

GREENE COUNTY

A Dickens Christmas planned at First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro

"Bah Humbug!" yells out Scrooge. Charles Dickens was an early devotee of social justice. He grew up in early 19th century England and witnessed the excesses of the blossoming industrial revolution.



CONTRIBUTED Spencer Hinds dressed for the role of Ebenezer Scrooge.

On Dec. 15 at 5:30 p.m., the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro will spin a tale related to the story's main protagonist. In the church's portrayal, the Reverend Meg Jackson Clark will act as the tale's narrator who, together with Bob Cratchit and a group of disgruntled Londoners — played by church members — will center on some of the biggest social ills plaguing early

Victorian England. The target of all this acrimony is none other than a Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge. How does it all play out? You will have to come and see!

In addition to the church's production, singers outside the church in Victorian costume will greet arriving attendees with carols familiar to people in the 1840s. Upon coming up the steps to the church entrance you will be welcomed by a greeter in Victorian dress. Inside the church you will see what it may have been like in the 1840s with candles affixed to pews to help provide needed light. Minimal use of electric lighting and many congregants dressed in period clothing will also enhance the experience. During the event, all will join in the singing of Christmas carols loved when A Christmas Carol was written and still loved today. This could well be a highlight of the Christmas season for your entire family! All are welcome to attend.

The First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro is located at 117 S. Main St. (next to the post office) in downtown Greensboro.

- Contributed

CRIME REPORTS

GREENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

- On Nov. 24, officers responded to Novelis in reference to a domestic dispute that occurred at the Dollar General on Willow Run Road. The complainant stated that she was dragged by her boyfriend after an argument. The incident was turned over to investigators.
On Nov. 24, officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the area of MLK Jr. Drive and Morningside Drive. After further investigation, Jose Garcia-Jimenez, 47, of Greensboro, was arrested on charges of DUI (alcohol), open container, driving without a license and failure to maintain lane.
On Nov. 25, officers responded to the area of Silver Drive in reference to a person experiencing a mental crisis. The scene was turned over to Greensboro EMS.
On Nov. 25, officers responded to First Base on South Walnut Street in reference to a hit and run complainant. The complainant was advised that a report would be available in three to five business days.
On Nov. 28, officers responded to the area of Dream Ridge, Greensboro, in reference to a fight. After further investigation, a warrant for simple assault was issued for Shakayla Mandrea Rowland, 19, of Athens.
On Nov. 29, while patrolling the area of Maple Street, officers observed a vehicle in violation of a brake light requirement. After further investigation, the driver, Oscar Trejo-Ramirez, 39, of Greensboro, was arrested on charges of driving without a license, open container, and DUI (alcohol).
On Friday, Nov. 29, officers were advised about a BOLO on a vehicle operating unsafely in the area of West Broad Street. Officers initiated a traffic stop, and the driver was identified as Jeffrey Brannon, 64, of Greensboro. After further investigation, Brannon was arrested on charges of DUI (alcohol) and failure to maintain lane.
On Nov. 30, officers responded to the area of North East Street in reference to verbal dispute. Both parties agreed to separate for the rest of the night. The complainant was advised of the TPO process.
For the week of Nov. 24-30, the Greensboro Police Department responded to nine accidents, and 37 citations were issued.

GREENE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- On Nov. 26, deputies arrested John Lawrence Jentzen, 9234 State Highway D, Thornfield, Mich., for violation of brake light and turn signal requirements and possession of a controlled substance.
On Nov. 26, deputies arrested Dennis Michael Naugle, Rte. 4 Box 966, Ava, Mich., for possession of a controlled substance.
On Nov. 26, deputies arrested Nicholas Jay Thurmond, 3077 Union Point Rd., Union Point, for failure to appear.

MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Morgan County deputy made contact with a local woman in reference to an entering auto complaint. The complainant said someone broke into her vehicle and stole her medication out of it while it was parked at the Rainbow Store on Athens Highway. The case is under investigation and video footage is being reviewed. A warrant was issued Nov. 29 for the arrest of Gabrielle Wyatt, 29, of Madison, on charges of terroristic threats and acts.

MORE CRIME REPORTS >> A7

Letters to the Editor

We are all in this together

Dear editor,

There is a great divide in this country, but MAGA politicians do not want us to notice: the top 1% of Americans holds 10 times more wealth than the bottom 50% of us.

MAGA knows that division creates conflict and a divide-and-conquer, winner-take-all society. Abortion, minimum wage, and threats from climate change are issues that we must address together. MAGA found a way to fabricate division on these issues.

The fact is, we Americans are far more united than we are divided.

According to recent polling, 61% of us feel current immigration policy is a problem but 57% feel immigration is important to our national identity. Sixty-four percent feel abortion should be legal in most or all

cases and 59% feel Roe v Wade should not have been overturned. Sixty-two percent of us favor increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15/hr. Sixty-seven percent want to prioritize developing alternative energy such as wind and solar.

We as a country are nowhere as divided as Trump and MAGA want us to believe.

Going forward, we can't stand by while Trump implements the agenda he claims he has a mandate for. We must be engaged citizens if our collective will is to be respected. You may not be interested in politics, but politics is interested in you. We are being manipulated. In the next weeks and years, stay involved and watch to see what is being done in your name.

Richard Burt Athens

SENSE

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brutality and defunding the police. However, in this case, there is no way I will give the Fannin County Sheriff's Department a pass on their ham-handed dealing of the situation. Instead of what should have been a simple, "Please tell Soren to let you know the next time he wants to walk to the store," two knuckle-headed deputies arrested Patterson and handcuffed her in front of her children. Nice.

The arrest warrant calls her action a "gross deviation from the standard of care a reasonable person would exercise." I call the Fannin County Sheriff's Department's actions a gross deviation from the standard of common sense a law enforcement agency should exercise. Is this all they have to occupy their time? Let's buy them a radar gun.

According to a bodycam recording the action, Patterson told the two Barney Fife wannabes, "Last time I checked, it wasn't illegal for a kid to

walk to the store." "It is when they're 10 years old," responded a female deputy (I'm thinking maybe Aunt Bee here), before leading the handcuffed mom off to the pokey.

Now, the Georgia Division of Family & Children Services is involved. (This gets more asinine by the minute.) Authorities told Patterson they'd let her go with a "safety plan," which includes Soren having a GPS tracking app on his phone. She declined. "I did nothing wrong," she said. "I'm going to fight for that." Good for her.

The legal ball is now in local district attorney Frank Wood's court to see if he actually chooses to prosecute her. If convicted, Brittany Patterson could face a fine of up to \$1,000, spend up to 12 months in jail, or both.

The incident has gained national attention for Fannin County — home of Blue Ridge, one of my favorite towns to visit — with none of it good but all of it deserved, thanks to the Fannin County Sheriff's Department and the nosy-Nellie who started all this.

As for me, when you get

upset with my hyperbolic screeds, please cut me some slack. It's not my fault. I am an emotional wreck.

I have just discovered my sweet momma was actually a criminal for not authorizing and supervising my

one-mile bicycle rides to Gordy's Drug Store to eat ice cream. Where was the nanny state when I needed it?

Reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com or P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Ga. 31139.

Secondhand Treasures advertisement featuring Eatonton Veterans Thrift Store and ReStore Habitat for Humanity of Putnam. Includes details on holiday arrivals, food pantry services, and donation information.

National Wreaths Across America Day advertisement. Encourages sponsoring wreaths for veterans' graves at Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Milledgeville. Includes QR code and website information.