

GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

www.gordongazettega.com

Volume 2, No. 80

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News



Gordon County Chamber of Commerce STATE OF INDUSTRY VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR

Presented by AdventHealth Gordon

Friday, July 24 • 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Guest Speaker: **RUSSELL GRIZZLE**
CEO of Mannington Mills



GORDON COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



City gives update on improvements at Calhoun Recycling Center at latest meeting

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Improvements have been made to the Calhoun Recycling Center, pictured right, which is located on Pine Street in downtown Calhoun, thanks to funds from the 2018 SPLOST.

At the most recent meeting of the Calhoun City Council on

Monday, July 13, City Administrator Paul Worley said that the Recycling Center is now paved instead of the gravel drive it previously had, and concrete pads have been installed to stabilize the bins. Also, Worley said that the community is doing a great job of recycling cardboard, so the City is hooking up a compactor for cardboard to reduce

the amount of containers the City is having to store.

"We have used \$48,793.52 on the recent concrete and paving project," said Worley of the SPLOST funds. "We hope to complete a few more improvements, but that is in the development

See CITY,
page 9A



BRANDI OWCZARZ

Rep. Barton making recovery after hospitalization

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Rep. Matt Barton (R-5th District, Calhoun) was hospitalized at Redmond Medical Center on Thursday, July 9 due to a serious infection that caused a seizure.

He was placed on a ventilator at the time, and spent the weekend in the hospital.

His family requested prayers from the community, and on Monday, July 13, he was removed from the vent and is recovering.

"Last week, I faced an unexpected health challenge from an infection that caused a seizure," said Barton in a statement on

Monday. "With God's mercy, I am blessed to be recovering well, and I want to thank the doctors and nurses at Redmond Regional Medical Center for their excellent care. I will be taking a few days to get back up to fighting strength and then get back to work for my neighbors and our community."

Rep. Barton was elected to the State house in 2019 during a special election that was held after the November 2018 death of longtime Rep. John Meadows. Barton served on both the Calhoun City Schools Board of Education and the Calhoun City Council prior to his service at the state level.



Index

Second Front.....2A
Obituaries.....3A
Church Calendar.....5A
Agriculture.....7A
Health.....8A
Movie Review.....11A

Inside this issue: SECOND FRONT 2A



AdventHealth CEO Terry Shaw appears on CBS' 'Face the Nation.'

HEALTH 8A



GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: State agency stalling on requests for COVID-19 emails, critics say.

@gordongazette
@gordongazette
@gazettegordon

Gordon County BOE approves tentative 2021 Fiscal Year budget; sets public input dates

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

The Gordon County Board of Education held a called meeting on Tuesday night, July 14, voting to approve a tentative budget for the 2021 Fiscal Year.

A copy of the tentative budget can be found [HERE](#).

On Monday, a public input session (hearing) for public comments will be held this Monday, July 20, at 6:15 p.m. at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Gordon County Board of Education. A second public input session will be held on Tuesday, July 28 at 12 noon at the Gordon County College and Career Academy before the Board will vote on the final budget.

The tentative budget passed Tuesday night shows expenditures from the General Fund in the

amount of \$ 61,548,353, with revenues for the General Fund coming in about \$3 million under that at \$58,224,974. "When I first came and reviewed the budget we had, my concern was the numbers matching, and I felt we were out of balance," said Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Fraker. "It's not that we're out of balance is we have a healthy fund balance. The way the state looks at it is if your savings, added toward your current budget, are greater than your expenses (you're in good shape)."

With \$17.7 million in reserves, if the school system is not able to find ways to cut from the budget during the year, as in the past, they will

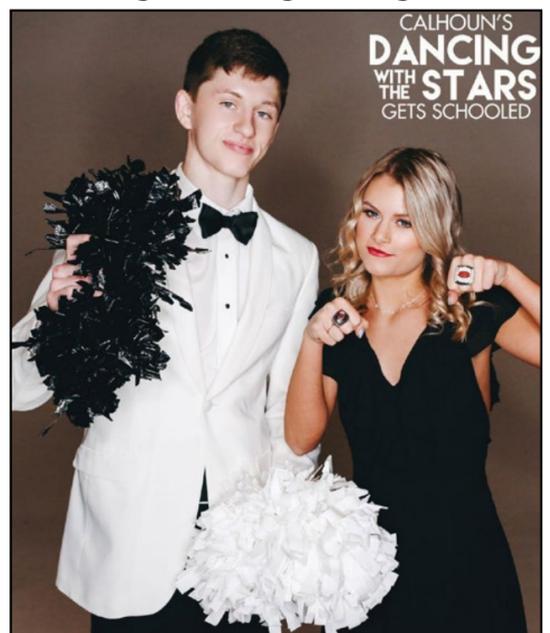
See BOE,
page 11A

'Mohawk Presents Dancing with the Stars Gets Schooled!' introduces fifth team: Key, Derryberry

CONTRIBUTED

"Mohawk Presents Calhoun's Dancing with the Stars Gets Schooled!" will put eighteen local high school students onstage for back-to-back shows at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8 at the Calhoun Performing Arts Center. Nine dance teams will vie for trophies, bragging rights and college scholarships as they compete to raise funds for United Way of Gordon County.

"Planning an event like Dancing with the Stars truly takes a village. We have a planning committee that consists of Andy Baxter with Andy Baxter Photography, Jennie Coker with Calhoun City Schools, Kristy Brown with Greater Community Bank, retired educator Michelle Frix Ward, and Dr. Amy Parker with Gordon County Schools that has been working to put the 2020 show together. This committee



CALHOUN'S
DANCING
WITH THE STARS
GETS SCHOOLED

PHOTO: ANDY BAXTER

Mariah Jade Key and Jayce Derryberry

is a hands-on group of committee members local professionals who are fully committed to the success of the event and United Way," said Jennifer Latour, Executive Director of United Way of Gordon County.

"Several of our

See DWTS,
page 11A

Second Front

Feds looking into securities laws violations against Mohawk

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission are looking into allegations that Mohawk Industries, the flooring manufacturing headquartered in Calhoun, has violated federal securities laws, according to an 8-K filing issued by Mohawk on Monday.

According to the filing, on June 29, 2020, an amended class action suit was filed against Mohawk and its CEO Jeff Loberbaum for violations of federal securities laws in the Northern District of Georgia. The complaint alleges that Mohawk engaged in fabricating revenues by attempting delivery to customers that were closed and recognizing these attempts as sales; overproduced product to report higher operating margins and maintained significant inventory that was not salable; and valued certain inventory improperly or improperly delivered inventory with knowledge that the inventory was defective and customers would return it.

The lawsuit was brought against

the company by the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi.

According to the filing, Mohawk intends to "vigorously defend itself in the lawsuit."

Mohawk went on to say in the filing that on June 25, 2020, the company received subpoenas issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on topics similar to those raised by the amended complaint.

The company said it is cooperating with authorities.

"As we manage through the current economic disruption, Mohawk is well positioned with a strong balance sheet and limited debt. We have recently issued over \$1 billion of long term bonds to strengthen our ability to strategically invest and better position Mohawk for the future. Our operations are improving as countries adapt to COVID-19," said Mohawk in the filing.

Mohawk, one of the largest producers of floor coverings for both residential and commercial sectors in the world, is also one of the largest employers in Gordon County and Northwest Georgia. The company produces carpet and rugs, hard



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

flooring products such as ceramic tile and hardwood, laminate flooring, sheet vinyl and luxury vinyl tile. The company employees more than 40,000 people worldwide, with operations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, India, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

AdventHealth CEO Terry Shaw appears on CBS' 'Face the Nation'

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

AdventHealth CEO Terry Shaw, pictured above, was a guest Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," one of the longest-running news programs on air, to talk about the organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shaw shared how AdventHealth is managing supplies and hospital bed capacities to continue to keep our communities safe.

[Click here to see the](#)

[full interview.](#)

During the six-minute interview, Shaw fielded questions from host Margaret Brennan on varying topics such as the rise in cases in Florida, hospital capacity, personal protective equipment (PPE) and staffing shortages.

"I'm thankful that we've had several months to learn how to treat the disease," Shaw told Brennan. "We're much better prepared in July than we were in March. We have adequate

personal protective equipment. We have a stockpile of ventilators, and we have an amazing clinical team that have taken best practices from around the globe and put them into our treatment protocols."

Shaw laid out how AdventHealth is able to strategically leverage its national footprint to move clinicians for needed provide

See **SHAW**, page 10A



Local Chamber completes annual scholarship cycle

Amazing Race sponsors rally to support Young Professionals programs

CONTRIBUTED

The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce announced the completion of its annual scholarship cycle by awarding nine local high school seniors college scholarships through three of its signature events. Five of the scholarships were funded by Youth Leadership and Education & Workforce Development projects, which were completed before Covid-19 struck.

The Young Professionals Committee, chaired by Will Harrison, Mannington Commercial and Vice-Chair B.J. Robinson, Georgia Farm Bureau, presents several annual events, including Amazing Race. That event was cancelled in April for public safety, but in a remarkable display of generosity, all twelve sponsors insisted the Chamber retain the funds in order to move forward with program commitments including four scholarships and support for the Calhoun Autism Network.

"The Chamber is fortunate to have members that support, endorse, and participate in our programs," said Kathy Johnson, President & CEO of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce, "and we are always grateful for that support, but when circumstances such as we have seen in recent months take place and we're unexpectedly launched into uncertainties, that generosity is even more appreciated. These twelve sponsors would have been entirely justified in requesting refunds, but not one did. Not one."

Mohawk Industries was the signature sponsor of

Amazing Race, while Lyles Wealth Management sponsored the event tee-shirt. AdventHealth Gordon, Harbin Clinic, Mannington Commercial, Starr-Mathews Agency, and Synovus sponsored at the Gold Level while First Bank of Calhoun, Momon Construction, North Georgia National Bank, Pete's Music, and Water Tower Grille were Silver sponsors. Harbin Clinic, a first-time sponsor, had also offered to supply small medical kits for all the racers' bags while First Bank of Calhoun had committed to providing water for the racers and for each volunteer station.

Funds raised from Amazing Race support scholarships for one graduating senior from each of the four local high schools. Those students were Luke Peden, Calhoun High School; Sierra Scott, Gordon Central High School; Ben Stewart, Sonorville High School; and Jensen Sutton, Georgia Cumberland Academy. This group of scholarship recipients was saluted in a June article.

Amazing Race also funds a charitable donation to one properly registered 501(c)3 non-profit operating in Gordon County and this year, the chosen recipient was Calhoun Autism Network. The agency was chosen from a field of eight applicants and the decision was made by an anonymous panel using a standardized rubric.

"Thank you and the committee so much for selecting Calhoun Autism Network," said Barry Blevins after the March 2 presentation notifying him of the selection. "It is an



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

FROM LEFT: Luke Peden, Calhoun High School; Sierra Scott, Gordon Central High School; Jensen Sutton, Georgia Cumberland Academy; and Ben Stewart, Sonorville High School

honor to be chosen, but it is also going to be such a tremendous blessing to the families that we serve. I am so excited to share the news at our next meeting. Because of the Chamber's generosity, special needs youth in our community will have an opportunity to learn and refine social skills, which is a particular challenge to people on the autism spectrum."

Calhoun Autism Network (CAN) was founded by Justin Lindsey and Barry Blevins in 2016 to provide family support meetings for families with loved ones on the Autism Spectrum. As the group began to grow, Calhoun Autism Network evolved into a 501(c)3 in 2018. The organization meets on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 at the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Office located on 1282 SR 53 Spur SW in Calhoun. Monthly meetings feature guest speakers that specialize on specific topics relevant to the needs of those served. These meetings are open to the public.

Justin Lindsey, Marisela

Perez, Greg Walker, Barry Blevins, and Martha Burton serve respectively on the Executive Board as President, Vice-President, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and

Secretary. Board members include Kathy Parker-Adams, John Anderson, Freda Garciacardona, Rachel Goforth, and Alison Haveman.

The mission of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce is to connect members and the community to promote economic growth.

DOWNTOWN CALHOUN

Farmers Market

Mondays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Beginning June 1

Every Monday at 10 a.m. throughout the summer, the Downtown Calhoun Farmers Market will be set up in the parking lot of the Depot at the corner of Court Street and South King Street.

Obituaries

July 15, 2020

Jane Boswell

Jane Hall Boswell, 63, of Calhoun, died Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at her home. She was born on Jan. 15, 1957 to the late Ernest Hall and Joy McQuinis.

She is survived by her husband William Boswell; sons and daughters-in-law William and Sarah Boswell, Derrick and Ann Cochran, and Keith Cochran; daughter Angie Hall; grandchildren Lilian Bowling, Ashley Cochran, Maylee, Case, and Carlee Cochran, Ruby, Peyton, Leyla, Liam, and Dona Rose Boswell.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the family will have a private service from the chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral home with burial to follow in Fain Cemetery.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Jane Hall Boswell.



Arrangements by family owned and operated Ponders Calhoun Chapel and Ponders Crematory. 675 Jolly Rd Calhoun GA 30701 706-625-7577



Margaret Douthitt

Margaret Laynette Douthitt, 62, of Resaca, died Saturday, July 11, 2020. She was born on July 6, 1958 in Gordon County to the late Myrl Lee and Carolyn Reed Webb Stephens. She was preceded in death by her brother, Roy Lee Stephens and brother-in-law, Jimmy Blankenship.

She recently retired from Mannington Mills after 25 years of service and attended The Gathering Place in Dalton.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas Daniel Douthitt; daughters, Heather Douthitt and Shannon DeSha White; stepchildren, Cindy Renee Delgadillo, Jennifer (Mark) Young, and Jessica (Adam) Jennings; sister, Diane Blankenship; sister-in-law, Penny Stephens; grandchildren, Brandon Delgadillo, Austin Revels, Alex Delgadillo, Hailey Cole, Hope Young, Sarah Jennings, Alycia Revels, Brian Revels, Savannah Jennings, Aiden Jennings, Lucas Jordan, and Morgan Jennings; great grandchildren, Dylan, Rose, and Lukas; several friends and other family members also survive.

The memorial service was held Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 6 p.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home with Pastor Ryan Miller officiating. Pallbearers serving included Mike Nixon, Austin Revels, Brian Revels, and Mark Young.

The family received friends at the funeral home from 5 – 6 p.m. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, social distancing guidelines will be observed.

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 Margaret Laynette Douthitt.



Jamie Brannon

Jamie Lee Brannon, 39, of the Ranger Community, died on Sunday, July 12, 2020, following several months of declining health. Jamie was born in Rome on March 17, 1981. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sunya Davidson Brannon.



Jamie is survived by his father, Randy Brannon; his brother, Jeremy Brannon; his nephew and niece, Aiden and Evelyn Brannon; his uncles and aunts, Jackie and Teresa Brannon, Teresa and Dale Stone, Deborah Brannon, Diane Rickman, Gail Davidson, and Sandra Davidson; his cousins and other relatives.

The Brannon family received friends on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The funeral service followed the visitation on Tuesday at 2 p.m. Burial followed in the family plot at Mt. Pleasant (Ryo) Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Delmar Ledford and Rev. Eddie Brannon officiated. Pallbearers were Joey Childers, Jason Childers, Donald Johnson, John Johnson, Wren Shannon, and Tim Owens.

Friends and family may sign the guest register and make a contribution to help toward final expenses at www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

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



David Burnett

Mr. Mason David Burnett, known by family and friends as “David”, 85, of Calhoun, departed this life early Monday morning, July 13, 2020 in the comfort of his home surrounded by his loving family.



David was born in Murray County in 1935. He was the son of the late Marion Davis and Annie Mae Pilcher Burnette. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by a son, Marion Herschell Burnett; sisters, Barbara Burnette and Connie Long; brothers, Coleman Burnette and Bobby Burnette; and a great-granddaughter, Braylee Grace Charles.

He was a veteran of The United States Navy having served for over eight years. David spent many years in law enforcement. He had previously been employed with the Constable’s office in Lafayette, and the Whitfield County Sheriff’s Office where he also worked as an undercover officer with the Drug Task Force. For over ten years he also worked as security at Walmart in Dalton.

He is survived by his loving wife, Rilla Mae Cochran Burnett; daughter and son-in-law, Janie and Wayne Hilburn of Villanow; step-daughters, Pam Minthorn, Lori Young and her husband Keith of Calhoun; step-sons, Mike Baker and wife Brenda of Dalton, Terry Baker of Calhoun; thirteen grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren; sisters and brothers-in-law, Norma Jackson of Dalton, Thera Kinney of Eton, Betty and Robert Collins of Calhoun, Wanda and Steve Simpson of Illinois; brothers and sisters-in-law, Kenneth and Juanita Burnette, Winfred and Dimple Burnette, Nathan and Donna Burnette all of Dalton; Clay Burnette of South Carolina; aunt, Edra Nix; special friend, Walter Lowe; the mother of his children, Barbara Burnett; several nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive.

Services to celebrate the life of Mr. David Burnett will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 4 p.m. in Ponders Calhoun Chapel. Reverend Dakota Grogan will officiate.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, July 16, 2020 from 2 – 4 p.m. at Ponders Calhoun Chapel.

Due to the national health crisis social distancing is recommended and crowd restrictions may be implemented.

Condolences may be sent to the family and the guestbook may be signed by visiting our website at www.pondersfuneralhome.com.

Connie Hannah

Mrs. Connie Elizabeth Hannah, age 54, of Rydal, passed away Thursday, July 9, 2020, at Redmond Regional Medical Center.

Mrs. Hannah was born in Cartersville on April 3, 1966, to the late Wayne and Kathleen Patterson Mulkey. She cherished her husband, Bobby Hannah, to whom she had been married for 37 years, loved road trips, Sunday drives, and music.

Survivors include her husband, Bobby Hannah; children, Sean Hannah, Jeff and Cassie Cotter; granddaughter, Lily Cotter; siblings, Larry Mulkey, Mike and Tracy Brown, April Milligan, Misty Reed, Griffin and Charlene Long, Alan and Barbara Hannah, Patti Day, Rusty and Barbara Walker, Randy Hannah; many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews also survive.

Memorial services will be held at Gatewood Park, Pavilion 2 on Friday, July 17, 2020 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donation be made in memory of Connie, to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital at www.stjude.org, or to the Children’s Make a Wish Foundation at www.wish.org.

Sign the guestbook and leave online condolences at www.BartonFuneralHome.net

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Inc., Adairsville is in charge of arrangements for Mrs. Connie Hannah.



Barton Funeral Home

Mary Herrero

Mary Rose Sexton Herrero, 73, of the Plainville Community, died at her home on Friday, July 10, 2020, following several months of declining health. Mary was born in Isom, Ky. on Sept. 6, 1946. She was the daughter of the late Lundy and Lucille Roberts Sexton. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Herrero; her son, Robert Wayne Banks; her siblings, L.D. Sexton, Billy James Sexton, H.C. Sexton, Jim Sexton, Eloise Mullins, and Louise Morgan. A Christian, Mary was of the Baptist Faith.

Mary is survived by her children, Gregory Alan Banks and Ralph William Lewis Herrero III; her sisters, Bernice Covington and Elinda Hilley; her grandchildren, Robert Kyle Banks, Brandy Sharee Banks, Sean Alexander Banks, Tiffany Nicole Banks-Avina, Christopher Allen Banks, Gergory Storm Banks, Lindsey Jordan Cunduff, Ralph Zachary Herrero, Zane Alexander Herrero, Tyler Anthony Herrero, and Hunter Neal Herrero; her great-grandchildren, Sawyer Banks, Chloe Banks, Angel Avina, Nathan Avina, Chloe Ayers, Santana Ayers, Robert Connor Banks, and Valerie Danielle Banks.

The Herrero family received friends on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Max Brannon and

Sons Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be conducted on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. A private family graveside will follow. Rev. John McGraw will officiate.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mary Herrero.



Mary Holland

Mary Joyce (Moore) Holland, 74, of Trion, died Wednesday, July 8, 2020. She was born on Oct. 19, 1945 in Murray County, Georgia to the late Henry and Ethel Bowers Moore. She was preceded in death by her husband John Holland in 2018, her son, Doug Tate and several other siblings.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, David (Donathy) Tate; daughter and son-in-law, Sherry (Jim) Horton; brother, Doug Moore; sisters, Reba Holland and Patsy Frye; grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other relatives also survive.

The graveside service to honor her life will be held Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 2 p.m. from Chatsworth Heights Cemetery.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing guidelines will be observed.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mary Joyce (Moore) Holland.



Marjorie Lovvorn

Marjorie Dobbs Lovvorn, age 89, of Lyman, S.C., formerly of Calhoun, passed away on July 9, 2020.

Marjorie was born on July 12, 1930 to the late Frank Johnston Dobbs and Etta Moss Dobbs. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William H. “Bill” Lovvorn; brothers, Frank J Dobbs Jr., and Ronald Merrill Dobbs and his wife Barbara; and a son, William H. “Bill” Lovvorn Jr.

Marjorie and her husband Bill, a Carrollton native, met in 1947 while they were students at West Georgia College. They were married soon afterwards and were married for 62 years until Bill’s death in 2011.

She was always beautiful, witty and loving, and was an avid bridge player. She always dedicated her life to the care of her family and friends. Marjorie was a devoted member of Calhoun First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Robin Willis and her husband Jim of Lyman, S.C.; four grandchildren, Michael Willis and his Lynne of Greenville, S.C., Neal Lovvorn of Buford, Lindsey Vaughn and her husband Travis of Campobello, S.C., and Mackenzie Clotworthy and her husband Ricky from Cypress, Texas; sister-in-law, Sandra Gowing of Carrollton; brother-in-law, Bob Lovvorn and his wife Elaine of Greensboro, N.C.; nieces, Drena Dobbs, Teena Moody, Cheri Wolfe, and Michelle Lovvorn; nephews, Ron Dobbs, Robert Lovvorn, Hank Lovvorn, Mark Gordon and Elliott Gordon; eight great-grandchildren also survive.

Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to, Gordon County Historical Society, PO Box 342, Calhoun, GA, 30703 or her church Calhoun First Methodist Church, PO Box 517, Calhoun, GA, 30703.

You may leave online condolences at www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com



Melissa Mulkey

Melissa Ann Kirk Mulkey, age 55, of Calhoun, passed away on Monday, July 13, 2020 at AdventHealth Gordon.

Melissa was born on Nov. 16, 1964 in Covington, Ky. to the late David and Wanda Kirk. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Oliver Mulkey.

Melissa is survived by: three sons, T.J. Robinson and his wife, Ashlee of Dahlonega, Jeremiah Robinson and his wife, Jaimie of Blue Ridge, and Brad Robinson and his wife Ashley of Dahlonega; two sisters, Tina Goldsmith of Arkansas and Kathy Henderson of Calhoun; and seven grandchildren, Cooper Robinson, Ashley Robinson, J.J. Robinson, Mary Jo Phillips, McKayla Phillips, Elijah Robinson, and Khloe Robinson.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Wednesday, July 15 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Reverend Mikey Young officiating.

NOW OPEN

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



RELIGION

How do you please God?



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

All believers have a desire to please God, but just how do we do that? The way to please God is through faithfulness.

Hebrews 11:6, 7 says this... But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Faithfulness is acting on your faith. Noah was living his life faithfully to God. There's not many things bigger than the ark that God instructed

Noah to build. I mean how many of you are like me, in that you'd love to be used of God to save the human race.

But I don't think that Noah was focused on the big picture of saving the human race.

Noah was faithful to God everyday, no matter what others said. Otherwise, God wouldn't have trusted him with the ark.

So Noah was Faithful in what? Let's consider some things that he was faithful in, that we too should strive to be faithful in...

First of all, Noah was faithful to God in using

his talents for God's glory. We should be also. God has given all of us talents that we could use for His glory. Whether it is to sing, to teach, to draw, to play sports, to play certain instruments or to work behind the scenes; we need to be found faithful in using our talents.

Another thing Noah was faithful in, that we too should be, was in evangelism. I'm sure that Noah spent time telling others about his experience with God. If you are a Believer, then that would mean that you have had an experience with God as

well. According to Acts 1:8, we have received power from the Holy Spirit, and we WILL be witnesses unto God.

Noah was also faithful to God in his worship. I believe everytime that Noah hammered a part of the ark together, it was a joyful noise. John 4:24 says, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. Our worship of the Lord shouldn't be about who is around, when it takes place; not even where or how it takes place. Y'all want to know a secret?? Not everybody worships

like you! Not everyone expresses their love for God the way you do!

Lastly, we need to be faithful in our "one-anothers". We need to love one another. We need to serve one another. And lastly, we need to encourage one another.

This is the faithfulness God is looking for. We can't step out and do big things for God until we do the small things.

How do you please God? You live a faithful life! Do you want to do something big for

God? Start out with faithfulness.

Be Blessed.

Church Calendar

ONGOING

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

-Faith Deliverance Ministry and Outreach will be taking donations of clothes, shoes, also all household 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 Relevant 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.

-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. Find 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 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.

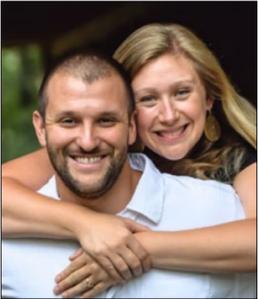
-Philadelphia Baptist Church operates North Georgia Baptist College and is registering students. It is a local church ministry designed to prepare men and women for serving the Lord. It will provide basic training for preachers, Sunday school teachers, Christian schoolteachers, evangelists and missionaries.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

DID YOU KNOW THE E-EDITION ARCHIVES ARE ONLINE...FOR FREE VIEWING?

GORDON GAZETTE E-EDITION FREE ARCHIVES

See the archives at: GordonGazetteGa.com/back-issues

Cash Flow With Joe: Succession plan



Joe & Ashley English
Owners of Focus Property Solutions, LLC
focuspropertysolutionsllc@gmail.com

I think most parents want to leave an inheritance to give a better financial life to their children and grandchildren. But should that wealth transfer happen haphazardly? Or should there be some real forethought as far as how the inheritance should take place?

What I'm talking about here is how you should be

training your children and grandchildren to inherit the wealth in your estate and not misuse or squander it.

I see this all the time. "Kids" will inherit multiple properties without understanding what to do with them or how to manage them. This leads to emotional and financial headaches that can cause division between the siblings.

Is that the legacy you want to leave?

I started thinking about this idea after reading a book by the founder and CEO of Hobby Lobby, David Green, called "Giving It All Away... And Getting It Back Again: The Way of Living Generously."

David has an interesting philosophy when it comes to his company. He says it does not belong to him. Instead, the company belongs to Yahweh, and it's just his to work. With that mindset he has put a lot of thought into

how and if his children and grandchildren will get to inherit stock in the company. He calls this the succession plan.

Notice that I said, "If."

David didn't want his family to think they were entitled to the wealth the company has accrued. Instead, the kids have to work for a different company before they are even allowed to work at Hobby Lobby. Once that task is completed, they aren't automatically given board seats. They must work their way up, immersing themselves in the culture David created inside Hobby Lobby. And once they've climbed the ladder, there is no guarantee the children or grandchildren will end up in executive roles. They've got to earn it.

To aid in that, David spends lots of time with his family planning the company's future. He explains the culture he built

and why. He even explains why it's not "their" company and how they plan to make the world a better place through the contributions Hobby Lobby can make.

This is the succession plan. This is David training his child up in the way that they should go so that when they are old, they will not depart from it.

Last night, we were reading a story where one of the richest fathers who ever lived neglected to make a succession plan with his son, and it ended poorly. That father was none other than King Solomon.

The story takes place in 1Kings Chapter 12. Solomon died, and his son, Rehoboam, became king of both Israel and Judah. Rehoboam, who was a young man, was approached by his labor force and asked if he would lighten their workload. The king listened and then asked for three

days to decide what to do.

During that time, Rehoboam asked Solomon's counselors what he should do. They told him that if he would become a servant to the people, then the labor force would serve him faithfully and the kingdom would continue to prosper.

The king asked some young men, who the scripture points out grew up with the king (presumably in the palace with much wealth), what he should do. They told him he needed to act aggressively toward the people to show his dominance as king.

To make a long story short, Rehoboam took the advice of the young men, and it resulted in a revolt that lost him the throne in Israel.

As we talked through this story with my kids, I explained how this was a common thing. Parents will build up a great wealth like Solomon. But the children

will come along and make bad decisions that destroy their family wealth quickly because neither they nor their friends who they get advice from have learned the lessons their parents did while building their family wealth.

I talked with my kids about how one day they would inherit the houses we have acquired. We talked about how it will be their jobs to take care of our people so that they have great places to live. And by doing this, we will be servants to our people, and our family will continue to prosper.

My kids understood. And at ages 6 and 7, we've begun training them for our succession plan.

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

Protect Yourself Against Financial Scammers



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

It's unfortunate, but true: During this period of economic uncertainty, one of the busiest "industries" has been financial scamming. But it goes on even during normal times, too, so you'll want to know what to look

for, and how to defend yourself.

For starters, just how widespread is financial fraud? Consider this: In 2019, more than 3.2 million fraud cases were reported to the Federal Trade Commission, with identity theft being the most common type of fraud, accounting for about one-fifth of the overall cases. And fraudulent new accounts (mortgages, student loans, car loans and credit cards) amounted to about \$3.4 billion in 2018, according to a study by Javelin Strategy & Research.

To help yourself from being victimized, consider the following suggestions. They are certainly not an exhaustive list, but they should prove useful.

- Watch out for unsecure websites. Make sure a website is secure before entering any payment or personal information. Look for sites that start with HTTPS, rather than those with just HTTP, which are not secure and can be hacked. But even a site with HTTPS can still be used by scammers, so, if you don't recognize the name of the company or group that's requesting your information, do some research to make sure it's legitimate.

- Review your credit reports. As mentioned above, the fraudulent opening of new accounts is a big source of financial scams. To be sure nobody has opened new accounts under your name, try to review your credit

reports at least once a year. You can get them for free at AnnualCreditReport.com.

- Follow up on fraud. If you've already been victimized by having new accounts opened in your name, contact one of the three major credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax or TransUnion) and place a 90-day fraud alert on your credit file. You might also want to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, print it out and file it with your local law enforcement agency. And it's also a good idea to contact the fraud department of the financial companies where the thief has opened a fraudulent account in your name.

- Be alert for suspicious

links. "Phishers" have gotten quite good at sending out messages that look like they're from reputable businesses. But if you examine these messages carefully, you can usually determine if there's something off about them. For example, no legitimate business will tell you, via this type of message, that you have to "correct your account" by providing additional information. And if you do hit the link provided, and it takes you to a third-party site, you can be pretty sure it's bogus.

- Resist "act now" offers. If you get an offer, via phone or online, urging you to "act immediately" on an investment opportunity, discontinue

the communication. No reputable financial advisor will ever try to force you to take such swift action, and if an investment is legitimate, it will be available tomorrow, next week and next year.

- Use your shredder. You probably have the option to "go paperless" with all your banks and financial services providers, but, if you still do receive paper documents, be sure to shred them when they're no longer needed.

You save and invest for years to help achieve your long-term goals. Don't let any of your efforts be undone by financial fraudsters.

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

Happy Paws



Now with 2 great locations to serve our clients!

234 King Street North
in Calhoun Offers:

- Dog & Cat Grooming
- Dog & Cat Boarding

607 Chatsworth Hwy. 225
in Calhoun Offers:

- Dog & Cat DayCare
- Dog & Cat Grooming
- Dog & Cat Boarding



Call Happy Paws at 706-383-8075 for Rates!

Dawn Charles, Owner

Audrey Clayton, Groomer



GORDON GROWN

Tips for Growing Bigleaf Hydrangea



Greg Bowman
Gordon County
Extension Agent
gbowman@uga.edu

This will be the second article in a series on bigleaf hydrangea. Some people may know the bigleaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea macrophylla*, as either French, Japanese or even snowball hydrangea. I think the overall popularity of this plant is the ability of the owner to change the bloom color from either pink to blue or from blue to pink. This year, the hydrangea plant at our home is displaying beautiful blue blooms. In our most recent article

on bigleaf hydrangeas, I covered multiple topic areas from the different hydrangea cultivars and groups, proper planting locations, how to plant, fertilization and watering needs along with the background on bloom color along with ways to change the bloom color.

Today, I will cover more topic areas on bigleaf hydrangea with the help of a UGA publication on this landscape plant by retired UGA Horticulturist, Dr. Gary Wade.

I think the most popular characteristic of a bigleaf hydrangea is the bloom color. Keep in mind that there are over 500 hydrangea cultivars that are divided into two groups. There hortensias group will have the large snowball appearing flower clusters. There is also the lacecapes which will have more flat top flowers that will have more non-showy flowers in the center and more showy sterile

flowers on the outside. As part of review, the bloom color is based on the presence or lack of aluminum compounds in the flowers. If you have aluminum, you will have more blue blooms while on the flipside if the aluminum is in small amounts, you may have an in between color. If aluminum is not in the flower, you will have pink blooms. On our hydrangea at home, we have pretty blue flowers, but I think we have some in that in between stage also. If you want to change the bloom color from pink to blue, you need to broadcast ½ cup of wettable sulfur per 10 square feet and water in.

To go from blue to pink, you need to broadcast one cup of dolomitic lime per 10 square feet and water in. This is a gradual way to change the flower color and could take a year to see a bloom color change.

A way to see a bloom

color change sooner, could be through the use of soil drenches. If you wish to see blue blooms or blooms that are more blue during the active growing season, you can dissolve one tablespoon of alum (aluminum sulfate) in one gallon of water and then drench the soil around the plant in March, April and May. If you want to achieve pink blooms, you can dissolve one tablespoon of hydrated lime in one gallon of water and drench the soil around the plants in March, April and May.

One important reminder is to not let the liquid solution get on the foliage because you may see leaf damage.

Again, many people consider bigleaf hydrangea a popular landscape item because of the bloom color and may find it fun to change the color. It is a letdown when the plants fail to bloom at all. Sometimes the failure

of the hydrangea to bloom can be traced to poor management of the owner. There are several reasons that can cause a hydrangea not to bloom. Those reasons are winter injury to flower buds, growing the hydrangea in too much shade, applying too much nitrogen and also pruning at the wrong time of year.

Keep in mind that bigleaf hydrangea will form flower buds in late summer for the next year. Avoid pruning a bigleaf hydrangea in late summer, fall or winter. If you do prune hydrangea then, you will be removing the flower buds. I will remind you that bigleaf hydrangea can do well with a few light fertilizer applications in the growing season. General purpose fertilizers such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 given to the plant at the rate of one pound per 100 square feet in March, May and July can be helpful. One pound of

these fertilizers is equal to about two cups. You do not have to pull back mulch to fertilize, but you do need to water the fertilizer in soon after applying.

Another reminder is proper watering. This summer could end up being wet overall, but you do need to note water needs of hydrangea annually. You can put bigleaf hydrangea in the water demanding group of plants. You need to be prepared to water the hydrangea when you see signs of wilt when rainfall has been lacking. It is especially important to avoid plant stress in the spring during flower formation.

For more information, contact UGA Extension-Gordon County at 706-629-8685 or email gbowman@uga.edu. Also, follow us on Facebook at Gordon County Extension/Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Georgia Bass Slam Creates Fishing Challenge

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Catch five different bass species and you have a Georgia Bass Slam!

This program recognizes anglers with the knowledge and skill to catch different species of bass in a variety of habitats across the state, while also stimulating interest in the conservation and management of black bass and their habitats, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

Georgia's ten (10) recognized native black bass species are largemouth, smallmouth, shoal, Suwannee, spotted, redeye, Chattahoochee, Tallapoosa, Altamaha and Bartram's. Anglers can find out more

about these eligible bass species, including images, location maps and more at www.BassSlam.com.

How Can You Participate? To qualify for the Georgia Bass Slam, fish must be caught within a calendar year, must be legally caught on waters where you have permission to fish, and anglers must provide some basic information on the catch (length, weight-if available, county and waterbody where caught) accompanied by several photos of each fish. Anglers will submit information to Georgia. BassSlam@dnr.ga.gov for verification. Complete rules posted at www.BassSlam.com.

What is Your Reward? Well, besides bragging rights among all the anglers and non-anglers you know, you will receive a certificate worthy of framing,

two "Go Fish Education Center" passes, and some fantastic and fun stickers (for vehicle windows/bumpers) to advertise your achievement. Anglers also will be recognized on the WRD website, at the Go Fish Education Center (www.GoFishEducationCenter.com), and possibly through a variety of social media platforms. In addition, all successful submissions will go into a drawing for an annual grand prize!

Don't have time to dedicate to catch five species of bass, but maybe you have your eye on a lunker largemouth? We have a program for that, too! The Trophy Bass Angler Award program recognizes largemouth bass catches of 10 pounds or greater. These fish are rare, and the data from these catches helps to



provide genetics and growth information that is valuable to fisheries managers. Those that successfully submit a qualified fish will receive a certificate, hat, t-shirt and an entry into a drawing for a reward package. Oh, and catch one larger than

13 pounds, and you may be eligible for a free mount of your bass! More info at <https://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/anglerawards>.

For more information, visit www.BassSlam.com.

Ag-related programs take cuts in state budget

GEORGIA FARM BUREAU

The state-wide shutdown surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic took a significant toll on state revenue, creating a difficult moving target for the Georgia Legislature to aim for while balancing the state budget as required by the Georgia Constitution.

Gov. Brian Kemp signed the \$26 billion budget on June 30. The final FY21 budget was better than expected. Initial revenue estimates called for a 14% cut across the board that was adjusted to 11% when the legislature reconvened in June. After a last-minute decision by Kemp to use \$250 million of the state's rainy-day fund, the final cut came in at 10%.

The budget reductions will affect all aspects of state government, including the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) and the UGA Cooperative Extension Service.

The biggest cuts at

the GDA were in the agency's Marketing & Promotion Division, where a \$2.49 million cut included reduction of personnel funding for five positions and part-time assistance (\$1.353 million) and cuts to marketing, auditing, call center services and gardening (\$820,000) and operations (\$341,284).

The GDA budget includes \$200,000 for the development of the Georgia Hemp Program, but a \$461,858 fund cut for operations and contracts. Funds were eliminated for the state farmers markets in Macon and Augusta but \$120,000 for operating expenses at the Cordele, Thomasville and Savannah state farmers markets was funded along with \$620,000 for marketing activities at the Georgia National Fair, Sunbelt Expo and other activities.

The GDA budget calls for a \$361,490 cut to the Athens and Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic Labs and a \$100,000 reduction in operating

expenses for the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority, which oversees the Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter.

The Georgia Department of Education's Agricultural Education funding for the Area Teacher Program, Extended Day/Year, Young Farmers, and Youth Camps was cut by \$842,878.

The UGA Cooperative Extension Service budget was slashed by more than \$6.2 million, the biggest reduction coming in funds for vacant and temporary positions, operations and travel (\$4.8 million). The Center for Rural Prosperity & Innovation budget was cut by \$237,449, and the Georgia Student Finance Authority's funding for the Food Animal Veterinarian Forgiveness Program was trimmed by \$105,000. The Department of Natural Resources budget includes \$200,000 for two marine biologists to support oyster aquaculture.



GORDON
Gazette

To stay up to date on the latest community news, follow the Gordon Gazette on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter...or visit our website:

www.gordongazettega.com

HEALTH NEWS

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Health agency stalling on requests for COVID-19 emails, critics say

ANDY MILLER
Georgia Health News

On March 3, the day after Georgia's first confirmed COVID-19 case, an 11Alive reporter submitted an Open Records request seeking emails sent by Dr. Kathleen Toomey, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health.

The following day, a CNN reporter filed a similar request for emails. The following week, the Washington Post asked for even more internal emails from the state's public health agency.

In the first four months of COVID-19 when Georgia saw more than 84,000 confirmed cases and nearly 3,000 deaths, journalists, advocates and lawyers submitted more than 40 records requests for emails about the Department of Public Health's response to the pandemic. The requesters sought emails regarding the state's allocation of resources, Gov. Brian Kemp's April remarks about asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19, correspondence with corporate leaders and information that guided the state's reopening.

But DPH, tasked as the lead state agency managing the crisis, did not complete a single request for emails during that period.

Open Records logs obtained by Georgia Health News show that DPH had failed to produce emails in response to nearly four dozen requests submitted between March 1 and July 1. The Washington Post, The Atlanta Journal-

Constitution and other Atlanta news organizations were among the requesters.

Open government advocates accuse DPH of violating a state law requiring the agency to complete these requests in a timely fashion.

Public health experts say withholding those records has damaged trust in government during a moment of crisis and prevented Georgians from fully understanding the decisions made within the Kemp administration, which has at times presented what critics call conflicting or misleading information about COVID-19.

"Transparency is not the Kemp administration's forte, and unfortunately [DPH] is no different," Dr. Melanie Thompson, an Atlanta physician who is an HIV expert, wrote in an email to Georgia Health News. "Trust in public health is essential to implement successful policies, including testing, contact tracing, isolation, and mask wearing in the context of COVID-19."

A spokeswoman for Gov. Kemp declined to answer questions. In a statement responding to GHN's questions, DPH spokeswoman Nancy Nydam acknowledged that the agency has had "tremendous difficulty in managing its Open Records requests." She said that a sharp increase in requests had overloaded employees directly responding to the pandemic.

"Many of these requests require search and retrieval of voluminous records kept by the same

DPH employees who are already overloaded with duties directly related to the COVID-19 emergency response," she said.

But the agency, she said, is now taking steps to fill vacant positions in its legal department, and has hired a third-party technology vendor to process email requests.

"The Georgia Department of Public Health has a history of working with journalists and all requesters to provide transparent information in a timely manner," Nydam said in a statement. "The Department will continue to do so as it is able, keeping the health and safety of all Georgians at the forefront of its responsibilities."

Clear violation, says expert

Georgia's Open Records Act requires government agencies to respond within three days of a request. If the records cannot be produced in that time, the agency must give the requester an estimate of when the materials will be available.

DPH has fulfilled a variety of information requests about the pandemic, including data on COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths. But in response to multiple outlets' media requests for internal emails, DPH staff has told reporters it would not retrieve any of those records until after the emergency order was lifted.

Erin Wright, associate general counsel for DPH, initially cited the governor's public health emergency order as

justification for delaying the records requests when GHN asked for agency emails with employees of a long-term care facility operator.

"The Georgia Department of Public Health is heavily involved in the state's response to this novel disease and is currently devoting the majority of its time and resources to the COVID-19 response to ensure the health and safety of Georgia citizens," Wright wrote in an email to GHN on April 17. Other news organizations, including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, received similar denials.

While some officials in other states have exempted government employees from fulfilling public records requests until emergency orders are lifted, Kemp's order did not exempt state agencies from producing requested emails.

Other state agencies, including the Department of Community Health, have complied with open records law related to emails about COVID-19.

The DPH response to records requests is a clear violation of the law, said William Perry, executive director of Georgia Watchdogs, a nonpartisan organization that advocates for government transparency. "I'm not aware of any exceptions for an emergency in the Georgia Open Records Act. It's a time like this, when the public has a fear, that our government should be open and honest with us."

The agency's records

logs also state that it had "no resources to devote to a cost estimate or pulling records" for dozens of requests about emails from outlets such as the AJC, GHN, Reuters, the Washington Post, and WSB-TV.

Nydam said DPH hired Unisys, a Pennsylvania-based IT company, in May to run search queries for employee emails requested by journalists. The agency is also seeking to fill four vacancies in its eight-member legal department.

Since GHN made a request for the agency's open records logs, DPH posted the document on its website in an "act of transparency," Nydam said. Cost estimates are now being sent out related to those requests, Nydam said. GHN received a cost estimate from the agency last week, over two months after the request was submitted.

"Estimates for retrieval, review and redaction are currently being provided to requestors," Nydam said.

The agency has not given a timetable for actually producing the requested documents.

A promise to do better

In early June, the nonprofit Georgia First Amendment Foundation met with staff from DPH and the state attorney general's office to urge the agency to comply with Georgia's open records law.

Richard Griffiths, president emeritus and board member of the foundation, said there's

been some slight movement on records retrieval since then. "But emails seem to be a sticking point," he noted.

"They promised to try and do better," Griffiths said. "The DPH needs to be responding in a way that meets the needs of the public."

As of last Thursday, only one requester, independent journalist Alex Ruppenthal, had received a single email record, according to DPH's open records log. Six additional requests were being actively retrieved and reviewed by DPH attorneys.

As Georgia's COVID-19 cases spike, Dr. Harry Heiman, clinical associate professor of health policy and behavior sciences at Georgia State University, said having internal DPH records could help Georgians further understand the gravity of the virus's resurgence and the necessity of public health interventions needed to tame the pandemic.

"There's been a black curtain between what's going on inside DPH and what we're seeing in communication with the public," Heiman said. "Our inability to get records perpetuates the current level of confusion. They need to think about proactively and regularly communicating with the public about what's happening moving forward."

Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News. For the latest health news in the state, visit www.georgiahealthnews.com.

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

-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 dawnsson@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.

GNTC Medical Assisting students participate in lab sessions

GEORGIA NORTHWESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Standing outside of Georgia Northwestern Technical College's (GNTC) Building H on the Floyd County Campus in Rome, a group of about six Medical Assisting students stand six-feet apart as they practice the proper procedure for taking on and off their personal protective equipment (PPE).

While it may seem simple, if done improperly it could lead to contamination said Sharon Vaughan, clinical coordinator and instructor for GNTC's Medical Assisting program. The group of students are one of several Vaughan, and the other Medical Assisting instructors, see throughout the week as students finish spring and summer semester requirements for the program.

"We have been working since May 18 to make sure we make up for the time we lost in the spring," Vaughan said. "Fortunately, we got the more intensive labs done at the beginning of the semester."

To ensure a safe lab experience, GNTC students have been practicing social distancing, meeting in small groups with instructors and wearing a mask at all times while in the building or when in close proximity to other students while on campus.

Students on the Walker County Campus (WCC) have been meeting in groups of six and stand on marked spots

that have been spaced out while in their labs. According to Martha Smith, assistant dean of Health Technologies and instructor of Medical Assisting, the students on the WCC have been working on phlebotomy as well as medical techniques on manikins.

"During the labs I ensured they were properly gloved, masked, face shielded and gowned," Smith said. "Currently, my students are at their clinical sites and I have been making sure I visit each one to check up on them."

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, students are still getting externships through local medical partners. The PPE training held outside of Building H was part of the training Floyd Medical Center (FMC) required before the students began their externship Vaughan explained. FMC provided GNTC's Medical Assisting program with the materials needed for the training. Other labs the Medical Assisting students have been taking includes spirometry testing, electrocardiography and vision tests.

According to Vaughan, all of the Medical Assisting students finishing the program this summer are on track to graduate despite COVID-related delays. Students who began the Medical Assisting program in fall of 2019 will be eligible to walk in the Aug. 11, drive-thru graduation at the Floyd County Campus.

"We already had an online presence and expanded that with video

lectures and virtual forums," Vaughan said. "Once it was safe to meet again we made sure our students did not miss out on the hands-on portion of the course. We put our heads together and made sure they got everything out of the Medical Assisting program."

Georgia Northwestern Technical College offers an associate of applied science degree and diploma in Medical Assisting at the Floyd County and Walker County campuses. For more information about the Medical Assisting program, visit us at gntc.edu or contact us at (866) 983-4682, Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

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.



Sharon Vaughan (left), clinical coordinator and instructor for the Medical Assisting program, works with GNTC student Katrina Billingsley on setting up a spirometry test during an outdoor lab.



GNTC Medical Assisting student Mary Partain adjusts a spirometry test during an outdoor lab on the Floyd County Campus.

New pathway in sports management opens up career possibilities for GHC students

GEORGIA HIGHLANDS

Georgia Highlands College is now providing students an opportunity to enter the growing world of sports management by introducing the Sports Management Pathway this fall.

Students can start this pathway in August by applying before the July 15th fall deadline.

"This program was developed to meet a growing need of professionals that are interested in a career in business and sports/fitness," Department Chair of Kinesiology and Wellness Lisa Jellum said. "This pathway allows for graduates to pursue a career in sports taking on a multitude of roles, including a coach, booking agent, event coordinator, fitness professional, facilities manager, sport marketing

professional, sales coordinator, or serving in guest relations."

Sports management is more than professional athletes and ball games. It's a big business full of huge budget decisions and complex negotiations in which managers will need to draw on their knowledge of health, fitness, business and law. Graduates of the Sports Management Pathway may go on to organize the Super Bowl, work for the New York Yankees, or build a facility plan for a major college or university. Other graduates, for example, may seek to oversee and manage their local city's youth basketball league or recreation department.

"Getting a degree in Sports Management is a great move for people wanting to be involved with both the business side of the field, including marketing, management and ownership, as well as sports and recreation," Jellum said.

"There are lucrative job opportunities for people in this field of study."

Sport management calls for the combination of skills related to planning, organizing, directing, controlling, budgeting, leading and evaluating within the context of an organization or department whose primary product or service is related to sport or physical activity.

Students who complete the pathway will be prepared to continue their education and expand their career opportunities by transferring into bachelor programs in areas such as Sports Management, Recreation Administration, Fitness Leadership, Outdoor Recreation Management, or Leisure Studies.

The pathway may be completed in two years.

For more information on the Sports Management Pathway, visit [https://www.](https://www.highlands.edu/areas-of-study/sports-management-pathway/)



highlands.edu/areas-of-study/sports-management-pathway/ Georgia Highlands College is a multi-campus, state college member of the University System of Georgia. Founded in 1970 as Floyd Junior College, it now serves more than 6,000 students in Northwest Georgia and Northeast Alabama across its five locations in Rome, Cartersville, Marietta, Dallas, and Douglasville. GHC currently offers over 30 areas of study with associate degree and bachelor's degree options both in the classroom and online. GHC is proud to support the local economy with a regional economic impact of nearly \$180 million.

CITY

From page 1A

stage at this point."

In additional updates from the meeting:

The Council approved held a public hearing and approved a resolution to renew the contract for the City's garbage collection from Mauldin Trash Services for an additional five-year period.

The contract pricing stays the same as the original contract dated Feb. 1, 2016: the charge is \$15 per month for one can, and \$7 for each additional can. The price includes brush pick-up services by the City.

"Mauldin works well with the City departments. We're very pleased with their service to the City of Calhoun," said Mayor Jimmy Palmer.

A first reading was held for a variance request of 15 feet, varying from 25 feet to 40 feet, at 260 West Belmont Drive to erect a billboard for advertising purposes was held. The variance is requested by Gabe Freeman. The Zoning Advisory Board will

meet on Aug. 6 and a public hearing on the rest will be held Aug. 10.

A first reading of an annexation and zoning request of \$-1 for .69 acre at 262 Thornwood Drive by Lyn W. McCracken was held. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on Aug. 6 and a public hearing on the rest will be held Aug. 10.

A first reading of an annexation and zoning request of C-2 for 1.027 acres at 1229 Highway 41 North by Larry Rhinehart was held. The Zoning Advisory Board will meet on Aug. 6 and a public hearing on the rest will be held Aug. 10.

A first reading of an application by Nance Carpet & Rug Company, Inc. to borrow funds from the City Revolving Loan Program was read. A public hearing was set for Monday, July 27.

The Council approved a request from Calhoun Municipal Court to surplus a 2000 Ford Crown Vic.

The Council approved a motion regarding a resolution for modification of Loan Number DW13003 with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, providing an interest-free period starting June 1 and ending Nov. 30, 2020, and providing a

payment-free period starting July 1 and ending Dec. 31, 2020.

"This is some of the GEFA loans we have for the extension and improvement to water and sewer," said Larry Vickery, Calhoun Utilities Administrator. "The State of Georgia recognizes that due to the coronavirus, local governments were having difficulties with revenue issues that we have not had. They set this forgiveness period for six months for these loans. We don't have a problem with cash flow, so we will set these funds aside and use the interest which is not charged, and at the end of the period will pay back the full principal."

The Council approved a request from the Calhoun Police Department to surplus a 2005 Dodge Durango and a 2007 Jeep Liberty.

The Council approved a request from the Calhoun Police Department to purchase a 2019 Dodge vehicle using Federal Forfeiture Funds in the amount of \$17,965.

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun City Council will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 21 at the Depot in downtown Calhoun.

OBITUARIES

From page 3A

Interment will follow in Haven of Rest Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 15 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

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

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Melissa Ann Mulkey.



Helen Tate

Helen Thomas Tate, 90, of Calhoun, died Sunday, July 12, 2020, at her residence.

Mrs. Tate was born in Gordon County, on Dec. 21, 1929; daughter of the late, R.D. Thomas Sr. and Quillie Parsons Thomas. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Lamar Tate; sisters and brothers-in-law; Mary Jo Erwin (Stanton), Earlene Allen (Rueben), Jackie White



(Junior), Janelle Phillips (D.F.) and Dixie Thomas, Brothers and Sister-in-law; Hazel Thomas (Gladys), Troy Thomas, Walter Lee Thomas, and Junior Thomas.

Helen was a well-known resident of Gordon County and cherished her family and friends. Prior to her retirement she was employed by Town and Casual and Teague's and was a member of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church.

Survivors include a sister-in-law, Catherine Thomas, and several nieces and nephews. Her sitters to whom the family wants to give special thanks are Sue Ledford, Sandra Rogers, Beatrice Edwards, Tracy Thatcher, and Lori Blalock.

A service to celebrate Helen's life was held on Tuesday, July 14 at 3:30 p.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Scott Pickren and Phil French officiating. Interment followed in Fain Cemetery with Rev. Alan Miller conducting the graveside service. Pallbearers serving included; Timmy Erwin, Reuben Allen, Rickey Lake, Danny Erwin, Danny Phillips, and Sam Curtis. Honorary pallbearers include Ray Erwin, Randy Erwin, Tommy White, Randy Reddick, Tommy Reddick, Tony Tomlinson, Johnnie Frix, Billy Thomas, Mike Thomas, and Eddie Thomas.

The family received friends on Tuesday, July 14 from 2 p.m. until the service.

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 Helen Thomas Tate.



Edna Wilson

Mrs. Edna Ruth Wilson, age 71, of Adairsville, passed away Thursday, July 9 2020, at AdventHealth Gordon.

Mrs. Wilson was born in Adairsville on May 18, 1949, to the late James Clarence and Fannie Ruth Redd. She was of the Baptist Faith and had worked at Mohawk Industries as a packer. Mrs. Wilson was preceded in death by her husband, Loye Wilson, and a brother, Johnny Redd.

Survivors include her daughter, Marlena (James) Black of Adairsville; three sisters, Joyce Young of Adairsville, Mattie Lou Redd of Adairsville, and Joann Redd of Rydal; five brothers, Buddy (Sue Lane) Redd of Calhoun, Ricky Redd of Adairsville, Dean (Sherry) Redd of Cartersville, Billy (Pam) Redd of Calhoun, and Teddy Redd of Calhoun; two grandchildren, Matthew Grant and Kora "Izzy" Black; nieces and nephews also survive.

Graveside services were held Monday, July 13, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church Cemetery, Adairsville, with Rev. Cary Hall and Chris Childers officiating. Pallbearers included Michael Childers, Shane Childers, Russell Redd, Richard Gilbert, Timothy Angel, and Justin Hall. Gary Patterson served as an honorary pallbearer.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Inc., Adairsville is in charge of arrangements for Mrs. Edna Ruth Wilson.

Barton Funeral Home

SHAW

From page 3A

support. He also talked about AdventHealth's new team member redeployment program, an essential tool used by the organization to ensure facilities are staffed to care for patients.

With the recent spikes in infections, Shaw told Brennan that AdventHealth was adequately prepared for an influx of patients.

"In March and April, we spent an enormous amount of money on PPE and we continue to have stockpiled PPE that we so desperately need right now," Shaw said. "Our ICU capacities [in Florida] are running at about 85 to 90 percent, but we have the ability to turn some of our progressive care units into ICU units if we need to do so."

As the country battles the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous states, including Arizona, Florida and Texas, are experiencing record numbers of COVID-19 cases. Shaw told Brennan he believed the peak will occur later in July, but that people will need to continue to care for each other by wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing.

"Based upon the testing, my guess is that the peak is some time in front of us in July," Shaw said. "And that would assume that people do what they need to do from both a distancing perspective and a masking perspective. We can all do a better job by making sure we're caring for each other by just wearing a simple mask and staying six feet from a distance perspective from the next person."

"Our corporate leadership has done a phenomenal job to secure large numbers of personal protective equipment, focused on continuing to provide exceptional care to our communities," said Mike Murrill, president and CEO of AdventHealth Gordon. "On a local level, I am extremely

proud of our front-line teams who continue to work tirelessly to deliver on our mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ."

About AdventHealth Gordon

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

GORDON Gazette The LOCAL news you expect: COMMUNITY | CRIME | SPORTS

Find us online at: www.gordongazettega.com

Gordon County Chamber of Commerce

STATE OF INDUSTRY VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR

Presented by **AdventHealth Gordon**

Friday, July 24 • 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Guest Speaker: **RUSSELL GRIZZLE**
CEO of Mannington Mills

Signature Sponsor

President's Circle

Engineer's Circle

Innovator's Circle

Where it all comes together

BOE

From page 1A

be able to use money from the reserves to balance the budget. That will leave a reserve balance of \$14,376,621 at the end of the fiscal year. "The Board has done such a good job building the reserve balance," said Fraker, saying that during the recession it was down to just \$2 million. "This is what keeps us from having to furlough."

Part of the issue this fiscal year is the decrease in funding at the state level due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Luckily, the cut was not as heavy as originally anticipated, but the total of the cut comes out to about \$3.7 million in lost funding for the school system.

"We had prepared for a 14 percent decrease in funding, and it came to be about 10 percent," said Fraker.

Fraker said that when the budget process began, they'd originally discussed items they'd like to add to the budget, but that with the COVID-19 pandemic, they had to scale back considerably.

"We had to truly do more with less because of the ramifications of the pandemic," said Fraker.

Financial Director Mendy Goble said that the 10 percent reduction in QBE funds was actually good news, since it originally was projected to be a 14 percent reduction.

"That came out to about \$3.7 million dollars," said Goble of the amount lost in QBE funds. "But on the flip side of that, we are going to receive some CARES Act money, which is federal money that is flowing through at the state level."

The total amount of CARES Act funding the system expects to receive is \$1,291,235.

Goble said that the system has continued to reduce expenditures since budget talks began.

"There are seven-and-a-half teacher positions we have eliminated; those were EIP positions that we were able to put back in the classroom. All of those staff reductions were done through attrition; we did not have to have any layoffs. Nobody

lost their job; we were able to absorb those positions as people left. We also have no furlough days. So if you had a job last year and chose to keep that job, you still have it and are making the same amount of money."

Goble said that for the 2021 Fiscal Year budget, the system would be shifting the school-based administration assistants to the CARES Act funding, since their salaries are around the amount the system is receiving from the CARES Act. Goble reminded the Board that their salaries would need to be budgeted back to the General Fund for the 2022 Fiscal Year.

"A class of employees, our school-based secretaries, the salaries and benefits for that group of folks was almost exactly what we needed (for the CARES Act)," said Goble. "So we are taking (their salaries) out of the General Fund and moving it over to the CARES Act fund. Next year, when we still have all of those employees, we have to move them back under the General Fund. Hopefully, the State budgets will be better and they'll reduce our austerity cut and we'll be able to move the employees back to the General Fund without any issue."

In expenditures, Goble said that with the pandemic continuing, the system is investing in more cleaning supplies, at a total cost of \$81,100, and help for janitorial staff.

"We have added some supply money for maintenance and transportation which would be above and beyond our normal cleaning supplies," said Goble. "We are anticipating an additional \$225,000 for 10 additional custodians which would only work student days to give our custodial staff extra support at cleaning."

Fraker said that the 10 additional custodians would be just for the upcoming year but could be re-evaluated for future needs past 2021. The extra would offer extra support at each school and could be utilized as a team if there's a building that needs extra cleaning due to outbreak.

"It's an extra area of support for the teachers and principals," said Fraker.

Goble said that the system is also adding \$7,600 for supplements at the high school level for online learning support, and \$45,000 for an online learning platform for middle school and high school.

"We are looking at a couple of different online learning

platforms for middle and high school students that have chosen to use online learning at this time," said Goble.

Goble said that the system would be able to get the money for online learning through federal funds, saying that the system has Title One and Title Four money available for those expenditures.

Fraker told the Board that about 10 percent of all students in the school system are planning to resume school online this year.

"At the elementary level, we feel very strongly that (online learning) needs to be controlled by our classroom teachers," said Fraker. "So we will reassign 12 elementary teachers to be online teachers. Those teachers will still be on staff at their elementary school; they will come to work each day and what we want them to do is teach in a classroom use the resources we have and collaborate with the teachers in their building. But each teacher would have a different grade level."

"At middle and high school levels, we have more independent learners and after reviewing the number of students who requested online, between 300 and 400 middle and high school students, it is not feasible to reassign teachers (to teach online). So using an online platform is the most effective way (to offer online learning at that level)."

"This is our one-year commitment on how to do online learning (effectively)," said Fraker.

"These things that we are putting together (online learning) usually take two to three years to plan, but the administration and staff is having to do it in a matter of days," said Board member Eddie Hall. "I think we all agree that being in school, in person, would be the idea situation but unfortunately we're not in an idea world. While (the online learning platform) may not be perfect, we are doing the best we can for our students to offer them a quality experience in online learning. Hopefully they'll be pleasantly surprised at what has been put together for them."

The next meeting of the Gordon County Board of Education will be held next Monday, July 20, beginning at 6:15 p.m. at the Gordon County College and Career Academy on Beason Road in Calhoun. A public input session will be held for the Fiscal Year budget.

DWTS

From page 1A

event emcee along with her daughter Olivia Harbin – Their duo-gig is sure to be a blast! Michelle Frix Ward is volunteering her time and talents by providing the choreography for the group dance while Andy Baxter Photography is donating his time to offer free photography for all the dancers and for digital content promotion," Latour continued. "I would like to thank Mohawk Industries for being the Premier Sponsor of Dancing with the Stars! If you are sponsoring a couple or are an event sponsor, you are directly helping United Way make a difference in our community."

The planning committee is central to the success of the show, but the group that really matters consists of the 18 students who will hit the stage to compete in August. The dancers, listed alphabetically by last name, are Ben Bingham, Isaac Brackett, Hayes Carpenter, Ethan Crump, Jayce Derryberry, Aubrey Dorsey, Madeline Erwin, Caitlyn Glaze, Catherine Govignon, Will Holden, Marlee Jackson,

Mariah Key, Aavyn Lee, Jackson Murray, Sierra Scott, Cameron West, Megan Wright, and Meghan Young.

Two very talented students will hit the stage as the fifth dancing duo in this year's competition. Mariah Jade Key and Jayce Derryberry are partnering in the contest.

A recent graduate of Sonoraville High School, Key is the daughter of Matt and Mandy Denise Key. She was an Honor Student and graduated with twelve hours college credit. She is a member of Antioch Baptist Church and its youth group. Key plans to major in Business at Georgia Northwestern Technical College and secure a Real Estate license.

While at Sonoraville High School, she was a member of the Beta Club, and placed in the top six at State Competition with her cheer squad. She won the Coaches' Award in Cheer in 2018 and was also on the Yearbook Committee.

When asked to share something interesting about herself, Key revealed that she is in the process of remodeling a vintage camper and that she is known by two names. Her friends call her Mariah and her family calls her Jade.

Key will partner with Jayce Derryberry. Also a recent Sonoraville graduate, he is the son of Heath and Tonia Derryberry.

While at Sonoraville High School, he was a member of the wrestling team, where he was a two-time state placer. His team was a two-time state traditional champ in the sport. He was involved in Student Government. Derryberry enjoys running and does so every day. He has three rescue dogs.

This year, only the winners and runners-up of the People's Choice and Judges' Choice will receive scholarships. The first-place team will receive \$1,000 per student; the second-place team will receive \$750 per student and the third-place team will receive \$500 per student.

This will be the fourth student show, which spun off the adult version that ran for five years at the historic GEM Theatre. The dancers are learning more about United Way, its agencies and programs. As details unfold and plans are finalized, additional information will be made available through social media and the United Way website.

The mission of United Way of Gordon County is to accurately assess the needs of Gordon County and to mobilize available resources to meet those needs. It serves eighteen local agencies in Gordon County, as well as serving as a referral source for the community.

Adam Dortch

PHOTOGRAPHY

706-252-5679

 Find us on Facebook

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





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



100 Curds Parkway NE
Calhoun, GA

Primary Care • 706.529.3025
Neurosurgery & Spine • 706.529.7124