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# The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 165, NO.48 Swainsboro, Georgia • November 27, 2024 ONE DOLLAR

## Twin City Toy Drive kicking off

The City of Twin City is gearing up for the 5th Annual Mayor's Christmas Toy Drive. "There are many needy children in and around Twin City. We want to make sure that all children have a joyous holiday season. This initiative will be fully funded by private-donations, so we are ask-

ing for your help with this worthy cause," said Mayor Matt Donaldson. "We are asking that local businesses, churches, schools, City departments, and Citystrategic partners support our efforts with a financial contribution or a gift donation. We will use 100% of the financial donations to purchase

toys for our local children." The giveaway event will be held on Saturday, December 14. They are asking for all monetary donations to be sent by Friday, December 6. This will allow them time to purchase items for the toy drive. See page 8A for more details.



LAST YEAR'S TOY DRIVE



Photo by Wanda Thompson Scarborough

### TURKEY

## Happy Thanksgiving!

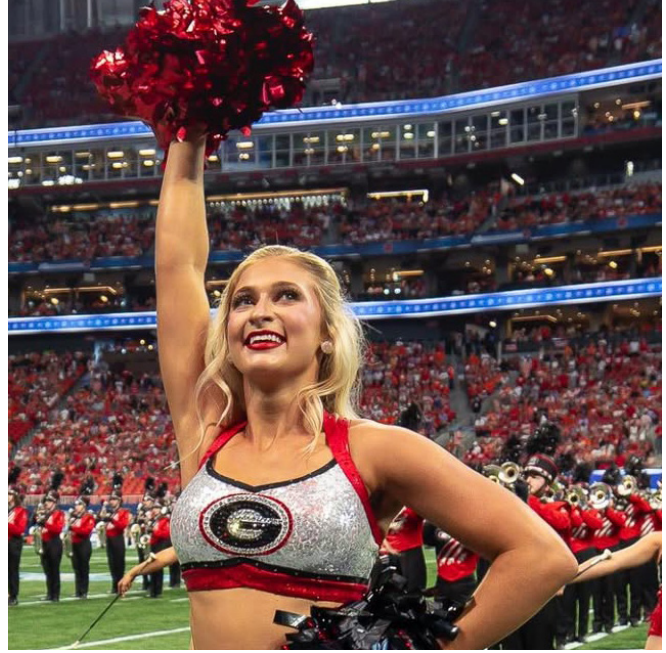
In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November would be a day of thanks for the whole country. Therefore, Thanksgiving will be celebrated this Thursday, November 28.

Thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude and reflection on our blessings. It is a day to praise and thank God for our blessings and ask Him to heal the nation's wounds, to glorify him as an act of worship, giving thanks for all things as part of God's providence and to humbly repent for our sinfulness and selfishness. Happy Thanksgiving!

The Forest-Blade will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, in observance of Thanksgiving.

## Mason nominated recipient of Phyllis Dancz Memorial Award

Congratulations to University of Georgia fourth year student and Georgette Captain Caroline Mason, on her nomination and receipt of the Phyllis Dancz Memorial Award. This award is presented annually to the Redcoat Band auxiliary member who most exemplifies the spirit and character of Phyllis Dancz. Dancz exemplified kindness, leadership and a willingness to work beyond expectations. Congratulations Caroline!



MASON

## Swainsboro Christmas Parade to be held December 7

The Swainsboro Christmas Parade will be held Saturday, December 7. Festivities, including arts and crafts, and live performances will begin at 2 p.m. at the Boneyard. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. Following the parade, Santa will be in front of the Chamber of Commerce to visit the youngsters. A live Nativity Scene by Dellwood Baptist Church will also be in front of the fountain.

## Stillmore Christmas Parade set for December 8

The annual Stillmore Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 8 at 3 p.m. Festivities will begin at 1 p.m., including arts and crafts, country store, car show, singing and a visit from Santa.

## Clark appointed Postmaster for Twin City Post Office

Mr. Steve Clark has been appointed Postmaster for Twin City. Clark brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the role, and his appointment will greatly benefit the community. "As the Postmaster for 30471, I want to assure you that the U.S. Postal Service is primed and ready to deliver exceptional service during the 2024 holiday rush. Thanks to the substantial progress USPS has made under the Delivering for America plan—a \$40 billion investment aimed at revitalizing the national postal network — our operational, transportation and delivery processes have never been more finely tuned. My dedicated team and I are fully prepared to once again handle the peak holiday season surge.

As you and your family prepare for the holidays, it's always a good idea to Ship It Early! We encourage everyone to send their holiday mail and packages well in advance to ensure they reach their destinations on time, but we understand that sometimes cards or packages are sent last minute," said Postmaster Clark. "This year, our recommended send-by dates for expected holiday delivery within the continental U.S. before Dec. 25 are:

- Dec. 18: USPS Ground Advantage service; First Class Mail service
  - Dec. 19: Priority Mail service
  - Dec. 21: Priority Mail Express service
- For a complete list of recommended holiday mailing and shipping dates, please visit [usps.com/holidayshippingdates](https://usps.com/holidayshippingdates).



CLARK

And remember: the earlier you send, the better — Ship it Early! We are honored and grateful for your trust in the U.S. Postal Service. Your postal team at the Twin City Post Office is proud to be the most affordable, reliable way to send cheer this holiday season, and we're ready to deliver exceptional service during the holidays and beyond."

## Don't miss 'Paws with Claus'

The annual "Paws with Claus" will be this Saturday, November 30, 2024 at Tractor Supply in Swainsboro. Santa will be there from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. Bring your pets, children, phones or cameras and take pictures with Santa. There will be Christmas sweaters, head bands, collars, and other items to dress your pet in for the picture. Come bring the whole family and let's start celebrating this Christmas Season with a family or pet photo with Santa. There will be treats for the pets and children. This FREE event is being sponsored by The Emanuel County Humane Society, Franklin Memorial Library, and Tractor Supply.



SANTA WITH PUPPIES

## What's Inside...

Obituaries.....	4A
Church Page.....	8B
Editorial Columns.....	5A
Crime Blotter.....	5B
Classified Listings.....	4B
Legal Notices.....	6A

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**December 8, 2024**

*Festivities at 1pm*

*Parade at 3pm*

Arts and Crafts, Country Store  
Car Show, Dancing, Singing  
Visit with **Santa**



SENATOR BURNS AND REPRESENTATIVE PARRISH WITH EREA MEMBERS

**Emanuel Retired Educators hear from legislators**

The November meeting of the Emanuel Retired Educators Association (EREA) was held last week in the Swainsboro Middle School Media Center. President Verdell Brinson called the meeting to order, and Swainsboro Middle School Principal David Miller welcomed members to the school and shared his priorities for the school year. He expressed his appreciation for his teachers and staff who are working diligently to increase student achievement.

As part of the EREA monthly project, the name of a Swainsboro Middle staff member was drawn, and the appreciation gift basket was awarded to Tammy Harvey, a Special Education Resource Teacher. Following a delicious Thanksgiving meal provided by the SMS lunchroom, Senator Max Burns and Representative Butch Parrish were introduced. Senator Burns, a former college president and professor, stressed the importance of education and thanked members for their many years of service. He went on to highlight upcoming education priorities. Legislators will continue to focus on literacy and the importance of

having Georgia students reading on grade level by third grade. Teacher recruitment and Teacher Education programs are two other areas to be addressed this year. Senator Burns added that TORT reform would also be an item of importance during the upcoming legislative session. Representative Parrish, a champion of rural healthcare and the Chairman of the Rules Committee in the Georgia House of Representatives announced that a four-year medical school campus had been created at the University of Georgia to help alleviate a statewide shortage of

physicians. Chairman Parrish also informed the group that a state-of-the-art Health Professions Academic Building has been added at Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Campus in Savannah which offers a variety of healthcare programs.

The next EREA meeting is set for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at Swainsboro Elementary School at noon. Mike Zarem, Georgia Teachers Retirement System Outreach Program Manager, will provide the program. All Emanuel County retired educators are encouraged to attend.

**Blundale Baptist Church Children Ministry Team**

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**Bertoch, Brinson give EMC updates to Exchange Club**

On Tuesday, November 19, 2024 Lisa Bertoch, Chairman of the Emanuel Medical Center Foundation, gave an annual update on the Foundation at the regular meeting of the Swainsboro Exchange Club. She highlighted the up-

coming fundraiser that the Foundation will be holding at the Nordson Center in Swainsboro on

February 6, 2025. Lynn Brinson also spoke on the Georgia Heart Tax Credit Program. The

Club presented a donation to the Foundation at the conclusion of the program.



MATT DONALDSON, CLUB TREASURER AND FOUNDATION MEMBER; LISA BERTOCH, FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN; LYNN BRINSON, FOUNDATION MEMBER; GARY MASON, CLUB PRESIDENT AND FOUNDATION MEMBER; AND DAMIEN SCOTT, CLUB PAST PRESIDENT AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

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# DEA competes in One Act Play

by ASHLEI BOATRIGHT

On November 6, David Emanuel Academy competed in GISA Region One Act Play competition. They performed the play, 12 Incompetent Men (and women!) and walked away with a second-place finish. Bryan Beasley, Junior, earned a Region Best Actor Award. This second-place finish earned DEA the opportunity to compete at State Competition. State Competition was held on November 12 in Vidalia. DEA did not place at State, but Jonah Boatright, Junior, won a State Actors Award.

direction of Mrs. Ashlei Boatright. When asked about the play, she said, "I couldn't be more proud of this group of students. They worked hard and it showed. It's

a fun group and we enjoy our time together working to get the play just right each year. I can't wait to watch these actors continue to grow and get better each year!"



BEASLEY AND BOATRIGHT



PLAY CAST

# Tarver named DAR Good Citizen

Bryson Tarver has been named Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen for Emanuel County. After earning this title for SHS, Bryson took part in the timed essay portion of the scholarship contest along with the "Good Citizens" from the two other county schools. The essay had to be written in two hours (the topic revealed at the time of writing) with only the



TARVER

assistance of a dictionary. After judging by independent, non-DAR

judges, his winning entry will be advanced through district, state, and national levels.

The DAR Good Citizens program and scholarship contest are intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship (dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism). The local contest is sponsored by the David Emanuel-Adam Brinson chapter of the DAR.

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*As we reflect on the past year, I want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for the unwavering support and commitment to our college and students. The community's encouragement, partnership, and involvement have played a vital role in our achievements and growth, and we couldn't have done it without Emanuel County and surrounding areas.*

*Whether through your contributions of time, resources, or expertise, you've helped us create a wonderful community for our students, faculty, and staff. We are proud of all we have accomplished together and are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead.*

*Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. We look forward to what the coming year has in store for East Georgia State College.*

Warm regards,  
*Harley Strickland Smith*  
Harley Smith  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement



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## Marciano Deon Kirkland, 35

Marciano Deon Kirkland, 35, departed this earthly life on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, November 23, at 1 p.m. at St. Philip Missionary Baptist Church with Elder D.G. Mosley presiding.

Marciano was born September 14, 1989, in Augusta, to Patricia Kirkland and Jeffrey Brown. As a young child, he moved to Swainsboro and lived with his moth. Later, Marciano decided to move back to Augusta to further his career and worked for FPL Food, LLC.

Marciano leaves to



**KIRKLAND**

cherish his memories with his parents; brothers, Jacob Moore of Vidalia and Dashon Moore of Swainsboro; two nephews; one niece; and a host of aunts, uncles, great-aunts and uncles, cousins and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Jerry Archer, 71

Mr. Jerry Paul Archer, 71, of Summertown, passed away Friday, November 22, 2024, at his residence following an extended illness. Graveside service was held Monday, November 25, at 2 p.m. at Forest Lawn Cemetery with Dr. Jamie Archer and Mr. Mike Evans officiating.

Pallbearers were Dalton Archer, Austin Eubanks, Drake Archer, Elan Archer and Kyle Archer.

Jerry was born May 7, 1953, to the late Sammy Archer and Mary Adell Henry Archer and spent his life in Emanuel County. Jerry served his community for a decade as a law enforcement officer with the Swainsboro Police Department, Emanuel County Sheriff Department and Louisville Police Department. He later worked in Forestry with the Stone Container Corporation. Jerry's greatest work, however, was the indelible mark he made on the many family members and friends whom he loved unconditionally. To know Jerry was to love him. He had a zest for life and love of adventure that made him unafraid to try new things. Jerry had a lifelong passion for the outdoors that led to many a good time hunting, fishing, racing stock cars and flying small engine airplanes. He was good at anything he tried, but whenever he had a mishap, he would tell about it later with a charm that made people laugh and



**ARCHER**

sit on the edge of their seats and could tell a tale like no other. Jerry was a loving and faithful husband to his wife, Donna, and was the best father, grandfather and uncle his family could have been given. His loved ones are comforted with the promises of Scripture that having placed his faith in Christ, they will see him again. Mr. Archer is preceded in death by his parents.

Mr. Archer is survived by his wife, Donna Bailes Archer of Summertown; sons, Jamie (Ashley) Archer of Cumming, Shane Archer of Auburndale, FL and Brandon (Jennifer) Archer of Locust Grove; daughters, Jerris Chaney of Lafayette, TN, Lacey Patterson Archer of Augusta and Cheyenne Douglas of Shellman Bluff; brother, James (Heidi) Archer of Pittsview, AL; sister, Mollie Archer of Swainsboro; 10 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

## Debra Ann Smith, 63

Debra Ann Smith, age 63, transitioned into eternal rest on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin. A Celebration of Life was held Sunday, November 10, at 2 p.m. at Swainsboro City Cemetery with Elder D.G. Mosley officiating. Debra was born October 16, 1961, in Emanuel County, to the late David and Willie Pearl Smith. At an early age, she became a member at the Ohoopoe Grove Baptist Church. Debra graduated from Wymore Tech in Orlando, FL in 1982. In 2002, she became a tech at Specialized Treatment Education & Prevention Services where she later became a drug counselor. Debra was a homemaker, loving to cook, sew, sing and be around family. Ms. Smith is preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Dephine Smith.

Ms. Smith leaves to cherish her mem-



**SMITH**

ories with her children, Carnell Smith of Kentucky, Antonio Hall of Florida, Dietrich Hall, Demetrius Hall, Cherr Smalls, Candace Smalls, Falantay Smith, all of FL and LeMario Whitmore of GA; 18 grandchildren, all of FL; three great-grandchildren, all of FL; five siblings, Diane Dmith, Cynthia Smith, David Smith, Jr., Tyrone Smith, Sr. (Christie) and April Avery (Vincent); and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Etheldra K. Miller, 94

Etheldra K. Miller, age 94, passed away Wednesday, November 13, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held Monday, November 18, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Philip Missionary Baptist Church with Reverend James Love officiating. Etheldra was born March 29, 1930, in Opelika, Alabama. She graduated from East Street High School and pursued higher education at Alabama A&M University in Normal, AL. Etheldra dedicated her professional life to Emanuel County School System where her contribution left a lasting impact. She was a lifelong member of St. Philip Missionary Baptist Church and held ties with Bethel AME Church in Opelika, AL. Known for her diminutive stature and boundless energy, Etheldra was constantly involved in community service and various activities. She was an avid crossword puzzler, enjoyed working with computers, and



**MILLER**

devoted much of her time volunteering, always striving to assist those in need. Mrs. Miller is preceded in death by her loving husband, Earlie Miller; and son, Wayne Earle Miller. Mrs. Miller is survived by her son, Ronald Miller; daughter, Deborah Miller; grandson, Jamal Earl Miller (Mary); granddaughter, Amanda Miller Littlejohn (Marc); five great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; cousin, Betty Clark Heard; goddaughters, Cynthia Doyle McWilliams and Valarie Doyle Wilson.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Isaac Nobles, 61

Isaac Nobles, age 61, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at Emanuel Medical Center. A Celebration of Life was held Tuesday, November 12, at 12 p.m. at the Swainsboro Auditorium. Isaac was born March 16, 1963, in Swainsboro, to Fletcher Nobles and the late Sadie Nobles. He graduated from Swainsboro High School in 1981 and attended Swainsboro Vocational & Technical School to obtain multiple degrees and became certified in digital electronics, electrical engineering and industrial maintenance. Isaac held various positions at Blue Diamond, Crider, Kings America Finishing, RR Donnelly and Plant Vogtle before becoming self-employed and starting his own business, Nobles' Construction, as a private contractor.

Isaac met the love of his life, Teresa "Terry", in 1993 and they married in 2006. He enjoyed freshwater fishing in ponds, rivers and creeks



**NOBLES**

of Emanuel County and saltwater fishing along the coast of Georgia, especially Sapelo Island. Mr. Nobles is preceded in death by his mother; maternal and paternal grandparents; two infant brothers; in-laws; and best friend, Willie Marion.

Mr. Nobles is survived by his wife of 18 years; his father; six children, Marchavious Nobles, Sherice Nobles, Ja'Anthony (Kyra) Nobles, Sakethia Brown, Jasmine Hall, Lamont McCloud and stepson Saxon Kimbrough; eight grandchildren; nine siblings; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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 6:30 PM - Family Dinner  
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**Happy Thanksgiving**

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## A heartfelt loss

by RONNIE JOHNSON

The old man was devastated, his horse was lost in the storm. One minute he had been close by his side and the next minute he was out of sight. Old Roy was all he had left now. Jim had gotten Roy when he was just a mere baby, and he had to be bottle fed because his mother had died giving birth. They roamed the back roads of Emanuel County through thick underbrush and tall pine trees, admiring the sights and sounds of mother nature. Jim had formed an unbreakable bond with the horse because he seemed to understand him when his high school peers did not. Jim's family had fallen on hard times and has lost the home place. One by one, his family members had died, and he was left homeless. All he had left in this world was a changing of clothes, a pair of well-worn brogan shoes and a near-sighted horse that stood by his side faithfully, rain or shine. The pair went

from town to town, often going to bed without a morsel of anything to eat that night. But in some towns, children wanted a ride on Old Roy and paid a quarter for a chance to ride on his back. At the end of each day, Old Roy bedded down close to Him with his huge head on his shoulder while keeping close watch over his master throughout the long, dark nights. But the storm had taken away the only thing Jim loved, and now he lay on a bed of straw, dreaming about his pal who was missing for a week now.

Jim's dreams were bittersweet. They were once again in an old apple orchard and Jim was giving Old Roy a huge, red apple from the tree's top branch and Jim could almost feel Old Roy's warm breath engulfing his entire body. He awoke suddenly to feel a wet, slobbering tongue on his face. It was not a dream, Old Roy was back! And now Jim could go on living with his soul mate.

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# Editorials Columns

## Life after work

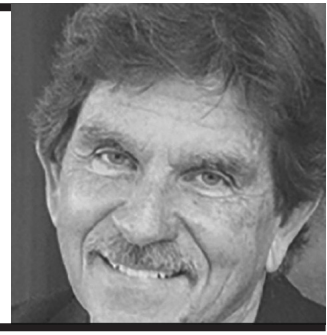
The end of the year can be a time of finality, winding down, and summing up. It can also be a time of new beginnings, of jumping off into the exciting unknown. About 5.7 million people in the USA will do just that this year. They will give up what they have been doing, turn a corner and start doing something entirely different. They will retire. Sound exciting? Let me tell you, it ain't bad. I never have heard anybody say, "It was awful. I was miserable, and I just missed working every day at that same old job, so I begged them to let me come back." I know one person who I think really felt that way, but he is in therapy now. So as a veteran retiree of almost 10 years, let me welcome all the newbies out there to the fold. Congratulations!

You have achieved exactly what the government had planned for you to do when you turned 16 and started working at the Dairy Queen or Roper for \$1.75 an hour, unless you were a farm worker and only got \$1.60. Either way, the United States of America is now extremely proud of you and awards you "Social Security Retired Status". Wait a minute Uncle Sam, you aren't awarding me nothing, you are just returning a very small pittance of what I have been hitting the floor every morning to earn and forking over to you for the last 50-something years. OK, hold on, let's calm down, we don't want to get accused of trying to destroy democracy. On behalf of the CCA (coupon-clippers of America) and the JBPHR (Jimmy Buffet Parrot Head

Retirees), here's the real story on retirement. For your whole life you have had to worry about things like the clothes you wore and how you looked. Well, no more! Now everyday you can wear that same old worn-out pair of off-brand "relaxed fit" jeans along with those six-year-old Skechers that the dog thinks are chew toys and your favorite, ripped faded flannel shirt that should have been burned seven years ago. You can go anywhere you want in that stylishly comfortable ensemble, and when the day is over, you just stand it up over there in the corner, and it's good for at least three more days before washing. Next, we all know there must be a few rules about how you spend your day. For years, you have lived as a slave to the clock. That's

all over! So, from now on, there is no schedule, except to suggest that you try to finish up your second cup of coffee no later than 9:30 in the morning. This is only done to show some sympathy for the rest of the working world. Beyond that, the only other thing you are required to do is to take a nap whenever you feel any sort of stress coming on. Another option I heartily recommend for retirement is to get a dog. A dog is like preventative maintenance for life's problems brought on by stress. A dog can referee differing opinions (arguments) between married humans, evaluate family exercise plans (couch potato) make dietary recommendations (more steak nights) for the family, and just listen in attentively whenever you are

## Charles Schwabe



talking to yourself. Oh yes, stress is still a thing even in retirement. Thankfully though, real stress rarely occurs and when it happens, it frequently comes from the same people who "awarded you". I contend that the Social Security Administration (SSA) does not really want to be your friend, and would rather not talk to you, and prefers keeping all that money for themselves. Now I have no proof of that, but I do know they change their phone number and website more often than you change those "relaxed fit" jeans. Now, the AARP

(Association for the Annihilation of Retired Parrotheads) will be wanting you to join their little group soon. They claim to be looking out for us, but I leave that debate completely up to you. I will just say that from what I hear they are mostly made up of people like that therapy patient I told you about who just couldn't live without working. And by the way, they didn't take him back at his old job, and his therapist just recently retired. It just goes to show you. Just remember, naps and dogs keep stress away. Happy Retirement!

## Giving thanks

My life has been and continues to be blessed in so many ways that an entire newspaper could be filled. This statement usually starts with "I do not know where to begin, but I do know where to start. I was born and raised in the beloved small Georgia town of Swainsboro to not only a loving and caring family, but town folks who gave me a special spot in their hearts. They knew my ancestry, and if I got

into trouble my mother knew about it before I got home. I walked up Church Street to the First Methodist Church for Sunday School and stayed for morning worship with my mother and father. I loved to stand by my father as we left, because he knew and shook hands with everyone. In our most formative teen years, our class met in a small room just outside the sanctuary. Our teacher was Mrs.

Mae Vann, who gave us a faith that lasted for a lifetime. From the scriptures she read to us, we learned these words of Jesus and repeated before leaving the class: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." "What you have done to the least of these, you have done unto Me." From the class of Mrs. Vann came two Methodist ministers, an Episcopal priest, a nurse who headed Gov. Carter's program for women's health, a

special education teacher, and a navy admiral, and others who did unto others and for the least of these. I also am thankful for SHS teachers and Principal V.E. Glenn who taught me that discipline is not punishment but is helpful to all. I remembered his words when I taught a high school class of disabled students. Let us remember when we sit down to a bountiful dinner to give thanks to all who have touched our

## Shirley Proctor Twiss



lives and hearts. My favorite dish of Thanksgiving dinner is dressing. I am amazed that a collection of leftover bread can be made delicious with onions and other spices. I wish I knew exactly what my grandmother added to

make it the hit of the dinner table. To all of Emanuel County, I wish the blessings of this special day. I am thankful to be a Georgian and to have grown up in Emanuel County. Write to Shirley at [sptwiss@gmail.com](mailto:sptwiss@gmail.com).

## Sweet sixteen

I had two birthday parties growing up. One when I was eight, attended by Momma, Big Daddy, Big Momma, and my cousin, Donnie, and Aunt Cile and probably Gail. Of course, Tippy, Big Momma's lap dog was at everything. The setting was outside in front of Biggie's house, with a card table covered with a red and white checkered tablecloth. I'm sure there must have been some neighborhood friends

there, but I have no recollection of their names. I do remember how special it was to have a cake and all the attention that was directed at me that day. Biggie must have made my cake since my mom went into a state of hysteria when she had to bake anything other than "cat head biscuits," and she didn't even make them very well. But there definitely was cake. Maybe ice cream. I can't remember

any presents, but I'm sure Momma made sure that I had at least one present. She always managed to do that, no matter what. I've said before, even though we were poor, I didn't know it. My other birthday party was on my 16th birthday. Now we're talking birthday parties! In my day, a birthday party on your 16th birthday was an occasion like no other in my hometown, unless it was

a funeral or wedding. It meant weeks of preparation. Invitations had to be printed or engraved, depending on how "poor" you were, reserving the Community House, making your invitation list, again depending on how "poor" you were because you had to feed them. In our case, somebody had to borrow tablecloths, punch bowl and cups, appropriate utensils for the food, buy candles, order the birthday cake from Bazemores, make punch, arrange for the music, and chaperones. They were usually friends or relatives of the parents. Rowdy teenagers weren't tolerated, but nobody I knew was rowdy anyway, so the chaperones weren't really needed. Nevertheless, they were always there. Just in case. Girls dressed in frilly dresses with crinoline skirts and boys dressed nicely. Some even wore bow ties. Sunday school kind of clothes.

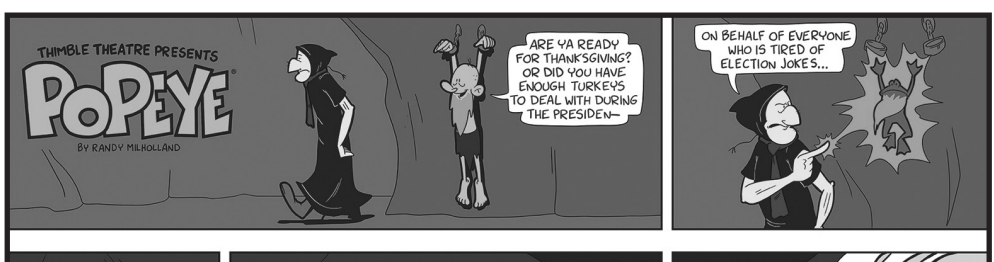
## LaRose Tapley



including my own. The fact that I had a serious boyfriend may have had a bearing on that, but then again, I wasn't the brightest bulb on the tree. But I'd get a few signatures on my card, just to be nice. Back to my party. The Community House was decorated with crepe paper streamers, probably a 45 RPM record player with all the top hits of the 50's and the wooden floor was gleaming and waxed to perfection. The beautiful two-tiered birthday cake sat in the middle of the long table with the perfect punch of the day, - lime sherbet and ginger ale - in a beautiful, borrowed crystal bowl with cups all lined up beside it. Petit fours, cookies, chicken salad, cream cheese with pineapple sandwiches were piled high on the borrowed silver trays. Nuts and little green and pink mints were in borrowed compotes. It was something to behold! Momma had worked herself into a frenzy, but she had "done good." I was spit polished and all dressed up in a new dress for the occasion. Looking good.

When the magic hour arrived, I was petrified that no one would show up. My stomach got tied up in knots, I was sweating like a hog, and I followed Momma's lead and went

## Editorial Cartoons



## The Forest-Blade

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Gail Williamson,  
Editor/Publisher

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





PRESIDENT PROCTOR, KIRBY AND OOI

## Swainsboro Rotary Club holds meeting

The Swainsboro Rotary club met at the Rustic Grill for their weekly meeting on Monday, November 25. President Zack Proctor called the meeting to order, and the club recited the four-way test and the pledge. Wade Johnson gave a brief update on the Wounded Warriors banquet that was held on Saturday, November 21, at Beaver Creek

Plantation. The Rotary club works in conjunction with Terry Reynolds and the Wounded Warriors organization to raise money for this great cause.

Chu Lin Ooi introduced the speaker for the meeting, Melissa Kirby, Swainsboro Downtown Development Director. She gave an update on the Theatre renovations. Mrs. Kirby presented

a video of the updates and gave some details on the renovations. Also, the Children's Christmas Project was discussed, and Kristen Hall will give an update next week. Rotary Club purchases gifts for children during this season, wraps them, and makes sure they are delivered to the appropriate person for delivery to the children and families.

## DAR presents map to Franklin Memorial Library

The Governor David Emanuel - Adam Brinson Chapter of the DAR recently presented the Franklin Memorial Library with a framed print of a pictorial map of Georgia identifying various sites, architecture and historical events. The map was presented to Windy Ward, Franklin Memorial Librarian, by Teresa Mason, Governor David Emanuel-Adam Brinson Chapter Librarian. The print will be permanently displayed in the library, but most recently was made part of the Veteran's Day display to recognize the many people who have served in the military to defend our freedom, regardless of the war or conflict. DAR encourages you to remember their sacrifices and always show your appreciation for their service.



WARD AND MASON



DISPLAY CASE

## Emanuel Retired Educators donate to Sunshine House

As part of its ongoing support of The Sunshine House Children's Advocacy Center, the Emanuel Retired Educators Association donated a variety of Christmas gifts to be shared with the children served by the Center. The Emanuel Retired Educators Association is grateful for the untiring work provided by the Sunshine House to assist children who are victims of abuse.



WANDA ELLIS, ELEASE TURNER, EDNA MOSLEY, VERDELL BRINSON, HARRIET MAZYCK, ALICIA BREEDLOVE WITH SUNSHINE HOUSE CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

## Tapley speaks to Veterans

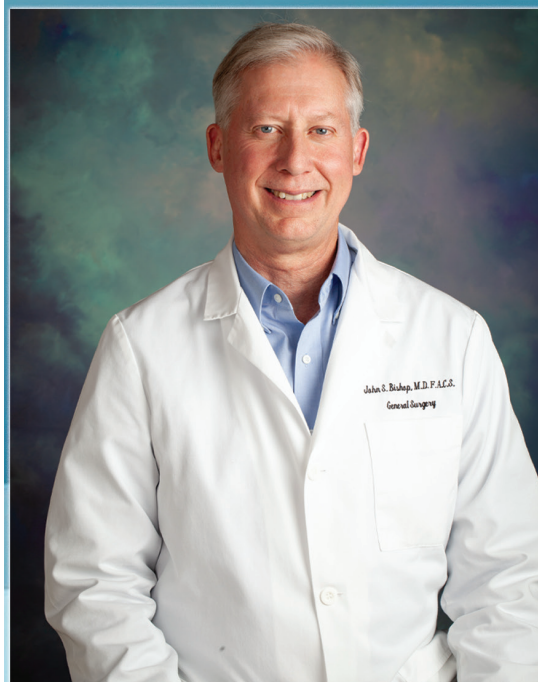
The Veterans at the Library held their weekly meeting at the Franklin Memorial Library Monday, November 25, at 9 a.m. With Chair Johnny Tapley presiding, they had 48 in attendance. Shari Watt provided breakfast consisting of pancakes with sausage patties and links, orange juice, grape juice, apple juice, cranberry juice and coffee and Joyce Fennell provided cut up fruit. After the prayer by Veteran Emory Fennell, they enjoyed a great breakfast. Chair Johnny then talked about the "Wreaths Across America" event that will take place on December 14, at 11 a.m. at the Swainsboro City Cemetery. They will be



TAPLEY

placing the U.S. Flags on Veteran's graves at the Swainsboro City Cemetery on November 30, at 9 a.m. Veteran Dess Smith III handed out to each of the 30 cemetery Section Captains their U.S. Flags and list of Veterans buried in their sections. Veteran Emory Fennell closed us out with a prayer. If you would like to purchase a wreath for your veteran in any cemetery, please call the library and ask for Shari Watt.

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Matt W. Donaldson  
MAYOR

November 20, 2024

The City of Twin City is gearing up for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Christmas Toy Drive.

There are many needy children in and around Twin City. We want to make sure that all children have a joyous holiday season. This initiative will be fully funded by private donations, so we are asking for your help with this worthy cause.

We are asking that local businesses, churches, schools, City departments, and City strategic partners support our efforts with a financial contribution or a gift donation. We will use 100% of the financial donations to purchase toys for our local children. We are planning to have the giveaway event on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, therefore we are asking for all monetary donations to be sent by Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us time to purchase items.

I want to thank you in advance for your consideration. Enclosed with this letter, you will find a picture of the over 500 toys we gave away last year. We could not do this without the generosity of our donors!

If I do not see you before, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my City family to yours!

Respectfully Yours,

Matt W. Donaldson  
Mayor

**2024 Mayor's Christmas Toy Drive Donation Form**

       Yes, I want to support the efforts of the City of Twin City with a financial contribution of \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000

       Yes, I want to support of the efforts of the City of Twin City with a gift donation. I pledge to deliver all gifts to the City of Twin City by December 13, 2024.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your check (if applicable) back to the following address:

City of Twin City  
Mayor's Christmas Toy Drive  
P.O. Box 980  
Twin City, GA 30471-0980



# Durden Bank and Swainsboro Rotary donate to Ferst Readers Character Contest

by TAMMY ALLEN

We would like to thank Durden Bank and Swainsboro Rotary Club for their generous donations and support of early childhood literacy. Wade Johnson from Durden and Zach Proctor, President of the Rotary Club, both presented the Great Pumpkin with checks to help her toward her personal goal of \$1,000. The total goal for 14 characters is \$10,000. Please give to this project that will put quality books in the homes of children birth to 5 years old living in Emanuel County. Go to Emanuel County Family Connection facebook page to find out more about donating until the end of the month.



JOHNSON AND ALLEN



PROCTOR AND ALLEN

## Veterans honor fallen Veterans

The Veterans at the Library held a "Service of Remembrance and Appreciation" for fallen veterans on Saturday, November 9, at 11 a.m. on the square in downtown Swainsboro. During the ceremony, the names of 39 fallen Veterans and 1st Responders that are listed at the Veterans and 1st Responders Memorial Park were called out. After each name was called, Jim McCurdy would toll the bell. This included five of the Veterans at the Library that have died in the last three years since being organized. After the tolling, Commander Steve Burke of the Brier Creek Artillery held a cannon three-volley salute, after which taps were played by Veteran Richard Claxton. These men and women embodied the values of America, grit, dedication, service and valor. We remember and honor their tremendous bravery and commitment to our country.



U.S. FLAG FLYING



BRIER CREEK ARTILLERY WITH TWO GUESTS



VETERANS AT THE LIBRARY WITH GUESTS

### 2024 Toys for Tots, Swainsboro Jaycees Empty Stocking Fund

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Food Box only: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent /Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Primary) \_\_\_\_\_ (Alternate)

Income (before taxes): less than 20,000 \_\_\_\_\_ more than 20,000 \_\_\_\_\_ No. in home under 18 \_\_\_\_\_ over 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive the following: Medicaid \_\_\_\_\_ Food Stamps \_\_\_\_\_ SSI/SSD \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be accepted until December 16<sup>th</sup> at the following locations:

- Swainsboro Fire Department (Monday – Friday 9am – 5 pm) -Headquarters
- Swainsboro Wal-Mart During Toy Drive from 10am-1pm
- **NO MORE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPED AFTER THE 8<sup>TH</sup>!**

Applicants will need to bring the following COPIES of documentation with them:

Valid ID, Proof of Residency and Birth Certificates of Children. Unfortunately, due to the high number of applications we cannot help everyone and we ask that you read and follow steps in this application carefully. Chosen applicants will be notified by phone the week of pick up. Pick up will be held on **Saturday, December 21st from 9am to 1pm at the Swainsboro Jaycees Fairgrounds.**

- Is transportation to pick up an issue? \_\_\_\_\_
- If so please add your address: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that all the information I have provided is true and correct. I am authorizing the screening committee to verify any of the information provided on this application.

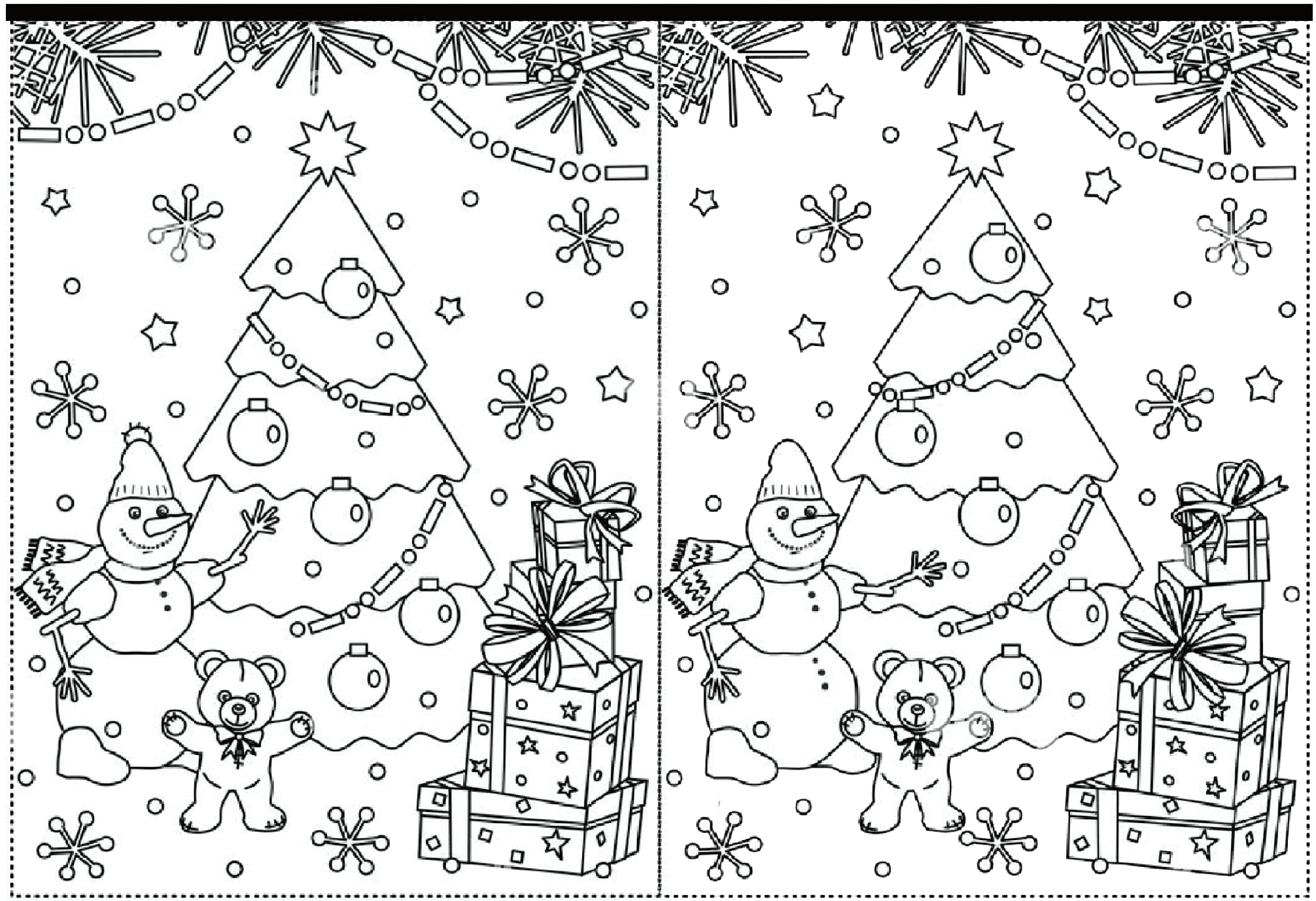
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please call Allen Farley 478-494-8725, James Ward 478-494-7389, or Katrina Farley 478-494-8742 if you have any questions.

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**Instructions: Both activities must be completed in order to be eligible to win.**

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Victory Therapy 478•298•5659	PruittHealth Hospice 478•237•7798	Ellington Insurance 478•237•2289	Durden Banking Co. 478•237•2121 Member 478•763•2121 <b>FDIC</b>
McDonald's 478•237•2860 912•685•4663	Red's Quick Lube & Tire 478•419•1575	C&C Equipment Sales 478•589•7397	Holsonback Rentals 478•419•1333
Daniels Bishop Chevrolet 912•685•2191	Swainsboro Financial Services 478•237•3333 NMLS#2029417	Stacie Avery, Certified Public Accountant 478•237•7366	Georgia Equipment 478•237•5848

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### Men's Golf Association and Harvey's provide Thanksgiving meals

In a heartwarming display of community spirit and generosity, The Men's Golf Association of Swainsboro and Harvey's Supermarket have come together to provide Thanksgiving meals to families in need through The Sunshine House Children's Advocacy Center. This act of kindness has brought joy and relief to numerous families, ensuring they have a festive and nourishing meal this holiday season.

The Men's Golf Association of Swainsboro, known for its community involvement and charitable endeavors, partnered with Harvey's Supermarket, a trusted local grocery store, to make this initiative possible. Their combined efforts have not only provided essential sustenance but have

also highlighted the importance of community and solidarity.

The Sunshine House CAC plays a pivotal role in the community by offering a range of critical services aimed at supporting children and families in crisis. The center provides a safe and welcoming environment for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, offering comprehensive forensic interviews, medical examinations, and therapeutic services. By working closely with law enforcement, child protective services, and other community partners, The Sunshine House CAC ensures that children receive the care and support they need to heal and thrive.

In addition to its core services, The Sunshine House CAC also engages in community outreach and education

programs designed to prevent child abuse and raise awareness about the resources available to families. Their dedication to creating a safer, healthier community is evident in every aspect of their work.

The Thanksgiving meal initiative is a testament to what can be achieved when local organizations and businesses come together for a common cause. The Men's Golf Association of Swainsboro and Harvey's Supermarket have set a remarkable example of community working together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of those in need.

As we celebrate this generous contribution, it is important to recognize and applaud the ongoing efforts of The Sunshine House CAC. Their unwavering commitment to children and families is

an inspiration to us all. This Thanksgiving, let us not only give thanks for the meals provided but also for the compassionate individuals and organizations that make our community a better place to live.

In conclusion, the collaboration between The Men's Golf Association of Swainsboro, Harvey's Supermarket, and The Sunshine House CAC is a shining example of community spirit and generosity. Their efforts have made a meaningful difference in the lives of many families, providing them with the comfort and joy of a Thanksgiving meal. As we reflect on the heartwarming initiative, let us continue to support and uplift one another, ensuring that no family is left behind during the holiday season and beyond.

**Happy Thanksgiving**

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Social  
Sports  
Legals/Classifieds **B**

## Bulldog players receive Post-Season Awards

by RON WEATHERFORD

Twenty-one ECI Bulldog football players were selected recently for All-Region honors, including one Player of the Year. Selected as Special Teams Player of the Year was placekicker and punter, Oisin Matthews. Matthews had the habit this season of putting kickoffs into the endzone, forcing teams to start drives on the 20. Although just a scrimmage game, Oisin's longest field goal this season was a 54-yard game winner against Vidalia.

Selected on first team all-region defensive team were Chase Johnson-defensive back, Brian Steele-defensive end, Jordan Handsom-defensive line, Kanyon Thompson-linebacker and Tuff Boddiford-linebacker. Running back Tyler Foreman was the only offensive player selected as first team.

Chosen as second team on offense were Terrance Caryle and Turner Bryant-offensive line, Jackson Kennedy-QB and Daon Bethea-wide receiver. Bulldogs selected as second team all-region on defense are Ab Marsh-defensive back and on defensive line-Patron Mack.

ECI players on the Honorable Mention team are Gage Johnson, Holden Bowen and Aaron Matthews-offensive line, Clayton Stripling and James Parker at defensive back, MJ Williams-defensive end, Vyntavius Hughes-defensive line and at tight end-Maquez Edmond.

The Bulldogs return 14 of these players for next season.

## Schwerzler speaks to Wiregrass

The Wiregrass Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting at McKinney Pond Restaurant in Midville. With Vice President Alton Reynolds presiding, they had 18 in attendance including guests. Vice President Alton opened the meeting with a welcome and asked Chaplain Emory Fennell to open with a prayer and then lead the Pledge to the U.S. Flag and the Pledge to the SAR. They then enjoyed a great buffet. Vice President Alton then asked Compatriot Dess



SCHWERZLER

to introduce the speaker for the evening, Ransom Schwerzler, director for Meadow Gardens in Augusta. Schwerzler lives with her husband, Martin, in Augusta, and he is retired from the military. Her presen-

tation was on "George Walton and the Meadow Gardens". The next meeting will be December 12, at the First Methodist Church Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. and will be a joint DAR/SAR Christmas party.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving

Hoping your Thanksgiving is filled with blessings and joy!

Our hours will be as follows:  
All Offices will be closed Thursday November 28, All Drive Thru locations will be open Friday, November 29 from 8:30am-12pm. All Offices will be closed Saturday, November 30.



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# Happy Thanksgiving Blessings

Giving thanks always for the things unto God.  
Ephesians 5:20

Wishing You and Your Family a Beautiful and Blessed Day!

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# Young Lady Tigers shine in scrimmage Win over Claxton

by ROOSEVELT YOUNG  
 The Swainsboro Lady Tigers tipped off their season with a statement win, defeating the Claxton Lady Tigers 50-21 in an energetic scrimmage this past Saturday at The Den. Despite being a young team, the Lady Tigers showed their hunger, grit, and potential for what could be a thrilling season ahead.

Led by Head Coach Alexandria Walden, the Lady Tigers leaned into their physical style of play and relentless defense to dominate both ends of the court. "This game lets us know what we need to work on as a unit, but I know we'll be okay. This will be a shocking season to many, but for us, it's hard work and dedication," Coach Walden said.

The game highlighted the return of Junior K.K. Murphy, who made her presence felt with a double-double performance, tallying 16 points, 10 rebounds, and 6 steals. "Big shoutout to my comeback kid! She played a strong game and showed she's back and ready to ball," Coach Walden added.

Freshmen Treasure Phillips and Kali Brown also gave fans a glimpse of the future, combining for 21 points and contributing key assists, rebounds, and steals throughout the game. "These freshmen put on a show," said Coach Walden. "This group of girls is young, hungry, and ready to press reset on this season."  
 Other contributors included Senior Tonia Ricks,

who chipped in 7 points and 4 rebounds, and Junior Jalaya Freeman, who added 3 points. Freshman Kimiya Freeman also made her mark with 2 points.

Coach Walden acknowledged the team's potential but emphasized the need for growth. "We know and understand we are defense-first. We have to earn everything on the court. Nothing will be given. Right now, we're still finding our identity, but I can see the pieces coming together. With God on our side, anything is possible."

The Lady Tigers are back on the road Friday, December 6th, to take on Treutlen at 5 p.m. Fans are encouraged to come out and support this young, relentless team as they continue to build on their early success.

# Tiger Basketball dominates Claxton in scrimmage in The Den

by ROOSEVELT YOUNG  
 The Swainsboro Tigers gave fans a glimpse of their potential Saturday night, roaring to a decisive 91-69 victory over the Claxton Tigers in an electrifying scrimmage at The Den. The match-up, filled with physical play and high-energy moments, was a perfect way to ignite excitement for the season ahead.

From the opening tip-off, both teams showcased grit and determination, but Swainsboro's relentless pace and offensive firepower proved too much for Claxton to handle. Head Coach Brice Hobbs praised the intensity of the game, saying, "We played a well-disciplined team. Right now, we are still trying to find our identity, but we were able to get out in transition and

get some easy buckets!" Swainsboro's offensive spark came early, thanks to senior KaVoyea Williams, who fearlessly drove to the basket, setting the tone for the Tigers. Senior Carmelo Lewis orchestrated the offense with precision, keeping the team composed and in control. Meanwhile, junior sharpshooter L.J. Morgan lit up the scoreboard with his

pinpoint accuracy, helping Swainsboro maintain a substantial lead throughout the game.

Despite the impressive win, Coach Hobbs acknowledged there's still work to be done. "I feel like we can score at will, but we have to concentrate more on transitioning back on defense and win the rebounding mission. We are not where we need to be at this point and time.

However, with God on our side, anything is possible," he stated.

The Tigers' physical play on both ends of the court electrified the crowd, and their teamwork shone through as they adjusted to Claxton's disciplined attack. Coach Hobbs emphasized that growth remains a key focus as the team embraces the mantra for the season: *Perfect Timing*.

Swainsboro fans won't have to wait long for the next chapter of this journey. The Tigers will hit the road on December 6th, to face Treutlen in another thrilling matchup. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendars Tiger Nation and come out to support the Tigers as they continue their quest for *Perfect Timing!*

# Lady Tigers Flag Football ends season strong

by ROOSEVELT YOUNG  
 The Swainsboro High School Lady Tigers Flag Football team wrapped up their season last week with a mix of challenges and triumphs, showing resilience and heart as they navigated through the final games. Under the leadership of Head Coach Alexandria Walden, the team faced off against Metter, Washington County, and in-county rival ECI, growing stronger with each game.

The week started with a game against Metter. The Lady Tigers had just scored, making it 12-6, and were gaining momentum when an injury to a Metter player delayed the game. The pause threw off their rhythm, and the team had to quickly adjust, with players stepping into new roles. The slow start in the first half proved costly, but the girls walked away with an important lesson. "That game taught us that we have to be ready to play no matter what happens," Coach Walden said. "Next man up has to be the mindset. The girls are starting to understand that."

Next up was Washington County, played in tough, rainy conditions. Missing a few key starters, the Tigers fought hard but fell 34-6. Despite the loss, there were bright spots. Junior Treasure Robinson led the team with 116 rushing yards and 45 passing yards, while Layton made a key sack. "Even though we

didn't get the win, the girls played together as a team," Walden shared. "That's a big deal as we keep building."

The highlight of the week came during the final game against ECI. From the opening play, junior Jalaya Freeman electrified the field with a 70-yard touchdown run. The Tigers played their most complete game of the season, with big plays on both offense and defense. When senior leader Emma Blanford had to leave the game with a mild concussion, the team stepped up and filled her role seamlessly. "The girls really came together," Walden said. "They played for each other, adjusted when they needed to, and showed what they're capable of."

The team finished the season on a high note, with the ECI game serving as a reminder of their potential and the progress they've made. "This season had its challenges, but we're a work in progress," Walden reflected. "I'm so proud of how far they've come. With the way flag football is growing, I hope more girls will come out next year. There's so much potential here." The Lady Tigers may not have ended the season with a winning record, but their growth, determination, and love for the game give Swainsboro fans plenty of reasons to look forward to what's next.

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Corporate - 100 wreaths	\$1,700.00		

Wreaths will arrive in Swainsboro several days prior to December 14th. Please let us know who will pick up your wreath(s) and their contact information or if you wish for your wreath(s) to be placed by volunteers (In Emanuel County ONLY)

\_\_\_\_ My wreath will be picked up by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like for volunteers to place my wreath(s)

Checks should be made payable to Gov. David Emanuel- Adam Brinson Chapter DAR. Please return completed form to:  
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Name of Veteran \_\_\_\_\_  
 (As Displayed on Headstone or Marker)

Branch, Rank and Dates Served \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Location of Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name or Google Maps Coordinates)

Location of Grave in Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If Swainsboro City Cemetery, must have Correct Section)

This project is being sponsored by the Monday Morning Veterans Breakfast Club, Franklin Memorial Library, Mill Creek Foundation, Governor David Emanuel-Adam Brinson Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Wiregrass Chapters Sons of the American Revolution and donations from individuals.

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Wreaths Across America is a 501c(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. You should always consult a tax professional.

### AUCTION OF REAL PROPERTY IN CANDLER COUNTY, GEORGIA

Public outcry of real estate to take place at the Candler County Courthouse steps in Metter, Georgia, on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024 at 10:00a.m. Property located in Candler County, Georgia, consists of 66 acres, more or less and a mobile home. The property is ideal for hunting/recreational activities, while being minutes away from Metter, Georgia. The tract also includes partial ownership of a pond.

64 +/- Acres

Prepared by:  
 Cindy C. Delgado  
 J.Kendall Gross, P.C.  
 Post Office Box 695  
 235 South Lewis Street  
 Metter, Georgia 30439  
 912-685-4619

# Lady Tigers Flag Football team brings the heat against Bryan County, faces tough battle with Portal

by ROOSEVELT YOUNG  
The Swainsboro High School Lady Tigers flag football team had an exciting day on the field, showing off their talent and hard work in back-to-back games. The first game against Bryan County was a huge moment for the Lady Tigers as they celebrated their first win of the season with a 27-6 victory. In the second game, they fought hard but fell to Portal, 26-6.

In the win over Bryan County, Tonia Ricks (9) stole the show with an impressive 140 rushing yards and 176 passing yards. She also grabbed an interception that fired up the crowd. Jalaya Freeman (6) added to the excitement by running 51 yards and scoring a touchdown. Treasure Phillips (7) was all over the field, rushing for 75 yards, catching five passes, and getting a key interception to help the team stay in control.

On defense, players like Hayden Burke (12) and Emma Blanford (16) made life difficult for Bryan County, pulling multiple flags to stop their drives. Sara Smith (11) and Tramara Brown (20) were also strong defenders, keeping the pressure on and making it hard for their opponents to move the ball. Later, the Lady Tigers faced Portal and gave it their all. Jalaya Freeman (6) led the team again with 87 rushing yards

and scored a touchdown. Kylie Brown (14) and Bre McClendon (4) made big catches and kept fighting until the final whistle. Tonia Ricks (9) continued to shine with 41 rushing yards, 41 passing yards, and one interception. Even though they didn't come out on top against Portal, the Lady Tigers never gave up. Hayden Burke (12) and Emma Blanford (16) worked hard on defense, while Kylie Brown (14)

and Bre McClendon (4) made plays to keep the game close. The Lady Tigers' teamwork, and effort were clear for everyone to see. With their determi-

nation and skill, they're sure to give fans even more exciting games this season. With that win and loss, the Lady Tigers' overall record now stands at 1-4.

## Tigers look to the future as football season comes to a close

by ROOSEVELT YOUNG  
The Swainsboro High School Tigers closed out their 2024 football season with a hard-fought game against the Northeast Macon Raiders in the first round of the GHSA Class A Division 1 state playoffs. Though the Tigers fell 46-7, the night was a showcase of resilience, grit, and glimpses of what the future holds for a young and determined team. Freshmen and sophomores stepped up on the big stage, gaining experience that will undoubtedly pay off in the seasons ahead. While the scoreboard didn't reflect their effort, the Tigers never stopped competing. Late in the fourth quarter, freshman running back Javari Williams broke through for Swainsboro's lone score, capping off a performance that highlighted his potential and the team's fighting spirit. Moments like these are a reminder that growth often comes through challenges. Reflecting on the season, head coach Scott Roberts praised the strides made by his younger players. "Our young kids got a lot of time on the field this year, and that experience is going to help them improve," Roberts said. "You could see them getting better every week."

Coach Roberts also expressed deep gratitude for his senior leaders, whose commitment and dedication have been cornerstones of the program. "Shane Gamiza, Brian Gregory, Wendell McLeod, Xavier Strobridge, Bryson Tarver, Sammy 'Trey' Turner, and Jyleris Williams have given so much to this program," Roberts said. "It's not easy to play this game, and they've shown true heart and dedication. We'll miss them, but their contributions won't be forgotten." As the Tigers look ahead to the 2025 season, preparation has already begun. The team knows that hard work in the weight room and attention to detail will be key to returning stronger. "We're already working on next season," Roberts said. "Every day in the weight room counts. We have to do the little things right if we want to get back to where we want to be." While the 2024 campaign didn't end the way the Tigers hoped, it has laid a foundation for growth and success. With a mix of youthful talent and a strong commitment to improvement, Swainsboro fans can look forward to an exciting future for their football program. The Tigers are determined to come back stronger, and their journey continues with renewed focus and determination.

## SMS Lady Tigers aim high this season

by ROOSEVELT YOUNG  
I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Swainsboro Middle School's head basketball coach, Iker Devouil (Coach D), after her team competed in their first weekend tournament at Langston Chapel Middle in Statesboro, Georgia. Coach D shared her thoughts on the tournament and her aspirations for the season ahead. "My goals for the team this season focus on both individual and collective growth," Coach D explained. "I want each player to improve personally and develop a strong desire to get better. Progress isn't just about what we do during practice hours; it's about putting in the work when no one is watching." She emphasized that her broader vision is for the team to recognize their potential and show their skills and confidence on the court. "This group is special because they haven't realized just how

great they can be if they truly apply themselves. Above all, I want them to understand that winning comes from teamwork, not from relying on just one player." The team's performance at the Langston Chapel Middle tournament was nothing short of impressive. They defeated Midway Girls 30-1 on Thursday and Langston Chapel 28-6 on Friday, earning their spot in the championship game. Saturday's championship clash against Snelson-Golden was a real test of character and resilience. Trailing by four points at halftime, the girls dug deep and, through determination and teamwork, made a remarkable comeback to win 32-28. A memorable highlight was seeing the players push past their limits, especially point guard McKinley Walden, who led her teammates with exceptional leadership and unselfish play. Motivating players, according to Coach D, is

all about building trust and helping them see the power of hard work. "I encourage them to set goals, celebrate their progress, and take ownership of their growth. Progress demands consistent effort, and I strive to instill a mindset where improvement happens on and off the court." Her coaching philosophy is clear: success is about the team, not the individual. Building confidence is a key part of her approach. "Preparation and persistence are essential," Coach D shared. "We set goals that push them out of their comfort zones, whether that means bouncing back from a mistake in a game or mastering a new skill in practice. Challenges are opportunities to grow, and I remind them to apply these lessons to life beyond basketball." The Langston Chapel tournament was a valuable experience for the team, helping them gain game-time confidence

and develop their skills and chemistry. "These moments are crucial building blocks," Coach D said. "They prepare us not just for a single game but for the entire season ahead." Make sure you go out and support these Lady Tigers at Swainsboro Middle School throughout their season! The rest of the season schedule can be found on the Swainsboro Middle School website as well as the Swainsboro Middle School Facebook page.



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH**  
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- CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT
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- HEAVY TRUCKS & TRAILERS
- INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
- SALVAGE EQUIPMENT
- SOLD SECTION CLEAN UP

**DAY 2  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**  
STARTING @ 8:30 A.M.

**RING 1**

- AG EQUIPMENT
- AG IMPLEMENTS
- CATTLE HANDLING EQUIPMENT
- UTILITY TRAILERS
- AUTOS & ATVS
- FARM LIQUIDATIONS
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**RING 2  
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# Swainsboro Basketball Cheer Squad brings the heat this season

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by ROOSEVELT YOUNG  
 As the Swainsboro High Tigers gear up for another thrilling basketball season. The Swainsboro Basketball Cheer Squad is ready to light up "The Den" and make every game unforgettable. Their mission? To bring energy, excitement, and Tiger spirit that gets everyone on their feet. From chants and cheers to high energy routines. These hard-working cheerleaders know how to get the crowd pumped and

rally support for their teams.  
 Coach Monica Pace, who leads the squad, is focused on making this season one to remember. She gave us a peek into what makes this year's team special, their goals, and how they're tackling any challenges along the way.  
**Team Goals and Building Bonds**  
 "Our goals are simple: work hard, cheer loud, and have fun!" said Coach Pace. "I put a big emphasis on communication and building a strong bond between the girls. If there's a problem, we talk it out and move forward together." The squad's teamwork and connection are what keep them strong, and they're determined to bring their best energy to every game. While every season is different due to changing rules and new faces, Coach Pace is excited about the growth she's seeing. "You'll hear it and see it. We're more confident, louder, and prouder than ever this year."  
 Senior captain Akira Marion is also feeling optimistic. "I expect this season to be very, very exciting! I think both teams (boys and girls), including our cheer team, will do well! I also expect another season of new records, achievements, etc.," she said,

capturing the spirit and drive that fuels the squad.  
**Every Cheerleader Is a Star**  
 When asked about standout performers, Coach Pace didn't hesitate to highlight the whole squad. "To me, every one of our 13 cheerleaders is a star. Each of them brings something unique to the team and makes us better," she said. But like any team, they face challenges. For these cheerleaders, staying focused and blocking out "outside noise" is key. "I tell the girls to believe in themselves and always give their best," Coach Pace said. "If they stick together and stay focused, this season can be amazing."  
**Giving Back Matters**  
 Beyond cheering on the sidelines, the squad is dedicated to making a difference in their community. This year, they'll be collecting socks and toiletries for nursing home residents, organizing a toy drive for local families, and supporting breast cancer awareness. "Giving back helps the team grow as leaders and people," Coach Pace said. It's about more than just cheering, it's about character and heart.  
**14 Years of Dedication and Memories**  
 Coach Pace has been

at the helm for 14 years, and she's seen plenty of changes and proud moments. "When I started, squads could stomp and battle it out in the stands. We can't do that anymore, but we've found new ways to make our cheers stand out," she said. As a school counselor, she also makes sure her cheerleaders keep up with their studies and attendance.  
 One of her proudest memories was during the 2021-2022 season when a video of the squad went viral on TikTok, racking up nearly four million views and even catching the eye of espnW. More recently, an alumni event brought back 30 former cheerleaders for a day of bonding, practice, and a special performance with the current team. "Once my girl, always my girl," is a motto Coach Pace lives by, showing her dedication to every cheerleader she's coached.  
**Ready to Cheer Swainsboro to Victory**  
 With energy, passion, and a whole lot of school pride, the Swainsboro Basketball Cheer Squad is ready to make this season one to remember. Come out and support these amazing young women as they bring the spirit and excitement to every game. Let's make it a season to cheer about!

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# Happy Thanksgiving

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 NEED TO SEND A COPY OF A DOCUMENT, LETTER, ETC., TO SOME PLACE IN A HURRY? The Forest-Blade can do the job for you in minutes with its fax machine. We can also receive copies of documents. For more information come by our office on West Moring Street.

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**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.

# Sheriff's Reports

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

**November 17**  
Complainant stated offender took her vehicle without permission and got into a wreck and the vehicle was towed.

**November 18**  
Complainant stated she evicted offenders from her rental property and when they moved out, they took a refrigerator and stove that did not belong to them.

**November 19**  
Deputy responded to Wincore in reference to a hit and run. Complainant advised offender/ex-boyfriend has been stalking her and she was on her way to work when offender cut her off in the roadway in Stillmore and she refused to stop and went around him, resulting in their vehicles making contact. C/p stated offender followed her on Hwy 57 East until she got to the intersection on Hwy 1 South. C/p advised offender turned around and she went to her job at Wincore and met with deputies.

C/p's vehicle had a small scratch on the front driver side bumper. C/p then stated that offender will not stop calling her and goes by her job daily and randomly calls her employer. C/p also advised offender has been abusing illegal drugs and refuses to leave her alone.

Deputies responded to Hwy 1 South where complainant stated he paid offender with S&S Collision to paint his truck and was contacted by offender to move his truck to a new shop and when he arrived to move it, it was determined that offender lost his key. C/p advised he wants his money back for the work offender did not do.

**November 20**  
Complainant stated she ran off the road and attempted to correct, resulting in her getting stuck in the ditch.

**November 21**  
Complainant reported incidents of domestic violence. C/p stated her live-in boyfriend/offender has been verbally abusive and con-

trolling and has escalated into physical. C/p stated that she and offender got into a verbal altercation and offender struck her in the face.

Deputy met with complainant in reference to a stolen tag.

Deputies were dispatched to West 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Stillmore in reference to a burglary. Complainant advised she arrived at her residence and noticed the window to one of the bedrooms had been forced open and items in the room had been rummaged through. She advised a metal lock box had been opened and insurance policies were missing. The window that was forced open had personal photos laying on the ground when deputies arrived.

Deputy was dispatched to W. Fifth Ave. in Stillmore in reference to a dispute. Complainant advised offender was drinking and wanted to go to the store and c/p offered to drive him because she wasn't drinking, and offender did not like the

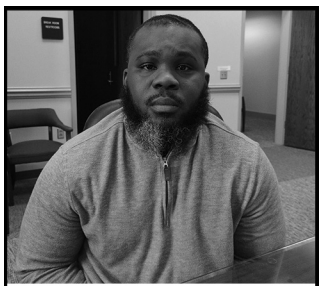
idea and got frustrated and they started arguing and offender slapped c/p.

**November 23**  
Deputy responded to Hwy 46 East in reference to a domestic dispute that resulted in an elder male being pushed and requesting EMS. Law Enforcement is familiar with all parties at the residence and have had multiple calls in the past few months. Upon arrival, contact was made with offender who advised he was in the house and victim was arguing with offender's girlfriend. Offender stated he went in to tell him to stop and victim got up and got in his face. Offender stated victim proceeded to shove him out the room, pointing his finger in his face, at which time offender stated he was poked in the eye and out of reflex, he brushed victim's arm and victim fell on purpose, over dramatic, on the floor. Deputy observed offender's eye red and watery. Deputy spoke with victim who advised he was in his

room with his wife and daughter and he and his daughter were arguing over food and offender went in the room cussing and started to push on him several times. Victim stated offender then knocked him onto the ground and he hit the back of his head on a dresser, causing pain on his left leg and he couldn't get up. EMS assisted and checked victim, as he has had several surgeries and prior medical health problems. Deputy then spoke with the daughter who advised she was having a disagreement with her father and offender went in and started getting in victim's face and pushed victim several times, knocking him onto the floor. It was determined that offender was the aggressor and was taken into custody. Offender then got irate and became more irate when he was advised of the supervision of the children and told deputy he would have his job for wrongful arrest because he was protecting himself and his kids

could not be left at the residence. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

**November 24**  
Deputy assisted SPD at El Valle where SPD officer was placing offender in handcuffs and put him in the back of a patrol unit. After talking with witnesses, officer walked back to his unit to speak with offender, and he (offender) stated for them to take the handcuffs off and he wouldn't beat their butts. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.



Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Antonious L. McGruder Jr., of 427 Project St. Swainsboro, Ga 30401 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 28th day of October, 2024, in Swainsboro Municipal Court.

# 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 (ECSO); 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 (CSRUI); Intensive Probation Service (IPS); Probation Office (PROB); or East Georgia State College (EGSC).

11/21/24; City probation violation; SPD

Michael Jason Cook, 49, arrested 11/21/24; Obstruction of law enforcement/Simple assault; ECSO

Kernell Paul Guillory, 62, arrested 11/20/24; DUI less safe - combination/Expired registration/Holding/supporting wireless communications device/Seatbelt violation/Driving while license suspended/revoked; GSP

Jamie Lee Hagin, 33, arrested 11/20/24; Probation violation - felony; ECSO

Jefferey Lee Hooks, 40, arrested 11/20/24; Hold for Richmond Co.; ECSO

Shannon Leon Howard, 43, arrested 11/18/24; Disorderly conduct/Public indecency/Public drunk; SPD

Trimiko Tremaine Lester, 40, arrested 11/20/24; Probation violation - felony (x2); ECSO

Joseph Lindquist, 43, arrested 11/23/24; Elder abuse/Simple battery; ECSO

Larry Charles Mason, 43, arrested 11/18/24; Possess marijuana less than oz/Possession of cocaine/Public drunk; SPD

Anthony Dewayne Nichols, 35 arrested 11/24/24; Probation violation/Terroristic threats & acts/Public drunk/Aggravated assault/Possession of firearm or knife during commission or attempt to commit felonies/Theft by taking; SPD

Ryan Brent Page, 32, arrested 11/21/24; Aggravates assault/Probation violation - felony (x2); ECSO

Troy Bernard Phillips, 58, arrested 11/19/24; Aggravated assault/Probation violation - felony (x2); ECSO

Scotty Ray Scarboro, 21, arrested 11/19/24; Bench warrant/Public drunk/Possession of schedule II controlled substance (x2); SPD

Tyree Terrell Smiley, 26, arrested 11/18/24; Possession of schedule II controlled substance/Possession and use of drug related objects/Purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of marijuana - felony/Possession of firearm or knife during commission or attempt to commit felonies/Manufacture/possess etc. controlled or counterfeit substance or marijuana near park/housing project/Possession of schedule IV controlled substance; SPD

George Justin Smith, 40, arrested 11/19/24; Possess marijuana less than oz; SPD

Jamie Lance Steed, 48, arrested 11/20/24; Sentenced to PDC; ECSO

Avery Vaughn Washington, 19, arrested 11/20/24; Bond revocation; ECSO

Justin Tyler Wyant, 38, arrested 11/20/24; Hold for Toombs Co. Probation; ECSO

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**The City of Swainsboro has narrowed down the applicants for the Police Chief position to three finalists. The three finalists are Adam Kersey, Ashley Riner, and Matthew Williams. Council will make a decision from the finalist panel at a later date.**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Stillmore Planning and Zoning Commission will have a hearing on December 3rd, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Stillmore Community House for the purpose of making a recommendation to City Council regarding the requested variance.

A public hearing will be held at Stillmore City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on December 10, 2024 to consider a zoning variance request for said property to be rezoned from residential property to commercial property located at N. Second Street, Stillmore, Georgia (Parcel# 154040) and owned by Z W Hooks Farms.

Both hearings are open to the public.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Lane Storage has payments past due. Contents include various miscellaneous items. **Auction will be held December 10, 2024 at 9am.** For questions contact Kacie Sumner 478-494-2674.

**Albert Thompson Unit-CH11**  
**Jaime Purvis Unit-D16 and D29**  
**Donny Velasquez Unit-D20**  
**Genea Gordon Unit-W48**  
**Alisha Williams Unit-W83**

### LANE STORAGE

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NOTICE								
The Adrian City Governing Authority does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Community Center Annex on December 11th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.								
CURRENT 2024 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY								
E m a n u e l  &  J o h n s o n	INCORPORATED		2019	2020	2021	2021	2023	2024
	V A L E	Real & Personal		5,231,178	5,228,314	5,837,477	6,295,212	6,814,427
	Motor Vehicles		144,250	162,171	116,120	124,180	128,680	104,050
	Mobile Homes		80,121	80,121	69,011	86,221	83,628	115,676
	Timber - 100%		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Heavy Duty Equipment		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gross Digest		5,455,549	5,470,606	6,022,608	6,505,613	7,026,735	7,172,474
	Less Exemptions		154,870	154,870	153,197	198,043	184,876	186,840
	<b>NET DIGEST VALUE</b>		<b>5,300,679</b>	<b>5,315,736</b>	<b>5,869,411</b>	<b>6,307,570</b>	<b>6,841,859</b>	<b>6,985,634</b>
R A T E	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage		21.9500	22.0000	21.4500	19.3020	16.3710	16.6320
	Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)		11.1060	11.0000	10.9300	9.9660	7.7630	8.3000
	<b>NET M&amp;O MILLAGE RATE</b>		<b>10.8440</b>	<b>11.0000</b>	<b>10.5200</b>	<b>9.3360</b>	<b>8.6080</b>	<b>8.3320</b>
TAX	<b>Total School Taxes Levied</b>		<b>\$57,481</b>	<b>\$58,473</b>	<b>\$61,746</b>	<b>\$58,887</b>	<b>\$58,895</b>	<b>\$58,204</b>
	Net Tax \$ Increase			\$993	\$3,273	(\$2,859)	\$7	(\$690)
	Net Tax % Increase			1.73%	5.60%	-4.63%	0.01%	-1.17%

# Swainsboro Police Reports

Officers with the Swainsboro Police Department (SPD) report-ed...

## November 14

Officers were dispatched to W. Moring St. in reference to a vehicle sitting in the roadway. Officers met with the driver who stated her vehicle broke down.

Officer made contact with offender at Waffle King in reference to an active warrant. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer took a walk-in report where complainant stated she needed to report a violation of her TPO she took out of offender. C/p stated offender arrived at Mike's Food Mart where she was at and walked by her making a sound.

Officer responded to E. MLK Blvd. in reference to a theft. Complainant stated she noticed the door to her handi-house had been messed with and went inside to find a TV, laptop and two PS5 controllers had been taken.

Officer took a walk-in report where complainant stated a necklace, TV, safe and \$1,500 were stolen from inside

her residence.

## November 15

Officer responded to Easy Stop in reference to a wallet that was found. Detective located the owner, and the wallet and contents were returned.

Officer transported offender to EmCo Jail for multiple warrants.

Offender was transported to EmCo Jail for active probation warrant out of Burke County.

Officer responded to S. Racetrack St. in reference to the water meter valve being broken. Complainant stated offender's water service had been cut off and locked on 8/15/24 and noticed the water was turned back on. After closer inspection, c/p observed the ears on the valve that the lock inserts through had been broken and the residence used 42,000 gallons of water since it was turned off in August. Negative contact was made with the and resident of the property.

## November 16

Officer responded to Hwy 56 North in reference to complainant stating someone had been visiting her property while she is not at home and believes the individuals also entered her residence and vehicle. C/p advised her license are missing.

Officer was dispatched to Ralph Smith Place where complainant stated her vehicle was struck by another vehicle. It was revealed that c/p's license is suspended. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer initiated a traffic stop on S. Main St. due to the owner having suspended driver license. The driver received a citation and notice of suspension. A licensed driver was notified to retrieve the vehicle.

## November 17

Officer responded to Gumlog Rd. in reference to an altercation and 911 advised that EMS had been notified. Officers observed a large crowd gathered near a building and officer made contact with the injured female. Other officer observed an individual approaching officers and separated him from the other parties to obtain his account of the incident. Offender stated his daughter had been involved in a dispute earlier with her child's father and during the argument, the father began speaking disre-

spectfully to his daughter. Offender claimed he intervened and demanded that the child's father leave. Victim provided a conflicting statement alleging one offender attempted to separate himself from the argument by going into her apartment and accused the other offender and his daughter of forcing entry into her apartment by pushing open the door, which struck her and caused her injury. EMS evaluated victim and she was released.

## November 18

Officers were dispatched to Easy Stop in reference to an unwanted male subject. Complainant stated offender had been making her feel uncomfortable and she wanted him removed from the premises. Officers made contact with offender who was observed holding an open container of alcohol and had him retrieve his belongings and leave the property. Shortly after, offender returned to the premises acting aggressively towards c/p. Officer observed offender striking the plexiglass barrier and was placed under arrest. C/p advised that prior to officers' return, offender exposed his genitalia and threatened to sexually assault c/p. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer was dispatched to Neal St. in reference to complainant stating he and his wife were in the yard with their two children two days prior and a male subject walked up to their property with a gun in his hand and started to speak to them in an aggressive manner. The male subject then told c/p that he needed to keep his dogs in his yard because they kept getting loose and terrorizing his cats. C/p then stated the male subject raised his handgun and pointed it at him and his daughter and continued to wave it around. C/p also advised that on this date, he drove by the male subject's house, and he was in the yard, and he started yelling and pointing at c/p. C/p advised the male subject was last seen walking down Neal St. carrying a handgun on his hip holster.

Officers were dispatched to S. Main St. in reference to a male subject stumbling and hitting cars while he was walking. Officer observed a male subject fitting the description stumbling, so he pulled up to the male and asked if he was alright and he stated he was okay. Officer then asked for his license,

and he stated he did not have one, so he was asked for his name and DOB. Offender provided his name and was asked if he had any alcoholic beverages because officer could smell a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person. Offender stated he had a cup earlier. Marijuana and cocaine were also found on offender's person. Offender was arrested and transported to EmCo Jail after being told multiple times to leave the premises.

Officer met with complainant on Industrial Way in reference to c/p stating another vehicle hit a brick in the roadway causing minor damage.

Officer took a walk-in report where complainant stated she was at WalMart and got \$40 cash back and forgot the money due to receiving a phone call and when she went back in, it was gone.

## November 19

Officer received a phone call from an individual at the Housing Authority Complex on N. Racetrack St. stating someone was shooting outside her residence. Officer advised other officers and 911 advised they had just received a call in reference to the same incident. Officers observed a SUV with three of the doors open and the driver side window was busted out and found spent shell casings from the pistol inside the vehicle, along with illegal drugs. Officer also observed several bullet holes in the vehicle. 911 advised the subjects involved were in the woods behind Lewis St. Spent shell casings from an AR were also found. The case is being handled by detectives.

Officer was dispatched to Harmon Park in reference to calls about a male subject riding around the park all hours of the day and night and citizens were concerned. Officer made contact with the unoccupied vehicle as offender was walking from the track and met them at the vehicle. Officer could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle and asked offender for permission to search the truck. Offender then advised he had some marijuana in the center console and a joint inside his pants pocket. Offender was acting very nervous and kept turning around and stating the marijuana was medicine for his body and he was doing work for Jesus. Officer handcuffed offender and he began crying. Offender was

transported to EmCo Jail.

Officers were dispatched to S. Green St. in reference to a domestic dispute. 911 advised the male subject was trying to leave for work and his girlfriend would not let him leave. Complainant/offender and victim were standing in the yard arguing and were separated. Offender stated victim got mad because his driver seat was laid back and she wanted to know why the seat was laid back and she would not let him get in his vehicle to leave and kept going at him aggressively. Offender stated he grabbed victim and pushed her back but never hit her. Victim stated offender grabbed her and pushed her, but he never hit her.

Officer took a walk-in report where complainant stated she had fraudulent transactions on her social security benefit card.

Officer was dispatched to Mojo's in reference to a male subject with a dog and another male subject walking on S. Main St. and one appeared to be intoxicated and was almost struck by a vehicle. Contact was made with offender and observed him staggering. Offender stated he did not almost get hit by a vehicle and was asked if he had been drinking, to which he stated yes. Officer advised him that he would not allow him to continue walking in fear that he may become injured and for him to obtain a ride. Offender stated he could not get a ride and kept saying he could just walk. While conversing with offender, officer observed he could not stand without staggering or leaning against something and his speech was extremely slurred. Offender was placed under arrest and upon searching him, officer found one and a half white pills and three round pills on his person. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail and was found to have an outstanding warrant through ECSO.

## November 20

Officer was dispatched to Richard St. in reference to a report of a dog at large that attacked complainant's dog. C/p stated her boston terrier was on a lead runner in her front yard when another dog belonging to the neighbor. Officer spoke with offender who stated while her and her children and her dogs were in the fenced in backyard, a dachshund not on a leash or lead went toward the fence and started barking and her collie jumped over the fence and began chasing it. She stated while doing this, the dachshund ran around a small fenced

in play area and her collie chased it around the fence and it hid. Behind the boston terrier and the collie attacked it.

Officers were dispatched to Gumlog Rd. in reference to complainant reporting a male subject was armed with a knife and forced c/p out of his girlfriend's apartment. Officers made contact with c/p and observed a bloody scrape on his elbow and bloody knuckles. Officers detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from his breath and he had slurred speech. C/p stated he went to visit his girlfriend and discovered an unknown male inside the apartment and the unknown male brandished a knife, attacked him and forced him out of the apartment. When asked about the alleged assailant, c/p stated he male left the scene. Contact was made with the girlfriend who informed officers that c/p became aggressive during an argument, and she forced him outside and locked the door and he punched through the front window in an attempt to reenter. The female denied another male being inside. Officer observed the window to have a large hole consistent with the female's statement. When c/p was questioned about the window, he admitted to punching it but claimed his injuries were caused by the unknown male. Officer noted that c/p's injuries were consistent with punching the window.

Officers were dispatched to Gumlog Rd. in reference to juveniles being left unattended. Complainant stated the mother left home around 6 a.m. and does this every morning and she knows the children are very young. Officer made contact with a juvenile male who stated his brothers were inside and his mom left them to get ready for school. He then made contact with his mother by phone, and she stated she was getting her son a shirt for school and was on her way back. A short time later, the mother arrived and informed officers that she did not see any concern for leaving her children alone for a few minutes but understood they needed to be supervised by an older individual in the future.

## November 21

Officer was dispatched to Northside Beverage in reference to an unwelcomed individual on the property. Offender was in the front of the building behind bushes charging his phone and was told he was no longer welcomed on the property. Offender was issued a criminal trespass notice.

Officer was dispatched to Lee St. in reference to a fight. EMS was also dispatched for a male subject with a head injury. Officer observed the male subject bleeding from his head and EMS arrived and treated him. Victim and other bystanders advised they did not know who struck him, and he refused to be transported to EMC.

## November 22

Officer transported offender to EmCo Jail for an outstanding warrant for a probation violation

It is well known that time has a way of bringing about a "lapse in memory." Many of the important events in our lives - especially when

God has intervened in a very dramatic way - have been forgotten over the years. Yes, there are moments when they come to mind, but for the most part, unless we record them somewhere they are forgotten. Certainly this is a shortcoming for many of us and it would be good if we had a "remember this" list.

No doubt that is why God had David add this "benefit" to his list of "Do not forget."

"Do not forget that he redeems - or more literally - rescues you - from the pit." In the previous verse we are reminded about His healing. Now we are reminded to "store this 'benefit' - being rescued from death inside us."

"The pit" quite literally means "death." Those who have ever "walked through the valley of the shadow of death" understand the significance of the "walking back into the light" of life. So, we dare not forget the great benefit and blessing of the restoration of health and healing, hope and happiness. But we must also remember the "benefit" of having been rescued from "eternal death!" Jesus promised us that, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me, will never die." This great benefit, eternity with Him, is the greatest of all benefits! May we remember and rejoice each day that we enjoy the benefit of eternal life and the hope it gives us.

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**Notice of Call for Special Election**  
Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-540 a special election will be held on **March 18, 2025** for the City of Swainsboro. This election will be for the position of City Council District 5 to fill the unexpired term of Quantavius Foster. Qualifying will be held January 6, 2025 to January 9, 2025 from 9:00am to 4:30pm at the Emanuel County Elections Office located at 105 South Main Street, Swainsboro, Ga 30401. The qualifying fee is \$155.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The following abandoned vehicle will be sold for storage and towing fees on **December 11, 2024** from 10am-4pm. Vehicles are stored by the City of Swainsboro. **All bids must be sealed and taken to the Swainsboro Police Dept.** Anyone with an ownership interest of any of these vehicles should contact the Swainsboro Police Dept.  
**1994 GMC Sierra**  
**Swainsboro Police Dept.**  
212 North Main Street  
Swainsboro, GA 30401





SMITH III, BAZEMORE, WALKER, BURKE AND MCCLOUD

## Skunk Brigade attends Kaolin Festival Parade

On Saturday, November 16, 2024, members of the Skunk Brigade, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, traveled to Sandersville to participate in the Kaolin Festival Parade for the first time. Those attending were Fall Line Region Vice President Dess Smith III, Sgt-at-Arms Southern District Don Bazemore, Past South Carolina State President Ted Walker, Wiregrass Chapter President Steve Burke and Little River Chapter President Alton McCloud.



PRESIDENT JONES, GASSAR PRESIDENT RIGEL AND PARKER

## Rigel speaks to Mill Creek

The Mill Creek Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting November 19, at the Old Timey Restaurant at 6 p.m. With President Randy Jones presiding, they had 12 in attendance. After the invocation and Pledges to the U.S. Flag and the SAR, President Randy introduced prior member Frank Parker who is reinstating his membership. President Randy then introduced the Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution President Ed Rigel to present the status of the State Society. President Randy then called on VP Fall Line Region Dess Smith III for a report on the recent activities of the Skunk Brigade. The next meeting will be a Christmas Party at President Randy's home on December 10.

## Jones speaks to Fall Line

The Fall Line Chapter held their monthly meeting, Tuesday night, November 12, 2024, at the WC Chamber of Commerce in Sandersville at 7 p.m. With President Sandy Mercer presiding, they had 12 in attendance. After the Pledge to the U.S. Flag and the SAR Pledge, President Sandy asked dual member Dess Smith III to introduce our speaker for the evening, Compatriot Randy Jones, President of the Mill Creek Chapter in Statesboro. Jones' topic was on the "Iroquois Constitution". In attendance at the meeting was the Georgia Society President, Ed Rigel, who talked about the status of the State Society. Also, President Sandy asked Compatriot Ken Lindsey

for his report from the nominating committee. Lindsey was happy to say that all 2024 officers had decided to stay in their current positions for 2025. President Sandy then discussed with the Chapter their involvement in this year's "Wreaths Across America" to be held on December 14, 2024. The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2025.



PRESIDENT JONES



PRESIDENT RIGEL AND PRESIDENT MERCER

## Lisenby speaks to Brier Creek

The Brier Creek Chapter held its monthly meeting Thursday night, November 7, at Walls Diner at 6:30 p.m. With President Wayne Howard presiding, they had 18 in attendance. Registrar Lee Herron introduced the speaker for tonight, Mike Lisenby. Lisenby's presentation was on "Formation of the Colonies, 1600's - 1700's".



LISENBY

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