



Locan man still missing after three years

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The Lanier County News

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Serving Our Community with Honesty and Integrity for 105 Years

Thursday, December 13, 2018 Lakeland, Ga.



Roquemore Park's Gazebo is spectacularly lit with reindeer enjoying the view! (Photo courtesy of Jim Raison)

2018 Lighting of Lakeland eye-catching

By Carol A. Moore

With the 2018 midterm voting season over, Lanier County residents transitioned to a slower, more festive pace as the holiday time-of-year officially began on December 6 within Lanier County. Downtown Lakeland has been transformed into an eye-catching and festively lit wonderland just in time for this merry season! Ho!! Ho!! Ho!!!

"Over the past few years, The Lighting of Lakeland has become one of Lakeland area residents' largest holi-

day events and has become an essential tradition for many families," said John Fitton, Lakeland-Lanier Chamber of Commerce Director. "Lakeland-Lanier Chamber of Commerce members are excited to welcome in the most delightful season of the year with their closest friends, family and neighbors."

The Lighting of Lakeland is a free community event that attracts hundreds of holiday revelers and this year featured lively music, an announcer, festival vendors, lights...action and a holi-

day parade. The county's blue-lighting of a large cedar tree by the courthouse was replaced with another tree of lights at the intersection of Main St. and S. Valdosta Highway, visible to both east-west as well as north-south traffic and pedestrians. The 2018 Lighting of Lakeland officially kicked off a most wonderful time of the year!

Editors Note: Area residents are invited to submit their local photos to the laniercountynews@gmail.com. Please include0 photographer's name.

Voter approved ELOST goes into effect Jan. 1

By Carol A. Moore

Georgia Amendment 5, the School Sales Tax Referendums Amendment, was on the ballot in Georgia as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 6, 2018. It was approved. At December's Lanier County Board of Education (LCBOE) meeting, Superintendent Scotty Hattaway shared information from the Georgia Department of Revenue about ELOST or Educational Local Option Sales Tax of 1% which goes into effect January 1, 2019.

The "yes" vote which supported this tax amendment allowed school districts with a majority of enrolled students within our state to call for a referendum to levy a sales tax for education purposes. A majority vote of qualified voters within the county was required to pass the referendum. It was passed in Lanier County with an expiration date of December 21, 2023 or when \$5,000,000 is reached whichever occurs first.

In the board's other meeting agenda items, board members approved the group's November meeting minutes. Board members received both a copy of monthly school activities calendar as well as a copy of the Lanier County Family Connections Calendar of Events.

Hattaway provided information about the Purple Star Designation Program which, if approved by the State of Georgia, would get Lanier County Schools to pursue the designation and partner with Moody Air Force Base. The program goal would be to spread awareness of a federal agreement aimed at helping children of military families cope with frequent moves to new schools.

The 2019 BOE Work Session and Meeting Dates were approved as well as the "Seamless Summer Feeding Program," the use of the "Gaggle Software for Middle and High School," and the Field Trip requests for the Pre-K to Home Depot and McKey Park and the Kindergarten trip to GTC Theatre. Board member Mitchell Chason was approved for the board's Vice-Chair Rotation for 2019. With regard to personnel actions, Susan Mannino was approved as the Middle School Tennis Coach and Lindsey Lane's Maternity Leave was also approved.

Finance Director Charlie Bennett gave a financial report indicating that our local school's budget was 42% complete and some state revenue had been received.

There were no public comments and the meeting was approved for adjournment.

Two-time Country Music Academy 'Brush Arbor' musician warms local crowd

By Carol A. Moore

"Hello, my name is Kenny Munds and I am just one man with a guitar, and I sing for Jesus," said Munds last week, when he played for a crowd gathered at Evans Memorial Camp's (EMC) regular bi-weekly Praise and Worship Service. "Back in the 70's I was lead singer for a 2-time Academy of Country Music award-winning band called 'Brush Arbor', recording with Capitol Records songs

I wrote; and, while on the road with our own show, we were often asked to front legends like Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, and Charlie Rich."

Briefly Munds described himself as part of a group "... headed for the big time, but I allowed myself to be ambushed when the enemy overrode my Godly principles and I fell deep into drugs and alcohol, spiraling down to a nobody with a guitar, and voted out of the band."

Munds shared, "But by the Grace of God, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness and love of his Son Jesus Christ, I have been free of my addictions since 1990, and as a Traveling Music Missionary I

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Country Music Award Winner Kenny Munds performing "Jesus Loves Me This I Know" to a toe-tapping and singing crowd at Evans Memorial Camp.



3RD ANNUAL STORYBOOK CHARACTER BREAKFAST

Lanier County Family Connection would like thank everyone who came out to the Storybook Character Breakfast supporting Christmas for Lanier Kids. The Character Breakfast was held Saturday at the Threatte Center.

Lanier probationer caught after high speed chase, crash

By Charles Shiver

A man on probation in Lanier County led officers from eight law enforcement agencies on a high-speed vehicle pursuit through four counties, Echols, Lanier, Clinch, and Atkinson, Tuesday morning, Dec. 11.

The chase ended with the suspect's stolen vehicle crashing into a parked semi

truck in Atkinson County. The suspect, identified by authorities as Leon Shank, was being treated at Coffee Regional Medical Center for minor injuries at last report. He was expected to be taken to the Lowndes County Jail after release from the hospital.

Two Atkinson County Sheriff's Office patrol ve-

hicles were heavily damaged and a Lowndes County Sheriff's Office vehicle was struck by the suspect's truck during the pursuit, but no officers and no civilians were hurt.

At about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Lowndes County dispatch sent out a Be On the Lookout (BOLO) for a stolen vehicle out of Valdosta.

A Chevy Silverado pickup truck had been taken from a lawn care company in Valdosta. An employee was on his lawn mower in the yard of an office building and saw the offender walk up to the Silverado, get in, and take off, according to the Echols County Sheriff's Office.

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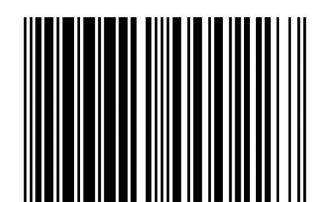


Leon Shank

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Mural by Ralph Waldrop



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