

HEROES

BEHIND THE BADGE

A special publication of **The Press-Sentinel** September 14, 2023

Thank you to Wayne's heroes!

By John Eden
STAFF WRITER

As Wayne County recovers from its most recent brush with disaster, Hurricane Idalia, we are again proud to say, "Thank you!" to the men and women on the front lines of this battle, our first responders.

As the hurricane and its threats barreled through the county, groups of firefighters, EMS personnel, deputies, police officers and other first responders, as well as cleanup crews, gathered in fire stations and other locations around the county to be on hand for whatever response was needed for helping the citizens of the county.

Most of us were unaware of their presence, but just knowing they were there was important for many. And for those who experienced wind, water or other



Wayne County's first responders—from EMTs and firefighters to law enforcement and a host of agencies—are dedicated to the safety, health and protection of the community. Simulated emergencies and drills and firefighter trainings keep these professionals ready to respond.

damages during the storm, their immediate response was a blessing beyond compare.

We hope that this salute to the daily heroes of our community, the people behind the badges

and the turn-out gear, will let them know that they are appreciated. We hope it will motivate

many people in our community to express a simple "thank you" to our law-enforcement officers,

firefighters, emergency medical service agencies, and all the many first re-

□ See **HEROES, Page 10C**

Thank You to all our First Responders

We see you, we appreciate you,
and you truly are heroes!

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A big thank-you to our

HOMETOWN HEROES

for all you do!



Donald Sloan
Chief
Screven
Police Department



Jarrett Sloan
Firefighter
Jesup
Fire Department



Chris Sloan
Firefighter
Jesup
Fire Department



Randy Mobley
Firefighter
Jesup
Fire Department



James Sloan
Captain
Jesup
Fire Department -
Volunteers

Tim's Home Medical

Locally Owned and Operated "Your Neighborhood" Home Medical Supply Store
Jesup Location

980 U.S. Hwy. 301, Jesup, GA 31546 (next to Rinehart and Sons Funeral Home)
Ph: 912-385-2490 • Fax: 912-385-2591



**HEROES DON'T HAVE
SUPER POWERS.
JUST SUPER HEARTS.**

On the anniversary of 9/11 PrimeSouth Bank
thanks those with a heart for service.

PRIMESOUTH BANK IS HONORED TO BE A PART OF THIS AMAZING AND
CARING COMMUNITY. AS WE COMMEMORATE THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY
OF 9/11, WE CELEBRATE THOSE WE COUNT ON WHEN SECONDS COUNT.
TO ALL THE FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS AND MEDICAL PROVIDERS
WHO SERVE WAYNE COUNTY, WE THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING A
TRADITION OF HONOR AND SERVICE.



 PRIMESOUTH
BANK

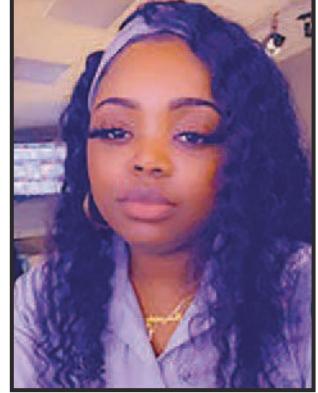
HOMETOWN HEROES



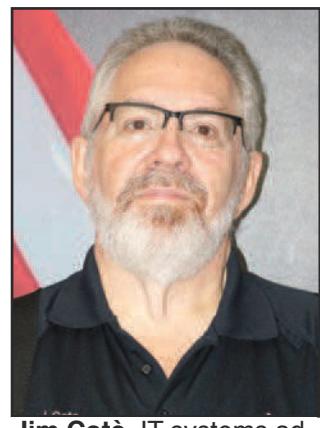
WAYNE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



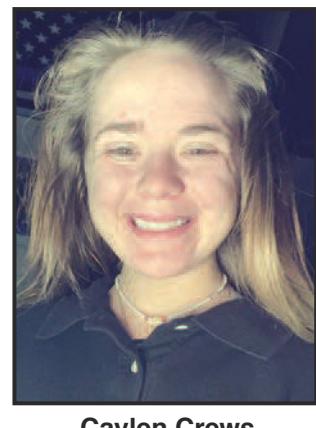
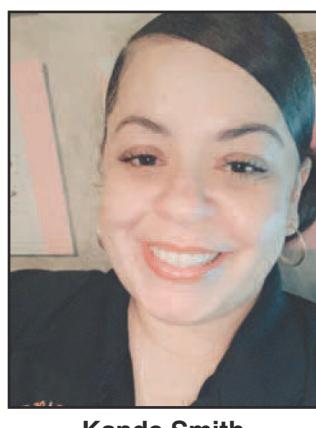
WAYNE COUNTY 911 DISPATCH

C'Toi Wilcox
E-911Andrea Wall
E-911Debra Coleman
E-911Desriee Roberson
E-911Spell Phillips
E-911Lindsay Overstreet
E-911

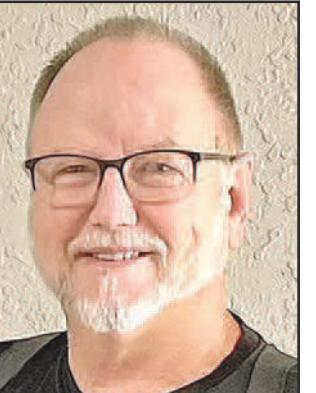
Wayne County emergency personnel include, above, from left, Wayne County Emergency Services Director Donnie Ray and Amy Roberson, director of the Wayne County E-911 Dispatch.



Jim Cotè, IT systems administrator for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office

Bridgett Hopper
E-911Caylen Crews
E-911Kande Smith
E-911Lindsey Bell
E-911

WAYNE COUNTY PARAMEDICS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Richard Johnson
WC Emergency Services
DirectorLea Moore
Paramedic
Deputy DirectorDonnie Nash
Paramedic
A-Shift CaptainRusty Hodges
Paramedic
B-Shift CaptainBen Surrency
Paramedic
C-Shift CaptainKimberly Hayes
Paramedic
D-Shift CaptainThomas Brannen
A-Shift ParamedicNate Sparks
A-Shift ParamedicGreg Coleman
B-Shift ParamedicAndrew Radcliffe
B-Shift ParamedicBrooke Tanner
C-Shift ParamedicSarah Vazquez
C-Shift ParamedicKristena Kenn
D-Shift ParamedicDaniel Pelletier
ParamedicSandra Gearheart
A-Shift EMTWilliam Knight
B-Shift EMTSarah Sears
B-Shift EMTMel Young
C-Shift EMTJacqueline Gales
D-Shift EMTLucy Candler
D-Shift EMT

HOMETOWN HEROES

WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFF



Robert "Chuck" Moseley
Sheriff



Mike Hargrove
Chief Deputy



Ben Robertson
Captain



Brandon Rozier
Captain



David Stallings
Detective



Steve Crane
Detective



Brandon Sellers
Detective



Anthony Surrency
Sergeant



Hailey Anderson
Detective



Bruce Williams
Sergeant



Chris Manning
Sergeant



Michael Jones
Sergeant



Kyle Bradt
Sergeant



Brandy Crosby
Sergeant



Jamie Cummings
Corporal



Justin Evors
Deputy



Dennis Kornegay
Corporal



Forrest Heath
Deputy



Mike Govignon
Corporal



Sierra Kenn
Corporal



Travis Bennett
Corporal



Shane Lightsey
Deputy



Jenavieve Cardon
Deputy



Dustin Venor
Deputy



Joe Crosby
Deputy



Mark Martin w/Anna
Deputy K-9



Kelly Davis
Deputy



Gregory Tappenden
Deputy



Michael Taylor
Deputy



Jeffrey Van Nest
Deputy



Jacob Bradley
Deputy



Paul Rowe
Deputy



Jordan Batten
Deputy



Aaron Stevens
Deputy



Patrick Swanson
Deputy



Ted Mathis
Deputy

HOMETOWN HEROES

WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFF



Timothy Hillyard K-9 Doki
Deputy



Todd Wise
Training Coordinator



Pam Arnett
Administrative Staff



James Lax
Administrative Staff



Dawana Mitchner
Administrative Staff



Ebony Myles
Administrative Staff

WAYNE COUNTY JAIL STAFF



Tammi Roberson
Evidence Tech



Becky Wright
Administrative Staff



Terry Mays
Captain



Matt Spell
Lieutenant



Mary Blash
Sergeant



Cheryl Harris
Sergeant



Tamara Hines
Corporal



Brandon Strickland
Corporal



Thorne Bryant
Corporal



Stacey Griffis
Jailer



Steve Heath
Jailer



Shayla Wingate
Nurse



Robert Maddox
Jailer



Nicole Farrell
Jailer



Alexis Aspinwall
Jailer



Daniel Bentley
Jailer



Travis Bishop
Jailer



Arthur Downs
Jailer



Steve Gagnon
Jailer



Michael Harrison
Jailer



Zachary Hayes
Jailer



Zykeon Mathis
Jailer



Gavin McQuaig
Jailer



Scott Mullinix
Jailer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

HOMETOWN HEROES

JESUP POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chris Hamilton
Chief of Police



Alex Reddish
Assistant Chief of Police



Nick Ellis
Division Commander



Dave Leighton
Lieutenant



Brandon Williams
Sergeant/City Marshal



David Parker
Sergeant



Rhett Buford
Sergeant



Ryan Harrison
Sergeant



Scott Hardenbrook
Sergeant



Stephen Ryals
Sergeant



Aldred Kendrick
Corporal



Charlotte Cope
Corporal



Erin White
Corporal



Michael Sutton
Corporal



Phillip Sumrow
Corporal
with K-9 Officer Yale



James Manning
Animal Control Officer



Falinda Johnson
School Resource Officer



Jarrett Farrell
School Resource Officer



Ashley Brown
Patrolman First Class



Donald Kelly
Officer



Jason Dixon
Officer



Kenan Jackson
Officer



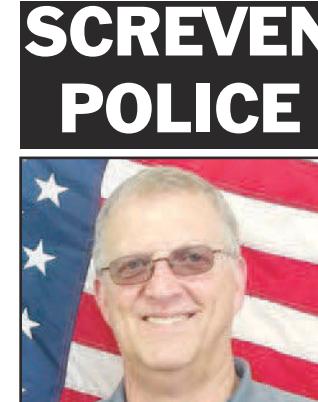
Nathaniel Poe
Officer



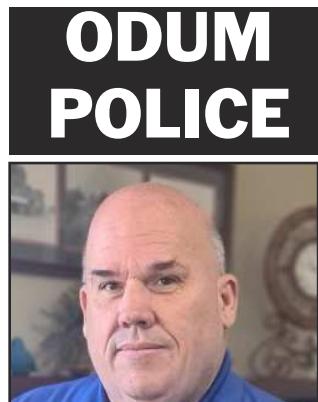
Orashio Nicholson
Officer



Reed Wasdin
Officer



Donald Sloan
Chief



Leon McKinney
Chief



Carol Irvin
Regional Coordinator,
GDPH Child Occupant
Safety Project, and
Wayne County Safe Kids

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



city of screven

you for all you do to keep us safe

city of Screven

d Council Members

• Adam Pruitt • Lee Stevenson
• Raquel Wright • Bobby Gray • Tony Brinkley

HOMETOWN HEROES

JESUP FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROUDLY SERVING JESUP



Chiefs: Chief **Josh Huffman**, left, has been serving as chief since July of 2020, and served as assistant chief for a number of years. At right is assistant chief **Patrick Wright**.



A-Shift: From left, Chris Sloan, Interim Lt. Tyler Walker, Kaycee Sprague, Zach Lyle, Gage Orvin and Jarrett Sloan.



B-Shift: From left, Lt. John Westberry, Randy Mobley, Jacob Lyle, Blake Holland, Brandon Goober and Toby Bear.



C-Shift: From left, Lt. Renee S. Dixon, Gabe Kelly, Holden Little, Jonathon Taylor, Herbert Ethridge, Allen Spradley and Aaron Waters.

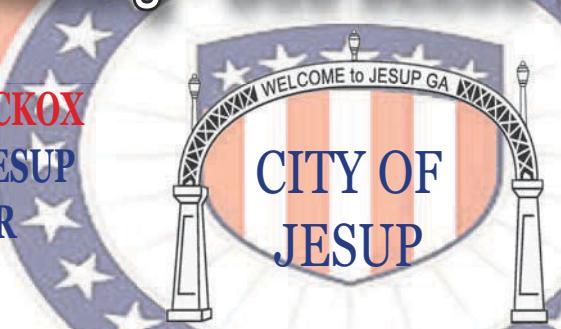
To our men and women POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION
For serving and protecting • GOD BLESS YOU • ... AND THANK YOU!

CITY COUNCIL
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Commissioner District 2

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MICHAEL CONNER
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Commissioner District 5

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Commissioner District 6

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HOMETOWN HEROES

JESUP VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are, from left, Daniel Pelletier, David Bailey, Tim Fullmore, Capt. James Sloan, Matthew Eason, Brandon McDaniel, Sean Joy, Tony Hoover and Jackie Gales.

MADRAY SPRINGS VOLUNTEERS



Chief Ashley Dent
Madray Springs Volunteer



Dep. Chief Kevin Altman
Madray Springs Volunteer



Captain Richard Herrin
Madray Springs Volunteer



Gene Pritchett
Madray Springs Volunteer



Hunter Gosseck
Madray Springs Volunteer



Lt. Eric Bradt
Madray Springs Volunteer



Brandon Mullineaux
Madray Springs Volunteer



Brandon Pritchett
Madray Springs Volunteer



Caleb Poppell
Madray Springs Volunteer



Chad Lane
Madray Springs Volunteer



Cody Oliver
Madray Springs Volunteer



Dean Johnson
Madray Springs Volunteer



Hugh Long
Madray Springs Volunteer



Ken Herrin
Madray Springs Volunteer



Luke Daniels
Madray Springs Volunteer



Nick Child
Madray Springs Volunteer



Nick Sharpe
Madray Springs Volunteer



Patty Pritchett
Madray Springs Volunteer



Preston Schue
Madray Springs Volunteer



Randy Tew
Madray Springs Volunteer



Reed Wasdin
Madray Springs Volunteer



Scott Flores
Madray Springs Volunteer



Timothy Hillyard
Madray Springs Volunteer



William Miller
Madray Springs Volunteer

HOMETOWN HEROES

ANDERSON DRIVE VOLUNTEERS



Members of the Anderson Drive Volunteer Fire Department, are, from left, Matt Daniels, Ryan Eason, Jonathan Bennett, Josh Atkins, Thomas Brannen, Rem Harris, Jimmy Chauncey, Zach Leggett, Dustin Verner, Jay Harris and Jackie Gales.

O'QUINN/EMPIRE VOLUNTEERS



Members of the O'Quinn-Empire Volunteer Fire Department are, from left, Assistant Chief Harold Hilton, Keith Duncan, Jeremy Godwin, Chief Mark Wangstad, Richard Bunce, Derek Ellis, and Shawn Yeomans. Not pictured are Derrick Duncan, Craig Yeomans, Reggie Beasley, Randy Mobley, Zack Lyle, Bruce Jackson Jr. and Belissa Wangstad.

GARDI VOLUNTEERS



Gardi Volunteer Firefighters are, from left, Brandon McDaniel, William Ellis, Brian Smith, Greg Wasdin, Chief Wiley Shanklin, Tony Hoover, Jason Tighe and Assistant Chief Andy Westberry. Not pictured are Dianne Cole, Wendell Spradley, Jason Cole, Roxanne Rozier, Allen Spradley, Nicholas Schubert and David Knopf.

LITTLE CREEK VOLUNTEERS



Little Creek volunteer firefighters include, from left, Reed Wasdin (chief), Hugh Long, Adam Lastinger, Calvin Strickland and Daniel Royal.

ODUM VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS



Members of the Odum Volunteer Fire Department, from left, Assistant Chief Matt (Shrimp) Strickland, Chief Kevin Altman, Capt. Richard Thompson, Richard Herrin, Jeremy Reese, Luke Daniels, Aaron Daniels, Jeremiah Reese, Jay Gromley, Joe Withrow. Not pictured are Charley Johnson, Shannon Withrow, Johnathan Breaux, Corey Withrow.

MOUNT PLEASANT VOLUNTEERS



Mount Pleasant volunteer firefighters include, from left, John Evans, Greg Moore, Chief Scott Brandies and Tim Martin.

WAYNE COUNTY FORESTRY



The Georgia Forestry Commission members in Wayne County include, from left, Chief Ranger Derrick Duncan, TDL county/clerk Pam Williamson, and Rangers Kevin Herrin, Jimmy Anderson, Russell Auldrige and Jason Harris.



HOMETOWN HEROES

WAYNE COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE



David Knopf



Donnie Nash



Jessie Garney



John Kettles



Nick Shubert



Randy Mobley



Richard Johnson

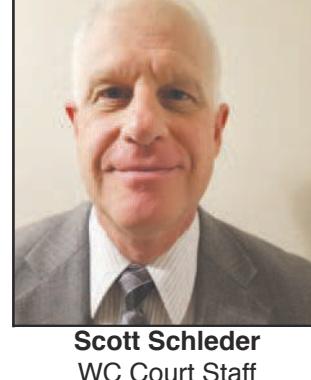


Rig Harper



Ron Mercer

COURT STAFF

Scott Schleder
WC Court StaffLana Wright
WC Court StaffBrad Wright
WC Court Staff

HEROES

Continued from page 1C

sponders represented here in this special section for 2023.

Thank you for all the things you do to serve and protect us!

Heroes on a daily basis, these dedicated professionals have continued to respond when called on despite the risks—known and unknown—that are present every time “the tones drop” to call a particular unit into action.

Whatever the source of the threat to our community, it's these folks we call on to come to our aid. Fire, extreme weather, violent individuals, injury, medical emergencies, traffic collisions and a host of other problems may call them out at any hour to protect our safety and well-being.

Wayne County's three local law-enforcement agencies and two emergency-response agencies are at the heart of the first-responder system, and again this past year they have earned a special place in our hearts.

In addition, several state and federal agencies maintain a presence in our county to assist our hometown heroes in this often-thankless job.

We continue to be thankful and appreciative here in Wayne County, counting our blessings for the dedicated, caring and highly competent folks who step up, strap in and persevere as professionals and volunteers in these demanding positions.

Law enforcement

Sheriff Robert E. “Chuck” Moseley and Chief Deputy Mike Har-

grove head up the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, the largest of our local law-enforcement agencies.

Jesup Police Chief Chris Hamilton, Assistant Chief Alex Reddish and Patrol Division Commander Nick Ellis are the command staff for the Jesup Police Department.

In Screven, Chief Donald Sloan heads up the public safety department with a number of part-time officers.

Leon McKinney is the Odum police chief.

These leaders and their officers maintain patrols around the county and its three municipalities, monitoring and investigating the daily flow of criminal activity and providing protection and deterrence for businesses and citizens.

Officers are on duty 24 hours a day every day. Every officer is available on an on-call basis in emergencies.

The Sheriff's Office also operates the Wayne County Jail and the E-911 dispatch center. Other divisions include the court security officers, a sex-offender registry and a K-9 team.

Officers of the Sheriff's Office and the Jesup Police Department work together on the Jesup/Wayne Tactical Narcotics Team, a drug task force. The task force has conducted a record number of busts and arrests in recent months, targeting not only drug rings but groups using drugs in public establishments to conduct “date rape.”

The Jesup Police Department cooperates with

the board of education to provide school resource officers at the high school and the two middle schools as a first line of defense against threats to our students, and they visit all the schools on a regular basis.

The Screven Police Department also provides daily police presence at Screven Elementary, with nearby officers on call to respond at a moment's notice.

Emergency services

In addition, two agencies stand ready to respond to emergencies in the county.

Director Richard Johnson and his deputy director Lea Moore oversee Wayne County Emergency Services, which includes emergency medical services (EMS) and the county fire departments, as well as the search and rescue team. EMS techs and paramedics are often the first people on the scene in any life-threatening emergency or traffic event, and their work often is the difference between life and death for the victims.

Donnie Ray is the director of the Wayne County Emergency Management Agency, which keeps the county informed of and prepared for potential natural disasters and manages the response to emergency situations of all kinds. Ray prepares the county's hazard mitigation plan, which lays out how the county governments will respond to every imaginable disaster.

The agency also has implemented an emergency

notification system that provides automated alerts for all who sign up for the service. A new service, WeatherSTEM, is available for a free download to help citizens be aware of what's happening weather-wise.

Fire departments

All three municipalities maintain fire departments, and a number of all-volunteer departments provide fire protection in the county.

Fire Chief Josh Huffman and his assistant chief Patrick Wright lead the Jesup Fire Department, which maintains three full shifts of professional firefighters, as well as a dedicated group of volunteers. With two fire stations in town, the department assists with fire coverage in some of the unincorporated areas around Jesup and is active in working to help the county improve its ISO ratings. Plans for an expansion of the second station are under consideration by the city.

The Screven Volunteer Fire Department is headed up by full-time firefighter, Brooke Gravley, who works with volunteer chief Daniel Royal to administer the department. Screven has recently added several part-time paid firefighter positions, as well as a number of seasoned volunteers. The fire station is being improved, with the hopes of adding full-time medical responders to the crew there.

Odum Volunteer Fire Chief Kevin Altman heads up the Odum department.

A number of dedicated first responders serve on the other volunteer fire departments, including Madray Springs, Anderson Drive, O'Quinn, Empire and Gardi/Little Creek departments.

These departments all support each other on a mutual-aid basis and help with a variety of medical and other emergency and safety concerns in their communities.

The Wayne County Forestry Unit also gets called on often to assist with wildfires and other forest-related emergencies.

Carol Irvin, regional coordinator for the Child Occupant Safety Project of the Georgia Department of Public Health, directs an injury-prevention program and provides instruction on use of and inspection of child-safety seats. She also runs Wayne County Safe Kids and provides child-safety advice and services, with periodic workshops to qualify child-seat inspectors.

The Air Evac team provides helicopter service for trauma victims. In addition, Luther Hires at the Coastal Area Traffic Enforcement Network promotes safety on the highways. The wardens of the Georgia Natural Resources Department enforce laws affecting wildlife and other natural resources.

Other activities

While citizens often equate law enforcement with handling traffic crashes and making traffic stops, these are only the

most visible activities of the policing agencies.

The men and women on our law-enforcement teams are involved in a wide variety of activities.

From accompanying funeral processions to operating the 911 center, tracking sex offenders, delivering prisoners to court or to other jurisdictions, serving legal papers, providing court security, investigating crimes, and answering calls for assistance, the work of local law-enforcement services is widespread throughout the community.

When storms or other natural disasters create power outages, flooding, wind damage and other dangerous conditions, officers from all the local agencies may be called on to assist in rescues, clear roadways for emergency vehicles, and assist citizens who have needs.

Members of the Sheriff's Office provide an honor guard for parades, school events and other community gatherings.

The Jesup Police Department organizes Neighborhood Watch groups throughout the community and presents “McGruff the Crime Dog” appearances, as well as providing classes in safety and preparedness.

The JPD also operates a court-mandated community service program, using municipal court offenders to help clean up the city.

Important Emergency Numbers

Jesup Police Dept.	427-1300
Jesup Fire Dept. (Bay St.)	427-1321
Jesup Fire Dept. (Pine St.)	
Wayne County Sheriff.	427-5970
Wayne County Dispatch.	427-5992
Wayne County Forestry	427-5806
Wayne County Fire Rescue.	427-5979

In Case of Emergency dial 9-1-1

We Are Giving THANKS

Thank you to the neighbors, friends and frontline heroes who have been in our corner all year.

CITY OF ODUM
 P.O. Box 159, Odum, GA 31555 • 912-586-2211 PHONE • 912-586-6634 FAX
 EMAIL: cityofodumclerk@outlook.com • www.cityofodumga.com

GREG ROZIER Mayor	LEON MCKINNEY Police Chief
KATHY ROZIER Mayor Pro Tem	RON SLUDER Council Member
GREG LEGGETT Council Member	KEVIN ALTMAN Fire Chief
CLAY TESTON Council Member	CITY OF ODUM EMPLOYEES
KEVIN HIGGS Council Member	Odum, Georgia "Home of the Bluejays"



To all the Law Enforcement Officers, First Responders and Frontline Heroes that selflessly give of themselves day after day ... *Thank You!*



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COASTAL AREA TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT NETWORK



Luther Hires is an officer with the Coastal Area Traffic Enforcement Network.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bob White
Corporal



John Evans
Corporal



Chase Altman
GWFC



Sheriff Robert E. "Chuck" Moseley

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office is committed to excellence in public safety. We take pride in providing professional law enforcement service by enhancing the quality of life through community interaction and partnerships, prevention of crime, and efficient service to the public. Conducting ourselves in a manner that is above reproach, assisting those in need with honor and integrity, and protecting Constitutional freedoms by advocating unquestionable ethical standards, professionalism, and honor is our pledge.

Wayne County Sheriff's Office

266 East Walnut Street
Jesup, GA 31546
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HOMETOWN HEROES

SCREVEN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS



Members of the Screven Volunteer Fire Department are, from left, Daniel Royal (Chief, volunteer), Rance Boyette (volunteer), Reed Wasdin (volunteer), Breyden Middleton (junior volunteer), Brooke Gravley (full-time firefighter, fire administrator, volunteer), Dalton Stewart (part-time firefighter, volunteer) and Lee Stevenson (volunteer). Not pictured are Adam Lastinger (deputy chief, volunteer), Eric Kenn (part-time firefighter, volunteer), Jacob Lyle (part-time firefighter, volunteer), John McFarland (part-time firefighter), Nathan Morris (part-time firefighter), Nick Shubert (part-time firefighter, volunteer), Peyton Twilley (part-time firefighter, volunteer), Ken Boyette (volunteer), Calvin Strickland (volunteer), Bryant Sawyer (volunteer), Joshua Cason (volunteer), Tony Brinkley (honorary) and Andy Lastinger (honorary).

AIR EVAC TEAM MEMBERS



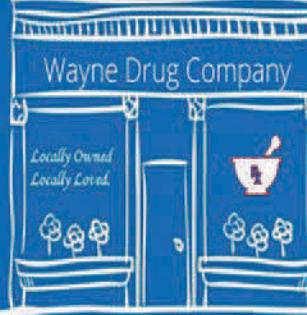
Air Evac Team members include, from left, Chad Lariscy (nurse), Daniel Johnson (nurse), Matt Keanon (pilot), Constance Sartain (paramedic), Duane Richie (mechanic) and Mario Rodriguez (nurse). Not pictured are Donald Mixon (director), Kendray Bandy (nurse), Reid Brown (paramedic), Ken Herrin (paramedic), Rick Mallick (pilot), Chris Lovejoy (pilot), and Rob Raynor (pilot).

WE ❤ OUR HEROES!



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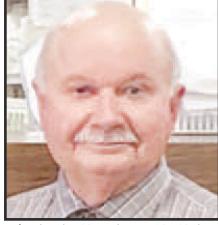


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From L to R: Mike Gordon, District 1; Kevin McCrary, District 2; Jamie Hickox, District 5; Tim Hopkins, District 3; James Thomas, District 4

Thank you to our frontline heroes!

We want to take a moment to thank all
of the hometown heroes that are keeping
our community safe and functioning.
We see you. We appreciate you.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Wayne County Commissioners would like
to recognize all of our law enforcement,
frontline and essential heroes.



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Wayne Memorial Hospital

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Voted Wayne County's #1 Favorite Buffet!

An advertisement for Western Sizzlin Restaurant. It features a variety of food items including a tiered cake, cookies, rolls, mashed potatoes, carrots, meat, and a salad. The Western Sizzlin logo is in the bottom left corner. Text at the bottom provides the address and phone number: "997 South Sunset Blvd., Jesup, GA 31545" and "(912) 588-1000". A Facebook icon is in the bottom right corner.

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HONORING OUR



ON THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

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