

GORDON Gazette

Weekend, February 6, 2021

www.gordongazettega.com

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Gordon Central, Sonoraville high schools go to hybrid schedule as COVID-19 numbers continue to rise

Brandi Owczarz
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On Friday, Feb. 5, Gordon County Schools announced that both of their high schools, Gordon Central and Sonoraville, would again be going to a hybrid schedule due to COVID-19.

This week's active COVID cases at the schools system are up again; 37 total across the school system, up 10 from the 27 active cases reported system-wide last week.

A big jump this week was the number from Sonoraville High School, where 16 students were reported to have active cases of COVID, up 13 active cases among SHS students last week.

"Gordon County Schools continues to carefully monitor its active cases that impact schools and works closely with healthcare and community leaders to help mitigate our community spread. To that end, Gordon County Schools has found it necessary to move to a hybrid instructional model for both Gordon Central and Sonoraville high schools beginning Monday, February 8. The tentative return date to full-time, in-person instruction will be Monday, February 22. The decision to temporarily move to a hybrid schedule for Gordon Central and Sonoraville High is a precautionary measure and comes following

an increase in active COVID cases, resulting in a higher number of precautionary quarantines," said the school system in a statement.

According to Gordon County Schools, students will continue to receive instruction from their assigned classroom teachers utilizing the Schoology platform but will only attend school in-person two days per week, based upon the student's last name (see chart). Having only half of the students in class at one time will allow for additional distancing among students within the classroom.

The initial week will

See COVID, page 7A

Week One	Last Name A-K	Last Name L-Z
Monday, February 8, 2021	In-Person	Schoology
Tuesday, February 9, 2021	In-Person	Schoology
Wednesday, February 10, 2021	Schoology	Schoology
Thursday, February 11, 2021	Schoology	In-Person
Friday, February 12, 2021	Schoology	In-Person
Week Two	Last Name A-K	Last Name L-Z
Monday, February 15, 2021	Student Holiday	Student Holiday
Tuesday, February 16, 2021	Student Holiday	Student Holiday
Wednesday, February 17, 2021	Student Holiday	Student Holiday
Thursday, February 18, 2021	In-Person	Schoology
Friday, February 19, 2021	Schoology	In-Person

Identity released of homeless man found dead behind Walgreens; second homeless death reported in 6 weeks

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The Calhoun Police Department has released the identity of the homeless man who was found dead in a tent behind Walgreens on South Wall Street on Wednesday, Feb. 3. The CPD says the man has been identified as Bobby Commander, age 62.

Officers with the CPD responded to Walgreens, located at 910 South Wall Street, around 4 p.m. on Wednesday in response to a deceased male behind the business. Two witnesses advised the officers they had gone to the area to check on

their friend, Commander, who was living in a tent behind the pharmacy. Both witnesses reported they had seen Commander on Tuesday evening, Feb. 2. No foul play is suspected; the investigation is ongoing.

Calhoun Police Chief Tony Pyle said that Commander was a well-known homeless citizen of the community.

This is the second time in six weeks that a homeless person has been found dead outside of a business in Calhoun.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, officers with the Calhoun Police Department were dispatched to Dollar General, located at 1284 Curtis

Parkway, just before 8:45 a.m. that day in reference to a man lying behind the store. Dispatch advised the officer that the person who called in the report thought the man was deceased. The caller told the officer he found the man, identified as 49-year-old Troy Jefferson, of Calhoun, around 8:38 a.m. that morning. When officers arrived on scene, the caller said that he was leaving Home Depot when he spotted the man. He stopped his truck and got out to check on him, at which point he noticed Jefferson was not breathing.

Another witness at the scene said he passed by the Dollar General and thought he

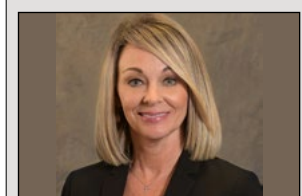


observed someone lying behind the store. He parked beside the field where Jefferson was found and saw that Jefferson had passed away. The witness noted that he found Jefferson's "homeless camp" behind one of the air conditioning units where there was a bottle of

Listerine and clothing. The weather at the time Jefferson was found was approximately 36 degrees and cloudy. The report noted that when Jefferson was located, it was lightly snowing. Jefferson was believed to have succumbed to natural causes.

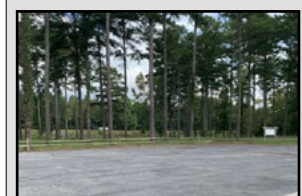
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Gordon Chamber welcomes new Board chair, installs 2021 Board of Directors.

DNR 4A



Gordon County selected to apply for \$150k DNR Grant for Brookshire Park project.

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eSPLOST vote to be held on March 16, 2021

ICYMI: Here is a list of projects both school systems have planned if the upcoming eSPLOST is approved by voters

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The upcoming eSPLOST is on a referendum ballot and voters will have a chance to decide to continue the one penny sales tax for the local school systems on March 16, 2021.

The Calhoun City Schools Board of Education and the Gordon County Board of Education held a joint meeting in December to approve and sign a joint resolution to request the eSPLOST go before the voters. The current eSPLOST will expire in June 2022.

The resolution states that no more than \$62,000,000 would be collected in the eSPLOST to finance projects for Calhoun Schools and Gordon County Schools. Gordon County Schools would receive 60.2 (\$37,324,000) percent of the amount, with Calhoun City Schools receiving 39.8 percent (\$24,676,000) of the monies collected.

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

- The acquisition and installation of digital resources and improvements to technology throughout the district
- Renovations and modifications

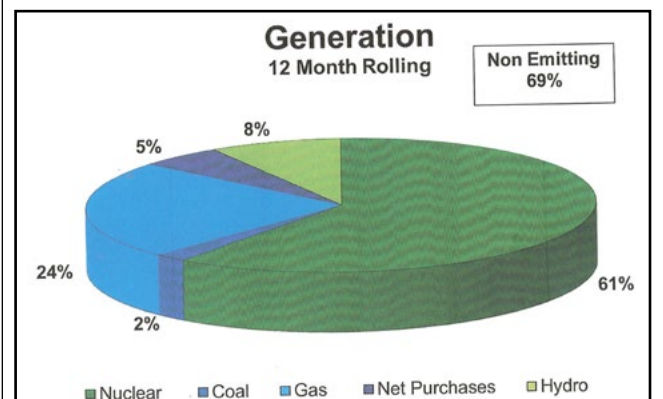
to W.L. Swain Elementary, Ashworth Middle School, Gordon Central High School, Sonoraville High School, GCS Central Office, Fairmount Elementary, Sonoraville Elementary, Red Bud Middle, Red Bud Elementary, Belwood Elementary and Tolbert Elementary

- Facility renovations and modifications needed for Career, Technical and Agricultural education courses and pathways
- Acquisition and equipping of buses
- Expansion and improvements of parking lots

- Acquisition of any property, both real and personal, and equipment necessary in connection with described capital outlay projects, including energy management systems, heating and air conditioning systems, lighting and similar equipment
- Acquisition, construction, equipping, renovation and expansion of athletic fields and facilities
- Acquisition, construction and equipping of new auditoriums throughout the district
- Acquisition of real property for future schools, facilities, administrative

See eSPLOST, page 8A

Majority of City of Calhoun's electric generation comes from pollution-free energy sources



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At the latest meeting of the Calhoun City Council, Utilities Administrator Larry Vickery shared that just over 69 percent of the City of Calhoun's 12-month rolling electric generation resources come from non-emitting, pollution-free energy sources.

"The resources that we have as an electric generating capacity, the portfolio that we have, 69 percent of our resources

are non-emitting; they are pollution-free. Nuclear energy consists of 61 percent, with the rest of the non-emitting resources (8 percent) being from our hydro-resources, which is Southeastern Power Administration," said Vickery.

Vickery said that the City's non-emitting energy resources will go up even more when the Vogtle 3 unit, a nuclear power generator, goes

See ELECTRIC, page 7A

Second Front

Gordon Chamber welcomes new Board chair; installs 2021 Board

GORDON CHAMBER

The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce announced its 2021 Executive Board and Board of Directors following the installation of new leaders in meetings held recently. Outgoing Chair Julie Walraven, Senior Vice President and Market Executive at First Bank of Calhoun, installed Tracy Farris, Director of Community and Physician Outreach at AdventHealth Gordon, as 2021 Chair at the January 19 Executive Board Meeting. Farris then installed Brent Reynders, M&S Logistics, as Secretary-Treasurer and Chris Tarpley, Shaw Industries, as Vice-Chair. New board members Carol Hatch, Housing Authority of City of Calhoun; Matt Hibberts, Momon Construction; and Dee Wisley, Calhoun City Schools; were installed on Thursday, January 21, at the first full board meeting of the year.

The three new board members will join thirteen remaining from last year to

form a Board of Directors that includes sixteen local professionals. Those thirteen include Wesley Alexander, Starr-Mathews Agency; Steve Bayzid, Taco House; Scope Denmon, Boys & Girls Club of Gordon County; Jim Dodd, Dodd Machine and Tool; Jennifer Dudley, Harris Arts Center; Tracy Farris; AdventHealth Gordon; Dr. Kimberly Fraker, Gordon County Schools; Karen Jones, LG Hausys; Brent Reynders, M&S Logistics; B.J. Robinson, Georgia Farm Bureau; Chris Tarpley, Shaw Industries; Debbie Vance, Gordon County E-911; and Julie Walraven, First Bank of Calhoun.

“We are very grateful for the service and commitment of our Board of Directors,” said Kathy Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce. “Typically, we would install our new officers and honor our outgoing officers at the Chamber’s Annual Meeting, but that event, like many of our signature programs, will

be conducted virtually in consideration of the COVID virus. My primary goal last year was to conduct as much Chamber business as possible as safely as possible and that remains true this year.”

“Will Harrison with Mannington Mills, Dr. Brandi Hayes with Calhoun City Schools, and Paul Worley with the City of Calhoun each completed their board service at year-end and we certainly thank them for the countless hours they invested in the Chamber,” she continued.

The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce accomplishes its program of work through a network of committees working to accomplish projects identified in a five-year action plan created in the 2018 planning retreat. Each board member is charged with leading at least one committee as Chair or Vice-Chair, partnering with the Chamber staff person supporting that group. Those committees include Ambassadors/Member Services, Community & Government Affairs, Drugs



TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Gordon Chamber President & CEO Kathy Johnson, Chamber Board Chair Tracy Farris. BOTTOM ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Carol Hatch, Matt Hibberts and Dee Wisley.

Don’t Work Task Force, Education and Workforce Development, Leadership Development, Tourism, and Young Professionals. The mission of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce is to connect members and the community to promote economic growth.

Officials warn Georgia taxpayers about Tax Identity Theft, Tax-Related Scams

OFFICE OF GEORGIA ATTORNEY GENERAL CHRIS CARR

ATLANTA, GA – With tax season approaching, Attorney General Chris Carr is encouraging Georgia taxpayers to protect themselves from tax-related scams and tax identity theft.

“As Georgians prepare to file their taxes this year, we are offering a few tips and warnings to protect them from con artists who may try to swindle Georgia taxpayers out of their hard-earned money,” said Attorney General Chris Carr.

“The Department of Revenue continuously adapts our fraud management system to catch tax identity theft and tax fraud once returns are filed,” said Revenue Commissioner David Curry. “However, I would like to strongly encourage taxpayers to help combat this problem by learning how to protect their information and by doing their due diligence to ensure they are entrusting their confidential taxpayer information to a reputable tax professional.”

Here’s what consumers need to know:

IRS Impersonation Scams

In this scam, fraudsters contact consumers by phone, purporting to be an IRS agent and claiming that the consumer owes the IRS money for back taxes. The scammer threatens arrest or legal action if the consumer does not immediately pay the money owed via wire transfer, gift cards or pre-paid debit card. Consumers can easily be convinced that these calls are real as the scammer may know a consumer’s full or partial Social Security number (SSN) or even use spoofing software that causes the IRS name and/or number to

show up in your caller ID.

Here is what you need to know to avoid this scam:

The IRS will never call a consumer about unpaid taxes or penalties; the agency typically contacts consumers by letter via the U.S. Mail.

They won’t leave a message threatening to sue you, arrest you or deport you if you don’t pay right away.

The IRS won’t demand a specific form of payment, such as an iTunes gift card, Green Dot Money Pak or wire transfer.

If you get a call purporting to be from the IRS, never send money. Instead, hang up and either a) report the scam to the FTC and to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at tigta.gov or by calling 1-800-366-4484; or b) If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue – if there really is such an issue.

If you get an email that claims to be from the IRS, do not reply or click on any links. Instead, forward it to phishing@irs.gov.

Tax Identity Theft

This occurs when a fraudster uses your Social Security number (SSN) to file a tax return in your name and collect your refund. It also occurs when someone uses your SSN to get a job. Typically, consumers don’t realize they have been victims of tax identity theft until they get a written notice from the IRS saying that more than one tax return was filed using their SSN. If someone used your SSN to get a job, and the employer reports that person’s income to the IRS using your SSN, the IRS will send you a notice saying you received wages but didn’t report them.

The best way to avoid tax

identity theft is to file your taxes as early as possible before a scammer has the chance to use your Social Security number to file a fraudulent return. This year the IRS will start accepting returns on February 12, about two weeks later than usual. The deadline for filing your taxes is still April 15.

As added security, tax filers can get an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) from the IRS before they file their returns. This is a six-digit number, which, in addition to your Social Security number, verifies your identity. It is important to note that you cannot opt-out once you get an IP PIN. Once you apply for it, you must provide the IP Pin every time you file your federal tax returns – this year and in all future years. The IRS will provide your IP PIN online. A new IP PIN is generated for each filing season and can be retrieved starting in mid-January of each year by logging into the account you create. Visit irs.gov/individuals/get-identity-protection-pin for more information about the program.

If you are the victim of tax identity theft, contact the IRS at 1-800-908-4490. You should also file a complaint with the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP.

Free Filing and Tips

Many taxpayers are eligible for free tax preparation and e-filing through the IRS’ Free File program or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). The IRS says that most taxpayers due a refund for the 2020 tax year will get it within three weeks if they file electronically and have the money deposited directly into their bank account.

The IRS’ Free File Program is a partnership with tax preparers and software companies that offer free online preparation

and e-filing of your tax returns to individuals and families with adjusted gross incomes of \$72,000 or less. To learn more, visit www.irs.gov/uac/Free-File-Do-Your-Federal-Taxes-for-Free.


The Georgia Department of Revenue is working with software vendors to offer free electronic filing services to qualified Georgia

taxpayers. Qualifying taxpayers can prepare and file both federal and Georgia individual income tax returns electronically using approved software for less or free of charge. Visit the Georgia Department of Revenue’s Free File Alliance at dor.georgia.gov/free-file-alliance.

If your adjusted gross income is more than

\$72,000, you can use free fillable forms via the IRS website (for federal return only); however, you need to know how to do your taxes yourself and have access to your 2019 tax return.

More tax tips can be found on the websites of the IRS and the Georgia Department of Revenue at irs.gov and dor.georgia.gov.



WE'VE GOT JOBS!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- CUTTER/GLUER:** \$12/HR, day shift, heavy lifting needed, must pay attention to details-will interview with client and must pass covid test
- EXTRUSION LINE:** \$12.50/hr 8pm to 8am, client wants to see profiles, must have experience running machines, especially extrusion lines. 5 OPENINGS
- GENERAL LABOR:** \$10/hr, 1st shift (7a-3p) 2nd shift (3pm-11pm), will consist of heavy lifting, unloading containers
- PRODUCTION WORKERS:** \$12/hr 7am to 4:30pm, heavy lifters needed for production line work
- CUSTODIAN:** \$11.09/hr, 12pm to 8pm, deep cleaning in facility
- CSR** -entering orders taken via phone, updating order information, checking inventory, etc. Paying temp is about \$11-\$12/hr – Monday - Friday. For now, the hours will be 9:00 - 5:00 when training, but will be adjusted 8:30 - 5:00.
- GENERAL LABOR:** \$10/hr, 12 hour shift- 7p to 7a, 7 days a week right now, lots of over time, bilingual/Spanish is a must! Heavy lifters needed for cutting, sealing boxes, packing, and able to work with variety of people.
- 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
- GENERAL LABOR:** \$11.25 hour, 8AM TO 5PM & 4pm to 3am approx. ten hour shift-M-Th, warehouse with some heavy lifting needed-sending profiles to client and they will interview-
- 1 CAR GREASERS-** rotating days \$12/hr 10-12 hour shifts-if we can't find 2 then 1 would work Mon-Fri 7am-5pm.

513 Lovers Lane Road S.E., Calhoun, GA

706.383.8234

Equal Opportunity Employer

CraneEater giving out FREE food boxes tomorrow

STAFF REPORTS

CraneEater Community Church, located at 3168 Red Bud Road NE, will be having their next FREE Food Box Drop this Sunday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. until all boxes are gone. For those interested in a food box, please pull into the main church parking lot off of Red Bud Road (beside the old rock church) and you will be directed from there. Do not line up before 2 p.m. due to traffic issues.

Obituaries

February 6, 2021

Chris Collis

Chris Collis, 51, of Ranger, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021. He was born on Feb. 26, 1969 at Floyd Medical Center in Rome to the late Clois and Bobbie Collis.

He is survived by his son, Christopher Blake Collis; Blake's mother, Victoria Patton; siblings, Terry Collis, Judy (Tommy) Parker, and Janet (Bill) Cronon; many loving nieces, nephews, and other relatives also survive.

Chris graduated from Fairmount High School in 1988. He got married, had a son, and worked travelling the country. He was a painter, and a hell-of-a-good one. And while others were rushing to get out of Ranger, he was always planning to return and settle down roots. When someone spoke of home, Chris always remembered his. It is what molded him into the person he was. It is where everything he loved in this life originated. When it came to his family and home, Chris was on the front line fighting for it, defending it, and cherishing it. When someone needed a helping hand, Chris would extend his arm. No matter who it was, there was always room at his table, in his home, in his life, for others. You could always count on him to provide the entertainment, and there was never a shortage of laughter when he was in the room. His humor was infectious. He understood the struggles of others better than anyone. He could connect with those who have felt lost and downtrodden in a way that no other could. Even when his body struggled with pain and suffering, he worked through it. He overcame many obstacles, even as he was told he wouldn't be able to. He was a good samaritan, a genuine soul, and a force to be reckoned with. And by the way, he was my dad, who loved me with every fiber of his being, and who will always be remembered for that. Chris left this world a better place, one filled with lessons of understanding, loyalty, generosity and love. And that is, and always will be, his legacy. I love you dad.

Services are being planned and will be announced at a later time.

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 Chris Collis.



Robin Freeman

Mrs. Robin Renee Cochran Freeman, 49, of Calhoun, died Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2021, at her residence.

Mrs. Freeman was born in Calhoun, daughter of the late Wayne and Wanda Burns Cochran. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Brenda O'Ryan. She was a stay-at-home wife and loved her family dearly. She enjoyed traveling, visiting the beach and the mountains.

Survivors include her husband, Randy Freeman, to whom she was married for 22 years; three daughters, Shelbi Long, Brittany Cochran, April (Kevin) Childers; sons, Wayne Freeman and Josh Freeman; sisters, Brandy (Kenneth) Price, Susan Burns, April Thacker; a brother; Billy (Teresa) Burns, grandchildren, Harper, Jordan, Drew, Blake, Caleb, and Abigail; sister-in-law, Linda Starkey along with nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A service to celebrate the life of Robin Renee Freeman will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Jamey Hunt and Rev. Jason Pace officiating. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 1 p.m. until the funeral hour.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, those attending the service at the funeral home are to wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines.

Online condolences may be expressed and the guest book signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Robin Renee Freeman, 49, of Calhoun.



Charles "Ro" Holbert

Charles Cicero "Ro" Holbert, age 82, of Calhoun, passed away on Monday, Feb. 1, 2021 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Ro was born on Sept. 16, 1938 in Georgia, son of the late Ernest Buford Holbert and Pearl Pauline Keener Holbert. In addition to his parents, Ro was also preceded in death by: his brother, Bill Holbert and his wife Joyce; two sisters, Agnes Cornwell and her husband Charles, and Barbara Sue Holbert; and nephews, Billy Holbert and Hunter Holbert.

Ro graduated from Red Bud School, Class of 1958. He served in the United States Army from 1961 – 1963 and was stationed in the Panama Canal zone guarding the locks during the Bay of Pigs. He retired from Goodyear and then later Omnova.



He was a member of Crane Eater Church of God, and later attended the Calhoun First Baptist Church faithfully. He spent many summers coaching Dizzie Dean Baseball. He loved to play golf and loved the Georgia Bulldogs and Atlanta Braves. He was a member of the Calhoun Elks Club.

Charles is survived by: his wife, Carolyn Pendley Holbert of Calhoun; children, Kyle Holbert Brown, Stephanie Marie Holbert, and Todd Holbert and his wife Kim; grandchildren, Spencer Garrett Brown, Knox Hudson Holbert, and Hamp Jackson Holbert; one brother, Tom Holbert of Kingsport, Tenn.; and a host of relatives and friends also survive.

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.

Services to celebrate the life of Ro were held on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021 at 2 p.m. from Calhoun First Baptist Church with Dr. John Barber officiating. Chet and Reva Utz had charge of music. Burial followed in Fain Cemetery.

Pallbearers serving included: Kevin Cornwell, Chad Cornwell, Wade Holbert, Drew Holbert, Ryan Harwell, Jeff Harwell, and Barry Holbert.

Honorary Pallbearers included: Jim Allison, Spunkey Mitchell, James Adams, Woodrow Allison, Olan Holmes, Max Treadway, and Bruce Henderson.

In lieu of flowers the family request that memorial contributions in memory of Ro be made to the building fund for Calhoun First Baptist Church.

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Charles Cicero "Ro" Holbert.



Holly O'Ree

Holly Ann O'Ree (Hartman), 37, of Fairmount, died suddenly on Jan. 31, 2021. She was born on Dec. 23, 1983 in Manteno, IL. to Duwayne Hartman and the late Sheila Rae Hartman. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Kayla Summer Mathias.

She worked at Subway in Fairmount. She was a loving mother to her children. She will be missed dearly by the ones who loved her.

She is survived by her children, Patrick O'Ree, Koda O'Ree, and Sheena O'Ree; stepdaughters, Kaitlyn O'Ree and Daphne O'Ree; half-brother, Marc Lorenze; several friends and other relatives also survive.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021 from 1 p.m. until the service hour of 3 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

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

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Masks are required and social distancing guidelines are to be followed for those attending the services at the funeral home.

Holly's family and friends would like to thank their friends for the donations in her memory.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Holly Ann O'Ree (Hartman).



Allen Parks

Allen Carter Parks, 70, of Plainville, passed away Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021. He was born on Oct. 23, 1950 in Ellijay to the late William and Bonnie Shepherd. He was preceded in death by his two brothers, Tim Parks and L.E. Parks.

Allen spent most his life in Calhoun, before moving to Plainville 6 years ago.

He is survived by his son, Heath Parks (Patricia); daughters, Melissa Bankston (Chris), Tonia Lowman (Gregg); brother, Thomas Parks; sister, Jennie Childers; grandchildren, Josh Smith, Devon Smith, Whitney and Britney Parks, Jamie Parks and nine great-grandchildren. Nieces, nephews, and other relatives also survive.

The family received friends on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

The funeral will be held Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021 at 11 a.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home with Pastor Joseph Wilkey officiating. Burial will follow in Scott Cemetery. Pallbearers include David Greeson, Gene McEntire, Anthony Wilkey, Cody Park, Tommy Payne and Josh Smith.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Allen Carter Parks.



Sharon Randall

Sharon Avon Randall, 74, of Calhoun, passed away on Feb. 4, 2021 at AdventHealth Gordon surrounded by her children. She was born on Dec. 30, 1946 in Seneca, South Carolina to the late Jewell Glenn and Willard Arlee Glenn. She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years,



William Jerry Randall; her loving daughter, Dana Michelle Randall and sister, Shelby Royal.

Sharon was a loving mother, wife, sister, aunt, and Nana. She was a God fearing woman and a beautiful soul.

She is survived by her loving children, son, Chris and Angel Randall and daughter, Mandi and Ray Matthews; grandchildren, Reed Randall, Ryan Randall, Laine Hall, Will Hall, Hayden Mathews, Kaydence Mathews, and Rhett Mathews; sister, Sherrill Walraven; nieces, Sherry and Stacy Floyd. Other special family members and friends also survive.

To honor her wishes, Sharon was cremated and all services will be private.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Sharon Avon Randall.



Help for the Hurting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-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.



Georgia DNR Announces \$8.4 Million in Outdoor Recreation Grant Funds

Gordon County selected to receive \$150,000 for Brookshire Park project

GEORGIA DNR

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced the grant applicants who have been selected to move forward in the approval process to receive approximately \$8.4 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced the grant applicants who have been selected to move forward in the approval process to receive approximately \$8.4 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program. These funds will be used for the acquisition, development and renovation of outdoor recreation areas all across the state.

The selected applicants will be invited to submit formal application proposals which will be presented to the National Park Service for final approval. Grantees are required to match the grant award on a dollar for dollar ratio making a \$17.8 million total impact on Georgia's parks and outdoor recreation areas.

Gordon County was selected for the Brookshire Park project. Located off of Hwy. 156/Oostanaula Road at the boat ramp, the SPLOST project consists of a park on existing county-owned greenspace near the Oostanaula River and will have a picnic pavilion, parking spaces, a walking trail and disc golf.

"Heading outdoors is a long-held tradition and great pastime for Georgians. Whether you are 3 or 93, the great outdoors provides limitless opportunities for mental and physical wellness, enjoying time with loved ones while safely socially distanced, or just unplugging from our busy lives," said Mark Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. "LWCF is a great tool for our state and local communities who understand the irreplaceable impact of outdoor recreation."

LWCF has existed since 1965 with the intent on creating a partnership between the federal, state, and local governments. Grants help support communities to create close to home recreation areas by acquiring and developing park land as well as renovating local parks and outdoor recreation areas. Georgia DNR conducts biannual grant application cycles for the LWCF grants. While maneuvering through a health crisis and realizing the importance of outdoor recreation, cities and counties all over the state submitted 76 proposals requesting \$19.2 million. Of the seventy-six, 27 were selected. The complete list of the 27 projects is below. For more information about LWCF and these grants, visit www.gadnr.org/lwcf.

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.

For more information, please visit www.GADNR.org.

2020-2021 Land and Water Conservation Fund Selections

City of Alamo

The New East Side Park, \$200,000

The City of Alamo plans to renovate an existing park and create a nature trail, pavilion shelters, basketball court, and a splash pad.

City of Alpharetta

AlphaLoop Trail, \$500,000

The City of Alpharetta will construct a .15-mile section of trail to connect two existing sections of the AlphaLoop Trail system.

Athens Clarke County

Princeton Mill Launch, \$240,000

The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government will acquire land and develop a non-motorized boat launch which will include a parking lot.

Bartow County

Mountain Bike Trail, \$150,000

Bartow County plans to develop a mountain bike trail and park in the Wilderness Camp Greenspace area. A gravel parking area, picnic area and restroom are also a part of the project.

City of Brunswick

Orange Park Improvements, \$185,150

The City of Brunswick will renovate Orange Park by making improvements to the basketball court and installing a splashpad, a restroom, a playground and picnic shelters.

City of Carrollton

Midtown Water Park, \$500,000

The City of Carrollton will acquire land adjacent to the existing Midtown Water Park. Also, the City will complete renovations of the existing pool and support facilities as well as develop a playground, picnic pavilion and walking path.

City of Cedartown

Goodyear Soccer Complex, \$345,000

The City of Cedartown plans to continue renovations at Goodyear Soccer Complex by constructing 3 soccer fields (2 youth sized, 1 regulation sized), lighting existing and new fields, and adding a much-needed parking lot.

GA DNR- Parks

Vogel State Park, \$2,000,000

The Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division plans to use grant funds to renovate the existing

campground at Vogel State Park and dredge Lake Trahlyta.

City of Douglas

Unity Park, \$278,000

The City of Douglas will use grant funds to make improvements at Unity Park. Improvements will include new baseball field lights, resurfacing the basketball court, replacing the playground equipment, and picnic shelter improvements.

City of Forsyth

Country Club Park, \$500,000

The City of Forsyth plans to expand the existing Country Club Park by adding an outdoor amphitheater, a covered basketball court, and a pavilion.

Gordon County

Brookshire Park, \$175,000

Gordon County will develop a park on existing county-owned greenspace near the Oostanaula River by adding a picnic pavilion, parking spaces, a walking trail, and disc golf.

City of Hampton

East Hampton Community Park phase 2, \$150,000

The City of Hampton plans to continue developing East Hampton Community Park. In this next phase, playground equipment will be installed, as well as the construction of a restroom and a walking trail.

City of Hawkinsville

Veterans Park, \$500,000

The City of Hawkinsville plans to expand the existing Veterans Park and transform it into an active city park by adding many amenities including a splash pad, volleyball/pickleball courts, a walking path, a skatepark, playground equipment, picnic tables and a restroom.

City of Hogansville

Lake Jimmy Jackson Park, \$87,500

The City of Hogansville will utilize grant funds to create a canoe/kayak launch, playground area, a volleyball court, fishing pavilions and install signage.

Jones County

Liberty Park, \$220,626

Jones County will acquire land to expand Liberty Park. They will also construct new trails, install exercise stations, construct a pavilion, and rehabilitate the existing playground to create distinct areas for different age groups.

City of LaFayette

LaFayette Municipal Park, \$122,500

The City of LaFayette will install a splashpad between the existing pool and ball fields at the City Municipal park.

City of Marietta

Wildwood Park, \$500,000

The City of Marietta plans to utilize grant funds to develop a competition level disc golf course, new restroom, picnic area, create a new and improve the existing parking area, and other park improvements.

Meriwether County

Meriwether County/Greenville Recreation Facility, \$200,000

Meriwether County plans to create a new park. Phase 1 will include an open play area, two basketball courts, playground equipment, natural surface trails, restrooms, and a dog park.

City of Monroe

Downtown Green Park, \$500,000

The City of Monroe plans to construct a downtown park that will include an outdoor amphitheater, restroom, splash pad, bench swings, an entry fountain



Brookshire Park in Gordon County.

and benches throughout the park.

Putnam County

Poole Recreation Center, \$195,730

Putnam County plans to expand the aquatic offerings at the Poole Recreation Complex by constructing a splash pad along with a concessions/restroom building.

City of Ringgold

Golden Mile Trail, \$200,000

The City of Ringgold will continue making improvements to the Golden Mile Trail by changing the surface of the trail from gravel to concrete, creating accessible parking spaces and installing other amenities.

Rockdale County

DeCastro Trailhead Nature Center, \$125,000

Rockdale County plans to create a nature center and pavilion on donated property located within the Rockdale River Trail system.

City of Rockmart

Nathan Dean Park, \$125,000

The City of Rockmart will replace an existing playground with new equipment and install exercise stations along the existing walking trail.

City of Shiloh

Shiloh Walking Trail Park, \$45,000

The City of Shiloh plans to improve the Shiloh Walking Trail park by repaving the existing trail, installing playground equipment, park benches and other park amenities.

City of Thomasville

Paradise Park, \$200,000

The City of Thomasville will utilize grant funds to make improvements to the historic Paradise Park that will include adding a walking loop, improving the playground, enhancing the parking area, new lighting, bandstand restoration and other improvements.

Town of Turin

Community Park G, \$159,250

The Town of Turin plans to develop a new park in phases. Phase 1 will include the acquisition of the land, the creation of a walking trail, pavilion, picnic tables, playground area, restrooms, parking and other park amenities.

Whitfield County

Rocky Face Ridge Trail, \$50,000

Whitfield County will use grant funds to create two trail routes to the Rocky Face Ridge summit and install a vault restroom.

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Education

AMS students work on writing skills



Students in Ms. Burnham's ELA classes are practicing their argumentative writing skills. This week, students researched the positive and negative impacts of violent role-playing games on teens. While in the media center, Mrs. Hunt (LMS) provided access to multiple resources and coached students on how to use them effectively. Mr. Larson (AP) dropped by to assist Ms. Burnham in conferencing with students on their essay drafts. We are so proud of our Writing Warriors!

CCS joins in World Read Aloud Day



Calhoun City Schools joined millions around the world to celebrate the power of reading aloud for the 12th annual World Read Aloud Day on February 3, 2021! Classes also enjoyed a special visit from Superintendent, Dr. Michele Taylor and Teacher/Leader Development Specialist, Susan Bennett as they shared some of their favorite books.

Kindergarten registration information for CPS

Calhoun Primary Kindergarten Registration

Calhoun Primary Kindergarten Registration will be held March 1st, 2nd, and 5th. If your child will be 5 years old on or before 9/1/21, please call 706-629-8323 or 706-602-6711 now to schedule an appointment for registration and screening. You must bring your up rising Kindergarten student and the required documents with you when you register. Students who currently attend Calhoun City Schools Pre-K program will not need to register at this time. Due to the pandemic, we are requiring people to wear masks and asking that only one adult and the up rising Kindergarten student attend registration to ensure social distancing. We can't wait to welcome our youngest Jackets!

La inscripción de kindergarten de la primaria de Calhoun se llevará a cabo el 1, 2 y 5 de marzo. Si su hijo cumplirá 5 años antes del 9/1/21, llame al 706-629-8323 o al 706-602-6711 ahora para hacer una cita para el registro y la evaluación. Debe traer a su hijo que va a entrar a kindergarten y los documentos requeridos cuando se registre. Los estudiantes que actualmente asisten al programa Pre-K de Calhoun City Schools no necesitarán registrarse en este momento. Debido a la pandemia, estamos exigiendo que las personas usen máscaras, distancia social y pidiendo que solo un adulto y el alumno entrando a Kindergarten asistan a la inscripción. ¡Estamos ansiosos por recibir a nuestras chaquetas más jóvenes!

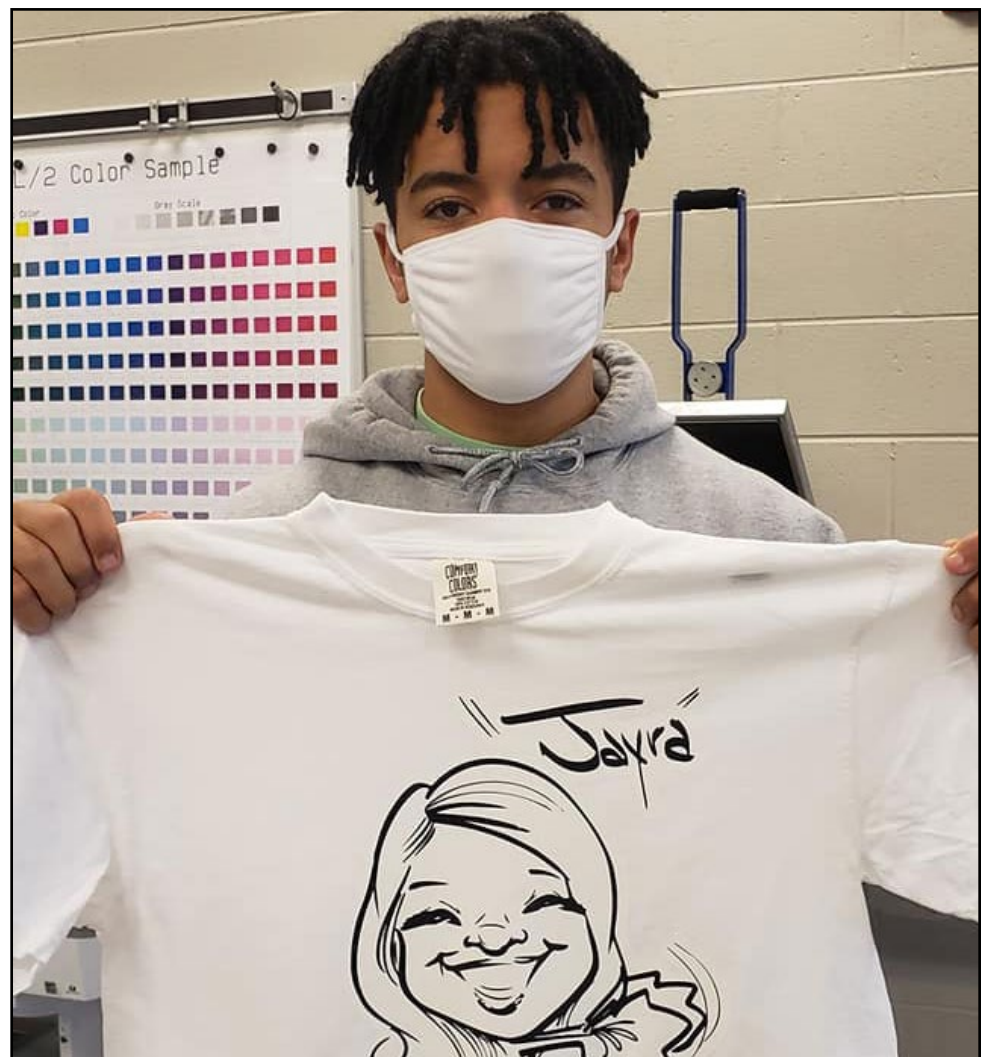


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School Meals During Hybrid Instruction Gordon Central High School and Sonoraville High School February 8 - 19, 2021

School meals will still be available to all high school students when they are on the hybrid instruction schedule. Both breakfast and lunch will be served to students in the cafeterias on in-person instruction days, and pick-up meals will be provided for students to have at home when they are doing online instruction. Students that attend in person Monday and Tuesday will have their meals in the cafeterias on Monday and Tuesday and, at the end of the day Tuesday, they will pick up meals to take home for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (breakfast and lunch for 3 days, for a total of 6 meals). Students that attend online instruction at home on Monday and Tuesday will be able to pick up meals at their school or at any Gordon County school they choose -- the pick-up schedule is below this post. As February 15-17 is the scheduled Winter Break, there will not be meal service those days.

Questions? Please call the School Nutrition Office at 706-625-0786.



GCCCA Graphic Design update

This past week at the Gordon County College & Career Academy, Graphic Design students worked on a printed heat transfer vinyl tshirt project for Sonoraville Competition Cheerleaders. Scanned images were imported into Adobe Illustrator to create a print and cut file. Students, then learned how to remove unwanted material from the printed HTV, use transfer tape, and the heat press. Students also learned about organizing and execution of print job, as well as teamwork.

To stay up to date on the latest community news, follow the Gordon Gazette on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



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GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Will Georgia ease rules for visitors in long-term care facilities?

ANDY MILLER, Georgia Health News

At first, Gail Manter thought the pandemic wouldn't last long, and that she'd be able to see her husband, Tom, sooner rather than later.

But the COVID-19 crisis in this country has now dragged on for 11 months.

And instead of visiting Tom, 73, almost every day at his Hartwell nursing home, as she used to do, Gail has only had a couple of outdoor visits with him during the pandemic. Tom has Parkinson's disease, and has been in the facility two years.

Long-term care visitation has been restricted by Gov. Brian Kemp's executive order and under federal guidelines.

The Manters once tried a visit through glass double doors. "We tried the glass thing, but we both cried," says Gail. "It was terrible."

Restrictions on visits were imposed early in the COVID pandemic, as nursing homes and other long-term care facilities endured a horrific disease toll. More than 4,000 Georgia residents of these homes have died — about

one-third of the state's confirmed deaths from COVID-19.

But now, with nursing home residents getting vaccinations, the state's long-term care ombudsmen have urged Kemp to ease his rules and allow an "essential visitor" — typically a family member — to come into the building to see an individual loved one.

Gail Manter wants to see that happen fast. "Everybody needs to see their family. We need to be touched."

The nursing home staff has been good to Tom, she says, but "he's deteriorating mentally. That is the worst thing."

Mallory Blount, a spokeswoman for Kemp, said Thursday that the state is following CDC guidelines on visitation. State officials, she said, "will continue to evaluate ongoing progress in vaccination of these facilities and ensure future guidance reflects the risk of COVID-19 to residents and staff, while also making every effort to allow our most vulnerable Georgians to safely return to normal."

In the Legislature, a bill by Rep. Ed Setzler (R-Acworth) would bar hospitals and nursing

homes from preventing family from visiting loved ones during health emergencies, the AJC reported Thursday. If it becomes law, it would go into effect July 1.

A controversial question

More than 85,000 Georgians reside in long-term care facilities.

The ombudsmen's proposal says the essential visitor would have to wear personal protective equipment, complete a health screening, and submit to regular viral testing.

With long waits to see family members, "people are just withering away," says Melanie McNeil, the state's chief long-term care ombudsman. "If you are used to seeing your family member every day, and you haven't seen them for months, you tend to want to give up."

The federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services loosened its visitation guidelines to allow for "compassionate care" exceptions in September. But some facilities are interpreting those exceptions to apply only to end-of-life situations, McNeil said.

The nursing home



industry is against the visitation change.

"While our members would love nothing more than to reunite residents with families and return to a level of normalcy in regards to visitation, we believe it would be unwise to hasten the ease in restrictions before it is safe to do so," said Devon Barill, a spokeswoman for the Georgia Health Care Association, which represents long-term care facilities.

"With the availability of the vaccine, we are so close to being able to make a sustained change in the direction of this pandemic and its impact on long-term care communities and policies surrounding visitation," Barill added. "We do not see the limitations on

visitation being relaxed until there is a lower incidence of the virus in the community."

McNeil, the ombudsman, said that an essential visitor procedure could mean more work for the facility, "but it will be better for residents."

For older adults, loneliness and isolation can impact their physical health as well as mental health, said Kerstin Gerst Emerson of the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Georgia's College of Public Health.

These factors can weaken the immune system and raise a person's blood pressure, Emerson said. "If your mind is not happy, often your body is not happy." The pandemic has

exacerbated these isolation problems with the cutoff of many social interactions. Older adults are resilient, Kersten said, but many are struggling.

Manter, who like her husband has Parkinson's, participates in a Facebook group, Georgia Caregivers for Compromise, which pushes for expanding visitation. There are similar groups in other states.

"My story is a piece of cake compared to others," she says. "My husband is not dying but he has declined."

"People are dying from isolation every day."

Andy Miller is Owner/Editor of Georgia Health News.

Weekly Schedule: Free Public Health COVID-19 Testing in Northwest Georgia

Monday February 8	Tuesday February 9	Wednesday February 10	Thursday February 11	Friday February 12
Paulding	Gordon	Dade Floyd	Walker	no testing



TEST SITES

HOURS

- Dade: 71 Case Avenue, Suite H-100, Trenton, GA
- Floyd: Rome Fair Grounds, 1400 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., Rome, GA
- Gordon: Senior Center, 150 Cambridge Court, Calhoun, GA
- Paulding: Paulding Meadows, 472 Paulding Meadows Dr., Dallas, GA
- Walker: Mount Zion Baptist Church, 289 Dunwoody Road, LaFayette, GA

- 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All test sites drive-up, no appointment needed.

Test sites may delay opening due to weather concerns. Delays will be posted at nwgapublichealth.org and county health department Facebook pages.

HERITAGE 2021

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

GORDON Gazette

ROOTED IN GORDON COUNTY

A FREE ONLINE PUBLICATION LAUNCHING ON FEB. 23, 2021

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— Kevan Carpenter, Commercial Floor Resources

COVID From page 1A

follow that two-day per week model; however, because the 2nd week encompasses winter break, and February 15-17 are already scheduled to be student holidays, there will be a variation from the set schedule.

In mid-October 2020, when GCS put their high school students on a hybrid schedule due to active COVID cases, there were 26 active cases within the school system at that time. This is the third week that Gordon County Schools has had active cases over the October number.

In numbers reported on Friday afternoon, Feb. 5, 2021:

Gordon County Schools reported a total of 37 active COVID-19 cases system-wide, up 10 active cases from last week. There are a total of 8 staff members (up 2 from last week) and 29 students (up 8 from last week) that are considered active cases of COVID-19 at the system.

The student breakdown of current active COVID19 cases at the school system is: 3 students at Belwood Elementary, 5 students at Gordon Central, 1 student at Red Bud Elementary, 3 students at Red Bud Middle, 1 student at Sonorville Elementary and 16 students at Sonorville High School

Among staff with current active cases of COVID, Gordon County Schools reported 1 staff member at Ashworth Middle, 1 staff member at Belwood Elementary, 2 staff members at Gordon Central, 1 staff member at Red Bud Elementary, 1 staff

member at Sonorville Elementary, 1 staff member at Sonorville High and 1 staff member at W.L. Swain Elementary.

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 this week increased to 26 new cases, up 2 from last week. There were 20 new cases among students (1 at Calhoun Primary, 4 at Calhoun Elementary, 1 at Calhoun Middle and 10 at Calhoun High School), and 6 new cases among staff members (1 at CPS, 1 at CES, 1 at CMS, 2 at CHS and 1 at Central Office).

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

Both school systems have adopted strict cleaning procedures and are following the health and safety guidelines set forth by the CDC concerning social distancing. Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 at either school system cannot return to school until they meet the Department of Public Health's Return to School Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure.

Numbers of COVID19 cases continued to climb

in Calhoun-Gordon County, with 194 new cases reported in the community since last Saturday, and 6 additional deaths contributed to the virus.

At press time Saturday morning, Feb. 6, 2021, Gordon County has had 5,370 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began -up 194 cases since the same time last week. COVID-19 related deaths now stand at 81, up 6 deaths from last week. The Department of Public Health also reports 7 additional probable deaths from COVID. There have been 259 hospitalizations in Gordon County due to COVID-19 since March, up 6 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...9,246 cases, 160 deaths, 13 probable deaths and 609 hospitalizations;

-Floyd County... 8,759 cases, 142 deaths, 27 probable deaths and 690 hospitalizations;

-Whitfield County...13,675 cases, 174 deaths, 9 probable deaths and 662 hospitalizations.

The State of Georgia has now reported 766,604 cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began, with 13,146 deaths, 1,712 probable deaths and 51,479 hospitalizations.

Gordon 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/>

ELECTRIC From page 1A

online this fall. The City already receives energy from the two original units at Vogtle.

"We're one of the few states in the United States with this level of resources," said Vickery. "The City of Calhoun is actually slightly better than the state's non-emitting resources percentage. We're in a good position. These are things that have taken place without major reiterations in power supply. The City of Calhoun is on the cutting-edge of being in an environmentally-safe generation."

According to the City of Calhoun, the City's Electric System, a participant city of the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG), generates and distributes electricity to approximately 5,000 of Calhoun's residential, commercial and industrial citizens and consumers. The electric system has, in its 100-year history, maintained reliable and low-cost service, with the goal of being the power supplier of choice now and in the next millennium.

The City of Calhoun Electric Utilities receives the majority of its power from nuclear power. Through a partnership with MEAG, Calhoun receives the nuclear power from two nuclear plants in Georgia, one of those being Vogtle, located in Burke County near Waynesboro. The City's allotted capacity will secure a future power resource with Vogtle Unit 3 planned to come online in 2021 and Vogtle Unit 4 planned to come online in 2022, which should accommodate the community's power needs for the next 30 to 35 years.

The City has also strategically planned for the electric utility deregulation by implementing a significant 22 mega-watt natural gas turbine generator, which stabilizes cost during volatile market conditions and adds to the City's base generation as required. The Electric management team continues to pursue the efforts of acquiring additional generation opportunities for MEAG and its participating cities.

The rest of the breakup for the City of Calhoun's power includes 24 percent natural gas, two percent coal and five percent net purchases.

Free Tree Seedlings

Celebrate ARBOR DAY 2021

Saturday February 20th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Calhoun Recreation Dept. Gym
River Street, Calhoun, GA

EVERYONE IS INVITED

FREE TREE GIVEAWAY

Trees Available this year:

- River burch
- Persimmon
- Bald cyprus
- Paw Paw
- Kousa Dogwood
- Sweet Bay Magnolia
- Pecan
- Black Locust
- Hawthorn
- Buttonbush
- Red Oak
- Crepe Myrtle

• And other varieties, depending on GA Forestry availability

NOTE:
We will follow COVID restriction protocol. Masks are required, and social distancing will be monitored.

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eSPLOST

From page 1A

offices, support services and other purposes of Gordon County Schools.
The maximum cost of the projects listed by GCS is approximately \$37,324,000.

Capital outlay projects and costs proposed by Calhoun City Schools include:
-The construction of the Early Learning Academy to include Junior Jacket Academy, PreK and

Kindergarten
-Acquisition, installation of computers and new technology system-wide
-Land acquisition around the middle/high school campus for enrollment growth and parking
-HVAC replacement/repairs throughout the district
-Acquisition and equipping of school buses
-Renovations/modifications, construction, improvements and additions to and equipment for existing academic and athletic facilities and the infrastructure supporting these facilities including security systems, painting, carpet and/or tile

replacement and lighting on all campuses in the district.
The maximum cost of the projects listed by CCS is approximately \$14,714,000.
The City system will also use around \$9,962,000 to pay the general obligation debt for middle/high school construction debt for the retirement of 2011/2012 bonds. The combined cost to pay off outstanding debt and new capital outlay projects is \$24,676,000.
The request for the continuation of the eSPLOST will now be placed on a referendum ballot to be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Church Calendar

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

-First Presbyterian Church, located at 829

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-The College Street Church of God, 731 College St., Calhoun, 706-483-3666, pastor Dwayne Smith, holds weekly services: Sunday school at 10 a.m., Sunday; morning worship at 11

a.m., Sunday; Sunday night service at 6 p.m.; and Bible study on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

p.m. Wednesday service begins at 7 p.m., along with Bible study programs for children and youth.

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

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

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

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

11 a.m. Sunday worship and 7 p.m. Wednesday worship.

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

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

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

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

-Talking Rock Creek Chapel has a new pastor, the Pastor Donald Broachurst and family.

Service times are 9 a.m. for Sunday school and Children's Church and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday. For more information, call 706-669-0854.

-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.

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