

# GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

## Truck plows into Shaw Plant Tuesday afternoon

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Calhoun Police and Calhoun Fire responded to an incident on South Industrial Boulevard Tuesday afternoon, when a disabled man accidentally drove into the Shaw Industries Plant D3 Y4.

According to the Motor Vehicle Crash Report, around 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, a Dodge Ram driven by James Moss, 38, of Hammond Road, Calhoun, was traveling west in the driveway of Kroger towards the exit on South Industrial Boulevard. Moss told authorities he has cerebral palsy, and that his leg locked on him with his foot on the accelerator. The



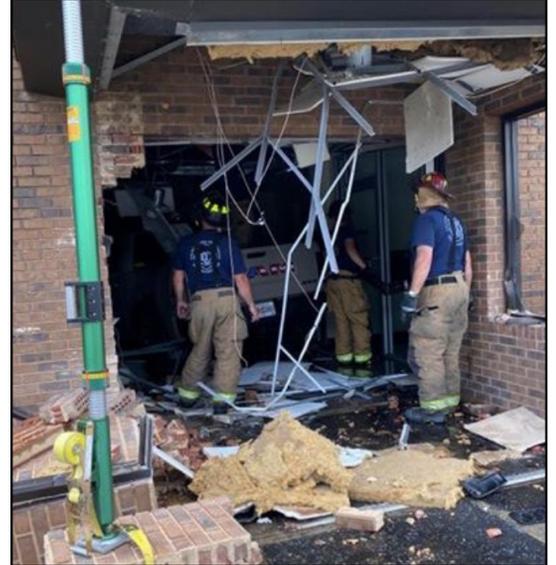
Calhoun Police and Calhoun Fire responded to the scene of Shaw Plan D3 Y4 on Tuesday afternoon in response to a truck that had drove through the building. RILEY OWCZARZ/Staff.

vehicle traveled straight towards Shaw Plant D3 Y4 on South Industrial Boulevard, gaining speed, and traveled through the parking lot of Shaw, running into the front

doors of the building. The truck came to stop completely inside the building, inside the lobby area. Moss suffered a minor cut on his right leg but refused transportation

by EMS at the time of the accident, according to the report.

No citations were issued in the accident, and no one inside the Shaw building was injured.



Firefighters with Calhoun Fire respond to an accident where a truck drove into a Shaw plant on South Industrial Tuesday afternoon.

## REMINDER: Early Voting for General Primary Election has begun, 222 have cast their ballot early as of Wednesday morning

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Early Voting has begun for the General Primary Election, and will run through Friday, June 5. This election cycle will include one day of Saturday voting.

As of Wednesday morning, May 20, at 11 a.m., 222 voters had casted their ballot during the early voting window.

"We are open Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.," said Shea Hicks, chairperson of the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office. "We will also have one day of Saturday voting on May 30 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Elections and Voter Registration Office. Our office has moved to the Gordon County Annex Building, (behind the courthouse), 101 S Piedmont Street, Calhoun, Georgia."

According to Hicks, anyone who requested an absentee ballot by mail, please remember that you will need to mail that ballot back to the Elections and Voter Registration Office.

"We have to have your ballot back by Election Day, which is June 9,"

said Hicks. "We also have an Absentee Ballot Drop Box at the building that we are now located in."

Those qualifying for local elected office include:

**County Commissioner, District 1:**  
M.L. "Bud" Owens (Incumbent - Republican)

**County Commissioner, District 3:**  
Norris Sexton (Incumbent - Republican)  
Robert "Rob" Ballard (Republican)  
Bruce Potts, Jr. (Republican)

**County Commissioner, District 5:**  
Kevin Cunningham (Incumbent - Republican)

**Clerk of Superior Court:**  
Grant Walraven (Incumbent - Republican)

**Corner:**  
James Carver (Incumbent - Republican)  
Ken Padgett (Republican)

**Judge of Probate Court:**  
John "Richie" Parker (Incumbent - non-partisan office)

**Sheriff:**  
Sheriff Mitch Ralston (Incumbent - Republican)

**Tax Commissioner:**  
Scott Clements (Incumbent - Republican)

**County Board of Education, Post 2:**  
Jason Hendrix (Incumbent - Republican)

**County Board of Education, Post 4:**  
Bobby Hall (Incumbent - Republican)  
Rod Brehm (Republican)

**County Board of Education, Post 6:**  
Christie Owens Fox (Republican)  
Samuel T. Jewell (Republican)  
Bryon Reeves (Republican)



**Magistrate Judge:**  
Pat Rasbury (Incumbent - Republican)

Full ballots for all local, state and federal offices up for election, and additional election can be found on the Gordon Gazette's free Election Information page at <https://www.gordongazettega.com/2020-election-local-candidate-info>

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AdventHealth Gordon reduces visitor restrictions while implementing additional safety precautions.

### COMMUNITY 12A



Yovana Yoga Studio takes classes outside in downtown Calhoun.

@gordongazette  
@gordongazette  
@gazettegordon

## County discusses upcoming budget during Tuesday night's online meeting

Brandi Owczarz  
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The Gordon County Board of Commissioners received a brief presentation of the recommended Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget at their most recent meeting, held online on Tuesday, May 19.

"A quick highlight, total money spent on the new budget, which includes SPLOST funds, is recommended to be \$56,030,970, which is an overall 3.17 percent decrease (in spending) or \$1.8 million decrease from last year's budget," said County Administrator Jim Ledbetter. "The General Fund budget that we operate out of is \$37,919,220 (part of the \$56,030,970). That's a 1.74 percent increase from the previous year's budget. What we've done this year, there are some changes, but we are essentially recommending the same budget that we had last year without increasing expenditures. This

budget does not create any new positions. We're trying to hold our own due to the uncertainty in the economy created by the COVID-19 pandemic."

"You will have from now until June 16 to consider the budget; you can hold budget discussions if necessary. There will be a budget hearing on June 2 during the regular commission meeting," said Ledbetter.

Ledbetter then gave a COVID-19 update as it affects the county.

"We in the Gordon County Government are cautiously easing our restrictions (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)," said Ledbetter. "Back in mid-March, we locked things down, even before the state did, as far as restricting access and continuing minimum basic operations. We are mindful of the Governor's guidelines, the Supreme Court's (guidelines). If anyone needs Gordon County services, just call us and we'll get you to the right



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A screenshot from Tuesday night's Board of Commissioners meeting.

people. Based on reports I'm seeing, the number of people testing positive in Gordon County are declining. In the COVID-19 Task Force meeting this morning, Debbie Vance from E-911 gave a report. She's privy to reports of addresses where people have tested positive; it would be against the law for us to discuss those addresses, but the numbers are okay to discuss. A couple of weeks ago, we had

54 addresses where somebody had tested positive (for COVID-19) in a 21-day period. The last meeting, we were at 38 (addresses). This meeting, we are at 36 (addresses); but, 15 of those 36 are at a nursing home, and out of those 36, 18 positive test result addresses are supposed to drop off tonight, which is outside of the 21 day window if not renewed, leaving us with 18 addresses associated

with positive tests in the County. On Friday, 10 more are scheduled to drop off, which will leave us with 8 plus whatever positive tests come back between now and then, and we've been trending very low, just six new cases in the last week. That made me emotional; this has been quite a fight. It's been a pleasure serving

See COUNTY, page 10A

# Second Front

## AdventHealth Gordon reduces visitor restrictions while implementing additional safety precautions

### ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

Beginning Monday, May 18, AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Medical Group locations are reducing visitor restrictions by transitioning from allowing no visitors to allowing one visitor per patient. The visitor is expected to remain with the patient throughout their stay.

Friends and family members who plan to accompany patients who have an appointment for an X-ray, CT scan, MRI scan, nuclear medicine or ultrasound must remain in their car due to space restrictions. All other imaging procedures will allow visitors.

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. Due to limiting visitors to one per patient, AdventHealth Gordon encourages family, friends and loved ones to continue to use electronic devices and apps to keep in contact with patients.

"We are taking specific measures to ensure the safety of our patients, team members and community," said Karen Steely, interim president and chief operating officer of AdventHealth Gordon. "We want our community to know they can feel confident in our care, and if they are having a health emergency or

need medical attention, we are ready as always."

AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Medical Group locations have begun resuming normal operations while incorporating the following safeguards:

- Requiring everyone to wear masks
- Performing temperature screenings on everyone entering the facility
- Modifying access points and following social distancing guidelines in waiting rooms, reception and dining areas
- Instituting new deep-cleaning procedures
- Cohorting COVID-19 patients

If you are experiencing a life-threatening symptom or injury, please call 911 or seek care immediately, and don't delay your care. Important symptoms to not ignore include:

- Heart symptoms
  - o Pressure, tightness or pain in chest, arms or upper body
  - o Nausea, indigestion, heartburn or abdominal pain
  - o Shortness of breath
  - o Cold sweats
  - o Lightheadedness or sudden dizziness
- Stroke symptoms
  - o Trouble speaking and understanding what others are saying
  - o Paralysis or numbness of the face, arm or leg



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

- o Vision issues
- o Trouble with walking
- o Headache

#### About AdventHealth Gordon

Founded in 1935, AdventHealth Gordon is proud to be a member of AdventHealth. With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth is a connected system of care for every stage of life and health. More than 80,000 skilled and compassionate caregivers in physician practices, hospitals, outpatient

clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and hospice centers provide individualized, wholistic care. A shared vision, common values, focus on whole-person health and commitment to making communities healthier unify the system's nearly 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states. For more information about AdventHealth, visit [AdventHealth.com](http://AdventHealth.com) or [Facebook.com/AdventHealth](https://www.facebook.com/AdventHealth).

## GEORGIA DPH DISTRIBUTES REMDESIVIR TO HOSPITALS

### CONTRIBUTED

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) today is distributing an initial allotment of the drug remdesivir received from the federal government. Georgia received 30 cases, with 40 vials of the drug per case, enough to treat about 110 patients, depending on the duration of an individual's treatment.

Remdesivir is an antiviral medicine being used to treat hospitalized patients with serious symptoms caused by COVID-19 like low oxygen levels or pneumonia. It has been found to shorten the duration of disease in patients being treated in inpatient hospital settings. Remdesivir is given intravenously (IV) and decreases the amount of coronavirus in the body, helping patients recover faster.

The distribution plan for remdesivir in Georgia was developed by DPH leadership, including district health directors and

emergency preparedness staff, in accordance with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines for its use. It is based on the number of patients on ventilators, the most severely ill, and clinical best practices.

Georgia hospitals receiving remdesivir reported 10 or more COVID-19 positive patients on ventilators, in addition to patients currently being treated with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a machine that takes over the work of the heart and lungs. These criteria are subject to change based on the availability of remdesivir and the development of patient care at hospital facilities across the state.

The following hospitals are receiving remdesivir: Tift Regional Medical Center, Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Grady Health System, Emory University Hospital, Emory University Hospital Midtown, and Augusta University

Medical Center.

"DPH is pleased to have the opportunity to share this promising treatment with hospitals on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19," said Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., DPH commissioner. "While this drug is not a cure for COVID-19, getting it into the hospitals and improving patient outcomes is moving in the right direction."

Georgia has received a second, much larger allotment of remdesivir. DPH is surveying hospitals statewide over the weekend to determine need. This second allotment will be distributed next week.

Gilead Sciences, Inc. committed to supplying approximately 607,000 vials of the experimental drug over the next six weeks to treat an estimated 78,000 hospitalized COVID-19 patients under an emergency use agreement (EUA). The donation to the United States is part of 1.5 million vials of remdesivir the company is donating worldwide.



Remdesivir has not been approved by the FDA for widespread use because it is considered investigational and it is still being studied. Remdesivir was originally developed for use against Ebola. Clinical trials for remdesivir were done in Georgia at Emory University Hospital.

## GEORGIA ABSENTEE VOTING FACTS

### CONTRIBUTED

Due to the health concerns caused by the COVID-19 virus, Georgia has seen a huge increase in the number of absentee ballot requests for the June 9 primary. These facts are meant to give Georgia voters important information about the absentee voting process in Georgia.

#### Voting Absentee by Mail

After your county elections officials verifies your signature on your absentee ballot application, you will receive your absentee ballot package in the mail. The absentee ballot package you receive will contain:

- Official Absentee Ballot
- Secrecy Sleeve
- Absentee Ballot Instructions
- Return Envelope

Once you receive your absentee ballot package, fill out your ballot according to the instructions provided. Then fold the secrecy sleeve around your completed ballot and place them both in the return envelope. Seal the return envelope and complete the oath on the back by signing your name.

#### Returning Your Absentee Ballot

There are three ways to return your absentee ballot. No matter which way you choose to return your ballot, it must be received by your county elections office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, June 9, 2020.

1. Mail your ballot after applying sufficient postage.

• One \$0.55 stamp is sufficient for all ballot packages except in Gwinnett County, which requires \$0.70.

• Allow at least 5 days for mailing to ensure that your ballot is received by your county elections office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

2 Return your ballot to your county elections office.

3 Drop it in a secure drop box that your county elections office set up.

• For the June 9, 2020 election only, the State Election Board has allowed counties to set up secure drop boxes to facilitate the return of absentee ballots.

• Not all counties have secure drop boxes, so check your county elections website or call your county elections office to check.

#### Who Can Return Your Ballot?

You! The best course of action is to personally mail or personally deliver your ballot yourself. However,

Georgia law allows the below individuals to mail or deliver your ballot for you with your authorization:

- Your mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law;
- An individual residing in the same household as the voter; or
- The caretaker of a voter with disabilities.

You should not give your ballot to anyone else. Third-party groups, candidates, campaigns or anybody other than the people listed above are not allowed to collect your ballot (a practice known as "ballot harvesting"). It's against the law in Georgia. If an unknown person attempts to collect your ballot, even if they say they are from the Secretary of State's office or your county elections office, please report the person to the Secretary of State's office.

#### What Happens Once Your Ballot is Returned?

Once your county elections office receives your absentee ballot, they will first verify that your signature on the back of the absentee ballot envelope matches your signature on file with your county elections office. Then, your county elections office will accept your absentee ballot. Once your absentee ballot has been accepted, you have voted. You will not be able to cast another ballot in person.

If you forget to sign the oath on the back of the absentee ballot envelope or if your signature does not match your signature on file, then your county elections office will send you a notice and opportunity to cure your ballot. You can cure your ballot by completing the affidavit swearing that it was in fact you who voted the ballot and submitting a copy of your photo

ID. If you receive a cure notice, but you did not request or complete an absentee ballot, alert the Secretary of State's office immediately.

#### Voting in Person After Requesting an Absentee Ballot

If you requested and received an absentee ballot by mail, you should make every effort to vote and return that ballot. However, if a voter has requested an absentee ballot but shows up to vote in person, there are procedures to cancel the absentee ballot IF the ballot has not already been received by the county elections office. Each of these procedures takes time for both you and everyone else who is at the precinct so if you requested an absentee ballot, you should make every effort to vote that ballot instead of voting in person. Absentee ballots that have been

requested but not yet received

by the county elections office can be cancelled, allowing you to vote in person, in the following ways:

-By bringing and turning over the blank, unvoted absentee ballot to the poll manager at your polling place; or

-By going to your polling place and requesting in writing that the previously issued absentee ballot be cancelled. The poll worker will have to call and confirm with the county election office that the absentee ballot has not been returned. This process will take time and cause delays for others attempting to vote. If the requested absentee ballot has not yet been returned to the county elections office, the county elections office will cancel the absentee ballot and you will be allowed to vote in person.

**VOTE**

**ROD BREHM**

Gordon County  
Board of Education  
Post 4



**I will work for the residents of Gordon County**

"My belief in government is that I work for the people of Gordon County. If elected, I want to be informed on what the public wants. For this to happen, there needs to be an open door policy, there needs to be transparency. This is something some of the current members of the Board of Education lack. I want to change that."

- Believes in an open, transparent government
- Will fight to use your tax dollars wisely and reduce the burden on tax payers
- Wants our students prepared for the real world and our teachers to have a voice
- Ready to serve Gordon County Schools

Visit me on Facebook at

'Rod Brehm for Gordon County Board of Education' Paid Political Advertisement

# Obituaries

## May 20, 2020

### Cheryl Abel

Cheryl June Abel, 70, of Calhoun, died Saturday, May 16, 2020 after a 2-year sickness.

She was born on Aug. 25, 1949 in South Charleston, W.V. to the late William C. Young and Bertha E. Berg. She was preceded in death by her sister, Monica Frantzen and her grandson, Gage Renz in 2001.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Troy and April Frantzen of Calhoun, and Stephen and Kate Bergdorf of Watertown, Wis.; daughters and sons-in-law, Janet and Carl Merkes of Juneau, Wis., Chris and Leo Merkes of Barnett, Wis., and Amy Renz of Calhoun; brother and sister-in-law, James and Linda Young of Calhoun; grandchildren, Matthew Frantzen, Joanne Gambino, Jessica Sanders, Brandon Luedtke, Heather Larson, Travis Luedtke, Trysten Frantzen, Korbyn Frantzen, Jayden (Promise) Frantzen, Grace Renz, Hailey Bergdorf, and Cole Bergdorf; great grandchildren, Andrew, Liam, Harper, Gwen, Lucy, Allison (Allie), Xander, and Aiden; other survivors include her, Stepfather, Ralph Bjorndal of Milwaukee, WI, special friend, Bob Abel, and many other family members.

The family would like to say a special thank you to Homespun Hospice, Advent Health Medical Group Hematology/ Oncology, and Advent Health Harris Radiation Therapy Center.

To honor her wishes her body was cremated and all services are private.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, [www.maxbrannonandsons.com](http://www.maxbrannonandsons.com)

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Cheryl June Abel.



### Timothy 'Tim' Bray, Sr.

Timothy Wayne "Tim" Bray, Sr., age 55, of Plainville, passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at his residence.

Tim was born on Sept. 2, 1964 in Cartersville, a son of the Frances Irene Hayes Bray and the late Eulon Andrew Bray. In addition to his father, Tim was also preceded in death by: two sisters, infant Donna Bray and Debra Bray; and grandparents, William Oscar and Mattie Hayes, Lawrence Bray and Bertha Lamham.

Tim is survived by: his wife, Linda Hurd Bray of Plainville; mother, Frances Hayes Bray of Calhoun; one son Timothy W. Bray, Jr., of Plainville; one daughter, Christian L. and Kenneth Weaver of Chatsworth; two brothers, Greg Bray of Calhoun and Steve Bray of Resaca; two sisters, Lynn Highfield and her husband Joe, and Kim Walraven and her husband Danny; three grandchildren, Preston Wells, Thomas Wells, and Mistie Wells all of Resaca; and several nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Wednesday, May 20 at 3 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Reverend Stacey Hensley officiating. Interment will follow in Assembly of Faith Cemetery.

Pallbearers serving include: Preston Wells, Thomas Wells, Andrew Bray, Nathan Bray, Mathew Bray, Johnathan Bray, Scott Bray, Ryan Bray, Joey Thornton, Levon Bowling, Seth Highfield, and Johnny Culberson.

The family received friends on Tuesday, May 19, from 4 - 8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

Thomas Funeral Home has charge of arrangements for the services of Tim Bray of Plainville.



### Roy Eldridge

Mr. Roy Lee Eldridge, 72, of Rydal, passed away Monday, May 18, 2020, at Cartersville Medical Center.

Mr. Eldridge was born in Kingston on Oct. 5, 1947, to the late Harold M. Eldridge, Sr. and Mary Lou Blankenship Eldridge. He was a member of Creekside Fellowship Church. Mr. Eldridge retired from Shaw Industries. He enjoyed the outdoors and loved fishing. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Kevin Eldridge; brother, Harold M. Eldridge, Jr.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Patricia Eldridge; sons, Brent and Angela Eldridge, Bryan Nowlin, and Courtland "Court" Nowlin; daughters, Christie Eldridge and Crystal Souter; grandchildren, Cameron Ely, Ashley Ely, P. J. Eldridge, Jordan Nowlin, Bryan Nowlin, and Hood Souter; brothers, Roland Eldridge, Steve "T-Bone" and Debra Eldridge, and James and Sheryl Eldridge; sisters, Linda and Danny Cagle, Barbara Eldridge, and Connie and Paul Barrett; several nieces and nephews.

Private funeral services will be held Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 4 p.m. from the chapel of Barton Funeral Home with Rev. Michael Abernathy and Rev. Daniel Arrington officiating. Interment will follow in Kingston Cemetery. Following social distancing guidelines the family will receive family and friends Thursday from 2 - 4 p.m. at Barton Funeral Home. Family will serve as pallbearers.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of arrangements for Mr. Roy Lee Eldridge.



Home with Reverend Scott Pickering, Reverend Alan Miller, and Reverend Jimmy Burns officiating. Michael Hunt will have charge of music. Interment will follow in Bethesda Baptist Church Cemetery with grandsons serving as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends on Thursday from 1 p.m. until the funeral hour at 3 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

In addition to flowers, donations may be made to the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church Cemetery fund at 4301 Red Bud Road, NE, Calhoun, GA 30701.

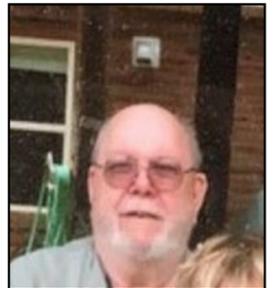
You may leave the family online condolences at [www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com](http://www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com)

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Ova Lee Gravitt French.



### James 'J.C.' Haney

Mr. James Carl, "J.C." Haney, age 78, of Hall Memorial Road in Resaca, departed this life on Friday May 15, 2020 at Health Center of Standifer Place in Chattanooga. J.C. was born April 29, 1942 in Smithville, Ark., the son of the late James Clifford Haney and Pearl Oden Haney. J.C. was the owner of J.C. Haney Construction Company.



J.C. is survived by his son, Paul and Evi Haney of Ringgold; daughters, Tracy Defore of Jacksonville, Fla. and Kim Haney of St. Augustine, Fla.; brothers, Ronnie Haney, Trenton and Pat Haney, Everitt and Linda Haney; sister, Louean Carson; grandchildren, Hayden Haney, Shae Defore, Seth Defore.

Service to celebrate the life of J. C. Haney will be held Wednesday May 20, 2020 at 2 p.m. from Ponders Whitfield Memorial Gardens Celebration Mausoleum Pavilion, with Reverend George Ross officiating.

The family will receive friends, Wednesday May 20, 2020 from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Ponders Melrose Chapel.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.pondersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pondersfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements will be announced by, Ponders Melrose Chapel 138 Melrose Drive Dalton, GA 30721, 706-226-4002.



### Barton Funeral Home

### Ova French

Ova Lee Gravitt French, age 91, of Calhoun, went to her heavenly home on May 18, 2020.

Ova Lee was born on April 20, 1929 in Calhoun, daughter of the late Aileen Gravitt. In addition to her mother, Ova Lee was also preceded in death by: a daughter, Lisa Ann French; brother, Milford Gravitt; sister-in-law, Charlcie Burns; brothers-in-law, A.W. French, Ray French, George Pass, and Hollis Burns; and son-in-law, Ted Thompson.

After Ova Lee attended Bob Jones College, she taught school at Red Bud Elementary and continued taking courses at West Georgia College. She worked as an educator for 5 years, then she decided to be a stay-at-home mother and housewife. She was a member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church. She had two deep devotions and loves, her faith and her family. Ova Lee was a beloved wife and mother.

Ova Lee is survived by: her husband James Monroe "Jimmy" French of Calhoun; five sons, Phil French, Kent French, Craig French and his wife Laura, Stuart French and his wife Janet, and Brad French and his wife Nancy; three daughters, Marie Reeves and her husband Steve, Carrie Thompson, and Cheryl Hughes and her husband Niven; twelve grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several other relatives also survive.

The family of Ova Lee would like to give special thanks to Tapestry Hospice and Calhoun Health Care Center for their loving care for our dear mother.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Thursday, May 21 at 3 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral



### Larry Morgan

Larry D. Morgan, 75, of Resaca, died Sunday, May 17, 2020. He was born on Dec. 8, 1944 in Whitfield County to the late Harold Douglas and Katherine Callahan Morgan. He was preceded in death by his sister, Pat Morgan Craig.

Larry graduated from North West Whitfield in 1963 where he played football. For many years he worked in the trucking industry; he retired from South Eastern Trucking as a dock foreman.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years Sue Morgan Gailey; sons and daughter-in-law, Doug and Tina Morgan and Rodney Morgan; brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Pam Morgan; grandchildren, Taylor Morgan and Luke Morgan.

To honor his wishes his body was cremated and all services are private.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, [www.maxbrannonandsons.com](http://www.maxbrannonandsons.com)

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Larry D. Morgan.



## 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.

**-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.



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

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

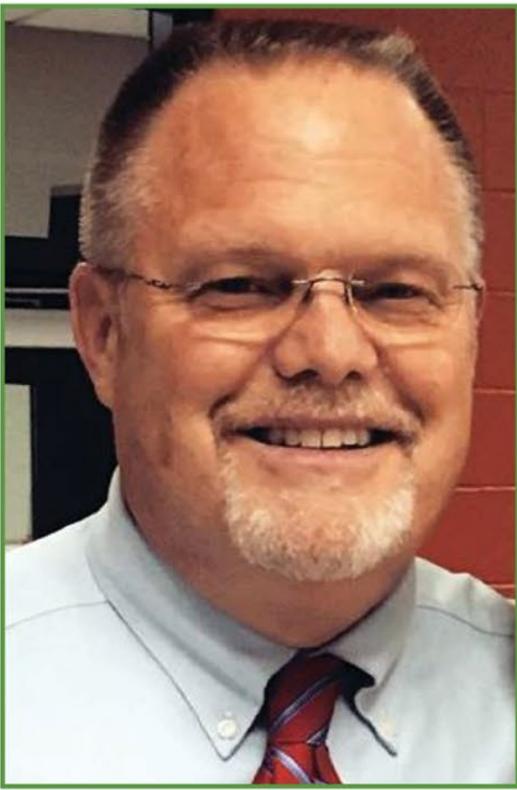
My goal is to bring the Coroner's Office into the 21st Century. The County has plans to build a new morgue and coroner's office, and I want to elevate the office to better serve Gordon County.

- 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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# ELECT BRUCE POTTS



## Gordon County Commissioner District 3

**A proven leader dedicated  
to Calhoun-Gordon County**

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

## About Bruce

"I have served this community in public education for 31 years total and 22 years for the citizens of Gordon County. I have an insight to all of our service providers and have a proven leadership record that brings a philosophy of teamwork, ideas and collegial thought to problems that we currently face and will face in the future.

"My passion for service and wanting the best for Gordon County are what drives me to seek to serve as a Commissioner for the people of Gordon County. Solid common sense leadership principles are what has led my previous work and will be who I am in this role.

"I have lived in Gordon County for 56 years and it is the place where my family established its roots three generations ago. Calhoun and Gordon County is home to my family and will be home until my last days of life. Since retirement from the principalship at Sonorville High School, I have prayed to be placed in a role of service to others. Being a Commissioner is a role that appeals to me and my mission to be of service to others. I appreciate your vote on June 9th, 2020."

## 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.

## Important Dates To Remember

- Voter registration deadline is May 11, 2020
- Early voting begins May 18, 2020
- Primary Election Day Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Church News

NO OTHER NAME... JESUS



**Randy Muse**  
Antioch Baptist Church  
Youth Minister  
rmuse1@yahoo.com

I love when the people of God are touched by the Spirit of God as they sing praises to God. It's not about the style of music, as the Lord and I love it all. It's about the

message in the music. Even music without words has a message that the artist wants to share with those who will hear it.

During a retreat that I was invited to preach at, the group sang one of my favorite songs, titled "Forever Reign." Over and over again, the bridge of the song says "my heart will sing no other name... Jesus." The Holy Spirit took my heart to a passage of scripture found in John, chapter 4. It's a familiar passage that I had read many times. It tells of when Jesus went to a city in Samaria to meet with a Samaritan

woman at Jacob's well. It was in the middle of the day and Jesus told the woman to give him a drink of water, because he was thirsty from his travel.

Verse 9 reads, "Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans." Jesus told her that if she would ask, He would give her living water and that she would never thirst again.

She probably thought Jesus was crazy, and in verse 15 she said, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come

here to draw." Then Jesus told her to go get her husband. When she told him that she didn't have a husband, He replied "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband." Then a little more into the passage the woman said to Jesus "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Then Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Here was a lady who was starving for true love. Here is a woman,

whose heart had sung the name of at least five different men. A woman who carried way more than a water pale every day. She carried the heavy shame of her past. A shame that caused her to have to make the trip to the well at the hottest part of the day, to avoid the other women.

Her life was completely changed though when Jesus went out of His way, literally, to meet her where she was and offer her forgiveness. Her race didn't stop Him. Her gender didn't stop Him, and the punishment she faced because of her sin drove Him. Then in one

act of trust, she found all that she ever longed for in a relationship.

You see, when we try to put our hope, faith, and trust in other people or other things; it leaves us searching over and over again for someone or something to satisfy our longings. What we find rather, is ourselves searching for fulfillment that only comes through a real relationship with Jesus Christ. I hope you have one, because when we look for complete satisfaction in others, we set ourselves up for disappointment and others for failure.

Be Blessed.

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 Relegate 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 Dwayne 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.

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## Cash Flow With Joe: I almost missed it



**Joe & Ashley English**

Owners of Focus Property Solutions, LLC  
[focuspropertysolutionsllc@gmail.com](mailto:focuspropertysolutionsllc@gmail.com)

It was about 10:30 on Saturday night. We had just put the kids down, and Ashley and I were preparing for bed. At this point, my beautiful bride was considered full term in her pregnancy at 38 weeks. She lay down in the bed only to pop right back up with a startled look on her face as she said, "Whoa! I just had a

big gush of something."

That big gush was Ashley's water breaking.

This development was new. Ashley's water had to be broken during our previous kids' births. So, when it happened on its own — and then kept happening — the reality of what was about to happen kicked in. We were about to have a baby.

This was great — and then not so great — news. You see we've been doing a pretty big remodel on our house for the past two months which wasn't yet complete. I was close, but close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades.

As of Sunday morning, Ashley was having contractions, but not steady ones. I enlisted my dad's help to finish doing some painting, trim work and put the shower valves on so that if the baby did come, I could

get my guys to finish up the last bit of the remodel while we were at the hospital.

I also had two seller appointments scheduled for late Sunday afternoon. I let both sellers know my wife's water had broken and that I might not be able to attend the appointments.

As the time rolled around for the seller appointments, Ashley still wasn't having steady contractions. Being the real estate investor that she is, she urged me to go to both appointments. I agreed but let her know that I was going to check in between them.

I met with the first sellers, and we had a good meeting. I needed to do some investigating before I could make an offer, but I let the seller know I'd be in touch.

I called Ashley and headed to the next appointment. This one was a

doublewide on two acres in Gordon County. The seller had been approached by an investment company out of Atlanta that offered them a price sight unseen.

After the company sent someone out to inspect, they had dramatically reduced their offer. They also wanted the right to show the house anytime to prospective new buyers. They wanted a really long contract period on the deal and reserved the right to walk away from it up until the day before closing.

This was probably a wholesaler, masquerading as a cash buyer, and they had contracted on a property that was out of their area. They had likely offered too much, and couldn't wholesale the deal.

This situation was hard on the seller because they were waiting on the proceeds from that deal to buy their next home.

To make a long story short, we agreed to give the buyer the funds they needed for the down payment money on their next house and take the property subject to its existing mortgage, which matures in four years. We agreed to move ahead with this just as soon as the attorney could get it closed if the seller could get out of the other contract.

They did, and we got the house.

As Ashley and I lay down on Sunday night, Ashley texted one of her friends at 10:30 p.m. to let them know the contractions had stopped.

At 1:09 a.m. I was awakened by Ashley calling me from the tub. She had been laboring since 11:30 p.m., and the OBGYN said it was now go time. I called Mom and Dad and got our baby go bag into the car, and I some caffeine into me.

We were out the door by 2 a.m. The ride to the hospital was a long one, but I got Ashley to the ER, and the nurse told me to go park before going to labor and delivery. After I did, I had to check with security to get in. The guard asked for the patient's name and called up to verify. Once she did, she looked at me and said I needed go now because the baby was almost here.

When I opened the door, I could already see his head. I immediately started cheering Ashley on. And in less than five minutes, we said hello to our new son Eliyab.

Ya'll, that was a close one. I almost missed it.

*Joe and Ashley English buy houses and mobile homes in Northwest Georgia. For more information or to ask a question, go to [www.cashflowwithjoe.com](http://www.cashflowwithjoe.com) or call Joe at 678-986-6813.*

## Why Should You See a Financial Advisor?



**Dewayne Bowen**

Financial Advisor  
 at Edward Jones

[dewayne.bowen@edwardjones.com](mailto:dewayne.bowen@edwardjones.com)

The social distancing and stay-at-home orders necessitated by the coronavirus have led many of us to feel isolated. Still, we've fought back through social media, "virtual" gatherings and walks in the neighborhood, where

we could greet friends and neighbors (from 6 feet away). But when you're dealing with the financial effects of the virus and you're investing alone, you could encounter some problems that may prove costly.

Of course, with so much investment-related information available online, on television and in any number of periodicals, it's not surprising that some people feel they can invest without any assistance. But the volatility of the financial markets over the past few months has also pointed to the dangers of going solo in the investment world. And you might find that a professional financial advisor can help you in

several ways, including the following:

**Taking emotions out of investing.** During this period of market turbulence, many self-guided investors are letting their emotions drive their investment decisions. As a result, they sell investments when their price is down, "locking in" their losses. Furthermore, if they then stay out of the financial markets, they will miss out on the eventual recovery — and some of the biggest gains in market rallies usually occur right at the beginning. But if you work with a financial advisor who has helped you develop a personalized investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and

time horizon, you will be far less likely to react to extreme market conditions by making ill-advised decisions.

**Maintaining perspective.** When you're putting away money for the future and you suddenly have a lot less of it, you might start to wonder if that future is somehow in jeopardy. But if you've been working with a financial advisor and following your investment strategy, you'll know that you don't have to immediately cash out those investments that have lost value, and you may not need to liquidate them for decades if they were designed for a long-term goal, such as retirement. By the time you do need

to sell them, their value may well have appreciated significantly. And if you've got a well-constructed portfolio, you'll also own shorter-term, less volatile investments to help meet your current cash flow needs.

**Understanding the history of investing.** The recent market instability is unique in the sense that its cause — a worldwide pandemic — is so highly unusual, and it hopefully will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Typically, prolonged market downturns are triggered by explainable financial or economic factors, such as the bursting of the "dot-com" bubble in 2000. However, market drops of 20 percent or more —

generally referred to as bear markets — are not at

all unusual and have happened every few years over the past several decades. Financial advisors are well aware of this history and share it with their clients. And for many people, the knowledge that "we've been here before" is reassuring and makes it easier for them to continue following their investment strategies.

The road to your financial goals is a long one, with many twists and turns. So you might like to have some experienced company along the way.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

# Happy Paws



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Dawn Charles, Owner

Audrey Clayton, Groomer



# GORDON GROWN

## Bagworms in Georgia



**Greg Bowman**  
Gordon County  
Extension Agent  
gbowman@uga.edu

Before I get into the topic of the day, I would like to put in a plug for soil testing at the UGA soil test lab. Soil testing itself is very economical at \$9 per sample which includes shipping. It is a great tool to help a person obtain fertilization and liming recommendation for what they are growing in the soil on their property. Even though COVID-19 has temporarily changed how we work, we are still shipping samples to the lab and having results sent back in a timely fashion. If you

would like the UGA pamphlet on how to collect soil samples, just email me and I can get that sent to you. The pamphlet will go over proper procedure, sample depths for your activity and how to dry the samples if they are wet for example.

Now back to our topic of the day concerning bagworms. We are entering the time period to be on the lookout for newly hatched bagworms. These caterpillars are unique in their life cycle and can cause damage to our deciduous and evergreen trees. Bagworms can be especially problematic to juniper, arborvitae, spruce, pine and cedar. I have seen a few Leyland Cypress that had bagworm damage and were either killed by the caterpillars, drought or disease.

Large populations of bagworms can remove tree foliage and cause the tree to die. I am going to be sharing information from the

UGA Center for Urban Agriculture, but from a source by University of Kentucky entomologists M.F. Potter and L.H. Townsend. I will also add information from our 2020 Georgia Pest Management Handbook for homeowners.

From an entomology standpoint, bagworms are cool in their life cycle. The damage they can do is not fun. A bagworm is the larval stage of a moth that you seldom see. The male can develop into a moth that can fly while the female will stay more grub appearing. The female will stay in the bag they make until just prior to her death.

Bagworms will spend the winter as eggs inside the bag that held the previous year's female. The bagworm will hatch from the bag in middle to late May. When they hatch, the small larvae will crawl around looking for food.

Soon after hatching, bagworms will use silk and plant material to

make a small bag around their hind part that will appear like a tiny and upright ice cream cone. As they feed and mature, bagworms will enlarge the bag which will give them a place to withdraw into when they are disturbed per Potter and Townsend. Infestations can go unnoticed because the protective bags made by the caterpillars are mistaken as either pine cones or other plant parts.

Normally will receive calls in later July or early August when folks notice stripped areas of foliage. By early fall, the bags can reach a size of 1.5 to 2 inches. By this time, the caterpillars will permanently hang the bags pointing downward from twigs so the bagworm can transform into the pupa stage before becoming an adult.

When they turn into adults, remember the male is a flying moth. The male will go to bags containing the grub

appearing female for mating. The female will lay hundreds of eggs in the bag. She will drop from the bag and die. The eggs will stay in the protective bag till the next May and will hatch to start the life cycle again.

What can a homeowner do? If you have the preferred ornamentals for bagworms, I would start investigation now. If you see the attached bags from last year, you may still have time for hand removal and destroying of the bags if you can do in a safe manner. This can work if you have only a few infested trees or shrubs. This can work in the fall, winter or early spring. If you do not hand remove attached bags, you can use insecticides when the bagworms are small such as in June. Insecticides for bagworms will work better when the bagworms are less than .50 inch long. The bagworms are hard to see, but you can look for the upright bags

that look like ice cream cones.

Our information states that preventive treatment is often warranted on ornamentals that were infested with bagworms the previous year. Our information states the Bacillus thuringiensis products such as Biorol WP, Thuricide or Sok-Bt can be an option. Safari by Green Light with the active ingredient dinotefuran is mentioned along with malathion 57EC along with other various pyrethroids.

I will add to read the label of any product for safe and correct usage.

Also, be mindful of our pollinators in the home landscape and use of products around blooming plants including trees and weeds that could be damaging to our pollinator population.

For more information, contact UGA Extension-Gordon County at 706-629-8685 or email gbowman@uga.edu.

# Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Announces Georgia Grown To-Go Program

### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

As part of the Georgia Department of Agriculture's (GDA) "Buy Georgia Grown, Now More Than Ever" campaign, Georgia Grown is partnering with local governments to connect produce farmers directly to consumers in highly populated areas. Georgia Grown To-Go is a series of pop-up markets, primarily in metro Atlanta that will give customers an opportunity to purchase fresh produce directly from farmers with limited contact, drive-through service.

"We are excited to offer this great opportunity to help bridge the gap between consumers in metro areas and our farmers in South Georgia," says Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary W. Black. "With foodservice channels limited, Georgia Grown To-Go pop up markets are a great and innovative way to make sure our consumers have access to the Georgia Grown products they crave. We have enjoyed joining forces with our local government

and non-profit partners in an effort to best serve our communities during this unprecedented time."

After testing the markets in Northwest Georgia and Dekalb County, Georgia Grown To-Go is continuing in different communities statewide. The next pop-up style market is in partnership with the City of Marietta, Cobb County Government, Cobb Chamber of Commerce and Cobb Community Foundation. The event is Saturday, May 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Al Bishop Park, 1082 Al Bishop Dr. SW Marietta, Georgia 30008.

"Cobb County is pleased to welcome the opportunity to buy Georgia Grown and giving our residents easy, direct access to the best of fresh farm vegetables, Georgia Grown," says Marietta Mayor Steve Tumlin. "We are bringing the best in farm harvest direct from the farm to our front porch with Marietta's own Tip Top Poultry as a participant in this pop-up market. Additionally, our charities will be well supported thanks to Cobb neighbors who have the opportunity to make Georgia Grown

available to our local food banks during these challenging times."

While supplies last, customers can drive through and have produce boxes placed directly in their trunks. For payment, cash, credit and debit cards will be accepted. Customers can also pre-order boxes for a reduced rate until Thursday, May 21 at noon.

In addition to purchasing personal boxes, customers can support their local community by donating boxes to a neighbor or local charity. Several nonprofits will receive produce boxes through the Cobb Community Foundation, including MUST Ministries, Sweetwater Mission, Family Life Restoration Center, Reflections of Trinity, Storehouse Ministries, and Noonday.

For more information on produce offerings, pricing and upcoming events, please visit [www. GeorgiaGrownTo-Go.com](http://www.GeorgiaGrownTo-Go.com).

# National Fishing and Boating Week Begins June 6

### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Need a reason to go fishing and boating? Here are just a few: Connection – fishing and boating offer a great way to connect with family and friends; Stress Relief – fishing is a great way to relax; and Conservation - the funds from your fishing license help conserve Georgia lakes, rivers and streams. National Fishing and Boating Week, June 6-14, 2020, offers another great reason to get outdoors, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

"Did you know that most people are introduced to fishing by a family member, and most consider a family member to be their best fishing friend?" said Thom Litts, Chief of the Fisheries Management Section. "Teaching a child to fish, or taking an outing to a nearby waterway can help build a conservation ethic, while also introducing an exciting activity you can enjoy together for life."

National Fishing and Boating Week began in 1979 and was created to recognize the tradition of fishing, to broaden the spirit of togetherness and to share the values and knowledge of today's anglers with tomorrow's anglers.

**How to Celebrate: FREE FISHING DAYS:** In the spirit of introducing new family members or friends to the sport of angling, Georgia offers two FREE fishing days – Sat., June 6 and Sat., June 13, 2020 - during this special week. On these days, Georgia residents do not need a fishing license, trout license or Lands Pass (WMAs/PFAs) to fish.

**Where to Celebrate:** There are so many great places to fish in Georgia, from trout streams in North Georgia, to large reservoirs, to lazy rivers in the south part of the state. You can always start at one of the ten Public Fishing Areas (<https://georgiawildlife.com/allpfas>) or at one of many Georgia State Parks (<https://gastateparks.org/>) that offer fishing opportunities for family and friends.

According to the National Fishing and Boating Week website, one of the main reasons people don't go fishing or boating is because no one has invited them. YOU can help change this! Make it a mission during National Fishing and Boating Week, or the next time you go fishing, to take someone new: a child, a relative or a friend.

For more information on National Fishing and Boating Week and all it has to offer, including the free fishing days, nearest kids fishing event or places to fish, visit [www.georgiawildlife.com/nfbw](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/nfbw).



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# HEALTH NEWS

## GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: A new era? Pandemic boosts telemedicine

Rebecca Grapevine  
For Georgia Health News

The family medicine practice where Jamekia Kitchens works adopted telemedicine this March.

Like many providers across the nation, the nurse practitioner in Sandersville, in Washington County, prefers her patients to stay home as much as possible to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

But Georgia faces a telemedicine dilemma, with which Kitchens is personally familiar.

The state has long been friendly to health IT, including telemedicine, and Kitchens is using software developed in Georgia to connect with her patients. But her own grandmother — who lives just 10 miles away from the practice — lacks the broadband Internet access that's needed for a remote video session.

At least one-third of Washington County's households lack broadband access, according to the Georgia Broadband Deployment initiative, and that's true of many other rural areas of the state.

Though telemedicine is not available to everyone, demand for it has surged in Georgia during the pandemic. And increased use of it has been propelled by sweeping regulatory changes announced by the federal government in March and April. These changes lifted longstanding barriers to use of the technology.

Industry observers agree that even as regular in-person health care slowly returns, telemedicine will continue to be much more important than it was before the pandemic.

### Deregulation amid an emergency

Prior to COVID-19, Medicare reimbursed providers for telemedicine services only when they were in rural areas or in

places with health care shortages. Patients also had to travel to an "originating site" such as a clinic to use telemedicine. They could not use telemedicine from home.

The rules prevented clinics like the one Ann Rosenbaum administers in suburban Atlanta from adopting telemedicine.

Since the clinic she administers, Southeastern Endocrine and Diabetes, was not rural, it could not bill Medicare for telemedicine services.

After an initial round of federal changes in March opening up telemedicine to non-rural Medicare providers, Rosenbaum's practice adopted the free doxy.me platform so patients and providers could consult while staying home.

Rosenbaum says many of her patients now love telemedicine. It has eliminated the need to drive or get rides in Atlanta traffic, and it has made life easier for older patients and others who have limited mobility, she said.

Doctors and others say some patients continue to prefer the phone. The federal government recently announced that telephone calls would be reimbursed by Medicare at the same rates as in-person or telemedicine visits for many services, and the change has been made retroactive to the start of the emergency, March 1. This action is a boon to cash-strapped medical practices, which have reported declining office visits and lower revenues in the past few months.

Federal guidance also added physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists to the list of professionals who can use telemedicine. It has widened access to some at-home health services as well.

Georgia made its own moves last year to expand telemedicine. A recently approved state law requires that private insurers pay doctors

and other health care providers for telemedicine services at the same rate as for in-person visits. A second new law eased licensing for out-of-state providers.

Even before the pandemic, Georgia's Medicaid program reimbursed providers for telemedicine services at the same rate as for in-person visits, which was also the policy in almost all other states. Georgia has now received permission from the federal government to use telemedicine services for Medicaid patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These range from physical therapy to nursing to care coordination.

### The human factor

Telehealth, while it has real advantages, runs the risk of seeming impersonal, reducing the traditional connection between a provider and a patient.

Athens mental health providers Stephen Fleming and Chris Mayo have been doing exclusively telehealth appointments with their clients during the pandemic, and both will continue to do so until in-patient appointments are safe again.

Although telehealth is a valuable tool when it comes to continuity of care, Mayo, a licensed clinical social worker, prefers face-to-face sessions.

"I feel I can provide a higher quality of service when I observe full body language, have fewer distractions and no technology glitches," he said.

Fleming, a psychiatrist, said he makes every effort to provide clients with the same experience in a telehealth session as they would have in an actual office visit. While he misses the personal connection, he is also able to see the positives.

"I also appreciate how telehealth allows clients to engage me on

their terms and invite me into their homes, workspaces, etc., where they feel most comfortable," he said.

### Businesses do their part

Georgia is home to several telemedicine companies. They report a major increase in demand for their services since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Prior to the pandemic, Azalea Health's telemedicine platform averaged 500 sessions per month. The company is now providing 15,000 a month.

Azalea is offering its telemedicine platform for free during the national crisis. The company said this offer could last as long as a year, "depending on need."

The Global Partnership for Telehealth, headquartered in Blackshear, is now teaming up with the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center based at Mercer University to offer its telehealth software to rural providers for free for six months, according to a press release.

Insurance companies in Georgia are seeing consumers turn increasingly to the companies' own in-house telemedicine services.

Anthem and UnitedHealthcare are making telemedicine free almost across the board by waiving customers' cost-sharing, at least until mid-June.

"The increased volume we are seeing is unprecedented," said Christina Gaines, corporate communications director for Anthem. She reported more than 175,000 downloads nationwide since the start of 2020 and a 250 percent increase in completed visits to Anthem's telehealth platform over the same period in previous years. Anthem also recently launched a teledentistry program.

### The uninsured

The 14 percent of Georgians without any health insurance are

being left out of the telemedicine conversation, argues Michael Giglio. He's a co-founder of Giving Health, a nonprofit headquartered in Atlanta that is working to provide free telehealth to such people.

Many uninsured people go without care because they can't afford it. The goal of Giving Health is to provide them with free telemedicine — including standard medical care and behavioral health services — in their homes on a 24/7 basis.

The nonprofit says it will cost about \$100 to provide an entire family with this service for a year, and donations are needed to help fund the effort.

For patients who have significant transportation and scheduling challenges, the ability to consult with a health care provider from home is a big improvement.

Now patients can go from requesting contact to seeing a doctor in under an hour, simply by clicking on a link that comes to their phones via text.

Giving Health already has about 50 patients on its rolls. Giglio says telehealth is just one part of the solution for medical needs of the uninsured.

The group has teamed up with the Good Samaritan Health Center, which serves a largely homeless and uninsured population on Atlanta's west side, and with the Veterans Empowerment Organization.

Patients who call Good Samaritan's COVID-19 hotline, for example, are routed to Giving Health's telemedicine service, if they can receive care at home.

*Rebecca Grapevine writes about public health in the United States and India. She has worked in clinics and hospitals and in both countries and holds a doctorate in history from the University of Michigan.*

*Freelance journalist Naomi Thomas contributed to this article.*

# Adam Dortch

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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# STATE NEWS

## Georgia Sees Improvement in COVID-19 Testing

OFFICE OF GEORGIA GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

Atlanta, GA - Governor Brian P. Kemp on Monday announced that Georgia now ranks twenty-first out of fifty-four states and territories on the current percentage of

total population tested, up from forty-sixth one month ago. Among states with more than five million residents, Georgia ranks eighth out of twenty-three states.

“Our focus on increased testing is yielding strong results as the Georgia National Guard, Georgia

Department of Public Health, and various public and private-sector partners continue to work non-stop to improve access to COVID-19 testing for Georgians,” said Governor Kemp. “We are working tirelessly to move the needle on testing as we take measured steps to safely

reopen the Peach State.”

Georgia has tested 3.3% of its total population for COVID-19 with 364,289 tests completed. On Friday, May 15, the state announced that it surpassed 300,000 tests, increasing the number of reported tests by more than 64,000 over the weekend.

Any Georgian can now be tested for COVID-19. As the state continues to ramp up testing, the number of positive cases may rise. However, the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests is now at 10.5 percent, down from 16 percent two weeks ago.

## Carr Argues for Separation of Power, Joins Coalition Supporting Dismissal of Case Against Gen. Flynn

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL CHRIS CARR

Attorney General Chris Carr on Monday joined a coalition of 15 attorneys general from around the country in filing a brief in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia supporting the federal government’s motion to dismiss the case against General Michael Flynn.

“Our founding fathers designed a system of government knowing that any one branch of government is capable of over-stepping their bounds,” said Attorney General Chris Carr. “We have checks and balances for this reason. As state attorneys general, it is our duty as defenders of the Constitution to voice our concerns when federal overreach occurs.”

After the federal government decided not to pursue criminal charges against Gen. Flynn, the U.S. District Court for D.C. implied that it may order the prosecution to continue through a court-appointed prosecutor. The district court additionally stated that it would invite other individuals and organizations to file amicus briefs addressing whether the court should grant the government’s motion to dismiss.

The coalition argues that there was no reason for the court to issue this solicitation because it has no say in the federal government’s decision not to prosecute. “Simply put,” the brief

reads, “the decision not to pursue a criminal conviction is vested in the executive branch alone — and neither the legislature nor the judiciary has any role in the executive’s making of that decision.

The coalition contends that the district court should grant the motion “without commentary on the decision to charge or not to charge, because such punditry disrobes the judiciary of its cloak of impartiality.”

According to the brief, “the Court’s desire to assume the role of a prosecutor evinces a total lack of regard for the role that the separation of powers plays in our system. Before the federal government may deprive a citizen of his freedom, it must navigate a number of hurdles. It must find a law that the citizen violated, a prosecutor willing to press charges, a jury of other citizens willing to convict, and a court to uphold the legality of the prosecution. In other words, the judiciary is supposed to function as a constitutional check on deprivations of liberty — it is not supposed to remove constitutional checks on deprivations of liberty. But that is exactly what the Court would do by second-guessing the prosecutors’ decision not to continue pursuing this case.”

Ohio led this brief. Georgia joined along with attorneys general in Alabama; Alaska; Arkansas; Florida; Indiana; Louisiana; Mississippi; Missouri; Oklahoma; South Carolina; Texas; Utah; and West Virginia.

## Georgia DOT Restricts Construction-Related Lane Closures Statewide During Memorial Day Holiday Weekend

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ATLANTA, GA – To ease potential Memorial Day weekend traffic congestion, the Georgia Department of Transportation is suspending construction-related lane closures from noon Friday, May 22, 2020 through 5 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2020 on Interstate highways and limiting lane closures on state routes that directly serve major tourist and recreation centers.

**Exception: Construction at 400 SB to 285 EB**

A construction related road closure is scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night 10 pm to 6 am. The closure is to set beams for a bridge and will take place from 400 south bound (SB) to 285 eastbound (EB). Impacted lanes will include 400 northbound (NB) and 285 EB ramp to 400 NB. A detour is being implementing to Ashford-Dunwoody Road.

“Travel over the long holiday weekend has the potential for higher traffic volumes as families plan trips closer to home due to various ongoing travel restrictions across the country. Motorists may be taking to the roads in higher volumes than have been seen in recent weeks to explore travel destinations in our own state,” said Georgia DOT State Construction Engineer John Hancock. “Furthermore, motorists should be aware that crews may still work near highways and along roadway shoulders and that some safety concerns may require long-term lane closures to remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route.”

**Interstate Restrooms are Open**

Georgia welcome centers are not currently open to the public for services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, restrooms at welcome centers and rest areas throughout the state are open, operational and routinely deep cleaned throughout the day. From time to time a rest area facility may be closed temporarily for service. The public is urged to use continued caution when visiting public spaces, practice social distancing and follow the public health guidelines set forth by state and local agencies, as well as act courteously to fellow travelers.

In the event of a crash or breakdown, GDOT advises motorists to never get out of the car on a freeway, unless your life



is in imminent danger. If possible, pull off the road, turn on your hazard lights and stay seat-belted in the vehicle with the doors locked. Motorists needing roadway assistance on interstates inside the metro Atlanta area or services on the interstate roadways outside of the metro area are asked to call 511 to request HERO or CHAMP operators to assist them. When placing these calls, it is important to provide current location, nearest exit number and the interstate the motorist is traveling. In addition, provide the make and model of the vehicle.

Dialing 511 is a free phone service allowing motorists to seek help or to report crashes, roadway debris or signal disruptions, but it also provides real-time statewide travel information on Georgia’s interstates and state routes, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org).

Should you pass an accident, follow Georgia’s Move-Over Law which states drivers must move over one lane or slow down and be prepared to stop when approaching a stationary law enforcement or other emergency vehicle, construction crew, utility service vehicle, or Georgia DOT HERO or CHAMP operator utilizing traffic cones or flashing emergency lights in the roadway or located on the shoulder.

Georgia Department of Transportation plans, constructs and maintains Georgia’s state and federal highways. We’re involved in bridge, waterway, public transit, rail, general aviation, bike and pedestrian programs. And we help local governments maintain their roads. Georgia DOT and its nearly 4,000 employees are committed to delivering a transportation system focused on innovation, safety, sustainability and mobility. The Department’s vision is to boost Georgia’s competitiveness through leadership in transportation.

## Law Enforcement Warns About Fake Burn Permitting Scam

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION

The Georgia Forestry Commission is warning landowners to beware of an internet scam purporting to issue burn permits. The only way to secure a legal burn permit in Georgia is to get one online at GaTrees.org, by calling 1-877-OK2-BURN or by contacting a local office of the GFC. In some cases, a burn permit may need to be obtained from local county or city officials/offices, based on local ordinances.

“Law Enforcement has informed us that a rogue website is offering nationwide burn permits for a \$19. fee,” said Georgia Forestry Commission Director Chuck Williams. “Interested buyers are prompted to enter personal information and credit card payments. Remember, authentic Georgia burn permits

from the Georgia Forestry Commission are free and are only available through the Georgia Forestry Commission,” Williams said.

This scam was created outside the United States and was used similarly last year against the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, when fake fishing and hunting licenses were being offered. A “burn permit” Google search returns an advertisement for the bogus site in its results, and the site offers bogus burn permits it claims can be used nationwide. This is not true. Law enforcement agencies are working to have the imposter site ads removed from the Google search tool. However, the GFC is urging caution when searching for burn permit information, and emphasizes Georgia burn permits may only be obtained online at GaTrees.org, by calling 1-877-OK2-BURN (652-2876), or by contacting the local GFC county unit.

## Senator David Perdue Highlights Success Of PPP Loans

OFFICE OF SENATOR DAVID PERDUE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) on Tuesday highlighted the success of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) during a virtual Senate Banking Committee hearing on the CARES Act. Witnesses included Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

“I want to correct the record and highlight some numbers here. First of all, the Dodd-Frank bill killed about 4,000 community banks in about six years. There was a bipartisan bill done in January 2018 that modified the most onerous parts of Dodd-Frank and saved our community banks. They are the rock stars of the Paycheck Protection

Program.

“800 SBA banks were approved under the SBA system prior to this. Now, some 5,000 banks have made 4.3 million loans and put out almost \$520 billion of PPP funds so far. By the way, 99.8% of that \$520 billion went to businesses with fewer than 500 employees, so this did what we wanted it to do. 93% of those loans are \$350,000 or less.”



To stay up to date on the latest community news, follow the Gordon Gazette on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

# COUNTY

From page 1A

our public here, because people have really stepped up, we haven't had protestors, we haven't had complaints, people have sheltered in place and businesses have complied. We're seeing recovery. We've got to be cautiously optimistic; we may or may not be out of the woods. As we start to reopen and loosen things up, I want to emphasize the good things that our local businesses, restaurants, barber shops, beauticians and even our tattoo parlors have done by shutting down, while their bills continue to accrue and while they've lost income. So let's shop local. Our local businesses need our support now and we need to give it to them."

Ledbetter then gave an update on County operations.

"Sonoraville Recreation (Department) is open for tennis and walking," said Ledbetter. "The boat ramps are open at Salacoa and on our rivers. We opened camping up last weekend at Salacoa, subject to restrictions: you can't gather more than 10 people if you can't keep them six feet apart. The battlefield remains open Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"Team sports are still closed under CDC guidelines; all of us want to get back to team sports. Don Holley (Recreation Director) has given me a phased approach to opening team sports. Our community has demonstrated we are a community of responsible people and we can follow guidelines, so that gives us confidence that we can open up our team sports sooner rather than later.

"Our Senior Center has to remain closed until the governor lifts the shelter in place order for our

seniors and others in high-risk categories.

"The Government Plaza first floor - Tax Assessor and Tax Commissioner - they've continued to be open with restricted access (the doors were locked but you could call to get service), but now we're unlocking the doors as long as we can responsibly follow the guidelines.

"The first floor of the courthouse; Probate, Magistrate and Clerk of Court, we've unlocked the door and they're opening for business under the confines of the Supreme Court order. If you have business with the courts, including Superior Court, you just need to call the respective office and find out what services are available.

"Building Inspection and Zoning has been continuing to work by appointment and drop box; we'll be opening those doors later this week as we get some sneeze shields and hand sanitizer in place.

"In Administration, we've remained open for work; we do have some folks here who fall into the higher risk category so I'm really on the fence about unlocking our doors. Everyone has access to us who needs it, as far as street traffic goes; I'm on the fence about that.

"Finance, IT and GIS have continued to operate; there's no reason to unlock their doors.

"And Public Safety, Public Works, Fire Department, Animal Control, Code Enforcement, 911 and Sheriff have all continued to be fully operational."

Ledbetter said he had voted early at the Elections Office, and he felt very secure as far as transmission of a virus.

"Shea Hicks and her department have done a great job at laying out 'X' marks that keep you six-foot apart, there's hand sanitizer everywhere, our

staff is wearing masks and there's plastic shower curtains up to act as sneeze shields. I voted easily and felt very safe," said Ledbetter.

In Public Hearings for Zoning:

The Board approved a request from John Fincher to rezone 1.04 acres at an address at 1678 Moore's Ferry Road in Plainville from A-1 to R-6 to put a mobile home on.

The Board approved a request from Larry Cantrell to rezone 3.24 acres at 1678 Moore's Ferry Road in Plainville from A-1 to RA-1 to bring the property to proper zoning compliance.

The Board approved a request from Casey Bowers to rezone a 3-plus acre tract on Trimble Hollow Road from A-1 to R-1 into four tracts, to build four houses.

The Board denied a request by Devin Oesterle to rezone from A-1 to RA-1 31 acres at Cash Road and Fairmount Highway to pull five acres out of the 31 acres to build 5 duplexes on. Because the 31 acres already have six chicken houses on the property, pulling five acres out of the 31 acres would leave the six chicken houses on 26 acres, which is less than the required 30 acres for six chicken houses, which is the current zoning requirement.

In new business, the Board approved a bid for the Public Works Department for paving materials. For asphalt paving, Blunt Construction Company was approved; for signs, Vulcan Signs was approved and for stone, Vulcan Materials Company.

The next meeting of the Gordon County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 6 p.m. The meeting is tentatively planned to be a regular meeting at the Administration Building in downtown Calhoun.

## Support Groups

**-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.

**-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.

**-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.

**-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.

**-The Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** seeks to improve the quality of life for residents of long-term care facilities. For more information, call Linda Ann Daniel at 1-866-565-8213 or 706-272-2158.

**-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.discoveringshope.us](http://www.discoveringshope.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.

## AS ALWAYS, HAMILTON MEDICAL CENTER IS HERE FOR YOU

We are following CDC guidelines and have put many measures in place to help keep you safe. When you arrive at Hamilton Medical Center, you'll be greeted by a staff member who will take your temperature, screen you for COVID-19 symptoms, and provide you with hand sanitizer and a face mask if you don't already have one.

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**Screening for COVID-19 symptoms at the door**

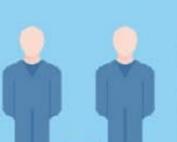


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# Law & Order

## UPDATE: 79-year-old Lafayette man succumbs to injuries after two-vehicle wreck on Hwy. 53

### STAFF REPORTS

A 79-year-old Lafayette man who suffered serious injuries after a two-vehicle wreck on Hwy. 53 around Kentucky Fried Chicken / Ruby Tuesday on Saturday afternoon has died.

According to the incident report, around 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, Sidney Kinsey, 79, of Lafayette, was

traveling out of the Kentucky Fried Chicken parking lot in his 2004 Ford Ranger, and was attempting to enter Highway 53, when he pulled out into traffic where a 2020 Jeep Renegade, traveling in the middle lane heading east, hit the Ford Ranger. The Jeep was driven by James Freeman, age 25, of Adairsville.

Both Kinsey and Freeman were

transported by EMS ground to AdventHealth Gordon, where Kinsey was then transported by LifeForce to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. The report states that both men suffered serious injuries.

An update from the Calhoun Police Department Monday afternoon confirmed that Kinsey died from his injuries.



RILEY OWCZARZ/for the Gazette

## CPD nabs several people after shoplifting incident at Walmart



PHOTOS: GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FROM LEFT: Tracey Begley, Kimberly Bragg, Jackie Clifton and Willie Saylor.

### STAFF REPORTS

Calhoun Police were busy on Friday, May 15, apprehending two women and two men from other states on various shoplifting, drug and fugitive charges after a shoplifting incident at Walmart in Calhoun.

Just after 1 p.m. an officer was dispatched to Walmart, at 450 W. Belmont Drive in Calhoun, for a shoplifter in custody. A store representative told the officer that Tracey Lynn Collins Begley, 41, of McConnell Hollow Road in Nicklesville, Vir., had taken two packs of Silicone Rings valued at \$6. The representative told the officer that Begley had a small pistol in her right front pocket when she was brought into loss prevention; that Begley had removed the firearm and other items on her, placing them on a table.

The store rep told the officer that she received a call around 12:20 p.m. of two females acting suspiciously in the women's apparel section. Begley selected a pack of silicone rings, began pulling them off the package and put them in the rear picket and front pocket of her jeans. Begley then selected another package of rings and put them in her front pocket and passed all points of sales without paying for the concealed merchandise. Begley was then escorted to the AP office and asked to

empty her pockets.

A criminal history ran on Begley turned up she was a convicted felon. Begley's purse was checked for weapons and other merchandise; a pipe was located that Begley told the officer she smokes marijuana from, along with several baggies and an approximate 2-inch piece of orange straw which had a little powder substance inside. Begley was in the company of one female and two males; Kimberly Dawn Bragg, 47, of Pineola Avenue in Kingsport, Tenn., Jackie Clifton, 50, of New Beason Road, Kingsport, Tenn., and Willie Saylor, 50, of Kingsport, Tenn. According to the report, Bragg left the scene and was later located at the Waffle House on W. Belmont Drive by another officer.

When other offices arrived on scene, Clifton and Saylor were both standing outside of Walmart beside the drink machines. An officer made contact with the two men, asking if they had arrived to the store with Begley; both men told the officer they had not. After being told they fit the description of the two men that arrived with Begley, the duo backtracked, saying they were inside the store with a female, but they did not shoplift any items. The officers asked the men who drove to Walmart, because Begley had advised she

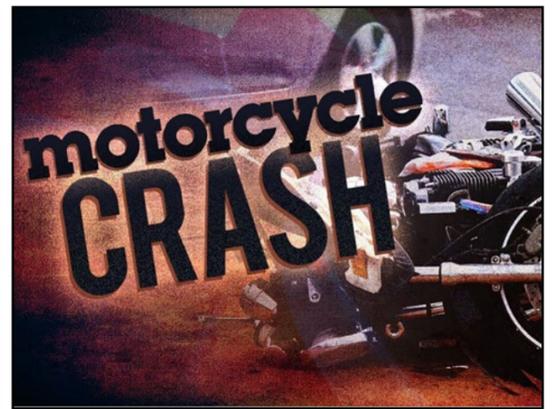
was driven to Walmart by one of the men. Both Clifton and Saylor told the officer they did not drive because they did not have driver's licenses. The officer then asked the men to provide identification since they were with Begley, who had shoplifted from Walmart.

Both men told the officer they didn't have identification on their person, so the officer took their names and date of births. Saylor came back as having an active warrant through Sullivan County, Tenn. Saylor was then placed in handcuffs. Clifton's information did not return at first because he gave the officer a different first name, telling the officer his name was Jeff Clifton. After running the correct first name, it was discovered that Clifton had an active warrant through Sullivan County, Tenn. as well, and he was also arrested. Clifton was checked for weapons, and a small, silver Raven ARMS handgun was in his right side pocket.

While on their way to jail, both men told the officer they did go to Walmart with Begley in a vehicle. Bragg, the driver of the vehicle, was also arrested after being located at Waffle House. The 2003 Chevrolet pickup the four arrived in was subsequently searched, and all four face various charges:

Tracey Begley was charged with

Shoplifting, Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon and Possession of Methamphetamine. Kimbelry Bragg was arrested on Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Related Objects. Jackie Clifton has been charged with Fugitive from Another State, Giving False Name and Date of Birth, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Possession of Methamphetamine and Drug Related Objects. Willie Saylor was charged with Fugitive from Another State, Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Related Objects. All four subjects remain in Gordon County Jail at press time.



## Calhoun man suffers serious injuries in Sunday motorcycle wreck

### STAFF REPORTS

The Georgia State Patrol investigated a Sunday motorcycle wreck in Sugar Valley that resulted in a man being life-flighted with serious injuries.

According to the GSP crash report, around noon on Sunday, May 17, a 2006 Harley Davidson, driven by Stephen Tracy Jackson, 47, of Covey Rise Drive, Calhoun, was traveling south on Bayview Drive in Sugar Valley and attempted to negotiate a curve. The report states that while driving too fast for conditions in the 35 mph zone, Jackson traveled off the west side of the roadway, striking a ditch with the front of the motorcycle. After impact, the motorcycle overturned several times, coming to a rest on its left side.

According to the report, Jackson suffered serious injuries, and was taken by LifeForce to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. His condition is unknown at press time.

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# GORDON Gazette COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY EVENTS | EDUCATION | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | GORDON COUNTY LIFE

## Local Yoga studio holding outdoor classes

Yovana Yoga takes their studio to an outdoor space in downtown Calhoun to hold classes

**Brandi Owczarz**  
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Yovana Yoga Studio owner Sarah Defoor has taken advantage of the great outdoors to continue teaching yoga to her students, and now utilizes the green space on the corner of Hicks and Wall Street, the former site of Bailey's Auto, to teach daily outdoor yoga classes.

"In the last Executive Order from Governor Kemp, he said we could resume group classes again, being ten feet apart, but I still didn't feel like it was safe to do that in an enclosed space. But we all missed being together terribly," said Defoor of her class participants. "There is a green space a block from the studio, at the corner of Hicks and Wall Street, and the Downtown Development Authority has given me permission to use it for class space now. It is much safer to be outdoors and it is good for us mentally to see each other again."

At this time, once per day, a yoga class is offered on the corner green.

"With the outdoor classes, Monday is General Yoga; basically whatever the teacher feels like teaching that day. The class is held in the morning. Every other day (Monday, Wednesday, Friday), I'm doing a morning class (at 9 a.m.)," said Defoor, saying that on Tuesday and Thursday nights, she's doing classes at 6 p.m., alternating morning and evening classes. "Not everybody feels comfortable coming back to group classes yet. I didn't want to start back with our full schedule.

We're doing one outdoor class a day until classes begin filling up, then we'll add more classes. On Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, I'm teaching Yoga for Back Care, which is one of my most popular classes. Thursday night, it'll be Yin Yoga, and Friday morning, Gentle Yoga. Over the weekend we have two General Yoga classes, at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and 4 p.m. on Sunday."

Defoor said there are remarkable benefits to practicing yoga outdoors.

"Not only is (the outdoor yoga) good to get us out of our houses and out in the sun right now, it's good to be around people and it's good to get our bodies moving," said Defoor. "None of our bodies are the same as they were two months ago. Even my body is a little different, because I haven't been quite as active. But I received a text from one of my yoga students who came to our first two outdoor classes who told me, 'You just don't know how beneficial it was to my mind and my body to be back on the mat and getting back to yoga.'"

While the outdoor yoga has been very popular this week, the studio created an online yoga class during the shelter-in-place order which has been a hit throughout Northwest Georgia.

"During the two months we were closed (due to the pandemic), I created a private Facebook group and I recruited three other Northwest Georgia studios to be a part of that group. So each studio still contributes classes to our online group. We

have over 250 classes on that platform right now," said Defoor.

In addition to Yovana, participating studios in the online classes include Horizon Healing out of Canton, Etowah Valley in Cartersville and Hot Yoga in Kennesaw.

"It's been amazing," said Defoor of the online classes. "All of our students (at Yovana) have access to all of the classes from all of the studios. So there are a lot of different styles of yoga that we may not teach at Yovana that the students are getting access to."

Defoor opened Yovana Yoga in 2018, moving to her current location at 301 South Park Avenue in downtown Calhoun, in September 2019.

"We've been continually growing since our opening," said Defoor, who has practiced yoga for six years and taught for more than three years.

Before starting her yoga journey, Defoor experienced back pain continuously. Several months into her yoga practice she realized the pain had lessened and at some point, it went away entirely. That is when she decided to deepen her knowledge of yoga and become an instructor after experiencing how yoga not only helped her with her back pain, but also helped her recover from a knee injury.

Defoor has taken more than 200 instructional hours of yoga for back care, and completed her 500-hour teacher training with Susan Hopkins E-RYT 500 in advanced teacher training and I-AYT at Etowah Valley Yoga in Cartersville. She then enhanced her



PHOTO: BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff

Sarah Defoor, above, teaches a small group from her yoga studio on Tuesday night. Defoor has started offering the outdoor classes seven days per week.

knowledge of yoga for back care by taking advanced teacher training with Lillah Schwartz E-RYT 500 and I-AYT who authored the book, "Healing Our Backs with Yoga." Defoor has trained with many yoga teachers at the tops of their specialty like Judith Hanson Lasater for Restorative Yoga, Marlysa Sullivan with yoga for chronic pain, Elizabeth Yates with yoga for Osteoporosis & Healthy aging.

"I never intended to become a yoga teacher, much less open my own studio," said Defoor. "But I found I enjoyed sharing yoga with other people."

In addition to Defoor, Yovana Yoga has four other instructors on staff: Courtney Carroll, who teaches Slow Flow Yoga,

Alignment oriented Hatha yoga and Yin Yoga, along with Kate Johnson, Anastasia Phalen, and Melody Parker.

Defoor said yoga is perfect for everyone; no matter what shape they're in.

"Yoga is an evolutionary journey," said Defoor. "When I began taking yoga, I was overweight. As a child, I was diagnosed with scoliosis, and I didn't

know what it was like not to have a pain in my back. Several months into my yoga journey, I realized my back didn't hurt as much, and then the pain went away all together. That's why I've done a lot of training and Yoga for Back Care because with a back care sequence that is taught properly, most people can walk away from that class

feeling better than when they came in, so back care is a huge benefit of yoga. Yoga also reduces anxiety, depression, it's very relaxing, and it does make you more mindful of your body. There are yoga benefits for just about anything such as yoga for trauma and yoga for cancer. I became a yoga teacher because I saw yoga as a key to healthy aging."

At this time, Yovana Yoga is offering a special for new students: two weeks of unlimited classes for \$25. This can be used with the outdoor yoga.

For more information, or to contact Defoor, visit Yovana Yoga Studio's website at <https://yovanayoga.com/> or visit their Facebook page by searching at Yovana Yoga.

## GNTC qualifies eight students for Nationals in Phi Beta Lambda Competition

CONTRIBUTED

In the next few weeks, eight Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) students will compete in the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) 2020 National Leadership Online Experience, which will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Trish Wiggins, GNTC Student Life coordinator, every GNTC student who entered the state competition held in April qualified for the national competition. Six students from the Floyd County Campus and two from the Whitfield Murray Campus worked individually or in teams of two to take the top three spots in their respective categories.

"We are especially proud that all of our students who competed at the state level placed and will be competing in the National competition virtually," Wiggins said. "These students worked hard and worked together during a time that has made collaboration a difficult task."

According to GNTC student Tatiana Edwards, a Logistics and Supply Chain Management major, the competition utilized Facebook to create a conference setting. This setting helped create a virtual office from home which was not included in previous competitions. The events were well planned with the organizers sticking to rigorous schedules and professionalism, said Edwards.

"With all the obstacles, being able to

complete the competition and place is an amazing feeling and I cannot wait to see what the national competition has in store for us," said Edwards.

For GNTC student Raul Soto, a Logistics and Supply Chain Management major, the student organization has impacted his education by giving him the tools needed to properly engage in the business world. To him, it has been a privilege to participate in the organization and represent PBL at the state level.

"I am honored to be representing Georgia Northwestern, PBL and those who have helped me get to where I am now in the national competition," said Soto. "In the past year while attending GNTC and participating in Phi Beta Lambda, I have been fortunate to meet some great people who have driven me to succeed."

The 2020 National Leadership Online Experience, which was originally to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, will run through the month of June with winners to be announced in mid-July. The students who will be competing are listed by their event and where they placed in the state competition

From the Floyd County Campus:  
Jose Gonzalez and Vikramjit Singh, first place in Marketing Analysis and Decision Making. The pair also took second in Management Analysis and Decision Making. Tatiana Edwards and Amber Grant took first place in Management Analysis and Decision Making. Grant



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tatiana Edwards and Raul Soto.

placed second in the Human Resources individual event. Jennifer Still placed third in the Management Concepts and Retail Management events.

From the Whitfield Murray Campus:  
Raul Soto placed second in the Retail Management competition and Zitlali Aguilar Moreno took first in the Job Interview event.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College provides quality workforce education to the citizens of Northwest Georgia. Students have the opportunity to earn an associate degree, diploma, or a certificate

in business, health, industrial, or public service career paths. This past year, 12,454 people benefited from GNTC's credit and noncredit programs. With an annual credit enrollment of 7,730 students, GNTC is the largest college in Northwest Georgia. GNTC has an additional enrollment of 4,724 people through adult education, continuing education, business and industry training, and Georgia Quick Start. For more information about GNTC, visit us at [www.GNTC.edu](http://www.GNTC.edu). GNTC is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia and an Equal Opportunity Institution.

# THE HUNT FOR FILM: The Last Dance (2020)



**COOPER HUNT**  
Movie Reviews at The Hunt For Film

A CAPTIVATING BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK ON A LEGENDARY ERA IN SPORTS HISTORY.

*This docuseries charts the rise of the 1990's Chicago Bulls and reaching their final season under Coach Phil Jackson in '98, led by Michael Jordan as one of the most notable dynasties in sports history.*

I came into this series with very little specific foreknowledge on Michael Jordan, the Bulls, or the NBA in general. I knew who M.J. was and how the game of basketball is played, but that was basically the extent of it. The storytelling via direction and editing of the interviews, music, and 80's/90's documentary footage has a constant energy brimming

beneath the surface that grips the viewer at the start of every new episode and doesn't let go until the hour is finished. It's impressive how exciting and enlivening a documentary can be when it tries. The show makes great use of timely musical choices (Prince's Partyman was a personal favorite of mine), and it also does a good job of covering the highlights and most important moments in the Bulls' history without suffocating the audience in statistics and numbers or alienating less-experienced basketball viewers such as myself. The show also includes some surprise appearances from other 90's superstars that encountered M.J. at one point or another, such as DiCaprio or Seinfeld, and I found those scenes quite entertaining.

What truly surprised me from the beginning of the show was the effort to depict Jordan, Pippen, Rodman, Kerr, Kukoc, and all the key players as real human beings with apparent flaws and strengths. This isn't a documentary made by the NBA to pat themselves on the back and call the masses to worship at the feet of the Chicago Bulls; it's a realistic look at how these men lived their lives and played their

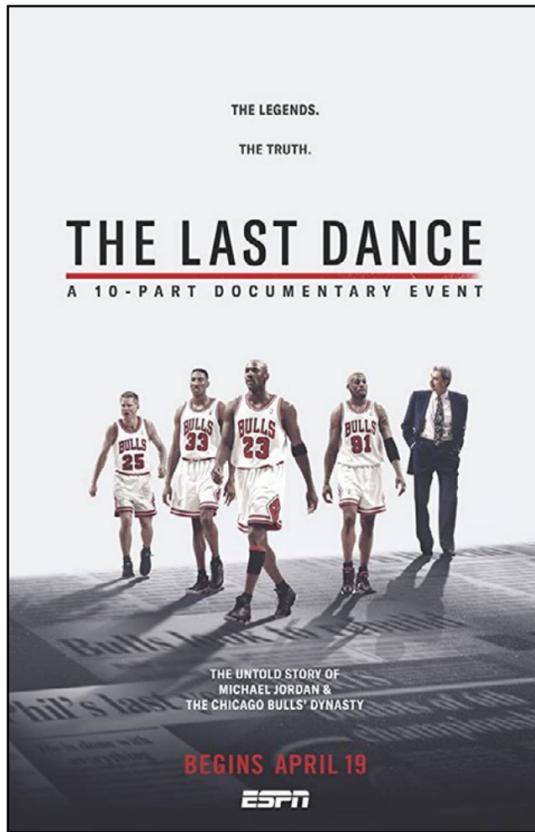
sport as professionals with emotions and feelings. Michael himself is shown many times to be a hardened, self-serious person who others might call a "tyrant", to which Jordan says "that's why you never win." Pippen recalls his infamous self-isolation during the '94 playoffs due to his frustration with Coach Phil Jackson for playing Kukoc over him, saying he wouldn't change what he did. It's an eye-opening look at the god-like figures that our modern culture and society calls celebrities, reminding us that they have bad days and make tough choices, too.

My only frustration with the series as a whole is the handling of the story's chronology. The doc's main focus is on the 1998 season (the titular "last dance" of Phil Jackson as the Bulls' Head Coach), yet is frequently switches back to earlier years to focus on Michael, Scottie, and Dennis' childhoods, high school careers, and playing collegiate ball before they entered the NBA. It's great to see the iconic players' learn and grow from an early stage all the way to the pros, but the switches in timelines can make the series quite confusing and it causes both the audience and the series itself

to lose focus. I strongly feel that this would be an A or A+ level documentary if the footage and interviews had simply been edited in chronological order instead of switching back and forth constantly as this stylistic choice doesn't really add anything to the series' characterization or storytelling.

### CONCLUSION

The Last Dance is by far one of the best constructed documentaries I've ever seen, perhaps the best. Jason Hehir's direction and the editing of the documentary footage shot in '98 mixed with the 2019 interviews help lend a truly powerful sense of retrospection and hindsight, seeing the big picture through the eyes of the Bulls themselves (it's also very touching to see Kobe Bryant in the interview segments discussing the sport). Sports stars have never been so relatable and realistic as they are depicted in this series, motivated by their parents, lifelong aspirations, personal rivalries, etc. I am still very frustrated with the decision to intercut the '98 season with flashback segments (every time it changed timelines I would have to remind myself who the Bulls were playing, what round of the playoffs they



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

were in, and who M.J. was currently mad at), and I strongly feel the series would be even better had it been told more linearly. Nonetheless, this is a remarkably gripping and insightful series that all fans of the sport or of great television should check out. Even if you're like me and basketball isn't your forte, give The Last Dance a shot. You just might score.

**Personal: A-**

**Critical: 90%**

*Cooper Hunt is a senior at Gordon Central High School. A movie buff, Hunt runs "The Hunt for Film," where he reviews recent releases from Hollywood. You can check out his reviews at thehuntforfilmwordpress.com/wordpress.com/*

## Community Events

### June 2020

**-The GEM Theatre, located at 114 North Wall Street in Calhoun, is excited to welcome back to their stage, 90's Alt-Rock band Sister Hazel.** The show will be held on Friday, June 26, beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets for the GEM performance range from \$40 - \$50 and can be purchased online by visiting the GEM's website [www.calhouncemtheatre.org](http://www.calhouncemtheatre.org).

### August 2020

**-Who's Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience is coming to the GEM Theatre on Saturday, Aug. 1,** beginning at 7:30 p.m. The performance is presented by Floyd Urgent Care in Calhoun. The GEM is located at 114 North Wall Street. Tickets for the event at the GEM range from \$35 - \$40. For tickets, visit [www.calhouncemtheatre.org/](http://www.calhouncemtheatre.org/)

**-Carman, the Christian artist who has consistently operated outside the box of Christian music, will be taking the state of the GEM Theatre for a nice of worship on Friday, Aug. 7,** beginning at 7:30 p.m. The GEM is located at 114 North Wall Street in Calhoun. Tickets range from \$30 - \$35 and can be purchased online by visiting the GEM's website [www.calhouncemtheatre.org](http://www.calhouncemtheatre.org).

### Notices

**-TALLATOONA BEGINS LIHEAP COOLING ASSISTANCE. Low Income Energy Assistance Program Cooling Assistance available;**

**appointments have begun for seniors: Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Inc. has begun the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Cooling Assistance for Gordon County.**

On April 1 at 8:30 a.m., Tallatoona began accepting appointments for the LIHEAP cooling program for senior households age 65 and older, along with homebound households. Appointments for the general public will be accepted beginning May 1, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Gordon County residents who qualify will receive either \$350 or \$400 toward their electric bill. To schedule an appointment, visit the Tallatoona website at [www.tallatoonacap.org](http://www.tallatoonacap.org) and click 'BookNow,' or call 770-817-4666, extension 2.

It's important to note that due to health and safety concerns related to COVID 19, appointments for assistance will be completed remotely by phone. Tallatoona officers are currently closed until further notice.

**-Story times at the Calhoun-Gordon County Library, 100 N. Park Ave. in Calhoun, are 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays**

**-Fairmount Library is now located inside of City Hall on the second floor.** Story time is held every second Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. and New Horizon Book Club is held on the second Thursday of the month. For more information call 706-337-5306.

**-If your school, church, civic or other**

**organization would like a representative from the Georgia State Patrol to come and speak with your group on law enforcement or public safety matters, call 706-624-1477.**

**-Story times at the Calhoun-Gordon County Library, 100 N. Park Ave. in Calhoun, are 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays.**

**-The Calhoun Adult Learning Center has so much to offer. Make the center your window to the world.** Free study programs are offered during the day and evening sessions. Enroll in adult education today. Call 706-624-1111. The center is located on the campus of Georgia Northwestern Technical College.

**-The Gordon County Saddle Club meets the fourth Thursday of each month.** The meetings will be held at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center, 1282 Hwy 53 Spur SW Suite 200, Calhoun, Ga. 30701. Contact 770-548-5956 for more information.

**-The Gordon County Nutrition Site would like to invite seniors ages 60 and over to come to the Senior Center, located at 150 Cambridge Court Monday-Friday at 11:30 a.m. for a nutritious meal.** The meal is free of charge. We are also the center for Meals on Wheels for the homebound. For more information, please contact Jackie Owens, Nutrition Site Manager at 706-629-0392.

*To add your community event to Gordon Gazette's Community Events Calendar, email [Staff@GordonGazetteGa.com](mailto:Staff@GordonGazetteGa.com)*

# Georgia Deploys 448 Wi-Fi Rangers to 36 School Districts: Calhoun City Schools Among Recipients

CONTRIBUTED

Governor Brian P. Kemp recently announced that a donation from AT&T to the Georgia Department of Education, Foundation for Public Education will be used to deploy 448 Wi-Fi Rangers to 36 school districts, filling the internet connectivity gap for thousands of students in rural areas, tripling the number of Wi-Fi buses in the state. Calhoun City Schools will be among the recipients. Calhoun City Schools Technology Director Mike Afdahl has been working closely with Superintendent Michele Taylor to determine the best placement. "Our goal is to place the rangers where they will reach as many students as possible to ensure we are providing everything needed to allow our students to continue learning during school closures, summer months and the start of next school year," stated Superintendent Michele Taylor.

"Each Wi-Fi Ranger can enable internet connections for up to 45 devices at one time, so this will be a big help in certain areas of our community. We understand that the signal for each bus has a range for connection up to 300 feet - the length of a football field. Once the locations are determined, families will be notified on where they can access the Wi-Fi." Taylor shared. "We are thankful for our partners at AT&T who are meeting this need."

"AT&T is doing our state a great service, helping us take a step forward to address the lack of available broadband connectivity for Georgia students," said Governor Kemp. "This issue has come into sharp focus during the COVID-19 pandemic as so many rural students struggle to continue remote learning without internet access. We thank AT&T for recognizing that the children affected by this lack of connectivity are the young people who represent our future.

Their generosity will leave a lasting legacy."

AT&T's donation includes two free months of service for each device. Additional grant funding was applied to extend the impact of the initiative to an additional three months of service for each device. Districts have expressed their appreciation for the Wi-Fi Rangers and the five months of service that the donation will make available.

"In difficult times, Georgians are coming together to support public schools and students," said State School Superintendent Richard Woods. "I wish to thank our industry partners for their generosity and commitment to Georgia's kids, and the Georgia Foundation for Public Education, Innovation Fund Foundation, and Governor's Office of Student Achievement for their partnership as well. Expanding Wi-Fi access will be a powerful support for school districts' summer learning programs and will ensure a more equitable



education system into the new school year."

"We appreciate the generous support of private and public companies during this time, who are seeking out creative ways to help Georgia," stated Paige Pushkin, Executive Director of the Georgia Foundation for Public Education. "Investments

like this one from AT&T not only work to solve immediate challenges as a result of the pandemic, but also provide long term economic development and stability along with an educated and ready workforce. We are happy to work with other corporations looking to make this type of impact statewide."