

GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

www.gordongazettega.com

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Council paves way for new apartments at latest meeting

Brandi Owczarz
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The Calhoun City Council on Monday night paved the way for a new set of apartments on Curtis Parkway by approving an annexation and zoning request, along with a stream buffer protection variance request to Seven Lights Investments, LLC.

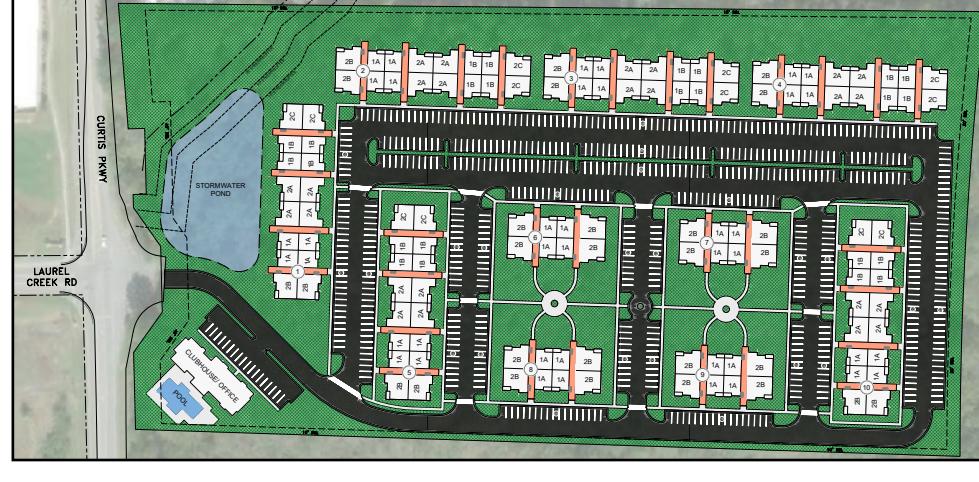
The 19.71 acre

property is located on Curtis Parkway across the road from Laurel Creek Road; the property backs up to I-75 and sits beside Heritage Baptist Church and Ashton Furniture.

Darin Hardin of Seven Lights Investments told the Council via video conference that multifamily apartments are a desirable need in the area.

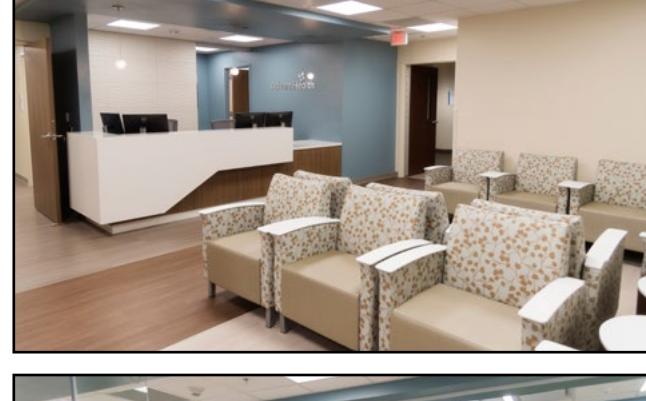
"We've already

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A rendering of the proposed apartment complex on Curtis Parkway.

New Cancer Center at AdventHealth Gordon opens



ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

The AdventHealth Gordon Cancer Center opened on Dec. 14 and is the final piece in bringing all cancer services on-campus at AdventHealth Gordon

to create a truly comprehensive cancer program.

AdventHealth Medical Group Hematology Oncology at Calhoun and AdventHealth Infusion Center Calhoun are housed in the new cancer

center. Patients can now experience the benefits of receiving chemotherapy,

immunotherapy, iron infusions and fluid replacement treatments on-campus, which provides maximum collaboration and coordination of care

throughout a patient's cancer care journey.

The cancer center features an expanded number of clinic rooms and a fifty percent increase in the number of private infusion bays to accommodate more patients. In the

future, there will be an outdoor healing garden to provide patients with the physical, emotional and spiritual benefits of nature and the outdoors.

Now that the cancer center is completed, all parts of AdventHealth Gordon's entire

comprehensive Cancer Care program are located on the main campus. Surgical oncology and urologic oncology are in the medical office

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page 11A

Gordon BOE holds final meeting of 2020, recognizes outgoing member Johnson

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The Gordon County Board of Education held their final meeting of 2021 Monday night, covering several items of business including recognizing outgoing Board member Chris Johnson, who did not

seek re-election this year, and the Board receiving recognition for achieving the status of the Georgia School Board Association's 2020 Exemplary School Board.

"We were notified last week that the Gordon County Board of Education has achieved

the status of the Georgia School Board Association 2020 Exemplary Board," said Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Fraker, presenting the award to Board chair Charlie Walraven.

Fraker went on to say the award recognizes the best practices in school governance and

leadership; good school board governance that fosters educational community cultures in order to advance student learning and achievement.

Board member Chris Johnson was then recognized for his 12 years of service on the school board.

Johnson was elected to the school board in 2008, serving as Board chair in 2017 and 2018. It was pointed out that when first elected, the graduation rate for the system was 74 percent,

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Historic joint School Board meeting held Monday night for approval, signing of eSPLOST resolution

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In a historic move on Monday night, what was believed to be the first-ever joint meeting of the Calhoun City Schools Board of Education and the Gordon County Board of Education took place at the Gordon County College and Career Academy on Beamer Road in an effort for each Board to approve and sign a joint resolution to request from voters the continuation of the Special Purpose Local

Option Sales Tax for use on educational projects in both systems. The current eSPLOST is set to expire in June 2022.

The eSPLOST referendum will be held on March 16, 2021 for voters to decide the continuation of the one penny sales tax.

The resolution states that no more than \$62,000,000 would be collected in the eSPLOST to finance projects for



Members of the Gordon County and Calhoun School Boards pictured, left to right: Kacee Smith, Jason Hendrix, Dana Stewart, David Scoggings, Calhoun Superintendent Dr. Michele Taylor, Rhoda Washington, Gordon County Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Fraker, Becky Johns, Andy Baxter, Eddie Reeves, Bobby Hall, Chris Johnson, Eddie Hall and Charlie Walraven. (Photo: BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff)

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SECOND FRONT 2A



AdventHealth purchases Murray Medical Center, now known as AdventHealth Murray.

EDUCATION 10A



CCS recognizes Partner in Education Shaw Industries.

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 @gordongazette
 @gazettegordon

Second Front

Gordon County School District achieves 2020 GSBA Exemplary School Board Status

GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Gordon County Schools is proud to announce the achievement and status of the Georgia School Boards Association's (GSBA) 2020 Exemplary School Board recognition.

The recognition program is designed to showcase best practices in school governance and leadership. GSBA recognizes good school board governance to foster educational community cultures in order to advance student learning and achievement.

Gordon County Schools met and/or exceeded the criteria set forth by GSBA to earn the honor of a 2020 Exemplary Board. The criteria may be reviewed by clicking here for more

information.

The GSBA Governance Team Recognition Program was developed by Georgia superintendents and board members based on the state board of education's standards for effective governance to recognize exemplary leadership.

In 1998, the Georgia School Boards Association was one of the first school board associations in the nation to develop a program of standards for local boards of education.

The GSBA Board recognition program is a three-tiered program. For more information on the program you may visit the GSBA website for awards and recognition or click here to view the criteria for all tiers of the program.



Gordon County Board of Education members, from left to right: Kacee Smith, Dana Stewart, Chris Johnson, Charlie Walraven, Eddie Hall, Bobby Hall and Jason Hendrix. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

AdventHealth purchases Murray Medical Center, now known as AdventHealth Murray

ADENTHEALTH

AdventHealth officially purchased Murray Medical Center, now known as AdventHealth Murray, on Dec. 15, 2020. In 2015, AdventHealth partnered with the Murray County Hospital Authority Board to assume operations of the hospital.

The purchase of AdventHealth Murray provides easier access to care throughout Northwest Georgia. As sister facilities, AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Murray work together to create a larger network of care, providing more services to Gordon and Murray counties and the surrounding communities.

"The last five years have been full of growth and advancement, and I believe we are just getting started,"

said Mike Murrill, president and CEO of AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Murray. "We are excited about this milestone and look forward to a future of helping our communities feel whole."

AdventHealth and Murray County officials have worked together closely to extend health care services and provide access

to an elevated level of care within the community. Since beginning to serve the Murray County community, AdventHealth has provided additional primary care and family medicine options and access to specialties such as general surgery, orthopedics, OB/GYN, urology, physical therapy and more. AdventHealth Murray's emergency department has been renovated and expanded and the hospital's imaging

technology has been upgraded with a new mammogram unit and the Siemens SOMATOM Definition AS CT scanner. Key partnerships have also been made with regional leading medical centers in Cardiac Care and Neurology Care.

"AdventHealth has given our community greater access to top-level health care," said Nathan Leonard, a member of the Murray County Hospital Authority Board. "I'm excited to see how the hospital will continue to grow in the years to come."

To learn more about services offered at AdventHealth Murray, please visit AdventHealthMurray.com.

About AdventHealth Gordon

Founded in 1935, AdventHealth Gordon is proud to be a member

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



Publishing Friday, January 8, 2021

NEW YEAR NEW YOU

Your guide to everything you need to know about setting goals for 2021

- Health & Wellness
- Local fitness experts
- Massage Therapy
- Success Stories
- Healthy Recipes

A Free Publication of the

**GORDON
Gazette**



WE'VE GOT JOBS!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

TUFTING MACHINE OPERATOR: \$15/hr night shift, temp assignment, must have skills.

SHAKER TABLE OPERATOR: \$10+ day shift, heavy lifter preferred, will wear hearing protection, run table for shaking product into packing slots-checking defects

PACKERS: \$10/HR day shift, packing, must be able to lift up to 20#-will be packing products.

COATER: 1st shift M-T 7am to 5pm and F 7am to 3pm - coater operator and asst. operator. Pay is \$11 No exp. \$14 exp.-will send profiles to client-8 openings-will bring in slowly as training

QUALITY CONTROL: \$TBA, day shift, will need to show excellent work history in quality control/testing of product, recording data in computer-client needs resumes to review-will interview

INDUSTRIAL BINDING: (sewing machine) candidates that have sewing machine experience we will pay them \$14.25 per hour. They must have previous sewing experience. 2nd shift-and work Monday - Thursday 5pm to 3:30am

CSR: -entering orders taken via phone, updating order information, checking inventory, etc. Paying temp is about \$11-\$12/hr - Monday - Friday. For now, the hours will be 9:00 - 5:00 when training, but will be adjusted 8:30 - 5:00.

Rubber: Interviews required-7p-7am Monday - Friday some Saturdays -\$11.50 HL (Trimmer)

Bruno: - Interviews required -7p -5:30am Monday - Friday some Saturdays-\$11.5

Flocking: - Interviews required -7p-5:30am Monday - Friday some Saturdays-\$11

Packaging: - No Interviews needed -5pm-5am Monday - Friday \$11

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Obituaries

December 16, 2020

Irvin Douglas

Irvin Kenneth Douglas, age 64 of Calhoun, passed away on Dec. 12 at AdventHealth Gordon.

Irvin was born on March 22, 1956 in Jacksonville, Fla. to the late Isiah Douglas and Gilda Douglas. He was employed by Hardees. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a sister, Hattie Bavaster.

He is survived by two brothers, Bobby Douglas of Tunnel Hill, and John Douglas of Modesto, Calif.; sister, Mary Douglas Padgett; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was conducted on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. at Fain Cemetery with Reverend James Whaley officiating.

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Irvin Kenneth Douglas.



Rev. Jimmy Edge, Sr.

Rev. Jimmy D. Edge Sr., 60, of Resaca, died Monday, Dec. 14, 2020. He was born on Aug. 22, 1960 in Moultrie, Ga. to the late Howard Ramon Edge Sr. and Edna Lou Johns.

Rev. Jimmy Edge Sr. was a preacher at Way of the Cross.

He is survived by his loving wife of nine years, Rhonda Edge; his children, Jimmy Dewayne Edge Jr., Rebecca Edge (Eric Stanley), Billy Redd (Abby), Dena Hedges (Christopher), Amber Bray (Scotty), Matthew Edge; siblings, Howard Raymond Edge, Donald Edge, John Edge William Keeney, Carol Head (Mark), Sara Shuler (Joe), Marsha Lee (Doug) and 18 grandchildren.

To honor Jimmy's wishes his body was cremated.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020 in the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Rev. Jimmy D. Edge Sr.



Danny Garland

Mr. Danny Briggs Garland, age 60, of Kingston, passed away Dec. 8, 2020 from injuries sustained in a house fire.

He was born in Atlanta on March 6, 1960, son of the late Howard Briggs Garland and Mary Lucille Cobb Russel. Danny was a child of God and loved the Lord. He worked as a horse farrier and owned and operated Garland Stables with his wife Linda for over 20 years. A lover of music, Danny could play anything put in front of him especially the guitar. He loved his family, had a heart of gold, always willing to help others, and a true friend to all.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Howard Briggs Garland and Mary Lucille Cobb Russel and grandson, Justin Jute Garland.

Survivors include his loving wife of 25 years, Linda C. Garland; children, Anthony (Angel) Garland, Danielle (Eli) Conant, John Reyes, Jr., and Gina Reyes; children he raised as is own, Tiffany Warren and Austin Levi Payne; grandchildren, Josh, Harisyn, Coltin, Waylon, and Charlie Garland, Esme Conant, Justin, David, and Briana Reyes, Christopher Mimbs and Billy Crabtree; great-grandchildren, Colton, Cameron, Kaylee, Jade and Jimmy Reyes, Jack and Caroline Mimbs; sisters, Paula Garland and Sharon McCary; brothers, Glenn Garland and Robert Garland; several nieces and nephews.

Private graveside service will be held at Faith Tabernacle Church Cemetery. The family will have a Celebration of Danny's Life at Garland Stables, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, from 2 - 4 p.m.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, will be in charge of funeral arrangements of Mr. Danny Briggs Garland.

Barton Funeral Home

Bonnie Hibbert

Bonnie Inez Junkins Hibbert, age 96, of Oakman, passed away on Dec. 12, 2020 at her residence surrounded by her loving family.

Bonnie was born on Sept. 14, 1924 in Murray County to the late Samuel Junkins and Minnie Nolan Junkins. She was retired from Ranger Rug and a devoted lifelong member of Hopewell Baptist Church. Bonnie loved her family; she was a loving mother who put all her trust in God. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her first husband, Henry Anderson and her second husband Lonnie Hibbert.

She is survived by her two sons, Henry Anderson and his wife Ann, Terry Hibbert; daughters, Judy Skidmore and her husband Norman, Lasan Dixon and her husband Mitchell; grandchildren, Rex Anderson and his wife Hilda, Stephanie Hibbert Rittenhouse, Keith Skidmore and his wife Jaime; great-grandchildren, Josh Dixon and his wife Bri, Richie Anderson and his wife Brianna, Heath Anderson, Andrew Skidmore; great-great-

granddaughter, Pepper Dixon.

A private funeral service with immediate family members was conducted on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020 at Hopewell Baptist Church at 2:30 p.m. with Reverend Charles Rogers officiating. Grandsons and great grandsons served as pallbearers.

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

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Bonnie Inez Junkins Hibbert.



Keith Phillips

Keith Deacon Phillips, age 55, of Calhoun, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

Keith was born on Nov. 8, 1965 in Gordon County, son of Barbara Worley Burkhardt and the late Sammy Phillips. He was employed by Daiki Corporation. Keith was a devoted member of Rockbridge Church; he was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

In addition to his father, he is preceded in death by his in-laws, Tommy and Faye Goodnight.

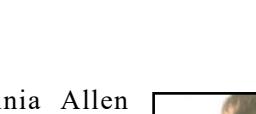
He is survived by his mother, Barbara Burkhardt and her husband Randy; his loving wife, Cynthia Phillips; sons, Jason Phillips, Justin Phillips and his wife Natosha; daughter, Christina McAlpine and her husband Bryan; sisters, Tracy Thacker and her husband Jeff, Kelly Gentry and her husband Cary; grandchildren, Parker Phillips, Easton Phillips, Banks Phillips, Rilee Phillips, Kilee Phillips, Waylon Phillips, Emma McAlpine, and Riley McAlpine.

A celebration of life will be held Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Reverend Randy Sutherland and Gary Sheriff officiating.

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

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Keith Deacon Phillips.



Cleo Ray

Cleo Virginia Allen Ray, born to the late Clay Columbus and Aileen Hicks Allen on Jan. 31, 1928, went on to her heavenly home on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Delbert Glenn Ray, to whom she was married for fifty-four joyous years; her brothers, Guy, Zane, and Bruce; her sister, Annie; her son-in-law, Billy Davis.

Survivors are children, Sandra Ray Davis, Gloria Ray Brown, Lamar Bodie Ray, and Susan (Jimmy) Fox; her grandchildren, Scott (Christie) Fox, Heather (Stuart) Balliew, Melody (Butch) Stansell; her great-grandchildren, Madeline and Claire Fox, Ryley and Brody Balliew, and Emilee Stansell.

Cleo was a wonderful wife and stay-at-home mother. Besides loving and caring for her own children, Cleo invited their friends and the children of the neighborhood into her family's home; she loved them all.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of Regency Park as they cared for Cleo for the past three-and-a-half years. Hamilton Hospice will be remembered and appreciated by the Ray family as well.

A private graveside was held on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 at Chandler Cemetery. Rev. Eddie Brannon officiated. Pallbearers were Brodie Ray, Stuart Balliew, Brody Balliew, Scott Fox, and Butch Stansell.

For memorials, the family suggests giving a gift in memory of Mrs. Ray to a church or charity.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Cleo Virginia Allen Ray.



Michael Ross

Mr. Michael Ross, age 65, of Resaca, departed this life Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at his home. He was born March 4, 1955 in Fannin County. He was preceded in death by his wife, Brenda Harris Ross, parents, Howard and Grace Kerns.

He is survived by his children, Michael Ross and Anthony of Calhoun, and his wife Bri, Richie Anderson and his wife Brianna, Heath Anderson, Andrew Skidmore; great-great-

Amanda Manis, Adam and Crystal Manis, Brad Maddox of Chatsworth, Beverly Manis, Jodie and Richard Cook, Rachel Manis, Kim Maddox of Resaca; brothers and sisters-in-law, Raymond Dockery of Resaca, Mitchell and Sue Ross, Greg and Kim Ross of Calhoun; sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Robert Maddox of Resaca; grandchildren, Michelle Hall, Jacob Manis, Austin Barker, Cierra Beavers, Lelan Ross, Chris Manis, Haley Manis, Ethan Stafford, Colton Manis, Harley Manis, Luke Manis, Wesley Griffin, Kurston Burns, Patience Corroll, Aaron Maddox, Conner Maddox, Brooke Voyles, Stormy Holcomb, Kimberly Yantis, Lisa Brackett, Nathan Cook, Faith Corroll, Isaiah Corroll, Owen Corroll; great grandchildren, Payton, Wyatt, Craig, Zeke, Nissie, David, Lazarus, Luke, Silas; several nieces and nephews.

Services to celebrate the life of Mr. Michael Ross will be held Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020 at 2 p.m. from the Ponders Melrose Chapel. He will be laid to rest beside his wife at the Fidelle Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday.

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

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

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



Danny Self

Mr. Danny Murrel Self, 69, of Adairsville, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, at his residence.

Mr. Self was born in Calhoun on Jan. 25, 1951, son of the late Felmore Elthan "F. E." Self and Mary Lee Pelfrey Self. He attended Adairsville Church of Christ. Mr. Self was a veteran of the United States Army serving during the Vietnam Era and retired from Apache Mills after 40 years of service. He enjoyed working with engines, drag racing, car restoration, and even lawn mower repairs. His family was most important to him, especially his grandchildren and great-grandson. Danny will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Mary Lou Self and Velma Lee Elwood; brothers, Ralph Self, Delmus Self, and Larry Self.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Sheila Colston Self; daughters, Sonya Self and Rebecca and John Caudill; grandchildren, Austin Hudson, Megan Hudson and fiance Nicholas Walters, Skylar Caudill, Naomi Caudill, and Cadence Caudill; great-grandson, Jake Lee Walters; brothers, F. A. and Mary Rose Self and Ronnie and Mary Jane Self; sister, Linda and Alfred Harris; sisters-in-law, Faye Self and Gayla Self several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Barton Funeral Home with Min. Rick Lawson officiating. Interment will follow in Eastview Cemetery, Adairsville with military honors. The family will receive friends Friday from 12 - 2 p.m.

Barton Funeral Home

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

-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.



Hometown Holidays



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RELIGION

CHRIST'S BIRTH IS TIED TO HIS DEATH

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

A few years ago, I had many friends that were suffering from a very harsh holiday season. I counseled with two young men, one whose mother is an alcoholic. The other was

with me on Christmas eve, when his dad made an unauthorized call to him from prison. Another friend of mine spent Christmas in the hospital having at least two surgeries on his knees. Another member of our church had been in the hospital, and then to rehab, trying to recover from suffering two strokes.

Perhaps the most hurtful thing I witnessed was that there seemed to be so many deaths

that year at Christmas. I preached the funeral of two close friends' mother just a couple of days before Christmas. Then I received word that the dad of another one of

my classmates passed away the Friday night before that Christmas. Apart from those deaths that happened during the holidays, there were so many people who struggled throughout the season missing loved ones who had passed in prior years. I could not begin to imagine the painful degree of suffering that these people affected by death experience this time of the year.

Early one morning just before Christmas that year, long before sunrise, I went out to take one of my students to work. On the way home I was driving through town and passed by the beautiful Nativity set that is on

display by the old Ford building downtown. There was a light shining on it, which shed a large shadow on the brick wall behind it. Immediately I thought about the words "Shadow of Death" that David wrote in the 23rd Psalm.

In reality, it was not far from the manger to the cross. We must not forget the cross at this time of the year! Repeatedly in the New Testament, Christ's BIRTH is tied to His DEATH. He

was born to die upon Calvary! He was born to be the sacrificial Lamb of God to take away sin and to provide the way to God and heaven. It's not through Jesus's LIFE that we're saved; it's

through His DEATH!

In Galatians 4:4-5 Paul wrote, "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Why did Jesus come in "the fullness of time?" To redeem us, to buy us from the slave market of sin, so we could become the children of God.

You see, too many people have the wrong picture of Jesus at Christmas. They see him as a helpless little child lying in a stable, with sheep and oxen and a donkey standing around in wonder and

amazement. The real picture we ought to see is Jesus as the Lamb of God who would be sacrificed on Calvary's cross. Jesus came to earth to die as the Lamb of God—for your sins and for mine.

The only way that death can be a satisfying thing is when we die knowing that we have trusted Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as our eternal hope of Heaven. So while you're cleaning up from this weekend, consider this most important question... Have you received His Christmas gift of forgiveness for all your sin? If you're reading this, it's not too late.

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.

The Basement to host Eric Gilmour Jan. 15-16**STAFF REPORTS**

Get ready family for Friday, Jan. 15, 2021 and Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 as The Basement hosts guest speaker and musical artist Eric Gilmour.

Gilmour is an author, itinerant minister and musician, seeking to bring the Church into a deeper experience of Jesus. He believes that experiencing God at all times is the very source of the authentic Christian life. Gilmour has written multiple dozens of books, released countless songs and shared hundreds of videos on YouTube which have challenged innumerable believers to seek and find Jesus through continual rest in His presence.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. and ALL are welcome. The Basement is located at 903D South Wall Street



Calhoun. Make sure you invite family and friends and pack the house for an amazing night of worship and God's presence.

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.

-Rev. Israel and Bishop Rita Partin Spaulding will host a Gathering of Eagles Revival Service each Saturday night at 6:30. These meetings are designed for those individuals who have a desire to go higher in God. Come expecting your breakthrough. The location is 799 Pine Street in the Church of God in Christ building. Rev. Israel and Bishop Rita are International Speakers with a Life Changing Word. For more information please call 423-883-3138.

-Philadelphia Baptist Church operates North Georgia Baptist College and is registering students. It is a local church ministry designed to prepare men and women for serving the Lord. It will provide basic training for preachers, Sunday school teachers, Christian school teachers, evangelists and missionaries. For more information call the church office at 706-625-3233 or visit the college's web site at www.northgabaptistcollege.com.

-Calhoun Church of Jesus Christ, located at the corner of Damascus Road and Pine Drive, invites everyone to attend their weekly services. Sunday services take place at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday's service is at 7 p.m. The church's pastor is Joshua Maddox and assistant pastor is Hunter Quarles.

Looking to buy or sell a home?
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Cash Flow with Joe: Holidays, vacancies and late payees**Joe & Ashley English**

Owners of Focus Property Solutions, LLC
focuspropertysolutionsllc@gmail.com

owed in full or move from the property.

I explained that this was called a letter of demand and then asked how much they were behind and what caused them to get that way.

As it turned out, the tenant had been making partial rent payments for some time and was trying to get current after some financial difficulties. This month, however, they were unable to make the rent payment in full and had shorted it another \$100.

When I asked what led to that decision, the tenant responded that they had to spend that extra money to buy Christmas gifts for their kids.

Just so you know, this call came in shortly after Black Friday.

I began to explain to the tenant the reality of the situation. You see, they had been behind for some time, and it was

apparent that the landlord had been trying to work with them. But because the tenant was putting the landlord on the back burner, the tenant had used up the last of the landlord's good graces.

I tried to explain how landlords don't get to pocket the rent in its entirety. Instead, they have to use that money to make a mortgage payment, along with taxes and insurance on the property. They also have to allot a portion of each month's rent to pay for future repairs. What is left over is what the landlord gets to keep.

Altogether, the tenant was \$300 behind. And I posed this question: "How would it impact you and your family if your paycheck was shorted \$300 this month?"

The tenant hadn't thought of it that way before.

I went on to explain

that the landlord isn't being mean, and truthfully they probably don't want the tenant to move.

You see, December is not a great time to be looking for a tenant or to have vacancies. For one, empty houses are a risk for busted pipes and rodent intrusion during colder weather.

Finding a good-quality tenant during this time of year is another issue. Most people don't want to move during the holidays. They want to have stability so they can have their family over and just relax.

From our experience, a great deal of the people who are moving during this time of year are the ones that tend to move frequently — a practice that doesn't make for a good tenant. And of the ones who are planning their moves responsibly, a large portion of them have overspent on the

holidays and don't have enough in savings to cover moving costs.

And just so you know, our knowledge has come from multiple years' experience having vacancies during this time of year, including this one. We have two rentals we are trying to fill, and I learned yesterday we are getting another one back. Not good.

We have had one of those houses on market for over a month. We have received tons of applications, but most applicants either didn't have enough money to move, didn't make enough money to afford the house or haven't been on their job for over a year.

Why don't we just put the first person with cash in the house, you might ask. Because we would rather pay for another mortgage payment on a vacant

house that is in good condition than install someone we might have to evict for nonpayment who could've harmed the house while living there.

With that in mind, we will keep going until we find a good tenant.

Back to the phone call:

After I explained that the landlord probably didn't want the tenant to leave, I told them their best course of action was to get face to face with the landlord. I told them to be respectful, contrite and let the landlord see that they were willing to do whatever it takes to make things right.

I hope it worked out.

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS: Are You Still Planning to Retire Early?**Dewayne Bowen**

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

life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

- Your retirement lifestyle – Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you're anticipating during your retirement years.

If you think you'll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there's no "right" or "wrong" way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that different lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

- Sources of retirement income – Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you'll have to assess all your

sources: Social Security, any other pensions you might receive, and your investment portfolio, including your 401(k) and IRA. The amounts you receive from these sources will depend on a variety of factors.

For Social Security, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will "top out" when you reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you'll need to establish a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking Social Security earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

- Your feelings about work – Your goals are not static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external

and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can

possibly delay taking Social Security.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that's right for you.

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

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GORDON GROWN Soil Sampling Promotion

**Greg Bowman**Gordon County
Extension Agent

gbowman@uga.edu

Agriculturally, Gordon County is a very diverse county. Poultry production is our top industry, but we also raise cattle, goats and sheep plus we have a large horse population in the county.

We have a good bit of crop production with corn, soybeans, canola and cotton to name a few. Gordon county producers also excel in sod production, vegetables and landscape trees. I will add that many Gordon County citizens will grow backyard gardens and fruit trees and strive to maintain ornamental plants/ turf

in the landscape. Most if not all of these activities can benefit from proper soil sampling and using the recommendation results to even better for profit or landscaping efforts. Keep in mind that developing and maintaining productive soils begins with soil testing.

Today, I will be sharing information on soil testing from a UGA circular by Leticia Sonon and David Kissel, UGA Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories.

If you are a weekly reader to my articles, you will know that I will provide multiple articles on soil sampling over the course of a year. The reason is because soil testing is important. If you take your samples correctly, the report and recommendations should take out the guesswork and provide you with accurate liming and fertilization recommendations. I am sure many vegetable gardeners for example will fertilize the garden spot the same way

annually and may lime the garden every few years.

You may be providing what you need nutritionally, but in some situations you may not. You could even be spending too much money in regards to lime and fertilizer or you could be applying the wrong type of fertilizer and the wrong rate. I have some clients that will sample annually for growing activities while others have not soil sampled in decades.

Think of soil sampling as a resource tool to make your soil more productive no matter the growing activity.

For starters, soil sampling is very economical. I know when I may say words like "analysis" or "scientific process" that it may tend to lean towards soil testing being expensive. Soil testing is \$9 per sample or sampling procedure. If you soil test your fescue lawn, it is \$9. If you soil test your fruit orchard, it is \$9. I will say that

if you are going to do a lot of sampling such in a pasture, hayfield or row crop scenario,

a sampling procedure should not represent more than 15-20 acres. If you have a sixty-acre hayfield, you would have to divide the field up into sections, number or name those sections and do multiple soil samplings procedures so the cost will go up. Keep in mind that depending on the growing activity you are doing on a property, there are different sampling depths and possible different approaches in sample collection. I will add that we have soil probes in our office that can be checked out to aid your soil sample collection. We normally will ship samples to the UGA Soil Test Lab twice per week and results will come back in 5 to 6 working days. If you are new to soil testing, I can email or mail you a copy of our UGA circular that will have simple, but detailed directions along with diagrams in sample collection.

Here are a few reminders. Before sampling, you need to know the correct sampling depths. For lawns, pastures and hayfields for example, you sample to a depth of 4 inches. For gardens, ornamentals, mixed fruit trees and wildlife plots sample to a depth of six inches. It is suggested to take samples well in advance of planting for example so you have the results back. In our part of the state, we have a tendency to be lower pH or more acidic. A liming application will improve soil pH over time. If you need lime, you can go ahead and get that out and give the lime time to incorporate into the soil profile prior to the growing season. When you sample, you need to use clean sampling tools and containers. This will reduce the chance of contamination. If you do not wish to check out a soil probe, you can use a trowel, shovel or spade for example. I think you may find the soil probe may work easier. When

With the ground being wet now, you will need to air dry the mixed sample overnight on a flat surface lined with clean white paper. Do this before bringing to our office for shipping.

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

Gordon County 4-H wins Rivers Alive award

CONTRIBUTED

Gordon County 4-H was named winners for the 4-H division in the Rivers Alive Awards Ceremony this year. For the past 10 years, 4-H Program

Assistant Becky Pass has organized the Gordon County 4-H annual Rivers Alive cleanup for our community and waterways. Others joining the Gordon County 4-H cleanup this year were, SHS Interact Club, Keep Calhoun-



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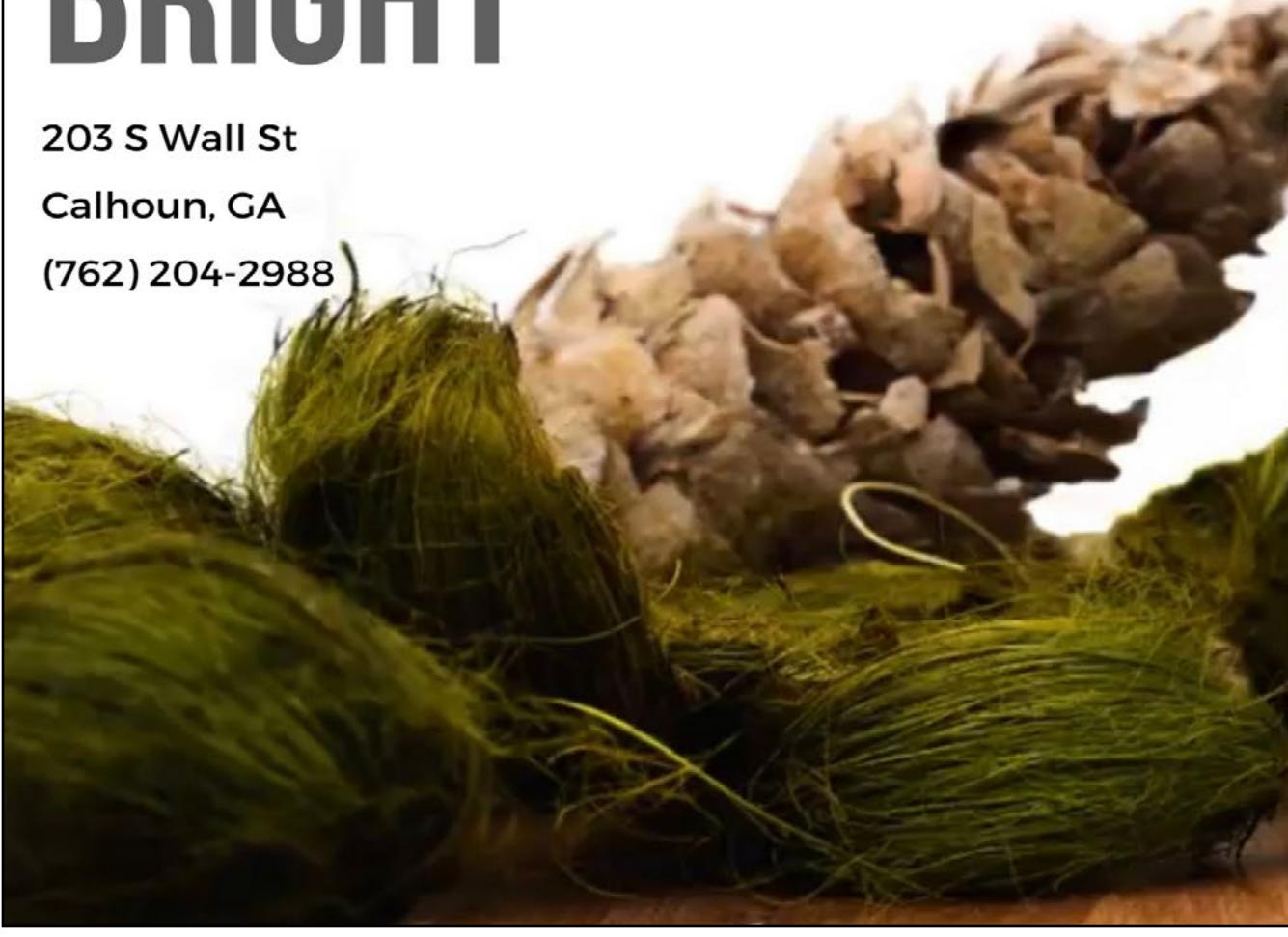


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HEALTH NEWS

Georgia reports much less Medicaid data to the feds than before

REBECCA GRAPEVINE
Georgia Health News

Nine years ago, Georgia reported ample data to the feds on the health care quality of its Medicaid and PeachCare programs.

In fact, a federal report at that time praised Georgia's "proactive role in designing its data systems to support quality measurement."

For seven more years, Georgia continued to be near the top of the data-reporting charts for what's called the Core Set. It consistently submitted information about how its Medicaid program and its children's health insurance, or CHIP program (known as PeachCare in Georgia), were delivering care.

No matter how well or poorly the state performed during those years, it submitted the data under the voluntary set-up.

But according to a Georgia Health News analysis, for the last two years, Georgia reported only a fraction of the information the federal Core Set requested.

Among the items not reported are rates of timely postnatal care, blood-sugar testing rates for diabetes, rates of patients using opioids at high doses, rates of hypertension control, and most mental health measures.

With 59 metrics, the Core Set aims to help states "monitor and improve the quality of health care" for Medicaid and CHIP plans, according to a 2018 press release from Seema Verma, administrator of the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The Core Set is part of a push to improve transparency and accountability for states' health insurance programs.

Medicaid and PeachCare cover about 2 million Georgians, mostly children.

Those kids and some adults are part of a Georgia Families program that has been served by four insurance companies – Amerigroup, CareSource, Peach State and WellCare – which the government pays a total of \$4 billion annually.

In 2011, the first year of the Core Set program, Georgia submitted the most performance measures of any state, 18 out of 24 requested.

For the latest data submission, GHN found that the state reported only eight of the 33 performance measures requested for adult measures, and just 13 of the 25 children's measures.

When asked about the change in approach to reporting, Georgia's Department of Community Health (DCH) said the federal methodology was not sound because each state's reporting method could vary.

States may use different methods in preparing the data, a weakness that the Core Set's own documents acknowledge.

"In 2018, DCH reviewed the existing set of measures and determined that we needed a method that would allow us to benchmark ourselves to other Medicaid plans across the nation. It was imperative that the benchmark was based on measures that were uniformly defined and populated for all Medicaid plans," said DCH Press Secretary Fiona Roberts via email.

N e i g h b o r i n g Southeastern states such as Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee continue to lead in reporting to the Core Set, while Georgia is now at the bottom of the data charts alongside Nebraska and South Dakota.

"Not reporting [the data] publicly, to me, is kind of a red flag," said David Machledt, senior policy analyst at the National Health

Law Program, which aims to increase health care access. "Why should that not be open to public scrutiny?"

"In general, almost every other state is on a trajectory where they're reporting more measures [to the Core Set], not fewer, over time," said Machledt.

Currently, reporting to the federal core set is voluntary, although reporting all children's health measures and adult mental health measures will become mandatory in 2024.

"If there are quality metrics that aren't being met and we as the public can look and see where Georgia is falling short, we can hold our state decision-makers accountable," said Laura Colbert, executive director of the consumer advocacy group Georgians for a Healthy Future.

"The greater the state reports, the better," she said.

Erica Fener Sitkoff, executive director of Voices for Georgia's Children, an advocacy organization, said Medicaid and PeachCare cover half the children in the state.

"There needs to be some public accountability for the outcomes of those programs so that advocates, parents, and health care providers have visibility into how well they're operating and can advocate for change."

Jesse Weathington, executive director of the Georgia Quality Healthcare Association, an industry trade group, said Tuesday that the four managed care companies "report reams of data on our performance to DCH on a consistent basis."

Decline in internal reporting

Aside from the Core Set, DCH continues to publish performance data on its website each year, but the information is difficult to

find.

This year's annual report on each of the four managed care companies included only 20 health indicators, compared to last year's 49.

These annual charts allow policymakers to view how each of the four companies delivered health care.

"For the 2019 reporting period, we reported on 20 measures total, 17 of which were Core Set measures. We are able to compare our performance on these measures to nationally recognized benchmarks and appropriately align them with internal performance efforts," said DCH spokesperson Roberts.

The 2020 report omitted key data on lead exposure screening for children, opioid use, postpartum care, eye exams for diabetics, and hypertension control rates, among other indicators.

Prior annual reports included easy-to-use comparative tables with star ratings based on national benchmarks for each of these health metrics.

This year the only way to find most of the data is by searching five different lengthy PDFs, found two-thirds of the way down the DCH's Medicaid Quality webpage, and then compiling the data.

"Shining a light on where the program is meeting the mark and where it's fallen short and still needs some improvement would actually be important for helping folks understand why the Medicaid program needs to exist," said Colbert.

Georgia has cut from nine to three the number of maternal health care indicators it publishes in its internal Medicaid quality reports.

Medicaid covers about half of births in Georgia, a state with a well-known

maternal mortality crisis.

Georgia changed its approach to reporting Medicaid quality data within its own documents and to the federal government two years ago.

Georgia's most recent annual state reports published information on only three maternal health indicators:

Timeliness of prenatal care,

Percentage of infants with low birthweight,

Timeliness of postnatal care.

The first two measures are featured in the state's annual reports but this year, for the first time, finding information about timeliness of postnatal care requires digging through five separate PDFs.

Missing entirely from the most recent annual reports are indicators the state formerly reported on, such as:

Caesarean and elective delivery rates,

Rates of mental health evaluation for pregnant women,

Use of steroids during pregnancy,

Frequency of post-partum care.

"These indicators that are no longer being publicly made available are really good at helping us figure out how we got there," said Amber Mack, a research and policy analyst at Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia, referring to the state's maternal mortality crisis.

Earlier this year, the state approved extending Medicaid coverage for low-income new mothers from two to six months after delivery.

"How are we going to track and see if timeliness of postpartum care has improved...especially compared to other states?" asked Mack, the policy analyst.

The maternal health

measures Georgia does report show that the insurance companies delivering care to Medicaid and PeachCare members are behind national quality benchmarks for maternal care.

The companies' performance on timeliness of prenatal care ranks in the 49th percentile or below, according to a national health care quality measure the state uses.

The numbers the state reports to the federal Core Set also reflect a downward trend. The most recent report to the federal government stated that 67 percent of Georgia Medicaid members were getting timely prenatal care, in contrast to the 81 percent reported four years ago.

Georgia's rates of low-birthweight deliveries appear to be rising, according to our analysis of the state's data.

The latest state latest data show the weighted average for the four companies at 9.45 percent, compared to 8.74 percent two years ago.

Only about two-thirds of Georgia mothers on Medicaid are getting timely postnatal care. For the first time this year, data on postpartum care was not included in the state annual report.

When asked why Georgia reported only two maternal health measures to the latest federal core set, Roberts said the agency is prioritizing prenatal care, which "provides a sizable opportunity to improve care for both the mother and the infant."

"It is our hope that these upstream efforts will help to reduce the percentage of live births that weighed less than 2,500 grams [roughly 5 pounds 8 ounces]," said Roberts via email of six requested diabetes or weight-related measures to the federal Core Set.

First shipments of COVID-19 vaccine arrive in Georgia

GEORGIA DPH

locations with ultracold freezers required for storage and temperature control of the vaccine. Additional shipments of vaccine are expected later this week at facilities in other parts of the state, including metro Atlanta.

Today's shipments contain 5,850 doses of vaccine for individuals to receive their first dose of the two dose series.

The Coastal Health District will begin vaccinating front line nurses this afternoon. A broader vaccination program for high priority individuals in Chatham, Glynn, and surrounding counties will begin tomorrow. The District will also make vaccine available to local hospitals as those facilities await their own deliveries.

Because initial COVID-19 vaccine supply is limited, DPH is following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and prioritizing healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities for vaccination.

Vaccine will be given through closed points of dispensing or PODs. These sites include public health clinics, hospitals, long-term care facilities, pharmacies, etc., and are only accessible to individuals in defined priority groups.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to give Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine

emergency use authorization (EAU) later this week. Assuming the vaccine is authorized for use by FDA, shipments of the Moderna vaccine should begin arriving in Georgia next week.

For updates on COVID-19, follow @GaDPH and @GovKemp on Twitter and @GaDPH and @GovKemp on Facebook.


**Anna Shaw
Children's Institute**

Southern Magnolia room on the lower level
1201 Burleyson Road | Dalton, Georgia

Parent Support Group

The Parent Support Group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm.

All parents, grandparents, guardians, and other family members of children with special needs are invited to take part in a new parent-led Parent Support Group.

Anna Shaw Children's Institute follows social distancing and CDC safety guidelines.

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Education

CCS thanks Partner in Education Shaw Industries

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Christmas came early for the 4,200 students in Calhoun City Schools. Shaw Industries Group, Inc. donated refillable water bottles for all students in the district to use during the pandemic.

Calhoun City Schools

is extremely grateful for Shaw's generosity and support during these challenging times. As a Partner in Education, Shaw provides much support in and outside of the classroom through work-based learning opportunities, career guidance, advocacy,

STEM program support, among others. They are helping CCS prepare our future workforce with a goal to ensure that our students and communities are successful.

Thank you, Shaw Industries Group. CCS appreciate you! Merry Christmas!



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CANCER CENTER

From page 1A

building that is connected to the hospital. The Edna Owens Breast Center is located across the lobby from the medical office building, and the AdventHealth Harris Radiation Therapy Center is located across the parking lot.

"This center is the culmination of a vision to provide a regional location that fosters innovative cancer care," said Mridula Vinjamuri, MD, of AdventHealth Medical Group Hematology Oncology at Calhoun. "This model of integrating multimodality care complemented with the administration of expert cancer treatment options ensures excellent care for all patients, indistinguishable with a larger or academic cancer center. The multidisciplinary expertise implemented at AdventHealth all target the

same problem, each from a diverse perspective, as an effort to commit to the patient's best personalized treatment plan."

AdventHealth Gordon's Cancer Care physicians, nurse navigators and team members work together seamlessly to coordinate treatments between all areas of the Cancer Care program to elevate the level of care patients receive. In addition to treatment, the program also offers nutrition counseling, emotional and mental health counseling, support groups and weight management programming to cancer patients.

"We are thrilled that the AdventHealth Gordon Cancer Center is now open and providing our patients with true comprehensive Cancer Care," said Mike Murrill, president and CEO of AdventHealth Gordon. "The convenience of the center and coordination of care provided will greatly benefit our community."

For more information on AdventHealth Gordon

Cancer Care services, visit AdventHealthGordon.com/cancer.

About AdventHealth Gordon

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

CITY

From page 1A

We will be using nothing but Hardie board, brick and stone. We would love to build these apartments in town."

The Council approved the annexation of the property from the county to the city, and approved the zoning to R-2.

The Council also approved a stream buffer protection variance request to decrease the vegetative buffer from 50 feet to 35 feet.

"All we're asking for is, the state water requirement is 25 feet; all we're looking to do is cut it to 35 feet. Nothing's different. We just want to be

able to grade it to create a better retention area," said Hardin of the request.

In other news from the meeting:

The council approved a request of annexation and zoning of C-2 by Dilip Patel (Ginger's Grocery) for 0.44 acres at 1600 Dews Pond Road.

The Council approved a beer, wine and distilled spirits pouring license at Jefferson's, a new restaurant opening at 447 SR-53.

First reading was held of a zoning change request from C-2 to Ind-G by Stanley Simpson for 4.782 acres off Travelers Path NE. The Zoning Advisory Board meeting will be held on Jan. 7 and the public hearing on Jan. 11.

The Council approved a road dedication request by Brent Stepp for roads within the Willowbrook at the Villages Subdivision. The roads being named

Willowbrook Way, Willowbrook Drive and Jasper Terrace.

The Council approved the 2021 beer package license renewals for El Sol Hispanic Grocery and Food Mart & Tobacco.

The Council approved the 2021 beer and liquor pouring license renewal for Estela's Taqueria.

The Council approved the 2021 beer and wine pouring license renewals for El Sol Restaurant and Dub's High on the Hog.

As a reminder, the City offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas, and on Friday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year.

The next meeting of the Calhoun City Council will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 28 at the Depot in downtown Calhoun.

Help for the Hurting

p.m. at Crane Eater Community Church, located at 3168 Red Bud Rd Calhoun, GA 30701.

-The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a monthly support group at Morning Pointe Assisted Living, 660 Jolly Road, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information or directions, call Mary Braden at 770-548-4683 or Karen Parrott at 706-346-5220.

For more information about dementia and Alzheimer's disease, call 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/georgia.

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

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

-The Alzheimer's Association's Caring Closet was

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

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS! IN GORDON COUNTY

VISITING CHRISTMAS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

To view this special issue, click [HERE](#)

REMEMBERING WHAT CHRISTMAS HAS ALWAYS MEANT TO OUR COMMUNITY!

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eSPLOST

From page 1A

Calhoun Schools and Gordon County Schools. Gordon County Schools would receive 60.2 (\$37,324,000) percent of the amount, with Calhoun City Schools receiving 39.8 percent (\$24,676,000) of the monies collected.

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 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.

The request for the continuation of the eSPLOST will now be placed on a referendum ballot to be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.



Gordon County Board of Education Chairman Charlie Walraven, far left, and Calhoun Board of Education Chairman Eddie Reeves, far right, work with an attorney to sign the resolution that will place the extension of the eSPLOST in the voters hands on March 16, 2021. (Photo: BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff)

BOE

From page 1A

but has grown to 93.5 percent over the past 12 years.

Facility improvements during Johnson's tenure include upgrades to athletic facilities, the construction of the new Red Bud Middle School, complete renovations to Fairmount and Tolbert elementary schools and construction of the Gordon County College and Career Academy.

Johnson declined to run for re-election this year due to his career which takes him out of town often. In January, Board member-elect Christie Fox will serve Post 6.

In other news from the meeting:

The Board approved the school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. The first day of school will be Aug. 5, 2021. There will be a full week of break in October 2021, along with just over two weeks for Christmas break.

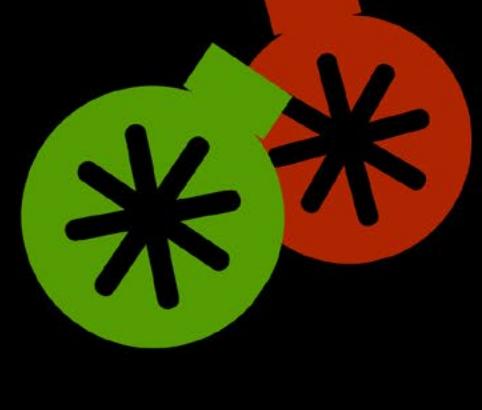
The Board approved the Board meeting dates for 2021.

The Board approved Title 1 Contracted Services to help with literacy at Fairmount Elementary School.



Board member Chris Johnson, second from left, was recognized for 12 years of service at Monday night's meeting. His family was on hand at the meeting, which was his last as a school board member. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

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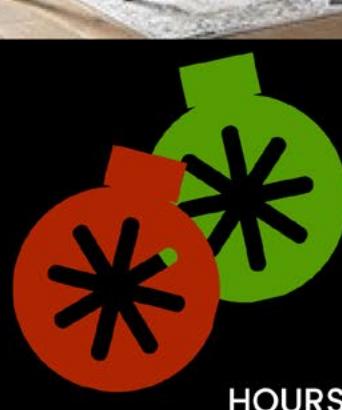
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