

GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

www.gordongazettega.com

Volume 3, No.46

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Gordon Board of Education remembers Larry Greeson with Community Connection Award

Brandi Owczarz
staff@gordongazettega.com

At each of their monthly meetings, the Gordon County Board of Education recognizes a person in the community to receive their Community Connection Award, someone who goes above and beyond for the school system. This month, the Board posthumously recognized Larry "JR" Greeson, a longtime photographer who concentrated on student activities,

especially sports, providing thousands of photographic memories for Gordon County Schools' students and families over the years.

Greeson died on Feb. 13, 2021 after a brief illness.

Belwood Elementary Principal Justin Timms recommended Greeson for the award. Greeson was a longtime friend of Timms, and Greeson's wife, Michele, is on staff at BES.

"This is one (recommendation) that's

hard to make this month, because we wish he was with us to receive the award," said Timms. "But tonight, I'm honored to be able to recognize an outstanding member of our community, Mr. Larry Greeson, Jr."

Timms went on to point out that Greeson had attended Gordon County Schools, saying that Greeson rode his grandfather's bus to

See **GREESON**, page 12A



Pictured at Monday night's BOE meeting where Larry "JR" Greeson was recognized posthumously with the Community Connection Award included, from left: BOE members Christie Fox, Eddie Hall and Dana Stewart; Greeson's daughter Kady, wife Michele; Belwood Elementary Principal Justin Timms; Board Chair Charlie Walraven, Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Fraker, and Board members Bobby Hall and Kacey Smith.

GCFR responds to several structure fires



A structure fire on Hall Memorial Road. (Photo: RILEY OWCZARZ)

Brandi Owczarz
staff@gordongazettega.com

Gordon County Fire & Rescue responded to multiple structure fires over the weekend.

The department responded to a residential fire on Hall Memorial Road

Sunday afternoon, March 7, 2021, that resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in damages.

Around 2:45 p.m. on Sunday,

See **FIRES**, page 12A

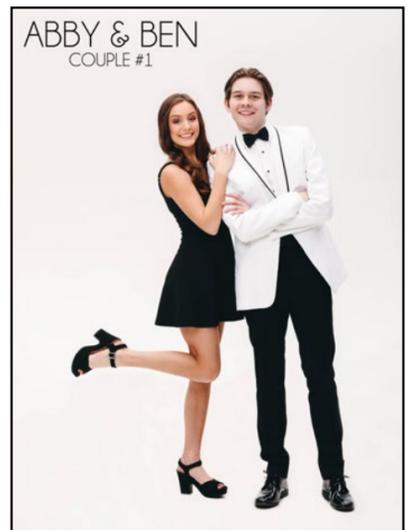
DWTS 2021 introduces first dance couple - Abby Crowe and Ben Bingham

CONTRIBUTED

United Way of Gordon County Executive Director Jennifer Latour has announced the final presentation of Calhoun's Dancing with the Stars. The record-setting fundraiser will close with an April 16 finale presented at the Calhoun Performing Arts Center. It will feature a combination of adult and student dance teams and be presented by three premier sponsors: Mohawk Industries, Calhoun-Gordon Community Foundation, and Morning Pointe of Calhoun.

"I have had the pleasure of working with the Dancing with the Stars (DWTS) Committee to help execute one show and plan two others since I joined United Way," said Latour. "The tenth year of Dancing with the Stars is a blend of everything accomplished in the past decade," she continued. "This may be our last dance, but the future is bright indeed!"

Latour went on to thank the DWTS Planning Committee--Andy Baxter, Kristy Brown, Jennie Coker, Bekah Kirby, Amy Parker, and Michelle



Frix Ward—for their hard work over the years. She also thanked all the sponsors, especially Mohawk Industries, which has been the premier sponsor all along and has been joined

See **DWTS**, page 12A

Index

- Second Front.....2A
- Obituaries.....3A
- Church Calendar.....5A
- Agriculture.....7A
- Health.....8A
- Education.....9A

Inside this issue:

SECOND FRONT 2A



Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology to host virtual webinar on colon health

STATE 10A



Jury Trials set to resume in Georgia; Wider window for child sex-abuse victims to sue abusers clears Georgia House

@gordongazette
@gordongazette
@gazettegordon

City approves annexation, rezoning that paves way for large subdivision on Dews Pond

Brandi Owczarz
staff@gordongazettega.com

It was a full house at Monday night's City Council meeting downtown due to a public hearing for annexation and rezoning requests on two related pieces of property that will combine to become a large subdivision on Dews Pond Road.

The development by Brent Stepp Construction consists of 37 acres on Dews Pond and 4.22 acres at Amakanata Road. There will be over 120 houses in the subdivision, with four homes per acre.

The Zoning Advisory Board had met prior to this meeting, on March 4, but no recommendation was made at that time. The Council approved the requests even though they had several in the community speak about their concerns over the development.

Terry Brumlow, representing Stepp, said that with all the industrial coming into the area, new employees coming into the area would need somewhere to live, and

with the housing shortage at this time, the subdivision will be needed.

"With growth comes some growing pains. One of those is a demand for housing," said Brumlow. "I can't stress enough how low the inventory on housing is in Calhoun-Gordon County. You can ask any real estate professional, there is a constant need. The PRD is a trade-off; give us a little more density here and we'll put in some buffers there. That's what Mr. Stepp proposes to do. I think this is a good plan. Mr. Stepp has been proven to be very adept at this sort of thing. This is not somebody coming from out of town that we don't know that's going to bring in a bulldozer and start knocking things down. This is a very deliberate plan."

Dr. Amy Parker, director of Communications for Gordon County Schools, spoke on behalf of the Gordon County Board of Education who opposed the annexation saying that it erodes the County tax base.



ABOVE: A resident of Dews Pond speaks before the Calhoun City Council on Monday night concerning a planned 120-plus home subdivision. RIGHT: The property on Dews Pond Road where a large subdivision is planned.



"These annexations directly impact revenues that directly impact sources for students of Gordon County Schools," said Parker.

She also said the BOE has concerns over the area is already congested with traffic.

See **CITY**, page 12A

Second Front

Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology to host virtual webinar on colon health

HAMILTON MEDICAL

Brandee Albert, DO, (pictured) gastroenterologist at Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology, will present a virtual webinar

on colon health and preventing colon cancer on Tuesday, March 23. The session will be on Zoom from noon to 1 p.m. The webinar will include information on maintaining colon health, preventing

colon cancer and learning about the risks and warning signs of esophageal cancer. Webinar participants will be entered to win one of two \$100 Visa gift cards. Albert completed a gastroenterology

fellowship and internal medicine residency at Carolinas HealthCare System – Blue Ridge in Morganton, N.C. She also served as chief resident there during her residency. She completed her medical schooling at the

University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville, Ky. To register for the webinar, please visit HamiltonHealth.com/scopeitout or call 706-272-6114



Early voting for E-SPLOST continues this week



Brian Latour
Branch Services Coordinator
Calhoun-Gordon County Public Library

Greetings Readers! I'd like to share some goings-on at the Calhoun-Gordon County Public Library. Our biggest bit of news is that we are now accepting returns at our library! You can bring back your library books and movies to the Calhoun branch on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday during Curbside Service (10 a.m. - Noon and 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.). We are making your safety and our staff's safety of paramount importance, so book returns will be

contactless. Simply show up at the library during the aforementioned hours, and drop your library materials into one of the provided tubs (set up outside next to the Curbside pickup table). After we quarantine your materials, a staff member will check-in the books and movies that you dropped off, and they will be removed from your account. Meanwhile, we are offering Curbside Service Monday-Friday, we are churning out new digital programming on Social

Media (for all ages), and we can always assist you with library card renewals, signing up for a library card or accessing our free eBooks and eAudiobooks. We want your calls and emails, and we're ready to serve you. Please keep an eye on ngrl.org/curbside for the most up-to-date Curbside hours. To reach the Calhoun branch, please call us at 762.219.9064 or 706.624.1456; or drop us a line at help.calhoun@ngrl.org. Stay tuned for more soon.



Georgians Returning to Work and Failing to Report Wages Are Committing Fraud

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

According to a Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) report, in the past five months, almost 10,000 Georgians have returned to work, but continued to request unemployment insurance (UI) benefits without reporting new wages earned. Per state and federal law, an individual must report gross wages (earnings before taxes and other deductions) for each week you work and claim unemployment benefits. The GDOL utilizes a quarterly wage cross-match system that alerts the agency to wages reported by employers, but not reported by claimants. Employers pay unemployment taxes that fund UI benefits when they file quarterly wage reports.

"It's good to see Georgians go back to work, but it is critical that employees report these wages to us to avoid overpayments and potential legal action," said Georgia Labor Commissioner Mark Butler. "Reporting false information on your weekly certifications is against the law and we are required to investigate any instances of potential fraud identified during wage cross-matches."

Each week claimants are asked to certify if they were able and available for work, if they refused any work offered during the week, and if they worked or earned any wages. If a claimant selects "No" for the question regarding work and wages, he/she is self-attesting that those answers are truthful and correct. If a quarterly wage cross-match or an employer new hire report shows that this information is not factual, the claimant will be contacted to provide additional information on the wages and work history. If the GDOL determines a claimant was paid unemployment benefits he/she should not have received, it is considered an overpayment and the claimant will be required to repay the money, including any income

taxes that were withheld. The overpayment will be categorized as non-fraud (caused by an unintentional act) or fraudulent overpayment (caused when a claimant intentionally makes false statements, fails to disclose a material fact, or misrepresents material facts to obtain or increase benefits). Overpayments must be paid back to GDOL and may include civil or criminal penalties, disqualification of future UI benefits and even incarceration.

"We have paid over \$19 billion in UI benefits working daily for almost a year to make sure eligible claimants are receiving weekly payments," said Commissioner Butler. "We are now having to address potential fraud on a phenomenal scale due to some claimants failing to disclose wages and additional work history. This is simply slowing down the process for those we may need to individually address to resolve their claim."

Today, over 190,000 jobs are listed online <https://bit.ly/36EA2vk> for Georgians to access. These listings could include multiple positions for each job indicating a much higher number of jobs available. The GDOL offers online resources for finding a job, building a resume, and assisting with other reemployment needs. Resources for reemployment assistance along with information on filing an unemployment claim and details on how employers can file partial claims can be found on the agency's webpage at <https://bit.ly/2ZudL0c>.

The Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) announced today that Georgians have received more than \$19 billion since March 21 of 2020, more than the past 43 years combined. Last week, the GDOL dispersed over \$278 million in unemployment insurance (UI) benefits including regular unemployment insurance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC),

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), State Extended Benefits (SEB), and Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) supplements.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March of last year, the GDOL has processed 4,473,245 regular UI initial claims, more than the combined last nine years prior to the pandemic (4.0 million). Last week, regular UI initial claims totaled 28,387, up 2,940 over the week. Additionally, the agency currently has 340,501 active PUA claims.

The sectors with the most weekly regular UI initial claims processed included Accommodation and Food Services, 5,705; Manufacturing, 3,170; Administrative and Support Services, 3,116; Retail Trade, 2,282; and Construction, 1,957.

The number of initial claims filed throughout the United States for the week ending Feb. 27 was 745,000, an increase of 9,000 from the previous week's revised level of 736,000.

UI benefits are taxable income and 1099-G tax forms are issued in accordance with federal law to report payments and all taxes withheld during each tax year. If you received a 1099-G tax form and did not file a UI claim yourself or your employer did not file one on your behalf, you may be the victim of UI fraud and should report the incident on the GDOL website at <https://www.dol.state.ga.us/public/ui/ben/fraud/reportType>. Select Report 1099 ID Theft at the bottom and follow the instructions. If you received a 1099-G tax form and returned the benefits or wish to return the benefits, please see detailed instructions on next steps at <https://dol.georgia.gov/blog/form-1099-g-tax-information>.

For more information on jobs and current labor force date, visit the Georgia Labor Force Market Explorer at <https://bit.ly/3ayIPjd> to view a comprehensive report.

Read Across America Week goes virtual at RBES



Read Across America Week went virtual this year at Red Bud Elementary. Pam Woods Treglown and Rosellen Burns, both retired teachers from Tolbert, and a former Social Studies teacher from Calhoun Junior High, Kyle Smith shared their favorite Dr. Seuss book with Ms. Cloer's first grade class at Red Bud Elementary.

HERITAGE 2021

THE BEST OF GORDON COUNTY'S PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

ROOTED IN GORDON COUNTY

[CLICK HERE](#)

GORDON Gazette

Obituaries

March 10, 2021

www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com

Due to the ongoing national health crisis, face coverings must be properly worn by all those who plan to attend. Social distancing guidelines must be followed at all times while attending the service.

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Mr. Ronnie Cross.



Frances DeFoor

Frances Janette DeFoor, 89, of Resaca, Georgia died Wednesday, March 3, 2021. She was born on Nov. 13, 1931 to the late Lawrence and Rose Etna Gallman Jones. She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Wayne Earl DeFoor; daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Willie Fleming; brother, Bill Jones; great grandchild, Tyler Fleming; great great grandchild, Junia Fleming.

She was a member of Higher Praise Church of God.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Rodney and Deborah DeFoor; daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Gary Starks; brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard and Virginia Jones, Mrs. Bill "Peggy" Jones and Roy and Peggy Jones; grandchildren, Eric and Kim Fleming, Jarrod and Melba Starks, and Josh and Theresa Spence; great grandchildren, Kagan and Moriah Fleming; Gavin Fleming, Cameryon Fleming, Kiersten Fleming, Bryson Starks, Cody Starks, Chloe Starks, and Seth Spence.

The family received friends on Sunday, March 7, 2021 from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The funeral service followed the visitation at 3:00 PM with Rev. Ricky Spence and Rev. Kagan Fleming officiating and Josh Spence singing. Burial followed in Sardis Church of God Cemetery. Pallbearers were Kagan Fleming, Gavin Fleming, Cameryon Fleming, Bryson Starks, Cody Starks, and Seth Spence.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, www.maxbrannonandsons.com

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Frances Janette DeFoor.



Roger Jones

Mr. Roger Paul Jones age 48, of Fairmount, departed this life Saturday March 6, 2021 at AdventHealth Gordon. He was born Feb. 17, 1973 in Barbourville, KY. He was preceded in death by his father Paul Jones, daughter Rain Jones.

He is survived by his wife, Lillie Jones of the residence; mother, Chelsie Jones of Port Republic, VA; sons and daughter-in-law, Kyle and Rebeca Jones of Calhoun, GA, Brandon Jones of Fairmount, GA; grandchildren, Cloe Jones, Mckayla Jones, Cody Jones Jr., Brantley Jones.

At his request he will be cremated and no services will be held at this time.

Due to the National health crisis and the Covid-19 virus, masks must be worn properly at all times and social distancing must be observed when visiting the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.pondersfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by, Ponders Fairmount Chapel 2566 Hwy 411 Fairmount GA 30139 706-337-3784 www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org and www.ogr.org



Carolyn Marcus

Mrs. Carolyn Brock "Grandma" Marcus, age 76, of Resaca, Georgia departed this life Sunday evening, March 7, 2021 at Hamilton Medical Center.

Carolyn was born Dec. 4, 1944 in Dalton, Georgia, a daughter of the late R. B. and Julia Ingle Brock. She was also preceded in death by her loving husband of fifty-eight years, Thomas Herman Marcus who died April 12, 2019, her infant son, Thomas Herman Marcus Jr. who died in July of 1960, a daughter-in-law, Kelli Marcus who died Aug. 30, 2019, and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Porter Maxwell and Lena Marcus. Carolyn was a homemaker and worked several years at Hamilton Home Healthcare. She was a member of the Center Point Baptist Church.

Carolyn was beloved by her entire family. She loved to garden and taught her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to love God, one another, and those less fortunate than them. She loved her husband dearly and missed him every day since his passing and now they are reunited in the presence of Christ forever.

Carolyn is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Darlene Marcus and Michael Allen of Resaca, GA; son, Rick Marcus of Resaca, GA; son and daughter-in-law Reverend Wayne and Tammy Marcus of



Linda Campbell

Linda Campbell, 61, of the Ranger Community, died at her home while surrounded by her family and friends on Monday, March 8, 2021. Linda was born in Harlington, Texas on Oct. 30, 1959. She was the daughter of the late John and Evelyn Brock. Linda fought a long and courageous battle with cancer and other major illnesses. Through it all, she never lost her full heart, willingness to help others, and an ability to change a bad situation onto a good one. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to many. Prior to her ill health, she worked for many years at Horizon/Mohawk.



She is survived by her husband of forty years, John Paul Campbell; her son, Justin Campbell (Adrian Covey); her grandchildren, Lincoln and Everleigh Campbell her brothers, Larry and Eddie Brock; her sister and brother-in-law, Diana and Ricky Gilbert; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m.

The funeral service will be conducted on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Gordon Memorial Gardens. Rev. Clifford Free will officiate. Pallbearers are Steve Brock, Jeremy Holsomback, Rodney Parker, Wesley Pilcher, Jaekob Dixon, and Corben Dixon; honorary pallbearers are Eddie and Larry Brock and Rick Gilbert.

Due to the COVID-19 national health emergency, those attending must wear face masks and follow social distancing guidelines.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Linda Ann Brock Campbell.



Bill Crawford

Mr. Billy "Bill" Floyd Crawford, 86, of Chatsworth, Georgia died Friday, March 5, 2021 at Tranquility in Dalton, Georgia.



Bill was born in Gordon County, Georgia on April 7, 1934, son of the late Virgil R. and Nellie Baugh Crawford.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by four sisters, Sally Russo, Madge Boswell, Lucille Akins and Virginia Snyder and by three brothers, Frank Crawford, Howard Crawford and Hugh Crawford. He began his working career at O'jay Mills and later he entered the automobile business and owned and operated Crawford Auto Sales for many years prior to his retirement.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Elrod Crawford to whom he was married for 57 years, one sister, Betty Crawford of Norcross, GA., nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services for Mr. Bill Crawford were held on Monday, March 8 at 2:00 PM from the chapel of Max Brannon & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Harold Blackstock and Eddie Brannon officiating. Interment will follow in Center Hill Baptist Church Cemetery in Murray County.

The family received friends at the funeral home Sunday evening between the hours of 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM.

The Crawford family along with the staff of Max Brannon and sons Funeral Home remind anyone in attendance to keep in mind the restrictions set forth by the CDC as it pertains to social gatherings including social distancing, gathering limits and face masks.

Online condolences may be expressed and the guestbook signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mr. Billy "Bill" Floyd Crawford.



Ronnie Cross

Mr. Ronnie Cross, age 63, of Calhoun, passed away Monday morning March 8 at the home of his daughter in Cleveland, Tenn.

Ronnie was born Aug. 17, 1957, son of the late Verlie Cross and Dorothy Mayfield Cross.

Besides his parents he was preceded in death by three brothers, Vern, Ricky, and Calvin Cross; and one sister, Sandy.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Cross; one son, Ronald M. Cross of Calhoun; one daughter, Christina Rodriguez and her husband Kenneth of Cleveland; three brothers, Joe and Roy Cross of Palatka, Fl., and Marvin Cross of English, Fl.; two sisters, Janet of Rainsville, Al. and Carol of Florida. Three grandchildren, Graecyn, Mia, and Jude Rodriguez also survive.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, March 12 at 12 noon from the chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with the Rev. Chester Edwards officiating. Burial will follow in Chandler Cemetery.

The family will receive friends Thursday evening from 6 until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

You may leave condolence for the family at

Eastanollee, GA; grandchildren, Andy Marcus, Tasha Scroggs, Noel Pauley, Jacob Allen, David Marcus, Brittany Dagnan; sister, Wanda Johnson; special friend, Bonnie Stacy both of Dalton, GA; fifteen great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Service to celebrate the life of Mrs. Carolyn Brock Marcus will be held Wednesday morning, March 10, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock a.m. from the Ponders Melrose Chapel with Reverend Wayne Marcus, Reverend George Ross, and Reverend Matt Futch officiating. She will be laid to rest beside her beloved husband at Center Point Baptist Church Cemetery with Jacob Allen, David Marcus, Tyler Scroggs, Shane Pauley Alex Dagnan, and Bartolo Ortiz serving as pallbearers. The family will receive friends from 5:00 o'clock p.m. until 9:00 o'clock p.m. at the funeral home on Tuesday and after 9:00 o'clock a.m. Wednesday until the service hour.

In lieu of flowers make donations to Greater Works of Dalton 1001 S. Thornton Avenue Dalton GA 30720.

Due to the National health crisis and the Covid-19 virus, masks must be worn properly at all times and social distancing must be observed when visiting the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at Arrangements will be announced by, Ponders Melrose Chapel 138 Melrose Drive Dalton, GA 30721, 706-226-4002 www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org and www.ogr.org



James Petty

James F. Petty, 82, of Calhoun, died Monday, March 8, 2021 after two years of declining health. He was born on May 19, 1938 in Gordon County to the late J.E. and Velma Cronon Petty. He was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Mary Ann Jones Petty; brother-in-law, Johnny Silvers; granddaughter, Christina Phillips.

He is survived by his sons and their spouses, Edward(Joy)Petty, Tony(Leah)Petty, and Richard(Augie) Garcia-Petty; daughter, Marie Phillips; brother and sister-in-law, Harvey(Connie) Petty; sisters and brother-in-law, Martha Silvers and Eula(Ray)Patterson; grandchildren, Harmony Petty, Michala Petty, Hunter Petty, Abe Perez, Bentley Garcia, Brielle Garcia, and Blake Garcia.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

The graveside service will follow the visitation at 2:00 PM from the graveside of Gordon Memorial Gardens, with Rev. Jamey Hunt officiating. Pallbearers are, Steve Parris, Jackie Petty, David Patterson, Chad Petty, Ray Silvers, and Dale Silvers.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to www.maxbrannonandsons.com

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of James F. Petty.



Virgil Pierce

Virgil Edmond Pierce, 80, of Calhoun, died Sunday, March 7, 2021 after an extended illness. He was born on April 16, 1940 to the late Homer and Annie Mae Pierce. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 59 years, Eva Birdie Stanley Pierce; brother-in-law, Charlie Langston; infant daughter, Janie.



He was a member of Calhoun Full Gospel Fellowship.

He is survived by his daughters and son-in-law, Melissa(Eddie)Wright and Mary Sue Ray; brothers and sisters-in-law, Roy(Glyneese) Pierce, Tommy(Michele)Pierce, and Rev. Herschel (Tonio)Pierce; sisters and brothers-in-law, Dorthey "Dot"(Louis)Bell, Linda(Harold) Mobley, Edith(Jimmy)Allen, Yvonne Sewell, Joanne Langston, Edna(Danny)Parker, and Faye(Ron) Bentley; grandchildren, Chasity Greene, Dale Jackson, and Ty Christian; great-grandchildren, Gabriel Greene, Canyon Jackson, and Caspean Greene; many nieces, nephews, and friends who adored him also survive.

The family received friends on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM at Calhoun Full Gospel Fellowship.

The family will have a private funeral service with Rev. Hershhal Pierce and Rev. Joe Fountein officiating. Burial followed at Crane Eater Cemetery. Pallbearers are, Ronald Balliew, Randy Balliew, Larry Garland, Rickey Pierce, Roger Davis, and Gabriel Greene. Honorary pallbearers are, Don Edwards, Brian Pierce, Ron Bentley, Tom Millsap, Tye Christian, and Jackie Keener.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, www.maxbrannonandsons.com

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Virgil Edmond Pierce.





**CNA Nursing School of Calhoun
& MTI of North Georgia**

Become a Certified Nursing Assistant
in as little as 20 Days

Day and Evening Classes Available

**Now Offering
Classes For:**

- Phlebotomy Technician
- EKG/ECG Technician
- Medical Assistant
- Health Care Technician

CPR Training



**Financing
Available**

No Interest

**We can help you get
the education you
deserve TODAY so you
can work TOMORROW!**

Get the skills you need to build a career you can be proud of!

www.cnanursingschool.com

135 Professional Court, Calhoun, GA 706.629.2651

RELIGION

SALVATION IS KINDA LIKE A JAR OF SOUP



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

I was thinking that springtime would be here by now. We were teased by a couple of beautiful weeks, then it turned cold again. I think all of us are ready for what spring has instore, minus the soaring pollen counts.

For many the anticipation includes lazy days on the river. Those of us who struggle with arthritis are yearning for warmer temperatures. Even more, there are folks like my parents who love working in their garden. Momma and Daddy have always kept a beautiful yard, and a garden that's larger than my yard. They love it. They love to can vegetable soup. I've never asked, but secretively I've wondered how they canned soup, in a glass jar.

One night not too long ago, while I was sitting in my living room with a young man that was saved that morning; he made the comment, "I just never want to be lost again". I know

I'm opening up a can of worms here, but just suffer through this if that's what it takes. I asked the young man a question that most new believers give a wrong answer to, including myself right after I was saved. I asked him who was responsible for keeping him saved. In a flood of anxiety, he replied that he was. In the greatest most liberating day of his life, this guy was terrified at the thought of being lost again. How could he enjoy his salvation, in the fear as he was experiencing? The truth according to scripture is that we are not responsible for keeping our salvation. Ephesians 2:8,9 reads... For by grace you have been

saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. It's by the grace of God that we are saved, and NOTHING else. Saying we could lose our salvation, is the same as saying we could be good enough to keep it. How good would be good enough?? It would take us living without sin until the day of redemption, which will be the day Jesus returns for us.

At this moment, I went and got a jar of my parent's soup from a kitchen cabinet, and sat it on the coffee table in front of him. I then instructed him to read Ephesians 4:30. This verse reads, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of

God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." After he read it I explained to him the process that Momma completes in "canning" the jar of soup. I explained that after she cooked the soup, she placed the jar in boiling water until she heard a small, ping sound. I told him that when you hear the "ping", you knew that the lid on the jar was sealed. I showed him that the jar had a 15 on the lid, saying that it was canned in 2015. Furthermore I promised him, that if I went to the kitchen and heated the soup that it would taste like it was canned yesterday. How could that be? Because the jar was sealed. Another word for sealed is "kept". The

soup had been "kept" by the sealing of the lid on the jar. A seal, in biblical times as today, is used to guarantee security or indicate ownership. That should make a Christian shout. When the Holy Spirit "sealed" this young man, He guaranteed his eternal security!

Our late Pastor, Dr. Woody Lee, used to say that the only way a man could live above sin, would be to live in the upstairs of a honkytonk. If we were in charge of securing our salvation, Heaven would be empty except for the angels and GodHimself. Spend some time today thanking God for your salvation, then enjoy sharing an old jar of soup with someone.

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 Relevate Church in Ranger off 411. Call Nicole for information: 706-979-4713/706-290-8028.

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Fairmount United Methodist Church-Loving One Another To Christ. Sunday School at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. Children's

Church provided. New Minister now Leading. New programs and community outreach coming soon.

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

--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, Find 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.

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

-Liberty Baptist Church Pastor Gene Ratcliff invites everyone to church services in Ranger; service times are 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Sunday worship and 7 p.m. Wednesday worship.

-Brother Joe Hall and the congregation of Ranger Baptist invite everyone to its regular services on Sunday morning. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. Worship is Wednesday night with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Bible study at 7 p.m. For more information, call 706-629-3425.

-Oak Grove Baptist Church of Adairsville is located at 997 Brownlee Mountain Road S.W. Service times are Sunday school 9:45 a.m., with worship at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Pastor: Roger Fisher.

-Fellowship Baptist Church of Plainville will hold a Brotherhood Breakfast on the second Sunday of each month at 8 a.m.

Ready to MOVE In!
Commit to Moving by **March 15,**
Receive Your **FIRST Month's Rent* FREE**
**And No Community Fee*

CALHOUN **Morning Pointe**
Assisted Living & Memory Care

660 Jolly Road, NW
Calhoun, GA 30701
(706) 629-0777

Looking to buy or sell a home?
I'm here to help!

Rebecca & Brown Associates REAL ESTATE LLC

Ronald Amyx
678.848.3031

508 S. WALL STREET, CALHOUN, GA
706.629.2747

FINANCE

CASH FLOW WITH JOE: Explaining the four jobs of a tenant



Joe & Ashley English
Owners of Focus Property Solutions, LLC
focuspropertysolutionsllc@gmail.com

I've written to you many times about how we "hire" people to do the four jobs of a tenant. And I've said those four jobs are the standard by which we choose our tenants and also how we decide to "fire" them when they're not performing.

And just to remind you, the four jobs are: 1. Take care of the house. 2. Pay on time. 3. Be

comfortable to work with by staying in good communication and being respectful. 4. Be a good neighbor.

These jobs are listed in a specific order based off of their importance. And I'd like to explain the reasoning behind that.

The first job is to take care of the house, and I'm always quick to point out that this job comes before paying on time. Let's think about that for a minute. What would cost more: a well-maintained house with a tenant who missed a payment during COVID-19 shutdowns or a tenant who pays early each month but doesn't let you know that the water heater has been leaking for months and rotting the floor? What if they also allow their kids to knock holes in the doors while the dog scratches through the carpet after it gets through using the

bathroom on it?

Now, I made that one-sided, but you should get the idea. Damage is the most expensive thing on a rental property, and it affects your bottom line more than having a late, or even nonpaying, tenant. As such, the No. 1 job is to protect your house from damage by taking good care of it.

Now, don't get me wrong. We expect our tenants to pay on time. That's why it is job No. 2. But some landlords care only about the monthly payment and turn a blind eye to the condition of the property. I think that's an error that will cost more due to tenant turnover. You see, if a house is in disrepair and a tenant is willing to take the house in that condition, they won't stay long. That means you'll have a higher vacancy rate, lost rent and the probability of more damage as people move in and out

regularly.

Making sure our houses are taken care of increases our profitability and is the most important job of all for a tenant.

I don't think I need to spend a lot of time on why paying on time is important. But job No. 3 is built upon the first two jobs. I need the tenants to be comfortable to work with by always using good communication. And they need to do it in a respectful manner. We treat our tenants in a professional manner and expect the same out of them.

But you see, the tenants are our eyes and ears at our properties. They need to know that we not only encourage them to contact us when something like the water heater is leaking, but we expect them to do it quickly. That's good communication in maintaining the property.

We also want them to contact us if they have something going on financially. For us, rent is due on the first and late on the second. Our office manager, Marybeth, has a great saying. "Rarely, if ever, does financial difficulty happen overnight." With that idea in mind, if the tenants have something come up like a check that drops on the second this month, they need to let us know about that in advanced and not the day before rent is due. That is being comfortable to work with and staying in good communication about payment.

The last job is to be good neighbor. The reason this is on the list is because we typically have houses in nonrental neighborhoods. That means the people next to our rental houses own their homes and will typically outstay our tenants. As such,

we need tenants to be good and respectful neighbors and to have a good relationship with the neighborhood.

This week, we had a neighbor call in on one of our tenants — and it was for a good reason. You see, this tenant lives next to an elderly couple, and our tenant has been going out of his way to check-in on them, especially after he learned the neighbor had cancer. The call was to let us know that our tenants were always good neighbors and to brag on the current tenant. It was good to hear that our tenant was not just being a good neighbor, but a great one.

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 or call Joe at 678-986-6813.

Resilience Is Key to Meeting Financial Goals



Dewayne Bowen
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones
dewayne.bowen@edwardjones.com

In just about any endeavor, you'll benefit by showing resilience — and that's certainly true when it comes to achieving your financial goals.

You can demonstrate this resilience by answering these questions: What is your

specific goal? What obstacle do you face in achieving this goal? How can you overcome this obstacle?

Here are some examples of how this resiliency process works:

Goal: Building sufficient retirement funds

To build sufficient retirement income, you need to invest in the financial markets through your 401(k), IRA and other accounts. But how should you respond when these markets go through periods of volatility? Your best defense is to remain invested. If you were to jump out of the market every time it dropped, you'd probably miss out on the rebounds that followed. Also, over a period of decades, the effects of short-term market fluctuations tend to diminish, so while the results of any particular day

or week may not look good on your investment statement, the importance of these results may diminish in 10 or 20 years.

Goal: Maintaining steady cash flow

Keeping a steady cash flow is essential to meeting your daily and monthly expenses. So, it's obviously important that you maintain sufficient earned income. But what happens if you encounter a serious illness or injury that keeps you from work for an extended period? Depending on the length of time you're not working, you could feel a real financial pinch, so you may want to consider some type of disability insurance. Your employer may offer a short-term policy as an employee benefit, but it might not be sufficient, so you may need to look at private

coverage.

Goal: Keeping retirement accounts intact

Ideally, you'd like to leave your IRA, 401(k) and other accounts intact until you need to start tapping into them when you retire. But what if you face an unexpectedly large medical bill or you need to replace your furnace or get a new car? If you don't have the money readily available, you might be forced to dip into your IRA and 401(k), incurring taxes and potential penalties and leaving yourself fewer resources for retirement. You can help avoid this setback by creating an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

Goal: Having confidence in your strategy

To achieve your important

financial goals, you need a strategy — and you need to believe in it strongly enough to keep following it during all types of stress on the financial markets. It's not always easy to maintain this conviction — less than half of Americans are confident in their abilities to recover quickly from difficult financial situations, according to a new survey from Edward Jones. One way to help gain this confidence is by working with a financial advisor.

In fact, 36 percent of those surveyed began working with a financial advisor in 2020 for help navigating the past year. The importance of receiving good advice became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought about a variety of financial worries, such as job loss, retirement considerations, caregiving for elderly parents

or providing financial support to adult children.

You will face some challenges on your journey toward achieving your financial objectives. But by being resilient, you can stay on the right road.

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

Edward Jones is a licensed insurance producer in all states and Washington D.C., through Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. and in California, New Mexico and Massachusetts through Edward Jones Insurance Agency of California, L.L.C.; Edward Jones Insurance Agency of New Mexico, L.L.C.; and Edward Jones Insurance Agency of Massachusetts, L.L.C.

CONSUMER ED: Credit Card Surcharges

CONTRIBUTED

Dear Consumer Ed:

How much of a surcharge are merchants allowed to charge you for paying with a credit card?

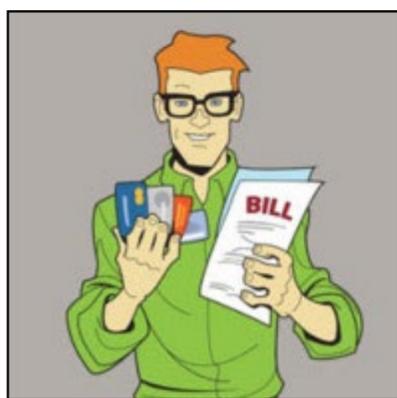
Consumer Ed says:

Each time a customer pays with a credit card, the merchant must pay a transaction fee to the company that issued the credit card. Instead of merchants absorbing this expense, they are permitted to pass the transaction fee along to the consumer, which is considered a "surcharge". Importantly, restrictions exist to ensure consumers obtain clear, transparent, and up-front disclosure about surcharges.

Credit card surcharges are usually presented as a fee or percentage of the transaction, though the amount of the surcharge cannot exceed the amount the merchant pays to accept the card. This amount is generally two to three percent of the purchase price. If customers instead opt to pay by cash, check, or debit card, merchants are permitted to offer a discount equivalent to the credit card surcharge that may have been factored in to the regular advertised price, as long as that discount is offered to all customers.

In any case, merchants who add a credit card surcharge onto their customers' bills must post a sign at the point of entry to the business notifying customers. Merchants must also disclose the exact amount of the surcharge at the point of sale and on customers' receipts. A note of caution: for online purchases, merchants are only required to disclose this surcharge on the first page where the potential customer is prompted to enter in his or her credit card information.

Regardless of the method of payment, merchants are not permitted to mislead customers, whether by deceptively



advertising a lower price than they actually charge or by concealing any differences between credit, debit, and cash prices. If a merchant fails to clearly and conspicuously disclose what it charges for the transaction, including any additional fees, that may violate Georgia laws prohibiting deceptive or false advertising.

Additionally, there have been reports of merchants assessing Covid-19 surcharges. Depending on a variety of factors, the collection of Covid-related surcharges or fees may be permissible. However, at a minimum, any price representations must be truthful and not misleading. Businesses need to provide notice of their policies and other material information before the consumer makes a decision to purchase. The failure to include the surcharge or fee in an advertised price could be considered an unfair or deceptive practice, and potentially be a violation of Georgia law.

If you believe a merchant is improperly charging fees, failing to disclose what it is charging, or otherwise engaging in false or misleading sales practices, you can file a complaint with the Georgia Department of Law's Consumer Protection Division by visiting consumer.ga.gov or by calling 404-651-8600.

Crude and Gas Prices Continue to Climb Higher as Stocks Tighten, Refinery Utilization Plummets to Lowest Level Recorded

AAA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 8, 2021)—With a nickel increase on the week, the national gas price average has reached \$2.77, which is a 31-cent jump in the last month. Every state average has climbed by double-digits since February resulting in 1 in 10 gas stations with pump prices that are \$3/gallon or more.

Pump prices are increasing as refinery utilization is at an all-time low and crude oil prices (WTI) surged by more than \$2/bbl to \$66/bbl on Friday, the highest price in nearly two years. The jump in crude followed the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' and their allies', collectively known as OPEC+, surprise decision to minimally increase production in April.

"With crude oil prices back on the rise, we could see the national average climb towards \$2.90 this spring with some relief by early summer," said Jeanette McGee, AAA spokesperson. "The last time we saw the national average flirt with \$3 was nearly three years ago in May 2018. At that time, crude was averaging about \$71 per barrel."

The Energy Information Administration's (EIA) report for the week ending February 26 shows refinery capacity at 56%, which is the lowest rate recorded by the agency. It is also 12 percentage points below last week and 18 percentage points lower than a year ago. EIA data also points to a decrease in gasoline stocks down to 243.4 million bbl, which is 3.5% below levels at the end of February 2020.

With refinery utilization at a record low, gasoline supplies tightening, demand modestly increasing and crude prices on the rise, cheap prices are in the rear view mirror for the immediate future.

Today's national average is nearly 40 cents more expensive compared to a year ago, which was right before state lockdowns and working/school from home started.

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases: Utah (+21 cents), Wyoming (+15 cents), Idaho (+13 cents), New Mexico (+12 cents), Florida (+10 cents), Oklahoma (+10 cents), Montana (+10 cents), Colorado (+9 cents), Alaska (+9 cents) and Arkansas (+9 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets: Mississippi (\$2.44), Louisiana (\$2.47), Texas (\$2.50), Missouri (\$2.50), South Carolina (\$2.51), Alabama (\$2.51), Arkansas (\$2.55), Kentucky (\$2.56), Tennessee (\$2.57) and North Carolina (\$2.57).

Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session, WTI increased by \$2.26 to settle at \$66.09. At the end of last week, OPEC+ announced the decision to add only about 170,000 barrels per day to world markets in April. The industry had been expecting a production increase of about 1.5 million barrels per day in April, with more oil released in May, June, and beyond. This decision sent crude oil surging to the highest price point since April 2019. For this week, prices may continue to increase if the market remains optimistic about crude demand as vaccines become more widespread.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

GORDON GROWN

Purple Martins in Georgia



Greg Bowman
Gordon County
Extension Agent
gbowman@uga.edu

One popular bird that many people like to attract to their property is the purple martin. For many decades it was common to see boxes, gourds or other house options on poles at a home site used to attract purple martins. The attracting of purple martins to a property may not be as popular as in years past, but there is an increase due to the potential of these birds to assist in non-chemical insect control.

Our information states that according to the Purple Martin Conservation Association there are more than one million people that have martin houses on the property. Today, I will be sharing information from a UGA publication by Michael Mengak, UGA Wildlife Specialist.

For starters, the

purple martin is not a bird species that will stay year-round in Georgia. This bird will spend the winter south in South America. Purple Martins will make the trip to our area of the state around the middle part of February and will depart again in the fall.

Keep in mind that old martins normally will return to old nesting sites while the young birds will seek new nesting areas. The rule of thumb is once a house is used, it will continue to be used. A new house will end up used by first year purple martins looking for a place to nest.

One thing that Mengak pointed out that is that legend says the first martins that arrive are scouts that are making sure the property is safe. Mengak states this is not true. The first birds are actually the older birds and the younger martins will soon follow.

Another fact for our area is that purple martins depend heavily on human supplied housing for nesting. The purple martin is monogamous for the breeding season. The female will lay 3 to 8 white eggs and the incubation period will last from 15 to 18 days. The nest is made from twigs, weeds, leaves and coarse grass for example. Both parents will care for the hatched birds.

The baby birds will stay in the nest up to four weeks. When they leave the nest, the babies will return to the area for up to 10 days before final departure.

Another cool fact is that purple martins feed and drink only while in flight. Purple martins will eat a variety of insects so this note may be where the popularity for insect control starts. Purple martins will eat dragonflies, midges, mayflies, stinkbugs, leafhoppers, Japanese beetles, June bugs, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, cicadas, wasps and flying ants to name a few. Note that mosquitoes are not on the list. This year could be a tougher year for mosquitoes due to the wet weather, but don't count on purple martins to help reduce the mosquito population.

Since purple martins depend on housing from humans, you need to spend some time in this area. The most noticeable are the hanging gourds or the martin apartment house systems. In the past, it was common to see a number of naturally grown gourds hanging on a pole with cross arms. You can still do this, but it is hard to find grown gourds. Plastic gourds may have to be used. You could also cluster jugs or even man-made

houses. Again, the apartment house options are common. You can purchase them in wooden or aluminum housing from stores or make your own. I will not go into detail if you want to make your own purple martin apartment housing, but I can send you the directions by email from our publication.

Where you place the purple martin housing is important. The birds prefer the houses to be placed in open areas. Do not put a purple house closer than 40 feet from a tree or 30 feet from a structure. Keep in mind this bird species like to nest together thus why the cluster of gourds or apartment systems work well. Mengak states that widely scattered houses built for solitary pairs of birds are normally not successful. Placing houses near open water will work. Also, it is noted that since martins like to socialize on telephone or electrical wires, putting their houses near utility lines is good. Placing the housing in open areas will also help purple martins catch insects while in flight.

Do not place martin houses near honey bees because the purple martins will consume bees.

Prior to putting up the houses, place a pinch of sulfur dust in each



An example of Purple Martin housing.

nesting compartment according to Mengak. This will help control mites.

You will put houses on poles 15-30 feet tall. The lower the vegetation in the area, the lower the poles can be. Ideally, you will make the pole where it can be taken down for cleaning in the fall and for winter storage. If the houses will stay up year round, you still need to clean out the compartments safely with a ladder and

a wire hook to clean out the material. You need to also plug entry holes to keep other bird species out while purple martins are gone.

For more information, contact UGA Extension-Gordon County at 706-629-8685 or email gbowman@uga.edu. Finally, check us out on Facebook at Gordon County Extension/Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Early Turkey Hunt Opportunity: Youth and Mobility-Impaired Hunters

GEORGIA DNR

The statewide turkey hunting season opens March 20. However, youth and mobility-impaired hunters utilizing private land have an early chance to harvest a bird during the special opportunity turkey season March 13-14, 2021, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

This weekend hunt opportunity is available only for youth 16 years of age and younger, or hunters that are mobility impaired (i.e. confined to a wheelchair, hemiplegia, monoplegia, paraplegia, or single-leg amputation above the knee). Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult (18 years or older) who may call for turkey, but may not take or attempt to take a turkey. All turkey hunters,

including those under 16 years of age, landowners, honorary, lifetime, and sportsman license holders, must obtain a free harvest record each season. Before moving a harvested turkey, hunters are required to immediately enter the date and county on the harvest record, and within 24 hours, must complete the reporting process through Georgia Game Check. More information at georgiawildlife.com/HarvestRecordGeorgiaGameCheck.

Resident youth hunters under age 16 will not need a license. Hunters age 16 years or older (including those accompanying youth or others) will need a hunting license and a big game license unless hunting on their own private land. Get your license at www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com, at a retail license vendor or by phone at 1-800-366-2661.

The 2021 Georgia statewide turkey more information, visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/turkey-info>. season opens Sat., March 20. For



Michelle Little, DO Family Medicine
Jennifer Smith, FNP-C Family Medicine
Justin Hare, DO Neurosurgery and Spine

PERSONALIZED CARE
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

We accept most health insurance plans.



160 Curtis Parkway NE
Calhoun, GA

Primary Care • 706.529.3025
Neurosurgery & Spine • 706.529.7124

THOMAS FUNERAL HOME

Celebrating 75 Years
of Serving our Families, Friends, and Community

 Bruce Thomas	 Alvin Long	 Chaz Mezick	 Ken Greeson
 Gregory Thomas	 Paige Roland	 Parham Hammontree	 Corey Forsyth

535 Red Bud Road, Calhoun, GA 30701
706.629.2832
www.ThomasFuneralHomeCalhoun.com

HEALTH NEWS

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Which health bills are still alive? Facility visitations, newborn screening, clockwork . . .

**ANDY MILLER ,
Georgia Health News**

A proposal allowing “legal representatives” more access to patients during health emergencies was approved by the Georgia House on Monday after emotional testimony by several lawmakers, including House Speaker David Ralston.

The chamber’s passage of House Bill 290, along with a flurry of other measures, came during Crossover Day. That’s the deadline for a bill to gain passage by at least one chamber of the Legislature or lose its chance to become law this year. (Occasionally such a dead bill is revived by attaching its provisions to another bill that has already passed a chamber.)

With bills on election procedures taking up much political bandwidth in this year’s session of the General Assembly, health care didn’t occupy as big a spotlight as in previous sessions.

But there were some notable bills passing one chamber, as well as significant budget increases for public health and mental health services.

House Bill 290, which passed by a 113-57 vote, would require hospitals and long-term care facilities to allow a “legal representative” of a patient or resident to visit the person at least one hour a day. This official-sounding term refers in most cases to a patient’s loved one, such as the next of kin. Under the bill, the facilities would set the rules and conditions of the visits.

Georgia’s long-term care ombudsmen had urged the state to ease its COVID-inspired restrictions on visits, saying facility residents were suffering from isolation and loneliness.

Rep. Ed Setzler, an Acworth Republican and the bill’s lead sponsor, spoke during deliberations about his 82-year-old father-in-law, who was hospitalized in Gwinnett County after a serious cardiac event and was not allowed a visit from his daughter. She “was turned away again and again and again,” Setzler said.

Rep. Bonnie Rich (R-Suwanee), who also spoke in favor of the bill, talked about her own medical experience and how important the presence of her family was.

The hospital industry opposed the legislation, citing concern about infection spread.

Rep. Debra Bazemore, a Riverdale Democrat, called the legislation “a feel-good, tug-at-your-heartstrings bill.” She said health care professionals, not the Legislature, should be trusted to make visitation rules. “I choose to trust the science and medical professionals,” Bazemore said. “There’s no need to codify this process.”

Rep. Erick Allen (D-Smyrna), another opponent of House Bill 290, said no medical professional wants to prevent a patient from seeing a beloved family member, but that safety is a paramount concern.

Supporters of the bill noted how important family members are to a patient or resident.

Rep. Patty Bentley, a Butler Democrat, talked about potential restrictions on visiting her husband, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, if he enters a long-term care facility. And Rep. Jesse Petrea, a Republican from Savannah, said that if aides and housekeepers can regular come into a patient’s room, “why can’t that one legal representative come in for one hour a day?”

Speaker Ralston (R-Blue Ridge) spoke of his personal experience with visitation restrictions. He talked of how a young husband whose wife was dying turned to him for help in seeing her. “I couldn’t do it,” recalled Ralston, one of the most powerful people in the state. “He said goodbye on FaceTime.”

A friend said goodbye to his mother through a window, Ralston added. Still another woman had trouble explaining to her mother why she couldn’t visit her, he said.

The bill now goes to the state Senate. The Legislative session is expected to end March 31.

Newborn screening

Also passing the House Monday was legislation creating a committee that would make recommendations to the Department of Public Health for the addition of new disorders to Georgia’s newborn screening practices. Newborns are regularly screened for a standard panel of diseases and disorders so that they can receive any necessary services or care as soon

as possible after birth.

The House also approved legislation that would remove a loophole for individuals charged with distracted driving for the first time. Georgia law currently allows those who are charged with violating the Hands-Free law for the first time to appear before the court with a device or proof of purchase of a device that would prevent them from distracted driving. State law currently requires the court to clear the individual of this first offense if there’s proof of that purchase. House Bill 247 removes that first-offense waiver.

A proposal also clearing the House would require hospitals to participate in a survey on whether their electronic health record system restricts access to patient data with other facilities’ systems. A patient who cannot get this data transferred seamlessly from one provider to another can run into a roadblock in getting medical care, said Rep. Mark Newton (R-Augusta), who’s a physician. “We should not put the burden on the patient when they’re sick.”

And the Senate passed a stripped-down bill that clarified that the state Public Health commissioner has the authority to appoint a district health director.

The original version of Senate bill 256 would have taken authority from counties’ boards of health and given it to the Department of Public Health. It also would have loosened the required qualifications for a district health director, allowed the Public Health commissioner to redraw district maps, and overall would have concentrated more power in the commissioner’s office.

Medicaid, time changes and the ACA Among the health



care bills already moved through one chamber was legislation creating an automatic “express lane” for Medicaid eligibility to children who receive food stamps.

Tens of thousands of uninsured kids could gain coverage if House Bill 163 gets final approval.

Other states, including Alabama, South Carolina and Louisiana, have already adopted the express lane – and have increased coverage of uninsured children, said the bill’s lead sponsor, Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), who’s chairman of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

“This is especially important for people in rural areas” because they often lack broadband or cellphone service, or transportation to a DFCS office, said Cooper. “We are delaying children from getting health care when they are eligible to have it,” she told her committee.

The Senate earlier passed legislation that would put Georgia on standard time all year. It would stop the current system of switching back and forth twice a year between standard and daylight time. Health experts say these switches disrupt sleep patterns. Interfering with sleep following time changes every March and November affects Georgians’ health and causes mood swings,

said Sen. Ben Watson, a Savannah Republican and physician who was the bill’s chief sponsor.

“There’s a significantly higher percentage of heart attacks during the spring-forward time,” Watson said.

The wording of Watson’s bill was tailored to comply with current federal law. Right now, that law permits individual states to enact year-round standard time but not year-round daylight saving time, the Capitol Beat News Service reported. So while Watson’s bill would put Georgia on standard time all year, it also calls for the state to move to daylight saving time if and when Congress votes to allow that. (Meanwhile, Georgia’s annual switch to daylight time is coming up this weekend.)

But the House passed legislation Friday calling for Georgia to observe daylight saving time all year. The one thing both chambers agree on is that the state should stop switching from standard time to daylight every March and back again to standard each November.

Patient brokering is a practice of a drug treatment center or similar facility paying a third party for referring a patient to their business. The practice can lead to much higher charges for the patient. Senate Bill 4, which passed that

chamber unanimously, would prohibit brokering and establish penalties for it.

The U.S. Supreme Court made Medicaid expansion optional for states. And the House approved a measure that would require health insurers to offer one “reasonably priced” comprehensive insurance policy that covers pre-existing conditions, in case Congress repeals the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA) or a court strikes down or significantly alters the act. The ACA prohibits insurers from their longtime former practice of charging higher premiums to people with such conditions. While the ACA has withstood various repeal attempts and court challenges, there is currently a challenge to it before the U.S. Supreme Court, and there is concern about the potential disruption that an unfavorable ruling would cause.

And earlier, the House passed “Gracie’s Law,” which would make the state the latest to ban discrimination against individuals with physical and mental disabilities in the organ transplant process. The measure is named after a young Georgian with Down syndrome named Gracie, whose parents took up the issue after learning she may have needed a heart transplant.

DID YOU KNOW THE E-EDITION ARCHIVES ARE ONLINE...FOR FREE VIEWING?

GORDON GAZETTE E-EDITION FREE ARCHIVES

See the archives at: GordonGazetteGa.com/back-issues

*Rooted in Gordon County
More Than 25 Years*

FOR BEAUTIFUL SMILES

- Cerec/One Visit Dentistry for Crowns
- Porcelain Veneers
- Crowns - Sealants
- Tooth Colored Fillings
- Bonding - Whitening
- Fresh Breath Therapy
- Occlusal Guards - Digital X-Rays

FOR COMFORTABLE SMILES

- Bridges - Extractions
- Dentures & Partial
- Root Canal Therapy - Nitrous Oxide
- Gum Infection Therapy
- Cleaning & Exams - Implant Restorations

Choosing the right Dentist is an important health decision. Dr. Mereddy and his staff are trained on the latest dental treatments & technologies.

Ravi Mereddy, DMD
Delessa Bone, RDH Kess Powell, RDH
Mary Ann Parmiter, RDH

Calhoun Family Dentistry
908 Red Bud Rd NE Calhoun, GA 30701
706.629.8822
www.calhouldentist.com

Hablamos Español

ALL INSURANCES ARE FILED. WE ARE CONTRACTED WITH SEVERAL CARRIERS

EDUCATION NEWS

GNTC names semi-finalists for 2021 GOAL award

GNTC

Four Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) students have been selected as the college's semi-finalists for the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL), according to Trish Wiggins, coordinator for the college's GOAL program.

Listed are students chosen as semi-finalists for the GOAL award showing (from left to right) the student's name, program of study, GNTC campus and nominating instructor:

Tressa Brown, Business Management, Floyd County Campus, Brittany Cochran

Jose Gonzalez, Marketing Management, Floyd County Campus, Mark Upton

Stephanie Kuhrt, Marketing Management, Floyd County Campus, Mark Upton

Brittany Wattenbarger, Cybersecurity, Catoosa County Campus, Dwight Watt

GOAL, a statewide program of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), honors excellence in academics and leadership among the state's technical college students. GOAL winners are selected at each of the state's 22 technical

colleges.

"We have four outstanding students who were chosen as finalists this year and each one has a different, but amazing story," said Wiggins. "I look forward to the next round, as I am certain these four will represent GNTC and TCSG well. I have no doubt, whoever is chosen as the winner will do an excellent job as the GNTC GOAL Student of the Year."

According to Wiggins, a screening committee of administrators at GNTC selected the four semi-finalists from students nominated by their instructors.

The four semi-finalists will advance to a second round of judging with the Rome Floyd Chamber. A panel of business, civic and industry leaders from the community will virtually interview and evaluate the students and select one to be the college's 2021 GOAL winner.

The student judged most outstanding will be announced at the GOAL and Rick Perkins Awards Luncheon on Thursday, March 25, at GNTC's Gordon County Campus.

All college GOAL winners will compete in regional judging, which will include students from the other TCSG colleges. Three finalists from the region will be

named and will compete in the state GOAL competition.

The state GOAL winner becomes the student ambassador for the Technical College System of Georgia. They will make many public appearances throughout the year, including addresses to the Georgia General Assembly, the Governor and other TCSG functions.

Kia Motors is awarding a new automobile to the state GOAL winner.

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, 11,820 people benefited from GNTC's credit and noncredit programs. GNTC has an annual credit enrollment of 8,591 students and an additional enrollment of 3,229 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. GNTC is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia and an Equal Opportunity Institution.



Top row, left to right: Tressa Brown and Jose Gonzalez. Bottom row, left to right: Stephanie Kuhrt and Brittany Wattenbarger.

MY BANK HAS THE TOOLS I NEED TO MANAGE MY BUSINESS

From business checking to merchant services, we're ready to help your business thrive. And being locally owned and managed means you'll get the attention you deserve every time. Make the switch and see what you get with a real banking relationship. At First Bank of Calhoun, YOU are first!



A division of First Bank



Visit us at:

197 W.C. Bryant Pkwy
Calhoun, GA
(706) 629-1500

myfirstbank.com



MEMBER FDIC

"As a business owner, customer service is top priority. First Bank of Calhoun delivers the customer service that you don't see much of these days. They are attentive and always ready to help with my financial needs."

- Kevan Carpenter, Commercial Floor Resources

Jury trials to resume in Georgia

DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – Georgia Chief Justice Harold Melton Tuesday lifted a suspension of jury trials in Georgia he had imposed for a second time in December.

Melton’s statewide judicial emergency order, the 12th he has issued since the coronavirus pandemic struck Georgia last March, will allow

jury trials to resume immediately if it can be done safely and according to a plan developed with input from local judicial officials.

The state’s courts have remained open since Melton issued his initial order a year ago, but jury trials were suspended due to the number of people required to be present at courthouses.

Melton first lifted the suspension of jury

trials last October but prohibited them again in December following a spike in COVID-19 cases. Tuesday’s order noted that cases of the virus once again have subsided.

Jury trials are “fundamental to the American justice system,” Melton declared in a public service announcement

due to air soon in which he appeals directly to

Georgia citizens.

“You and every citizen are critical to this process because we cannot conduct a trial by jury without jurors, without you,” he said. “We have put into place the most rigorous safety protocols available.”

Safety precautions that will accompany jury trials include temperature checks, masks, plexiglas barriers, touch-free evidence technology,

constant surface cleaning and the reconfiguration of courtrooms and jury spaces to ensure social distancing.

As with previous judicial emergency orders, Melton urged all courts to use technology to conduct remote judicial proceedings where practicable and lawful as a safer alternative to in-person proceedings.

The new order is set

to expire April 8.

Melton is expected to address the judicial system’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic in detail when he delivers his final State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the General Assembly March 16. The chief justice announced last month he is leaving the court on July 1.

Wider window for child sex-abuse victims to sue abusers clears Georgia House

BEAU EVANS
Capitol Beat News Service

Legislation to extend the statute of limitations for Georgians who were sexually abused as children to sue their abusers years later as adults has cleared the state House of Representatives.

House lawmakers passed the bill unanimously late on Monday’s annual Crossover Day deadline and sent it on to the Georgia Senate.

Sponsored by Rep. Heath Clark, R-Warner Robins, the bill would extend the deadline for victims to bring lawsuits against their childhood abusers from age 23 to 38, an increase from current law but pared back from an earlier version of the bill that set 52 as the cut-off age.

A previous stab by Clark at the bill stalled in the Senate last year as the General Assembly paused the legislative session due to COVID-19.

Speaking from the House floor on Monday,

Clark said his bill aims to bring justice for Georgians sexually abused as children and to hold accountable both their abusers and the organizations that turned a blind eye.

“These organizations were breaking the law of Georgia by not reporting the events that were happening under their care,” Clark said. “So we are going after the criminals.”

The bill would let victims sue their alleged abusers up to a year after realizing that past abuse has led to present-day trauma, effective July 1. Research shows adults often tend to recognize the impacts of childhood sex abuse decades after it happened.

Controversially, the bill would also give victims a four-year window to sue public and private organizations like the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts of America for harboring predators on staff who abused them as children.

Under the bill, victims would have to

prove with “clear and convincing” evidence – a high legal hurdle – that those organizations both knew about the abuse and let it happen under their watch.

Lawsuits could only be brought if the abuse happened since July 1, 1983, marking another pull-back from earlier versions of the bill that made abuse that occurred since 1973 subject to litigation.

Trial attorneys have warned opening the lawsuit window for victims decades after their abuse could open a floodgate of litigation in Georgia, noting hundreds of suits were filed in New York shortly after that state passed a similar statute-of-limitations extension in 2019.

Representatives from the Boy Scouts and Catholic Church, which have both been rocked by child sex-abuse scandals in recent years, also previously opposed the bill on grounds that litigation could expose their organizations to huge legal fees.



Georgia House passes Patient and Resident Representation and Visitation Act

DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – A bill letting some family members visit Georgians in hospitals or nursing homes during health emergencies like coronavirus cleared the state House of Representatives Monday after an emotional debate.

The legislation, which passed 113-57 and now moves to the Georgia Senate, was revised numerous times as it went through the chamber’s Human Relations and Aging Committee to address safety concerns expressed by hospital and nursing home administrators.

Under the scaled-back version of the measure the House passed, “legal representatives” designated to make decisions – which could include a family member – would be allowed to visit a hospital patient for up to one hour a day.

“Essential caregivers” – which also could include a relative – could visit nursing home residents for up to two hours daily.

From a practical standpoint, supporters said legal representatives or caregivers would pose no more of a health threat to the patients or residents they visit than the many facility staff who regularly come into their rooms.

“If we can have the



myriad of staff coming and going into these facilities, why can’t that one legal representative come in for one hour a day ... that person who can help them make decisions and understand what they’re going through?” said Rep. Jesse Petrea, R-Savannah, the Human Relations and Aging Committee’s chairman. “That’s what this bill does.”

House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, supported the bill from an emotional standpoint. In a rare appearance in the well of the House, Ralston described how a young husband called him last summer asking if the speaker could help him gain permission to visit his dying wife, who was in the hospital. Ralston was powerless to help.

“He said ‘goodbye’ on FaceTime,” Ralston told his House colleagues. “I hope you will send a message ... to the people whose pleas and hurt and heartbreak we’re trying to touch in

some way.”

But the bill’s opponents argued hospitals and nursing homes have imposed necessary visiting restrictions to keep residents and patients safe.

“This is a feel-good, tug-at-your-heartstrings bill,” said Rep. Debra Bazemore, D-Riverdale, the House’s deputy minority whip. “However, I trust the medical professionals when they warn that to keep our loved ones healthy and safe, we will have to endure some precautions.”

Rep. Ed Setzler, R-Acworth, the bill’s chief sponsor, said he took the concerns of health-care professionals into account in working through the multiple revisions he made to strengthen the measure’s protections.

“We’ve taken all this feedback and boiled this down to the core essentials,” he said. “This bill gives the patient the right to have their next of kin at their bedside to make critical decisions.”



Restore Balance in the Body



Full Line of High Quality Herbs & Supplements

Vitamins & Minerals
Probiotics
Homeopathic Remedies



We also carry

Salt Lamps for Air Purification
Enjoy Health Benefits with Essential Oils
both concentrated for diffusers and topical blends
CBD Oil for Relieving Pain, Stress & Insomnia

Subscribe to Our Vlog!

LEARN to LISTEN to your body & what remedies are available.

Mother Nature Talks

The first video is online at
www.mothenaturetalks.online/the-body-whisperer

Stop by our store today or visit us on line at:
www.mothenatureseden.com

Our Knowledgeable & Courteous Staff Is Here to Help You with Your Natural Medicine Needs.



220 South Wall Street, Calhoun, GA
706.625.1952

NOW OPEN

ONE VISION.
ONE INSTITUTE.
ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE FOCUS: *you*



GREESON

From page 1A

Belwood.

“He was a great guy. He never forgot where he came from; he never forgot his roots,” said Timms. “He sought to serve the community and help others whenever he could. Like so many that we’ve lost this year, his passing is truly a tragic loss and it will be felt immediately and for quite a while to come.”

Timms went on to say that Greeson was a constant presence around the schools.

“He had a huge heart for others and was such a giving person,” said Timms. “You could always count on Larry to help you whenever you needed help. He would mentor students, he would come speak to classes on career day or he would take pictures of absolutely anything that you wanted him to photograph. We’ve been able to capture so many wonderful moments for our families at sporting events and just in the community because he was

always willing to come (take photos).”

“He was a good man and he made a difference in this community,” said Timms. “He was loved by all who knew him and while his passing leaves a great void for us, the way in which he lived his life is an inspiration for us all.”

Greeson’s wife, Michele, and daughter, Kady, were on hand and were presented with a gift provided by North Georgia National Bank, sponsor of the Community Connection Award.

FIRES

From page 1A

fire personnel were dispatched to a structure fire located at 1255 Hall Memorial Road in Resaca. Scanner traffic indicated smoke coming out of all of the windows in the trailer.

According to GCF&R, upon arrival, fire department personnel observed a mobile home approximately 45 percent involved. After an

investigation, fire was determined to have started in one of the bedrooms.

The cause of the fire is undetermined. Total property loss is valued at approximately \$30,000.

On Friday, March 5, 2021 at around 11:30 p.m., GCF&R was dispatched to a structure fire located at 1192 Newtown Loop NE in Calhoun. Upon arrival, fire department personnel observed a structure fire with 100 percent involvement. After investigation and speaking with home owner, the fire was determined to have started from the area of

a wood stove used to heat the residence. Property loss valued at approximately \$105,000.

Just after 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 7, 2021, Fire & Rescue was dispatched to an outbuilding fire located at 145 Farmington Drive SE in Calhoun. Upon arrival fire department personnel observed a 10’x15’ outbuilding 100 percent involved. After investigation, the fire was determined to have started from an unattended fire ring. Property loss valued at approximately \$7,500.

DWTS

From page 1A

by two others this year.

“Mohawk has been proud to serve as the title sponsor of Dancing with the Stars since the event’s inception,” said Robert Webb, Senior Director of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications with Mohawk Industries. “For a decade, the dancers have entertained audiences and raised over a million dollars to support the important work of United Way’s partner agencies. We salute all the individuals who have shared their talents to make this such a successful fundraising event year after year.”

The finale will include several special features, but the dancers will be the stars of the show. The ten teams, listed alphabetically by the female partner’s first name, are Abby Crowe and Ben Bingham; Aubry Dorsey and Isaac Nance; Carly Curtis and Skylar Benham; Carson Glaze and Grant Glaze; Joy Nudd and Garrett Nudd; Kaylan Gaines and Addison Baker; Lily Stephens and Nate Stockman; Megan Wright and Christian Lewis; Raven Pasley and Ian King; and Suzanne Roberts with Tony Pyle.

Abby Crowe and Ben Bingham will dance first. Abby is the daughter of Ben Crowe and Nichole Hawthorne. Her stepmothers are Lisa Hawthorne and Susan Crowe. A student at Calhoun High School, she is President of the Musical Theatre Program. She is also a member of

the Calhoun High School Dive Team. Abby works at SMA Athletics, where she teaches toddlers gymnastics. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction and has earned Distinguished Academic Achievement status as one of the top five in her class. She plans to attend the University of Georgia.

She attends North Pointe Baptist Church in Adairsville. Abby is a former Calhoun-Gordon County Junior Mayor, having held the position in 2019. She is an animal lover and currently has three dogs, three cats, and a bunny running around her house.

Benjamin (Ben) Bingham will dance with Abby Crowe. Ben is the son of Doug and Shay Bingham. He is a student at Calhoun High School and plans to attend Harding University. Ben has participated in Drama and Chorus all four years of his high school career. He also has been involved with Band and Literary. Ben has been a One Act State Champion, a two-time One-Act Region Champion, and won Opening Number Top Four at the Thespian Conference.

He is actively involved in mission work, youth group and benevolence programs at Central Church of Christ in Dalton, Georgia. He is a big Denver Broncos Fan and knows NFL stats and history like the back of his hand. He is proud to share that he was born and spent the first half of his life in Alabama. He is also a huge fan of Disney’s CARS movie and has an Instagram CARS account with over 6,000 likes.

First and second-place winners will be identified in two categories-Judges’ Choice and People’s Choice-for both the student and adult teams. People’s Choice winners are determined based on their fundraising successes. Judges’ Choice winners are determined based on the scores the contest judges give their dance performances. The adult teams winning in those categories will receive trophies and bragging rights. The student teams winning in those categories will receive trophies, bragging rights, and college scholarships. Each student on the first-place team in each category will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and each student on the second-place team will receive a \$750 scholarship. A panel of judges will be assembled from field professionals outside Gordon County.

Tickets will go on sale to the public on Saturday, March 27. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis. Sponsorships remain available for individuals or corporations wishing to support the fundraiser. Those arrangements may be made by contacting the United Way office at 706.602.5548, or online at <https://www.gordoncountyunitedway.org>.

United Way of Gordon County is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the Gordon County area. The mission of United Way of Gordon County is to accurately assess the needs of Gordon County and to mobilize available resources to meet those needs. It serves eighteen local agencies in Gordon County, as well as serving as a referral source for the community.

CITY

From page 1A

Calhoun Mayor Jimmy Palmer said that the City has helped the County on numerous occasions on various projects that has greatly improved their numbers.

“We ran sewer for \$4.2 million dollars that allowed a \$250 million dollars’ worth of investment by LG,” said Mayor. “We just now completed a \$3.5 million dollar project on South 41 that makes (the properties being developed) down there eligible for revenues to be generated for the County School System. I think we do a lot to help the county and the county revenues.”

There were a few others that spoke concerning traffic and water issues.

Resident Dale Bentley, who live just east of the property on Dews Pond Road, said that he’s not against the project or the homes going in the area, but that he’s concerned about the subdivision only have one entrance/exit point, and traffic back-up in the area.

“I’m not against this project or annexation; I’m not against progress. But I am against the way it’s currently constructed with only one exit because of traffic and safety,” said Bentley. “We need to consider a second exit when you’re going to have 123 homes. (That means) there are probably going to be 275 cars trying to get back onto Dews Pond Road.”

Bentley said that there’s times he sits at his property on Dews Pond Road for up to 30 seconds trying to get out onto the road, and that while that might not seem like a large amount of time, adding the backed up traffic that the subdivision will bring, with many cars leaving each day to go to work and school, that amount of time will add up.

“If there are 50 to 75 cars backed up behind each other trying to get out onto the road, that’s going to take it to 15 – 20 minutes. You’re going to be doing an injustice to the new homeowners if you restrict them.”

Mayor Palmer said that the City did have traffic counts performed in 2019, and according to DOT, the average daily traffic county at Moss Lake and Dews Pond, which

is nearest to the property, is 6,460 cars in a 24-hour period. Palmer also said that the City had a company come in to look at a timing issue on the red light at Dews Pond/Lovers Lane/Harmony Church Road and that they are hopeful that will help traffic east to west more efficiently.

“We are in the process to set up meetings with the County to look at a lot of traffic issues and a way to improve those issues, and this (area) is certainly one that will be discussed,” said Mayor Palmer. “We are trying to look together in a lot of area to see a lot of improvements to safety and moving traffic.”

Several others residents on Dews Pond and in Parks Place spoke before the Council about possible water issues the new development will cause due to a creek that runs along the property.

One resident, who has property that runs along the property the subdivision will be built on, told the Council that he’s worried about flooding on his property and across his driveway.

“I’ve listened to Brent and I’ve seen the developments he’s done and he really takes care; that responsibility goes back to him,” said Councilwoman Jackie Palazzolo. “I know a lot of times it’s going to improve the situation from what it is currently. I know I’m a transplant and I’ve only been here since 2001, but the quality of work that comes out of Brent Stepp is fantastic, and even if he does end up selling the property, he’s still concerned about the fact that his name is attached to it. And to me, that means a lot.”

Mayor Palmer said that Stepp will have to pay for expensive required hydrology/geophysical testing by the State for the development.

“It is my understanding that developments like this often improve water flow rather than hurt it. It should not be anything that hurts the water flow,” said Palmer.

Ashley Williams of Shenandoah Drive in Parks Place had previously emailed photos to the Council concerning possible water issues in the area, saying that water will run across the road and back up, pointing out issues with current water backup from another subdivision in the area.

“The culvert that runs under the road (in the area) is actually cracked in the middle,” said Williams. “There’s a major issue right there. The water there backs up. If the

creek begins to back up, it’ll back up to the subdivision before mine. The culvert that runs under Dews Pond Road is actually broken off in a three-to-four foot section.”

Mayor Palmer said that the problems shouldn’t be any worse than they currently are due to the hydrology study; that the water issues are usually improved after studies are completed.

Palazzolo said that she feels it is the public servants responsibility to make sure these issues were addressed.

“We’re going to continue to grow in Calhoun; this (growth) is not going to go away,” said Palazzolo. “This is a good problem to have. So we do have to look at the fact of working together (city and county) to fix some of these issues that are going to come arise because of the progress that’s coming our way. And going back to Mr. Stepp, I do like the idea of a hometown person coming in to take care of it. Eventually, if that doesn’t happen, it’s going to be someone from out of town that comes in that doesn’t care about Calhoun the way that people that live here care about Calhoun.”

Palazzolo recused herself from voting on the issue since her employer, Gordon County Schools had spoken against the request, but the other four members of the Council approved both the annexation and rezones of the properties.

In other news from the meeting:

The Council approved a zoning change request from R-2 to Ind-G by FB&F Holding Company, LLC for approximately 17 acres at 130 Executive Drive (Parcel C58-047).

The Council approved a request of a beer package license at a location of 312 North Wall Street by Henry Patel. Mr. Patel will also serve as the store manager.

The Council approved a request by Echota Baptist Church to block the road beginning at the mailbox by the front steps of the church, College Circle, to the stop sign behind the church at Short North Wall Street from 10:00AM to 12:00PM on Saturday, March 27 th for the Community Easter Egg Hunt.

The next meeting of the Calhoun City Council will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 22 at the Depot in downtown Calhoun.



DON'T BE PARTY TO UNDERAGE DRINKING



THE COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND DRUGS
Since 1969



DBHDD
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

OBITUARIES

From page 3A

Fannie Bell Reece

Mrs. Fannie Bell Reece, age 90, of Adairsville, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 6, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.



She was born in Calhoun, July 2, 1930, daughter of the late Kimsey Jackson Coker and Jessie Cordelia King Coker. She was a devout Christian and loved her Lord. Mrs. Reece was a lifelong member of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church and over the years active in numerous groups and committees. Family was her world. She was a proud mother and granny, who always had a story to tell about her children and grandchildren. Her home was filled with photos of a lifetime of memories that brought her joy and happiness. She loved cooking, baking, and gathering with family and friends as much as possible. She was an amazing quilter, leaving her family many to cherish. Blessed with a green thumb, her yard always displayed the most beautiful flowers gardens for all to enjoy. She touched the lives of many with her kind heart and loving ways. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy will live in our hearts forever. Mrs. Reece is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Marvin Reece; daughter, Brenda Holmes; brothers, Bill, Fred, Marvin, Sherman(Henry), and Oscar (Buck) Coker; and sisters, Ethel Woods, Jessie Peace, and Dora Helton.

Survivors include her loving children, Patsy and Donnie Sutton, Gerald and Patrice Reece, and Donnie and Debbie Reece; grandchildren, Chad Sutton, Corey (Kim) Sutton, Brittany (Will) Harrison, Brandon (Amanda) Reece, April (Todd) Butler, Amber (Jenny) Harris, and Chris (Renae) Holmes; great-grandchildren, Morgan Sutton, Madison Sutton, Emma Sutton, Collin Sutton, Connor Sutton, Camden Harrison, Reece Harrison, Ali Reece, Leah Reece, Mason Reece, London Butler, Jack Harris, Daulton Holmes, and Walker Holmes; great great-granddaughter, Sadie Grace Holmes sister, Betty June Cook and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 2:00 pm at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Adairsville, with Ministers Larry Hibberts and Kenny Rogers officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Corey Sutton, Chad Sutton, Chris Holmes, Walker Holmes, Daulton Holmes, and Brandon Reece. Honorary pallbearers will be Collin Sutton, Connor Sutton, Mason Reece, Camden Harrison, Jack Harris and the deacons of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

Family and friends attending services will be required to wear face mask and observe social distancing.

Sign the guestbook and leave online condolences at www.BartonFuneralHome.net.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, will be in charge of funeral arrangements for Mrs. Fannie Bell Reece.

Barton Funeral Home

Kathy Romine

Kathy Ann Romine, 54 years old, was born on Dec. 5, 1966 to the late Sandra Ann Standridge and James Nichelson and passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021. She is survived by her husband Lewie Romine; son, CJ Cronan (Niki Pen); daughter, Toshia Seegers; brother and sister-in-law, Tommy and Mary Nichelson, Wayne and Chenkie Broyles; grandchildren, Jayde Pulliam, Emma Pulliam, Dakota Dowdy, Emylee Adams; her lifelong friend Ginger Fox Floyd. Kathy's wishes were to be cremated.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM at Victory Fellowship with Pastor Terry Timms officiating.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Kathy Ann Romine.



Carol Williams

Carol C. Williams, age 66, of Adairsville, passed away on Monday, March 8, 2021 at her residence.

Carol was born on Sept. 24, 1954 in Miami, Fla., daughter of the late James Coker and Leona Brannon Lovett. In addition to her parents, Carol was also preceded in death by: her step-father, Robert Lovett; and brother, Bobby Coker. She has been a resident of Adairsville, GA for the past 17 years and was a member of Adairsville Baptist Church. Carol was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Carol is survived by: her husband, Clifford Shelton Williams; daughter, Tammy Hudson and her husband Tim; two brothers, Jimmy Coker and Billy Coker; sister, Julie Ann Saunders; and two grandsons, T.J. Hudson and Tyler Hudson.

A celebration of the life of Carol will be held on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 11 AM at Adairsville Baptist Church with Reverend Eric Sorrell officiating.

You may leave the family online condolences at www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Carol C. Williams.



Alice Wills

Alice May Wills, nee Simpkins, passed away on Friday, March 5 after an extended illness. She joins the love of her life, Bill Wills, who predeceased her in October 2013, and her older brother, Roger Simpkins, who died in February 2018.



Alice is survived by her brother Glenn Simpkins of Pawley's Island, SC, her children Ann, Marty, Lou, Mary, her grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Alice was born on July 9, 1936 and enjoyed fishing with Bill, sewing, and spending time with her family. Alice's obituary would not be complete without a special thank you to Tiffany Marshall & Ashley Craig of Georgia Care at Home. Tiffany and Ashley provided 24 hour support to Alice and made her final days better by caring for her and just by being there. For that, the family is extremely grateful.

Donald Worley

Donald Fred Worley, age 84, of Brownlee Mountain Road passed away March 8, 2021 after several months of declining health. He had put his faith and trust in his heavenly Father and his son Jesus Christ. He had longed for his heavenly home for some time.



John 5:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

He was born Dec. 22, 1936, in Gordon County, son of the late John Pleasant Worley and Annie Samples Worley. Donald was the youngest of twelve children. He was a member of Salem Baptist Church. He had retired from Gale and Lord after 40 years of employment and also worked at Worley Door Shop for 20 years. He loved spending time outdoors on the family farm that he purchased from his father in the late 50's. Donald also loved giving out peppermint candy at church and enjoyed reminiscing about days gone by.

In addition to his parents, Donald was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Joan Scott Worley; siblings, Willie Mae Lemons, Clara Bell Cochran, Dorsey Worley, Avanelle Hamilton, Mary Camp, Edna Hardy, Roy Worley, Opal Simmons, Barbara King, Winnie Keith, and Geneva Worley; and grandson, Thomas Smith.

Donald is survived by four daughters, Joan and D.C. Kinman, Jean and Steve Williams, Jan and William Smith, and Judy and David Craig; one son, John Worley; grandchildren, Dana Kinman, Elizabeth Varner (Sam), Cristina Kinman, Stephanie Walters (Daniel), Jennifer Branum (Matt), Travis Smith, Taylor Smith (Ashley), Timothy Smith (Brandi), Tabitha Craig, Kacie Wilbanks (Vince), and Matthew Craig; 7 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 2:00 PM from Salem Baptist Church with Ministers Drew Elrod and Gary Bowman officiating. Mr. Paul Sneed will be in charge of music. Interment will follow in Eastview Cemetery, Rome. Donald's grandsons will serve as pallbearers and nephews will serve as honorary pallbearers.

The family will receive friends Wednesday from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM at Salem Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers the family ask donations be made in Donald's memory to the Gideon Bibles.

Sign the guestbook and leave online condolences at www.bartonfuneralhome.net

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of arrangements for Mr. Donald Fred Worley.

Barton Funeral Home



Serving Calhoun-Gordon for more than 40 years
706-629-9139

Help for the Hurting

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

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

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

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

-The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a monthly support group at Morning Pointe Assisted Living, 660 Jolly Road, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information or directions, call Mary Braden at 770-

548-4683 or Karen Parrott at 706-346-5220. For more information about dementia and Alzheimer's disease, call 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/georgia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

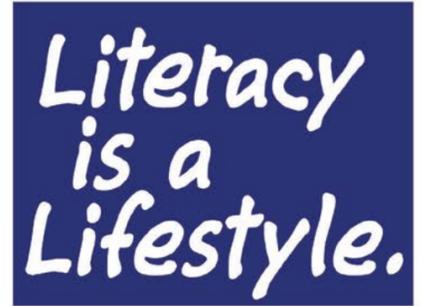
-United Hospice is seeking

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

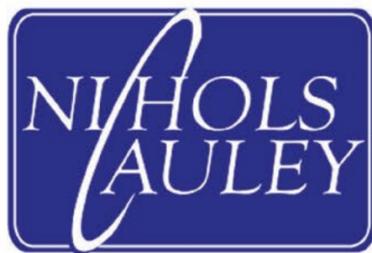
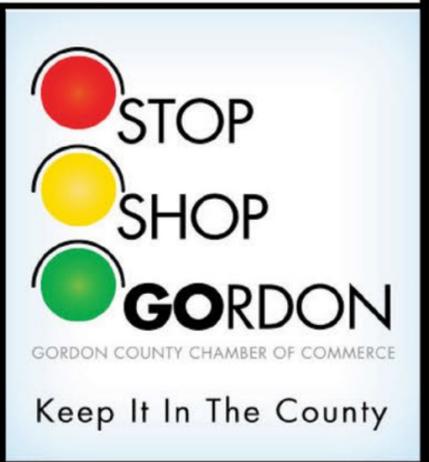
-Looking for a 12-step meeting for men and women? At "Road to Recovery," recognizing Jesus Christ as our higher power, they take the 12 steps and compare how they are taken from scripture and how to apply them to our lives to experience true freedom from the bondages of addiction. The meetings are free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

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

-Caring for a loved one who is suffering from late-stage cancer is certainly one of life's hardest experiences. But you do not have to go through this alone. The Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital provides a place for you to meet each month with others who understand what you are going through during this difficult time. Strength for Caring, a support group for caregivers of patients with advanced stages of cancer meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 2-3 p.m. at the Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital, 1035 Red Bud Road. For more information, please call 706-879-5853.



MEET THE SPONSORS of KEEP IT IN THE COUNTY 2021



SOUTHEAST CIVIL turn-key sitework contractors

