

Purple presence in paper highlights Relay For Life goal

You may have seen some pink flamingoes sprouting up around town this spring. It's just one of the festive ways that our community spreads awareness about the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

The Tribune & Georgian is flocking its newsprint, too, with Purple Pages in every Thursday edition this month in honor of Camden County's cancer victims and survivors.

It will include information about the upcoming Relay For Life, fundraisers leading up to the event and general information about the disease. You can find it on page 12B of today's newspaper.

This year, the Relay fundraiser will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight on Friday, April 22, at the Camden County Leisure Services Track in Kingsland. Dozens of teams will build campsites to line the track and take part in the relay.

There also will be games, food to purchase and loads of entertainment.

One of the most emotional moments of the night is during the survivors and caregivers' laps that kick off the relay. Local citizens also can pay tribute to loved ones who have battled cancer by purchasing luminaries in their honor.

After the sun sets, luminaries bearing hundreds of survivors' and victims' names will illuminate the track.

Relay For Life is one of the biggest fundraising events of the year in Camden County because there are so many lives that have been touched by cancer.

Despite the numbers, medical advances continue to be made. Survival rates have improved for many cancers over the years. More of us are learning that early detection and healthier lifestyles can increase one's odds for prevailing over the disease.

People like those who participate in Relay For Life do make a difference in raising funds and awareness.

According to the American Cancer Society's website, this year's event in Camden currently includes 25 teams with a total of 111 participants. They already have raised almost \$24,000 this year.

We urge our readers to support this worthy annual cause and join their friends and neighbors in fighting the disease.

Tribune & Georgian

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OUR MISSION

The Tribune & Georgian is published with pride weekly for the people of Camden County by Community Newspapers Inc., Athens, Ga. We believe that strong newspapers build strong communities — "Newspapers get things done!" Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers. This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and hard work.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Barges, subs aren't a good fit

Dear Editor,
Last week there was a very well-considered letter regarding the potential impact of a barge port in St. Marys. The point was made that the U.S. Navy particularly chose Kings Bay as having a deep channel that led to the ocean that would allow for the passage of submarines and that small boats could still get out of the way should there be a right of way problem. Further, the barges or their container floats or their tow ships would not have that quick turnaround necessary to get out of the way.

Well, my point in addition to that is the subs have schedules that must not be revealed ahead of time. This is a matter of national security. So, if the barge traffic cannot maneuver as discussed, there would need to be a coordination for access. Well, there we have it: That cannot happen. National security.

And to add a little paranoia to the mix, who would be coming in with these barges? Or even in the containers? Yow.

My point is that because the boat schedules cannot be public knowledge we would not be able to support barge traffic. Not.

Betty Marsen
Woodbine

Program looks to partners for help

Dear Editor,
Coastal Re-entry and Veterans Coalition Inc. was able to once again mesh with one of our community partners — Camden County Sher-



iff's Office — to provide valuable experience and remembrance to an event for participating youth and parents recently at the Satilla Villas Apartments in Woodbine.

We would like to thank the Satilla Villas Apartments and the Camden County Sheriff's Office for their commitment and participation in making our youth feel the love and caring of Camden County and their community.

Continuing these types of efforts and partnerships will prove fruitful for the future of our youth, our community and for our country. Our organization is developing partnerships with county entities that soften barriers and involve, educate and instill desire in our youth. This helps to build, mold and direct youth and a growing prosperity for Camden County. In continuing with this collaboration, the future of Camden County will be bright.

We will continue in our efforts to develop good decision-making skills, ethics and values in our youth laying a sound foundation toward productive futures and citizenship. Youth's interaction with law enforcement should be one that is mutual and positive.

We look forward to increasing our partnerships with business and educational entities. We look forward to involving our community in ventures to come.

Nelson Cummings
Youth Program Director
Camden County Re-entry and
Veterans Coalition

Proposed barge port is a longshot

Dear Editor,
It is, in my opinion, time to stop the irrational attacks on the proposed industrial rezoning of the former mill site. Chicken Little, the sky is not falling. If, in fact, a

barge facility would ever be built at the site is an economic longshot.

Let me explain. Barge docks are usually constructed in one of two ways: a conventional wharf with bulkhead or an inclined railroad — call it a slide — upon which the barge is dragged in and out of the water on a rail system. Both constructions are extremely expensive and can only be justified based on substantial economic and logistic factors.

In addition, understand that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy would all be involved in the approval process of any plans and construction of such a facility. As we know, navigation and national defense take priority over any private transverse of the waterways.

Look up, the sky is not falling.

Jan Friedman
St. Marys

It is time for action and optimism

In regular session Monday night, the city council voted to delay a final decision on a recommendation from the planning commission to approve the rezoning of the former mill site property.

After reviewing a new proposal from legal counsel and staff that included additional conditions and safeguards to the original commission recommendation and a subsequent response from the proposed buyer, we realized more time was necessary to review the complex new proposals, some impacted by state and federal regulations. It became necessary to give city staff and counsel as well as the buyer's legal team and the trustee time to get together and craft a final document sufficient to bring the issue to a vote.

While I accept this temporary delay, it does not change the fact that the city council needs to move to a decisive posture once these discussions have occurred. It is clear we are a community divided in our opinions on this subject.

We have citizens opposing the rezoning and citizens supporting rezoning. And we have many who have not spoken out publicly but have strong opinions. This is an emotional issue that cannot be a win-win for everyone.

Yes, I have listened to all the testimony and have read the commentary and legal briefs. I have listened attentively for multiple hours to citizens who support and those who do not. There



John Morrissey
Guest columnist

are those who are vocal and prolific in their commentary and those who quietly render their heartfelt opinions in private conversations.

We have an engaged core of interested people, but we also have a silent majority. I have listened to each with equal appreciation of their rationale. I recognize the controversy. I recognize the emotions and I appreciate the passion expressed by both sides. However, this debate cannot go on indefinitely.

When we face any issue that divides our community, we still have to act. We have to bite the bullet and move forward because leadership is all about making difficult decisions, not delaying an inevitable vote.

The potential buyer deserves a decision after a full year plus of self-financed due diligence, public hearings and negotiations. The trustee deserves a decision after more than a decade of unsuccessfully trying to attract a buyer.

Our citizens deserve a

decision so they can move beyond debate and into positive support for whatever decision is rendered.

The council and staff have spent the past year reviewing all aspects of the proposed purchase and zoning change and the last few months garnering and analyzing public input. They have considered all the issues raised by local leaders, citizens and interested parties.

Contrary to some views expressed at Monday's meeting, a council majority has been fully aware of issues citizens have raised in recent weeks and have diligently sought clarification without taking sides or reaching individual conclusions too early in the process. They, too, now need to move on to other agendas and projects.

Regardless of how each council member feels personally, we cannot delay any longer. Remaining in limbo because we hope facts or attitudes may change is not an option. We have to act responsibly, thoughtfully and in a timely manner. And then we have to live with that decision.

I will not reiterate the pros and cons on either side of the argument. The proponents of each have done that quite well. As mayor, I have a leadership responsibility to obtain a vote and get the city back to other business at hand. Any further delay hinders all sides and prevents the city and council from doing its day-to-day business.

It also prevents the po-

tential buyer/developer and the trustee from doing their business. Decision time is here.

The city manager and legal counsel have been tasked to bring the appropriate players back to the table to work out conceptual and language differences. This iterative process is typical in reaching a satisfactory agreement.

It is my expectation those discussions will occur immediately and that within the next two to three weeks I will be able to convene a special session of city council for a single agenda item to vote on a refined and revised document.

The public comment period has ended. We must act and move forward. It is unhealthy for the city and all of the players to continue the debate. We need to reach a decision. As mayor, I will work diligently with whatever decision council renders.

Regardless of the decision, it is not feasible to continue asking homeowners to shoulder the majority of the financing necessary to provide ongoing expected city services. We must find and develop avenues to create commercial and industrial growth that will generate an access to jobs for citizens to support their families with a decent standard of living.

We cannot afford to be satisfied with the status quo because status quo does not work for all of our 17,000 citizens. We must strengthen

See **MAYOR**, page 5A

Tribune & Georgian
MILITARY NEWS

Magnus speaks to Kings Bay military officers association

The Kings Bay Chapter of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) celebrated its sixth anniversary and installation of new officers for 2016, at the newly renovated Osprey Cove club.

The Kings Bay Chapter covers mostly Camden County but has members from Brunswick to Yulee, Fla.

Gen. Bob Magnus, a retired United States Marine Corps general who served as the 30th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from Sept. 8, 2005 to July 2, 2008, was the guest of honor. He was advanced to the rank of general on Nov. 1, 2005 and began his assignment as assistant commandant of the Marine Corps on Nov. 8, 2005.

Magnus retired in a ceremony July 17, 2008 after 38 years of total service. Magnus received the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for his years of superior service to the U.S. military. At



The Kings Bay Chapter of the MOAA recently celebrated its sixth anniversary and installation of new officers. (From left) are Gen. Bob Magnus, Lt. Cmdr. Woodie White, Major Neal Moore, Lt. Col. Tom Hayden, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Lovett, Capt. Ray Crouch, Lt. Tom Scullion, Lt. Tom Schneider and Col. James Holler.

the time of his retirement, he was the last active officer of the corps who had served in the Vietnam War.

Magnus spoke on issues facing the military and commented on world affairs as it related to national security.

He then responded to questions from the Kings Bay members and guests.

Following his presenta-

tion, Magnus awarded certificates of commendation to outgoing chapter officers and then swore in the in-

coming chapter officers.

New Kings Bay MOAA officers are Lt. Col. Tom Hayden, president; Maj. Neal Moore, first vice president and recruiting; Lt. Cmdr. Woodie White, secretary; Lt. Cmdr. Dave Lovett, treasurer; Lt. Tom Schneider, publicity; Col. Jim Holler, legislative affairs; Capt. Len Scullion, chaplain and historian; and Capt. Ray Crouch, past president and programs.

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers, active, retired, reserve or National Guard.

MOAA is a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers and their families.

For more information on the Kings Bay Chapter of MOAA, which meets for dinner every third Tuesday of the month at Osprey Cove, contact Major Neal Moore at mmmore@tds.net.

Massey promoted to chief master sergeant

Michelle R. Massey, daughter of Louise Small and the late Calvin Small Sr. of White Oak, was recently promoted to chief master sergeant.

Massey is the first female to be promoted to senior master sergeant E-8 and chief master sergeant E-9 at the 117th Air Control Squadron at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah.

She is the operations superintendent for the director of operations and non-commissioned office in charge (NCOIC) for the command support staff.

As branch chief, she manages and operates Command and Control (C2) Battle Management Systems, performs surveillance, combat identification, tactical data link management, communications and computer systems managements. She also oversees academic training, medical requirements, physical fitness training, attendance, awards and promotions, to



Michelle R. Massey

name a few.

Massey has held many positions: surveillance tech, data system tech, acting first sergeant, and currently serves as a battle staff coordinator, air surveillance tech, command staff of NCOIC and operations superintendent/branch chief.

While assigned to the Army Reserves, she deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After 9/11, while assigned to the Georgia Air National Guard, she performed missions at Warner Robins, Cape Canaveral and the Southeastern Air Defense Sector in support of Operation Noble Eagle. In 2006, she deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2010, she deployed in support of the Combined Defense of the Arabian Gulf, Operation Enduring Freedom.

Massey received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2007 from Saint Leo University. She also received a master's degree in elementary curriculum, instruction and assessment in 2012 from Jones International University, where she graduated summa cum laude.

Massey's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Accommodation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Achievement Medal and several other federal and

state decorations.

In her civilian profession, Massey is a supply technician with the United States Coast Guard at Air Station Helicopter Interdiction Squadron in Jacksonville, Fla.

She was named Civilian Employee of the Year in 2008 for the United States Coast Guard. She is a member of the Enlisted Air National Guard Association, Top Three Organization for the 117th, member of the Top Three Scholarship Committee, the Morale and Welfare Recreation Committee, the Leadership Diversity and Advisory Committee and a Meals on Wheels participant. She is a youth leader in her church and sings in the choir.

She and her husband, Robert Massey, have six children, Rojaila, Robyn, Leighanna, Robert III, Tiffany and Karam Massey, and two grandchildren, Darnesha and Raymond. The Masseys reside in Woodbine.

Military officers welcome St. Marys police chief to speak

St. Marys Chief of Police Tim Hatch was guest speaker at the March 15 meeting of the Kings Bay Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) held at Osprey Cove.

Hatch was introduced by Lt. Col. Tom Hayden (USMC retired) and spoke with pride of the men and women of the St. Marys Police Department.

He also noted the cooperation with the Camden County, Kingsland and military police authorities in curtailing crime in the area.

Hatch has been in law enforcement since 1987, has been with the Oconee and Henry County Police and has been chief of police

for the city of St. Marys since 2004. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and attended the FBI National Academy.

Hatch noted the drop in felonies, property crime and complaints since 2006 and praised the citizens of St. Marys for their assistance.

Upon adjourning, Hayden stated the April meeting guest speaker would be Tommy Sailors, facilities manager at Marine Corps Support Facility on Blount Island.

All former, retired and active military officers from all service branches are invited to join MOAA.

For more information, call Neil Moore at (912) 576-7559.

Mayor

from page 4A

our city and position us for the long term.

Once a council decision is rendered, my focus will be to do everything possible to bring our community back together with a view to our future. We must move beyond our differences and work together towards a common goal of making St. Marys a healthier, more economically stable community.

It is time to reach out to the neighbor with whom

you have disagreed on this subject and pledge to double our individual and collective efforts to secure commercial endeavors that will broaden our imbalanced tax base.

I deal on a daily basis with the reality that not all our citizens are financially secure and that we all have a responsibility to create opportunities for every one of our citizens to succeed and thrive as other citizens have been able to do. It is a hard reality that there is a serious lack of jobs for so many of our fellow citizens.

Good, decent caring citizens have spent consider-

able effort in the past two months trying to convince their neighbors that the zoning change was either good or bad for the city. We now need to take that passion and energy and focus on the positive to make sure we grow at the pace we desire while

acknowledging the necessity of economic growth.

The theme of the current master plan steering committee is "One St. Marys" as we look to our future. We need to take that slogan to heart and continue to think about St. Marys as one com-

munity, not separate pockets of people with different values or goals.

We all love this city we call home, regardless of which neighborhood we live in. Yet, we know we can be a more vital and economically healthy city. It is time

to put differences aside and coalesce on how we achieve that perfect balance we know in our hearts is achievable.

John Morrissey is the mayor of St. Marys. He can be contacted at john.morrissey@stmarysga.gov or (912) 510-4041.

City of Kingsland, Georgia Schedule of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax VII - 2013 Issue For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2015

Project	Original Estimated Cost	Amount Expended		Other Financing Sources*	Total SPLOST Funds Expended
		Prior Years	Current Year		
Machinery & Equipment	\$ 508,000	\$ 5,907	\$ 181,412	\$ (14,731)	\$ 172,588
Road Construction Projects	\$ 6,900,000	\$ -	\$ 22,024	\$ -	\$ 22,024
Re-Surfacing Projects	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ 24,335	\$ (5,009)	\$ 19,326
Sidewalk Projects	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 28,428	\$ (10,071)	\$ 18,357
Miscellaneous Repairs & Improvements	\$ 335,000	\$ -	\$ 130,700	\$ -	\$ 130,700
Water & Sewer Projects	\$ 8,096,629	\$ -	\$ 1,508,391	\$ -	\$ 1,508,391
Total	\$ 16,639,629	\$ 5,907	\$ 1,895,290	\$ (29,811)	\$ 1,871,386

This is the annual report on spending for fiscal year 2014-2015 of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax VII-2013 Issue for the City of Kingsland, Georgia.
* Other Financing Sources represents the amount funded by the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant and Insurance Reimbursement.

WE WANT YOUR OPINION
What do you think about making the old Weed Street treatment plant into a discovery center and oyster hatchery?

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS
Gov. Nathan Deal announced this week that he plans to veto the "religious liberty" bill. What do you think he should do?

62% Approve
19% Veto
19% I'm not sure.

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