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# The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 164, NO.14 Swainsboro, Georgia • April 19, 2023 ONE DOLLAR

## City water rates to take record jump?

Swainsboro City Council convened for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 6 p.m. at City Hall. With all council members present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Greg Bennett. Pastor Gary Hackett, of the Apostle Outreach Ministry, gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Council then reviewed minutes from the March 6 meeting and the March 9 special called zoom meeting and passed a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

City attorney Jon Levis presented a proposal to council addressing a blighted property policy for the city. As preface to a public hearing on the subject, Levis described the process for handling such issues and the legalities involved. The City has enacted revisions to existing blighted property ordinances in the

recent past, however it is the contention of Levis that this new ordinance will more closely comply with state guidance on blighted property disposal. Attorney Levis also presented a Storm Water Management Policy for the City which delineates city responsibilities and service. Council will hold a public hearing in the future regarding this.

Herman Middlebrooks was introduced as the new City Administrator for the City of Swainsboro. Middlebrooks assumes the position following Interim Administrator Melissa Kirby who has occupied the seat for over a year.

Rita Faulkner addressed Mayor and Council on an update on the Robin Road drainage project. Former councilperson Faulkner questioned the lack of information she has received and the confusion surrounding engineer's reports and a purported



**MARK WILLIAMS (EXCHANGE CLUB YOY DIRECTOR), ANNA DONALDSON (SHS), MARTI WOODWARD (ECI), PEYTON FREE (DEA), SCOTTY HATTAWAY, CO-CHAIR YOY COMMITTEE, JAYSON BROWN (SHS), LAWSON MERCER (ECI), RACYN FAIRCLOTH (DEA)**

## Swainsboro Exchange Club 2023 Youth of the Year

by MARK WILLIAMS  
 Photo Credit: DAMIEN SCOTT

I would like to summarize the Purpose and Theme for this year's Youth of the Year Project. The National Youth of the Year Award provides the National Exchange Clubs with the opportunity to honor outstanding students who have exhibited excellence in academics and leadership. It is the culmination of an effort by hundreds of Exchange

Clubs across the country to identify and recognize the young leaders of our nation. The recipient serves as a role model to his or her peers by exhibiting exceptional scholastic achievement, respect for self and others, and ambitious career goals. Our National Youth of the Year recipients have illustrated that the diligent pursuit of higher ideals truly brings rewards.

the Year begins at the local club level. Exchange Clubs provide a yearly recognition of outstanding youth in their communities. Each club selects a Youth of the Year and forwards an application for district (or state) judging. District honorees are judged at the national level for the final selection of the prestigious National Youth of the Year.

The process for selecting the National Youth of the Year receives a (Continued on page 3A)

## Riner charged with aggravated sodomy

On March 29, Detectives with the Statesboro Police Department were notified of a possible sexual assault reported by a female victim that had occurred on Georgia Avenue.

According to a release from Capt. Jared Akins, the incident involved an acquaintance of the victim. The victim was examined by staff at the Teal House Sexual Assault Center and forensic evidence was collected. "Subsequent investigation led to the identification of Justin Henry Riner as the offender," Akins said.



**RINER**  
 Riner, 22, of Swainsboro, was arrested by detectives and transported to the Bulloch County Jail on one count of aggravated sodomy. He remains there pending further judicial action. Anyone who has

been a victim of sexual abuse or has knowledge of any such incident is advised to contact The Teal House, Statesboro Regional Sexual Assault and Child Advocacy Center, located at 209 S. College St., Statesboro, GA 30458. The phone number is (912) 489-6060, and the website is [www.srsac.org](http://www.srsac.org). The 24-Hour Crisis Line is (866) 489-2225.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact Senior Detective Katie Reese at (912) 764-9911 or submit an anonymous tip to [tips@statesboroga.gov](mailto:tips@statesboroga.gov).

## Keep Emanuel Beautiful clean-up sweep to be held with grill giveaway

Keep Emanuel Beautiful will hold their clean-up sweep on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. In honor of Earth Day. Keep Emanuel Beautiful is inviting everyone out to participate in Operation Clean Sweep. The clean-up sweep is to promote a cleaner county and share the pride they have in every area of our community by cleaning up the city streets, dirt roads, and common areas that are not cleaned by Lovin - Trash Collectors. Lovin will be cleaning 178 miles of county roads around April 17, at the cost of \$175 per mile. Just think about the taxes we

could put towards other projects or simply save if we didn't throw out trash or if we simply picked it up!

Initial meeting locations are at the Boneyard in Swainsboro, both City Parks in Adrian and Oak Park, the city halls in Garfield and Summertown, and Twin City will hold their own clean up event on the following weekend.

KEB will provide breakfast (for 150 volunteers), bags, gloves, vests for busy roadside cleaning, and in Swainsboro, detailed maps of targeted roads. You may want to bring/wear: pick-up sticks, close-toed shoes, and bright clothing.

**Tractor Supply giveaway guidelines:** Participants who share their contact information and post their cleanup efforts on KEB Instagram or Facebook posts will be put in the running for a Charcoal Deluxe Barrel Grill.

The final KEB meeting before the event will be Tuesday, April 18, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Emanuel County Commissioners Boardroom. Feel free to join in on the final preparations if you can make it. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Deanna Ryan at 770-617-2589.



## Twin City to celebrate Georgia Cities Week

Twin City officials announced at the April City Commission meeting that the city will be celebrating "Georgia Cities Week" April 23-29. The theme of this year's Georgia Cities Week is "Lighting the Way."

"We're very proud of our city and the services we provide that make it attractive to residents and visitors," said Mayor Matt Donaldson. "Cities provide the services and infrastructure to help businesses grow and set the stage for events where families and individuals can gather as a community."

Twin City is planning to hold its annual City-Wide Clean-Up on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The city will have dump locations open for household garbage only. Twin City Public Works

will be celebrating Georgia Cities Week, sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), to showcase and celebrate cities and the many services they provide. Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and consulting services to its 538 member cities.

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**What's Inside...**

- Obituaries.....4A
- Church Page.....6A
- Editorial Columns.....8A
- Crime Blotter.....5B
- Classified Listings.....7B
- Legal Notices.....8B

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**City water rates...**

(From front page) Engineering. As far back as the 1990s, the area above Robin Road has seen significant drainage projects conducted related to runoff from Highway 1. The project has been delayed repeatedly from the lack of a conclusive opinion or any reasonable assurance of resolution of the problem offered by either engineering firm. The discussion concluded with Bennett postponing action on accepting a bid for \$25,350. dealing with a detailed topographical survey that would indicate natural contours, soil char-

acteristics and flood plain designations of the Robin Road area by a third engineering firm.

Council considered the approval of a game room license application for Maheshkumar Patel dba Mikes Food Mart located at 505 North Main Street in Swainsboro. The license was approved by all council members and the vote passed 6-0.

Council considered the preliminary adoption of the Storm Water Management Extent of Service Policy which is a comprehensive land use plan that complies with DCA guidelines,

as well as environmental regulations, zoning regulations and land development regulations that implement land use policies. As earlier discussed, this policy will be the subject of a public hearing in the coming weeks. Councilperson Parker made a motion to adopt the policy and councilperson Sconyers seconded. The vote passed 6-0.

At this point, Councilmember Parker made a motion to alter the meeting agenda to allow two speakers to be added. Following approval Pastor Tim Irvin and Ron Moore addressed council:

Ron Moore addressed councilmembers to thank them as well as the Chief of Police, Randy Ellison, for their support in contributing to the first annual Downtown Get-Down music and food-truck festival. He thanked attendees for supporting the event and

expressed his feeling that due to a good turnout, many new sponsors may be willing to help for the next event which will be held on July 1st.

Pastor Tim Irvin of New Beginnings Christian Faith Center in Atlanta approached the Mayor and Councilmembers to discuss emergency protocol. "What is the protocol for someone who is in distress in Emanuel County?" Irvin asked. Chief Ellison explained that they would have to contact 911 directly. Irvin had several more questions regarding protocol and the involvement of first responders in a recent incident. Following several more questions and references to protocol, Bennett instructed council not to comment, and advised Pator Irvin to create a list of questions and submit them to the city.

Under new busi-

ness ,council passed a motion authorizing the purchase of a new vehicle lift for the city shop by a vote of 6-0. Council also passed a motion authorizing an expenditure of \$8,820 for the outfitting of specialized equipment for a patrol car. Chris Morton of Clearwater Solutions asked council to consider repairs of two lift stations as well as initiating a replacement project to begin the elimination of all lead supply service lines. Council approved lift station repairs with funds to come from SPLOST. Lead pipe abatement/ replacement, if enacted, would come from state funded grants with some matching local funds.

James Ward, of the Swainsboro Jaycees addressed council concerning 4th of July celebrations. Ward also requested that council approve the Jaycees plan for the 2nd Annual

Freedom Fest and fireworks show on July 1st in the downtown district. Council approved the requests.

The final item on the meeting's agenda created some early fireworks on its own as Mayor Bennett called on new Administrator Herman Middlebrooks to discuss the proposal of an increase in the price of water and sewer service in Swainsboro. Citing current non-compliance with a 12 year old federal loan, Middlebrooks informed the council that water customers might soon have to endure a \$2.25 monthly increase in water rates. At this point the meeting was abruptly ended, and it was unclear if any action was formalized by the council, or if more discussion on this development would be coming at a later time. An executive session scheduled on the meeting agenda was not held.

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**Pine Tree Festival Pageants**  
 April 29, 2023  
 Swainsboro City Auditorium

**Pine Tree 100**  
 April 29, 2023  
 Swainsboro Raceway

**Georgia FFA State Forestry Field Day**  
 May 4, 2023  
 Swainsboro Emanuel County Recreation Dept.

**UBF Party In The Pines**  
 May 5, 2023  
 Georgia Sports Arena

**Rhythm & Pines**  
 May 5, 2023  
 Downtown Swainsboro

**Saturday May 6, 2023**

**The Grand Parade**  
 Downtown Swainsboro  
 10:30am-12:00pm

**Car Show**  
 Downtown Swainsboro  
 8:00am-3:00pm

**FlippenOut**  
 Downtown Swainsboro  
 12:15pm • 2:00pm • 3:30pm

**GSU Wildlife Show**  
 The Boneyard-Downtown 1pm

**Chainsaw Carving**  
 Leannas Parking Lot

**Knotty Pine 5K**  
 Stewarts's Jewelers Parking Lot  
 8:00am-9:30am

**UBF Party In The Pines**  
 Georgia Sports Arena  
 7:30pm-10:00pm

Make plans to join us!!



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Thank You!

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The Forest-Blade

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## Family connection participates in Take a Walk in the Park Day

On March 30, Emanuel County Family Connection participated in the "Take a Walk in the Park Day". Since literacy is a major strategy focus, Family Connection supplied a reading activity for the families as they walked the 1/2-mile trail. The book "The Fed-Up Cow" was displayed on large posters along the trail for the children and parents to read a few pages at a time. Every 50 yards, another part of the humorous story could be read by the families. At the end of the walk, Family Connection gave out free age-appropriate books to the children. The volunteers also promoted sign-ups for the Ferst Readers program and the summer cooking class, Emanuel Chopped Jr. Volunteers were Brooke Thompson, Sondra Fortner, Pam Carr, Ann & Faith Ann Rogers and Coordinator, Tammy Allen.



FORTNER



THOMPSON

## Veterans discuss Wreaths Across America 2023

The Veterans at the Library met Monday morning, April 17, 2023, at the Franklin Memorial Library at 9:15 a.m. for their weekly breakfast. With Leader Johnny Tapley presiding, there were 30 in attendance including two new veterans, Lee Jones, Jr. and J. W. Gross. The main topic of discussion was the upcoming planning for December 16, 2023 "Wreaths Across America". Last year they placed over 1,500 Wreaths on veterans' graves that are buried in Emanuel County cemeteries. That just included about 15 cemeteries of the more than 172 cemeteries in the County. The Veterans at the Library need churches, individuals, and organizations to select a cemetery in the county, and let them know who is responsible for the cemetery with a cell number and name, tell them how many wreaths are needed and send a check to P.O. Box 478, Swainsboro, GA 30401 made out to Wreaths Across America



LEE JONES, JR. J.W. GROSS

as soon as possible. That person will be responsible for picking up their wreaths on Thursday or Friday, December 14, or 15, and placing them on their veterans' graves. You can call 478-494-4113 and speak with Jane Durden if needed. The two new veterans and their service are as follows: Lee Jones, Jr. served in the U.S. Army from July 1967 to July 1969. His highest rank

was a Drill Sergeant E-5. He was stationed at Fort Jackson, Fort Sill, Fort Lee, Fort McClellan, and Fort Bragg. He was a drill Sgt with the 82nd Airborne Division and 3rd Army. J.W. Gross served in the U.S. Navy from May 1966 to May 1968. His highest rank was PO-3. He served on the USS Tanner AG-575 and a tour in Vietnam and Hawaii. Thanks to both for their service.

## Swainsboro Exchange Club...

(From front page) \$10,000 scholarship and the opportunity to address hundreds of Exchangites at the National Youth Recognition Luncheon. In addition, the recipients winning essay is featured in Exchange Today magazine. This year's theme and essay topic is:

*Many people have someone whom they admire, whether a parent, sibling, friend, teacher, mentor, etc. Share a story about someone who has greatly impacted your own life and the lives of others. Reflect on the qualities and actions of this person and explain why they have impacted you and your future.*

The YOY applica-

tion scores the youth on several sections of achievement: School related activities, Community service activities, grades, special achievements and awards, and finally the essay. All these are scored and totaled up allowing us to come up with overall scores and the winner(s).

The Scholarship awarded on the local level is \$450 for 1st place and \$350 for 2nd place. We hope these students will appreciate and use their award monies wisely and it will help them get started with paying the sometimes-daunting costs of a 4-year degree, not to mention a masters or doctor-

ate level education. With that summary of the process and goal of our project, we will get started recognizing these amazing youth, their families, and their corresponding school faculty assembled here today.

As the students were called to receive their award, they spoke on their accomplishment(s) and plans after graduation. These are your 2023 Swainsboro Exchange Club Youth of the Year recipients: Peyton Free DEA, Jason Brown SHS, Marti Woodward ECI, Racycyn Faircloth DEA, 2nd place, Lawson Wade Mercer ECI and 1st place, Anna Donaldson SHS.

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WITH THIS IN MIND, EGSC STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY VISIT LOCAL SCHOOLS BRINGING ALONG HONEYBEES IN AN OBSERVATION HIVE, READ POLLINATOR BOOKS TO SECONDARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS, AND DONATE BOOKS ON HONEYBEES AND POLLINATORS TO THE CLASSROOM TEACHERS AND THE SCHOOLS' MEDIA CENTERS. THE GOAL IS TO INCREASE PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF AND APPRECIATION FOR ALL POLLINATORS AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE TO EVERYONE'S LIVES AND THE ENVIRONMENT. EACH FALL A HONEY EXTRACTION EVENT IS HELD TO COLLECT THE HONEY MADE ON EGSC'S CAMPUS.



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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



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**Sabrina Smith Tanner, 55**

Mrs. Sabrina Smith Tanner, age 55, beloved wife of the late Frank "Bo" Tanner Sr., formerly of Soperton, passed away on Monday, April 10, 2023, at Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kansas. Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, April 22, at 11 a.m. at the Williams Chapel of Sammons Funeral Home with her brother-in-law, Richard Schauer, officiating. Mrs. Smith will be laid to rest beside her husband, who passed away in 2008, in Harmony Baptist Church Cemetery. Family will receive friends at the funeral home from 9 a.m. until the hour of service.

Serving as pallbearers will be Kyle Tanner, Bo Tanner, Dylan Schriber, Jeff Montgomery, Aaron Pearson and Michael Hodge.

Born in Bradenton, FL, Sabrina was the youngest of five children born to Marilyn Jeanette Suggs Smith and the late Malcolm Dewitt Smith. She grew up in Bradenton, where she was a graduate of Southeast High School Class of 1985. Sabrina married her high school sweetheart, Frank "Bo" Tanner Sr. in 1985. They lived in Treutlen County and the Norristown communities during the late 1980s and the early 2000s. Sabrina worked in the Convenience Store Industry with B.P. and Jet Foods in Laurens County, lastly as a Manager with



**TANNER**

Jet Foods on Highway 441 in Dublin. She lived in Tennessee for a short time before her most recent move to Kansas to be with her sister. When living in Soperton, Sabrina attended the Trinity Assembly of God. She enjoyed hand crafts, traveling, phone calls with family, time spent with her grandchildren, and family card games. In addition to her father and husband, Mrs. Tanner is preceded in death by her brother, James DeWitt Smith; nephew, Jody Smith; and a brother-in-law, Lenny Jurgonski.

Mrs. Tanner leaves behind her sons, Frank "Bo" Tanner, Jr. and Kyle Morgan Tanner (Julie) of Tennille; her mother, Marilyn Suggs Smith of Benton, TN; sisters, Sharon Schauer (Richard) of Benton, TN and Sheila Jurgonski of Clayton, KA; grandchildren, Cayden Tanner, Cameron Tanner, Kamber Tanner,

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**Brenda Rigdon Cannady, 77**

Mrs. Brenda Rigdon Cannady, 77, of Swainsboro, passed away Sunday, April 16, 2023, at Ogeechee Area Hospice following an extended illness. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, April 19, at 11 a.m. at the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Pastor Richard Collins and Mr. Rob Gray officiating. Interment will follow in Eastbrook Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday, April 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Pallbearers are Steve Collins, David Kirkland, Bryon Kirkland, Paul Cannady, Gene Cannady, Dale Cannady, Craig Cannady, Mac Cannady, and Ron Cannady.

Mrs. Brenda was born

March 8, 1946, in Metter, to Fred Rigdon and Juanita Brantley Rigdon. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Jerrell Cannady; brother, Freddie Rigdon; and sister, Kay Kirkland. Mrs. Cannady is survived by her daughters, Rhonda Cannady Davis (Todd) of Evans and Melissa Cannady Hendrix (Brian) of Nevils; sister, Carolyn Collins of Guyton; grandchildren, Ansleigh Davis, Bentley Hendrix, Jake Davis and Alivia Hendrix; several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

**Swainsboro Food Pantry distribution**

St. Philip Center of Hope Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Summertown Food Pantry April distribution**

Summertown Food Pantry will open for April Distribution on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Summertown Baptist Church. As always, volunteers are needed and appreciated.

**Claxton Reunion is planned**

This year's Claxton Reunion has been planned for May 7, 2023, at Gumlog Baptist Church in Kite. Save the date and plan to attend. For more information, contact Johnny Claxton, President, at 478.455.0465.

**Betty Lee Claxton, 86**

Mrs. Betty Lee Claxton, 86, of Kite, passed away Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Wrightsville Manor following an extended illness. Funeral services were held Friday, April 14, at 11 a.m. at Kite Church of God with Mr. Randy Buxton officiating, assisted by Mr. Johnny Claxton. Interment followed in New Home Baptist Church Cemetery with Reverend Don Carroll providing the committal. The family received friends Thursday, April 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Joey Claxton, Keith Johnson, Sammy Lee, Robert Lee, Tal Jones, and John Buxton. Honorary pallbearers were Frank Flanders, Jerry Lee, and Lamar Flanders.

Mrs. Claxton was born August 13, 1936, in Kite, to the late Goldmann Tillman Lee and Veola Holder Lee. She was retired after working for over three decades in the textile industry. Mrs. Claxton was a charter member of the Kite Church of God. Dedicated to her faith, she served in numerous capacities at her beloved church over the years, including as a Sunday School teacher and choir member. The loving mother's family meant everything to her. Mrs. Claxton was also the epitome of a true southern hostess. Her welcoming, typically immaculate home, was a frequent gathering spot for extended family members, friends, and visiting ministers. Fun-loving with a sly sense of humor, Mrs. Claxton regularly treated her guests to laughter and good food. Whenever someone came over, she gave them the royal treatment. Always efficient, Mrs. Claxton could cook a feast for guests in less time than many people could decide on a menu and get out their cooking tools. This talented lady could cook and bake

**Jo Ellen Green Dotson, 81**

Tomlinson Funeral Home & Crematory announces the death of Mrs. Jo Ellen Green Dotson, age 81, of Monticello, on Friday, April 7, 2023, at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta following a brief illness. Graveside funeral services were held Wednesday, April 12, at 12 p.m. in the Hawhammock Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Green was born in Riddleville to the late Raymond Lacey and Emma Julia Wiggins Jackson. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints. Mrs. Dotson enjoyed working, kayaking with her



**CLAXTON**

almost anything she set her mind to. Mrs. Claxton was especially known for her chocolate and caramel cakes, biscuits, Brunswick stew, and dumplings. When she discovered people's favorite dish, she would be sure they got it the next time they ate with her. The dotting grandmother loved to shop for clothes. She couldn't resist a good sale. Mrs. Claxton also adored spending time tending to flowers in her yard. Roses were her favorite flower. An experienced seamstress, Mrs. Claxton sewed quilts and often mended clothing for her family. Down-to-earth and friendly, she never met a stranger. Whenever she encountered someone in need, this lovely lady was always quick to lend a helping hand. Mrs. Claxton truly embodied the Proverbs 31 woman. She will be missed by many and will live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know and love her. Mrs. Claxton is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bobby Joe Claxton; brothers Edward, Hubert and Billy Lee; and her son-in-law, Reverend Allen Meeks.

Mrs. Claxton is survived by her daughter, Donna Claxton Meeks of Kite; brother, Novis Lee of Wadley; granddaughters, Olivia Stone (Eddie) of Brooklet and Samantha Sheffield (Patrick) of Kite; great-grandson, Zane Stone; several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

husband and being outdoors. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Dotson is preceded in death by her daughters, Petra Danyell Green and Porchia Dareck Green; son, Beau "Little Beau" Green; and sister, Harriet Easily.

Survivors include her husband, Stephen D. Dotson of Monticello; daughter, Preppi Kitchens (Brent) of Oxford; sisters, Connie Jackson of Sandersville and Linda Baulker of New Hope, Arkansas; numerous other relatives and extended family.

Tomlinson Funeral Home & Crematory was in charge of arrangements.

Blundale Baptist Church would like to thank everyone who has donated to *The Hands and Feet Building*. We have become overstocked and are no longer receiving donations. If you have any items, please give to another worthy organization.

## Seedling Garden Club enjoys floral program

The Seedling Garden held its monthly meeting on Monday, April 13, 2023 at the Swainsboro Methodist Church fellowship hall. President, Diana Malone, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 5:00p.m. Ann Peebles, Chaplain, opened the meeting with a beautiful inspiration title, "God Gave Me a Garden." In the Spring as new life unfurls all around us and we see the budding of trees and flowers blooming, we realize God did give us a garden and only He can make it so beautiful.

Kay Peacock introduced Jim Roberts of Southern Traditions Florist who presented the program for the meeting. Jim has been in the floral business for over 30 years, owning his own florist Southern Traditions for over 22 years. Graduate of University of Georgia. He worked as a volunteer decorator to the White House in 2019 and then was asked to serve on the executive design team of the White House in 2020. He was on the 2019 HGTV special of the White House Christmas, has been on Fox 5 Atlanta, WSAV of Savannah, WJBF of Augusta. In 2022 Jim was asked to help decorate the Blair House for Christmas. Jim has traveled the United States working as a free-lance floral designer with a company based out of Chicago, working on projects of every size, from weddings, movie premieres, political gathering, etc. His passion is designing florals to enhance and create

events that are memorable and unique. Taking visions and bringing them to life. He does this very well in everything he does. A little side note, the building Jim's florist is in was once a tractor supply business which was owned and operated by his Grandfather, John Roberts. Jim's program was centered around the color of yellow with a beautiful tablespace using a lemon and lime theme. Yellow tulips, a lemon wreath, lemon plaques and a candle wrapped in bold black stripped ribbon. Jim stated, "the color yellow is bright and makes you smile." During the presentation Jim showed how to use different things in clear containers to hide stems of fresh flowers used, explained that some fresh flowers do not do well in oasis and the shorter the stems the longer the flowers will stay fresh because they do not have to take in so much water. Everyone enjoyed watching Jim do his magic as he designed three different designs, explaining as he went way, he was doing things in certain ways. The club was very thankful for such a talented designer (from small town Swainsboro) to come share his knowledge and love of designing.

After the enjoyable program, president Malone presided over the business session of the meeting. Kay Peacock, treasurer, gave the treasurer's report, which was approved as presented. Due to the absence of secretary,

minutes of the last meeting was not read. Yonna Bailey, yard of the month chairman, reported that Durwood Johnson was awarded the April "Yard of the Month." The club voted not to enter a float in the Pine Tree Festival. Kim Hooks reported on the Youth Garden Club that Seedling is sponsoring. She showed National Garden Clubs, Inc. books that was ordered to be used in educating the children in gardening.

Using an Easter theme, hostesses served the 21 members and 1 guest, chicken salad sandwiches, toasted walnuts, fruit and an array of cookies and punch. The table was covered in pastel colored cloth with a large Bunny Rabbit overlooking the goodies. Hostesses for the meeting was Lucile Braswell, Imogene Buckley and Linda Dekle.

The meeting adjourned with Kay Peacock winning the raffle. Winning the hostess's gifts was Ann Peebles, Jane Durden, Jill Briercheck, Maria Willingham and Kim Lamb. These were cute little carrot center pieces. Members left with the feeling "Spring has Sprung" with it comes a feeling of reawakening and renewal.

The Seedling Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc, Deep South Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and Oleander District.

## Dorothy Thompson Sussmann, 83

Mrs. Dorothy Thompson Lively Sussmann, age 83, died Saturday, April 15, 2023, at her residence under the care of Ogeechee Area Hospice. The funeral will be Wednesday, April 19, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home & Crematory of Statesboro with Rev. Thomas Green officiating. Burial will follow at Union United Methodist Church Cemetery. The family will receive visitors Wednesday, April 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the chapel of Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Statesboro.

Pallbearers will be Joshua Fulmer, Matthew Fulmer, Brandon Lively,

and Rod Carter. Dorothy was born in 1940, in Statesboro, to the late Ed Thompson and Lois Bunch. She has lived in Twin City for the last seven years, and previously lived in Florida for four years with her late husband. Before moving to Florida, Mrs. Sussmann was a lifelong resident of Bulloch County. She loved spending time with her family and gardening. Dorothy was a member of Temple Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Sussmann is preceded in death by her first husband, William Lively; second husband, Richard Sussmann; and her son, Ricky Lively.

Mrs. Sussmann is survived by her three

children, Judy (Roy) Land of Griffin, Brenda (Richard) Harrelson of Twin City, and David (Angie) Lively of Statesboro; two sisters, Hilda (Lavert) Chance of Guyton and Ruth Carter; two brothers, Ralph (Jackie) Thompson and Edward Thompson; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and special sister-in-law, Betty Rucker of South Carolina.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to: Ogeechee Area Hospice, PO Box 531, Statesboro, GA 30459.

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



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## Kiwanis participates in first *Take a Walk in the Park Day* event

On March 30, the Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro participated in the "Take a Walk in the Park Day" event held at the Recreation Department. The club partnered with the library for the event and supplied hot dogs, chips, and water to families that came out to walk the 1/2-mile trail.

Kiwanis supports the children and families in Swainsboro by participating in community events like this. It was a beautiful day and the families that came out were appreciative of the light meal at the end of the walk.



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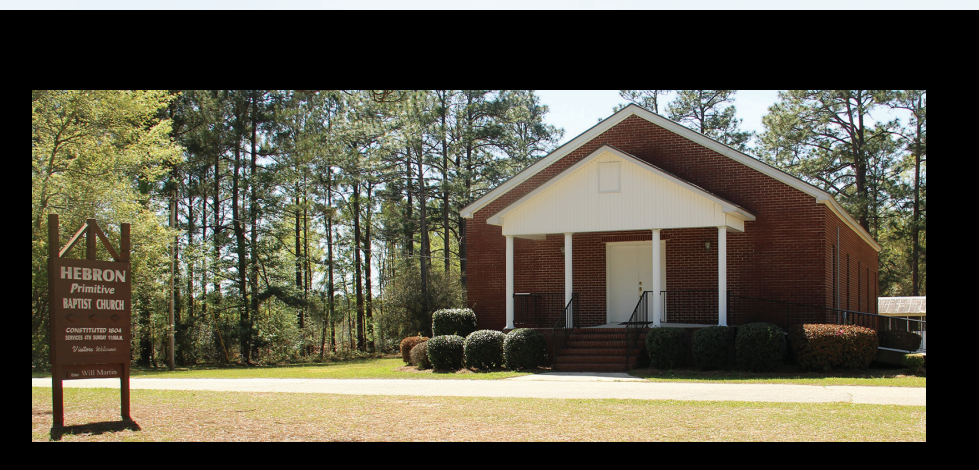
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The ten spies who talked against the Israelites taking the land God was leading them to had much support. All of the people grumbled against Moses and Aaron and talked of stoning them.

The Lord wanted to destroy the rebellious people but Moses prayed that He would forgive them and He did and spared them. But he also declared that not one of them would ever see the promised land. Only a new generation would enter that land.

All ten of the spies who did not believe that the Israelites could take the land died of a plague.

Joshua and Caleb, the two who encouraged Moses that they could take the land, survived and were permitted to enter the land "flowing with milk and honey."



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# Editorials Columns

## R2D2 for President?

Keeping up can be difficult at times. Here in Emanuel County, Georgia, you might think that life just rolls along at an easy pace, but even way out here in the country, we still are not immune to the influences of the frenetic world of bigger, better, smarter, faster. Even the daily changes in our everyday vocabulary require that we stay "up to speed" just to be able to converse. The latest addition to the "new phrases of the day" is artificial intelligence, or A.I. Let us ponder that for just a moment. I immediately felt like those two words did not seem not to be comfortable together. It just seemed like an awkward relationship. That's a shame because words can be wonderful. They can expand our horizons. They make it possible to express all our lofty, erudite thoughts. But you

have to be careful with words because sometimes they can turn your lofty thoughts into a good old fashioned dynamite explosion. I think it's just possible that whoever came up with the expression artificial intelligence has gone and gotten a little too erudite for his own education.

In my simple world I was brought up to understand that the word artificial means "not real". I know about artificial flowers, and I have tried to replace sugar in my coffee with artificial sweeteners. The father of our country, George Washington, had artificial teeth and our current President has artificial hair. I finally broke down and bought an artificial Christmas tree year last year and next year, I will buy some artificial essence of cedar tree fragrance. But in all my

experience, I have never encountered the concept of intelligence being artificial. Some things just don't work if they are artificial. Maybe artificial education is what got all these folks in trouble with their student loans. To further confuse the discussion, I will say that nowadays there does seem to be a lot of bad intelligence out there. One of my first encounters with bad intelligence was probably when my 8-year-old best friend decided we needed to crawl through a concrete drainpipe under Victory Drive. That definitely was not good intelligence. Two hours later, a nice police officer finally got us unstuck. A few years after that, bad or artificial intelligence told me that it would be smart to shoot my little brother in the back with my bb gun. My little brother

now stands 4 inches taller and weighs 45 pounds more than me and still remembers being used for target practice. Again, that was very poor or fake intelligence. Through all of these misguided and unfortunate experiences, I did learn one thing for sure; there is no such thing as artificial whippings. They were always the real thing.

Ok, I know I'm taking unfair advantage of the misnomer, artificial intelligence, and I will concede that this new idea of A.I. does promise benefits in the cyber world's plan for the brave new tomorrow; however, when five of the CEOs of some of the largest tech corporations in the country start waving red flags on the uncontrolled and unregulated development of artificial intelligence around the world, that should be enough for

## Charles Schwabe



governments to pause and think. Today, this country finds itself unable to get a handle on all the ethical, moral, and legal issues created more than 30 years ago by the creation of the internet. We need to figure out today's problems before jumping headlong into a world of even greater unknowns where artificial intelligence defines and designs life in the future. I understand that artificial intelligence is already with us and does a lot of the routine, unappealing, and tedious work that humans don't or can't do quicker and cheaper. The problem is that A.I

factors out the human component in the fundamental ordering of life, and the more non-human participation grows, the more it will mimic human participation and the closer we may come to the science fiction nightmare of man versus machine. We cannot even begin to imagine the changes that will come to this planet by the end of this century. But for the time being, let's just see if we can come up with a clearer explanation of what artificial intelligence really is, because right now I don't think the robots could even understand it.

## Deciphering what our intrepid public servants say and what it means

The following is a Public Service announcement: Congress is in recess and members are back home. Kiwanians and Rotarians, Chambers of Commerce and other assorted groups can likely expect a visit from their intrepid public servants.

If you are tied up and unable to make it to one of their fly-bys because you have more important things to do like scrubbing the bathtub or learning to yodel, I hereby submit an expert analysis of what they will be saying and what they actually mean. Pay close attention.

ly, you aren't my friends. I am only saying that because I want you to like me enough to vote for me in the next election so I can stay in Washington where everybody kisses my ring and I don't have to find a real job.)

"It is good to be back home." (Not really. I prefer Washington because lobbyists take me to all the best restaurants in town and laugh at all my jokes. Here, I have to open my own doors.)

"I want you to know that I am working hard for you every day." (In truth, the hard work is done by my staff who gets paid peanuts, works incredibly long hours and then has to watch me get all the

credit.)

"Things in Washington are a mess these days. (As if I am not a part of the problem myself.)

"Congress doesn't function well because of the (name opposing party)." (What this crowd doesn't know is that there are 534 other members of Congress out in the hustings at this moment making the same speech I am and all of us blaming the other party and each other. No wonder we don't function well.)

"You have given me the privilege of representing you in Washington and I want to assure you that I am working hard for you." (This

is where I dazzle them with my fancy footwork and talk about stuff that has about as much chance of passing as I do of being elected Pope.)

"During the last session, I introduced bills in Congress to cut wasteful government spending as well as to give you hard-working folks back home a much-needed tax break. I am also working on legislation to increase Social Security payments for our senior citizens, trying to reign in campaign financing and curb the undue influence of special interest groups and their lobbyists in Washington." (Wow! Listen to the applause! They actually think I am serious! What they don't know is I couldn't do any of this stuff, even if I wanted to. I don't have that kind of influence. I do what the leadership tells me to do. The rest of it is smoke and mirrors.)

"I will also be a part of several Congressional fact-finding missions that will be traveling abroad to assure that the interests of the United States are

## Dick Yarbrough



aligned with our friends and allies in other parts of the world." (Actually, we call these taxpayer-funded junkets. It's a perk of being in Congress. I'm not sure where I am going but I hope it is someplace warm and that there is a golf course nearby.)

"You have been a gracious audience today and before we adjourn, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have." (They are so impressed to have a real live member of Congress as their speaker, there won't be a question I haven't heard before and I will give them a long-winded answer they won't understand. It's like lobbing softballs.)

"Folks, it has been a distinct honor to be with you today, but duty calls and I must get back to Washington and back to the job you sent me there to do." (And, you can be sure I will be hit-

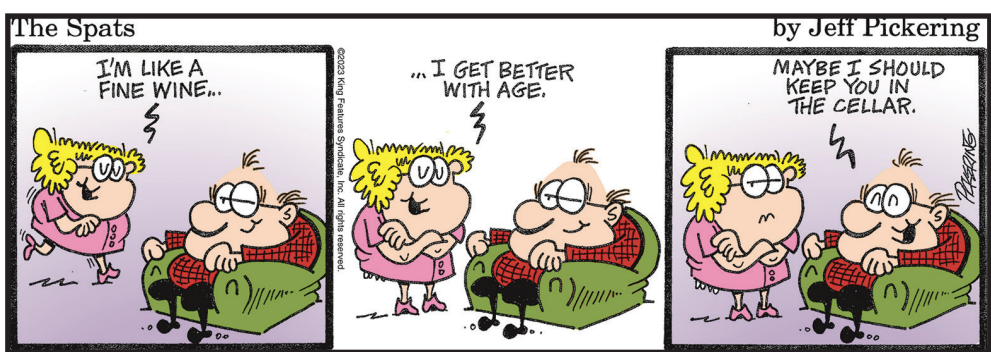
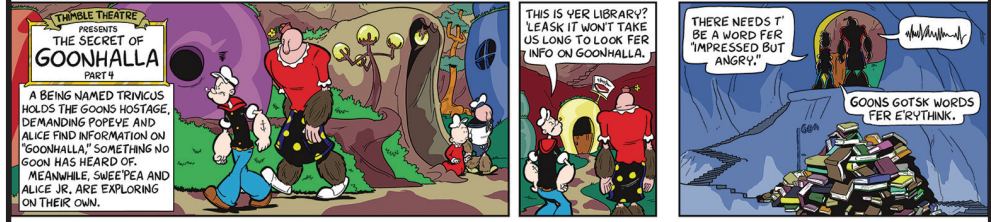
ting you up for money as soon as I get back. There is always another election coming.)

"Remember, my door is always open if you happen to be in Washington." (It'll be open but I'll have you in and out of the office before you can be seated and then foist you off on one of my staff members and claim I am late to some committee hearing. It works every time.)

"Again, it has been an honor and a privilege to be with you today. Thank you for your time and attention and God Bless America!" (Whew! Glad that's over. Hopefully, I won't have to do this again for another year. The meat loaf was terrible.)

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at [dick@dickyarbrough.com](mailto:dick@dickyarbrough.com); at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139 or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/dick-yarb](https://www.facebook.com/dick-yarb).

## Editorial Cartoons



## The big ole yellow school bus

## Ronnie Johnson



Who can forget riding the big ole yellow school bus? It was never late - rain or shine. We met the bus across the dirt road, in front of our mail box. The bus slowly ambled through the countryside. The morning dew was still on the cotton stalks and watermelon vines as we headed to our destination in Twin City at ECI. The bus driver kept a close watch in his rearview mirror of his passengers and on the road ahead. Buck Johnson was a short, well-built man who could have been a sumo wrestler, but had settled on being an excellent school bus driver who never had an accident in twenty years of service. His route was confined mainly to the Garfield district. The couple that was courting sat huddled together in the

back seat of the bus, while Buck Johnson kept an eye on them. The girl proudly wore his ECI football jacket and he wore her tiny locket on a thin gold chain around his neck. One eighth grader sat by himself looking out of the window. A newborn calf stood by its mother, unsteady on its feet. Velvet winged blackbirds circled above the blue-gray clouds in search of a cornfield to land in. The boy marveled at the beauty and complexity of mother nature and felt that he was a part of everything he witnessed from his seat on the school bus. Sometimes he longed to be talkative, popular and well-liked by his peers. But years ago, he realized that popularity comes with a steep price. When you get too involved with ego and with materialistic endeavor-

ors, you sometimes miss the silent beauty that lies all around you. And as much as you like social and spiritual activity together, they must remain separate. You are neither quiet and observing nature, or actively talking, and socializing, and missing it all. The bus goes deeper into the countryside. Splinters of rainbow light illuminate the deep woods and silent fields come alive. We cross tiny wooden bridges with deep water rushing underneath. Canopies of dark green shade the lonely dirt road as the leaves flutter from a gust of unexpected wind overhead. The bus is quickly gaining momentum as it leaves Garfield city limits and heads to the heart of football country- "Dear ole ECI."



# The Forest-Blade

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Gail Williamson,  
Editor/Publisher

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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THE JOHNSONS

## Seedling Garden Club announces April Yard of the Month

The Seedling Garden Club proudly announces that the April 2023, Yard of the Month is the home of Ninette and Derwin Johnson. The Johnson's home is located at 1262 Lambs Bridge Road, in Twin City. Ninette and Derwin enjoy working in their yard to help Emanuel County stay beautiful. Nominations for Yard of the Month are welcomed for each month. The Seedling Garden Club wants to honor homeowners and organizations that personally work so diligently with pride and love to maintain their yards. Please call in your nominations to 478-494-6754.

## Twin City Lions Club holds monthly meeting

The Twin City Lions Club met for their monthly lunch meeting at Simply Southern in Twin City. Guest speaker was Wesley Beasley. Beasley recently opened a brand-new hardware store in town named Twin City Home and Hardware. He spoke about the process of making the dream of opening a new hardware store a reality. The hardware store is very well stocked and has most anything people will need, and if he doesn't have it, he'll gladly get it for you. Twin City and the surrounding area is fortunate to have this new business in town.



PRESIDENT BRANDON AND BEASLEY

## DFCS honors Child Abuse Prevention month

April is child abuse prevention month. From April 2022 to March 2023, Department and Family and Children Services has substantiated 106 children in Emanuel county for either abuse or neglect. We wear blue in honor of this month as pinwheels serve as the visual representation of each child affected by abuse or neglect locally.



TAMELA GILLIS, BROOK DRAWDY, KRISTY KENNEDY (COUNTY DIRECTOR), PAULA SMITH, SERRINA PHILLIPS, TAMARA JORDAN, AND DFCS BOARD MEMBER K. E. MCNEAL

### Pine Tree Festival Parade Application

- Date of Parade: May 6, 2023 • Sign Up Deadline: May 3, 2023 • Line Up Location: Behind Sonic at the Exchange Club tent
- Line Up Time: 9:30 am • Step Off: 10:30 am • Entry Fee - \$25 per group including non-profit groups (cash, check, money order only)

Check the one that applies: Profit: \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Profit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Float: \_\_\_ Car/Truck: \_\_\_ Walking Unit: \_\_\_ Golf Cart: \_\_\_ Tractor: \_\_\_ Cruiser/Tour Bike: \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

Please provide brief description of entry: \_\_\_\_\_

### • Official Rules •

- 1) The Pine Tree Festival Committee will not provide floats.
- 2) You must provide your own sign for your vehicle, float, etc. *Please initial here:* \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) You must be 16 years of age and have a driver's license to drive in the parade. Trucks, cars, tractors, tour bikes, cruiser bikes and golf carts are allowed. All wheels must remain on the ground at all times. No wheelies. No spinning wheels, etc. **No tricks of any kind.** *Please initial here:* \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Any other entry including a motorized vehicle not listed above, must be part of a nationally recognized & sanctioned organization **and** provide proof of a minimum \$1 million liability coverage insurance policy that is in good standing for May 7, 2022. This copy must be included with parade application and will not be returned. Applications received without proof of coverage will not be accepted. *Please initial here:* \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) If you are participating in the float competition, your float **must** have a **pine tree** or **timber** theme in order to be included in the competition. *Please initial here:* \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Awards will be given to the overall first, second, and third place float winners.
- 7) **NO candy or other objects will be allowed to be thrown from vehicles or floats in the parade.** *If you are caught throwing items, you will be disqualified from the competition.* If your entry has candy or promotional items to hand out, this must be done by individuals walking next to the sidewalks. This is to keep all children from running into the street resulting in possible accidents. *Please initial here:* \_\_\_\_\_

### WAIVER/RELEASE OF LIABILITY

(PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND WAIVER OF CERTAIN RIGHTS)

It is understood that the participants in this parade will hold harmless any liability to the City of Swainsboro, Emanuel County, Pine Tree Festival or Swainsboro Exchange Club at/or during the parade.

Participants in this Pine Tree Festival and Southeast Timber Expo event, sponsored by Swainsboro-Emanuel County Festival Foundation, Inc. and/or the parent/guardian of the participant recognizes that there are risks inherent in participating in said activities.

Participants hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless Swainsboro-Emanuel County Festival Foundation, Inc. its volunteers, instructors, directors, officers, agents, and employees against any liability resulting from any property damage or injury that may occur to the participant while participating in the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Festival Foundation, Inc. The participant also agrees to indemnify Swainsboro-Emanuel County Festival Foundation, Inc. for any damages incurred arising from any claims, demands, actions, or cause of action by the participant.

I have carefully read the above liability release and sign it with full knowledge of its contents and significance.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return application to: Pine Tree Festival Parade  
PO Box 725  
Swainsboro, Georgia 30401

Questions: Call - (478) 237-6426

## PINE TREE FESTIVAL 2023 VENDOR APPLICATION

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Person in Charge Name (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(email is **REQUIRED!** - this is how the vendor chair will communicate with you!)

Vendor vehicle's make, model, tag \_\_\_\_\_

**Booth Request:** (please choose one option below with a check mark)

\_\_\_\_\_ Option #1 - I plan to participate with one 16' x 16' area. Cost = \$200.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Option #2 - I plan to participate with two (2) 16' x 16' areas. Cost = \$300.00

If the above sized areas do not meet your needs, please contact Donna at 478-237-6426.

When do you plan to check-in? \_\_\_\_\_ **FRIDAY, May 5<sup>th</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ **SATURDAY, MAY 6<sup>th</sup>**  
(check only one)

Please select the category which best describes your vendor items for sell. Please be mindful of the prohibited sell items listed in the vendor information.

\_\_\_\_\_ F = Food/Drinks/Ice \_\_\_\_\_ A/C = Arts & Crafts (handcrafted) \_\_\_\_\_ R = Retail \_\_\_\_\_ O = Other/No Sales

Description booth items: (Please be specific. Include all items you wish to be considered. All may not be approved to prevent duplication. Those handing out items for free should also complete this part of the application and select O = Other.)

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HUDSON AND HENRY ARE 2 OF THE 7 BULLDOG STARTERS BATTING OVER .300 THIS SEASON

## Bulldogs looking for a region sweep this week

by **RON WEATHERFORD**

The Bulldogs played Montgomery Co. in a double header Tuesday, yesterday, looking for a perfect 12-0 region record. Results will be in next week's edition of The Forest Blade.

The Bulldogs improved to 10-0 in region with a win over Montgomery last Tuesday.

The Bulldogs blasted 11 hits while the pitching and defense limited the Eagles to just 3 baserunners on one hit and two walks.

ECI took an early 2-0

lead in the first inning. They remained quiet until the top of the fourth when they posted 12 runs. The Bulldogs sent 18 batters to the plate in the inning, getting a game's worth of hits, eight. They added the fifteenth run in the top of the fifth to run rule the Eagles 15-0.

The Bulldogs had 4 players with multiple hits during the game. Lawson Mercer, Tuff Boddiford, Jacob Durden and Charlie Rehberg ended the game with 2 hits each.

Bryce Kearson pitched the first 3 innings for

ECI allowing just one hit and a walk, striking out 8 Eagle batters. Andrew Chalkley closed out the final two innings with no hits and one walk.

The Bulldogs will have their busiest week of the season playing 5 games in 3 days.

Tuesday was the double header with Montgomery Co. Today they are being tested in Savannah taking on the Red Raiders from Savannah Christian and will close out the week and regular season on Thursday with a double header against Jefferson Co. at Joe Harvey Field.

## SHS Soccer update

The Tiger boys' soccer team concluded their season with a 7-5 win over Montgomery County on March 30. However, the team did not qualify for the state playoffs. Their final record for the 2023 season is 1-13. The Tiger girls' soccer team qualified for the state playoffs as the #4 seed. In the first round of the playoffs, they lost 5-0 to the #1 seed Bleckley County. Tigers finish the season with a record 7-11.

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SWEET, CLIFTON, PARHAM AND BOATRIGHT

## Local Republican Party elects officers at annual convention

The Emanuel County Republican Party elected officers at the County Republican Convention held on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at the Emanuel County Courthouse. Chairwoman Lisa Parham was re-elected for a second term, Sherri Clifton was elected as Vice Chairwoman, Katy Boatright was elected for a second term as Secretary and Margaret Sweet was elected as Treasurer. The Emanuel County Republican Party holds monthly meetings the third Monday of every month at the Rustic Grill in Swainsboro. Guest speakers speak at the meetings on informative topics. For more information on joining The Emanuel County Republican Party Contact Chairwoman Lisa Parham at 540-661-7941 or follow their page on Facebook at "The Emanuel County Republican Party" for upcoming events!

**Subscribe to The Forest-Blade. Call Denise today 478.237.9971**

# Swainsboro battles Bleckley County for region championship

by TROUP BRINSON  
 The Swainsboro Tigers (18-7) have had a perfect 9-0 run through their region baseball schedule this season. However, the Bleckley County Royals are also perfect through their first nine games, setting up a monstrous week of baseball for the two region rivals. Games will be in Swainsboro on Tuesday and Friday and in Cochran on Thursday.



The Tigers got to this climactic end to the regular season with a deep lineup with five hitters hitting over .300 on the season (River Greene, Lenox Lively, Kason Palmer, Caden Daley and Jeffery Brown). Junior Kason Palmer has provided the most power with 11 doubles and three homeruns while hitting close to .400 on the year. Palmer has also been tough to handle on the pitching mound, allowing only four earned runs in 44 innings pitched. Swainsboro rolled through region opponents East Laurens, Dublin, and the first two games against Jefferson County last week. However, in the final game, Swainsboro trailed 3-1 in the final inning before placing two on base with a Lively double and Palmer single. Junior Brandon Chapman stepped up and deliv-

ered with a three-run homer to keep the Tigers undefeated in region play. This year's squad has been a team that gets on base 40 percent of the time and walks more than they strike out. Solid pitching and timely hitting propelled this team all season with hopes of a deep playoff run. Swainsboro is in the middle of their hottest stretch of the season, winning 11 of 12 games. The Tigers will meet Bleckley County this week

with a chance to grab the #1 seed heading into the state playoffs. Swainsboro will need to win two of three games to win region and put an exclamation point on their most successful regular season in more than a decade. Greene, Lively, and Palmer will be tasked with starting pitching duties against the Royals' potent offense. Game times are 5:30 p.m., with Tuesday and Friday being at Tiger Field.



Submitted Photo

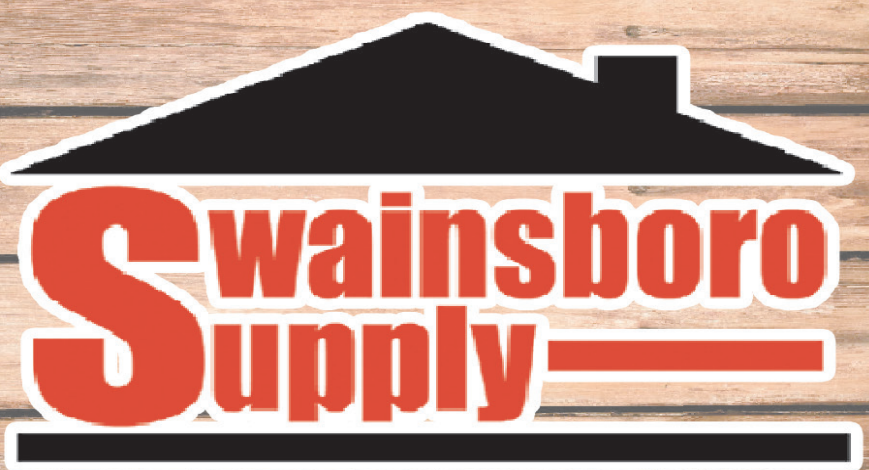
## SHS BOYS TENNIS TEAM

# SHS tennis teams begin state playoffs this week

Both Swainsboro High School boy's and girl's tennis teams will begin the first round of the state playoff this week. On Tuesday, April 18, the lady Tigers, currently number three seed in the state, will travel to play at the number two seed Bacon County.

On Wednesday, April 19th, number two seed, the Tiger boys will host the number three seed Irwin County. The match will be held at East Georgia College.

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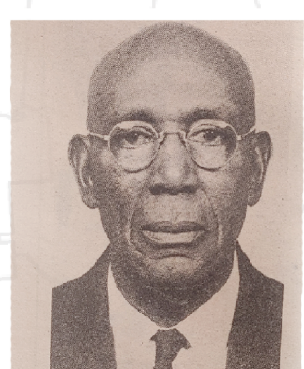
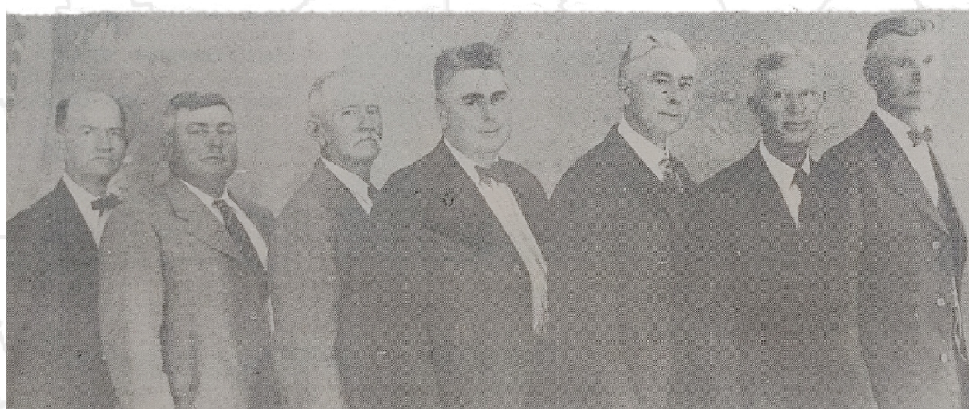
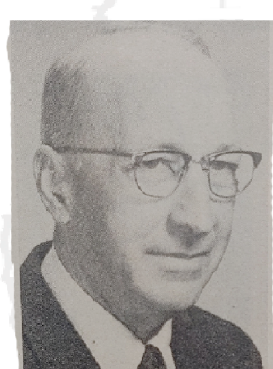
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## Pioneers in Education

Before the early 1900s, education in Swainsboro was a pieced-together enterprise that was limited in scope and reach. As early as 1865, there was a school in Swainsboro sponsored by the Masonic Lodge. For a student to attend the 5 month session cost an average of \$40. In 1901 an election was held to provide for a bond to build a public school building in Swainsboro. In the county in 1929 the Board of Education presided over 58 schools, which were nearly all one room, one teacher schoolhouses. Many former students will still remember Mr. V.E. Glenn, left and Professor N.F. Williams, right who were inspirational figures in the history of education in Swainsboro. Pictured below is the first Swainsboro High School built in 1904 and Swainsboro High and Industrial School built in 1918 under the leadership of Professor Williams.



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# Honoring our Educators

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## A lasting impression: Meet inspiring educator, Bob McNeely

by BRITTANY HALL

It's safe to say that we have all experienced at least one inspirational teacher who helped us to understand their subject more and taught us to become a better person. The best teachers pass on this burning enthusiasm to their students, inspiring them to view the subject through refreshed lenses and to see things from a different perspective. Some inspired students have even gone on to become teachers with hope that they can become a positive influence in the lives of their own students. This is the case for Swainsboro Middle School's 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year, Bob McNeely.

"I'm not sure if I chose this profession or if the profession chose me." He began with a smile, "As a coach I thoroughly enjoyed working with the kids. I saw what a difference I made to them just by working with them after school. After several years of coaching, I finally took the leap to start something completely out of the norm for me. I decided I wanted to try and make a difference in the life of the young people in our town."

So, that's just what he did. Born and raised in Swainsboro, McNeely began his journey as a student by attending kindergarten and first grade at DEA. During his second-grade year he became a Tiger and began going to Swainsboro Elementary School. In 2000 McNeely graduated from Swainsboro High and immediately began taking classes at East Georgia College where he eventually obtained an associate degree in business management with a minor in accounting. After graduating from EGC in 2002, McNeely transferred to Georgia Southern University where he graduated with a Bachelor's in Hotel and Restaurant Management with a minor in business.

"At that point in my life teaching was

never a thought for a career choice for me." Explained McNeely, "However, I was heavily influenced to go into the teaching field through coaching cheerleading alongside Luci McNeely at Swainsboro High School for many years."

After giving it some thought, McNeely went on to receive his teaching certificate through the GATAPP program and began his teaching career as the Business Education teacher at Swainsboro Middle School in 2015 which is the title that he continues to hold there. When asked what he loves most about Swainsboro Middle School, McNeely said:

"I work with an amazing group of people at SMS. However, my department which is the connections team is by far the coolest. SMS has a good mixture of teachers that range from many new very talented teachers to many very talented veteran teachers. Our administration this year is also doing a fantastic job. Our teachers all work extremely hard to make sure our students are getting the best possible education. My classroom neighbor, Ms. Ashley Love, is by far the best Georgia Studies teacher out there! Our lunch staff does an amazing job every day to provide great meals for our students. Our custodial staff does an amazing job keeping SMS beautiful inside and out. Our counseling dept is doing an outstanding job with our students daily and is great free therapy for the teachers as well. SMS is a wonderful school here on Tiger Trail and I'm happy to be a part of it."

Although McNeely has only been teaching at Swainsboro Middle School for seven years now, he's had the heart of a Tiger since he was a curious second grade student. Throughout his youth, he was influenced through the same incredible fundamentals that the Swainsboro School System and its staff have continued

to uphold which have paved the way for him to become the inspirational teacher and coach that he is today.

"Hands down the teacher who inspired me the most was Ms. Sharon Weatherford." McNeely said with a smile, "She was my chorus teacher at SHS. She was always there for every student she taught. Her class was by far the class that I looked forward to the most every day in high school. While she didn't inspire me to become an educator, I hope to one day be as amazing as she was in the classroom."

When McNeely isn't in the classroom you can still find him on campus coaching both the SMS and SHS cheer teams alongside Luci McNeely, and their beautiful daughter Lenox, who is a sixth-grade student at SMS that shares the same burning enthusiasm for cheer that both of her cheer-coaching parents do.

"We cheer a lot! I am the head coach of football cheer and competition cheer at SMS and the assistant coach of football cheer, gameday cheer and competition cheer at SHS. I also coach all-stars in Statesboro at Cheer South All Stars." explained McNeely

In addition to teaching and cheer, McNeely enjoys fishing, metal detecting, watching movies and shopping with Lenox.

**Now that you've met the teacher and read his story, read his Q/A's below to further understand Bob McNeely's incredible values of teaching and how he's changing and inspiring young lives in our community. Interview conducted by Brittany Hall.**

**What have you found most rewarding in your career?**

**McNeely:** The relationships that you get to build with these kids is by far the most rewarding. Many students come from not-so-great situations. To be able to help those students so that they can become better, more productive

citizens, who have pride and respect for themselves. To see the struggles many kids, endure and to finally get the opportunity to see them walk across Tiger Field to accept their diploma as high school graduates. Then to know that many of them will pursue a higher education. This to me is the most rewarding part of my job.

**Do you feel that each of your students have left a lasting impression on you?**

**McNeely:** Many of them absolutely, during my first year it was a blur, I remember very little of my first year of teaching. But now, I'm in my element and I understand what I am doing so I have the opportunity to build those relationships with my students.

**What advice would you like to give to new or upcoming educators?**

**McNeely:** Make sure teaching is what you want to do. This is not for everyone! Do not decide to go into teaching because you think you get summers off. It's not for the weak. It should be your passion and you should love working with kids.

**How does it make you feel to see the success that many of your previous students have become?**

**McNeely:** It's awesome to see many of the students I taught early on become successful individuals. I have seen students attend medical school, pharmacy school and prestigious Ivy League schools. However, for some just graduating high school or going to college is a huge success, as for many students they are the first in their family to do so.

**If you could tell your past students or future students one thing that you hope will stick with them all throughout life, what would that be?**

**McNeely:** Life is not easy, nothing about it is easy. It's full of twists and turns and never constant. Push ahead to



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MCNEELY WITH DAUGHTER LENOX

pursue your destiny and let no one stand in your way.

**What's a favorite memory or some of your favorite memories that you have from your time as an educator?**

**McNeely:** I love the time my students and I have in the classroom but by far my most favorite memories come from the extracurricular activities we have at school. Some of my most favorite memories come from activities like field day, especially tug of war, the talent shows every year, or the student faculty basketball game or just a few weeks ago when Nordson came to SMS for the school to participate in STEAM activities. I also have many great memories from the

Promfest fashion shows that I used to help with years ago. Getting the opportunity to see kids up and moving and having a great time outside of the classroom provides many great memories.

*Bob McNeely was nominated by the Emanuel County Board of Education as February's phenomenal local teacher for Durden Banking Company's monthly Teacher Spotlight column. Once a month, a teacher is selected by the Board of Education to celebrate the inspiration that they are to the youth of our community.*

*"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires" – William A. Ward*

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# 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 (CSRU); Intensive Probation Service (IPS); or Probation Office (PROB).

Eric Bernard Greene Jr, entered 4/10/23; Obstr/ ofc/Windshields/front door cracked/tinted/matls proh/Failure to stop at stop sign/Failure

to stop at stop sign/ Failure to maintain lane/ VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/VGCSA marijuana/poss less than oz/DUI/alch/Open container/Reckless driving/Flee/attempt to elude police/Obstr/ ofc/Failure to stop at stop sign/Probation/ State court/Middle Ga probation; ECSSO

Laportia Mishon Johnson, entered 4/10/23; Bond revocation; ECSSO

Edward Jermaine Davis, entered 4/10/23; Hold for Candler Co; HOLD

Kiva Renee Washington, entered 4/11/23; Driving lic susp/rev/Unregistered vehicle; released 4/15/23; SPD

Kenneth Edwards, entered 4/11/23; Disorderly conduct; released 4/13/23; SPD

Jared Felton Fields, entered 4/11/23; Firearm poss by conv felon/Theft/taking/

Parole violation/ Burglary/Hold for out of county billing/ Hold for Toombs Co/ Hold for out of county billing/Burglary/ Theft/taking/Possession of meth w/intent to distribute; ECSSO

Amanda Blake Williams, entered 4/11/23; Burglary/ Burglary/Theft/taking; ECSSO

Jerial Jermaine Deloach, entered 4/11/23; Probation/ Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga probation; SPD

Moses Lamont Hamilton, entered 4/11/23; Speeding 15-29 MPH over/Driving lic susp/rev/VGCSA possession of drug related object/VGCSA possession of marijuana/ VGCSA/vio ga control subst act/Possession of cocaine; released 4/12/23; SPD

Melissa Susan Librizzi, entered 4/11/23; Probation/ Superior

court/Probation/ Superior court; BROUGHT IN FROM TOOMBS CO

Christy Hooks Pierce, entered 4/12/23; Driving lic susp/rev; released 4/12/23; SPD

Jason Rufus Baggett, entered 4/12/23; DUI/alch; released 4/13/23; GSP

Amber Nicole Clark, entered 4/12/23; DUI less safe/Too fast for conditions; released 4/13/23; SPD

Christina Spurlin Mauney, entered 4/12/23; Driving lic susp/rev/No insurance; released 4/12/23; ECSSO

Tommy Ny'Derion Dawson, entered 4/13/23; VGCSA possession cocaine; released 4/14/23; ECSSO

Timothy Alexander Coleman, entered 4/13/23; VGCSA possession cocaine; released 4/14/23; ECSSO

Paul Johnson Jr, entered 4/13/23; VGCSA possession

cocaine/Hold for out of county billing/Bench warrant-City; ECSSO

Dominique Patrice Phillips, entered 4/13/23; Theft/taking; released 4/13/23; ECSSO

Monique Antoinette Hamiel, entered 4/14/23; Battery-family violence; released 4/14/23; SPD

Michael Brandon Morris, entered 4/14/23; Probation/ Superior court; released 4/16/23; WALK-IN

Gerrie Jarod Brown, entered 4/14/23; Hold for Treutlen Co; released 4/14/23; SPD

Regina Denise Johnson, entered 4/14/23; Disorderly conduct/Disorderly conduct; SPD

Bret Matthew Cox Jr, entered 4/14/23; Other; released 4/16/23; WALK-IN

James Waylon Mangham, entered 4/14/23; Driving lic susp/rev/Other; released 4/14/23; SPD

Harry Christopher Kirkland, entered 4/15/23; Hold for Laurens Co; ECSSO

Joseph Wright Copeland, entered 4/15/23; DUI/alch/ Speeding 30+ MPH over; ECSSO

Charcia Cooper, entered 4/15/23; Disorderly conduct; released 4/16/23; SPD

Brandy Nacole Cooper, entered 4/15/23; Disorderly conduct; released 4/16/23; SPD

Alverso Lekeith Knight, entered 4/16/23; VGCSA possession cocaine w/intent to distribute/VGCSA possession marijuana w/intent to distribute/Obstr/ ofc/Obstr/ ofc/Seatbelt violation; ECSSO

Joseph Matthew Mason, entered 4/16/23; Failure to stop at stop sign/VGCSA possession of drug related object/ VGCSA possession of MDMA/possession of meth/Driving lic susp/ rev; ECSSO

# Swainsboro Police Reports

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

## March 27

Officer met with the complainant at SPD in reference to an entering auto and theft of two pistols. C/p reported that the pistols were left inside of the vehicle on a regular basis and that he last remembered seeing the pistols approximately two weeks prior.

## April 10

Officer was dispatched to Peebles Street in reference to criminal trespass. C/p reported that on April 7, he went to his rental property and found the offender squatting inside the structure. Officers arrived on the scene and instructed the offender to leave. C/p returned to the property on April 10 and

found offender there again.

Officer met with c/p at SPD on reference to a report. C/p advised that her step-daughter came to her place of business and attempted to open the door by the door knob, then left after figuring out that it was locked. C/p advised that she did not want her husband's daughter anywhere near the property.

Officer responded to Thompson Street in reference to a report of threats received vis text message. C/p stated that she received a text that she took as a threat. She was advised to block the number and report and further harassing communication.

## April 11

Officer was patrolling the area of Tiger Trail running license plates and came across a vehicle with

cancelled registration. The driver also had a suspended license. Offender was arrested.

Officer responded to McDonald's in reference to an unwanted person who refused to leave the location. Upon arrival, officer spoke with complainant who pointed out offender who was asleep at a table in the restaurant. Offender had reportedly been kicked out of a halfway house. Offender was arrested.

Officer arrested an offender for driving with a suspended license.

Officer was dispatched to South Main Street in reference to harassing phone calls. C/p reported that Waffle King has received 12 calls from an unknown telephone number. Offenders threatened the c/p along with the business itself.

# Nine sentenced in Superior Court

The following occurred during the Emanuel County Superior Court January 2023 term:

Crystal Akridge, repeat offender, negotiated a guilty plea on one count possession of meth. She was fined \$50 with 3 years probation; one count possession of suboxone 3 years probation; one count crossing guard lines with contraband with 5 years probation. Defendant is sentenced

to a total of 5 years to be served on probation. The Court sentences the defendant as a recidivist under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(a).

Crystal Akridge, repeat offender, negotiated a guilty plea on one count burglary in the first degree with 20 years, 3 years to serve, Susp. RSAT & rehab aftercare. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 20 years, with the first 3 years to be served in confinement and the

remainder to be served on probation. The Court sentences the defendant as a recidivist under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(a).

Crystal Akridge, repeat offender, negotiated a guilty plea on one count armed robbery (robbery). She received 20 years, 3 years to serve, Susp. RSAT & rehab aftercare; aggravated assault with 20 years probation; possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony with 5 years probation; possession of firearm by a convicted felon with 10 years probation. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 25 years, with the first 3 years to be served in confinement and the remainder to be served on probation. The Court sentences the defendant as a recidivist under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(a).

Jody Clifton, repeat offender, negotiated a guilty plea for possession of meth. He was fined \$50 with 8 years probation, RSAT susp. For rehab; one count possession of drug related objects with 12 months probation. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 8 years to be served on probation. The Court sentences the defendant as a recidivist under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(c).

Jody Clifton, repeat offender, negotiated a guilty plea for possession of meth w/intent. He was fined \$50 with 30 years probation, Subj. RSAT susp. for

rehab. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 30 years to be served on probation. The Court sentences the defendant as a recidivist under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(c).

Javec Antoine King negotiated a guilty-alford plea for identity fraud. He was fined \$50 with 10 years to serve, 3 years suspended upon rehab; possession of heroin with three years to probation. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 10 years, with the first 3 years susp. To be served in confinement and the remainder to be served on probation. The above sentence may be served on probation provided the defendant shall comply with the conditions of probation imposed by the court as part of his sentence. Upon service of 3 years suspended, the remainder of the sentence may be served on probation; PROVIDED, that the defendant shall comply with the conditions of probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.

The following occurred during the Emanuel County Superior Court April 2023 term:

Joshua Oshie Pryor, repeat offender, negotiated a guilty-alford plea for armed robbery (robbery). He was fined \$100 with 20 years. 3 years to serve, bal. prob.; aggravated assault with 20 years, 3 years to serve, bal. prob.; possession of

firearm during the commission of a felony with 5 years probation; possession of firearm by convicted felon with 10 years probation. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 35 years, with the first 3 years to be served in confinement and the remainder to be served on probation. Upon service of 3 years, the remainder of the sentence may be served on probation; PROVIDED, that the defendant shall comply with the conditions of probation 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(a).

Jason Glenn Wilkerson negotiated a guilty-alford plea for burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. He was fined \$50 with five years probation; possession of a tool for the commission of a crime with five years to probation. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 5 years. To be served on probation. Defendant is to receive credit for time served in custody as determined by the custodian.

Keshon Woods negotiated a guilty-alford plea for theft by taking. He was sentenced to 12 months to serve. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 12 months. Defendant is to receive credit for time served in custody from May 10, 2022.

Jamal Allen negotiated a guilty-alford plea for possession of

a firearm by a convicted felon. He was fined \$50 with 10 years, 22 months in the Co. Jail, bal. prob. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 10 years, with the first 22 months to be served in confinement and the remainder to be served on probation. Defendant is to receive credit for time served in custody from July 20, 2021.

Johnny Lee Williams negotiated a guilty-alford plea for criminal attempt to commit rape. He was fined \$50 with 30 years, 25 years to serve, bal. prob; robbery (dismissed); rape with 25 years to serve, followed by life probation. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 30 years, with the first 25 years to be served in confinement and the remainder to be served on probation. The defendant is to receive credit for time served in custody as determined by the custodian. Upon service of 25 years, the remainder of the sentence may be served on probation; PROVIDED, that the defendant shall comply with the conditions of probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.

Ashley Hood negotiated a guilty-alford plea for involvement w/ motor vehicle having identification removed. He was fined \$50 with 5 years probation, completion of DRC. Defendant is sentenced to a total of 5 years to be served on probation.

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# Sheriff's Reports

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

**April 10**  
Deputy was dispatched to John Deere Rd. in Adrian in reference to a nuisance animal killing livestock. Deputy was dispatched to Wadley-Coleman Lake Rd. in reference to threats and harassing calls.

Vehicle was sitting on Hwy 80 West for over a week. Tag was run and came back valid but there was no insurance on the vehicle. Vehicle as towed.

Deputy unlocked a vehicle on Lewis St. with no damages.

Vehicle was unlocked at EmCo Rec. Dept. with no damages.

Vehicle was unlocked at HotSet with no damages.

**April 11**  
Deputy met with complainant at ECSO in reference to c/p having stuff in a storage unit in CA to include his passport and the unit got sold.

Deputy served an arrest warrant on offender who was found to be in possession of a quantity of meth and a shotgun.

Deputy received a report from complainant advising that her landlord/offender turned her power off. C/p stated she pays \$100 weekly rent and is a week behind and offender went to c/p's resident and turned the breaker on the outside

of the home off. C/p advised she does not have any signed agreement with offender and had given him money for last month's power bill but this month has not come in yet. Deputy advised c/p that regardless of the agreement, the landlord would have to go through the legal eviction process and the matter would have to be handled civilly.

Deputies responded to Hereford Cir. regarding an unruly juvenile at the location. Complainant stated the juvenile was being unruly and disrespectful by playing loud music and when c/p got onto him and told him to turn it down, he became irate and threw it. C/p stated the juvenile took his ankle monitor off and threw it as well. While on scene, the juvenile was still being disrespectful towards c/p by constantly calling her a liar and using profanity. The juvenile was transported to EmCo Jail.

**April 12**  
Deputies were dispatched to Hwy 1 North in reference to a subject walking along the side of the road. Contact was made with the female who advised she was walking back to her vehicle on Hwy 1 North. The female was transported to her vehicle at Wadley-Coleman Lake Rd.

Deputies were dispatched to Old

Savannah Rd. in reference to a vehicle in the ditch.

Offender was located on Hereford Cir. and transported to EmCo Jail for a DJJ Juvenile Detainer, then transported to a Juvenile Facility.

Deputy met with complainant in reference to a lost license plate assigned to a trailer.

Deputy met with complainant on Pelican Rd. concerning suspect who is c/p's landlord. C/p was advised by her husband that suspect busted through the front door of the residence without permission. C/p stated the suspect had hand written terms and conditions to the rental property that was not signed nor agreed on.

Deputies, along with Fire and EMS, responded to Why 56 North in reference to a structure fire. Scene was controlled and managed by responding Fire units.

Motorist was assisted with a locked vehicle on Old Swainsboro Rd.

Deputies were dispatched to John Deere Rd. in reference to an abandoned vehicle in the road. Vehicle was found blocking part of the road. Due to the vehicle being a hazard, it was towed.

Victim stated she got a letter saying she owes \$600 to a company called Spot Loan out of Belcount, ND. Somebody used her old

married name and a bogus checking account to get a loan.

Deputy met with complainant at ECSO where he stated his SS check was supposed to go into his bank account on April 3, but it didn't. C/p stated he call the SS office and was told his check went into a Greendot Account but couldn't give him many further info about the account. C/p stated he doesn't even know what that account is.

Deputy conducted a traffic stop on N. Green St. for a non-working headlight.

**April 13**  
Deputy was called to Pruitt Health in reference to suspect escaping out of a bathroom window. Deputies arrived and gathered info on the suspect. K-9 unit was called and found suspect a very short time later in the woods. Pruitt Health Director advised since suspect did not want to stay there anymore, they could not keep him. Deputy transported suspect to the hospital to be evaluated and was advised that suspect suffers from dementia.

Complainant struck a deer on Wadley-Coleman Lake Rd. causing disabling damage to the vehicle.

Deputies were dispatched to Panther Rd. in reference to an unwanted person.

Deputies were dispatched to Price Williams Rd. to assist EMS with a male subject with altered mental status. Offender was advised to be confused, not knowing his name or his wife, and trying to leave the residence on foot. Offender was seen by EMS and transported to EMC for fur-

ther treatment.

Deputies responded to Southern Metals in reference to a verbal dispute. Dispute ensued after complainant stated he was advised by an employee that he could drain and dump gasoline from an old fuel tank across the road from the recycling center before he could dispose of the tank.

Deputy meet with complainant at ECSO in reference to c/p backing into a tree limb while on private property and busting out his back glass.

**April 14**  
Deputy received a report by phone in reference to a theft.

Deputies responded to Hwy 192 North in reference to a burglary alarm. Homeowner advised she accidentally set off the alarm and quickly disarmed it and never received a call from the alarm company.

Deputy received a report advising complainant's neighbors called about loud music. Upon speaking with c/p, he was concerned that his neighbors may of called about loud rap music and advised he does not listen to rap and has not been playing music. Dispatch had not received any calls for loud music in the area.

Deputy took a report at ECSO in reference to a lost tag.

Deputy talked with complainant on the phone and stated she turned in divorce papers on suspect and had gotten \$9,000 back in income taxes and suspect wouldn't give her half. Deputy asked c/p if they had a court agreement stating she was supposed to get half and she stated they

haven't been to court yet. C/p stated it was a verbal agreement between both parties.

Deputy was dispatched to I16 in reference to a crash. Deputy found two 18-wheelers had hit together. Deputy called 911 and had them to dispatch GSP to take over the investigation.

**April 15**  
Deputies responded to Bonnie Rd. in reference to a subject breaking a window. Deputies met with complainant who stated offender started banging on a window and eventually busted it because she refused to let him in. C/p stated offender paroled out to her residence around the beginning of February. Offender walked back to the incident location and spoke with deputies and stated he did bust the window and apologized stating the window was already cracked and he did not mean to break it. Offender advised deputies and c/p that he had the means to replace it and would do so the next day. Offender was given a courtesy ride to a family members residence on Lewis St.

Deputies arrested offender on Alice Cir. Laurens Co. Jail was called to let them know he was in custody and advised they couldn't pick him up until Monday. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Deputy took a report via phone in reference to harassing calls and threats.

Deputy assisted Summertown and Dellwood Fire Depts. with a vehicle fire on Corbin-Hitchcock Rd.

Deputies responded to Antioch Church Rd. to assist the fire dept. with a camper fire.

Deputies conducted a traffic stop on US 1 North for a vehicle traveling 118 MPH. While speaking with offender, he was visibly shaking and pouring sweat. Deputy asked offender where he was headed and he stated home but his address is in the opposite direction in which he was traveling. Offender gave deputies consent to search is vehicle and upon the search, an empty liquor bottle was recovered. Offender was administered a breath test at SPD and blew above the legal limit. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail for DUI.

**April 16**  
Deputies were dispatched to Sunset Dr. in reference to a dispute.

Deputy conducted a traffic stop on MLK for a seatbelt violation.

Deputy conducted a traffics top on Hwy 80 West for failing to stop at the red light.

**April 17**  
Deputies were dispatched to Hwy 297 in reference to a single vehicle accident. Complainant stated he looked down at his cell phone and ran off the shoulder of the road and side-swapped a sign. The vehicle sustained damages but c/p was not injured.

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PLEASE CALL (478) 307-0590

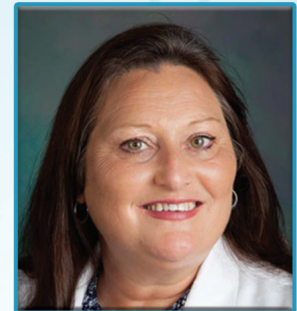
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

### Swainsboro Healthcare

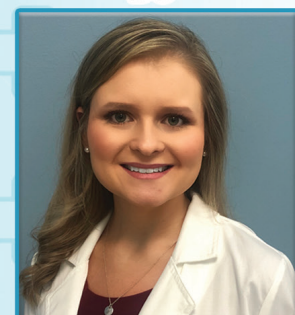
SPECIALIZES IN: • Urgent Care • Primary Care  
• Weight Loss • Women's Health



James Clifton, DO



Mary Jo Greenway, FNP-C



Kimberly Withrow, FNP-C



Rhonda Oglesby, FNP-C

• Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
• Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Emanuel Healthcare

• Walk-In Clinic • Non-Emergency Conditions • Shorter Waiting • Sick Visits  
• Sports and Employment Physicals

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

305 Kite Road  
Swainsboro  
478.237.2144  
Fax 478.237.4538



With You

www.emanuelmedical.org

# Classifieds

Deadline is Monday at  
9:30 a.m.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Call Melva at 478-237-9971 to help sell your unwanted items!  
Homes for sale or rent • Apartments for rent • Land for sale  
• Yard and estate sales • Miscellaneous for sale • Pets/ animals  
• Help wanted • Services offered

## ABANDONED VEHICLES

• 2022 Volkswagon Tiguan  
VIN#  
3VV3B7A0NM118339  
Located at LRS Towing LLC  
237 Industrial Way  
Swainsboro GA 30401  
Will be removed or sold  
on or after  
**APRIL 28, 2023**

Subscribe to  
**The Forest-Blade.**

Call Denise today

478.237.9971

## MISC NOTICES

WE DO not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis, nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the Fair Housing Act. We do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or family status.

NEED TO SEND A COPY OF A DOCUMENT, LETTER, ETC., TO SOME PLACE IN A HURRY? The Forest-Blade can do the job for you in minutes with its fax machine. We can also receive copies of documents. For more information come by our office on West Moring Street.

## Now Taking Applications! SWAINSBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY

420 N. Racetrack Street  
Swainsboro, GA 30401  
Phone: 478-237-7381

Apartments for Family, Singles, Elderly



and Disabled Persons

HUD Subsidized



HUD Subsidized Handicap Units Available

## HELP WANTED

### Peeples Roofing LLC

is looking to hire a roofer/construction worker

Call Ray Peeples  
912-326-1808

## PETS/ANIMALS FOR FREE/MISSING

**Animal shelter** — We have lots of great family dogs as well as great guard dogs.

The shelter is always in need of donations of canned and bagged dog food. We appreciate any and every donation. If you are missing a dog or have found a dog, please call the shelter at 478-237-4040 to report it. Visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EmanuelCountyShelter](http://www.facebook.com/EmanuelCountyShelter) or visit our visitor website, [www.petestablished.com/organization/1760/](http://www.petestablished.com/organization/1760/), to view our adoptable dogs. Adoption fee is \$35. This goes to pay for part of the spaying/neutering cost. The other \$30 must be paid to the vet, by the owner after it has been spayed or neutered. Please call the shelter for details. Come visit our adoptable dogs at 343 Market St. in Swainsboro. We are open Monday through Friday, 8-4, and Saturday, 8-12.

## Publisher's Notice

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



DEDICATION OF THE 2 SIGNS



BERNARD MARTIN SAYING THE INVOCATION

## 244th Anniversary Brier Creek Battle event held

The 244th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle at Brier Creek was held on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at the battlefield at 11 a.m. With Master of Ceremonies, Compatriot Tommy Christopher presiding, there were an estimated 150 in attendance. Besides their annual celebration, they also added the dedication of the signs that were originally erected down at the bridge that crosses over Brier Creek. These signs were erected in 1954 at what was thought the site of the battle. The BCRWBA, Inc. recently moved the signs after a complete restoration, to the actual main battlefield site.

Attending the event to dedicate the signs was Michael Alan Kessler, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Georgia of the Grand Lodge of Georgia F



MC TOMMY CHRISTOPHER

& A.M. After the sign dedication, MC Christopher recognized over 40 organizations that presented a wreath to honor those brave Revolutionary War Patriots that died and were buried on the battlefield 244 years ago. After the wreath presentation, the Assistant Georgia Society Color Guard Commander Ed Rigel, Jr. commanded a three round alternating volley that

was fired by the militia with their 50 cal. flintlocks and by four of the Brier Creek Artillery cannons, Steve Burke's 6-pound field gun, Bernard Martin's 6-pound Cohort gun, Alton McCloud's 6-pound Naval Cannon and Camerron Quick's 12-pound Napoleon Cannon. Compatriot Don Bazemore of the Brier Creek Chapter then played taps on his bugle.

## OGEECHEE STEEL INCORPORATED

Now hiring:

## Quality Control Manager

Apply in person or contact Whitney Henry:  
[wheny@ogeecheesteel.com](mailto:wheny@ogeecheesteel.com)  
133 Lindsey Rd.  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

## EGSC PD NOW HIRING

FULL AND PART TIME CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS AND FULL TIME PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER WANTED

### FULL TIME BENEFITS:

VACATION AND SICK LEAVE  
INSURANCE • TRS RETIREMENT & MORE

CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS

\$18.00 - \$22.00  
PER HOUR

NON-CERTIFIED OFFICERS  
\$15.75 - \$17.00  
PER HOUR

CONTACT EGSC HR AT  
478-289-2180 FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

East Georgia  
STATE COLLEGE

SCAN HERE  
TO APPLY



or visit  
[www.ega.edu/careers](http://www.ega.edu/careers)

MORE POSITIONS  
AVAILABLE!



## FOR SALE BY OWNER



Brick ranch style home on .42 acres with carport in the Mason Park subdivision. This 1,092 sq. ft. house with 3 bedroom and 1 1/2 baths was built in 1971. It features brand new shingled roof and freshly landscaped yard, central heat/ac, stove, refrigerator and portable dishwasher. Available for immediate occupancy. No Realtors Please.  
\$75,000

To schedule an appointment please call 843 539 6283. Leave a message.

# Legals

**Notice of Sale Under Power**  
Georgia, Emanuel County  
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by Clifford Bowers, Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Taylor, Bean, & Whitaker Mortgage Corp., dated July 9, 2008, and recorded in Deed Book 313, Page 175, Emanuel County, Georgia records, having been modified in Deed Book 467, Page 373, aforesaid records and as last transferred to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by Assignment recorded in Deed Book 463, Page 170, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$89,795.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Emanuel County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2023, to wit: May 2, 2023, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate, and being in the 53rd G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, and in the City of Swainsboro, known and designated as Lot 1, Block "K" of Eastwood Estates Subdivision as shown on a plat prepared by Frank J. Ford, Surveyor, which are recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 11 and Plat Book 3, Page 238 of the Records of the Office of the Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court. Said plats are hereby incorporated herein for a more full, completed, and accurate description of said property. Said Lot 1, Block "K" being bounded, now or formerly, as follows: North by Howarth Drive; East by Lot 2, Block "K" said subdivision; South by Lots 12 and 13, Block "K" said subdivision, and West by McLeod Drive. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Deed to Secure Debt. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property is commonly known as **217 McLeod Drive, Swainsboro, GA 30401**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Heirs at Law of the Estate of Clifford Bowers, Jr. or tenant or tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; (2) O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1; and (3) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2, the entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC  
Attention: Loss Mitigation Department  
1600 South Douglass Road, Suite 200-A  
Anaheim, CA 92806  
1-800-561-4567  
The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the Deed to Secure Debt described herein. This sale is conducted on behalf of the secured creditor under the power of sale granted in the aforementioned security instrument, specifically being

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as attorney in fact for Clifford Bowers, Jr. Maner, Martin & Brunavs, LLC  
180 Interstate N Parkway, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
404.252.6385  
THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
MBFC18-099

**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE: PETITION OF ASA JESSE LARRY JOHNSON PETITIONER, CIVIL ACTION NO. 23M002

V FOR ADOPTION OF ASHTON JACE HAMRICK, NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO: RONNIE O. HAMRICK You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking Adoption was filed against you in said court on March, 23, 2023 and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on March 17, 2023 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said court and serve upon William H. McWhorter, Jr., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Drawer 99 and answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. This 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2023.

Clerk of Court.

William H. McWhorter, Jr.  
State Bar No. 499950  
P.O. Drawer 99  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

**STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF SAMUEL BRANTLEY, DECEASED.

All creditors of the Estate of Samuel Brantley, deceased, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render their demands to Richard M. McNeely, attorney for Jacqueline Brantley, Executor of the Samuel Brantley Estate, at P.O. Box 767, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of any indebtedness due the estate. This 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.  
RICHARD M. MCNEELY  
Attorney for Jacqueline Brantley  
Executor of the Samuel Brantley Estate  
Richard M. McNeely, P.C.  
P.O. Box 767  
Swainsboro, Georgia 30401  
(478) 237-4225

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of Norman Stone Williamson, decedent, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to Jerry N. Cadle, P.C., P.O. Box 68, Swainsboro, GA 30401 according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.  
Sumier Nichole Harman, Executrix of the Estate of Norman Stone Williamson, decedent  
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.  
P.O. Box 68  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**  
IN RE:

**DANIEL LEVI GRAY II, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 23E0037**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT**

The petition of CINDY TERESA GRAY, for a year's support from the estate of **DANIEL LEVI GRAY II**, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before MAY 1, 2023, why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.

DON E. WILKES  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: Jeanie Hooks  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
P.O. Box 70 / 125 South Main Street Swainsboro, Ga. 30401  
Address  
(478) 237-7091  
Telephone Number

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
**GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY**

All creditors of the estate of Joe Alva McLendon, decedent, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to Jerry N. Cadle, P.C., P.O. Box 68, Swainsboro, GA 30401 according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.  
Lena McLendon Allen, Executrix of the Estate of Joe Alva McLendon, decedent  
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.  
P.O. Box 68  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM DENTON BEASLEY, DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. 23E0052

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**  
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: WILLIAM MICHAEL BEASLEY and MASON C. BROWN have petitioned to be appointed administrators of the estate of WILLIAM DENTON BEASLEY deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MAY 1, 2023. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

DON E. WILKES  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: Jeanie Hooks  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
P.O. Box 70 / 125 South Main Street Swainsboro, Ga. 30401  
Address  
478-237-7091  
Telephone Number

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF EMANUEL STATE OF GEORGIA**

Corene Wright Whitus Plaintiff, Civil Action No. 2BCV48

v. Lorenzo Whitus, Defendant.

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**

To: Lorenzo Whitus, Defendant  
Named Above:  
You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking complaint for divorce [state the relief sought] was filed against you in said court on March 24, 2023 and that by reason of am order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on March 24 2023 you are here by commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon Corene Whitus, plaintiff, whose address is 177 Kathleen Rd. Unit A, Swainsboro Ga. 30401 and answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days if the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to do so, judgement by default will be taken against you for the relief demand in the complaint. Witness the Honorable Robert S. Reeves, Judge of said Court. This the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

Clerk of Superior Court Emanuel County

**STATE BOARD MEMBER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING**  
**April 24, 2023**  
**Mayor Matt Donaldson to Host State Board of Education Twelfth District Public Hearing**

The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing for citizens in

the Twelfth Congressional District on Monday, April 24, 2023. The meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Vidalia High School, 901 North St. West, Vidalia, GA 30474. The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from interested citizens and educators within the congressional district regarding the performance and problems of public education. Persons wishing to speak should sign in upon arrival.

The Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services or activities. Individuals who need assistance or auxiliary aids for participation in this public forum are invited to make their needs known to Geraldine Price at [sboeadmin@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:sboeadmin@doe.k12.ga.us) no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

All creditors of THOMAS F NUNNALLY, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment. This 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023.

Ronda Nunnally, Personal Representative, of the Estate, of Thomas F. Nunnally, deceased.  
Ronda Nunnally  
102 Indian Spring Drive  
Silver Spring MD 20901  
(301) 346-8501 (not for publication)

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of Cecil Bowden, decedent, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to Jerry N. Cadle, P.C., P.O. Box 68, Swainsboro, GA 30401 according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.  
Julia Ann Bowden Calhoun, Executrix of the Estate of Cecil Bowden, decedent  
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.  
P.O. Box 68  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

**NOTICE OF CHANGE OF CORPORATE NAME**

Notice is given that articles of amendment which will change the name of The Georgia Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated to Georgia FFA Foundation, Inc. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code. The registered office of the corporation is located at 117 Roger Shaw Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.

**Notice of Sale Under Power State of Georgia, County of Emanuel**

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Natalie D. Williams to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp. (the Secured Creditor), dated May 4, 2009, and Recorded on May 6, 2009 as Book No. 325 and Page No. 87, Emanuel County, Georgia records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$67,651.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, as last assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment that is or to be recorded in the Emanuel County, Georgia Records, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Emanuel County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the **first Tuesday in June, 2023**, the following described property:  
**All that lot and parcel of land situate, lying, and being in the 1748th G. M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, containing 9.2 acres, and being bounded as follows: On the North by other lands of Ms. Mystis Foskey; East by a public road; South and West by a public road known as Old Settlement Raod. This is the same property as is shown by a plat of survey made by Marvin D. Clements, Surveyor, on October 26, 1971, said plat being on record in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Emanuel County, Georgia in Plat Book 6, page 128, to which reference is specifically made for a more complete and accurate description.**  
Tax ID: 008 023  
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default,

failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC may be contacted at: 1-800-790-9502 or by writing to 1600 South Douglass Road, Suite 110 and 200-A, Anaheim, CA 92806-5951.  
Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **47 WALDEN WAY, ADRIAN, GA 31002** is/are: Natalie D. Williams or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. Funds used at sale shall be in certified funds and payable to "Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC". Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Natalie D. Williams.  
Any information obtained on this matter may be used by the debt collector to collect the debt. Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC, 339 Heyward Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Columbia, SC 29201 (803)-509-5078. File: 23-41456

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MALAINA CLAIRE NASWORTHY, DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. 23E0058

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**  
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JEREMIAH LYN NASWORTHY has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of MALAINA CLAIRE NASWORTHY deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MAY 15, 2023. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

DON E. WILKES  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: Jeanie Hooks  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
P.O. Box 70 / 125 South Main Street Swainsboro, Ga. 30401  
Address  
478-237-7091  
Telephone Number

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF

JORDAN BLAKE GRAHAM, DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**  
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JENNIFER DENISE THOMAS has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of JORDAN BLAKE GRAHAM deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Judge of the Probate Court  
By: Jeanie Hooks  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
P.O. Box 70 / 125 South Main Street Swainsboro, Ga. 30401  
Address  
478-237-7091  
Telephone Number

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of Jamie E. Fagler Parrish, decedent, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to Jerry N. Cadle, P.C., P.O. Box 68, Swainsboro, GA 30401 according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.  
Diana Jill Graham, Executrix of the Estate of Jamie E. Fagler Parrish, decedent  
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.  
P.O. Box 68  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF BRAXTON JEREMY OLIVER, DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. 23E0059

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**  
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern: JEREMY OLIVER has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of BRAXTON JEREMY OLIVER deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MAY 15, 2023. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

DON E. WILKES  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: Jeanie Hooks  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
P.O. Box 70 / 125 South Main Street Swainsboro, Ga. 30401  
Address  
478-237-7091  
Telephone Number

## Emanuel County Board of Education Surplus Property Sale May 12, 2023

**Commercial/residential kitchen equipment, desks, chairs, concrete blocks, light fixtures, and other miscellaneous tools and supplies**

**Items may be inspected at the Emanuel County Schools Food Processing Facility at 104 Rountree Ave., Twin City, Georgia by appointment. Assorted designated materials/school items will be sold as individual items.**

**Sealed bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., May 12, 2023. All items must be picked up by May 19, 2023.**

**For more information, call Jansen Ware 237-6674.**

**The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids Emanuel County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from Emanuel County Development Authority to construct two sewerage pump stations in Twin City, Emanuel County, Georgia. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project is I-16 Industrial Park Sewer Improvements to include the addition of two (2) pump stations and electrical supply to each. The project will be located at Emanuel County's I-16 Industrial Park at 2862 Highway 1 South, Twin City, Georgia 30471, one mile North of the I-16/ US 1 intersection on US Highway 1. Project information is available for review at 102 South Main Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401, 478-237-6426.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project, please provide any comments by email to [ATRO-REO@eda.gov](mailto:ATRO-REO@eda.gov).

Comments received by 5:00 pm eastern on May 12, 2023 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the EDA Atlanta Regional Office. (404) 730-3029





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# Are you making these 5 common spring lawn care mistakes?

Longer days and bountiful sunshine mean the outdoor season has arrived. As excited as you may be to enjoy the fresh air out on your lawn, there are several spring lawn care tasks to complete first.

It's no secret that homeowners love a lush green lawn, with 36% of

American homeowners revealing that their lawns are a top investment in both time and money, according to TruGreen's new survey\*. However, it can be easy to make common lawn care mistakes that can jeopardize both the look and health of your lawn.

"While homeowners

may want a quick fix for getting their lawn ready, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to maintenance, which can often result in mistakes and an unhealthy lawn," said Brian Feldman, director of technical operations at TruGreen. "This season, take a step back and ensure you're not falling

victim to some common lawn care mistakes our expert team has witnessed."

The professionals at **TruGreen**, the nation's leading lawn care provider, are helping make sure you're not falling into the most common lawn care mistakes among homeowners, including:

**Mistake 1: Overwatering your lawn**

While it's tempting to shower your lawn with water (and love), be mindful that doing so is not only wasteful and can increase your water bill, but can also drown out your emerging lawn — especially during rainy months.

Pro Tip: Follow the general rule to water 1-2 times a week for a total of 1 inch of water.

**Mistake 2: Improper fertilization**

Fertilizer provides your lawn with critical nutrients. However, if not applied correctly it can damage your lawn. Every lawn is unique, requiring some research to determine the best fertilizer, technique, frequency and quantity of product.

Pro Tip: Connect with

a lawn care professional to plan a proper fertilization regimen for your lawn's unique needs based on various factors, including your region's climate and grass type.

**Mistake 3: Bagging your lawn clippings**

Think of leaves and trimming as vitamins for your lawn, as they are filled with beneficial nutrients for the soil. Rather than reaching for the trash bag to remove these clippings from your lawn, leave them be. They help your lawn grow stronger and healthier.

Pro Tip: Remove the bag from your mower to disperse the lawn clippings and mow them back into your lawn.

**Mistake 4: Mowing your lawn too short**

When the mower blades are set too low, they can damage the grass plant. Unfortunately, damaged grass is more prone to weeds, drought stress and disease.

Pro Tip: For most grass types, maintain a minimum length of 3 inches to encourage grass to flourish. As a rule of thumb, don't cut more than 1/3 inch of a grass

blade in a single mow.

**Mistake 5: Overlooking weed prevention**

Timing is everything in lawn care. While it can be tempting to plant spring seeds to get your lawn back up to your standards, the best time for seeding is actually in the fall. But keep in mind, there are other critical things that should be tackled this season to achieve a healthy, green lawn.

Pro Tip: Don't wait to protect your lawn from unsightly weeds. Work with a lawn pro to apply a pre-emergent weed control to stop weeds from germinating throughout your lawn.

A green lawn of your dreams is possible when you avoid and correct these common lawn care mistakes. If you have questions or need further expertise to verify your current lawn care habits, consult a lawn care professional at **TruGreen.com**.

\*Survey conducted by OnePoll on behalf of lawn care company TruGreen polling 2,000 Americans with a yard/lawn.

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## Outdoor living trends for 2023

According to leading real estate website Zillow, a functional outdoor space is the most sought-after amenity among today's home-

buyers. For homeowners looking to make the most of their outdoor spaces this year, following are six trends expected to shape backyards in 2023:

**1. Light Neutrals**

Light, neutral hues are permeating home design inside and out due to their ability to create a sense of calm and serenity. Providing the perfect foundation for an on-trend outdoor space is Trex Transcend® Lin-ear™. This low-maintenance composite decking delivers an elevated aesthetic with heat-mitigating technology to reflect the sun and keep boards cooler underfoot.

**2. Mixed Materials**

Gone are the days of matchy-matchy monotony. Today's homeowners are embracing eclectic design schemes with lots of visual interest created by juxtaposing materials like concrete and composite, wicker and aluminum, copper and stone — as well as mixing colors and patterns for added personality and visual intrigue.

**3. Sustainable Selections**

Sustainability is no longer a "nice to have" but a meaningful requirement among increasingly eco-conscious consumers. Made from 95% recycled materials, Trex® composite decking is an eco-friendly choice that outperforms and outlasts natural wood.

**4. Stylish Seclusion**

More than a quarter of all Zillow listings highlight privacy as a selling point. This penchant for stylish seclusion is driving demand for fencing, pergolas, privacy panels and lattice, which create a sense of sanctuary with products that are visually appealing, durable and easy to maintain.

**5. Mood Lighting**

Rising inflation will have homeowners looking for small investments that make a big impact. From candles and string lights to fire features and deck lighting, a little illumination can completely change the look and feel of an outdoor space without breaking the bank.

**6. Added Function and Value**

Make the most of your outdoor space by optimizing the area beneath the deck. With an under-deck drainage system, this space can be used for storage or as a bonus living area. RainEscape® is an innovative system that accommodates electrical and gas lines to power ceiling fans, lighting, appliances and entertainment components, allowing homeowners to achieve the finished look and function of an interior room.

More outdoor living ideas, tips and inspiration can be found at Trex.com.

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# Natural inspiration: 5 ways to maximize the goodness of gardening

Did you know gardening can have a significant, positive impact on people's lives? During the pandemic, 18 million new gardeners turned to their outdoor spaces to relieve the stress and anxiety caused by isolation. In addition to the calming effect that working in and visiting gardens can have on mental and physical health, gardening also teaches valuable life skills. For example, at a community garden in Detroit, homeless women and mothers gained confidence and self-reliance by learning how to grow their own vegetables.

Here are five vital ways gardening can enhance your well-being, along with just a few examples of how they've changed many lives for the better.

## 1. Boost your physical health

Working in your garden is a great way to be more active. According to the CDC, gardening is the second favorite physical activity of older adults (behind walking), pro-

viding moderate physical activity which may help reduce stress, lower your blood pressure and maintain a healthier weight — all factors that can reduce your risk of heart disease, among other benefits. Being outdoors helps you obtain vitamin D from sunshine, boosting your mood and contributing to your body's ability to absorb calcium, which is crucial for bone health, according to the [National Institutes for Health](#). Physical therapy in a garden setting is a proven technique for faster recovery times. As an added bonus, you can grow vegetables and fruits for a more nutrient-rich diet.

## 2. Make social connections

At a vocational therapeutic garden in Chicago, one young man with autism relearned how to communicate verbally after years of being unable to use his voice. This helped him socially, as well as enabling him to get and keep a job. To create your own social



connections, try joining (or volunteering at) a gardening club, working in a community garden or chatting with a neighbor while you're working in your yard.

## 3. Stimulate your brain

Gardening keeps your brain active. Planning your garden, researching plants and methods to help them thrive all increase your scientific knowledge. Learning how plants grow, understanding their life cycle and their impact on pollinators are all vital for appreciating what the earth needs — and how everyone can contrib-

ute. At a prison in Texas, they've reduced the recidivism rate from 35% to 4% thanks to the job training skills parolees learned during a one-year horticulture training program that enabled the parolees to get and keep jobs after release.

## 4. Grow your mood

The Japanese concept of "forest bathing" means immersing yourself in the natural world. Japan made this part of their national health program due to research showing the many health benefits of being in nature. The therapeutic benefits of gardens are widely appre-

ciated, which is why you see therapeutic gardens at hospitals, rehabilitation centers, hospices and other facilities. Research reveals that those who spend time outdoors may experience better recovery, less anxiety or depression and reduced reliance on pain medication. Children in a homeless center in Dallas were given the opportunity to work in gardens, leading to a marked reduction in their aggressive tendencies caused by the uncertainty in their lives.

## 5. Elevate your experience

For many, spending quiet time in nature also helps foster a feeling of connection with all living things. Gardens have long been a feature of spiritual retreats and sanctuaries. If you want to experience calm and tranquility, gardens provide uplifting, serene environments that can help you attain that sense of inner peace.

## Create your ideal garden

Knowing what an

impact gardens and gardening has on people's lives, you may be inspired to create your own, or to reimagine your existing garden. Want to enhance your physical well-being? Grow healthy food, or expand your garden to provide more opportunities for exercise. Looking for connections? Join a garden group or invite friends to garden with you. Aiming to stimulate your brain? Research what grows best in your region or learn about new plants. Interested in boosting your mood? Plant colorful flowers that make you smile and create spaces to relax and enjoy nature. Want to feel uplifted? Create a sanctuary with space for practicing yoga or meditation.

With a little planning, work and time, you can make the most of your garden this season, and you'll be reaping the benefits for years to come. Learn more about the goodness of gardening at [NationalGardenBureau.org](#).

# Garden expert approved: New trends and plants for 2023

No matter where you live or how green your thumb, you can enjoy the beauty and bounty of gardening at home. Now is the ideal time to plan a spring garden that will be the envy of the neighborhood.

The experts at Ball Horticultural Company share their recommended plants, top topics and tips to set up every type of gardener for success this year.

## Plants for your pocketbook

Creating a stunning garden doesn't have to break the bank. To get even more bang for the buck, select hardy plants known to thrive through adversity or fast-spreading flowers that fill in quickly.

New Hula™ Spreading Begonia is a great example of a budget-friendly plant that quickly fills in garden beds with a blanket of high-impact color, covering the soil and discouraging weeds in minimal time. They're bursting with eye-catching blooms, very forgiving for novice gardeners, and are also great for outdoor hanging baskets and mixed containers.

If heat, humidity or drought are a concern for you, opting for resilient flowering plants can help ensure greenery and blooms no matter the weather condition. Angelonia AngelDance™, for example, thrives even in harsh conditions like high heat, producing tall flower spikes that are perfect for that cottage garden vibe. Additionally, because the stems are flexible, they bring awesome movement to your garden and you don't have to worry about breakage.

## Tropical colors delight

Tropical hues are trending, which is evident by the rich, pink shade of Viva Magenta selected as Pantone's 2023 Color of the Year. From deep burgundies to bright, energetic pinks, you can use florals reminiscent of a south beach escape to turn your outdoor space into a personal oasis.

To add instant color to sunny spots, try all-season blooming Easy Wave® Burgundy Velour Petunias either solo or in mixed planters, baskets, gardens and window boxes. Brighten

up shadier spots with the Glimmer™ Burgundy Double Impatiens, which produce beautiful, rose-like blooms that are easy to maintain, as the plant's old blooms do not need to be removed as they fade.

If you live in climates that require low-maintenance plants that can withstand chillier temps, try Oscar® Cherry Velvet Dianthus, which has frost tolerance and a soft floral fragrance. Another hardy option in a vibrant shade is the Sombrero Poco™ Hot Pink Echinacea, a compact version of winter-hardy prairie coneflower, with bright, non-fading blooms. As an added bonus, the plant is known to be deer resistant and attract song birds and butterflies.

## Impress with vegetables

When you grow your own vegetables, you reap even more health benefits, including the positive emotional boost of being outdoors, plus you save money on groceries. This year, try unique home-grown choices that add fresh flavor to your meals and impress guests at your next gathering.

To upgrade your vegetable platter, check out Sun Dipper Tomatoes. Their unique, elongated shape makes them easy

to hold and ideal for dipping into your favorite spreads and party dips. Another visually mesmerizing variety is the Mocha Swirl Snack Pepper from Burpee Plants. This sweet snacking pepper produces 4-inch fruits that ripen green and white at 50 days and then to rich chocolate-red stripes at 70 days.

If you're limited on space, you can still enjoy the benefits of growing your own fresh vegetables by exploring indoor, tabletop options. Kitchen Minis Quick Snack Cucumber are a restricted-vine crispy-and-delicious cuke that can be kept inside on a sunny windowsill or counter for a fresh harvest over a few weeks.

## Living color indoors

Have you recently downsized, or do you live in an apartment, condo or townhome? No matter where you live, you can still enjoy the beauty and benefits of plant parenthood by exploring indoor-flowering varieties that brighten spaces and enhance interior design.

Yellow is reminiscent of sunshine and conveys positive emotions, which is why the ColorBloom™ Gerbera is such a happy addition to indoor spaces. Perfectly happy to grow

in small indoor pots, you'll enjoy long-lasting blooms when you place them in sunny locations throughout the home. If you prefer leafy varieties in your home, try color- and texture-rich foliage plants, such as Jurassic Dino™ Rex Begonia. With bold patterns, including a beautiful rose-pink leaf color with green edges, white dots and a black leaf center, the plant sets the mood



and accents any room. From indoor tabletops to outdoor landscapes, porches and beyond, garden experts agree: There are plenty of plant options to help you create a stunning space this year.

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# Four foolproof ways to add value to your home

Fluctuating interest rates and an ever-changing housing market have inspired many homeowners to reimagine their space, favoring renovation over relocation. Upgrades not only make a home more attractive — they also often bring innovative, low-maintenance solutions, making your most familiar surroundings feel beautiful and comfortable.

With an endless supply of home improvement shows and picturesque inspiration on social media, it can be tricky knowing where to start. That's why we've come up with four simple ways to make your home design dreams come true — while adding lasting value to your property.

## 1. Look for beautiful, durable surfaces

We all know kitchens and bathrooms can make or break the first impression. These spaces are the heart of the home, where we gather, work and play every day. So, these rooms need surfaces that are beautiful and strong. Let's be honest — it's more inspiring to cook when you don't have to worry about stains and scratches. That's why fresh, lasting countertops, flooring, backsplashes and even cabinet cladding are renovation must-haves.

For a transformation that's timeless, consider Cosentino's new **Silestone Ethereal** line. These marble-inspired colorways can elevate surfaces in any space, but they're durable enough for everyday use — making them perfect for bath or kitchen applications. Manufactured with HybriQ Technology, this sustainable product composition uses 99% recycled water and 100% renewable electric ener-

gy. The eco-friendly, stylish collection comes in six unique color selections — two of which are available exclusively at Home Depot:

**Ethereal Indigo:** Striking navy veins on a white canvas bring color and dimension for a modern take on marble.

**Ethereal Cloud:** White cloud-like patterns on a gray backdrop make this sleek countertop the perfect neutral tone for any kitchen.

## 2. Build your outdoor space to last

When it comes to the outdoors, you want materials that can withstand the elements — like **Dekton**. This carbon-neutral product has an ultra-durable surface made of raw materials including quartz, glass and porcelain. The low water absorbing surface is resistant to UV rays, scratches, stains and thermal shock, so it's ideal for flooring, fireplaces, outdoor kitchens and more. Three new color designs are now available at Home Depot, making it easy to customize your space, whether you prefer Dekton Laos, a smooth matte finish perfect for industrial-inspired rooms; Dekton Rem, which combines marble-inspired neutrals with gold; or Dekton Soke, a colorway with rich, textured grays that work well in any space.

## 3. Use lighting to make your space shine

Home lighting is a powerful, often-overlooked design element, which can help show off your other decorative finishes, like surfacing or furniture. Luckily, today's options give homeowners myriad choices to make any room stand out, from fixtures to lightbulbs. Well-placed recessed lighting is al-

ways a functional option, but many contemporary designers recommend creating focal points with bold, sculptural pendant lights. You can also try playing with materials that include natural textures, glass or mixed metals, especially in settings like a sunroom or reading nook. Whether you're going for a traditional look or a mid-century modern feel, thoughtful lighting that accompanies your style is well worth the time and effort.

## 4. Find photo-worthy finishes

Don't forget the finishing touch! While it may seem like a small upgrade, details like faucet or door knob finishes have a big impact on the overall look and feel of your home. Simply put, finishes elevate functional elements to stunning accents. Don't hide handles and faucets — instead, use matte black, brushed metal or even gold to complement or contrast those design features. And don't be afraid to mix and match styles based on each room's cabinetry, countertops or wall color. It's the perfect way to add personal touches to each space.

No matter where you start, you can bring your home to the next level. From installing new surfacing for countertops or vanities to perfect fixtures, there are plenty of creative ways to enhance your home and create lasting value. By choosing high-quality, durable features, you're not just building a more beautiful home — you're creating a more effortless and enjoyable lifestyle, now and for the future.

For more design inspiration that elevates your space, visit [Cosentino.com](http://Cosentino.com).



## Partnering with the pros:

### How to get your lawn ready for spring

If you enjoy time at home these days, you're not alone. According to TruGreen's new survey conducted in collaboration with OnePoll, 69% of Americans spend more time at home than two years ago. And because homeowners enjoy being at home, it's no surprise home improvement remains a priority, with lawns as a top investment in both time and money.

While lawns are valuable to homeowners, so is their time. Rather than tackling lawn maintenance, homeowners would rather be with family and friends (49%), doing outdoor activities (36%) or reading a book (33%).

But with spring around the corner and warmer weather approaching, now is the first — and best time for homeowners to prepare their lawns for the season ahead. Homeowners should partner with a professional for their lawn care this season so you can spend more time doing things you love — while still achieving the lawn of your dreams. TruGreen®, the nation's leading lawn care provider, breaks down tasks you can do, and those better left to professionals to save time and money.

#### What to tackle as the homeowner

Here are the top items to have on your spring lawn maintenance checklist:

- **Prep your lawn mower for a fresh first cut.** After a long winter, your lawnmower needs some love to work at its best. Clean or replace the air filter, change the oil, sharpen the blades and check the spark plug. Once your mower is ready, the first cut is critical to remove dead blades of grass from the past season to wake up the lawn. Always mow grass at the correct height, making sure you don't cut over a third of its height during any single mowing. Most grass types should be kept at least three inches tall, as longer, thicker turf helps combat weeds and conserve water in the soil.
- **Clear debris to allow your lawn to breathe.** As temperatures climb, you may discover your lawn is covered in fallen leaves, sticks and other debris. If you don't remove this debris, your lawn could get smothered and develop unsightly patches, since your lawn and its roots would be prevented from accessing sunlight, air, water and nutrients needed to thrive. Clearing debris also helps professional lawn services be more effective.
- **Quench your lawn's thirst.** Every lawn requires a healthy amount of high-quality H<sub>2</sub>O. While some will come from rainfall, during drier months you may need to use your garden hose or sprinkler system. Aim for about one inch of water per week. An easy way to measure is by spreading a few empty tuna cans across your lawn as you water. When they're full, that's an inch.

**When to call in the pros**  
The spring season brings new beginnings and memories with loved ones outdoors. Partnering with the pros for your lawn maintenance lets you maximize your time, so you can do what you love without compromising your outdoor space.

"Research shows 68% of Americans trust and hire professionals for home improvement tasks, and with the winter blues behind us, don't miss out on this critical season to nurture your dream lawn," said Brian Feldman, director of technical operations at TruGreen. "Whether it's clearing weeds or providing a boost of nutrients to your lawn, partnering with a professional service can help ensure you're on track for a healthy, green lawn all year."

Let the experienced professionals help, here are three tasks better left to the pros:

- **Tackling weeds before they attack your lawn.** No one wants a lawn covered in weeds. Preventive treatments are vital to help fend off annual weeds before they start growing. Starting your lawn care at the right time and under the correct conditions — such as temperature and humidity — is crucial to prevent weeds from germinating, so consult a professional to identify when to start treatments.

- **Fertilizing your outdoor space.** During winter, lawns stay in a hibernating state. Come springtime, they wake up with an appetite, so give your lawn a boost of nutrients with an initial dose of fertilizer. A lawn care professional can ensure this treatment occurs at the best time and in the right amount to bring out the best in your lawn, trees and shrubs.

- **Tailoring a plan for pesky weeds.** Despite your best preventative efforts in the spring, annoying weeds may still pop up. When this happens, a specialist can tailor a post-emergent solution specifically for your outdoor space.

Questions about recovering your lawn after being dormant all winter? Visit [TruGreen.com](http://TruGreen.com) to ensure your lawn is on track for a healthy spring season.

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## 6 tips to keep your home's basement protected from water damage this spring

Springtime's melting snow or heavy rain can cause sump pump problems and sewer backups for homes with basements or crawl spaces. Damage from either can be costly, because sewer backup and sump overflow are excluded from standard homeowners insurance policies. Fortunately, most home insurers do make this coverage available by endorsement.

"Independent insurance agents sell this coverage to about 85% of all homes written with Acuity," said Bob Hertel, director of personal lines product development at Acuity Insurance. "Many homes written with other insurers do not include an endorsement to cover losses caused by sewer backup or sump overflow."

Many municipal sewer systems are outdated, and flooded streets can quickly cause severe water damage to basement walls, flooring, furniture and other personal property. Sump pump maintenance is often ignored until water overflows into the basement. Standing water isn't just difficult to handle, it can be costly too. Over the past five years, Acuity Insurance's average claim payment for sewer backup is \$6,787 and sump pump coverage claims average over \$7,630.

Consider these tips to help protect your home

from sump pump problems and sewer backups this spring:

**Buy a special endorsement that includes coverage for sump overflow and sewer backup.** This endorsement will cover your home and personal property in the event of water damage from a sewer backup or sump overflow.

**Test your sump pump at least once each year.** A simple and effective way to test your sump pump is by pouring water into the sump pit. If the pump does not run, it needs cleaning, repair or replacement. If it requires maintenance, consider assistance from a licensed plumber.

**Replace your pump.** Sump pumps typically should be replaced every five to 10 years. Preventive maintenance is key to your system's longevity. If you don't stay on top of it, you might not notice that your pump needs to be replaced until you need it most.

**Consider purchasing a battery backup sump pump and an alarm system.** A backup battery or generator will ensure your pump does not fail in the event of a power outage. Sump pump alarms are designed to alert you when your sump pit is at risk of overflowing. Many types of alarms are available, with prices ranging from about \$12 up to several hun-

dred dollars for an advanced Wi-Fi system that sends warnings to your smartphone.

**Consider the value of your basement.** Hertel notes that Acuity Insurance's most common endorsement limit is \$5,000, but this is probably not enough for a finished basement. Most companies offer limits up to \$25,000 or more. To determine an appropriate limit, consider what it would cost to replace water damaged walls, floors, furniture and other basement-kept personal property.

**Ensure the sump pump discharge pipe discharges water far enough away from your house.** If the sump pump discharges water too close to your house, the water will seep right back in and cause unnecessary wear on your pump. Ensure the sump water is discharged downhill and far enough away from your house for adequate draining.

"Preventing water from backing up into your home is an important task," Hertel said. "Make sure your home is protected by taking preventive maintenance steps. Even with the best maintenance, some water backup losses cannot be avoided. Contact your independent agent to ensure you have appropriate coverage and limits in case something goes wrong."

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## 5 ways to improve your home's value and appearance with a spring refresh

With the arrival of spring comes renewed inspiration to clean out the cobwebs, get out in the sunshine — and tackle much-needed home improvement projects. Too often we limit the “spring cleaning” energy to overlooked closets, but some of the best opportunities are just outside your home’s four walls. Spring is the perfect time to refresh your home’s exterior, not only to impress your neighbors but to boost your pride in your home — as well as its value.

Whether you plan to stay for many years or plan to sell soon, you don’t have to do a major overhaul to make improvements that offer a great return on investment, enhance your home’s energy efficiency and make it the best-looking house on the block.

Here are five high-impact ways to revamp your home’s exterior this spring.

### 1. Give your landscaping a makeover

Before everything is fully in bloom is a good time to assess what’s working in your yard, and what’s not. Start the season with a clean canvas by picking up leaves, sticks, branches and other debris that may have been collecting in your yard over the long winter months.

You could even make room to add a few colorful new plants or start a vegetable garden. Start planning your flower, vegetable or herb gardens by deciding whether you’ll use containers, raised beds or plant in ground. Use native plants that will thrive in your region all season long and consider the level of upkeep based on your lifestyle. Look for inspiration online and select plants that will complement your home’s exterior or consider coordinating colors with the front door.



Photos courtesy JELD-WEN  
**LANDSCAPE MAKEOVER**

### 2. Welcome visitors to your home with new doors

What’s the first thing people notice about your home? Your front door — also known as the perfect backdrop for those “first day of school” photos coming in just a few short months. Upgrading to a new front door makes a big difference, offering an unmatched opportunity to completely change the look of your home’s exterior with an on-trend paint color or stain and an updated design that’s right for your home. A well-designed door can elevate your home’s style and curb appeal, withstand the elements, and provide better energy efficiency and security.

For example, JELD-WEN fiberglass exterior doors use advanced materials to prevent moisture from getting in the door — which helps prevent rotting, warping and cracking, offering more durability than a wood door.

Their high-density polyurethane foam core is energy efficient, offering five times more insulation than solid wood doors, helping you save money on your energy bill. Plus, you can choose your finish hardware and glass for a fully customized look that matches your home’s style.

JELD-WEN Smooth-Pro Fiberglass Doors have a light brush-stroke texture that can be painted any color. For a more classic look, JELD-WEN Design-Pro Fiberglass Doors are created to resemble the beautiful, natural look of real mahogany, oak or fir woodgrains, featuring high-definition panels with wider profiles to provide more depth and authenticity. Find the option that best suits your style at JELD-WEN.com.



**NEW DOORS**

### 3. See the world clearly through new windows

Your front door is only part of the curb appeal equation. New windows can also have a big impact on the overall look and functionality of your home. Window technology has evolved by leaps and bounds in recent decades, and if your windows haven’t been replaced since cassette tapes were in vogue, your home could benefit from the improved energy efficiency and security new windows can provide.

Window choices can be overwhelming, so it helps to consider your main goals in the most important rooms in your home: will you open and shut them frequently? You also want to consider the best overall style to complement the house. If replacing all the windows is too big of a project for your schedule or your budget, consider replacing any showing signs of disrepair, windows facing the front or those most often used. JELD-WEN offers consumers more information about replacing windows to last.



**NEW WINDOWS**

### 4. Improve your indoor-outdoor living

Does your outdoor space have enough areas to sit and relax? You don’t need a new deck or patio to maximize your yard, but adding shade with a sun sail, pergola or gazebo are just a few options to make your outdoor space more livable. Creating a focal point with a fire pit or water feature can make the space work that much harder for you.

Do you have older lawn furniture that doesn’t exactly invite people to sit and sip tea on a warm afternoon? Ideal furniture is sturdy enough to weather the elements and comfortable enough to keep guests chatting rather than looking for an excuse to call it an early night. Benches and swings are other options to consider for additional seating.

Have you already updated your backyard and outdoor landscaping? Consider remodeling or replacing the entry door between your outdoor and indoor living spaces to maximize the natural light in your home and improve the views of your new outside living area.



**OUTDOOR LIVING**

### 5. Shine a light on your home

When did you last update your home’s lighting? Well-designed lighting makes your home more attractive to guests, especially on warm spring or summer evenings, but good lighting choices — including motion sensors — also impact your home’s security. Walk around your home at dusk to notice areas that could benefit from security lighting, as well as spots where you’d like to hang out with friends and family. No matter your price point or spring-cleaning schedule, there are options to help your home look its best for the new season.



**OUTDOOR LIGHTING**

## 5 resilient flooring trends for spring remodeling season

If the idea of a spring remodel brings equal parts intrigue and dread, starting with your flooring can make the process more appealing. For example, sustainable, resilient flooring comes in a variety of options to both your budget and personal style.

Resilient flooring is a durable type of flooring that includes rubber, linoleum, cork, luxury vinyl tile or sheet vinyl, among others. Increasingly popular in homes across the country, resilient flooring options from Beautifully

Responsible partners are designed with indoor air quality and other important performance factors in mind, but they’re also built to stand up to the rigors of everyday life.

Consider these five home flooring trends for 2023 to help you create a tailored space at home and take the next step by visiting the Design Inspiration section of beautifullyresponsible.com to explore real-world design examples.

1. *Classic Hardwood with a Resilient Twist*

Ideal for kitchens, dining rooms, hallways and home offices, hardwood designs create a timeless foundation for your home with the ability to evolve with your tastes. When you go the resilient flooring route, you’ll find design options for everything from dramatic walnut to stately mahogany. Plus, options like luxury vinyl tile and plank are modular, making installation a little easier for DIYers.

2. *Modern, Stone-Look Flooring*

When it comes to resilient home flooring, stone style designs don’t just look sturdy, they’re durable, too. For example, slate-inspired tiles can add effortless class and character to high-traffic rooms that are cleaned often, such as dining rooms and mudrooms.

Stone-look resilient flooring also gives your floors a stronger ability to adapt to rooms like kitchens and bathrooms, which often see fluctuations in temperature and moisture. Rigid-core flooring,

for example, is one of the fastest growing categories of resilient flooring due to its comfort, durability and ability to resist water.

### 3. Large Format Tiles

Functional rooms like the kitchen are often the heart of the home where people meet to share the adventures of their days. They also often see a lot of dirt, moisture and accidental spills. However, resilient home flooring installations are resistant to scratches and stains, ideal for homes with small children and pets. Plus, they

are easy to clean without the need for harsh chemicals and there’s no grout to maintain. Many resilient flooring options are also available in water-resistant or waterproof varieties.

An option such as large-format tile, including the sheet vinyl category of resilient flooring, can also create the illusion of space in basements, laundry rooms, mudrooms and other areas, making them appear more expansive.

### 4. Statement Designs

Just like a statement piece ties together the perfect outfit, a statement floor can make an impressive focal point in the kitchen, bathroom, basement, laundry room or mudroom. With statement designs from Beautifully Responsible partners, the possibilities are nearly endless with a variety of styles such as Bohemian, Farmhouse, Mid-Century Modern, Minimalist Zen, Scandinavian and more that can appeal to homeowners with different tastes and preferences. Resilient flooring types like luxury vinyl tile and sheet vinyl are also available with textured surfaces to make an additional statement.

### 5. Cozy Spaces

If you’ve found a perfect statement rug, resilient flooring can create an ideal foundation underneath in family rooms, bedrooms, hallways or basements. Many resilient floors are built to provide comfort underfoot, absorb sound and make spaces accessible for all levels of mobility.

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# Five unexpected ways lawns benefit our communities

Lawns are seemingly everywhere and while you may take them for granted, they're actually hard-working members of an ecosystem benefiting urban and suburban spaces in multiple ways. If lawns were eliminated, climate change challenges would significantly increase, including higher air temperatures, more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and less oxygen. Lawns are surprisingly good at capturing rain; without them, rainfall would run off instead of infiltrating the ground, increasing flooding. Lawns also capture a wide variety of environmental pollutants, so without them there would be more air pollution.

"It's interesting how little most people know about the environmental benefits of natural grass lawns and green spaces," said Britt Wood, CEO, National Association of Landscape Professionals. "People have long known about the benefits of trees — but less about the benefits their lawns deliver."

## How lawns benefit your environment

Here are facts from The Lawn Institute you might not know about how grass lawns contribute to the well-being of communities.

**1. Breathe easier:** One 5,000-square-foot grass lawn can produce enough oxygen daily to support 14 to 34 people.

**2. Reduce carbon dioxide:** Tackling climate change involves finding places to store carbon

from the atmosphere. Carbon modeling of a suburban home on a half-acre lot, with landscape beds, shrubs, trees and a grass lawn, indicates the lawn is responsible for 81-90% of the carbon captured. In a recent study of a typical metropolitan area, low- and medium-density residential lots accounted for over 50% of carbon captured in urban green spaces.

**3. Keep cool:** You've probably done it — walking barefoot on an asphalt street in the summer can be painfully hot. How did you find relief? You headed for the nearest lawn. Lawns can be up to 60 degrees cooler than surrounding pavement. Plants, including natural turfgrass, act like air conditioners due to a naturally occurring cooling process known as evapotranspiration.

**4. Lessen flooding:** Lawns naturally provide excellent water filtration, sediment reduction, runoff control, flood control and pollutant reduction. Natural grass has also been shown to reduce runoff and soil erosion from 6-18 times greater than bare soil.

**5. Increase home values:** Aesthetics matter. A well-maintained lawn increases home values an estimated 10-15%, and a consumer survey by the NALP found 79% of Americans believe a lawn is an important feature when renting or buying a home.

From battery-powered



mowers and irrigation with smart sensors that detect rainfall to soil sensors and more, today's lawn care practices are evolving to be more sustainable in caring for backyard and neighborhood green spaces, so they'll provide even greater environmental benefits.

## Common myths about lawns

**Myth:** Still on the fence about natural grass? Here are facts that set the record straight about lawns.

**Fact:** Not true. The average lawn contains a variety of species of grasses, plants and weeds.

**Myth:** Lawns don't support biodiversity.

**Fact:** The soil underneath lawns teems with life: as many as 52 different arthropod families, 28 genera of nematodes plus a complex network of micro-organisms.

**Myth:** Lawns use too much water.

**Fact:** Most suburban homes don't use irrigation (only 37% of new homes in 2020 were built with irrigation sys-

tems, according to the Irrigation Association). Many lawns in non-arid areas get much or all needed moisture from rainwater. In addition, turfgrass researchers have been developing new varieties requiring little to no additional water.

**Myth:** Lawns are a waste of time and resources.

**Fact:** According to a survey by the NALP, 79% of Americans say having a lawn is important to them. Working and playing in yards reduces stress and encourages physical activity, and doctors agree that fresh air, sunshine and exercise are beneficial for physical and mental health.

**Myth:** Lawn pesticides are unsafe.

**Fact:** Pesticides are among the most rigidly regulated commodities in the U.S., undergoing a rigorous approval process by the EPA that often takes over a decade. According to the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, 77% of Americans are not opposed to residential

pesticide use, because they want to protect their families from invasive species and diseases caused by insects.

## Stewarding local green spaces is vital

The U.S. is a vast country with many different climates. In areas with adequate rainfall, lawns comprise a valuable part of the environment. Where water is scarce, however, chosen plants and grasses should be drought-resistant and well-adapted to thrive in local conditions. If towns and cities have fewer green spaces, res-

idents will struggle with rainwater runoff issues and heat island effects, highlighting the need for appropriate green space management nationwide.

"The more people know about the environmental benefits of green spaces, the better equipped they are to make good choices about prioritizing their care," concluded Wood.

To learn more about how to care for your lawn and maximize its environmental benefits, visit TruthAboutLawns.org.

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# Planning the perfect above-ground pool deck

You've finally decided to take the plunge and break ground on a new above-ground pool. Congratulations! Chances are, you'll want to surround your latest backyard addition with a beautiful new deck. However, the process of designing and building a deck for an above-ground pool is quite different than a traditional deck that attaches to your home. So, before you cannonball into the deep end, consider the following tips from the experts at Decks.com:

## 1) Go Pro or DIY?

Your first decision is whether you want to build the pool deck yourself or hire a contractor. Consider your skill level, the amount of time you have available, and your budget. No matter which

route you choose, there are plenty of helpful resources online, such as the Decks.com DIY Deck Building Guide.

## 2) Crack the Codes

Be sure to review local building codes related to decks around pools. Slip resistance, gaps between deck boards, gapping between the deck and pool, and the slope of the deck may be regulated. Installing a self-closing gate with a lock on your pool deck may also be required to prevent access by unsupervised children.

## 3) Pool First, Then Deck

First things first. It's essential to install your pool before building the deck. While above-ground pools have standard wall heights, every pool will be slightly different. Don't

take a chance on building a deck that may not align with the new centerpiece of your backyard.

## 4) Self-sufficient Support

Decks constructed around above-ground pools should not be attached to the pool. The structure should be free-standing and sufficiently stable on its own. Ideally, the deck should be built directly under the lip of the pool edge and laterally braced from the joists to the bottom of the posts. Check with your local municipality for approved lateral bracing.

## 5) Protect Your Investment

Decks built around pools are especially susceptible to moisture, which contributes to mold growth and rotting. If you

plan to build with wood, it is a good practice to install waterproofing tape, such as Trex®Protect™, over joists and beams to protect the decking substructure from standing water.

## 6) Factor in Fencing

Most jurisdictions mandate that any yard with a pool must also have a fence as a safety precaution. If you don't already have a fence, be sure to earmark part of your budget to cover the construction or installation of one, and make sure your fence complies with local building codes.

Having a gorgeous deck to accompany your new pool will elevate the look and functionality of your outdoor space while giving you plenty of room to make the most of your aquatic amenity.

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GEORGIA MILESTONES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN EMANUEL COUNTY

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) is a comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students in grades 3 through 8 take an end-of-grade assessment in English Language Arts and mathematics while students in grades 5 and 8 are assessed in science and students in grade 8 are assessed in social studies.

The Georgia Department of Education has given local school systems scheduling flexibility for the FY23 Georgia Milestones End of Grade assessments. Emanuel County Schools has opted to use this flexibility. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the GMAS End of Grade assessments on the following days in 2023:

Dates	Elementary School	Middle School
Wednesday, April 19		ELA Section 1 - Grades 6, 7, 8
Thursday, April 20		ELA Sections 2 and 3 - Grades 6, 7, 8
Friday, April 21		Math Sections 1 and 2 - Grades 6, 7, 8
Monday, April 24		Science Sections 1 and 2 - Grade 8
Tuesday, April 25	ELA Section 1 - Grades 3, 4, 5	Social Studies Sections 1 and 2 - Grade 8
Wednesday, April 26	ELA Section 2 - Grades 3, 4, 5	Makeup Day - Grades 6, 7, 8
Thursday, April 27	ELA Section 3 - Grades 3, 4, 5	Makeup Day - Grades 6, 7, 8
Friday, April 28	Makeup Day - Grades 3, 4, 5	Makeup Day - Grades 6, 7, 8
Monday, May 1	Makeup Day - Grades 3, 4, 5	
Tuesday, May 2	Math Sections 1 & 2 - Grades 3, 4, 5	
Wednesday, May 3	Science Sections 1 and 2 - Grade 5	
Thursday, May 4	Makeup Day - Grades 3, 4, 5	
Friday, May 5	Makeup Day - Grades 3, 4, 5	
Monday, May 8	Makeup Day - Grades 3, 4, 5	

Given data collected for the 2022-2023 school term will be baseline data, Emanuel County Schools is exercising the right afforded by the flexibility waiver (SWSS) to make promotion/retention decisions based on a totality of evidence rather than a single standardized test score, therefore, EOG retests will not be administered. Student scores on the Georgia Milestones are still important in determining student growth and learning. These assessments give students the opportunity to show what they have learned as well as providing teachers with information to help plan instruction.

Students who are prepared, calm, and rested perform better on tests. Here are some of the many ways to help your student approach Georgia Milestones in a relaxed, positive way:

- Encourage your student to employ good study and test-taking skills. These skills include following directions carefully, avoiding careless errors, and reviewing work.
- Explain the purpose of the tests. The assessments give students an opportunity to show what they have learned in school. They also give teachers information that helps them plan instruction. Point out that some items may be more difficult than others.
- Be certain your student gets plenty of sleep and has a healthy breakfast and lunch. Taking tests is hard work for many students and can require a lot of energy.
- Be certain your student is at school on time. Rushing and worrying about being late could affect performance on the tests.
- Remember to ask your student about the testing at the end of each day.
- Encourage your student to practice using the online system at: <http://www.gaexperienceonline.com/>
- There are study guides listed on the Ga Department of Education Assessment website - <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/EOg-Study-Resource-Guides.aspx>

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**Seeds of Hope**

Many lament the spiritual decline in our nation. We see a culture in decline and the rising tide of secularism. We know that our God is powerful - that He can dominate the lives of those who profess to love Him - if they will only allow Him. He is willing and able. But we must become willing and available if we want renewal and revival. The responsibility is on us. The possibility is with Him. God's children in all ages come close to and then turn away from Him. It's as though at some point in time God becomes a liability, a burden, an interloper in the lives of those who profess Him as Lord. He seems to get in the way or He keeps them from enjoying the things in life that bring delight and pleasure to so many. But this God, our God, Who is willing and waiting on those who are also willing to "call on His name." And that just may be the problem. In Scripture, name always refers to the nature or the character or the identity of the person. And when we think of the name of God we must always associate it with holiness, purity, righteousness, sacrifice, justice, mercy, grace, love and compassion. The writer of Psalm 80 asks "revive us," or "quicken us" and "restore us that we may be saved." Surely, God will do this because He wants to do this. But we cannot expect Him to do this unless we are willing to identify with His character and repent and become as He is. If we want things to revive, revival must begin in each of us.

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