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# The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 163, NO. 32

Swainsboro, Georgia • August 10, 2022

ONE DOLLAR

## Emanuel County Schools recognizes 'Teachers of the Year'

Each year, Emanuel County School faculties have the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplished teachers in our schools by selecting their school's Teacher of the Year. During the district convocation to kick off the new school year, ECS recognized the 2023 Teachers of the Year for Swainsboro and Twin City schools.

The teachers recognized were Cindy Riner, a math teacher at Swainsboro High School; Katie Cowart, a math teacher at Emanuel County Institute; Bob McNeely, business teacher at Swainsboro Middle School; Joan Turner, fifth grade teacher at Swainsboro Elementary School; Mandi Johnson, fifth grade teacher at Twin City Elementary School; Kristie Brantley, kindergarten teacher at Swainsboro Primary School.

Meet these shining examples of excellence by reading some of the information submitted as part of their applications.

**Cindy Riner - SHS**  
 In a letter of support for Mrs. Riner, a colleague discussed not only her reputation for engaging and motivating students but also the countless hours she spends outside the classroom helping her students understand their role in making our schools and community a better place to live. Her colleague wrote, "It is not uncommon for former students to contact her seeking help in their post-secondary classes because they know she cares and is cheering for their success." In discussing Mrs. Riner's impact on her life, a student referred not only to the mathematical lesson but also to the many invaluable life lessons Mrs. Riner teach-

es. The student said, "She taught me to never stop working for the things you want and to view adversity not as a stumbling block but as a stepping stone to greatness. Mrs. Riner never gave up on her students, and in return, we never gave up on ourselves."

**Katie Cowart - ECI**  
 In her application, Mrs. Cowart discusses the importance of teacher commitment. She states, "We committed teachers are dedicated to our students in whatever capacity they may need. We are their biggest cheerleaders most times, and other times we are their biggest critics, but both are solely for their benefit and growth. One major quality of a committed teacher is that he or she never stops thinking about their students or things that may benefit them. Those teachers who (Continued on page 2A)



BRANTLEY



COWART



JOHNSON



MCNEELY



RINER



TURNER



ROBERTS DELIVERS SMILES TO EMANUEL MEDICAL CENTER

### Southern Traditions delivers annual smiles

In honor of the month of June's Make Someone Smile® Week, Jim Roberts with Southern Traditions participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> annual campaign for a second consecutive year in a row.

The week-long celebration was founded in 2000 by Teleflora Florists, the world's leading floral delivery service, and is the most successful volunteer initiative in North America. This year, Jim Roberts, owner of Southern Traditions Floral and Gifts, participated in this country-wide event by delivering "Be Happy® Bouquets" to Emanuel Medical Center, EMC Nursing Home and East Georgia Healthcare Center.



PITTS, CARNES, McCOY, AND REEVES

## New Veterans attend WAA meeting at the library

The Veterans of the Library met Monday morning, August 8, at 9:30 a.m. at Franklin Memorial Library in the George L. Smith II Room. With Johnny Tapley presiding, there were 28 in attendance. The main item discussed was the need for citizens of Emanuel County to submit the form to the library on any family veteran buried in the East Brook, Early Settlers, First Baptist and the Swainsboro City Cemeteries that are **not marked** as a veteran. The form has been posted on the Facebook page of the Emanuel County Veterans - Wreaths Across America.

Chair Johnny called on newest veterans that

attended breakfast for the first time to tell a little about their service. William Pitts served 10 years in the U.S. Army from 1987 - 1997. He served in South Carolina, Germany, Iraq and the State of Washington. Bobby R. McCoy served in the U.S. Army and the Georgia Army National Guard from 1979 - 2000. During his over 20 years in the military, he served six years on active duty and 14 years in the Army National Guard in Company A, 878th Combat Engineer Battalion in the Swainsboro unit as a Supply Sgt and Armorer. James Carnes served in the U.S. Army from 1966 - July 1971 while four of those years were

in the 5th Maintenance Battalion in the Republic of Vietnam. Bobby Reeves served in the U.S. Air Force from January 1970 - January 1974 as a JAG Officer. He was stationed in Tucson, AZ at Davis Monthan Air Force Base for two years and Malstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana for two years. He received an Honorable discharge in January 1974 and began law practice here in Swainsboro that same month. The Veterans of the Library welcome all veterans to come meet for coffee and breakfast every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. at the library, except holiday weekends.

## Johnson makes GSU 40 under 40

by BRITTANY HALL  
 Georgia Southern University recently released its seventh publication of 40 under 40, an influential list that celebrates young, alumni who are leading the way in business, research, leadership, community service, education, and philanthropy. Among the very deserving honoree's, one Emanuel County native made the list, Jessica Sammons Johnson, who currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer for Emanuel Medical Center. "I was so surprised! Emanuel Medical Center's Chief Executive Officer, Damien Scott, nominated me but I never thought that I would be selected." Johnson humbly explained.

The selection process began with alumni nominations in March then the most noteworthy, young leaders, were chosen by a committee of Alumni Association Board Members and University Staff.



JOHNSON

To be considered for nominations, honorees had to either attend Georgia Southern University or Armstrong University and have had to aspire to uphold the core values of both

universities through collaboration, academic excellence, discovery, innovation, integrity, openness, inclusion, and sustainability, all of which, Johnson encompasses and gracefully represents:

"After high school, I began my studies at East Georgia College. I knew I wanted to major in business, although initially unsure of the emphasis, and chose Accounting after completing the introductory classes at EGC. I graduated from EGC in 2007 and transferred to Georgia (Continued on page 2A)

## What's Inside...

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## Emanuel County Schools...

(from front page) support their students outside the classroom. They attend ballgames, concerts, and celebrations in

**Congratulations Dr. Mark Haddock!**  
**~VOTED BEST CHIROPRACTOR~**

*Love,*  
 Donna, Z. Tyler, Zaid & Sailor



support of their students. Finally, teachers who are committed realize that their own learning doesn't stop when they get their own classroom. Committed teachers continually push themselves to learn new things and gain new perspectives, modeling that learning for their students. Those teachers are encouragers to students and believe that no matter what academic level the student is on, that student can always achieve more."

**Bob McNeely - SMS**  
 In a letter of support of Mr. McNeely, a former student described him as a role model for many that need one and a driving force for others who aspire to be more. In her letter, the student discussed the changes and challenges that occur in a student's middle school experience and how each and every morning, Mr. McNeely would greet each and every student with a smile and a truly heartfelt personalized manner. She went on to discuss how as a classroom teacher, he encouraged students to think for themselves and then gave them a platform for sharing their thoughts and ideas. In expressing her pride for him, she also mentioned how some weeks, he could be found at the school seven days a week because he wants and expects the best of each and every person

with whom he comes in contact.

**Joan Turner - SES**  
 In her application, Mrs. Turner discussed the importance of building relationships with students and co-workers in order to have a positive school culture where students can perform. Regarding her students, Mrs. Turner said, "I want them to know that I believe in them, I am always available for them, and that I love them no matter what they do or say. I remind my students that they are all unique and special and learn in different ways and at different rates. I strive to make my classroom a safe place for them where they feel comfortable to step out of their comfort zones and take chances on themselves." She went on to say, "Just as teachers need to build relationships with students, teachers also need to build relationships with one another. A school should have a sense of community where everyone is working together for the good of all students."

**Mandi Johnson - TCE**  
 In a letter of support for Ms. Johnson a parent wrote, "As my child's kindergarten teacher this past year, I witnessed Mandi lead with enthusiasm, patience, and love. I also witnessed Mandi instruct twenty young students, leading them to master the required kindergarten skills and achieve more advanced skills, both inside and outside of the classroom. Throughout the school year, Mandi fostered a love for learning in and among her students. She created a space for them to show love one to one another, exhibit kindness and compassion, and develop the ability to accept others. Mandi also created opportunities for

personal development by allowing her students to explore their interests and embrace their unique interests and personalities."

**Kristie Brantley - SPS**  
 In support of Mrs. Brantley's Teacher of the year selection, a grandmother wrote, "This young lady was influential in the life of my granddaughter, during one of the most difficult times imaginable." She discussed how after losing her mother, her granddaughter was learning how to go through life without her mom and found guidance and compassion in Mrs. Brantley. She stated that when her granddaughter needed a little more nurturing than other children, Mrs. Brantley stepped up, even while balancing a room full of young students. To their family, Mrs. Brantley became more than a teacher; she became part of the family. The grandmother shared how Mrs. Brantley not only gave 110 percent during normal school hours but also after the doors closed. One particular example she shared was when her granddaughter, nervous and missing her mom, invited her teachers to Church to watch her in a program she was in. The grandmother stated, "I will never forget the look on my granddaughter's face when Kristie and Kristie's husband entered those Church doors, and I will never forget the impact it had on me!"

Emanuel County Schools is proud to have these deserving teachers representing their respective schools. Judges selected one teacher from this group of finalists to represent the district as the 2023 ECS Teacher of the Year. Read next week's edition to see the announcement and hear from this educator.



Cathy Beasley, Twin City Drive Thru Bank Teller

Naomi Hall & Alisha Colley, Swainsboro Drive Thru Bank Tellers

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### Johnson makes GSU...

(From front page)  
 Southern University, where I graduated in 2008 with my Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting."

Johnson joined the Emanuel Medical Center team in 2009 as the Director of Materials Management. She began her duties by assisting in accounting and shortly, thereafter, moved to the Controller position before finally moving to the Chief Financial Officer position in 2017. During her tenure, she has served in the lead Accounting and Finance roles at Candler County Hospital and Evans Memorial Hospital through a hospital management group, while still serving Emanuel Medical Center.

"Emanuel Medical is my home, and I am privileged to be a part of my hometown hospital family." She said with a smile.

Johnson has also furthered her education by obtaining her Master of Accountancy in 2012 from Auburn University. She has also completed and holds the title of Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP) from the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

Although she is a professional in her career, Johnson is also a hardworking and loving mother to two sons, Joshua, and Drew, whom she shares with her husband of 11 years, Andy Johnson. Congratulations Jessica, on your well-deserved success! You're an inspiration to us all!

**WE APPRECIATE OUR MILITARY AND ALL YOU DO FOR OUR COUNTRY!**

*Thank You!*

**The Forest-Blade**

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CHIEF DRAWDY TAKES OATH



EGSC INTERIM CHIEF ROLAND, DR. SCHECTER, CHIEF DRAWDY, BROOK DRAWDY AND USG CHIEF OF SAFETY AND SECURITY MIKE COVERSON

## Drawdy sworn in as East Georgia State College Chief of Police

East Georgia State College (EGSC) hosted a swearing-in ceremony Monday, August 8, for Trey Drawdy who has been named the new EGSC Chief of Police and will serve the campus community. The University System of Georgia (USG) Chief of Safety and Security, Chief Mike Coverson, attended the event to administer the Oath of Office.

"I am excited to join the East Georgia State College family and to be a part of an environment which is truly student focused. The college experience is about helping students explore and blaze their own pathways to a fulfilling and prosperous future. I'm eager to do my part in helping, supporting, and encouraging our students through various public safety initiatives and services," said Drawdy.

Drawdy is originally from Southeast Georgia and has over 25 years of law enforcement and higher education administrative experience.

"Trey is a law enforcement professional with decades of experience in this area and I could not be more pleased that he has chosen to join us here at East Georgia State College," said Dr. David Schecter, President of EGSC.

Drawdy began his career in 1994 with the Glynn County Police Department as a patrol officer and later served as an investigator. During his time with the agency, Drawdy was awarded the department's distinguished service medal and received the Optimist International Respect for Law Award.

To expand his criminal justice knowledge base, he accepted an appointment with the Juvenile Court of Glynn County and served in various capacities to include intake, diversion, probation, and represented the court as an inter-agency trainer. Additionally, he served as a school resource officer with the Glynn County Schools Police and oversaw training for the agency.

In 2004, Drawdy earned a graduate degree and became a criminal justice faculty member with Chattahoochee Technical College. His primary focus was on mentoring first-generation college students and public safety professionals seeking ca-

reer enhancement through education. As a department chair, he developed the Law Enforcement Accelerated Academic Program (LEAAP), which offered a combination of online, hybrid, and condensed in-person classes offered on weekends. His efforts led to receiving the Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction at the institutional level.

In 2009 he became director of the Reinhardt University Public Safety Institute, which is a Georgia P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement academy in the metro-Atlanta area. The Institute was conceived to serve the needs of aspiring and veteran law enforcement officers through a combination of training and education. Drawdy found the position to be unique because it required a merging of academic administration with law enforcement managerial responsibilities.

He was initially tasked with overseeing the basic training of new police officers. Under his leadership, programming was expanded to include advanced and specialized training for veteran law enforcement officers. As the Institute grew and expanded, Drawdy was named interim dean of the School of Professional Studies and was pro-

moted to the rank of captain within the Reinhardt University Department of Public Safety.

Drawdy retired from Reinhardt University in 2022 after having graduated over 400 newly minted Georgia police officers. Additionally, he is proud to have played a role in the development of veteran officers who have gone on to serve across Georgia as police chiefs, command staff members, and supervisors.

Drawdy is a member of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and completed the Chief Executive Training program in 2020. He holds an associate degree from the College of Coastal Georgia, a baccalaureate degree from Armstrong State University, and a Master of Education from Troy University. Additionally, he is certified as a senior instructor through the Georgia P.O.S.T. Council and is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

Trey's wife of 16 years, Brook, is a native of Bull-och County and is an East Georgia State College alumnus. In their free time, the couple enjoys attending youth basketball tournaments with their 13-year-old son, Lee. Trey also enjoys camping and giving of his time through service as an adult volunteer leader with Georgia 4-H.

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**AUG 16**  
AUDITORIUM

Convocation is an event that celebrates incoming students and the start of the new academic year. Students are encouraged to wear EGSC colors for a group photo. There will be an ice cream social following the event!

## Bobcats on campus for Fall

EGSC students have made their way back to campus for the start of the Fall 2022 semester. Students have been moving in to Bobcat Villas, the on-campus housing in Swainsboro, since last week. EGSC President Dr. David Schecter got the chance to help students move in and talk with their families about the college.

Welcome back, Bobcats!!



### UPCOMING

- August 10 - 12 Drop/Add Period - Swainsboro/Statesboro Only
- August 10 Full Term & Session I Classes Begin - Swainsboro/Statesboro
- Late Registration Fee Begins - All Locations
- Athletic Handbook Review Session - 3 p.m.
- August 11 DAR Meeting - 2 p.m.
- August 12 Fee Payment Deadline - Swainsboro/Statesboro
- August 16 - 17 Tennis and Cross Country Tryouts
- August 16 Daytime Kickback - 11 a.m.
- Fall Convocation - 3 p.m.

### SAVE THE DATE

- August 16 Fall Convocation - 3 p.m.
- August 17 Full Term & Session I Classes Begin - Augusta

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9:00 AM - Contemporary Service  
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!

**Frances Delaine Claxton Sumner, 82**

Frances Delaine Claxton Sumner, age 82, departed this life on August 6, 2022, surrounded by her family. Funeral services were held Tuesday, August 9, at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Tomlinson Funeral Home with Chaplain Roger Holley officiating. Interment followed in the Swainsboro City Cemetery.

The family received friends Monday, August 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Tomlinson Funeral Home.

Frances Delaine Claxton Sumner was born April 10, 1940, in Swainsboro, to the late Eddie Claxton and Christine Sullivan Claxton. She was an extraordinary woman with a great sense of humor. Frances was a wonderful role model for her family, friends, and for those seeking a better way of life. She worshiped as a Southern Baptist with a strong faith in the Holy Trinity. J. P. Stevens (East Dublin, GA) was her first job (July 1958 - December 1969). She worked in Woolen and Mending, making production every week and also in Customer Service. Unable to attend her Senior year at Swainsboro High School, Frances studied and acquired her GED (2/29/1968) while working at J. P. Stevens. In 1969-71, she went to Cosmetology School in Dublin to become a cosmetologist and graduated August 17, 1971. As a cosmetologist from December 1969 - October 1990, Frances' income supported her family while her husband, Bill Sumner, began his career with State Farm Insurance Company in Swainsboro. Additional-



SUMNER

ly, she worked at Shop Rite Pharmacy from 1975 to 1978 for Danny Tapley and Butch Parrish. Blessed with the gift of creativity, cake decorating became a passion for her. As a cake decorator for many years, she worked independently, and also with Kroger, Piggly Wiggly, Bi Lo, and Harvey's Supermarket. Frances was a voracious reader of all genres and enjoyed cooking, gardening, crocheting, and walking/training her "shelter dog" Tagan every morning. In her later years, she took great pleasure in "Flea Market Haggling". Mrs. Sumner is preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Christy Elaine Sumner Bullard; brothers, John Claxton and Marvin Willis Claxton Sr., husband, Bill V. Sumner; and husband, Clifford L. Ellis.

Mrs. Sumner is survived by her daughter, Debora Sumner Mullings of Adrian; grandsons, Isaac J. Mulling, Jr. and William G. Bullard, both of Adrian; brother, Dock Garland Claxton (Shirley) of Swainsboro; and sister, Carolyn Claxton Kirby (Charles, deceased) of Warner Robins.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of Frances Claxton Sumner.

Tomlinson Funeral Home and Crematory was in charge of arrangements.

**Patricia Dekle Coleman, 87**

Mrs. Patricia Dekle Coleman, 87, of Swainsboro, passed away Saturday, August 6, 2022, at Emanuel County Nursing Home following an extended illness. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, August 13, at Chapman Funeral Home. Mrs. Coleman was born December 21, 1934, in Swainsboro, to Cecil Kermit Dekle and Emma Bird Johnson. After graduating from Swainsboro High School, she attended Mercer University where she was a member of Chi Omega Sorority. Mrs. Coleman also attended Georgia Southern University and Draughton's Business School. She lived in Atlanta for 35 years before moving to Lake Sinclair and marrying her high school sweetheart, Mr. Elwyn O. Coleman, Jr. Mrs. Coleman was a member and past president of Milledgeville Country Club Ladies Golf Association and a member of Wilmington Island Gold Club Ladies Association. She was also a member of First Families of Georgia and Daughters of the Amer-



COLEMAN

ican Revolution. Mrs. Coleman was a volunteer at both an Atlanta Hospital and Emanuel Medical Center, where she also was secretary of the Volunteer Association. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Swainsboro. Mrs. Coleman is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Elwyn O. Coleman, Jr.; and son, Christopher M. Barnett. Mrs. Coleman is survived by her son, David Barnett (Stephanie) of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Dylan Barnett of Oceanside, CA, Raissa Barnett, Danny Barnett, Jake Barnett, and Olivia Barnett, all of Atlanta; and great-granddaughter, Katerina Isabella Barnett.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

**Marianne Lester Sanders, 80**

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Mrs. Marianne Lester Sanders, age 80, a native of Byromville, GA, on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at Cedar Plantation in Metter. Funeral services will be Saturday, August 13, at 3 p.m. in the Peebles-Curry Memorial Chapel with Sonia Sullivan Clifton officiating. Interment will follow in the Swainsboro City Cemetery. The family will receive friends Saturday, August 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Pallbearers are James "Jim" Mercer, W. C. Grimes, James "Jim" Cowart, Michael Wall, Jack Lester and Sam Lester.

Mrs. Sanders was born June 14, 1942, in Byromville, Dooly County, GA, to the late Frank Wood Lester and Wealtha Louise Bundrick Lester. She was a graduate of Dooly County High School in Vienna, and attended Emory University. Marianne was a member of Phi Mu Sorority, and graduated from University of Maryland with a Master's in Education. She was an avid collector of cookbooks, was a phenomenal cook, and was a member of the Red Hat Society. Marianne also enjoyed walking and traveling, which she did extensively with her husband during his time in the military. However,



SANDERS

her greatest joy was her family, cooking for them and spending time with them. She was a member of St. Stephens Church in Suwanee, TN. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Sanders is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Thomas F. Sanders, Jr.; and sister, Barbara Methvin.

Survivors include her daughter, Leslie Johnson (Russell) of Swainsboro; sons, Thomas Kibbee Sanders of Chattanooga, TN; and Carlton Eugene Sanders (Nessi) of Bloomington, IN; sister, Helen Wall (Andrew) of Dothan, AL; brothers, Frank Wood Lester Jr. (Angela) of Montazuma, GA and Samuel Marshall Lester (Stacey) of Capron, GA; grandchildren, Charles Alan "Chip" Morgan Jr. (Mamrie), Thomas Sanders, Schuyler Angus Johnson, Elizabeth Caledonia Sanders, and Tiernan Hilburn Johnson; nieces, nephews and extended family.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

**John Kelley, 41**

Mr. John Kelley, 41, of Metter, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, August 3, 2022. Memorial service will be private at a later date.

Mr. Kelley was born August 11, 1980, in Leesburg, FL, to Carl Kelley and Livia Judy Sullivan. He was a very loving guy, especially for his children, nieces, and nephews. John was employed by Walmart in Vidalia. Mr. Kelley is preceded in death by his parents.

Mr. Kelley is survived by his sons, Logan Tinker of Metter and Xavier Tinker of Florida; brothers, Rhett Kelley (Diana) of Metter, Carl Kelley of Moultrie, Luke Sulli-



KELLEY

van of Vidalia, and Jody Sullivan of Branford, FL; sisters, Ashley Love (Randy) and Holly Slater, both of Metter; many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

**Don't forget to love God**

As life changes faster than we can change, it becomes more complex. Learning new ways of managing can be our focus or get our attention. So, before we get too carried away with the complexity of everyday life issues, let us not forget to love God.

Before you realize it, life can become all about you and your circle, so be careful that you don't get in the vicious cycle of chasing everything that comes along. Focus on chasing God. He is the first and the last. He is the beginning and the end.

I recently listened to, "The last words of Steve Jobs" (Google and listen to it). Steve Jobs was a genius. He became a billionaire. He invented Apple computers and iPads. He died of pancreatic cancer at the age of fifty-six. He gave great advice on wealth and health, but his last words were, "Love God".

The first commandment given was "Thou

shalt have no other God's before me". Let's not put anything ahead of God. You don't have to worry about what will happen in the future if you keep God first. Sometimes life can throw you out of focus but this is just a reminder. God will take care of you. He promised in Philippians 4:19, "And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory." Also remember Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths."

So, don't forget to love God. He promised to never leave you nor forsake you. Keep trusting him as things get more difficult. Pray, and fast. Read his word and be obedient to it. Stay focused. Remember St. John chapter fourteen. Don't let your heart be troubled. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. So, don't forget God.

### Rev. Allen Meeks, 69

Reverend Allen Meeks, 69, of Kite passed away Monday, August 1, 2022, at Wrightsville Manor following an extended illness. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 3, at Kite Church of God with Evangelist Brian Boutwell officiating. Interment followed in Kite Church of God Cemetery. The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, August 2, at Chapman Funeral Home. Pallbearers were Joey Schoen, Zach Walters, Nathan Meeks, Joey Claxton, Steve Meeks, and John Buxton. Honorary pallbearers were the Men of the Kite Church of God. Reverend Meeks was born December 1, 1952, in Swainsboro to Hardee Meeks and Lizzie Jane Flanders Meeks. His life can be summed up in three words: called to serve. At the young age of fifteen, Rev. Meeks felt God was calling him to become a preacher. A couple of years later, when some were trying to avoid being drafted into the military, Reverend Meeks obeyed God's calling to enlist in the United States Army. He went on to bravely serve his country in the Vietnam War. While in the United States Army, Reverend Meeks married his beautiful wife, Donna, a childhood friend and neighbor. When he left the military, the avid outdoorsman began working for his wife's family's logging business. Soon after the birth of his first daughter, Reverend Meeks began pastoring his first church. A few years later, God opened a door to minister at the Kite Church of God, the place of worship he and his wife grew up in. The adored father of two girls pastored the Kite Church of God for 36 years. The



REV. MEEKS

ordained minister selflessly dedicated himself to his church and community. Regardless of the time of day, where he was at, or what his plans were, the beloved pastor immediately went to those who called him and needed a minister. The devoted man of God had three passions in his life: his church, his family, and his cows. He often referred to himself as the cowboy preacher. He was a fan of western television programs and movies. John Wayne was one of his favorite actors. Reverend Meeks even famously preached a sermon based on an episode of "Gunsmoke." While he will be missed by many, his legacy lives on in the lives of those touched by his ministry. Rev. Meeks is preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Robbie Meeks and J. H. Meeks.

Rev. Meeks is survived by his wife of 48 years, Donna C. Meeks of Kite; daughters, Olivia Stone (Eddie) of Stilson and Samantha Sheffield (Patrick) of Kite; grandson, Zane Stone of Stilson; sisters, Elaine Bridges (Wayne) of Glenwood, Ruth Williams (Paul) and Jane Ann Walters (Gary), both of Kite, Betty Schoen of Swainsboro, and Janice Mathias of Dublin; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

### Braswell to hold book signing

A book signing and meet and greet event for Author Dr. Catherine Braswell will be held Saturday, August 20, at 11 a.m. at 210 West Main Street in Swainsboro.

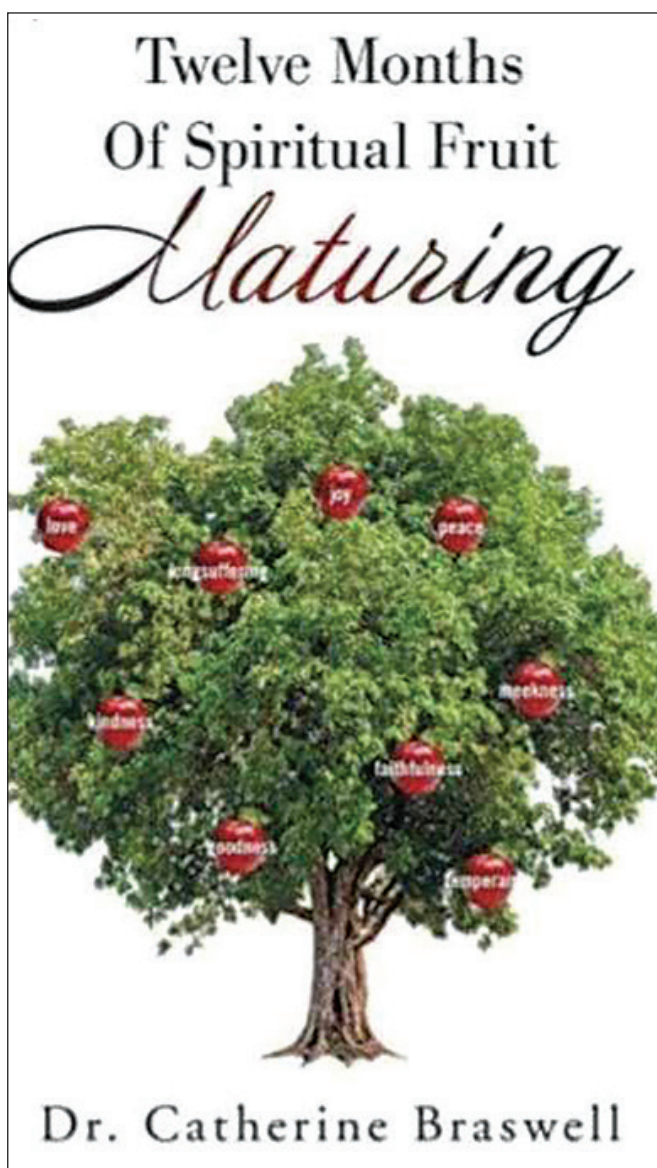
**More about Dr. Braswell...**

Dr. Braswell has worked as a licensed practical nurse for over 20 years, as well as serving as an outreach nurse with a focus on diabetes prevention and education. She is also currently the president, founder and DEO of The Hand of God School of Biblical Studies/Ministries, Inc. in Swainsboro and Wadley. Dr. Braswell is also a lay Christian counselor. She earned her LPN from



DR. BRASWELL

Swainsboro Technical College, and her doctorate degree from The Institute of Theology and Ministry Training in Orlando, Florida. She is married to Varick Braswell and has three grown children and eight grandchildren. Dr. Braswell resides with her family in Bartow.



BOOK BY DR. BRASWELL

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### Oak Chapel Church to undergo repair

After months of research to develop a plan to restore Oak Chapel's sanctuary, the building committee presented their findings to the church last week. Termite damage was discovered in the 1873 building in March of last year, and it was feared the historic church would need to be torn down and rebuilt. The committee consulted with a structural engineering company from Savannah. After a thorough evaluation, the structural engineer determined that the church

could be repaired. Several contractors were invited to bid the work, using the engineer's guidelines. Bids were obtained for both repairing and for rebuilding the church. The committee compiled all the information, and it was their recommendation that the sanctuary be repaired rather than torn down and rebuilt. It seemed to be the best course financially. And the sentimental and historical value figured in greatly with the decision to repair.

Last week, the church voted unanimously to follow the building committee's recommendation to repair. The bid went to Lynn Construction Contracting, Inc. from Claxton, because of their extensive experience with foundation work. Repairs will begin in September. Oak Chapel has received enormous community support during this uncertain time. Pastors Tommy Henry and Ray Jenkins extend thanks to everyone who has reached out to call, pray, and even give



OAK CHAPEL CHURCH

toward restoration of this little church on the hill.

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### Free clothing for all!

Swainsboro Church of Christ, located on Turner Drive in Swainsboro, will host a free clothing give away for all ages and genders on Saturday, August 27, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.



KICKOFF PARTICIPANTS

### Oak Grove Missionary back-to-school kickoff

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church held a back-to-school kickoff for local youth on Saturday, July 23. The day featured a bounce house, food and time spent engaging with members of the church. The youth were invited to Sunday church service and transportation was provided.

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BATES AND HARRIS

## Harris, Bates plan November wedding

Kevin and Penny Woods of Swainsboro announce the engagement of their daughter, Amber Harris, to Matthew Bates, son of Scott and Cindy Bates of Stillmore. Miss Harris is currently attending Southeastern Technical College pursuing an early childhood education degree, while working as a full-time CSR for Entergy Corp. Matthew attended Southeastern Technical College and is now a certified CNC operator at Nordson. A November wedding is planned.

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## Miss Armstrong honored with bridal shower

Miss Jada Armstrong, bride-elect of Mr. Blake Akridge, was honored with a bridal shower at Swainsboro Shrine Club Saturday, July 23, at 2 p.m. Miss Armstrong chose a white dress as her attire. Tables were adorned with burlap and lace, and a rustic theme

balloon arch-way with winery colors were used for decorations. Guests enjoyed "bride-to-be" cake, meatballs, fruit tray, chips and dip, and sandwiches with water and punch.

Hostesses were Brandi Akridge, Kyler Akridge, and Versie Coleman.

Special guests included Kellie Armstrong, Jordi Armstrong, Jean Chapman, Marilyn Armstrong, Pam Akridge, and Ann Akridge.

The wedding is set for October 29, 2022, at The Frog Pad in Lyons. A reception will follow at the same location.



B. AKRIDGE, ARMSTRONG, K. AKRIDGE, AND COLEMAN

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# Community Spotlight

## The Dog Cause... and effect

by BRITTANY HALL  
 Since the beginning of time dogs have been inspiring us to live more mindfully and love ourselves for who we are, truth be told, they know more about heart than some of us could ever muster into our being. They don't discriminate or look for the bad in humanity, they just simply want our company and are created for a lifelong companionship, even when we aren't. As if Elvis himself were constantly in their thoughts giving his best performance of, 'Can't Help Falling in Love with You', they truly cannot help but to fall in love with us whenever they sense our presence or their puppy dog eyes meet ours, so let's give back to man's best friend and show them the same love that they live to give us.

In a recent edition of the Blade, we honored our local four-legged friends by publishing a competition called 'The Dog Cause', where over

30 readers sent in the best dog-gone photos of their fur babies to be considered for a cash prize, a winning title and a 50lb supply bag of dog food for the champion to enjoy. To enter the contest, each contestant had to submit the required information as well as a small fee of \$5.00 before meeting the deadline of July 20. While this was a contest, it was not in favor of rivalry but was entirely in favor of the dogs, as each proceed made from the competition was donated to the Emanuel County Animal Shelter.

On July 27, Swainsboro native Heather Cook was notified that her 7-year-old Black Labrador Retriever, Harlee, was the winner of the 2022 'Dog Cause' competition. Harlee, who enjoys playing ball, splashing in the pool and water from the sprinkler and hose, was adopted into the Cook home along with her sister Dixie at the age of

six weeks old. Although playful, in her winning photo she sat perfectly posed in the middle of a green field, next to her yellow tennis ball, while wearing a genuinely relaxed smile and waiting for her owner to catch the moment. Unbeknownst at the time, it was a moment that would gain the 'good girl,' a deserving publicity from a wholesome act that truly embodies the meaning of, 'The Dog Cause'.

"I was super excited when I was told that Harlee had won!" Cook began to explain with a smile, "My husband Andy, and I don't have children, but we have our six dogs, Bristol Finn, Laine Brook, Harlee, Dixie, Lillie, Jake, and Marlee. To us they are our children and to get to showcase them like other parents would do with their kids, is so awesome."

As Cook and Harlee came to collect their prizes, an act of benevolence stirred within. After taking their congratulatory photo, Cook shared that she wanted the \$50.00 check and the 50lbs of dog food to be given to the Emanuel County Animal Shelter. Although, \$175.00 was already raised from the competition, her generous request contributed a total of \$225.00 which benefitted all the hopeful pups in need.

"There are so many homeless dogs out there that I just wanted to give back to them. I didn't need the money or dog food, but I knew that they did and that the shelter would get better use of it." She sincerely said.

It's hard to imagine what life is like within the shelter or how difficult the job may be.

There are many dedicated employees who work diligently to provide comfort for the animals while they wait for their forever home, but they still need food, bedding, veterinarian care, medical assistance, and spaying/neutering. Cook's donation along with the donations of the other contestants who entered the contest, will help provide the care that our abandoned animals deserve until a suitable home is found for them.

"There are so many stray animals out there, dogs and cats included. They all deserve good, healthy, loving homes just as much as your pedigree's." Cook added before continuing, "ADOPT when you think of adopting. Don't just go buy a dog, do your part, and make a difference in the life of an animal who needs you."

The Cooks are currently in the process of building a Boarding Kennel called, *Harley Hill Farm and Kennel*, with plans to open after the first of the year. Thank you, Heather, and Andy, for sharing your compassion with those who are so deserving of our love and attention and thank you to the many contestants who donated by simply sharing your cute photos of your paw-some pals. Dogs are not our whole life, but we are theirs and we hope that when you decide to open your homes and hearts to a pet that you will consider an animal in need. If you're interested in rescuing a pup, please visit the Emanuel County Animal Shelter at 343 Market St, in Swainsboro or contact them at 478-237-4040. True love is a hop, skip, and a dog shelter away.



HEATHER COOK RECEIVING THE WINNING CHECK FROM PAM AKRIDGE



AKRIDGE GIVING DONATED, WINNING CHECK AND DOG FOOD TO MERCEDES HEPWORTH OF THE ANIMAL SHELTER




WINNING PHOTO OF HARLEE

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21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY STUDENTS AT GEORGIA COLLEGE IN MILLEDGEVILLE

## ECI's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders

"21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders" recently sponsored four one-week residential institutes on three of Georgia's college campuses. These institutes focused on leadership, business, environmental science, healthcare, and television production. Emanuel County Institute had three students participate: Braxton Jones, Sarah Catherine Kraus, and Hunter Spears.



SCENE FROM CHECK UP EVENT

## Noteworthy turn-out at STC Financial Aid Check-up

On Thursday, July 28, Southeastern Technical College (STC) hosted its first Check Up event for 2022-2023 financial aid. Throughout the day on both the Vidalia and Swainsboro campuses, new and returning students were assisted one-on-one in completing their financial aid applications for the new school year. Financial aid status is required to be renewed annually before the beginning of fall semester which begins August 15, 2022. Rebecca Ethredge, Director of

Financial Aid, stated that during this one-day event, her department was able to help dozens of students complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit documents for their aid requirements. "Many students do not realize they are eligible for federal aid, so we encourage all students to complete a FAFSA application," said Ethredge. "It is very important that college applicants respond to emails and text messages from STC to begin this

financial aid process and to track the status of their application so they are aware if any additional documentation is needed. Southeastern Tech's Financial Aid Office is available to assist students and potential students between now and August 15 to clear up any issues for this coming semester, Monday through Thursday 8 am to 6 pm. For more information on STC, visit [www.southeasterntech.edu](http://www.southeasterntech.edu) or call Vidalia at (912) 538-3100 or Swainsboro at (478) 289-2200.



TEAM VIDALIA

## Lilah Riner places in 2022 Georgia AU State Championships

Gymnastics & Cheer's competitive gymnastics team, Team Vidalia, recently traveled to Carrollton to compete in the 2022 Georgia AAU State Championships. The three-day event hosted over 500 gymnasts from throughout Georgia, all hoping to bring home gold medals and state champion awards. Team Vidalia produced 16 State Champions this year. Their level 1 team placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, level 2 team won 1<sup>st</sup> place, level 3 team placed 4<sup>th</sup> place, and level 5 team placed 1<sup>st</sup> place in

Lilah Riner, a local level 1 gymnast at Vidalia Gymnastics & Cheer, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> on balance beam, 2<sup>nd</sup> on floor exercise, 5<sup>th</sup> on vault and 6<sup>th</sup> place in the All-Around Junior C Division while competing in the 2022 Georgia AAU State Championships. Lilah trains twice a week. She is the 7-year-old daughter of Mitchell and Margo Riner of Nunez, and attends Swainsboro Primary School. Vidalia Gymnastics



LILAH RINER

the state. These gymnasts competed in several invitationals around the state this year to qualify to compete at the State Championships.

## Recipes of the Week



### HUMMINGBIRD CAKE

2 boxes Duncan Hines yellow cake mixes  
6 eggs  
water  
melted butter  
1 can 20 oz. crushed pineapple, drained  
3 bananas, cut and smashed  
1 1/2 tsp cinnamon  
2 tbsp. vanilla extract  
1 c. chopped pecans  
1 dash salt

#### CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

1 pkg 8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
1 pkg 16 oz. confectioners' sugar  
1 stick salted butter, softened  
1-2 tbsp. milk  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Heat oven to 350 and grease a large square cake pan (like 12x18). If you do not have a 12x18 pan, a 9x13 will work. Just cut all the ingredients in half. Mix cake mixes according to directions on the boxes except use melted butter in place of oil. Also, add vanilla extract. Add pineapple, smashed bananas, cinnamon, salt, and pecans. Mix all this together well. Pour into pan and cook for 25 to 30 min or until toothpick is inserted and comes out clean. Let cool and ice with cream cheese frosting.

For frosting, add cream cheese to mixing bowl. Add butter, confectioners' sugar, and vanilla. Mix well. Add milk a little at the time to get the consistency you want it to be. Then frost cake after it cools and enjoy.



### PARMESAN BAKED PORK CHOPS

4 boneless pork chops, 1/2" thick  
1 tbsp. olive oil  
1 c. Parmesan cheese  
1 c. Italian bread crumbs  
1 tsp. black pepper  
1 tsp. garlic powder

On a plate combine the last 4 ingredients. Rub the pork chops with olive oil and then dip (coat) each one in the cheese mixture. Press the mixture over the pork chops to make sure they are well covered in it. Line a pan with tin foil and spray with cooking spray. Place the pork chops on the pan and bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes.



### HAWAIIAN ROLL HAM SLIDERS

2 pkg. Hawaiian sweet dinner rolls (12 per package)  
1 pkg. deli sandwich ham, 16 oz.  
12 slices Swiss cheese  
1/2 c. butter, melted  
1 tbsp. poppy seeds  
1 1/2 tsp  
Worcestershire sauce  
1 1/2 tsp. brown or Dijon mustard  
1 tsp. onion powder

Slice top from rolls and place bottoms in baking pan. Layer ham and cheese on rolls. Replace tops. Combine butter, poppy seeds, mustard, Worcestershire, and onion powder in a saucepan. Mix well. Drizzle over rolls. Refrigerate until butter is firm or overnight. Cover with foil. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes or until cheese melts. Uncover and cook for 2 additional minutes. Serve warm or cold.

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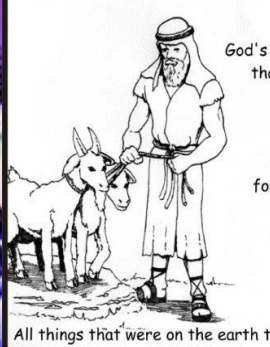
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**FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE**  
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Noah in the Ark



God's instructions to Noah were to take into the ark that he had built two of each animal on the earth and 7 of each animal that was clean and to be eaten for food.

With all safe in the ark, the rains came, for forty days, and the water covered the earth.

Noah and his family were secure in the ark, as it moved about on the water.

All things that were on the earth that breathe, died: birds, and cattle and beast and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. Only Noah and his 3 sons and the 4 wives remained alive. And the ravens remained upon the earth 150 days.

Genesis 7  
Next week: Deliverance

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## Editorials Columns

### Change is coming

In a little more than two and a half months, we will be asked to make some serious decisions about the leadership in our government. Normally, mid-term elections draw about 48 to 55 per cent of the total registered U.S. electorate. That's pretty low for a country that prides itself on being the guardian of the principles of freedom and democratic representation. This year, however, that number may change and turnout might be better than that, but better for a bad reason; namely the extreme divisiveness of this country's political climate. One of

the "angels of our better nature" in politics is the idea of compromise. But lately, compromise seems to be a concept in danger of extinction. This week the Democrat leader of the U.S. Senate, Chuck Schumer is leading his party's cheering section in celebration of the "compromise" reached with Senator Joe Manchin to pass Biden's rebuilt "Build Back Better" bill, aka the Inflation Reduction Act. Senator Manchin was a hold out in the Democrat's crusade to revive President Biden's bloated climate change, inflation reducing, medi-

care boosting government rescue plan. It was inspiring to see Manchin's independent, common sense thinking. He was beginning to remind us of what real statesmanship looked like. But sadly, it didn't last. Manchin caved in and swapped his concern for the nation for a pipeline back home in West Virginia. Interestingly, Senator Schumer forgot, in his praise of Senator Manchin, to mention that they both belong to the same political party. How odd, you might say? If that's Schumer's understanding of the concept and utility of compromise,

then folks I'm afraid we're in worse shape than anyone thought. Compromise used to mean that opposing parties each gave a little. Compromise used to be an essential element in the recipe for creating and sustaining "one nation under God". What Schumer and Manchin did had nothing to do with compromise. Sadly, the dark deal reached between the West Virginia Senator and Chuck Schumer not only stomped out any tender green sprouts of principled politics, but it also reinstated the smokey, suspicious smell of pork, payoffs and political candy.

### Charles Schwabe



Well, as we all know, some things never change, right? No, let me take that back. For the next 90 days or so, we will see all kinds of changes. It will look like 5th grade gymnastics class as state and national candidates are miraculously flipping and spinning in ways that are amazing to behold. From defunding the police or not, to border security or not, to

controlling inflation, there will be more changing positions and promises and redefinitions of words like "recession" than we could ever imagine. It will be hard to recognize anybody or anything. So in the midst of all that just try to remember who you are and all those other people in the house with you too. I.D. cards might be a good idea.

### Some random thoughts on some random subjects

Fourteenth Century Italian writer Dante Alighieri in his "Divine Comedy" describes Hell as a place for those who have perverted "their human intellect to fraud or malice against their fellowmen." He could have been describing Alex Jones and his Infowars followers. For the past decade, this incorrigible blowhard has claimed the massacre in which twenty children and six adults were shot dead at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut was staged by actors and the media and that the shooting was merely a ploy to push gun control measures. Now, he admits the shooting was "100% real" and that it was wrong to call it a

hoax. A Texas jury has ordered Jones to pay the parents of one of the victims more than \$4 million. And this is just the beginning. More suits to come before he hopefully ends up where he belongs for all eternity... I don't know who runs what passes for China's Congress but whoever that is, I would like to invite them to visit Puerto Rico to muck around in its affairs like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi did in visiting Taiwan recently. She accomplished nothing except to provoke the always slightly-unhinged Chinese government...

Oh, boo-hoo. Listen to the wimps who have or who are being convicted of storming the U.S. Cap-

itol - our U.S. Capitol - on January 6, 2020, leaving several people dead and more than a hundred wounded. Now, they are so sorry. They didn't mean to do it. They wish they hadn't done it. They got caught up in the moment. They've lost their job. Blah. Blah. Blah. I am still waiting on Donald Trump to come to their rescue but last I heard he was busy was playing golf at his private club. Let 'em eat cake...

In my annual letter to Georgia schoolteachers last week, I stated they shouldn't be required to focus on our past but, rather, to look at the progress we have made in Georgia as witnessed by our electing a Black U.S.

Senator, a Jewish U.S. Senator and having a Black woman running for governor. A reader got so upset with that, she said she had to pick up her jaw off the floor. (Dang. That must have hurt.) That is because I did not name the three but I did mention our "white governor" by name and, ergo, I must be a (shudder!) racist Republican. To get back in her good graces, the three are as follows: Ralph Warnock, Jon Ossoff and Stacey Abrams. You will have to figure out who the white governor is. I'm not telling. I cannot be responsible for any more jaw droppings...

I will have more to say about this man in the future, but Lindsey Tippins, R-Cobb, is retiring after 12 years in the Georgia state senate. In the senate, he was chairman of the Higher Education Committee and had previously chaired the Education and Youth Committee. Prior to that, he served on the Cobb County board of education. Public education

### Dick Yarbrough



has lost a true champion and I don't see anybody willing or capable of filling his shoes. Certainly not the zealots who are out to destroy public education with their tax-supported private school voucher schemes. Dear jaw-dropper: They all happen to be Republicans. (Clunk!)

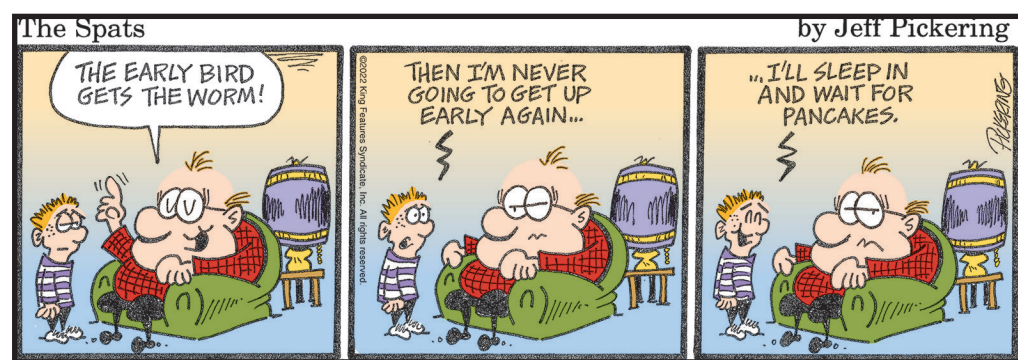
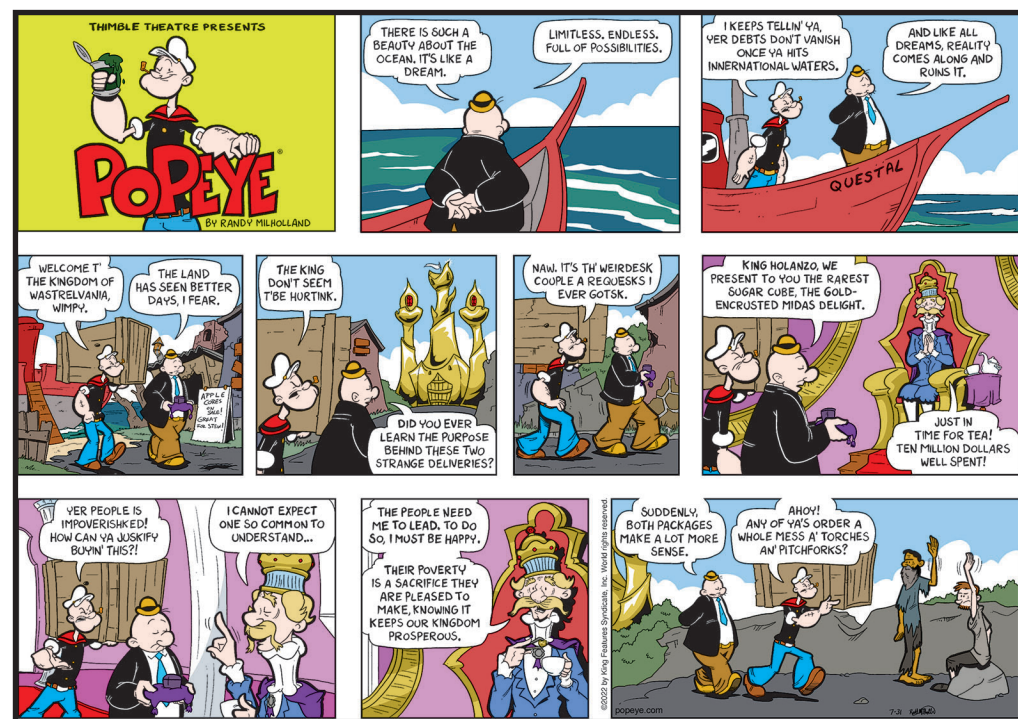
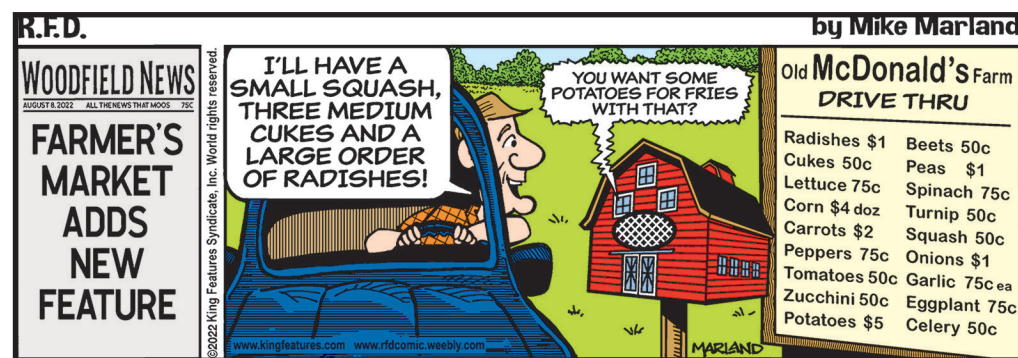
Also retiring is Dr. Bryan Reber, the C. Richard Yarbrough Professor in Crisis Communication Leadership in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Georgia. Dr. Reber was the first to hold that post, an area of great interest to me. I have devoted my time and tithes to that effort hoping to turn out a next generation of professionals who will be relevant in helping solve crises that inevitably will occur. Bryan Reber far exceeded my highest expectations. My applause

and thanks...

Finally, a point of personal privilege: My columns have been recognized by the Georgia Press Association four times in the past eight years as Best Humor Column, meaning I must be funny only every other year. This year, I received first place for Best Serious Column. You might recall the column I wrote about painting the portrait of The Woman Who Shared My Name and hearing "Unchained Melody" as I looked into her eyes. That was our song. And that was the column. I tell you this to say that she is the gift that keeps on giving. Now and forever.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com; at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139 or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dickyarb.

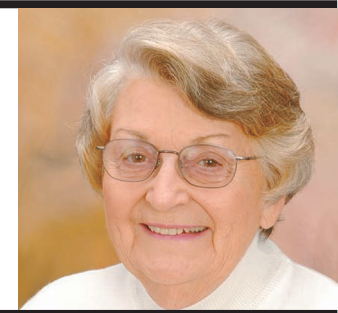
### Editorial Cartoons



### Doggy days


When I opened The Blade a few weeks ago, I found two pages of doggies that were available for adoption from Emanuel County Humane Society. These homeless doggies were blessed to have reached the Betty Gambrell Animal Shelter and have a chance for a forever home. I wanted to reach out to pet each one and say, "Someone will love you and give you a home." The next week there was a display of twenty-nine doggies whose owners know that "Dogs leave paw prints on our hearts" (copied from Blade) and had donated to the Dog Cause contest. Believe me when I say each dog was smiling, and I am sure wagging its tail. I was filled with thankfulness to find that of the twenty-nine doggies shown, eleven were rescues. That is a good

### Shirley Proctor Twiss



score that will go higher thanks to donations to the Emanuel County Animal Shelter. I have always loved having animals in my life and wanted to take in strays who were usually large and of no identifiable breed. These usually gathered in packs on vacant lots and were a threat for rabies. Swainsboro did not have even a semblance of an animal shelter until Betty Gambrell provided. I hesitate to think of the fate of these sad doggies. Dogs with owners had much better care. Most were inside/outside pets and lived comfortably with good food. These were the lucky ones. There was a veterinarian in town, Dr. Trout,

who treated mainly farm animals and horses. He did not have an animal hospital, but annually set up an outdoor spot to give rabies shots. That was usually the only health care. The lives of feral cats were even more horrible. We cannot rescue all the homeless animals, but we can donate to help. My current pet is a rescue kitty that I can give a good home in my small apartment. She is also one of the lucky ones. I honor and give many thanks to the staff and donors of the Emanuel County Animal Shelter for making the lives of our four-legged friends livable. Write to Shirley at sptwiss@gmail.com



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Gail Williamson, Editor/Publisher  
Whitley Clifton, Newsroom Editor

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Telephone: 478-237-9971 • Facsimile: 478-237-9451  
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We welcome Letters to the Editor from our readers. However, due to increasing production costs, we must request that letters be kept to approximately 350 words. All letters must be signed by at least one person. Address and telephone number of the writer should also be given.

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

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**BULLDOGS GETTING AFTER IT PREPARING FOR SCRIMMAGE AGAINST HURRICANES**

## State champions visit Rountree Stadium Friday

by RON WEATHER-FORD

The Bulldog pre-season begins Friday night when Fitzgerald visits Twin City. The Hurricanes won that elusive class AA state championship in 2021 with a 21-7 win over Thomasville.

They won the championship from the region runner up position peaking mid-season that continued through the playoffs.

Fitzgerald has played for the state championship four times since

2000, losing the first three in 2000, 2015, 2016 and 2020 before taking the crown last season.

The Bulldogs and Hurricanes played in the first game of the regular season in 2012 with ECI winning in a squeaker 13-11. ECI would go on to win that state championship that year.

This will be the Hurricanes second scrimmage game. They played AAAAA Coffee County, losing to the Trojans 28-14.

Offense will probably

be the strength for the Hurricanes, returning 8 of 11 starters from the 2021 team.

The scrimmage Friday will be a full game format and will give both teams a chance to see returning players and younger players in game situations. Both teams open up their season against the rivalries. Fitzgerald plays Irwin Co. in their annual brag bowl while ECI will host Metter on August 26. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Rountree Stadium.

## Lady Dawgs Off to 2-0 start

by RON WEATHER-FORD

The ECI softball team kicked off the 2022 season playing in the Harlem Classic Friday. The Lady Dawgs came away defeating both opponents for the night defeating two region champions.

The first game saw the Dawgs against AAAAAA Evans High School with a 9-2 win. They faced class AA state runner-up Vidalia in the second game, defeating the Indians 7-3.

The Bulldogs bats were in mid-season form Friday picking up 21 hits while the pitching staff allowed just 7 hits.

The Lady Dawgs scored in every inning against the Evans Knights except the sixth inning, putting multiple runs on the board in 4 of

the innings.

Leadoff batter Kelsey Harper led the offense going 3-3 with Jayna Kearson right behind going 2-4 including a leadoff homerun in the third inning.

Class A player of the year, pitcher Charla Clifton, began where she left off limiting the Knights to 4 hits while striking out seven. Clifton and her defense held Evans off the bases allowing one hit in first and second innings and 2 more in the third.

The second game had ECI facing AA state runner-up Vidalia. The Bulldogs held the Indians to just 3 hits with a 7-3 win.

The Lady Dawgs put 2 on the board in the first inning, adding 4 more in the third to take a 6-3 lead. They added one more in the fifth inning.

Kaylan Lamb led off the inning with a single after a walk by Kayanna Thompson and singles by Harper and Kearson.

The Indians couldn't keep Kearson off the bases with the sophomore third baseman ending the game going 4-4 at the plate. Harper's hot streak Friday continued going 3-4.

Sullee Boddiford started the game for ECI limiting the Indians to 2 hits in her 3 innings of work. Clifton closed out the game giving up just one hit the final 2 innings.

The Bulldogs have two games on the schedule this week. Tuesday (yesterday) they played Harlem in the home opener and will play South Effingham Thursday in Guyton with both JV and Varsity games to begin at 4 p.m.



**LADY DAWGS PLAYING LOOSE AND WITH CONFIDENCE**

## East Georgia State College welcomes first member to cross country team roster

East Georgia State College's (EGSC) Cross Country Team added its first member to the roster. Allie Whitaker from Vidalia, Georgia, is the first person to commit to EGSC's newly formed cross-country team. Beginning this semester EGSC is adding cross country and tennis to their athletics program which already features softball, baseball, and men and women's basketball.

Whitaker, who was a dual enrollment student at EGSC, recently graduated from Vidalia High School. She is the daughter of Jamie and Lagena Whitaker. At her high school she was involved in the National Honor Society, BETA Club, Student Government Association, and the



**WHITAKER**

Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was a member of the soccer team, cheerleading squad, track team, and the cross-country team. Whitaker recently had knee surgery, which slowed her running down, but she said she is ready to get back to the sport she loves most. "The entire time I was recovering from knee surgery I was just thinking about running

again. Everyone at school always saw me running. The softball girls would see me during their practice, my friends would see me, everyone saw me running," said Whitaker. "When the opportunity to run at East Georgia came up, I decided I wanted to do it. I wanted to get back to what I love doing." The EGSC Cross Country and Tennis Teams will be hosting tryouts August 16 and 17 in Swainsboro. Tryouts will be held from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. August 16, and from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. on August 17. Any current EGSC student interested in trying out can contact Assistant Athletic Director Denise Daniels for more information at [dmdaniels@ega.edu](mailto:dmdaniels@ega.edu) or 478-289-2385.

### PINETUCKY COUNTRY MEATS

**WEEKLY SAVINGS**

**PRICES GOOD**

**8/10 - 8/23**

**STORE HOURS**

**MONDAY-SATURDAY**

**8 AM - 6 PM**

**DEL BROWN, OWNER**

**OLD FASHION COUNTRY STYLE BUTCHER SHOP!**

<p><b>QUARTER LOIN PORK CHOPS</b></p> <p><b>\$2.49 LB</b></p>	<p><b>LONDON BROIL BEEF ROAST</b></p> <p>CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF</p> <p><b>\$4.99 LB</b></p>	<p><b>FRESH GROUND BEEF</b></p> <p>(FAMILY PACK)</p> <p><b>\$2.99 LB</b></p>
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<p><b>SMOKED PICNIC</b></p> <p>WHOLE</p> <p><b>\$1.89 LB</b></p>	<p><b>CUBE PORK STEAK</b></p> <p>(FAMILY PACK)</p> <p><b>\$3.69 LB</b></p>	<p><b>WE CARRY USA CHOICE OR HIGHER GRADE BEEF ONLY!</b></p>

**STEAKS • SAUSAGE • FRESH MEATS & SMOKEHOUSE**

**224 W MAIN ST**

**SWAINSBORO, GA 478-419-1230**

**WE ACCEPT EBT!**

### FARM & CONSTRUCTION AUCTION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**AUCTION STARTS AT 8:30 A.M.**

389 W. MEADOWLAKE PKWY. SWAINSBORO, GA 30401

**CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED**

8 AM - 5 PM

Monday, August 8th - Friday, August 12th

*Bid Online*

**proxibid.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY EQUIPMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SELL

Contact: Adam Lane @ 1-888-237-9060,  
Greg Burns @ 478-299-2028, or John Paul Johnson @ 912-682-0231

**UPCOMING AUCTION: SEPTEMBER 24TH - GUYTON, GA**

For Terms, Conditions, Listings, & Detailed Pictures Visit Us At  
[www.lanebrothersauctions.com](http://www.lanebrothersauctions.com)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:  
There will be a 10% Buyer's Fee with a \$1500 cap on any ONE item. There will also be a 10% Seller's Commission with a \$200 cap on any ONE item. There will be a \$10 minimum/no sale fee on each tagged item. Equipment is sold as is, without warranty. There will be a \$75 title fee on all vehicles 1996 and newer. The TAX tax of 6.6% is due at the time of purchase for all vehicles. ALL SALES ARE FINAL!!! Payment for purchases is required on auction day in the form of cash, cashier's check, or good personal or company check accompanied by bank letter of credit. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted with a 3% Processing Fee. Georgia Sales Tax will be added to your purchase price, unless you have a valid sales tax resale certificate number or 2022 GATE card. GAL #3169

## A Great Place For Seniors!

### Swainsboro Presbyterian Apartments

310 Mary Ann Street • Swainsboro, Georgia  
 •Low rents that include basic utilities  
 •1 & 2 bedroom apartments  
 •Full kitchens & baths  
 •Central A/C & heat  
 •Must be 62 **478-237-3511** 🏠

## NEW & USED EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT SALES, LLC



Contact Chris Carr for more info!  
 (912)536-3271  
 Midville, GA  
 www.candoequipment.net  
 Now Selling Rotary Mowers from 5 - 20ft!

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Nunez will hold qualifying for 2 City Council terms that will expire 12-31-22.

Qualifying will be held August 15-17, 2022. Qualifying fees may be paid at Nunez City Hall from 9am-12pm each day.

Christy Womack  
 City Clerk for Nunez

## Now Open Walk-Ins Welcome



Southern Gents

EST. 2022

(478)494-9310

9am-5:30pm Monday- Saturday  
 333 South Green St. Swainsboro GA. 30401

## Swainsboro Rotary holds club meeting

The Swainsboro Rotary club met Monday, Aug. 2, at the Rustic Grill during the noon hour. The meeting was called to order by President Kenneth Willoughby and the pledge and four-way test was recited by the club members. Ken Warnock gave the invocation prior to everyone enjoying lunch. John Allen Bailey introduced guests, Sondra Cowart, BETA club advisor at ECI. Sondra brought along with her, Lawson Frye, Evan May, Mason Collins, Robert Reynolds and Jackson Cavanah. Evan, Mason, Robert and Jackson presented the same program for the group that they did at the BETA convention and placed for this presentation. Lawson Frye gave his presentation on "Success"



COWART, FRYE, REYNOLDS, COLLINS, MAY, CAVANAH, AND PRESIDENT WILLOUGHBY

which was the same speech he gave at Nationals and placed second in the entire nation. These young men were so well spoken and

articulate that it promises great excitement for our future here in Emanuel County. Swainsboro Rotary Club is proud of

the hard work that teachers and students put into these extracurricular activities that help shape these men into great citizens.



DESS SMITH III, JOHN TAPLEY, WILDER SMITH, JR., GARY MASON, RICHARD DANIELS

## Daniels Chevrolet donates to WAA

On Wednesday, July 27, Richard Daniels asked members of the Wreaths Across America committee to stop by his dealership to receive a donation for this year's December 17th

WAA. The Veterans of the Library are committed to placing a Christmas wreath on the grave of every veteran buried in the East Brook Cemetery, Early Settlers Cemetery, First Baptist Cemetery and

the Swainsboro City Cemetery. So far, the veterans have walked and recorded veterans' information on over 600 graves in these four cemeteries. The veteran's group is asking the public to submit

their veteran's name, branch of service and location in these four cemeteries if they are not already marked as a veteran. Please call the library and ask for Shari Watt at 478-237-7791.

## Wounded Warriors Retreat 11th Annual Sportsman's Banquet and Auction

Wounded Warrior Retreat, Inc. is a Georgia Non-Profit 501 C3 organization that gives opportunity to Wounded Veterans and their family to enjoy the great outdoors. Our Mission: "To make a difference in the lives of wounded warriors by mentoring, promoting, supporting and encouraging spiritual healing for wounded warriors and their families while participants enjoy the many outdoor activities offered by the private hunting retreat."

This 11th annual event is hosted by the Swainsboro Rotary Club and the Emanuel County Sportsman's Club. The funds raised will go to support our country's heroes at Wounded Warrior Retreat retreats. This event will include social time, prime rib meal, with silent and live auction items.

### Event Sponsorships are available at the following levels

<b>MEGA PLATINUM: \$1,000</b>	(50 Extra House Gun Tickets)
<b>PLATINUM: \$500</b>	(25 Extra House Gun Tickets)
<b>GOLD: \$250</b>	(10 Extra House Gun Tickets)
<b>SILVER: \$200</b>	(5 Extra House Gun Tickets)
<b>BRONZE: \$150</b>	(3 Extra House Gun Tickets)

Sponsors will receive a plaque and additional house gun tickets for their generosity

We are also soliciting items for auction. If you have an item that you would like to donate, please let us know as soon as possible.



September 29, 2022  
 5:00 P.M.  
 Beaver Creek Plantation  
 3698 Hwy. 80 East  
 Twin City, GA 30471

### Advance Tickets Required

Tickets for the event are \$50, which includes admission to the event, one ticket for house gun door drawing as well as a prime rib dinner prepared by Beaver Creek.



For more Information:  
 Terry Reynolds at 478-494-3758 • reynoldscableoffice@gmail.com  
 Richard Driggers at 912-290-1108 • driggersre@yahoo.com  
 Nick Kraus at 912-687-6781  
 Kurt Anderson at 678-614-0593



DR. BOBBY SASSER AND WATT

## Watt gives informative update on library at recent Exchange Club meeting

Members of the Swainsboro Exchange Club heard from Shari Watt with Franklin Memorial Library during their regularly scheduled meeting last week. Watt spoke to the Exchange Club on the library's progress throughout the years as well as the its many services offered to the community.

# Elders speak to Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting, Tuesday night August 2, at the Rustic Grille at 7 P.M. With President-Elect Tammy Allen presiding, they had 30 in attendance, including six guests, Past Division 17 Lt. Governor Dennis Donahue, George Elder, Missy Elder, Calder Ward, Melanie Ward, and Lyndsey Hatfield. The lemon-lime pound cake, donated and baked by Wanda Ellis, was won by Tim Goodman and the Domino's pizza donated by Domino's Pizza was won by Tracy Mason. Past Lt. Governor Dennis Donahue attended as an "interclub" from the Vidalia Kiwanis Club. Dennis brought nine tickets to members of their Club that are attending the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chartering of the Vidalia Kiwanis Club on Friday night, August 19. The program for the evening was hosted by Jim Clapham. He introduced George and Missy Elder, who gave an update on what is happening at the Emanuel County Historic Preservation Society. ECHPS was started in 1976 in a building behind old Walmart. The white building at the Fairgrounds was opened in 1993. George read a poem he had written for the first Pine Log Echoes. The first volume of Echoes, written by Mary Ann Smith and Missy, was released in 2013. Later, they released volume two and in 2021, Volume three. Echoes was written to memorialize elements of Emanuel County's disappearing heritage. They talked about the Farm and Home Museum, the buildings on the property, and the many displays developed from local item donations. They showed a train whistle, which looked like a WWI bomb, and a wooden hay fork. If you would like to become a member of the Club, please contact our membership Chair Jane Durden at 478-494-4113 or e-mail her at hsdurden@bellsouth.net. Also, if you would like more information about the Club and the many community service projects that they do each year, go to their Swainsboro Kiwanis webpage at: <http://www.swainsborokiwanis.org> or to our Swainsboro Kiwanis Facebook page.



PRESIDENT-ELECT TAMMY ALLEN, PAST DIVISION 17 LT. GOVERNOR DENNIS DONAHUE



PRESIDENT-ELECT TAMMY ALLEN, JIM CLAPHAM, MISSY ELDER, GEORGE ELDER



## SWAINSBORO-EMANUEL COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



# FALL SPORTS

## Registration

### Tackle & Flag Football...August 8-12

### Soccer...August 15-19

Registration Fees	
<b>Flag Football</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Tackle Football</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>
<b>Soccer</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>

First time participants must bring copy of birth certificate.

Like us on Facebook! Swainsboro-Emanuel County Parks & Recreation

[www.secrd.org](http://www.secrd.org)

**Flag Football (Ages 5-6) Player must be 5 before September 1, 2022 and cannot turn 7 before September 1, 2022**

**Tackle Football (Ages 7-12) Player must be 7 before September 1, 2022 and cannot turn 13 before September 1, 2022**

**Tot Soccer (Ages 3-4) Player must be 3 before September 1, 2022 and cannot turn 5 before September 1, 2022**

**Soccer (Ages 5-18) Player must be 5 before September 1, 2022 and cannot turn 19 before September 1, 2022. 18 year olds must be attending high school.**

Member of the Georgia Recreation and Park Association, the largest sports organization in the state of Georgia.




# 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 (ECSSO); 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 (CSRUI); Intensive Probation Service (IPS); or Probation Office (PROB)  
Denosha Naycole Harris,

entered 8/1/22; Driving lic susp/ rev; released 8/1/22; SPD  
Stephanie Renae Nash, entered 8/1/22; Theft/shoptlifting/Hold for Toombs Co/Hold for Laurens CO; released 8/1/22; SPD  
Jaquarius Devonte Starnes, entered 8/1/22; Probation/Superior court; WALK-IN  
Michael Cole Holden, entered 8/1/22; Disorderly conduct/Probation/State court/Middle Ga Probation; SPD  
Miranda Kay Brantley, entered 8/1/22; Disorderly conduct/Reckless driving; released 8/2/22; SPD  
Michael Preston Copeland, entered 8/2/22; Battery-family violence; released 8/3/22; SPD

Caven Thomas Sellers, entered 8/2/22; VGCSA possession of marijuana w/intent to distribute/Contributing to delinquency of a minor; SPD  
Gibson Denmark Waters, III, entered 8/2/22; Sexual battery; released 8/3/2; WALK-IN  
Milesa Shantel Johnson, entered 8/2/22; VGCSA marijuana/poss less than oz/Hold for out of county billing/Probation/State court/Middle Ga Probation; released 8/1/22; SPD  
Hillary Kasha Thompson, entered 8/2/22; Probation/State court/Middle Ga Probation; released 8/2/22; SPD  
Treal Williams, JR, entered 8/2/22; VGCSA

possession of marijuana; released 8/3/22; SPD  
Johnny Lee Bivins, entered 8/2/22; VGCSA marijuana less than oz/VGCSA possession marijuana w/intent to distribute/Other/Possession of cocaine/Firearm poss by conv felon/Poss of firearm during commission of felony; SPD  
Cristy Latrice Corley, entered 8/3/22; Driving lic susp/rev; released 8/3/22; SPD  
Harold Joseph Bridges, entered 8/3/22; Theft/taking; released 8/3/22; SPD  
Rodney Rountree, entered 8/3/22; Theft/shoptlifting; SPD  
Nathaniel McKinley Hackle, entered 8/3/2; Theft/shoptlifting; released 8/4/22; SPD

Anastacia Grace Wood, entered 8/4/22; Cruelty to children 3rd degree/Cruelty to children 3rd degree/Simp battery; released 8/4/22; WALK-IN  
Blake Allen Harmon, entered 8/5/22; Other; released 8/5/22; SPD  
Sergio Lavar Davis, JR, entered 8/5/22; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; SPD  
Chazman Quazel Lott, entered 8/6/22; Fleeing/attempt to elude ofc/Driving lic susp/rev/Speeding 15-29 MPH over; released 8/6/22; SPD  
Billy Jason Bedgood, entered 8/6/22; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; SPD

Vincente Perez-Rodriquez, entered 8/6/22; Driving lic susp/rev/Speeding 15-29 MPH over; released 8/6/22; SPD  
Natalie Deniece Williams, entered 8/7/22; Disorderly conduct/Public drunk; SPD  
Holly Ann Hart, entered 8/7/22; Hold for out of county billing; ECSSO  
Jy'Quavious Desmond Mincey, entered 8/7/22; VGCSA/vio ga control subst act; SPD  
Rafael Lamont Denson, entered 8/7/22; Obstr/ofc/VGCSA/vio ga control subst act; SPD  
Benjamin Keith Dukes, entered 8/7/22; Crim trespass; SPD

# Swainsboro Police Reports

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

### July 25

Officer noticed the operator of a scooter did not have a helmet on, but noticed it was sitting on the floorboard of the scooter, at which time he initiated at traffic stop. The scooter pulled up to a gas pump and didn't acknowledge the officer, and started walking towards the store. Officer exited his vehicle and advised offender to come back to the scooter. Once he was back, officer could smell a strong odor of green marijuana. Officer asked the driver for his license and he stated he did not have a license. Officer then asked for his name and DOB and at first,

offender wasn't wanting to give him the info. Officer asked what size the scooter was and he stated he did not know, that he was borrowing it. As officer was looking for the size of the scooter, he could still smell the strong odor of green marijuana. Once obtaining the information, he went back to his patrol unit to run offender's info and request backup. Upon checking offender's info, he found that his license was suspended. Once backup arrived, officer informed officer that he felt like once offender was told he was going to be placed under arrest that he was going to attempt to run. When officer approached offender, he began to explain that his license was suspended and offender asked if her was in trouble and officer advise that he was under arrest and offender took off running. Officers then gave chase. Officer heard backup officer give strong verbal commands for offender to get on the ground, and witnessed officer take offender to the ground. Offender was handcuffed and officer was able to still smell the odor of green marijuana on his person, but nothing was found. SPD K-9 unit searched the area where offender ran and jumped a fence and found a clear bag containing a large amount of green leafy substance laying just off the path that offender was running. Another bag was found about 20 feet from where the bigger bag was found.

### July 28

Officer was dispatched to Lincoln St. in reference to a welfare check. Complainant reported that he lives in NC and his children live with their mother the mother's boyfriend was beating the children with

electrical cords. Officers observed that the address was an abandoned, burned down house. After speaking with neighbors, it was reported that the mother lived at a different address on Lincoln St. Officer made contact with the mother who advised she and c/p are married but have been separated for several years and c/p desires to reunite with her. The mother stated the children have a history of elaborating stories and making false statements to their father because they do see him very often. Officer asked to produce the children for visual inspection and she consented and allowed officer to enter the residence. A visual was done on all four children and no marks or signs of physical abuse were observed. Several attempts were made to contact c/p via the phone number he provided but no contact was made. Officer left a voicemail.

Officer was dispatched to Old Nunez Rd. in reference to a possible drive-by shooting. 911 advised the offenders were in a small sedan traveling south. Upon officers' arrival, he observed witnesses in the front yard and asked if they heard gunshots and they both stated they observed three males standing near the corner of Old Nunez Rd. and Harrington ST. when a silver car pulled alongside and opened fire, then sped away towards the bypass. Officer immediately notified other units to be on the lookout. The car was located and a traffic stop was performed at Westside One Stop. Witnesses stated three males ran through his yard and gave descriptions, all early to mid-teen in age. Officer recalled prior dispatches to Sycamore St. with individuals matching the given descriptions. Officers knocked on the door at a residence on Sycamore St. and the individual that answered the door matching one of the descriptions was soaked with sweat. The individual reported he had been inside but when asked why he was soaked in sweat and was being pressed for information, he finally admitted he was walking in the area but did not have any knowledge of the other two victims.  
Officer responded to

Roadway Inn in reference to a customer that punched out the window to his hotel room. Complainant stated someone walked by and broke his window. After a brief investigation, it was revealed that the window was broken from the inside. Offender was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct.

Officer responded to Williams St. for an unwanted person. Four males were under a shade tree beside the house and officer asked offender to talk to him to see why he was at the house. Officer then asked if he could pat offender down for weapons and he stated yes. Officer was looking around where the males were standing and saw a bag with a powder net to a rock. Offender was searched and found two small blue bags with a small amount of powder inside.

### July 29

Officer was dispatched to Market St. in reference to damage to a vehicle. Complainant sated she has been having ongoing issues with a female who believes she is sleeping with her boyfriend/baby daddy. C/p stated she is only friends and co-worker with the female's boyfriend/baby daddy and nothing more, and this isn't the first time offender has expressed the friendship being more with accusations of sexual relations. Officer observed c/p's vehicle with a back windshield busted with a rock, three flat tires, the trunk and back bumper keyed, and the tag damaged and covering the rearview camera.

Officer was dispatched to New St. in reference to complainant wanting to make a report of someone damaging his vehicle.

Officer was dispatched to Swainsboro Apts. in reference to a maintenance issue. Complainant stated she has made the proper request to get maintenance on her upstairs toilet that is overflowing but has yet to get any services by the complex, and apparently the landlord has her blocked.

Officer noticed the front windshield of a vehicle cracked in the view of the driver, and initiated a traffic stop. As officer approached the river, he noticed he was extreme-

ly nervous, and called K-9 for an open-air sniff. Officer asked offender for his license and he stated he did not have them on him. Officer then asked for his name and DOB and asked him to step out of the vehicle. Offender was asked why he had a TN tag but GA license and he stated the car belonged to a friend. During the search, two blunts and a grinder were found. Offender was advised he was under arrest for possession of marijuana and drug related objects and transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer was dispatched to MLK Jr. Blvd. in reference to complainant stating dogs were in her yard trying to kill her cats.

### July 30

Officer heard four loud bangs that sounded like gunshots coming from Lucky St. He then advised 911 and other units and began riding the area. Officer spoke with a few people who were sitting on their porch who stated they heard them also.

Officer spoke with complainant who stated he hit a deer on Kite Hwy.

Officers were dispatched to Swainsboro Supply due to someone who shoplifted. The suspect left in a truck and the tag display was given. Upon running the tag, it was found that the registration was suspended and had no insurance. The registration came back to a subject from Cobbtown. Employees stated that two males entered the store and began wondering around. One of the male subjects asked for the store Wi-fi password and was asked why he needed it and he stated he didn't have any cash on him and needed to use Cashapp to pay for what he may buy. They would not give out the password and employees started noticing something was not right with the two guys. The two males were in the store about an hour and an employee knew one of the males put something in his pocket and walked out without paying. An employee walked outside and confronted the subject in the parking lot and told him to hand him what he put in his pocket. The male subject handed him two packs of AA lithium batteries and was told to never return to the store. As the employee was walking

back to the store, another employee came out and stated the other guy stole a rechargeable flashlight and by this time, they male subjects were getting in the truck. When employees tried to stop them, they shut the door and took off.

Officer responded to New St. in reference to an argument with a fight.

Officer was dispatched to Shepard Dr. in reference to someone that had broken into the caller's home while she wasn't home.

Officer observed a female standing by a car with a bag that contained a green leafy substance suspected to be marijuana. Officer stopped and got out of his units and the female immediately put her hand down by her side and was obviously hiding something. Officer asked what was in her hand and she said "my smoke". Officer could smell an odor of marijuana and told her to show it to him and she handed the clear bag to him. Offender was placed under arrest and transported t EmCo Jail.

Officers were dispatched to McLeod Dr. in reference to a guest that refused to leave and was causing a scene.

### July 31

Officer observed a vehicle traveling 50 MPH in a 35 MPH zone and swerving in and out of the proper lane, at which time he initiated his emergency equipment to conduct a traffic stop. He turned around to catch up with the vehicle and was traveling 63 MPH before the vehicle came to a stop. Officer approached the vehicle and could immediately smell the odor of alcoholic beverage. The driver of the vehicle stated he did not have a license, but had an expired passport. Offender was not successful in completing any of the field sobriety test, and was placed under arrested for DUI.

### August 1

Officer noticed a vehicle that did not have a working tag light, at which time she initiated a traffic. Officer approached the vehicle and explained the reason for the stop and asked offender for her license. Upon running the driver's license, it was found that they are suspended. Offender was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.



Pursuant to OCGA § 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Joseph Paul Williams last known address 1729 highway 57 West, Swainsboro, Ga has been convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 16th day of May, 2022, in the Emanuel County State Court of Swainsboro Georgia.



Pursuant to OCGA § 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Terri Davis last known address 310 North Green Street Swainsboro, Ga has been convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 18th day of February, 2022, in the Municipal Court of Swainsboro, Georgia.

## BREAKFAST

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students on the go!

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## Superior Court sentences repeat offender for possession of methamphetamine

*Johnson fined \$50, receives three-year probation*

The following occurred during the Emanuel County Superior Court April 2022 term:  
**Craig Bernard Johnson**, a repeat offender as imposed below, negotiated a guilty plea on one count possession of methamphetamine. He was fined \$50 and sentenced to three years probation, provided that the defendant shall comply with the conditions of probations imposed by the court as part of this sentence. The court sentences the defendant as a recidivist under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(c).





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PROGRESSIVE FARMER READER INSIGHTS

## Smith's lucky ticket is drawn at the 132nd Congress

On the fourth day of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, Compatriot Wilder Smith, Jr. had no clue about the surprise that he would find out later that day. The Georgia Society SAR had decided to have a drawing for two replicas of flintlock pistols that were used during the Revolutionary War period, late 1700's, both being 50 Cal. British made rifled barrel flintlock pistols. Compatriot Emil Decker was part of the committee that purchased the pistols and he decided to build a case for the pistols to go along with the drawing. Emil also did the lettering on the glass front of the case. One thing for sure, Compatriot Wilder will never forget the excitement when he was notified of his win, and his brother, Dess, will never forget Wilder's hollowing "yes" and stomping his foot on the floor of his 5<sup>th</sup> wheel camper.



COMPATRIOT WILDER SMITH, JR. WITH HIS FLINTLOCK PISTOLS



WILDER SMITH, JR. HOLDING HIS REVOLUTIONARY WAR PISTOLS AND DESS SMITH ASSISTING

## Congress hears George Washington's presentation

On Wednesday night, July 13, General George Washington, (Compatriot Dan McMichael), Commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, walked into the President Generals Banquet at the Hyatt Regency during the 132nd Congress, National Society Sons of the American Revolution. He presented his memories of the Revolutionary War and when he arrived in Savannah on his tour of the Southern States in 1791 as President of the United States. He talked about the long and difficult road we have all traveled together, but that we have emerged victorious! He said, today we look back on the struggle we endured and remember the many hardships we

faced to help win our glorious freedom! He told us of the scarce funding and mostly an all-volunteer army that only survived on the thoughts and hopes of freedom. We suffered many defeats, and our army was in retreat, on the verge of collapse, and being pursued by the greatest army on Earth, the British Army. But then a Christmas miracle occurred, the crossing of the Delaware River and the Battle of Trenton, New Jersey with the Hessian army. The victory was sweet, and it inspired our troops and also got the attention of France, a future ally. Our alliance with the French would prove decisive for our final victory at Yorktown.

President Washington then spoke about his tour of the South, how when he stepped on the barge at Purrysburg, SC across the Savannah River, he was greeted by 9 Ship Masters finely dressed in Silk & Satin. On their round dark hats were ribbons proclaiming, "Long Live the President". On his voyage down the Savannah River, he visited at Mulberry Grove Plantation with Catherine Greene,



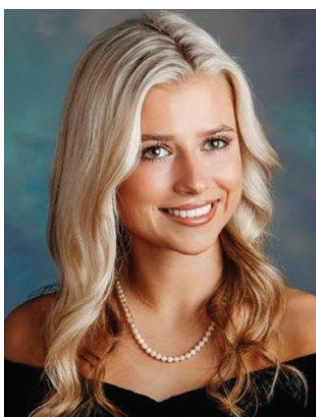
COMPATRIOT McMICHAEL

the widow of our most admired General Nathanael Greene. Then as he docked in Savannah, the Chatham Artillery greeted him with several 26-gun salutes ensuring that no one in Savannah slept for the next 24 hours. During numerous toasts, he had also been introduced to Chatham Artillery punch, a powerful concoction of brandy, whiskey, sweet tea and champagne that certainly livened his spirits. Several of his Generals that led us to victory were present, but unfortunately his most capable General, Nathanael Greene lies in eternal rest there, and to honor his memory and faithful service, Pres-

ident Washington decided to donate two of the cannons from the battle of Yorktown to the city of Savannah in his memory. Those two cannons remain on Bay Street in Savannah today. President Washington in departing Savannah, challenged them to not only live a happy life but try to improve the world in some small measure to make this country a better place for our children and future generations. He said, please give all glory to God, be tolerant of different views, love your friends and neighbors, always be kind to others, and let your attitude be one of humble gratitude.

## Farm Bureau awards scholarship

Miss Grace Catherine Hood of Canoochee was recently awarded the 2022 Dolan E. Brown Memorial Scholarship by Emanuel County Farm Bureau. Grace Catherine was an honor graduate of David Emanuel Academy, serving as Salutatorian. She was active in sports, such as soccer, tennis and cheerleading, as well as academics, winning many awards and scholarships. Grace Catherine was also very involved in community programs, including volunteering for American Red Cross, Citizens Bank Advisory



HOOD

Board and American Cancer Society. She is enrolled at the University of Georgia working towards a degree in agri-business. Grace Catherine is the daughter of Clay & Allison

Hood. Mr. Dolan Brown served as Emanuel County Farm Bureau President from 1963 to 1983, and was a member of the Board of Directors of that organization until his death in 2006. His service also included 40 years as a member of the State Board of Directors of the Georgia Farm Bureau. As a prominent and influential figure in the agricultural sector, Mr. Brown served on various commodity boards during his career, as well being active in his church and local community.



# The <sup>Forest</sup> Blade

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## Legals & Classifieds **D**



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# The dog days of summer

by **RONNIE  
JOHNSON**

The old mule swish-  
es her tail and munch-  
es on sweet oats in her  
stall, for it is summer-  
time in the deep South.  
The days go by slowly,  
like thick, warm molas-  
ses and the cotton stalks  
are thigh high. Flocks of  
Rhode Island Red chick-  
ens scratch in the front  
yard for their midday  
meal while a few cou-  
rageous one's venture  
into mama's butterbean  
patch.

Heat rises from the  
corn fields but a slight  
summer breeze sneaks  
across the long front  
porch and the old  
flea-bitten hound raises  
up in a gesture of grati-  
tude. The family will  
soon be coming home  
from the tobacco field  
and mama is getting  
supper ready. A big pot  
of butterbeans with a fist  
size of pork is simmer-  
ing on the cook stove,  
while summer squash,  
okra and field peas are  
cooking nearby. Sliced  
tomatoes, onions and  
sweet peppers only add  
to the summer feast. For  
added pleasure, huge  
buttermilk biscuits and  
sweet blackberry pie is  
there for the taking with  
ice cold sweet tea to  
quench your thirst.

The streams and  
creeks are drying up. It  
is the dog days of sum-



**JOHNSON**

mer, and it hasn't rained  
for days, but the fishing  
is good for stump knock-  
ers and catfish. Young  
freckled faced boys are  
shirtless and barefoot as  
they head to the nearest  
fishing hole with a shirt  
cane pole slung over  
their thin shoulders,  
while holding a can of  
red wigglers in their  
hand. As they cross Mr.  
Johnson's watermelon  
field, they stop, choose  
the biggest melon, toss it  
to the ground a mighty  
thud and fight for the  
biggest, broken piece.  
Warm, sweet juice in a  
vibrant red run down  
their mouths and into  
their bellies. It is like  
sweet ambrosia for the  
summer Gods.

Time is timeless. No  
one looks for a clock. It  
seems people and nature  
co-exist and are part of  
a greater collaboration  
which only God holds  
the key. Night finally  
comes. The red rooster  
and his flock have  
retired for the night,  
while the fireflies are  
coming out for the long  
night. The dog days of  
summer is in full force.

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UNIT 442  
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UNIT 439**



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[dlee@pinelandtelco.com](mailto:dlee@pinelandtelco.com)

Applications can be dropped off at the Metter office only. Please use a sealed envelope.  
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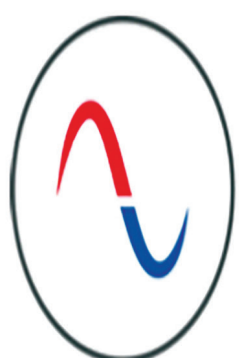
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## Wiregrass members are part of George Washington's Ring Honor Guard

The Installation Banquet, 132nd Congress, National Society Sons of the American Revolution at the Hyatt Regency, Savannah, GA was held on Thursday night, July 14, at 7 p.m. With President General Davis L Wright presiding, there were over 400 in attendance. After dinner was served, the installation of new general officers and vice presidents general was conducted. Next, the 2022-2023 President General C. Bruce Pickette was installed. Earlier in the evening, the Georgia Society Color Guard Commander, Scott Collins,

approached Compatriots Wilder Smith, Jr., Dess Smith III, and Gary Page to assist him as part of the George Washington Ring Honor Guard during the ceremony of presenting the President General Bruce Pickette with this historic ring. Commander Mike Tomme marched the Honor Guard half way up to the podium where the ring was presented to PG Pickette. This was a very special event that occurs once a year at the National SAR Congress Installation Banquet.



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S RING ESCORT HONOR GUARD, L TO R: GARY PAGE, DESS SMITH III, CILLI TOMME, SCOTT COLLINS, WILDER SMITH, JR.



COMPATRIOT STEVE BURKE ASSISTS CILLI TOMME WITH THE PILLOW HOLDING GEORGE WASHINGTON'S RING



PAST PRESIDENT GENERAL & HONOR GUARD COMMANDER MIKE TOMME

## National Society Color Guard at Fort Morris event

One member of the Wiregrass Chapter and three members of the Brier Creek Chapter traveled to Fort Morris on Sunday, July 10, to participate in the National Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard. Compatriot Steve Burke of the Wiregrass Chapter and Don Bazemore, Bernard Martin and Lee Herron of the Brier Creek Chapter took part in the event.

At 8 a.m., two buses carrying up to 100 SAR members each left the Hyatt Regency and traveled approximately 35 miles to Fort Morris to watch and participate in the event to honor those patriots that fought and died for our freedoms. The Fort

Morris ranger asked Artillery School trained SAR members of the Wiregrass and Brier Creek Chapters to man the Fort's cannon and fire one volley with the cannon and the militia and continentals fired one volley with their flintlock rifles and muskets.

After a great lunch at the Dorchester Village Civic Center, all the SAR members and National Color Guard traveled to the Historic Midway Church Cemetery where they participated in the five Patriot Grave Marking event. After laying carnations at the graves of the five Patriots, the militia and continentals fired five volleys with their flintlocks and muskets.



PHOTO FROM EVENT



DESS SMITH, WILDER SMITH, STEVE BURKE OF THE NSSAR COLOR GUARD AT THE 132<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESS

## Wiregrass Chapter members participate with the NSSAR Color Guard at 132<sup>nd</sup> Congress

Three members of the Wiregrass Chapter Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution traveled to Savannah to participate in the 132<sup>nd</sup> Congress National Society of the SAR at the Hyatt Regency on Sunday, July 10 through Thursday, July 14. On Sunday, Compatriot Steve Burke traveled to Fort Morris and the Historic Midway Church Cemetery to participate in those two events

while Compatriots Wilder and Dess Smith arrived at the Hyatt Regency to assist the 132nd Congress as "Day Captains" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Around 12:30, Wilder and Dess were asked to drive down to Fort Morris with a Compatriot's wife to pick her husband up that had passed out because of the heat. He was dehydrated, and by the time they arrived, he was doing great. For the rest of the week,

Dess, Wilder and Steve were able to be a part of the NSSAR Color Guard at the following events: Color Guard Review (Mon), Color Guard at the Memorial Service (Mon), Color Guard for Opening Session (Tues), Limited Color Guard at Johnson Square (Steve) (Wed), President Generals Banquet - Posting of Colors (Wed), and the Installation Banquet - Retiring Colors only (Thurs).

**THIS CHRISTMAS, BE A PART OF**  
  
**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Use this form to let us know of the burial site of any U.S. veteran located in any Emanuel County cemetery. This will ensure that this grave is added to the list of sites that will be honored with the placement of a live evergreen wreath on Saturday, Dec 17th, 2022.

Name of Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth and Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

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Your sponsorship is needed to help defray the cost of this project. However, the "Veterans of the Library" have committed to making sure that each and every reported gravesite receives a wreath before Christmas regardless of expense

Please return this completed form to WWA, PO Box 478, Swainsboro, GA 30401, or drop off at The Forest Blade, or Franklin Memorial Library in Swainsboro, Ga.

For questions or information contact Shari Watt at Franklin Memorial Library 478-237-7791

# STOMP OUT Bullying

## Stand Up • Speak Out

### What to Do If You're Bullied

There are things you can do if you are being bullied:

- Look at the kid bullying you and tell him or her to stop in a calm, clear voice. You can also try to laugh it off. This works best if joking is easy for you. It could catch the kid bullying you off guard.
- If speaking up seems too hard or not safe, walk away and stay away. Don't fight back. Find an adult to stop the bullying on the spot.

There are things you can do to stay safe in the future, too.

- Talk to an adult you trust. Don't keep your feelings inside. Telling someone can help you feel less alone. They can help you make a plan to stop the bullying.
- Stay away from places where bullying happens.
- Stay near adults and other kids. Most bullying happens when adults aren't around.



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