

GORDON Gazette

@gordongazette
@gordongazette
@gazettegordon

Weekend, October 3, 2020

www.gordongazettega.com

Volume 2, No. 103

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

WEEKLY UPDATE: COVID-19 cases remain low at both school systems this week

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

COVID-19 cases remain low at the local school systems this week, according to the numbers reported on Friday, Oct. 2.

According to reports from both Calhoun City Schools and Gordon County Schools that were published Friday, the numbers provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health show a total of 13 total cases

between both school systems; last week the total number of cases across both systems was 12.

Calhoun City Schools' new cases of COVID-19 this week remained at 2 total new cases. There was 1 student at CHS and 1 staff member at CES to test positive this week.

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>

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>

This week's active cases at Gordon County Schools totaled 11 system-wide, up one from last week. There are 7 staff members that are actively positive (3 at Red Bud Middle School, 2 at Red Bud Elementary School and 2 at Sonorville Elementary School) and 4 students

See **SCHOOLS**, page 7A

COVID-19 REPORTING

Calhoun City Schools
ESTABLISHED IN 1902
a tradition of excellence

Gordon County Schools
rigor · relevance · relationships · results

CHS names Homecoming Queen, King Friday night



STAFF REPORTS

Congratulations to Calhoun High School senior Ashlyn Brzozoski who was named 2020 Homecoming Queen during halftime festivities on Hal Lamb Field at Phil Reeve Stadium tonight. Senior Andrew Barber was named Homecoming King. (PHOTO: Andy Baxter Photography)

A Beautiful Tribute: Marsha McDaniel Memorial Fund established

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Longtime businessman and REALTOR Flipper McDaniel has established the Marsha McDaniel Memorial Fund with the AdventHealth Gordon Foundation in memory of his wife, Marsha McDaniel, herself a longtime businesswoman who had managed the AdventHealth Gordon gift shop for the past decade before her untimely death in August of this year due to complications from COVID-19.

"The girls, our family and I are so excited to announce that we have set up a memorial fund for Marsha through AdventHealth Gordon," said Flipper McDaniel in a statement on social media. "This fund will allow us to continue to give back to our community just as Marsha did and would want us to

continue to do!"

McDaniel said that in addition to the memorial fund, the hospital will be naming the gift shop in Marsha's honor.

"She loved her job and her hospital family. We are thrilled her memory will live on in a place that was so special to her," said McDaniel.

In announcing the memorial fund, AdventHealth Gordon said, "Marsha Smithey McDaniel was a loving wife and mother, a nurturing colleague and friend, a passionate volunteer and creative spirit who left grace and beauty everywhere she went."

The AdventHealth Gordon Foundation is a local community board that strives to bring the gifts of Hope, Health and Healing to the community. The foundation has helped fund building projects like the

Marsha McDaniel Memorial Fund

Marsha Smithey McDaniel was a loving wife and mother, a nurturing colleague and friend, a passionate volunteer and creative spirit who left grace and beauty everywhere she went. Marsha managed the AdventHealth Gordon gift shop from 2009 to 2020. She passed away on August 13, 2020, due to complications from COVID-19.

Marsha's husband, Flipper McDaniel, has established the Marsha McDaniel Memorial Fund with the AdventHealth Gordon Foundation, a local community board that Flipper has served on since 2006. The fund will be used for indigent care, nursing scholarships and to help others when they need it most. The fund will be held under the foundation, and Flipper will serve as the custodian of the account.

Donations for the Marsha McDaniel Memorial Fund will be accepted by the AdventHealth Gordon Foundation. Please make check payable to: AdventHealth Gordon Foundation
Subject: Marsha McDaniel Memorial
PO Box 304
Calhoun, GA 30703

A permanent plaque will be placed outside the gift shop to memorialize Marsha and provide information about the fund. If you have any questions, please call Wendy Taylor at 706-602-7800 ext. 238.

Harris Radiation Therapy Center, which helps care for people with cancer, and the CREATION Life Wellness Walk, a peaceful space where people can relax and reflect. Flipper McDaniel has served on the Foundation board since 2006.

The Marsha McDaniel Memorial Fund will be used for indigent care, nursing scholarships and to help others when they need it most. The fund will be

held under the foundation and Flipper McDaniel will serve as the custodian of the account.

Donations for the Marsha McDaniel Memorial Fund will be accepted by the AdventHealth Gordon Foundation by making a check payable to:

AdventHealth Gordon Foundation
Subject: Marsha McDaniel Memorial
PO Box 304
Calhoun, Ga. 30701

Index

Second Front.....2A
Obituaries.....3A
Health.....5A
Church Calendar.....7A
Education.....8A

Inside this issue:
SECOND FRONT 2A



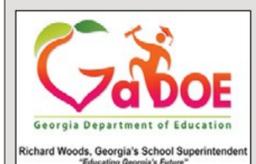
CFD responds to early morning apartment fire on Saturday.

HEALTH 6A



Georgia hospitals report rise in trauma cases.

EDUCATION 9A



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Survey available for public comment on EOC course weight proposals

Pullen named Calhoun City Schools Teacher of the Year for 2021-2022

STAFF REPORTS

Congratulations to Ms. Dena Pullen, pictured with Calhoun City Schools Superintendent Dr. Michele Taylor, for being named System Teacher of the Year for 2021-2022.

Pullen is currently in her 18th year in the education profession where she teaches 1st grade at Calhoun Primary School. She began her teaching career at Red Bud Elementary in Gordon County and moved to Calhoun Primary in 2010.

Pullen has taught kindergarten and 1st grade and she holds a math and English language learner endorsement.

Pullen has one son, Gunner, who is in the 5th grade at CES, and two daughters, Marlee, a junior at CHS, and Bailee, who graduated from CHS in 2019. Pullen is described as a positive influence, passionate, driven and someone that welcomes everyone she meets. She is known for building positive relationships and enjoys when her students come back to visit her. One of her peers

stated, "Dena is an outstanding educator. She is always prepared and ready for all of her students. She is very caring and captures the hearts of all the students in her classroom."

The other nominees for this year's Teacher of the Year included Calhoun Elementary School's Jennifer Holley, Calhoun Middle School's Skylar Benham and Calhoun High School's Dedra Rasbury

Calhoun City Schools would like to thank Teacher of the Year sponsor, First Bank of Calhoun.



DFCS accepting sponsors for annual Secret Santa program for foster children

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Help Gordon County Department of Family and Children Services make this Christmas special for the boys and girls in foster care. The local DFCS is looking for individuals, groups, churches and businesses to help provide these children in need with the best Christmas they can have. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, contact Jody Sanderson at the email or number below and request a foster child's Christmas List.

Email: jody.sanderson@dhs.ga.gov
Phone: 706-802-2995

Last year, 236 children comprised of around 180 of Gordon County's foster children and more than 50 children identified as "in need" were served during the Gordon County Department of Family and Children Services' Secret Santa program.

"This community is truly a blessing," said DFCS Jody Sanderson, who organizes the program each year. "It's touching to know that there's this much love

and support from the Calhoun-Gordon County community for our foster children; it gives us hope for the future to know that our community can come together and help those that are most in need."

Also, as always, there is a great need for foster parents in Gordon County, and anyone who feels a calling to become a foster parent can visit the Foster Georgia website or call the 800 number to learn how to become a foster parent, changing lives of the children of Calhoun-Gordon County most in need.



Second Front

GNTC Foundation launches year-end fundraising campaign

GEORGIA NORTHWESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

As COVID-19 continues to impact lives across the state, the Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) Foundation is working to help residents of the northwest Georgia region by launching a fundraising campaign, which will run from Oct. 1 – Dec. 1.

The campaign's goal is to raise \$20,000 for student scholarship support. GNTC students from the college's nine-county service area can apply for GNTC Foundation scholarships.

According to Lauretta Hannon, GNTC director of Institutional

Advancement, the GNTC Foundation has doubled its support for students in 2020, but will need more donations to help students moving forward. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of the fundraising event the GNTC Foundation was planning for this fall and the year-end campaign is taking its place.

"A contribution of any size will help GNTC make a real impact in the life of a student," said GNTC President Dr. Heidi Popham. "Participation from donors in this campaign will ensure that educational dreams remain on track."

While student financial hardships have

intensified, business and industry still need work-ready employees who can adapt to an ever-changing economic environment, Hannon added. When GNTC students succeed, business and industry succeeds.

As of October 1, the GNTC Foundation has awarded nearly \$55,000 in student scholarships and financial assistance. The GNTC Foundation has also connected individual donors to GNTC students like Christina Bullock, first runner-up for the top technical college student in the State of Georgia. The Adult Echocardiography student had an anonymous donor from

Florida reach out through the GNTC Foundation and pay for six-months of her mortgage.

The GNTC Foundation offers scholarships and financial assistance to eligible students on the GNTC website. Student financial assistance can help with tuition, books, supplies, fees, licensure exams and other needs. For more information on donating to the GNTC Foundation, please contact Michelle Beatson, Foundation administrator, at 706-802-5850 or visit the Foundation's donation page.

The GNTC Foundation Trustees are Valerie Brown, Whitfield County; Linda Case,

Dade County; Jay LeGrande, Polk County; Gary McConnell, Chattooga County; Sherrie Patterson, Murray County; Damon Raines, Walker County; Becky Redd, Gordon County; Mitch Sanford, Whitfield County; Jay Still, Whitfield County; Wil Stiles, Catoosa County; Scott Tucker, Floyd County; Carolyn Walker, Walker County; and Doris White, Walker County.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College provides quality workforce education to the citizens of Northwest Georgia. Students have the opportunity to earn an associate degree, diploma, or a certificate

in business, health, industrial, or public service career paths. This past year, 12,454 people benefited from GNTC's credit and noncredit programs. With an annual credit enrollment of 7,730 students, GNTC is the largest college in Northwest Georgia. GNTC has an additional enrollment of 4,724 people through adult education, continuing education, business and industry training, and Georgia Quick Start. For more information about GNTC, visit us at www.GNTC.edu. GNTC is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia and an Equal Opportunity Institution.

VAC's annual Operation Happy Christmas open for applicants

STAFF REPORTS

Applications for the Voluntary Action Center's Operation Happy Christmas program are being accepted beginning Thursday, Oct. 1 through Wednesday, Nov. 25.

The annual program provides toys and clothing to children from low-income families. In 2019, the VAC provided toys and clothing to 799 children!

Through a longstanding partnership with AdventHealth EMS, the VAC is able to provide not only toys and clothing to children, but each family

receives a Christmas meal box and gift certificate to a local grocery store.

To qualify, parents/guardians must be at or below 140% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines and complete one class offered from September-November.

Applications for Christmas assistance are now available. You can apply online at voluntaryactioncenter.org under the "What We Do" tab and scroll down to "Operation Happy Christmas," or you can pick up a paper application in the VAC office (343 South Wall

Street, Calhoun).

Applications are due by Nov. 25 and they will not be accepted afterwards.

Serving as the heart of service in Gordon County, the VAC strives to provide volunteer opportunities that offer a wide variety of emergency resources to our neighbors in need. All donations to the VAC stay in Gordon County, to help our Neighbors in Need. The VAC is funded by Thrift Store Sales, United Way Allocations, grants, and donations. All contributions to the VAC support their Hunger and Homeless Prevention Programs.

VAC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Applications accepted October 1-November 25. Must submit all information with the application.

Solicitud aceptada del 1 de octubre al 25 de noviembre. Debe enviar toda la información con la solicitud.

REQUESTS SUBMITTED AFTER NOVEMBER 25 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!
¡NO SE ACEPTARÁN SOLICITUDES ENVIADAS DESPUÉS DEL 25 DE NOVIEMBRE!

CFD responds to apartment fire early Saturday morning

STAFF REPORTS

Just after midnight on Saturday, Sept. 26, Calhoun Fire responded to an apartment fire at 151 North Dale Avenue in Calhoun.

According to the incident report, the call came in around 12:30 a.m. on Saturday from neighbors who smelled smoke and called 911. The tenants were out of town. Firefighters

made entry into the back door at the kitchen area of the apartment. There was a bowl of fruit sitting on top of the stove that had been on fire and had minor flame spread to a microwave on the counter next to the stove, the cabinets above and the ceiling. The only flames visible when firefighters entered were at the microwave, and they

were extinguished quickly and the bowl carried outside. The report notes that there was a dog confined to the kitchen, but was not injured during the incident; the dog was turned over to the tenant's brother.

Assistant Chief Terry Mills was called to the scene to investigate; and the fire is still under investigation at press time.

Are you on the right track?

REACH
Your Target
Market
GROW
Your Business
INCREASE
Brand
Awareness

Economically priced packages to fit any budget.

Now is the time to plan your holiday advertising.

GORDON Gazette

Call today!
Tracy Gazaway
678.767.1475

2 Work Staffing
www.2workstaff.com

WE'VE GOT JOBS!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Off Bearing Driver, Car Cleaner, Dehack Operator:** Day shift, \$13-\$13.50/hr
- Shop Worker:** \$11-\$12/hr, day shift. Wrapping/cleaning cabinets for shipping.
- General Labor/Machine Operator:** Various shifts & pay rates. Extrusion, Rubber, etc.
- Shipping Clerk:** \$12/hr, Need excel/computer skills. Shipping experience preferred.
- Maintenance Tech:** \$15-\$18/hr. Repairing, troubleshooting, preventive maintenance on shrink wrapping machines and ovens. Maintain cutting tables & machines.
- Handy Worker:** Chatsworth, Ga. Experience with home maintenance and remodeling. Maintain and repair cabins and docks. \$20/hour to start.
- Utility Person:** \$13-\$16/hr BOE. Need Metal fab & Mig Welding skills.
- Maintenance Tech:** \$13-\$15/hour. Need computer skills to input maintenance orders. Grounds/Building general up keep and apartment maintenance skills needed.
- Tire Handler:** \$11 & UP based on job/shift. 1st, 2nd & 3rd shift (Tire Handler).
- Wrapper/LTO/Cutter:** \$12/hr, Day shift.
- Extrusion/ Knitting Dept:** \$14/hr, must be able to work 12 hour shifts. Lots of heavy lifting. Extrusion, creeling, threading needles.

513 Lovers Lane Road S.E., Calhoun, GA
706.383.8234
Equal Opportunity Employer

Obituaries

October 3-4, 2020

Donald 'Abby' Abernathy, Jr.

Mr. Donald "Abby" Howell Abernathy, Jr. age 62, of Stoners Chapel Road, Adairsville, died Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020, at Floyd Medical Center.

He was born in Cartersville on Aug. 28, 1958, son of the late Donald Howell Abernathy, Sr. and Bonnie Louise Thomas Abernathy. He attended NorthPointe Church, Adairsville. Donald had worked at Marchem for 34 years and owned and operated Abernathy Farms with his brother, Philip raising cattle, goats, sheep and chickens. Known to many as Coach Abby, he dedicated over 30 years to coaching 12 and under Adairsville Tiger football. He loved being with his family, enjoying the outdoors, and going fishing and hunting. Donald was a friend to all and will be truly missed. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his loving wife, Lynn Gibbs Abernathy; sons, Tripp Abernathy and his wife Katelyn and Thomas Abernathy; granddaughters, Morgan and Reagan; brother, Philip Abernathy and his wife Sue; niece, Bonnie Abernathy; great-niece, Rowan; and special cousin and friend, Eric and Joy Abernathy.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, at 3 p.m. from the chapel of Barton Funeral Home, Adairsville with Reverends Earl Abernathy, David Baker, and Matthew Gibbs officiating. Interment will follow in Stoner Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends Sunday from 12:00 noon until 3:00 PM at the Barton Funeral Home.

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

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of funeral arrangements for Mr. Donald "Abby" Howell Abernathy, Jr.

Barton Funeral Home

Ruby Bryant

Mrs. Ruby Marie (Johns) Bryant, 72, of Calhoun, died Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 at Floyd Medical Center in Rome.

Mrs. Bryant was born in Calhoun on June 29, 1948, daughter of the late Berry Wilson Johns and Cora Lee Goforth Johns. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three sons,

James Willis Hollingsworth, Ricky Hollingsworth, and Christopher Hollingsworth; sisters, Malisey Mae Dutton, Edna Lee Blake, Betty Katherine Freeman, Martha Dutton, Margaret Lewis, and Ruth Muse; two brothers, Leroy Johns and Wesley Johns.

Survivors include two daughters, Janice Marie (Levi) Nix and Tammy (Dewayne) Gibbs; one son, Jesse Hollingsworth; grandchildren, Joshua, Ashley, Hannah, Ruby, James III, Tina, Tonya, Katelynn, Waynie, Latrissa, Kayla, Christopher, Cody, Rebecca, Jesse, Jessica and Cameron along with several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephew, and other relatives.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ruby Marie (Johns) Bryant will be conducted on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, at 1 p.m. from the Church of God of the Union Assembly in Calhoun. Interment will follow in Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers serving will include the grandsons.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, Oct. 3 between the hours of 5 - 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 4, between the hours of 2 - 8 p.m. at the residence, 534 Regina Forest Road, Calhoun, Georgia 30701.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mrs. Ruby Marie (Johns) Bryant of Calhoun.



Louise Garner

Bernice "Louise" Garner entered the hands of God on Thursday, Oct. 1 at Hamilton Medical Center, surrounded by her family.

Louise Garner was born Oct. 25, 1941 in Salem, Ohio to the Late Billy Frank Manis and the late Edna Mae James Manis.

Louise was married to Retired Master Sergeant Gordon "Marvin" Garner for over 58 years. She is survived by her husband, son Billy Edward Garner and daughter Janice Marlene Garner. Louise raised her family as an Army wife, traveling and exploring many states and European countries.

Known as "Miss Louise," she operated a loving daycare for 15-plus years. She enjoyed making holiday bags and crochet ornaments. Louise was

many things in her life; a loving mother, daughter, wife, big sister, aunt, teacher, helper and a solid friend. During the 1993 snow storm, along with close friend Mildred Davis, Louise cooked meals on a wood burner heater for over a dozen people who gathered at her home during the power outage. After retirement, Louise regularly hosted friends and family in her home. She enjoyed watching game shows and the company for her dogs. She is immensely missed by all who knew her

The funeral to honor the life of Louise will be Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020 at 5 p.m. from Calhoun First Baptist Church with Rev. Michael Blackstock and Rev. Adam Thomas officiating. Burial will follow in Fair View Cemetery. Pallbearers include Clint Dover, Josh Dover, Drew Dover, Matt Collins, Jack Jenkins, and Michael Thomas. Her body will lie in state Sunday from 2 - 5 p.m. at Calhoun First Baptist Church.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Bernice "Louise" Garner.



Frances Jackson

Sarah Frances Jackson, age 100, of Calhoun, passed away Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 at Gordon Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Frances was born June 8, 1920 in Pine Log, Ga., daughter of the late William Louallen Henson and Ethel May Maxwell Henson. In addition to her parents, Frances was preceded in death by her husband, Withers "Jack" Jackson in 2007; three brothers, Verner, Everett, and William Henson; one sister, Ethel Henson; and one granddaughter, Tracey Amanda Jackson.

During her lifetime she worked for Pate's and Lays 5 & 10, and she and her husband owned Jackson's Women's Apparel until retirement. She was a longtime member of the Calhoun First Baptist Church.

Frances is survived by two daughters, Sara (Steve) Yancey and Mary (Donald) Darnell, both of Calhoun, and one son, William "Billy" (Carole) Jackson of Centre, Ala. Seven grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild also survive.

Due to Covid concerns, a private service for the family only will be conducted from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home on Wednesday, Oct. 7 with Dr. Bert Vaughn officiating. Music will be provided by Sherry Chapman. Friends and family are welcome to attend the graveside services at 2:45 p.m. in Chandler Cemetery. Mask and social distancing are required.

Pallbearers serving will be grandsons and grandsons-in-laws.

The family wishes to extend thanks to the personnel at Morning Pointe Assisted Living and Gordon Health and Rehabilitation for the care and friendships provided for the last six years.

You may send condolences to the family at www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Sarah Frances Jackson.



Bro. James Justice

Bro. James R. Justice, 79, of Calhoun, died Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020, at AdventHealth-Gordon, from complications following a cardiac arrest at his residence.

Bro. Justice was born in Scottsboro, Ala. on Aug. 9, 1941; son of the late Willie Justice and Attie Anthony Justice.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two brothers and sister-in-law; Ross Justice and Frank and Etta Justice; two sisters and brother-in-law, Anna Lee and Earl Pruitt Sr. and Martha Justice; two brothers-in-law, Howard Hopper and Eugene Hopper; and two sisters-in-law, Christine Perian and Dorothy Hopper.

Bro. Justice spent the greater part of his life in Gordon County and was saved while attending a service at Salem Baptist Church on McDaniel Station Road near Calhoun in 1954 at the age of 13; he answered the call to preach the Gospel on Jan. 6, 1974 and was later ordained as a Minister of the Gospel on Aug. 6, 1978. His first pastorate was at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church near Dews Pond from 1978 - 1980 and later pastored at Bethlehem Baptist Church near Sonoraville from 1985 - 1993. Bro. Justice was a pastor's trusted friend and therefore, filled many pulpits over the years at their invitation. Prior to his retirement from the workforce, he was employed by Collins & Aikman for 43 years. He and his wife Betty were faithful members of White Graves Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Betty (Hopper) Justice to whom he was married for 52 years; two sons, Eric (Kim) Justice and Jason (Stephanie) Justice; granddaughter, Hope Justice; Brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Robert (Bea) Hopper, James (Brenda) Hopper, Wanda (Bobby) Noland, Kathy (Ricky) Robinson, Mary (Ernest) Harris, Ray Perian,



Joyce Justice Carter; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The funeral service for Bro. James R. Justice will be conducted Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, at 3 p.m. at White Graves Baptist Church. Bros. Will Allen, Clinton Green, Isaac Johns, Eric Justice, and Jason Justice officiating. Interment will follow at Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery near Sonoraville. Pallbearers will consist of family members. Honorary pallbearers will include area preachers.

The Justice family will receive friends Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020, and Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020 between the hours of 4 - 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Bro. Justice's body will lie in state at the church from 1 p.m. until the funeral hour of 3 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020.

Floral tributes or donations to White Graves Baptist Church in memory of Bro. James R. Justice will be welcomed. The church address is White Grave Baptist Church, Post Office Box 987, Resaca, GA 30735.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Bro. James R. Justice, 79, of Calhoun.



Eugene Sewell

Eugene Talmadge Sewell, age 83, of Plainville, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 at Redmond Regional Medical Center of Rome, surrounded by his family.

Eugene was born on May 7, 1937 in Carters, Ga. son of the late Leonard Sewell and Hester Haney Sewell. In addition to his parents, Eugene was also preceded in death by three brothers, Aleck Sewell, Pat Sewell, and James Jackson. Eugene served his country in the United States Army and The Army Reserve in Dalton. He was a member of Sugar Valley Masonic Lodge and Gordon County Masonic Low Twelve Club. In earlier years, Eugene was on the Plainville Recreation Department Commission and also umpired and coached ball. Eugene attended West Union Baptist Church and was retired from Quality Finishers.

Eugene is survived by: his wife, Melba Fuller Sewell of the residence; two sons, Sidney Sewell of Calhoun and Wayne Sewell of Plainville; three grandchildren, Ethan Sewell, Ellie Sewell, and Easton Sewell; four sisters, Clara Hicks, Agnes Freeman and her husband Herman, Marie Cochran and her husband Ricky, and Dyan Nelson and her husband Steve; one brother, Max Sewell and his wife Joyce; three sisters-in-law, Pearl Fuller, Martha Sewell, and Evelyn Sewell; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020 at 11 a.m. in West Union Cemetery with Reverend Jerry Brooks in charge of graveside rites.

Pallbearers serving are: Gregg Jones, KM Miller, Bruce Hicks, Jerry Hicks, Michael Hicks, and Jeff Freeman. Malcolm Talley will serve as an honorary pallbearer.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Eugene Talmadge Sewell.



Help for the Hurting

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

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

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

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

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



Michelle Little, DO
Family Medicine

Jennifer Smith, FNP-C
Family Medicine

Justin Hare, DO
Neurosurgery and Spine

PERSONALIZED CARE

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

We accept most health insurance plans.

**Hamilton Physician Group-
Calhoun Primary Care**

706.529.3025

**Hamilton Physician Group-
Neurosurgery and Spine**

706.529.7124

HamiltonHealth.com/calhoun



160 Curtis Parkway NE
Calhoun, GA

Primary Care • 706.529.3025
Neurosurgery & Spine • 706.529.7124

How to Support a Friend with Breast Cancer

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

Receiving a shocking breast cancer diagnosis disrupts a woman's life in countless ways, but it shouldn't change her friendships. If anything, going through this life-changing journey should make the bonds between friends even stronger.

Once the diagnosis sinks in, knowing what to do and say can help you relax back into your friendship and feel confident in the support you already provide in countless ways. It can also help your loved one through her diagnosis, treatment and recovery. If she knows she's got a loyal corps of friends to rely on, she can let her guard down to rest, heal and reflect.

Here are five ways practical ways you can help.

Listen

While your friend is reeling from her news, her mind will be torn in dozens of directions, figuring out how to tackle her new diagnosis while also managing things at home, with her family and possibly even work.

Let her freely express her fears and concerns — and simply listen. Resist the urge to fill the silences and to offer unsolicited advice. Your friend needs a shoulder to lean on, which isn't the same as wanting you to solve her problems.

It's also best not to share stories about other people's negative experiences or to tell your friend how she should feel. Saying things like, "It could be worse" minimizes the gravity of what she's going through. Instead,

acknowledge how unnerving and complicated the situation must feel.

Above all, let your friend know you'll be by her side for the long haul, not just in the early stages and that she can trust you when she'd like to keep information and her thoughts and feelings private.

Offer Specific Help

The classic response to people in a crisis is, "Let me know if you need anything." But the truth is, in most cases, that open-ended statement isn't helpful at all since it's likely your friend will feel awkward calling you out of the blue for a favor. Instead, try offering to help with specific tasks, such as:

- Buying groceries
- Cleaning the house
- Doing yard work
- Driving kids to activities
- Organizing meals
- Pet care
- Picking up prescriptions
- Managing a CaringBridge or similar page to share updates

Remember to be mindful of the safety measures that they may be following. Ask if they're comfortable seeing you in-person, and wear a mask if you spend time together to protect you both.

You can also talk to her caregiver for input on more ways to help. Since they often feel like they need to be strong for their loved one and able to handle things all on their own, caregivers are reluctant to ask for support, even when they need it. Don't forget that cancer treatment is a journey for the whole family.

Give Her Thoughtful Gifts, Cards

Little gifts or notes go a long way toward brightening someone's day and are a way for not just local, but out-of-town friends to offer support. You can even reach out to family and friends to mail you a note and present them all at once in a special box, perhaps on a significant day or milestone in her treatment. Gift ideas might include:

- Amazon gift cards so she can shop from home
- Care packages with lip balm, tissues, lotion and hard candy for a dry mouth or metallic taste from medication
- Colorful, fun socks
- Cute water bottles
- Drawings from a child
- Gift cards for electronic reading devices (Kindle, Nooks, iPad)
- Journal
- Magazines, books
- Notebook w/ pockets to keep track of information
- Pajamas, robe, silky pillowcase
- Pictures of friends
- Scarves, hat

Gifts for her caregiver are also a kind gesture. You may also consider insisting you don't want a thank you note in return for any gifts.

Offer to Go to Appointments

If your friend feels overwhelmed, offer to go to doctor appointments to take notes and ask questions she might not think to ask. Be sure to check with her health care provider beforehand to understand their visitor policy.

You can also be a "chemo" buddy. Driving her to and from, as well video chatting with her during chemotherapy or radiation therapy treatments, is a bigger help than you may



ever realize. Not only will your friend appreciate the company and encouragement, it can also give her caregiver a break.

Video Call, Visit and Include Her in Activities

Make plans to connect with your friend on a video call or visit in-person to cheer your friend up at home to give her something to look forward to. Make sure to check with her first and be respectful of any safety practices she and her family have in place. You may also want to coordinate your visit with her caregiver so he or she can take a break or run errands while you're there.

When you're with your loved one, don't focus the conversations only around cancer. Treat your friend like you did before. Ask for their advice and input. Share news about school, church, work or the neighborhood. Ask about her family, job and what she's been doing outside of breast cancer.

If your friend seems tired, graciously end the visit and

let her know you'll be back in touch to set up another visit. On the other hand, if your friend feels up to it, offer to take them for a drive, to a movie, the mall, a restaurant, on an errand or anything else she may be up to doing with you or with your usual group of friends.

She'll want to have a "normal" life as much as possible, so keep inviting her to any events or activities you ordinarily go to together.

Your Friendship is Enough

You may begin to discount your ideas on how to help or feel like simply being present isn't enough. But more than any task you could carry out on your loved one's behalf, it's your love they need the most. Helping your loved one feel supported and strong through her breast cancer journey is everything she needs to succeed.

Learn more about AdventHealth's whole-person approach to [breast cancer care](#) and support.

207,000 Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid COVID-19 Tests Arrive in Georgia

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Atlanta – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) today received the first shipment of Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid COVID-19 Tests. The initial distribution contains 207,000 of the antigen tests, but Georgia is slated to receive 3 million tests by the end of the year. These first tests will be distributed to public health districts statewide for use in schools, colleges and universities, among first

responders and other critical areas of need in communities statewide.

The BinaxNow tests require a nasal swab for specimen collection and results are available in 15 minutes. BinaxNOW are meant to be used for individuals with symptoms of COVID-19, ideally within the first seven days of feeling sick.

"Our public health district staff will work with schools and other community partners to distribute and facilitate use of the tests with the necessary oversight from trained healthcare professionals," said Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.

"Having these rapid tests available will help us quickly identify people who are sick, isolate them, and prevent further spread of COVID-19 among families, close contacts and entire communities."

The BinaxNOW tests are about the size of a credit card and because they do not require any machines or instrumentation for results, they are highly portable. Results from these antigen tests, like all antigen tests, may need to be confirmed by a PCR test.

Learn more about the BinaxNOW

Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Tests and the distribution plan for the United States at <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/testing/rapid-test-distribution/index.html>.

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

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

GORDON Gazette

Visit us on [Facebook](#) each Friday night for score updates

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL UPDATE

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Car crashes, falls, suicide attempts - Georgia hospitals report rise in trauma cases

ANDY MILLER
Georgia Health News

From car accidents to gunshot wounds to bicycle crashes, some major Georgia hospitals are reporting an increase in trauma cases since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Grady Memorial Hospital has seen a 25 percent rise in trauma cases. Such injuries have reached the highest level that CEO John Hauptert has seen since he arrived at the Atlanta safety-net hospital in 2011.

Hauptert said recently that almost every day since early June, Grady has treated at least one gunshot wound.

Increases in “blunt force trauma,” such as car crashes and falls, and in “penetrating trauma” like gunshots and stabbings also have risen at large hospitals in Columbus, Marietta and Albany.

It’s by no means a universal trend, either in the state or the nation. The Trauma Center Association of America said in May that overall trauma statistics appeared to be on the decline nationally, driven by a decrease in blunt trauma, while injuries from gunshots and stab wounds were not dropping.

But car crash injuries aren’t falling at Grady. Dr. Hany Atallah, chief of emergency medicine at Grady, speculates that some people are driving faster with less traffic to battle on normally jammed roads in metro Atlanta.

The Georgia State Patrol told the AJC in April that while it was writing far fewer traffic tickets than normal, tickets for speeding at 100 mph or more were up nearly two-thirds statewide from a year ago. That superspeeder trend is also reported by local police.

The overall trauma situation “should be looked at carefully,” Atallah told GHN this week. “This pandemic has been hard on everybody. It’s been challenging for people to cope.”

Marietta-based Wellstar Health System is reporting an across-the-board increase in trauma cases, including a rise in suicide attempts and domestic violence injuries.

At Piedmont Columbus, trauma cases are up 25 percent this year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All types of cases have increased, said Mary Bizilia, manager of the trauma program at Piedmont Columbus. But she also noted a 45 percent increase in bicycle-related injuries. “Kids are just riding around everywhere without helmets,” she said. And the hospital is seeing more adult bike crashes, too.

The Columbus hospital is treating more victims of falls, notably from ladders, she added. “More people are at home doing home improvement projects” because of the COVID-related lockdown, Bizilia said.

Piedmont is emphasizing bicycle safety and working with Home Depot and Lowe’s on consumer safety information.

The Medical Center, Navicent Health, said it saw a 15 percent drop in the number of trauma admissions at the

Macon hospital between March and August when compared to previous years, but that motor vehicle accidents have trended up this year.

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, which was flooded with COVID patients early in the pandemic, reports a big jump in trauma cases beginning in May.

Drinking on the rise

Coinciding with these trauma cases are increases in alcohol use, which experts link to stress and mental health issues created by the pandemic. Rising unemployment and divisive social issues are playing into the general anxiety among Americans, experts say. COVID-19 has disrupted daily life for people in many profound ways.

U.S. adults have sharply increased their consumption of alcohol during the pandemic shutdown, with women increasing their heavy drinking episodes (four or more drinks within a couple of hours) by 41 percent, according to a new RAND Corp. study.

A national survey found that the overall frequency of drinking alcohol increased by 14 percent among adults over age 30, compared to the same time last year. The increase was 19 percent among all adults aged 30 to 59, 17 percent among women, and 10 percent among non-Hispanic white adults.

Michael Pollard, lead author of the study at RAND, a nonprofit research organization, said in a statement that “alcohol consumption can have significant negative health consequences, so this information suggests another way that the pandemic may be affecting the physical and mental health of Americans.”

George Koob, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, told CNN that the U.S. has seen similar increases in alcohol consumption during other times of crisis, such as after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and some recent hurricanes.

Dr. Andrew Lawson, a trauma surgeon at Augusta University Health, told GHN that the number of intoxicated individuals in hospital trauma cases has increased during the period from late February through June.

The overall number of trauma cases is about the same as in previous years, Lawson said. But he added that while he doesn’t have the data yet, it appears that Augusta hospital had a rise in trauma cases in July and August.

Substance abuse

There’s ample evidence that drug use is up as well.

The CDC found that during a week in June, U.S. adults reported considerably elevated adverse mental health conditions associated with COVID-19. Younger adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers and unpaid adult caregivers reported experiencing disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation (i.e., thoughts about suicide), the CDC reported.

In Georgia, Public Health



officials recently reported a troubling increase in overdose cases in hospital emergency rooms.

“Recovery coaches” who help substance abuse patients in ERs and on a consumer hotline have seen an increase in people needing help during recent months, according to the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse.

“Not only has the volume increased, the intensity of the encounters has increased as well,” said Neil Campbell, executive director of the organization. “Our coaches are reporting just some devastating life situations that their peers in the EDs [emergency departments] are experiencing that have been compounded by COVID.”

The people who call needing help “are reeling from isolation due to COVID, the economic downturn and the social and racial justice issues happening in their communities,” she added. “The duration, intensity and volume of the calls have all increased.”

Drug overdose deaths are not classified as trauma cases. But they are part of the deaths of despair (along with suicides and alcohol-related deaths) that have drawn media attention recently.

The state’s Department of Public Health said preliminary results show that compared to the previous 15 weeks, the state experienced from March 15 through June 27:

- A 9 percent increase among all drug overdose deaths
- A 25.3 percent increase among opioid-involved overdose deaths
- A 32.3 percent increase among heroin-involved overdose deaths
- A 61.4 percent increase among fentanyl-involved overdose deaths

And nationally, the American Medical Association warned in Augusta that more than 40 states have reported

increases in opioid-related mortality.

More shootings

Gun-related violence has jumped in Atlanta and elsewhere in the country during recent months, clearly having an influence on the trauma workload.

Police departments in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia reported a higher number of shootings and homicides compared with the same period last year.

Atlanta saw a particularly dramatic rise in gun-related crime, compounding the unrest in a city that has been a center of protests over police brutality and racial justice, the Wall Street Journal reported in July.

As of July 11, 106 people in Atlanta were shot over a 28-day period, marking a sharp increase from 40 people during the same period in 2019, according to data compiled by the Atlanta Police Department.

The violence stems from many factors. The AJC cited pent-up energy and angst from quarantine; people trying to handle disputes themselves rather than call police; and Atlanta officers working less proactively because of what they see as anti-police sentiment on the streets and a lack of support from local politicians.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said in a July news conference that “the reality is this: These aren’t police officers shooting people on the streets of Atlanta, these are members of the community shooting each other.”

Overall serious crime in Atlanta, though, is actually down about 20 percent for the whole year, WSB-TV reported last month.

Lots of ways to get hurt

Wellstar Health System, with trauma hospitals in Atlanta, Marietta and Roswell, has seen an increase in trauma injuries from bicycle accidents

and from incidents involving camping or hiking, as people working at home seek new activities, Dr. Bill Mayfield, chief surgical officer for Wellstar, said Friday.

The health system has seen an uptick of trauma injuries across its whole 11-hospital network.

The rise in trauma cases “came as really a complete surprise,” he added.

The trends also include more suicide attempts and more domestic violence.

The latter has shown up often in stabbings and gunshot wounds, Mayfield said.

Elder abuse injuries are also increasing, said Rebecca Gomez, clinical health psychologist for Wellstar Medical Group.

Admissions from suicide attempts at Wellstar have increased 26 percent since last September, Gomez added. The patients show up with overdoses or wounds from cutting or gunshots, she said.

Gomez links this troubling increase to the mental health strains caused by COVID-19. That includes financial distress, social unrest, isolation, unmanaged mental health problems, and general uncertainty over the pandemic.

“We aren’t engaging socially,” Gomez said. “We are not able to engage in our traditional coping strategies.”

She said that during the pandemic, people need to reach out to family, friends and neighbors. Health care providers should regularly screen for mental health issues, Gomez said.

Mayfield, who has lost a son to suicide, said that “society itself can increase awareness and openness to conversations” to people who may have suicidal thoughts. “We all can participate in saving some of these lives.”

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

GORDON
Gazette

Visit us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) AND [Instagram](#) by searching “Gordon Gazette”

www.GordonGazetteGA.com

FALL IN LOVE
WITH GORDON COUNTY

LIVE | WORK | PLAY | LOVE

A SPECIAL, COMPLEMENTARY ISSUE OF FALL EVENTS THAT WILL MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

AVAILABLE ONLINE MONDAY, OCT. 5, 2020

#LIVEWORKPLAYLOVEGORDON

GORDON Gazette

For more information on our special advertising rates for this free issue, contact Tracy Gazaway at 678-767-1475 or email AdServices@GordonGazetteGa.com

Church Calendar

ONGOING

-Philadelphia Christian School is located off Highway 41 between Calhoun and Adairville. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

-Old Sugar Valley United Methodist Church located at 2659 Old Rome Dalton Road in Calhoun has Breakfast

Social at 9:30 am every Sunday. The church history is colorful, dating back to the Civil War, small cozy country church nothing fancy! Come join us!

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

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

-Maranatha Baptist Church on Hwy 225 across from paradise Drag Strip, Calhoun would like to invite you to attend our services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Night Services are at 7 p.m. Everyone is Welcome. Pastor Richard Webster.

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

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

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

-Boone Ford Baptist Church invites you to attend its services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. and Worship services at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday night services are at 6 p.m. on the first and third Sunday night of each month. Wednesday night services start at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Gary Quarles, pastor.

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

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

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

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

-Liberty Baptist Church Pastor Gene Ratcliff invites everyone to church services in Ranger; service times are 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Sunday worship and 7 p.m. Wednesday worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Philadelphia Baptist Church operates North Georgia Baptist College and is registering students. It

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

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

-Big Springs Baptist Church, 3326 Dews Pond Road SE, Calhoun, invites families and individuals from all walks of life to attend their services (casual dress). The worship service includes contemporary music along with traditional hymns and Southern Gospel. Children's Church is provided for ages K- 3rd grade and nursery for babies - pre-k. Service times: Sunday mornings: fellowship breakfast, 9:15-9:30 a.m.; Bible study (all ages) 9:45 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m. Evening worship 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. For more information on the church you may contact rev. Tommy Phillips at 678-986-7404.

-Oakman Baptist Church and Pastor Jason Pace invite everyone to attend their weekly services. Sunday School is at 10 a.m. and morning worship is at 11. Sunday evening activities, which include worship and children and youth programs, begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday services begin at 7 p.m., which include Bible study and programs for youth and children.

-House of Prayer Baptist Church, 3840 Dews Pond Road, has Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship services on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. except the third and fifth Sunday night when there is no service; and Wednesday night service at 7 p.m.

-Nellie Peters United Methodist Church, 1122 S. Wall Street, Across from Advance Auto Parts would like to invite everyone to our services. Sunday School at 9:30, Worship at 11. Wednesday night Bible Study at 6:30. We're a small, friendly church and we love our community. Children are welcome in our services and we have a special "grace space" for them to color, draw and listen right in the sanctuary. Our pastor is Marvin Batcher as we welcome you!

SCHOOLS

From page 1A

(1 at Gordon Central, 1 at Red Bud Elementary, 1 at Red Bud Middle, 1 Belwood Elementary).

Last week, Gordon County Schools had a total of 10 active cases throughout the system.

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.

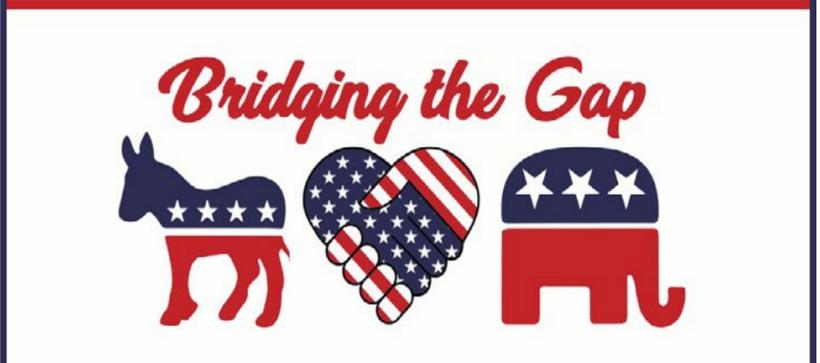
At press time Saturday morning, Oct. 3, Gordon County has had a total

of 1,894 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began - that's up 53 cases since last Saturday. There have now been a total of 39 deaths in Gordon County related to COVID-19, an increase of 3 since last week. DPH also reports that Gordon County has had 120 hospitalizations due to COVID-19 since the pandemic began, which is up 7 hospitalizations since last week.



Elect
KAYLA HOLLIFIELD
 2020 STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 11
 f t i HOLLIFIELDFORHOUSE.COM

FREEDOM ★ SECURITY ★ OPPORTUNITY



SES, AdventHealth partners to promote self-care



This week, Sonorville Elementary and Advent Health partnered to promote self-care among faculty and staff. Advent Health took blood pressure screenings and met one-on-one with staff to discuss self-care practices. They brought goodies and resources that promote self-awareness and well-being.



TES students have publishing party



Mrs. Hubbard and Mrs. Wiley are continuing their tradition of celebrating their students' hard work. For the past several years, students in fifth grade have enjoyed participating in a publishing party after completing a writing unit. Each student read their story aloud to their class. Then students provided glows and grows about each other's writing piece. They also enjoyed a snack to complete the experience.



SHS Theatre welcomes new troupe members, officers

Congratulations to our newest members of troupe #7786: Emmanuel Gonzalez, Brooklyn Clark, Emily Cook, and Thomas Spruell!! Also, a big congrats to our 2020-2021 officers: Eli Hibberts, Sydney Stanley, Whitney Bramlett, Haley Sherbert, and Morgan Bagley.

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

Adam Dortch
PHOTOGRAPHY
 706-252-5679

AD Photography specializes in all aspects of photography. We are members of the Professional Photographers of America and strive to give our clients the best memories and photographic quality.

Family	Birthday
Newborn	Wedding
Sports	Engagement
Senior	Concert
Prom	Event Photography

Find us on Facebook



Survey available for public comment on EOC course weight proposals

STAFF REPORTS

On Thursday, Oct. 1, State School Superintendent Richard Woods released a statement concerning the State Board of Education's split vote earlier that day to reject the superintendent's recommendation that the EOC 20 percent course grade weight be lowered to 0.01 percent for the 2020-2021 school year. The State Board proposed a 10 percent course weight for the 2020-21 school year. A public survey has been posted for comments on the proposal.

"While I respect each member of the State Board of Education, I strongly disagree with the majority's decision in this matter," said Woods. "Similar to the federal directive to administer standardized tests in the middle of a pandemic, insisting on high-stakes consequences for those tests is unreasonable and insensitive to the realities of the classroom. I am confident our high-school students whose GPAs and scholarships are riding on this decision would agree that a 10 percent weight is still high-

stakes. I encourage all Georgians, whether they agree or disagree with my view, to provide their feedback through the public-comment process and let their voice be heard."

The Georgia DoE announced actions and recommendations to reduce high-stakes testing pressure on Sept. 24 after the U.S. Department of Education announced in early September it would not consider testing waivers for the 2020-21 school year. At that time, Woods stated that Georgia would follow federal law, but would take action to remove the high-stakes pressure of the test.

"I remain disappointed and disheartened by the federal directive to administer high-stakes tests in a pandemic," Woods said. "Georgia will abide by federal law, but we are not going to layer additional stress and burden onto our students and teachers during this time. In this environment, these tests are not valid or reliable measures of academic progress or achievement, and we are taking all possible steps at the state level to reduce their high-stakes impact." Woods made

the following recommendations:

Recommending lowering the 20 percent EOC course grade weight. At the October 1 State Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Woods will recommend that the current EOC 20% course grade weight be lowered to 0.01 percent (essentially zero – the weight cannot be zero due to state law) for the 2020-21 school year.

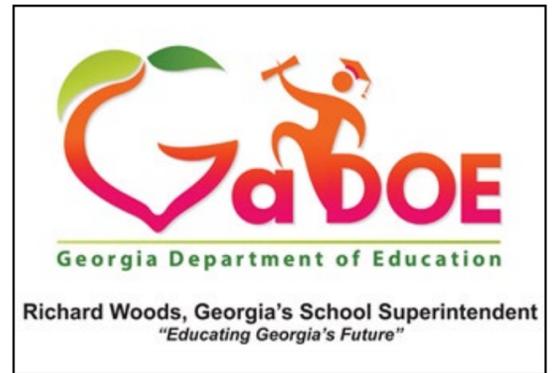
Waiving promotion/retention consequences tied to Georgia Milestones. Effective immediately, it is the official directive of the Georgia Department of Education that school districts with flexibility contracts (Charter System or Strategic Waiver School System) use input from teachers and parents, placement committees, class performance, and formative tools to determine the need to promote or retain their students at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Student promotion/retention decisions should not be based on 2020-21 performance on the Georgia Milestones tests.

Providing flexible options for administering the 2020 winter End-of-Course assessments.

Districts are given the flexibility to assess students during the winter mid-month or spring administration windows, as needed, to ensure a more appropriate amount of instructional time is available prior to the administration of the EOC. Districts can also request extending their local testing window later in the school day to include afternoon and evening testing sessions and/or utilize a compressed testing schedule due to the updated Georgia Milestones test design, which includes a significant decrease in student testing time.

"Georgia was the first state in the nation to announce its intent to apply for a waiver of standardized testing requirements in 2020-21," said Woods. "While the U.S. Department of Education denied this request, the Department remains committed, if another opportunity becomes available, to aggressively pursuing testing waivers again."

"The pursuit of common-sense assessment waivers during the COVID-19 pandemic is part of a broader effort in Georgia to pull back excessive



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

high-stakes testing tool, at no cost to every Georgia school district. Formative assessments are diagnostic and non-high-stakes and are designed to monitor student learning and plan instruction, rather than to report out results for accountability purpose. Use of BEACON is not required but will allow districts to assess student performance and identify gaps as a result of the COVID-19 school closures."

Now that the State School Board has recommended an EOC weight of 10 percent, a survey has been released for parents and stakeholders to voice their opinion on the matter. To complete the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3TWWTMZ>

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-La Leche League of Calhoun and Rome offers free breastfeeding support and information. The meetings are open to all mothers (children also welcome), expectant mothers and women interested in

breastfeeding. Calhoun location meets the second Monday of each month at 10 a.m. Leaders are available to answer questions. For more information, call Erin at 706-234-3980 or email at LLCalhounRome@gmail.com.

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

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

-The Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program seeks to improve the quality of life for residents of long-term care facilities. For more information, call Linda Ann Daniel at 1-866-565-8213 or 706-272-2158.

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

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

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

-Community volunteers are needed at Countryside Hospice Care, where the mission is to promote comfort and dignity at the end of life. The agency covers 26 Northwest Georgia counties

between three offices in LaFayette, Rome, and Newnan. If you would like to participate in this rewarding program, call 706-638-7651 or 1-800-660-7381.

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

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

-Grief Recovery Group for those who have lost loved ones and friends, receive support and guidance with the Four Tasks of Grieving. Cost is Free. Second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital. For more information or to RSVP, please call 706-879-5850.

-The Compassionate Friends of Dalton and N.W. Georgia is part of a worldwide effort that has helped many families cope with the loss of a child and to honor our children's memory. The Compassionate Friends meets on the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Evangelical Methodist Church (in the "Gathering Place" building), 1035 Abutment Road, Dalton (on the hill behind the old Lowe's off Walnut Avenue). For more information, call Dawn at 706-277-3312 or 706-264-4458 or e-mail dawnssison@msn.com.

-SING (Surviving Infidelity Necessary to your Growth) has formed here. If you are experiencing difficulty in marriage and are looking for ways to survive, then you should come and be part of these meetings designed to help, encourage, and solve issues in a marriage that can lead to a promising future ahead for the entire family. For more information, call Iroka Moore at 706-629-2880.

-United Hospice is seeking volunteers who can help others through companionship, reading, sharing, and other small tasks. Give the gift of caring and enjoy the privilege of sharing in your local area. Call Dan Hogan at 706-602-9546 or 800-867-7976.

-Looking for a 12-step meeting for men and women? At "Road to Recovery," recognizing Jesus Christ as our higher power, they take the 12 steps and compare how they are taken from scripture and how to apply them

to our lives to experience true freedom from the bondages of addiction. The meetings are free and open to the public at World Harvest Church locations in Cherokee and Gordon counties. For more information, call 706-602-1919. The Calhoun church is located at 2335 Red Bud Road. The meetings here are every Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

-A 12-step-meeting for Overeaters Anonymous is held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 901 W. Emory St, Dalton on Thursdays at 6 p.m. Call Nan at 706-695-9008 or Stephanie at 706-847-8125 for more information.

-Caring for a loved one who is suffering from late-stage cancer is certainly one of life's hardest experiences. But you do not have to go through this alone. The Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital provides a place for you to meet each month with others who understand what you are going through during this difficult time. Strength for Caring, a support group for caregivers of patients with advanced stages of cancer meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 2-3 p.m. at the Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital, 1035 Red Bud Road. For more information, please call 706-879-5853.

-Dealing with a cancer diagnosis is difficult for everyone involved – the patient and their loved ones. But you are not alone. The Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital, 1035 Red Bud Road, hosts a Support Group for cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers on the third Wednesday of each month from noon until 1 p.m. Lunch is served. For more information and to RSVP, please call 706-879-5853. We offer a hand to hold and an ear to listen as you go through this difficult time.

-The Alzheimer's Auxiliary of North Georgia is seeking new members. Members of this auxiliary are a vital part in the work of the Alzheimer's Association. Currently, two auxiliaries, one in North Georgia and one in Atlanta, provide support and financial assistance to people affected by Alzheimer's disease. There are many volunteer opportunities to work with the regional offices in supporting those living with the disease, as well as caregivers. Some events auxiliary members participate in are an annual bake sale, the annual gala, Memory Walk, and health fairs. For annual membership, yearly dues of \$35 per person are requested. For more information about joining the Alzheimer's Auxiliary, contact the Alzheimer's Association at 706-275-0819.

NOW OPEN

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

