesn't sound like the same old voodoo accounting practices I don't know what does.

Dublin Police needs to sit on Village Circle to catch these muscle car drivers spinning wheels and speeding. Find a race track to do this on because Village Circle is a quiet residential area.

There sure are a lot of limb piles in the City Of Dudley.

A lot of you are calling in about the Dublin City School board members, if you don't have kids in the Dublin City School system what business is it of yours? *Editor's note: We can't wait to hear the responses on this one.*

You keep putting in the Tell It! about the Dublin City Board of Education. Let things work out the way things work out. When you keep doing this, the only thing you are doing is stirring up mess. It seems to me that people want to stir up the mess instead of letting the children be children and let things work things out.

The grass in the city of Dudley sure is getting high.

The county tax assessors should get their realtor license. I would gladly pay them a commission if they could sell my house for anywhere near what they have it assessed.

Calling all religions to pray for peace all over the world starting in Dublin

with a massive tent revival in the Fall. We can if we work together. Amen!

To those complaining about property taxes: sell your house and move in to an apartment. It's very easy to do. You want to own property? Then stop whining and pay your taxes on it. Your choice.

TELL IT! GUIDELINES

Have something to say about life in Dublin and Laurens County? We want to hear it. Tell It is a space for community voices: praise, frustration, questions, and everything in between.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Keep it local. Submissions should focus on issues, people, and places in Dublin and Laurens County. We are not the right venue for commentary on national politics or public figures outside our community.

Be civil. Personal attacks, profanity, and hate speech will not be published. Criticism is welcome; name-calling is not.

Stick to the facts. Submissions must not contain false statements of fact about identifiable individuals or organizations. We cannot publish content that is defamatory or exposes the Courier Herald to legal liability.

The Courier Herald reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity, and to decline any submission at its sole discretion. Submission does not guarantee publication.

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

- July 9, 2026 is...
 - Call of the Horizon Day
 - Kebab Day
 - Nunavut Day
 - Collector Car Appreciation Day
 - National Sugar Cookie Day
 - Fashion Day

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"My sunscreen melted off faster than my motivation to go outside."
- Unknown

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'
- Act 16:31

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

COURIERHERALDTODAY.COM

Phone: (478) 272-5522 • Fax: (478) 272-2189
115 S. Jefferson St., Dublin, GA 31021-5146

Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

News: tchnewsreporter@gmail.com
Subscription: courtney@courierheraldtoday.com
Advertising: advertisingtch@gmail.com
Sports: tchsports77@gmail.com
Obituaries: tchobits77@gmail.com

GET IN TOUCH

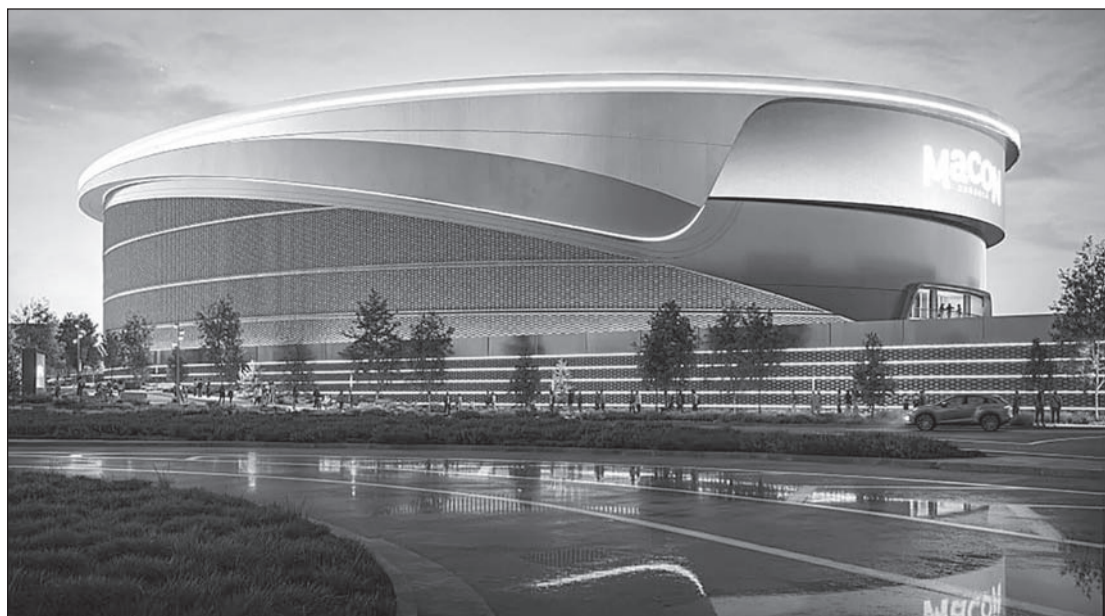
SUBSCRIPTION RATES Print: \$12.50/month Digital: \$10.50/month

Periodicals Postage Paid at Dublin, Georgia (USPS 161-860) - Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Courier Herald, 115 South Jefferson Street, Dublin, GA 31021

GEORGIA TRUST
— for Local News —

DuBose Porter/PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Pam Burney/GENERAL MANAGER
Courtney Vessell/CIRCULATION MANAGER

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



Renderings, courtesy of Macon-Bibb County, show views from the exterior (left) and entrance (right) of the new arena, which is slated to be completed by the summer of 2028.

Macon officials unveil renderings of new arena

By **JOE KOVAC JR.**
Special to The Courier Herald

This story was originally published by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and comes to the GTLN through a reporting partnership.

Officials in Macon recently unveiled renderings of a 10,000-plus-capacity, red-brick arena to be built along I-16 that will, at an estimated \$350 million, be the priciest and largest public undertaking of its kind in Middle Georgia's history.

The for-now-dubbed Macon Arena, with its oval, overhanging rooftop that is symbolic of a vinyl record, an homage to the city's rich musical heritage, will replace the nearly 60-year-old Macon Coliseum that, until it is razed in a couple of years, sits next door on a high-visibility hillside across the Ocmulgee River from downtown. The new four-tiered, 230,000-plus-square-foot venue is slated to open in summer 2028. The Macon-Bibb County Commission authorized the Urban Development Authority to issue taxable revenue bonds to finance the project.

In addition to being a future venue for concerts and high school graduations, it will be the new home of minor league hockey's Macon Mayhem and host to Georgia High School Association state basketball championship tournaments, which have long been held at the Coliseum.

It will have room for two ice rinks, one of them under the floor of an auxiliary space that can house a trio of basketball or volleyball courts.

"It's like a billboard" for the city, said Visit Macon CEO Gary Wheat.

The new arena will be the focal point of more than \$1 billion in public and private development in a roughly square-mile area straddling I-16. Those projects include

the \$80-plus-million Mercer University medical school complex on the downtown side of the river along with plans for new hotels, a convention center and other structures in the works. The \$1 billion figure does not include the Georgia Department of Transportation's \$500 million overhaul of the I-75 interchange at I-16, which will improve access to the new arena.

In front of a crowd at Wednesday's unveiling of the new arena's renderings inside downtown's Douglass Theatre, Macon Mayor Lester Miller, a lawyer by trade and a showman at heart who is ever a cheerleader for his hometown, boasted that other cities in the state "want to be Macon."

He quipped good-naturedly of recent trips around Georgia to arenas of similar scope. He told of visiting Augusta to see that city's under-construction arena project: "It's gonna be OK." He mentioned touring Enmarket Arena, an entertainment venue in Savannah that opened four years ago: "It's all right. ... Doesn't have much character, doesn't look that pretty, but it's functional." He spoke of Athens' Classic Center: "Nice, good arena, but you've got no parking. Zero. Can't get in and out very well."

Then, referring to images of his city's in-the-works arena, he declared it "something spectacular."

"We're gonna flex. We're gonna show people that Macon-Bibb County is the place to go," Miller said. "We're gonna show them that you don't have to drive to Savannah, to Columbus, Augusta, Atlan-



Mayor Lester Miller presents renderings of the new Macon arena during a press conference at the Douglass Theatre last month/**JASON VORHEES, for the Macon Melody**

ta, to enjoy the nice things. On day one, this thing's gonna pop."

The new arena also will have a pair of parking garages and a vast tract of a parking lot, more than the Coliseum now has and with two entrances and exits compared to a single one now that created postgame or post-show traffic jams.

Miller said that remaining stagnant would allow other cities to step in and "take every event that we ever had. Not that they hate us, but they love their communities."

The mayor also recently championed a \$45 million, 12,000-capacity amphitheater built in the parking lot of a foundering shopping mall. That open-air venue, part of a push to revitalize Macon's southwest side, opened in March 2024 with concerts by Lynyrd Skynyrd and ZZ Top.

Last year the 15,000-square-foot, \$11 million Otis Redding

Center for the Arts opened downtown, aiming to nurture the next generations of musicians here. The center is about 100 yards from the 2,700-seat, recently renovated Macon City Auditorium that was built in 1925.

Miller said the Macon Coliseum had "seen its better days" and reasoned that despite its storied past it was time for this city of 156,000 to also up its arena game.

The venerable Coliseum opened Oct. 15, 1968, and cost \$5 million to build. The first performance it hosted was the touring figure skating show "Holiday on Ice."

At its dedication that night, Georgia Gov. Carl Sanders hailed the near-10,000-person-capacity structure's completion and lauded "the emergence of Macon as a vigorous, modern, moving city."

It staged its first concert 11 days afterward. The star? James Brown. A week later came the Beach Boys.

And in an era when chart-topping groups toured in midsize towns, the Coliseum was a magnet for them. Despite being the region's go-to venue for staging those big-name concerts — Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Elton John, Aerosmith, Hank Williams Jr., Michael Jackson, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Billy Joel, Eric Clapton, the Allman Brothers — the Coliseum was, from the outset, plagued by sound problems. On opening night, its P.A. system went on the fritz.

Down the decades, officials tried repeatedly with little success to fine-tune its sound-eating roof and its cavernous interior that spoiled many a musical act. In January 1983, a reviewer of a George Jones concert cracked in the Macon Telegraph the next day that Jones' "resonant baritone fought the coliseum's lousy acoustics to a draw."

Throughout the 1970s and well into the 1980s, the coliseum was a frequent stop, often on a weekly basis, on the big time professional wrestling circuit. Andre the Giant, Harley Race, Ric Flair and Dusty Rhodes were regulars.

The short-lived but famously named Macon Whoopee semi-pro ice hockey team played there. On occasion, the NBA's Atlanta Hawks staged preseason games in it.

Speaking of that bygone era and the outdated Coliseum, Miller told those gathered Wednesday, "The good thing about memories is they're gonna be with you forever. These buildings ... can't be."

Dublin Police Department

- Henry Oscar Braddy, 37, was charged with criminal trespass around 12:25 a.m. on June 13 at Lucky's Food Mart.

Upon arrival, the officer met with an employee who said Braddy had previously been trespassed from the location and was not allowed on the property. The employee said Braddy bothered customers by acting in a disorderly manner, asking them for money, making obscene gestures, including finger-gun motions.

The officer met with Braddy who was noticeably intoxicated and slurring his words. The man said he was aware that he had been trespassed from the property. Based on the investigation, Braddy was arrested.

He was taken to the hospital and released to the staff for further evaluation.

- Landon Kyle Manley, 31, was charged with driving under the influence, open container of alcohol in motor vehicle and headlight requirements on Pinehill Road around 1:38 a.m. on June 16.

An officer responded to the area after reports that someone was screaming inside their vehicle at the RaceTrac gas station. He made a traffic stop at the intersection of U.S. 441 South and Pinehill Road. While on scene, the officers noticed that Manley appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. While other officers were speaking with Manley, they saw five empty Miller Lite beer cans in the backseat, along with a six-pack of unopened Miller Lites in the passenger seat.

The investigation led to Manley's arrest and transport to the county jail.



POLICE BEAT...

- Thomas Moorman, 44, was charged with possession of amphetamine and possession and use of drug-related objects at the intersection of East Columbia Street and North Jefferson Street around 1:55 a.m. on June 17.

An officer saw a bicycle without lights in the middle of the road. The officer maneuvered behind the bicycle and activated his emergency lights, pulling the bicycle over. Moorman's information through GCIC/NCIC, revealed that he had an active warrant with the Dublin Police Department.

While searching the man, the officer found one plastic bag containing suspected cocaine, one bag containing suspected methamphetamine and a glass smoking device. Moorman was transported to the Laurens County Detention Center.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- A deputy responded to Taylor Rowland Road in Dexter in reference to theft and property damage between May 13 and June 14.

- A deputy was dispatched to Springhaven Road in Dexter in reference to a phone message around 6 p.m. on June 11.

- A deputy responded to a location on Willa Court in reference to a welfare check around 7:35 p.m. on June 16.

- On June 8, around 1 p.m., a dep-

uty was dispatched to Springhaven Road in reference to a burglary.

- Property damage was reported on Kitchen Road in Dexter around 8 a.m. on June 15.

- Lawrence Nathaniel Marion, 18, of Savannah, was charged with possession of certain types of firearms, dangerous weapons and silencer prohibited around 8:19 a.m. on June 8. at mile marker 57 on I-16 west. A deputy made a traffic stop on a black Volvo for speeding.

- Keys locked inside a vehicle on Medical Drive led to threats around 4:44 p.m. on June 9.

- On June 11, around 3:17 p.m., a deputy responded to Davidson Street in reference to damage to property.

- A deputy responded to credit card fraud that occurred on Ga. 29 South around 1:13 p.m. on June 12.

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.

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

THURSDAY:
93° Mostly sunny and humid with a spotty afternoon thunderstorm possible.
 Sunrise: 6:32 a.m.

THURSDAY NIGHT:
73° After evening thundershowers, partly cloudy and humid.
 Sunset: 8:42 p.m.

FRIDAY:
93° Humid and variably sunny with afternoon thunderstorms in the cards.
 Sunrise: 6:32 a.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT:
71° Mostly clear and humid.
 Sunset: 8:42 p.m.

Saturday 7/11 HIGH/LOW 94/71 Partly to mostly overcast and humid with spotty afternoon thunderstorms. Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 8:42 p.m.	Sunday 7/12 HIGH/LOW 93/70 Variably sunny and humid with showers/A-storms likely later. Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 8:41 p.m.	Monday 7/13 HIGH/LOW 89/69 Mostly cloudy with periodic rain and t-storms. Sunrise: 6:34 a.m. Sunset: 8:41 p.m.	Tuesday 7/14 HIGH/LOW 90/71 Very sunny. Sunrise: 6:34 a.m. Sunset: 8:41 p.m.	Wednesday 7/15 HIGH/LOW 96/70 Especially sunny. Sunrise: 6:35 a.m. Sunset: 8:40 p.m.
--	--	--	--	--

River levels...

Oconee (at Dublin)	1.4'
Ocmulgee (at Macon)	6.2'

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

FINANCIAL PLANNING 101
FINAL EXAM

List the goals you should try to reach before retirement age.

Get hugged as many times as possible.

TECHNICALLY, HE'S NOT WRONG. THAT'S AT LEAST A 'B+'.

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

Wanna raid the refrigerator? DEFINITELY!

LET'S GO! RIGHT BEHIND YOU

SIGH TIME TO PIG OUT!

OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM

BLOOSH! PLEGGHH!

BLOOSH!

UNFORTUNATELY, NO ONE HERE SPOKE SHARK, SO THE PLAY INVITATION WENT UNAPPRECIATED.

* TAG YOU'RE IT!!

DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU

I CAN'T TELL IF THIS SECURITY WARNING ON MY COMPUTER IS REAL. WHY, WHAT DOES IT SAY?

"WARNING. WE'VE DETECTED AN IDIOT AT YOUR KEYBOARD. IF THIS WAS YOU, DO NOTHING. IF THIS WAS NOT YOU, DO SOMETHING DUMB AND REACTIVE."

SEEMS LEGIT. I'LL BUY THE \$99 SOFTWARE PATCH JUST IN CASE...

ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON

I'M SURE NOAH DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST SAVING FISH! HE PROBABLY THOUGHT THEY'D ALL BE JUST FINE!

PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY

A FEW MORE BAGS OF THESE AND THEN I CAN WORK ON SHOES....

Classic Pluggers summer fun!

Thanks to Susan Reed Charlottesville, Virginia

You're a plugger when it takes you longer to pack your medications than it does to pack your clothes for a trip.

Elderly Father is keen to hit the open road!

DEAR ABBY: At 82, my father continues to live alone and unassisted. He's generally in good health but is starting to recognize that he won't be forever. One thing he really wants to do while he still can (or thinks he can) is take a road trip -- by himself -- to visit his sister on the other side of the country.



DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

can I do? We don't live close to each other, and I don't have any right to take his keys, but this is nuts, right? -- SEES A DISASTER IN OHIO

DEAR SEES: Whether you or I think your father's plan is nuts is beside the point. He is going to make the trip. However, this does not mean you cannot have some input and assurances.

Help your father plan and map out his trip. Note what hotels or motels there are along the way and help him make reservations. Then get his promise to call you every evening when he checks in so you can know he is all right. It may take some work on your part, but the reassurance of being able to track his progress would be priceless.

DEAR ABBY: My youngest child (early teens) has a hard time making and keep-

ing friends, but he made a new friend three weeks ago. I have met the mom once, briefly, and mostly texted to discuss timing for plans with my kid and hers.

The mom keeps asking me for money. Our stories are similar, and I've filled her in -- divorced, single mom, no contact with ex, no support. Most recently, she texted me asking for gas money and additional money to help fund a trip out of state for a funeral. I may live in a nice house, but I have no help in paying for it plus all the other life expenses. I've told her as much, but I still get these requests.

I don't want to be rude to her, but I feel like my next step is to be blunt. However, I don't want to risk hurting the friendship between the kids. How do I make it clear without doing damage? -- DOLLARS AND SENSE

DEAR D & S: Resist the urge to be blunt. Simply tell the woman nicely that you don't have funds to give her at this time. When she asks again, repeat as necessary.

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

Thursday, July 9, 2026

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

ANYONE MIGHT DO IT

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
▲ K J 9 6 5 2
♦ 8 7 6
♣ 9
▲ A K 9

EAST
▲ 10 4 3
♦ Q 3
♦ J 10 7 6 4
♣ J 8 4

WEST
▲ A Q 8 7
♦ 10 5 4 2
♦ A 2
♣ Q 5 2

SOUTH
▲ Void
♦ A K J 9
♦ K Q 8 5 3
♣ 10 7 6 3

NORTH
▲ K J 9 6 5
♦ Void
♦ Void
♣ Void

WEST
▲ A Q 8 7
♦ Void
♦ 2
♣ Void

EAST
▲ 10 4
♦ Void
♦ J 7 6
♣ Void

SOUTH
▲ Void
♦ Void
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ 10

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
3NT All pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Meckstroth led the 10 of clubs, his seventh trick, and East had to discard. A diamond would allow South to play the queen and another diamond, forcing the defense to give him a spade trick. East shed the four of spades -- an error that anyone of us would make. He had to discard the 10 instead. Meckstroth led a low diamond to East's six, and East led the 10 of spades. West had to play low or give declarer two spade tricks. Meckstroth played low from dummy! East had to lead a diamond and Meckstroth took the last two tricks in diamonds. Wow!

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- The "D" in CD
 - Passover food
 - Occupies a sofa
 - Rights defense group: Abbr.
 - Protestant work
 - Prepare for publication
 - Hand out cards
 - Bangor's state
 - Small horse
 - Julie Bowen sitcom: 2 wds.
 - Nobelist Morrison
 - Actress Taylor-Joy
 - Group of seven Ft. Meade agency: Abbr.
 - Cured pork leg
 - Pine or fir
 - Had to pay back
 - India Pale
 - Forms of expression
 - Bank customer
 - Winter precipitation
 - Decompose
 - Prefix with "phone"
 - Vocal quality
 - Attempt
 - "_ sells seashells by the seashore"
 - Diverse
 - Green or brown fruit
 - Nothing more than
 - Vanishing
 - _ of work
 - Harbor towns
 - Seize
 - Oil cartel: Abbr.
 - Gladden
 - Not very exciting
 - "Uh-huh!"
 - Snouts
 - Excessive publicity

- Created by Stella Zawistowski 6/8/26
- Close loudly
 - Pants that look like skirts
 - Keepsakes
 - Early video game company
 - Slender
 - Red wine variety
 - Vast amounts
 - Reddish-brown color
 - False god
 - Very small
 - Filthy place
 - Female deer
 - "Case of the Ex" singer
 - Beginning
 - Baseball mishap
 - Narrow-minded
 - Capital of Vietnam
 - Solitary
 - Sounded like a kitten
 - Team sport in a pool: 2 wds.
 - "Tambourine" rapper
 - Turns backward

MAKE A TALL PEEP
IRON PABLO AXLE
NEAT ESSAY REST
UNLESS MARACAS
START SCALED
SAMOAS DISCS
ATM TAOS GLUT
PROJECT HAIL MARY
PERU INCA MEX
SEEMS DETEST
PAPERS SHUTS
ALLSTAR HORNET
LUAU RABBI IDEA
UGLI KILOS LUNG
MEAT ALTOS LESS

- Mental toughness
- Mermaid's home
- "Anything can _!"
- Singer Lennox
- Therapist's major, for short
- Not glossy
- Inside info
- "You have no _!"
- Pitching stats: Abbr.
- Overcast, as a sky
- Young lad
- Sound-boosting device
- Buzzing insect

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!

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

Level: intermediate

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

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

ANSWER:

Georgia utility regulators greenlight probe into data center costs

By **ALANDER ROCHA**
Georgia Recorder

The Georgia Public Service Commission approved an investigation into whether Georgia Power's industrial customers who are heavy energy consumers, like data centers, are shifting some costs to residential customers.

The investigation was part of an agreement the utility company and PSC staff reached in May that slightly lowered the amount of the utility's fuel and Hurricane Helene cleanup costs could be passed on to residential customers. The investigation will focus on a pricing structure used primarily by data centers and other large industrial customers that the commission staff said in a filing could drive the average cost for residential customers by up to 11% per month by 2028, which is likely to increase as demand for energy to power data centers grows.

Staff members with the Public Service Commission recommended commissioners sign off on further investigation, which they did Tuesday.

The move was celebrated by environmental advocates. Ja'Mae Rooks of the Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund, an environmental advocacy organization, said in a statement that "Georgians deserve to understand exactly who is paying for the massive growth in electricity demand from data centers, and who isn't."

"This investigation is a critical first step toward transparency. Families, small businesses, and churches shouldn't be paying for Jeff Bezos' data centers," Rooks said, referring to the founder of Amazon.

During Tuesday's hearing, Democratic commissioner Peter Hubbard pushed for a deeper investigation on the special pricing structure, saying that he wants to "make sure that we're looking at this holistically."

But Georgia Power pushed back. Steve Hughes, who represented the utility company, said that Hubbard's proposal would take much longer to complete as it changes "the scope of the proceeding and changes the language that we agreed to in the stipulation that became an order of this commission." But he assured Hubbard that the investigation would look into the concerns that the Democratic commissioner raised.

"Altering the procedural and scheduling order to add a word that could have many different meanings, and people could look at it as a base case analysis, is what I'm trying to make sure doesn't happen," Hughes said.

Hubbard's proposal for a deeper analysis was voted down by the Republican majority on the commission, but the commission unanimously approved the investigation that Georgia Power agreed to in May's fuel case hearing, which is set to be completed by the end of the year.



Cochran City Council met on Monday to discuss and adjust the FY2027 budget/CAROLINE WEATHERSBY

Cochran officials begin budget talks

By **CAROLINE WEATHERSBY**
GTLN

The mayor and council met on Monday to discuss the proposed budget for fiscal year 2027. Throughout the evening, council members and other city officials suggested or requested changes to the budget based on department needs. Many departments will see increased spending as the city moves to meet salary and benefits costs.

The budget proposed is only a tentative budget and not finalized.

The police department is expected to receive an increase in budget salary and employee benefits from \$988,400 to \$1,097,308.91 as a result of increasing full-time salaries and decreasing part-time employees.

Funds budgeted for supplies will decrease from \$82,600 to \$79,250 including a \$6,000 reduction to fuel costs.

Costs for the police department debt service also decreased significantly from \$46,500 to \$33,094.

Overall, the department budget increased from \$1,253,800 to \$1,314,462.91.

The fire department's budget is expected to decrease from \$876,850 to \$857,603.59, even with an increase to salaries, due to falling costs for training and a capital expense only present in FY2026.

Fire Chief Brock Wilcher requested that part-time position pay be raised by \$1 per hour to remain competitive for employees, increasing the part-time employee budget by over \$30,000.

During this discussion, Wilcher also reported to the board that they should be reimbursed soon for mutual aid provided to Brantley County during the wildfire earlier this year.

The street department budget is expected to increase from \$954,800 to \$981,558.26, primarily due to an increase in the budget for full-time employee salaries. Purchased and contracted services are expected to decrease from \$148,400 to \$132,069 due to a decrease in the cost of purchased services and education and training.

The budget for animal control is expected to increase by nearly \$10,000 from \$96,950 to \$106,732.30 due to an increase in full-time employee salaries, Social Security, Medicare contribution and worker's compensation.

The budget requested for municipal court increased from \$68,140 to \$75,094. According to Interim City Manager Angela Redding, this was due to an employee who moved from part-time to full-time which increased costs to salary, Social Security and Medicare.

Professional services at municipal court have already exceeded the \$55,000 budget set for FY2026 by over \$3,000, leading Redding to request the 2027 budget be set to \$60,000.

Education and training costs decreased from \$1,100 to \$750 but the bond refunds budget increased significantly from \$500 to \$2,500.

Administrative costs are set to de-

crease by over \$10,000 from \$1,253,170 to \$1,243,154.82 even with an increase to contracted services.

During FY2026, administration had to match a CHIP grant in the amount \$70,000 - a cost they don't have to a lot in the FY2027 budget. Salaries in both full-time and part-time positions decreased but the cost of group insurance rose from \$77,600 to \$99,511.

Legislative costs also decreased from \$62,864 to \$60,768.25 after a significant cut to the printing and binding budget. The previous budget, \$12,000 is expected to drop to \$5,000 in FY2027. The salary budget is expected to increase from \$32,834 to \$33,818.25.

The budget for Cochran Municipal Airport is expected to be cut in half. In FY2026, the airport budget was listed at \$51,600, but is expected to be reduced to \$25,500 per the proposed budget.

Though insurance and supplies remained roughly the same, last year the airport had to match money for a DOT Grant, setting them back an additional \$26,300 - an expense they will not have to pay again in FY2027.

Code enforcement is expected to decrease in budget from \$117,950 to \$112,779.32 due to slight decreases in purchases and contract services and in supplies, and a decrease in cost for group insurance.

The budget for full-time employees is expected to increase from \$46,200 to \$50,642.

Payments to the Industrial Development Authority, rec department, library and the Downtown Development Authority are expected to stay the same.

The rec department is again set at \$84,000. The Industrial Development Authority is set at \$51,700. The library budget is expected to total \$42,650, and the Downtown Development Authority budget is set to total \$32,000.

Lastly, the elections budget is expected to increase from \$4,000 to \$5,100 after a \$900 increase in employee salaries and a \$200 increase in equipment and materials.

Also during the meeting, Mayor Carla Coley proposed the board look into creating a rule that would require city employees who receive certifications to reimburse the city if they leave before a certain time period. She suggested either six months or one year.

According to Coley, the city has had issues in the past with employees receiving free training for expensive certifications and then leaving shortly after. Coley said she spoke with another city who already has a rule like it.

Council Shane Savant also proposed the board consider a pay increase to council members to ensure quality candidates run for office in the future. To combat those running for office for the money, he recommended arranging salaries to be paid every few months.

The council is expected to pick up the budget discussion at Thursday's work session.

Georgia Supreme Court rebukes appellate decision, confirms RICO Act applies in family lawsuits

By **TY TAGAMI**
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A 1980s law originally aimed mainly at organized crime can be used in domestic disputes, the Georgia Supreme Court clarified in a ruling involving a legal clash between former spouses.

The decision last week reversed the state Court of Appeals, which had ruled that the Georgia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, did not apply to domestic disputes.

Legal experts were not surprised by the high court's decision but said it preserves a powerful legal tool that could lead to more respect for civil proceedings, since the racketeering law enhances the consequences for playing fast and loose with facts and rules.

"So many of the predicate crimes to satisfy the RICO statute routinely occur in what the Court of Appeals is calling 'garden variety domestic cases,'" said Tanya Washington, a Georgia State University law professor. "Forgery and fraudulent communications and engaging with other people for them to testify a certain way. All of those sorts of things happen in family law cases."

If a party is found to have violated some of the 43 categories of offenses listed under the racketeering law, it can lead to severe financial penalties, she said, or even a criminal investigation: "It makes it easier for a prosecutor to pick up the RICO claim and follow the breadcrumbs."

The unanimous Supreme Court opinion issued June 30 nullified an appellate decision that said it would be "absurd" and "in defiance of common sense and sound reasoning" to apply the RICO Act "to any garden-variety domestic dispute."

The appeals court had affirmed a decision in a Paulding County Superior Court lawsuit brought by Jennifer Warner against her ex-husband, Jeffrey Espitia, and his fiancée, Krystal Kriewaldt.

Warner invoked the

RICO Act after the Cobb County Superior Court ruled against Espitia in a prior lawsuit. He had sued to recover child support from her that he claimed was in arrears.

Their two children lived with him, and he asserted that she had failed to make her monthly \$550 payments.

But he admitted in court that he had presented incorrect information and was uncertain about the arrears, saying it was an inadvertent error. He said he had trusted Kriewaldt's calculations.

The Cobb court determined Espitia's claims were "substantially frivolous, substantially groundless, and substantially vexatious," finding that he had gone to court to harass and intimidate his ex-wife.

Armed with that decision, Warner sued in Paulding, invoking the RICO Act.

The Paulding court ruled against her, so she appealed. The appeals court also decided against her, ruling that her underlying claims against her ex-husband were not a matter for the court to consider because the RICO Act did not apply. The appeals court described her lawsuit as "yet another volley in the parties' long-running domestic dispute," adding that nothing in the RICO Act suggests it "may be warped so far beyond its original purpose of combating organized crime to apply to a festering domestic feud."

Warner then appealed to the state Supreme Court, which criticized the appeals court's opinion on RICO's applicability, saying the opinion lacked "any meaningful analysis" of Georgia's racketeering law. The high court ordered the appeals court to consider Warner's underlying claim that her ex-husband and his fiancée had conspired to file false documents about her child support payments.

Lawmakers clearly intended RICO to target more than organized crime when they updated the law in 1997 to thwart

"the increasing sophistication of various criminal elements," the Supreme Court opinion said.

The opinion also criticized the appellate court for misusing what's known as the "absurdity" doctrine, a legal analysis that courts can use when the text of a law produces more than one plausible interpretation. If one outcome produces absurd results and another does not, a court should generally side with the latter interpretation, the Supreme Court opinion noted.

But in this case, the opinion said, there was only one plausible interpretation of the text of the law, which prohibits "any person" from conspiring to violate RICO's provisions.

John Floyd, a former prosecutor and RICO expert who now uses the law mostly in corporate lawsuits for the Atlanta law firm Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, said the Supreme Court needed to send a message to lower courts that the racketeering law applies broadly. Otherwise, he said, the appeals court ruling might have precluded RICO claims in civil cases, including in serious domestic disputes involving threats of murder, kidnapping or other violence.

Floyd helped prosecute Atlanta Public Schools educators for cheating on test scores and then helped Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis with her election conspiracy case against President Donald Trump and his associates.

RICO cases are difficult to bring, but the law provides a powerful legal tool against conspirators in criminal and civil cases, he said.

Civil RICO judgments can result in treble damages, attorney fees and injunctions.

Although the financial stakes in this particular domestic dispute might have been modest, Floyd said, "a bad decision in a case like that still cascades down through everything, whether the next case is a \$100 case or a \$100 million case."

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By **JOANN DERSON**
King Features

* Honey has amazing properties, and one of them is its antiseptic powers. You can even use it on pimples. Just a tiny dab will help keep the bacteria responsible for breakouts from taking over.

* Here's a workout tip: Rotate among a few pairs of running shoes to get the best life out of them. Rotating gives them a chance to dry out between wearings, and runners who practice this have a 39 percent lower chance of injury, according to a Luxembourg research firm.

* Got poison ivy? The maddening itch might find relief from coffee grounds or a cooled cuppa. It contains anti-inflammatories.

* "Lemon juice can bring out the flavor of mushrooms. I keep a little spray bottle that I found in the travel section of the drugstore to keep lemon juice accessible in the kitchen. I find it's good for all kinds of things, like avocados and apples. I spray the cut side to keep them from browning. It's also great for salad greens." -- T.T. in New Jersey

* "The liners from cereal boxes work really well to store pies in the freezer. They can be stapled shut." -- Y.L. in Indiana

DUBLIN SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1

- New monthly closing procedures.
- A process to log in all credit card transactions and descriptions that "show direct benefit to our students."
- Implementation by the finance team of a monthly budget review with stakeholders to increase engagement and transparency.
- Monthly reconciliation schedule for all interfund transfers.
- Balance sheets reconciled monthly and reviewed and signed by the chief financial officer and the school board.
- Use of Georgia Department of Education-established year-end accounting close procedures.
- Review of all invoices received within 60 days post year-end (July and August).
- Accrual of unposted expenses in a timely manner.
- The human resources director and chief financial officer will compare employee pay rates in the payroll system with board-approved personnel actions, salary schedules, contracts and authorization letters.
- Quarterly payroll audits to compare active employees in the payroll system with Human Resources employment re-

ords, board-approved personnel actions, leave records and separation documentation.

- Formal reconciliation of long-term debt accounts at year's end, ensuring that debt payments are coded appropriately as principal retirement or interest expense rather than general expense.

"It's been a long time coming to get these kind of controls in place," said board member James Lanier.

Revelations of the school district's financial troubles last fall led to the resignation of former finance director Chad McDaniel and the early retirement of superintendent Fred Williams.

Following the special state review earlier this year, Dublin Circuit District Attorney Harold McLendon requested the Georgia Bureau of Investigation look into the district's finances. The GBI is still investigating.

Members of Dublin City Board of Education could face suspension and possible removal from the board, depending on the outcome of a hearing before the Georgia Board of Education in August.

The formal hearing is required by law after Cognia, the district's accreditation agency, downgraded Dublin City to "accredited with conditions" – the agency's lowest status and a required step toward dropping accreditation altogether.

DDA CHANGES

Continued from page 1

Concert calendar that will feature Double Helix (Steeley Dan tribute) on Sept. 18, To the Limit (an Eagle experience) on Oct. 16, Departure (the Journey tribute) on Jan. 23, 2027 and Bob Seger experience (an ultimate tribute) on April 24.

"Response has been really strong," Berry said. "I want to make it very accessible for people to come to the theater."

Padgett will handle what she was doing before and will add Main Street duties to her plate.

"She will not have to deal with theater other than help Glenda with getting stuff out on social media," Miller said. "She will handle all of the events and will still handle all of the rental of properties."

Padgett also requested to remain as the DDA's Farmers Market manager.

"I want to thank the DDA

board for giving me the opportunity you have given me," she said. "We are very appreciative. Glenda has taught me a lot in the last two years. We are a great team and we work together. I could not do any of this without her help."

Miller said they will be looking for an administrative assistant who will help Padgett and Berry. This will be a 25-hour a week position.

"We want to try to get that person in place as soon as possible," Miller said. "They will help with events as they can. They will help with office work."

The fourth position will be a business development coordinator. They will work to recruit and retain businesses while visiting downtown merchants to keep them informed and happy, Miller said.

"They'll go out to find new people and advertise the buildings we have and the space we have," he said.

"We just had too much to do with the staff that we had. Now, by dedicating someone to this job, hopefully, we'll be able to fill up these buildings that we have emptied and keep the ones that are full from becoming empty."

When it comes to the Farmers Market, Padgett said people have been seeking to become vendors. The cost to sell items at the farmers market is \$15.

"Vendors keep coming up to me and telling me that they are having a great weekend. I don't have any complaints. The vendors are happy. We have extended (the market) and I don't turn anybody away."

People wanting to join the market can call Padgett at (478) 272-2560.

"If people have not been to the farmers market, the foot traffic has been amazing," Padgett said. "We are averaging 39 vendors a week. I have had up to 29 new vendors this year."

OFTC SCHOLARSHIP

Continued from page 1

with Brownlee as co-workers at the former Dublin Communications. Beckham was in sales, and Brownlee was a technician.

"He was kind of my designated technician. I could count on Doug."

Beckham said the group avoided using a fund-raising blast on social media, instead taking a more personal approach to potential donors.

"Everybody who donated was contacted personally," Beckham said. "We wanted Keela and the girls to know how much people care and who donated."

"We used good old-fashioned phone calls and we used high-tech social media to get the word out," said Richy Everly. "Family and friends who are like family are contributors."

"We're pleased with the amount of participation we had from 'Doug's people.' It's a great way to recognize Doug through these young people's achievements."

The six students received almost \$1,000 each.

"I'm very grateful for it," said student Jonathan Crutchfield of Danville. "It will help."



From left: (front) Clint Jones, OFTC Foundation trustee; Lee Radney, OFTC's Dean of Academic Affairs for Trades, Industry & Transportation programs; Romello (Samuel) Smith; Jonathan Crutchfield; Loren Hasty; Ryan Scarbrough, OFTC Electronics & Mechatronics instructor; Kathryn Willcox, OFTC Foundation chair; Kathy Aaron, OFTC's executive director of Institutional Advancement; (second row) Frank Estep, Josh White, Karley Brownlee, Keela Brownlee, Patricia Brownlee, Lindsey Brownlee Knight, Josh Knight, Kameron Allen, Yvonne Luecke; (back row) Bobby Everly, Richy Everly, Bill Beckham, Susan Beckham. Not shown: scholarship recipients Ian Anderson, Jermane Stanley and Martavis Sanders/RODNEY MANLEY

The other scholarship recipients are Ian Anderson and Loran Hasty of Dublin, Martavis Sanders and Jermane Stanley of East Dublin and Romello Samuel Smith of McRae-Helena.

Brownlee and his wife later ran the family business, Mullis Electric. The father of three, the 58-year-old had also settled into another role – as a grandfather. The couple have four

grandchildren under the age of 5, including one born not long after his passing.

"Doug got to meet all of them except Tillman. The funny thing is, Tillman looks just like Doug – and

acts like (Doug's father) Charles. He's a little ham."

The OFTC Foundation thanked Brownlee's family, friends and business associates for creating this scholarship.

"Their generosity not only preserves Doug's legacy but also provides opportunities for future electronics students to pursue their education and careers," the foundation said.

DEPUTY ARREST

Continued from page 1

At the time of the incident, their children were present in the home and witnessed the abuse. As a result, Austin was also charged with three counts of cruelty to children in the third degree.

When a Dublin police officer arrived on scene, Austin was identified as the primary aggressor by both testimonial evidence as well as physical evidence.

This is reportedly not the first time Austin has been accused of domestic violence. According to a family violence report, his wife reported at least one previous incident.

Austin was placed under arrest shortly after 6 p.m.

Later that evening around 9 p.m., Bleckley County Sheriff Daniel Cape issued a statement on social media.

"I want to inform our community that one of our deputies was arrested this evening," Cape wrote. "Deputy James Austin, who serves in our Uniform Patrol Division, was arrested in Dublin, Georgia, on charges related to a family violence incident."

He also added that Austin would be terminated from his position at the sheriff's office.

"Effective immediately, Deputy Austin has been relieved of his duties and will be terminated from this agency pending bond," Cape announced.

"Everyone is entitled to due process under the law, but no one is above the law," he continued. "We hold our deputies to a high standard, and when those standards are not met, we will take appropriate action."

Austin was booked into the Laurens County jail.

BIBLE READING

Continued from page 1

just want Christians to come together. That is what this is about. So many churches complain that other churches don't want to work together. When we have an opportunity like this to come together, we aren't stealing anybody from another church.

"We have this opportunity to come together, worship and pray together, and for some reason you can't get

people to attend. What do we need to do to get churches to work together?"

In every courthouse square across Georgia, someone will be reading Scripture.

"The whole Bible is read that day if everybody does their part," Lysaker said. "Each county has eight chapters. This is all about Christians coming together. That's the way it's going to be in heaven. Surely, we'll be able to do that here."

State set to open \$126 million connector linking Port of Savannah to Interstate 16

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

The Georgia Department of Transportation will open a high-volume freight corridor in Savannah July 16, streamlining the flow of goods at one of the fastest growing ports in the U.S.

The \$126 million Brampton Road Connector is a new four-lane highway linking Garden City Terminal's Gate 3 directly to the interstate system, removing at-grade rail crossings and truck traffic from local neighborhoods. The project gives truck drivers faster access to the Port of Savannah and a more streamlined route to inland markets.

"We want to thank our partners at the Georgia DOT for their important work creating freight corridors that improve local communities and safer traffic flow for the future," said Georgia Ports President and CEO Griff Lynch. "Our trucking community will also achieve faster turntimes at the port with safer routings inland, benefiting Savannah supply chain speeds."

"Improving the mobility of freight traffic from



The \$126 million Brampton Road Connector links the Port of Savannah's Garden City Terminal to the Interstate 16 corridor/SPECIAL PHOTO, Georgia Ports Authority

the port and increasing safety for motorists on local streets are key goals for this project. The Brampton Road Connector accomplishes both simultaneously," said Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry. "The delivery of new freight corridors and upgrades to key interchanges in the Savannah area are great examples of Georgia DOT's commitment to improving safety on our roadways and mobility for both people and goods."

The Brampton Road project is the final piece in a series of GDOT projects establishing a cargo beltway in Savannah. Over the past 12 years, GDOT has invested nearly \$600 million in roadway projects that also include:

- Reconstructing the I-16/I-95 interchange and widening I-16, a \$295 million project improving the safety and flow of commuters and cargo moving on and off each interstate.
- Jimmy Deloach Park-

way, a \$129 million, limited-access truck route linking Garden City Terminal with Interstates 16 and 95.

- Highway 307 overpass, a \$22.5 million project carrying vehicular traffic over the Port of Savannah's Mason Mega Rail Terminal and allowing for the free flow of trucks and trains.
- Grange Road upgrade, a \$14.2 million project providing better truck access between Jimmy Deloach Parkway and Garden City Terminal.