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VOLUME 161, NO. 21

Swainsboro, Georgia • May 20, 2020

ONE DOLLAR

Riner running for sheriff

John Ashley Riner has officially qualified to run for the Office of Sheriff here in Emanuel County. He has 40 years of public service experience, 35 of which are rooted in the local community. More specifically, Riner has 31 years of law enforcement experience. For 28 of those 31 years, he has served as a detective and an investigator.

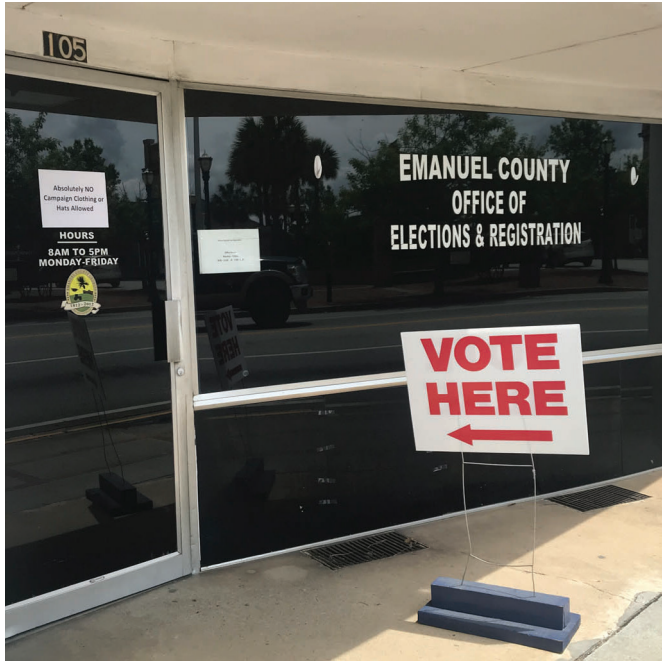


RINER

Riner attended and graduated from Swainsboro High School, then went on to East Georgia College, graduating with an associate degree in psychology. The Emanuel County

native has been serving his hometown for 39 years, starting out as a paramedic with Emanuel County EMS. He then transitioned into law enforcement in

(Continued on page 4D)



FRONT OF ELECTIONS OFFICE

Early voting has begun!

Don't forget—the primary election will take place June 9, but early voting began Monday, May 18! Early voting will last until June 5. (June 5 is also the last day to request an absentee ballot.) To participate in early voting, visit the Elections Office at 105 South Main Street in Swainsboro.

No matter who you choose to support at the polls, just be sure to exercise your right to vote!

Dr. Bohlke announces candidacy for Georgia State Senate District 4

Dr. Scott Bohlke, former U.S. Air Force major, licensed physician, and owner of Bohler Family Practice in Brooklet, formally announces his candidacy in the Republican primary for the Georgia State Senate, District 4 seat, previously held for almost 30 years by the late and great Senator Jack Hill.

"I knew Jack well and respected his service to our area. For two decades,



BOHLKE

we worked together on

(Continued on page 4D)

Hickman announces candidacy for state senate seat

Billy Hickman, Republican business owner of 37 years and public accountant, has announced his candidacy for Georgia State Senate's District 4 seat.

As a lifelong resident of the district, Hickman addresses the recent passing of Jack Hill as being a tremendous loss to the district and state.

Leaving shoes that will be incredibly tough to fill, Hickman feels it is vital to have a trusted, steady hand to represent the values of District 4 at the capitol.

"During these tough times, we need somebody with expertise to work with Governor Kemp and legislative

(Continued on page 4D)

Local number of COVID-19 cases falls to 0, rises back to 2

After more than a month since the reporting of its first case back on March 30, Emanuel County's coronavirus count finally bottomed out at 0 on Monday, March 18, only to see the number rise again slightly on Tuesday.

According to the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners' noon update before press time on May 19, the number of active cases is holding steady at just 2. This is the same number of cases that was reported last Tuesday, May 12, prior to press time for last week's edition of *The Blade*.

There have been 27 total confirmed cases with 23 of those recovering. The 2 recorded

deaths and the 2 active cases account for the remainder of the comprehensive number. Twenty-four cases are pending results, and 523 patients have been tested.

The Emanuel County Board of Commissioners continues to be the go-to for the most current, cumulative list of local coronavirus cases. The board works jointly with the local hospital, East Georgia Healthcare Center, and Emanuel County Health Department to provide updates every weekday at noon on Facebook. To receive these updates, follow the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners and turn on your notifications.

Swainsboro City Council approves purchase of drug enforcement dog

Members of Swainsboro City Council and Mayor Charles Schwabe convened for a meeting Monday, May 18, via Zoom, a teleconferencing service. Calling the meeting to order, Mayor Charles Schwabe welcomed all, and City Administrator Al Lawson led the invocation.

Councilperson Ricky Stevens addressed coun-

cil about a project proposal and requested unanimous favor from all councilpersons.

The proposed project included the purchase of a drug enforcement dog for Swainsboro Police Department priced at \$22,000 as well as the acceptance of an approximate \$11,000 federal grant to assist in said purchase that had been

(Continued on page 2A)

Republican Attorney Clifton announces candidacy for chief magistrate

Local attorney Jess William Clifton has announced his candidacy for chief magistrate judge of Emanuel County.

Clifton, who served as solicitor general of Emanuel County in 2018, currently serves as prosecutor for several local governments. On the flip side of the same coin, Clifton also serves as contract counsel for the State of Georgia and federal government as defense coun-



CLIFTON

sel in federal and state courts and has handled

(Continued on page 4D)

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- Customers to look for updates and procedural changes on our website and social media platforms

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we navigate the COVID-19 situation together



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Swainsboro City Council...
(From front page)
submitted for approval by Stevens and Trent Hall of the housing authority; the issuance of a \$100 per week COVID-19 hazard duty pay for officers of Swainsboro Police Department; and permission to implement one full-time officer to work with the drug enforcement dog and the hiring of a second officer to add to enforcement. With three councilpersons approving and three opposing the proposal, Mayor Schwabe voted in opposition and the proposal was vetoed. The drug dog matter would be independently revisited and approved later in the meeting.
Recommended by

the Police Committee, council then approved the hiring of Alice Brett and Virgil Swinney as officers for Swainsboro Police Department. Johnny Ray Stafford abstained on the matter. Council accepted a \$1,000 monthly salary bid for municipal court judge submitted by Richard McNeely. The council also heard bids for public defender and accepted Richard Thompson's bid for \$400 per month. In addition, council members approved a maintenance material request from Jacobs in the amount of \$38,000 for the improvement of wells and lift stations. Mayor Schwabe then requested a motion be


made to enter executive session to discuss real estate matters. Upon re-entering normal session...

- Council announced the approval to surplus the recycling center. An additional real estate parcel was voted to be retained by the city.
- Revisiting the drug dog discussion, Julian Sconyers motioned to fund and accept the federal dollars to help purchase of animal. Johnny Ray Stafford seconded this motion, and the vote passed 5-1.
- With a 3-3 tie, a motion to approve hazard pay for police, fire, and city hall employees approved by a tie-breaking vote from Mayor Schwabe.

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In order to be the Republican Candidate chosen to appear on the November ballot in the General Election, I need and humbly ask for your vote in the Primary Election.

★ Early Voting
May 18 through June 5
Emanuel County
Office of Elections

★ Saturday Voting
May 30
Emanuel County
Office of Elections

★ Poll Voting
June 9

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City recognizes Fulford Center’s decade of educational service with proclamation

Swainsboro City Administrator Al Lawson is shown presenting a proclamation to Director Jean Schwabe of the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center honoring 10 years of educational opportunity and community service to Swainsboro, Emanuel County, and southeast Georgia. The Sudie Fulford Center is located on the campus of East Georgia State College.



SCHWABE (LEFT) RECEIVES PROCLAMATION FROM LAWSON (RIGHT)

Toombs County High graduate, sponsored by Pineland Telephone, receives one of 34 national scholarship awards

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) announced awards of \$87,000 in college scholarships to 34 students in rural communities served by members of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association. The FRS College Scholarship Program awards one-time scholarships to students from rural America for their first year of college, university, or vocational-technical school. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company. Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. sponsored Trevor Sconyers from Lyons and is proud to announce he was chosen as one of nineteen FRS Scholarship recipients. He attends Toombs County High School and is the son of Shannon Sconyers, Leah Farrow, and Christy Terwilliger. He is active in FCCLA, including representing Georgia as a state officer, is a National Teen Influencer for Teens in the Driver’s Seat, a lead



SCONYERS

actor and stage manager for Bulldog Theater, a member of the Beta Club, and the People’s Bank Student Leadership Board. Sconyers has more than 200 community service hours to date. He plans to study a dual major in secondary and mathematics education with a minor in Spanish at Georgia Southern University. The only recipient from Georgia, Sconyers will receive a scholarship of \$2,500. While the delivery of the scholarships award is slightly different this year, Sconyers remains very appreciative, commenting, “I am thankful to be receiving this

scholarship and to Pineland Telephone for sponsoring me. It is so amazing to see people investing in youth and rural communities; it is truly something needed in the world.” “We are extremely honored to learn that Trevor was selected as one of the FRS Scholarship winners,” said General Manager Dustin Durden. “Trevor is a motivated and engaged young man with a bright future ahead, and we wish him the best in his upcoming endeavors.” “It is a privilege for FRS to have a small role in supporting the continued education of these students through our scholarship program,” said FRS Executive Director Pam Decker. “Every applicant was impressive and demonstrated a deep knowledge of and dedication to their rural communities. We thank all our donors for making this scholarship program possible year after year.”

BBCAT SPOT

What’s going on at your hometown college!

Camp Invention goes digital!

East Georgia State College and The Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center are excited to announce plans for an awesome summer experience for students who will be moving into 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades next school year. In this unprecedented time, we are excited to offer *Camp Invention Connect*. This experience brings the all-new Camp Invention® into campers’ homes through four activity kits packed with creative, hands-on materials and step-by-step activity guides designed to encourage independent exploration. Children can enjoy a screen-free, self-led experience, or they can access supplemental digital content and join optional collaboration sessions online with their “Coach” and fellow campers. Regardless of how participants choose to experience the program, screen time and the need for parental involvement are kept to a minimum, while imagination and creativity are limitless. Four thematic kits containing all the materials and instructions for a week of fun activities are sent directly to participants’ homes. These kits are packed full of items designed to bring four distinct learning modules to life, challenging children to explore, create and use inventive thinking. An optional virtual component of the program allows Coaches to guide groups of participants each day. Mornings will begin with a brief kickoff where Coaches introduce the day’s activities and give participants the chance to get to know one another. Children then go offline and get creative, using their kits to complete exciting projects. Coaches are available at set times to connect with campers for troubleshooting, brainstorming and collaboration. Camp Invention Connect is scheduled for July 13-17. For more information, contact Jean Schwabe at jdschwabe@ega.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 21 - Maymester Classes End
May 25 - Memorial Day Holiday
May 26 - Maymester Final Exams
June 1 - Summer Term and Session II Classes Begin
Financial Aid Priority Deadline for Fall Semester

For more information on EGSC’s schedule and response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, visit www.ega.edu/COVID19



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Eloise Yvonne Glass Hunnicutt, 90

Mrs. Eloise Yvonne Glass Hunnicutt passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at her home in Singapore. A graveside service was held at Chua Chu Kang Christian Cemetery with Su Seng Lee officiating.

Mrs. Hunnicutt was born March 12, 1930 on a mill village in Macon to Raymond and Leila Glass. She graduated from A.L. Miller High School and studied nursing at Macon Hospital School of Nursing. In 1950, she married Cliff Hunnicutt Jr. and moved to Swainsboro where she became an active member of First Baptist Church. When Cliff felt God's call to the ministry, she followed him as a faithful pastor's wife to churches in Georgia and South Carolina. While serving Riverside Baptist Church in Belton, South Carolina, she went back to school and received her nursing degree from Anderson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing.

In 1960, Eloise and Cliff were sent to California as home missionaries by the Home Mission Board of the



HUNNICUTT

Southern Baptist Convention. Eloise was staff nurse of the infirmary at California Baptist College while Cliff pastored the First Spanish Baptist Church of Pomona.

Beginning in 1965, Eloise spent the rest of her life as a missionary in Southeast Asia. In India, she had a clinic in Pune and led medical teams to conduct clinics in the primitive villages of Maharashtra State. Most of her years were spent in Singapore where Cliff established the Harvester Baptist Church. She taught an 'inquirer's class for young ladies for several years and established a mother's bible class for older

Chinese ladies that continues today. As God broadened their outreach, Eloise labored tirelessly beside Cliff, traveling with him to the remote islands of the Riaus in Indonesia, to Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka to share the gospel message. In Singapore and every place God sent them, her compassion and genuine love touched many lives.

Those who knew Eloise will always remember her encouraging words when they were needed most, her faith in the most impossible circumstances, the way she so selflessly gave of her time to others, her generosity and true southern hospitality, and her devotion as God's helpmeet to her husband, Cliff.

After Cliff passed away in 2018, Eloise remained in Singapore as that was her home.

She is survived by her son, Cliff (Linda) Hunnicutt III, of Troutman, North Carolina; daughter, Terri (Larry) Compton of Swainsboro; 10 grandchildren; and 27 great-grandchildren.

Shirley Wiggins Coleman, 77

Ms. Shirley Wiggins Coleman, 77 of Swainsboro, passed away Sunday, May 17, 2020 at her residence following an extended illness.

Ms. Coleman was born May 22, 1942 to the late Cordie Wiggins and Dora Mae Riner Wiggins. She enjoyed cooking, fishing, and going to the river, the beach, and the mountains. She also loved spending time with her family. Ms. Coleman was a member of Norristown Missionary Baptist Church for eight years. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, George Coleman Jr.; sisters, Dollie Mitchell and Jeanette Kirkland; and great-granddaughter, Jaylen Chalker.

Survivors include her daughters, Terry (Ed) Davis of Swainsboro, Donnie (Gary) Jarrel of Cobbtown, and Janet (Joey) Kirkland of Swainsboro; son, Garry (Lashley) Coleman of Swainsboro; sisters, Evelyn McNure of Social Circle, Catherine Kirby of Twin City,



COLEMAN

Susan Cox of Social Circle, Vickie (Donald) Pullens of Adrian, and Dora Riner of Twin City; brothers, Corbin (Teresa) Wiggins, Riner (Tammy) Wiggins, Joe (Leslie) Wiggins, all of Swainsboro, and Buster (Edna) Wiggins of Twin City; grandchildren, Wes (Jamie) Snellgrove, Jenni (Jamey) Chalker, Jed (Shaye) Davis, Laci (Tommy) Kirby, Justin Coleman, Weston (Kristin) Coleman, Samantha Coleman, Jessie (Devin) Pierce, Bobby (Amanda) Wilson, Heather (Tad) Roberson, Wes (Lacey) Kirkland,

and Brianna Kirkland; great-grandchildren, Jesley and Weslyn Snellgrove, Jared, Jacob, Jadeanna and Colby Chalker, Kylie and Jillian Davis, Gaston and Lani Kirby, Brayden and Ashlyn Coleman, Lacey, Payton, and D.J. Pierce, Case and Ava Grace Wilson, Jenna Grace and Ella Kate Roberson, and Jaxson Coleman; great-great-granddaughter, Braylee; and several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Graveside services will be held Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 11 a.m. at Swainsboro City Cemetery with Dr. Hal Wilson and Rev. Louis Pearce officiating.

Pallbearers will be her nephews.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at Chapman Funeral Home from 3 to 8 p.m. In compliance with the guidelines set by the CDC, 6' rule will be enforced during viewing.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro is in charge of arrangements.

Charles Davis Richardson, 61

Graveside services for Charles Davis Richardson, 61 of Twin City, were held Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Hebron Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. He passed away Thursday, May 14, 2020 at his residence following a brief illness.

Mr. Charles Davis Richardson was born

November 15, 1958 in Waukegan, Illinois to the late Harry Richardson and Sara Gay Richardson. He was a boat captain certified by the U.S. Coast Guard for several years, was a professional fisherman, and a truck driver. Richardson was an avid Braves baseball and a Duke basketball fan. He enjoyed travel-

ing and Mustang cars. Richardson was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his brother, Buck Richardson (Marian) of Texas; sister, Linda Webb of Twin City; and several nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Chapman Funeral Home of Swainsboro was in charge of arrangements.

Ellen Turner Edge Pitts, 85

Ellen Turner Edge Pitts, 85 of Swainsboro, died Sunday evening, May 10, 2020 at her residence.

Mrs. Pitts was born in Toombs County, Georgia, daughter of the late Leonard Turner and Nora Mae Logan Turner. Mrs. Pitts was a member of Nunez Baptist Church.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, graveside services were held for the family at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at Swainsboro City Cemetery with Reverend Louis Pearce and Reverend Neal Stich officiating. Social distancing protocols applied.

Survivors include

her husband, Reuben Pitts; two daughters, Becky Foskey and Jena Denver; son, Dana Edge (Susan); 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and a brother, Robert Turner

Arrangements were by Tomlinson Funeral Home and Crematory.

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Andrews pursuing Doctor of Musical Arts

Terry Andrews is continuing to break the mold with his latest academic endeavor—pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts. He began shattering the norm with his most recent degrees, but his current studies are poised to elevate him even further.

Andrews received his earliest musical training from the local public schools, first learning with Rebecca Lee at Swainsboro Elementary School, transitioning to Swainsboro Middle School with Dr. Gene Hundley, and finally being taught by Barry Golden at Swainsboro High School.

In 2015, he earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Albany State University, studying under Dr. Michael Decuir. During that time, Andrews was mentored by Hall of Fame member of Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity, the late Jesse L. Walker.

Andrews will graduate this spring with not one but *two* graduate degrees. The first, a Master of Music Performance, will be decreed to him by Valdosta State University. There, he studied under Dr. Elizabeth Goode as well as Dr. Daniel Alexander. The second graduate degree Andrews will receive in the near future is an artist diploma from the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University under

the leadership of Dr. Andrée Martin.

Additionally, he has been accepted into the University of Missouri—Kansas City's doctorate program, through which he will pursue his Doctor of Musical Arts in Instrumental Performance starting in the fall of 2020.

"There are not many students from Swainsboro who go off to college to study music, and there are fewer who go further than a bachelor's degree," Andrews started about his accomplishments. "The world of classical music is very much dominated by Caucasian people, but that is slowly changing. More and more African American people are getting doctorate degrees in music, teaching at prestigious institutions, principals in major symphony orchestras, and are sought-after composers. When I was in high school, I didn't know about any African Americans doing that. I would love to see more of a presence of African Americans and people of color who hold prominent positions to show the youth that people who look like them can make it out of Swainsboro, it's okay to dream, and they can become whatever they want to be in this life."

Andrews has a colorful, varied career as a freelance musician. He



ANDREWS

performs solo works, collaborates with different instrumentalists, and has experience in chamber groups, orchestras, wind band ensembles, jazz ensembles, and pit orchestras. His dream is to join the ranks of his fellow African American flutists like Hubert Laws, Jennifer Grim, Sonora Slocum, Valerie Coleman, and Demarre McGill, just to name a few. He also hopes to add to the rise in diversity in the classical music world. In order for him to make his dreams and goals a reality, however, he knows he needs to develop and refine his abilities as a musician and increase his experiences of professional development.

"Music is an art which can captivate our emotions in a way that nothing else can. It has the beauty and power to heal. It can inspire and help us convey thoughts and ideas through a unique medium. It has been the one constant in my life that



ANDREWS (LEFT) MARCHES IN ALBANY STATE'S BAND

has never let me down," Andrews described about his passion. "Music has always been one of my main interests and passions. I have always strived to perfect my craft by learning and understanding more about all aspects of music-making."

Over the years, Andrews has been afforded a number of quality opportunities to enrich his craft knowledge by way of exposure to different genres of music, performing, master classes, attending concerts, and going to recitals. Working with musicians of different ethnicities and backgrounds, he says, has helped him develop strong interpersonal dynamics with the ability to gain the respect of both students and colleagues while simultaneously developing outstanding motivational skills,

allowing for achievement. These musical experiences have helped him become the multi-talented musician he is today, complete with teaching talents and a keen understanding of his own strengths, weaknesses, and interests.

As he nears the time to hit the books again, he is mentally preparing for the task at hand. During his doctorate journey, Andrews plans to be a sponge and take advantage of every opportunity he receives to further his knowledge and understanding of flute pedagogy and performance as well as gain as much professional experience as possible. Once he has completed his education, he aspires to be a collegiate flute professor.

"I would love to go back and teach at a historically black college or university because that is where I

feel students need it the most “I also attended an HBCU for my undergrad, and I gained so much from attending school there. I would not trade my experiences at Albany State for anything in the world. We may not have had as many resources and opportunities as other institutions, but I got what I needed,” he commented. “I want to be able to take my knowledge and experiences back to an HBCU and share it with my students with the goal of nurturing and inspiring the next generation of musicians, just like my teachers inspired me.”

In addition to becoming a college professor, Andrews wants to utilize all opportunities to play various styles of music with different ensembles with an end goal of becoming a professional freelancer.

A campaign poster for Judge Tommy J. Smith. At the top is a decorative border featuring a row of white stars on a blue background, flanked by red stripes. Below this, the word "VOTE" is written in red, slanted capital letters. To its right, "Tommy J." appears in a large, blue, italicized serif font, followed by "SMITH" in a very large, bold, blue sans-serif font. A dark blue horizontal band contains the words "Honest", "★", "Humble", "★", and "Fair" in white sans-serif font. Below this band, "Superior Court Judge" is written in a large, red, italicized serif font. On the left side, there is a portrait photograph of Judge Tommy J. Smith, a man with short brown hair wearing a black judicial robe over a light blue shirt and tie. To the right of the photo, five phrases are listed vertically in a blue sans-serif font: "Fair to All", "Experienced", "Common-sense Decisions", "Justice for Everyone", and "Tough on Crime". A paragraph of text follows, stating: "On June 9, vote for a judge who has our values and understands our area. Tommy has served our area as Municipal Court & State Court Judge for years. His experience as a private lawyer, State Court Solicitor and as Judge gives him a unique perspective." The bottom section features a solid red background with the text "On June 9, vote for" in white sans-serif font, followed by "Judge Tommy J. Smith" in a larger, bold, white sans-serif font. At the very bottom, in smaller white sans-serif font, it says "Paid for by friends of Tommy J. Smith".

ELECT

Tripp Fitzner

DISTRICT ATTORNEY



I have spent my professional career fighting to make Emanuel County a better and safer place for people who live, work, and raise their families here. With your vote, as district attorney I will continue.



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- Elected to four terms on the Board of Governors of the Georgia Bar Association
- Member of Swainsboro Exchange Club
- Member of First Baptist Church of Swainsboro

Vote Tripp Fitzner for District Attorney on June 9th

www.trippfitzner4da.net and on Facebook

Tripp Fitzner for District Attorney



The ^{Forest} Blade

Swainsboro, GA • May 20, 2020 • www.EmanuelCountyLive.com

Social
News **B**



HARVEYS BAGS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN JUNE

Purchase of Harveys bags will result in donation to historic society

For the month of June, the Emanuel County Historic Preservation Society will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the local Harveys store located at 202 South Main Street, Swainsboro. The bags are large, reusable, and can be used for a variety of purposes. The ECHPS greatly appreciates your participation.

Bennett wins GFB 7th District Essay Contest

Ben Bennett was recently named the 7th District winner of the Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) Middle School Essay Contest. An eighth grader at David Emanuel Academy, Bennett won a \$100 prize for being the top winner from Georgia Farm Bureau's 7th District, which includes 17 counties in southeast Georgia. He is the son of Cade and Julie Bennett of Lyons.



BENNETT

Open to all sixth through eighth graders in Georgia, 67 county Farm Bureaus submitted essays to be considered for the district and state awards. A winner was selected from each of GFB's 10 districts and the state winner was selected from the 10 district essays.

In their essays, students were asked to discuss the relationship between farmers and natural resources. Participating students were instructed to explore the important role natural resources play on farms and farmers' techniques for protecting their natural resources.

Essays were judged on clarity of thought and writing skill. Bennett's essay can be read by visiting www.gfb.ag/7Bennett.

"Georgia Farm Bureau's Middle School Essay Contest is where research and creativity meet to allow students a chance to challenge their writing skills. We provide a topic, the students do the research, and then they help us tell the story of agriculture," said GFB Women's Leadership Committee Chairman Heather Cabe. "This group of students clearly researched accurate information resulting in essays of which I'm

confident farmers across Georgia will be proud."

Emanuel County Farm Bureau Women's committee coordinated the contest. "We are proud of Ben for being selected as the GFB 7th District winner of the Georgia Farm Bureau Essay Contest," said Committee Chair Shari Watt. "On behalf of Emanuel County Farm Bureau, I would like to thank the students and teachers who participated in our essay contest."

Founded in 1937, Georgia Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization. As a membership-driven, nongovernment organization, GFB serves as the voice of Georgia farmers and rural Georgia by advocating for them on legislative issues and promoting Georgia crops. GFB membership is open to the public and offers a wide variety of benefits, including insurance and discounts for health, travel and entertainment services. Enrollment in any of the member benefits is optional and not a requirement for membership.

Franklin Memorial Library update

Curbside/porch pick-up is now available at Franklin Memorial Library.

Although the library is still closed to the public, its staff is working and available to take book requests via phone or email. Requests can be made by phone at 478-237-7791 or by email at swainsborolibrary@gmail.com Monday

through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please place requests 24 hours before desired the pick-up time.

Pick-up time will be Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

Franklin Memorial Library's book drop is now open for the returns of all

checked out materials. The library is unable to accept donations at this time and requests for no donations be dropped in the book drop.

Lastly, Franklin Memorial Library has announced that virtual programs *only* are still being offered until further notice.

7 DAY FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
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Mother, daughter inspire each other to graduate from EGSC

Each semester, East Georgia State College has hundreds of students who make their way down the halls of the Swainsboro, Statesboro or Augusta campus. Each student has a different story and different reason why they are pursuing a degree, but very few students have their motivation right beside them or even, sometimes, in the same class. Audra Lee, an EGSC – Statesboro student, found her motivation even closer to her.

If you call Pineland Telephone Cooperative to pay your bill or ask a question, you may hear Audra’s voice when you call. She will answer your question or help you handle your payment and will always leave you with a kind word or some type of motivation.

“Sometimes when people call, we will go from paying their bill to me just motivating them or telling them how God can bless them,” said Audra.

What many people can’t see or hear over the phone is her determination to use her own life to help people, not only over the phone while they pay their bill, but to help children or young adults who need her help the most.

“I kind of got stuck in customer service but I always knew I wanted to help juveniles,” she said.

In 1993 Audra got an Information and Office Technology certificate from Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. A few years later, she found herself working at the Vidalia Police Department.

“By working at the police department, I thought about being a juvenile probation officer because I wanted to help children get on the right path before they made too many mistakes,” she said.

Since that sparked her interest, she obtained a Criminal Justice Technology diploma in 2004 from Southeastern Technical College while working at Alltel. Audra knew, as a single mom, she needed to make wise career choices and have a career with regular working hours with weekends off. By the grace of God, an opportunity opened for her as a receptionist at Pineland Telephone in January of 2007. Taking a different pathway in customer service, she now celebrates 13 years as a Customer Experience Associate (CEA). However, being determined to continue her education in criminal justice, she received her associate degree from Ogeechee Technical College in 2012.

During the past few years she decided to take on another challenge. She decided to go back to college - this time for

a different reason than before.

“You know, before, when I went to school, it was for my children, to make their life better,” she said. “But this time, it was really for me. This is something I wanted to do. I knew that my daughter was going to graduate soon. I knew I needed to do something different to find myself again, because when you have kids, you kind of lose your identity. You start living more for your kids than yourself. I needed to do something for me.”

Her journey began before her daughter, Audra Imani Williams, graduated from Metter High School in 2016 and began college at Life University in Marietta, Georgia on a partial track scholarship. She later transferred to EGSC.

Imani said it was encouraging to have her mother in school the same time she was because it meant they could push each other.

“She went to night school, worked two jobs, got me and my brother through school, still trying to get me through school, and she just puts herself down. She is just remarkable,” said Imani. “That’s why I push her, because she pushes me.”

During their time at EGSC, they often had the same professor and same class. They said it was very helpful and motivating to be able to help each other.

“I’m more of an in-class person, but some of my classes I had to do online after work,” said Audra. “That was really difficult after being on the computer all day and then having to go home and do classwork on the computer at night, but I’m very thankful for Pineland and my job because they were very helpful and they allowed me to leave a little early to get to classes and such.”

Just a short time ago Audra and Imani learned something that would make their experience at EGSC even better. They would be graduating at the same time - Spring 2020.

“When I found out she would also be finished in May, I was like, ‘this will be cool. I will get to walk with my daughter,’” said Audra.

Because of COVID-19, the commencement ceremony was cancelled and replaced with a virtual ceremony, which they both took part in. They watched the ceremony with Eugene Howard, a local photographer. After the ceremony, Howard took photos of them together to help celebrate their associate degrees from EGSC.

Audra and Imani said they are both planning to come back in the Fall and walk across the stage together during the Fall



AUDRA AND IMANI



AUDRA AND IMANI

Commencement Ceremony.

“I would love to walk because that is something I was really looking forward to - to really walk across the stage, because I was excited,” said Audra. “When I got my associates degree in criminal justice, I wasn’t excited. I was more excited this time and I learned I would get to walk with one of my kids.”

Audra said this would have been the second moment in the past few months where she would have gotten to participate with her children at an event. Her son, JuVante’ Butler, is in the Marine Corps and invited her to be his date to the military ball.

Audra said being able to be with both her children at these events and supporting them is right where she needed to be.

“Being a single mom, and even though my son is grown, a child always wants mom there to support them. If mom is there, it brightens their face up,” she said. “As I mature as a mother, I see how important that is. A mother’s job is never over. It’s a challenge but it’s worth it.”

Imani said she is planning to obtain a bachelor’s degree in exercise science and she is encouraging her mother to continue college as well. She said she has given so much to others, it’s time to give back to herself.

“She is one of the strongest women I have ever known. Honestly, coming home to my mom and hearing her talk to people and mentor people, even if they are just on the phone paying their bill at her work,

and then those people recognize me and tell me how much my mom has helped them, I just realize how remarkable she is,” said Imani.

Audra said she would love to one day get a bachelor’s degree in psychology to help juveniles in some compacity.

“I like to encourage other young girls and single mothers to not give up,” she said. “My interest is really in psychology and working with abused kids. I like to be an advocate for those children and even a mentor to them.”

Right now, she plans to continue her job at Pineland because she feels like part of the family.

“God has a plan and if it’s to move forward with a bachelor’s degree, then I know He will make that possible. It just really feels like a family at Pineland and I enjoy my work,” she said.

Audra said East Georgia State College also felt like a family at times. She and Imani said there were so many people along the way who helped them.

“Darlene Dickens, Sherry Helms, Jim Beall, Robert Jones, and Amanda in the bookstore really helped make these associate degrees possible for us. If it wasn’t for them, I don’t know what I would have done,” Imani said.

For now, Audra and Imani said they will cherish the memories of classes together at East Georgia State College and the people who helped them along the way, and they are looking forward to the moment they get to walk across the EGSC stage together at graduation in the Fall.

BOE honors class leaders during May meeting

by HALEI LAMB
The Emanuel County Board of Education met Tuesday, May 12, at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office. The highlight of the meeting was the board's recognizing of valedictorians and salutatorians for both Swainsboro High School and Emanuel County Institute.

Superintendent Dr. Kevin Judy congratulated the class leaders with a slide presentation. Kristin Smoyer is ECI's valedictorian while Bailey Sanders is salutatorian. Swainsboro High's valedictorian is Josie Peebles, and Mitali Patel is SHS's salutatorian.

Peebles was also recognized as the 2020 Georgia School Scholar. The superintendent next shared a press release regarding Emanuel County Schools receiving 16 bus hot spots for students to use throughout the county.

Other comments by the superintendent included a line about the school food service's TID course being canceled for the summer and an update on the K.I.S.S. Security System.

Director of Finance Whitney Lawrence then gave a budget update. She also presented the financial reports under the consent agenda portion of the meeting.

Also under the umbrella of the consent agenda were the discussion of minutes from the April 14 board meeting, an update on

the utility easement at Swainsboro High School, a contract discussion for a renovation at Swainsboro High, the tentative approval of the FY21 Budget, and discussion of the 2020-2021 Refunding Application, COLA, and Quality Improvement Application. The consent agenda was approved as presented.

The board then entered executive session. Upon returning to open session, the board approved the following:

- **Certified employees** — Melissa Farthing, Kaylen Fulford, Chase Giddons, Rachel Hilton, Alana Johnson, Melissa Kelsey, Taylor Muirhead, Sandra Newkirt, Joseph O'Neal, Courtney Sikes, Rekayl Simpkins, and Braswell Walraven, teachers, along with counselor Samantha Green

- **Classified employment** — Kathryn Braddy, paraprofessional

- **Certified resignations** — David Elsenrath, Antoinette Harris, Shanona Merrell-Settles, and Kimberly Miner, teachers

- **Certified transfers** — Keri Claxton, Justin coleman, Alexandra Flowers, and Cassie Way, teachers

- **Classified transfers** — Bookkeeper Brandi Davis and custodian Gerri Dudley

All board members were present for the meeting. Mase Henry called the meeting to order and delivered the

invocation. John Allen Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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One evening as the family gathered together to watch their favorite television program the dog began to bark. "Hush, Sarge," said the father. But Sarge refused to stop barking and looked anxiously from one family member to another. They refused to be bothered as they watched the show. It was too entertaining.

Finally, the program was over and the father excused himself and went upstairs to go to bed. As he entered his bedroom, he realized that the dog had been trying to get their attention. A thief had carefully and quietly entered their home, opened their safe and stolen their most valuable possessions. The warning of the dog could not get their attention and alert them to danger.

"Today," (or *listen now*) warned the Psalmist, "if you hear *His* voice, do not harden your hearts!" Often God tries to "get our attention" to warn us of impending dangers. He does His best to speak to us through His Word or a friend, a verse of Scripture or a sermon. He reaches out to us in love and compassion - anxious to warn us of the attractiveness of sin, the power of temptation and the destruction that awaits us. But, like the family in Canada, we are so often too involved in the things of this world to hear His warning.

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Cook of the Week

Featuring the recipes of...

Michelle Akridge

This week's Cook of the Week is Michelle Akridge. She is the granddaughter of MD and the late Betty Akridge of Stillmore and the daughter of Lewis Akridge. Michelle is a proud mother and grandmother who loves her family and enjoys cooking. She is employed by Pat Jackson and the late Billy Jackson of Wrightsville. Here are three recipes she would like to share. Enjoy!






From the kitchen of *Michelle*

Chicken Pot Pie

- 3 c. chicken, cooked and diced
- 2 cans vegetable mix
- 2 cans cream of chicken
- 1 c. self-rising flour
- 2 Tbsp. mayo
- 1 egg
- 1.5 c. milk

Mix chicken, vegetable mix, and cream of chicken together pour in baking dish. Mix self-rising flour, mayo, egg, and milk. Pour over chicken mixture and bake at 350°F for 45 minutes.




From the kitchen of *Michelle*

Broccoli Cheese and Rice Casserole

- 1 c. rice
- 16 oz. chicken broth
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1-2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. oil
- 10.5 oz. condensed milk
- 1 can cream of chicken or cream of mushroom
- 1/2 c. milk
- 4 Tbsp. butter
- 8 oz. sharp cheddar cheese
- 16 oz. broccoli
- salt and pepper to taste

Sauté rice, oil, butter, and garlic golden then cook rice as normal. Add stock to rice. Mix remaining ingredients, except cheese, and pour into baking dish. Top with shredded cheese. Bake in oven at 325°F for 35 to 40 minutes.



From the kitchen of *Michelle*

Strawberry Banana Cheesecake Salad

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 3/4 oz. instant cheesecake pudding
- 1 c. half and half
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 c. powdered sugar
- 2 lbs. strawberries, sliced
- 3 medium sized bananas, cut into rounds
- 2 tsp. lemon juice

In a large bowl, mix all ingredients together. Chill for at least one hour prior to serving.

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The Comforter

BY BISHOP BERTHA JONES

We are in a time of change and more uncertainty. Are you faring well? Just some reminders as we weather this storm: Are you wearing your mask and keeping your distance? Are you listening to health officials about health issues? Have you let your guard down? Do you have the assurance of being alright? The main concern is if you're comfortable or whether or not you have The Comforter? Let me introduce you today or give you a reminder about the comforter.

In Saint John 14, Jesus tells us not to let our hearts be troubled. He was telling us to be at peace. If you are troubled today, you should want a comforter.

While growing up as a child and even as an adult, my parents were my comforter. I always felt safe as I played from day to day because I knew they were always there with no worries and no cares. They were great providers and protectors. When I fell and hurt myself, my mom kissed my wound and made it feel better. At night when my dad was home, I always slept in peace. I was at peace because they were my comforters. Today, my peace and comfort comes from the source which they used to comfort me. I observed them operating in difficult times and situations. Through tragedies and deaths of their children, through raising 14 children of their own and through helping others with their difficult situations, they always seemed to find peace and comfort.

Jesus tells us in John 14 not to let our hearts be troubled. He was the source of comfort for His followers and others. He wanted them to know although He was leaving, He would send someone else to comfort them. He reassured them that The Comforter is the Holy Spirit which the Father would send in His name.

In Acts 1 before His ascension back into heaven, Jesus told His apostles to go to Jerusalem and stay until they received the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2, after 10 days, they received the Holy Spirit, which is our comforter today. Jesus was the comforter who comforted my parents. Through them, He was always comforting me. Today, I have the comfort and peace which He gives to me. Now, I still have no worries and no cares because He cares for me. Receive the comforter today, which is the Holy Spirit, and He will abide with you always.

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The Crossroads Church 529 South Main St., Swainsboro 212-237-3498 Rev. Levi Carpenter	Kea's United Methodist Church Adrian, GA 31002 • 478-668-3559 Pastor Mark Hardin	*Pendleton Springs Missionary Baptist 649 Pendleton Springs Road, Vidalia, GA 30447 912-578-5066 Rev. J. Walter Jarrell, Sr.	United Primitive Baptist Church 242 W. Main St., Swainsboro Elder Paul Thomas 229-424-6486
Dellwood Baptist Church P.O. Box 645 Hwy. 1 North., Swainsboro Rev. Joe Bedgood	Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 1064 Old Walley Rd., Swainsboro 237-4525	*Pentecostal Lighthouse Church (Apostolic) Hwy. 1 North, Swainsboro • 237-0923 Rev. Ronnie Young	Williams Chapel Holiness Church 415 Felix Street, Swainsboro 478-289-6060 • Pastor Apostle Clyde Fowler Sr.
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COVID-19 bus brings help for behavioral health needs

by NAOMI THOMAS, georgiahealthnews.com

A bus mobilized during the COVID-19 pandemic is bringing behavioral health care to two rural counties.

The mobile health unit, run by CarePartners, a local agency, has been traveling through Emanuel and Candler counties in east Georgia to bring services to people in need.

Since the virus appeared in the state, the bus has served about 175 people, according to David Crooke, the CarePartners CEO and co-founder. About 80 percent of these people have been children.

The unit has been named the THRIVE bus. The acronym stands for Taking Hope, Recovery, Integrated care and Vitality Everywhere.

Traveling aboard the bus are a registered nurse, a certified addiction counselor and a community support worker. All wear protective masks and maintain a sanitized, hygienic space.

Katie Ward, the nurse, checks people for symptoms of the coronavirus, ready to refer them for treatment if they are infected. Fortunately, no one with COVID-19 symptoms has been identified so far, but plenty of people have gotten help with other issues thanks to the mobile team.

Ward's job includes giving each person a basic medical screening. She takes individuals' vital signs and asks about the medicines they take. (She reminds them how important it is to take their medicine regularly as directed.) She also does mental health screenings.

If people are exhibiting health problems, physical or mental, Ward and her colleagues work to address their issues.

Thanks to the generosity of local food banks, the THRIVE bus also brings food to families that need it. Many of these people have little economic security, especially now.

Because of COVID-19, social distancing is part of the protocol with the program. To keep things as orderly as possible, CarePartners calls patients and clients it has worked with before and sets up appointment times for them to meet the bus.

If there is more than one person waiting at a particular stop, the staffers set up markers to show people how far apart they need to be. Some people wait in their cars.

THRIVE offers an array of services for a patient experiencing trouble. The help may come from a counselor, a community support worker, or a psychiatrist.

Such resources are vital now. The devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused countless people to be uncertain about the future. A crisis like this can worsen people's mental health and behavioral health problems, Crooke says, while some people find themselves experiencing such problems for the first time.

Since the pandemic, he and his staff on the bus

have seen an uptick in behavioral health crises and people thinking about suicide. They are seeing parents who fear that their children will be orphaned, and children who are afraid of something happening to their parents.

CarePartners has been helping local people for years, but Crooke says the group realized that normal operations wouldn't work during the pandemic. There was a concern that some patients might "drop out of care" just when they needed it most, "so we wanted to have a way that we could continue the services despite COVID-19." The bus was the answer.

The coronavirus outbreak, with its extraordinary impact on everyday life, has put a strain on people that can affect their mental and behavioral health.

According to Isha Metzger, a licensed clinical psychologist at the University of Georgia, people are worrying about running out of food, about losing their jobs or incomes permanently, about struggling to pay for housing and utilities, and about child care problems, especially with children unable to go to school.

Metzger says many low-income and rural populations are especially at risk of behavioral health problems, because they were already facing stress and inequities in their daily lives. "These stressors place them at a heightened risk for mental and behavioral health problems, including anxiety, hopelessness and substance misuse," she says.

Melissa Haberlen DeWolf, research and policy director of the advocacy group Voices for Georgia's Children, notes the terrible pressure on many families: While they worry about their livelihoods and wonder whether they can continue to meet their basic needs, they also face the danger of catching a new disease. If parents and children were already struggling



CROOKE



WARD



THRIVE BUS

with mental health issues, this is the time when they "need access to care to manage symptoms and prevent crises," she says.

Care they wouldn't get otherwise

The staff at CarePartners has been looking after the behavioral health needs of people in Emanuel, Candler and Bulloch counties since the group launched in 2003.

Initially the organization helped provide non-traditional behavioral health care to children in homes and at school. Since then, it has begun to serve adults as well. Crooke has sometimes seen people he helped as children return to CarePartners years later to seek help for their own children.

Haberlen DeWolf of Voices for Georgia's Children points out that the simple lack of a ride can be a great barrier to getting health care in rural areas. People live a long way from medical facilities, many don't have regular access to cars, and in the best of times there's little public transportation. The bus makes a big difference.

"Even before the COVID-19 crisis, people in our rural areas struggled to access physical and mental health care. Forty per-

cent of children ages 3 to 17 in Georgia can't get the mental health treatment they need," says Haberlen DeWolf. "By bringing services within walking distance of people in need, CarePartners' Mobile Access and Engagement Unit has overcome that obstacle."

"Access to mental health care saves lives, reduces negative impacts of illnesses over the long term and supports families in times of crisis," she says. "It truly can be an issue of life or death."

Some financial barriers still exist to the kind of care that CarePartners would like to deliver. The group can't bill the state for treating adults who have no health insurance, and there are many uninsured people in rural Georgia.

Nevertheless, CarePartners has built an effective program by networking with organizations such as food banks.

"That little outreach from the food banks has really bought us in contact with some high-risk families, and those families have decided that they want to receive behavioral health services," says Crooke. "So that's been kind of a positive fallout from this experience."



EDGE



HOCK

Sherman and Hemstreet wins CoStar Power Broker Awards

CoStar recently announced its 2019 CoStar Power Broker Award winners, and Sherman and Hemstreet Real Estate is proud to walk away as the leader for both industrial and office real estate for 2019. The CoStar Power Broker Awards recognize the top influential commercial real estate firms and brokers across more than 115 markets in the United States.

Charles Hock was named the 2019 Top Industrial Broker by CoStar. Hock continues to be a powerhouse for industrial real estate properties in the region and continues to assist clients in helping buy, sell, or lease industrial properties in the area.

Sherman and Hemstreet President and Broker Joe Edge has won back-to-back Top Officer Broker Awards for 2018 and 2019. Edge has been committed to helping clients with their office needs across the region and has had numerous large sales and leases in 2019 and continuing into 2020.



OVERTURNED IMPALA

Driver injured in Highway 192 North wreck

by BILL CAHILL

On Monday evening, May 18, shortly after 6 p.m., county emergency units responded to the second rollover crash in three hours. While traveling northbound on Highway 192, a mechanical failure caused a 2008 Chevrolet Impala LS to swerve off the roadway, overturn and strike trees and a fence. The female driver received non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to Emanuel Medical Center by EMS.

County firefighters and first responders from Canoochee responded to the crash. The crash was investigated by a Sheriff's deputy.

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TINA HALL, ENROLLED AGENT



BOE honors class leaders during May meeting

by HALEI LAMB

The Emanuel County Board of Education met Tuesday, May 12, at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office. The highlight of the meeting was the board’s recognizing of valedictorians and salutatorians for both Swainsboro High School and Emanuel County Institute.

Superintendent Dr. Kevin Judy congratulated the class leaders with a slide presentation. Kristin Smoyer is ECI’s valedictorian while Bailey Sanders is salutatorian. Swainsboro High’s valedictorian is Josie Peebles, and Mitali Patel is SHS’s salutatorian.

Peebles was also recognized as the 2020 Georgia School Scholar.

The superintendent next shared a press release regarding Emanuel County Schools receiving 16 bus hot spots for students to use throughout the county.

Other comments by the superintendent

included a line about the school food service’s TID course being canceled for the summer and an update on the K.I.S.S. Security System.

Director of Finance Whitney Lawrence then gave a budget update. She also presented the financial reports under the consent agenda portion of the meeting.

Also under the umbrella of the consent agenda were the discussion of minutes from the April 14 board meeting, an update on the utility easement at Swainsboro High School, a contract discussion for a renovation at Swainsboro High, the tentative approval of the FY21 Budget, and discussion of the 2020-2021 Refunding Application, COLA, and Quality Improvement Application. The consent agenda was approved as presented.

The board then entered executive session. Upon returning to open session, the board approved the following:

- **Certified employ-**

ments — Melissa Farthing, Kaylen Fulford, Chase Giddons, Rachel Hilton, Alana Johnson, Melissa Kelsey, Taylor Muirhead, Sandra Newkirt, Joseph O’Neal, Courtney Sikes, Rekayl Simpkins, and Braswell Walraven, teachers, along with counselor Samantha Green

- **Classified employment** — Kathryn Braddy, paraprofessional
- **Certified resignations** — David Elsenrath, Antoinette Harris, Shanona Merrell-Settles, and Kimberly Miner, teachers
- **Certified transfers** — Keri Claxton, Justin coleman, Alexandra Flowers, and Cassie Way, teachers
- **Classified transfers** — Bookkeeper Brandi Davis and custodian Gerri Dudley

All board members were present for the meeting. Mase Henry called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation. John Allen Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.



FIREFIGHTERS ON SCENE

Firefighters battle fire at LJR Forest Products

by BILL CAHILL, SFD PIOCounty firefighters responded to a fire at 1377 Old Nunez Road on Saturday, May 16, at 11:01 a.m. A fire had broken out in the drying system and was spreading to the conveyer system leading into the mill. Burning pockets of sawdust were carried by the wind and were igniting small fires on the ground and the side of the structure.

Engines from Dellwood, Norristown, Nunez, Swainsboro, and Twin City were on scene operating several hose lines for over two hours. Special Ops 201 and EMS provided rehab due to the heat, humidity, and smoke. A drafting operation was set up to provide water from the pond.

A pastor’s perspective on the new norm

by DAVID DONNAN, Pastor

The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 has challenged many of us to improvise in ways we were not expecting. We have had to reconsider the ways we shop, pump gas, and greet others while we are out. My daughter, Lydia, and wife, Brandy, have both enjoyed improvised birthday celebrations. While there have been some minor inconveniences compared to the significant, even serious hardships faced by others, I have been asking this question a lot: “When can we get back to normal?”

But what if this is the wrong question to ask? What if the better question is, “What will *be* our new normal?” While this question excites me a lot less than the possibility of ever going back to how things used to be, I’m convinced now that it is the question we *should* all be asking



DONNAN

ourselves.

Church leaders like myself have numerous things to consider as we begin reopening our churches. For instance, should we require people to wear masks? How do we safely space people for worship services? Should we allow singing? That is the saddest question for me. When we sing, do we risk putting more germs into the air—germs that might sicken our fellow congregants? If that’s a possibility, should we stop singing?

Let me tell you a secret about your church leaders: we have more ques-

tions right now than we do answers. But here is some good news. Pastors and other leaders do not operate in a vacuum. We prayerfully work together with our church people, our local health officials, and state resources to determine and implement best practices to protect all the people we serve.

Here’s even more good news: we have seen some great innovations happening in the life of our local churches. We have gotten creative about the ways we continue to worship together. Offerings are collected in different and more modern ways. Worship happens across parking lots and through internet video platforms. Crosses in yards are a reminder to ourselves and others not to lose hope. I’ve seen creative sermons like those presented by Swainsboro First Baptist Pastor Casey Shaw, who has been inviting his congregation to think about the purpose of the church as he spoke from different locations in First Baptist’s physical plant.

We never want to go through another pandemic. However, we *can* take the methods and tools we’ve been learning to use into the future so that we can better serve our local community and the world outside our area. Whatever our “new normal” will become, I am excited to be on the journey with you and this community.

David Donnan is the pastor at Twin City United Methodist Church. You can join them for online worship during the pandemic at [Facebook.com/TwinCityUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TwinCityUMC). The services are published Sundays at 11 a.m. but can be viewed anytime. This week begins a new sermon series, *Thriving Through Transition*.

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Before casting your vote, please consider my proven record of dedicated, credible service and leadership.

It is my belief a successful career speaks for itself! I would be grateful if you cast your vote for me.

I would be honored to serve you as the next Sheriff of Emanuel County.

JB



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A Memorial Day tribute to the American soldier

by ERIC HOGAN

Every June 6 for many years, no matter where I might be, I would make a respectful phone call to my wife's Uncle Chuck. I simply wanted to let him know that I was thinking about him on the anniversary of the most important day of the Twentieth Century – D-Day, June 6, 1944. As a young man on that fateful day, Uncle Chuck had parachuted into Normandy, France with the 82nd Airborne Division and was fighting desperately to protect American infantry that had just landed on the beaches.

On this decisive day the Allies successfully secured the beachhead on the French coast that enabled the final climactic drive to victory against Nazi Germany. Had the D-Day invasion failed, World War II would have been indefinitely prolonged, further magnifying the forthcoming death and destruction.

On May 8 we just celebrated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day (Victory In Europe), commemorating the surrender of Germany. For perhaps forty years after the end of WWII, many historians judged the well trained and often outnumbered German soldier to be the best overall combat soldier of the war. However, in recent decades, some historians led

by the late Stephen Ambrose, the founder of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, and history aficionados such as myself have challenged this thinking and argue that the American soldier was the best combat soldier of the war.

The conclusive evidence that supports our reasoning comes from two monumental engagements between German and American forces where the outcome was absolutely essential for winning the war. At Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion and at the December 1944 encirclement and siege of the Belgian town of Bastogne during the Battle Of The Bulge, both the Germans and Americans knew that defeat was not an option.

For the amphibious assault on Omaha Beach, the Americans were on the offensive, and the Germans were on the defensive. The Germans were defending the high bluffs overlooking the beach and had both numerical and firepower advantages. The first several waves of American landing troops were decimated on the beach and chaos reigned. For half a day the issue was in grave doubt, but individual courage and initiative gradually took hold. By the end of the day the American 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions controlled Omaha Beach and prevented the Normandy beachhead from disastrously being split in two.

At Bastogne the situation was reversed. The Germans were on the offensive and the Americans were

on the defensive. On December 16, 1944, the Germans launched a surprise counterattack in the Ardennes region of Belgium in a desperate gamble to turn the tide of the war. The massive German attack punched a huge bulge in the American forces, but at Bastogne, which was located right in the middle of that bulge and was the vital crossroads town the Germans had to capture, the 101st Airborne Division was rushed in and told to "hold at all costs". Surrounded by several German tank divisions and being attacked from all sides, the 101st dug in for a heroic stand sometimes called the "Alamo in the Ardennes". The Germans demanded "surrender or be annihilated", but the commander of the 101st responded with the immortal reply "Nuts."

In what was surely the best Christmas present any American military unit ever received-- even if it was a day late-- the 101st held Bastogne until December 26 when General Patton's advancing army smashed through German lines and broke the siege. Thus, the Battle of the Bulge became a pivotal American victory that would hasten the outcome of the war.

When the chips were down, the outcome of the war was at stake, and you absolutely had to win, it was the American combat soldiers who withstood the duress and danger, absorbed the casualties, and did everything necessary to achieve victory. The American soldier has



HOGAN

no peer when it comes to the ability to adapt, improvise, and deal with adversity on the battlefield.

Our beloved Uncle Chuck was a good, solid, patriotic man who personified the fact that an ordinary American, when trained and motivated as a soldier, would be capable of doing extraordinary things. This Memorial Day be thankful our country has produced millions of such men and women, willing to put themselves in harm's way at the risk of their own lives to preserve our freedom. And gratefully remember that over the course of our nation's almost 250 years, many have made the ultimate sacrifice which we honor on this special day. Might I suggest that when you next encounter American military personnel, take time to briefly put your busy life on pause and express your sincere appreciation for their service.

Eric Hogan is a longtime resident of Tybee Island. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech and Mercer Law School, and he is an amateur historian of an World War II. He can be reached at rhogan-jr71@aol.com. His wife, Roxy Wimberly Hogan, was born and raised in Swainsboro. Her sister is Leck Boatright of Citizens Bank.

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Jail Report

The following persons have been booked into Emanuel County Jail, according to Emanuel County Sheriff Tyson Stephens, 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 (EC SO); 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); or Probation Office (PROB).

Maria Alejandra Morales, 22, 6943 Coleman Chapel Rd., Bartow; entered 5/11/20; Driving lic susp/

rev; released 5/11/20; SPD
Bobby Ellis Lloyd, 74, 422 N. Coleman St.; entered 5/12/20; Suspended Registration, No Insurance, Driving lic susp/rev; released 5/12/20; SPD
Cassandra Love Dalton, 44; entered 5/13/20; VGcsa/vio ga control subst act, Dep acct fraud/bad checks under \$499; SPD
Samantha Kasey Reese, 30, 205 Lee St., Apt. B; entered 5/13/20; Parole viol; EC SO
Arthur Lee Hazel Jr., 50, 2012 Carp Dr., Augusta; entered 5/14/20; VGCSA possession Crack Cocaine, Fleeing/attempt to elude ofc, VGCSA Possession of Drug Related Object, Speeding 15-29 MPH over; WALK-IN
Thomas H. Woods

III, 51, 249 Garry Rd.; entered 5/14/20; Theft/taking; released 5/15/20; SPD
Maria Quintana, 36, 417 W. Church St., Apt. A; entered 5/14/20; Driving While Unlicensed/Expired; released 5/14/20; SPD
Tavarius Menquez Devouil, 28, 410 Modoc Rd.; entered 5/15/20; Probation/Superior Court, Probation/Superior Court, Firearm/knife posses/crime/attempt crime, Firearm poss by conv felon, VGCSA possession of Marijuana w/ intent to distribute; SPD
Lakreshia Zakil Jacobs, 23, 1705 N. McSwain Dr., Vidalia; entered 5/15/20; VGCSA possession Marijuana w/ intent to distribute, Firearm/knife posses/crime/attempt crime;

EC SO
David Leonard Ridgell, 35, 847 Propserity Dr.; entered 5/15/20; Driving lic susp/rev, Unregistered Vehicle; released 5/15/20; SPD
Briana Bell, 26, 103 W. Church St.; entered 5/15/20; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; SPD
Santonio Perzel Moore, 40, 126 Newlife Rd.; entered 5/16/20; Driving While Unlicensed/Expired, Dui alch; released 5/16/20; GSP
Larry Burton Bailey III, 19, 233 Kemp Rd.; entered 5/16/20; Dui/alch; released 5/16/20; GSP
Henry James Sutton, 56, 640 Atlanta St., 481 Nunez Lexsy Rd., Twin City; entered 5/16/20; Driving lic susp/rev, No Insurance, Unregistered Vehicle; released

5/16/20; SPD
Stanley Edwards Boatright, 42, 336 Oak Grove Church Rd.; entered 5/16/20; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation, Hold for Jefferson County, Child Support/Superior Court Contempt Order; SPD
Crystal Lynn Akridge, 36, 310 N. Green St.; entered 5/16/20; Aggr assault, Probation/State Court/Middle Ga Probation; SPD
Seth Allen Frew, 29, 294 Highway 192 N., Twin City; entered 5/17/20; Open Container, Defective Equipment; released 5/17/20; TCPD
Bobby Brooks, 52, 204 New St.; entered 5/17/20; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; released 5/18/20; SPD
Cassandra Noel

Hood, 32, 205 Calhoun St.; entered 5/17/20; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation, Probation/State Court/Middla Ga Probation; SPD
Russell Clint Givens, 34, 2829 Maple Rd.; entered 5/17/20; Driving lic susp/rev, Windshield/front door cracked/tinted/matls proh; released 5/17/20; SPD
Michael La'Coy Howell, 37, 418 Jerome St.; entered 5/17/20; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; released 5/18/20; SPD
Arthur Lee Williams Jr., 39, 329 Market St.; entered 5/17/20; Probation/Swainsboro PD/Middle Ga Probation; released 5/18/20; SPD

Sheriff's Reports

According to Emanuel County Sheriff's Office...

May 4
Complainant struck a deer while traveling LB Hall Road/Ivey Hall Road, causing him to swerve and lose control of the vehicle. Vehicle left the roadway and overturned. No injuries were reported.

May 11
Deputy responded to Mosley Cemetery in reference to damaged graves.
Complainant reported neighbor's nuisance dog.

May 13
Deputies responded to a residence on Fannie Brewer Road after a complainant called and reported a bleeding male subject walking up to his door and asked for help. EMS arrived on scene prior to deputies and transported the subject. Deputies then visited the hospital and spoke with victim, who stated he received the laceration on his face by falling in the ditch.
Deputy had an abandoned vehicle removed

from Hawhammock Church Road.
Deputies responded to a residence in reference to a domestic in progress. Intoxicated offender who had damaged victim's vehicle and threatened victim was arrested and transported to the jail.
Deputy responded to Sunset Inn in reference to a person with an outstanding warrant. Offender was located hiding in the bathroom and taken into custody without incident.

Police Reports

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

May 7
Officer responded to an address on Sheppard Drive in reference to theft by taking.

May 8
Officer responded to a Mary Ann address to assist another agency.

Complainant reported not receiving a tag in the mail for a purchased vehicle.

Officer was dispatched to an address on South Main Street in reference to stalking.

Officer conducted a traffic stop in reference to an unregistered vehicle being operated on the roadway.

May 9
Officer was dispatched to an address on West Main Street in reference to an entering auto.

Officer was dispatched to an address on Gumlog Road in reference to a damaged vehicle.

Officer was dispatched to an address on West MLK Jr. Blvd. in reference to a dispute.

May 10
Officer was dispatched do a West MLK Jr. Blvd. address in reference to an open door.

Officer was dispatched to an address on South Main Street in reference to theft by taking.

Officer responded to an address on Old Nunez Road in reference to a domestic dispute.

Officers responded to an address on Pratt Avenue to assist another agency with a call involving a subject not breathing. The involved subject was announced dead on arrival.

May 12
Emanuel County 911 dispatched officer to an address on Gumlog Road in reference to stalking.

Officer responded to an address on Ponderosa Drive in reference to items being stolen from a vehicle.

Officer was dispatched to the above mentioned address, Ponderosa Drive, in reference to a

stolen vehicle.

May 13
Complainants filed a miscellaneous report.

Officers were dispatched to a West Church Street address in reference to terroristic threats and acts.

Complainant reported a lost or stolen vehicle tag.

Officer responded to an address on South Main Street in reference to an arrest warrant. Upon arrival, officer found two female and one male subjects in a room. When asking if wanted subject was present, all three subjects denied the wanted person's presence there. Officer cleared the room but located evidence used to smoke illegal drugs. Officer then asked permission to search the location, to which all three subjects complied. After further investigation, officer located drug-related objects as well as methamphetamine. An arrest was then made.

May 15
Complainant made a miscellaneous report. Officers responded to an address on South Main Street in reference to simple battery and interference with a 911 call.

Officer responded to

an address on Highway 56 North to assist deputies with a domestic in progress inside of a residence. The party involved inside the location refused to abide commands to open the door. Officer made forced entry and deployed his taser on the involved offender, who was attempting to flee. Taser probes were removed from offender prior to being transported to the Emanuel County Jail.

Officer made a traffic stop in reference to an unregistered vehicle being operated on the roadway. During the traffic stop, the driver was found at fault for driving with a suspended license. An arrest was made.

Officer made a traffic stop in reference to an unregistered and uninsured vehicle being operated on the roadway.

Twin City Police Reports

Officers with the Twin City Police Department (TCPD) reported...

May 11
Officer responded to an address on East Broad Street in reference to disorderly conduct.

Officer responded to the area of Highway 80 in reference to a shoplifting offense.

Victim reported a battery offense.

May 12
Complainant reported disorderly conduct.

May 13
Officer responded to an address on Mathis Avenue in reference to a miscellaneous report.

May 16
Officer, assisted by Emanuel-Swainsboro Animal Control, humanly appre-

hended two dogs in which the Twin City Police Department had received multiple complaints about.

Officer submitted a search warrant application to Emanuel County Magistrate Court in reference to a cellphone recovered during the execution of a search warrant at a South Railroad Avenue address.

Officer submitted a search warrant application to Emanuel County Magistrate Court in reference to obtaining buccal swabs for DNA belonging to a convicted felon.

May 17
Officer responded to an Old Swainsboro Road address in reference to criminal trespass of private property.

Officer made a traffic stop

in reference to defective equipment of a vehicle being operated on the roadway.

Twin City police responded to a Durden Road address in reference to disorderly conduct.

Complainant made a miscellaneous report.

Officer was dispatched to an address on Hattaway St. in reference to a domestic dispute.

Officer responded to an address on Granddaughter Lane in reference to a miscellaneous report.

May 18
Officer made a traffic stop in reference to a speeding driver.

Officer made a traffic stop in reference to two reckless drivers operating ATV's on the roadway.

Emergency personnel respond to Thigpen Drive crash

by BILL CAHILL
On Monday, May 18, at approximately 3:20 p.m., Swainsboro Fire Department and Swainsboro Police Department, along with Emanuel County EMS and sheriff's deputies, responded to a motor vehicle crash on Thigpen Drive. A 23-year-old male was extracted from the vehicle after failing to navigate the curve and rolled over into the trees. He was transported by EMS to the Swainsboro airport,



STATE TROOPER ON SCENE

where he was flown to the trauma center in Augusta by AirEvac 91.

The crash was investigated by Georgia State Patrol.

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Editorials Columns

No place like the South

In the country, years ago, there were no social classes. It seemed like everybody had very little, and there was no need for a social ladder to climb. Everyone was stuck on the first rung of the ladder, neither ventured upward or downward.

There were one or two families who lived in town that were very prosperous and were said to be ahead of the “times.”

They lived in fancy brick homes with indoor bathrooms and used store-brand bathroom tissue. If you could fast-forward in

time, they were already living the American Dream. We could only look with astonished amazement.

We never heard of a break-in or robbery. There was nothing to steal back then. Cupboards were often bare, and iceboxes held only bottles of ice water and promises.

Country people seldom went to town because they raised all their food sources on the farm. The smokehouse held sugar-cured ham and smoked sausage while Mama’s pantry smelled of freshly ground cornmeal with

rows of canned vegetables lining the walls.

But, when country people did venture into town, a cold Pepsi Cola or a Nehi Orange hit the spot. A Johnny Cake or a big Moonpie only added to their pleasure, and a nickel had great purchasing power.

The older folks often enjoyed a tin of sardines and a sweet cinnamon roll. A swarm of flies and gnats often took their share of the summer snack, but they were quickly swatted away.

Many of the houses were substandard. Farm workers moved

almost every year. Once, an old gentleman bragged to his neighbors that he finally had moved into an air-conditioned house. “Cool air and sunlight comes through cracks in the walls, and I can see chickens walking about under the house,” he said.

For the most part, though, country people remained happy. For generations, their lifestyle hadn’t changed, and they had no way of comparing their life with people who lived in other places.

There was little book learning for instruction

Ronnie Johnson



or enjoyment. There was a King James Bible in every home, and people lived by the Word. To the outside world, we were called country hicks, rednecks, or just plain stupid, but we had separated ourselves from the world as the Bible had instructed. We went to church constantly and our morals, customs, and southern way of life reflected it. Whenever a

Northerner crossed the Georgia state line, they watched their abusive language and polished their manners. After all, they had entered the Bible Belt, where there was righteous living, honor of the 10 Commandments, less book learning, but more common sense and wisdom than our northern neighbors allowed.

A special group helps repay a special debt

For much of my adult life, I have tried to return to my alma mater, the University of Georgia, a portion of what the institution has given me. I say “a portion” because I can never totally repay the debt I owe UGA for the honor of being a Georgia Bulldog. But that doesn’t mean I can’t try. After all, to whom much is given,

much will be required. (Luke 12:48).

I have had the great honor to serve as president of the University of Georgia’s national alumni association and to have been a member of the UGA Foundation. I have endowed a professorship in Crisis Communications in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass

Communications. Over the years, I have served on numerous committees, spoken at faculty retreats and to incoming freshmen and hosted seminars.

However, nothing I have been involved in has been more rewarding or brought me more satisfaction than a program called the Yarbrough-Grady Fellowships. They are

funded in part from revenues received from this column.

The program is administered by faculty and staff at the Grady College and has been ongoing for more than two decades. It began as a student support fund, allowing students in the college to attend conferences and seminars in their fields of interest as well as bringing noted professionals on campus to speak. It later morphed into internships until finally it was constituted into its present form: Fellowships.

Truth-in-advertising requires me to say that I am funding fellowships for which I could never qualify and in a journalism school I could not get into today. This assumes, of course, I would have even been granted admission to the university, which, given my less-than-stellar academic performance in high school, would have been somewhere south of zero. Thankfully, I got in and out of the place when I did. Timing is everything.

This year, seven Yarbrough-Grady Fellows were among UGA’s 2020 graduating class. This group happened to be all female and all brighter than the proverbial penny. Their geography is diverse. Lindsey Deutsch, Caitlin Oh and Julia Strother are from Cobb County. Serena Graham is from Forsyth County. Allison Chenard hails from North Carolina, Mary Gardner (MG)

Dick Yarbrough



Coffee from Texas and Maddie Fiorante from Oregon.

Sadly, they like the rest of the seniors across the country in the 2020 graduating class have been denied the privilege of a formal graduation ceremony because of the coronavirus pandemic. That makes them and what they have accomplished no less special.

They join a group of Fellows from over the past decade who are scattered around the country in advertising agencies, PR firms, the media, nonprofits and a number of Fortune 500 companies. Working with the staff at Grady, we are creating a special network for the Yarbrough-Grady Fellows to stay in touch with each other. My firm expectation is that those Fellows in the workforce will serve as mentors to those about to join it. I can think of nothing more valuable that could come out of this program.

If anybody tells you they are self-made, they are blowing smoke. If we have accomplished anything positive in our lives, it is because someone helped us. We have all had a mentor or, more likely, mentors.

I was fortunate to have had a mentor named Jasper Dorsey who was himself a Grady grad and a passionate supporter of all things UGA. He was vice pres-

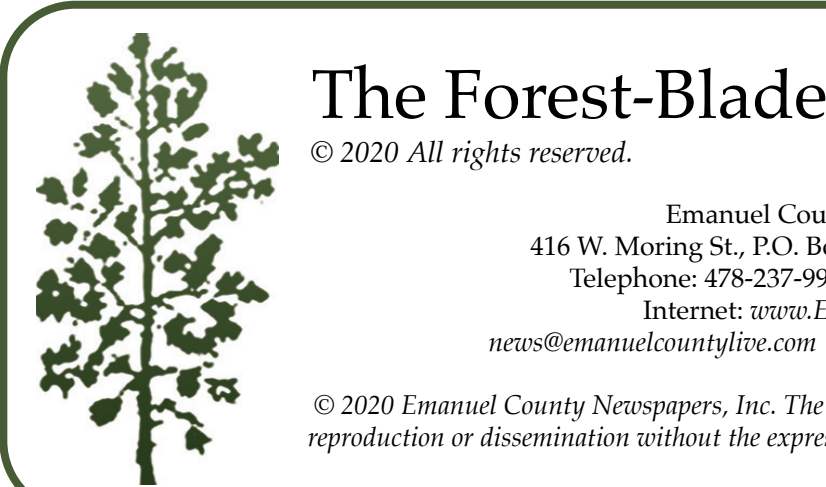
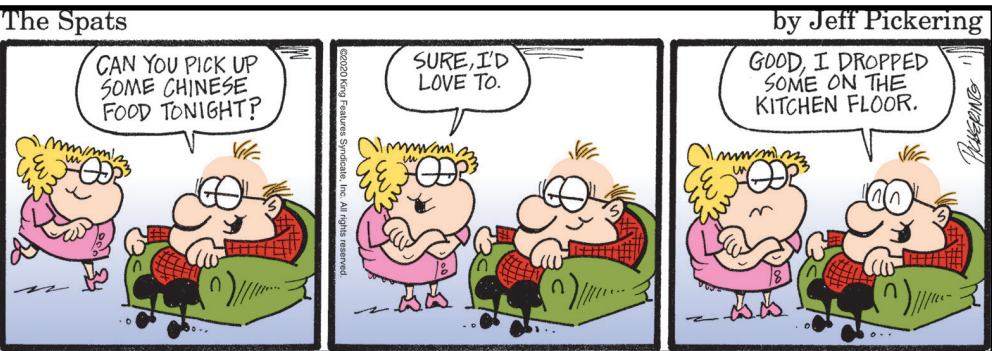
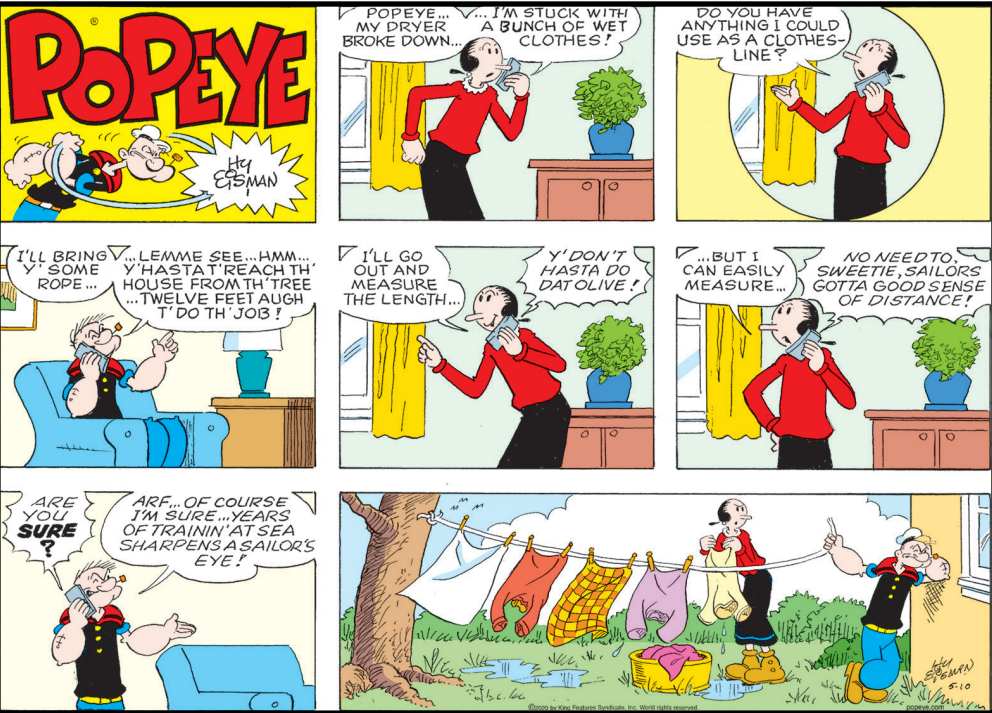
ident of Southern Bell’s operations and found something redeemable in this young manager.

Jasper Dorsey taught me about the world of business. But, he also taught me about life. I am far from the only person to have been mentored by this wise man. He touched a lot of lives and we are all the better for it. One of his mantras was that we should all leave this world better than we found it. Otherwise, we have simply wasted time and space.

I will admit I have wasted a lot of time and space in my lifetime and I am not sure how much better this world is because I have been in it. But it is my hope that the young people who have been and will become a part of the Yarbrough-Grady Fellows program in the future will collectively and individually make a positive difference in this world. If so, they will have made my time here worthwhile and I will have gone a long way in repaying the debt I owe my beloved alma mater.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at yarb2400@bellsouth.net; at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139; online at dickyarbrough.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dick-yarb.

Editorial Cartoons



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

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

Living life on the farm

by WHITLEY CLIFTON

With the month of May being National Beef Month, honoring a local beef cattle farmer seems only fair. While there are multiple cattle farms within the area, one particular beef cattle farm within Emanuel County is Bowen Hill Farm.

Located in the Garfield area, Bowen Hill Farm is owned and operated by beef cattle farmer Sam Bowen. A native of the area, Sam states that his family farmed cattle while he was growing up on the same farm and doesn't recall a time in his life when he didn't have knowledge or interest in animal agriculture.

"Being around animal agriculture all my life, I had some knowledge of animal care. My older brothers and father were always willing to provide any information I needed to be successful," Sam said.

Having family members cultivate the same land for generations, Sam continued the family farm tradition and began his own herd of cattle at Bowen Hill Farm approximately 23 years ago after his son, Jay, was awarded a Hereford show heifer from the Statesboro Kiwanis Club.

The farm has served as the homeplace for Sam and his wife, Jennifer; and their children, Matthew Bowen, Jay Bowen, Tate and Hannah Greenway, and Ross and Rebekah Greene.

"My family has farmed here for several generations, and this farm is home to us all. Jennifer wanted to teach our children to work and we feel like the farm has helped us to do that. They always had farm chores.

My wife also homeschooled our children and we are thankful for that experience. We believe that true worship, meaningful work, and the love of family makes a rather good life," Sam further commented.

Making the best of a good life, Sam and Jennifer perform the majority of daily duties associated with the farming life and hire occasional part-time help when needed. Jay as well as Matthew, when not in attendance at the University of Georgia, help their parents with the required tasks on the farm also.

"The little things, especially the daily chores, must be done. There are bigger projects going on most of the time, but most anyone can stay interested in the big projects. It is the ability to do the daily chores, daily, that makes the real difference. Still, when all is said and done, there is only so much the farmer can do. Ultimately, he is dependent on the Master of the Universe

to provide good weather and protection from extremes," Sam stated.

So, what does a normal workday consist of for a cattle farmer?

At Bowen Hill Farm, daily animal care chores are minimal during five to six months of the year when cattle are on permanent pastures. During this time, feed is grown, harvested, and stored for remaining months when permanent pastures aren't available. When permanent pastures aren't an option, the Bowens feed their cattle hay or haylage on a daily basis.

During the winter months, the breeding herd is fed cottonseed and the calves are placed on feed to ensure a higher body weight sale. The Bowens grind their cattle's food themselves with the majority of the feed being grown and harvested on their own farm.

Throughout the year, the family also checks all water and minerals and, of course, always runs across a fence in need of repair.

In addition to chores, internal and external parasites as well as disease prevention are part of mandatory care when farming cattle and are

controlled with a vaccination program. Other mandatory care includes the castration of male calves and rental of bulls to provide high quality genetics and calves in the winter months.

The normal process used by Bowen Hill Farm during the transition from farm to table begins when calves reach weights of 500 to 700 pounds. From there, they are taken to a feedlot in northern territory, where the cattle are fed out and slaughtered.

For a more direct route from farm to table, Bowen Hill Farm is excited to announce the offering of fat steers for sale, allowing buyers to

have them processed as seen fit at a processing facility.

"A growing number of people want to know more about who produces their food and how and where it is produced. This is why we have started to bring our steers to a larger weight in an attempt to make direct sales to local consumers," Sam explained.

With fattened beef operations, the Bowens have employed several measures to allow local consumers to know more about Bowen Hill Farm and encourage all to come for a visit, or check out Bowen Hill Farm's Facebook page and website, www.bowenhillfarm.com.



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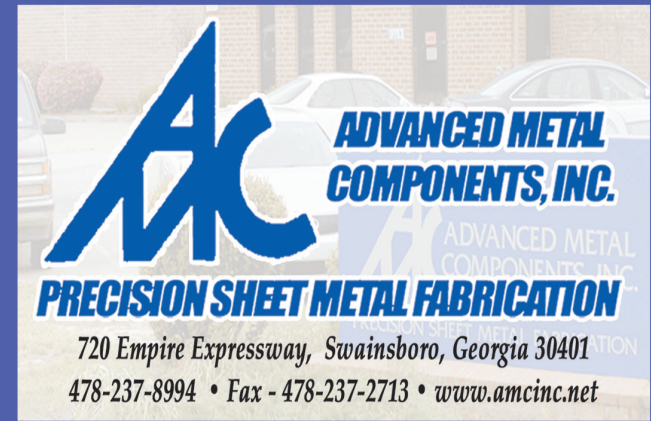


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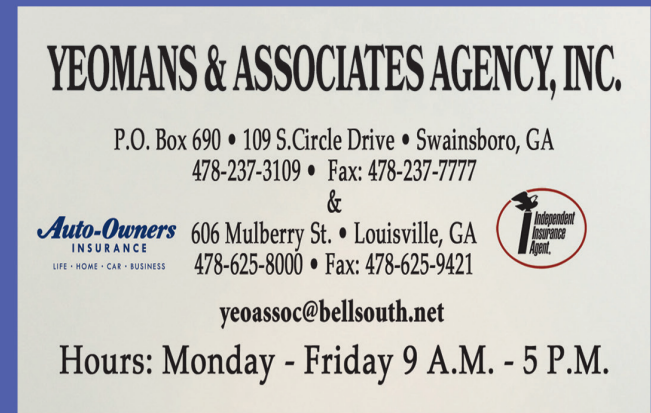
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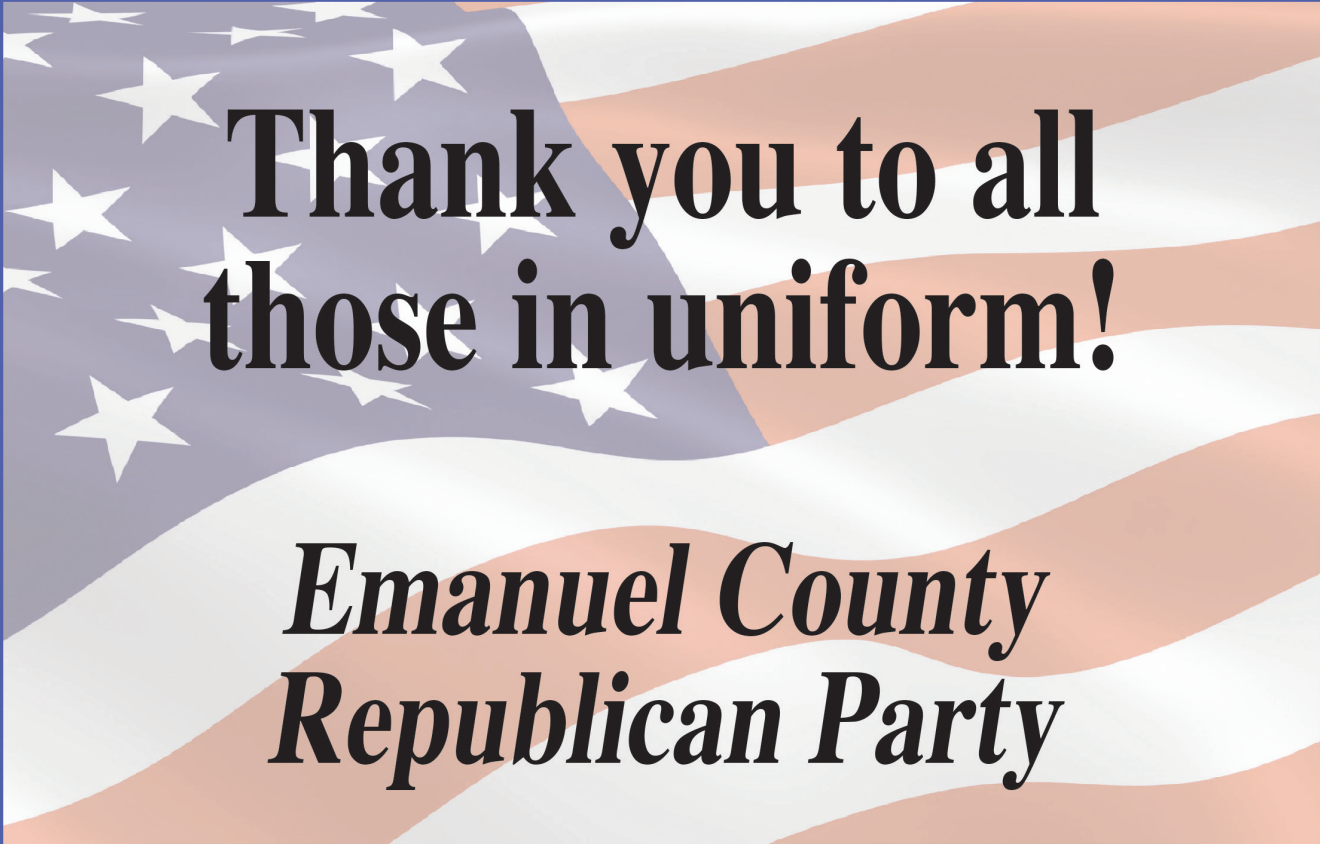
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Animal shelter — The Emanuel County Animal Shelter has chocolate lab mix males, female Australian cattle dog mixes, male pointer, several bulldogs, and a lot of shepherd mixes (male and female). We have lots of great family dogs as well as great guard dogs. The shelter is always in need of donations of canned and bagged dog food. We appreciate any and every donation. If you are missing a dog or have found a dog, please call the shelter at 478-237-4040 to report it. Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EmanuelCountyShelter or visit our visitor website, www.pet-stablished.com/organization/1760/, to view our adoptable dogs. Adoption fee is \$35. This goes to pay for part of the spaying/neutering cost. The other \$30 must be paid to the vet, by the owner after it has been spayed or neutered. Please call the shelter for details. Come visit our adoptable dogs at 343 Market St. in Swainsboro. We are open Monday through

Publisher's Notice

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

Now Taking Applications!

SWAINSBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY

420 N. Racetrack Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401
Phone: 478-237-7381

Apartments for Family, Singles, Elderly
and Disabled Persons

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Handicap Units Available

Have you completed your census form?

If not, please do it today!

Everyone counts.

WE HAVE PPE!

• 3PLY SURGICAL DISPOSABLES
• KN-95'S
• HAND SANITIZER
• NITRILE GLOVES

LOWEST PRICES IN AREA!

CALL US AT 478-237-2500 EXT. 1 • EAST MAIN SUPPLY
308 GLENWOOD RD. • SWAINSBORO, GA 30401

HELP WANTED

Looking for a spirit led pianist for our music ministry who will work with our choir and choir director on Sundays and special events, such as Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.

Please call our pastor Bro. Shannon Boula at 478.494.8538

Blundale Baptist Church
PO Box 561 • 2675 Hwy 1 North • Swainsboro, GA
About 6 miles North of Dellwood on West side of bypass

Help Wanted

Now hiring truck drivers.
We pay per mile loaded and unloaded.
For more details please call 912-367-9160


Williams Dairy Trucking Inc

NOW HIRING

FT MAINTENANCE POSITION

We need a dependable, self-motivated person to perform general maintenance duties. References required, must have reliable transportation, starting pay \$8.00-\$10.00/hr. based on experience. Permanent year round employment. Benefits include vacation, health insurance, and 401K program.

PT SECRETARY POSITION AVAILABLE AS WELL.

McDonald's of Louisville

Equal Opportunity Employer

To apply, text **grinermcd** to 85000 or visit www.grinermcd.com




OFFICE HELP WANTED

Mon - Fri with flexible hours.
Must be fluent in QuickBooks, invoicing, receiving payments, and running statements, as well as general office work.

Mail resume to:
PO Box 938
Swainsboro, GA 30401

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CNAs: 3p - 11p



856 Hwy 1 South, Swainsboro, GA 30401
(478) 237-7022 • Fax: (478) 237-7644
www.pruitthealth.com

HEALTH & REHAB

TWIN VIEW

Caring For Those That You Care For Most
Serving Emanuel County Since 1973
211 Mathis Ave. • Twin City, GA • 478-763-2141

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

LPN's & CNA's:
7pm - 7am & 7am - 7pm

Cooks/Aides

Apply in person.
Twin View Healthcare is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED


City of Adrian is now accepting applications for a Maintenance Worker.

Send resume to:
cityclerkstephanie2018@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE


City of Adrian is taking bids for the total renovation of their Community Center.

Please submit all sealed bids to:
City of Adrian
PO Box 265
Adrian, GA 31002


NOTICE
Utility Clerk
(Public Works Department)

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

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


NOTICE
Police Officer
(Police Department)

The City of Twin City is seeking qualified candidates to fill the position of Police Officer. This is a full-time position with benefits after the ninety (90) probation period. The responsibilities of this position are to provide protection of life and property, enforcement of federal, state, and local laws, response to emergency situations, and investigation of criminal activity. The starting salary is negotiable based upon training and experience.

The City is offering a one-time signing bonus of \$1,000 for a one-year employment contract and \$2,000 for a two-year employment contract.

Minimum Requirements:

Must possess and maintain Georgia Peace Officer Certification;

Must possess and maintain a valid Georgia driver's license; must be a U. S. Citizen;

Must be 21 years of age (birth certificate required);

Must possess a high school diploma or GED; supplemented by 5 months previous experience and/or training involving law enforcement or security work; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job;

Must pass an extensive background investigation including a pre-employment drug screen; Previous drug use may be a disqualifying factor;

Must be able to work a 12-hour shift including on-call status, nights, weekends, holidays, court dates and possible overtime.

All interested applicants should complete an employment application at City Hall or may print one online at www.twincityga.com. For more information, interested applicants may contact City Clerk Eugenia Ducker at (478) 763-2695 or Police Chief Randal Beach at 478-763-4140.

Fire damages Norwood Avenue home

by BILL CAHILL, SFD PIO

What started as a stove fire caused heavy damage to the double wide home. At 5:57 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, Swainsboro firefighters were dispatched to 359 Norwood Avenue.

Engine 4 arrived to find heavy smoke and visible fire showing inside the structure. An aggressive interior attack was made through the front



INTERIOR DAMAGE OF NORWOOD AVENUE HOME



Legals

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the City of Stillmore, Georgia is seeking sealed bids for the sale of the following described parcel of land:

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 57th G.M. District of Emanuel County, Georgia, being designated as Parcel 1, containing 0.156 acre, more or less, together with all improvements thereon as shown on that certain plat of survey dated April 15, 2013, prepared for Vincent Mincey and Terri V. Mincey by George William Donaldson, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor, and recorded in Plat Book 22, Page(s) 417, Emanuel County records. Said plat and the reference thereof are incorporated herein for a more complete and accurate description.

The within described tract is bounded, now or formerly, according to the aforementioned plat as follows: North by lands of Vernie Mae Mercer; East by the right-of-way of Oak Street; South by Parcel No. 2 of said survey; and West the right-of-way of Perkins Lane.

Subject to any and all applicable zoning ordinances, easements, restrictive covenants, and/or rights-of-ways in use or of record.

Bids will be accepted at City Hall located at 307 2nd Street, Stillmore, Emanuel County, Georgia, 30464. Bids will be opened on Friday, May 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the same location.

Bidders are responsible for the delivery of their bids in a timely manner. Reliance upon U.S. Mail or other carriers is at the bidder's risk. Late bids will not be considered. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, accept any and all bids, and to waive technicalities and informalities. Conveyance of the above-described property will be made my quit claim deed.

Brent Carter
City Attorney

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, EMANUEL COUNTY

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Earl Lanier to Associates Financial Services of America Inc.** dated **6/30/2000** and recorded in Deed Book **146** Page **294** Emanuel County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by **Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A**, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of **\$42,859.42**, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Emanuel County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on **June 2, 2020** (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING, SITUATED AND BEING IN THE CITY OF TWIN CITY, 1560TH G.M. DISTRICT OF EMANUEL COUNTY, GEORGIA, FRONTING ONE HUNDRED FIVE (105) FEET ON THE EAST SIDE OF GEORGIA HIGHWAY 192 SPUR, AND EXTENDING BACK BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) FEET, AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS; NORTH BY LANDS OF MRS. EVELYN WRIGHT; EAST AND SOUTH BY LANDS OF J. ROSCOE BROWN; AND WEST BY THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF GEORGIA HIGHWAY 192 SPUR, SAID PROPERTY IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY PLAT MADE BY JOHN A. MCGILL, SURVEYOR, DATED MARCH 24, 1972, WHICH IS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK, EMANUEL COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 269, TO WHICH REFERENCE IS MADE AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

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

Said property is commonly known as **238 W Broad St., Twin City,**

GA 30471 together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): **Earl Lanier** or tenant or tenants.

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC is the entity or individual designated who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

1600 South Douglass Road

Suite 200-A

Anaheim, CA 92806

(800) 561-4567

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

Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A as agent and Attorney in Fact for **Earl Lanier** Aldridge Pite, LLP, 15 Piedmont Center, 3575 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7637.

2191-1150A

THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 2191-1150A

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

All creditors of the estate of PAUL HENRY MOORE, decedent late of Emanuel County, State of Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This the 27th day of April, 2020.
CHRISTINE W MOORE, executrix of the estate of PAUL HENRY MOORE, decedent.
37 Wilcher Lane
Midville, Ga. 30441

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF EMANUEL COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:

B. J. SEX: M DOB: 03/21/2005

CASE # 20JV53

D. J. SEX: F DOB: 01/09/2007

CASE # 20JV54

Children Under 18 Years of Age

NOTICE OF SUMMONS

TO: Gary Dale Joyner, Jr. and any unknown biological, legal, and/or putative father of the above named children born to Brandy Joyner at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, Georgia.

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action has been brought by the Emanuel County Department of Family and Children Services, and the Georgia Department of Human Services, seeking to terminate your parental rights with regard to the above referenced children; that said action has been filed in the Juvenile Court of Emanuel County, Georgia; and that by reason of an Order for Service of Summons by Publication dated ____April 16____, 2020, you are hereby notified that you may obtain a copy of the petition from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Emanuel County, Georgia and may file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Marnique Oliver, Petitioner's Attorney, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 308, 115

S. Racetrack Street, Swainsboro, Georgia, 30401, an answer to the petition at any time prior to the Final Hearing.

You are hereby commanded and required to appear before this court on the 23rd day of July, 2020 at the **EMANUEL County Courthouse in Swainsboro, Georgia at 10:00 a.m., for a FINAL HEARING** and show cause, if any you have, why the relief requested in the petition should not be granted. You are hereby commanded and required to appear before this Court at said final hearing or the findings of the Court will be made the permanent order of this Court in the above case. You must attend the final hearing in order to preserve your rights. At the final hearing you will be given an opportunity to show cause, if any you have, why the relief requested in the petition should not be granted. Prior to the Final Hearing a Provisional Hearing on the petition will be held before the Court on July 9, 2020 at **10:00 a.m. in the Juvenile Courtroom at the EMANUEL County Courthouse, Swainsboro, Georgia.**

The parties notified hereby are entitled to legal counsel in the proceedings, and the Court will appoint legal counsel if any party should be unable, without undue hardship, to employ counsel.

You are further notified that you will lose all rights to the children and will not be entitled to object to the termination of your rights to the children unless, within thirty days of receipt of this notice, you file:

A petition to legitimate the children pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-22; and Notice of the filing of the petition to legitimate with the Emanuel County Juvenile Court.

The Findings of Fact and Order of Disposition made at the Provisional Hearing will become final at the Final Hearing unless the party served by publication appears at the Final Hearing. If the party served by publication fails to appear at the Final Hearing on the petition, the Findings of Fact and Interlocutory Orders made will become final without further evidence and will be governed by the Juvenile Court Code as if made at the Final Hearing. If the party served by publication appears at the Final Hearing, the Interlocutory findings and Orders shall be vacated and disregarded, and the hearing shall proceed upon the allegations of the motion.

The parties notified hereby are entitled to legal counsel in the proceedings, and the Court will appoint legal counsel if any party should be unable, without undue hardship, to employ counsel.

A copy of this petition may be obtained at no charge from the Office of the Clerk of Court between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

WITNESS, the Honorable Sherri McDonald, Judge of said Juvenile Court.

This _____ day of _____, 2020.

Clerk, Emanuel County Juvenile Court

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

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

This 7th day of May, 2020.
Thomas L. Clark, Executor of the Estate of Ann Clark Compton, decedent
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.
P.O. Box 68
Swainsboro, GA 30401

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS GEORGIA, EMANUEL COUNTY

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

This 12th day of May, 2020.
Patricia C. Alderman, Executrix of the Estate of Ryan Earl Alderman, decedent
Jerry N. Cadle, P.C.
P.O. Box 68
Swainsboro, GA 30401

HELP WANTED



The Refuge has an immediate opening for:
Full-time (35 hours per week) Licensed Therapist.

Qualifications include: LPC, LMFT or LCSW with three years experience working with children and families.

The Therapist will provide culturally competent direct services in the areas of individual therapy and group facilitation, including assessments, crisis intervention and on-going therapy to children adolescents and adults who are experiencing varying levels of difficulties due to life situations or concerns. This service is designed to meet the specific needs of the identified client and is provided in an office setting. Services are provided with client-centered and family-centered approaches and are delivered through intensive, time-limited, goal specific interventions. Flexibility for this position is required as appointments may be scheduled in the evenings and weekends.

Applicant must be able to document appropriate clinical information in medical record in a timely manner. Must clear background check, drug screening, education verification, and have a valid driver's license with a clean motor vehicle report.

Applicants must be from our service area:

Toombs, Montgomery, Treutlen, Wheeler, Emanuel, Candler, or Tattnall counties.

Drug screen and criminal records check is required

Submit resume and three professional references:

By mail: PO Box 853, Vidalia, GA 30475

By Fax: 912-538-9910

No Phone Calls

Looking for an Opportunity?

Savannah Luggage Works is looking for people who are reliable, dependable, and quality-minded to join our team. We are manufacturing protective equipment for the Department of Homeland Security, law enforcement agencies and the military as they continue their effort to keep America safe and secure. We also have openings in our luggage manufacturing facility. We are in need of additional associates in order to meet our growing customer demand.

We have an immediate need to fill the following position(s):

PRODUCTION OPERATORS ASSEMBLY LINE OPERATORS

We offer an excellent benefit package including vacation, incentive pay, bonus pay, 7 paid holidays and more.

Please apply in person between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM
(Monday – Thursday) or Friday from 7:30 AM – 11:30 AM at 3427 Hwy 297 North, Vidalia, Ga. We are an equal opportunity employer.

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&
LAND INVESTMENTS, LLC

SHERROD BRANCH463 ACRESJEFFERSON CO.

TILLER POND200 ACRESEMANUEL CO.

GOBBLER LANE70 ACRES
EMANUEL CO.

STEVENS CEMETERY166 ACRES
EMANUEL CO.

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advertising@emanuelcountylive.com

Rumble strip project bringing rural route safety enhancements

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), more than half of fatal crashes occur after a driver crosses the edge or center-line of a roadway. Nearly two-thirds of those happen in rural areas.

With safety in mind, the Georgia Department of Transportation expects Roadsafes Traffic Systems began last Friday night installing indentation rumble strips in eight east central Georgia district counties. Routes will receive the strips along the center-line and edge-line pavement markings.

Counties covered in this \$2.149 million contract include Dodge, Laurens, Treutlen, Emanuel, Johnson, Jefferson, Jenkins, and Burke. Roadsafes began in Dodge Friday, May 15, and continue in the aforementioned order until finishing up in Burke County.

Lane closure work hours allowed are 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Single-lane closures are also permitted between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Fridays and 7 p.m. Fridays to 6 a.m. Mondays.

Expect rolling lane closures when crews are present.

The rumble strips are being installed on many routes all across the state. In 2019, there were well over 500 fatalities that were the result of vehicles leaving the roadway, representing approximately one-third of all statewide roadway fatalities.

GDOT is trying to address those crashes. Both center-line and edge-line rumble strips have been proven to reduce head-on and road departure related incidents.

For more information visit: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/long_rumble_strip/.

Work will cover the following counties and routes:

- Jefferson County — SR 4 from Hoyt Braswell Road to north of Wynder Smith Road
- Jenkins County — SR 17 from Kingsridge Drive to east of Trite Road
- Burke County — SR 23 from SR 56 to South of Griffin Landing Road
- Emanuel County — SR 23 from the Jenkins to Candler County lines
- Burke County — SR 24 from the Jefferson County to Screven County lines
- Laurens County — SR 26 from Jerry Hester Road to Hilburn Road
- Emanuel County — SR 56 from the Burke County line to Canoochee Road / E. Pine Street
- Treutlen County — SR 56 from Montgomery County to Emanuel County lines
- Johnson County — SR 57 from Spring Street to the Emanuel County line
- Johnson County — SR 78 from Cedar Drive to the Jefferson County line
- Burke County — SR 80 from Middle Ground Road to River Road
- Dodge County — SR 117 from Chauncey Rhine Highway to Golden Isles Parkway
- Laurens County — SR 126 from Curls Lane to SR 46
- Emanuel County — SR 192 from the Canaday Bridge to Ward Street
- Dodge County — SR 257 from Laura Drive to Phillips Street
- Jefferson County — SR 296 from US 1 to the Glascock County line
- Emanuel County — SR 297 from SR 57/SR 4 to the end of the Ohoopee River Bridge
- Laurens County — SR 338 from US 441 to Blackshear Ferry Road

No bull

by WHITLEY CLIFTON

There are many tales to be told. Some are trustworthy while others are considered to be “bull.” One of my most favorite tales to tell is when I once crossed the Bull River all by myself. Well, not entirely by myself... Let me explain.

I had only been in a kayak just once at this time in my life. Always enjoying a new adventure, I was not going to decline a trip to a place that my eyes have never seen, so I agreed to a trip to Little Tybee. We planned, conspired, packed up our belongings, and took off to see what the island consisted of. The excitement

was too much that I didn’t think things through clearly, such as the murky waters and sharks, along with whatever else that was out there swimming.

We got to our boat landing, and that’s when I began to panic. It was nighttime and only my second time kayaking. There I stood, facing the Bull River.

Not wanting to ruin everyone’s good time, my friend and I were a bit weary to enter, so we sent the guys out first. It just seemed fitting.

Loading a tiny jon boat into the river, we bet the guys that if they made it to the island and back, then we would enter.

As we discussed and devised a new plan, a group of kayakers came rowing in. We asked how the kayaking was at this time of night, and they all said it was a great night out and seemed to have no worries or frights.

The men loaded into the boat and into the darkness, and they began to float. It seemed to take a deal of time for these two men of ours to return, but it as it turned out, they lost the landing location that they had entered in first.

Upon their arrival, both guys seemed smitty. So, into the boats and kayaks, we all entered the Bull River. Now, keep in mind to

get to this island, you must travel by water and, well, the ocean’s current it isn’t a joke.

With our two friends in the boat and the kayaks occupied by myself and my husband, we crossed the mouth of the ocean and river. This is when the trip went bitter.

Close to the others, I attempted to row, but the current was stronger than my arms pushing the boat. You can only imagine how the rest goes.

As the others drifted further from me, the waters of the ocean drowned out my screams for help. I panicked inside, but on the outside, I remained calm. All I could think

is that if I panicked a lot, out of the kayak I would go!

The more I paddled, the more tired I became, so I placed my paddle down and just sat there and prayed, hoping someone would notice my disappearance. Within a few minutes, God answered my prayers and in the moonlight, my eyes finally displayed, my husband was coming to rescue me!

He tossed me a rope and instructed me to grab my paddle. He couldn’t pull us both against the tides of the dark waters.

We made our arrival and set up camp for our weekend retreat, despite the recent trag-

edy.

The following day, we carried on with our endeavors and crossed the ocean’s mouth once more to be in attendance for a wedding reception to celebrate the love of my sister and her newly-wed husband. We ate a feast and then the time arrived to cross the mouth of the ocean, to return to our campsite for one last night.

We caught an abundance of crabs and sun rays. The trip, all in all, is another one that I’d take. However, knowing what I know now, the next trip, if ever, will be better devised before I cross the mouth of the ocean where the rivers and beach waters combine.

How to clean your groceries during COVID-19

The new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, also known as coronavirus or COVID-19, has many people staying at home except for essential activities like seeking medical care, exercising, walking their dog, or shopping for groceries.

You can reduce your risk of exposure to COVID-19 whenever you leave your house by taking precautions such as practicing social distancing and washing your hands thoroughly and often.

Shopping for groceries, though, carries extra risk. Not only are you near other people, but many of the products you’re buying have probably been handled by others—and possibly sneezed or coughed on. This doesn’t mean you should give up on trips to the supermarket. That’s not really a viable option for most of us. However, you can take a little extra care when handling your groceries to avoid spreading the virus to other people and surfaces in your house.

How big a risk are groceries?

Your biggest risk at the supermarket is coming into close contact with another person who’s sick. That’s why it’s important to stay at least 6 feet from other people at all times. Do not be afraid to ask others to step back if they are too close to you in line or wait a few moments to grab something if others are already next to the item you want.

It’s not clear, though, how much of a role produce and food packaging plays in transmitting the virus that causes COVID-19. Still, the World Health Organization says that in addition to close person-to-person contact, people can pick up the virus by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Some surfaces may pose a bigger risk than others. A recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that the virus was detectable on plastic and stainless steel for up to 72 hours and on cardboard for up to 24 hours. When you’re at the supermarket, you should assume all surfaces everywhere have been touched by someone who is sick. This includes produce and packaged foods. Touch just the items you intend to buy, wipe down the cart or basket handles with disinfectant wipes, and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer when you’re done.

Many people are also reducing their potential exposure by using curbside pick-up or at-home delivery. Even local food producers are offering these services. This reduces amount of time you need to be near other people and reduces the number of items you touch.

Cleaning your groceries at home

Whichever way you get your groceries, you’ll want to handle them carefully when you get them home. This will reduce the chance of spreading the virus to other people or surfaces in your house.

At the very least, you should wash your hands after unpacking and putting away your groceries but if you’re concerned about potential contamination on your groceries, you can take additional steps to protect yourself. For example, you can wipe or wash cans and boxes of food before storing them to reduce possible virus content. You can also throw out disposable packaging.

When you’re done, wash any tables, countertops, or other surfaces that were touched by your groceries or grocery bags, then wash your hands again.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers advice for cleaning and disinfecting your home during the pandemic, including which cleaners work best against SARS-CoV-2.

If you’re using cloth bags, wash them with laundry soap in a washing machine and dry them thoroughly before reusing them.

The CDC further recommends all people wear cloth face masks in public places where it’s difficult to maintain a 6-foot distance from others. This will help slow the spread of the virus from people without symptoms or people who do not know they have contracted the virus. Cloth face masks should be worn while continuing to practice physical distancing. Instructions for making masks at home can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. Please note that it is critical to reserve surgical masks and N95 respirators for healthcare workers.

Cleaning food like a surgeon

If you or someone in your household is at high-

er risk for severe illness from COVID-19, you might want to adopt the modified “sterile technique.” One helpful, trusted YouTube video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-jDuwc9KBps&feature=youtu.be>. In this video, Dr. Jeffrey VanWingen, a family physician practicing in Grand Rapids, Michigan, explains the technique.

For those who do not have internet access or are not tech-savvy, one option is to leave your groceries in your garage or porch for at least 72 hours to allow the virus to become inactive. However, this isn’t possible for many people. The “sterile technique” is a great alternative for those people. You can also do this after letting your groceries sit outside for 72 hours.

A key part of this method is setting up a cleaning station to avoid contaminating your food or other surfaces in your house. After that, the method involves wiping down all packaging with a disinfectant before putting your groceries away. You can also discard packaging and transfer the food to a clean bag or container.

Scrub fruits and veggies them for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. The Food and Drug Administration does not recommend using soap when cleaning produce because of the risk of ingestion, however, so if you choose to use soap and water on your fruits and vegetables, rinse them completely with clean water before storing.

Taking these precautions with your groceries can help you lower your chance of being exposed to the virus.

If you do get sick, you’ll need to take extra care in order to protect your family. If someone in your household is confirmed positive with COVID-19, showing symptoms of the disease, or awaiting the results of a test, they should take extra cleaning and disinfection steps around the home.

HEALTH RESOURCES

Do you have symptoms of COVID-19? You should call your primary care provider and discuss your symptoms before visiting a healthcare facility. If you’re positive for coronavirus and experience an emergency, call 911 and tell the operator you have COVID-19.

Riner running for....

(From front page)

1989 with his move to the sheriff's office, where he worked as chief investigator. He is currently employed by Swainsboro Police Department as a sergeant and detective. Additionally, Riner presently holds four major certifications: Georgia Post Instructor, Georgia Firearms Instructor, Georgia Post Police Counter Sniper, and Taser Instructor.

He is married to Tracy Mullis; she is the circuit public defender in the Cordele Judicial Circuit. He has two grown boys, Zach

Riner and Jordan Riner, as well as one stepdaughter, Amber Helms. Riner has five grandchildren as well.

When he's not busy working, he enjoys music and outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, and camping. He is a master Mason with local Lodge #244 as well as a member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Swainsboro. He is also a member of the Southern States Police Benevolent Association, the Peace Officers Association of Georgia, and the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia.

Republican Attorney Clifton...

(From front page)

numerous civil cases. Clifton has been vetted by the Supreme Court of Georgia and Office of the Governor of Georgia, admitted to practice law in every court in Georgia, including Georgia Court of Appeals, Supreme Court of Georgia, and all federal district courts. He is a member of the Bars of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Clifton graduated with honors from Florida Coastal School of Law after receiving his undergraduate degrees in business and criminal justice from Georgia College and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, where he received meritorious recognition for services as chief justice of traffic court and judicial council. He has also served the state for several years in law enforcement and the country in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard.

Clifton stated that he agreed to run for chief mag-

istrate after speaking with several local businesses, attorneys, and other officials, who expressed interest in having an attorney as chief magistrate, like Toombs, Candler, and Bryan counties already have.

Emanuel County has been Clifton's home for 22 years, where he owns and lives on a farm with his wife, Teresa Collins Clifton, and their daughter, Jessica Nicole "Nikki" Clifton, who attends high school at ECI and college at East Georgia. While Clifton chose Emanuel County as his permanent home, he grew up on the Clifton family farm in lower Toombs County on the Altamaha River. His father was a lifelong farmer, and his mother worked for the Georgia Department of Corrections and retired as a colonel from Glynn County Sheriff's Office. Clifton is a master scuba diver and instructor and helps teach scuba at Georgia Southern for Southern Dive Center in Statesboro. He is an avid hunter, spearfisherman, and conservationist, holding lifetime memberships with the Boone & Crockett and Pope & Young clubs.

CONGRATULATIONS LOGAN TAPLEY



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Jeremiah 29:11

**LOVE
MIMI, POPS, MOMMA,
DUSTIN, LUKE AND EVAN**

Dr. Bohlke announces...

(From front page)

legislative issues impacting healthcare across our state. We both understood the absolute necessity of having healthcare providers in Georgia's rural communities, and the challenges these providers face each day," said Dr. Bohlke.

Dr. Bohlke is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and served as a physician and major in the U.S. Air Force from 1995 to 1999. He was for-

merly president of the Medical Association of Georgia, as well as chief of staff at East Georgia Regional Medical Center. Co-founder of The Hearts and Hands Clinic, a free healthcare service available to Bulloch County residents in need, Dr. Bohlke dedicates much of his time serving the community. As medical director, he was honored to win the 2011 Dean Day Smith Service to Mankind Award for his work to unite the medical

community and Georgia Southern University to gain support for the clinic. Additionally, Dr. Bohlke serves on numerous boards and remains actively involved in many organizations.

Dr. Bohlke remains active in the Medical Association of Georgia, serves on the boards of the MagMutual Insurance Company and the statewide Privia Medical Group, and is on the board of trustees for East Georgia Regional Medical Center.

Hickman announces seat...

(From front page)

leaders towards creative solutions that puts local taxpayers, workers, businesses, and families first. We need a proven conserva-

tive leader to lead during and after COVID-19, fight for values, and put families first. Please pray for me, my family, and our campaign," Hickman.

DON'T TALK, ACT. DON'T SAY, SHOW. DON'T PROMISE, PROVE.

JAIL, PATROL,
INVESTIGATIVE AND
SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE

PROVEN DEDICATION
TO COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT

COMMON SENSE
ENFORCEMENT
OF THE LAW

ELECT ROCKY DAVIS EMANUEL COUNTY SHERIFF

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF EMANUEL COUNTY

"As your next sheriff, I will work tirelessly to ensure that every citizen feels safe in their home and in our community. I promise to take your family's well-being and security as seriously as I do my own. I have served this county with pride for twenty years and humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming primary and general elections. Your support will allow me to continue my career and implement the strategies I have ready to combat the gangs, drugs and thieves destroying our quality of life."

Rocky Davis
Republican Candidate for Sheriff of Emanuel County

SUPPORTED BY THOSE WITH THE SAME PASSION TO SERVE

"I commend anyone willing to offer themselves to public service, but based on my first hand knowledge of the challenges faced by a law enforcement administrator, I believe Rocky is the person best suited to serve as our next sheriff. His plan for the agency's future is practical and achievable."
- SMITH EDENFIELD -
Former Director of Investigative Services
Georgia State Patrol
Former Chief of Police, City of Swainsboro

"Rocky's long time service here in our community, combined with his diverse training and experience, speak volumes on his preparation and ability to serve as the next sheriff of Emanuel County."
- CAPT. MIKE FAGLER -
Retired Georgia State Trooper
Former Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
Georgia Department of Public Safety

PAID FOR BY ROCKY DAVIS FOR SHERIFF