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VOLUME 163, NO. 49 Swainsboro, Georgia • December 7, 2022 ONE DOLLAR

Faircloth chosen GIAA 8-Man Football Player of the Year

At David Emanuel Academy's Sports Banquet Monday night, December 5, Racyn Faircloth was the only player at DEA chosen to play in the GIAA All Star Football game this Friday night in Macon. He was also chosen as the GIAA 8-Man Football Player of the Year. Faircloth also received All Region and All State and was chosen as Most Outstanding Player.

He is the son of Ben and Shana Faircloth of Swainsboro. His grandparents are Danny Wayne and Karen Faircloth; Butch and Jan Henry; and Mark and Angie Hudson. Congratulations Racyn!



FAIRCLOTH WITH AWARDS

EAC holiday-themed play to be held December 16, 17

Emanuel Arts Council will present a festive play Friday, Dec. 16th and Saturday, Dec. 17th, both beginning at 6:30 p.m. The play will be performed in The Kalmanson Gallery of the EAC, located at 109 North Green Street, Swainsboro, next to Bangles II Salon and Stewart's Jewelers. The production will consist of three short

(Continued on page 2A)

3 SHORT HOLIDAY PLAYS & MUSIC

DECEMBER 16 & 17, 2022 6:30 PM



DECEMBER 16 & 17, 2022 6:30 PM

EMANUEL ARTS COUNCIL
109 N. Green St Swainsboro
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PLAY FLYER



Photo by Mark Williams Studio

SCOTT KICKS FIELD GOAL FOR THE WIN

Swainsboro Tigers head to State

Victorious in Irwin County battle

If you like an old-fashioned football contest of skill, strategy and pure power, Friday night's game was just your style. In front of a loud, loyal and spring-loaded crowd in Ocilla, the SHS Tigers took on the last obstacle standing in their way to the state championship playoff in Atlanta. No stranger to playoffs, the Irwin County Indians didn't seem to be quite ready for the first Tiger drive of the evening. A steady advance supervised by QB Ty Adams called on runs by Qin

Brown, Jakari Nobles, and a keeper by Adams himself to quickly move Swainsboro down to the Indians 23-yard line. On a third and 1 call, the Tigers offensive line pulled back the curtain and Demello Jones took a 23-yard dash straight into the end zone. Landen Scott followed up with the point after for a 7-0 Swainsboro post. The Indians of Ocilla opened their show on the Tiger 35-yard line with a ground assault that was interrupted by the outstanding Tiger defense

and a showcase stop by Jerrod Steward. With 5:16 left in the quarter, Irwin County fumbled, and the Tigers took over. Swainsboro again moved the ball on the ground with mixed results until Demello Jones at QB took the snap, got bottled up by an Indian ambush, and broke out a little "Mellow magic", breaking free and sailing for a 66-yard cruise into the end zone. Irwin County got a hand on the extra point attempt and snatched 1 point back bringing the board to 13-0

Swainsboro lead at the end of quarter 1. Irwin County Quarterback Cody Soliday promptly brought the Indians back into the fight with a touchdown pass to open the second quarter moving the board to 13-7. A Tiger drive worked on the clock beginning at 9:26 in the 2nd quarter and featured gains by Ty Adams, Jordon Williams, Bryson Tarver, and Demello Jones. Driving down to a 2nd and goal, Jones once again hit paydirt and took it in for (Continued on page 2A)

Council votes to rename Pine Brook Nature Park

Members of the Swainsboro City Council convened for their monthly meeting on Monday, December 5, at 6 p.m. at City Hall with all members present. Joe Bedgood with Dellwood Baptist Church gave the night's invocation, and the pledge of allegiance was recited by all. Council then reviewed minutes from the November 7 and November 15 meeting and passed a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

"The worst thing that can possibly happen to someone, is not dying, it's being forgotten." These were the touching words spoken by local Veteran, Johnny Tapley, that rocked Council members and those who attended Monday night's meeting. As Tapley was

invited to address the Council regarding the first item on the agenda's New Business list, he began his presentation by thanking the first responders in the room who helped place flags at many of our local cemeteries and Pine Brook Nature Park, which is located on the corner of West Main and Tyson Street. Tapley explained that over 700 flags were placed around the County's cemeteries to indicate to the volunteers of the Wreaths Across America project where a Veteran is buried so that their headstone or gravesite can be provided with a wreath. This project began in September of 2021 when 13 men and women were killed in Afghanistan. (Continued on page 6C)


200th SWAINSBORO
CROSSROADS OF THE GREAT SOUTH
Anniversary

Happy Birthday Swainsboro!

Swainsboro is turning 200! On Friday, December 9 at 11 a.m. on the Downtown Square, the Chamber will be honoring the Crossroads of the Great South with a Bicentennial Ceremony and would like for you to join. Come celebrate your history and the 200th anniversary of our town! Coffee and cookies will be served.

What's Inside...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obituaries..... Church Page..... Sports News....C Section Editorial Columns..... Crime Blotter..... Classified Listings..... Legal Notices..... 	<p style="text-align: center;">YEOMANS & ASSOCIATES AGENCY, INC. Serving Emanuel County For Over 30 Years!</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px;">See our ad on page 5A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Auto-Owners INSURANCE LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS</p>
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EAC open house to honor the Kalmansons

The Emanuel Arts Council will host an Open House to honor Neil and Mary Kalmanson on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, from 4 to 6 p.m. The Kalmansons will be leaving Swainsboro in January to live in Texas. Light refreshments will be served.

"We would like to invite the community to come and see Neil and Mary before they leave," said Jacquie Brasher, executive director of Emanuel Arts Council. "Neil Kalmanson has been an integral part of the art scene here in Emanuel County since 1973. Our art gallery is named after him as well."

The EAC will also celebrate its one-year anniversary in the new building on North Green Street, located next to Bangles II Salon and Stewart's Jewelers.

EAC holiday-themed...

(From front page) plays featuring a cast that includes Pam Baggett, Deanna Ryan, Miracle Joyner, Violet Leu Tyam, Emmi Lai Tyam, Amber Purcell, Virginia Lee Palumbo, Jessica Palumbo, Alex Smith, Beau Gunn, Matthew Fordham Jr., Kenny Griffin, and Ron Ellison, the play's director.

"Live theatre is a meeting place where communities share dreams," said Ellison. "These

comic plays explore humorous situations imagined in today's commercial, mythical, and family celebrations of the Christmas season. Musical interludes will connect the stories with stringed instruments and songs."

Admission to the play is free, but donations are welcome. Seating is limited in the gallery, so reservations are recommended by emailing artsemanuel@gmail.com to reserve seats for

either performance.

The play is sponsored by the City of Swainsboro and made possible through a generous grant from Mill Creek Foundation. The Emanuel Arts Council, Inc. (EAC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose purpose is to empower and grow the community through cultural programs in all areas of the arts. The EAC operates through membership, donations, fundraisers, and grants.



FIREFIGHTERS OPENING THE ROOF FROM THE ARIAL LADDER TRUCK



SCENE OF THE FIRE

Fire destroys Twin City landmark

by Bill Cahill
A long time, well-known popular restaurant was struck a devastating blow Monday. Lew's Open Pit Barbeque located at 407 North Railroad Avenue in Twin City suffered a major fire. Shortly after 9 a.m. on Monday morning, a tractor-trailer log truck struck the power pole on the corner

and West Broad Street. The crash caused live wires to rest on the truck, roadway and ripped the service connection from Lew's. A call was made to Twin City Police reporting a motor vehicle had hit the pole. When Chief Withers arrived moments later, he found the wires down and smoke coming from the building. Fire units from Twin City, Swainsboro

engine and ladder, Canoochee, and Garfield responded. Georgia Power responded and had to kill power along the North Railroad Avenue area. Fire units were on scene for over three hours. Twin City Police were assisted by Deputies from the Sheriff's Office and State Public Safety Motor Carrier Compliance Division.

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Swainsboro Tigers head...

(From front page) his 3rd TD of the night. With 6 minutes left in the half, the Tigers went for 2 points, but had to settle for six bringing a 19-7 score to the board. Irwin County pressed harder on the next possession with Soliday overcoming an Indian penalty to move the team down the field. A great defensive effort by Swainsboro held Irwin County out of Tiger territory but the 2nd quarter ended with no point change despite a late Swainsboro possession.

Quarter 3 began with a typical, no-surprise back and forth with the two teams. Irwin County continued a hybrid offense with airball and ground pounding with mixed results. Jonorian Foots scored stops and interruptions in the Indian backfield and the Tiger defense held tight. As the quarter wore on, battle fatigue began to show on both sides of the ball with penalties all around. Swainsboro got an interference call and with 5:47 left in the third, Irwin County pushed from inside the 10 and continued to add to their score, 19-14. As the quarter got

short, the drama got long, and the crowds got loud. The Tigers struggled with short gains and were looking for their rhythm while the Indians also ran into trouble courtesy of the Tiger defense and Tra 'Lyvion Harris and Jakari Nobles tackles. Soliday struck again with passing and Irwin County was set to score as the 3rd period ended.

The last quarter of the game was straight out of an old movie. Irwin County scored as the quarter opened up making it 21-19, Indians on top. With under 11 minutes to go, the Tigers got the ball and moved down field. Jones and Adams swapped running slots and within minutes Swainsboro was inside the Indian 5-yard line. Jones was denied on 3rd and goal. Landen Scott goes in for the field goal try which is blocked, recovered and run back to the Swainsboro 45, then to the 28 by the Indians. Under 5 minutes left in the game. Soliday fails to get the first down for Irwin County, and an attempted 42-yard field goal falls short. With the ball back in Swainsboro hands Ty Adams gives to Qin Brown for 13 yards. Under

4 minutes left. Adams runs the ball up to the 38-yard line. On the next play, Adams hands off to Brown for a 1st down with 2:05 left in the game. Ty Adams runs for a gain, but his pass is incomplete. On third and 8, DeMello Jones runs for the end zone but is horse-collared and goes down.. With the penalty on Irwin County, it's now 1st and goal for the Tigers at the 13-yard line. With 49 seconds left, the Tigers called run but no gain came. At 4th down with 12 to go and the clock running down, Landen Scott ran onto the field and without hesitation, took care of business and kicked the winning field goal. Final score: Swainsboro 22, Irwin County 21. In a storybook finish to a truly unbelievable season, the 2022-2023 Swainsboro Tigers are now poised to compete for the State Championship, Class 1A, Division 1 classification. The final game will be against Prince Avenue Christian School of Athens, at Center Parc Stadium in Atlanta, Thursday, December 8th at 8 p.m. The game will be televised on Georgia Public Television, locally seen on Channel 9.

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

Thank You!

The Forest-Blade

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SEVERAL OF THE SAR MEMBERS FROM OUR LEANNA'S FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE AND BREAKFAST REPLACING THE 13 FLAGS AT THE PATRIOTS PARK THAT WERE PLACED BY THE WIREGRASS CHAPTER LAST YEAR HONORING THOSE 13 U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS THAT WERE KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN.
L TO R: CHAIR JOHN TAPLEY, SCOTTY NASWORTHY, GARY MASON AND WILDER SMITH, JR



EARLY SATURDAY MORNING, DEC 3, GETTING READY WITH THE SMALL U.S. FLAGS THAT WILL BE PLACED ON THE GRAVES OF VETERANS BURIED AT THE CITY CEMETERY
L TO R: GARY MASON, JOHN TAPLEY, JOHN DAVID BAILEY

Veterans at the Library Prepare for WAA

Veterans at the Library met for their weekly coffee and breakfast meeting on Friday morning, December 2. Chair, John Tapley, asked members if they would help him replace the 13 U.S. Flags at Patriot Park in preparation of the Wreaths Across America event that will be held on Saturday, December 17. At 9:15, the entire crowd jumped up and made their way to Patriots Park. The next morning, Saturday December 3rd, they met at the Swainsboro City

Cemetery shelter at 7:15 to prepare for the 65 to 70 volunteers that showed up to place a small U.S. Flag on each veteran's grave in the Swainsboro City Cemetery, Early Settlers Cemetery, Old Baptist Church Cemetery, East Brook Cemetery, and the Forest Lawn Cemetery. Each Section of the cemeteries had a packet with the complete cemetery sections with that section marked with the veteran's names listed. Two or more volunteers took a section with

the flags to mark their graves. On Saturday, December 17, volunteers will have wreaths placed at each section and they will take the wreaths to where each flag is located. At the Swainsboro City Cemetery there are nearly 600 veterans buried and when all the other four cemeteries are added and the special wreaths ordered by family members around the county, the total being received for the WAA will then be 1,310 wreaths.

SMS Band members selected for the 2022-23 University of Georgia Honor Band

Nineteen outstanding Swainsboro Middle School band members were selected for membership in the 2022-23 University of Georgia Honor Band. Students auditioned against other middle school band students from across the state for selection in this event.

The students selected were; Shannon Benjamin, euphonium; Grayson Brassell, Trumpet; Kenzlee Bush, Alto Sax; Cameron Cummings, Tuba; Dei'Vion Davis, Percussion; Carly Jersey, Flute; Malyiah Jones, Baritone Sax; Gi'Zyria Kirkland, Flute; Zaylin Lee, Clarinet; Lillian Mason, Clarinet; Thomas McCullough, Trombone; Mason Outlaw, Trumpet; Jose Perez, Euphonium; Emma Sconyers, French Horn; Kaci Smith, Bassoon; Maci Sumner, Oboe; Arlin Swanner, French Horn; Emillio Talledo, French Horn; Jayden Wilcher, Tuba



SMS BAND MEMBERS THE WERE SELECTED

be bold,
be courageous,
be your best.

FALL 2022
COMMENCEMENT
10 AM • GYMNASIUM

DEC
10

East Georgia State College will hold its Fall Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, December 10 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held in the Gymnasium in Swainsboro. Friends and family of the graduates are welcome to attend the event. The speaker for the ceremony is Dr. Patrice Buckner Jackson.

Dr. Patrice Buckner Jackson, known in her community as Dr. PBJ, disrupts burnout by refreshing the hearts and equipping the hands of overworked, undervalued "heart-workers"; achievers who serve from a heart of purpose.

Dr. PBJ is an educator of almost 25 years and an Executive Coach for more than 10 years. She holds a doctoral degree in Education Administration, served in executive leadership at colleges and universities, and facilitates leadership training as a faculty member for the Center for Creative Leadership. Dr. Jackson worked in higher education at many levels, from student assistant to President's Cabinet and is the recipient of several professional awards and accolades.

Dr. Jackson founded EduCare Training and Consulting, LLC out of a purpose pouring in to those who pour out so much. Much of her work is specifically focused on equipping and refreshing educators. Compassionate work can carry a high price tag: your mind, body, spirit and relationships may be in distress as you serve the needs of others. Dr. Jackson leads her community to serve well without paying an ultimate price.

Currently, Dr. PBJ serves as creator and host of the Disrupting Burnout podcast as well as the founder and facilitator of the EduCare Women's Leadership Academy.

East Georgia State College looks forward to celebrating its graduates!

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SUNSHINE HOUSE GIVEATHON FLYER

Sunshine House GiveAthon still seeking its goal of \$110,000

The Sunshine House GiveAthon on Thursday Dec 1, fell slightly short of its goal. The event raised \$97,500 and had technical difficulties due to Facebook. "We appreciate all who followed us throughout the evening", said Rusty Lane event chair. "We felt we were very successful in spite of a few challenges" According to executive director Carol

Donaldson, they will continue to accept contributions through January 6, 2023. "We expect the overwhelming generosity of those folks who were very busy with other Christmas events on Thursday will help us pull through and meet our goal," added Donaldson. You can send contributions to The Sunshine House CAC at P. O. Box 617 Swainsboro, 30401.

Twin City Lions Club holds monthly meetings

The Twin City Lions Club held their monthly lunch meeting on November 3, at Simply Southern in Twin City. The guest speaker was Emanuel County Probate Court Judge Don Wilkes. Judge Wilkes spoke to the club about how the probate process works and the need for all citizens to have a will and ensure their affairs are in order to help their loved ones handle their estate, nor matter how large or small, upon their death.

On December 1, the Twin City Lions Club met at Simply Southern in Twin City for their monthly lunch meeting. Guest speaker



WILKES

was Emanuel County Development Authority CEO Ken Warnock. Mr. Warnock shared many updates on economic activity in the Emanuel County area including unemployment for the county, the competitive-



WARNOCK

ness of jobs available in our county versus surrounding counties and how the 8400 job Hyundai plant in Bryan County off I-16 and further developments of the I-16 corridor can potentially impact our county.

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Sunday

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

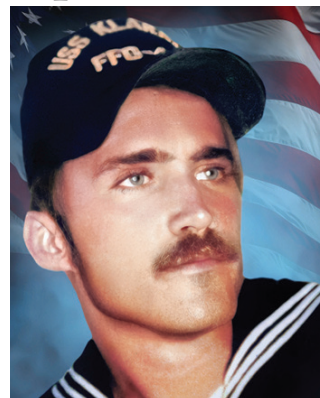
5:30 PM - Bible Study
6:30 PM - Family Dinner
7:00 PM - Chancel Choir

PLEASE JOIN US!

Kelley Thompson, 60

Kelley Thompson, 60, of Swainsboro, peacefully entered the presence of the Lord while surrounded by his loving family and friends on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at his residence. Graveside service will be private.

Kelley was born March 24, 1962, in Swainsboro, to Christopher Kelley Thompson and Patsy F. Thompson. He attended Swainsboro High School, earned his GED, and later enlisted in the U. S. Navy. After three years of duty, he was honorably discharged for health reasons. Kelley worked in several businesses in the Douglas area for years before ultimately finding his way back to Swainsboro. Along with faithfully caring for his parents, he found his true passion in a position with Emanuel County Animal Shelter. Kelley's love and compassion for animals never wavered, and there was never a dog or cat he didn't want to bring home. Kelley was an avid reader. He mostly enjoyed biographies and history, but would venture into most any subject. Kelley enjoyed every minute spent with his fur baby, Rudy, and cared for him fervently. He was also a lover of music and movies - an interest shared with his father. Kelley acquired quite an eclectic collection of albums, CDs, and DVDs over the years. He was kind, compassionate, and always saw



THOMPSON

the best in others. Mr. Thompson is preceded in death by his father; maternal grandparents, Rudolph and Martha Fields; and paternal grandparents, Linwood and Mary Thompson.

Survivors include his mother, Patsy F. Thompson of Swainsboro; sister, Melonie Jordan (Eddie) of Swainsboro; brother, Tracy Thompson of Swainsboro; nephews, Zach Thompson and Tyler Thompson, both of Dallas, GA; fur baby, Rudy; several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The staff at PruittHealth Hospice of Swainsboro were remarkable in every way for caring for Kelley and the family would like to extend their deepest appreciation for their dedication and care.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully asks that memorial donations be made to Emanuel County Animal Shelter, 343 Market Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

John Wesley Kerbo, 58

John Wesley Kerbo, 58, passed away early Wednesday morning, November 30, 2022, at his home under hospice. A private service will be held at a later date.

John was born in Tampa, Florida, to Donn and Carol Kerbo. He resided for most of his life in Garfield. John worked for many years as a small engine mechanic. He loved being outdoors, either hunting or fishing. John was a good son and was loved by many. Mr. Kerbo is preceded in death by his mother.

Surviving are his father, Donn Kerbo (Dorita); brother, John Anthony Kerbo (Lauren); step-



KERBO

brothers, Gary Simpson (Paige), Jeff Simpson, and H.T Clifton III; step-sisters, Melanie Simpson and Karen Reys; and a special family friend, Rebecca Batchelor.

Kennedy Funeral Homes, Hooks Chapel, of Metter is in charge of arrangements.

Della Mae (Derriso) Reese, 84

Mrs. Della Mae Reese, 84, of Swainsboro passed away Friday, December 2, 2022, at Emanuel County Nursing Home following an extended illness.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, December 6, in the chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Brother Levi Carpenter, Brother Robert Goodbread and Brother Donnie Daniels officiating. Interment followed in Odomville Cemetery in Adrian. The family received friends from 6 until 8 p.m. Monday, December 5, at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Mason Johnson, Austin Stockholm, Elijah Lloyd, Nathaniel Lloyd, Joe Diekemper, Adam Boatright, and Colby Scott. Honorary pallbearers were members of Swainsboro 1st Assembly Church and Dot West.

Mrs. Reese was born July 23, 1938, in Covena, to Charlie Derriso and Thelma Stephens Derriso. She enjoyed watching Jimmy Swagert Ministries and the weather channel. Mrs. Reese enjoyed crafts with crocheting, fishing, and gardening. She loved spending time with her family and especially traveling to the beach at Jekyll Island. Mrs. Reese was proud to be a



REESE

5th generation. She was a member of Swainsboro 1st Assembly Church for over 40 years. Mrs. Reese is preceded in death by her parents; husband, William Roy Reese, Sr.; son, Roy Reese, Jr.; great-grandson, Michael Walker, Jr.; four brothers; and one sister.

Survivors include her daughters, Donna Kirkland (George) of Midville and Kay McGee of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Christy Hayslip (Brian), Beth Love (Andy), Terri Valiton (Greg), Jessica Martin (Trent), Jeff Kersey (Melany), William Stockholm (Marjorie), Barbara Lloyd (Jeremy), Wade Reese, and Wes Johnson (Kristie); pet bird, Bubbles; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Vivian Ann Mills, 73

Mrs. Vivian Ann Mills, 73, of Kite passed away Saturday, December 3, 2022, at her residence following an extended illness. Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Monday, December 5, in the chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Andrew Flowers and Reverend Stanley Mills officiating. Interment followed in Mills Family Cemetery. The family received friends from 2 until 3 p.m. Monday, December 5, at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Johnny Roberts, Ashton Mills, Lyley Mills, and Waylon Mills; great-grandchildren, Casey Miller, Nolan Carmichael, and Lucy Bridges; sisters, Myra Oglesby Fleming of Millen, Susie Loreen Oglesby Beasley (Joe) of Statesboro, Ruby L. Oglesby Roberts (Johnny) of Flowery Branch, Geneva "Gennie" Oglesby of Herndon, Eloise Oglesby Coleman and Beverly Oglesby Boulineau (Joey), both of Midville, and Karen Oglesby Cheek (Jimmy) of Dellwood; brothers, Reamer T. Oglesby (Ramona) of Twin City, David Oglesby (Teresa) and Steven Oglesby (Julie), both of Midville; sister-in-law, Bonnie Spearman of Warner Robins; special niece and caregiver, Brittany Boone; fur baby, Prissy; several other nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Survivors include her daughter, Rhonda Johnson (Michael) of Scott; sons, Al Mills (Amber) of Millen, Rodney Mills (Missy) of Midville, and Stanley Mills



MILLS

(Ashly) of Wrightsville; grandchildren, Cody Carmichael, Rebecca Mills, Kyle Carmichael, Alaina Johnson, Addie Brown, Mikey Johnson, Ashton Mills, Lyley Mills, and Waylon Mills; great-grandchildren, Casey Miller, Nolan Carmichael, and Lucy Bridges; sisters, Myra Oglesby Fleming of Millen, Susie Loreen Oglesby Beasley (Joe) of Statesboro, Ruby L. Oglesby Roberts (Johnny) of Flowery Branch, Geneva "Gennie" Oglesby of Herndon, Eloise Oglesby Coleman and Beverly Oglesby Boulineau (Joey), both of Midville, and Karen Oglesby Cheek (Jimmy) of Dellwood; brothers, Reamer T. Oglesby (Ramona) of Twin City, David Oglesby (Teresa) and Steven Oglesby (Julie), both of Midville; sister-in-law, Bonnie Spearman of Warner Robins; special niece and caregiver, Brittany Boone; fur baby, Prissy; several other nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Aurelius Alvin Reid, 71

Aurelius Alvin Reid, age 71, was called home to be with the Lord on Saturday, November 26, 2022, following a brief illness. A Celebration of Life was held Friday, December 2, at 1 p.m. in the Swainsboro City Cemetery.

Aurelius was born May 12, 1951, in Macon, to the late Rosa Lee Reid and Aurelius Kelly. He was known to family and friends as "Regis". Regis was educated in Emanuel County and after graduation, he enlisted in the US Army. He faithfully served his country from 1973-1979. Regis worked at Advanced Metal and Battle Lumber. Mr. Reid is preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Donna Kelly.

Mr. Reid leaves to carry on his loving and caring memories with his four daughters, Temple Shipman of Paris, TX, Felecia Thomas (Anthony) of Augusta, Lakeisha Anthony (Rudolph) of



REID

Swainsboro, and Anitra Wilson of Statesboro; seven sisters, Charlene Drummer of Swainsboro, Shirley Kelly, Sybil K. Balcom (Willie James), Harriett Banks (Charles), Audrey Kelly, and Beverly Goodson (Walter), all of Macon; three brothers, Llewellyn "Kit" Kelly (Lisa), Larry Kelly (Lonnie), and Donald Kelly (Gwen), all of Macon; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

James Franklin Edenfield, 72

James Franklin Edenfield, age 72, died on Sunday, December 4th 2022 at Memorial Health in Savannah. Franklin was born on December 17, 1949 in Swainsboro, Georgia. He was an Honor Graduate from Swainsboro High School in 1967, and a 1971 graduate of the University of Georgia where he was a member of the Mu Chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. After graduation, he was awarded a patronage position by US Senator David Gambrell to the United States Capitol Police Force where he served from 1971-1972. He returned to Georgia to attend law school and graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1975. During his tenure there he was active in Moot Court and was selected for Law Review. Upon graduation, he accepted a position with Spivey & Carlton in his hometown of Swainsboro and became a partner early in his career. He practiced at Spivey, Carlton and Edenfield as a partner and then managing partner until his retirement in 2019. Franklin was a member of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar from 1975-1985 as well as a member of the Georgia and American Academy of Hospital Attorneys. He served as the Emanuel County Attorney, Emanuel County Hospital Attorney, Jefferson County Board of Education Attorney, special appointment representative for the DOT, and State Court Solicitor. Mr. Edenfield had a legal career that spanned 43 years and represented numerous other professional organizations, individuals and groups. Outside of his professional life, Franklin was passionate about many things, including wood-working, SCUBA, and the Georgia Bulldogs. He also showcased his talent for both storytelling and giving legal advice through a column in the Tybee Beachcomber entitled "Tales from a Backwoods Southern Lawyer". He could often be seen dancing along to oldies, or enjoying a glass of scotch and a cigar on his deck. But above all, Franklin adored his family, and they adored him. To those who knew him, he will forever be remembered as a brilliant, kind,



EDENFIELD

loving, funny, stubborn, good-old-fashioned-southern gentleman. He was a man of many names, but his favorite was papa. Franklin retired to Tybee Island to be closer to his grandchildren, his greatest joy, and he remained there until his passing. He is preceded in death by his parents, Bernice Lorene Tucker and Lieutenant Colonel James Otis Edenfield; maternal grandparents Eddie Frank and Susie Scott Tucker; and paternal grandparents David Alton and Mabelle Joyner Edenfield all from Statesboro. Franklin is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Dabney Adams Edenfield of Tybee Island; daughter Sloan Edenfield (Brian) of Wilmington Island; daughter Taylor Edenfield of Tybee Island; step daughter Curry Epley (Chris) of Wilmington Island; step-son Rocky Brazzell (Mary Kate) of Wilmington Island; and step-son Cameron Brazzell of Atlanta; Grandchildren Thatcher and Amelia Knudson, Croix and Capers Nicolini, Crew Epley, and Beckett Brazzell; sister, Pat Mitchell Seydel (Scott) of Atlanta; Uncles James Tucker (Marie) of Port Wentworth and Ted Tucker of San Francisco; and nephew Mark Mitchell (Miranda) of New York.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, December 9th at 11:00am at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Statesboro with Rev. Sonia Clifton officiating. The family will receive friends following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in his name to the Tybee Post Theater, P.O. Box 2356, Tybee Island, GA 31328.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com

Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home & Crematory of Statesboro is in charge of arrangements.

Lucy Mae Young, 90

Lucy Mae Young, age 90, passed away Wednesday, November 23, 2022. Homecoming services were conducted Saturday, December 3, at 11 a.m., at St. John Baptist Church with Rev. Bobby Williams Jr. officiating.

Lucy Mae was born September 28, 1932, in Burke County, to the late Porter and Beulah Bynes. She graduated from high school in 1950, and in 1955, Lucy was united in holy matrimony to John C. Young Sr. From that union, they had eight children. Lucy Mae was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She became a faithful member of Antioch Rock Creek Baptist Church. Mrs. Young is preceded in death by her siblings, Mary (McKinley) Henderson, Bessie Bynes, Willie Bynes, Lynwood (Ruby) Bynes, Johnnie (Hattie) Bynes, Joseph Bynes, Sidney Bynes, and Porter Bynes Jr.

Mrs. Young leaves to cherish her memories with



REID

three daughters, Dorothy Williams of Millen, Brenda Young of Atlanta, and Sandra (Benjamin) Young-Mayes of Augusta; bonus daughter, Gloria Jean Sawyer; five sons, Donald Young of Millen, John Young Jr. of Millen, Carl (Deandra) Young of Midville, Al (Joyce) Young of Swainsboro, and Christopher "Eric" (Clara) Young of Millen; a host of grandchildren; great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Emma L. (Logue) Horne, 73

Emma L. (Logue) Horne, 73, passed away Sunday, December 4, 2022. Funeral services will be private.

Mrs. Horne was born in Swainsboro to the late Carlis and Pearl (Brantley) Logue. She graduated from the Southeastern Technical College and was an accountant for WXRS Radio for 25 years. Mrs. Horne lived in Swainsboro all of her life before moving to Rhode Island in 2020. She was a member of the Maranatha Pentecostal Holiness Church of Soperton, and was an avid reader. Mrs. Horne was very family oriented and truly loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Horne was the loving mother of Newton Meadows (Amanda) of Swainsboro, Ennis



HORNE

Meadows (Lorrie) of Swainsboro, Jonni Goddard of Smithfield, RI, Amber Meadows and Brandon Meadows, both of Swainsboro. She was the sister of the late Carlis Logue, Jr.; grandmother of 13; and great-grandmother of 19.

Tucker-Quinn Funeral Chapel of Greenville, RI was in charge of arrangements.

Make Room

Well as you know the season of joy is up on us. Yes, we are getting ready for Christmas. Whether you are ready or not, the season is here. Well I am not quite ready, what about you? I have bought only one gift. I am still deciding on how I am going to give gifts. Sometimes I buy gifts or give money, or take time and bake pies for the neighbors. Well, I must decide quickly because the time is upon us.

As I think about what time it is, I think about to things that happen before Jesus arrived. Yes it had been prophesied that the Messiah was coming. When Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem to pay their taxes and register to vote, she went into labor. When they inquired about a room in the hotel, there was no room. Not only was there no room, they did not make room. Absolutely no one gave up their room for a woman with child.

So today while we see the signs of Christmas through the beautiful lights and the nativity scenes, have we really prepared our hearts and made room for Jesus. While we are spending money and time on material or natural things, are we spending time with Jesus? Let us not get so caught up in traditional that we miss the real reason for this season.

This is a good time to examine our lives to make sure we have made room for Jesus. The bible says, "Let every man examine himself." Check to make sure you have the real Christmas. Jesus brings Love, Peace and Joy. So Is there someone you truly hate? There seems to be a lot of that going around lately. Are you in a gang of hate

without realizing it? Are you hating people you don't even know because they don't look like you or maybe their behavior doesn't get your approval? Do you think you are better than someone else? Well it's time to check your list and it would not hurt to check it twice. You might find out you are naughty instead of being nice.(smile).

Anyway, let us just make room for Jesus by getting rid of clutter in our hearts. Jesus comes to the lowly, the humble, the broken hearted. Make room for Jesus so that you will have Christmas (Love, Peace and Joy) everyday of your life.

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	Jim Small, MD (478) 419-1250		2nd & 4th Tuesday
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WOUND	Anthony Davis, M.D. Nick Luecke, NP-C (478) 289-1126	Emanuel Wound Care Center 117 Kite Road - 2nd Floor	Monday, Thursday & Friday

Georgia Memory Net reminds Georgians that the holidays provide an opportunity to talk to loved ones about Alzheimer's symptoms

ATLANTA, Georgia — Georgia Memory Net (GMN), the statewide program dedicated to earlier diagnosis and customized care plans for Georgians living with Alzheimer's, wants to remind Georgians that holiday gatherings are an optimal time to check-in with older relatives. If they are showing symptoms that might be signs of Alzheimer's Disease or a related dementia, GMN recommends having a conversation with them about the importance of getting an accurate diagnosis.

"For some, the holidays are a rare opportunity to spend time in-person with parents, grandparents, or older relatives," said Kyle Brunen, Georgia Memory Net's Project Director. "They might notice their loved ones are exhibiting new symptoms like memory problems, cognitive decline, or personality changes. I know it can be tough, but if you detect these symptoms, we recommend finding an opportunity to start a conversation with your family member about the importance of getting a diagnosis."

Georgia Memory Net offers a one page guide to help Georgians have productive conversations with loved ones experiencing memory loss. The guide, titled Tips for

Having Productive Conversations About Getting an Alzheimer's or Other Dementias Diagnosis, shares the warning signs of Alzheimer's, as well as advice on how to encourage loved ones to talk to their Primary Care Physician about getting a diagnosis. The guide is available at tinyurl.com/k2sbm4wh

The one-page guide includes valuable information to share with loved ones experiencing memory loss, along with techniques for having more productive conversations by listening supportively, being patient, and using creativity.

"People experiencing signs of dementia can be reluctant to get diagnosed," said Dr. Allan Levey, Founding Director of GMN. "They might feel afraid or hopeless, or think that a diagnosis won't change anything. The truth is that an accurate diagnosis can bring clarity, connect the person and their loved ones with new sources of support, and lead to care that can improve their lives and their health."

When Georgians talk to their doctors about their memory loss or cognitive decline, Georgia Memory Net recommends asking if a referral to a Georgia Memory Net Memory Assessment Clinic, or MAC, is right for them.

Georgia Memory Net manages these clinics all around the state, and also provides telemedicine services for patients who can't access a MAC for any reason. More information on referrals to Georgia Memory Net is available at gamemorynet.org/patient/patient-referrals/

"We understand that starting difficult conversations isn't most people's idea of having a happy holiday," said Brunen. "But we've also seen that diagnosis, and the treatment and support it can lead to, can be an amazing gift in the lives of people living with undiagnosed dementia."

About Georgia Memory Net: Georgia Memory Net is a statewide program dedicated to earlier diagnosis and customized care plans for those living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The program is a collaborative supported by Georgia Department of Human Services, managed centrally by the Emory Brain Health Center, and comprises healthcare organizations statewide, community services partners specializing in dementia support, and the Georgia Division of Aging Services / Area Agencies on Aging network. The program's website is gamemorynet.org

Georgia Memory Net offers Telehealth options for diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

ATLANTA, Georgia — Georgia Memory Net, the statewide program dedicated to earlier diagnosis and customized care plans for Georgians living with Alzheimer's, is implementing multiple telehealth options to help Georgians access diagnostic services around the state.

In years past, Georgians in need of an Alzheimer's or related dementia diagnosis had to travel to a metropolitan area like Atlanta or Augusta to be assessed by a specialized neurology practice. The waits for an appointment could be as long as 18 months. That long wait is one of the reasons why Georgia Memory Net (GMN) was created. One of GMN's goals is to make quality dementia diagnoses available to all Georgians, no matter where they live in the state.

This effort includes launching telehealth options for dementia diagnostic appointments. Telehealth appointments allow patients who can't make it to one of GMN's Memory Assessment Clinics for any reason to receive diagnosis much

closer to home via technology. Each of GMN's Memory Assessment Clinics can provide telehealth diagnostic appointments for patients at home via telehealth, and now GMN is launching a new hybrid telehealth model.

"Our new telemedicine partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health is a meaningful step for our organization in eliminating barriers to care for individuals with memory loss and other symptoms of cognitive impairment," said Kyle Brunen, Georgia Memory Net's Project Director. "These telemedicine locations in Dooly and Emanuel counties are the first, with more to come, and provide the necessary technology, connectivity, and clinical staff to deliver a first-class cognitive assessment closer to a patient's home."

While some telehealth options require a patient to log in to a device in their home, Georgia Memory Net's new telehealth sites take place in a clinical setting that is close to home. There, staff can help the patient log in to their appointment,

and support them in any other way needed during the diagnosis. These assisted sessions are currently being offered at the Dooly County Health Department in Vienna, and the Emanuel County Health Department in Swainsboro.

More information on Georgia memory Net, and how to get a referral, is available at <https://gamemorynet.org/patient/patient-referrals/>

About Georgia Memory Net: Georgia Memory Net is a statewide program dedicated to earlier diagnosis and customized care plans for those living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The program is a collaborative supported by Georgia Department of Human Services, managed centrally by the Emory Brain Health Center, and comprised of healthcare organizations statewide, community services partners specializing in dementia support, and the Georgia Division of Aging Services / Area Agencies on Aging network. The program's website is www.GaMemorynet.org



GIBSONS BBQ

Good for the soul: Gibson's Barbeque and more!

by BRITTANY HALL

When you put your heart and soul into your work, you can't help but to make something beautiful out of it or in Dr. Willie Gibson's case, something delicious. Gibson is a father of three and has been married to his "Queen" Mrs. Char Gibson, for thirty years. He is also the owner of Swainsboro's newest food-truck, *Gibson's Barbeque and More*. If you're traveling down North Main Street on a special Friday afternoon, you may find it hard to ignore the savory smells that call out to you. Those beckoning smells are coming from a place that's located on the corner of K.T.'s place where Gibson's BBQ truck is waiting to fill your appetite and meet every savory expectation your tastebuds are drooling for.

Although *Gibson's Barbeque and More* is sweet and original compared to many other food-trucks, the story behind its creation is what really makes it special. In the early 90's Willie Gibson was heading down a different path that was leading him to his first calling, Education.

"For 10 years I served as a teacher and a coach," Gibson explained.

In 1991 Gibson received his bachelor's degree from Claflin University before attending Troy State University where he obtained his master's degree in 2003 and his specialist degree in 2005. After graduating from Troy State University, he decided to excel his education a step further and went on to earn his Doctorate Degree from Nova Southeastern University which he successfully did in 2013.

Following his prosperous journey as a student, Gibson began changing the lives of young minds through his gift of mentoring and began his teaching career in Hancock County. He later transferred to Washington County, then Oglethorpe County and was finally led home to Emanuel County, where he became a pillar of guidance within our community. Even after his recent retirement, Gibson is still known as, "Principal Willie Gibson," by many who continue to admire

him today.

"The last twenty years I served as principal and was blessed to do so at all levels." He explained.

After retiring, Gibson says that he began to spend more time fishing, traveling, and being with family and friends, all of which he stated, "have been so rewarding." However, he still missed the opportunities that came with a full-time career, especially one that involved connections through community.

"My favorite part of working with the school system was by far interacting with the students. That's what I truly miss the most." He said with a smile.

After some soul-searching, Gibson realized that one of his greatest talents, cooking, could allow him to get back into society while also giving him enough leisure for family-time and hobbies. It was also during this thought that he was reminded of how good food will always bring people together and put a smile on their face, which is something that everyone could benefit from.

"My passion for cooking and particularly grilling began very early on when I would watch my grandmother and father create meals. Witnessing that was like a science lesson for me, which I absolutely loved. Their recipe's and all the love they poured into them inspired me to go into the barbecue business. Now I'm able to create so many dishes and watch people enjoy their meal. I also must admit the compliments are motivating as well." He said through an appreciative smile.

Gibson's Barbeque and More is coming up on their one-year anniversary and since it began in January of last year, it has been producing mouth-watering meals for all to enjoy, which Gibson says has been his goal from the very beginning.

"Good food definitely brings the community together and that's all we were trying to do!" He said.

Gibson's Barbeque and More offers a wide variety of wholesome, grilled goodness, including brisket, chicken, ribs, pulled pork, mac and cheese, green beans, baked

beans, cabbage, chicken wings, burgers, and fries and on special occasions, even turkey legs. These are just a few of the delicious meals that they offer, however, something else that you can find there that isn't on the menu, is the positivity and kindness that comes with every plate.

"My goals are to provide great barbecue and customer service that is second to none! This is also one of the reasons why I'm currently not interested in opening a brick-and-mortar establishment because I love traveling to meet new people and establishing new relationships with them, as I provide a satisfying meal in the process." He explained with a smile.

Gibson's barbecue and more, is located at K.T.'s at 636 North Main Street here in Swainsboro, on certain days and weekends. Although, they're currently in the process of solidifying a permanent schedule, you can keep updates on when and where the food-truck will be by following them on Facebook at *Gibson's Barbecue-more*.

"I first must thank God for his grace and mercy. Without Him, none of this would've been possible. I have received support from numerous individuals, including, my family, the citizens of Hancock County, Swainsboro Middle School, and recently the citizens of Emanuel County. The response has been humbling. I also must give a shout out to *Off the Hook Fish and Seafood* for their guidance and support as well as Victor Wilcher and Stanley Wimberly from men reaching men and Mr. Andy Coney who is a master craftsman at what he does and has assisted me with his incredible knowledge, to ensure that things work properly." Gibson said.

He concluded the interview with a heartwarming shout-out.

"I want to reiterate my gratitude toward people who have supported Gibson's Barbecue and More. I am so thankful to do what I'm doing now."

Be sure to follow Gibson's online and visit them in person the next time they're in town! Let Mr. Willie know the Blade sent you!



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Social News **B**

It's Christmas, time to be glad

On Monday, November 14, 2022, the Glad Garden Club met at the beautiful Sudie A. ord Community Learning Center. What a comfy, cozy place to put the club in the mood to make our Christmas decorating plans. Meeting called to order by President, JoAnn Trammell at 10 a.m. and inspirational message of caring for each other especially this time of given by Carolyn Brown. Accepted minutes handed out and/or given by Carolyn Brown, Secretary. Margaret Sweet, Treasurer gave a detailed and extensive report including final profit made on fundraiser earlier this year. Margaret Sweet resigned as Treasurer. Due to a quorum being present, Audrey West was elected new Treasurer and approved by the Board of Directors. Thank you, Audrey. Gloria Mason gave a report on anticipated Christmas

decorations for Emanuel County Medical Center. Jeanette Hall reported that Glad Garden Club was invited to participate in the the Wreaths Across America Ceremony on December 17th, 2022, by Johnny Tapley meeting at Pine Brook Park with time to be announced later. Lisa Parham and Sherri Clifton have purchased new Christmas decorations and members can hardly wait to see them when members decorate Emanuel County Medical Center.

Christmastime can be an unsettling time of year for those in the hospital - be they patients or staff. The Glad Garden Club thoroughly enjoys delivering some cheer to the hospital. On Monday, November 21, 2022, under the creative eye of Jeanette Hall, Director of Decorating, members decorated the halls with boughs of holly, Christmas trees, angels,

and wreaths. A gold Angel greets you at the door. A traditional Christmas tree was placed in the lobby along with carolers, Santa, and a snowman. There are even presents under the tree. Even the cafeteria has a lighted Baroque Christmas tree and presents. The cafeteria and the chapel both have nativity scenes. On the way to ICU there are wreaths in the hallway and, of course, in ICU there is a fiber optic lighted Guardian Angel. Lisa Parham and Sherri Clifton directed decorating the outside of the hospital with lighted garland, bench decorations and brand-new toy soldiers guarding the front entrance. Other anticipated activities include delivering Christmas stockings to a designated nursing home, perhaps singing a carol, then on to the Sunshine house to deliver our annual donation in person.



FROM L TO R: 90-YEAR-OLD PETE BOATRIGHT, 98-YEAR-OLD DOYLE TATUM

New Veterans at the Library meet

The Veterans at the Library held our weekly meeting on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 9:15 a.m. with Chair, Johnny Tapley, presiding and 40 veterans in attendance. The newest veteran to attend is Doyle John Tatum. Doyle was a member of the U.S. Army and served in World War II. He was stationed in England and landed at "Normandy" on DD + 2. He obtained the rank of Private in the "Infantry". Doyle will turn 98 on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Other items taken up was the success of placing the flags out on the 5 cemeteries that will have the Wreaths Across America placed on December 17, 2022. As of today, there will be 1,319 Wreaths to place.

Twin City Elementary Beta members participate in state competition

National Beta members from Twin City Elementary are celebrating their recent participation in the Georgia Elementary Beta State Convention. They were announced as winners of the following competitions: Large Group Performing Arts, Living Literature, Portfolio, 2-D Art, Service Learning, Songfest, Engineering, Musicology, Robotics, Painting, Quilting, H a n d - D r a w n Anime, Poetry, B&W Photography, Jewelry, Trading Pin, Digital Art, Woodworking, Piano Solo, Social Studies, and On-site Painting.

National Beta State Convention allows students the opportunity to compete in various academic and STEM-based, virtual, and performing arts competitions. The State Convention was

offered as a hybrid event. This gave students the opportunity to compete onsite at the Savannah Convention Center, depending on their level of comfort. These victories at the state level provide an opportunity to compete at the national level. The National Convention will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, KY, during the Summer of 2023.

Mr. Robbie Warnock, principal of Twin City Elementary, said, "TCE has a long history of doing well at state and national conventions. We have an awesome group of students backed up with dedicated sponsors and tons of parent and community support. Thanks to all of you who make our small school shine!"



BETA LOGO

With more than 500,000 active members and 9,000 clubs nationally and internationally, National Beta has become the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. National Beta promotes the ideals of academic achievement, character, service, and leadership among elementary and secondary school students. National Junior Beta includes grades 4-8 and National Senior Beta includes grades 9-12. Visit betaclub.org for more information.



1ST PLACE RECIPIENT ANNA SUTTON, 2ND PLACE RECIPIENT BAILEY MCNURE AND 3RD PLACE RECIPIENT KALEY FLOWERS

VFW Patriot Pen Essay Winners

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars conducts an essay contest for 6th through 8th grade students. These essays are between 300 and 400 words and have a different theme each year.

The 10 entrants from David Emanuel Academy were judged and the winners are Anna Sutton who earned 1st place, Bailey McNure who earned 2nd Place, and Kaley Flowers who earned 3rd Place.

91 Happy Birth'day

John A. Harris

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Editorials Columns

A Season to smile about

It is downright astounding what an effect a leathery, little funny-shaped oblong ball can have on

human beings this time of year. People who would normally greet you with the standard

rhetorical query dealing with the price of gas, or how's your Momma doing or how 'bout them Dawgs, are now switching over to "hey man, what's up with those Tigers"? It's not that the Swainsboro High School football programs haven't always been pretty

good, it's just that now, the Tigers are about to hop on a bus and head to Atlanta to play for the State Championship and now, just about everybody from Stevens Crossing down to Wesley knows the names of the guys on the line, in the backfield, and on special teams. I even heard two ladies in church discussing which Tiger receiver had the best time in the 40-yard dash. That's what high school athletics does, especially in small towns. It brings pride and focus to who

we are and what we are capable of, not just on the field but everywhere. When you can have programs in the schools that bring that sort of credit to the entire community, it's a positive thing for all concerned. Because that sort of credit and spirit comes from hard work, dedication, cooperation and a sense of loyalty, not just from a football team but also from school administration, classroom teachers, cheerleaders, bandmembers, students and of course, all the Moms

and Dads and all the other fans. And when that credit results in more exposure and more appreciation for the entire school system and its mission, then that's like winning the lottery with a super multiplier winning number to go with it.

We earnestly hope the final score on Thursday night will shower glory all over our Swainsboro High School Tigers, but if not, this team's performance during the season has already claimed a place in SHS annals and

Charles Schwabe



made a name for them, for this school system and for the community they call home. But don't take all this the wrong way. We know we are good, but now we need to show the rest of the state. I have an old cap that says Swainsboro Tigers, 2000 State Football

Champions. I think its time for a new hat, and like an old football coach I knew always loved to say, "You don't carry the ball like a loaf of bread, and you don't tackle a man around his shoulders, and you don't ever quit 'til you win. *Congratulations and Let's Go Tigers!*"

Column produces an extraordinary reunion

It is one of the most rewarding experiences in my 25 years of churning out columns. And it was a total accident. A happy accident. You may recall that back in July, I asked my friend Hans Trupp in Brunswick his take on the recently-released Top Gun Maverick. He was a Top Gun during the Vietnam war and I was interested in getting his take on the movie and how authentic he found it. Although I have known Hans Trupp for many years and have even done some business with him, until that column I didn't realize the extent of his involvement in the war. He flew more than 200 combat missions over North Vietnam from two different aircraft carri-

ers: the USS Ranger and the USS Constellation. Among the many medals and commendations Trupp received, one stands out in particular: The Distinguished Flying Cross. It is awarded for "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight" and "involving operations that are not routine." That was the case on June 14, 1966, when Lt. Hans Trupp and a colleague aboard the carrier USS Ranger took off in their F4B Phantom jets for a target not yet defined. "It was 3 a.m.," he says. "and we had no idea what was going on. But once they tell you to go, you have 2 minutes to be in the air." It turned out to be two enemy planes bombing a

PT boat trying to smuggle spies into Haiphong Harbor. Both planes were shot down by radar-controlled missiles. "We never had a visual on them," Hans told me. "It was all on instruments. That was very unusual. We were instructed never to fire without a visual. This was an exception." It was also the only time in Naval history when planes launched at night from a carrier in all-weather conditions resulted in a kill of enemy airplanes. And this is where the story takes an incredible turn. When I wrote about this episode back in July, I received a lot of mail from readers recounting their own Vietnam experiences, including a hand-written note from

Fred Washburn in Dawson County who remembered that night very clearly. Washburn was a seaman working radar aboard the destroyer USS Rogers and spotted two blips on the screen flying around in a circle. He had tracked them from Hanoi down to Haiphong Harbor. "I didn't know what they were doing but I figured they were up to no good," he said. The problem was he had to convince his captain on the USS Rogers that these were bad guys and then get him to call the captain on the lead destroyer, the USS Kuntz, the only ship authorized to communicate with the USS Ranger. Fortunately, Washburn's persistence paid off and the rest, as they say, is history. Hans Trupp promptly took care of the bad guys. I shared Fred Washburn's letter with Trupp who was astonished. "I have had a lot of questions over the years how this all came about and didn't know until you sent me his let-

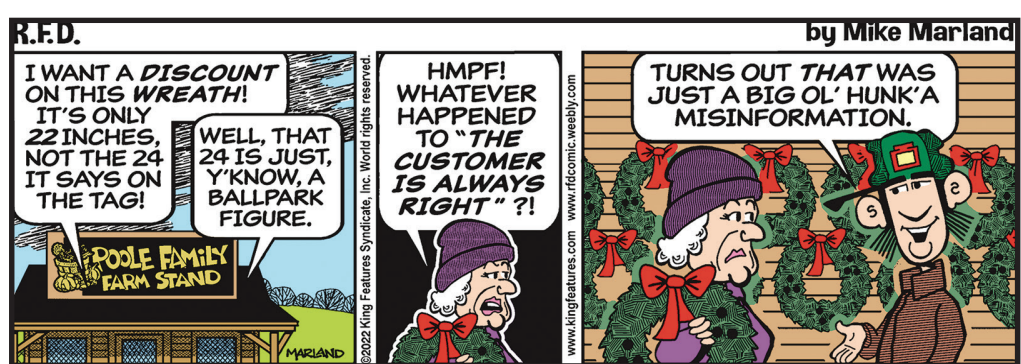
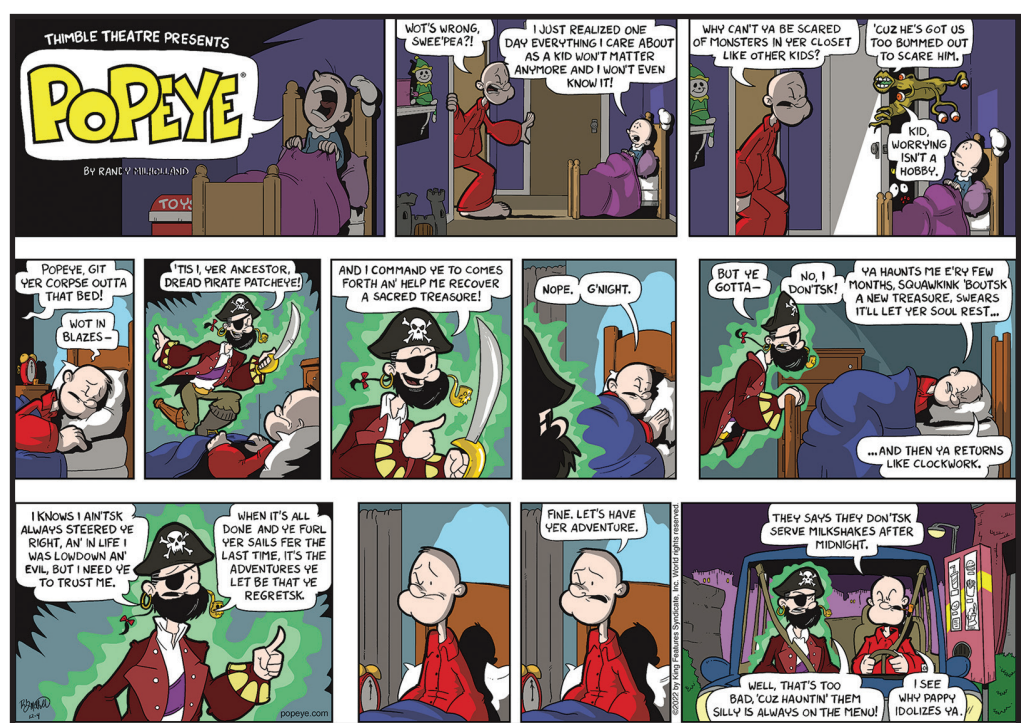
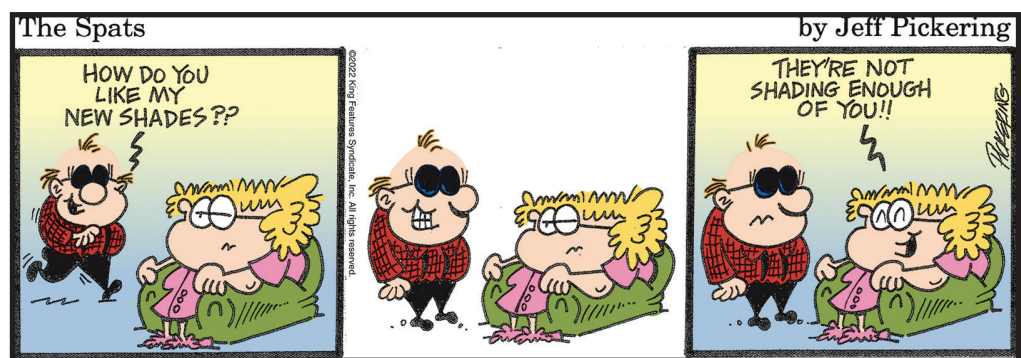
Dick Yarbrough



ter. There are a million people who could have been running radar that night," he said, "and it turns out it was a guy from right here in Georgia." With the persistence that can only come from a Top Gun-turned real estate mogul, Trupp tracked down Washburn and talked to him on the phone. The next step was a Zoom call and a face-to-face meeting 56 years after that fateful night. I was privileged to just sit and listen. Washburn, an unassuming man who ran a service station in Albany for 41 years, told me he wasn't much of a letter writer but that my column struck a chord with him. "I remember the whole thing well," he said. "Fifteen minutes after the Ranger was alerted, Hans was out there doing his thing. It was the highlight of our whole tour."

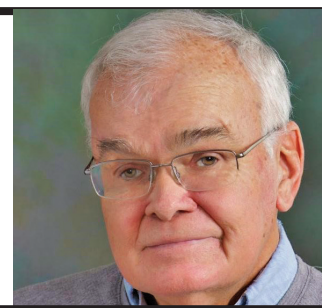
Hans Trupp got the kill and the Distinguished Flying Cross but wanted to be sure one thing about that episode got corrected. "The Kuntz received credit for what happened that night. Until I got Fred's letter, I never even knew the Rogers was involved. The credit belongs to Fred Washburn." You read it here. People ask where I get my ideas for columns. Sometimes it is pure luck. I had simply asked my friend Hans Trupp what he thought about a movie and ended up with an incredible story that beats any movie you could ever imagine. You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dick-yarbrough.com; at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139 or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dickyarb.

Editorial Cartoons



Question: What are nanobots?

Dwight Watt



Answer: Nanobots will be very small robots. They are being developed as [part of nano technology which is developing extremely small items. The idea of nanobots (they are still in the development stage and not been made yet) is to create robots tar are so small we could for instance use them to do surgery or treatments of diseases in humans (or for that matter other animals) by injecting them in the blood stream and directing them to a location and have them perform actions on the human body from the inside. I have not read the following, but I would presume we would then direct them back to a location and remove them from the body there. You can imagine how small these nano robots would be to do that, however, they would not be lim-

ited to just use in people or animals, but you could use them to go in other small locations and build or repair things that a normal size robot or human could not. We have drastically reduced the size of many things and nano technology is moving stuff to a nano size world. Reading and learning about nanobots reminds me of two science fiction movies, which in both cases reduce humans to small sized ones. The first was Fantastic Voyage which came out in 1969 and I watched the which they shrunk a submarine with surgeons in it that were injected in a person who had an assassination attempt on them and this crew was to go in and repair the damages and save the person's life. With nanobots we may be able to do what they did as science fiction just

over 50 years ago. The second thought was Honey I shrunk the Kids, but it went in a different direction but with miniaturization. Every year we see things that were science fiction not long ago become real life and today's science fiction will probably be real life (well let's skip the horror science fiction) not that far into the future and in many of our lifetimes. Send me your questions about computers to me at the paper or to my e-mail dwright@dwrightwatt.com and tell me you read this in this paper. I will pick a question to answer each week. Dwight Watt does computer work for businesses, individuals and organizations and teaches about computers at a technical college in northwest Georgia. His webpage is www.dwrightwatt.com. His e-mail address is dwright@dwrightwatt.com.

The Forest-Blade

Gail Williamson, Editor/Publisher

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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.



The ^{Forest} Blade

Swainsboro, GA • December 7, 2022 • www.EmanuelCountyLive.com

Sports & More C

DEA Varsity girls put up a good fight for the first night of the season

David Emanuel Academy's Varsity Eagle girls' basketball team began their first night of the season with a game against Glascock County Girls on November 29. Addalyn Terwilliger started things off with a 7-pointer followed by Molly Hammock who scored 5 points for the Eagles. Maddie Perkins added 3 points to their score board followed by Kyli Bell who added 9. After Bell's play, Aubrey Williams made an incredible play and scored another shot earning the Eagles 17 more points on the board. Emma Proctor finished things off with 3 more points, earning the Eagles a final score of 44 against Glascock's 52. Although it was a loss the Eagles still put in a good fight, and we can't wait to see what they do next time!

Eagles earn first win of their season

David Emanuel Academy's Varsity Eagles' basketball team began their first night of the season with a game against Glascock County on November 29, immediately following the varsity Eagle girl's game. Racyn Faircloth started things off with an 8-point score followed by Billy martin who earned 16 points for the Eagles. Peyton Lee added another 6 points to the

board and Jesse Moore followed with a play that earned the boys 12 more points. After Randon Williams made a play that added 9 more points to the scoreboard, Tony Sutton finished things off with a one pointer which gave DEA the advantage and the final winning score of 52 against Glascock County's 28. Congratulations boys!

Eagles Varsity girls win second game of the season

David Emanuel Academy's Varsity Eagle girls' basketball team began their second night of the season with a game against Screven Christian Academy Girls on December 1.

Raleigh Faircloth started things off with a 4-pointer followed by Scout Hall who scored 2 points for the Eagles. Payton Peebles added another 2 points to the score board followed by Addalyn Terwilliger who added 10. Aubrey Williams made a play that earned the Eagles 9 more points on the board before Riliegh Andrews 2 finished things off with 2 more points which earned DEA a final score of 29 over SCA's 16. Congratulations Girls!

DEA dominates SCA in second game of the season

David Emanuel Academy's Varsity Eagles' basketball team played their second game of the season with a face-off against Screven Christian Academy on December 1, immediately following the Eagle Varsity Girls win. Lake Woods started things off with

a 2-point play followed by AJ Edenfield who earned another 2 points for the Eagles and Karson Kettles who added another 2 points to the board before Layton Terwilliger added 2 as well. Tucker Free followed with a 6-point play before Ethan Fields added 8

points to the board. After Paxton Dixon made a play that earned the Eagles 6 more points, Riley Phillips finished things off with a 2 pointer which gave DEA the advantage and the final winning score of 30 over SCA's 6. Congratulations DEA!

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Toy drive being held

Please drop-off toys at two locations through December 19, at Men Reaching Men Outreach, 206 W. Main St. in Swainsboro from 1 to 5 p.m. or Swainsboro Recreation Dept., 632 McLeod Bridge Rd. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Toy giveaway will be held December 19, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Vann Community House for ages 3 to 12.
For more information and toy pick-up, call any of the following: Rita Faulkner - 478.494.8263; Stanley Wimberly - 478.299.5909; John Troupe - 478.299.7254; Roy Brantley - 478.206.0699.
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Progressive FARMER READER INSIGHTS

EGSC's Zuriyah Davis named GCAA Player of the Week

Zuriyah Davis of East Georgia State College has been selected as the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association's Player of the Week. Davis averaged 24 points, 4.5 rebs, 3 assts, and 2.5 stls in 2 wins for the Lady Bobcats last week.



ZURIYAH DAVIS

Congratulations, Zuriyah!



COMPATRIOT STEVE BURKE PRESENTING HIS PROGRAM AT THE FOUR RIVERS CHAPTER MEETING

Burke presents "Swamp Fox" program

The Four Rivers Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, Thursday night, November 17, 2022, at the Chatters Restaurant in Lyons, with President George King presiding and 12 members in attendance. The program for the evening was presented by dual member Steve Burke. Burke's program was on "Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox". Francis Marion was a military officer who served in the American Revolution. He had an officer commission not only in the South Carolina Militia, but also the Continental Army. During the British occupation of South Carolina and Charleston, he was a persistent

adversary. His method of warfare was irregular, and it made him one of the fathers of modern guerrilla warfare and maneuver warfare. He is noted as an ancestor of the U.S. Army Rangers and the 75th Ranger Regiment. After participating in several battles, such as Fort Sullivan, Siege of Savannah Monck's Corner and at Waxhaw's, Marion organized a small unit, which at first consisted of between 20 and 70 men and was the only force then opposing the British Army in the State. Marion rarely committed his men to frontal warfare but repeatedly bewildered larger bodies of Loyalists or British regulars with quick surprise attacks and equally sudden withdrawal from the field.



COMPATRIOT STEVE BURKE PRESENTING HIS TRAVELING TRUNK TO OVER 600 STUDENTS FROM TWIN CITY ELEMENTARY AND SWAINSBORO PRIMARY SCHOOL, K-2ND GRADE

Burke presents traveling trunk to area students

On Friday, November 18, 2022, Farm Day 2022 was held at the Georgia Sports Arena at 9:00 a.m. Many booths were set up by Chair Kim Hooks for over 600 students to enjoy many different animals, including riding horses. Sheri Watt asked local survivalist Compatriot Steve Burke to present his Wiregrass Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution "Traveling Trunk" to all the students in groups of 25 to 30 at a time. The Traveling Trunk consisted of artifacts, pelts, hats, and many other items that Patriots would have used in the late 1700's in our area. Compatriot Steve

Burke is the Vice President of the local chapter. He was assisted by Registrar Dess Smith III. The most interactive part of Steve's presentation was when each student got to have their group photo taken with one of Steve's "road-kill" hats. Also on display was several types of flintlock rifles including a Kentucky/Pennsylvania 50 cal., a 1750's matchlock, a French Charleville 69 cal. musket, a British Brown Bess 75 cal., and an 1842 percussion cap smooth bore Whitworth 45 cal. rifle. Steve also displayed his just completed 6-pounder Field Cannon that he built himself.



JULIE FRIX

Julie Frix nominated as VFW Teacher of the Year

Julie Frix has been selected as the Lanier-Moore VFW Post 5745 Teacher of the Year. She is the Work-based Learning Coordinator for Emanuel County Schools. She finds job placements for students, networks with local industry and businesses, teaches employability skills, teaches curriculum centered on personal responsibility. Congratulations to Julie as this year's selectee.



ADDALYN TERWILLIGER, JOSIE BLACK AND LANDON LINDSEY

VFW Voice of Democracy winners

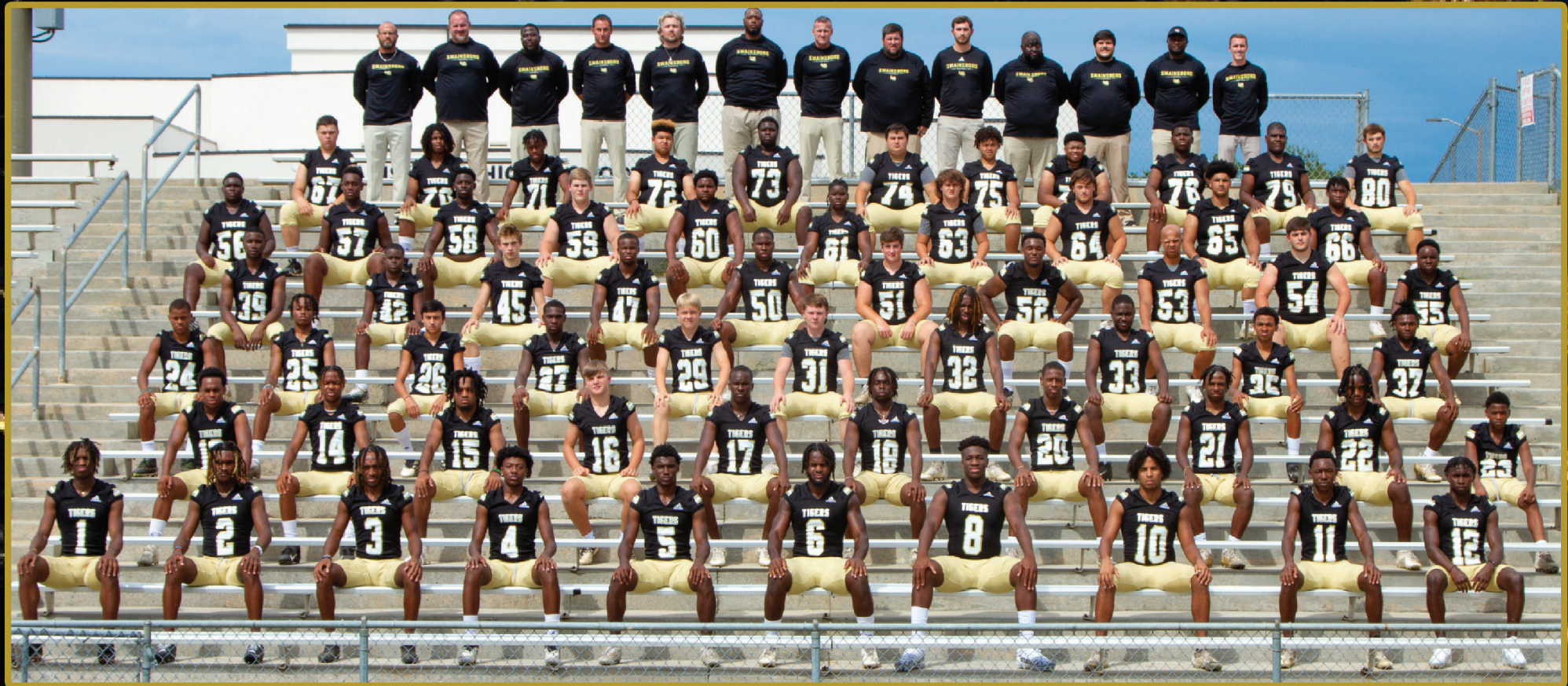
Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars conduct an essay contest for 10th through 12th grade students. This essay had to be delivered and graded in

an oral version. This year the 18 applicants from David Emanuel Academy were graded on their essay and delivery and the winners were announced.

This year's winners are Addalyn Terwilliger who earned 1st place, Josie Black who earned 2nd place, and Landon Lindsey who earned 3rd Place.

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Let's Go Tigers...



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A special thank you to Mark Williams Studio for the photos provided to The Forest Blade.



BOTTOM L-R: KHALANI DAVIS, BRINLEY BRINSON, GRAYCI WELLS, ADEN POOLE, JAXON STAPLETON, AUBREY JOHNSON
TOP L-R: L.J. WILLIAMS, RANNESHIA ROBERSON, ANGEL PEREZ-PRADO, IZAIHA HARRIS, AAZYLAH BARRON
(NOT PICTURED: KADEN WILLIAMS)

Swainsboro Primary School November Character Kids

At Swainsboro Primary School, the character trait for November was "Thankfulness". One student from each class is selected for displaying thankfulness each day. These students get

special recognition at a Character Kid breakfast. They also get a special lunch, a certificate, pencil and charm, a book from a book vending machine, as well as a free ice cream from Dairy

Queen. In addition, a video of these boys and girls is shared on the Swainsboro Primary School FaceBook page. We are so proud of the Character Kids who always work hard!!



SCENE FROM BACKPACK GIVEAWAY EVENT

FBC hosts third annual backpack giveaway

The third annual backpack giveaway sponsored by the Emanuel Missionary Baptist Association was held this past weekend on Dec 4. The event was hosted at First Baptist Church Swainsboro in conjunction with the Georgia Baptist Christmas Backpack program.

We collected a total of 270 backpacks from

numerous churches in the Emanuel Association. The backpacks were all filled with a Bible, food items, clothing items, hygiene items, as well as fun toys, games, or accessories.

At the event at FBC, 90 children from Emanuel County participated in games and songs and received a backpack and lunch. At least 8 churches in the county sent people

to volunteer and 8 people accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord!

If you are interested in hearing about or participating in other events sponsored by the Emanuel Missionary Baptist Association, please reach out to Emily Jarrell (emilyjarrell414@gmail.com) or Billy Brinson (brinsonbilly58@gmail.com).

Seeds of Hope

Eagles have a unique place in nature - certainly a place that differs from all other birds. They represent strength, power and freedom from the things of this world that would distract them. No wonder they have a special place in God's Word. Isaiah promised, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles." No doubt David had this in mind when he wrote, "so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." What makes eagles special?

Eagles have fine vision and sharp focus. Their eyes were designed by God for long distance and clarity. This gives the eagles great vision and enables them to see what other birds do not see. We as Christians need God's vision so we can see what we need to do for Him.

Eagles are fearless. As God's representatives we need to be fearless as we represent Him and present His message to others. We must never bow to others in fear. Eagles are tenacious. Other birds fly from a storm. But eagles fly into the storm - taking advantage of life's difficulties - and rise to greater heights, never giving up. Eagles are "high flyers." They easily fly to an altitude of 10,000 feet. Pigeons stay on the ground and "grumble" all day long. The eagle quietly soars above the noises of life and finds peace with God.

Eagles possess vitality. They are full of life yet find time to reenergize themselves and extend their lives.

Eagles nurture their young ones. No other bird is more attentive or gentle to its young than the eagle.

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Council votes to...

(From front page)

"That destroyed a lot of us veterans." Tapley said through somber eyes. "We put the flags up on our own with our own money and we just changed them this past Friday. That's our greatest pet peeve because if you can't fly a flag with color and dignity then you need to cut it down. There are men and women who died for that flag and to ride through this town and see them in the shape that I have seen many of them in, is disgusting." On December 17, Tapley along with Wreaths Across America will be placing 1,361 wreaths across our county. "No one knows how many veterans are buried in this county. Some of the material I have read is how dying is the worst thing that can happen but dying is not the worst thing that can happen. The worst thing that can happen is to die and be forgotten. There are graves that have been here for one hundred years and the only thing they've received are sand spurs and bird droppings. They have no family, so we, the Veterans at the Library, have elected ourselves to be their family." He said to Council members. Our County is home to over 165 disabled veterans and the total number of veterans who currently call Emanuel County home is far greater. However, there is so much uncertainty on

the number of buried veterans throughout our County which spans over 170 cemeteries. "You can't tell me that there's not a veteran there at every one of them and our goal is to find those veterans and provide them with a wreath because they deserve that. We are not in this for profit." He explained. "Last year when I went to Aiken to pick up the wreaths, I asked the Lady who was over the cemetery, how many wreaths she would put out. She looked out over the headstones and said, 'Johnny, I'll put out around 676.' And as she continued to look out at the headstones she said, 'On Christmas morning, it is a beautiful thing to look out across here and see those wreaths.' Then she began to cry. Me being a grown man you know what I did, right? I began to cry too. The worst thing is not to die, it's to be forgotten." Tapley asked Council to consider maintaining the Early Settlers Cemetery not only for its history within our community but because 97% of the graves there are our veterans. He also presented Council with a petition of signatures that requested Pine Brook Nature Park and Bird Sanctuary be renamed in honor of our veterans and first responders, especially due to its lack of housing birds and being maintained. Councilperson Parker immediately responded with a motion to approve the renaming of the park to Veterans and First Responders Memorial Park, Councilperson Davis seconded, and the vote passed 6-0.

Members of the Swainsboro City Council convened for their monthly meeting on Monday, December 5, at 6 p.m. at City Hall with all members present Joe Bedgood with Dellwood Baptist Church gave the night's invocation, and the pledge of allegiance was recited by all. Council then reviewed minutes from the November 7 and November 15

meeting and passed a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Old Business:

1. Council considered the approval of the BAK contracts for the Gumlog Gym and Karth Theatre projects. A motion was made by Councilperson Parker to fund the theater project as well as the gymnasium with equal amounts sourced from the American Rescue Plan monies and "various entities". Councilperson Quarterman seconded the vote and it passed 5-1 with Councilperson Sconyers being the opposing vote.

2. Chief Mike Strobbridge discussed roofing issues at the fire department's headquarters. A motion was made by Councilperson Parker to give the job of repairing the roof to Justice-N-Sons LLC. who offered to repair both the roof and interior of the Fire Department for the price of \$43,330 with a 20 year warranty. The money for the repairs will be funded through SPLOST monies. Councilperson Sconyers seconded this vote and it unanimously passed between all councilmembers.

3. Council considered the bid for the airport Apron Rehabilitation project. Councilperson Parker made a motion to approve the funding of this project through the DOT grant with the city having to pay half. Quarterman seconded this motion with all other votes being unanimous.

4. Council considered the resolution for the creation of the airport authority. Councilperson Parker made the first motion for approval of getting it passed by legislation and Stafford seconded. The vote passed 6-0.

5. Council considered the intergovernmental agreement for the airport which addressed the establishment of the airport authority and its de-annexation so that the City could push them both through to

the 2023 local legislation. Parker made the first motion for the approval of the intergovernmental agreement and Davis seconded. The vote passed 6-0.

6. Council considered proceeding with the deannexation of the airport property. Parker made the first motion and Davis seconded. The vote passed 6-0.

7. Council considered the adoption of the 2023 budget. Councilperson Stafford made the first motion to adopt the 2023 Budget and Councilperson Sconyers seconded.

New Business:

1. Council considered for advertisement the game room application for Dirghayu V Patel dba Sarvi Enterprise LLC. otherwise known as RACO, located at 202 East Main Street. Councilperson Parker made the first motion for approval of this advertisement and Councilperson Quarterman seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Council discussed the downtown electrical issues that include over 119 receptacles that need replacing as well as numerous other issues including those that have been caused by LED bulbs not being installed correctly. Councilperson Sconyers made a motion to receive quotes for the restoring of the downtown electrical issues. Councilperson Collins seconded and all other votes passed unanimously.

3. Chief Mike Strobbridge presented a quote for the purchase of their personal protective equipment or turnout gear for the Fire Department's newest two employees. He also explained that he has requested that they attend the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in February and that this gear is necessary for them to attend these training sessions. Councilperson Parker made a motion for this approval and Councilperson Collins seconded. All other votes passed unanimously.

4. Chief Randy Ellison presented a quote from West Chatham Warning Devices for the newest patrol cars equipment. Councilperson Parker made a



PINE BROOK PARK SIGN

motion for this approval and Councilperson Collins seconded. The vote passed 6-0.

5. Building Inspector Bruce Kirby presented a request for a used truck. A motion was made by Councilperson Davis for the purchase of a new Chevrolet with 212 miles at the price of \$46,000 through the funding of the American Rescue Plan. This was the low bid of those presented. Councilperson Parker seconded the vote and it passed unanimously.

6. Council considered the quote in the amount of \$49,500, from MW Collins Inc. for inert material grinding at the inert landfill. Councilperson Collins made a motion to spend the money for this project from the Public Works fund. Councilperson Quarterman seconded. The vote passed 6-0. Councilperson Davis made a motion to get a quote for a security gate with a keypad for the landfill and Councilperson Parker seconded the vote.

7. Council considered the approval of the Ponce Electric, Inc. quote in the amount of \$16,800 for electrical repairs at the airport. Councilperson Collins made the first motion and Councilperson Stafford seconded. The vote passed 6-0.

8. Council considered advertising to increase council fees with an effective date of January 1, 2024. Councilperson Davis made a motion to increase fees paid to council members to \$800 a month. Councilperson Parker seconded the vote and it passed unanimously.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mayor and City Commission of the City of Twin City, Georgia will have a special called meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 5PM. This meeting will be held at the Police Department in the City Commission Chambers. The purpose of the called meeting is to approve the 2022 Budget amendments and to approve the 2023 Budget.

Eugenia A. Ducker, City Clerk

NOTICE OF SIGNIFICANT NONCOMPLIANCE

Interfor Wood Products Inc.
8796 GA Highway 297, Swainsboro, GA 30401

Interfor Wood Products Inc. is in Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) with its Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit issued by the City of Swainsboro, Georgia in accordance with USEPA General Pretreatment Rules 40 CFR 403. SNC status is due to the company's failure to re-sample for 2 (two) violations in exceeding effluent discharge limits for copper in December 2020 and in April 2021. Violations occurred in during the pretreatment year which runs from October 2020 through September 2021.



The Blade

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FORE SAFETY

For the Holidays



How to prevent Christmas tree fire hazards

- Ensure that your live tree is fresh - nobody likes a burning Christmas tree! The needles should be hard to pull from the branches and don't break when bent between your fingers. The bottom of the trunk should be sticky with resin. If you tap the tree on the ground, few needles should fall off.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, vents and radiators.
- Be sure to check the water level daily and make sure the stand is filled with water. Heated rooms will quickly dry out the tree.
- Practice Christmas tree safety by placing the tree out of traffic and make sure it's not blocking doorways.
- If you buy an artificial tree, be sure to look for the "Fire Resistant" label. The label doesn't guarantee the tree won't catch on fire, but it does indicate the tree is more resistant to catching on fire.

How to avoid candle fires

- Only burn candles where you can keep an eye on them.
- When you go to bed, leave the room or leave the house, extinguish all candles.
- Ensure candles are placed on heat resistant, stable surfaces and where kids and pets can't reach them or knock them over.
- Candles should always be placed far away from items that could catch fire and burn easily, such as trees, decorations, curtains and furniture.

How do you avoid electrical fires?

- Practice Christmas light safety by buying your lights from reputable retailers. Check that your lights are approved by a nationally recognized testing lab such as UL, Intertek or CSA. UL identifies products meeting safety requirement for indoor and outdoor use with a red holographic label. For indoor only usage, the product will have a green holographic label.
- Be sure to check all lights and throw out any that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or any loose connections.
- Never use electric lights on metallic trees.
- Make sure to use extension cords for their intended use - indoors, outdoors or both.
- Be sure to plug outdoor Christmas lights in to circuits that are protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to the house, trees or other supports to keep them from pulling away with the wind. But don't damage the cord with fasteners. Take care not to puncture roofing shingles when fastening lights to the home.
- Watch for water and snow and keep both extension cords and lights clear of them.
- Make sure cords and light strands are not pinched in doors, windows or under furniture. This can damage the cord and its insulation.
- When you leave home or go to bed, be sure to turn off all indoor and outdoor Christmas lights and electrical decorations.
- Be very careful around power lines - keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet away from them.
- Don't overload electrical outlets with too many decorations or other electrical devices - they could overheat and cause a fire.

Is your fireplace ready for the holidays?

- Have your fireplace inspected to see if it needs cleaning before using it through the holidays.
- Be sure to keep a screen on the fireplace to prevent embers from popping out and landing on the floor or carpet.
- Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace. The paper ignites quickly and burns intensely and could result in a flash fire.
- Only used seasoned wood.
- Be careful with "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. If swallowed, they can cause vomiting. They also contain heavy metals that can cause gastrointestinal irritation.



Smoke Detector Safety During the Holidays

The holidays symbolize a time of joy and giving. In that thread of thought, you should be giving your first line of defense against fires your undivided attention during the holiday season. That's right, smoke detectors are pieces of fire safety equipment every house should have. But it's not enough to simply install them. You have to regularly test and maintain your smoke detectors to ensure they are operating properly day in and day out. The holidays are the perfect time to do so because lights, dry foliage and increased kitchen activity are all added fire hazards that can turn the happiest time of year into a nightmare.

- Test alarms monthly
- Replace batteries twice a year
- Replace smoke alarms every 7 - 10 years

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