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# The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 165, NO.2 Swainsboro, Georgia • January 10, 2024 ONE DOLLAR

## MLK Commemorative Service and celebration to be held

A Commemorative Service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held Sunday, January 14, at 6 p.m. at Greater St James Missionary Church. The speaker will be Rev. David L. Stanley, Sr., pastor at Union Baptist Church in Macon and the theme will be "The Time Is Always Right To Do What Is Right." The MLK parade will be Monday January 15. Lineup will start at 11:30 a.m. at the 4-H Club House and the parade will start at 1 p.m. There will be an entry fee of \$30 for cars and \$35 for vans and trucks/floats. Group entry fee for motorcycles and cars is \$50. For more information, contact Al Huston at 478.237.7768, David Smith at 478.494.3250



**DR HOWARD**  
or Chris Stanford at 478.455.0528.  
This year's Martin Luther King Celebration Grand Marshall is Dr. Anthony Howard. Dr. Howard's curriculum vitae is as follows:  
Anthony Lewis Howard, SR., MD  
109 Lewis St., Swainsboro  
**Personal Data**  
Born in Macon on

April 6, 1959. Widower living in Swainsboro. Wife, Michelle Howard, transitioned after a long illness on December 26, 2021. Three children, Monique (Maurice) age 38, Anthony age 36 and Frederick age 34.

**Education**  
High School: Southwest Complex, Macon, 8/72-6/77  
College: Morehouse College, Atlanta, 8/77-5/81  
Medical School: Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, 6/81-6/87  
Internal Medicine Residency: Akron General Medical Center, Akron, OH, 7/87-7/91  
**Interests and Activities**  
Reading, golf, bowling, fishing, hunting and  
(Continued on page 2A)



QUANTAVIUS FOSTER BEING SWORN IN AS NEW CITY COUNCILMAN



DJ DAVIS BEING SWORN IN AS CITY COUNCILMAN FOR ANOTHER TERM



JULIAN SCONYERS BEING SWORN IN AS CITY COUNCILMAN FOR ANOTHER TERM

## Council and Mayor put the brakes on Sunday alcohol

The regular meeting of the Swainsboro City Council and Mayor Julian Sconyers and D.J. Davis were also sworn in for new terms in their respective wards. A rambling discussion concerning an alcoholic beverage license advertisement took the stage as old business continued. After deliberation, council voted to accept the application for alcohol license of Atul Pandya for Parker in a December runoff. Incumbents Julian Sconyers and D.J. Davis were also sworn in for new terms in their respective wards. A rambling discussion concerning an alcoholic beverage license advertisement took the stage as old business continued. After deliberation, council voted to accept the application for alcohol license of Atul Pandya for Parker in a December runoff. Incumbents Julian Sconyers and D.J. Davis were also sworn in for new terms in their respective wards. A rambling discussion concerning an alcoholic beverage license advertisement took the stage as old business continued. After deliberation, council voted to accept the application for alcohol license of Atul Pandya for Parker in a December runoff.

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advertisement only at 227 West Main Street. In new business, council voted to move two part time employees to full time. Emily Hendley was given full-time status in the Clerk's department and Austin Woods became a full-time employee in the Fire Department. Continuing under new business, committee assignments were (Continued on page 10A)

## Meet Allen Farley: Candidate for County Commissioners District 1

Allen Farley is seeking the position for County Commissioner District 1. He has been a resident of Emanuel County for over a decade. He is employed by the Swainsboro Fire Department and RadioJones, LLC as an Account Manager. He is actively involved with the Swainsboro Jaycees and Dellwood Baptist Church. Farley and his

wife, Katrina have four children, Allen, Kylee, Brandon, and Roxanna, who have all grown up in Emanuel County. "Upon moving to Swainsboro, I immediately fell in love with this community that welcomed my family with open arms. I have served this community in many different capacities and my belief in service runs

to my core," said Farley. "My time with Swainsboro Fire Department has also given me the opportunity to interact with the community on a more personal level by responding and counseling community members in their times of need, assisting in educational events related to fire safety, and being an on-



FARLEY WITH HIS FAMILY

## The Lazarus Project food distribution to hold giveaway

The Lazarus Project is excited to announce their upcoming giveaway event where they will be distributing essential food items to those in need within our community. Food distribution will be Saturday, January 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 664 South Main Street, Swainsboro. To ensure a smooth experience, they kindly ask participants to have a container in their trunk. This helps volunteers efficiently place the items, maintaining safety and convenience for all. Volunteers are always welcome! If you'd like to contribute or be part of their mission, feel free to join them. Your assistance helps make a significant impact. Call 478.299.1784 for details.

### What's Inside...

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## MLK Commemorative...

(From front page)

billiard  
**Work Experience**  
*Medical Directorships*  
 Swainsboro Medical Clinic PC, Swainsboro, 08/91-09/23  
 Smith Rural Health Clinic, Swainsboro, 07/01-11/22  
 Westwood Nursing Home, Statesboro, 05/03-06/16  
 Helping Hand Personal Care Home, Vidalia, 05/04  
 UniHealth Source, Swainsboro, 03/07-06/21  
 Associate Medical Director United Hospice, Swainsboro, 12/12-06/21  
 State Medical Director of Georgia Prince Hall Mason  
**Medical Consultant**  
 Ga. Dept. of Human Resource Div. of Rehabilitation, Swainsboro, 09/94-08/19  
 Ga. Dept. of Human Resource Div. of Rehabilitation, Dublin, 05/04-08/19  
 Serenity Hospice Care LLC, Vidalia, 04/12-08/23  
**Associations**  
*Medical Staff*

Community Health Care System, Inc., Wrightsville, 11/23-Present  
 Emanuel Medical Center and Nursing Home, Swainsboro, 08/91-10/23  
 PruittHealth - Swainsboro Nursing Home, Swainsboro, 10/91-10/23  
 Twin City Nursing Home, Twin City, 05/92-10/23  
 Chief of Staff Emanuel Medical Center, 1998, 2003, 2020, 2021  
 Hospital Authority Board of Directors, 01/04-12/11  
 University Hospital, Augusta, 08/98-10/23  
 Scott Health and Rehabilitation Nursing Home, 05/92-10/23  
 Wrightsville Manor Nursing Home, 09/99-10/23  
**Community Activities**  
 Charter member if Emanuel 2000, Charter member of Access Emanuel Indigent Care program, President and member of Swainsboro Evening Optimist Club,

member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Secretary of Pin Hi Golf Association, Medical Editor of Emanuel Today magazine 05/2002  
**Professional Memberships**  
 American Medical Association, Southern Medical Association, Georgia Medical Association, American Society of Internal Medicine, American Professional Practice Association, Medical Association of Georgia, National Medical Association, American Diabetes Association, elected to "Outstanding Young Men of America" in 1992, elected to "Who's Who in Executives and Professionals" in 1996-97  
**Accreditations and Licensures**  
 Board Certified by American Board of Internal Medicine in Internal Medicine, Certified by American Heart Association to provide CPR, ACLS, Licensed by the State of Georgia

## Gov. David Emanuel-Adam Brinson to hold meeting

The Gov. David Emanuel-Adam Brinson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet on January 11 at 3 p.m. at the Sudie Fulford Learning Center located on the campus of East Georgia State College.

## Meet Allen Farley...

(From front page) going presence at many community events. I am very proud of my time with the fire department and will continue to serve if elected as your County Commissioner for District 1." During Farley's time with the Swainsboro Jaycees, he has assisted with major community projects including Toys for Tots/Empty Stocking Fund, fishing rodeo, Freedom Fest and Scare at the Fair. "I am also very supportive of the transformational power of local sports on area children and have served as a coach for both little league football and soccer," stated Farley.

During his time with the Swainsboro Jaycees, he served in multiple roles within the local, state and national organizations from Community Vice President, Membership Vice President and President (2018) locally; to Membership Vice President (2019) and the 90th President (2020) of the Georgia Jaycees at the state level; to Program Manager, Diversity Council Member, National Vice President (2022), and Co-Membership Development Director (2023) for JCI USA at the national level. Throughout his career of service, he has gained skills which include planning, collaboration, training,

economic development, effective communication and leadership. According to Farley, he is passionate about being an example of service to his family and instilling a love of community in each of them. He is supportive and involved with all their extracurricular activities which span a broad spectrum of sports, the arts, and service organizations. "I look forward to being a listening ear for the whole community and throughout my career with the Swainsboro Fire Department and the Jaycees, I have acquired the skills that I believe can lead our community forward for you," said Farley in closing.

# Meet Our Student Advisory Board



**Congratulations Board Members...  
 We look forward to learning with you!**

During the school year, these talented students will be given the opportunity to experience the world of banking as well as participating in programs that will encourage them to be active and productive members of the community. President Milton Gray states, "From a financial market view, we will expose the students to an overview of banking and instruct them on how to manage their personal finances. The Board consists of seniors from each of our local high schools. We are fortunate to have these outstanding young people to represent our bank on the Student Advisory Board. Our program exposes the students to a variety of topics ranging from banking, volunteerism, preparing for college, and the role of our Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority."

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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)



SCARBORO PRESENTING CHECK TO EMC DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, LYNN BRINSON

## Growing Communications donates to Georgia HEART Program

Jill Scarboro, owner of Growing Communication, Inc., recently presented Emanuel Medical Center with a contribution as part of the Georgia HEART Program. Georgia HEART empowers all businesses and individuals with Georgia income tax liability to receive a 100% state tax credit in exchange for their contribution to Emanuel Medical Center. Through her participation in the program, Scarboro was able to invest her tax dollars in healthcare for the local community.

Located in Swainsboro, Growing Communication works with the pediatric population, providing a variety of speech and language services.

For more information about the Georgia HEART program, contact Lynn Brinson at 478-289-1274 or [lynn.brinson@emanuelmedical.org](mailto:lynn.brinson@emanuelmedical.org).

## Sunrays Optical holds ribbon cutting

Sunrays Optical, located at 414 South Main Street, Swainsboro, held a ribbon cutting and grand opening on Friday, January 3 at 2 p.m. Chamber President Ken Warnock was on hand to welcome owner, Brock Hooks to our community. Guests were served finger foods, hot chocolate and more.

"I want to thank the city of Swainsboro's Chamber of Commerce and the community for supporting Sunrays Optical. As a young kid, I dreamed of owning my own business one day. I have lived in Swainsboro my entire life and I love to see it grow little by little. Many of my colleagues have moved out of town to start their careers but I saw a need to help our community. After 4 years of college and working under great bosses, my dream has finally come true. After many hours of consideration, I wanted to start a business to

help Swainsboro grow as well as take care of our wonderful community," said Hooks. "Sunrays Optical offers a one hour service on prescription glasses that are made in house. We have a wide

variety of frames including our brand Sunrays, Cazal, Costa, Maui Jim, and Rayban. Our goal is to satisfy every patient with awesome customer service and a comfortable fit."



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## Thank You

The family of Robert "Bob" Williams would like to take this time to thank everyone for all acts of kindness shown to us during this most difficult time. May God bless each one of you.

Netta Davis & The Williams Family

## Come Worship With Us!

### Sunday

Sunday School: 10 AM  
Worship: 11 AM

### Wednesday

Bible Study  
6:30 PM

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Wednesday 7:00 pm

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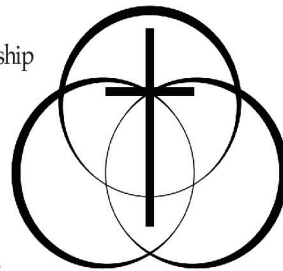
Sunday Morning Services Are Broadcast By  
WXRS 100.5 FM at 11:00 A.M.

### Sunday

9:00 AM - Contemporary Service  
10:00 AM - Sunday School  
11:00 AM - Traditional Worship  
5:00 PM - Jr. & Sr. MYF  
6:00 PM - Evening Worship

### Wednesday Night

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



PLEASE JOIN US!

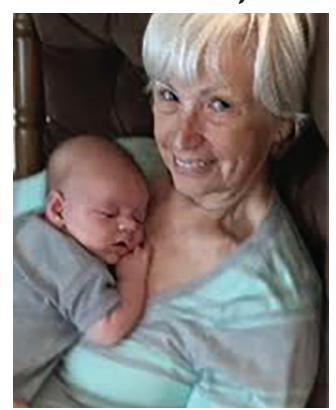
## Lynette Williams Watson, 85

Lynette Williams Watson, 85, of Macon, passed away Friday, November 24, 2023. A Celebration of Life will be held on January 13, 2024, at 2 p.m. at the Jones County Chapel of Hart's Mortuary in Gray, Georgia. Dr. Mark Hudgins will officiate.

Lynette was a partner with the Sandy Creek Christmas Tree Farm, Middle Georgia Realty, and Appraisal Associates. She enjoyed working with her loving husband on all three. Lynette also enjoyed home making, decorating, and was retired from Keebler.

Mrs. Watson is preceded in death by her parents, Warren Williams and Rowland Williams; daughter, Vickie Hawes; and several of her brothers.

Mrs. Watson is survived by her husband, Donald Watson; daugh-



### WATSON

ter, Jan Drake of Macon; granddaughter, Sidney Adams (John); great-grandchildren, Brandon Adams, Logan Adams and Landon Adams, all of Macon; sister, Edie Pundt (Joe) of Lincoln; brothers, Glenn Williams and Jerome Williams, both of Emanuel County; sister-in-law, Mary Brooks; and nephew, Benjamin Brooks (Amanda), all of Macon.

Hart's Mortuary, Jones County Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

## William Joseph "Joey" Allen, 42

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of William Joseph "Joey" Allen, 42, of Midville, on December 31, 2023, at East Georgia Regional Medical Center in Statesboro. Graveside services were conducted Friday, January 5, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Union Grove Methodist Church Cemetery with Pastor Randy Carnley officiating with burial followed in the cemetery.

Pallbearers were Kenneth Allen, Holt Allen "Bubba", Cory Freeman, Tillis Jackson, Jack Allen, Lemar Crews, Jacob Moody and Waylon Brown. Honorary pallbearers were members of the Ridgeway Masonic Lodge #104, Garfield.

Born in Augusta, Joey was the son of James Kenneth, Sr. and Elizabeth George Allen. He grew up in Jefferson County and later moved to Emanuel County where he met the love of his life, Peggy, and they started their family. Joey was a member of the Union Grove Methodist Church and also of the Ridgeway Masonic Lodge #104. He was a truck driver for many years and took pride in his truck, which he affectionately named, "Blue". Although Joey was a little rough around the edges, he was a jokester and was fun to be around. He loved his wife deeply, as well as his children and his grandbabies. Joey loved the Lord with all his heart.



### ALLEN

No matter the circumstance or situation, he would always say, "It's a beautiful day, Praise the Lord". Mr. Allen is preceded in death by his parents; aunt, Vivian Trawick "Aunt V"; and uncle, Jack Trawick.

Survivors include his wife of 15 years, Peggy Donaldson Allen; daughters, Kristen Freeman (Cory) of Twin City, Katie Brandon (Brandon) of Statesboro, Vivian Allen "Birdie", Abby Allen and Elizabeth Allen "Biskit", all of Midville; sons, Jacob Moody of Albany and Jackson Allen of Midville; brothers, Kenneth Allen (Autumn) of Alexander and Holt "Bubba" Allen of Midville; grandchildren, Lexi Freeman, Chloe Freeman, Waylon Brown and Ellie Gwinett; several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in his honor to: The College Fund for Elizabeth Allen at Durden Banking Company at any of their four locations.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

## Steve Muns, 52

Mr. Steve Muns, 52, of Swainsboro, passed away Monday, January 1, 2024, in Swainsboro, following a brief illness. Memorial service will be held Thursday, January 4, at 3 p.m. in the Chapel at Eastbrook Cemetery & Mausoleum with Reverend Mark Hardin officiating.

Steve was born March 25, 1971, in Swainsboro, to James Roy Muns and Patricia Sconyers Muns. Mr. Muns is preceded in death by his father.

Mr. Muns is survived by his mother, Pat Muns of Garfield; brother, Jim Muns (Lisa) of Metter; sisters, Tasha Wilkerson



### MUNS

(Tim) of Garfield and Nichelle Williams (Britt) of Swainsboro; several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

## Jo Ann Grube, 83

Mrs. Jo Ann Grube, 83, of Canoochee, passed away Friday, December 22, 2023, at her residence. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 26, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Tomlinson Funeral Home with Reverend Louis Pearce officiating. Interment followed in Eastbrook Cemetery. Family received friends at Tomlinson Funeral Home Tuesday, December 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pallbearers were Jamie O'Dell, Dwayne Hopkins, Dane Braswell, Jeff Braswell, Jason Wiley, Keith Hopkins and Brandon Lynch. Honorary pallbearers were Gideons.

Jo Ann was born in Emanuel County to the late Vernon and Adrice Cooper Braswell. She had worked as a hairdresser for over 20 years and had retired from

the Magistrate Court. Jo Ann was a member of the Canoochee Baptist Church and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Gideons.

Survivors include her husband, Richard E. Grube of Canoochee; daughter, Penny Parrish of Vidalia; two grandsons-, Trey Chalkley of Swainsboro and Blake Chalkley of Vidalia; two stepdaughters, Linda Anderson (Allen) of Blackshear and Brenda Bruner (Bobby) of Springfield; brother, Wayne Braswell of Swainsboro; sisters, Gail Smallwood of Stilson and Janette (Butch) Simmons of Metter.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: The Gideons International, P.O. Box 365, Swainsboro, GA 30401.

Tomlinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Sally Toler Bellamy Nicholson, 80

Sally Toler Bellamy Nicholson, age 80, passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2024, after an extended illness. Sally's life celebration will be held Wednesday, January 10, at 2 p.m. at Morningside Baptist Church in Soperton with Pastor Vic Fordham and Reverend George Grimes officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until the hour of service.

Pallbearers are Clint Purser, Tom Phillips, Terry Phillips and Ronnie Phillips.

Sally was a lifelong resident of Treutlen and Emanuel Counties. She was a retired science educator with multiple degrees who taught students at David Emanuel Institute and Vidalia Comprehensive High School. Sally led adult Sunday School and coordinated Vacation Bible School at Morningside Baptist Church. She was known for using her intensive Bible study and artistic design to support her fellow church members. Friends remember Sally's love for animals, especially her canine companion, Abby, and her passion for flower gardening. Sally will



### NICHOLSON

be missed by her many friends, family and fellow church members. Mrs. Nicholson is preceded in death by her parents, Slayton "Trooper" Toler, Sr. and Marjorie Toler; husband, Billy Nicholson; daughter, Katherine "Kitty" Bellamy; and brother, Slayton "Judgie" Toler, Jr.

Mrs. Nicholson will be particularly missed by those who have helped her over the past several years, neighbor and longtime friend, Wrella Purser; Wendell Lovett; Corine Ricks; and Sharon Henry.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice or Shriners Children's Hospital, PO Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394, or [shrinerschildrens.org/en](http://shrinerschildrens.org/en).

Ronald V. Hall Funeral Home of Vidalia is in charge of arrangements.

## Veronica Kimbrough LaCue, 60

Veronica "Roni" Elizabeth LaCue, age 60, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, January 6, at 2 p.m. at Emanuel County Institute with Apostle Donald Johnson officiating and Pastor George Coleman presiding. Interment followed in Rountree Grove Missionary Baptist Church cemetery.

Veronica was born November 6, 1963, in Bronx, NY, to the late Herbert Kimbrough and Annie Willie Rountree. She graduated from Emanuel County Institute in 1981. Veronica will be remembered as being the best dancer in the family, although her sister Teresa always debated with her about that because she thinks she was the best. Mrs. LaCue is preceded in death by her parents; sister, Debra Ann Rountree; and brother, Hyland James Kareem Rountree.

Mrs. LaCue will be remembered by her lov-



### LACUE

ing, devoted husband, Kennedy LaCue; daughter, Kenyatta LaCue; son, Kenyale Herbert (Jayda) LaCue; sister, Teresa (Isaac) Diane Kimbrough; grandsons, Kyrie and Kingston; special nieces, Yolanda and Nikia; nephews, Saxon, Roderick, Zephaniah and Quan; uncle, George Coleman; aunts, Cinda, Jackie, Shirley, Robin and Darlene; great-nieces, Tre'Andrea and Zoria; and great-nephews, Christon, Xzavier and Lamonte.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

# Editorials Columns

## A new year, after a strange season

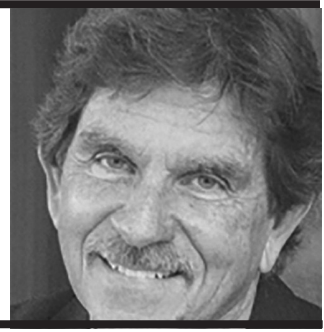
Well, it's the first real week back at work for 2024. You say you went back to work last week? Really? Come on now, not really. Christmas decorations were still lit up, and it was just three and a half days of actual work because you spent half a day discussing how your Christmas was with everybody in the break room, and truth be told, your heart just wasn't in "work mode". This week, kids are back at school, teachers are back at work, the normal routine is back in place, and we have a new national champion of college football to get used to. Yep, this is a real, kinda tough week, and 2024 is starting out a little "strange". First of all, this

is an unusual time in terms of the annual withdrawal process from college football we are forced to endure. Somehow things just don't feel settled. It's bad enough that the greatest sport since dinosaur wrestling is now over for the next 8 months, but on top of that many of us are still waiting for the ESPN panelists and commentators to explain to us just what in the world happened to the SEC this season. Sure, there were a few bright spots, but for the most part, the glory of Southeastern Conference domination of football in this country wilted and withered away in the last few weeks of fall. And, the mashup of bowl games that followed was

pretty dismal too. It all sort of all spun out of control with the Georgia/Alabama SEC title game, and I still haven't heard a decent explanation for how that happened either. Strange? Then, from that point on, it was all downhill. Alabama dropped the ball, literally and figuratively, with Harbaugh and the mighty, mighty Michigan lip readers. Now, just let me say, I have always liked Alabama. I believe, if you gotta lose to somebody, it doesn't hurt quite as bad to lose to the Crimson Tide, as it would to somebody like Auburn, or "upstart" Missouri, but something about Saban has been Strange all season. Even

in the loss to Michigan, he never did throw a good old-fashioned sideline, headset-slinging temper tantrum. Unbelievable, and very Strange! Matter of fact, in the pregame interviews, he went on and on about how he really enjoyed this season and how much "fun" it was. What?? Who in the Jimmy Dean Dickens is thisman, and what is going on in Tuscaloosa?? Very Strange indeed! I guess Nick may be trying to soften up his retail image since he and a buddy just ponied up \$700 million for two Mercedes dealerships down in Florida, to add to his collection of seven other car stores. Maybe he's just getting ready to step down from

## Charles Schwabe



the SEC throne and let the Earl of the Oconee, "Prince Kirby" take over. Well, when somebody figures all that out, please let me know. Meanwhile, I guess we just better get used to the new national champ and start working on next year's version of the SEC. Now, I will conclude this discussion by just saying I am still 199% behind the Dawgs and as my sons tell me, "You know you have an elite team and a great program when they end up with a 13-1 overall season record not to men-

tion two national championships and even then the faithful Dawg fans are still moaning and wailing and expecting more (like I have just done here). Ok, Ok, so no more talk about football strange-ness. Let's just discuss something that's not so stressful, something we can all agree on like how to survive the upcoming 2024 Presidential elections which will probably feature two worn out teams with two over-the-hill quarterbacks. Good Luck with that!

## To Cameron Charles Yarbrough: Some advice for the New Year

Dear Cameron: Well, here we go again. A new year and some more unsolicited advice from your great grandpa. We have been at this quite a while. I hope these observations have been of some value to you. A lot of what I want to share with you are matters I wish someone had covered with me when I was your age. Maybe I wouldn't have made as many mistakes in my life as I have. On the other hand, mistakes can be a learning experience. We are all going to make them. It is how we react to them that matters. Don't let a mistake create doubt in your mind about your

abilities and try not to make the same one twice. Make a difference. You don't have to invent a cure for cancer or write the world's next great symphony. Just be someone who makes this a better place by being here. Be nice to people even when they don't deserve it. Say "thank you" and "please" and "I apologize" and mean it. Courtesy never goes out of style. Don't be ashamed to tell people you love them. For some reason, we guys find that awkward. It shouldn't be. We all like to know somebody loves us, especially those we love. And be generous with your hugs. Hugs are huge.

Be the best you can be at everything you do. You won't succeed at everything you attempt but don't let it be from not trying. Never allow yourself to compromise or rationalize a lack of effort. Be able to look yourself in the mirror at night and know you did your best. Maybe it wasn't good enough but it was your best effort. That's all that matters. Which leads me to a hard truth: Life is not always fair. In fact, life can be harsh at times and inexplicable. But it is what it is. Sometimes, you will lose when you feel you deserved to win while witnessing someone winning who didn't deserve

it. That's life. If it knocks you down, get back up and keep going. That takes courage. Don't lose faith in yourself because of a temporary setback. Be a leader but don't try to be a leader. Let me explain. You cannot become a leader by saying you are. Leadership can't be manufactured. It must come naturally. People will follow those they respect and admire. It is not what you say that will make you a leader. It is what you do. Be sure what you do is the right thing. The right thing isn't always the popular thing. Know the difference. Don't let anyone define who you are. Not your parents, not your grandparents, not me, no one. You know you better than anyone else. Be yourself. If you will allow me a bit of Shakespeare: To thine own self be true. And the reverse is also true. Don't try to be something you are not. You are a unique individual. Celebrate that fact. Believe in God. Have faith

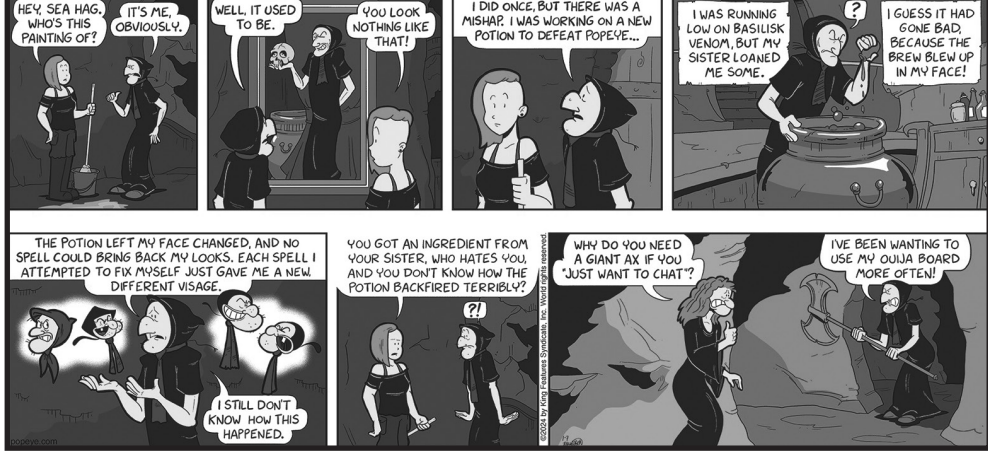
## Dick Yarbrough



that there is a magnificent order to this universe and a Creator behind it all. Let no one get between you and your God. Most of all, be leery of religious denominations that have a my-way-or-the-highway view of religion by interpretations they have gleaned from the Bible to fit their own narrow-minded view of religion. Ignore them. Focus on God. Love your country. I pray your generation is not the one that lets die what George Washington called "the last great experiment for promoting human happiness." Human happiness seems to be in short supply these days. Instead of focusing on all that is good about us, we obsess on what isn't. Don't apologize for being proud of being an American. We aren't perfect, but who is? You have been given a

unique legacy - your name. It has been handed down over the generations, most notably from your great-great grandfather, my father. Please don't do anything that would tarnish that legacy. If your name appears in public, be sure it is for something good you have achieved and not something that would embarrass your family. You owe that to your great-great grandfather. You owe that to me. You owe that to yourself. In closing, I am very proud of what you have accomplished thus far in your life and I'm excited for the future. I hope this is your best year ever and I pray I am around to be a part of it. Love,  
PA  
You can reach Dick Yarbrough at [dick@dickyarbrough.com](mailto:dick@dickyarbrough.com) or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

## Editorial Cartoons



## Gift of love

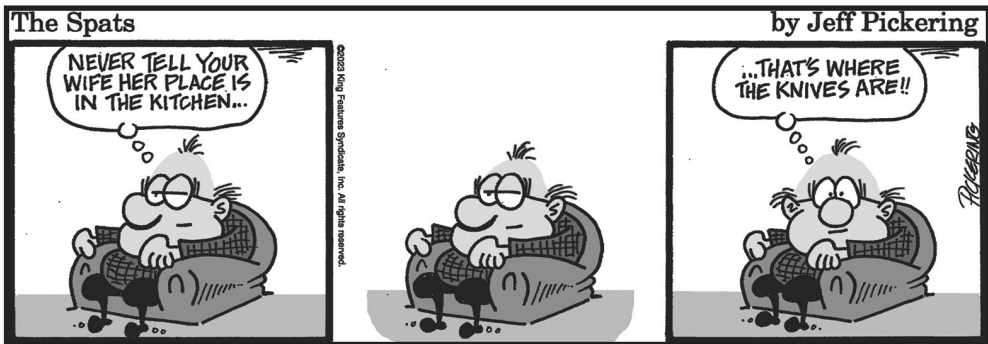
## Shirley Proctor Twiss



Christmas gifts have all been opened. Santa has filled the stockings and headed the reindeers to the North Pole. A New Year has arrived, and we must remember to write 2024 with date. All was appreciated and enjoyed. One gift will stay with you forever and touch your heart with each memory. La'Rose Tapley's column *Christmas Memories*, took my thoughts to a young boy and girl who were freshman at SHS the same time as I was a senior. They were already a couple who would know the sweetness of love through sixty years of marriage. At Christmas, her eyes still fill with tears as she recalls the tale of his childhood of "growing up poor and knowing

it." I had never recognized the difference in "growing up poor and knowing and not knowing". My memory surely included many who were growing up poor and knew from their hardships. I bought many boiled or parched peanuts from young boys on the streets of Swainsboro and never gave a thought to why the boy was selling peanuts on the street. My pockets usually held a nickel or two, so I am sure I bought rice crispy bars also. Yes, I did not know if my family was considered poor---but if so, I never had a clue. The boy's Christmas was a scant tree cut from the woods, decorated with homemade ornaments and no wrapped gifts. He painfully described

returning to school after holidays, and the teacher allowed everyone to tell what Santa had brought. However, I remember my most beloved sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Barney Price, knew difference between knowing and not knowing. She told the class, "No gifts or toys but tell us one thing you loved about Christmas." The boy's prosperity changed in the future when he could work and earn to buy new clothes, help out his mother, and buy a gold ring with pearls for his sweetheart. Thank you La'Rose for giving us the gift of your memories of the love you were blessed with Sollie for almost your entire life. The gift of love stays with us forever.



# The Forest-Blade

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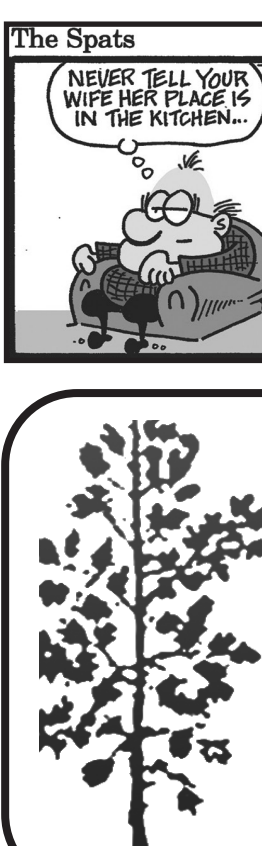
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Gail Williamson,  
Editor/Publisher

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.



# Emanuel Community



## American Red Cross Blood Drive

# Thursday, January 11, 2024

## 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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**JIM ROBERTS**  
Designs



## Hometown decorator decks the capital halls—again!

by HALEI LAMB

If decorating the White House gets you on Santa's Nice List, Jim Roberts is on it. He's fresh off his third trip to help pretty up the president's home for the holidays, and this year, he got to put his talents front and center at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

"I was in the Blue Room this time," Roberts explained. "It houses the main, huge Christmas tree that pays tribute to all the states and territories. I actually hung Georgia's tag on it."

Getting to do that honor has been a long time coming.

Roberts started his business, Southern Traditions, more than 20 years ago. Since then, he has become the go-to for many people in Emanuel County when it comes to floral and interior design. That is especially true around the holidays each year; his open houses bring hundreds of people from near and far to his shop on East Main for the unveiling of his artistic show of Christmas.

In 2019, he went national—literally—and volunteered to help execute then-First Lady Melania Trump's festive vision for the White House. He and a group of "teammates" were specifically assigned the Lower and Upper Cross Halls.

Roberts made a repeat trip to Capitol Hill a year later. He spent 8 days, leading a team of his own to decorate the East Colonnade, the East Room, and the East Landing, home to the all-important Gold Star Tree that memorializes fallen service members.

His handiwork earned him yet another trip to Washington about 2 months ago.

Roberts admitted a fondness for his first gig working on the presidential mansion; he compared it to the jaw-dropping magic of a first-ever Disney World trip. However, his most recent time in the capital was unique in a few ways.

For starters, gone were the days of volunteering to help. This time, he was sought out to help.

"The designer in charge of the Blue Room, he was hired by the White House," Roberts explained. "He actually reached out to me. He asked if I was interested, and, of course, I said yes."

It also gave him an opportunity to work under a second first lady, Dr. Jill Biden.

She took inspiration from "The Night Before Christmas" as the theme and tasked Roberts and his colleagues to transform the historic, stoic walls into a winter wonderland that embodied the special splendor the season brings for children while reminding adults, through the nostalgia of the classic holiday book, to be present with their loved ones.

Roberts left Swainsboro the day before Thanksgiving and spent almost a week working on the project. As it turned out, the process looked different this time as well.

"When we all got there, we learned there would be a lot of designers doing different sections. They told us about the theme and the inspiration, how the hope was to feel like you were walking into that book, and each team was given a specific color to work with to do it," Roberts said. "I actually thought, 'This isn't going to look cohesive because each designer is going to have their own look,' but in the end, it flowed very well. The First Lady and her staff did a very good job of getting everyone to work in that same theme."

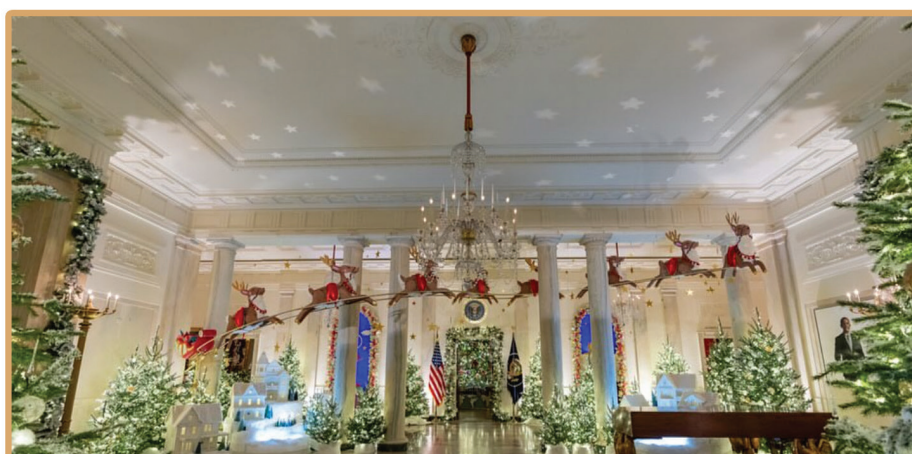
He also credits that feat to the level of expert hands in the White House at the time.

"There were some big designers there. Common people might not know who they are, but for me in the design world, they're big names. Getting to work alongside them and watch them bring their part to life was surreal," Roberts said.

He continued, "In fact, that's a good word to sum up the experience as a whole, no matter how many times you get to do it. You look around and you're in the White House! There's Secret Service around you all the time, the social secretary is coming around constantly to make sure you're enjoying yourself. First Lady Biden hosted a reception for us, and I got to meet her... Not only is it surreal, it's also humbling. To have been trusted enough to get to be a part of this, especially for a third time, I'm really grateful for that."

He also learned a lot during this trip.

"Looking back on it, I definitely came back with new design ideas. Not all of what I saw would be applicable here at home, but I can modify them so that they will be. So, that's good news for Swainsboro."



# Remembering

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
1929-1968

January 15, 2024



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## O'Conner speaks to Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting Tuesday night, January 2, at 7 p.m. at the Rustic Grille. With President Cheryl Goodman presiding, they had 20 in attendance, including guests Lt. Governor Trish Tootle, Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz, Richard Torpin Smith II and Matthew O'Conner. The Italian Crème Cake donated by Gary Couse and baked by Petite Garrett was won by Dess Smith. The Dominos pizza donated by Dominos was won by David Gribbin. David Gribbin and Paul

Cerpovicz won "Git-R-Done" mugs and Will Barber won the gift basket. The program for the evening was hosted by President Cheryl who introduced Matthew O'Conner, Management Forester for the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC). Matthew grew up on a tree farm and he currently covers Emanuel, Treutlen and Johnson counties to assist landowners as they manage their property and forestland. In Emanuel County last year, GFC handled 164 cases (top 2 or 3 in the state), covered 36 wildfires, assisted with 34 prescribed burns,



**PRESIDENT GOODMAN AND LT GOV. TOOTLE** plowed over 390 miles of firebreaks and did 25 Community Outreach Programs. Forest Management Services provided by Matthew include advice and planning for timber land, timber sales and



**PRESIDENT GOODMAN AND O'CONNER** harvest advice, timber security, stewardship planning, state nursery and seedling production, prescribed burning and cost-sharing options. He also assists GFC with forest protection, burn permits, fire weather reporting, installation of fire breaks, prescribed burning, emergency response, and wildfire prevention. Lt. Governor Trish Tootle presented a 2022-2023 Outstanding

Kiwanian Award to Cheryl Goodman. The award requires bringing in a new member, at least six months perfect attendance, and completing two inter-clubs. Congratulations President Cheryl.

## Neal, Boyles win first place in 2024 Resolution Run 5K

On a nice, cool January 1, 2024, morning, runners descended upon the campus of East Georgia State College Swainsboro for the running of the 9th Annual Kiwanis Resolution Run 5K. Registration for the Run began at 8 a.m. with the official start at 9 a.m. It was a chilly 45+°. The Run, sponsored by the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, was held to raise money for the Kiwanis Club's many community projects.

The overall winner in the male division was Martin Neal from Swainsboro with a time of 21 minutes and 27 seconds. The overall winner in the female division was Mary Jo

Boyles from Pooler with a time of 26 minutes and 55 seconds. The male masters' division winner was David Bolton from Savannah with a time of 24 minutes and 21 seconds. The female masters' division winner was Carol Edwards with a time of 42 minutes and 24 seconds.

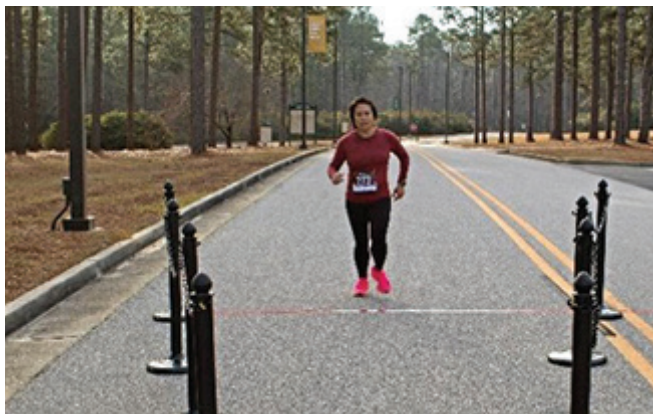
Age group winners in the male division were age 20-29, 1st place Jacob Westbrooks; age 40-49, 1st place Mark Roy; age 50-59, 1st place Kevin Faircloth, 2nd place Paul Cerpovicz and 3rd place Brian Tuttle; age 60-69, 1st place David Rowe; and age 70 and older, 1st place John Torpy and 2nd place Gerald Holsonback.



**THE START OF THE RESOLUTION RUN** our sponsors, Domino's Pizza, Harvey's, Shoprite Pharmacy, Swainsboro Ford, Walmart and Ware's Bar-B-Que. Complete results can be found on the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club website and Facebook page. Run fast, run hard, and run safe!



NEAL



BOYLES



RESOLUTION RUN RUNNERS



**THE KIWANIS RUN CREW: TAMMY ALLEN, PETITE GARRETT, DWIGHT WATT, CHERYL GOODMAN, TIM GOODMAN, RICHARD SMITH, DESS SMITH, TRAVIS GARRETT, DEANA PATRICK AND GARY COUSE. (NOT PICTURED: AUSTIN HENRY AND GAVIN COXWELL)**

## Queensborough helps Paceline raise funds for Georgia Cancer Center

Queensborough National Bank and Trust raised nearly \$13,000 through its support of the 2023 Paceline Ride to benefit the Georgia Cancer Center, says Troy Breitmann, who led the bank's Paceline team, one of the event's top 10 fundraising teams.

"We are proud to have supported the 2023 Paceline Ride, an Augusta-based organization that, since inception, has raised over \$1 million for the Georgia Cancer Center, says Breitmann, Queensborough First Vice President, Regional Trust and Fiduciary Manager. "I want to thank our Queensborough team, customers and friends who helped us raise these funds for a cause that is close to my heart."

Breitmann lost all but one of his grandparents

to cancer and has seen his uncle, wife, mother, mother-in-law and aunt fight the disease.

Queensborough's Paceline teammates, representing several branch locations and services, include: Troy Breitmann, Ken Austin, Clare East-erlin, Lars Frey, Dagan Sharpe, Andy Lawrence, Patrick Blume, Nick Buchanan, Barry Brooks, Rob Lamberts, Beth Lamberts, Zach Brewer and Shelby Cannon.

"The entire Queensborough family continues to show tremendous support for raising dollars to fund cancer research through the Paceline event," Breitmann noted. "It wasn't just the team members, there were so many great volunteers who put together a rider favorite rest stop tent and helped keep the event organized. We

are very pleased that we continued to receive support from our customers who have also joined the team and look forward to even more riders next year!"

Queensborough/Paceline P. 2

Paceline is a movement of communities and organizations striving toward a common goal of curing cancer faster. Throughout the year, Paceline brings communities and organizations together by inspiring them in different ways to fund innovative cancer research. Every October, they hold their signature event, "PaceDay," to cele-



**QUEENSBOROUGH'S PACELINE RIDE TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT A CHECK FOR \$12,890 TO PACELINE PRESIDENT MARTYN JONES (SECOND FROM LEFT) AND VICE PRESIDENT JAMES HOLMES (FAR RIGHT). ALSO PICTURED (L TO R) ARE QUEENSBOROUGH NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST TEAM MEMBERS ANDY LAWRENCE, LARS FREY AND TROY BREITMANN**

brate these efforts together centered around a fun bike ride designed for all - a way to experience the southern countryside in safety with a finish-line party to share with loved ones. To see how you can help, visit [paceline.org](http://paceline.org).

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### Council and Mayor...

(From front page) made for all council members. It was not clear if all assignments were completed. In other new business a \$23,900 expenditure was approved by council for a new pump at one of the lift stations in the City. Also approved was an expenditure of approximately \$55,000 for a 2019 Ford 550 dump truck. The \$78,900 disbursements were both

approved 6 – 0. Item four under new business was the discussion by City attorney Jon Levis of difficulties surrounding the Sunday alcohol sales vote which passed 236 to 173 in the City of Swainsboro in the City of Swainsboro November election. In his presentation Levis described the incompatibility of the new Sunday sales activity with alcohol ordinances that are now in effect. At the end

of a lengthy discussion, Levis described the current situation as a “gray area” and suggested that council consider a moratorium on the newly voted-in “Sunday sales” until more work is done on its legality of implementation. Councilmembers questioned why this work had not already been completed prior to the election. The explanation provided cited

the possibility that the measure would be voted down and new changes would then not be needed. Councilperson Collins and Foster commented that the City has the responsibility, and must respect the will of the people’s vote. The issue is now tied to other discussion questioning the need for other amendments to long-standing alcohol ordinances. The matter

seemed to be far from resolution as the council voted and passed 4-1, a motion to invoke a moratorium and temporarily revoke the right to purchase alcohol on Sunday in Swainsboro. Prior to concluding the business of the open meeting, council returned to the issue of committee appointments. The Mayor asked council to consider appointment of

members for the Ethics committee. Attorney Bill McWhorter was nominated by the Mayor for the seat that requires a legal professional. Council voted to table further action on committee assignments. Following this, council voted to go into Executive Session. As of press time no action resulting from that session has been reported.

### Holy Zion Church to celebrating its 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Holy Zion Church of Metter will celebrate its 46<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary January 18, 19 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. Thursday night, January 18, guest speaker will be Bishop Larry MacMillen. Guest churches will be Bible Time, Jones Temple Pentecostal, Living Way, Saint Matthews, Sam Creek, Holy Zion Church of Statesboro, Temple of Grace Sanctuary, Stillmore William Grove and Holiness William Grove Church of God in Christ. Friday night, January 19, guest speaker will be Pastor Pearl Stine Ocopers. Guest churches will be Foundation Spring, Ada Grove Pentecostal, Brinston Rock Turn Point, House of Hope, Johnson Chapter House of God, Saint John and William Chapter. Sunday, January 21, Sunday School will be at 10:30 a.m. with worship service at 11:30 a.m. Guest church will be Mt. Gilead. Dinner will be served. Pastor Johnny R. Jones invites everyone to attend.

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Social  
Sports  
Legals/Classifieds **B**

## Miss Hall, Mr. Williams announce engagement

Penny Porcel and Chris (Katie) Hall are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Brittany Christina Hall, to Stephen Kyle Williams. Mr. Williams is the son of Steve and Dawn Williams of Swainsboro.

The bride-elect is 2013 graduate of Swainsboro High School. Brittany holds an associate degree in drafting and design from Savannah Technical College and is the accounting administrator for Swainsboro Ford. She is also the part-time business and media manager and decorator for Miranda Mikell Events by design. Miss Hall is the granddaughter of Gail Porcel and the late Fred Porcel of Swainsboro and

James and Letha Hall of Canoochee.

The future groom is a 2010 graduate of Swainsboro High School. Kyle attended East Georgia State College with a basis in Business before receiving his degree in accounting at Southeastern Technical College in the Fall of 2013. He is also the owner of Better Dollar Remodel and is employed with Battle Lumber Company as a bookkeeper and shipping clerk. Mr. Williams is the grandson of the late Jack and Becky Canady of Swainsboro, Glenn (Grace) Williams of Kite and Laura Mason of Swainsboro.

The wedding is set for May 24, 2024, at 6 p.m. at Quinney Oaks Plantation in Millen. A reception will follow at the same location.



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## EREA meeting to be held

The next Emanuel Retired Educators Association meeting will be held Wednesday, January 17, at the Sudie A. Fulford Center at East Georgia State College at noon.

## Baby Lamb welcomed home

Mr. Chris and Mrs. Halei Lamb of Kite are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Evan Mac Lamb. Evan was born Monday, November 20, 2023, at Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin at 1:26 p.m. weighing 8 lbs. 8 oz. and 19 3/4" long.

Evan was welcomed home by his paternal grandparents, Bob and Pam Lamb of Midville and maternal grandparents, Glenn and Sandra Scarboro of Wrightsville. Evan was also welcomed home by his aunts, Wendi and Ski Scarboro, both of Wrightsville; cousins, Jackson Scarboro, Kingston Graddy and Ace Snell, all of Wrightsville; and late aunt and namesake, Maci Evelyn Lamb.



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## Mercer University announces Fall 2023 President's, Dean's Lists

Mercer University recently announced the President's List and Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester. Inclusion on these lists requires students to meet rigorous GPA standards specific to the college or school within the University.

Founded in 1833, Mercer University is a dynamic and comprehensive center of undergraduate, graduate and professional education. The University enrolls more than 9,100 students in 12 schools and colleges - liberal arts and sciences, law, pharmacy, medicine, business,

engineering, education, theology, music, nursing, health professions, and professional advancement - on major campuses in Macon and Atlanta, medical school sites in Macon, Savannah and Columbus, and at regional academic centers in Henry and Douglas counties.

The following area students earned a place on the lists: Malina McKinzie, junior, College of Nursing, President's List (Adrian, GA) and Abigail Roberts, senior, College of Health Professions, Dean's List (Swainsboro, GA).

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Real Tree Wild Game Supper**

**FREE PRIZES**

Jan. 18th, 2024  
6:00 PM

Swainsboro Jaycee Fairgrounds

GUEST SPEAKER  
**BASSMASTER Classic World Champion**  
**Randy Howell**





WOUNDED WARRIORS AND SPONSORS SHOW OFF PHEASANTS

## Wounded Warrior Retreat holds first sponsored pheasant hunt of 2024

About 60 sponsors and wounded warriors showed up Saturday morning about 7:30 a.m. for the first pheasant hunt of 2024 at Mont Royal Plantation in

Swainsboro. The weather was unsettled, and rain was falling when most arrived, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. The warriors and

children and grandchildren enjoyed a breakfast of sausage-egg casserole with grits and biscuits and sweet cakes with coffee and/or orange juice prepared by

volunteers. Afterwards, WWR President Terry Reynolds conducted a safety meeting and instructions for the event before the shooters took to the field. Safety is always stressed at all WWR shooting events.

There was a short delay before shooters took to the field to allow the weather to stabilize, and only a light rain was falling when the hunters left for the field. They were on their stands a little after 9 a.m. and shooting began shortly thereafter. Accuracy was mixed, but some shooters showed a remarkable proficiency. However, the primary goals of the event included spending time with other wounded warriors and family members and enjoying a beautiful morning outdoors, and those goals were met.

A wounded warrior grandfather, Tom Smith had the pleasure of seeing his eight-year-old grandson, Renley Glover, take his first pheasant. The bird had spurs that some turkey gobblers would be proud of, and Renley might have the spurs removed and polished to go on a key chain or leather necklace. Wounded warrior Sean Falcon's 11-year-old son, Easton, also took his first pheasant. Coa Corbett, the 15-year-old granddaughter of WWR



SMITH WITH GRANDSON RENELY GLOVER

Board Member Ronnie McCall, of Reidsville, had the opportunity to work her Brittany females, Cocoa and Fisher, in the role of locating and retrieving downed birds. Coa's mother, Casey Corbett, estimated that Cocoa retrieved at least 15 downed pheasants. Although Fisher, her youngest dog, did not retrieve any birds, she pointed several and helped hunters locate some lost birds. Coa says she will do better next time. No one enjoyed the day more than the youngsters.

When hunters returned about 11:30 a.m., Woody Nasworthy sang his renditions of "Take My Hand Precious Lord" and "Precious Memories", and Reverend Todd Williams delivered a message concerning the abiding love of Jesus Christ. Lunch was catered by Ware's Barbeque of Swainsboro and included a delicious half grilled

chicken with beans, potato salad and string beans and banana pudding and cake.

It was a good day for warriors and sponsors. Wounded Warrior Retreat, Inc. is a faith-based organization that provides outdoor events and faith-based counseling for wounded military combat veterans. Outdoor activities include deer, turkey, quail, and rabbit hunts and salt and freshwater fishing events. It has served hundreds of Wounded Warriors since it was organized as a 401-c-3 organization in 2010.

Wounded Warrior Retreat Inc. will be hosting two more pheasant shoots in 2024. One will be held on January 27, and the final hunt will be on February 24. If anyone would like to be a part of one or both of those hunts, contact Terry Reynolds at 478-494-3758. Thank you for your support.

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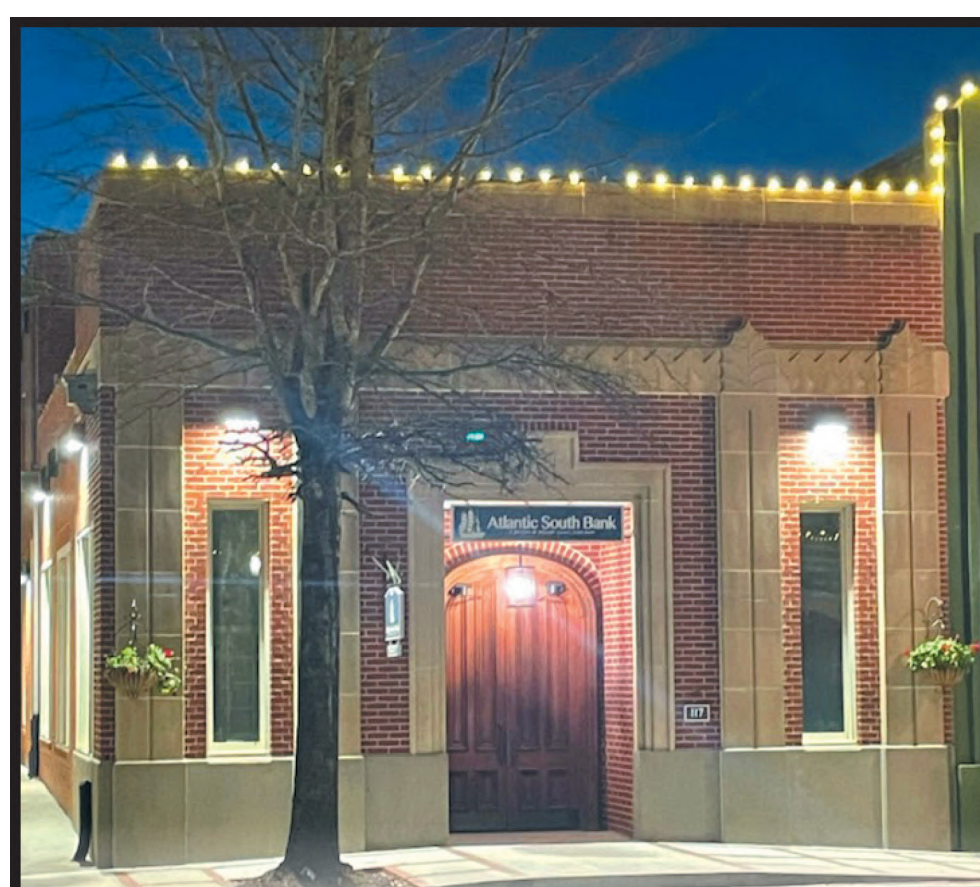
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Any person wishing to comment on this application to establish a new branch of Wheeler County State Bank dba Atlantic South Bank at 117 Roger Shaw St., Swainsboro, GA may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at the appropriate FDIC office [ATTN: Regional Director, Suite 900, 10 Tenth St NE, Atlanta, GA 30309] not later than 15 calendar days after the date of this publication. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file at the appropriate FDIC office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.



# Play Ball!

## Recreation Baseball Season is here!

Sign Up Starts:

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Monday - Friday • 9AM - 5PM

T-Ball (Ages 3-4)

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Mite Girls Softball (Ages 9-10)

Midget Girls Softball (Ages 11-12)

Registration Fee:

\$40.00

Optional

Insurance:

Extra \$6.00

All Birth

Certificates

Required

Download registration forms online at

[www.twincityga.com](http://www.twincityga.com)



# Georgia rolls over Florida State in Orange Bowl

by JUSTIN GRAY

The Georgia Bulldogs didn't make the playoffs, which is the standard, but they made the most of their New Year's Six bowl appearance. They headed down to Miami, Florida to take on Florida State, another team who many felt was wrongfully left out of the College Football Playoff. This game, which was expected, ended up being not even close as Georgia rolled to a 63-3 win. The 60 point victory is the largest in bowl game history. Dating back to last year's National Championship, Georgia has now won their last two bowl games by an average of 59 points. Those numbers are insane. Even



JONES, ALONG WITH OTHER GEORGIA PLAYERS

though the Dawgs didn't get their shot at the CFP, they still showed out. If you watched the game, you may have noticed that former Swainsboro Tiger Demello Jones took the trip to South Beach with the team, he even got some screen time and sported the #1 on the side-

lines. Jones just enrolled at the University at the start of the month. As for the current Georgia, they close the season with a 13-1 record, and look to be reloading heading into next year. They will return their quarterback Carson Beck, who was rumored to be leaving

for the NFL draft. They will have to build around him with a young offense and defense, but Kirby Smart will no doubt have his Dawgs ready to go in game one.

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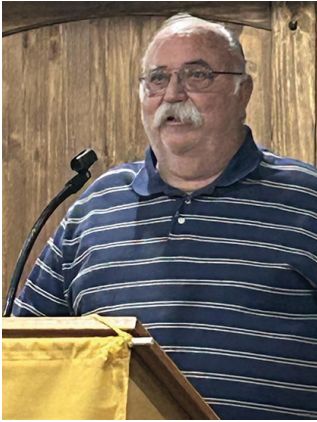
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## Senior VP Rigil, Jr. installs officers

The Brier Creek Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, held its monthly meeting Thursday night, January 4, at Walls Diner at 7 p.m. With President Wayne Howard presiding, they had 19 in attendance. After eating a great meal and saying the blessing, President Wayne led in the Pledge to the U.S. Flag and the SAR Pledge. The program for the evening was the installation of 2024 Brier Creek Chapter Officers. Senior



2024 PRESIDENT HOWARD

Region Vice President Ed Rigil, Jr. installed the officers and President Wayne Howard. The new 2024 officers are

Dess Smith III, Registrar; Don Bazemore, Sgt-at-Arms; John Fitzner, Historian; Senior RVP Ed Rigil, Jr.; Bernard Martin, Chaplain; Adam Bazemore, Secretary/Treasurer; Vice President Lee Herron; and President Wayne Howard. Senior RVP then installed the 2024 President Wayne Howard. Wayne spoke about what a great success they have had over the years, and he is looking forward to great times to come.



2024 OFFICERS: SMITH III, BAZEMORE, FITZNER, RIGIL, JR.; MARTIN, BAZEMORE, HERRON AND HOWARD

## Michigan wins their first title since 1997

by JUSTIN GRAY

It was set to be a clash of two terrific teams, both undefeated, one with the best offense, the other with the best defense. Michigan and Washington had both dominated their schedules to this point and were ready for battle. This was a bit of a different matchup than we've seen in a long time, not including an SEC team in the game for the first time since the 2014-2015 season. A lot of people have discredited Michigan to this point because they were caught "sign stealing" early on in the season, but they have prevailed and handled teams week in and week out. Alabama was the most recent victim in the Rose Bowl semifinal game where Michigan won 27-20 in overtime, a slugfest for the ages. Now onto Washington, who has been more of an underdog all season, not being favored in any big game all year, but they have gotten here with one of the best offenses of all time behind Michael Penix Jr., a top five quarterback in the country. Michigan closed as 5-point favorites and boy did they cover that. Michigan received the opening kickoff, and we were ready to roll in Houston. Michigan put together an eight play, 84-yard drive to draw first blood in the biggest game of the year. It was capped off by a Donovan Edwards 41-yard rush. Washington responded with a field goal that barely went through the uprights. It didn't take long for Michigan to find the end zone as four plays later Edwards hit on another big run for a touchdown, this one from 46 yards out. The Michigan defense, as they proved to be all night long, was too much for Washington to handle as the Huskies were forced to punt. Michigan

drove down and kicked a field goal of their own to make it a 17-3 ballgame. After that field goal, it became a whole bunch of defense from both sides until Washington drove it down just before half and scored a touchdown. This one came on fourth and goal as Penix Jr. hit Jalen McMillan to cut the lead to seven just before half. After the break, Michigan forced a quick interception and turned it into three points. Washington responded with a field goal of their own and we would stay with a score of 20-13 until midway through the fourth quarter. Too many missed opportunities for Washington led to Michigan breaking the ice

with another touchdown, this one from Blake Corum. Washington drove it down to get back into the game, but on fourth and 13 threw an interception that was returned to the eight-yard line. Michigan punched it in to go up 34-13, which would be the final score. It was a tight battle all along that got ugly towards the end. This Michigan defense was one of the best in recent memory, especially after tonight's performance. Congratulations to the Wolverines and that's a wrap on yet another College Football season. I hope you enjoyed it because that is the last year of normal CFB, things will be very different come August!

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**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.

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**Legals**  
**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA EMANUEL COUNTY**  
By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain security deed from Jerry A. Braddock Jr and Brandi L. Braddock to Bank of America, N.A. and recorded in Deed Book 273, Page 409, Emanuel County, Georgia records given to secure a note in the original amount of \$180,000.00 with interest on the unpaid balance until paid, as last assigned to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2022-1 Participation Interest Trust by virtue of the assignment recorded in Deed Book 543, Page 14, Emanuel County, Georgia records, the following described property will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door of EMANUEL COUNTY, Georgia, or such other location within the legal hours of sale on the **first Tuesday in February, 2024**, to wit: February 06, 2024, the following described property:  
An that tract or parcel of land lying, situate, and being in the 53rd G. M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, in Westbrooke Subdivision, containing 4.885 acres, more or less, and being more particularly shown on a certain Plat of Survey prepared by George William Donaldson, Registered Surveyor, dated January 15, 2003, and recorded in Plat Book 21, page 35, in the Records of the Office of the Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court, which plat and record thereof are incorporated herein by reference and made a part of the description. Said tract is triangular in shape and is bounded, now or formerly, as follows, to-wit: North by the right-of-way of County Road No. 504, a/k/a Robin Circle; Southeast by lands of John A. Rountree and William E. Simmons; and West by the right-of-way of County Road No. 504, a/k/a Robin Circle.  
The above described property is the same as that conveyed by Warranty Deed dated January 17, 2003 from John A. Rountree and William E. Simmons to Jerry Allen Braddock, Jr. and Brandi L. Braddock, which is recorded in Deed Book 195, pages 562-563 of the Records of the Office of the Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court. SUBJECT TO: Those certain Restrictive Covenants, dated April 1, 1987, and recorded in Deed Book 1, 251-254 of the Emanuel County Deed Records.  
**Being real property commonly known as 74 Robin Boulevard, Swainsboro, GA 30401.**  
The debt secured by the above-referenced security deed has been declared due because of the default in the payment of said debt per the terms of the note and other possible defaults by the borrower or the successor thereto. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows:  
Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. 3217 S. Decker Lake Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 84119 651-234-3582  
The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2022-1 Participation Interest Trust to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2022-1 Participation Interest Trust as Attorney in Fact for Jerry A. Braddock Jr and Brandi L. Braddock Attorney Contact: Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC 3000 Langford Road, Building 100 Peachtree Corners, GA 30071 Phone: 404-793-1447 Fax: 404-738-1558 23GA477-0006  
**THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

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One photo will be selected for the cover of this year's Parade of Little People!  
For the chance to have your child on this year's cover, please submit an **additional \$5** along with your entry fee and photo.  
**Deadline February 9, 2024 @ 4:30p.m.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
Maternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
Paternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary • All major credit cards accepted



# Sheriff's Reports

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

**December 22**

Deputy met with complainant in reference to a child custody dispute. Report was made in response to allegations that the mother refused to turn the child back over to the father. Deputy had also been advised that the mother as not in violation of the order.

Deputy met with complainant who stated someone went to the bank with a check and withdrew \$900 from his account. C/p doesn't know of anyone that would have access to his account but himself.

**December 23**

Deputies responded to Quick Loop in reference to a domestic dispute. Offender stated he and complainant got into a verbal altercation and it's nothing unusual. Offender also stated nothing ever got physical between them. C/p stated she did not want offender at the residence ever again so he agreed to find somewhere to stay.

**December 24**

Deputy responded to McLeod Bridge Rd. in reference to complainant finding a jacket on her back porch steps with a gun wrapped up in it. Deputy discovered it to be a paint ball gun. C/p stated she does not know who the jacket and paint ball gun belong to or why it would be on her porch.

Deputy responded to Nunez Lexsy Rd. in reference to an individual harassing complainant. C/p stated since he and offender broke up, she has been constantly harassing him and shows up at his work causing a disturbance. C/p stated he wants nothing to do with offender and wants her to leave him alone.

Deputy responded to 5th Ave. in reference to a burglary. Complainant advised she is a real estate agent for the property and offender was inside trying to take the doors off the refrigerator. C/p asked offender to leave and noticed another refrigerator had been moved and a washer and dryer, stove and dining room table and chairs were missing. Deputy advised all persons that the property had to be returned.

**December 25**

Deputies were dispatched to Old Wadley Rd. in reference to a 911 hang-up call. 911 could hear a female stating she was calling the cop and the phone disconnected. Individuals advised a verbal altercation occurred and offender got physical and began trying to grab his gun out of his car and someone used pepper spray on him and he left. Deputies traveled to offender's residence and offender jumped out the window and ran.

Deputy met with complainant in reference to a theft. C/p stated she accidentally left a money

bag at the Red Roof with \$5,000 in it and made contact with the clerk who stated the cameras weren't working and began giving excuses as to not remembering c/p being in the store. When c/p advised that a report would be made, the clerk began advising she did remember the bag and that an employee found it and took it home.

Deputies responded to Abb Johnson Rd. in reference to shots fired. Complainant stated she and her children heard someone ride by and fire shots in front of her house and she went outside with her pistol and fired one round in the air. Moments later, what appeared to be a SUV came back by and began firing in the air around her mailbox. Deputies found 9mm casings near the mailbox. C/p stated this has happened multiple times and she has three children and is in fear of their safety.

Victim stated she owned a vehicle that she uses to transport straw and it doesn't have a tag or insurance and she believes the suspect who works for her took the vehicle. Suspect has four warrants.

**December 26**

Deputy assisted SPD with shots fired. Officer observed another officer giving verbal commands to a male subject who refused to stop. Officer then began giving verbal commands and the male subject put his hands in his pocket and turned to the side, then removed his hand from his pocket and got on the ground. Officer went to handcuff offender and he began to resist. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer got behind a vehicle and ran the tag to find the owner had an active bench warrant through Vidalia, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer confirmed that Vidalia wanted to place a hold so offender was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.

**December 27**

Complainant went to SPD and stated offender was a friend that use to live with her and she got access to c/p's debit card and sent \$125 to her PayPal account.

**December 28**

Deputy responded to Christopher Dr. in reference to a burglary.

**December 29**

Deputy stood by while victim did a writ of possession on W. Church St.

**December 30**

Deputy met with complainant in reference to a burglary report. Complainant stated upon discovering two gifts missing from under the Christmas tree, she further discovered a window on the back side of the house was damaged and believed the suspect entered through it. C/p wants a restraining order against suspect.

Deputies were dispatched to Hwy 23 South in reference to victim stated he rented the club building out and he went to check on it to make sure nothing was broken and it was cleaned up and he noticed alcoholic beverages and questioned the renter who got mad and kicked the front door in and began walking around throwing tables and chairs. Family members then arrived and they came to a verbal agreement to fix all damages.

ECSO Drug Unit attempted a traffic stop for no insurance. The driver began to flee in his vehicle at which point a maneuver was performed. The driver then struck a SPD vehicle and attempted to continue to flee then bailed out and ran on foot. Offender was taken into custody a short time later.

**December 31**

Deputy observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed and confirmed it at 91 MPH in a 55 MPH zone, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. While speaking with the driver, deputy observed his eyes to be glossy and blood shot and could smell a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person. Deputy asked for his license and he provided a Mexico ID card. Offender did not have a valid license and was placed under arrest.

Deputies were dispatched to Hwy 1 South in reference to a stolen U-Haul trailer. Complainant stated she is the owner of the trailers and one was missing. C/p stated she had a male subject rent a trailer and he stated it was too big for his truck and needed a smaller one so she applied it to his account for when he returned the other one. C/p stated when she got

to work, the trailer wasn't there. Deputy contacted the male subject who stated he never got the trailer but dropped the other one off.

Deputy was dispatched to Frank Hutcheson Rd. in reference to a male with a stab wound. Complainant stated his girlfriend cut him trying to cut his pants off due to a dispute over the clothes.

**January 2, 2024**

Report was made in reference to a license plate tag that was scheduled to be mailed on 12/7/23 that had not arrived.

**January 3**

Victim went to ECSO to make a report in regard to a letter he received stating a police report was needed regarding a fraud and for victim to fill it out an affidavit with account info and SS#, address and bank account info.

Complainant went to ECSO and stated she was having some problems at work and her supervisor, manager and some other employees went into the Training Room in packaging for a meeting. During the meeting, c/p told them she would go to HR to handle the situation and got up to leave and offender stood in front of the door with his foot against it for 3-5 minutes to keep her from leaving and was talking down to her. C/p stated she was eventually able to leave the room and advised there are cameras in the room to back up her story. C/p stated she has already reported to incident to HR.

Deputy spoke with complainant who stated he owns Jefferson County Auction & Liquidation out of Wrens and he signed a contract with Radio Jones for his business to be played on the radio. C/p stated the contract was for \$75/month and was only to be for a couple of months and found that he has been charged \$150/month. C/p was referred to Magistrate Court.

Deputy met with complainant who stated a vehicle side-swiped him and continued without stopping. C/p attempted to turn around and follow the vehicle but lost sight of it and was unable to get the license plate number.

**January 4**

Deputies responded to Pine Way in reference to an unwanted person. Victim was outside the home and advised he

no longer needed police assistance and deputies were advised by jail staff that a female/complainant at the residence needed to speak with deputies. Upon entering the home, it appeared a fight had occurred and deputy observed a broken picture laying on the floor. Deputy then made contact with complainant who informed that her son/offender had been staying there for about a month but refused to help pay bills and she wanted him to leave. Deputy made contact with the offender in a rear bedroom and observed blood on a box and several drops on the floor and the son stated he and victim got into an altercation. Victim then entered the residence and deputy observed a small laceration above his eye and he stated he did not need medical attention but wished to press charges for assault. Offender agreed to leave the residence and c/p stated she wished to have him trespass from the residence so he was issued a criminal trespass.

Complainant called ECSO and stated she wanted to report that she found a dead duck in her mailbox on Wadley Coleman Lake Rd.

Complainant stated she received numerous calls from offender who is currently incarcerated. C/p stated she accepted the calls and spoke with offender and offender is in violation of a no-contact/protective order issued through Florida.

**January 6**

Deputy observed a vehicle on Hwy 57 West traveling 79 MPH in a 55 MPH zone, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Offender advised his license are suspended and was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.

Deputy responded to Quick Loop regarding a gun being stolen. Complainant stated her pistol had been swapped out with a set of clamps. C/p advised she had not seen the pistol in eight months and believes a known male subject could have taken it and pawned it because he pawned a chain saw without permission and she had to buy it back.

A report was made in reference to a damaged vehicle incident caused by suspect identified in

a previous case concerning the same location. Damage in question consists of two slashed front tires on c/p's vehicle.

**January 7**

Deputy met with complainant who stated he was walking down the road when he noticed several small fires were started. C/p stated he has not seen anyone in the area and has no idea who would have done it.

Deputies responded to a call regarding an individual going to a residence on Christopher Dr. harassing complainant. C/p stated offender went to her residence multiple times over the past few weeks harassing her because offender is upset that the father of her child is with c/p. C/p stated offender banged on her windows in an attempt to get the father to go outside. While on scene, offender returned to the residence and was advised she was being trespassed and not to return or she would be arrested. Offender stated she understood and left the property.

Deputies responded to Gerome Williamson Rd. in reference to a domestic in progress. While enroute, dispatched advised they could hear offender stating he was going to kill complainant/victim and she needed to die. Upon arrival, deputy was met by c/p stating offender was in the house and had her child. Deputy made contact with offender and had him give the child to c/p and step outside. Offender stated he did not hit c/p before being asked then stated they had been drinking all day and got into an argument and c/p broke the bedroom window. Deputy spoke with c/p who stated they got into an argument and offender pouched her in the face and deputies noticed bruising around c/p's eye. C/p stated offender locked her out of the house and she broke the window in order to get back into her children. Victim stated they have been in multiple arguments in the past with threats being made and she is in fear of her life and is scared offender will kill her for calling the law. Offender was arrested and transported to EmCo Jail.

## Public Notice for Logic and Accuracy Testing

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-379.6 (c), preparation and testing of voting equipment will begin Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 9:00 am. Testing will take place in the Elections Office at 105 South Main Street, Swainsboro, Georgia. Testing shall continue daily until such preparations are complete. Preparations and testing of equipment is for the March 12, 2024 Presidential Primary/Special Election.

Kerry K. Curry  
Director of Elections  
Emanuel County, Georgia

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Jessica Rucker  
Storage Unit 18  
Amount Due \$ 126.35

Ellen Corley  
Storage Unit 24  
Amount Due \$ 172.93

Units will be sold on or after  
January 11, 2024 if the balance is not paid in full.

**Holsonback Rentals**  
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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 (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).

Ansley Lynn Dasher, 29, entered 1/3/24; Probation violation; ECSCO

Elizabeth Lenor Davis, 20, entered 1/5/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked; SPD

Elizabeth Lenor Davis, 20, entered 1/7/24; Driving while license suspended/

revoked/DUI less safe/Failure to maintain lane/Failure to comply/Improper stopping in roadway; SPD

Louis Edward Davis, 52, entered 1/3/24; Sentenced to State; ECSCO

Justin Mark Driggers, 33, entered 1/2/24; Probation violation/Probation violation; ECSCO

Nina Davis Fields, 52, entered 1/4/24; Possession of meth; ECSCO

Pamela Martha Findlay, 78, entered 1/6/24; DUI refusal; ECSCO

Paul Gilmore, 45, entered 1/4/24; Criminal trespass; EGSC

Tyson Lynn Hackett, 52, entered 1/5/24; DUI less safe/Open container; GSP

Ben Mark Henry, 69, entered 1/5/24; DUI

less safe; GSP  
Larry Davonte Huff, 29, entered 1/3/24; DUI less safe/Failure to maintain lane; ECSCO  
Shown Lekeith Johnson, 29, entered 1/6/24; Bench warrant/Driving while license suspended/revoked/Speeding/ Hold for probation; ECSCO

Norman Bernard Parrish, 56, entered 1/5/24; Sentenced to State; ECSCO

Richard Anthony Poole, 36, entered 1/5/24; Child molestation/Possession of firearm by convicted felon/Possession of marijuana with intent to distribute/ Possession of schedule I controlled substance; ECSCO

Michael Carl Reid, 43, entered 1/5/24; Obstruction of law enforcement officers; GSP

Billy Ricks, 65, entered 1/4/24; Theft by shoplifting; SPD

George Luis Rodriguez, 32, entered 1/4/24; Criminal damage to property/ Criminal damage to property/Entering automobile with intent to commit theft or felony/Entering automobile with intent to commit theft or felony/Entering automobile with intent to commit theft or felony/ Burglary/Battery; SPD

Denny Albert Scott, 51, entered 1/3/24; Probation violation; ECSCO

Michael Anthony Scott, 53, entered 1/5/24; Failure to stop at stop sign/DUI less safe/Failure to maintain lane/Passing in a no passing zone/ Driving while license suspended/revoked/ Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer/

Possession of schedule I controlled substance/ Bench warrant -felony/Probation violation; GSP

Keyundra Markevious Smith, 26, entered 1/5/24; Parole violation; ECSCO

Nikki Lynn Stevens, 39, entered 1/8/24; Probation violation/ Hold for Candler Co.; ECSCO

Nicholas Ivey Tanner, 38, entered 1/7/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked/ Seatbelt violation; GSP

Brandon Marquise Tippins, 37, entered 1/3/24; Bench warrant/Probation violation; ECSCO

Joel Isaac Walker, 24, entered 1/3/24; Court form another agency; ECSCO

Justin Tyler White, 34, entered 1/7/24; Battery; ECSCO

## Swainsboro Police Reports

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

**January 2**  
Officers were dispatched to N. Race-track ST. in reference to a domestic. Complainant stated offender pushed her and hit her in the face and threatened to shoot her in the face.

Officer was dispatched to Powell St. in reference to the neighbor's dogs being in complainant's yard tearing up and spreading trash. Officer observed a small dog running from c/p's yard to offender's yard. When officer pulled up to offender's residence, he observed multiple dogs inside the fence including the dog that ran from c/p's yard. Officer spoke with offender and advised him of what was going on. Offender was given a citation for the dog at large and was advised he was going to lose his dogs because of his inability to keep them in the fence. Offender was also advised of the number of dogs allowed per residence inside the city limits and offender argued that he has four houses, so he did not have too many dogs.

**January 3**  
Officer responded to N. Coleman St. in reference to a dispute. Complainant advised it appeared as though a

male and female were fighting in the parking lot of EGHC and the female walked back inside and appeared to be an employee and the male left the location. Officer spoke with the victim who stated a verbal dispute took place over the phone and then in the parking lot and pushing took place in the parking lot between both parties.

Officers were dispatched Burger King in reference to a customer being irate and busted the drive-thru window. Complainant advised she was standing at the window when offender punched through the window, exploding glass all over her. There were shards in her face, all over her chest, clothes and she had cuts on her hands and arms. Offender was charged with battery. EMS was called to the scene to check out c/p.

Officers were dispatched to McDaniel's Shop in reference to a vehicle that had been broken into. Complainant stated a male subject went by his shop looking for something to wrap his hand with and officers suspect it is offender of the Burger King incident.

Officers were dispatched top Farm

Bureau in reference to a window being busted out.

Officers were dispatched to Wilson Auto Mart in reference to a vehicle parked behind the location suspected to be offender in previous incidents. There was a BB gun in the vehicle with blood on it believed to have come from offender after punching the window out at Burger King. Three bags were located under a handi-house on the location, one full of misc. items stolen from vehicles at Wilson's Auto Mart.

Officer responded to WalMart in reference to complainant stating offender entered the store wearing tennis shoes and left wearing boots and tucked other items in his clothing before exiting the store. C/p stated offender stole appx. \$150 worth of merchandise.

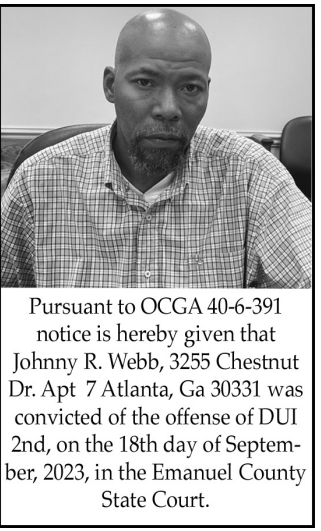
**January 4**  
Complainant went to SPD to report she took her vehicle to offender to have a motor put in int and spoke with offender to ask if she could put some money down on it and she paid him \$800. C/p stated offender originally told her he was a little backed up but he should have her up and going in two weeks

and she has checked with him several times and he always tells her he is about to pull it in the shop to start working on it. C/p stated two weeks ago, she told offender she wanted her money back and she would take her car somewhere else and offender told her he would Cashapp her the \$800 back and he still has not and has not fixed her vehicle.

Officer was dispatched to Pinetucky Country Meats in reference to shoplifting. Offender and complainant were in the parking lot and c/p stated he caught offender stealing several food items valued at \$204.54. Offender was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer observed a vehicle traveling 50 MPH in a 35 MPH zone, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. After speaking with the driver, he stated he knew the vehicle did not have insurance.

Officer took a walk-in report where complainant stated she had an inquiry on her credit score where someone tried to apply for furniture at Grand Furniture Outlet in Snellville using her information.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Johnny R. Webb, 3255 Chestnut Dr. Apt 7 Atlanta, Ga 30331 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 18th day of September, 2023, in the Emanuel County State Court.



Recent tornados that have wreaked havoc across the central United States have been devastating. The loss of loved ones, the scope of injuries that will take years to overcome, the destruction of homes and businesses, the feelings of grief and hopelessness that grasped individuals as they sorted through piles of rubbish that at one time represented their entire life is beyond understanding.

In the midst of these great tragedies, however, were the stories and pictures of some who were prepared for such an event. From past encounters with powerful winds and driving rain and hail storms were those who came to the conclusion that preparation for such a time was a top priority. They were the ones who built sturdy shelters beneath the ground where they were sure to be safe. They did not trust their lives to fate or chance. They recognized their need to prepare for the assaults of life.

The author of Psalm 91 spoke of the need we have to prepare for the assaults of life. "He," wrote the author, "will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge." While storm shelters can protect us from wind and rain, flying objects and falling buildings, only God can protect us from the destructive forces of sin. In Him we have the assurance that He will meet all of our needs - spiritual, emotional and physical - every day of our lives. And through Him we have His promise that He will give us His power and strength, presence and protection to overcome the attacks of the devil.

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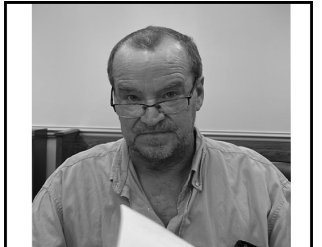
Guns thekwikshop.com

## The Lazarus Project food distribution

The Lazarus Project is excited to announce their upcoming giveaway event where they will be distributing essential food items to those in need within our community. Food distribution will be Saturday, January 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 664 South Main Street, Swainsboro.

To ensure a smooth experience, they kindly ask participants to have a container in their trunk. This helps volunteers efficiently place the items, maintaining safety and convenience for all.

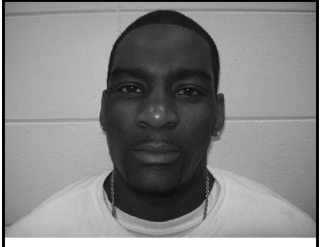
Volunteers are always welcome! If you'd like to contribute or be part of their mission, feel free to join them. Your assistance helps make a significant impact. Call 478.299.1784 for details.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that William A. Bozeman of 12 South Goodbread Rd. Brunswick, Ga 31520 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 17th day of July, 2023, in the Emanuel County State Court.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Brandon T. Etherton of 778 Minton Chapel Rd. Kite Georgia 31049 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 21st day of March, 2022, in the Emanuel County State Court.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Keith O. Shipman of 212 Happiness Drive Swainsboro, Ga 30401 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 7th day of November, 2022, in the Emanuel County State Court.



Pursuant to OCGA 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Darryl A. Mckinney of 415 Braswell Blvd. Swainsboro, Ga 30401 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 23rd day of June, 2022, in the Swainsboro Municipal Court.



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# Sconyers speaks to the Veterans at the Library

The Veterans at the Library held their first meeting of 2024 on Tuesday, January 2, at 9 a.m. at the Franklin Memorial Library. With Chair Johnny Tapley presiding, they had 45 in attendance, including one new veteran, Jason Robert Childress. Jason served in the United States Marine Corps from February 1993 to September 2018. He is a veteran of "Operation Enduring Freedom" and was stationed at Rivers Island, MCAS New River, MCAS Tsurumi, MCAS Hawaii and MCAS Beauford, SC. Childress' highest rank received was MSGT (E8). The program for the morning was presented by Lt. Jay Sconyers, son

of Norma and Julian Sconyers. Jay presented an outstanding program about the U.S. Air Force Bands across the world, what their missions are and who their presentations are given. Just about everyone of their band members have a master's degree and Jay has his Doctorate, and is stationed in San Antonio, TX. Chair John discussed what a great success the 2023 Wreaths Across America was and that the wreaths are scheduled to be picked up on Saturday, January 20. This year, they placed a little over 1,600 wreaths and hope that more churches, organizations and individuals will come on board with for 2024.



LT. SCONYERS



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WALBARTS AND NEAL

## Walbarts speak at Twin City Lions Club meeting

The Twin City Lions Club held their first meeting of 2024 Thursday, January 4, at Simply Southern in Twin City. Lion Tommy Neal invited Josh and Tiffany Walbart to be his guest speakers. The Walbarts are originally from North Carolina but have been in the Garfield area for many years. The Walbarts are affiliated with New Beginnings in Christ in Garfield and have been on several missions with other from NBIC led by their pastor, Mike Ogden. They recently visited Uganda, a country in east-central Africa. They've completed five missions to

Uganda in recent years and spend most of their time in the city of Kampala. The Walbarts shared their thoughts on how privileged we are as Americans and seeing a third world country in person where famine and poverty are common has made them appreciate so much more what we have as Americans. Their missions are focused on spreading the Word of Jesus in the area but also helping them build needed facilities and other infrastructure related needs. For more information, please contact pastor Mike at NBIC.

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231 Harmon Rd., 478-237-5387

**BITHYNIA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**  
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**BLUNDALE BAPTIST**  
2675 Hwy. 1 North, 478-494-8538  
Shannon Boula, Min.

**CANOCHEE BAPTIST**  
Twin City, 912-687-3449  
Mark Wiggins, Min.

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST**  
342 Market St., 478-237-6585  
Lenard Richards, Min.

**DELLWOOD BAPTIST**  
Hwy. 1 North  
Joe Bedgood, Min.

**EL BETHEL BAPTIST**  
1726 Fannie Brewer Rd., Twin City  
Larry Jennings, Min., 478-763-2001

**EMANUEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST**  
Adrian

**EMANUEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
228 W Moring St., Swainsboro  
Billy Brinson, Min.

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
240 West Main St., 478-237-7564  
Casey Shaw, Min.

**FRIENDSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST**  
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Hwy. 23, North, Garfield  
Thomas Simmons, Min.

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195 Nunez Lexsy Rd., 912-562-3825  
Mario D. Webb, Min.

**GREATER ST. JAMES MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
423 Hopkins St., 478-237-5873  
Melvin Adams, Jr., Min.

**HARVESTER BAPTIST MISSION**  
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**HAWHAMMOCK BAPTIST**  
27 Hawhammock Church Rd., 478-237-3429  
Cail Pressey, Min.

**HEBRON BAPTIST**  
Old McLeod Bridge Rd., 478-237-6107  
Ervin Stapleton, Min.

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Hebron Road, Garfield  
Will Martin, Pastor

**HILLCREST BAPTIST**  
990 Hwy. 1 North, 478-237-6477  
Jonathan Shephard, Min.

**HINES BAPTIST**  
Old Savannah Rd., Midville

**KITE FIRST BAPTIST**  
Hwy. 57, Kite, 478-469-5241  
Burton Dixon, Min.

**LESTER GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
213 Carver St., 478-237-7828  
Charles Holloway, Min.

**MIDVILLE FIRST BAPTIST**  
145 Kilpatrick St., Midville  
478-589-7260

**MORNINGSIDE BAPTIST**  
Rt. 1, Soperton  
Victor W. Fordham, Jr, Min.

**MOUNT GILEAD MBC OF CANOCHEE**  
192 Little Canoochee Creek Rd., Twin City  
Jerry Armstrong, Min., 478-237-2951

**MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST**  
1593 Mt. Olivet Church Rd., Garfield  
J. Randy Graham, Min., 478-763-2411

**MOUNT SHADY BAPTIST**  
Hwy 57 E., Mount Shady Rd., 912-682-1787  
Rusty Moore, Min.

**MOUNT ZION PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**  
106 Mt. Zion Church Rd.,  
Elder Steve McNure, Min.

**NEW HOPE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**  
Lexsy

**NORRISTOWN BAPTIST**  
731 Hwy. 221 South, Norristown  
Adam Butler, Min.

**NUNEZ BAPTIST**  
Hwy. 297, Nunez  
Jim Harrell, Min., 912-562-3249

**OAK CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Oak Chapel Rd., Kite  
Bro. Tommy Henry, pastor  
478-494-1488

**OAK GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
629 Oak Grove Church Rd.,  
Alfred Cason, Min.

**OHOPEE GROVE BAPTIST**  
Hwy. 297, Nunez  
Allan Moss, Sr., Min., 912-562-3943

**OLNEY PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**  
202 Thomson St., Oak Park  
W.H. (Bill) Durrence, Min.

**PENDLETON SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
649 Pendleton Springs Rd., Vidalia  
Mark Sweat, Min., 912-578-5606

**PINEY GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
Cross-Green, 478-589-7658  
Michael Thomas, Min.

**ROUNTREE CHAPEL**  
722 North Railroad Ave., Twin City  
W.E. Johnson, Min., 478-763-3284

**ROUNTREE ISLAND MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
2859 Hwy. 56 N., Summertown  
Richard Lawrence, Jr., Min., 478-589-7953

**SAINT GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
Saint Galilee Church Rd., Summertown  
Michael Thomas, Min.

**SAINT PHILIP BAPTIST**  
231 South Racetrack St., 478-237-9562  
James E. Love, Min.

**SARDIS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**  
1473 Wes Lawson Rd., Kite  
Elder Sam Adkins, Min., 478-469-3084

**SCARBORO BAPTIST**  
Scarboro Church Rd., Twin City  
Larry Compton, Min.  
478-763-2202

**SMITH GROVE BAPTIST**  
50 Mixon Rd., 478-237-9920  
Wilbert J. Kennedy Sr., Min.

**SOUTHSIDE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST**  
336 Lambs Bridge Rd., 478-237-6057  
Chad Kennison, Min.

**SPRING HILL INDEPENDENT BAPTIST**  
901 Lambs Bridge Rd., 478-237-5269  
Bert Flanders, Min.

**SPRINGFIELD MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
Hwy. 86, Oak Park  
Willie Jackson, Jr. Min.

**STILLMORE MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
203 E. 3rd Ave., Stillmore  
George E. Archer, Jr. Min., 912-562-3344

**SUMMERTOWN BAPTIST**  
Church St., Summertown  
John Durden, Min.

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**UNION CHAPEL BAPTIST**  
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**UNITED FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST**  
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**UNITED PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**  
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Elder Paul Thomas, Min.

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Kip Boswell, Min.

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