

Thank you, Camden County

Someone said to me recently, "The days are long, but the years are short." We were talking about parenting, but I'm finding those words can also apply to many other aspects of life.

I can scarcely believe it's been nine and a half years since I rolled into Camden County, fresh out of college, moving trailer in tow. It's even harder to believe that this week is my last as editor of the Tribune & Georgian.

As of Friday, Aug. 28, I'm resigning to focus on other things, including my 1-year-old daughter and our little family's quest to raise her closer to extended family in Texas.

They say having a baby changes everything, and boy were they right. Until you see a child growing and



Emily Heglund

Good Times

changing right in front of you, you don't have a firm grasp of just how quickly time really passes.

Sometime after my daughter came along last year, I suddenly realized that this is it — she's only going to be little one time. No second chances. No do-overs. I looked around at my lit-

tle nephews celebrating their first and second birthdays and knew — if we wanted our daughter to know her cousins, we would have to be closer to them.

Sometimes it seems like a Herculean task, uprooting all that my husband and I have built here over the last almost-decade. Sometimes it's terrifying to think about even trying. But I know that this is the right move for us.

And so I suppose all that's really left to say is thank you, Camden County.

Thank you, first and foremost, for your kindness. This county is home to some of the nicest people I've ever met (and remember, I'm from "the friendly state!"). Thank you for patiently explaining things to a young reporter struggling to grasp the bigger picture.

Thank you for giving me some of the most memorable experiences of my career. I've wandered the shores of Cumberland Island, spent the night on a Navy submarine, enforced the law on a late-night ride along and watched the wood shavings fly as local artists carved unique pieces from chunks of cherry and oak. It's been an exciting ride.

Thank you for teaching me about government. Yes, it was my job to sit through all those meetings, but I would never have learned about tax liens, eminent domain or enterprise funds if you hadn't been willing to go the extra step and explain why certain processes exist and when it's appropriate to use them. Every adult should know the basics of how governments are funded, what

the money can be used for and exactly how much access they have to their information.

Thank you for challenging me. You made me own up to my mistakes, and I've tried to learn from them. Nobody is perfect, but I hope that I was fair, at the very least.

Thank you to our sources, the people we quote week after week. Over the last 10 years, I've sat in your living rooms, dens and kitchens. I've listened to you tell stories of heartbreak and loss, of joy and triumph. You trusted me to tell your stories, and for that I will always be grateful. You are the Camden County community, and this newspaper would be nothing without your voices filling our pages.

And last, but certainly not least, thank you to the amazing, hardworking, indefatigable team here at the Tribune & Georgian. I was a lone single gal a thousand miles from home, and you took me in and made me family, no questions asked. I will never be able to repay you for your support and guidance over the years. You do a great service to this community, and I will always be proud to have been a part of that.

Camden County, you'll always be a special place to me. There are great things in store for this community, and I can't wait to read about them in the pages of this newspaper. Barb, start me a subscription!

Emily Heglund is the editor of the Tribune & Georgian.

Prepare now for emergencies

As I followed the progression of Hurricane Danny over the last several days I was reminded to make sure I was prepared in case of an emergency or an evacuation requirement.

Last Saturday night's storm was a small reminder of what we could all experience should we ever feel the indirect or direct impact of a fierce storm or hurricane.

The pine cones hitting my roof sounded like small bombs as they peppered the shingles and made me wonder how the skylight was holding up. (It made it through the storm in fine shape, unlike a similar storm two years ago).

The sheets of rain and the tree limbs falling on the deck outside made it clear to me just how quickly a storm can develop and why we all need to be ready to act if the situation requires it. I recognize that Saturday night was just a minor storm compared with the damages and endangerment of a tropical storm or hurricane.

This newspaper prints emergency preparation re-



John Morrissey

Guest column

minders regularly and the Camden County website has extensive information about disaster preparedness at <http://www.co.camden.ga.us/81/Emergency-Management>. I encourage you to view the site to stay current about actions you can take to keep you and your family safe and secure during an emergency.

Georgia statutes designate the county as "the emergency management agency" for Camden County, but that does not minimize the role that elected officials and employees in St. Marys have in the event of a natural di-

saster emergency. Protecting lives is the first priority for all of us in the city. Protecting property and our fragile ecological system is second and the inevitable clean soon follows.

As mayor of the Camden County city considered the most risk prone during heavy rain or a storm surge, I obviously take an active role in the Camden County Joint Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee. I am aware that no matter how well residents and businesses plan for a hurricane, we may still need to evacuate patients at our hospital and in nursing homes.

I know that when the immediate danger subsides, there will be power outages, fallen trees blocking roads, gas shortages, and businesses unable to open. There will be traffic signals not operating, homes that need protection and people who could not evacuate fast enough who need food, water and medical attention. Many public safety staff in the county and cities work diligently to be prepared for such event.

St. Marys residents often tell me that we have not been hit by a "Big One" in many years, but because Mother Nature offers no guarantees, we must always be prepared. Crossing our fingers is not the best strategy. Continuing to work with our colleagues in the county and state to update, improve and test our emergency plans for effectiveness is a more effective strategy.

I would like to remain optimistic that our good fortune will hold, but as mayor I have to plan for any potential reality. That means advance planning, preparation and urging citizens to be mindful that a complacent attitude is not our best course or action, just the reverse is true.

Again, I urge you to familiarize yourself with the website to give yourself some reminders of what to do during this hurricane season. Stay safe, plan ahead. <http://www.co.camden.ga.us/81/Emergency-Management>.

John Morrissey is the mayor of St. Marys.

Letters from page 4A

As I read through it, I thought to myself, why on earth should I waste my time filling this Republican establishment survey out. What good would it do Sir? What would it change? Civilian patriots who love their country and veterans like myself are watching our country being destroyed by Obama while the Republican Party does nothing.

We swore an oath to support and defend our Constitution against all enemies foreign or domestic and we want our country back. The Republican Party was given majorities in the House and Senate to stop Barack Obama from destroying American exceptionalism and capitalism. The Republican Party has done nothing! You have the majorities and due to your lack of action the Democrats continue with their agenda.

If nobody knew about the elections everyone would swear the Democrats were still in charge. You people need to open your damn eyes! The 24 million people who watched the first debate were not watching because they support Jeb

Bush. They were watching because they want their country back and we are damn tired of the Republicans not doing anything.

The majority of the people were watching Trump. The Republican establishment darling Jeb Bush is not electable because he is just like the rest of you. You have the majorities and cannot even get together as a collective voice and tell Obama "no more." You either vote with Democrats or sit by and do nothing to block their agenda in which case you may as well just vote with them and place a "D" in front of your names.

I would be willing to bet that if you asked most Americans what the difference between a Democrat and a Republican is right now? Their answer would be "not much or they are about the same."

Like most Americans I am fed up with Republicans. We are so angry at your lack of action that if Trump went third party you would still lose. That is a fact. You might want to send out another survey asking that very question and see just how many people do not want another Republican establishment politician in the White House."

John Markes Kingsland

Do you have room in your heart and home?
Become a foster or adoptive parent today!
Call 1-877-210-KIDS.

WE WANT YOUR OPINION

What do you think would be a sign that Camden's economy is on the upswing?

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

What local holiday tradition are you most excited for?

- 28.6% Kingsland Labor Day Catfish Festival
- 71.4% Christmas celebrations
- 0% Hay Days/Scarecrow Stroll
- 0% St. Marys Rock Shrimp Festival

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR ADOPTING A 2015 MILLAGE RATE

The Camden County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at the Commission Meeting Room, Government Services Building (Woodbine0), on September 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. 48-5-32, the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy is published along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years. The Public is invited to attend and comment at this public meeting.

CURRENT 2015 TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

| COUNTY WIDE | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Real & Personal | \$ 1,792,050,018 | \$ 1,688,539,996 | \$ 1,529,263,169 | \$ 1,408,971,293 | \$ 1,381,032,177 | \$ 1,343,194,415 |
| Motor Vehicles | 97,399,250 | 96,080,110 | 97,987,400 | 105,078,580 | 91,639,450 | 66,465,060 |
| Mobile Homes | 10,030,895 | 8,374,803 | 8,723,809 | 8,474,048 | 7,947,223 | 9,094,997 |
| Timber - 100% | 3,805,404 | 5,398,389 | 4,995,205 | 6,729,999 | 10,208,012 | 18,390,671 |
| Heavy Duty Equipment | 9,358 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gross Digest | 1,903,294,925 | 1,798,393,298 | 1,640,969,583 | 1,529,253,920 | 1,490,826,862 | 1,437,145,143 |
| Less M & O Exemptions | 272,462,340 | 262,640,026 | 220,551,598 | 202,308,124 | 198,606,103 | 185,149,068 |
| Net M & O Digest | 1,630,832,585 | 1,535,753,272 | 1,420,417,985 | 1,326,945,796 | 1,292,220,759 | 1,251,996,075 |
| State Forest Land Assistance Grant Value | 993,774 | 1,035,836 | 1,242,071 | 2,206,563 | 2,933,818 | 3,478,146 |
| Adjusted Net M&O Digest | 1,631,826,359 | 1,536,789,108 | 1,421,660,056 | 1,329,152,359 | 1,295,154,577 | 1,255,474,221 |
| Gross M&O Millage | 13.940 | 13.960 | 14.150 | 14.320 | 14.600 | 15.720 |
| Less Rollbacks | 2.240 | 2.260 | 2.450 | 2.620 | 2.660 | 2.780 |
| Net M&O Millage | 11.700 | 11.700 | 11.700 | 11.700 | 11.940 | 12.940 |
| Total County Taxes Levied | \$19,092,368 | \$17,980,433 | \$16,633,423 | \$15,551,083 | \$15,464,146 | \$16,245,836 |
| Net Taxes \$ Increase | -\$1,331,016 | -\$1,111,936 | -\$1,347,010 | -\$1,082,340 | -\$86,937 | \$781,691 |
| Net Taxes % Increase | -6.52% | -5.82% | -7.49% | -6.51% | -0.56% | 5.05% |

Additional Millage Information :

The millage for economic development (1 mil) will remain a separate collection within the County until projects are identified. Countywide Rollback consists of Local Option Sales Tax of \$3,493,447 (2.78 mils). The incorporated fire tax millage rate is 1.40 mils and the unincorporated fire tax millage rate is .67 mils. Unincorporated Rollback includes Life Insurance Premium Tax of \$785,605 for Unincorporated Fire and Recreation (PSA) services. Total unincorporated rollback is 1.92 mils.

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Check out our facebook page from our website!

Times Good Fri 8/28 thru Mon 8/31

- *WAR ROOM (PG)**
(Fri-Sun: 1:30) 4:15 7:00 9:45
- *WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS (R)**
(Fri-Sun: 1:00 3:15) 5:30 7:45 10:00
- *NO ESCAPE (R)**
(Fri-Sun: 1:15) 4:40 7:15 9:40
- *HITMAN: AGENT 47 (R)**
(Fri-Sun: 12:45 3:00) 5:15 7:30 9:55
- *SINISTER 2 (R)**
(Fri-Sun: 12:45 3:00) 5:15 7:30 9:50
- *AMERICAN ULTRA (R)**
(Fri-Sun: 1:00 3:15) 5:30 7:45 10:00
- STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON (R)**
(Fri-Sun: 1:15) 4:30 8:00
- THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. (PG13)**
4:50 9:35
- FANTASTIC FOUR (PG13)**
(Fri-Sun: 1:30) 7:20
- MINIONS (PG)**
(Fri-Sun: 12:30 2:45) 5:00 7:10 9:20
*Pass Restricted

www.GeorgiaTheatreCompany.com

Find tips on how to get more involved with your kids by visiting: helpingneighbors.weebly.com/for-parents.html