

GORDON Gazette

Weekend, March 21 2020

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Sheriff seeks public's help in finding missing man

GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Sheriff's Office needs the public's assistance in locating a missing man. On Thursday morning, March 19, ROBERT SHANE REEVES, age 56, was reported missing to the Sheriff's Office by family members.

Reeves was last seen at his home on Covington Lane in Calhoun at about 7:30 a.m. that morning. Police in Emerson (Bartow County) found his vehicle off State Route 293 last night. Emerson and Bartow County authorities have conducted an extensive search of the surrounding area without further result. REEVES

is a white/male, age 56 years, 6'00" in height, weight 230 lbs, medium build, bald, with no facial hair. Anyone with knowledge of REEVES' whereabouts is urged to call the Gordon County Sheriff's Office at 706-629-1244, or 911.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



City of Calhoun shuts government building access to the public amid COVID-19 situation

Brandi Owczarz
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Following Gordon County's announcement of limiting public access to government buildings on Wednesday, the City of Calhoun announced on Friday they have begun restricting public access to Calhoun City Hall and Community Development until further notice.

"The City of Calhoun continues to monitor and assess the COVID-19 situation relying on information being passed down from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)," the City said in a statement. "Based on this information and out of an abundance of caution, Calhoun City Hall, 226 South Wall Street, and Community

Development, 700 West Line Street, will implement restricted public access until further notice."

The statement said that City Hall and Community Development staff will still report to work and will be available to answer phones, email and will continue to conduct day to day operations.

City Hall Contact information and service options:

- Please call the main City Hall line at 706-629-0151 for assistance or visit www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com. Appointments may be available upon request, if necessary.

- For Business License assistance, contact Judy Craig at 706-602-5631 or jrcraig@calnet-ga.net. Online payments can be made at: calhounpayments.com or mailed to City of Calhoun, P.O. Box 248, Calhoun, GA 30703.

com or mailed to City of Calhoun, P.O. Box 248, Calhoun, GA 30703.

- For Property Tax assistance, contact Misty Caudle at 706-602-5620 or mcaudle@calnet-ga.net. Online payments can be made at: <http://www.cityofcalhoun-tax.com> or mailed to City of Calhoun, P.O. Box 248, Calhoun, GA 30703.

- Community Development: for building permits, zoning, building codes, annexation, etc. please contact Don McGinnis at 770-548-2318 dmcginnis@calnet-ga.net, Joey Moore at 770-548-2114 jmoore@calnet-ga.net or Neal Russel, Code Enforcement, at 706-263-2299 nrussell@calnet-ga.net.

- A drop box at the City Hall drive through is also



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available for any City of Calhoun or Calhoun Utility payments.

"Again, we urge all residents to remain calm and follow the advice and recommendations of public health professionals which includes:

- Washing your hands regularly with soap for at least 20 seconds
- Avoiding touching

eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands

- Staying home when you are sick

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick

- Cleaning / Disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces

- Calling your healthcare provider if you experience any flu-

like symptoms"

"We apologize for any inconvenience, but, we feel this action is necessary to comply with the actions and directives of the President, Governor, and the CDC to maintain social distancing and slow the spread of COVID-19," said the City in the statement.

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COVID-19 confirmed cases stand at 507 in Georgia, with 14 deaths, at noon on Saturday; Gordon with three confirmed cases.

GOVERNMENT 4A



State Rep. Rick Jasperse gives his weekly update from the State Capitol.

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CASA hosts open house for interested volunteers

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On Monday, March 2, several residents in the Calhoun-Gordon County community that are interested with helping children, mostly children in the foster system, showed up to the Gordon County CASA Volunteer Open House, hosted by CASA Program Coordinator Amberle Dillard.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) operates under the juvenile court, and CASA volunteers are the "eyes and ears" for the court, and are there to serve the best interest of the child, according to Dillard.

"(CASA volunteers) not only talk with a (foster) child involved in a dependency case, but also with anyone else who may be able to provide information about the life and needs of the child they serve," said Dillard. "The CASA volunteer also works collaboratively with other local



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agencies to advocate for the needs of the child and family. A report written by the CASA volunteer is submitted to the court at the disposition hearing

See CASA,
page 7A

Calhoun man seriously injured in Thursday night motorcycle wreck

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A Calhoun man was seriously injured in a motorcycle wreck Thursday evening.

According to the Georgia State Patrol Incident Report, the incident happened around 6:20 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 on Rock Creek Road in Calhoun. According to a witness, the rider of the motorcycle, 35-year-old Leivi Fetzer of Rock Creek Road passed the witnesses' house at a high rate of speed, riding a wheelie. The witness said after Fetzer passed his house, he

heard a crash. According to the report, Fetzer lost control of the motorcycle and laid the motorcycle down on its side in the southbound lane of the road. The vehicle then slid around 287 feet before coming to a rest.

Fetzer was wearing a helmet, but was seriously injured. LifeForce was called to the scene, and transported Fetzer to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. His condition was unknown at press time.

The report states that Fetzer is being cited with Reckless Driving, Driving Under the Influence and Driving While License Suspended.

City, County schools closed until April 10



JOINT STATEMENT OF CALHOUN CITY SCHOOLS, GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS

In consideration of Governor Kemp's executive order issued on March 16, as well as the latest guidance from the CDC, Calhoun City and Gordon County Schools will remain closed through spring break, which ends on April 10. Teachers will make contact with students in order to continue instructional activities through April 3. No assignments will be given the week of spring break. As we gain additional information from state and local officials, we will reassess and determine if additional time is needed beyond this date.

Additionally, all field trips scheduled for the remainder of the school year will be cancelled. Details on refunds will be made available to families as soon as they are determined. School-sponsored events will be postponed or cancelled for the duration of the closures.

As always, the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Please continue to implement the following measures to help protect our community:

- Stay home and limit contact with others when you are sick.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and properly discard used tissues. If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Avoid close contact with those who are ill.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through the impact this health crisis will have on our schools.

Second Front

Northwest Georgia Community Letter for Rescheduling Non-Essential Surgeries and Procedures

CONTRIBUTED

Hospital and healthcare leaders across Northwest Georgia are working collaboratively to respond to the increasing presence of COVID-19 in Northwest Georgia. Following the guidelines from both the U.S. Surgeon General and the American College of Surgeons, effective immediately, Advent Health, Cartersville Medical Center, Floyd Health System, Harbin Clinic and Redmond Regional Medical Center are beginning the process of rescheduling non-essential surgeries and procedures.

Essential and emergency procedures and services will continue uninterrupted. The decision was based on the need to limit exposure and minimize further spread of COVID-19 among patients and visitors as well as healthcare professionals. It also allows each healthcare organization to conserve resources as the entire medical community faces a diminishing supply of critical protective equipment. The elimination of non-essential and elective surgeries and procedures will also ensure the most time-sensitive and medically necessary care can be prioritized and

delivered quickly. Patients impacted by this decision can expect to be contacted directly from their healthcare provider with additional instructions. Questions regarding how this decision will impact upcoming appointments or procedures should be directed to each patient's healthcare provider. Northwest Georgia medical leaders will continue to work together aggressively and compassionately to provide the highest level of medical care. Each healthcare organization is taking the necessary steps to protect the community and keep the public informed as the situation evolves.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Calhoun Outlets close Wednesday amid COVID-19 concerns; plans to reopen March 29

STAFF REPORTS

According to a press release, Simon Property Group, the largest owner of shopping malls in the nation, is closing all of its malls and retail properties because of the coronavirus outbreak. This includes Calhoun Outlet Marketplace. The closure will begin at 7 p.m. tonight, Wednesday, March 18, and is expected to end March 29. “The health and safety of our shoppers, retailers and employees is of paramount importance and we are taking this step to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities,” said David Simon, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Simon.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OP-ED: How to stay safe, healthy and continue to support local small business



Kathy Johnson

Gordon County Chamber of Commerce President & CEO

It is my privilege to serve as the President & Chief Executive Officer of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority of Gordon County, and I take that burden of leadership very seriously. When challenges arise, it becomes necessary to make critical, difficult decisions very quickly. In recent days, I have convened with the Executive Board of the Chamber to make exactly those kinds of decisions and I am grateful for the overwhelming support I have received from that Board, the Chamber membership, my staff, and the general public. My driving goal has been to protect the health of those I lead, while conducting Chamber business to the extent we are able. At the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce, we will continue to support the business community that is still creating, building, making, caring, and serving in Calhoun-Gordon County.

Many businesses, including restaurants and retailers, operating in Gordon County have temporarily closed or restricted their operations, but there are still ways to show your support and now is the time to do it. The Chamber has some ideas to share about how you can stay safe and healthy and still support small, local businesses. Social media makes it easy to remain socially distant while still connecting with family and friends. From the comfort and safety of your home, you can support local businesses by purchasing gift-cards, posting online

endorsements and sharing information about how they are responding to the crisis. Currently, our membership roster shows twenty-three restaurants and caterers. Most of these businesses are open for business with limited seating or drive-thru service only during modified hours and are actively encouraging to-go orders and curb-side delivery. These options make it possible to maintain social distance and still enjoy meals from your local favorites. One quick run to a hometown sandwich shop or barbeque joint can break the monotony of isolation. Pay with plastic instead of cash and you've avoided another contamination risk. Grab a gift card while you're picking up meals and you're one step ahead of birthday and early holiday shopping. The Chamber supports all its members to the best of its ability, but wholeheartedly endorses local shopping from small businesses. Our “Keep It In The County” program is a signature program, running strong for a decade now, that encourages the shopping community to spend their money in Calhoun-Gordon County. If ever there was a time to follow that edict, it's here. Keep in mind that these businesses are the ones that will sponsor your child's softball team, buy a sign for the football field, support local non-profits through board service and donations, fund local scholarships, and march in the Christmas parade. They're part of our landscape and Calhoun would look different without them. These are just a few ways to continue supporting local business as we navigate these challenging times. As additional information and opportunities become available, the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce will continue its mission of connecting members and the community to promote economic growth.

COVID-19 cases jump to 507 in Georgia; Gordon County still at three confirmed cases in Saturday noon update

STAFF REPORTS

In the latest update from the Georgia Department of Public Health for Saturday, March 21, Georgia has 507 confirmed cases of COVID-19, up 22 confirmed cases over Friday night's total of 485. The state is still reporting 14 deaths related to the virus. Gordon County was announced as having three confirmed cases of COVID-19, down



one from Thursday, according to the DPH website. Neighboring Bartow County was up to 56 confirmed cases today,

the second highest per county in the state; Floyd County has 8 confirmed cases and Whitfield County still sits at one case.

For a county by county breakdown of confirmed COVID-19 cases, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

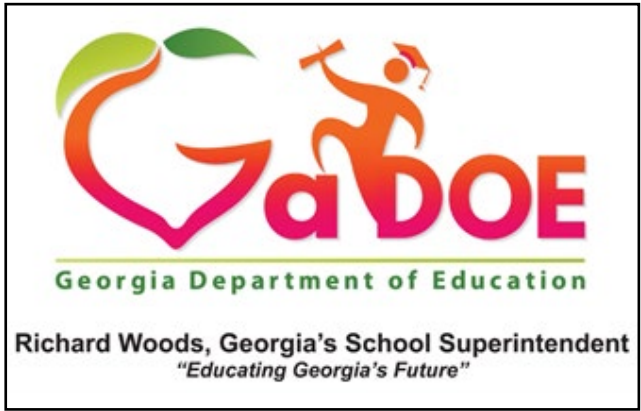
Superintendent Woods will recommend the package of waivers for school districts

Educators, parents and students can expect that no state testing, including Georgia Milestones, GAA 2.0 and GKIDS, will be administered this year

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Following an announcement from the U.S. Department of Education today inviting states to request waivers from federal assessment requirements, State School Superintendent Richard Woods affirmed that the Georgia Department of Education will immediately apply for a waiver from assessment requirements in 2020. Educators, parents, and students can expect that no state testing – to include Georgia Milestones, GAA 2.0, and GKIDS – will be administered in Georgia

this year. On March 16, Superintendent Woods suspended the state assessment window along with teacher and leader evaluation requirements and state-level, attendance-related consequences. “It has been become more and more clear that there is not a realistic path to administer state tests this year, and Georgia and other states have urged the federal government to make waivers available,” Superintendent Woods said. “I thank them for doing so and Georgians can be assured we will seek the maximum flexibility available.



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Students, parents, and educators should be spending this time learning, growing, and weathering this storm together – not preparing for a test.” At the State Board of Education meeting on

March 26, Superintendent Woods will recommend a package of waivers for school districts, including suspension of the 20% course grade requirement for the Georgia Milestones EOC.

Obituaries

March 21, 2020

Anita Bennett
Mrs. Anita Joyce Rich Bennett, age 61, of Resaca, departed this life, Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at her home. She was born Aug. 27, 1958 in Dalton. She was preceded in death by her father, Raymond Rich.
She is survived by her husband, Michael W. Bennett of the residence; mother, Lela Stanley of Tunnel Hill; sons and daughter-in-law, Jeremy Boswell, Keith and Ashley Boswell of Dalton; brothers and sister-in-law, Dale and Susan Rich, Roger Rich of Tunnel Hill; sisters and brothers-in-law, Carla and Roy Gentry, Renee and Ben Bennett of Dalton; grandchildren, Brantley Boswell, Kimber Boswell; several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.
A private memorial service will be held at a later date.
Arrangements by locally owned and operated Ponders Melrose Chapel, Dalton, GA. 706-226-4002.



Cody Patterson
Cody Cheyenne Patterson, age 32, of Sugar Valley, passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at his residence.
Cody was born on Aug. 6, 1987 in Gordon County to the Daniel Patterson and Robin Duffey Kirby. He worked for Quality Mat for over 10 years.
Cody is survived by: his father, Daniel Patterson of White; mother, Robin Duffey Kirby; son, Ryan Patterson of Plainville; daughter, Zayln Underwood of Sugar Valley; brother, Zack Kirby; grandfather, Bobby Mealer of Sugar Valley; grandmother, Brenda C. Holsomback of Sugar Valley; cousin, Shalania Lipscombe of Sugar Valley; and aunt, Tiffany Hammonds of Rome.
Due to recent concerns over Covid-19, the family will have a private ceremony with Rev. David Peeler officiating. Interment will follow in Sugar Valley Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers serving include: David Bowling, Jason Serritt, Bodie Ray, Bruce Mealer, Collin Nichols, and Chad Fahrubel.
Honorary Pallbearers are the employees of Quality Mat.
The family wishes to thank all their family, friends, and co-workers for their understanding during this difficult time.
You may leave the family online condolences at www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com
Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Cody Cheyenne Patterson.



Help for the Hurting

-The Life Choice Hospice Bereavement Support Group will be meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The support group is open to anyone in the community who would like to attend. The office and support group are located at 189 Professional Court, Suite 300, Calhoun. For Information, contact Jennifer at 706-602-9001.

-The Northwest Georgia Parkinson Disease Association, Inc., is offering a monthly support group for persons living with Parkinson Disease, their caregivers, family and friends. The support group will meet at Gordon Hospital; Conference Room A. For any questions about the support group and future meetings, call James Trussell at 706-235- 3164 or 706-346-5678.

-Families Anonymous is a 12-step program, for those concerned about drug abuse and behavior problems of a relative or friend. Completely anonymous, non professional, and non religious. No dues, no fees. Not connected with any hospital or agency. Located on Red Bud Road in plaza below Fitness First, next to Calhoun Counseling Center (Dr. Bledsoe’s office). Meeting every Thursday 7 - 8 p.m. Call 770-548-7849 for more information.

-Bondage Breakers- Breaking the chains of addiction one soul at a time. Every Thursday night at 7 p.m. at Crane Eater Community Church, located at 3168 Red Bud Rd Calhoun, GA 30701.

-The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association is sponsoring a monthly support group at Morning Pointe Assisted Living, 660 Jolly Road, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information or directions, call Mary Braden at 770-548-4683 or Karen Parrott at 706-346-5220. For more information about dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, call 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/georgia.

-Special Care Plus, a free one-on-one consultation program, offers education and information to primary caregivers of persons with dementia. Any primary caregiver who is caring for a loved one with dementia in the home is eligible to receive this program. To learn more about the Special Care Plus program, call 800-272-3900.

-Want to make a difference in the community? Tapestry Hospice is seeking volunteers to provide companionship to our patients, read books, make crafts, garden, light house cleaning, administrative work, etc. If you’re interested contact Megan at megan.guthrie@tapestryhospice.com

-The Alzheimer’s Association’s Caring Closet was created to help offset the high cost of incontinent products and give the families support they often desperately need. If you would like to visit the nearest Closet, call the chapter office to receive a flier with locations and hours. Morning Pointe in Calhoun has a Caring Closet; call Mary Braden at 706-629-0777.

-Community volunteers are needed at Countryside Hospice Care, where the mission is to promote comfort and dignity at the end of life. The agency covers 26 Northwest Georgia counties between three offices in LaFayette, Rome, and Newnan. If you would like to participate in this rewarding program, call 706-638-7651 or 1-800-660-7381.

-Discovering Hope, an autism support group for Northwest Georgia, meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Friendship

Baptist Church, Rocky Face. For more information, call Connie Post at 706-673-7765 or www.discoveringhope.us.

-Caring Connection is a telephone support group especially for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer’s who cannot leave their homes because of care responsibilities. This support group is as close as the phone. Call 706-275-0819 or 1-800-272-3900 and ask to be enrolled in Caring Connection.

-Grief Recovery Group for those who have lost loved ones and friends, receive support and guidance with the Four Tasks of Grieving. Cost is Free. Second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital. For more information or to RSVP, please call 706.879.5850.

-The Compassionate Friends of Dalton and N.W. Georgia is part of a worldwide effort that has helped many families cope with the loss of a child and to honor our children’s memory. The Compassionate Friends meets on the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Evangelical Methodist Church (in the “Gathering Place” building), 1035 Abutment Road, Dalton (on the hill behind the old Lowe’s off Walnut Avenue). For more information, call Dawn at 706-277-3312 or 706-264-4458 or e-mail dawnsisson@msn.com.

-SING (Surviving Infidelity Necessary to your Growth) has formed here. If you are experiencing difficulty in marriage and are looking for ways to survive, then you should come and be part of these meetings designed to help, encourage, and solve issues in a marriage that can lead to a promising future ahead for the entire family. For more information, call Iroka Moore at 706-629-2880.

-United Hospice is seeking volunteers who can help others through companionship, reading, sharing, and other small tasks. Give the gift of caring and enjoy the privilege of sharing in your local area. Call Dan Hogan at 706-602-9546 or 800-867-7976.

-Looking for a 12-step meeting for men and women? At “Road to Recovery,” recognizing Jesus Christ as our higher power, they take the 12 steps and compare how they are taken from scripture and how to apply them to our lives to experience true freedom from the bondages of addiction. The meetings are free and open to the public at World Harvest Church locations in Cherokee and Gordon counties. For more information, call 706-602-1919. The Calhoun church is located at 2335 Red Bud Road. The meetings here are every Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

-A 12-step-meeting for Overeaters Anonymous is held at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 901 W. Emory St, Dalton on Thursdays at 6 p.m. Call Nan at 706-695-9008 or Stephanie at 706-847-8125 for more information.

-Caring for a loved one who is suffering from late-stage cancer is certainly one of life’s hardest experiences. But you do not have to go through this alone. The Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital provides a place for you to meet each month with others who understand what you are going through during this difficult time. Strength for Caring, a support group for caregivers of patients with advanced stages of cancer meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 2-3 p.m. at the Harris Radiation Therapy

Center at Gordon Hospital, 1035 Red Bud Road. For more information, please call 706-879-5853.

-Dealing with a cancer diagnosis is difficult for everyone involved – the patient and their loved ones. But you are not alone. The Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital, 1035 Red Bud Road, hosts a Support Group for cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers on the third Wednesday of each month from noon until 1 p.m. Lunch is served. For more information and to RSVP, please call 706-879-5853. We offer a hand to hold and an ear to listen as you go through this difficult time.

-The Alzheimer’s Auxiliary of North Georgia is seeking new members. Members of this auxiliary are a vital part in the work of the Alzheimer’s Association. Currently, two auxiliaries, one in North Georgia and one in Atlanta, provide support and financial assistance to people affected by Alzheimer’s disease. There are many volunteer opportunities to work with the regional offices in supporting those living with the disease, as well as caregivers. Some

events auxiliary members participate in are an annual bake sale, the annual gala, Memory Walk, and health fairs. For annual membership, yearly dues of \$35 per person are requested. For more information about joining the Alzheimer’s Auxiliary, contact the Alzheimer’s Association at 706-275-0819.

-Families Anonymous, a 12-step, self-help recovery program is for parents, relatives, and friends concerned about their loved ones current, suspected or past abuse of drugs or alcohol. Working together, members find ways of overcoming feelings of helplessness and despair. The weekly meetings are held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at 654A Red Bud Road N.E. (beside Calhoun Counseling Center). There is no cost for membership.

-The Georgia Tobacco Quit Line 1-877-270-stop (7867) provides free counseling, support and referral services for Georgia residents 18 years of age or older who want to stop using tobacco, as well as concerned parents of adolescents using tobacco. Call today to become tobacco-free!



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REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

from Representative Rick Jasperse

BY: RICK JASPERSE,
(R-Jasper, District 11)
State Representative

We are in week nine of the legislative session, which we knew would be one of the busiest weeks of the session with Cross-Over day in this week; but boy, did it even get busier with the coronavirus threat to our state becoming bigger each day we met. Cross-Over Day means it is the last day a piece of legislation can pass out of the House and still remain eligible for consideration by the Senate and the same for the Senate passing laws for the House to have time to consider. As we were working on Thursday and into the night, everyone knew the legislative world was going to change.

During the evening Speaker of the House David Ralston, and Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan made the decision to suspend the 2020 legislative session until further notice due to the growing threat of COVID-19 (coronavirus) across the state and country. The suspension is out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of health and safety for my colleagues in the General Assembly, our staff, and the public. I know many of us were thinking about our Doorkeepers and staff who are retirees. We suspended the legislative session indefinitely after we adjourned for Legislative Day 29 on Friday, March 13. Yes, it was Friday the 13th. We will still be working on

legislation that has passed and having meetings and perfecting legislation in our committees so we can act on it when we return to the capitol at a later date.

I know there is great concern about the virus and its spread and what we should do as individuals. When I am asked a question I don't know, I go to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website to learn what I know is solid information. I know our State Dept. of Public Health is posting a lot of more Georgia-based information also for all of us to use.

For Monday morning, March 16, the Governor has called for a Special Joint Session at 8:00 am to deal with the state's response to the virus. We will do what is needed to keep Georgia as safe as possible.

Friday night and early Saturday morning a lot of calls were coming in to me and others concerning our wonderful public safety folks and the help they may/will need. Governor Kemp and commissioner of our Georgia Emergency Management opened the Emergency Command Center to help with the declared Health Emergency.

During this time, it's a good time to reach out to your friends and neighbors who may have special needs ...helping with kids, going to the store, pharmacy runs, or maybe just a friendly call to reassure a friend. What

may be a vacation to some is a crisis to others, as it depends on our situation. I was in one of our local restaurants on Saturday for lunch, and they were being so vigilant in cleaning surfaces and even the chairs folks were using. I know they all are working to be open for us and keep us safe.

While we were learning more about this Health Emergency at the Capitol, we passed the 2021 Budget in the House. We have been working on the budget since the second week of January making sure we meet the needs of Georgians.

Our Budget demonstrates the House's ongoing support of expanded mental health core and crisis intervention services, access to quality health care, and restoring grants for county health departments. We funded food inspectors and fully funded our schools. The Budget also includes the reinstatement of funds to ensure a fully-functioning criminal justice system, including adequate funding for public defenders, accountability courts, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) crime labs.

We did a lot more, but


space limits me; I can send you a full breakdown on what we did on the Budget and the bills we passed this past week. Just call or email me, and I will get it to you. I always appreciate your input and feedback regarding legislation, as your thoughts and opinions on these critical issues are essential to my decision-making process. You can reach me by phone at 770-893-2039 or the Capitol at 404-656-7153 or by email at rick.jasperse@house.ga.gov.

We live in a great State, and together we will get through this emergency. Thank you for allowing me



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the opportunity to serve you in the Georgia General Assembly.



GOT MARRIED?

GORDON GAZETTE

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Dawn Charles, Owner

Audrey Clayton, Groomer



Protecting your mental health during coronavirus outbreak

HIGHLAND RIVERS HEALTH

If the coronavirus outbreak is causing you some anxiety, you're not alone. The constant stream of rapidly changing information can be confusing. At the same time, business and school closings, emergency declarations at all levels of government and restrictions on public gatherings can be unsettling – especially perhaps to Americans who are generally accustomed to being safe when out in public.

We've known for some time that disasters and tragedies that endanger physical health – terrorist attacks like 9/11, hurricanes, shootings, wildfires and other mass casualty events – can also impact mental health. Survivors of tragedies can experience trauma and PTSD. But even those not directly impacted by a disaster – or in this case, the coronavirus pandemic – can experience emotional distress, anxiety, depression or other mental health impacts.

With that in mind, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC), the nation's authority for up-to-date and accurate information about coronavirus in the U.S., has developed a page devoted to mental health and the coronavirus on its website, (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>), as well as several recommendations for managing mental distress during the pandemic.

To begin, CDC says, everyone reacts differently to stressful situations. How different people respond to the coronavirus outbreak can depend on their background, their personality and their community.

People who are at higher risk for coronavirus, such as older adults and people with underlying health conditions, may have a stronger emotional or stress response. Others who may have a strong response include children and teens, healthcare workers and first responders, and individuals with mental health conditions or substance use.

Further, it's important to note that mental stress can take several forms,

not all of them obvious. For example, the CDC says people worried about coronavirus might experience changes in sleeping or eating patterns, difficulty sleeping or concentrating, worsening chronic health problems or increased use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Children and teens might also experience stress. In young people this might mean excessive worry, acting out or irritability, as well as difficulty concentrating in school and in general, avoiding social activities they used to enjoy, and use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.

The CDC also provides several suggested strategies you can use for yourself and your children to help reduce anxiety and stress related to the outbreak. In general, it is important to have accurate and up-to-date information about the outbreak and steps being taken to control its spread. In addition, CDC recommends the following:

- Limit your and your family's exposure to news coverage of the event, including social media. Children may misinterpret what they



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand, and hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.

- Take care of your body. Try to eat healthy, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid alcohol and drugs.

- Make time to unwind; try to do activities you enjoy each day.

- Talk with your child or teen about the outbreak. Reassure your children they are safe. Let them know it is ok to feel upset. Share how you deal with stress so they can learn how to cope from you.

- Be a role model. Take breaks, get plenty

of sleep, exercise, and eat well. Connect with your friends and family members.

At Highland Rivers, we are doing everything we can to support our employees and especially the individuals who rely on our agency for help. We have instituted infection control protocols at all our locations and continue monitor the situation closely. So far we have not closed any of our locations, but we ask anyone who might have symptoms of respiratory illness to reschedule their appointments. We want to be sure we protect the physical health of our staff and community so

we can continue to be here to serve individuals' mental health needs.

Melanie Dallas is a licensed professional counselor and CEO of Highland Rivers Health, which provides treatment and recovery services for individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities in a 12-county region of northwest Georgia that includes Bartow, Cherokee, Floyd, Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk and Whitfield counties.

GORDON Gazette

The **ONLY LOCALLY OWNED AND LOCALLY STAFFED** news outlet covering the Calhoun-Gordon County community

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CASA
From page 1A

and subsequent reviews. The report contains the wishes of the child and the facts that have been gathered. On the day of the hearing, the report is shared with the judge and attorneys involved in the case. The information provided in the report is very helpful and is used by the attorneys in their question of witnesses and by the judge in making his decision on what is in the best interest of the child.”

Current CASA volunteers were on hand to give their experience serving CASA. All of the volunteers

present stressed the main goal of CASA: helping children find permanency.

“We are the voice for that child,” said one volunteer. “A lot of these children have never had permanency, and their lives have never had stability. We are there to be a voice for the child, to get the child’s wishes, talk with others involved and report our findings to the court.”

Dillard expressed that CASA volunteers are needed at this time in Gordon County. No experience is necessary to become a volunteer, but need to have good communication skills, the ability to work with others and a sincere desire to advocate on behalf of the best interest of children. Prospective volunteers must complete an interview, application and background

screening, which involves fingerprinting, and successfully complete a 10-session training program and observe juvenile court hearings for a minimum of 10 hours.

Dillard is accepting applications at this time from volunteers, and initially planned to schedule the first new volunteer training in May, but that training may be pushed back to the Summer depending on COVID-19 concerns.

Anyone interested in being a CASA volunteer can email Dillard for more information or to obtain/turn in an application at amberle.dillard@gordoncounty.org. For more questions, Dillard can be reached at 706-629-4561, Ext. 6.

Church Calendar

ONGOING

-Philadelphia Christian School is located off Highway 41 between Calhoun and Adairsville. The school offers 4-year-old kindergarten through 12th grade, using the A-Beka curriculum. To find out more about the school, call the office at 706-625-3233.

-Faith Deliverance Ministry and Outreach will be taking donations of clothes, shoes, also all house hold items to help needy families. Call Minister Evelyn Adams at 706-671-7988.

-Celebrate Recovery, a faith based 12-step program, meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Relevate Church in Ranger off 411. Call Nicole for information: 706-979-4713/706-290-8028.

-East Calhoun Church of God, at 401 Peters Street, gives out groceries and clothing through the “Feed the Needy” ministry each Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The church hosts a miracle healing service every first Friday at 7 p.m. For more information, contact “Feed the Needy” ministry director Florence Jones at 706-409-1981. Senior pastor is Keith Reid.

CHURCH
DIRECTORY

Fairmount United Methodist Church-Loving One Another To Christ. Sunday School at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. Children’s Church provided. New Minister now Leading. New programs and community outreach coming soon.

-Pastor Terry Reisner invites everyone to the Vision Pentecostal Ministry located at 401 South Wall Street in Calhoun. Come hear the truth of God’s Word Sundays at 11 a.m.

-Faith Deliverance Church & Outreach Ministry Welcomes Everyone to an Anointed Church Service at 1320 Dawnville Road in Dalton every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Thursday at 7 p.m. Pastor and Evangelist Evelyn Adams, also an Anointed Gospel Singing. Come expecting Jesus to move for you. Miracles, Healing, Deliverance, Salvation. For more information or directions, call Minister Evelyn Adams (706) 671-7988

-Pine Chapel United Methodist Church, located at 2232 Pine Chapel Road in Resaca, “A place to begin, belong and become.” Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Louise W. Elmore.

-Resaca Assembly of God, located at 904 Resaca Lafayette Rd NW, would like to welcome everyone to please come and join in worship and meet our Pastor Steve Burns and his lovely wife Cathy. Sunday school at 10 a.m., worship service on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.. Everyone is invited.

-Calhoun First United Methodist Church Sunday Worship times: 9:00 a.m.,

traditional worship; 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m., contemporary service (in the CAC). Calhoun First UMC is located at 205 East Line Street in downtown Calhoun.

-First Presbyterian Church, located at 829 Red Bud Road N.E. in Calhoun. Pastor David McDonald invites you to join us on Sunday for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Bible Study Class Tuesday 10 a.m.

-Oakman Baptist Church located at 397 Oakman Rd. Oakman, Georgia, has Sunday school at 10 a.m. Covered dish dinner every third Sunday following worship. Everyone is invited!

-Damascus Baptist Church, located on North Highway 41 in Calhoun, Sunday School at 10 a.m. Sunday worship at 11 a.m. and Sunday night at 6 p.m.

-Old Sugar Valley United Methodist Church located at 2659 Old Rome Dalton Road in Calhoun has Breakfast Social at 9:30 am every Sunday. The church history is colorful, dating back to the Civil War,

small cozy country church nothing fancy! Come join us!

-Faith Deliverance Ministry and Outreach with Evelyn M. Adams, Minister has been ordained as a Minister of the Gospel since 1972. Call anytime to come minister to your church of place or event at 706-337-3241. 24-hour prayer line at 706-671-7988. Send all prayer requests to P.O Box 394, Fairmount GA, 30139.

-Pleasant Valley Baptist Church is a Bible believing & teaching church located in the Red Bud Community. Pastor Keith Gibson and the congregation invite you to come and worship with us at 3882 Red Bud Rd., Calhoun. Opportunities for worship: Bible Study for all ages 10 a.m., Children’s Church up to 5th grade 11a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Wednesday night service times Prayer Bible Study and Student Ministries 7 p.m. 706-624-0198, Fine us on Facebook or email pvbccalhoun@gmail.com

-Maranatha Baptist Church on Hwy 225

across from paradise Drag Strip, Calhoun would like to invite you to attend our services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Night Services are at 7 p.m. Everyone is Welcome. Pastor Richard Webster.

-Evangelistic Outreach Ministries on 1590 Dews Pond Road. Pastor Mark Kirby invites everyone to Fellowship and Worship with us. Children’s Church on Sunday Services starts at 11:00am Childrens Church starts at 11:30am. Wednesday nights Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm. Come out and see what the Lord is doing!

-The College Street Church of God, 731 College St., Calhoun, 706-483-3666, pastor Dewayne Smith, holds weekly services: Sunday school at 10 a.m., Sunday; morning worship at 11 a.m., Sunday; Sunday night service at 6 p.m.; and Bible study on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

-Victory Fellowship Center, 925 Oothcalooga St., invites you to weekly worship services held at 11 a.m. every Sunday

morning. Pastor Joe Stewart and the VFC family also invite everyone to join each Wednesday at noon and 7:30 p.m. for anointed and enlightening Bible studies. If you are looking to grow in your understanding of God’s plan for your life and gain greater insight of the life changing power of His word, come and join us as we study the word.

-Boone Ford Baptist Church invites you to attend its services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. and Worship services at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday night services are at 6 p.m. on the first and third Sunday night of each month. Wednesday night services start at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Gary Quarles, pastor.

-Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and Pastor David Peeler invite everyone to attend weekly services. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Sunday evening activities and discipleship training begin at 6 p.m., and children’s and youth programs at 7 p.m. Wednesday service begins at 7 p.m., along with Bible

study programs for children and youth.

-Pastor Steve Corbin invites everyone to regular services at New Zion Baptist Church. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m. and Sunday night service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night Bible study is at 7:15 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

-Greater Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, 259 Herring Road, NW, Armuchee, invites you to come worship and fellowship with us on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Pastor Reginald McDaniel and Church Family also welcome you to attend Mid-Week Bible Study, Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. and Sunday School at 10 a.m.. We are a church on the move for Christ, come share with us as we grow in the Word of God.

-Resaca First Baptist Church and Pastor Rev. Harold Blackstock would like to invite you to attend our Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Sunday night service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday night service at 6 p.m. for children and youth.

CEF Good News Clubs 5K



5K FEES

\$15 students ages 6-18
\$20 before April 3
(guaranteed t-shirt)
\$25 between April 3 - May 1
\$30 Race Day

REGISTRATION / LOCATION

Race day check-in and registration begin at 7:00 am at the black and gold pavilion and playground.

May 2, 2020
8:30 AM

Calhoun City Recreation Department

CEF of NWGA is monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Should the Good News 5K be postponed, an announcement will be made toward the end of April.

You may register and pay online at
www.cefofnwga.com



For more information contact Tundra Taylor 770-548-8068 or Daniel Worley 770-881-0103

Georgia DNR urges public to reduce risk, protect your health; suggests online and email license buying procedures

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

To protect your health and ours, the Wildlife Resources Division strongly suggests online and email license buying procedures.

See below for each license type. Be aware that mailed applications to our office may be delayed because of office staffing levels and safe handling procedures.

Recreational Hunting, Fishing, and related licenses: Online at GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com or telephone at 1-800-366-2661.

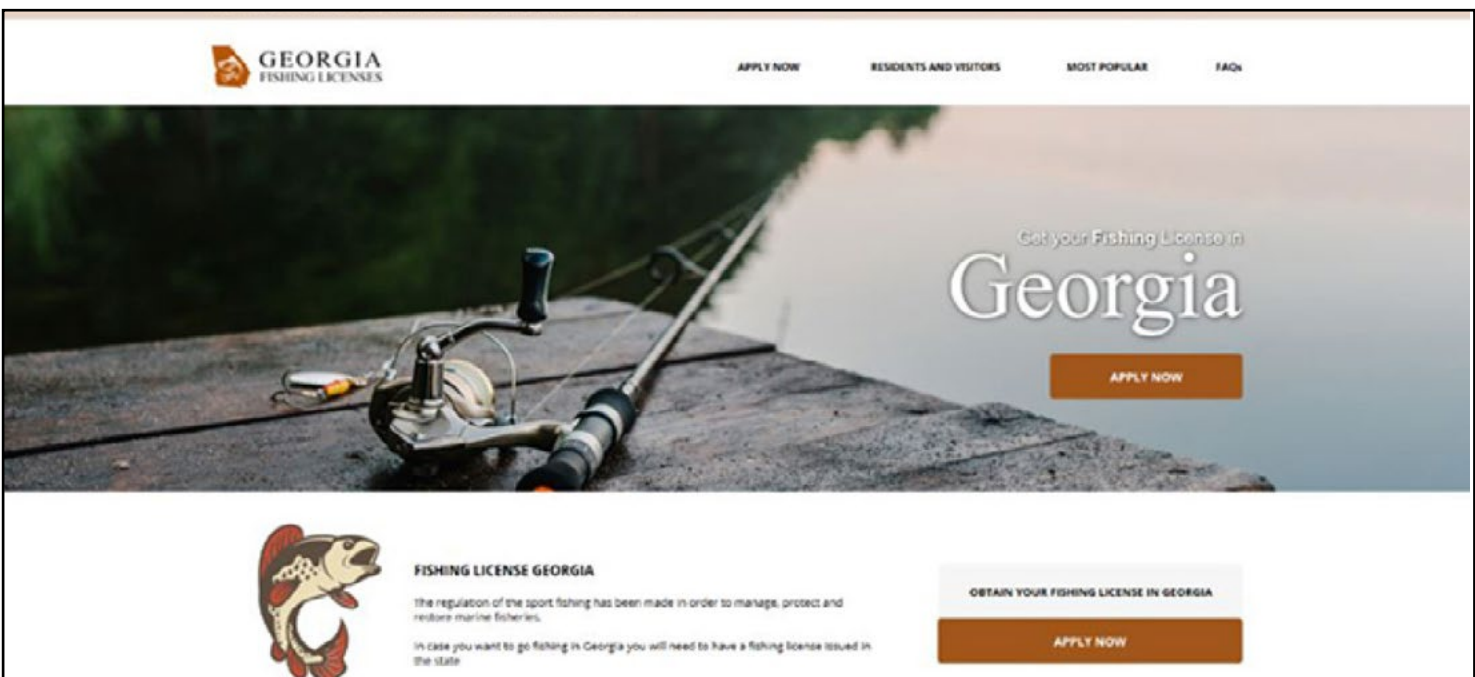
Lifetime Sportsman Licenses: email the completed application and any required documents to weblbru@dnr.ga.gov, or fax application and required documents to 706-557-3565. Call 1-800-366-2661 if these options are not available.

WRD Commercial License Application: email completed application and any required documents to weblbru@dnr.ga.gov, or fax application and required documents to 706-557-3565. Call 1-800-366-2661 if these options are not available.

Boat Registrations: Online at GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com or telephone at 1-800-366-2661. Mailed boat registration applications will not be delayed but mail is not normally as fast as online or telephone options.

Commercial Licenses/Lifetime Licenses: If scanning applications/documents and emailing as attachments is not an option, emailing clear pictures work. Procedures for emailing a picture can be found on the Internet (for example: <https://www.wikihow.com/Email-Pictures-from-a-Cell-Phone>).

Emailing Pictures Using Android
Make sure that the photo you're trying to email is saved onto your phone. Open all controls by tapping



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the white arrow in the bottom left. Tap into your gallery and open the picture. Tap the Share icon and choose your desired email. The share icon is two small arrows with one circle between them. After tapping the share icon, you are given a number of options, depending on the digital accounts associated with the phone. Select the photos you want to email. After choosing your email option, you will be brought to a screen where you can navigate through the phone's photos. Select images by gently tapping on the image you want to send. You are able to send multiple images by checking them all off consecutively. Tap the next button after picking your photographs. This will carry the chosen photos into a new window, where they will be attached to an email. Compose your email message and send. By tapping on the fields, enter an email contact and a message if desired. You can also add a subject here.

Emailing Pictures Using iPhone iOS

Open your photo app and find the picture(s) you want to email. The photo app is an icon that looks similar to a multi-colored flower. Scroll up in down by stroking the screen. Select your photos. Click "Select" at the upper right hand of your screen, then click the picture(s) you wish to send. If you don't see the "Select" option, try tapping the photo once. This will pull up all options. Click the share symbol and attach to your mail. The share symbol is at the bottom left of the screen and looks like a square with an arrow pointing upwards. After tapping the share option, tap "Email photos". Some iPhones require you to tap "Next" and then "Mail". Repeat these steps until all the pictures you want to email are attached. Construct your email. After you click on the mail icon, a new message will appear. Write the body of the email and fill out the

subject.

If you are using iOS 8 or higher, move the cursor down to the body of the email, where you'd normally add a memo, information, or other various texts. Hold down in that area, until a magnifying glass pops up. Release your finger from the screen, and a black menu should show up with options for "select" and "select all". To the right of the black bar, press the arrow pointing to the right. "Quote Level" and "Insert Photo or Video" options should appear after pressing the arrow. Tap "Insert Photo or Video." Add contacts. Click on the "To:" field if your cursor is not already on it. Type in who you want to send your message to. Send your email. Once all pictures are attached, select send at the top right corner of the screen.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gordon Gazette has a special, free section on their website to keep the public informed of the latest local information and closings at [www.gordongazettega.com/ community-response-covid-19](http://www.gordongazettega.com/community-response-covid-19)

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