

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

It's Hispanic Heritage Month! FREE tacos starting at 10am for the first 100 guests.

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

Sweet Rubys
Cheesestraws
Jos'Pee Berry Farm
Blueberries, Chicken Salad
Backyard Shed
Bread, Jellies, Cakes
Eden Organics
Produce
Shemeka Smith
Hair & Body Care, Juices
Off the Farm Produce
Produce
Boyd's Knives
handmade knives
Jordan Farms
Produce
Kaleigh Jordan
Produce
Hot Rod's Ochoopee Grilling
Sauce
BBQ Sauce
Farmhouse Bread Co
Baked Goods
Infused & Rooted
Infused Olive Oils
Willhouse Creations
Baked Goods
Riverbend Meadow Market
Produce
Tasty Paws Pets
Dog Treats
Holi Crop Micro Farm
Micro Greens
Moss & Bloom
Sea Moss & Teas
Colbey Asbell
Baked Goods & Lemonade
Blessed Loaf Bakery
Baked Goods
Whisked Away
Homemade Cupcakes
Beth Wood Natural Guru
Essential oils
From Andrew's Oven
Baked Goods
Crown & Spore
Gourmet Mushrooms
Frost Bites
Freeze Dried Candy & Veggies
Minter Hill Homestead
Baked Goods
Sweet Treats Cannery
Pickled Items, Jams
Core Matcha
Matcha Drinks
Crumbs of Joy
Baked Goods
MC Sweets
Cake Pops
Frost Bites
Freeze Dried Candy & Veggies
Jewelry by Keen
Handmade Jewelry
The Mustard Seed Farm
baked goods
Pigeon Forge Bakery
homemade soft pretzels
Breaking Bread with Winnie
Baked Goods
Lord's Coffee
Roasted Whole Bean Coffee
Grandpa Jerry's Cookies
Cookies
Leschak's Sweets & Eats
Baked Goods
Parker Dairy Flower Farm
Flowers
The Blossom Barn
Flowers

We are an authorized SNAP/EBT market.

Pop-up storm packs big punch, leaves damage

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

A storm with little to no warning left a business' roof in the middle of the street and knocked down several trees and power lines on Sunday.

The roof at Cullens Supply & Engine Services, 910 E. Jackson St., ended up in the middle of the street, near the Oconee River bridge, following a storm that hit the area.

"The road was blocked from the roof coming off," said Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler. "We called our city public works, and they sent a backhoe to help get traffic back going."



A backhoe cleans up a roof and other debris from Cullens Supply & Engine Services after Sunday afternoon's storm/SPECIAL PHOTO, Dublin Fire Department

STORM
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25 years later, remembering - and teaching about - 9/11

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Twenty-five years ago this Friday, for some, feels just like yesterday.

On that September morning, Dublin firefighter Matthew Cutler and another firefighter were off duty and cutting yards. On their way to their next job, they heard about American Airlines Flight 11 hitting the North Tower of the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m. and United Airlines Flight 175 crashing into the South Tower at 9:03 a.m.

"Someone on the radio was talking about how the U.S. needs to make some other country a parking lot," Cutler said. "We went to the Shamrock Fire Station to find out what had happened. There were a lot of things running through my mind. I had never experienced the United States being attacked in such a way."



The eternal flame of the Public Safety Memorial flickers as Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler speaks at last year's 9/11 service/PAYTON TOWNS III, File

Lynda Prymula, who now lives in Rentz, recalls that day because she was not too far from the Pentagon. She was working on the 14th floor in a building in Alexandria, Virginia. They had been watching the TV and saw the live reports

of what was happening in New York.

Around 9:37 a.m., their building shook.

"We knew something was not right," Prymula said. "We could see the smoke. You couldn't comprehend in your mind that a plane actually went into the building."

Terrorists had crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon.

"Our building shook when the plane hit," Prymula said.

Not long after, Prymula and her co-workers were told to evacuate their building. She traveled to her sister's house, who lived approximately a mile away, and it took one hour to get there.

"Everybody was evacuating and were on the streets driving," she said.

9/11
Continued on page 10



Homecoming: Dublin High Crowns 2026 King, Queen

Dublin High School crowned its 2026 homecoming court at Friday's game against Baldwin County in the Shamrock Bowl. Darrien Beauford was named king, and Rickaya Griffin was crowned homecoming queen /HORACE AUSTIN

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Juvenile Judge Penny Snipes swears in the new Dublin Youth Council during last Thursday's City Council meeting/PAYTON TOWNS III

New Dublin Youth Council sworn in

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

With their right hands raised in the air, the new members of the Dublin Youth Council took their official oaths before the Dublin City Council last week.

Those selected to be in the Dublin Youth Council this year are from Dublin High School, East Laurens High School and West Laurens High School.

This year's members are Aiyanna Boston (secretary/mayor pro tem, from DHS); Makaela Bridges (historian, from DHS); Kelis Lawrence (mayor, from DHS); Harmoni Walker (city planner, from DHS); Melina Watson (historian, from ELHS); Sydney Wyatt (Ward 1, from DHS); Aissata Diallo (at-large, from DHS); Brenna Grimes (city manager, from WLHS); Kamia Hardy (Ward 3, from DHS); Mariah Johnson (Ward 4, from DHS); Zakaya Kennedy (Ward 1, from DHS); Agnes Koranteng (Ward 2, from DHS); Joel Koranteng (city attorney, from DHS); Sariah Lewis (at-large, from WLHS); Jadah Philyaw

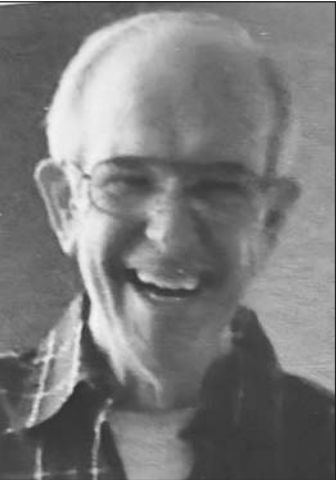
(historian, from WLHS); Nehemiah Snell (historian, from DHS); Brandi Bailey-Williams (city clerk, from WLHS); and Ah'Kaylah Williams (at-large, from WLHS).

Juvenile Judge Penny Snipes swore in the group.

"I want to be the first to welcome you," she said. "It is quite impressive to be chosen. You are our future. Use this opportunity to learn, do justice, be fair and do good work."

CITY COUNCIL
Continued on page 10

OBITUARIES



Douglas Lamar Vaughan

Douglas Lamar Vaughan, known lovingly to family and friends as Chappie, passed away on Sept. 6, 2026, in Dublin, Georgia, at the age of 80.

He was born on Sept. 26, 1945, in Macon, Georgia, and lived a life marked by hard work, devotion to family, faith, and service. Chappie was a Christian and a faithful member of Popular Springs North Baptist Church. He carried himself with quiet strength and a steady spirit, and those who knew him will remember his kind heart, his dependable nature, and the warmth he brought to every room.

Chappie served his country honorably as a United States Navy veteran aboard the USS Charles F. Adams naval destroyer. His time in the Navy reflected the same sense of duty and commitment that would guide him throughout his life. Later in life, he worked as a lineman and foreman with William Electric. He took pride in doing his job well and in setting an example of perseverance and responsibility for others.

An avid outdoorsman, Chappie especially loved fishing and hunting. He found joy in the simple pleasures of life and treasured the time spent outdoors. More than anything, he loved his family deeply. He especially cherished his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and his greatest happiness came from being surrounded by those he loved. His presence at family gatherings brought comfort, laughter and a sense of togetherness that will be dearly missed.

Chappie was preceded in death by his parents, George and Annie Mae Vaughan; his son, Ken Vaughan; his daughter, Kelly Ney; and his siblings, Gene Vaughan, Barbara Davis, Peggy Bloodworth, and Charlotte Hester. He is survived by his wife, Selena Vaughan; his daughters, Kristy Vaughan, Tyna Lord and Wendy Slade; his brother, Weyman Vaughan; his sisters, Anita Walker, Georgia Knapp and Debbie Evans; his brother, Chipper Vaughan; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind many other family members and friends who will forever hold his memory close.

Chappie lived a life of faith, service and devotion to the people he loved. His legacy will continue through the family he cherished, the example he set, and the memories he created over a lifetime well lived. He will be remembered with love and gratitude by all who were blessed to know him.

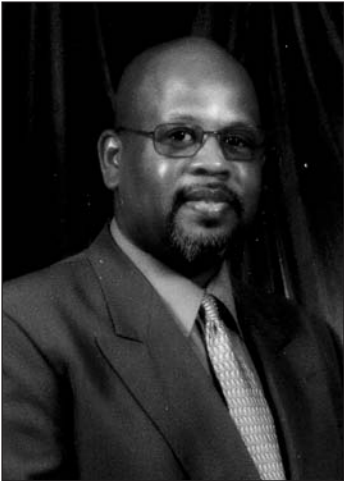
A graveside service was held at Dublin Memorial Gardens on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026 at 2:00 PM. Rev. Wes Pinkley will officiate.

The Vaughan family would like to express how deeply grateful they are to Georgia Hospice for the extraordinary care, comfort, and dignity they provided our family during such a difficult time. Their compassionate staff and dedicated support made all the difference, giving us immense peace of mind when we needed it most.

Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com

to www.townsendfuneralhome.com to sign the online register book.

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Walter G. O'Neal

Funeral services for Mr. Walter G. O'Neal will be held on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Shady Grove Baptist Church, 679 Shady Grove Church Road in Dublin. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Walter G. O'Neal, a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, veteran and faithful servant of God, passed away peacefully on Sept. 5, 2026, at the age of 73. He was born on May 3, 1953, to Ella Mae O'Neal and the late Eugene O'Neal.

Walter was a man of quiet strength, strong will, and unwavering dedication to his family. He was an awesome provider who took great pride in caring for and supporting those he loved. His presence brought a sense of stability, strength, and comfort to his family, and his legacy will live on through the many lives he touched.

A proud graduate of Millville High School, Class of 1971, Walter went on to serve his country honorably in the United States Air Force. He continued his commitment to service throughout his professional life, retiring from Carl Vinson VA Hospital after a remarkable combined 43 years of service. His dedication to serving others was a reflection of the character he carried throughout his life.

Walter was also a lifelong and active member of Shady Grove Baptist Church, where his faith and commitment to his church family were an important part of who he was. His life was a testimony of perseverance, faith, responsibility, and love.

Walter was preceded in death by his father, Eugene O'Neal; his brother, Spencer O'Neal; his mother-in-law, Claudia Stanley; and his brothers-in-law, Tony Stanley and Jimmy Ussey.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Sandra O'Neal; his children, Terrance O'Neal and Daryl O'Neal (Amanda); his mother, Ella Mae O'Neal; and his siblings, Elaine (Willie) Evans, Linda Ussey, Fred (Janice) O'Neal, Larry (Amy) O'Neal, Vincent O'Neal, Genola Jackson, Lawanda (Gerod) Duff, and Marquita (Don) Timmons. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Eric (Lois) Stanley, sister-in-law, Coylitia O'Neal, and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, friends, and his church family who will forever cherish his memory.

Though his earthly journey has come to an end, Walter's legacy of strength, service, faith, love, and devotion to family will continue to live on in all who knew and loved him. He will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever treasured.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23

Please post your condolences online at ServicesByDudley.com

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Brenda Edenfield Turner

Ms. Brenda Edenfield Turner, 74, of Soperton, passed away Monday, Aug. 31, 2026, at the Community Hospice House in Vidalia. She was born on June 29, 1952, in Swainsboro to the late Richard Edenfield, Jr. and Juanita Moxley Edenfield.

Ms. Turner was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Billy Edenfield.

Brenda's life was defined by a nurturing spirit, unconditional love and a deeply giving heart. For over 30 years, she was the proud owner of Brenda's Daycare in Millen, where she was affectionately known to generations as "Miss Brenda" or "Nina." Brenda didn't just run a business; she loved every single child who walked through her doors as if they were her very own, and she found immense joy in watching them grow up over the decades.

A woman of many talents, Brenda possessed a vibrant creative energy. She spent countless hours pursuing her favorite hobbies, including photography, quilting and embroidering. Many of these memories were made alongside her dear friend, Sharon Henry. The two shared a special bond, talking daily, sewing and bringing their creative ideas to life together. Brenda poured her soul into her crafts, finding true fulfillment in making quilts for her family, capturing memories by taking pictures of Zan and embroidering beautiful shirts for Harrison and Hayes.

Of all her accomplishments, Brenda's most treasured titles were "Mama" and "Mema." Her love for her children, Michael and Misty, their spouses Shannon and Brad, and her beloved grandsons was greater than life itself. As a mother, she made countless sacrifices, willingly doing without to ensure her children always had everything they needed. Her legacy of selflessness, creativity and boundless love will live on forever in the hearts of her family, her lifelong friends, and the countless children she raised as her own.

Survivors include her son, Michael Turner (Shannon) of Millen; daughter, Misty Collins (Brad) of Soperton; grandsons, Zan Turner, Harrison Collins, Hayes Collins; several other family members and many friends.

Graveside Service was Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026 at 10 a.m. at Swainsboro City Cemetery with Rev. Mark Hardin officiating. The family will receive friends after the service.

Condolences may be expressed at www.chapmanfhofswainsboro.com.

Chapman Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements for Ms. Brenda Edenfield Turner, 74, of Soperton.

Emma Clark-Ragsdale

Mrs. Emma Clark-Ragsdale of Dublin, Georgia passed away on Monday, September 7, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

www.ServicesByDudley.com.



Mary Lynn Reid

Mary Lynn Reid, known to everyone as Lynn, passed away on Sept. 2, 2026, in Dublin, Georgia, at the age of 78.

Lynn was born on July 17, 1948, in Eastman, Georgia, to the late S.J. and Velma Pridgen Grubbs. She lived a life marked by love, devotion, and a warm spirit that touched the hearts of many. Her life reflected the values of kindness, loyalty, and a genuine appreciation for the people around her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tony Michael Reid; her son, Danny Gillis; her grandchildren, Kristin Gillis and Tyler Gillis; her brother, Charles Grubbs her sisters; Peggy Spires, Judy Boutwell, and Jackie Conley; and her parents. Their memories remained close to her heart throughout her life. She also carried the love of those who survive her, including her sons, Dwayne Gillis and his wife Ann, and Keith Gillis and his wife Katie. She is also survived by her sisters, Patsy Peacock and Susan Woodard and her husband Bill, as well as several nieces and nephews who will cherish her memory.

Lynn spent 20 years working at the peanut stand for Hardy Farms, where she made numerous friends and became a familiar and beloved face to many. Her work was more than a job, as it was a place where her cheerful personality and easy conversation brightened the days of those she met. She took pride in the relationships she built there and in the simple kindness she showed to others. Her presence left a lasting impression on coworkers, customers, and friends alike.

Outside of work, Lynn enjoyed music, karaoke, and dancing. These interests brought her joy and reflected the lively and spirited nature that so many loved about her. She appreciated the moments that allowed her to laugh, sing, and share time with others. Whether listening to a favorite song or stepping out on the dance

floor, she embraced life with enthusiasm and heart.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026 at the Mary Whitaker Townsend Memorial Chapel of Townsend Brothers Funeral Home with Mr. Keith Gillis officiating. Burial will follow at Northview Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026 at the funeral home.

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

Townsend Brothers Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Tashi Norris Cuyler

Funeral services for Mrs. Tashi Norris Cuyler will be held on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Kingdom Life Fellowship Ministries, 2045 New Tennile Road in Harrison. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Tashi Norris Cuyler was born on Sept. 13, 1977, in Dublin, Georgia, to Cheryl Norris and the late Renneth Walker. She was also lovingly raised by Larry Waters, who was a wonderful father figure in her life.

Tashi graduated from Johnson County High School and continued her education at Georgia College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business management. She enjoyed a successful and fulfilling career as an IT specialist with GEICO for more than 20 years. Tashi was also a real estate agent and an entrepreneur who sold beautiful home décor.

At an early age, Tashi began her Christian journey at Kingdom Life. Her faith remained an important part of her life..

On Monday, Sept. 7, 2026, Tashi peacefully transitioned from this earthly life at her residence in Wrightsville, Georgia. Tashi was preceded in death by her grandparents, Willis Walker Sr., Betty Norris, Moses Ca-

son Sr., Vivian Cuyler, and Theotis Cuyler Sr.; her uncle, Lorenzo Walker; and her aunt, Leisa Norris Brookins (Jeffrey).

Tashi leaves a lifetime of cherished memories with her devoted husband of 20 years and loving companion of 31 years, Eric Cuyler; their two children, Impra Cuyler and Keimahn Cuyler; and three beloved grandchildren, Kaiden, Kamari and Madisyn Cuyler.

She also leaves to cherish her memory her mother, Cheryl Norris; her loving father figure, Larry Waters; her grandmother, Christine Walker; and her brothers and sisters: Otis (Aimee) Norris, Mashauni (Natalia), Sherielle, Cedrick Walker, Shorne (Clyde) Robinson, Alphonso (Tina) Copelin, Jeremy, Sandra, Delouis Cuyler, Theotis (Benita) Cuyler Jr., Shirley Raines, Vivian (L.M.) Pierce, Denita (Willie) Scott, and Angela Ford.

Her loving aunts and uncles include Reda (Michael) Street, Shirley Taylor, Sharon, Audrey, Tameka, Danny and Wesley Norris; Vinson, Moses, Calvin and Steven Cason; Shadonna Cason; Sharon (John) King; Veronica (Bill) Richard; Carol (Dr. Cedric) Cason; and Joan Walker.

Tashi also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and friends. Kayla and Armani Norris held a special place in her heart and were especially near and dear to her.

Among the special people in Tashi's life were Talisha Norris; Tonoya (Maurice) Johnson; and her beloved "mini-me," Robdricka (Larry) Stanley Fullwood.

Tashi's beautiful spirit, loving heart, and precious memories will forever remain in the hearts of everyone who knew and loved her.

Please post your condolences online at ServicesByDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.



Domestic violence is the single greatest cause of homelessness among women and children in Georgia

WOMEN
in need of **GOD'S** HEALING

272-8000 or 800-WINGS-03

NOTICE

The City of Montrose Council does hereby announce that the City of Montrose millage rate will be set at its Tuesday meeting, September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1090 First Street, Montrose, Georgia 31065. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sec 48-5-32, as amended, the Council hereby publishes the following presentation for the current year's tax digest and proposed levy.

In accordance with Georgia law, all taxable property shall be assessed at forty percent of its fair market value, which will be determined by the Tax Commissioner of Laurens County. The taxable property shall then be taxed by the City at a millage rate of **5 mills**. By way of an example:

The average home in Montrose, Georgia has a fair market value of \$200,000. The property owner of the \$200,000 home would pay \$400 in property taxes, as calculated below:

40% of said value is \$80,000. Considering the millage rate to be 5 mills, the property owner shall pay \$5 per \$1,000 taxable value:

$$\$80,000 \times (5/1,000) = \$400.00 \text{ taxes owed.}$$

All concerned citizens are invited to attend the three public hearings regarding this tax implementation, millage rate adoption, and the tax increase to be held at **1090 First Street, Montrose, Georgia 31065** on:

- 1. Tuesday September 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM,**
- 2. Saturday September 12, 2026 at 9:00 AM, and**
- 3. Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM.**

All concerned citizens are invited to join these public meeting.

Please take further notice that the City of Montrose is hereby moving its regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026 from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**

Please take further notice that the City of Montrose is hereby setting a specially set meeting to adopt the millage rate and tax levy implementation for **Tuesday September 15, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. at 1090 First Street, Montrose, Georgia 31065.**

City Council will render its final vote regarding the implementation of ad valorem property taxes and the proposed millage rate of 5 mils at 7:00 P.M. on September 15, 2026.

All politics is local. Is that still the case?

How voters make decisions has changed a lot over the years. I have an ongoing debate with a friend and professional associate of mine who still contends “all politics is local”. I contend it eventually ends there, but the genesis of issues that motivate (i.e, anger) voters is national, if not international.

We now have documented evidence of foreign countries and entities that spend billions every year to influence and/or inflame Americans on a variety of topics. Some are meant to advance a particular issue favorable to the funders. Others are just to divide us on behalf of adversarial regimes.

These efforts may start by funding “experts” or student activities on college campuses, influencers on social media, or utilizing investments in private corporations who employ Americans. Ultimately, they’re packaged for national media in red and blue packages and disseminated through the usual channels.

Over the past few decades, the binary decisions demanded by a two-party system combined with the ever increasing power of a central federal government have raised the stakes of primaries. The way to get a nomination is to prove to a small and angry partisan base is to demonstrate a candidate is the most “pure” and unwilling to compromise.

The fixation of purity tests combined with promises of everything the base wants combined with nothing they don’t continues to

push the two major parties’ positions farther and farther from the center. The decision to enforce adherence to partisan dogma often makes moderates, centrists, or those who wish to think for themselves a bigger enemy than those in the other party.

Those who control the parties are well aware there are only jerseys in two colors available. They’re also aware more people are being afraid of being kicked off the team or out of the club than they are of losing.

Then there’s the President, himself. A “good Republican” is not allowed to criticize him and remain in good standing. A “good Democrat” isn’t allowed to support him or any of his proposals. There are no exceptions for “but this was good for my state/district/constituents”.

So it’s pretty clear that all politics is now national, no?

As college football season coincides with the home stretch of our elections, I invoke the words of now retired coach turned ESPN personality Lee Corso. “Not so fast...”

Many of the issues that voters are concerned about, as well as their increasingly hardened attitudes for or against them, are germinated, funded, and distributed in a top down manner. How they manifest themselves, however, are still very local.

The current obsession over data centers provides an excellent example. For many, the issue was one that mattered to Silicon Valley, Wall Street, and the talking heads in New York and



By **CHARLIE HARPER**

Washington.

Even with Georgia having a long history and presence with data centers rooted in the state’s logistics network of early telecom infrastructure and fiber optic networks, the increasing number of data centers was largely unnoticed by most Georgians until they became a top down national issue. Suddenly, data centers and proposals for new ones appear to be everywhere. So is their opposition.

In fairness to many of the recent opponents, there is a difference from a conceptual argument on TV versus discovering a few hundred rural acres are about to be replaced by industrial warehouse architecture. “Not In My Back Yard” NIMBYs have been a political force from the beginning of democratic voting.

Sometimes NIMBYs win unopposed. Sometimes another local force emerges with equal pushback: What’s In It For Me?

Headlines over the last few weeks have been dominated by local governments

and school boards either raising millage rates, or holding them steady while taxes are increased via higher assessments. Inflation drives up the cost of government services, too.

Data Center developers are starting to understand the messaging they’ve been employing is too close to Artificial Intelligence and/or the change technology is bringing to all of our lives. A lot of the pushback is a direct rejection of the companies and products which have delivered these changes.

A single data center, however, has the opportunity to change the entire tax base of a small to medium sized county. Commissioners, city councils and school boards know the voters don’t like data centers today, but they will hate their tax payments forever.

The awareness of the problem began as a national issue. The voters are very much acting out locally. So is the politics local or national?

Like most political arguments, the premise is itself a false choice. It doesn’t matter where the issue starts. It ends in a pocketbook.

“It’s the economy stupid” was James Carville’s admonition to Bill Clinton throughout a campaign against an incumbent that started out way ahead. “It’s the voter’s wallet” is a modern update for local officials trying to deal with nationally fomented anger while attempting to navigate solutions for their constituents.

TELL IT!



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

Should a driver move into the left lane at the sign stating that the right lane ends to merge left, or just keep driving on until the lane runs out and then cut in front of the left lane traffic?

Oh boy, here we go again with school taxes. The county school tax is going up again. These school systems are out of control and continue to put more burden on property owners. Reduce spending!

Shoutout to the folks at Total Earth Services on getting the roundabout completed so quick. We know when we see that TES logo at a site, it’s going to be done right.

When is someone going to clean up the burnt house on Cardinal Drive? It’s been there for going on two years. I’d like for the city to clean it up. It’s bad for the neighborhood and an eyesore for the community.

So the county watched DCS hike taxes 25% so they figure they can hike 30%. Their justification? All the other counties have higher taxes than Laurens County, so we’re going to raise ours. Does that sound rational and competent or irresponsible and stupid?

Dedicated prison van parking at Fairview is not enough. We need these criminals treated at another facility other than our own. Money is the root of all evil. Remember this when you vote.

In Georgia, a student in a failing or low performing school can select to transfer to a higher performing school without any pay to the new school.

Go ahead commissioners, hike the taxes 30%, don’t explain what you’re going to do with all that money, step on your constituents’ neck, laugh about how you’ve pulled a fast one, watch this city and county turn into a 3rd world country, open more vape shops, all with the logic of “well all the other counties do it...” Maybe Kemp can suspend all of you too.

They want us to vote in a 1 % sales tax Now they want a 30% property tax Your killing me Smalls!

The city of Dublin needs to stop over charging these people extra on their water bill. Water bill goes up from \$45 to \$80 within a month. Workers stop being lazy and do your job and read the meter right.

Can we get a newly appointed County Commissioners from Kemp? All of them need replacing after all these tax increases.

You know when my funds are running low or my bills are stacking up, I prioritize my spending. Go without on some things. Stop some things. I don’t demand more money from my employer. I hope you hear us.

We need to stick together about this water bill. What are we paying for? Supervisors from Dublin water company get from behind the desk and check on your workers.

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.

TO THE EDITOR

Vote no on Laurens County’s tax increase.

Laurens County is not broke. It is asking homeowners to fund a choice.

The commissioners propose raising the county millage from 5.498 to 7.000 and the county levy from \$11.4 million to \$14.9 million. That is \$3.5 million more — 30.85 percent — on the board’s own required notice. Saying the whole tax bill is not going up 30 percent does not change that. The school board is a separate millage. This fight is the county’s take.

“First increase since 2015” is the rate, not the check. For years they trimmed mills while the digested grew and collections still rose. In 2021 the net county rate was already 7.157. They are walking back toward a rate they used to

charge and selling it as historic necessity.

The \$120 example on a \$200,000 house is \$10 a month on a flyer. Georgia law already offered the other option: the rollback rate. These three hearings exist because 7.000 mills exceeds that number. If last year’s levy plus new construction covered the sheriff, EMS, fire, and 911, they would not have to advertise a property tax increase.

Then look at the audit they would rather talk around.

As of June 30, 2025, the General Fund had about \$22.1 million unassigned and about \$22.4 million in total fund balance — roughly 60 percent of General Fund spending. Combined governmental funds were about \$28.9 million. A healthy reserve is two or

three months of operations. This is about seven.

Hurricane Helene was real. That is what a reserve is for. One-time disaster spending does not require a permanent millage. A millage follows you every year. A reserve draw for a storm or a truck does not.

That same pile of cash earned \$878,324 in investment income in FY 2025. County officials have said the fund balance generates almost \$1 million a year and is worth about 0.75 mills off the rate. So the story last year was: we keep a large balance because the interest holds taxes down. The story this year is: we still need a mill and a half. Both cannot be the closing argument.

They do not have to empty the account. Set the rollback rate. Take new houses and industry as they hit the

digest. Keep the interest working. If public safety has a true one-time equipment hole, buy the equipment from reserve and show the invoice. What they should not do is convert a fat checking account into a higher rate and call it the only responsible path.

Ask for three pages at the Sept. 14 and Sept. 22 hearings: the audit line with the \$22.1 million, Form PT-32.1 with the rollback rate, and the public-safety detail — last year, this year, and what was cut everywhere else. Until those are public, “not much we can do” is a slogan.

Vote no. Fund safety inside the money already on the books.

Will Stauff
Dublin, Ga.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY...

"Never turn your back on fear. It should be in front of you, like a thing that might have to be killed."

- Hunter S. Thompson

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

- Matthew 5:6

EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY...

September 10, 2026 is...

- Are You Okay Day
- World Suicide Prevention Day
- TV Dinner Day

YOUR TURN:

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

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



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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.

Dublin Police Department

- Derrick Clarence Smith, 48, was arrested for disorderly conduct at Shells on East Jackson Street at 12:18 a.m. on Aug. 28.

An officer was riding through the area when he heard what sounded like a disturbance coming from the location. He saw a group of individuals arguing. After talking with several people, the officer learned that one woman was attempting to assist another woman who was intoxicated. The two women got into a verbal altercation, which was separated by other individuals. At some point, one of the women slapped a man who was also at the location.

This caused another man, later identified as Smith, to want to fight the other man. Officers told Smith to either return inside the restaurant or leave. Smith walked away and officers remained in the area to ensure no further disturbance occurred. A short time later, officers stepped between Smith and a group of individuals. Smith was attempting to walk through the officers in order to reach the man he had previously stated he wanted to fight.

Officers repeatedly told Smith to back away or leave the area. Smith continued stating that he wanted the officers to let him get to the other man. An officer told Smith to leave the area, and began walking him back toward Shells. Smith then looked at the officers and said, “Y’all can’t handle me.”

At that point, Smith was arrested and charged. He was transported to the sheriff’s office and released into the cus-



POLICE BEAT...

tody of the jail staff.

- Joel Xavier Howard, 22, was charged with failure to obey traffic control device and driving while license suspended or revoked at 10:15 p.m. on Aug. 26.

While an officer was traveling east on Hillcrest Parkway, he saw a vehicle run the red light at the intersection of Hillcrest Parkway and Claxton Dairy. The officer activated his lights and pulled the vehicle over.

He met with the driver, identified as Howard, who did not have his license on him. He informed the officer that he ran the light because he was trying to do somethings after dropping his cousin off and was just in a hurry. The officer returned to his patrol car and ran the driver’s information, which came back showing Howard’s license was suspended. The man was transported to the police department and released on citation after being fingerprinted.

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

- Diane Powell, 55, of Dexter, was charged with driving while license suspended or revoked, giving false name to officers, going inside guard line with weapon, liquor or drugs and possession of cocaine. A deputy initiated a traffic stop on a white Ford F-150 at the intersection of Highway 441 and Scotland Road.

- A deputy responded to the sheriff’s office in reference to a walk-in to file a report about an incident that happened on Ga. 126 in Dexter around 4:26 p.m. on Aug. 25.

- A woman talked with a deputy at the sheriff’s office in reference to identity theft that happened on Highway 117 in Rentz at 11 a.m. on Aug. 24.

- On Aug. 24, at approximately 2:06 p.m., a deputy responded to the sheriff’s office for a walk-in about a situation that occurred on Dollar Lane.

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.

Angie Hammock Tracy to speak at Dublin CWC luncheon

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

How could one woman do what everyone else thought to be virtually impossible?

Angie Tracey gives all the credit to God for accomplishing what few would have even ventured to attempt.

She invited God into the high places of United States government, and the results were so incredible that the only explanation is a miracle from God!

All ladies are invited to the Dublin Country Club on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. as Tracy returns home to Dublin to speak for our Dublin Christian Women’s Connection luncheon. A delicious buffet luncheon will be served, with buffet music provided by pianist Brenda Holloway.

Special guest Andrea Craft will give us a glimpse into the delightful treatments and therapies to

relieve stress and pain offered at Emerald Ease, located in the Fred Roberts Building.

Tracey is a graduate of Dublin High School, daughter of the late Jim Hammock and Ramona Hammock.

Her communication skills quickly led her to a career in high places. She was Congressman Billy Evans’s Press Secretary from 1976-1981.

Recognizing her expertise in drug abuse prevention while serving the U. S. Congress, President Ronald Reagan asked Angie to become the Director of all drug abuse prevention programs for the Reagan Administration.

She invited celebrities such as Paul Newman, Michael Landon, and Brooke Shields to help her spread the message of the “Just Say No” Program.

In 1990 Tracey returned to Georgia to assume a leadership position at the Centers for Disease Con-

trol.

In 2001, six days before the tragedy of 9/11, she founded the Christian Fellowship Group, the first officially sanctioned Christian Employee Association in the modern era in Federal Government. Since retiring, she has been a consultant to many Fortune 500 companies.

Tracey’s tenacity and faith in God brought about a transformation in the work environment of the CDC, and she shares how God can do the same in your workplace as well.

The cost of the luncheon is \$21, inclusive. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Emily at (478) 278-7829 by Monday, September 14.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Scott’s Starter and Alternator Shop for sponsoring our invitations.

Make your plans to join us as we welcome Angie Tracey home to Dublin!

Falling for my garden for Dublin After Five Women's Connection

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

Dublin After Five Women’s Connection cordially invites all ladies to join us at the Dublin Country Club on Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 6:30-8:30 P.M. for an evening filled with fellowship, music and inspiration.

Fall gardening in Georgia is vital because the state’s mild fall climate, warm soil, and cooling air create an ideal environment for establishing strong roots. When the weather begins cooling down, it’s time to finish the gardening season by preparing all your plants for the winter.

Blake Carter, our new UGA Extension Agriculture & National Extension Agent, will be speaking on fall gardening. Blake is a native of Glennville, GA and has Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD degrees from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Natural Resources. Prior to coming to Dublin, he served as an



Dublin native Angie Hammock Tracy will be the guest speaker at the Dublin After 5 and Dublin CWC events/ SPECIAL PHOTO

Extension Agent in Liberty and Effingham counties.

Our inspirational guest speaker Angie Hammock Tracy, a Dublin native, will be speaking on “When God is Invited to High Places”. Angie was Congressman Billy Evans’ press secretary from 1976-1981. During President Reagan’s Admin-

istration, Angie was appointed by the President to be the Director of the National Campaign for a Drug-Free America and the First Lady Nancy Reagan’s “Just Say No” anti-drug initiative. Upon returning to Georgia, Angie worked as Sr. Advisor for Strategic Planning and Special Projects at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Dr Trent Herring, a dentist at Middle Georgia Family Dentistry, will be sharing his amazing voice with us and the talented Regina Rowe will play our buffet music.

Please call Dianne (478) 272-6341 or Marge (478) 875-3948 for reservations or cancellations by Tuesday, September 15, 2026. The buffet cost is \$21.00, inclusive, and requires a reservation. We ask that you honor your reservation, cancel it, or give it to a friend. The printing of our invitations is a courtesy and generosity of Beck’s Forestry, Dexter, Georgia.

They may look like book drops, but some believe ‘baby boxes’ can save lives

By TY TAGAMI Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Amie Anderson’s first instinct was rage.

Her daughter, a nurse, had just told her how a young mother had walked into the hospital and surrendered her infant.

Under Georgia law, hospitals are among the safe places where a mother can

leave her newborn.

"I was just like, 'Who in the world does this and why?'," the elder Anderson recalled recently.

"And I'm just raging. I mean all-Christianity-out-the-window raging," she said. "And my daughter was like, 'Mama no, no, no: she was so brave.'"

Amie Anderson then felt a sense of guilt so profound

that it spurred her to spend three years prodding Georgia lawmakers to amend the law.

She searched online and found news about babies abandoned in dumpsters and trash cans.

She also saw heartening stories, such as one about a firefighter in Ocala, Florida, who adopted an infant left in the "baby box" at his fire

station.

Then, she had an epiphany: some scared mothers needed anonymity.

"My assumption is that having to look a person in the face and hand that baby over is scary," she said. "And when people panic, they do stupid things."

The Indiana nonprofit Safe Haven Baby Boxes made the box that delivered

a baby girl to the Florida firefighter and his wife.

Each unit is built into an exterior wall at a fire station, hospital or other approved site. The temperature-controlled compartment contains a plastic bassinet. The external door locks after it is closed, and two alarms alert building personnel. The box also alerts 911 if no one opens the Plexiglass door on the inside and retrieves the baby.

Anderson called Safe Haven to ask about installing boxes in Georgia.

lies, including her local state representative, who wrote legislation and then handed it to Rep. Mike Cameron, R-Rossville.

Finally, this year, they got the box law passed, but it almost didn’t happen.

House Bill 350 got a final vote during the last minutes of this year’s legislative session.

AT OUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Bingo For Books at the Laurens County Library on Monday, September 14th, from 10:00am - 11:30am in our Auditorium. Come play bingo at the library! You could win books and more! Coffee will be served.

Mechatronics Monday at the Laurens County Library on Monday, September 14th, from 3:30pm - 4:30pm in the Learning Lab. Drop by our LEGO® technic lab. Build with LEGO® gears, motors, and more! Learn coding, too. Ages 8+ recommended.

Children’s Storytime at the Laurens County Library on Tuesday, September

15th, at 10:30am & 5:30pm in the Children’s Center. Join us for our weekly storytime where little ones can enjoy stories, dancing, and crafts.

Homeschool Hangout at the Laurens County Library on Wednesday, September 16th, from 2:30pm - 3:30pm in the Learning Lab. Meet other homeschooling families, and enjoy board games, puzzles, and more!

BUILD! at the Laurens County Library on Wednesday, September 16th, from 4:00pm - 5:30pm in the Children’s Center. For teens to toddlers, it’s our weekly LEGO® and Duplo® build-

ing event!

Intro to Computers & Internet at the Laurens County Library on Thursday, September 17th, from 10:30am - 11:30am in the Learning Lab. Technology can be tricky- but we’re here to help. This beginner-friendly class will help you feel more comfortable using computers and the internet.

Art Night at the Laurens County Library on Thursday, September 17th, from 5:00pm - 6:30pm in the Learning Lab. Teens are invited to a cozy night of arts

and crafts. Bring your own project or create something new. Materials provided to create bookbag charms.

Join us @ “Our Health Matters” Health Expo at the KWG Resource Center on Saturday, September 19th, from 10:00am - 1:00pm at 404 South Washington Street. Join us for a day of wellness and fun! There will be free health screenings, wellness resources, music, food, and a blood drive. Presented by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Beta Alpha Chi Zeta Chapter.

Job Announcement

The Laurens County Library is hiring for a 15-hour position in the Heritage Center at a starting salary of \$10/hr, with most Saturdays required. The successful candidate will be a detail-oriented, people-person with a warm, professional demeanor, strong customer service, and solid computer skills. Preference will be given to candidates with research experience. GED is required, with a college degree or equivalent work experience preferred. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and two employment references to Beverly Brown via email at <https://ocrl.org/employment> or by mail to PO Box 100, Dublin, GA 31040.

- Invocation
- Roll call
- Recognition of visitors
- Minutes of previous meeting
- Old business: discussion of office procedures; revenue expenditures and outlay
- New business: Preparing for November general
- Executive session

NEWS DIGEST

The Laurens County Board of Education and Registration will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sept. 14 at 5 p.m. in the board of elections and registration office of the Laurens County Courthouse Annex building, located at 117 E. Jackson St., Suite A in Dublin. The agenda follows:

- Call to order

Classifieds

Yard/Estate Sales

Huge Estate Sale. Sue & Robert East estate. House loaded to the gills! Furniture, Xmas, dolls, St. Patrick’s, vintage toys, name brand & vintage clothing, jewelry, rugs, kitchen, appliances, wood working shop and commercial tools. Sat. September 12 6AM & Sun. 13th 1PM. Woods Ave. near Pine Forest Church. Southern Estate Sales.

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BEGINS CLOSING: Fri, Sept. 25th @ 1:00 P.M.

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TRINITY 28, AUGUSTA PREP 21

Run game carries Crusaders to another road win

By JEREMY PAYNE
Correspondent

After losing big at home last week, the Trinity Crusaders went on the road for the second time this season Friday as they traveled to Augusta to face the Augusta Prep Cavaliers.

Trinity again found itself in a dogfight, but found a way to come out on top with a 28-21 win to even its record at 2-2 on the season.

After both teams exchanged punts on their opening possessions, Augusta Prep was able to

get on the board first. Austin Luke broke free for a 50-yard touch-down run to cap a four-play, 66-yard drive to give the home team a 7-0 lead midway through the opening quarter.

The Crusaders took the ensuing short kick and went right to work themselves. On the seventh play of the drive, Tayt Evans broke free for a 15-yard scoring run. The extra point was blocked, and the score was 7-6 APDS late in the first period.

Neither team did much in the

second quarter as the Cavaliers punted twice, and the Crusaders threw an interception and turned over on downs.

Trinity took the second-half kickoff and went right to work driving into the Augusta Prep red zone. Unfortunately, the turn-over bug would bite the Crusaders again as the drive stalled with a fumble.

The defense would hold strong to force another punt and a personal foul penalty set Trinity up in prime scoring position at the Cavs'

29.

On the fourth play of the drive, Will-J Harris would rumble in from 12 yards out for score. The two point conversion was successful and the Crusaders led 14-7.

Augusta Prep got a solid kickoff return to set itself up in plus territory on the next possession. Again the Trinity defense would stand tall as it forced a turnover on downs to get the ball back late in the third quarter.

Trinity would then put its best drive of the night together

to extend the lead and use some clock. The Crusaders would march 62 yards in seven plays, as Harris rumbled 25 yards to paydirt for his second score of the evening to extend the lead to 21-7 midway through the final quarter.

Trinity may have felt comfortable with the lead, but that momentum was short-lived. Carter Chavous took the ensuing kickoff at the 18 and broke free for an 82-yard TD to cut the margin in half

CRUSADERS
Continued on page 8



West Laurens players begin the postgame celebration after a final kneel-down sealed their reinvigorating win over Dodge County Friday in Eastman/DANNY SCARBORO

WEST LAURENS 30, DODGE COUNTY 29

Raiders rally from 3 TDs down to win another thriller in Eastman

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

EASTMAN – It was a roller-coaster-type game reminiscent of... well, the last two times West Laurens and Dodge County played each other at Memorial Stadium.

The teams' 2026 battle, a 29th in their rivalry history, borrowed a bit from the defensive aspect of the Raiders' most recent visit in 2022 – the debut and first career win of current head coach Kip Burdette – that was highlighted by five Indian turnovers and clinched with a fourth down tackle for loss by Jaydon Jackson.

The sheer craziness of this one, marked by plays that would've been one thing but turned out to be another, and a West Laurens reversal to erase a three-score deficit, also reminded a good bit of a similar turning-point victory there seven years ago... which also featured a pick-six and kickoff return among four Dodge County touchdowns, but also a Raider rally from two behind to win by three of them in an early springboard to their 2019 region championship.

In Friday's return, West Laurens would trail 22 points early in the second quarter, but score 23 unanswered the rest of the way, holding twice in a row on



Kingston O'Neal sprints past Dodge County special teamers on his roughly 70-yard punt return for a game-changing touchdown late in the third quarter/DANNY SCARBORO

downs in the last five minutes of the game to secure the win, 30-29, in a major growing-up moment for its young team playing a first game on the road.

"It was a lot of back and forth, but I'm just proud of our team and the way they responded," Burdette said. "Hopefully we'll grow from this, get a little confidence and know that we can hang in there."

In the end, the Raiders (1-1 overall) continued their long-running pattern of good mojo playing

in Eastman, which is the site of five out of their eight all-time wins over Dodge, and in all but one of the teams' last six meetings there. Accompanying trends of unpredictable momentum swings were also in full effect.

The game featured three non-offensive touchdowns, all in opportune or inopportune spots, depending on which side you were sitting. All three of the game's turnovers were just as pivotal.

RAIDERS
Continued on page 7

BALDWIN 20, DUBLIN 14

Untimely fumbles, Braves' big plays spoil homecoming in first Irish loss

From STAFF REPORTS

Baldwin and its big-play offense made no secret of an intent on stretching the field vertically in Friday night's battle of unbeaten with Dublin.

But out of about eight deep shots the Braves took, they hit on only one that netted about 23 yards after a sack on the following play.

As things turned out, it was the Baldwin defense that carried the night in an upset of the top-ranked Irish where its two big scoring plays were attributed to a simple run and screen pass that caught the Dublin defense in compromising spots.

Big gainers near halftime, on a run by Tavares Hooks that helped tie the score at the end of the second quarter, and in the final minutes of the fourth, when Justin Burton took a bubble screen 67 yards for the final lead, lifted the Braves to the 20-14 spoiler on homecoming night in the Shamrock Bowl.

Burton was a target of many of the long-distance throws Baldwin (3-0 overall) attempted to establish along with the run game that was more of its bread and butter.

Hooks had 10 carries for 120

yards, and quarterback Kamden Patterson 41 on nine scrambles. He was 14-of-25 for 208 passing.

Baldwin's bulky defensive line impressed in its work against the Dublin front, allowing under 200 yards rushing.

But the Irish (2-1) had bigger problems with fumbles, which continued as a trend from the previous week's win over Perry, in which they had about five of them, but lost only two.

About four more Friday, mainly associated with snap and exchange issues in the backfield, led to three more giveaways that didn't help in regaining some offensive momentum that subsided after back-to-back confident scoring drives early in the game.

Dublin's first went three plays and out, but good runs by Ryland Yates, Dontavius Cannon and Travion Bostic got them rolling on a second possession that found the end zone late in the first quarter, as Bostic followed the kick-out block of Jalen Dardy over the right side and into the end zone.

A point-after kick by NaZyon Mitchell gave the Irish a 7-0 lead.

On the next turn, early in the

IRISH
Continued on page 7



Baldwin's Tavares Hooks is toppled in the backfield on a group tackle by the Dublin defense/HORACE AUSTIN

WASHINGTON COUNTY 16, EAST LAURENS 14

Hawks hang on in short second half, hand Falcons third-straight loss

From STAFF REPORTS

For a second-straight week, the East Laurens Falcons were right there in a winnable game, but couldn't make enough plays in the second half to get it done as their closest so far ended with a third-straight loss.

A couple of key two-point conversions after touchdowns in the first half, and one long, time consuming possession in the fourth quarter, got Washington County to the finish line with a 16-14 lead to claim a first career victory for its new head coach Jay Ware at the new Falcon Field.

The Golden Hawks' crisp, physical Wing-T attack had its best showing so far, churning out steady positive yardage as it chewed clock throughout the night, and punched in consecutive rushing touchdowns for the full

scoring total during quarter 2.

East Laurens (0-3) had some early offensive success, but couldn't do enough on its only two chances with the ball after halftime.

The Falcons were held to only 25 net rushing yards. Skyler Snead was 6-of-12 passing for 60 yards passing with touchdown completions to Braedyn Evans and Bryson Hazley that bookended WACO's points.

Hazley led receivers with three catches for 42 yards.

All the scoring took place in the first half.

Floyd played an important early role for the Falcons, catching a screen pass for a first down on the Falcons' opening drive, which would later be forced into a punt by the sack of Cameron Cason, and sniffing out a run for loss that

forced WACO into a third-down situation after driving fairly deep the other way on its first.

The Golden Hawks (1-2) would set up a screen pass that resulted in a fumble, and Jaxten Thomas returned it 51 yards to the other end to set up East's first strike of the game. Floyd carried for a bit to get the Falcons into the red zone, then Skyler Snead rolled left and found Evans wide open in the back of the end zone for the touchdown.

John Thang's PAT kick made it 7-0 late in the first quarter.

WACO resumed its methodical pace on the ground, and seldom lost yardage, on a 70-yard drive to a response early in the second quarter.

Mardarius Poole, who had several of the possession's biggest

FALCONS
Continued on page 8



Bryson Hazley extends a stiff-arm after getting loose early on an East Laurens drive late in the first half/ZACH DAWSON

IRISH
Continued from page 6

second quarter, they were forced into another punting situation at their own 23. But Yates, on his rollout for a rugby-style kick, saw an opening and went for it, picking up 37 yards and a first down to keep the eventual scoring drive going.

Moments later, he'd hit Will Wallace on a deep play pass to reach the red zone, and Cannon drove his way into the end zone on a third and goal to aid in getting the lead to 14-0.

The Baldwin defense crammed things in tight, and stopped the run pretty effectively the rest of the way to force punts, turnovers or fourth-down stops from that point on.

Its comeback began out of half-time, when Dublin's variety of turnover issues came to the forefront.

Those began with an onside kick try to open the third quarter as the Braves bounced one off an Irish special teamer, and recovered to start a drive that netted a couple of first downs, but was eventually turned back on downs around the Dublin 30, as Mitchell caught Patterson a few yards short on a scramble to the left-hand side.

Despite recovering from a fumbled snap to open the next series, the Irish had an exchange problem in the backfield on second down, and put it on the ground for a Baldwin recovery right about where its last drive left off.

The Braves took their customary shot right after the turnover



Left: Ryland Yates races past the first down marker, and over midfield, on a first-half fake punt that catalyzed a second Irish scoring drive. Right: Baldwin's Camden Patterson, a 600-yard passer in the season's first two weeks, loads up for one of the Braves' early deep shots. They only hit one or two, but shorter completions that kept the chains and drives moving against the Dublin defense were good enough to help Patterson exceed 200 in passing yardage/HORACE AUSTIN

that was dropped at the 2, but did some more dinking and dunking to work their way inside the Dublin 5 for a fourth-down score via sweep by Jerlindous Armstrong.

Patterson linked up with Hooks for two to even the score at 14.

The Irish survived another onside scare on the ensuing kickoff, and then traded punts with Baldwin (a sack by Domimarkeyo Walden forcing the second) to get the game into the fourth.

Ball-handling problems struck again on the next two possessions, which were both making progress well across midfield in hopes of a tiebreaking score.

But nothing resulted, Dublin regained possession, and had to punt again.

Baldwin got the ball back with four minutes to go for what was likely its last chance in regulation, and made the best of it.

Patterson hung one up over the middle and found Burton on a diving reception at his own 46 on an early play.

Jaydon McRae pushed the Braves way back to their 33 on a sack with 90 seconds left.

But following the boost came a big bust, as the Braves went with a bubble screen to Burton in the right flat, and the entire left side of Dublin's secondary got sucked into blocks on the edge by Bryan Goddard and D.J. Hill.

Bostic made a good run at a tackle to save the touchdown, but couldn't catch him on the 67-yard



sprint to the visiting locker rooms with just about a minute left in the game.

Baldwin's two-point conversion attempt was denied.

The Irish had some more early positives on their final drive, getting out to the 37 yard line on Bostic's kickoff return, then picking up double digits on the first play as Yates hit him on a completion over midfield, with a solid 42 seconds remaining on the clock.

But the Braves stiffened on the next series, bottling a screen and reverse handoff for Jamarus Knight that followed a first-down spike to set the Irish up with fourth and a decent bit.

Pressure from Jamori Lester would ruin a chance at the con-

version, as Yates was hit on his release of a fluttering pass that Bostic caught, but well short of the marker.

The Braves' big-play threat loomed large all night, though each of its early bombs missed their targets.

A first try three plays in was incomplete, but drew a pass interference flag. Another one later in the same drive was overthrown on a third down, to necessitate a punt.

Early on possession 2, Baldwin tried one off a flea-flicker, but Irish DB Kye Young had Burton enveloped in coverage, and the ball fell harmlessly to prompt the Braves to kick it away again.

A completion over the middle to Jacob Hester got the Braves into Dublin territory for the first time on their third possession, then to Burton on a similar catch-and-run to get to the edge of the red zone. But the scoring bid was denied as the Irish withstood a few pressured heaves on third and fourth down to get the ball back ahead of their drive to go up two scores.

Hooks' explosive run came immediately after, as Dublin got caught in a counter play, and two men with a chance at the tackle missed as the junior sprinted up the middle and left a vapor trail to the end zone.

A failed two-point conversion left the halftime score at 14-6, as both sides got the ball one more time, and reached plus territory.

The Irish gave it over on a fourth down, and Baldwin couldn't get the connection on a last-second shot to the end zone.

RAIDERS
Continued from page 6

West Laurens, whose only take-away was a fumble, had a chance to force at least six more in the form of interceptions that were either just out of reach, dropped or hit the turf just before a low catch by defenders.

Strange bounces of the ball led to plenty of other key plays.

Early in the game, Dodge (1-1) benefited from two of them amid an opportune start that included an onside kick recovery, a pick-six, and one of those near-interceptions going the other way... in a situation with about eight different potential outcomes that happened to result in a big play for receiver Jauriel Bray.

Maxx Chafin got a hit on quarterback Kain Mincey as he released a rushed throw into danger, but the ball went through the hands of teammate Leroy Mack, and wound up in the mitts of Bray for a close to 50-yard gain that set up goal to go, and a touchdown on the next play.

For a second-straight week, Dodge converted its guard Keyzan Harris into a running back, and set up a scrum to easily whisk him into the end zone from about four yards away.

A fourth touchdown in the first 16 minutes had the Indians, up 29-7, in position to run off with the game. But the West Laurens defense had other ideas, and shut them out by forcing four punts, a fumble, a missed field goal and three takeaways on downs from that point forward.

"We went down 14-0 early," said clear-cut defensive leader Kingston O'Neal, who had three and a half total tackles and a pass break-up, created a turnover and scored a key special teams touchdown later in the night. "We knew most teams wouldn't have kept going after that, but we kept going and got it done."

Turning things around...

The Raiders' drastically retooled offense has been slow to emerge through the season's first few weeks, and several of its early drives had the looks of those against Bleckley County in week 1 that, when free of mistakes, were missing only a confident run game that emerged sooner rather than later in this one.

Rushing attempts represented 45 of their 51 plays, and most of their 195 total yards.

Braylen Robinson developed the hot hand on 24 carries that led to 100 of them. Justin Blash spelled him with an additional 50 on 17.

Quarterback Duggan Malone threw only six passes, and his only completion was a 37-yard touchdown strike to Jaden Stanley, right when West Laurens needed it to cut that 22-point deficit back down to 15 on a 48-yard scoring drive.

The Raiders' D quickly forced a turnover, as O'Neal pried a poor-



Braylen Robinson breaks a big run several plays before scoring the Raiders' first touchdown in the opening quarter/DANNY SCARBORO

ly-tucked ball loose from Jerimiah Burns after his catch in the left flat, and recovered it to help Malone chip away a little further at the Dodge lead on a 32-yard field goal.

The Indians were denied a chance to get those three back as West Laurens closed out well on a roughly 39-yard attempt by Isaac Murray that fluttered short to effectively end the first half.

Momentum was shifting, but wouldn't truly swing until after that 12-point deficit had some time to rest on the scoreboard.

There was nothing doing on a couple of early third-quarter possessions for the Raiders, the first ending in a quick punt and a better-looking second progressing into the Dodge red zone but ending with Dallas Worthen's leaping bat-down of a pass on fourth and four.

The Indians were forced to punt on both their ensuing turns, the latter after Stephen Odom's tackle saved the final two yards on a third down to bring out the special teams unit again.

Noah Studstill's fateful kick would be brought back 68 yards for a touchdown by O'Neal, who made a man miss before a heads-up block from Tripp Mascaro cleared his path on a turn down the sideline to get the rest of the way home after clearing midfield.

"I let my blocks develop," he said. "I know we all wanted to win it, so I took it up the sideline, and took it to the house."

A key Malone PAT kick was partially deflected, but made it through to turn it back to a single-score game, and the Raiders trailed by only five points on the doorstep of the fourth quarter.

"That was a huge momentum swing," Burdette said.

They'd need one of the night's lucky breaks that had overwhelmingly favored Dodge County to go their way in order to clear a major hurdle on the go-ahead drive, set up by an immediate three-and-out, and a short punt just after the start of the fourth.

West Laurens, with Robinson carrying the ball on most of its 10 plays, used up about five minutes in reaching the Dodge 2 for a fourth

and goal.

Bray dove behind the play for an ankle tackle of Robinson that was seemingly good for a huge Indian stop, but also inadvertently popped the ball out and over the goal line, where Raider left tackle Jonathan Toney was first to notice it was free, and rolled on top of it.

After discussion, the play was ruled a go-ahead touchdown.

Florida-commit Aamaury Fountain leapt to take away a two-point conversion fade pass in the corner of the end zone to limit the lead to one with still five minutes to play.

Dodge would get two more chances to respond in the remaining time, and drove quickly into West Laurens territory on both. But the Raider D would bow up for stops.

The front line tipped a Mincey pass incomplete, and his shot for Burns was overthrown out the back of the end zone on third and fourth down to get the first.

The Indians, sans timeouts, converted a desperate fourth down on the catch of Bray.

But Maxx Chafin shredded a block on his way to a sack of Mincey in between spikes on first and third downs of the next series to set up a fourth and long for the game.

Dodge spent most of the play clock on the sideline talking over the call, and rushed to the line to snap it for a line-drive throw by Mincey that landed yards away from the nearest receiver.

"We played extraordinary defense in the second half," Burdette said. "I'm just really proud of that. We got the stops we needed, got some turnovers."

'A calamity of errors'...

The start to the night wasn't nearly as positive, and filled with some more of the inexperienced mistakes that held the Raiders back two weeks before against Bleckley.

While it was still a bit of fluky start for Dodge, thanks to an onside kick recovery and at least a couple more opportune bounces that the Indians took advantage of in running out to their early lead, with touchdowns in all three phases (the

first two unanswered) during the first quarter.

"That's a good football team, and you can't spot a good football team 14 points off the rip," Burdette said. "We did it, and we overcame it. But you saw some glimpses of positivity in the first half. We got some good stops in the first half, we gave up a kickoff return for a touchdown, we had a pick-six. It was just a calamity of errors, so to speak. If you can overcome that kind of stuff and win..."

The Indians needed just two minutes to strike first, using a big play by Burns on a backside toss to open the game, and Mincey found him up the left seam on a touchdown pass several plays later.

Despite recovering an onside attempt on the ensuing kickoff, Dodge failed on its initial opportunity to double up with a three-and-out. But the Indians went on top by two touchdowns on the Raiders' second play from scrimmage as Bray jumped a swing pattern and took it about 10 yards for a pick-six. Fountain ran for two from the swinging gate to make the lead 15-0.

The next West Laurens possession went nowhere, but the defense conjured a spark as Dodge rolled the dice on a fourth-and-short near midfield. Chafin and O'Neal made the key tackles to turn the Indians over on downs.

Eventually, Robinson would hit a big play to get the Raiders to the edge of the end zone to set up his one-yard touchdown run on third and goal.

But then, more mayhem.

Fountain put together a highlight tape on an 81-yard return of the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown, making four men miss before stiff-arming a last of potential tacklers along his last 10 yards to put Dodge up 22-7.

Another West Laurens punt, and Bray's big gainer off the tip to set up another touchdown, had the game going a direction that forced the Raiders to buckle in.

As their offense began to impose itself at the line of scrimmage, their defense also stepped up to reclaim the point of attack and create some confusion with a mix of coverages behind an effective three-man pass rush that seemed to eventually get Mincey rattled in the pocket.

The Dodge senior finished the night 19-of-37 for 233 yards, with little rushing success by night's end (the Indians had only 64 yards on 19 attempts) to balance things out.

Somewhere around the same point both those things changed, Burdette suddenly saw his team begin playing with confidence, and a focus that refused to let itself get beat by preventable mistakes that were mostly nonexistent down the stretch.

"We tried to figure out how to lose it to start the game off," he said. "The second half, we played to win. I'm proud of our guys."

WEEK 3: HOW
THE REST OF
THE AREA
FARED

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

Wilkinson Co. 25,
Jefferson Co. 12

The Warriors' offense finally found its footing, and delivered some big plays to complement their defense – which continued to produce turnovers at a high rate – in a first win of the Mack McCord era. Quenterrion Stanford, who overcame two interceptions to complete 13 of 18 passes for 174 yards and three touchdowns, joined Daverie Walker and Kaden Thomas with interceptions on the defensive side of the ball. Amare Todd, on top of five tackles, two tackles for loss and a sack, added a fumble recovery. Makhi Johnson led receivers with five catches for 99, and also carried nine times for 46.

Treutlen 41,
Tattnall Co. 12

Both dimensions of the Vikings' attack shined in their second-straight win. Major Morton completed five of his eight attempts for 118 yards, and dropped two dimes for touchdowns to Zan Stokes and Peyton Miller. Stokes had 86 yards on his three receptions. Miller turned nine carries and two catches into 159 yards from scrimmage. Peanut Tobler rushed 23 times for 170.

Montgomery Co. 26,
Lanier Co. 6

The Eagles moved to 3-0, and into the Class A top 10 for the first time since 2022, on a big night for both their top playmakers. Zaden Waller rushed for 249 yards and three touchdowns on 23 attempts. Elijah Mcewen had 212 and one score on 19. Kenya Tate had three tackles for loss, and an interception for one of Mo-Co's three takeaways on defense.

AREA
Continued on page 8

CRUSADERS

Continued from page 6

just seconds later, 21-14.

The Cavaliers attempted an onside kick but were unsuccessful and Trinity again took over with good field position at their 47. Four plays later, freshman Sam Owens ripped off a 30-yard scoring run to put Trinity up 28-14

with under three minutes remaining in the contest.

Augusta Prep would not go quietly. On the third play of its next drive, Chavous conected with Luke on a 43-yard catch and run to make the score 28-21 with just 1:31 left in the game.

Fortunately, the Crusaders were able to recover

another onside kick attempt and hold on for the victory.

Trinity had its best offensive showing of the season despite not completing a pass.

The Crusaders would rack up 307 yards on the ground and 18 first downs. Augusta Prep finished with 117 rushing,

and completed the game's only pass with the 43-yard touchdown. The Cavaliers managed just seven first downs and 93 of their 160 yards came on two plays.

Tayt Evans led the way for Trinity with 137 yards on 18 carries, while Harris had 113 on 13 attempts. Owens finished with 36 on just

three runs. Harris and Andrew Helton led the defense with 10 tackles each.

Luke led Augusta Prep with 105 yards on 16 carries.

The 2-2 Crusaders will now welcome two-time defending state champion Brentwood to the Cleve Friday looking for their first home win.

FALCONS

Continued from page 6

runs, took the last carry around the left-hand side for a 17-yard touchdown, then the conversion over the line for an 8-7 lead.

A similar march, starting from the Golden Hawks' 19, followed an exchange of punts. Their biggest play of the sequence was a play-action pass from Aiden Watts to Cason, who carried tacklers all the way down to the 5 to set up first and goal.

East Laurens stiffened to hold them out of the end zone on the next two snaps, but Kade Swint managed to drive his way in on third down for the score. Watts kept for the two-pointer to make it 16-7 WACO.

A Golden Hawk sack, time by Daveion Holmes, once again erased some early progress in the form of a 30-yard Snead keeper on the Falcons' first drive of quarter 2 to force a punt. The second, a quick three and out, had the same outcome.

They relied on another non-offensive boost to add a second touchdown just before the half, as Myles Burke returned the WACO kickoff all the way to the opposing 24.

East scored on the next play with a screen for Hazley, who took the ball all the way back across the field and into the end zone.

But from three points back, there



Antonio Hargrove’s tackle for loss on a third down helped the Falcon defense prevent WACO from adding to its two-point lead, and potentially putting the game away, on a long final drive that left them only three and a half minutes to work with after a fourth-down stop on the next play/**ZACH DAWSON**

was no benefit to a two-point try, and the Falcons elected to bring on Cristofer Vasquez to add the point for a 16-14 deficit at the end of the half, following reciprocal punts to close it out.

Sacks by Washington County D-linemen remained a common theme as East attempted to mount another late threat, but a fourth and fifth of the half from Braylon Griner and Albert Stone neutralized the

damage of another double-digit Hazley screen.

The Hawks returned the third quarter kickoff over midfield, but turned it over on downs to give East Laurens what would be its next-to-last chance with the football.

The Falcons started at their own 29, flung it to Hazley for another big gainer over midfield (plus 15 yards on a WACO personal foul), but failed to score, and punted the ball

away.

The Golden Hawks would proceed to grind up most of the fourth quarter as they drove from deep in their own territory to around the East Laurens 10 before eventually turning the ball over on downs.

Swint and Brayden Gilmore had most of the key touches to move the chains along the roughly 80-yard odyssey that got the Falcons' defense pretty worn down, and took the clock down to 3:39 before Antonio Hargrove's tackle and a fourth down incompletion gave the ball back to East at its 15.

An early run by Jaden Griffin reached its 42, then Snead scrambled for about 13 more. But a holding foul, a loss of footing against pressure for what amounted to a sack and a dropped screen put the Falcons in a desperate fourth and long.

Snead rolled to his right, avoided the rush and flung it for Major Floyd, who made the catch against the sideline, and may or may not have been out of bounds. But with four yards still needed from the landing spot of his right foot, the point was moot, and WACO took over to run out the clock.

The Hawks will host Dublin this Friday. East Laurens heads into an open week before its non-region finale Sept. 18 at Metter.

AREA

Continued from page 7

Brentwood 42, Robert Toombs 8

Sandersville's Eagles scored five times before the half, and gave up their only touchdown in the third quarter after putting up a sixth TD in their biggest runaway to date. Jones Sheppard rushed for 136 yards and a pair of touchdowns on four carries, and recovered a fumble. Tristan Robinson had 125 and one score on the ground. Baylor Cobb threw a touchdown pass to Quez Collins, and intercepted a pass on D.

Bleckley Co. 35, Jasper Co. 7

Brody Fleming's biggest game so far, with a 22-for-29, 344-yard, five-touchdown passing line, put away a third-straight Royal victory in routine fashion. Jason McNulty led receivers with six grabs for 161 yards and three scores. Wailer Sands threw for 123 yards, and ran for 81 and the only Jasper County touchdown in the fourth quarter. But the Canes netted out at only 18 additional yards. BC's Cody Register posted six total tackles, one for loss and a pass deflection.

Mount de Sales 28, Twiggs Co. 0

The Cobras' defense kept it somewhat tight, intercepting Mount de Sales'



Mount de Sales' Bryson Harrell (7) runs for a long gain after a reception from quarterback Benjamin Burney during the Cavaliers' game against Twiggs County Friday night/**JASON VORHEES, The Telegraph**

Benjamin Burney once, and allowing only 82 yards rushing, but couldn't threaten on offense as the Cavaliers completed a second shutout in their 4-0 start. Burney was 6-of-12 for 167 yards, Bryson Harrell had three receptions for 106 and Josh Devereaux rushed for two touchdowns.

Toombs Co. 49, Swainsboro 21

Things started out well for the Tigers, who jumped out to a 14-0 lead with the help of a Kyle Johnson rushing touchdown, then a 40-yard scoop and score before the end of a quarter. But Toombs turned the game around in a hurry, and scored 48 unanswered points before the only other Swainsboro scoring on a

Joshua Gray pass to Shannon Benjamin. Donterrius Mincey ran for six touchdowns 29 carries for 255 yards, and scored a seventh time on a 23-yard reception. Joseph Owens was near-perfect in a third-straight game, completing 11 of his 14 passes for 158.

Northside 32, Warner Robins 10

The Eagles trailed 7-6 after a low-scoring first half, but took over from there to score two touchdowns each in the final quarters, and snap a nine-game losing streak in the crosstown rivalry. Keirion Tate was 10-of-19 passing for 235 yards and a touchdown, and rushed 11 times for 95, and three more, to lead the runner-away. Travis Walker and Eli-

jah Patmon had double-digit tackles each, combining to record four for loss, three sacks, two pass deflections and a forced fumble.

Peach Co. 30, Jefferson 23

Two explosive Ashton Barton touchdown runs, measuring 85 and 55 yards, early in the game helped the Trojans build up a 23-6 lead by halftime. Jefferson, with the help of an interception, stayed in striking distance, and scored out of the half to narrow the lead to 10, but Peach's Caiden Ivory answered immediately with a 65-yard touchdown pass to Cam Barth, and that lead survived the Dragons' comeback bid consisting of a touchdown and field goal.

Schley Co. 27, Hawkinsville 19

The Red Devils had this one snatched away late in the second half as the arm of Schley County quarterback Clay Hicks caught fire. The sophomore threw for 173 yards, and the Wildcats' first three touchdowns that were enough to surpass Hawkinsville's 19-point total early in the fourth quarter. Jeremiah Johnson (24 carries for 129) rushed for a fourth and the final eight-point margin with a couple minutes to go. Jakori Pickett scored via rush and pass (to Martin McDonald), and Jeffrey Williams returned a kickoff 66 yards for the Red Devils' touchdowns. William Rob-

inson had 11 total tackles, four for loss, an interception, three pass break-ups and a forced fumble.

Vidalia 28, Bacon Co. 14

It was another slow start for the Indians offensively, as Jamon Ellis (Bacon County's leading gainer on 19 carries for 153 yards) reached the end zone to give the Red Raiders an early 7-0 lead. But two interceptions by Jay Brown helped keep the visitors at bay until Henry Adams fired an 82-yard touchdown pass to Ja'Marcus Bouyer to tie the game just before the half. Adams had six completions for 154; Bouyer caught four of them and another touchdown for 132, as Jah Robinson and Jamarion Lanier rushed for scores to help Vidalia pull away.

Other week 3 finals...

ACE 35, Southwest 14
Houston Co. 45, Jones Co. 14
Jeff Davis 40, Metter o Perry 48, Howard 7
Statesboro 25, ECI 12
Telfair Co. 23, Atkinson Co. 9
Thomas Jefferson 26, Riverside Prep 12
Athens Christian 21, Tattnall Square 14
Creekside Christian 46, Central Fellowship 29
FPD 48, George Walton 19
JMA 35, Bulloch 23
Stratford 38, Brookstone o Westfield 40, SGA 8

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL Friday

Baldwin 20, Dublin 14
Trinity 28, Augusta Prep 21
Washington Co. 16, East Laurens 14
West Laurens 30, Dodge Co. 29
Bleckley Co. 35, Jasper Co. 7
Brentwood 42, Robert Toombs 8
Montgomery Co. 26, Lanier Co. 6
Mount de Sales 28, Twiggs Co. 0
Treutlen 41, Tattnall Co. 12
Wilkinson Co. 25, Jefferson Co. 12

SOFTBALL Saturday

WL 11, Lowndes 3
WL 13, Treutlen 1

Tuesday

Brentwood 15, Trinity 4
Dubiln 23, Wilkinson Co. 0

PREP SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL Wednesday

Portal at Dublin
Wilcox Co. at West Laurens /5 p.m.

Thursday

Trinity at Briarwood/4 p.m.
WL at Long Co./5 p.m.
Dublin at Dodge Co. /5:30 p.m.
Vidalia at East Laurens /6 p.m.

Saturday (at Georgia College)

WL vs. Mary Persons /10 a.m.
WL vs. Jones Co./2 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 14

Trinity at Edmund Burke /4:30 p.m

Tuesday, Sept. 15

EL at Dublin
Vidalia at WL/5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL Tuesday

WL, Appling Co. at Vidalia /5 p.m.

Thursday

WL, Warner Robins, Southwest Macon at Northside/5 p.m.

FOOTBALL Friday

Dublin at Washington Co.
Brentwood at Trinity
West Laurens at Cook
Johnson Co. at Wheeler Co.
Bleckley Co. at ECI
Fitzgerald at Dodge Co.
Lake Oconee Academy at Twiggs Co.
Lanier Co. at Treutlen
Rutland at Wilkinson Co. /7:30 p.m.

FLAG FOOTBALL Tuesday

Treutlen at EL/5 p.m.

CONTACT US:

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

Read this week’s area high school football outlook at courierheraldtoday.com/sports



THE PANE... Last week/OVERALL



THIS WEEK'S MATCHUPS...
Brentwood at Trinity
Dublin at Washington Co.
West Laurens at Cook
Johnson Co. at Wheeler Co.
Bleckley Co. at ECI
Fitzgerald at Dodge Co.
Lake Oconee Acad. at Twiggs Co.
Lanier Co. at Treutlen
Rutland at Wilkinson Co.
Swainsboro at Pierce Co.
Tennessee at Georgia Tech
Ohio State at Texas

Brentwood Dublin	Brentwood Dublin	Brentwood Dublin	Brentwood Dublin	Brentwood Dublin	Brentwood Dublin	Brentwood Dublin	Brentwood Dublin
West Laurens	West Laurens	West Laurens	Cook	West Laurens	Cook	West Laurens	Cook
Johnson Co.	Johnson Co.	Johnson Co.	Johnson Co.	Johnson Co.	Johnson Co.	Johnson Co.	Johnson Co.
Bleckley Co.	Bleckley Co.	Bleckley Co.	Bleckley Co.	Bleckley Co.	Bleckley Co.	Bleckley Co.	Bleckley Co.
Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald
LOA	LOA	LOA	LOA	LOA	LOA	LOA	LOA
Treutlen	Treutlen	Treutlen	Lanier Co.	Treutlen	Treutlen	Treutlen	Treutlen
Rutland	Rutland	Rutland	Wilkinson Co.	Rutland	Rutland	Rutland	Rutland
Pierce Co.	Pierce Co.	Swainsboro	Pierce Co.	Pierce Co.	Pierce Co.	Pierce Co.	Pierce Co.
Tennessee	Tennessee	Georgia Tech	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Texas	Texas	Ohio State	Texas	Ohio State	Texas	Texas	Texas

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

ENGLISH 101

Please summarize 'Walden' by Henry David Thoreau

Guy lives by pond. Babble.

TECHNICALLY, HE'S NOT WRONG.

WE CAN'T ADMIT THAT, BOB.

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

OVERBOARD

BY CHIP DUNHAM

AND IN MY DREAM IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME, RAY..

..I CAN TOUCH THE BALL.. BUT WHEN I TOUCH IT, IT ROLLS AWAY FARTHER!

I WONDER IF IT'S A METAPHOR?

NO, IN THE DREAM IT'S ALWAYS A WILSON.

DEFLOCKED

BY JEFF CORRIVEAU

DO YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR LOCATION WITH ME, MAMET?

SURE, I'M ABOUT HALF-WAY BETWEEN DUMPING MY GIRLFRIEND AND ACCEPTING A LIFE FULL OF MISERY AND REGRET.

THIS IS WHY MEN DON'T SHARE THINGS.

ZIGGY

BY TOM WILSON

9/10

i HAVEN'T SEEN EYE TO EYE WITH ANYONE SINCE I STOPPED GROWING AT AGE 13!!

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PLUGGERS

BY JEFF MACNELLY

9/10

TA-DA!

Thanks to Catherine Reger Granbury, Texas

A plugger knows the big bottle is more economical but buys the smaller one because it's easier to open.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___ Office (White House room)
- 5 Stag or doe
- 9 Glass that refracts light
- 14 Coffee shop amenity, often
- 15 Trade fair
- 16 Big bird of prey
- 17 Shipshape
- 18 Leave, slangily
- 19 "Move over!"
- 20 "Fancy" singer: 2 wds.
- 23 Long-tailed rodents
- 24 Cows' sounds
- 25 Run, as a business
- 28 Roll of grass
- 29 Algebra or calculus, e.g.
- 33 Tons: 2 wds.
- 34 Smooths, as wood
- 36 Overly
- 37 Use a stopwatch
- 38 Casual top
- 39 College kid's quarters
- 40 Actress ___ Marie Saint
- 41 Piece of celery
- 43 Otherwise
- 44 Overhaul
- 46 "A mouse!"
- 47 Hire for wages
- 49 Muffin ingredient
- 51 ___ Brith (Jewish service group)
- 52 Bodyweight exercises
- 56 Not liquid or gaseous
- 57 "Can't believe ___ the whole thing": 2 wds.
- 58 Keep ___ on
- 61 Mental picture
- 62 Taken by mouth
- 63 Wicked
- 64 Odor detectors
- 65 Loch ___ Monster
- 66 Naysay

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56							57				58		59	60
61							62				63			
64							65				66			

Created by Stella Zawistowski

- DOWN**
- 1 Have control of
- 2 Compete
- 3 At a distance
- 4 Well-read
- 5 Argues with
- 6 School tests
- 7 Large-scale story
- 8 One who sets a good example: 2 wds.
- 9 Uncooked sauce
- 10 Form of bigotry
- 11 Composer Stravinsky
- 12 ___ gin fizz
- 13 Encountered
- 21 Purse
- 22 "Yes" signals
- 25 Alma ___
- 26 Still breathing
- 27 Wanderer
- 28 Move stealthily
- 30 Coral formation
- 31 Trunk of the body

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				A	L	A		O	A	S	I	S	N	O	D	E		
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- 32 Cozy and comfortable
- 35 Mental focus
- 39 Portrayed
- 41 Sail the seven ___
- 42 Dog shelters
- 45 Legally bind
- 48 ___ tai (cocktail)
- 50 Bus trips
- 51 Software trials
- 52 Singer Perry
- 53 Cry of dismay
- 54 Long-eared animal
- 55 Keep for later
- 56 Moral crime
- 59 Recycle ___
- 60 Cunning

Sexagenarian 'problem child' disrupts family harmony

DEAR ABBY: I have a younger brother who has moved back to the area where the rest of our siblings live. He went for 30 years without keeping in close contact with anyone during that time. He's the youngest of 10 children, and our mother spoiled him rotten. He's in his 60s now and still acts like an immature spoiled child. Our father had to bail him out of financial situations more times than I can count. Despite that, he hated our father and announced it when he came home for Dad's funeral.

The problem we're having now is that he constantly tries to stir up problems between the rest of us. Until he returned, we were a close-knit family. None of my other family members want anything to do with him, and they refuse invitations to get together if he will be there.

Abby, I love my brother, but I'm tired of his behavior. He had a drug problem when he lived out of state. He claims he's clean now, but he has now replaced the drugs with alcohol. How can I get my family back without him if he isn't willing to admit he is the problem? -- SIBLING SITUATION IN WISCONSIN

DEAR SIBLING: Stop inviting your brother to these gatherings. The sooner you



DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

do, the sooner he will learn the consequences of trying to stir up trouble among the siblings. Unless there are consequences for his behavior, it won't stop. His behavior isn't unusual for an addict. By that, I mean it is common for an addict to replace his drug addiction with another one and even more common to deny having a problem.

There's a program that was created decades ago called Al-Anon. Al-Anon (al-anon.org) is an offshoot of Alcoholics Anonymous, created for anyone who is affected by a loved one's drinking. It holds meetings everywhere, and you should have no trouble locating one near you. Attend some of those meetings, which are free of charge. When you do, you will meet others with problems similar to the one

you are having.

DEAR ABBY: I have been planning a dream trip to Europe with some family members. The people I'm traveling with are young and like to take selfies everywhere, which takes a lot of time. I don't care about doing that type of thing. They are "girly girls," and I am plain. I never know what to do while they are doing these things. They love hair and makeup and take up valuable time with these activities. I don't begrudge them this, but do you have any advice on what to say or do while I wait around? -- FRETTING THIS TRIP

DEAR FRETTING: When people take selfies as they travel, part of the fun is capturing themselves against picturesque landscapes, famous landmarks or works of art. If you don't want to be in the photos, keeping a visual record of your journey can still be fulfilling. Develop your photo or video skills by focusing on the scenery the girls are using as backdrops. If you are artistically inclined, a sketchbook may be more your speed. If images aren't your thing, bring a travel journal in which you can jot down your impressions and favorite aspects of the places you visit.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠AK754♥K52♦K4♠AQ8

Right-hand opponent opens one diamond. What call would you make?

A - A take-out double asks partner to pick the trump suit. It promises at least three-card support for all the unbid suits. Should we not accept his choice, we show a hand worth 18-plus points. This hand is too good for a simple overcall. Double, then bid spades next.

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠AJ64♥KQ94♦942♣92

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
Pass Pass 1♥ Pass
2NT ?
What call would you make?

A - This is a perfect hand for the "Drury" convention. A bid of 2C by a passed hand shows 10- plus points and a fit for partner. It allows you to stay at the two level when partner opens light in third or fourth seat. Should this "toy" not be available, bid 3H.

Q 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠J95♥7♦K532♠AKQJ7

As dealer, what call would you make?

A - Some players open 1D with this distribution to allow an easy rebid of 2C. No one wants to rebid a 5-card suit, which we would have to do if partner responds 1H to a 1C bid. This looks like a 6-card suit to us. Open 1C.

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠QJ94♥10♦AQ10♣KQ842

Right-hand opponent opens one club. What call would you make?

A - Although it is annoying, it is almost always right to pass when an opponent opens in your best suit. This hand is no exception. Pass, and cross your right-hand opponent's name off your Christmas card list.

Q 5 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠J1064♥108♦AK♣108743

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♠ Pass 3♥ Pass
2NT ?
What call would you make?

A - You have an excellent fit for partner, but no matter. There is not enough there to think about slam and nine tricks are much easier to take than eleven. Bid 3NT.

Q 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠KJ8754♥Void♦K6432♣72

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
2NT Pass 3♥ Pass
4♠** Pass ?
*Transfer, 5+ spades
**Good spade fit, maximum
What call would you make?

A - Pass would earn the "Coward of the Year" award, an award we are proud to have never won. The "right" bid is not clear. 5D, 5H, 5S, and even 6S are all possible. We don't care which one you choose, as long as "Pass" is not your choice.

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

STORM
Continued from page 1

said. “When I got over there, it was determined that it was not ripped in half but had been torn loose from one side. They took it down (Monday) morning because it was not safe. We’ll see if we can make repairs to it, and possibly get it back up. But I’m not sure we will be able to.”

Thankfully, no one was hurt during the storm.

“Wind was the major cause of damage,” Cutler said. “The East Dublin Fire Department reported hail, and there were also reports of hail around the Laurens County Courthouse. It was one of those storms that popped up really powerful and really quickly.”



A fallen tree (left photo) blocks a street in Dublin; debris blocks Jackson Street after Sunday’s storm/SPECIAL PHOTO, Dublin Fire Department

He was happy no one was traveling in or out of the city of Dublin when the roof blew off of Cullens Supply. “That was a blessing from this,” Cutler said. “There happened to be no vehicles on the road when the roof came off. Otherwise, we would have been trying to extricate somebody out of car or from underneath a roof because it stayed intact.”



9/11
Continued from page 1

Prymula’s godfather had been on his way to the Pentagon that morning.

“He had to turn around and go back and get something that morning,” she said. “He later told me that he would have been in the general area where the plane hit.”

Later, United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, at 10:03 a.m. It was later learned that passengers fought back against terrorist to regain the plane.

In New York, the South Tower collapsed at 9:59 a.m. and the North Tower went down at 10:28 a.m.

Cutler, who is now Dublin’s fire chief, did not know any of the firefighters or other first responders who responded to the scenes and tried to help victims.

“Whether you are a first responder or just a citizen, everyone can relate to something that happened on that day,” Cutler said. “Some survived and some did not. There were common citizens who were just going to work and were attacked. Then the first responders went and tried to help. A lot of them didn’t make it.”

Cutler currently has firefighters who were either small children or had not been born yet on Sept. 11, 2001. He has two firefighters at the Northside Station who were 3 and 6 years old and one at the Southside Station who had not been born.

The city holds a 9/11 memorial program each year. Friday’s service begins around 8:30 a.m. at the Public Safety Memorial at 320 South Jefferson St.

“Our mission has changed now for 9/11 because we used to say ‘Never Forget,’” Cutler said. “Now we are having to tell the stories for the ones who are not old enough to remember or weren’t even born. I encouraged them to watch the documentaries. Every time I do, it takes me back in time to where I was and how I felt that day. It changed a lot of things.”

Prymula talked to her children about 9/11. They have also seen and learned by watching the news. Her best friend from high school had a daughter born on Sept. 11, 2002.

“She was worried at first,” Prymula said. “Then she thought that every 9/11 she can look on the bright side in that she can celebrate her daughter and it shows that life continues.”

Prymula believes it is important to remember what happened in America 25 years ago this Friday.

“I think it is good that we talk about things that happened in history,” Prymula said.

“We have to understand the bad things in life so that we don’t repeat it.”

Dublin gets lots of compliments at DDA conference

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Dublin, Georgia has been on other communities’ minds.

That message was relayed to members of the Dublin Downtown Development Authority during its recent meeting. DDA MainStreet Director Nichole Padgett, Chairman Rob Miller, Derick Johnson and Jason Keyton, director of business development for downtown Dublin, talked about the Georgia Main Street Conference held in Rome.

“We are definitely on a lot of people’s radar,” Keyton said. “They were very complimentary of Dublin and all of the hard work that everybody has done to make it what it is. If we keep progressing, maybe we can be a host city in the future. Thanks for everybody who has done their part.”

Keyton attended some seminars and said networking is the key to success.

“You build your network and expand on that,” he said. “There are some great people out there doing some great things. They are eager to partner and work with you.”

Padgett agreed.

“I was able to talk and meet with other managers from different downtowns,” she said. “We con-

nected. There were things that we are doing that they took away and things they were doing that I took away. I’ve got so many contacts. It was amazing.”

Miller said the conference was informative.

“We are doing everything right,” he said. “It was a very good conference and trip. There were different size towns there. I hope we can take more of us next year when it’s in Athens.”

Johnson got to see and talk with a lot of people from all over the state.

“The classes for me were a big benefit,” he said. “To see from start to finish the real purpose of the DDA, why it was formed and what it stands for and the impact it has on the community was really different for me to see. I also went to one about the different funding and that was good for investors and people who are starting businesses in downtown. That is really helpful to them. I wished I would have known about some of that.”

Keyton is making a list of all of the empty spaces in downtown Dublin. He met with real estate offices and wants to keep up with it.

“We need to know what’s available out there, how much it is and what grants are available,” Keyton

said. “We have some great things coming downtown. There are several people who want to open businesses.”

In other meeting news:

- Heather Cochran, DDA marketing director, shared that in the previous 28 days, Facebook use of Downtown Dublin’s page had been up approximately 48 percent and the engagement was up 57 percent. “That’s really exciting,” Cochran said. “Obviously, we’re doing something right. We have a lot of events coming up and we want to get that out there.”
- The board approved 50 percent of the cost for the facade grant approval to The Velvet Cup.
- Padgett encourages DDA members to support the 9/11 remembrance program held by the city of Dublin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 11.

“Us being downtown merchants, and being downtown, I think it is very important that we go and support,” she said.

- Padgett reminded members about Scott Thompson presenting Dublin’s Top 10 for the 250th at the Dublin Carnegie on Sept. 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The cost is \$15 at the door.

Also, the fourth annual Chili Cook-off has been scheduled for

Oct. 17.

- Heard an update about the Farmers Market, which continues to average 40 vendors each week. “It’s like a festival out there,” Padgett said.

New Farmers Market T-shirts will be for sale at the location.

- Theater Director Glenda Berry reported a good turnout for the showing of “The Princess Bride” on Friday, Aug. 21, and for “Tombstone,” which was part of a 2 p.m. senior adult showing, on Thursday, Aug. 27.

“We’ll be doing senior movies the last Thursdays of every month,” Berry said. “They stayed after the movie and chatted. It was a great thing for us to do.”

She mentioned having a taste-and-see cinema feature where the theater would show a movie and partner with a downtown restaurant to serve food that connected to the featured show.

- Berry announced auditions were held for “Elf Jr.,” the next Dublin Community Theatre production, which will feature 40 members in the cast. The shows will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21, as well as at 2 p.m. on Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22.

“Early ticket sales are off and running,” she said.

CITY COUNCIL
Continued from page 1

City Council members thanked the youth council members for being a part of the group.

“I want to congratulate you and tell you it is an honor to represent our community,” Councilwoman Sara Kolbie said. “Although you weren’t elected to these positions, you volunteered for them. It is so important to understand the impact of community service.”

Councilman Bennie Jones, who served as mayor pro tem during the meeting, said the city of Dublin has had a youth council for about 10 years.

“Youth council was a brainchild of mine,” Jones said. “When I first got on council I wanted to get youth involved. We went around and saw how other youth councils were being formed and doing in different parts of the state. I would like to thank the youth council for actively working.”

Jones pointed out that Darrius Knight, a former Youth Council mayor for the Dublin Youth Council, had an internship with U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock.

“We have seen some great young people come through here,” Jones said. “Darrius was the mayor for the youth council here, twice. This kind of opportunity may open the doors and you’ll get to interact with people.”

He encouraged the youth council not to be afraid to make bold suggestions.

“The sky is the limit,” Jones said. “It was members of the Dublin Youth Council who suggested the water park at Southern Pines. They pressed about wanting a public pool. That is why we want young people to get involved. Your opinion matters.”

In other board meeting news, the council:

- Approved two pumps for the waste water treatment plant from Seal Distributors for more than \$97,000.
- Approved a LUCAS CPR de-

NAME	GRADE	SCHOOL	POSITION
AIYANNA BOSTON	11 TH	DHS	SECRETARY / MAYOR PRO TEM
MAKAELA BRIDGES		DHS	HISTORIAN
KELIS LAWRENCE		DHS	MAYOR
HARMONI WALKER	11 TH	DHS	CITY PLANNER
MELINA WATSON	12 TH	ELHS	HISTORIAN
SYDNEY WYATT	11 TH	DHS	WARD 1
AISSATA DIALLO	11 TH	DHS	AT LARGE
BRENNIA GRIMES	12 TH	WLHS	CITY MANAGER
KAMIA HARDY	10 TH	DHS	WARD 3
MARIAH JOHNSON	10 TH	DHS	WARD 4
ZAKAYA KENNEDY	9 TH	DHS	WARD 1
AGNES KORANTENG	12 TH	DHS	WARD 2
JOEL KORANTENG	11 TH	DHS	CITY ATTORNEY
SARIAH LEWIS	10 TH	WLHS	AT LARGE
JADAH PHILYAW	12 TH	WLHS	HISTORIAN
NEHEMIAH SNELL	10 TH	DHS	HISTORIAN
BRANDI BAILEY-WILLIAMS	11 TH	WLHS	CITY CLERK
AH’KAYLAH WILLIAMS	10 TH	WLHS	AT LARGE

A roster of the new members of the Dublin Youth Council/PAYTON TOWNS III

vice for the Northside Fire Station from Stryker in the amount of \$20,237.77.

“This is a CPR device that can be utilized by first responders,” said Dublin City Manager Josh Powell. “It is often that the fire departments are first to respond to a scene of an accident and they can put this on a victim who needs CPR.”

The money was raised through donations from the Community Bank (\$10,000), Fairview Park Hospital through Widow’s Oil Ministry (\$10,237.77).

“I want to thank Community Bank, Fairview Park Hospital and Widow’s Oil Ministry for making this donation happen,” Kolbie said.

- Heard the first reading on an ordinance to amend the hotel height limit requirements to go as high as 75 feet in the business district zones at the I-16 interchange for hotels only.

“We’ve had four applications for different hotels to locate out at the I-16 interchange near Highway

441,” Powell said. “It will be exclusive to that particular location and situation.”

The second reading and public hearing will happen at the noon, Sept. 17 meeting.

- Heard a first reading on an ordinance to amend the FY’ 26 budget. The second reading and public hearing will occur during the noon, Sept. 17 meeting.
- Approved roll-off dumpster fees as follows: disposal fee per dump \$185/dump; landfill dumping fee per ton \$36/ton; daily dumpster rental fee (charged after 14 days of service) \$5/day; and damage fee as determined by city manager.
- Approved the purchase of CemSites Cloud Seterware for the city’s three cemeteries. The software which places are vacant.
- Approved the initial project assessment for the Rural Workforce Housing Grant. The Department of Community Affairs has published a funding opportunity for a grant

that is related to infrastructure cost for housing projects that meet certain criteria.

“Part of the process for this is we would have to submit an initial project assessment, which is a notice to the DCA that we intend to make a formal grant application,” Powell said. “The grant would be up to \$2.5 million to cover the infrastructure cost which would be water, road, drainage and sewer.”

Powell said the city has been approached by a developer for a proposed project that would happen along Woodlawn.

- Approved an amendment to the contract with Dublin Construction Co. about the renovation of the city’s public works street division building, on Madison Street. The total cost will be \$3,240,532.

“We purchased this building with the idea to move them where they are to this location,” Powell said.

- Approved a resolution to authorize an agreement with Women In Need Of God’s Shelter (WINGS) for the lease of city property.
- Approved a resolution to authorize the application of a \$20,000 safety grant with Georgia Municipal Association.

“This will allow us to install cameras on some, if not all, of the city vehicles,” Powell said. “This is meant to be a safety grant to track driving behavior, and it will help for training purposes. It can also help with what other drivers may have done in an incident we maybe involved in.”

- Heard from Rae Bloodworth who informed council members that she no longer supported Flock cameras because she has concerns about who has access to the information, who it is shared with and what protections are in place.

“I have submitted an open records request to better understand how the system is being used,” Bloodworth said. “I respectfully ask the council to review these concerns and keep the public informed.”