



Meriwether Messages

Week Ending January 17, 2014



Reminder: Business after Hours at the Court Square Cafe was postponed last week and will now be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Court Square Cafe in Greenville, located at 108 S. Talbotton Street.

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Welcome New Member: Patriots Corner Mart,

LOCATED at 8 South Main Street in Luthersville, GA. Mariea Gosdin is the owner of Patriots and she wants you to know they are open seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. In addition to the snacks, sundries, ice and beverages, they also offer fresh homemade biscuits and country ham with fresh coffee every morning. The store has an ATM machine; sells lottery tickets and offers you seven varieties of fuel including kerosene, diesel and ethanol-free gasoline in addition to the other gasoline available, all at competitive prices. The store is American-owned and operated; is named after the Greenville High School Patriots and Mariea says they have the "best customer service in the whole wide world".



Mariea is a recent graduate of Leadership Meriwether and has a strong commitment to the community. She is also the owner of the historic old jail in downtown Greenville. Give her a call and welcome her to our Chamber membership or send her an email at marieagosdin@gmail.com. Telephone #770-927-0709. She will also be happy to give you a tour of the old jail.

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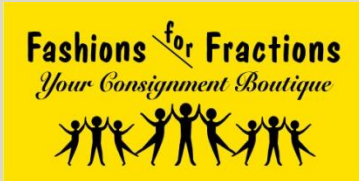
Trinity United Methodist Church is again offering Life Line Screening to help prevent strokes in our community. This event will be held on Wednesday, January 15th. There are several screenings available, including carotid artery; heart rhythm; osteoporosis; abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral arterial disease. For more information, see attached flyer, or contact Rev. Angie Crummie at 706-663-9005 or register online at www.helpinghandsforhealth.com Pre-registration is required.



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For the month of January, bring a friend and get 20% off on your purchase or give the discount to your friend! Shop your hometown store and SAVE!



Address: 316 West Main Street, Manchester
PH: 706-846-2112

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sat, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



January is Puppy Month at Big Bear Canine

In honor of our Puppy Month, our Free Puppy Socialization Class will be held at 2:00 PM every Saturday in January. The pups have a blast! They love Puppy Obedience and Puppy Agility even more. Come see what we have to offer!

15% off

all Puppy Services

Includes all "Puppy" Obedience and Agility classes.
Also includes Park Membership and Day Camp for Puppies.

Expires 01/31/2014



puppy15

Big Bear Canine Activity Center
645 Butts Mill Road
Pine Mountain, GA 31822

+1 (706) 663-7005

<http://www.bigbearcanine.com/>

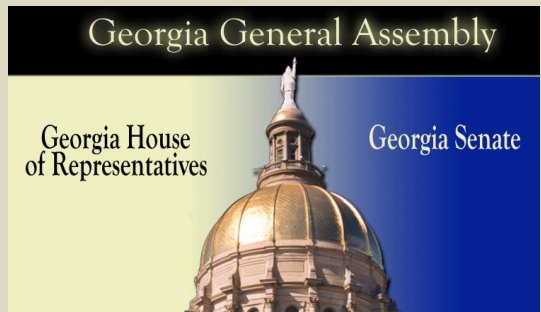
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Georgia's economic growth is expected to outpace the nation in 2014. This prediction is from Charles Knapp, interim dean of the Terry College of Business and former president of UGA. He predicts that Georgia's GDP will grow by 3%, while the nation's forecast is expected to be 2.3%. But in order to continue that trend, he notes that there needs to be improvement in Georgia's K-12 education. "A lot of the jobs, good jobs, high paid jobs with benefits are going to require very high levels of skills. And we've got to make sure that we've got those skilled people in Georgia" notes Dean Knapp.

More good news for Georgia's economy: Tax collections for the month of December ticked up again, with Governor Deal's staff noting tax collections of 1.75 billion, an increase of \$64 million or 3.8% compared to this same time period last year. For the fiscal year, collections were up by 5% compared to the same time period last year.

Fast and Focused is how the upcoming Legislative Session is being described. Raises for state workers and teachers; a scholarship and loan for technical-college students and assistance for felons reentering society are among the few new initiatives expected in this year's session. Some of the recurring "battles" will be the Common Core curriculum, the minimum wage; expanding Medicaid, limiting medical malpractice claims and guns on college campuses.



One of the legislative priorities is always the budget and House Speaker David Ralston predicts, because of the increase in tax collections, that **additional funding could go to education , healthcare and the boost in pay for state workers as well as an additional 525 child protection social workers.** Speaker Ralston has also **reaffirmed his backing of Governor Deal's decision not to expand Medicaid** under the Federal Affordable Care Act. Legislators will also be looking at **boosting the minimum wage from \$5.15 gradually to \$9.80.** Expect a lot of discussion about **ending Georgia's income tax**, although Governor Deal does not feel the timing is right for this.

This session is expected to be a short one since Georgia's primary election date has been moved up from July to May. The speaker expects the session, which started on Monday, January 13th to conclude by the end of March.

Watch your Chamber of Commerce for weekly updates on the session progress.

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Planning a Wedding? 78% of couples search the internet when planning a wedding. 61% use wedding magazines and planners. *The Thomaston Times* gives you both!

The Thomaston Times has an upcoming Wedding Magazine both in print and online that will help you to market to potential wedding parties. Our newspaper reaches over 8,000 people and our website reaches over 18,000 viewers.

The magazine we will be doing in February targets those brides that may have just become engaged at Christmas. The magazine itself is a high quality glossy edition and will go into the newspaper as well as having an online edition. If you opt to go ahead and commit to the fall edition, you get a 15% discount on that.

The deadline to be included in the Spring Edition is January 24th. Please email llewis@civitasmedia.com or call Laurie Lewis at 706.573.7796 for more information, or see attachment.

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Career Day at Unity Elementary and Greenville Middle School

Career day offers children an opportunity to gain knowledge about many types of jobs and careers.

Unity's Career Awareness Day will be held on April 25 ,2014 and Greenville

Middle School's will be held on March 28, 2014

Your help is needed in exposing the children to as many lines of work as possible. This can only be done with a variety of speakers. Speakers will be asked to provide a 15-20 minute presentation/ explanation about their job. Props and/or uniforms are a great way to illustrate what it is that you do! As educators, it is important that children be aware of many careers....all children will not grow up to be a doctor, actor, or lawyer. Some of you work as ministers, teachers, construction workers, waiters or waitresses, retail salespeople, plant operators and convenience store clerks. We want the children exposed to all of these careers!

If you or someone you know would be interested in speaking at Career Day, contact Erika White at Unity 770-927-6488 or email erika.white@mcssga.org or LaToya Phillips at Greenville Middle at 706-672-6448 or latoya.phillips@mcssga.org

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Protestant Prayer Beads Workshop at Manchester First Methodist: Does your mind ever wander in prayer? Protestant Prayer beads can help you stay focused on God. Join us on

Saturday, January 25th, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at Manchester First Methodist Church, 206 Broad St. The workshop will feature Kristen Vincent, author of *A Bead and a Prayer: A Beginners Guide to Protestant Prayer Beads*. The cost is \$15 which includes making your own set of prayer beads. You may pay for the workshop at the door. To register, please call the church office 706-846-3213. For more information, go to abeadnaprayer.wordpress.com.



Kristen Vincent is the owner and principal artisan of Prayerworks Studio, which specializes in handcrafted prayer beads and other prayer tools. She speaks widely on prayer and loves leading retreats. She writes for The Upper Room magazine and is the author of *A Bead and a*

Prayer: A Beginner's Guide to Protestant Prayer Beads. She also has a blog at www.abeadnaprayer.wordpress.com. Kristen has a Master of Theological Studies degree from Duke University, and lives in Oxford, GA with her husband, Max, a Methodist pastor, and their nine-year-old son, Matthew.

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Tourism Product Development Team coming to Meriwether-

beginning January 21st and extending through January 24th, Meriwether County will be the beneficiary of a team of approximately 10-15 individuals who specialize in tourism. They will spend four days in our county, visiting tourism sites and those sites that have tourism potential. You may see them out and about and if so, I know you will welcome them to our community. This team receives a large number of requests for assistance to communities in Georgia and typically they can only do about four of these per year. Meriwether County is fortunate to have been selected for one of these consultative visits. The team also notes they have never come in for a county-wide consultation which will be a unique challenge for them. If you have questions or want more information, contact Sabra McCullar, Meriwether County Tourism at 706-655-3322 or Carolyn McKinley 706-655-2558



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Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce is now recruiting for new candidates for its upcoming 2014 Leadership Meriwether program. If you, or someone you know is interested, please contact the Chamber at 706-655-2558 or email at meriwetherchamber@windstream.net

If you have information to share with the community, please send to the Chamber and it will be included in the next e-newsletter.