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The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 162, NO. 5 Swainsboro, Georgia • February 3 2021 ONE DOLLAR

Progress edition is underway

By WILLIAMSON
 Keep moving forward. It seems like a simple concept, one that we all embrace every day, usually without knowing it. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade, right? But this past year, moving forward is something we all had to embrace in a much more tangible way. A lot of things

changed for a lot of people, tough decisions had to be made and many of us were faced with a new normal. But regardless of what our situations were, we all did the same thing – we kept moving forward. We made progress. *The Blade's* annual Progress edition is currently underway, and this year's edition may look and feel a little dif-

ferent than it has in the past. That is because 2020 wasn't like any year we've previously had. Our community faced unprecedented challenges, but true to our folks, we persevered. We kept moving forward. Progress for everyone looks different this year. Maybe you mastered a new skill or hobby, (Continued on page 7C)



ECI JUNIOR BETA PARTICIPANTS

ECI students advance to National Beta Convention

Emanuel County Institute Junior Beta Club participated in the virtual Georgia Junior Beta Convention in December. Junior Beta members placing in the Top 5 received an invitation to compete at the National Beta Convention in June at Disney's Swan and Dolphin Resort. The following have earned their invita-

tions: Erin Stanford, Solo Performance, first place; Allie Rigdon, Painting, first place; Aubrey Hudson, Digital Art, third place; Davis Johnson, Lola Walden, MaryKatherine Durden, and Grayson Thompson, Group Performance, third place; Abbey Marsh and Weslyn Snellgrove, Technology, fifth place; Janna Scott, Speech,

fifth place; Mylie Rose Lane, Aaron Matthews, and Lauren Bedgood, Service Learning Project, fifth place; and Oisin Matthews, Mattie Cochran, Janna Scott, and Aaralyn Grimes, Quiz Bowl, fifth place. ECI Junior Beta also received the G.O.L.D. Key Award for convention attendance.



BEDGOOD, WHEELER, PHILLIPS, SHERIFF BREWER, ROBERTSON, CURRY AND WAY

Meet the command staff at ECSO

With the Emanuel County Sheriff's Office welcoming a new sheriff in town, the roles of current staff of the office has also seen changes. In a recent interview with Emanuel County Sheriff, Jeffery Brewer, he and his appointed deputies sat down with *The Blade* to provide insight changes in the office. Major Nick Robertson

began his career in law enforcement as a patrol deputy in 2013. The following year, 2014, he was given dual assignment to the sheriff's traffic unit, and later, in 2016, Robertson was appointed to investigations until his recent 2021 promotion as Major Robertson. His new, current roles include the following: Administrative Staff,

investigations, sex offender compliance, and courthouse security. "This is a capacity that I've never done before but I am finding out that teamwork makes the dream work and I'm comfortable in tackling this position with everybody that's in support," Major Robertson commented about his new (Continued on page 2A)

Celebrating Black History Month

"The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity"

by WILLIAMSON
 In an interview with retired educator Donald Jenkins, he gave some insight into what Black History Month means to him. "Several years back, Black History Month became more important than it had been.

Historically, its relevance is now being noted," said Jenkins. "I appreciate the fact that as time goes on, we have come to a point where America realizes everybody's contributions to its culture. It brings about a sense of pride and satisfaction." According to Jenkins, in our community, Black

History Month is mostly celebrated in churches, schools and social gatherings. However, this year is going to be different because of COVID and the limitations on gatherings. When asked about his involvement with the community and moving (Continued on page 7C)

Swainsboro Police Department adds code enforcement officer to staff

Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, the Swainsboro Police Department created a position for a part-time code enforcement officer that involves enforcement of local ordinances, specifically to the city of Swainsboro. The position allows the police department to address ordinance violations in a timelier manner by having one staff member solely designated for that specific task. Warnings, such as abandoned or inoperable motor vehicles, blighted premises, accumulative refuse and other items listed in the City of Swainsboro's Refuse, Weeds, and Junk ordinance, will be handled by the code enforcement officer. In addition to code enforcement of the city ordinance, the officer will assist in handling matters

such as business licenses and other requirements enforced by the city of Swainsboro. "This position was implemented within our department to take some pressure off our patrol officers and provide a timelier job performance of the Swainsboro Police Department. There's a difference between commercial property and private property regarding the duties of the code enforcement officer and I'm willing to answer any questions pertaining to the duties involved to provide further clarification to the public," Swainsboro Police Chief Randy Ellison stated.

Swainsboro City Council and Mayor meet for month of February

Swainsboro City Council and Mayor Charles Schwabe convened for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m. in the Swainsboro Fire Department classroom. Mayor Schwabe called the meeting to order and Reverend Pete Hardin with Love and Action Church delivered the invocation. Council then reviewed minutes from the last meeting held in January, and the

minutes were approved as presented. Making motion for approval was Councilperson Julian Sconyers, who was seconded by Councilperson Rita Faulkner. All remaining council voted in favor except Councilperson Ricky Stevens, who was absent for the night's meeting. With no items to entertain on the council's census agenda, Mayor Schwabe entertained action and/or discussion

on new business matters, which consisted of two items: a resolution for the adoption of the Joint Emanuel County Solid Waste Management Plan FY2020-2030, as well as a request for a game room license. "This is something that we have to customarily, every 10 years, have to approve for various agencies. This is primarily research that is required by the government (Continued on page 7C)

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Meet the command...

(From front page)

current responsibilities and fellow employees. "The command staff that we have comes from a wealth of knowledge and years of experience. Collectively, we have a lot of years of experience from different departments and divisions so we definitely have a lot of confidence within each other with what our capabilities are."

Captain Marc Curry also received a recent promotion when the 2021 change in office took place.

"When we first started this year, there were several civil cases and overflow that needed to be served. Marc jumped on it and within a few weeks, all papers were served. Marc has been around for 30 years and has a wealth of knowledge. He's stepped up to the plate and has done a great job," Sheriff Brewer commended Captain Curry.

"I enjoy helping people and serving the community and those who reside in it," Captain Curry commented. "I'm glad to still be around. I'm proud or new office and I'm glad to be a part of it," he further stated.

Captain Curry began his career in law enforcement in 1991, working mostly in patrol but would assist in other

areas when needed. His new roles as captain include:

Patrol division, civil papers, and warrants.

Lieutenant David Way received his new ranking in 2021 as well. He began his career in law enforcement with the Department of Corrections. In 2014, he was employed with the Emanuel County Sheriff's Office, where he came in as a Sargent in investigations. Working in his old capacity, Lt. David Way would work investigations ranging from general crimes to homicides.

"He's venturing off in new territory. We have four investigators, including David. Two dedicated to drugs and gangs and two perform general investigations. Plus, we plan to implement cyber-crimes and hope to have a deputy assigned to that soon," Sheriff Brewer commented.

"We're approaching this as a team and will do it together. I could care less of my title. We're a team and we work hard to help one another, together, to get tasks done. We've recently received new equipment, which is great, and we're all looking forward to the training involved and what's to come. Lt. Way stated. "I'm glad to still be here and enjoy having the opportunity to serve

the county and the residents of Emanuel County. Being able to see each case through to the end and seeing the appreciation from those involved for the work I've done is the most rewarding part of it all," he further stated. Lt. Way's new roles in office include:

Supervising the investigations division and being the evidence custodian.

Entering the law enforcement workforce in 1992, Lieutenant Elec Wheeler began his career in Johnson County. He later worked for the city, Wrightsville Police. After dedicating service to both the county and city, he later split the tasks and worked part time with both departments. In 2007, Lt. Wheeler began his career with the Emanuel County Sheriff's Office working patrol. Approximately 1-2 years of Lt. Wheeler responding to calls and other patrol duties, Sheriff's Tyson Stevens promoted him to the traffic unit, where his responsibilities shifted more towards traffic enforcement, attempting to reduce accidents and assist in other areas needed - such as school visits.

"Apart from increasing our road staff, we've implanted a new task for our traffic unit to visit David Emanuel Academy (DEA) 2-3 times per week. We like to have a presence at this school location and provide services for safety as we do for other schools in Emanuel County. Elic, Marty, and Anthony, our three traffic deputies, perform walk-throughs at this school,"

Other tasks that Lt. Wheeler was assigned to since his recent promo-

tion include:

Supervising the traffic division as well as vehicle acquisition and vehicle equipment.

"I really enjoy my job and serving the citizens of Emanuel County. I'm glad to still be a part of the Emanuel County Sheriff's Office," Wheeler commented.

In regard to the sheriff's office school resource department, Deputy Robert Phillips has also ranked up since the 2021 change in office and now works as Sergeant of the sheriff's School Resource Unit.

"There's so much going on in the world with law enforcement being labeled as the bad people. We want to build a relationship with the youth so they feel comfortable and place their trust in us. When the program first started, there was a lot of problems with students not listening to school resource officers or teachers. It was difficult transition. Today, it is totally different. We have a relationship with the children, which is what we wanted to establish all along," Sergeant Phillips stated.

Sgt. Phillips began his career with the Department of Corrections effective May 19, 2003 through March 15, 2004 in Swainsboro. On July 12, 2004, he worked as a peace officer with the Swainsboro Police Department until August 2013 when he resigned from his career with the city to take on his career with the Emanuel County Sheriff's Office. Effective August 2013, Sgt. Phillips worked in the school resource department and was later promoted to Corporal January 1, 2014. On December 15, 2016, Sgt. Phillips was promoted once more until his recent promotion. Sgt. Phillips serves as head of the School Resource Unit, where he and two fellow deputies, Kelly Armstrong and Trent Kersey, work together as a team to protect the students of Emanuel County.

"I'm excited to have a new sheriff here in Emanuel County. I love working with him and am excited to do so. I love the job that I do and hope that I can continue doing so, if the Good Lord sees fit for me to be here," Sgt. Phillips commented.

Last, but certainly not least is Lieutenant Wes Bedgood, who received his recent promotion after the 2021 change in office. Lt. Bedgood began his

law enforcement career in 2011 at the jail and has stayed stationed at that location ever since.

"I've always enjoyed the jail part of it - dealing with inmates and getting to talk to them. Having that bond of trust helps me perform my job better, Lt. Bedgood stated. "There's a lot of people out there that's not a bad person, they just made bad choices. Most of our inmates just made bad choices, and we've all done that," Lt. Bedgood further commented. "We don't have black inmates and we don't have white inmates. They're all orange and we treat each one with equal respect," Sheriff Brewer inputted with Lt. Bedgood agreement.

"Wes prob has one of the hardest jobs in this office. You have to be well rounded to take on this responsibility. He is responsible for the whole jail. I worked with him at the jail for two years and I feel as if I made the right choice. He's doing a great job," Sheriff Brewer stated.

I'm going to do the best I can to provide our inmates with the best care I can give them. I want to tell everyone thank you for the support. I love my job and I'm not going anywhere unless the sheriff makes me. I'm going to do my best to uphold the jail and community and I hope the inmates, their family, and our community are proud of the services provided at the Emanuel County Jail," Lt. Bedgood further stated.

Lt. Bedgood's new roles include serving as jail administrator while also overseeing the training complex and maintenance department.

"After entering office and implementing the command structure that I wanted, some things that we were up in air about just naturally fell into place. So, it's all worked out well and helped build a positive work environment and we've come out with a big bang," Sheriff Brewer stated while commending his staff. "I have full faith in the people that I've appointed to help me run this place and I believe 100 percent that they will help me pursue not my objectives, but the mission to keep the county safe and make the right decisions to do what's right," Brewer ended.

First Responder Course to be held

Emanuel County EMS is conducting a First Responder Course in Swainsboro. The course is an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course that follows the National EMS curriculum. This curriculum is fifty (50) hours in length and covers all aspects of initial emergency medical care. The training will be conducted at the Swainsboro Fire Department on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 until 10 pm. The course registration and initial orientation will be on February 11, 2021, at the Swainsboro Fire Department at 6:00 pm. The opportunity is funded through a grant from the Georgia Trauma Commission, so there is no charge to the student. Upon completing the course, the student will be provided with a medical "jump kit" and a DOT approved safety vest.

To register or for more information, please contact Emanuel County EMS at (478) 237-5639.

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Send your changes to news@emanuelcountylive.com

Happenings

*Listed events are subject to change.

Lady Bobcat Basketball vs. Georgia Highlands
Virtual event played from home
February 6, 1 p.m.

Toddler Time
Franklin Memorial Library
February 9, 11 a.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Durden Banking Company Inc.
Twin City
February 10

Teen Craft
Franklin Memorial Library
February 11, 4 p.m.

Deana's Dash of Delish
Franklin Memorial Library
February 19, 10 a.m.

Bobcat Baseball vs. Scoutz Sports Performance
Virtual event played from home
February 26, 12 p.m.

Third Annual Broken Clay Shoot
Bay Gall Sporting Clays, Garfield
February 27, 10 a.m.

The Forest-Blade

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Lawson appointed to state board



LAWSON

Eng. of GA and Lawson Electric Co. Lawson has served his community in many capacities; he was a volunteer firefighter with the Swainsboro Fire Department for 25 years and a Swainsboro

City Council Member for seven years. He is a Certified Municipal Clerk from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, a graduate of the Harold Holtz Municipal Training Institute, a graduate of the Regional Economic & Leadership Development Institution, a Regional Director and Board Member of the Georgia City/County Managers Association, and was named by Who's Who as a 2008 Honored Professional. Lawson and his wife, Dianne, have four children.

On Monday, Feb. 1, City Administrator Al L. Lawson was appointed to serve on the State Board of Georgia Auctioneers Commission. The Georgia Auctioneers Commission is comprised of six members who are appointed by the Governor. Five members are licensed auctioneers and one is a consumer member with no connection to the practice or profession of auctioneering.

Lawson has been the City Administrator in Swainsboro since 1997. He is the former owner and operator of Lighting

Mayor Donaldson presents medallion to Governor Kemp



DONALDSON PRESENTING MEDALLION TO GOVERNOR KEMP

In last week's edition of *The Forest-Blade*, we covered Mayor Matt Donaldson being appointed to the Georgia Board of Education to represent the 12th Congressional District. While there, he presented Governor Kemp with the first limited edition medallion honoring the Centennial celebrations for Twin City.

Mayor Donaldson and the Centennial Committee have plans to celebrate the Centennial each month throughout this year. *The Blade* will also be featuring a resident of Twin City each month who can help share the history of Graymont and Summit. Stay tuned!

Mills denied bond

Jachon Tydarian Mills has been denied bond in the Dec. 28 shooting of Dajarius Zashawn McGuire. Mills appeared in Superior Court on Wednesday, Jan. 27, with Judge Tommy Smith sitting on the bench. Evidence at the hearing led Judge Smith to deny bond based on probable cause.

Mills is charged with the murder of McGuire, 21, of Adrian. He is also charged with three counts of violation of street gang terrorism & prevention, two counts of aggravated assault, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

"We are very pleased

with the outcome of the hearing. I appreciate all the hard work my office, the GBI, and especially Agent Eugene Howard have put into the case. Evidence in the hearing alleges that there are ties to gangs, and I am going to aggressively go after people who commit violent crimes on behalf of a criminal street gang," said District Attorney Tripp Fitzner.

According to Sheriff Brewer, on Monday, Dec. 28, between the hours of 6:30 and 7 p.m., two vehicles were traveling south on US #1 in Emanuel County when the trailing vehicle opened fire on the



MILLS IN COURT

front vehicle, striking it several times. McGuire, the passenger in the front vehicle, was killed in the gunfire. The driver of the vehicle, Daniqua S. Sanders, 21, of Swainsboro, was transported by EMS to Emanuel Medical Center, treated and released.

A walk down Memory Lane

February 2, 1961

Groundwork laid here Monday for six-city natural gas system

The ground work for a \$5 million natural gas system serving some 6,000 families in Swainsboro, Wrightsville, Soperton, Vidalia, Lyons, and Reidsville was laid at a meeting Monday between Allan Shivers, chairman of the board of Western Pipe Lines Inc, Austin, TX, and officials of the cities

involved. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Jaycees to name Young Farmer of Year at meeting Wednesday

The outstanding young farmer of 1960 in the Emanuel County area will be chosen at a "bosses' night" meeting of the Swainsboro Junior Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the Tick-Tock Restaurant. Three candidates for the award have been nominat-

ed: Frank Wimberly of Swainsboro, W.D. Johnson of Twin City, and Billy Walden of Canoochee.

Practical nurse courses being offered in Georgia

Want to be a practical nurse? -Fanny Walker, who directs our program for training practical nurses, tells that men and women between 17 and 50 who want a year's training and become practical nurses, have a (Continued on page 8C)

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BOBCAT SPOT

What's going on at your hometown college!

Bobcat Athletics Week in Review: January 26 - 30

The EGSC Bobcats have hit the ground running in 2021, with Men's and Women's Basketball, Baseball and Softball all starting their seasons strong. Despite having no fans in the audience due to COVID-19, the Bobcats have been tearing up the courts and the diamonds against their opponents.

On January 25, both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams took to the courts and won their games by more than 20 points each, with the Lady Bobcats outscoring Trinity Baptist College 78 - 57 and the men's team beating ASA Prep 95 - 59. The Baseball team, which also played that day, lost a heartbreaker in the bottom of the 7th inning to St. John's River from Florida, a top-ranked team in the NJCAA. The final score was 11 to 10.

The Men's Basketball teams took to the court once again on January 26 to pick up a 104 - 81 win against Franklin Prep.

On January 30, the Bobcats were back in action as the Lady Bobcats Basketball Team took on Spartanburg Methodist and emerged victorious with a score of 84 - 71. The Men's Basketball Team defeated Middle Georgia Prep 64 - 56, making three wins in a row for both of our Bobcat Basketball teams!

The Lady Bobcats Softball team defeated Thomas University in a scrimmage game in Thomasville by a score of 6 - 0 to kick off their Spring season in style.

The Bobcats were in action on February 2, with the Men's Basketball Team taking on USC Salkehatchie on the road, the Women's Basketball Team taking on Georgia Highlands at home, the Bobcat Baseball team in a double-header against Columbia International College JV.

The Lady Bobcats Softball team will take on Southern Union State Community College today in a double header on campus.

Check next week's Spot for those scores and more!

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 3 - 8 - Drop for Non-Payment Add Back
- February 3 - 12 Week Session Drop/Add - All Campuses
- 12 Week Session Final Fee Payment Deadline
- Black History Month Trivia - 11 a.m.
- February 4 - Session I Last Day to Withdraw - Swainsboro & Statesboro
- February 6 - Lady Bobcat Softball Double Header* - 1 p.m.
- Lady Bobcat Basketball* - 1 p.m.
- Bobcat Basketball* - 3 p.m.
- February 8 - Middle Judicial CHINS Meeting - 10 a.m.
- February 9 - 16 - 12 Week Session Drop for Non-Attendance
- February 9 - BCM Club Meeting - 10:45 a.m.
- Criminal Justice Club Meeting - 1 p.m.
- Lady Bobcat Softball Double Header* - 1 p.m.
- Bobcat Basketball* - 7 p.m.

*Due to COVID-19 concerns, no fans or spectators are allowed at home athletic events for any sport.

For more information on EGSC's schedule and response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, visit www.ega.edu/COVID19

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6:00 PM - Evening Worship

Wednesday Night

5:30 PM - Bible Study
6:30 PM - Family Dinner
7:00 PM - Chancel Choir



PLEASE JOIN US!

Herbert Eugene "Gene" Simmons, 94

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors, announces the death of Mr. Herbert Eugene "Gene"

Simmons, age 94, of Swainsboro, who passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, January

27, 2021, after a brief illness. Graveside services were conducted on Saturday, January 30, at 11 a.m. in the Swainsboro City Cemetery with Rev. Jim Harrell officiating, followed by Military Honors. The family received friends from 10:30 a.m. until time of the service at the cemetery. CDC social distancing guidelines were observed and masks were encouraged for the safety and health and well-being of others.

Pallbearers were Wes Simmons, Joe Howard, Trip Howard, Heath Simmons, Cody Collins, Joseph Howard, David Simmons, Craig Peebles, and Henry Terwilliger. Honorary Pallbearers were his caregivers and CNA's.

Mr. Simmons was born January 1, 1927, in Jacksonville, FL, to the late Clayton Columbus "C. C." and Pauline Chance Simmons. Blundale is where Mr. Simmons grew up, and also where he met his beloved wife of 70 years, Greta Ellen Lumpkin Simmons. After graduating from Swainsboro High School in 1949, Mr. Simmons joined the Coast Guard Merchant Marines and was assigned to the liberty ship, S.S. Louis A. Sengteller, traveling through the Philippine Islands, South Pacific Islands and Australia during WWII. Mr. Simmons became a partner in Dolores & Woody's Shops in 1953, hiring many local folks to work and learn the business during his 36 years at the store. He was considered a mentor by many of his former employees. He was a founding member of the Swainsboro



SIMMONS

Country Club and Golf Course and was an active member of the Jaycees for many years. Mr. Gene's retirement was filled with a new venture of cattle raising at his Double S Limousine Farm, he also enjoyed having a vegetable garden every year. Mr. Gene was a big part of the Citizens Bank Coffee Club and Monday Morning Library Club, where he was a loyal attendee. Affectionately known as Pa Gene, his favorite role and greatest joy was spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Mr. Gene was a member and faithfully attended the Swainsboro First Baptist Church and the Jimmy Morgan Sunday School Class. He had a strong work ethic that kept him active throughout his life and it was well known that he lived every day to the fullest. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his beloved wife and all six of his siblings.

Survivors include daughter, Gennie Simmons Wright (Noel) of Isle of Hope; sons, Clay Simmons (Sandi) of Birmingham, Al; Bill Simmons (Marcie) of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Tripp Howard, Joe Howard, Wes Simmons, Jessica Simmons Collins, Heath Simmons, Rachel Simmons, Laura Simmons, David Simmons, Kelly Roper, and Megan Cobb; twenty-two great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

David G. Bryant, 58

Mr. David G. Bryant, 58, of Swainsboro, passed away Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at his residence following a brief illness. Memorial service will be private at a later date.

Mr. Bryant was born December 3, 1962, to the late Oscar Bryant, Jr. and Hilda Ruth Beeland. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his companion of 10 years, Toni Braddy of Swainsboro; sons, Jason Bryant and Justin Bryant, both of Belvedere, and Nathan Souls of Macon; half-sister, Dale Anne Tanner of Swainsboro; stepchildren, Monica



BRYANT

Pellerin of Twin City, Randi Topping and Laurie Hildebrandt, both of Swainsboro, and Raymond Topping of New York; grandson, Colton Tate Bryant; and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

Don "Rico" Farrow, 51

Mr. Don "Rico" Farrow, 51, of Swainsboro, passed away Thursday, December 10, 2020, at East Georgia Regional Medical Center following an extended illness. Graveside service was Thursday, December 17, at 2 p.m. at Lamb Cemetery with Rev. Baron Powell officiating. In compliance with the guidelines set by the CDC, 6-foot rule was enforced during service.

Pallbearers were Sam Williams, Mitchell Cowart, Lee Williams, Paul Burke, Jeff Burke, Bobby "Catfish" Wilkerson, Sidney Crews, and Gary "Captain" Kokotis. Mr. Farrow was born October 11, 1969, in Swainsboro, to Don Farrow and Eloyse Henry Farrow. He enjoyed traveling, taking cruises, painting, fishing, and woodworking, and had a love for automobiles, especially Buicks and Dodges. Mr. Farrow was very artistic and talented, and was known as the jokester - he loved making people smile and laugh. He loved his family, especially being papa



FARROW

to his grandbabies. Mr. Farrow was of the Baptist Faith. He is preceded in death by his father. Survivors include his wife, Karen Farrow of Swainsboro; mother, Eloyse Farrow of Swainsboro; daughter, Raven Holden of Daytona Beach, FL.; son, Dakota Farrow of Swainsboro; stepsons, Josh Atkinson and Brandon Atkinson, both of Statesboro, Brian Oglesby of Twin City, and Larry Oglesby of Augusta; sister, Yonna Williams of Sylvania, grandchildren, Laken Farrow, Mason Oglesby, Adelyn Atkinson, and Cooper Atkinson; many friends. Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Sarah Nell Jeffers, 87

Sarah Nell Jeffers, age 87, passed away Thursday, January 28, 2021. Services were held Sunday, January 31, at 2 p.m. at the chapel of Moores Funeral Home with Pastor Bo Turner officiating. Burial followed at Baldwin Memorial Gardens. The family received friends Sunday from 1 until 2 p.m. at Moores Funeral Home.

Mrs. Jeffers was born July 29, 1933, in Swainsboro, to James and Vondell Collins Roberson. She lived most of her life in Middle Georgia and was retired from Cracker Barrell Gift Shop. Mrs. Jeffers is preceded in death by a brother and

two sisters.

Survivors include two sons, Garry Gilpin (Tara) of Macon and Scott Morgan (Kimmie) of Melbourne, FL; three daughters, Linda Davis (Roy) of Gray, Sharon Watkins (John) of Ocala, FL, and Shelia Melish (Steve) of Douglasville; sister, Janice Brooks of Milledgeville; thirteen grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Pine Pointe Hospice.

Moores Funeral Home & Crematory has charge of arrangements.

Patricia "Pat" Brinson, 66

Mrs. Patricia "Pat" Brinson, age 66, of the Zaidee Community in Treutlen County, passed away

peacefully on Monday evening, January 25, 2021, at Community Hospice in Vidalia. Private services will be held from the graveside in Boiling Springs Cemetery with Reverend Donnie Crosby officiating.

Born in Bath, SC, Pat was one of four children in the family. As a young girl, the family moved to Dublin and Swainsboro, where she grew up and graduated from David Emanuel Academy in Stillmore. Mrs. Brinson worked as a Machine Operator at Argo Mills in Swainsboro for many years before joining Woolrich in Soperton. She also worked as a Teller at the Bank of Soperton until retiring in the mid 2000s. Pat had enjoyed, and played, Women's softball with the Argo Mills team, cooking, time with her grandchildren, entertaining, decorating, and shopping.

She was Southern Baptist by faith. Mrs. Brinson is preceded



BRINSON

in death by a daughter, Kandace Brinson; father, G.R. Davis; stepfather, Hubert Rowland; and stepbrother, Danny Rowland.

Pat leaves behind her husband of 45 years, Clayton Brinson; son, Davis Brinson (Christy), all of the Zaidee Community; mother, Dorothy Rowland of Swainsboro; brother, Glenn Davis (Billie) of Swainsboro; two sisters, Debra Peebles (David) of Kite and Dottie Durden (Allen) of Swainsboro; three grandchildren, C.J, Leo, and Maya Brinson; nieces and nephews, Allison Murphy, Allaina Durden, Bo Hall, J.J. Hall, and Rocky Davis.

Sammons Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Willie V. Ricks, 90



RICKS

Mrs. Willie V. Ricks, Mrs. Flossie as she was known by her friends, Granny or Grandma as she was called by her children and grandchildren and even some of her dear friends, entered into the arms of Jesus in the early hours of Thursday, January 28, 2021. Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday, February 2, in the Williams Chapel of Sammons Funeral Home with Reverend David Oliver of the First Baptist Church of Adrian officiating. Mrs. Ricks was laid to rest in the family plot of Ricksville Cemetery near her home.

Born September 16, 1930, to Willie Elias Powell and Ester Lee Townsend Powell in Kite. She was the 3rd of 5 siblings, and the last of her siblings to be deceased. Mrs. Ricks was the beloved wife of Clyde L. Ricks of Ricks Glass Co. of Adrian, which he founded in the 1950's. They eloped on March 30, 1946, when she was 15 ½ years old and Clyde was 16 ½ years old, sharing almost 75 years together. They were married by Mr. Durden, a Justice of the Peace, in Norristown.

Mrs. Ricks was a great cook, a talent which she inherited from her mother. Her family shared many special gatherings around the family table. No one made potato salad, turkey and dressing, or chocolate cake like her. She loved to spend time fishing in the family pond, and would fish until it was so dark that you could not see the bobber. If no one else caught a fish, Granny probably would. She passed the love of fishing down to her daughter, Linda Jones, grandchild, Kyle, and great-grandchildren, Lindsay and Madelyn. Granny loved raising goats and was always sure to share about any new baby goats.

Mrs. Ricks was a petite and delicate lady. However, her will and determination was in-dominant.

One of the features that first attracted her husband was how pretty she was. Even this week, he shared with his daughter of how pretty she was. She always made an effort to look her very best. Thursdays was her day to have her hair done and you did not dare schedule anything that would conflict with that appointment.

Mrs. Ricks loved people and never met a stranger. She loved going to the Farmhouse Café in Adrian and the Boneyard in Soperton. There was always someone to

greet her and open the door. Mrs. Flossie was always so happy to see John and Darlene at the Farmhouse and Wanda and Wayne at the Boneyard, who she loved and who loved her. They were special to her and she considered them as part of her family. They were expected, if time allowed, to come and sit a spell with her and talk. There was always lots of special friends at the Farmhouse who would come by and talk with her and Clyde. I guess they were so old and had been a part of Adrian for such a long time that many of the folks considered them "special" - they were a part of her family and she was a part of theirs.

Whenever you would see Clyde, you could almost be assured that Mrs. Flossie was with him if she was able. They were each other's caregivers. They knew that they could always depend on each other and would be there for each other. On January 28, 2021, a part of that special circle of love was broken.

Mrs. Ricks is survived by her three children; daughter, Linda R. (Wayne) Jones of Macon; sons, Ronnie Ricks and Kennon "Ken" (Wendy) Ricks of Adrian; six grandchildren, Michele Jones Burgess (Jay) and Michael W. Jones, Jr. (Heather) of Macon; Jeremy Ricks (Kelly) of Swainsboro, Nikki Ricks Williams (Talon) of Statesboro, Kaley Ricks of Adrian, and Kyle Ricks of Swainsboro; 10 great-children, Lindsay Marie Burgess (Macon), Madelyn Grace Jones, Hannah Catherine Jones, Leah Denise Jones, and Michael W. Jones, III of Macon; Nash Ron Ricks and Alba Marie Ricks of Swainsboro, Cam Michael Williams and Brynn Williams of Statesboro, and Kenli Brooke Anderson of Adrian.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to: The Aplastic Anemia & MSDS Foundation, Adrian Baptist Church, The American Cancer Association, Serenity Hospice, Serenity Place in Dublin, GA or the charity of one's choice.

Sammons Funeral Home of Soperton was in charge of arrangements.

Larry Boulineau, 65



BOULINEAU

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Mr. Larry Boulineau, age 65, of Kite, on

Monday, January 25, 2021, at Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin. Graveside services were conducted at Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 29, with Rev. Trent Boulineau officiating and Rev. Ray Jenkins and Rev. Burton Dixon to assist. The family received friends Friday, January 29, from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Oak Grove Church near Wrightsville. CDC social distancing guidelines were observed. The family requested masks and the church required masks inside their facility for the safety and health and well-being of others.

Pallbearers were Dock Claxton Jr., Steve Claxton Sr., Eddie Claxton, Terry Boulineau, Troy Boulineau, Stoney Stapleton, Ronnie Pound, and Currone "Rone" Hunter. Honorary Pallbearers were Tony Marcus, Eddie Marcus, Ernie Becker, and Tommy Crozier.

Mr. Boulineau was born February 24, 1955, in Louisville, to Bennett and Rena Mae Marcus Boulineau. He was owner/operator of Boulineau Trucking Co. The best way to describe Larry; he was a true family man and would do anything they wanted, as long as it included family. This frequently included dressing up, performing plays with his girls, and recording videos. Larry was a hard worker and provider for his family. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, if family was along. Cooking "pannicakes" for his girls was his

specialty, to go with his homemade syrup. When Larry made friendships, they were for life, and helping anyone in need was his pleasure. Anyone in need always knew who they could call. Larry was a member of Oak Chapel Baptist Church. Mr. Boulineau is preceded in death by his mother and brother, Roy Boulineau.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Melinda Claxton Boulineau of Kite; daughter, Tori Boulineau Norris (James) of Kite; son, Trent Boulineau (Candi) of Adrian; father, Bennett Boulineau of Kite; grandchildren, Mattie Boulineau, Jessi Norris, Jami Norris, Sadie Boulineau, Chloe Boulineau, Josie Boulineau, and Sidney Boulineau; father and mother-in-law, Dock Sr. and Shirley Claxton; brothers and sisters-in-law, Dock Jr. and Tammy Claxton and Steve and Sherry Claxton; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family, including his trucking friends.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o James Keyton, 432 Oak Grove Church Road, Wrightsville, GA 31096.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

Margaret A. Jones, 67



JONES

Ms. Margaret A. Jones, 67, of Stillmore, passed away Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at Candler County Hospital following an extended illness. Funeral services were Sunday, January 31, at 2 p.m. at the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Jim Harrel and Reverend Rusty Moore officiating. Interment followed in the Sim Warren Cemetery. The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, January 30, at Chapman Funeral Home. In compliance with the guidelines set by the CDC, 6-foot rule was enforced during visitation and service.

Ms. Jones was born April 29, 1953, in Emanuel County, to J. W. Youmans and Inez Hadden Youmans. She is preceded in death by her mother; husband, Bobby R. Jones; son, Roy Lee Jones; brother, Roy Lee Youmans; sister, Madie Youmans; and grandson, Willie Jones.

Survivors include her father; daughters, Jennifer (Paul) Burke of Gar-

field and Shirley (Kevin) Scarboro of Stillmore; son, Jim Bo Akridge (Renee Boilott) of Twin City; stepsons, Ray Jones of Stillmore and Bobby Floyd Jones of Stilson; stepdaughter, Vicki Jones of Lyons; brothers, James (Susan) Youmans of Stillmore, Randy (Karen) Youmans of Swainsboro, and Kenny (Sarah) Youmans of Metter; sisters, Linda (Lester) Kingery of Stillmore and Nancy (Donnie) Slater of Stillmore; 15 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Karen Mullis Henry, 64



HENRY

Mrs. Karen Mullis Henry, 64, of Swainsboro, passed away Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at University Hospital following an extended illness. Funeral services were Monday, February 1, at 2 p.m. at the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Tim Price officiating. Interment followed in Eastbrook Cemetery. The family received friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, January 31, at Chapman Funeral Home. In compliance with the guidelines set by the CDC, 6-foot rule were enforced during visitation and service.

Pallbearers were Tommy Davis, Skylar Henry, Josh Walker, Larry Henry, Travis Akridge, and Chesley Dixon.

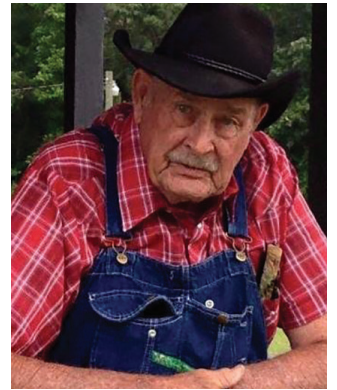
Mrs. Henry was born February 3, 1956, in Dublin, to the James Mullis and Willa Joy Dixon Mullis. She drove a bus for 20 years, 9 of those years with Emanuel County Board of Education. Mrs. Henry was a Mana not a Nana to her grandchildren. She enjoyed fishing and cooking, and was a member of New Beginnings Worship Center. Mrs. Henry is preceded in death by her parents;

and brother, Ricky Mullis.

Survivors include her husband of 10 years, Robert Henry, Jr. of Swainsboro; sons, Michael Crosby (Sabrina) of Hephzibah; daughters, Alecia Clements (Casey) and Mikayla Mitchell, both of Swainsboro; stepson, Steven Henry of Baxley; stepdaughters, Crystal Henry of Montrose and Heidi Henry of Stillmore; sister, Jamie Sewell (Stephen) of Thomson; grandchildren, Ashlyn Crosby, Kaleigh Crosby, Colby Sanchez, Johnnie Sanchez, Taylor Shaw, River Clements, Bentley Mitchell, and Brody Marks; 8 step-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

William Dover "Slim" Williamson, 84



WILLIAMSON

Mr. William Dover "Slim" Williamson, Jr., age 84, of Vidalia, died Sunday, January 24, 2021, at Oxley Park Health and Rehaab in Lyons after an extended illness. A memorial service was held Friday, January 29, at 3 p.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church. The family received friends at the church on Friday from 1 p.m. until just prior to the service.

Mr. Williamson was a native of Emanuel County and was a 1954 graduate of Summertown High

School. He worked at Union Camp Box Company for seven years and was carpenter and builder most of his life. Slim moved to Vidalia in 1986, and more recently worked with Dixie Livestock in Oak Park several years, and was a farmer. He was a member of Tabernacle Baptist Church. Mr. Williamson is preceded in death by two wives, Myrtis Ann Beard Williamson and Melvadean McKenzie Williamson; his parents, William Dover Williamson, Sr. and Mildred Elizabeth Sherrod Williamson; and one brother James Mark Williamson.

Survivors include seven children, Dover Williamson, III (Donna)

of Santa Claus, Jean Williamson Vaught (Heyward) of Hephzibah, Charles Henry Williamson of Tyler, Texas; Mike Harrell (Regina) of North Augusta, SC, David Harrell (Linda) of Huntsville, Texas, Tim Harrell and Andy Coxwell of Swainsboro; three sisters, Helen Irby and Martha Sumner of Grand Blank, Michigan and Sue Canady (Bobby) of Canoochee; one brother, Benny Williamson of Midville; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Tabernacle Baptist Church, P.O. Box 160, Vidalia, GA 30475, or God's Store House Food and Clothing Bank, 300 McIntosh St., Vidalia, GA 30474.

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

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John Lewis Reese, 74

John L. Reese departed this earthly life December 28, 2020, in the comfort of his home in Bronx, NY. Graveside service was held Saturday, January 23, 2021, at 12 p.m. at Kirkland Cemetery in Midville with Elder Delmus Mosley officiating.

Mr. Reese was born in Sardis, AL, on July 25, 1946, to the late Roberta Minter Reese and Merck Coaker. He attended and joined Shiloh Baptist Church at an early age and was very active in Sunday School. Mr. Reese moved to New York in 1968. He married Annette Williams Reese on February 16, 1973, and they enjoyed 47 years of marital bliss. Mr. Reese is preceded in death by his parents; stepfather, Eugene Reese; four sisters, Sara (Charles)



REESE

Bates, Anna Lee (Eddie) Chatman, Rose Reese, and Pinkie Reese; niece, Viola Jones; and two nephews, Ronnie Reese and Roosevelt Reese.

Mr. Reese leaves to cherish his memories with his wife; half-brother, Alfred Coaker; half-sister, Carrie Coaker-Boggs; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

James Johnson, 90

Mr. James Johnson, 90, of Twin City, passed away Monday, January 25, 2021, at Emanuel Medical Center following an extended illness. Funeral services were held Thursday, January 28, 3 p.m. at Hebron Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Sam Bowen officiating. Interment followed in the Hebron Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, January 28, at Hebron Primitive Baptist Church. In compliance with the guidelines set by the CDC, 6-foot rule was enforced during visitation and service.

Pallbearers were Mase Henry, Adam Lane, Tyler Flakes, Chase Whitehead, Gavin Edenfield, David Ellington, and Mike Johnson. Honorary Pallbearers were Kevin Edenfield and Eric Woods.

Mr. Johnson was born August 20, 1930, in Emanuel County, to the late E. H. Johnson and Eliza Wiggins Johnson. He loved to coon hunt and fish, and was a great role model. Mr. Johnson drove a school bus and worked at Starland Dairy for many



JOHNSON

years, and was a farmer. He was a Deacon at Hebron Primitive Baptist Church. Mr. Johnson is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Ruby Bennett Johnson; sisters, Ruby Patrick, Marie Craft, Ruth Kent, Betty Woods, and Debbie Price; brothers, Otis Johnson, Fern Johnson, Joseph Johnson, and Dan Johnson.

Survivors include his daughters, Jane (Charles) Woods and Kathy (Eddie) Woods, both of Twin City, Dell Miller of Swainsboro, Jennifer (Phillip) Lamb of Wadley; sister, Bernice Williams of Glenville; 13 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Robbie Ann Lee Youngblood, 74

Mrs. Robbie Ann Lee Youngblood, 74, of Metter, died on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021, at Azalea Health and Rehabilitation in Metter. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 6, at 12 p.m. in the chapel of Wood Funeral Home with Rev. Bo Fulginiti officiating. Burial to follow at Lake Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until the hour of the service.

Mrs. Youngblood was a retired secretary with the Candler County Sheriff's Department. She is preceded in death by her husband, Paul

W. Youngblood Jr.; parents, Walter T. and Elizabeth Mills Lee; brothers, Thomas Lee and Clifford Lee; sisters, Hazel Mincey, Ione Lee, Martha Ruth Newsome, and Elizabeth Elmore.

Mrs. Youngblood is survived by her daughter, Aimee (Tommy) Garity; brother, Andy (Phillis) Lee; sisters, Betty (Fred) Dunn, Gail Johnson, Brensa Selestok, and Janice Garrard; and granddaughter, Meghan Garity.

Arrangements by Wood Funeral Home of Metter.

Martha Crouthers Grindler, 70

Martha Crouthers Grindler died peacefully at home on Brannen Lake January 29, 2021, with her family at her bedside. A rosary service was held Monday, February 1, at 1:30 p.m. A mass of Christian burial was held on February 1, at 2 p.m. at St. Matthews Catholic Church with Father Tom Nellis officiating. The family greeted only after the funeral mass in the social hall of St. Matthews Catholic Church due to Covid-19. Masks were required. Interment was private at Oldespivey family cemetery in Emanuel County.

Mrs. Grindler was born in Kennett, MO, on September 12, 1950, the second of six daughters born to James L. Crouthers and Viva Elizabeth Burch Crouthers. Her father was a Medic in the USAF, and she lived and went to school all over the world. After her father developed life ending cancer, her mother settled in Canton near her family and raised the six girls. Ms. Grindler graduated from Cherokee High School and went on to graduate from West Georgia College where she was a member of Chi Omega. She travelled to Dijon, France in the summer of 1969 on a study abroad program sponsored by the University of Georgia. There she met her future husband, who was enrolled in the same summer program at the University of Dijon. After they were married, she and her husband settled in his hometown of Swainsboro, where she taught second grade until the birth of her children. Mrs. Grindler later received her Master's Degree from Georgia Southern University and EdD from the University of Georgia. Dr. Grindler taught in the Department of Early Childhood and Reading Education at GSU for ten years and especially enjoyed being part of Marvin Pittman Laboratory School. When asked what she did at the University, her reply was always, "I teach teachers how to teach".

The Grindlers raised their two children in Swainsboro and Statesboro. In Swainsboro, Mrs Grindler was a constant volunteer, was elected to the Emanuel County Board of Education for two consecutive terms serving eight years, where she was instrumental in the construction of the new Swainsboro High School. She was appointed to the Georgia Board of Humanities by Governor George Busbee and served as a member of that Board for a number of years,



making worthy grants to various projects throughout the State.

In 1995, Mrs. Grindler and her husband, Alex, retired to East Beach on St. Simons Island, where she was an active volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, representing children's rights in the court system of Glynn County. She was a story reader to children at St. Simons Elementary School. Mrs. Grindler was a very active member of St. Williams Catholic Church and other organizations. She and her husband, along with friends, returned to New York and Europe on many occasions falling in love with the village of Taormina, Sicily on the Mediterranean, to which they returned numerous times. After ten years of pleasant life on the ocean and much travelling, Mrs. Grindler and her husband moved to Brannen Lake in Statesboro to be near their children, where she began a long battle with cancer. She was active in St. Matthews Catholic Church, loving her Bible Study Group and her many church friends. Mrs. Grindler was a constant volunteer at Soup Kitchen, Silver Lining Club, and other functions. She loved being with her Mahjong Buddies and with The Hilton Head Honeys and travelling companions, Mel and Karla Fishman of St. Simons. Mrs. Grindler is preceded in death by her sister, Margie Bagwell (Bob).

Mrs. Grindler is survived by her husband of 49 years, Alex Grindler; two children Liz Grindler Bland and Jim Grindler (Shannon), both of Statesboro; two granddaughters, Laurabeth Bland of Athens and Carson Caroline Grindler; four sisters, Mima Corbett (Charles) of Canton, Mandy Mills (Frank) of Canton, Melissa Edwards (Charles) of Canton, and Monica Trice (Larry) of Ft. Myers, FL; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Area Christians Together in Service (ACTS), 515 Denmark Street, Suite 500, Statesboro, GA 30458, Ogeechee Area Hospice, or the charity of your choice.

Peacemakers

by BISHOP BERTHA JONES

It is so interesting that the Fruit of the Spirit begins with love, next is peace then joy. Now that in itself seems like a wonderful combination. With love, peace and joy, we can conquer all. Now that's what Jesus brought to the world. Remember, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Jesus went on to say in John 14:27, "My peace I leave with you. Not as the world gives; give I unto you." Now when we reference Matthew 5 in the sermon on the mount, Jesus states, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." So, the main question is, are you God's child? In order to be his child, you cannot be a peace-breaker, but you must be a peacemaker.

What is a peacemaker? A peacemaker isn't just someone who does not start trouble, but it is someone who

brings peace to a disturbed situation. For example, if you are at work and notice an argument is about to start, you do not say, "It is not my business." But you are obligated as a child of God to try and be a peacemaker. You may ask, "What can I do to bring peace because it is not my business?" Well, it is your business if you are a child of God. You can start by praying and asking God how you can help. Your presence should make a difference as you represent him. You can make recommendations according to the situation. You can call for assistance if you don't feel you should be personally involved. But according to God's word, you can't act as if you don't see anything and do nothing.

We are all one blood according to Acts 17:26. Paul tells us that all nations come from one blood. Therefore, you are your brother's keeper. Be a peace-breaker as a child of God. We should love one another and be peacemakers so we can maintain the Joy of the Lord which is our strength.

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Swainsboro City Council and Mayor meet for month of February

(From front page) ment and put together by RDC and every city in the county has to sign off on it," Mayor advised council on the solid waste management plan.

In reference to comments and inquires on the matter, Councilperson Faulkner inquired if any reviews or changes have been established within the resolution that differed from previous years. City Administrator Al Lawson advised that there were no changes made to the resolution. Councilperson John E. Parker requested copies of the resolution be made for him to keep and review. Councilperson Sconyers motioned for approval of the Joint Emanuel County Solid Waste Management Plan FY2020-2030, Councilperson Johnny Ray Stafford seconded the motion, and all remaining council voted unanimously.

In regard to the game room license submission, council considered an application from Chevette-Fields-Good at 406 Rentz Street d.b.a. Lounge 2020. City Administrator Lawson

advised council that all requirements were met by the applicant as requested by the city. He further advised that the location, known as the old Star Blazer, is a c-commercial zone that fits the criteria for the game room application. With the application only being for a game room, no alcohol will be allowed to be consumed or sold on premises. The submitted hours of operation were listed as Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. until 11 p.m. After brief further discussion, Councilperson Parker made motion for approval and was seconded by Councilperson Faulkner. All remaining council voted in favor.

In other news: City Administrator Lawson touched base with council on the status of the RFP proposal. Requests for proposals, which will consist of sealed bids, will be addressed in the March meeting for council to review and accept proposals. A deadline for council to respond to the city on the matter has been set for Monday, Feb.

8. In addition to the RFP proposal discussion, council was addressed with a housekeeping issue regarding business licenses in the city of Swainsboro. Council was advised an amendment needs to take place so that Swainsboro Police Department Chief Randy Ellison could perform related job requirements in a timelier manner. This proposal counted as a first reading of the ordinance and will be discussed in future sessions of city council.

Mayor Schwabe then discussed progress made on the two recent city projects, the Old Dixie Theatre on North Green Street and Community Action for Youth gymnasium on Gumlog Road. He also touched base on work detail on roadways' right of way, as well as the status of Covid within the city and county, advising all to follow health safety guidelines as an attempt to prevent the spread of the virus.

With no further discussion to be entertained, the meeting was adjourned.

Progress edition is...

(From front page) or maybe you learned how to successfully maintain a household budget. Maybe your business was awarded an esteemed recognition, or maybe you managed to keep everyone on your payroll and your doors open. All of those things are progress, because progress isn't just moving forward, it's also bettering yourself and the world around you.

We have a lot of progress to celebrate in Emanuel County. Wincore Windows Company expanded their Swainsboro operations, creating additional jobs. Crider Foods, located in Stillmore,

opened a new hiring center in Swainsboro. America Knits celebrated its one-year anniversary and saw a shift in business, going from a t-shirt plant to producing reusable PPE, answering America's call. Emanuel Medical Center has not only survived the COVID pandemic, but they have thrived, showing why they are the top-rated medium-sized hospital in the state. Give-a-Thon 2020, benefiting the Sunshine House and hosted by Rusty Lane, owner of South Georgia Realty, and Judge Bobby Reeves, raised \$80,000! And *The Blade* is celebrating 160 years of proudly serving the community, something

that we are grateful to you, our readers, for.

Progress is happening around us every day, and we are hard at work right now so we can bring these stories and more to you soon. We've also planned some new additions to Progress this year that we are excited to share with you. So stay tuned, because there is so much more to come.

Celebrating Black History...

(From front page) moving forward to continue the celebration, he said his generation is trying to pass the responsibility along to the younger generation, which has been quite successful. Two examples he gave were Shayna Boston, who is very involved in the community; and Shon Corley, who always goes the extra mile to help his fellow man.

Although Black History Month was first celebrated in 1970, Black History Week has been celebrated since 1926 and was started by Carter G. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History."

Black History Month was first proposed by black educators and the Black United Students at Kent

State University in February 1969. The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State one year later, from January 2 to February 28, 1970.

Six years later, Black History Month was being celebrated all across the country in educational institutions, centers of black culture and community centers, both great and small, when President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

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	Abraham Lin, M.D. Statesboro Cardiology 912-489-6246	125C Victory Dr.	1st & 3rd Fridays
General Surgery	Ankur Goel, MD Colorectal Surgery Emanuel Surgical Assoc 478-237-3291	120 Victory Dr.	2nd & 4th Monday
	Brad Headley, M.D. Emanuel Surgical Associates 478-237-3291	120 Victory Dr.	Mon, Thurs, & Fri
Neurology	Michael Taormina, M.D. 912-871-8900 912-871-8901	125A Victory Dr.	2nd & 4th Tuesday 8-11
	Kashyap Patel, M.D. East GA Neurology & Neurodiagnostics 912-486-1873	125C Victory Dr.	3rd Wednesday
OB/GYN	Benjamin Oldham, M.D. Chelsea Jones Mikell, M.D. 478-419-1250	125B Victory Dr.	Monday through Thursday
Orthopedic	Michael D. Gaines, M.D. Optim Orthopedics 800-827-6536	119B Victory Dr.	Each Tuesday
	Donald McCartney, MD General & Pediatric Optim Orthopedics 912-644-3379	119 B Victory Dr	2nd & 4th Wednesday
	Roberto Barjia, M.D. Emanuel Surgical Assoc 478-237-3291	120 Victory Dr.	Mondays & Tuesdays
Ophthalmology	Kent Price, M.D. 800-241-2450	South East Eye 125-A Victory Drive	1st Thursday of Every Month
Psychologist	John C. Whitley 706-228-5006	Senior Center	1st Monday of Every Month
Retina	Robert Lalane, M.D. 800-487-2248	125A Victory Dr.	3rd Monday of Every Month
Wound	Anthony Davis, MD Nick Luecke, NP-C 478-289-1126	Emanuel Wound Care Center 117 Kite Rd- Second Floor	Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays

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Travis Wilkerson, newly ordained deacon.
Ashley Robinson, newly ordained pastor, now serving
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Wilkerson & Family



Robinson & Family

Both were ordained January 24, 2021

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MISS JOHNSON AND MR. BRANTLEY

Johnson and Brantley to exchange vows

It is with great pride that Martha Johnson and David Brantley of Swainsboro, James and Rochelle Hagins of Swainsboro, and Floyd and Tamekia Johnson of Houston, TX announce the upcoming wedding of their children, Maurice Brantley and KeAsia Johnson. Mr. Brantley was born in Orlando, FL and raised in Swainsboro. He attended East Georgia State College and Savannah State University earn-

ing degrees in Social Sciences and Elementary Education. Mr. Brantley also currently holds an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Ministry. He currently works at Tobacco Road Elementary School in Augusta, where he's a 5th grade Social Studies and Science teacher. Mr. Brantley is currently attending Grand Canyon University pursuing a Master's degree in Elementary Education. Miss Johnson was born

in Statesboro and raised in Swainsboro. She attended East Georgia State College earning a degree in Psychology and is currently attending Augusta University for a second degree in Psychology with a concentration in Marriage and Family Counseling. Mr. Brantley and Miss Johnson will become Mr. and Mrs. Brantley on September 25, 2021, before friends and family in Augusta.

Don't miss the SECRD Daddy-Daughter Dance

Swainsboro-Emanuel County Recreation Department will hold its annual Daddy-Daughter Dance Friday evening, Feb. 12, from 7 until 9 p.m. at the Recreation Department Gym, 632 McLeod Bridge Road, Swainsboro. Prior to the event, Mark Williams Studio will be set up to take pictures from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. The dance is for girls, ages 4 to 12, and their daddy (or an adult escort). Cost is \$20 per couple.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 safety guidelines, gym capacity restrictions will apply and the dance will be limited to 50 couples. No exceptions. Also, no one except dance couples will be permitted inside the gym. Refreshments will be limited and masks will be strongly encouraged.

Pre-registration is required and will only be taken until the restricted limit is filled.

For information, call

Swainsboro-Emanuel County Recreation Department at 237-8098.

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* Female donors may need to be screened for donor eligibility on February 8, at Emanuel Medical Center any time between 3-6pm. Call for info.

Email ccpdonor@sheperdblood.org for an appointment

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Hometown Public Servant: K-9 Maya's handler – Detective Clay Young

In last week's edition of *The Forest-Blade*, we introduced to you K-9 Maya with the Swainsboro Police Department. This week, we introduce to you Maya's handler, Detective Clay Young, with the Swainsboro Police Department as this week's featured Hometown Public Servant.

During a recent interview with Detective Clay Young and Trent Hall, Executive Director of The Housing Authority of the City of Swainsboro, Detective Young detailed the obstacles that must be overcome to bring a K-9 unit onto the force of Swainsboro Police Department.

"I've been in law enforcement for eight years now. After my first two years, I mentioned to Chief that we needed a dog. The process took about another four years before we could seriously pursue this goal, and, by then, it took an additional two years to build a relationship with the community that has helped aid in Maya's purchase," Detective Young stated.

Assisting the police department with this goal was Swainsboro Housing Authority's Trent Hall and other board members.

"Swainsboro Housing assisted with the department obtaining grant money and also provided additional monetary donations to aid in the adoption of Maya, as well as Detective Young's training and hotel," said Hall.

The opportunity of working with Maya is second to none, according to Detective Young. He described their relationship as a very rewarding one, as has been their progress and achievements since bringing her on board at the police department.

"Working with Maya is like working with a 2-year old that has ADHD. She's only 16 months old and has a lot of puppy still left in her, but to see her find items and locate people as she's been trained to do, I know that those



HALL, K-9 MAYA, AND DETECTIVE YOUNG

skills are deeply instilled in her to do the best job possible. She'll find people and things that we sometimes cannot, and that helps us clean up the city," Detective Young commented.

To begin their process of finding the perfect dog, the police department had to find the perfect school, and in their opinion, Custom K-9 Unlimited of Gainesville was the department's ideal choice.

"We wanted a school that wasn't a gimmick, and Custom K-9 Unlimited was definitely the best place to go to. They're post-accredited with the Georgia Police Officers Association and Training and Standards, which is probably no easy task," Detective Young relayed.

After selecting the school of choice, Detective Young then began his search for the perfect dog.

"We looked at approximately three to four dogs, but Maya seemed to perform the best when demonstrating skills. It didn't take me long to decide that Maya was that perfect dog. She's very methodical in her search pattern, which some of the other dogs lacked more in that area. We looked into getting a full-blooded Belgian Maluma as well as a Dutch Shephard, and a few others, but as soon as I saw Maya and her performance, I knew she was the dog our department needed," Detective Young explained.

After selecting the ideal school and perfect dog, training began. When speaking to Detective Young, he advised that the training took one month and was held Monday through Friday, with Detective Clay and his selected K-9 getting to come home on the weekends. While training in Gainesville, Detective Young and Maya's week consisted of 11-12 hour days, from sunup to sun down, as well as early morning track runs. Many hours were spent in the city of Gainesville, out performing public training so that Detective Young and K-9 Maya could utilize their education upon returning to Swainsboro.

"School was tough and so was the training. You have to pass a written exam, as well as prove that you are capable of handling and working

with the selected dog perfectly. If you fail the written task, or if you are deemed unable to properly care for and work with the dog, then you don't pass the class. The written test doesn't consist of multiple choices, and you have to make at least a 75 in order to pass that portion and you have to be able to articulate everything.

Maya's certification that she holds is nationally recognized as well. With this certification, which is one of the most important accomplishments to obtain, it's a pass or fail. If we were to miss on the controlled substance side or detection side, we fail and that's it," Detective Clay stated.

"A lot of commitment is involved with Maya. I had to obtain the required equipment to utilize her service and make sure we have water and food on hand for her. From the very first week, you start taking her home to build that bond. If you just get her out to work, there's not that social bond.

When she's home, she's off. If you have a dog that's a family pet, you'd let it roam around the house. With her, of course, we can't do that. She's got a special diet, plus you don't want any mistakes to happen. She's done really well and we've had no issues. We've got a concrete slab set up with pen and cover and kennel, all supplies being furnished.

During the day, if I'm at home, she's outside in her designated area, and at night, she's inside with me. I have also stationed cameras around my home property to ensure Maya's safety. I'm ultimately her bodyguard. There's a lot of aspects involved between Maya and myself, but all in all - we have to have each other's back, and we do," Detective Young further stated.

In addition to the training and being sure the proper equipment was on hand to obtain K-9 Maya, Detective Young and other officers at the Swainsboro Police Department had to take on another task with their chosen K-9 - learning a new language.

"Maya came from the Netherlands. When she was trained, her trainers spoke Dutch, and that's why her commands are mostly in Dutch. We've attempted to give

orders in English, but she doesn't respond as well. She will respond at times, if I'm there, but more times than not, she responds to Dutch best," Detective Young commented.

Though she holds many skills, K-9 Maya is not trained as an apprehension dog. However, though she's not trained to apprehend, that doesn't guarantee that she won't bite. Detective Young explained it best by saying: "She's a trained law enforcement service dog with teeth. Once she's put to work, she's in work mode. Maya is a police dog, and what I mean by that is, she uses her nose, sight and hearing, and she's fast, really, really fast."

Through all of the hard work and dedication to obtain K-9 Maya, Detective Young described the day he received the adoption papers for his four-legged friend and co-worker as a very proud moment.

"We appreciate the housing authority and board members for helping us obtain Maya. I wouldn't trade her for anything. I know she's there for me and I'm there for her. Other officers at the SPD are training with her and all have shown interest and, basically, fallen in love with her," he stated.

"Our main goal with assisting to obtain Maya for the police department was safe housing and a safer city, and Maya has helped us accomplish that. We are grateful for the opportunity to help the community and our local law enforcement," Hall stated.

Following this particular interview, Detective Young and Hall assisted us in better highlighting the agency's newest member by allowing *The Blade* to livestream Maya in action. Hall was able to locate vacant housing for Maya to conduct a search for hidden drugs placed by the Swainsboro Police Department. Following this exercise, *The Blade*, Detective Young, K-9 Maya, Hall and SPD Officer Matthew Williams travelled to a wooded area, where Officer Williams and Detective Young staged a human search. This footage can be viewed by visiting *The Forest-Blade's* Facebook page, Emanuel County Live, as well as its website emanuelcounty.com.

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Beta Beta holds first meeting of the year

The Beta Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma held its first meeting of 2021 as a virtual meeting on January 25 at 6:30 p.m. President Denise Warnock called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Mrs. Toni Terwilliger, chair of the January hostess committee, discussed challenges that one faces daily and gifts that accompany the challenges.

Mrs. Melanie Frye, chair of the Projects Committee, updated the group on the Books for Babies project. She purchased books using funds already in the treasury, and along with the donated books from some of Mrs. Charlean Love's students, there were approximately 100 books to be distributed among the health departments in the service counties—Candler, Emanuel, Johnson, and Treutlen. Any member wishing to make an individual book donation is asked to contact Mrs. Frye. The books have been labeled: "Donated by the Beta Beta Chapter, GSO, Delta Kappa Gamma Society."

Since no funds have been dispersed for meals this year, the monies for the grants-in-aid and treats for new teachers in the service counties will be taken from the treasury. The grants-in-aid are awarded to East Georgia students selected by the Scholarship Committee chaired by

Jean Schwabe. Treats will be given to the new teachers in the service counties instead of member-donated bags that have been given in the past. If a member has a suggestion for the treats, please let Mrs. Frye know.

President Warnock reminded all participating in the Zoom meeting to use the chat box to sign in. The chat box will serve as documentation of those in attendance. Eighteen members signed in for the January meeting.

Both the minutes of the November 30, 2020, meeting and the treasurer's report were approved. No correspondence had been received. Attendees were encouraged to once again reach out to the members who were not present.

The Georgia State Convention will be held in Columbus, GA, April 16 – 18, and anyone planning to attend is encouraged to make a reservation early. Anyone planning to attend is asked to let Dr. Warnock know. Information is available on the GSO website <https://dkggso.weebly.com>. March 25 is the deadline for registration and payment to be postmarked. For the convention, each chapter sponsors a table with a book-themed centerpiece along with books to be donated in the Columbus area. Dr. Gail Greenway and Mrs. Renae McNeely are head-

ing a committee to select a book. Any member wanting to make a suggestion should contact either Dr. Greenway or Mrs. McNeely.

February 1 is the deadline for applications to be postmarked for applying for the GSO Delta Kappa Gamma scholarship. President Warnock said that Mrs. Kay Hooks is making application for the scholarship.

The decision was made that the February 22, 2021 meeting would again be held virtually. Whether the April 26 meeting can be held outdoors will be decided at the February meeting. All members are encouraged to join in the February meeting and provide input.

Dr. Warnock recognized Mrs. Toney Golden for being selected 2020-21 Teacher of the Year for Candler County. Anyone who is aware of a member who has received any type of achievement, accolade, or award is asked to email Dr. Warnock.

Two Leanna's gift cards, provided by the hostess committee, were presented as door prizes. Mrs. Renae McNeely and Mrs. Kay Hooks were the lucky recipients.

President Warnock thanked all attendees and reminded the group that the next meeting is scheduled for February 22.

Emanuel County's Covid-19 virus and vaccine update

According to the county commissioners' update on Tuesday, February 2, the total active cases of COVID-19 in Emanuel has decreased from 64 to 47 since last week's COVID-19 update report.

The report on January 26 was as follows:

- 64 active cases
- 2,267 confirmed cases
- 2,137 recovered cases
- 66 deaths

This week's most updated information made available on February 2 is as follows:

- 47 active cases
- 2,310 confirmed cases
- 2,193 recovered cases
- 70 deaths

Statics reported in the January 26 and February 2 reports reveal a decrease of 17 active COVID-19 cases; an increase of 43 confirmed cases; an increase of 56 recoveries; and an increase in death by 4.

Newly implemented into the social media postings of Emanuel County Board of Commissioners is the Emanuel County Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Update. This data is the most up to date and is

provided in a joint effort by the Emanuel Medical Center, East Georgia Healthcare Center, Emanuel County Health Department, Shop-Rite Pharmacy, and the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners.

The most recent report regarding 1A+ vaccinations was made Tuesday, February 2, and was as follows:

Total vaccinations administered: 1,682

Total to have received the first vaccination: 1,580

Total to have received the second vaccination: 102

Please Note: Emanuel County Board of Commissioners strive to give Emanuel County the most up-to-date and correct information, with data coming from different state-wide sources. Please understand that sometimes information is delayed, and the county office will update information as soon as it is received. Be sure to follow the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners' Facebook page and turn your notifications "ON".



What is a miracle? And who decides what a miracle is? Is there some special committee that looks at various events in history and classifies them as being a miracle or an ordinary event? Or can two people look at the same event and one say, "This is indeed a miracle!" and the other say, "Nothing amazing here. It just happened to end up this way. That's the way life works."

Our Psalmist looked around and said, "You are the God who performs miracles; You display Your powers among the peoples."

There is a beautiful theme in this Psalm. In the first several verses the writer seems to be having a difficult time seeing God. Then, suddenly, God's Spirit jarred his thinking and brought God's grace to his attention. When he finally puts things into context, he recalled that it was God who controls everything and it was his God who was the One who parted the waters and led the Israelites to safety. Those who were down and destroyed by the "mighty waters" could not see their "misfortune" as God performing a miracle. But those whom He saved did!

And so it is today. Those who have been redeemed by the love, mercy and grace of God see His miracles in their lives every day. When we pray, He answers. If we become sick, He heals. When we need forgiveness, He alone can remove our guilt. When others abandon us, He is a friend who stands beside us. When we grieve, He comforts us. When we are stressed, He calms our heart. When we have nothing, He meets our needs. Our God performs miracles.

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Cook of the Week

Featuring the recipes of...

Cheyenne Blalock



This week's cook of the week is Cheyenne Blalock. She has one daughter, Abbigail. Together they enjoy their free time reading books, being outside, and overall, being together and loving life! Here are a few recipes she would like to share. Enjoy!



From the kitchen of Cheyenne

RUM CAKE

- 1 box butter recipe yellow cake mix
- 1 pkg. vanilla instant pudding mix
- ½ c. light rum
- ½ c. water
- ½ c. vegetable oil
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 4 eggs

- GLAZE**
- 1 c. sugar
 - ¼ c. rum
 - ¼ c. water
 - 1 stick margarine

Combine dry cake mix, dry pudding mix, ½ c. light rum, ½ c. water, oil, and eggs. Sprinkle nuts in bottom of greased 12-cup Bundt pan. Pour batter in pan and bake. After cake has been baking 40 minutes or so at 325 degrees, prepare glaze. Combine sugar, ¼ c. light rum, ¼ c. water, and margarine in medium saucepan. Bring to a boil and boil for 2-1/2 minutes. When cake is done, 50 – 60 minutes total, pour glaze around edges of pan. Allow cake to "rest" for 30 minutes before removing from pan.



From the kitchen of Cheyenne

SUGAR AND SPICE PECANS

- 1 lb. pecan halves
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 egg white
- 1 tbsp. water

Beat egg white and water until frothy, not stiff. Stir in sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Add pecans and stir well until pecans are completely coated. Spread nuts on a large baking sheet and bake at 200 degrees for 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes. Remove from oven when "dry" and toasty. Let cool and enjoy!



From the kitchen of Cheyenne

BREAKFAST CHEESE DANISH

- 2 c. ready to use refrigerated crescent rolls
- 2 8oz. packages cream cheese
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 1 egg white

- GLAZE**
- ½ c. powdered sugar
 - 1 tbsp. milk
 - ½ tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease 13x9 baking pan. Lay a pack of crescent rolls in pan and pinch the openings together. Beat the cream cheese, sugar, vanilla, and egg together until smooth. Spread the mixture over the crescent rolls evenly and then lay the second pack of crescent rolls on top of the cheese mixture and brush with egg white. Bake for 35-45 minutes until the top is golden brown. Top with glaze after cooling for 20 minutes.

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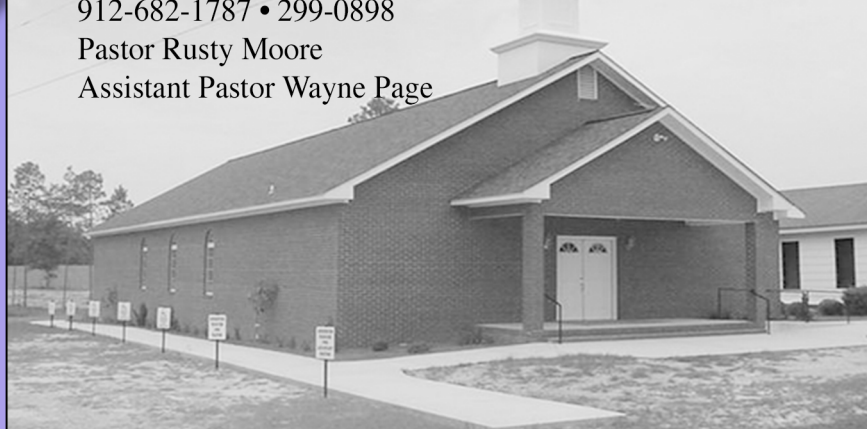
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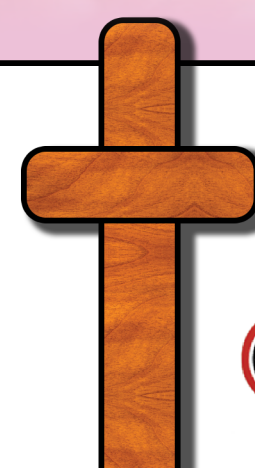
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My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **John 15:12-15**



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February marks 57th consecutive American Heart Month

From *heart.org* It's no secret February is all about hearts—but not just the candy kind.

It's also American Heart Month, a time the nation turns its attention to keeping families and communities free from heart disease, the No. 1 killer of Americans.

The federally designated event reinforces the importance of heart health and the need for more research, with a reminder to get families, friends and communities involved. It's a tradition that's over half a century strong. The first proclamation was issued by President Lyndon B. Johnson in February 1964, nine years after he had a heart attack. Since then, the president has annually declared February American Heart Month.

The American Heart Association's Heart Fund twins surround then-Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1961, three years before he issued the first proclamation declaring February American Heart Month.

With organizations such as the American Heart

Association and others working together, millions of people are enjoying longer, healthier lives. But despite all the progress, heart disease remains the single largest health threat to Americans—just as it was when LBJ was alive.

Cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke combined) kills about 2,300 a day. Obesity in both youth and adults is at an all-time high, youth are being diagnosed with heart disease earlier than ever and people just ZIP codes apart can live 25 years less than their neighbors because of disparities in health. American Heart Month is vital for awareness, but the American Heart Association urges people to take care of their hearts year-round. Consider the facts:

- Heart disease kills more people than all forms of cancer combined.
- Heart attacks affect more people every year than the population of Dallas, Texas.

• 83% believe that heart attacks can be prevented but aren't motivated to do anything.

• 72% of Americans don't consider themselves at risk for heart disease.

• And 58% put no effort into improving their heart health.

While science is advancing medicine in exciting new ways, unhealthy lifestyle choices combined with rising obesity rates in both kids and adults have hindered progress fighting heart disease.

The good news is that heart disease is preventable in most cases with healthy choices, which include not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, controlling blood sugar and cholesterol, treating high blood pressure, getting at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week and getting regular checkups. For more information, visit goredforwomen.org.

Fun facts about your heart

You can actually have a "broken heart." Broken heart syndrome, also known as stress-induced cardiomyopathy, is a real medical condition that causes people to experience symptoms similar to a heart attack after an emotionally stressful event, such as the death of a loved one or a romantic breakup.

Laughter is good for your heart. When you laugh, the tissue that lines your blood vessels (the endothelium) expands, which increases blood flow.

Your heart can pump over 2,000 gallons of blood each day. On average, your heart beats 70 times a minute, with each beat pumping 2 to 3 fluid ounces of blood. That means every minute, your heart moves approximately 1.5 gallons of blood.

Exercise is the most effective way to reduce your risk of heart disease. People with low physical fitness levels have nearly double the risk of cardiovascular disease than more active people.

Great tips for a healthy heart

Did you know that one American dies every seven minutes from heart disease or stroke? February is Heart Month, and the American Heart Association will be taking this opportunity to encourage you to take care of your heart. How? By following these tips:

Eat healthy

Dill, paprika, ginger—use herbs or garlic and red peppers to add more flavor to your meals, thus reducing your need for salt. You should also reduce the amount of fat you eat, especially saturated and trans fats, and make sure your menu contains fiber and lots of fruits and vegetables (4 to 10 servings per day).

Exercise

Physical activity is good for your heart. Do you exercise enough? The AHA recommends that adults do a minimum of 150 minutes of

moderate (brisk walking, cycling, swimming) to high-intensity (aerobics, running, hockey) physical activity every week for at least 10 minutes at a time. Combining exercise and a healthy diet also means you'll be better able to control your weight; being overweight is a major risk factor for heart disease.

Limit your alcohol intake

Consuming a lot of alcohol may contribute to increased blood pressure and result in the development of heart disease, so women, limit your intake to two glasses a day, and men, limit yours to three glasses.

Lastly, avoid stressful situations as much as possible or develop good stress relieving techniques. You should also stop smoking, if applicable.

Five unexpected signs of heart disease

Every February, the American Heart Association organizes Heart Month to help raise awareness about the warning signs and risk factors of heart disease. Though there are a number of more commonly recognized symptoms including chest discomfort, dizziness, fainting and shortness of breath, here are five lesser-known indicators of this type of disease.

1. Frank's sign

Diagonal creases on the earlobes have been linked to having a higher risk of heart problems. This sign was first described by American physician Anders Frank, and it's associated with arteriosclerosis, which is the buildup of plaque in the arteries, a common cause of heart attack.

2. Fatty bumps

Yellow, fatty bumps called xanthomas, which can appear on the knees, elbows, eyelids, and buttocks, are a sign that someone has exceptionally high

levels of lipoprotein cholesterol, commonly referred to as "bad" cholesterol. The medical conditions that cause them to form lead to the generation of fat deposits in arteries, which is why they may be an indicator of heart disease.

3. Nail clubbing

Digital clubbing is when the fingernails and tips of both hands become thicker and change shape. This occurs when there's not enough blood reaching the extremities and the body reacts by producing a growth-promoting factor to compensate.

4. Iris halo

Nearly 45 percent of people over the age of 40 have a fatty ring around their iris. This number goes up to 70 percent for people over 60. These rings are associated with well-established coronary disease risk factors.

5. Blue lips

Lips can turn a blueish color in people with a heart problem.

This phenomenon is called cyanosis, and it's caused by the failure of the heart to provide oxygenated blood to tissues in the body.

Though all of these symptoms of heart disease can have benign causes, if you notice any of them, it's time to visit your doctor.



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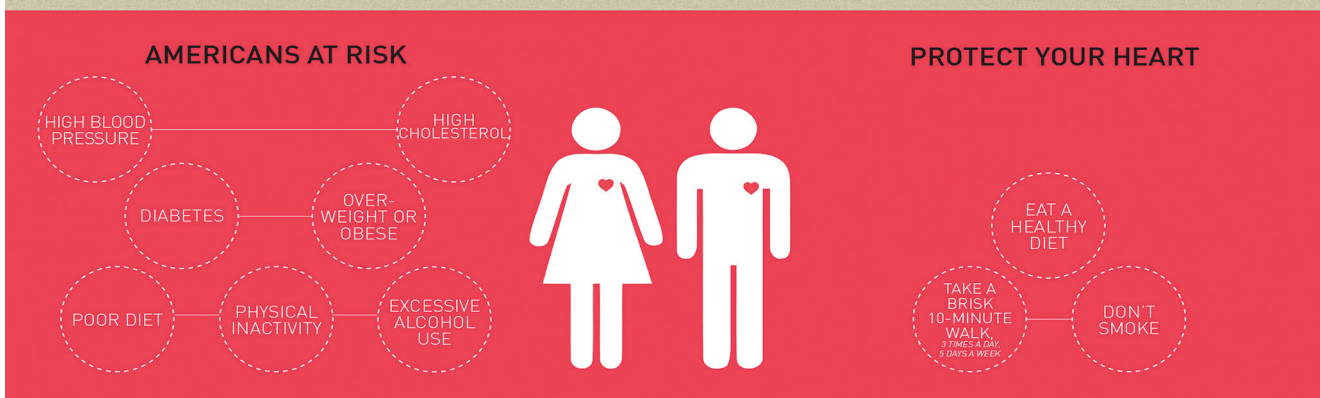
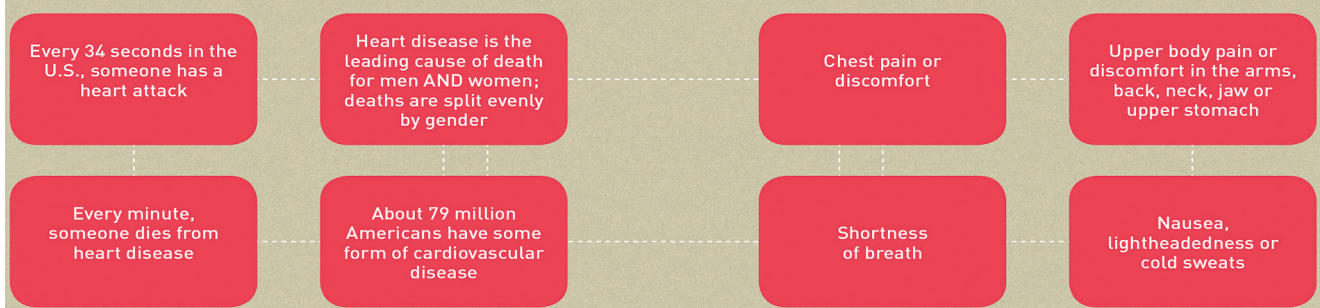
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FACTS ABOUT HEART DISEASE

HEART DISEASE: Includes any **DISORDER** of the **HEART** and affects **MILLIONS** of Americans **EVERY YEAR**.

EARLY ACTION: Knowing the **WARNING** signs and **SYMPTOMS** of a **HEART ATTACK** is **KEY** to **PREVENTING** death.



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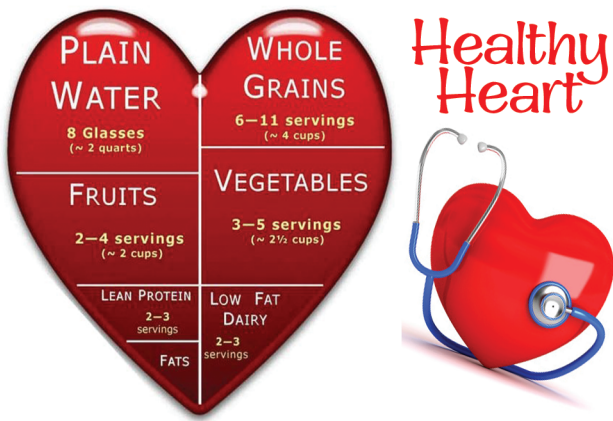
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Millions are learning to live with heart failure

by AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION NEWS

It was almost six years to the day after Aimee Rodriguez-Zepeda completed her chemotherapy that doctors listened to her heart and gave her the bad news.

"I was exhausted," she said. "They found my heart was only working at 20% capacity." Her condition—heart failure—was likely caused by the chemotherapy that saved the former Marine from uterine cancer, combined with a family history of heart disease and stroke.

"People don't understand that while the idea of chemo is to make you better, a lot of the medications they use wreak havoc on your body," said Rodriguez-Zepeda, who was 39 at the time of her heart failure diagnosis in 2014. "I was a ticking time bomb."

But not anymore, thanks to improved medical care and advances in technology. Heart failure, once considered a death sentence, can now be managed for years—even decades—with lifestyle changes, medication, implantable devices, or surgery.

It is now considered a chronic condition, said Dr. Anjali Tiku Owens, a heart failure and transplant cardiologist at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "How long a patient will survive is incredibly variable."

Heart failure occurs when damage to the heart

prevents it from adequately pumping blood to the rest of the body. Rodriguez-Zepeda has been successfully managing her condition through a combination of dietary changes, exercise and medication for five years.

She is one of more than 6 million American adults living with heart failure, a number expected to reach almost 8 million by 2030 as the population ages. Researchers predict 1 in 5 people in the United States will develop heart failure during their lifetime.

The most common causes are heart attacks, heart diseases and defects, high blood pressure, lung conditions and alcohol or drug abuse. Diabetes also increases the risk for developing heart failure, and some cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and chest radiation can as much as double the risk.

While many factors affect the rising prevalence, one is simply that people are living longer, said Dr. Shannon Dunlay, an advanced heart failure and transplant cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

"We know the risk of heart failure goes up as we age," she said.

There's a lot doctors and other health care providers can do to help patients manage the condition.

"The cornerstone of treatment is medication," Owens said.

Several classes of drugs improve the heart's function, including ACE inhibitors, beta blockers

and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs). The combination drug sacubitril/valsartan is the first FDA-approved medication in a new class known as angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitors (ARNis).

"Sometimes, medications used to treat other things are effective in treating heart failure as well," Dunlay said. She pointed to a recent trial of the diabetes drug dapagliflozin that found people with heart failure with low ejection fraction who took this drug, whether they had diabetes or not, had a lower risk of worsening heart failure or death from cardiovascular causes.

Both Dunlay and Owens say one of the most important ways to treat heart failure is through lifestyle changes. Indeed, Rodriguez-Zepeda credits changes to her diet and exercise regimen as being the most beneficial in managing her condition.

"Patients have a lot to deal with," Dunlay said. "They have to take medications at specific times each day, exercise and monitor fluid intake as well as their weight. We like patients to weigh themselves every morning. If weight goes up by more than five pounds, they have to call us and see if we need to adjust their medications. Excess weight is one of the main signals that they may be retaining extra fluid."

People with severe heart failure can benefit from implantable devices, such as defibrillators that shock

the heart back into rhythm or pacemakers that help the heart pump more efficiently. Doctors also can implant tiny sensors into the pulmonary artery that can be monitored remotely, alerting them when the pressure begins to rise, an early sign that a patient's lungs could be filling with fluid.

One of the major advances of the past few decades is a mechanical heart pump that attaches to the left ventricle, the heart's major pumping station, enhancing or replacing the function of the left side of the heart, Dunlay said.

The device operates on a battery pack during the day and can be plugged in at night through a cord coming out of the patient's upper abdomen. "While these have been around a while, they're getting smaller and hopefully soon we'll have a completely implantable one," she said.

For some people, when medications, lifestyle changes and other procedures won't suffice, a heart transplant may be the only hope, Owens said. But these are still rare.

The goal of all the treatment and advances, Owens said, is making sure patients aren't just living longer but are living well.

"Are they living life to the fullest, or constantly in and out of the hospital? Once someone is diagnosed with heart failure, we need to have ongoing conversations about the goals of care to make sure we are also focused on their quality of life."

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HEART DISEASE IN WOMEN

Myths Vs. Facts

MYTH

Cancer is the leading killer of American women.



FACT

Heart disease kills more women than any other disease. Almost 5 times as many women die from heart attacks every year than from breast cancer alone.

February is
National Heart Health Month



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10 Tips For Heart Disease Prevention

Heart disease is the #1 killer of both men and women.

Heart disease claims a life every 33 seconds in the United States.

- ♥ Eat a healthy diet of fruits and vegetables.
- ♥ Exercise several times a week.
- ♥ Maintain an ideal body weight.
- ♥ Don't smoke cigarettes.
- ♥ Avoid processed and GMO foods.
- ♥ Reduce stress in your life.
- ♥ Get sound sleep every night.
- ♥ Make sure you have optimal thyroid function.
- ♥ Take steps to reduce inflammation.
- ♥ Take heart healthy supplements: vitamin C, l-lysine, l-proline, vitamin E, CoQ10, magnesium, vitamin D3, and fish oil.



FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH



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Go Red: Raising awareness about women's cardiovascular health

In 2004, the American Heart Association (AHA) launched the Go Red for Women campaign to raise awareness about the large numbers of women dying each year from heart disease and encourage Americans to take control of their cardiovascular health.

An estimated 44 million women in the U.S. are affected by cardiovascular disease and it is the leading cause of death among women worldwide. However, many women don't realize they're at risk. This is in part because in the past, men were seen as having a higher risk of heart disease and stroke. As a result, research has

disproportionately concentrated on cardiovascular diseases in men.

Because of this lack of attention to women's cardiovascular health, women tend to be under-informed about the symptoms and risk factors of heart disease. What's more, new research has shown that women sometimes experience cardiovascular problems differently than men. For example, some women don't realize they're having a heart attack because their symptoms differ from those experienced by men.

Go Red for Women aims to reduce the number of women who die

from cardiovascular diseases by providing women with the information and resources they need to assess their risk for these conditions, make healthy choices with regard to eating and exercising and manage their cholesterol and blood pressure. The campaign raises funds to support research, education and community programs to help women with heart problems and sponsors a national "Wear Red" day during Heart Month each February.

To learn about how you can get involved this Heart Month, visit the Go Red for Women website at goredforwomen.org.

Chronic stress can cause heart trouble

by AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION NEWS

Sometimes stress can be useful. But constant stress can affect overall well-being and may even impact heart health.

When stress is short-lived, it can help with performance in meeting a major deadline, interviewing for a new job or achieving another goal. Stress and its impact on the body can also be lifesaving in the face of danger.

But long-term stress induced by work troubles, financial difficulties or family discord is a different story, said Dr. Ernesto L. Schiffrin, physician-in-chief at Sir Mortimer B. Davis-Jewish General Hospital in Montreal.

"Irritability, anxiety, depression, rumination and insomnia or waking up in the middle of the night with anguish" can result from chronic stress, he said.

Ongoing stress not only takes an emotional and psychological toll, it can produce physical symptoms. Those may include headaches, an upset stomach, tense and aching muscles, insomnia and low energy.

Heart disease is another potential stress-related problem.

Stress may lead to high blood pressure, which can pose a risk for heart attack and stroke. Stress also may contribute to such cardiovascular disease risks as smoking, overeating and lack of physical activity.

"Chronic stress has been shown to be associated with increased cardiovascular events," Schiffrin said. He pointed to a 2017 study in The Lancet that used images of part of the brain involved with fear and stress and found links between stress and cardiovascular disease episodes. Brain activity was studied along with bone marrow activity and artery inflammation.

"These findings illustrate mechanisms through which emotional stressors can lead to cardiovascular disease in human beings," Schiffrin said.

Constant stress can impact creativity and productivity. For many people, the workplace is a source of stress.

About 2 in 3 employees say work is a

significant source of stress, according to a recent report from the American Heart Association Center for Workplace Health Research & Evaluation. Job stress can stem from long hours, physical strain, high demand or job insecurity.

Annual expenditures on work-related stress has been estimated at \$190 billion, while the cost of poor mental health, including depression and anxiety, has been pegged at \$211 billion annually. The estimates encompass lost productivity and work absenteeism.

To minimize continual stress, set priorities for what is most important to you and aim for a life-work balance, Schiffrin said.

Make time for friends, family, and laughter. Ease stress and improve mood through physical activity. Regular exercise helps to lower blood pressure and combat other cardiovascular disease risk factors. Mindful meditation and deep breathing can help manage stress. Consider yoga, which combines movement, controlled breathing and relaxation.

Sleep and stress are interconnected. Stress can affect sleep, and lack of sleep can, in turn, lead to more stress. Seven to eight hours of sleep per night is ideal, Schiffrin said.

"Better sleep hygiene is critical in management of stress and promotion of heart health," he said.

Sleep in a cool, dark, and quiet room; don't exercise close to bedtime; and avoid eating or drinking in the hours before bedtime, especially alcohol and foods high in fat or sugar, he said.

For unending stress or symptoms of depression, talk with a health care provider about getting help.

Attempting to see a "silver lining" and adopting a positive attitude toward life may help reduce stress, Schiffrin said.

"Adopting some degree of serenity in the face of life's challenges," he said, "may help improve the perception of stress and result in better quality of life and better cardiovascular health."

One heart at a time

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are leading other national organizations in a pledge to prevent one million heart attacks by the year 2021. To do so, the Million Hearts campaign aims to educate Americans about heart disease and stroke, which are preventable 80 percent of the time for people from 40-65 years old.

Heart disease accounts for one in every four deaths in the United States, and yet it is highly preventable with a few lifestyle changes. One of the main areas of focus for

Million Hearts is familiarizing at-risk people with the ABCS of heart care.

Aspirin. Talk to your doctor to find out if taking a daily aspirin is a good idea for the prevention of heart attack and stroke.

Blood pressure control. If your blood pressure is consistently creeping out of the safe zone, you can do something about it now. Some relatively easy places to begin: reduce your sodium intake by cutting back on pre-packaged and processed foods, and go for daily walks or find other ways to get moderate exercise several times a week.

Cholesterol manage-

ment. Eliminate all sources of trans fats from your diet. Eat a balanced variety of foods that include lean meats, at least half a plateful of vegetables and fruits at mealtime and fewer sugary and fatty treats.

Smoking cessation. Your doctor can help you find suitable ways to stop smoking so you can improve your chances of preventing cardiovascular disease.

As they say, it all starts with you. Make one tiny change in how you go through your day today, and your tomorrow is already looking brighter and healthier.



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Heart Disease in Women

CAD is the leading cause of heart attacks

1 in every 4 women dies from heart disease.

Under the age 50, women's heart attacks are twice as likely, as men to be fatal.

54% Of women recognize that heart disease is their number 1 killer

Almost two-thirds of women die suddenly of coronary heart disease with NO PREVIOUS SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of Heart Disease

- Silent Symptoms
- Chest Pain/Discomfort
- Stomach Pain/Nausea

BE ALERT & BE SAFE

Heart disease symptoms can happen at any given time

Heart Disease Prevention Tips

- Limit alcohol usage
- Stay Active
- Follow your doctor's instructions
- Know your blood pressure
- Quit Smoking
- Healthy food choices

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After stroke, an 'astounding' risk of heart problems

by AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION NEWS

Women and men have a much higher risk of dangerous heart problems soon after their first stroke compared to people without stroke, even if they don't have obvious underlying heart disease, a study has found.

Researchers investigated data on more than 93,000 people age 66 or older in Ontario, Canada. The group included more than 12,000 women and 9,500 men who had an ischemic stroke, the most common type.

None of the subjects had apparent heart disease. But after having a first stroke, the risk of having a major heart incident—such as a heart attack, heart failure or cardiovascular death—30 days later was 25 times higher in women and 23 times higher in men.

One year after a stroke, men and women still had twice the risk of a major cardiac event compared to their peers who had not had a stroke, found the study, published Thursday in the American Heart

Association journal Stroke.

"We already knew that patients with stroke have more frequent cardiovascular complications than other people," said lead author Dr. Luciano Sposato, an associate professor and head of the stroke program at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University in London, Ontario.

Doctors had suspected the connection was related to risk factors shared between heart disease and stroke, such as hypertension, diabetes or smoking.

But seeing the connection in people without underlying heart disease suggests other mechanisms are involved and need more research, Sposato said.

Although the study found no differences in post-stroke risk between women and men, previous studies have shown men are eight times more likely than women to have hidden heart disease, Sposato said. That suggests different mechanisms might be at work in men than in women, he said.

Dr. Cheryl Bushnell, professor of neurology at Wake Forest School of Medicine and vice chair of research at Wake Forest Baptist Health in North Carolina, called the level of risk uncovered by the study "astounding."

It means those who treat stroke patients need to emphasize follow-up care even more than they do

now, said Bushnell, who was not involved in the new research.

The nature of the study limited what could be extrapolated about the links between stroke and heart risks, she said, and further research would be helpful.

Speculating about those possible links, Sposato said the heart and brain share deep neurological connections. Previous research shows brain damage from strokes and other causes can lead to heart damage.

Sposato, in fact, contributed to a 2019 study in rats showing a stroke in a part of the brain known as the insular cortex led to inflammation and other fibrosis in the heart.

"So now we know for sure that there's a clear relationship between stroke and new heart disease, but we don't know how it happens," he said. If scientists could unlock the ways a stroke triggers heart problems, it could eventually lead to new ideas for how to prevent them.

Meanwhile, he said, health care providers should be aware of the risk and "very actively" watch for coronary symptoms or hidden heart disease in people who recently had strokes, "because that might be another way of preventing cardiovascular events."

Did you know?

Chest pain or pressure is the most common symptom of a heart attack, but some women can undergo one without experiencing it. Instead, they may exhibit some or all of the following: shortness of breath, pressure or pain in the upper abdomen, dizziness, lightheadedness, nausea, fainting, upper back pressure, or extreme fatigue.

Heart disease: An underdiagnosed issue in women

Every February, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada organizes Heart Month to help raise awareness about the warning signs and risk factors associated with heart disease and stroke. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, heart attacks remain a leading cause of premature death, especially among women. Here's what you should know.

What's the problem?

Heart attacks in women are often misdiagnosed. One reason for this is that they frequently experi-

ence different and subtler symptoms than men, but even classic heart attack indicators such as chest pain and shortness of breath may be attributed to something else with medical staff often dismissing these markers as signs of benign conditions. Anxiety, digestive issues, or reproductive and menstrual problems may be pointed to, and women, especially those who are younger, might explain away their own symptoms in this manner.

According to a report by the Heart and Stroke Foun-

ation of Canada, early signs of heart attack are missed in up to 78 percent of women. They're also far less likely to undergo a post-hospital electrocardiogram, a basic diagnostic test routinely prescribed to men who may be at risk of heart disease.

What's the solution?

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, about two-thirds of heart disease research focuses on men. This is likely the reason why a number of our tests and treatments are less effective for wom-

en. For this reason, further research is needed and raising awareness about the issue is the first step.

In addition, women must advocate for themselves and should learn to recognize red flags such as shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness and chest discomfort that radiates to the arm, jaw, neck, shoulder or back.

Most importantly, symptoms should never be ignored, and women who are at risk of a heart attack are advised to talk to their doctors to learn more.

Online tool helps Americans assess their risk of heart disease

Each year, the American Heart Association declares February Heart Month to raise awareness about the high numbers of deaths and hospitalizations from cardiovascular disease in the United States. One important way you can mark the occasion is by taking the time to assess your risk of experiencing a heart

attack, stroke, or other cardiovascular problem. Thankfully, doing so just got a whole lot easier.

A team of researchers, led by Dr. Doug Manuel, has developed an online calculator that makes it easier for Americans to assess their risk of heart disease and change their unhealthy habits. Its algorithm was created by using data compiled from health surveys of more than 100,000 people, along with data on hospitalizations and deaths

from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

The tool calculates your risk of dying or being hospitalized for cardiovascular disease within the next five years by asking you a series of questions about factors like your family history, diet, physical activity, alcohol consumption, and smoking habits. It also takes into account less obvious factors that affect your chances of developing heart problems, including socioeconomic

status, education, stress levels, environmental influences, ethnicity, and other health conditions like diabetes.

The researchers hope that people will use the tool to assess their cardiovascular health and talk to their health-care providers about how their lifestyles are impacting their hearts. To try out the Heart Attack and Stroke Calculator yourself, visit the Project Big Life website at projectbiglife.ca/cardiovascular-disease.

HEART HEALTH AWARENESS
February is National Heart Month — a great time to make sure your ticker is tickin' properly. We've all heard it: change your diet, maintain a healthy weight, be physically active, quit smoking. But why? Can this advice REALLY HELP you lower your cholesterol and improve your heart health? YES! Making small changes in your daily routine can add up to big benefits and help you live a healthier, more balanced life.

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- Maintain a healthy diet and weight:** A healthy diet can reduce your risk of heart disease. Eat fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low fat dairy products. Limit saturated fat, trans fat, sodium and added sugars.
- Exercise regularly:** Getting at least 30 to 60 minutes of exercise per day helps you control your weight and can reduce the risk of getting high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and other health conditions.
- Don't smoke, and limit alcohol consumption:** Smoking and other chemicals in tobacco can damage your heart and blood vessels by narrowing arteries.
- Monitor your blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels:** Regular screening can help you understand your numbers and whether you need to take action. Adults should have their blood pressure checked at least every two years, and their cholesterol measured at least once every five years, starting at age 20.

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LET'S GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

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CEDRIC SEABROUGH SCORING

Swainsboro takes another step towards region crown

by TROUP BRINSON
The Swainsboro Tigers (12-1) played but once this week, but made the most of it, running through the East Laurens Falcons 87-51 to inch closer towards the top spot in the region. Swainsboro has three games left on the regular schedule, hosting Vidalia and Bacon County this Friday and Saturday, before closing things out with Jeff Davis on February 13.

Against East Laurens, the Tigers jumped out early as Flex Washington scored 7 quick points to lead the Tigers to a 26-15 first quarter advantage. Derrick Jones took over in the 2nd quarter with 9 points to take Swainsboro to a 46-28 halftime edge. The Falcons would offer no resistance in the 2nd half and Swainsboro poured it on in the 36 point victory.

The Tigers got production from nearly everyone on the roster as 12 players scored. Derrick Jones led the way with 18

points and Dorian Foots scored 11 points. Ty Adams, Demonte Smith, and Cedric Seabrough scored 10 points each.

Swainsboro hosts two quality opponents this weekend in Vidalia and Bacon County, games in which they trailed in the 4th quarter in their first meetings. The Tigers are 9-0 in the region and can lock up the top seed in region 2-AA as they look towards the region tournament beginning the week of February 15.

Lanier-Moore VFW Post 5745 is celebrating its 75th birthday

Lanier-Moore VFW Post in Swainsboro is celebrating its 75th year as a part of the Emanuel County community. Named in honor of local Emanuel County heroes from World War II, this post was constituted, built and grown with local heroes for the past 75 years.

The building at 689 Kite Hwy. was originally built by charter members of 5745, but has evolved to a building that all veterans of Emanuel County use regularly. Originally chartered on February 15, 1946, Lanier-Moore VFW Post 5745 has been a constant supporter of the community and will continue to be in the future. The post would like to thank the community for its continued support and for the help shown to veterans of Emanuel County.

Durden Banking Company Inc. announces upcoming blood drive

As part of their ongoing commitment to community service, Durden Banking Company, Inc. is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive. The blood drive is Wednesday, February 10, at Durden's Twin City location and they need your help to make it a lifesaving event!

Sign up to donate blood at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> using sponsor code **Durden**, or via the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

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Emanuel 4-H'ers compete in virtual Horse Quiz Bowl

On Saturday, January 23, 4-H'ers in Emanuel County tested their knowledge of equine-related subject matter in the virtual Georgia 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl. The team placed 7th.

Just like everything else, the contest was held in a different format than normal. This year, teams competed in the state qualifying event which consisted of a timed, 60-question Horse Smarts test that was available online to competitors. The 4-H'ers answered true-false and multi-

ple-choice questions from a variety of equine topics including anatomy, colors & markings, breeds, conformation, disease & health, horse ownership & management, genetics, nutrition, performance events, and more!

The Junior (4th-8th Grade) team was made up of Mylie Rose Lane, Allie Rigdon, Lilly Bell, Grace Elaine Swygert, Gracee Brown, Lizzie Bell Swygert, and LoraLee Scarboro. Claire English was the only Senior (9th-12th Grade) participant and com-

peted as an individual. The team was coached by 4-H Agent Jakyn Tyson and 4-H Volunteer Mona Lisa Johnson.

While the event was virtual this year, plans are to return to the normal competition format for 2022. Standard competition consists of double elimination tournament-style matches where two teams made up of four or five members from one county compete against each other answering questions in a game show format. The Horse Quiz Bowl is a 4-H program which develops self-motivation, self-esteem, and responsibility. Students have the opportunity to strengthen their communication and leadership skills in an environment which allows contribution to group effort, encourages teamwork and promotes acceptance of differences. Competing as team members assists youth with the development of social skills, cooperation, and managing feelings, as they become comfortable with working alongside others toward a common goal. The best part about this project is that it is conducive to both traditional, rural 4-H members with equine experience, and urban youth who do not have the opportunity to raise animals.

The Georgia 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl is sponsored by the Georgia Ag Tag, Kenny Rogers Foundation and the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Science's Cooperative Extension Service. Locally, we are seeking a donor to assist us in supporting and growing the program. For more information about 4-H and how you can get involved, contact Emanuel County Extension at (478) 237-1226 or visit our office located at 129 N. Anderson Drive in Swainsboro.



SWEET PRESENTS SERVICE AWARD TO CROSS

Ridgeway Lodge 104 honors Cross

On Monday, Jan. 25, Patrick Sweet, WM of Ridgeway Lodge 104 of Garfield, presented a 50-year service award to Carson Cross. Cross began his masonic journey in 1970 at Midville 521 and later transferred to Ridgeway after the Midville lodge closed in 1996.

United States Air Force 'Swainsboro' Civilian Kristin L. Howell

Mrs. Kristin L. Howell, daughter of Scott and Nita Livingston, has been promoted to Director of the 409th Supply Chain Management Squadron, 638th Supply Chain Management Group, 448th Supply Chain Management Wing, Air Force Sustainment Center, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. She leads a team of 191 civilians in the wholesale sustainment of 10,000 national stock numbers. She is responsible for planning, directing, and executing supply chain management activities for structural, mechanical, and avionics systems for C-5, C-130, and F-15 aircraft peculiar assets and conventional armament systems. Additionally, she is overseas the Depot Supply Chain Manager (DSCM) functions, increasing parts supportability for depot maintenance.

Mrs. Howell is a 2003 graduate of Georgia Southern University and a 2006 graduate of Georgia College & State University. She also completed Air Command and Staff College via correspondence in 2010 and Air War College in 2020. She began her Air Force Civilian career in 2003 as a Logistics Manager in the F-15 System Program Office. Prior to her current position, Mrs. Howell served as the 409 Supply Chain Management Squadron Technical Director.

EDUCATION

2003 Bachelor of Business Administration and Management, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA

2006 Master of Business Administration, Milledgeville, GA



HOWELL

2010 Air Command and Staff College
2020 Air War College
C A R E E R
CHRONOLOGY
August 2003 - December 2006, Palace Acquire Logistics Management Specialist Trainee, F-15 Product Directorate, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB, GA
August 2006 - November 2010, Logistics Management Specialist; GS-12 Automatic Test Systems Division, 566th Combat Support Sustainment Squadron (CBSS), 742nd Combat Sustainment Group, Robins Air Force Base, GA
November 2010 - January 2018, Logistics Management Specialist Supervisor; NH-0346-03/GS-0346-13, 407 Supply Chain Management Squadron (SCMS), Supply Chain Management Group (SCMG), 448th Supply Chain Management Wing (SCMW), Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC), Robins AFB, Georgia Squadron, 638th Supply Chain Management Group, 448th Supply Chain Management Wing, Air Force Sustainment Center, Robins Air Force Base, GA
January 2018 - December 2020, Technical Director, 409 Supply Chain Management Squadron, 638th Supply Chain Management Group,

448th Supply Chain Management Wing, Air Force Sustainment Center, Robins Air Force Base, GA

December 2020 - Present, Director, 409 Supply Chain Management Group, 448th Supply Chain Management Wing, Air Force Sustainment Center, Robins Air Force Base, GA

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Editorials Columns

Fabulous Fifties

How long will it take to remember to write 2021 on your checks--- that is if you still write checks? It is awkward to say. It sounds as if you are counting pennies you have saved--- 19--20-21-22 and so on. We must have hope that 2021 improves on 2020. Perhaps we can gather

with friends in the spring of 2021, wishful thinking----but pleasant thoughts. What better era for me to return to in my thoughts than the Fabulous Fifties. The classes who were at SHS during this time gathered for several

reunions and all agreed the Fifties were fabulous. We were able to renew friendships not only with our classmates but all of the Fabulous Fifties folks.

The popular television show, *The Happy Days* with Richie, Fonzie and Ralph Mouth could have been filmed in Swainsboro. I can even suggest Fifties guys who could have been role models. (If you are interested in knowing, send me an e-mail). Life was simple but oh, such fun. We put our nickels into juke boxes to hear the latest tunes and danced

the 'Jitter-Bug' ---until Joan Girardeau came from Savannah and taught us to Shag. We hung out at Harrison's Drug Store after school and were welcome to fill all the tables and make our milk shake last until time to go home. Gas was cheap and "riding around" was considered fun. Fonzie had a motorcycle, but several of our Fifties guys had motor scooters. The Busy Bee Café was considered "off limits" because of the pool tables. Now pool tables are in home recreation rooms.

The dinner table was

fabulous in the fifties. Pasta was unknown. It was macaroni or spaghetti. Curry was a last name not a menu item. Take-away was a math problem. Pizza was a tower you once saw in your geography book. Chips were all plain potato. Fiber was readily available, but it was called cattle food. Oil was for your car, and fat was for cooking. Had you ever heard the words yogurt" or "kabob? Chickens did not have fingers. Some things never ever found at tables in the fifties were elbows, hats and cell phones.

Shirley Proctor Twiss



Our parents did not read books on child rearing. How did they know what to do? Simply, they relied on logic and could discipline with one sentence, "Because I said so." Case closed.

I must say again that the Fifties were fabulous. President Truman started the decade and then came World War II hero, Eisenhower. We loved to say "I Like Ike." Politically it was a

gentler and more graceful time than the future would bring.

Much of our pleasure was the great movies shown at the Dixie. We saw the classics--- Singing in the Rain, Shane, High Noon and the glamour of Betty Grable and young Elizabeth Taylor. My wish to you is a return to *The Happy Days* in 2021. Write to Shirley at sptwiss@gmail.com

Talking current events with Skeeter Skates and the RYO Coffee Club

I had just hung up from a robocall wanting to extend the warranty on a car I no longer own when the phone rang again. I assumed it was some helpful robot offering to consolidate credit card debts I don't have or trying to sell me a back brace I don't need. You can imagine my surprise when

I discovered it was Skeeter Skates, owner of Skeeter Skates Tree Stump Removal and Plow Repair in Ryo, Georgia. Skeeter Skates may be a lot of things. A robot he is not. "Hoss," he said with no preamble -- Skeeter isn't much for preambles -- "me and the boys in the Ryo Coffee Club was wanting to

get your take on what in the dickens is going on in the country these days. Walleye, who runs the bait shop over in Red Bud, thought you might be able to share a little information with us. I told Walleye it was worth a try because you usually have about as little information as anybody I

know of." Dealing with Skeeter Skates requires a thick skin. "First off," Skeeter inquired, "we was wondering how come folks waving American flags and calling themselves patriots decided to go and tear up the Capitol last month. That don't make no sense to us. In fact, Uncle Coot, who is recently retired from the porta potty transportation industry, thought that was downright unpatriotic. He says how many patriots do you know who go running around in a hat with buffalo horns on their head?" I told him I couldn't answer that one. Maybe the guy was headed to Little Bighorn to help out General Custer and took a wrong turn in Kansas City. "You think that ol' orange-haired boy sicced the crowd on the Capitol because he didn't get reelected?" Skeeter asked. "He seemed awfully mad about it." I said I would prefer not to answer that in case some of the 71 million people who voted for Donald Trump might be reading this. They are not in the best of humor these days. The last thing I need right now is a visit from Rudy Giuliani or Buffalo Boy. Skeeter said Booger Bledsoe, who runs the local roadside vegetable stand over in Sugar Hill, thinks some of the mob's behavior was because they were

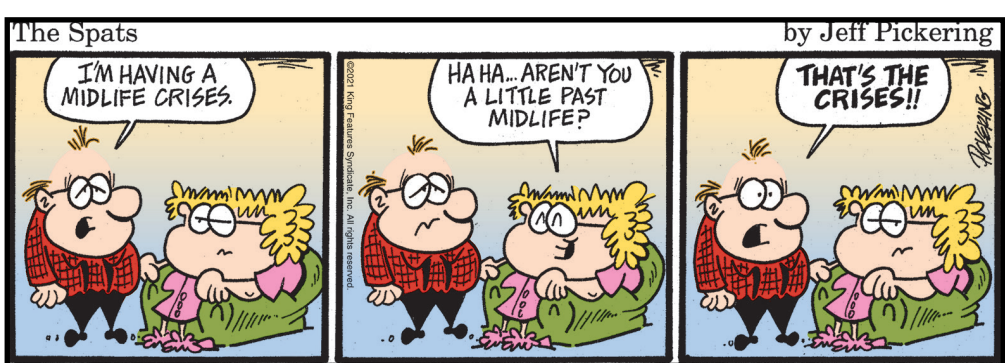
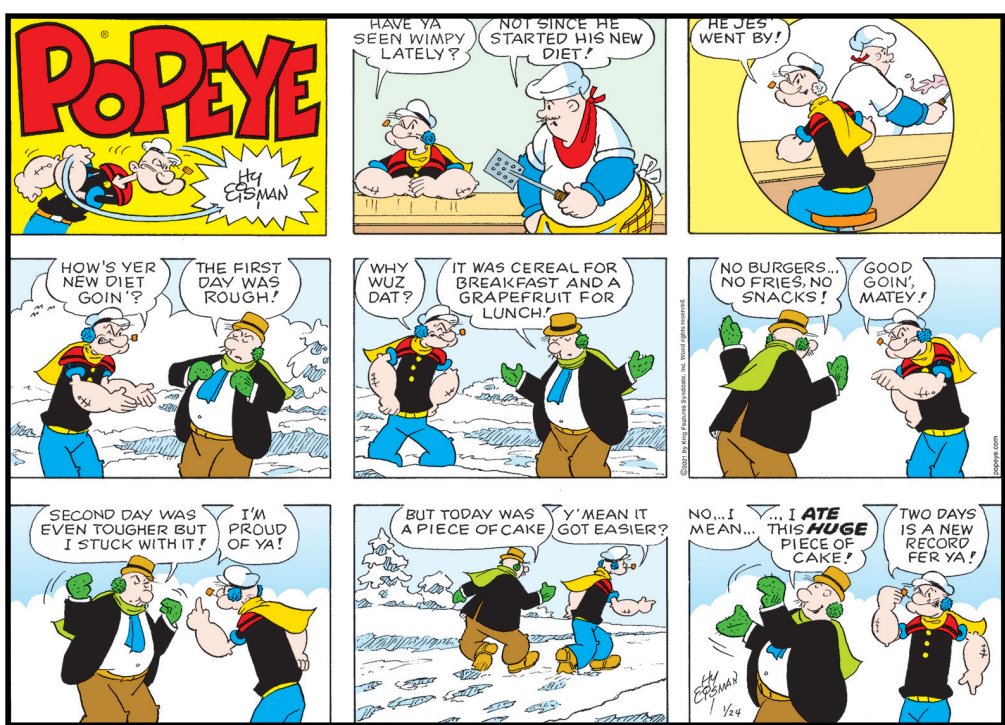
Dick Yarbrough



tired of seeing a bunch of punks on television burning buildings and disrespecting police and liberal weenie mayors letting them get away with it. I thought that insightful on Booger's part and said it probably was one reason for the Capitol riot but to quote my sweet Momma, "Two wrongs don't make a right," which is probably the last thing either side wants to hear right now. "Hoss, we was wondering how come they are impeaching that ol' boy again," Skeeter asked. "He ain't even president no more. That don't make no sense, neither." No it doesn't, I told Skeeter. The effort is not going to be successful and, sadly, is only going to serve to divide the country worse than it already is. Skeeter said Walleye wanted to know if this was going to get the mob all stirred up and they would try to storm the Capitol again. I said that wasn't likely because authorities would be ready this time but there was always a chance of random acts of violence in places where it was least expected. Skeeter said he and the group had talked about that very thing. Walleye was in the process of

reenforcing the door to his bait shop. Bogger Bledsoe had installed camera around his roadside vegetable stand and not even a guy wearing a hat with buffalo horns would dare mess with Skeeter Skates. He has a stump grinder and knows how to use it. The only one not concerned was Uncle Coot. When you've spent your career around porta potties, even the most aggressive rioter is going to want to stand a good ways upwind. Skeeter announced it was time to wind things up. Unlike the fancy pants in the media, he said, he and his colleagues had an honest day's work ahead of them. I said that was okay with me. I had some important business to tend to myself. There was a robot on the other line wanting to extend the warranty on a car I didn't own anymore. After dealing with Skeeter Skates and the Ryo Coffee Club, I must admit I was looking forward to talking to the robot. You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dick-yarbrough.com; at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139 or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dickyarb.

Editorial Cartoons



The Forest-Blade

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Whitley Clifton, Newsroom Editor

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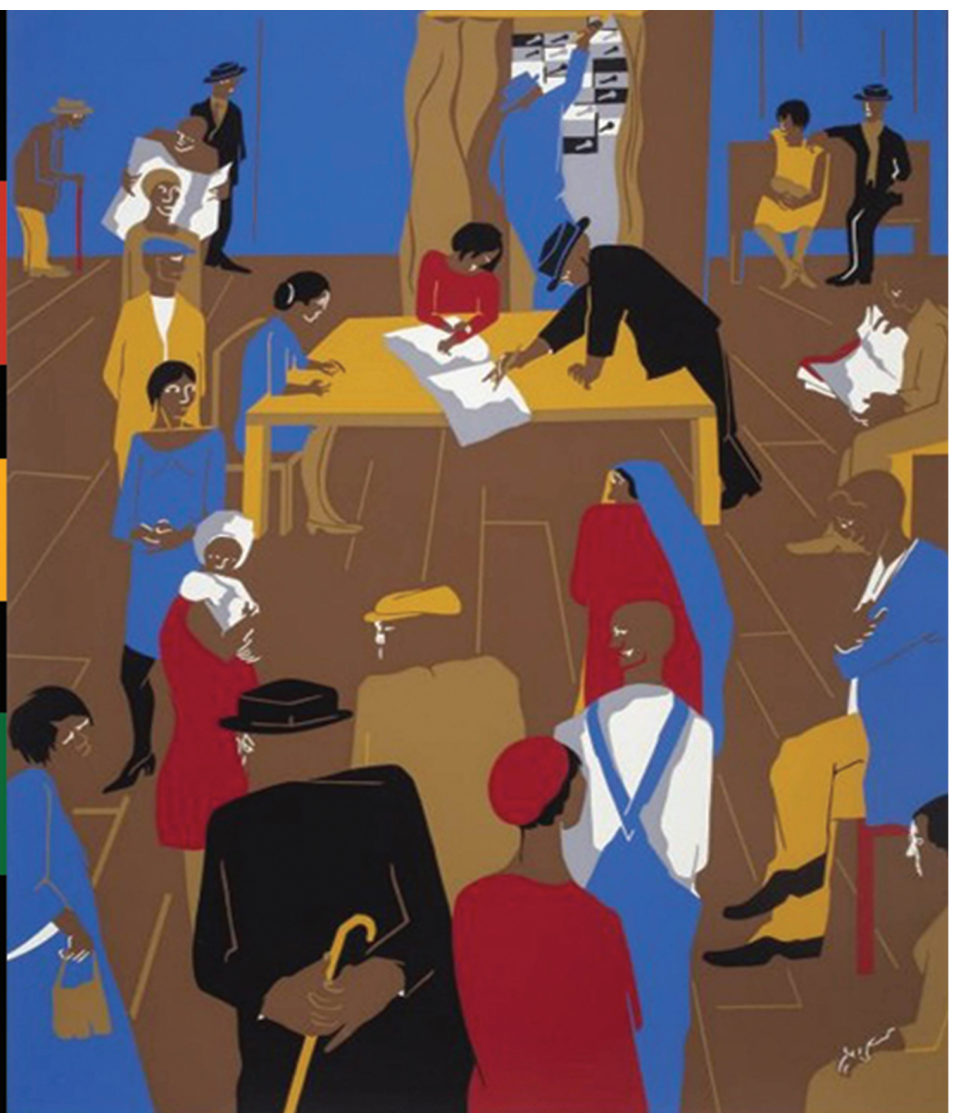
We welcome Letters to the Editor from our readers. However, due to increasing production costs, we must request that letters be kept to approximately 350 words. All letters must be signed by at least one person. Address and telephone number of the writer should also be given.

The Blade reserves the right to edit letters and limit the number of letters on any one subject from any one person.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 1st - 28th



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

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EGSC LADY BOBCATS

Lady Bobcats open Spring with scrimmage win

The East Georgia State College Lady Bobcats Softball team opened the Spring season with a scrimmage against Thomas University on January 30 in Thomasville, Ga. The Bobcats got the scrimmage victory against four-year Thomas University by a score of 6 to 0.

The Bobcats were led by freshman pitcher Britney Foster who would record nine strikeouts, give up only three hits, and only walk one batter for the day. Foster would get run support early in game one as the Bobcats would lead off with six consecutive hits beginning with lead-off batter Sierra Taylor. Taylor led all scorers with two runs scored on the

day.

Allana Hooks and Alaina Lee would each have four hits on the day for the Bobcats, with Makenzie Wilkerson, Stephanie Ruffin and Dani Wells each providing the Bobcats with two hit performances.

Defensively the Bobcats were stellar with outstanding plays in the field by Jana Crews, Stephanie Ruffin, Taylor Morgan, and Maddie Denning.

"We played really well in our opening spring scrimmage," said Head Coach Chuck Wimberly. "It is a little scary how well we played against a four-year college who put seniors and juniors on the field against our freshmen and sophomores.

Britney Foster was lights out on her pitching with Makenzie Wilkerson calling a great game behind the plate. Defensively we made plays that keeps a pitcher in the game mentally with knowing she has support. Offensively, when you can get 13 hits against a four-year program with a junior college, you are doing something right."

Wimberly continued, "I was really proud of our Lady Bobcats. This was the best I have ever seen our kids play whether it was a scrimmage or regular season game. The future for our Spring looks really bright after our performance in the scrimmage at Thomasville."

Elijah Clarke / Kettle Creek event recorded for Zoom

Thirty -five members of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution (GASSAR) traveled to Elijah Clarke State Park, Washington, GA and the Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County to be recorded while conducting the Presentation of Colors, Retrieving the Colors and firing a 3-round volley with their Kentucky / Pennsylvania 50 cal. Flintlock Rifles, Brown Bess 75 cal. muskets and a 6-pounder Naval Cannon and a 6-pounder Cohorn Mortar.

It was a rainy day from the very start, which resulted in leaving home around 6:30 a.m. for the 9 a.m. start time. The Color Guard members were in slight rain in each of their locations, and the militia with their rifles and muskets were under shelters at two of their locations. This being the first wet ceremony, members learned a lot about keeping one's powder dry to keep from having misfires. A cold and rainy day showed what our forefathers experienced during the seven-year American



SCENE FROM EVENT

Revolution.

After finishing the video of the Elijah Clarke event, where members presented and retrieved the Colors and our 3-round volley using rifles, muskets and cannons, they traveled to Washington, GA, about 35 miles away to eat lunch at the Fitzpatrick Hotel and Restaurant furnished by the GASSAR. After their meal, members formed up on the Washington Courthouse square to raise the 13-star American Flag where they fired a 3-round volley with flintlocks and muskets. Members then traveled about 15 miles to the Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County. The video-taping included

the presentation and retrieving of the Colors and firing a 3-round volley with flintlocks and muskets, followed after each volley with the firing of the 6-pounder Naval Cannon and the 6-pounder Cohorn Mortar. The video of these three events will be Zoomed on the weekend of February 12 and February 13. Those members of the East Fall Line Region from the Wiregrass, Brier Creek, and Little River Chapters were: Wilder Smith, Jr., Steve Burke, Alton Reynolds, Matt Reynolds, Davy Reynolds, Hoag Reynolds, John Tapley, Dess Smith III, Bernard Martin, Woody Woodard, Gary Smith, and Alton McCloud.

ECI announces honor students for second nine weeks of school year

According to Principal Anetria Edenfield, the following students have earned honors for the second nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year:

HONOR ROLL

Sixth Grade:

JoAnna Arms, Lauran Bedgood, Madison Bell, Alivia Conley, Davis Johnson, Gunner Johnson, Gage Johnson, Slayden Lanigan, Andrew Marsh, Ashton McNear, Austin McNear, Kir Perez, Reese Raines, Deryon Stapleton

Seventh Grade:

Brooklyn Dorsey, Raylin Hudson, Jacob McBride, Morgan Nie, Arachchige Salgado, Erin Stanford, Lola Walden

Eighth Grade:

Jacob Avery, Leonel Gonzalez-Demillon, Aralyn Grimes, Kinley Grimes, Halli Kate Johnson, Billy Jones, Madalyn Jones, Gabriel Lee, Allie Rigdon, Janna Scott

Ninth Grade:

Cola Akridge, Jasper Baker, Andrew Chalkley, Alaina Conley, Asia Gibbons, Wallee Kersey, Aliya McCoy, Conner Merier, Ansley Moxley, Jarei Oglesby, Haley Patel, Brailey Radford, Charles Rehberg, Arachchige Salgado, William Sasser, Jack Walden

Tenth Grade:

Jacey Allen, Sullee Boddiford, Charla Clifton, Anna Claire Davis, Aubrey Harrison, Law-

son Mercer, Elizabeth Millsaps, Malaina Nasworthy, Karly Olliff, Jordan Prew, Brigett Rachels, Caroline Salinas, Carlin Stewart, Allyson Taylor, Shanna Wilkerson, Martha Woodward

Eleventh Grade:

Salma Cueva Santana, Diamond Daughtry, Karime Gonzalez-Demillon, Landon Goodman, Jalasia Gordon, Marlana Griner, Nathan Headrick, Henry Hobbs, Jada Hooks, Alayha Hudson, Faith Mincey, Nevaeh Patterson, Tmyra Peterson, Taylor Rachels, Trevor Radford, Shelby Roberson, Natavus Robertson, Adam Sanders, AnnaLayne Scarboro, Karmen Thompson, Ja-

mariya Turner, Zaren Williford

Twelfth Grade:

Destiny Akridge, Kaitlyn Arnold, Jessica Clifton, Jack Davis, Destiny Foreman, Ada Godwin, Madison Grimm, Zoie Harrell, Precious Heath, Kelly Joseph, Sarah Kersey, Breana Librizzi, Molly McBride, Haley Page, Andrea Pullen, Taylor Radford, Morgan Rehberg, Audrey Rich, Jerica Scott, Matthew Smith, N'uturi Smith, Jesley Snellgrove, Alexis Wiggins, Zada Anna Williford, Catarina Wilson

HONOR ROLL

Sixth Grade:

Maverick Allen, Jon Bowen, Anna Bowman, Ja'Shon Branch, Shay-

Lynn Brantley, Brooklyn Crosby, Aaden Cumbee, Mary Katherine Durden, Travoski Harris, Aaron Matthews, Eric Murray, Aniston O'Dell, Jayden Purvis, Jayla Rhodes, Brayden Rich, Carlee Sherrod, Aaron Spears, Knox Tharpe, Westyn Wilkerson

Seventh Grade:

Melvin Akridge, Tuff Boddiford, Carolyn Cox, Hunter Griffith, Jordan Handsom, Makaanleigh Handsom, Braeden Hooks, Max McBride, Braxton Oliver, Raymond Parillo, Jenna Grace Roberson, Trinity Taylor, Grayson Thompson, Matthew Trail, Hailey Way, Briley Womack

Eighth Grade:

Matti Cochran, Jaelynn Dixon-Rowland, Raelyn Frederick, Jayna Kearson, Hunter Lane, Mylie Rose Lane, Spencer Lawrence, Abbey Marsh, Jacob McBride, Emily Rachels, JaMyra Shivers, Grace Swygert, Sean Wilkerson

Ninth Grade:

Colton Allen, Elizabeth Allen, Jacin Baltazar-Zamora, Charles Creamer, Shaquila Evans-Ray, Angel Guest, Alynza Hughes, Henley Johnson, Aden McQuaig, Nicholas Newkirt, Brycen Purvis, Zachary Rowe, Hunter Spears

Tenth Grade:

Caleb Avery, Robert Bell, LaHarry Farnum, Andrew Grimes, Kelsey Harper, Jolie Hawkins, Haley Henry, Kellie Howell, Bryce Kearson, Sarah Catherine Kraus, James Myers, Austin Roberson, David Stapleton, Myia Steele, Shayla Stephenson, William Taylor, Kaden Wiese

Eleventh Grade:

Ashton Allen, Emily Chatham, Olivia Collins, Mikiyah Coney, Jenna Dixon-Rowland, Zhen Folds, Carlton Gamble, Kristan Jackson, Ethan Morton, Brock Pellerin, Blake Sanders, Rafael Silva-Tomas, Semya Williams

twelfth Grade:

Vivian Allen, Reginald Blockett, Brendan Boatwright, Olivia Canady, Robert Fortner, Brandon Hatcher, Kati-Brooke Hooks, Trey Hughes, Emma Mason, Grace McBride, Haylee Roberson, Bailey Sause, Morgan Taylor

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TATE TORPY AND LIZZIE BOWMAN SHOOT DURING THE EMANUEL COUNTY 4-H MATCH HELD SUNDAY, JANUARY 17



4-H JUNIOR AND CLOVERLEAF NOVICE ARCHERS DURING THE COUNTY MATCH HELD SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Emanuel 4-H Archers wrap-up season; Johnson takes home top honors

Emanuel County 4-H'ers have had a busy few weeks of Archery competitions. The Archery Team held its county match Sunday, January 17 at the Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fairgrounds. Sam Lawrence was the Cloverleaf Novice winner, Sam Williams the Cloverleaf Compound Winner, Maddox Roberson, High Junior Compound winner, Jack Williams, High Male Archer, and Greenlee Johnson, High Female Shooter, Senior Compound winner, and High Overall Archer.

The team also took aim at the Georgia 4-H State Virtual Archery Championship submitting scores from the county match to see how they stacked up against 4-H archers from across the state. Winners of the state e-match were announced in a virtual awards program on Tuesday, February 2 on the Georgia 4-H Youtube Channel.

Emanuel County Archery team members competed in four divisions: Clover-

leaf Compound for 4th-6th graders, Junior Compound for 7th-8th graders, Junior Recurve for 7th-8th graders, Senior Compound for 9th-12th graders, and Cloverleaf Novice which is limited to recurve or universal draw length compound bows that do not have a positive draw stop or let-off.

The Archery Program is a part of the Georgia 4-H Shooting Awareness, Fun and Education Program (S.A.F.E.). The team was coached by Chesley Dixon, Steven Johnson, and Brad and T'Neil Williams.

4-H is the youth program of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. For more information about this program or other 4-H activities in Emanuel County, contact Jakyn Tyson at the UGA Cooperative Extension Service at (478) 237-1226, or visit the office located at 129 North Anderson Drive in Swainsboro.



GLADYS COLLINS, LIBRARY MANAGER; PORTER, LOCAL AUTHOR; AND SHARI WATT, LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Local author donates books to Franklin Memorial Library

Daniel Porter is a young author, motivational speaker, and community leader from Swainsboro. He is a father, a husband, and a mentor. Porter has written several books, spanning from fiction, to non-fiction education, Christian inspirational, and an autobiography. Porter hopes to inspire a generation to tap into the creative power given to them by God and invoke change into their world. He is a graduate of Georgia State University, and a licensed minister.

His book, *Blueprint for Creative Purpose*, Teen Guide, is a one-of-a-kind student manual that was specifically crafted to assist high school students in their pursuit of identity, and to teach them to discover and monetize their gifts. This student guidebook attempts to discipline the focus of the student via practical personal projects that require goal setting, planning, comparative research, and informative interviewing.

It also promotes psychological analysis to understand how misinformation and ignorance in high school sabotages the great potential that often fails to bring ingenuity, authenticity, and change to society. This book aims to highlight the simple fact that certain financial and sociological obstacles can and should be realized and mastered prior to graduation to ensure long-term success.

Porter has built a guide for high school teachers to accompany the *Blueprint for Creative Purpose Book*. The Lesson Plan provides a three-pronged approach to effectively assessing & communicating expectations for pursuing a career: behavior, finance, and psychology (mental aptitude). This creative, hands-on experience will ensure your students will engage, research, and retain the information necessary to excel at the next level. It is important to note that this curriculum could be taught in school or during

after school or elective environments. All activities have been designed for the instructor to take the student through a fun, fact-filled experience to grow in the knowledge of how to research, analyze, and present information to show academia.

If you are looking for a comprehensive and versatile strategy to creatively teach and educate students without using more worksheets and multiple-choice tests, this is the manual for you! *Blueprint for Creative Purpose* was designed to engage the student with community-based activities that promote healthy collaboration and fun learning, so it is important that the teacher can provide such an experience. If you are looking for a new and fresh way to engage the creative side of your students, then this guidebook is for you!

Both books will be available soon for circulation at your local library.

PARADE of Little People FOR ALL AGES

Dear Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa:

The Forest-Blade is calling on you, parents and grandparents, to show off your pride and joy.

No matter where your little person lives or how old he or she is, their pictures will be accepted. The charge will be \$10.

Wallet size pictures are preferable to large portrait size pictures. No more than 2 little ones in each picture.

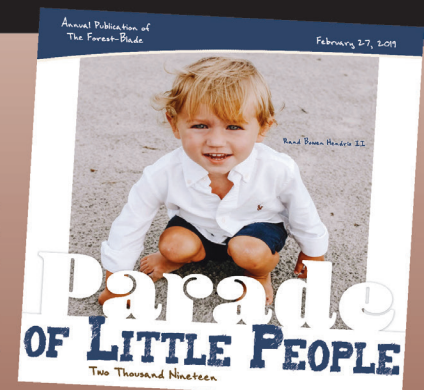
Fill out the coupon below to ensure that your child will be in the Parade of Little People. Print the child's name in legible handwriting on the back of the picture.

All pictures will be held after publication for pickup or you may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Complete the form and mail along with your check or money order to: The Forest Blade, P.O. Box 938, Swainsboro, GA 30401

ATTENTION PARENTS!

One photo will be selected for the cover of this year's Parade of Little People! For the chance to have your child on this year's cover, please submit your best photo. An additional \$5 entry fee is required.



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(From page 3A)

mighty good chance to do it. There are classes throughout Georgia, tuition-free. You have to have a tenth-grade education (two years of high school) or take a test showing that you have the equivalent of it. The course would only cost you sixty-five dollars for registration, uniforms and textbooks.

Personal paragraph

Mrs. Beulah Sumner, 86, took her first plane ride at Vero Beach FL recently with her grandson, Glenn Hall, Wabasso, at the controls. They made the flight from the Hibiscus Airport in a Cessna Skylark. The 19-year-old Glenn is training for his instruction license at Emby Aviation School in Miami.

Miss Hooks gets DAR award

Miss Ann Hooks, daughter of Mr. And Mss. Denver Hooks of Canoochee, has been named winner of the DAR award at Emanuel County Institute. Runner-ups for the award were Misses Beth Jones and Jeanne Perkins.

February 3, 1971

Play wins 2nd in region

One of the major events of this school year took place Jan. 7 at Swainsboro High School. The Region 2AA One-Act play competition was hosted by SHS in our auditorium. SHS's play cast won second place in region with their presentation of an Overpraised Season". Members of the cast included George Smith III, Rebecca Bailey, Joy Schwalls, Eddie Newman, Joseph Drisdorn, and Dale Vereen. Directors for the production were Mrs. Venice Bisop and Miss Marsha Fennell.

The finalists

Five finalists in the "Miss Swainsboro Tech" Beauty contest are from left: Betty Brown, Frieda Price, who won the title, Teresa Paul, Kathie Watson, and Gwen Bailey. A panel of three judges selected the top five from a group of ten semifinalists. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

LPN class scheduled for area

A \$75,026 program to train 20 licensed practical nurses in Swainsboro-Statesboro area has been approved and funded in Washington, according to Sam Caldwell, Commissioner of Labor. The 49-week course, which will begin in 60 days, will be conducted jointly by the Georgia Department of Labor and the Division of

Vocational Education of the State Education Dept. under provisions of the Manpower Development and Training Act. "Trainees will receive instruction at no cost to them, and those who qualify will be paid a weekly allowance during training", says Don Morris of the Georgia Department of Labor, South Green St, Swainsboro. Those interested in enrolling should contact Mr. Morris.

Personal paragraph

Mr. And Mrs. Dess Smith, Dessie, Lori Ragsdale, George Smith, Miss Gail Edenfield, and Mrs. Wilder Smith attended the showing of "Two A Penny" in Augusta on Sunday afternoon.

Jaycees plan 'week'

Swainsboro Jaycees are making plans for the annual Jaycee Radio Week observance here. Club members will begin soliciting spots for the observance this Friday. Garry Pittman is chairman of the event. His co-chairman are Don Farrow, sales, Bob Rogers, spot writer, and Loren Gary, recording. Date of observance is to be announced later, according to Club President Dess Smith.

February 4, 1981

A book given

Swainsboro Professional and Business Women's Club has presented a book, "The Women's Book of World Records and Achievements," to the Franklin Memorial Library in honor of Miss Nora Ogburn, who was an active member of the club prior to her passing. Admiring the gift were Miss Valerie Stewart, library assistant, and Mrs. Jaunita Lumley, who headed the B&PW Club's memorial committee. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Personal paragraph

Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Cadle returned from a two-week trip to Florida. The Cadles were among the many hundreds of retirees from across the nation attending the tenth National Campers and Hikers Rally held this year in Sarasota, FL. Some 1,500 retirees in 750 campers and various kinds of rigs were at the arena. Each state represented held a state hospitality time. The Georgia delegation, largest in attendance, served Georgia Peach Cobbler and coffee on Wednesday morning to the entire rally.

'Miss Emanuel'

Janet Flanders, reigns as "Miss Emanuel" and as such will be contestant in the Miss Georgia Pageant. Also picked by judges Saturday

evening in the third annual pageant were Carla McMillan, talent winner and first runner-up, Teah Bishop, second runner-up, and Tammy Johnson, "Miss Congeniality". (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Kiwanis helps

John Martin, director at Emanuel County Day Care and Training Center, accepts \$200 check from Swainsboro Kiwanis Club. Making the presentation is John R. Roberts Jr, as Ed Schwabe looks on Emanuel County Training Center is located in Lexsy. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Locating fires

Donnie Price, senior Emanuel County forestry ranger, indicates how his unit utilizes a fire-locating map to members of the forestry class of Emanuel County Institute. Looking on was Dover Williamson, Dan Lewis, and Roscoe Lewis. The class advisor, John Allen Bailey, recently toured the forestry unit facilities. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

February 6, 1991

Proposed 'Boneyard Plaza'

A scale model of a centrally located pavilion for possible construction on the "Boneyard Plaza" off South Green Street in Swainsboro is being exhibited by a group of local citizens. Complete cost of the project is estimated at \$120,000. The group seeks \$40,000 each from the City of Swainsboro and Emanuel County, as well as \$40,000 from the private sector, to fund the project. If funded, completion is expected by December. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Media Center received lighted globe for use

A lighted globe has been donated for use in the new Media Center at Emanuel County Institute. D. Roy Cowart, ECI alumnus of the Class of 1919, made the presentation Thursday. He is the son of J.E. Cowart, widely regarded as on the people responsible for the organization of the first school in Twin City. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Ball preparations

Vikki Womack, Paulette Terwilliger, Missy Edenfield, and Norman Woods, members of the Xi Delta Psi Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, put the final touches on one of the floral arrangements the sorority is creating to be featured

as table decorations at the Conqueror's Ball this weekend. Mrs. Edenfield is general chairman of decorations for the gala which will include dinner and live musical entertainment by The Tasker Williams Orchestra. Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the Conqueror's Ball is expected to be attended by some 250 guests at Swainsboro Country Club Saturday evening. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Valentines for troops

Channing Gray, Megan Anderson, and Rachel Page are among the group of three-year olds in the First United Methodist Church's Wednesday night program getting valentines ready to send US troops in Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Alicia Jones, assisted. According to Mrs. Tammy Gray, leader, church members who have been deployed will receive the cards as well as other service people with postage being paid by the Citizens Bank. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

You're adopted

Lewis Davis, resident of Emanuel County Nursing Home, receives "adoption papers" from officers of the Swainsboro Middle School seventh grade chorus; Kimberly Dixon, secretary, Bakia Parrish, secretary, Lillian Lee, president, Teresa Thomas, librarian, Erica Worthen, president, and Kashema Coleman, librarian. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

February 7, 2001

Big winner

Weston Wilkes was the big winner in The Forest-Blade's Super Bowl contest. The winning entry was taken to the second tie-breaker, but Wilkes came out the winner and collected his \$250 prize. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Competing at the state level

Emanuel County Institute competition cheerleading squad finished eight among 73 Class A teams competing in the state cheerleading finals. Competition was held Saturday, Feb. 3, at Savannah Civic Center. Team was Brandi Warnock, Krystal Robinson, Kayla Chester, Amy Neal, Jodi Johnson, Amy Lane, Alicia Baird, Sarah Hullander, Janna Gay, Brandy Butler, Holly Ray, Tiffany Hine, Allison Cone, Brittany Butler, and

Randi Mercer. They were coached by Barbara Mosses. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Tigers dominate all-region team

Rayvan Teague was named Region Coach of the Year as Swainsboro dominated the 2-AAA All-Region football team. Titus Peebles was named Defensive Player of the Year while Brandon Andrews was named the Overall Player of the Year. Swainsboro had 9 of the 325 positions on the first team roster, three on the second team and eight honorable mentions. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

SPS 'Kharacter Kids' announced for January

Kindergarten

Lance Curry, Heather Screws, Ariel Jordan, Whitney Tarver, Kim Cheeks, Ja'Sannea Brown, Hunter Whitaker, Quan Harper, Dustin Sutton, Hunter Barger, and Taliyah Brewton.

First grade

LaShawn Tarver, Annissa Eastman, Martavius Bynum, McKinney Ricks, Alicia Krise, Kyle Henry, Cassidy Dismuke, Seth White, Charis Clark, Olivia Polliman, Rashon Riddles, Sam Jones, and Alfred Johnson.

Second grade

Jonquez Williams, Kory Thomas, Sara Tapley, Katie Wells, Juan Delacruz, Jared Screws, Justin Thompson, Anna Johnson, Demetrius Jones, Wesley Moore, Jordan Drew, and Steven Chrysoferidis.

Staff Spotlight

- Teresa Martin, Maribeth Clark, Debra Fordham, Pat Sanders, Mary Huston, and Leon Gilmore.

Emanuel residents included on Georgia Southern list

Thirty-one Georgia Southern University students from Emanuel County have been included on the fall semester dean's list: Curry Brazzell, Patrina Carswell, Richard Clark, Jessica Collins, Gidget Durden, Krystal Hodges, Jessica Johnson, JJHeather Kehr, Anna Kersey, Kristin Livingston, Michael McGee, Julie Morris, Angela Ogburn, Jennifer Reddish, Brooke Riner, Leo Royer, Donna Stroud, Alexander Tillman, Mary Yeomans, Lacie Atkinson, Erin Brown, Jennifer Davis, Daniel Hall, Kimberly Caldwell, Meredith Rundle, Christina Williams, Monica Woods, Jess Bush, Angela Cheatwood, Theodosha Forman,

and Amy Greenway.

February 2, 2011

Question of the week: Who do you think is going to win the Super Bowl?

Green Bay Packers all the way! - Walter Rowland, Swainsboro

Of course, the Green Bay packers. - Lenny Pasquale, Napa Auto Parts

Green Bay Packers are going to win because they have a great quarterback and a good offensive line. The odds maker has a 2-1/2 point favor. - Ronny Sweat, Swainsboro (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Screws signs with EGC Bobcats

Brinsley Screws became the first signee of the 2011 graduating class, joining the ranks of the upcoming East Georgia College Bobcat Softball team for 2011-2012. (visit emanuelcountylive.com to see contestants photos)

Painting for Pleasure

Franklin Memorial Library patrons enjoyed a painting workshop last Tuesday. The participants explored various approaches to skill life painting. The relationship of light to dark and color mixing were emphasized. The instructor was BJ Williams and the workshop was made possible by Mill Creek Foundation.

The Forest-Blade goes to Paris, France

The Patterson and Payne family traveled to Paris to visit with Tiffany Payne while she was studying at Oxford, England. While there, they also visited London. The family enjoyed the 11-day trip.

David Emanuel Academy Star Student/Teacher

She loves the small family atmosphere of DEA. The influence DEA has had on her life is one reason this year's STAR Student, Nikki Dye, wants to become an elementary school teacher in a small school setting herself. In fact, in 10 years Nikki can see herself back in a small school, "hopefully here," she says of DEA. Nikki is the daughter of Jed and Donna Dye of Swainsboro. Cindy Brett has been with DEA for 10 years and currently teaches Algebra 1, Algebra 2, geometry, pre-calculus, and economics. She is also yearbook advisor and JV softball coach. Brett, who has twice been selected as STAR Teacher, and her husband, John, have two daughters who are both students at DEA, Jordan, a 10th grader, and Jessica, who is in the 8th grade.



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Memories from the Fifties and Sixties

by **RONNIE JOHNSON**

There was so much going on for teenagers in the late fifties and the sixties. During the week we rushed home from school to catch the Dick Clark and American bandstand on T.V. Dick Clark was the host that never seemed to age. He was considered an eternal teenager at heart.

We were glued to our black and white T.V.'s. It would be years before color T.V. came into Vogue. Brenda Lee sang "I'm Sorry" and Chubby Checker belted out "The Twist". We ran to the closet to get the stick broom when we heard Dick Clark yell out: "How low can you go, let's limbo some more!"

I held the broom high above my sister's head as she passed under it. I lowered the broom until it was so low, she lost her balance and fell over backward, laughing uncontrollably.

The mood suddenly changed when the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, crooned softly the words to "Suspicious Minds." The dancers from Philadelphia danced cheek to cheek as they embraced across the dance floor. No week was ever complete without tuning in to Dick Clark and the American Bandstand during the work week.

At twelve o'clock we tuned in to "Top Ten Dance Party on channel six, Augusta, Georgia. It seemed like every school in Georgia, at one time or another graced that dance floor on Saturday at noon. I estimate I went to that

show at least six times, until I became twenty-one, and turned my dancing shoes over to my younger sister.

Emanuel County teenagers daydreamed during the week about going to the Record Hop on Friday and Saturday night. We sat in Mr. Gambrel's Algebra class, or Miss Peacock's Government Class, thinking about that slick, cement dance floor with that revolving colorful disco ball, spilling light onto the young people from many small towns in Georgia.

Our daydreams somehow stayed with us while walking to other classes, until we bumped into principal Bill Fordham instructing us to wake up and watch where we're going.

If you were not a dancer, there was always a good movie playing at Highway 56 Drive-In. Before showtime, there was a long line backed up on the right side of the road waiting to get in. Mr. Bellamy and his family were perfect hosts as we played bingo and snacked on the best chili dogs this side of Heaven.

Sam's Drive-in was also a destination teenagers flocked to after the Record Hop or a high school sporting event. They cruised around the brick building, acknowledging their friends and honking the horns.

On the long, warm Sunday afternoons, the teenagers wanted to top off their weekend in style. Sam's Drive-in was the perfect place to enjoy French fries, hamburgers, cokes, and meeting new friends. The pulsating colorful rocket at the entrance, welcomed you and your friends to take a break, and just enjoy yourself.

Where did the time go? We can't go back. But the best thing we can rely on are the cherished memories, and we are thankful for that.

A note to the teenagers of 2021: The teenagers of the fifties and sixties had it all. The music and lifestyle were exceptional.

Publisher's Notice

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status including or national origin, or an limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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News from under the Gold Dome

The third week of the 2021 legislative session under the Gold Dome began on Tuesday, January 26. It was especially busy as we spent four days in session and several House committees held their first meetings, both virtually and in-person, to begin considering legislation. During our third week of session, the House Appropriations Committee and its subcommittees passed the Amended Fiscal Year 2021 (AFY 2021) budget and sent a finalized supplemental budget to the House Rules Committee. On Thursday, January 28, the AFY 2021 budget was passed.

In June 2020, the original Fiscal Year 2021 budget was set using a revenue estimate of \$25.9 billion and reduced funding for all state agencies in preparation for a state revenue decline due to the pandemic. Our state's economic outlook has improved greatly since then as businesses have safely reopened and much needed federal relief has been distributed. The House's version of the AFY 2021 budget is based on Governor Brian Kemp's comprehensive budget proposal for the remainder of the fiscal year, and his revenue estimate for the AFY 2021 budget is \$26.56 billion, which is an increase of \$654.3 million, or 2.4 percent, compared to the original budget. HB 80 restores critical funding and reflects the House's priorities, such as restoring 60 percent of previous reductions to K-12 education funding formulas and boosting grant funding to support our public health agency as it addresses the pandemic. This budget also recognizes \$2.7 billion in federal funds that are meant to help our agencies, colleges and local school systems respond to COVID-19.

K-12 Education

The largest expenditure in the state budget each year goes toward K-12 education, and as such, HB 80 designates a total of \$9.6 billion, or 43.4 percent, of the state's general funds to our K-12 education systems. Last year, the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula funding was reduced by \$950 million to account for a 10 percent decline in state revenue, and, at the

time, it was impossible for the General Assembly to pass a constitutional, balanced budget without making reductions. However, since state revenues have increased, we were able to restore 60 percent of this reduction to the QBE formula in HB 80. The House also appropriated \$41 million for a midterm adjustment to the QBE formula, holding schools harmless for the 35,264, or 2 percent, decline in student enrollment due to the pandemic. Also, as a result of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the House's version of the amended budget reflects \$144.6 million in federal funds for the Department of Early Care and Learning for the Child Care and Development Block Grants.

Higher Education

The House's supplemental budget also includes important funding for higher education in our state. In the House's AFY 2021 budget, the University System of Georgia (USG) receives \$70.1 million that was not included in the FY 2021 budget; this accounts for the USG's 1.8 percent enrollment growth and a half percent increase in square footage for its campuses throughout the state. Just as we restored funding for K-12 education, we also restored \$8.1 million, or 60 percent, to the USG B-Unit programs, such as the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Medical College of Georgia Hospital/Clinic, among others. HB 80 also adds \$3.5 million in new funding for enrollment growth at the Technical College System of Georgia.

Health

As the state continues to grapple with COVID-19, the House also prioritized funding to support our public health agency, which has been pivotal in our state's handling of COVID-19, as well as other health-focused initiatives. To improve the state's current response plan, HB 80 includes \$18 million for the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) to replace and modernize its outdated epidemiologic surveillance system; with these funds, the DPH would also be able to implement further infra-

structure improvements that would help keep track of COVID-19 cases. Likewise, HB 80 provides \$285,997 for the DPH to hire three essential leaders to help navigate the agency's COVID-19 response: a chief medical officer, a deputy commissioner of public health, and a chief data officer. We also recognized more than \$1 billion from federal relief packages to support the DPH, including funding for epidemiology and laboratory capacity, COVID-19 vaccine preparedness and public health crisis response.

The House approved \$19.3 million to increase the Medicaid growth allowance for skilled nursing centers by five percent, totaling a rate increase of 3.5 percent. Skilled nursing centers have been some of the hardest hit by the pandemic, and this allowance would assist these centers that have experienced large revenue losses and increased staffing costs associated with COVID-19. As a result of the federal "Families First Coronavirus Response" Act, HB 80 captures \$372.9 million in savings for the AFY 2021 budget from a temporary 6.2 percent boost in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate. In HB 80, we also appropriated \$1.8 million in start-up costs for the Patients First Act and the state's 1115 Medicaid waiver, which will be effective July 1, 2021. Further, our version of the AFY 2021 budget provides \$15.4 million to support the increased utilization of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Human Services

Georgia's human services agencies also receive important appropriations in the House's amended budget. In the AFY 2021 budget, we recognized various federal investments that protect essential programs for the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). HB 80 acknowledges more than \$130 million in federal relief funds for human service agencies used for a variety of pandemic response-related



REPRESENTATIVE PARRISH IN SESSION

grants, and the bill also recognizes an additional \$35 million in savings from the enhanced FMAP rate, which will ensure funding for certain essential programs within the DHS and the DBHDD.

Furthermore, HB 80 utilizes \$1.7 million in FMAP savings for a new 10-bed behavioral health crisis center to specifically serve Georgians with a mental health diagnosis and/or an intellectual or developmental disability. We also allocated \$4.7 million to the DHS to anticipate an increase in Medicaid services resulting from the Patients First Act. Finally, HB 80 supports foster care in our state by partially restoring \$176,500 for the Georgia Multi-Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC) to provide educational services to more than 80 foster children, in addition to the more than 1,700 children already served through this program.

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

In HB 80, we also identified funding opportunities to help our criminal justice and public safety agencies conduct their work more efficiently. In our AFY 2021 budget, we allocated more than \$427,000 to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) for recruitment and retention of medical examiners. Georgia's medical examiners conduct nearly 40 percent more autopsies than the recommended amount due to staff shortages caused by low wages, and this funding would make these positions more competitive. HB 80 also includes an additional \$223,600 for the GBI to expand the state's gang database with critical gang-related information provided by local law enforcement.

Additionally, the amended budget accounts for \$100 million from the CARES Act for public safety agencies to help other state agencies as they continue to respond to the pandemic.

Economic Development & Transportation

The House also designated funding in the AFY 2021 budget to assist Georgia's economy as it continues to recover from the pandemic. The House reaffirmed its commitment to rural broadband expansion by allocating \$20 million for the OneGeorgia Authority to launch its new broadband infrastructure grant program, which would greatly assist rural areas in leveraging resources to address broadband needs that are specific to each rural community. This funding would also provide for a grant administrator to oversee and maintain this broadband program. Furthermore, the AFY 2021 budget recognizes the following CARES Act funding that specifically supports transportation efforts in our state: \$25.7 million in CARES Act payments to the Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority and \$410.8 million in CARES Act funding for the Georgia Department of Transportation's Airport Aid program.

Georgia Department of Labor

The House's AFY 2021 budget recognizes more than \$60 million in federal funding for the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) to address workforce issues resulting from the pandemic. This includes funding for the department's Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program, the Short-Term Compensation Program and the Dislocated Worker Program. Many

Georgians have experienced unemployment since the start of the pandemic, and the GDOL staff have certainly been overwhelmed by the continual high number of UI benefit claims submitted each week. With this federal funding, the GDOL will be able to better process and pay claims to Georgians.

These are just a few of the highlights of the House's amended budget. The AFY 2021 budget will now go through the legislative process in the Senate, where it will undergo further review. Next, the House Appropriations Committee and its subcommittees will begin to focus on the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. As my colleagues and I continue to work on the state budget bills, I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have regarding the state's budgeting process or any other legislation that interests you.

I remain dedicated to serving your interests as your state representative, and I hope that you will contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the 2020 legislative session or with any proposals or recommendations for future legislation.

You can also stay in touch by visiting our website at www.house.ga.gov to watch a live stream of the House in action, as well as archived committee meetings, and review legislation that we are considering.

Follow me on facebook for updates throughout the year.

Thank you for allowing me to be your representative.

*Sincerely,
Representative Butch Parrish*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lane Storage has payments past due. Contents include various miscellaneous items. Auction will be held February 17, 2021 at 9 am. For questions contact Rusty Lane at 478-455-1861

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3. Employees of The Blade and their families are not eligible to win.
4. Mail or bring your entry to The Blade, P.O. Box 938, Swainsboro, GA 30401; no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2021. Duplication of form is allowed.
5. In case of tie of both tiebreakers, the money will be split among the winners.
6. The name of the winner will appear in The Blade on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.
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7. We encourage you to spend your prize money at one or more of the contest sponsors.



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Also, we will celebrate each month with a new promotion that will give you a chance to win!



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