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# The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 164, NO. 50 Swainsboro, Georgia • December 13, 2023 ONE DOLLAR

## All The Fixins converts 1900 theater building into candy operation

All the Fixins Pecans located in Twin City recently expanded their operations to make use of 2,000 square feet 1900's warehouse space. The property at 603 S. Railroad Ave., Twin City, was an operational movie theater in the mid-1900's known as Graymont Movies. Sometime in the mid to late 1900's, the theater closed, and the building degraded quickly and

was only used for storage.

"We are so thankful that our business has outgrown our working space, and we are excited to take advantage of the new room. The transformation was quite an undertaking, and we are thankful the local contractors could work with us to get this beautiful old building converted into a space for us to use for our busy Christmas

season," says owner, Janna Tucker.

All the Fixin's celebrated five years of business in November 2023, and has a diverse set of business streams. They grow their own pecans in Ocilla, GA and ship their pecan products nationwide online and to other retailers. They also have two retail store locations in Twin City and Swainsboro that serve (Continued on page 10A)



ARCHWAY



Photos by Mark Williams and Calvin Singletary  
DEMELLO JONES CARRIES THE BALL FOR A TOUCHDOWN

## Tigers battle for state, one step short of championship

by JUSTIN GRAY  
The Swainsboro Tigers along with their faithful fans headed up to Atlanta this past Monday to take on Prince Avenue Christian in the State Championship game. This was an outstanding game between the two best A-D1 teams in the state, played in the biggest non-collegiate foot-

ball stadium in the state, Mercedes-Benz stadium. Swainsboro fans showed up and showed out in this one, loud and proud from start to finish. The Tigers received the ball first but fumbled on a sack and Prince Avenue recovered. Two plays later, the Athens team hit over the top for a passing touchdown taking

the lead, 7-0. It didn't take long for the Tigers to respond, as Demello Jones caught a screen pass from Kason Edenfield and took it 60 yards for the score. The two-point conversion failed, and the Tigers trailed 7-6. Prince Avenue drove it the length of the field scoring again, then forcing (Continued on page 10A)



EMANUEL MEDICAL CENTER



DAVID EMANUEL ACADEMY



NEW BEGINNINGS WORSHIP CENTER

## EMC wins Christmas Parade float contest

by MELISSA KIRBY,  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

As the children and adults lined the downtown streets of Swainsboro anticipating the start of this year's Christmas parade, Santa arrived just in the nick of time to catch a ride on the firetruck. The sight of Santa in town brought excitement to the faces of the children as he passed by. As the parade continued through town, the children were amazed at the beautiful floats that passed by. This year's float judges had a tough decision to make but they narrowed it down to the top three with 1<sup>st</sup> place going to Emanuel Medical Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> place to David Emanuel Academy and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to New Beginnings Worship Center. As the parade

came to an end, Santa exited the firetruck behind the Chamber of Commerce to spend time with the children and hear their Christmas list. Parents were able to snap photos of their children with Santa. After visiting with Santa, the children were invited to take a ride on the Citizens Bank train. It was a magical night indeed! The Boneyard was packed with food trucks and arts and craft

vendors while everyone enjoyed the live performances from Allstar Dance Academy and Dellwood Praise and Worship band.

Oh, we must not forget the true meaning of Christmas! Dellwood Baptist was there to remind us with a live nativity scene on the square.

We would like to thank everyone who played a part in this year's festivities!

### What's Inside...

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## Kalmanson honored with exhibition

Neil Kalmanson, former East Georgia State College (EGSC) art professor, was recently honored by the Emanuel Artists Guild with an exhibit at the Student Gallery at the College. The exhibition included an artist talk and reception.

Conceived and curated by Guild member Mark Lillquist, the exhibit featured round canvases which Kalmanson has used in his recent paintings. "Different media and styles present an interesting show and reflect his approach to art," according to Guild member Joan Martin Dunn.

One of the original professors in 1973, Kalmanson received his

B.F.A. with honors from Pratt Institute in 1964 and his M.F.A. from the University of Florida in 1971. Still an active, working artist, he has exhibited in several states and Mexico. While at East Georgia College, he served as faculty advisor for the E.A.R.T.H. Club which focused on environmental issues.

Kalmanson also served as gallery director for the Emanuel Arts Council (EAC) for over 40 years, beginning with the first gallery in the Davis Building until the Gallery in the Arts Center closed. In December 2021, the EAC moved into its new home at 109 North Green Street next to the Karrh

Community Arts Center. Named in his honor, the gallery hosts six art exhibits each year.

Also known for his interest in boomerangs, he developed the Kalmanson Reversible and the Siamese Reversible Boomerangs; and won several Aesthetic Awards in the United States Boomerang competitions. The Smithsonian Institution has several in their boomerang collection.

The Emanuel Artist Guild is an informal group that supports and encourages the arts in a nurturing environment. You can learn more by visiting Emanuel Artist Guild on Facebook.



## DONNA HADDOCK, CINDY GRAY, JUDY AND MICHAEL BRIGHT AND KEN WARNOCK Main Street Market Antique Mall receives "Best of Georgia" for three consecutive years

Swainsboro's Main Street Market Antique Mall has been voted 2023 "Best of Georgia" in the antique store category by the Georgia Business Journal for the third consecutive year. Every month, Main Street Market, located 215 West Main St., has over 150 new visitors sign their guest book. Since Michael Bright became the manager in 2014, all 50 states and over 25 countries have signed the guest book. "It's not all about

me. Main Street Market would not be here without its staff, dealers and great customers," said Bright. In February 2024, Bright will have managed Main Street Market for 10 years. Main Street Market has over 60 dealer booths filled with antiques, collectibles, furniture, home décor, man cave items, arts, crafts, and unique gifts you may not find anywhere else. Also, As Seen On TV, The Music Memories Museum is located inside Main

Street Market where you can see Bright's private collection of authentic items and personal clothing once owned by over 250 famous singers. MSM has truly become a gem for our community and people all over the world and has over 11,000 followers on Facebook. Follow at facebook/mainstreet-marketswainsboro. For more information about the museum, visit [www.musicmemoriesmuseum.com](http://www.musicmemoriesmuseum.com).



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## November Food Service Establishment Inspection Reports

Listed below are Georgia Department of Public Health Food Service Establishment Inspection Reports for the month of November 2023, along with the violations:

- Lynn and Bob's – Score 96 A (11/17/2023)**  
Observed no thermometer in pepsi cooler  
Observed single use containers not protected to prevent contamination
- Emanuel Medical Center – Score 96 A (11/27/2023)**  
Observed wet cloths on prep tables  
Observed debris on floor shelves
- Edenfield House – Score 100 A (11/27/2023)**
- EGSC College Cafe - Score 95 A (11/27/2023)**  
Observed out of date buttermilk (Corrected on-site)  
Observed leaking faucet at 2 compartment sink

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The Forest-Blade

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## Sutton chosen as DAR Good Citizen

David Emanuel Academy senior, Tony Sutton, has been selected as school winner of the DAR Good Citizen Award. This award is sponsored annually by the David Emanuel-Adam Brinson chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Students are selected by classmates and school faculty for this award. Voting is based on the qualities of a good citizen, which are dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Tony is the son of Janice and Andy Sutton.



SUTTON

## McCoy and Martin selected as Heisman Scholars

David Emanuel Academy seniors Chirsten McCoy and Billy Martin have been selected as school winners of the Heisman High School Scholarship Award. Academics, athletics, school activities, volunteer service and completed essays are all reviewed for this award.

As school winners, Chirsten and Billy are eligible to compete for scholarships, along with state and national recognition. Chirsten is the daughter of Christy and Brad McCoy and Billy is the son of Allison and Will Martin.



MARTIN AND MCCOY



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## Downtown storefront winners

by MELISSA KIRBY, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The votes are in! We have a winner of our annual Downtown Storefront Decoration Contest. We are excited to announce 1<sup>st</sup> place goes to Gifts Galore for their rendition of "The Grinch Stole Christmas" and 2<sup>nd</sup> place goes to Blushing Cotton Co. for "Santa's Workshop". If you have

not visited our downtown retail businesses, you are missing out. We hope you will bring the kids downtown to see all the beautifully decorated storefronts and don't forget to shop locally this holiday season. Your support of our downtown businesses keeps our downtown business district vibrant and alive!

The Downtown De-

velopment Authority of Swainsboro would like to thank *The Forest-Blade* and RadioJones for sponsoring this year's contest. Without their continued support this would not have been possible. The DDA is a nonprofit organization who depends on volunteers and generous donations to help fund events and activities hosted by the DDA.

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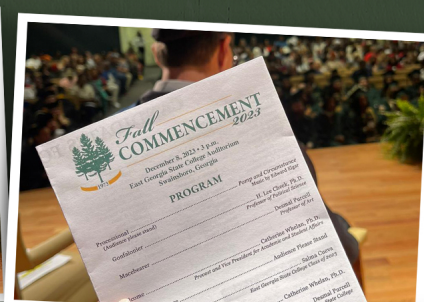
**East Georgia STATE COLLEGE**

**HISTORY BY THE NUMBERS**



**50 Years**

**CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2023!**



## Mary Lee Flanders Coursey, 87

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Mrs. Mary Lee Flanders Coursey, age 87, of Bartow, on Friday, December 8, 2023, at her home. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 11, at 11 a.m. in the Peebles-Curry Memorial Chapel with Reverend Lamar Kersey officiating and Reverend Bert Flanders to assist. Visitation was held Sunday, December 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors. Burial followed in the Sardis Primitive Baptist Cemetery in Swainsboro. Pallbearers were Jeffrey Coursey, Wayne Kersey, Lee Flanders, Kevin Flanders, Brian Flanders and Slade Hicks.

Mrs. Coursey was born in Swainsboro to the late Ozie Lee Flanders and Elsie Stapleton Flanders. She worked in factories for many years and was a caretaker to many. Mary attended school in Oak Chapel, Blundale, and one year in Swainsboro. She was "Miss Pine Tree" and rode the float in the Pine Tree Festival Parade. Mary enjoyed gardening, fishing, and carpentry. She had many skills and talents but was most known for making quilts. Mary was dedicated to her family and loved them dearly. Mrs. Coursey is preceded in death by



**COURSEY**

her parents; husband, William Coursey; and brother, S.J. Flanders.

Survivors include her daughter, Kay Wilson (Tommy) of Wadley; son, Ronnie Coursey (Lisa) of Louisville; sisters, Carolyn Kersey (Lamar), Zelma Smith, Eva Nell Flanders, June Johnson (Tony) and Joyce Lamb (Joey); brothers, Bert Flanders (Julie) and O.L. Flanders (Kandi); grandchildren, Angela McArthur (Travis), Britney Wilson, A.J. Coursey (Karman) and Travis Coursey; great-grandchildren, Gracie Crego, Kohen Herman, Braylon Wilson, Nash McArthur, Ridge McArthur, Tate McArthur, Remington Coursey and Paisley Coursey; many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to: Williams Chapel Baptist Church, c/o Joyce Lamb, 338 Keith Screws Rd., Kite, GA 31049.

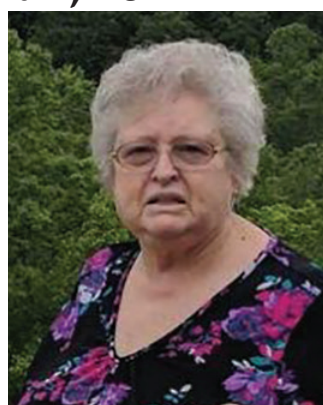
Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

## Beverly Kay Goodman Alderman, 78

Mrs. Beverly Kay Goodman Alderman, age 78, passed away on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at Evans Memorial Hospital. Funeral service was held Friday, December 8, at 11 a.m. at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home with Rev. Jessie Ray Goodman officiating. Burial followed in Alderman Family Cemetery. The family welcomed visitors Thursday, December 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Statesboro.

Nephews served as pallbearers.

Mrs. Alderman was born on May 16, 1945, in Savannah, to the late Mr. John Willie Goodman and Mrs. Essie Mae Brown. She graduated from Metter High School and later from Swainsboro Tech. Mrs. Alderman worked for multiple financial organizations in Statesboro as a loan officer. She loved her children and grandchildren deeply and will be dearly missed by all of them. Beverly was a faithful member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church for over 40 years and served as a bible study leader, a choir leader, and a Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Alderman is preceded in death her parents; and Jimmie Alderman.



**ALDERMAN**

Mrs. Alderman is survived by her sons, Mark Alderman (Cheri) of Black Creek, Matthew Alderman of Longview, Texas and Will Glover of Statesboro; daughters, Lisa Alderman of Statesboro and Dale Brinson (Brett) of Brooklet; sister, Eileen Sconyers Smith (Frank) of Statesboro; brothers, her twin, Ray Goodman (Minnie) of Metter, Cleve Goodman (Tammy) of Statesboro and John Goodman of Goose Creek, SC.; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

The family requests that any memorial contributions be made to: Evans Memorial Hospital, 200 N. River St. Claxton, GA 30417.

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

## Eleni Michele Radford, 30

Ms. Eleni Michele Radford, age 30, of Statesboro, passed away Sunday, December 3, 2023. Funeral services were held Friday, December 8, at 2 p.m. at Summertown Baptist Church with Reverend John Durden officiating. Interment followed at Hines Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends Thursday, December 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Jordan Radford, Trey Radford, Joseph Radford, Ty Moore, Jordan Johnson and Chad Flake.

Ms. Radford was born February 11, 1993, in Millen, to Christopher Alan Radford and Patricia Fries. She grew up in Summertown with her daddy, bonus mom Lindsey, and sisters, Taylor, Brailey and Colbie. Eleni attended Swainsboro Elementary school, but later transferred to Emanuel County Institute where she completed her schooling in 2011. She had a large extended family with many people that loved her to include her extra parents, Charity and Timmy McManus, grandparents, Larry and Deborah Flake and her sister, Kourtney. Eleni loved to camp, fish and shop, and spending time with her family was her favorite thing to do. Her most favorite thing of all was she loved being a mother to her three children, Hunter, Enlee and J.J. Eleni was a devoted mother that loved her



**RADFORD**

children very much. She had a heart of gold, she loved big, and she loved hard. Eleni's love was always pure and unconditional. She was a true angel on earth. Ms. Radford is preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Larry Flake.

Ms. Radford is survived by her parents, Chris and Lindsey Radford of Midville, Charity and Timmy McManus of Hephzibah and Patricia Fries of Millen; sons, Hunter Radford and J.J. Rucker, both of Statesboro; daughter, Enlee Johnson of Statesboro; paternal grandparents, Melvin and Linda Radford of Midville and JoAnn and Ronnie Heath of Summertown; maternal grandmother, Deborah Flake of Jarrard; sisters, Taylor Radford of Swainsboro, Brailey Radford and Colbie Radford, both of Midville, Kourtney Flake of Hephzibah and Michaela Fries of Millen; several aunts, uncles, cousins, other family and friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

## Arthur "Butch" Goff, 77

Arthur "Butch" Goff, age 77, passed away peacefully at his home on December 10, 2023, after a lengthy health decline, under the care of Pruitt Hospice, surrounded by his faithful family. To honor Butch's wishes, no services will be held. His remains will be interred at the Miller Family Cemetery in Screven County.

Butch was born November 21, 1946, in Moultrie, to the late Clyde Edward and Thelma Wooten Goff. He was a 1964 graduate of Colquitt County High School and resided in Colquitt County until 1993 when he met Michelle, the love of his life, and moved to Statesboro. Michelle and Butch moved to Twin City in 2003 and lived there until Michelle's retirement when they moved to the Miller Family Farm in Screven County. Butch was a career firefighter with the City of Moultrie, an auxiliary deputy with the Colquitt County Sheriff's Department, and a cabinet builder. After moving to Statesboro, he worked at East Georgia Regional Hospital and Georgia Southern University as a locksmith. Butch was a former Deacon at Macedonia Baptist Church in Statesboro where he also taught the teenage Sunday School class. He was a master carpenter and could build or fix anything. Before his health failed, he most enjoyed helping others with their projects and building anything that he had a picture of! A former Twin City neighbor said Butch was the best neighbor anyone could have - he had every tool known to man and his shop was always open. While living in Twin City and before his health began declining, Butch could be found coaching Recreation baseball and football, working in the ECI Bulldogs Concession Stand, building cornhole board sets and turning wood on his lathe to make rolling pins, helping at Lane Brother's Auctions, and inspecting and permitting building projects for Twin City. Butch and Michelle enjoyed many years



**GOFF**

of camping with their Emanuel County friends and cherished each trip and the memories made. Once they moved to the farm, Butch's greatest joy was riding his little John Deere tractor and keeping the grass mowed. In addition to his parents, Mr. Goff is preceded in death by his sister and brother-in-law, Edna Elizabeth and Andrew Jackson Ricks; grandson, Brandon; nephews, Jackie Ricks, Mike Halbert and Curtis Halbert; and niece, Debbie Halbert.

Mr. Goff is survived by his wife of 29 years, Michelle Miller Goff of Screven County; daughter, Kim (Billy) Craig of Screven County; two sons, Aaron (Kelly) Goff of Moultrie and Mitchell Goff (Courtney Johnson) of Screven County; four grandchildren, Will (Kacie) Craig and Kortney (Hunter) Oglesby of Screven County and Jesse and Emily Goff of Moultrie; three great-grandsons, Deacon and Palmer Craig and Penelope Oglesby; brother and sister, AK "Buddy" Goff and Elaine Goff, both of Thomas County; mother-in-law, Rebecca Perry Miller; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; Kim and Aaron's mother, Dottie; his fur babies, T, Lola, Blackjack and Joe; and grand-pups, Boone and Willie will miss him terribly.

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to: Weekend Blessings of Emanuel County, c/o Durden Banking Company, P. O. Box 160, Twin City, GA, 30471, or to some other charity that benefits children or animals. A kind gesture or helping hand given to someone would honor the joy he found in helping others.

Low Country Cremation and Burial has the honor to serve the Goff family.

## Barbara Ruth Green Taylor, 86

Barbara Ruth Green Taylor, age 86, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, November 26, 2023. A Celebration of life and Legacy was held Saturday, December 9, at 1 p.m. at Mosley's Funeral Home with Elder Delmus G. Mosley officiating. Burial followed at St Galilee Cemetery.

Barbara was born October 5, 1937, to the late James "Buddy" Levi Green and Ruth Williams Green Scott. She graduated from the Professor N.E. Williams School of Emanuel County. Barbara moved to New Jersey at a young age and attended the Manpower Training School to become a stockbroker. She worked for Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith for over 30 years before retiring. Barbara then worked for the Board of Education of Newark, NJ until her health declined. She loved to grow vegetables



**TAYLOR**

and loved all animals. Mrs. Taylor is preceded in death by her parents; son, Kerry Lamont Witt; grandson, David Witt, and two sisters.

Mrs. Taylor leaves to cherish her memories with her son, Horace M. (Alberta) Hall; daughter, Patricia Taylor; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a brother; and a host of nieces, nephews, other extended family, friends and her loving fur baby, "Miss Kitty".

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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# Editorials Columns

## What were you thinking?

That's a question most of us have heard at one time or another. It's usually not asked to really get an answer. Usually, it's asked just to make a point, and that point is definitely not about how smart you are. In this particular situation, however, I am honestly asking an important question to get an honest answer. I know it's Christmas time, the season of goodwill, but Mr. President Biden, what were YOU thinking when you decided that we should not enforce the laws of this country concerning people who illegally cross our borders? What were you thinking last week when more than 12,700 people disregarded U.S. law and came into this country in the course of one day? Yes sir, that's correct. You shattered the all-time, 24-hour record for illegal immigration. So, you win the trophy big

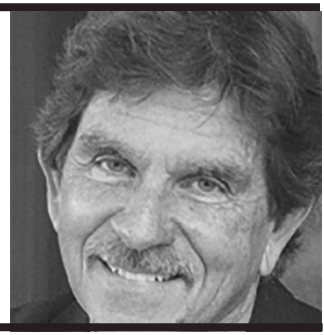
guy! You can put it in the garage right beside the Corvette. Your cabinet and staff deserve credit too. Of course, whenever they are asked how Trump was able to successfully control the border, they automatically break into a chorus of the same old song. "Oh, the last administration created a terrible mess and left it for us to clean up," they croon. Really? At the end of Trump's administration, illegal immigration was at the lowest point it had been in nearly 50 years. Then, the Biden administration came into office, overturned most of Trump's policies on immigration, and within months, the worst immigration crisis to ever hit the nation was underway. That crisis is now three years old and has accounted for ten million illegal crossings with 1.8 million "got aways"

since Biden became President. Since then, one failure after another has been the story of the Southern border. First came the appointment of V.P. Kamala Harris as the "so-called" Border Czar, then the program of record-breaking foreign aid to the Central American countries of the Northern Triangle, then the Immigration Summit meeting with Joe Biden and his "close friend", the President of Mexico and on and on and nothing happened. Now, the situation continues to become dramatically worse, and this country seems powerless to bring it under control.

The next logical question to ask the President would be, "Mr. President, are you not aware of this crisis, or are you not competent enough to fix this problem, or is this part of an intentional design to achieve a policy goal

that you want to keep quiet about?" More and more, the most plausible explanation seems to lie in the weeds of political and economic power. The power of the liberal wing of the Democratic party relies heavily on the social programs of big government for its appeal and base support, and the corporate side of the Democratic party relies on cheap, abundant, labor to keep hourly wages down and profits up. With Biden's open border policy, the Democrats get it all. Last week, I watched the news as long freight trains coming out of Mexico headed into the United States. I don't know what products were inside those rail cars but perched on top of each car were hundreds of migrating people hanging on for dear life. The trains are owned by BNSF, Burlington Northern

## Charles Schwabe



Santa Fe which is the largest railroad company in the United States. It is now privately owned, and the majority stockholder is Mr. Warren Buffet. He is one of the wealthiest men in the country and a corporate contributor to the Democratic party. You don't have to be a conspiracy theorist to see the value to the Democrats of having cheap, plentiful labor from Mexico, China, Russia, Angola, Ghana or India or any of the other 109 countries that are continuously sending immigrants to swell the ranks of the Democratic party. They come every day by train, by boat, by bus, and they come because President Joe Biden

continues to allow them to come. 169 of them have come even though they were listed on the FBI Terrorist Watchlist. They are here now Mr. President, and if you don't think that more and more are coming from groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and the Houthis, call somebody at the Pentagon. Mr. President, it is YOUR job to protect and defend this nation. A country that has no control over its borders will soon have no control, period. Our message to the world should be: if you wish to come to America, you must respect the laws of America, and Mr. Biden, if you wish to lead the United States of America, you should do the same.

## Continue Raggedy Ann

The last column left Shirley with a shameful Betsy Wetsy under her tree instead of her beloved Raggedy Ann. She forgave Santa with the hope that she would be able to fulfil her desire for Raggedy when her own little daughter became reading age. On that

Christmas morning, she made sure that Santa delivered the book and doll to her daughter, Erin. The little girl was pleased but since she had not yet read the book, she wondered why the book and doll was so cherished by her mother. After hearing the tale, she sadly

asked her, "Were you poor when you were a child?" That was the only reason she could imagine. "No, the reason was that none of the stores in Swainsboro had a Raggedy Ann doll available for Santa." That gave her cause to cherish the book and doll. This doll

was passed down to the next generation and granddaughter, Allison, who kept her sitting in a little child's chair that had belonged to her grandmother. That was the heritage of Raggedy Ann. However, Shirley, found a new book and doll to add to the family. Her granddaughter opened the present and gleefully explained, "Oh look, it is Mr. Raggedy Ann." Raggedy Andy was added to the family. Perhaps you wonder how my mother was able to buy the book for me, and so did I. There was an old building near the ice plant that

## Shirley Proctor Twiss



once a week was turned into a second-hand store. A truck would arrive filled with items that had been stored somewhere up north and never recovered. My mother was a bargain hunter and went through the truck and often found special things to add to our home. The most valued was a packed box of children's books. This was a treasure since I

had just begun to read and loved owning books. You guessed it--in the box was Raggedy Ann which I read over and over and dreamed of having the doll to hold and cuddle. At that time there was no way to order books or toys, but there was a second-hand store. You never knew what you might find there. Write to Shirley at [sptwiss@gmail.com](mailto:sptwiss@gmail.com).

## Editorial Cartoons



## The Christmas Child

The late December wind whipped around our little country cottage. It was cold outside but inside it was warm and cozy. A low burning fire was dying in the fireplace and exposing embers of red and white. Christmas was coming fast, as fast as a runaway train with no brakes, but around our house the Christmas spirit had not yet entered into our little private world. Mama lay in her feather bed pregnant with her fifth and last child. Her feet were badly swollen which prevented her

## Ronnie Johnson



from baking her fabulous fruit cakes, cookies and gingerbread creations. Her due date was near Christmas day, and she seemed restless and depressed. There were no presents under the Christmas tree. Would Santa Claus bring any gifts for Christmas 1952? I was happy that a brother or sister was joining our family but in my eight-year-old mind, the event was disrupting the joyous season that our family had always enjoyed at Christmas time. With each passing day, Christmas Day

was drawing nearer. Would mama be in the hospital, and would we miss Christmas Church services at our local church? On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, a baby girl came into our home. Mama named her Mary Beth, which honored Jesus Christ's mother, Mary, and mama's baby sister, Beth, who had died in a tragic house fire. It was the best Christmas I ever had. Mama was able to get all her Christmas cooking done and I got a new bicycle and a little baby sister, which was the greatest gift of all.

# The Forest-Blade

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Emanuel County Newspaper, Inc.  
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Gail Williamson,  
Editor/Publisher

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

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

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## Glad Garden Club spreads Christmas cheer

by JOANN TRAMMELL  
On November 27, the Glad Garden Club met at Emanuel County Medical Center to bring a little Christmas cheer to the hospital. Christmas time is not the time to be in the hospital be it as a patient or visitor. Even though employees know they are needed, most would rather be home cooking and wrapping, cooking and decorating, cooking and cleaning. So the little elves of the Glad Garden Club started decking the halls with boughs of holly, trees, and wreaths. First, you are greeted by two lighted Nutcracker Soldiers at the front door along with Christmas swags on the outside benches. The main Christmas tree is in the lobby decorated with traditional ornaments and lights. There are a few new ornaments purchased with funds used from an anonymous donor. Even a Santa, a snowman and a caroler can be seen, and let's not forget the Angels. There are presents under the tree but don't open them because there is nothing in them right now. They are waiting for Santa's special touch. Another large tree graces the cafeteria with lights, ornaments and an angel on top, along with a beautiful Nativity by the cashier. Two newly decorated trees donated by Swainsboro Tractor Supply are by the main elevators on the first and second floors, bows and boughs and a second Nativity in the Chapel and a large lighted Angel in ICU, all help to make Christmas a little bit more special for our hospital community.



SYLVIA DURDEN, MARY SHEPHERD, SHERRI CLIFTON, JOANN TRAMMELL, MARIA DANIELS, CAROLINE BROWN, JEANETTE HALL, LISA PARHAM AND AUDREY WEST



CAROLINE BROWN, JEANETTE HALL, SYLVIA DURDEN, KAREN CLEMENTS, LISA PARHAM AND AUDREY WEST

finishing touches decorating the live "Christmas" tree that was planted earlier this year in honor of our veterans. Under the direction of Johnny Tapley and his able-bodied crew of Veterans and City workers, Christmas lights donated by the club were strung on the tree to bring the total number of lights on the tree to twelve hundred! The club banner honoring the thirteen men and women killed in Afghanistan was taken down to be replaced temporarily by seasonal wreaths on the fence surrounding the park. A star donated by club member Sherri Clifton was placed on the top of the tree. On December 5, Garden Club members gathered in their Christmas outfits for another full day of giving and celebrating the Christmas season. To start off the morning, members met at the Sunshine House

to deliver a donation of Christmas cheer to the deserving staff. Christmas is a time of sharing, giving, and miracles. The world takes on a red and green glow. Angels are singing. The kitchen is full of smells that bring back childhood memories but not every child has that privilege. Not every child gets to hang up their stocking by the chimney with care because there is no hope of jolly St. Nick coming there. Families are stressed and family dynamics can be difficult, especially this time of year. The Sunshine House tries to bring an extra little bit of Christmas cheer and comfort to the less fortunate and stressed this time of year. Then on to the Swainsboro Primary Pre-K School to donate to their Fig Leaf Project in support of purchasing clean underwear for children while

at school. Then members took a break and had a fantastic Christmas Luncheon at the new Stockyard Restaurant in Swainsboro. After lunch, even more Christmas cheer was spread with a visit to the Emanuel County Nursing Home. Annually, Christmas presents are provided to county nursing homes on a rotating basis. Small blankets wrapped with Christmas bows and tiny stockings, donated by Wal-Mart and member Lisa Parham, were distributed to all residents. Even a Christmas Carol or two were sung. What a wonderful day and a jolly good time was had by all. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

## Team Effort Missionary Baptist Church to hold Christmas morning worship service

Team Effort Missionary Baptist Church will have their Christmas morning worship service on Sunday, December 24, at 8 a.m. Rev. Samuel Carlyle invites everyone to attend and breakfast will be served.

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## Glad Garden Club is spreading seeds

The Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center would like to express their sincere appreciation to the Swainsboro Glad Garden Club. These wonderful ladies are spreading seeds of hope and goodness among the children and families of The Sunshine House CAC. We know that you have a lot of choices when it comes to donating and are so grateful that once again, you have chosen to donate to this cause. The Sunshine House promises to be responsible stewards of both your donation and your trust.



MARY SHEPHERD, JEANETTE HALL, SHERRI CLIFTON, LEI BRAGG, TSH NURSE PRACTITIONER; JO ANN TRAMMELL, AUDREY WEST, CAROLINE BROWN, LISA PARHAM AND SYLVIA DURDEN

The family of Mattie Mae Archie wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the blessings of your presence, prayers, verbal and written expressions of support, gifts of food, floral arrangements and other thoughtful gestures shown to us during our time of bereavement.

Love,

Charles "Pee-wee" Burnett



THE SMITHS

## Seedling Garden Club December Yard of the Month

The Seedling Garden Club proudly announces that the December 2023, Yard of the Month is the home of Dess D., the late Ginny Smith and Mary Ellen Smith, located on N. Racetrack Street. Dess

enjoys working in his yard, especially at Christmas, to help Emanuel County stay beautiful. Nominations for Yard of the Month are welcomed for each month. The Seedling Garden Club wants

to honor homeowners and organizations that personally work so diligently with pride and love to maintain their yards. Please call in your nominations to 478.494.6754 or 478.494.2752.



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# Swainsboro Christmas Parade







## Tigers put up...

(From front page)

ing a Swainsboro punt, and adding another quick touchdown. As the first quarter closed, the Tigers found themselves down 21-6. Things started looking ugly when Prince Avenue drove it to the Swainsboro five-yard line again, but Demello Jones jumped the pass, intercepted it, and took it 96 yards for a touchdown to make it a 21-12 game. The Swainsboro defense got a stop and gave the offense a chance to play catch up. They did just that as Jones punched it in after a good drive and the Tigers found themselves only down three at the break. Prince Avenue received the second half kick-off and extended their lead to 28-18 to start the third quarter. The Tigers needed their

offense to respond to keep them in the game, and they put together a five-minute drive, capping it off with another Demello Jones touchdown, his fourth of the day. The back-and-forth affair continued, but Swainsboro couldn't find the brakes to stop the Prince Avenue offense, which no one else had, and after another touchdown, PAC led 35-26. The Tigers needed to keep chipping away, but their efforts were derailed by an interception on the third play of the drive. PAC capitalized and scored again, extending their lead to 42-26. Swainsboro put together a quick drive as Qin Brown scored from 35 yards out. In the charge to tack on the 2-point conversion, officials called the Tigers inches short of the

goal line. The call was reviewed but remained unchanged. Prince Avenue Christian went down and added one more score with two minutes left to make it a 49-32 ballgame, and as time expired, the Tigers left the field having battled through four remarkable quarters. "Our kids have fought like crazy throughout the playoffs to have a chance to play in that game. We were down in the 4th quarter at Elbert County and Brooks County and our kids kept fighting and found a way to win. They did the same thing in the state championship game. We got in a hole early and they never flinched. They just kept playing with great effort and made some plays to get us back in it. In the end, Prince Avenue just made more plays



SENIORS KALEB LONG, DEMELLO JONES, KASON PALMER AND JERROD STEWARD, ALONG WITH COACH ROBERTS, RECEIVE TROPHY FROM GHSA OFFICIAL

than we did. I hope this senior class knows how much they are appreciated by myself and the rest of this coaching staff," said Head Coach Scott Roberts. "Around here, we measure our on-field success by playoff wins more than anything else. This group was a part of eleven of them in the last 3 years - more than any class in the history of Swainsboro High School. They have set

the bar pretty high. On top of that, they have represented this program, school, and community in a first-class manner on and off the field. I can say the same thing about this class that I said about last year's senior class. They are really good football players, but they are better people."

The season ended one step short of a trophy, but this loss doesn't define the incredi-

ble journey the Tigers had. This team defied the odds all year and made it back to the Championship game. That is an amazing accomplishment, and it leaves no doubt that the Tigers will be back! Congratulations to Coach Roberts, all the Assistant Coaches and every member of the Swainsboro Tiger Football team for everything you've accomplished!

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## All The Fixins...

(From front page)

breakfast, lunch, casseroles, desserts and feature local Georgia products in their gift shop.

They started renting the Twin City property in 2020 from local businessman Clark Dixon. Over time, as they were outgrowing the space, they realized that there was a bricked-up archway connecting their storefront with a large warehouse space immediately behind their store. They purchased the property in 2023 and began the renovation work to open the brick archway, restore the three large front windows, expose the original brick walls and install lights and electrical outlets throughout the new space. The new

warehouse space will be used for storing inventory, making candies and pecans, shipping products and additional kitchen space.

In January, the Twin City location will have new store hours: 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and will use the new space to serve breakfast and will also be constructing a drive-through for customers to enjoy. "We are thankful for the support of our local community and also so thankful for our team of employees who serve up many forms of goodness to our customers each and every day," says Tucker.

Contact Janna G. Tucker. 502 5th Ave., Twin City, 770.304.6688, [janna.g.tucker@gmail.com](mailto:janna.g.tucker@gmail.com).



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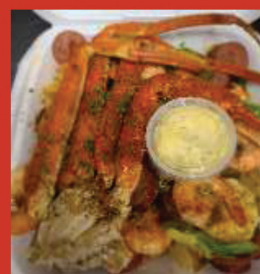
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Social  
Sports  
Legals/Classifieds **B**

## DEA Senior Athletes participate in GIAA All Star Game

On Friday, December 8, three David Emanuel Academy senior athletes participated in the Georgia Independent Athletic Association (GIAA) All Star Football Game in Macon. The top senior athletes from all of the GIAA teams were chosen to participate in the game. Senior cheerleaders, Maddie Perkins and Ella Claire Claxton, were among 21 cheerleaders chosen to cheer for the Red Team. Senior football player, Billy Martin, was selected as one of 32 players to play for the Red Team. Martin (#32) was also chosen by the All Star Team coaches to serve as Team Captain for the game.

Maddie is the daughter of Nick Perkins and Ashley Perkins, Ella Claire is the daughter of Joey and Valerie Claxton and Billy is the son of Will and Allison Martin.



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<p> <b>8:00 P.M.</b> East Georgia State College Bobcats VS  South East Area Prep Cougars</p>	

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# DEA holds Varsity Fall Sports Banquet

On Monday, December 4, David Emanuel Academy held their Varsity Fall Sports Banquet to recognize their student athletes who participated in football, softball and cheerleading and awarded those athletes who excelled in his or her field of sport.

Football award winners were: John Kersey - Coach's Award, Ben Flanders - All Region, Jay Carter - All Region, Jonah Boatright - Most Improved, Clayton Hood - All Region, Billy Martin - Most Outstanding Player, All State, All Region, All Star Game Player and Coca Cola Golden Helmet Award Winner, Randon Williams - All State and All Region, Peyton Lee - All Region and Mason Williams (not pictured) - Coach's Award

Softball award winners were: Bailey McNure - Most Improved, Aubrey Scott - Anna Wells Rockin' Eagle Award and All Region Honorable Mention, Kyli Bell - Best Offensive Player and All State and All Region Honorable Mention, Sara Cate Fennell - All Region and All State Honorable Mention, Maddie Perkins - Best Defensive Player, All Region and All State Honorable Mention, Emma Proctor - Most Valuable Player and All State and All Region

Cheerleading award winners were: Josie Grace Black - Most Spirited Award, Maddie Perkins - Coach's Award and All-Star Game Cheerleader, Ella Claire Claxton - Coach's Award and All-Star Game Cheerleader, Payton Peebles - Triple A Award (Awesome Attitude Award) and Aaralyn Grimes - Most Improved.



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### Lions Club donates to Sunshine House

The Twin City Lions Club held their monthly lunch meeting at Simply Southern restaurant in Twin City on Thursday, December 7. Secretary G.W. Johnson invited the Director of the Sunshine House, Carol Donaldson, to be the guest speaker. Mrs. Donaldson spoke to the club about its history from when it was founded until present day. She also talked about how many young lives the organization has touched and how many children they've

helped over the decades. She also talked about the budget cuts they've experienced due to cuts in federal grants and how the need for donations is higher than ever so they can continue to help the abused children in the surrounding area. The club donated \$500 to the Sunshine House as they've done for many years. "We are so thankful for The Sunshine House and the role it plays in our community," said Lions Club President Brandon Jones.



**JONES AND SUNSHINE HOUSE DIRECTOR CAROL DONALDSON**

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## FBLA raises money for the March of Dimes

The Emanuel County Institute Middle and High School Chapters of Future Business Leaders of America and our communities joined hands in November to raise money for the March of Dimes, a national service partner of FBLA. Friday, November 17, was National Prematurity Awareness Day, and we focused everyone's attention on the problem of premature birth.

Students and staff from ECI, employees at Twin City Elementary, and employees at Durden Banking Company helped with this project to raise awareness and money. With purple being the color of Prematurity Awareness,



**JESSICA SMITH, ALIVIA CONLEY, JAYLA RHODES, MICHELLE MERCER-MILLSAPS AND JIM COWART**

participants were encouraged to wear purple with their jeans.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing

birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the organization funds programs of research, education, community service, and advoca-

cy to save babies. Each year, ECI FBLA sponsors a variety of projects to raise awareness and money to support the mission of the March of Dimes.

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## Veterans discuss Wreaths Across America

The Veterans at the Library held their weekly meeting Monday, December 11, at 9:15 a.m. With Chair John Tapley presiding, there were 46 in attendance including one new veteran, Charles Joseph Clarkson. He served in the U.S. Army, 3rd Infantry Division from 1970 to 1990. Chuck is a veteran of Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. He was stationed in Vietnam and the Middle East during his career. His highest rank was Major. Chair

Johnny welcomed the new veteran and mentioned that they needed to pass out the cards that they have to other veterans. If you are a veteran, meet at the library at 9:15 a.m. each Monday morning. They would be glad to have you. Johnny also mentioned that they will be receiving the wreaths around Thursday or Friday of this week and that they will be placing them on the graves of veterans in Emanuel County on Saturday, December 16.

The main event will be at the Swainsboro City Cemetery to start at 10 a.m. on. The ROTC units from Emanuel County and the Compatriots of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution will participate in the event. ROTC will be the Color Guard and the Compatriots will be firing three volleys with their Flintlocks and four Cannons. After the 3-round volley, Veteran Scotty Nasworthy will play taps on his bugle, then volunteers



**CLARKSON** will place wreaths on 684 veterans' graves in the Swainsboro City Cemetery.

# Calling All Future Builders and Innovators!

## Top 5 Engineering Careers in Georgia

by WALLEE KERSEY  
 Hey there, curious minds! Ever wondered what it takes to build a bridge, create a robot, or design the next big tech gadget? Well, look no further than the exciting world of engineering! In Georgia, engineers are in high demand, building everything from roller coasters to spaceships. Are you ready to explore the top 5 engineering careers you could have in the Peach State?

- 1. Civil Engineer:** Imagine designing and building the roads, bridges, and buildings that make up our cities and towns! Civil engineers use their math and science skills to plan, design, and construct these essential structures. They're the backbone of our infrastructure, ensuring safe and efficient transportation and living spaces.
- 2. Software Engineer:** Calling all code whizzes! Software engineers are the masterminds behind the apps, games, and

websites we use every day. They design, develop, and test software, using their programming skills to bring ideas to life. With the tech industry booming in Georgia, software engineers are always in demand.

- 3. Biomedical Engineer:** Ever wondered how doctors use robots to perform surgery? That's the work of biomedical engineers! They combine engineering principles with medical knowledge to design and develop medical devices, prosthetics, and even artificial organs. If you're passionate about science and helping people, this could be your calling.

- 4. Aerospace Engineer:** Reach for the stars! Aerospace engineers design and build aircraft, spacecraft, and satellites. They use their knowledge of physics and mechanics to ensure these vehicles can safely travel through the air and even space. Imagine launching rockets or designing the next supersonic jet – that's the

power of aerospace engineering.

- 5. Environmental Engineer:** Want to protect our planet? Environmental engineers work to solve environmental challenges like pollution, water conservation, and renewable energy. They use their knowledge of science and engineering to design solutions for a cleaner and more sustainable future. Be the change you want to see in the world with environmental engineering!

These are just a few of the many exciting engineering careers waiting for you in Georgia. With a strong foundation in math, science, and critical thinking, you can be a part of building the future. So, what are you waiting for? Start exploring, tinkering, and learning today – the world of engineering await

*Wallee Kersey is a 12th grade Senior 4-H member from Emanuel County Institute. Wallee's project area is Engineering & Mechanics*



JROTC CADETS

## ECI JROTC inspected for accreditation

On November 15, the United States Army Cadet Command inspected the ECI JROTC program for accreditation. Cadets received an overall score of 98.88 percent from the inspector, Mr. Max Denniston, from the 6th Brigade United States Army Cadet Command (USACC). The inspection, which takes place every three to four years, follows the standards known as the JPA to determine whether or not a program can maintain its accreditation and funding. Instructors and Cadets used benchmarks depicted in the JPA handbook to help pace the battalion in preparing for the inspection. The program earned an overall score of 98. Eighty-eight percent gained their accreditation. "The Army JROTC programs are accredited by AdvancEd and the State of Georgia as a Special Purpose Program, and as such are committed to continuous improvement. AdvancEd requires that the Army

JROTC programs meet five standards of quality: the Battalion Staff Continuous Improvement Briefing and Interview, Service Learning Briefing, Cadet and Instructor Portfolio and Interview, Unit Report, Color Guard, and platoon Drills. ECI JROTC Instructor Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Yarbrough indicated. "The purpose of the JPA is to gather information and evidence to support the continuous improvement of teaching and learning in the JROTC programs."

Cadet Officers, as well as the rest of the battalion, spent a lot of time preparing for the most important inspection in JROTC. "It was a stressful and nervous situation, causing fear of not excelling and the thoughts of losing the current unit award of Honor Unit with Distinction (HUD). A lot of preparation went into it, and it pushed the battalion leadership team to work together as a team to succeed and keep our current unit award, which is the

highest unit award to achieve as a unit," Senior Asia Gibbon, Cadet Battalion Commander, stated. Because of the lengthy preparation, junior Riley Cannady, Cadet Executive Officer, felt confident about the outcome. Junior Alana Canady, Cadet Command Sergeant Major, verbalized, "I knew we were going to attain the award again because we put in a lot of effort that dates back to last school year's development and learning." We did it with flying colors," junior Cadet Captain a Green, Battalion's Security Officer declared. The younger members of the battalion were very impressive in that they were able to express their early growth and depth of knowledge of the program. The battalion's actions leading up to the JPA inspection showed dedication and helped the program receive the accreditation and funding needed to continue growing as a successful unit.



PRESIDENT GOODMAN, WARNOCK AND HATTAWAY



PRESIDENT GOODMAN, THE BARBERS AND GOODMAN

## Warnock speaks to Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting Tuesday night, December 5, at the Rustic Grille at 7 p.m. With President Cheryl Goodman presiding, they had 19 in attendance. Tim Goodman installed two new members to the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, William Barber and Brenda Barber. The cake, donated by Tammy Allen, was won by Dianna Wedincamp. She presented the cake to Dr. Warnock. Cheryl Goodman won the Domino's pizza and a plethora of people won Braswell goodies - Tim Goodman, Brenda Barber, Will Barber, Deana Patrick

and Tammy Allen. The Braswell goodies were donated by Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz. The program for the evening was hosted by Scotty Hattaway who presented Dr. Denise Warnock, Emanuel County Schools Assistant Superintendent. Denise updated on the recent Literacy Legislation, SB 48 (Dyslexia Identification and Support), HB 538 (Early Literacy Act) and SB 211 (Georgia Council of Literacy). Finding that only 30-35% of students in the early grades show reading proficiency, increasing the rate is essential for student success. The bills

will require training of all K-3 teachers in the "Science of Reading" curriculum and methods, multiple screening of students during the school year, the adoption of high-quality instructional materials, intervention strategies for those students identified as having difficulty, and the measurement and reporting of literacy outcomes. In addition, the program will be taught in all college teaching preparation programs in the state and will have a community involvement approach, such as the Ferst Readers, DKG Books Project, Buddy Readers, and Read United currently in place in Emanuel County.

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# Swainsboro Police Reports

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

## November 28

Officer was dispatched to Joe's Auto in reference to a stolen vehicle. Complainant stated a vehicle was towed to her residence from Dollar Tree parking lot by the request of offender. Det. spoke with the owner of the vehicle who stated she has been paying for the vehicle and bought it from her father. Officer went to victim's residence and spoke with her who stated someone has been stealing parts off of the vehicle and it was in the parking lot because the belt broke. Victim stated she suspects her brother has been stealing parts off of the car and cutting the belt so it wouldn't run.

## November 29

Officer met with complainant in Colegrove Dr. in reference to complainant advising she discovered two laptops and three TVs were missing.

## November 30

Officer was dispatched to SPD in reference to complainant stating her vehicle was hit while parked in WalMart parking lot.

Officer responded to WalMart in reference to two offenders trying to steal \$188 worth of toys. Offenders paid for some items but skip-scanned the rest.

Officer met with complainant at SPD in reference to c/p advising he was repairing damage to his niece's vehicle and the vehicle is no longer at c/p's repair shop. Officer contacted a local repossession company to discover it had been reposed.

Officer observed a vehicle traveling 53 MPH in a 35 MPH zone, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer made contact with the driver and could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle and observed loose tobacco on the console. Officer asked for the driver's license to find it is suspended due to

a super-speeder. Officer asked the driver to step out of the vehicle and began a search of the vehicle to find marijuana in two bags, a bong and a grinder. Offender was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.

## December 1

Officers were dispatched to Stevens Dr. in reference to an altercation involving a juvenile. Victim stated an argument ensued between him and his father/offender and offender pushed c/p against a wall. C/p stated he attempted to flee out of the house and offender pushed him to the ground and began choking him and pulled a knife out and held it to c/p's throat. Officer observed several marks on c/p's neck and blood from his right ear, so EMS was dispatched to the residence. C/p informed that his father was intoxicated inside the residence. Officers met with offender who stated his son and son's friend jumped him, but no marks were observed. Offender was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer responded to S. Green St. in reference to a dispute. Complainant/victim stated her husband/offender was yelling and cussing at her. Officer spoke with offender who was highly intoxicated, and he stated he did not yell or cuss at c/p. C/p spoke up and stated she wanted offender to leave and she wanted to get a restraining order against him and she was going to stay with a family member for the night. Officer noticed offender had a knot and scratch above his eye and offender stated c/p hit him. C/p denied hitting offender.

Officer observed a vehicle with a brake light out, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer sent the tag number in to find the vehicle had suspended registration and no insurance. Officer retrieved the driver's license to find he had

two warrants through Toombs Co. and they wanted to place a hold. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

## December 2

Officer responded to EMC ER in reference to a report of assault. Complainant/victim was being treated for a laceration and officer asked what happened. C/p stated her cousin and husband got into a physical altercation and she stepped in the middle and the male subject pushed her to the ground and when she stood up, the female hit her with something. C/p also stated the male subject came out of the house with a gun and she heard multiple gun shots as she was driving away. Officer went to the residence on Deer Creek Dr. and contacted the male subject who stated the female was not home.

Officers were dispatched to Wal-Mart in reference to a theft. Complainant stated offender skip-scanned 10 items totaling \$109.81. Offender stated she got anxious because her husband and child left due to the crowd and she missed some items.

Officer was dispatched to Lucky St. in reference to complainant stating she was missing some food from inside her residence and discovered her AC unit had been moved from her window. Officer observed damage to the AC unit.

## December 3

Officer was dispatched to Latitude 105 in reference to complainant stating he had been staying somewhere else for a couple of weeks and when he returned to Latitude to get his belongings, several things were missing.

Officer was dispatched to N. Green ST. in reference to complainant stating while her vehicle was parked at the Starblazer, it was damaged. Officer observed damage to a side window shattered but remained in place and the driver window was shattered

and busted out. There was also damage done to the rear bumper causing a golf ball sized hole to be put into the bumper.

Officers were dispatched to Louise St. in reference to a vehicle theft by complainant's girlfriend. Before arriving, the girlfriend had returned. C/p stated his girlfriend took his vehicle without permission. Officers spoke with the girlfriend who was emotionally distraught and informed officers she took the vehicle to get away from c/p because she was being assaulted. Officers observed marks on her throat consistent with strangulation and minor injuries to her hands and she advised c/p punched her in the face. As she was stating her accusations, c/p attempted to go into a room out of sight and was detained and escorted out of the apartment. The female stated c/p assaulted her and she was able to get a frying pan and began hitting his with it then grabbed the keys and fled in his vehicle. C/p stated he was trying to defend himself. Both were placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.

Officers were dispatched to N. Race-track St. in reference to harassment. Victim stated offender drove by her residence and stopped at the stop sign and yelled things at her and she has an active TPO against offender.

## December 4

Officer responded to Allen St. in reference to a dog killing complainant's rabbit.

Officer observed a vehicle driving too close, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. The registration on the vehicle came back suspended. Offender stepped out of his vehicle and introduced himself and was very nervous and kept asking questions and wanted to look for his phone. Officer could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle and from offender. Officer ran the

driver's license to find they are suspended. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

## December 5

Officer was traveling behind a vehicle with a FL tag and the driver slammed on brakes and failed to signal while making an improper u-turn, at which time officer initiated a traffic stop. Officer gathered the driver's info and ran his license to find it is suspended. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer ran the tag on a vehicle to find it had no insurance, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Offender presented an ID card and officer asked if she had license and she stated no. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer observed a vehicle fail to stop at the stop sign, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer approached the driver and informed her of the reason she was stopped, and she refused to sign the citation. Officer informed the driver that refusal to sign the citation would result in her going to jail and she still refused. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer responded to Sonic in reference to an irate ex-employee. Complainant stated he terminated offender and he became irate and got loud and got in c/p's face and threatened him, then left when he heard the law had been called. Officer went to offender's residence and he stated when c/p fired him, he asked c/p to walk outside to talk about it and admitted he was upset and got loud stating that he needed his job. Offender stated c/p went to his vehicle saying he was going to get his gun so he ran up behind him and yelled "shoot me then", then left walking. Officer explained the criminal trespass warning to offender and offender asked if he could take warrants out on c/p for threatening to get a gun.

C/p stated he never mentioned getting a gun but did walk to his vehicle.

Officer responded to W. Church St. in reference to a vehicle failing to yield, almost causing an accident and the vehicle had suspended registration. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

## December 6

Officer made observed a vehicle run a red light, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer could smell a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from offender's person and asked for his license. Officer then asked offender to step out of the vehicle and asked how much he had to drink and he stated he had not drank anything. Offender was unsteady on his feet and his eyes were glazed and refused the PBT test, but later blew willingly and tested positive for alcohol. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer was dispatched to S. Main St. in reference to a male subject going up to people attempting to sell flashlights. Officer spoke with offender who denied the accusations, then spoke with an employee who stated offender was harassing people. Offender walked outside, got into a vehicle and started to drive away when officer stopped him. Officer asked for his license, and he stated he did not have one, and gave a name and DOB to find it was false info. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail and was found to be wanted.

Officer was dispatched to Wincore in reference to a hit and run. Complainant stated a black truck sideswiped his vehicle and he pulled over thinking the truck would pull over but didn't.

Officer noticed a vehicle parked on the shoulder of the road left unattended for eight days, at which time he dispatched 911 to send the next towing company to get the vehicle.

## Applications now available for 2024 FRS Scholarships

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life throughout Rural America by advancing an understanding of rural telecommunications issues. Since its establishment in 1984, furthering the education of rural youth has been one of the foundation's primary focuses. Over \$1 million in scholarships have been awarded, empowering students across the country to advance their communities with invaluable skill sets and experiences. Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a member of NTCA and is proud to support FRS in this worthy endeavor.

**The application process is completely online.** All schools in the Pineland service area will receive

notification of the scholarship award application. Additionally, the application link can be found on the Pineland website - [www.pineland.net](http://www.pineland.net) - under News. The online application process and all associated documents must be finalized and uploaded no later than **February 16, 2024**.

Should a student residing and attending school in the Pineland service area be selected to receive one of the FRS General Scholarships, Pineland will contribute an additional \$500 to the award, bringing the total one-time scholarship award to \$2,500. In addition to the FRS General Scholarships, students may be eligible for one the following named scholarships; Diana Jo Dreyer Memorial Scholarship sponsored by INDATEL Services, Everett Kneece Scholarship, Sarah Tyree Good

Neighbor Scholarship, Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship, JSI Scholarship, and the Cronin Communications Scholarship. One application submission is sufficient for eligibility of all available scholarships.

During the online application process, students must choose the correct sponsoring company in the service area in which they are making application. Our student applicants should be sure to choose **Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. – Metter, GA**. Please contact the Pineland office at (912) 685-2121 during regular business hours or via email at [info@pinelandtelco.com](mailto:info@pinelandtelco.com) with any questions.

Pineland is very excited to bring this scholarship opportunity to its local school districts and wishes all applying students the best of luck!

## Brier Creek holds Christmas meeting

The Brier Creek Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its December meeting at Compatriot John Fitzner's Clubhouse on Thursday night, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. With President Wayne Howard presiding, there were 25 in attendance. The Christmas meeting was a covered dish meal with plenty of the holiday fixings to include Boston Butt, casserole, mac-n-cheese, buttered corn, ribs, potato

salad, pie's, pasta salad, banana pudding, little smokies, divinity baked beans, ambrosia salad and green beans. The highlight of the evening was President Wayne's presentation of the "Sgt. John R. McKinney Distinguished Service Medal" to Compatriot Richard Lee Herron. A SAR Chapter President may present one Chapter Distinguished Service Award and Medal each year of his term of office to a compatriot in recognition for that com-

patriot's conspicuous service to the Chapter. The Chapter President presents this medal at his own discretion and no other approval is needed. A compatriot may receive this medal only once. No Oak Leaf Clusters are authorized. The Brier Creek award's name is named after Screven County's Medal of Honor winner, Sgt. John R. McKinney. Congratulations Lee for all your hard work in the Brier Creek Chapter.



BRIAR CREEK MEMBERS

# 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 (ECSCO); 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); Probation Office (PROB); or East Georgia State College (EGSC).

Gerson Javier Alvarez, 31, entered 12/11/23; Speeding/Driving while unlicensed; ECSCO  
 Yolanda Nicole Artis, 35, entered 12/9/23; Bench warrant; ECSCO  
 Desiree Lynn Bane, 64, entered 12/5/23;

Driving while license suspended/revoked/Speeding; ECSCO

Desmond Malik Brodus, 18, entered 12/4/23; Probation violation; ECSCO

Dante Brown, 43, entered 12/9/23; DUI less safe/Speeding; ECSCO

Michael David Burgess, 27, entered 12/7/23; Court; ECSCO

Serenity Akayla Burke, 18, entered 12/5/23; Probation violation; ECSCO

Phillip Emanuel Carswell, 44, entered 12/7/23; Court; ECSCO

Howard Lee Carter, 35, entered 12/11/23; Hold for Dekalb Co.; ECSCO

Tony Laqui Cooper, 34, entered 12/5/23; Fail to yield right of way/Driving while license suspended/revoked; SPD

Lazaro Dixon, 55, entered 12/5/23; Driving while license suspended/revoked; SPD

Madison Suzanna Dixon, 18, entered 12/7/23; Theft by shoplifting; SPD

Bruce Eric Duty, 57, entered 12/10/23; DUI/Open container/Speeding/Failure to maintain lane; GSP

Tonya Lynn Edge, 42, entered 12/6/23; Probation violation; SPD

Brittany Lynn Gabriel, 27, entered 12/11/23; Court order; ECSCO

Christopher Ottis Gay, 39, entered 12/7/23; Court; ECSCO

Leo Marvin Gibbs, 54, entered 12/6/23; Driving while unlicensed/False statements or writings; SPD

John Thomas Gillis, 39, entered 12/11/23; Probation violation; ECSCO

Pedro Gonzales, 26, entered 12/5/23; Driving while unlicensed/Impeding the flow of traffic/Driving on the wrong side of road/Open container/DUI less safe; ECSCO

Larry Dewayne Head, 66, entered 12/6/23; Trafficking cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana or meth/Parole violation/Failure to stop at stop sign/VGCSA less than oz/Marijuana purchase,

possession, manufacture, distribution or sale/Marijuana purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale/Possession of Schedule II controlled substance/Possession and use of drug related objects; SPD

Joshua Ryan Hebert, 35, entered 12/11/23; Possession of meth; ECSCO

Roberto Hernandez, 44, entered 12/11/23; Disorderly conduct; SPD

Joshua Sanchez James, 27, entered 12/11/23; Hold for Dekalb Co.; ECSCO

James Floyd Johnson, 64, entered 12/8/23; Theft by conversion; ECSCO

Tiffany Anita Lane, 33, entered 12/9/23; Driving while license suspended/revoked; SPD

Robert Daniel Marchman, 31, entered 12/7/23; Probation violation; ECSCO

Alesia Vantalice Marshall, 34, entered 12/11/23; Court order; ECSCO

Tyler Alexander

Marston, 37, entered 12/7/23; No license on person/Failure to obey traffic control device/DUI less safe; GSP

Jesus Montero, 32, entered 12/4/23; Driving while unlicensed; ECSCO

Buddy Wayne Murphy, 64, entered 12/7/23; Court; ECSCO

Orlando Mario Oglesby, 36, entered 12/11/23; Court order; ECSCO

Bryan Evan Patrick, 39, entered 12/6/23; DUI less safe/Failure to maintain lane/Failure to obey traffic control device/Expired registration; SPD

Monica Deleder Price, 25, entered 12/11/23; Court order; ECSCO

Maurice Dwayne Pullens, 35, entered 12/6/23; Driving while license suspended/revoked; ECSCO

Maurice Dwayne Pullens, 35, entered 12/7/23; Trafficking cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana or meth/Parole violation; SPD

Rafel Martin Ramirez, 36, entered 12/8/23;

Driving while unlicensed; ECSCO

Lacey Nicole Scott, 36, entered 12/5/23; Failure to stop at stop sign; SPD

Fredrick Lee Sherrod, 41, entered 12/5/23; Terroristic threats and acts/Pointing or aiming gun or pistol at another/Cruelty to children 3<sup>rd</sup> degree; ECSCO

Willie Albert Shivers, 38, entered 12/8/23; Probation violation; WALK-IN

Tyrone Fitzgerald Spann, 35, entered 12/4/23; Probation violation; ECSCO

Georgiana Nicole Stephens, 34, entered 12/11/23; Court order; ECSCO

Oceifus Kentrell Ward, 36, entered 12/4/23; Driving while license suspended/revoked; SPD

Kamonne Ameshia Williams, 29, entered 12/5/23; No insurance/Driving while unlicensed; SPD

Tishaun Shaquez Williams, 29, entered 12/9/23; Failure to appear in court; SPD

## Sheriff's Reports

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

### December 4

Deputy was dispatched to the area of Page Garrett Rd. in reference to a suspicious vehicle parked in the middle of the roadway with the head lights off. While enroute, deputy got a call that the vehicle turned its lights on and was traveling slowly on US 1 Bypass. Deputy observed the vehicle traveling at a very low speed in a 65 MPH zone and checked the speed at 28 MPH. Deputy drove through the median to make a traffic stop and the vehicle sped up and turned onto

Bird Flanders Rd., at which time deputy initiated a traffic stop and observed the vehicle driving on the wrong side of the road. The vehicle finally came to a stop and deputy made contact with the driver and observed him to have red, glossy eyes and slurred speech, as well as an open container of beer in the console. The driver was asked how much alcohol he had consumed and was unable to speak English. Deputy asked the driver to step out of the vehicle and blow into the PBT, which showed positive for alcohol. Driver was transported to EmCo Jail.

Deputies responded to Lake Luck Dr. in reference to two large pigs in the area. Deputies were able to make contact with the owner and advised them to keep the pigs pinned up.

### December 5

Deputies responded to Oak Grove Church Rd. in reference to an unwanted person residing at the residence. Offender was asked for his side of the story and advised he did not want to involve deputies in his family issues then finally stated he and his half-sister had an argument. Complainant advised her mother/victim wants offender removed from the residence due to feeling she is in fear of her

physical well-being with offender at the residence and is worried about offender causing bodily harm to her. C/p stated offender punches the refrigerator in front of victim to scare her. C/p also stated during the argument, offender grabbed a knife and pointed it at her and threatened to cause physical bodily harm to her. C/p was advised of the process to obtain a TPO.

### December 6

Deputy responded to Pendleton Springs Rd. in reference to windows on a farm tractor being damaged. Complainant stated he observed the windows shattered and believes they were possibly shot with a rifle. Deputy observed the windows shattered and tire tracks. C/p stated the estimated cost to replace the windows would be appx. \$2,000.

Deputy responded to Oak Grove Church Rd. in reference to a report of a repo truck taking a vehicle without proper paperwork. Complainant stated she was speaking to the repo driver who did not have proper paperwork to get the vehicle. Deputy spoke with the repo driver at the holding yard who stated he went to get the vehicle from a repo order and showed deputy the order on his computer. The repo driver stated the owner of the vehicle exited the residence

holding a pistol and being irate and would not give him the keys to the vehicle. He stated the owner waved the pistol around and pointed it in his direction several times and that he had permission from the landowner to obtain the vehicle from the residence.

### December 8

Deputies were dispatched to Bluegill Ln. in reference to a suspicious person who was advised to be in a wooded area near the residence. Complainant advised an unknown male and a small dog had been seen walking towards the dead end at a residence that offender stays at from time to time.

Deputy responded to Halls Bridge Rd. in reference to an animal that had been shot at by a neighbor. Complainant advised his dog had gotten loose and wondered into his neighbor's back yard and knocked over his trash can and the neighbor shot at it several times. The neighbor advised the dog has been going in his yard for a few weeks so he shot toward the ground to scare it off his property.

Deputy took a report regarding Christmas decorations being destroyed on Kemp Rd. Complainant stated someone went to her home and destroyed her Christmas decorations and believes it

could possibly be her daughter.

Deputy took a report regarding signatures being forged on documents. Complainant stated an attorney forged his signatures on documents pertaining to a deed to some property.

### December 9

Deputies responded to Christopher Dr. in reference to a 911 hang-up call. Upon arrival, complainant was bleeding from his hand and stated he and his wife/offender were having an argument but he didn't know how he got cut.

Deputy took a report regarding an individual calling the bank and stated a female subject had been calling Community Bank in Wrightsville acting as c/p in order to obtain information regarding c/p's checking account has called the bank multiple times over the past week.

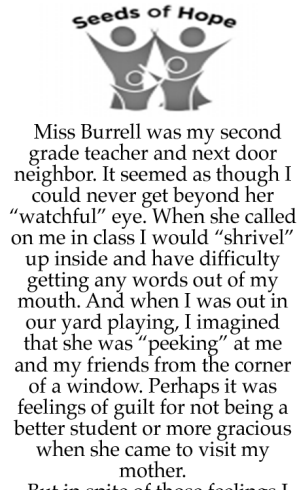
### December 10

Deputy was dispatched to Hwy 1 S. in reference to a traffic related incident. Complainant stated she struck a tree that was in the roadway and began hearing noises coming from under her vehicle.

### December 11

Deputy responded to a vehicle vs deer collision on Hwy 297.

Deputy responded to Hwy 56 S. in reference to a vehicle vs deer crash.



Miss Burrell was my second grade teacher and next door neighbor. It seemed as though I could never get beyond her "watchful" eye. When she called on me in class I would "shriev" up inside and have difficulty getting any words out of my mouth. And when I was out in our yard playing, I imagined that she was "peeking" at me and my friends from the corner of a window. Perhaps it was feelings of guilt for not being a better student or more gracious when she came to visit my mother.

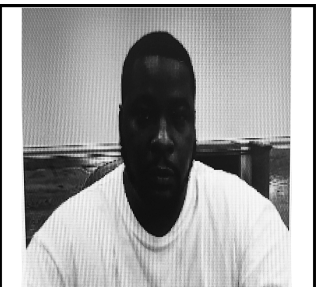
But in spite of those feelings I remember the many evenings she would knock on our front door and ask me to join her in the front yard and study the stars and constellations. She would bring her flashlight and point out "The Big Dipper" and "The Little Dipper" and all of the constellations that God formed in the sky. She would also point out different stars - some that shined brightly and some that we could barely see. I remember asking her often how many miles they were from where we were standing.

"No one will ever be able to measure the most-distant star because we will always be finding new ones that are even farther away." So, "we'll never know" was her answer every time I asked that question.

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who stand in awe of Him," said the Psalmist. What a marvelous statement about the love of God. It is so immense, as are His heavens, that we will never be able to measure it.

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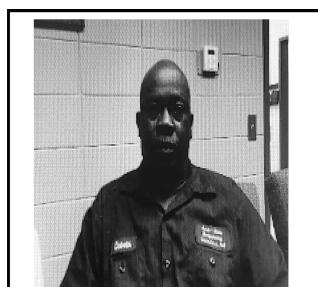
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Pursuant to OCGA § 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Albrian D. Davis at 220 Old Nunez Rd. Swainsboro, Ga was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 7th day of February, 2023 in the Municipal Court of Swainsboro Georgia.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Amber C. Stephen at 519 Center St. Swainsboro, Georgia 30401 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on 06/22/2023 in the Municipal Court of Swainsboro Georgia.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Joshua M. Page, 1360 Old Calvin E. Prigeon at 709 North Coleman St. Swainsboro, Georgia 30401 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on 04/05/2022 in the Municipal Court of Swainsboro Georgia.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Regina D. Johnson of 405 Calhoun St. Swainsboro, Ga 30401 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 7th day of June, 2022, in the Municipal Court of Swainsboro Georgia.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Regina D. Johnson of 405 Calhoun St. Swainsboro, Ga 30401 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 7th day of June, 2022, in the Municipal Court of Swainsboro Georgia.

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# Classifieds

Deadline is Monday at  
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## News from under the Gold Dome

by Butch Parrish, State Representative  
State House District 158

### Special Legislative session news

On Wednesday, November 29, 2023, the Georgia General Assembly returned to the Gold Dome and convened for a special legislative session. Article V, Section II, Paragraph VII of the Georgia Constitution grants the governor the power to convene a special session of the General Assembly, and my colleagues and I were called into this special session following a court ruling issued by U.S. District Judge Steve Jones instructing the General Assembly to redraw Georgia's congressional and state district maps. The House of Representatives convened for seven days during this special session, adjourning on Thursday, December 7, 2023.

The House Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting held several public hearings throughout the special session to hear public testimony on proposed remedial House, Senate and congressional maps before the legislation reached the House floor for a vote. To maximize our time under the Gold Dome during the special session, many other House committees also held hearings in preparation for the next regular legislative session, which will begin on Monday, January 8, 2024.

One of the first pieces of legislation that my colleagues and I voted on in the House was House Bill 1EX, or the "Georgia House of Representatives Redistricting Act of 2023," the remedial House district map. This bill was passed in the House on Friday, December 1, 2023, and was then voted on by our counterparts in the Senate on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, where it received final passage. This legislation has now been sent to Governor Kemp for his consideration.

Additionally, the House gave final approval to Senate Bill 1EX, the "Georgia Senate Redistricting Act of 2023," which is the remedial Senate district map, on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. After receiving final passage in the House, SB 1EX was also sent to the governor to be signed into law.

On the final day of the special session, the House voted on Senate Bill 3EX, the "Georgia Congressional Redistricting Act of 2023," which would adjust the composition of Georgia's congressional districts. SB 3EX received final passage on the House floor on Thursday, December 7, 2023,

and was also sent to the governor's desk.

In addition to our redistricting work during the special session, the governor's proclamation also charged us with considering other necessary legislation. As such, my colleagues and I voted to adopt House Resolution 3EX on Friday, December 1, 2023. HR 3EX ratifies executive orders issued by Governor Kemp on September 12, 2023, October 6, 2023, and November 8, 2023, to suspend the collection of motor fuel and diesel fuel taxes due to inflation.

House Resolution 4EX was also adopted in the House on Monday, December 4, 2023. This resolution condemns Hamas terrorism, those who support their violence and hateful acts in both the United States and the State of Georgia and expresses support for the Jewish people.

Shortly before the House convened for the special legislative session, our state and the nation mourned the loss of Former First Lady, Rosalynn Carter. When my colleagues and I convened for the first day of the special session, we took time to honor the life and legacy of Rosalynn Carter with the adoption of House Resolution 6EX, which commends Mrs. Carter for her unwavering leadership and dedication to Georgia and the United States. My colleagues and I reflected on her life and offered a moment of silence for Rosalynn Carter and the Carter family. Mrs. Carter left behind a legacy of advocacy, resilience and partnership that has made an indelible mark on our state, the nation and the world.

Finally, while my colleagues and I were at the State Capitol for the special session, members of the House and Senate joined Governor Kemp for a press conference where the governor announced a legislative proposal for the upcoming regular legislative session that would accelerate a decrease in the state individual income tax rate. The governor's proposal would amend House Bill 1437, legislation that was signed into law in 2022, which established a step down of 10 basis points in the income tax rate, starting in 2025 and for each taxable year thereafter until the rate reaches 4.99 percent. If the reduction was accelerated, the rate for Tax Year 2024 would decrease to 5.39 percent, rather than

5.49 percent previously set by HB 1437. This would mark a cut of 36 basis points from the Tax Year 2023 rate of 5.75 percent. It is estimated that Georgia taxpayers would see approximately \$1.1 billion in savings in calendar year 2024 as a result of the proposed tax acceleration and the 26 basis-points reduction provided in HB 1437. I will be sure to update you on this proposal as it makes its way through the legislative process next session.

Now that the special legislative session is adjourned, I will be returning to our district for the holiday season before the General Assembly convenes for the 2024 regular legislative session on Monday, January 8, 2024. During my time back home, I will be looking ahead to the regular session, so I encourage you to contact me regarding legislative issues that are important to you, your family and our community.

I remain dedicated to serving your interests as your state representative, and I hope that you will contact me at 404.463.2247 or 478.237.3838 with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the legislative session or with any proposals or recommendations for future legislation.

You can also stay in touch by visiting our website at www.house.ga.gov to watch a live stream of the House in action, as well as archived committee meetings, and review legislation that we are considering. Follow me on facebook for updates throughout the year.

I hope you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative.

Sincerely,  
Representative Butch Parrish

**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.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

5BDR/2B located in Lake Luck. Fenced yard. \$1,100. Call 478.299.9074

### LAND FOR SALE

0.47 ACRES ON BONNIE BLUE LN. Call 706.825.3851 for more info.

### MISC FOR SALE

KENMORE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER. Very good condition. \$300 firm. Call 478.237.0147.

### MISC NOTICES

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

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

## HELP WANTED

**LOCAL PLUMBING CO. ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A PLUMBING HELPER. EXPERIENCE DOES HELP, BUT NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED. MUST HAVE A GOOD WORK ETHIC. SEND RESUME TO PLUMBING , P O BOX 684 SWAINSBORO, GA. 30401**



## Now hiring: Welders

Apply in person or contact Whitney Henry: [wheny@ogeecheesteel.com](mailto:wheny@ogeecheesteel.com)  
133 Lindsey Rd.  
Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478.237.2770 Ext. 31

## EGSC PD NOW HIRING

### FULL & PART TIME CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS

**FULL TIME CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS**

**\$18.00 - \$22.00 PER HOUR**

**PART TIME CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS**

**\$25/HR AND UP!**

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


**East Georgia STATE COLLEGE**

**SCAN HERE TO APPLY**



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

*MORE POSITIONS AVAILABLE!*

**POSITION:** Diesel Technology Instructor, Full-Time

**LOCATION:** Swainsboro Campus

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:** Full-time twelve (12) month faculty position. Under general supervision, the instructor demonstrates the use of appropriate teaching techniques and evaluates students' progress in attaining goals and objectives; requests and maintains supplies and equipment; maintains program certification/accreditation requirements as appropriate; prepares and maintains all required documentation and administrative reports; ensures safety and security requirements are met; works with the CDL program to maintain the colleges trucking fleet; meets with students and staff members to discuss students' instructional programs and other issues; assists with recruitment, retention, and job placement efforts; maintains knowledge of current trends and developments in the field; maintains qualifications for employment and follows rules and regulations as described by the Technical College System of Georgia Policy Manual and other policies and procedures established by the institution.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Diploma or GED
- Three years paid full-time, in-field / related work experience within the past seven years.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Hold an in-field educational credential. Hold in-field certifications such as ASE. Having experience teaching in an accredited post-secondary institution is a plus.

**SALARY/BENEFITS:** Salary is to be commensurate with education and work experience. Benefits include paid state holidays, annual leave and sick leave, and the State of Georgia Flexible Benefits package.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Open until filled

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:** All application packets MUST be completed via the Online Job Center. As part of the application process, interested candidates will also be required to upload other documents such as a letter of interest, resume, and transcripts (see job to center listing for more details). For more information regarding this position or application instructions, please contact the Human Resources Office at 912-538-3230 or [mwalker@southeasterntech.edu](mailto:mwalker@southeasterntech.edu)



As set forth in its student catalog, Southeastern Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, sex, religion, disability, age, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, veteran status, or citizenship status (except in those special circumstances permitted or mandated by law).

Helen Thomas, Section 504 Coordinator, Room 165, 912-538-3126

Melanie G. Walker, Title IX Coordinator, Room 138B, 912-538-3230

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

**Apartments for Family, Singles, Elderly and Disabled Persons**  
**HUD Subsidized**

HUD Subsidized Handicap Units Available

# Legals

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS** GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY  
All creditors of the estate of Rosalind Moore Adcock, 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

Russell Jeffrey Moore, Executor of the Estate of Rosalind Moore Adcock, decedent  
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.  
P.O. Box 68  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

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

In Re: Johathan Jerry Black Civil Action File No. 23CV254

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

GEORGIA, Emanuel County Notice is hereby given that Johnathan Jerry Black, the undersigned, filed a petition to the Superior Court of Emanuel County, Georgia on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Johnathan Jerry Black to Kimbella Anne Black. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.  
This 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

Johnathan Jerry Black  
Petitioner

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

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES DIXON REEVES, DECEASED**  
ESTATE NO. 23E0149

**NOTICE**  
IN RE: Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form and for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed

TO: KATHERINE ELIZABETH LUTZ, BROCK MICHAEL LUTZ, and All Interested Parties  
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before DECEMBER 18, 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 Mildred K. Solomon Estate, 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

Stan Coleman, Executor of the Estate of Mildred K. Solomon, decedent  
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.  
P.O. Box 68  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

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

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHNNY JAMES SMITH, DECEASED**  
ESTATE NO. 23E0135

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

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

ANNETTE EASON SMITH has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of JOHNNY JAMES 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 JANUARY 2, 2024.

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

**TO: ANY AND ALL HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF ALBERT L. WALKER, DECEASED, ALBERT J-M WALKER** and anyone claiming an interest in the property described below.  
Take Notice That:

The right to redeem the following described property, to wit: **All that lot or parcel of land lying, situate and being in the City of Twin City, 1560<sup>th</sup> G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, and being Lot No. 21 of the Subdivision of property of John E. Whetsell, as shown by plat of said subdivision made by J. D. McLeod, Surveyor, dated May 4, 1971 and recorded in the Office of Clerk of Emanuel Superior Court in Plat Book 6, Page 56, and said lot fronts a distance of One-Hundred (100) feet on Elm Street and extends back between parallel lines a distance of One-Hundred-Fifty (150) feet and is bounded as follows: North by Elm Street; East and South by Lot NO. 27 of said subdivision. Said property is**

**more particularly described by plat made by Walter K. Maupin, Surveyor, dated April 1, 1977 and recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court, in Plat Book 8, Page 618, to which reference is made as a part of this description.**

**Together with all and singular all improvements now situate on said properties and all improvements that may hereafter become situate or moved to and on said properties: any improvements moved onto said properties become immediately part of the realties.**

**As described in Deed Book 105, Page 106. Further described as Map & Parcel T10 037.**

**Said tract of land is located on Bell Street, Emanuel County, Georgia and further known as Map/Parcel T10 037 in the Tax Assessor's Office of Emanuel County, Georgia.** will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 4<sup>th</sup> day of **JANUARY 2024.** The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2022, and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Emanuel County, Georgia, in Deed Book 545, at page 616-617.

The property may be redeemed at any time before the 4<sup>th</sup> day of **JANUARY 2024**, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: 12 Siebald Street, Statesboro, Georgia 30458.  
ROBERT K. BELL, JR. INVESTMENTS, INC.  
Stephen T. Rushing, Esq.  
Taulbee, Rushing, Snipes, Marsh & Hodgins, LLC  
12 Siebald Street, Statesboro, Georgia 30458  
912/764-9055

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**

**All creditors of the estate of RICKY DEAN PEEBLES, decedent late of Emanuel County, State of Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.**  
**This is the 29<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.**

**GARLAND PEEBLES and CORBIE P. SHAW, executor/ executrix of the estate of RICKY DEAN PEEBLES, decedent.**

**62 Starfish Lane Lyons, Ga. 30436**  
**Address of Executor (478) 494-6231**  
**Telephone**  
**1435 Racket Town Road Lyons, Ga. 30436**  
**Address Executrix (912) 293-9922**  
**Telephone**

**STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF LELIA ANN YOUMANS, DECEASED**

**All creditors of the estate of Lelia Ann Youmans, deceased, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render their demands to Richard M. McNeely, attorney for Robert E. (Bob) Youmans, Executor of the Lelia Ann Youmans Estate, at P.O. Box 767, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of any indebtedness due the estate. This 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2023.**  
**RICHARD M. MCNEELY,**

**Attorney for Robert E (Bob) Youmans, Executor of the Lelia Ann Youmans Estate Richard M. McNeely, P.C.**  
P. O. Box 767  
Swainsboro, Georgia 30401  
(478) 237-4225

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

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed given by 308 Glenwood Associates LLC ("Grantor") to Newtek Small Business Finance LLC ("Grantee"), dated November 22, 2019, and recorded December 10, 2019 in Deed Book 489, Page 401, Emanuel County, Georgia records (the "Security Deed"), conveying the after-described property to secure a certain Note dated November 22, 2019 in the original principal amount of \$1,738,800.00 from Place Vendome Holding Co., Inc. and 308 Glenwood Associates LLC to Grantee (the "Note"), with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Emanuel County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in January, 2024, the following described property:

Tract one: All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate, and being in the 53<sup>rd</sup> G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, containing Four and Two Hundred Eleven One Thousandths (4.211) acres, more or less, and bounded as follows: North by Meadowlake Parkway; East by the lands of Mrs. Jerry Rich; South by lands of Emanuel County Development Authority; and West by Glenwood Road. Said property is more particularly described in plat made by J.C. McLeod, surveyor, dated December 21, 1972, which is recorded in the Office of the Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court, in Plat Book 7, Page 50, to which reference is made as a part of this description.

Tract two: All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53<sup>rd</sup> G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, containing 0.950 acres and designated as Parcel No. Two on a plat prepared by George William Donaldson, Surveyor, dated May 25, 1989, and recorded in Plat Book 14, Page 206, of the records of the Clerk, Superior Court, Emanuel County, Georgia. Said Plat is hereby incorporated herein for a more full, complete, and accurate description hereof. Said property being bounded as shown on said plat as follows: On the North by Parcel No. One as described by said plat; East and Southeast by land of Rich, et. al.; on the Southwest by lands of the Emanuel County Forestry Unit; on the West and Northwest by lands of Ithaca Industries, Inc.

Being the same property conveyed to 308 Glenwood Associates LLC from Emanuel County Development Authority by Limited Warranty Deed, dated March 28, 2016 and recorded on April 12, 2016 in Book 429, Page 18.  
A.P.N. 096-033

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note, Guaranty and Security Deed. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the pur-

pose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorneys' fees (notice of intent to collect attorneys' fees having been given). Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC is the present holder of the Note, Guaranty and Security Deed. Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC is the entity with full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 44-14-162.2, Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC may be contacted at: Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC, 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 130, Lake Success, NY 11042. Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 44-14-162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **308 Glenwood Road, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401** is/are: 308 Glenwood Associates LLC or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 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. Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC as Attorney in Fact for 308 Glenwood Associates LLC. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ROBINSON FRANZMAN LLP, 191 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 2600, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Telephone: (404) 255-2503.

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

In Re: Eddre'ka Marquida Williams Cicial Action No. 23CV265

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Eddre'ka Marquida Williams, the undersigned, filed petition to the Superior Court of EMANUEL County, Georgia on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2023, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Eddre'ka Marquida Williams to Emery Mariana Camilla Williams. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.

This 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2023.

Petitioner

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

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD PROCTOR, DECEASED**  
ESTATE NO. 23E0124

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

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

JOSEPH M. PROCTOR and JENNIE WILCHER has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of JAMES EDWARD PROCTOR 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 JANUARY 8, 2024.

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

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

All creditors of the estate of Elijah Moody, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.  
Katherine M. Moody,  
Administrator of the Estate of Elijah Moody, decedent  
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.  
P.O. Box 68  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

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

All creditors of the estate of Melanie Anne Martin, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.  
Dustin R. Williams,  
Administrator of the Estate of Melanie Anne Martin, decedent  
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.  
P.O. Box 68  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

# Georgia Foundation for Agriculture offers \$65,000 in Ag Scholarships

The Georgia Foundation for Agriculture (GFA) is offering \$65,000 in scholarships to Georgia students pursuing a degree in agriculture, veterinary medicine, family and consumer sciences or a related field.

The GFA will award scholarships in the following four categories:

**Scholarship for Agriculture** – This scholarship is for high school students who plan to enter a college that is part of the University System of Georgia, Berry College, Emmanuel College or any accredited college/university in Georgia with an ag program during the 2024-25 academic year to pursue an undergraduate degree in agricultural and environmental sciences, family and consumer sciences or a related agricultural field. The GFA will award 10 scholarships of \$3,000 each. The top two ranked applicants will be eligible for an additional \$1,500.

**Technical College Scholarship for Agriculture** – This scholarship is for students who will be enrolled in a Georgia accredited technical college and major in an area of agriculture or an ag-related field of study, such as welding, mechanics, culinary arts, or commercial truck driving. The GFA will award four scholarships of \$1,500 each. Visit <https://gfb.ag/gfat-echscholarshipmajors> for a list of eligible schools and majors.

**Rising College Junior/Senior Scholarship for**

**Agriculture** – This scholarship is for college students who have at least two semesters of college remaining to receive an undergraduate degree from a unit of The University System of Georgia, Berry College, Emmanuel College or any accredited college/university in Georgia with an ag program. Applicants must be majoring in agriculture and environmental sciences, family and consumer sciences or an ag-related field. The GFA will award eight scholarships of \$2,000 each.

**UGA College of Veterinary Medicine Scholarship** - This scholarship is for students currently enrolled in the UGA Veterinary Medicine program specializing in large animal/food animal practice. The GFA will award two \$5,000 scholarships.

Any student who qualifies is encouraged to apply for one of the Georgia Foundation Agriculture scholarships to apply. Agriculture offers many exciting career opportunities. Both farmers and consumers depend on the many jobs agriculture creates such as mechanics, large animal veterinarians and food scientists."

Visit [www.gafoundationag.org/scholarships](http://www.gafoundationag.org/scholarships) for a list of eligible majors/schools for all scholarships, applications, and instructions to apply. All applications must be submitted online by March 1, 2024. Transcripts and letters of recommendation must be

submitted online with the application.

The scholarship recipients will be announced in spring of 2024. Scholarship checks will be sent to the qualifying college/university the recipient is attending and placed in their school account upon verification the student has met all qualifications for the scholarship. Scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors will be distributed for spring 2025 upon receipt of first semester college transcript indicating the recipient is pursuing an ag-related course of study and has at least a 3.0 GPA.

The GFA is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to preparing the next generation of leaders for success in Georgia agriculture. The GFA works with Georgia Farm Bureau and other Georgia agricultural and educational organizations to achieve its mission. The foundation offers scholarships to students pursuing agricultural careers, funds leadership development programs and projects that increase the public's understanding of agriculture. It coordinates the Georgia Ag Experience, a mobile classroom that introduces third through fifth graders to Georgia's top crops. To make a tax-deductible donation or learn more about the foundation, visit [www.gafoundationag.org](http://www.gafoundationag.org) or contact GFA Executive Director Lily Baucom at 478-405-3461 or [info@gafoundation.org](mailto:info@gafoundation.org).



TCE JR. BETA MEMBERS

## TCE Jr. Beta Club competes at State Convention

The TCE Jr. BETA Club recently competed at the State BETA Competition in Savannah. Many TCE students brought home awards. Several placed in the top five in the state, which qualifies them to compete at the national level. Nationals will be held over summer break. The following students placed at state:

1st place: Living Literature – Captain Grey Blackburn; Mixed Media – Izzy May; Premier Performers – Anna Caroline Frye and Joleigh Coxwell; Musicology – Chloe Best, Jayceon Williamson, Kabrie Mixon, Violet Lai-Tyam

and Audrey Tucker; 2nd place: Digital Portfolio – Captain Anna Caroline Frye; Performing Arts – Anna Caroline Frye and Joleigh Coxwell; Speech – Chloe Best; 3rd place: Songfest – Captain Ella Jo Hooks; 3-Dimensional Design – Captain Hunter Gamiza; Fiber Arts – Tanner Mitchell; Woodworking – Brooks Hall; 4th place: Service Learning – Captain Natalie Bunn; Sculpture – Ava Underwood; Marketing and Communication – Hudson Ware, Ezekiel Kearney, Layla Yeye and Jorge Ramos-Avalos; 5th place: 2 Dimensional

Design – Captain Layla Hampton; Poetry – Charla Fields; Robotics – Allie Woodward, Brayden Telgen, Jayce Juarez-Aragon, Zane Robertson, Violet Lai-Tyam, Reese McNeely and Declan Spence; Performing Arts Large Group – Chloe Best, Anna Caroline Frye, Mila Hodges, Nora Johnson, Bridgette Lopez Munoz, Izzy May, Kabreigh Mixon, Ezekiel Pague, Addi Rich, Arieonah Seafus, Koda Still-Williams, Audrey Tucker, Alli Woodward, Leyla Yeye, Hudson Ware, Hudson Anderson, Zane Robertson and Brayden Telgen.

## ECI's CTSO teamed up for the fourth Annual Mayor's Christmas Toy Drive

Emanuel County Institute's Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) recently teamed up for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Christmas Toy Drive. CTSO's participating were FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, and JROTC. Students were asked to bring in a new unwrapped toy, and a Friday dress-down day was used to collect money to donate to the city to purchase additional toys. Our chapters brought in over 100 gifts and was able to donate \$700.



DHAHAMI SALGADO AND MAYOR DONALDSON

## Family Connections sponsors literacy projects

Family Connection sponsors literacy projects throughout the year. A favorite one is "The 10 Days of Book Holiday Countdown" where each ELA teacher is given 10 gifts that are wrapped to be opened before Christmas break. The teachers choose a student each day to open the gift, which is a book to go in the teacher's classroom library. This is a fun way to encourage reading and improve literacy. This year, Family Connection volunteers wrapped 290 gifts for this project! The teachers at SES were the recipients. A special thank



MS. DAVIS' 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

you to Petite Garrett and Pam Carr who delivered the gifts.

The book project was generously funded by the Mill Creek Foundation.



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## The unheard struggle: The impact of hearing loss on interpersonal relationships, especially during the holidays

The invisible barrier to clear communication

by Gabe Pitt, Doctor of Audiology

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, amidst the joyous laughter and heartfelt conversations, an often-overlooked aspect of our relationships takes center stage: the ability to hear and understand speech. Speech is the heart of what makes us human. Sharing thoughts, ideas, life experiences and a caring thought or feeling is a uniquely human ability. However, for those grappling with hearing loss, particularly the subtle and pervasive presbycusis, the festive gatherings can be a silent struggle that affects the quality of relationships.

### The Unseen Challenge of Presbycusis

Presbycusis, or age-related hearing loss, is a common condition that creeps into the lives of many as they age. Unlike a sudden injury or a noticeable ailment, presbycusis is painless and often invisible to the person experiencing it. The irony lies in the fact that most individuals with presbycusis are blissfully unaware of their hearing deficit and many times blame others for "marbles in your mouth" or not speaking clearly.

One of the peculiar aspects of presbycusis is that it tends to affect high-frequency sounds more than low-frequencies. While individuals may still hear sounds



PITT

like "e," "o," "m," and "l" with relative ease, the subtleties of speech encoded in high-frequency sounds, such as "s," "f," "t," and "k," are lost. This creates a distinct deficit in the clarity of speech, leaving the affected individual with the impression of mumbled speech when it actually was spoken clearly.

### The Clarity Conundrum

Imagine listening to a familiar tune, but with certain instruments muffled or missing. This is akin to the experience of individuals with presbycusis. While they may hear the general melody of conversation, the richness and nuance encoded in the high-frequency sounds are lost, making speech sound akin to an unclear murmur.

This lack of clarity poses a significant challenge in social settings, particularly during the holidays when gatherings are brimming with meaningful conversations. Family members, friends, and loved ones

may find themselves unknowingly altering their communication styles to accommodate the hearing-impaired individual. However, the person with hearing loss may remain oblivious to the extent of their struggle, as the deficit is not in volume but in the intricate details of speech.

### The Silent Impact on Relationships

The consequences of unaddressed hearing loss are profound, especially in the context of interpersonal relationships. Misunderstandings, frustration, and isolation can become unwelcome guests at the holiday table. Loved ones may unknowingly feel unheard or unimportant, contributing to strained relationships and diminished festive cheer.

As we celebrate this holiday season, it's crucial to recognize the importance of clear communication and the impact of hearing loss on our connections with others. Encouraging regular hearing check-ups, fostering awareness about presbycusis, and embracing inclusive communication practices can help bridge the gap between the heard and the unheard, ensuring that the festive season is truly joyous for everyone. After all, the holidays are a time for shared moments, and every word deserves to be heard and understood.

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by BISHOP BERRITHA JONES- This is one of the greatest times of the year. The atmosphere cannot help but feel exciting. Even in troubled times, sacrifices are being made to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ. Why not go big for him? Just make sure that you have his light to shine in your heart.

From the beginnings of Adam, God made a promise to Satan that he would bruise his head ( Gen. 3:14-15). So we should be excited that the promise is here. He would not have an easy life. He would be rejected by many but Jesus is still in the "light of the world" (John 1:1-9) Now Isaiah told us of the promised Messiah. He told us how he would come. Read in Isaiah 7:14; 11:1-2; 9:6; 53:1-10) Because of these and many other prophecies about his coming. We know he came to save, deliver, and set us free. Not just during this short lived celebra-

tion but every day through out the year.

The Wiseman saw his star and came to worship him. They were waiting on the promise. The Shepherds were watching their flock by night when the angels came and made an announcement to them. They hastily went to see and announce the amazing event and came back proclaiming it to the world.

Are you taking time to tell your family about Jesus and why we celebrate his birth? Are we making it about getting and giving gifts for ourselves and the people we love? While you are giving them each year are they living the remainder of the year without the gift of Jesus in their hearts? Will you take the time to offer the free gift without money, interest free, the gift of everlasting life? Why did God send his Son to be born? Well it's all about his love for us. God loved us so much

that he gave his Son who gave his life (John 3:16) that if we believe in him we would not perish, but we would have life everlasting. Yes, the life that Satan deceived

us of in the garden, is restored through Jesus Christ. Yes he is the promised Messiah. In Luke 2:25-36 Simeon and Anna waited for him and witnessed him in the temple.

So are you willing to receive the promise? Then you can have and share the real Christmas after you take your lights and tree down. When the parties and food, and families are back to their norm. Will you fall back in the same depression and worries if life. JESUS made it plain in John 10:10, "The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Receive the promise and instead of a Merry Christmas, have a Blessed Christmas.



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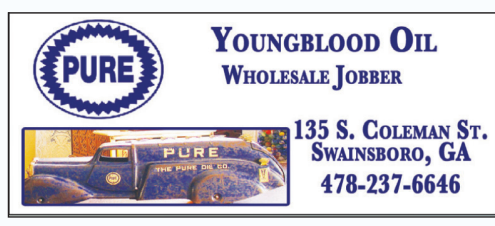
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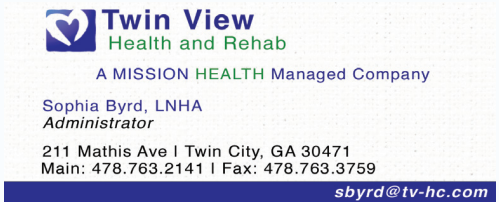
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# Every donation helps to save a life!

The adoption fees for the dogs listed weekly are happily sponsored by the Emanuel County Humane Society. The fees paid by the Humane Society amount to approximately \$150.00 per dog. Your donations continue to make this possible. If you find it in your heart, please donate to the Emanuel County Humane Society P.O. Box 443 Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.



**VINNIE**

Male Hound Mix  
1 Year Old  
Altered and up to date on shots. Super friendly gentle giant. Loves everyone. Currently housed with adopted sister Val.



**CHANCE**

Male Lab Mix  
2 Years Old  
Super sweet but can be a little timid at first. Needs a good loving home.



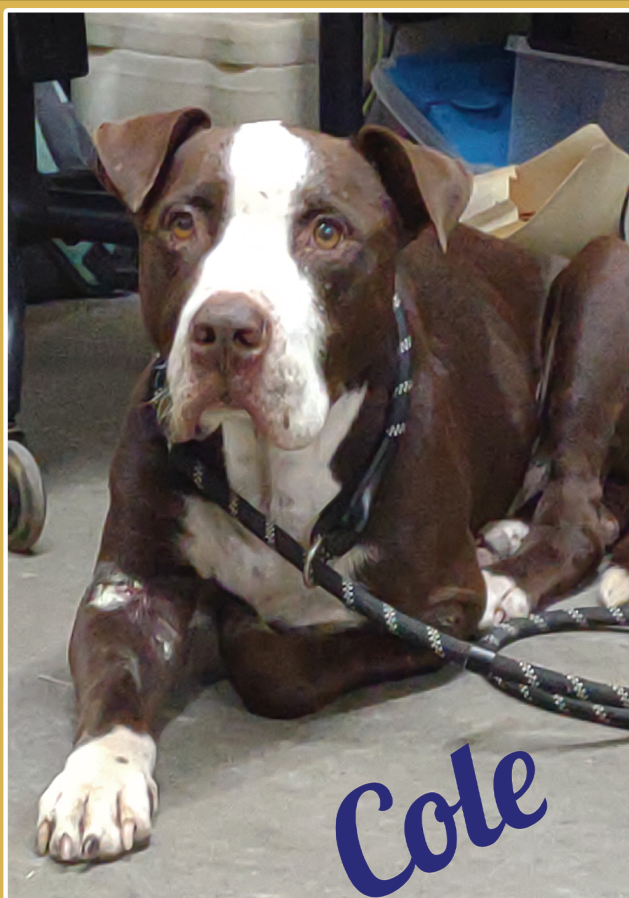
**VAL**

Female Lab Mix  
8 Months Old  
Altered and up to date on shots. Super friendly. Sweet baby girl. Currently housed with big brother Vinnie.



**Dude Cricket**

Male Bully Mix  
1 Year, 3 Months Old  
This dude is amazing. He came in terrified and now he loves everyone! He definitely needs a home that will give him all the love!



**Cole**

Male Bully Mix  
Approximately 3 Years Old  
Very sweet lovable male that is fully healed from some leg wounds prior to his shelter intake.



**GORDIE**

Male Bully Mix Pup  
12 Weeks Old  
Full of energy. Brother of Graham & Gracie.



**Miss Beauty**

Female Bully Mix Pup  
14 Weeks Old  
Super sweet and loving - loves to be held but can be dramatic sometimes.



**Gracie**

Female Bully Mix Pup  
12 Weeks Old  
Full of energy. Sister of Gordie & Graham.



**GRAHAM**

Male Bully Mix Pup  
12 Weeks Old  
Full of energy. Brother of Gordie & Gracie.

IF INTERESTED IN ANY ANIMAL WE HAVE AT THE SHELTER AND YOU HAVE PETS, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU TRY AND BRING YOUR ANIMALS FOR A MEET AND GREET IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ANIMALS WILL GET ALONG BEFORE TAKING ONE HOME FROM THE SHELTER. IT IS BETTER TO BE AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE THAN HAVE ANY INCIDENTS WHEN GOING HOME WITH A NEW PET. AND IF YOU ARE MISSING A PET PLEASE EITHER STOP AND CHECK WITH US PHYSICALLY AT THE SHELTER OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH FACEBOOK OR CALL!

Betty Gambrell Animal Shelter • Swainsboro/Emanuel Co Animal Control

343 Market St • Swainsboro, GA 30401 • 478-237-4040

<https://www.petfinder.com/member/us/ga/swainsboro/betty-gambrell-animal-shelter-ga1049/>