

# GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

## Voters choose to continue E-SPLOST for local schools

**Brandi Owczarz**  
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Despite the low voter turnout and wet weather, the E-SPLOST referendum was approved by Gordon County voters on Tuesday.

A total of 1,260 votes were cast (3.44 percent of Gordon County's 37,351 registered voters). The measure approved with 949 "YES" votes versus the 311 "NO" votes.

There were only 759 voters show up on Election Day to cast

their ballot; early voting brought in 464 early voters and there were 36 absentee ballots received back by the deadline.

The E-SPLOST will benefit both Calhoun City Schools and Gordon County Schools and both systems have a long list of projects they'd like to complete with the money the one-cent tax raises.

Capital outlay projects and costs proposed by Gordon County Schools include:

-The acquisition and installation of

digital resources and improvements to technology throughout the district

-Renovations and modifications to W.L. Swain Elementary, Ashworth Middle School, Gordon Central High School, Sonoraville High School, GCS Central Office, Fairmount Elementary, Sonoraville Elementary, Red Bud Middle, Red Bud Elementary, Belwood Elementary and Tolbert Elementary

-Facility renovations

and modifications needed for Career, Technical and Agricultural education courses and pathways

-Acquisition and equipping of buses

-Expansion and improvements of parking lots

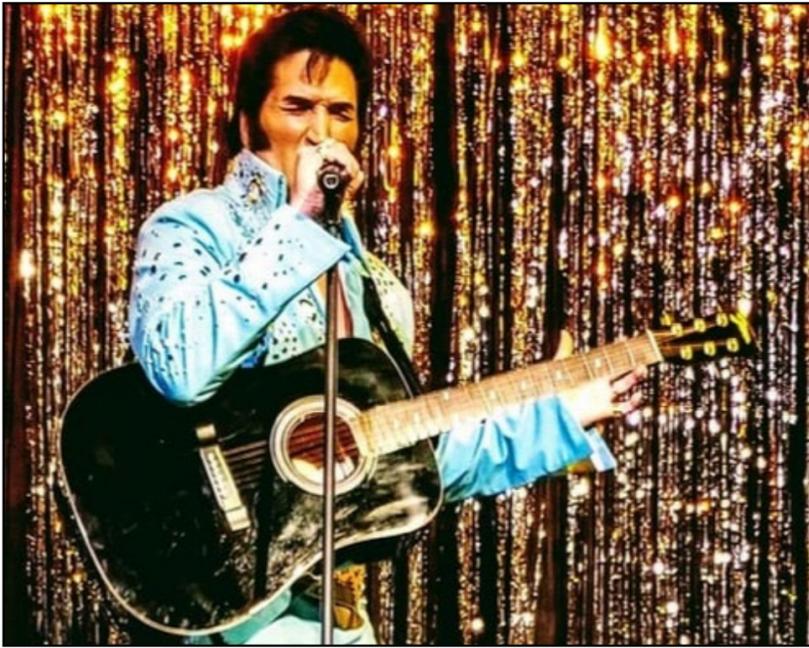
-Acquisition of any property, both real and personal, and equipment necessary in connection with described capital outlay projects, including energy management

See **ESPLOST**, page 12A

Election Summary Report						
General Election						
GORDON						
March 16, 2021						
Summary for: All Contests, All Districts, All Tabulators, All Counting Groups Unofficial and Incomplete						
Precincts Reported: 12 of 12 (100.00%)						
Registered Voters: 37,351 (3,44%)						
Ballots Cast: 1,264						
Gordon County ESPLOST (Vote for 1)						
NP						
Precincts Reported: 12 of 12 (100.00%)						
Times Cast	Election Day	Advanced Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
	759	464	60	1	1,284 / 37,351	3.44%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advanced Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
YES		511	405	12	1	949
NO		228	59	24	0	311
Total Votes		739	464	36	1	1,260
	Election Day	Advanced Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unrecorded Write-Ins	0	0	0	0	0	0

CLICK ON PHOTO ABOVE TO GET RESULTS FROM TUEADAY'S E-SPLOST VOTE>

## Elvis tribute to be held April 17 at Oostanuala School Community Club



**Brandi Owczarz**  
staff@gordongazettega.com

Community Club (located at 1595 Oostanuala Bend Road in Calhoun) for an evening of great food and entertainment with a Tribute to Elvis

by tribute artist Greg Carter Burgess! Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for an amazing Southern supper.

Elvis tribute artist Greg Carter

See **ELVIS**, page 12A

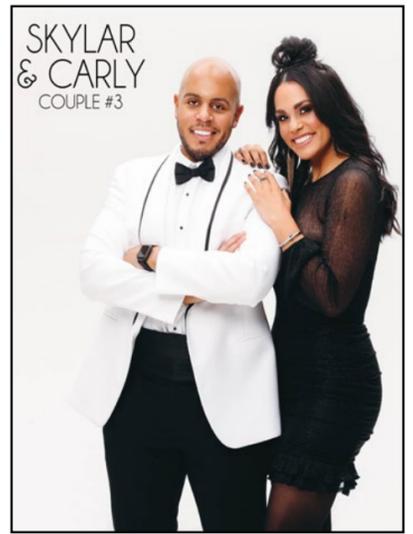
## DWTS 2021 introduces third dance couple - Carly Curtis and Skylar Benham

CONTRIBUTED

You're invited to United Way of Gordon County's 10th and final presentation of Calhoun's Dancing with the Stars presented by Mohawk Industries, Calhoun-Gordon Community Foundation, and Morning Pointe of Calhoun. The record-setting fundraiser will close with an April 16 finale at the Calhoun Performing Arts Center at 7:00 p.m. A dress rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, April 15 with tickets sold at a discounted rate. This year's show will feature a combination of adult and student dance teams as they compete to raise funds for United Way of Gordon County.

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

Latour went on to thank the DWTS



Planning Committee - Andy Baxter, Kristy Brown, Jennie Coker, Bekah Kirby, Amy Parker, and Michelle Frix Ward - for their hard work over the years. She also thanked all the sponsors,

See **DWTS**, page 12A

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Clements tapped to lead Morning Pointe Calhoun as new director.

**STATE 10A**



CAPITOL BEAT NEWS: Pay for college athletes in Georgia pitched in General Assembly bill.

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## County approves renaming portions of SR 53; gets project updates at latest meeting

**Brandi Owczarz**  
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At Tuesday night's meeting of the Gordon County Board of Commissioners, the Board approved several items of business, including the renaming of some of the portions of State Route 53 (Hwy. 53) now that the Calhoun Bypass is complete.

"The DOT has deemed that we shall take the old portion of Highway 53 as City and County roads; however, there is a condition in the contract from 2009-2010 that the DOT will repave those roads before we're required to take them," said Gordon County Administrator Jim Ledbetter. "We've received a Letter of Abandonment from the DOT but they're still supposed to repave."

Ledbetter said that he expects the City of Calhoun and Gordon County to send a joint letter to the DOT to make sure that portion of the road is repaved.

According to Gordon County EMA Director Courtney Taylor, the renaming of the roads will consist of:

-The portion of the new South Calhoun Bypass that was addressed to Union Grove Road will be left as is (Union Grove Road) and not take the new South Calhoun Bypass address

-The cul-de-sac-type portion of what was formerly Union Grove Road at its old entrance at Hwy. 41 will now be called Old Union Grove Road. There are only two addresses on this section of the road that will be affected.

Other items of business in the meeting: The Board held a public hearing for two separate requests of rezones. One was a rezone request for 1.05 acres at 155 Manning Drive in Plainville from A-1 to R-1 to build a home. The other request was for a rezone from A-1 to R-6 for 4.85 acres at 10881 Fairmount



Construction is moving along at Buc-ee's on Union Grove Road at I-75 in Calhoun. There will soon be a traffic light at the intersection where Buc-ee's sits, at Union Grove/Johnson Lake Road and Belwood Road.

Highway in Fairmount to subdivide into 1.25 acre lots to place four mobile homes.

The Board also approved the appointment of Steve Bayzid to fill the seat on the Gordon County DFCS Board of Directors vacated by the resignation of Bruce Potts, who made the decision to step off the Board due to his duties as a Gordon County commissioner.

Potts will remain in an ex-officio type manner on the DFCS Board for reporting purposes, but will not have a vote for any items of business. The term will be through February 2022.

The Board approved a price increase for piping the County uses to repair and place culverts.

"Construction prices are going up and that affects our pipe," said Ledbetter. "We don't

make any money off of the pipe increase; it's a service that we do to benefit the public. The benefit to us is it makes sure the pipes (in yards/under driveways) get installed the right way. The bad thing is we may have been charging less than contractors for the service."

See **COUNTY**, page 12A

# Second Front

## Clements chosen to lead Morning Pointe Calhoun

### MORNING POINTE

Traci Clements, pictured, has been named the new executive director at Morning Pointe of Calhoun assisted living and memory care community. Morning Pointe of Calhoun is one of seven Morning Pointe Senior Living communities in the Tennessee Valley and northwest Georgia developed, owned, and managed by Independent Healthcare Properties, LLC. The Chattanooga, Tennessee-based senior

healthcare services company was founded in 1996 by Tennessee healthcare entrepreneurs Greg A. Vital and J. Franklin Farrow. Before joining Morning Pointe of Calhoun, Clements worked in the banking and finance industry for more than fifteen years. She is a lifelong member of the Calhoun community with a unique perspective on running a senior living community: her father was a resident at Morning Pointe of Calhoun for a number of years. She brings a wealth of knowledge to

the day-to-day operation of caring for and engaging with residents. "I want the absolute best for the residents of Morning Pointe," said Clements. "Everyone has a story to share and I am honored to be a part of their lives and an advocate for their needs every day. Morning Pointe has a solid reputation and I am delighted to be able to help continue the tradition of excellence here." Outside of her work at Morning Pointe, Clements enjoys spending quality time

with family and friends in the great outdoors. "Having been in the shoes of a resident family member, Traci uniquely understands what makes a senior living community effective," said Heather Tussing, executive vice president of operations at Morning Pointe Senior Living. "I know she and her team will lead Morning Pointe of Calhoun into a new era of growth." For more information about Morning Pointe of Calhoun, please visit [www.morningpointe.com](http://www.morningpointe.com).



## CAPITOL BEAT NEWS: Legal homeless camps in Georgia pitched in General Assembly bill

### BEAU EVANS, Capitol Beat News Service

A plan to create legal homeless camps on public and private properties in Georgia by redirecting some funds from existing local outreach and shelter groups drew debate in a General Assembly committee on Monday. Legislation sponsored by Rep. Katie Dempsey, R-Rome, would send state dollars currently earmarked for building shelters and short-term housing to be used instead on so-called "structured camping facilities" for a city or county's homeless population. The camps would have to provide water, electrical outlets and bathrooms and could only be used for up to six months by a homeless person, effectively reserving the facilities for Georgians who are motivated to find work and secure permanent housing. Dempsey's bill, which

faces long odds of advancing in the last days of the 2021 legislative session, was hailed Monday by some advocates as an innovative way to address certain kinds of homelessness and slammed by others concerned about money being stripped from shelter-based programs. "There is no doubt this is a little out-of-the-box," Dempsey told the state House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. "It's creative [and] it's a different way than we've done it." Backers of Dempsey's bill point to a legal camp that local officials set up in Douglas County three years ago to curb the area's rising homeless population, called Shinnah Haven. Located on county-owned property, the camp requires residents to keep out of fights, clean their appointed spots and provide official identification in return for a stable place to pitch a tent, access to social

workers and electricity from a solar panel, said Douglas County Judge William "Beau" McClain. "We need to start this in the state of Georgia before [unsheltered homelessness] gets out of hand," McClain said. "It's practical to not bring these people to the [emergency room and] to not house them in jail. It's a practical solution to the problem." On top of the camps, Dempsey's bill also proposes requiring cities with homeless populations larger than the state average to spend a chunk of state and federal grants to create outreach teams made up of police, social services workers and mental health professionals tasked with moving people from illegal street camps to sanctioned homelessness services. That provision, as well as the proposal to redirect funds for new shelters and short-term housing, sparked backlash from local groups that work to

secure permanent housing for Georgia's homeless populations – particularly since they said Dempsey had not consulted them on the bill before Monday. Legal homeless camps in places like San Francisco that are much larger than the one in Douglas County have led to sanitation problems and made little headway in reducing the number of people living in tents on the street or in the woods, said Cathryn Marchman, chief executive officer for the group Partners for HOME, who leads Atlanta's homelessness efforts. Marchman also questioned whether homeless persons might be forced to live in government-sanctioned camps, potentially triggering an illegal living situation "like a homeless internment camp." "If we're talking about being innovative and actually ending this problem instead of perpetuating it, we should be talking about



how we as a state fund and create sustainable revenue streams for permanent housing solutions," she said. "And we also need to look at the unintended consequences of what sanctioned encampments have done and created around the country." No votes were taken on Dempsey's bill Monday, which fell one week after the Crossover Day deadline for legislation to pass out of one chamber or the other to remain in contention for

final passage. Dempsey, who oversees state mental-health funding as chairwoman of the House Appropriations' Human Resources Subcommittee, said her bill aims to "begin the conversation" for bringing new ideas to addressing homelessness in Georgia. "The bottom line is that the effective reduction in street homelessness will help communities be safe," Dempsey said.

**GORDON**  
*Gazette*

**IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

*Women of Gordon County*

**A FREE ONLINE ISSUE CELEBRATING THE WOMEN WHO SHAPE THE COMMUNITY WE CALL HOME**

**PUBLISHING NEXT WEEK!**

# Obituaries

## March 17, 2021

### Wilton "Buck" Baker, Sr.

Mr. Wilton L. "Buck" Baker, Sr. 98, of Calhoun, passed away at his residence on Saturday, March 13, 2021 following several years declining health.



Mr. Baker was born in Gordon County on May 7, 1922. He was the son of the late Wash C. Baker and Carlee Williams Baker. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Irene Willix Baker on June 18, 2008; three sisters, Maybell Clark, Nell Howard Johnson and Annie Clark; two brothers, Lester Baker and Boyd Baker.

Prior to retirement, he worked in the textile industry, Lockheed Martin, Georgia Department of Transportation and was a chicken and cattle farmer. He was a member of Plainview Baptist Church and was ordained and began to serve as a Deacon on June 22, 1958 and continued to serve until ill health prevented him from doing so. He was a veteran of the United States Army being inducted on May 20, 1943 at Camp Gordon, Ga. and honorably discharged on Nov. 22, 1945. He served in World War II, having seen extensive action on the battlefield in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He was an expert marksman having earned the EAMET Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Award, and World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Baker is survived by one son, Wilton Baker Jr. and his wife Carole of Calhoun; daughter, Penny Baker Quale and her husband Bill of Cummings, Ga.; grandchildren, Dawn Baker Kemp and her husband Greg, Eric Baker and his wife Evette, Elliott Shaw, Matthew Shaw and his wife Melissa, Kellen Burklin; great grandchildren, Macy Kemp, Jack Kemp, Olivia Baker, Jacob Baker, Gavin Shaw and Isaac Shaw; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A service to celebrate the life of Wilton L. "Buck" Baker was conducted Tuesday, March 16 at 2 p.m. at Plainview Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Hibberts and Rev. Gary Hibberts officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery with Brent Jones conducting the graveside service. Military honors were accorded by the United States Army Honor Guard. Pallbearers serving were the grandsons and great grandsons. Honorary pallbearers were K.O. & Thelma Cornwell, Robert Davis, Claire Hicks, Charlie Allen, Charles Coker, Ronnie Everette, Cindy & Keith Knowles, Deb Dempsey, Doug Dempsey, Larry Turner, Sue Hibberts, his faithful caregivers: David Whisenhunt, Lori Godsey, Debra Smith, and Kellie Craig.

The family received friends at Plainview Baptist Church Tuesday, March 16 beginning at 12 Noon until the funeral hour.

The family would like to thank the caregivers and Homespun Hospice for all that they did for their father and grandfather.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Wilton L. "Buck" Baker Sr.



### Gregory "Greg" Bruce

Gregory Joseph "Greg" Bruce, age 62, of Newnan and formerly of Calhoun, passed away on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

Greg was born on April 25, 1958 in Indiana, son

of Marian Dreyovich Bruce and the late Theophil J. Bruce. He attended St. Clement's Catholic Church and was employed as a Logistics Supervisor by Ultra Commercial Interiors in Alpharetta.

Greg is survived by: his mother, Marian Bruce; two sons, Robert Bruce and Ryan Bruce; three daughters, Jaime Dubrulle (Julien), Christina Stromfeld (Michael), and Rochelle Bruce; three brothers, Theophil Jeffery Bruce and his wife Virginia, Kevin Bruce, and Scott Bruce and his wife Carolyn; two sisters, Rozanne Collins and her husband Forrest and Melissa Rhodes and her husband Calvin; and six grandchildren, Matthew Stromfeld, Harrison Stromfeld, Lillie Stromfeld, Olivier Dubrulle, Pierre Dubrulle, and Emile Dubrulle.

A Funeral Mass will be conducted on Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 2 p.m. at St. Clement's Catholic Church with Father Feiser Munoz officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be given to: Elevation House online at [www.elevationhouse.org](http://www.elevationhouse.org) or by mail to 3 Central Plaza #320, Rome, GA 30161.

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Gregory Joseph "Greg" Bruce.



### Becky Dean

Becky Defoor Dean, 55, of Resaca, died Saturday, March 13, 2021 at her residence following several months declining health.

Becky was born in Douglasville on Sept. 30, 1965, daughter of the late Charlie and Emma Lee Groomes. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Charlie Joe Groomes and Kenneth Groomes, and her first husband, David Defoor. Prior to ill health, she was a private caregiver and she attended Red Bud High School.

Survivors include her husband Jimmy Dean, to whom she was married for 11 years; daughters, Jennie (Dee) Gardner, Tonya (Judd) Brannon and Melissa (Chris) Cartwright; five sons, Kevin (Ashley) Fuller, Nick Defoor (Charity Sikes), Michael Patton, Johnny (Becky) Underwood, Steve Dean; two sisters, Renee (Jimmy) Holder, Elaine Bunch; grandchildren, Mason, Makenlee and Mia Fuller; Courtney, Ralston, Geronimo Deeson Jr., and Olen Gardner; Nevaeh, Brexli and Haven Defoor; Emily and Rylie Haynes; Jada Brannon, along with many others by marriage; Great-grandchildren, and many more by marriage; nieces and nephews, Marlena and Greg Wilson, Andrew and Sadie Wilson, Eric, Tina, Chelsey, Amber and Jarrett Groomes along with many other nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Becky (Defoor) Dean will be conducted Wednesday, March 17 at 2 p.m. from The Way of The Cross Church with Rev. Jimmy Black and Rev. Randy Fouts officiating. Interment will follow in Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery near Resaca.

The family received friends on Tuesday, March 16 at the funeral home between the hours of 5 - 8 p.m.

Anyone in attendance, please keep in mind the current guidelines and restrictions set forth by the



CDC as it pertains to social gatherings including social distancing, gathering limits, and face masks.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Becky Defoor Dean.



### Juanita Evans

Juanita Ray Evans, age 79, of Rome, formerly of Sugar Valley, passed away on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at her residence.

Juanita was born on Dec. 8, 1941 to the late Raymond Ross and Dimple Shields Ross. She was formerly employed by American Rug Craftsman. Juanita was a member of Sugar Valley Church of God. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Donald Evans in 2013.

She is survived by her sons, Doug Brown and his wife Margie of Adairsville, Larry Brown of Rome.

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Juanita Ray Evans.



### Rayford Gilbert

James Rayford Gilbert, age 83, of Calhoun, passed away on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at Gordon Health Care.

Rayford was born in Gordon County on July 7, 1937, a son of the late James Robert Gilbert and Odell Dodd Gilbert. In addition to his parents, Rayford was also preceded in death by a son, Bobby Ray Gilbert. He was employed with Gene Bowen of Calhoun Millworks, and later was a self-employed carpenter and home builder with his brother Dan for many years in Calhoun and Gordon County. He was a member of the New Town Baptist Church and was formerly a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church near Resaca.

Rayford is survived by: one son, Randy Gilbert and his wife Kim; two daughters, Renee Fay Burns and Tina Martz; one daughter-in-law, Regina Gilbert; four brothers, Danny Gilbert and his wife Lynne, Michael Gilbert and his wife, Wanda, Phil Gilbert, and Ted Gilbert and his wife Kara; one sister, Judy Smith and her husband Ted, his best Grand Ole Opry buddy; eight grandchildren, Joshua Tedder, Travis Martz, Ashley Martz, Ariel Martz, Johnathan Harbour, Chass Gilbert, Eric Burns, Heather Medders, and Brittany and her husband Stephen; four great grandchildren, Haylen Tedder, Braxton Medders, Zayden Medders, and Acedon Medders.

Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 3 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with the Reverend Walter Hare officiating. April Price will have charge of music. Burial will follow in Chandler Cemetery.

Pallbearers are: Sheldon Medders, Josh Tedder, Brad Price, Ricky Smith, Braxton Medders, and Eric Burns. They are asked to meet at the funeral home at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday.

The Gilbert family received friends on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home. In addition to flowers, memorial contributions may be given to New Town Baptist Church.

Covid-19 precautions are respectfully requested for the family and friends.

Thomas Funeral Home has charge of arrangements for the services of Rayford Gilbert



## Help for the Hurting

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

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

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

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

**-The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a**

**monthly support group** at Morning Pointe Assisted Living, 660 Jolly Road, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information or directions, call Mary Braden at 770-548-4683 or Karen Parrott at 706-346-5220. For more information about dementia and Alzheimer's disease, call 800-272-3900 or visit [www.alz.org/georgia](http://www.alz.org/georgia).

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

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

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

**-Community volunteers are needed at Countryside Hospice Care**, where the

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

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

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

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

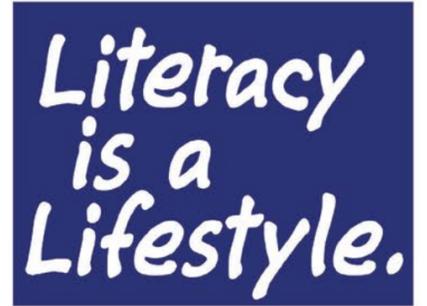
**-The Compassionate Friends of Dalton and N.W. Georgia** is part of a worldwide effort that has helped many families cope with the loss of a child and to honor our children's memory. The Compassionate Friends meets on the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Evangelical

Methodist Church (in the "Gathering Place" building), 1035 Abutment Road, Dalton (on the hill behind the old Lowe's off Walnut Avenue). For more information, call Dawn at 706-277-3312 or 706-264-4458 or e-mail [dawnissison@msn.com](mailto:dawnissison@msn.com).

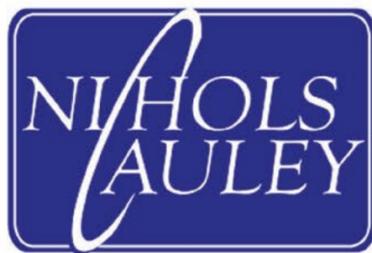
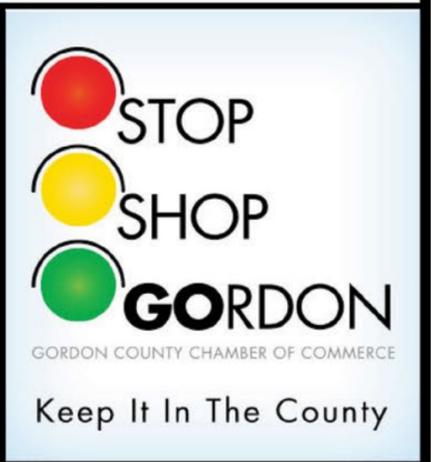
**-SING (Surviving Infidelity Necessary to your Growth)** has formed here. If you are experiencing difficulty in marriage and are looking for ways to survive, then you should come and be part of these meetings designed to help, encourage, and solve issues in a marriage that can lead to a promising future 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.



MEET THE SPONSORS  
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2021



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RELIGION

I'LL NEVER BE AN ANGEL



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

I've said here before that we have an enemy that the Bible names "Death." According to Hebrews 9:27 says, we

have an appointment with death, and we'll be judged. Of all the people I've met in my life, I've not met many who would dispute this. Most all of them believe that there is a Heaven and Hell. All of these believe they will spend an eternity in one of the two.

There is one misunderstanding that I have known many to have, that we become angels when we die. Statements like "Heaven gained another angel" or "grandma is my guardian angel" are often offered as a nice condolence. As sweet and sincere as their motives are,

their statements are not Biblical. I respect the sorrow that people in mourning offer, but I don't want anyone to be confused. We don't become angels when we die.

Angels are creatures that God created for the purpose of serving Him, in whatever way he sees fit. While we are also called to serve God, we find our position in the present time to be a little lower than the angels. In Psalm 8, David was writing about mankind, and in verse 5 he states "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels". Angels are

given great power and abilities, even the ability to take on the form of man. One example might be the three strangers that visited Abraham and Sarah to predict the birth of their son Isaac.

Then you look past this world, to the future in Heaven, we will be a little higher than the angels. How do we know this will be so? We know because the Bible says we will be like Christ. This means that our status then will be above that of the angels. 1Corinthians 6:3 says we will judge angels. I believe this will be the angels who sided with Lucifer.

Perhaps the greatest truth is the fact that angels will not experience salvation through the redemptive work of Christ. Revelation 5:9,10 reads, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." Verses 11 and 12, of the same chapter, then speaks of the angels. It says, "And

I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

Angels are merely "creatures of God". Saved loved-ones are "children of God". The angels have no part in The Song of the Redeemed, do you? Be Blessed.

Church Calendar

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

coming soon.

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

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

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

**-Calhoun First United Methodist Church** Sunday Worship times: 9:00 a.m., traditional worship; 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m., contemporary service (in the CAC). Calhoun First UMC is located at 205 East Line Street in downtown Calhoun.

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

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

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

**-Old Sugar Valley United Methodist Church** located at 2659 Old Rome Dalton Road in Calhoun has Breakfast Social at 9:30 am every Sunday. The church history is colorful, dating back to the Civil War, small cozy country church nothing fancy! Come join us!

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

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

**-Maranatha Baptist Church on Hwy 225 across from paradise Drag Strip,** Calhoun would like to invite you to attend our services for Sunday School starting at

10 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Night Services are at 7 p.m. Everyone is Welcome. Pastor Richard Webster.

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

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

**-Victory Fellowship Center, 925 Oothcalooga St.,** invites you to weekly worship services held at 11 a.m. every Sunday morning. Pastor Joe Stewart and the VFC family also invite everyone to join each Wednesday at noon and 7:30 p.m. for anointed and enlightening Bible studies. If you are looking to grow in your understanding of God's plan for your life and gain greater insight of the life changing power of His word, come and join us as we study the word.

**-Boone Ford Baptist Church** invites you to attend its services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. and Worship services at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday night services are at 6 p.m. on the first and third Sunday

night of each month. Wednesday night services start at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Gary Quarles, pastor.

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

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

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

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

**-Liberty Baptist Church Pastor Gene**

**Ratcliff invites everyone to church services in Ranger;** service times are 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Sunday worship and 7 p.m. Wednesday worship.

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

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

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

**-Hope in Christ Ministries, 306 Peters St., is holding services every Sunday morning.** Adult Bible Study starts at 10 a.m. with praise/worship service at 11 a.m. Bishop W. S. (Billy) Weems is the pastor. Rev. Earnest Diamond Jr. is assistant pastor. For more information, call the church at 706-602-2433.

**-Talking Rock Creek Chapel has a new pastor, the Pastor Donald Broachurst and family.** Service times are 9 a.m. for Sunday school and Children's Church and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday. For more information, call 706-669-0854.

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## FINANCE

# CASH FLOW WITH JOE: Real estate is not a house business



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

The first thing I do when I sit down with

sellers is ask, "How can I help you the best?"

This statement disarms people. You see, they're expecting a real estate investor to come in and beat them up to get the lowest price possible on the house. In anticipation of this fact, and since negotiating is an uncomfortable thing to most people anyway, they are already on edge. But when you let them know you are there to help, they calm down, open up more, and it makes for a better meeting.

Next, I tell the

seller that my job is not necessarily to buy houses, but to solve real estate problems. And I say that my goal is to help them by giving them some options that will put them in a better situation. I even tell them that the solution may or may not include me, but that my goal is to help.

This speech conveys to the sellers that they, as people, are more important to me than their houses. And I mean it.

Take last week for instance.

I went on a seller

call to beautiful house on acreage. There were fenced pastures, a pond and two houses on the property. And the place was in great condition. When I sat down with the seller and got through my spiel, I learned that she really didn't want to sell. You see, the seller was getting older, and the acreage was becoming more than she could manage by herself. Her kids were worried about that and were encouraging her to sell. But she was happy in that house. She had lots of memories there,

which was evident by all the family pictures that covered the walls, and she didn't want to leave.

I could see that she needed to stay in her home. So, I gave her a solution that had absolutely nothing to do with me or even selling her house. I suggested that she find someone that she could trust and rent them the second house on the property in exchange for keeping the grounds.

She liked that idea a lot. We had a good rest of our visit, and I left.

Now, I won't make

any money off of that transaction. And if I were only focused on buying houses, I wouldn't have been able to do my job. But by realizing real estate investing is a people business, I was able to solve a problem and help a lady out. And that is payment enough for me.

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

## FINANCIAL FOCUS: Financial Checklist for New(er) Parents



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

If you're a brand-new parent, or even if you've been one for a little while, you're no doubt filled with the many joys your child brings you. But as caught up as you are with the feelings and experiences of today, you also need to think about the future – specifically, the financial issues that

accompany a growing family. What are some of the key moves you need to make?

Here's "checklist" to consider:

-Establish a budget. If you're going to meet the additional expenses of a child, plus make progress toward other objectives, such as paying down debts, you'll need to know where your money is going. Setting a budget, and sticking to it, may seem difficult, but once you've gotten into the habit, it will become easier – and for many people, following a budget actually gives them more of a sense of control over their finances. Over time, expenses related to your children will change, so you'll need to adjust your budget accordingly – for example, once a

child is in school full-time, childcare expenses may drop, which could allow you to boost your savings.

-Protect against the unexpected. If something were to happen to you, how would your child, or children, be affected? Even a family with two working parents can face serious financial difficulties if one of the parents were to die prematurely, or even just drop out of the workforce temporarily due to illness or injury. To help ensure your family could still stay in your home and your children could still afford to pursue higher education, you'll want to create an appropriate protection strategy involving both life and disability insurance. Your employer may offer both, but the

coverage provided may not be sufficient for your needs, so you may need to purchase your own policies. And here's another protection-related idea: Try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money held in a low-risk, liquid account. Without such a fund, you might have to tap into your longer-term investments to pay unexpected costs, such as a major car repair.

-Prepare for high cost of higher education. You may already be thinking about sending your child to college. And it is indeed a good idea to start planning early because college is expensive, and it's getting more so every year. However, you can prepare for these expenses through a

college-savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan. A financial professional can help you pick the investment, or investment strategy, that's appropriate for your needs. But whatever route you decide to follow, you won't want to wait until your child is close to college age.

-Keep long-term goals in mind. Even while planning for the costs associated with raising a child, including saving for college, you can't forget your other long-term goals. It isn't selfish to build resources for your own retirement – in fact, you'll ultimately be helping your family greatly by taking steps to maintain your financial independence throughout your life. So, during your working years, try to consistently contribute

as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Having a child is obviously a life-changing event, and one with considerable financial challenges – but they can be manageable if you make the right moves at the right times.

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

## CONSUMER ED: Can merchant charge my credit card for an item on back order?

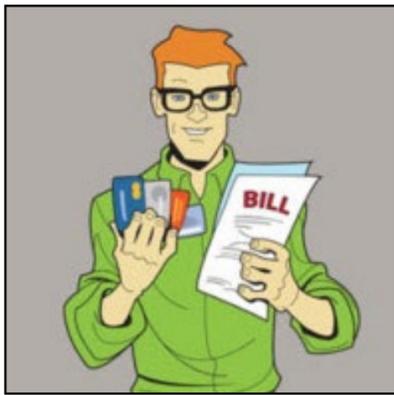
CONTRIBUTED

Dear Consumer Ed:

Can a company charge my credit card for the full price of an item that is backordered? I was always told that you legally could not charge someone for something that you did not have in stock and could not charge them until it shipped?

Consumer Ed says:

Despite what you have been told, it is actually not illegal for merchants to charge for a product before it has shipped. However, if your order is not delivered, you are guaranteed a refund under the Federal Trade Commission's Mail or Telephone Order Merchandise Rule, which requires that your order be shipped within the time stated in company advertising or by phone. If no specific time is promised, your order must be shipped within 30 days from the merchant's receiving a "properly completed order" with your name, address and payment by check, money order or authorization to charge an existing credit account. If the order is not shipped within the promised time, the merchant must notify you of the revised shipping date and give you the option to cancel for a full refund or accept the new shipping date. Since you paid by credit card, the merchant is required to credit your account within one billing cycle. For future



reference, had you made the purchase with a debit card (this would also apply to cash, check or money order), the merchant would be required to mail your refund within seven business days.

However, many credit card issuers have policies against sellers charging a credit card account before shipment. If you think a seller charged your account too soon, report it to the credit card issuer. Otherwise, the issuer has no way to know the seller isn't following its policies.

If you are unable to resolve this issue, you can file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or with the Georgia Department of Law's Consumer Protection Division by visiting [www.consumer.ga.gov](http://www.consumer.ga.gov) or by calling 404-651-8600.

AAA

Following last month's winter storm in Texas, the national gas price average has jumped nearly 40 cents to \$2.86. Prices will continue to increase this week, especially following the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest weekly reports showing a second week of major decline in gasoline stocks and a substantial increase in U.S. demand.

"On average, Americans are paying 14% more to fill-up compared to February," said Jeanette McGee, AAA spokesperson. "With increased demand and tighter gasoline supplies, we are looking at more expensive pump prices with little relief in the weeks ahead."

For the week ending March 5, the EIA reports gas stocks decreased by nearly 12 million bbl to 231.6 million bbl, as demand increased from 8.15 million b/d to 8.73 million b/d last week. That demand measurement is the highest since the end of November 2020, which coincidentally was the same month we saw stocks as low as they are today.

Amid tightening supply and increasing demand, the good news is that the price of crude, which accounts for more than half of the price at the pump, showed signs of stability on the week fluctuating between \$64–

## Americans Paying 14% More at the Pump Compared to February



\$66/bbl. If crude sustains at this level, especially as refinery utilization increases, the jumps at the pump are likely not to be so substantial by April.

On the week, the national average is nine cents more expensive with 20 states seeing double-digit jumps.

Quick Stats: The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases: Utah (+25 cents), Idaho (+17 cents), Missouri (+17 cents), Florida (+15 cents), Kentucky (+13 cents), Illinois (+12 cents), South Carolina (+12 cents), Alabama (+11 cents), Mississippi (+11 cents) and Wyoming (+10 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets: Mississippi (\$2.55), Louisiana (\$2.58), Texas (\$2.61), South Carolina (\$2.63), Alabama (\$2.63), Arkansas (\$2.65), Oklahoma (\$2.66), Kansas (\$2.66), Missouri (\$2.67)

and Montana (\$2.67).

Oil Market Dynamics: At the close of Friday's formal trading session, WTI decreased by 41 cents to settle at \$65.61. Although the price of crude decreased on Friday, due to a stronger dollar, crude prices rose earlier in the week to \$66/bbl with market optimism about crude demand recovery. Crude prices increased despite EIA's latest weekly report revealing that crude inventories increased by 13.8 million bbl to 498.4 million bbl. For this week, crude prices are likely to continue moving higher if optimism grows.

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

**GORDON**  
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# GORDON GROWN

## Home Vegetable Gardening in Georgia



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

This week I want to stay with the topic of vegetable gardening. First, I would like to remind readers that on Tuesday, March 23rd from 10 am to 12 noon, Bob Westerfield, will be with us for the NW Georgia Home Vegetable Garden Workshop. Due to COVID limitations, we have limited in person seating for Gordon County residents, but anyone from anywhere can register to participate virtually. There is no registration fee, but you must pre-register. You

can call the office at 706-629-8685 or email gbowman@uga.edu to get on the list for your preferred option.

Today, I will be sharing information on gardening basics from a UGA publication by Bob Westerfield, UGA Extension Horticulturist and David Linvill, UGA county agent.

First, why do people enjoy vegetable gardening? For starters, many people like to know where a portion of their food was grown. Second, it can be very rewarding to be able to provide fresh garden produce to family and friends. Third, gardening can be a healthy activity by getting you outdoors working in the garden spot. All of these points make growing vegetables a noble cause.

One of the most important decisions for a vegetable gardener is in the selection of the site. You need a lot of sunshine to grow vegetables. You need a site that will provide at

least 8 to 10 hours of sunlight per day. Ideally, the garden site should be close to a house so you will be close to a clean water supply for irrigation needs. The area should drain well excess moisture too. Our information adds that you should avoid areas that have a history of nutsedge or even bermuda grass. These both can be problematic in a garden spot.

If you are a routine reader of my article, I am sure you have read over and over my promotion of soil testing. Gardening season is just around the corner, but you still have time to soil test. I can provide you with the sampling procedure by mail or email. Plus, we can let you check out a soil probe to make your collection of samples much easier. The cost for a routine soil test is \$9. This is a great way to obtain liming and fertilization recommendations for the soil you are working with. If it will be the first

time soil testing for you, let me know and again I can send you a step by step pamphlet that will assist your soil sampling efforts.

Soon, many of our stores will have vegetable transplants for sale and seed for purchase. Our recommendation is to choose varieties proven for our area for the main planting. There are always new varieties on the market and it is fine to try a few to see how they perform for you. You should buy quality seed from a reputable company. It is suggested to not save your own seed unless it is a unique varieties that may not be available for purchase. Many times, variety selection comes down to personal preference and the goal for the produce. For example, canning tomatoes is a popular hobby for many gardeners. For canning, the gardeners like to have the main tomato harvest in a small amount of time.

This may lead the

grower to plant one of the determinate varieties that will produce their fruit in two to five pickings. Again, personal preference is important in variety selection. I will add that many times what variety grown in the family garden is generational. This means, a person plants the same varieties a parent or grandparent grew in the past.

Another tip is that mulch can be your best friend in vegetable gardening efforts. Mulching with straw, leaves, compost or pine straw can go a long way to help conserve soil moisture in the garden area and can even reduce weeds or cultivating needs. Make sure your mulch material is an herbicide free source. When you mulch the garden, apply enough mulch to have 2 to 4 inches after settling.

Keep in mind that even newspaper can be an option. Newspaper can be applied as a mulch 2 to 3 layers thick around

plants. Apply 3 inches of straw or compost on top of the newspaper.

You need to be prepared to irrigate vegetable plants in the absence of rainfall. You need to keep a uniform moisture supply in the soil. Ideally, you should irrigate with soaker hoses or irrigation tape if possible. This way you keep plant foliage dry thus reducing the chance of disease. If you have to use a sprinkler, do so in the early morning so the sunshine can dry off the plant foliage quickly.

Finally, do not forget about the upcoming NW Georgia Vegetable Garden Workshop. Again, pre-registration is required. We are excited to have in person viewing for a limited number and also the virtual participation. I am happy to send you a flyer by request.

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

## Gobble Gobble: 2021 Turkey Hunting Season Begins March 20

### GEORGIA DNR

Georgia turkey hunters are practicing their best turkey calls and patterning their shotguns as they get ready for the statewide turkey hunting season opening Saturday, Mar. 20, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

"Statewide reproduction in 2019 was slightly higher than average, which means we should have a fair number of two-year old birds in the woods," explains Emily Rushton, Wildlife Resources Division wild turkey project coordinator. "However, I don't expect harvest to reach the levels it did last year, which was a record harvest for many areas of the state, particularly on public lands."

What can hunters expect across state regions this spring? Harvest in the Ridge and Valley region of the state should remain high, as reproduction was strong in this area. The Blue Ridge Mountain region also saw continued increases in poults per hen, indicating promise of a good harvest. Unfortunately, the Piedmont region of the state, where many of our hunters focus their efforts, saw a drop in reproduction in 2019, indicating fewer

reproduction in the Coastal Plain was slightly up, which hopefully is a good sign for hunters in the southern half of the state.

With a bag limit of three gobblers per season, hunters have from Mar. 20 through May 15 to harvest their bird(s).

Georgia Game Check: All turkey hunters must report their harvest using Georgia Game Check. Turkeys can be reported on the Outdoors GA app (georgiawildlife.com/outdoors-ga-app), which now works whether you have cell service or not, at gooutdoorsgeorgia.com, or by calling 1-800-366-2661. App users, if you have not used the app since deer season or before, make sure you have the latest version. More information at georgiawildlife.com/HarvestRecordGeorgiaGameCheck.

Hunters age 16 years or older (including those accompanying youth or others) will need a hunting license and a big game license, unless hunting on their own private land. Get your license at gooutdoorsgeorgia.com, at a retail license vendor or by phone at 1-800-366-2661. With many pursuing wild turkeys on private land, hunters are reminded to obtain landowner permission before hunting.

The Georgia Chapter of the National

Wild Turkey Federation has donated more than \$6,000,000 since 1985 for projects that benefit wild turkey and other wildlife. The NWTf works in partnership with the Wildlife Resources Division and other land management agencies on habitat enhancement, hunter access, wild turkey research and education. The NWTf has a vital initiative called "Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt," focused on habitat management, hunter access and hunter recruitment.

"Hunters should know that each time

they purchase a license or equipment used to turkey hunt, such as shotguns, ammunition and others, that they are part of this greater conservation effort for wildlife in Georgia," said Rushton. "Through the Wildlife Restoration Program, a portion of the money spent comes back to states and is put back into on-the-ground efforts such as habitat management and species research and management."

For more hunting information, visit georgiawildlife.com/hunting/hunter-resources.

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# HEALTH NEWS

## GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Many Georgians to get insurance price break thanks to COVID bill

ANDY MILLER ,  
Georgia Health News

Before the pandemic struck, Himali Patel and her brother owned five small retail businesses.

Now they're down to one — a dry cleaning establishment. They have seen a disheartening drop in their income as COVID-19 ravaged the economy.

Patel, an Atlantan who has multiple medical conditions, has been getting her health insurance through the Georgia exchange. The federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) created these exchanges in the various states, so people who don't have coverage through an employer or government agency can buy health insurance at a reasonable price.

She had been paying \$400 a month. With her drop in income, that's now at \$60.

But with the COVID relief bill, just signed into law by President Biden, her premium should drop to zero.

"That will be nice," says Patel, 31. "Nearly all of my savings have been depleted so it'll be nice to be able to save some money right now."

The American Rescue Plan has injected the first major financial boost into the ACA in the 11 years since the health law was passed.

Many people already get subsidies or discounts — based on their income

— so they can afford the coverage they get on their state's exchange.

The newly enacted relief legislation provides, for the first time, subsidy help to those earning more than the current cap of 400 percent of the federal poverty level — about \$51,000 for an individual and \$104,800 for a family of four in 2021. Currently, they get no such discounts, and pay the full premium for coverage.

The new law also guarantees that people with incomes up to 150 percent of poverty won't have to pay any premium for a benchmark exchange plan. And others currently getting subsidies will see them increase, lowering their monthly costs.

These price breaks will be retroactive to Jan. 1, so people who already have insurance exchange plans will get money back.

The relief bill also helps the unemployed. If someone receives unemployment benefits during 2021, that person's income will be treated as no higher than 133 percent of the poverty level for exchange coverage. This means they can receive maximum subsidies, including no-premium coverage.

With these changes in federal law, enrollment in health exchanges will undoubtedly swell. "It will have an important effect on expanding coverage," said Bill Custer, a health insurance expert at Georgia State University.

Insurance agents say

they're trying to figure out the effect of the provisions.

The subsidy boost could be especially helpful for people in southwest Georgia, an area that has some of the highest premiums in the nation, said Laura Colbert of the consumer advocacy group Georgians for a Healthy Future.

"Every consumer who shops for coverage will get a better deal than they were able to get even a few weeks ago," she said. "Consumers with higher incomes who previously received no financial help will see their premiums drop so that they are no longer paying more than 8.5 percent of their income."

### Enrollment window is open

Ordinarily, the large share of sign-ups in the exchanges occurs late in the year during the standard open enrollment, in which people buy their coverage for the subsequent year. But these are not ordinary times.

Biden has ordered a special, temporary sign-up period for the exchanges, and it's going on now through May 15.

This special enrollment window was created to help people dealing with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. But many potential customers may be unaware of it.

Custer said that if the feds want to get the word out about the enhanced subsidies and enrollment



opening, there needs to be a marketing push before the May 15 deadline.

Already, more than 16,000 Georgians have taken advantage of the extended sign-up window. That's the third-highest total of any state — behind heavily populated Florida and Texas — among the 36 states that let the federal government run their exchanges. (The other states run their own exchanges.)

More than 500,000 Georgians signed up last fall during the regular enrollment period.

### Weighing price and benefits

The lower premiums may not entice everyone who has an individual insurance policy.

Christopher Halstead of Plains buys a short-term policy for himself and his son. Such insurance plans have far fewer benefits than exchange policies but

attract buyers because of the low cost.

A contract security worker, Halstead, 35, said last week that he doesn't believe the recalculated premiums from the exchange will be less than the \$250 a month he's paying now for the short-term plan.

Halstead used to have an exchange policy, so he's well aware they offer more benefits.

Of the improved premium situation in the exchange, he said, "I would check to see if it was a better deal."

The improved premium subsidies will last just two years.

They could be extended beyond that period, and if they are, "insurers will increase participation in marketplace [exchange] plans," Custer said.

As exchange coverage becomes affordable for more people, he said,

some smaller employers eventually could stop providing health insurance to their workers, instead giving them financial help to buy it on the exchanges.

Among other health care features, the American Rescue Plan will also make COBRA coverage much less expensive.

The law will subsidize 100 percent of the cost of premiums for COBRA coverage for up to 6 months for workers who are laid off or see their hours reduced. The COBRA subsidy is available only to individuals whose termination or loss of work hours was involuntary.

Those who qualify for the COBRA subsidy could pay less than current employees do, Custer said. "They may prefer that plan to an exchange plan."

Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News



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# EDUCATION NEWS

## CCCA Student of the Week Spotlight for Feb. 22-26

### CALHOUN CITY SCHOOLS

Calhoun High School 12th grader, Mackenzie Banta, is the Calhoun College and Career Academy (CCCA) Student of the Week for February 22-26, 2021. Mackenzie has taken six dual enrollment classes. Mackenzie's dual enrollment English teacher, Jennifer W. Smith, nominated Mackenzie

stating, "Mackenzie works diligently both in class and outside of class. She is always attentive and never afraid to ask difficult questions. Her curiosity is something that sets her apart in class, and her participation always opens new avenues of discussion. She is always open-minded and willing to work hard to understand concepts that are new."

Mackenzie chose dual enrollment English

courses after taking AP and finding a love of writing. She wanted to work on time management before being involved in college courses full time. Mackenzie plans to major in neuropsychology and obtain a doctoral degree. She wants to work in the children's neuropsychology department at Emory University. Mackenzie played varsity volleyball for the Lady Jackets and is participating in the

work-based learning as an education intern.

Mackenzie is very thankful that CCCA offers an opportunity to explore the college world through dual enrollment. When asked about her thoughts on dual enrollment English course Mackenzie stated, "Dual enrollment has helped me learn to be more responsible for my classwork. I like taking Mrs. Smith's classes... she's a good teacher!"



## GCS staff receives COVID vaccinations

### GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Gordon County Schools partnered with Advent Health Gordon to provide Pfizer COVID vaccinations to any interested Gordon County Schools' employees in a vaccination event held at Heritage Baptist Church last Friday. Dr. Kimberly Fraker, superintendent of Gordon County Schools spoke of the value of the partnership the district shares with Advent Health Gordon, "Their willingness to walk alongside us in this evolving crisis and making those who serve our children a priority has been and continues to be essential to our success in this pandemic. The health and safety of

our students and staff is, of course, a priority for Gordon County Schools and we could not do that without the assistance of our local hospital and their amazing team."

Gordon County Schools also partnered with the Gordon County Health Department who offered the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to Gordon County Schools' staff members in an onsite vaccination event at Belwood Elementary School during the system's March 15 professional learning day. "We were pleased to be able to offer a choice about which vaccination our staff members would be able to receive during our scheduled vaccination events, and we could not have done that without our local



Health Department staff," said Dr. Fraker, "Our teachers and staff were all very complimentary of how organized and efficient the process was and appreciated the mass vaccination being held at one of our schools during our professional learning day. We appreciate the swift response to our

requests to offer this alternative vaccine once it became available in our area."

Staff members who were unable to take advantage of one of these two scheduled offerings will be able to schedule vaccinations on their own through one of these two local providers.



### CALHOUN CITY SCHOOLS

Gordon County Health Department nurses and staff vaccinated 185 Calhoun City Schools teachers and staff today at a special immunization clinic. The health department will be administering the

COVID-19 vaccine to teachers and staff from Gordon County Schools on Monday, March 15. Calhoun City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Michele Taylor (l), and Gordon County Health Department Nurse Manager, Lisa Crowder (r), monitor progress at the vaccination site.

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- Kevan Carpenter, Commercial Floor Resources

# REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL from Rep. Rick Jasperse



Rep. Rick Jasperse

R-Jasper, District 11

This past week was a busy one, and I'll have to tell you very long, because on Monday night we stayed there till 11:30 pm. Monday was Crossover Day, where a bill had to pass out of the House to be acted on by the Senate this year. The committees have been very busy the last week or so passing legislation they thought was important, bills that we needed to look at to

be voted on the House floor. Some bills are a lot more important than others, but important if it affected you or something you're interested in.

I'll have to tell you the most important bill we passed and the most moving over the past few weeks was House Bill 290. It's being carried by my good friend Ed Setzler from Cobb County. HB 290 is called "Patient and Resident Representation and Visitation Act." Ed did this bill in an effort to protect visitation rights for authorized legal representatives of patients or residents in hospitals or long-term facilities. If you had a loved one you cared for or were responsible for and you couldn't see them, you have an interest in this bill. This was an issue for families throughout the pandemic. It was not a

simple issue for anyone and has been difficult to get to a solution.

I have had many, many calls over the last year about this and have personally been affected by it, also. During the COVID pandemic, especially in the beginning, everyone was scared and trying to do all they could to prevent the spread of COVID and keep our hospitals open and functioning while they learned how to deal with it. It was a super stressful time for everyone, especially those that have loved ones with COVID in the hospital or maybe some other type of sickness that they needed care of healthcare professionals.

Representative Setzler has worked very hard with the Human Relations and Aging Committee, of which I'm a member, and everyone involved to try to find the

right mix of law to help patients and families and healthcare providers do what they need to do. I believe he had 12 or 13 different versions of the bill we passed out last week in an effort to meet the needs of the healthcare folks and preserve the needs of patients and their families to be involved in their care. The testimony in the committees and on the House floor was very moving, and it showed the stress that families and their caregivers were under during COVID. Healthcare providers are also under incredible stress in a Herculean effort to prevent further spread and to care for Georgians. In HB 290, hospitals and long-term care facilities would be prohibited from implementing policies that deny in-person physical contact with a designated legal

representative for at least one hour per day during any hospitalization, treatment, or residence that lasts longer than 12 hours. If a treatment lasts longer than 24 hours, residents could have in-person visitations with at least two legal representatives or essential caregivers for at least two consecutive hours each day. This bill would allow a temporary suspension of visitation for patients in operating rooms, transplant wards, or those who require physical isolation for immunocompromised conditions. HB 290 would allow hospitals and long-term care facilities to establish reasonable safety requirements that would also be posted on the facility's website for a visitor to follow. Families and caregivers would be given direct contact information to submit complaints if

these rights are infringed upon, and the Governor's ability to waive these provisions during a public health emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, would be limited under this bill.

Representative Setzler will continue to work on his bill as it works its way through the Senate, and I look forward to voting for it again in the near future.

I know I didn't talk about all the other bills that were passed on Crossover Day, and if you would like a list of them with a short description about them, email me, and I will be glad to provide them for you. I thought House 290 deserved an explanation all its own. My Capitol office number is 404-656-7153, my home 770-893-2039, and my email address is rick.jasperse@house.ga.gov. Please contact me anytime.

## CAPITOL BEAT NEWS: Pay for college athletes in Georgia pitched in General Assembly bill

BEAU EVANS, Capitol Beat News Service

Legislation before the General Assembly would pave the way for college student athletes in Georgia to receive financial compensation when institutions profit from their playing abilities.

The bill, sponsored by House Higher Education Committee Chairman Chuck Martin, R-Alpharetta, would allow Georgia athletes to earn compensation for the use of their "name, image or likeness" by the public, private or technical colleges they attend.

It aims to prepare Georgia for the legal impacts of a future when — either by choice or a judges' orders — the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) starts permitting student athletes to gain financial benefits for their talents.

"This is just to put a straw man in place should it be decided at the national level so our student athletes can avail themselves of it," Martin said Tuesday at a state Senate Higher Education

Committee hearing.

"I don't know if this is the best thing happening for college student sports, but it is happening. So we need to be prepared."

Chances for Martin's bill to clear the state legislature look promising after the House passed it unanimously earlier this month. No votes were taken on the bill during Tuesday's committee hearing.

Under the bill, college athletes in Georgia would be required to take five hours of a "financial literacy and life skills workshop" to ready them for the added burdens of receiving compensation for sports performance.

That requirement drew praise Tuesday from Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta, who echoed Martin in saying a crash course in personal finances would help college athletes avoid predatory influences seeking to take advantage of their earnings.

"That seems to be incredibly worthwhile to put in place to equip these young athletes with the skill sets they're going to need," Orrock said.

Martin's bill would also bar schools from offering cash or other incentives to high-school recruits and would require sports agents seeking to represent college athletes to obtain the same type of license needed to represent professional athletes.

The bill comes amid a flurry of lawsuits in recent years challenging the NCAA's authority to block student athletes from receiving compensation while also profiting from their skills through advertising and video games.

Backers of allowing college-athlete compensation contend students are treated unfairly by institutions that gain from their playing abilities but often do not cover all the costs to attend school like textbooks and travel, even with full scholarships.

Opponents, including the NCAA, have argued paying or otherwise incentivizing college athletes would detract from their focus in school classes and other on-campus activities, as well as trampling on colleges' authority

to set their own rules when it comes to athlete compensation.

Most immediately, the U.S. Supreme Court is poised to hear a case from California brought by a former college athlete,

West Virginia running back Shawne Alston, who sued the NCAA and several college leagues in 2014 for not allowing compensation to pay for costs beyond what his scholarship covered.

The NCAA appealed to the Supreme Court after Alston won in lower and appellate courts. The high court is scheduled to take up the case on March 31.

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# ESPLOST

From page 1A

systems, heating and air conditioning systems, lighting and similar equipment

- Acquisition, construction, equipping, renovation and expansion of athletic fields and facilities
- Acquisition, construction and equipping of new auditoriums throughout the district
- Acquisition of real property for future schools, facilities, administrative offices, support services and other purposes of Gordon County Schools.

The maximum cost of the projects listed by GCS

is approximately \$37,324,000.

Capital outlay projects and costs proposed by Calhoun City Schools include:

- The construction of the Early Learning Academy to include Junior Jacket Academy, PreK and Kindergarten
- Acquisition, installation of computers and new technology system-wide
- Land acquisition around the middle/high school campus for enrollment growth and parking
- HVAC replacement/repairs throughout the district
- Acquisition and equipping of school buses
- Renovations/modifications, construction, improvements and additions to and equipment for

existing academic and athletic facilities and the infrastructure supporting these facilities including security systems, painting, carpet and/or tile replacement and lighting on all campuses in the district.

The maximum cost of the projects listed by CCS is approximately \$14,714,000.

The City system will also use around \$9,962,000 to pay the general obligation debt for middle/high school construction debt for the retirement of 2011/2012 bonds. The combined cost to pay off outstanding debt and new capital outlay projects is \$24,676,000.

# DWTS

From page 1A

especially Mohawk Industries, which has been the premier sponsor all along and has been joined by two others this year.

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

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

Carly Curtis and Skylar Benham will hit the stage as Couple Three and the first adult team competing in the final presentation of Calhoun’s Dancing with the Stars. These dynamic young professionals are expected to leave it all on the stage as they dance for the United Way fundraiser.

Curtis was born and raised in Calhoun, where her

family has deep roots in the community. Following her graduation from Calhoun High School, she attended the University of Georgia in Athens. After leaving Athens, Carly returned to Calhoun, where she has established herself as a young professional dedicated to serving her community. She is a thyroid cancer survivor and attends Rock Bridge Church.

Curtis is a member of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Committee, where she recently participated in the group’s annual Student Interview Project. She also is a member of the Murray County Chamber of Commerce. She volunteers at the Voluntary Action Center and is a board member of the Gordon County and Murray County Children’s Advocacy Department. She owns and operates Amavi Collective in downtown Calhoun. A licensed realtor, she also works with Samantha Lusk and Associates Realty.

Skylar Benham will partner with Curtis. Benham also was born and raised in Calhoun. After his 2007 graduation from Calhoun High School, he earned a Bachelors’ degree in Middle Grades Education at Kennesaw State University. He then completed a Masters’ degree in Instructional Technology at Kennesaw State University, followed by a Specialists degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Piedmont College. He is a former Teacher of the Year.

Benham serves as the Senior Sponsor and Student Government Adviser at Calhoun High School. He also is the adviser for the Interact Club at Calhoun High School, which often volunteers with Keep Gordon County Clean. Benham attends the Adairsville Body of Christ Church, where his father serves as minister. He enjoys travelling, spending

time with his friends, exercising to keep a clear mind, and interacting with the students that make his job interesting.

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

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

United Way of Gordon County is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the Gordon County area. The mission of United Way of Gordon County is to Change Lives, Connect Community, and Challenge Donors to LIVE UNITED.

# CITY

From page 1A

The Board approved the appointment of Cawood Cornelius to the Gordon County Library Board for a term expiring June 30, 2024.

The Board approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$59,550 for 34 body cameras and three new computers to download the video for those body cameras for the Gordon County Sheriff’s Office. The cameras are better quality and water proof; the current body cams are more than three years old.

In this meeting’s Administrator’s Report:

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act Of 2021 into law. This is a \$1.9 Trillion Dollar spending package. \$65.1 Billion Dollars is provided in direct aid to counties. Ledbetter estimates that Gordon County may be entitled to receive several million dollars. The County is diligently studying this new law and waiting for guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department to determine the allotment for Gordon County, the permissible uses, administrative requirements for record keeping and reporting.

In significant projects and activity:

- The Covid-19 task force met on March 9, 2021. There is less testing taking place now so the number of confirmed cases may not be the best measure of active cases. Looking at hospitalizations, AdventHealth Gordon reported six active cases on March 9 compared to 16 cases on February 23. Looking further back, AdventHealth Gordon had 40 COVID positive patients on January 12.
- Construction continues on the Judicial Building on or ahead of schedule. County staff has been working on needs for Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment.
- Proposals from prospective vendors for Emergency Radio Service are due March 24 at 2 p.m. for a new radio system provided a s a service.
- =The Superior Court will resume Jury Trials on Monday March 22. Gordon County has been working with the Superior Court to provide a safe environment for jury selection and trials.
- Johnson Lake Road Realignment: Buc-ee’s is nearing completion of the Johnson Lake Road realignment. This project includes installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Johnson Lake, Belwood and Union Grove roads but, we still do not have a date of expected installation.
- Juvenile Court Building: Building and Grounds Director, Jeff Champion,

and Ledbetter looked at the “Adjust” building on Newtown Road to determine feasibility of conversion of that space into the temporary home of the Juvenile Court during renovation of the main courthouse which will start in 2022 upon completion of the Judicial Building project. The Adjust building has 7,000 square feet of space.

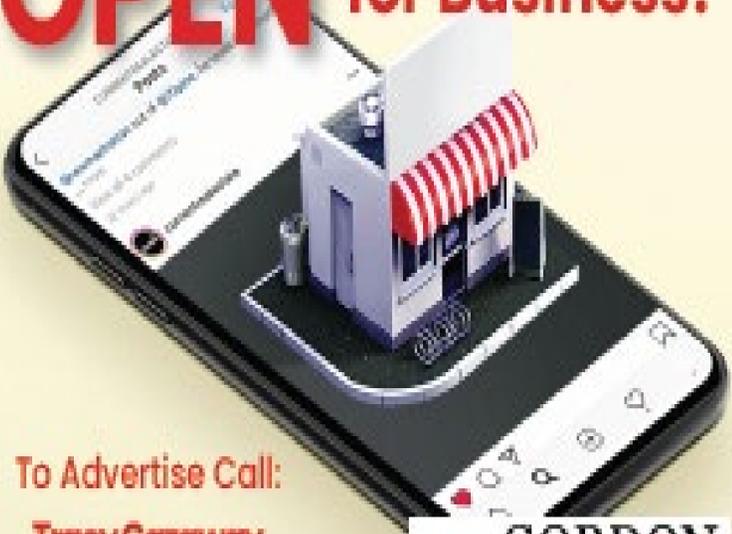
Ledbetter has met with County School Superintendent, Dr. Kimberly Fraker, and School Board attorney, Elinor Portivent, regarding a recreation agreement to allow the School District to make and fund improvements to the baseball field at Sonoraville that will

benefit the Sonoraville High School baseball and the public.

Ledbetter said he is meeting with Comcast next week to resume discussions about plans to bring broadband access to un-served areas of the county. In addition, he is scheduled to attend an online Broadband Deployment Initiative technical workshop next Wednesday.

The next meeting of the Gordon County Board of Commissioners will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13 at the Administration Building on North Wall Street in downtown Calhoun.

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