

Tignall City Council lacks quorum at January meeting

The Tignall City Council failed to make quorum at their January 12 meeting. The lack of quorum left multiple agenda items unaddressed. The items included Tignall's ongoing wastewater problem, which, according to Tignall Mayor Henry Brown, is the city's most pressing problem. Changes to SPLOST, Sunday alcohol sales, and building demolition were also on the agenda. The next meeting of the Tignall City Council is scheduled for February 9 at 7 p.m.

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Sludge dumping and timber taxes surface at commissioners' meeting

By MORRIS BRANSON
Staff Reporter

At the January 13 meeting of the county commissioners, County Attorney Charles LeGette addressed a timber company's claim a double charge on their timber tax.

The commissioners tabled the issue for a supposed lack of evidence. They will consider the matter further at next month's meeting.

The commissioners approved qualifying fees for the 2022 elections. The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) 2023 will be on the ballot in May.

The maintenance of the inter-governmental agreement between Washington, Rayle and Tignall was also approved.

Moore mentioned the potential for a meeting with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, as well as several other counties, to address sludge dumping. He did

not specify any particular time however.

The distribution for November for SPLOST was, \$127,975.65. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) was \$83,183.67, and Transportation Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) was \$95,138.17, according to County Clerk Karen Burton.

The next regular meeting of the County Commissioners will be February 10 at 2 p.m. Minutes for the last meeting were approved.



Photo by WILKES/EMS

Rogers's truck where it came to rest after striking several trees

Washington man arrested after alleged shooting of Elberton woman

By MICHAEL BOWEN
Editor and Publisher

An Elberton woman was shot in the back on North Smyrna Church Road in Wilkes County in the early afternoon of January 14.

29-year-old Tamekia Flint was airlifted to Augusta University Hospital where she is in stable condition but is unconscious and on a ventilator, according to Wilkes County Sheriff's Office Chief Inspector Thomas Bailey.

The shooting occurred near Rocky Mount Baptist Church on North Smyrna Church Road. The suspect, 35-year-old Kevin Brittain, was apprehended at that location, according to Bailey.



Kevin Brittain

According to a report from the Sheriff's Office's investigation, Flint, Brittain, and a female passenger were near the church when a firearm discharged on the backseat. A bullet passed through the driver's seat, striking Flint in

the back. After dialing 911, Flint and her passenger drove down 378 Highway. Brittain was not in the vehicle at that time. They were met by deputies and an EMS ambulance. EMTs immediately treated Flint for her wound, and deputies drove on to Rocky Mount Baptist Church. Finding the suspect in the woods, deputies successfully apprehended Brittain without a struggle.

Brittain, of Washington, has been charged with two counts of aggravated assault, one count of possession of a firearm in the commission of a crime, and one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. His bond has been set at \$70,200.

Ex-Sheriff candidate killed in crash

A 59-year-old man was killed in an automobile accident in the early hours of January 11.

Gregory Rogers was pronounced deceased at the scene. According to the Georgia State Patrol, Rogers was travelling south in his tractor trailer on highway 17. Missing the curve,

he ran into the ditch. The truck hit several trees before stopping. The Georgia State Patrol's preliminary investigation has not revealed any indication that speed or alcohol were a factor in the crash.

Rogers was formerly of Tignall and ran against Mark Moore in the last election for County Sheriff.



Photo by TOMDUGGAN

Firefighters and Wilkes County Law Enforcement personnel (right side of the picture) inspect the Chevy Impala

Columbia, South Carolina resident wrecks on Highway 10

By MICHAEL BOWEN
Editor and Publisher

On January 3 at 4:50 p.m., the Georgia State Patrol responded to

a wreck near the Golden Pantry on Georgia Highway 10.

According to information released by the Georgia State Patrol, 28-year-old Jarnequa Black, of Co-

lumbia, South Carolina, was driving her 2003 Chevy Impala westward on Georgia Highway 10. Coming to a left curve, she ran off the north shoulder of the highway. Striking a

road sign and the end of a guardrail, the vehicle vaulted through the air, overturning before landing upright down an embankment. The vehicle then caught fire. Black exited the

vehicle safely, and no injuries were reported. She was suspected of impairment and arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to maintain lane.