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VOLUME 164, NO.27 Swainsboro, Georgia • July 5, 2023 ONE DOLLAR

STC and Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America Memorandum of Understanding to hold signing ceremony

Southeastern Technical College and Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America (HMGMA) will sign an MOU regarding STC beginning an Electric Vehicle Professional Technical Certificate of Credit to train potential employees for HMGMA. The event will be held at Southeastern Technical College's Main Building at 3001 E 1st Street in Vidalia, Georgia 30474 on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, Ceremony

begins at 11 a.m. During the event, attendees will have the opportunity to interview STC President Calhoun, HMGMA President and CEO Oscar Kwon, Georgia Senate Appropriations Chair Blake Tillery.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Southeastern Technical College Website: www.southeasterntech.edu Georgia Department of Economic Development: https://www.georgia.org/

hyundaimotorgroup Hyundai Group Metaplant America (HMGMA): https://www.linkedin.com/company/hyundai-motor-group-metaplant-america hmgma/jobs/ Respond for Attendance Confirmation and Reserved Seating: Barry Dotson, bdotson@southeasterntech.edu, Office Phone, 912-538-3141. Mobile Phone, 912-293-2676



GMA PRESIDENT AND TIFTON MAYOR JULIE SMITH, TWIN CITY MAYOR MATT DONALDSON, MUNICIPAL TRAINING BOARD VICE CHAIR AND PELHAM MAYOR JAMES EUBANKS AND UGA CUIOG ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR MARA SHAW

Mayor Matt Donaldson receives Certificate of Distinction

Twin City Mayor Matt Donaldson received the prestigious Certificate of Distinction award from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute during the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) Annual Convention in Savannah on June 26. The Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute, a cooperative effort of GMA and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, provides a nationally recognized series of training opportunities for elected city officials.

"This is an outstanding achievement," said GMA CEO and Executive Director Larry Hanson. "We commend Mayor Donaldson for this accomplishment and for the dedication they have shown in using this valuable

resource to become a more effective city official." To receive a Certificate of Distinction a city official must complete a minimum of 204 units of credit, including at least 72 hours from a required list of courses and the Robert E. Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute. The training program consists of more than 70 courses.

"We are proud of our partnership with GMA to provide high-quality, relevant training to Georgia's more than 3,500 municipal officials," said UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government Director Rob Gordon. "The institute remains committed to being the trusted resource that city officials across Georgia turn to for leadership and professional devel-

opment training that makes a difference in the lives of the citizens they represent."

About the Georgia Municipal Association: Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and consulting services to all of Georgia's 537 cities. GMA anticipates and influences the forces shaping Georgia's cities and to provide leadership, tools and services that assist municipal governments in becoming more innovative, effective, and responsive. Created in 1933, the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. For more information, visit www.gacities.com.



Photo by Brittany Hall
NOLAN WILLIAMS ENJOYING THE FIREWORKS

Second annual Freedom Fest a success

"I love how no matter what you're doing or how old you get; you still stop everything and look at the sky the moment you see fireworks." Brittany Hall wrote Saturday after sharing this photo she took of her son, Nolan, as he stared in awe at the red bombs bursting in air during Saturday evenings fireworks show in Downtown Swainsboro. 9-year-old Nolan is the son of Forest Blade Editor and Journalist, Brittany Hall, and Stephen "Kyle" Williams of Swainsboro. Together, the family enjoyed the festival especially seeing the joy it brought to their sons' face. From eating snow cones, to spraying Sheriff Brewer with a water gun, to dancing until the sun went down and ending the night with a phenomenal fireworks show, Nolan says, "I will never forget it!"

The Swainsboro Jaycees hosted the second annual Freedom Fest in Downtown Swainsboro on Saturday, July 1. This year's event was the first that the red, wet, and blue parade was held on North and West Main Street. In a recent post, the Jaycee's thanked the many local businesses and sponsors for their collaborative effort in making July 2023's Freedom Fest a success:

"Thank you to our sponsors the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber, the Pine Tree Festival & Southeast GA Timber EXPO, Daniels Chevrolet, Buick, GMC Trucks Inc. and The City of Swainsboro. Thank you to the Swainsboro Downtown Development Authority for handling the vendors and food trucks. Thank you to Clearwater for their ser-

vices in keeping the city clean and well lit. Thank you to Swainsboro Police Department for keeping us all safe and controlling our parade crowds with your water guns. Thank you, Swainsboro Fire Dept., for cooling us down with Ladder 7, the splash pad and the Firewatch during the fireworks. Thank you to Citizens Bank of Swainsboro for sponsoring this year's Downtown Get-down and all of the wonderful talent that played at the Boneyard last night. Thank you to our fireworks firing crew James Anthony Ward, Jamey Chalker Darren McGee, Josh Bedgood and Travis Bishop. Surely lastly but not least THANK YOU citizens of Emanuel County for showing up and showing out. We had a blast, and we hope you did too."

Twin City included in \$17.3 million dollars to fund Transportation Infrastructure projects

Governor Brian Kemp and the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) Board of Directors announced the approval of \$17.3 million in Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) loans and grants that will help fund seven transportation infrastructure projects across the state. Since 2010, GTIB has awarded \$200 million in grants and loans investing in projects with a combined project value exceeding \$1 billion, demonstrating the impact of the state's investment and outstanding partnerships with local governments and community improvement districts (CIDs) in Georgia over the past 13 years. The considerable and wide-ranging GTIB funding during Governor Kemp's first

term is a testament to his administration's commitment to increasing Georgia's mobility, positively impacting the state's economy.

"Georgia is in the midst of a second industrial revolution, and as a result the need to further build out our infrastructure has never been greater," said Governor Brian Kemp. "Thanks to SRTA, this year we are

able to fund all of the rural projects that submitted an application for this statewide program. With these substantial awards, we are paving the way for economic growth, expanded opportunities, and seamless mobility for all hardworking Georgians, regardless of their zip code. Together, we continue to build a stronger (Continued on page 2A)

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Twin City included...

(From front page) Georgia, one road at a time." Since its inception in 2010, GTIB has provided strategic state investments in critical transportation projects that enhance mobility in local communities throughout Georgia. Applications are evaluated on a competitive basis. Criteria include transportation/engineering merit, economic merit, matching funds, and project specifics such as project phase and feasibility. Loan applications are also evaluated for creditworthiness and overall project merits. An advisory committee comprised of representatives from state agencies and statewide associations evaluate SRTA staff recommendations and make final recommendations to the SRTA Board. Funds distributed by GTIB are

used for capital expenses related to road and bridge infrastructure work. "Transportation infrastructure projects often entail large upfront costs. Having the options of grants and low interest loans from the state not only makes these projects more affordable but reduces the pressure on local budgets to support other important services to citizens," said SRTA Executive Director Jannine Miller. "Serving as a funding partner with local communities, cities and counties to build transportation projects that promote economic development and mobility is a win-win for Georgia's citizens and businesses." The GTIB application window started October 24th and closed on Wednesday, January 20, 2023. Fiscal Year

2023 awardees, project descriptions, and funding amounts are as follows: **City of Twin City Revitalization Road Project** This project will resurface thirteen roads in the city for a distance of approximately five miles. The addition of GTIB funding will expedite the project by approximately ten years. For more information about the GTIB program, visit www.srta.ga.gov/gtib. Twin City Mayor, Matt Donaldson said, "We are excited about this new grant award. With the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank grant and loan and additional city match funds, we will be resurfacing thirteen city streets. This funding will expedite our resurfacing plan by 10 years.

The total project cost is \$1 million, with the city match being \$400,000. The thirteen proposed city streets are: Paradise Road, Stokes Avenue, Eastside Road, Old Statesboro Road, Maple Street, Palm Street, S. College Street, Mathis Avenue, Princess Street, King Street, Rainbow Ridge, Allen Street, and S. Railroad Avenue." **Press Contacts:** Garrison Douglas - Press Secretary, Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp, garrison.douglas@georgia.gov; Carter Chapman - Deputy Press Secretary, Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp, carter.chapman@georgia.gov; Ericka Bayonne - Chief Communications Officer, State Road and Tollway Authority, ebayonne@srta.ga.gov

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OPHTHALMOLOGY	Kent Price, M.D. (800) 241-2450	South East Eye 125-A Victory Drive	1st Thursday of Every Month
PSYCHOLOGIST	John C. Whitley (706) 228-5006	Senior Center	1st Monday of Every Month
RETINA	Robert Lalane, M.D. (800) 487-2248	125-A Victory Drive	3rd Monday of Every Month

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The Forest-Blade

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VETERANS AT MONDAY'S MEETING

Veterans discuss WAA 2023

The Veterans at the Library held their weekly meeting, Monday, July 3, 2023, at 9:15 a.m. With Chair John Tapley presiding, there were 38 in attendance including two new veterans: Brittany Cleninger served in the U.S. Army from October 31, 2011, through July 28, 2013. She served at Fort Drum, NY with the 3BSTB, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. Her highest rank was E3. Ronald Moore served in the U.S. Army from June 1987

through June 2007. He served at Fort Bragg, Fort Benning, Hunter Army Airfield and the Panama Canal. He also served in combat during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Just Cause. His highest rank was E-5. Chair Tapley welcomed the new veterans and passed out more of the cards that were given to veterans to attend the weekly Monday morning breakfast. If you are a veteran, please feel free to meet

with the Veterans at the library at 9:15 a.m. each Monday morning. They would be glad to have you. Chair Tapley talked a little about the positive effect that the Veterans are having on the community through their annual "Wreaths Across America" project. The Wreaths Across America main event will take place on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at the Swainsboro City Cemetery on December 16th. They have set a goal this year for over

2,000 wreaths to be placed all throughout Emanuel County with many church groups participating. If your

church would like to be a part of the WAA 2023, please get in touch with Jane Durden at 478-494-4113 or e-mail her

at hsdurden@bellsouth.net for more information about how to get involved for your cemetery.



CLENINGER AND MOORE

Have you seen Jo-Jo?

On Saturday, July 1, Jo-Jo and his owner Rick were sitting at the fountain in the Courthouse Square waiting for the fireworks to begin. As the show started, Jo-Jo got scared and ran from Rick in the direction of North Green Street. Jo-Jo is a white Jack Russell with a black spot on his lower left side, tail, and right eye, and two black pointy ears. He is very friendly but may be timid and scared right now. If you see Jo-Jo, please contact Rick at 478-304-2159. Help us to reunite them! Thank you.



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THE PATHLIGHTERS

Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church to hold 117th Homecoming celebration

Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church will have their 117th Homecoming service on Sunday, July 16. The morning service will begin at 10:30 a.m. with featured singers, the Pathlighters, a gospel trio from Blackshear. Afterwards, a covered-dish meal will be provided for all to enjoy.

The church, established in 1906 across the road from the brush arbor where meetings initially began, is located at 1593 Mt. Olivet Church Road near Garfield.

Pastor Randy Graham says, "Please join us for a wonderful day in the Lord's house. We look forward to seeing all of our family and friends, and reminiscing and worshipping together. Please bring a friend and a hearty appetite for a blessing and a great meal." If anyone has questions or would like more information, the pastor can be contacted at (478) 484-0548 or on Facebook.

Everyone is invited to celebrate.

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 6:00 PM - Evening Worship

Wednesday Night

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



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W. Marvin Riner Sr., 92

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Mr. W. Marvin Riner Sr., age 92, of Macon, formerly of Swainsboro, on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, June 28, at 2 p.m. in the Peebles-Curry Memorial Chapel with Rev. Emory Fennell officiating. Interment followed in the Rehoboth Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Kite. The family received friends one hour prior to the service.

Pallbearers were Sherman Minshew, Chris Riner, Clint Canady, Brandon Canady and Braylon Riner.

Mr. Riner was born February 13, 1931, in Toombs County, to the late Martin Clinton and Eady Kersey Riner. Marvin called Swainsboro home for over 50 years. He was a tractor mechanic at Roberts-Cruce Tractor Company until it was bought by John Rountree and renamed Emanuel County Tractor Sales. Marvin continued to work for Mr. Rountree until he retired around 1993. Upon retirement, he and his wife moved to a piece of property they purchased on Murder Creek near Lake Sinclair in Putnam County. They moved to Macon in 2007 to be near their children. Marvin was a devoted husband and father. He enjoyed fishing, camping, traveling



RINER

the country, gardening and being with his family. In addition to his parents, Mr. Riner is preceded in death by his loving wife of 62 years, Julia Loyd Riner; sisters, Willie Mae Steptoe, Lucille Forehand and Louise Ireland; and brother, M.C. Riner.

Survivors include two daughters, Audrey Canady of Aurora, CO and Sheila Renee McRae (Bruce) of Byron; son, Marvin Riner Jr. (Kathy) of Reynolds; sister, Jessie Nell Johnson of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Chris Riner (Michelle), Clint Canady (Christina) and Brandon Canady (Crystal); great-grandchildren, Braylon Riner (Kalaylah), Skylar Riner, Cooper Canady, Connor Canady and Cayde Canady; great-great-grandchildren, Gage Riner and Finley Riner; nieces, nephews and extended family.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

Elijah Moody, 72

Elijah Moody, 72, of Twin City, passed away Thursday, June 22, 2023, at Memorial Medical Center in Savannah. Funeral service will be Saturday, July 1, at 11 a.m. at Whitaker Funeral Home in Metter. Burial will follow in the Swainsboro City Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, June 30, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Whitaker Funeral Home.

Mr. Moody was born in Bulloch County to Juanita Collins and Fleming Moody, Sr. He attended the public schools of Bulloch and Emanuel County. In 1970, Mr. Moody married the former Katherine Monroe. In 1972, he started a landscaping and cleaning business that he successfully ran for 38 years. He was a member of Newton Grove Baptist Church. Mr. Moody is preceded in death by his parents; two children, Andrea Moody and Veronica Moody; grandchild, Ricky Lee; two sis-

ters, Ruby Joe Williams and Gloria Washington; and two brothers, Fleming Moody Jr. and Plaza Moody.

Mr. Moody leaves to cherish his memories with his wife, Katherine Moody; two children, Angela Moody Howard (Willie) of Clio and Regenia Benson (Thomas) of Mobile, AL; five grandchildren, Angelica Moody, Elijah Jones, Rhikanna McMillan (Tychon), Laila Jones and Richard Lee, all of Twin City; five great-grandchildren, A'jlah Nobles, Justin Nobles Jr., Makalyn Moody, Brycen Moody and Embrii Moody; three sisters, Carolyn George, Catherine Gidden both of Twin City, and Jewel LaCue of Augusta; two brothers, Isaac Moody (Laura) of Delray Beach, FL and Kennedy LaCue (Veronica) of Twin City; a host of nieces and nephews.

Services are entrusted to Whitaker Funeral Home of Metter.

New Mount Moriah to celebrate 136 years

New Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church celebrates 136 years of service and grace. The anniversary program will be Sunday, July 16, at 2 p.m. The theme will be "Jesus, (he's) our rock", with guest speaker Rev. Leroy Williams from Fountain Inn, SC.

Everyone is invited and dinner will be served.

Twin City Methodist Church to hold VBS

Twin City Methodist Church will hold Vacation Bible School Sunday, July 9 through Wednesday, July 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Love in Action Worship Center to host VBS

Love in Action Worship Center will have Vacation Bible School Wednesday, July 5 through Friday, July 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. nightly and Saturday, July 8 will be FUNDAY from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All ages are welcome.

Betty Jean Faircloth Oglesby, 80

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Mrs. Betty Jean Faircloth Oglesby, age 80, of Swainsboro, on Saturday, July 1, 2023, at her residence with her family by her side. Funeral service will be Thursday, July 6, at 3 p.m. at the United Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Paul Thomas officiating. Interment will follow in Ebenezer Greenleaf Cemetery in the Kemp Community. Family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Pallbearers are Danny Wayne Faircloth, David Faircloth, Hunter Oglesby, Mark Oglesby, Jamie Howell, Larry Morrison and Johnny Ray Stafford.

Mrs. Oglesby was born July 30, 1942, in Swainsboro, to the late Gordon and Nora Mae Price Faircloth. She was employed for twenty plus years at Miami Carey in Swainsboro. Betty Jean was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who enjoyed good food, spending time with her family and watching TV. She was married to the late Lewis Edward Oglesby for 63 years. Mrs. Oglesby is preceded in death by her parents; husband; and brother, Sammy Faircloth.

Survivors include her sons, Mark Oglesby (Libby) and Michael



OGLESBY

Oglesby, all of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Krystal Oglesby, Ashley Ann Oglesby, Kristie Barette, Hunter Oglesby and Raelyn Oglesby; sisters, Rebecca Faircloth Roghelia (Carl), Mary Sue Faircloth Snedaker (Ray), both from Swainsboro, and Brenda Faircloth Henry (Ronnie) of Waycross; sister-in-law, Joann Braddy of Summertown; nieces, nephews, and extended family.

The family would like to express their deepest heartfelt thanks to the staff at the Community Hospice and Dr. Ray in Vidalia, and the United Primitive Baptist Church.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made in her memory to: United Primitive Baptist Church, 242 W. Main Street, Swainsboro, GA 30401.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

Jimmy Thomas Claxton, 66

Mr. Jimmy Thomas Claxton, 66, of Metter, passed away Thursday, June 29, 2023, at Emanuel Medical Center in Swainsboro. Memorial service was held Saturday, July 1, at 3 p.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Lamar Kersey officiating. The family received friends Saturday, July 1, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Mr. Claxton was born December 9, 1956, to Richard Claxton, Sr. and Katherine Flanders Claxton. He loved to ride, going to the auction, hunting and fishing. Jimmy was a jack of all trades and could fix anything and was a very good mechanic. He was a member of BoogerBear Branch hunting club, and was of the Baptist faith. Mr. Claxton is preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Dorothy Wall and

Shelia Scott Howard, 51

Shelia Scott Howard, age 51, of Swainsboro, passed away Thursday, June 22, 2023. A Celebration of Life was held Tuesday, June 27, at 11 a.m. at The Greater St. James Baptist Church with Rev. Melvin Adams Jr. presiding. Interment followed in the Swainsboro City Cemetery.

Shelia was born April 29, 1972, in Swainsboro, to the late Jimmy Scott and Bertha O. Moore. She was a loving mother, devoted wife, and friend. Shelia's days were spent gardening, decorating, exchanging laughter, and preparing delicious meals. She had an amazing smile and caring personality. Mrs. Howard is preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Alvin Owens.

Mrs. Howard leaves to cherish her memories with her husband of 19 years, Leonard Howard Jr. of Swainsboro; sons, Jacquez (Bianca) Scott of Baltimore, MD, Keanu



CLAXTON

Bobbie Jean Tapley; and brother, Douglas Claxton, Sr.

Mr. Claxton is survived by his companion, Bonnie Leslie of Twin City; brother, Richard Claxton Jr. (Sara) of Swainsboro; sister, Sarah McGraw (Harry "Crow") of Wadley; sister-in-law, Patsy Claxton of Swainsboro; several special nieces, nephews and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.



HOWARD

Warren and Shekinah Scott, both of Savannah; daughter, Zakkia Jones of Swainsboro; stepdaughter, Myhisha Howard of North Augusta, SC; sister, Angela Scott of Augusta; brothers, Donald B. Owens of Augusta, Corey Scott and Benjamin Scott, both of Swainsboro, Greg Scott and Todd Scott, both of LaGrange; special friend, Meisha (Frank) Shedrick of Swainsboro; five grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Editorials Columns

A flight to remember

Summertime weather around here can be brutal. When the heat and humidity team up like it has for the past few days, everything slows down to an oppressive crawl. It's not dog days, too early for that, it's just the normal "welcome to July in the South" kind of weather. It could be 120 degrees in the Arizona desert, and it wouldn't come close to the feeling of that thick blanket of motionless heat that's waiting on you right outside the back door. Besides just being uncomfortable, that kind of weather can create powerful forces of nature that we often don't properly respect. That was the kind of weather I remember on a day back in 1991 when I got a little lesson from mother nature.

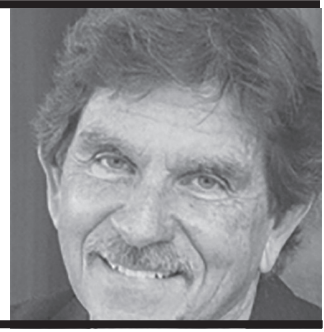
At that time, I was working for a company

that did business all over the state of Georgia and used private aviation to cut down on travel time. There were three pilots in the company, and we flew somewhere just about every week. On this particular day, we were racing to meet a deadline to get a proposal to Atlanta for an upcoming state project. Time was running short, and the only way we could meet the deadline was to fly the proposal to Atlanta. I pleaded my case to one of the pilots, who will remain nameless, and he agreed to make the trip. Hurrying to the airport, he instructed me to call for a weather advisory. The report was not terrible, but it also was not great. Thunderstorms were expected, but there was a short window if we left immediately. One rule I learned about flying

was if there is any doubt about anything, then you don't go. Unfortunately, we didn't follow that rule that day. Ignoring good sense and feeling bulletproof, we took off into a blue sky that was rapidly turning a dark electric gray with large rolling clouds colliding behind us. If you are airborne, one of the worst sights you can see, especially from a small airplane cockpit is an anvil cloud. This is a huge, high-altitude cloud that looks just like an anvil. It has the potential for powerful downdrafts, torrential rain, heavy lightning, and ice particles even in the middle of July. In the time it took you to read that last sentence, a giant anvil cloud appeared out of nowhere and closed in on us. In seconds, the single engine airplane flipped inverted. I knew

that because everything in my pockets was now on the upside-down roof of the cabin. Just that quickly everything went completely black, and buckets of water slammed against the windshield and fuselage. The pilot got control back and righted the plane, but visibility was zero, and the vertical speed indicator was pegged out at the maximum reading. We were caught in the unforgiving grip of a super violent down draft and losing altitude quickly. With lightning popping all around, turbulence threw the plane up then spiraled down and around. Nobody said a word; we were too busy looking for the ground. Finally, the pilot said, "if you see a way out, let me know." Frankly, I was hoping for a little more assurance that things

Charles Schwabe



were going to be okay, but the pilot was busy doing just what the manual prescribed. We were now flying straight and level and earnestly looking for an escape hatch from this nightmare of a storm. Sure enough, we spotted a glimpse of a broken patch of blue below us, and we dove for it. Twenty minutes later, we landed in Atlanta and hand delivered the proposal to its destination. During the return trip home, we spotted that same anvil cloud sitting over Macon. Out of respect for mother nature, we made a big, wide detour to stay as far away as we possibly

could. I thoroughly enjoyed flying in those days, but I never had quite the same enthusiasm for it after that experience. There were many more trips following that one, and the pleasure of flying never really left me, but the life lessons of that stormy summer day remain with me and have had a lasting influence. Whenever I see or hear an approaching thunderstorm, I'm always glad to have my feet on the ground, and I always remember coming back to Swainsboro at the end of that hot, precarious summer day in 1991 as my most favorite flight ever.

The Fourth

As you are reading this, the Fourth would have passed, but I have fifties memories to share. The Fourth was the only outstanding holiday to celebrate and break the tedious days of the long sweaty summer. The swimming pool and rotating fan was our only relief from heat, mosquitos, gnats, and the scent of citronella. Labor Day was not recognized until much

later. It had been a long time since Easter and Thanksgiving was in the far future. (Oops! I forgot Halloween.) The Fourth was a time when all business around the square, post office, courthouse and banks closed down to celebrate the birthday of our great country. The day was spent with family reunions and barbeques. The Proctors gathered at the Canoochee home of

my Aunt Mae Brown and her husband, Jim Raleigh Brown that we all called Uncle Punk. Family members came from as far away as Dublin, Adrian, Summit Savannah, and of course, Swainsboro. The most distant guest was Aunt Ruth Thompson who lived in Marshallville, and always brought a big basket of Georgia peaches. The huge hog had been split down the

middle and spread over wire fencing stretched over a pit dug in the ground, and had been cooking since crack of dawn, and watched over by Uncle Punk. This was long before the charcoal grill. Aunt Mae provided a wash pot of Brunswick Stew. By noon all was prepared with barbequed meat chopped from carcass and smothered with Uncle Punk's original

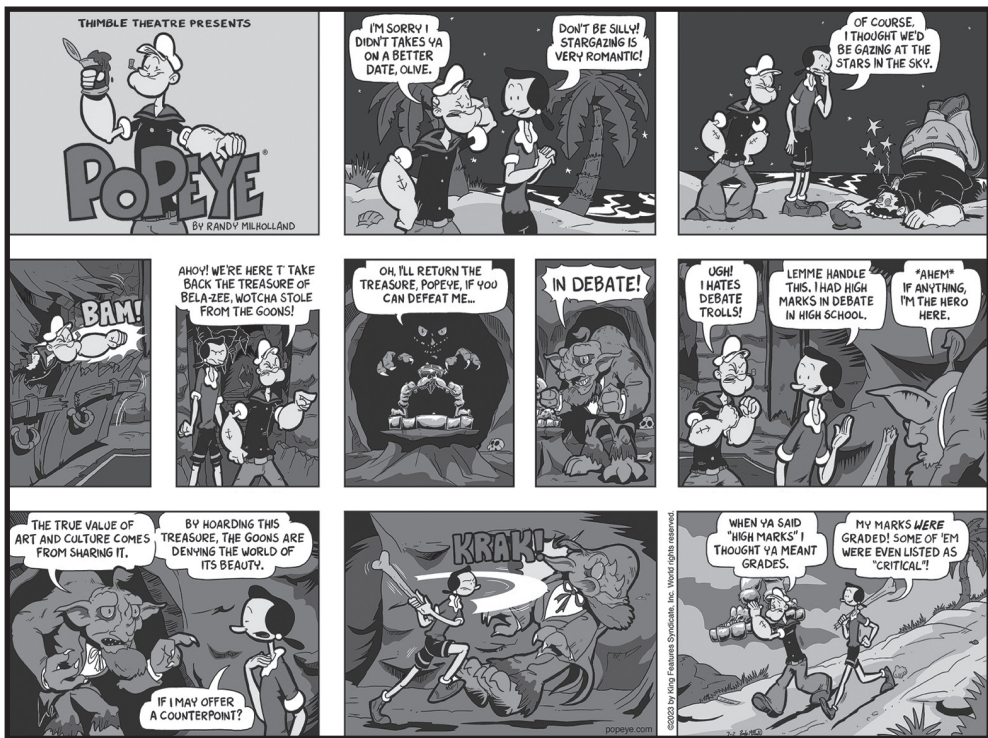
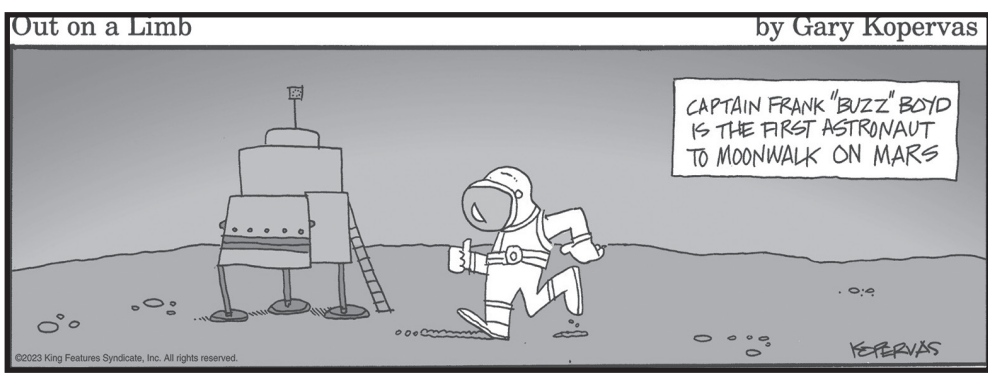
Shirley Proctor Twiss



sauce. The travelers began to arrive and fill the tables with fresh garden vegetables, salads, cakes, pies, and churns of ice cream. Large watermelons floated in a tub of ice. After a long blessing by a local minister, we sat down

to stuff ourselves. Flag were flying and veterans were recognized and thanked. My belated wish for you is a memorable celebration in 2023. God Bless America!
Write to Shirley at sptwiss@gmail.com

Editorial Cartoons



Time flies

When you're five you don't realize how time flies. Growing up seems so slow and steady even though you're in a rush. Then you're blowing out 18 candles and marrying your high school crush.

Your life begins in an instant and adulthood hits you with a crash. You graduate from college and life passes in a flash. You settle into a nine to five and pray for a good paycheck so you can really begin your life. Now you're buying a house and painting the guest bedroom blue; you're learning to be parents and begin anew. You bring your baby home and before you know it four years have come and gone.

Now you're signing your heart up for school and you're thinking to yourself, "Well at least we have the Summer," but the summer comes and goes, and you're walking him into his preschool class and giving him goodbye kisses on the nose. You wave to him until the door closes between you, then you sit in your car with teary eyes. You call his daddy and begin to cry. You contemplate if you should run back in and take him home. You never prepared yourself to be alone.

You wait for the bell to ring and you're the first car in line at three o'clock. You think he's going to

Brittany Hall



bust through the doors and jump into your arms, but he does not. Instead, he walks out with a snaggle tooth smile and mustard on his shirt. He tells you about his day and his new friends and how his teacher called him squirt. Then he says, "I hope tomorrow gets here sooner than later," and with every passing day there's new finger paint memories that cover your refrigerator.

You want these days to last forever, but they don't. They squeeze by in a wink and you're trying to remember the last time he's climbed into your arms to be rocked to sleep. You can't recall the exact moment you last carried him up the stairs or put him down because now he's independent and is nowhere to be found. Your heart breaks without knowing how time could slip by so fast, you thought it would go easy on you because your love was so vast.

Now he's sixteen and wants his space. He stays locked to a screen and can't wait to get his own place. He's getting his license and saving for a truck.

He's gone every week-end and you miss him too much. He's just like you were at this age - reaching for 18 so he can turn the page. But you know the world will eat him alive and you're reminded of all the heart to hearts your Momma used to try... "You're gonna miss this," she'd say, and you do, and you know he will too. You want so badly just to hold onto him tight but he's slipping through your fingertips. He's ready to fly.

In a moment, two years have come and gone and he's really saying goodbye. He's graduating and it feels like yesterday that you were yestering him off at pre-k, choking back the tears, trying not to cry. You look at the young man that you raised and see the little boy who loved the color blue and used to pick you dandelion bouquets. He's packing up his things and heading out north. The real world takes him in, and you hope it's with warmth. You hug him tight, and 18 years' worth of the feelings come rushing through. He takes off, now time flies for him the same way it did for you.

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.

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Some random thoughts on some random subjects

Happy Birthday, America! I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy, even though I wasn't born on the 4th of July. As for Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again," I would remind us all that America was great before he showed up and is great today. That is because of the great people who inhabit this land. Working folks. Love their families. Care for their neighbors. Protect us. Teach us. Pray for us. We tend to forget them because of all the noise about all that is wrong with us. But there are a lot more good people than there are noise-makers and naysayers. Speaking of naysayers, I wrote a column recently about putting the responsibility for teaching children about social issues in the home where it belongs and not holding our teachers responsible. That got a response from a retired sociology professor who wondered if he had misunderstood me. (If so, he's the first one.) He thought schools should be taking kids on a historical guilt trip. One example was the internment of Japanese during World War II, 80 years ago. That happened, by the way, after Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor when we weren't sure

who was friend and who was foe. I told him I was okay with his idea if we also covered the Bataan Death March in which some 500-600 Americans died brutally at the hands of the Japanese army and how we got Japan back on its feet and prospering after we had defeated them. But that would defeat the purpose of a guilt trip, wouldn't it? Readers in Marietta have heard this before, but perhaps the rest of you haven't. Garland Favorito, co-Founder at VoterGA, which bills itself as "dedicated to restoring the integrity of Georgia elections," said of the 2020 presidential election: "The facts say that this is the least safe, least secure and least honest election that we have ever seen in Georgia." Hmmm. In 1947, when Georgia found itself with three governors at the same time, including Herman Talmadge, 34 voters in his home county of Telfair showed up at the polls - including several who were deceased - and voted for him in alphabetical order. I'm not the brightest bulb in the lamp, but I would think that election might have been a tad less safe, less secure and maybe even less honest than we have

Dick Yarbrough



ever seen in Georgia. But why rain on a good conspiracy theory? My recent column zinging the Southern Baptists for reaffirming their ban on women in the pulpit got a surprisingly large and positive response. I did have a few Bible-thumpers - male, of course - take issue. As Matthew 5:39 suggests, I simply turned the other cheek. (They must hate it when I do that.) I would suggest the Southern Baptists, the un-United Methodists and other denominations have a bigger problem than what this layman thinks. The Wall Street Journal and NORC at the University of Chicago published results from a survey in March saying that only 39 percent of Americans feel that religion is important to them today - a decline from 62 percent in 1998. If religion was a stock, we would have sold it long ago. God can't be pleased with how we twist His Word to suit our narrow-minded views. ... I would never tell Kirby Smart how to coach. Two national championships in a row at UGA says he doesn't need the advice.

However, as someone with a pretty good reputation for crisis management, I would tell him his "we've got it handled" attitude toward the allegations made about his football players being involved with excessive speeding, driving under the influence, domestic violence and sexual assault is not going to cut it. The program looks to be out of control. Sadly, there are a bunch of knucklehead fans who don't care as long as they win. I do care. These players represent my alma mater, an outstanding academic institution. Incidentally, I was a season ticket holder before Kirby Smart was born. Still am. ... Finally, dear reader, it was 25 years ago this week I was asked to write one column one time for one newspaper. Some 2,000 columns and a number of papers later, I am still at it and still trying to figure out where commas go. I do love this job. And you. Thank you one and all. You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dick-yarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

Praise your way through

Bertha Jones



We know that life can get overwhelming sometimes. It's not always that you have done something wrong, it's just life. For the book of Job 14:1 tells us that, "A man born of a woman has a few days here and is full of trouble." So, if you continue to live, you will continue to have trouble and circumstances.

So, cheer up. Why? Because Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that all

things work together for the good of them who love the Lord and the called according to his purpose."

So, get a new perspective on your troubles and circumstances. Although it might not be good, it's working for your good if you love the Lord. So, fall in love with Jesus. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and learn not to your own understanding, in all

your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths".

So, we want to encourage you not to worry but trust God and give him the praise. For Psalms 150 says, "Let everything that has breath praise you the Lord." For God inhabits the praise, that means he lives in the praises. So, to get in God's presence, even in the midst of trouble and circumstances, "Praise Your Way Through".



COMPATRIOT BURKE TALKING TO JENKINS COUNTY STUDENTS
Burke speaks to Jenkins County students

Compatriot Steve Burke, Wiregrass Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution set up his 6-pounder Field Cannon in downtown Millen to support the Jenkins County Chamber of Commerce. Burke was asked by the Chamber to demonstrate his cannon and talk to five classes consisting of over 100 students at the Jenkins County School system. Burke discussed the weapons systems that the Patriots used during the American Revolution and what happened at the nearby Brier Creek Battlefield on March 3, 1779. At the end of each session, he fired his 6-pounder Field Cannon.



TAPLEY, BLACKMON AND BENNETT

Wiregrass Chapter SAR presents 40th U.S. Flag certificate to Swainsboro Masonic Lodge

Wiregrass Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, presented the 40th U.S. Flag Certificate to Swainsboro Masonic Lodge No. 244 F&AM on Thursday, June 22, 2023. The Certificate of Commendation was given by the Wiregrass Chapter Flag Chair John Tapley to members Joey Blackmon and Matt Bennett of the Swainsboro Lodge in recognition of exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America in the correct way. Recognizing people, businesses, organizations, and the government with a U. S. Flag Certificate is a project of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Wiregrass Chapter began presenting these certificates in June 2014, and this project is an ongoing project of the Wiregrass Chapter, the GASSAR, and the NSSAR will be honoring others with this certificate.

Officer McCoy nominated for Memorial Award

Daniel McCoy, Police Officer at East Georgia State College, was recently nominated for the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Exchange Club's Bobby Powell Memorial Award. This award is presented annually to an individual in public service who is known to be a loyal and dedicated public servant. Thank you, Officer McCoy, for all you do for EGSC and our community.



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Announcement:

Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society of Georgia names Dr. Rodney Johnson President

The Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society of Georgia (AAISG) has elected Dr. Rodney Johnson with Middle Georgia Allergy and Asthma of Dublin as President. The AAISG is an organization of allergists and immunologists dedicated to the advancement of the field of allergy and clinical immunology. Allergists from across the state gather and meet each year to share knowledge, ideas and experience that help doctors provide optimal care for their patients with allergic, asthma and immunologic disease. As the incoming President-Elect, Dr. Rodney Johnson will serve this organization over the next four years.

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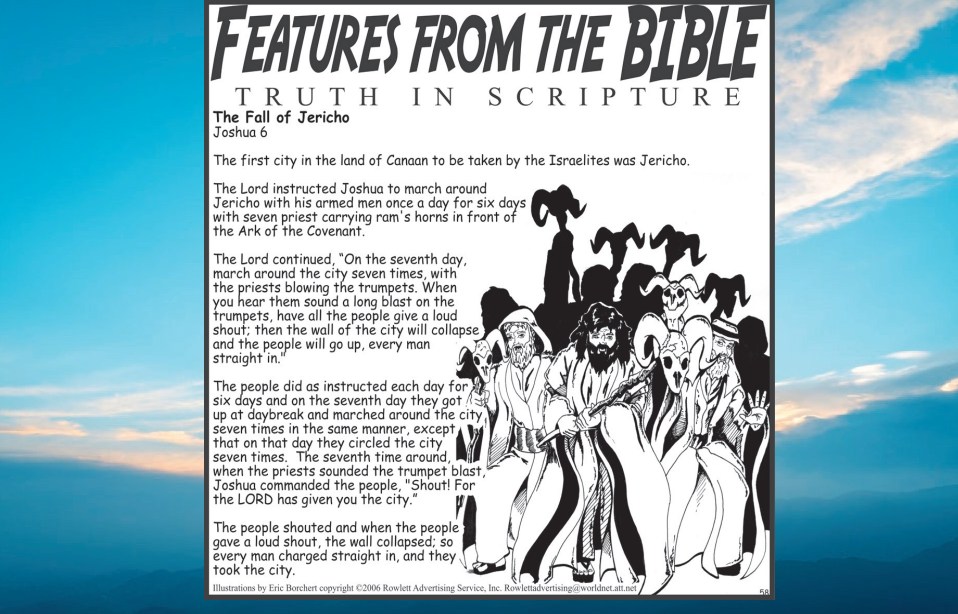
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 The first city in the land of Canaan to be taken by the Israelites was Jericho.
 The Lord instructed Joshua to march around Jericho with his armed men once a day for six days with seven priests carrying ram's horns in front of the Ark of the Covenant.
 The Lord continued, "On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in."
 The people did as instructed each day for six days and on the seventh day they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city."
 The people shouted and when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed, so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.
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Ziranda wins Gold at National SkillsUSA

Cosmetology student Jacqueline Ziranda won Gold in Nail Care at the National SkillsUSA Georgia Post-Secondary Competition in Atlanta June 18-24, 2023. Her hard work, dedication, and skills lead her to this incredible accomplishment. Cosmetology student Teaira Benjamin served as Jacqueline's

model. Jacqueline began Southeastern Tech's Cosmetology program in Swainsboro as a Dual Enrollment student from Metter High School. STC Cosmetology Instructor Linda Hairr said, "Jacqueline's discipline and dedication to her education are most impressive. She is an extreme-

ly creative and talented young lady. That, combined with her kind, sweet, humble nature, has been instrumental in her success. Working with Jackie and getting to know her personally has been a joy. She's an amazing young woman and I'm eager to see where this career takes her."

Instructor Jamie Lam-

bert stated that Jackie is like a ray of sunshine. "It is a pleasure to have her in class each day. Her positive, upbeat attitude is so refreshing and her willingness to sacrifice her time to help others speaks volumes."

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ZIRANDA, BENJAMIN, HAIRR AND LAMBERT



ZIRANDA

direction of instructor Chip Greene and placed in the top five. Gavin said, "This was the biggest event I've been to, and it is such a high level of prestige. I'm honored to be among all the winners, but I would like to extend special thanks to my instructor, Mr. Greene. Without him, I would not be capable of this achievement. National SkillsUSA was an exciting experience. We need more people in the electronics field. It's guaranteed work and not many people are training for it."

The state of Georgia had a fifty percent increase in SkillsUSA membership this year. Georgia accounted for 55 National medals -- 32 Gold, 11 Silver, and 12 Bronze.

SkillsUSA has a mission to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens. They work to improve the quality of our nation's future skilled workforce through the development of SkillsUSA Framework skills that include personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. The organization's vision is to produce the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success.

For more information on Southeastern Technical College, visit www.southeasterntech.edu, or call (912) 538-3100 or (478) 289-2200.

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PICTURE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LESLIE KELLY, CONNIE CLIFTON, TYRONE WATSON, KRISTY KENNEDY, BROOK DRAWDY, PHYLLIS DIXON, ANTONIA MYERS, DIANNA WEDINCAMP

The second annual Christmas in July

The Department of Family and Children's Services and TLC CASA join forces once more to get a jump start on making Emanuel County foster children's wish list come true. The group planted the Christmas in July trees at Emanuel Medical Center, Citizens Bank and Durden Banking Company (Twin City and Swainsboro locations). Each tree is filled with children's wishes. You can drop by and take a wish from the tree, buy the gift, return it to one of the above locations and place it around the tree with the wish card attached. If you wish to give a monetary donation, visit TLC CASA website at www.tlcchildrens-services.org and follow the donation link or use the barcode at the Christmas in July locations. If your business would like to sponsor a foster care sibling group, contact Dianna Wedincamp at 478-494-1547.

Thank You

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratefulness of your support and encouragement throughout my pageant journey. I know this thank you is long, but I wanted to make sure that everyone knows how much I appreciate everything everyone has done for me. Your unconditional support and belief in me has helped me get this far, and I'm so grateful to have you by my side every step of the way. Your kindness and generosity have not gone unnoticed. I never thought I would make it this far, and being able to compete at the Miss Georgia Forestry pageant as my first ever state pageant and coming out as 3rd runner up, tells me I can do whatever I put my mind to and so can you. Even though the Miss Georgia Forestry pageant is done with this year, the friendships, experiences, and tons of hairspray will never be forgotten.







And one big thank you to mama and daddy for always loving and supporting me in every way you can. I'm looking forward to continuing to make you proud. Your encouragement and guidance means a lot to me. I know that I wouldn't be where I am today without your help, and I'm so thankful for all that everyone has done for me. I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with you as your 2023 Teen Miss PineTree Festival.






Sincerely, Lauren Thompsons

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Scenes from the Freedom Fest



PHOTOS BY BILL CAHILL



SMITH III, REV. UNKLES, SMITH JR., AND MASON

Wiregrass members present Colors at FMC

The First Methodist Church of Swainsboro held its weekly Sunday Service on July 2, 2023, at 11 a.m. The service's theme was "God Bless America, ...land that I love". The organist, Connie Terwilliger, opened service with "America". Choir Director, Bobby Reeves, then asked everyone to stand for the Presentation of the U.S. Flag, the Christian Flag and the Holy Bible. The Wiregrass Chapter, Georgia Society

Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard then marched in with Compatriot Dess Smith III carrying the U.S. Flag, Compatriot Gary Mason carrying the Christian Flag and Compatriot Wilder Smith, Jr. carrying the Holy Bible. The Color Guard stopped at the front of the church, turned to face the congregation and Bobby then led the congregation in the Pledge to the U.S. Flag, the Pledge to the Christian Flag and the Pledge to the Bible. After

the pledges, Bobby asked the Color Guard to post the Colors. Counting the Color Guard were 14 members of the Wiregrass Chapter attending the service today. The opening Hymn for the service was America the Beautiful and during the Offertory, the organist played God Bless the USA on the piano. During the service, the Chancel Choir consisting of a full 14 members, sang a special arrangement of God Bless America by Joseph

M. Martin. Pastor David Unkles sermon was on "Rewards?". A special note: The altar flowers are in memory of and in honor of CW4 John B. Derden, who served 26 years in the U.S. Army; William Ralph Graves, Sr., who served in World War II; and 1LT William Ralph Graves, Jr., who was killed in Vietnam; and in honor of James Derden, who served in the U.S. Army for three years. The flowers were given by John and Carolyn Derden.

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Sheriff's Reports

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

June 26

Deputy was dispatched to Quail Ridge Apts. in reference to a domestic that had already occurred. Complainant stated her boyfriend had gotten drunk and she told him if he could stay out drinking, he could take care of his kids and offender became mad and started pushing her and slapping her in the face.

Deputies responded to Prosperity Dr. in reference to a domestic. Offender was extremely irate, and deputies spoke with complainant who advised it was a verbal altercation and she wanted to leave because of the history of abuse that was never reported. Offender stated he wanted to kill himself, so EMS was notified, and offender was transported to EMC for evaluation. C/p gathered her belongings and children and left with her parents.

Deputies were dispatched to Red Oak Rd. in reference to a dispute.

Deputy was dispatched to Hwy 297 in reference to a tree down in the roadway. DOT was already on scene

clearing the roadway.

Deputy took a walk-in report in reference to a lost/stolen tag.

Deputies served a warrant at Rick's Glass. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Deputy took a call-in report in reference to a stolen truck belonging to Ogeechee Steel.

Deputies assisted Swainsboro Fire Dept. and SPD with an electrical fire at WalMart.

Deputies were dispatched to Hwy 80 East in reference to a horse in the roadway.

June 27

Deputy was dispatched to Lela's Restaurant in reference to vehicle damage. Complainant stated a male subject was cutting grass and busted the window on her vehicle. C/p stated the business owner denied the damage was caused by the grass being cut and stated it was shot. Deputy advised this did not appear to be the case.

Deputy took a report at ECSO where complainant stated he had his taxes done by offender in Mt. Vernon. Deputy advised c/p that this was out of his jurisdiction and all he could do legally was make a report and refer him to Montgomery Co.

Magistrate Court. C/p stated he paid offender \$550 upfront, and offender told him that he would receive \$6,296 back as his refund and received a letter from the IRS stating the same thing but the IRS was taking \$675.93 for back taxes and interest owed, bringing the total refund to \$5,707.38. C/p received his refund through direct deposit and only got \$4,560.43 and was missing \$1,146.95. C/p then called the IRS and informed them of what happened, and they told him he needed to speak with his tax preparer. When c/p tried to contact offender on several occasions, she ignored his calls and texts, then finally responded and said, "oh well", then blocked him.

Deputy was dispatched to EMC ER to meet with the doctor about a rescinded 10-13. The doctor informed deputy that he was releasing complainant but was concerned about him returning home without an officer escort due to events that occurred at the resident the night prior. Deputy transported c/p to his home on Prosperity Dr. and he packed a few clothes and left to go

stay at his mother's in Screven Co.

Deputy was dispatched to Hwy 23 North in reference to a vehicle running into a fallen tree. Complainant stated he hit the fallen tree, causing damage to his windshield and side mirror.

June 28

Deputy took a report regarding offender making a Facebook page in an attempt to harass and embarrass complainant. C/p stated she observed a male and female hanging out at the pond near her residence and went to advise them to leave the property and when she approached the vehicle, they left and the female began cussing her out. C/p stated the female/offender took a picture of c/p and her daughter and proceeded to create a Facebook page with their picture as the profile picture.

June 29

Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Stagecoach Rd. Deputy made contact with the driver and run his info to find he was wanted by Evans Co. SO for a probation violation. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Complainant stated as he was approaching the stop sign on Tiger Trl.,

a sanitizer bottle rolled under the brake pedal preventing him from stopping and ran into the tree line. No injuries were reported and the vehicle was removed by a towing company.

Deputies responded to Sunset Dr. in reference to a possible elder abuse case. Complainant advised she is the victim's niece and was concerned for victim's safety and health. C/p stated a few months ago, victim was seen with marks on her neck and told family that her son/suspect had choked her. C/p also advised that the victim was living with no power and no food because victim's son spends all of her money on drugs. C/p and family are concerned about victim because she has lost a lot of weight the past few months and she may be suffering from dementia. Deputies made contact with the victim and suspect and victim stated that the c/p had stolen some money from her. Victim stated everything was fine and suspect advised they were without power for four days and they had not eaten in a few days because of lack of money. Upon speaking further with the victim,

she advised that her neighbor helped her pay her light bill and reconnect the power and that they had eaten the night before. Deputy observed little food and a few cans. Victim stated she had been having chest pains for a few weeks but has not been seen by a doctor. EMS was contacted, an after speaking with victim, she would briefly lose concentration and knowledge of the reason for the visit. Deputy then asked the victim about suspected abuse and she stated the suspect had choked her because they were arguing over something a few months ago the stated "he is a good boy and means well". Victim advised that when she was seeing a doctor, she was taking a hand-full of medicine, but it had been years since she had taken any meds. EMS then arrived and the victim was confused as to why they were there. Deputy then reminded victim that she was having chest pains and he wanted her to be checked out and she said "yeah, I do feel bad and need to go to the doctor". Victim was transported to EMC for evaluation.

Swainsboro Police Reports

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

June 20

Officer met with complainant at SPD in reference to a report. C/p explained that a firearm was stolen from on top of his bedroom dresser. He said it appeared that someone entered through a window. He also stated that he no longer resides at this place but his belongings are still there.

June 22

Officer was dispatched to Kite Road in reference to a report. C/p stated that the night before she had been in an accident. She stated that the accident occurred at the intersection of Hwy 56 and East Main Street where she ran into the back of another vehicle. She said that the driver of the other vehicle was acting strange and that when she asked if she needed to call 911 he said no and left.

June 23

Officer responded to Swainsboro City Hall in reference to a man requesting to speak to an officer. C/p advised that he was brought to Swainsboro on the day prior at approximately midnight. The offender brought him from the Circle K in Vidalia. He advised that he met the offender in court in Vidalia and was given his phone number in case he needed anything. C/p stated that the offender made him seep in the same bed and change his clothes. When he asked to leave, the offender left the c/p and c/p was locked out of the residence left with a pallet, pillows, and a water bottle to urinate in.

Offender was arrested for possession of less

than 1 oz of marijuana and driving with a suspended license.

Officer responded to Enmarket in reference to a shoplifter. On arrival the offender was no longer on scene but video footage was provided. The offender stole a bag of gummies by placing them into his shirt and walking to the bathroom. He then proceeded to walk out of the store and leave in a truck.

Officer was dispatched to a residence on Price Street in reference to a female who wanted a male subject removed. C/p stated that she wanted the man out of her house because he is taking her jewelry and other things and that he has multiple driver's licenses. Offender stated that she had picked him up two weeks prior and let him stay there to prepare and recuperate from an upcoming surgery he had. The offender was asked to provide his licenses, they all had different addresses and expiration dates. He was issued a citation for having more than one valid driver's license and the eviction process was explained to c/p.

June 24

Officer met with c/p at SPD in reference to a report. C/p stated that the offender left his residence with his phone without permission.

Officer was dispatched to South Main Street in reference to a wallet being stolen. C/p stated that he was staying at the Roadway Inn and left to go to a meeting that morning. Upon his return, his wallet was missing along with his Social Security Card, bank card, and driver's license inside.

Officer responded to

South Main Street for a female yelling that she needs the police. Officer mad contact with the aggressor who stated that him and the victim had gotten into an argument and she tripped over her shoes and hit her back against the bed. Victim was laying in the floor crying and EMS was able to put her the ambulance. Victim stated that the offender pushes her into a dresser while they were arguing. The aggressor was placed under arrest.

911 dispatched officers for shots fired on N Racetrack Street. Dispatcher stated that the shooter is walking around shooting around the apartments. Officers responded to the area and looked for any signs of victims or offender. Contact was made with several residence but they were afraid to say anything in fear of retaliation. When offender was found there was no firearm located but he was placed under arrest for criminal trespass. Video footage of offender with the firearm was provided.

Officer was on another call on North Racetrack Street and heard 3 or 4 shots coming from the area of Lee Street. After he was cleared from the other all he patrolled the area of Lee Street but was unable to make contact with anyone.

Officer was dispatched to the vape shop on South Main Street in reference to someone going through the trash in the dumpster. Upon arrival officer spoke with the owner. He advised that an unknown subject was going through his dumpster and throwing everything in the busi-

ness next door's trash. They stated that they believe it's the same person that broke into the Smoke Cave a few days prior.

Officer was at the ER and received a call from c/p who was his wife. She stated that while her and their daughter were walking at Harmon Park, a golf cart drove down the middle of the concrete and almost ran them over. She stated that he looked back and continued to drive recklessly. Officer had stopped a similar looking golf cart the night before on West Meadowlake Parkway and it was the same driver. Officers have patrolled the area since to find the offender but haven't seen him.

June 25

Officer was dispatch to the Easy Stop convenience store in reference to a hold up alarm. The store clerk/c/p met with officers and stated that a man placed items in a Walmart bag and tried to steal them and she grabbed the bag from him and he took off from the store on foot. The offender was identified, found, and placed under arrest.

Officer responded to Rentz Street for shots fired. Officer saw multiple vehicles leaving the area and after he arrived many people began to flee to their vehicles. Officer had a man tell him the day before that someone was going to shoot up the Starblazer Nightclub. Officer asked how many were hit and how many were fired. Three people stated that no one was hit and only one shot was fired. Officer was able to locate three rounds that had not been shot, the bottom of a Glock magazine, and a black

phone all in the area that the shot was reportedly from.

Officer was conducting speed radar on HWY 56 South. He observed a blue vehicle traveling south at an estimated speed of 60 MPH in a 45 zone. Officer activated his emergency equipment and conducted a traffic stop of 62 in a 45. The driver did not have a license and was arrested.

Officer was dispatched to South Main Street in reference to someone making threats to another. On arrival officer spoke with c/p who stated that he and a woman have kids together. He also stated that the woman sent her boyfriend into the store to threaten him. He stated that he will be waiting outside for him to come out.

Officer was met at SPD by a man who stated that he found a debit card in the ATM and Robins Financial. The victim was found and his card was returned.

Officer responded to the park on Gumlog Road for a fight. Officer made contact with a group of people. One of them stated that she had been having problems with another girl for about a month. She stated that her and her friends were at the park playing with water balloons and then the other girl came up fussing about someone talking about her and her baby. Witnesses stated that she left and changed her clothes and returned and a fight started. The offender stated that it all started on Snapchat with the girls talking about her baby and riding by yelling at her. She stated that when she confronted the girls the fight started in the

grass.

Officer and other units went to North Racetrack Street to serve warrants. The offender was served the warrant and was also charged with obstructing police officers.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

All units listed will be sold on or after **July 11, 2023** if balances on said units are not paid in full.

Mandy M. Byrne Unit #028

Tylasia Hall Unit #126

Willie Mae Sutton Unit # 401

City of Stillmore 2021 CCR Report

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

where does my water come from

The City Of Stillmore receives its water from a deep well located in the middle of town.

Source water assessment and its availability

contact city hall at 912-562-3529

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

contact the city hall for information @ 912-562-3529

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Water Conservation Tips

Do you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
 - Pick up after your pets.
 - If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
 - Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
 - Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one.
- Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your head protection, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

in July of 2022 the city had a positive bac-t sample due to operator error a repeat sample was collected and sent to the lab which came back negative . sampling procedures were went over. Health affects unknown.

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City Of Stillmore is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	Unit Descriptions	
				Low	High				Term	Definition
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products									ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)									ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	.8	NA	NA	2022	No	Water additive used to control microbes	NA	NA: not applicable
Important Drinking Water Definitions									ND	ND: Not detected
									NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source			
Inorganic Contaminants										
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.19	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits			
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits			
Variances and Exemptions										
Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.										
For more information please contact:										
MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.										
MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.										
MNR: Monitored Not Regulated										
MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level										

Contact Name: Johnny Mills

Address: 937 Highway 1 South, Swainsboro, GA 30401

Phone: 478.494.4952

Savvy Senior: Can I Collect Social Security from My Ex-Spouse?

Dear Savvy Senior,
Is it possible to collect Social Security benefits from my ex-spouse? We were married for 12 years but have been divorced for almost 20 years now.

Never Remarried
Dear Never,
Yes, depending on your specific circumstances, you may very well be eligible for divorced spouses Social Security benefits. Here's what you should know.

Who's Eligible?
A divorced spouse can collect a Social Security retirement benefit on the earnings record of their ex-husband (or ex-wife) if you are at least age 62, were married for at least 10 years, are unmarried, and are not eligible for a higher benefit based on your own earnings record.

In order to collect, your former spouse must also be at least 62 and eligible for Social Security benefits. But he doesn't have to be receiving them in order for you to collect divorced spouse's benefits, as long as you've been divorced for at least two years.

Even if your ex is remarried, it won't affect your right to divorcee benefits, nor will it affect your ex's retirement benefits or his current spouse's benefits.

Benefit Amount
A divorced spouse can receive up to 50 percent of their ex's full Social Security benefit, or less if they take benefits before their full retirement age, which is 66 for people born in 1945-1954 but is gradually increased to age 67 for people born in 1960 or later. To find out your full retirement age and see how much your benefits will be reduced by taking them early see [SSA.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/agereduction.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/agereduction.html).

Keep in mind though, that if you qualify for benefits based on your own work history, you'll receive the larger of the two benefits. You cannot receive benefits on both your record, and your ex's work record too.
To find out how much

your retirement benefits will be, see your Social Security statement at [SSA.gov/myaccount](https://ssa.gov/myaccount). And to get an estimate of your ex's benefits, call Social Security at 800-772-1213. You'll need to show your marriage certificate and divorce decree to prove your marriage lasted at least 10 years along with his Social Security number to get it.

Other Factors to Know

You also need to be aware that working can affect your divorced spouse's benefits. If you start taking benefits while working, and are under full retirement age, your benefits will be reduced \$1 for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit, which is \$21,240 in 2023. In the year you reach full retirement age, however, the annual limit increases to \$56,520 and the reduction lowers to \$1 for every \$3 above that limit. See [SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10069.pdf](https://ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10069.pdf) for more details.

Another factor that can reduce your divorced spouse's benefits is receiving a pension from an employer that did not withhold Social Security taxes (like a government). This is a rule known as Government Pension Offset (see [SSA.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/gpo-calc.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/gpo-calc.html)) which can reduce your benefits by two-thirds of the amount of your pension.

Divorced Survivor's Benefits

You also need to know that when your ex-spouse dies (and if you were married for 10 or more years), you become eligible for

divorced survivor benefits, which is worth up to 100 percent of what your ex-spouse was due.

Survivor benefits are available to divorced spouses as early as age 60 (50 if you're disabled). But if you remarry before 60, you become ineligible unless the marriage ends. Remarrying after age 60 will not affect your eligibility.

Also note that if you are receiving divorced spouses benefits when your ex-spouse dies, you will automatically be switched over to the higher paying survivor benefit.

For more information visit [SSA.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html) and click on "Benefits for Your Divorced Spouse."

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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.

Classifieds

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Alarm Technician

Southeast Fire & Burglar Alarm Company, a subsidiary of Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc., is seeking a highly qualified individual to fill the position of Alarm Technician. The individual selected to join the Southeast/Pineland team will have a primary role of installing, programming, maintaining, and repairing security and alarm wiring and equipment. All jobs and tasks must be performed in accordance with relevant codes. Experience in the Alarm Industry, Information Technology (IT), and/or Electrical experience is preferred but not required.

Qualifications

Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent. Must possess a valid driver's license with good driving record, the ability to lift 25 lbs, work indoors or outdoors through varying temperatures, and be able to learn and take instruction on a daily basis. Qualified applicant will undergo background check and drug screening.

Locations

This position will require daily travel throughout the SEFB service area.

How to apply

An application can be found on the Pineland website - www.pineland.net. The completed application, resume, cover letter, and three work related references should be sent via mail, email, or dropped off in a sealed envelope to the following:

Hiring Manager
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PO Box 678 | Metter, GA 30439
dlee@pinelandtelco.com

Applications can be dropped off at the Metter office only. Please use a sealed envelope.
30 S Rountree Street | Metter, GA 30439
No faxed applications will be accepted.

Deadline to apply – July 28, 2023 at 5PM

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Send To:
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Swainsboro, GA 30401

Deadline
July 21, 2023

OR

Drop Off
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Swainsboro, GA 30401



Pet Owner's Name _____

Pet's Name _____

Pet's Age _____

Pet Owner's Phone Number _____

Was this pet a rescue? Yes _____ No _____

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Legals

IN RE: **BETTY Y. BROWN a/k/a ELIZABETH Y. BROWN:**

All creditors of the Estate of **BETTY Y. BROWN a/k/a ELIZABETH Y. BROWN** are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to the estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This _____ day of _____, 2023.

JAMES PATRICK BROWN, JR. 1248 GA. HWY. 56 SOUTH SWAINSBORO, GEORGIA 30401
TAULBEE, RUSHING, SNIPES, MARSH & HODGIN, LLC
 POST OFFICE BOX 327
 STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459
 (912) 764-9055

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Corey Lashawn Durden
 Plaintiff,
 v.
 _____ Civil
 Action No. 23CV94
 Catinia Durden,
 Defendant,

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Plaintiff having moved the Court for an order directing service to be made upon defendant Catinia Durden in the above-styled action by publication of summons and it appearing to the Court from the verified Complaint and Affidavit in support of such motion that defendant is a nonresident and that the action is an action in which a defendant may be served by publication pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-10-71, it is ORDERED, that service upon Defendant be made by publication as provide by law.

This 6th day of June, 2023.
 Robert S. Reeves
 JUDGE, Superior Courts
 Judicial Circuit
 Presented by:
 Plaintiff *pro se*

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WAUKESHA COUNTY

LANDMARK CREDIT UNION,
 Plaintiff,
 REPLEVIN

v.

 PUBLICATION SUMMONS
 JESSIE E. SHERMAN,
 Case No: 23-SC-001191
 Defendant

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WAUKESHA COUNTY

TO: Jessie E. Sherman
 69 Georgia Ave.
 Adrian, GA 31002

You are hereby notified pursuant to Sec. 799.16(2), Wis Stats., that an amended replevin action has been issued to recover the possession of the following described goods and chattels, to-wit:
 2007 Harley Davidson IL200C ID# 1HD1CT3127K440736 which the plaintiff is entitled to possess, but which you have unlawfully detained.

Now, less you shall appear in the Circuit Court of Waukesha County, located in the courthouse in the City of Waukesha, before the presiding Court Commissioner/Judge on the 10th day of July, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., judgement will be rendered against you for the delivery of said property to plaintiff and for damages for the detention thereof and for costs.

We are attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2023.
 DARNIEDER & SOSNAY
 BY: Michael A. Sosnay
 State Bar No: 1059549
 P.O. ADDRESS:
 735 North Water Street
 Suite 205
 Milwaukee, WI 53202
 (414) 277-1400

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL

IN RE: The Estate of Maxwell Rollins

All debtors or creditors of the Estate of Maxwell Rollins, deceased, late of Emanuel County, Georgia are hereby directed to render their demands against said estate to me, the undersigned according to law; and, all persons indebted to said estate are hereby directed to make immediate payment to me, according to the law.

This 13th day of June, 2023.
 Melishia Carolann Hoffman
 Executor of said Estate
 46 GA Hwy 46 West
 Lyons, Georgia 30436

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL

IN RE: ESTATE OF DOUGLAS LAMAR WILKINSON, DECEASED.

All creditors of the Estate of DOUGLAS LAMAR WILKINSON, deceased, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render their demands to Richard M. McNeely, attorney for Sara Wilkinson, Executor of the DOUGLAS LAMAR

WILKINSON 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 20th day of June, 2023.
 RICHARD M. MCNEELY,
 Attorney for Sara Wilkinson,
 Executor of the
 Douglas Lamar Wilkinson Estate
 Richard M. McNeely, P.C.
 P. O. Box 767
 Swainsboro, Georgia 30401
 (478) 237-4225

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 **CHORSSIE C. JONES, Sr. and LINDA A. JONES to DURDEN BANKING COMPANY, INC., P.O. Box 160, Twin City, Georgia, 30471,** dated February 10, 2017, and recorded in Deed Book 442, pages 69-73, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property, 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 August, 2023, to wit: August 1, 2023, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53rd G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, designated as Lots 17 and 18 and the Western 30 feet of Lot 16, Block "C" of Neal's Pine Haven Subdivision, fronting a distance of 230 feet on the Northeastern side of Solomon Street as shown on plat of survey dated September 19, 1959, made by Frank J. Ford, Surveyor, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court in Plat Book 1, page 259, to which reference is made as a part of this description. Said property is bounded now or formerly as follows: Northwest by Lot 19, shown on said plat of survey, being the lands of Donna S. Kay and Joey Kay; Northeast by Lots 9, 10, and 11, as shown on said plat, being the lands of Robert L. Thomas and Lot ; Southeast by the remaining portion of Lot 16, as shown on said plat, being the lands of B. Craig McNeely and Richard M. McNeely.

Said property is the same as that conveyed by a Joint Survivorship Warranty Deed dated August 2, 2010 from Dart Real Estate Holdings, LLC to Hanh Hong T. Tran and Huy Thi Tran, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court in Deed Book 343, pages 164-165.

Said property is designated in 2023 by the Emanuel County Tax Assessors as Map and Parcel #S27-025.

Said Deed to Secure Debt was executed to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$79,780.46, with interest at the rate specified therein together with all other indebtedness of the borrower to the lender then due or that might thereafter become due, or thereafter become contracted, which was or would be evidenced by a note or notes.

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 and 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 has been given, as provided by law.

Said property is commonly known as **537 Solomon Street, 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 in possession of the subject property is: **LINDA A. JONES ESTATE,** 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, and 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 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.

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: **Wade Johnson, President, Durden Banking Company, Inc., P.O. Box 160, Twin City, GA 30471, 478-763-2121.**

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 **Durden Banking Company, Inc., as Attorney in Fact for Chorsie C. Jones, Sr. and Linda A. Jones, P.O. Box 160, Twin City, GA 30471. Jerry N. Cadle, P.C. Attorney P.O. Box 68 Swainsboro, GA 30401**

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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 **LINDA A. JONES to DURDEN BANKING COMPANY, INC., P.O. Box 160, Twin City, Georgia, 30471,** dated January 13, 2021, and recorded in Deed Book 508, pages 221-224, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property, 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 August, 2023, to wit: August 1, 2023, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate and being in the 1560th G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, containing 1.0 acre, designated as Parcel #2, fronting on the Eastern side of Georgia Highway 23 South, as shown on plat of survey made by J.D. McLeod, Surveyor, dated January 15, 1974, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court in Plat Book 7, page 273, to which reference is made as a part of this description. Said property is bounded now or formerly as follows: North by an unnamed road; East by Parcel 1, as shown on said plat of survey, being the lands of Kevin Wendell Grimes and Tammy Renee Grimes; South by Parcel 1, as shown on said plat of survey, being the lands of Kevin Wendell Grimes and Tammy Renee Grimes; and West by Georgia Highway 23 South.

Said property is the same as that conveyed by an Executrix Deed dated September 12, 2019 from Linda A. Jones, as Executrix of the last Will and Testament of Jessie J. Holland to Linda A. Jones, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court in Deed Book 485, pages 578-580.

Said property is designated in 2023 by the Emanuel County Tax Assessors as Map and Parcel #166-018A.

Said Deed to Secure Debt was executed to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$25,000.00, with interest at the rate specified therein together with all other indebtedness of the borrower to the lender then due or that might thereafter become due, or thereafter become contracted, which was or would be evidenced by a note or notes.

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 and 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 has been given, as provided by law.

Said property is commonly known as **1283 GA Hwy 23 S, Twin City, GA 30471,** 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 in possession of the subject property is: **LINDA A. JONES ESTATE,** 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, and 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 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.

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: **Wade Johnson, President, Durden Banking Company, Inc., P.O. Box 160, Twin City, GA 30471, 478-763-2121.**

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 **Durden Banking Company, Inc., as Attorney in Fact for Linda A. Jones, P.O. Box 160, Twin City, GA 30471. Jerry N. Cadle, P.C. Attorney P.O. Box 68 Swainsboro, GA 30401**

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL

IN RE: ESTATE OF CLARA VIRGINIA ANDERSON, DECEASED.

All creditors of the estate of **CLARA VIRGINIA ANDERSON, deceased, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render their demands to Richard M. McNeely, attorney for AMANDA ANDERSON NEAL, Administrator of the CLARA VIRGINIA ANDERSON 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 22nd day of June, 2023 RICHARD M. MCNEELY, Attorney for Amanda Anderson Neal Administrator of the Clara Virginia Anderson Estate Richard M. McNeely, P.C. P. O. Box 767 Swainsboro, Georgia 30401 (478) 237-4225

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF ELOISE E. SMITH, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 23E0088

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

JERRY SMITH has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of ELOISE SMITH 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 JULY 31, 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

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of Glynn A. Garvin, 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 29th day of June, 2023.
 Shirley E. Dowd, Administrator of the Estate of

Glynn A. Garvin, decedent
 Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.
 P.O. Box 68
 Swainsboro, GA 30401

IN THE SUPERIOR STATE OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

STATE OF GEORGIA, CIVIL ACTION NO. 23CV00066

Plaintiff
 v.

ONE (1) 2003 HONDA ACCORD, VIN HGCM72603A023466, ONE (1) 2008 ACURA 3.2TL, VIN 9UUA5683A027376, and SEVEN-HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR DOLLARS, US CURRENCY, (\$724.00), Defendant in rem,
 RE PROPERTY OF BENJAMIN RAY CARAWAY and

EDDIE DAVIS BROCKINGTON, Purported Owner(s)
 Interest Holder(s).

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT OF FORFEITURE

TO: ALL PERSONS HAVING AN INTEREST IN SAID PROPERTY WHO ARE NOT OTHERWISE NOTIFIED OF THE FOREGOING PROCEEDING

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking the forfeiture of the above-described property was filed in this Court on the 29th day of March, 2023, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-16-12.

Said Action alleges that you may have an interest in said property. You are hereby notified that, by reason of an Order fir Service by Publication entered by the Court on the 28th day of June, 2023, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Aaron S. Palmer, Assistant District Attorney, PO Box 590, Swainsboro, GA 30401, an Answer to the Complaint within thirty (30) days if the date if the second publication of this Notice. If you fail to so do, judgment pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-16-12(e) will be taken for the relief demanded in the Complaint. If you have been personally or notoriously served with the Complaint and Summons, the foregoing does not apply and you should respond within the time in the Summons.

This the 29th day of June, 2023.
 Clerk of Superior Court Emanuel County, Georgia Middle Judicial Circuit

TS # 2023-05841-GA Notice Of Sale Under Power

Georgia, Emanuel County Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed given by Gabriel A. Caputo, An Unmarried Person to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Grantor, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated 1/4/2021, and recorded on 1/13/2021, in Deed Book 508, Page 165, Emanuel County, Georgia records, as last assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded on 4/6/2023 in Deed Book 552, Page 140, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$127,963.00, with interest thereon as provided for therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Emanuel County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on 8/1/2023, the following described property: All That Tract Or Parcel Of Land Situate, Lying And Being In The 53rd G.M. District Of Emanuel County, Georgia, Containing 3.337 Acres Of Land, As Shown On A Plat Prepared By George William Donaldson, Surveyor, Dated October 21, 1998, Which Plat Is Recorded In Plat Book 18, Page 113, Of The Records Of The Clerk Of Superior Court Of Emanuel County, Georgia.

Said Plat Is By Express Reference Incorporated Herein For A More Full, Complete And Accurate Description Of Said Property. Said 3.337 Acres Being Bounded As Shown On Said Plat As Follows: On The Northeast By U.S. Highway 80; On The Southeast By Property Of Elizabeth Wren And Robert Stewart; On The Southwest By County Road #334; On The Northwest By Other Lands Of Vince E. Jackson And Teresa A. Jackson. Said property is commonly known as 75 Eagle Pass Swainsboro, GA 30401 The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed The debt remaining in default this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of the sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorneys' fees (notice of intent to collect attorneys' fees having been given). The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Attention: Loss Mitigation Department, 10500 Kincaid Drive Fishers, IN 46037, Telephone No.: 855-690-5900. 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 security instrument. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any other matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party(ies) in possession of the property is (are) Gabriel A. Caputo or tenant(s) or other occupants. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. The sale is conducted on behalf of the secured creditor under the power of sale granted in the aforementioned security instrument, specifically being Freedom Mortgage Corporation as Attorney in Fact for Gabriel A. Caputo. Nestor Solutions, LLC 2850 Redhill Avenue, Suite 240, Santa Ana, California 92705, (888) 403-4115, TS # 2023-05841-GA For sale information, visit: <https://www.nestortrustee.com/sales-information.com> or call (888) 902-3989

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY _____ HERRINGTON PHILLIPS, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 23E0086

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: MARGO PHILLIPS, DOMINIQUE PHILLIPS, BRIANNA PHILLIPS, JERRY ROBERTSON DAVID, and FION ROBERTSON and to whom it may concern:

CAROLYN PHILLIPS has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of MARY HERRINGTON PHILLIPS 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 JULY 31, 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 Swainsboro, Ga. 30401
 Address
478-237-7091
 Telephone Number

Cooper arrested for trafficking

The Emanuel County Sheriff's Office and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office joined in an investigation which concluded this Thursday morning, June 29, 2023. Deputies made a traffic stop on Jackie Cooper just south of Kite in Johnson County. Cooper, 67, of Kite, was arrested and charged with several drug offenses including trafficking a schedule II-controlled substance. Cooper was also charged with possessing a firearm during the commission of a crime. After the traffic stop, a search



COOPER warrant was served on Cooper's residence which yielded more schedule II-controlled substances and weapons. Cooper was booked into the Johnson County Jail.



CONFISCATED ITEMS



COMPATRIOT DAUGHTRY PRESENTING HIS PROGRAM



PRESIDENT HOWARD AND JOYNER

Daughtry speaks to Brier Creek

The Brier Creek Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, Thursday night, June 1, 2023, at Walls Diner at 7 p.m. With President Wayne Howard presiding, there were 18 in attendance. New member John Joyner was inducted by President Wayne Howard. Joyner has been an active member of the Brier Creek Chapter for nearly two years, has his militia uniform and also has a 6-pounder mortar that he brings to all the events in the State of Georgia. Compatriot Hu Daughtry presented the program for the evening. Daughtry lives in Metter and is a retired Pharmacist. His wife, Susan, attended the meeting with him. Daughtry's presentation was on "Who is Kemp Creech". Besides talking about Kemp Creech, who was from Candler County, he talked about four other veterans from that Candler as well.

Elliott speaks to Wiregrass Chapter

The Wiregrass Chapter Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, Thursday night, June 8, 2023, at the New China Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. With President Wilder Smith presiding, there were 22 in attendance including five guests. President Wilder Smith, Jr. inducted new member Bobby Reeves into the Wiregrass Chapter. Besides his approved document, President Wilder presented Reeves with a Sons of the American Revolution Certificate and asked his wife Daisy, to pin the SAR Rosette on Reeves. The Rosette has the colors of General George Washington's uniform that he wore during the Revolutionary War. Registrar Dess Smith III then presented President Wilder with four Chapter Flag Streamers that were earned by presenting the Wiregrass Chapter wreath at these four events: The Elijah Clarke Event, the Kettle Creek Battle event, the Brier Creek Battlefield event, and the Frederica Naval Battle event.

The evening program was presented by Dan Elliott of the Lamar Institute. He had a video and spoke on the "Arms of Ebenezer". Daniel was the speaker at the second Annual Brier Creek Celebration that was held on March 11, 2017, on the Brier Creek Battlefield picket line on Andy Chisom's property. The following is Daniel's bio:

Mr. Daniel Elliott has more than 48 years' experience in archaeology in the southeastern United States with diverse expertise in



COMPATRIOT REEVES AND PRESIDENT SMITH



ELLIOTT PRESENTING HIS PROGRAM



REGISTRAR SMITH AND PRESIDENT SMITH settlement patterning, pre-historic exchange networks, archaic studies, battlefield archaeology, and Ground Penetrating Radar surveying. Mr. Elliott has directed archeological projects at the following locations, Ebenezer, Fort Hawkins, Ossabaw Island and Purysburg as well as many other sites. Mr. Elliott is currently serving as the President of the LAMAR Institute here in Georgia. He lives with his wife and fellow archaeologist Rita and their dog Sheila in their Birdhouse in Rincon, Georgia.

Jail Report

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

Melvin Holder Jr., entered 6/26/23; Sexual offend regist/provide false info; released 6/26/23; ECISO
 Ronald Shaye Shepard, entered 6/26/23; Driving lic susp/rev/Leaving scene of accident; released 6/26/23; SPD
 Tiffany Ann Segui, entered 6/26/23; Bench warrant - City; SPD
 James Ryan Owens, entered 6/27/23; COURT - brought from another agency/facility; released 6/28/23; ECISO
 Michael Frank Avery II, entered 6/27/23; Bench warrant/Superior court; ECISO
 Leola Steele, entered 6/27/23; Driving lic susp/rev/Improperly transferred tag; released 6/27/23; TCPD

Henry Washington, entered 6/28/23; Failure to maintain lane/Driving while unlicensed/expired; released 6/28/23; ECISO
 Lisa Darnell Williams, entered 6/28/23; Possession of meth; released 6/28/23; WALK-IN
 Kathy Beecher, entered 6/28/23; Theft/taking; released 6/2/23; SPD
 Justin Raymond Roundtree, entered 6/29/23; Hold for out of county billing; released 6/29/23; ECISO
 Jackie Cooper, entered 6/29/23; Hold for Johnson Co.; JCSO
 Jesus Omar Irizarry Montalvo, entered 6/29/23; Speeding 15-29 MPH over; released 6/29/23; ECISO
 Michael Brandon

Morris, entered 6/29/23; Probation/Superior court; WALK-IN
 Sammie Ponce Myers, entered 6/29/23; VGCSA possession of drug related object; ECISO
 Jonathan Ray McClung, entered 6/29/23; VGCSA possession of drug related object; released 6/30/23; ECISO
 Erica Louise McLeod, entered 6/30/23; DUI less safe; released 6/30/23; ECISO
 James Allen Denison, entered 6/30/23; Probation/Superior court; ECISO
 Stanley Edwards Boatwright, entered 6/30/23; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; released 6/30/23; SPD

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 478.237.9971

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lane Storage has payments past due. Contents include various miscellaneous items. Auction will be held July 13, 2023 at 9 am. For questions contact Rusty Lane at 478-455-1861.

- Teresa Owens - W9
- Jonathan Parcell - W28
- Larry Corley - D19
- Charles Howell/Latashia Stuckey - W114

LANE STORAGE
 338 East Main St,
 Swainsboro, GA 30401



Every now and then it is good to take a "morning inventory" and reflect on the grace of God. This morning when I opened my eyes I thanked God for protecting me while I slept. As I turned off the alarm clock, I thanked Him for sounds and my hearing. As I rested for a moment before I got out of bed I could feel my beating heart which He kept going while I slept. As I stood up, I thanked Him for my balance, healthy legs and my slippers. As I took a shower, I thanked Him for the warm water, shampoo, soap, a towel and a mat on the floor to keep me from slipping. Then I continued by thanking Him for a mirror, razor, deodorant and on and on until I thanked Him for all of the articles of clothing He provided for me to wear today. And then I thanked Him for the words of the psalmist that reminded me of His promise: "no good thing will He withhold from those whose walk is blameless."

It was then that I had to pause in deep humility and gratefully thank Him for His love and grace that I do not deserve. It is so easy for me to accept the gifts of God - including my salvation - without realizing that everything I have or ever have had are gifts from God.

And as I reflected on that verse the word blameless kept ringing in my ears as though it was my friendly alarm clock. I, of all people, am certainly not blameless. As I meditated on the word blameless for a few minutes and thought about everything I am or have, it's not because I am blameless. It's because of His unending love and grace!

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