



The

# Long County Press

## INSIDE: Top 2 Stories Of 2025

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Friday, January 2, 2026

**Eye On**



**Long**  
By MITTIE VAUGHAN  
Editor And Publisher

Long County's new County Manager Shane Richardson was to come on board on January 1.

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The City of Ludowici lift station repair proposal was discussed at the December 9 meeting, with the council in favor of Mayor Jim Fuller's proposal on the repairs.

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The Long County Board of Commissioners meets the first Tuesday of each month. The Ludowici City Council and the Long County BOE meet the second Tuesday of each month. The council meets at 9 a.m. and the BOE at 4:30 p.m.

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United Way of the Coastal Empire will host Read United Day on January 30th and is in need of several dozens volunteers to read to prekindergarten through second grade students in Long County Public Schools. The press release is contained inside this week's issue of the Press.

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Long County has had its own newspaper for over 17 years. Published by Mittie Vaughan, The Long County Press is published weekly and includes local news and views and much more. Long County's constitutional officers have refused to restore the legal organ designation.



### Long County Farm Bureau Honored

Georgia Farm Bureau President Tom McCall right presents Long County Farm Bureau Office Manager Margaret Bess and Long County Farm Bureau President Manuel Sneed with a GFB Rewarding Excellence in Ag Program Harvester Award in the organization's small membership division. The award was presented on Dec. 8 during the 88th Annual Georgia Farm Bureau Convention held on Jekyll Island.

### Long County Farm Bureau Recognized For Its Activity

Long County Farm Bureau was recognized for its outstanding member programs and agricultural advocacy activities at the 88th Annual Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) Convention held Dec. 7-9 on Jekyll Island. Manuel Sneed is the Long County Farm Bureau president. Margaret Bess is the Long County Farm Bureau office manager.

Long County Farm Bureau received the GFB Rewarding Excellence in Ag Program (REAP) Harvester Award in the organization's small membership division. GFB's REAP award honors county Farm Bureaus for the organization/membership, advocacy, leadership development, education & outreach activities they did between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025. The REAP Awards are divided into three tiers - Harvester (1st), Planter (2nd) and Cultivator (3rd) with

tier winners in each of GFB's three membership categories - small, medium and large.

"Georgia Farm Bureau's succeeds in its mission to be the voice of Georgia farmers because it has dedicated county leaders, staff and volunteers across the state working in their communities to tell the story of agriculture," said GFB President Tom McCall. "We're proud of all of them, and we're honored to recognize Long County for the work they have done to promote agriculture in the local community this past year."

As a REAP Harvester Award winner, Long County Farm Bureau received a plaque and \$1,500, and President Manuel Sneed received an embroidered Farm Bureau jacket. Office Manager Margaret Bess received a gift card.

Founded in 1937, the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation is the

state's largest general farm organization with 158-chapter offices that cover all of Georgia's 159 counties. As a membership-driven, non-governmental organization, GFB serves as the voice of Georgia farmers and rural Georgia by advocating for them on legislative issues and promoting Georgia commodities. Its volunteer members actively participate in activities that promote agriculture awareness.

GFB membership is open to the public and offers a wide variety of benefits, including insurance and discounts for health services, travel and family entertainment. Enrollment in any of the member benefits is optional and not a requirement for membership. For more information about agriculture please visit [www.gfb.org](http://www.gfb.org), like Georgia Farm Bureau on Facebook or follow GFB on Twitter.

### Martin Luther King Day Observance Set January 10 In Long

The 2026 Long County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

The parade Grand Marshal will be Dr. De-lores Mallard.

The 12:50 p.m. opening ceremony and Grand Marshal presentation will be in front of the parade line-up.

The parade will be-

gin at 1 p.m. The line-up will be from 12 p.m. until 12:45 p.m. The Long County Primary School/Pre-K bus loading zone will be the site at 75 W. Academy Street in Long County.

The theme for this year's parade will be: "Building Community, Uniting A Nation The Non-Violent Way."

### Long BOE Handles New Business At Its December Meeting

The Long County Board of Education during its December meeting discussed the improvement in test scores and plans to look into changing to a charter school system that would bring in additional state and federal funds.

The board also handled personnel and other matters, including the following:

- \* Approved Transfers, including
  - Stacie Long - Transfer from LCMS Band Teacher/Director to LCHS Band Teacher/Director with an additional supplement to finish out the school year.
  - Janet Parks - Transfer from LCMS Para to SES Bookkeeper working 210 days - Effective 12.15.25 - SES
  - \* Approved minutes, including...
  - Regular Meeting - November 18, 2025

\* Approved Competition Trip Request.

- LCHS FFA Leadership - 02.06.26 - 02.07.26 - Perry, GA

\* Approved the Disposition of the following assets:

- 2024 Bluebird - 1BAKGCJA7RF398552 - GV424A0
- 2024 Bluebird - 1BAKGCJA1RF394996 - GV3875S
- 2004 Chevy Silverado Truck - 1GCEC14V04Z287723 - GV0339D
- 2005 Chevy Silverado Truck - 1GCEC14V95Z265527 - GV0337D

\* Accepted Resignations/Retirements:

- Katie Cheek - Resignation - Effective 12.19.25 - SES
- Lillian Almodovar - Resignation - Effective 12.12.25

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

PRESS DEADLINE IS TUESDAY AT 12 NOON

# Church Page

## Faith

### Motivation The Presence Of God

BY BROTHER DAVID (JAKE) JACOBS

#### Jesus Is Alive

With the technology of instant information through social media, questions of doubt have watered down the gospel message to mere folklore. Just because the natural mind cannot explain something does not make it so! There are limitations to man's understanding. In the conquest of life there is the natural realm and the spiritual realm. The natural realm is our universe or reality of our surroundings we contact through our five senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. The spiritual realm deals with our emotions of love, joy, peace, faith, gentleness, goodness, meekness, longsuffering and temperance. This spiritual realm is just as real as the natural or physical realm and before the fall was God's intended enjoyment for His creation.

The fall changed it all! Love was replaced by hate; joy was replaced by sorrow; faith was replaced by doubt; gentleness was replaced by harshness; goodness was replaced by bitterness; meekness was replaced by pride; longsuffering was replaced by impatience; peace was replaced by war and temperance was replaced by temper!

In explaining the resurrection the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:44, "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." When

Adam fell through disobedience he died spiritually. He could not fellowship with God because God is a Spirit. The sin Adam and Eve committed was so horrendous it separated them from God's presence.

This was immediate spiritual separation because Adam lived to be 930 years old. Our Father God created us in His own image, a spirit being, with a soul and body. Our soul and body fit us for this life. The real us is spirit. We were to walk in fellowship with God in His realm, which is the realm of the spirit. The fall in the garden stopped the fellowship because Adam and Eve's sin separated them from the Creator God. Instead of walking in the spirit, they began walking in the natural. Now they were moved by their five senses. Genesis 3:23-24, "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man (and wife); and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned from every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Forever banned from the presence of the Creator God!

But God had a Plan! 1 Peter 1:19-20, "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the

foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you," In the fullness of time, God sent His Only Begotten Son as agreed! Galatians 4:4, "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent His Son, made of a woman, made under the law," Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, came and paid the price of full payment for all human beings who were slaves to sin and Satan and held under the death penalty of the law they had broken! John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He sent His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Friends, Jesus is alive and well. He wants to come into your hearts today and give each one of you a new lease on life! He will come into your life and change your heart and the Holy Spirit will guard, guide, teach and direct you to God's fullness for you of love, joy, peace, faith, gentleness, goodness, meekness, longsuffering and temperance! Pray with me now, "God in the Name of Jesus, I repent of my sins and believe You raised Jesus from the dead." Now begin your new life by Bible study, prayer and fellowship through a Bible believing church!

I am Bro Jake and together we can make a difference with God's help!

## Bible Lesson

### Christ Recognized By People Of God

While the shepherds were the first to hear the good news of the arrival of the Messiah, there were others who recognized Who Jesus was at his birth.

Simeon, Anna and the wise men all proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah, the king of the Jews.

Jesus' presentation in the temple is recorded in Luke 2:21-40, as follows:

"And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

"And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

"(As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

"And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

"And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

"And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

"Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

"For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

"Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

"And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

"And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

"(Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

"And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

"And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

"And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

"And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him."

The visit of the wise men is recorded in Matthew 2:1-12, as follows:

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

"Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

"And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

"And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

"And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

"Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

"And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

"When they had heard the king, they de-

parted; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way"

Zedhariah, the priest, the father of John the Baptist, knew that his son John was to be the forerunner of The Messiah, as he spoke prophetically, as recorded in Luke 1:67-79

"And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

"And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

"As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

"That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

"To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

"The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

"That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

"In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

"To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

"Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

"To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."



## Pastor's Viewpoint

By CHARLES (BUDDY) WHATLEY

Let's say you're a young unmarried woman living in a time when that was a great sin and looked upon with great disfavor. And let's say an angel appeared to you and told you you were going to be pregnant even though you'd never been with a man. How would you respond? Who would you turn to for help? Who'd listen to you without judging you? Who would believe your story about an angel and a virgin birth? Not your parents, certainly not your friends and neighbors, they might stone you to death. How about Elizabeth who is six months pregnant even through she was barren and too old to be pregnant? Elizabeth and Mary share a similar and yet very different problem; one is

old and barren and pregnant; the other is young and unmarried and pregnant.

Luke 1:39-42, "Now at this time Mary set out and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, [40] and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. [41] When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. [42] And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

There is a problem! We've heard this story so often we've turned it into a "happily ever after" fairy tale. Elizabeth is delighted with her pregnancy and Mary is honored to carry her

baby... but in real life Elizabeth might wonder how in the world she'll live long enough for John to grow up and worries that if she dies, he'll be left alone in the world. And Mary worries about what people, especially her parents will think of her, and what hardships her child will endure as he grows up without a father. Actually, she's engaged to Joseph who is apparently an older man, but what man will marry a woman who's been unfaithful to him?

Pastor's viewpoint from Luke 1:39-56 is written by Charles 'Buddy' Whatley, a retired Methodist pastor serving Dawson Street Methodist Church in Thomasville, Georgia.

# Editorial Page

## We Have Too Many Wrecks In SEGA

Not every Patrol and local county publishes the names of those arrested, but Pierce and Brantley County do.

When most of us read the "booking reports," we cannot help but to notice how many are arrested for DUI, either on alcohol or drugs.

These people most often are arrested while driving under the influence of one or the other. They are a danger on the roadway, and there are many accidents that involve the use of alcohol or drugs.

Crackdowns on DUI are made by the Georgia State

law enforcement, especially during the holidays. But it would seem that someone who knows he or she has been drinking would realize that it is unsafe to be on the roadway.

Some persist in the practice, endangering their lives and the lives of others.

We encourage our fellow citizens that, if they plan to drink, that they also plan to have someone else to do the driving.

The life they save may be their own...

--MKV

## Pressing Issues: Signs of the Times The Celebration Of Hanukkah

By MITTIE VAUGHAN  
Editor And Publisher



I have spent much of my free time during the Christmas and New Year's holidays reading the Apocrypha. My friend, Kadee Dasher, gave me a Catholic Bible, which includes the Apocrypha not included in our Protestant versions of *The Holy Bible*.

I had heard of the Apocrypha. It is a collection of books that include I and II Maccabee. That was what I read first.

I had always wondered about the celebration of Hanukkah, which is a Jewish holiday celebrated during December.

What I learned is that the word Hanukkah means "rededication."

After the Jewish people were taken to Babylon after King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah, his dynasty was conquered by the Medo-Persian Empire, and Cyrus the Great allowed the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

After the Medo-Persian empire was conquered by Greece, the Greek kings were determined to Hellenize the entire world. They forced all of the lands that they had conquered to worship their gods—Zeus and that whole Pantheon of Greek gods—and to adopt Greek customs and rules.

They forbade the Jewish people from circumcizing their chil-

dren. They tried to make them eat the foods eaten by the Greeks, including pork that was forbidden in the law of Moses. They killed the priests who would not offer pork on the altar. They killed the people who followed the law of Moses.

Finally, one of their Greek rulers, Antiochus Epiphanes (he claimed to be God), erected a statue of himself in the Temple at Jerusalem and forced the priests to sacrifice a pig on the altar.

Judas Macabeas, one of the priests, fled into the wilderness with his five sons to avoid the Hellenization of the Jews. But the commander of the army of Greece came to him and tried to convince him to sacrifice a pig on the altar, which he refused to do. Another man stepped forward to offer the pig on the altar, and he was killed by those of Judas Macabeas' company.

This rebellion of the Jewish people against the Greeks, who had been persecuting those who followed the one true God and the writings of Moses, lasted for years..

The fighting continued even after the death of Judas Macabeas, whose five sons carried on as commanders of the Jewish army over the next several decades.

The Jewish people finally were able to defeat the Greek forces sent to subdue them.

They then tore out the desecrated altar, cleansed the temple, built another altar in the temple and held a rededication ceremony.

This rededication feast is celebrated every year by the Jewish people.

That is Hanukkah. Most of us in Protestant Churches have wondered about this celebration by the Jewish people.

The Apocrypha is writings that were rejected as sacred canon by the Protestant Churches. Some of it is history. Some of it is wisdom literature. The book of Esther in the Apocrypha is taken from the Greek version, and it is more detailed than the book of Esther in our version of the *Holy Bible*.

It includes prayers by Mordecai and Queen Esther, who risked her life to intervene for the Jewish people who were about to be annihilated by Haman.

I'm so glad I had the opportunity to read I and II Maccabee to get a better understanding of the celebration. And I want to read the rest of the Apocrypha as well.

It is fascinating reading!

## Out With The Old, In With The "What?"

By VAN YANDELL

John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

In the fall of 1991, I was teaching industrial arts. One cold early winter morning the school principal walked into my shop and told me the state had approved the plan for the construction of our new school.

The challenge was that traditional industrial shops were no longer approved. Technology labs would take their place. At the time I wasn't too disturbed over that circumstance.

Having already explored computer aided drafting, computer graphics and other applications, I saw the change as an opportunity for my personal learning as well as my students.

The next four years (beginning in August 1992) I taught technology education. Many of the students were excited, I was excited, and our lab was one of the first three in the state and set an example for others developing such facilities.

There was a constant flow of visitors from other schools, the State Department of Education and even schools in surrounding states. Being afforded the ego-pleasure of expounding my knowledge of the transition was a thrill and of course I am always eager to teach. Adults also benefit from teachable moments.

However, as the years passed we became aware of what the youth were missing by not having the traditional subjects normally taught in industrial education.

Classes in woodwork, metals, architectural and engineering drafting and design, electricity/electronics provided a value to students that apparently few had realized in past years.

Was it assumed fathers would teach their children how to repair furniture, change electrical switches and receptacles, or install a float valve? And more pressing, where would the next generation of tradesmen come from?

We were raising a generation of mechanical and practical illiterates but were preparing a generation of video game professionals! Where were the future carpenters, cabinet builders, electricians, welders and block/brick layers to develop?

They certainly are not going to come from history or music class. The studies of history and music are needed (I wish I knew more) but these areas do not build buildings, bridges or needed consumer products.

Change is not always good. Other subjects suffered as well. Home economics is another example. Are life skills and home skills in budgeting, planning

and child rearing no longer important?

We are constantly seeing failures in parenting. A child bringing a weapon to school and injuring or taking the life of another child or teacher is a parenting failure. Many of the behavioral problems teachers face every day are parenting failures.

The constant need for more prisons and juvenile detention centers are partly the results of poor parenting. But many thought vocational home economics was not needed?

The technology lab served a purpose but its worth compared to the industrial arts shop is certainly debatable.

Here we are one-third of a century later and the topic of technology is an ongoing debate. Technology definitely has its good points but it also creates problems.

We are being watched constantly. Conversations in our homes are being heard to bombard us with commercials for products we may mention. Greed has smothered free enterprise and consumer needs.

We have no privacy, no secrets; our computer searches are recorded to monitor our shopping and buying habits. AI does our thinking rather than the human brain creating a farther dumbing down of the population.

I mentioned to wife Margie the possibility of replacing a bathtub with a shower. By the end of the day we were receiving ads for shower installers. What was listening; the TV, phone, computer, possibly all three?

The church has a similar problem. I usually ask, when called to substitute preach, "Do I need to bring a children's sermon?" Two of the last three times I've asked, I was told "We don't have any children."

Where are the young people with children? Do they have no need for God? This is serious and urgent!

Also recently we've become aware of a severe shortage of pastors, missionaries and evangelists in America. In one area we frequent, one-third of the churches in a denominational group are without pastors. We have a problem and when the time comes and someone wakes up and realizes this, it will be like dropping a bomb.

If there are so many churches without young adults with children, where will be found the next generation of pastors? The simple answer to this is, there won't be any and there appears to already be a shortage! And consequently the church will continue to decline.

It is time to start taking the Great Commission seriously!

Acts 1: 8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The uttermost part of the earth is no longer the other side of the planet. It is here! It is inside the walls of the church and in the communities! The church has a problem and as a matter of survival, it must be addressed and action taken.

We must always teach that eternal salvation is attained by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) in Christ Jesus crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (1 John 1: 9), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive in to Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Acts 4: 12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Christians must take this seriously! If we do not tell the world about Jesus, who will?

"Out with the old, in with the new" sounds good, but is it?

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

# Report From Our Nation's Capitol

By **BUDDY CARTER**  
U.S. Representative

## Cheers To 2025

As we close out another year, Georgia's First Congressional District enters 2026 with momentum and a clear focus on what comes next. This past year brought challenges and progress. Through it all, our communities showed up. Small businesses kept growing. Families kept pushing forward. Local leaders stayed engaged.

In Washington, I stayed focused on the priorities you sent me there to work on—lowering costs, strengthening the economy, supporting public safety, standing with our service members, and advocating for Georgians.

This week's newsletter looks back on the past year through moments that capture the people and places that made 2025 a year to remember. From community events to hard work in Washington, D.C., these photos tell the story better than words alone.

Serving you in Congress remains an honor. I am grateful for your trust and your support. I look forward to continuing this work together in 2026. And as always, I am hoping for another strong year for the Georgia Bulldogs.

### Highlights of the Year

#### January

I was sworn in for another term alongside Speaker Mike Johnson, with my wife Amy by my side, marking the start of a new Congress. The ceremony was a reminder of the responsibility of this office and the trust placed in me by the people of Georgia's First District.

#### February

During a Friends of the First stop in Liberty County, I met with local first responders and community members to thank them for their service, including sharing Valentine's cards as a small gesture of appreciation. This is one of my favorite yearly traditions! This event

consistently reinforces the importance of respect and appreciation for our first responders among young people in the First District.

#### March

I attended the grand opening of Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America, the largest single economic development project in Georgia's history. This investment is bringing thousands of jobs and long-term manufacturing opportunities to coastal Georgia.

#### April

Welcoming University of Georgia (UGA) President Jere Morehead to Washington, D.C. was a great opportunity as UGA leaders and student athletes met with lawmakers to discuss NIL policy and college athletics. I enjoyed highlighting how Georgia's universities continue to shape national dialogue.

#### May

The American Hospital Association's annual meeting offered me a chance to speak about the importance of strong local health systems that serve our communities every day. An introduction by Effingham Health System CEO Dr. Francine Baker-Witt underscored the level of care found throughout the First District.

#### June

While in St. Marys, I delivered remarks at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Patrol Boat Dedication and Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home celebration. The event honored our veterans and served as a powerful reminder of their service and sacrifice.

#### July

Meeting Coast Guard Petty Officer Scott Ruskan was a powerful moment for me, following his rescue efforts at Camp Mystic on July 4th, where he helped save more than 160 lives, including my twin

granddaughters. It was a privilege to thank him for his service!

#### August

August included an API roundtable discussing Georgia's projected energy demand growth and the challenges facing our power grid. We examined how federal policy can help meet future demand while maintaining reliable energy service.

#### September

Standing with and passing out Georgia's own Chick-fil-A to National Guard members on the National Mall was a powerful reminder of the responsibility they carry in keeping Washington, D.C. safe. I fully support the president's decision to send them to our cities and restore law-and-order, a noble and patriotic task. Their readiness to serve, often without recognition, reflects a deep commitment to public safety.

#### October

Georgia Pre-K Week offered a chance in October to read with students and celebrate the joy that comes with learning at an early age. Experiences like this stay with you and reinforce the importance of investing in our children.

#### November

I joined colleagues for a bipartisan reception supporting the recently released Israeli hostages. The gathering provided an opportunity to discuss how Congress can continue working together to advocate for Americans wrongfully detained abroad, combat antisemitism, and support those still waiting to come home.

#### December

I concluded the year with a press conference at the Capitol Plaza on the Pharmacists Fight Back Act, legislation I am proud to co-sponsor that will address the high cost of prescription drugs by go-



## D-Rek's Angels & Warriors Delivers 500 Toys To SGHS Pediatric Patients Dec. 6

BRUNSWICK, — D-Rek's Angels & Warriors proudly hosted its 9th Annual Toy Drive, delivering over 500 toys to pediatric patients at Southeast Georgia Health System on Saturday, Dec. 6. Joined by Santa and the Grinch, volunteers brought cheer to children spending the holiday season in the hospital—turning hallways into moments of magic and hospital rooms into places of joy.

This year's toy drive continued the organization's mission to ensure that every child—in every room, facing every diagnosis—feels seen, loved and uplifted. All toys and proceeds benefit children hospitalized for any reason, from chronic illness and surgical recovery to diagnostic testing.

"This drive doesn't discriminate, because joy shouldn't either," says organizers from D-Rek's Angels & Warriors. "Every child deserves to feel hope, especially during the holidays."

The organization credits the success of this year's drive to the generosity of donors, volunteers and local supporters who helped collect, sort and hand-de-

### Congressman Carter

ing after the middlemen. The month also included meetings with Georgia pharmacists visiting Washington and passage of a major piece of legislation that will make

health care more accessible and affordable for all Americans.

(Congressman Carter serves the 1st district of Georgia).



Santa delivering toys to Keelan Williams and his mom, Whitney Steedley

## 2025: The Year In Review

By **TY TAGAMI**

Bureau Chief

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The year started with news about presidents past and present, as Donald Trump was sworn in for a second term and Georgia mourned the loss of Jimmy Carter.

The Trump administration implemented major changes to immigration and trade policy that reverberated across the country and in Georgia. Developments driven by technology companies also rocked the state, as the words "data center" came into common use.

The Peach State also made its own news, from a shooting at a military base to a split between a high-profile Republican and Trump and a surprising statewide election outcome that threatened the status quo.

Here is a look at the top Georgia stories of 2025.

Jan. 7: The celebration of the life of a native son and former president, Jimmy

Carter, moved from Atlanta to the nation's capital for a memorial service in the Capitol Rotunda.

Feb. 12: The state economist warned that Trump's tariffs would probably drive up prices for Georgia consumers while suppressing exports.

March 21: The Georgia General Assembly passed Gov. Brian Kemp's top priority — an overhaul of tort law to create a friendlier environment for insurance companies.

March 25: Lawmakers pushed back against big tech, passing a law that will prohibit student cellphone use in public elementary and middle schools starting next fall.

March 31: Reacting to the mass shooting at Apalachee High School last year, the legislature passed a sweeping school safety bill that sought to identify malevolent students before they could do harm and to bolster mental health services.

July 25: About 8,500 students secured approval to begin the school year in private

schools, their tuition covered by a new state-funded voucher program that was expected to cost taxpayers \$55 million.

July 28: State authorities announced an investigation of a company accused of operating a Ponzi scheme that bilked investors while funding Republican political campaigns. The announcement by Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger followed the filing of a lawsuit by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission against First Liberty Building and Loan and its operator Edwin Brant Frost IV.

Aug. 6: Four soldiers and a civilian were shot by a gunman at the U.S. Army's Fort Stewart near Savannah. All survived and a sergeant was charged with attempted murder.

Aug. 25: Kemp announced his decision to deploy about 75 military members across the state to aid U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Sept. 4: Federal agents detained 475 workers at Hyundai's electric vehicle battery

plant near Savannah, most of them Korean nationals, causing friction with the South Korean government.

Sept. 5: Kemp announced plans to send 316 members of the Georgia National Guard to Washington, D.C. to support Trump's use of troops to patrol the nation's capital.

Nov. 4: Republicans felt a chill as voters soundly defeated two GOP incumbents on the Public Service Commission, choosing two Democrats instead. The monopoly regulator had raised electricity rates several times, leading to a backlash that pushed "affordability" to the top of the political agenda.

Nov. 21: U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Rome Republican who forged a political brand as a staunch ally of Trump, solidified her break with the president by announcing her resignation a year early, in January. She disagreed with Trump on several issues, including artificial intelligence, military action overseas and release of the federal files concerning de-

ceased sex abuser Jeffrey Epstein.

Nov. 26: A Fulton County judge granted dismissal of the criminal election conspiracy charges against Trump and his remaining co-defendants after a prosecutor took the case from District Attorney Fani Willis when the courts sidelined her over ethical concerns.

Dec. 19: The state Public Service Commission, with less than two weeks to go in the terms of two Republicans ousted by voters in November, granted a controversial expansion of electrical generation capacity for Georgia Power. The monopoly secured approval to build five gas-powered plants while sourcing other power to supply speculative demand by future data centers. The expansion raised concerns about the environmental impact of burning more fossil fuel and the cost to current customers if the nearly 10 gigawatts in new capacity proved unnecessary.

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STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 1/4/26

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# Obituaries

## Daniel W. Clark

Daniel W. "Danny" Clark, 68, of Ludowici, Georgia, passed away on December 23, 2025. Danny was a devoted family man, proud grandfather, and a pillar of his community. He was known for his strong work ethic, generous heart, and unwavering loyalty to the people he loved most. Above all else, Danny cherished his family and took immense pride in his children, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter, who were the center of his world.

Danny proudly served his country in the United States Army, including service with the 1st Ranger Battalion and the 7th Special Forces Group. His military service reflected his strength, discipline, and quiet dedication—qualities that remained with him throughout his life. Danny was the owner of Imprint Warehouse, a 20-year business that reflected his entrepreneurial spirit and deep connection to his community. He genuinely loved his customers and the people who called Liberty County and the surrounding area home. For many years, Danny served as a Little League coach with the Liberty County Recreation Department, where he made a lasting impact on countless young athletes. Under his leadership, teams won many championships, but more importantly, he taught lessons of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship that extended far beyond the field.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Clark, and his daughters, Angela, Alexis, and Amber, along with his cherished grandchildren, great-granddaughter, and extended family who will forever treasure his memory. Above all, Danny was a devoted Clemson fan. His love for Clemson was lifelong and unwavering—game days were sacred; the Tigers were family and cheering them on was one of his greatest joys. That passion was shared loudly, proudly, and with a smile that will be remembered by all who knew him. His legacy lives on not only in every Clemson kickoff, every Tiger victory, and every orange-clad Saturday that will forever remind us of Danny.

A celebration of Danny's life was held at Gum Branch Baptist Church on Monday, December 29, at 2:30 p.m. All who knew and loved him were welcome to attend. Family and friends may sign the online register at [www.howardfuneralga.com](http://www.howardfuneralga.com). Arrangements were under the direction of Howard Funeral Home of Ludowici.

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Ludowici, Georgia 31316 [howardfuneralhome@gmail.com](mailto:howardfuneralhome@gmail.com)

# Calendar & Business Directory

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE	29	30	31	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3
4 ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE	5	6 LONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION 6 P.M.	7	8	9	10

# Local News

## Commissioners Meet First Tuesday

The Long County Board Of Commissioners meet each first Tuesday of the month for the regular meeting of the commission.

The county commission meeting is held at 6 p.m. .

The public is invited to attend and may call the commission office to get on the agenda of the meeting, according to The meeting will be held at 6 p.m., beginning with the October meeting.

## Ludowici Council Meets 2nd Tuesday

The regularly scheduled council meeting is held the second Tuesday of each month at the Ludowici City Hall.

The Ludowici Council usually meets at 9 a.m. in the meeting room-courtroom at Ludowici City Hall.

The public is invited, according to Mayor Jim Fuller,

## Family Connections Meeting Set 3rd Wednesday

The Ludowici-Long County Family Connection meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.

Family Connections may be reached at Ludowici-Long County Family Connection, 50 Martin Luther King Jr., SW Ludowici, GA 31316 or by calling (912) 977-2721.



## Calendar Of Events



## LCDA Meets Fourth Tuesday Of Month

The Long County Development Authority meets the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Brad Day is executive director of the Long County Development Authority.

The public is invited to all meetings of the authority.

## Long P&Z Board Meeting Third Monday

The Long County Planning & Zoning Board meets the third Monday of each month.

The public is invited to attend the meetings, which begin at 6 p.m. The meeting previously was held on the second Tuesday of each month but has been changed, according to staff at the Long County Commission office.

# A Nugget from the Word of God

## No Sign But Sign of Jonah

The Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign; they already had many signs. Luke 5:12-14 tells of one sign.

“And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

“And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

“And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.”

The ritual for cleansing a leper was a complicated matter. Jerry Vines Ministries describes it as follows:

God’s method for cleansing the leper involved two living birds, an earthen vessel, some cedar wood, some scarlet cloth or thread, and some hyssop. The priest would take the scarlet thread and tie the hyssop to the wood to make a brush. Then one of the birds would be killed over the earthen vessel filled with fresh water. The living bird, along with the cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop, would then be dipped into the blood of the first bird. Next, the priest would take the blood of the dead bird and with the hyssop sprinkle it seven times on the leper. The leper would stand there blood splattered and blood sprinkled.

Jesus healed many lepers during his ministry, and all of them went to the priests for the ritual cleansing. They had been given signs, many of them, Jesus gave them the sign he promised when he arose from the dead after three days in the grave, as Jonah was in the belly of a fish for three days.

## Church Directory

Beard’s Creek Primitive Baptist Church 60 Beard’s Creek Road Glennville • (912) 654-4040	First Methodist Church Church Street—Ludowici
Beulah #1 Baptist Church 13549 Highway 196 (912) 654-1811	Grace Missionary Baptist Church 136 Grace Baptist Church Road-Ludowici (912) 654-1004
Calvary Baptist Church Ludowici, GA	Jones Creek Baptist Church Jones Creek Loop—Ludowici (912) 545-2437
Compass Worship Center Highway 84—Ludowici, GA	Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church Ga Hwy. 196—Glennville (912) 654-9413
Elem Missionary Baptist Church 1991 Cecil Nobles Hwy. Ludowici, GA • (912) 545-2230	Ludowici First Baptist Church Cecil Nobles Hwy.-Ludowici, GA
Elim Baptist Church Elim Church Road—Ludowici	St. Phillip’s Missionary Baptist Church 147 Boundary St.—Ludowici, (912) 545-9915
Faith Baptist Church McDonald Street—Ludowici	If your church is not listed, please call The Long County Press at (912) 256-7990 or e-mail <a href="mailto:pressexpress@bellsouth.net">pressexpress@bellsouth.net</a> to have it added.
First Hispanic Baptist Church Rte. 3 Box 165, Ludowici, GA (912) 545-2262	

### Howard Funeral Home

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## Long Board of Education Is 2nd Tuesday

The Long County Board of Education meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at 4:30 p.m., at the Long County Board of Education Office, located on Academy Street in Ludowici..

a change in meeting date. The meeting begins at 4:30 p.m., at the Long

## Upcoming Events:

E-mail to [pressandexpress@gmail.com](mailto:pressandexpress@gmail.com), or mail to P.O. Box 1228, Ludowici, GA.  
or those wishing to report events may call (912) 256-7990

### The Long County Press

Phone: (912) 256-7990  
E-mail: [pressexpress@bellsouth.net](mailto:pressexpress@bellsouth.net)  
Mittie Vaughan  
Editor and Publisher

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# Legal Notices

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF LONG  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER  
POWER

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated August 23, 2023, from Kevin Hixon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Flagstar Bank, N.A., recorded on August 31, 2023 in Deed Book 538 at Page 494 Long County, Georgia records, having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated August 23, 2023, in the amount of \$245,364.00, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Long County, Georgia, on January 6, 2026 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"):

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE LYING AND BEING IN THE 1756TH G.M. DISTRICT OF LONG COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT NO. 4, RAY ESTATES, PHASE 2, AS SHOWN AND REPRESENTED ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY MADE AND PREPARED BY JOHN O. PARKER, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1850, BEARING A DATE OF MARCH 11, 2022, AND BEING RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2022, PAGE 119, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF LONG COUNTY, GEORGIA, SAID PLAT BY SPECIFIC REFERENCE IS INCORPORATED

HEREIN FOR DESCRIPTIVE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES. SAID LOT OF LAND BEING BOUNDED, NOW OR FORMERLY, AS FOLLOWS: NORTHERLY BY LANDS OF CLIFTON RAY; EASTERLY BY LOT NO. 5; SOUTHERLY BY RYE PATCH ROAD 80' R/W; AND WESTERLY BY LOT NO. 3, ALL AS SHOWN ON THE ABOVE REFERRED TO PLAT OF SURVEY.

The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is in default and this sale will be made for the purposes of paying the Security Deed, accrued interest, and all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees. Notice of intention to collect attorneys' fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is/are Kevin Hixon.

The property, being commonly known as **5915 Rye Patch Rd, Ludowici, GA, 31316** in Long County, will be sold as the property of Kevin Hixon, subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable), any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or

entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019, 888-480-2432. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under U.S. Bankruptcy code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Albertelli Law Attorney for Nationstar Mortgage LLC as Attorney in Fact for Kevin Hixon 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1000 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone: (770) 373-4242 THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. - 25-005172 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26, 1/2 PNA 633

Notice of Sale Under Power.

State of Georgia, County of LONG.

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by DARIN M RIVERS to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, dated 06/14/2023, and Recorded on 06/14/2023 as Book No. 534 and Page No.

1431 1446, LONG County, Georgia records, as last assigned to PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$357,000.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the LONG County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in January, 2026, the following described property: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 1756TH G.M. DISTRICT OF LONG COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT NO. 22, BRIARCREST SUBDIVISION, PHASE 2, AS SHOWN AND REPRESENTED ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY MADE AND PREPARED BY JOE P. DAVIS, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1436, BEARING A SURVEY DATE OF AUGUST 17, 2013, AND A PLAT DATE OF OCTOBER 24, 2013, AND BEING RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET A 13, SLIDE 1B, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF LONG COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND AS ALSO SHOWN UPON A PLAT DATED DECEMBER 26, 2011, PREPARED BY JOHN O. PARKER, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1850, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 23, PAGES 51 54, AFORESAID RECORDS. FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF SAID LOT CONVEYED HEREIN, REFERENCE IS MADE TO SAID PLATS WHICH ARE

INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY SPECIFIC REFERENCE. SAID PROPERTY IS PRESENTLY KNOWN AS **355 BRIARCREST DR. NE, LUDOWICI, GA 31316**. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt 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 Deed to Secure Debt. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, acting on behalf of and, as necessary, in consultation with PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC (the current investor on the loan), is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC may be contacted at: PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, 3043 TOWNSGATE ROAD, SUITE 200, WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91361, 866 549 3583. Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44 14 162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as 355 BRIARCREST DR

NE, LUDOWICI, GEORGIA 31316 is/are: DARIN M RIVERS or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9 13 172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC as Attorney in Fact for DARIN M RIVERS. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 00000010652428 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341 5398. 625 12/12, 12/19, 12/26, 1/2

## United Way Of Coastal Empire Seeks Volunteers To Read January 30

United Way of the Coastal Empire will host Read United Day on Jan. 30, bringing volunteers and community leaders together to read to students and provide books to every prekindergarten through second grade student in Long County Public Schools.

"Read United Day is our largest volunteer event of the year and supports an initiative that impacts everyone: literacy," said Carissa Hendricks, regional county director for Liberty and Long counties. "In just one 30-minute volunteer session, you are planting a seed that

reinforces the importance of reading and that literacy can be fun."

Read United is a year-round initiative focused on strengthening early language and literacy for children across the region. Read United Day is the most visible component of the initiative, made possible by sponsors and donors who help United Way place a new book in the homes of prekindergarten through second-grade students across United Way's service area. Volunteers can sign up to read at [unitedway-volunteers.org](http://unitedway-volunteers.org).

## News articles may be e-mailed to [pressexpress@bellsouth.net](mailto:pressexpress@bellsouth.net)



Energy Assistance Heat Program

(Federally Funded and administered by Family & Children Service)

To schedule an appointment Long County residents may call

912-214-2050 or go to: [www.myactionpact.org](http://www.myactionpact.org)

& click on "Schedule My Energy Assistance Appointment"

Only households where **all** adult members are 65 or older or **all** adult members are medically homebound may apply beginning January 5, 2026, at 8:30AM. All other low-income households may apply beginning February 2, 2026, if funds are available. To inquire about Life-threatening crisis please call your Long County Action Pact Service Center at 912-545-2435 for more information.

Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligibility for this program is determined by the income of **all adults** living in the household (see chart below).

# of People in Household	Total Annual Household Income
One Person	\$34,549
Two People	\$45,179
Three People	\$55,810
Four People	\$66,441
Five People	\$77,071
Six People	\$87,702
Seven People	\$89,695
Eight People	\$91,688

*E-mail news and views to [pressexpress@bellsouth.net](mailto:pressexpress@bellsouth.net)*

# Eye On



## Long

By MITTIE VAUGHAN  
Editor And Publisher

Long County Board Of Commissioners is not increasing the millage rate this year. Public hearings on the millage were held on December 15 and 16. The last one was held before the Long County Board Of Commissioners work session.

\*\*\*\*

Despite the reassessment, the Long County Board Of Commissioners is not planning to roll back the millage rate. Therefore, they had to advertise the millage as a tax increase, which requires three public hearings.

\*\*\*\*

Shane Richardson has been selected as the new county manager. He will take over the position on January 2. Although he is presently working in South Carolina, he has worked previously in Georgia and therefore is familiar with Georgia law and the makeup of Georgia agencies and with officials in Georgia, according to former County Manager Chuck Scragg, interviewed on his last day on the job by the Press.

\*\*\*\*

A reassessment of local properties was held in recent months. Former County Manager Chuck Scragg stated that a reassessment was last held in 2007. Scragg's last day as county manager was Friday, December 5.

\*\*\*\*

The Long County Board Of Commissioners has a full slate of officers with the election of Benji Strickland as District 5 commissioner. That position had been vacant for some months since the resignation of Robert Parker.

\*\*\*\*



### Long County Middle School Cheerleaders

The Long County Middle School Cheer Team was in competition in recent weeks.

## Planning Commission Meets Third Monday Of Each Month In Long County

The Long County Planning Commission meeting has been changed to the third Monday of each month, according to information from the Long County Commission office.

Those wishing to attend the meetings are asked to make a note of the change in the meeting date.

The Long County Planning & Zoning meeting previously was held on the fourth Thursday of each month.

## United Way Woman Of Year Is Honoree Swann Seiler

SAVANNAH, GA – United Way of the Coastal Empire announced that the 2026 Women Who Rule event will honor community leader and United Way supporter Swann Seiler as the 2026 United Way Woman of the Year. The annual luncheon will be held Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the Savannah Convention Center.

Championed by United Way's Women United®, the event raises funds for the Women United Transportation Fund, which supports women and caregivers across the region who need dependable transportation. Donations to the fund provide gas cards, bus passes, minor car repairs and other assistance to increase access to reliable transportation.

Seiler began her career in 1978 with Foster Wheeler Energy Corp.

in New Jersey and later worked in public relations for Lytton Industries. She joined Savannah Electric in 1982, serving as manager of corporate communications until its merger into Georgia Power in 2006. She went on to serve as manager of external affairs for Georgia Power's Southeast Region until her retirement.

A 1978 graduate of the University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady School of Journalism, Seiler has remained deeply connected to her alma mater. She was the first woman to serve as president of the UGA National Alumni Association (2005-07), is an emeritus member of both the UGA Athletic Association Board of Directors and the UGA Foundation, and has served on multiple university boards. She received the Southern

Company-University of Georgia Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001 and is a graduate of Leadership Savannah and Leadership Georgia.

Throughout her career, Seiler has been extensively involved in civic and community leadership. She has served on the Historic District Board of Review for the City of Savannah, the Bethesda Academy board, the Board of Curators for the Georgia Historical Society, the Georgia Women of Achievement board, the Georgia Humanities Council, the state board of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, the Chatham County Public Schools Foundation and the 200 Club of the Coastal Empire. She has been a member of the Savannah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Rotary Club of Savannah. Seiler is also a past president of Senior Citizens Inc., the Junior League of Savannah and the Girl Scout Council of Savannah. In addition, she has chaired the Chatham/Effingham Regional Library Board, the Savannah Sports Council, the Telfair Museum of Art Board of Trustees and United Way of the Coastal Empire's 1998 fundraising campaign.

Seiler resides in Savannah's Historic District, is an active member of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension and comes from the family that has raised the University of Georgia's famed English bulldog mascots for nearly 70

## Top Story Of 2025 Was GBI Arrest Of County Commission Chairman Parker

Top story of 2025 was the arrest by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation of Robert Parker, who was serving as chairman of the Long County Board of Commissioners at the time.

Parker was charged with one count of violation of his oath of office, two counts of theft by taking and another count of aggravated assault.

Because of his position as commission chairman, all of the judges in the Atlantic Judicial Circuit recused themselves from the case.

The case has been transferred to the Brunswick Judicial Circuit, and the case, when it comes to trial, is expected to be heard in the Brunswick Courthouse.

Also arrested was one of four contractors that Parker had retained to do work for the coun-

ty. The two arrests were made in February, and both were jailed for about two weeks before they were allowed to bond out of the Glenville Jail.

No date has been set for the trial as of press time.

The second top story of the year was the change from a county commission to a county manager form of government. Long County had a "strong commission chairman" form of government, with the county commission chairman serving as the CEO of the county. Commissioners voted to change to a county manager form of government earlier this year when the Georgia General Assembly approved the change.

## Woman Of Year Seiler

involved in the community, serving on several local boards and volunteering with organizations including Citizens of Georgia Power, Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia and United Way of the Coastal Empire. "Her lifelong commitment to this region has opened doors, strengthened families, and inspired future generations. We are proud to honor someone whose journey has truly made our community better."

This year's Women Who Rule event will be chaired by Jennifer Ball, region operations coordinator for Georgia Power's Southeast Region. Ball is deeply

involved in the community, serving on several local boards and volunteering with organizations including Citizens of Georgia Power, Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia and United Way of the Coastal Empire.

In addition to honoring the 2026 Woman of the Year, the event will feature a panel of female leaders from across the region. Panelists will be announced in early 2026.

Event tickets and tables will go on sale to the public in mid-January 2026. For more information, visit [uwce.org/women-who-rule](http://uwce.org/women-who-rule).

## Dr. Lindsey Rowley

M.D. INTERNAL MEDICINE

Dr. Rowley is a compassionate physician specializing in internal medicine. She is skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of adult chronic conditions, including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, lung conditions, arthritis, and other persistent concerns. She is experienced in treating common illnesses and infections. Her focus is patient-centered, with a special interest in primary care and preventive medicine.

Dr. Rowley received her medical degree from Mercer University and completed her residency at the University of Florida Health Shands Hospital. She attained a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. Dr. Rowley is a native of Wayne County and looks forward to caring for the community.



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