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VENDORS FOR SATURDAY
September 19, 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 Ohooppee Grilling
Sauce
BBQ Sauce
Farmhouse Bread Co
Baked Goods
Infused & Rooted
Infused Olive Oils
Riverbend Meadow Market
Produce
Tasty Paws Pets
Dog Treats
Moss & Bloom
Sea Moss & Teas
Colbey Asbell
Baked Goods & Lemonade
Blessed Loaf Bakery
Baked Goods
From Andrew's Oven
Baked Goods
Crown & Spore
Gourmet Mushrooms
Frost Bites
Freeze Dried Candy & Veggies
MC Sweets
Cake Pops
Jewelry by Keen
Handmade Jewelry
Breaking Bread with Winnie
Baked Goods
Lord's Coffee
Roasted Whole Bean Coffee
Grandpa Jerry's Cookies
Cookies
Peachtree Oven
baked goods
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farm fresh eggs
O'neal Honey Farms LLC
local raw honey
Donna Todd
plants and flowers
Fields of Dewy Flowers
flowers and plants
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candles
Taino Farms GA
homemade soaps & scrubs
Muddy Cups & Coffee
iced coffee
We are an authorized SNAP/EBT market.

County makes case for tax increase

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

The Laurens County Commission defended its proposed 31 percent property tax increase at the first of three public hearings, saying the county cannot afford to keep dipping into its reserves to cover rising operating costs.

The commission wants to raise its millage rate to 7 mills, up from 5.49 mills. The tax increase would apply only to property taxes levied by the county commission and not those from county school board. The millage rate hike would be the county's first in more than 10 years and would generate about \$3.5 million in additional taxes.

Commissioners have managed to avoid tax increases but only by spending its reserves, County Administrator Bryan Rogers



County Administrator Bryan Rogers explains why the county commission has proposed a tax increase. Rogers said the current budget includes about \$1 million in inflationary costs alone/RODNEY MANLEY

explained to about two dozen residents at Monday's meeting. During the past three fiscal years, he said, the board has spent about \$4 million in reserve funding to cover expenditures. The county has a policy of keeping in reserve about six months of operating expenses, which Rogers estimated at about \$3 million

a month. It has at least \$20 million in the bank. "We have a healthy fund balance right now," Rogers said, "but that is not financially sustainable."

What it means to your taxes

A county's tax digest is its official list of all taxable properties and their values. When property values increase due to inflation, local governments stand to make more money, unless they reduce their millage to what is known as the rollback rate. Laurens County's tax digest has grown exponentially over the past five years. The digest in 2001 was \$1.4 billion. The new digest for 2026 is \$2.1 billion. Even when the county

COUNTY TAXES
Continued on page 8

New Dublin school board takes office

By RODNEY MANLEY
Staff Reporter

The new members of the Dublin City Board of Education were sworn in Monday night, taking over the task of turning around the struggling school district after the suspension and removal of the former board last month.

The seven new members were appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to replace the suspended board members. Once each member was administered their oath of office by Superior Court Judge Jon Helton, the board elected its new officers. David Westerfield was chosen as chairman, and Priscilla Adams was named vice chairwoman.

Westerfield said the board's initial focus will be to "take care of the students of the city of Dublin."

"We want to keep an open mind



Teresa Holliday is sworn in by Superior Court Judge Jon Helton Monday night at the Dublin High auditorium. Family members who joined Holliday for the ceremony brought along a photograph of Holliday's late father /RODNEY MANLEY

SCHOOL BOARD
Continued on page 8



HOMEcoming: LOYD CROWNED TRINITY CHRISTIAN'S QUEEN

Juliann Loyd breaks into a big smile after she was named Trinity Christian School's 2026 homecoming queen during the Crusaders' football game last Friday, Sept. 11/DANNY SCARBORO

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Dublin firefighter Bryce Badertscher (left) and Fire Chief Matthew Cutler demonstrate how the LUCAS machine works/PAYTON TOWNS III

Businesses, organizations help DFD purchase life-saving LUCAS machine

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Senior Reporter

Businesses and a local organization helped the Dublin Fire Department get the money it needed to make sure all its stations have a device to help patients in cardiac arrest.

Community Bank, Fairview Park Hospital and Widow's Oil Ministry came together to give the necessary funds (\$20,237.77) for a Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) device, an automatic cardiopulmonary resuscitation machine. The new LUCAS device will make its home at Northside Fire Station. Shamrock Fire Station and

Southside Fire Station already have these devices. "Because they are over \$20,000 machines, it took a little bit of time to get the third one," said Dublin Fire Chief Matthew Cutler. The Community Bank gave the chief a \$10,000 donation almost a year ago. They asked him if there was something he had in mind to do with the money. Cutler immediately thought about Northside Fire Station not having a LUCAS device. That was the only thing that money could be used for, he said.

LUCAS DEVICE
Continued on page 8

OBITUARIES



Lennie Cox Banks

“Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.” Proverbs 31:10 KJV

Lennie Cox Banks, 93, is now safe in the arms of her Savior! On Sept. 11, 2026, in the presence of her family, she went to her eternal heavenly home. Lennie was born in Lyons, Toombs County, Ga. on June 14 1933, to Mack Coy Cox and Mary Elizabeth Cranford Cox. Lennie was No. 11 of 14 children and always took pride among her siblings, which included three sets of twins. While growing up her family lived in Lyons, Scotland and later moved to Savannah. Lennie was the last surviving sibling of the 14 Cox children. Later in her life, Lennie resided in Lyons, Vidalia, Ailey and as of late in Dublin, Ga. with her daughter, Elaine and son-in-law, Lock.

“Her Children arise up and call her blessed :her husband also, and he praiseth her.”Proverbs 31:28 KJV

In 1948, Lennie, 15, married Chester Banks. They were perfect examples of deep love, faith and commitment. Lennie was preceded in death by her husband, Chester.

Lennie is survived by their daughter, Elaine Wilford and her husband Lock Wilford, of Dublin, sons Jeffrey Wayne Banks and his wife Debbie, of Augusta, Byron Dennis Banks and his wife, Gwen of Lyons. Her greatest joy was the blessing of her grandchildren. She was the sweetest Granny to Josh and wife Kay, Jason and wife Nicole, Scott and wife Andrea, Jamie and husband Brandon, Lock II, Matthew, Jordan, Canaan and wife Erin, Judah and spouse Nathan, and the greatest of these..... her greats, Hunter, Kaleb, Abbi, Scout, River, Forest, Laven, Lennon, Beasley, Vance, Luke and Reily

“She looketh well to the ways of her household ,and eateth not the bread of idleness.” Proverbs 31:27 KJV

Lennie was office manager at The Bank’s Nationwide Insurance Agency for over 40 years; she worked side by side with her husband, Chester and later with her son Dennis. She had the gift of hospitality and took great joy in cooking for family and friends. She was a true Southern cook and she was famous for her buttermilk biscuits, banana cake and banana pudding! Lennie spent hours using her creativity to produce beautiful garments, and home decor! Lennie’s sweet gentle spirit was evidence of her love for Jesus. Lennie was a long-time member of First Baptist Vidalia and formerly First Baptist of Lyons. She loved her Sunday school class, church exercise class and teaching GA’s. Lennie was an avid reader of Christian novels and her Bible!

On the day of her home going Lennie received a new body, she is walking all over Heaven, and will be praising her Savior throughout all of eternity! Her family is so grateful for the wonderful Legacy, eternal Christian values and seeds of kindness she has sown into our lives. We will hold Lennie close in our hearts until we meet again on that glorious Reunion Day!

The funeral service was held on Monday afternoon,

Sept. 14, 2026, at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Vidalia with Rev. Lock Wilford and Rev. Don Moye officiating. Interment will follow at Lyons City Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jason Hancock, Matthew Banks, Josh Hancock, Jordan Banks, Canaan Banks, Scott Wilford, and Lock Wilford Jr.

Lennie’s family wishes to thank Remarkable Hospice for their love, kindness and care for our Mama. They are truly ministers of His grace and truly remarkable!

Flowers are welcome, or memorial donations may be made to Remarkable Hospice of Dublin, 912 Bellevue Ave., 31021.

Ronald V. Hall Funeral Home of Vidalia is in charge of arrangements.



Alfreda O'Connor

Funeral services for Ms. Alfreda O'Connor will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Williams Chapel Baptist Church, 1142 Hwy, 29 South in East Dublin. Rev. Reginald Cordy Jr. will deliver the eulogy. Interment will follow in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery in Dublin.

With profound love and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our beloved Alfreda O'Connor, who peacefully entered eternal rest on Sept. 9, 2026, at the age of 84.

Born on March 31, 1942, Alfreda lived a life dedicated to serving God, caring for others, and loving her family. She was a faithful member of Williams Chapel, where her love for God and commitment to serving others remained an important part of her life.

Alfreda worked for many years as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), dedicating herself to caring for others. Later in life, she continued to pursue her spiritual calling and earned her doctorate degree in Ministry.

Alfreda was known for her kindness, generosity, willingness to help others, and loving spirit. She had a special gift for making people feel cared for and welcomed. She was also well known for her delicious pies and cakes, which brought happiness to her family, friends, and everyone fortunate enough to enjoy them.

Alfreda also enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. She loved going to the center with her friends, spending time laughing, talking, and enjoying their company. Those moments of friendship brought her great joy and created memories that will forever be cherished by those who knew and loved her.

She also had a special love for driving to Florida to visit her family. She enjoyed being on the road and making those trips to spend precious time with the people she loved. Her visits created countless memories and allowed her to remain close to her family, no matter the distance.

Her greatest legacy was the love she poured into her family and the many lives she touched through her compassion, faith, friendship, and service.

Alfreda leaves to cherish her memory her daughters, Lisa Madden and Carolyn Renee Miller; her beloved grandchildren, Anita O'Connor, Lashania O'Connor, Kenisha O'Connor, Bruzhanthe Evans, Kateria Madden, Jovante Evans, Patricia Hester, Tiffany Hester, Javetta Carson, and Jennifer Hester; her sister, Retha Haze; along with extended family members, church family, and friends who loved her dearly.

Alfreda was preceded in death by her parents, Mattie L. Chambers and Willie Chambers Sr.; her daughter, Annie Lee Hester; her siblings, Katie Mae Wright, Annie Mae Wells, Walter Dean Chambers, Evelyn Hurst, and Willie Chambers Jr; her great-grandchildren, Cory Carson, Shonterrius Mason, Keyonda Fordom, and Koby Kirkland; and her nephews, Michael Hurst, Luther Hurst and Julio.

Though her early journey has come to an end, the love she gave and the lives she touched will continue through the generations she leaves behind.

Her hands care for others.

Her heart loved deeply.

Her faith carried her through.

And her legacy will live forever.

Rest peacefully, Alfreda. You will be forever loved, deeply missed, and never forgotten.

The family will receive friends on Friday, September 18, 2026 from 6-7 pm at the Dudley Funeral Home.

Please post your condolences online at Servicesby-Dudley.com

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

Mitchell Elton Frost Jr.

Mitchell Elton Frost Jr., passed away on Sept. 12, 2026, in Savannah, Georgia, at the age of 63.

Born on Dec. 19, 1962, in Millen, Georgia, Mitchell lived a life marked by hard work, loyalty, and a deep appreciation for the people around him. He was the son of the late Mitchell Elton Frost Sr. He was also blessed with the love and guidance of his grandparents, the late Marshall Elton Frost and Ina Re Jones Frost Swinson, as well as the late Henry H. McCord and Annie Holland McCord. Mitchell was preceded in death by his uncle, Vickie Lynn Frost, his uncle, James Clinton (Iris) Frost. He is survived by his mother, Eve McCord Zimmerman; his aunt, Susan Frost; his aunt, Judy (Ronnie) Bracewell; and several cousins.

Mitchell spent much of his working life as a Heavy Equipment Operator. He was employed with Graham

Construction and L&L Utilities, where he contributed his skills and dedication to the work at hand. Those who worked alongside him knew him as someone who could be counted on, and his commitment to doing a job well earned the respect of many.

Outside of work, Mitchell found his greatest joy in spending time with family and friends. He valued simple moments, meaningful conversations, and the comfort of being surrounded by the people he loved. His presence brought warmth and familiarity to those gatherings, and he will be remembered for the kindness and sincerity he shared with others throughout his life.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026 at 2 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery.

Please visit www.townsendfuneralhome.com for service updates and to sign the online memorial register.



Johnny Fay McAfee

Funeral services for Johnny Fay McAfee, 92, will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, in the Richard N. Stanley Jr. Memorial Chapel with Rev. Roger Holley officiating. Burial will follow in Westview Cemetery.

Mr. McAfee was born on March 10, 1934, in Wrightsville, Georgia to the late Charles Leo and Susie Price McAfee. He was a veteran of the United States Army. He was a retired timber cruiser with Georgia Kraft Company and attended Brown Memorial Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Charles McAfee and his sisters, Joyce (Dan) Sumner and Alice (Ernest) Wood. Mr. McAfee passed away on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at his residence.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Janice Jackson McAfee; daughters, Debra M. (Ricky) Brooks and Donna M. (Gary) Powell; son, John William (Stephanie) McAfee, Sr.; brothers, Billy (Kay) McAfee and Bobby (Jeanette) McAfee; sister-in-law, Betty McAfee; grandchildren, Jarred (Sheila) Powell, Cassie Brooks, Colby (Alexa) Smith, Matt (Lauren) Brooks, Heather (Derreck) Martin, Marci (Mitch) Osborne, Kennedy (TJ) Angles, John William (Mary Lee) McAfee, and Christian McAfee; and 18 great grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be John William McAfee, Christian Blake McAfee, Derreck Martin, Mitch Osborne, Matthew Brooks, T. J. Angles, Jarred Powell, and Colby Smith. Honorary pallbearers will be Harley Wood, Mike McAfee, Jeff McAfee, Todd McAfee, Jimmy McAfee, Timbo McAfee, Danny Sumner and Barry Sumner.

The family will receive friends Thursday from 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the funeral home.

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



Latoya Patrice McCray

Memorial services for Latoya Patrice McCray will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 2424 US Hwy 441 South in Dublin. Brother Eric Moody will deliver the eulogy.

Latoya Patrice McCray was born to Jerry and Gwendolyn Allen on Jan. 30, 1981. From her earliest years, she carried a bubbly spirit and a smile that lit up every room she entered. People were naturally drawn to her. Her contagious energy made ordinary moments feel special.

Raised as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Latoya dedicated her life her life to Jehovah in baptism on June 20, 1994. That dedication was not a single moment. She held it with her whole heart, mind and soul, even as her health declined. After graduating high school with high honors, she chose to devote herself full-time to preaching the truth from the Bible about God’s Kingdom. That love for people and for the truth never left her.

She found the love of her

life in her husband, Kevin McCray of Winston, Georgia, and together they shared 25 years of marriage. Throughout her life, Latoya reached out and touched so many people – whether speaking about Jehovah, organizing events, making gift baskets, or simply being in the room. She was a devoted and loving wife, daughter, and aunt and a woman whose faith shaped everything she did.

Her hobbies included reading the Bible, especially Bible prophecy, which she eagerly shared with anyone who would listen. She loved to decorate and to bring people together through events. Most of all, she loved Jehovah with her whole heart, whole mind and whole soul, and that love was the foundation of who she was. One of her favorite scriptures was Proverbs 10:22. “The blessing of Jehovah—that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it.”

Latoya finished her earthly course on Sept. 13, 2026. She was truly an amazing woman and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her family finds comfort in the hope of the resurrection and in the many memories of her smile, her spirit, and her steadfast faith.

She is preceded in death by her father, Jerry Allen. She is survived by her husband, Kevin McCray of Winston, Georgia; her mother, Gwendolyn Allen; her sisters, Jessica Allen Redfield of Graniteville, South Carolina, and Rachael Allen of Dublin; her brother, Javin Allen, and his wife, Jazzmine of Dublin; her nephew, Josiah Allen and her niece, Aubriana Redfield.

“He will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more” – Revelation 21:4

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

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin.

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OBITUARIES



Zachary "Zack" T. Rooks

Celebration of life services for Mr. Zachary “Zack” T. Rooks, of Savannah, Georgia, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Association, 801 Central Boulevard in Guyton, Georgia. Interment will follow on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, at 2 p.m. in the Dudley Memorial Cemetery, 601 East Mary Street in Dublin. Viewing will be available in Dublin on Sunday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street in Dublin.

Zachary “Zack” Todd Rooks was born on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1965, in Dublin, Georgia, as the fourth child of Annie B. Rooks. From his earliest years, Zack possessed a natural confidence, an outgoing personality, and a love for people who remained with him throughout his life. Although his military career and family ties carried him to many places, Dublin was always home, and he remained deeply connected to the community.

Zack was a gifted athlete at Dublin High School. At that time, he was only the second African American student in the school’s history to be selected to play quarterback, and he became the first quarterback selected as the starter from his freshman through senior year. Wearing “the original No. 7”, Zack helped lead the Dublin Fighting Irish during a memorable era of football and earned the affectionate nickname “Zack, Zack the Quarterback,” a name by which many would remember him for years to come.

At Dublin High, his athletic abilities included the football field, the basketball court, and he was a standout pitcher in baseball earning All-Region honors during his senior year. Following graduation from Dublin High School in 1984, he accepted a four-year football scholarship to Livingston University in Alabama (University of West Alabama). On Jan. 12, 2019, he was inducted into the Dublin Fighting Irish Football Touchdown Club Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions. It was a meaningful honor for someone who never lost his affection for his hometown.

Zack became a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, having been initiated on March 5, 1986, through the Mu Kappa Chapter.

In December 1988, Zack

followed the example of his older brother, Greg, and entered the United States Army as a Health Care Specialist. He went on to serve his country with honor and distinction for more than 20 years and rose to the rank of Sergeant (Promotable). His military service included deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo, and Iraq and earned him numerous awards and commendations, including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Combat Medical Badge. Zack retired from military service in March 2009 after more than two decades of honorable service to his country.

Among the greatest blessings of Zack’s life was his marriage to his loving and devoted wife, Renee Brinson Rooks. Their love story began through the matchmaking efforts of Renee’s cousin, Tracy and Zack’s best friend, David, who believed their two favorite people should meet. The introduction proved to be a lasting one, and Zack and Renee were married on August 21, 1999. In 2006, they welcomed their beloved fur-baby, Rocky “Scooter” Rooks, who became a treasured member of their family and preceded Zack in death.

Through his marriage to Renee, Zack also gained a Savannah family whom he truly enjoyed. He looked forward to many family celebrations, festive gatherings, good meals, laughter and fellowship. Several years ago, Zack was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. Throughout those years, Renee remained faithfully by his side. She prayed for him, encouraged him, cared for him and lovingly reminded him to follow his doctors’ orders.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, Zack passed away. He was surrounded by love and leaves behind a lifetime of memories created through family, friendship, service, laughter, and the many relationships he treasured.

Zack was preceded in death by his mother, Annie B. Rooks; his grandmother, Miller Q. Clark; his sister, Patricia Rooks; his aunts, Myretha Francis and Barbara Oliver; his nephew, Derrick Rooks; and his beloved fur-baby, Rocky “Scooter” Rooks.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving and devoted wife, Renee B. Rooks; his brothers, Darrel Rooks of Dublin, Georgia, and Retired Lieutenant Colonel Gregory K. Rooks (Joan) of Fayetteville, Georgia; his sister, The Honorable Shana Rooks Malone (Robin) of Jonesboro, Georgia; his brother-in-law, Stanley Brinson of Mt. Vernon, New York; his nieces, Olympia Renee Thomas (Kinyum) of Dublin, Georgia, Heather Williams of Cartersville, Georgia, Kelsey Rooks of

Ellenwood, Georgia, Alyssa P. Rooks of Atlanta, Georgia and KieYondra Wolf of Savannah, Georgia; his nephew, Keith Rooks (Clarisa) of Newnan, Georgia; his dear friend since childhood, Terry Williams (Linda) of Dublin, Georgia; and a host of cousins, fraternity brothers, military comrades, extended family members, and dear friends.

Zack’s was a life of service, relationships, family, friendship, and love, and those who knew and loved him will carry his memory with them always.

Please post condolences online at ServicesbyDudley.com.

Services by Dudley Funeral Home and Cremations of Dublin



Leonard Linden Rozier

Deacon Leonard Linden Rozier, affectionately known as “Snake,” passed away on Sept. 10, 2026, at the age of 63. He was a lifelong resident of Dublin, Georgia.

Born on July 18, 1963, in Dublin to Willie Lee Rozier Sr. and Mittie L. Rozier, Snake will be remembered for the vibrant energy and distinct presence he brought into the lives of those who knew him.

As a man of faith, deacon Leonard found great purpose, fellowship and joy in serving his church community at New Bible Believers Baptist Church. He took immense pride in caring for his body, dedicating much of his life to physical fitness and health. From his youth into adulthood, he enjoyed the rush of the open road on his motorcycle and the quiet, powerful connection of riding horses. Leonard was an experienced lawn care entrepreneur and contracted worker for Laurens County School System.

Snake is survived by his loving daughters, Britney Rozier and Harley Rae Sheffield, and his cherished grandchildren, Miracle T. Butler and Julian M. Bloodworth.

He is also survived by his sisters: Bernestine Rozier, Lizzie Mae Rozier, Carrie Rozier, and Sasha Rozier; his brothers: Willie Rozier Jr. and his wife, Delois, and Prentice Rozier and his wife, Dorothy; as well as a rich and lasting legacy of nieces, nephews and cousins who will forever hold his memory in their hearts.

He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Willie Lee Sr. and Mittie; his wife, Gwynade Girtman Rozier; and his siblings: WilLOW Queen McRae, Fender “Jake” Rozier, Linda “Lint” Rozier, and James “Stag” Rozier.

Per Snake’s request, there will be no funeral ser-

The et cetera chronicles - vol. 140

LOOKING AFTER SISTER’S TOWN - Mrs. M.J. Guyton of Dublin had relatives in high places. Her brother in Milledge was Congressman Carl Vinson, who served for 54 years in the United States Congress from 1910 to 1964. Vinson, a powerful member of the Armed Services Committee, was responsible for the location of Interstate Highway 16, the United States Naval Hospital (later the Vinson VA Medical Center), the Oconee Regional Library, and the Laurens County Courthouse, the first federally funded courthouse in the United States. Vinson nearly acquired the United States Air Force, a B-52 bomber base at the county airport, and a jet fighter base in the Buckeye District of Laurens County, Georgia. Her nephew, Sam Nunn, served Georgia as one of its two senators in the United States Senate from 1973 to 1997 and was a world-recognized expert in military affairs. On June 9, 1930, the Dublin Irishmen took on a team from Vidalia in the local semi-pro baseball circuit. In a game played on the grounds of the 12th District Fairground, a young and unknown Montgomery countian was playing at first base. He got one it in a loss to Dublin. His name was Wally Moses. Moses became a star hitter in the major leagues over the next two decades and ending his career coaching the New York Yankees. Dublin Courier Herald, June 10, 1930.

STAR ACTORS - Dublin High School’s Thespian Troupe 669 won the 1970 Georgia High School Class A state championship for a one-act play. Starring in The Doctor In Spite of Himself were David Wright, Janet Price, Allen Tindol, Monica Miller, Dubose Porter, Tom Patterson, Donna Scarboro, and Mac Gregory. Courier Her-

ald, Jan. 17, 1970.

vice. A gathering and dinner to honor his life, share memories, and allow loved ones to pay their respects will be held this Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 114 E. Johnson St., Dublin, Ga.

The family of Leonard “Snake” Rozier wishes to express our sincere gratitude for the love, prayers and support extended to us during this difficult time.



By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.

I MARRIED A WAL- TON - Cliff Hamner grew up during the hard days of the Depression and World War II in the Central Virginia county of Nelson. One day, Cliff chose for his bride a young woman from Wilkinson County, Georgia. Many folks around Toombsboro knew her and her daddy, Mr. Joe Boone, the unofficial king of Toombsboro. Her brother, Joe Jr., has had a successful career as an attorney for many decades in Irwinton.

A few of you have known Cliff Hamner and his wife Sharon, but many more of you know his alter ego, Jason. For you see, Cliff Hamner, aka Jason Walton, was the son of the fictional John and Esther Walton and their progeny who were the subject of the long-running and highly popular CBS Television series, The Waltons.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS - On April 17, 1930, T.D. Simmons and U.V. Millican began the publishing of the “Dublin Ledger,” a weekly newspaper in competition with Herschel Lovett, who had recently purchased the daily Courier Herald. Simmons, from Thompson, Ga., and Millican, a recent Dublin resident, set up their print shop at 216 South Jefferson Street. Dublin Courier Herald, April 15, 1930.

BIBLE TRIVIA

By WILSON CASEY
King Features

1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What business woman from Thyatira opened her home to Paul and and his companions after her conversion? Rachel, Keturah, Lydia, Shiprah
3. Jesus said, "For where

WHERE THE RICH PEOPLE LIVED - More than a century ago, this once elite neighborhood was coveted by many homebuyers in Dublin. Situated at the intersection of South Lawrence Street and Smith Street and spread up the hill, the place to be, if you couldn’t afford to be on Bellevue, was known as Quality Hill. More than a century later, some of these homes still exist.

THE FIRST NURSING GRADUATES - Ester Cummins of Beaufort, South Carolina, Mamie Dalton, of Dublin, Georgia, and Myrtle Robinson of Deveraux, Georgia, were the first graduates of the first nursing school in Dublin. The school was operated under the auspices of the Dublin Sanitarium, led by Dr. E.B. Claxton. Macon Telegraph, May 15, 1921.

THE BIG CYCLONE - It was the most devastating tornado to hit Laurens County or so they say. The twister came up from the south through the Chester community. When the wind died down, the numbers came out: Two people were killed. Twenty-five people injured. The path of the storm was estimated at being from five to twelve football fields wide. At least twenty-seven houses were destroyed. Countless more were damaged. Macon Telegraph, April 29, 1929.

your treasure is, there will be your _____ also." Love, Heart, Faith, Friends

4. From 2 Samuel 18, whose head became caught in the branches of an oak tree? Samson's, Herod's, Absalom's, Joab's

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Lydia, 3) Heart, 4) Absalom's, 5) Love, Heart, Faith, Friends

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 mills at 7:00 P.M. on September 15, 2026.



Fairfield[®]
BY MARRIOTT

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There are reasons for greater optimism

Dark events in 2026 rose and multiplied. They included waves of scorching heat, massive drought, great rivers running dry, warfare on numerous fronts, migrations of desperate people, the disruption of critical oil supply routes and persistent political turmoil left and right.

Pessimism has spread. A Pew research study found that 74 percent of Americans believe their children will be worse off than their parents. Gallup's Economic Confidence Index revealed only 24 percent of the population view conditions as good or excellent.

That's the bad news. Good news favors a brighter outlook.

First, the U.S. economy is strong. Gross Domestic Product for 2026 is estimated at \$32.4 trillion, one quarter of total world economic output, the largest on the planet and 55 percent larger than China's. In 1900 the average American's share of the nation's economic output was around \$200 per year. Today it approaches \$85,000 to \$90,000.

Second, people are liv-

GUEST COLUMN

By JIM THOMAS

ing longer. Life expectancy is 2024 rose to 79, a new record. Age-adjusted mortality rates have fallen by 17 percent since 2000 and 30 percent since 1980. Death rates from heart disease have declined 39 percent since 2000 and 62 percent by 1980; from cancer by 31 percent since 2000 and 33 percent since 1980.

Third, crimes and criminal activity are falling. The Council on Criminal Justice reports that in the first half of 2026 homicides fell another 18 percent. Data from the FBI show a substantial decline of criminal activity in the United States, in particular violent crimes and homicide. Carjackings are down by 47 percent.

Fourth, the rights and opportunities of American women have steadily expanded. After decades

of struggle and agitation, women gained the right to vote in 1920 with passage of the 19th Amendment. They now have rights and privileges their grandmothers could not imagine. As late as 1950 fewer than one woman in three were members of the workforce. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that by 2015 73.5 million women were working, 46.8 percent of the labor force.

Fifth, worldwide more people have access to clean water. In 2015 68 percent of the population had access. By 2024 that figure had risen to 74 percent. Still too low but improving.

Sixth, people living on three dollars or less per day are deemed to be in extreme poverty. The World Bank reported the number of poverty-stricken people has declined by two thirds since 1990.

Seventh, the war against a collection of deadly diseases has been a success. Smallpox, as the result of global vaccinations, has been completely eradicated. Polio was reduced by 99 percent. Other diseases which routinely killed or disabled millions

have become rare or preventable. UNICEF estimates that the global under-five mortality rate fell by 60 percent between 1990 and 2024. Put another way, the risk changed from approximately one child in 11 dying before age 5 in 1990 to about one in 27 in 2024.

Eighth, we still see and read of earthquakes, floods, famines and loss of life. But according to studies by the United Nations, the per-person risk of dying in a natural disasters would kill tens of thousands, even millions. That no longer holds. Thanks to better weather forecasting, stronger buildings, faster transportation and markedly better communications.

Ninth, no one can ignore modern life's conveniences that did not exist at the turn of the 20th Century: Electricity, cars and trucks, television, the internet and on and on. Ninety-four percent of the population own mobile phones.

President Franklin Roosevelt said, "The trend of civilization is upward."

The foregoing evidence is proof.

TELL IT!



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

I am very disappointed in the GBI, the FBI and the district attorney for not holding someone accountable for all of the school money that has gone missing. However, getting rid of the old school board will help the situation some. But they are not going to find the money.

If the present county commissioners want to remain county commissioners, they better roll back the millage rate to offset this inflated reevaluation of Laurens County property.

The county is going to raise our property taxes. They are also saying if we pass FLOST and we won't have taxes. Which one is the lie?

You will have employees to build the data centers, but after that, you'll have nothing but a skeleton crew to do little flaws and this and that on it. When it is shut down, they'll bring in other crews to fix it. Other than that, there aren't going to be a lot of jobs.

How often are teachers at WLHS required to enter grades? You can't see their scores in Google Classroom. Nothing updated in infinite classroom. Where's admin? Is it ok if students don't turn in work?

Should students have to work twice as hard as teachers? All these concerns about city kids coming to the county.

The reason why school taxes are going up

is a simple six letter word - sports. Ask yourself are we getting a return on this investment in this community? Do you know many pro players?

If our local government consolidated here would you be ok with it? Share a response in the next Tell it.

The city of Dudley has had the same counsel for the past 20 years. So please explain what new counsel the city of Dudley has? Editor's note: Jenny Taylor was elected earlier this year.

The city of Dudley water and sewage problem is nothing new. It has just never been addressed until now. Can't kick the ball but so far before you run out of yard.

Looks like there is some feathers being ruffled in the city of Dudley.

I hope the steer, horse and calf pictured from the rodeo are not as scared as they look. The steer in particular looks terrified and crazed. Rodeos aren't a great way to teach kids about animals.

We need help in Dudley. I can't get out of my driveway with school back in. Managements concerned about walking and spying. Not actual problems.

Is the grass at the ball field the only grass in Dudley? There's stop signs laying on the ground for days at the time and signs grewed up in weeds that you cant even see.

FIRMER GROUND: TELLING THE WHOLE AMERICAN STORY

Asked to comment on our politics several weeks ago David Brooks said in frustration something like, We can't even say anymore what the country stands for. He was expressing what many of us feel I think in this our 250th year. I was helped in how to think about this and encouraged by an article in the July issue of The Atlantic by Yone Appelbaum entitled How to Tell the American Story. He writes, "In recent decades the traditional American story has come under attack from both flanks." Applebaum goes on then to quote historian Johann Neem who told him there were three competing versions of the American story. One approach Neem names "post-American." Here it is the country's failures to live up to its ideals that can become the focus. From the other flank, in part a reaction to the post-American telling, there is the "hy-

per-American" approach. This version of the story speaks of the country's origin as providential, and would excuse and paper over its failures.

The third approach Neem identifies as "the mainstream school, because it is how most Americans still think about their country. It is grounded in the notion that the United States is a work in progress. This approach mixes the self-flattery of some older histories with frank acknowledgement of the many ways in which America has fallen short of its ideals, incorporating the critical scholarship of recent decades. It approaches the American story as an ongoing struggle between our best impulses and our worst."

This is hopeful. To know that most of us can hold a balanced and still hopeful view of America. It's hopeful because it suggests again that views which can

GUEST COLUMN

By STEVE BULLINGTON

be extremist don't define the large majority of the country, and that we are capable of looking at things from more than one side. ... Lurking in the shadows these days is a presumption that if people are faced with the less seemly parts of our history, they will love the country less. But this is not the case at all. Love of country, which Americans of all stripes subscribe to, is not the problem. Our most critical need is the rebuilding of trust. Trust in each other and trust in our democratic institutions. "The fabric of society depends on trust; trust depends on honesty;

honesty depends on truth." (William O'Malley, SJ)

So, here's a shout out to truth tellers and truth seekers in every quarter. To history teachers and students of history. We need you! Let all of America's story be told and learned from. We are a work in progress.

And as we consider here the need for a shared story in today's America, we might draw inspiration from the late Dolly Parten. Who we loved for her flare and candor, her authenticity and generosity. It was these qualities together with her early life and her faith that gave her a real feel for our common humanity and for the promise of America. She said, and she sang and said again and again in so many words, "I believe everybody should be treated with respect. I hope that everybody gets a chance to be who and what they can." We could do much worse than to start there.

Is a write-in candidacy the right thing in the future?

I've not decided, okay? These kinds of decisions require time and a lot of thought. And I'm not talking about whether to eat my peas with a fork or a spoon or to not eat peas at all. I am talking about am I right in being a write-in candidate for governor of the Great State of Georgia.

I need to make a decision soon. After having brought up the idea a few months back, I was surprised and humbled by the reaction I received from my fellow Georgians. Three readers immediately committed to support my candidacy. Within a month, that support reached double-digits (10) and has since doubled again (20). We are talking groundswell territory here. At this point, all I need is another 2,111,552 votes. Unfortunately, I can't count on Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to find them for me. That has already been tried, and we know how that came out.

But I ask myself why would I want to be governor in the first place? I already have a pretty cushy job as it is. I get to use nouns, pro-

By DICK YARBROUGH

nouns, subjunctive clauses, determiners, interjections, and a lot of other grammar stuff as well as having an endless supply of commas to throw in wherever I wish. As a result, my weekly reflections on current events are considered a must-read. I don't want this to come across as bragging, but my intelligence was considered artificial long before AI.

There are a few perks that go with being governor. You get to live in a fancy house in Atlanta rent-free (thanks to taxpayers), you have your own airplane, (ditto), somebody lays out the clothes you are going to wear tomorrow, and you never have to open a door. That is what your staff is for. The downside is you have to deal with a bunch of fawning politicians for 4 years. Hmm. I need to think on that.

And then there are the two candidates who are currently seeking the job. Gazillionaire Rick Jackson is the Republican nominee

and Keisha Lance Bottoms is the choice of the Democrats. Jackson has already spent an amount equal to the Gross National Product of Burundi on TV ads around the state but still looks like he swallowed a sour lemon. He always ends his commercials with, "I've got this." When you spend the equivalent of the GNP of Burundi on ads, you should have this. Whatever "this" is.

How Keisha Lance Bottoms ever got to be the Democratic choice to run for governor escapes me. She couldn't handle the job as mayor of Atlanta and now all of a sudden she is qualified to run the entire state? Oh, please. The frightening thing is that if the Republicans don't stop all their infighting and figure out who the real enemy is, she just might get elected.

You have the right to ask me what I would do if I was governor of the Great State of Georgia. A fair question. First off, I would not be Donald Trump's favorite governor, like Jackson claims he will be. That's because Trump doesn't know who I am. He and I might have a problem, anyway. He is all about changing the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America and Lake Ontario to Lake America and even New Mexico to New Amer-

ica. What is to keep him from coming after Athens, Bremen, Cairo, Damascus, Dublin, Manchester, Rome and Vienna? Make America Great Again by getting rid of these foreign sounding city names? Don't worry. I've got this.

If I do run, like every candidate running for every office everywhere I promise I will (inhale) Lower our taxes. Reduce crime. Shrink the size of government. Create jobs. Stand up to powerful special interest groups. Fight bureaucracy. Secure our borders. Take care of our veterans. Improve education and fix Medicare. (exhale.)

I will also introduce the Don't Mine Me, I Just Live Here Act. Anybody who proposes mining our Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for toothpaste whitenener in the future will be slathered in barbecue sauce and handed over to Albert the Alligator and friends at supper time. They will take it from there.

In summary, I know you are eagerly awaiting my decision as to whether or not I will seek the office of governor of the Great State of Georgia. To the 20 who have pledged their support, I thank you. To the other 2,111,552 of you out there, please don't make me beg.

The Courier Herald

LOCAL MATTERS



Judged a newspaper of General Excellence 2024

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE...

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

- Matthew 5:6

Dublin Police Department

- At 4:27 p.m. on Sept. 5, an officer responded to Murphy’s Gas Station on Highway 80 West in reference to a reported fight at one of the gas pumps.

Upon arrival, the officer met with a woman was said a man, later identified as Martin Richard Terhune, 81, approached her vehicle, opened the door and began yelling at her juvenile daughter.

A woman, later identified as Janelle Terhune, 44, approached her when she confronted the man, and began yelling at her.

The woman said she had parked her red Dodge Durango at the gas pumps and went inside to pay for gas. As she was walking back outside, her daughter approached her and said that the man had approached their vehicle, opened the door and cursed at the juvenile twice.

The woman confronted the man about his actions. During this confrontation, Janelle, who is Terhune’s daughter, approached her.

Janelle said her father was an old man and that she must have cut him off while driving on the roadway. The woman said Janelle got close to her, at which point she pushed her back and then called 911.

The officer talked with the woman’s daughter who provided a statement consistent with what her mother said. The officer talked with Terhune who said he got out of his vehicle and walked over to the woman’s vehicle.

He looked inside the window and then opened the vehicle door. He stated he may have used profanity but could not remember exactly what he said. He only wanted the woman to move her vehicle so he could get gas.

The officer talked with Janelle who said she witnessed her father get out of his vehicle, which was an RV parked near the gas pumps, and yell at the occupants in the car. She then saw the woman walk over and confront her father. She told the woman her father must have yelled at her because she had cut him off while driving.

Janelle said the woman got into her face and began yelling. She also said the woman pushed her in the face, at which point Janelle got in the woman face and began yelling at her.



POLICE BEAT...

Janelle said the woman pushed her again and advised that she wished to press charges.

The officer talked with Janelle’s son who was riding in the RV.

He heard his grandfather yell at the vehicle in front of them.

He said he was unable to stop his grandfather before he approached the vehicle. He got his grandfather back into the RV and apologized. He said his mother then approached the woman and began yelling at her.

An officer was able to review the video footage that showed Terhune walk over to the vehicle, open the door. The video also showed the juvenile get out and talk with her mother. The officer saw Janelle walk over to the vehicle and talked with the woman. Due to the camera angle, and the position of the RV, the remaining interaction could not be seen.

Due to the lack of sufficient video footage, or independent witness statements establishing the woman’s committing simple battery, she was not arrested.

Terhune and Janelle were issued citations for disorderly conduct based on their use of vulgar language toward a juvenile under the age of 14 and their conduct toward the woman in a violent and confrontational manner that caused her to fear for her safety.

Both Terhune and Janelle were advised of their court date and informed they would be fingerprinted on that date due to call volume and for them being from out of town.

- On Sept. 5 at 7:17 a.m. an officer responded to Pinehurst Drive in reference to a caller who was arguing with her mother. The mother was saying she was going to kick her out and would not take her to work.

The caller said Ashanti Lowe, 21, called her slow and threatened her by saying someone was coming and going to beat her.

The caller pulled her mace from her purse and had it near her but never pointed it at Lowe. The officer met with both women and gave the caller a ride to work.

The officer talked with Lowe who said the caller called her slow first and pulled the mace. Lowe said she told the other woman that she had mace too. Lowe told her she would beat her and that she had somebody that would come beat her.

The officer talked with a judge and retrieved a warrant for Lowe’s arrest due to terroristic threats.

Laurens County Sheriff’s Office

- A deputy responded to a property retrieval on Highway 117 on Sept. 2 at 3:08 p.m.

- At 11:05 a.m. on Sept. 2, a deputy was dispatched to Pinehill Road regarding property damage.

- At 7:10 a.m. on Sept. 8, a deputy responded to Josie Road in regard to a trespass.

- A John Doe regarding an individual trespassing was arrested for miscellaneous incident on Highway 19 at 10:51 p.m. on Sept. 8.

- A deputy responded to McDaniel Road in Dexter about a threat that happened at 9:50 a.m. on Sept. 3.

- On Sept. 7 at 3:12 p.m., a deputy received a phone message requesting a report about an incident that happened on Limestone Road.

- A vehicle was stolen on Holly Lane between Sept. 6 and 7.

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.

Carl Vinson VA nurse receives DAISY award

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER HERALD

The Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin, on behalf of the national DAISY Award Foundation, recently announced the selection of RN Rhonda Newkirk as a recipient of the prestigious DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

Dublin VA executive director Chandra Miller commended Newkirk for her devotion and commitment to professionalism.

“Ms. Newkirk exemplifies the very best of VA nursing—compassion, clinical excellence, and an unwavering commitment to those we serve. Her DAISY Award is a well-deserved recognition of the difference she makes in the lives of Veterans and their families every day. We are incredibly proud to have her on our team,” Miller said.

The award recognizes the compassion and professionalism of nurses for the extraordinarily skillful and compassionate care they provide patients and families. Nurses are nominated



Rhonda Newkirk was announced as a recipient of the DAISY Award/SPECIAL PHOTO courtesy of the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center

nationally on the foundation’s web site or by mail and the nominations forwarded to local review committees for consideration. Nominees are rated based on explicit criteria includ-

ing whether they serve as role models for the nursing profession, demonstrate caring attitudes, communicate compassionately, and if they have a significant impact on the lives of patients

and families. In addition to a certificate, lapel pin, and a healer touch statue, selectees receive many gifts, including fresh cinnamon rolls which were the only food that Patrick Barnes could tolerate in the final days of his life.

The DAISY Award memorializes J. Patrick Barnes who died from the complications of the autoimmune disease idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura in 1999 at the age of 33. The DAISY Award, which stands for Diseases Attacking the Immune System, and the DAISY Foundation, were developed by Barnes’ family as a way to acknowledge superior commitment to nursing by registered nurses, which they experienced during Patrick’s final illness and attribute to helping them bear their loss.

The DAISY Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. More information about the foundation and the award is available at <https://www.daisyfoundation.org/about-daisy-award>.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Beta Alpha Chi Zeta Chapter will hold an Our Health Matters Health Expo between 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Katherine W. Gray Resource Center, 404 S. Washington St. People are asked to join for a day of wellness and fun, which will include the following: free health

screenings, nutrition information, health and wellness resources, music, food and giveaways, family-friendly activities, local vendors and community organizations and save lives at the blood drive.

The East Laurens High School Fall Festival will be held at Buckeye Park from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26. There will be food and treats, arts and craft vendors, fun games for all, community resources and local employers and opportunities. For more information call ELHS at (478) 272-2843.

The Gospel in the Garden Festival 2026 will be

held at the Market on Madison in downtown Dublin from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10. Church choirs, praise teams or singing groups are invited to participate. Please contact Deacon Curtis Barlow at (478) 279-6924 for more information on the festival as a participant or vendor.

NEWS DIGEST

The second public hearing millage rate will be held at the Laurens County Board of Education at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- Second public hearing - millage rate
- Adjourn

The third public hearing millage rate will be held at the Laurens County Board of Education at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Approval of agenda
- Third public hearing -

millage rate

- Adjourn

A called board meeting will be held at the Laurens County Board of Education at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of millage rate
- Executive session - personnel
- Approval of personnel
- Adjourn

The Dublin City Council will hold its pre-council at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17 in the International Room in city hall followed by its regular council meeting at noon in the Henry “Bud”

Hicks Jr. Memorial Chamber. The agenda follows:

- Call to order
- Invocation and Pledge to Flag
- Approval of Sept. 3 city council meeting minutes
- Approval of bills over \$15,000
- Approval of purchases over \$15,000
- Second reading and public hearing on ordinance #26-09 to amend the hotel limit requirements
- Second reading and public hearing on ordinance #26-13 to amend FY’ 26 budget
- First reading on ordinance #26-14 to rezone Do4C 074 from P-1 to P
- First reading on ordinance #26-15 to rezone parcels Do4C 073 and Do4C

075 from P-1 to P

- Discussion and action on resolution #26-52 to accept an agreement with beard equipment lease for Riverview Golf Course
- Discussion and action on resolution #26-57 to authorize a contract with Orion Planning Group for the uniform development ordinance project
- Discussion and action on board appointments (if needed)
- Citizens comments
- Council comments
- Executive session if needed to discuss real estate, pending litigation or personnel
- Adjournment

Local 7-day Forecast:

The next 48 hours:

THURSDAY:

89°

Plenty of sunshine.

Sunrise: 7:17 a.m.

THURSDAY NIGHT:

61°

Clear.

Sunset: 7:35 p.m.

FRIDAY:

92°

Warm with times of clouds and sun.

Sunrise: 7:17 a.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT:

66°

Clear to partly cloudy and humid.

Sunset: 7:34 p.m.

Saturday 9/19

HIGH/LOW

91/68

Pretty sunny and humid; a stray afternoon thunderstorm.

Sunrise: 7:18 a.m.

Sunset: 7:33 p.m.

Sunday 9/20

HIGH/LOW

87/69

Humid with times of sun and clouds; widely separated thunderstorms.

Sunrise: 7:18 a.m.

Sunset: 7:31 p.m.

Monday 9/21

HIGH/LOW

88/68

Mostly cloudy and humid.

Sunrise: 7:19 a.m.

Sunset: 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 9/22

HIGH/LOW

85/67

Humid with some sun.

Sunrise: 7:20 a.m.

Sunset: 7:29 p.m.

Wednesday 9/23

HIGH/LOW

80/62

Humid with intervals of bright sunshine.

Sunrise: 7:20 a.m.

Sunset: 7:27 p.m.

River levels...

Oconee (at Dublin) 1.17'

Ocmulgee (at Macon) 5.61'

Classifieds

Yard/Estate Sales

Yard Sale: Fri 1-6pm, Sat 8a - 2pm.

326 Champion Dr. Lights, X-mas Decor, HH Misc

ONLINE AUCTION

Located in the Cedar Grove Community on Sudie Pearl Jones Rd

288.5 Acres in Laurens County

OFFERED DIVIDED, IN COMBINATIONS OR AS A WHOLE

Paved Road Frontage on Sudie Pearl Jones Rd

Home Sites

Creek Frontage

Hunting/Recreational Land

Cropland

Interior Road System

Tax Parcel 166 030

ONLINE BIDDING

OPENS: Fri, Sept. 25th @ 9:00 A.M.

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

See Website For Complete Terms of the Auction

HudsonMarshall.com

478-743-1511

GAL 3512

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



BY CHIP DUNHAM



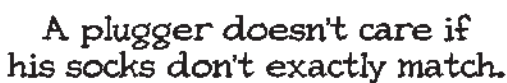
BY JEFF CORRIVEAU



BY TOM WILSON



BY JEFF MACNELLY



DOWN

- 1 "See ya!"
- 2 "Darn it!"
- 3 Middle voice part
- 4 Took a quick peek



- 5 Accompanies
- 6 Be abrasive
- 7 Sings wordlessly
- 8 Hoagie topping
- 9 Made over
- 10 Periodic table entry
- 11 Long car, for short
- 12 Oodles: 2 wds.
- 13 Japanese money
- 21 Pistol, e.g.
- 22 "My ___ are sealed!"
- 25 Metallic sound
- 26 Man-made embankment
- 27 Unmoving
- 29 Chocolate ingredient
- 30 Presses
- 31 Years
- 34 Golf ball support
- 35 Be in debt
- 36 Cat, dog, or hamster
- 42 Footrest
- 43 Adolescent



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 44 ___ house
(Halloween
attraction) | 53 Farm product |
| 45 No-cost item | 54 Make angry |
| 47 Minimum | 55 Depend (on) |
| 49 Gov't. health
agency: Abbr. | 56 Coke or sprite |
| 51 Bender | 57 Chimney dust |
| 52 Run under water | 58 Mac alternatives:
Abbr. |
| | 61 LA Galaxy's
group: Abbr. |

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Now my husband wants a divorce. We've had some rocky years due to his health, but this takes the cake. This DIL is greedy and brazen. My husband did not want his son to marry her in the first place, but she had a plan. I have done nothing

DEAR ABBY: My oldest son, "Mitch," from a previous marriage, passed away six months ago. He had five children and two grandchild-

DEAR ABBY: My oldest son, "Mitch," from a previous marriage, passed away six months ago. He had five children and two grandchil-

DEAR DOWN AND OUT: You mentioned that you "weren't the most attentive" grandparent over the years. Did this include forgetting them on birthdays, Christmas, graduations and so forth? If the answer lies between "maybe" and "yes," then it shouldn't be surprising that your grandchildren learned to do without you in their lives. Allow me to offer this suggestion: Rather than show up unannounced, it might be more effective to reach out to them individually.

WITH BOB JONES

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PLAN THE PLAY

Neither vulnerable, West deals

NORTH
 ♠ A K 2
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ A Q 7 5 4
 ♣ 8 6 3

WEST
 ♠ 7
 ♥ K J 10 9 3 2
 ♦ K J 9
 ♣ K Q J

EAST
 ♠ 8 6 4
 ♥ 8 7 6 4
 ♦ 10 3
 ♣ A 10 9 5

SOUTH
 ♠ Q J 10 9 5 3
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 8 6 2
 ♣ 7 4 2

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	Dbl	3♥*	3♠
4♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠

All pass

*Pre-emptive, at least 4 hearts

Opening lead: King of ♣

Today's deal invites you to test your imagination. North's second double showed extra values with fewer than four spades. South was expected to pass unless he thought they could make a high-level contract. South's decision to bid on was not clear cut, although we think that most players

would do the same. The defense starts with three rounds of clubs and then leads a trump. How would you plan the play? We can assume, from the bidding, that West holds both red-suit kings. The problem is that we have only one entry to our hand and can only take one finesse. Is there anything we can do?

We should realize that there is probably nothing we can do if East has three or more diamonds. We need West to hold at least three diamonds to put pressure on him. Let's start by cashing the ace of hearts. We can't take both finesses anyway and this will clarify the position. Now we run all our trumps but one, coming down to three diamonds and a trump in our hand and three diamonds and the queen of hearts in dummy. West will also have three diamonds and one heart – the king. On the last trump, West will have to discard a diamond, so you can then discard the queen of hearts from dummy. A diamond finesse allows you to take the last three tricks and make your contract. Good thinking!

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

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!



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL OUTLOOK

East, West wrap up non-region slates in week 5

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

For East and West Laurens, finding and keeping momentum has been a struggle through the season's first four weeks, in which both teams' confidence, for a variety of reasons, has remained elusive. The Falcons and Raiders each need a win badly as they finish out the pre-

liminary portion of their schedules Friday night, and get the Laurens County spotlight to themselves as neighbors Dublin (3-1) and Trinity (2-3) take off before the start of region play. East (0-3) will travel to take on an also winless Metter (0-4) in The Jungle. West (1-2) faces its fourth top-10 ranked opponent in as many games as No. 5 Monroe Area

(4-0) visits The SHU. A bye week to regroup, after back-to-back close ones got away by only nine combined points, should be beneficial for the Falcons as they try to cut out nagging mistakes and put four consistent quarters together. East's open-field speed at the skill positions will be just as much a problem for Metter as it has for three

opponents so far. But the Falcons will have to handle the Tigers' strong defensive front and find an effective run game to stay out of the third-and-long situations that were killers of key drives in their last two games. Injuries were tough to overcome for the Raiders' offense in last week's trip to Cook, where yardage was minimal and a major missed

opportunity on their lone red zone visit loomed large. Much of their focus in the matchup will be turned to the home side of the field and line of scrimmage, where healing up and correcting issues a week from the start of league play is of top priority. But AAAA's top-scoring offense, and a Ty Cummings-caliber playmaker in Monroe Area quar-

terback Cooper Shumate (who last week became the state's first 1,000-yard rusher), should also give them a great idea of how well they match up against one of the best in the classification. Home rivalry games for No. 2 Johnson County and No. 8 Montgomery County will be the only other in-town action out of five other games on a light local slate. The Trojans will be gunning for their first win over Wilcox County (0-3) in the Don Norton era as the teams collide for the 10th time in their history at Herschel Walker Field. One of two Tri-County unbeatens will also be no longer after a milestone 70th grudge match between the Eagles (3-0) and Treutlen (3-0) at Brogdon Field. Road games round out the rest of the week, as Brentwood (3-2) faces another test against unbeaten antagonist Lake Oconee Academy (4-0) and both Dodge County (1-2), at Dooly County (1-2), and Wheeler County (1-2), at Taylor County (3-0), try to bring an end to two-week slides.

WEEK 4: HOW THE REST OF THE AREA FARED...

By CLAY REYNOLDS
Sports Editor

Treutlen 36, Lanier Co. 0

The Vikings, in their third-straight dominant defensive showing, held Lanier County to just 47 rushing yards and allowed no conversions on four fourth downs. Treutlen's D has given up less than 200 total yards through three games. Peanut Tobler carried 17 times for 264 yards and four touchdowns, and Peyton Miller added 60 and another TD.

Bleckley Co. 42, ECI 7

Zyion Love, with 23 rushing attempts for 166 yards and three touchdowns, and Brody Fleming, who had two scores on 11 completions for 161, plus a third rushing, anchored the Royals' two-pronged attack in Twin City. Gage Harris was Fleming's leading target with four grabs for 51. Octavius Tate intercepted a pass. ECI's top gainer was A.B. Marsh, who had 85 rushing yards on 16 carries, and the Bulldogs' lone touchdown to tie the game early in the first half, before Bleckley scored its other 35 points unanswered.

Fitzgerald 28, Dodge Co. 14

Mistakes and missed opportunities came back to bite the Indians for a second-straight week, as their top-ranked guests remained comparatively turnover- and mistake-free despite trailing slightly in the total yardage tally. A grinding 203 yards on 33 carries by Fitzgerald's L.J. Devine, and big plays leading to its final two touchdowns and a 28-6 lead by early in the third quarter, were enough to get the Purple Hurricane well over the top. Dodge County was 1-for-4 on trips to the red zone, and committed three turnovers before halftime. Two of them directly preceded Fitzgerald scores, and a third ruled out a chance at one going the other way just before halftime. Kain Mincey (19-of-38 for 219 yards) found Amaury Fountain from 32 yards to get the Indians on the board late in the first half. Jordan Johnson scored their second with close to the same amount of time remaining in the fourth. Jeremiah Burns, between two carries and three catches, had 125 yards from scrimmage.

Rutland 12, Wilkinson Co. 6

Quenterrion Stanford was 13-of-23 passing for 209 yards, but couldn't make up for the Warriors' limited rushing production, with Makhi Johnson scoring their only touchdown. Six Rutland ball-carriers (including Isaiah Wheeler, who had a 25-yard touchdown) combined for 273 on the ground, with quarterback Teandre Boynton firing four completions for 84, and a score of 44 to Donavon Rutledge for the difference in the ballgame late.



A block from Gabriel Sharpe (6) seals the left edge for Treutlen's Peyton Miller on a carry during the Vikings' third-straight win Friday night over Lanier County. Miller had five rushing attempts for 60 yards and one touchdown/LOGAN REYNOLDS, GTLN

Lake Oconee Academy 40, Twiggs Co. 16

A strong individual effort by Jake McDonald, who was 7-of-9 for 85 yards passing and carried five times for 50 and a couple of touchdowns, helped the Titans overpower Twiggs to go to 4-0. Their Griffin Stanford also had six carries for 98 and two touchdowns, plus nine tackles and a forced fumble. The Cobras were led offensively by the 12 carries and 128 rushing yards of Jamarcus Stephens. On D, Derri-on Horne intercepted a pass and made two tackles for loss.

Central Carrollton 73, Houston Co. 66 (OT)

The Lions' Jake Ivester intercepted a Ryan Maxwell pass to bring an end the third-highest scoring game in GHSA history, after their quarterback J.R. Harris found Brady McKenna from 11 yards out for the touchdown that broke a tie of 66 points in overtime. Harris had 315 yards and two other touchdowns on 16 completions, and scored twice more on 13 carries for 118. Central's Ivester caught 10 passes for 253 yards and a pair of scores, and Jacez Walton rushed for 212 and four to contribute to the rest of the home team's runaway offense. Max Brewer also ran back a pick-six. HoCo opened in an early deficit, but caught back up by the second half thanks in large part to Austin Stinson, who rushed 27 times for 411 yards and six TDs, and added a seventh on a 100-yard kickoff return. Maxwell also completed 16 for 198, and a pair of touchdowns to Jeffery Thomas and Messiah Holliday.

Northeast Macon 58, Perry 40

The Raiders' Jordan Wiggins completed 22 of 29 passes for

379 yards and six touchdowns, and rushed for another couple of scores on 115, to set the pace in another all-gas, no-brakes shootout. Ryan Brinson rushed for the only non-Wiggins involved touchdown for Northeast, whose Scottavian Thomas led receivers on seven grabs for 111 and two of the TD receptions. Tavares Tinsley Jr. and Jordan Durham both had five catches for roughly 92 and scored once each. Perry's Jhamard Cobb threw for 280 yards and three touchdowns, but was picked off twice. J.D. Garman and J.D. Arnette both had triple-digits receiving, and combined for the three TD receptions. Garman also returned a kick for a 70-yard touchdown. Northeast held the Panthers to 92 yards rushing.

Vidalia 20, Metter 7

Brycen Burns and Denarius Atkins had key interceptions that were among the Indians' four takeaways. Jamarion Lanier rushed for 138 yards and a touchdown on 21 carries. Jah Robinson and Marquis Harvey also scored on the ground to help Vidalia even its record at 2-2 entering region play (it will open against ACE Sept. 25).

Westside Macon 35, Southwest 24

Jaiden Stephens threw for 130 yards, with a touchdown rushing and passing, and Tyleik Flint had 151 yards from scrimmage, with two scores rushing and a third receiving, as the two connected with roughly seven minutes to go to insure the Seminoles' late lead. But it went back and forth leading up to the fourth quarter as Southwest's T'korrian "Drop" Davis rushed for two touchdowns on 131 yards, and ran back a punt for a third. Cody Mitchell had two of Westside's three interceptions,

one of which helped deny a late Southwest drive to seal the game.

FPD 34, Pinewood 0

The Vikings impressively limited Pinewood to just 35 total yards on their way to a fourth win out of the first five. Cash Walker completed 11 passes for 162 yards and two touchdowns, to Mason Garvin and Cason Chatfield. Harris Everitt rushed for three scores on just eight carries for 49.

Jones Co. 35, Burke Co. 0

Travis Miller's nine carries for 151 yards led a cabal of four rushers who combined for 275 yards and four of the Grayhounds' touchdowns. Kaden Canty had two. A fifth came via a second-half fumble return. Burke County was shut out on 185 total yards.

GMC 12, Glenn Hills 6 (OT)

Christopher Alexander carried for the 10-yard touchdown that won it for the Bulldogs after a stop in overtime. Cason Dennis also rushed for an early GMC touchdown to contribute to half of a 6-6 tie at the end of regulation, but Evan Stasney carried 21 times for 156 yards, the lion's share of its 284 on the ground.

Other week 4 finals...

ACE Charter 42, Pike Co. 21 Brookstone 58, Central Macon 0 Newton 70, Warner Robins 14 Pierce Co. 35, Swainsboro 7 Portal 49, Telfair Co. 28 Veterans 22, Forsyth Central 6 Westlake 42, Northside 14 Whitefield Acad. 35, Stratford 26 Bulloch 15, Westfield 8 Gatewood 35, Southland 21 JMA 49, Loganville Christian 7 Mt. de Sales 36, Robert Toombs 6 Strong Rock 42, Tattnall Sq. 16 T. Jefferson 32, Augusta Prep 0 Windsor 40, Sherwood 13

SCOREBOARD

SOFTBALL

Monday

Edmund Burke 4, Trinity 2
East Laurens 1, ECI 0

Tuesday

EL 8, Dublin 0
Vidalia 8, West Laurens 4

PREP
SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL

Wednesday

Perry at West Laurens
/5 p.m.
Northside at Dublin
/5:30 p.m.

Thursday

WL at Liberty Co./5 p.m.
Dublin at Jefferson Co.
/5:30 p.m.
Trinity at Pinewood
Swainsboro at East Laurens
/6 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday

Windsor Forest, Liberty Co.
at WL/5 p.m.

FLAG FOOTBALL

Thursday

Telfair Co. at EL/5 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Friday

EL at Metter
Monroe Area at WL
Wilcox Co. at Johnson Co.
Brentwood at
Lake Oconee Academy
Dodge Co. at Dooly Co.
Treutlen at
Montgomery Co.
Wheeler Co. at Taylor Co.
/7:30 p.m.

CONTACT US:

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

PIGSKIN
PICKS



THE PANE...
Last week/OVERALL

RODNEY MANLEY
11-1/34-14

PAYTON TOWNS III
11-1/30-18

KYLE DOMINY
8-4/25-23

JEREMY PAYNE
10-2/35-13

JANICE BALLARD
10-2/31-17

RALPH JACKSON
11-1/29-19

DON CARSWELL
11-1/35-13

FORREST KILGO
12-0/32-16

THIS WEEK'S MATCHUPS...

East Laurens at Metter
Monroe Area at West Laurens
Wilcox Co. at Johnson Co.
Brentwood at Lake Oconee Acad.
Treutlen at Montgomery Co.
Wheeler Co. at Taylor Co.
Macon Co. at Hawkinsville
ECI at Jenkins Co.
Jeff Davis at McIntosh Co. Acad.
Westfield at Stratford
Houston at Texas Tech
LSU at Ole Miss

East Laurens
Monroe Area
Johnson Co.
Brentwood
Montgomery Co.
Taylor Co.
Macon Co.
ECI
Jeff Davis
Stratford
Houston
Ole Miss

East Laurens
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Brentwood
Treutlen
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Macon Co.
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ECI
Jeff Davis
Stratford
Texas Tech
Ole Miss

East Laurens
Monroe Area
Johnson Co.
LOA
Treutlen
Taylor Co.
Macon Co.
ECI
Jeff Davis
Stratford
Houston
LSU

SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from page 1

and move forward, to get this system back to where it's supposed to be," Westerfield told The Courier Herald.

Westerfield is a former Mohawk human resources director and Communities in Schools board chairman. Adams is former director of Georgia Military College's Dublin satellite campus

Other new board members are:

- Teresa Holliday, program manager with Community Service Board of Middle Georgia
- D'Andrea King, retired Dublin City elementary school teacher
- Randy Frederick Green, an energy and sustainability consultant and retired manager for Georgia Tech's Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership

- Angela Wright, banking officer and local bank branch manager
 - Douglas Eaves, local business owner and long-time government consultant.
- A crowd of several dozen applauded as each new member was sworn in, and again once all had taken their oaths. Monday's regularly scheduled workshop then moved into a three-hour training session for the board members, who are required to get at least 15 hours of training.
- Kemp suspended the Dublin board Aug. 17, at the unanimous recommendation of the state Board of Education, following a 10-hour suspension hearing, convened under state law after a yearlong financial crisis put the district's accreditation in peril.
- Dublin City faced a projected \$13.4 million defi-



The new members of the Dublin City Board of Education, from left: David Westerfield, Angela Wright, Doug Eaves, Teresa Holliday, Priscilla Adams, Randy Green and D'Andrea King/RODNEY MANLEY

cit after the state revealed last August that the district owed \$6 million in past-due health plan payments. Suspension hearing testimony highlighted the district's

long history of financial struggles and how the board has repeatedly promised but failed to fix its long-running deficit. It also revealed how the district, with little

to no oversight from the local board, nearly misspent and mismanaged its way into insolvency after an influx of more \$19 million in federal COVID money led to

over-hiring and overpaying staff.

State and federal criminal investigations into the district's finances are ongoing.

COUNTY TAXES

Continued from page 1

has rolled back its millage rate, it has still seen a bump in revenue – almost \$360,000 last year – from real growth in the tax digest.

"We get to keep the real growth, but not the inflationary growth," Rogers explained.

To avoid a tax increase, the county commission would need to set its millage rate at 5.36 mills. At 7 mills, taxes levied by the commission will climb to \$14.9 million, up from \$11.4 million a year ago.

The new millage rate would be 30.85 percent above the rollback rate, generating about that same percentage in new revenue. Individual tax bills will increase, but not at that rate, county officials say.

The commission's proposed rate hike will cost the owner of a \$200,000 home an additional \$120 a year. The county school board, which levies its own tax, is proposing a 2.8 percent hike. However, because it taxes at a rate (14 mills) that's more than twice that of the county, that small increase would raise school taxes on the same home by

about \$31.

Combined, that means those county homeowners would pay about \$150 more in new taxes each year.

"We only control a third of your tax bills," Rogers told residents at the hearing. "The other two-thirds is your school taxes."

The high cost of public safety

The county has a \$34.6 million budget for fiscal year 2027, and about 60 percent is allocated public safety.

"Public safety is our main focus," Rogers said.

About 10 years ago, Rogers said, Laurens Countians told county officials during "listening sessions" that they wanted three things: better emergency response times, better access to emergency medical care and more sheriff patrols.

Since 2015, when the commission last raised taxes, the county has added 38 positions – with 36 of those in public safety.

Fifteen of the new jobs are fire/medic positions that, as the name suggests, are cross-trained to serve as both firefighters and paramedics. The county Emergency Medical Service also

added seven positions.

As a result, the county now has five ambulances on the road around the clock, seven days a week, with a sixth truck available and staffed by a supervisor and first responder if all other ambulances are on calls. Stationing the crews at different locations has helped reduce response times, as well.

"Providing services in Laurens County is tough. We are a large county, and then we have a river running right down the middle of it," Rogers said.

The sheriff's office has by far the largest budget of any county department. Since 2015, it has added nine new positions. The county has also had to raise its pay for deputies just to stay competitive with the Dublin Police Department and other sheriffs.

The sheriff's department budget is about \$10.7 million, up about \$400,000 from a year ago.

Fuel costs, competitive salaries and inmate medical expenses continue to drive up operational expenses, Rogers said before and after the hearing. The county spent more than \$500,000

on inmate medical care last year.

"Inmate medical costs have gone sky high. We have such a heavy inmate population with mental health issues. Those medications are extremely expensive. In the last several years, inmate medical has doubled."

The other public safety jobs added since 2015 were three positions at the 911 Center and two in the district attorney's office.

"Every other department has either contracted or stayed the same, except for public safety," Rogers said. "All that was added because the people wanted it."

Two more public hearings

The county will hold two more public hearings on the tax increase on Sept. 22 – at noon and at 6 p.m. The commission then will meet at 6:30 p.m. to vote.

Only a handful of residents spoke at the first hearing. Several asked questions or asked the commission to reconsider the proposal.

"Everybody's pinching pennies," one man told the board.

About \$1 million in the county's budget is for inflationary costs alone, Rogers said. Several of the commissioners said they would vote to raise taxes before cutting services.

"We're trying to continue to render the services we've been providing," Commissioner Brenda Chain said. "We're not wasting people's money."

Commissioner Trae Kemp said providing public safety to rural residents is worth the expense.

"I've always believed a person's life is just as important in Cedar Grove or Cadwell as it is in Dublin," Kemp said.

In November, Laurens

County voters will decide a local referendum on a new floating local option sales tax, or FLOST, that could offset the proposed tax increase – and more.

The additional penny sales tax would lower property tax rates across the county and its seven municipalities. Revenue from the tax would go directly toward lowering area property taxes for homeowners, businesses and farms.

One resident at the public hearing asked why the commission could not hold off on raising taxes until after the referendum, but millage rates must be set so that tax digest can be finalized.

If the FLOST passes, it could take effect in January, and county officials expect the money collected over the final six months of fiscal year 2027, which ends in July, to essentially offset the tax increase.



County Adminstrator Bryan Rogers answers a resident's question during Monday's public hearing/RODNEY MANLEY

LUCAS DEVICE

Continued from page 1

"I reached out to Fairview Park Hospital, and they were very interested in the project because they actually have those devices in the hospital as well," Cutler said. "It took a little while to go through the process to be able to receive the funds."

Widow's Oil Ministry was the non-profit organization that received the funds from the hospital. Widow's Oil Ministry presented the necessary funds to be able to purchase a new LUCAS device.

"Members of the community wanted to help public safety," Cutler said. "We appreciate that."

When firefighters arrive on a scene and have someone who needs CPR, they will begin by doing manual CPR until they can get the LUCAS on a patient

"As a human, we have to guess the proper compression depth and we try to get our timing to get the proper compression rate," Cutler said. "All of those things have effects on a successful outcome for a patient that is experiencing a cardiac arrest. There are a couple of things that we must be really good at to give the patient a chance at survival."

While the LUCAS does its job, the other two firefighters can do other things such as look for other injuries. When EMS arrives, the

machine can continue doing CPR while the patient is transferred from the house to the ambulance.

"With that machine, nobody is having to stand beside the stretcher," Cutler said. "I've gone on the ambulance and have watched somebody going down the hall in the emergency room at the hospital trying to do compressions. This machine takes care of that."

The LUCAS device comes with two chargeable batteries. It can also be plugged into a wall with a cord. The device can also be plugged into ambulances.

Cutler said the new LUCAS device has been delivered to Northside Fire Station.

SEND US your best pictures of Hunting, Fishing and the outdoors and you may be included in our October 10th Edition of

Porter's
Guide to
Hunting & Fishing
in Middle Georgia

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

Please include your name and phone number and brief description of the photo, story or recipe. *All submissions may not be printed. Photo publication is left to the discretion of the Editor. Submission deadline 9/25/26.