

February 22, 2024

SERVING CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA SINCE 1894

# Tribune & Georgian



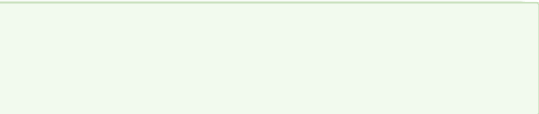
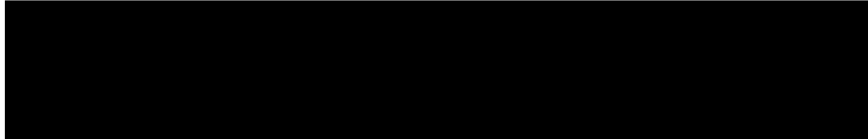
SEARCH

Extended  
Search



*Allison Memorial Chapel*  
**FUNERAL HOME**  
*Final Arrangements Handled With Care*

10141 Colerain Road  
 St. Marys, GA  
 912-729-5000

## Residents, county GOP spar over qualifying

Scott J. Bryan on Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Infighting in the Camden County Republican Party reached the Camden County Board of Elections and Registration meeting Thursday, as one potential candidate wrote to the Camden County Superintendent of Elections and asked it to handle qualifying for this year's primary election.

Cody Smith, a Republican candidate for Camden County Board of Commissioners' District 3 seat,

### The Secret Is Out!

### REJUVENATION

is in.



 GOLDEN ISLES  
**CENTER FOR  
 PLASTIC SURGERY, PC**  
Chase G. Brown, MD

**CLICK FOR DETAILS**  
 2485 Demere Road  
 Suite 103A St. Simons  
**912-634-1993**

**CAMDEN**

**SOCIAL**

Latest updates from your local businesses!



Camden County Ga. Republican Party

“urgent” letter to the Camden County superintendent.

“Due to current public challenges surrounding the identity of the group known as the Camden County GA Republican Party Inc. ... as well as specific challenges to the corporation’s authority to appoint party officials to qualify candidates ... I am requesting that the Camden County Superintendent of Elections qualify all Republican candidates,” Smith wrote.

Smith suggested the superintendent collect “the accompanying qualifying fees to maintain the electorates’ right to have Republican candidates on the ballot and uphold the integrity of Georgia’s Election Code until these challenges can be resolved.”

The Superintendent of Elections – in this case, the Camden County Board of Elections and Registration – will qualify Democrats and independents during the primary qualifying period, scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, March 4,

wrote  
an

★★★★★ 02/16/2024  
Great service, start to finish. Good communication (I appreciate the quick response to my emails) and an excellent job cleaning. Your crew was very professional and friendly. We will definitely use you again and will recommend you to our friends.

**A-1 Carpet Care**  
Follow  
★★★★★ (Read more)

FEB 16  
f t

**Salt River Antiques Mall & More**  
Follow  
Greetings, all from Salt River Antiques Mall & More! It's First Friday in beautiful downtown St. Marys, Georgia! Come join us this... (Read more)

FEB 2  
f t

**Ship 2 Shore Seafood & Steaks**  
Follow  
Our Annual Black Friday Gift Card Special from 10-9 Friday November 24th Buy \$50 Gift Card for \$35. Gift Card not valid day of purchase. (Read more)

NOV 24  
f t

+

through noon Friday, March 8.

The controversy stems over whether the Camden County GA Republican Party can legally qualify candidates. Smith and other Republicans say the local party has violated state law because it is a registered private nonprofit corporation and not a registered committee or party, and they say the corporation has failed to file proper paperwork with the state Republican Party and the county elections office.

“The Camden County Supervisor of Elections, it appears, has made a special declaration that a private nonprofit corporation with an authoritarian model of organization is the entity operating in complete control and jurisdiction of affairs related to Republicans in Camden County, which appears to be blatant and violative action directly contrary (to Georgia law),” St. Marys resident Dawn Gray said.

Rachel Baldwin, the chairwoman of the Camden County Republican Party, said the corporation’s status has been “an ongoing issue.” She said a motion to dissolve the corporation failed during the 2023 Camden County Republican Party Convention.

“We have information from the Georgia Republican Party that whatever the official county party entity status, whether it’s a corporation or a committee, you’re able to qualify the candidate for the local Republican Party as long as that party is the recognized (party) of the Georgia Republican Party,” Baldwin said. “We have worked diligently to follow what we understood.”

Baldwin noted there are 45 counties with registered nonprofit corporations serving as the

### Planning board delays RV park decision

**What We See**  
While Oak Development Partners filed documents with the city of St. Marys asking to combine two lots, their current plan zoning from C-2, or general commercial, to RV2, which covers the proposed park, it's not set to go forward yet.

...which the developers call Village Center or Showdowns. According to the St. Marys municipal code, C-2 zoning "is to provide areas for commercial uses which primarily render a service to local residents or to other non-local individuals such as tourists, vacationers, workers and commuters." "Restricting all uses permitted in the C-2 central business district, except for residential. The "recreational vehicle and camp trailer park district." "The "recreational vehicle and camp trailer park district" means it is meant to "provide an area, outside the normal use of the commercial district, on which to establish a planned, desirable, strong area with adequate open space and health considerations for the placement of recreational vehicles on a temporary basis."

See **RV**, page 15

### MISS GEORGIA VISITS CAMDEN COUNTY CELEBRITY GUEST

Pageant winner visits sub base, schools, festival



Miss Georgia Tara Schifano visited Camden County last week, serving as grand marshal of the Kingsland Mardi Gras parade, visiting students at Camden County High School and touring Base Superior Base Krays Base.

### House passes Camden-inspired child abuse bill

**What We See**  
The state House passed a bill Monday setting penalties for people who counts consent of a disabled child, legislation previously pushed by former Sen. Sheila Kuehl and carried this session by Rep. Steven Sorenson.

"Members of the House, this bill is titled the Colton (McKell) Act for Colton King, a memorial to what happened in their family of my daughter, a beautiful 15-year-old girl who, at the age of 12, had a consensual relationship with an older man, Steve McKell and..."

...that was in his home." Sen. St. Marys, and regard: "This man's abhorred for increased awareness based on what happened in their family situation."

The bill changes the state statute placed against a perpetrator who is 18 or older, and regard: "This man's abhorred for increased awareness based on what happened in their family situation."

See **BILL**, page 15

### St. Marys OKs ARPA funding for city projects

**What We See**  
The St. Marys City Council on Monday approved the city's pool of ARPA funds to be used for water treatment projects that are water at the Park Place Waterwater Treatment and the Smokey Bluff plant, along with restoration to the former St. Marys building to get it ready to serve as the new city hall.

Council members originally wanted the ARPA funds to be used for a number of projects, but they were going to be used for water treatment projects that are water at the Park Place Waterwater Treatment and the Smokey Bluff plant, along with restoration to the former St. Marys building to get it ready to serve as the new city hall.

See **PROJECTS**, page 15



Sen. Mike Hopkins, R-Ga., speaks during a hearing in the Senate on Monday regarding SB 205, a bill limiting how workers for companies receiving state incentives can choose union representation.

### Bill restricting union voting passes Senate

**What We See**  
Georgia's attempt at limiting how unions can organize through a couple of bills, SB 205 and SB 206, passed the Senate by a vote of 11-21.

Senators have different views on whether unions can organize through a couple of bills, SB 205 and SB 206, passed the Senate by a vote of 11-21.

See **UNION**, page 16

**The 20th Bridge Run**  
SATURDAY, FEB. 17  
**THE-BRIDGE-RUN.ORG**  
10K DOUBLE PUMP | 5K RUN | 5K WALK | FIREHOOPER CHALLENGE  
PRESENTING SPONSOR: HARBORLAND CREDIT UNION

Like the T&G on Facebook

**INSIDE TODAY**  
What's going on in Camden?  
Check out page 15 to learn about free and charitable upcoming events throughout Camden County.

**INDEX**  
ARREST REPORT 2  
BUSINESS & OPINIONS 4  
SPORTS 7-10  
RELIGION 11  
CLASSIFIED 12  
LEGALS 13-14

Read Tribune & Georgian, St. Marys, Georgia

St Marys, GA 31558      49 °F    70 °F

official county entity for the Republican Party.

“I think there is a fine distinction that has to be clarified at a much higher level than us, perhaps legislatively, to get to the bottom of this solution,” Baldwin said.



**PLACE A CLASSIFIED**  
**-- CLICK HERE --**



## POPULAR CONTENT

---

### *Today's:*

St. Marys City Council OKs 1st three Exit 1 projects

Camden County Schools delays hiring new football coach

Kingsland City Council approves contracts that will launch Plug Power hydrogen plant

### *All time:*

Latest COVID-19 numbers for Nassau County

St. Marys Police Department: Five charged with murder

Police investigate apparent murder-