



Meriwether Messages
Week Ending March 7, 2014

Your Chamber *Welcomes New Member: American Red Cross, Georgia Three Rivers Chapter, located in Lagrange, and serving a*

ten-county area, including Meriwether. The American Red Cross provides disaster relief; life-saving blood; service to military families and health and safety training programs.



American Red Cross

The Three Rivers Chapter has a heavy concentration in disaster relief and is currently empowering a new generation of volunteers to prevent; prepare for and cope with devastating emergencies that devastate homes, threaten lives and separate loved ones from one another. The work of the Red Cross is made possible through the generosity of volunteers, donors, emergency partners and community friends. An average of 91 cents of every dollar donated to the organization goes to fulfill their humanitarian mission. The organization is currently recruiting for volunteers for health services; mental health; office support; disaster action and public affairs. The Three Rivers Chapter is located at 900 Dallis Street, Suite C, Lagrange, GA For more information or to volunteer, contact Jessica McFadden at 706-884-5818 or visit their web site at <http://www.redcross.org/ga/lagrange/>



Your Chamber Also Welcomes Embracing Hospice. an American Hospice Company.

Excellence in end-of-life care is about putting comfort and dignity first. The team of dedicated professionals and volunteers at Embracing Hospice addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each patient. It is their mission to celebrate life and honor the past, while preparing for the journey ahead. Their office is located at 37P Calumet Parkway in Newnan. For more information contact Manager and Provider Relations Coordinator Lisa Williams at 678-485-6788 or email lisa.williams@americanhospice.com You can also visit their web site for more information at <http://www.americanhospice.com>



Fourth Georgia hospital closes due to Obamacare payment cuts

The fourth Georgia hospital in two years is closing its doors due to severe financial difficulties caused by Obamacare's payment cuts for emergency services.

The Lower Oconee Community Hospital is, for now, a 25-bed critical access hospital in southeastern Georgia. The hospital is suffering from serious cash-flow problems, largely due to

the area's 23 percent uninsured population, and hopes to reopen as "some kind of urgent care center," CEO Karen O'Neal said.

Many hospitals in the 25 states that rejected the Medicaid expansion are facing similar financial problems. Georgia is one of those states that rejected the Medicaid expansion.

But the reality is more complicated. The federal government has historically made payments to hospitals to cover the cost of uninsured patients seeking free medical care in emergency rooms, as federal law mandates that hospitals must care for all patients regardless of their ability to pay.

Because the Affordable Care Act's authors believed all states would implement the Medicaid expansion, Obamacare vastly cut hospital payments, the Associated Press reports.

The Supreme Court ruled that states could reject the Medicaid expansion in 2012, as part of the decision that upheld Obamacare generally.

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The Meriwether County NAACP recently presented the *Community Service Award to Tourism Director, Sabra McCullar*. Ms. McCullar was honored for her dedication and outstanding work as Director of Tourism in Meriwether County. The theme of the event hosted by the NAACP was "Helping to Build Dreams". Meriwether County Tourism. Congratulations Sabra!!

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In a major defeat for opponents of the *Keystone XL oil pipeline*, an inspector general report largely clears the State Department of violating its conflict-of-interest procedures in selecting an outside contractor to analyze the project. Anti-Keystone activists have long argued that the contractor that helped State prepare an environmental analysis of the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline is unfit for the job. Secretary of State John Kerry and President Barack Obama are expected to make a decision on the pipeline in the next few months.

And in an ABC News Poll: Keystone Project XL is overwhelmingly favored by the American public...

Americans support the idea of constructing the Keystone XL oil pipeline between Canada and the United States by a nearly 3 to 1 margin, with 65 percent saying it should be approved and 22 percent opposed, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

The national economy added 175,000 jobs in February while the unemployment rate increased slightly to 6.7 percent, the Labor Department reported Friday. Analysts had expected job growth of about 150,000, according to a Bloomberg survey of economists. For more information... <http://www.politico.com>



The Village Art Studio, 141 Callaway Street, Manchester, will host Jim Cox , Still life, Portrait, and Landscape artist from Taos, New Mexico. April 9th-12th 2014. Bring your own props and photos or pick from ours.



Call Barbara Smenner at 706-846-5085 for fee and more information, or go to www.barbarasmenner.com under classes/seminars



Players on Broad with The President Theatre will showcase "A Black Comedy", with two performances on March 21st and March 22nd. The show is a hilarious British farce which takes place during a power outage. The tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased Taylor-Foster in Manchester, or at the door. The show will take place at the Manchester High School auditorium.



Mark your calendar for April 10th for dinner and show or show only at the Roosevelt Warm Springs. The show "California Dreamin" will be performed by the Springer opera in partnership with The President Theatre. You will love to hear the songs from the 60' and 70's and the music of bands like The Beach Boys, Crosby Stills and Nash and The Mamas and the Papas.

If your club is interested in setting up a vending booth, please contact Valerie Haskins at 706-975-6439 or email at coolestmomintheworld@gmail.com



Common Core Standards: Although Georgia, along with 44 other states in the nation, adopted Common Core Standards in 2010, legislators in the Senate have passed a bill that many see as a first step in Georgia "opting out" of the standards. The business community and leading educational institutions believe it is good for our state to have standards that are being used by most other states in our country, believing that the standards have increased the rigor of Georgia's previous standards and ensure that students in Georgia gain the same advanced knowledge and skills as, and can be evaluated against, their peers around the country. The Senate has passed a bill(SB167) to keep the standards in place, for now, but to set up a process to review them. Supporters

of the bill intend it to be the first step in repealing the Common Core standards. A delegation from the military community came out this week opposing SB167 and urging Legislators to retain strong and consistent standards that are shared across the states, given how often military personnel and families move. If the bill passes the House and becomes law, a 17 member advisory council will be established to review the standards and make recommendations about them to the state board. However most of the composition of the panel would not be educators, but parents. The bill would also prevent the state from adopting standards that are highly regarded and even surpass the rigor of existing standards simply because they were developed by experts in other states.

*In Georgia....*Revenues from various taxes was up 5.3 percent in February. Through February Georgia's tax revenue was up 5% to \$117 billion

Disappointing news from the federal budget released this week: *There's no construction money for the Savannah Harbor deepening*, which prompted Georgia's two senators to charge the White House with failing to keep its promises. During a tour of the Port of Savannah last September, Vice President Joe Biden called for expediting port improvements at Savannah and other U. S. ports along the Atlantic coast "come hell or high water." But when the fiscal 2015 budget came out this week, all it contained for the \$652 million project was \$1 million for further study.

Georgia's 16 members of the Congressional Delegation signed a letter on Thursday to be sent to the White House saying they were "very disappointed" in the lack of funding for the expansion project. They are also urging the White House Office of Management and Budget to heed January's spending bill which designated the port as an ongoing construction project. The delegation contends that the language allows the Army Corps of Engineers to sign off on a file agreement to begin digging with the \$266 million the state of Georgia has set aside for the project.

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News from our Churches:

- Trinity United Methodist Church, 25 Palm Lane, in Durand is opening a food pantry on the 4th Saturday of each month from 10:00 - noon. For more information call 706-663-9005. Trinity UMC is also adding an interpreter for the hearing impaired during their services.
- The DORCAS food ministry is housed at the First Baptist Church in Warm Springs. Volunteers are at the church on Wednesday mornings 10:30 to 12:30. Donations in the area of personal products (deodorant, toilet paper, etc.) are needed as well as canned fruit, meats and vegetables (except corn and green beans).
- Students from Roosevelt Warm Springs will sponsor a spaghetti dinner at First Baptist Church in Warm Springs on Friday, March 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Donations from the event will be made to the DORCAS food ministry. For more information, contact Chaplain Gary Kemp at 770-584-2388

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United Home Care, located in Warm Springs, across from The Bulloch House wants to relocate. Their lease is up at the end of June and they would like to find alternative space. If you have space which you might consider leasing or know someone who might, please pass on this message. You can contact Denise Luders, Business Office Manager at 706-655-2094 for further information or email dluders@uhs-prutt.com



Thank you Renewing Members for January and February:

**Elliott Rental Properties, LLC
Moore Eye Care, P.C.
Bethel Baptist Church
Judy McCurdy
Dr. Abel Aguilar
Meriwether County Health Department
Custom Truck and Body Works
Engineering Strategies, Inc.
Cato Heating and Cooling, Inc.
Mack Reynolds, Sr.
Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta
Danny Graddy
Thompson Gas-Smokies, LLC
Community Chest
To the Max Advertising
Uni-Health Post Acute Care of Greenville
The Banquet Hall of Alvaton**

**Meriwether Internal Medicine
Dr. Tom Griffin
Pathways Center
Security Finance
Dr. Ken Dobbs
F & M Bank and Trust
Georgia Power
State Farm -Faye Perdue
U-Save-It Pharmacy - Woodbury
Abbott, Jordan & Koon, LLC
Beckham's Healthcare
United Home Care
Windstream
Manchester Lions Club
American Union Relief Society
Pine Mountain Regional Library
The Lime Light**

Support your fellow Chamber Members at every Opportunity!!

*Send your messages, hiring opportunities, special events and deals to
meriwetherchamber@windstream.net*

It's always free!!