

FRIDAY, MARCH 24th \$15 • 10am - 4pm SATURDAY, MARCH 25th \$10 • 9AM - 5PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 26th \$10 • 10am - 4pm

#### Over 180 Booths

There will be one-of-a-kind pickins' such as vintage treasures, nostalgic finds, trending home décor, re-loved furniture, handcrafted pieces, rare relics, antiques, tasty treats, unique gifts, and more.



FREE PARKING WITH VIP PASS . TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE & AT THE GATE! CHILDREN 12 YRS & UNDER FREE!

#### Diamond D Ranch

5903-1 Solomon Rd. Jax, FL 32234 904-289-9331

info@diamonddranchinc.com www.diamonddranchinc.com Follow Us For More Info

• Fireplace Service • Appliance Installs Tankless Water Heater Flush • And Much More



## **Another state champion in Camden**

Camden County 17U boys basketball rec team captures title in Effingham ........ 1B

SERVING CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA SINCE 1894

# Handyman Services at a Reasonable Price! Tribune & George

THURSDAY, MARCH 16 2023

TRIBUNE-GEORGIAN.COM

\$1.00

## Chairman calls for special grand jury

Commissioner's declaration comes days after grand jury subpoenas Spaceport Camden records



Casey

Scott J. Bryan publisher@tribune-georgian.com

Days after a Camden County grand jury subpoenaed Spaceport Camden records, Camden County Board of Commissioners Chairman Ben Casey said he's asked for a special grand jury to investigate the county's controversial Spaceport Camden administrators and \$12 million aerospace economic devel- vendors.

opment project.

According to documents obtained by the Tribune & Georgian, the grand jury subpoena for "production of evidence" invoices, payments, deliverables, activity reports and communications between county clerk, Katie Bishop.

The documents were required to be delivered to the Camden County Superior Court Grand Jury at noon Wednesday. The Clerk of Superior included a demand for records related Court received the subpoena March 8, to spaceport-related vendors, contracts, and on March 9, it was signed by Camden County Board of Commissioners'

See JURY, page 7A

#### What do you think?

What do you think about Camden County Board of Commissioner Chairman Ben Casey's call for a special grand jury to investigate Spaceport Camden? Email Letters to the Editor to publisher@tribune-georgian.com. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number.



#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

## Cumberland Island National Seashore to add 137 acres

**Sam Rowland** 

srowland@tribune-georgian.com

Congress to buy the Nature This item was requested by U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., and U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter, R-Ga., as part of the 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Act from December.

The Nature Conservancy is an international environmentalist nonprofit formed in 1951. According to Anne

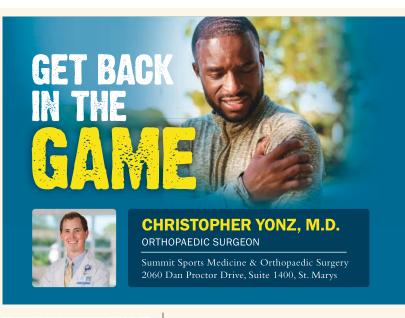
Flinn, its director of land protection in Georgia, between 1997-99, the Nature Conser-The National Park Service vancy bought almost 1,108 was given \$8.7 million by acres of private land on Cumberland Island in four phases. Conservancy's 137.3 acres of The original intent was to sell land on Cumberland Island. it all to the National Park Service.

Phases one through three went as planned, and 934 acres were transferred to the park service. But, according to Flinn, Congress didn't allocate enough funds in its 1999 appropriations to purchase all

See ISLAND, page 7A



The National Park Service was awarded \$8.7 million from Congress to add 137.3 acres to the Cumberland Island National Seashore.



#### **CAMDEN CAMPUS INJURY CLINIC**

EVERY MONDAY, 8:30-11:30 A.M.

#### WALK-INS WELCOME.

No appointment necessary. Bring insurance card, ID card, copay and radiology images. If self-pay, a partial payment will be required



912-576-6355 • sghs.org/Camden-Injury-Clinic



### Tribune & Georgian

Volume 120, No. 11 © 2023 Tribune & Georgian Community Newspapers Inc.



#### INSIDE TODAY

#### What's going on in Camden?

Check out page 3A to learn about free and charitable upcoming events throughout Camden County.

#### **INDEX**

ARREST REPORT **IDEAS & OPINIONS O**BITUARIES

RELIGION **4A C**LASSIFIEDS

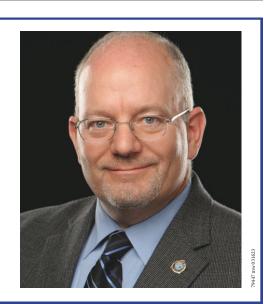
**LEGALS** 

**4B 5B** 6B-9B

# MIKE WILKIE

St. Marys City Council, Post #3

**CAST YOUR BALLOT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023** 



## Arrest Report

The following felony arrests criminal damage to proper- Office and charged with fu- lation. were compiled from incident reports, jail records, warrants or 7-13. All persons are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

- rested March 7 by the Camden County Sheriff's Office charged with theft by taking. any controlled substance in and charged with theft by conversion.
- Marys Police Department lation. and charged with cruelty to

ty-second degree.

- Andrew David Wall, 22, charged with possession of and charged with two counts methamphetamine and pro- of possession of a schedule bation violation.
- Jeffery Scott Cook, 38, 50, of Folkston, was arrested controlled substance, and of St. Augustine, Fla., was ar- March 10 by the Camden one count apiece of purchase, County Sheriff's Office and possess or have control of
- Homeland, was arrested manufacturing/deliver/dis-■ Taea Jadesha Joyner, March 10 by the Camden tribute/administer/sell/posrested March 8 by the St. charged with probation vio-controlled substance.
- child-second-degree-crimi- 37, of Jacksonville, Fla., was March 11 by the Kingsland sive physical/mental pain and Camden County Sheriff's charged with probation vio-stance.

gitive from justice.

- IV controlled substance and ■ Randall Douglas Creel, possession of a schedule II ■ Amanda Knox, 39, of schedule III, IV or V and
- Amanda Rene Bailey, Gainesville, was arrested

- Otis Jamal Clemons, of Kingsland, was arrested rested March 12 by the substance or marijuana in or affidavits obtained from Cam- of Woodbine, was arrested 30, of St. Marys, was ar- March 11 by the Kingsland Kingsland Police Depart- within 1,000 feet of school. den County and state law en- March 8 by the Kingsland rested March 11 by the St. Police Department and ment and charged with two forcement agencies from March Police Department and Marys Police Department charged with probation violation.
- Zarion Christopher Smith, 40, of St. Marys, was tin, 50, of St. Marys, was charged with theft by bring-Marys Police and charged Camden County Sheriff's state. with two counts of possession of a schedule IV controlled substance and possession of a schedule II controlled substance, and one count apiece of purchase, possess or have 24, of St. Marys, was ar- County Sheriff's Office and sess with intent to distribute control of any controlled substance in schedule III, IV ■ Robert Price, 34, of or V and manufacturing/deliver/distribute/administer/ sell/possess with intent to nal negligence/cause exces- arrested March 9 by the Police Department and distribute controlled sub-

■ Gregory Allan Crews, Office and charged with and acts.

■ Amanda Sheffield, 40, 53, of Woodbine, was ar-transactions in controlled

counts of terroristic threats 17, of Florida, was arrested March 13 by the St. Marys ■ Patricia Wiggens Mar- Police Department and arrested March 11 by the St. arrested March 13 by the ing stolen property into



## Lawmakers debate mining near Okefenokee Swamp

**Dave Williams** Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – It was jobs versus protecting a national

environmental treasure Tuesday when a Georgia House subcommittee held a two-hour hearing on a proposed titanium mine near the Okefenokee Swamp. Environmental advocates

urged lawmakers to pass legislation banning surface mining along Trail Ridge near the Okefenokee. That's where Alabama-based Twin Pines Minerals is seeking state permits to mine titanium oxide.

House Bill 71 failed to make last week's Crossover Day deadline for bills to pass at least one legislative chamber to remain alive for this year's General Assembly session. However, the measure boasts 91 cosponsors among the 180 House members and could be resurrected by being attached to another bill that is still before the million in annual economic legislature.

Rep. Darlene Taylor, R-Thomasville, the bill's chief sponsor, urged her ronment's Resource Management Subcommittee to give the measure a chance.

"The Okefenokee is one of the largest remaining intact freshwater ecosystems in the world," she said. "It cannot be replaced. A miscalculation cannot be corrected."

Rhett Jackson, a professor of hydrology and water resources at the University of Georgia, said the proposed mine would remove enough water from the drought-sensitive swamp to render it pleted. more susceptible to wildfires.



Lawmakers are debating a bill that could ban surface mining near the Okefenokee Swamp.

the Okefenokee's economic benefits as a popular tourist attraction. Michael Lusk, refuge manager at the Okefenokee National Wildlife draws about 400,000 visitors a year, is responsible for 955 jobs, and generates \$24 impact.

The bill's opponents said the mine, too, would provide an economic boost to colleagues on the House an economically distressed Natural Resources & Envi- area of the state. Twin Pines CEO Steve Ingle, in video testimony, said the mine would create 100 to 200 fulltime jobs.

large quantities of high-paying jobs," said Drew Jones, a Charlton County commissioner. The commission has passed a resolution supporting the project.

pledged to restore the site with indigenous pines after the mining activity is com-

Other supporters touted regulatory action or put our

investment at risk," he said. The bill's opponents also brought a hydrologist, Sorab Panjay, who told the subcommittee the amount Refuge, said the swamp of water the mine would remove from the swamp would be negligible and do no envi-

ronmental harm. Bill Sapp, a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center and chairman of the Okefenokee Protection Alliance, said it's the General Assembly's duty to "protect and preserve" the Okefenokee and not leave it to the discretion of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), "Our county greatly needs which is currently reviewing Twin Pines' mining land use plan for the project.

But Lewis Jones, a lawyer representing Twin Pines, said it's the EPD's job to evaluate permit applications Ingle said Twin Pines has and approve them only if a project will not harm the environment.

"This rigorous process is only going to result in a per-"There's no way we'd do mit if it can be shown mining anything to expose us to can be done safely," he said.



#### **Making Your Birth Experience** as Safe and Special as Possible

From office visits to delivery day, our team is here to help you every step of the way. We provide moms and their families with personalized care and support in a nurturing, secure environment. To learn more, visit sghs.org/maternity.

Southeast Georgia Health System Camden Campus Maternity Care Center

2000 Dan Proctor Drive, St. Marys, GA 31558

Southeast Georgia Physician Associates-Obstetrics & Gynecology

2060 Dan Proctor Drive, Suite 1200, St. Marys, GA 31558 912-540-6750

Bradley W. Newton, MD | Shanna M. Welgraven, DO Cynthia Wallace, RN, MN, CNM

203 Lakeshore Point, St. Marys, GA 31558 | 912-540-6760 Steven A. Roth, MD | Patricia A. Heinrich, MSN, CNM Frances Sahrphillips, MS, CNM, ARNP



sghs.org © 2023 SGHS

#### **Contact information**

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday 4445 Ga. 40, Suite 402, St. Marys www.tribune-georgian.com Phone (912) 882-4927, Fax (912) 456-1466 Mail: P.O. Box 6960, St. Marys, GA 31558

#### **Submissions**

Readers may submit items of community interest, such as upcoming events and engagements, for publication at no charge. High resolution photos also can be submitted.

## Tribune & Georgian

#### **Publisher and Editor** Scott J. Bryan, publisher@tribune-georgian.com

Assistant editor Andy Diffenderfer, andy@tribune-georgian.com

News desk

Sports sports@tribune-georgian.com editor1@tds.net

#### Advertising

Denise Carver, marketing@tribune-georgian.com Laurie Levine, llevine@tribune-georgian.com The deadline for display advertising is noon Monday. Classifieds & Legals

classifieds@tribune-georgian.com — by 2 p.m. Tuesday legals@tribune-georgian.com — by 4 p.m. Monday

#### Subscriptions

Newspapers are delivered via U.S. mail on Thursdays. Annual subscriptions within Camden County are \$45. Outside Camden is \$76. To start a subscription, call (912) 882-4927.

#### Copyright

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any manner without specific written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. © 2023 Tribune & Georgian