

GORDON Gazette

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Weekend, November 14, 2020

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Volume 3, No.11

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

CPD investigating burglary at North Wall BP

Brandi Owczarz
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The Calhoun Police Department has released a statement concerning a burglary early this morning at the North Wall BP, located at 312 North Wall Street in

Calhoun. According to the statement, officers were dispatched to the gas station around 12:41 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, in reference to a burglary alarm. Upon arrival, officers discovered the glass in the front

door had been broken. Officers were unable to locate anyone in or around the building. The business owner, Rohit Patel arrived on scene and determined that at the time, around \$150 worth of items were stolen and approximately

\$1,000 in damages. CPD continues to investigate the incident at this time. Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Adam Kilgore at 706-629-1234.



Weekly COVID-19 update at local schools, community

Brandi Owczarz
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Gordon County Schools number of COVID-19 cases remained flat this week with 10 total active cases system-wide, the same number of active cases they had last week. This week, however, the system had no students in their elementary schools with active cases of the

virus. "By remaining diligent in our efforts to socially distance when possible, wear face coverings when distancing is not possible, wash our hands frequently and stay home when we don't feel well, we can continue to ensure in-person instruction for all of our students," said Gordon County Schools in a statement to the

Gordon Gazette. At GCS, there are 5 students within the system and 5 staff members that are considered as actively having COVID-19. There are 2 students at Red Bud Middle School, 1 student at Sonorville High School, 1 student

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Victim in Wednesday's fatal accident identified

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The Gordon Gazette can confirm that the victim of Wednesday morning's fatal crash on I-75 North around mile marker 307 has been identified as 25-year-old Shaniqwa Duckett of Columbus, Ga., according to Gordon County Deputy Coroner Christy Nicholson.

According to the preliminary incident report provided by the Georgia State Patrol, a 2018 Kia Forte LX S was traveling north on I-75 around 7:45 a.m. Wednesday morning, Nov. 11, when it left the

left side of I-75 north and traveled into the grass median. The car then traveled back into the northbound lanes of I-75 before leaving the right side of the roadway, struck a concrete drainage culvert with its front and undercarriage, then began to overturn until it struck the rear of a tractor trailer that was parked on the left side of the rest area on a gravel surface, driven by Ljubo Sisljagic, 53, of Jacksonville, Fla. The report states that the tractor trailer was parked in a gore area of I-75 and the rest area

that was posted with "No Parking" signs on the right side of the exit ramp, but no signs were posted in the gore area.

Both vehicles came to a rest in the gore area of I-75 north and the rest area exit, facing north. The Kia came to rest adjacent to the right rear of the trailer.

All six occupants of the Kia Forte were transported to either Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga, Tenn. or Floyd Medical Center in Rome with serious injuries. The occupants

See WRECK, page 7A



The wreckage from Wednesday's fatal accident on I-75 North around the rest area at mile marker 307. (Photo: Gordon Gazette reader CHRIS L. JOHNSON)

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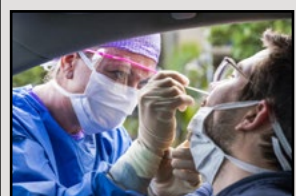
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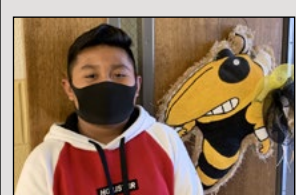
Calhoun Rotary tours new Urgent Health Care Clinic at Calhoun High School.

HEALTH 5A



States rapid test results add to alarming rise in COVID-19 cases.

EDUCATION 6A



Escobar named Calhoun College and Career Academy Student of the Week.

Officers arrest Calhoun man on drug, traffic charges after caught speeding on Curtis Parkway

Brandi Owczarz
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Calhoun Police arrested a Calhoun man Tuesday morning on drug and traffic charges, after he was caught speeding on Curtis Parkway.

According to the incident report, around 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, an officer was stopped at the traffic light on Dews Pond Road, waiting on the

right-of-way to turn right onto Curtis Parkway. The officer observed a silver Ford Mustang, with loud exhaust, turn left onto Curtis Parkway from Dews Pond Road. After the Mustang traveled about 150 feet from the intersection, the driver revved the engine of the car and accelerated rapidly over a hillcrest, and continued to pick up speed. The officer turned onto Curtis

Parkway and could still visually see and hear the Mustang driving at a high rate of speed. The officer activated his emergency equipment, and attempted to catch up to the Mustang before he got to Laurel Creek, which is one of the entry ways to Calhoun Primary and Calhoun Elementary schools. The officer caught up to the Mustang around Firehouse Gym because there was heavy

traffic. The report states the Mustang decelerated to a very slow pace, pulled onto Laura Creek and then into a doctor's office.

The officer made contact with the driver, identified as 21-year-old Adrian Brito Alfaro, of Stendall Road, Calhoun. The officer asked for the man's driver's license and



See CRIME, page 7A

ADRIAN BRITO ALFARO

Georgia shatters previous record, earns Top Business ranking for eighth consecutive year

OFFICE OF GEORGIA GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

Atlanta, GA – As the world's greatest golfers teed off today at the Masters Tournament in Augusta to compete for the prized Green Jacket, Governor Brian P. Kemp announced that the State of Georgia has shattered its own record by being named No. 1 for business climate for the eighth consecutive year by Site Selection magazine. In 2019, Georgia

became the only state to earn this distinction seven consecutive times in the history of Site Selection's rankings, and it is now the only state to receive the honor eight times in a row. The announcement presentation followed a tour of Bridgestone Golf's headquarters and research and development facility in Covington, Georgia, where the Governor was also presented with golf balls stamped with the "No. 1 State" artwork

to commemorate the occasion.

"I'm so proud that Georgia has earned this top business distinction for a record-setting eight years, and it is an honor to accept this award from Site Selection magazine," said Governor Kemp. "Our top-notch workforce development programs and pro-business environment, along with our strong

See STATE, page 7A



Second Front

Pulliam joins AdventHealth Medical Group

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

AdventHealth Medical Group is pleased to announce that Cayla Pulliam, FNP-C, has joined AdventHealth Medical Group Family Medicine at Owasa.

Pulliam joins Robert Lester, MD; Chris Yamamoto, MD; Charlotte Brooks, FNP-BC; Rhonda Gilbert, FNP-C; and Tiffany Kelley, FNP-C, at AdventHealth Medical Group Family Medicine at Owasa, which offers a wide range of medical services for the entire family. Serving the Calhoun and Gordon County community since 1980, the clinicians carefully listen to patients and provide thorough exams and offer solutions to make sure you stay at your best. The practice also helps patients prevent or manage medical issues, including diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and many other conditions that need close monitoring.

Pulliam earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Kennesaw State

University and her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is certified through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Outside of work, Pulliam enjoys spending time with friends and family, being outdoors, being involved in the community and traveling.

To schedule an appointment, please call 706-625-0333.

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).

Calhoun Rotary Club tours new Urgent Health Care Clinic at Calhoun High School

CONTRIBUTED

As one of the first charter systems in the state, Calhoun City Schools has always looked for ways to improve and innovate while best serving students and the community. The Board of Education is proud to share its newest initiative with the official opening of the AdventHealth Urgent Care Clinic at Calhoun City Schools. Aligning with Georgia's Vision Project to develop partnerships with businesses, industries, public agencies and the community to promote shared use of services and facilities, CCS is leading the way for other school districts to replicate this type of initiative.

The Calhoun College and Career Academy was established in 2013 on the campus of Calhoun Middle and High School. The addition of the Urgent Care Clinic is a prime example of how an innovative thought, partnered with support from local businesses, industry and foundations, can move from idea to reality in a short period of time. The health clinic is a state-of-the-art facility that mirrors that of the most current urgent care clinics you walk into today. They provide a full slate of services catering to students and staff, in addition to the surrounding community. Originally slated to be an acute care clinic, CCS and AdventHealth recognized the opportunity to expand services, by adding an x-ray room in order to meet the qualifications of a state approved urgent care.

AdventHealth helped plan, design, build and implement a successful urgent care clinic and partnership. The Calhoun Rotary Club who owned the building adjacent to the Calhoun Engineering and Online Learning Academy offered the facility to the school system to house the Clinic. The project took approximately one year to complete from start to finish, including a complete remodel of the pre-existing building. AdventHealth's President and CEO Michael Murrell and Director of Marketing and Communications and President of the AdventHealth Gordon Foundation, Garrett Nudd shared about the hospital's commitment to this endeavor at the Calhoun Rotary Club meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020. Following the program, Rotary Club members took time to tour the facility to see how their building was transformed into an urgent care clinic.

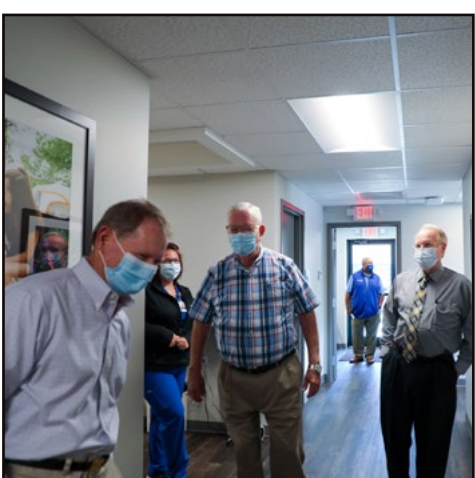
Calhoun City Schools is extremely thankful for the community partnerships that helped launch of the urgent care. It allows students in the College and Career Academy's healthcare pathway to work in the clinic while earning their CNA license and provides hands-on opportunities for our students to learn valuable skills that will hopefully enable them to pursue a career in medicine. The clinic has also provided direct access to high quality medical care for our students and staff, where they are given immediate priority. The clinic serves not only

the students and staff of Calhoun City Schools, but also is used as an outreach to the western half of our county, which lacks any direct access to a healthcare facility.

Teachers who would once leave campus to seek medical care, can now receive that same care on-site. This keeps teachers and staff from missing time away from their students and it maximizes students' instructional time. The clinic has been successfully seeing patients and performed free physicals for all student athletes in Calhoun City Schools and neighboring districts, serving more than 600 students. The recent pandemic has highlighted just how important this partnership really is. We relied heavily on their support and expertise to ensure that we safely reopened our schools to in-person instruction following extended school closures in the spring. The ability to offer high quality healthcare services, such as COVID testing, on-site at the clinic has been a tremendous asset in combating the virus as we maintain a safe and secure learning environment. Because of the success of this innovative project, Calhoun City will continue to seek collaborative partnerships that will benefit both the students and the community. The clinic is one example where we saw the need and set out to meet that need. Again, the school system is extremely grateful to AdventHealth Gordon, the Calhoun



Rotary Club, the John M. Ratner Foundation, for supporting the Meadows Family Omnova Solutions, Inc., establishment of the Foundation, The Milton and Momon Construction health clinic.



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Keep It In The County

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: State’s rapid test results add to alarming rise in COVID cases here

ANDY MILLER, CEO Georgia Health News

New COVID-19 cases in Georgia jumped by more than 4,500 on Tuesday, the highest daily increase reported in months.

Most of the new cases came from rapid antigen tests. About 1,000 of those positives, though, were part of a “data dump” of cases from October, state officials said.

How the rapid antigen tests are counted has generated questions and confusion in Georgia. The antigen test results are now posted separately on the Georgia Department of Public Health’s daily COVID report, but those positives aren’t included in data the state sends to external agencies as confirmed cases.

“We’re really not painting an accurate picture of what’s going on,” Amber Schmidtke, a microbiologist who tracks COVID in Georgia in the Daily Digest, said Wednesday.

Other Southeastern states report the rapid test results as part of their cumulative infection totals, she said.

She called the Tuesday infection increase in Georgia “a little frightening.” The test positivity rate here has also increased, she said.

Wednesday’s COVID numbers reported by the state declined from the Tuesday total to 2,350, but with a high number of confirmed deaths — 69.

The antigen testing numbers “fluctuate widely one day to the next,” said Nancy Nydam, a Public Health spokeswoman. Those fluctuations will smooth out more as medical facilities get used to reporting these results, she added.

Rapid tests are not considered as accurate as PCR tests. But because they are faster and less expensive than PCR tests, antigen tests may be more practical to use for large numbers of people, experts say. They’re frequently used at universities, long-term care facilities and medical offices.

There’s an increased chance of a false negative result with an antigen test, meaning it’s possible to be infected with the virus even though the test indicates you are not. But a positive result on an antigen test — indicating that you are infected — is considered accurate when instructions are carefully followed, the Mayo Clinic says.

If a person has COVID symptoms and gets a negative antigen test, they may want to

follow it with a PCR test, experts say.

National figures are troubling

The overall rise in new infections in Georgia coincides with an alarming national increase in COVID cases.

The stunning numbers were somewhat overshadowed this week when Pfizer announced Monday that early clinical trial data suggested its coronavirus vaccine was more than 90 percent effective.

Still, at least 1,448 new coronavirus deaths and 139,855 new cases were reported Tuesday in the United States. And COVID-19 hospitalizations hit a record high of 61,964 the same day. The number of Americans hospitalized due to COVID-19 has risen almost 50 percent in the last two weeks.

Georgia is categorized as a state with “uncontrollable spread” by covidexitstrategy.com. The website reports that the state is meeting just 41 percent of its testing target.

And the recently released White House Coronavirus Task Force report said Georgia was in the “red zone” for major community spread

of the disease. It joined 42 other states in this category.

The report said hard-hit counties in the state must take a proactive approach, testing all people in the 18-to-40 age group whether or not there are any other risk factors. “Georgia must expand the mitigation efforts statewide as test positivity and cases are increasing,” the task force said.

It added that during the week of Oct 26 – Nov 1, 10 percent of nursing homes in Georgia had at least one new resident infected with the virus; 19 percent had at least one new staff COVID-19 case, and 4 percent had at least one new resident COVID-19 death.

“We have been experiencing a significant surge for the past five weeks, as reflected in rising case counts and positivity rates and are now also seeing increases in both hospitalizations and deaths,” said Dr. Harry Heiman, a public health expert at Georgia State University. “Tragically, this is in line with what is happening all over the country and in our state.

“Like many other places, there has been a failure of political and public health leaders to take meaningful action,” Heiman said. “We

know a mask mandate works, we know that allowing large in-person gatherings, including political events, adds to transmission.”

State public health officials should also focus on the disproportionate impact of COVID on communities of color, Heiman added.

“I am hopeful that a new [presidential] administration will provide not only a coordinated national framework and plan, but also provide states with the resources they need to be successful.”

Outbreaks at schools in Richmond, Peach and DeKalb counties have shut down classrooms this week.

Stronger guidance on masks

The CDC, in a major update to its guidance, said Tuesday that a mask protects the person who wears it, and not just people near the wearer. The Atlanta-based agency also noted that numerous studies have demonstrated the benefits of “universal masking policies.”

Meanwhile, the supply of personal protective equipment — a big concern early in the pandemic — is again leading to worry about shortages as colder months

approach, raising the potential for big caseloads of COVID and flu patients.

The Strategic National Stockpile, the nation’s emergency reserve, has only 115 million N95 masks, far short of the 300 million the federal government had hoped to amass by winter, Rear Adm. John Polowczyk, who retired on Monday as the national supply chain commander, said in a recent interview, according to the New York Times.

Governors are once again competing with one another and with big hospital chains for scarce gear, the Times reported.

WABE noted that as Thanksgiving approaches, the U.S. is regularly breaking records for new COVID-19 diagnoses.

“Now you have a holiday where it’s colder, people are more likely to be inside celebrating with family, likely to have more travel as well as case counts are much higher,” said Cria Perrine, an epidemiologist with the CDC, the WABE article reported. “This has got the potential to be sort of the perfect storm.”

Andy Miller is the Editor and CEO of Georgia Health News.

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON: Keys to Early Cancer Detection

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

Sure, mammograms and colonoscopies aren’t comfortable, but making these high on your priority list can go a long way to protect your whole health. After all, your best odds of beating cancer begin with proactive screenings, which can detect cancer even before symptoms surface.

“Screenings are the most efficient way a doctor can detect cancer in its earliest, most treatable stage,” said Mridula Vinjamuri, MD, of AdventHealth Medical Group Hematology Oncology at Calhoun. “It’s important to know what screenings to get at what age to protect your whole health during every phase of life.”

For Detecting Breast Cancer

Self-Exams: Every woman should perform a breast self-exam monthly to check for lumps or changes. Notify your primary care provider or OB/GYN right away with any concerns. Pick the same time of the month, each month, so it becomes part of your regular routine. It’s also important to note that men can also get breast cancer, so they should also be concerned should they find any changes to their breast tissue.

Mammograms: A screening mammogram is an annual preventative measure for women age 40 and older who haven’t experienced abnormal breast symptoms. Women younger than 40 may also be advised to have a mammogram depending on family history and other risk factors.

MRI: Women at a higher risk for breast cancer may need a breast MRI. This technology uses magnets and radio waves to take pictures of the breasts that are more detailed than the images produced with a mammogram.

For Detecting Cervical Cancer

Pap Test: Also commonly referred to as a pap smear, this test can help detect cervical cancer. During the test, cells are collected from the cervix and vagina and viewed under a microscope for any abnormalities. Regular screening of women between the ages of 21 and 65 years with the pap test decreases the chance of dying from cervical cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. It’s important to talk to your doctor about a personalized pap test schedule for you.

HPV Screening: A human papillomavirus (HPV) screening can also detect cervical cancer. Cells are collected from the cervix to check for an infection caused by a type of HPV linked to cervical cancer.

For Detecting Colorectal Cancer

Colonoscopy: Doctors recommend getting a colonoscopy beginning at age 50 for most patients, but sooner for patients with certain risk factors. A colonoscopy can detect polyps or growths in the colon

or rectum. Not all polyps are malignant, but a particular type of polyp is more likely to indicate colon cancer. Your risk factors and the results of past colonoscopies will determine how often you should get them.

Fecal Occult Blood Test: In addition to a colonoscopy, several other screening tests can detect colon cancer, including a fecal occult blood test that checks for blood in stool.

Stool DNA Test: Testing a sample of your stool can help doctors look for blood and biomarkers found in colon cancer.

For Detecting Head, Neck and Oral Cancer

Some screenings are much less invasive than a colonoscopy. To check for head, neck and oral cancer, your primary care provider will feel your lymph nodes, check for lumps on your neck and lumps or sores in your nose, mouth and throat.

Your dentist will also check for signs of head, neck and oral cancer. That’s another reason why a regular dental exam is important for your overall health.

For Detecting Lung Cancer

Low-dose CT scans: Typically, patients don’t notice lung cancer symptoms until the cancer has spread and is difficult to treat. For that reason, doctors recommended lung CTs for people between the ages of 55 and 80 who have a history of heavy smoking. Your doctor can discuss more specific guidelines as they relate to your whole-health plan.

For Detecting Prostate Cancer

DRE Exam: A digital rectal exam (DRE) can be used to detect an abnormal prostate.

PSA Test: Depending on a man’s risk factors, doctors may order a PSA test. This blood test looks at the level of prostate specific antigen (PSA), which is made by the prostate. Higher than normal PSA levels can signal prostate cancer.

For Detecting Skin Cancer

Self-Exam: You’re the first person who may notice if a mole on the skin has changed. Use the ABCDE test to determine if you should see a dermatologist about a questionable mole:

- A - Asymmetry (one half of the mole isn’t the same as the other)
- B - Border irregularity
- C - Color that isn’t uniform
- D - Diameter greater than 6mm (the size of a pencil eraser)
- E - Evolving size, shape or color

A lesion on the skin that doesn’t seem to heal also can be a sign of skin cancer.

Physical Exam: Your dermatologist will also perform a full body skin exam to look for moles, birthmarks or other pigmented areas that look abnormal in color, size, shape or texture. Your risk factors will determine how often the dermatologist will want to see you back for another exam.

Do Your Part to Stay Ahead of Cancer

“Talk to your primary care provider to see if you’re on track with your screenings based on your age and risk factors,” said

on your recommended screenings can help doctors catch cancer early and offer the best possible treatments to offer the most hope for a cure.”

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Dr. Vinjamuri. “Staying ahead of your cancer risk factors by following through

Escobar named Calhoun College and Career Academy Student of the Week

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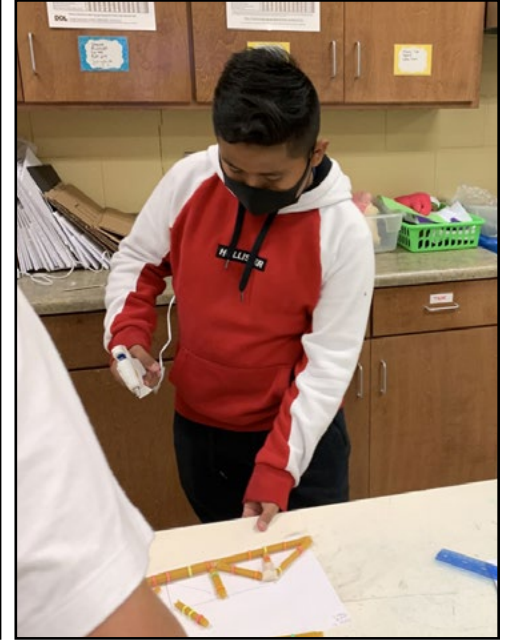
Calhoun Middle School 8th grader Christopher Escobar is the Calhoun College and Career Academy (CCCA) Student of the Week for November 9-13, 2020. His STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teacher, Missy Hathcox nominated Christopher.

Hathcox stated, "Chris is a positive influence in the STEM lab. He is very conscientious and respectful to everyone and looks for ways to contribute to

the class. Chris has a strong work ethic and strives to be a great overall student."

Although Escobar is only an 8th grader, he is looking forward to the future! He plans to attend Kennesaw State University to study Electrical Engineering. Escobar is very interested in engineering-related activities in STEM and Construction. He enjoys building and designing various projects.

Congratulations to Chris Escobar, CCCA Student of the Week for November 9-13, 2020!



Davis named Calhoun Woman's Club Student of the Month for CHS

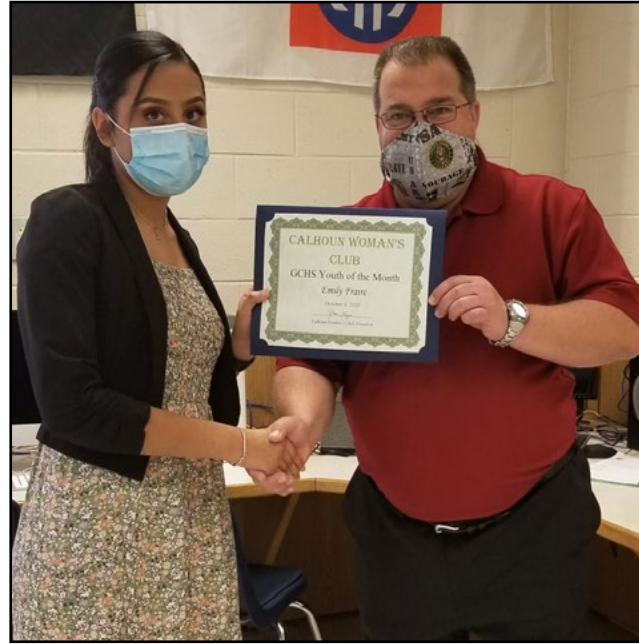


CONTRIBUTED

Congratulations to Calhoun High School senior Lyndi Rae Davis, who was named Calhoun Woman's Club Youth of the Month for October for CHS.

Lyndi Rae is a student athlete at Calhoun High School. She works hard to balance both school and sports making sure to excel on and off the field. Lyndi Rae is currently working with Dr. Mitch Frix through the CHS Work Based Learning program. She is a fierce competitor with a heart of gold and plans to attend The University of Georgia in the fall.

CCS would like to thank the Calhoun Woman's Club for their continued support of the outstanding students in our community.



Fraire named Calhoun Women's Club Student of the Month for GCHS

CONTRIBUTED

Congratulations to Gordon Central's Emily Fraire, named The Calhoun Women's Club Youth of the Month representative from her school for the month of October.

Fraire was nominated by Lt. Col. Mike Mansi of Gordon Central's JROTC, who said Fraire is "An outstanding JROTC student."

Bramlett named Calhoun Woman's Club Student of the Month for SHS



CONTRIBUTED

Congratulations to Sonorville High School senior Whitney Bramlett, who was recognized at a virtual meeting as the Calhoun Woman's Club SHS's October Youth of the Month. Whitney was nominated by teacher, Hannah Nelson.

"Whitney is a talented young lady with a bright future! I am proud that she has been a member of the SHS Choral and Theatre programs since 8th grade. Whitney is a wonderful example of hard work, talent, and a special willingness to help in any capacity. She is a joy to teach and I have enjoyed every moment!" said Nelson

Monday, November 16, 2020

Giving Thanks in Gordon County

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS!

A Special, Free E-Edition Celebrating the Upcoming Holiday Season

FEATURING:

- Holiday Recipes
- Holiday Shopping
- Christmas Open House
- Retail Features
- Community Events
- We Are Thankful...



GORDON Gazette

COVID From page 1A

at Gordon Central High School and 1 student at Ashworth Middle School. There are 5 staff members within the county school system with active cases of the virus: 3 at Tolbert Elementary School, 1 at Red Bud Elementary School and 1 at Ashworth Middle School.

“We appreciate all of the hard work our staff, students and families have put into helping us mitigate the spread of the virus in our facilities and throughout our community,” said the system.

The numbers remain low after additional measures to fight the spread of the virus were implemented last month, including switching both county high schools to a hybrid attendance schedule.

Students at both Gordon Central and Sonorville High School whose last names begin with the letters A-K attend school in person one week, and then change over the next week to online instruction via Schoology. Students with a last name beginning L-Z are on the opposite schedule of the previous group, completing online learning at home when the other group is receiving in-school instruction. This has reduced the amount of people in the schools at any particular time. The

hybrid schedule will continue through the end of November.

“Gordon County Schools has found it necessary to move to hybrid instructional model, as outlined in the district’s Back to School guidance in August, for both Gordon Central High School and Sonorville High School beginning Monday, October 19. The tentative return date to full-time, in-person instruction will be Monday, November 30, 2020,” said the system in a statement. “The decision to temporarily move to a hybrid schedule for both Gordon County high schools is a precautionary measure and comes following an increase in active COVID cases, resulting in a higher number of precautionary quarantines.”

According to GCS, extracurricular activities will continue, unless otherwise notified by the school. This closure does not impact any other Gordon County school, and all elementary and middle schools will operate as normal.

Gordon County Schools’ reporting is slightly different than the City school system. Gordon County Schools’ weekly numbers, reported each Friday afternoon, show the new cases of COVID-19 for the week, plus any previous cases that are still active. You can find those numbers on their website at <https://www.gcbe.org/domain/5112>

Calhoun City Schools’ new cases of COVID-19 this week decreased to 8 cases system-wide, down from 11 cases last week. There were 3 new cases among students (1 at Calhoun

Primary, 1 at Calhoun Middle and 1 at Calhoun High School), and 5 new cases among staff members (2 at Calhoun Middle, 1 at Calhoun Primary, 1 at Calhoun Elementary and 1 at Calhoun High School).

Calhoun City Schools post the new case numbers each Friday afternoon, and includes the previous week’s numbers separately on their website at <https://www.calhounschools.org/summer-resources/ccsd-covid-19-case-status-reportnew-page>

Both school systems have adopted strict cleaning procedures and are following the health and safety guidelines set forth by the CDC concerning social distancing.

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 at either school system cannot return to school until they meet the Department of Public Health’s Return to School Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure.

Numbers of new positive cases jumped again in Gordon County this past week. At press time Saturday morning, Nov. 14, Gordon County has had 2,720 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began – that’s up 162 cases since the same time last week. COVID-19 related deaths now stand at 54, up 6 deaths from last week, but DPH also reports 4 additional probable deaths from COVID. There have been 154 hospitalizations in Gordon County due to COVID-19 since March, up 11 hospitalizations since last week.

WRECK From page 1A

of the Kia Forte included:
Robert Duckett, 26, of Hopkinsville, Ky., who was the driver of the vehicle.

Shaniqwa Duckett, 25, of Columbus, Ga., who was the front seat passenger and was pronounced dead by medical personnel at 11:18 a.m. on Wednesday.

Quaniqwa Duckett, 25, of Columbus, Ga., who was the passenger-side back seat passenger.

Byron Rhodes, 26, of Columbus, Ga., who was the driver-side back seat passenger.

Prince Duckett, age 2, and infant Kye Duckett,

both of Columbus, Ga., were also listed as passengers in the Kia.

According to the GSP, charges are pending against the driver of the Kia Forte.

The next of kin for the deceased has not been notified at this time. GSP SCRT continues to investigate the incident at press time.

CRIME From page 1A

insurance information. The officer noted he smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from Brito Alfaro’s vehicle. The officer requested another unit on the scene to assist, and then asked Brito Alfaro how much marijuana he had in the vehicle. The man told the officer that there was “only a

little,” and that it was located in a bag he had in his passenger seat.

The officer had Brito Alfaro step out of the vehicle and patted him down for weapons. Another officer arrived on scene to assist. The officers looked for the marijuana but it was not where Brito Alfaro claimed it would be. The officer asked the man again where the marijuana was, and Brito Alfaro told the officer that he and a friend had smoked the marijuana.

The officers then searched the vehicle and found

a bag behind a piece of removable plastic that snaps to the center console; the suspected marijuana weighed approximately 1.53 oz. Brito Alfaro’s license was then processed through dispatch, and it came back as a suspended license.

Brito Alfaro was placed in handcuffs and transported to Gordon County Jail, where he has been charged with Felony Possession of Marijuana, Racing/Rapid Acceleration; Driving Too Fast for Conditions/Basic Speed; and Driving While License Suspended.

STATE From page 1A

logistics infrastructure, have further solidified the Peach State as the best place in the nation to live, work, raise a family, and start or grow a business. I thank our partners in both the public and private sectors, our world-class economic development team, and the hardworking Georgians throughout the state who helped us beat our own record with this unprecedented achievement.”

Site Selection magazine is an internationally circulated business publication covering corporate real estate and economic development. The publication’s rankings are 50% based on an index of seven criteria and 50% on the input received from a survey of independent site location experts who are asked to rank states based on their recent project experiences. This year, Georgia shares this top ranking with North Carolina.

“Our readers are keenly interested in our annual state business climate ranking, because they seek locations with the greatest prospects for success,” said Site Selection Editor in Chief Mark Arend. “Georgia’s eighth consecutive Top State Business Climate win reminds them that a Georgia location will contribute to their productivity and profitability long term.”

In a survey published with the rankings, workforce skills were the most important criteria to site selectors for the fifth consecutive year, with workforce development programs coming in second place. Transportation infrastructure, ease of permitting and regulatory procedures, along with state and local taxes completed the top five issues of importance to the process.

President and CEO of Bridgestone Golf Dan Murphy hosted Governor Kemp, alongside First Lady Marty Kemp, and members from both the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) and Site Selection magazine, as they safely celebrated these accolades. The event also highlighted Bridgestone Golf’s continued success in the state as they celebrate their 30th anniversary in Covington. The Georgia Made™ company employs nearly 160 Georgians and has continued to make new investments in research and development. Earlier this week, Bridgestone re-signed Tiger Woods and Bryson DeChambeau to long-term contract extensions, which includes DeChambeau significantly increasing his involvement in Bridgestone’s R&D processes for developing new golf ball technology.

“Georgia’s success is thanks to a long, proven track record of our state doing things the right way,” said GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson. “Whether entering or expanding in Georgia, it’s our goal to give every company we work with the peace of

mind they need to know that they will have a long-term partner in the state. I want to thank Governor Kemp, Speaker David Ralston, Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan, and our General Assembly for the consistent leadership that gives us a competitive edge and the support that helps our entire state find success.”

Site Selection magazine joins Area Development magazine in naming Georgia the top state for business for 2020 – the eighth and seventh consecutive year, respectively, that both publications have awarded Georgia the top ranking. Earlier this week, Governor Kemp also shared that Georgia remains on a record pace for economic development investments and job creation in the state during fiscal year 2021, increasing investments by 56% and jobs by 45% compared to the same timeframe last year.

About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state’s sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a destination for arts and location for film, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development. Visit www.georgia.org for more information.

Church Calendar

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

at 706-409-1981. Senior pastor is Keith Reid.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

- Faith Deliverance Church & Outreach Ministry Welcomes Everyone to an Anointed Church Service at 1320

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

- 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.


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Tallatoona Community Action Partnership
LIHEAP Heating Assistance

Beginning November 2, 2020 at 8:30am, Tallatoona will begin accepting appointments for the LIHEAP Heating Assistance Program for senior households 65 years of age and older.

Beginning December 1, 2020 at 8:30am, the general public may begin scheduling appointments.

Appointments are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. To receive assistance applicants must qualify based on the FY 2021 annual income guidelines. For more information visit www.tallatoonacap.org.

SCHEDULE ONLINE: WWW.TALLATOONACAP.ORG

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, all Tallatoona offices are closed to the public. Appointments will be completed remotely by telephone. All required documents will be accepted via fax, mail, or quick drop off at local county offices. Please DO NOT send documents prior to your appointment.

SCHEDULE BY PHONE: 770-817-4666, Option 2 or 770-773-7730, Option 2 (toll free for 706 area codes)

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