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# The Forest-Blade

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VOLUME 166, NO.2 Swainsboro, Georgia • January 8, 2025 ONE DOLLAR



PRICE



MAY



PROCTOR

## Price retires, May and Proctor promoted

Durden Banking Co., Inc. is excited to announce the following retirement and promotions: Judy Price retired effective Dec. 31 as Vice President/City President/Loan Officer. Jimmy May was promoted to Vice President/City President and will oversee bank operations in the Swainsboro market. Also being promoted was Zach Proctor to Assistant City President. Durden Bank CEO, Wade Johnson, stated that "Losing Mrs. Judy Price to retirement is bittersweet. She has been a great community banker in Emanuel County for many years. We are so thankful for her years of service, and we wish her the best in her retirement. At the same time, we are very confident in the new leadership team's ability and look forward to working with them in the years to come."

## New Police Chief takes over

On December 11, 2024, the Swainsboro City Council officially selected Ashley Riner to take the leadership job of the Police Department of the City of Swainsboro. The new Chief assumes the position following the retirement of Chief Randy Ellison who held the job for the past sixteen years. Chief Riner graciously took time from his busy schedule to speak with *The Forest-Blade* about his new position. The career track of the new Chief has been dedicated to public safety and public service. (Continued on page 6A)



CHIEF RINER

## Reverend Dr. Elgin L. Dixon named Grand Marshall of MLK Parade

Reverend Dr. Elgin Lanier Dixon, affectionately known to many as "Neal," is the sixth child born to the parentage of the late Reverend Dr. Bobbie J. Fann and the late Charles (Alberta) Goss. He was reared in Adrian under the tutelage of his grandmother, the late Clarion D. King. Dr. Dixon is a 1982 graduate of Adrian High School and fur-



DR. DIXON  
thered his education at Emanuel County Junior

College and Savannah State University respectively. He went on to enhance his graduate studies at Fort Valley State, Georgia College, Troy State University, and the Macon Campus of the School of the Great Commission, where he received his dual master's degrees, an Educational Specialist Degree, and a Doctorate (Continued on page 9A)

## Council "backs up" on speed cameras

The January meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on January 6, 2025, at 6 p.m. at Swainsboro City Hall. Following an invocation and pledge of allegiance, council voted to accept minutes of the previous meeting. The first item undertaken by council was to amend the agenda for the purpose of adding five items not previously included. Under old business,

council discussed funding for the project involving replacement of lead pipe in the city water system. Council voted to accept a loan from Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for the project. The loan amount applied for was approximately 5 million dollars. The amount of the loan approved was slightly over four and a half million in a forgivable loan consistent

with the City's compliance with loan terms and with the City providing approximately ninety thousand dollars for engineering fees. Councilmembers posed various questions and concerns dealing with application of the funds, acquisition of right of way from homeowners, and engineering reports. The next agenda items (Continued on page 9A)

## New Commissioner, Tax Commissioner, Probate Judge join slate of county elected officials

by HALEI LAMB

As the calendar turns to 2025, Emanuel County ushers in a new era of leadership with the swearing-in of four officials—three newcomers and one re-elected commissioner. Each brings a unique perspective and energy to their roles, ready to serve the community and build on the foundation laid by their predecessors. Joining them are three seasoned leaders who quietly reaffirmed their oaths, continuing their legacy of service. Together, these officials represent a blend of fresh enthusiasm and steadfast experience.



JUDGE REEVES SWEARING PROBATE JUDGE SHERROD IN

### John Moore joins the Commission

John Moore is Emanuel County's newest commissioner. His four-year term serving District 3 began January 1, 2025. Though new to politics, his journey to this role began with his primary campaign in May 2024, culminating in a runoff victory in June. Running unopposed in November, John was sworn in on Monday, December 23, at the courthouse by retiring probate judge Don Wilkes.

His wife, Becky; daughters, Paige Ross and Jessica Shurling, and grandchildren, Jackson, John Paul, and Jase proudly stood by his side during the ceremony.

Reflecting on his new role, John expressed gratitude for the community's trust and support. "It's an honor to serve District 3, especially following Commissioner Hugh Foskey's 20 years of service. I've been preparing for months by attending meetings and connecting with our county team, and now I'm ready to hit the ground running. If there's ever a way I can assist you, please don't hesitate to reach out."

A full profile on Commissioner Moore will be shared in the coming weeks.

### Jessica "Jessie" Underwood Moran becomes Tax Commissioner

Jessica "Jessie" Underwood Moran is now in her first term as Emanuel County's tax commissioner, succeeding Sandra Wright, who retired in December after nearly five decades with the office. Jessie ran unopposed in the March 2024 general primary and was sworn in on Tuesday,



MORAN'S DAUGHTER HAVILAH JOINS IN AS MORAN IS SWORN IN BY JUDGE REEVES



COLEMAN BEING SWORN IN BY NOW RETIRED PROBATE JUDGE DON WILKES



MOORE, WITH WIFE BECKY, BEING SWORN IN BY JUDGE WILKES

December 31, by Superior Court Judge Robert S. "Bobby" Reeves.

Her parents, Windy and Tonia Underwood; husband, Mike; daughter, Havilah; sister, Jade

Mason; and niece, Dekota Mason attended the ceremony to show their support.

"I'm excited to serve as your new tax com-

(Continued on page 6A)

**What's Inside...**

- Obituaries.....7A
- Church Page.....10B
- Editorial Columns.....5A
- Crime Blotter.....5B
- Classified Listings.....9B
- Legal Notices.....7B

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### Celebrating five years of five generations

Pictured is Mrs. Willie Dean Parker of Swainsboro with her, daughter, Vivian Parker of Hinesville; granddaughter, Stephanie Hill of Swainsboro; great-granddaughter, Lacurria Lewis of Swainsboro; and great-great-granddaughter, L'Oreal Wadley of Swainsboro. L'Oreal celebrated her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday in December, marking five years of five generations. Congratulations!

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## WINDOWS & DOORS

### Wincore Windows and Doors acquired by Fernweh Group

Wincore Window Company, LLC ("Wincore") headquartered in Parkersburg, WV with operating facilities in Parkersburg and Swainsboro, GA announces that it has been acquired by Fernweh Group LLC and its affiliates (collectively, "Fernweh"). Financial terms were not disclosed. Wincore was represented by Goodwin Procter LLP and Fernweh was represented by DLA.

Wincore is a manufacturer of vinyl windows, impact windows, fiberglass entry doors, and sliding patio doors primarily for the residential market. Wincore was formed in 2007 by a cross-functional group of individual industry veterans as well as two privately-held investment groups. Over its 17-year operating history, Wincore's focus has been centered on a "customer first" sales and marketing approach backed by high-quality manufacturing and delivery capabilities. Through several sales channels, primarily distribution and dealer direct, and a long-term repeat customer base, Wincore has grown from a start-up, surviving the significant economic downturn of 2008-2009, to become a major player in the window and door industry.

Brian Standley, President of Wincore, sees this as a great opportunity for Wincore. "This transaction provides us an opportunity to hon-

or the efforts of those that founded Wincore 17 years ago. Without their collective expertise and willingness to take a risk, Wincore would not be what it is today. In addition, it allows us and each of our dedicated employees to continue to provide our customers with great products and service. We are excited to partner with the team at Fernweh to make a great company even better in the coming years."

Nick Santhanam, CEO at Fernweh Group, added "we are excited to partner with the talented management team at Wincore, whose vision and leadership have driven the company's success to date. Together, we look forward to building on this strong foundation, expanding the business and unlocking its full potential in the years ahead."

For Wincore customers, vendors, and employees, this change in ownership is and will remain seamless as all employees and senior management remain with the company and will be supported by Fernweh's operational partners to maximize the Wincore brand and product offerings. Wincore senior management will also be equity owners alongside Fernweh.

Russ Tracewell, Executive VP of Sales and Marketing for Wincore added, "With Wincore entering its 18th year, we are excited to partner with the Fernweh Group and look forward to their expertise and

partnership driving Wincore's vision of growth and providing an excellent environment for all our committed associates that make Wincore what it is today. This allows us to stand by our core values of customer service, quality products, and people-first, which has been our mission since day one, and the way it should be."

About Fernweh Group LLC

Fernweh is an investment firm led by leaders from global institutions with prior experience working with companies in the industrial and industrial technology sectors on strategy, M&A, and operational transformation. Fernweh believes that the mid- and small-cap industrial and industrial technology sectors are the backbone of the economy and the engine for its growth. By combining management capability, operational and strategic transformation support, and flexible capital structure for each company's unique context, history, and needs, Fernweh aims to drive

accelerated, sustainable and profitable growth generating above market value for all stakeholders.

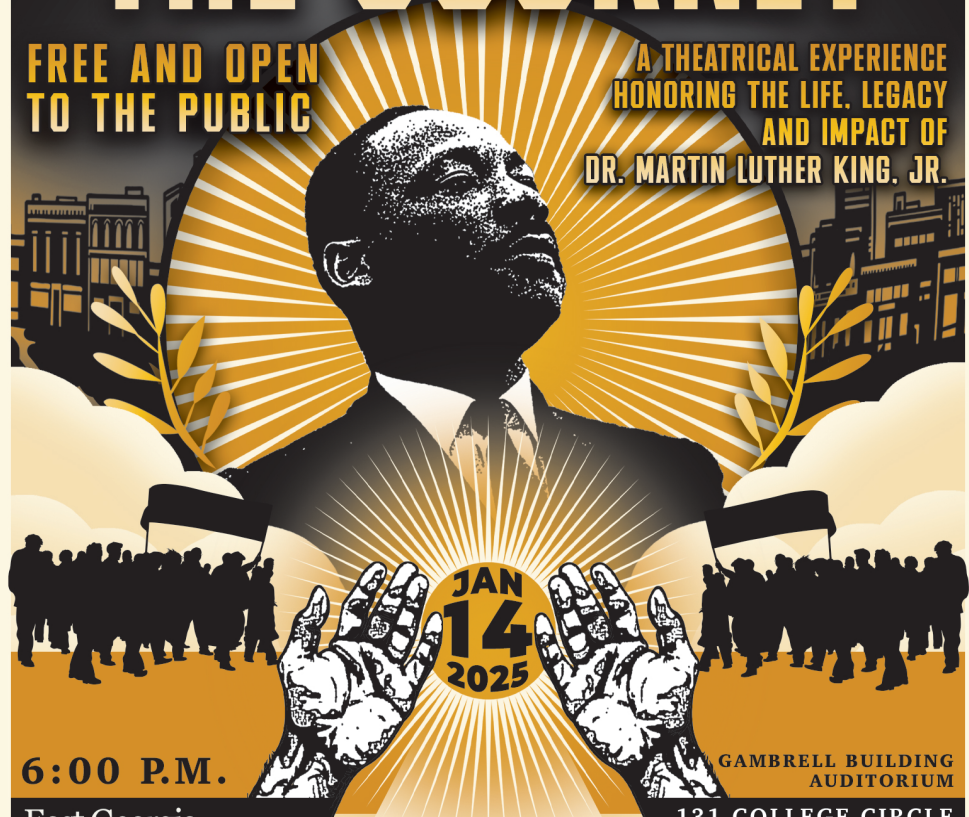
For further information contact Brian Standley, President or Russ Tracewell, EVP at 304-485-7463/866-946-2673 or [bstandley@wincorewindows.com](mailto:bstandley@wincorewindows.com) or [rtracewell@wincorewindows.com](mailto:rtracewell@wincorewindows.com).

EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE PRESENTS

# THE JOURNEY

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6:00 P.M.

East Georgia STATE COLLEGE

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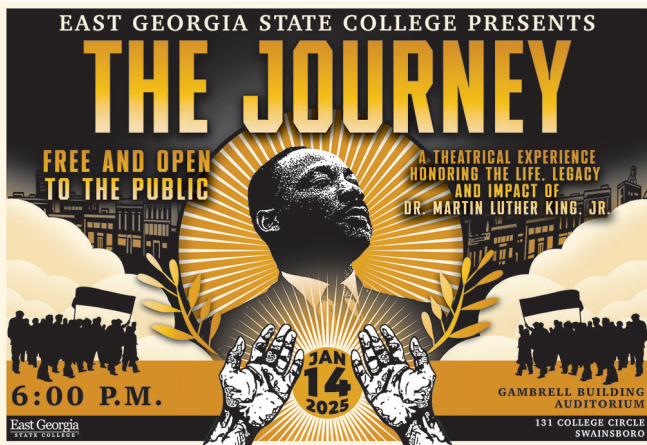
# WE APPRECIATE OUR MILITARY AND ALL YOU DO FOR OUR COUNTRY!

The Forest-Blade

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# East Georgia State College to host MLK Day Celebration

East Georgia State College (EGSC) will honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a special celebration for the community entitled "The Journey" on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Luck Gambrell Building Auditorium. This event will bring together students, faculty, staff, and the local community to reflect on Dr. King's transformative impact on civil rights and social justice.



uals committed to creating a more inclusive society, and this celebration aims to reflect on those strides, while also acknowledging the challenges that persist.

The evening will include powerful performances by both EGSC students and local community members. A

special highlight of the event will be a performance by the MLK Commemoration Choir.

The celebration is free and open to the public. All are invited to join in this important occasion, share in a moment of reflection, and take part in the collective journey towards justice.

## This little bed of mine has stood the test of time

According to Mrs. Carolyn Kight Muns, this little maple bed pictured was ordered from a Sears and Roebuck and Company catalog by her mother in the fall of 1944, during World War II. The bed was purchased for Carolyn, who was born January 7, 1945.

The bed came in the rural mail and according to her mother, her daddy put it together. "I don't know how much it cost but they had to pay for it with a money order or it could have been sent C.O.D.," stated Carolyn.

The wood is in the original condition and only one roller has been repaired during its use. Through the years, little handmade mattresses have been made - as would be expected - for the little newborns to cuddle on. Today, a king-size pillow works perfectly in the bed. "We didn't know about store-bought king-size pillows back in the day," said Carolyn with a laugh.

The thing that makes the bed so convenient is the rollers, making it very easy to be pulled anywhere in the house...right up to the table or beside a big bed...you can see through the slats at eye level. Unlike a bassinet, you do not have to look down into it. The bed is made to only be used a few weeks. As soon as the baby can turn over, it has outgrown it.

"This little maple crib has been around in this family holding newborns for three generations - Carolyn Holder first then June Holder next. During the late 50's and early 60's, it was used by the Holder sisters first cousins, the Sims, Johnsons and Blackstones, (formerly the Bramlitts) in the Atlanta area. In 1970, it was back home in Swainsboro for Carolyn and June's babies. From Swainsboro, it went to Kite for Carolyn's

grandchildren and then to Twin City, where it remains today in the home of Samantha Freeman, with June's grandchildren Coly Parker Freeman and Carley Mae Freeman. Carley Mae, now 13, was the last baby to sleep in the bed. "From best count, at least 20 babies have used the crib - probably more - through the last 80 years. It is now waiting on the next generation of babies to one day sleep peacefully in it," stated Carolyn.



CARLEY MAE IN THE CRIB



CAROLYN (21/2 YEARS OLD) AND JUNE (15 MONTHS OLD)



CARLEY FREEMAN, SAMANTHA FREEMAN, JUNE ROBERSON, KIM JACKSON, REDLEY JACKSON AND CAROLYN KIGHT MUNS WITH THE CRIB

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Interim Chief  
East Georgia State College Police

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ega.edu/give

# East Georgia State College celebrates a successful Fall semester, enrollment increase

East Georgia State College (EGSC) is thrilled to announce an outstanding Fall 2024 semester, highlighted by an increase in enrollment, strong academic performance, and continued commitment to providing high-quality education. The success of the Fall 2024 semester builds upon the college's continued achievements in academics, athletics, and community engagement.

This fall, EGSC welcomed a 3.3% increase in enrollment compared to the previous year, reflecting the college's commitment to student success. EGSC's enrollment for Fall 2024 was 1,826 students among the three campus locations.

"We are incredibly proud to see our college community grow and thrive," said Dr. David Schecter, President of EGSC. "This increase in enrollment is a testament to the hard work of our faculty and staff and the dedication we have to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for all students."

EGSC has worked diligently to expand its program offerings for students. This fall, the college announced the addition of its own Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree. This program is currently accepting applications and will begin in January. Building on the College's most popular associate's degree program, the expansion to the program as a bachelor's degree will provide a pathway for students to complete their business education at EGSC rather than transferring to another institution. The BBA program aligns with the College's mission and vision to extend associate degree options and develop baccalaureate degrees targeted to meet the workforce needs of our community.



STUDENTS ON CAMPUS ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS



EGSC STUDENTS EXCITED ABOUT BEING ON CAMPUS



EGSC STUDENTS IN THE LAB

The Bachelor of Business Administration is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences required to succeed in various business and management roles. Students can select from a range of business courses to meet their needs or interests. Concentrations will be offered in financial

technology, healthcare administration, office administration and technology, film and television post-production, and data science. The program will also provide an opportunity to work with area employers to address their employees' educational needs and create student internship opportunities.

In the Spring 2025 semester, EGSC looks forward to further strengthening its academic programs, deepening community partnerships, and continuing to build a strong foundation for future generations of students.

For more information about EGSC and its programs, visit <https://www.ega.edu/>.

## Voices United to hold MLK Youth breakfast

Voices United will hold their MLK Youth breakfast Saturday, January 18, at 10 a.m. at William Grove Community Center. The theme will be "Where do we go from here". Guest speaker will be Pastor Enricho Lowe and featuring Voices United, Rountree Grove Youth Choir, GSP Pearls, and Anointed Tribe of Judah.

For more information, call Matt Howard at 478.268.2406. School supplies will be given away. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Celebrating one year of service: The Lazarus Project Food Pantry marks milestone

It's been one year since the food pantry portion of The Lazarus Project opened its doors, and the impact has been nothing short of remarkable. With the support of volunteers, donors, and community partners, we have been able to make a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of families in our community.

Since its opening, the food pantry has served an incredible **15,896 people** and **4,253 families**. Among those served, **2,486 individuals** were over the age of 60, and **6,238 were under the age of 18**. Each of these individuals and families has received not just food and supplies, but also the hope and love that define The Lazarus Project.

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the generosity and compassion shown by our community. The success of the pantry wouldn't be possible without the countless volunteers who have given their time, the businesses and organizations who have supported our mission, and the donors who have made financial contributions to help us meet the growing needs of those affected by hardship.

The work of The Lazarus Project is a



**LAZARUS PROJECT** living testament to the power of community. Together, we have shown the love of Jesus by providing for those who need it most, especially in times of crisis. We have built a network of support that not only meets immediate needs but also strengthens our community as a whole.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we look forward to continuing this journey of service and love. Our mission is ongoing, and there is still much work to be done. We invite everyone to continue to be part of this incredible effort—whether by volunteering, donating, or simply spreading the word about the work we do.

Thank you to every person who has been part of The Lazarus Project family this past year. Your support has made a lasting impact. Let's continue to spread hope and make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Together, we can build a stronger, more compassionate community for all.

## Georgia Foundation for Agriculture offers \$65,000 in scholarships

Application Deadline - March 1

**GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE**

The Georgia Foundation for Agriculture (GFA) is committed to investing in students pursuing careers in agriculture or a related field. For 2025, GFA is offering scholarships for graduating high school seniors, rising college juniors and seniors, technical college students and UGA College of Veterinary Medicine students specializing in large/food animals.

Visit [www.GaFoundationAg.org/scholarships](http://www.GaFoundationAg.org/scholarships) for a list of eligible majors/schools, application instructions and to apply. Applications must be submitted online only by March 1. Transcripts and letters of recommendation must be uploaded into the application.

**The four scholarship categories the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture is offering are:**

<p><b>1 Scholarship for Agriculture</b> Ten scholarships of \$3,000 are available. The top 2 ranking applicants will be eligible for an additional \$1,500 bonus.</p> <p><b>Applicants must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Be a Georgia resident</li> <li>•Be a graduating high school senior</li> <li>•During the 2025-26 academic year, enroll in a unit of The University System of Georgia, Berry College, Emmanuel College or any accredited college/university in Georgia with an ag program</li> <li>•Pursue an undergraduate degree in agricultural &amp; environmental sciences, family &amp; consumer sciences or a related ag field.</li> <li>•Have a minimum 3.0 GPA</li> <li>•Be engaged in high school leadership activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>3 Rising College Jr./Sr. Scholarship for Agriculture</b> Eight scholarships of \$2,000 are available.</p> <p><b>Applicants must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Be a Georgia resident majoring in agricultural &amp; environmental sciences, family &amp; consumer sciences or a related ag field</li> <li>•Be a sophomore or junior with at least two semesters remaining to receive undergraduate degree at a unit of The University System of Georgia, Berry College, Emmanuel College or any accredited college/university in Georgia with an ag program</li> <li>•Be engaged in college leadership activities</li> <li>•Have a minimum 3.0 GPA</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Technical College Scholarship for Agriculture</b> Four scholarships of \$1,500 are available.</p> <p><b>Applicants must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Be a Georgia resident</li> <li>•Be enrolled in a Georgia accredited technical college during the 2025-26 academic year</li> <li>•Major in an area of study related to agriculture</li> </ul> <p>Examples of eligible majors at can be viewed on our website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Have a minimum 2.8 GPA</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 UGA College of Veterinary Medicine</b> Two scholarships of \$5,000 are available.</p> <p><b>Applicants must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Be a Georgia resident</li> <li>•Be a current University of Georgia veterinary medicine student specializing in large animal/food animal practice</li> <li>•Have a minimum 3.0 GPA</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions about the scholarships should be directed to <a href="mailto:info@gafoundationag.org">info@gafoundationag.org</a> or 478-405-3461.</b></p>

[www.gafoundationag.org/scholarships](http://www.gafoundationag.org/scholarships)

## WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US

# MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

## SECOND TUESDAY-MONTHLY TIME: 10:30AM TO 11:30AM

### Franklin Memorial Library 331 W. Main St. Swainsboro, GA

We are hosting a monthly grief support group which will meet on the second Tuesday of each month through 2024. Anyone is welcome to join. Chaplain Gregory Ely with PruittHealth Hospice along with Pastor Mark Hardin of Chapman Funeral Home will be the group facilitators. Call 478-237-7798 or 478-237-3800 for more information.

Sponsored by: Chapman Funeral Home, Durden Hudson Funeral Directors and PruittHealth Hospice and Palliative Care.

# Editorials Columns

## A New Year, a new opportunity

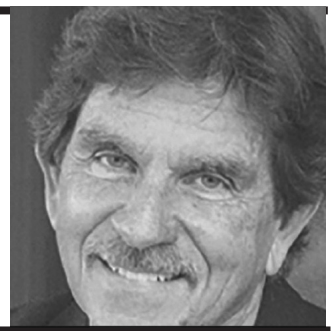
Welcome to 2025. This first month of the year gets its name from a mythical Roman god named Janus. A study in contrast, Janus is described in Greek literature as a mix of the future and the lingering past and has appropriately been depicted in history with two faces, one looking forward and the other looking back. January is a month of contrasts, the old and new. In another archaic work of literature from much later, the theme of contrast gives rise to another old saying from the world of the ancient mariner. You may still occasionally hear it today. The often quoted line of moral direction is

actually meteorological-ly accurate; "red sky at night, sailors delight; red sky at morning, sailors take warning". Now it might be starting to feel like eighth grade English class, and I am not abandoning my New Year's resolution to be more positive and hopeful, but so far this year the dawning sky of 2025 seems to be tinged with an expanding red glow and a slightly ominous tone. We are not even at the middle point of January, and the unsettled state of the world unfortunately seems to be increasing in its "unsettledness". Whether it's the anguish and sorrow brought about by the senseless acts in New

Orleans in recent days, or the conflicts and threatening situations that are continuing to bubble in trouble spots around the world, there is a spreading evil at work that seems to have all the characteristics of a "warning". Seldom have we seen more territorial, zonal and regional upheavals and armed clashes going on simultaneously on this planet. I'm not a "one world" advocate, but it is hard to argue the proposition that ripples emanating from one side of the globe don't affect life on the other side. We can debate the causes and the cures of the challenges facing us at home and abroad, but more impor-

tantly, we should realize that this country is now at a unique crossroads. For a small window of time, we have the opportunity to pull forward from four years of a muddled, disorganized morass of national missteps, stumbles and deception and establish a pragmatic, business-like approach to government that will counter the failed liberal policies, the diminished respect for laws and simple justice, the far-left progressive ideas, and the overreaching regulatory culture that has weakened the power and influence of our country and its economy and global standing. Even though it is barely recognizable

## Charles Schwabe



now compared to former years, America is still first and foremost in terms of the freedoms and way of life that inspire people around this world. The path ahead for citizens of this country who believe we can do better, regardless of party affiliation, requires a personal commitment to honestly examine, engage and participate in the direction and future of the land you call home. You may not always agree on the

views or the conversation, but you can always be present and always be a part. It is not exaggeration to say that your future, the future of your family and the collective future of this country can only reach its true potential with an America united in purpose. January, 2025 can be a restructuring of what we knew as the best of America and what we know is possible once again in the America of tomorrow.

## Wedding bells to baby rattles

After the excitement and flurry of activity of the marriage ceremony was over, we settled down in our own little garage apartment. We had a tiny kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom. We had new furniture we bought and paid for by the week. We had a borrowed car.

Around October, it became pretty obvious I was pregnant. I was sick as a dog and wanted to throw up my toenails. A visit to Dr. Brown verified my suspicion and we proudly announced to everybody that would listen we were going to become a family.

Since we had to climb about 18 steep stairs, we decided it wasn't very safe and found a cute little bungalow off N. Main Street and moved in by

Thanksgiving. It had the same amount of space but was a walk in from outside, and we felt like we had our own little home.

Our social life was visiting with our friends, Martha Jane and Al, Jimmy and Shirley, and Buck and Bunny and playing bridge at each other's homes. None of us had much money but we had a lot of laughs and enjoyed sharing stories. Those who did have children would bring them along and make pallets for them at their bedtime in one room and we would gather in another for a game of cards.

I wasn't much of a cook then, but I was willing to tackle anything. Sollie, the great white hunter that he was, brought home a couple of squirrels and wanted me to fry them

up for supper with some gravy. I was pretty stupid obviously, but if he wanted squirrels, he would get them. He prepared them, and I floured and fried those little things in a pan of hot grease, making gravy just like my Daddy had taught me - flour and water. It looked pretty good. I'm not even going to try to explain what this stuff tasted like but being pregnant and nauseous, I'm not quite sure how I made it through the process.

Our heat, a little propane gas heater, was cozy and warm. Backing up to it, more than once, I scorched my nylon slip. During the day, I would get in our borrowed car and drive over to my Momma's house and sit in the beauty shop while she worked, thereby get-

ting all the latest local news and killing time waiting for Sollie to get off work.

Around Christmas, or maybe a little later, my Daddy asked Sollie if he thought he would like to work at the shipyard in Savannah where he had worked during the war. Daddy had a cousin who worked there, and Dad said he was sure he could get Sollie a job there if he wanted to. So, here we go off to Savannah leaving our little bungalow.

Working in the shipyard was a downright dirty job! All I could see was the whites of Sollie's eyes when he got home, but he was proud of his job and was making pretty decent money for a couple of newly married young'uns like us. We found an apartment in Garden City which had two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and bath. Ours was on the second floor and the stairs were not too bad in the front. The back was a different story. Straight down to the clothesline. We didn't have a washing machine or dryer so every day I would put Sollie's dirty clothes in the bathtub with detergent, let them soak, wash them, wring them out and put the pants on stretchers. Then, I hauled them down those wrought iron stairs to the clothesline to hang to dry. If the wind was blowing the wrong way, I would be in trouble. Anyway, anyone who has lived in that area in or near Savannah knows all about the soot from the Union Bag's smokestacks, not to mention the odor. Many is the time that I'd bring in those clothes which had dried, but during the process accumulated enough black soot so that sometimes I'd have to wash all over again. But when you're young, in love, and stupid, things like that don't matter and you only know happiness and joy that you're going to have a baby and be a family living in a vine covered cottage very soon. Yeah, right.

My days were spent washing by hand the

## La'Rose Tapley



sweet little diaper shirts, long gowns, and bibs that had been passed to me that Momma had made for baby Charly. Then I'd iron them, fold them, sprinkle with baby powder and place in the chest of drawers in anticipation of the birth of my baby. We did have a small black and white television, and I watched soap operas while I ironed. We had no air conditioning, but a big box fan. The floors were black asphalt tile, and I mopped and waxed them to shiny perfection. We had no friends locally. I was lonely, but happy.

Since I had already started seeing Dr. Brown, I continued to see him after our move. Daddy helped us find a car and we would drive back to Swainsboro for my doctor visits and Sollie's National Guard duties. When it was near my due date, I went to Momma's and Daddy's to stay until the birth of the baby. Momma had made the most precious bassinet, decorating it with white tulle, satin, and little tiny ribbons of pink and blue. It looked like a mini casket! I was in business! Bottles, nipples, rings, caps, pot for boiling were on hand. All I needed was to get the show on the road and have that baby. And he was going to look *exactly* like my sweet brother, Charly, who was about 4 years old at the time although I had no idea of the gender. I waited and I waited. Two weeks, three weeks, and no baby.

It was the middle of June and watermelons were ripe, and I love watermelon! Daddy brought home a huge watermelon one day, sliced open that thing and I ate watermelon like I'd never had anything to eat in my life. About dark, I began to have the stomach ache from hell. I thought to myself, now you've done it. I huffed and puffed and waddled around trying to get comfortable. Then,

we all decided maybe it wasn't the watermelon after all. Duh. Maybe I was actually in labor. A call was made to Sollie who was in Hinesville at summer National Guard Camp. He jumps in our little red Ford and races to Swainsboro. Somehow after he gets to Swainsboro, the pains just stopped. I mean, stopped! What the heck? Now what? Sollie had driven 90 miles home at 100 mph for nothing. He went on back to Hinesville.

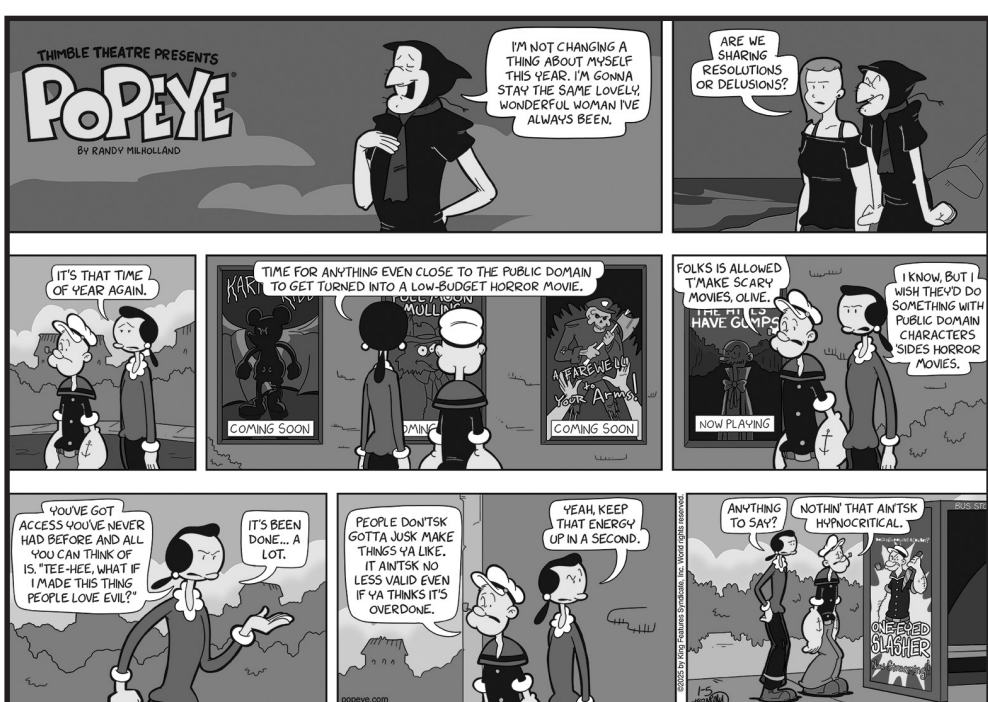
Sollie probably had not gotten out of town good before those pains came back with a vengeance. I'm talking serious, stick stack, no take back, pains that left me knowing there was no doubt this was it. By the time Sollie drives up to his barracks in the wee hours of the morning, they tell him I've gone to the hospital, and he needs to come back. OMG. Now, he's got to turn around and drive the 90 miles back in time to get there for the delivery. God was surely with him because I'm sure the needle circled the dial, and he drove like a mad man to get back to Swainsboro to see his baby be born!

As it turned out, it was well after daylight, but sure enough, the beautiful baby we were looking for came into this world sporting a whole head of hair, hairy legs and arms, beautiful blue eyes, and all 8lbs 8 oz. of him looked nothing at all like Charly, but he was the most beautiful baby we had ever seen.

As providence would have it, after all those times I had driven back to Swainsboro to have Dr. Brown deliver the baby, he had left for a fishing trip that week and Dr. Moye, a local doctor, brought my beautiful baby boy into this world. Wouldn't you know it?

Comments can be made to LaRose at [Eibbob72@gmail.com](mailto:Eibbob72@gmail.com).

## 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.

## New Commissioner, Tax...

(From front page)  
 missioner. Having worked with this office for 11 years altogether now, I've seen firsthand the dedication it takes to serve this community—at the tag office especially. I left the tax commissioner's office for just a short while, but I ultimately came back because I have a passion for helping people. Fortunately, I'm inheriting a well-oiled machine, thanks to Mrs. Sandra, and I'm committed to maintaining the excellence the taxpayers and citizens of Emanuel County expect and deserve."

Moran was born and raised in Emanuel County as well, and she graduated from ECI in 2006. She later attended Georgia Southern University, where she earned a degree in public relations in 2018.

Jessie began her career with the Emanuel County Tax Commissioner's Office in 2013 as a clerk, a role she held for five years until 2018.

After a brief internship with Georgia Southern University's Office of Strategic Communications and Marketing in mid-2018, she worked as a digital media specialist at Metter Ford from March 2019 to March 2020.

Jessie then returned to the Emanuel County Tax Commissioner's Office in 2020 as a clerk. Her dedication and expertise led to her promotion to deputy tax commissioner in June 2023.

In May 2024, Jessie ran unopposed in the primary election for the post of tax commissioner and officially took office in January 2025, bringing with her a strong commitment to work and community.

She is the daughter of Windy and Tonia Underwood.

Outside of her professional role, Jessie enjoys being a loving wife to Michael Moran and a devoted mom to their daughter, Havilah. When she's not working, she loves spending time at home, frequently doing renovation projects and creating a warm, welcoming environment for her family.

### Chase Sherrod joins Emanuel County as Probate Judge

Chase Sherrod is Emanuel County's new probate judge, stepping into a role that will soon expand with the anticipated consolidation of the probate and magistrate courts. The (Emanuel County Board of Commissioners initiated this process in 2024 and is now awaiting state recognition to finalize the change.) Once com-

pleted, Sherrod will also assume the responsibilities of magistrate judge, leading the newly combined court system.

Chase was sworn in on December 31 alongside Jessie by Judge Reeves. Reflecting on his current role and the coming consolidation, he emphasized the impact probate work has on the community. "Probate work is about life's big moments: marriages, estates, births, and more. It's a privilege to guide our community through these milestones, and I look forward to taking on the added responsibilities of a heading the magistrate court when the time comes," Chase said.

Chase's family—parents District 4 Commissioner Jim Sherrod and Bobbie Sherrod; brother Zach Sherrod and his wife Heather Sherrod; sister Shea Sherrod and her son Tate Wilkes; grandmother Helen Sherrod; and other loved ones including grandmother Judy Chapman; aunt Mandy Carter; cousin Heather Sapp; and close friends Willie and Annette Worthen—joined him for the occasion.

Chase expressed his thanks for their attendance and acknowledged their role in shaping who he is and supporting him in his personal, professional, and political endeavors as of late.

He also thanked various mentors who shaped his journey, including Judge Reeves and retiring Judge Don Wilkes, who ceremoniously passed the gavel to him after his oath. "I've been fortunate to work alongside incredible leaders, Judge Reeves and Judge Wilkes being two of them. Judge Reeves gave me a job when I was an intern, and Judge Wilkes took me under his wing at the probate court a few months ago so I could come in and get hands-on experience and learn the ropes before I took office. With their guidance and the support of this community, I'm ready to serve. I came back home after law school because I wanted to make a difference. That starts today. Today is about you—the people of this community. I'm proud to be here, and if I can ever help you and your family, I hope you'll call on me to do it."

Sherrod was born and raised in Emanuel County, where his parents, Jim and Bobbie Sherrod, instilled in him a strong sense of duty to his community and a solid work ethic. Growing up, Chase helped out at his family's small deer processing

business, which further shaped his commitment to service. He has two brothers and three sisters. After graduating from ECI in 2012, Chase attended East Georgia State College for two years before transferring to Armstrong Atlantic State University (now Georgia Southern University). He graduated magna cum laude in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Despite initially considering a career in law enforcement, Chase ultimately chose to pursue law, earning his J.D. from Georgia State University's School of Law in 2020, where he also graduated magna cum laude and in the top 15 percent of his class. Additionally, he earned a Master of Public Administration from Georgia State's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies that same year. During his academic career, Chase earned numerous accolades, including two CALI Excellence for the Future awards, the Catherine Henson Scholarship, the National Engaged Leader Award, and membership in the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He also contributed to academic research and publication, serving as a research assistant for Dr. Kimberly Martin at Armstrong Atlantic State and Professor Julian Jurgensmeyer at Georgia State. His legal training included an internship with the Eight Judicial Administrative District of Georgia as well as an internship with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) for research and policy. Chase is a published scholastic author in International Social Science Review and Academic GMGC, and he has specialized training certificates in Campaign Management and Youth Leadership from The Leadership Institute. In 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Chase graduated from law school and returned to Emanuel County, where he began his legal career as an assistant district attorney in the Middle Judicial Circuit, prosecuting cases in Emanuel County and beyond. After nearly three years with the DA's office, he transitioned to the East-Middle Region Public Defender's Office, working with Jess Clifton to handle major cases across a 20-county region stretching from Washington County to Charlton County near the Georgia-Florida line. This dual experience in prosecution and defense has provided him with a unique perspective on

the criminal justice system. Chase has also contributed to the Emanuel County community by offering pro bono services to the probate court on several occasions. Inspired by his experiences and commitment to public service, he decided to run for probate judge a few years ago. In May 2024, he qualified and ran unopposed in the election. He took office in January 2025. Later this year, the probate court will merge with the magistrate court, making Chase the judge of both courts.

### Kawame Coleman continues service as District 1 Commissioner

Kawame Coleman is beginning a full four-year term representing District 1 after being re-elected in November 2024. Having first stepped into the role in April 2024 to complete the late Commissioner Dese Davis' term, Kawame's experience over the past eight months has prepared him for the challenges ahead.

Kawame's December 23 ceremony, shared with Commissioner Moore, marked a proud moment for his family. His wife Shayla and his cousin Jaime Worthen were present for the event.

"Every day since I first took office last year has been a learning experience. I've grown to understand the ins and outs of county government and work hard every day to honor the legacy of Commissioner Davis. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue serving and look forward to the progress I and my fellow commissioners, along with all the other officials in Emanuel County, can achieve together."

Kawame Coleman's political aspirations began at the ballot box in 2020—but not in the way you might expect.

Rather than a specific policy or candidate, it was seeing longtime incumbent Dese Davis's name on the ticket that got his wheels turning. Mr. Davis had been a towering figure in the community for decades as an educator, church leader, and 25-year commissioner.

Kawame recalls, "In that moment, as I hit that button to vote for Coach Davis, I thought about how big a role he's played in our community, and I wondered who would fill his shoes one day."

That reflection marked the start of Kawame's journey into public service. He began attending county meetings, observing how decisions were made, and seeking guidance from Mr. Davis, who Kawame says

later gave his blessing for Kawame to run for the District 1 seat.

And so, Kawame made his first and only political bid to date when he appeared on the county commissioner ballot in March 2024. That race went to a runoff, which he won the following month. He was sworn in on April 15 and, while enthusiastic, he approached his new role with thoughtful observation. In the first few meetings, Kawame often held back, preferring to watch his fellow commissioners and follow their lead. Now, he's more confident and more active.

Kawame credits much of his growth as a commissioner to the classes he's taken through the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). So far, he has completed 48 of the required 66 hours of training—just six months into the job. He says these courses have deepened his understanding of county governance, particularly in areas that align with his priorities: economic development, job creation, and easing the tax burden on residents.

One of his proudest moments came with the 5-0 vote to roll back the millage rate, reducing property tax burdens.

"Lowering taxes was one of my main goals. With the millage rate cut, homeowners will see smaller tax bills. It's a win for everyone."

Looking ahead, Kawame remains committed to fostering growth and attracting industries to Emanuel County.

"We have so much potential for growth here," he said. "I want to help shape that in a way that benefits everyone."

Part of that effort includes Kawame's service on the Public Facilities Authority (PFA), a board tasked with overseeing the development of public infrastructure that supports this very vision. From parks to government buildings, the PFA plays a crucial role in ensuring that essential projects are well-funded and properly executed to meet the needs of the growing community.

"The work of the PFA is about making sure our infrastructure keeps up with the growth we're aiming for," Kawame said. "It's about ensuring Emanuel County has the facilities and resources to support our future."

For Kawame, this commitment to Emanuel County isn't just about his role as commissioner—it's personal. Born and raised here, he has deep ties to the commu-

nity and a genuine love for the place he's always called home.

"It feels good at the end of the day to be on this board and pouring back into the place and the people who raised me."

A 1995 graduate of Swainsboro High School, Kawame excelled in track and basketball. Over the years, he's continued to give back as a coach at the rec department and as a mentor for Community Action for Youth. He and his wife, Shayla, are raising their six children in Emanuel County, keeping family, hard work, and service at the heart of their lives.

Fun Fact: Kawame is a certified high school basketball referee. One of his favorite memories is officiating a Swainsboro game at the last minute when the game was nearly canceled due to an official shortage. His alma mater won (without any help from him, of course).

### Kristin Hall, Jeffrey Brewer, and Tripp Fitzner reaffirm their commitment to Emanuel County

Clerk of Court Kristin Hall and Sheriff Jeffrey Brewer continue their longstanding service to Emanuel County after being re-elected unopposed. Both leaders, known for their excellence and dedication, quietly reaffirmed their oaths in a shared private ceremony.

Both of them bring a wealth of experience, stability, and public confidence and trust to their roles, and their leadership underscores the county's focus on continuity and progress, ensuring reliable and effective service for years to come.

District Attorney Tripp Fitzner III also took his oath with Kristin and Jeff. As DA, Tripp represents Emanuel and four other counties in the Middle Judicial Circuit. Like the court clerk and the sheriff, he, too, returned to office without opposition and thus will spend another four years pursuing justice, advocating for victims, and upholding the law across the circuit.

Looking Forward  
 With their oaths complete, Emanuel County's newly elected and re-elected officials have hit the ground running. Each of them have completed mandatory training through their respective governing bodies and is eager to serve.

You can check out the scenes from the program in the event's photo gallery on the Emanuel County Commissioners Website.

## New Police Chief...

(From front page)  
 lic service from the very start. Beginning in 1980, Riner's training and work in the field began with duties as a paramedic and EMT. In 1988, he transitioned into law enforcement with training at the Athens Police Academy and service with various law enforcement agencies in the area. An opportunity occurred later in Emanuel County that brought Riner back home to become the first part-time, and later full-time,

narcotics detective with the Swainsboro Police Department. Riner's service went on to include leading major Investigations with the Emanuel County Sheriff's Office for an extended period before taking up his most recent position in Investigations with the Swainsboro Police Department. *The Forest-Blade's* first question for the new Chief centered on his long years' service and the changes that have taken place during that time. "I would say the biggest change is not

in crime itself, but in the process and administration of catching and convicting the law breaker. Just like everything else, the current state of the digital world has done away with the old ways of doing things. Criminal activity is still pretty basic, but cyber-crime and other illegal Internet activities and paperless fraud give us new challenges every day. We also continue to stay busy with the problem of illegal drugs just like every other community everywhere. That

has not slowed down, and the major problems continue to be with meth and now a return of heroin use and distribution. Another continuing issue we have is gang activity which seems to be more and more of a threat and more violent. This is where the public could really step up and help us in preventing the younger folks from becoming involved in criminal activity by just talking to us." When asked about the operations of the local Police Department, Chief Riner stressed his desire

to focus on community policing. "Through grants, special assistance from state and federal agencies and cooperation with surrounding departments, we have the capability to provide the needed services for this community. We have 18 members on staff, with one in training, but the best thing we could have working in our favor is a real partnership with the public to give them the assurance that they can talk to us in confidence when there is a problem. That

is the best way to keep this community safe and provide the services that the public expects. It's a big job, and the only way we can do it is with the help and support of the public, that's who we work for." The long-time native of Swainsboro is convinced that this city has a police department that is up to the task of serving and protecting, and it appears that the new Chief has the qualifications and the determination to make sure that happens.

## Vernon Clyde "Bunny" Hudson, 81

Vernon Clyde Hudson, affectionately known as Bunny Hudson, age 81, was called to rest in the grace of the Lord on Sunday, January 5, 2025. Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, January 8, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Shady Baptist Church with Reverend Rusty Moore and Reverend Jim Harrell officiating. Mr. Bunny will lie in state one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow in the Mt. Shady Baptist Church Cemetery. Family received friends Tuesday evening, January 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Mt. Shady Baptist Church

Pallbearers will be Ridge Allen, Mike Beasley, Jeremy Gamiza, Eric Hammock, Gary Hodges, Corey Chalker, Donnie Garrett and Lee Stewart.

Bunny was born on September 28, 1943, to the late Oliver and Ola Fomula Hudson. He dedicated his life to ministry and service to others. Bunny's ministry journey began early in his life, starting at Mt. Shady Baptist Church where he served as a Sunday school teacher, music director, and deacon. He later became the pastor of Liberty Grove Baptist Church in Wrightsville from 1999 to 2001. Throughout his ministry, he officiated his first wedding in 1999 and went on to officiate over 70 weddings and 124 funerals.

In 2002, Bunny and a group of passionate individuals founded Emanuel Christian Ministries, holding their first services at Johnson's Funeral Home before relocating to their permanent building on Lambs Bridge Road in 2007. He was an integral part of the church's growth, witnessing its construction with great pride, as he always believed in the importance of building a place where all people could come together, regardless of denomination. His vision for the church was one of inclusivity, where everyone was welcomed with open arms.

Above all, Bunny's most impactful sermon was one of love. He often reminded those around him that "we are all sinners saved by grace" and emphasized that through God's love and grace, anyone could be transformed, no matter their past. Love was the core of his ministry.

Music played a significant role in Bunny's life. He traveled with the Gospel Travelers for ten years, singing at countless weddings and funerals with deep devotion and love. His heartfelt performances were a gift to many, always offering comfort and joy through song.

In addition to his ministry, Bunny had



HUDSON

a long and successful career in the industrial manufacturing sector, beginning in the shipping department at Creston's, then advancing to assistant plant manager at Swainsboro Sportswear. He worked as a traveling salesman with Adler, Durkopp Adler, and Atlanta Attachment, marking the conclusion of his career in the industry. After retiring from the road, Bunny enjoyed working with the Emanuel County School System as a special education bus driver and para-professional, where he found joy in touching the lives of students, who in turn, loved him dearly. Bunny was also a dedicated Master Mason and a member of Swainsboro Masonic Lodge 244, where he remained active until 2013. He proudly served as Worshipful Master in 1979. Mr. Hudson is preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Oliver Hudson Jr., Brent Hudson, Wayne Hudson, Drone Hudson Sr., Opal Jones and Johnnie Mae Riner.

Mr. Hudson is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Romona Hammock Hudson; daughters, Rhonda Oglesby (Jamey) and Brandi Hudson (William Burke); grandchildren, Drake Oglesby (Liz Noles), Dilan Oglesby (Crystal), Madison McNeal (Chase Thompson), Brandon Johnson (Carley), William Burke Jr. (Emily), Gena Johnson (Chesley), Erin Chalker (Corey) and Lani Garrett; great-grandchildren, Noles Cillian Oglesby, Eeve McNeal, Noah McNeal, Haven Oglesby, Brennen Johnson, Brody Johnson, Jensen Johnson, Reid Chalker, Jones Chalker, and Brady Burke; sister, Margaret Moss; cherished children of the heart, Jessie Garrett (Donnie), Mike Beasley (Debra) and children; special family friend, Topekia Carswell; and a host of much-loved nieces, nephews and extended family. Bunny's legacy of love, faith and service will forever be cherished by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to: The Gideons International, P.O. Box 365, Swainsboro, GA 30401.

Durden-Hudson Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

## Michael Strobridge, 67

Chief Michael Strobridge, age 67, of Swainsboro, passed away Saturday, January 4, 2025, at WellStar Medical College of Georgia. Funeral services will be Saturday, January 11, at 11 a.m. in the Swainsboro City Auditorium with Reverend Melvin Adams officiating. Interment will follow at the Swainsboro City Cemetery with full firefighter's honors. Family will receive friends Friday, January 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be the Swainsboro Fire Department and Dublin Fire Department Honor Guard. Honorary pallbearers will be Emanuel County Rural Fire, Swainsboro Police Department and Emanuel County Public Safety.

Mike was born December 3, 1957, in Swainsboro, to the late Napoleon Strobridge and Daisy Love Jones Strobridge. He was a Swainsboro High School graduate. Mike was not your typical teenager. At the age of 14, he spent countless hours at the fire department which was located at the back of the old City Hall on the Boneyard. Mike later attended Gupton Jones Mortuary school in Atlanta. After graduation, he returned home where he picked up his passion for serving the community. Mike became the first African American firefighter in Emanuel County and one of the first EMTs. He would leave one public service job and go to the next for many years. Mike would always say "Paramedics



STROBRIDGE

save lives and EMTs save Paramedics."

In 2003, Mike became "Chief Strobridge". He always had a plan to make things better, and was able to reduce insurance rates for homeowners, get better equipment and better training for all the staff and volunteers. Chief Strobridge gave 53 years of public service to the community and will be deeply missed. Mr. Strobridge is preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his fiancé, Sandra Davis of Albany; sons, Derrick Gilmore of Washington, DC, Terrance Andrews of Statesboro, Christopher Jones and Shannon Wadley, both of Swainsboro; sisters, Dorothy Jenkins of Albany and Patricia Williams of Savannah; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Family has requested in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, 2575 Chantilly Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30324 or the Pin Hi Golf Association, PO Box 1652, Swainsboro, Ga 30401.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

## Corey Dwayne Johnson, 43

Corey Dwayne Johnson, age 43, transitioned to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 14, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, December 28, at 11 a.m. at St. Philip Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Jonathan Hampton officiating.

Corey was born May 5, 1981, in Dublin, to Gloria Faye Hampton and Wayne Johnson. He was raised in Swainsboro by his grandparents, Henry and Rosa Hampton. Corey graduated Swainsboro High School in 1998 and enlisted in the US Air Force. Prior to Corey's declining health, his most recent fulltime job was with NASCAR Daytona Speedway. He loved children, listening to music, spectator sports, shopping for and wearing fashion clothing and keeping his family and friends up to date with current events and happenings. Mr. Johnson is preceded in death by his grandparents, James



JOHNSON

Henry Hampton, Rosa M. Hampton and Sarah Royal Johnson.

Mr. Johnson leaves to cherish his memories with his parents; fiancé, Lakesha Jones of Palatka, FL; sons, Damian Leshon Johnson of Virginia Beach, VA and Jamie Allen of Palatka, FL; daughters, Destiny Rayshawn Johnson of Virginia Beach, VA, Jakeah Allen of Palatka, FL and Mekenzie Boston of Palm Bay, FL; and a host of other relative and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Sutton Virgil Wells, Jr., 83

Mr. Sutton Virgil Wells, Jr., 83, of Swainsboro, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2024, at Emanuel County Nursing Home. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 11 a.m. at The First Methodist Church with Reverend David Unkles officiating, and Reverend Hugh Baxter, Reverend Mark Hardin, committal being performed by Reverend David Unkles. Family received friends from 9:30 to 11 a.m. prior to service. A private interment was held at Hawhammock Baptist Church Cemetery.

Honorary escorts were the 1959 graduating class of Swainsboro High School, LeRoy Williams Sunday School Class Past and Present members and Past and Present Chancel Choir members.

Virgil was born April 25, 1941, to the late Sutton Wells and Lucille Kemp Wells. He was a lifelong resident of Swainsboro. Virgil graduated from Swainsboro High School Class of 1959. He was a member of the United States Air Force from 1959 to 1963 and was a member of the Swainsboro Jaycees. Mr. Wells was a member of the First Methodist Church of Swainsboro Chancel Choir before having to retire in 2016 due to health issues. He was a member of the LeRoy Williams Sunday School Class. Mr. Wells retired from the City of Swainsboro as the City Administrator with over 23 years of service from 1975 to 1998. He enjoyed maintaining his yard until his health



WELLS

failed him. Virgil enjoyed working on special projects in the workshop. His greatest joy was his grandchildren, and he loved watching them play sports. Virgil's great love for music led him to the many choirs among Swainsboro Churches for special musicals. Mr. Wells is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Bennie Wells; and granddaughter, Anna Leigh Wells.

Mr. Wells is survived by his wife of 35 year, Judy Wells; children, Michael Wells (Rachel) of Jekyll Island, Cassie McIntyre of Swainsboro and Bishop McIntyre (Torrey) of Dublin; grandchildren, Emma Wells (Brannen), Lainey Antonow (Paul), Ethan Wells, Sydney Rigdon, Katlyn McIntyre (Mason) and Reese McIntyre; sister, Patricia Thomas (Al) of Swainsboro; nieces, great-nephews, cousins and extended family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: The First Methodist Church of Swainsboro Organ Fund, 319 W. Main Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.

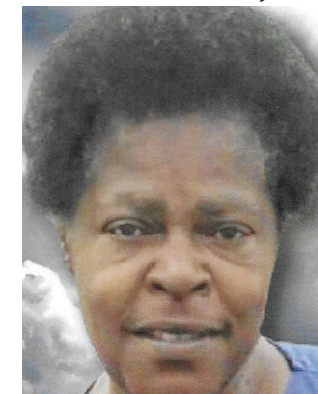
Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

## Barbara Ann Pierce Smith, 63

Barbara Ann Pierce Smith, age 63, gained her angel wings on Saturday, December 14, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held Sunday, December 29, at 11 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church with Elder D.G. Mosley presiding. Interment followed in Mt. Carmel Church Cemetery.

Barbara Ann was born November 2, 1961, in Millen, to the late Dorothy Pierce and Devogue Jones. She attended school in Twin City. Barbara Ann worked at Waycross Heath and Rehab as a cook. Ms. Smith is preceded in death by her parents.

Ms. Pierce leaves behind wonderful memories with her daughter, Latoya Pierce of Waycross; sons, Jeffery



SMITH

Clark and Markell Burke, both of Waycross; nine grandchildren, Jameria of Statesboro, Markell, Jr., Jakiia, Makayla, Kelton, Valencia, Kavius, Tacori and Jeffery, Jr., all of Waycross; brother, Charlie Pierce of Twin City; sisters, Annette Jones and Regina Jones, both of Michigan.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



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**NO ROOT NO FRUIT**

## George A. Meeks, 85

Mr. George A. Meeks, 85, of Kite, passed away Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at Emanuel Medical Center. Funeral service was held Saturday, January 4, at 3 p.m. in the chapel of Chapman Funeral Home with Reverend Tim Hicks officiating assisted by Mr. Johnny Claxton and Reverend Don Carroll. Interment followed at Bethel Church Cemetery with Committal by Reverend Lamar Kersey. Family received friends Saturday, January 4, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Robert Webb, Jr., Tim Rountree, Rev. Jeffrey Meeks, Kelmer Durden, Jr., Aaron Williford, Oscar Cruz-Martinez and Rev. Randy Webb.

George was born October 6, 1939, in Covena, to the late James Sidney Meeks and Mollie Lurene Flanders. He began his career in the 1950's at the New York Rubber Company and Diamond Brothers Furniture. Mr. George was a lifelong farmer with cattle and crops. He loved putting in a hard day's work. George was the owner of Meeks Farm & Nursery near Kite and was named Emanuel County Farm Family of the Year in 2015. He also loved going to the mountains and collecting pocketknives. George was a member of the Kite Church of God. Mr. Meeks is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Weldon Meeks, James Meeks, Clifford Meeks and Harvey



**MEEKS**

Meeks; sister, Willie T. Durden; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Reverend T.J. and Thelma Webb.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Bobbie Webb Meeks of Kite; sons, Steve Meeks (Nancy) and Andy Meeks (Mandy), both of Kite; sister, Ruth Rountree of Swainsboro; grandchildren, Trey Meeks (Stephanie) of Kathleen, Thomas Meeks (Sarah) of Dublin, Joshua Meeks (Kaylen) of Kite, Matthew Meeks (Nicole) of Statesboro, Cole Meeks (Sarah), Marshall Meeks, Morgan Meeks and Sydnie Rae Meeks, all of South Carolina; great-grandchildren, Jaxson Meeks, Harper Meeks, Delia Ann Meeks, John Wilson Meeks, Laramie Rayne Meeks, Carolyne Elizabeth Meeks, Margaret Meeks, Mallie Kate Meeks, and George Ellis Meeks (due in February).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Smoky Mountain Children's Home or Gideons, and mailed to Kite Church of God, P. O. Box 309, Kite, GA 31049.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

## Karen Jennifer "Jenni" Davis, 70

Karen Jennifer "Jenni" Davis, age 70, passed away Monday, December 30, 2024, at her home in Pooler. Graveside service was held Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 3 p.m. at Lakeview Memorial Gardens in Vidalia. Family received friends Saturday, January 4, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Baker McCullough Funeral Home in Savannah.

Jenni was the daughter of Mr. Alton Davis and Mrs. Johnnie James Lee, and was a loving sister to Dianne Davis Conner and Ronald Davis. She was born and raised in Swainsboro, but lived most of her life in Savannah, growing up in her favorite South Georgia town surrounded her with lifelong friends whom she cherished deeply and whose friendship brought her great happiness. Jenni was a graduate of Swainsboro High School's Class of 1972 and spent her life's work at St. Joseph's/ Candler Health System serving as the Executive Assistant to President and CEO Paul P. Hinchey until her



**DAVIS**

retirement in 2002. She enjoyed many things in life, but her greatest joy was being "Mammy" to her grandsons, David and Jacob. Ms. Davis is preceded in death by her parents; stepfather, Talmadge Lee; and her sister and best friend, Dianne.

Ms. Davis is survived by her daughter, Vicki Butler (Ross); grandsons, David Butler and Jacob Butler, all of Savannah; brother, Ronald Davis (Mary) of Columbus; stepdaughters, Amanda Reed and Meredith Starling; cherished nieces and nephews, Jennifer, Greg, Susan, Tim, Josh, Kristine and Meghan; other relatives and special friends.

Baker McCullough Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Tom "Monkey" May III, 64

Tom "Monkey" May III, age 64, was called from labor to eternal rest on Friday, December 27, 2024, at East Georgia Regional Medical Center in Statesboro, following an extended illness. A Reflection of Life was held Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church with Elder Chris Stanford presiding and Evangelist Yvetta Northcutt speaking.

Tom was born July 24, 1960, in Swainsboro, to the late Tom May, Jr. and Mae Ollie (BigMa) Smith Fluellen. He was loved by many and will be sadly missed. Mr. May is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Viola J. (NiceeAnn) Fluellen; and brothers, Donald (Stank) Fluellen and Curtis Smith.

Mr. May leaves to cherish his memories with his wife, Brenda



**MAY**

Harp May of Albany; sons, Tom May IV and Tommy May, both of Cincinnati, OH; brothers, Charlie (Duke Bug) Fluellen (Anne) and Alfred (Shug) May, both of Swainsboro; sister, Yvetta Northcutt of Eastman; special caregivers, Cassandra (Buddy) Daniels and Joseph (Joe) Smith, all of Swainsboro; special cousin, Annette May of Swainsboro; special friend, Shon Corley of Swainsboro; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mosley's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## Holy Zion Church to hold 47<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary

Holy Zion Church of Metter will have their 47<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary January 16, 17 and 19, at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Thursday night, January 16, guest speaker will be Bishop Larry MacMiller with Bible Time, Jones Temple Pentecostal, Living Way, St. Matthews, Sams Creek, Holy Zion Church of Statesboro, William Grove, Holiness Temple of Grace, Triumph of Praise, High Point, William Chapter, St. Luke, Holy Zion Church of Twin City and Mt. Zion as guest churches.

Friday night, January 17, guest speaker will be Pastor Pearl Stine Veipers with Foundation Spring, Ada Grove, Briston Rock, St. John House of God, House of Hope and Johnson Chapter guest churches.

Sunday, January 19, guest speaker will be Pastor Dunlap with Mt. Gilead, Garden Grove and Mercer Grove guest churches.

Pastor Johnny Ray Jones invites everyone to attend.

## Event Planning Committee Commemoration Service to be held

Event Planning Committee Commemoration Service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held Sunday, January 19, at 6 p.m. at Greater St. James Baptist Church. Speaker will be Rev. Karlton Howard, Pastor at Noah's Ark Missionary Baptist Church in Keysville and member of the Georgia House of Representatives District 129.

Karlton L. Howard is the son of the late Henry L. Howard and Thelma Jones Howard of Augusta, Georgia. He was educated in the public school system of Augusta, Georgia graduating from the Lucy C. Laney High School. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from LaGrange College in LaGrange Georgia. He received his certificate in Theology from the Augusta extension of American Baptist Theological Seminary. Karlton furthered his studies at Columbia International University in Columbia South Carolina in the Masters of Divinity program. In November 1995 the Green Grove Baptist Church, under the leadership of the Reverend Lessel Leonard, licensed Karlton into the gospel-preaching ministry. He was ordained into the gospel ministry in January of 1997 and installed as pastor of the Noah's Ark Missionary Baptist Church in Keysville, Georgia in March 1997. He is in his twenty-sixth year of pastoring at the church affectionately known as "The Ark." God has guided the church to grow spiritually and to relocate to a 10,000 square foot building on 13 acres in Keysville, Georgia.

After college Karlton worked as a procurement specialist for the CSRA Business League in Augusta. Prior to being called into the ministry Karlton played a vital role in the Howard's family business operations that included Howard's Upholstery, Uniforms Unlimited (Perfect Fit), and Uph'ward Promotions.

Karlton L. Howard has been affiliated with many religious, civic, and social organizations. He has served on the Advisory Board



**HOWARD**

for Senior Citizens Council on Aging; he served on the Board of Directors for Burke County Partnership/Communities in Schools; he served on the Augusta Aviation Commission having held the positions of Chairman and Co-Chairman; at Green Grove he held the position of Director of Christian Education, served as Chairman of Deacons ministry, Revival Coordinator, and Men's Sunday school teacher. Karlton is the past moderator of Noah Ebenezer Central Baptist Association; he is a member of the Augusta Baptist Ministers Conference having served as treasurer; he has served as Vice President for the Tenth District Congress on Christian Education. Karlton presently serves as president of the Tenth District Convention of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia. He is also a member of the Hampton's Ministers Conference. Karlton is instructor for the Augusta Theological Seminary having as an extension classes are held at Noah's Ark Missionary Baptist Church.

He is the executive producer/host of "The Parade of Quartets," that airs on ABC affiliate WJBF TV in Augusta Georgia continuously since 1953. The Parade of Quartets is the recipient of the Georgia Association of Broadcaster's 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award for over 60 years of broadcasting. The program has been designated as the longest continuous running gospel program in Georgia and possible in the United States.

Karlton L. Howard is married to Dianne Abrams Howard. They are the proud parents of a daughter, Shontay and two sons, Keith and Julius. They also have eleven grandchildren.



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## Southeastern Tech congratulates Fall Semester President's List

Southeastern Technical College is proud to announce the 2024 Fall Semester President's List.

These students earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credit hours for the semester:

**Appling County:**  
Alexa Atkins, Autumn Besch, Shelli Carter, Sydney Haskin

**Bulloch County:**  
Loraine Middleton, Michael Tepetate-Waters

**Clinch County:**  
Charles Carder

**Emanuel County:**  
Mary Ayalagarcia, Taylor Brown, Rachel Griffin, Hayden Irvin, Carrie

Newsome, Kason Palmer, Taylor Salter, Trevor Tibitts, Shaquana Williams

**Evans County:**  
Ernesto Hernandez, Toneka McNeal

**Jeff Davis County:**  
Ana Guerrero, Brenda Nunez-Lopez, Payton Thigpen

**Jenkins County:**  
James Conner, Grace Curry

**Johnson County:**  
William Lawrence, Jaxson Lee, William Wise

**Liberty County:**  
Lisette Lopez

**Montgomery County:**  
Stacy Adams, Brett Banks, Christopher Scott, Mason Scott

**Tattnall County:**  
Brandon Byrd,

Mckenzie Davis, Jackson McGlashan, Norman Munthe, Sandra Olvera, Natalie Perez, Pedro Sanchez, Connor Stewart

**Telfair County:**  
Payton McDaniel, Nickita Simmons

**Toombs County:**  
Ella Kate Adams, Emma Braddy, Haygen Brantley, Adam Brown, Mark Brown, Brycen Coleman, Herbert Drew, Aiden Farmer, Isaac Fontaine, Peyton Foster, Lake Fowler, Melanie Garcia, Randolph Harden, Lauren Henry, Piedad Hernandez, Vanessa Hutcheson, Jarviana Jones, Macy Kennedy, Madelyn Lariscey, Bradlan McDonald, Sidney Metts, Seth Morrison, Lydia Poole, Lauren Soley, Jordan Stephens, Macy Strickland, Noah Tippet, Lasondra Wells

**Treutlen County:**  
Kristen Chong, Johnathan Evans, Brittany Mummert, Savian Scott

**Wheeler County:**  
Alyson Crawford, Amy Dalton, Ceilene Roberts, Danielle Wendland

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## Council "backs up"...

(From front page) dealing with repairs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, repairs at the Wastewater Transfer station, and the replacement of a tractor for grass cutting were postponed due to the emergency absence of the Clearwater Solutions project manager. The next issues discussed were brought by citizens who spoke on various problems within the city. David Hall addressed council on the trees, limbs and other debris in ditches and on the city right of way. Julia Carswell spoke concerning programs for young school aged children, the condition of roads in some neighborhoods and gun violence that continues in various parts of Swainsboro. In the next order of business, council agreed to repairs at the Police Station air conditioning totaling \$13,700, repairs to brick and masonry at City Hall for \$21,900. Council also agreed to changes associated with financial management at the Police Department necessitated by changes in the Chief position. Next, Council heard from the new Police Chief. Chief Riner requested the approval by council of the establishment of a new division within the department. This new division would be known as Training/Special Operations. The new Chief explained the need for this unit as a forward-looking step

and indicated Sgt. Adam Kersey has special certification and would advance to Lieutenant grade to chair the new division. Council voted 5-0 to approve. Councilperson Sconyers next presented a proposal to posthumously honor former Fire Chief Mike Strobridge and his dedication to the city fire department. Council agreed that the headquarters building of the Swainsboro Fire Department would be named in honor of the late Chief. The motion was carried by council. Another item for the evening that was added by amendment to the agenda was an explanation of House Bill 581. City attorney Levis gave a summary of the bill's provisions and a timetable for opting in or out. The bill was passed state-wide in the November election and is seen as a possible cap to counter rising property taxes on residential assets. Levis explained that no action was necessary if council did not choose to opt out. In other action, council voted to charge fifty cents per 100 gallons of water for sale to contractors and others at city water filling stations. Council then discussed new committee appointments. No changes were taken pending later action. In another last-minute agenda change, council decided to revisit a controversial move from an earlier meeting involving "speed cameras."

on Tiger Trail. In a complete about face, council approved a motion to rescind the motion to install speed cameras on Tiger Trail and then approved a motion not to install speed cameras on Tiger Trail. There was no discussion concerning the reversal. In other action related to cameras, council did approve a request by Chief Riner for installation and leasing of cameras devoted to the prevention of more serious criminal activity. In closing action, council postponed any action on appointments to other municipal committees and approved the issuance of game room licenses for two locations previously applied for. The last item before adjournment of the meeting concerned the condition of the Swainsboro City Auditorium. Carol Donaldson, representing the Sunshine House asked for the city's help and awareness in maintaining the standard of operation and appearance of the facility. Donaldson emphasized the value of the city auditorium to this community and appealed to council not to overlook how many organizations such as The Sunshine House rely on the auditorium as an essential part of their operation and financial support. Mayor Bennett commented that they would include that on next month's agenda. At this point, the meeting was adjourned.

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None of us are immune to trials - nor are any of us excused from being tempted. All of us, in one way or another and at one time or another, face similar types of trials and temptations. None are new. None are different. They come at different times in different situations from different directions appealing to our different weaknesses.

As Paul wrote, "No temptation has seized you that is not common to others. And, God is faithful! He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide you a way out."

He knows our "load-lines" and will not let us sink. However, we must be careful not to put ourselves at risk.

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## Reverend Dr. Elgin...

(From front page) of Ministry. In June 2021, Dr. Dixon retired as Superintendent of Twiggs County Public Schools, after serving over thirty years in the education arena. He currently serves as the Program Manager for Father's Among Men Program.

While he enjoys preaching and teaching the Word of God with power, conviction, and simplicity, he also enjoys serving his community through various affiliations, including Dublin-Laurens Savannah State University National Alumni Association, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Communities in Schools. Dr. Dixon currently serves as the Southeastern Regional Vice President to the General Missionary Baptist Convention of GA, Inc.

Dr. Dixon was first anointed in his mother's womb. In January 1998, he surrendered his will to the Lord and accepted his call to ministry. Under the leadership of the late Reverend Joe F. Moore, then pastor of the Holly Spring Baptist Church in East Dublin. Dr. Dixon received his licensure to preach on February 14, 1998. In April 1998, he was appointed as the pastor of the Greater Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, located in Helena, where he has served for over 27 prosperous years. In January 2012, a second location was birthed in Dublin, Greater Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church - North, under the leadership of Pastor Dixon.

Pastor Dixon is married to the elegant Dr. Terri C. Dixon, and they are the blessed parents of

two children, Kristen and Kameron, and the ecstatic "Poppy" of one beautiful granddaughter, Khloe. He and his wife are the proprietors of Dixon's Real-estate LLC, K & K Catering Enterprises, and Speech-Language Pathology Services of Dublin.

Dr. Dixon is a man who

loves God, God's people, and God's Word. While he is many things to many people, above all, he is a child of the Highest God. He is a visionary, organizer, and teacher of God's Word, with a dedication to serve God by serving the ministry, the congregation, and the community.

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## Miss Canady, Mr. McCranie to exchange vows

Barry and Kim Canady are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Meghan Canady, to Britt McCranie. Mr. McCranie is the son of Ricky and Ronda McCranie. The bride-elect is the owner of Meghan's Learning Academy in Twin City. Miss Canady is the granddaughter of Linda Hall and the late George Hall and the late Marvin and Jeanette Canady. The future groom is employed at Mid-State Machine in Dublin. Mr. McCranie is the grandson of Ronnie Scarboro and the late Elaine Scarboro and Grady McCranie and the late Martha Jean McCranie.

The wedding is set for Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Twin City Methodist Church.



MISS CANADY AND MR. MCCRANIE

## Swainsboro's Sweetheart: JaNaiya Linder, the Magic behind Kandy Galore

by QUINTUS G. WILLIAMS

In the heart of Swainsboro, where community and creativity thrive, one name stands out as a symbol of excellence in black-owned businesses: JaNaiya Linder. As the CEO and founder of Kandy Galore, JaNaiya has turned her passion for treat-making into a beloved local brand that continues to delight and inspire.

For the past four years, Kandy Galore has been synonymous with mouthwatering treats and show-stopping cookies that captivate both the eyes and the taste buds. JaNaiya's specialty lies in her oh-so-creative, perfectly presentable, and heartwarming cookies, each one crafted with love and precision. These cookies aren't just desserts—they're a testament to her artistry and dedication, setting a high standard in the world of baking.

This holiday season,

JaNaiya took her kindness to a whole new level. In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, she decided to give back to the Swainsboro community that has supported her journey from day one. As she beautifully put it, "Santa isn't the only one getting cookies this year—you are too!" With this, she set out to deliver free cookies to her loyal customers, spreading holiday cheer and showing her appreciation for their support over the past four years.

JaNaiya Linder's story is one of inspiration and empowerment. As a black entrepreneur, she serves as a beacon of hope for her community, proving that with determination, creativity, and faith, anything is possible. Her journey exemplifies that no matter your background or where you come from, success is within reach if you're willing to work for it.

Known lovingly as "Ms. Kandy," JaNaiya's

vibrant personality is as memorable as her baked goods. Her kindness, courage, and infectious energy brighten any room, bringing joy and laughter wherever she goes.

So, the next time you're craving a sweet treat, look no further than Kandy Galore. Whether you call her JaNaiya, Ms. Kandy, or simply a Swainsboro treasure, one thing is certain—her cookies are a taste of greatness.

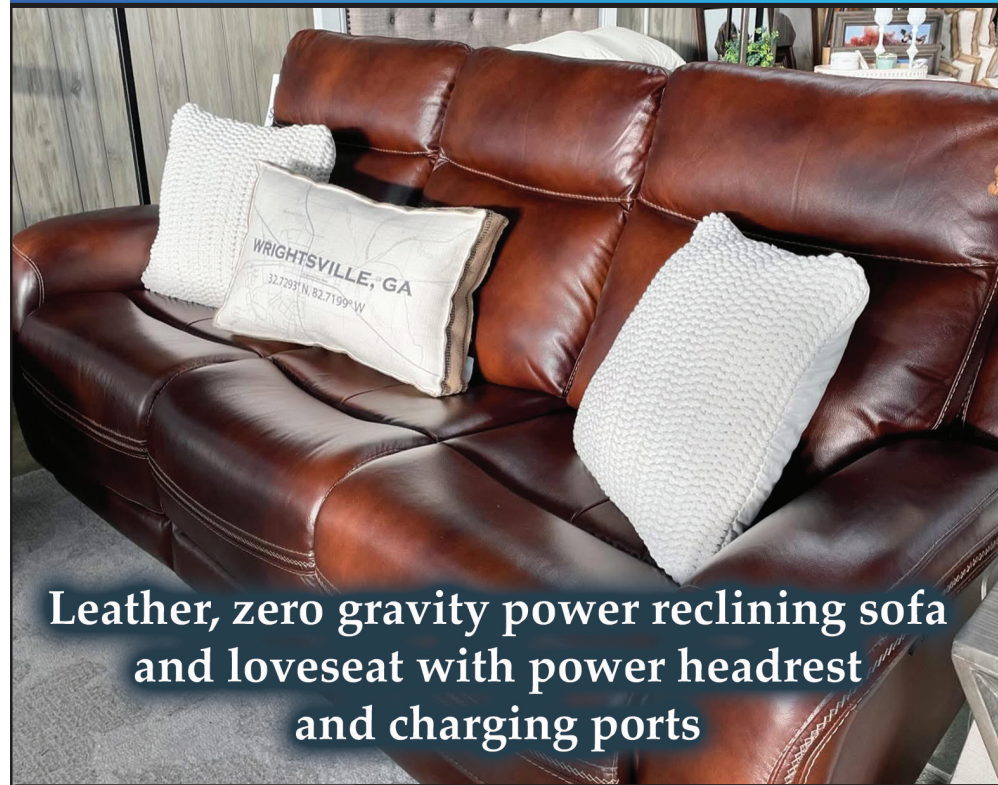
Here's to many more years of Kandy Galore magic!



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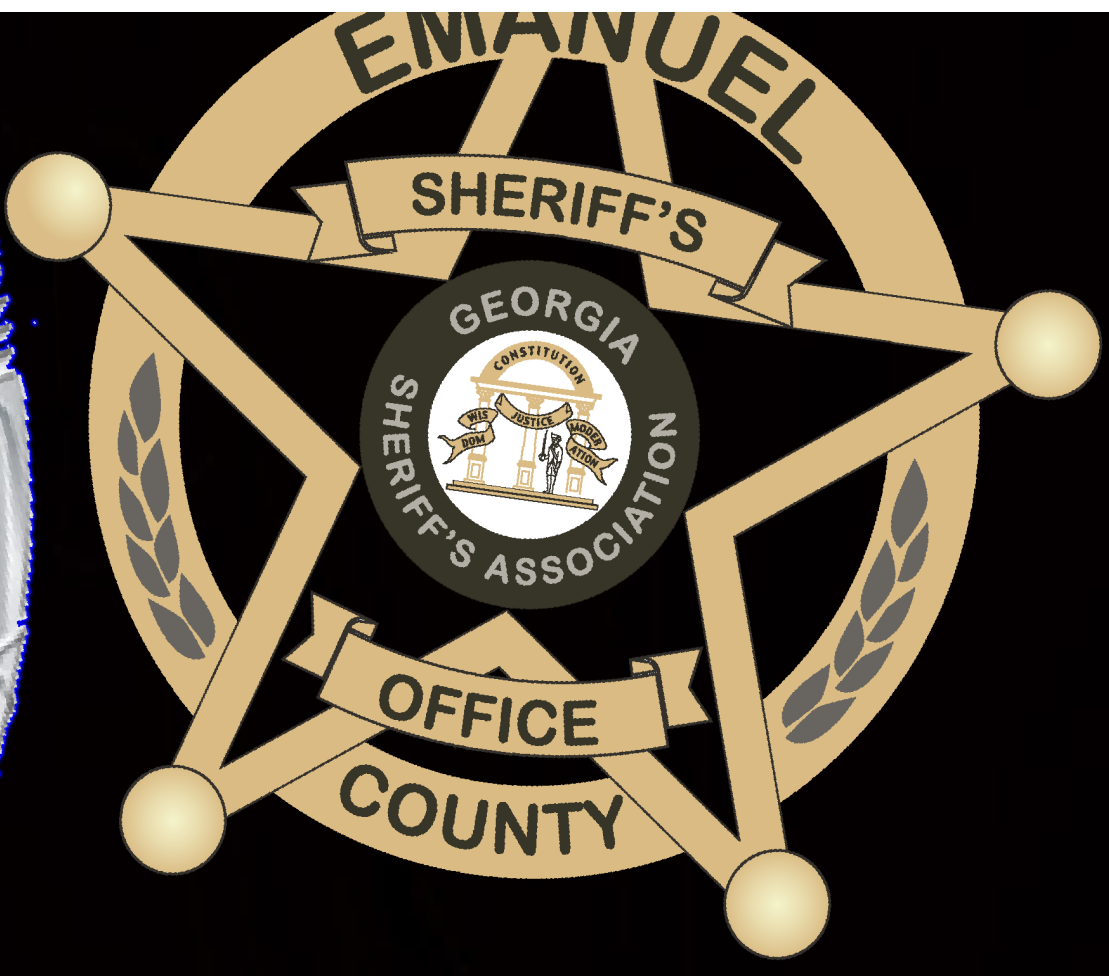
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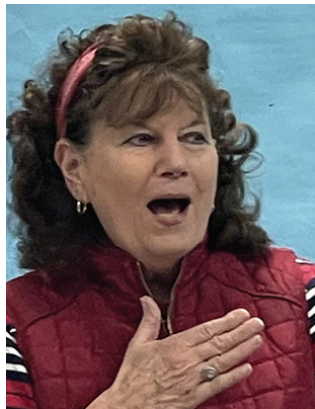
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## Tapley updates Veterans on upcoming Year

The Veterans at the Library held their weekly meeting at the Franklin Memorial Library Monday morning, January 6, at 9 a.m. With Chair Johnny Tapley presiding, they had 41 in attendance. The UDC provided breakfast to include breakfast casserole, grits, assorted cut up fruits and assorted muffins and Shari Watt provided orange juice, grape juice, apple juice, cranberry juice and coffee. UDC member Betsy Johnson opened up the meeting after the blessing by Emory Fennell with her rendition of "Its a Grand Old Flag". Chair Johnny Tapley discussed the picking up of the Wreaths from Veterans graves this Saturday, January 11, at 10 a.m. as well as the loss of several veterans that have passed away this past month; John Olin Alexander, Virgil Wells and our very own Retired Swainsboro Fire Chief Michael Strobridge. Tapley also commented about the many things that the organization accomplished last year and the upcoming "Veterans



JOHNSON



CHAIR TAPLEY

Cup Golf Tournament" to be held on May 17. Veteran Terry Reynolds then talked about the activities that have taken place with the Wounded Warriors this past month and his plans to provide breakfast for them at Mont Royal Clubhouse on Monday, January 20. Veteran Emory Fennell closed with a prayer.



TANNER AND SWEET

## Swainsboro Rotary Club holds meeting

The Swainsboro Rotary Club met at the Rustic Grill on Jan. 6, at 12 p.m. to kick off the new year. The meeting was well attended with President Zack Proctor calling the meeting to order with the invocation, pledge and 4-way test. Patrick Sweet introduced the guest speaker for the meeting, Savannah Tanner, Emanuel County Extension Agent, who gave a very interesting presentation on the devastation of Hurricane Helene in Emanuel County, and the expected costs to our farmers and timber owners. Agriculture is such an important part of this community, and this loss will take many years to overcome. The next meeting will be on January 13.

## EZ Riders spread Christmas joy to residents

by LARRY J. HANDSOM, PRESIDENT  
Once again, EZ Riders MC spread a lot of Christmas joy to residents of Candler County on Saturday, December 21. The club was able to spread joy, laughter, smiles and tears to some 172 residents at Pleasant View Health Care Center and Azalea Health & Rehab in Metter. We were able to give out gift bags to residents that included fruit and socks for all that were able to receive them. We had fun singing Christmas carols and gospel songs to residents. What really made us feel good was that they were singing right along with us and wanted us to keep singing more and more.

The EZ Riders Motorcycle Club has been doing this longer than we can remember. In the past, we have had a lot of support from our local WalMart, but this year it was a lot different, but we still thank them for what they did.

The EZ Riders MC is a non-profit organization doing good in our community and surrounding areas helping those who are in need, and we thank you all for your support.



**SATURDAY • JANUARY 18, 2025**

**1ST ANNUAL WINTER FREEZE EQUIPMENT AUCTION**

**SCREVEN MOTORSPORTS COMPLEX**

**6118 SAVANNAH HWY (GA HWY 21)**

**SYLVANIA, GEORGIA**

**AUCTION STARTS AT 9 A.M.**

**CONSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13TH - FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

**8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

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**GEORGIA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY WITH WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**



**VETERANS AT THE GEORGIA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY**



**GEORGIA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY DIRECTOR COWART SPEAKING TO THE VETERANS AT THE LIBRARY**

## Veterans at the Library travel to Georgia Veterans Cemetery

The Veterans at the Library met at the Franklin Memorial Library Monday morning, December 30, at 9 a.m. to travel by bus to the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glennville. With Chair Johnny Tapley presiding, they had 24 in attendance. Shari Watt provided pastries, orange juice, grape juice, apple juice, cranberry juice and coffee before they pulled out at around 9:30 a.m. Veteran

David Hill obtained the bus and drove us to Glennville. When they arrived, Director Ernie Cowart gave an overview of the cemetery and the qualifications of being buried there. Besides a veteran being buried there, a service person's spouse can also be buried there. As they toured the entire cemetery, they noticed how perfect the graves and stone markers were laid out. Also, each grave had a 'Wreaths

Across America' placed at it which meant there were nearly 3,000 wreaths. They then left the cemetery and traveled just outside of Glennville to the Farmhouse Restaurant for a great noon meal. After the meal, they took a short detour by the old Reidsville State Penitentiary which housed the Georgia's old Electric Chair, and arrived back in Swainsboro around 3 p.m.

## TCE recognizes December Students of the Month

The December Students of the Month were recognized on Thursday, December 19, in the TCE Media Center Ms. Nikki Green, Counselor. They were chosen by their teachers for exemplifying the character trait of caring. Students received a certificate, prize, and a token to the school's book vending machine. Afterwards, they enjoyed a donut with their families. December Students of the Month include: Canady Cole Almond, Wills Beasley, Lainey Blackburn, Matthew Blackburn, Aiden Brantley, Kinsley Butler, Jamie Kate Clay, Addilyn Ellison, Ryleigh Fulmer, Sophia Gay, Aycen Fleming, Haddie Hill, Ella Jo Hooks, Jeanie Hunter, Walter Kasper, Timberlyn Kirkland, Bentley Lanier, Jocelyn Lovett, Hayden Luna, Damien McArthur, Maka'Lyn Moody, Andrew Morales, Bailey Oliver, Naomi Pittman, McThomas Rainey, Jorie Walden and Demi Williamson.



**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**



**AMANDA DAY, LASUNDA MINCEY, CHRIS CANN AND SARAH SANDERS**

## Harvey's and Men's Golf Association make donations

by BROOKE MCBRIDE  
In a beautiful act of generosity and community spirit, Harvey's Supermarket of Swainsboro and The Men's Golf Association united to ensure that Christmas was a joyful and memorable one for the families supported by The Sunshine House Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Their heartfelt donation of Christmas meals transcends mere sustenance; it embodies the true spirit of the holiday season—compassion, hope, and togetherness. Harvey's Supermarket has long been a cornerstone of our community. Known for its friendly staff and commitment to quality, Harvey's is

more than just a place to shop—it's a place where neighbors meet, friendships are forged, and the community is strengthened. This year, Harvey's has gone above and beyond by partnering with The Sunshine House CAC to ensure that families in need have a hearty meal to celebrate Christmas. This act of kindness reflects Harvey's ongoing dedication to making Swainsboro a better place for everyone. Equally commendable is The Men's Golf Association of Swainsboro, a group of individuals who consistently demonstrate what it means to be exemplary community members. Their involve-

ment in various charitable activities has had a profound impact on our town. By donating Christmas meals, they have once again shown their unwavering commitment to helping those in need. Their generosity is a testament to the values of camaraderie and service that they uphold so dearly. The Sunshine House CAC plays a crucial role in our community by providing a safe and nurturing environment for children and families who have experienced abuse or neglect. Their mission is to offer support, healing, and hope to those who need it most. The donation from Harvey's Supermarket and The Men's Golf Association will go a long way in helping The Sunshine House CAC fulfill its mission, ensuring that families can enjoy a warm and joyful Christmas meal together. In a world where we often hear about division and hardship, it's acts of kindness like these that remind us of the power of community and the importance of giving back. Harvey's Supermarket and The Men's Golf Association have set a shining example for us all. Their generosity not only provides physical nourishment but also feeds the soul, reminding us that we are all connected and that together, we can make a difference. To Harvey's Supermarket and The Men's Golf Association, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your contributions have brought light and joy to many families this Christmas. May your kindness inspire others to give and share, not just during the holidays, but throughout the year.

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# Sheriff's Reports

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

**December 26**  
Deputies responded to Jet Food Store in Adrian in reference to shoplifting. Complainant stated offender was observed taking a can of Mad Dog 2020 from the cooler and pouring it in a Styrofoam cup and exiting the store without paying. C/p was advised by corporate to have offender banned from the premises. As deputies were leaving the store, they observed offender advised him that he was criminally trespassed from the location.

**December 28**  
Complainant called ECSO and stated offender keeps violating his TPO. C/p advised offender entered the premises of her workplace and went to her residence when she was not home and got of his vehicle on her property. C/p also stated offender went to her friend's house and her friend called her and she could hear offender stated that he had a hit on her life and if his boys seen her, they was going to shoot

up the vehicle.

**December 29**  
Deputies responded to Lindsey Rd. in reference to a domestic call. Complainant stated she was hit by her boyfriend/offender but did not show any signs. C/p also stated she just wanted to get stuff from the residence and stated she did not want offender to go to jail. Offender gave conflicting statement.

**December 30**  
Victim stated she and her boyfriend/offender got into a domestic dispute and offender knocked holes in the walls of the house. Victim and c/p did not want to press charges, they just wanted offender grom from the property. Deputy advised offender that he was not to return to the property on Kudzu Trail and if her did, he would be charged with criminal trespass. TCPD Chief gave offender a ride to a convenience store to wait on a ride.

Complainant stated she sold her vehicle and forgot to collect the license plate.

**December 31**  
Victim called 911 in

reference to suspicious activity on her Amazon account. Deputy spoke with victim who stated her Amazon account was hacked into and some purchases were made using her debit card that she did not authorize. Victim stated the delivery address was to a male subject in Vidalia.

Deputy observed a vehicle with a non-working taillight, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Driver did not have a license but presented an ID card from TN and stated he did not have his license with him. While speaking with the driver, deputy could smell an odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person. Driver refused a PBT but his eyes showed a positive sign for intoxication. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

**January 1, 2025**  
Complainant went to ECSO in reference to theft of D-Snap funds. C/p stated someone in NJ got access to her benefits and took \$768.

Deputies were dispatched to Quick Rd. in reference to an altercation over property.

Complainant advised that two offenders had been living at the location and recently left and were advised to retrieve their belongings the following day. C/p stated the two showed up and broke into the residence and were taking items that did not belong to them. Male offender stated c/p struck him with a 2x4 and c/p stated the male offender stuck him with the 2x4. C/p did have marks on the side of his face. Offenders were made to leave the property and advised not to return without deputies.

Deputies responded to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Twin City in reference to fireworks being fired, striking a semi traveling on the road. Offending party advised they were firing fireworks and the canister rolled over as the firework went off. It was observed that the individuals had been firing appx. 25 feet from the roadway and were advised to move to the backyard to prevent further issues. Deputy then spoke with the owner of the semi who advised the firework struck his

rim, leaving a scorch mark that was observed by deputies.

Deputies were dispatched to Hwy 80 East in reference to someone involving a domestic dispute. A male subject was sitting up on the side of the road with a severe gash to the back of his head. Complainant stated they were traveling East on Hwy 80 and were arguing when the passenger made a comment about jumping out of the vehicle and the driver stated he would not do it, at which time he jumped out traveling 45-50 MPH. Driver stated she backed up to find him unresponsive. EMS was called and took over seeing about offender.

Deputies responded in reference to complainant being harassed. C/p stated a female had been calling and texting him and has no idea who it is. Deputies made contact with the female caller who would not identify herself but stated she would leave c/p alone as long as he left her alone.

**January 2**  
Complainant went to

ECSO and stated someone made three transactions off her D-Snap card totaling \$96.73.

Complainant went to ECSO and stated offender went to his residence on Hwy 80 East and asked if he called Code Enforcement on him and c/p stated he did. Offender then stated that if he had to leave, so would c/p. C/p wants offender trespassed from the residence.

Complainant went to ECSO and stated her tag was mailed but she never received it.

**January 3**  
Deputy responded to a residence in reference to aggravated stalking and criminal trespass.

Complainant went to ECSO and stated he opened a bank account with Queensborough and never received his checks in the mail, but two checks had tried to be cashed.

Deputy responded to Wadley-Coleman Lake Rd. in reference to a civil matter.

**January 5**  
Deputies responded to a residence in reference to terroristic threats and acts.

## Grand jury returns 21 true bills, 1 no bills

The October 2024 term of the Emanuel County Grand Jury reconvened on Friday, December 13, 2024. The District Attorney's Office presented 22 bills of indictment to the Grand Jury, with the Grand Jury returned 21 true bills and 1 no bill.

The Emanuel County jail was inspected by the Grand Jury, as required by law.

**True bills included:**  
**Alexandria Shanay Johnson:** Exploitation and intimidation of disabled adult, elder person, or resident  
**Chavarious Demon Knight:** Fleeing or attempting to elude

police officer; Driving while license suspended; Driving on suspended, canceled or revoked registration

**Spencer Thaddeus Huck:** Burglary in the first degree; Criminal trespass

**Rebeca Denise Hunter:** Sale of cocaine

**Davardrion Shemar Lipsey:** Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer; Theft by receiving stolen property; Possession or firearm by first offender probationer

**Ronald Shaye Shepard:** Theft by deception

**Joshua Deshawn Kelly:** Driving under

the influence (less safe) (alcohol)

**Andrew Branson Self, III:** Battery, family violence (x3); Cruelty to children in the third degree (x2)

**Eric Bernard Greene, Jr.:** Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer; Possession of a schedule I controlled substance; Possession of marijuana, less than an ounce; Driving under the influence; Obstruction of an officer; Open container

**Austin Paul Lariscey:** Burglary in the first degree; Possession of illegal weapon; Possession of firearm by convicted felon

**Lester Rogers, Jr.:** Theft by deception

**Shannon Dale Edenfield:** Theft by taking

**Antonio Letez Thomas:** Aggravated staling; Simple battery, family violence; Cruelty to children in the third degree (x2)

**Caleb Aaron Akridge:** Theft by taking

**Da'Najah Keunna Wilcher:** Criminal attempt to commit a felony

**Alverso Lekeith Knight:** Possession of cocaine; Theft by receiving stolen property; Possession of marijuana, less than an ounce; Possession of drug relat-

ed objects; Possession of firearm by convicted felon

**Tyler Colbert Lockett:** Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer; Possession of firearm by convicted felon

**Marc Engel Robin:** Theft by deception (x2); Executing fictitious checks (x2)

**Lashawn Rayppaul Shanks:** Aggravated assault

**Melvin Holder:** Failure to register as sex offender

**Octavious Nyjoun Freeman, Derrick Nicholas Harden, Kamijha Nikeria ONeal and Eddie Roberts:** Possession

of schedule II controlled substance (All); Possession of marijuana with intent to distribute (Freeman); Obstruction of an officer (Freeman); Possession of drug related objects (Freeman); Possession of firearm during commission of a felony (Freeman); Possession of firearm by convicted felon (Freeman); Possession of marijuana, less than an ounce (Harden); Possession of firearm during commission of a felony (Harden); Speeding (ONeal)

**No true bill included:**  
**Treante O'Mark Davis:** Robbery by sudden snatching

## Seven sentenced in Superior Court

The following occurred during the Emanuel County Superior Court October 2024 term:

**Sarah Ansley Hilliard,** negotiated a guilty-alford plea on one count financial transaction card fraud. She was fined \$50 with 2 years probation; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one and two; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one - three; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one - four; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one - five; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one - six; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one - seven; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one - eight; one count financial trans-

action card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one - nine; one count financial transaction card fraud with 2 years probation to run consecutive with count one - ten. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 10 years to be served on probation. The above sentence may be served on probation provided the defendant shall comply with the Conditions of Probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.

**Albert Ira Johnson, Jr.** negotiated a guilty plea on one count possession of meth. He was fined \$50 with 3 years probation subject to inpatient rehab; one count possession of drug related objects with 12 months probation to run concurrent with count one; one count driving with suspended registration with 12 months probation to run concurrent with count one and two. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 3 years to be served on probation. The above sentence may be served on probation provided the defendant shall comply with the Conditions of Probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.

**Tyler Bedgood** negotiated a guilty-alford plea on one count possession

of meth with 3 years to serve. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 3 years. Defendant is to receive credit for time served in custody as determined by the custodian.

**Tyler Bedgood** negotiated a guilty-alford plea on one count aggravated battery. He was fined \$500 with 20 years to serve; one count aggravated assault with 20 years probation to run consecutive with count one; one count aggravated assault with 20 years to serve to run concurrent with count one; one count aggravated assault with 20 years to serve to run concurrent with count one - three. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 40 years, with the first 20 years to be served in confinement and the remainder to be served on probation. Defendant is to receive credit for time served in custody as determined by the custodian. Upon service of 20 years, the remainder of the sentence may be served on probation; PROVIDED, that the defendant shall comply with the conditions of probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.

**Drew Brantley Goolsby** negotiated a guilty-alford plea on one count financial transac-

tion card fraud. He was fined \$50 with 3 years, serve 2 years. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 3 years, with the first 2 years to be served in confinement and the remainder to be served on probation. Defendant is to receive credit for time served in custody from as determined by the custodian. Upon service of 2 years, the remainder of the sentence may be served on probation; PROVIDED, that the defendant shall comply with the conditions of probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.

**Deborah Burrows** negotiated a guilty plea on one count possession of cocaine. She was fined \$50 with 3 years prob., subj. to outpatient rehab; one count possession of drug related object with 12 months probation to run concurrent with count one; one count failure to stop at stop sign with 12 months probation to run concurrent with count one and two. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 3 years to be served on probation. Defendant is to receive credit for time served in custody from 12/7/23. The above sentence may be served on probation provided the defendant shall comply with the

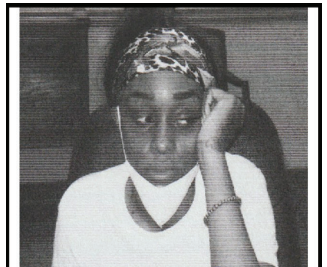
Conditions of Probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.

**Jody Lee Clifton** negotiated a guilty plea on one count possession of meth. He was fined \$50 with 15 years probation; one count possession of drug related object with 12 months probation to run concurrent with count one; one count suspended license with 12 months probation to run concurrent with count one; nol pros for defective windshield. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 15 years to be served on probation. The above sentence may be served on probation provided the defendant shall comply with the Conditions of Probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.



Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Nequana J. Daniels, of 221 East Pine Street Apt C7 Swainsboro, GA 30401 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 28th day of October, 2024, in Emanuel County State Court.

**Mike Orin Stevenson** negotiated a guilty plea on one count habitual violator with 10 years probation, sub. To inpatient treatment; one count DUI and was fined \$1,000 with 12 months probation to run concurrent; one count driving while license revoked with 12 months probation to run concurrent; one count open container with 12 months probation to run concurrent. Defendant is sentenced for a total of 10 years to be served on probation. The above sentence may be served on probation provided the defendant shall comply with the Conditions of Probation imposed by the Court as part of this sentence.



Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 40-6-391 notice is hereby given that Zonnie N. Beasley, of 1602 Clyde Blvd. Vidalia, GA 30474 was convicted of the offense of DUI 2nd, on the 3rd day of May, 2021, in Emanuel County State 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 (ECSCO); Swainsboro Police Dept. (SPD); Stillmore Police Dept. (SMPD); Twin City Police Department (TCPD); Garfield Police

Dept. (GPD); Adrian Police Dept. (APD); Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU); Intensive Probation Service (IPS); Probation Office (PROB); or East Georgia State College (EGSC).

James Antonio Brown, 40, arrested 12/30/24; Seatbelt violation – child (x4)/Tag lights required/Driving while unlicensed/DUI – child endangerment (x3)/Dui less safe – alcohol/Hold for out of county; GSP

Maisy Lynn Cooper, 23, arrested 1/1/25; Driving while license suspended/revoked/Suspended tag; ECSCO

Jerrial Jermaine Deloach, 47, arrested 1/5/25; DUI refusal/Driving while licenses suspended/revoked/Too fast for conditions; GSP

Raider Leon Dominquez, 35, arrested 18/1/25; Driving while unlicensed/Speeding; GSP

Terrell Donte Harper, 43, arrested 1/3/25; Cruelty to children 2<sup>nd</sup> degree; SPD

Jesus Antonio Henriquez, 45, arrested 12/30/24; Fail to yield after stopping at stop sign/Driving while unlicensed; ECSCO

Angela Beth Jacobs, 49, arrested 12/30/24; DUI less safe – drugs/No insurance/Failure to maintain lane/Failure to yield while turning left; GSP

David Lee Kemper, 39, arrested 12/31/24; DUI less safe – combination/Taillights/lens required/Driving while license suspended/revoked; ECSCO

Alton Mercer, 42, arrested 12/30/24; Battery; SPD

Robert Lee Merrill, 50, arrested 12/30/24; Child molestation (x2)/Sodomy – felony/Enticing a child for inde-

cent purposes; ECSCO  
Rodney Leon Patterson, 51, arrested 1/3/25; TPO violation/Aggravated stalking; ECSCO

Dominique Patrice Phillips, 38, arrested 1/1/25; Bench warrant; GSP

Terrell Ulysses Robinson, 30, arrested 1/5/24; Possession and use of drug related objects/Possession of cocaine/Driving while license suspended/revoked/Hold for Bulloch Co.; SPD

Pablo Sanchez Juarez, 36, arrested 1/5/25; Driving while unli-

censed/Tag lights required; ECSCO

Laranzala Ramell Stone, 26, arrested 1/2/25; Interference with officer/Hold for Jefferson Co.; SPD

Michael Joe Walker, 49, arrested 1/3/25; Driving while license suspended/revoked/Probation violation; SPD

Kealia Wilcher, 36, arrested 12/30/24; Possession and use of drug related objects/Use of communication facility in commission of a felony involving controlled substances/Possession of schedule I controlled substance (x2); ECSCO

# Swainsboro Police Reports

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

Officer retrieved the driver's info and run it to find his license are suspended. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer observed a vehicle with a defective tag light, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Officer could smell an odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle and directed the driver to step out. Officer informed the driver that he was going to conduct a search of the vehicle and found a pill bottle containing 1.3 grams of marijuana. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

**December 28**  
Officer ran the tag of a vehicle to find it had suspended registration and no valid insurance, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. The vehicle pulled over and as officer was getting out, the driver pulled off. Officer followed the vehicle as officer pulled up on the passenger side of the vehicle. The driver could not speak English and a male and female stepped out of the church and stated the male was the pastor and the female translated. The driver did not have a license. Vehicle was towed.

Officer responded to Budget Inn to an attempted suicide. Complainant stated he received a message from his father that led him to believe he was contemplating suicide and had taken some pills. Officer spoke with victim and asked what was going on and he stated he was hurting and was tired of hurting. Officer asked if he had taken any pills and he stated he took a handful of Soma, Hydrocodone and Norcos. Officer located the empty bottles on the table next to the bed. EMS arrived and victim stated he did not want to go but was advised he

had no choice. Victim was transported to EMC ER.

**December 29**  
Officer responded to Lee St. in reference to a gun being fired.

Officer responded to EMC ER in reference to a juvenile hitting another juvenile with a nerf gun, causing victim to need stitches. Victim's mother stated offender hit her son and she did not want to press charges but wanted it documented. She stated offender has anger issues and lashes out when he gets mad. Victim stated offender got mad because he could not spend the night with him and hit him with the gun. Officer spoke with offender and his grandmother who stated they two always play together and spend the night with each other. She stated victim hit her grandson and chased him into the house and pushed the door open when her grandson tried to close it, and her grandson threw the gun. Offender stated victim hit him all the time and is a bully.

Officers were dispatched to Crump St. in reference to a theft of a motor vehicle. Complainant stated she allowed her daughter's boyfriend to use her car to go to the hospital while her daughter was having her baby, and he did not return it. C/p stated she left offender a note telling him not to leave with her vehicle and while she was gone, he went inside and took the puppy and personal items. C/p advised offender is using a liquid meth vape pen. The following day, c/p contacted SPD and advised offender was at Thompson's Mini Mart inside the vehicle. Offender stated c/p allowed him to use the vehicle for four days and contacted her and told her it was broke down. C/p advised she wanted offender gone from her property.

Officer was dispatched to Mary Ann St. in reference to an unruly juvenile who tore up his grandmother's house.

Officer was dispatched to Project St. in reference to an unruly juvenile.

Officer responded to Gumlog Rd. in reference to someone trying to break into the residence.

**December 30**  
Officers were dispatched to Washington St. in reference to a domestic. Complainant stated her boyfriend got mad and took her phone and punched her in the eye. C/p unlocked the door and offender had it barricaded with the sofa. Officer was able to push it out of the way and called out for offender. After about the third announcement, offender came out and was arrested and transported to EmCo Jail.

Officers were dispatched to E. Pine St. in

reference to a male and female fighting.

Officer took a walk-in report where complainant stated he cashed some checks for several individuals and found out they were fraudulent.

Officers were dispatched to New St. in reference to shots fired.

**December 31**  
Officer was dispatched to Williams St. in reference to a male subject laying in the roadway. Officer observed the male subject laying the middle of the road unresponsive and requested EMS.

Officers assisted ECSCO with an illegal drug investigation. Officer advised offenders would be in possession of an unknown illegal drug on printer style paper. Offender was going to attempt to place the paper at the jail property so it could be smuggled in. Officers observed the vehicle and performed a traffic stop on N. Coleman St. Officer observed a manilla envelope in the passenger seat and believed it contained the laced paper. Offender was instructed to exit the vehicle and placed under arrest. K9 was deployed and did an air sniff to alert of a controlled substance. Officer searched offender and discovered a used glass pipe used for smoking meth in offender's bra. The vehicle was searched to find a used meth water bong, two digital scales with meth residue and a paper in the manilla envelope.

Officer responded to Allen St. in reference to a dispute involving a firearm. Prior to arrival, dispatch advised that the caller stated the male subject/offender was leaving the location and provided the tag number. Officer met with complainant who advised the male passenger of the vehicle pointed a gun at her and yelled "Gang, gang" and threatened to shoot her. C/p also advised the male subject is a known gang member and affiliated with Crips. Officer located the vehicle an initiated a traffic stop. The driver was not very cooperative and was laughing at the situation and was passive aggressive with patrol units.

**January 1, 2025**  
Officers were dispatched to McLeod Bridge Rd. in reference to a male subject being stabbed in the back. Officers observed a blood trail leading to the door and was advised by the neighbor that victim was gone to the ER. Officers made contact with victim at EMC ER who stated he confronted offender about a chain saw and started stabbing him in the shoulder.

Officers were dispatched to Hwy 56 N. in reference to an unconscious male. The driver was crying and

traveling below the posted speed and appeared to be in distress. The male subject was stooped over in the seat and had no pulse, discoloration and was unresponsive. He was removed from the vehicle where CPR was started until EMS arrived.

**January 2**  
Complainant stated an unknown person entered her vehicle and stole her wallet that contained her DL, SS card and debit card. C/p advised three transactions were declined on her Cashapp account. C/p called SPD later to report when she returned home, her wallet was on her porch and that two cards were missing.

Officer was dispatched to Booker St. in reference to a vehicle that hit a sink hole in the roadway.

Officer was dispatched to Stevens Dr. in reference to an unruly resident. Complainant stated the resident has become irate and verbally aggressive toward works and other residents.

Officer was dispatched to Longview Dr. in reference to a landlord/tenant dispute. Complainant stated her husband is the owner of the daycare building that she signed a 10-year lease under, and her husband is demanding she close the daycare and not open it back up.

Officer responded to WalMart in reference to an intoxicated, unresponsive male laying in the floor. Officer observed the male subject laying in the floor and spoke to him, asking if he was ok. Offender opened his eyes and grunted but did not verbally respond. Officer requested EMS. Upon arrival at the ER, offender became combative and was restrained.

Officer responded to Seventh St. in reference to a report of a domestic dispute. Complainant stated she wanted her baby daddy gone from her house because he jumped on her while she was asleep and beat her up. Officer did not observe any marks on c/p and asked where she was hit, and she started yelling and said she was tired of him doing this and she wanted him out of her house and advised he has warrants. Offender went into the living room and asked was what happened, and he stated nothing happened. Officer then asked for his information, and he gave a false name and DOB. Officer then asked c/p for offender's info, and it was determined that he had a battery warrant out of Johnson County, and they wanted a hold placed. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

**January 3**  
Officer was alerted of a vehicle with suspended registration and no insurance, at which time he ini-

tiated a traffic stop. Driver stated she was unaware of the suspended registration and no insurance and that she was going through some issues with her husband and apparently, he cancelled them without her knowing. Driver was able to provide proof where she put insurance on the vehicle, so it was not towed.

Officer was dispatched to Mason Dr. in reference to a 6-year-old that called 911 multiple times and was home alone. Officer made contact with the juvenile standing at the door in distress because she did not know where her family was. It was clear she was obviously upset and scared. The neighbor advised that the juvenile's father left not long before officer's arrival and no one else had been home. The neighbor then made contact with the father who stated he went to pick his wife up from work and get food. The grandmother of the juvenile then arrived and stated the child's father was home when she left. Officer advised that he would wait until the father got home so he could speak with him. Upon the father's arrival, he stated he thought someone was at the house when he left and when asked to speak with him privately, he began to get irate and started cussing. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officers were dispatched to Sheppard Dr. in reference to a stolen card. Complainant stated her Paypal card was taken from her console and knows who took it because she was getting notifications where offender tried to transfer money from her account to his.

Officer observed a vehicle with a non-working brake light, at which time he initiated a traffic stop. Upon running the driver's license, it was found to be suspended. Officer was advised offender had an active warrant and was wanted. Offender was transported to EmCo Jail.

Officer took a walk-in report where complainant stated offender took \$11,912 from her.

Officer was dispatched to WalMart in reference to complainant stating she has an active TPO on offender and tried to speak to her.

Officer spoke with complainant on Lakewood Dr. who stated he noticed his back door was tampered with as though someone attempted to kick it in.

Officers were dispatched to EMC in reference to a nurse wanting to report that she was assaulted by a patient. C/p stated that she was serving lunch and offender punched her in the face.

## ETHANOL FREE





**351 E Main St**  
**Swainsboro**  
**478.237.7596**





# Legals

(From page 7B)  
 CRH Address: 64 Spivey Lane Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 2,745.20  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020  
 Deed Book: 303/564  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, 53rd GMD, being 1.403 acres, more or less. As shown in Plat Book 22, Page 126. Or as further described in Deed Book 303, Page 564. Less & except: 26.767 acres in Deed Book 332, Page 174 & Plat Book 22, Page 126. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 092051, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: 093084**  
 Defendant in FiFa: DLRS Choice Enterprises LLC  
 Current Record Holder: DLRS Choice Enterprises LLC  
 CRH Address: 715 West Church Street Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 1,999.99  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020,2019  
 Deed Book: 470/261  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, 53rd GMD, being 21.627 acres, more or less. As shown in Plat Book 18, Page 492. Or as further described in Deed Book 470, Page 261. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 093084, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: 096024**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Boston, Kathryn L  
 Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of Boston, Kathryn L Deceased  
 CRH Address: 303 South Street Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 19,199.17  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020,2019,2018,2017  
 Deed Book: 117/567  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, 53rd GMD, being 9.192 acres, more or less. Being Parcel 9. As shown in Plat Book 11, Page 688. Or as further described in Deed Book 117, Page 567. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 096024, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: 109004C**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Brown, Bobby L  
 Current Record Holder: Brown, Bobby L  
 CRH Address: 412 Chandler Avenue Linden, NJ 07036  
 Amount Due: \$ 458.44  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021  
 Deed Book: HE/720  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, 57th GMD, being 1.31 acres, more or less. As shown in Plat Book 10, Page 197. Or as further described in Deed Book HE, Page 720. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 109004C, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: 127033**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Cox, Joanne W  
 Current Record Holder: Cox, Joanne W  
 CRH Address: 2333 Georgia

Highway 192 N Midville, GA 30441  
 Amount Due: \$ 4,312.81  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022  
 Deed Book: 323/223  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, 57th GMD, being 17.7 acres, more or less. Being Tract 14. As shown in Plat Book 20, Page 45C. Or as further described in Deed Book 323, Page 223. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 127033, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: 136043**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Wilson, Rodney K & Julie H  
 Current Record Holder: Wilson, Rodney K & Julie H  
 CRH Address: Po Box 356 Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 10,244.53  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021  
 Deed Book: 471/244  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, 58th GMD, being 184.447 acres, more or less. Being Tract 2. As shown in Plat Book 16, Page 143. Or as further described in Deed Book 471, Page 244. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 136043, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: 165A009**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Cat Properties LLC  
 Current Record Holder: Cat Properties LLC  
 CRH Address: 123 Davis Road Twin City, GA 30471  
 Amount Due: \$ 1,353.38  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021  
 Deed Book: 504/269  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Twin City, 1560th GMD, 0.34 acres, more or less. As shown in Plat Book 8, Page 157. Or as further described in Deed Book 504, Page 269. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 165A009, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: 179009B**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Mills, Tara  
 Current Record Holder: Mills, Tara Leanne aka Mills Rowland, Tara  
 CRH Address: 53 Mills Road Twin City, GA 30471  
 Amount Due: \$ 3,754.25  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022  
 Deed Book: 320/1  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, 1560th GMD, being 1.168 acres, more or less. As shown in Plat Book 22, Page 52. Or as further described in Deed Book 320, Page 1. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 179009B, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: 179030**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Handsom, Gary  
 Current Record Holder: Handsom, Gary  
 CRH Address: 398 Parrish Pond Road Twin City, GA 30471  
 Amount Due: \$ 3,042.93  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020  
 Deed Book: 463/117  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, 1560th

GMD, being 24.87 acres, more or less. As shown in Plat Book 14, Page 12. Or as further described in Deed Book 463, Page 117. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel 179030, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S08042**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Riccio, Clark  
 Current Record Holder: Riccio, Clark  
 CRH Address: 612 Prosperity Drive Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 2,347.91  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022  
 Deed Book: 521/231; DR/1B  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 0.36 acres, more or less. Being Lots 7 & 8, Block B, of Lake Luck Subdivision. As shown in Deed Book DR, Page 1B. Or as further described in Deed Book 521, Page 231. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S08042, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S09060**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Wilson, Rodney  
 Current Record Holder: Wilson, Rodney  
 CRH Address: PO Box 356 Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 4,555.27  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020  
 Deed Book: 375/251  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 5.74 acres, more or less. Or as further described in Deed Book 375, Page 251. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S09060, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S15056**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Easterling, Tashenia J.  
 Current Record Holder: Easterling, Tashenia J.  
 CRH Address: 412 Rentz Street Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 1,251.50  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2016,2015,2014  
 Deed Book: 371/1  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 0.23 acres, more or less. Or as further described in Deed Book 371, Page 1. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S15056, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S18001**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Wilson, Rodney Keith  
 Current Record Holder: Wilson, Rodney  
 CRH Address: PO Box 356 Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 48,578.42  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021  
 Deed Book: 375/251  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 8.52 acres, more or less. Or as further described in Deed Book 375, Page 251. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S18001, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S20032**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Wilson, Gary N.  
 Current Record Holder: Wilson,

Gary N.  
 CRH Address: 351 Mary Ann Street Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 2,235.68  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020,2019  
 Deed Book: 103/118; DE/341  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 0.33 acres, more or less. Being the Southerly 30 feet of Lots 10 & 11, Block C, of South Moreland Subdivision. As shown in Deed Book DE, Page 341. Or as further described in Deed Book 103, Page 118. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S20032, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S21019**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Wilson, Rodney  
 Current Record Holder: Wilson, Rodney  
 CRH Address: PO Box 356 Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 6,742.36  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021  
 Deed Book: 375/251  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 3.01 acres, more or less. As shown in Plat Book 5, Page 183. Or as further described in Deed Book 375, Page 251. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S21019, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S24003**  
 Defendant in FiFa: May, Tom Jr. & Bertha  
 Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of May, Bertha Deceased & May, Tom Jr.  
 CRH Address: PO Box 482 Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 2,214.43  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021  
 Deed Book: 50/432  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 0.32 acres, more or less. As shown in Deed Book DB, Page 224. Or as further described in Deed Book 50, Page 432. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S24003, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S35006**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Wilson, Gary  
 Current Record Holder: Wilson, Gary  
 CRH Address: 351 Mary Ann Street Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 2,490.78  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020,2019  
 Deed Book: 136/188; DT/149  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 0.69 acres, more or less. Being Lots 13 & 14, Block 30 ft of the western portion of Lot 12, Block B, of Mrs. J Litt Price Subdivision. As shown in Deed Book DT, Page 149. Or as further described in Deed Book 136, Page 188. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S35006, Emanuel County, Georgia.

**Map & Parcel: S35009**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Wilson, Rodney  
 Current Record Holder: Wilson, Rodney  
 CRH Address: PO Box 356 Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 4,002.29  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021  
 Deed Book: 375/251; DT/149  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 0.92 acres, more or less. Being Lots 1, 2 & 3, Block C, of J Litt Price Subdivision. As shown in Deed Book DT, Page 149. Or as further described in Deed Book 375, Page 251. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S35009, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S37045**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Boston, Roger Michael  
 Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of Boston, D. D. a/k/a Dessie D. Boston Deceased & Boston, Roger Michael  
 CRH Address: 303 South Street Swainsboro, GA 30401  
 Amount Due: \$ 27,153.17  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020,2019,2018,2017  
 Deed Book: HY/115  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 0.24 acres, more or less. Or as further described in Deed Book HY, Page 115. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S37045, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: S41111A**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Cohen, Nora O Oglesby Sid & Rosa Etal  
 Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of Bristo, Sophronia C. Deceased  
 CRH Address: 8741 GA Highway 24 West Bartow, GA 30413  
 Amount Due: \$ 649.04  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020,2019,2018,2017  
 Deed Book: 64/292  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Swainsboro, 53rd GMD, being 0.15 acres, more or less. Or as further described in Deed Book 64, Page 292. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel S41111A, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: SM1072**  
 Defendant in FiFa: McLemore, Mary Est  
 Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of McLemore, Mary Deceased  
 CRH Address: 817 City Road Twin City, GA 30471  
 Amount Due: \$ 1,132.96  
 Tax Years Due: 03,2022,2021,2020,2019,2018  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Stillmore, 58th GMD, being 0.25 acres, more or less. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel SM1072, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: SM2039**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Carlie, Barbara Lanier

Current Record Holder: Carlie, Barbara Lanier  
 CRH Address: 208 Arlington Drive Vidalia, GA 30474  
 Amount Due: \$ 561.30  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020  
 Deed Book: 342/537  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Stillmore, 58th GMD, being 0.5 acres, more or less. Being Parcels 1 & 2. As shown in Plat Book 17, Page 535. Or as further described in Deed Book 342, Page 537. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel SM2039, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: SM4001**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Purcell, Patricia  
 Current Record Holder: Purcell, Patricia  
 CRH Address: 314 S 4th Street Twin City, GA 30471  
 Amount Due: \$ 3,623.14  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022  
 Deed Book: 438/537  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Stillmore, 58th GMD, being 0.74 acres, more or less. Or as further described in Deed Book 438, Page 537. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel SM4001, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: SU1023**  
 Defendant in FiFa: Buchanan, Edith  
 Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of Buchanan, Edith Deceased  
 CRH Address: 469 Notre Damm Drive Altamonte Springs , FL 32714  
 Amount Due: \$ 496.14  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020  
 Deed Book: IQ/111  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Summertown, 57th GMD, being 0.16 acres, more or less. Or as further described in Deed Book IQ, Page 111. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel SU1023, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
**Map & Parcel: SU1063A**  
 Defendant in FiFa: McLendon, Jacqueline K.  
 Current Record Holder: McLendon, Jacqueline K.  
 CRH Address: 58 Summertown Main Street Midville , GA 30441  
 Amount Due: \$ 833.72  
 Tax Years Due: 2023,2022,2021,2020,2019  
 Legal Description: All that tract of land being in the: State of Georgia, County of Emanuel, City of Summertown, 57th GMD, being 0.26 acres, more or less. Being known as Tax Map & Parcel SU1063A, Emanuel County, Georgia.  
 Jessica U. Moran  
 Emanuel County Tax Commissioner, Deputy Tax Commissioner  
 \* Deed Book: Refers to Deed Records located in the Emanuel County Courthouse, Clerk of Superior Court's Office where property is more fully described. 4C226

## There is no clowning around with Skeeter Skates

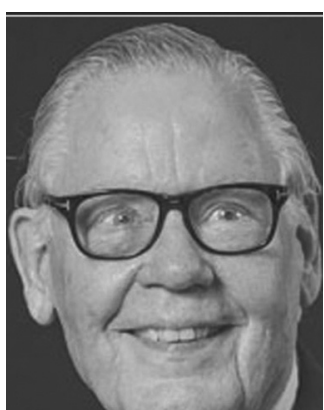
by DICK YARBROUGH  
 My objective has always been to provide you with information not readily available to the general public so that you can shine at your next church social or cocktail party by dropping a factoid on the group that will make them look at you in wonderment and awe. This week, I had planned to share with you the nutritional similarities between a dozen avocados and two Snickers bars, something you won't find anywhere else than on these pages. But before you get out pencil and paper, let me tell you I must postpone the topic until further notice. In scanning the internet, I came across an article on the website of the Atlanta Newspapers in which they polled city leaders regarding their New Year's resolutions. Among the

respondents was – hold your breath – Puddles Pity Party. I kid you not. Puddles Pity Party is regarded as a leader in Atlanta. Who knew? Further investigation reveals that Puddles Pity Party is a 6-foot, 8-inch guy from Philadelphia who dresses like a sad white-faced clown and refers to himself in the third person. Telling you this is troublesome. I worry you will pass that information along at your next church social or cocktail party and after the looks of wonderment and awe you receive, you will decide you don't need me anymore. That means I would have to go find a real job. Perish the thought. Fortunately, I have access to some leaders of my own. So, I immediately called Skeeter Skates, owner and operator of Skeeter Skates Tree Stump Removal and Plow Repair in

Ryo, Georgia. In addition to being a leader in the stump removal and plow repair industry, Skeeter also currently serves as chair of the Ryo Morning Coffee Club, a collection of Great Americans which includes Walleye, who runs the bait shop over in Red Bud; Booger Bledsoe, who operates a local roadside vegetable stand on State Route 136 near Sugar Valley; and Uncle Coot, recently retired from the porta-potty transportation industry. I told Skeeter the reason for my call, that a newspaper in Atlanta seeking New Year's resolutions from leading luminaries in the city had among their respondents a 6-foot, 8-inch, white-faced clown from Philadelphia who calls himself Puddles Pity Party and refers to himself in third-person. I thought my readers would appreciate hearing the resolutions

of someone who was none of the above. "Hoss," Skeeter said. "You've come to the right place. There ain't no clowns around Ryo, excepting a few politicians and nobody pays them much attention. There sure ain't nobody from Philadelphia that I know of and we ain't third persons. There's four of us persons - me and Booger and Walleye and Uncle Coot, although we have to keep Uncle Coot a good bit downwind from us, given he still shows the effects of a career spent transporting porta-potties." I wanted to get Skeeter to the point of my call before he got to talking about the fine art of stump removal and plow repair. He'll never stop. So, I asked, did he and the members of the Ryo Coffee Club have any New Year's resolutions to share with us? "We just have one resolution this year,"

Skeeter said. "That's to get a permit from that bunch in Atlanta that has to do with the environment to let us dip Uncle Coot in the Oothkalooga Creek if we promise it won't kill all the bream. They said they will have to get back to us. Right now, they are busy trying to find somebody to dig up toothpaste whitener in the Okefenokee swamp. I didn't know we were short of toothpaste whitener but I do know we need to clean up Uncle Coot before hot weather sets in." I told Skeeter our resolutions seemed to be on the same wavelength. I, too, am resolved to see what the bureaucrats and tight-lipped politicians decide to do about digging in our Okefenokee for toothpaste whitener. I'll leave Uncle Coot's olfactory challenges to him. As for Puddles Pity Party, the 6-foot, 8-inch guy from Philadelphia



**YARBROUGH**  
 who dresses like a sad white-faced clown and refers to himself in the third-person, he may be a mover-and-shaker in Atlanta but I'll bet you he has no idea how to remove a stump or repair a plow. That's why I resolve to stay in touch with Skeeter Skates and members of the Ryo Morning Coffee Club this coming year. They are the real deal. Atlanta can have their clowns. You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dick-yarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

# Herron installed as Brier Creek Chapter President

The Brier Creek Chapter held its monthly meeting Thursday night, January 2, at Walls Diner at 6:30 p.m. With President Wayne Howard presiding, they had 11 in attendance. The Georgia Society Senior Vice President Bill Floyd, Jr. was in attendance to install the Brier Creek Chapter's 2025 President and Officers. Those officers for 2025 are: Lee Herron, Vice President; Adam Bazemore, Secretary/Treasurer; Don Bazemore, Sgt-at-Arms; Bernard Martin, Sr., Chaplain; Dess Smith III, Editor; Lee Herron, Webmaster, Registrar and Genealogist; and John Fitzner, Historian. After installing the officers, Senior VP Bill installed Lee Herron as the Brier Creek Chapter President. Herron talked to about his plans for the Chapter during the coming year and his main focus would be on new membership. His first act was to award Past President Wayne Howard with the "Distinguished Service Certificate" for being the Chapter President for four years. The next meeting will be on February 6, and the program presenter will be Ranson Schwerzler on George Waltons Meadow Gardens.



SENIOR VP FLOYD, JR., A. BAZEMORE, D. BAZEMORE AND SMITH III

## Classifieds

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9:30 a.m.  
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• Yard and estate sales • Miscellaneous for sale • Pets/animals  
• Help wanted • Services offered

### MISC NOTICES

WE DO not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis, nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bo-

na-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the Fair Housing Act. We do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color,

religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or family status.

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

### Publisher's Notice

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

# Georgia Southern University announces Fall 2024 President's and Dean's List

Georgia Southern University recently recognized approximately 2,520 students for excellence in academics on the Fall 2024 President's List and approximately 4,100 students on the Dean's List. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must have at least a 4.0 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have at least a 3.5 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester.

### President's List

Alexander Archie of Midville, Annakade Clemens of Swainsboro,

Charla Clifton of Swainsboro, Colton Daniels of Swainsboro, Anthony De Leon-Lopez of Twin City, Elizabeth Dye of Swainsboro, Cora Ellington of Swainsboro, Landon Goodman of Twin City, Jalasia Gordon of Stillmore, Achazia Harmon of Swainsboro, Jozie Motes of Garfield, Ruchit Patel of Swainsboro, Alexis Ray of Swainsboro, Amelia Scarborough of Garfield, Rachel Shaw of Swainsboro, Aiden Thompson of Twin City, Paul Warren of Swainsboro, Tionna Young of Midville.

### Dean's List

Taliyah Archie of

Swainsboro, Sullee Boddiford of Garfield, Blair Brannen of Twin City, Cryslye Crapps of Swainsboro, Robert Ellison of Garfield, Peyton Free of Swainsboro, Karime Gonzalez-Demillon of Twin City, Sarah Griffin of Twin City, Haley Hagan of Twin City, Jack Hagans of Adrian, Molly Hammock of Swainsboro, Madison Hancock of Swainsboro, Brandon Hatcher of Twin City, Mariah Jones of Swainsboro, Jackson Lanier of Garfield, Keyth Lariscy of Garfield, Caleb Long of Swainsboro, Emily Marks of Twin City, Emma Mason of Swainsboro, Parija Mcdaniel of Twin City, Kailey Mcnure of Swainsboro, Cassidy Meeks of Swainsboro, Kirah Middleton of Swainsboro, Christopher Moorman of Adrian, Jasi Oglesby of Garfield, Tmyra Peterson of Twin City, Brian Rodriguez of Swainsboro, Jerica Scott of Twin City, Cameron Watkins of Swainsboro, Jayla Williams of Swainsboro, Ryan Zanewych of Swainsboro. Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers approximately 155 different degree programs serving more than 26,100 students through 10 colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia with expert faculty, the University is focused on public impact research and engaging learning opportunities through knowledge and know-how that prepare our students to take ownership of their lives, careers and communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

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### Customer Experience Associate

Pineland is seeking a highly qualified Individual to serve as a member of the Customer Experience Team in the role of Customer Experience Associate (CEA). This position offers an entry to mid-point hourly pay range of \$19-\$26, and includes a competitive benefits package of health, life, and long-term disability insurance, pension, matching 401k, and subscriber services. This position is full-time, with some overtime available, primarily stationed in the Metter office. Training will occur in the office and in the field.

The primary role of the Customer Experience Associate is to provide an excellent customer experience to residential and commercial customers in accordance with Pineland's Mission and Core Values. CEAs converse, engage, and sell Pineland's phone, internet, technology, and security services to in-person, phone-in, and online customers, while understanding and interpreting customer needs to provide the best service solution. Our Customer Experience team is the first contact for support, billing, and services. This position is highly technical and software driven with advanced learning opportunities available.

### Qualifications

Minimum of two years proven office and/or retail customer service and sales experience, or equivalent. Minimum high school diploma or equivalent, post-secondary degree preferred. Proven interpersonal, analytical, organizational, customer service, and communication skills. Proficiency with personal computers, software, and general office technology. Must be outgoing, self-motivated, and demonstrate ability to learn product and service offerings.

### How to apply

An application is available online at [www.pineland.net](http://www.pineland.net). Under the "About" heading select "Careers". The completed application, resume, cover letter, and three work related references should be sent via mail, email, or dropped off at our Metter business office in a sealed envelope to:

Hiring Manager  
Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 678 | 30 S. Rountree St. | Metter, GA 30439  
dlee@pinelandtelco.com

No faxed applications will be accepted.

**Deadline to apply – January 13, 2025 at 5PM**

Pineland's mission is to offer an outstanding customer experience through the efficient delivery of progressive technology solutions in the markets served. We will achieve this mission by applying the Core Values of Excellence, Integrity, Innovation, and a Servant's Heart in everything we do.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The public is hereby notified that Jeremy Williams & Liquor by the Drink has applied to the Office of the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners for a license to sell Beer & Wine C.O.P. & Liquor by the Drink in the County of Emanuel, State of Georgia, at the following address: 586 Modoc Road, Swainsboro, Ga 30401.

The Emanuel County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing into the merits of this application at the meeting room of the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners in Swainsboro, Emanuel County, Georgia at 6 o'clock P.M. on the 21st day of January, 2025.

The public is further notified that the Board of Commissioners will conduct an informal hearing in order to determine if the applicant meets the criteria and standards established by County Ordinance and by State Law. All interested parties, the applicant included, who wish to be heard on said matter should be present at said meeting to present any evidence they wish the Board of Commissioners to consider relative to the application. All persons wishing to be heard shall give testimony under oath, which will be recorded either by a licensed court reporter or notary public, all in compliance with the Emanuel County Code of Ordinances.

This 7th day of January, 2025.

Emanuel County Board of Commissioners

(County Ordinance requires that this notice be printed in no less than a 6 point font.)

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# Emanuel Community



# American Red Cross Blood Drive

## Thursday January 9, 2025

## 12:00PM-6:00PM

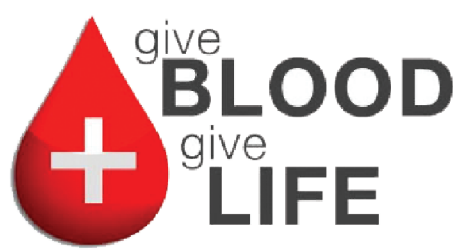
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