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Swainsboro, Georgia • February 28, 2024

ONE DOLLAR



CHIEF ELLISON WITH SWAINSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF

## SPD celebrates annual Police Awards Banquet

The 2024 Swainsboro Police Awards Banquet was held Thursday evening, February 22, at Beaver Creek Plantation. Swainsboro Police Chief Randy Ellison opened the program with a welcome to everyone and a note of appreciation to the Webb Family of the Beaver Creek venue for their special support. The Chief also thanked Sgt. Grant, Administrative Assistant Zelda Sumner and his wife Wanda for decorating the room. Members of city council Julian Sconyers and Johnny Ray Stafford were in attendance as well as Mayor Greg Bennett and Municipal Judge Richard McNeely.

Following the banquet meal, the annual awards ceremony highlighted the recognition of achievement and presentation of honors for individual officers for the 2023 service year. Chief Ellison commended the entire department for its dedication in serving the City of Swainsboro including the divisions of patrol, drug suppression, investigations, animal control, code enforcement and administration. In the many years since Chief Ellison first initiated the awards banquet, over 300 individual awards have been earned by members of the staff. The first order of recognition for the evening was the traditional “swearing in ceremony” of new Police Officers. This year, Ptl. Jacob Wheeler, Ptl. Cari Hall, and Ptl. Tyler Beasley were given the charge of the oath by Mayor Bennett. Chief Ellison delivered the badge creed to the newly sworn officers. The badge creed symbolizes the solemnity and weight of responsibility in the enforcement of the law that is reflected by the outward display of the badge. In a special segment of the evening’s agenda, four officers received promotions. In announcing these, Chief Ellison emphasized that the recipient must first demonstrate mastery of the duties of the lower rank, and then be willing to learn and carry out the duties of the higher rank. Promotions are granted once a year to fill the gaps in the chain of command, but only if earned by those considered promotable. The following officers were recognized for their hard work and dedication to duty. Ptl. Le’untay Starnes received promotion to Patrolman First Class. Pfc Seth Purvis received promotion to the rank of Corporal. Sgt. Mathew Williams and Sgt. James Young were both promoted to Staff Sergeant. Chief Ellison also commended Sgt. Williams and Sgt. Young for their prior service as Sergeant and completion of all levels 1 ,2 and 3 of Supervision Training (120 hours) as required by policy.

In a time-honored highlight of the evening, the “Officer of the Year” Award was again given to the individual who is selected by the majority of his or her peers for demonstrating extraordinary accomplishments over the previous year. This award ribbon is worn by the selected officer for one year, unless re-selected for the same. Chief Ellison commented, “This year’s winner comes prepared to tackle whatever comes his way during his tour of duty. He keeps himself motivated and does not allow outside influences to affect his job duties. This officer’s name will join those previously selected for this honor as indicated by a plaque displayed in the agency’s headquarters. This officer served our great nation as part of the United States military and continues his service to our community. It gives me great pleasure to award the “Officer of the Year” for 2023 to Ptl. Le’untay Starnes. After Ptl. Starnes received a standing ovation, the Chief also added that Ptl. Starnes received a unanimous vote from his fellow officers for this honor.

The following awards were presented:

Intoximeter – Ptl. Danelia Santos and Ptl. Tyler Beasley; Safe Driver – Sgt. Robbie Carter and Sgt. Mathew Williams; Supervision - Sgt. James Young (1 – 2014) (2 & 3 – 2023) and Sgt. Mathew Williams (1-2016), (2 & 3 - 2023); Marksman – Cpl. Todd Purcell (Ribbon) and Sgt. Robbie Carter (3 knot); Expert – Sfc. Craig Waring (Ribbon), Sfc. Angie Wilkerson (Ribbon), S.Sgt... Josh Bedgood (2 knot), Capt. Richard Peacock (4 knot), SFC. Rebecca Snellgrove (5 knot), Sgt. Kersey (2 Ribbon), Sgt. Ashley Riner (2 knot second ribbon), Capt. Coleman Hall (one knot); 2023 Top Gun (Highest Score), SFC. Rebecca Snellgrove; Good Conduct - SSgt. Josh Bedgood (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Sgt. Kersey – (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Sgt. Grant – (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), SFC Wilkerson - (3<sup>rd</sup> Award); Medal of Honor - Sgt. Adam Kersey and PFC. Seth Purvis; Officer of the Year - Ptl. Le’untay Starnes

(Continued on page 2A)

## The family approves!



Swainsboro Police Chief Randy Ellison seems to have the OK from his family concerning his plans to retire at the end of this year. The Chief announced his retirement this past Thursday night at the annual Police Department Awards Banquet. This

December, Ellison will close out a 35-year career in law enforcement including the past 15 years as Chief of the Swainsboro Police Department. “It’s been an honor serving as Chief of Police for Swainsboro Police Department for the last 15 years.”

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*SPD celebrates...*

(From front page) As the program moved toward conclusion, the order of business took a personal turn as Chief Ellison marked the approaching milestone of 15 years' service as Chief of the Swainsboro Police Department. He recounted the pleasure he has always taken in leading and fighting for those he led. In doing so, he explained he has always considered himself a cop first and holding the rank of Chief as second. "The many decisions that I have made and continue to make were always made with the best interest of my staff and the agency in mind. Tonight, I am officially announcing to my great staff and those in attendance that I will be retiring in December of this year having completed a total of 35 years of service in law enforcement with various agencies." Ellison referenced his parents as his guideposts for his personal and professional life. "My father, as some of you know, was a decorated war veteran and he instilled in me to work hard every day to leave something better than you found it. My mother taught me compassion and to look at somebody not from the outside but find what lays inside a person". The Chief closed on a lighthearted note with a favorite expression, "I still haven't found out who let the dogs out, or where's the beef, or why all the flavors of fruit loops taste the same, or how many licks it takes to get to the center of a tootsie roll pop, why eggs are packaged in a flimsy paper cartoon but batteries are secured in plastic that's tough as nails, why "abbreviated" is such a long word or why there is a D in fridge but not refrigerator and why do you have to put your two cents in but its only worth a penny for your thoughts and just what is Victoria's secret? I still don't know all of that. But one thing I do know is that I will leave this department in better shape than I found it fifteen years ago. I know that I have the best staff that a chief of police could possibly have, and I know that each of you in this department will do the right thing at the right time for the right reason. As I stand here before you as your Chief and your brother, I want you to know I will always be grateful for my time here and will remain proud of what we have accomplished together. I will complete the next 10 months of duty by focusing on completing my mission by reaching new goals I have set for this agency, and I will continue to work hard for each of you to make your job as safe and enjoyable as possible. I thank you for the confidence you have in me, and for allowing me to have such an amazing group to lead. It's been an honor."

At this point, Administrative Assistant Zelda Sumner took the podium to express her gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the administrative staff to Chief Ellison. She then called on Captain Richard Peacock who provided a response from the uniformed staff as well as recollections of the past fifteen years. Former Mayor Charles Schwabe recounted the hiring of Chief Ellison and the professionalism he brought to the department. "I felt like we picked the right man at the right time for the right job when we hired Chief Ellison back then, and I still feel that way today". In a final tribute, former City Administrator Al Lawson chose several words that he felt were the most descriptive of the Chief. Lawson concluded, "Professionally, the one word that comes to mind when I think of the Chief is integrity, and personally, the one word that says it all is friend". With that, a very busy and meaningful observance of professionalism and camaraderie came to a close. Congratulations to all those recognized and honored.



**Beasley, Santos, Ellison**

**Carter, Williams, Ellison**

**Young, Williams, Ellison**



**Carter, Purcell, Ellison**

**Kersey, Riner, Waring, Snellgrove, Bedgood, Wilkerson, Peacock, Ellison**

**Grant, Wilkerson, Kersey, Bedgood, Ellison**



**Carter, Purcell, Ellison**

**Starnes, Ellison**

**Snellgrove, Ellison**



The Forest-Blade

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## Sidney B. Shephard, 89

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors announces the death of Mr. Sidney B. Shephard, age 89, on Friday, February 23, 2024, at Emanuel Medical Center in Swainsboro. Funeral services will be conducted, Wednesday, February 28, at 2 p.m. at the Swainsboro First Baptist Church. Interment will follow in the Swainsboro City Cemetery. The family will receive friends and visitors one hour prior to service at the Swainsboro First Baptist Church.

Sidney Blanton Shephard, Sr. was born January 16, 1935, in Elizabeth City, NC. His family moved to Savannah in 1940 where he attended school and graduated from Savannah High in 1952. He attended Armstrong Junior College before transferring to the University of Georgia "Go DAWGS" graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1957. While at UGA, he met and married the love of his life, Jane. Sidney always said he went to UGA to get a wife and Emory University Law School to get his law degree. Admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in April 1960, he actively practiced law until the end of his life. He served as Deputy Legislative Counsel to the Georgia Legislature before moving to Swainsboro in November 1961 to join the law firm of Williams & Smith, founded in 1890, currently known as Shephard, Gary & McWhorter, LLC. Sidney loved and considered it a privilege to serve this community in many ways over the years. At First Baptist Church of Swainsboro, he was in the same Sunday School class for 50 years, served on the Board of Deacons and taught Sunday School. Studying scripture and teaching about what he gained personally from the Lord was a sweet spot for him. He served as City Attorney for the City of Swainsboro from 1961- January, 2022; Judge of the City of Swainsboro Recorder's Court; Chairman of the Committee on Committees for the Georgia State Bar Association; Past President of Swainsboro Bankshares, Inc., (owner of the Citizens Bank of Swainsboro/Laurens County and Bulloch First); Board of Directors David Emanuel Academy (1969-1984); Grantor for Mill Creek Foundation, Inc.; Trustee for Southeastern Technical College Foundation; Past President of the Swainsboro



SHEPHERD

Jaycee Chapter; Shriner. During his career, Sidney held memberships in the American Trial Lawyers Association, State Bar of Georgia, Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia, State Disciplinary Board Review Panel for the State Bar of Georgia, Board of Directors of the Citizens Bank of Swainsboro. He was humbled when, shortly after losing his wife, he was awarded "Our Town Hero" for the City of Swainsboro in 2012 and for being voted Best Lawyer in this community several times. Anyone who knew Sidney understood that he was an avid Bulldawg fan. Fall Saturdays in Athens were among his favorite pastimes. He once calculated the number of ballgames he attended exceeded 250. Spending time with his family or friends in the north Georgia mountains, visiting with extended family and friends everywhere, hosting parties with Jane and serving his clients were what he enjoyed most in life. Most people would describe Sidney as a person of deep faith and integrity, dedication, loyalty, and strength. He was also a Dang Good DAWG! Mr. Shephard is preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Jane G. Shephard; and son, Joseph B. Shephard, Sr.

Survivors include his son, Sidney B. Shephard, Jr.; daughter, Kelly S. Lanier (Corky); grandsons, Sidney B. Shephard, III (Lisa), Christopher R. Shephard (Kira), Joseph B. Shephard, Jr. and Zachary T. Shephard (Lorie); great-grandchildren, Cierra M. Shephard, Halle R. Shephard, Maddox R. Shephard and Hayes Blanton Shephard; nieces, Fran S. NeeSmith (Jess) and Dene Shephard; special cousins and many friends. A blessed man indeed.

The Shephard family would like to extend gratitude to Dr. Vijitha Prasad, her staff and the nursing staff of Emanuel Medical Center for the compassionate care Sidney received over his life and in his final days.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

## Clara Woods Rewis Young, 59

Mrs. Clara Woods Rewis Young, 59, of Adrian, passed away Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 24, at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Wesley Webb officiating. Interment followed in Old Canoochee Primitive Baptist Church cemetery. The family received friends Friday, February 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Shane Tate, Eric Wheeler, Ben Wheeler, Nick Tanner, Josh Tanner, Johnny Weaver and Blake Rewis.

Mrs. Young was born July 16, 1964, in Macon, to Aaron Woods, Sr. and Dorothy Woods. She enjoyed camping, fishing, cooking and yard work. Clara loved her family, especially her grandchildren. She loved the soap operas Young and the Restless and Bold and the Beautiful. Clara was an avid game show fan and loved the Georgia Bulldogs. Mrs. Young is preceded in death by her father; brothers, Billy



YOUNG

Marsh and Mike Woods; and grandson, C.J. Radford.

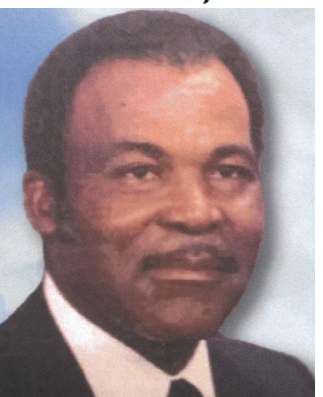
Mrs. Young is survived by her mother; fiancée, Daryl Young of Norristown; sons, Blake Rewis and Wesley Rewis, both of Norristown; daughters, Tabatha Rewis and Amy Albritton, both of Norristown; brothers, Aaron Woods, Jr. (Trisha) of Meeks, Tony Woods (Jeanie) of Swainsboro and Bobby Marsh (Tina) of Norristown; sister, Laura Ware of Twin City; 16 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

## 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.

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 masonry by trade and later started his own business, Foots Construction, and was self-employed for 35 years until he became ill. Deacon Foots became a faithful member of Smith Grove Baptist Church, where he became an ordained Deacon. 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



FOOTS

and Joe Louis Foots; and two granddaughters, Shanise Nicle Jackson and Reonia Sylvia Foots.

Mr. Foots leaves to cherish his memories with his devoted wife of 62 years, JoAnn Marion Foots; daughters, Vivian Jackson of Aberdeen, MD and Jennifer (Darrin) Berkley of Abingdon, MD; sons, Henry (Angela) Foots, Ronald (Sheila) Foots and Jonathan Foots (Kesha), 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.

## Eva M. Pierce Waiters, 80

Eva M. Pierce Waiters, age 80, departed this earthly life on Sunday, February 18, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, February 24, at 12 p.m. at Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Anthony Pierce officiating and Rev. Cedric Carswell and Rev. Vinson Miller presiding.

Eva was born October 26, 1943, in Emanuel County, to the late Jim Aaron Pierce and Florene Kitchens. Eva married the late Eugene Bobby "Bobby Q" Waiters. She retired from South Carolina State Crafts-Farrow Mental Health Hospital and Richard's Dry Cleaners in Columbia, SC. Eva also owned Visually Impaired People, Inc., helping people with visual disabilities. She was a member of Lonesome Doom, Inc. which acknowledges educators or teachers in Emanuel County. Mrs. Waiters is preceded in death by her parents;



WAITERS

husband; and siblings, Aaron Pierce, Ernest Pierce and Joyce Carter.

Mrs. Waiters leaves to cherish her memories with her daughter, Cheryl Ann Pierce Carswell (Robert Earl); grandchildren, Letrice Tremaine Pierce, Ciara Shad'e Pierce, Kushai Samone Mclemore and Noah Robert Earlkari Pierce; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; brother, Robert Carter (Mary); and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Robert Samuel "Sammy" Stewart, III, 74



STEWART

was always willing to help others with their repair needs as well. He inherited a lot of these skills from his daddy and passed them on to his son. Sammy's hobbies included building and racing motorcycles, go-carts, remote control cars and trucks, and building and flying remote controlled airplanes and helicopters. Most evenings you would find him in his workshop until the wee hours of the morning, often with friends helping them with their repair needs. Sammy was a member and deacon of Oak Chapel Baptist Church and member of the Gideons International. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and passing on some of his interests to them. Mr. Stewart is preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Mack Stewart.

Mr. Stewart is survived by his wife of 53 years, Janice H. Stewart of Swainsboro; son, Bert Stewart (Hannah) of Swainsboro; daughters, Fran Conlan (Allan) of Roswell and Erin Way (Jeremy) of Swainsboro; sister, Sallie McNeely (Craig) of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Brett Way, Marshall Way, Liam Conlan, Kiera Conlan and Easton Stewart; several nieces, nephews and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to: Gideon International, PO Box 365, Swainsboro, GA, 30401.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

## Thelma Dixon Sweat, 79

Mrs. Thelma Dixon Sweat, age 79, passed away Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at Fairview Park Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 24, at 11 a.m. at the Wrightsville Church of the Nazarene. Interment followed in Westview Cemetery with Rev. Stephen Robinson officiating. The family received friends Friday, February 23, from 6: to 8 p.m. at Wrightsville Church of the Nazarene.

Pallbearers were Cliff Dixon, Andy Dixon, Dwain Sweat, Donnie Sweat, Wain Sweat and Bruce Deal. Honorary pallbearers were the Wrightsville Church of the Nazarene Sunday School Class.

Mrs. Sweat was born December 1, 1944, in Wrightsville, to the late Piercie Dixon and Earline Davis Dixon Douglas. She was married to the late Herman "Humbug" Sweat for 55 years. They lived in Swainsboro for 24 years before moving back to Wrightsville. Mrs. Sweat retired from the Department



SWEAT

of Corrections in Food Service. Mrs. Sweat is preceded in death by her parents; husband; and siblings, Arthur Dixon, Lanier Dixon, Earl Dixon, Annie Blount, Hilda Bray and Jane Mason.

Mrs. Sweat is survived by her sons, Todd Sweat (Margaret) and Brad Sweat of Wrightsville; brother, Russell Dixon (Shirley) of Wrightsville; sister, Linda Douglas of Wrightsville; grandson, Tyler Sweat of Wrightsville; several nieces and nephews; and a very special caregiver, Angela Stanley.

Stanley Funeral Home and Crematory/Wrightsville Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

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## Donnie Elmer Price, 73

Mr. Donnie Elmer Price, 73, of Swainsboro, passed away Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at Scott Health and Rehab in Adrian following an extended illness. Funeral services were held Saturday, February 24, at 3 p.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverends Louis Pearce and Mark Wiggins officiating. Interment followed at Gumlog Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family received friends from 1:30 to 3 p.m. prior to service.

Pallbearers were Shannon Lawrence, Seneca Lawrence, Jamie Henry, Tal Henry, Mike Henry, Ricky Winfrey. Honorary pallbearers were members of the Gentlemen's Hunting Club.

Mr. Price was born May 31, 1950, to the late Elmer Tom Price and Mary Evelyn Peebles. He always enjoyed family time at the barn where he kept his antiques. Mr. Price loved the Georgia Bulldogs, fishing, and cooking. He was well known for his crab stew and tartar sauce. Mr. Price worked at the Georgia Forestry Commission, retiring from there after 30+ years of service, and was the Sr. Chief Ranger from 1973-2006. He was an active member of Canoochee Baptist Church. Donnie earned a Public Service Award from Swainsboro Jaycees in 1982, a Public Service Award from Swainsboro Exchange Club in 1993 and Appreciation Award from Kiwanis Club in 1995. He was a



PRICE

member of Future Farmers of America where he was named Honorary Chapter Farmer in 1981. Donnie was also a member of the National FFA Organization and Georgia Peace Officers Association and was a Reserved Deputy for the Emanuel County Sheriff's Department. He received a certificate of appreciation for Forestry Field Day in 1994 from the District Georgia Forestry Commission. Donnie was also a member of the Gideons for many years.

Mr. Price is survived by his wife, Gail Price of Swainsboro; sons, Joel Price of Metter and Mack (Liz) Price of Swainsboro; daughter, Christy (Todd) Ellington of Swainsboro; brother, Johnny Price of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Trey, Colton, Cora, Bryer, Anna, Charleigh and Jack; and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: American Diabetes Association, P. O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

## Dr. Hulon Matthews Madeley, 89

Dr. Hulon Matthews Madeley, age 89, passed away Saturday, February 24, 2024. A Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, February 28, at 1 p.m. at Metcalf Funeral Directors. Dr. Madeley will be laid to rest in Copeland Chapel Cemetery in Montgomery, Texas. Visitation was held Tuesday, February 27, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Metcalf Funeral Directors in Conroe, Texas.

Hulon was born December 19, 1934, in Montgomery, Texas to S.K. and Bessie Madeley. He graduated from Conroe High School, then went on to further his education and graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering. Hulon obtained his Master of Science degree in Geology from the University of Oklahoma, and his Ph.D in Geology from Ohio State University. He served in the U.S Army as an Officer, Chemical Corp, Fort McClellan, AL; Tallapoosa GA High School Science Teacher; Sinclair Oil Company, Midland, TX, Petroleum Geologist; West Georgia College (now the University of West Georgia), Carrollton, GA, Assistant Professor of Geology; Emanuel County Junior College (now East Georgia State College), Swainsboro, GA, Professor of Geology, Chairman of Science and Math Division; North Harris Community College (now Lone Star College), Houston, TX and Tomball, TX, Professor of Geology, Administrator. Before beginning his career in college teaching, Hulon was a military officer, high school teacher, and oilfield geologist. His true calling was the classroom and he spent 36 years at the college level before retiring in 2000. Hulon led many field trips through Georgia and Texas over his career as well as the Midwest and western United States. He touched the lives of many former students and colleagues. Hulon served as President of



MADELEY

the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club and as Lt. Governor of the Georgia District. After returning home to Texas, he again served as President of the North Houston Kiwanis Club. Later, Hulon served as President of the Magnolia, TX Lions Club when he joined the Tomball campus of Lone Star College. During retirement he traveled throughout the United States raised cattle on his ranch and continued his church and volunteer work. Hulon was saved at an early age and spent his life committed to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He served 65 years as a Sunday School teacher, Baptist Deacon, Bible Study leader and occasionally filled the pulpit. Hulon authored three books discussing the Bible, geology, and how it all fits together. He had a positive impact on many people throughout his life. Dr. Madeley is preceded in death by his parents; infant brother; first wife and mother of his children, Mary D. Madeley; and second wife, Marion L. Madeley.

Dr. Madeley is survived by his son, Steve Madeley (Angie) of Piedmont, Alabama; daughters, Cindy Wells (Gary) of Conroe, Texas and Lynn Higgins (Dan) of Tomball, Texas; grandchildren, Matthew Volk, Chloe Waits, Emily Higgins, Savannah Higgins, Harrison Higgins, Courtney Bowers, Christina McGinnis and Taylor Madeley; great-grandchildren, Evie Bowers, Ellie Bowers, Addie McGinnis and Riley McGinnis; and brother, Ivan G. Madeley of Conroe, Texas.

MetCalf Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

## Scott Williford, 59

Mr. Scott Williford, 59, of Twin City, passed away Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Community Hospice in Vidalia following an extended illness. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, February 28, at 1 p.m. in the Chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Morris Brantley officiating. Interment will follow at Coleman Cemetery in Twin City. The family will receive friends from 12 to 1 p.m. prior to the service.

Pallbearers will be Stephen Burke, Mitchell Cowart, Spencer Brannen, Mickey Frederick, Kevin Boatright and Jerry Brown.

Scott was born July 22, 1964, in Louisville, to T.W. Williford, Jr. and Helen Harris Williford. Mr. Williford is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Ricky Williford; and nephew, Bob Hoke.

Mr. Williford is survived by his wife of 29 years, Mary Williford;



WILLIFORD

daughters, Tina (Foster) Grimes of Twin City and Brittany Gobee (Josh) of Dublin; brothers, Edward Williford (Brenda) of Garfield and Donnie Williford (Myra) of Kite; sisters, Ellen Wilkerson of Midville, Cathy Flanders (Glen) of Dellwood, Patsy Sherrod (JC) of Millen and Joan Foskey (Cleve) of Guyton; grandchildren, Seth Frederick (Emily) and Case Kinzer; and soon to be great-grandson, Dutton Scott Frederick.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

## Ronnie E. Daniels, 73

Ronnie E. Daniels, age 73, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, February 18, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held Sunday, February 25, at Mosley Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Delmus Mosley officiating.

Ronnie was born August 9, 1950, to the late Nathaniel Jay and Ethel Lee Daniels. He was a Swainsboro native and attended Emanuel County public schools. At an early age, Ronnie joined Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church and served faithfully as a child. He was employed at Handi-House Manufacturing until his retirement. Mr. Daniels is preceded in death by his parents; nine brothers; and three sisters.

Mr. Daniels leaves to cherish his memories with his daughter, Andrea (Ronald) Brown;



DANIELS

granddaughter, Camry Brown; grandson, Ronald Brown Jr.; three sisters, Nancy Daniels of Barstow, CA, Gracie Green of Swainsboro and Ruby Merrion of Dublin; brother, Tommy (Cheryl) Daniels of Swainsboro; sisters-in-law, Betty Daniels of Swainsboro and Selena Daniels of Brooklyn, NY; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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9:00 AM - Contemporary Service

10:00 AM - Sunday School

11:00 AM - Traditional Worship

5:00 PM - Jr. & Sr. MYF

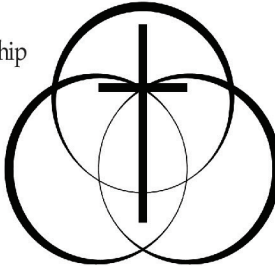
6:00 PM - Evening Worship

### Wednesday Night

5:30 PM - Bible Study

6:30 PM - Family Dinner

7:00 PM - Chancel Choir



PLEASE JOIN US!



## FBLA's commitment to saving lives

The recent blood drive organized by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) has proven to be a resounding success, with overwhelming participation and generous donations from students, staff, and the community. On February 8, our organization rallied together to support this vital cause, and the results speak volumes about our collective commitment to making a difference in our community.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this blood drive was the enthusiastic response of 70 individuals stepping forward to donate. Likewise, the units collected during the blood drive amounted to 53, further highlighting the significance of our efforts. Each unit of donated blood has the potential to save lives, providing essential support to patients in need of transfusions due to surgeries, accidents, or medical conditions. By contributing to this cause, FBLA members have played a direct role in improving the health

and well-being of others within our community.

The success of this blood drive would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. From organizing the event to recruiting donors and providing support throughout the donation process, FBLA members demonstrated exceptional teamwork and leadership skills. Special thanks are also due to our partners and sponsors who helped make this event a reality.

FBLA is not only about developing business skills and pursuing professional growth but also about representing principles of service, compassion, and community engagement. By organizing events like the blood drive, we demonstrate our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others and contributing to the greater good. Our forthcoming blood drive at Swainsboro High School is scheduled for April 4, 2024, and we eagerly anticipate another impactful event.



WANDA ELLIS, ELEASE TURNER, LISA MCKENZIE, SHARON EDENFIELD, EDNA MOSLEY

## Retired educators meet at Emanuel County Institute

Emanuel Retired Educators Association (EREA) members held their February meeting last week at Emanuel County Institute. ECI Principal Anetria Edenfield extended a warm welcome to the group and discussed the facility improvements that were underway at the school. Elease Turner provided an invocation, and members then enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by

the school cafeteria and served by ECI students. The school also provided several delicious desserts from All the Fixins'. EREA wishes to thank Ms. Edenfield and ECI for the warm hospitality extended to members.

Following lunch, Lisa McKenzie, Benefits Representative for the Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA), spoke to the group and discussed the

many exceptional member benefits provided to retired educators. She stated that because of strong relationships with top insurance carriers, AMBA is able to offer wide-ranging coverage and products to retirees. She also shared the free member discounts that are available to members who belong to the Georgia Retired Educators Association. Carolyn Derden provided an

informative legislative update, and John Derden shared a scholarship update. The EREA Scholarship recipient will be recognized at the May meeting.

The next EREA meeting will be held April 17, at Twin City Elementary. Lunch will be provided by the school, and all Emanuel County retired educators are encouraged to attend.



SMS BAND PERFORMING AT ENMARKET ARENA

## SMS Band performs

The Swainsboro Middle School Band recently had an incredible performance opportunity. On Friday, February 2, 2024 band students took a trip to Enmarket Arena to perform the United States National Anthem as part of the pregame ritual for a Savannah Ghost Pirates ice hockey game.

The band performed to a sold-out stadium of over 7,000 people before joining the audience to enjoy the game as a reward for all their hard work. Many fans, community members, and audience members expressed their delight with how skillfully the SMS Band played and how well they represented Swainsboro

and Emanuel County. The SMS Band would like to thank Swainsboro Middle School Principal David Miller, Assistant Principal Steven Golden, Assistant Principal Angela Young, Dr. Gene Hundley, and everyone on staff who helped to make the trip happen. They would also like to thank Superintendent

Scotty Hattaway and the Emanuel County Board of Education.

Under the direction of Mr. Tylan Davis, the SMS band has received high achievements over the past year, including 20 members selected to participate in UGA Honor Band and one selected to participate in GMEA District 10 Honor Band.

## Emanuel County Republican Party to hold Caucus and County Convention

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. Photo ID required for registration. 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. 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. 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 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](mailto:lisacparham@aol.com).

**Public Notice**  
**Emanuel Count Schools**  
**Notice of destruction of inactive**  
**Special Education records**

Special Education records from 1997 through March 2003 are scheduled for destruction on March 25, 2024. If you wish to take custody of our/our child's records, you must have proper authority to do so. If the records you wish to take ownership of do not belong to you, you must show legal guardianship of the individual for whom the records belong. All persons must show picture identification when picking up records.

Please contact the Department of Student Services at Emanuel Count Schools at 478-237-6674 to notify us of our wish to obtain records scheduled for destruction.

Failure to contact the school district by March 25, 2024 will result in the destruction of all records.

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# Editorials Columns

## Paper route economics

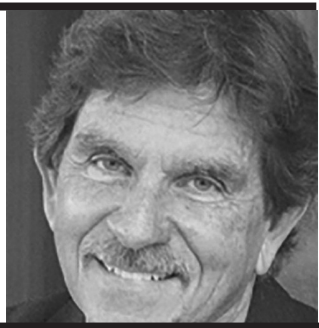
Who has the worst job in America? I don't have any factual information to back it up, but if I had to throw one out there, I would say the poor souls who have to make a living doing surveys on the telephone would rank pretty high, or low on the list, depending on how you looked at it. I should have known better, but the other day, I answered an 800 number just out of curiosity. The young interviewer wanted to know how I was going to vote and asked me the standard demographic questions, and then he asked about my education. Did you get a college degree? Yes, I did. Well, how would you like some help paying off your student loan debt? Well, I'd like some just fine, but I already paid it off about 40 years ago. I see, well, how long have you been in your current field. Well, I started in my current field in the early 1960s. I then heard a click,

then silence, and then the dial tone. My guess is at that point, I was eliminated from the survey. I had, however, told him the truth. In my current field, I use a computer to write for a newspaper. In 1963, I used a bicycle with a big basket on the front handlebars and a bb pistol to handle the neighborhood dogs as I delivered the news. So, I'm in the same field, right? I think every young American boy with dreams of entrepreneurial glory ought to have a paper route. The first thing it teaches you is how to establish your goals and objectives. In those days, my goal was to have enough money on Saturday afternoon to buy a new plastic model kit of the latest Air Force fighter jet at Bailey Brothers. I would do this after watching the double feature at the Dixie Theater. Then, I would go over to Stewarts Jewelers to purchase the new Elvis

45 record in order to know all the words to the new hit song before school on Monday. Now, you can see the level of planning and organization and preparation that is going on here, and the amazing thing is that we did it all back then without "Venn diagrams" or "bubble charts" or "top-of-mind thinking". Something else you learn with a paper route is pacing and self-preservation. My route had thirty-six customers. On a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, it wasn't too bad, but when that Atlanta Journal-Constitution truck pulled up outside our house in the wee small morning hours of Thursday, Friday, Saturday and especially on Sunday and dropped all the papers for town, it was "all hands-on deck" to get my papers stuffed, rolled, rubber banded and ready to load on my trusty bike from Western Auto. If anyone remem-

bers a Sunday Atlanta Journal back in those days, you know they were about the size of a medium Christmas turkey. You had to stop the bike and use both hands to throw one like in an Olympic competition. So, when you had 30 to 40 of those papers loaded on your bike, you were dangerously playing around with all the laws of nature, balance and physics to make it up and down the hills of Church Street, Pine Street, Racetrack Street and West Main. All it took was one new pothole in the pavement or one sneaky, low-down, trouble-making dog lurking in the shrubbery to create disaster in the sleepy, pre-dawn streets of Swainsboro. Those episodes were rare, and I only remember one painful catastrophe. It happened on a very rainy Fall Day. One of this town's finest men in education, Principal V.E. Glenn didn't get his

## Charles Schwabe



paper that morning, and after school my mother drove me to his house to deliver it. Mr. Glenn had a big, fine bird dog named Dooley. I knew Dooley, and he knew me. There was only one problem. Dooley didn't know it was me underneath that yellow rain suit bringing the newspaper. He strongly objected to this yellow trespasser coming into the yard and firmly latched on to the posterior portion of this young paperboy in a manner resembling a beartrap. Fortunately, the thick rainsuit absorbed most of the bite. The paper was delivered, the bruises healed, and Mr. Glenn saw to it that Dooley and I remained friends. Sadly, today, paper routes may

be a thing of the past, but they were a great learning tool back in my day. Part-time jobs, after-school work, whatever name they took, were part of the passage out of childhood and onto bigger and better things. They set a course and influenced so much of later life. Some jobs taught you skills, some taught responsibility, some taught understanding, and some just taught you a little more about the world and how it works. Whatever the lesson, the one thing that came through was the understanding that the value you gain is the reward for the effort you make. That lesson is still basic and relevant, even today. Priceless.

## Painted in a corner

All the rage now in internet purchasing is Temu. Everywhere you look, or don't want to look but have to, is filled with "gotcha" sponsored sites. Most all seem to have one thing in common. If you read the item description, you'll see the words "imported." If you can find just one item in any store advertisement that says "Made in the USA" you are lucky.

Manufacturing in the United States is all but extinct although, some of the foreign automobile makers are now manu-

facturing automobiles in the United States. GO figure. The good news is it is bound to create jobs for blue collar workers who actually want to have a career and good benefits. Lord only knows where the parts come from to assemble things that may be still manufactured here. In addition, if the parts ARE made in the USA, what do they do with them? Ship them overseas where the product is shipped from? Confusing huh?

Well, now I've noticed that some of the major

Department stores are advertising on their sites, from vendors that I've never heard in the fashion industry. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that those items are coming from China or "Tim Buck Too" but certainly not the good ole USA. If you can't tell from the name of the seller, you can sure tell when it says item ships internationally in the description.

So, how did we get to this point, inquiring minds want to know? It's complicated and my brain can't follow the money like it

should, but we can almost guarantee that money is the root. Labor became too expensive for manufacturers. They figured they could go across the pond where they will be happy to work for probably half, or less, and we can turn a profit. Of course, there are probably other tax benefits, and the big guys know exactly how to work the system.

I don't know when this business flight from America started, but it swept through us like a tsunami quickly, before anybody said, "wait a minute!"

So, here we are in America thinking that TEMU is the greatest gift from heaven because they sell goods so cheap. You're at their mercy if the item is faulty or doesn't fit. It'll take as long for them to receive it back as it did for you to receive it and they'll absolutely do everything in their power to not refund your

## La'Rose Tapley



money. In the meantime, they have YOUR credit card information and any other information you freely gave them when you ordered the product. They encourage you to download their app. Bingo.

So, what do we do? We keep feeding their industries and THEY are the ones making out like bandits. Of course, I might add here that in their infinite wisdom, our government has helped them along and has borrowed enough money from them that we'll be in their debt to eternity. IF, they don't blow us off the map first.

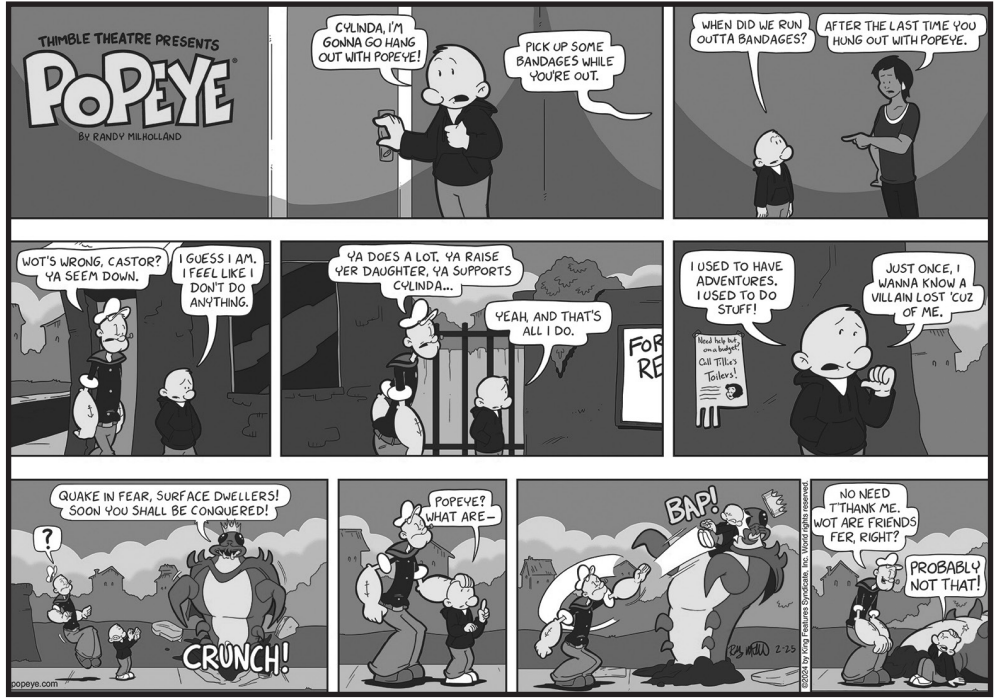
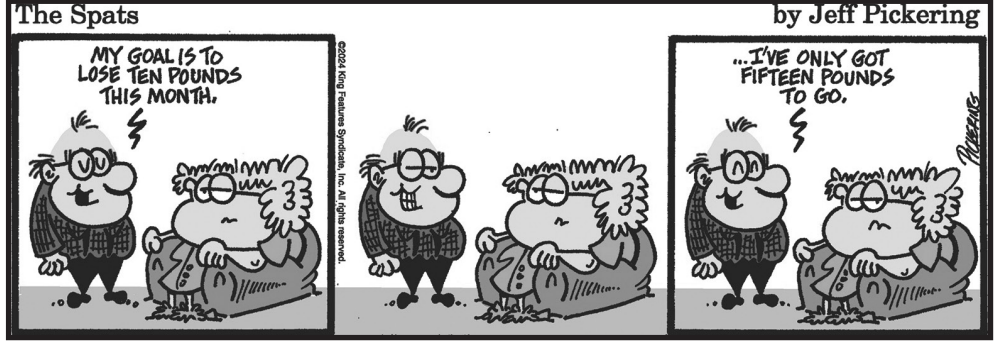
For every nickel we spend at TUMU, we're helping them!

Remember a few years ago when everybody was all up in the

air about some football team or teams or players or league. Swearing every day, "I'll never go to another game!" Remember that? How about all the Save the Planet and green energy folks who at the same time they are marching for that, are drinking Coca Colas from plastic bottles, buying water, sipping straws, feeding an industry that is the largest one in the world to pollute with plastic!

So, we have painted ourselves into a corner where it seems we not only owe our souls to the company store financially, continue to sit back and watch while buying all their goods because we are attracted by cheap prices. So, now what?

## Editorial Cartoons



## The headless woman

It was deathly quiet and still. The sun was slowly dying in the West as it slipped behind the flaming, red horizon, while resting on thin mysterious clouds of pink, blue and gold. Soon, it would be night and the mysterious hoot owl and lonely whippoorwill would call from deep in the darkening woods. Daddy's soft, masculine voice rose from the front porch as he began telling ghost stories that were told to him when he was a boy. My baby sister sat in his lap, wide-eyed, while the rest of the family surrounded him in a semi-circle for protection against unseen evil spirits. Cold chills ran up and down my spine as he lowered his voice and told us about his encounter with the headless

## Ronnie Johnson



woman. It happened near an old graveyard one stormy night while walking home from seeing his girlfriend. Between thunder and lightning strikes, the apparition seemed to float in midair, slowly moving toward him and whispering words that were not of this world. Daddy said he felt his legs go limp and could no longer hold him up and he froze in his tracks, wanting to run but couldn't find his get up and go. The family hung on to his dark, bewitching words and moved closer to his big rocking chair for protection

from the forces of evil that dark night. Mama called to daddy from the front porch swing not to tell any more ghost stories because the children wouldn't be able to sleep a wink that night. Over the years, the ghost stories continued and seemed to be filled with more and more fantasy than actual truth, but my sisters and I never got tired of hearing them again and again. So if I wanted to surprise them and scare their pants off, I would call out suddenly without warning, "See there! Over there! A woman with her head cut off!"

## The Forest-Blade

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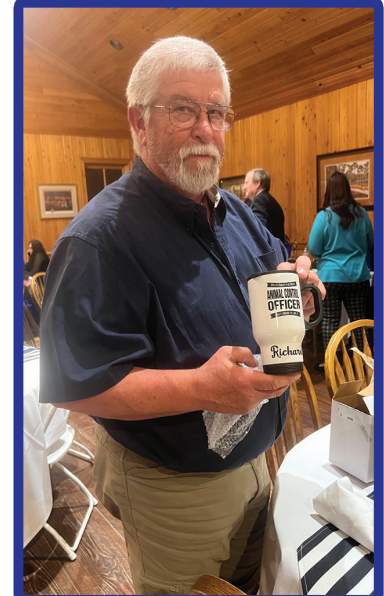
We welcome Letters to the Editor from our readers. However, due to increasing production costs, we must request that letters be kept to approximately 350 words. All letters must be signed by at least one person. Address and telephone number of the writer should also be given.

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



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## ECI culinary students advance to second phase

Emanuel County Institute students Clorinda Carrillo and Carly Salinas have advanced to the second phase of the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Department Student Chef Competition. The competition consisted of two parts: recipe development and a recipe cooking demonstration.

For the recipe development part of the competition, Clorinda Carrillo developed the recipe during her Food Science class while she was working on her food invention project. Teacher Anna Johnson said she had learned about the program and knew Clorinda and Carly Salinas would make a great team. The competition required students to work in teams. "Clorinda and Carly modified Clorinda's recipe to fit the nutrition requirements, and then they submitted their product



CARRILLO AND SALINAS

to be judged in phase one," said Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson and the team were excited when they received notice that they had been selected to advance to the second phase.

During the second phase of the competition, representatives from the Georgia Department of Education Nutrition Division will visit ECI to observe the students preparing the recipe in the kitchen. They will taste their recipe, interview the team, and judge for the overall

state winner. The top recipe in the state will have the opportunity to represent Georgia at the Southeastern Regional competition in Antioch, Tennessee.

This competition is a great opportunity for students to showcase their culinary skills and gain valuable knowledge and skills in recipe development, food preparation, teamwork, and local food systems. Additionally, winning recipes may be featured on school lunch menus across Georgia.



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## Twin City Lions Club celebrates 60 years

The Twin City Lions recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> year as a civic organization in Twin City. The organization was chartered on February 20, 1964. The Lions Club members and their spouses were treated to a steak dinner with all trimmings in recognition

of the anniversary. In the past year, the Twin City Lions Club has donated over \$10,000 to various causes such as the Georgia Lions Club Sight Conversation Project, The Lighthouse Foundation, The Camp for the Blind and The Leader Dog Foundation.

Local donations have been to the Twin City Recreation Department, ECI scholarships for graduating seniors, food boxes at Christmas, Keep Emanuel Clean, Wreaths Across America, Weekend Blessings, The Sunshine House, the ECI Booster Club and many others.



ELLIS, PEACOCK, SMITH, LISEBY AND GOODMAN

## Swainsboro Kiwanis Club presents check to Seedling Garden Club

Cheryl Goodman, President 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.

Accepting the donation was club president, Nancy Lisenby and club treasurer, Kay Peacock. Assisting in the presentation was Kiwanians Wanda Ellis and Mary Ellen Smith.



SHERRI CLIFTON, KAREN VAN HORN, JEANETTE HALL, GEORGE ELDER WITH KEEP EMANUEL BEAUTIFUL, JOANN TRAMMELL, SYLVIA DURDEN AND AUDREY WEST

## Glad Garden Club gets advice on litter reduction and beautification

The Glad Garden Club held its regular meeting on February 12, at 10 a.m. at the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center. Meeting was called to order by President JoAnn Trammell followed by an inspirational message by Sylvia Durden referencing Psalm 4, "As God is always within our reach". Following her message, an informative and interesting program was delivered by George Elder. George and Missy Elder are former recipients of the Swainsboro OurTown Hero award recognizing their countless volunteer hours to various organizations and causes. George has been a member of the Twin City Lions Club, served on the Pine Tree Festival and served on the Board of Directors of the Swainsboro-Emanuel County Festival Foundation. George continues to be active in the Emanuel County Historic Preservation Society serving as President. His current campaign involves "Keep Emanuel Beautiful", a non-profit organization that meets

the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19, at the County Commissioner's Room in the Coleman Hotel. George's program involved presenting plans to reduce litter along with recycling and beautification of Swainsboro. You have probably seen his anti-litter signs throughout the county. There is a mascot and intentions to have a billboard campaign in the future. Along with anti-litter campaigns, there are plans for beautification involving community gardens and other tentative programs.

Glad Garden Club received thank you notes from the Sunshine House not only for our financial support but for participating in annual recognition dinner. Thank you also received from the Miss Emanuel County/Miss Southeast Georgia Scholarship Board for the clubs Emerald Level donation. Arbor Day Certificates were received from the Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of Sylvia Durden's partic-

ipation in the planting of trees. Club member Sylvia Durden also had a brief horticulture presentation regarding the planting and caring for "airplane plants" and presented each member with a baby plant to try and grown their own at home.

Club members made plans for our annual fundraiser along with committees assigned for our participation in the 2024 Pine Tree Festival and Southeast Timber Expo. There is also an upcoming flower show presented by the Seedling Garden Club in which the Glad Garden Club assists and participates in not only the labeling of specimens but other assigned duties but the presentation of flora for competition. See you at the show!

Glad Garden Club adjourned to the Rustic Grille for lunch.

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

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MR. FLOWERS AND MISS PRATHER

## Miss Prather, Mr. Flowers to exchange vows

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Prather of Matthews are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Ansley Prather, to Jared Flowers. Mr. Flowers is the son of Ms. Gail M. Flowers and the late Bruce D. Flowers of Swainsboro. The bride-elect graduated with a Certified Nursing Assistant license and works as a CNA. Miss Prather is the granddaughter of the late Daniel Arrington of Matthews and the late William and Mrs. Marie Prather of Augusta. The future groom graduated from David Emanuel Academy and Georgia Southern University. Jared is a teacher and football coach at Lakeside High School in Evans. Mr. Flowers is the grandson of Mrs. Dahlia M. McCoy and the late Kenneth J. McCoy Hephzibah. The wedding is set for March 30, 2024.



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## Griswold records and produces new song with acclaimed Nashville music producer

Acclaimed Nashville based music producer, singer-songwriter and podcast host Tony Mantor is once again putting his music and production skills into action by doing good and making a difference in people's lives. In 2023, Mantor launched what has quickly become a popular podcast series on autism called *Why Not Me The World*, which has topped Apple Podcasts' Mental Health charts worldwide. Mantor recently assembled a veteran group of iconic Nashville session musicians that included David Pomeroy (*Sting, Alison Kraus, Elton John*), T. Wild (*Garth Brooks, Brenda Lee, Patty Loveless*) and William Ellis (*Dave Matthews Band, Train, Counting Crows*), to record a new song project featuring autistic teen singer Katie Griswold. Griswold is the Junior Miss of Georgia 2021 pageant winner, and more recently, the 2024 winner of Miss Emanuel County's Teen pageant in her hometown of Swainsboro.

Griswold gleamed with excitement and anticipation while she recorded "Make A Difference", a song written by Shawna Rodrigues, which pretty much sums up what Mantor and Griswold hope the song will do. Mantor says he plans to release the song as a single through his private record label Plateau Music on Wednesday, April 3, to commemorate the start of *National Autism Acceptance Month*. Griswold will also be the guest on *Why Not Me The World* podcast episode #39, releasing the same day as Katie's new song on April 3.

"When I interviewed Katie Griswold for my podcast, I saw a young girl who has a natural talent and wants to help others," said Mantor. "I wanted to help her realize her ambition to help others, so I brought her here to Nashville to record a song which I felt was the right song with the right message."

Mantor's *Why Not Me The World* podcast has featured a worldly group of celebrities and professionals from the music and entertainment industry, Autism thought leaders and others from the Autistic community. In less than a year, the podcast has risen to the top of various mental health podcast charts worldwide, including Apple Podcast Top 10 rankings in the U.S., Great Britain, and Canada. According to Listen Notes, a leading podcast search engine, rates *Why Not Me The World* among the top 0.5% worldwide.

"The guests who've been on *Why Not Me The World* have formed a strong community that informs and helps others," Mantor said. "I am beyond humbled to help play a role in sharing their stories, perspectives and contributions to benefit those who are living with this commonly misunderstood condition."

New episodes and new guests are streaming now in 2024 and can be streamed or downloaded on all major podcast platforms including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon, iHeart Media, Google Podcasts, or at [TonyMantor.com](https://www.TonyMantor.com).



Photo by Jason W. Ashcraft/JWA Media  
WILLIAM ELLIS, DAVE POMEROY, TONY MANTOR, KATIE GRISWOLD, JOSH KARAS, FRANK GREEN AND T. WILD



MISS EMANUEL COUNTY HADDYN HARRELL CROWNS MISS EMANUEL COUNTY TEEN KATIE GRISWOLD

## Griswold crowned Miss Emanuel County Teen

The Miss Emanuel County/Southeast Board proudly presents our newly crowned Miss Emanuel County Teen Katie Griswold. Katie is the 16-year-old daughter of Lanier and Joy Griswold of Swainsboro. Through her advocacy work, Katie hopes to demonstrate the abilities of autistic individuals like herself and celebrate the achievements of those with autism and developmental disabilities through various activities throughout the months of March and April. Developmental Disability Awareness Month is in March and Autism Awareness Month is in April. Katie will compete for the title of Miss Georgia Teen in Columbus in June.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

## TCE February Students of the Month

Congratulations to the February Students of the Month! They were chosen for exemplifying the character trait of kindness. They enjoyed a donut breakfast with their parents/guardians in the lunchroom on Thursday, February 22. They also received a token for the book vending machine and a treat bag. The February Students of the Month include Everleigh Loveall, Emberleigh Beach, Huxley Murphy, LJ Brown, Clint Kersey, Tucker Rountree, Chadwick Blackburn, Pacey Thompson, Haley Kate Hodges, Briley Williamson, Lydia Loveall, Kam'ryn Johnson, Ezra Ferran, Kameron Dixon, Gray Rich, Chloe Dawkins, Sara Ellen Oliver, Jason Gay, Matti Moyer, Darius Burke, Reid Cannady, Kendall Hodges, John Wright Beasley, Wyatt Parillo, Damien Johnson, and Jaelie Sutton.





COLLINS AND HIS BAND OF BULLDOGS

Collins wins his 100<sup>th</sup>

by RON WEATHERFORD

Before the game against Savannah Country Day last week, the Bulldog administration and players honored head baseball coach Brooks Collins on winning his 100<sup>th</sup> game. The team presented him with a steel Homeplate plaque with signatures and comments from players on the back.

Collins had 99 wins going into the 2024 season and won his 100<sup>th</sup> in a win against Swainsboro in the season opener. The 100 wins came in five full

seasons and one shortened COVID year, that ended just two weeks into the season. Brooks took over the reigns of the baseball Bulldogs from long time head coach Chad Harper. During the six years, Collins never had a losing record. His best season was 2023 with a 31-10 season record, a region championship and state runner up. Collins was also named Single A Division II Coach of the Year in 2023, which is normally given to the state championship coach.

Some of the com-

ments from his current players include: "Coach Collins has always been honest and straightforward with me. He is willing to give the shirt off his back for anyone needing it. He is the best coach in the state." "Coach Brooks has been the most impactful coach in my life. He has taught us what it means to be a team and turned us all from individuals into team players. He is our Dawg on and off the field." "Coach Brooks has always treated me like one of his own. He would do anything for anybody."

Rough week at the office for Bulldogs

by RON WEATHERFORD

After losing three starting pitchers from last season, who started 33 of the 41 games, the Bulldogs were looking for pitching this year to eat up some innings. That committee of seven had a rough week, giving up 30 runs on 37 hits. After starting the season 3-0, the Bulldogs dropped three games last week to even their record at 3-3. Tuesday, the Bulldogs hosted Savannah Country Day, losing their first game of the season 8-6. Tuff Boddiford got the Bulldogs on the board in the bottom of the first inning on a solo shot for a 1-0 lead. The lead was short lived as the Hornets plated six runs on four walks, two doubles and a three-run shot over the center field fence. The Bulldogs kept pecking away scoring two runs in the third inning on a Charlie Rehberg double and two more in the fifth to make the score 6-5 Hornets entering the sixth. The Hornets scored their last two runs of the game in the top of the sixth. The Bulldogs drew closer in the bottom of the inning on a Gabe Lee double with SCD leading 8-6. Both teams failed to score in the seventh with the Hornets taking the win back to Savannah. The Bulldogs picked up six hits in the game with Lee and Rehberg ending the game with two hits each. Saturday, the



HENRY GUNS TO FIRST FOR AN OUT AGAINST HORNETS

Bulldogs played in the annual CBIT tournament in Swainsboro. They lost the first game to Screven County 13-11 and the second game 9-4 to the host team, Swainsboro.

In the game against the Gamecocks, the Bulldogs jumped out to a 6-1 lead in the second inning.

Rehberg cleared the bases in the first inning with a grand slam for the senior's first career homerun, for a 4-0 lead. The Gamecocks kept pecking away putting single runs on the board in the second, third and fourth innings to make the score 6-3. The Dawgs let Screven hang around going scoreless in the third thru sixth innings. The Gamecocks made ECI pay, taking the lead in the top of the fifth on the back of a three-run homerun to make the score 7-6. Screven got their side standing in the top of the sixth on the game's second grand slam for a 11-6 lead. Gamecocks added to their lead in

the seventh to make the score 13-6. The Bulldogs weren't going down without a fight scoring five runs in the bottom of the seventh. But it wasn't enough as Screven gave the Bulldogs their first loss in the CBIT tournament in the last few years. Four Bulldogs racked up multiple hits in the game. Getting two hits in the game were Gabe Lee, Charlie Rehberg, Jackson Kennedy and Davis Johnson.

The Bulldog's second game of the day was with Swainsboro, losing to the Tigers 9-4. It wasn't a pitchers' duel with both teams combing for 25 hits, 10 by ECI and 15 by the Tigers. Like in the game against Screven, the Bulldogs took an early lead in the bottom of the first, 1-0. They put two on the board in the third and one in the fourth for the only Bulldog runs in the game. Swainsboro was swinging away scoring runs in every inning except the sixth, to win the game 9-4. Tuff Boddiford had the hot bat for the Bulldogs going 3-4 with a HR and three RBI. Ab Marsh and Aiden McQuig had two hits.

The Bulldogs are still on their non region schedule with two road games this week. Today they are in Waynesboro to take on the Bears from Burke Co. and will travel to Pembroke tomorrow, to play their annual games against Southeast Bulloch.

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Shortly before leaving for college my saintly pastor came to visit me and offer me a few words of advice on the importance of being well prepared to serve God. During our conversation he advised me to take every course that had anything to do with speaking or writing. "Larry," he said in a voice that reflected sincerity and compassion, "it does not matter how much you know about the Bible, if you can't explain it so people can understand it, accept it and live it, you'll be letting God down." It made good sense to me and I followed his recommendation carefully.

One of the classes I took emphasized the difficulty of people hearing what a speaker says and interpreting it correctly. It is easy to hear what someone says but quite difficult to pass it on without changing the words and the meaning that the speaker intended. When this happens something is lost in "transmission" and it could be a matter of life and death if the message passed on is incorrect or inconsistent.

The importance of the integrity of God's message is clearly presented in Psalm 92:5, "Your statues stand firm!" That means "Whatever God said is so." His Word contains no errors, no mistakes and no information that can lead us astray if accepted as written. In fact, the word for statues emphasizes the fact that Scripture rests on the integrity of God our Creator. His statements, promises, warnings and commands are not to be changed to meet the desires of man but to proclaim and present the everlasting covenant between God and man.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to city regulations' regarding the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license, notice is hereby given to the public that an application has been filed by Denise Miles DBA Lounge 2020, for a license to retail beer, wine, and mixed drinks consumption on premises, located at 406 Rentz Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.

This application will be considered at the regular meeting of mayor and city council to be held on March 4, 2024, at 6 pm.

City of Swainsboro  
Herman Middlebrooks, Jr.  
City Administrator

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Bulldog Middle School Baseball shines in CBIT

by RON WEATHERFORD

The ECI Middle School baseball team played in the annual Citizens Bank Invitational last weekend.

The young Dawgs came away winning both games against Swainsboro and Jenkins Co. The offense and pitching were running on all cylinders, defeating Swainsboro 11-3 and Jenkins Co. 13-3. Judson Underwood started on the mound for the Bulldogs against the Tigers pitching the first four innings. Underwood yielded just one hit while striking out 8 Swainsboro batters. Jacob Hughes closed out the final three innings giving up four hits while striking out six Tigers. Leading hitters for ECI were Underwood 3-4 with a HR and double, TJ Weaver 2-4, and Hane Henry 1-3 with three RBI.

The second game had the Bulldogs facing Jenkins Co., defeating the Eagles 13-3. The Bulldogs used three pitchers holding the Eagles to seven hits and three runs. Jack Lee started the game going 2 1/3 innings giving up four hits, with two strikeouts. Bently Collins stood on the mound for two innings allowing two hits with a strikeout. Hane Henry closed out the game giving up just one hit while striking out two Eagle batters. Leading hitters against the Eagles were Hughes, 2-3, four RBI with a double, William Kennedy, 1-3, one RBI and Lawson Frye 1-3 with one RBI.





WILLIAMS WITH HIS TEAMMATES AND COACH FLOWERS

## DEA Eagle Williams hits 1,000 points

On February 21, in the first round of state playoffs, Senior Eagle Randon Williams hit a career 1,000 points. Randon is the son of Eddie and Beverly Williams of Cobbtown. When commenting on his achievement, Williams says "All glory to God! Couldn't have done it without Him and all these people in my life!" Congratulations Randon on joining the David Emanuel Academy 1,000 Point Club!

## David Emanuel Academy Varsity Girls' Basketball compete in state playoffs

The David Emanuel Academy Varsity Girls' Basketball team traveled to Douglasville on February 20, to compete against Harvester Christian Academy in the first round of GIAA state playoffs. The game ended in a close loss of 49-41 for the Eagles. Leading the Lady Eagles in points was Addalyn Terwilliger with 13 points. Emma Proctor and Kylie Bell contributed with 9 points each followed by Aubrey Williams with 6 points and Payton Peebles and Maddie Perkins each with 2 points.

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## DEA Varsity Boys' Basketball finish in the Elite 8

On Wednesday, February 21, the Eagles hosted the first round of state playoffs where they defeated the John Hancock Academy Rebels 53-38. Leading the Eagles in points was Randon Williams with 21 points followed by Billy Martin with 20 points. Also contributing for the Eagles

were Peyton Lee (5 points), Ethan Fields (4 points) and Tony Sutton (3 points). The win advanced the Eagles to the Elite 8 in Macon where they played Highland Christian Academy. The Eagles suffered a close loss, 62-60, against Highland. Billy Martin was the lead scorer for DEA with 29 points. Additional scorers for

the Eagles were Randon Williams (11 points), Ethan Fields (6 points), Tony Sutton (5 points), Peyton Lee (4 points), Brody Fleming (3 points), and Richard Braddy (2 points). The David Emanuel Academy Varsity boys' basketball team ended with a successful season finishing in the Elite 8.



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# Legals

## NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Michael Allen Snyder to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Stockton Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated October 13, 2022, recorded in Deed Book 544, Page 80, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Stockton Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded in Deed Book 558, Page 148, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND TWENTYNINE AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$161,029.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Emanuel County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2024, the following described property: SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the abovenamed or the undersigned.

Stockton Mortgage Corporation is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Stockton Mortgage Corporation, 9726 Old Baires Road, Suite 200, Fort Mill, SC 29707, 877-297-5484.

Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Michael Allen Snyder or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as 563 Friendship Church Rd, Twin City, Georgia 30471. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Stockton Mortgage Corporation as Attorney in Fact for Michael Allen Snyder

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC

1544 Old Alabama Road

Roswell, GA 30076

www.foreclosurerehotline.net

EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate and being in the 1429th G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, containing 2.71 acres, more or less, fronting on the Northern side of Friendship Church Road and on the Eastern side of J C Lance, as shown on plat of survey made by Walter K. Maupin, Surveyor, dated February 22, 1984, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court in Plat Book 13, page 263, to which reference is made as a part of this description. Said property is bounded now or formerly as follows: North by lands of Doris M. Ivins and Harvey R. Ivins; East by lands of James L. Hall and Lawanda J. Hall; South by Friendship Church Road; and West by JC Lane.

Said property is the same as that conveyed by a Warranty Deed dated October 13, 2022 from Charles L. Ivins, Jr. and Beverly A. Ivins to Michael Allen Snyder, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel

Superior Court.

Said property is the same as that conveyed by a Joint Survivorship Warranty Deed dated July 22, 1997 from Charles E. Greenway a/k/a C.E. Greenway and Ida L. Greenway to Charles L. Ivins, Jr. and Beverly A. Ivins, which is recorded in the Office of Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court in Deed Book 98, page 48.

Said property is designated in 2022 by the Emanuel County Tax Assessors as Map and Parcel #190-016A.

MR/kri 3/5/24

Our file no. 23-12388GA - FT18

I

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JERRY EDWIN WILLIAMSON, DECEASED**

**ESTATE NO. 24E0015**

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

JERRY MITCHELL WILLIAMSON has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of JERRY EDWIN WILLIAMSON deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MARCH 4, 2024.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

DON E. WILKES

Judge of the Probate Court

By: Jeanie Hooks

Clerk of the Probate Court

P. O. Box 70 / 125 S Main Street

Swainsboro, Ga. 30401

Address

(478) 237-7091

Telephone Number

I

**Notice of Sale Under Power State of Georgia, County of Emanuel.**

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed given by 308 Glenwood Associates LLC ("Grantor") to Newtek Small Business Finance LLC ("Grantee"), dated November 22, 2019, and recorded December 10, 2019 in Deed Book 489, Page 401, Emanuel County, Georgia records (the "Security Deed"), conveying the after-described property to secure a certain Note dated November 22, 2019 in the original principal amount of \$1,738,800.00 from Place Vendome Holding Co., Inc. and 308 Glenwood Associates LLC to Grantee (the "Note"), with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Emanuel County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2024, the following described property:

Tract one: All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate, and being in the 53<sup>rd</sup> G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, containing Four and Two Hundred Eleven One Thousandths (4.211) acres, more or less, and bounded as follows: North by Meadowlake Parkway; East by the lands of Mrs. Jerry Rich; South by lands of Emanuel County Development Authority; and West by Glenwood Road. Said property is more particularly described in plat made by J.C. McLeod, surveyor, dated December 21, 1972, which is recorded in the Office of the Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court, in Plat Book 7, Page 50, to which reference is made as a part of this description.

Tract two: All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53<sup>rd</sup> G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, containing 0.950 acres and designated as Parcel No. Two on a plat prepared by George William Donaldson, Surveyor, dated May 25, 1989, and recorded in Plat Book 14, Page 206, of the records of the Clerk, Superior Court, Emanuel County, Georgia. Said Plat is hereby incorporated herein for a more full, complete, and accurate description hereof. Said property being bounded as shown on said plat as follows: On the North by Parcel No. One as described by said plat; East and Southeast by land of Rich,

et. al.; on the Southwest by lands of the Emanuel County Forestry Unit; on the West and Northwest by lands of Ithaca Industries, Inc.

Being the same property conveyed to 308 Glenwood Associates LLC from Emanuel County Development Authority by Limited Warranty Deed, dated March 28, 2016 and recorded on April 12, 2016 in Book 429, Page 18. A.P.N. 096-033

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note, Guaranty and Security Deed. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorneys' fees (notice of intent to collect attorneys' fees having been given). Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC is the present holder of the Note, Guaranty and Security Deed. Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC is the entity with full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 44-14-162.2, Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC may be contacted at: Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC, 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 130, Lake Success, NY 11042. Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 44-14-162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **308 Glenwood Road, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401** is/are: 308 Glenwood Associates LLC or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC as Attorney in Fact for 308 Glenwood Associates LLC. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ROBINSON FRANZMAN LLP, 191 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 2600, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Telephone: (404) 255-2503.

I

**Notice of Sale Under Power State of Georgia, County of Emanuel.**

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed given by R&F Georgia Properties LLC ("Grantor") to Newtek Small Business Finance LLC ("Grantee"), dated November 22, 2019, and recorded December 10, 2019 in Deed Book 489, Page 452, Emanuel County, Georgia records (the "Security Deed"), conveying the after-described property to secure a Guaranty dated November 22, 2019 (the "Guaranty") relating to a certain Note dated November 22, 2019 in the original principal amount of \$1,738,800.00 from Place Vendome Holding Co., Inc. and 308 Glenwood Associates LLC to Grantee (the "Note"), with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Emanuel County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2024, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate, and being in the City of Swainsboro, 53<sup>rd</sup> G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, fronting a distance of Three Hundred Eight and Seventy-two One-Hundredths (308.72) feet on the Southern side of East Main Street and containing Six and Thirty-Five One-Hundredths (6.35) acres as shown on plat of survey made by Aubrey E. Scott, Jr., Surveyor, dated June 8, 1982, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk, Emanuel Superior

Court, in Plat Book 12, Page 176, to which reference is made as a part of this description. Said property is bounded on the North by East Main Street, lands now or formerly belonging to Mrs. J.A. Garret and lands now or formerly belonging to Cuba Rowland; on the south by Eastwood Estates Subdivision; and on the West by lands now or formerly belonging to D.F. Gilpin.

Being the same property conveyed to R & F Georgia Properties LLC from Place Vendome Holding Co., Inc., a Nevada corporation, d/b/a R & F Marketing by Quitclaim Deed dated May 9, 2008 and recorded on June 6, 2008 in Book 311, Page 437. A.P.N. S07-018

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note, Guaranty and Security Deed. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorneys' fees (notice of intent to collect attorneys' fees having been given). Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC is the present holder of the Note, Guaranty and Security Deed. Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC is the entity with full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 44-14-162.2, Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC may be contacted at: Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC, 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 130, Lake Success, NY 11042. Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 44-14-162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **610 East Main Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401** is/are: R&F Georgia Properties LLC or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC as Attorney in Fact for R&F Georgia Properties LLC. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ROBINSON FRANZMAN LLP, 191 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 2600, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Telephone: (404) 255-2503.

I

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF MARGARET JORDAN WHIPPLE, DECEASED**

**ESTATE NO. 24E0017**

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

SAKEITHIA PERRY has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of MARGARET JORDAN WHIPPLE deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MARCH 4, 2024.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections,

unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

DON E. WILKES

Judge of the Probate Court

By: Jeanie Hooks

Clerk of the Probate Court

P. O. Box 70 / 125 S. Main Street

Swainsboro, Ga. 30401

Address

(478) 237-7091

Telephone Number

I

**STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF EMANUEL**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD PROCTOR, DECEASED.**

**All creditors of the estate of James Edward Proctor, deceased, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render their demands to Richard M. McNeely, attorney for Joseph M. Proctor and Jennie Wilcher, Executors of the James Edward Proctor Estate, at P. O. Box 767, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of any indebtedness due the estate. This 7 day of February, 2024.**

**RICHARD M. MCNEELY, Attorney for Joseph M. Proctor and Jennie Wilcher**

**Executors of the James Edward Proctor Estate**

**Richard M. McNeely, P.C.**

P. O. Box 767

**Swainsboro, Georgia 30401**

**(478) 237-4225**

I

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS** GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of Nicky L. Perkins, decedent, late of Emanuel County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to Jerry N. Cadle, P.C., P.O. Box 68, Swainsboro, GA 30401 according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

Vicki W. Perkins, Executrix of the Estate of

Nicky L. Perkins, decedent

Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.

P.O. Box 68

Swainsboro, GA 30401

I

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF MARK RINGER, DECEASED**

**ESTATE NO. 24E0021**

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:

Jamie Fountain has petitioned for Morgan Boulineau to be appointed administrator of the estate of

Mark Ringer deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before MARCH 25, 2024.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

DON E. WILKES

Judge of the Probate Court

By: Jeanie Hooks

Clerk of the Probate Court

P. O. Box 70 / 125 S. Main Street

Swainsboro, Ga. 30401

Address

(478) 237-7091

Telephone Number

I

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER** GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Megan L Edenfield and Dakota M Edenfield to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for LOANDEPOT. COM, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated August 21, 2019, recorded in Deed Book 485, Page 7, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to MidFirst Bank by assignment recorded in Deed

Book 517, Page 552, Emanuel County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$137,464.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Emanuel County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2024, the following described property: SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the abovenamed or the undersigned. MIDFIRST BANK is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Midland Mortgage, a division of MidFirst Bank, 999 N.W. Grand Boulevard Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73118-6116, 800-654-4566.

Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Megan L Edenfield and Dakota M Edenfield or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as 2331 US Highway 80 E, Twin City, Georgia 30471. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

MIDFIRST BANK

as Attorney in Fact for Megan L Edenfield and Dakota M Edenfield

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC

1544 Old Alabama Road

Roswell, GA 30076

www.foreclosurerehotline.net

EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land lying, situate, and being in the 1560th G. M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, containing 6.383 acres, more or less, and designated at Parcel No. 2 on that particular Plat of Survey prepared by George William Donaldson, Surveyor, dated December 21, 2007, which is recorded in Plat Book 20, page 78D, of the Records of the Office of the Clerk, Emanuel Superior Court. Said plat by reference hereto is incorporated herein for a more full, complete, and accurate description of said property. Said tract of land being bounded according to said plat, now or formerly, as follows: North by Parcel No. 7 as shown on said plat; East by Parcel No. 3 as shown on said plat; South by the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 80; and West by Parcel No. 9 as shown on said plat.

There is also conveyed to the Grantee herein an easement for ingress and egress over and across the existing woods road, as shown on plat of survey that extends from the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 80 along a portion of Parcel No. 9 of said property. Said easement shall extend from the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 80 to the northwestern most corner of Parcel No. 2 as shown on said plat. This easement is for purposes of ingress and egress to Parcel No. 2, shall run with the land and shall be for the benefit of the Grantee herein, his heirs, successors, and assigns.

MR/ca 5/7/24

Our file no. 22-06192GA - FT17



# 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 (ECSC); 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).

Jacob Wayne Black, 23, arrested 2/24/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked/Open container/DUI less safe

Wenona Renee Blake, 47, arrested 2/23/24; Probation violation

David Lee Bray, 36, arrested 2/23/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked

Jarel Rotema Brown, 34, arrested 2/20/24; Bench warrant – felony

Qindaruis De'Andre Brown, 18, arrested 2/25/24; Disorderly conduct

Benjamin Ray Caraway, 36, arrested 2/19/24; Probation violation

Robert Lee Carnes, 42, arrested 2/20/24; Court

Mariah Tamia Clark, 18, arrested 2/25/24; DUI under the age of 21

Javarius Mashon Davis, 29, arrested 2/25/24; Aggravated assault/Criminal damage to property – 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

Ka'Yun Omari Davis, 22, arrested 2/21/24; Burglary/Driving while license suspended/revoked/Theft of services

Salinas Filiberto, 34, arrested 2/22/24; Speeding/Driving without license

Billy Foster, 65, arrested 2/21/24; Probation violation – felony

Niko De'Marious Gates, 26, arrested 2/22/24; Use of communication facility in commission of a felony involving controlled substances/Possession

and use of drug related objects/Possession of Schedule I controlled substance

Damon Deluise Henderson, 55, arrested 2/19/24; DUI less safe

Jameika Tywonja Jackson, 47, arrested 2/25/24; Seatbelt violation/DUI less safe/Slower vehicle must keep to right

Kobe Juan Jackson, 27, arrested 2/25/24; DUI less safe/Failure to maintain lane

David Timothy Johnson, 59, arrested 2/20/24; Probation violation – felony (x2)

Joezett Marriah Johnson, 42, arrested 2/25/24; Speeding/Open container/DUI less safe

Charles Lee Jones, 37, arrested 2/24/24; Theft by shoplifting (x2)

Austin Paul Lariscey, 27, arrested 2/24/24; Possession of firearm by convicted felon/Possession of sawed-off shotgun, sawed-off rifle, machine gun, dangerous weapon or silencer/Burglary

Crystal Lynn Lumley, 40, arrested 2/24/24; Hold for Toombs Co.

Brian Eugene Mason, 40, arrested 2/19/24; Criminal trespass/SPD

Probation/Simple assault

Brittany Sierra McKenzie, 30, arrested 2/23/24; Possession of meth with intent

Javeon Ray McKinney, 20, arrested 2/21/24; Probation violation – felony

A'Mya Lanae Mobley, 19, arrested 2/25/24; DUI less safe/Aggravated assault against peace officer

George Clarence Neal, 59, arrested 2/19/24; Parole violation

Robert Bryant Powell, 32, arrested 2/22/24; Probation violation – felony

Nyque Martiez Price, 33, arrested 2/22/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked/Possession of cocaine/Obstruction of law enforcement officers/Reckless driving/Failure to maintain lane/Failure to stop at stop sign (x5)/Fleeing or attempt to elude police officer/Headlight requirements/ Hold for Superior Court

Probation/Possession and use of drug related objects/Parole violation

Allen Freddie Lee Rachels, 40, arrested 2/20/24; Probation violation/Possession of schedule IV controlled sub-

stance (x2)

Hunter Christopher Robinson, 21, arrested 2/24/24; Possession of meth

Jahlea Adrianna Rodriquez, 19, arrested 2/25/24; Disorderly conduct

Qudaryl James Rountree, 31, arrested 2/23/24; Battery

Ronald Shaye Shepard, 47, arrested 2/23/24; Driving while license suspended/revoked

Christopher Daniel Slaton, 28, arrested 2/19/24; Disorderly conduct

Sikeyia Tahiti Smith, 33, arrested 2/20/24; Probation violation

Benjamin Franklin Stavelly, 52, arrested 2/20/24; Possession of schedule IV controlled substance (x2)/Possession and use of drug related objects/Crossing state/county guard lines with weapons, intoxicants, drugs without consent

Lauren Ashley Thomas, 29, arrested 2/22/24; Possession and use of drug related objects/Sale, manufacture, deliver or possess of dangerous drugs/Hold for Chatham Co. SO

Tracy Ann Thomas, 50,

arrested 2/20/24; Battery

Anthony James Turberville, 34, arrested 2/20/24; Probation violation – felony (x2)/ Probation violation

Laura Minty Lee Walls, 33, arrested 2/25/24; Bench warrant – felony

John Howard Ward, 30, arrested 2/20/24; Bench warrant – felony/Burglary

Tikeenia Tiyonna Washington, 27, arrested 2/20/24; Battery

Kashana L. Watkins, 39, arrested 2/20/24; Disorderly conduct

De'Sean Jacquise Williams, 19, arrested 2/25/24; Possess of marijuana less than oz

Nikala Katrice Williams, 18, arrested 2/20/24; Disorderly conduct/ Interference with officer

Amanda Rae Wilson, 41, arrested 2/24/24; Hold for Toombs Co.

Timyielah Conisarai Worthen, 18, arrested 2/25/24; Disorderly conduct

Eleazar Mezhua Xochicale, 36, arrested 2/24/24; Open container/ Failure to maintain lane/ Driving while unlicensed/ DUI refusal

Darrienne Renee Young, 26, arrested 2/25/24; Probation violation

## Sheriff's Reports

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

**February 19**

Deputies responded to Hwy 57 in reference to a domestic dispute.

Deputy was dispatched to N. Old Reidsville Rd. in reference to a theft. Complainant stated she noticed a truck leaving

from a barn at her residence and found a tiller to be missing. C/p further advised the truck has been seen at other locations in the area.

Deputy met with complainant on Oak Park Hwy. in reference to a theft. C/p stated offender removed \$48,000 worth of medical equip-

ment from the vehicle.

**February 20**

Vehicle was traveling on Hwy 1 when it struck a deer causing the vehicle having to be removed by a towing company.

Vehicle was traveling on Hwy 221 when it struck a deer causing moderate damage to the vehicle.

**February 21**

Investigator was given information regarding the possible location of illegal drugs.

**February 24**

Deputy observed a vehicle run off the shoulder of the road, then maneuver into the north bound lane, at which time he got behind the

vehicle and initiated a traffic stop on Hwy 192. Deputy approached the vehicle and could smell a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the driver. Deputy then asked for the driver's license and asked how much he had to drink and he stated appx. eight beers. Deputy returned to

his unit and learned the vehicle was registered to the driver with suspended license and returned to the vehicle and asked the driver to step out. Deputy then asked the driver to perform a field sobriety and he stated he did not wish to perform any tests. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

## Swainsboro Police Reports

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

**February 15**

Officer observed a vehicle with no tag, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. The driver had suspended license and was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer was dispatched to Mavis Tire where complainant stated he dropped his vehicle off to have a tire replaced and an oil change and when he picked it up, every sensor light flashed and remained on and they were not on prior to dropping it off.

**February 16**

Officer responded to S. Anderson Dr. in reference to a male subject on camera at the residence. Offender was gone upon officer's arrival and complainant showed video footage of the male subject standing on the AC unit who appeared to be anxious and staring around the corner of the residence as if he was hiding from

someone.

Complainant went to SPD to file a report against her boyfriend/offender. C/p advised she and offender got into an argument and offender jumped on her.

Officer observed a vehicle with an expired tag and no valid insurance, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. The driver advised the vehicle belongs to her daughter and was unaware of the issues. Wrecker was requested and offender was issued two citations.

Officer observed a vehicle very dim tag lights, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer could smell a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the driver and performed a PBT, which showed positive. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer was dispatched to N. Racetrack St. in reference to a fight. Complainant was visibly upset

and had a spot of blood on her chin and redness on her face. She stated that she and her girlfriend got into an argument and offender hit her in the face. Offender was intoxicated and stated she did not hit c/p. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer responded to Gateway Worship Center in reference to a report of vandalism. Complainant stated someone did donuts on the property that dug up the lawn. The tracks appeared to have been made by UTVs.

**February 17**

Officer observed a vehicle with an unregistered tag and no working tag lights, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer could smell a moderate odor of alcoholic beverage and performed a PBT, which showed positive. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officers were dispatched to Cross St. in reference to a woman stating something was going on at the residence. Officers could hear people arguing inside the home and complainant stated she and her children went to stay with her mother and offender, who was extremely intoxicated, kept nagging her. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer observed a driver not wearing a seatbelt, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer could smell an odor of marijuana and the driver had slurred speech. Officer could also smell alcoholic beverage coming from the driver's person and his eyes were glassy. Officer performed a PBT, which showed positive. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer observed a vehicle with just one side of the tag lights working and very dim, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer could smell a strong odor of marijuana

na coming from the vehicle and a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the driver's person. Offender was found to have suspended license and the PBT showed positive. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

**February 18**

Officer observed a vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign and did not have any headlights on, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer noticed the driver's eyes were glazed and sleepy looking and could smell a moderate odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person. Officer performed a PBT, which showed positive. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer made a traffic stop and the driver had slurred speech. Officer performed a PBT, which showed positive. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer observed a vehicle with no visible tag light and ran the tag to find offense34r to be wanted, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Offender advised he knew he had a warrant but was just in court and was given a new court date. Officer was advised that ECSC and Dublin PD wanted a hold placed. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer responded to Gumlog Rd. in reference to a burglary. Complainant stated she discovered someone kicked her front door in and stole a stereo and speakers.

**February 19**

Officers were dispatched to Empire Expressway in reference to damage to her vehicle. Complainant stated she knows it was her ex-husband because he tried contacting her repeatedly using No Caller ID because she has him blocked and hung up on the first call when she heard his voice. C/p

advised she fears and suspects offender ripped her door handle off and put something in her gas tank because the check engine light came on while driving to work. C/p also advised offender has charges pending from previous domestic issues with her and their children.

Officers were dispatched to N. Racetrack St. in reference to a domestic. Both parties stated they had an argument and offender stated he broke the tables, TV and other things inside the residence. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer was dispatched to Powell St. in reference to trespassing. Complainant stated while he was outside, offender pulled into the driveway and a criminal trespass order has been signed and offender knows he is not supposed to be on the property.

**February 20**

Officers met with complainant who stated a gas station was selling vapor products to her underage child. C/p advised when she sends her son to the store to pick up small items, she notices she is charged over \$20 and her son returns with a nicotine vape pen that she does not allow him to have or use. C/p went to the store and confronted offender and he paid her \$25 and asked her not to call the police. C/p also advised offender sells illegal dab pens. Officers spoke with offender who did not deny selling the products to c/p's child and stated he sold him a black and mild. Offender was given a citation for tobacco sale to minor.

Officers responded to McLeod Bridge Rd. in reference to a fight. Complainant stated while she was walking home from an incident, offender and another female pulled up beside her and started yelling about a PS4 and

she told them she didn't know where it was at. C/p advised the female got out of the vehicle and grabbed her shirt and started hitting her in the face, then the driver/offender got out and started hitting her. Officers went to speak with offender who stated they did not hit c/p and she lied but c/p had visible marks consistent with being hit multiple times. C/p was taken to EMC and offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officers were dispatched to N. Central St. in reference to caller stating offender was causing damage to property at the residence. A male subject stated his girlfriend/offender showed up at the residence and went inside and damaged his TV and put holes in the door and wall. Officer went to place offender under arrest and she started to pull away and officer was able to get her to the ground where offender started to kick. Officers were able to get offender handcuffed and she was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer was dispatched to SPD in reference to complainant stating he discovered his firearm was missing from his residence.

Officer was dispatched to Roadway Inn in reference to stolen jewelry. Complainant stated he left two gold chains in a lunch box cooler and when he returned, he could tell the room had been cleaned and the chains were missing. Officer spoke with management who stated the female housekeeper was questioned about the incident and claimed to have no knowledge of the missing chains and said she had a male friend helping her clean that day. Officer observed on video footage the female and male enter the room and leave at the same time.

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EMANUEL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TIMMY OLIVER,  
RICKY THOMPSON AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
GUY SINGLETARY

## News from Under the Gold Dome

by REPRESENTATIVE BUTCH PARRISH  
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 158

On Tuesday, February 20, the House reconvened for another week of the 2024 legislative session. During week seven of the session, we met in the House Chamber for three days. It was a short but packed week as we continued to prepare for the “Crossover Day” deadline on February 29, which is the last day that legislation can be passed out of its chamber of origin and remain eligible to be signed into law this year. With that in mind, we continued to make significant progress this week by voting on legislation to enhance public safety, behavioral healthcare, and education in Georgia.

On Thursday, the House unanimously passed House Bill 993, which would introduce criminal penalties for individuals who knowingly and intentionally groom minors and use electronic means to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce them into committing sexual offenses or acts of human trafficking.

To help confront the opioid crisis in Georgia, the House passed House Bill 1170, which would require government buildings and courthouses that contain Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to provide opioid antagonists to assist in the event of an opioid overdose on those premises.

The House also passed House Bill 986 to address election interference using artificial intelligence (AI), specifically deep fake technology that is intended to deceive voters and influence the outcome of an election. Known as the “AI Transparency Protection Act,” HB 986 would introduce felony offenses for both the creation and solicitation of deep fake content through artificial intelligence-generated campaign advertisements aimed at interfering with elections. The term deep fake refers to a video recording, video file, sound recording, sound file, electronic image, or photograph that is created through technological means, rather than through the ability of another person to physically or verbally impersonate such person and appears to depict a real person’s speech or conduct that did not occur in reality.

Finally, the House advanced legislation to improve behavioral healthcare for Georgians in order to ensure individuals have access to the resources and support needed to effectively address their mental health concerns. House Bill 1077 will establish a student loan repayment initiative tailored for behavioral health practitioners in Georgia. Under HB 1077, eligible providers would include licensed psychiatrists, addiction medicine specialists, psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists. While these providers are completing their internships in qualified programs, they would be eligible to apply for this loan repayment program.

We also passed the following House bills and resolution during the seventh week of session:

- House Bill 472, would expand enhanced disability benefits to sworn officers, commissioners, and deputy commissioners employed by the motor carrier compliance division of the Department of Public Safety
- House Bill 579, would amend current law relating to the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act to allow students who previously qualified for the scholarship to remain eligible throughout the students’ education
- House Bill 896, would allow a former spouse after divorce to petition the court to restore their legal surname to the given surname on their birth certificate. The motion could be filed at any time after the judgment and decree of divorce is entered, with no publication in a legal organ required.
- House Bill 907, The bill would require drivers on a two-lane road to pull to the edge or curb of the road to give the funeral procession the right-of-way
- House Bill 994, would hold boat operators liable for injury or damage when negligence occurs on the part of the operator. A rented boat operator would be held liable for negligent operation.

The Georgia House of Representatives will resume its work on Monday, February 26, and when we return, only two legislative days will remain until we reach “Crossover Day” on Thursday. With this deadline rapidly approaching, it is important that I hear from you about issues that are significant to you and your family. I hope you will reach out to me with your thoughts.

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

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

Follow me on facebook for updates throughout the year.

Thank you for allowing me to be your representative.

Sincerely,

Representative Butch Parrish

**Capitol Address**

HM-1 State Capitol

Atlanta, GA 30334

404.656 .5141 Office

**District Address**

132 Victory Drive

Swainsboro, GA 30401

478.237.3838 - Office

# Classifieds

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

Call Melva at 478-237-9971 to help sell your unwanted items!

Homes for sale or rent • Apartments for rent • Land for sale

• Yard and estate sales • Miscellaneous for sale • Pets / animals

• Help wanted • Services offered

### ESTATE TAG SALE

**Wednesday, March 6 – Saturday, March 9, from 9am to 5pm daily, at the home of the late Louie and Francis Dryden, 311 Neal St., Swainsboro.** Everything will be tagged and ready for you to purchase. This sale will last four days to enable you to have an opportunity to enjoy shopping. Included will be bedroom suits, mattresses, dining room table and chairs, two like-new leather sofas, TV, four matching bookcases, end tables, china and crystal, rattan sofa and chairs, very nice dog carrier, wide variety of pots and pans, dishes, outside yard furniture, flowerpots and two outside buildings and contents, washing machine and dryer, upright freezer, huge selection of Christmas decorations, jewelry, and so much more. Sale conducted by Edna Purvis, Ann Cobb and Meg Leonard.

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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.

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Rhonda Reed Unit# 522

Billy Barwick Unit# 707

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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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## GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

## Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPROVAL FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION TO THE CITY OF SWAINSBORO'S INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

The following applicant has applied for approval of substantial modification to its industrial pretreatment program:

City of Swainsboro, 101 West Main Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401, for substantial modifications to its industrial pretreatment program covering the Yam Grandy Creek WPCP. This modification will serve to revise the City of Swainsboro's local limits.

On the basis of preliminary staff review and the application of the Industrial Pretreatment Regulations, EPD proposes to approve the Authority's substantial modification to its industrial pretreatment program. This proposed determination is tentative.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations are invited to submit same in writing to the EPD address below, or via e-mail at [EPDcomments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPDcomments@dnr.ga.gov), no later than forty-five (45) days after this notification. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please be sure to include the words "Pretreatment Program Modification – City of Swainsboro" in the subject line to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff. All comments received prior to or on that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. A public hearing may be held where the EPD Director finds a significant degree of public interest in a proposed permit or group of permits. Additional information regarding public hearing procedures is available by writing the Environmental Protection Division.

The proposed substantial modification submittal and comments received are available by writing the Environmental Protection Division at 2 MLK, Jr. Dr., Suite 1152E, Atlanta, GA 30334, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For additional information contact: Whitney Fenwick, Wastewater Regulatory Program, phone (470) 607-3078 or e-mail [whitney.fenwick@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:whitney.fenwick@dnr.ga.gov). A copying charge of 10 cents per page will be assessed.





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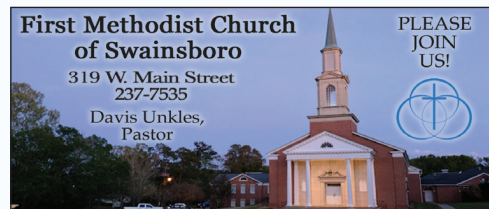
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Prayer is acknowledging God as the Supreme Being. Prayer is spending time in the presence of the Lord. It is adoring God and thanking God for being who he is. Prayer should be a lifestyle. Who told you that praying to God or talking with him is just when you have a need? Prayer should always be more about God and less about you.

The more we acknowledge God, the more he can entrust things to us. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and don't lean to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths."

**Pray**  
 Now that's just a WOW factor.

Spend your day telling him how great and wonderful he is. Tell him that you love him.

Magnify him. Talk to others about him. Your circumstances will begin to change because you will begin to change. See pray as a means of spending time with God.

Yes, he will deliver you. Yes, he will heal you. Yes, he will make a way for you where it seems there is no way. But is that all you want God for? Do you feel guilty just talking to God only about you and your desires and circumstances? Just start loving God.

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Spend special moments with him. Just give him that special time. Now that's a real prayer life.

Remember the greatest commandment, " ...Thy shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind;,,,,". Yes it's time to love God. If you are short of words, read his word, the Bible. Then pray his word back to him. Yes God loves you and he knows all about you yet he still wants that special time with you.

So just Pray. Luke 18:1 Jesus tells his disciples that man ought to always pray and not faint.

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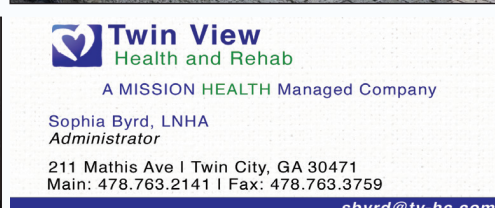
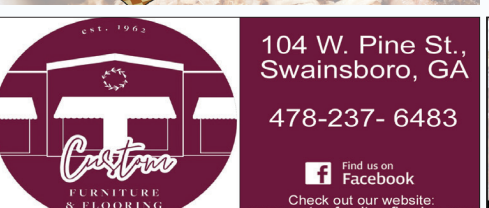
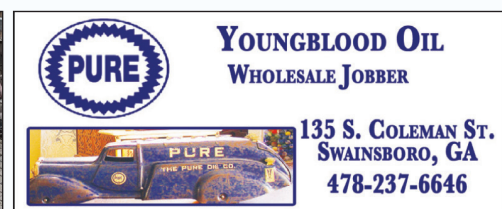
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SHS STUDENTS WITH JOHNSON

## SHS celebrates Black History Month with powerful message

Swainsboro High School held its annual Black History Month program in the new gym on Friday, February 23. The theme for this year's event was "Legacy of the Divine Nine: From Alpha to the Omega." Students leading the program were Caleb Long, Master of Ceremonies, Dei'Vion Davis, who delivered the welcome, and Quintus Williams and Kisna Patel, who provided introductions. The JROTC Color Guard made up of A'kayla Tillman, Mauriya Walden, July Eskew, and Laila Sherrod, presented the colors, with Grayson Brassell playing the National Anthem in a trumpet solo. D'Andre Smith and Akira Marion shared a dramatic reading of "NPHC Poem (The Divine Nine)" by Ken McCain. Tanya

Williams and Quintus Williams shared information on the history of Greek organizations. The ensemble of Branasha Nwakudu, Zaylin Lee, Rentavious Brown, Dei'Vion Davis, Quintus Williams, and D'Andre Smith performed a vocal rendition of the Black National Anthem accompanied by Caleb Long on piano.

A special vocal solo was performed by Andrew Roberson, father of our very own Coach Alex Walden. The speaker for the program was Francys Johnson, a civil rights attorney, pastor, and educator from Screven County. He spoke to assembled students, faculty, and guests on the importance of using our personal tools to bring about the change we want to see not only in ourselves but also in our schools, communi-

ties, and nation. At the close of the program, Mr. Johnson was presented with a gift from the Black History Month Committee. This committee consisted of faculty members Befaney Roberson, Alex Walden, Denene Washington-Favors, Cindy Brett, Major Eddie Oliver, Wanda Parrish, Linda Kelly, Salina Patton, Ayah Favors, and Adiola Serralde. Also contributing to the event were the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders Club (under the direction of Wanda Parrish), who served as greeters and ushers, Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (under the direction of Kelli Mendieta), who prepared and provided refreshments for guests, and Technology Student Association (under the direction of Joey O'Neal) who provided music and sound.

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## A Black History Moment: Mrs. Daisy Small



Daisy Thomas was born September 11, 1920, in Boston, Georgia, the youngest of five children born to the late Wesley and Martha Hackett Small. She received Christ at an early age at Centenary Missionary Baptist Church in Boston and her faith enriched her character.

The Boston school system only went as high as the 8th grade and Daisy wanted to get a high school diploma, so her father sent her to live with his sister in St. Augustine, Florida so that Daisy could get a high school diploma and she attended Excelsior High School. While in St. Augustine, Daisy met Samuel Thomas Sr. and it was love at first sight. In 1944, they married in Chester, PA and were married 51 years until his death in 1995. After marriage, they moved to Greensboro, NC because Samuel was in college. While in Greensboro, Daisy joined the St. James Presbyterian Church. Samuel encouraged Daisy to pursue her interest and a few years later, she graduated from the Agricultural & Technical College, specializing in Tailoring, in 1948. Afterwards, she applied to American Gentleman Designing School in New York City.

When she was accepted, she became the first black woman to attend that school and earned her degree in 1949. Daisy worked in a shop tailoring men's suits but at some point, realized that sewing was too boring and left that job. She decided to go back to school while working fulltime as a machinist at the P. Lorillard Tobacco Company in Greensboro, NC. Daisy eventually received a B.S. Degree in History from North Carolina A&T State University in 1968. After graduation, Samuel and Daisy moved to Swainsboro and she began teaching at Lexsy Elementary School in 1968. The next school year, Daisy was selected to teach at Adrian Elementary, an all-white school in Adrian. She was the first black female teacher to integrate the Emanuel County School System. Daisy retired from the Emanuel County Elementary School in Swainsboro in 1988. While in Swainsboro, Daisy became a member of St. James Baptist Church. After retirement, she and Samuel moved to Jonesboro and later to Waldorf, Maryland. While in Jonesboro, Daisy became a member of Shiloh Baptist, then a member of Grace Chapel while in Waldorf, until her health no longer allowed. Samuel and Daisy had two children, Samuel S. Thomas, Jr. (deceased) and Cassandra E. Thomas Kemp. They were devoted parents that built a life of happy memories. Samuel and Daisy enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends. Mrs. Thomas peacefully transitioned to eternal life on December 13, 2023, at the age of 103.

We know Mrs. Daisy touched lots of lives throughout her career. Below are peers and friends that were directly impacted by her.

-Mary Ann Peebles quoted: "To know her was to love her. Daisy appreciated the finer arts of life. She was a very fashionable dresser and loved to travel. Daisy was a true friend. She was dependable, patient, kind, and loved others unconditionally. She always generously gave to others. She did more for others than for herself. She was a good listener and never judged others. She always greeted you with a smile.

Daisy always treated me with respect, kindness, and love. I am forever grateful for the many years we taught together in Adrian.

With Lots of Love.

-Whitney Ricks quote: "Mrs. Daisy Thomas was my 4th grade teacher. 1968 she taught US History. You were strict for us to learn. You talked about your daughter all the time. Your main goal was for us to learn. You were always serious. Miss Daisy was one of the best African American dressed teachers.

Other interesting things people may not know about Mrs. Daisy is she was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., her words of wisdom were "love many and trust few", her favorite colors were bright colors, she loved to cook and eat, Thanksgiving and Christmas were her favorite holidays, dinners were her favorite times, and her hobbies included traveling, gardening and floral arrangements. Mrs. Daisy's daughter, Cassandra, quoted "Mom had a great insight about people and was known for her great style."

Elise Turner, retired teacher, facilitated and gathered these collections of memories for this article.