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VOLUME 165, NO.8 Swainsboro, Georgia • February 21, 2024 ONE DOLLAR

Dr. Warnock named sole finalist for superintendent position

The Emanuel County Board of Education voted, after an in-depth interviewing process was completed, at a Called Meeting in open session on February 15, 2024, to approve the appointment of Dr. Denise Warnock as the Sole Finalist for the next Emanuel County School Superintendent position.



DR. WARNOCK ing a 14-day period (see notice of disclosure below).

Dr. Denise Warnock's application materials

may be reviewed at the Emanuel County Board of Education office located at 201 North Main Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.

Notice of Disclosure: At least 14 calendar days prior to the meeting at which final action or vote is to be taken on the position of superintendent, all documents concerning the Sole Finalist shall be subject to inspection and copying. The board can vote on the appointment at any time after the 14-day period.



SCOTT WITH LEGISLATORS AND CEOs CEO Scott attends policy institute, meets with legislators

Emanuel Medical Center CEO, Damien Scott, attended the National Rural Health Association Policy Institute February 12–15 in Washington D.C. In addition to learning about pending legislation affecting rural health, Scott joined a group of rural hospital CEOs to meet with multiple legislators to discuss the important issues facing rural hospitals. Emanuel Medical Center, a 5-STAR CMS hospital, spends approximately \$400,000 per month on uncompensated care. Currently, more than 50% of the rural hospitals in the United States are in the red.

"We are doing everything we can for our rural communities to continue to have access to high-quality rural healthcare," said Scott.

Representative Butch Parrish named House Rules Chairman, announces run for re-election

Today, Representative Butch Parrish (R-Swainsboro) announced his recent appointment as the Chairman of the House Rules Committee by Speaker Jon Burns as well as his decision to run for re-election in 2024 in House District 158, which includes Candler, Emanuel and Treutlen counties and portions of Bulloch County.



REPRESENTATIVE PARRISH

to continue making our communities in Southeast Georgia and across the state the best places to live work and raise a family."

"I am proud to announce the appointment of Representative Butch Parrish as Chairman of the House Rules Committee," said Speaker Burns. "Chairman Parrish has done an exceptional job representing his district, fighting for our rural communities, and championing policies that lift up every Georgia family—including most recently with

his work to improve healthcare across our state. Through his integrity, hard work, compassion and dedication to the interests of our state, he will also carry on the indelible legacy of Chairman Richard Smith—and I am confident that Chairman Parrish will serve the Georgia House and the people of our great state extremely well in this new role."

The Rules Committee oversees the flow of legislation from passage in committee and making the determination of what bills should be debated and voted on the House floor.

Chairman Parrish represents the citizens of House District 158, which includes Candler, Emanuel and Treutlen counties and portions of Bulloch County. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1984 and has previously served as the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health, as well as Chairman of the Special Committee on Healthcare.



DR YOUNG, SPONSOR MARCIE GAY AND BOARD MEMBER TANYA LANE WITH JR BETA AWARD RECIPIENTS



BOARD CHAIRMAN DEL BROWN, BAND DIRECTOR DAVIS AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL GOLDEN WITH UGA HONOR BAND RECIPIENTS

Board of Education has busy February meeting

The Emanuel County Board of Education met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Swainsboro Middle School with the following members in attendance: Brandon Jones, Cherie Hooks, Del Brown, Tanya Lane, Sandra Swinney and Johnny Parker. John Allen Bailey was absent. Chairman Del Brown welcomed everyone calling the meeting to order. Johnny Parker then delivered the invocation followed by Tanya Lane leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Sandra Swinney made a motion to approve the agenda.

Johnny Parker seconded the motion. Johnny Parker, Del Brown, Cherie Hooks, Brandon Jones, Tanya Lane and Sandra Swinney voted "yes".

1. January Awards for F.A.M.I.L.Y., P.A.U.S.E. and S.A.S. – Mrs. Tammy Gray recognized the following recipients: Jan- (Continued on page 6A)

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Busy housekeeping duties for Commission

The February meeting of the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners took place Monday, February 19, at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of the Coleman County Office Building. Commissioners Oliver, Sherrod and Thompson were present, along with Chairman Hugh Foskey who called the meeting to order and welcomed guests which included political hopefuls for two commission seats up for grabs this year. Following an Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance, a motion was offered to accept the minutes of the January regular meeting and a workshop meeting of February 13. The motion was approved. No issues for

consideration were scheduled for the public comment section or for old business. Under new business, the first agenda item dealt with temporary office space which will be required during the renovation of the current county office building. Administrator Singletary provided the commissioners with an update on the search for suitable office space. After considering several proposals, the former offices of the Chamber of Commerce across from the Citizens Bank represented the most favorable option for temporary County office operations. A motion was passed to contract for (Continued on page 2A)

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Photo by Theresa Smith
 REYNOLDS, BEN PATTERSON, JAMES WILSON, TERRY SHRIVER
 AND SHANE SCARBORO
 NOT PICTURED: FRED MCCULLOUGH, STEVEN BOWEN
 AND JOSH CLIFTON

Wounded Warriors Retreat, Inc. Nordson Corporation employees of Swainsboro give back

Employees of Nordson Corporation recently showed their thankfulness and support to Wounded Warriors for their sacrifice to our country. Several employees, out of their own pockets, provided the material and labor to build a handicapped deer stand for our Warriors who have special needs. "These Warriors are now able to go take that deer for themselves and their kids just like you and I did through the generosity of these men. It is with grateful hearts that we say 'THANK YOU' for what you have done. It is people like you that help us make a lot of things possible for these Warriors that would not get done without you," said Wounded Warriors President Terry Reynolds.

EREA to hold meeting

The Emanuel Retired Educators Association will meet Wednesday, February 21, at 12 p.m. at Emanuel County Institute.

Akridge/Stapleton reunion set for March 3

The annual Akridge/Stapleton Reunion will be held Sunday, March 3 at the Vann Community House at 1p.m. All descendants are invited to attend. Please bring a covered dish.

Rose Hooks receives Kindness Award

by ASHLEI BOATRRIGHT
 During David Emanuel Academy's All School Chapel service on Wednesday, February 14, Rose Hooks, K4 student, was awarded our monthly Kindness Award. On a recent spirit day, Rose purchased a necklace from our Cheerleaders and when she got to class there was a student who was sad because they didn't get to buy a necklace that morning. Without being prompted, Rose willingly gave her necklace to her friend. Rose always has a smile on her face and her kindness and compassionate heart will carry her far in life. We are thankful for our sweet students!



GREYSON HOOKS, ROSE AND HEAD OF SCHOOL HAYLEE FREE

Busy housekeeping duties...

(From front page)
 the temporary rental of that location. In the next action under new business, the commission discussed the need for equipment lifecycle replacement. Bids requested for the purchase of a new Backhoe were considered from Caterpillar and John Deere. The bids were within four hundred dollars of each other. However, the delivery time for the

John Deere was immediate, compared to delays of several months for the Caterpillar. A motion to purchase the John Deere Backhoe for \$141,719 was offered and unanimously approved. The next three items considered under new business involved revisions and updates to county policy regarding employee travel, financial and purchasing policies and the storage of vital records. All of these issues were related to modifications mandated by new State and Federal requirements regarding financial, legal and employment policy. The commissioners

indicated their approval to adopt the recommended updated policy provisions for the required compliance and continued fiscal probity of the County. At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman Foskey expressed the regret but also the appreciation and good wishes of the county commissioners upon hearing of the resignation of County Clerk Stacy Scarboro. Ms. Scarboro has been a valued asset to Emanuel County government and will be missed by all. A motion for adjournment was then passed to close the February meeting.



I am excited to announce that I will be running for re-election. It is an honor to represent District 158 & hope to continue serving you in Atlanta!



SOUTH GEORGIA QUARTET Mt. Shady to hold special song service

Mt. Shady Baptist Church, located at 750, Mt. Shady Church Road, Swainsboro, will have a special song service Sunday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Featured singers will be South Georgia Quartet from Eastman. Lunch will follow in the church social hall. Pastor Rusty Moore and the congregation invites everyone to attend.



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BROWN, SMITH, BELL, RINER, TARVER, WILLIAMS, CHIN, BROWN, KAY AND DAVIS

SHS FBLA members attend Region Leadership Conference

Swainsboro High School FBLA members are successful at the Region Leadership Conference. Congratulations to the following students who placed at the FBLA Region Leadership Conference. 1st Place Client Service, Quintus Williams; 1st Place Graphic Design Champion, Quintus Williams; 5th Place Job Interview, Adam Kay; 2nd Place Intro to Public Speaking, DeiVion Davis; 1st Place Parliamentary Procedures, Yi'Zharia Bell, Bo Brown, Neveah Hendrix and Isaac Futch; 10th Place Intro to Business Communications, DeiVion Davis; 3rd Place Hospitality and Event Management, Adam Kay and Neveah Hendrix; 2nd Place Entrepreneurship, Kylie Brown; 4th Place Economics, Emily Chen; 2nd Place Business Management, Emily Chen; 5th Place Accounting, Joy Jackson.

Congratulations to the students who advanced to the FBLA State Leadership Conference. Quintus Williams, In Client Services and Graphic Design; Kisna Patel, Tisey Powel and Kylie Brown; Business Ethics; Dei'Vion Davis, Intro to Public Speaking and Intro to Business Communications; Emily Chen, Economics.



D. SALGADO, RIGDON, S. SALGADO, SWYGERT, ERIN STANFORD, SHIVERS, WILLOUGHBY, LANE, MRS. ANNA JOHNSON, WALDEN AND HUDSON

ECI FCCLA compete at Region STAR

ECI Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America competed at Region STAR events on Saturday, February 10, at Long County High School. Smith Willoughby competed in Job Interview Level 3. Grace Elaine Swygert competed in Chapter Service Project Portfolio Level 3 and advanced to state. Mylie Rose Lane and Allie Rigdon competed in Chapter Service Project Display Level 3 and advanced to state. Erin Stanford competed in Professional Presentation Level 2 and advanced to state. Lola Walden and Aubrey Hudson competed in Fashion Design Level 2 and advanced to state. JaMyra Shivers competed in Event Management Level 3 and advanced to state. Dhahami Salgado and Samadhi Salgado competed in Repurpose and Redesign Level 3 and advanced to state. Students will compete at state March 17-19 at the Classic Center in Athens. Good Luck, Girls!

Swainsboro Exchange Club makes donation

A \$500 donation was presented to the Southeastern Technical College Foundation at the meeting of the Swainsboro Exchange Club on Tuesday, February 13.



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 6:00 PM - Evening Worship

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



PLEASE JOIN US!

James "Derrell" Anderson, Sr.

James "Derrell" Anderson Sr., of Register, and husband of Sue Futch Anderson, passed away on Monday, February 12, 2024, at his residence surrounded by his family. Funeral service was held Thursday, February 15, at 11 a.m. at Metter Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Barry Anderson and Elder Mike Newman officiating. Interment followed in Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Evans County near Daisy. Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, at Kennedy Funeral Homes, Hooks Chapel of Metter.



ANDERSON, SR.

Pallbearers were Spencer Southwell, Aaron Carter, Hunter Canady, Austin Canady, Brody Durden, Grayson Canady and Chance Saxon. Honorary pallbearers were his granddaughters, Ava Anderson and Kendall Saxon.

Derrell was born in 1952, the oldest of five children born to Versie Sapp Anderson Cribbs and Kendall Anderson. He grew up on the family farm and lived within shouting distance of his grandparents, Raleigh Foster Anderson and Ida Lewis Anderson. It was the first house on that farm that was built in the 1890's, a house which still stands today. Derrell attended grade school in Nevils and graduated from Southeast Bulloch High School in 1970. It was at that time that began his career as a grocer. Over the years, he managed grocery stores such as Winn Dixie in Swainsboro and the Red and White in Claxton, among others. In the mid 1980's Derrell returned to his family farm, and along with his cousin, Dennis, and brothers, Barry and Brian, they farmed the family land for many years. He loved his work and loved having his family work the farm with him. When his mother, Versie was no longer able to drive, Derrell began driving her to church. It was during those years that he moved his membership to Claxton Primitive Baptist Church where he later was ordained as a deacon. Derrell was a strong Christian man with a gentle spirit and a huge heart, a trait that he inherited from his grandmother's, Lula Callaway and Ida Lewis, and his mother, Versie Cribbs. He was a faithful and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and

friend. No matter the circumstances, Derrell was strong in his faith and love of the Lord, and above all, put God first in all his affairs. He enjoyed family gatherings at his home and on the farm. His love for the grandchildren was like no other and they could do no wrong and each had their time to be the favorite. Derrell loved NASCAR and made it the yearly event for the farm family to attend the races in Atlanta. Anyone who knew him long enough would know of his long-standing tradition of driving Ford vehicles. Derrell would, on a regular basis, tell you that it's either "Ford Tough or Tough Luck" or "Every automobile has a little Ford in it, because Ford was the first car ever built". He even let his family know that when it comes time for his funeral, "don't drive me to the grave in a GM product". He reminded his family of his love for them and even in his final hours, made sure they knew how much he loved them, and made them aware of God's spiritual blessings. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God", Matthew 5:8.

Surviving are his wife, Sue Anderson; daughters, Amy (Robert) Southwell, Casey (Daniel) Durden and Kayla (Ashley) Smith; sons, Jamie (Shannon) Anderson, and Ricky (Dana) Canady; sister, Kathy (Michael) Newman; brothers, Barry (Tammy) Anderson, Timmy (Charlene) Anderson and Brian Anderson; grandchildren, Ben, Curtis, Spencer, Aaron, Kendall, Ava, Hunter, Austin, Brody, Grayson, Ansley and Kellen; five great-grandchildren, Kyson, Sadie, Aubree, Reagan and Bailey; and several nieces and nephews.

Voices United to celebrate 31st Choir Anniversary

Voices United will have their 31st Choir Anniversary Sunday, February 25, at 3:30 p.m. at St. James Baptist Church. Special guest will be Burke County High School Gospel Choir. Also featuring will be St. James Church Choir, UCFJC, MLK Community Choir, The Merrell Sisters and The Anointed Tribe of Judah. President/Founder is Matt Howard and Director is Vernessa Pierce. Public is invited to attend.

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Marvin Worthen, 69

Marvin Worthen, age 69, entered into eternal peace on Friday, February 9, 2024, at Augusta University Medical Center. A Life and Legacy was held Saturday, February 17, at 3 p.m. at St. Philip Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. James E. Love officiating and Minister Larry Sherrod presiding. Interment followed in Swainsboro City Cemetery.



WORTHEN

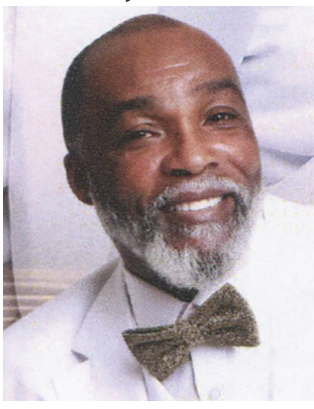
Marvin was born January 22, 1955, in Swainsboro, to the late Jim and Laura Worthen. He worked at Canady Supply Company, Wrightsville Lumber Company and El Roy Turpentine Steel until his retirement. Marvin loved to plant flowers and vegetables and always enjoyed working in his garden and definitely had a green thumb. Mr. Worthen is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Viola Marie Wise Worthen; son, Maurice Clark, grandson, Goug Clark, and eleven siblings.

Mr. Worthen leaves to cherish his memories with his daughters, Carnesia (James) Mack, Lillian (Ronald) Wilkerson, both of Statesboro, Tarinesia Rivers, Roberta (Michael) Murphy and Christie Clark, all of Swainsboro; brothers, Danny "Debo" Worthen, Dennis Mason and Jimmy Seabourough, all of Swainsboro; 17 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Melvin Jackson, 64

Melvin Jackson, age 64, peacefully transitioned on Monday, February 12, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held Monday, February 19, at 1 p.m. at City of David Worship Assembly in Statesboro. Burial was held in Swainsboro City Cemetery.



JACKSON

Melvin was born June 16, 1959, to the late Mary L. Lynch and N.H. (Jay) Lynch. He was a devoted Christian and a loving husband, cherished father, caring grandfather and beloved brother. Melvin was a dear friend to many and will be remembered for his unwavering faith, kind heart, and selfless devotion to his family and community. His legacy of love in "Jesus name" and compassion will continue to inspire them all.

Mr. Jackson leaves to cherish his memories with his wife, Bobbie; children, India James

Deacon Jeremiah Foots, 82

Jeremiah Foots, age 82, departed this life on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at Emanuel Medical Center. A Homecoming Celebration was held Saturday, February 17, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Wilbert Kennedy officiating and Rev. Dr. Mario D. Webb, Sr. presiding. Interment followed in Swainsboro City Cemetery.



FOOTS

Jeremiah was born June 1, 1941, in Metter, the fifth child of the late Grady and Idella Foots. He worked in various occupations then became a mason by trade and later started his own business, Foots Construction, and was self-employed for 35 years until he became ill. Mr. Foots is preceded in death by his parents; eldest son, Thomas Gerald Foots; sisters, Yvonne Jackson, Eulla Mae Bullard and Lena Crocket; brothers, J.W. Foots, Bretha Foots and Joe Louis Foots; and two granddaughters, Shanise Nicle Jackson and Reonia Sylvia Foots.

Mr. Jackson leaves to cherish his memories with his devoted wife; daughters, Vivian Jackson of Aberdeen, MD and Jennifer (Darrin) Berkley of Abingdon, MD; sons, Henry (Angela) Foots, Ronald (Sheila) Foots and Jonathan Foots, both of Swainsboro; four siblings; 16 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Editorials Columns

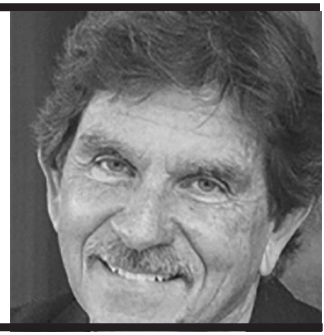
An anniversary message

It was about this time two years ago, that I started writing this weekly column. The folks at the *Forest-Blade* were good enough to allow me the space and place to practice the trade that I had spent four years at UGA and a sizeable amount of my parent's money trying to learn. I have enjoyed these last 24 months trying to revive and restore an ambition and a plan that got shelved a long time ago, and I thank the staff here as well as all of you who take the time to read what I write each week. I plan on continuing that until they run me off. But sadly, and of much greater importance this week is another anniversary of a much grimmer, and somber kind.

It was also two years ago that Russian military forces crashed through the borders of the independent republic of Ukraine in a brazen and unprovoked attack on a neighboring country. It was raw aggression, the likes of which has not been seen since World War II. For months, the dictator Vladimir Putin massed thousands of Russian troops on the doorsteps of Ukraine. When it was clear that this threat and intimidation would not be challenged by any of the stronger western nations, the Russian forces barreled through Ukrainian cities inflicting large scale death and destruction on the civilian population and on an overmatched Ukrainian volunteer military. The devastation of civilian life in Ukraine has driven nearly four million people from their homes. They now live in bombed out buildings, underground

utility tunnels, and any other shelter they can find. The peaceful routine of life for over six million people has become a story of refugees and mass evacuation into neighboring countries. Towns have been leveled, lives forgotten, children lost and stolen, families obliterated and more than 520,000 people dead. All of this, the result of the deranged dreams of resurrection of the old Soviet empire and the malevolent power, greed, and maniacal ego, of a five-foot five-inch former KGB agent. Putin has held absolute power in Russia off and on for all but four of the last 24 years. In a month, he will again be awarded another term in a staged presidential election by almost 97 percent of the popular vote. His estimated net worth is over 200 billion U.S. dollars while the yearly income for the average Russian citizen is between 11,000 and 13,000 U.S. dollars. The former Russian spy will continue to push and provoke leaders of the countries of the free world as long as he sees that there is no credible threat to challenge him. The same is true for leaders of the People's Republic of China, North Korea and Iran. It is no coincidence that these nations and others are all working together now, both economically and militarily, to take advantage of the weakened policy positions demonstrated by the current White House administration. Putting all partisan politics aside, it is now time for the strongest nation in the world to exhibit some real backbone in its projec-

Charles Schwabe



tion of power and resolve. Before the opportunity passes by, we must show Putin, Ali Khamenei of Iran, and Xi Jinping of China that we will support Ukraine with more arms to continue their fight for freedom, that we will eliminate threats to our Navy and to international shipping in the Red Sea and Yemen by Iranian proxies, and that we will invoke serious trade policy to send an unmistakable warning to the Chinese economy. We will do this to make sure that our enemies understand that the United States is not afraid of a fight. We are not the aggressor nor the oppressor, but we will stand on the wall, and guard the principles we fought to establish 248 years ago. The final and most important part of "showing backbone" is to make sure the American public understands that the greatest danger of all is when we take our freedom for granted. Like the slogan says, "freedom is not free". Our enemies need to know that we believe this, and they should also know that we stand ready to prove it.

Cornbread another official reason to love this great state

By the time you see this, cornbread may be Georgia's official state bread. It has been a long time coming and it might not have happened except for the herculean efforts of state Rep. Kasey Carpenter, R-Dalton, who happens to be a restaurant owner when not getting inspiring legislation passed under the Gold Dome. Of course, as with everything in politics, there was some debate, this time from biscuit lovers. Rep. Gregg Kennard, D-Lawrenceville, declared his fidelity to biscuits and added that gravy should also be named the state's official condiment. (Gravy a condiment? I thought gravy was just gravy.)

As for me, I feel strongly both ways, having had a momma who could whip up both cornbread and biscuits, not to mention sopping gravy as good as could be done. By the way, both cornbread and biscuits are greatly enhanced with application of butter, if one of our intrepid public servants would like to go for making butter Georgia's official state high-calorie dairy product made from milk fat. But expect opposition from the powerful oleomargarine lobby. As you know, I am a proud Georgian. And why not? We are home to the Blue Ridge mountains; the Golden Isles; the University of Georgia,

the oldest state-charted university in the nation; the sweet Vidalia onion; the Masters; "Georgia on my Mind," the greatest state song in the history of the world as sung by Ray Charles Robinson, of Albany, Georgia; and now we are looking at having an official bread. I called Junior E. Lee, general manager of the Yarbrough Worldwide Media and Pest Control Company, located in Greater Garfield, Georgia, and asked if any other states have an official bread. Junior would know. He is not only highly respected among his media colleagues for his political expertise, he is also a certified pest con-

trol professional. Eat your heart out, Tucker Carlson. Junior's research shows that only a few states have an official bread. Maryland declared corn muffins their state bread in 1986. Not to quibble, but a corn muffin is just little cornbread baked in little round holes. Real cornbread is round and thick like a cake, sliced like a cake and best enjoyed when cooked in an iron skillet. Oklahoma also recognizes cornbread as their official bread. Sort of. They include as a part of their official state meal, which consists of steak and okra and black-eyed peas and grits. (Grits in Oklahoma?) South Dakota and Texas feature fly bread, made from wheat, baking soda and water, which I've never tasted and don't plan to. Sounds like eating cardboard. Should the Legislature pass the cornbread measure, it will end up on Gov. Brian's Kemp's desk. He is sure to sign. Next to trouncing Trump's buddy David Perdue in the GOP primary and then decisively whipping liberal icon Stacey Abrams in the general election, this could be the governor's finest

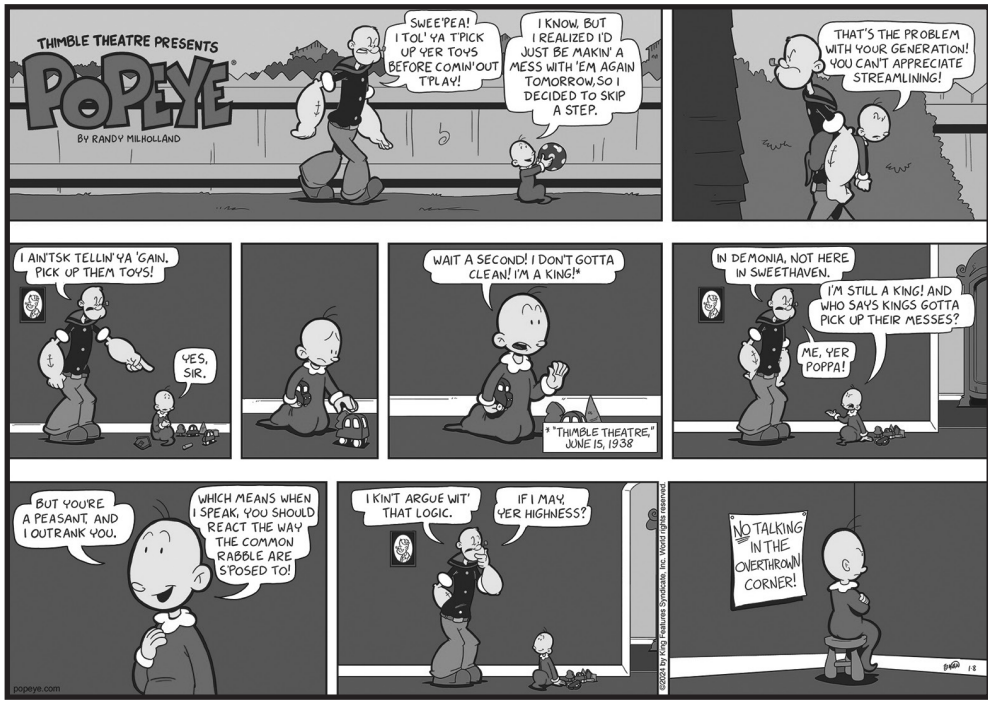
Dick Yarbrough



hour. Georgia would then become one of only four states out of 50 – or maybe it's 54, as Joe Biden says – with an official bread. Cornbread will then join the pantheon of official recognitions in our state along with our official amphibian, the green tree frog; the official fossil, a shark tooth; the official insect, the honeybee; the official seashell, the knobbed whelk; and the official fish, the largemouth bass. (I would have guessed catfish.) We also have an official state nut, the pecan. Incidentally, California lists their official nuts as almonds, walnuts, pistachios and pecans. That was a surprise. I would have thought it would have been their entire congressional delegation and anyone who chooses to live in downtown San Francisco. Our official vegetable is, of course, the sweet Vidalia onion, renowned in all the world. Vermont, by contrast, lists its official vegetable as the Gilfeather turnip.

There is also the Gilfeather Turnip Festival, held annually in Wardsboro. This year's festival featured Wardsboro's own strolling troubadour, Jimmy Knapp, and his original Gilfeather turnip ballads. No wonder Vermont has resorted to paying people to move there. But I urge our intrepid public servants not to rest on their laurels in getting cornbread the recognition it is due. There is more to do. We should recognize sweet tea as our official drink. Barbecue as our official meat. Banana pudding as our official health food and the 2020 presidential election as officially over. Please. And if you really want to be bold, here's one for you. How about an official modest-and-beloved columnist? I think I know just the guy. Unofficially, of course. You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

Editorial Cartoons



Continuing Atlanta, Ga

Shirley Proctor Twiss



Following my dream after I graduated from SHS in 1953, I headed to Atlanta. Frances Willis joined me. We moved into a boardinghouse with former classmate, Betty Gillis, and found summer jobs. We spent our first summer learning the way around the city and traveling on the big, red, electric buses. I knew I was in the right place at the right time. I entered the Atlanta Division of University of Georgia which would soon become Georgia State University. I went to classes in the morning and worked four hours in the

afternoon. Between a small Beta Club scholarship and part-time work, I was able to stay solvent and eat a lot of Varsity hotdogs. Two years later my plans changed. I met a Georgia Tech senior from Arkansas who became the love of my life. After marriage to "that boy from Arkansas as my family called him" we lived in seven states but never in Atlanta again. Our last move was to Greenville SC. This love-southern city reminded us of the Atlanta of 1956. However, Greenville is progressing and becoming

a larger city. My motivation comes from a recent candidate for mayor of Greenville. Her campaign platform was, "I will not let Greenville become another Atlanta." My first thought was, "How dare admonish the city of my heart!" Of course, she did not get my vote or many others. Our current mayor who believes in progress was re-elected. I will always have the memory of my first trip to Atlanta and love for our capital city--even if the traffic is terrible. Write to Shirley at sptwiss@gmail.com.

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.



Board of Education...

(From front page) uary, 2024 F.A.M.I.L.Y. recipient was Nikki Robinson (SMS); January, 2024 P.A.U.S.E. recipient was Fernando Lopez-Garcia, a Swainsboro Elementary School student; January, 2024 S.A.S. recipient was Cendy Lee (ECI).

2. GAEL Vision Award

3. FFA Week fish fry for board members will be Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6 p.m.

4. Dr. Denise Warnock recognized Swainsboro Middle School Jr. Beta students and teachers who participated in the State Convention in Savannah November 27-29, 2023.

Sponsors/Teacher were Marcie Gay, Amy Screws, Candi Boulineau, Latoya Nealey Student achievements are as follows: Alice Lopez Acosta, 1st Place - 6th Grade Spanish; Amelia Clements, 3rd Place - Visual Arts: 3D Design; Sydney Lively, 3rd Place - Visual Arts: 3D Design; Stella Marsh, 3rd Place - Visual Arts: 3D Design; Aubree Roberts, 4th Place - Visual Arts: Color Photography; Kaylee Screws, 3rd Place - Visual Arts: Quilling; Abi Torpy, 1st Place - Visual Arts: Mixed Media; Tate Torpy, 1st Place - Visual Arts: Woodworking; Amelia Clements, 3rd Place - Book Battle; Gzourney Gardner, 3rd Place - Book Battle; Arlin Swanner, 3rd Place - Book Battle; Alice Lopez Acosta, 5th Place - Digital Portfolio; Ava Patel, 5th Place - Digital Portfolio; Maritza Saldana-Martinez, 5th Place - Digital Portfolio; Abi Torpy, 5th Place - Digital Port-

folio; Julianne Way, 5th Place - Digital Portfolio; and Jocelyn Williams, 5th Place - Digital Portfolio; Gracee Brown, 5th Place - Songfest; Banks Burke, 5th Place - Songfest; Rayanna Burnette, 5th Place - Songfest; Hannah Camarero, 5th Place - Songfest; Jacob Carroll, 5th Place - Songfest; Amelia Clements, 5th Place - Songfest; Kirstin Coleman, 5th Place - Songfest; Brennan Collins, 5th Place - Songfest; Cade Colston, 5th Place - Songfest; Calli Fields, 5th Place - Songfest; Jaliyah Hall, 5th Place - Songfest; Bowyn Harvey, 5th Place - Songfest; Layla Headrick, 5th Place - Songfest; Mad-dux Hendrix, 5th Place - Songfest; Kaybreigh Hostilo, 5th Place - Songfest; Rayleigh Hutcherson, 5th Place - Songfest; Consuela Jimenez, 5th Place - Songfest; Landon Kapp, 5th Place - Songfest; Sydney Lively, 5th Place - Songfest; Alice Lopez-Acosta, 5th Place - Songfest; Luis Lopez Garcia, 5th Place - Songfest; Stella Marsh, 5th Place - Songfest; Gatlin Martinez, 5th Place - Songfest; Ethan Mason, 5th Place - Songfest; Lenox McNeely, 5th Place - Songfest; Parker Outlaw, 5th Place - Songfest; Ava Patel, 5th Place - Songfest; Jusvin Rithsay, 5th Place - Songfest; Aubree Roberts, 5th Place - Songfest; Martiza Saldana-Martinez, 5th Place - Songfest; Sakiyna Sanders, 5th Place - Songfest; Anna Grace Scarborough, 5th Place - Songfest; Colton Sconyers, 5th Place - Songfest; Kaylee Screws, 5th Place - Songfest; Stetson Sheppard,

5th Place - Songfest; Sara Smith, 5th Place - Songfest; Sa'Riyah Smith, 5th Place - Songfest; Raylin Stapleton, 5th Place - Songfest; Arlin Swanner, 5th Place - Songfest; Ciera Thomas, 5th Place - Songfest; Jude Thompson, 5th Place - Songfest; Savannah Thompson, 5th Place - Songfest; Abi Torpy, 5th Place - Songfest; Ashlyn Turner, 5th Place - Songfest; Julianne Way, 5th Place - Songfest; Jocelyn Williams, 5th Place - Songfest.

Dr. Warnock also recognized Swainsboro Middle School students and sponsor who participated in the District Honor Band at Stallings Island Middle School on December 2, 2023.

Sponsor/Teacher was Tylan Davis.

Receiving recognition were Edilson Perez-Hernandez, Tuba-Honor Band Alternate; Juan Perez-Hernandez, Euphonium-Honor Band; Jose Perez-Lopez, Euphonium-Honor Band Alternate

Next was recognition of Swainsboro Middle School UGA Honor Band in Athens, Ga December, 7-9, 2023.

Sponsor/Teacher was also Tylan Davis.

Students recognized were Kolby Barber, Tuba; Christopher Barrett, Trumpet; Kamm'Rynn Bell, Trombone; Taden Brinson, Trombone; Jamir Carter, 1st Chair Contra Alto Clarinet; Michael Collins, Tuba; Johnny Crapps, Trombone; Gunner Davis, Horn; Levy DeLeon-Lopez, Trombone; Jaden Hall, Alto Sax; Genesis Herrington, Trombone; Stella Marsh, Tuba; Payton

McCullough, Trumpet; Harley Peebles, Flute; Edilson Perez-Hernandez, Tuba; Jose Perez-Lopez, Euphonium; Juan Perez-Hernandez, Euphonium

Final recognition at this month's meeting was Star Student and Star Teacher recipients as follows: Ricardo Jose-Lara, Star Student-Swainsboro High School; Ricardo Jose-Lara,

Star Student-Emanuel County; William Sasser, Star Student-Emanuel County Institute; Dorne Farnum-Holmes, Star Teacher -Emanuel County Institute; Selena Reynolds, Star Teacher - Swainsboro High School

Discussion of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was presented and approved as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes of the January 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

2. Approval of Financial Reports - Mollie Smith

3. Approval of Fiscal Agent Agreement (Family Connection Grant)-Mollie Smith

4. Approval of FY25 Academic Calendar-Dr. Denise Warnock

5. Approval of Fundraisers-Swainsboro Middle School

Swainsboro Middle fundraisers approved include the following:

Basketball, Cheer Lollipops April/May 2024; Jr. Beta Club Candy Bar Sales, Jan. 10-May 19, 2024; Jr. Beta Club, Beta Dance March, 2024; Jr. Beta Club, Silent Auction May, 2024; Jr. Beta Club, Field Day Concessions May, 2024; Jr. Beta Club, School Talent Show May, 2024; Media Center, Popcorn Sales January 26, 2024; Media Center, Popcorn Sales February 9, 2024, March 8, 2024, March 29, 2024, April 19, 2024; Media Center, Book Fair Spring 2024; Media Center, Pull A Pops-During Book Fair Spring 2024; FFA, Ice Cup Sales (In class only) January 16-May 15, 2024; FFA, Chicken Salad Chick February 23-March 14, 2024; FFA, Car Wash April 20, 2024; FFA, Bake Sale May 4, 2024; FFA, Krispy Kreme April 15-May 2, 2024; 8th Grade, 8th Grade Dance April 15, 2024; 8th Grade, Dress Down Day March 8, 2024; 8th Grade, Flag Football May 10, 2024; 8th Grade, Social April 30, 2024; 7th Grade, Jogger Day February 15, 2024

The regular meeting closed with the approval of 2024-25 lawn care recommendations by Jansen Ware.

Executive Session

The Board approved the renewal, employment, retired, retirement and resignations of the following certified and classified employees:

Renewals of principals and directors:

Andrews, Brandon; Lawrence, Shannon; Barber, Stacey; Mason, Stefanie; Collins, Jessica; Miller, David; Daniels, Maria; Norton, Lara; Edenfield, Anetria; Smith, Mollie; Gamble, Dionne; Tapley, Sarah; Hooks, Chandra; Warnock, Denise; Clark-Hubbard, Demita; Ware, Jansen; Watkins, Valorie

All other certified staff members:

Adam Akridge, Ashley Akridge, Ellen Akridge, Kyler Akridge, Sheri Allen, Amy Atkinson, Debra Austin, George Bakey, Amanda Beasley, Melissa Beasley, Stacie Besier, Jennifer Best, Elizabeth Bishop, Allison Blackburn, Dawn Boddiford, Delphine Bostic, Candi Boulineau, Kathryn Braddy, Haley Brantley, Kristie Brantley, Hunter Braswell, Nickole Braswell, Cynthia Brett, Loise Brinson, April W Brown, Katherine Brown, Nina R Brown, Shayla Brown, Rachel Burkhalter, Megan Bush, Amber Butler, Whitney Calhoun, Heather Canady, Judy Cannady, Kellie Cannady, Lane Cardell, Donnell Carter, Jessica Cauley, Corey Chalker, Stephen Clark, Karen Claxton, Keri Claxton, Pattie Claxton, Whitney Claxton, Justin Coleman, Ashley B Collins, Janice M Collins, Jessica Conley, Katie Cowart, Sondra Cowart, Devin Coxwell, Tracy Coxwell (Ass't Dir), Stephanie Crapps, Elizabeth Kraus-Cravey, Cassidy Curry, Livia Daniel, Tera Daniels, Andrea D Davis, Kaylee Davis, Kristen Davis, Lindsay Davis, Megan Davis, Pippin Davis, Tylan Davis, Denni Delinski, Amy Dorsey, Valerie Douglas, Tabatha Downer, Arlene Drew, Almeta Durden, Jenna S Durden, Molly J Durden (49%), Abby Edenfield, Daniel Edenfield, Jessica English, Macy Fagler, Lisa Faircloth, Melissa Farthing, Dedra Felkel, Savannah Ferrell, Caleb Fields, Jennifer Fitzner, Brionna Flood, Alexandra Flowers, Shanna Foskey, Amanda Freeman, Donita Freeman, Julie Frix, Brooke Frye (AP), Leah Frye, Judy Gay, Marcie Gay, April Gibson, Audrey J Giddens, Chase Giddens, Mary Gilmore, Donna Godowns (49% CTA AP), Alison Goodman, Barry Golden (AP), Olivia Golden, Betty Gomez, Antwanette Green, Samantha Green, Robin Grimes, Shaylin Griswold, Harmon Groves, Cameron Hadden, Kendall Hadden, Shanda Hall, Sierra Hancock, Holly Harkins, Benjamin C Harper, Bridgette Harrison, Tammy Harvey, Holly Hattaway, Suzanne Hendricks, Alicia Hendricks, Avery Hendrickson, Ashley Henry, Christie Henry (AP), Felicia Herrington, Pamela Hill, Brice Hobbs, David Hodges, Heather Erin Hodges, Heather J Hodges, John Hodges, Linda Holder (49%), Cameo Holloway, Marisha Hol-

loway, Dorene Holmes, Amy Holton, Allison Hood, Angela Hooks, Ashley Hooks, Kay Hooks, Marla Hooks, Krista Hostilo, Frederick G Hundley (49%), Cheryl Hughes, Silvana Ibanez, Kristie Irvin, Morgan Jersey, Amanda Johnson, Anna Johnson, Chelsea Johnson, Erica Johnson, Haley Johnson, Jamie Johnson, Keylee Johnson, Russell Johnson, Schuyler Johnson, Siobhan C Johnson, Tyler Johnson, Eric Jones, Karen Jones, Kathy Jordan, Natalie Jordan, Angelia Joyner, April Kea, Christopher Kearson, Caroline Kelly, Linda Kelly, James G Kennedy,

Jennifer Key, Karol Key, Bonnie A Kraus, Jana Lee, Tracey Lee, Patricia Lewis, Marl Lillquist, Alana B Logan, Kelly Logan, Ashley Love, Charlean Love, Lorie Love, William Marchman, David Markwith, Selena Marsh, Calissa Mason, Sandra Mason, Valesa McCallister, Amy McBride, April McBride, Stephanie McCullough, William McKee, Jane Mcleod, Bobby McNeely, Lucretia McNeely, Rebecca McNeely, Kaylen Meadows, Mandy Meeks, Grayson Mendieta (AP), Kelli Mendieta, Mystie Mingledorff, Kellie Mixon, Chole Moore, Chelsie Morris, Harold R Moxley, Karen Moxley, Taylor Muirhead, Denise Myers, Latoya Nealey, Justin Neesmith, Brandy Nelson, John C Nelson, Christian Novak, Joseph O'Neal, Angel Oliver, Eddie Oliver, Daniel Overstreet, Lelyn Overstreet, Monica Pace, Alton H Palmer, Rebecca Palmer, Wanda Parrish, Faith Patick, Salina Patton, Allison Peebles, Elayah Peebles, Victoria Pellerin, Lisa Polychrones, Barbara Poole, John Caleb Pressey, Elizabeth Price, Christopher Pye, Lora Raines, David Ray, Deanna Ryan, Leah Rehberg, Lisa Reynolds, Selena Reynolds, Amanda Rigdon, Cynthia Riner, Befany Roberson, Corian Roberson (AP), Dannielle Roberts, Sara Emilee Roberts, Scott Roberts, Adam Robertson, Patrice Robinson, Phillip Robinson, Ann Rogers, Richard Rogers, Lori Romley, Jessica Rountree, Mary Rowland, Tara Rowland-Mills, Eric Schilling, Devin Schwabe, Amy Sconyers, Lindsey Sconyers (AP), J Alisa Scott, Keila Scott, Michelle Scott, Raymond Scott, Megan Scruggs, Megan Seamands, Tyron Sellers, Adelia Serralde, Bobbie Sherrod, Nicole Sherrod, Courtney Sikes, Lindy Sikes, Rachael Sikes, Megan Simmons, Russell Simmons, James M Singletary, Jodi Singletary (AP), Annie Smith, Dwight Smith, Jessica Smith, Polly Smith, Alison Smoyer, Meagan Stapleton, Susan Stephenson, Hannah Stewart, Amber Sweet, Tiffany Strickland, Sheena Swanner, James Tanner, Amanda Taylor, Lisa Taylor, Molly Thomas, Tina A Thompson, Kelli Torpy, Patrice Toulson, Joan Turner, Denene Washington-Favors, Cortney Wallace, Alexandria Walden, Dena Walden, Soukeyna Walker, Jennifer Ware, Danyelle Warren, Amy Way, Cassie Way, Erin Way, Mallory Wheeler, Victoria Wheeler, Whitney Wheeler, Vanessa Wilkes, Annie Williams, Berine Williams, Heather Williams, Jordanna Williams, Zakia Williams, Shaakira Williams, Holly Williamson, Anna Kate Willoughby, Brianna Wilson, Frances Wimberly, Kristy Wimberly, Quintaya Womble, April Woods (AP), Annette Worthen, Robert Yarbrough, Angela Young (AP), Teresa Zipperer (40%)

Certified resignations Andrade, Erica Teacher SPS 5/29/2024; Brobst, Angelica Teach- (Continued on page 7A)

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Board of Education...

(From page 6A)
 er SES 5/29/2024; Cannady, Anita Teacher SHS 5/29/2024; Favors, Ayah Teacher SHS 5/29/2024
 King, Mia Teacher SPS 5/29/2024; Mobley, Jana Teacher ECI 5/29/2024; Radford, Hudson Teacher SPS 5/29/2024; Romer, Tammy Teacher SMS 5/29/2024; Tarancon, Omar Teacher SES 5/29/2024
Retired, certified:
 Bowen, Susanne Teacher TCE 5/29/2024; Brown, Kimberly Teacher Pre-K 5/29/2024; Carlyle, Melissa Teacher ECI 5/29/2024; Gray, Tammy Public Relations Specialist Central Office 6/30/2024; Greenway, Gail Director of Federal Funding Central Office 5/1/2024; Hatcher, Teresa Teacher TCE 5/29/2024; Johnson, Leslie Teacher ECI 5/29/2024; Mercer, Tracey Instructional Data Coach ECI 6/5/2024; Rountree, Sonya Teacher TCE 5/29/2024; Stewart, Chawny Teacher SPS 5/29/2024; Street, Gwendolyn Teacher ECI 5/29/2024; Triplett, Stephanie Teacher Pre-K 5/29/2024
 13 Watkins, Stephanie Teacher Pre-K 5/29/2024
Recommended, classified:
 Farcas, Kendra Parapro SPS 2/20/2024 NCIC Incomplete; Oquinn, Melinda Parapro SPS 2/15/2024 NCIC Complete
Resignations, classified:
 Dickens, Alexis Parapro SPS 5/29/2024; Hadaway, Elisama Parapro SPS 5/29/2024; Scott, Deborah Parapro TCE 5/29/2024
RETIREMENTS, CLASSIFIED:
Retirements, classified:
 Skipper, Barbara Caregiver EHS 5/29/2024; Seamans, Robert Bus Driver Transportation 2/28/2024; Stone, Cummy Paraprofessional G-NETS 5/29/2024; Williams, Gwendolyn Parapro SMS



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DENISE. WARNOCK, ECI STAR STUDENT WILLIAM SASSER, PRINCIPAL ANETRIA EDENFIELD, AND SUPERINTENDENT SCOTTY HATTAWAY



BOARD MEMBER JOHNNY PARKER, BAND DIRECTOR TYLAN DAVIS, JUAN PEREZ HERNANDEZ AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL STEVEN GOLDEN



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL WARNOCK, SHS AND EMANUEL COUNTY SCHOOLS STAR STUDENT RICARDO JOSE-LARA, STAR TEACHER SELENA REYNOLDS AND SUPERINTENDENT HATTAWAY



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL DR. ANGELA YOUNG, F.A.M.I.L.Y. AWARD RECIPIENT NIKKI ROBINSON AND BOARD MEMBER CHERIE HOOKS



2023-24 GAEL VISION AWARD



BOARD MEMBER SANDRA SWINNEY, PRINCIPAL LARA NORTON, P.A.U.S.E. RECIPIENT FERNANDO LOPEZ-GARCIA AND KAREN CLAXTON

BOE called meeting February 15, 2024

The Emanuel County Board of Education met on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at the Central Office with the following members in attendance: Brandon Jones, Cherie Hooks, Del Brown, Tanya Lane, Johnny Parker and

Sandra Swinney. John Allen Bailey was absent. Chairman Del Brown welcomed everyone calling the meeting to order. Brandon Jones delivered the invocation followed by Johnny Parker leading the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by

Tanya Lane to accept the agenda as presented. Brandon Jones seconded. Brandon Jones, Cherie Hooks, Del Brown, Tanya Lane, Johnny Parker and Sandra Swinney voted "yes". CARRIED.

P U B L I C

PARTICIPATION - INCOMPLETE
 None
EMPLOYMENTS:
 The Board approved the employment of the following certified employee:
 Bussell, Madison - Teacher - ECI - 7/22/2024 - NCIC

Southall, Tanner - Teacher - ECI - 7/22/2024 - NCIC
 INCOMPLETE
 Brandon Jones made a motion for the Emanuel County Board of Education to name Dr. Denise Warnock as

the sole finalist for the next Emanuel County Schools Superintendent. Cherie Hooks seconded. Brandon Jones, Cherie Hooks, Del Brown, Tanya Lane, Johnny Parker and Sandra Swinney voted "yes". CARRIED.

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DADDYS AND DAUGHTERS

ECRD hosts Daddy-Daughter Dance

On Friday evening, February 10, over 130 couples enjoyed this year's Daddy-Daughter Dance hosted by the Emanuel County Recreation Department. The annual event was held in the Recreation Department Gym for girls ages 4-12 and their father or an adult escort. The girls enjoyed an evening of socializing and dancing to a variety of music provided by disc jockey Joey Crapps. The "couples" enjoyed refreshments that were served throughout the evening.

Harrell crowned Miss Emanuel County

The Miss Emanuel County/Miss Southeast Georgia Scholarship Board proudly presented the 44th annual Miss Emanuel County/Miss Southeast Georgia/Miss Crossroads of the South Competition on Saturday, February 10, at East Georgia State College. The pageant consisted of Miss and Teen Competitions that included private talent, evening wear, fitness, and on-stage conversation. Three Miss were crowned and one teen. The winners are Miss Southeast Teen Mollie Lane of Claxton, Miss Crossroads of the South Lindsay Jones of Alpharetta, Miss Southeast Georgia Gracie Allen of Bloomingdale, and Miss Emanuel County Haddyn Harrell of Cairo. These ladies will compete at Miss Georgia and Miss Georgia's Teen competition to be held in June in Columbus.

Other awards presented were: People's Choice - Jasmine Short (Miss) and Rohi Patel (Teen); Miss Congeniality - Emily Emmons (Miss) and Mollie Lane (Teen); Overall awards: Bob Ritchie Memorial Photogenic - Whitney Hartsock; Alyssa Beasley Overall Talent - Gracie Allen; Teen Talent - Mollie Lane; Teen Evening Wear - Mollie Lane; Miss Talent - Gracie Allen; Miss



LANE, JONES, ALLEN AND HARRELL

Evening Wear - Savannah Larisy.

The Miss Emanuel Southeast and Crossroads of the South Scholarship Board would like to thank sponsors for their Scholarship Contributions: **Diamond Level** - Better Built Buildings, Inc. Shelli Smith Miss Emanuel 1989, Daniels Chevrolet, Goldei and Brent Limbaugh Miss Southeast Georgia 2003, Gambrell Photography, Southern Traditions Floral & Gifts, Simmons Remodeling, LLC Amanda and Kevin Simmons; **Sapphire Level** - Higbe LLC DeAnna and Shawn Higbe, Dorsey Trailer Repair, Inc., Citizens Bank of Swainsboro, Lori Ragsdale Bonds Miss Emanuel County 1982 and Miss Southeast Georgia 1984; **Ruby Level** - Southern Dance Connection Brooke Boatright Johnson Miss

Emanuel County 2005, Liv Agency, LLC Angie and Todd Robinson, Morgan Rae Boutique, Stephanie's Dance Explosion Miss Emanuel County 1992, Southern Gentleman Farms and Transport, Durden Banking Company, Yeomans & Associates, Famous Credit, Bernie's on West Main, Shepard, Gary, and McWhorter, LLC, Downie Law, Cadle Law Firm, Central Fence Company, Allstar Dance Academy Cherry Carruth and Austin Carruth Miss Emanuel County 2014, Jim and Sherri Clifton, Jimmy and Lisa Lassiter; **Emerald Level** - Morgan Lothrige Magaldi Miss Emanuel County 2012, The Glad Garden Club of Swainsboro, Hazels Hotel Jill Pittman, Southern Knacks Boutique and Medical Center Pharmacy. Special thanks

to Pageant Board, Better Built Buildings, Inc., Southern Traditions, Main Street Styles, Lily and Lace Cosmetics, Brooke Boatright Johnson Miss Emanuel County 2005, Frills by Scott, Gambrell Photography, Stephanie Watkins Miss Emanuel County 1992, Lasting Impressions, L&W Signs, East Coast Sunspray, Sassy Supremes, April Schilling Cellular Casades Skin Spa, East Georgia State College, Sydney Dorsey Artistry, All the Fixings, The Hutch House, Golden Girl Spray Tanning, Renee Brinson Southern Sparkle Aesthetics, LLC, Hello Gorgeous, The Stockyard, Miranda Mikell Events by design, The Edenfield House, Leslie Ely and Destiny Levant. The next competition will be held October 26, 2024.

Ellison named to Dean's List, selected Coaching Education Student

Chase Ellison, a senior at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, made the Dean's List Fall Semester. To earn this achievement, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 and carry a minimum of 12 GPA hours for the semester.

Ellison was also selected by his professor/instructor, as a Georgia Southern Coaching Education Student of the Semester based on his hard work and perfor-



ELLISON

mance for the semester. Chase is the son of Swainsboro Police Chief Randy Ellison and wife, Wanda.

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TURNER ANSWERS QUESTIONS ABOUT HER ART

Art exhibition celebrates Black History Month

by JACQUIE BRASHER

Missy Turner, featured artist for Black History Month at The Kalmanson Gallery of Emanuel Arts Council, received a warm welcome at the opening reception for her exhibition on February 8.

A number of people from the local community and guests from Atlanta attended the show. The event was free and open to the public. The reception was provided by AKA and Friends. The national theme for Black History Month this year is "African-Americans and the Arts."

Turner's paintings will be on display at The Kalmanson Gallery until the last week of February. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, 12 noon to 3 p.m. or by appointment, and is located at 109 North Green Street in Swainsboro next to Bangles II Salon and Stewart's Jewelers.

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Swainsboro Kiwanis Club presents check to Seedling Garden Club

President Cheryl Goodman of Swainsboro Kiwanis Club presented a check to Seedling Garden Club at their meeting on February 12. The check is to help with expenses of the Seedling Garden Club's flower show. The club very much appreciates this donation from the Kiwanis Club.



ELLIS, PEACOCK, SMITH, LISEBY AND GOODMAN



HOOKS, PEEBLES, ALEXANDER, LISEBY AND GAY

Seedling Garden Club enjoys program on Orchids

On the very wet, rainy evening of February 12, Seedling Garden Club held its monthly meeting at Swainsboro Methodist Social Hall. The downpour of raindrops didn't hinder sixteen members and one guest from popping open umbrellas and attending the meeting. President Nancy Lisenby called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She welcomed everyone, and gave a special welcome to new member Joye Steele. Ann Peebles opened the meeting with an inspiration titled, "God's Little Things". God made a big world, then he made some little things such as insects, birds to fly high in the sky to watch the butterflies play in the flowers. He even made those pesky pest as we call a nuisance. Just like God tells us, "take the bad with the good." He is the creator of all things. President Lisenby invited everyone to enjoy the refreshments provided by the hostesses. Using a Valentine motif, refreshments were served from a table covered with a cloth adorned with valentines and held a beautiful pot of red tulips. Members enjoyed delicious strawberry cake, roasted pecans and soda. Hostesses were Yonna Bailey, Ann Peebles, Kim Hooks and Mary Pate Gay. After refreshments, the speaker of the evening was introduced. Lisenby introduced Pam Alexander of Collins. Pam is a retired schoolteacher and author of many books on Georgia History, and this includes books for children. Pam stated she began her «orchid hobby» five to six years ago. It has grown from a few to a converted spare bedroom full. She started the program by showing some of her beautiful orchids giving names of each. Alexander explained that what is taken as roots are not roots but a covering for roots. Explaining that moisture kills orchids, do not over water, plant in pots with holes and give lots of light. She showed

how to repot orchids using bark and orchid moss and advised you should repot every two years after blooming. Most important thing learned was don't drown, give light and tag plants to know what they are. Everyone enjoyed learning about orchids and just might try their hands at growing this beautiful plant.

In the business session, Secretary Imogene Buckley read the minutes from the January meeting and they were approved as read. Treasurer Kay Peacock gave the treasurer's report and it was approved as presented. Lisenby reported that Arbor Day was celebrated on February 9 with a tree planting at Swainsboro Primary School in memory of our own Ginny Smith. Jane Durden and Jill Briarcheck did a great job serving as chairpersons for the planting. They felt the tree was getting plenty of water with all this rain. Peacock, flower show chairman, gave a

brief report on the upcoming flower shop and committees were given their job descriptions. Flower show schedules will be given at the next meeting and members will sign up for designs then.

At the end of the meeting, Cheryl Goodman, president of Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, presented a check to the club from Kiwanis to be used for the upcoming flower show. The Seedling is very appreciative of this donation. Flower shows can be expensive, and this will help have a beautiful flower show for everyone to enjoy.

The meeting adjourned with Mary Ellen Smith winning the door prize given by hostesses. It was a beautiful potted red tulip, just in time for Valentine's Day.

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



NORA WEIGL (CENTER) WITH HERBERT AND VALENZUELA

Nature's Sunshine Products executives visit Nora's Herbs

In a gesture of support and appreciation, Kevin Herbert, Executive Vice President and President North America of Nature's Sunshine Products, along with Senior Manager, Ron Valenzuela paid a visit to Nora Weigl. She is the owner of Nora's Herbs for Health which is Emanuel County's only Vitamin and Herb Shop, located at 872 Old Wadley Road in Swainsboro.

She has been passionately promoting holistic health solutions for over four decades. She also has an online presence at www.NorasHerbs.com. During the visit, Mr. Herbert commended Nora's commitment to empowering individuals with natural remedies and fostering a community centered around well-being for which he expressed appreciation. Mr. Valenzuela also

commented: "Nora has been passionately fueling her community with nourishing choices for many years. With each individual that walks through her doors, she aims to cultivate a healthier lifestyle. As her preferred brand for nutritional herbs and supplements, we're honored to work alongside Nora and continue our mission to share the healing power of herbs!"

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Legals/Classifieds **B**

Swainsboro Varsity Tigers roll past Vidalia

The Tigers chalked up a big 9-2 win over the Vidalia Indians this past Thursday, February 15, with a steady performance from the word go. Swainsboro was first on the board when Caden Daley brought in a run right off the bat followed by another run in the second inning after Peyton Mason walked and the third run in the bottom of the third from a Gabe Conley home run. The Tigers collected 10 hits in the game courtesy of Brice Marchman, Caden Daley and DJ Stanford for two apiece. Marchman, Daley, Peyton Mason, Gabe Conley, Shane Gamiza, and DJ Stanford each drove in one run for the Tigers. Mason led Swainsboro with four walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the

plate, accumulating a total of 11 walks for the game. D.J. Sanford was also primed and ready with two stolen bases for the day. The Indians were led by Brayden McGraw with two hits in three times up. Ty Beck went 1-for-2 at the plate as the outfielder led the team with one run batted in.

Brice Marchman was the starting pitcher for Swainsboro and gave up two hits and two runs (zero earned) over five innings, striking out five and walking two. Veer Patel was the losing pitcher for the Indians allowing six runs (two earned), striking out three and walking seven during three and two-thirds innings. Brandon Chapman threw two innings of shutout ball for Swainsboro in relief. The reliever gave up one hit, striking out

two and walking one.

From the Coaches Notebook: Brandon Chapman, single, 3BB's; Brice Marchman, two singles, RB; Lenox Lively, single and two BB's; Caden Daley, two singles and RB; Peyton Mason, four BB's run scored, RBI; DJ Stanford, two singles RBI, two runs scored, two stolen bases; Gabe Conley, solo home run, RBI, run scored; Shane Gamiza, single, RBI run scored; Caden Tapley, two BB's run scored. Pitcher Brice Marchman had a solid game keeping the Indians off balance and controlling the game for 15 outs on only 77 pitches thrown. Brandon Chapman came in to record the last six outs to close out the day and put the Tiger's first win of the season in the book. Swainsboro's Coach Billy Marchman

wrapped it up saying, "Offensively, we reached first base 25 times with 10 hits, 11 BB's, a hit by pitch and three reach on error and were able to manufacture nine runs. The nine runs were enough with us committing only two defensive errors to go along with a solid pitching performance.

Tigers surge past Jenkins County

The Swainsboro Varsity Tigers scored 11 runs in one inning of Friday's game to catapult them to a 17-2 victory over the War Eagles of Jenkins County. The game started out with Jenkins on the board in the top of the first inning after Blake Aaron walked and Candler Berry was struck by a pitch, each scoring one run. The Tigers tied the game in the bottom of the first thanks to a double play, and an error. Swainsboro then moved ahead and captured the lead 6-2 in the bottom of the second when Chapman doubled, scoring one run. Lenox Lively grounded out scoring two runs, and Peyton Mason grounded out scoring one run. From that point on, it was a scoring jamboree for the Tigers as the hits just kept on coming. D.J. Stanford homered to left field, scoring two runs. Brandon Chapman singled, scoring one run. Caden Daley was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, and Stanford was also struck by a pitch driving in a run. An error scored one run and Lenox Lively singled scoring one run. Chapman, Marchman and Benjamin each collected two hits. Chapman, Lively, and Benjamin each drove in two runs. The Tigers were patient at the plate, totaling seven walks for the game. Gabe Conley and Shane Gamiza led the team with two walks each. Daley

stole two bases, and the team stole six bases in total.

Stanford earned the win for Swainsboro. He gave up one hit and zero runs over two and two-thirds innings, striking out six, and walking two. Daley began on the mound for Swainsboro. He allowed one hit and two runs (one earned run) over one-third of an inning, striking out one, and walking two. Jake Bazemore stepped on the hill first for the Eagles. He allowed five hits and nine runs (seven earned) over two innings, striking out one and walking six. Eagles Aaron and Berry were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup as each drove in one run for Jenkins County. Harper Wilcox and Berry each collected one hit for Jenkins County. The War Eagles turned one double play in the game.

From the Coaches notebook: Kadorian Benjamin - single, double, 2RBIs, run scored; Brandon Chapman - single, double, two RBIs, three runs scored, BB; Brice Marchman - single, double, runs scored, stolen base; Gabe Conley - double, two runs scored, two BBs; Kason Edenfield - single, RBI; Lenox Lively - single, two RBIs, BB; DJ Stanford - solo home run, RBI, run scored; Cullen Tapley - run scored; Aston Deloach - run scored; Shane Gamiza

- two runs scored, two BB's; Peyton Mason - run scored; Jaylen Clark - run scored; River Moxley - run scored.

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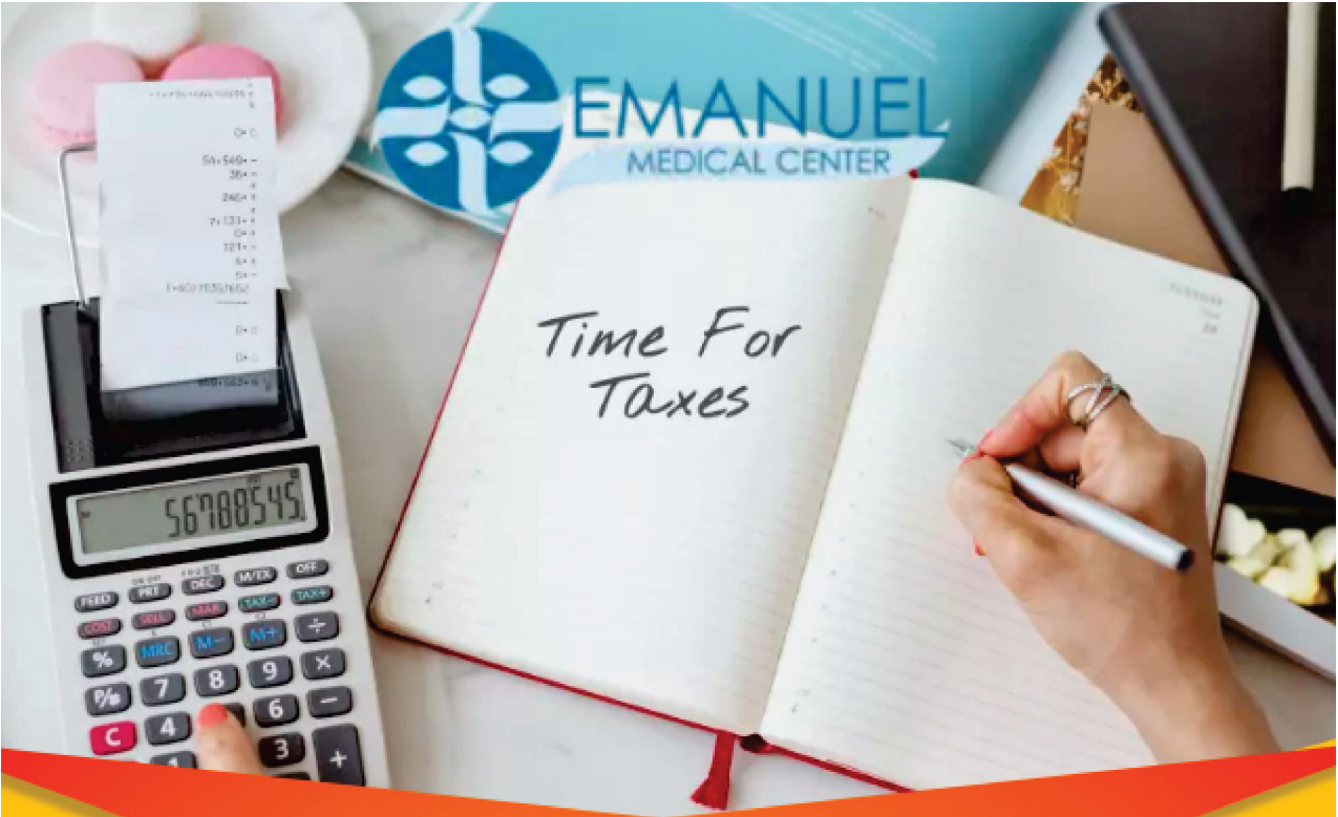
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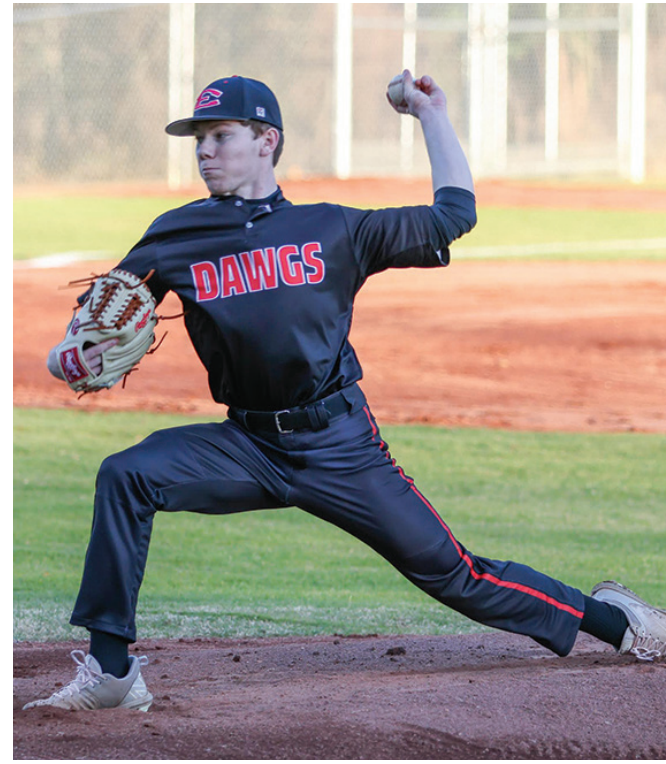
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Bulldog Baseball season begins with three wins

by **RON WEATHERFORD**

The ECI Bulldog baseball began last week with the 2023 state runners-up starting the 2024 season with a 3-0 start. During the three games the Bulldog offense was off at the go scoring 32 runs on 37 hits against Swainsboro, Washington Wilkes and Oglethorpe high schools. Before the regular season started the Bulldogs traveled to Statesboro for their annual scrimmage game with the Statesboro Blue Devils. They won the scrimmage 9-2 using five different pitchers who allowed just two hits. The season home opener had the Bulldogs hosting Swainsboro. ECI



REHBERG STRIKES OUT 10 AGAINST TIGERS

took the game 8-7 with game still in doubt until the bottom of the seventh. The Tigers jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first on two doubles, a walk and single. Charlie Rehberg struck out the final two batters to get out of the mess on the bases to end the top of the inning. The lead didn't last long as the Bulldogs put five on the board in the first inning knocking Tiger starter, Lively, off the mound with two outs in the inning. The Bulldogs batted around sending 11 batters to the plate in the inning. The Tigers added one in the third and two in the fifth on a Chapman solo HR and a two-run shot by Chapman to tie the game 5-5. The Bulldogs took back the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. Andrew Chalkley singled scoring Ab Marsh to put the Bulldogs back on top 6-5 going into the final inning. With two outs in the top of the seventh the Tigers took the lead for the first time in the game 7-6. The Bulldogs tied the game in the bottom of the inning on three singles by Aiden McQuaig, Gabe Lee and Tuff Boddiford. Charlie Rehberg ended the game on a single as the Bulldogs took the game 8-7. Rehberg started on the mound for the Bulldogs scattering five hits over five innings, striking out 10 Tiger batters. Chalkley and Hudson Henry pitched one inning each giving up one hit a piece. Leading hitters for the Bulldogs were Henry and Marsh with two hits. Marsh and Rehberg were the RBI leaders with two each.

was no contest as the Bulldogs scored 12 runs in the second inning defeating the Tigers 16-5 in five innings. Chalkley started the game for ECI, pitching the first four innings giving up eight hits with five strikeouts. Davis Johnson closed out the game in the fifth, giving up just one hit. The Bulldogs pounded out 14 hits with Gabe Lee leading the offense with four hits including a home run and four RBI. Other multiple hitters for the game were Henry, Rehberg and McQuaig with two each. The Bulldogs faced the host team in the second game on Saturday. ECI kept their winning streak intact winning the game against the Patriots 8-4. ECI took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning and added one more in the third to lead 3-0. The Patriots struck back in the bottom of the fifth to tie the game at 3-3. The Bulldog bats picked up steam in the top of the sixth scoring four runs on four singles by Jackson Kennedy, Johnson, McQuaig, Henry and Boddiford with ECI taking the lead for good 7-3. Both teams added one more run each in the game with ECI winning the game against the Patriots 8-4. Multiple hitters for the game with two each were Henry, Boddiford, Kennedy, and McQuaig. Kennedy toed the rubber for the first four innings for the Bulldogs scattering seven hits. Henry closed out the game giving up just one hit in the final two 2/3 innings.

The Bulldogs have three games on the schedule this week. Yesterday they hosted Savannah Country Day at Joe Harvey Field. Saturday they will play in the annual CBIT tournament in Swainsboro. First game will be with Screven Co. at 12:30 p.m., with Swainsboro scheduled at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday the Bulldogs traveled to Lexington to play in the Oglethorpe tournament against Washington Wilkes and Oglethorpe high schools. The first game had ECI facing Washington Wilkes. It

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Veterans at the Library



TAPLEY AND GROMALA

The Veterans at the Library held their weekly meeting Monday, February 19, at the Swainsboro Moose Club at 9:15 a.m. With Chair Johnny Tapley presiding, there were 41 attending. Tamera Gromala and Keith Wilcox provided the Lodge for the Veterans breakfast. Items that were discussed were the upcoming Veterans Golf Tournament at the Swainsboro Country Club on Saturday, May 18, the upcoming visit to EGSC by the U.S. Air Force Band (director Lt. Jay Sconyers) on Sunday, March 24, at 3 p.m., and Veterans Tail Gating for the double header Baseball game on Saturday, February 17. Breakfast was provided by Shari Watt consisting of french toast with syrup, fruit, coffee, apple juice and orange juice.



EXCHANGE CLUB PRESIDENT ELECT GARY MASON, TWIN CITY RECREATION DIRECTOR BRENT FREEMAN AND EXCHANGE CLUB MEMBER AND TWIN CITY MAYOR MATT DONALDSON

Freeman speaks to Swainsboro Exchange Club

On Tuesday, February 13, Matt Donaldson had Recreation and Parks Director for Twin City, Brent Freeman, speak to the Exchange Club. He gave an update and summary of the programs and projects that the Recreation Department are providing in Twin City. A donation of \$500 from the Club was presented to Director Freeman.

Herron speaks to Fall Line Chapter



DESS SMITH III PRESENTING FLAG STREAMERS TO PRESIDENT MERCER

The Fall Line Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, held its monthly meeting Tuesday night, February 13, at the Washington County Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m. With President Sandy Mercer presiding, thirteen attendees were present. After the opening prayer, the pledge to the U.S. Flag and the pledge to the Sons of the American Revolution, President Sandy called on Vice President Dess Smith III for a special presentation. Compatriot Dess presented the Chapter with three Chapter Flag Streamers that were received for presenting the Chapter Wreath at Fort Morris, Come and take it event, the Elijah Clark Heroes of the Hornets nest event and the 245th Kettle Creek Anniversary of the Battle at Kettle Creek. Compatriot Dess then introduced Compatriot Lee Herron, Vice President of the Brier Creek Chapter in Screven County for his presentation. Compatriot Lee's presentation was on "Capt. Jack Jovett, Paul Revere of the South". Two members of the Jared Irwin Chapter of the DAR, Mary Jo Kemp Selwyn May, presented a request to the Chapter for help during the Annual "Wreaths Across America" event on December 14, 2024.



SMS JR. BETA AND FBLA MEMBERS

SMS Jr. Beta and FBLA collect items for Swainsboro Animal Shelter

Swainsboro Middle School Jr. Beta and FBLA recently collected items for the animal shelter as their monthly service project. The students were excited to get a chance to deliver the dog food, treats, and toys in person. They were able to hold a few adorable puppies and play fetch with some of the excited pooches.

Martin and Burke speak to Four Rivers



SMITH PRESENTING STREAMERS TO BROWN AS PRESIDENT DEWEIL LOOKS ON

The Four Rivers Patriots Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, held its monthly meeting Thursday night, February 15, at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons at 7 p.m. Eighteen members attended the meeting presided over by President Steve DeWeil. After the opening prayer was delivered by Chaplain Emory Fennell, the group stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the SAR. President Steve then called on Compatriot Dess Smith III for a special presentation. Dess presented the Sgt-at-Arms Dan Brown with two Chapter Flag Streamers, one for the Elijah Clarke Heroes of the Hornets' Nest event and one for the 245th Anniversary of the Battle at Kettle Creek. Compatriot Dan Brown with two Chapter Flag Streamers, one for the Elijah Clarke Heroes of the Hornets' Nest event and one for the 245th Anniversary of the Battle at Kettle Creek. Compatriot Dess then introduced Compatriot's Bernard Martin and Steve Burke to present their program on "Artillery through the Ages and Black Powder Production".

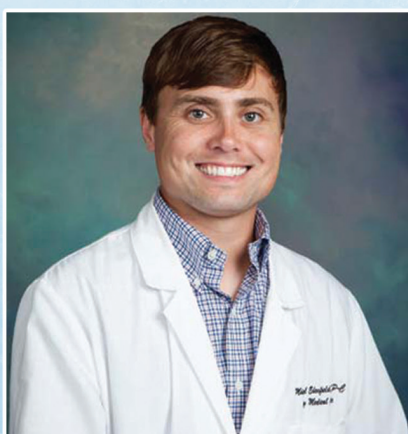
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Jail Report

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).

Caleb Aaron Akridge, 22, arrested 2/14/24; Theft by taking - felony/ Probation violation - felony/ Hold for Laurens Co. Stan Amerson, 54,

arrested 2/14/24; Possession of meth/ Possess of marijuana less than oz/ Possession and use of drug related objects/ Unlawful to cross guard lines to deliver controlled substance, etc. to inmate/ Headlight requirements

Jamel Vershund Brantley, 29, arrested 2/17/24; Seatbelt violation/ DUI less safe/ Seatbelt violation

Kevin Terrell Brown, 25, arrested 2/12/24; Riot in penal institution/ Simple battery/ Simple battery

Taurean Michael Brown, 40, arrested 2/15/24; Aggravated battery/ Elder abuse-exploit/ inflict pain to/ deprive essential services to disabled person, elder person or resident - felony/ Aggravated assault

Dawannes Ronta Butler, 31, arrested 2/15/24; Riot in penal institution/ Aggravated battery against peace officer

Bennet Leonard Byrd, 54, arrested 2/17/24; Terroristic threats and acts

Antwan Joseph Clark, 35, arrested 2/15/24; Possession of firearm by convicted felon/ Possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain felonies/ Purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of marijuana - felony/ Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer/ Speeding

Brandon Tyrone Corley, 29, arrested 2/16/24; Bench warrant

David Anzuetto Diaz, 32, arrested 2/18/24; DUI less safe/ Driving while unlicensed/ Fail to yield after stopping at stop sign/ Headlight requirements

David Warren Donaldson, 61, arrested 2/13/24; Seatbelt violation/ Hold for Chatham Co.

Ashton William Edwards, 20, arrested

2/18/24; Speeding/ DUI under the age of 21/ Posses alcohol beverage under 21 yoa

Fredy Santiz Gomez, 22, arrested 2/17/24; Failure to maintain lane/ Driving while unlicensed

Spencer Thaddeus Huck, 34, arrested 2/15/24; Burglary/ Criminal trespass

Juan Rafael Juan, 57, arrested 2/17/24; Disorderly conduct

Kathleen Susan King, 40, arrested 2/12/24; Hold for Reidsville PD

Cody Lee Kirby, 30, arrested 2/18/24; Probation violation - felony/ Probation violation - felony

Kendra Darshana Kirkland, 31, arrested 2/16/24; Disorderly conduct

Carey James Lamb, 40, arrested 2/15/24; Driving while license suspended/ revoked

Deshaun Tyreese Lewis, 32, arrested 2/12/24; Aggravated battery/ Riot in penal institution/ to vehicle damage. C/p advised a tree limb fell on the roof of her vehicle. Officer observed a large tree limb on the vehicle, leaving large dents and a busted window.

Officer was dispatched to Dollar Tree in reference to vehicle damage. Complainant stated offender opened her truck door and it hit her door. Offender stated when she opened her door, the wind caught it and it hit c/p's door.

Officer responded to R&F Marketing on Glenwood Rd. in reference

Simple battery

George Clarence Neal, 59, arrested 2/19/24

Kimberly Ann O'Conner, 46, arrested 2/13/24; Driving while license suspended/ revoked/ No insurance

Luis Carlos Ortegaullo, 33, arrested 2/16/24; Speeding/ Driving while unlicensed

Brian Lavelle Rainey, 43, arrested 2/16/24; Trafficking cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana or meth/ Possession of schedule I controlled substance/ Headlight requirements

Charmaine Delores Ramsey, 32, arrested 2/18/24; License: 60 days to change name/ address/ Taillights/ lens required/ Driving while license suspended/ revoked/ DUI less safe

Haroon Faheem

Rashed, 46, arrested 2/16/24; Speeding

Lester Rogers, 50, arrested 2/12/24; Theft by taking - felony/ Probation violation

Devyn Demario Rucker, 18, arrested 2/18/24; Speeding/ Theft by receiving stolen property - felony

Christopher Bruce Russo, 52, arrested 2/15/24; Theft by taking/ Theft by taking - felony/ Theft by taking - felony

Christopher Shanuta Sanders, 43, arrested 2/16/24; Tag lights required/ DUI less safe

Zakiyah Ayanna Smith, 22, arrested 2/12/24; Theft by shoplifting

Jamil Anthony Somerville, 32, arrested 2/12/24; Theft by taking - felony

Alisha Belle Sturgis, 34, arrested 2/17/24; DUI less safe/ Open container/ Expired registration

Tommy Lee Wright, 27, arrested 2/17/24; Failure to maintain lane/ DUI less safe

up. Complainant/victim was highly intoxicated and stated a male subject got mad at him because he would not give him a cigarette and started calling him names and kicked his feet out from under him. C/p stated when he fell to the ground the male subject began beating him in the face with his fist. The male subject was located on Lee St. but stated he had not seen c/p and sure did not hit him. The male subject was intoxicated as well.

Swainsboro Police Reports

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

February 12
Officer responded to WalMart in reference to a shoplifter who fled from the loss prevention office and got in a vehicle. Officer observed the vehicle and was able to stop it and advised offender to exit the vehicle. Offender was escorted back into WalMart to the loss prevention office. Officer observed the video showing offender skip scanning multiple items. Offender

was placed under arrest and transported to EmCo Jail.

Office met with complainant at SPD in reference to c/p stating she and her boyfriend got into a verbal altercation and offender started breaking windows and a door.

February 13
Officer responded to Happiness Dr. in reference to an open 911 line that sounded like a domestic. Complainant had a visible bloody lip and advised she and her husband got into a verbal alter-

cation and offender hit her across the face. C/p refused medical attention and advised offender was drinking and left prior to officer's arrival.

Officers responded to Gumlog Rd. in reference to complainant stating his car was parked in the parking area by the fence and a tree fell on it. The wind was very strong and officers witnessed the tree debris and damage on the back of the vehicle.

Officer made contact with complainant on W. Church St. in reference

to an ex-employee being escorted off the property because he was found sleeping on the property after being terminated the day prior. Complainant stated she wanted offender trespassed from the property. Officer issued offender a criminal trespass warning, explained if to him and had him sign it. Offender advised he was waiting for a ride to pick him up.

February 14
Officer was dispatched to Lee St. in reference to a male subject being beat

up. Complainant/victim was highly intoxicated and stated a male subject got mad at him because he would not give him a cigarette and started calling him names and kicked his feet out from under him. C/p stated when he fell to the ground the male subject began beating him in the face with his fist. The male subject was located on Lee St. but stated he had not seen c/p and sure did not hit him. The male subject was intoxicated as well.

Officer was dispatched to Lee St. in reference to a male subject being beat

Sheriff's Reports

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

February 11
Complainant reported that her firearm was stolen out of the glove box on her side-by-side on Frank Wimberly Rd.

February 12
Deputies were called to a report of a tree blocking both lanes of Hwy 57 West. Traffic was backed up on both sides of the tree. DOT was called and cleared the roadway.

A report was made in reference to a claim made by complainant who stated offender was to repair the interior of a vehicle

and later found to have missing interior parts. It is further noted that offender could have been incarcerated at the time of the report and was unable to complete services to the vehicle.

February 13
Complainant called the sheriff and stated he found where someone stole a tractor from a shelter that he looks after for victim. Deputy spoke with c/p who stated someone took the gate off the shelter and stole the tractor and he tracked it in Candler County and was in contact with Candler

Co. Sheriff's Department. Deputy spoke with CCSO and they pulled video from a store and saw the tractor and the individual driving it. Deputy turned the case over to the investigator.

February 14
Deputy met with complainant at Citizens Bank in reference to financial transaction card fraud. C/p stated victim notified her that her debit card was being used by someone other than herself. Offender was identified by c/p when offender made a transaction at WalMart and has made

multiple transactions on victim/s account totaling \$976.94.

February 15
Complainant stated he has several old Facebook accounts that he doesn't know the passwords to and he got a call from a friend asking if he was willing items on Marketplace. C/p found where someone out of Corpus Christi, TX was using one of his old FB accounts to sell items.

February 17
Deputy met with complainant on McGarrh Mill Pond Rd. in reference to a property dispute. C/p

stated she parked a camper and trailer on the property that was not agreed upon with the other c/p.

Deputy responded to Crider in reference to a theft. Complainant advised he noticed his firearms were missing from his vehicle.

February 18
Deputies responded to Nathan Ave. in Garfield in reference to a domestic dispute. The argument ensued over complainant staying out all night and a dispute got heated after offender refused to give the car keys to c/p.

Complainant stated

he struck debris in the roadway that caused his vehicle to shut off and would not operate in drive or reverse. Vehicle was removed by a towing service. It was discovered that the vehicle struck medical equipment that appeared to have fallen out of a vehicle.

Deputy met with a Trooper for chain of custody purposes. The Trooper conducted a traffic stop that led to the discovery of a stolen firearm out of Atlanta. Deputy took possession of the evidence for evidence purposes.

Leader, final defendant in Augusta-area drug trafficking conspiracy sentenced to nearly 13 years in federal prison: Operation distributed methamphetamine and heroin

Justin Wayne Fields, 40, of Swainsboro, was sentenced to 168 months in prison after pleading guilty to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute,

and to Distribute, Methamphetamine and Heroin, said Jill E. Steinberg, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. U.S. District

Court Chief Judge J. Randal Hall also fined Fields \$2,500 and ordered him to serve three years of supervised release upon completion of his prison term. There is no parole in the federal system.

"Justin Fields and his network conspired with a Georgia state prison inmate to facilitate methamphetamine and heroin shipments from Atlanta to Richmond and Emanuel Counties," said U.S. Attorney Steinberg. "The investigation and prosecution of this operation and a related conspiracy sent more than a dozen defendants to federal prison, removing their malign influence from our communities."

As described in court documents and testimony, the investigations that led to the indictments of 10 defendants in *USA v. Fields et. al* in October 2022 and seven defendants in *USA v. Wheatley et. al* in April 2022, together dubbed Operation Wheat Fields, identified a conspiracy to transport and distribute large amounts of

methamphetamine and heroin in the areas of Richmond and Emanuel counties.

The multi-agency investigation, led by the Swainsboro Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, identified a pipeline of illegal drugs from Mexico routed through Atlanta and into the greater Augusta area, facilitated by defendants that included those housed in Georgia prisons who used contraband devices to communicate via text message and Facebook. The investigation led to multiple searches of residences, vehicles, and hotel rooms that led to the seizure of illegal drugs and firearms.

Fields' nine co-defendants, along with the seven defendants in the related indictment, all pled guilty to federal charges. Of the 17 defendants, 16 have been sentenced to terms of up to 240 months in federal prison for their roles in the conspiracies.

"This sentence is a direct

message to criminals that ATF will not allow egregious violations of our laws go unpunished," said Beau Kolodka, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "If you traffic guns and drugs, you will be targeted, and we will ensure that you are prosecuted and removed from our streets."

"Those who distribute deadly drugs, such as methamphetamine and heroin, create serious risks to our communities," said Robert J. Murphy, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration Atlanta Division. DEA will use any resource necessary to remove these dangerous drug traffickers from our communities."


"This sentencing shows that the GBI and our partners will not tolerate the nefarious acts of those who seek to traffic drugs in Georgia," said Chris Hosey, Director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. "These

drugs poison our communities and destroy families. There is no place for illegal drugs in our state, and we will continue to work to remove them from our streets and keep our communities safe."

The case was investigated under the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach.

Operation Wheat Fields was investigated by the Swainsboro Police Department; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; the Emanuel County Sheriff's Office; the Richmond County Sheriff's Office; the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and is being prosecuted for the United States by Southern District of Georgia.

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News from under the Dome: Week six

The Georgia House of Representatives kicked off the sixth week of the 2024 legislative session on Monday, February 12. We convened in the House Chamber for four days and made significant progress as we passed 34 bills and resolutions by the end of the week to send to our Senate counterparts. By Tuesday, we reached Legislative Day 20, which means we are now more than halfway through our 40-day session. With "Crossover Day" looming on Legislative Day 28, we are focused on perfecting legislation for consideration and advancing notable measures on the House floor.

I was honored last week to be named Chairman of the Rules Committee. The committee controls what pieces of legislation will reach the House Floor for a vote.

The House voted on an important measure this week, House Bill 1037, which would create the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health. Through this commission, this legislation aims to examine the causes of maternal and infant deaths in our state and provide policymakers with a more holistic view of these issues so that we can continue our work to improve maternal and infant health in Georgia.

House Bill 1010 continues our commitment to Georgia's families and will expand parental leave for our state employees and teachers.

My colleagues and I also gave unanimous passage to House Bill 1022, the Colton-McNeill Act, which would fortify protections for disabled minors by elevating penalties for acts of cruelty against them. The legislation would address a critical gap in existing laws, seeking to impose harsher consequences for perpetrators who target vulnerable children.

The House also turned its attention toward our state's education system and its workforce with the passage of House Bill 282. This legislation would provide a significant step to enhance career preparedness among middle and high school students in Georgia.

We also passed House Bill 874, a bill that would require every public school in Georgia to have a functional automated external defibrillator (AED) machine on the premises of school grounds at all times and during school-related functions. This bipartisan measure would align with Georgia's commitment to prioritizing Georgia's students and creating environments where timely medical intervention can significantly increase the



EMANUEL COUNTY 4H AT THE CAPITOL



GREG JOHNSON, EMANUEL COUNTY FARM BUREAU AND STATE PRESIDENT, TOM MCCALL STOPPED BY FOR FARM BUREAU DAY AT THE CAPITOL



LORI AND LABEITO KING STOPPED BY TO DISCUSS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN EMANUEL COUNTY

chances of saving young lives.

Below I have highlighted a few other pieces of legislation we passed during the sixth week of session:

- House Bill 546, would allow a pharmacist to adapt a prescription drug order, under certain circumstances, by changing the quantity of medication prescribed, changing the dosage form of the prescription and completing missing information on a prescription drug order. Adaptions would be required to be documented and done with patient consent.

- House Bill 814, would amend current law relating to computation of taxable net income to exclude any grants for investments in broadband infrastructure.

- House Bill 872, would allow for dental students to be eligible for the service cancelable loan program when they agree to practice in rural counties with a population of 50,000 or less.

- House Bill 873, would codify the ability of juvenile courts to establish a juvenile treatment court division as an alternative to the traditional judicial system for juvenile delinquency cases or child in need of services (CHINS) cases.

- House Bill 988, would define the term "artificial intelligence" and revise the responsibilities of the Georgia Technology Authority.

- House Bill 1033, or the "Utility Worker Protection Act," would add enhanced penalties for protection of utility workers

harmed while acting within the course/scope of their employment or while performing official duties

The Georgia House of Representatives will reconvene for our seventh week of session on Tuesday, February 20. I invite you to share any questions or concerns you have about any legislation under consideration.

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

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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
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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.

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.

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.

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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.

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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**

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 Reitnouer 53'
ODK51810-T6-AT Curtain Side Trailer



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Larry Compton, Min.
478-763-2202

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

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Victor W. Fordham, Jr, Min.

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Wilbert J. Kennedy Sr., Min.

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192 Little Canoochee Creek Rd., Twin City
Jerry Armstrong, Min., 478-237-2951

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

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J. Randy Graham, Min., 478-763-2411

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901 Lambs Bridge Rd., 478-237-5269
Bert Flanders, Min.

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

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

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

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106 Mt. Zion Church Rd.,
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203 E. 3rd Ave., Stillmore
George E. Archer, Jr. Min., 912-562-3344

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Mark Wiggins, Min.

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John Durden, Min.

COMMUNITY BAPTIST
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Lenard Richards, Min.

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

TRINITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST
311 McLendon St., 478-237-2038
Dr. Charles Wiggins, Jr., Min.

DELLWOOD BAPTIST
Hwy. 1 North
Joe Bedgood, Min.

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

TWIN CITY FIRST BAPTIST
22 Railroad St., 478-763-2654
Stewart Moody, Min.

EMANUEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST
Adrian

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

UNION CHAPEL BAPTIST
Garfield, 478-763-3755

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

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

UNITED FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST
114 NE Railroad Ave, Oak Park
Larry Perkins, Min.

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

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

WILLOW SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST
1950 Hwy. 80 East., 478-237-5004

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

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As I was reading John chapter six, it told of the miracle that Jesus did when he fed the five thousand men, besides the women and the children. Now you know there are always more women and children than men. To that point, who can guess how many people were fed from a little boys lunch.

After the miracle was performed, the crowd tried to constrain Jesus to make him king. He eluded them but some still followed him. Jesus didn't ask them why are you still following me but he said. " You are not following me because of the miracle but you are following me because you did eat.". In other words you are only following me because of what you can

Don't be like the crowd

get naturally from me. Don't find yourself like the crowd. Following Jesus for what you can get from him in the natural and never seek the spiritual.. Is all you want is to live good while you are here on earth? What are prayers like? Are they only about you, your family, your healing, your finances, and your problems? Do you adore, magnify and praise him?

Sure, Jesus will supply all your need according to his riches in glory. This scripture was given to the church of Philippi after they had given their lives to God and was dedicated to the ministry.

Are you dedicated to the ministry of Jesus Christ? Or are you living everyday

to just fulfill the desires of your flesh?

So let's just go back to Matthew chapter six. When Jesus finished teaching his disciples to pray, he ended the chapter by saying, "But seek you first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." (Mt.6:33). So what is the kingdom of God? Paul tells the Roman believers, "For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 14:17)

So don't be like the crowd. First things first. Seek him for eternal life. "And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory." (Philippians 4:19)



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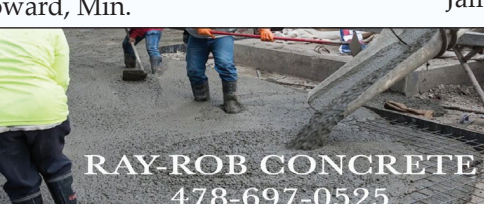
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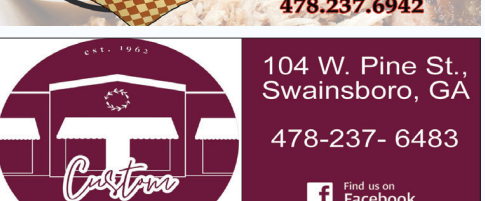
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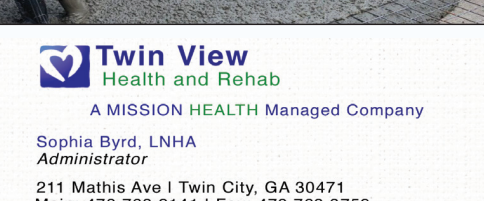
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Emanuel County Republican Party to elect Delegates and Alternate Delegates

On Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 9 a.m., The Emanuel County Republican Party will convene precinct Caucuses to elect Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Emanuel County Convention.

The County Convention will convene at 10 a.m. on March 23, 2024 at the same location for the purpose of electing Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the 12th Congressional District Convention and the State Convention. Additionally, the convention will conduct all other business as necessary.

Both the Precinct Caucus and County Convention will be held at The Emanuel County Courthouse, located at 125 South Main

Street Swainsboro, Georgia. The County Convention will convene at 10 a.m. You must be present at 9 a.m. to vote as a county delegate at the County Convention.

All Emanuel County residents who are legally registered to vote and believe in the principles of The Republican Party are urged to participate in this process.

The 12th Congressional District Convention will convene at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 20, 2024 in Augusta Georgia. The District Convention will be electing Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the 2024 National Convention. A fee will be charged to cover the cost of the 12th District

Convention.

The Georgia Republican Party State Convention will convene Friday, May 17, 2024 in Columbus, Ga. and will elect At-Large Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the 2024 National Convention and electing our National Committeemen and Committeewomen, in addition to conducting all other business as necessary. Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be required to pay a fee, which is to cover the cost of the convention.

For further information contact Lisa Parham, Chairwoman of The Emanuel County Republican Party at 540-661-7941 or email lisacparham@aol.com

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE / PROVISIONAL / EMERGENCY BALLOT

Emanuel County, Georgia
 Precinct: 217-Swainsboro, 216-Swainsboro, 212-Swainsboro, 211-Swainsboro, 210-Swainsboro, 125-Swainsboro, 124-Swainsboro, 121-Swainsboro, 108-Swainsboro, 106-Swainsboro
Special Election - March 12, 2024

To Vote: 1. Use Black or Blue Ink to mark the ballot. 2. Completely fill in the empty oval to the left of the candidate name or choice in all races you wish to vote. 3. If voting for a Write-In candidate, completely fill in the oval to the left of the Write-In selection, then write the name of the Write-In candidate in the space provided.	Warning Do NOT use red ink or felt tip pen to mark ballot. Do NOT circle, underline or mark through choices. Do NOT use check marks or X to mark ballot. Do NOT mark more choices per race than allowed. Do NOT sign, cut, tear or damage the ballot.
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If you make a mistake or change your mind on a selection:
 A. Do not attempt to mark through the selection or attempt to erase. Write "Spoiled" across the ballot AND across the return envelope.
 B. Mail or return the spoiled ballot and envelope to your county board of registrars; a new official absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

If you decide to vote in-person: Surrender the ballot to the poll manager at an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

*I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law. *O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h) and 21-2-383(a)

Special Election
<p>For County Commissioner District 1 (To Fill the Unexpired Term of Honorable Desse E. Davis) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kawame Coleman</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Allen Farley</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kenny Griffin</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Chris Jukes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Quin McKinney</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>

Hickman: Week six Under the Gold Dome

by SEN. BILLY HICKMAN
 We are officially more than halfway through the 2024 Legislative Session. While we have enjoyed a robust first half of legislative work, plenty of meaningful work lies ahead.

We've been hard at work in session, and as February progresses, we're swiftly approaching the pivotal Crossover Day on February 29th. For those unfamiliar, Crossover Day marks the deadline for a bill to pass one chamber to be considered in the other, underscoring its importance in the legislative process. If a bill doesn't make it through, it's effectively stopped until the next year, adding another layer of urgency to our deliberations.

In the spirit of celebration, we started the week on a high note commemorating "Georgia Day." It's a moment to reflect on our rich history, tracing back 291 years ago to James Oglethorpe's landing

in Savannah, laying the foundation for the vibrant state we call home.

On the legislative front, I'm proud to have sponsored Senate Resolution 470, establishing a study committee dedicated to preserving Georgia's vital farmlands. With agriculture being the backbone of our economy and a vital part of our identity, safeguarding our agricultural heritage is paramount.

I also commend my colleague, Sen. Bo Hatchett (R-Cornelia), for his efforts to safeguard our children from online predators. He is introducing legislation to close loopholes surrounding AI-generated explicit material and restrict sex offenders from owning drones that could endanger our children. It's a vital measure that would ensure the safety and well-being of our communities.

Additionally, we've made strides in housing security

with the passage of Senate Bill 349, which limits annual property tax assessment increases to no more than 3%. This measure aims to provide relief and stability for homeowners across the state, particularly in these challenging times.

On a personal note, I celebrated a milestone with my beloved Jo Ann—our wedding anniversary. Her unwavering support is the bedrock of my endeavors, and I'm profoundly grateful for her love and companionship.

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.

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE / PROVISIONAL / EMERGENCY BALLOT

Emanuel County, Georgia
 Precinct: 203-Twin City, 148-Twin City, 137-Twin City, 136-Twin City, 135-Twin City, 131-Twin City, 101-Twin City
Democratic Presidential Preference Primary - March 12, 2024

To Vote: 1. Use Black or Blue Ink to mark the ballot. 2. Completely fill in the empty oval to the left of the candidate name or choice in all races you wish to vote. 3. If voting for a Write-In candidate, completely fill in the oval to the left of the Write-In selection, then write the name of the Write-In candidate in the space provided.	Warning Do NOT use red ink or felt tip pen to mark ballot. Do NOT circle, underline or mark through choices. Do NOT use check marks or X to mark ballot. Do NOT mark more choices per race than allowed. Do NOT sign, cut, tear or damage the ballot.
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If you decide to vote in-person: Surrender the ballot to the poll manager at an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

*I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law. *O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h) and 21-2-383(a)

<p>For President of the United States (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dean Phillips</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Marianne Williamson</p>
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OFFICIAL ABSENTEE / PROVISIONAL / EMERGENCY BALLOT

Emanuel County, Georgia
 Precinct: 203-Twin City, 148-Twin City, 137-Twin City, 136-Twin City, 135-Twin City, 131-Twin City, 101-Twin City
Republican Presidential Preference Primary - March 12, 2024

To Vote: 1. Use Black or Blue Ink to mark the ballot. 2. Completely fill in the empty oval to the left of the candidate name or choice in all races you wish to vote. 3. If voting for a Write-In candidate, completely fill in the oval to the left of the Write-In selection, then write the name of the Write-In candidate in the space provided.	Warning Do NOT use red ink or felt tip pen to mark ballot. Do NOT circle, underline or mark through choices. Do NOT use check marks or X to mark ballot. Do NOT mark more choices per race than allowed. Do NOT sign, cut, tear or damage the ballot.
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<p>For President of the United States (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ryan L. Binkley</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Doug Burgum</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Chris Christie</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ron DeSantis</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nikki Haley</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Asa Hutchinson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Perry Johnson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Vivek Ramaswamy</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tim Scott</p> <p><input type="radio"/> David Stuckenberg</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump</p>
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