

# GORDON Gazette

Weekend, April 4, 2020

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

## WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

The Calhoun-Gordon County community comes together to serve others, recognize heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic

### Hundreds from the community show support for those working frontline at AdventHealth Gordon

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Hundreds of residents of the Calhoun-Gordon County community surrounded AdventHealth Gordon in vehicles on Thursday night, April 2, to show support for healthcare workers, public safety and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All parking lots of the local hospital were packed full of people wanting to show their support and pray for those working on the frontline of COVID-19. Organized by several in the community, those who showed up flashed their lights and honked their horns as

doctors and nurses of the hospital came outside to be recognized for the tireless hours they are working at this time.

"This is the most amazing thing that you could ever imagine," said Calhoun Pre-K teacher Jason Hawkins, a Calhoun native who offered a prayer for the hospital and community on Facebook live during the event. "There are cars in every parking spot, there are lights flashing, just showing solidarity for everyone (that works at the hospital), to

See **COMMUNITY**, page 7A



### Rock Bridge Community Church holds food drop

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On Wednesday, April 1, Rock Bridge Community Church, located on Curtis Parkway in Calhoun, organized a food drop that served families throughout Gordon County.

"The food drop was part of Rock Bridge's Outreach program," said the program's director, Karli Land. "We partnered with the Gordon County School System. They compiled a list of their families who are low income or have been laid off due to COVID-19. We were then able to purchase 290 food boxes from the Chattanooga Food Bank and had volunteers from the church that delivered those to the doorsteps



See **ROCK BRIDGE**, page 7A

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Gordon County Fire & Rescue respond to house fire on Darby Road.

#### HEALTH 9A



Harbin Clinic launches HarbinConnect Virtual Visits online.

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### Because Calhoun Cares makes first delivery of meals to AdventHealth Gordon

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Because Calhoun Cares, a charity organization set up to utilize locally-owned restaurants and catering services to provide meals to employees of AdventHealth Gordon, along with those in the public considered at-risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, made their first delivery of almost 300 meals to hospital workers on Wednesday afternoon, April 1.

Consisting of meals from King Street Market, Christian & Jakes, Thurston's, Calhoun Coffee Company and Wall Street Catering, Because Calhoun Cares was the idea of King Street Market owner Denise Stripling, who enlisted the help of Mollie Surratt, owner of White Label Studio, a marketing agency based in Calhoun that services national brands.

"Needless to say, COVID-19 and the resulting impact has left the entire community of Calhoun-and the world around us- feeling shaken and uncertain. During times like this, we rely on the care and support of our community more than ever," said BCC in a statement. "In recognizing needs across Gordon County, the food service industry has



BRANDI OW CZARZ/Staff

Denise Stripling, second from right, and Mollie Surratt, far right, started Because Calhoun Cares as a way to utilize locally-owned restaurants and catering services to provide meals to employees of AdventHealth Gordon, along with those in the public considered at-risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are pictured delivering the first meals to employees of AdventHealth Gordon.

noticed that our local healthcare professionals are working unusually long hours and finding it difficult to get nutritious and delicious meals due to modified in-hospital cafeteria services. Additionally, senior citizens around the community are suffering from limited food and

isolation.

Dubbed 'The Food Chain Project,' Stripling felt Because Calhoun Cares would be the perfect way to keep locally owned restaurants in business while helping healthcare workers and those most at risk.

"This means that small

business has work at a time when the work has been cut back to nothing or little to nothing," said Stripling while making the first delivery. "It not only allows us to keep working and keep

See **CARES**, page 7A

# Second Front

## GCF&R responds to Darby Road fire late Wednesday

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Gordon County Fire & Rescue continue to investigate the cause of a house fire Wednesday night on Darby Road.

On Wednesday night, April 1, Gordon County Fire & Rescue were dispatched to a structure fire at 464 Darby Road SW in Calhoun. Upon arrival, firefighters found the two-story, residential home about 50 percent involved in fire. While

the crew had knocked the fire back, it spread to the second floor rapidly, and defensive operations were ordered. Fire crews worked for two hours to control the fire due to limited access to the wooden home.

The owner of the home told fire officials that his wife had noticed the fire and alerted him; he rushed to the house while his wife called E-911. The owner stated the fire was mostly at the carport area and had

reached the front porch when he arrived. The tenant of the home is in the process of moving out and said that he had only had a lawnmower on the carport with no electric chargers or electric tools hooked up in the carport area.

The fire caused \$176,000 worth of both property and content damage, of a total pre-incident value of \$181,000. The fire remains under investigation.



BRANDI OW CZARZ/Staff

## AdventHealth Gordon releases Updated Visitor Restrictions Policy

CONTRIBUTED

In order to protect our patients, visitors and team members from the spread of COVID-19, we are enacting an updated visitor policy for all AdventHealth locations effective immediately and continuing until further notice. This plan applies to all patients who are seen in any AdventHealth location.

No visitors are allowed to wait in the waiting room or other locations in the hospital. If a visitor meets one of the following exceptions, they will be expected to remain in the patient's room until discharge.

All visitors will be screened upon arrival and must not have any symptoms of illness. If a visitor does not meet screening criteria, the visitor will not be allowed to enter the facility.

### Adult Inpatient/ED Facilities:

No visitors will be permitted except under specific circumstances and by prior approval from the AdventHealth care team. All visitors must be 18 years of age or older. The exceptions

are:

One visitor for end-of-life care.

One visitor in labor and delivery and postpartum.

One visitor for patients undergoing emergency surgery related to a traumatic event.

One visitor if the patient's care team has requested the visitor to be a part of scheduled family training for patients with rehabilitation or for help with cognitive needs with approval from the AdventHealth care team.

One parent and/or legal guardian for pediatric patients.

The one designated caregiver should stay with the patient in their room during entirety of the patient's stay.

### Outpatient Appointments:

One visitor will be permitted to accompany a patient to facilitate care or treatment such as an ambulatory visit, procedure or same-day surgery.

Visitors are not allowed in our adult cancer centers where care is being delivered to potentially immunocompromised patients. Visitors can wait in the car or in designated



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

area (per instruction at your hospital).

We encourage family, friends and

loved ones to use electronic devices and apps to keep in contact with patients.

## SBA offers small businesses financial options during COVID-19 crisis

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The Small Business Association recognizes that the nation's small businesses are facing an unprecedented economic disruption due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. On Friday, March 27, 2020, President Donald Trump signed into law the CARES Act, which contains \$376 billion in relief for American workers and small businesses.

In addition to traditional SBA funding programs, the CARES Act established several new temporary programs to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

### Paycheck Protection Program

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll.

SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans once they are approved and enrolled in the program. You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating in the program.

Lenders may begin processing loan applications as soon as April 3, 2020. The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020.

For more information on the Paycheck Protection Program, visit [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp](http://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp)

### EIDL Loan Advance

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. This advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of

revenue. Funds will be made available following a successful application. This loan advance will not have to be repaid.

The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan provides vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This program is for any small business with less than 500 employees (including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons), private non-profit organization or 501(c)(19) veterans organizations affected by COVID-19.

Businesses in certain industries may have more than 500 employees if they meet the SBA's size standards for those industries.

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance funds will be made available within days of a successful application, and this loan advance will not have to be repaid.

For more information, visit [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loan-emergency-advance](http://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loan-emergency-advance)

### SBA Express Bridge Loans

Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program allows small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 quickly. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct SBA Economic Injury Disaster loan. If a small business has an urgent need for cash while waiting for decision and disbursement on an Economic Injury Disaster Loan, they may qualify for an SBA Express Disaster Bridge Loan.

### Terms

- o Up to \$25,000
- o Fast turnaround
- o Will be repaid in full or in part by proceeds from the EIDL loan

For more information, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

See **SBA**, page **7A**

# ELECT BRUCE POTTS

## Gordon County Commissioner District 3



### Commissioner Focus:

#### SAFETY AND SECURITY

Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Public Safety, Emergency Management, Ambulatory/Life Flight with ideas that make our agencies stronger. I plan to connect leaders in the region, state, and nation to the best of Gordon County.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation design-redesign, Improve alternate means of Travel, Varied services provided for our community, Increase our Band Width with Internet for all of Gordon County, Growth Planning and Implementation make-up the infrastructure needs. Service Delivery Strategy review.

#### WORKFORCE/INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Recruit a diverse Industry base and develop business partnerships that offer the necessary training to retain the needed workforce. Workforce will shape the future of Gordon County.

#### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR GORDON CO.

Designed to improve Gordon County for those who call this our home. Home ownership, Pro-Family, Senior Care, Recreation is a part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Visit me on Facebook at 'Bruce Potts- GC Commissioner District 3'

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# Obituaries

## April 4, 2020

### Gilberte Berglar

Gilberte Jill Berglar, 93, of Calhoun, died Tuesday, April 2, 2020. She was born in Central Falls, R.I. on July 10, 1926 to the late Edward and Eva Guillette Plamondon. She was preceded in death by her husband Herman Berglar in 1981.

She is survived by her children, Edward and Michele Berglar, Gerrgette and Stephen Harwelik, Madeleine and David Krukowski, Pamela Rooney, and H. Joshua Berglar; grandchildren, Christopher Berglar, Cory Berglar, Andrea Owens, Gillian Marshall, James McGowan, David Krukowski, Michelle Krukowski, Danielle Krukowski, Jessica Lynch, James Rooney, and Jenna Rooney; several other relatives also survive.

She was a member of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness.

To honor her wishes her body was cremated.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Gilberte Jill Berglar.



### Jody Chastain

Jody Chastain, 47, of the Fairmount Community, died on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 following several years of declining health.

Jody is survived by his parents, Jimmy and Elaine "Red" Chastain; his brother and sister-in-law, Lamar and Tonya Chastain; his niece, Savannah Chastain.

Due to the current safety protocols, a private



family funeral service will be held with burial at Haven of Rest Memorial Park. Friends may sign the online guest register at [www.maxbrannonandsons.com](http://www.maxbrannonandsons.com). They may also call the staff of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral at 706.629.4508 and your name will be signed in the guest register along with any condolences you wish to express.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Jody Chastain.



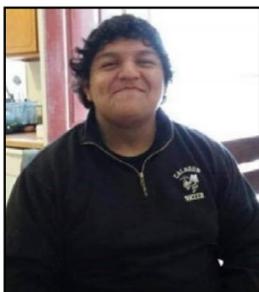
### Michael Escobar

Michael Lee Escobar, 23, of Calhoun, died Tuesday, April 2, 2020 at AdventHealth Gordon. He was born in Alice, Texas on Feb. 25, 1997 to Teodoro A. Escobar Sr. and Laura Ann Lopez.

He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Laura Ann and Gilberto Lopez; father and stepmother, Teodoro A. Escobar Sr. and Elsa Ruiz; siblings, Teodoro A. Jr. and his wife Soledad Escobar, Alejandra Escobar, Celia Jason Escobar, Bryan Escobar, Jesus Escobar, Issac Escobar; grandparents, Gregorio and Linda Gonzales; uncles and aunts, Ronnie and Robbie Gonzales, Bentio Gonzales, Melissa and Islado Cantu, Nelda Perez, and Olga Barrios; cousins, Juan G. Salas, Jehudi Salas, and Daniella Giron; nieces, Veronica B. Escobar, Sofia S. Escobar, and Estrella T. Escobar.

Michael's body was cremated, and a public memorial service will be held at a later date.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to



serve the family of Michael Lee Escobar.



### Vickie Williams

Vickie Dorsey Williams, age 66 of Calhoun, passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

Vickie was born on Oct. 26, 1953 in Gordon County to the late Cale Vance Dorsey and Lois Holbert Dorsey. In addition to her parents she was also preceded in death by: her husband, Billy Wayne Williams; and sister, Gail Dorsey. Vickie was employed by P&R Auto Sales.

Vickie is survived by: her two daughters, Christy Singleton of Calhoun and April Wooten of Calhoun; step-son, Isaac Williams of Cartersville; step-daughter, Candace Scarce of Lincoln, Ala.; sister, Ricki Walraven; seven grandchildren, Tyler, Hannah, Lane, Grant, Gibson, Toby, and Aria; great-grandchild, Ira June; and several nieces and nephews who she adored.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Susan G. Komen Greater Atlanta at 3525 Piedmont Road, Building 5, Suite 215, Atlanta, GA 30305.

You may leave the family online condolences at [www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com](http://www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com)

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Vickie Dorsey Williams.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 [dawnssisson@msn.com](mailto:dawnssisson@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.



**VOTE**  
**KEN PADGETT**  
**CORONER**

**TIME**  
**FOR**  
**CHANGE**

My goal is to bring the Coroner's Office into the 21st Century. The County has plans to build a new morgue and coroner's office, and I want to elevate the office to better serve Gordon County.

- Only candidate that has been a certified EMT, Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer
- More than 28 years in law enforcement with the Calhoun Police Department and GCSO
  - Has worked numerous death investigations, including murders and child death
  - Strong working relationship with all departments in Gordon County government
  - Ready to hit the ground running for Gordon County

Visit me on Facebook at 'Padgett for Coroner'

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# Gov. Kemp issues Shelter in Place order; closes public schools for rest of 2019-2020 school year

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On Wednesday, April 1, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp issued a Stay in Place order for the state to address ongoing concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the Shelter in Place, the order closes all public schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

During his address, Kemp said that he was issuing the Stay in Place due to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changing directives that now advise that people could infect others even if they showed no symptoms.

He told citizens his top priority is keeping Georgians safe and healthy and that the executive order will help stop the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve.

Points Kemp made about the Shelter in Place order:

The Executive Order is in effect from Friday, April 3 at 6 p.m. until Monday, April 13 at 11:59 p.m.

Businesses and professionals that must cease in-person operations and close to the public during this time include: Bars, Nightclubs, Gyms, Fitness centers, Bowling allies,

Theaters, Live performance venues, Operations of amusement parks, Estheticians, Hair designers, Body art studios/tattoo parlors, Beauty shops and salons including home business, Barber shops including home business, Cosmetology schools, Hair design schools, Esthetics schools, Nail care schools, Licensed massage therapists and Dine-in services at restaurants and private social clubs (exceptions include take-out, curbside, delivery and dine-in services at hospital, healthcare facilities, nursing home and other long care facilities).

Those who are exempt from Shelter in Place includes those engaging in: Essential Services (those who obtain necessary supplies and services for your household s or going to the grocery store, medical appointments and the pharmacy or picking up food or having delivered to your house.);

Critical Infrastructure (those working in Chemical, Commercial Facilities, Communications, Critical Manufacturing, Dams, Defense Industrial Base, Emergency Services, Financial, Food & Agriculture, Government Facilities, Information Technology, Healthcare & Public Health, Nuclear Reactors, Materials & Waste, Transportation Systems and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Water);

Minimum Basic Operations (those minimum activities to maintain the value of a business, establishment, corporation, non-profit, provide services, manage inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits or related functions; minimum necessary to facilitate employees or volunteers being able to work remotely from their residences; instances where employees are working outdoors without regular contact with other

persons such as delivery services, contractors, landscape business and agricultural industry services).

Necessary Travel (the travel required for someone to conduct or participate in Essential Services, Minimum Basic Operations or work for Critical Infrastructure.

For more information, see the order and supporting documents on the Gordon Gazette website at [www.gordongazettega.com/community-information-covid-19-apri](http://www.gordongazettega.com/community-information-covid-19-apri)

## Mohawk Industries and Fabric Sources International partner to create medical gowns

The companies are beginning production of medical isolation gowns and protective face shields to meet the needs of healthcare providers at area medical facilities; launch project with donation to local hospital

CONTRIBUTED

Dalton, Ga. – Mohawk Industries and Fabric Sources International (FSI) are combining resources to address urgent medical supply needs at Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, Ga. and Emory Healthcare in Atlanta during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Using fabric provided by FSI, Mohawk Home’s Dalton-based rug manufacturing facility is providing industrial sewing equipment for their skilled employees to produce vitally needed medical protective gear for doctors, nurses and other care providers.

“During the developing COVID-19 crisis, we came together as a team to look at our current capabilities and see if there was any way that we could help the medical groups in our communities,” Bart Hill, senior vice president, product development and operations, said. “When the team at FSI reached out to Hamilton Medical Center to learn about their needs, they found out that Hamilton was in short supply of medical gowns worn by care providers. That’s when FSI asked us if we could combine our resources and skills to produce these items.”

Healthcare providers wear these gowns in non-surgical settings to prevent their clothing from being contaminated by patient body fluids. The gowns are worn when a patient’s symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 or other infectious diseases and contact precautions must be taken. The Mohawk Home team quickly developed a process for cutting the fabric pattern and sewing together the gown components.

“When we were made aware that our local hospital was out of these gowns, we were asked, ‘Do you think you can do this?’” Darlene Pasley, sewing department manager, said. “Our quick answer was ‘yes,’ even though we didn’t yet know how to do it and had

never done anything like this before. We just knew we had to do what we could to help.”

Pasley explained how the team disassembled a medical isolation gown, measured it, copied the size, cut out a pattern by hand, and sewed it back together. Earl Nichols, Mohawk Home senior engineer, and the team broke down every step into a separate process for the team and set up a small assembly line in a day.

“I have family members that are in the medical field, and all of them were telling me the same thing we’re hearing on the news, that they were running low on supplies,” Jesus Naranjo, cutting department manager, said. “So, I was ready to jump in immediately to try to help. We cut out the first design by hand with the intention of taking that shape and mass producing it on our equipment. We had never designed anything other than a rug on our equipment before, but using our software and going through several revisions, we created an approved design.”

The sewing team adapted quickly to the new product and material. Production has now expanded over the past two weeks from a handful of gowns to 1,200 per day, with plans to continue speeding up the process.

“I’m so happy that we’re able to help our doctors and nurses,” Wanda Rowe, lead sample rug sewing machine operator, said. “I think we sometimes take for granted that the supplies we need to do our jobs will always be there. The first gown was very tedious to put together, but when the rest of the gown sewing team worked together to each do their part, things came together like clockwork.”

About 1,000 of these medical gowns are being donated to Hamilton Medical Center, and the groups have also begun supplying gowns to Emory’s hospital system.

“Amazing things can happen when the community

and local businesses come together to solve real-world community challenges,” Chris Simuro, president of FSI, said. “I could not be prouder of the team here at Fabric Sources International for its efforts to step up and help find ways to supply the medical personal protective equipment (PPE) our community hospitals need as they battle every day to care for our community. Our team has been working day and night for the past 10 days to create solutions the medical community desperately needs, and they all would say they feel blessed to have such a unique opportunity to step up and help our community in such a direct way.”

As much as possible, the teams plan to expand production to meet the needs of other area hospitals facing supply shortages.

“I’m really proud to work for a company like Mohawk that immediately wanted to help out the community,” Nichols said. “In a matter of two days, we were able to engineer, create and sort out the supply chain to manufacture these much-needed supplies for the hospitals. We just wanted to help in any way we could.”

The group has also begun the process of creating plastic face shields, another item needed by healthcare providers for protection when they treat patients. The face shield design has been approved by the hospitals, and the group is refining its manufacturing process to determine its capacity.

“Our team here has been so enthusiastic and helpful with taking on this challenge of learning to manufacture different items in such a short amount of time,” Hill said. “Everyone has the attitude that we’re all in this together with our teams and our community, and they want to do whatever they can to help. We’re very proud of these team members and their eagerness to use their skills to support our medical professionals.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Mohawk has a history of providing support in times of need. During World War II, the company converted woven carpet looms to produce more than 5 million blankets for use by U.S. soldiers on the European and Pacific fronts. Mohawk also manufactured millions of square yards of cotton canvas cloth that the military used for tents, sandbags, tarpaulins, duffle bags and more.

Along with manufacturing surgical gowns and plastic face shields, the Mohawk team is also working to identify sources for certified, protective face masks for AdventHealth to help ensure that the providers in their Calhoun and Chatsworth, Ga. hospitals have the protective gear they need to keep themselves and others safe. Mohawk is offering their logistical and supply chain resources and expertise to help with the sourcing of these items.

About Mohawk Mohawk Industries is a leading global flooring manufacturer that creates products to enhance residential and commercial spaces around the world. Mohawk’s vertically integrated manufacturing and distribution processes provide competitive advantages in the production of carpet, rugs,

ceramic tile, laminate, wood, stone and vinyl flooring. Our industry-leading innovation has yielded products and technologies that differentiate our brands in the marketplace and satisfy all remodeling and new construction requirements. Our brands are among the most recognized in the industry and include Mohawk, American Olean, Daltile, Durkan, Feltex, Godfrey Hirst, IVC, Karastan, Marazzi, Pergo, Quick-Step and Unilin. During the past decade, Mohawk has transformed its business from an American carpet manufacturer into the world’s largest flooring company with operations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, India, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

About Fabric Sources International Fabric Sources International is a global leader in offering engineered solutions designed to meet the unique needs of our customers. We buy, sell, convert, laminate and coat various fabrics and substrates. Our customers love doing business with us because we always rise to the challenge to develop solutions they demand with our proven “listen, engineer and deliver” approach.

**GORDON**  
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# Sheriff addresses Gov. Kemp's Shelter in Place order

**GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF MITCH RALSTON**

"Yesterday, Governor Brian Kemp issued Executive Order 04.02.20.01 requiring certain measures to be taken by state and local governments, and by the public, to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. This Executive Order suspends the previous emergency orders already in place by the local governments. The Sheriff's Office began implementing counter-measures against the spread of the disease on March 16, and local emergency ordinances had already been in

place for some time as well. I give credit to both our local governments and to Calhoun and Gordon County citizens in recognizing and understanding the severity of the pandemic, and I am proud that as a community we have all been 'ahead of the curve' in making efforts to 'flatten the curve.'

"The role of the Sheriff's Office hasn't changed, only the methods by which we deliver services and keep our citizens safe and secure. We have modified and prioritized. We are utilizing the best technology available to facilitate working communications,

off-site networking, teleconferencing, working remotely, and other safety and health measures. My staff has been issued with personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to help keep them safe as they keep you safe. The number of requests for service is down, and I commend every citizen for playing their part in staying in staying safe, and being community minded. Deputy sheriffs are actively patrolling the entire county, answering calls for service and enforcing the laws to keep everyone safe and secure. You can always call on the Sheriff's Office for help. That will

not change, and anyone who makes the bad decision to try to take any advantage of this situation will be dealt with according to law and held accountable. The public in Calhoun and Gordon County has been tremendously supportive in our efforts, and have shown our staff much kindness in these unprecedented times. Neighbors are looking after neighbors, and we have come together as a community. I continue to urge everyone to follow the health and safety guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Public Health (DPH), and to

monitor media outlets for updates and information. "I would like to recognize and commend in the highest terms all of the first responders: law enforcement, fire/rescue, and especially our emergency medical personnel, along with the medical care providers who're truly on the front lines in this fight. They risk and sacrifice their own health and safety every day to help others. God bless them all. As Americans, Georgians, and citizens of Calhoun and Gordon County we are all very much in this together. Although the pandemic is a tremendous challenge, we will win the battle



Gordon County Sheriff Mitch Ralston.

and survive as a people, together, and with God's help be better. I urge each and every one of you to stay in, stay healthy, and join me in prayer for our nation, our state, and our community. God Bless You."

## Gordon Chamber continues to support local business during COVID-19 Crisis



**Kathy Johnson**  
Gordon County Chamber of Commerce President & CEO

As the President and Chief Executive Office of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce,

I am pleased with the major efforts that have been made to support our members as well as the business community at large during the COVID-19 Crisis. While the office is closed to public traffic, administration is reporting on alternating schedules while the staff works remotely. Dedicated pages have been created on the Chamber's website page, global emails are being issued almost daily, and the social media footprint has been expanded in order to create a one-

stop community resource and keep Calhoun-Gordon County informed. From the beginning, my primary goal has been to protect the health of those I lead, while continuing to conduct business to the fullest extent possible. At the Chamber, we will continue to support the businesses that are still creating, building, making, caring, and serving in Gordon County.

Like every Chamber executive, it is typical for me to spend a great deal of time and energy communicating with

local, state, regional, and national agencies for the benefit of the community, but there has been a dramatic increase in virtual conferencing as social distancing became the new normal. Through extensive efforts in this regard, we have been able to identify and promote the work being done by many agencies to help businesses cope with new challenges. We are aggressively pushing out information received from agencies including but in no way limited to local government,

multiple Congressional Delegations, Department of Labor, Department of Revenue, Georgia and United States Chambers of Commerce, Internal Revenue Service, Small Business Development Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Department of Economic Development, North Georgia Regional Commission, Department of Community Affairs, Center for Disease Administration, and the Governor's Office.

The Chamber

invites you to share any announcements, questions or concerns by emailing [communications@gordoncountychamber.com](mailto:communications@gordoncountychamber.com). We will make every effort to promote any business announcements and help you reach your customers through our communication modules. 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.

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## COMMUNITY

### From page 1A

show those on the inside just how much love and support is out in the parking lot. It's amazing what happens when a bunch of people come together. This shows us that super heroes don't wear masks and capes. Super heroes wear scrubs and lab coats; super heroes wear badges and holsters; super heroes wear helmets and heavy rain coats and they run towards what we run from in times like this. This is a chance for us, as a community, to say to those super heroes that we love you, we're praying for you, we're supporting you and we're here to be a source of encouragement."

Hawkins then spent a couple of minutes in prayer for the doctors, nurses, first responders and public safety on the frontline, as well as patients, of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're taking this to the throne of grace, because we know that God hears us and we know that God cares; we know that God's not wringing His hands at any of this and He's not caught by surprise," said Hawkins. "Prayer is the best tool that we have; it's the best medicine and best thing we can possibly offer."

On Friday, April 3, AdventHealth Gordon released a statement thanking everyone in the community who has graciously donated to the hospital during this time.

"We are so grateful to our community for the outpouring of support we have received! From food for our team members to cleaning and medical supplies, your donations are truly making a difference," said the hospital in a statement. "Thank you to our generous donors:

- Meals and Snacks
- Assured Hospice
- Because Calhoun Cares
- Calhoun Coffee Company
- Chick-fil-A
- Girl Scout Troop 10709
- High Point Nutrition
- Homespun Hospice
- King Street Market
- Rockbridge Community Church
- Salem Baptist Church
- Tapestry Hospice
- The Cookie Lady
- Thurston's Cafe
- Wall Street Catering
- Medical and Cleaning Supplies
- Calhoun City School System
- Gordon County School System
- Julian Dossche
- Shaw Industries
- Rugs
- Georgia Rug Company



## ROCK BRIDGE

### From page 1A

of those families. We had a total of 24 driver-passenger teams that delivered the boxes. Four people loaded the boxes into the cars as they pulled up to our doors. And four people were on the inside, organizing the addresses and making sure that everything stayed sanitized. We also had 18 Rock Bridgers that handwrote notes of encouragement to

those families, letting them know that each family had been prayed over. This is something we hope to do again but are watching and complying with regulations set in regards to the mandate to stay home and social distance.

Rock Bridge Calhoun is the second campus of the Rock Bridge family of churches, established in 2007, where Pastor Carl Converse has led since the beginning. The mission of Rock Bridge from the beginning was to glorify God by connecting people from all walks of life to life in Christ, which is what

they strive to do by serving those during times like the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing hope to those who are in need.

During this time, Rock Bridge Calhoun is holding online church services on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., and on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. They also have special prayer times on their Facebook page each week. Check their Facebook page at Rock Bridge Community Church Calhoun or visit them on their website at <http://rockbridge.cc>.

## CARES

### From page 1A

our staff working, but it provides for people who are really in need. We are not only providing for the employees of AdventHealth Gordon, but also the Infusion and Radiology Clinic, and patients that they refer to us that are at-risk that are receiving radiation or chemotherapy that do not need to be out trying to get their own meals."

Lauren Roland Weaver, a nurse who works in the ER at AdventHealth Gordon, said that the community has been extremely supportive during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that support has lifted the morale of those working the front lines.

"Working in the ER in this time (of COVID-19), it was stressful at first just from not knowing the expectations," said Weaver. "Here in Calhoun, I feel like we've had so much community response and help the whole time. There have been so many

different companies donating PPE and meals for us, and it has been a great experience seeing so many people in the community come together in support. It feels awesome that so many businesses, through Because Calhoun Cares, have donated to help us; it helps us know we are not alone. Yes, we are on the front lines seeing this, but we're not alone."

The estimated daily cost to provide meals to the community healthcare workers and seniors is \$5,000. Working on the marketing side, Surratt said Because Calhoun Cares has received a lot of initial support, but also need donations to be able to continue to provide the service in the ongoing weeks.

"Shaw Industries was our first corporate sponsor, and we're incredibly appreciative of that. We've also received donations from local businesses and citizens in Calhoun. But we need even more to keep this going to be able to feed our healthcare employees and those at risk," said Surratt.

According to Surratt, anyone who would like to be a community sponsor and make a citizen donation can do so by visiting the Because Calhoun Cares

website at [becausecalhouncares.com](http://becausecalhouncares.com). A GoFundMe account has been established. Checks, made out to 'Because Calhoun Cares,' can be dropped off at any First Bank location (the Calhoun branch is located at 197 WC Bryant Parkway). There is also a 'Text To Give' option.

"All of that information can be found on our website [becausecalhouncares.com](http://becausecalhouncares.com) and on our Facebook page by searching 'Because Calhoun Cares,'" said Surratt.

In addition to needing community sponsors and citizen donations to help fund the meals provided to local healthcare professionals and senior citizens, there's an opportunity for businesses to sponsor as well. For businesses wishing to become Business Community Sponsors, the company local will be included on each label of each meal and in all social media marketing efforts based on a minimum \$1,500 donation.

For more information, visit [www.becausecalhouncares.com](http://www.becausecalhouncares.com).

## SBA

### From page 2A

[sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/sba-express-bridge-loans](http://sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/sba-express-bridge-loans)

#### SBA Debt Relief

As part of SBA's debt relief efforts,

- o The SBA will automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of current 7(a), 504, and microloans for a period of six months.

- o The SBA will also automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of new 7(a), 504, and microloans issued prior to September 27, 2020.

For current SBA Serviced Disaster (Home and Business) Loans: If your disaster loan was in "regular servicing" status on March 1, 2020, the SBA is providing automatic deferments through December 31, 2020.

What does an "automatic deferral" mean to borrowers?

- o Interest will continue to accrue on the loan.
- o 1201 monthly payment notices will continue to be mailed out which will reflect the loan is deferred and no payment is due.

- o The deferment will NOT cancel any established Preauthorized Debit (PAD) or recurring payments on your loan. Borrowers that have established a PAD through Pay.Gov or an OnLine Bill Pay Service are responsible for canceling

these recurring payments. Borrowers that had SBA establish a PAD through Pay.gov will have to contact their SBA servicing office to cancel the PAD.

- o Borrowers preferring to continue making regular payments during the deferment period may continue remitting payments during the deferment period. SBA will apply those payments normally as if there was no deferment.

- o After this automatic deferment period, borrowers will be required to resume making regular principal and interest payments. Borrowers that cancelled recurring payments will need to reestablish the recurring payment.

For more information on any of the above programs, visit the SBA online at [www.sba.gov/](http://www.sba.gov/)

## Community Support Groups

**-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](http://www.alz.org/georgia).**

**- 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.**

**-Calhoun AA Group meetings. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 7 - 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 12 - 1 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Located at 318 North River Street, Calhoun, GA, 30701.**

**-Volunteers make a wonderful difference! PruittHealth Hospice is looking for people of vision and empathy who wish to make a difference in their community one person at a time. If you have a heart for others and wish to be of service, please contact**

us at 706-602-9546. Remember...you can make a difference for the good!

**-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](mailto:megan.guthrie@tapestryhospice.com)

**-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.

**-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.

**-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.

**-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.

**-Are you interested in losing pounds and inches? Join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** for support and how-to information. Meetings are on Monday nights. Weigh-ins begin at 6 p.m., and group support and information starts at 7 p.m. at the Gordon County Senior Citizens Center, 150 Cambridge Court, Calhoun. For more information, call 706-847-3306.

**-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](http://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.**

# Belwood Students Place in TOME Society Competitions

CONTRIBUTED

Harrison Hughes, Preslie Parish, Carden Sampson, Mia Vicente, and Emily Grace Walker.

Congratulations to the Belwood TOME Reading Bowl Team! Students competed by taking online tests, throughout the year, based on detailed questions from the assigned TOME chapter books. We are proud to announce that, in competition with over 70 other elementary schools, the Belwood Reading Bowl Team placed 4th Overall in the state. The team had also qualified to further compete, at the TOMECON Reading Bowl State Competition in Gainesville, which was cancelled. We thank these students for their hard work, dedication and team spirit in representing Belwood. We also wish to thank the parents for their support. Members of the reading bowl team include: Maddie Anglin, Leah Cain, Jaycee Cochran, Madison Ensley,

Congratulations to Belwood Tome Club members for working diligently and representing Belwood well as they competed with schools from across North Georgia. Club members won 2nd place in the category of Service Project Newsletter, which described their Coulter Hampton Foundation fundraising efforts and related it to the book The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street by Karina Yan Glaser in which a community comes together to help a local family. Students who contributed articles to the newsletter include: Leah Cain, Jaycee Cochran, Madison Ensley, and Emily Grace Walker.

Three members of the TOME Team also won individual TOME Service Awards for volunteering their time serving as



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

reading buddies for younger students. This beneficial reading support activity was coordinated by Mrs. Katie Edwards and Mrs. Terrie Fitzwater. Recognized TOME Club Members include: Sofia Bautista Bravo, Mia

Vicente, and Emily Grace Walker.

TOME Club & TOME Reading Bowl Members shown are - Front Row: Caroline Soesbe, Preslie Parish, Carden Sampson. Middle Row: Ellen Garcia, Olivia

Ray, Cecelia Kolterman, Madison Ensley, Emily Grace Walker, Mia Vicente. Back Row: Sofia Bautista Bravo, Sofia Medina-Soria, Braelynn Wilbanks, Kirsten Culvey, Jaycee Cochran, Marlee Phipps,

Harrison Hughes, Maddie Anglin. Not Shown: Cynthia Bautista Bravo. Teachers Shown: Shelby Johnson, Terri Fitzwater, and Ramona Barnett, Not Shown: Candi Gresham.

## Church Calendar

### ONGOING

**-Philadelphia Christian School** is located off Highway 41 between Calhoun and Adairville. 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 Relevelate 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 Church of Christ, located at 265 South Avenue in Fairmount, Ga.** Minister Bobby Gayton. Everyone is invited to visit

and worship with us. Sunday morning Services at 11 a.m.; Bible study at 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study at 6 p.m.

**-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.



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# Highland Rivers COVID-19 update: maintaining services, mental health and compassion fatigue

## HIGHLAND RIVERS HEALTH

As we continue social distancing and other community safety measures in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, I wanted to update the communities served by Highland Rivers Health about the status of our services, and provide some information about mental health and compassion fatigue.

### Highland Rivers remains open for services

First and foremost, Highland Rivers Health is recognized by law as a critical healthcare provider and our agency is maintaining operations during the outbreak. But even without this mandate, I have no doubt the Highland Rivers team would make every effort to meet the needs of the thousands of individuals across northwest Georgia who rely on us for treatment,

support and recovery services.

We have instituted several procedures in our clinics (and other programs) to protect the health of the individuals we serve and our staff. At our outpatient clinics, all individuals coming for services are being screened for symptoms of illness. Individuals can now also wait outside or in their cars and receive a text message when their therapist is ready to see them. Our waiting rooms allow people to maintain distances of six feet and are cleaned and disinfected daily; hand sanitizer is available throughout our clinics.

For more information about our services and safety procedures, please visit the Highland Rivers website at <https://highlandrivershealth.com>.

### Protecting your mental health

As I wrote in my last column, if you find the pandemic, social

distancing or sheltering-in-place are causing you stress or anxiety, you are not alone. What you're feeling is a completely normal response to very stressful circumstances – as are feelings of isolation, uncertainty and confusion.

To help, Highland Rivers developed a list of mental health tips that can you manage these feelings and provide positive alternatives. We've also developed an expanded version of this article, which includes additional information about managing stress as well as strategies for helping your family and children cope.

Both of these articles are available in the COVID-19 pop-up window on the Highland Rivers Health website homepage.

### Being aware of compassion fatigue

Compassion fatigue (CF) may be a term you've never heard before, but it is very real. First responders;

doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers; mental health professionals; and other helpers can experience compassion fatigue as a result of responding to an emergency or disaster. The COVID-19 outbreak fits this criteria.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that CF is made up of two main components: burnout (feeling exhausted, overwhelmed, or like nothing you do will help make the situation better) and secondary traumatic stress (feeling like the trauma of the people you are helping is happening to you or people you love).

While the pandemic has shown our healthcare providers and other helpers to be truly heroic, they too are at risk for mental health problems. Long hours and constant stress can wear people down behaviorally, cognitively, physically, and spiritually and

emotionally. As a result, those helping us most can become vulnerable to feeling acute traumatic stress, sorrow and anger, and even feeling guilt for surviving the disaster. When this happens, helpers may have trouble understanding the risks to their own health and safety.

In order to help responders in our communities be aware of compassion fatigue and recognize when they may be experiencing it, we've also posted a SAMHSA fact sheet about CF on our website. Like the articles mentioned above, this fact sheet is available on the COVID-19 pop-up window on the Highland Rivers website, <https://highlandrivershealth.com>.

### Thank you to our staff

Finally, I want to publicly express my deepest gratitude and admiration for the 650+ caring, compassionate

and outstanding staff at Highland Rivers Health – who continue to come to work every day to ensure we are meeting the needs of the individuals and communities we serve. Our agency would not be what it is without you. You make it possible for me to say to our communities, "When you need us, we will be here" – and I thank you for that!

*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.*

# Harbin Clinic introduces HarbinConnect virtual visits

CONTRIBUTED

Rome, GA— For the safety and protection of our patients, Harbin Clinic is now offering HarbinCONNECT virtual visits to help patients receive the medical care they need without leaving their homes during the COVID-19 crisis.

HarbinCONNECT is a convenient option for secure phone or face-to-face video appointments with local board-certified physicians or nurse practitioners. Patients will receive a thorough evaluation as well as recommendations for diagnosis and treatment including prescriptions as indicated.

"With HarbinCONNECT, we now offer patients appointments from the comfort of home as a solution for those seeking medical care during the COVID-19 crisis," said Dr. Edward McBride, Chief Medical Officer at Harbin Clinic. "Harbin Clinic is taking steps to ensure the safety of our patients and reduce the risk of viral transmission. These virtual visits provide patients a safe and convenient option to meet with their primary, specialty or Immediate Care provider."

To access the virtual video visit, patients will need access to a smart phone, tablet or computer with video

and audio capability and a strong internet connection. To access the virtual phone visit, patients simply need a phone.

Patients will receive the same high quality care they have come to depend upon from Harbin Clinic physicians and Immediate Care providers. In some cases, Harbin Clinic physicians may determine that a patient's condition requires additional in-person care and may recommend an in-office visit for further evaluation and treatment.

"We are always looking for ways to enhance our patient experience and provide truly connected, coordinated care," added Dr. McBride. "Harbin Clinic utilizes a shared medical record across the ambulatory care setting and patients benefit from this coordinated approach to care. With HarbinCONNECT, we are building upon this connectivity and ensuring our patients' care is uninterrupted during this unprecedented time for our community."

To learn more about HarbinCONNECT, visit [harbinclinic.com/harbinconnect](http://harbinclinic.com/harbinconnect).

About Harbin Clinic Harbin Clinic is Georgia's largest physician-owned, multi-specialty clinic with more than 250 providers across more than 40 specialties in 21 locations throughout Northwest Georgia. Since 1870, the Harbin family has practiced medicine in the

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region, founding the Harbin Hospital in 1908 in Rome, Georgia. That hospital grew into the present Harbin Clinic, which cares for thousands of patients each day. Harbin Clinic Cares Completely. For more information, visit [www.harbinclinic.com](http://www.harbinclinic.com).

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- Drug Testing by Certified Staff
- Client Specific Orientations
- Client Job Site Evaluations & Tours
- Facility First Day Check Ins
- Safety Program and Testing
- Workers Compensation Coverage
- 24/7 Emergency On Call
- 24/7 Emergency



## SCREENING PRACTICES

- Face to Face Interviews of Applicants
- OSHA Compliant Safety Orientation
- E-Verify
- GCIC and National Background Checks

## TESTING

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- Basic Reading/Writing
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