

GORDON Gazette

Weekend, March 14, 2020

www.gordongazettega.com

Volume 2, No. 45

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Community sees school, event cancellations as state declares two people in Gordon test positive for COVID-19

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Calhoun-Gordon County officials are making tough decisions at this time concerning canceling school, along with government and recreation events, but understand that their number one priority is protecting the citizens of the community from COVID-19, commonly referred to as coronavirus.

As of Saturday morning, the Georgia Department of Public Health listed Gordon County as having two confirmed cases of the respiratory illness among its citizens. The DPH identifies confirmed cases based on a person's address/county of residence. There were 66 COVID-19 confirmed cases in the state of Georgia at noon on Saturday, with one death. The individual, a sixty-seven year old male, was hospitalized at WellStar Kennestone since testing positive for COVID-19 on March 7. In addition to being infected with coronavirus disease, this individual also had underlying medical conditions.

On Friday afternoon, March 13, Brumlow Mills released a statement that one of their employees

has tested positive for COVID-19 and that they are taking precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

According to their statement, the employee is in a Floyd County hospital being treated and has not been on the grounds of Brumlow Mills for a week. According to Brumlow Mills, the employee did test positive for the flu originally, then later tested positive for COVID-19.

"As we understand the severity of this virus, we have been extremely proactive in mitigating the risks posed by COVID-19," said the company in a statement. "We have followed CDC guidelines and have already consulted with professional industrial hygienists, as well as medical professionals. We are in close contact with health agencies for information and guidance. We are continuing to communicate to our employees the importance of preventative measures such as frequent hand washing and rigorous cleaning processes. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected and we are ever hopeful that everyone impacted has a speedy recovery."

Also on Friday,

Calhoun City and Gordon County school systems announced a two-week shutdown due to fears of the spread of COVID-19.

Before the announcement, Dr. Kimberly Fraker, Gordon County Schools Superintendent, met with the Board of Education to discuss community safety.

"We have three weeks left until spring break; my initial hope was that we would make it closer to spring break and try to provide as many services for our students as we could up to that time," said Fraker. "But we did have a conference call with the governor and at that time, he said he would support any decision (we make locally), whether it is to stay open or close for a day or up to two weeks that is sometimes recommended. We have also received the information that the Georgia High School Association has decided to suspend activities for at least two weeks, and then will make a decision at the end of March about sports. We received a message from our Middle School Association that they have cancelled the remainder of middle school spring sports."

Fraker told her Board she has been in constant



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

communication with Gordon County EMA Director Courtney Taylor and the Department of Public Health, and that while neither have recommended the schools closing, what the school system is assessing is a preventative measure.

"The recommendations we've seen in other states, and what you may have heard in the Presidential speech this week, is to try to avoid groups of 250 or more; social distancing, which is considered staying six feet away from each other and in a school that's very hard to do," said Fraker. "I think a possible closure would be for preventative

measure and to continue to remain a healthy community. It's not in response to a current illness on campus, but a preventative measure.

"At this time, it looks like a two-week (shut down) is what we need to do to prevent spread."

Fraker told her Board that the framework is in place for their online learning, and the students have their iPads to perform online learning.

Fraker told the Board she expected custodial staff to be utilized throughout the two week shutdown to be able to do a thorough cleaning of each room in each school.

"You can have the

virus and not have symptoms; that's why it's scary, you can spread it and be sick for seven days with no symptoms," said Board member Dana Stewart, who is also a nurse practitioner. "I think the governor has given us a recommendation, and at this point, this is about community health. I don't know that we're necessarily trying to stop (this virus) but are trying to prevent it from spreading further. Our schools are a vital part of our community; we have a lot of kids

See **COMMUNITY**, page 7A

Index

Second Front.....2A
Events Calendar.....2A
Obituaries.....3A
Health.....9A

Inside this issue: SECOND FRONT 2A



AdventHealth Gordon Foundation offers allied health/nursing Scholarships.

GOVERNMENT 4A



State Rep. Rick Jasperse gives his weekly update from the State Capitol.

@gordongazette

@gordongazette

@gazettegordon

Frosty Kreme to make sure students have lunches over the COVID-19 school break

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Frosty Kreme, located in the former Burger Hut location at 805 North Wall Street in Calhoun, reached out to the community on Friday afternoon, offering lunch for city and county school students while the schools are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Due to the county and city schools being closed, we realize that some students might rely on lunch. While schools are closed, all students K-12 are welcome to come to the Frosty Kreme, located at 805 North Wall Street in Calhoun, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and either get a grilled cheese, chips and drink or a hotdog chips and drink. FREE OF CHARGE! No questions or requirements," said Frosty Kreme in a statement.

Owner Chris Ramos told the Gazette that, growing up in a financially impoverished neighborhood, he knows school lunches might be the only time a student eats each day, and had to do something to help.

After the announcement, Frosty Kreme announced that volunteers had stepped up, willing to deliver to students in the county or to anyone that cannot pick up their own



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

lunches. They asked that anyone interested in the delivery service to inbox them on their Facebook page to get that set up. You can also call the restaurant at 706-403-6500.

Also, Ramos thanks Pastor Shane Parrott and member of Heritage Baptist Church,

who jumped in and donated Kool-Aid and cheese for the lunches.

"Frosty Kreme truly appreciates the community coming together on behalf of all these kids may God bless each and every one of you!" said the company in a statement.

One week of early voting left in Presidential Preference Primary; Week 2 numbers down

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Only 808 people have taken advantage of the first two weeks of the early voting period as of Friday night, March 13, according to Shea Hicks, chairperson of the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office.

The first week of early voting saw 535 people vote; this past week, only 273

visited the Voter Registration Office to vote early.

The Presidential Preference Primary is an election in which voters can choose who they would like to be their presidential candidate in the upcoming General Election.

The Presidential Preference Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 24, from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Early voting for the Presidential Preference Primary runs through March

20. All early voting is held at the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office, which will be moved to the Piedmont Street Annex Building, due to the size requirements needed for the new voting machines. Early voting takes place Monday – Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

See **ELECTION**, page 7A

Second Front

AdventHealth Gordon hosts monthly Cancer Wellness and Weight Management Support Group

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

AdventHealth Gordon hosts a monthly Cancer Wellness and Weight Management Support Group for cancer patients and survivors who are struggling with weight management. This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2 to 3 pm at the AdventHealth Harris Radiation Therapy Center.

Healthy eating is an essential component for keeping your body strong. A nutritious diet will also help lessen inflammation in patients and survivors. Weight gain can contribute to

risk for reoccurrence of cancer and other illness. This group offers a multidisciplinary approach by providing support from a nutritionist, mental health counselor and an exercise specialist.

For more information about this support group, please call 706-879-5850.

About AdventHealth Gordon

Founded in 1935, AdventHealth Gordon is proud to be a member of AdventHealth. With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth is a connected system of care for every stage of life and health. More than 80,000

skilled and compassionate caregivers in physician practices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and hospice centers provide individualized, wholistic care. A shared vision, common values, focus on whole-person health and commitment to making communities healthier unify the system's nearly 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states. For more information about AdventHealth, visit AdventHealth.com or [Facebook.com/AdventHealth](https://www.facebook.com/AdventHealth).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gordon County Schools online learning and food services during the COVID-19 school closure

Brandi Owczarz

gordongazettega@gmail.com

As announced on Friday, March 13, Gordon County Schools will be shut down from Monday, March 16 until Friday, March 27 due to concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In addition to lunch, a grab-and-go breakfast will also be provided.

"Gordon County Schools will serve meals to students during the school closures in response to the COVID-19 concerns," said the system in a statement. "Meals will be served at sites throughout Gordon County, following a plan similar to the one used during the Summer Feeding Program.

"Any child 18 and under (21 and under for special needs students) can receive a hot lunch and a breakfast-to-go, Monday through Friday, while schools are closed from March 16-March 27.

"As always, Gordon County School Nutrition is following all public health practices to assure food safety. In addition, during this time of concern about COVID-19, we have added all CDC-recommended practices to minimize any risk of spreading the virus.

"Please consult the following for updates to information about the School Closure Meal Service:

Gordon County School Nutrition Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Gordon-County-School-Nutrition-102665284634337/>

Gordon County Schools website: www.gcbe.org or www.gcbe.org/Page/2996"

The school system will also implement online learning through Schoology during this time. Schoology is a social networking service and virtual learning environment for K-12 and post-secondary institutions that allows users to create, manage, and share academic content. Gordon County students have been using Schoology for daily instruction for over two years. Most students have school-issued i-Pads that they are allowed to take home and use.

Digital learning days for students will be on Tuesday, March 17. A professional learning day for faculty and staff is planned for Monday, March 16, 2020, at which time teachers will continue to prepare learning packets and digital learning activities. According to Communications Director Amy Parker, students without internet service can pick up packets from their individual schools. Teachers and schools are communicating with families to let them know how to obtain these packets.

Gordon County Schools list of meal service pick up locations for school closure meal service.

School Closure Meal Service

Open to all children and teens 18 years and younger during the school closings necessitated by the COVID-19 outbreak. No registration or identification is required.

Please know that all necessary precautions are being followed to assure food safety and safety from any virus transmission.

Tuesday, March 17th – Friday, March 27th

These times are estimates. Times may change slightly.

Sonoraville High (11:00-1:00)	Plantation Place Subdivision (11:30-12:30)
Gordon Central High (11:00-1:00)	North Point Subdivision (11:00-11:20)
Tolbert Elementary (11:40-12:10)	Bird Lanes (12:40-1:00)
Plainville Rec Dept. (11:00-11:40)	Landing Drive (12:15-12:35)
Fairmount Square (12:20-1:00)	1 st -5 th Street (11:00-11:20)
Sugar Valley Comm. Ctr. (12:30-12:50)	New Town Loop (11:10-11:40)
Stone Ridge Apts. (11:00-11:30)	Twin Oaks subdivision (11:40-12:00)
Charles Court (12:15-12:35)	A-OK Campground (10:40-11:00)
Pine Ridge Apts. (11:00-11:30)	Charmin Circle (11:40-12:00)
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (11:00-11:20)	Hood St. Apts. (12:10-12:30)
Ranger Baptist Church (11:55-12:10)	Sabrina Lane (12:30-12:50)
Oakman Baptist Church (11:30-11:50)	Crane Eater Community Church (time TBA)
Resaca Rec Dept. (11:30-11:50)	Meadowdale Baptist Church (time TBA)

Monday - PBJ Sandwich, String Cheese, Veggie, Snack Mix, Applesauce, Milk Choice
Tuesday - Corndog, Chips, Veggie, Mixed Fruit, Milk Choice
Wednesday - Chicken Bites, Roll, Corn, Strawberry Cup, Milk Choice
Thursday - Hamburger, Tater Tots, Fruitable Juice, Fruit, Milk Choice
Friday - Meatball Queso, Tortilla Chips, Black Beans, Lettuce & Tomato, Salsa, Fruit, Milk Choice

A grab-and-go breakfast will also be served each day.
 For more information: 706.625.0786 ext 8015 or ext 8014

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Calhoun City Schools announces COVID-19 school closure feeding program; plan for Digital Days

Brandi Owczarz

gordongazettega@gmail.com

Calhoun City Schools announced on Friday, March 13, they will provide meals for students free of charge during the duration of the school closure period. Students may pick up a meal at their normal bus stop between the hours of 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Monday-Friday. When students pick up a lunch, they may also take home a breakfast meal for the next day. All buses will run their regular route beginning Monday, March 16th from 11:00AM-1:00PM and will stop at all of their normal stops. The buses will have lunch and breakfast for every child under the age of 18 available. If you would prefer to pick up a lunch or breakfast, you may do so by visiting Calhoun Elementary School between the hours of 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Someone will be stationed behind the school where carpool pickup/drop off is located.

According to a statement from the school system, students may pick up a meal at their normal bus stop between the hours of 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday-Friday.

"When students pick up a lunch, they may also take home a breakfast meal for the next day," said the statement.

The system said that all buses will run their regular route beginning Monday, March 16 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and will stop at all of their normal stops. The busses will have lunch and breakfast for every child under the age of 18 available.

Anyone who prefers to pick up a lunch or breakfast can do so by visiting Calhoun Elementary School between the hours of 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SCHOOL CLOSURE FEEDING PLAN

Calhoun City Schools will provide meals for students free of charge during the duration of the school closure period. Students may pick up a meal at their normal bus stop between the hours of 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Monday-Friday. When students pick up a lunch, they may also take home a breakfast meal for the next day. All buses will run their regular route beginning Monday, March 16th from 11:00AM-1:00PM and will stop at all of their normal stops. The buses will have lunch and breakfast for every child under the age of 18 available. If you would prefer to pick up a lunch or breakfast, you may do so by visiting Calhoun Elementary School between the hours of 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Someone will be stationed behind the school where carpool pickup/drop off is located.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PLAN DE ALIMENTACIÓN DURANTE EL CIERRE DE LA ESCUELA.

LAS ESCUELAS DE LA CIUDAD DE CALHOUN PROPORCIONARÁN COMIDAS A LOS ESTUDIANTES DE FORMA GRATUITA DURANTE EL PERÍODO DE CIERRE DE LA ESCUELA. LOS ESTUDIANTES PUEDEN RECOGER UNA COMIDA EN SU PARADA DE AUTOBÚS NORMAL ENTRE LAS 11:00 A.M. Y LA 1:00 P.M., DE LUNES A VIERNES. CUANDO LOS ESTUDIANTES RECOJAN UN ALMUERZO, TAMBIÉN PUEDEN LLEVARSE A CASA UN DESAYUNO PARA EL DÍA SIGUIENTE. TODOS LOS AUTOBUSES RECORRERÁN SU RUTA REGULAR A PARTIR DEL LUNES 16 DE MARZO DE 11:00 A.M. A 1:00 P.M. Y SE DETENDRÁN EN TODAS SUS PARADAS NORMALES. LOS AUTOBUSES TENDRÁN DISPONIBLE ALMUERZO Y DESAYUNO PARA CADA NIÑO MENOR DE 18 AÑOS. SI PREFIERE RECOGER USTED MISMO UN ALMUERZO O DESAYUNO, PUEDE HACERLO VISITANDO LA ESCUELA PRIMARIA/ELEMENTAL DE CALHOUN ENTRE LAS 11:00 A.M. Y LA 1:00 P.M. ALGUIEN ESTARÁ ASIGNADO DETRÁS DE LA ESCUELA DONDE SE DEJAN Y RECOGEN LOS NIÑOS DE CARPOOL.

ESTA INSTITUCIÓN ES UN PROVEEDOR DE IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDADES.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Someone will be stationed behind the school where carpool pickup/drop off is located.

According to the school system, final plans for Digital Days, for students to get educational time in,

will be shared on Monday, with Digital Days beginning Tuesday, March 17.

Obituaries

March 14, 2020

James Fowler

Mr. James Fowler, 81, of Fairmount, Georgia died Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at Cartersville Medical Center after several months of declining health. He was born on June 15, 1938, in Floyd County to the late Clifford Fowler and Edna Mae Boyd. He was preceded in death by his



siblings, Richard Fowler and Bonnie Edwards and brother-in-law, Tony Parker.

He is survived by his loving wife of 21 years Elaine Fowler; daughters and sons-in-law, Tammy and Shawn Veit and Donna and Jim Burns; grandchildren, Trey Burns and Amber Burns, Lee Callaway and Cody Callaway, and Kayla Dean Phillips; great-grandchildren, Braden, Madison, Cole, Brooklynn, and Wyatt Callaway; brothers and sisters-in-law, Stephen and Linda Chastain, Daniel and Tammy Chastain and Boyd Chastain; sisters and brothers-in-law, Patsy Parker and Willine and Butch Young; several cousins, nieces, and nephews also survive.

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 13, 2020, after 3:00 PM at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.



Tim Walraven

Mr. Timothy (Tim) Walraven, 63, of Calhoun, died March 12, 2020, at his residence following an extended illness.

Tim was born in Gordon County, GA on April 23, 1956, son of the late Grady Walraven Sr. and Lucille

Sitton Walraven. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Steve Walraven in 2008.

He was retired from Ford's Super Market where he started when he a young boy 14 years of age and remained there until the store closed and was a member of the 1974 graduating class of Red Bud High School.

Survivors include a brother, Grady Walraven Sr. and his wife Nena of Lindale, sister-in-law, Deborah Walraven, niece, Stephanie Walraven Lathem, nephew, Bryan Walraven, great-nieces, great-nephew, and other relatives also survive.

A service to honor and remember the life of Timothy (Tim) Walraven will be held Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 2:00 PM from the graveside at Crane Eater Cemetery with Eddie Brannon officiating.

Online condolences may be expressed with the family and the guest register signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the Walraven family.



Cathryn Mashburn

Cathryn Pettit Mashburn, 88, of Resaca, Georgia died Tuesday, March 10, 2020 after a 5-month illness. She was born on February 1, 1932 to the late Charles and Bertha Pettit. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack Mitchell Mashburn in 2016.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Mitch and Mendy Mashburn; daughter and son-in-



law, Julia Michelle and James Patterson; sisters; Evelyn Gaines and Faye Pettit; grandchildren, Alex, Casey, and Kelly Mashburn, and Patrick Patterson; a host of other relatives also survive.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. Her body will lie in state at Maple Grove Baptist Church Friday, March 13, 2020 from 12:00 PM until the service hour of 1:00 PM.

The funeral service will be conducted on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 1:00 PM from Maple Grove Baptist Church, with Rev. Duane Smith and Rev. Eddie Brannon officiating. Burial will follow in the Maple Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers include, Courtland Gaines, Cody Green, Andrew Benton, Tabor Peters, Jhan Timms, Lambert White, and Jerome White.

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

The Brannon family and staff is honored to serve the family of Cathryn Pettit Mashburn.

The funeral service will be conducted on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at 2:00 PM from Pleasant Grove (Ryo) Baptist Church, with Rev. William Cline and Reggie Temples officiating. Singing will be arranged by Darrell Wilson and Rhonda Cunningham. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Pallbearers include Jason Chastain, Rodney Fowler, Ritchie Fowler, Eric Fowler, Ellis Payne, and Lee Callaway. Honorary pallbearers include Cody Callaway, Daniel Chastain, Stephen Chastain, and Luke Corn.

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

The Brannon family and staff is honored to serve the family of Mr. James Fowler.

Help for the Hurting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-The Alzheimer's Association's Caring Closet was created to help offset the high cost of incontinent

products and give the families support they often desperately need. If you would like to visit the nearest Closet, call the chapter office to receive a flier with locations and hours. Morning Pointe in Calhoun has a Caring Closet; call Mary Braden at 706-629-0777.

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

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

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

-Grief Recovery Group for those who have lost loved ones and friends, receive support and guidance with the Four Tasks of Grieving. Cost is Free. Second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital. For more information or to RSVP, please call 706.879.5850.

-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 dawnsisson@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.

WE'RE HIRING

CALHOUN & SURROUNDING AREAS

RECRUITING FOR SEVERAL POSITIONS

WALK-IN INTERVIEWS
MONDAY- FRIDAY 8AM-5PM

APPLY TODAY!

2 Work Staffing

513 LOVERS LANE RD SE CALHOUN, GA 30701

WWW.2WORKSTAFF.COM

REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL from Representative Rick Jasperse

BY: RICK JASPERSE,
(R-Jasper, District 11)
State Representative

incurring unexpected medical costs. One of the leading causes of bankruptcy is surprise medical bills, which is a medical bill that results when an insured patient receives treatment from an out-of-network provider at an in-network facility. To address this, we passed House Bill 888, or the "Surprise Billing Consumer Act," which would require insurance providers to pay for emergency medical services without need for any prior authorization and without any retrospective payment denial for medically necessary services, regardless of whether a health care provider giving emergency medical services is a participating provider or not. In both emergency and non-emergency care, the medical provider would only bill a patient based on their deductible, co-insurance, co-payment, or other cost-sharing amount.

Last week was the eighth week of the 2020 legislative session. It was a busy week with the hallways crowded with folks for and against certain bills that were under consideration. Monday was the most crowded I had ever seen. Qualifying for the upcoming election year was starting, and the US Senate candidates had lots of media and well-wishers in the Capitol. It was also Peanut Day! The Ga Peanut Commission was there with their grilled peanut butter sandwiches, promoting our state being the number one in peanut production. Being number one is not by accident, as we all have invested in university research and development of this important crop which we all enjoy.

We passed more than 40 bills and resolutions on the House floor this week, and with "Cross Over Day" coming up in a few days, we spent a lot of our time this week preparing for this important deadline by voting on other legislation in our committees, some that start meeting at 7 am and others that go into the late afternoon.

I try to pick out the most important bills each week to talk about, and this week it's clearly a bill that protects all of us, young and older, from

We also passed several bills to improve regulations for Georgia's pharmacy industry and to reduce the costs of prescriptions for our citizens. We passed House Bill 946 to create transparency for prescription drug prices and to allow the state to better oversee pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs), which are third-party prescription drug administrators that pay for, reimburse, and cover



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pastor Danny Cochran was the Pastor of the Day recently at the House of Representative as Guest of Representative Rick Jasperse and Speaker David Ralston. He gave an inspirational devotional and led the House in a moving prayer. Pastor Cochran has served Holly Creek Baptist Church since 2000.

the cost of drugs, devices, or pharmacy care on behalf of a health plan. HB 946 would safeguard citizens by ensuring that Georgia physicians are utilized in the development and management of the formularies that PBMs develop. This bill would also require PBMs to report whether drug prices are above or below public pricing benchmarks, which indicate the true cost of

drugs. Under HB 946, if a patient uses any discount or coupon, PBMs would be required to apply that toward an insured person's deductible, cost-share, or co-payment responsibility or out-of-pocket maximum. HB 946 would also prohibit spread pricing, require that 100 percent of all rebates received from pharmaceutical manufacturers be passed back to health plans, and

strengthen anti-steering laws by imposing a surcharge on PBMs when they steer patients to affiliated pharmacies. Yes, it's complex.

These are complex issues that have been worked on for years. If we are successful and pass them through the Senate and have them signed by Governor Kemp, it will have been worth the work! I can provide

you with more details of other bills we passed; just ask with the contact below. I work hard to keep everyone informed on what is going on at your Capitol. My office number is 404-656-7153, and my email address is rick.jasperse@house.ga.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the House of Representatives at our Georgia Capitol.

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



Community Events

Week of March 15

“Always...Patsy Cline” at the Harris Arts Center, Thursday March 19 - Saturday, March 21 beginning at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 22 at 3 p.m. The HAC is located at 212 South Wall Street, Calhoun, GA 30701. The Harris Arts Center and Calhoun Little Theatre are excited to announce the upcoming production of Always...Patsy Cline. Audiences have four opportunities to see this production with dates set for March 19, 20 and 21 at 7 p.m. and March 22 at 3 p.m. For more information, visit the HAC website at www.harrisartscenter.com.

-7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience at the GEM Theatre on Saturday, March 21st, 2020, beginning at 7:30 p.m. 7 Bridges: The Ultimate EAGLES Experience is a stunningly accurate tribute to the music of The Eagles. 7 Bridges faithfully re-creates the experience of an Eagles concert from the band’s most prolific period. Every show features one brilliant hit single after another with some Don Henley and Joe Walsh surprises sprinkled into the mix, offering the perfect blend of songs to capture all levels of Eagles devotees. The GEM is located on North Wall Street in Calhoun. For tickets, visit www.calhouncemtheatre.org.

Week of March 22

“Always...Patsy Cline” at the Harris Arts Center, Sunday, March 22 at 3 p.m. The HAC is located at 212 South Wall Street, Calhoun, GA 30701. The Harris Arts Center and Calhoun Little Theatre are excited to announce the upcoming production of Always...Patsy Cline. For more information, visit the HAC website at www.harrisartscenter.com.

-Annual Georgia String Band Festival at the Harris Arts Center the weekend of March 27-28. The Harris Arts Center proudly welcomes Jerron “Blind Boy” Paxton to the Ratner Theater stage. He will kick off the 14th annual Georgia String Band Festival on Friday, March 27, at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$25, and seating is limited. County Fiddlers’ Convention Competition for the Gordon County Fiddlers’ Convention will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, in the Ratner Theater, with registration beginning at noon. Some of the finest musicians in the tri-state area will compete in Traditional Singing, Buck Dance, Banjo, String Band, and Fiddle for \$3,000 in prize money. Saturday’s armbands are only \$10, with children 12 and under free, and will be sold at the door. After obtaining an armband, patrons may come and go as they please throughout the afternoon. It’s a fun-filled, toe-tapping day of Old Time pickin’ and grinnin’. Musicians must be age 15 or older to compete. Participants may register throughout the day, but no entrant will be accepted after numbers for

order of appearance are drawn. Tickets are \$25, and seating is limited.

-GUIDED LANTERN TOUR at NEW ECHOTA on SATURDAY, MARCH 28. Have you ever wondered how an 1800s settlement would have looked at night? Wonder no more. There will be a lantern tour of the historic buildings. The tours will be led by park staff and each building will be open and occupied to demonstrate what life would have been like during the 1800s. Reservations are required. There will be a lantern tour of the historic buildings at New Echota-Cherokee Capital State Historic Site on March 28, 2020. There will be four tour times and reservations are required. The tours will be at 7:00 PM, 7:20 PM, 7:40 PM, and 8:00 PM. This is a unique opportunity to see our park at night. Reservations are required. Call 706-624-132 to reserve your spot. New Echota is located at 1211 Chatsworth Highway NE in Calhoun.

Week of April 5

-Who’s Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience at the GEM Theatre on Saturday, April 11, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Who’s Bad’s live performance is an unrivaled celebration of pop music’s one true King. Their power-packed performance of Michael Jackson’s expansive catalog has ignited crowds on every continent and can only be described as a jaw-dropping, musical must-see. For tickets, visit www.calhouncemtheatre.org. The GEM is located on North Wall Street in downtown Calhoun.

Week of April 12

-Sister Hazel at the GEM Theatre on Friday, April 17th, 2020, beginning at 8 p.m. The GEM is located on North Wall Street in Calhoun. Sister Hazel is an American alternative rock band whose style blends elements of jangle pop, folk rock, classic rock ‘n’ roll and southern rock. Their music is characterized by highly melodic tunes and prominent harmonies. For tickets, visit www.calhouncemtheatre.org.

-“Traveling On” with Calhoun Community Chorus at the Harris Arts Center on Friday and Saturday, April 17 - 18, beginning at 7 p.m. The Harris Arts Center, 212 South Wall Street, Calhoun, GA 30701 United States. Sit back, close your eyes and let your mind wander as you travel down the road with Community Chorus at the Harris Arts Center. Route 66 invites you to “get your kicks” while the Mamas and the Papas will have you California Dreamin’. Enjoy whimsical songs from your childhood and let John Denver stir up a memory of country roads and jet planes. Performances are Friday and Saturday April 17 & 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Calhoun Community Chorus is made up of more than 30 members of all experience levels and has singers who range in age from late teens to early eighties. Under the direction of Reva Utz, the chorus produces two concerts a year. Tickets are \$15 General Admission, \$12, Seniors/Students and \$10 HAC Members, and are available online, at the Harris Arts Center and through any chorus member. For more information, contact the Harris Arts Center at 706-629-2599 or visit www.harrisartscenter.com.

-JUNIOR RANGER DAY at NEW ECHOTA on Saturday, April 18. Come to the park and join a park ranger as they led activities designed to help you earn your Junior Ranger badge. The activities include a mock trial, a syllabary activity, a food cycle activity and a archeology activity. New Echota is located at 1211 Chatsworth Highway NE in Calhoun.

Notices

-TALLATOONA BEGINS LIHEAP HEATING ASSISTANCE. Nov. 1 is the date Tallatoona will begin accepting appointments for the heating assistance program. Schedule an appointment online at www.tallatoonacap.org and click on Book Now, or by calling 770-773-7730. The following documents will be needed for appointments: driver’s license or state issued photo ID; original social security cards for everyone living in household; proof of citizenship or immigration status such as driver’s license, US military ID, US passport, state issued photo I, US permanent resident card, alien registration card, employment authorization document, certificate of citizenship; most current heating bill within the past 30 days; if your home is heated with natural gas, kerosene, propane or wood you MUST bring both your heating bill and electric bill to the appointment; proof of income for the last 30 days for everyone 18 years or older living in the home including alimony, child support, disability, pension, rental income, retirement, social security, unemployment, wages from work, wages from self employment and workers compensation.

-Story times at the Calhoun-Gordon County Library, 100 N. Park Ave. in Calhoun, are 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays

-Fairmount Library is now located inside of City Hall on the second floor. Story time is held every second Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. and New Horizon Book Club is held on the second Thursday of the month. For more information call 706-337-5306.

-If your school, church, civic or other organization would like a representative from the Georgia State Patrol to come and speak with your group on law enforcement or public safety matters, call 706-624-1477.



Visit or call today!
 1318 Curtis Parkway, Calhoun
 706-383-8339
www.flipperpools.co

Now is the time to get ready for summer with a custom pool from Flipper Pools & Patio!



Inground Pools | Above Ground Pools | Spas & Saunas | Outdoor Living
 Big Green Egg Grills & Smokers | Easy Finance & Layaway Plans

Don't forget to call us for all of your pool maintenance needs!



NOW OPEN

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



COMMUNITY From page 1A

and staff in our school system. We have some vulnerable children and vulnerable staff. If we get it and those kids get it and take it home to elderly or vulnerable (family members); at this time, it's more about community safety and preventing a spread at this point."

The Board agreed that a two week closing of the schools was warranted for this situation. Fraker told the Board she would be meeting with Calhoun City Schools Superintendent Dr. Michele Taylor later in the morning, to come up with a plan for closing the schools.

At noon on Friday, both Calhoun City Schools and Gordon County Schools announced a two-week closing, beginning Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27, with the school systems re-evaluating the situation in the community on Thursday, March 26.

"A professional learning day for faculty and staff is planned for Monday, March 16, 2020, at which time teachers will continue to prepare learning packets and digital learning activities. Digital learning days will begin Tuesday, March 17, 2020," said the statement. "Details about school nutrition services will be communicated as soon as possible.

All school field trips and special events scheduled between now and April 13th will be canceled and/or postponed. This includes parent-teacher conferences, musicals, concerts, etc. Upon students' return to school, we are asking that visitors respect our desire to keep our students and staff safe and refrain from coming to school for lunch or other daily events within the school until further notice. All field trips, both state and out-of-state, are suspended through April 13th. Details on rescheduling

or refunds will be made available to you as soon as they are determined. All athletic practices and games are suspended through March 27th and will be re-evaluated at that time in cooperation with the Georgia High School Association and Middle School Athletic Associations."

The school systems have released separate statements concerning learning opportunities and feedings while school is out of session (see page 2A).

Also on Friday, the City of Calhoun and Gordon County government made announcements on closings and postponements due to COVID-19 concerns.

"Calhoun and Gordon County government officials met (Friday, March 13) at 10:00 a.m. to continue planning regarding the COVID 19 situation," said a joint statement. "Following the Governor's outline for limiting the crowd exposure and protecting a vulnerable population, Calhoun and Gordon County have agreed to take preliminary steps to close the Senior Center. Steps will be taken to ensure that the seniors will receive their meal service and we will have staff making daily welfare calls to our seniors.

"Both the City of Calhoun and Gordon County Parks and Recreation Departments will close their gyms and will be closed to organized activities, games, practices and all gatherings. The parks will remain open for walking and passive activities but the intention is to limit social interactions. The recreation departments will be open for the March 24th Presidential Preference Primary.

The conference room of the Gordon County Agriculture Service Center will be closed to public meetings.

"We would like to remind everyone that both City and County online services are available for those who do not want to be in public areas. Please see the City and County websites and

social media accounts for more details concerning tax payments, utility payments, court services, etc.

"Calhoun and Gordon County continue to attend briefings and gather information. The central theme is to be prepared but do not panic while we all work together to promote and maintain a healthy Gordon County."

In addition, the City of Calhoun announced the Municipal Court is postponing court proceedings for March 16th and March 23rd.

Gordon County Sheriff Mitch Ralston announced that at 5 p.m. Friday, March 13, the following measures will take effect at Gordon County Jail:

Visitation to the county jail is suspended. The Jail Lobby will be CLOSED. The only EXCEPTION will be people posting BOND for persons in custody. If you wish to post bond for a person in custody, call the Jail at 706-629-1244 to advise the Jail staff when you will arrive. Inmates may still communicate directly with persons outside via telephone service, which will not be affected.

Any detainee(s) will be screened, outside the main building, before admittance to the jail facility. No inmate workers, such as trash pick-up crews, will be outside the Jail facility.

The Sheriff's Office business office lobby will be CLOSED to visitors. Do NOT come to the Sheriff's Office to file a report. ANYONE NEEDING LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE SHOULD CALL 911.

These measures will be in effect until further notice.

The Sheriff's Office staff is receiving Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in anticipation of contact with persons infected with or exposed to Coronavirus/COVID-19. Sheriff Ralston urges everyone to follow the practices recommended by our public health officials, such as frequent and thorough hand washing, limiting contact with crowds, and other hygienic practices.

Sheriff Ralston said, "This crisis has prompted the federal government to declare a National Emergency. State and local authorities are taking strong measures to combat the spread of the virus as well. We all hope and pray that this will pass as quickly as possible, but we must all be prepared to suffer some inconvenience and deprivation while our medical community strives to contain the epidemic. I request that everyone take a part in looking after our elderly citizens, those with underlying medical conditions, or others especially vulnerable. I ask each person in the strongest possible terms, to adhere to the recommendations of our health officials. Lastly, I would humbly ask that you join me in praying for all of those affected by Coronavirus/COVID-19, and this community and country that we all love. God Bless."

Late Friday night, the George Chambers Resource Center announced they would be closed until March 30, 2020.

According to a statement from the GCRC, the facility is closed due to possible exposure to COVID-19. The organization was notified by an individual's family that both she and the individual the center supports have been exposed to COVID-19. Both the family and the individual are now under a 14-day quarantine.

Several churches throughout the area have canceled weekend services, including Calhoun Fire Baptist Church and Belmont Baptist Church.

Anyone wishing to report a cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic can email Staff@GordonGazetteGa.com or call 770-547-1044 for inclusion on our special, free webpage, <https://www.gordongazettega.com/community-response-covid-19> which is a live update on all information in Gordon County related to COVID-19. You can find that information on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages as well.

ELECTION From page 1A

during the early voting period. And don't forget, the new voting system for the state of Georgia is being utilized for the Presidential Preference Primary. The Georgia State Legislature approved the purchase of a new, statewide voting system in order to replace aging, paperless election equipment dating back to 2002.

Georgia's Secure, Accessible, and Fair Elections (SAFE) Commission presented a report to the state legislature in January 2019, which used the expert recommendations to adopt a new law for the state's voting system purchase. The procurement process was overseen by the Georgia Department of Administrative Services and handled the same way as other competitive bids. An evaluation committee scored each

applicant based on an appraisal of cost and ability to meet the state's voting system specifications, which included accuracy, security, auditability, and ease of use for poll managers and voters. Dominion Voting Systems had the highest overall score and was awarded the contract. The system cost is approximately \$107 million. The contract includes voting system hardware, software, implementation, training and support for the new statewide system.

The new system offers voters more modern, up-to-date technology with important security and transparency features. The new system will also produce a paper ballot to allow for verification and auditing of election results. It features user-friendly touchscreen selection like Georgia voters have enjoyed using for the last 17 years, with the addition of a secure, paper ballot. Once a voter has

confirmed their choices on the screen, they will print their ballot recording their choices in plain language and in a QR barcode that provides extra security and speeds processing. With ballot in hand, they can look over their selections again. When they are satisfied that the ballot reflects their choices, they walk to a scanner and insert the ballot. The scanner will record an image of the ballot as well as tally the votes. The ballot then drops into a locked, tamperproof ballot box. The paper ballots are used for verifying and auditing results. The next-generation system also offers enhanced audit capabilities for security, as well as features to improve the voter experience.

The new, paper-ballot system offers reliability and assurance, balancing the need for both security and accessibility in the voting process. Touchscreens have proven to reduce

the rate of under-votes, over-votes and stray-marked votes in elections. They can specifically alert voters if they have skipped or missed a ballot selection, ensuring that all voting choices are complete. The system also provides full accessibility for people with disabilities and/or language or literacy challenges, allowing all voters to privately and independently cast a ballot using the same system. These touchscreens also produce paper-ballots for auditing and reduce paper volumes overall.

For those that need to register to vote and have a valid Georgia Driver's License or Georgia ID Card, visit <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov>. This is a fast and easy way to register to vote. For more information, contact the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office at 706-629-7781.

Visit us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram by searching "Gordon Gazette"

Our promise to you... We will remain faithful in our commitment to providing you with quality service and customer satisfaction.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Temporary and Temp-To-Perm
- Direct Hire Placement
- On-Site Supervisor*Optional
- Drug Testing by Certified Staff
- Client Specific Orientations
- Client Job Site Evaluations & Tours
- Facility First Day Check Ins
- Safety Program and Testing
- Workers Compensation Coverage
- 24/7 Emergency On Call
- 24/7 Emergency



SCREENING PRACTICES

- Face to Face Interviews of Applicants
- OSHA Compliant Safety Orientation
- E-Verify
- GCIC and National Background Checks

TESTING

- Competency Testing
- MS Excel, MS Word and MS Testing
- Basic Reading/Writing
- Customized Client Specific Testing
- 5 Panel
- Swab *Optional

2WORK Staffing

www.2workstaff.com

513 Lovers Lane Rd SE, Calhoun, GA 30701 706.383.8234 E.O.E



Kemp officially declares emergency as COVID-19 cases jump to 66 in state

ANDY MILLER
GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS

The number of Georgia cases of the new coronavirus has jumped to 66 – the biggest 24-hour increase of COVID-19 cases the state has seen.

Citing that disease toll, Gov. Brian Kemp on Saturday declared a public health emergency for the state. He called the situation “an unprecedented public health threat.”

Many of the Georgia patients are hospitalized and have no recent travel history to virus hot spots, Kemp said in a somber address from the Governor’s Office.

Cobb is the hardest-hit county, with 15 coronavirus cases. It’s followed by Fulton’s 11, DeKalb’s eight and Bartow’s seven.

The cases were bound to increase since the state gained more capacity for testing patients. That ability was hamstrung for weeks as the CDC was forced to correct flaws in its initial testing kits.

Kemp said the state Public Health Lab now is testing 100 specimens per day, and will soon ramp up to 200 daily, with the addition of new equipment and more staff.

The state’s emergency management operations center has been activated, and Kemp said Georgia is working to establish testing centers across the state.

Georgia’s boards governing physicians and nurses will be allowed to grant temporary licenses to applicants licensed in other states.

By declaring a public health emergency, the governor said, the state Department of Public Health will be allowed to direct swift action to fight the pandemic “in extraordinary circumstances.”

Kemp noted the potential for the state’s medical providers to be overwhelmed. “The capacity of our health care system remains at the forefront of my mind as we prepare for more local transmission,” he said. Kemp cited the potential surge of patients at health care facilities. Unless that’s mitigated, he said, “We risk a run on critical resources for the sickest patients.”

He said he consulted Friday with epidemiologists, who recommended “social distancing,” that’s a public health practice that seeks to prevent sick people from coming into close contact with healthy people in order to reduce opportunities for transmission. It can include canceling group events or closing public spaces, as well as individual decisions such as avoiding crowds. Kemp has urged faith-based organizations to cancel services in order to reduce the potential for transmission.

Such extraordinary measures are being used amid the problem of having no medication treatment or vaccine for COVID-19. Though most people who get the disease will have mild cases and recover, it is potentially deadly for older people and those with underlying medical conditions.

Kemp has called for a special session of the General Assembly to convene Monday to ratify the emergency action through a joint resolution. More than 20 states have declared emergencies over the virus.

Kemp’s move Saturday constitutes Georgia’s first ever public health emergency, state officials said.

“I do not take this action lightly,” Kemp said. “We must remain supportive of one another [and] pray for our fellow Americans. We are in this fight together.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kemp said the state Public Health Lab now is testing 100 specimens per day, and will soon ramp up to 200 daily, with the addition of new equipment and more staff.

The Georgia declaration follows President Trump’s declaration Friday of a national emergency to free up \$50 billion in federal resources to combat coronavirus.

Trump said he was “urging every state to set up emergency operations centers effective immediately.”

All the states but one have reported positive tests for COVID-19, with more than 2,200 cases across America. At least 49 people have died — 37 in Washington state, which now reports at least 568 cases; five in California, two in Florida, one each in Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, New Jersey and South Dakota.

Georgians can now go online to get updates on the number of coronavirus cases in the state. A

newly created Public Health website gives information on cases, plus their location by county.

State officials also said Friday that a quarantine space for people who test positive for COVID-19, don’t need hospitalization but are unable to self-isolate is under construction in Monroe County, south of Atlanta.

The quarantine space, on the Georgia Public Safety Training Center campus, will be able to accommodate 20 temporary housing units. The state earlier this week created a similar set-up at Hard Labor Creek State Park, east of Atlanta.

Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News. Visit Georgia Health News at www.georgiahealthnews.com

GORDON
Gazette

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

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.

<p>Family</p> <p>Newborn</p> <p>Sports</p> <p>Senior</p> <p>Prom</p>	<p>Birthday</p> <p>Wedding</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Concert</p> <p>Event Photography</p>
--	--








VAC stepping up efforts to protect those most vulnerable during COVID-19 pandemic

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

The Voluntary Action Center on Friday announced efforts to keep those who utilize their services safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and plan to remain open.

“Effective Monday we plan to transition our kitchen to a meals-to-go program as opposed to dine in program for at least two weeks,” said VAC Director Stacy Long. “We will monitor and reassess the situation on an on-going basis.

“We plan to keep our food pantry open as well but have made slight changes in that program as well,” said Long. “Our laundry and shower facilities will only be open to the homeless and will offer very limited appointments. We have implemented more stringent cleaning and sanitization protocols across all facilities. AdventHealth Gordon is

providing medical grade sanitizer for our kitchen. We will stay open unless we have staff members who become sick or exposed.”

Long said that the VAC’s goal is to help the community during this time.

“We are going to try to be a resource to our individuals and families who are being impacted by loss of work during this time.”

The Voluntary Action Center offers emergency services to help individuals and families living in Gordon County. A Social services organization founded in 1971, the VAC provides hunger and homeless outreach to residents of Gordon County, operating a Thrift Store, Food Pantry, Shower and Laundry and Kitchen for those who need services in the Calhoun-Gordon County community.

For more information, visit their website at www.voluntaryactioncenter.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Disability services an important part of Highland Rivers March is National Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

HIGHLAND RIVERS HEALTH

While many people in northwest Georgia know Highland Rivers Health provides treatment and recovery services for individuals with mental health challenges and substance use disorders, not everyone may realize we also provide services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

That may be partly because we generally don’t provide IDD services at our outpatient clinics – so anyone coming to a clinic for mental health or substance use services would be unlikely to encounter an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability. And yet, Highland Rivers provides a wide range of IDD services to individuals that live in all 12 counties we serve.

I’ve written previously about how individuals with IDD might use assistive technology in order to live independently, about how researchers have learned a great deal about disabilities and how individuals living with them can enjoy the best quality of life possible. But I wanted to take this opportunity to write about some of the many IDD services Highland Rivers provides.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

describes intellectual and developmental disabilities as disorders that are usually present at birth and negatively affect the course of an individual’s physical, intellectual and/or emotional development. Often these conditions affect multiple body systems and can impact such things as fine motor skills, speech and movement.

In addition, although there can be some distinction between intellectual and developmental disabilities, both share some common characteristics. Generally, IDDs are life-long conditions that can impact learning, understanding and social skills, as well as an individual’s ability for self-care, mobility and independent living. Of course, the level of impairment and ability, and the bodily systems affected, vary greatly from one individual to the next.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most developmental disabilities are thought to be caused by a complex mix of factors that could include genetics, parental health and behaviors during pregnancy, complications during birth, maternal or perinatal infections, or exposure of the mother or child to high levels of environmental toxins such as lead. Although we know the cause of some developmental disabilities, such as fetal alcohol syndrome, for most we don’t.

At Highland Rivers, our IDD services are delivered under a program called Kaleidoscope. The Kaleidoscope program provides activities, services, learning opportunities and supports to help individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities live independently in their communities. The program provides year-round, quality-driven social, recreational, vocational and educational programs for individuals, and provides support to their families.

Some of the services provided by Kaleidoscope include prevocational and supported employment (including job coaching and assisted job search); social and community involvement (including volunteer opportunities and Special Olympics); education and learning (such as computer training, art, nutrition); and recreational activities (movie and game nights, participation in local parades and events).

Most of these services are provided at two day programs we operate – one in Cedartown and one in Dalton – but we also partner with other local day program providers to ensure every individual we serve has access to these services in their community.

In addition, Highland Rivers provides a variety of residential opportunities for individuals with IDDs, depending on their level of functional independence, family circumstances

and living preferences. We work with dozens of local households who have opened their homes to individuals with IDDs as host homes. We also operate several group homes for individuals with disabilities, including those who are medically fragile.

In order to participate in Kaleidoscope services, an individual must complete an application with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). If you live in any of the counties served by Highland Rivers, contact the DBHDD Region 1 office at (678) 947-2818. The application and other information can be found online at: <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/accessing-services>. For more information about Highland Rivers IDD services, call us at (706) 270-5050.

Melanie Dallas is a licensed professional counselor and CEO of Highland Rivers Health, which provides treatment and recovery services for individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities in a 12-county region of northwest Georgia that includes Bartow, Cherokee, Floyd, Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk and Whitfield counties.

Community Support Groups

-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.

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

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

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

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

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

-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.

-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 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 dawnsisson@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



Michelle Little, DO
Family Medicine

Jennifer Smith, FNP-C
Family Medicine

Justin Hare, DO
Neurosurgery and Spine

PERSONALIZED CARE

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

We accept most health insurance plans.

**Hamilton Physician Group-
Calhoun Primary Care**

706.529.3025

**Hamilton Physician Group-
Neurosurgery and Spine**

706.529.7124

HamiltonHealth.com/calhoun



160 Curtis Parkway NE
Calhoun, GA

Primary Care • 706.529.3025
Neurosurgery & Spine • 706.529.7124