

GORDON Gazette

Weekend, February 27, 2021

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Harbin Clinic holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for new Heart Center in Calhoun

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Celebrating 150 years of healthcare and physician services in Northwest Georgia, Harbin Clinic, Georgia's privately-owned, multi-specialty physician group held a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 25, for its future Harbin Clinic Heart Center Calhoun, which will be located on the Harbin campus in Calhoun at 855 Curtis Parkway.

The existing facility is

receiving an 11,600 square foot addition that will feature a Lab, Imaging Center and Heart Center.

In addition to the established physician team that serves the community, the Heart Center introduced Drs. Andrew McCue and Spencer Maddox, who will both begin seeing patients in the summer of 2021.

"When we think about the Harbin Clinic and its rich history, our roots really started here in Gordon County," said Kenna Stock,

Harbin Clinic CEO. "In 1871, Dr. Wylie Reeder Harbin developed a farm here in Gordon County and raised his family and practiced medicine there. Nothing gives us greater pleasure than to see those roots yield this kind of growth."

Stock said Harbin Clinic is thankful for Dr. Kenneth Howard, and later Dr. Thomas Self, who have planted seeds in Calhoun over the past 23

See HARBIN, page 7A



History made locally as Moss sworn in as first female, and first full-time, Gordon County Juvenile Court judge

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History was made in Gordon County this week when Lorie Moss was sworn in as the first female, and the first full-time, Juvenile Court Judge for the county. Moss takes over the court after the retirement of longtime Judge Lane Bearden, who retired earlier this year after more than 30 years on the bench.

On Thursday, Feb. 25, the ceremony was held virtually for the public via Zoom meeting. Chief Superior Court Judge Scott Smith presided over the ceremony.

"We owe a lot of gratitude to Jim Ledbetter and the Gordon County Board of Commissioners who worked with us making this into a full time position," said Smith. "(A full time juvenile judge) is something that the citizens

and children of this County need and deserve."

"I'm very proud that we have Lorie Moss to be the new judge in Juvenile Court here in Gordon County," said Smith. "She has 23 years of service as a SAG and even more time in service to our circuit as an attorney."

After giving Moss her oath, she discussed what her vision is for the local Juvenile Court.

"I am humbled and

honored to be in this new position," said Moss. "I'm very excited to start working here in the Juvenile Court. I had the privilege of working with the Juvenile Court in Bartow County as a SAG the last 13-and-a-half years, and before that, 10 years here in Gordon County. It is my hope and desire that I can continue the work by those that were before me. It is my desire to get a few new programs here

in Gordon County. I hope to get a Truancy Court started, so that we can have a regular Truancy Calendar in Gordon County. (I'd also like to) have a full time schedule to get the cases moving. I'm really looking forward to this new position."

Moss is married to former Calhoun Police Chief Garry Moss.

Sheriff, GBI continue investigation into shooting death this week on Self Lake Road

GCSO

According to Gordon County Sheriff Mitch Ralston, at about 11:50 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 24, deputy sheriffs and other emergency personnel were dispatched to 1815 Self

Lake Road in response to a report of a man having been found dead. The man's family had initially found his body and called 911.

Sheriff's deputies and detectives located the body of a 53-year-old white/male, subsequently identified as Joseph Ledford, who died after having suffered an apparent gunshot wound. A witness was also located at the scene and was subsequently questioned at the Sheriff's Office.

Agents from the Region 1 Office of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) were summoned to the scene to assist the Sheriff's Office

personnel. Detectives and GBI agents spent several hours at the home collecting physical evidence and interviewing potential witnesses. Investigating officers recovered the weapon believed to have been used in the shooting, and the victim's body was removed by ambulance to be taken to the State Crime Laboratory in Decatur, Georgia to undergo a post-mortem examination.

No fugitives are being sought in connection to this incident at this time, but as the circumstances surrounding this event were questionable, the investigation is still active.



Investigators search the scene of a shooting death that occurred on Wednesday, Feb. 24 on Self Lake Road in Gordon County. (Photo: GCSO)

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CHS 11th grader Carter Johnson has been named CCCA's Student of the Week Spotlight.

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WEEKLY COMMUNITY COVID REPORT: Five new deaths reported in Gordon this week; school systems showing lower numbers

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In COVID-19 reporting by both school systems on Friday, Feb. 26, Gordon County Schools were flat in their number of active cases, a good sign after announcing that the high schools in the county system would stay on a hybrid schedule through the first week of March.

Gordon County Schools active COVID-19 cases among all of their schools remained at 8 active cases in numbers reported on Friday, Feb. 26. Last week, GCS had 8 active cases reported; the week prior, the system

reported 29 active cases.

The decision for the hybrid instruction isn't necessarily based on the active case number, but the quarantine numbers that go along with exposure to the students with active cases. As the active case number rises, the quarantine number rises.

This week, there are a total of 4 staff members (up 2 from last week) and 4 students (down 2 from last week) that are considered active cases of COVID-19 at the system.

The student breakdown of current active COVID-19 cases

at the school system is: 1 student Gordon Central High School, 2 students at Sonorville High School and 1 student at Tolbert Elementary.

Among staff with current active cases of COVID, Gordon County Schools reported 1 staff member at Ashworth Middle School, 2 staff members at Belwood Elementary and 1 staff member at W.L. Swain Elementary.

Following conversations with community leaders and high school administrators concerning additional safeguards for preventing



the spread of COVID-19, Gordon County Schools has made the decision to continue the hybrid schedule for their high schools, Gordon Central and Sonorville, through March 5," said the

system in a statement on Friday, Feb. 19.

Classes at the Gordon County high schools are tentatively scheduled

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Second Front

CraneEater to hold annual Chili Cook-off on March 6

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Cash winners will be named for Judges' Champion and People Choice awards.

After more than 100 years in Gordon County, CraneEater Community Church (what was originally known as Crane Eater Church of God) continues to serve the community through love and mission events.

There will also be a cake/baked goods auction during the event as well.

Coming up on Saturday, March 6, CraneEater will be holding their 11th annual Chili Cook-off. The event begins at 11 a.m. The event is open to the public to compete, and prizes are awarded.

Multi games of Bingo will be held with prizes for each game; the last game payout will be 25 percent of the pot from money raised from Bingo card sales.

The cost to enter a pot of chili in the competition is \$10. To enjoy a bowl or two, the cost is \$5 to eat.

The event is a good time which raises money for a great cause. Proceeds will go to the church's College & Career ministry, which serves those from age 18 to mid-20's.

CraneEater is located at 3168 Red Bud Road in Calhoun



Sheriff's Office: Report of aggravated assault, auto theft leads to pursuit, crash and arrest

GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, AUTO THEFT LEADS TO PURSUIT, CRASH AND ARREST: According to Gordon County Sheriff Mitch Ralston, at about 3 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 23, deputy sheriffs were dispatched to a private residence on Circle Drive in response to a report of an aggravated assault and auto theft.

After interviewing the complainant and witnesses, deputies subsequently saw the stolen vehicle at a service station in Nickelsville. When the deputies attempted to

stop the car, the driver sped away at a high rate of speed and a pursuit ensued.

Deputies were joined in the chase by state troopers. The pursuit led officers into Calhoun, where Calhoun Police deployed stop sticks. The chase ended on Red Bud Road after a trooper forced the car from the roadway. The suspect rammed a State Patrol car, but was then quickly captured by the officers on the scene. The weapon believed to have been used in the assault was recovered from within the stolen car.

The suspect, subsequently identified as Joshua Michael Cummings, pictured right, age 31, of Calhoun, has been



charged with Motor Vehicle Hijacking, Aggravated Assault (multiple counts), and an assortment of firearms related, drug related, and traffic related charges. He remains in the county jail pending judicial

proceedings. Sheriff Ralston thanked our colleagues from the State Patrol and Calhoun Police for all their assistance in capturing this dangerous individual.



AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR FREE VIEWING [HERE](#)

HERITAGE 2021

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

ROOTED IN GORDON COUNTY

GORDON Gazette

WE'VE GOT JOBS!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

GENERAL LABOR: \$15/hr, will do deep cleaning of warehouse-prep work for moving into the warehouse. Removing light fixtures, moving out old shelves, machines, and putting in new. -2-3 week job. For the right people could go temp to perm. 3 openings

MACHINE OPERATOR: 5pm – 3am (machine operating-extrusion/TMO experience)-2 OPENINGS-\$14/hr starting

MACHINE OPERATOR: 7pm – 7am (creeling, TMO/EXTRUSION-doffing experience) – 1 OPENING-\$14/hr starting

ORDER PICKER: \$12/hr, day shift, must send profiles to client and will interview, wants previous experience order picking and able to drive lift.

CUSTODIAN: \$11.09/HR, will do deep cleaning, and some cleaning after events/games to ensure facility stays clean and covid free for all students/faculty/guests 3:30pm to 8:30pm M-F & full time 12:30pm to 8:30pm & hours 11am to 7pm. 3 Positions Open

TIRE HANDLER: \$13 & UP BASED ON JOB/SHIFT-12hr swing shift days—7am-7:30pm, 2nd & 3rd—Tire Handlers 3pm-11:30pm/ 11:00pm-7:30am

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 & 6:30AM TO 4:30PM

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Obituaries

February 27, 2021

Anthony Adkerson

Mr. Anthony Neil Adkerson, age 46, of Adairsville, passed away unexpectedly Feb. 23, 2021 at Redmond Regional Medical Center.



He was born Nov. 29, 1974, son of Merriam Boswell Messick and Larry Wayne Adkerson. He was a faithful Christian and loved the Lord. Neil was the manager at Advanced Auto Parts in Adairsville. He was a Disney fanatic, avid fisherman, die-hard Alabama fan, and enjoyed bird watching. For the most part he was a family man and loved everyone being together and making memories. He will be remembered for his kind heart and giving ways. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jack and Dorothy Boswell and Charles and Lavern Adkerson; and uncle, Danny Adkerson.

He is survived by his children, Channing (Savannah) Gooden, Malachi Gooden, and Mason Gooden; mother, Merriam Messick; father, Larry Adkerson; brothers, Rob and Ashley Adkerson, John and Cristina Adkerson, and Eduard Gee Messick; sisters, Suzy and Steven Witcher and Amy and William McCloud; nieces and nephews, Rob (Sassy) Adkerson, Alex Adair, Bri Adkerson, Bryson Messick, Georgia Adkerson, William McCloud, Jack Witcher, James Anthony McCloud, Bentlee Adair, Ian Adkerson, and Amelia Rose Adkerson.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021, at 2 p.m. at NorthPointe Church, Adairsville with Rev. Jim Pinkard and Rev. Carl Douglass officiating. Interment will follow in Old Macedonia Cemetery, White. Pallbearers include Channing, Malachi, and Mason Gooden, Rob Adkerson, John Adkerson, William McCloud, Steven Witcher, and Rob Adkerson

The family will receive friends Saturday from 12 – 2 p.m. at NorthPointe Church, 30 Orchard Road, Adairsville, Georgia 30103.

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

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Neil's honor at www.shepherdsmen.com or www.heart.org

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of arrangements for Mr. Anthony Neil Adkerson.

Barton Funeral Home

James Allen

Mr. James Hugh Allen, age 83, of Resaca, departed this life Tuesday evening, Feb. 23, 2021, at Rome Health and Rehabilitation. He was born Sept. 6, 1937 in Calhoun, a son of the late Hugh and Vera Mae Freeman Allen. He was also preceded in death by his son, Russell Allen, sister, Deloris Allen Robinson. He was a member of New Town Baptist Church.



He is survived by his wife Helen Rosemary England Allen of the residence; son and daughter-in-law, Randall and Kyle Allen; daughter, Renee Smalley of Calhoun; grandchildren, Chris and Kera Allen of Atlanta, Jennifer and Jason West of Calhoun, Brittany and BJ Littlejohn of Rome, Anthony and Lisa Allen of Detroit, Mich.; great grandchild, Abby Allen; nephew, David and Della Robinson of Calhoun; great nieces and nephews.

Service to celebrate the life of Mr. James Hugh Allen will be held Monday, March 1, 2021 at 3 p.m. from the New Town Baptist Church with Reverend Walter Hare officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 2:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Monday. Interment will follow in the Fain Cemetery.

The family asks if you attend the visitation or funeral service you must wear a mask and social distancing at all times to protect the family and other.

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.

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

Arrangements by, Ponders Calhoun Chapel 675 Jolley Rd Calhoun, GA 30701, 706-625-7577 www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org and www.ogr.org



Dorothy Dobson

Dorothy Mae Shirley Dobson, 78, of Sugar Valley, died Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, at her residence following an extended illness. She was born on Oct. 10, 1942 in Ranger to the late Walter and Lois Wofford Shirley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Virginia Shirley, Ruby Lee Shirley, Sara Elizabeth Shirley, and Bobbie Jean Shirley.

After Dorothy married Bobby on Nov. 14, 1964, she wanted to get a public job after having worked on the family farm, and reluctantly Bobby agreed, three weeks later she began her career at Whitehead Laundry and Cleaners in Dalton and later at the J.W. Bray Company. Prior to her retirement, she was employed by Georgia Textile Corp for many years. She was a member of Sugar Valley Baptist Church where she served in the nursery for more than 40 years.

She is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, Robert "Bobby" Dobson; son, Robert Anthony (Chellie) Dobson; daughters, Mary Ann Hardin and Beverly Dobson Shaw; brothers, Raymond Shirley and Bobby (Gennie) Shirley; sisters, Patricia (Rev. Barry) Brock, Betty John Shirley, Ruth Ann Shirley, and Jean (Bud) Nation; grandchildren, Emily Lockard, Magan Lockard, Sara Lockard, Deborah Campbell, Cassi Cochran, Jordan Carter, Austin Hardin, and Will Hardin; great-grandchildren, Raelynn and Cole Cochran, Cason and Cade Carter, and Aubree and Davis Campbell; nieces, nephews and other relatives also survive.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021, from 11 a.m. until the funeral hour of 2 p.m. at Sugar Valley Baptist Church with Rev. Mitch Phillips and Rev. Barry Brock officiating. Burial will follow in Sugar Valley Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers are Daniel Nation, Shawn Nation, Austin Hardin, Will Hardin, and Chuck Brock. Honorary pallbearers are the Young at Heart Sunday School class.

The Dobson family along with the staff of Max Brannon & Sons Funeral Home remind everyone in attendance to keep in mind the current guidelines and restrictions set forth by the C.D.C. as it pertains to social gatherings including social distancing, gathering limits, and face masks.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Dorothy Mae Shirley Dobson.



Kenneth Dutton

Kenneth Dutton, 78, of Adairsville, died Feb. 24, 2021. He was born on Feb. 9, 1943 in Gordon County to the late Melvin Wyatt and Freddie Lucille Dutton.

He was a member of Glade Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife Margie Dutton; daughters, Gail Dutton, Christine (Jason) Mauldin and Tina (Danny) Watson; grandchildren, Emily Vandyke, Catherine Mauldin, Daniel Watson, and Noah Watson.

The family received friends on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The funeral service followed the visitation at 11 a.m. with Rev. Kyle Coker officiating. Burial followed in Gordon Memorial Gardens. Pallbearers were Jason Mauldin, Danny Watson, Daniel Watson, Seth Vandyke, Ray Tierce, and Hunter Lanning. Honorary pallbearer, Noah Watson.

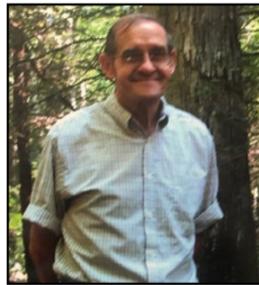
To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, www.maxbrannonandsons.com

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Kenneth Dutton.



Lucindy Hembree

Ms. Lucindy Lynn Redwine Hembree, age 39, of Resaca, departed this life Wednesday evening, Feb. 24, 2021, at her residence. She was born Feb. 4, 1982 in Dalton. She was a graduate of Southeast High School. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Berry Jr. and Doris Wheat, Tom and Vary Redwine, uncles, Ralph Redwine, Terry Wheat, aunts, Dorothy Wheat,



Tot Redwine Massingill.

She is survived by her companion, Wayne Crooke of the residence; daughter, Brittney Hembree of Resaca; parents, Bill and Audrey Wheat of Sugar Valley; aunts and uncles, Syble Brady, Junior Redwine of Dalton, Nancy Kirby, Patricia Muse of Resaca, Mike Wheat of Morgan, Chuck Wheat of Childersburg, Ala., Danny Wheat; several cousins.

Service to celebrate the life of Ms. Lucindy Lynn Redwine Hembree will be held Sunday Feb. 28, 2021 at 2 p.m. from the Calvary Baptist Church in Sugar Valley with Donny Matilla, John Hicks, and Randy Muse officiating. Interment will be in the Redwine Cove Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the church after 1 p.m. on Saturday until the service on Sunday.

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 Calhoun Chapel 675 Jolly Rd Calhoun GA 30701

www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org and



www.ogr.org

Sheila McCullough

Sheila Marie McCullough, 71, of Calhoun, died Feb. 25, 2021. She was born on June 3, 1949 in Randolph, Vt. to James Delbert McCullough and Elizabeth Senay Cornell McCullough



She is survived by her children, Anne-Marie White (Bryant) and Jimmy Randall (Carrie); grandchildren, Stephen Hughey and Tanya Pains; great grandchildren, Emma Pains and Ridge Pains; grandchildren by love, Haley White, Morgan White, Hunter White, Anna Bramblett, and Conner Bramblett; brothers and sisters, Stephen McCullough, Kirk McCullough, Tony McCullough, Janice Cornell Huntley, and Basil McCullough; special friends, Nancy Hendricks and Martha Hooper; father of her children, Barry Randall.

To honor her wishes her body was cremated and the family will have a memorial gathering on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021 from 12 – 2 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Sheila Marie McCullough.



Edna Padgett

Edna Mae Seritt Padgett, age 73, of Resaca, passed away on Monday, Feb. 22, 2021 at her residence.

Edna was born on Jan. 27, 1948 in Gordon County, daughter of the late Dewitt Seritt and Lola Brumlow Seritt. In addition to her parents, Edna was also preceded in death by: her husband, Phillip Wayne Padgett; brother, Roy Seritt; and sister, Barbara Mullins.

Prior to her retirement, Edna worked as director of the Calhoun Pregnancy Center. She was a member of Salem Baptist Church.

Edna is survived by: three sons, Phil Padgett, Daniel Padgett, and David Padgett; daughter, Shannon Patterson; and four grandchildren, Jessica Padgett, Elijah Padgett, Zeke Padgett, and Weslynn Barnes.

Funeral Services were conducted on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Salem Baptist Church with Reverend Drew Elrod officiating. Interment followed in Gordon Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers serving were: Mike Miller, Tim Frix, Bryson Frix, Chris Hales, and Terry Mills.

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

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Edna Mae Seritt Padgett.



Help for the Hurting

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

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

706-235- 3164 or 706-346-5678.

-Families Anonymous is a 12-step program, for those concerned about drug abuse and behavior problems of a relative or friend. Completely anonymous, non professional, and non religious. No dues, no fees. Not connected with any hospital or agency. Located on Red Bud Road in plaza below Fitness

First, next to Calhoun Counseling Center (Dr. Bledsoe's office). Meeting every Thursday 7 - 8 p.m. Call 770-548-7849 for more information.

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

Education

Gordon Central receives AP honors from State

Gordon County Schools



Gordon Central High School has been named a 2021 AP Challenge School, which is awarded to schools with enrollments of 900 or fewer students and students testing in English, math, science, and social studies and a 2021 AP Access and Support School for schools with at least 30 percent of AP exams taken by students who identified themselves as African-American and/or Hispanic and 30 percent of all AP exams earning scores of 3 or higher.

The Georgia Department of Education announced this week that Georgia's public-school class of 2020 has the 17th-highest Advanced Placement (AP) pass rate in the nation, according to data released by the College Board today.

Georgia's AP pass rate, and its rank among other states, stayed the same from the class of 2019 to the class of 2020 – an encouraging indicator given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the latter group of students.

"I'm so proud of the class of 2020 for their continued accomplishments, and extremely pleased to see that Georgia's students maintained their strong performance on AP exams even given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in their final year," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. "In a challenging time for schools and students, this is good news as we continue our work to expand advanced learning opportunities to all students."

The percentage of students earning a 3 or higher on an AP exam was 23.2 percent for Georgia's class of 2020, as it was for the class of 2019. Georgia students recorded stronger AP performance than most Southern states, scoring higher than their peers

in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

The percentage of low-income AP test-takers who scored 3 or higher increased in Georgia for the second year in a row, rising from 43.7 percent for the class of 2019 to 49.4 percent for the class of 2020. This figure is based on the performance of students who used an AP exam fee reduction, which states look to as a marker of equitable participation for low-income students.

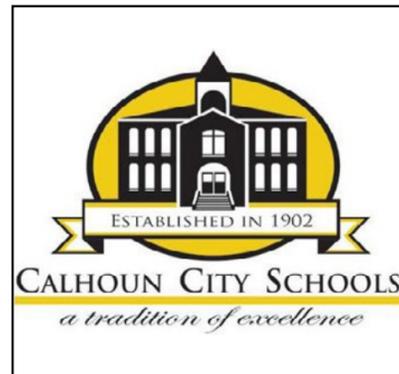
Overall, 38.5 percent of Georgia's class of 2020 took an AP exam while in high school. This is a slight decrease compared to the class of 2019 – of those students, 40.5 percent took at least one AP exam. The national participation rate dropped slightly as well, from 39.9 to 38.3 percent.

Additionally, Superintendent Woods named the 2021 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools.

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to this year's AP Honor Schools," Superintendent Woods said. "I commend them for their hard work to build strong Advanced Placement programs and, as a result, provide high-quality opportunities for Georgia students."

Calhoun High named AP Honor School as an AP STEM School

Calhoun City Schools



Calhoun High School named AP Honor School as an AP STEM School, meaning that CHS has a minimum of five students testing in at least four AP STEM courses. As Calhoun continues to maintain a robust Advanced Placement program, students continue to excel in earning college credit while being exposed to highly rigorous academic content. Calhoun High School is extremely proud of all of its AP students who represent the standard of excellence that has become the hallmark of Calhoun City Schools.

Wiley named Young Georgia Author's Writing Competition District Winner for 2nd Grade

Tolbert Elementary School



Tolbert Elementary is proud to announce Avery Wiley as the county level Young Georgia Author's Writing Competition winner for second grade. This is a very prestigious writing competition that encourages young writers to develop their writing skills.

Avery will now move to the RESA level, which is the next competition level. Congratulations and Good Luck, Avery!

CPS, CES 2020-2021 Young Georgia Authors Contest Winners announced



Calhoun City Schools

Each year, teachers at Calhoun Primary and Elementary School submit one piece of student writing for the annual Young Georgia Authors competition. From these submissions, a winner is chosen for each grade level to advance to the next level of competition where their writing will be judged among submissions from other school districts at Regional Education Service Agency (RESA). The writing that is chosen as the RESA winner will then advance to the state level of the Young Georgia Authors competition. The purpose of

the Young Georgia Authors (YGA) writing competition is to encourage students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, to provide a context to celebrate their writing successes, and to recognize student achievement in arts and academics. We are very proud of all our young writers and proudly recognize their work as they uphold our Calhoun City Schools standard of excellence.

Pictured are grade level winners(L-R): Violet Coombe (2nd grade), Kathryn Land (5th grade), Joseph Battles Errickson (3rd Grade), Madelyn Martinez (1st grade), Maeva Maynard (Kindergarten), Marley Hall (4th grade) not pictured



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Family Medicine

Jennifer Smith,
FNP-C
Family Medicine

Justin Hare, DO
Neurosurgery and
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CCCA Student of the Week Spotlight: Feb. 15-19, 2021

Calhoun City Schools

Calhoun High School 11th grader, Carter Johnson, is the Calhoun College and Career Academy (CCCA) Student of the Week for February 15-19, 2021. Carter Johnson is in his third year of the audio, video, technology, and film production pathway (AVTF). Carter has many roles in video production including being the Director of Stadium Productions at Phil Reeve Stadium on Football Friday nights. He also produces the weekly YouTube production of the Clay Stephenson Show during football season and leads the production crew for the Calhoun High School YouTube Morning Announcements. Carter's audio, video, technology and film production teacher, Bill Long, nominated Carter stating, "He is an invaluable member of the production teams, as well as making significant contributions in AVTF class."



Carter chose the audio, video, technology, and film production pathway at the CCCA, because he enjoys being a part of the production teams both as a team leader and as a member of the crew. Carter enjoys the production process as well as the joy of completing a quality broadcast! Carter plans to pursue a degree in broadcast production at a college or university in Georgia. Carter aspires to have a career in stadium and event venue productions.



When asked about his thoughts on the audio, video, technology, and film production pathway at CCCA, Carter stated, "When you see a football game you do not see behind the scenes work that goes into the production of a Friday night football game. I wanted to understand how the whole sports production process runs beginning

to end. This class has given me an understanding of all the work that goes into live productions from beginning to end."

Congratulations to Carter Johnson, CCCA Student of the Week for February 15-19, 2021.

BES recognizes February Character Award winners



Congratulations to Belwood Elementary's February Character Award winners for displaying kindness. Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. Thanks for seeing the value in others!

www.gordongazettega.com



CES Hosts Annual Spelling Bee

Calhoun Elementary School conducted their annual Spelling Bee on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. Jacob Bateman emerged as the Spelling Bee champion and Anthony Alvarez finished in 2nd place. Other participants included Whit Queen, Addie Grace Hoblitzell, Dilan Lopez, Marley Roach, Mallie Reece, Jacob Bateman, Kathryn Land, Ayden Lampe, Lauren Daniel, Joey Errickson, Mac Howard, Antonio Wade, Harmony Garmon, Ransom Couch, Abby Anderson, Mohamed Herrek, Atticus Stephens, Jillian Bennett, Carly Wells, Anthony Alvarez, and Tanisha Venkatesu. All students did an excellent job, and we are very proud of them!

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

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

Class Tuesday 10 a.m.

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

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

and Sunday night at 6 p.m.

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

-Faith Deliverance Ministry and Outreach with Evelyn M. Adams,

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

-Pleasant Valley Baptist Church is a Bible believing & teaching church located in the Red Bud Community. Pastor Keith Gibson and the

congregation invite you to come and worship with us at 3882 Red Bud Rd., Calhoun. Opportunities for worship: Bible Study for all ages 10 a.m., Children's Church up to 5th grade 11a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Wednesday night service times Prayer Bible Study and Student Ministries 7 p.m. 706-624-0198. Find us on Facebook or email [pvbcalhoun@gmail.com](mailto:pvbccalhoun@gmail.com)

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CAPITOL BEAT NEWS: School sports bills draw backlash from Georgia transgender advocates

BEAU EVANS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A trio of bills aimed at separating Georgia school sports teams between children assigned male or female at birth have cropped up in the General Assembly, sparking backlash from LGBTQ advocates who view the measures as discriminatory toward transgender persons.

One measure by state Rep. Philip Singleton, R-Sharpsburg, has taken the brunt of the focus for its proposal to ban “biological boys” from playing on school sports teams with “biological girls,” as well as permit lawsuits against schools that defy splitting up different-gendered student athletes.

Another bill, by state Rep. Rick Jasperse, R-Jasper, would require similar school-sports separations as Singleton’s measure, likewise legally defining “gender” as “a person’s biological sex at birth” in state law.

It would also require a panel of three doctors to review information on a “student’s reproductive organs, genetic makeup and other medically relevant factors” if parents seek to waive having their kids comply with the male-female sports rules.

A third measure filed Thursday by state Sen. Marty Harbin, R-Tyrone, would also separate

high school athletes based on gender, defined as “biological sex.” It would further require Georgia public colleges and universities to do the same by making “all determinations based on sex and not on gender.”

LGBTQ advocates have long challenged moves to conflate gender with sex, citing research that disputes equating a person’s sexual identity with their sex organs. They argue Singleton’s bill, the only one of the three to face a General Assembly hearing so far, could ostracize Georgia’s transgender students.

“We know from our country’s history that separate but equal is never equal,” said Heidi Miracle, parent of a transgender daughter and the community engagement director for the LGBTQ advocacy nonprofit PFLAG’s Woodstock chapter. “Transgender youth need to fit in, to be accepted,” Miracle said at a recent hearing on Singleton’s bill. “To force them to be on a team with a gender identity that does not match their own and against their will would be devastating.”

Singleton, who introduced a similar measure last year, has dismissed criticism that his bill targets transgender youths in Georgia, arguing its intent is to promote fairness in female high-

school sports while stressing that “biological differences at birth” give male athletes a competitive advantage.

“This bill is not about transgender athletes,” Singleton said. “This bill is about protecting girls’ sports. There’s noise that’s trying to detract from that.... We’re trying to prevent people from being hurt in Georgia.”

Opponents of Singleton’s bill have also warned it could prompt popular sporting events like the NCAA basketball tournament and socially conscious business groups to abandon Georgia, threatening economic damage similar to what North Carolina faced for passing a bill to restrict bathroom use according to gender in 2016.

“When LGBTQ people don’t feel welcome at work or in the community, they’re less likely to stay,” said Chris Lugo, executive director of OUT Georgia Business Alliance. “Employee turnover is a drag on our state economy and business competitiveness.”

Supporters have rallied behind Singleton’s measure, arguing male athletes have biological advantages over female athletes and should not be allowed to potentially create unfair playing fields. Harbin’s bill, likewise, is co-sponsored by more than half of the state Senate’s Republican



members.

“This is an actual pro-women legislation,” Rep. Sheri Gilligan, R-Cumming, said about Singleton’s bill. “And there is nothing discriminatory about laws that protect equal opportunities for females and female athletes.”

Another measure, sponsored by Rep. Ginny Ehrhart, R-Marietta, would forbid Georgia doctors from performing sex-reassignment surgeries on anyone younger than 18, with felony charges resulting from ignoring the proposed ban.

The Georgia Republican-backed bills on sex and gender follow President Joe Biden’s Jan. 20 order to boost federal protections

against gender identity and sexual orientation discrimination, aiming to relieve kids from “worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room or school sports.”

Biden’s order was hailed by LGBTQ advocacy groups including the Human Rights Campaign, which said the protections “will have a real and practical impact on the day-to-day lives of the approximately 11 million LGBTQ adults and millions more LGBTQ youth in the United States.”

Other groups have panned Biden’s order, calling it a step too far that could harm female athletes. The nonprofit

Independent Women’s Voice, which backs Singleton’s bill, said the order “jeopardizes the future of female sports and may even place girls and women in physical danger.”

Singleton’s bill and others also come as the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Equality Act on Thursday, which would bolster protections against gender identity and sexual orientation discrimination in jobs, housing and public areas like restaurants.

All six of Georgia’s Democratic U.S. House members voted in favor of the Equality Act. All eight Republicans voted against it. The measure now heads to the U.S. Senate.

COVID-19 One Year Later: Americans still stepping up to address urgent needs of families

AMERICAN RED CROSS

(ATLANTA, Feb. 26, 2021) — Not only is March American Red Cross Month, but it also marks one year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Both occasions invite us to celebrate the best of humanity, recognizing all who step up to help others reeling from the coronavirus and record-breaking disasters.

In fact, Americans experienced more billion-dollar disasters in 2020 than any other year on record and for many impacted by them, the pandemic compounded trauma and financial strain. Struggling families needed help quickly and faced more hurdles to recovery, with increased anxiety contributing to the health and mental health needs.

“The past year has been overwhelming for many in our community, and yet through it all, people are caring for one another,” said Jennifer Pipa CEO of the Red Cross of Georgia. “Our volunteers have adapted to the new norm of the current pandemic and have provided help when help couldn’t wait in emergencies, responding both virtually and in person. Red Cross Month in March is special for us as we honor this humanitarian spirit and ask that you join us by donating, giving blood, volunteering, or taking a class to learn lifesaving skills.”

RED CROSS MONTH CELEBRATED ACROSS GEORGIA

In honor of Red Cross Month, Governor Brian Kemp signed a proclamation declaring March as

American Red Cross Month across the state. This week, Red Cross Month was also recognized at the Georgia State Capitol with resolution presentations from both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Many other counties and cities across the state will also help the Red Cross celebrate the coming month and its volunteers by issuing local proclamations and resolutions.

RED CROSS MONTH HONORS VOLUNTEERS LIKE DAVE HENDRIX

For nearly 80 years, U.S. presidents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to recognize people giving back through its lifesaving mission — which is powered by more than 90% volunteers.

They include local volunteers like Dave Hendrix, an ordained Lutheran Pastor who served for 36 years and worked as a hospital chaplain before joining the Red Cross of Georgia 10 years ago. He now serves as a Disaster Spiritual Care Lead across the region to provide emotional support, psychological first aid, and referrals to community assistance for families coping with disasters and home fire fatalities -- all too common in Georgia.

Home fires represented 92% of the emergencies the Red Cross responded to across the state last year and tragically, officials report that 96 of our neighbors perished from a home fire.

For families who lost a loved one, the Red Cross and its Disaster Action Team volunteers were there to help with immediate emergency needs and assist with mental health, spiritual care, and disaster health services to

help them cope.

Throughout the current pandemic, Red Cross mental and spiritual care volunteers like Hendrix remain on call around the clock and are ready to assist families with the psychological trauma the loss of a loved one can bring.

Last fall, he received one of his most challenging calls since volunteering for the Red Cross. The call came in around 3:30 a.m. from a fellow volunteer at the scene of a deadly home fire.

A woman was able to escape, with her dog, the grips of a fire that ravaged her home, thinking her husband was right behind her, only to realize he didn’t make it out. “She was extremely hysterical,” recalls Hendrix.

“What she needed most was someone to feel her grief and listen to her in that moment,” Hendrix describes his volunteer role as a ministry of presence. “It’s being there with a person, sharing their feeling, and letting them know that you’re there for them and that you care,” he said.

After a 45-minute conversation, he was able to calm some of the woman’s distress. Following the call and the traumatic event, he and other members of the Red Cross Disaster Action Team were on hand to help her take her first steps toward recovery.

In Georgia and across the country, trained American Red Cross disaster mental health and spiritual care volunteers had more than 53,000 conversations to provide emotional support to people in 2020.

A GROWING DESIRE TO GIVE BACK

A 2020 study on a rise in volunteer experiences

added to LinkedIn profiles shows that more people want to help others during this unprecedented time. Last year, more than 70,000 people across the country — and over 2,600 Georgians — became new Red Cross volunteers largely to support urgent disaster and essential blood donation needs. In addition, thousands of COVID-19 survivors — many new to blood donation — rolled up a sleeve to give convalescent plasma and help patients battling COVID-19.

HOW TO HELP

You can help ensure

that families don’t face emergencies alone — especially during a pandemic:

DONATE: Support our Disaster Relief efforts at redcross.org/GivingDay. A gift of any size makes a difference to provide shelter, food, relief items, emotional support, and other assistance. Your donation will be part of our annual Giving Day on March 24 to aid families in need across the country.

VOLUNTEER: Visit redcross.org/VolunteerToday for most-needed positions and local opportunities.

GIVE BLOOD: If you’re healthy and feeling

well, make an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org. Your donation can make a lifesaving difference for a patient in need. As a thank, you, those who come to give blood, platelets, or plasma on March 15-26 will receive a Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

LEARN LIFESAVING SKILLS: Take a class in skills like CPR and first aid to help in an emergency at redcross.org/TakeAClass. Online options include our Psychological First Aid for COVID-19 course, which covers how to manage stress and support yourself and others.

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— Kevan Carpenter, Commercial Floor Resources

MEMBER FDIC



HARBIN

From page 1A

years that have allowed for the growth of Harbin in the community.

"We bought this property always with our eye on growth, and so it is with great excitement that we are going to break ground today," said Stock.

Dr. Chris Merritt, Cardiology Department Chair for Harbin Clinic, spoke exclusively on what the expansion will provide to the community.

"We've been coming to Calhoun intermittently for the last nine - 10 years," said Dr. Merritt. "We are very excited to break ground on the expansion. Our organization started the region's first comprehensive cardiovascular programs in the 1980's; we brought in innovative and advanced cardiovascular techniques to our communities. We continue to invest in healthcare in the region with

the establishment of the new Calhoun Heart Center."

Merritt said that the Calhoun facility will offer general cardiology, interventional cardiology, sports cardiology, imaging, diagnostic techniques, consultative cardiology, cardio oncology, echocardiograms, electrophysiology and stress testing.

"For years, Gordon County residents have benefited from access to expert heart care close to home from Harbin Clinic in Calhoun. In addition to expanded clinical space and state-of-the-art equipment for enhanced diagnostics, Harbin Clinic continues to commit itself to serving Gordon County's growing needs. These investments reflect Harbin Clinic's existing Cardiology program's success and the organization's dedication to providing complete, accessible heart care for all in Northwest Georgia," said Harbin Clinic in a statement.

"Throughout our history, Harbin Clinic has served as a wellspring of innovation, creativity, and

technological advances," said Stock. "I am proud to announce that with the expansion of our new services in Northwest Georgia, we look forward to continuing to provide our patients and communities with high-quality and best-in-class care that exceeds their expectations."

Harbin Clinic is the largest privately owned, multi-specialty physician group in Georgia, comprised of 240 medical professionals representing 40 different medical specialties and services. While Harbin Clinic began in Rome, Georgia, there are now 21 Harbin Clinic practices located in Acworth, Adairsville, Armuchee, Calhoun, Cartersville, Cedartown, Rome, and Summerville. Harbin Clinic cares for a patient population of approximately 600,000 people in Georgia and Alabama. More than 1,000 patients take advantage of our services each day.

COVID

From page 1A

to resume to full-time in-person instruction on March 8.

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 reported new cases of COVID-19 Friday, Feb. 19 were pretty flat, at 9 new cases, up 2 new cases from last week. There were 5 new cases among students (1 at Calhoun Primary, 1 at Calhoun Elementary, 1 at Calhoun Middle and 2 at Calhoun High), and 4 new cases among staff members (1 at Calhoun Primary, 1 at Calhoun Elementary, 1 at Calhoun Middle and 1 at Calhoun High).

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.calhounschoools.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 COVID19 cases in Calhoun-Gordon County lowered slightly this week, with 226 new cases reported in the community since last Saturday, but deaths from the virus were up slightly with 5 additional deaths contributed to the virus reported this week. Last week, 254 new cases were reported in the community.

At press time Saturday morning, Feb. 20, 2021, Gordon County has had 6,017 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began -up 226 cases since the same time last week. COVID-19 related deaths now stand at 92, up 5 deaths from last week.

The Department of Public Health also reports 10 probable deaths from COVID. There have been 293 hospitalizations in Gordon County due to COVID-19 since March, up 12 hospitalizations since last week.

The COVID-19 statistics for Gordon's neighboring counties since the beginning of the pandemic as of Saturday morning are:

-Bartow County...10,136 cases, 182 deaths, 15 probable deaths and 722 hospitalizations;

-Floyd County... 9,297 cases, 163 deaths, 33 probable deaths and 789 hospitalizations;

-Whitfield County...14,140 cases, 204 deaths, 10 probable deaths and 690 hospitalizations.

The State of Georgia this week has had 814,820 cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began, with 15,007 deaths, 2,212 probable deaths and 55,778 hospitalizations.

County EMA Director Courtney Taylor reminds the public to continue to wash hands often, cover your cough and practice social distancing.

For further information and numbers such as demographics for Georgia and totals all counties please visit: <https://dph.georgia.gov/>

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