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VOLUME 162, NO. 14

Swainsboro, Georgia • April 7, 2021

ONE DOLLAR

Emanuel County Comprehensive Revaluation in the works

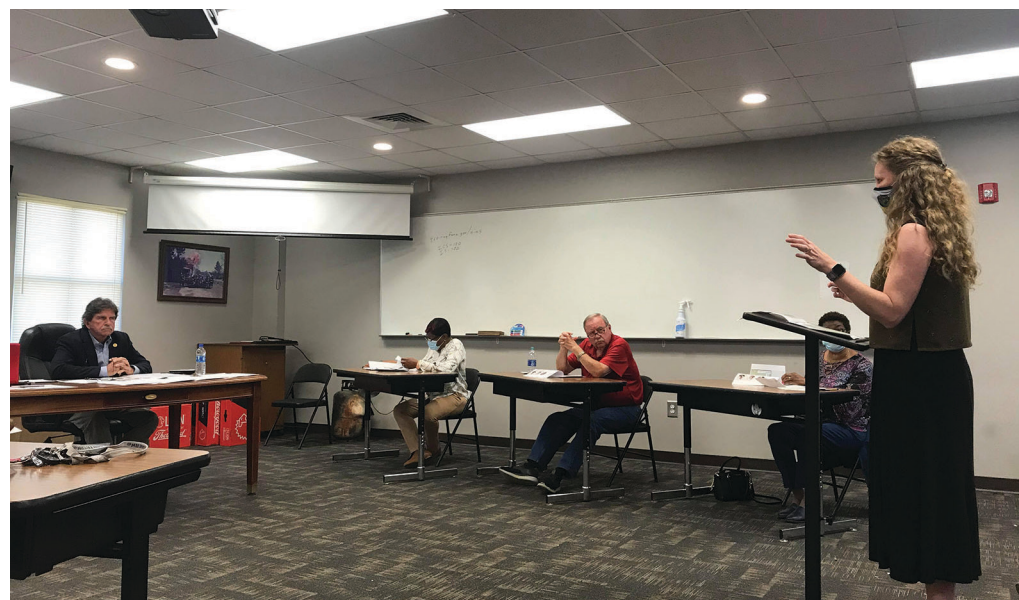
On the tentative date of May 28, 2021, the Emanuel County Board of Tax Assessors' Office will send out Notice of Assessments (NOA'S) to everyone who owns property in Emanuel County, Georgia, just as they have in past years. However, this year will be different, - significantly different.

For the past 3 years, the Emanuel County Board of Tax Assessors has been busy conducting a comprehensive county-wide revaluation of all property located in Emanuel County. This revaluation involves all classes of property, including Residential, Agricultural,

Commercial and Industrial Properties. This is a monumental task that can only be correctly accomplished by visiting and reappraising every single parcel of property and all of the components within Emanuel County. This includes making thousands of mathematical adjustments and various computations to the many schedules and tables that make mass appraisal possible. The last time the BOA attempted a complete revaluation was in 2008. That attempt was thwarted by the 2008 housing market crash when all BOA updated values were replaced by

the previous year's values and then frozen by a 3-year legislative moratorium.

After losing half of the BOA staff to other counties, and as property values started thawing out after the 3-year freeze, property values started fluctuating across the county in uneven patterns. These irregular patterns soon created a lack of uniformity in assessment values, which usually happens over a long period of time in large rural counties with limited staffing. After analyzing the situation, it became apparent that (Continued on page 2A)



HOWARD ADDRESSES COUNCIL

City ready to take next step on Community Action For Youth and the Barbara and Tobe Karrh Community Arts Center

by WHITLEY CLIFTON

Members of Swainsboro City Council and Mayor Charles Schwabe held for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, April 5, at 6 p.m. in the classroom of the Swainsboro Fire Department. All members of council were present, with one being virtually in attendance. The mayor welcomed all before Bishop Bertha Jones gave the night's invocation and the pledge of allegiance was recited by all. Minutes presented from council's last meeting were approved unanimously by council.

In reference to new business

Mary Howard addressed council with a proposal to establish a Georgia Hi-Lo trail in Swainsboro that would eventually connect and run with trails from Athens to Savannah. These trails will have fiber internet placed through the grounds of the trail. Howard requested \$1,625 for Swainsboro to be included, with the remaining balance to be collected through TSPLOSTS and grant funding as well as private funding. She gave an estimated completion date for all trails to be fully connected from Athens to Savannah by the year 2050. City and council tabled the request until the next city council meeting for further discussion and action to be taken.

- Council reviewed

one received bid for

the operations of water, wastewater, and public works for the city with Clear Water Solutions being the only bidder. Currently, Clear Water Solutions is currently managing the operations on a month-to-month contract. Council requested additional time to review the submitted bid contract and revisit the matter at the next council meeting.

City Administrator Al Lawson discussed a proposed target area for the upcoming 2021 CDBG for consideration. He informed council that contact has been made with Turnipseed Engineers, Inc. and that reviewing of complaints for target areas was currently taking place with the proposed areas including McMillan Drive, Gumlog Road, and Carver Street. A discussion was also had on the Robin Road project with updates provided on work performed so far. Discussion was also briefly held on issues with locating information removed from the office when JACOBS' contract ended. The information removed was said to be city property.

erty.

In reference to old business

Constituting as a public hearing, council approved the adoption of amendments made to the Occupation Taxes, Administration Fees, and Regulatory Fees ordinance.

In their business

Councilperson John E. Parker requested that further conversation be held in an upcoming meeting regarding issues discussed at a previous council meeting about warnings and citations involving the city's junk ordinance.

An update was given on the projects Community Action For Youth and the Barbara & Tobe Karrh Community Arts Center. It was advised that financial arrangements were in place for the projects and the city was ready to take the next step in each project.

Mayor Schwabe announced a citywide clean update has been set for Saturday, April 17, from 8 a.m. until noon. Signup is available for the area of choice and pizza will be served after cleanup.



EMC AND ADVANCE METAL COMPONENTS INC. EMPLOYEES

EMC partners with Advanced Metal in fight against COVID

Emanuel Medical Center partnered with Advanced Metal Components, Inc on March 25 for their first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. In doing so, 30 employees were able to be vaccinated to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Vaccination, along with strict compliance with basic prevention measures - wear a mask, stay six feet from others, avoid large gatherings, wash your hands frequently - will help stop the spread of COVID-19. By partnering with local businesses, EMC strives to keep the workforce healthy by preventing local employees from getting COVID-19, reduce absences due to illness, improve productivity, and improve morale.

ECI Middle School Girls Track team named Southeast Georgia Champions

Emanuel County Institute's Middle School track teams competed in the Southeast Middle School Region Track Meet 2021 last week. The 2-day event was hosted by Claxton Middle School and was held at Claxton High School. On Friday, April 7, Emanuel County Institute announced their girls track team returned home as Southeast Georgia Middle School League Girls Track Champions. A press release with further details of the recent meet will be next week's edition of *The Blade*. Stay tuned and way to go Bulldogs!



ECI TRACK AND FIELD COACH DORENE A. FARNUM HOLMES WITH CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

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Dr. Upchurch to participate in Missouri Teachers' Academy

Dr. Tommy Upchurch, the Coordinator of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences for East Georgia State College-Statesboro and Coordinator of the History Department at East Georgia State College, will participate in the Missouri Teachers' Academy in June. Hosted by the Missouri Humanities Council, this year's theme is "Contested Elections, Electoral Calamities, and Controversial Changes in Presidential Power." Dr. Upchurch will present a video lecture on the Presidential Election of 1876 and the Compromise of 1877



DR. UPCHURCH

and lead a question & answer session on the topic for Missouri educators thereafter.

Dr. Upchurch earned his Ph. D. in History from Mississippi State University in 2001. His most notable book publications include:

Legislating Racism: The Billion Dollar Congress and the Birth of Jim Crow (2004), Race Relations in the United States, 1960-1980 (2006), Historical Dictionary of the Gilded Age (2008), Christian Nation? The United States in Popular Perception and Historical Reality (2010), Abolition Movement (2011), and Genesis: The Explanation--What Really Happened "In the Beginning" (2016). He and EGSC Director of Nursing Dr. Linda Upchurch have been married for 24 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

Emanuel County Comprehensive...

(From front page) the BOA's office needed quick, seasoned professional appraisal help for a complete county-wide revaluation. Finding seasoned, professional appraisal help in an open rural market can be extremely difficult and costly to find. They must possess extensive appraisal knowledge and have qualified certifications that take years to accomplish and master. After contacting several comparable counties, the decision was made to go with a contractor that has a large variety of specially skilled professionals that could help with Emanuel County's particular needs to move the county forward in its quest for uniformity in assessment valuations. All counties in the State of Georgia, including Emanuel County, use various contractors in order to complete a yearly digest. Without them a timely and compliant digest would be impossible.

After considering several options, the decision was made to hire the appraisal contractor, GMASS (Georgia Mass Appraisal Solutions & Services). They are located just west of Thompson, Georgia. They have specialized tools and algorithms that are extremely helpful and affordable for most rural counties. Most of their management team are former Department of Revenue field agents who worked with Emanuel County in prior years. Together, they have created an equitable valuation of property in Emanuel County that is both fair and uniform, while meeting the required standards set by both state law and the Constitution of Georgia.

As was stated earlier, this year will be a significantly different year. The difference is that almost every taxpayer in Emanuel County will see a change in value designated on their tax notice and noted as (FMV/Assessed Value). Some properties will notice an increase of value and some properties will notice a decrease of value. Some property values may even change significantly. These established values are market based and market driven within Emanuel County. The assessed value found on the property tax notice is tied directly to the county's millage rate re-

sulting in a property tax bill. The good news for all of Emanuel County is that holding true to their conservative values, the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners is committed to rolling back the millage rate to keep taxes on existing property at or below current collections.

As a property owner, now would be a good time to figure out your property's Fair Market Value. Fair Market Value means 'the amount a knowledgeable buyer would pay for the property at an arms-length agreement'. You can easily start by searching for properties that are comparable to your property (Size, Age, Condition, Quality, and Location). The tax assessor's office has records of property sales and comparable properties for the property owner to view online through Emanuel County QPublic. There are also multiple helpful real estate listing sites found online such as Zillow, Trulia, Homesnap, and Redfin that have property for sale that may be used as comparables. You can also hire a local property or fee appraiser who can either advise you of your property's value or complete a full fee appraisal report on your property's fair market value. Either way it would be helpful to know what your asking price (highest price) might be and what your lowest price accepted (lowest price) might be.

If your property's tax value on your assessment notice falls outside the parameters of these two values, you should consider appealing to the Emanuel County Board of Tax Assessors. The grounds for an appeal are as follows: Value, Uniformity, Taxability, Exemptions Denied, Breach of Covenants, and Denial of a Covenant. You must select one of the pathway options for an appeal: (1) Board of Equalization (BOE), with an appeal path to the Supreme Court; (2) Arbitration (Value only), with an appeal path to the Supreme Court; (3) Hearing Officer (Must meet certain criteria); and (4) SC (Superior Court) With BOA consent.

There are various ways to appeal your properties tax assessment. They are as follows:

- 1- By Phone (Staff may direct you to the online form PT-311A).
 - 2- A physical visit to the office (May have to wait in long lines).
 - 3- Mail (U.S. Postal Service) Letter with appropriate information found on T/A website).
 - 4- Emanuel County QPublic Website (Go to the Website and click on the following buttons)
 - A. Forms
 - B. [Click Here](#) (Found under 'Many forms').
 - C. PT-311A (Appeal of Assessment Form).
 - D. Download and fill out the above form (PT-311A) and send to T/A office.
 - E. For more information search under (FAQ) frequently asked questions.
 - 5- Emanuel County's Official Website (Click the following buttons)
 - A. Taxes
 - B. Quick Links - "Emanuel County Board of Assessors"
 - C. Same steps as above (B through E)
 - 6- Online fillable forms with easy and safe electronically forwarding capabilities.
 - A. Go to Emanuel County QPublic Website or qpublic.net/ga/emanuel
 - B. Go to "Assessment Appeals Module".
 - C. Generate an appeal by clicking on the "Assessment Appeals Petition".
 - D. Choose grounds for your appeal (Value, Uniformity, Taxability, etc.).
 - E. Click the "Comparable Search Module" to find comparable properties to your own.
 - F. To continue the appeal, click on "Appeal Form" and enter the required information.
 - G. After you have completed your appeal, click the submit button to send the Assessment Appeal to the Board of Assessor's Office.
- Remember that you only have 45 days to appeal your tax notice from the mailing date on your tax notice to the U.S. Postal Services postmark date. (No third-party metered mail date will be accepted). If you have any questions concerning the appeals process, please notify the Emanuel County Tax Assessor's Office by email at assessors@emanuel-co-ga.gov or by phone @ 478-237-1222 on Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

CITY WIDE CLEANUP STASH THE TRASH!

SATURDAY APRIL 17th @ The Boneyard 8a.m. to 12p.m.

• **Team Competition with awards for the 'best stashers'**

• **City will provide trash bags, gloves, safety vests and all other supplies**

• **FREE WRAP-UP PIZZA LUNCH @ NOON**

• **Visit cityofswainsboro.org/stash-the-trash for more details**



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The Forest-Blade

The Forest-Blade is published weekly by Emanuel County Newspapers, Inc., 416 W. Moring Street, Swainsboro, GA. \$1.00 per copy, \$38 per year in-county and \$49 per year out-of-county. POSTMASTER: Send POD Form 3579 to Emanuel County Newspapers, Inc., P.O. Box 938, Swainsboro, GA 30401. Telephone 478.237.9971. Periodical Postage paid at Swainsboro, GA 30401. (USPS 204-840)



TRAVIS, NICKY, AND LAYTON

Hometown Public Servant: Travis Neal

This week's Hometown Public Servant is Travis Neal, Emanuel County Board of Assessors field appraiser and volunteer firefighter/first responder with Twin City Fire Department. A native of Emanuel County, Neal has dedicated 17 years to local communities for services rendered as a volunteer firefighter and has served the city of Twin City as assistant chief and treasurer at the fire department. His current role as an appraiser for the county tax office began one year ago. Prior to that, Neal worked in corrections and probations since graduating college in 2008.

"I began my career working as a correctional officer at Georgia State Prison, then I worked for Emanuel Probation Detention Center. In 2010, I began working at Middle Georgia Probation as a probation officer. I was promoted to Area Manager at Middle Georgia Probation's Swainsboro office in January 2012 and served in that capacity until leaving in 2020 to accept my current role as a tax appraiser," Neal stated.

Neal's passion for serving the local community began in 2003, just a few months after graduating high school.

"I was working at a convenience store in Twin City when a multiple vehicle accident occurred on Highway 80, in front of my workplace. I witnessed Twin City volunteer firefighters respond to the scene. After the firefighters cleared the scene, a couple of them came into the store and I asked them what it would take to join the fire department. I was told to fill out an application at city hall and someone would be in touch with me. I did exactly that and I guess you can say the rest is history," Neal recalled.

As an appraiser, Neal's most joyful part about his job is having the opportunity to meet many new people around the county. A plus to his current role when speaking to Neal was not being stuck behind a desk all day long. Instead, Neal spends most of his days conducting inspections of various types

of property, including new and existing homes, mobile homes, commercial properties, and land to ensure the accuracy of property records; determining construction type, quality, and condition of structures; measuring and photographing structures and following procedures to determine fair market value of properties; and communicating with property owners and answering questions they may have about the laws governing property valuation and the appraisal process.

His most enjoyable moments as a volunteer firefighter is having the opportunity to do his part in giving back to the community.

Education and training

For both professions, as an appraiser and firefighter, Neal has to meet yearly training hour requirements to keep his certifications current and he does just that. Neal obtained his bachelor's degree in justice studies from Georgia Southern University. In addition, he has fulfilled the requirement to ensure all firefighter, first responder, and correctional officer certifications in the State of Georgia are cur-

rent. Since taking his role as an appraiser, Neal has completed mass appraisal training courses with the Georgia Department of Revenue and is currently receiving fee appraisal training with the Georgia MLS Training Institute.

Neal addresses the community

"Being an appraiser is a tough job. It is not my goal to make tax bills increase. My job is to ensure that property valuations are fair and equal. Please be kind.

Being a volunteer firefighter is also tough but very rewarding. The number of volunteer firefighters has decreased over the years and there is a huge need for new fire department members. I would encourage anyone that has considered joining their local fire department to do so today!"

Neal and his wife, Nicky, are excitedly awaiting the birth of their child in October 2021. He is the step-father to 7-year-old Layton Lindsey.

When not appraising property for the county or responding to emergency calls, Neal's hobbies include fishing, hunting, and working on projects.

BOBCAT SPOT

What's going on at your hometown college!

Athletics Week in Review

Our EGSC Bobcats kicked off last week with baseball playing a double-header against South Georgia, winning game one 12-7 and game two 13-1. They took on South Georgia on their home turf Saturday, winning game one 10-6 and losing game two 4-3. They traveled to Georgia Highlands yesterday for a double-header, but scores were not available as of press time. They will take on Georgia Highlands in a double-header at home on Saturday beginning at noon. Good luck, Bobcats!

The Lady Bobcat Softball team traveled to Gordon College on Friday for a double-header, falling in game one 8-0 and game two 10-2. They took on South Georgia State yesterday at home, but scores were not available as of press time. They will face off against South Georgia on their home field Thursday for a double-header, then take on USC Salkehatchie on Friday. Good luck, Bobcats!

The Men's Basketball team wrapped up their regular season on March 30 against Georgia Highlands, losing 100-64. They played yesterday in the first round of the Men's Basketball GCAA Tournament at Georgia Highlands, but scores were not available as of press time.

The Lady Bobcat Basketball team took on Andrew College last Tuesday in the first round of GCAA Playoffs, winning 60-50. They moved on to the Conference Semi-Finals at South Georgia Tech on Friday, falling to Georgia Highlands 63-60. We're proud of our Bobcats! Congratulations on a great season!

Bobcat APPRECIATION Month

During the month of April, East Georgia State College (EGSC) is highlighting various people and groups at the college in recognition of their part in making this a great institution of higher learning. This week, EGSC expresses appreciation to its most valuable member of the campus community: OUR STUDENTS!

Whether attending class, watching a Bobcat sporting event or just hanging out on campus, students are always learning, engaging, and growing. Their academic pursuit and grit to succeed brings them a step closer to that hard-earned and well-deserved degree.

Our amazing students also make an indelible mark on the faculty and staff and inspire other students. Life-long friendships are formed and lives are transformed.

Thank you, community, for making our students feel welcome and at home while attending EGSC. We are all fortunate to be part of their educational journey!

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA ALL MONTH AS WE CELEBRATE!

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 22 - May 31 - Summer and Fall Open Registration
- April 5 - 9 - Spring Break - Augusta Students Only
- Bobcat Appreciation Month - Student Appreciation Week
- April 7 - Graduation Ceremony Photos - 9 a.m. - Swainsboro
- Shepard Blood Drive - 10 a.m.
- EGSC Student Appreciation Day - 11 a.m.
- Criminal Justice Club Meeting - 11:15 a.m.
- Softball Home Game - Double Header - 1 p.m.
- April 8 - DAR Meeting - 1:30 p.m.
- April 9 - Softball Home Game - Double Header - 1 p.m.
- April 10 - Baseball Home Game - Double Header - 12 p.m.
- Miss East Georgia State College Scholarship Pageant - 6 p.m.
- April 12 - 16 - Bobcat Appreciation Month - Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week
- April 12 - Middle Judicial CHINS Meeting - 10 a.m.
- AAMI Meeting - 1:30 p.m.
- April 13 - Graduation Ceremony Photos - 9 a.m. - Statesboro
- BCM Club Meeting - 10:45 a.m.

*Due to COVID-19 concerns, fans are allowed at home baseball and softball games, but must observe all rules.

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



Did you attend classes at EGSC? Join our Alumni Association! Contact Karen today at kguthrie@ega.edu

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Sunday

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 10:00 AM - Sunday School
 11:00 AM - Traditional Worship
 5:00 PM - Jr. & Sr. MYF
 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!

Jackie Carson Braddy, 61

Mr. Jackie Carson Braddy, 61, of Swainsboro, passed away Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at his residence following a brief illness. The family received friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 1, at Chapman Funeral Home. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Mr. Braddy was born January 23, 1960, in Swainsboro, to the late John Randolph Braddy and Mary Catherine Edker Braddy. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Adam Braddy; and brothers, Johnny Braddy and Randy Braddy.

Survivors include his daughter, Amy Bargeron of Swainsboro;



BRADDY

brothers, Jimmy (Dawn) Braddy of Oak Park and Jerry Braddy of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Trey Chapman, Richard Braddy, Zaylee Braddy, and Greysn Bargeron; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

Tiffany Crystal Bell, 40

Ms. Tiffany Crystal Bell, 40, of Swainsboro, passed away Friday, April 2, 2021, at Memorial Health in Savannah following an extended illness. A private memorial service was held April 6. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date for extended family and friends.

Ms. Bell was born January 2, 1981, in Swainsboro, to Barbara Jackson Young and the late Malion Bell. She is preceded in death by her father; and brother, Dexter Bell.

Survivors include her mother; sons, Elijah and Aiden Linton, both of Swainsboro; brother,



BELL

Stoney (Talina) Bell of Atlanta; sisters, Roxanne (Christopher) Samples and Melinda Bell of Swainsboro; and several nieces and nephews.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

Wiley Cox, 82

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Mr. Wiley Cox, age 82, of Adrian, on Monday, April 5, 2021. Funeral services will be Thursday, April 8, at 11 a.m. in the Peebles-Curry Memorial Chapel with Rev. Arthur Conley officiating. Interment will follow in the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery near Norristown. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, April 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. CDC social distancing guidelines will be observed and masks are encouraged for your safety and the health and well-being of others.

Pallbearers are Timmy Cox, Bennie Cox, Ray Cox, Jerry Cox, Ricky Hadden, and Travis Hadden, and Tony Cox. Honorary Pallbearers are Cody Cox, Ivey Cox, Jeffery Cox, Brandon Cox, and Frank Woods, Jr.

Mr. Cox was born August 15, 1938, in Lexsy, to the late Raymond and Eddie Lee Henry Cox. He was a livestock farmer for many years. Mr. Cox loved family gatherings and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wives, Carolyn Grimes Cox and Betty Conley Peacock Cox; and brother Colon



COX

Eugene Cox.

Survivors include his wife of 24 years, Triena Cox of Adrian; daughter, Teresa Cox of Swainsboro; sons, Jerry Cox (Jenny) of Swainsboro, Ray Cox (Monica) of Swainsboro, Bennie Lee Cox (Kimberly) of Dublin, Timmy Cox (Kathi) of Swainsboro, and Tony Cox of Swainsboro; stepsons, Ricky Hadden (Lynda) of Adrian and Travis Hadden (Lisa) of Adrian; step-daughters, Kay Kennedy (Hank) of Dublin, Misty Hadden of Adrian, Jackie Cox (Reggie) of Sylvester, and Chris Cribbs (Darren) of Brooklet; sisters, Joanne Walker of Swainsboro, Mary Peebles of Swainsboro, Bonnie Faye Hutcheson of Swainsboro, and Margie Lumpkin of Adrian; 27 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

Kristi Michelle Swann, 49

Ms. Kristi Michelle Swann, 49, of Swainsboro, passed away Friday, April 2, 2021, at Meadows Regional Medical Center following an extended illness. Funeral services were Monday, April 5, at 3 p.m. in the chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Larry Jennings officiating. Interment followed in the Union Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends from 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, April 5, at Chapman Funeral Home. In compliance with the guidelines set by the CDC, 6-foot rule was enforced during visitation and service.

Pallbearers were Tony Bailey, Larry Bailey, Joey Gibson, Daryl Hill, Michael Tapley, and Donald Hall.

Ms. Swann was born December 11, 1971, at DeKalb General Hospital in Atlanta, to James Kenneth Wyatt and Yvonne Harn Stringer. Ms. Swann graduated from Effingham County High School in 1989 with honors. She received her bachelor degree in nursing in 2008 from Armstrong Atlantic University. Ms. Swann served on several committees for Battered/Abused Women, and was currently serving as vice president of Confederate Roses Chapter and



SWANN

the Heritage Roses, a non-profit organization, dedicated to honoring and preserving our confederate history. She served in the official Ladies Auxiliary for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and as State of Georgia Public Relations Director for the OCR. Ms. Swann is preceded in death by her husband, John Swann; paternal grandparents, Marshall & Lucille Wyatt; and maternal grandparents, Elliott & Edna Harn.

Survivors include her parents; sons, Jon Marshall Sauls, Jr. (Tori Owens) of Rincon and Cody Alexander Scott of Swainsboro; brother, Brandon M. Stephens (Courtney) of Springfield; sisters, DeAnna Wyatt Fournier (Eric) of Springfield, Melissa A. Knowlton (Rob) of Springfield, and Buffy Hill (Daryl) of Swainsboro; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Tommie Worthen, 73

Mr. Tommie Worthen, age 73, departed this life on March 29, 2021, at Riverview Nursing Home in Savannah after an extended illness. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 3, at 1 p.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home. Interment followed in the Swainsboro City Cemetery. The family received friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 2, at Chapman Funeral Home. In compliance with the guidelines set by the CDC, 6-foot rule was enforced during visitation and service.

Pallbearers were his nephews.

Mr. Worthen was born November 17, 1947, in Emanuel County, to the late Jim and Laura Worthen of Swainsboro. He worked as a Truck Driver and a Mechanic for various companies. Tommie left Swainsboro at an early age and moved to Savannah. Mr. Worthen is preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Helen "Toby" Bell, Annie Lois Wright, Ella Worthen, and Alma "Dolly" Worthen Parker; and six brothers, Troy Worthen, Albert Worthen, Jimmy Dell Worthen, Leroy Worthen, William "Nankie" Worthen, and George Worthen.

Mr. Worthen leaves a legacy of loving memories with his children's mother, Jamie Marciano of Savannah; two daughters, Natasha Marciano Whitfield (Kenneth) and Stephanie Worthen Jackson (Michael), both of Savannah; two sons, Thomas Worthen and Shawn Worthen (Christina), both of Savannah; seven granddaugh-



WORTHEN

ters, Julica Wilkerson (Taris), Camilla Jackson, Sha'Kayla Worthen, Sha'Keyra Worthen, Zamiah Worthen, LeAnne Worthen, and Ciara Worthen, all of Savannah; three grandsons, Damien Wickerson (Monica), Lorenzo Worthen, and Za'Kee Whitfield, all of Savannah; three great-granddaughters, Ta'Liyah Johnson, Venus Wickerson, both of Savannah, and Raine Wickerson of Bainbridge; one great-grandson, Jamier Hendrix of Savannah; one step-granddaughter; four step-grandsons; three brothers, Marvin Worthen, Terry Worthen, and Dannie "Debo" Worthen, all of Swainsboro; two half-brothers, Jimmy Seabough (Ethel Lou) and Dennis Mason (Frieda), both of Swainsboro; one step-brother, Paul Weaver of Swainsboro; three sister-in-laws, Juanita Worthen, Ella W. Worthen, and Jacqueline L. Worthen, all of Swainsboro; one half-sister, Charlene Freeman of Atlanta; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends from Swainsboro and Savannah.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Phyllis McNeely, 66

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Ms. Phyllis McNeely, age 66, of Claxton, on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at Camellia Health and Rehab in Claxton. Graveside memorial services will be held at a later date in the fall.

Ms. McNeely was born in Swainsboro, to the late Freddie "Pete" Charles and Ada Sherrod McNeely. She was an avid reader and loved

sewing. Survivors include her sons, Chris Kline (Cara) of Ashburn, VA and Justin Kline (Tao Tang) of California; brother, Jimmy McNeely (Liz) of Martinez; sisters, Lisa Peebles (Randall) of Swainsboro, and Judy McCorkle (Gary) of Statesboro; numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

Mitchell Wright "Mitch" Henry, 53

Mitchell Wright 'Mitch' Henry, 53, of Metter/Twin City, entered into eternal peace on April 2, 2021. A memorial service will be held at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church on Sunday, April 11, at 3 p.m.

Mitch's smile will forever be with us and our precious memories. Praise God no one can take them away from us. Mitch loved history, old things, antiques, and race cars. He loved his family and was dearly loved by them.

Survivors are his son,

Mason Benjamin Henry; daughter, Leah Cora Henry Cruz (Julio); grandson, Abram Cruz; mother, Sandra S. Mosley (Royce); sisters, Mona McCook (Gene) and Karen Thomas (DeWayne); nephews, Wesley Beasley and Chasen McCook; nieces, Lori Kate Thomas and Gena McCook; one great-niece and two great-nephews; a special sister-in-law, Megan Johnson (Jeremy); and nephew, Collin.

The family is in charge of arrangements.

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church youth fundraiser set for tomorrow

The youth at Mount Olivet Baptist Church of Garfield will host a bake sale and lemonade stand to raise money for World Vision's 30-Hour Famine and Weekend Blessings. The fundraising event is set for tomorrow, April 8, from 9 a.m. until, and will be held in front of South Auction and Realty, located at 338 E. Main Street in Swainsboro. Leslie Frederick, youth leader for the church, asks everyone to please come out and support the youth as they work to help in the fight against childhood hunger.

Let's Go Fishing

by BISHOP BERTHA JONES

Fishing. What's fishing to you? Today I went fishing. I really didn't want to go but I went anyway. Once I got to the water, I just enjoyed looking at the waves and feeling the breeze. I began to reflect on Jesus telling his followers that he would make them fishers of men. So, Jesus followers go fishing. When have you been fishing? Or rather, have you caught anything lately?

To go fishing, you must prepare a tackle box which is equipped for fishing. So, it is to fish for men. You must put on the whole armor of God. You must be equipped with the word of God. Your life must reflect Jesus. For Jesus said, "If I

be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me". Now that is what fishing is about, drawing people to Christ. Every day and everywhere you go, you should be fishing.

Your life should be equipped to draw people to Christ.

It's not for you to judge the kind of fish. It doesn't matter if they are large or small. Does not matter if they're rich or poor. Old or young, male or female. When we live the life, Jesus will do the drawing. So, remember every day, when you have accepted Christ, you are fishing. So, continue to equip yourself and live your life to reflect Christ. Keep the bait fresh, which is your relationship with Jesus. "Go Fishing."

News From Under the Gold Dome

by REPRESENTATIVE BUTCH PARRISH, STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 158

We returned to Capitol Hill on Monday, March 29 for the final two days of the 2021 legislative session. The last day of session, Legislative Day 40, is commonly referred to as "Sine Die," which is a Latin term meaning "without assigning a day for further meeting." On Sine Die, we worked until shortly after midnight to ensure that significant legislation had every chance to be considered this year.

Before adjourning Sine Die, the House fulfilled its only constitutional obligation by adopting the conference committee report on House Bill 81, the state's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) budget. This budget for the next fiscal year begins July 1, 2021, and is set by a revenue estimate \$27.2 billion, which is an increase of \$1.34 billion, or 5.2 percent, over the original Fiscal Year 2021 budget that was passed last June. The state's fiscal position has exceeded expectations since last year, and as a result, we were able to allocate approximately 90 percent of the new revenue for the FY 2022 budget to Georgia's education and health and human services agencies. The upcoming fiscal year budget also restores 60 percent of the reductions made to K-12 education, as well as preserves and increases funding for our other top priorities, such as expanded mental health care and crisis intervention services, rate increases for health and human service providers, access to health care and salary increases for critical state workforce positions. The Governor will now review the budget bill before signing it into law.

The House also voted to give final approval to several other important bills this week, including House Bill 146, which would extend paid parental leave to many of our valuable state employees. House Bill 479 that will repeal Georgia's antiquated citizen's arrest law, also received final passage on Sine Die. In addition to repealing citizen's arrest, HB 479 would clarify certain instances in which law enforcement officers may make arrests outside of their jurisdiction, as well as authorize retail stores, food service establishments, and certain licensed private security professionals to detain someone if they reasonably believe an individual is committing a crime.

We also gave final passage to Senate Bill 195 to increase the responsibilities of the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission and allow licensed low THC oil producers to partner with universities and colleges, such as Georgia's historically black colleges and universities, for joint medical research.



TALKING WITH FORMER FRIEND, REPRESENTATIVE AND NOW DOT BOARD MEMBER, GREG MORRIS

We also gave final passage to Senate Bill 195 to increase the responsibilities of the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission and allow licensed low THC oil producers to partner with universities and colleges, such as Georgia's historically black colleges and universities, for joint medical research.

House Bill 154 also received final approval and would reform several of Georgia's adoption and foster care laws, including lowering the age at which a person is allowed to petition for adoption from 25 to 21 years old.

Senate Bill 156 will create the office of the chief labor officer within the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) to provide timely reports and responses to financial audits of the department, as well as assist with inquiries from members of the Georgia legislature. The position would be repealed on December 31, 2022. This bill will also require the GDOL commissioner to submit weekly reports to House and Senate leadership regarding unemployment claims.

Now that the 2021 legislative session has come to an end, the Governor will begin reviewing all legislation that received final passage in the House and Senate. The

governor can sign or veto legislation over the next 40 days, and any legislation that has not been signed or vetoed will automatically become law. With this session behind us, I will be spending more time in our district, where I look forward to continuing to serve you and your family. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding bills that passed this session or suggestions for future legislation.

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 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.

seeds of Hope

We are reminded throughout God's Word that He has given us the gift of choice and its consequences. Nowhere are we told that we cannot choose our destinies. But we are told that our choices determine our destinies.

Even a casual reading of the New Testament tells us that there were those who followed Jesus because they wanted to get something from Him for selfish reasons. We read that when things looked horrible at His trial those who had been with Him for years fled for their lives. In His days of glamour and glory they were close by His side. There were others who wanted to be with Him but they refused to make any sacrifices and went their own way.

A graduate of a Midwestern university was just an average student. He played sports but never made any of the varsity teams. He was never elected to any office and did not make it far up the corporate ladder. When war broke out he was among the first to volunteer. After completing basic training he was sent to a war zone in France.

One day in combat he was serving alongside a soldier in the French army. His comrade was severely wounded and with no thought of himself, he made a decision to get him help. Unfortunately, he did not succeed and was killed on his way to find a medic.

The French Government learned of his act of bravery and awarded him The Croix de Guerre - Cross of War. And his alma mater posted a plaque in his honor that read, "He played with the scrubs for four years - but never quit."

The psalmist said, "We will not turn away from You."

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Happy Spring from "Lil Poo" to you!

Charleigh Rae Vickers "Lil Poo" is 19 months old. Her parents are Rachael Aldridge and Dale Vickers. Maternal grandparents are Hank Aldridge and Sandy Aldridge. Paternal grandparents are Joy Gaston and Terry Vickers.

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Chamber Spotlight: The Forest-Blade

The Forest-Blade dates back to 1861 and was founded by Alfred Herrington, W.W. Larsen, and Seaborn Bell. The modern-day newspaper has eight employees and gets its name from the consolidation of The Pine Forest and The Wiregrass Blade in 1903.

In the early spring of 1903, Alfred Herrington, editor of The Pine Forest, sold his interest in the newspaper to W.W. Larsen and Seaborn Bell. Mr. Larsen was named editor, and Mr. Bell was listed as business manager. A second newspaper was in existence in Swainsboro at the time. The Wiregrass Blade, established in 1898, was edited by George H. Bell. The Forest and The Blade continued to compete until May 11, when it was announced that Larsen and Seaborn Bell of The Forest had purchased The Blade. In doing so, they stated they would continue to publish both newspapers. This practice was continued with Ernest Camp, who had been an employee of Bell and Larsen, serving as editor of The Blade. On September 25, 1903, the purchase of the two newspapers was announced by W.E. Boatright, who had served as superintendent of the printing departments of the newspapers, and by S.J. Tyson. In the following week's issue, Mr. Larsen confirmed the sale. The lives of The Blade and The Forest, as the newspapers were affection-



THE BLADE STAFF

ately called, were short-lived under the guidance of Mr. Tyson and Mr. Boatright. On October 29 of that year, they combined the newspapers into one, naming it The Forest-Blade, and it continues to serve the great community of Emanuel County to this day.

The Forest-Blade is a community newspaper providing news, sports, events, social announcements, obituaries, classifieds, features, and updates on education, crime, and government, serving Emanuel County since 1861. Additionally, we provide special editions throughout the year and serve as the legal organ of Emanuel County. Our values are Honesty, Integrity, and Community with our

goal being to serve our community by providing news and highlighting the people, places, businesses, and events that make Emanuel County great.

The Forest-Blade is a big supporter of our civic clubs, athletic programs, and schools. We recently began the process of setting up scholarships for outstanding seniors in our school system. The Blade also supports East Georgia State College and Southeastern Technical College through donations. An interesting fact about The Forest Blade is that the staff is all-female, with the exception of a part-time carrier and a couple of feature writers. The Forest-Blade is a Chamber member because we support

working with our community for the betterment of Emanuel County. A growing and prosperous business community not only provides more opportunities for all of us, but it ensures that we are passing on a valuable legacy to the generations that come after us.

The Forest-Blade is located at 416 W. Moring Street in Swainsboro. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Contact via phone by calling 478-237-9971. Visit their website, emanuelcountylive.com, and follow them on social media by Facebook (facebook.com/emanuelcountylive) and Instagram (@emanuelcountylive). You can also search The Forest-Blade on YouTube.

April is National Donate Life Month!

Today, more than 108,000 men, women and children still await the opportunity for renewed life through organ donation while hundreds of thousands more could benefit from the gift of tissue donation. By working with dedicated healthcare professionals like you, we can and will make a difference. Together, we can save more lives!

These days, Kathryn Smith might start her morning seeing patients, children with liver disease, as a pediatric transplant hepatologist at the University of California, San Francisco. That's a far cry from her life just over 21 years ago, when Kathryn was on the other side of the stethoscope as a patient herself. Kathryn's journey started when she became suddenly and violently ill from autoimmune hepatitis and her entire body, not just her liver, began to shut down. Doctors realized that Kathryn would need a new liver, kidney, pancreas, small intestine and stomach. In August 1999, she received all five lifesaving organs from a selfless donor. Kathryn received more than the gift of life that day, she also found her life's calling. She was inspired to realize her dream to become Dr. Kathryn Smith and care for children before and after their liver transplants.

"It all paid off. Here I am. Alive and living my dream."

This April, during the federally sanctioned National Donate Life Month, LifeLink of Georgia and (insert hospital name) honor the spirit of those individuals who make transplants possible—organ, eye, and tissue

donors. We celebrate the lives of those who received their second chance and finally, we call attention to the more than 107,000 individuals, over 4,000 of whom are local men, women and children, still waiting for their gifts of life across the United States.

"Each year we work together with community partners to inform Georgians about the importance of organ and tissue donation," says Dustin Diggs, FACHE, Executive Director, LifeLink of Georgia. "During Donate Life Month and every month, we share vital information about organ and tissue donation throughout the state and encourage every Georgian to learn the facts and commit to saving lives."

Organ donation, with the primary exception of living kidney donation, takes place after death, and provides the gift of life to tens of thousands each year through heart, kidney, lung, liver, pancreas or intestine transplants. Without the generosity of organ donors those waiting will die. Register your decision to donate by visiting

www.DonateLifeGeorgia.org, when you get or renew your driver license or state identification card or when you obtain your hunting, fishing or trapping license through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

LifeLink of Georgia is a non-profit community service organization dedicated to the recovery of organs and tissues for transplantation. Visit www.LifeLink-Foundation.org to learn more.

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APRIL 6, 1961
MISS O'STEEN TO GRADUATE WITH HONORS

Mr. & Mrs. J. Leon Thompson's granddaughter Brenda, graduated with high honors from Winter Park High School in Florida. Brenda is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe O'Steen from Winter Park. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

ADRIAN SCHOOL ADOPTS NEW PHONIC METHOD OF READING

The "science" of phonics has been adopted by the first and second grades of Adrian Public Schools, according to an announcement by Principal Clyde Poole. Students were taught to read in an entirely different manner.

APRIL 7, 1971
AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE

Scores of people and automobiles took part in the "Free Calley" parade Friday afternoon. It was one of the longest parades ever held in the county. Those taking part expressed the hope that the parade would help reverse the conviction of Lt. William J. Calley, charged with the murder of Vietnamese men, women, and children in the My Lai incident. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

4-H'ERS VISIT

Members of Adrian Junior 4-H Club tour facilities at The Forest Blade plant. 4-H visitors included Darlene Chapman, Vera Jo Lumley, Karen Lumley, Denise Lumley, Diane Giles, Faye Garnto, Judy Wilkerson, and Vicki Wilkerson. Mrs. Julia Frazier, associate county home economist, accompanied the group. Mrs. Ruby Fagler demonstrated the page layout. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

APRIL 8, 1981
GETS CERTIFICATE

Dr. Willie Gunn, president of Emanuel County Junior College, presented certificate of achievement to Mrs. LaQuita McKinnon. Awarded by the College Scholarship Service of the College Board, the certificate was given in recognition of the young woman's inclusion in the association's 1981 Talent Roster "for distinguished academic performance in a two-year college." (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

BIG CATS

George Bennett of Swainsboro went fishing in a local pond and went home with two catfish. The two fish weighed 17 pounds and were caught with live bait. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

APRIL 3, 1991
MAPPING ROUTE

Donald Hall, Tim Martin, and Bill Schofill mapped the route for the annual Knotty Pine Mile Run, one of the events scheduled in conjunction with the annual Emanuel County Pine Tree Festival. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

They're designers

Students in the interior design class of Huddie Culbreth at ECI studied the use and creation of accessories. They created pillows, wreaths, and a variety of other items to "personalize" their living quarters at home. Participating were Willie Gordon, Sally Youmans, Rollie Oglesby, and Robbin Lacy. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

APRIL 3, 2001
LUCK GAMBRELL PARK

Mrs. Luck Gambrell, second from left, was honored by a park named after her during the ribbon cutting of the Early Settler Cemetery in Swainsboro. Among well-wishes attending the event were Mayor Ricky Stevens, and Swainsboro City Council members Bob Williams, Douglas Overstreet, Donald Jenkins, Johnny Ray Stafford, and Rita Faulkner. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

35 YEARS

Jim Warnock, postmaster of Swainsboro Post Office, presented Danny Greenway with a 35-year service pin. Greenway began his career with USPS on April 28, 1966. His positions included city carrier, distribution clerk, and registry clerk. "He is an asset to the Postal Service and should be commended", said Warnock. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

APRIL 8, 2011
HOTSET SELECTS SWAINSBORO

A German company selected Swainsboro as the site for its first North American plant operations. The Joint Development Authorities and Hotset officials reached an agreement that was entered into a memorandum of Understanding. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

DR. HOLSONBACK HONORED

Friday, March 18, Dr. Daniel Massa presented Dr. G.B. Holsonback with an award recognizing 50 years of continuous practice in the chiropractic field. Dr. Holsonback had been serving the people of Emanuel County for the past 48 years and served as past President and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Georgia Chiropractic Association. (visit emanuelcountydrive.com to see contestants' photos)

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EGSC announces February 2021 'Students of the Month'

East Georgia State College recently announced the launch of a Student of the Month Program. The program gives faculty and staff at EGSC the opportunity to nominate students based on one or more of the following criteria: commitment to academic growth, engagement in the college community, and contribution to an inclusive and supportive environment. Three students will be selected to represent EGSC's campuses and online degree programs per month. Each student selected will receive a certificate signed by the EGSC President and goodie bag. Additionally, video interviews will be on EGSC's social media platforms.

For the month of February 2021 from the Swainsboro Campus, Dianna Hernandez was named Student of the Month. Madyson Purdy was selected from the Statesboro Campus and Aubrey Adams was chosen from the Augusta Campus.

Diana Hernandez attends EGSC's Swainsboro campus and is from Tattnall County. She chose to



HERNANDEZ



PURDY

attend the college because she was accepted into the Correll Scholars Program. Hernandez is also a member of the Beekeeping Club at EGSC. She plans to transfer to Georgia Southern University to major in education. Her dream is to become an educator and teach in Tattnall County.

Madyson Purdy, the Statesboro campus stu-

dent of the month, is from Richmond Hill, Georgia. She chose to attend EGSC because of the small class sizes. She plans to transfer to Sam Houston College to study animal science.

The EGSC Student of the Month Program personalizes the student experience and cultivates a positive school culture where students feel valued. The awards present an opportunity for the college community to demonstrate EGSC values through an investment in the success of students with diverse backgrounds, strengths, and interests. The EGSC Student of the Month Award recognizes students who represent excellence within the EGSC community. Selection of students is based on commitment to academic growth, engagement in the college community, and contribution to an inclusive and supportive academic environment. Up to three awards are selected each month; the goal is to represent the range of students enrolled across the college's campuses and online programs. Potential awardees may be submitted by faculty and staff.



JARVIS AND GRAHAM

Miss Jarvis to wed Mr. Graham April 24

Mr. and Mrs. William Wiley Tyson III of Metter and Mr. and Mrs. James F. Jarvis Jr. of Swainsboro announce the engagement of their daughter, Jaqueline Faith "Jackie" Jarvis of Atlanta to James Kaden Graham of Atlanta, son of Dr. and Mrs. James Graham of Jacksonville, FL.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Jones of Metter, Eloise Jarvis of Lakeland, Florida, and the late James F. Jarvis Sr. A 2015 honor graduate

of Metter High School, she is a 2018 graduate of Georgia Southern University with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with a major in exercise science. She is presently enrolled in the postgraduate Pre-Pharmacy program at Mercer University in Atlanta. She is employed as a pharmacy technician with Concord Pharmacy.

The future groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Graham of Screven. A 2013 graduate of Appling

County High School, he received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Georgia Southern University. He is employed with Quotum Technologies in Alpharetta.

A private family ceremony and meal will be held on April 24, 2021 at The Edenfield House Inn in Swainsboro. A reception will be held at a later date for family and friends, once the couple feels that the danger associated with COVID has passed.

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| | Bimal Shah, M.D. (800) 722-1272 | 125-C Victory Drive | 1st & 3rd Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m. |
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| PSYCHOLOGIST | John C. Whitley (706) 228-5006 | Senior Center | 1st Monday of Every Month |
| RETINA | Robert Lalane, M.D. (800) 487-2248 | 125-A Victory Drive | 3rd Monday of Every Month |
| WOUND | Anthony Davis, M.D. Nick Luecke, NP-C (478) 289-1126 | Emanuel Wound Care Center 117 Kite Road - 2nd Floor | Monday, Thursday & Friday |

DAR to meet tomorrow afternoon

The Governor David Emanuel Adam Brinson Chapter of the DAR will meet Thursday, April 8 at 3 p.m. at the Sudie Fulford Center at East Georgia State College.

COVID cancels plans for annual Claxton Family Reunion

Due to Covid-19, the annual Claxton Family Reunion planned for May 2, 2021 at Gumlog Baptist Church in Kite has been cancelled. For more information, contact Johnny Claxton, Claxton Reunion president, at 478-455-0465.

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Miss EGSC Pageant to be livestreamed April 10

The 2021 Miss East Georgia State College Scholarship Pageant will be held Saturday, April 10 at 6 p.m. in the Luck F. Gambrell Center Auditorium. For safety concerns and social distancing guidelines, only family members submitted to the attendees list will be allowed in the event. The community is invited to watch the pageant on the EGSC YouTube page. The pageant will be livestreamed using that platform.

Six contestants will compete for the crown in the categories of interview, on stage question, casual wear and evening gown. The theme for this year's scholarship pageant is "Secret Garden."

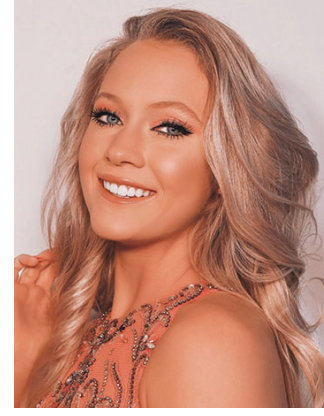
Meet the contestants:
Anita Cerpovicz is from Statesboro, Ga. She is the 20-year-old daughter of Paul Cerpovicz and Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz. Her platform is education.

Taylor Frye is the 19-year-old daughter of Jerry and Terri Frye of Kathleen, Ga. Her platform is advocating for those with disabilities.

Grace Gardener is from



CERPOVICZ



FRYE



GARDENER



HERNANDEZ



MICKENS



STOKES

Waynesboro, Ga. She is the 19-year-old daughter of Lee Gardner and Shanna Gardner. Grace's platform is "Build the Bridge."

Diana Hernandez is the 21-year-old daughter of Carlos Hernandez and Arcenia Bello. She is from Glennville, Ga. Diana's platform that she will be promoting is "Start at Home."

Raven Mickens is from

Lincolnton, Ga. She is the 18-year-old daughter of Rodney and Valerie Mickens. Her platform is "Raven's Community Care: Feed the Homeless."

Kaylee Stokes is from Effingham, Ga. She is the 19-year-old daughter of Linda and Travis Stokes. Kaylee will be promoting special education as her platform.

Miss EGSC 2019 Kath-

ryn Cox will share memories of her year during the event. Special entertainment will be provided by All Star Dance Academy.

The pageant is hosted by EGSC's Student Government Association. EGSC, SGA and the contestants ask that the community tune in to the livestream April 10 to show their support!



SHS HONOR GRADUATES

SHS names honor graduates

Swainsboro High School announced 49 honor graduates for the Class of 2021 during a socially distanced senior assembly Wednesday, March 31. In order to reach honor graduate status, students must achieve a cumulative, non-rounded GPA of 90 or higher. Names of the 49 honor graduates for

SHS are as follows:

Andrew Lamb earned the top spot of the class as Valedictorian and Abigayle Roberts was named Salutatorian. Other honor graduates are Marshall Amerson, Jada Armstrong, Kyle Arnold, Katia Bonilla, Michael Bravo, Zaid Brown, Layla Connor, Gavin Coyt, Daniel Cruz, JaM-

aury Dixon, Cormizhia Durden, Phoebe Durden, Caymen Eason, Paris Eskew, Luke Fagler, Alexis Gladin, Kristen Hall, Madison Hancock, Matthew Hancock, ZaBrien Harden, Joshua Holden, Juliana Hood, Chandler Hooks, Gage Hooks, Ray/Shona Hooks, Amanda Johnson, Lesli Johnson, Faith Jones,

Derrick Jones, Jaylee Justice, Tyler Kelly, Etta Key, Elijah Loyd, Shelby Lyles, KeAsia Marion, Caroline Mason, Malina McKinzie, Michael McLendon, Gracie Miller, Hailley Puckett, Adam Ruiz-Castano, Mackenzie Terry, Tate Thompson, Justin Washington, Wesley Wilkerson, Jessica Wingate, and Lake Woods.

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FULFORD CENTER LOGO

The Fulford Center announces 2021 Summer Camps

The Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center on the Swainsboro campus of East Georgia State College will hold a variety of camps this summer to serve the area's youth. Because of COVID-19 and safety precautions, camp enrollment will be limited this year. Campers will be required to wear face masks and have their temperature taken when they are dropped off at camp.

To kick off the 2021 summer camps, the Emanuel Arts Council will be hosting an art camp June 7-9, 2021. This camp will be from 9:00 a.m. until noon for rising 3 - 5 grades. Twenty camp scholarships are available through a grant from the Mill Creek Foundation on a first-come, first-served basis. The annual camp will focus on drawing, painting, and creativity! Campers will learn about tempera paint, intensity by way of color saturation, focus on details, and much more. This camp is full of guided learning experiences designed to maximize each child's creativity.

June 15-18, 2021

Discovery STEM Camp will be held from 8:30 a.m. until noon. This camp is open to rising 3 - 5 graders and participation is limited to 20 campers. The cost of the camp is \$125. During this four-day camp, students will take part in engineering design challenges and learn about related STEM careers. Real world connections will be made for each student, and they will also set their own STEM career goals! This camp is hosted by Magnolia Midlands Georgia Youth Science & Technology Centers (GYSTC).

June 28-30, 2021 Astronomy Camp will be hosted by the Fulford Center and Magnolia Midlands GYSTC. The camp is from 8:30 a.m. until noon each day and is available from rising 1 - 2 grades. The camp is \$30, and participation is limited to 20 campers. The camp will provide a unique experience as campers explore the solar system and universe! They will engage in fun, hands on activities as they explore what lies beyond!

In its ninth year at the Fulford Center, Camp

Invention will be held July 12-16 from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. for rising grades 3 - 6. Registration for this camp is conducted through local schools. Camp Invention is a nationally recognized unique summer opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering and math through exciting hands-on activities. At Camp Invention, campers will learn how to think like inventors, problem-solve, collaborate and create. Scholarships are provided through Nordson Corporation, and the maximum number of campers is 50.

All camps will be held at the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center except Camp Invention. To accommodate the 50 participants and to follow social distancing guidelines, Camp Invention will be held at the Jean Anderson Morgan Student Center on the campus of East Georgia State College.

To learn more or to register for any of these camps, contact the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center at 478-289-2464 or email hdsmith@ega.edu.

TCE announces honor roll students

According to Twin City Elementary School Principal Robbie Warnock, the following students have achieved honor roll status for the third nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year:

Star Honor Roll

First Grade: John Wright Beasley, Grey Blackburn, Kallen Braddock, Elah Griffin, Brooks Hall, Hunter Hatcher, Ansley Hill, Harper Hill, Nora Johnson, Izzy May, Reese McNeely, Jorge Ramos-Avalos, Cash Rigdon, Audrey Tucker, Ava Underwood, Ayden Wilkerson, Jayceon Williamson, and Leyla Yepe

Second Grade: Caleb Albor, Hudson Anderson, Chloe Best, Natalie Bunn, Luke

Donnan, Charla Fields, Anna Foreman, Anna Foreman, Anna Caroline Frye, Joshua Hampton, Mila Hodges, Ab Johnson, Anthony Johnson, David Johnson, VaNiya Kirkland, Tanner Mitchell,

Addison Rich, Brayden Telgen, Kinsley Womack, and Alli Woodward

Third Grade: Jenna Best, Hendley Blackburn, Joselyn Brantley, Braylie Brown,

Kane Caraway, Brayden Coleman, Bristol Dorsey, Hunter Fullmore, Chelsie Grimes, Addyson Harrison, Blaire Johnson, Dicey Lane,

Pearl Meadows, Landon Nasworthy, Maggie Rowland,

William R. Simmons, Clay Smith, Isabella Steptoe, Preston Sumner, and Maci Walden

Fourth Grade: Autumn Friedel, Camden Hall, Hane Henry, Kevin Juarez-Aragon,

Brodee Cate Johnson, Zackary Johnson, William Kennedy, Vaiden Kirkland, Samuel Lawrence,

Angel Morales, Jada N. Wilkerson, and Jadan T. Wilkerson

Fifth Grade: Alyssa Barnes, Jackson Cavanah, Patyence Daivs, Lawson Frye,

Hadleigh Henry, Amelia Meadows, Brylee Rountree, Cesar Salinas, Avery Snellgrove, Mary-Ella

Walden, Joni Wimberly, and Jonna Woodward

Honor Roll

First Grade: Gauge Akridge, Chancie Archer, Vincent Bridges, Reid Cannady,

Maison Carter, Gannon Copeland, Allan Dekle, Jase Ducker, Hadley Griner, Kendall Hodges,

Ethan Johnson, Gavin Johnson, Khloe' Lanier, Makayla Mitchell, Joslyn Peterkin, Maddie

Walden, and Jacey Wilkerson

Second Grade: Taylor Bell, Chloe Bridges, Derrian Brooks, Alyssa

Bullard, Joleigh Coxwell, Ja'Corius Cross, Kade Durden, Ethan Fulghum, Alaina Henry, Jace Henry, Hunter Gamiza, Cason Johnson, Jayce Juarez-Aragon, Ezekiel Kearney, Ezekiel Pague, Wyatt Parillo, Arieonah Seafus, and Mia Wilcher

Third Grade: Ayden Carlyle, Bentley Collins, Kayce Davis, Jonathan Hampton,

Amira Handsom, Katie Kasper, Eli Lane, Lorey McCoy, Jason Mendez, James Morris, Yerik

Perez, Lane Sherrod, Carter Steele, and Jethro Wilcher

Fourth Grade: Dylan Alford, Ansleigh Black, Tucker Bryant, Reaghlyn Calhoun,

Andrea Crews, Paiyzi Kellum, Jake Marsh, Jack Lee, Ava Matthews, Jonah Morton, Leah

Owen, Abigail Rachels, Colbie Radford, Mikayla Rushton, Kyson Trapnell, and Skyler Wilcher

Fifth Grade: Tylaun Baker, Mason Collins, Laura Gomez, Dawson Goodman,

Caidence Gordon, Joshua Gray, Mariah Griffis, Isaac Hodges, Brock Lamb, Charley Mitchell,

Robert Reynolds, Emily Scarboro, Aaron Sheppard, Anna Snellgrove, Lane VanHorn, and Hayden Wilson

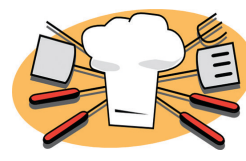
Cook of the Week

Featuring the recipes of...

Rhett Ross



This week's Cook of the Week is Rhett Ross! Ross has recently changed his lifestyle as a whole by changing his way of eating and becoming more active. He is a junior at Middle Georgia State University pursuing a degree in marketing and management. In his spare time, Ross puts his heart and focus into being a NuSkin distributor! Here are three recipes that he would like to share. Enjoy!



From the kitchen of Rhett

Sheet pan chicken sausage and veggies

- 1 lb. baby potatoes
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil, divided
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning, divided
- 1 tsp. kosher salt, divided
- Fresh-cracked black pepper
- 4 links chicken sausage
- 2 c. broccoli florets
- 1 Bell pepper, any color
- Fresh herbs, optional garnish

Chop baby potatoes, season with salt, pepper, olive oil, and Italian seasoning. Do the same with broccoli, bell peppers and sausage. Give the potatoes a head start by placing on sheet pan roasting. Then, add sausage and other veggies to the pan. Roast on high heat until veggies are tender and sausage is crisp!



From the kitchen of Rhett

Baked Parmesan zucchini fries

- 1 1/2 lbs. (680 g) zucchini, cut lengthwise into wedges (about 3 medium zucchini)
- 1/2 c. (50 g) freshly grated Parmesan
- 1 tsp. (5 ml) dried herbs - thyme, oregano, basil, rosemary, etc...
- 1/2 tsp. (2.5 ml) smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp. (2.5 ml) garlic powder
- Kosher salt, to taste
- black pepper, to taste (freshly ground if possible)
- 2 Tbsp. (30 ml) olive oil
- 3 Tbsp. (45 ml) chopped fresh parsley leaves

Preheat oven to 400° F. Line baking sheet with parchment or aluminum foil. Spray with non-stick cooking spray. In bowl, combine Parmesan, dried herbs, smoked paprika and garlic powder salt and pepper, to taste. Toss zucchini with olive oil and roll in parmesan/herb mixture to coat all sides. Place zucchini onto prepared baking sheet. Sprinkle with extra parmesan/herb mixture if needed. Bake until crisp, about 15 minutes. Then broil for 2-3 minutes, or until golden brown. Garnish with parsley. Serve warm.



From the kitchen of Rhett

Frozen yogurt bark with berries

- 1 1/2 c. plain full-fat Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp. maple syrup or honey
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/3-1/2 c. fresh strawberries, sliced
- 1/3-1/2 c. fresh blueberries
- 2-3 Tbsp. of unsweetened coconut flakes

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. In a medium bowl, stir together yogurt, maple syrup and vanilla until well combined. Spread yogurt mixture evenly, about a 1/4 of an inch thick, onto prepared baking sheet in rectangular shape. Scatter strawberries and blueberries on top. Sprinkle with coconut flakes. Place in freezer for about 3 hours or until yogurt is firm. Cut or break into 16-20 pieces and serve.

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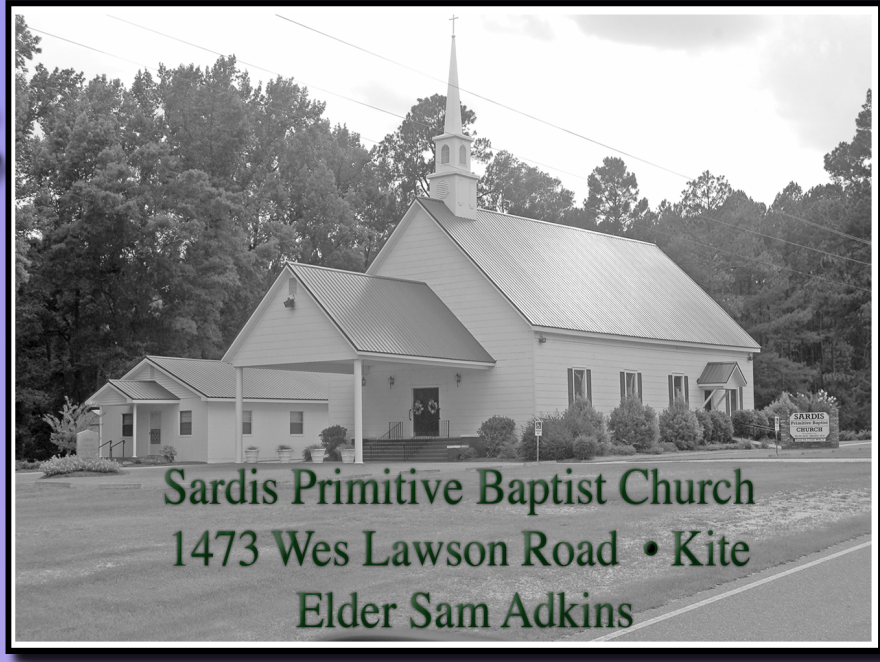
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 328 Jerome St., Swainsboro
 237-4082

New Beulah United Methodist Church
 New Belah Rd. near Twin City

New Hope Primitive Baptist Church
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New Hope World Outreach, Inc.
 P.O. Box 2009, 211 Lee St., Swainsboro
 237-0003 • Pastor Jeanette H. Hardin

Norristown Baptist Church
 731 Hwy. 221 South, Norristown
 Rev. Dr. Hal Wilson, Pastor

Nunez Baptist Church
 Hwy. 297, Nunez • 562-3249

Oak Chapel Baptist Church
 Blundale Church Rd., Swainsboro
 469-3288 • Rev. Ray Jenkins

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church
 629 Oak Grove Church Rd., Swainsboro
 Rev. Alfred Cason

Oak Park Church of God
 180 Hwy 86E • Lyons • 578-5901

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 Hwy 297, Nunez • 562-3943
 Rev. Allan Moss Sr.

Olney Primitive Baptist
 202 Thompson St., Oak Park
 Elder W.H. Durrence

Open Arms Outreach Ministry & Praise
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 Rev. George E. Coleman

Open Door Fellowship
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 268-2308 • Pastor Dolly

Pages of Life Christian Worship Center
 224 West Moring St., Swainsboro
 Pastor Marcellas R. Hannah Sr.

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 649 Pendleton Springs Road
 Vidalia, GA 30447
 912-578-5606 • Rev. J. Walter Jarrell Sr.

Pentecostal Lighthouse Church (Apostolic)
 Hwy. 1 North, Swainsboro • 237-0923
 Rev. Ronnie Young

Perfected Love Holiness Church
 1127 Hwy 80 E. • 237-4598
 Pastor Dean Martin II
<http://www.perfectedlove.com/>

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 Cross-Green • Swainsboro
 478-589-7658 • Rev. Michael Thomas

Poplar Springs United Methodist Church
 Adrian • 668-3559
 Pastor Mark Hardin

The Rock Worship Center
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 Rev. Ronie J. Collins

Rountree Chapel
 722 North Railroad Ave., Twin City
 763-3284 • Rev. W.E. Johnson

Rountree Island Missionary Baptist Church
 2859 Hwy. 56 N., Summertown
 589-7953 • Pastor Richard Lawrence Jr.

Powerhouse of Deliverance Assemblies, Inc.
 547 Lewis St., Swainsboro • 625-7028
 Apostle Antonio T. Pringle Sr.

Saint Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
 Saint Galilee Church Rd., Summertown
 Rev. Michael Thomas

Saint Philip Baptist Church
 231 South Racetrack St., Swainsboro
 237-9562 • Rev. James E. Love

Sardis Primitive Baptist
 1473 Wes Lawson Rd., Kite • 469-3084
 Elder Sam Adkins

The Seed of Life is Jesus Ministries
 120 South Green St., next to Kellam's
 Variety Store, Swainsboro
 Pastor Jessie Mae Scott

Shekanah Glory Worship Center
 859 Hwy. 1, Swainsboro • 237-7686
 Pastor Alice Stafford

Smith Grove Baptist Church
 50 Mixon Rd., Swainsboro • 237-9920
 Rev. Wilbert J. Kennedy Sr., Pastor

Southside Independent Baptist Church
 336 Lambs Bridge Rd., Swainsboro
 237-6057 • Pastor Chad Kennison

Spring Hill Independent Baptist Church
 901 Lambs Bridge Rd., Swainsboro
 237-5269 • Rev. Bert Flanders

Springfield Missionary Baptist Church
 Hwy. 86, Oak Park
 Pastor Willie Jackson Jr.

Stillmore Missionary Baptist Church
 Stillmore
 Rev. George E. Archer Jr., Pastor

Summertown Baptist Church
 Church St., Summertown

Swainsboro Church of Christ
 Brother Darnell Brown, Minister
 653 Turner Dr., Swainsboro
 941-960-4747

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
 311 McLendon Street • 237-2038
 Pastor Rev. Dr. Charles Wiggins Jr.

Twin City United Methodist Church
 212 S. College St., Twin City
 763-2527 • Rev. David Donnan

Union Grove United Methodist Church
 1168 Herndon Rd., Midville
 589-7251 • Pastor Randy Carnley

United Primitive Baptist Church
 242 W. Main St., Swainsboro
 Elder Paul Thomas • 229-424-6486

Williams Chapel Holiness Church
 415 Felix St., Swainsboro
 289-6060
 Pastor Apostle Clyde Fowler Sr.

Willow Springs Missionary Baptist
 1950 Hwy. 80 East, Swainsboro
 237-5004

Wings of Prayer Ministries
 509 5th Avenue, Twin City
 763-2410 • 912-618-3391
 Pastor James Davis

Let us remember Sunday is the day the Lord made for us to rest. Attend the church of your choice and let's praise God for all our many blessings.

[19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. **Matthew 28:19-20 KJV**

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From dumpster to Diva

Becca Blue Eyes, affectionately known as BeBe by those who love her most, lives a happy, country life that most shelter dogs desire for. However, her life wasn't as golden as it is now.

BeBe was a shelter intake, along with her six brothers and sisters who were dropped off at a dumpsite here in Emanuel County. Left alone to survive at the dumpsite they called home, B.B. was the only fortunate pup out of the litter with a strong enough will to survive despite all efforts of the shelter staff.

One day, while making a shelter donation drop off, Blaise Oliver and her grandmother, Dena Clifton, stopped by the pen BeBe occupied and fell head over heels for a blue eyed puppy that they would later call their own.

"Leta took all the puppies in at the shelter and

tried to save them all. Blaise fell in love when she saw BeBe, and I couldn't tell Blaise, BeBe, or Leta no when seeing BeBe's sweet face and hearing of her rescue from the dumpster. We saved her, but I really think BeBe saved me," Clifton stated.

At 8-weeks old, fitting in the palm of her new owner's hands, BeBe was officially adopted June 17, 2019 and was spayed on November 8, 2019. Both dates being the appropriate date for adoption and spayed services.

Today, BeBe and her adopted owners are enjoying life together at the fullest. Clifton and BeBe enjoy morning walks together to the family pond to check on their geese and ducks. In fact, BeBe gets a thrill out of keeping her bird friends on their feet by

sneaking up on them from time to time. When she's not checking in on the birds down at the pond, BeBe also enjoys accompanying Clifton when feeding up the family's chickens, goats, rabbits, and turkeys. Clifton says it's Bebe's most favorite time spent together. When she's not helping tend to the farm animals, BeBe's most favorite hobby includes laying on her pool-side bed sleeping the day away.

All in all, it's clear BeBe has a blessed live with her new owners, who encourages everyone to adopt rather than shop.

"It's not about me or Blaise but saving this precious soul who might not would have made it without the love from others who believed in her," Clifton said.



BeBe AND OLIVER COMING HOME FROM SHELTER



BABY BeBe



BeBe laying in CLIFTON'S LAP



BeBe OUTGROWS OLIVER'S LAP BUT NOT HER HEART



BeBe AND BLAISE PLAYING IN YARD



BeBe LAYS BESIDE THE POOL

Canoochee Clean-up Day a huge success



A group of concerned citizens in the Canoochee area had a clean-up day Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. until noon. Areas within two miles of Canoochee were cleaned up. Following the clean-up, everyone enjoyed free hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks at Smith's Canoochee Store. A Bouncy House was set up at the store for the young ones to enjoy.

According to Hank Aldridge, approximately 90 bags of trash was collected. "We had a good turnout for the clean-up. But, this makes me know I would never want to have to do community service," Aldridge laughingly said.

A great big THANK YOU to the following: Smith's Canoochee Store (Tim and Renee Smith); Sherrod Quality Deer Processing (Jim and Helen Sherrod); Canoochee Catfish (Terry and Joanna Bell); Scuffletown Hunting Club (Jess Anderson); Cool Breeze 192 Sales (Steve Clark); Kaluba Country Blinds (Hank Aldridge, Woody Smith, Arthur Jones); The Rountree Family (Mike and Lydia); Southeast Well Drilling (Blake Marsh, Chase Johnson); Durden Banking Company (G.W. and Wade Johnson); Friendship Farms (David Horton); Emanuel County Sheriff's Department; and Emanuel County Commissioners.



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Swainsboro Tigers sweep East Laurens

by TROUP BRINSON- The Swainsboro Tigers went undefeated last week, winning 3 games from East Laurens in their 2nd week of region play. The pitching was terrific and the hitting was timely in the 3 game sweep.

Swainsboro started the series against the Falcons on the road last Tuesday and the offense had an easy time of it against Falcon pitching. Swainsboro scored 4 runs in the top of the 1st inning capped off by a 2-run double by Derrick Jones. Lenox Lively got the start on the mound and dominated the overmatched Falcons. Lively pitched all 5 innings of the 12-1 victory and allowed only 1 hit. Lively also carried the offense with 3 hits and 5 RBI in the blowout win.

Swainsboro hosted the Falcons on Thursday and took a 1-0 lead into the 6th inning. The Tigers tacked on 3 more runs as East Laurens fell apart defensively. Swainsboro held on for a 4-2 victory



LOYD LEADING SWAINSBORO'S PITCHING STAFF

behind Elijah Loyd's 7 strong innings from the mound. Swainsboro only collected 4 hits on offense but found a way to get it done with runners on base.

On Friday the Tigers headed back to East Laurens where they completed the 3-game sweep as freshman Kason Palmer shut down the Falcons, allowing on 1 earned run over 7 innings. Swainsboro's offense led 4-0 af-

ter 2 innings and the Tigers would roll to an 8-2 victory. Derrick Jones led the offense with 2 hits as Swainsboro improved to 8-12 on the season and 3-3 in region play.

The Tigers will play a 3 game set with Jeff Davis (11-8) this week and try to build on their 3 game winning streak. Tuesday's and Friday's game will be at home and Thursday's game will be in Hazlehurst.

Bulldogs Sweep Gamecocks

by RON WEATHER-FORD

The ECI baseball team picked up 2 more region wins last week taking both games from Screven Co. outscoring the Sylvania team 14-1. With their wins against the Gamecocks, they improved their region record to 6-2, tying them with Claxton who are also 6-2. The Bulldogs and Tigers play a 2-game series next week.

ECI defeated Screven 3-0 in their first game on Tuesday, March 30. Joseph Stewart and Bryce Kearson combined for a 4 hit shutout on the mound.

The game remained scoreless until the Bulldogs broke through in the top of the third. With one out, the top of the order, Farnum, Kearson and Hughes all singled for a 1-0 lead. Kearson added one more on a steal of second by Hughes to make the score 2-0.

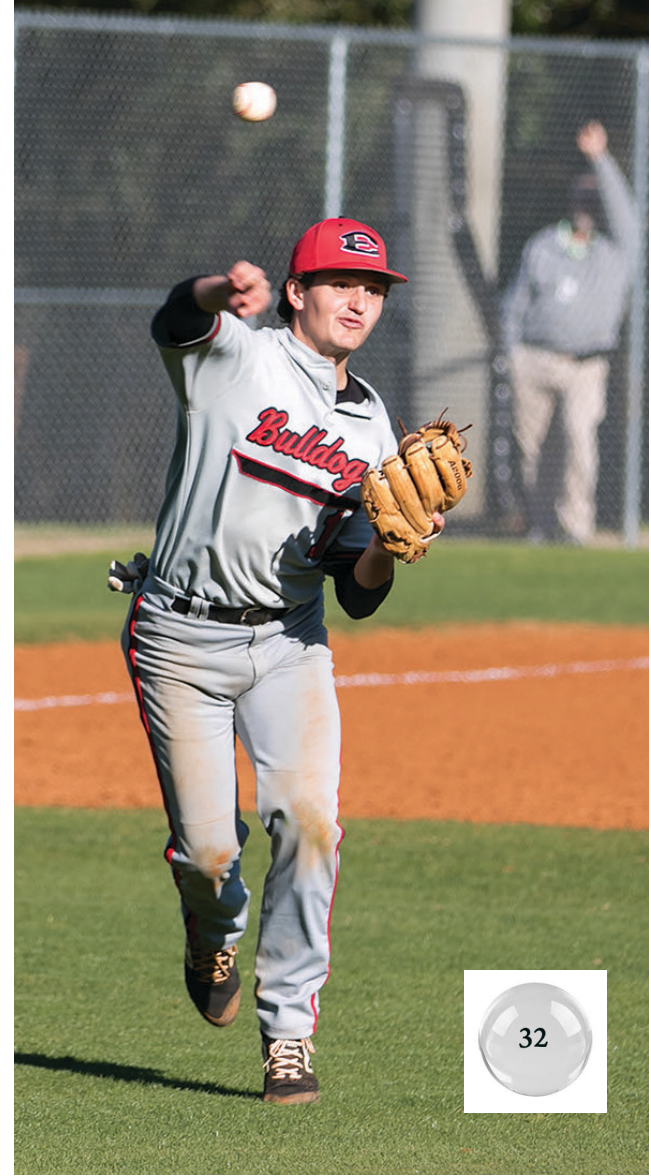
Both pitchers, Stewart for the Bulldogs and Hart for the Gamecocks kept batters off stride with just 2 runners reaching scoring position for the next three innings.

The Bulldogs added the final run of the game in the top of the seventh. Jack Walden doubled in Avery who was on after a walk to make the final score of the game 3-0.

Joseph Stewart started on the mound for ECI scattering just 3 hits in his 5 innings of work, Kearson closed out the final 2 innings allowing just one Gamecock to reach on a hit.

Hughes and Farnum led ECI at the plate with 2 hits each, with 4 other Bulldogs picking up a hit.

ECI closed out the baseball week on Thursday with a 11-1



WHITEHEAD GUNS ONE TO FIRST FOR AN OUT AGAINST GAMECOCKS

win over the Gamecocks.

The Bulldogs pounded out 15 hits against Screven while ECI's workhorse Hughes and the defense behind him held the visiting team to just 3 hits.

The Bulldogs scored 3 in the first, 2 in the second, and 4 in the third to take a 9-0 lead after 3 innings.

The Gamecocks' only run of the two-game series came in the top of the fourth.

The Bulldogs ended the game in the bottom of the sixth inning with the assistance of the Gamecocks.

With one out, Walden singled, and one batter later Henry doubled in McQuaig running for Walden for a 10-1 lead. With runners on first and second the Screven coach intentionally walked Whitehead to load the bases. With 2 outs the Gamecock hit

Rehberg on his third pitch scoring Henry to run rule Screven 11-1 in six.

Kearson was perfect at the plate going 4-4 with 2 doubles. Jack Walden was 2-3 with 2 doubles. Hughes, Robertson, and Henry ended the game with 2 hits each.

Hughes continued his dominance on the mound allowing just 3 hits, striking out 4 gamecocks.

The Bulldogs have 3 games on spring break. ECI has 2 important region games to begin the week. They need to keep pace with Claxton and Metter before they face those two over the next two weeks.

They hosted Portal Monday and went to Portal on Tuesday for back to back games against the Panthers. Wednesday they are hosting Southeast Bulloch in a non-region match-up.

Celebrate National Library Week

National Library Week spans April 4 through April 10, and Franklin Memorial Library has planned some fun activities for the community. Stop by the library to pick up a free commemorative button. If you have extra time, you can design your own button. Check out the library's Face book page for fun daily challenges.

TAB (Teenage Advisory Board) will be starting back up next week. The program provides young adults age 13-19 volunteer hours to guide the library towards books and programs that will interest them. The Junior TAB program is open to children who are heading into middle school in the fall. An informational meeting will take place Thursday, April 8, at 4 p.m. in the Smith Room.

ALA (American Library Association) is also sponsoring some fun next week. Tuesday, April 6, 2021, is National Library Workers Day (NLWD), a time to recognize library professionals for their expertise and leadership skills in transforming lives and communities through education and lifelong learning. To show appreciation for library workers and the work they do throughout the year, library users are invited to "Submit a Star" by pro-

viding a testimonial about a favorite library employee at ala-apa.org/nlwd.

Participate in the #MyLibraryIs promotion on social media - Share what you love about the services available at your library. Post to Instagram, Twitter, or on the I Love Libraries Facebook page, about an e-book, audiobook, virtual storytime or how your library has made a difference while you've been social distancing at home. Use the hashtag #MyLibraryIs. ALA will gather all the entries, and one randomly selected winner will receive a \$100 Visa gift card. The promotion starts Sunday, April 4 at noon CT and ends on Saturday, April 10 at noon CT. Don't forget to tag your library!

At the end of the week, head over to Harmon Park for a free Guitar Recital. Music will start at 11a.m. on Saturday, April 10, and there will be free popcorn while supplies last. The library's Guitar Ensemble will perform some of the songs they have been working on, made possible by the Mill Creek Foundation. Please call or visit the library for more information on National Library Week.

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ECI Middle School Baseball Ready for Region Tournament

by RON WEATHERFORD

The ECI c-team baseball squad has secured the number one seed on their side of the region with a 12-0 regular season record.

The Bulldogs will host the first round of the region tournament on Tuesday, April 13. They will also host the second round on April 15 if they are successful in the first round. The Championship game is scheduled for April 17.

The team has been a scoring machine this year plating 143 runs for an average of 11.9 runs per game. The offense has put double digits on the scoreboard in nine of their twelve games this season.

The defense and pitching staff have been just as efficient allowing just 4 runs per game out scoring their opponents by almost 100 runs.

With the lopsided scores, just about every member of the team has toed the rubber for the Bulldogs. Spending time of the mound this season for the Bulldogs were Tyler Foreman, Kanyon Thompson, James Parker, Oisin Matthews, Ab Marsh, Jake Grimm, Gabe Lee, Cayden Jones, Tuff Boddiford, Max McBride and Jackson Kennedy.

The following are comments from head coach John Hodges.

"I am extremely proud and grateful for each member of our team. They have put in many hours of hard work and great effort to get to this point in the season. We have been blessed with great support from our parents, school administration and athletic department. There have been many people who have stepped in and helped us by feeding the



SWAINSBORO TOURNAMENT PHOTO EARLIER IN YEAR AFTER WINNING BOTH GAMES

guys, offering encouragement and just showing up to support us."

"Our Journey to get to this point began 3 years ago with our core group of 8th graders. In that season we were able to build a foundation of fundamentals that have helped us to improve."

"We have tried to build to this program in a way that is as balanced as it can be grade-wise. Each group brings different strengths and abilities and we have relied on our older players to help the younger one understand how we practice and the expectations we have for them."

"The main reason this season has been so special is because the older players remember where they were a few years ago and appreciate how much we have improved. The hunger to improve and finish the season the way we want to is what drives every practice and game."

"There is still room for improvement as we pursue that complete game. Hopefully we will get close to that on Tuesday and it will propel us forward into the rest of the playoffs."

This 2021 middle school team is led by head coach John Hodges and assistant coach David Hodges.

Emanuel County 4-H'ers compete in county project achievement competition

Seventeen fourth, fifth, and sixth grade Emanuel County 4-H'ers completed research, developed presentations, and delivered demonstrations as part of the 2021 Cloverleaf Project Achievement Competition. Twelve 4-H'ers competed in-person at East Georgia State College and five students submitted videos of their projects.

The Project Achievement competition offers something for just about everyone. From Bicycle to Wildlife, there are 59 different categories. Fifty-three projects include oral presentations. Six projects have special presentations including three performing arts categories, a sewing presentation, and foods labs presenting a no-cook snack. 4-H'ers pick a project area of interest, research the topic, prepare a demonstration, and then share

their presentation with others. All students were judged based on a rubric and all students received blue ribbons based on their scores.

Greysn Bargeron-Time & Money Management

Amelia Grace Clements- Performing Arts
Mason Collins- Photography & Videography

Lawson Frye- Computer Information Technology

Braylen Lanier- Sports
Weston Lee- Computer Information Technology

Abby Randall Lewis-Food for Health & Sport

Colten Lewis- Sports
Bry'yielahn McCleendon- General Recreation

Capp McCullough-Agricultural Awareness

Amelia Meadows-Sheep & Meat Goats

Abigail Mulrooney-Outdoor Recreation
Rose Polke- Safety
Emily Scarborough- Dog



COLTEN LEWIS, BRAYLEN LANIER, ABBY RANDALL LEWIS, ROSE POLKE, MASON COLLINS, DAYNA FOSTER, WESTON LEE, ABIGAIL MULROONEY, AMELIA MEADOWS, KANDIS SMITH, BRY'YIELAHN MCCLENDON, AND SAM WILLIAMS. COMPETING VIRTUALLY AND NOT PICTURED: GREYSN BARGERON, AMELIA GRACE CLEMENTS, LAWSON FRYE, CAPP MCCULLOUGH AND EMILY SCARBORO

Care & Training
Kandis Smith- History
Dayna Tillman- Wildlife
Sam Williams- Poultry Science
A special thank you to

East Georgia State College and the Emanuel County Volunteer Leaders Association for their support of hosting the 4-H Cloverleaf Project Achievement competi-

tion. 4-H provides fun, exciting, and educational events year-round for all youth in grades 4-12. For more information about the

Emanuel County 4-H Club and how you can get involved, contact Jakyn Tyson at the Emanuel County Extension Office at (478) 237-1226.

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Candle Fires – Are You at Risk?

by Bill Cahill, SFD PIO
Shortly after 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, the Swainsboro Fire Department responded to a local residence for a report of a fire inside the home. Firefighters from Engine 1, 3 and 4 arrived to find a fire in one room of the dwelling. The fire was quickly extinguished, damage was kept to a minimum and the family was not displaced from the home. The cause of the fire was an unattended burning candle. Candles are a great way to liven up a room by adding a fresh scent or warm light, however they can also create devastation if not used properly. Understanding the dangers of using candles and knowing the safest ways to use them can help prevent a similar tragedy in your home.

A Closer Look at Candle Fires: Overall, candle fires are not as common or as destructive as those caused by kitchen incidents or heaters, but they still account for 2 percent of reported home fires and home deaths. In fact, one third of all candle fires start in the bedroom and are often the result of a person falling asleep while a candle is burning. More than half of these candle related home fires started when a

candle was placed too close to combustible material. Some of the most common combustible materials ignited by candles resulting in house fires are: mattresses or bedding; curtains or blinds; cabinets, clothing and magazines; newspapers; or seasonal decorations

Stop Candle Fires Before They Start: Burning a candle is an enjoyable, yet idle activity; it's easy to forget that the candle is lit. Candle fires can quickly grow out of control so it's important to take basic safety precautions and follow these candle safety tips: Place candles on stable furniture where children and pets cannot knock them over, Never fall asleep with a candle burning, Extinguish candles when leaving a room or when a candle burns within 2 inches of its holder, Keep candles away from holiday decorations, paper, books, curtains, blinds, flammable liquids, clothing, bedding, lampshades and other combustibles, Keep clothing and hair away from the open flame when lighting a candle, Never use candles when oxygen sources like compressed air tanks are nearby.

Fire Safety When the Lights Go Out: Burning candles as a light source



RESULT FROM CANDLE FIRE

when the electricity goes out may seem like a good idea, but it can have dangerous consequences. Choose a battery-powered flashlight instead. If you must use a candle, take the necessary precautions to prevent a fire from starting: Do not walk while carrying a lit candle, always supervise children when candles are near, never use a candle to check pilot lights of gas appliances or to provide light when fueling equipment.

By taking these precautions, you can enjoy burning your candles and prevent a candle related fire from starting in your home.

Jail Report

The following persons have been booked into Emanuel County Jail, according to Emanuel County Sheriff Jeffrey Brewer, on warrants obtained by one of several local law enforcement agencies, designated by each name: Drug Task Force (DTF); Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI); Georgia Department of Pardons and Parole (GAPP); Georgia State Patrol (GSP); Emanuel County Sheriff's Office (ECISO); Swainsboro Police Dept. (SPD); Stillmore Police Dept. (SMPD); Twin City Police Department (TCPD); Garfield Police Dept. (GPD); Adrian Police Dept. (APD); Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU); Intensive Probation Service (IPS); or Probation Office (PROB).

Wyatt Kincaid Rodriguez, 21, 46 Odomville Church Rd, Adrian, entered 3/29/21; Bench warrant/State court/hold for Jefferson County; ECISO

Dale Marty Hill, Jr, 22, 544 Colegrove Dr, entered 3/29/21; Simp battery; released 4/1/21; ECISO

Darryel Lee Beasley, 54, 103 Old Metter Rd, Twin City, entered 3/29/21; Speeding 15-29 MPH over/Driving lic susp/rev; released 3/29/21; ECISO

Somorio Veonite Whitlock, 38, 9100 Cascade Palmetto Hwy, Palmetto; entered 3/29/21; VGCSA possession marijuana w/intent to distribute/ VGCSA possession of drug related object/Other;

ECISO Angel Rafael Perez-Prado, 31, 318 W. Church St, entered 3/29/21; Hold for out of state extradition; TCPD

Quinton Jerome Andrews, 46, 617 Lucky St, entered 3/30/21; Probation/Superior court/Bench warrant/State court/Contmpt of court-supr/Contmpt of court-supr/Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; ECISO

Odis Rushing, Jr, 22, 618 Collins Rd, Cobtown, entered 3/30/21; Ga street gang terror prevent act/Ga street gang terror prevent act/Aggr assault/Aggr assault/Poss of firearm during commission of felony/Murder/Bench warrant/Superior court; ECISO

Robert John Good, 40, 46 Little Canoochee Creek Rd, Twin City, entered 3/30/21; Probation/Superior court; DCS

Octavin Rashoid Williams, 31, 501 Marion St, entered 3/30/21; Driving lic susp/rev/Failure to stop at stop sign; SPD

Brandi Pawlik Thoma, 33, 306 Inglewood Dr, Enterprise, AL, entered 3/30/21; No insurance/Driving lic susp/rev/Other/Speeding <14 MPH over; released 3/30/21;

ECISO Jacob Bradley Neville, 20, 2711 River Oaks Dr, Richmond Hill, entered 3/31/21; VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/VGCSA possession marijuana w/intent to distribute/Poss of firearm during commission of felony/VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/ VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/

VGCSA/vio ga control subst act; ECISO

De'Anthony Darrell Glenn, 34, 3 Promark Ct, Pooler, entered 3/31/21; VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/VGCSA possession marijuana w/intent to distribute/ VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/Poss of firearm during commission of felony/VGCSA/vio ga control subst act; ECISO

Angel Jesus Cruz, 22, 201 Casey Dr, Richmond Hill, entered 3/31/21; VGCSA possession marijuana w/intent to distribute/ VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/Poss of firearm during commission of felony/VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/Poss of firearm during commission of felony; ECISO

Ramchander Chary Mummady, 21, 66 Landing Way, Richmond Hill, entered 3/31/21; VGCSA possession marijuana

w/intent to distribute/ VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/Poss of firearm during commission of felony/Poss of firearm during commission of felony/Other; ECISO

Katarious Rayveon Allen, 19, 308 E. Folsom St, Mt. Vernon, entered 4/1/21; Disorderly conduct; released 4/1/21; ECISO

Cecil Lovett, Jr, 44, 411 Washington St, Vidalia, entered 4/1/21; Expired tag/Driving lic susp/rev; released 4/1/21; ECISO

Da'Shaughn Markese Jones, 22, 228 W. MLK Blvd., entered 4/1/21; Aggr assault; SPD

Lusvin Monjaras Perez, 34, 441 N. ST, Stillmore, entered 4/1/21; Driving while unlicensed/expired/Fail to move over for emergency vehicles; released 4/1/21; ECISO

Mark Alan Hayes, 33, 732 Amanda Rd, Metter, entered 4/1/21; Other; SPD

Rachael Lenore Collins, 28, 116 Lake Luck Dr, entered 4/1/21; Theft/shoplifting/ Probation/Superior court; SPD

Albert Jared Collins, Jr, 33, 318 Tobacco Rd, Lyons, entered 4/1/21; Theft/shoplifting; released 4/1/21; SPD

Ocatvius Tuvache

Jones, 23, 504 E. Mica Ct, Statesboro, entered 4/2/21; Fleeing/attempt to elude/Failure to stop at stop sign/Other; released 4/2/21; SPD

Ashley Nichole Archer, 31, 929 Scarboro Ch. Rd, Twin City, entered 4/2/21; Burglary; ECISO

Latonya Lavon Matthews, 40, 218 Lucky St, entered 4/2/21; Other; released 4/2/21; SPD

James Gilbert Drennan, Jr, 58, 332 S. Racetrack St, entered 4/2/21; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; SPD

Kristin Nicole Molina, 39, 118 W. Lee St, Midville, entered 4/2/21; DUI/drugs/Following too close; released 4/3/21; ECISO

Victorrez De'shad Wilcher, 24, 335 E. Pine St, entered 4/3/21; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation/ VGCSA marijuana/poss less than oz/Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; SPD

Latasha Nicole Cuyler, 35, 438 N. Coleman St, entered 4/3/21; Disorderly conduct; released 4/3/21; SPD

Jessica Elaine Phillips, 32, 409 Lewis St, entered 4/3/21; Disorderly conduct; released 4/3/21; SPD

Keechshan S. Cuyler, 33, 716 King Circle Dr, entered 4/3/21; Disorderly conduct; released 4/3/21; SPD

Chivonna Lakayla Phillips, 25, 319 W. Church St, entered 4/3/21; Disorderly conduct; released 4/3/21; SPD

Orlando Mario Oglesby, 33, 368 Scuffletown Rd, Garfield, entered 4/3/21; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation/Other/Other/Simp battery/Aggr assault/Theft/taking; SPD

Marycella Ramirez, 24, 684 N. Coleman St, entered 4/3/21; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; SPD

Crystal Jordan, 35, 625 Allen St, entered 4/4/21; Aggr assault/Cruelty to children; SPD

Rodrekus Quintez Walker, 27, 158 Log Pines Cir, East Dublin, entered 4/4/21; Driving lic susp/rev/Speeding 15-29 MPH over; released 4/4/21; GSP

Undre Jacquea Williams, 27, 4150 Lions Pl, Macon, entered 4/4/21; DUI/endangering child/DUI/endangering child/DUI/alch/Speeding <14 MPH over; released 4/5/21; GSP

Martin Gregory Scott, 62, 60 Mustang Rd, entered 4/4/21; Other; SPD

Sheriff's Reports

According to the Emanuel County Sheriff's Office...

March 25

Deputy assisted GSP with a vehicle fire that occurred on I16 west bound. Vehicle was not involved in a MVA. Cause of fire was unknown at the time of the incident.

March 26

Deputies responded to McKenzie Dr. in reference to damage to property. Upon arrival, complainant advised that the offender had broken her ignition and interior.

March 27

Deputies responded to Ed Youmans Rd. in reference to a structure fire. Upon arrival, Fire Dept. advised that the fire may have started under the mobile home and complainant advised that there is no power to the residence, as they are in the process of remodeling. C/o stated that he was last at the location about 2-3 hours prior to seeing the flames.

Deputies responded to Kemp Rd. in reference to a domestic that had occurred in the city limits.

Deputy responded to the ER in reference to a report.

March 28

Complainant stated he struck debris in the roadway that caused moderate damage to his vehicle.

Deputies responded to Bishop Chapel Rd. in reference to loud music. Deputy made contact with the owner and advised him of the complaints on his establishment for loud music. The owner advised that he would turn the music down. Deputy sat down the road and could hear the music still playing just as loud as it was when he advised the owner to turn it down. The music finally went off about 2 hours later.

Deputies traveled to Hwy 57W. in reference to a wanted person. As deputies arrived at the residence, offender was observed in the backyard. Offender fled from the residence into a wooded area. Offender knows he has an outstanding warrant and fled the area to avoid arrest. Deputies searched the area near the residence but were unable to locate offender.

Deputies were dispatched to Briarcliff Rd. in reference to an alarm. Motion was advised to be the general alarm. Residence was checked and appeared to be secure, having no signs of tamper or forced entry.

Deputies were dispatched

to Pearl Rd. in reference to criminal trespass.

March 29

Complainant struck a turkey with his vehicle while traveling Hwy 192 S. Vehicle sustained minor damage.

Deputy responded to Tony Baker Ln. for possible suicide subject. Upon arrival, subject stated he was not going to harm himself and did not need any medical attention.

Deputies responded to a single vehicle accident on Canoochee Rd. Upon arrival, complainant stated she struck a cow with his vehicle while traveling Hwy 57 W. Vehicle sustained major damage.

Deputies responded to Hwy 57 W. to search for a vehicle collision. 911 advised the driver had hit something in the roadway and was requesting EMS. Deputies arrived on scene along with Em. Fire & EMS.

March 30

A Chime card was located on the ATM machine at Spivery State Bank. The card was turned in for safe keeping until the owner was found. Owner was located and picked up his card.

Investigators assisted US Marshal's Fugitive Team and GBI in arresting offender for outstanding arrest warrants.

Deputies met with MED 1 on Fairground Rd. in reference to a male subject who was found unresponsive.

Deputy assisted DCS (Dept. of Community Supervision) with the apprehension of a male subject. Upon arrival, male subject had been taken into police custody by DCS during which time offender was found to be in possession of a small amount of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana.

March 31

Deputies responded to Hwy 192 S in reference to a tree falling onto a vehicle just outside of Stillmore. Upon arrival, deputy spoke with complainant who stated the tree fell on the windshield and caused major damage, with no injuries reported. Deputy still had EMS come on scene to check the complainant's 6-month-old child that was in the backseat due to a small cut on his face from the glass. Vehicle sustained major front windshield damage due to high winds from a storm in the area.

Deputies responded to

Kersey Cross Rd. in reference to an unresponsive male. Upon arrival, EMS was on scene and notified that the male had been deceased for a few days. No signs of forced entry could be seen.

Deputies were dispatched to Hwy 192 S in reference to a tree falling on victim's vehicle. Victim stated he was traveling down his driveway when a tree fell on top of his vehicle causing damages. Vehicle appeared to have received damages to the driver door, top of vehicle, and right rear passenger door. No injuries were reported. Incident occurred during high winds from a storm passing through the area.

Deputy made a traffic stop on I16.

April 1

Deputies were dispatched to Overstreet Rd. in reference to a welfare check on offender. It was advised that offender had contacted Georgia Crisis Center in reference to mental issues. Deputy made contact with a female advising to be offender's sister. The female advised offender no longer lived at listed location and was currently living in Tampa, FL.

Deputies were dispatched to Hwy 297 in reference to a stranded motorist.

Deputies were dispatched to McKenzie Dr. in reference to a theft. Victim stated he found that the catalytic converter had been removed from his service truck. Victim is unsure of when the theft may have occurred, advising the service truck had been sitting in the yard for an extended period of time. Victim did not advise of any other property damage or theft.

Deputies were dispatched to Williams Rd. in reference to a property dispute.

Deputies responded to Scarboro Church Rd. in reference to an unwanted person. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with complainant who advised that his girlfriend and another male took his phone and left walking into a field. Offender was the original 911 caller who stated the c/o did not want to leave her property. Offender was nowhere to be found and would not answer her phone after several attempts by dispatch. C/o was going to leave, but could not find his keys and thought maybe

the offender took them with his cell phone. C/o had no choice but to stay on the property until his keys were returned.

Deputies responded to Sunfish Ln. in reference to a domestic that had already occurred.

Deputies met with complainant at the Red Roof in Oak Park in reference to an incident which occurred on Ricky Rowland Dr.

April 2

Deputies responded to Hwy 56 N. in reference to a domestic disturbance call reported through 911. Victim and offender were current spouses and resided together. Complainant stated she was hit and choked by offender. At the time of contact, victim did show signs of physical abuse that consisted of recent inflammation to the left eye and marks on the right side of her neck and throat area. C/o further stated that she and offender got into a heated argument after she asked offender why he took off of work and offender got mad and began to sling her around while she held her baby. While on scene, c/o was also determined to be a victim of family violence advised by deputies that she wanted to press charges and further advised that she did not feel safe to be alone at the house. She stated she and the children would stay with another family member for the night or until offender could be apprehended. Deputies made multiple attempts to contact offender but had negative contact.

Complainant stated she has a TPO on offender and offender went to SHS and picked up her 16-year-old daughter and took her to his house to talk. Deputy spoke with c/o and her daughter. And daughter stated she called offender to get her so they could talk.

Deputy responded to assist SPD in a traffic stop, where driver bailed out on foot in the King Circle area. Upon arriving, deputy was driving on Norwood Dr. and seen a male with the same clothing description walking out of the area. Deputy then turned around and the subject started running. Deputy then spotted him laying in a wooded area about 25 yards from the roadway and made contact with him into custody. Suspect was then transport-

ed back to the original scene on Howard Dr.

April 3

Deputy responded to Reba Dr. for a male complainant stating there was a domestic between him and his wife. Upon arrival, deputy spoke with all parties and neither was willing to leave the scene at the time but there had been no criminal activity, just verbal dispute.

Deputy met with complainant on Starfish Lane in reference to a harassing communication incident. Complainant stated he had received some text messages and photographs on his cell phone from an unknown party. C/o also stated that he found the messages and photos to be alarming and threatening in nature but is unaware of who could have sent them. Texts messages are described as a mix of English & Spanish language and slang and photos are described as being three separate photos of Hispanic male subjects, two of which are seen posing with a firearm and have facial tattoos. Another photo is described as a group of young Hispanic male subjects who appear to be dressed with prison attire and appear to be within a prison facility. While not confirmed, it is believed that messages were sent to c/o by mis-

take.

Deputy met with complainant on Bonsue Dr. in reference to a theft incident. Complainant stated he and his girlfriend got into a verbal dispute that ensued over a \$90 vet bill that both parties were involved in. C/o further stated that his girlfriend took his cell phone as form of ransom and would later state that she would give the phone back in exchange for \$90. Offender was GOA during the course of the investigation. Deputy late spoke with c/o via land line phone during which time c/o advised that offender had also threatened to tamper with his bank account, which was accessible from his phone.

911 received a call from an unknown source stating that someone was messing with a trailer behind Maple St. in Stillmore. When deputy arrived on scene, he made contact with two offenders that were backed up to a trailer what was in the woods. He then asked them what they were doing and they stated they were trying to take off trash for his girlfriend who rented a mobile home on Maple St.

Deputies assisted complainant with the recovery of their vehicle that became disabled on Hwy 1.

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Swainsboro Police Reports

Officers with the Swainsboro Police Department (SPD) report...

March 26

Officer was stopped at the stop sign on S. Coleman St. facing south at the intersection of Lambs Bridge Rd. There was a car in the turning lane on Lambs Bridge Rd. waiting to turn left onto S. Coleman St. Offender's vehicle was traveling east on Lambs Bridge Rd. in the straight lane and turned left onto S. Coleman St. in front of the car waiting to turn. Officer initiated his blue lights and the vehicle pulled over. Officer introduced himself to the driver, and the driver gave his ID card. Officer asked for his drivers license and was told that they were suspended.

SPD was conducting a license check on Hwy 56 N. and Anderson Dr. Officer asked offender for his license and he provided an ID card. Officer went back to his patrol car and ran his ID to find his license were suspended.

Officer was patrolling when he was contacted that offender was currently in possession of crystal meth. SPD Drug Unit had cases in the past where offender had been in possession of crystal meth and even made controlled purchases of crystal meth from him. Officer stated offender was gone from his residence on a 4-wheeler and that the meth would be on the shifter handle cover on the left side near the rider's foot. There was no knowledge of when offender would be returning back to his residence or where he currently was. Officer continued to patrol until coming in contact with offender. Upon making contact with offender, officer explained that he could not be riding the 4-wheeler on state right of way. He also explained that he could ride his 4-wheeler on city streets but only if he had driver's license but his license are suspended. During the conversation, officer noticed that offender was chewing on her lips and had ridged muscles. Offender also appeared to be a little more excited than other times that officer has spoken with him. This led officer to believe offender was currently using meth and that offender had a fourth amendment waiver in place from his past cases. Officer asked offender if he had any illegal drugs on the 4-wheeler or on his person and offender stated that he did not have anything. Officer then told offender to step off the 4-wheeler for a search of his person. Officer observed a clear plastic bag filled with a green leafy substance before he even started searching offender. Suspected marijuana was removed from offender's person. A pink short piece of straw was also located. Officer then searched the 4-wheeler and found two small plastic bags

filled with a crystal-like substance.

Vehicle was traveling on N. Anderson Dr. when a vehicle noticed a road check and turned into the Health Dept. Officer then made contact with vehicle due to the business being closed. As officer was pulling in, the vehicle was backing into a parking spot. Officer then made contact with the driver and asked for his license. He could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle with three individuals in it. While waiting for another unit to arrive, officer noticed loose tobacco all in the back seat. When back-up arrived, officer asked the driver to step out of his vehicle. The other officer got the passengers out of the vehicle, and while searching the vehicle, a small plastic bag was found in between the driver's seat and the center console with a green leafy substance, and the driver stated that it was his. Officer then ran offender's info to find that he was wanted out of Toombs County.

During a road block, officer made contact with offender to find his license were suspended.

During a road block, offender stated he did not have a drivers license.

Offender went through a road block and when asked for his license, he provided an ID card. Officer then ran his info to find that they were suspended.

March 27

Officer met a vehicle with a headlight out, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. When making contact with offender, officer asked for the driver's license and offender stated he did not have them on him. Officer then gathered his info and found his license were suspended.

Officer met a vehicle half-way in the center turning lane. When officer turned around and began following the vehicle, the driver immediately turned left. Officer observed the vehicle cross over the yellow center line once before getting to the stop sign. The vehicle then crossed over the yellow center lane again before making it to the red light. Officer then activated his emergency equipment and conducted a traffic stop due to failure to maintain lane. Officer approached the vehicle and the driver was smoking a cigar that she had just lit, and had on very little clothing, so he called for back-up. Once back-up arrived, officer asked the driver to step out of her vehicle and he could smell alcohol coming from her person. A field sobriety was done and failed.

Officer was approached by complainant who stated his vehicle was struck by another vehicle, causing damage to the rear passenger side quarter panel. Officer was dispatched to Abundance St. in reference to complainant stating his

ex-girlfriend had been harassing him over his stimulus check that was supposed to go to his house because that's where she use to stay. C/o stated he told offender that when her check came in, he was going to take it to the Post Office. Offender stated that she continued to harass him and stated she was going to call the police on him for taking her check. Officer tried to speak with offender via phone and she hung up in his face.

March 28

Officers were dispatched to Happiness Dr. in reference to gun shots. While in route, 911 advised that they had just received another call about gun shots in the area. Upon arrival, officer observed a male subject walk from the back yard of the address and was pulling ear plugs out of his ears. Officer approached the subject and asked if he had been shooting any guns in his backyard and he advised he was. Officer then informed subject that the city has an ordinance about discharging a firearm inside the city limits.

Officer noticed a vehicle approach the intersection and slow down, but did not stop. Officer then caught up with offender and activated his emergency equipment to conduct a traffic stop. Once making contact with offender, he gave him his license and during the check, it was found that they were suspended.

Officer observed a vehicle approach the intersection and slow down, but did not stop. Officer then caught up with offender and activated his emergency equipment to conduct a traffic stop. Once making contact with offender, he gave him his license and during the check, it was found that they were suspended.

Officer responded to Pughsley St. in reference to complainant stating that her son's girlfriend had been sneaking and spending the night at her house with her son. C/o stated that she has asked offender to leave several times and she refused, and became very disrespectful towards her. Offender had already left the scene when officer arrived.

March 29

Officer was dispatched to Pughsley St. in reference to an unwanted person. Upon arrival, complainant stated her son was bringing the offender over to her residence without her permission and she has told offender on several occasions that she is not allowed at the residence.

Offender was issued a criminal trespass warning.

Officers were dispatched to West St. in reference to a dispute between two brothers. Upon arrival, complainant stated that he and his brother share the listed residence and that he hung a curtain in the living room door way to help with containing the

heat inside the area and offender tore it down a scratched c/o during the process. Offender stated his brother wanted to hang the curtain in order to better sneak people into the shared residence.

Officer responded to Canoochee Rd. in reference to several males in the area fighting. Upon arrival, officer met with complainant who was yelling and pointing as patrol units exited their vehicles. C/o was not very cooperative with patrol units and advised that he didn't want a report and didn't want anything documented. Officer advised c/o that a report would be done for information purposes due to patrol units being sent to the area in reference to a physical altercation. C/o then advised that an unknown male that he has seen before stopped a vehicle in front of his residence, exited his vehicle, and hit him in the nose with a closed fist. The male subject then allegedly got into the vehicle and left the location and was gone prior to officers' arrival. C/o refused any medical treatment, and there were no visible injuries to the facial area.

Officer was dispatched to Gumlog Rd. in reference to complainant wanting someone out of her house. Upon arrival, officer asked how long offender had been living at the residence and was informed that he had been there for appx. 1 year. Officer advised c/o that offender was a residence there and that he could not make him leave. C/o then informed officer that offender had left with the key and she wanted it back. C/o informed officers there was a AR15 inside the house and when the officer looked for it, it was no longer there. Offender stated he got rid of the rifle appx. A month prior and c/o stated she wanted to report the gun stolen as the weapon was registered to her. Officer then asked c/o for the information on the rifle and she advised she did not know it and that she would have to get it from where she purchased it. C/o stated the rifle was bought for her in her name and that offender was not able to have the weapon. When officer asked offender about the weapon, he stated he could get it back for her if she wanted it.

Officer responded to Richard St. to a report of a lost or mislaid handgun. Upon arrival, officer spoke with complainant who stated that he left the pistol in the holster on the rail of his trailer that he was pulling behind his vehicle and went to the dumpsters off of Fairground Rd. C/o further stated that when he got to the dumpsters, he realized that he had left the gun on the trailer and when he didn't find it, he retraced his path of travel but did not see it anywhere.

Officer was dispatched

taking Circle Dr. in reference to someone dumping illegally. Upon arrival, officer made contact with complainant who walked the officer to the rear of his fenced in yard and there was grease and yellow rice dumped in a pile in his yard.

Officer responded to Happiness Dr. in reference to a dog at large attacking subjects at the location. Upon arrival, officer met with complainant who advised that he was doing yard work at the residence and while cutting the grass, a bulldog approached him in an aggressive manner. C/o advised that a pocket knife was then swung towards the dog in an attempt to get it away from him. C/o stated that he did not know if contact was made with the knife and dog but the dog then allegedly left the area running up Canoochee Rd. Animal control was contacted and the dog was located.

Patrol units responded to Pratt Ave. in reference to a dispute. Upon arrival, units met with complainant and offender. C/o stated she and offender had been arguing at their residence and he threatened to hit her so she told him to leave and took him to his mother's house. Once they got to offender's mother's, offender grabbed their baby from the vehicle and would not give it back to the c/o. Patrol units defused the situation by speaking with both parties and advised c/o to take the baby and leave the residence as she was not welcomed at the offender's mother's residence.

Complainant went to the SPD to file a report that someone had damaged his vehicle.

March 30

Officer noticed a vehicle go around a vehicle that was stopped at the stop sign without stopping, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Once officer made contact with the driver, he asked for his license and offender stated he was trying to get home before his ice cream melted. Upon running offender's info, it was found that he had suspended license.

Officer responded to Mist St. in reference to an individual wishing to obtain property from a residence. Contact was made with complainant who informed him that she was at the residence to pick up property and she and offender who owned the residence had been divorced since Oct, 2020. C/o advised that offender had changed the locks on the door and she could not get her property. Officer then advised c/o that she would need to get a writ of possession and make an appointment with the ECSO to go gather her belongings, as he was not able to escort her inside the property or allow her inside, being she was no longer living there. Officer knocked on the door and spoke with offender who advised that he told her she could gather her

belongings, however, he did not want the people with her inside of his residence. While officer was standing there, offender advised c/o that she could grab her things as she knew what was hers. C/o refused and advised she would schedule an appointment to pick her things up with ECSO.

April 1

Officer was flagged down by a couple in the parking lot of EMC in reference to their daughter being stabbed. Officer was informed that their injured daughter was in the ER and that the stabbing occurred on West MLK BLVD. Officer then went to the ER and met with the victim who had 3 bloody puncture wounds on her left bicep consistent with stab wounds. Victim did not wish to disclose any information on what happened and instead insisted that she fell at Gumlog Park. After speaking further with the victim, she disclosed that she did not want anyone to get into trouble. She advised that she and her boyfriend got into an argument and she didn't remember what happened afterwards. Victim further advised that she remembered looking down at her arm and seeing the blood and called her aunt to take her to the ER. Victim remained insistent that the incident occurred at Gumlog Park and there were no children present. Det. Spoke with victim and offender and advised for offender to be placed under arrest for aggravated assault.

Officer responded to WalMart in reference to shoplifters. Officer met with complainant who stated that offenders were caught at the self-checkout not scanning several items totaling \$204.36. C/o and store manager advised that both offenders were in the store a few days ago trying to do the same thing.

Officer observed a vehicle pass him traveling south bound and her ran the tag to find that the insurance was unknown. After checking the tag, it was confirmed that the vehicle did not have valid insurance, at which time officer initiated a traffic stop.

April 2

Officer observed a vehicle approach a 4-way and failed to stop. Officer caught up with the vehicle, called in the tag, and initiated a traffic stop. The vehicle continued to travel at a slow speed until he reached a residence on Ben St. He bailed out of the vehicle running. Officer gave out a description of the driver and had 911 call the SPD K9 handler. When backup was in route, officer noticed a male matching the description. When he turned around to make contact, offender ran in the woods. K9 handler was able to make an arrest on offender.



Meet John – The King of Scanning

Meet John Unkles, 26-year-old son of David and Susan Unkles. An employee with the county, John works at the Emanuel County Courthouse under the direction of Emanuel County Clerk of Court Kristin Hall as the official scanner, or as John calls himself – *the king of scanning*.

Between the ages of three and four years old, John was diagnosed with Autism, but don't mistake his diagnosis as a setback – John is a very determined young man who's proactive and loving parents never allowed his diagnosis to be an excuse.

John is a graduate of Pierce County High School in Blackshear. Before graduating from high school, he enrolled in a program called Project Search and was assigned a job at the Waycross hospital. There, he worked some in the kitchen but really shined in the environmental service department due to his superb skills in organization. His daily routine consisted of keeping the supply room organized and scanning items to charge departments for supply use.

"His work accuracy while working in the environmental services department was said to be very well and the hospital didn't want to see John leave. They were working on getting John approved for a part-time position before we moved to Emanuel County. It was really a great experience for John," Susan stated.

In addition to working at the Waycross hospital, John also worked in a hardware store where he kept the store clean and organized and eventually began helping stock the store. He also was an Easterseals employee before his current position here in Emanuel County.

In September 2019, John continued his education at Warm Springs where he learned the basics of

obtaining and maintaining a job. Following his completion of school at Warm Springs in May 2019, John was able to put his newly learned skills to work when taking a job at the clerk of courts office around June or July 2019. During a recent interview, we found out how John came across his current job position here in Emanuel County.

"Ken Warnock, director of Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce and member of Swainsboro Methodist Church, approached me and asked if I would be interested in letting John work in the office. My response was 'Absolutely, I'd love to give him the opportunity,'" Clerk of Court Hall stated.

Hall met with Warnock and the Unkles at the chamber and John started his new position, almost immediately catching on fast to his new job duties. He loves his job duties, work environment, and most importantly, his coworkers that he refers to as 'his ladies'. His most favorite task is scanning, of course, but he also enjoys shredding papers, placing stickers on files, and cleaning up the office. Since taking his job at the courthouse, John has met a lot of new friends and is excited to start each workday. He has almost completed scanning more than 100 years of documents for the county and has an estimated time frame set for completing all scanned documents between May and June of this year. Documents scanned date back to the 1800s to current day with 26 books being scanned per letter in the alphabet, being approximately 600-700 scanned books containing 500-600 pages each.

Fun fact: John completes one book per day when scanning for the clerk of court's office.

"John works hard and is always on time, smiling, and happy. It's wonderful having John work

in our office. It's been a blessing. He's really filled a need that we didn't have. This is something I've wanted to work on for the past eight years. We've received quotes from vendors and all have been over \$1,000 to do what John has done. He's a huge asset to the county, office and our historical scanning and records being preserved forever," Hall commented. "So many people don't know it's John back here scanning, but he's the man behind all the work. Our real estate agents, bankers, surveyors, finance companies, and so many people need those records and John has made them available electronically. He really is a big deal."

To be noted: John has missed no more than 10 days of work since taking his position.

A recent accomplishment that John is continuing to master is driving. His first time driving was while attending Warm Springs. He drives the family's golf cart and has recently driven to Augusta several times.

"He's good with a lot of aspects of driving and his judgement seems to be really good. But, as his parents, we want to be sure he feels safe driving and has experience," Susan noted. "When John was 15, I asked if he would like to drive. At that time, he said it was too much for him to think about. We're so proud of his success so far," Susan stated.

Getting to know autism – From a mom's perspective

- Autistics don't generalize very well. Non-autistics have a file for balance and proprioception (perception or awareness of the position and movement of the body) that is applied when riding bicycles, motorcycles, scooters, or roller blading. Autistics have separate files of balance and proprioception for each of these tasks.
- Autistics deal better with a consistent sched-

ule rather than dealing with changes in plans often. The saying, "You can't see the forest for all the trees," is exact when dealing with autism. Non-autistics see just the forest. However, autistics see the trees. They see an oak, maple, maple, oak, pine, pine, pine, oak, maple, pine, pine, etc. "Most individuals would be like, 'I can't do that.' We would be overloaded and that's what happens, sometimes, with John," Susan adds.



JOHN WITH SCANNER



JOHN WITH BOOKS

very similar to getting a job in the real world.

- John has two brothers, a sister-in-law, and two nephews that he cares a lot for, and they all care a lot for John too!
- John's mom, Susan, is a nurse at Emanuel Medical Center.
- John's father, David, is pastor of Swainsboro First United Methodist Church.
- "I get it's a spectrum disorder but there are some on the spectrum that are worth a try and

to be given expectations. We just kind of always have pushed and pushed with John. After three years of effort, we plateaued on reading comprehension level. We didn't quit, we just kept pushing. The bottom line here – Don't undersell a person with autism. We've been so blessed. A lot of people have personally poured into John and we're so appreciative of that. It's truly a God thing," Susan concluded.



JOHN SCANNING

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Meet Andrew – He loves bugs and lizards

by CASEY JONES
April is Autism Awareness Month. This week, the Blade reached out to Rebecca R. Brantley, who is 47 and a mother of two, but it is her 16-year-old son, Andrew Manns, who is the topic of discussion for this week. Andrew has autism, and The Blade reached out to Rebecca to get her perspective on what it's like to live with someone who is affected by autism, what it's like to care for someone with autism, and overall how it affects their everyday lives. Rebecca and her son Andrew were each born in Swainsboro and have lived here their entire lives. However, Andrew does not attend Swainsboro High School and is instead homeschooled. This is mostly because Andrew suffers frequent seizures, so he must be closely monitored by his mother.

What is autism? According to Autism Speaks, autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 54 children in the United States today. There are many subtypes of autism, most influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Because autism is a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. The ways in which people with autism learn, think and problem-solve can range from highly skilled to severely challenged. Some people with ASD may require significant support in their daily lives, while others may need less support and, in some cases, live entirely independently.

Describing autism, Rebecca said, "Think of it as autism creating a chemical imbalance in the brain, specifically affecting the neurotransmitter systems, which control how nerve cells communicate. It's like you're at a busy intersection and the sign says you're entering a congested area; however, it's not, and you freak out."

Individuals with autism or ASD often experience challenges in speech and nonverbal communication. According to Rebecca, although Andrew's communication skills are affected by having autism, this does not prohibit him from still eliciting emotional reactions and responses, just as anyone else would. These occurrences are just more erratic and unpredictable in their nature.

"In the morning, he doesn't want to be bothered, but closer to afternoon time he becomes the happiest child," Rebecca said.

Andrew was diagnosed

with autism at the age of 2. According to Autism Speaks, signs of autism usually appear by age 2 or 3. Research shows that early intervention leads to positive outcomes later in life for people with autism. By being diagnosed early, Rebecca and her family were able to get Andrew the help he needed early.

In Andrew's case, he is in the 'low spectrum' of severity with his autism. What does 'low spectrum' mean? In Rebecca's own words, "There are higher spectrums of autism. There is a non-verbal communication spectrum, in which the affected cannot talk." Actually, Andrew was supposed to not be able to talk or walk; however, he simply learned how. Autism affects Andrew in various other ways. Because Andrew is 'low-spectrum,' it is his cognizant skills and social skills that are most heavily influenced. What this means is that in Andrew's case, his symptoms are mild, whereas, for someone on the higher end of the spectrum, their symptoms can be more severe and affect their daily lives more considerably.

Andrew also developed a form of Tourette's, in which as previously mentioned, he suffers from frequent seizures that affect his whole body. Andrew has chronic Tourette's or Dystonia, in which his muscles contract uncontrollably all the way from his head to his feet, resulting in frequent seizures. Andrew just recently got over going through a gastrointestinal tick, which caused him various problems for the better part of 10 years. This tick caused him to be unable to hold down food for any length of time, as eating would cause him to go into pseudo-seizures. In these seizure episodes, Andrew is conscious during, so often times he would know when one was coming on. Rebecca has taught Andrew various precautions to take in the event one of the episodes occurs, such as lying down on the floor if he's not sitting down somewhere where he is comfortable. Afterwards, he is to immediately take his medicine or be given his medicine by someone who can administer it. If he's not given his medicine within a minute, his spasms become uncontrollable and emergency aid must then be given in the form of a 911 call.

Autism also affects the way in which people learn. This learning process for many people comes naturally, but for those affected with autism, it can be more arduous. Andrew's learning capacity is also affected in that his response to learning is delayed. Rebecca expanded on this saying, "He is delayed as far as speech, he is delayed in learning with school.

Even at 16, he is still learning things. In our previous driving lesson, I allowed him to drive on the dirt road, and instead of referring to his 'blinkers' for turning, he referred to them as 'clickers.' I mean... blinkers do click, so he's not wrong!"

Just as with anyone in life, we often seek to be around people who share our same interests or even come from a similar background. Andrew is no different in this regard, as he has found two people similar to him that he "clings to" and enjoys the company of.

"When it comes to other kids, he's not very social with them," Rebecca said. "He's also a really big Star Wars fan. Specifically, he's a fan of baby Yoda."

Andrew also has a terrarium full of lizards that keeps his attention. "That's one thing that keeps him occupied. He really loves bugs and lizards," Rebecca said.

Things that other people might look at as mundane can have a totally different effect on Andrew. Rebecca elaborated, "There are certain things I won't let Andrew have because his energy does boost and you can tell whenever he gets that rush—he's verbally non-stop, and I have to say okay, can it." Because energy is registered so differently in Andrew's mind, he may have meltdowns from time to time, which results in adrenaline dumps or crashes.

Something Rebecca does with Andrew in order to harness his energy naturally is allow him to vent. They have regular "sit-down" sessions in which she lets Andrew communicate his emotions and any issues he may have. This way she can teach him to not keep things bottled up because repressing all your emotions and energy doesn't mean it all goes away. Energy does not just vanish, it transforms, and most often repressed energy transforms into something more volatile in its nature.

When asked what advice there is when raising or just simply trying to communicate with someone affected by autism, Rebecca answered, "Just treat them as a normal child or normal person. Andrew still receives discipline if the situation demands it. I'm not going to show favoritism, I raised him the same way I did my oldest, who is 28 years old. If you ever meet Andrew, you would never know anything was wrong unless I told you. He's very quiet and reserved, but you would think he's just shy."

Rebecca is also an advocate for spreading awareness about autism. "I try to give advice to others if they personally come to me and ask me for advice. I try to educate them the way that I educated myself," Rebecca said. She is a part

of multiple online groups that support one another and spread awareness and educate others on autism and Tourette's. Although there is one group in particular that Rebecca enjoys, "Not an Autism Mom."

One way in which Rebecca spreads awareness about autism during Autism Awareness Month (AAM) is by making various autism-themed jewelry, which she then donates. She also does her best to attend any autism-themed events that are going on; however, that has been hampered by the Covid pandemic.

How then is autism treated? The answer lies in in nurturing and fostering the best possible living environment to accommodate the affected. In Rebecca's case, she explained, "I didn't really know what was going on until he was diagnosed. I would be on my phone or laptop 24/7 googling everything, that way I would learn."

Rebecca ended by sharing some advice to others on how to deal with autism. She references a metaphor most specifically, saying, "It's like entering a jungle and you hear a lot of flies. There's a lot of obstacles in the way and you have to force yourself through them. Then you are met with dead-ends at every corner and everything is forcing you to backtrack. This forces you to rethink your approach of where you are needing to go and then suddenly, everything calms down, and you can just walk freely through the jungle." She says this metaphor pertains to both the caregiver and the affected. "It's like trekking through the jungle without a map." If you can simply allow yourself to stay patient during these ordeals, the way opens up. Finally she says "when communicating with someone who has autism, you must allow yourself to be on their level, but at the same time not allow them to take advantage of you, but you also don't want to make them feel inferior either."

Rebecca finally shouts out someone she feels parents and caregivers can go to with questions or concerns about autism. That person is Jill Scarborough, who is located off of Highway 57 across from the old skating rink.

We here at the Forest-Blade want to thank Rebecca Brantley for taking the time to attend this interview with us. We are truly so very thankful for your input and everything you continue to do to support not only your son but anyone else who is faced with similar circumstances. We wish you the very best of health and safety going into the rest of the year.



Autism characteristics and diagnosis

Autism is characterized in the DSM-V by:

- Persistent differences in communication, interpersonal relationships, and social interaction across different environments

What this can look like: Being nonverbal or having atypical speech patterns, having trouble understanding nonverbal communication, difficulty making and keeping friends, difficulty maintaining typical back-and-forth conversational style

- Restricted and repetitive behavior, patterns, activities and interests

What this can look like: Repeating sounds or phrases (echolalia), repetitive movements, preference for sameness and difficulty with transition or routine, rigid or highly restricted and intense interests, extreme sensitivity to or significantly lower sensitivity to various sensory stimuli

According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, which is used by clinicians to diagnose autism, these core features of autism must be present in early childhood but may not fully manifest until social demands exceed the person's capacity to cope with them, and challenges may be masked by learned coping strategies.

Define... Autism

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition"

that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

While there is currently no known single cause of autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive the support and services that they need, which can lead to a quality life filled with opportunity.

Autism and your family

A child's autism diagnosis affects every member of the family in different ways. Parents/caregivers must now place their primary focus on helping their child with ASD, which may put stress on their marriage, other children, work, finances, and personal relationships and responsibilities. Parents now have to shift much of their resources of time and money towards providing treatment and interventions for their child, to the exclusion of other priorities. The needs of a child with ASD complicates familial relationships, especially with siblings. However, parents can help

their family by informing their other children about autism and the complications it introduces, understanding the challenges siblings face and helping them cope, and involving members of the extended family to create a network of help and understanding.

– Understanding Autism for Dummies, 2006

Finding time for prayer and attending a place of worship also helps many families handle the challenges of autism and provides a safe, inclusive environment for both the child and family.

Early signs of autism

Autism impacts an individual throughout the lifespan. However, research shows that early diagnosis can lead to improved quality of life. Here are some signs to look for:

- Speaks later than typical or not at all (nonverbal)
- Repetition in language or movement, such as repeating the same word or sounds, hand flapping, or any repeated movement
- Atypical nonverbal communication, including avoiding eye contact, giving few facial expressions, or

having a monotone

- Prefers solitary or parallel play rather than engaging in associative or cooperative play with other children
- Extremely distressed by changes, including new foods or changes in schedule
- Preference for predictable, structured play over spontaneous or make-believe play
- Strong, persistent interest on specific topic, part of a toy, or item

Family member

A child's autism diagnosis affects every member of the family in different ways. Parents/caregivers must now place their primary focus on helping their child with ASD, which may put strains on their marriage, other children, work, finances, and personal relationships and responsibilities. Parents now have to shift much of their resources of time and money towards providing treatment and interventions for their child, to the exclusion of other priorities. The needs of a child with ASD complicate familial relationships,

especially with siblings. However, parents can help their family by informing their other children about autism and the complications it introduces, understanding the challenges siblings face and helping them cope, and involving members of the extended family to create a network of help and understanding (Understanding Autism for Dummies, 2006).

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| 1. I am a child. Autism is just one aspect of my character | 6. Be patient with me. I might need a little longer to work things out. |
| 2. I have positive qualities – don't just see my negative ones. | 7. Don't assume I don't listen. Sometimes I just don't understand. |
| 3. I like consistency. I learn when you explain things clearly and do things with me | 8. It's difficult for me to explain what I need when I don't know the words to express it. |
| 4. I like routine because it eliminates surprises and I know what to expect | 9. I want to be friends with others but I don't know how to do it. |
| 5. Everyday sights, sounds and touches may be normal for you but painful for me. | 10. I am unique and special in my own way. Please don't compare me to others, just love me for who I am. |



Autism Awareness Month

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Raising a child with autism places some extraordinary demands on parents as individuals and on the family as a whole. Prime among these demands is the lack of enough hours in the day to do all one wishes. Specifically, the time involved in meeting the needs of a family member with autism may leave parents with little time for their other children.

Many parents feel that even as they do all they can for their child with autism, they are always struggling with how best to respond to the needs of the

family as a whole. They say that although their own life as an individual may be put "on hold" and a couple may share an understanding of the need to make sacrifices on behalf of their child with autism, few parents are willing to make that same demand of other children in the family. As a result, there is a continual tension between the needs of the child with autism and those of the other children.

This section offers suggestions to parents about ways to help the other children in the family cope gracefully and effectively with the experience of having a brother or sister with autism. Research indicates that the majority of brothers and sisters of children with autism cope well with their experiences. That does not mean, however, that they do not encounter special challenges in learning how to deal with a sibling who has autism or a related disorder.

to ensure brothers and sisters grow up feeling they have benefited from the love and attention we all need.

Explaining Autism to Children

Common sense tells us and research supports the idea that children need to understand what autism is all about. The rule of thumb: Do it early and do it often! It is important that your children know about autism and that the information you give them is appropriate for their developmental age. From early childhood, they need explanations that help them understand the behaviors that are of concern to them. For the preschool-age child this may be as simple as "Rick doesn't know how to talk," while for the adolescent, it may involve a conversation about the possible genetics of autism.

The key is to remember to adjust your information to your child's age and understanding. For example, very young children are mostly concerned about unusual behaviors that may frighten or puzzle them. An older child will have concerns of a more interpersonal nature, such as how to explain autism to his/her friends. For the adolescent, these concerns may shift to the long-range needs of their sibling with autism and the role they will play in future care. Every age has its needs, and your task is to listen carefully to your child's immediate concerns.

Another key to success is to remember that children need to be told about autism again and again as they grow up. Young children may use the words they hear us use, but not understand the full meaning of those words until they are much older. Don't be misled by a young child's vocabulary of words like "autism" or "discrete trial." That does not mean the terms have real meaning for him/her. Just as you would not expect an early conversation about the obvious physical differences between boys and girls to constitute a sufficient sex education for children 5 or 10 years later, similarly, you must explain again and again, in increasingly mature terms, what autism is all about.

The Autism Society offers

practical, age-appropriate information on teaching children and teens to make friends with their classmates on the autism spectrum.

Helping Your Children Form a Relationship

Because of the nature of autism, it is usually difficult for a young child to form a satisfying relationship with a brother or sister who has the disorder. For example, your child's attempts to play with his/her brother are probably rebuffed by his ignoring her, fall flat because of his lack of play skills, or end abruptly because his tantrums are frightening. How many of us would keep trying to form a friendship with someone who turned her back when we spoke to her or, even worse, seemed angry when we approached? It is not surprising that young children may become discouraged by the reactions they encounter and seek playmates elsewhere.

The good news is that young children can be taught simple skills that will enable them to engage their brother or sister in playful interactions. Research has shown that siblings can learn basic teaching strategies to engage their brother or sister with autism. These skills include things like making sure they have their brother's attention, giving simple instructions, and praising good play. One research study showed that videotapes made before and after the children learned these skills showed in a very touching manner that, after training, they played together more and seemed much happier than they had been prior to training.

Special Times

Along with ensuring the child with autism is a fully integrated member of the family, it is important to remember that other children in a family need their times to be special. Families are often urged to find some regular, separate time for the children in their family who do not have autism. It may be one evening a week, a Saturday morning, or even a few minutes at bedtime each night. If your child with autism has a home-based program or exhibits serious management problems, you may have neither the stamina nor the energy to give your other child exactly the same amount of attention. It is not necessary that everything in childhood be exactly the same. What is important is the opportunity to feel special to your parents and to feel an overall atmosphere of equity in your home.

Not Everything as a Family

There are activities that should be shared by the entire family and those that should not. Along with having regularly scheduled special times for each child, it is also important to remember that there will be some events when one child in the family deserves to be the focus of everyone's attention. Children have told us that it is sometimes frustrating to have to do everything with their brother or sister with autism. In fact, there may be times when it may not be fair to insist that he or she be included. For example, if your child with autism cannot sit still for a school play, then it may be better if he or she stays home while your other child performs.

Most Siblings Cope Very Well

While growing up as the sibling of someone with autism can certainly be trying, most siblings cope very well. It is important to remember that while having a sibling with autism or any other disability is a challenge to a child, it is not an insurmountable obstacle. Most children handle the challenge effectively, and many of them respond with love, grace and humor far beyond their years.

Providing for Autistic Seniors

Autistic seniors need regularity. A regular routine with familiar caregivers is ideal. Breaks in routine or over-stimulating surroundings, like the presence of excessive noise, can be both agitating and distressing to an autistic person. Autistic people are often hyper-sensitive to stimulation, and overstimulation can lead to outbursts and confusion.

Even though they struggle with social interaction, autistic people have very similar social needs to the average person. That's why it's critical for caregivers to understand how an autistic individual socializes and relates to others, and then to help accommodate those highly individual needs. Boisterous settings with large groups of people are generally undesirable, with autistic people tending to prefer more intimate settings where they can simultaneously explore their interests.

Seniors have a hard enough time getting out and socializing without autism. While there's still a great deal we don't know about aging with it, one thing we do know is that with our help, compassion, and understanding, even autism can't prevent someone from making the most out of their golden years.

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5 FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AUTISM

Rates are on the rise: Autism is 10 times more common today than it was in the 1980s, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An estimated 1 in 68 children has autism to some degree.

Kids are getting diagnosed sooner: There is no laboratory or medical test for detecting autism, so doctors must rely on behavioral signs. In the past, many were reluctant to label a child as autistic until symptoms became obvious. But that's changing.

Autism is a genetic disorder: Although autism was once believed to be the result of improper parenting, researchers now believe that genes - not psychological factors - are to blame. If a couple has one child with autism, there is a 5 to 10% chance that siblings will have some sort of autistic disorder. With identical twins, the likelihood is 60%.

Large head size is a red flag: Findings published in the Journal of the American Medical Association suggest that the brains of children with autism develop differently from an early age. Researchers discovered that most infants who were later diagnosed with autism had small head circumferences at birth but had heads and brains much larger than normal by 6 to 14 months.

Early treatment is crucial: There is no known cure for autism, but intensive therapy helps a child learn a wide range of skills - from making eye contact to hugging to having a conversation. And the sooner a child begins the better.

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Adult Education Instructor, Part-Time, Treutlen Probation Center

Vidalia and Swainsboro Campus:
Commercial Truck Driving Instructor, Part-Time
Associate of Science Degree Nursing Program Faculty, Full-Time
Nursing Adjunct, Part-Time

Economic Development Center:
Training Center Manger, Full-Time
Administrative Assistant, Part-Time

Please visit the Employment page at www.southeasterntech.edu or call 912-538-3230 for more information.

Southeastern Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, gender, religion, disability, age, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, disabled veteran, veteran of the Vietnam Era, or citizenship status (except in those special circumstances permitted or mandated by law).

Lanie Jonas, Title IX Coordinator, Room 138B, 912-538-3230 ljonas@southeasterntech.edu
Helen Thomas, Section 504 Coordinator, Room 108, 912-538-3126 hthomas@southeasterntech.edu

Legals

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN THE INTEREST OF:
I. M. SEX: F
DOB: 09/20/2016
CASE # 21JV12
C. M. SEX: M
DOB: 11/23/2014
C. M. SEX: M
DOB: 11/24/2015
C. M. SEX: M
DOB: 03/02/2019
Children Under 18 Years of Age.
NOTICE OF SUMMONS
TO: TAQUANNA KEIRA MOORE, CORY MICHAEL MOORE, SR., and any unknown, biological father of the above named children born to Taquanna Moore at WS Atlanta Medical Center, Grady Heath System or Orange Park Medical Center.
You are hereby notified that the above-styled action has been brought by the EMANUEL County Department of Family and Children Services, and the Georgia Department of Human Services, seeking to terminate your parental rights with regard to the above referenced child; that said action has been filed in the Juvenile Court of Emanuel County, Georgia; and that by reason of an Order for Service of Summons by Publication dated February 9, 2021, you are hereby notified that you may obtain a copy of the petition from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Emanuel County, Georgia and may file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Marnique Oliver, Petitioner's Attorney, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 308, 115 S. Racetrack Street, Swainsboro, Georgia, 30401, an answer to the petition at any time prior to the Final Hearing.
You are hereby commanded and required to appear before this court on the 6th day of May, 2021 at the EMANUEL County Courthouse in Swainsboro, Georgia at 10:00 a.m. for a FINAL HEARING and show cause, if any you have, why the relief requested in the petition should not be granted. You are hereby commanded and required to appear before this Court at said final hearing or the findings of the Court will be made the permanent order of this Court in the above case. You must attend the final hearing in order to preserve your rights. At the final hearing you will be given an opportunity to show cause, if any you have, why the relief requested in the petition should not be granted. Prior to the Final Hearing a Provisional Hearing on the petition will be held before the Court on April 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Juvenile Courtroom at the EMANUEL County Courthouse, Swainsboro, Georgia. The parties notified hereby are entitled to legal counsel in the proceedings, and the Court will appoint legal counsel if any party should be unable, without undue hardship, to employ counsel. You are further notified that you will lose all rights to the children and will not be entitled to object to the termination of your rights to the children unless, within thirty days of receipt of this notice, you file:
(a) A petition to legitimate the children pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22; and
(b) Notice of the filing of the petition to legitimate with the Emanuel County Juvenile Court.
The Findings of Fact and Order of Disposition made at the Provisional Hearing will become final at the Final Hearing unless the party served by publication appears at the Final Hearing. If the party served by publication fails to appear at the Final Hearing on the petition, the Findings of Fact and Interlocutory Orders made will become final without further evidence and will be governed by the Juvenile Court Code as if made at the Final Hearing. If the party served by publication appears at the Final Hearing, the Interlocutory findings and Orders shall be vacated and disregarded, and the hearing shall proceed upon the allegations of the motion.
The parties notified hereby are entitled to legal counsel in the proceedings, and the Court will appoint legal counsel if any party should be unable, without undue hardship, to employ counsel. A copy of this petition may be obtained at no charge from the Office of the Clerk of Court between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. WITNESS, the Honorable Sherri McDonald, Judge of said Juvenile Court.
This _____ day of _____, 2021.
Clerk, Emanuel County Juvenile Court
READ CAREFULLY
This Summons requires you to be present at a formal hearing in the Juvenile Court.
The child or children and other parties involved may be represented by a lawyer at all stages of these proceedings.
If you want a lawyer, you may choose and hire your own lawyer. If you want to hire a lawyer, please contact your lawyer immediately.
If you want a lawyer but are not able to hire a lawyer without undue financial hardship, you may ask for a lawyer to be appointed to represent you. The Court would inquire into your financial circumstances and if the Court finds you to be financially unable to hire a lawyer, then a lawyer will be appointed to represent you.
If you want a lawyer appointed to represent you, you must let the Court or the officer of this Court handling this case know that you want a lawyer immediately.
COUNTY OF EMANUEL STATE OF GEORGIA
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
ESTATE OF:
MARY HELEN ROBINSON
ESTATE NO. 20E0124
All creditors of the Estate of MARY HELEN ROBINSON are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned in accordance to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This 9th day of March, 2021.
Stephanie Nicole Foreman
1806 Sportsman Lake Road
Fort Mill, SC 29715
Marc M. Bruce
Edenfield, Cox & Bruce
115 Savannah Avenue
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF LINDA MARLENE SCONYERS, ESTATE NO. 21E0038
DECEASED
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
LISA LAURETTE HOOD has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of LINDA MARLENE SCONYERS deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before 10:00 A.M. APRIL 12, 2021.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
DON E. WILKES
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Jeanie Hooks
Clerk of the Probate Court
P. O. Box 70 / 125 S. Main Street
Swainsboro, Ga. 30401
Address
478-237-7091
Telephone Number

Now Taking Applications!
SWAINSBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY
420 N. Racetrack Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401
Phone: 478-237-7381

Apartments for Family, Singles, Elderly and Disabled Persons
HUD Subsidized Handicap Units Available

Help Wanted
Now hiring truck drivers.
We pay per mile loaded and unloaded.
For more details please call 912-367-9160

Williams Dairy Trucking Inc

Private School Positions
David Emanuel Academy is currently interviewing for positions for the 2021-2022 school year. DEA has teaching positions available for English and preschool levels. Substitute teaching positions are always a need.

Please submit resumes to
Head of School at
hfree@deaegles.com
912-562-4405

PLEASANTVIEW Nursing Center

Pleasant View Nursing Center is currently looking for full time positions for CNA's & LPN's.

The facility is under new leadership and offers excellent company benefits and salaries.

Please forward your resume to
Jscrews@beaconhc.net

Join Us WE'RE HIRING!

Domino's

DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED!

CASH AND TIPS PAID DAILY

APPLY IN PERSON AT SWAINSBORO'S DOMINO'S
126 S MAIN ST, SWAINSBORO, GA 30401

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DAISY PEARL ROYAL, ESTATE NO. 21E0039
DECEASED
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
WILLIE ALBERT ROBINSON has petitioned for to be appointed administrator of the estate of DAISY PEARL ROYAL deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before 10:00 A.M. APRIL 19, 2021.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
DON E. WIKES
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Jeanie Hooks
Clerk of the Probate Court
P. O. Box 70 / 125 S. Main Street
Swainsboro, Ga. 30401
Address
478-237-7091
Telephone Number

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DONA ELAINE GLASS, DECEASED
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
JERRY N. CADLE, P.C. has petitioned for to be appointed administrator of the estate of DONA ELAINE GLASS, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before 10:00 A.M. APRIL 12, 2021.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
DON E. WILKES
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Jeanie Hooks
Clerk of the Probate Court
P. O. Box 70 / 125 S. Main Street
Swainsboro, Ga. 30401
Address
478-237-7091
Telephone Number

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF JERRY N. CADLE, P.C. DECEASED
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
JERRY N. CADLE, P.C. has petitioned for to be appointed administrator of the estate of JERRY N. CADLE, P.C., deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before 10:00 A.M. APRIL 12, 2021.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
DON E. WILKES
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Jeanie Hooks
Clerk of the Probate Court
P. O. Box 70 / 125 S. Main Street
Swainsboro, Ga. 30401
Address
478-237-7091
Telephone Number

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
(Continued on page 3D)

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.

Legals

(From page 2D)
IN RE: ESTATE OF PAUL PIERRE JR, ESTATE NO. 31E0040 DECEASED
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: **STEVEN RAY PIERRE** has petitioned for to be appointed administrator of the estate of **PAUL PIERRE JR**, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and /or grant of certain powers contained in O-C-G-A 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before 10:00 A.M. APRIL 26, 2021.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
 Don E. Wilkes
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Jeanie Hooks
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 P.O. Box 70/125 S. Main Street
 Swainsboro, Ga 30401
 Address
 478-237-7091
 Telephone Number

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF GERTRUDE J. SMITH, ESTATE NO. 20E0133 DECEASED

NOTICE
 IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,

TO: Ronald Walker, Shakera Shabazz, Koby Shabazz, Andrea Kim Walker, Vanessa Kopp, Lavernis Anthony Walker, Dawn Colbert, Michael Shabazz, Kolid Shabazz, and Nene Shabazz

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before **April 26, 2021**.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
DON E. WILKES
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Jeanie Hooks
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 P.O. Box 70 / 125 S Main Street
 Swainsboro, Ga. 30401
 Address
 478-237-7091
 Telephone Number

Notice is given that YN Petroleum LLC / DBA. Oak Park Liquors through Harish Reddy Ravalkole (Managing Member), 4050 Winterberry Rd, Cumming, GA 30040 and Suvarchala Ravalkole (Managing Member), 4050 Winterberry Rd, Cumming, GA 30040 have applied for a license to sell liquor at retail at 3877 Harrington St. suite B, Lyons, GA 30436

DEBTOR'S AND CREDITOR'S NOTICE STATE OF GEORGIA ESTATE OF TROY LEE RANDALL, SR. Probate Court of Emanuel County, Georgia EMANUEL COUNTY Estate No. 20E0113
 All persons having claims against TROY LEE RANDALL, SR. and his estate, are required to present the same to the undersigned, properly itemized and proven, within the time required by law. And all persons indebted to said deceased, or his estate, are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This ____ day of March, 2021

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL NOTICE OF SALE
 Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale in that certain Deed to Secure Debt from **BRUCE WOODS**, as Grantor, to **FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK**, as Grantee, dated May 1, 2006, recorded in Deed Book 268, Pages 50-55, Emanuel County Records; which Deed to Secure Debt secures a Note dated May 13, 2016, in the original principal sum of \$87,482.95 (the "Note"), as amended by a Change in Terms Agreement dated May 10, 2019; there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry, during the legal hours of sale, before the door of the Courthouse in Emanuel County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday of May, 2021, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real property:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53rd G. M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, being **Lot 7 of Block I of the Eastwood Estates Subdivision** as shown by plats prepared by Walter K. Maupin, Surveyor, dated February 23, 1971, recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 131, and dated February 13, 1981, recorded in Plat Book 10, Page 673, Emanuel County Clerk's Records. Said property BEGINNING at a corner marker located 384.13 feet S 17 degrees 53 minutes E from the southeast corner of the intersection of Turner Drive and Sutton Drive; thence N 72 degrees 07 minutes E for a distance of 150 feet; thence S 17 degrees 53 minutes E a distance of 100.45 feet; thence S 72 degrees 07 minutes W a distance of 150 feet; thence N 17 degrees 53 minutes W along the eastern edge of Sutton Drive a distance of 100.45 feet back to the point of beginning. Said property is identified by the Emanuel County Tax Assessor's Office as Map S09 027 and has a 911 address of **247 Sutton Drive, Swainsboro, Georgia, 30401**. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due and payable in full because of non-payment thereof pursuant to the terms of said Deed to Secure Debt and Note. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying said

Travers W. Paine III
 Attorney for Administrator,
 Maurice Antonio Brown
 Travers W. Paine III, PC
 Attorney at Law
 560 Ninth Street
 Augusta, GA 30901
 (706) 922-3548
 tpaine@paineirm.com

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL NOTICE OF SALE
 Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale in that certain Deed to Secure Debt from **BRUCE WOODS**, as Grantor, to **FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK**, as Grantee, recorded June 6, 2006, in Deed Book 270, Pages 212-216, Emanuel County Records; which Deed to Secure Debt secures a Note dated May 13, 2016, in the original principal sum of \$87,482.95 (the "Note"), as amended by a Change in Terms Agreement

dated May 10, 2019; there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry, during the legal hours of sale, before the door of the Courthouse in Emanuel County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday of May, 2021, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real property:

All that tract or parcel of land together with the improvements thereon, lying, situate and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53rd G. M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, being known and designated as **Lot No. 5, Block "J" of Eastwood Estates Subdivision**, as is shown on that particular Plat of Survey prepared by Walter K. Maupin, Surveyor, on February 23, 1971, which is recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 126, of the Records of the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court. Said Plat by reference hereto is incorporated herein for a more full, complete and accurate description of said property.

The above-described property is the same as that conveyed to Cecil Farrow and Geneva Farrow by a Joint Survivorship Warranty Deed from Herbert Gay and Martha J. Gay dated December 6, 1991, which is recorded in Deed Book 34, Page 411, of the Records of the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court. Cecil Farrow deceased on March 24, 2006 and said property vested in the survivor, Geneva Farrow by virtue of the Joint Survivorship provisions of the vesting deed. Said property is identified by the Emanuel County Tax Assessor's Office as Map S09 019 and has a 911 address of **248 Sutton Drive, Swainsboro, Georgia, 30401**.

The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due and payable in full because of non-payment thereof pursuant to the terms of said Deed to Secure Debt and Note. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying said indebtedness, including all interest and attorney's fees and all expenses of sale, and any other obligations of the Grantor to the Grantee.

Said property will be sold as the property of Bruce Woods, and to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the property is in the possession of the Administrator of the Estate of Bruce Ernest Woods or her tenants. Said property will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes, assessments, prior encumbrances, general subdivision restrictions, and other restrictions and easements of record, if any. The undersigned will execute a deed to the purchaser as authorized by the aforesaid Deed to Secure Debt. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity with full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the Deed to Secure Debt is Morris Bank, 301 Bellevue Avenue, Dublin, Georgia 31021 (telephone number 478-274-3072). This 29th day of March, 2021.

MORRIS BANK, Successor by Merger to FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK, Attorney-in-Fact for Bruce Woods
 R. KENNY STONE, P.C.
 Attorney at Law
 P. O. Box 681
 Statesboro, GA 30459
 Telephone: (912) 764-3232

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale in that certain Deed to Secure Debt from **BRUCE WOODS**, as Grantor, to **FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK**, as Grantee, dated May 1, 2006, recorded in Deed Book 268, Pages 50-55, Emanuel County Records; which Deed to Secure Debt secures a Note dated May 13, 2016, in the original principal sum of \$87,482.95 (the "Note"), as amended by a Change in Terms Agreement dated May 10, 2019; there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry, during the legal hours of sale, before the door of the Courthouse in Emanuel County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday of May, 2021, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real property:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53rd G. M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, being **Lot 7 of Block I of the Eastwood Estates Subdivision** as shown by plats prepared by Walter K. Maupin, Surveyor, dated February 23, 1971, recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 131, and dated February 13, 1981, recorded in Plat Book 10, Page 673, Emanuel County Clerk's Records. Said property BEGINNING at a corner marker located 384.13 feet S 17 degrees 53 minutes E from the southeast corner of the intersection of Turner Drive and Sutton Drive; thence N 72 degrees 07 minutes E for a distance of 150 feet; thence S 17 degrees 53 minutes E a distance of 100.45 feet; thence S 72 degrees 07 minutes W a distance of 150 feet; thence N 17 degrees 53 minutes W along the eastern edge of Sutton Drive a distance of 100.45 feet back to the point of beginning. Said property is identified by the Emanuel County Tax Assessor's Office as Map S09 027 and has a 911 address of **247 Sutton Drive, Swainsboro, Georgia, 30401**. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due and payable in full because of non-payment thereof pursuant to the terms of said Deed to Secure Debt and Note. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying said

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL NOTICE OF SALE
 Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale in that certain Deed to Secure Debt from **BRUCE WOODS**, as Grantor, to **FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK**, as Grantee, recorded June 6, 2006, in Deed Book 270, Pages 212-216, Emanuel County Records; which Deed to Secure Debt secures a Note dated May 13, 2016, in the original principal sum of \$87,482.95 (the "Note"), as amended by a Change in Terms Agreement

indebtedness, including all interest and attorney's fees and all expenses of sale, and any other obligations of the Grantor to the Grantee.

Said property will be sold as the property of Bruce Woods, and to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the property is in the possession of the Administrator of the Estate of Bruce Ernest Woods or her tenants. Said property will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes, assessments, prior encumbrances, general subdivision restrictions, and other restrictions and easements of record, if any. The undersigned will execute a deed to the purchaser as authorized by the aforesaid Deed to Secure Debt. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity with full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the Deed to Secure Debt is Morris Bank, 301 Bellevue Avenue, Dublin, Georgia 31021 (telephone number 478-274-3072). This 29th day of March, 2021.

MORRIS BANK, Successor by Merger to FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK, Attorney-in-Fact for Bruce Woods
 R. KENNY STONE, P.C.
 Attorney at Law
 P. O. Box 681
 Statesboro, GA 30459
 Telephone: (912) 764-3232

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale in that certain Deed to Secure Debt from **BRUCE WOODS**, as Grantor, to **FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK**, as Grantee, dated May 1, 2006, recorded in Deed Book 268, Pages 57-62, Emanuel County Records; which Deed to Secure Debt secures a Note dated May 13, 2016, in the original principal sum of \$87,482.95 (the "Note"), as amended by a Change in Terms Agreement dated May 10, 2019; there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry, during the legal hours of sale, before the door of the Courthouse in Emanuel County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday of May, 2021, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53rd G. M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, being known and designated as **Lot No. 16, Block "D" of the Eighth Addition to Lake Luck Subdivision**, as is shown on that particular Plat of Survey prepared by E. C. Salter, Surveyor, on November 2, 1957, which is recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 81, of the Records of the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court. Said Plat by reference hereto is incorporated herein for a more full, complete and accurate description of said property. Said tract of land being bounded, now or formerly, as follows: Northeast by Lot 15, of said Block and Subdivision, being lands of Larry McDaniel and others; Southeast by lands of Jack J. McCullough and others; Southwest by Lot 17, of said Block and Subdivision, being lands of Debra N. Payne; and Northwest a distance of 100 feet by the right-of-way of Liberty Street.

The above-described property is the same as that conveyed to Allen McDaniel and Peggy McDaniel by a Joint Survivorship Warranty Deed from Danny Hugh Rowland dated September 25, 1997, which is recorded in Deed Book 100, Page 385, of the Records of the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court. Said property is identified by the Emanuel County Tax Assessor's Office as Map S05 071 and has a 911 address of **616 W. Liberty Street, Swainsboro, Georgia**. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due and payable in full because of non-payment thereof pursuant to the terms of said Deed to Secure Debt and Note. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying said indebtedness, including all interest and attorney's fees and all expenses of sale, and any other obligations of the Grantor to the Grantee.

Said property will be sold as the property of Bruce Woods, and to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the property is in the possession of the Administrator of the Estate of Bruce Ernest Woods or her tenants. Said property will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes, assessments, prior encumbrances, general subdivision restrictions, and other restrictions and easements of record, if any. The undersigned will execute a deed to the purchaser as authorized by the aforesaid Deed to Secure Debt. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity with full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the Deed to Secure Debt is Morris Bank, 301 Bellevue Avenue, Dublin, Georgia 31021 (telephone number 478-274-3072). This 29th day of March, 2021.

MORRIS BANK, Successor by Merger to FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK, Attorney-in-Fact for Bruce Woods
 R. KENNY STONE, P.C.
 Attorney at Law
 P. O. Box 681
 Statesboro, GA 30459
 Telephone: (912) 764-3232

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

EMANUEL COUNTY
 All creditors of the estate of Larry James Kea, decedent, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to Jerry N. Cadle, P.C., P.O. Box 68, Swainsboro, GA 30401 according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 31st day of March, 2021.
 Gene Nolan Kea, Executor of the Estate of

Larry James Kea, decedent
 Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.
 P.O. Box 68
 Swainsboro, GA 30401

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
 GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Tommie L. Lloyd to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Real Estate Mortgage Network, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated January 6, 2012, recorded in Deed Book 363, Page 226, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to NewRez LLC F/K/A New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by assignment recorded in Deed Book 478, Page 504, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$153,994.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Emanuel County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2021, of the first Tuesday described property:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF
 The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. NewRez LLC F/K/A New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, 55 Beattie Place, Suite 110, Greenville, SC 29601, (800) 539-0267.
 To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Tommie Lee Lloyd or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as 905 W Moring Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.
 NewRez LLC F/K/A New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing as Attorney in Fact for Tommie L Lloyd
 McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
 1544 Old Alabama Road
 Roswell, GA 30076
 www.foreclosurehotline.net
 EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53rd G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, designated as Lots No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Block E of Grove Park Subdivision, fronting a distance of 300 feet on the Southern side of Covena Road (GA State Highway # 56) as shown on plat of survey made by R. K. Hatten, Surveyor, dated April, 1949, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court, in Deed Book DE, page 1A, to which reference is made as a part of this description. Said property is bounded now or formerly as follows: North by Covena Road (GA State Highway #56); East 300 feet by Arden Drive, as shown on said Plat; South by lands of Jennifer P. Fitzner; and West by lands of Billy V. Chapman, Jr. and Brandi N. Chapman.

The above described property is the same as that conveyed from James Chesley Allred, III and Martha C. Allred to Tommie L. Lloyd by a Warranty Deed dated January 6, 2012, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court, in Deed Book 363, pages 224-225. Said property is the same as that conveyed by a Warranty Deed with Right of Survivorship dated August 8, 2008, from Charlton H. Calhoun, III, Executor of the Estates of Charlton H. Calhoun, Jr. and Jane A. Calhoun, to

James Chesley Allred, III and Martha C. Allred, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court, in Deed Book 314, pages 275-276.
 MR/ca 5/4/21
 Our file no. 5447719 - FT18

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAHALA NASWORTHY CUMBEE, ESTATE NO. 21E0042 DECEASED

NOTICE
 The petition of **TIMMOTHY D. CUMBEE**, for an order declaring no administration is necessary in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
 This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition, in this Court on or before **MAY 7, 2021**.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
DON E. WILKES
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Jeanie Hooks
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 P. O. Box 70 / 125 S Main Street
 Swainsboro, Ga. 30401
 Address
 478-237-7091
 Telephone Number

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF GAVRIELLE LEONA MO'NAE BRADFORD, ESTATE NO. 21E0046 MINOR

NOTICE
 Date of second publication, if any April 14, 2021
TO: JAMES JOHNSON
 You are hereby notified that MARY ANN GRANT has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to be the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the Petitioner as temporary guardian must be in writing setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by

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Special Election

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 21-2-540, a special election shall be held in Oak Park, Georgia to fill a vacancy on the City Council, caused by the resignation of Harold Beasley. The special election will be held on June 15, 2021. As pursuant to O.C.G.A 12-2-131, qualifying will be held at the Oak Park City Hall from May 10, 2021 to May 12, 2021 between 9:00am and 4:30pm. The qualifying fee is \$15.00.

Courtney Soley
 Oak Park City Clerk

Editorials Columns

Cold Cash

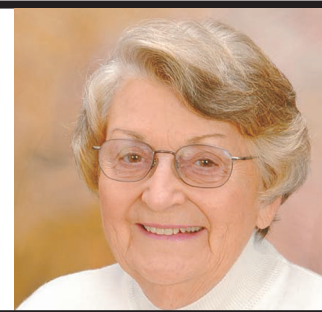
Inspiration for my columns often comes from stories I have read or heard from others. I do not mean that I plagiarize or in '53 SHS terms "copy off someone's paper". Either could get you in big trouble. My thoughts start twirling to my memory garden, and I dig up a related story. The homespun tales of Ronnie Johnson often give me this nudge. A few weeks ago, Ronnie delighted readers with a column about his miserly uncle. He and I have heard many tales of the hardships of the Great Depression from our older family members who carried these life-time impressions into their later years. Ronnie's uncle and my Uncle Curtis Wilson grew up with

the same caution. Work hard. Save your money. Keep your money safe. The barefoot boy in bib overalls learned early that the pine trees covering many acres around him offered opportunity for his future. Dollars did grow on pine trees. Acre by acre, he was able to become a large landowner and quite prosperous from the turpentine he dipped from the pines. He lived his entire life in the vicinity of his homeplace at Norristown Junction. He followed his rule for life and worked hard, saved his money and kept some of his money safely nearby. He had great respect for the Citizens Bank and Mr. El Flanders, but he still wanted some of his money hidden in a safe place if needed.

His land holding continued to grow, and the dollars continued growing on his pine trees. He built a nice home, bought new cars often and always looked out for those in need. He was a man of deep faith. His wife, my Aunt Iris, was his helpmate and supported his rule of life. She contributed a share to the savings by working many years as a supervisor in the J.P. Stevens woolen mill in Dublin. She had grown up in the depression years also and valued each dollar. Neither Curt nor Iris were willing to squander a cent unless necessary. However, they both enjoyed having a nice, new model car. When they learned the models for 1950 had just arrived at Fordville,

they decided to go look over but not planning to buy. As they looked among the cars, Iris kept going back to view a blue Crown Victoria sedan. This was top of the line and offered many accessories. Jimmy Morgan knew he had a sale when Curtis told him, "My wife loves that car, and I want her to have it today, but I have to go home to get the money." That was fine with Mr. Morgan, but he did not understand the delivery of the money. The couple hurried home to get the cash they had stashed under the frozen foods in their freezer. They counted out the many bills in various denominations and put the exact amount to pay for the car in full in a grocery bag.

Shirley Proctor Twiss



The Crown Victoria was ready and waiting when Curtis dumped the contents of the Piggly Wiggly bag on top of Jimmy Morgan's desk. He was too astonished to count the bills but declared, "I have always heard of Cold Hard Cash, but this is the coldest money I have ever seen. Iris loved driving around in her Crown Victoria, but Curtis continued to take most of his trips in the tar truck. I cannot end this without saying more. Aunt Iris and Uncle Curt were the dearest people in the world to

me. In case you do not know, Aunt Iris was my mother's sister. After the death of my parents, they became surrogates who continued to nurture and kept me in clothes and spending money during my years at Georgia State. They were never miserly with me. Both are still revered in Emanuel County, Also, Ronnie, I hope you do not plan to sue me for referring to your tales without permission. Remember imitation is the highest form of flattery. Write to Shirley at sptwiss@gmail.com

Discussing Georgia's new voting law with the Ryo Coffee Club

Just as I was about to pick up my flugelhorn, the phone rang. It was Skeeter Skates, owner of Skeeter Skates Tree Stump Removal and Plow Repair in Ryo, Georgia. He sounded concerned. That's not like Skeeter. Of course, he would never admit it. I have found

that those in the tree stump removal and plow repair profession emanate a high degree of self-assurance. "Hoss," Skeeter said, "the boys in the Ryo Coffee Club asked me to talk a little politics with you. I told them I'd be happy to since you know as little about

politics as anybody I've ever run across." I hear that line every time he calls me but I don't say anything because Skeeter gets such a kick out of it. Tree stump removal and plow repair professionals love their own jokes. "First off," he asked, "we was wondering

what them politicians doing in Atlanta was doing by changing how we vote. That's why I'm calling you." I told him Republicans say they are making elections more secure. Democrats say it's because Donald Trump lost the election. The truth, as usual, is somewhere in the middle. "Surely, they ain't saying we can't vote no more," Skeeter growled. "Anybody what tries to stop me from voting is liable to get an 11-inch Power King Stump Grinder with Precision Control Brake deposited where the sun don't shine." I assured Skeeter that nobody was trying to stop him from voting. Admittedly, I don't have all the details about Senate Bill 202 which was passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Brian Kemp behind closed doors, so I don't know what it says about bringing stump grinders to polling places. I suspect Democrats would say banning stump grinders is racist while Republicans would point out that Pres. Biden's home state of Delaware does not allow stump grinders and that they take care of their own house first. Skeeter said, "Walleye who runs the bait shop in Red Bud says he believes the Q-Anons are responsible for what has happened as well as that Antifa bunch. He says they plan to take over the

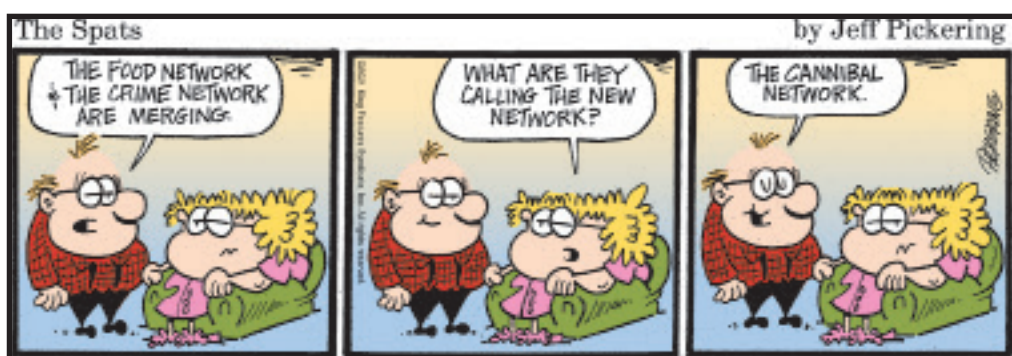
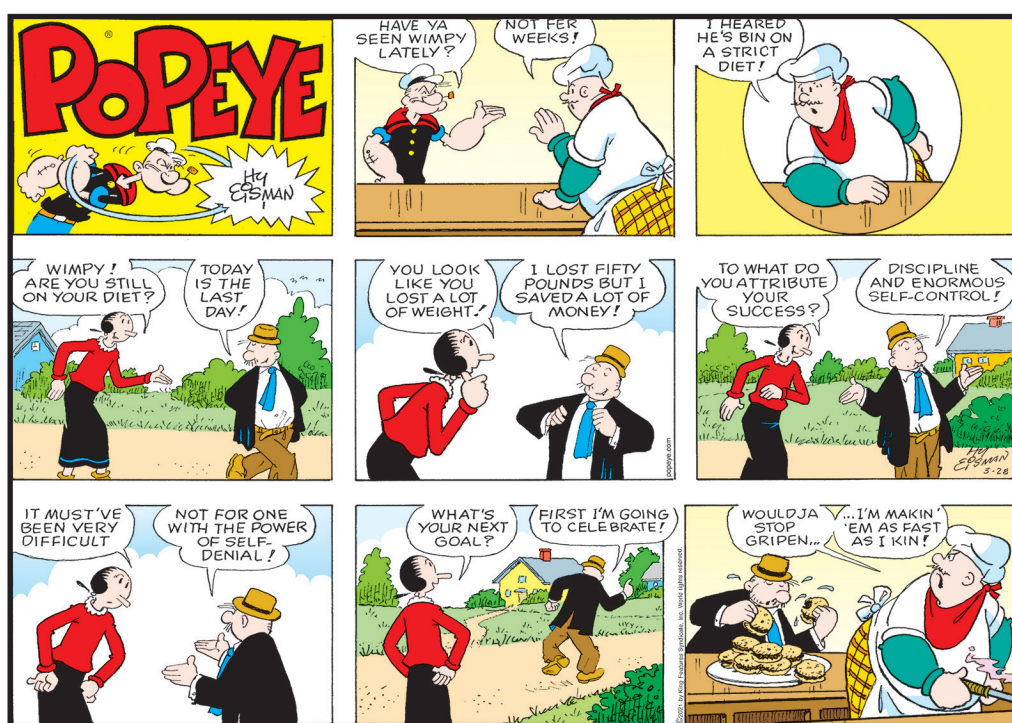
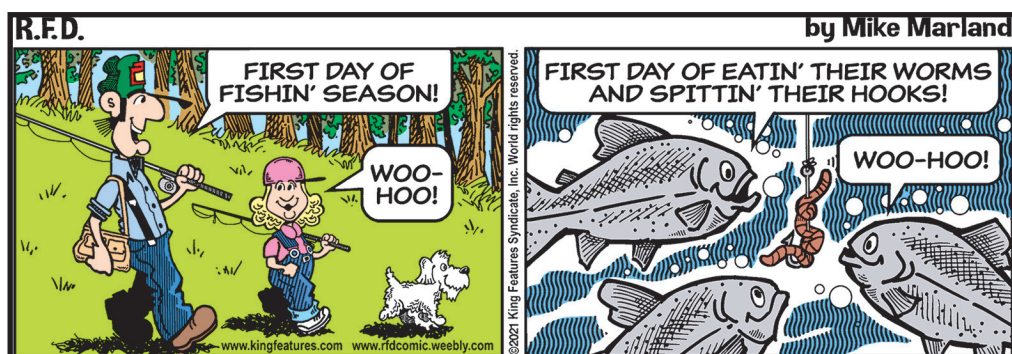
Dick Yarbrough



country, arrest the police and harvest their organs." I think Walleye spends too much time on social media. "Let me ask you about absentee voting," Skeeter said. "This has got Uncle Coot real worried. He has got no choice but to vote absentee. As you know, Uncle Coot spent a number of years heavily involved in the portable toilet transportation industry and nobody wants to stand in line if he is around, unless they can be upwind. He can shorten a voting line in a hurry." I told Skeeter to tell Uncle Coot not to worry. He will just have to provide some ID. No different than the portable toilet transportation industry. I am pretty sure you can't simply go in and haul off a potty without having some identification. Skeeter mentioned that Booger Bledsoe, who runs a roadside vegetable stand over in Sugar Hill, wondered why everybody is so upset about the baseball All Star Game being moved out of Atlanta because some folks don't like our changing the way we vote in Georgia. Booger says who cares? If anybody is that interested in that game, which he doubts, they can watch it on television although past ratings show nobody much ever does past the third inning.

He makes a good point. The gang wanted to know what the big deal was about making it illegal to hand out food or water to people standing in line to vote. I told them that the Republicans say that doing so could "inappropriately influence voters in the crucial final moments before they cast their ballots." Democrats say - stop me if you've racist this before - it's racist. Skeeter said there is no way that a bottle of water would ever get him to change his vote. That was Un-American. I could hear Walleye and Booger Bledsoe agreeing in the background. Uncle Coot didn't have much to say since nobody would likely come close enough to offer him anything but a bar of soap. And how could it be racist if nobody of any color can have a drink of water in line? I tried to explain to Skeeter that politics can be very complicated. Skeeter said, no - replacing a 6-port manifold on a 3-point hitch-mount Weed Wiper is complicated. Politics is just downright weird. As bad as I hate to admit it, he may be right. 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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Gail Williamson, Editor/Publisher
Whitley Clifton, Newsroom Editor

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.

The Forest Blade Is Turning 160 Years Old!

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SEARCH FOR THE HIDDEN BALLS THROUGHOUT THIS WEEK'S EDITION. THE NUMBERS ON THE BALLS WILL ADD UP TO 160. LIST NUMBER ON BALL AND THE PAGE NUMBER IT WAS FOUND ON BELOW.

Deadline for entries is April 30th at noon
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READERS' CHOICE Awards



If you would like for us to consider a new category, please call Pam at 478-237-9971!

Just write your favorite places for food, bargains, automotive needs, as well as other favorites on the form below. Mail it to The Readers' Choice Awards, c/o The Forest-Blade, P.O. Box 938, Swainsboro, GA 30401, or bring it by our office. One lucky person will win \$100 in a drawing from contest entries. Absolute entry deadline is Friday, April 23, 2021 at 5 :00 PM.

At least 25 of the categories must be filled out.

Simply write in your favorite choice in each category!

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Best Caterer _____ | Best Real Estate Company _____ | Best Farm Equipment Supplier _____ |
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| Best All-Around Restaurant _____ | Best Insurance Agent _____ | Best Pawn Shop _____ |
| Best All-Around Fast Food _____ | Best Chiropractor _____ | Best Paint & Body Shop _____ |
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| Best Salad Bar _____ | Best All-Around Industry _____ | Best Mortgage Company _____ |
| Best Burger _____ | Best Funeral Home _____ | Best Bridal Registry _____ |
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| Best Lunch _____ | Best Dental Service _____ | Best Drive Thru Window (Food) _____ |
| Best Dinner _____ | Best Physician _____ | Best Drive Thru Window (Service) _____ |
| Best Buffet _____ | Best Nurse (Employed Where?) _____ | Best Drive Thru Window (Bank) _____ |
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| Best Vegetables _____ | Best Veterinarian _____ | Best Mattress Store _____ |
| Best Sandwiches _____ | Best Daycare Facility _____ | Best EMT _____ |
| Best Seafood _____ | Best Automotive Dealership _____ | Best Wrecker Service _____ |
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| Best Contractor/Builder/Remodeler _____ | Best CNA (Employed Where?) _____ | Best Used Car Lot _____ |
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| Best Antique Shop _____ | Best Carpet Cleaner _____ | Best Finance Co. Loan Officer _____ |
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| Best Gas Station _____ | Best Women's Clothing Store _____ | Best Credit Counseling _____ |
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| Best Finance Company _____ | Best Propane Gas Provider _____ | Best Dog Groomer _____ |
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Rules: Entries must be submitted on official newspaper entry ballot. Photocopies will not be accepted. Entries must be received by Friday, April 23, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Mail to: Reader's Choice Awards, c/o The Forest-Blade, P.O. Box 938, Swainsboro, GA 30401, or bring it by our office! Announcement of the winners will appear in the Reader's Choice edition in May of 2021. Decision of the judges is final. The Forest-Blade will not be responsible for entries lost or delayed in the mail for any reason. All entries become property of The Forest-Blade. Employees of the Forest-Blade are not eligible.