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The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 165, NO.7 Swainsboro, Georgia • February 14, 2024 ONE DOLLAR

Jury Duty scammers target Georgians

The FBI Atlanta Division is warning the public about a telephone scam claiming you have failed to report to jury duty. During the call, the scammer impersonates a law enforcement officer or officer of the court. The caller claims you failed to report for jury duty and may threaten criminal prosecution or jail time. The scammer tells the victim that he or she can avoid arrest by paying a fine immediately and may request payment information or other personal information. The scammer also may request that the vic-

tim purchase a prepaid card, such as a Green Dot card or gift card, for payment.

The scammer may provide information like titles and badge numbers of legitimate law enforcement officers or court officials, names of federal judges, and courtroom addresses to make the scam appear credible. Scammers may even "spoof" the phone number so that it appears to be from the Court or a government agency when it is not.

If someone receives such a call or e-mail, they should not provide any personal informa-

tion, credit card numbers, prepaid cards, or money. Courts do not call prospective jurors and ask for money or personal identifying information over the telephone. If someone summoned for jury duty fails to appear, that person will receive correspondence by U.S. Mail, not by phone or email.

Here are some tips to avoid becoming the victim of this type of phone scam:

- Always be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls.
- Never give money

(Continued on page 2A)



Photo by Wanda Thompson Scarborough WATKINS

Happy Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is today, Wednesday, February 14, and with it comes all the pink and red merch, sweet treats and extra-special date nights. But remember, sharing some LOVE on Valentine's Day is always the best way to celebrate.

Mason Watkins, age 3, says sharing love is always good. Mason is the daughter of Megan Thompson and Dustin Watkins of Swainsboro.

Filing Activity Notification System (FANS) to benefit Georgia's citizens sees rapid growth

Atlanta, GA – The Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority (GSCCCA), in conjunction with the Superior Court Clerks of Georgia, proudly announces that FANS, a free, consumer-friendly process that notifies property owners any time filings are made related to their registered property, recently celebrated its first anniversary. More than 30,000 individuals have registered to receive notifications in an effort to combat real estate deed fraud. FANS will also notify of filing activity related to personal property, liens and paid filings.

Citizens can simply register here https://fans.gsccca.org/_ with an email address or telephone number. After submitting a name, the user will receive an email and/or text notification whenever

a filing related to that name is filed in the selected records. Users may also register property addresses.

The Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority was created by an act of the Georgia General Assembly in 1993. The purpose of the GSCCCA is to provide a cooperative for the development, acquisition, and distribution of record management systems, information, services, supplies, and materials for Superior Court Clerks and Georgia's citizens, while providing cost savings to local government and the state of Georgia.

If you would like more information, please contact the Clerks' Authority at 800.304.5174 or help.desk@gsccca.org or the Emanuel County Clerk of Court office at 478.237.5630.

Are your political signs on the right of way?

According to Ga. Code § 32-6-51, placing political signs on the right of way of public roads is illegal.

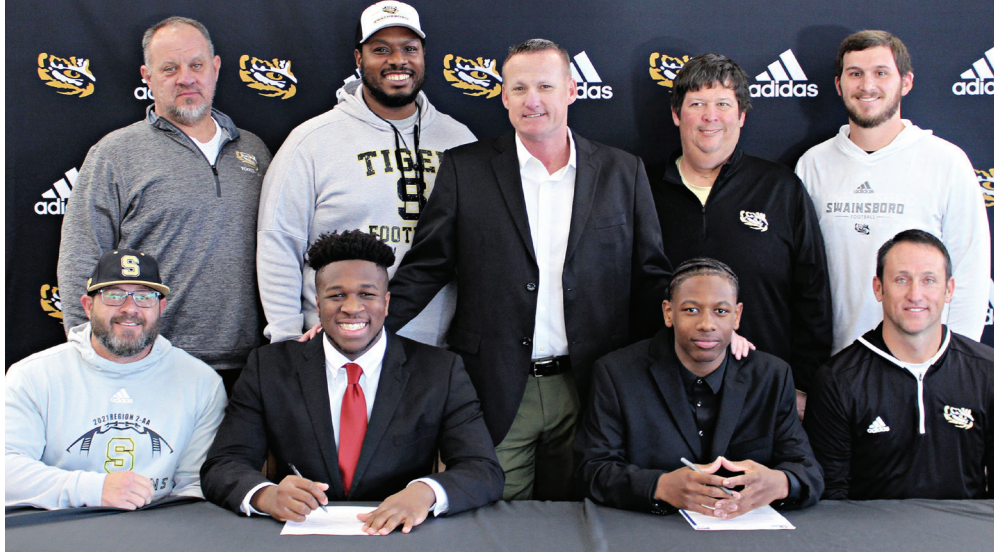
(a)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, place, or maintain within the dedicated right of way of any public road any sign, signal, or other device except as authorized by this subsection or subsection (d) of this Code section or as required or authorized by Code Section 32-6-50 or any other law.

(c) Any sign, signal, device, or other structure erected, placed, or maintained on the dedicated right of way of any public road in violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section or in violation of any ordinance adopted pursuant to sub-

section (a) of this Code section is declared to be a public nuisance, and the officials having jurisdiction of the public road affected may remove or direct the removal of the same.

(e) Each sign erected, placed, or maintained in violation of paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of

this Code section shall constitute a separate offense. (f) Any person who violates paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be punished the same as for littering under Code Section 16-7-43. Any person who violates subsection (b) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.



STEWARD (SEATED SECOND FROM LEFT) AND CONEY (SEATED SECOND FROM RIGHT) WITH SHS COACHES



STEWARD AND CONEY WITH THEIR FELLOW SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS

Steward and Coney commit to play college football

Seniors Jerrod Steward and Schuyler Coney signed letters of intent to play college football on National Signing Day, February 7. Steward will make the move to Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, and Coney heads up to St. Andrews University in North Carolina.

These young men have played a part in making history for the Tigers on the football field. This group of seniors won eleven playoff games over their four years, including two trips to the

state championship in 2022 and 2023. That is the most of any class in school history.

Steward played linebacker and fullback and was named Region 2A Division I Defensive Player of the Year. He also earned a spot on the Atlanta Journal-Constitution All-State list. Opposing players knew to watch out for that big number eight, and his stats prove it. He had 145 tackles, one interception, and caused three fumbles. Steward says he is thankful for his

time as a Tiger. "I love the memories that have been made with my fellow players and coaches. They are really more than just a team to me." He is planning to major in business management at GMC.

Coney played wide receiver and cornerback. He was named 2nd Team All-Region Defense, and fans saw number 20 constantly moving on the field. He had 34 tackles, two interceptions, seven pass breakups, and caused one fumble. (Continued on page 2A)

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- Classified Listings.....5C
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Jury Duty scammers...

(From front page) whom you don't have • Trust your or personal informa- ties and did not initi- instincts: if an tion to someone with ate contact. unknown caller pres-

ures you, or says appropriate law enforcement agency or court officials.

Anybody receiving a jury duty/failure to appear scam phone call should report it,

with a description of the caller and any available caller ID information, to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

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.

Steward and Coney...

(From front page) On the offensive side, he had four receptions for 114 yards and two touchdowns this season. As for why he chose St. Andrews, Coney says, "I appreciate the opportunity they gave me, and I am looking forward to exploring other places."

Steward and Coney were joined in the media center by a host of family and Tiger supporters to celebrate this important milestone. Present for Steward were his grandmothers, Monica Boynton and Tamara Steward, his father, Jerrod Steward, Sr., his great-grandmother, Martha Steward, and many extended family members. Supporting Coney were his mother, Marnicia Freeman;

his brother, Damien Freeman; his sisters, Ke'Myshia and Kimora Freeman; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. Assistant Coaches David Ray Ashley Hooks, Chase Giddens, Morgan Jersey, Dwight Smith, Pippin Davis, and fellow football players were present to show their support. Also in attendance were SHS Principal Brandon Andrews, Assistant Principal Lindsey Sconyers, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Gray Mendietta, SHS faculty members, and members of the community.

Head Coach Scott Roberts is proud of these young men and shares, "We are excited for the opportunities Jerrod and Schuyler have earned to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. They have done a great job

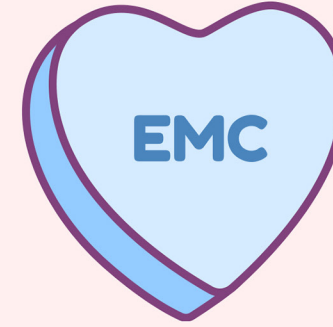
of representing this school, this program, and this community throughout their careers here."

C&G Car Care to issue scholarship

Exciting news for surrounding high school Seniors! C & G Car Care will be issuing a scholarship to one SHS, DEA, or ECI Senior. Student must be attending a Technical College to obtain a degree in a trade program. If this applies to you, or your Senior, please have them see their counselor for applications and details. Application deadline will be February 29. Contact C&G if you have any questions at 223 Hwy 56. N, Swainsboro; (478) 237-8762; or candgcarcare@gmail.com.

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Veterans hear from City Councilmen Sconyers and Stafford

The Veterans at the Library held their weekly meeting Monday, February 12, at the Franklin Memorial Library at 9:15 a.m. With Chair John Tapley presiding, there were 40 in attendance with one new veteran welcomed. Veteran Bobby Lamar Williams served in the U.S. Army from 1979 to 1985. He served with the 53rd Medical Battalion/197th Transportation. Williams was stationed at Fort Benning and Kaiserslautern, Germany. His highest rank earned was E-4. Chairman Tapley then called on two Swainsboro City Councilmen, veteran Julian Sconyers and Johnny Ray Stafford

to update what is happening in the City of Swainsboro. They discussed the new water tower, Swainsboro Golf Course, renovating Swainsboro City Hall,

maintenance of the city's parks, Sunday Alcohol sales and the police vehicles. Chair Johnny invited them back again after such an informative session.



WILLIAMS



SCONYERS AND STAFFORD



CHAIR TAPLEY, DIRECTOR LAWSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BROWN AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR HUDSON

Lawson speaks to Veterans at the Library

The Veterans at the Library held their weekly meeting Monday, February 2, at the Franklin Memorial Library at 9:15 a.m. Chairman Johnny Tapley presided over the meeting of 45 attendees. During the meeting, Emanuel County Recreation Director Jerry Lawson talked about the Emanuel County Recreation Department. Lawson said he first joined the department in 1978, working for Director Billy Carmichael, Woody

Nasworthy and Ronnie Womack. For the last ten years, Lawson has been working with Director Tony Mangieri who continued what they originally started. Lawson then talked about the grants that have been awarded to the Emanuel County Commission and the projects that would be taking place this year and next year, including ballfields, gym, and the Olympic size swimming pool. He also talked about programs offered and participants that they

had the previous year in each one. Lawson then talked about some of the programs they were wanting to add like kick ball, senior Olympics and pickleball. He then turned the program over to Jimbo Brown and Mitchell Hudson who talked about rules and regulations of the game of pickleball and they passed around the paddles and balls for demonstration purposes. Hudson is the assistant director and Brown is in charge of programs.

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Tera Hooks Claxton, 48

Mrs. Tera Hooks Claxton, 48, of Kite, passed away Saturday, February 10, 2024, at Doctors Hospital in Augusta. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 13, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Rev. Lamar Kersey officiating. Interment followed in Kersey Cemetery. The family received friends Monday, February 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Kyle Hooks, Adam Hooks, Chris Mimbs, Wesley Smisson, Jason Martin and Ron Claxton.

Tera was born August 18, 1975, in Swainsboro, to Alton and Glynda Hooks. She graduated from Johnson County High School and Southeastern Technical College as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Tera loved spending time with her family and friends. She was an avid fan of the Johnson County Trojans and Georgia Bulldogs. Tera religiously watched daytime talk shows and enjoyed heated blankets and warm socks. Her favorite food sharing



CLAXTON

partner was her couch buddy Bob (her pet dog). Tera enjoyed karaoke singing classic country songs even though she was tone deaf. She cared for and looked after everyone more than she did herself. Tera will truly be missed by her family and friends. Mrs. Claxton is preceded in death by her mother.

Mrs. Claxton is survived by her father; husband, Clifford Claxton, III; son, Wade (Cheyenne) Claxton of Kite; daughter, Jada Claxton of Kite; brother, Rock (Cassie) Hooks of Kite; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Ruth Yvonne "Von" Price, 77

Mrs. Ruth Yvonne "Von" Price, 77, of Swainsboro, passed away, Saturday, February 10, 2024, at AU Medical Center in Augusta. Funeral Services were held Tuesday, February 13, at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Rev. Morris Brantley officiating assisted by Randy Buxton at graveside. Interment followed in Swainsboro City Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday, February 13, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Matthew Rogers, Ryan Price, Ashley Hooks, John Buxton, Brent Herndon and Junior Johnson.

Mrs. Price was born November 4, 1946, in Dublin, to the late Pershing Jutt Lampp and Annie Ruth Young Lampp. Von was always known for her contagious smile and bubbly personality. Her jovial laugh and welcoming presence brightened any room. Von had a way to make everyone feel special and never met a stranger. She was known affectionately as "Miss Von" for many years when she worked at Powell Smith Hospital, later known as Smith Clinic. Once Von married Julian, she became a stay-at-home mom. After his death, she began keeping children in her home and instantly became, "Granny Von" to many. Von obtained her LPN degree and resumed her passion for working in the medical field. She enjoyed spending time and traveling, especially to the mountains with her family and friends. Von also looked forward to her many outings with



PRICE

her sister, Patsy. Upon retiring from her career, she spent the last several years enjoying her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many friends. A favorite memory for all that she leaves behind is her warm, smacking kisses. Von will never be forgotten. Mrs. Price is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Julian Paul Price, Sr.; and companion, Lynn Johnson.

Mrs. Price is survived by her sons, J.P. (Kelly) Price of Bogart and Joe (Teri) Price of Swainsboro; daughters, Ashley (Joey) Hood of Kite, Julie (Tommy) Rogers of Statesboro and Joan Lawson of Swainsboro; brother, Delton (Charlyne) Lampp of Dublin; sister, Patsy Johnson of Kite; grandchildren, Taylor Hood, Juliana Hood, Grady Price, Sam Price, Ryan (Kim) Price, Jennifer (Shay) Kelly, Patrick (Lauren) Price, Marla (Ashley) Hooks, Alecia (Brad) Wiggins, Matthew (Lauren) Rogers, Jordan Lawson and Madison Lawson; great-grandchildren, Ayden, Addie, Alivia Jo, Brantley, Charley, Tyler, Zella, Ella Jo, Broxton, Nora, Erin, Tess, William and Zander; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Paul Coleman, 77

Mr. Paul Coleman, 77, of Meeks, passed away Monday, February 5, 2024, in the company of his loving family. Funeral service was held Wednesday, February 7, at 2 p.m. at Corinth Church. Interment followed at Lamb Cemetery. The family received friends Tuesday, February 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were "Little" William James, Ty Powell, Mack Waller, Trey Powell, Jake Jackson and Vic Steptoe. Honorary pallbearers were Hugh Foskey, Phil Foskey, Billy James, Kenny Powell, Sonny Norris, Howard Riner, Joe Jackson, Duaine Mimbs, Joe Mimbs, James Grant and Trai Johnson.

Mr. Coleman was born October 7, 1946, the fifth of ten children, to the late Archie Bud Coleman and Ruby Lee Grant Coleman. He was reared in the pines of Meeks and lived there his entire life. As a young man, Paul dipped turpentine, and then became a logger for Bennie V. Powell. He moved into heavy equipment operation while building homes with Bill English. Paul became a crane operator and superintendent with Bell Construction of Brentwood, TN. He retired from the environmental cleanup industry where he was heavily involved in soil remediation, and LFG Gas Systems installation. In retirement, Paul enjoyed gardening, canning, and fishing. He especially loved growing cane and cooking it down to make syrup. Paul enjoyed afternoon visits with family and friends. Mr. Coleman is preceded in death by his parents; daughters, Janet Lee Coleman and Jeanie Sue Coleman; brothers, Vertis Coleman,



COLEMAN

Curtis Coleman, David Coleman and Harold Coleman; sisters, Myrtis Brinson and Judy Cook; grandson, Thomas Lee Coleman; and daughter-in-law, Kimberly Cowart Coleman.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia Coleman of Meeks; sons, Verlon Coleman and Vince (Kristi) Coleman, both of Meeks; daughter, Wendy (Stephen) Coker of Twin City; stepsons, Sammy Henry and Jessie Henry, both of Swainsboro; brothers, Donald Coleman and Bobby Gary (Denise) Lewis, both of Swainsboro; sister, Angie Coleman of Cochran; grandchildren, Allison Coleman of Watkins, CO, Alexis (Mason) Henry of Garfield, Caitlan (Gordon) Coleman-Nail of Atlanta, Hollan Coleman of Meeks, Jacob Grimes of Swainsboro and Aaralyn Grimes of Twin City; great-grandchild, Marlee Grace Johnson of Stillmore; several nieces, nephews and a multitude of friends.

The family wishes to thank Solace Hospice of Vidalia for their professionalism and kindness that they extended to the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to: Corinth Church, c/o Madison Foskey, 451 Foskey Road, Adrian, GA 31002.

Chapman Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Virginia Myers, 74

Mrs. Virginia Myers, age 74, passed away Saturday, February 3, 2024. Funeral service was held Saturday, February 10, at 1 p.m. at Mosley's Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Bennie Brinson officiating.



MYERS

alone. It's all part of the master plan, a step on the road to home. When you are lonely and sick at heart, go to the friends we know. Laugh at all the things we used to do. *Miss me, but let me go.*

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

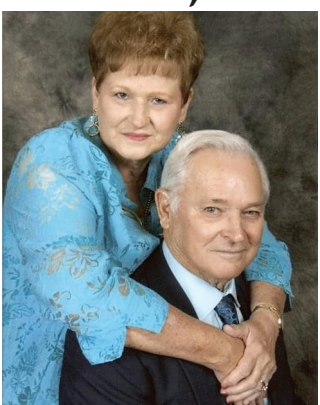
Miss me, but let me go
When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me, I want no rites in a gloom filled room. Why cry for a soul set free? Miss me a little, but not for long and not with your head bowed low. Remember the love that once we shared *Miss me, but let me go.* For this is a journey we all must take, and each must go

Vendora Lanier Cobb, 86

Mrs. Vendora Lanier Cobb, age 86, died along with her husband, Perry Cobb Jr., on Monday, February 5, 2024, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. The family received visitors on Wednesday, February 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Statesboro. Funeral services were held Thursday, February 8, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home with Elder Keith Hamilton officiating, assisted by Elder Randy Waters. Mr. and Mrs. Cobb were entombed in the mausoleum at Bulloch Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers were Lannie Lanier, nephews and great nephews. Honorary pallbearers were the members of the class of 1955 of Portal High School.

Mrs. Cobb was born in Portal and was a 1955 graduate of Portal High School. Following her graduation, she attended Georgia Southern College, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics. Vendora began her career with Screven County Extension office where she was employed for 25 years and then to Emanuel County Extension office, where she retired. Vendora and Perry married in 1959



COBB

and they spent their life together on the family farm. Their greatest joy was being together, especially enjoying going out to restaurants each meal. She loved her nieces and nephews, genealogy and poodles. Mrs. Cobb is preceded in death by her parents, John D. Lanier, Jr. and Vera Mae DeLoach Lanier.

Surviving are her two sisters, Runette Dickerson of Portal and Ruth Daughtry of Statesboro; brother and sister-in-law, John D. Lanier, III "Johnny" and Janice Ellis Lanier of Portal; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to: Humane Society of Statesboro and Bulloch County, P.O. Box 581, Statesboro, Georgia 30459.

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

Richard Perry Cobb, Jr., 90

Mr. Richard Perry Cobb, Jr., age 90, died along with his wife, Vendora Cobb, on Monday, February 5, 2024, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Funeral services were Thursday, February 8, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home with Elder Keith Hamilton officiating, assisted by Elder Randy Waters. The family received visitors on Wednesday, February 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Statesboro. Mr. and Mrs. Cobb were entombed in the mausoleum at Bulloch Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers were nephews and great-nephews. Perry was born in Metter and graduated from Metter High School in 1951. Following his graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served for four years.

Following his discharge, Perry returned to Candler County and married Vendora Lanier in 1959. They made their home on the family farm in Candler County,

where Perry was a farmer until his retirement. During his retirement, Perry maintained the Hendricks and Welsh



COBB

Cemetery. He adopted poodles, and fed any dog that came up to his house. Mr. Cobb is preceded in death by his parents, Richard Perry Cobb, Sr. and Ruth Hendricks Cobb; three siblings, Jo Cochran, Britt Cobb and Ruth Greene; a niece and three nephews; one brother and sister-in-law, Berrien and June Cobb of Smyrna; one sister, Lucille Bishop Crouch of Albany; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and Vendora's family members.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to: Humane Society of Statesboro and Bulloch County, P.O. Box 581, Statesboro, Georgia 30459.

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

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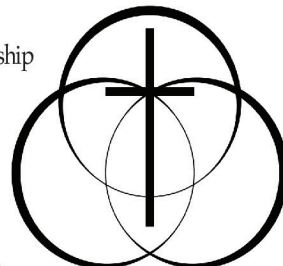
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6:00 PM - Evening Worship

Wednesday Night

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



PLEASE JOIN US!

Editorials Columns

Your vote count?

If you are trying to keep up with the national news right now, it may seem like this country of ours is sort of like that unguided robot vacuum cleaner. You know, the one that slowly moves around the room bumping into everything, making a lot of noise, and stirring up dust before it backs up and heads off in another direction for another collision. It's a little scary to consider that analogy, and maybe it's a little extreme, but most recent surveys show that nearly 70% of the people in the United States say they are not confident about the direction that this country is headed. You have to ask, who's doing the driving and how did we get to this point? Those are scary thoughts. While polling

questions can be structured to slant the results, the bottom-line takeaway from a sampling of favorability surveys since January 15, 2024, is that a big chunk of the 162 million registered voters are not at all inspired or excited about voting for either one of the two likely candidates running for President. Between 55 to 65 percent of surveyed registered voters say they would not be satisfied with either Biden or Trump as President for another four years. The answer to how we got here is found, in part, by looking at the evolution and the political power of the two major parties: Democrat and Republican. Those two parties started out as the Federalist party (now Republican) and the

Democratic-Republican party (now Democrat). When General George Washington decided he would not serve a third term as President, he made no secret of his greatest fear for the new nation. It wasn't domestic terrorism, and it sure wasn't climate change. Washington forcefully cautioned against the threat of the power and influence of political parties. In the election of 1796, that threat took shape as those two cabals dug in and immediately started fighting and regimenting ideology. Two hundred and twenty-eight years later, after the 12th Amendment and numerous electoral readjustments and interpretive judicial battles, this country still struggles with exactly how it elects

its national leaders. As far as the Democrat and Republican party officials are concerned, they consider it their right and responsibility to select their "favored candidate" and anoint him or her as the party "flag bearer", and they, along with the major "super-donors" of campaign contributors, determine who should be our next President, Vice President, Senators, and Representatives. This is done with an eye toward who is most likely to please electors rather than who is most qualified to serve. So much for transparency and the public's right to choose. We have only to look at the Republican Primaries now going on for the nominee for President to see the failings of what this system

Charles Schwabe



has become. After only two state primaries, the National Republican Conference has all but closed the nominating process, pre-emptively making its choice and denying all other candidates and all other state primaries any opportunity to have a fair and unfettered voice in the race. In a time when the list of crisis situations faced by this country calls desperately for the very best leadership we can find, we are instead offered candidates for the highest office in the land that are compromised,

physically challenged and simply not competent. Unfortunately, like so many other things in Washington, D.C. the relatively simple and straight-forward concept of running for office and determining a winner has now become one more thing with the same appeal as watching sausage being made. General Washington, sir, once again you did not tell a lie. You were correct in your prediction, and our most important right, the right to a vote and a voice is at stake.

Some random thoughts on some random subjects

How's this for unbridled hypocrisy? Fani Willis, who is prosecuting Donald Trump and others for election fraud, said when running for the job as Fulton County district attorney that she would not date any of her subordinates. According to video footage first reported by the Washington Free Beacon, Willis said on the "The Patricia Crayton Show" in April 2020, "I will certainly not be choosing to date people that work under me," adding, "I think that what citizens are really, really concerned about is if you chose to have inappropriate contact with employees. There's nothing I can

say on it other than that it is distracting, it is certainly inappropriate for the No. 1 law officer in this state, and it really, really saddens me." If I'm not mistaken, isn't she currently canoodling with her underqualified, overpaid assistant, Nathan Wade? I wonder how she will justify this latest revelation. Play the race card again?

A favorite target of the media is the Georgia Department of Corrections. That is where a lot of really bad people are housed and guarded by not enough folks paid not enough money, given the risks they face daily. Much of what has been

reported are situations that occurred in the past under different management. I have confidence the current commissioner Tyrone Oliver is the right man for the job. I served as a member of the State Board of Juvenile Justice when he came on board as our commissioner in 2019. He is an excellent, unflappable manager who will make as much of a positive difference as can be made in that difficult and dangerous environment. Wait and see.

Sadly, one of the shining stars of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games has left us. Banker Jim Mathis was a major player in bringing the Olympic rowing and

canoe/kayak venue to Gainesville. It was a huge success during the games, and it still is. Today, the site is known as Lake Lanier Olympic Park, one of the few remaining sports venues from the 1996 Games. A lot of people in Gainesville deserve credit, but none more than the low-key Jim Mathis. He will be missed.

Watching Joe Biden react to a special counsel report on his handling of classified documents in his news conference was like watching a slow train wreck. He sought to assure us of his mental acuity after it was alluded to in the report and then in talking about the Gaza conflict, Biden referred to the president of Egypt as the president of Mexico. Donald Trump, on the other hand, says his GOP rival, Nikki Haley, was in charge of Capitol security when a mob of his supporters stormed the building. He meant then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Trump also says Biden could lead us into "World War II." That war was over 90 years ago. And these are

Dick Yarbrough



our only two choices for president? . . .

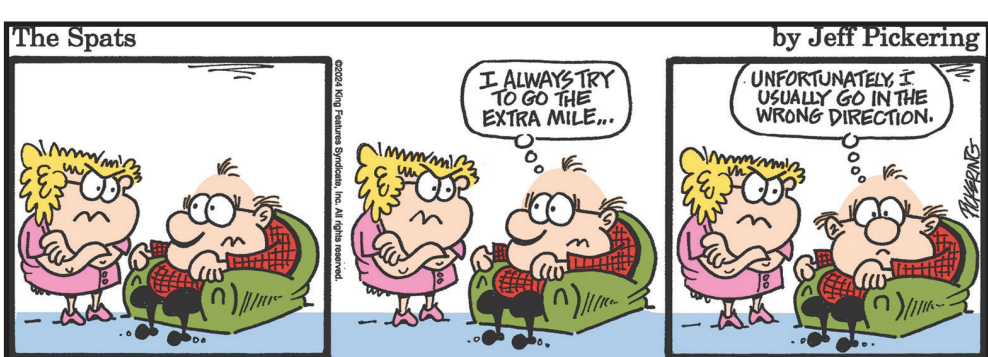
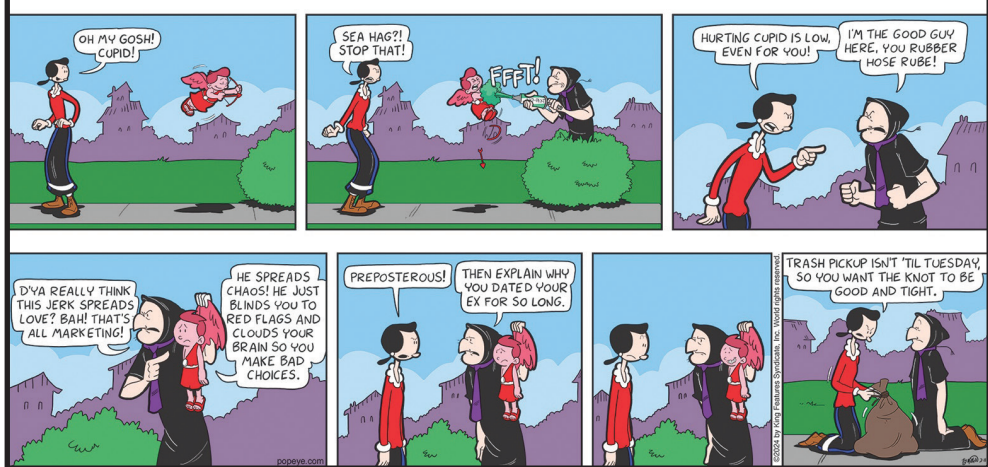
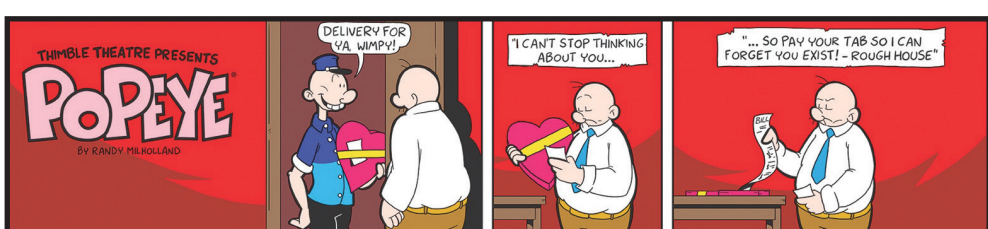
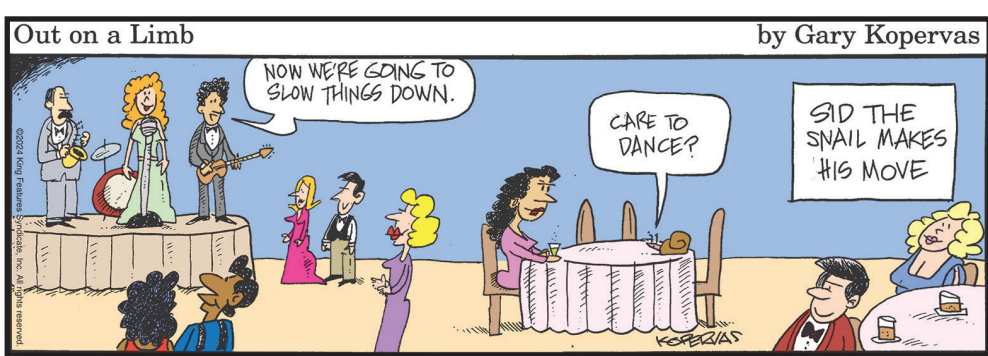
Jennifer Crumbley, the mother of the teenager who killed four students at an Oxford, Michigan, high school in 2021, was found guilty last week of four counts of involuntary manslaughter. The prosecution argued she was responsible for the deaths because she was "grossly negligent" in giving a gun to her 15-year-old son and failing to get him proper mental health treatment despite obvious signs. Crumbley's defense attorney argued, "Can every parent really be responsible for everything their children do, especially when it's not foreseeable?" Absolutely, including not giving a gun to an unstable kid who is 15.

Here we go again. Georgia quarterback Carson Beck is reported to have recently purchased a \$300,000 Lamborghini.

I am told it will go from zero to 100 mph in 7.2 seconds. I did not need to know that. Our student-athletes at UGA seem to fare much better on the gridiron than when roaring around the streets of Athens.

Finally, this just in: Kandiss Taylor, a public-school counselor in Baxley, who garnered a whopping 3.4% of the vote in the GOP primary for governor against Brian Kemp in 2022 -- Final vote Kemp, 885,626. Taylor, 41,219 -- still refuses to concede two years later. She says the election was rigged. Taylor's campaign slogan was "Jesus, Guns and Babies." I suspect Jesus would just as soon that Taylor had not gotten him mixed up in all this, particularly when you throw his name around and still can't get but 3 percent of the vote.

Editorial Cartoons



The old barn

The old barn was empty now. The mules, plows and farming implements were long gone. But the feeble, old man sometimes enjoyed climbing up the well-worn steps into the loft and falling asleep on the warm, dry, peanut hay. The old man and the barn seemed to have so much in common because they were now without purpose. His children were adults and had moved up North because they couldn't make a living farming like their daddy had once done then they were children. And sadly, his devoted wife had died from breast cancer the past year. The old man and the

Ronnie Johnson



fading, red barn were all alone, only remembered relics from the past. On the soft, warm, hay, memories from the past came flooding back into his head which as now completely white with grey hair. In his heart, he was aware that nothing stays the same and time rushes on like a mighty river. But in the loft of the barn, he dreamed he could still hear the raindrops on the old homeplace tin roof. After midnight, and he could still feel the love that he felt for his family to be timeless and eternal, time could never take it away. He noticed the slim

spears of light coming through the ceiling of the old barn and he thought about the times that his cupboard was bare, but God always made a way. God seemed to honor his needs and he found out he could do without his wants. He sensed the world was more willing to love thy neighbor and to live morally, honoring the ten commandments, than the lifestyle of greed and selfishness that is practiced today. The old man ambled back home on his walking cane. His house cat met him, brushing against his faded overalls affectionately.



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.

Voices United to hold 31st Choir Anniversary

The 31st Annual Choir Anniversary for Voices United will be Sunday, Feb. 25 at 3:30 p.m. at St. James Baptist Church. Special guests will be Burke County High School Gospel Choir. Also featured will be St. James Church Choir, UCFJC, MLK Community Choir, The Merrill Sisters, and The Anointed Tribe of Judah.

President and Founder is Matt Howard and Director is Vernessa Pierce.

The public is invited.

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 bmckenzie@amcinc.net

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Drive Thru Vaccine Event

Covid



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February 22, 2024
4pm to 6pm
 All ages can be vaccinated!
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Flu

Swainsboro Food Pantry distribution

Swainsboro St. Philip Center of Hope Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, February 15, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

New Hope World Outreach Black History Program

New Hope World Outreach, Inc. will have its annual Black History Program themed "We Have Come This Far By Faith" on Sunday, February 18, at 3 p.m. Featured speaker will be Ms. Amber Street, daughter of Gwendolyn Street and Clayton Brown of Swainsboro. She has one son, August Street. Ms. Street holds a Master of Education from the University of West Georgia and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Georgia State University. She has been an educator for ten years and currently teaches at Swainsboro Elementary School. Ms. Street is also Swainsboro Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Street attributes her roots of faith as being planted by her



STREET family, especially her grandmother, the late Martha Street of Lester Grove Baptist Church and her grandfather, the late Earl Street of St. Paul AME. She humbly aspires to use the gifts and talents blessed upon her to uplift the youth and inspire others toward futures full of purpose and benevolence. Please join us in this celebration at New Hope where the pastor is Pastor Jeanette H. Harden.

EMC Scholarship available

Applications are being accepted for the Emanuel Medical Center Auxiliary Group Scholarship. This scholarship is available for all senior students in Emanuel County who are interested in a career in healthcare. For more information or questions, call 478.289.1176 or e-mail avery.berry@emanuelmedical.org

STC Foundation is accepting scholarship applications

Southeastern Technical College (STC) Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for Summer and Fall semesters. The deadlines to apply are:

- Thursday, April 18, 2024 for Summer Semester
- Thursday, July 25, 2024 for Fall Semester

Students who complete one application will be considered for all scholarships the student is qualified to receive. The scholarship application and a full listing of all scholarships available can be found on the Southeastern Technical College website at <https://www.southeasterntech.edu/foundation/>.

Scholarship packets, including the application, acceptance letter/proof of registration, letters of reference, and transcript(s), must be received by the deadlines listed above.

Completed scholarship packets can be mailed or hand delivered to: Blythe Wilcox, Executive Director for Institutional Advancement, Southeastern Technical College, 3001 East First Street, Room 127, Vidalia, GA 30474.

For more information on Southeastern Technical College, visit www.southeasterntech.edu or call (912) 538-3147.

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED TRAILER

The following trailer has been deemed abandoned by the State of Georgia and filed with the Emanuel County Tax Commissioners Office. Trailer will be sold to the highest bidder on the date below. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope at location of sale. Offer submission will end at 5:00pm. All participants will be contacted with results. The public sale will be held at

Twin City Precision Metals

The date and time of the sale will be April 12, 2024 between 9:00am-5pm. The address of location is 63 GA Highway 192 N. Twin City, GA 30471 (Behind Twin City Hardware). This notice is given in pursuant to Georgia Law. 2013 Reitnour 53'

ODK51810-T6-AT Curtain Side Trailer

Greater St James to hold Music, Ministry and Me program

Greater St James Missionary Baptist Church, located in Swainsboro, will hold a Music, Ministry and Me program on Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m. Friday, followed by Session I at 6:30 p.m. Saturday's program will begin at 9 a.m. A Pastor's Breakfast, 'Let's Talk about It', will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 10 a.m.; Session II, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Session III, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.



CARTER Me is an exciting look at music in churches. This uplifting gathering will be a look at what we do, why we do, and how we worship and present worship during services. It will include a mixture of singing praising, pedagogical insight and spiritual direction. Everyone is invited to join in this free two day excursion.

Facilitator for the program will be Levita Carter. Carter is a musician, inspirational/motivational speaker, content creator, teacher, conductor and performer. Music, Ministry and

Fresh Fire Conference 2024: Moving forward

New Hope World Outreach, Inc.'s Fresh Fire Conference of 211 Lee Street, Swainsboro will commence on February 19-20, 2024, at 7 p.m. nightly. The guest pastor for the conference will be none other than Apostle Dr. Debra A. Allen, founder and senior pastor of New Hope World Outreach, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL.



DR. ALLEN mental in establishing the University of Fort Lauderdale. She is the CEO of Destiny University where she provides study for those who seek education about ministry. Her passion also is grant writing and she has used this gift to launch many programs. Apostle Dr. Allen brings a wealth of knowledge as a woman of God. She possesses many spiritual gifts and brings revelation wherever she goes. Dr. Allen is a well sought after speaker who is anointed, prophetic and believes in the power of prayer. You are cordially invited to this blessed event.

Please join us in this celebration at New Hope where the pastor is Pastor Jeanette H. Harden.



TAPLEY AND FOREST-BLADE EMPLOYEE PAM AKRIDGE

Tapley wins Super Bowl contest

This year's winner of The Forest-Blade's annual Big Game Contest is Andy Tapley. For a chance at winning a \$100 prize, participants were to predict the winner of this year's Super Bowl game. The first tie breaker was total points scored between both teams, and the second tie breaker was the quarter with most points scored. Tapley predicted the Kansas City Chiefs as this year's Super Bowl winner. His answer for total points scored (combined) was 45, which was the closest number to the 47 points scored in Sunday's game.

Kam can

by HAROLD L. SCOTT

Kameron Brown Perry is a Kindergarten student at Swainsboro Primary School. Kam is different from your typical student. Kam was born with Spina Bifida. Spina Bifida is a disease of the spinal cord that leaves Kam without full use of his legs. Kam does not have full use of his lower body. He uses a wheelchair and crutches to assist with his mobility. This condition has limited Kam's ability to move, but it has not limited his desire and will to live an everyday life. Kam has just completed his first year on the school's wrestling team.

Kam's journey began in 2017. Kam's mother, Ms. Sherree Brown, was pregnant and went to a doctor's visit where she would find out her baby's gender. She left the visit with the devastating news that would alter her pregnancy and life. Ms. Brown was told her unborn baby had Spina Bifida. Ms. Brown said, "My initial reaction after hearing that my baby would have SB came as an absolute SHOCK and my heart was shattered." She wondered if it was something she did. Ms. Brown didn't know about Spina Bifida and immediately started researching to educate herself. She was somewhat relieved to find out there was nothing she did to contribute to the condition.

After that diagnosis, both mother and baby had to be monitored closely. Ms. Brown had to visit specialists in Statesboro and Savannah. During her research, she found out about a procedure called in-utero surgery. This surgery occurs while the baby is in the womb. It would not cure the Spina Bifida, but it could eliminate future complications. The surgery was risky, but Ms. Brown felt it was worth it. The surgery was performed at the University of North Carolina Medical Center. Ms. Brown spent three months in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and the surgery was successfully performed during her 24th week of pregnancy. Ms. Brown said she started getting homesick, and the doctors would only allow her to come home if she agreed to go to Savannah for weekly checkups.

After several weekly trips to Savannah, Kam was born on Nov. 6, 2017. He was born at 33 weeks and weighed 3 pounds and 14 ounces. On Thanksgiving Day 2017, they were allowed to go home. "Kam was actually a good baby and always had a big smile on his face no matter what adversity he had to face," Ms. Brown said. "The first years were very hard because I didn't have the support system like most people, but it got better over time."

Kam has surpassed many of the milestones

set for him. He attended speech therapy and finished ahead of time. Kam's mother said all the things they said he couldn't do, he is doing. Kam doesn't wear glasses. His vision is 20/20. Kam continues to visit neurologists, neurosurgeons, urologists, and other specialists in Savannah. He also has weekly physical therapy.

Kam began Kindergarten this year. One day after school, Kam came home with a brochure about wrestling. He said he wanted to wrestle. His mother asked him if he thought he could do it. Kam replied yes, and that was all she needed to hear. Without hesitation, she went to the school to sign him up. Ms. Brown had always taught Kam he could do whatever he wanted and that the word "can't" was not part of his vocabulary.

Ms. Brown says everything went great with wrestling. The coaches and all the other wrestlers accepted Kam and treated him no differently than others. The coaches were great and worked with Kam one-on-one to teach him how to wrestle. Kam was excited and was ready to attend every practice and match. He didn't miss a practice and only had to miss one match. It took Kam only a short time to adjust and learn wrestling techniques. Kam says one of his favorite moves he likes doing is the half nelson. The first year of wrestling was both challenging and rewarding. Kam says he enjoys wrestling and wants to continue and wrestle with the big boys one day. Kam enjoys the competition and says he wants to

play football next year. Although he is small, Kam's upper body is developed. I asked him if he lifted weights because of his solid, sturdy frame. His mother says he does push-ups and has a lot of natural strength. That strength is enhanced by not having full use of his lower body. It helps him maneuver and undoubtedly is an asset in wrestling.

Kam enjoys school. He likes learning the alphabet and writing. He is currently learning his numbers and working on sight words. Kam is very articulate and well-spoken. He speaks clearly and is easy to understand. Kam is very respectful. He constantly says sir and ma'am. Kam was recently presented with the Character Kid award by his school. He said it was for perseverance.

No doubt Kam and his mother have persevered through a lot. Ms. Brown has overcome several challenges during her pregnancy and after the birth of her son. Those challenges will not end soon, but they are ready. Ms. Brown and Kam can serve as motivation and inspiration for all of us. Their journey can also assist and encourage other families dealing with a child with disabilities. Ms. Brown says she is always willing to help others deal with some of the things she has already experienced. I asked Ms. Brown if she could share a word of advice with other parents, what would it be? "The advice I would share with parents who have a child with a disability would be to keep your head up and put GOD first. He's forever my

son and a way maker and OUR miracle worker." Kam is very motivated and determined. His mother has done an excellent job caring for and nurturing him without limiting his mind or body. It is obvious how much she loves him, and he loves her. Ms. Brown also has a 10-year-old daughter named Mackenzie Perry. Ms. Brown says Mackenzie willfully helps her and Kam. I have no doubt that Kam will be wrestling with the big boys one day. Kam will be doing many other things as well. Kam will do whatever he chooses, and his mother will be there supporting Kam Can.

Spina bifida is a condition that occurs when the spine and spinal cord don't form properly. It's a type of neural tube defect. The neural tube is the structure in a developing embryo that later becomes the baby's brain and spinal cord and the tissues that enclose them. Each year, about 1,427 babies are born with spina bifida, or 1 in every 2,758 births.

Typically, the neural tube forms early in pregnancy and closes by the 28th day after conception. In babies with spina bifida, a portion of the neural tube doesn't close all the way. This affects the spinal cord and bones of the spine.

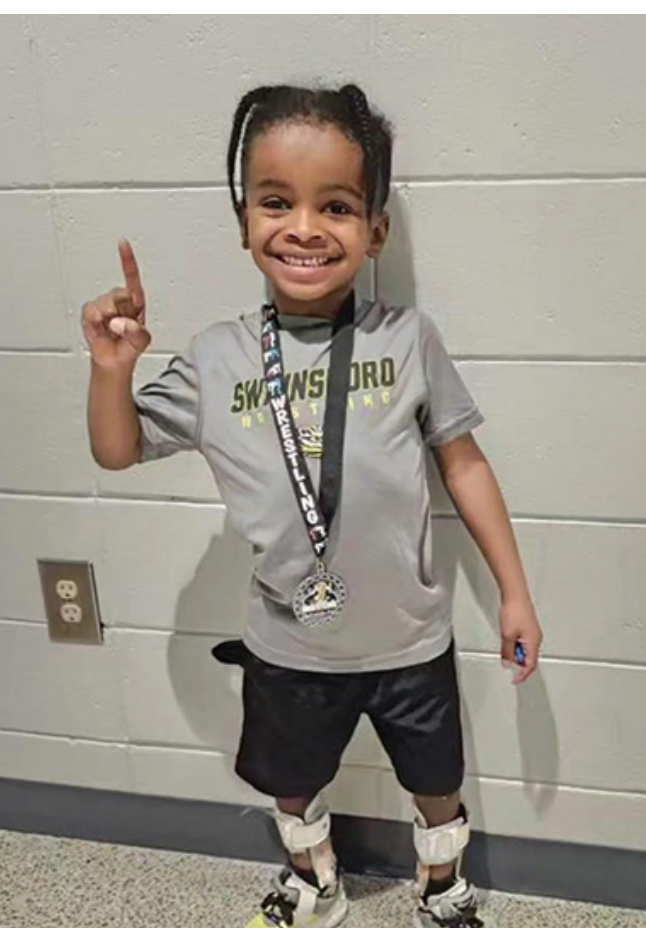
Spina bifida can range from being mild to causing serious disabilities. Symptoms depend on where on the spine the opening is located and how big it is. Symptoms also depend on whether the spinal cord and nerves are involved. When necessary, early treatment for spina bifida involves surgery. However, surgery doesn't always completely restore lost function.



KAM WITH HIS MOM



KAM WITH HIS SISTER



KAM



KAM'S WRESTLING TEAM AND COACHES

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MISS ECI L-R: DHAHAMI SALGADO-3RD RUNNER UP, HALLI KATE JOHNSON-1ST RUNNER UP, SMITH WILLOUGHBY-MISS ECI, MATTI COCHRAN-2ND RUNNER UP, ANNISTON O'DELL-4TH RUNNER UP



JR MISS ECI L-R: MARY ELLA WALDEN-3RD RUNNER UP, HADLEIGH HENRY- 1ST RUNNER UP, CHARLEY MITCHELL-MISS ECI, OLIVIA THIGPEN-2ND RUNNER UP, AND CHANLEE YOUNMANS-4TH RUNNER UP

Willoughby crowned Miss ECI, Mitchell crowned Junior Miss ECI

Emanuel County Institute held their annual pageant on Saturday, January 28. Congratulations Miss ECI, Smith Willoughby. Her court includes 1st runner up, Halli Kate Johnson; 2nd runner up, Matti Cochran; 3rd runner up, Dhahami Salgado; and 4th runner up, Anison O'Dell. The newly crowned Junior Miss ECI is Charley Mitchell. Her court includes 1st runner up, Hadleigh Henry; 2nd runner up, Olivia Thigpen; 3rd runner up, Mary-Ella Walden; and 4th runner up, Chanlee Youmans.



BENNETT AND DURDEN WITH PROCLAMATION



SEEDLING GARDEN MEMBERS WITH THE SMITH FAMILY AND OTHER GUESTS

Seedling Garden Club observes Arbor Day with tree dedication

Arbor Day is designated in Georgia on the third Friday in February. This year it will fall on February 16th. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 as a special day for planting trees. Since then, it has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation. The exact day to celebrate varies across the country depending on temperature and planting season. No matter the day or location, everyone is encouraged to plant trees as a celebration of all the amazing ways trees are vital to the global environment. Trees happen to be the largest plants on the planet. They improve public health and air and water quality, reduce the erosion of valuable topsoil and increase property val-

ues. They increase energy efficiency through shade and provide habitats for wildlife.

The tree planted on the campus of Swainsboro Primary School by the Seedling Garden Club not only helps to provide the many attributes listed above but is a living tribute to Ginny Smith. A member of the Seedling Garden Club and a career teacher at Swainsboro Primary, the tree was dedicated as a lasting memorial to her.

The Seedling Garden Club encourages everyone to plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day.



FIREFIGHTERS WITH UNCLE BIRDIE

Uncle Birdie visits Swainsboro Fire Department

by SHARI WATT
Uncle Birdie, mascot for Keep Emanuel Beautiful, visited the Swainsboro Fire Department to learn about their aluminum can recycling program. For many years, our local firefighters have partnered with The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation to raise money to help burn victims by collecting aluminum cans. The monies raised goes to support medical facilities caring for burn vic-

tims and help with their recovery. It also supports local fire stations in their efforts to educate the public about burn awareness and prevention. Uncle Birdie and Keep Emanuel Beautiful would like to encourage the citizens in our community to support this great recycling program. Instead of throwing your beer cans or soda cans out of your car/truck window and littering our roadsides, drop them off at the Swainsboro Fire

Station. Dropping off is easy to do. The large wire cage is located in the parking lot behind the fire station at 203 North Green Street. By dropping off your aluminum cans, you're helping burn victims, educating the public, and keeping our roadsides cleaner. For more information about the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, go to GFBF.org or contact the Swainsboro Fire Department.

Hickman: Week five Under the Gold Dome

by SEN. BILLY HICKMAN

We have officially completed five weeks of legislative business under the Gold Dome, and it's hard to believe that we are nearly halfway through the 2024 Legislative Session. I'm deeply grateful for your ongoing support and for following my updates as we navigate through the 2024 Legislative Session. These past weeks have been a whirlwind of activity, but I'm proud to report that we've been making significant strides for the great state of Georgia.

A considerable portion of my time this week was dedicated to the Subcommittee hearings of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. It's crucial work, ensuring that our state's resources are allocated wisely to benefit all Georgians. I have the honor of serving as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and Higher Education. During this subcommittee hearing, we heard from several agencies, including the

Department of Education and the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia. Continuing to fund vital sectors of our state, such as education, will ensure the prosperity of our state for years to come.

This week also brought significant legislative progress. One highlight was the passage of a resolution out of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, aimed at protecting farmland while simultaneously fostering the growth of the industry. As Georgia's number one industry, agriculture plays a pivotal role in our region, and I'm honored to advocate for our hard-working farmers.

Shifting focus to education, we addressed a bill in The Senate Committee on Education and Youth aimed at expanding capital expenditures for Pre-K. Additionally, we introduced a constitutional amendment bill that would allocate up to 15% of ESPLOST funds specifically for classroom supplies, teacher mentors, student tutors, and classroom technology. It's

essential to emphasize that these funds are used solely for the benefit of our students, ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive academically.

On the front of public safety, the Senate established the Special Committee on Investigations. The committee will convene its inaugural meeting on Friday, February 9th, to address allegations of misconduct within the Fulton County District Attorney's office. Restoring public confidence in our criminal justice system is paramount, and we're taking decisive steps to uphold integrity and accountability.

Furthermore, the Senate passed two significant public safety bills: Senate Bill 332, which empowers the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission to hold rogue prosecutors accountable, and Senate Bill 63, aimed at enhancing community safety by abolishing no-cash bail for violent offenders. These measures are integral to our mission of keeping Georgia safe for all its residents, ensuring that violent criminals and repeat offenders are kept off our streets.

Please remember, I'm here to serve you. If there's anything I can do to assist you or address your concerns, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sen. Billy Hickman serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. He represents the 4th Senate District which includes Bulloch, Candler, Effingham, Evans, and a small portion of Chatham County. He may be reached at 404.463.1371 or via email at billy.hickman@senate.ga.gov.



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CITY OF SWAINSBORO PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Swainsboro will hold a public hearing Monday, February 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Swainsboro Fire Department Headquarters, 205 North Green Street. The purpose of this hearing is to seek public comments concerning an ordinance adopting, modifying, and amending the Alcohol Ordinance.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and submit comments.

Any person needing special services should contact Herman Middlebrooks, Jr., coordinator of ADA services at Swainsboro City Hall, 101 West Main Street.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance adopting, modifying and amending the Alcohol Ordinance is available for public inspection from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri. at City Hall, 101 West Main Street, Swainsboro, GA 30401.

The *Forest* Blade

Swainsboro, GA • February 14, 2024 • www.EmanuelCountyLive.com

Social
Sports
Legals/Classifieds **B**



MR. ROGERS AND MISS LUMLEY

Miss Lumley, Mr. Rogers to exchange vows

Terry and April Lumley of Swainsboro are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Ansley Grace Lumley, to Jim Rogers of Statesboro. Mr. Rogers is the son of Jody and Lori Rogers. The bride-elect is a 2018 graduate of David Emanuel Academy.

Ansley is employed by Emanuel County Sheriff's Department. Miss Lumley is the granddaughter of Ronnie and Judy Spence and Diane Wilson. The future groom is a 2015 graduate of Statesboro High School. Jim is employed at Y-Delta

in Statesboro. Mr. Rogers is the grandson of Constance Sanders and Jimmy and Joyce Rogers. The wedding is set for March 2, 2024, at 5 p.m. at Swainsboro Methodist Church. A reception will follow at Faircloth Cabin immediately following the ceremony.

Total Wellness sessions return to the Fulford Center

The first session of the 2024 Total Wellness Series is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, at 12 p.m. at the Sudie A. Fulford Community Center on the campus of East Georgia State College (EGSC). Queensborough National Bank and Trust Company is the sponsor of the opening installment of the popular series and will provide the program. The session, "Putting your plan to work," will cover topics such as things to consider when choosing who will carry out your estate plan, what is involved in executing your plan, costs, and strategies to minimize conflict. Troy Breitmann, the Regional Trust and Fiduciary Manager, will be the guest speaker at the session.

with local organizations. There is no cost to participate, and enrollment is limited to 20 people. The session will feature lunch, a presentation, and infor-

mation handouts. Pre-registration is required and may be made by calling the Fulford Center at (478) 289-2464 or by email mpffreeman@ega.edu.

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PruittHealth Hospice Partner Spotlight



Elizabeth Way, BSN, RN
Director of Hospice Services

My name is Elizabeth Way and I have been nursing for 25 years with most of my career being at Emanuel Medical Center. I have been with Pruitt Health Hospice Swainsboro as the Director of Health Services for the past 5 years and feel humbled to be able to work with families and patients as they transition from this life to the next. I enjoy working with my team because it takes us all to provide kind and compassionate care to our patients. I live in Swainsboro with the love of my life and two wonderful children, a bonus daughter and grandbaby.



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6 BUDDIES GOIN' FOR THE

GREEN

by HALEI LAMB

Fastforward about 50 years and Sundays will likely look the same for Cooper Riner, Ethan Fields, Karson Kettles, Layton Terwilliger, Paxton Dixon, and Richard Braddy. They'll pick a course, load up their clubs, and have the time of their lives chasing a little white ball for a couple hours.

That's how they spend their free days now, and they're better golfers and closer friends because of it.

All 6 of them are multi-sport athletes at David Emanuel Academy, but that's about as far as their similarities go.

In fact, when it comes to their golf games, they couldn't be more different.

For example, Cooper and Layton grew up perfecting their swings with other men in their families whereas Ethan and Richard are first-generation golfers who just started playing not too long ago, and they all have different strengths, like Karson's dependable driver compared to Paxton's precise putter.

But none of that matters to them. It's all about the camaraderie, good company, and a little bit of friendly competition sprinkled in.

So far, that seems to be the secret sauce for success.

The guys just wrapped up a solid showing in the fall junior tour put on by Under Armour.

It consisted of six different tournaments from September to December at tough, pristine courses like Great Waters in Reynolds designed by golf legend Jack Nicklaus, The Club at Lake Sinclair in Milledgeville, and several others in the middle Georgia area.

Their last stop took them to The Brickyard in Macon.

Karson, Layton, and Paxton competed in the younger, 12- to 14-group while Cooper, Ethan, and Richard went toe-to-toe with older golfers in the 15- to 18-year-old age range.

In the Brickyard tournament alone, all of the local boys finished in the top 10 of their divisions.

Some of them played well enough to place in the top three, earning them a berth to winter na



KARSON, COOPER, LAYTON, PAXTON AND RICHARD



PAXTON, COOPER, ETHAN AND RICHARD

(Continued on page 3B)

THE GOLFERS AT A GLANCE

Consider these your *Forest-Blade* exclusive "rookie cards" for the guys on the tour. Cut 'em out and keep 'em!

COOPER RINER


Age: 15/10th

H o m e t o w n : Swainsboro

Family: Chesley and Bridget Dixon, Kris and Joanna Riner

Time playing golf: 4 years on tour

Favorite memory made on a golf course: ships at PGA Nationals when he finished fourth place and got awarded All-American Team



ETHAN FIELDS

Age/Grade: 15/9th

Hometown: Metter

Family: Weston and Ramsee Fiels

Time playing golf: 18 months

Personal game strength: Use of driver

Favorite memory made on a golf course: Making his first eagle



KARSON KETTLES

Age: 13/8th


H o m e t o w n : Swainsboro

Family: Lincoln and Mandy Kettles

Time playing golf: 1 year

Personal game strength: Ability to drive the ball well for a good lie for a second shot

Favorite memory made on a golf course: Hitting a hole-in-one shot on #3 at Swainsboro Golf and Country Club this past summer



LAYTON TERWILLIGER

Age/Grade: 15/9th

H o m e t o w n : Swainsboro

Family: Paul Terwilliger, Rick and Allie McNeely

Time playing golf: 3 years

How he got his start: Received a set of junior clubs for Christmas one year and learned to play

Personal game strength: Consistency with irons



PAXTON DIXON

Age: 14/9th

H o m e t o w n : Swainsboro

Family: Chesley and Bridget Dixon

Time playing golf: 1 year

How he got his start: Playing with his brother and his brother's dad

Personal game strength: Putting and range consistency

Favorite memory made on a golf course: Calling his brother's shot and watching him hole out from 80 yards



RICHARD BRADDY

Age: 17/10th

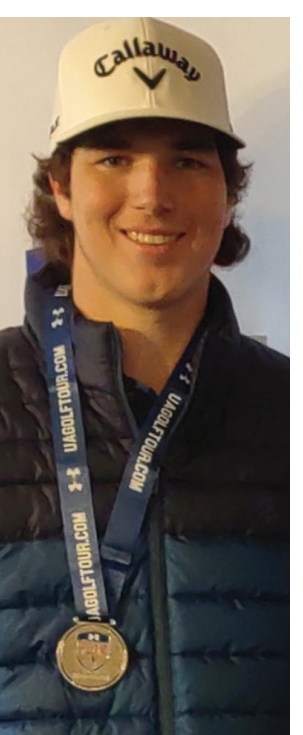
H o m e t o w n : Swainsboro

Family: Pam Durden

Time playing golf: 5 years

How he got his start: Watching Tiger Woods on TV and trying out a set of golf clubs in a store

Favorite memory made on a golf course: Scoring a birdie



(From page 2B)

tionals this week at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort nestled on the scenic coast of Florida's panhandle.

Cooper, Layton, Karson, and Richard will be getting a shot to practice once daily starting Thursday until competitive play gets underway on Saturday in hopes of making it to the championship round on Sunday.

If they're lucky, they'll bring home some new hardware, and their biggest supporters will be ready to greet them when they get back.

Then, they'll get back to work for the spring tour.

But the *real* prize is the friendship they've built together.

"All of these boys are very busy with school and other sports like baseball and football, but they make time to play golf together," said Paxton and Cooper's mother, Bridget Dixon. "As parents, we've watched their confidence build as their golf games improved. We've seen them earn medals on the tour, and all of that is great. But what's *really* special is to see how close they've gotten."

She says the boys are their own coaches in a sense, often initiating their own practices amongst each other and even critiquing one another's swings.

"Every weekend, they're asking to go somewhere to play



RICHARD, ETHAN AND LAYTON ON THE COURSE

golf—whether it's here in Swainsboro, over in Metter, you name it. A couple of the boys will tell the others where they're headed for the day, and the rest of them follow suit.

"It's a really cool thing to watch them

work together. They'll say, "Man, what am I doing wrong? What can I do better?" And sure enough, one of them will have the answer. That's pretty mature stuff for their age."

And it's a rarity in



PAXTON AND COOPER

golf. Most of the time, most part, it's every man for himself. Except when it comes to these 6 buddies going to these 6 buddies going to form teams, but for the for the green.



RICHARD AND COOPER



ETHAN AND COOPER



RICHARD ON THE COURSE

Cooper Riner					
Round Date	Round Name	Points	Gross Score	Net Score	Holes carded
[+] Sep 24, 2023	The Club at Lake Sinclair, Milledgeville, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	70.00	43.0	43.0	9
[+] Oct 15, 2023	Southern Landings GC, Warner Robins, GA - 4:00pm (Shotgun)	100.00	36.0	36.0	9
[+] Oct 29, 2023	Barrington Hall GC, Macon, GA - 1:00pm (Shotgun)	100.00	41.0	41.0	9
[+] Nov 05, 2023	Houston Lake CC, Perry, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	100.00	41.0	41.0	9
[+] Nov 19, 2023	Reynolds - Great Waters GC, - 1:00pm (Tee Times)	100.00	40.0	40.0	9
[+] Dec 03, 2023	Brickyard GC, Macon, GA - 1:30pm (Shotgun)	80.00	43.0	43.0	9

COOPER RINER - FALL JUNIOR TOUR SCORECARD

Ethan Fields					
Round Date	Round Name	Points	Gross Score	Net Score	Holes carded
[+] Sep 24, 2023	The Club at Lake Sinclair, Milledgeville, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	50.00	46.0	46.0	9
[+] Oct 15, 2023	Southern Landings GC, Warner Robins, GA - 4:00pm (Shotgun)	35.00	48.0	48.0	9
[+] Oct 29, 2023	Barrington Hall GC, Macon, GA - 1:00pm (Shotgun)	40.00	48.0	48.0	9
[+] Nov 05, 2023	Houston Lake CC, Perry, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	45.00	51.0	51.0	9
[+] Nov 19, 2023	Reynolds - Great Waters GC, - 1:00pm (Tee Times)	90.00	41.0	41.0	9
[+] Dec 03, 2023	Brickyard GC, Macon, GA - 1:30pm (Shotgun)	40.00	49.0	49.0	9

ETHAN FIELDS - FALL JUNIOR TOUR SCORECARD

Karson Kettles					
Round Date	Round Name	Points	Gross Score	Net Score	Holes carded
[+] Sep 24, 2023	The Club at Lake Sinclair, Milledgeville, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	70.00	42.0	42.0	9
[+] Oct 15, 2023	Southern Landings GC, Warner Robins, GA - 4:00pm (Shotgun)	60.00	43.0	43.0	9
[+] Oct 29, 2023	Barrington Hall GC, Macon, GA - 1:00pm (Shotgun)	70.00	41.0	41.0	9
[+] Nov 19, 2023	Reynolds - Great Waters GC, - 1:00pm (Tee Times)	70.00	44.0	44.0	9
[+] Dec 03, 2023	Brickyard GC, Macon, GA - 1:30pm (Shotgun)	40.00	49.0	49.0	9

KARSON KETTLES - FALL JUNIOR TOUR SCORECARD

Layton Terwilliger					
Round Date	Round Name	Points	Gross Score	Net Score	Holes carded
[+] Sep 24, 2023	The Club at Lake Sinclair, Milledgeville, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	45.00	44.0	44.0	9
[+] Oct 15, 2023	Southern Landings GC, Warner Robins, GA - 4:00pm (Shotgun)	70.00	43.0	43.0	9
[+] Oct 29, 2023	Barrington Hall GC, Macon, GA - 1:00pm (Shotgun)	90.00	38.0	38.0	9
[+] Nov 05, 2023	Houston Lake CC, Perry, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	60.00	43.0	43.0	9
[+] Nov 19, 2023	Reynolds - Great Waters GC, - 1:00pm (Tee Times)	80.00	43.0	43.0	9
[+] Dec 03, 2023	Brickyard GC, Macon, GA - 1:30pm (Shotgun)	80.00	40.0	40.0	9

LAYTON TERWILLIGER - FALL JUNIOR TOUR SCORECARD

Paxton Dixon					
Round Date	Round Name	Points	Gross Score	Net Score	Holes carded
[+] Sep 24, 2023	The Club at Lake Sinclair, Milledgeville, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	40.00	49.0	49.0	9
[+] Oct 15, 2023	Southern Landings GC, Warner Robins, GA - 4:00pm (Shotgun)	40.00	53.0	53.0	9
[+] Oct 29, 2023	Barrington Hall GC, Macon, GA - 1:00pm (Shotgun)	30.00	49.0	49.0	9
[+] Nov 05, 2023	Houston Lake CC, Perry, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	40.00	47.0	47.0	9
[+] Dec 03, 2023	Brickyard GC, Macon, GA - 1:30pm (Shotgun)	30.00	55.0	55.0	9

PAXTON DIXON - FALL JUNIOR TOUR SCORECARD

Richard Braddy					
Round Date	Round Name	Points	Gross Score	Net Score	Holes carded
[+] Sep 24, 2023	The Club at Lake Sinclair, Milledgeville, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	100.00	42.0	42.0	9
[+] Oct 15, 2023	Southern Landings GC, Warner Robins, GA - 4:00pm (Shotgun)	80.00	39.0	39.0	9
[+] Oct 29, 2023	Barrington Hall GC, Macon, GA - 1:00pm (Shotgun)	80.00	43.0	43.0	9
[+] Nov 05, 2023	Houston Lake CC, Perry, GA - 2:00pm (Shotgun)	70.00	47.0	47.0	9
[+] Nov 19, 2023	Reynolds - Great Waters GC, - 1:00pm (Tee Times)	30.00	50.0	50.0	9
[+] Dec 03, 2023	Brickyard GC, Macon, GA - 1:30pm (Shotgun)	100.00	40.0	40.0	9

RICHARD BRADDY - FALL JUNIOR TOUR SCORECARD

Rank	Player	Times Played	Total Points	Avg. Gross	Low Gross
1	Minton, Liam	6	470.00	40.3	34.0
2	Sullivan, Caleb	6	465.00	40.8	37.0
3	Terwilliger, Layton	6	425.00	41.8	38.0
4	Clark, Banks	6	415.00	42.8	40.0
5	Clark, Mason	4	335.00	40.0	39.0
6	Kettles, Karson	5	310.00	43.8	41.0
7	George, Caden	6	295.00	46.2	41.0
8	Frawley, Liam	6	280.00	46.5	40.0
9	Buzzell, Will	4	215.00	43.5	42.0
10	Dixon, Paxton	5	180.00	50.6	47.0
11	Bryant, Dalton	5	155.00	53.8	48.0
12	Pownall, Kellen	4	120.00	51.8	49.0
13	Baker, Hayden	4	90.00	62.8	58.0
14	Robbins, Noa	3	65.00	63.0	61.0
15	Hall, Camden	5	50.00	66.7	63.0
Totals:			3,870.00		

AGES 12-14 FINAL STANDINGS FOR FALL TOUR

Rank	Player	Times Played	Total Points	Avg. Gross
1	Riner, Cooper	6	550.00	40.7
2	Braddy, Richard	6	460.00	43.5
3	Harden, Jake	6	380.00	45.3
4	Walker, Josh	5	340.00	44.6
T5	Feeney, Hudson	6	315.00	46.7
T5	Zecca, Connor	6	315.00	47.0
7	Beasley, Barrett	6	310.00	46.8
8	Fields, Ethan	6	300.00	47.2
9	Rozell, Connor	6	195.00	51.7
10	Perry, Cooper	6	185.00	53.7
T11	Dowling, Dixon	5	130.00	51.8
T11	Painter, Colton	5	130.00	53.4
13	Turner, Joshua	3	110.00	49.7
14	Sappe, Griffin	3	105.00	50.7
15	Edens, Gami	2	65.00	49.5
16	Rackley, Morgan	5	50.00	60.0
17	Solomon Jr., RJ	4	45.00	59.0
18	Fain, Adison	3	20.00	59.3
Totals:			4,005.00	

AGES 15-18 FINAL STANDINGS FOR FALL TOUR

David Emanuel Eagles host Fullington Academy on Senior Night

On January 30, the David Emanuel Eagles hosted the Fullington Academy Trojans in Stillmore. In the girls' game, Aubrey Williams and Emma Proctor led the team with 9 points each. Also contribut-

ing to the scoreboard were Kylie Bell (5 points), Maddi Perkins (2 points), Addalyn Terwilliger (2 points), Payton Peebles (1 point) and Bailey McNure (1 point). Although the Lady Eagles fell short

to the Trojans with a final score of 48-29, the varsity boys secured a big win over the Trojans in overtime with a final score of 67-58. Billy Martin led the team with 18 points. Randon Williams followed

strong with 16 points, Tony Sutton 11 points, Ethan Fields 5 points, and Revan Fortner and Richard Braddy each with 3 points.

Along with an exciting night of basketball, it was also a special

night of recognition for the David Emanuel Academy Senior athletes: Chirsten McCoy, Maddie Perkins, Emma Proctor, Jay Carter, Billy Martin, Tony Sutton and Randon Williams.

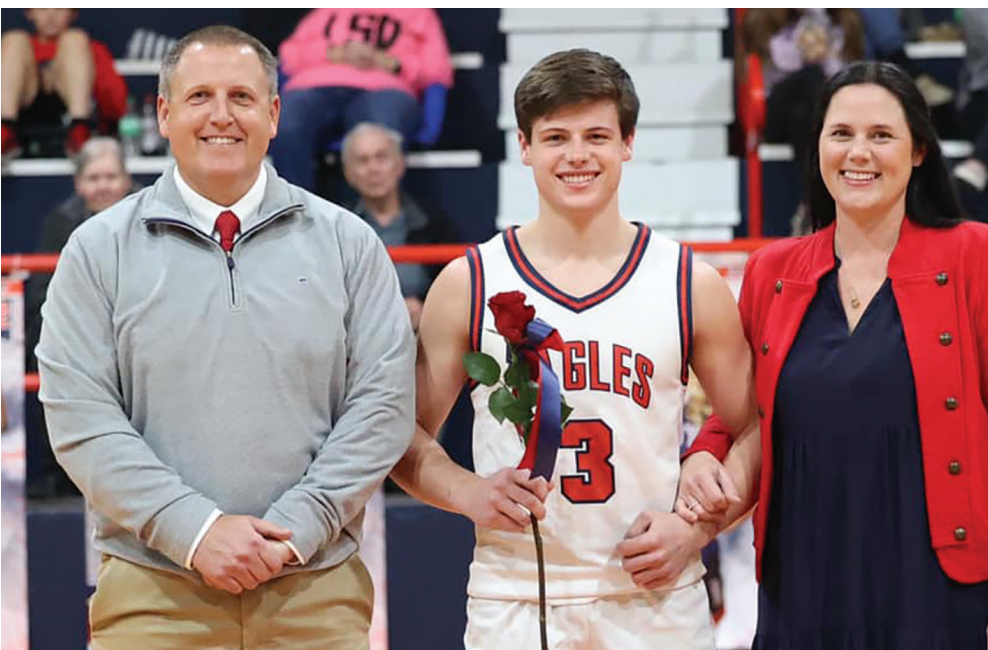
In between the boys' and girls' games, each Senior player was escorted on the court by his or her parents and recognized for their special achievements and awards throughout their high school career at David Emanuel.



JAY CARTER, CHIRSTEN MCCOY, EMMA PROCTOR, RANDON WILLIAMS, TONY SUTTON, BILLY MARTIN AND MADDIE PERKINS



CARTER WITH MOTHER AND STEPFATHER KACI AND JODI HUDSON



MARTIN WITH PARENTS WILL AND ALLISON MARTIN



MCCOY WITH PARENTS BRAD AND CHRISTY MCCOY



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DEA Eagles vs. Trinity Christian- Statesboro

On January 29, the David Emanuel Academy Eagles varsity basketball teams traveled to Statesboro to compete against the Trinity Christian Lions. In the varsity girls' game, Aubrey Williams was lead scorer with 16 points followed by Kylie Bell (9 points), Addalyn Terwilliger (6 points), Emma Proctor (5 points), Christen McCoy (3 points), and Payton Peebles and Bailey McNure (2 points each). The Lady Eagles fell short with a final score of 47-43. In the boys' game, Randon Williams scored 33 points to lead David Emanuel to a 71-57 victory over the Lions. Following Williams, Peyton Lee added 12 points to the board followed by Billy Martin (8 points), Tony Sutton (7 points), Richard Braddy (6 points), and Ethan Fields (5 points).

DEA Eagles travel to Thomas Jefferson Academy

On February 27, the David Emanuel Academy Varsity Eagles traveled to Thomas Jefferson to compete in a night of basketball. In the varsity girls' game, Aubrey Williams led the Eagles with 9 points. Also contributing to the scoreboard was Bailey McNure with 8 points, Emma Proctor 6 points, Kylie Bell 5 points, and Lyla Martin 3 points. In the varsity boys' game, a strong performance from Randon Williams with 25 points and Billy Martin with 21 points helped David Emanuel defeat Thomas Jefferson 75-65. Also contributing for the Eagles was Richard Braddy with 9 point, Peyton Lee 7 points, Ethan Fields 6 points, Tony Sutton 5 points, and Jay Carter 2 points.

David Emanuel Eagles at Glascock County

The David Emanuel Academy varsity basketball teams journeyed to Glascock County on February 8 to take on the Panthers. Starting the night, the Lady Eagles fell short to the Panthers with a final score of 43-32. Lead scorer for the Lady Eagles was Kylie Bell with 13 points. Also contributing to the scoreboard was Addalyn Terwilliger with 9 points, Emma Proctor with 5 points, Aubrey Williams 3 points and Bailey McNure 2 points.

In the varsity boys' game, the Eagles started out strong and never looked back. Dominating the entire game, the Eagles secured a 60-15 victory over the Panthers. Randon Williams led the team with 25 points followed by Billy Martin with 15 points, Peyton Lee 8 points, Ethan Fields 5 points, Brody Fleming 3 points, and Jay Carter and AJ Edenfield each with 2 points.

DEA Eagles battle the John Hancock Rebels

On February 9, the David Emanuel Academy varsity basketball teams traveled to Sparta to compete against John Hancock Academy. In the varsity girls' game, the Lady Eagles were unsuccessful against the Rebels with a final score of 52-36. Scoring 10 points, Maddie Perkins led the team in score. Also contributing were Addalyn Terwilliger and Emma Proctor each with 8 points, Christen McCoy and Kylie Bell both with 3 points, and Payton Peebles and Aubrey

Williams with 2 points each. Following the girls' game, the varsity boys' team played a hard-fought battle against the Rebels. Richard Braddy was on fire knocking down six shots from behind the arc and leading the team with 22 points. Also contributing for David Emanuel were Randon Williams with 14 points, Peyton Lee with 10 points, Tony Sutton 6 points, Brody Fleming 4 points and Billy Martin 3 points.

DEA Middle School Basketball ends season in tournament

On Wednesday, January 24, the David Emanuel Academy middle school boys' and girls' basketball teams traveled to Edmund Burke Academy to compete in a tournament with surrounding area schools. In the first round, the DEA middle school girls competed against Robert Toombs where the Eagles fell 25-13 to RTCA. Aubrey Scott scored 6 points to lead DEA. Also contributing were Lyla Martin with 5 points and Emily McRae with 2 points. Following the girls' game, the middle school boys' team competed against Edmund Burke Academy. Although the score was tied at 13 at halftime, the Spartans pulled away ending with a final score of 37-18. Karson Kettles scored 6 points to lead DEA. Dalton Flowers and Charlie McRae each scored 3 points followed by Jack Evan Fields, Eli Way, and Ben Griner each with 2 points.

On Saturday, January 27, the Eagles traveled back to Edmund Burke Academy for the second round of the middle school basketball tournament. The DEA middle school girls competed against Edmund Burke Academy where the Eagles were able to secure a victory with a final score of 23-19. Lyla Martin led the team with 6 points followed by Aubrey Scott with 3 points, Scout Hall and Rayleigh Faircloth each with 2 points. In the middle school boys' game, the Eagles played against Robert Toombs Christian Academy. The Eagles fell short to the Crusaders with a final score of 30-19. Leading

the Eagles in points was Ben Griner with 8 points. Also contributing were Karson Kettles with 4 points, Charlie McRae, Jack Evan Fields, and Lake Woods each with 2 points, and Dalton Flowers with 1 point. This wrapped up the Eagles' 2024 basketball season for the middle school teams.

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PRESIDENT C. GOODMAN, MCINTYRE, STRICKLAND, WILDS AND ANDERSON

McIntyre presents program to Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting Tuesday night, February 6, at the Rustic Grille at 7 p.m. With President Cheryl Goodman presiding, there were 22 in attendance, including six guests, Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz, Richard T. Smith II, Jimmy Wedincamp, and three members of the Tattnall County Kiwanis Club, Reika Strickland, Tammy Wilds and Becky Anderson. The cake,

donated by Cindy Ware, was won by Deana Patrick. The Domino's pizza, donated by Domino's, was won by Wanda Ellis. The program for the evening was hosted by Cassie McIntyre who led a group version of the classic board game CLUE. Five groups at individual tables were in competition to win the game. The table of Tammy Allen, Petite Garrett, Travis Garrett and Edwin Canady

won. President Cheryl thanked the Tattnall County Club for hosting the interclub on February 1, and noted they still have two more interclubs to complete the Interclub Challenge. She also reported on the donation to the Swainsboro High School Media Center and noted that Principal Brandon Andrews and Media Center Director Kelli Torpy greatly appreciate the donation.

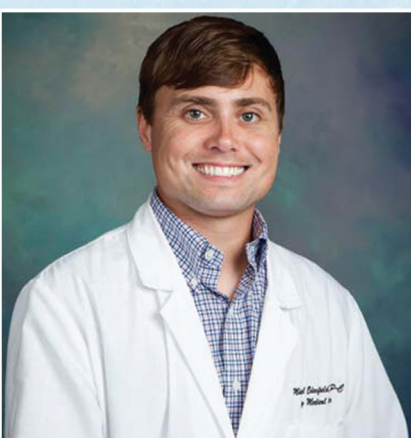
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WARRIORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Warriors and volunteers turn out for WWR quail hunt

by RONALD E. MCCALL
 More than 50 hunters, guides, cooks and other

volunteers turned out for the sixth annual Wounded Warrior Retreat (WWR) quail hunt at Lamar Smith's farm near Collins, Georgia, on Saturday morning, February 3, 2024. In comparison to previous hunts when weather was a negative factor, it was a near perfect day that began with temperatures hovering around 44 degrees at daylight with occasional variable light winds and a near cloudless sky.

The event began the Friday night before the hunt when Brock Scott, Joe Boyett and Wayne Campbell fried fish for about 20 warriors, guides and volunteers at WWR First Vice-President Richard Driggers' cookhouse near Claxton.

Saturday morning, members of VFW 7764 in Reidsville arrived early to put 26 racks of ribs on Gene Williams' grill to feed what was predicted to be about 50 hunters, guides, and volunteers. VFW members Gene Williams, Trace Simmons, Gina Hall, Earl Boyett, Joe Boyett, and Wayne Campbell fired up Gene's grill about 5:15 and had ribs on by 5:30 a.m. Meanwhile, Richard Driggers was cooking two big cast iron pots of his renowned Mountain Man's Breakfast while his brother Johnny made a big pot of sausage in white gravy.

The breakfast was ready and served around 8:15 a.m. Then hunters and guides gathered for the safety meeting by Lamar Smith about 8:45. Shortly thereafter the dogs, guides and

hunters set out for the woods. By 9 a.m., shotgun reports were heard regularly in a wide arc north and west of the farmhouse. Hunters and guides began to filter back in a little after 11 a.m., and reports were positive about dog performance and success of shooters. As should be expected, there were stories about fantastic shots and disgusting misses. Guide Terry Carter of Savannah was happy with his dog Cal and the weather.

"Beautiful morning; lots of fun," he said.

Just before noon, Reverend Matt Brady, of Eastside Baptist Church in Claxton, led a short worship service. Then everyone lined up for a meal of smoked ribs with side dishes provided by Southern Flair of Reidsville. Some volunteer servers were absent due to COVID, so Tattnall County Sheriff Kyle Sapp stepped up to help serve a meal fit for royalty.

Jackie Trim, Chairman of the Tattnall County Commissioners, and a Purple Heart recipient in Vietnam, said he had a really enjoyable day. His son, Clay, served as guide for Jackie and Richard Driggers. "Clay's Dog, Bella, did really good, and I shot okay," Jackie said. Richard agreed. "If a bird got up in front of Jackie he went into the bag," he said. "And Jackie is fun to hunt with."

John Wingate of Reidsville is an Army Vietnam Veteran who was severely wounded in a night firefight in 1967. He spent 13 months in Walter Reed

Hospital in Maryland and underwent more than two dozen surgical operations to correct some of the damage. He was an overachieving football player at Reidsville High School in 1964-65, and quail hunting was part of his life prior to his war injuries. He was unable to hunt Saturday, but he rode in the mule with Jackie and Richard. John would tell anyone a morning with Jackie Trim is always a blessing.

Jackie and John are the epitome of the wounded warriors that Wounded Warrior Retreat seek out and serve. Jackie served as a Marine Corps tunnel rat in 1967-68 where he was wounded twice in combat. Skin damage from the equatorial sun was severe and in recent years he has battled severe melanoma which left him in a much-weakened state for about three years. He is cancer free now and battling back.

Another high point of the day included the arrival of Marine Vietnam Veteran Bruce Oliver. Bruce served nearly three tours in Vietnam and was serving when his younger brother, Dennis, who was in Marine Recon, was killed in 1969. Bruce also served as a First Sergeant for the Georgia Army National Guard in Iraq in 2005-06. He had a debilitating stroke about 10 years ago, and he resides at the Dublin Carl Vinson Veteran's Hospital. His wife, Rita, had promised to get him to the event and made the arrangements with the hospital. VFW Post 7764 members WWR

volunteers welcomed Bruce like a rock star. This writer missed the event due to a short stay in the Statesboro hospital but received a photo text from 7764 Quartermaster Ronnie Thomas proclaiming, "Bruce is here!"

All of the above illuminates the theme of Wounded Warrior Retreat. Efforts are made to get Wounded Warriors together on a regular basis, and the purpose is at least fourfold. Such gatherings take on a class reunion atmosphere, and it shows that their service to their country is appreciated, and they are not forgotten. Finally, most of these warriors enjoyed the outdoors and fishing/ hunting prior to their injuries, and these events allow them to do that again.

It was a good day. WWR President Terry Reynolds hunted with Terry Carter and two warriors. He was described as "grinning like a goat grazing in a briar patch."

Lamar Smith felt like it was the best quail hunt yet. "Beautiful day, great food, great people," he said. "I think everyone had a really good time."

Wounded Warrior Retreat is a faith-based organization designed to serve military wounded warriors by getting them outdoors while simultaneously providing faith-based counseling.

For more information call Terry Reynolds at 478-494-3758, Richard Driggers at 912-290-1108 or the Wounded Warrior Retreat information on Facebook.

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Emanuel County 4-H Foundation, Volunteer Leaders' Council hold 74th Annual Meeting

by MARTHA S. ANDERS, EMANUEL COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION SECRETARY

The annual joint meeting of the Emanuel County 4-H Club Foundation and the Emanuel County 4-H Club Volunteer Leaders Council was held Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7 p.m. at East Georgia State College in the Jean Anderson Morgan Activity Room while the Varner 4-H Center is being renovated.

The meeting was called to order by Laura Moore, 4-H Foundation President. President Moore welcomed everyone to the 74th annual foundation meeting. Emanuel County 4-H member Sam Williams led the Pledge to the American flag. The invocation was given by Lauren Sapp, Emanuel County 4-H member. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by the East Georgia State College Food Services Department.

Minutes from the 2023 meeting, prepared by Secretary Martha Anders, were presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept minutes. The treasurer's report was given by President Moore in the absence of Scotty Hattaway, Treasurer, with a balance of cash on hand as of December 31, 2023, of \$3,840.85. Reports on the investment accounts were shared. The Money Market Account at Queensborough Bank has a balance of \$11,762.91. The GA 4-H Foundation Account 1 (Parker-Brown Scholarship) has a balance of \$41,528.02 as of December 31, 2023. The GA 4-H Foundation Account 2 has a balance of \$378,989.67 as of December 31, 2023. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The report was approved.

the President's Report. She recognized Mr. Mike Head, Emanuel County Building & Facilities Superintendent, and his department for maintaining the Varner 4-H Center this year. They have maintained the grounds by landscaping and the removal of litter. Special appreciation was given to Mr. Head and his department this year for their work currently overseeing extension renovations at the center. This project is being funded by the Emanuel County 4-H Foundation and the Emanuel County Commissioners. This includes installing new vinyl siding including the removal of asbestos, replacing the windows, install new brick underpinning, replacing the back door and floor at the entrance, replacing soffit and fascia Removal and replacement of ceiling tiles, painting ceiling grids, roof work to correct water shedding concerns, installation of gutters, and installing two HVAC units and servicing of others.

President Moore thanked both the Foundation and the County Commissioners for recognizing the importance of the Varner 4-H Center to our Emanuel County 4-H program and the community. President Moore also shared the following accomplishments. The 4-H Foundation funded 10 camp scholarships last summer. Summer camp was a success. The Varner 4-H Center continues to be rented. The rental price continues to be \$150.

Old Business
Repairs to the Varner 4-H Center are ongoing. These renovations were shared in the president's report.

The 4-H Charter information was completed and submitted to UGA Extension.

New Business

4-H Camp Scholarships - A motion was made and seconded to provide ten camp scholarships to 4-H members who need assistance with camp expenses. The 4-H Foundation will provide ten camp scholarships to 4-H members for 2024.

4-H State-wide conferences - A motion was made and seconded to provide one-half of the registration costs of state-wide conferences, such as State Council and Junior Conference, with a leadership development focus for 4-Hers who have participated in District Project Achievement. This funding will include any 4-Hers who take on leadership roles at these state events, such as exhibits, service projects, and workshop teachers.

Financial support for Junior/Senior DPA- A motion was made and seconded to provide \$1,500 to offset DPA expenses for 2024.

Foundation Board of Directors & Executive Board - The following board of director positions were approved. Savannah Tanner represents the Extension Agency as an agent for a one-year term. She has agreed to continue on the board for 2023 - 2024. Connie Page and Carl Tankersley represent former extension workers for a one-year term. They have agreed to continue on the board for the 2023 - 2024 year. The following were approved by executive board members as members at large; Lynn Torrance, Mary Elam, and Whitney Lawrence represent the board as members at large for two-year terms for 2024 - 2026.

The Executive Board recommended the following positions be removed from the Foundation Board of Directors - the State Court Solicitor and the Emanuel County Agribusiness Council President.

4-H Hall of Fame & 4-H Scholarships

The following Hall of Fame awards were presented: The Distinguished 4-H Alumni Award went to Shana Foskey. The 4-H Club Appreciation Award was presented to Ann Rogers.

The 4-H College Scholarship recipient was recognized. The recipient of the Emanuel County 4-H Volunteer Leaders Scholarship was FaithAnn Rogers.

Martha Anders introduced the program for the evening. The program highlighted performances by members of the Georgia 4-H Clovers and Company; FaithAnn Rogers (Emanuel Co. 4-Her), Scout Hall, (Emanuel Co. 4-Her), and Tripp Smith (Houston Co. 4-Her).

The final performers for the evening were Emanuel Co. 4-H Alumni Bonnie Rose Smith and Talmadge (Tee) Smith.

President Moore introduced the officers' nomination committee representative, Lynn Torrance. The officers nominated are as follows: Laura Moore, President; Phil Torrance, 1st Vice President; Shari Watt, 2nd Vice President; Martha Anders, Secretary and Scotty Hattaway, Treasurer. A motion was made to accept this slate of officers. The motion was seconded and approved.

Martha Anders, President of the 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Council gave the Volunteer Leaders' report and encouraged new members to join the Council. The 4-H Volunteer Leaders' meeting is on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center.

With no further business, the 74th Emanuel County 4-H Club Foundation meeting was closed with the Pledge to the 4-H Flag led by Nataleigh Belcher, Emanuel County 4-H member.



JAKYN TYSON PRESENTS THE 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP TO FAITH ANN ROGERS



SHANNA FOSKEY, DISTINGUISHED 4-H ALUMNI AWARD; ANN ROGERS, 4-H APPRECIATION AWARD



4-H FOUNDATION PRESIDENT LAURA MOORE PRESENTING A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO MIKE HEAD, EMANUEL COUNTY BUILDING & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR, AND HIS DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE CARE OF THE VARNER 4-H CENTER



PROGRAM SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT- BONNIE R. SMITH, FAITH ANN ROGERS, SCOUT HALL, TRIPP SMITH, TEE SMITH



4-H CLOVERS & CO. MEMBERS - FAITH ANN ROGERS, SCOUT HALL, TRIPP SMITH, TERRALYNN BRINSON

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Unveiling the silent link:

How hearing loss and dementia share a complex connection

The Pioneering Journey from Symptomatic Similarities to a Causal Connection

For over 50 years, audiologists have been at the forefront of understanding the intricate relationship between hearing loss and dementia. What started as recognizing symptomatic similarities has evolved into a profound revelation: not only do hearing loss

and dementia exhibit common features, but hearing loss can significantly contribute to dementia.

Decades of Symptomatic Similarities: When forgetfulness meets unheard words

Audiologists have long grappled with the challenge of distinguishing between cognitive decline and hearing loss. Imagine this: someone seems to for-

get what was said, but maybe it was a failure to catch the words in the first place? The line between these two scenarios is often blurry, making it a puzzle for both healthcare professionals and individuals grappling with these challenges.

These symptomatic similarities between hearing loss and cognitive decline have been recognized by audiologists for more than 50

years. The overlapping symptoms have fueled curiosity and research, leading to a deeper exploration of the connection between hearing loss and cognitive decline.

The Last 15 Years: Unraveling a causal connection

Over the past 15 years, exploration into this topic has evolved from mere association to causation. Research now indicates that

hearing loss isn't just coincidentally linked to an increased chance of a dementia diagnosis—hearing loss plays a role in dementia development.

Studies have unveiled a graded relationship: as the degree of hearing loss increases, so does the likelihood of a dementia diagnosis. A person with a mild hearing loss has double the chance of acquiring dementia than their



DR. PITT

normal hearing counterpart. A person with a moderately-severe loss is FIVE times as likely to acquire dementia than someone with normal hearing. This revelation is a game-changer, emphasizing the need to view hearing health as a critical component in the broader spectrum of cognitive well-being and brain health.

The Crucial Role of Treatment: Reducing the Dementia Risk

The story takes an encouraging turn when it comes to intervention. Treating underlying hearing loss isn't merely about restoring lost sounds; it has the potential to modify and reduce the risk of acquiring dementia.

Research consistently indicates that addressing hearing loss through interventions like hearing aids can mitigate the cognitive impact. By enhancing the ability to hear and process information, individuals may experience not only improved communication but also a potential reduction in the risk of dementia.

Closing the Loop: A call to prioritize hearing health

As we unravel the complex web linking hearing loss and dementia, the call to action becomes clear. Prioritizing hearing health isn't just about better communication; it's an investment in cognitive well-being.

Audiologists, armed with decades of knowledge and recent breakthroughs, play a pivotal role in this narrative. From recognizing symptoms to understanding causation, they guide individuals on a journey that extends beyond hearing aids—towards the preservation of cognitive function.

The relationship between hearing loss and dementia isn't just an intriguing scientific discovery; it's a call to action for individuals, healthcare professionals, and society at large. By acknowledging this connection and prioritizing hearing health, we take a significant step towards a future where the silent link between hearing loss and dementia is unraveled and addressed with the urgency it deserves.

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Jail Report

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

(PROB); or East Georgia State College (EGSC).
 Anastaisa Jacinda Ayala, 38, arrested 2/10/24; Hold for Gwinnett County
 Nathan Kirk Badie, 50, arrested 2/9/24; Probation violation-felony
 Niaxayi Tymonica Boynton, 20, arrested /6/24; SPD probation
 Jonathan Brown, 34, arrested 2/6/24; Public drunk/Disorderly conduct
 Jonathan Frederick Butler, 36, arrested 2/6/24; City probation violation
 Nava Bonet Butler, 24, arrested 2/5/24; City probation violation
 Katina Michelle Childs,

49, arrested 2/10/24; Disorderly conduct
 Kendra Denise Davis, 37, arrested 2/9/24; DUI-refusal/Reckless driving/Speeding/Open container/Tag light requirements
 Raymon Omarrk Davis, 47, arrested 2/8/24; Lights headlights/DUI less safe/Driving while license suspended/revoked/Fleeing or attempt to elude/Open container/Probation violation
 Waltrell Clifton Ealey, 39, arrested 2/7/24; Possession and use of drug related objects/Possess of marijuana less than oz/Trafficking in cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana or meth
 Armhani Raquel

Foggie, 25, arrested 2/6/24; SPD probation
 Cory Kent Goodwin, 31, arrested 2/10/24; DUI refusal
 Gantry Lashawn Habersham, 46, arrested 2/9/24; State court bench warrant/State court bench warrant
 Jonathan Michael Harbin, 19, arrested 2/9/24; Possession and use of drug related objects
 Jamil Lekieith Jenkins, 39, arrested 2/6/24; Court
 Anastasha Kayhola, 26, arrested 2/11/24; Terroristic threats and acts
 Drayton David Lewis, 36, arrested 2/9/24; Aggravated cruelty to animals
 Skylar Martin, 31, arrested

2/7/24; Probation violation
 Amon Thalmus McDowell, 18, arrested 2/6/24; Robbery/Theft by taking
 Marcus Mancel Morris, 61, arrested 2/9/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked
 Bonnie Marvin Pullens, 46, arrested 2/9/24; Possession and use of drug related objects
 Edgar Adrian Reyes, 19, arrested 2/8/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked/Speeding
 Andy Wayne Richardson, 46, arrested 2/9/24; Possession of meth with intent/Possession of schedule II controlled substance/Theft by shoplifting

Billy Ricks, 65, arrested 2/9/24; Possession and use of drug related objects
 Rodney Rountree, 49, arrested 2/6/24; Hold for Candler Co.
 Anthony Neil Sconyers, 43, arrested 2/7/24; Seatbelt violation/Hold for Candler Co.
 Ricky Lee Thomas, 38, arrested 2/9/24; Possession and use of drug related objects
 James Otis Williams, 66, arrested 2/5/24; Disorderly conduct/City probation violation/City probation violation
 Brand Zebulon Williford, 32, arrested 2/10/24; Disorderly conduct
 Melvin Willis, 58, arrested 2/6/24; Court

Sheriff's Reports

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

February 3
 Deputy received a report of stolen property on Waldon Way. Complainant advised that a third party witness advised him that offender stole his compressor. C/p then checked on the item and discovered it was missing and stated he knew offender and he lives in Johnson Co. C/p advised he his friends with offender's grandfather and wanted to know how to recover his property.

February 4
 Deputy responded to Sam Overstreet Rd. in reference to suspected drugs discarded near a driveway.

February 5
 Complainant went to ECSO and stated she works for victim and a tag on one of their work trucks had been lost. Deputies were dis-

patched to Kemp Rd. in reference to an unknown male being on the property. Complainant stated his sister observed an unknown male standing at the corner of the residence. C/p stated he walked the property and didn't observe anyone. Deputies checked the property and did not observe anyone.

Deputy responded to Sutton Dr. in reference to a theft. Complainant stated she purchased property on Cowford Bridge Rd. and gave offender \$1,500 to complete renovations but he has not completed any work and stole two lawn mowers, a utility trailer, copper wire from under the residence, components from the AC unit, a washer and dryer and a four-wheeler. C/p also advised offender broke windows and doors to the residence. C/p showed deputy where offender stated he posted the lawn

mowers on Facebook due to a mix up on them and he would give c/p a lawn mower in better shape. Contact was made with offender on Samuel Marvin Rd. and he stated he had issues with c/p before and she had given him the items when c/p asked him to clean the yard. Offender stated all items except the lawn mowers and four-wheeler were in a shed at the residence. Offender also stated another gentleman had been working with him and made statements about taking the refrigerator and sleeping with c/p. No items were observed in offender's yard.

February 7
 Complainant stated he had a glock with a tactical holster missing out of his truck.

Deputies responded in reference to a report of a broken window. Complainant stated he ran out of gas and when

he returned to his vehicle, the driver side window waws busted.

February 9
 Deputies along with Twin City Fire Department were dispatched to Hwy 23 North in reference to a vehicle fire. Complainant stated he notice his vehicle smoking and pulled over and the grass caught on fire. It appeared as though the vehicle may have had an oil leak.

February 10
 Deputy was dispatched to Hwy 1 North in reference to a dog case. Neighbors stated they were outside when they observed a big dog attacking a small dog and they beat the dog until it ran off. They also explained that the same dog has attacked their small dog that is in a pen. Deputies spoke with complainant who stated he has made previous reports about the dog and it has been going in his yard. Deputy then

went to Wyatt Circle and spoke with a female who stated the dog is hers and her husbands. Deputy then explained the situation and advised they get underground fence or shock collars to prevent the dog from biting someone or being killed.

February 11
 Deputy spoke with complainant in reference to a theft. C/p stated he purchased land and a residence on Drum Rd. and there were two handi houses at the location that were included in the purchase. C/p stated they the two buildings have been removed from the property and are valued at \$5,000 each, and believes he knows who took them because a female and male subject had been in contact with him about buying them back after he purchased the land.

Deputy responded to Hwy 46 in reference to a report of an abandoned

motorcycle. The motorcycle was on the side of the road with no tag and it had no battery, gas or seat and the wires were spliced together throughout the motorcycle. Next list wrecker was requested and while waiting, a male subject arrived and stated the motorcycle belonged to him. He stated he purchased it a couple weeks ago but was unable to produce a bill of sale. The motorcycle was impounded until proper documents could be produced.

Deputy was dispatched to Oak Park Ave. in reference to a domestic. Complainant stated offender went to their residence and a verbal altercation occurred and things became physical and offender kicked him in the head. Deputy observed a contusion on c/p's head and small lacerations to his hand.

Swainsboro Police Reports

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

February 1
 Officer responded to E. Main St. in reference to an entering auto report. Complainant stated the vehicle was parked in the roadway and had been rummaged through.

February 2
 Officer responded to W. Main St. in reference to a male that fell on the ground. Officer could see the male was unstable on his feet and had an odor of alcohol beverage coming from his person. Offender started cussing at officer and was asked to stop cussing and he continued. Offender was placed under arrest for public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Officer responded

to Waffle King in reference to an ex-employee being aggressive towards employees. Complainant stated offender went in the restaurant being belligerent about money he believed was owed to him. C/p stated she advised offender he would have to speak with the manager and he wasn't in and told offender to leave. C/p stated the manager wanted offender to be issued a criminally trespass warning. Offender was located on Glenwood Rd. and advised his of the criminal trespass warning.

Officer was behind a vehicle with a test drive tag without a date, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer identified himself and advised offender why she was stopped. Offender stated

the vehicle did not belong to her and her friend just bought it a couple days ago. Officer observed a small clear plastic bag containing a clear crystal-like substance and picked it up and showed offender, at which time she got upset and stated it wasn't hers. Offender was told to step out of the vehicle and was transported to EmCo Jail.

February 3
 Officer was dispatched to Elmer St. in reference to complainant stating offender went to his residence, knocked on the door and yelled that they needed to talk. C/p stated offender thinks he is messing with offender's ex-wife and that he told offender not to go to his house. C/p asked how he could get a restraining order and was advised of the process. Offender was asked not to go back to the residence.

Officer met with complainant in reference to c/p advising his wallet was stolen. C/p advised his card was used and wanted to see video footage and believes he knows who took his wallet. Officers went inside the store to view footage and observed a male subject attempt to use the card. The clerk stated when the card was declined, an ID was requested, and offender fled the store.

Officer responded to WalMart in reference to a shoplifter.

Officers were dispatched to N. Racetrack St. in reference to an altercation. Complainant stated offender started arguing with her sister/victim and hit her in the face. Victim stated offender did not hit her. C/p then stated to victim that she thought

she told her offender hit her in the face and victim then stated offender did.

February 4
 Officer was behind a vehicle that crossed over the yellow line then went off to the right side of the road and back on the road, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Offender stated he was showing the passenger his phone. Officer could smell an odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person and asked him to step out of the vehicle. A PBT was performed and tested positive for DUI. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer responded to WalMart in reference to a shoplifter. Officer observed on video footage the male subject skip scanning items and handing them to the female subject to bag them. The female subject also skip scanned items and put them in the bag, totaling \$113.92. Both subjects were issued a trespass for the premises and placed under arrest. Both offenders were transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer responded to Old Nunez Rd. in reference to complainant stating her daughter/offender stole her car keys. Offender stated she hid the keys from her mother because she is in no physical/medical condition to drive. Officer observed c/p with shortness of breath and appeared to be not very steady on her feet and advised her that if she would wait to see the doctor and was told she was safe to drive, that offender would give her keys back.

Officer met with complainant on Oak St. in reference to c/p stating she borrowed money from a female and hasn't paid it

back yet and the female's son went to her residence wanting to get the money. C/p advised she does not want offender back at her residence and will pay the money back when she can because she's on a fixed income.

February 5
 Officer was dispatched to Lee St. in reference to a domestic. Victim stated offender was drunk and being rude and using vulgar language. Offender walked out and was cussing and was asked not to cuss in front of the children and continued to cuss several times. Offender was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail for disorderly conduct.

February 6
 Officers responded to S. Main St. in reference to someone entering vehicles. The caller advised the offender was walking up to multiple vehicles pulling on the door handles and if they were unlocked, he would open it and take things. Officers watched a video of the male subject go up to multiple vehicles pulling on the handles then fleeing.

Officer transported offender to EmCo Jail after court.

Officer was transported to EmCo Jail for probation violation.

Officers advised offender he needed to be in court and did not show up so they went to his residence and picked him up for court. While in court, offender handled his probation but was found to be wanted out of Candler Co. A hit was sent over and they wanted to place a hold on offender so he was transported to EmCo Jail.

Offender was picked up

and transported to EmCo Jail for probation violation.

February 7
 Officer responded to RFCU in reference to a report of damage to thee building. Complainant stated offender drove his truck through the drive-thru and a board in the bed hit the building damaging the sign.

Officers were dispatched to Booker St. in reference to an unwanted person. Officers met with complainant who stated offender was arguing with a female and began hitting the window of the vehicle but they both left just before officers arrived. C/p then explained that he needed to make a report about offender making appearances at his residence and threatening him. C/p showed officers video footage of offender on his property and ringing the doorbell and seemed to be upset. Officers also heard offender tell say to step outside and he was going to kill him. C/p wants offender criminally trespassed for his residence.

Officer was dispatched to Lee St. in reference to a damaged vehicle. Complainant stated her ex-boyfriend went to her house and became irate and started a verbal argument, so she closed the door. C/p stated when she closed the door, she heard a loud noise and she opened the door to see offender leaving quickly and her windshield was shattered.

Officer was dispatched to W. MLK Blvd. in reference to complainant stating she was walking down the road and offender hit her in the face.

Guns
 thekwikshop.com

News from under the Gold Dome: Week of January 29

by REPRESENTATIVE BUTCH PARRISH
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 158

On Monday, January 29, the Georgia General Assembly reconvened at the State Capitol for the fourth week of the 2024 legislative session. The House convened for four days and reached Legislative Day 14 by the end of our week, which means we are now more than a quarter of the way through the legislative session. Perhaps the most significant news this week came on Tuesday morning when my colleagues and I learned the heart-breaking news that we had lost one of our own, a dedicated statesman, the honorable House Rules Chairman, Richard Smith (R-Columbus). While we mourned the loss of our friend and colleague, we continued our legislative work as Chairman Smith would have wanted and gave passage to several bills this week and also saw Governor Kemp sign one of the first bills into law from this session.

Born in Wrightsville, Georgia, Chairman Richard Smith was no stranger to public service, serving in numerous roles throughout his career, both at the local and state levels. Our colleague was a member of the Georgia General Assembly for 20 years and a dedicated representative to his constituents. On Tuesday morning, Governor Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp

joined us in the House Chamber to reflect on Chairman Smith's life and service to our state and his community. Speaker of the House Jon Burns also recounted his admiration and respect for Chairman Smith, and members of the Columbus House Delegation reflected on his leadership and service to the community. With a heavy heart, we bowed our heads to remember Chairman Smith and his family during this time.

Following this news, the House adopted a revised adjournment resolution, House Resolution 978, that amends the current schedule for the legislative session. This update to our session schedule was made to allow members of both the House and Senate to attend Chairman Smith's funeral and pay our respects. With that, the House will not be in session on Monday, February 5, 2024, and will now be in session on Friday, February 16, 2024, to make up for this change.

As we carried on with our legislative business for the week, the House took up House Bill 878 to provide the proper procedure for motorists passing a United States Postal Service (USPS) vehicle. HB 878, would require a motorist to slow down and, if safe, pass on the left adjacent lane as they approach a postal service vehicle with its flashing lights on. If the motorist is unable to pass the USPS vehicle, this legisla-



KEN WARNOCK, CEO OF THE EMANUEL COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY, HANNAH MULLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CANDLER COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY, AND HIDIE JEFFERS, DIRECTOR OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF METTER-CANDLER COUNTY.

tion would require them to slow down, stop and wait for the postal service vehicle to re-commence its route.

On Wednesday, House Bill 976 passed almost unanimously to address concerns related to election security. This bill would require all election ballots to be printed on paper that includes a visible watermark security feature, and this visible watermark would identify the ballot as an official Georgia ballot.

We also unanimously passed House Bill 985, which would abolish the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation and transfer its obligations and liabilities to the Georgia Student Finance Authority. This corporation no longer has a purpose due to the retirement

of portfolios and programs administered by the corporation.

My colleagues and I also joined Governor Brian Kemp as he signed House Bill 30, legislation addressing antisemitism in our state and adding antisemitism as a category covered by our hate crimes law, on Wednesday. This was an important step for the Jewish community in Georgia, many of whom were on hand at the Capitol for this historic bill signing ceremony. This bill immediately became law upon Gov. Kemp's signature.

Also, last week, my colleagues and I took time to recognize and honor our United States Armed Forces who gave the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country and protect its citizens. On Sunday, January

28, three Army reservists stationed at Fort Moore, just south of Columbus, Georgia, lost their lives in a drone attack while stationed overseas in Jordan near the Syrian border. Spc. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, 23, of Savannah; Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, of Carrollton; and Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 24, of Waycross, all Georgia residents, gave their lives in service to our great nation. On Wednesday morning, my House colleagues and I paused for a moment of silence to remember these three brave Georgians whose legacies shall not be forgotten. On that same day, the House also recognized the Third Infantry Division of Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, one of the most decorated infantry divisions in the history of the United States, during a special invitation resolution in the House Chamber. The Third Infantry Division has one of the most successful combat records of any United States Army division and has served terms in both world wars, Korea, Afghanistan and Iraq. Brigadier General Jeremy Wilson, Deputy Commanding General for Maneuvers, addressed the House to express his gratitude to the State of Georgia for their continued and consistent support of our men and women in the United States Armed Forces. House Resolution 907 was read and presented to the Third Infantry

Division, recognizing January 31, 2024, as Third Infantry Division Day at the State Capitol.

The Georgia House of Representatives will resume its legislative work on Tuesday, February 6 to begin our fifth week of session. The pace under the Gold Dome is surely picking up, and next week promises to be another busy week on Capitol Hill.

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 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.

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Swainsboro, GA 30401
478.237.3838 - Office

News from Under the Gold Dome: Week of February 6

by REPRESENTATIVE BUTCH PARRISH
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 158

The Georgia General Assembly returned to the State Capitol last Tuesday, February 6, for a busy fifth week of the 2024 legislative session. The House assembled for four days, and our days are certainly getting longer and busier as we move further along in the session. We successfully gave passage to several bills and continued our committee work. Some highlights of the week include the passage of the House's version of the Amended Fiscal Year 2024 budget (AFY 2024), among other bills, as well as the convening of a joint legislative session for the annual State of the Judiciary address.

The Amended Fiscal Year 2024 budget, or House Bill 915, is set at a revenue estimate of approximately \$37.5 billion. Governor Kemp's estimate for the amended budget includes \$2 billion in surplus funds, bringing the total to \$5 billion, and marking a 15.6 percent increase from the original estimate. The Amended FY 2024 budget provides substantial investments in technology, capital improvements, safety and security initiatives, economic development projects, and human capital enhancements.

The House's amended budget continues to prioritize economic development in our state and has aligned with the governor's proposal to allocate funding for several key economic development initiatives. In the House's version of the AFY 2024 budget:

- \$23.9 million is designated to the Rural Workforce Housing program, aimed at enhancing and expanding the availability of workforce housing
- \$250 million for low-interest loans to the Georgia Fund, which would be dedicated to water and wastewater infrastructure

development in local communities

- \$100 million for economic development initiatives through the Regional Economic Business Assistance program

- \$100 million to the OneGeorgia Authority for rural economic development and site enhancement projects

- \$178 million toward establishing a new dental school at Georgia Southern University in Savannah

- \$50 million for the construction of the Medical School at the University of Georgia

- \$4.75 million to support necessary funding for staff and facility operations within the Quick Start program; this program addresses the growing workforce needs of our state by providing customized workforce training

- \$19.5 million for the Technical Education program within the Technical College System of Georgia to fund renovation and start-up costs for three Workforce Accelerator site locations in order to sustain the electric vehicle industry in the state

- \$102.5 million allocation to the Department of Education (DOE) for the midterm adjustment of the Quality Basic Education Formula, reflecting an increase of 825 students from the previous year
- \$1.57 million to expand the Communities in Schools program, which is dedicated to supporting students in areas like attendance, behavior, academic performance, retention and graduation.

- \$8.9 million in lottery funds to sustain the Summer Transition Program through the Department of Early Care and Learning to provide support to rising Pre-K and kindergarten students in subjects like language, literacy, and math to ensure they are better prepared for academic success
- \$3.9 billion for trans-



REP. PARRISH WITH EMANUEL MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYEES MARY RADFORD, BRANDY BOLTON, LYNN BRINSON, AND DAMIEN SCOTT

portation infrastructure, and, of this, \$509 million is dedicated to the new Freight Infrastructure Projects program to enhance Georgia's growing freight network

- \$200 million is allocated as a one-time deposit for the Local Road Assistance Administration Program to improve local transportation infrastructure projects statewide

- \$4.25 million in this budget to continue upgrading the state-owned rail lines to Class II standards, facilitating faster train speeds and improved integration of lines

- \$110,000 for the implementation of visible watermarks on all paper ballots to enhance election security

- \$500 million to improve the health and funding ratio for the Employees Retirement System of Georgia

- \$300 million for a one-time salary supplement of \$1,000 for state employees and teachers

- \$2 million to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to implement alternative transportation methods for those facing a mental health crisis

- \$1 million is designated for the Georgia Department of Veterans Services to support the Veterans Mental Health Services Program

- \$4.6 million to establish 400 transitional beds at the Metro Re-entry Center, which offers crucial resources to former inmates upon release,

including employment assistance, access to social services, housing support and programming for family reunification

The House's version of the AFY 2024 budget now heads to the Senate and will likely undergo changes before receiving final passage.

In addition to voting on the amended budget this week, the House also gave unanimous passage to a legislative package aimed at providing Georgians and their families with much-needed tax relief. On Thursday, the House took up House Bills 1015, 1019 and 1021.

- HB 1015 would lower the individual income tax rate effective on January 1, 2024, from 5.49 percent to 5.39 percent, which would return another \$1 billion to Georgia taxpayers

- HB 1019 would increase the statewide homestead exemption from \$2,000 to \$4,000, provided the owner resides in the home as their primary residence

- HB 1021 would increase the child tax deduction from \$3,000 to \$4,000. With rising child-care costs, this legislation would allow for an extra \$1,000 deduction per child, which could help alleviate some of those costs for parents.

Each of these measures would help foster Georgia's economic success story by returning more dollars back into the pockets of our taxpayers.

We unanimously passed House Bill 1035,

bipartisan legislation that would allow for the sale and supply of opioid antagonists, like Narcan, in vending machines, while protecting those who dispense, supply and administer these opioid-overdose reversal drugs from liability when they act in good faith. This bill would certainly save lives in Georgia by expanding access to these critical overdose reversal drugs.

We also focused our efforts on passing legislation that would maintain and expand the eligibility and update funding mechanisms for the Realizing Education Achievement Can Happen (REACH) scholarship.

- House Bill 970, would expand eligibility of the scholarship to victims of human trafficking. Also, this bill would authorize REACH participating school systems to designate REACH scholars each school year to receive the \$10,000 scholarship without a limit on the number of recipients from each school, subject to available appropriations. Finally, HB 970 would realign state and local funding by requiring REACH participating school systems to provide \$1,000 toward the funding of the scholarship, and the state would be responsible for appropriating the remaining \$9,000 toward the scholarship through Georgia Student Finance Authority. I was proud to support this important measure that would encourage and expand higher education opportunities for our students.

Aside from passing legislation last week, we held a joint session of the House and Senate on Wednesday where Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs delivered the annual State of the Judiciary Address to the members of the General Assembly. Chief Justice Boggs provided a comprehensive update on the state of Georgia's judicial system, highlighting

its continued strength in recent years. He reported a decline in pending serious violent felony cases alongside a notable increase in overall jury trials, indicating positive trends within the judiciary.

The Georgia House of Representatives resumed its legislative work on Monday, February 12, to begin our sixth week of session. The pace under the Gold Dome is surely picking up as we approach the looming "Crossover Day" deadline. Crossover Day is the last day that a bill can pass out of its chamber of origin and still be eligible for consideration this session. As we approach this deadline, I encourage you to reach out with your questions or concerns regarding any legislation that we are considering.

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 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

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Daughtry speaks to Fall Line Chapter

The Fall Line Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, held its monthly meeting, Tuesday night, January 9, at the Washington County Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m. With President Sandy Mercer presiding, they had 12 in attendance. The program for the evening was introduced by the East Fall Line Region Vice President Dess D. Smith III. Compatriot Dess introduced Compatriot Hu Daughtry who presented his program on "Irish American Patriots in the Family Tree". Hu



DAUGHTRY

is a member of the Mill Creek Chapter in Statesboro and lives with his wife Susan in Metter. President Sandy talked about the possibility of the Chapter being more

involved in the Wreaths Across America project next year. The last two years, the chapter has provided chairs for the ceremony on Wreaths Across America day.



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DECEASED SAR MEMBERS



COMPATRIOT LEE HERRON, BRIER CREEK CHAPTER, UPDATING THE GASSAR ON THE PROGRESS OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GEORGIA STATE TAG



LITTLE RIVER PRESIDENT ALTON MCCLOUD, EMIL DECKER MEMBER ROBERT FORSYTH, WIREGRASS PRESIDENT STEVE BURKE, BRIER CREEK VICE PRESIDENT LEE HERRON, SAR PRESIDENT GENERAL JOHN L. DODD, ESQ, GASSAR PRESIDENT DAVID LUDLEY

East Fall Line Region Chapters receive awards

The Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its Annual Conference at the Sonesta Hotel in Duluth on Friday and Saturday, January 26 and 27, 2024. Several members of the East Fall Line Region attended the conference and banquets that were held. Out of the 35 chapters in the GASSAR, four Chapters received the Education Outreach Streamer that will hang from each Chapters Flag: Brier Creek, Little River, Robert Forsyth and the Wiregrass Chapters. The Education Outreach Streamer is presented to chapters that report that their programs, outside of regular meetings, reached 1,000 or more students and adults during the calendar year. EFLR Chapters receiving the Distinguished

Chapter Awards were Brier Creek (Screven County), Four Rivers Patriots (Vidalia), Mill Creek (Statesboro), Wiregrass (Swainsboro) and the Little River (Central East Region - Thomson). This award is presented to chapters who respond affirmatively in at least nine of the ten programs in the contest year. The programs are membership recruitment and retention, chapter reporting, Flag respect, BOM attendance, scheduling regular meetings, community involvement, and youth program activity. EFLR Chapters receiving the Georgia Society Membership Award were Brier Creek, Four Rivers Patriots, Patrick Carr Rangers (Waynesboro), Wiregrass, and Little River (Central

East). To receive this award, a chapter must have a 90% renewal of its membership and submit its yearly dues to the Society Secretary by the deadline. The Wiregrass Chapter was also honored to accept the SAR Medal of Appreciation with an Oak Leaf Cluster for Jane Grier Durden as a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in grateful recognition of her outstanding service to the Sons of the American Revolution. On Sunday morning, a memorial service was held for Compatriots that passed away during 2023. As each name was read, a bell was rung. The Wiregrass Chapter had three deceased members: Willie Gunn, Henry Wilder Smith, Jr. and James (Jim) Ebe Daughtry.

Classifieds

Deadline is Monday at 9:30 a.m. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Call Melva at 478-237-9971 to help sell your unwanted items!
Homes for sale or rent • Apartments for rent • Land for sale • Yard and estate sales • Miscellaneous for sale • Pets/ animals • Help wanted • Services offered

ESTATE TAG SALE

Estate Tag Sale at the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jones, 2483 Highway 24 Louisville, GA 30434, (East of Louisville), Wednesday, February 21 - February 25, from 9am to 5pm daily. The total contents of this lovely farm home and all surrounding buildings will be tagged and ready for you to purchase. Due to the enormity of the contents of all buildings and home we have expanded the sale for a full five-day period. The lovely home is filled to capacity with well-kept furnishings. Several bedroom suits, mattresses, occasional chairs, foyer table and mirror, televisions, rockers, clothes racks, dinette set, corner cabinet, sectional bookcases, secretary, tapestry sofa and chair, round table and chairs, gun cabinet, end tables, coffee tables, University of Georgia memorabilia, books, china, crystal, lamps, hand-painted china items, many decorative items, numbered prints, framed art, rattan sofa and chairs, rattan coffee table, odd tables, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, clocks, jewelry, yard furniture, large flower pots, hammock, cedar chests, many truck tool boxes, small and large tools of all kinds, edgers, hedge trimmers, blowers, air compressors, tarps, vices, shelving, heaters, trailers, pressure washers, John Deere wagon, John Deere trailer, (all for lawn mower), go-cart, tractor seats, jacks, cow feeder, deer stand, chains, and so much more. Also for sale will be an enormous amount of name-brand clothing with tags still attached, including hundreds of pieces of camouflage clothing, jackets, men's suits, men's pants and shirts, hats, belts, shoes and all sorts of hunting items, hundreds of name-brand ladies clothes, purses and shoes. All these clothing items are like-new condition and there are literally hundreds and hundreds of them. Most clothing items are top of the line designer items with no wear. Hundreds of shoes and boots for sale that are still in the original boxes and never worn. As estate sellers, we have never come across as many wonderful clothing items as is here. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to pick up like-new clothing. We look forward to seeing everyone. Come expecting to spend time and view a lifetime assortment of home and yard items on display for sale. Sale conducted by Ann Cobb, Edna Purvis, and Meg Leonard.

FOR SALE

LIKE NEW: 1 carat white gold wedding band set. Came from Kay Jeweler's and has been inspected every 6-8 months. Just got inspected, cleaned and dipped in November. \$1,000 OBO. 478.299.2286.

MISC NOTICES

WE DO not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis, nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the Fair Housing Act. We do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or family status. NEED TO SEND A COPY OF A DOCUMENT, LETTER, ETC., TO SOME PLACE IN A HURRY? The Forest-Blade can do the job for you in minutes with its fax machine. We can also receive copies of documents. For more information come by our office on West Moring Street.

Publisher's Notice

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

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

Apartments for Family, Singles, Elderly and Disabled Persons
HUD Subsidized
HUD Subsidized Handicap Units Available

FOR SALE

LIKE NEW: 1 carat white gold wedding band set. Came from Kay Jeweler's and has been inspected every 6-8 months. Just got inspected, cleaned and dipped in November.



\$1,000 OBO

478.299.2286

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

Seeking someone with HVAC experience in service and/or installation; or mechanically inclined individual who is willing to learn a trade in HVAC.

If you are interested, send your name, contact information and work history to:

HVAC
P.O. Box 1933
Swainsboro, GA 30401



Utility Clerk (Public Works Department)

The City of Twin City is now accepting applications for the Utility Clerk position. This is a part-time position with a guaranteed 20 hours/week but with an option to increase to 29 hours/week if needed. This person shall be responsible for day-to-day operations of utility billing and servicing, accepting utility payments, handling work orders, and general customer service.

All interested applicants should complete an employment application, which can be found online at www.twincityga.com. All completed job applications should be submitted to City Hall. For more information, interested applicants should contact City Clerk Eugenia Ducker at 478-763-2695 or by email at gducker@twincityga.com.



Now hiring:

Quality Control Inspector Welders

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



SARDIS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST

1473 Wes Lawson Rd.,
Kite
Elder Sam Adkins, Min.
478-469-3084



ASSEMBLY OF GOD
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
529 S. Main St., 478-237-7535

BAPTIST
ADRIAN BAPTIST
210 N. Nora St., Adrian
David Oliver, Min., 478-668-3589

ANTIOCH PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
827 Antioch Church Rd., Twin City
Elder Jim Bowen, 912-763-3726

BAPTIST REST
Twin City
Elder Mike Gray

BETHEL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
231 Harmon Rd., 478-237-5387

BITHYNIA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
2270 Hwy. 1 North

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

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

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

DELLWOOD BAPTIST
Hwy. 1 North
Joe Bedgood, Min.

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

EMANUEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST
Adrian

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

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

FRIENDSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST
Twin City, 912-585-4805

GARFIELD BAPTIST
Hwy. 23, North, Garfield
Thomas Simmons, Min.

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

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

HARVESTER BAPTIST MISSION
939 W. Main St., 478-237-6461

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

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

HEBRON PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Hebron Road, Garfield
Will Martin, Pastor

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

HINES BAPTIST
Old Savanah Rd., Midville

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW HOPE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
Lexsy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

STILLMORE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
203 E. 3rd Ave., Stillmore
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The Test of Love

by BISHOP BERTHA JONES
When I read a scripture from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, it caused me to double check myself. Now if it caused me to check myself, I just thought just maybe someone else might need a little shaking up also. Now it's better to examine yourself now and line up with God's plum line than to wait until the day of judgment when it will be too late. The scripture is one of love. Yes we all think that one is simple and easy so we stay in our comfort zone with our family, church, and workplace and go about our lives associating and caring for the same people. Now Jesus extended the test of love. In Matthew 5:43-44

he said, "You have heard that it has been said, love your neighbor and hate your enemy, but I say, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, pray for them that which despitefully use you and persecute you." Now isn't that a bucket full. Is that too heavy for you to carry? How do you stand up to that test? Now when Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations come, do we give gifts to the ones we love or the ones which we know hate us. Are we living in vain? Are we afraid to take the steps that Jesus says we should take or are we doing things our way? The society is divided because of hate. Remember Jesus gave his

life for us while we were his enemies. He won us through love. The only way we will win others is through love. I am convinced that there are some I need to tighten up on because it's easier to just leave them alone. So let's get to work and reach for the unreachable and show live to the unlovable. If you take a good look at yourself, that unlovable person could be you. We can do it, you can do it. Let every man examine himself. Remember, in Jeremiah 31:3 God says, "With an everlasting love have I loved you, with love and kindness have I drawn you." Yes, it is a test. We have to take it until we pass. Where do you stand with the "The Test of Love". GOD IS LOVE.

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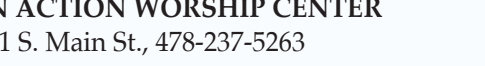
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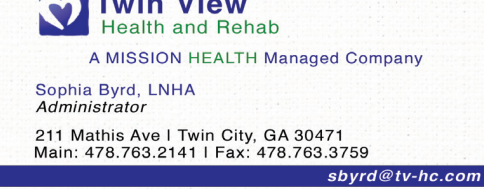
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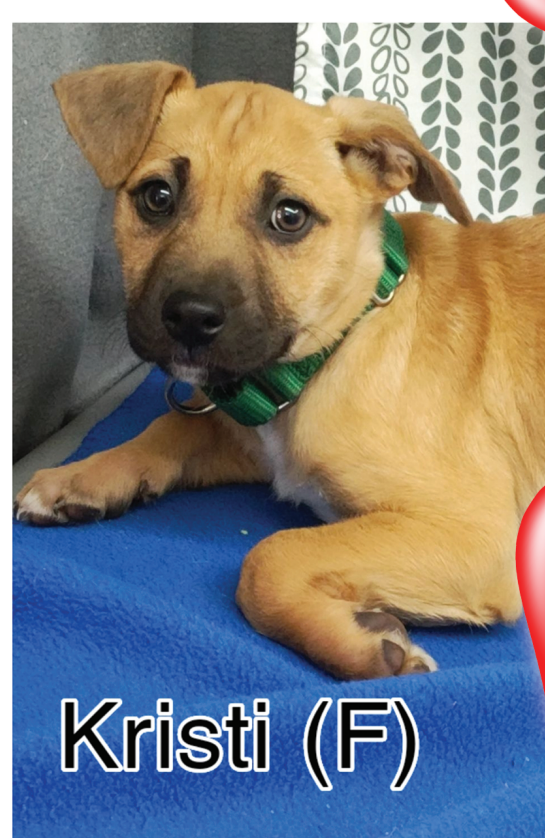
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quickly.



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SAM - Male • Tan with white face

ACE- Male • Tan

KRISTI - Female • Tan with two white feet

STEPHEN - Male • Tan with white chest, Biggest of the litter

EVANS - Female • Tan with 4 white paws

CLARK - Male • Tan with white chest, Smallest of the litter

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