

GORDON Gazette

Weekend, May 23, 2020

www.gordongazettega.com

Volume 2, No. 65

MEMORIAL DAY...
 ...IS THE DAY THAT'S SET ASIDE TO REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE AND PRIDE ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM.
 MAY YOUR DAY BE FILLED WITH MEMORIES AND PEACE.
 GOD BLESS AMERICA
Monday, May 25, 2020

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Firefighters with Calhoun Fire participate in two-day boat operator training in Bartow County

Brandi Owczarz
 gordongazettega@gmail.com

Firefighters with Calhoun Fire participated in a Boat Operator Class this past week in Bartow County.

"We have two boats (at CFD), and we have a section of river that's within the city limits that we've had to perform rescue operations on in the past," said CFD Training Chief Chris Cox. "We want to make sure we have everyone trained; some of our guys are very familiar with that river and the boats, but our newer guys need the training. We want to make sure that whoever is on duty can operate the boats safely."

The training was provided by Towboat US - Lake Allatoona. The class took place on Lake Allatoona and on the Etowah River in Bartow County. Instructors who assisted in the class included Neal Ruddell, who works at Calhoun Fire and Towboat US, and Page McEntyre, who retired from the



See **TRAINING**, page 11A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: Calhoun Fire participated in a two-day Boat Operator Class on Lake Allatoona and the Etowah River. The class was hosted by Towboat US, above left.

All Star Fireworks to hold 2nd annual Demo Day on May 30

Brandi Owczarz
 gordongazettega@gmail.com

All Star Fireworks, located at 976 Highway 53 WSW Spur in Calhoun, is holding their 2nd annual Demo Day on Saturday, May 30, beginning at 6 p.m.

Owner Scott Lunsford said that the event is free for the public, and the fireworks display is expected to be a preview of the fireworks he'll have on stock in his store for the Fourth of July.

"This will be a time where you can come out and enjoy the latest, greatest

fireworks live," said Lunsford.

In addition to a spectacular fireworks display, there will be food from Duke's and deserts from Chick n Scratch. There will be giveaways throughout the evening and a store-wide sale throughout the night as well.

"We hope the public will come out for an awesome night of fireworks and family fun," said Lunsford.

For more information, visit the All Star Fireworks website at www.allstarfireworkspyro.com or visit their Facebook page at ALL Star Fireworks.



First week of early voting for General Primary in the books; 459 ballots cast in person, 3374 absentee ballots received

Brandi Owczarz
 gordongazettega@gmail.com

The first week of the early voting period for the General Primary Election saw 459 live votes cast and 3,374 absentee ballots returned of the

6,738 requested by mail, according to Shea Hicks, chairperson of the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office.

Early voting will run through Friday, June 5, and next Saturday, May

30, will be the only early voting on a Saturday.

"We are open Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.," said Hicks. "We will also have one day of Saturday voting on May 30 from 9

a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Elections and Voter Registration Office. Our office

See **ELECTION**, page 11A

Index

Second Front.....2A
 Obituaries.....3A
 Law & Order.....7A
 Community Events..11A
 Sample Ballots.....12A

Inside this issue:
SECOND FRONT 2A



Owen Security Solutions climbs SDM Magazine's Top 100.

HEALTH 8A



AdventHealth Gordon celebrates National EMS Week.

@gordongazette
 @gordongazette
 @gazettegordon

Getting to know the candidates running for local offices: Gordon County BOE Post 6

Brandi Owczarz
 gordongazettega@gmail.com

With the General Primary Election less than a month away, being held on Tuesday, June 9, and early voting already underway, the Gordon Gazette has interviewed each of the candidates in local races that are contested. No Democrats qualified to run for office this election cycle, and only 4 of the 12 local offices have opposition: County Commissioner District 3, Gordon County Coroner, County Board of Education Post 4, and County Board of Education Post 6. Most of the offices, unless there is a runoff or enough write-in votes, will be decided on June 9 during the General Primary Election.

Each candidate in the contested races have given their perspective of the office they are running for, and what they hope to accomplish if elected. Today, the Gordon Gazette features the race of Gordon County Board of Education Post

6. County Board of Education, Post 6:

Incumbent Chris Johnson is not seeking for re-election. Qualifying for this office includes Republicans Christie Owens Fox, Samuel T. Jewell and Bryon Reeves.

All three candidates are native to Gordon County.

Fox is a 1992 graduate of Gordon Central High School, and has lived in Post 6 the majority of her life. She graduated from Berry College in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Upon graduation, she began her career with HCA Healthcare, where she is still employed as the Assistant Controller and Co-CSO at Cartersville Medical Center. Fox is married to her high school sweetheart, Calhoun Fire's Scott Fox, and they have two daughters: Madeline, a 2018 graduate of Sonorville High School, and Claire, a rising senior at Sonorville. The family attends Oakman Baptist,



Christie Fox



Samuel Jewell



Byron Reeves

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

where Fox and her husband serve as youth leaders.

Fox said it's the community's youth that inspired her to run for office.

"I have a passion for the youth of our community - they are the future. I want to do what I can to support and encourage them, and to ensure they have the best opportunities not only to succeed in life, but also to be outstanding citizens. I am proud to see the accomplishments our schools have made in both academics and extra-curricular activities

over the past several years, and I want to help facilitate continued growth. The success of our schools determines the future success of our community, which impacts us all."

Fox said her background in accounting, leadership and serving the area's youth qualify her for the office.

"Throughout my 25 years serving as an accountant in the private sector for a multi-million dollar company, I've worked extensively with budgeting, expense reduction

and performance improvement," said Fox. "A post-pandemic economy is certainly going to include reduced funding from the state, which will present significant challenges. In response, it will require some changes to the way we do things in order to continue to provide the best education and opportunities for our Gordon County youth. I'm sure the board is already working through ideas on how to best

See **CANDIDATES**, page 11A

Second Front

Guyton to serve as chief financial officer of AdventHealth Gordon, Murray and the AdventHealth Southeast region

CONTRIBUTED

AdventHealth Gordon is pleased to announce that Alan Guyton is now serving as chief financial officer of AdventHealth Gordon, AdventHealth Murray and the AdventHealth Southeast region.

Guyton has been a part of the AdventHealth team for over 15 years and most recently served as the senior finance officer and regional vice president of finance for AdventHealth Shawnee

Mission and the Mid-America region.

"We are thrilled to have Alan join our team," said Karen Steely, interim president and chief operating officer of AdventHealth Gordon. "He has achieved great accomplishments in his career at AdventHealth, and we are excited to see him grow in this new role."

Guyton and his wife, Jackie, have been married for 18 years and have two daughters, Morgan and Alli. In his free time, he enjoys spending time

with family and friends, playing golf and spending time outdoors.

About AdventHealth Gordon

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

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Owen Security Solutions Climbs SDM's Top 100

CONTRIBUTED

Owen Security Solutions, a North Georgia-based security, technologies and integrations company, celebrates its announced ranking on SDM Magazine's list of the nation's top 100 security companies. The company has continued to ascend the industry's chart each year, since first appearing in 2017, and has now secured number 85 on the list among industry competitors such as Brinks Home Security and Guardian Protection.

Founded by Calhoun native Gary Owen in 1973, Owen Security Solutions is a second-generation, locally-owned and operated company based in Calhoun, Georgia. Now led by president and owner Justin Owen, the company employs more than 40 employees and serves more than 7,000 customers from metro-Atlanta to the areas surrounding Chattanooga, TN.

"I am extremely proud of our team for another year of accomplishments and growth," said Justin Owen, President of Owen Security Solutions. "This group of individuals is driven and dedicated to seeing our company not only succeed, but THRIVE, and they are determined to accomplish great things! As always, without our loyal



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

customers and supportive community, this would not be possible."

Security Distributing and Marketing (SDM) is a trade media that provides security professionals with industry news, insights and technical solutions. The SDM Top 100 list is released each Spring and, for 28 years, has ranked U.S. companies that provide

the sales, installation, service and monitoring of electronic security and life safety systems to residential and non-residential customers.

Owen Security Solutions is part of the Electronic Security Association, the Georgia Security Chapter, National Institute for Certification in Engineering technologies, the local Chambers of

Commerce for the communities it serves, as well as a member of the Honeywell Authorized Dealer Program and the DMP Dealer Program.

For more information about SDM or Owen Security Solutions, please visit <https://www.sdmmag.com/2020-SDM-100-Rankings> and www.OwenSecurity.com.

CONSUMER ALERT: Fraudsters Perpetrating New Scams to Capitalize on COVID-19

CONTRIBUTED

ATLANTA, GA – Attorney General Chris Carr is warning Georgians about new ways in which scammers are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic has not only had a serious impact on the health and safety of Georgia citizens, it has also created a financial hardship for many families," says Attorney General Carr. "Unfortunately, we continue to hear of new ways that scammers are seizing on these challenging times by trying to cheat consumers out of their money. We want Georgians to be aware of these scams and know we

are working with our partners, including the COVID-19 Fraud Task Force and the Federal Trade Commission, to stop this behavior."

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division is advising consumers to be on the lookout for the following scams:

Contact Tracing Scams. Contact tracing is the process of identifying people who have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, instructing them to quarantine and monitoring their symptoms daily. Contact tracers are usually hired by a state's department of public health and work with an infected person

to get the names and phone numbers for everyone the infected person came in close contact with while he or she was possibly contagious. Scammers are taking advantage of this process by posing as contact tracers to try to get access to consumers' personal or financial information. With legitimate contact tracing, the health department may send a text message to a person who may have been exposed to COVID-19 letting them know they will be receiving a phone call from a contact tracer. What the scammers are doing is sending spam text messages that include a link, which, when clicked on, downloads malware onto your device, allowing the scammers to access your personal and financial information.

Tips for avoiding this scam:

If you get a text message like the one described above containing a link, delete it without clicking on the link or replying.

The Public Health Department and legitimate contact tracers will not ask you to provide your Social Security number, bank account number or credit card number.

Legitimate contact tracing is of vital importance in controlling the spread of the virus. If you are not sure whether a contact tracing call or text message is legitimate, contact the Georgia Department of Public Health at dph.georgia.gov or 1-866-782-4584. To learn more about contact tracing in Georgia, visit dph.georgia.gov/contact-tracing.

False Promises of Additional Stimulus Money. Scammers posing as IRS employees are calling and texting consumers claiming they can provide the consumer with additional stimulus money. In one scenario, the imposters say they will first need to install a software program on the consumer's device to access his or her account. To pay for the software, the consumer is instructed to purchase a \$1,000 gift card from Target and then forward the gift card number and PIN to the scammer.

Tips for avoiding this scam:

You do not need to pay any money to

receive your stimulus payment.

If the IRS needs to contact you, they will always make initial contact through regular mail. The IRS will never contact you via email, text message or social media.

To check your eligibility for or the status of an economic impact payment from the IRS, visit irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments.

Remember -- legitimate entities will never ask you to pay for a product or service by purchasing a gift card.

Work-at-Home/Car Advertising Scam. With many people being laid off or having reduced work hours due to the impact of the pandemic, scammers are posing as employers and trying to con people into spending money for the promise of a job.

In one fake-check job scam, fraudsters send out an email saying they're looking for individuals who will shrink wrap their vehicles with ads promoting well-known brands in exchange for \$400 per week. When consumers respond to the email, they are asked to provide their name and address. The scammers then send them a check for a couple of thousand dollars and instruct them to keep \$450 (allegedly for the \$400 weekly payment plus \$50 for gas) and wire the remaining amount to the decal installer. But there is no decal installer, the check is counterfeit, and the consumers are unable to recoup the money they sent to the scammers.

Tips for avoiding this scam:

If you get a message instructing you to deposit a check and wire money back, it is a scam, period.

With legitimate car wrap opportunities, the company pays the car-wrapping vendor directly instead of asking you to do it.

Be highly suspicious of any work-at-home job that requires you to pay money up-front.

To report scams, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division by visiting consumer.ga.gov or calling 404-651-8600.

VOTE

ROD BREHM

Gordon County
Board of Education
Post 4



I will work for the residents of Gordon County

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

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

Visit me on Facebook at
'Rod Brehm for Gordon County Board of Education'

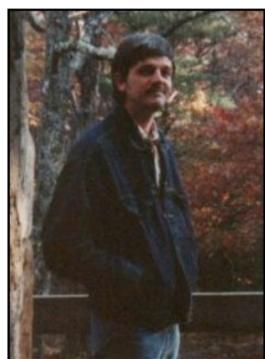
Paid Political Advertisement

Obituaries

May 23, 2020

Mike Brendel

Mike Brendel, 70, of Calhoun, died Tuesday, May 19, 2020. He was born on April 19, 1950, in Detroit, Mich. to Ruth Long Brendel and the late Dewey Brendel. He was preceded in death by his sister, Cindy Brendel.



Mike was a member of the 1968 graduating class of Calhoun High School, spent his career in the grocery business retiring from Ingles Inc. and he was a member of South Calhoun Baptist Church.

He is survived by his mom, Ruth Brendel; daughter and son-in-law, Stephanie and Stacey Bradford; companion, Becky Rutledge; brothers and sisters-in-law, Ron and Becky Brendel and Terry and Dawn Brendel; grandson, Nick Bradford and his fiancé Hannah Brooks; step-grandson, Adam and Kacee Bradford and their son, Owen; many friends and family also survive.

Funeral service will be held Saturday, May 23, 2020, at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Edward Atchley officiating. A live video will be available on the Facebook page of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home at 2 p.m. Interment will follow in Gordon Memorial Gardens.

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 Michael Austin Brendel.



Margaret Lewis

Mrs. Margaret Johns Lewis, age 76, of the Sugar Valley Community, died May 19, 2020 at AdventHealth Gordon.

Mrs. Lewis was born in Gordon County, Ga. on March 26, 1944 to the late B.W. Johns and Cora Goforth Johns. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Leroy and Wesley

Johns; sisters, Malisey Dutton, Edna Kenney, Betty Freeman, Ruth Muse, and Martha Dutton. She was a member of the Concord Missionary Baptist Church for 39 years. She loved camp meetings at Faith Baptist Camp where she would always work in the kitchen, was an avid reader of God's word, and loved her church and church family.

Mrs. Lewis is survived by her husband of 54 years, Vernon Lewis; daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara Foster and her husband Silas, Emma Lewis-Boudreau and her husband Rene, Bonnie Jackson and her husband Anthony, Bertha Poarch and her husband Cameron and Melba Hall and her husband Jeff; grandchildren surviving include Paul, Jesse, Titus, Tabitha, Naomi, Joseph, Silvanus, Daniel, Megan, Alisha, Dakota, Siera, Brandon, Savannah. Leelu and Leroy. Also surviving are great grandchildren Kaylee, Kyle, Matthew, Emma, Sophia, Ben, Savannah, Daniel, Jax, Dawson, Chloe, Sophia, Logan Elijah, and Vincent. A sister and brother-in-law, Ruby and Tony Bryant also survive.

Funeral services for Margaret Johns Lewis will be conducted on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 1 p.m. from the Concord Missionary Baptist Church with burial to follow in the church cemetery. The Lewis family will receive friends on Monday, May 25 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Concord Church.

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 Margaret Johns Lewis.



Frances Young

Mrs. Frances Delaine Young, 85, of the Ryo Community in Fairmount, departed this life early Thursday morning, May 21, 2020 in the comfort of her home surrounded by her loving family.

Mrs. Young was born in Jasper on May 9, 1935. She was a daughter of the late Franklin and Ella Pinyan West. She was a



1954 graduate of Calhoun High School.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Emmitt West; and sisters, Ernestine Culver, Onieda Silvers.

She is survived by her loving husband of 66 years, William Dean Young of the residence; sons and daughters-in-law, Danny and Candace Young, Butch and Willine Young, Johnny Young, Ricky and Darlene Young, Tim Young; daughters and sons-in-law, Cherie and Ellis Payne, Kellie and Barry Benson, all of Fairmount; brother, AW West; sister and brother-in-law, Lorene and Herman Garland, all of Calhoun; special brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Josh and Ann Young of Fairmount; thirteen grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Services to celebrate the life of Mrs. Frances Delaine Young will be on Saturday, May 23, 2020 at 2 p.m. from the Pleasant Grove Ryo Baptist Church with Reverend Ronnie Howard and Reverend Lamar Beason officiating. She will be laid to rest at the Ryo Cemetery at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church with Dylan Young, Gregory Young, Josh Young, Cody Young, Andrew Payne, Luke Benson, Matthew Payne, and Conner Young serving as pallbearers and serving as an honorary pallbearer Larry Warnick. Reverend Jerome Silvers will officiate the graveside rites.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the church.

Due to the National health crisis, crowd restrictions will be implemented.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.pondersfuneralhome.com Arrangements by family owned and operated Ponders Fairmount Chapel and Ponders Crematory, Hwy 411, Fairmount, Georgia. 706-337-3784. "Funerals, Cremations, Cemeteries, and Florists"



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 Counterside 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.

☆☆☆ VOTE ☆☆☆

KEN PADGETT

☆☆ CORONER ☆☆

Ready to Hit the Ground Running for Gordon County

TIME FOR CHANGE

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

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

Visit me on Facebook at 'Padgett for Coroner'

Paid Political Advertisement

ELECT BRUCE POTTS



Gordon County Commissioner District 3

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

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

About Bruce

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

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

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

Commissioner Focus:

SAFETY AND SECURITY

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

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

WORKFORCE/INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR GORDON CO.

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

Important Dates To Remember

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

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Financial pain from COVID hits state health agencies, hospitals

ANDI CLEMENTS,
Georgia Health News

Besides its deepening medical toll, COVID-19 is taking sizable chunks out of the budgets of hospital systems and government health programs in Georgia.

Hospitals have lost surgical, diagnostic and outpatient revenue during the pandemic, and industry leaders say recent federal grant funding has not been enough to offset those losses.

Emory Healthcare on Thursday became the latest hospital system to announce staff furloughs.

State health agencies, meanwhile, have outlined their plans for 14 percent spending cuts as required by Gov. Brian Kemp.

The state agency that runs Georgia's Medicaid program, the Department of Community Health, has seen its financial pain eased by an enhanced federal matching rate aimed at cushioning COVID-related financial distress.

But Community Health also plans a subtraction of about \$100 million from payments to the managed-care companies that provide services to most Medicaid and PeachCare members. The Georgia Quality Healthcare Association, an industry trade group, said Thursday that it's studying the impact of that cut on insurers.

And the agency warned that when the extra federal Medicaid funding runs out,

"if the department does not receive funding to sustain its operations in the benefits program, there will be drastic reductions that include across-the-board providers rate cuts."

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is expected to have outlined more than \$150 million in spending reductions.

And the AJC reported substantial cuts in the agency that's steering the state's response to COVID-19, the Department of Public Health. That agency will have to furlough staffers — including those working in disease control and epidemiology — one day a month. Public Health also will slash grants to county health departments by almost \$18 million and cut a number of other programs.

Other health care reductions will affect the agency that investigates child abuse complaints and enrolls Georgians for food stamps and Medicaid, where employees will have to take days off without pay. Grants to fund medical school training at Mercer and Morehouse schools of medicine will also be cut, the AJC reported.

Furloughs and belt-tightening

Emory cited a projected revenue shortfall of about \$660 million through August as it announced that it will implement schedule changes and furlough up to 1,500 of its employees. Executives and

senior managers will take a pay cut of up to 25 percent.

"While never more proud of our team's response, COVID-19 has had a significant negative impact on our normal revenue and operating expenses," said Dr. Jonathan Lewin, president and CEO of Emory Healthcare, which has 11 hospitals.

"We take any action that affects our employees extremely seriously; however, the magnitude of the revenue loss due to cancellation and postponement of the majority of our surgery, procedural and diagnostic cases far exceeds the \$142 million in federal grant receipts," Lewin said.

"The HHS grants [from the Feds] are much appreciated, but like any business, we must right-size our expense base to address the loss of revenue by matching our expense trends to our revenue trends — both in the short and long term."

Earlier this week, Wellstar Health System, which also has 11 hospitals, said it will furlough 1,070 employees and reduce the hours of another 1,800 workers. Wellstar is also cutting executive and physician pay. The Marietta-based system cited lower surgery revenue, ER visits and hospital admissions.

The number of furloughed workers is about 4.4 percent of Wellstar's workforce of 24,300. Cost-saving measures, as well as almost \$140 million in federal CARES Act support, won't make up the shortfall Wellstar faces, according to Jim Budzinski,

the system's chief financial officer, the Marietta Daily Journal reported. The system is anticipating a \$400 million to \$600 million loss through 2020, he said.

Other health care systems in Georgia told GHN that they are taking a range of steps to offset losses.

Piedmont Healthcare, based in Atlanta, said Thursday that it's "reducing operating expenses and flexing staff to match patient volumes. We deeply appreciate the ongoing dedication of our team, on the front lines and those supporting them from afar, and feel fortunate that these efforts enabled us to avoid any large-scale furloughs or layoffs at this time."

Atlanta-based Northside Hospital says it hasn't furloughed any employees, but has felt the revenue impact. Northside is reassigning some employees to other areas of need within the system.

"All areas of Northside patient care have been impacted by COVID-19, and returning to previous levels of volume and revenue will take time," said Lee Echols, a Northside vice president.

Like other hospital systems, Northside has seen patients delay treatment for health conditions. "We expect they now will begin making appointments, scheduling surgeries, and seeing their doctors again. As our volumes rebound, revenue should follow, and we'll continue to navigate our new health care world with flexibility and

focus."

Macon-based Navicent Health said it has not resorted to furloughs, and is redeploying employees to areas of need.

"While we did see a decline in elective appointments and cases during the spring, we are beginning to see a return to pre-COVID volumes," said a spokeswoman, Megan Allen.

HCA Healthcare, with nine Georgia hospitals, also has not laid off or furloughed any employees because of the pandemic.

"We have implemented numerous financial resiliency measures across the company," said Dale Hooks, a spokesman for Memorial Health in Savannah, an HCA entity. "These included reduced discretionary spending, senior level and corporate salary cuts, and freezing certain initiatives. Additionally, we reduced capital spending and suspended the company's dividend and share repurchase programs to preserve capital."

Gov. Kemp addressed hospitals' financial plight at a news conference at the state Capitol on Thursday, urging patients to get the medical and dental care they need.

"I want to strongly encourage everyone to get important check-ups on their calendar," he said. "Please go to your doctor for a check-up if you are due for one."

Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News. Visit www.georgiahealthnews.com.

Happy Paws



Now with 2 great locations to serve our clients!

234 King Street North
in Calhoun Offers:

- Dog & Cat Grooming
- Dog & Cat Boarding

607 Chatsworth Hwy. 225
in Calhoun Offers:

- Dog & Cat DayCare
- Dog & Cat Grooming
- Dog & Cat Boarding

New
Location!

Call Happy Paws at 706-383-8075 for Rates!

Dawn Charles, Owner

Audrey Clayton, Groomer





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.

**Hamilton Physician Group-
Calhoun Primary Care**

706.529.3025

**Hamilton Physician Group-
Neurosurgery and Spine**

706.529.7124

HamiltonHealth.com/calhoun



160 Curtis Parkway NE
Calhoun, GA

Primary Care • 706.529.3025
Neurosurgery & Spine • 706.529.7124

Law & Order

TOP STORY OF THE WEEK: Adairsville man arrested on Child Molestation, other charges after incident with Calhoun juvenile

STAFF REPORTS

More than 31,000 people were reached this week in the Gordon Gazette's top online story from Wednesday about a 20-year-old Adairsville man that was arrested by the Gordon County Sheriff's Office after an incident with a 15-year-old Calhoun girl.

According to the initial report, around

10:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, a deputy with the Gordon County Sheriff's Office Uniform Patrol Division responded to the Gordon County Jail Lobby in reference to a sexual assault report.

Upon arrival, the deputy met with the complainant, who said that while at work on Monday night, May 11, her 15-year-old daughter asked her stepfather if she

could go for a run down their driveway. While running, the juvenile met with a 20-year-old male, identified as Jason Bromby, of Adairsville. On Wednesday, May 13, the daughter told her mom what happened on that Monday night, saying that she had oral sex with Bromby and "gave him a hand job." The daughter told her mom that Bromby had

also touched her vagina. The mother asked her daughter where she had met Bromby, and the juvenile told her she met him through a mutual friend. The mother said that after her daughter informed her of what happened, she took her daughter's phone and found multiple messages between her daughter and Bromby through Facebook messenger.

The deputy was provided with the juvenile's cell phone.

On Tuesday, May 19, Bromby was arrested on Felony Aggravated Sexual Battery, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, Felony Statutory Rape and Felony Child Molestation. He was denied bond and remains in Gordon County Jail Saturday morning.



GCSO

Jason Bromby

CPD participating in 'Click It or Ticket' campaign

With the Memorial Day weekend coming up, the Calhoun Police Department will be participating in the Governor's Office Of Highway Safety's "CLICK IT OR TICKET" campaign, which runs through June 1.

Every year, Georgia participates in Click It or Ticket enforcement and media campaigns during the Memorial Day and Thanksgiving travel periods to reinforce seatbelt safety awareness statewide, a program that is vital in continuing the fight against unbelted crashes, injuries and fatalities.

To learn more about the nationwide Click It or Ticket effort, visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts>.



Help for the Community

-The Calhoun Pregnancy Center Inc., located on the corner of Peters Street and East Belmont Drive, is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from noon until 4 p.m. The center is also open each Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday available by appointment only. Closed Wednesdays and Sundays. To visit the center, call 706-625-5768 to make an appointment.

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

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

-Volunteers make a wonderful difference! PruittHealth Hospice is looking for people of vision and empathy who wish to make a difference in their community one person at a time. If you have a heart for others and wish to be of service, please contact us at 706-602-9546. Remember...you can make a difference for the good!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Discovering Hope, an autism support group for Northwest Georgia, meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, Rocky Face. For more information, call Connie Post at 706-673-7765 or www.discoveringhope.us.

-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.

★

★

VOTE FOR

★

★

ANDY GUNTHER

FOR U.S. CONGRESS

Christian & Constitutional Conservative

REPUBLICAN

★

Most Qualified

★

- 22-Year Army Veteran
- MBA- Management
- FEMA: Certifications
- Global Experience
- Business Owner
- Community Volunteer

★

SERVANT LEADER

★



WWW.ANDYGUNTHER.COM

From This District, For This District!

PRO-LIFE
PRO-GUN
PRO-TRUMP

TERM LIMITS
LOWER TAXES
ELIMINATE DEBT

The establishment has chosen their candidate!
But you can elect Andy Gunther, NOW thru June 9th!

I have been serving this District longer than any other candidate!

Paid for by Friends of Andy Gunther, Inc. | P.O. Box 115 | Bremen, GA 30110 | 770-568-4042

AdventHealth Gordon celebrates National EMS Week

CONTRIBUTED

AdventHealth Gordon is celebrating National EMS Week from May 17 to May 23 to show appreciation for the AdventHealth Gordon EMS team and the important work they do to keep our communities safe and healthy. National EMS Week brings communities across the country together to honor those who provide lifesaving services and always answer the call.

“Our EMS team makes a difference in people’s lives daily,” said Karen Steely, interim president and chief operating officer of AdventHealth Gordon. “We are grateful that they go the distance to ensure that our community is safe, and they deserve to be recognized for their service.”

About AdventHealth Gordon

Founded in 1935, AdventHealth Gordon is proud to be a member of AdventHealth. With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth is a connected system of care for every stage of life and health. More than 80,000 skilled and compassionate caregivers in physician practices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and hospice centers provide individualized, holistic care. A shared vision, common values, focus on whole-person health and commitment to making communities healthier unify the system’s nearly 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states. For more information about AdventHealth, visit AdventHealth.com or Facebook. [com/AdventHealth](https://www.facebook.com/AdventHealth).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Increased risk of child exploitation a less-obvious impact of pandemic

HIGHLAND RIVERS HEALTH

For the past several weeks I’ve written about some of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our agency and the work we do – safety precautions and procedures we’ve put in place in our clinics, the fact we are remain open to provide services, and the potential mental health challenges that might result from the disruption of normal routines and social isolation.

But a perhaps less obvious but very serious impact of the outbreak is a potential increase in human trafficking, and in particular child sex trafficking. In March, as the pandemic forced school and business closures, the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center issued a stark warning about the threat posed by criminals who seek to traffic individuals through force, fraud, or coercion using popular social media and

dating platforms.

If you’re a parent you might find yourself wondering if sex trafficking is one more thing for you to worry about – but also thinking it is something that would never happen to your child. Both of those thoughts may be true to some extent. It’s important to understand child sex trafficking can happen to any child – and while you may not need to lose sleep with worry about it, it is also important to be vigilant about your child’s online activities and signs that something isn’t right.

I am writing about this now for two reasons. First, with school closures, young people are spending more time online – where traffickers are likely to look for victims – with more of that online time likely unsupervised. And, as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports, in times of disaster...disruptions to local services, housing and economic stability, and social

disconnection can further increase risk of victimization and exploitation.

Second, Highland Rivers Health will soon be working with Wellspring Living, an Atlanta nonprofit agency that provides specialized recovery services for children and young adults who have been victims of trafficking. Clearly, children who have been trafficked and forced into prostitution will have significant mental health needs – and our ability to acknowledge this issue can only help.

In February, USA Today published a profile of Georgia First Lady Marty Kemp and the Georgians for Refuge, Action, Compassion and Education (GRACE) Commission she co-chairs which seeks to stop trafficking and help victims. Some of the statistics cited in the article are shocking – but also a call to action.

According to the article, the FBI named Atlanta one of 14 U.S. cities with the highest

rate of child sex trafficking – because it’s home to the world’s busiest airport, has several major interstate highways and hosts large-scale events such as the Super Bowl. An estimated 7,200 men pay for sex with a child in Georgia every month, state officials say.

Media reports of law enforcement actions tell the story: a 2017 FBI sweep netted 60 traffickers in Georgia. In 2018, the FBI Atlanta office recovered 149 missing or exploited children; in a 2019 sweep it located 231 youths. The average age of children who are trafficked is 12 to 15, and both girls and boys are victims.

Over the coming months, as our partnership with Wellspring Living proceeds, I will be writing more about this topic – not to scare parents but to raise awareness of the risks, of children who may be especially vulnerable, and of what we as a community can

do to help.

In the meantime, if you want to learn more about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on child exploitation and steps you can take to educate and protect your children, the Department of Justice has created a webpage specifically on that topic, which you can find at <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus/keeping-children-safe-online>.

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

Second Allotment of Remdesivir Headed to Hospitals for Treatment of COVID-19

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Atlanta – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is distributing a second allotment of the drug remdesivir received from the federal government. Twenty-nine hospitals in Georgia will receive remdesivir, enough to treat more than 300 patients, depending on the duration of an individual’s illness and treatment needs.

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

3,440 vials of remdesivir, able to treat approximately 310 patients, will be distributed to

29 hospitals affiliated with the following healthcare systems: Navicent, Northside, Piedmont and WellStar.

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

A third allotment of remdesivir in powder form is expected to arrive in Georgia by Friday. The liquid form of remdesivir is not recommended for pediatric use, but the powder form can be mixed for dosing based on a child’s weight, which will provide treatment for the youngest patients with COVID-19 infection.

Gilead Sciences, Inc., the maker of remdesivir, is donating approximately 607,000 vials of

the experimental drug to treat an estimated 78,000 hospitalized COVID-19 patients under an emergency use agreement (EUA). The donation to the United States is part of 1.5 million vials of remdesivir the company is donating worldwide.

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

For more information about COVID-19 visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

For updates on the COVID-19 situation as it develops, follow @GaDPH, @GeorgiaEMA, and @GovKemp on Twitter, and @GaDPH, @GEMA.OHS, and @GovKemp on Facebook.

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 Church of Christ, located at 265 South Avenue in Fairmount, Ga. Minister Bobby Gayton. Everyone is invited to visit and worship with us. Sunday morning Services at 11 a.m.; Bible study at 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

GORDON www.gordongazettega.com
Gazette Calhoun-Gordon County’s #1 Source for News
and only locally owned and staffed news agency

Hamilton Medical Center recognized for quality medical excellence, patient safety

CONTRIBUTED

DALTON, Ga. – Hamilton Medical Center was recently recognized for medical excellence and patient safety quality by CareChex®. HMC was ranked in the top 10 percent in the nation in five categories for 2020.

The awards are based on a comprehensive quality scoring system that compares inpatient quality performance across general, acute and non-federal U.S. hospitals.

For Medical Excellence, HMC was recognized in the following categories:

- Top 100 in the nation for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Top 100 in the nation for Pneumonia Care
- Top 10 percent in the nation for Pneumonia Care
- Top 10 percent in the nation for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Top 10 percent in the region for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Top 10 percent in the

region for Pneumonia Care

- Number one in the state for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

- Number one in the state for Pneumonia Care

- Top 10 percent in the state for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

- Top 10 percent in the state for Pneumonia Care

- Number one in the market for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

- Number one in the market for Pneumonia Care

- Number one in the market for Coronary Care

For Patient Safety, HMC was recognized in the following categories:

- Top 100 in the nation for Orthopedic Care

- Top 10 percent in the nation for Cancer Care

- Top 10 percent in the nation for Orthopedic Care

- Top 10 percent in the nation for Pneumonia Care

- Top 10 percent in the region for Pneumonia Care

- Top 10 percent in the region for Orthopedic Care



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hamilton Medical Center recently received recognition for quality medical excellence and patient safety from CareChex. From left are Sandy McKenzie, COO; Rita Harris, oncology service line administrator; Judean Guinn, Surgical Services director; and Jeff Hughes, cardiovascular service line administrator.

- Top 10 percent in the state for Cancer Care
- Top 10 percent in the state for Pneumonia Care
- Top 10 percent in the state for Orthopedic Care
- Number one in the market for Cancer Care
- Number one in the market for Orthopedic Care
- Number one in the market

for General Surgery

CareChex Awards by Quantros utilizes a peer-reviewed, risk-adjustment methodology to more reliably measure rates of mortality, complications and readmissions. The process provides appropriate weighting and accounting for

all of the risk factors relating to a patient's principal and secondary diagnosis, as well as other patient characteristics that may increase the probability for adverse clinical outcomes. These rankings do not include any self-reported data.

Hamilton Medical Center reminding community members to B.E. F.A.S.T.

CONTRIBUTED

DALTON, Ga. (May 18, 2020) – Hamilton Medical Center (HMC) is encouraging community members to be aware about the dangers of stroke and steps to take to avoid stroke. May is National Stroke Awareness Month.

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or ruptures. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood (and oxygen) it needs, causing brain cells to die.

“It’s so important to be treated quickly to minimize the effects of a stroke,” said Meagan Darnell, HMC stroke program coordinator. “Knowing the signs of stroke could save your life or the life of a family member or friend. A stroke is definitely an emergency.”

The B.E. F.A.S.T. acronym is a valuable tool to help identify a possible stroke. The letters stand for balance, eyes, face, arms, speech and time – all factors in identifying and getting treated for stroke.

“When experiencing the symptoms of stroke, every

B.E. F.A.S.T.

Balance – Is there a sudden loss of balance or coordination?

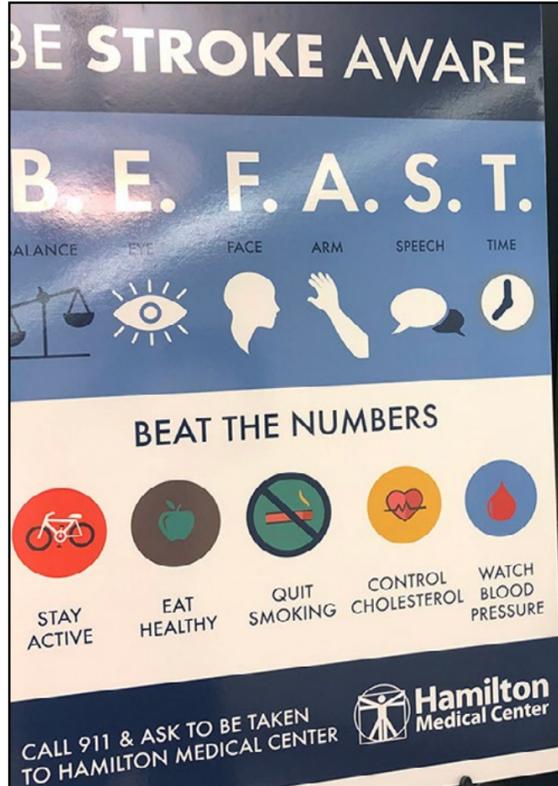
Eyes – Is there sudden blurred or double vision or sudden, persistent vision trouble?

Face – Ask the person to smile. Is one or both sides of the face drooping?

Arms – Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one side drift downward? Is there weakness or numbness on one side?

Speech – Does the person have slurred or garbled speech? Can he/she repeat simple phrases?

Time – Call 911 for immediate medical attention if you notice one or more of these signs. Also, take note of when symptoms began.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Meagan Darnell, Stroke Coordinator for Hamilton Medical.

second counts,” said Darnell. “So does getting the right level of care as quickly as possible. HMC has a nationally

ranked, highly trained Rapid Stroke Team on staff. To avoid stroke, it is recommended to stay active,

eat healthy, quit smoking, control cholesterol and watch your blood pressure.

Child Sexual Exploitation in Georgia During COVID-19

CONTRIBUTED

Since March 16, 2020, when Georgia public elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools ceased in person classes, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes (CEACC) Unit, along with other GBI regional offices, have executed 16 exigent search warrants related to online child sexual exploitation. In addition, the GBI CEACC Unit has assisted other agencies with similar search warrants. As a result, the GBI has arrested 15 individuals for the possession, distribution and/or production of child sexual abuse images. Some of those arrested were also charged with the associated crime of child molestation. Consequently, the GBI CEACC Unit has rescued 8 children from situations in which they were being sexually abused. Other previous child victims were also identified but the offender no longer had access to the child. Some of the offenders subsequently indicated they had numerous undetected victims. It is possible additional victims will be discovered as more interviews

are conducted and digital forensic analysis of digital devices occurs. Additional charges and arrests may be forthcoming.

During the unprecedented COVID-19 quarantine, there has been an understandable concern that abused children will be at home more often with their abusers and without contact with mandatory reporters such as teachers who may normally notice abuse indicators or be available to hear and report an outcry by a child. Additionally, as a result of the COVID-19 quarantine, children have been online using various social media applications, chat rooms, and various gaming platforms more often than they were before. Each of these are prime online locations where sexual predators will attempt to solicit conversation with children for the purpose of enticing them for sexual purposes.

While the Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes (CEACC) Unit executes this mission daily, it is continuing to do so while schools are out to actively work to find and rescue children from those that are sexually abusing them. Instances in which there is a belief that a child is in danger are always

acted on immediately. This has not changed during the period of quarantine.

Through cybertips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the GBI CEACC Unit and the GBI coordinated Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force are able to find children being sexually abused by working investigations involving child sexual abuse images. The large majority of these cybertips contain information reported to NCMEC by Internet service providers. The cybertips are most often related to child sexual abuse imagery, but are many times also related to the online enticement of children, sextortion, and child sex trafficking. Many of these child sexual abuse imagery cybertips involve horrific sexual violence perpetrated on very young children. The demand for this content causes more children to be sexually abused and more abuse material to be created. Additionally, these images stay online forever and the child is revictimized every time someone views their abuse images for sexual gratification.

GBI Special Agent in Charge and Commander of the Georgia

ICAC Task Force Debbie Garner commented “we are finding child victims of sexual abuse that we would not have otherwise known about by working these child sexual abuse imagery cybertips from NCMEC – and we will not leave a child in danger.” In 2019, the average number of cybertips received by the GBI from NCMEC was 600 cybertips per month, equating to the receipt of close to 7,100 cybertips in 2019. In March of 2020 alone, the GBI received over 1,000 cybertips from NCMEC. In April 2020, the GBI received almost 1,400 cybertips from NCMEC. By comparison, in April of 2019, the GBI received 587 cybertips from NCMEC. Nationally, NCMEC indicates a 106% increase in reporting when comparing March 2019 and March 2020 report numbers. Cybertip numbers have consistently and markedly risen every year. While this new surge in cybertips has not been confirmed to be as a direct result of the COVID-19 quarantine and children being online more, it is certainly believed to be a factor by those heavily involved in this mission.

In March and April 2020, the Georgia ICAC TF as a whole

has made 49 arrests. In 2019, the Georgia ICAC TF made 474 arrests. The Georgia ICAC Task Force is comprised of over 250 local, state and federal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies and is one of 61 ICAC Task Forces across the United States that work as a cohesive team. The ICAC task forces work diligently to identify and arrest those involved in the child sexual abuse imagery production and trade. The ICAC Program, created by the U. S. Department of Justice, was developed in response to the increasing number of children and teenagers using the Internet, the proliferation of child pornography, and the heightened online activity by predators searching for unsupervised contact with underage victims.

If you would like additional information related to the internet safety education and tips to keep children safe online please visit www.netsmartz.org. If you suspect or have information related to the abuse or exploitation of a child, please call your local law enforcement agency and/or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST or www.missingkids.org.

NOW OPEN

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



ELECTION

From page 1A

has moved to the Gordon County Annex Building, (behind the courthouse), 101 S Piedmont Street, Calhoun, Georgia.”

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

“We have to have your ballot back by Election Day, which is June 9,” said Hicks. “We also have an Absentee Ballot Drop Box at the building that we are now located in.”

Those qualifying for local elected office include:

County Commissioner, District 1:

M.L. “Bud” Owens (Incumbent - Republican)

County Commissioner, District 3:

Norris Sexton (Incumbent - Republican)

Robert “Rob” Ballard (Republican)

Bruce Potts, Jr. (Republican)

County Commissioner, District 5:

Kevin Cunningham (Incumbent - Republican)

Clerk of Superior Court:

Grant Walraven (Incumbent - Republican)

Corner:

James Carver (Incumbent - Republican)

Ken Padgett (Republican)

Judge of Probate Court:

John “Richie” Parker (Incumbent - non-partisan office)

Sheriff:

Sheriff Mitch Ralston (Incumbent - Republican)

Tax Commissioner:

Scott Clements (Incumbent - Republican)

County Board of Education,

Post 2:

Jason Hendrix (Incumbent - Republican)

County Board of Education,

Post 4:

Bobby Hall (Incumbent - Republican)

Rod Brehm (Republican)

County Board of Education,

Post 6:

Christie Owens Fox (Republican)

Samuel T. Jewell (Republican)

Bryon Reeves (Republican)

Magistrate Judge:

Pat Rasbury (Incumbent - Republican)

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

TRAINING

From page 1A

CFD in 2019, and also assists in teaching safety classes.

“(Towboat US does) a lot of salvage and towing boats on the water, but they also provide safety classes,” said Cox. “These classes are through the Coast Guard and are Coast Guard-approved classes.”

After a rescue last year where a woman fell out of her canoe and floated away from her party on the Oostanula River in town, Cox said it was imperative for everyone at CFD to be trained in operating a boat during rescues.

“Especially for us, with the swift, moving water on the river, we wanted our guys to know how to operate a boat (during a rescue operation); such as how to hold the boat steady. That is what Towboat US covers: moving water, rescues and those types of situations. In reality, most of what we will experience is flood waters, which will be moving, or if we have a situation where we have to be on the river”

“I think our guys enjoyed the class a lot,” said Cox of the 10 firefighters who participated. “We got our boats out on the water and received some good training.”

TowBoatUS is the nation’s largest



on-the-water towing fleet that services more than half a million BoatUS Members. With more than 600 towboats in more than 300 ports across the country, boaters are never far from professional on-the-water assistance when they need it. Membership includes boat towing, jump starts, soft ungroundings, fuel delivery, plus more than 25 additional benefits and savings. TowBoatUS Lake Allatoona is dedicated to providing their clients the most professional service available, both on the water and off. Their modern fleet of towing vessels and professional, courteous captains will always be there when clients need them on the water. For more information visit www.boatus.com.



CANDIDATES

From page 1A

manage these changes as they prepare the budget for next year, and this focus will continue into the foreseeable future. My education and work experience qualify me to be an active contributor to this process. The board is a team of dynamic and diverse leaders working together with the superintendent to support our schools, faculty/staff, and students with the goal to enhance the scope of educational experiences offered by Gordon County Schools. Throughout my career, I have worked collaboratively with a variety of hospital staff and leaders on a daily basis to accomplish tasks and solve problems. I’ve actively participated in multiple leadership and team-building training events to build and enhance my interpersonal skills. I am well-equipped to work on a team. As a youth leader in our church, I’ve had the opportunity to be an educator of sorts myself. I’ve experienced the struggles of conducting a class, trying to adapt delivery methods to fit different learning styles, and having limited resources. I’ve gotten to know many of the youth in our community and have been encouraged and inspired by them. I’ve also grown more aware of the needs and challenges of students who are less fortunate than others. I can identify with our teachers, the passion that drives them, and the struggles they face. My background working with youth makes me a strong, empathetic advocate for both students and teachers.”

If elected, Fox wants to place an emphasis on working together and promoting academic excellence and leadership among GCS students.

“Ultimately, the students and teachers of Gordon

County schools are my top priority, and I will work with Dr. Fraker and the members of the board to ensure that they have the best environment in which to thrive,” said Fox. “I will leverage my financial skills and experience to help develop annual budgets that continue to support the goals for our schools under trying economic times, while being mindful of the mileage rate impact on taxpayers, striving to find the best balance for all. I will promote academic excellence, strong work-ethic, well-roundedness, and leadership among our students. I also want to be an advocate for low income and disadvantaged students, as there are many students of this demographic in my district. I want to ensure that our high schools are adequately preparing all students for life after graduation, whatever that may entail for each individual student. As for issues affecting the schools directly, I will support expanding the use of technology and school safety measures. Overall, I want our schools to be a competitive force that attracts students and their families. If elected, I will join the board as a team player, promoting unity and effective collaboration among board members. As a board, it is essential that we work well together, though we might not always agree. I want to foster an environment where we can discuss ideas in a constructive manner that will ultimately result in the betterment and prosperity of the Gordon County School System.”

Originally from Gordon County, Samuel Jewell graduated from Red Bud High School in 1990. He is retired from the Army National Guard and currently is a service technician for an industrial air conditioning company.

He’s running to serve the community by helping children get a better education.

“I want to keep spending and taxes under control,” said Jewell. “I want to cut taxes; if I’m not

able to do that, I at least want to prevent them from being raised. I want to look into what we can do to improve the education for our children; I want to see more vo-tech classes and more real-life education to prepare our children for the world they’re going to be thrown into.

Jewell said he believes in a small, effective government of the people. He wants people to get out and exercise their right to vote no matter who they support as a candidate.

Bryon Reeves is also a Gordon County native. He is a graduate of the last graduating class, 1991, of Fairmount High School.

Reeves said he was inspired because both of his children have been part of Gordon County Schools.

“My son just graduated and my daughter is a sophomore at Sonorville,” said Reeves. “This side of the county has always been very near and dear to me because it’s where I’m from, where I grew up and where I live now. I just want what’s best for the schools and the kids.”

Reeves background is in law enforcement; he has been a police officer for 23 years and currently serves as Chief of Police in Ball Ground. He has a focus on school security.

“I want to make sure the schools are secure and that there are protocols in place; anything that can be improved (with school security,” said Reeves.

Reeves said that in addition to security, he wants to make sure teachers have everything they need to effectively teach the students, and due to personal experience, wants to focus on transportation.

“I know there is a new bus director,” said Reeves of the recent change. “I don’t know that there’s a problem now, but I know a few years ago, there were issues with bus schedules. I just want to represent this side of the county the best that I can and help the school system,” said Reeves.

Community Events

Friday, Aug. 7, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The GEM is located at 114 North Wall Street in Calhoun. Tickets range from \$30 - \$35 and can be purchased online by visiting the GEM’s website www.calhouncemtheatre.org.

Notices

-TALLATOONA BEGINS LIHEAP COOLING ASSISTANCE. Low Income Energy Assistance Program Cooling Assistance available; appointments have begun for seniors: Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Inc. has begun the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Cooling Assistance for Gordon County.

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

Gordon County residents who qualify will receive either

\$350 or \$400 toward their electric bill.

To schedule an appointment, visit the Tallatoona website at www.tallatoonacap.org and click ‘BookNow,’ or call 770-817-4666, extension 2.

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

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

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

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

June 2020

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

August 2020

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

-Carman, the Christian artist who has consistently operated outside the box of Christian music, will be taking the state of the GEM Theatre for a nice of worship on

REPUBLICAN SAMPLE BALLOT

GORDON COUNTY
110-Sugar Valley

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE/PROVISIONAL/EMERGENCY BALLOT

**OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY AND
NONPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
MAY 19, 2020**

To vote, blacken the Oval (●) next to the candidate of your choice. To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, manually WRITE his or her name in the write-in section and blacken the Oval (●) next to the write-in section. If you desire to vote YES or NO for a PROPOSED QUESTION, blacken the corresponding Oval (●). Use only blue or black pen or pencil.

Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed for each specific office. Do not cross out or erase. If you erase or make other marks on the ballot or tear the ballot, your vote may not count.

If you change your mind or make a mistake, you may return the ballot by writing "Spoiled" across the face of the ballot and return envelope. You may then mail the spoiled ballot back to your county board of registrars, and you will be issued another official absentee ballot. Alternatively, you may surrender the ballot to the poll manager of an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

**I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law.* [O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e) and 21-2-383(a)]*

<p>For President of the United States (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For State Representative In the General Assembly From 5th District (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Matt Barton (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For County Commissioner District 5 (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kevin L. Cunningham (Incumbent)</p>
<p>For United States Senate (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> David A. Perdue (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For District Attorney of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rosemary M. Greene (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For County Board of Education Post 2 (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jason Hendrix (Incumbent)</p>
<p>For Public Service Commissioner (To Succeed Jason Shaw) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jason Shaw (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For Clerk of Superior Court (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Grant Walraven (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For County Board of Education Post 4 (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rod Brehm</p>
<p>For Public Service Commissioner (To Succeed Lauren Bubba McDonald, Jr.) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Lauren Bubba McDonald, Jr. (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For Sheriff (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mitch Raiston (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For County Board of Education Post 6 (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Bobby E. Hall (Incumbent)</p>
<p>For U.S. Representative in 117th Congress From the 14th Congressional District of Georgia (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John D. Barge</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ben Bullock</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kevin Cooke</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John Cowan</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Clayton Fuller</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Marjorie Taylor Greene</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Andy Gunther</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Bill Hembree</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Matt Laughridge</p>	<p>For Tax Commissioner (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Scott Clements (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For County Board of Education Post 6 (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Christie Owens Fox</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Samuel T. Jewell</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Bryon Reeves</p>
<p>For State Senator From 52nd District (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Chuck Hufstetler (Incumbent)</p>	<p>For Coroner (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> James Carver (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ken Padgett</p>	<p>REPUBLICAN PARTY QUESTIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 1 -</p> <p>Should Georgia lawmakers expand educational options by allowing a student's state education dollars to follow to the school that best fits their needs, whether that is public, private, magnet, charter, virtual or homeschool?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 2 -</p> <p>Should voting in the Republican Primary be limited to voters who have registered as Republicans?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 3 -</p> <p>Should candidates for board of education be required to declare their political party?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>

- 4 -

Do you approve of Gordon County being a Second Amendment Sanctuary County?

YES

NO

- 5 -

Are you in favor of casino gambling in the state of Georgia?

YES

NO

- 6 -

Do you approve of sports gambling online in the state of Georgia?

YES

NO

NONPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed Elizabeth Dallas Gobeil)
(Vote for One)

Elizabeth Dallas Gobeil
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed David Todd Markle)
(Vote for One)

David Todd Markle
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed Carla McMillian)
(Vote for One)

Carla McMillian
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
(To Succeed Charlie Bethel)
(Vote for One)

Elizabeth "Beth" Beskin

Charlie Bethel
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
(To Succeed Sarah Hawkins Warren)
(Vote for One)

Hal Moroz

Sarah Hawkins Warren
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Superior Court of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit
(To Succeed Suzanne H. Smith)
(Vote for One)

Suzanne H. Smith
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Superior Court of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit
(To Succeed Jeffrey A. Watkins)
(Vote for One)

Jeffrey A. Watkins
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge of the Probate Court
(Vote for One)

John R. "Richie" Parker
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed Trenton "Trent" Brown, III)
(Vote for One)

Trenton "Trent" Brown, III
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed Christian Coomer)
(Vote for One)

Christian Coomer
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed Sara Doyle)
(Vote for One)

Sara Doyle
(Incumbent)

Write-in

DEMOCRATIC SAMPLE BALLOT

GORDON COUNTY
110-Sugar Valley

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE/PROVISIONAL/EMERGENCY BALLOT

**OFFICIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY AND
NONPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
MAY 19, 2020**

To vote, blacken the Oval (●) next to the candidate of your choice. To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, manually WRITE his or her name in the write-in section and blacken the Oval (●) next to the write-in section. If you desire to vote YES or NO for a PROPOSED QUESTION, blacken the corresponding Oval (●). Use only blue or black pen or pencil.

Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed for each specific office. Do not cross out or erase. If you erase or make other marks on the ballot or tear the ballot, your vote may not count.

If you change your mind or make a mistake, you may return the ballot by writing "Spoiled" across the face of the ballot and return envelope. You may then mail the spoiled ballot back to your county board of registrars, and you will be issued another official absentee ballot. Alternatively, you may surrender the ballot to the poll manager of an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

**I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law.* [O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e) and 21-2-383(a)]*

<p>For President of the United States (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Michael Bennet</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Michael R. Bloomberg</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Pete Buttigieg</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John K. Delaney</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tulsi Gabbard</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Amy Klobuchar</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Deval Patrick</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tom Steyer</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Elizabeth Warren</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Andrew Yang</p> <p>For United States Senate (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Sarah Riggs Amico</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Marcketh DeJesus</p> <p><input type="radio"/> James Knox</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tricia Carpenter McCracken</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jon Ossoff</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Maya Dillard Smith</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Teresa Pike Tomlinson</p> <p>For Public Service Commissioner (To Succeed Jason Shaw) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Robert G. Bryant</p>	<p>For Public Service Commissioner (To Succeed Lauren Bubba McDonald, Jr.) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Daniel Blackman</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John Noel</p> <p>For U.S. Representative in 117th Congress From the 14th Congressional District of Georgia (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kevin Van Ausdal</p> <p>For State Senator From 52nd District (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Charles DeYoung</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEMOCRATIC PARTY QUESTIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 1 -</p> <p>Should Georgians work to stop climate change and listen to the scientific community, which recommends immediate action to combat this serious threat to our planet?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 2 -</p> <p>Should Georgia enact basic standards to protect our environment from wasteful plastic items that pollute our state?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 3 -</p> <p>Should every eligible Georgian be allowed to register to vote on Election Day to make sure everyone can exercise their right to vote?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 4 -</p> <p>Should Georgia take partisanship out of the redistricting process and have an independent commission draw district lines instead of politicians?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- 5 -</p> <p>Should our criminal justice system end the discriminatory cash bail system that allows the wealthy to buy their way out of jail while disadvantaging lower-income Georgians?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- 6 -</p> <p>Should every Georgian that has served their sentence for a crime they committed be allowed to have their voting rights restored?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NONPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION</p> <p>For Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia (To Succeed Charlie Bethel) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Elizabeth "Beth" Beskin</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Charlie Bethel (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia (To Succeed Sarah Hawkins Warren) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Hal Moroz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Sarah Hawkins Warren (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia (To Succeed Trenton "Trent" Brown, III) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Trenton "Trent" Brown, III (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia (To Succeed Christian Coomer) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Christian Coomer (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia (To Succeed Sara Doyle) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Sara Doyle (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed Elizabeth Dallas Gobeil)
(Vote for One)

Elizabeth Dallas Gobeil
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed David Todd Markle)
(Vote for One)

David Todd Markle
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
(To Succeed Carla McMillian)
(Vote for One)

Carla McMillian
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Superior Court of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit
(To Succeed Suzanne H. Smith)
(Vote for One)

Suzanne H. Smith
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge, Superior Court of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit
(To Succeed Jeffrey A. Watkins)
(Vote for One)

Jeffrey A. Watkins
(Incumbent)

Write-in

For Judge of the Probate Court
(Vote for One)

John R. "Richie" Parker
(Incumbent)

Write-in

NONPARTISAN SAMPLE BALLOT

GORDON COUNTY
110-Sugar Valley, 9110-Sugar Valley

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE/PROVISIONAL/EMERGENCY BALLOT

**OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
MAY 19, 2020**

To vote, blacken the Oval (●) next to the candidate of your choice. To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, manually WRITE his or her name in the write-in section and blacken the Oval (●) next to the write-in section. If you desire to vote YES or NO for a PROPOSED QUESTION, blacken the corresponding Oval (●). Use only blue or black pen or pencil.

Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed for each specific office. Do not cross out or erase. If you erase or make other marks on the ballot or tear the ballot, your vote may not count.

If you change your mind or make a mistake, you may return the ballot by writing "Spoiled" across the face of the ballot and return envelope. You may then mail the spoiled ballot back to your county board of registrars, and you will be issued another official absentee ballot. Alternatively, you may surrender the ballot to the poll manager of an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

**I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law.* [O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e) and 21-2-383(a)]*

<p style="text-align: center;">NONPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION</p> <p>For Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia (To Succeed Charlie Bethel) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Elizabeth "Beth" Beskin</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Charlie Bethel (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia (To Succeed Sarah Hawkins Warren) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Hal Moroz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Sarah Hawkins Warren (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia (To Succeed Trenton "Trent" Brown, III) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Trenton "Trent" Brown, III (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia (To Succeed Sara Doyle) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Sara Doyle (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p>For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia (To Succeed David Todd Markle) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> David Todd Markle (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia (To Succeed Carla McMillian) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Carla McMillian (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge, Superior Court of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit (To Succeed Suzanne H. Smith) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Suzanne H. Smith (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge, Superior Court of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit (To Succeed Jeffrey A. Watkins) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jeffrey A. Watkins (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p>For Judge of the Probate Court (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John R. "Richie" Parker (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p>For Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia (To Succeed Elizabeth Dallas Gobeil) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Elizabeth Dallas Gobeil (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------