

Portable traffic signals to be used during bridge rehabilitation

Portable traffic signals will be utilized during the rehabilitation of two bridges on US 129/SR 11 near Lakeland, which will require single lane closures.

A contractor is expected to begin work next week on the Alapaha River and Big Creek bridges. The Georgia Department of Transportation project will provide a smoother bridge deck riding surface.

Portable traffic signals mounted on trailers will be posted at each end of the two bridges. The signals operate on a wireless system that is solar charged, said Scott Heydt, director of marketing for manufacturer Horizon Signal Technologies. The company programs traffic data such as average vehicle speed and installs motion detectors so the system can ad-



just the signal timing in real time. This should prevent motorists from sitting at a red light when no traffic is approaching.

Lane closure and work zone signs will be posted in advance. Signs will also alert drivers to be prepared to stop for a signal ahead. Traffic

will be reduced to a single lane on each bridge. There will be two-way traffic between the bridges so that drivers approaching from a side street will know which lane to use.

Contractor American Contracting & Services Inc. will use water to blast concrete

from some portions of the bridge before pouring new concrete. The construction contract cost is \$2 million and the scheduled completion date is July 31. The work start date is subject to change depending on the contractor's schedule.

Drug Court graduation set for June 25

The Alapaha Judicial Circuit Drug Court is excited to celebrate this year's summer graduation.

The graduation will be held at the Berrien County

Courthouse on Monday, June 25, 2018, at 11 a.m. The drug court program is an accountability program structured around accountability and substance abuse treat-

ment. All participants have excelled through their own determination and hard work.

Superior Court Judges Howard McClain and Clayton Tomlinson along with numer-

ous other law enforcement agencies and community partners would like to extend a welcome to the community as we celebrate the new beginnings of these individuals.

Lakeland/Lanier County Fire Calls

Fire, possibly set by arsonist, damages SUV

June 12 - Fire units were called to an auto fire on Peachtree Drive.

Units arrived to find an SUV fully involved with flames. The vehicle was sitting next to a mobile home with a subject keeping the home wet with a garden hose.

Firemen attacked the flames in the vehicle and had it out in a few minutes. A subject advised that they awoke to

the vehicle burning on the inside at the rear, near the gas tank.

With no reason for the fire to have started on its own, the scene was turned over to law enforcement to investigate possible arson.

June 12 - Fire units were called for EMS support on Glenn Paschal Road. Units arrived to find a subject very ill and weak. The patient was monitored until EMS arrived.

Lanier County Sheriff's Office Arrests

- Jody Camron Batchelder, 45, was arrested June 13 and charged with criminal trespass and public drunkenness.

- Jeremy Allen Jones, 24, was arrested May 8 and

- processed June 13 for probation violation.

- Jesse Loza, 36, was arrested June 13 and charged with failure to appear in court.

- Roger Dale Brown, 45,

- was arrested June 14 for probation violation.

- Rex Rufus Rogers Jr., 28, was arrested June 14 and charged with failure to appear in court, battery/family violence, cru-

- elty to children, first degree, and possession of firearm by a convicted felon.

- Roy Shackelford, 20, was arrested June 15 and charged with battery.

South GA highway contractors looking to fill jobs

Fast Lane to Jobs Campaign aims to raise awareness about road construction careers

Highway contractors throughout South Georgia are hiring. The passage of the \$900 million-a-year Transportation Funding Act (TFA) by the Georgia Legislature in 2015 is providing much-needed funding for the expansion, improvement and repair of Georgia's infrastructure. With the increase in road projects, Georgia's highway contractors currently have hundreds of jobs to fill.

To help raise awareness about the need for workers, the Georgia Highway Contractors Association (GHCA)

last year launched a campaign dubbed, Fast Lane to Jobs. The campaign seeks to educate prospective workers about the many types of road jobs available and the benefits of a career in this sector. Most importantly, the campaign is connecting potential highway construction workers with contractors that are actively hiring throughout the state.

In South Georgia, contractors currently need many types of workers. While some previous construction experience is helpful, for many of the jobs, no

experience is required and training is provided on the job," said Bruce Melton, president of Oxford Construction Company in Albany. "The highway construction industry is one of the few not requiring a high school diploma or college degree. While the work can be difficult, the average pay is high and the opportunities for advancement are numerous."

There are job openings across all aspects of road construction, including asphalt paving workers, asphalt plant operators, concrete laborers, highway bridge carpenters, heavy equipment operators and mechanics, commercial truck drivers and traffic control workers.

 To learn more about careers in road construction, GHCA created a robust and engaging website, Georgia-RoadJobs.com. In addition to educational information about the many job types, the site includes average salaries, typical career paths and an interactive map showing which highway contractors are hiring in various regions around the state, including South Georgia.

The website also features videos and testimonials of actual highway construction workers, and raises awareness about the many career possibilities for women. There is also a Spanish version of the site.

About the GA Highway Contractors Association

The Georgia Highway Contractors Association (GHCA), founded in 1937, is a statewide, nonprofit association of approximately 200 member companies that help build the transportation

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See JOBS, Page 8

Good News

By Vic Dove

Daddy

"A wise son maketh a glad father" -Proverbs 10:1

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years. ~Mark Twain, "Old Times on the Mississippi" Atlantic Monthly, 1874

It is much easier to become a father than to be one. ~Kent Nerburn, Letters to My Son: Reflections on Becoming a Man, 1994

I remember so well the day I turned sixteen years old. There were only two thoughts going through my mind- 1) Getting my drivers license 2) Getting a car. Everything else in my life revolved around those two things; however, I had two problems 1) I didn't have any money 2) No one else seemed to care, except one guy.

You see, I had gone to great lengths to find just the right car. All I needed now was a down payment, and someone to co-sign with me in order to get this car financed. I went to my sister Glynda and her husband Marcus. They told me they would co-sign if I could get the down payment. The down payment seemed to be the major hold up. \$500 dollars was all I needed; however, no one seemed to be listening, except one guy.

No, this one guy was not my father. This one guy was not even my Pawpaw who helped finish rearing me after my mother and father divorced. You see, this guy's father wasn't around either and he knew exactly what I was going through. He was my brother, Glenn. My brother filled the void that was left by my absentee father.

I myself became a father at the young of age of seventeen. But, I didn't become a Daddy until I was forty. Others had to stand in for me and fill voids that I left for my son and daughter. I will never be able to go back and redo those twenty-three years, but I can strive to get better at being their daddy, and oh yea, by all means I want to be a good Papaw.

My whole purpose in writing this article is that this Sunday we celebrate Father's Day. Also, to remind all the Father's who read this "It is much easier to become a father than to be one."

This week I hope you will give your children the one commodity they can't get anywhere else, you and your time. Take time to get to know your children. Be more than just their father, be their daddy.

Bulletin Board

TOUCHTON REUNION

The 65th annual Touchton Reunion will be held June 23 at Macedonia Baptist Church, Mayday GA (off Hwy. 129). Lunch will be served at noon. Bring a covered dish and drinks for your family. Utencils and papergoods provided. Bouncy house for kids!! Any questions, call Julia Touchton Bennett at 229-561-1914.

SAFE AND HEALTHY FAMILIES MEETING

A Safe and Healthy Families meeting will be held on Thursday, June 28 from 9-10 a.m. at the Youth IMPACT Center.

BOE WORK SESSION CANCELLED

The July work session of the Lanier County Board of Education has been cancelled. Date changed: The Lanier County Board of Education will hold the July regular meeting on Thursday, July 12 at 7 p.m. at the Threatte Center.

FLATLANDERS PARK POND

OPEN TO SENIOR CITIZENS

The Flatlanders Park Pond (behind the Fire Station) will be open for fishing to Senior Citizens ages 52 and up.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY

Our Annual Community Day is just around the corner! We are asking the community to come together to help better prepare students for the school year. All you have to do is collect one/two assigned items for the next 9 weeks of summer at your church or business.

We will collect the items from you and use them at Community Day for the students who need help buying school supplies. What we do not use at Community Day, we will distribute among the teachers so they can use them throughout the year. Community Day will be held July 28 from 9-11 a.m. at the High School Gym.

YOUTH IMPACT CENTER DONATIONS

Youth IMPACT Center needs 300 donations! \$25 monthly check written and sent to Youth IMPACT Center, 108 W. Thigpen, PO Box 587, Lakeland, GA 31635 will provide an After-school Program (snacks, tutoring and academic help, character development class, dinner, recreational activities, story time, crafts) opportunity for one Lanier child. Please help the life of a local child today!

ADULT EDUCATION GED CLASSES

Lanier County Adult Education GED classes accepting New Students. Classes meet at 1042 W. Thigpen Ave. Classes are offered Tues.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (noon) and Tues.-Thurs. evenings from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Call 229-482-3332 or visit www.wiregrass.edu/adulted for more information.

Submissions: The deadline for all submissions is noon on Tuesday. Submissions received after this time will be held until the following week's issue. For more information, please call us at 229-482-8230 or 229-896-2233.

ATTENTION VETERANS

The VFW Bus from Nashville will be running every Thursday, to the V.A. Hospital in Lake City, FL. Pick up point is Lanier County Courthouse, 56 W. Main St. at 7:45 a.m. For Information Call Bob Battle 229-686-9169 or Mike Michern 229-460-9326.

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