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# The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 165, NO.4 Swainsboro, Georgia • January 24, 2024 ONE DOLLAR

## Commissioner Foskey won't seek re-election

The Emanuel County Board of Commissioners held its first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 16, at 6 p.m. at the John C. Coleman County Office Building. Members present included Commission Chairman Hugh Foskey, Commissioner Timmy Oliver, Commissioner Ricky Thompson, and Commission Vice Chairman Jim Sherrod. Also present were County Administrator Guy Singletary and County Clerk Stacy

Scarboro. Chairman Foskey called the meeting to order and asked Administrator Singletary to offer the Invocation. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the floor for any public comments. Hearing none, the agenda moved to approval of minutes from the regular meeting of December 18, 2023, and the workshop meeting of January 9, 2024. The minutes were unanimously approved. Chairman

Foskey then discussed the appointments of committee members for 2024. These committees are vested by the county, and Commissioners serve in an advisory role and in some cases as voting members. The following appointments were made: The Heart of Georgia Regional Commission, Commissioner Sherrod and Oliver; The Joint Development Authority, Commissioner Sherrod; Emanuel County Medical Center, Commissioner (Continued on page 2A)



JUDGE WILKES WITH COMMISSIONER J BROWN, MAYOR DONALDSON AND COMMISSIONER W BROWN

## City Commission sworn in; Freeman promoted;

## 1/4 of Twin City roads to be resurfaced

The City Commission of Twin City had a busy meeting for January 2024. Mayor Matt Donaldson, Mayor Pro Tem Jule Bady, Jr., City Commissioner Jesse Brown, City Commissioner William R. Brown, III, and City Commissioner Charles Moody were in attendance.

Mayor Donaldson is beginning his 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Mayor. Donaldson has served on the City Commission for 8 years. He was first elected to the City Commission in 2016 and was elected Mayor in 2020.

William R. Brown, III is the newly elected member of the City Commission. Commissioner William R. Brown, III ran unopposed to represent Ward 2. Commissioner William R. Brown, III marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of his family to serve on the City Commission. His grandfather, William R. Brown, Sr., served on the City Commission and served as Mayor of Twin City in 1946 and 1953. His father, William R. Brown, Jr., served on the City Commission for over 20 years from 1970 (Continued on page 2A)

## Superintendent Hattaway announces retirement

The Emanuel County Board of Education met on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Twin City Elementary with the following members in attendance: Brandon Jones, Cherie Hooks, Del Brown, Tanya Lane, Sandra Swinney and John Allen Bailey. Johnny Parker was absent. Chairman Del Brown welcomed everyone calling the meeting to order. Sandra Sweeney then delivered the invocation followed by Brandon Jones leading the Pledge of Allegiance. John Allen Bailey made a motion to approve the Agenda. Brandon Jones seconded the motion. John Allen Bailey, Del Brown, Cherie Hooks, Brandon Jones, Tanya Lane and



**SUPERINTENDENT HATTAWAY**

Sandra Swinney voted "yes". CARRIED.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

1. December Awards for F.A.M.I.L.Y., P.A.U.S.E. and S.A.S. - Dr. Denise Warnock recognized the following recipients: F.A.M.I.L.Y. Tracy

Mercer, Data Coach at ECI; P.A.U.S.E. Anna Caroline Frye, 5th Grade Student at TCE; S.A.S. Cummy Stone, Paraprofessional at River Quest GNETS

2. Recognition of TCE Beta and ECI Jr Beta-Dr. Denise Warnock

**Twin City Elementary - Jr. Beta Convention November 29-30**

Sponsor/Teacher - Susanne Bowen; Anna Caroline Frye - Digital Portfolio, 2nd Place; Marla Hooks - Sponsor for Living Lit; Harley Blackburn - Living Literature, 1st place; Addison Johnson - Living Literature, 1st place; Anthony Johnson - Living Literature, 1st place; Ella Jo Hooks - (Continued on page 6A)

First, the swearing-in ceremony for Mayor Matt Donaldson, City Commissioner Jesse Brown, and City Commissioner William R. Brown, III was held with Judge Don Wilkes presiding.

## East Georgia Healthcare Center welcomes Dr. Bob H Barrett, OD, to its Optometry Team

East Georgia Healthcare Center (EGHC) proudly announces the addition of Dr. Bob H Barrett, OD, to its esteemed team of healthcare professionals. Dr. Barrett, a highly experienced Optometry specialist, joined EGHC in July 2023, bringing with him a wealth of knowledge and a commitment to delivering exceptional eye care services.



**DR BARRETT**  
Dr. Barrett graduated from the Southern California College of Optom- (Continued on page 2A)



MOATS, FITZNER AND DAVIS

## District Attorney Fitzner announces promotions

During his first staff meeting of 2024, District Attorney Tripp Fitzner announced promotions within the office's investigative branch. Before going into routine business, DA Fitzner swore Investigators Rocky Davis and Leah Moats in to their new roles.

Rocky Davis was sworn in as the Chief Investigator of the District Attorney's Office. He has been a member of the office since September of 2020 and was the first employee hired by the then newly elected Fitzner. As Chief Investigator, Davis will be responsible for

conducting and supervising the investigations and trial preparations of felony cases within the five counties of the Middle Judicial Circuit. Davis has been a certified peace officer for the State of Georgia for 24 years, serving most of that time (Continued on page 3A)

## Emanuel County Schools awarded Opportunities Grant from GaDOE

Emanuel County Schools has been selected to receive a Teaching and Learning Opportunity Grant from the Georgia Department of Education. As a part of this grant, three schools - Swainsboro Elementary School, Swainsboro Middle School and Twin City Elementary School - have been awarded the Mathematics Manipulatives and Materials Grant. The grant amounts to \$11,639 and will help promote interactive and high-quality mathemat-

ics instruction aligned with the new K-12 math standards for ECS students. With this grant, students can work with manipulatives, explore real-life situations, and solve problems, all while enhancing their math skills.

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### City Commission sworn...

(From front page)  
 - 1996. Brown is not new to public service, as he has served on the Development Authority of Twin City since 2017.

Mayor Donaldson briefed the Commission on the upcoming road resurfacing project. Beginning in January, the City will be resurfacing 25% (1/4) of all the roads in Twin City. The project cost is approximately \$1 million. The project is funded through a grant and loan through the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank, with the City pledging \$400,000 in matching funds.



**FREEMAN**

The Commission also approved Resolution 2024-01, which is a cooperative agreement between the City and Spring Fountain Lodge 414. The lodge has been engaged in city beautification projects and wished to formalize the relationship with the adoption of West Broad Street. Mayor Donaldson thanked the lodge members for their involvement and pledged continued support from the City of Twin City.

In other action, the Commission approved the minutes from the December 5<sup>th</sup> Budget Hear-

ing, December 5 Regular Meeting, and the December 14 Called Meeting. Additionally, the Commission approved the 2024 LMIG application and the 2024 Schedule of Appointments by Mayor Donaldson.

Regarding personnel, the Commission approved the promotion of Brent Freeman to Community Development and Recreation Director. Freeman has served as Recreation Director since 2022. Since 2022, Freeman has taken on other roles involving applying for grants and communi-

### Commissioner Foskey won't...

(From front page) Thompson; the Franklin Library, Commissioner Foskey; the Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner Sherrod; Emanuel County Health Board, Commissioner Foskey; Airport Authority, Commissioners Oliver and Thompson; Heart of Georgia Workforce Investment Board, Administrator Singletary; Twin City - Emanuel County Recreation, Commissioners Oliver and Sherrod. The agenda then moved to Old Business where no action

was required. Under New Business, the Commissioners discussed the calendar of elections upcoming in the 2024 year and the notification of qualifying fees and other preparatory action by the office of registration and elections. The Commissioner voted unanimously to approve the standardized fee structure and deliver that to the office of voter registration and elections. In the final agenda item, the Commissioners voted to re-appoint Dr. James Ray once again to the Emanuel County Health Department

where he has faithfully served for many, many years. Before adjournment, Commissioner Foskey asked for an opportunity to address an item not on the agenda. The Chairman then informed the group that he would not seek another term and wanted to go ahead and inform every one of his decision not to run again. Commissioner Foskey has served Emanuel County through numerous terms of an extended career in public service. Following this announcement, the meeting was adjourned.

### East Georgia Healthcare...

(From front page) etry in 1979, and since then, he has dedicated his career to promoting eye health and providing top-notch care to his patients. His passion for optometry is evident in the personalized attention and comprehensive services he offers.

Currently, Dr. Barrett is serving patients through the innovative Eye Mobile Unit, a temporary solution until the completion of EGHC's new state-of-the-art optometry building, expected to be operational by summer 2024. The mobile eye clinic is equipped to deliver a wide range of services, including eye exams, vision tests, prescribing

and fitting of eyeglasses, monitoring of medically related eye conditions, and management and treatment of conditions such as Dry Eye and Glaucoma. Additionally, the clinic offers services like low-vision aids and vision therapy to meet the diverse needs of the community.

Peyton Frye, Practice Manager at EGHC, expressed excitement about Dr. Barrett joining the team, stating, "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Barrett to EGHC. His years of experience, coupled with his genuine passion for patient care, make him an invaluable addition to our community. We look forward to the positive

impact he will undoubtedly have on the eye health and well-being of our patients."

For more information about East Georgia Healthcare Center and its services, please visit [www.eghc.org](http://www.eghc.org). About East Georgia Healthcare Center: East Georgia Healthcare Center is a non-profit community-owned health center committed to providing high-quality healthcare services in 14 counties in southeast Georgia. Governed by a local board of directors, the majority of whom are active patients, EGHC has been a trusted healthcare partner since 1994.

## A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TWIN CITY FOR THE ADOPTION OF WEST BROAD STREET BY SPRING FOUNTAIN LODGE 414

WHEREAS, The City of Twin City has worked with Spring Fountain Lodge 414 to beautify and improve Twin City; and

WHEREAS, the Spring Fountain Lodge 414 has shown a dedicated interest in making the area around West Broad Street free from litter; and

WHEREAS, the Spring Fountain Lodge 414 has held numerous days of litter pickup on West Broad Street and other areas around Twin City; and

WHEREAS, the Spring Fountain Lodge 414 wishes to formally adopt West Broad Street for the purposes of litter pickup and beautification; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission agrees to partner with Spring Fountain Lodge 414 to assist with all litter pickup and beautification activities; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Twin City applauds the efforts of a local organization to volunteer to improve and beautify the City of Twin City and specifically the area around West Broad Street with a regular litter pickup .

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TWIN CITY FORMALLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION 2024-01.**

**RESOLVED THIS 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2024**

  
 Matt W. Donaldson, Mayor

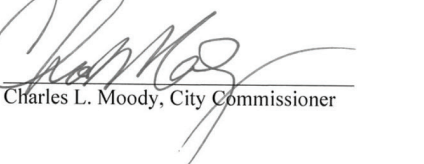
(City Seal)



  
 Jule Bady, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem

  
 Jesse S. Brown, City Commissioner

  
 William R. Brown, III, City Commissioner

  
 Charles L. Moody, City Commissioner

The Clerk of the City Commission of the City of Twin City, Georgia:

  
 Eugenia A. Ducker, City Clerk



Litter pickup by Spring Fountain Lodge 414 – November 25, 2023



Spring Fountain Lodge members: Al Brown, Michael Hill, Charles Moody, and Vinson Andrews at the November 25, 2023 clean up event

WE APPRECIATE  
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Thank You!



### The Forest-Blade

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# Kalmanson Gallery announces Turner as featured artist for Black History Month

Missy Turner is the featured artist for Black History Month at The Kalmanson Gallery of Emanuel Arts Council. An opening reception will be held February 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Missy and her husband, David Burrell, are the new owners of the historic Morgan House in Swainsboro. Missy has always shown that one of her main aspirations in life is to actually discover her various purposes and then fulfill them. Always creative, and a woman who takes life by the horns to create her own path, Missy ventured into the world of art a few years ago as a paint-

er. "Most of the time, I begin with a few strokes and allow the art to take its own direction," she said. "The energy leads. I follow." Since beginning her artistic journey, she has created over 200 pieces of art. Missy's art is reflective of who she is as a person--colorful, thoughtful, often deliberate, soft and strong, smart, emotional, conscious, and loving. She uses acrylics, oils and other media in combination with trained and well-developed self-taught techniques. As a result, she's able to produce still-life and abstract artwork that reflects a distinguished painting style in which her unique aesthetic signature is easily

identified. Missy sources and collects a wide range of figurative and abstract imagery from her environment. She then transposes and translates these images with bold brushstrokes, sometimes colorful patterns, and exuberantly painted imagery. Her art also includes muted tones and meticulous detail that invoke feelings of gentleness and the fragility of life. As from where she draws her inspiration, she says, "The answer is simple. Look around you—Nature. Animals. Experience. Love. Life."

The Kalmanson Gallery is located at 109 North Green Street in Swainsboro, next to Bangles II Salon and



**TURNER**

Stewart's Jewelers. Gallery hours are 12-3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The Emanuel Arts Council, Inc. (EAC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose purpose is to empower and grow the community through cultural programs in all areas of the arts for the general betterment and benefit of the people of



**PAINTING BY TURNER**

Emanuel County and surrounding areas. For updates on program-

## ECHS to hold monthly meeting Thursday

by MISSY ELDER  
The Emanuel County Historic Society will host its January meeting on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Varner 4-H Center. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Drinks will be furnished. Dr. John Derden will present a program on General LaFayette who served at an early age with George Washington in our

country's fight for independence from Britain. There is a strong interest in this part of our country's history. Anyone is welcome to attend, membership not required. Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 11 to come to our Georgia Day Open House at the museum, 161 Fairground Rd., across from the Jaycee Fairground. Hours will be

1 - 4 p.m. Again, no membership or admission is necessary. Our museum houses artifacts from the early 1860s to the 1950s. We plan to move the agricultural display into the partially enclosed group shelter later this Spring, so if you are interested in helping with that, please contact Missy Elder 478-763-3631. Hope to see you soon!

## District Attorney Fitzner...

(From front page) Leah Moats was promoted to Senior Investigator of the District Attorney's Office. She has worked with the office as an Investigator since 2008, with prior service as a member of the Washington County Sheriff's Office. In her new role, Moats will serve as a mentor to the office's investigative staff while continuing to investigate felony cases brought to the district attorney's office by area law enforcement.

Attorney's Office, and we will continue to fight

for victims and for the pursuit of justice. "



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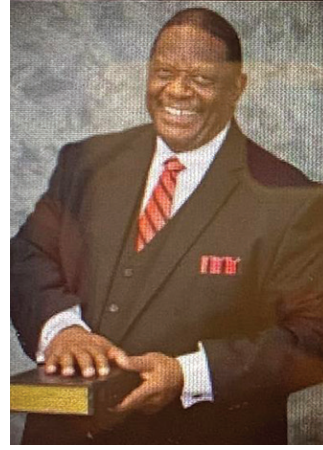
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## Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church to hold pastor anniversary

Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church will have an eighth anniversary celebration for Pastor Melvin Adams on Sunday, January 28, at 11 a.m. Guest speaker will be Rev. Isaac Whitehead, Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Gainesville. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.



REV. ADAMS

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Sunday Night	6:00 pm
Wednesday	7:00 pm

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## Carvie Claxton III, 35

Mr. Carvie Claxton, III, 35, of Swainsboro, passed away Sunday, January 14, 2024, at his residence. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 17, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Pastor John Hancock officiating. Interment followed in Union Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to services.

Pallbearers were Michael Shoemake, Keith Dyches, Caleb Claxton, Travis Claxton, Earon Davis and Dan Dyches.

Carvie was born July 27, 1988, in Dublin, to Carvie Claxton, Jr. and Nancy Flanders Claxton. He loved his family and animals. Carvie enjoyed playing video games and talking to people. He was a member of Beacon of Hope Church of God. Mr. Claxton is preceded in death



CLAXTON

by his father; maternal grandparents, Johnnie and Mary Flanders; paternal grandparents, Carvie, Sr. and Thelma Claxton.

Mr. Claxton is survived by his mother and stepfather, Bill Mincey of Swainsboro; brothers, Travis Claxton and Caleb Claxton, both of Swainsboro; several aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

## Frances Marion Stroud, 88

Mrs. Frances Marion Stroud, 88, of Swainsboro, passed away Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Emanuel Medical Center following an extended illness. Funeral services will be Wednesday, January 24, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Mark Hardin officiating. Interment will follow in Swainsboro City Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 24, at Chapman Funeral Home.

Mrs. Stroud was born May 23, 1935, to the late Robert Portwood and

Adele Lockhart Portwood. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband of 68 years, Delmer Stroud; brothers, Rollie Portwood and Lonnie Portwood; and sister, Carol Berry.

Mrs. Stroud is survived by her daughters, Linda Stroud of Dellwood and Becki Stroud of Clarks Hill, SC; brother, Glen Portwood (Carole) of Macon; sister, Margaret McGowan of Grovetown; several nieces, nephews and other family members.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

## Susan "Susie" Bryant, 78

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Mrs. Susan "Susie" Bryant, age 78, of Swainsboro, on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, January 21, at 2 p.m. in the Peebles-Curry Memorial Chapel with Rev. Tom Tidwell officiating. Entombment followed in the Eastbrook Cemetery & Mausoleum. The family received friends Saturday, January 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Pallbearers were C. J. Bryant, Dusty Jones, Caleb Jones, Jason Scott, Gracen Fail, Dylan Ward, Damon Ward, Seth Willis and Nollan Scott.

Mrs. Bryant was born in St. Petersburg, FL, to the late Albert and Mae Littlefield Fleming. She was the owner and operator of "B's Diner" for twenty plus years. Susie was not only a secretary at Carl's Used Cars, but she was also her husband, Mr. Carl's, "Right Hand Man". She enjoyed reading cookbooks and loved to cook. Susie's additional hobbies included crocheting and cross stitching. She also loved to travel. Susie's favorite places to go were the Smoky Mountains and to the beach. Mrs. Bryant is preceded in death by



BRYANT

her parents; husband, Mr. Carl Bryant; son, Carl "Buck" Bryant; and brother, Clarence Fleming.

Survivors include two daughters, Barbara Jones (Alan) of Chatsworth and Linda Hairr (Johnny) of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Jason Scott (Amber), CJ Bryant, Dusty Jones (Shannon), Delaine Evans (Todd) and Lisa Payne (Tommy); 10 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and extended family; and Caregiver, Melissa Radford.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Gideons International, P.O. Box 365, Swainsboro, GA. 30401 or the local animal shelter at 323 Market Street, Swainsboro, GA. 30401.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

## United Fellowship Baptist Church to hold gospel sing

Pastor Larry Perkins announces that United Fellowship Baptist Church in Oak Park will be hosting a Gospel Sing to kick off the 2024 Revival featuring The Hudson's on Saturday, January 27, at 6 p.m. Revival will be held Sunday, January 28 through Tuesday, January 30. Sunday services will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, January 29 and January 30, will be at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Evangelist Tracy Swanson. They will also be celebrating Homecoming on Sunday, January 28. Everyone is cordially invited.

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**Wednesday** Bible Study  
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## Summertown food distribution

Summertown Food Pantry at Summertown Baptist Church distribution will be this Saturday, January 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Twin City Elementary announces 2nd Nine Week Honors

Congratulations to the following students for being named Honor Roll, Star Honor Roll, and Perfect Attendance recipients for the second nine weeks. A student is recognized for Honor Roll when their report card grades are an average of 90 and above with no grade in any of the five subject areas lower than an 80. A student is recognized for Star Honor Roll if they have all A's on their report card in all five subject areas (Math, Reading, ELA, Science, and Social Studies).

**Perfect Attendance**  
First Grade: Patterson Parker, Alli Woodward; Second Grade: Addi Conley, Kameron Dixon, Sophia Gay, Jayden Jones, Madelyn McNeely, Mikell Mitchell, Grace Sanchez, E'niya Steele; Third Grade: Chloe Dawkins, Mariah Fann, Marania Parker, Thomas Rainey, Haven Taylor, Caleb Telgen, Zayden Thames, Cyril Salinas; Fourth Grade: Makayla Mitchell, Jayceon Williamson; Fifth Grade: Anna Caroline Frye, Hudson Ware, Dilan Xochicale

**Honor Roll**  
First Grade: Tyleigh Bates, Dean Black, Cutler Canty, Angel Donaldson, Anthony Gay, Melody Havens, Rhea Johnson, Angela Kerlegrand, Jase Kersey, Maddie Kate Landon, Aniyah Lane, Kacey Lane, Lydia Loveall, Sloan Mathews, Andrew Morales, Patterson Parker, Zion Priest, Harper Pye, Brooklyn Rogers, Addalyn Smith, Audrey Tarver, Briley Williamson; Second Grade: Addi Conley, Aycen Fleming, Erian Hillman, Jase Kersey, Mikell Mitchell, Harper Pye, Chandler Rich, Kendall Tamblyn, Jensen Whetsell; Third Grade: Christopher Allen, Jeb Cavannah, Chloe Dawkins, Rosie Freeman, Jason Griner, Kaison Handsom, Cam Hughes, Brooks Kirkland, Brayli McKinney, Maka'Lyn Moody, Micah Moody, Javonte Peterson, London Perry, Isabella Pitts, Sarah Powell, Maddie Sherrod, Zylen Swain-Russell, Haven Taylor, Caleb Telgen, Zayden Thames, Jorie Walden, Briyla Wiley; Fourth Grade:

Andrew Bazemore, Gannon Copeland, Easton Freeman, Hunter Gamiza, Layla Hampton, Hunter Hatcher, Kendall Hodges, Jocelyn Lovett, Makayla Mitchell, Jaxon Parcell, Wyatt Parillo, Kennedy Smith, Declan Spence, Kambri Sutton; Fifth Grade: Natalie Bunn, Henley Drake, Ezekiel Kearney, Vaniya Kirkland, Hoyt Lawrence, Arieonah Seafus, Dilan Xochicale  
**Star Honor Roll**  
First Grade: Jackson Beckworth, Rowan Coker, Noah Hadden, Jayce Handsom, Christian Hise, Brelan Lamb, Bryson Lanier, Bailey Grace Oliver, Denton Parker, Pacey Thompson, Elizabeth Tucker, Bo Tucker, Aiden Wright; Second Grade: Haley Blackburn, Lily Braddock, Kinsley Clark, Walter Clark, Wyatt Collins, Kynslee Gordon, Allison Gay, Sophia Gay, Kayla Hampton, Denver Hayward, Gracie Johnson, Waylen Jordan, Averie Kraus, Ayla Marsh, Ciara Matthews, Charlie McNeely, Avery Mincey,

Alli Spicer, Danni Lynn Williamson, Case Wilson;  
Third Grade: Liam Allen, Mallory Allen, Max Coker, Raylon Cumbee, Avery Frye, Jackson Hodges, Knox Johnson, Ian Perez, Ethan Renew, Daniel Roberson; Fourth Grade: Gauge Akridge, Chancie Archer, Grey Blackburn, Christian Bynum, Reid Cannady, Allan Dekle, Elah Griffin, Hadley Griner, Brooks Hall, Ella Jo Hooks, Jayden Hughes, Evie Jarriel, Norah Johnson, Violet Lai Tyam, Khloe Lanier, Izzy May, Reese McNeely, Jorge Ramos-Avalos, Cash Rigdon, Audrey Tucker, Ava Underwood, Jayceon Williamson, Leyla Yeye; Fifth Grade: Hudson Anderson, Jayce Juarez Aragon, Chloe Best, Charla Fields, Anna Caroline Frye, Mila Hodges, Addison Johnson, Anthony Johnson, Damien Johnson, David Johnson, Tanner Mitchell, Kabreigh Mixon, Chloe Oliver, Ezekiel Pague, Kimber Peterson, Addi Rich, Brayden Telgen, Hudson Ware, Mia Wilcher, Alli Woodward

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11:00 AM - Traditional Worship  
5:00 PM - Jr. & Sr. MYF  
6:00 PM - Evening Worship

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

PLEASE JOIN US!

# Editorials Columns

## A report from Davos

“Davos” is an annual gathering of the most elite world leaders, corporate captains, super rich industrialists, and most of the incredibly brilliant stars of the academic universe. It’s held in the strikingly beautiful skiing resort village of Davos, Switzerland, and was first organized as part of the World Economic Forum in 1971 by Klaus Schwab. It is by invitation only, so I tried to call up Uncle Klaus to see if he had any extra tickets lying around, and I even sent him a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Now, I understand this is a really busy time for him, and he hasn’t been able to get those tickets back to me. However, I will go ahead

and give my summary of this year’s event which just ended before I could get there. Here is my report on “Davos 2024”. When it comes to the future of the Earth, some world leaders are a *little nervous*, some are *very nervous*, and some *got out of there so fast on their private jets that all you heard was “beep, beep” as they scooted away!* Sadly, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken couldn’t even get his Air Force 2 jet started and was delayed in scooting. (more problems for Boeing) Over three thousand of the planet’s most beautiful, inspirational, and as Jerry Clower would say “folks from the grittttt Universities of books and learning”

attended the week-long event and gave speeches to each other about globalism and populism and many other “isms”. Two hundred and fifty billionaires and millionaires were there. The leaders of the major European countries were there. China had the largest delegation it has had there since 2017. Middle Eastern and Asian leaders were there, but where was Joe? President Biden was a big “no-show”, but Al Gore and John Kerry were there to give an encore performance of their long-running show, “I’m Burning Up”. Meanwhile back in the United States, most of us were in the middle of a record setting winter deepfreeze. The

Chairman of JP Morgan Chase Bank said Donald Trump was probably going to win the 2024 Election because people were tired of listening to Democrats telling them how good everything was when it wasn’t. President Emmanuel Macron of France agreed with other European leaders that concern about the world economy and climate change has now taken a back seat to worries about “shake-ups” across the world in places like Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Iran, Yemen, and Syria. He made the astonishing assertion that this is not helpful to the world economic order. Boy, I bet that really had ‘em rolling in the aisles. Those

## Charles Schwabe



French are sharp! They might even know where Joe wandered off to. By the way, late last week Biden did actually show up at an unannounced ice cream parlor to say he was going to relieve 5 billion dollars in student loan debt. That should put us over the 2 trillion-dollar mark in deficits for this Democratic administration. Way to go, Big Guy.

Well, January is not even over yet, and we’re already down to two can-

didates in the running to be the Republican nominee for President. The Atlanta Falcons, as of today, are still looking for a coach, and we now have found out that electric cars not only don’t like to get any farther than 350 miles from home, but they also don’t like to get out in cold weather either. So, in the paraphrased words of the famous actress Betty Davis, “fasten your safety belts everybody, 2024 might be a bumpy ride.”

## Fulton County DA suddenly finds herself in a big mess

Shades of Laurel and Hardy. When something went awry in one of their slapstick movies Oliver Hardy would declare to hapless Stan Laurel, “This is a fine mess you’ve gotten us into.” This would certainly apply to Fulton County district attorney, Fani Willis, and unlike Laurel and Hardy who managed to extricate themselves from said mess before the end of the movie, Willis’s mess isn’t going away. In fact, it is getting messier. For reasons that make no sense other than political self-aggrandizement, Willis took it upon herself to begin an investigation and indictment of former president Donald Trump and eighteen others on racketeering, conspiracy and other charges regarding potential 2020 election interference. I am not a Donald Trump fan but I think the effort is and has been a waste of taxpayer dollars and that any per-

ceived electoral misdeeds on the part of the former president and his supporters should be the responsibility of federal authorities, not Fulton County. Willis should be concentrating on the huge backlog of pending felony cases awaiting trial. Leave Trump and his posse to the Feds. It has been a mess from the beginning. The first indication was when Willis subpoenaed Georgia’s current Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, one of 16 Trump electors who signed on to an “unofficial electorate certificate” in an effort to undo the Electoral College vote in the 2020 election. This, after she had held a fundraiser for Jones’ Democratic opponent before the election and had donated money to his primary campaign. Fulton Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney who oversaw the special grand jury proceedings criticized Willis and called it

a “What are you thinking moment,” and added, “The optics are horrific.” And the political ineptitude striking. Fani Willis now finds herself in a mess worse than anything Laurel and Hardy could have dreamed up. A motion filed by attorney Ashleigh Merchant, representing Mike Roman, one of Donald Trump’s codefendants in the case, accuses Willis of engaging in an “improper, clandestine personal relationship” with a married private attorney, Nathan Wade, who she had hired as a “special prosecutor.” Fulton County records show Willis has paid Wade \$654,000 since January 2022, far more than other attorneys on the case. Merchant says she has no proof that Wade has ever tried a felony RICO case. The other two special prosecutors are Anna Cross a former DeKalb County assistant district attorney who has handled dozens

of felony cases and John Floyd, considered an expert on state RICO prosecutions and who helped draft the law. Together, they billed \$116,000, less than a quarter of what Wade was paid. Merchant’s motion which runs 38 pages alleges among other things that Willis and Wade began a romantic relationship prior to her hiring him and that Wade funded lavish vacations for the two of them with money he was paid for his work on the election interference case. The mess keeps getting messier. On the same day Merchant filed her motion, Willis was served with a subpoena by representatives of Nathan Wade’s wife, Joycelyn, to testify in the Wades’ divorce case. As it stands now, the records of the divorce action have been sealed in Cobb County and a number of news outlets, including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the New York Times, Washington

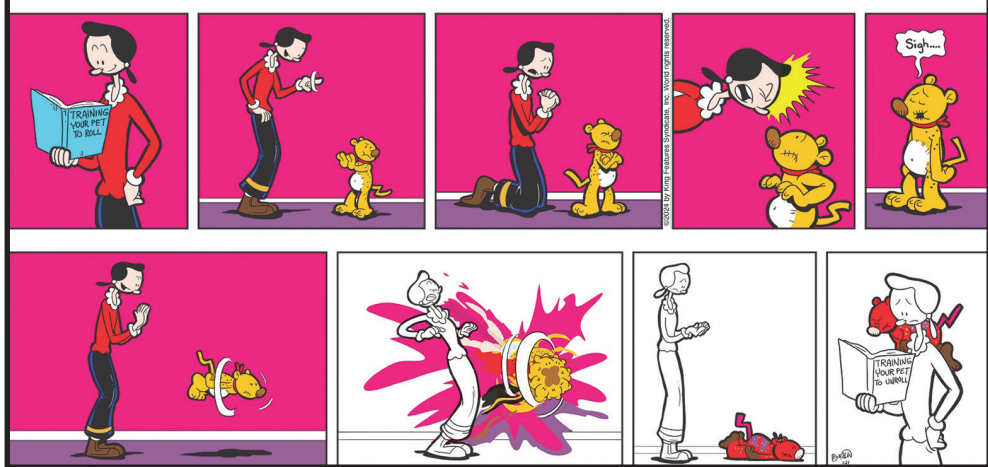
## Dick Yarbrough



Post, and CNN are asking that the records be unsealed. Willis has been trying to quash the subpoena seeking her testimony in the divorce proceedings. Why? Does she have anything to hide? Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee who is overseeing the election interference case against former president Trump and the others has set a hearing for Feb. 15 and has given the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office a Feb. 2 deadline to file a written response to the allegations made by Mike Roman and his legal team. Rather than provide taxpayers with answers as to the accusations and taking the opportunity to prove her accusers wrong, Willis has

chosen instead to play the race card. She has declared all of this is because she is a Black woman. Joycelyn Wade, Nathan Wade’s ex, is a Black woman, too. This isn’t about race. It is about perceptions. If Fani Willis is paying a hefty salary to a romantic partner with limited experience, that is a genuine conflict of interest that would require her dismissal from the case and possible action by the State Bar Association and perhaps Georgia Atty. Gen. Chris Carr. I’m afraid even Laurel and Hardy can’t help her out of this fine mess. You can reach Dick Yarbrough at [dick@dickyarbrough.com](mailto:dick@dickyarbrough.com) or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

# Editorial Cartoons



## Magnolia crash

One fall day while Sol was doing some errands and I was washing clothes, I heard a loud boom that I thought had to be a gas explosion in our villa neighborhood. I ran to the door, all the while thinking to myself, we don’t even have any gas at Magnolia Manor! When I opened the door and went outside on my patio, I looked up toward the apartments and there was a grey Lexus sitting in my next-door neighbor’s yard. At least the rear end of it was. I immediately thought, call 911, but I better access the situation before I did that. I ran over to the car and inside sat my sweet friend and rose gardener, looking pretty bewildered but, as she always was, smiling. I said are you alright Ann? She nodded and immediately started trying to get out of the car. Her door was blocked because she was up on the patio, but the other door was working. I yelled for her to let me help her get out on the passenger side! I looked her over, and didn’t see any blood, so here I am, trying carefully and graciously to lift her over the console of her car, praying I wasn’t going to see a huge gaping wound or a broken arm. Ann slid herself over that seat just like she had done it before! I told her to sit tight. By this time, some

## La’Rose Tapley



utility workers across the street saw what had happened and meandered over. I was the only one freaking out!

I asked Ann for her telephone so I could get her daughters phone number and she said, “well, it’s in my purse.” I said “well, give me your purse and I’ll find it.” There was no purse in the car. Great! “Well, is your house locked? Yes. Do you have your keys? No.” Now, all this time, the utility guys are walking around the Lexus surveying the damage. I knew my 95-year-old neighbor, Esther was inside her villa, but she couldn’t open her door because the car was blocking it. She was like a caged animal wanting to get out to the scene!

Finally, one of the men had the presence of mind enough to say, maybe we should call the office. Duh? He did. By this time, I was convinced Ann didn’t need an ambulance although I swear to you, I couldn’t figure out for the life of me why she didn’t die on impact. Thank God she didn’t. After a few minutes, a few of the staff members descend on the scene and take over the problem of notifying

the next of kin to come see about Ann. I relaxed a little, took a few deep breaths, and looked around to survey the damage. By now, Esther has figured out a way to get over various boxes and furniture in her sun porch, opened one of the sliding doors, which I was never able to do the whole time we lived there, and she comes “rollating” around the corner of her house and approached the scene.

That Lexus had come across the street from Ann’s garage, knocked over two mailboxes in concrete, a 20-foot streetlight, uprooted two boxwoods, then hit the brick wall of the villa and crashed into the glass storm door. I kid you not! Thankfully Ann did not have a scratch or a bruise. I’m not sure I could have handled that. She was my precious “rose lady.” The Lexus was totaled. We later discovered our neighborhood feral black cat had suffered fatal injuries in the boxwoods outside Esther’s bedroom window, leaving as survivors, several cute little black kittens who apparently escaped the scene unscathed. And life goes on at the “home.”

# The Forest-Blade

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Gail Williamson,  
Editor/Publisher

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

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



## Superintendent Hattaway announces...

(From front page)  
 Living Literature, 1st place; Hudson Anderson - Living Literature, 1st place; Natalie Bunn - Service Learning, 4th place; Addison Johnson - Songfest, 3rd Place; Audrey Tucker - Songfest, 3rd Place; Addison Rich - Songfest, 3rd Place; Allison Woodward - Songfest, 3rd Place; Anna Caroline Frye - Songfest, 3rd Place; Jayceon Williamson - Songfest, 3rd Place; Ava Underwood - Songfest, 3rd Place; Brayden Telgen - Songfest, 3rd Place; Bridgette Lopez-Munoz - Songfest, 3rd Place; Anthony Johnson - Songfest, 3rd Place; Rex Rigdon - Songfest, 3rd Place; Ella Jo Hooks - Songfest, 3rd Place; Charla Fields - Songfest, 3rd Place; Chloe Best - Songfest, 3rd Place; Chloe Oliver - Songfest, 3rd Place; Ezekiel Kearney - Songfest, 3rd Place; Ezekiel Pague - Songfest, 3rd Place; Harley Blackburn - Songfest, 3rd Place; Weston Akridge - Songfest, 3rd Place; Henley Drake - Songfest, 3rd Place; Harper Hill - Songfest, 3rd Place; Alyssa Bullard - Songfest, 3rd Place; Jayce Juarez-Aragon - Songfest, 3rd Place; Hudson Anderson - Songfest, 3rd Place; Hudson Ware - Songfest, 3rd Place; Izzy May - Songfest, 3rd Place; Joleigh Coxwell - Songfest, 3rd Place; Kallen Braddock - Songfest, 3rd Place; Dilan Xochicale - Songfest, 3rd Place; Kabreigh Mixon - Songfest, 3rd Place; Koda Still-Williams - Songfest, 3rd Place; Mila Hodges - Songfest, 3rd Place; Tanner Mitchell

- Songfest, 3rd Place; Natalie Bunn - Songfest, 3rd Place; Taylor Bell - Songfest, 3rd Place; Leyla Yepe - Songfest, 3rd Place; Arieonah Seafus - Songfest, 3rd Place; Brooks Hall - Songfest, 3rd Place; Jorge Ramos-Avalos - Songfest, 3rd Place; Allan Dekle - Songfest, 3rd Place; Hunter Gamiza - Songfest, 3rd Place; Violet Lai-Tyam - Songfest, 3rd Place; Layla Hampton - Songfest, 3rd Place; Marla Hooks - Songfest, 3rd Place; Adam Akridge - Songfest, 3rd Place; Ella Jo Hooks (club captain) - Songfest, 3rd place; Hunter Gamiza - Three Dimensional Design, 3rd place; Layla Hampton - Two Dimensional Design, 5th place  
**Group Events**  
 Anna Caroline Frye - Duo Performing arts, 2nd place; Joleigh Coxwell - Duo Performing arts, 2nd place; Jennifer Best - Sponsor Large Group PA; Adam Akridge - Sponsor Large Group PA; Chloe Best - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Anna Caroline Frye - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Mila Hodges - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Nora Johnson - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Bridgette Lopez-Munoz - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Izzy May - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Kabreigh Mixon - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Ezekiel Pague - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Arieonah Seafus - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Koda Still-Williams - Large Group Performing arts,

5th place; Audrey Tucker - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Allison Woodward - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Leyla Yepe - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Hudson Ware - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Hudson Anderson - Large Group Performing arts, 5th place; Zane Robertson - Large Group Performing arts, 5th Place; Brayden Telgen - Large Group Performing arts, 5th Place; Addison Rich - Large Group Performing arts, 5th Place  
**Team Event: Marketing and Communication**  
 Sky Ware - Sponsor for Marketing and Communication, 4th Place; Hudson Ware - Marketing and Communication, 4th Place; Ezekiel Kearney - Marketing and Communication, 4th Place; Leyla Yepe - Marketing and Communication, 4th Place; Jorge Ramos-Avalos - Marketing and Communication, 4th Place  
**Team Event Musicology**  
 Adam Akridge - Sponsor for Musicology, 1st Place; Chloe Best - Musicology, 1st Place; Jayceon Williamson - Musicology, 1st Place; Kabreigh Mixon - Musicology, 1st Place; Violet Lai-Tyam - Musicology, 1st Place; Audrey Tucker - Musicology, 1st Place  
**Team Event Robotics**  
 Susanne Bowen - Sponsor for Robotics, 5th Place; Allison Woodward - Robotics, 5th Place; Brayden Telgen - Robotics, 5th Place; Jayce Juarez-



**PAUSE: BOARD MEMBER BRANDON JONES, PAUSE AWARD RECIPIENT ANNA CAROLINE FRYE AND TCE PRINCIPAL JESSICA COLLINS**



**FAMILY: ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL BROOKE FRYE, FAMILY AWARD RECIPIENT TRACEY MERCER AND BOARD CHAIRMAN DEL BROWN**

Aragon - Robotics, 5th Place; Zane Robertson - Robotics, 5th Place; Reese McNeely - Robotics, 5th Place; Declan Spence - Robotics, 5th Place; Violet Lai-Tyam - Robotics, 5th Place  
**Individual Events**  
 Tanner Mitchell - Fiber Arts, 3rd place; Izzy May - Mixed Media, 1st Place; Ava Underwood - Sculpture, 4th place; Chloe Best - Speech, 2nd place; Brooks Hall - Woodworking, 3rd place; Charla Fields - Poetry, 5th Place; Anna Caroline Frye - Premier Performer; Joleigh

Coxwell - Premier Performer  
**Emanuel County Institute - Jr. Beta Convention-November 24-25**  
 Sponsor/Teacher - Megan Simmons and Katie Cowart; William Simmons - Sixth Grade Math, 5th place; Charley Mitchell - Fiber Arts, 5th place; Lawson Frye - Speech, 1st place and Digital Portfolio, 3rd place; Jenna Best - Performing Arts, 5th Place; Braylie Brown - Performing Arts, 5th Place; Chelsie Grimes - Performing Arts, 5th Place; Dicey Lane - Performing Arts, 5th Place; Maci Walden - Performing Arts, 5th Place; Blaire Johnson - Performing Arts, 5th Place; LeShaun Parrish - Performing Arts, 5th Place  
 3. PFEA-Administrative Waiver (RESA Change)-Emanuel County School System  
 4. GADOE School Based Health Grant awarded to Emanuel County School System  
 5. Safer Georgia Schools Round Two Grant awarded to Emanuel County Schools  
 6. Georgia Chamber of Commerce Workforce Preparedness Grant

7. Federal School Identification-Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)  
**DISCUSSION OF CONSENT AGENDA**  
 The Consent Agenda was presented and approved as follows:  
 1. Approval of Minutes of the December 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting  
 2. Approval of Financial Reports - Mollie Smith  
 3. Approval of Spring Fundraisers  
**Swainsboro Primary CLUB FUNDRAISER PROJECTED DATE**  
 SPS Office School Store.com Jan. - May 2024  
 SPS Office Movie on the Lawn April., 2024  
 First Grade Dress Down Pajama Day Jan. - May 2024  
 First Grade Spring Talent Show April/May 2024  
**Twin City Elementary CLUB FUNDRAISER PROJECTED DATE**  
 PBIS Sell Jibbitz/shoe Charms Jan. - May 2024  
 PBIS Sell Bracelets for \$1 Jan. - May 2024  
 PBIS Sell Pins for \$1 Jan. - May 2024  
 PBIS \$15 Jeans Pass Jan. 8-12, 2024  
 Exploratory Ozark D-Lites Jan - May 2024  
 (Continued on page 7A)

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ECI JR. BETA AWARD RECIPIENTS WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL BROOKE FRYE, BOARD MEMBER CHERIE HOOKS AND BOARD MEMBER JOHN ALLEN BAILEY



TCE JR. BETA AWARD RECIPIENTS WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CHRISTIE HENRY, TEACHERS MARLA PRICE, ADAM AKRIDGE AND JENNIFER BEST AND PRINCIPAL JESSICA COLLINS

### Superintendent Hattaway announces...

(From page 6A)

#### Swainsboro Middle CLUB FUNDRAISER PROJECTED DATE

FCCLA Mid-Week "Fill Up" Coffee/Lattee for Teachers Wednesdays Jan. - May 2024

FCCLA Bake Sale Last Friday of Month

FBLA Country Meats Feb. - May 2024

FBLA Valentine Candy Sale February 2024

FBLA Hat Day March 2024

Jr. Beta Club Candy Bar Sales Jan. - May 2024

Jr. Beta Club Beta Dance Feb. 2024

Jr. Beta Club School-Wide Dance March/April 2024

Jr. Beta Club Silent Auction May 2024

Media Center Popcorn Sales Jan. - May 2024

Media Center Book Fair Spring, 2024

Media Center Pull a Pops - during Book Fair Spring, 2024

SMS Band Donut Fundraiser Jan. 10 - Feb. 13, 2024

SMS Soccer Suckers January 8, 2024

SMS Golf Hole Sponsorships February 1, 2024

SMS Golf School social during connections March 1, 2024

Football/Comp. Cheer Discount Card with SHS Cheer March - July 2024

Football/Comp. Cheer T-shirt Sponsor March - July 2024

Football/Comp. Cheer Sponsor My Athlete Form March - July 2024

Football/Comp. Cheer Miscellaneous Fundraising March - July 2024

Football/Comp. Cheer Laundry Detergent Fundraising March - July 2024

Football/Comp. Cheer Misc. Fundraising July - August 2024

FACS Class Valentine Candy Gram Jan. 15 - Feb. 5, 2024

FACS Class In School Movie & Popcorn March 2024

FBLA / FCCLA Valentine Bags February 14, 2024

FBLA Sale of Water (Bottle) Jan. 22 - May 17, 2024

#### Emanuel County Institute CLUB FUNDRAISER PROJECTED DATE

E-Sports Pizza Kits February 2024

E-Sports Dress Down Day May 2024

Yearbook Photo Contest for Yearbook Feb. - Dec 2024

Varsity/CT Softball Online Team Store Jan.-Dec 2024

Varsity/CT Softball Winter Skills Camp February 2024

Varsity/CT Softball Online Donation Drive May 2024

Varsity/CT Softball Youth Skills Camp June 2024

Varsity/CT Softball Outfield Signs June-July 2024

Baseball-V, JV & MS Adrenaline Fundraiser Feb. - May 2024

Baseball-V, JV & MS Alumni Game March 9, 2024

Baseball-V, JV & MS Youth Skills Camp June 2024

ECI Media Center Scholastic Book Fair April 22-26, 2024

Football-V & /C-team Online Donations July 24, 2024

7th Grade Dress Down Day February 2024

7th Grade Dress Down Day April 2024

7th Grade Dress Down Day January 2024

8th Grade Jeans Day Before March 2024

FBLA Frosty Fruit Slushy Ongoing

FBLA Krispy Kreme Sept 9-13, 2024

FBLA T-Shirt Sales September 2024

Basketball Cheer Valentine's Day Candy Feb. 14, 2024

Basketball Cheer Dress Down/Jogger Day Feb-April 2024

Basketball Cheer \$100 Gas Card Raffle Feb-April 2024

Basketball Cheer Basketball Cheer Kiddie Kamp December 2024

JV Cheer Little Caesar's Pizza February 1, 2024

Basketball Hat Day Sept 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball 50/50 Raffle Sept 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball Dress Down/Jean Day Sept 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball TV Raffle Nov 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball Cake Raffle Nov 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball Alumni Game Nov 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball Cornhole Tournament Nov 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball TCE Skills Camp Nov 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball 3 on 3/ 5 on 5 tournament Nov 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball Bake Sale Nov 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball Plate sale Nov 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball students vs faculty volleyball game Sept 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball Students vs faculty basketball game Sept 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball Jamboree/intersquad scrimmage Sept 2023-Feb 2024

Basketball TCE Basketball Camp June 2024

#### Swainsboro High School CLUB FUNDRAISER PROJECTED DATE

SHS Soccer (boys/girls) Sell T-shirts January 8, 2024

SHS Soccer (boys/girls) Burger King January 2024

SHS Soccer (boys/girls) Gift Card Raffle January 2024

SHS Soccer (boys/girls) Calendar Sponsor January 2024

SHS Soccer (boys/girls) Ice Cream Sale March 2024

SHS Soccer (boys/girls) Soccer Camp July 2024

Spanish Club Salsa Night at Ay Wey Feb. 3, Mar. 2, Apr 6, 2024

4. Approval of Retainer for Board Attorney-Jerry Cadle

5. Approval of East Georgia Healthcare Center, Inc. Office Lease Agreement

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None EXECUTIVE SESSION EMPLOYMENTS:

The Board approved the employment of the following classified employees:

Boyett, Nancy - Sub Bus

Driver - Transportation - 1/22/2024 - NCIC - Incomplete; Cox, Bonnie - Paraprofessional - SES - 1/3/2024 - NCIC - Incomplete

The Board approved the employment of the following certified employees:

Sledge-Williams, Zakia - Teacher - SHS - 1/3/2024 - NCIC - Complete;

Rutherford, Susan - Sped Consultant (30%) - Central Office - 1/3/2024 - NCIC - Complete; Wilson, Brianna - Teacher - SPS - 1/17/2024 - NCIC - Complete

#### RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS:

The Board approved the resignations of the following certified employees:

McCastle, Crystal - Teacher - SHS - 12/15/2023; Johnson, Dana - Teacher - SHS - 12/15/2023

The Board approved the retirement of the following certified employees:

Hattaway, Scotty - Superintendent - Central Office - 6/30/2024

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by JOANN TRAMMELL

The Glad Garden Club held its first regular meeting of the New Year on Monday, January 8, 2024, at the beautiful, cozy and welcoming Sudie A. Fulford Learning Center on the campus of East Georgia State College. We are so blessed, as a club, to be able to conduct our regular meetings in such an impressive building. In addition, Malanie Freeman and her staff always make us feel so welcome. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President JoAnn Trammell with members Sylvia Durden, Carolyn

## Glad Garden Club starts new year



JEANETTE HALL, SHERRI CLIFTON, SYLVIA DURDEN, SAVANNAH TANNER, CAROLYN BROWN AND JOANN TRAMMELL

Brown, Jeanette Hall and Sherri Clifton in attendance.

Inspiration was given by Sylvia Durden in regard to "Why does God love us so much?" Exodus 25:35. Because He has filled us with all the skills we need to excel in all the crafts we will need in fulfilling His promise in our lives.

December was a very busy month for our club. Visiting Emanuel County Nursing Home with presents, visiting with the staff of the Sunshine House, making our Christmas donation and Swainsboro Pre-K and contributing to our Fig Leaf Project. The only somewhat glum part of our visitation was to have to take down the Christmas decorations at the hospital. The club so very much enjoys decorating the hospital for Christmas, but we will be back again next Christmas to spread more cheer. Glad Garden Club has also been working closely with the "Veterans at the Library" headed by Johnny Tapley to appropriately decorate and revitalize the Veterans and First Responders Park, formerly known as Pine Brook Park. A Cedar tree was planted around Arbor Day to honor vet-

erans and to hopefully be rooted enough to be decorated by Christmas. The plan worked and the tree survived to be decorated by Christmas with approximately twelve-hundred lights and ornaments with veterans' names on them made by school children.

Plans are already in committee for the club's participation in the Pine Tree Festival in May.

January's program was presented by Savannah Tanner, ANR Agent of the Swainsboro Division of the University of Georgia Extension Office. Savannah gave an excellent program on the importance of soil sampling in the area. Farmers need to know the Ph of their soil in order to grow their desired crops. Soil samples gathered and mailed to UGA will help determine what nutrients are needed to produce optimum crop yield. Samples should be gathered with non-metal equipment as to provide accurate levels. On a personal level, sending soil samples off can inform you of what you need to avoid that pesky blossom end rot on your favorite tomatoes. Sample bags were given to all members.

In addition, forms were handed out for the UGA plant sale in February. A variety of plants are available, including fruit trees. So be sure to get your order forms from the Extension Service by February 2, 2024, for spring planting.

The raffle item of a beautiful flower print by a local artist along with a Bath & Body Works Candle donated by JoAnn Trammell, was won by Sylvia Durden.

The ladies adjourned for lunch at the Stockyard Restaurant in Swainsboro.

Our next meeting will be February 12, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Sudie A. Fulford Learning Center. If you like to dig in the dirt and have fun doing it or even if you don't like getting dirty, we have a place for you. We are a delightful group of ladies that are of like-mind and do believe in the fun and fellowship of the beautification, conservation and education of Swainsboro and Emanuel County.

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

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## Owens visits the Fox Theater in Atlanta

Wanda Owens of Swainsboro recently visited the Fox Theater in Atlanta with *The Forest-Blade*. While there, she saw *The Nutcracker* and *The Michael Jackson Musical*.



OWENS WITH THE FOREST-BLADE

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He will satisfy our needs as long as we live and when our life is over join Him in heaven.

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# The Forest-Blade

Swainsboro, GA • January 24, 2024 • [www.EmanuelCountyLive.com](http://www.EmanuelCountyLive.com)

Social Sports Legals/Classifieds **B**

## Downtown Swainsboro to hold Valentine's Day retail therapy

by MELISSA KIRBY,  
D O W N T O W N  
D E V E L O P M E N T  
D I R E C T O R

Grab your favorite gals and come shop Downtown Swainsboro on February 10! Don't worry guys, we haven't left you out. While you are out for some retail therapy, be sure to leave "Cupid's Keeper" a list of gifts ideals for your significant other. Stop by Blushing Cotton Co., J & R Outfitters, Gifts Galore Monogramming & More, Wrens Southern Ladies & Gents, Custom Furniture & Flooring and Stewart's Jewelers to complete your list. Don't forget to take a selfie at each store and tag the store and Downtown Swainsboro Georgia Facebook pages so that your significant other will know

**Cupid's Keeper**  
HELP YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER OUT THIS YEAR!! STOP BY ANY OF THESE PARTICIPATING STORES AND FILL OUT YOUR WISH LIST.

BERNI'S WILL HAVE A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR ANYONE WHO PARTICIPATES.

FEB 10TH  
DOWNTOWN SWAINSBORO  
10AM-4 PM STORE HOURS MAY VARY

where to pick up that perfect Valentine gift. Before you leave downtown, grab some lunch or dinner at Berni's on West Main and show them your social media post for a special discount for participating in Cupid's Keeper.

Be sure to follow each of the participating stores' Facebook pages for in-store giveaways or other special perks they are offering during this shopping event. We hope to see you downtown for this fun shopping event!

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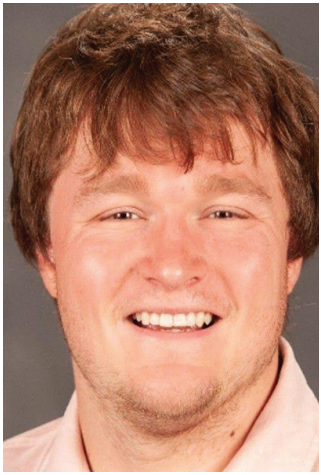
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You Were Made to GLOW!

## Dowling named Director of Housing at East Georgia State College

Gage Dowling has been named the East Georgia State College (EGSC) director of housing and will lead EGSC's Office of Housing Services for residential students.

Dowling began his career in higher education residential services as a resident assistant at Charleston Southern University, where he earned his B. A. in History. He went on to earn his M.S. in Management from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, while also serving as a housing coordinator for Southwestern. He has eight years of experience as a Director of Residential Services at various colleges and universities in Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.



**DOWLING**

A native of Greer, South Carolina, Dowling is excited to be moving closer to his family, who live in Florida and South Carolina. Away from work, he enjoys playing video games and basketball. His wife, Casey Dowling, is the new Assistant Director of Academic Success at the College.

Dowling said about the move, "I am super excited to be in Swainsboro

and at East Georgia State College. I was attracted to EGSC due to its size and the great people I met during my interview process." He added that he was just as excited to work with the East Georgia State College faculty, staff, and student body. He encourages open communication, saying, "If you ever need anything, please let me know!"

"Mr. Dowling's experience and background in working with students from all walks of life make him an excellent fit for East Georgia State College," said Sherrie Helms, Associate Vice President for Conduct & Title IX. "Already in his short time here at East Georgia, he has brought us great ideas of innovation and change, and I know that he will serve our students well."

## NOTICE OF CLOSURE SHEPHERD, GARY & McWHORTER, LLC



The members of the above firm will be retiring effective March 1, 2024. It has been our honor and privilege to serve this community for over 62 years. Current clients may contact the office for finalization of pending matters, referrals or to retrieve their files to retain other counsel by February 15th, 2024. Former clients who may have files or documents in our office may contact us to retrieve these files by March 1st, 2024. You may contact our office with questions or arrange for file retrieval at 109 E. Moring Street, Swainsboro, GA, 30401 or by telephone at 478-237-7551. Shepherd, Gary & McWhorter, LLC will not be responsible for maintaining or storing files more than 4 years old.

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## Piano recital held in Adrian

"A Touch of Christmas" music recital was presented by some of Mrs. Sue Page's students at Adrian Baptist Church. Those participating were Luke Green, Kellan McNeely, Madelyn McNeely, Sammy Ibanez, Danni Lynn Williamson, Isabella Jenkins, Jonas Proctor, Lizzy Odom, Luna Ibanez, Carolyn Vautier, McKenleigh Tankersley, Charlie McNeely, Josie Anna Johnson, Brooklyn Lewis, Ansley Powell, Judson Underwood, Sutton Dekle, Cade Colston, Colton Lewis, Anna Vautier, and Abby Randall Lewis.



RECITAL PARTICIPANTS



EREA MEMBERS

## Retired educators meet at Fulford Center

Members of the Emanuel Retired Educators Association (EREA) braved the very cold temperatures last week for their January meeting at the Sudie A. Fulford Center on the campus of East Georgia State College. Christy and Joe Holaway at Ware's BBQ provided sandwiches for the group, and members provided sides and dessert.

EREA wishes to thank the Holaways for their kindness and generosity. President Judy Hendrix provided an informative program and group discussion of the Georgia Retired Educators mission and goals. One of the goals this year is to contribute to the Totes for Tots program which collects and distributes age-appropriate back-

packs, suitcases, and supportive care items for Georgia children in foster care. EREA plans to contribute \$275 to the non-profit organization this year. The retired educators will meet again on February 21, at 12 p.m. at Emanuel County Institute. Lunch will be provided by the school. All Emanuel retired educators are encouraged to attend.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-132(a)(3) and O.C.G.A. 21-2-131(a)(1)(A), notice is hereby given that the General Election will be held November 5th, 2024 for the City of Adrian. Qualifying fees and available office are as follows:

Office	Fee
City Council Post 2	\$54.00
City Council Post 4	\$54.00
City Council Post 5	\$54.00

Such fees shall be paid to the City of Adrian by any candidate seeking nomination in the November 5th, 2024 election. Qualifying for said offices shall be August 19, 2024 through August 21, 2024 between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Qualifying shall take place at the Adrian City Hall located at 304 West Main Street, Adrian, Georgia 31002.

Registration deadline to be eligible to cast a ballot for the General election is October 7th, 2024.

Jennifer Roberts  
Election Superintendent  
Adrian, Georgia

### Hood earns place on UGA Dean's List

Grace Catherine Hood earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 term at University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Hood's outstanding academic performance, hard work and perseverance paid off. Congratulations Grace!



BETTY DELL WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT CHERYL GOODMAN, HEATHER WILLIAMS AND SHERIFF BREWER

## Kiwanis hear Refuge presentation

The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting Tuesday night, January 16, at the Rustic Grille at 7 p.m. With President Cheryl Goodman presiding, there were 22 in attendance, including five guests, Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz, Karolina Cerpovicz, Richard T Smith II, Betty Dell Williams and Heather Williams. The cake, donated by Cayla Scarboro, was won by Richard Smith. The Domino's pizza donated by Domino's was won by Petite Garrett. The program for the evening was hosted by Jeff Brewer who introduced Betty Dell Williams, Executive Director of The Refuge, and Heather Williams, Forensic Nurse for The

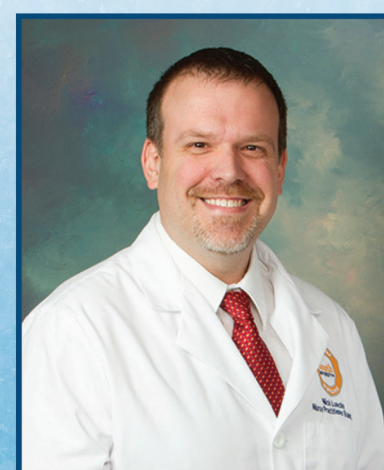
Refuge. Headquartered in Vidalia, The Refuge is a Domestic Violence Shelter, Sexual Assault Center, and has an Emanuel Outreach Office. They offer comprehensive services for victims and their families hurt by domestic violence and sexual assault. They are a state certified non-profit, non-denominational United Way Agency serving Toombs, Montgomery, Treutlen, Wheeler and Emanuel counties. They offer a 24-hr, 7 days a week staffed emergency shelter, a 24 hours-per-day crisis line, weekly support groups for victims and their children, family development activities to support families with children at risk because

of exposure to family violence, and legal advocacy services to assist victims in obtaining needed legal assistance and support throughout court proceedings. This past year, 135 have received services in Emanuel County and 311 have received overnight places to stay. They have expanded the program to talk with teenage girls about dating and can offer some testing services for rape victims. They recently obtained a sophisticated camera to be used to photograph injuries. All services provided are 100% free. They are supported by grants, donations from individuals and churches, and state and federal funding.

## Emanuel Wound Care Center (Located on 2nd floor of the hospital)



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VOLUNTEERS

## Wreaths Across America holds pickup day

The Wreaths Across America volunteers traveled across Emanuel County on Saturday, January 20, to recover all the 1,600 wreaths on veterans' graves that were placed there on December 16, 2023. Chair John Tapley delayed the time until 10 a.m. Saturday due to the weather. The Swainsboro Community Service detail was at the Swainsboro City Cemetery on time with their trailer to help remove and transport the retired wreaths that honored the memory of our late veterans during this Christmas season. EGSC Police Chief Trey Drawdy was there with nearly 75 East Georgia College Athletes and members of the AAMI group to help pick up the nearly 700 wreaths from the Swainsboro City Cemetery. The "Veterans at the Library" group thanks all those who participated in this year's Wreath Across America.



MARTIN GOING FOR A LAY UP



PROCTOR SHOOTING A THREE POINTER



R. WILLIAMS TAKING A SHOT UNDER THE BASKET



A. WILLIAMS BRINGING THE BALL DOWN THE COURT

## DEA Middle School Basketball teams season going strong

The Eagles middle school boys and girls' teams had a busy week of basketball. On Wednesday, January 17th, the Eagles traveled to Bulloch Academy. The Eagles were unable to come out on top with a final score of 28-13 in the girls' game and 37-15 in the boys' game. For the middle school girls, Lyla Martin led the team with 5 points followed by Ava Williams and Emily McRae both contributing 4 points each. In the middle school boys' game, Charlie McRae was the lead scorer with 5 points, followed by Karson Kettles with 4 points, and Jack Evan Fields, Eli Way, and Dalton Flowers each with 2 points.

On Thursday, January 18th, the Eagles hosted the Screven Christian Lions at home. The DEA girls were in control the entire time, never trailing in their 27-3 victory. Aubrey Scott led the team with 8 points. Ava Williams added 6 points, Scott Hall 5 points, and Milly Farmer, Rayleigh Faircloth, Lyla Martin, and Hensley Terwilliger each contributed 2 points. In the middle school boys' game, the Eagles dominated from start to finish with a final score of 40-19 over the Lions. Karson Kettles had a strong performance adding 17 points to the scoreboard. Lake Woods followed with 7 points, Jack Evan Fields, Eli Way, Ben Griner, and Samuel Martin all pitched in 4 points each for the Eagles.

## DEA Eagles battle TJA Jaguars

On January 12, David Emanuel Academy Eagles varsity basketball teams played against Thomas Jefferson Academy Jaguars. The Lady Eagles started the night in a hard-fought game against the Jags. Despite their effort,

the Eagles ended in a loss with a final score of 47-33. Emma Proctor led the team with 19 points, followed by Aubrey Williams with 5 points, Kylie Bell and Addalyn Terwilliger each with 4 points, and Payton Peebles with 1

point. Following the girls' game, the varsity boys took the court. In an intense and tight-score game, the Eagles unfortunately ended with a one-point loss in a final score of 39-38. Leading the team with points was Billy Martin

with 14 points, followed by Randon Williams with 11 points, Peton Lee with 6 points, Tony Sutton with 3 points, and Richard Braddy and Ethan Fields each with 2 points.

Photo Credit: Crystal Hammock

## Swainsboro Boys' Basketball splits region matchups

by JUSTIN GRAY  
The Swainsboro Tigers boys' basketball team has gotten off to a decent start to region play with a 2-3 record. The Tigers are 6-8 overall, sporting impressive wins over 6A Veterans High School and 15-1 Bible Baptist Christian. The Tigers headed into last weekend with two big region games on their schedule. First up they took on East Laurens, who had already beaten the Tigers by 16 this season, but this one was much closer. The Tigers battled to the end but fell short in a 60-55 defeat. This loss is no slouch as East Laurens has an 11-2 record, including being undefeated in region play.

Next up was a battle with Jefferson County. The Tigers really needed to get this one, as they were the better team on paper. Playing on the road is tough, but the Tigers played a great game and pulled out the 62-50 win. This sets the Tigers up to be able to finish second or third in the region. There is a lot of season left to play and plenty of time to finish first. They have a big week coming up as they travel to 14-5 Bleckley County in a region matchup on January 23 and then host Jenkins High School and Statesboro on the 26th and 27th. The Tigers need to play their best ball heading down the stretch!

## Swainsboro Lady Tigers sweep the week

by JUSTIN GRAY  
The Lady Tigers of Swainsboro girls' basketball have been one of the most dominant teams in A-DI all year. They currently hold a 10-4 overall record and a 4-1 in region record, good enough for first in the region. Last week they took on East Laurens and Jefferson County. The first game against East Laurens was the biggest of the two as they lost a game to them earlier in the season, and this was huge for determining who is the one seed in the Region tournament. The Lady Tigers dominated the first half going up by a score of 24-13. They needed to play good enough in the second half to get out of there with a win. That they did, roaring to a 62-43 victory of the Falcons. They were led by Tanyia Williams, who had 14 points and 15 rebounds, the wildest part of this stat line is that she is doing this on



LADY TIGERS DOMINATE THE COURT

an "every game" basis, averaging 15 points and 13 rebounds. Following Williams was De'Zaria Jordan who also had a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Next up was an 0-14 Jefferson County team, and it was apparent that they didn't want to leave any doubt winning the game 93-14. Yes, you read that right, a 79-point win. An incredible perfor-

mance. They were led by none other than Tanyia Williams who had 20 points and 19 rebounds, to add onto that she also totaled three assists and three steals. There were three other Tigers in double digits scoring figures, Hannah Howard (14), Jayden Wynn (13), and De'Zaria Jordan (11). One of the most impressive stat lines was Jayden Wynn get-

ting SIX steals. That's a crazy amount for one game. This Lady Tigers team is clicking on all cylinders. Their schedule doesn't get any easier as they take on Bleckley County, Jenkins and Statesboro this week. The first is away on Jan. 23. The second two are at home on Jan. 26-27. Come out and support these girls who are dominating the court.

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## INVITATION TO OFFER QUOTE

Emanuel County Board of Education is accepting quotes for the 2024-2025 school year for:

### Lawn Care/Shrubbery Trimming

Quotes will be accepted until, 2:00pm, February 8, 2024 at Board of Education Office 201 N. Main St., Swainsboro, GA 30401.

For further information and specifications contact Jansen Ware, Director of Operations at 478-237-6674

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

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## DEA Eagles host John Hancock Rebels

On Friday, January 19, the Eagles hosted the John Hancock Rebels at home in Stillmore.

Starting the evening was the middle school girls' game. The DEA girls captured a 22-13 victory over John Hancock. Emily McRae was the lead scorer for DEA with 7 points. Also contributing for DEA were Aubrey Scott and Lyla Martin both with 4 points each, Ava Williams 3 points, and Milly Farmer and Scott Hall each with 2 points. The DEA middle school boys lost a close game to the Rebels, 32-30. Karson Kettles was the top scorer for DEA with 13 points. Lake Woods added 6 points, Jack Evan Fields 5 points, Eli Way 3 points and Dalton Flowers with 3 points.

In the varsity girls' game, the DEA Eagles came out victorious with a score of 57-49. Leading the team with points was Kylie Bell with 16 points and following close behind was Aubrey Williams with 15 points and Emma Proctor with 13 points. Also contributing for the Eagles were Chirsten McCoy with 5 points, Addalyn Terwilliger 4 points, and Kylie Bell and Bailey McNure each with 2 points.

In the varsity boys' game, the Eagles suffered a close loss 60-57 versus John Hancock. Randon Williams led the team on the scoreboard with 16 points. Peyton Lee followed with 15 points and Billy Martin with 13 points. Also helping the Eagles on the board were Jay Carter and Revan Fortner each with 3 points and Ethan Fields and John-Nathan Martin each with 2 points.



L. MARTIN AND MCRAE GETTING A REBOUND



A. WILLIAMS TAKING A SHOT



BELL PASSING THE BALL



R. WILLIAMS SHOOTING FOR TWO POINTS



LEE GOING FOR THE BASKET



KETTLES SHOOTING FOR A LAY UP

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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).

Venchia Jamiel Brown, 37, arrested 1/19/24; Probation violation; ECSCO  
 Tavares Lewis Daughtry, 46, arrested 1/21/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked; SPD  
 Albert Lee Davis, 69, arrested 1/19/24; Failure to comply/Disorderly conduct; SPD  
 Christian Phillip Davis, 23, arrested 1/19/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked; ECSCO  
 Khalil Jamol Davis, 28, arrested 1/20/24; Possession of marijuana less than oz/Giving false info to officer; SPD  
 Antwan Malik Early, 24, arrested 1/16/24; Possession of firearm by convicted felon/Obstruction of law enforcement; SPD  
 Cheryl Marie England, 60, arrested 1/18/24; Theft by shoplifting; SPD  
 Howard Flonnory,

66, arrested 1/17/24; Parole violation; ECSCO  
 Charles Crosby Ford, 36, arrested 1/16/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked; ECSCO  
 Clifford Foskey, 51, arrested 1/21/24; Possession of meth/ Possession of drug related objects; SPD  
 Anthony Luther Frazier, 30, arrested 1/20/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked; SPD  
 Bobbie Sue Grandstaff, 36, arrested 1/21/24; Theft by shoplifting; SPD  
 Kelvin Remon Greene, 27, arrested 1/15/24; Battery/Probation violation; ECSCO  
 Jerjuan Marquis Hunter, 32, arrested 1/18/24; Parole violation; SPD  
 Jimmy Lee Kirkland, 24, arrested 1/18/24; Simple battery; SPD  
 Joe Alonzo Lewis, 35, arrested 1/19/24; Parole violation; ECSCO

Marco Antonio Mendez Ruiz, 29, arrested 1/17/24; Failure to obey traffic control device/Driving while unlicensed; ECSCO  
 Brandon Laswawn Mincey, 37, arrested 1/19/24; House for Candler Co.; ECSCO  
 Xavier Jacquez Owens, 25, arrested 1/17/24; JAG Probation; SPD  
 Johnell Lawrence Sindab, 19, arrested 1/21/24; Possession of marijuana less than oz/Possession and use of drug related objects; ECSCO  
 Christopher Recardo Smith, 32, arrested 1/18/24; Obstruction of officer/Driving while license suspended/revoked/Giving false info to officer/No brake lights or working turn signals/Driving without license; ECSCO  
 Emari Amber Smith, 24, arrested 1/20/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked;

ECSCO  
 Latondra Tallassee Stevenson, 46, arrested 1/19/24; Disorderly conduct; SPD  
 Tiffany Antoinette Tillman, 38, arrested 1/19/24; Dog at large/Dog at large/Interference with officer; SPD  
 Rakevius Latif Trice, 20, arrested 1/17/24; Manufacture/Possession ETC controlled or counterfeit substance, or marijuana, near park/housing project/Possession and use of drug related objects/Possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain felonies/Purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of marijuana; SPD  
 Jermani Xaire Centuri Wimberly, 22, arrested 1/18/24; Possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain felonies/

Possession ETC controlled or counterfeit substance, or marijuana, near park/housing project/Purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of marijuana/Sale, manufacture, deliver or possession of dangerous drugs; SPD  
 Alvin Douglas York, 48, arrested 1/19/24; US Marshall/Trafficking in cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana or meth/ Possession of firearm by convicted felon/ Possession and use of drug related objects/ Possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain felonies/Use of license plate with intent to conceal/Expired registration/Seatbelt violation/ Possession of meth/Burglary x7/Theft by taking - felony/VGCSA less than oz/Hold for Bulloch Co./Hold for Washington Co./Hold for Jefferson Co; ECSCO

# Swainsboro Police Reports

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

**January 11**  
 Officer ran the tag of a vehicle on N. Race-track St. to find the registered owner if wanted, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. The driver stepped out of the vehicle and matched the description of the picture on GCIC. Officer asked for her license and she asked what she was stopped for so he advised her of the reason for the stop. Officer asked her again for her license and she kept refusing to present it. Officer then asked her name and she identified herself as the suspect. She then gave her ID and was very nervous acting and kept questioning officer. Offender was advised to place her hands on her vehicle and resisted being handcuffed and kept reaching her hand to the front of her jacket and waist area. Officer was able to get her handcuffed after a brief struggle.

Offender was placed in officer's unit while waiting to hear about extradition. Both Richmond and Burke Co. stated they would not extradite at this time, so she was released.  
 Officers were dispatched to Center St. in reference to a burglary and offender was still on scene. Officers could hear yelling coming from the back of the house and went around to the back and was met by the homeowner and offender arguing. Complainant stated he was awakened by someone moving around in his kitchen and observed offender stealing food and throwing it in the yard out the back door. C/p stated he did hit offender in the face and that's why he was bleeding. C/p further stated offender is his uncle and is homeless and ran him off a couple weeks ago. C/p also stated offender got inside by going through a window in the kitchen. Officer

observed offender very intoxicated and asked if he needed EMS to check him out and he would not respond. Offender was transported to EMC then placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.  
**January 12**  
 Officer received a call in reference to fake currency being collected at Terwilliger's. Complainant stated while counting money, she noticed two \$20 bills that appeared to be counterfeit and it's unknown what day they were received.  
**January 13**  
 Officer was dispatched to WalMart in reference to a shoplifter. While enroute, officer was notified offender ran out of the store and fled on foot towards Green St. Complainant advised offender dropped his bookbag and ran out the store when confronted. Inside the bookbag were miscellaneous items concealed from the store. Officer watched the video and observed offender concealing items from the cart and placing them in his bookbag.  
**January 14**  
 Officer was dispatched to Jerome St. in reference to an unwanted person. Officer noticed a male subject yelling on the front porch and while speaking with her, he could smell a strong odor of alcohol coming from her person, along with slurred speech. Offender admitted to drinking a lot of alcohol. Officer spoke with c/p and she advised she wanted offender to leave her property. Offender was given multiple chances to find a place to sleep her

alcohol off before being arrested for public intoxication. Offender started to pull away from officers and refused to get into the patrol unit and refused to give her info to jail staff.  
 Officer was dispatched to Thigpen Dr. in reference to complainant stating her wallet was missing.  
 Officer observed a vehicle with a headlight out, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer asked for the driver's license to find they are suspended. Officer asked the driver to step out of the vehicle and he advised he had marijuana in the vehicle. Vehicle was searched and officers found multiple drug related objects with marijuana residue, a glass pipe that offender stated contained meth, a silver container with a small baggie of marijuana and eight roaches. Driver was transported to EmCo Jail.  
**January 15**  
 Complainant went to SPD to report a stolen gun. C/p advised he does not know who may have taken it because he had a lot of visitors over the weekend.  
 Officer met with complainant at The Wash Station in reference to complainant advising an unknown male exited a vehicle and loaded two washing machines from the parking lot into his vehicle and left. C/p advised they are valued at \$500 each.  
 Officer responded to Thompson's Minit Mart in reference to a report of threats via phone calls. Complainant stated she has been receiving threatening calls and texts from offender.

Officer ran the tag on a vehicle to find the tag was expired and had no valid insurance, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer asked the driver for her license and the passenger stated she was the owner of the vehicle and it has valid insurance and registration. Officer advised the tag was expired and she stated the tag was being mailed to her but she hasn't received it. She then showed an insurance card on her phone but it was expired. Officer could smell an odor of alcohol beverage coming from the vehicle and asked the driver if she had been drinking and she stated no and then stated the passenger had been drinking. Vehicle was towed.  
**January 16**  
 Officer ran the tag of a vehicle to find the registered owner has suspended license, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. The passenger stepped out of the vehicle and started to walk away and was instructed not to leave. As he was getting back in the vehicle, officer observed him reach around to his right side and back and officer asked what he put beside him and he stated nothing. Offender continued to be uncompliant and refused to comply. Offender was finally placed in handcuffs and frisked to find a firearm attached to his waist. Offender stated it was not his gun and he was taking it back to his mother. Offender was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.  
**January 17**  
 Officer responded to King Circle Dr. to assist other officers with an incident involving marijuana. During the search, marijuana, a handgun, pill bottles without names and \$1,071 cash was found. Both offenders were placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.  
**January 18**  
 Officer was dispatched to Powell St. in reference to a dog in her yard being aggressive. Officer observed the dog due to previous incidents and knew who it belongs to. Complainant stated she was trying to get in her vehicle when the dog approached her being aggressive. Officer then went and spoke with the

owner who was advised his dogs had gotten out again and was issued a citation. The dog ran away before AC1 arrived.  
 Officer responded to WalMart in reference to a shoplifter and offender was still on scene trying to leave. Offender was seen on video footage skip-scanning and would not cooperate. Items totaled \$102.55. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.  
 Officer was dispatched to Gumlog Rd. in reference to a female wanting to make a report. Complainant advised was taking a shower when she heard her 4-year-old daughter say something so she opened the shower curtain to find a male subject standing in the hallway looking into the bathroom and he started mumbling something and began to walk away and exit the house. C/p stated she got dressed and the male subject was back in her house and asked her what she was doing in a loud voice then exited again.  
 Officer responded to Gumlog Rd. in reference to a domestic. Offender stated the victim kept running her mouth so he dashed ice cream on her.  
**January 19**  
 Officers were dispatched to McLeod Bridge Rd. in reference to a domestic. Complainant and her two children were inside and she stated her ex/offender was inside her home without permission and was intoxicated and started going crazy, punching the walls and doors. C/p stated offender also punched her TV and broke it then grabbed her by the face and pushed her. Offender had a friend with him that urged him to stop and leave and he did.  
 Officers were dispatched to Freedom St. in reference to a dispute between a mother and her daughter. Complainant was highly intoxicated, yelling and cussing at her daughter. The daughter was upset and left, and the mother followed her across the yard yelling and screaming obscenities. Offender was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.

## Public Notice of Qualifying Dates and Fees

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-131 (a) (1), notice is hereby given that a General Primary will be held May 21, 2024. The following offices are set for qualifying:

Office	Qualifying Fee
Board of Education District 1	\$144.00
Board of Education District 3	\$144.00
Board of Education District 7	\$144.00
Clerk of Superior Court	\$1778.88
Coroner	\$108.00
County Commissioner District 1	\$144.00
County Commissioner District 3	\$144.00
Judge of the Probate Court	\$1778.88
Judge of the State Court of Emanuel County	\$959.40
Sheriff	\$2122.59
Solicitor General of Emanuel County	\$959.40
Tax Commissioner	\$1778.88

Qualifying for the offices listed above will be March 4, 2024 through March 7, 2024 from 9:00am to 4:30pm and March 8, 2024 from 9am to 12:00pm. Qualifying will take place at the Emanuel County Elections Office located at 105 South Main Street Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.

The last day to register to vote in the primary will be April 22, 2024.

Kerry K. Cuury  
 Emanuel County  
 Elections Director

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Pursuant to city regulations' regarding the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license, notice is hereby given to the public that an application has been filed by Atul Y Pandya DBA Davki Nand 98 LLC, for a license to retail beer and wine packaged only, located at 227 Main Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.**

**This application will be considered at the regular meeting of mayor and city council to be held on February 5, 2024, at 6 pm.**

**City of Swainsboro  
 Herman Middlebrooks, Jr.  
 City Administrator**

# News from under the Gold Dome: Week of January 8

by REPRESENTATIVE BUTCH PARRISH  
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 158

The 157th Georgia General Assembly convened for the 2024 legislative session on Monday, January 8, 2024, which marked the start of the second year of our biennial General Assembly. In addition to convening in the House Chamber each day, our House committees also began holding meetings to consider legislation that carried over from the 2023 legislative session, as well as new legislation that has been introduced.

On Thursday, members of the House and Senate gathered in the House Chamber to convene for a joint session to hear Governor Brian Kemp as he presented his assessment on the current condition of our state government in his annual State of the State Address. This gathering provides a unique opportunity for our governor to reflect on the foundation of the state and present his legislative priorities for the year ahead.

Prior to discussing his priorities for the session, the governor reflected on the progress our state has experienced since his last address. Over the last year, Georgia's government has provided nearly \$5 billion of direct relief to taxpayers in the form of tax refunds, gas tax suspensions and homestead tax exemptions. The governor applauded the state's work to maintain a Triple-A bond rating, while simultaneously creating more than 171,000 new jobs and approximately \$74.5 billion of investment over the last

five years. To build off of this job growth and economic prosperity, the governor announced his plans to speed up the implementation of the largest tax cut in state history. This proposed tax cut would decrease our state income tax to 5.39 percent starting this year and represent a savings of \$3 billion for Georgia taxpayers over the next decade.

I will share a few highlights below:

- The Amended FY 2024 Governor's budget provides funds for the design, construction, and equipment of the dental school at Georgia Southern University, Savannah, Chatham County.
- A permanent appropriation in the state budget for school security of \$104 million, specifically for school safety improvements. With these funds, schools will be able to determine how to use that money in order to best meet the security needs of their individual schools.
- A request for a \$3,000 pay raise for State Patrol officers, as well as Georgia's correctional officers and other state law enforcement agencies.
- Legislation for the peace officer loan repayment program. Peace officers play a vital role in supporting the safety and security of Georgia's residents.
- Continue efforts to combat human trafficking in Georgia. Under the leadership of First Lady Marty Kemp and the GRACE Commission, eight pieces of legislation that target traffickers, while also supporting

victims, have been signed into law. These efforts have enabled Georgia's GBI HEAT unit to investigate 369 cases of human trafficking since its creation.

The governor went on to outline his priorities surrounding health care, recapping the strides made to lower health care costs, expand access and incentivize more health care providers to give care. Since the passage of the Patients First Act in 2019, 87 percent of Georgia counties now have three or more health care insurance carriers, whereas prior to 2019, no Georgia county had more than two. The governor continued by expressing his gratitude for the Georgia Access and the reinsurance program for their efforts to grow enrollment in the private sector from 460,000 to more than 1.2 million Georgians today. Gov. Kemp also touted the achievements of the Mental Health Parity Act, a fitting capstone to the late Speaker David Ralston's years of service to the Georgia House of Representatives. As a result of this legislation, Commissioner Kevin Tanner and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) carried out Speaker Ralston's legacy with the 9-8-8 crisis hotline campaign, which gave more Georgians access to the services and help they need. To build on this achievement, the governor is proposing a total increase of \$205 million for DBHDD and other entities that address mental health in our state. With these appro-

priations, Georgia will be spending \$1.6 billion on mental health care – more than ever before.

Finally, Gov. Kemp discussed his plans to bolster retention and recruitment efforts across the state by proposing pay increases for all state employees and teachers. In his remarks, Gov. Kemp highlighted the importance of maintaining an efficient state government, while staying ahead of Georgia's continued economic growth – none of which would be possible without the dedication and workmanship of Georgia's state employees and teachers. In his proposed budget, Georgia's state workers and teachers would see a four percent pay increase. In addition to supporting Georgia's current employees, the governor intends to allocate \$500 million to shore up the state retiree fund, ensuring our state keeps its promise to our retirees and maintains solid financial footing. The governor closed his remarks with applauding the state of our state for being strong, growing and full of opportunity.

In addition to hearing Gov. Kemp's State of the State Address on Thursday, the House voted to adopt an Adjournment Resolution, House Resolution 779, to set our calendar for this legislative session. Each session is comprised of 40 non-consecutive days, and this year's calendar sets our final day of session, or "Sine Die," on Thursday, March 28. We have an aggressive schedule this year and much work to be done prior to the final swing of the gavel. You can find a copy

of our complete legislative calendar here.

Now that the 2024 legislative session has begun, I will spend most of my time over the next few months at the State Capitol. After we celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, my colleagues and I will return to the Capitol on Tuesday, January 16 to begin our work on one of the most important pieces of legislation of this session – the state budget. Before leaving the Capitol last Friday, my colleagues and I received the governor's budget books, which include his budget recommendations for the amended and full fiscal year budgets. We will review these recommendations, and the House and Senate Appropriations committees will hear directly from the governor to discuss his recommendations on Tuesday morning. The Appropriations committees will continue to meet throughout next week to discuss budget requests from our state agency heads, and I look forward to sharing updates with you about the budget process.

As our House committee meetings get underway throughout the session, you can attend these meetings in person or watch live streams of all official House committee and subcommittee meetings on the House website. You can always find the meeting schedule and live streams at <https://www.legis.ga.gov/schedule/house>.

The official House Facebook and Twitter accounts also provide useful information and daily updates throughout the session,



REP. PARRISH

including press releases, meeting announcements, and legislative action from the House floor. These valuable resources can help you stay engaged and informed on our work while we are in session.

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

You can also stay in touch by visiting our website at [www.house.ga.gov](http://www.house.ga.gov) to watch a live stream of the House in action, as well as archived committee meetings, and review legislation that we are considering.

Follow me on Facebook for updates throughout the year.

Capitol Address  
245 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
404.463.2247 - Office  
District Address  
132 Victory Drive  
Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478.237.3838 - Office

Thank you for allowing me to be your representative.

Sincerely,  
Representative Butch Parrish

# News from Under the Gold Dome: Week of January 15

by REPRESENTATIVE BUTCH PARRISH  
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 158

On Tuesday, January 16, I returned to the State Capitol to begin "budget week." Each year, the Georgia General Assembly is tasked with one constitutional obligation which is to pass a balanced budget. The second week of the legislative session is historically devoted to joint House and Senate Appropriations Committee hearings to begin the state budget process. To kick-off budget week, Governor Brian Kemp presented his formal recommendations to the joint committee for the current and upcoming fiscal year budgets, and the governor's proposal will ultimately be incorporated into legislation that will guide how our state allocates its spending.

As we start the state budget process, we will begin drafting two budget bills. The first bill, the Amended Fiscal Year 2024 (AFY 2024) budget, will appropriate spending for the remainder of the current fiscal year ending on June 30 and accounts for any differences between last year's projected revenue estimate and actual revenue obtained. Based on updated revenue estimates, the AFY 2024 budget will include approximately \$5.06 billion in additional revenue that our state can utilize over the next six months. This adjustment brings the total appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to \$37.51 billion. The second bill, the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) budget, will determine state spending for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025. This FY 2025 budget is set at a revenue estimate of \$36 billion.

As Gov. Kemp discussed his budget proposal with the joint committee, he recapped Georgia's achievements in recent years and highlighted that more than \$5 billion has been directly returned to Georgia taxpayers through tax rebates and suspension of the state's motor fuel tax in addition to enacting the largest income tax reduction in Georgia history. He also noted that because of sound financial investments, Georgia has remained the number one state in which to do business for 10 consecutive years and remained one of only a few states to have a AAA bond rating. Gov. Kemp highlighted that his AFY 2024 and FY 2025 budget proposal will help further our state's historic economic development for years to come.

Highlights from the Governor's proposed budget:

- \$1.5 billion investment in the AFY 2024 budget for the Georgia Department of Transportation to maintain our roadways, accelerate construction on "shovel-ready" projects and expedite existing projects.
- \$250 million for the Georgia Environmental Financing Authority's Georgia Fund to support critical water and wastewater infrastructure development through low-interest loans to local communities across the state.
- \$250 million in additional funds for economic development grants provided through the Regional Economic Business Assistance (REBA) grant program

and OneGeorgia Authority. This funding would support economic development projects, promote investment in Georgia businesses, expand grant opportunities for rural site development, as well as provide further grant opportunities to address workforce housing in our rural communities.

- \$1 billion investment in the state's retirement, risk and health portfolios. This includes a \$500 million investment in the Employees' Retirement System to provide greater flexibility in establishing cost-of-living adjustments for state retirees.
- \$244 million to K-12 schools for teacher's health insurance without requiring reductions in coverage or further increases in their out-of-pocket costs
- \$306 million in the AFY 2024 budget to provide a \$1,000 pay supplement, as well as \$630 million in FY 2025 to provide a four percent cost-of-living adjustment to state employees; K-12 teachers and other certified employees would see a \$2,500 salary increase under the governor's plan.
- \$205 million to update the public transportation formula to provide significantly more state support for school transportation needs.
- \$11 million for K-12 literacy initiatives, including regional literacy coaches and screeners for K-3 students to ensure that our young learners are able to read on grade level.
- \$104 million in FY 2025 to establish a new, annual school security grant program.

This FY 2025 budget proposal would provide local schools with a combined total of more than \$1.4 billion in additional funding to meet growth needs, bolster teacher pay, maintain quality health and retirement benefits and improve safety.

A few other noteworthy items in Gov. Kemp's AFY 2024 and FY 2025 budget proposal include:

- \$1 million to expand access to mental health services for Georgia's military service members, veterans and their families
- \$205 million for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and other entities that address mental health in our state
- \$9 million for a new behavioral health crisis center
- \$4 million for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission for rehabilitation of victims of sex trafficking
- \$1 million to expand the maternal health pilot program in rural communities
- \$42 billion to provide a \$3,000 salary increase for select POST certified law enforcement officers
- \$3 million for equipment and vehicles to implement the Georgia Electric Vehicle Charging Program
- \$10 million to begin reducing the pre-K classroom size from 22 to 20 students

In addition to hearing from Gov. Kemp during budget week, we also had the opportunity to hear from state agency leaders and department heads, each outlining and advocating for their budgetary needs for

the remainder of the fiscal year and the upcoming fiscal year. We also heard from Georgia's fiscal economist who provided a comprehensive overview of Georgia's economic forecast for this year. The important presentations will assist us as we begin the next phase of the state budget process and work to ensure that we create budgets that meet the diverse needs of our state and its citizens.

Now that the joint budget hearings have concluded, the House Appropriations subcommittees will begin to meet to review specific portions of the budget and delve deeper into the state agencies' budget needs. Since the Georgia Constitution requires budget bills to originate in the House, each House Appropriations subcommittee will pass their respective portions of the AFY 2024 and FY 2025 state budgets, which will collectively result in two complete budget bills to be approved by the full House Appropriations Committee. After being approved by the full House Appropriations Committee, each budget bill will be scheduled for a vote on the House floor by the House Rules Committee. After each budget bill is voted on and passed out of the House, these bills will be transmitted to our counterparts in the Senate and will undergo the same process. There will likely be changes to the governor's original proposal as the House and Senate continue to work through the budget process, and I will keep you updated as these bills are voted on and finalized.

We will reconvene for legislative day six of the session on Monday, January 22. We expect to have another busy week ahead as the pace of the session continues to pick up and as House committees begin to meet more frequently to consider legislation.

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

You can also stay in touch by visiting our website at [www.house.ga.gov](http://www.house.ga.gov) to watch a live stream of the House in action, as well as archived committee meetings, and review legislation that we are considering.

Follow me on facebook for updates throughout the year.

Thank you for allowing me to be your representative.

Sincerely,  
Representative Butch Parrish  
Capitol Address  
245 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
404.463.2247 - Office  
District Address  
132 Victory Drive  
Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478.237.3838 - Office

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IN MEMORY OF  
JOHN SMITH  
2/23/1925-9/30/2018



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\*City:

\*State/Province:

\*Zip code:

\*Phone Number:

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\*Brick/Tile Size: 4x8 brick(#7 Grey) - \$75.00

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**IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS CARR AT (912)536-3271**

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Deadline is Monday at  
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Call Melva at 478-237-9971 to help sell your unwanted items!  
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### MISCELLANEOUS NOTICE

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.

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

### Now Taking Applications! SWAINSBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY

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HUD Subsidized  
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Duties include feeding horses, cleaning stalls and water troughs and repairing fences occasionally.

Experience with handling horses is a must.

Send resume/info to:

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- Low rents that include basic utilities
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[whenry@ogeecheesteel.com](mailto:whenry@ogeecheesteel.com)  
133 Lindsey Rd.  
Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478.237.2770 Ext. 31

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Lane Storage has payments past due. Contents include various miscellaneous items. Auction will be held February 1, 2024 at 9 a.m. For questions contact Rusty Lane at 478-455-1861.

Chatandria Allen-AH22  
Nhikeye Harden-B124  
Sanorrhea Avans-D19  
Melonie Gotell-W28  
Lavon Palmer-W36  
Jennifer Hunter-W60  
Marquits Watson-W74  
Jalaiya Ricks-W77  
Charles Howell/Latasha Stuckey-W114

## LANE STORAGE

338 East Main St,  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

## Full-time Clerical Position

The Emanuel County Government is seeking a full-time employee to perform clerical duties.

The position will be responsible for filing documents (manually and electronically), drafting basic correspondences, data entry, answering phones, scanning data, auditing accounts of returns and inventories, and other tasks as directed.

Candidates should have good computer skills and be able to use programs such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Experience in a legal setting is a plus.

This position is 40 hours per week and has a very competitive wage and excellent benefits.

Interested applicants can submit an application online at the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners website <https://www.emanuelco-ga.gov/Jobs.aspx> or send resumes to P.O. Box 70, Swainsboro, Ga 30401



## Bright celebrates 10 years

by MICHAEL BRIGHT  
 "10 years ago on January 23, 2014, I became the new manager for Main Street Market. At that time, there were only 12 dealers selling at the Market. I shut it down for two weeks to remodel and clean inside, then reopened February 1, 2014. Within 90 days, we had signed up more than 30 dealers. We now have over 60 dealer booths with a waiting list, and we are the home of the Music Memories Museum which is my private collection of hundreds of authentic items and personal clothing once owned by some of the biggest names in the music industry. We have been on numerous TV segments on all networks, ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX. We are listed on worldwide websites such as Roadside America, and numerous magazines have writ-



### THE BRIGHTS

ten stories about "Main Street Market". Visitors from all 50 states and more than 20 countries have signed our guest book, and we have over 11,000 followers on our Facebook page. For three years straight - 2021, 2022 and 2023 - we were voted the "Best of Georgia" by the Georgia Business Journal... WOW! I would personally like to thank every one of our customers, each dealer, our wonderful staff, my wife Judy, the Downtown

Development Authority of Swainsboro and most of all, my Lord and Savior. We will continue to give the best customer service in the years ahead. Thank you and God bless."

Main Street Market will have a 10-year anniversary on Saturday, February 3. We invite you to come and register to win a \$100 gift certificate, and as part of the celebration, there will also be free door prizes for the first 100 customers, on that day.



**VOLUNTEERS: TONI TERWILLIER, COMMANDER WILLIE BUSH, LINDA BISHOP, PATTI WAY AND HENRY THOMPSON**



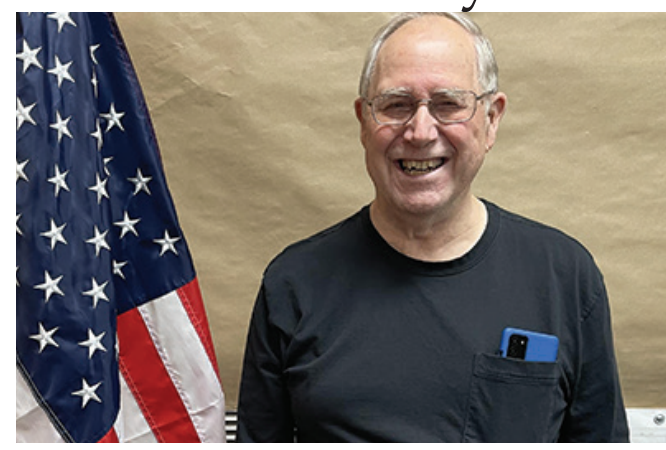
**ARC WORKERS**

## American Red Cross holds Blood Drive

Sons of The American Legion volunteered at the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, January 11. American Red Cross and Sons of The American Legion wants to thank everyone that donated, making it possible to reach their goal.

## Veterans at the Library

The Veterans at the Library held their weekly meeting Monday, January 22, at the Franklin Memorial Library at 9:15 a.m. With Chair Johnny Tapley presiding, there were 49 in attendance. The group welcomed a new veteran to his first meeting. Orrie Frederick King served in the U.S. Navy Aviation from January 20, 1964, to May 20, 1968, and is a Vietnam veteran. He was also stationed at Glynco Naval Air Station in Brunswick.



**KING**

King's highest rank received was E-5. Calendar items that were discussed included the upcoming Veterans Golf Tournament at the Swainsboro Country Club

on Saturday, May 18, the upcoming visit to EGSC by the U.S. Air Force Band (director Lt. Jay Sconyers) on Sunday, March 24, at 3 p.m., Veterans Tail Gating on Saturday, March 23, at EGSC and the addition of two U.S. Flags placed at the Veterans & 1st Responders Park for the 2 Navy Seals lost in the Red Sea this month December 22, at 1:30 pm. During the meeting, Veteran Ron Moore gave some of his experiences as a U.S. Army Airborne Ranger.



**WILLIAMS**

## Williams: VU MLK Black Youth Excellence Victory Award Recipient Team of Quintus Foundation

Quintus Williams is one of six recipients of Emanuel County's 1st Ever MLK Black Youth Excellence Victory Awards. He is a senior at Swainsboro High School. Ms. K. Denise Williams is his mother. Williams is currently on track to graduate with honors from SHS in 2024. He has received multiple college acceptances and scholarship offers from various institutions. Williams also is a member of the class of 2023 at Southeastern Technical College, where he earned honors as a 16-year-old and obtained his nurse aide certification. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA, placing him among the top students in his class. William's success has not been without challenges, and despite some extraordinary trials, his list of

achievements is lengthy. Some of his proudest achievements are being named the 2023-24 first ever Emanuel County African-American trailblazer, being named the first-ever Ga Youth Leader, placing among the top 21 candidates out of 4,000; being published as an author by the America Library of Poetry; winner of the 2023 Region 4 Graphic Design Champion title; finishing second in the 2023 Ga FBLA Client Service State; being an All-Star member of Region 4; was the 2022-2023 FBLA Chapter Member of the Year; was an Ambassador for the EGSC LEAD Society; won the Robins Financial Credit Union Good Grades Program; and won the 2023 Ga FBLA FLC Client Service State Grand Champion

title, as well as the Sr Beta Statesmen Essay champion title. Williams is active in many other organizations including Sr. Beta, FBLA, FFA, 4-H, Student Council, Black History Student Council, National Society of High School Scholars, Citizens Bank Advisory Board, Franklin Memorial Teen Advisory Board, 21st Century Leaders, where he served as president from 2020 to 2023. William's future plans include earning an undergraduate degree in public health studies and ultimately to pursue a doctorate in public administration/health. The rising senior offers his favorite inspirational encouragement to anyone with a dream, "the only person who can prevent you from improving yourself, is you. Never give up!"

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