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VOLUME 165, NO.1

Swainsboro, Georgia • January 3, 2024

ONE DOLLAR

Kenny Griffin announces as Candidate for County Commission seat

Kenny Griffin announced this week his candidacy for Emanuel County Commissioner, District 1. Griffin is a well-known figure in Emanuel County and surrounding areas. He and his wife, Jean, are the proud parents of two daughters and proud grandparents of five grandchildren. Both families reside in the Atlanta area. The candidate began his professional career with Georgia Power-Plant Vogtle construction in 1981 and worked his way up during his 36-year career to Manager of the local offices of Georgia Power in Swainsboro and Metter. He retired in 2017.

Griffin's knowledge of Emanuel County reflects his involvement in many civic organizations and leadership positions. Among those are the Swainsboro Rotary Club where he served as President,

Southeastern Technical College, Past Chairman of the Board and current Board member, Past President of the Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce, Emanuel Arts Council Chairman, Magnolia Midlands GYSTC Board Chairman, Board Member of The Sunshine House, Board Member



GRIFFIN

of the Sudie A. Fulford Learning Center, and current member of the Emanuel County Joint Development Authorities.

In addition to his many positions in serving his community, Kenny also serves as Pastor of the Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church/Statesboro and is an Officer and member of Branch 5159 of the Emanuel County NAACP. From 1976 to 1980, Griffin served in the United States Army, followed by 4 years of service in the Georgia Army National Guard. During this time, he also completed work on a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Ad-

ministration from Shorter College in Rome, Georgia.

Asked what he thinks he can bring to this job, Mr. Griffin replied, "What I have learned in my experience with all the different positions I have held is the importance of listening and the value of respect for everyone. That is the key to making things work. I also believe in the power of "please and thank-you". That is what I would hope to bring in representing the voices of all the people in District 1."

The District 1 election will be held March 12, 2024 with early voting beginning February 19.



VICTORY THERAPY & WELLNESS OWNER BILL CONNOR, AND EMC DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, LYNN BRINSON

Victory Therapy & Wellness participates in Georgia HEART

Emanuel Medical Center announces that it recently received a contribution from Victory Therapy & Wellness through the Georgia HEART program. Victory Therapy & Wellness, located on Victory Drive in Swainsboro, strives to help patients reach their highest physical potential through its comprehensive physical therapy services and personalized treatment plans. By participating in the Georgia HEART program, the business was able to ensure its tax dollars remained local to support healthcare and wellness in Emanuel County. For more information about Georgia HEART, contact Lynn Brinson at 478-289-1274 or lynn.brinson@emanuelmedical.org, or visit georgiaheart.org.

Optim Health System welcomes Interventional Pain Management Specialist to serve Swainsboro

Optim Health System is thrilled to announce the arrival of Dr. Michael Appeadu, MD, a highly skilled interventional pain management specialist, to the Swainsboro community. Dr. Appeadu will begin offering his expert services at the Optim Swainsboro clinic, located at 119-B Victory Dr., Swainsboro, GA, 30401, starting Thursday, January 4, 2024.

Recognized for his extensive expertise and commitment to patient care, Dr. Appeadu obtained his Medical Doctorate from Emory University School of Medicine following his undergraduate studies at Dartmouth College. His exceptional medical journey includes an internship at Kettering Medical Center, residency training at the University of Miami / Jackson Memorial, and a fellowship in Interventional Pain Management at Emory University School of Medicine. A distinguished member of various esteemed medical associations, including the Georgia Society of Interventional Pain Physicians and the American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Dr. Appeadu brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Swainsboro region. Dr. Appeadu's approach to patient care is centered on delivering the highest quality treatment tailored to each individual's needs. "My goal is to provide comprehensive, personalized care using



DR. APPEADU

advanced diagnostic techniques and cutting-edge interventional pain management methods," stated Dr. Appeadu. "I am committed to helping patients in Swainsboro and surrounding areas find relief from pain and enhance their quality of life." Specializing in an array of conditions such as sciatica, arthritis and aging pain, degenerative disc pain, neuropathic pain, and more, Dr. Appeadu offers a range of procedures including epidural steroid injections, radiofrequency ablations, nerve blocks, and image-guided joint injections. Starting January 4, 2024, Dr. Michael Appeadu will hold clinic hours at the

Optim Swainsboro clinic on the first Thursday of each month from 8 am to 11 am, with plans to expand availability to the first and third Thursdays of the month in the near future. He also holds clinic in Dublin and Sandersville. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Optim Swainsboro clinic at 478-289-6400. **About Optim Pain Management** Optim Pain Management is a leading interventional pain management clinic with multiple locations throughout Georgia, including Claxton, Hinesville, Millen, Reidsville, Rincon, Savannah, Statesboro, Sylva, and Vidalia. As part of the Optim Health System network and affiliated with award winning, physician-owned hospital, Optim Medical Center-Tattnall, our team of specialists is dedicated to providing compassionate care and effective solutions for chronic pain. We are committed to improving the quality of life for our patients through personalized pain management treatments.

'Empowering Emanuel's Tomorrow' Coleman for County Commissioner

Kawame Coleman is honored to announce his candidacy for the County Commissioner position for District 1.

Coleman, 45, married with seven kids of Swainsboro, has worked at Southern Eagle Distributing for 14 years and has transitioned to Frito-Lay the past year. He is a graduate of Swainsboro High School. Beyond his professional endeavors, his passion for community involvement has led him to actively serving our county's recreation department for 10 years. There he has served as a coach, a referee, a mentor, and has also received the title of 'Coach of the Year'. He has also been involved in Community Action for Youth. These experiences have allowed him to connect with diverse groups of residents and understand some of the needs of our community.

He has been a resident of District 1 for over 25



COLEMAN

years. Over the last six months, Coleman has dedicated his time to attend County Commissioner meetings to make himself more aware of the issues faced in the county and understand how decisions are made as a County Commissioner. With a background deeply rooted in community service and a commitment to enable positive change, Coleman is eager to contribute to the new ventures and unfinished business in District 1.

Coleman believes in transparent and accountable governance, where

the voices of every resident should be heard and valued.

Coleman invites you to join him on this journey toward a better District 1. "I bring a willingness to work with the city and county government. Let's work together to build a future that we can all be proud of. "I am eager to engage with you, listen to your concerns, and collaboratively shape the path forward. Together we can create a district and county that thrives economically, socially, and environmentally," Coleman said.

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Kiwanis makes donation to DEA

During the presidency of Tammy Allen, the Kiwanis of Swainsboro made a donation to David Emanuel Academy to use for a project or activity that would directly affect the learning of its children. Head of Schools Haylee Free selected to use the donation to purchase a tablet to enhance the technology department of this school, especially for its kindergarten program. The Kiwanis Club makes donations annually to all the schools in our county in an effort to improve our community one child at the time.

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While watching a large oceangoing cargo ship slip quietly into the Atlantic I noticed a mark on the side of the ship. Having been in the Navy for several years, I was rather embarrassed to ask my friend what it meant.

"It's a Plimsoll Mark," he said with authority. It was not an answer that helped at all, so I asked, "What's a Plimsoll Mark?"

"It's a load-line on the ship that shows how much cargo the ship can carry safely under different conditions. For example, the closer the line is to the water, the more 'at-risk' the ship would be in a storm."

The Lord has a "load-line" marking on each of us. As we read in Psalm 103:14, "for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust." The Psalmist assures us that God knows our limitations - what we can safely and securely "carry."

None of us are immune to trials - nor are any of us excused from being tempted. All of us, in one way or another and at one time or another, face similar types of trials and temptations. None are new. None are different. They come at different times in different situations appealing to our different weaknesses.

As Paul wrote, "No temptation has seized you that is not common to others, And, God is faithful! He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide you a way out."

He knows our "load-lines" and will not let us sink. However, we must be careful not to put ourselves at risk.

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The Forest-Blade

The Forest-Blade is published weekly by Emanuel County Newspapers Inc., 416 W. Moring Street, Swainsboro, GA. \$1.00 per copy, \$38 per year in-county and \$49 per year out-of-county. POSTMASTER: Send POD Form 3579 to Emanuel County Newspapers Inc., P.O. Box 938, Swainsboro, GA 30401. Telephone 478.237.9971. Periodical Postage paid at Swainsboro, GA 30401. (USPS 204-840)



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2024 Black History Trailblazer QUINTUS G. WILLIAMS

WILLIAMS

Williams strikes again: Another 1st year Team of Quintus G Foundation

The top ten African American trailblazers who are nominated by the community and chaired by a committee determine who gets the African American Trailblazer Award. These deserving awardees were selected by the community in appreciation of their commitment to our community and region. Quintus G. Williams, the youngest recipient of the award and the first

from Emanuel County Schools, received the most nominations this year from prominent individuals and community leaders, adding yet an additional distinction to his name. Quintus Williams attends Swainsboro High School, Swainsboro, Georgia, and most importantly, yourself. On February 24, 2023, Williams will receive commemoration at Hawk Points in Vidalia, Georgia.

“Why does he fight so hard for his success?” We truly are delighted with you. Quintus, congratulations! What a fantastic way to represent the African-American and Black Community, Emanuel County Schools, Swainsboro, Georgia, and most importantly, yourself. On February 24, 2023, Williams will receive commemoration at Hawk Points in Vidalia, Georgia.



VETERANS READY TO DELIVER TO NEEDY FAMILIES

SCV Camps and OCR Chapters bring Christmas cheer to needy families

The Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps McLeod Moring #1386, Ogeechee Rifles #941, with assistance from the Order of Confederate Rose Heritage Roses #15, as well as members of Troop 5 Sons of Confederate Veterans Mechanized Calvary, joined together to bring Christmas to needy families in Bulloch and Emanuel Counties. Families nominated to the organization received groceries, Christmas trees with

decorations and items off their perspective wish lists, as well as a visit from Santa. Members from the McLeod-Moring Camp were George Lutz, Daryl Hill, Landon Johnson, Noah Johnson, and Ogeechee Rifles member Marshall Webster assisted in the delivery of presents to the families. Hill, Johnson, Johnson and Webster are also members of the SCV Mechanized Calvary Troop 5. Heritage Roses members Buffy Hill,

Jenny Williams and Nikki Mullins did the shopping and wrapping of presents, as well as assisted in the deliveries made to the families. Anyone interested in joining the Sons of Confederate Veterans may contact the Camp Commander B. Daryl Hill at cableman68@att.net. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Heritage Roses may contact President Buffy Hill at hill.buffy10@gmail.com.



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HALL AND WIFE, ANN

Robert Glen Hall, 88

Robert Glen Hall of Twin City, entered into rest after 88 years of life on Saturday, December, 30 2023, at the Ogeechee Area Hospice Inpatient Facility in Statesboro. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Joiner Anderson Funeral Home. Interment service followed at Rosemary Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Met-

working at various other banks including Bankers First in Augusta. After retiring from Bankers First he moved to Metter/Twin City, GA in 2000 and worked at the Sea Island Bank in Statesboro, GA well into his 80's.

Glen is a believer in Jesus Christ and loved his wife, sons, grandchildren, and great grandson. He was a charter member at Gracewood Baptist Church in Augusta, GA where he served as church treasurer, Sunday school director, training union director, and was a member of the board of deacons. He was currently attending Statesboro First Baptist Church in Statesboro.

Surviving are his wife Ann Hall of Twin City, GA; two sons, John Glen Hall (Karen) and Robert Joseph Hall (Shiela) of Grovetown, GA; stepson, Kerry Crozier of Hickory, NC; 5 grandchildren, Brandon (Allysha), Corey (Christina), Alyssa, Clayton, and Carson (Bailey) Hall of Grovetown, GA; 2 step grandchildren, Luke and Abby Crozier of Hickory, NC; great grandson, Maverick Hall of Grovetown, GA along with loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family received visitors on Tuesday January 2, 2024, from 1p.m. until the funeral hour at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Statesboro.

Pallbearers were Brandon Hall, Corey Hall, Clayton Hall, Carson Hall, Larry Hall, Jr. and Joe Hall.

Honorary pallbearers are Synovus Bank, C&S Bank Retirees and Class of 1952 Swainsboro, GA.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Ogeechee Area Hospice, P.O. Box 531, Statesboro, Ga. 30459 or Statesboro First Baptist Church, 108 North Main Street, Statesboro, Ga. 30458.

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

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

Christine Petty Durden, 86

Mrs. Christine Petty Durden, 86, of Swainsboro, passed away Thursday, December 28, 2023, at her residence following an extended illness. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 31, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Pastor John Hancock and Mr. Joey Lamb officiating. The family received friends from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, December 31, at Chapman Funeral Home. Interment followed in Lamb Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Randy Smith, Kyle Durden, Keith Ostenson, Johnny Allen, B.J. Screws and Kelly Brennan.

Christine was born October 23, 1937, in Kite, to the late Henry Lee Petty and Frances Shepard Howell. She was a very loving, giving person. Christine loved her grandchildren and reading her bible. She enjoyed watching wrestling, "Dog" the bounty hunter and reality shows. Christine was a fighter. She attended Beacon of Hope Church of God in Swainsboro.



DURDEN

Mrs. Durden is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Wilburn Durden; sons, Royce Smith and Lee Durden; brothers, Buddy Petty, Harvey Caraway and Bennett Caraway; and sister, Mamie Caraway Steptoe.

Mrs. Durden is survived by her son, Ralph Smith (Angie) Of Brunswick; daughters, Lynda Becker and Tina Brennan (Kelly), both of Swainsboro; brother, Ben Caraway of Dublin; sister, Mattie Mason of Swainsboro; nine grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Robert "Bob" Williams, 76

Robert "Bob" Williams, age 76, passed away Friday, December 22, 2023. Funeral service was held Friday, December 29, at 12 p.m. at New Mount Moriah AME Church with Pastor Samuel A. Cooper, Jr. officiating and Rev. Roy Williams presiding. Interment followed at Mt. Zion Cemetery at Garfield.



WILLIAMS

Bob was born March 5, 1947, in Stillmore, to the late LeRoy and Mamie L. Williams. He attended and graduated from Emanuel County High School, Home of the Rattlers, in 1965. After graduation, Bob relocated to Philadelphia, PA and was employed by the Philadelphia Transit Authority for a number of years. He was also a dedicated volunteer at Emanuel Medical Center Nursing Home. Mr. Williams is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mary Suttles; and two brothers, Johnny Williams and Levorn Williams.

Mr. Williams leaves

to cherish his memories with his sons, Robert Kevin (Cheryl) Williams and Rodney Kinard (Serena) Williams sisters, Cleo (Stacey) Heflin of Athens and Netta (Jesse) Davis of Swainsboro; brothers, Ronald "Ron" (Angela) Williams of Mission Hill, CA, Lee Arthur (Margaret) Williams of Swainsboro and Dr. Roy (Dr. Mildred) Williams of Fountain Inn, SC; eight grandchildren and a bonus grandchild; several great-grandchildren; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Reno Tapley Mortuary was in charge of arrangements.

Sharon Y Phillips, 61

Sharon Y. Phillips, 61, entered into eternal peace on Monday, December 25, 2023, at Wellstar MCG Health formerly Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 31 at 11 a.m. at Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Lexsy with Elder Delmus Mosley, Sr and Rev. Dr. Mario D. Webb, Sr officiating.



PHILLIPS

Sharon was born on September 7, 1962. She was the daughter of the late Mr. H.S. Phillips, Jr. and the late Mrs. Mattie Mae (McCloud) Phillips. She retired from Savannah River Plant after 34 years of service. She was a 1980 graduate of Emanuel County Institute and 1981 graduate of Swainsboro Technical College. Sharon was a faithful member of the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, where she served with admirable service in the Mission and as lead singer and treasurer in JB's Gospel Singers. She also served as a lead singer in the Evening Stars for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Wanda A. Phillips.

She is survived by: her devoted sister, Karen K. Phillips of Hephzibah, Georgia; one devoted nephew, Shaun D. (Banita) Phillips of Colorado Springs, Colorado; a loving aunt, Rose L. (John) Davis of Akron, Ohio; two loving uncles, Leroy (Sylvia) Phillips of Stillmore, Georgia, and Elliot Dave McCloud of Macon, Georgia; spiritual sisters, Eleanor Williams-Taylor of Macon, Georgia, Jeanette Mincey of Swainsboro, Georgia, and Johnnie Mae (Willie) Gordon of Stillmore, Georgia; spiritual brother, Vincent (Darline) Brantley of Swainsboro, Georgia; two godsons, Kevin Gibson of Statesboro Georgia, and Quinton Byrd of Georgia; and a host of loving cousins and friends.

Mosley's Fyneral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Elizabeth Moore Rogers, 69

Elizabeth Moore Rogers, 69, passed away December 25, 2023, in Rome, surrounded by her loving family. A graveside service was held December 30, at 1 p.m. at Wiggins Cemetery in Blun. A celebration of life will be held at First United Methodist Church in Rome on January 6, 2024, at 3 p.m. Visitation will be from 1:30 to 3 p.m.



ROGERS

Beth was born on May 17, 1954, in Milledgeville, to the late Frank and Zula Moore. She graduated from Georgia College with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Beth was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She had a passion for people and went on to have a distinguished career in Human Resources. Beth was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Rome and gave back to her community. She devoted her time to Mercy Care, the Hospitality House, and Community Kitchen serving those in need. She adored her role as a mother and grandmother and was an avid gardener. Beth never turned down a cookie.

Mrs. Rogers will be lovingly remembered by her husband of thirty years, Robert (Bob) O'Neal Rogers; daugh-

ters, Leslie (Thomas) Petit and Carolyn Neal Brown; stepsons, Sean (Leslie) Rogers and Chris (Nissa) Rogers; five grandchildren, Eli, Brendan, Andrew, Anna and Hugo; siblings, Darden (Pam) Moore, Marcia (Edward) Robinson, David (Suzie) Moore, Gracie (John) Lanier, Arthur (Rhonda) Moore and the late Mary (Alling) Jones; and many other loved extended family members.

Beth's family would like to express their gratitude to Kendra Tate and all of the staff at Riverwood Senior Living for the compassionate care they provided for her.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks those wishing to honor Beth do so by contributions to: Mercy Care, PO Box 866, Rome, GA 30162.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Join Hebron PBC for their regular services

Hebron Primitive Baptist Church in Garfield meets on the 4th Sunday morning at 11a.m. and Wednesday evening before 2nd Sunday at 6 p.m. "Please join us for worship if you feel impressed, and God Bless," said Pastor Will Martin.



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SALVATION IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Editorials Columns

Happy New Year to an Exceptional Country!

According to the calendar, we are already two and a half days into our next 584 million mile trip around the sun, zipping along with the rest of our solar system neighbors. It's a brand-new year, and just like most years, it promises to be another 12 months full of astonishing advancements, creations, discoveries and revelations. Honestly, we must be among the luckiest people in the history of this planet. So, if that's true, how is it that this lucky group of 7.6 billion inhabitants of Earth is always beset with trial and tribulation? We are the only ones on the block who have water and food and oxygen and gravity here. That should be enough to take care of the basics needed to sustain

life and advance growth, yet somehow, we can't be happy? Chaos, strife and decimation seem to be swirling all around the globe and moving closer and closer all the time. The problem is as old as civilization itself. You can factor in all the societal influences, political trends, and sideline determinants you like, but the basic truth of the matter is that this world is simply not the same all over. There are unequal measures of advantage, ability, and resources present in all different parts of this planet. It may not be fair, it's certainly not perfect, but it is, as they say, the way of the world. Generally speaking, the older countries continue to endure because of an established order of life that is sup-

ported by a "mostly" educated, responsible and loyal populace living and working there. By comparison, fledgling, unstable countries are often vulnerable to volatility, corruption, unqualified irresponsible leadership, and indifference to the plight of the people struggling to survive there. It may be a drastic simplification, but the situation described here is the classic case of the "haves and the have-nots", and it is at the base of much of the discontent and unrest we see worldwide today. It's manifested in major conflicts going on right now. In Gaza, the corrupt Palestinian governments, and later Hamas, created a population of deprived underclass with 40% unemployment. That

criminal neglect created a powder keg that brought on a humanitarian crisis. In Ukraine, the success of free enterprise and representative government threatened Vladimir Putin's dictatorial oligarchy and dreams of a reunited communist empire and prompted his invasion of a small independent republic. The single-minded greed and thirst for power by one man has devastated Ukraine, destroyed families, and killed over 400,000 people. The United States is watching similar situations in Africa and South America where the People's Republic of China is establishing military liaisons and economic and political ties with illegitimate, propped-up governments not only there,

Charles Schwabe



but all around the world. In other times and situations, the United States has faced down many challenges. In the 1980s and 90s dealing with the Soviet Union and China, U.S. Presidents knew that a strong defensive posture was essential to a constructive approach to international relations. They also understood that the seeds of democracy and free enterprise were often more feared by dictators abroad than the threat of war. Our country is truly exceptional, even

though some actually worry that we might appear boastful or arrogant to the rest of the world. Now is not the time to be timid and apologetic. It is certainly reasonable to think that the time may be coming when the world will have no other place to turn except to the United States. Let's hope in this new year, with all its new challenges, we remain exceptional, and the people who enjoy this exceptional freedom we have will not be afraid to stand up and proudly declare it.

Gender identity question engenders conflicting emotions

I am so conflicted these days. I haven't been my usual sharp incisive self. Even the RITNOs (Republicans in Trump's Name Only) must be wondering why I haven't jerked their pompous, self-righteous chains recently. Same with the Chardonnay-sipping liberal weenies who vigorously defend free speech on college campuses as long as it is pro-Palestinian only. There is a good reason for my anguish. Nothing has been the same since I signed up for my COVID booster shot. Actually, I didn't personally sign up. My daughter did it for me because she knows I am about as adept at filling

out forms as I am at interpreting Egyptian hieroglyphics. Left to my own devices, I would likely have signed myself up for the Soap Box Derby. Most of the sign-up details were handled by phone and were relatively easy: Age: Pretty old, but not yet drooling my oatmeal; Height: Ramrod straight; Weight: 185 pounds of solid, rippling muscle (Hey, it's my forms, okay?); We were rocking along. Current address? Easy. Insurance? No problem. Social Security Number? Ditto. Current medicines. Last COVID shot, etc. Done and done. Then there was a pause on the line. My daughter informed me there was

one last question to ask and suggested I take my time before answering because my reply could have serious ramifications for the whole family and perhaps dredge up some past history best left buried. Question: What gender was I assigned at birth? Say what? Frankly, I don't remember this being brought up when I was born because - well - I was busy getting born and that wasn't the time for stupid questions. I didn't have the presence of mind at the time to consult my momma and daddy. Today, I tend to hold them responsible for all the confusion. After all, this was their idea. I thought about asking

my brother - or at least I think he's my brother. He could be my sister if we don't get this gender thing figured out. Imagine his surprise if he found out that bratty little brother who was always pestering him was actually his bratty little sister or bratty little whatever. I'm not sure how we have gotten to the point where you have to bring this stuff up just to get a COVID shot. Back in the old days, we wouldn't be having this conversation. It was a known fact when I was growing up that boys were snips, snails and puppy dogs' tails and that girls were sugar and spice and everything nice. But not anymore. Today, some claim they are neither a slightly condescending plate of escargot nor a 5-pound bag of Domino Pure Cane Granulated Sugar. According to most research I have seen, they comprise 0.5 percent of the population. For those of you who can't locate your abacus at the moment, that is one-half of one percent. That's

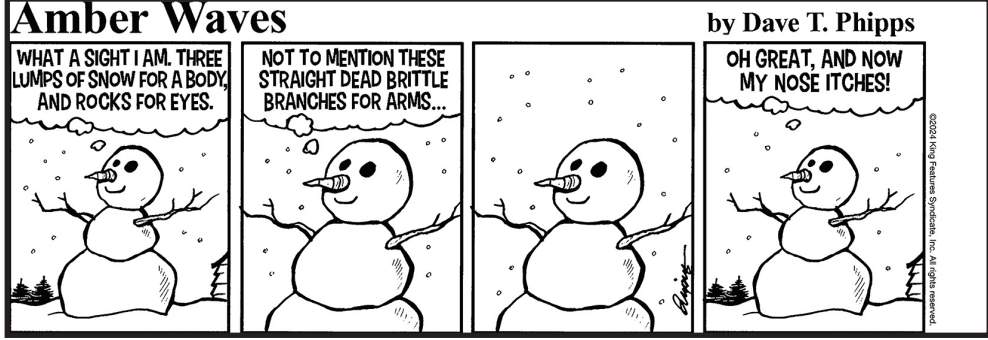
Dick Yarbrough



less than the number of Americans who say they eat eggplant daily, but now 99.5 percent of us are having to answer a question we don't understand just to get a COVID shot that right-wingers say we don't need anyway. Is this a great country or what? It used to be you were what the doctor said you were when he slapped you on the back at birth. That is called "sex assigned at birth" and is based on what the doctor saw after he finished slapping you and then took a peek at, um, you know. People who study this kind of thing say that while what sex you are assigned at birth goes on the birth certificate, gender identity is your own sense of who you are, not what the doctor saw while looking at your private parts. So, who am I? I am a person who loves my fam-

ily, my country and the Great State of Georgia. I believe in God and I believe women are just as qualified to be ministers as are men. I have the highest respect for law enforcement and public-school teachers and despair at the lack of respect they receive from us. I hate social media rants, our inability to laugh at ourselves, the Woke crowd and broccoli. I love the University of Georgia, Ray Charles Robinson, banana pudding and the privilege of appearing on these pages. I am also someone who wonders why anyone needs to know all this stuff just so I can get a COVID shot. Next time, I'll just take two aspirin. That is who I am. You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dick-yarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

Editorial Cartoons



I was country when country wasn't cool

Years ago, Barbara Mandrell had a hit country song "I was country when country wasn't cool" that resonated with a man everybody called Uncle Shug in Garfield. He went a step further than Miss Mandrell's way of putting peanuts in her coke; he put them in his moonshine whiskey. Uncle Shug also loved possum pie with Jack rabbit stew. He said if God made anything any better, he kept it for himself. He didn't have any formal education and never went to school in his life. He bragged that he graduated from the school of

Ronnie Johnson



hard knots with a major in common sense. He said that too many people listen to some educated fool instead of trusting their own common sense, which God gave to all of us. He didn't believe that Neil Armstrong had walked on the moon, and Uncle Shug was certain the whole experience was a hoax and was completely staged to look believable to the average "Joe". "If gravity, or whatever you call it, won't hold a feather down or a sip of water, what chance does a man have from drifting off into space? The chances are slim that a

man will ever walk on the moon." Nothing would ever change his mind about this miraculous feat of 1969, but Uncle Shug did believe you could find God in the cotton patch or the cornfield. God was everywhere, and within all of us, from the rare beauty of a butterfly to the flight of a hummingbird and God's creation deserves our undivided attention, not only in temples or churches but also in our hearts. Uncle Shug never tried to be anyone but himself. He accepted his shortfalls and remained country to the very end.

The Forest-Blade

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416 W. Moring St., P.O. Box 938 • Swainsboro, GA 30401
Telephone: 478-237-9971 • Facsimile: 478-237-9451
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Gail Williamson,
Editor/Publisher

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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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A lasting impression: Meet inspiring teacher, Megan Simmons

It's safe to say that we have all experienced at least one inspirational teacher who helped us understand their subject more and taught us to become a better person. The best teachers pass on this burning enthusiasm to their students, inspiring students to view the subject through refreshed lenses and to see things from a different perspective.

Mrs. Megan Simmons was chosen by Emanuel County Institute as their 2024 Teacher of the Year. In a letter of support for Mrs. Simmons, a colleague wrote, "When I think of all the words that describe a model teacher, I immediately think of how Megan Simmons embodies all those traits. She is one of a kind. She is motivated and loyal. She is invested and enthusiastic. Simply being a teacher is only the starting point in her classroom. She is a mentor, a counselor, a nurse, a coach, a leader, and a mother figure to every child that crosses the threshold of her classroom door. If there is a hat to be worn, she has worn it and will continue to wear it proudly. She is truly in the profession for all the right reasons. Mrs. Simmons accomplishes more than content mastery with her students. She molds the hearts and lives of each individual with her servant mindset day in and day out.

"My name is Megan Simmons. I grew up "across the river" as most like to say, in Jenkins County. I graduated from Jenkins County High School 2007 and lived there until I became a resident of Emanuel County when I married my husband, Heath Simmons, in June of 2010. We have been married for 13 years and have three children. Liam is our oldest and only boy. He is 11 and is in 6th grade at ECI. Livi is our oldest daughter and she is eight and in the 3rd grade at TCE. The baby of the bunch, Leila Faye, is four and attends Twin City Methodist Church pre-

school", says Simmons. Outside of teaching, Mrs. Simmons enjoys spending time with her family. Their three children keep them extra busy and most of their free time is spent following them to and from all their activities. She also loves their church home, El Bethel Baptist Church, and enjoys spending time with her church family at their church worship services and activities. Her husband, Heath, also teaches and coaches at ECI. So she enjoys spending time with their Bulldog Family, cheering on the Bulldogs. If there is ever much time left after all of that, you can find her curled up with a cup of coffee and a good book.

After working as a cosmetologist for several years, Mrs. Simmons began working at Emanuel County Institute in the Fall of 2015 as a paraprofessional. While working, she started back attending college and worked to obtain her bachelor's degree. Simmons graduated from Georgia Southern University in May of 2019 with her bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies. She began her teaching career that Fall at Emanuel County Institute as a 7th grade Math teacher and later obtained her Master of Arts in Education from Walden University in December of 2022. This is Mrs. Simmons' 5th year teaching. During this time, she has been awarded with the FAMILY award from the Emanuel County Board of Education in December 2022 and received the Teacher of the Year Award for Emanuel County Institute for the 2023-2024 school year. "I have been blessed to be able to spend my entire career in education right here in Emanuel County at Emanuel County Institute. I began working at ECI in the Fall of 2019 as a Special Education Paraprofessional. In the Fall of 2017, I changed locations in the school and began working as the Attendance Clerk. After graduating Georgia Southern

in May of 2019, I was hired to teach 7th grade Math and continue to teach 7th grade math here at ECI today", stated Simmons.

While it took Simmons a little longer to actually get into the profession than most, she can't remember a time when she didn't want to be a teacher. As she got older, a lot of people talked her out of becoming a teacher for various reasons and she took different routes in her professional career but always knew that the Lord was calling her to be a teacher. "There are so many children, no matter their home life, that need to know that they have someone in their corner. The desire to not only be the light of Jesus but to also be someone that is going to be there to support them, to push them and to offer a smile and hug when their parents/guardians aren't around is what inspired her to become a teacher", Simmons added.

Mrs. Simmons stated that she fondly recalls several teachers that have left a lasting impression on her and they are Mrs. Angie Brantley, Mrs. Laurie Fleming, Mrs. Monica Broxton and Mrs. Cindi Drake. She can't recall a whole lot of particular moments from her time in their classroom, however she does remember that each of them was always waiting at the door with a small on their face and a hug. "They found ways to bring laughter and happiness into their classrooms and into learning. And even now what leaves a lasting impression, is that while I have long been gone from their classrooms, they still greet me with a smile and a hug. They always check in on me, ask how teaching is going, and when I walk away from them, they leave me feeling like I have somehow made them proud by what I have accomplished. I only hope that my students today feel the same way when they walk off from me", says Simmons.



SIMMONS WITH HUSBAND AND CHILDREN

"There are so many things that I could say about our little school and the people that work here. But what sticks out to me is the family atmosphere that embodies our building. It's not just everybody knowing everybody, everybody genuinely cares and loves each other. I know no matter what, the people in this building have my back and are going to love and support me no matter what. So many other places are so large that this simply cannot be achieved. But here at ECI, the staff members I work with and the students that make up our school are not just staff members and students, they have truly become family", added Simmons.

Now that you've met the teacher and read her story, read her Q/A's below to further understand Megan Simmons' incredible values of teaching and how she's changing and inspiring young lives in our community.

What have you found most rewarding in your career?

Simmons: Like so many other teachers, I love the lightbulb moments, where my students finally grasp a concept they were struggling with. I live for those moments. However, the most rewarding thing in my career has been watching my students grow into amazing people outside of my classroom. I love watching them transform from timid and shy 7th graders into outgoing and hardworking people. I love to watch their dreams become accomplishments as they become amazing athletes. Watch them become

responsible and hard-working young adults as they work at the local grocery store and drug store. And simply getting to be on the sidelines as they accomplish so many amazing things academically, socially and personally, and knowing that I get to help play a small role in that is what is so rewarding for me.

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

Simmons: Yes, as cliché as it sounds, once they are my students, they are always mine. The relationships that you develop are something that no words can express. I wish that all my students could see themselves through my eyes. I have learned far more from them than they could ever learn from me. They have motivated me to work harder, teach harder, and find ways to be an all-around better person for my family, for them and any future students I may have.

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

Simmons: I would like to encourage new and upcoming educators to continue on in the field. Yes, it's hard

work, yes some days are long, yes our plates are full. But the rewards that come from educating and loving our students far outweigh any and all of the negative that you may hear. Don't let anyone talk you out of becoming an educator, if your calling is to be a teacher, answer that calling. We need you and the children of Emanuel County need you. We need hardworking and loving educators to support, love on and teach our students. Education truly is the

future our of world and it is scary to think of what our world would be like without good educators in it.

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

Simmons: I would want them to know that they always have Mrs. Megan in their corner, praying for them, cheering them on, pushing them to do better, or even a shoulder to cry on if they need it. Some of our students already have a lot of people in their corner, some only have a few, and some don't have many at all, but they all need to know that there's someone extra out there. I don't want them to ever forget that.

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

Simmons: While I have only been in the classroom for 5 years, I already have so many memories, way to many to pinpoint only one as my favorite. But one of my favorite reoccurring memories is watching students open up each year. At the beginning of the year, they enter my room as strangers. But I love watching those relationships unfold year after year. Watching them open up and watching as our classes become little families is one of my favorite things. They may not remember much of the math that I thought them or all of the songs that I sang to help them remember certain concepts, but I hope they always remember the little families that we form while in room 311.

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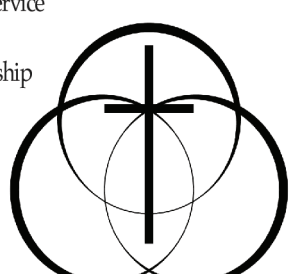
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- 6:30 PM - Family Dinner
- 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir



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Colby Smith accepts Distinguished Medal Award honoring his father

The Wiregrass Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, December 14, 2023. With President Steve Burke presiding, there were 40 in attendance. After an outstanding covered dish supper, President Steve Burke led the group in the Pledge to the U.S. Flag and the Pledge to the SAR. President Burke then had everyone introduce their guest. After the introductions, he called on Compatriot Bill Carmichael to come forward to receive his "Military Service Veterans Corps Certificate for serving in the Georgia Army National Guard and the U.S. Army. Burke then had East Fall Line Region Vice President Dess Smith III come up for a special presentation. Smith presented the Wiregrass Chapter with the President Generals Education Outreach Streamer and Certificate for the Chapters over and above education to children. Burke's "Traveling Trunk" presentations at a lot of Revolutionary events and events like the Pine Tree Festival vendors area helped the Chapter in receiving this award from the National President General.

The last item at the December meeting was the Annual Wiregrass Presidents awarding of the "Fred D Womack, Distinguished Service Medal". It was presented to the late Henry Wild-

er Smith, Jr. for his outstanding service to the Wiregrass Chapter, the Georgia Society and the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. His son, Compatriot Colby Isaac Smith, received the award for his dad. Judy Womack, wife of the late Fred D Womack, was present to present the award with Burke.



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Scott speaks to Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting Tuesday night, December 19, 2023, at the Rustic Grille at 7 p.m. With President Cheryl Goodman presiding, there were 31 in attendance, including guests Damien Scott, Greg Bennett, Austin Henry, Brenda Henry, Johnny Ray Stafford, Julian Scoyers, Calder Ward, Erin Ward, Melonie Ward, Betty Clapham, Holly Hattaway, Zane Scarboro and Cliff Mason.

The cake, donated by David Gribbin, was won by Brenda Barber. The Domino's pizza, donated by Domino's Pizza was won by Austin Henry and Gary Couse and Tim Goodman won the Christmas bucket assortments. Mayor Greg Bennett drew the winning ticket for the Weathersby over/under 12 ga. shotgun. The winner was Jim Clapham. Petite Judge Mary Ellen Smith, representing Judge Jim Daughtry in his absence, was in the Christmas spirit and suspended court for the evening. The program for the evening was hosted by Dess Smith. Dess turned the podium over to Damien Scott, CEO of Emanuel Medical Center (EMC). Damien Scott gave an update on what

is happening at EMC. He has been the CEO at EMC for over 10 years, coming to this area of the country from New Mexico. He explained that EMC had broken away from ERH and has gone out on their own to provide medical services. He informed the group that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has designated

EMC as a 5-Star Hospital. EMS has 450 employees and a total of \$24 M in salaries. He gave updates on the ER, the ability to do infusions locally, and updates in screening of mammograms and colonoscopies. He also told everyone we continue to benefit from the Georgia Heart funding program.

President Cheryl an-

nounced the club helped Santa give away 32 bikes at the Swainsboro Pre-K on December 12. She thanked Dianna Wedincamp and all those who helped. Windy Ward reported that they had fed over 50 children, along with their parents/family members at the "Lunch with Santa" on December 9 at the Franklin Memorial Library.



DESS SMITH III, DAMIUN SCOTT, PRESIDENT CHERYL GOODMAN



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Veterans at the Library meet after Wreaths Across America Day

The Veterans at the Library met on Monday morning, December 18, 2023, for their last meeting of the year at 9:15 a.m. With Chair Johnny Tapley presiding, there were 45 in attendance including one new veteran, Edward Alan Williamson. They enjoyed an outstanding breakfast of sausage biscuits, hash browns, cinnamon rolls, Christmas treats, coffee, orange juice, grape juice and cranberry juice.

Williamson served in the U.S. Army from 1986 through 1989. He was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado. Chair Tapley re-

viewed all the accomplishments the group has made through the past two years and how far they have come.

On December 16, the veterans and volunteers from around Emanuel County placed over 1,500 Wreaths on veterans' graves around Emanuel County. They also placed 18 wreaths at the 'Veterans and First Responders Memorial Park' at the flags representing veterans and at the monuments representing the War Between the States, World War I, World War II and the First Responders monument.



LAST PHOTO OF THE YEAR OF THE VETERANS AT THE LIBRARY



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Tinnitus is a symptom and can be caused by many medical conditions. The cause of tinnitus can range from something as significant as a tumor or it could be from something as minor as hearing loss. Other causes include, loud noise exposure, medications, caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, allergies and ear wax build up, just to name a few. If you suffer from tinnitus, the only way to know what could be causing it is to have a tinnitus evaluation to determine what could be causing it.

If you have experienced tinnitus, you are not alone. Roughly 25 million people have suffered from tinnitus. Approximately half of the 10-15% of the US population suffer from tinnitus and half of those individuals are bothered by it.

Tinnitus can have a direct impact on a person's emotional well-being, their hearing and ability to sleep and concentrate. In turn, it can affect an individual's ability to perform on the job, or contribute to depression, anxiety and anger.

Most individuals who suffer from tinnitus do not seek help. This is likely due to the widespread belief, even among the medical community, that tinnitus is incurable or untreatable.

This is not the case. In fact many new technologies and supplements have proven to reduce if not eliminate tinnitus. While there are many over the counter and mail order pills which claim to reduce tinnitus, there are only a handful supplements that have scientific research that supports these claims. If considering supplements to help with tinnitus, keep in mind the saying, "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is".

However, there are promising treatments for tinnitus, which range from retraining the brain with sound, to ultrasonic stimulation of the skull, to supplements derived from pine bark which have shown to improve blood circulation in the inner ear.

To determine which treatment is best for any individual depends on what the cause of the tinnitus and other factors determined during an evaluation. For many patients who suffer from tinnitus, determining the underlying cause will guide the clinician to proper treatment options.

A recently published survey revealed there is help for those people who have tinnitus. The results showed that 60% of individuals with tinnitus experienced minor to major relief of tinnitus when utilizing treatment options specifically designed for that individual and their unique form of tinnitus. For some people the underlying problem is some degree of untreated hearing loss, for others it is an infection, or ear wax, or other medical condition.

With untreated hearing loss and tinnitus approaching what many

DR. PITT
medical experts consider epidemic proportions, new treatment options have provided clinicians tools to treat the previously intractable symptom of tinnitus. The first step in managing tinnitus is determining the cause with an evaluation. The evaluation of tinnitus is painless, is covered by most health insurance plans, and will help provide a roadmap to treatment. The end goal of reducing and eliminating the tinnitus will be laid out after an assessment. And with newly developed evaluation and treatment options, audiologists and other providers have all the tools to help patients who suffer from tinnitus better than ever.

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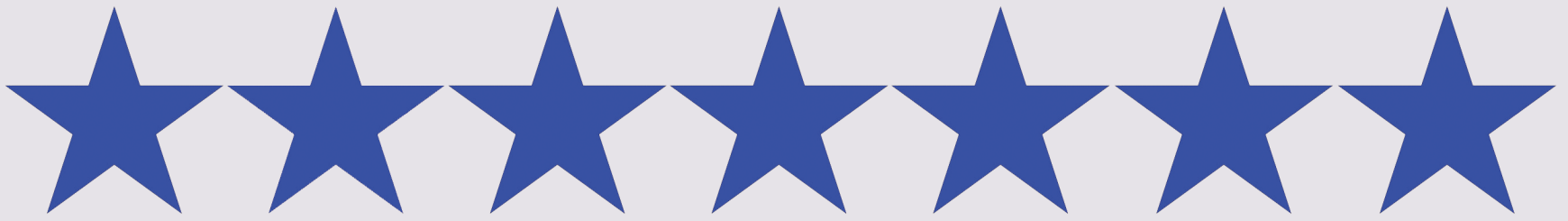


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Jail Report

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

Unit (CSRU); Intensive Probation Service (IPS); Probation Office (PROB); or East Georgia State College (EGSC).
 Sharief Sheppard, 36, entered 12/2/23; Hold for Johnson County SO
 Willie Albert Shivers, 38, entered 12/30/23; Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer for felony/driving while license suspended/revoked/reckless driving/no insurance/open container/dui refusal/leaving scene of an accident/failure to maintain lane/obstruction of law enforcement officers misdemeanor/ECSSO
 Roger Smith, 46, entered 12/2/23; bond revocation/ECSSO
 Danny Lewis Thompson, 70, entered 12/31/23; disorderly conduct; SPD
 Tiesha Nicole Victoria, 29, entered 12/23/2023; DUI-less safe-alcohol/failure to maintain lane/failure to dim headlights/SPD
 Danisha Shanice Williams 27, entered 12/27/23; sentenced/ECSSO
 Da'Marion Jemelle Youmans, 18, entered 12/25/23; ECSSO
 Theodore Teddy Jones, 43, entered 12/31/23; DUI-less safe-combination 1-3/

tag light required/open container alcohol/GSP
 Lys Angel Juarez Gomez, 26, entered 1/1/24; DUI less safe-alcohol/driving while unlicensed/speeding in excess of maximum limits/ECSSO
 Sabriona Keonshay King, 26, entered 12/29/23; driving while license suspended/revoked/ECSSO
 Kenyale Arkeem Lacue, 29, entered 1/1/24; DUI less safe-alcohol/speeding in excess of maximum limits/GSP
 Christopher John Molina, 20, entered 12/26/23; speeding in excess of maximum limits/marijuana possession-less than 1 oz/SPD
 Dustin Robert Morris, 40, entered 12/30/22; probation violation for fingerprintable charge-felony/ECSSO
 Bonnie Marvin Pullens, 46, entered 12/30/23; theft by taking/SPD
 Charles Edward Rackins, 41, entered 12/31/23; driving while license suspended/ driving on wrong side of roadway/SPD
 Yajira Rodriguez, Reyes, 43, entered 1/1/24; Bench warrant State Court/ECSSO

Marvin Elimeleth, Rodriguez-Diaz 2, entered 12/29/23; Tag light required/ECSSO
 Alexander Perz-Perez Santos, 25, entered 12/29/23; driving while unlicensed, speeding in excess of maximum limits/GSP
 Deshawn Quynntae Sharpe, 19, entered 12/30/23'/failure to comply/SPD
 Atlas Alioto Daniels, 50, entered 12/29/23, terroristic threats and acts/SPD
 Romon Javone Dixon, 32, entered 12/26/23; hold for Vidalia PD/ECSSO
 Justin Mark Driggers, 33, entered 12/29/23; driving while license revoked/suspended/ECSSO
 Kenneth Leroy Freeman, 60, entered 12/26/23; probation violation for fingerprintable charge-misdemeanor
 Mario Taravis Gardner, 40, entered 12/2/23; bench warrant, felony/ECSSO
 Victor Gomez, 33, entered 12/2/23; DUI Refusal, Driving while unlicensed/, leaving the scene of an accident, /open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, / failure to notify owner upon striking a fixed object, /seatbelt violation, / failure to

maintain lane/ECSSO
 Terence Alonzo Hall, 39, entered 12/26/23; Speeding in excess of maximum limits, / driving while license suspended / revoked / fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, / reckless driving, obstruction of law enforcement officers-misdemeanor/ECSSO
 Denise Margaret Holmes, 64, entered 12/26/23; theft by taking-felony
 Donald Jackson, 56, entered 12/23/23; DUI less safe-alcohol/speeding in excess of maximum limits/GSP
 Jose Lewis Jimenez, 23, entered 12/29/23; driving while unlicensed/ speeding in excess of maximum limits/GSP
 Ezekiel Chavar Jones, 21, entered 12/30/23; theft by taking- felony/ Bench warrant Superior Court/ ECSSO
 Kyland Blaine Bird, 23, entered 12/24/2023; DUI-alcohol.00 GM or more/SPD
 Jennifer Lynn Booker, 38, entered 12/26/23; theft by taking - felony
 Dishiki Tawaund Bush 36, entered 12/24/23; theft by shoplifting/ECSSO
 Tristan Enrique Castro 28, entered 1/1/24; DUI refusal/

failure to maintain lane /open container of alcohol in motor vehicle / driving while license suspended / revoked/ ECSSO
 Janiesha Nicole Clark, 23, entered 12/23/23; disorderly conduct/ECSSO
 John Henry Clark, 50, entered 12/23/23; possession and use of drug related objects/ public intoxication/failure to comply/probation violation for fingerprintable charge - felony/bench warrant - misdemeanor/obstruction of law enforcement officers - felony
 Michael Antwain Coleman 36, entered 12/26/23; aggravated assault/criminal damage to property - second degree/home invasion, second degree/obstruction of law enforcement officers - misdemeanor/probation violation for fingerprintable charge - felony/ child support lockup order/SPD
 Dionta Latron Coney, 17, entered 12/26/23; obstruction of law enforcement officers - misdemeanor
 Adam Rembert Cooper, 29, entered 12/25/23, hold for Washington County/ECSSO



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 Vanecia Glover Unit# 084
 Carol Scarboro Unit# 011
 Jermain Smith Unit# 054
 Hojiliver Verga Unit# 701

Swainsboro Police Reports

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

December 16
 Officer responded to S. Circle Dr. in reference to complainant stating she couldn't find her debit card and discovered it has been used.

Officer responded to Maryland Fried Chicken in reference to a report of employee theft. Complainant stated he caught an employee on video stealing money from the register and put it in her shirt.

December 17
 Officer was dispatched to W. Main St. in reference to counterfeit money.

December 18
 Officers responded to N. Racetrack St. in reference to multiple

shots being fired. Victim was transported to EMC.

December 19
 Complainant made a report on harassing communications. She stated her ex-boyfriend won't stop calling her phone and went inside McDonald's while she was with her grandson eating and approached her. C/p was advised of the restraining order process.

Officer met with complainant in reference to losing his wallet.

December 20
 Officer met with complainant who stated she left her pocketbook on top of her car and went to town and backtracked and was unable to locate it.

Officer was dispatched to Gumlog Rd. in reference to a theft. Complainant stated someone broke into his residence and took a jar of change, \$350 cash and two firearms.

Officers were dispatched to Lee St. in reference to a female crawling into a window. Complainant stated offender has been sending her harassing messages and stated she would be back.

December 21
 Officer met with complainant who stated his wallet was stolen and someone used his credit card.

Officer responded to Lake Luck Dr. in reference to com-

plainant stating she paid offender to fix her vehicle and he never fixed it and refuses to give all her money back.

Officer was dispatched to WalMart in reference to a husband showing out with a gun. Officer started to enter the store and observed offender and he began to run. Officer was able to make contact with offender and transported him to EmCo Jail.

December 22
 Officer responded to Burger King in reference to an employee that would not leave. Complainant stated offender was told to remake an order and he became argumentative, so he was told to clock out and leave and he refused to leave.

Officer responded to S. Main St. in reference to complainant stating offender was texting and calling her. C/p stated offender showed up at her job and threatened her.

December 23
 Officer heard a single gun shot and advised other officers who heard it as well. Officer attempted to locate who discharged the firearm and observed a male subject walking and asked if he fired the shot and he would not respond, then finally stated it was the young kids doing the shooting. Officer could tell the male subject had some-

thing in his pocket that he was holding on to, so the officer asked him to stop and asked what was in his pocket. Offender continued to walk and seemed agitated. Officer then exited his patrol unit and offender took off running. Officers were able to apprehend offender and could smell a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person. A crack pipe was found on offender's person but no weapon.

Officers were dispatched to Freedom St. in reference to a female stating her husband threatened to put a bullet in her head. C/p stated she and her husband got into an argument and he threatened to put a bullet in her and her son's head. Offender was very intoxicated and slurring his words and stated he was just talking crap and did not mean what he said.

December 24
 Officer responded to WalMart for a shoplifter. Complainant advised offender skip scanned items. Offender stated he was not going to answer any questions so he was handcuffed and transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer responded to WalMart in reference to a shoplifter. Complainant advised offender skip scanned multiple items. Offender was placed under arrest

and transported to EmCo Jail.

Officers were dispatched to Mary Ann St. in reference to a stolen vehicle.

Officers were dispatched to Lucky St. in reference to two males that left Dollar General with stolen merchandise.

December 25
 Officer was dispatched to Mary Ann St. in reference to stolen items.

December 26
 Officer was dispatched to Meadowlake Pkwy. In reference to a damaged vehicle. Complainant stated a garbage truck struck his vehicle.

Officer assisted GSP with a traffic stop on S. Main St. A strong odor of marijuana was detected and a small clear bag of marijuana was discovered in the vehicle. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer was dispatched to N. Main St. in reference to a vehicle riding by shining a laser into the residence. Officer met with complainant who stated she was being followed by someone in WalMart and has seen a laser shine in their residence multiple times.

Officer observed a group of subjects, then heard a gunshot. The group then began to run. One subject was detained and transported to EmCo Jail.

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Legals

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD PROCTOR,

DECEASED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION ESTATE NO. 23E0124

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 7th 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 7th 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

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of Daniel Levi Gray, II, 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 12th day of December, 2023. Cindy Teresa Gray, Executrix of the Estate of Daniel Levi Gray, II, decedent Jerry N. Cadle, P.C. P.O. Box 68 Swainsboro, GA 30401

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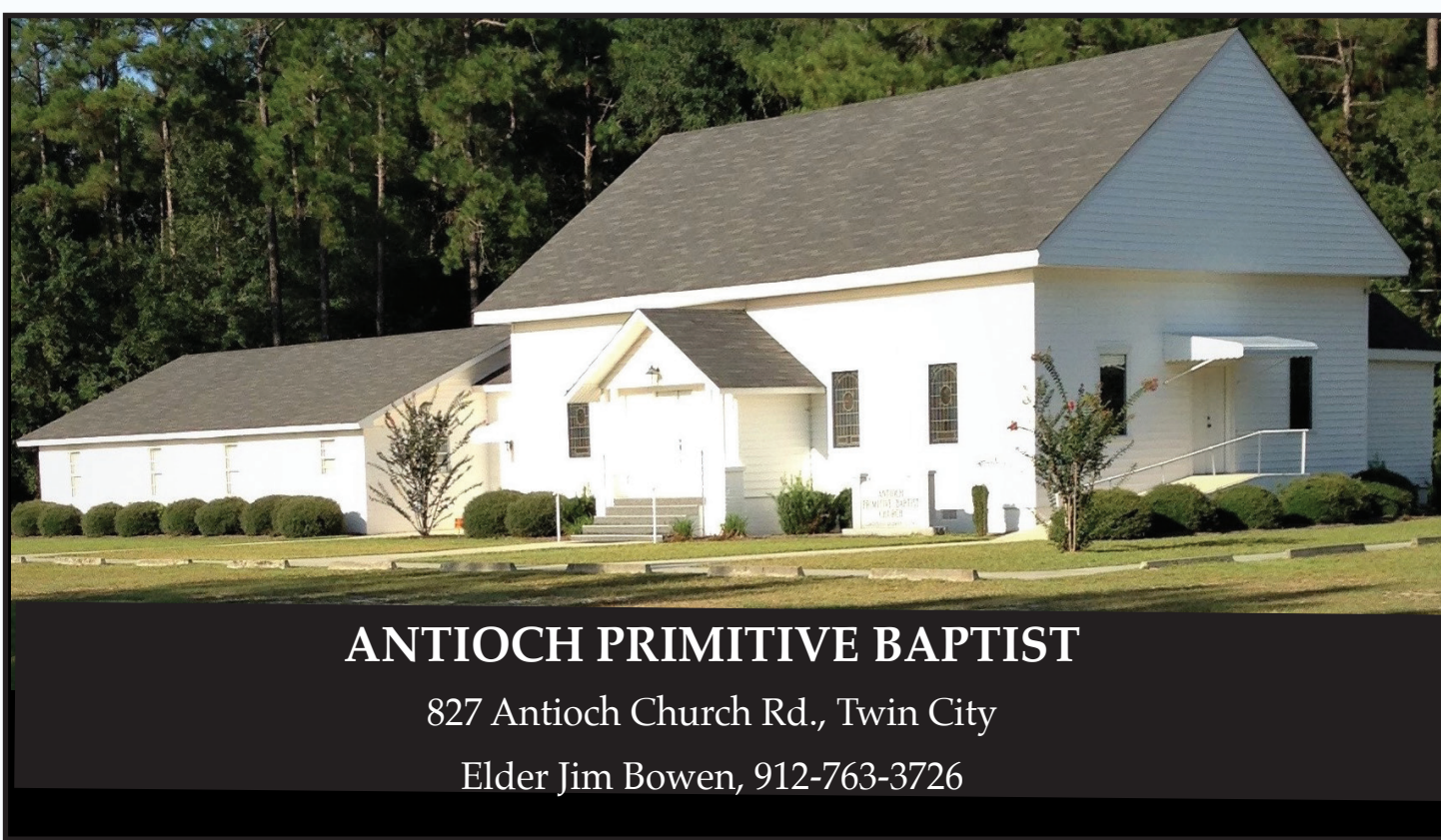
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I'm Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells us about the kingdom with this parable. In this parable the master gave one person five another, two and another one. When he returned to collect on their progress, the one with five had received five more and likewise the one with two had



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received two more but the one which had received one talent did nothing with it. He buried it and when his master returned, he gave it back to him without doing anything with it. So that which he had, because he did nothing, was taken from him. His master gave it to the one which had worked and produced.

So this New Year we are given an opportunity to complete that which we

have started. We have an opportunity to hear our master say, "well done". So whatever your assignment here on earth, time is of the essence. Complete the task at hand. Don't discard it or put it away. Pull it back out and continue to work with it. Mend that which is broken. Don't be so quick to give up or give in. As some may say, don't throw in the towel. God gave you the talents or gifts to produce while you are here to make contributions to the earth.

So be, "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for your labor is not in vain, in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). So you have been given another year for another chance to complete your assignment. So work while it is day.

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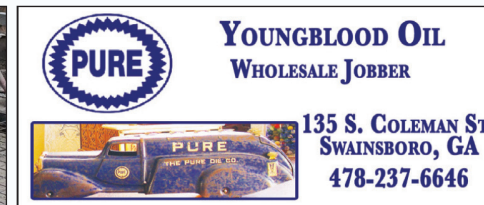
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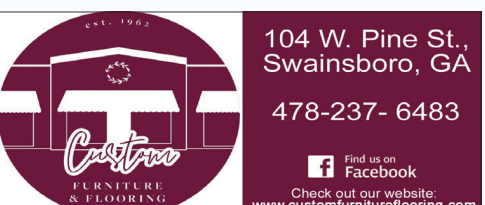


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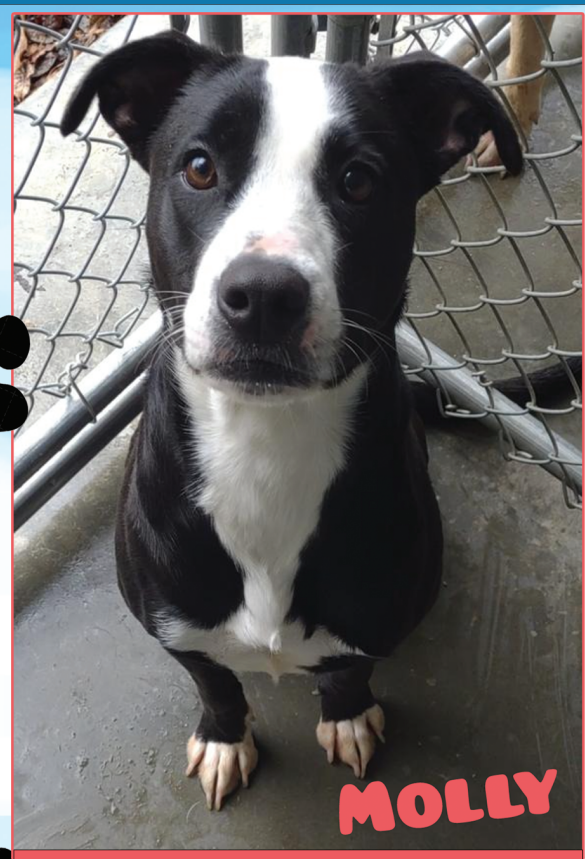
BROOKLYN

8 months old
• Female Lab/Bully Mix
Super playful. Gets along great with others. Just loves to play. Would do well with older kids.



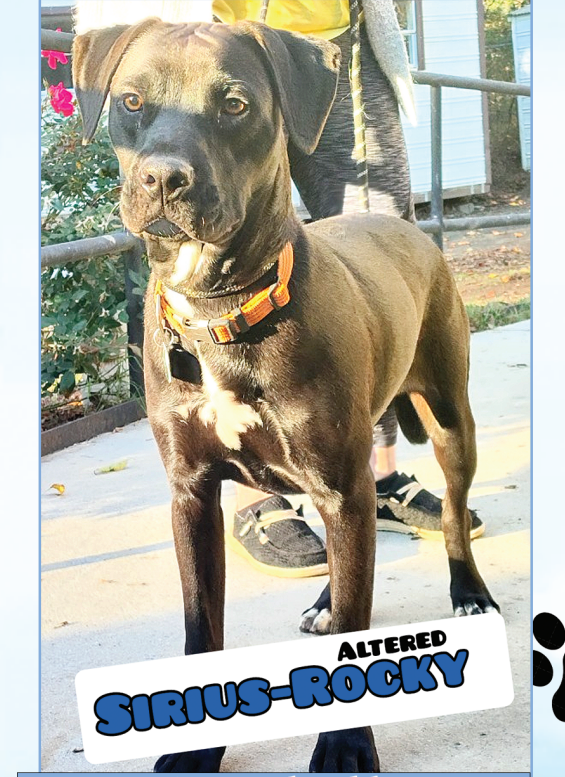
HOLLY

1 year / 1 month old
Female Bully Mix
Came in with younger sister Molly. Absolutely loves tennis balls and will play fetch until she is worn out. She needs a stable loving home. Bonded to sister Molly, would do best if they stayed together.



MOLLY

1 year / 1 month old
Female Bully Mix
Came in with older sister Holly. Loves toys but is nowhere near the ball fanatic that her sister is. She needs a stable home as well. Bonded to sister Holly, would do best if they stayed together.



ALTERED SIRIUS-ROCKY

10 months old
Male Altered Boxer Mix
Came in as an owner surrender after being adopted from us previously. Not entirely sure what happened but he is the sweetest baby ever. He just needs someone to take up time with him.



Spud

Approximately 1 year old
Male Hound Mix
Found by Good Samaritans, skinny and starving. They nursed him back to health and tried to find him a more permanent home before ultimately bringing him into the shelter.



GICI

1 year 2 months old
Female Bully Mix
Super sweet but definitely needs a yard to run off the built up energy she has. Would do well in a home with older children.



ZOE

1 year old
Female Beagle Mix
Super sweet. Would make anyone a great cuddle baby.



SILAS

2 years old
Male Bully Mix
Has a big heart for his size. Loves to be loved on and give loves. Needs a family that wants to accept that love he wants to give.



SAPPHIRE

2 years old
Female Bully Mix
Super sweet - just wants to be loved on. Needs a family that wants to do exactly that.

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!

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