

# GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

www.gordongazettega.com

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**Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News**

## Gordon goes red in runoff; State result still too close to call

Brandi Owczarz  
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More than 54 percent of Gordon County voters (20,365 of 37,176 registered voters) showed up to vote in the General Election Runoff. With 12 of 12 precincts reporting Tuesday night, Republican Senator David Perdue (I) took Gordon County with 16,462 votes (81%) over Democrat challenger Jon Ossoff. Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler (I) took Gordon County with 16,415 votes (81%) over Democrat challenger Raphael Warnock. In the runoff race for Public Service Commission District 4, Republican Lauren Bubba McDonald, Jr. (I) took Gordon County with 16,385

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## Gordon Juvenile Court Judge Bearden retires

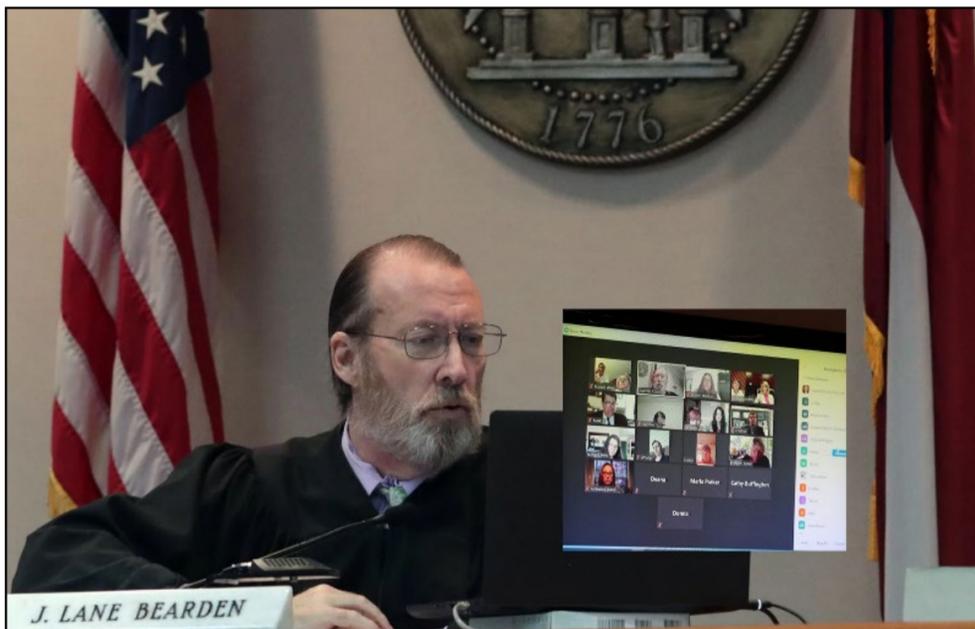
Brandi Owczarz  
staff@gordongazettega.com

Judge Lane Bearden, the longtime judge over Gordon County Juvenile Court officially announced his retirement as of Jan. 1, 2021 earlier this week.

"It has been a great honor to have served my community in that position for more than 30 years, but I am looking forward to returning to my legal practice on a full-time basis," said Bearden in a social media post.

Sitting on the bench as the Gordon County Juvenile Court Judge for more than 30 years, Judge Bearden saw an abundance of growth and plenty of change in the way the Court handles juvenile hearings during his decades of service, more than rising to the occasion last year with changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic closings of the court system; changes that the judge and his staff handled with resolve and professionalism.

"It's been a burden, but we've been really proactive and we did things before we



Judge Lane Bearden, who has served as Gordon County's lone Juvenile Court Judge for more than 30 years, is shown utilizing technology, especially the Zoom Meeting platform, to continue emergency hearings through his court during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown last year. Judge Bearden announced his retirement from Juvenile Court earlier this week, saying he plans to concentrate on his private practice.

had to," said Judge Bearden last year of the shuttering of court services on March 13, 2020. "We've finally got a great combination (of staff) and now we're hit with

COVID-19, and it's forced us to do some new things. It's forced us to introduce new technology." Judge Bearden reflected on the changes of the Juvenile

Court over his long tenure. "When I was first sworn into the office on June 12,

See **BEARDEN**,  
page 12A

## Calhoun man facing child molestation, various other charges after incident with 15-year-old run away

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A 19-year-old Calhoun man is facing 15 charges, including Aggravated Sexual Battery, Aggravated Child Molestation, Statutory Rape and Tattooing the Body of a Person Under 18 Years of Age after being arrested

by Gordon County Sheriff's deputies on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021. The arrest stemmed from an incident that happened in November 2020.

According to the GCSO Incident Report, just after 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020, a deputy with the GCSO Uniform Patrol Division responded to a Pocket Road, Sugar Valley

address in response to a runaway juvenile.

The deputy met with the complainant, who was identified as the grandfather of a 15-year-old female juvenile who he stated had ran away. The complainant said that the juvenile was upset that her sister was at a friend's house and that the juvenile wanted to go to a friend's house.

The man said the juvenile threatened to run away, and went to a shed on the property to sweep.

The complainant got worried about the juvenile and went to check on her and when he opened a door, he witnessed a white male walking up the sidewalk to his residence. The man identified himself to the complainant as

Dakota Roberson, and told the complainant that his vehicle broke down on top of the mountain and asked to use the complainant's phone. The complainant let Roberson use his phone; Roberson held it for a few seconds then



DAKOTA ROBERSION (Photo: Gordon County Sheriff's Office)

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Ashley Howell named AdventHealth Gordon's latest DAISY Award winner.

**HEALTH 8A**



Health experts warn of stronger prevention measures needed to fight COVID.

@gordongazette  
@gordongazette  
@gazettegordon

## Police investigate puppies discarded in dumpster

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Calhoun Police are looking for the person who packed six puppies into a small crate, one described as much was too small for all of the puppies, then stuffed the crate in the trash dumpster behind Food Lion last week.

According to the incident report, at around 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec.

29, an employee at Food Lion discovered the six puppies in the dumpster behind the building. Upon arrival, officers saw the puppies had been removed from the small crate and placed inside a large plastic tote. The employee said he went to the back of the building to empty the garbage in the dumpster and heard a noise inside, and found the puppies in the very small crate. This is when

the employee then opened the crate and put the puppies into the plastic tote. The employee said that one of the puppies was non-responsive at first and appeared to be suffocating from being packed inside the crate. Food Lion workers then gave the puppies food and water, stating they

See **PUPS**,  
page 12A



## Year in Review - Third quarter of 2020 saw elections, return to school, public safety recognized

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The third quarter of 2020 saw the local community opening back up after the shutdowns from the COVID-19 pandemic, with many people returning to their jobs and students returning to school. With the reopening and things returning to more normalcies, crime returned in the form of arson in eastern Gordon County, and a manhunt

for a Texas fugitive who shot a Whitfield County deputy and fled into Gordon County, shooting a Resaca resident during the three days he was on the loose.

### JULY 2020

Calhoun Fire commissions new fire truck with Push-In Ceremony: Calhoun Fire held a Push-

See **YIR**,  
page 11A



BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff

# Second Front

## Ashley Howell, FNP-C, recognized with DAISY Award

### ADVENTHEALTH

Ashley Howell, FNP-C, has been named AdventHealth Gordon's latest DAISY Award recipient. This award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the super-human tasks nurses perform every day.

Howell, a nurse practitioner at AdventHealth Medical Group Urgent Care Calhoun City Schools, received a nomination from a patient with the following words: "After feeling hopeless and put off by a different medical care provider, I turned to Ashley as a last resort. It took every ounce of courage I had to show up at her clinic, and I could barely keep it together enough to go inside. In a very vulnerable moment, Ashley made me feel comfortable. She listened, and I felt the concern she showed me was genuine. I could

relate to her and her own experiences. I never felt rushed and truly felt like I could share anything with her with no judgement. I have never felt like a provider truly cared for me like Ashley did. She listened to me and made me feel like I was the only patient in the facility. I am glad was able to see Ashley that day. She went above and beyond for me at my visit, and I truly feel like she is deserving of recognition."

If you or a loved one have been a patient at AdventHealth Gordon and would like to nominate an extraordinary nurse for the DAISY Award, please call 706-602-7800 ext. 2258.

To find out more about the program, including the growing list of partners, please go to [www.DAISYfoundation.org](http://www.DAISYfoundation.org).

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](http://AdventHealth.com) or [Facebook.com/AdventHealth](https://www.facebook.com/AdventHealth).



## AdventHealth Gordon welcomes first baby of 2021

### ADVENTHEALTH

The Baby Place at AdventHealth Gordon welcomed its first baby of 2021 at 3:34 am on Jan. 4. Kaitlyn Isabel Castro arrived weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long.

Pictured are mother, Juana Brito Lopez, holding little Kaitlyn, and father, Jose Alejandro Castro. The hospital presented a gift basket to the happy family to congratulate them on being AdventHealth

Gordon's New Year family.

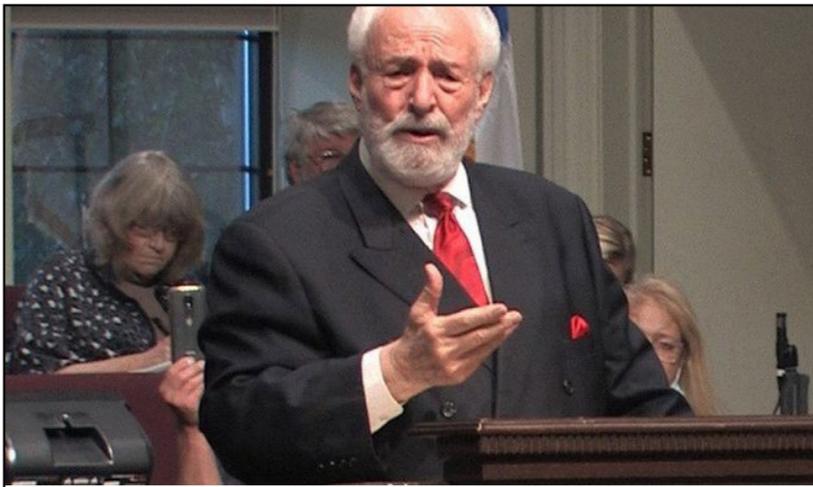
About AdventHealth Gordon

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](http://AdventHealth.com) or [Facebook.com/AdventHealth](https://www.facebook.com/AdventHealth).



## Heritage Baptist Church welcomes Dr. Jimmy DeYoung for Prophecy Conference Jan. 18-20



### STAFF REPORTS

Heritage Baptist Church welcomes Dr. Jimmy DeYoung for a Prophecy Conference Jan. 18 - 20, at the church, located on Curtis Parkway in Calhoun.

Sunday's event will be held at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday - Wednesday will be held at 6:30 p.m. nightly.

Dr. Jimmy DeYoung has resided in Jerusalem for at least a portion of the year each year for the last 23 years where he held full credentials as a journalist in the second most populated journalistic city in the world. Arriving there just 3 days prior to the

Gulf Crisis in 1991, he weathered 39 Scud attacks. He gave reports nationwide on several networks during the Gulf Crisis. He has his finger on the pulse of what is considered the media "hot spot" of our time, the Middle East. On his travels throughout the US and around the world, DeYoung brings with him the latest news from out of the Middle East with a unique blend of political, biblical, and prophetic insight that can not be found in the media today.

DeYoung is a noted conference speaker in the United States, Europe, and South America, and he devotes several months out of each year to

this conference schedule. He has authored the best selling book, "Sound The Trumpets", produced a number of audio and video materials, including his best seller, "Ready To Rebuild", a documentary on the building of the Third Temple. Jimmy continues to monitor the most current events as they unfold in the Middle East and compares these current events to the prophetic truth of God's Word.

DeYoung had the privilege of receiving his Doctorate from Tennessee Temple University in May of 1996. He also received his PhD from Louisiana Baptist University in May of 2000.



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**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**INDUSTRIAL BINDING:** (sewing machine) candidates that have sewing machine experience we will pay them \$14.25 per hour. They must have previous sewing experience. 2nd shift-and work Monday - Thursday 5pm to 3:30am

**GENERAL LABOR:** \$11.25 hour, 4pm to 3am approx. ten hour shift-M-Th, warehouse with some heavy lifting needed-sending profiles to client and they will interview

**HALL MONITOR:** \$8.25/hr, must have clean background, will be cleaning, assisting with students and taking care of facilities. Must show work history on resume to be submitted to client.

**GENERAL LABOR:** \$10/hr 7AM TO 3PM & 3PM TO 11PM-General Labor in Warehouse—prefer heavy lifters

**MATERIAL HANDLER:** no interviews needed-5am - 3:30pm M-Saturday-\$10-Material Handler

**PACKAGING** -No interview needed-2nd shift -3:30pm - 2am Monday - Friday / Saturday 1:30pm - 10pm-Taggers -Pay: \$11

**SERGER:** \$9/hr, 1st shift, must have skills on sewer/serger

**GENERAL LABOR:** \$9/hr, 1st shift-will work in variety of places in plant, packing, stacking, beveling, shipping, wrapping rolls, cut table helper

**GENERAL LABOR:** \$10/hr, 12 hour shifts 7am to 7p and 7p to 7a, 7 days a week right now, lots of over time, bilingual/Spanish is a must! Heavy lifters needed for cutting, sealing boxes, packing, and able to work with variety of people.

**SHIPPING CLERK:** \$11/hr., e-commerce, shipping, bill of lading skills, bilingual is needed-sending profiles to client for interviews.

**ADMIN ASSIST:** \$12/hr, accounts payable, and receivable, computer skills, good solid work history, some receptionist skills needed-must have resume showing all computer/accounting skills.

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

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# Obituaries

## January 6, 2021

### Barbara Charles

Barbara Jean Charles, age 68, of Oakman, passed away Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 in AdventHealth Gordon. Barbara was born June 21, 1952 in Gordon County, daughter of the late Arnold Wofford and Retha Gilbreath Wofford. She was a member of the Shady Grove Baptist Church and was retired after more than 30 years from Gordon Health Care.

Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her brother, Danny Timms.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry Charles; two sons, Jeremy Charles and his wife Barbara and Jonathan Charles and his wife Sara; two brothers, Bobby Timms and Lee Timms; one sister, Peggy Rogers. Five grandchildren, Dakota, Bethany, Lily Anna, Aksel, and Lillian also survive.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Reverend Tony Blankenship officiating. Interment will follow in East Damascus Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

You may send condolences to the family at [www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com](http://www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com)

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Barbara Jean Charles.



### Alan Cole

Alan R. Cole, 83, of Calhoun, formerly of Dade City, Fla., was called home by our heavenly Father on Jan. 2, 2021 at Gordon County Rehabilitation Center.

He was born in Honesdale, Pa. on July 23, 1937 and was the son of the late Raymond and Mildred Schwartz Cole.

Alan was a member of the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church of Calhoun. Alan served in the National Guard's in the Honesdale, Pa. from 1957 to 1963. Alan passionately worked all his life owning and operating dairy farms, RV parks, and was an owner/operator of a trucking business.

He is preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Mildred Schwartz Cole of Ridgefield Park, N.J.; a brother-in-law Joseph Grabowy of Vineland N.J.; a son Eric Cole of Peckville, Pa.; and a stepdaughter Dawn Sheard Ribblett of Dade City Fla.

He is survived by a brother Jerry Cole and wife Carol Cole of Myrtle Beach, S.C. and a sister Sally Grabowy of Vineland, N.J. He is also survived by his three sons, Jeffrey Cole, of Ocala, Fla., Fred Cole and wife Debbie Dykes Cole of Dade City, Fla., and Andy Cole and his partner Paula Rivera of Calhoun; three daughters, Charlena Cole, of Ocala, Fla., Arlena Cole and Partner Leonard Gonzales, of Austin Texas, and Candy Cole Carney and husband Tom Carney of Waymart, Pa. Also surviving are 17 Grandchildren and 11 Great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Alan was a very outgoing man who had many memorable times that he is leaving behind for all to cherish. He loved gathering in the mornings visiting people at his RV park and at church having coffee and donuts with others.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Gordon County Rehabilitation Center and the Affinis Hospice.

There will be a celebration of his life in the spring 2021 in Indian Orchard Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to Jenkins-Howell Funeral Home, Inc. Edward R. Howell, Funeral Director, 269 Belmont Street, Waymart, PA 18472. [www.JenkinsHowellFuneralHome.com](http://www.JenkinsHowellFuneralHome.com)



### Eddie Gallman

Eddie Joe Gallman, age 79, died Saturday Jan. 2, 2021.

He was born on Aug. 8, 1941 to the late Edd Walker Gallman and Stella Mae Gallman. He was preceded in death by his first wife Joan Carden Gallman; his sister, Mary Gallman Jones; and a granddaughter, Ava Motes.

He was a member of Sonorville Baptist Church and the Willing Workers Sunday School Class. He retired from AT&T after many years of service.

Survivors include his wife Barbara Gallman, to whom he was married for 24 years; two sons, Eddie Joe Gallman Jr.(Susan) and Jeffrey Charles Gallman (Tabitha); two step-daughters Sonja Fuquea (Ronald) and Julie Motes (Mike); one step-son, Mitchell Timms (Linda); 11 grandchildren, Benjamin Walker Gallman (Ariel), Kathryn JoAnna Gallman, Emma Joan Gallman, Abbey Hope Gallman, Eddie Joe Gallman III, Adam North (Jessie), Lauren Fuquea (Sarah), Justin Timms (Jessica), Kody Timms (Jonathan), Luke Motes and Makenna Motes; four great grandchildren, Noah North, Bowen North, Jay Timms, and Lilah Timms; along with a sister-in-law, Gail Rickett and brother-in-law, Charles Carden (Ida) and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family will have a private graveside service on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at Fain Cemetery with Dr. Stephen Pearson officiating. Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be followed by those

attending.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, [www.maxbrannonandsons.com](http://www.maxbrannonandsons.com)

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Eddie Joe Gallman.



### Andrew "Andy" Heath

Andrew Ray "Andy" Heath, age 63, of White, passed away on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at WellStar Tranquility Hospice in Marietta.

Andy was born on March 8, 1957 in Dearborn, Mich. to the late Cecil Heath and Mildred Maerine Temple Heath. In addition to his parents, Andy was also preceded in death by: his wife, Donna Yancey Heath; sister, Gwen Heath; and sister-in-law, Debbie Denise Day.

Andy has been a resident of White for the past 50 years and was a member of White United Methodist Church. He was a Veteran of the United States Army. Andy was a loving son, brother, father, and grandfather.

Andy is survived by: two sons, Austin Heath and Josh Heath; sister, Dolly Heath Patterson; six brothers, Larry Heath, Gary Heath, Keith Heath, Kevin Heath, Terry Heath, and Harry Heath; father-in-law, Ronnie and Sarah Yancey; brother-in-law, Craig Yancey; and three grandchildren, Ethan Heath and Gavin Heath and Tristan Scoggins. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Reverend Scott Shepherd, Bob McMillan, Bill Lowry, and Austin Heath officiating. Interment will follow in White United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers serving are: Cooper Fleming, Austin Heath, Cody Heath, Bob McMillan, Randy Allen, Ricky Rogers, Gary Abernathy, Zack McGahey, and Glen Kimbrell.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021 from 12 p.m. until the funeral hour at 2:30 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

You may leave the family online condolences at [www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com](http://www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com)

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Andrew Ray "Andy" Heath.



### John Henderson

Mr. John Lewis Henderson, of Resaca, departed this life Friday Jan. 1, 2021 at the local hospital. He was born Jan. 16, 1969 in Lafayette.

He was preceded in death by his mother Nellie Jo Henderson, brother, Charlie Pete Henderson, sister, Michelle Ledford, Nellie Jo Henderson. He was a contractor for Home Craft.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Fay Henderson of the residence; daughters and sons-in-law, Amber and Howell Avery, Ashley and Tyler Richter of Calhoun; son and daughter-in-law, Justin and Landy Henderson of Brunswick; grandchildren, Jeffrey, Peyton, Riley, Korbin, Drake, Karson, Kennedy; sister-in-law, Deana Henderson of Alabama; special nieces and nephews, Brittany Jones of Alabama, Tony Jones, Chris Jones, of Oklahoma, Charlie Henderson, Angel Henderson of Georgia, Robyn Coltrane of South Carolina; nanie, Hazel Smith of Chatsworth; aunt, Liz Layman of Chatsworth; other nieces and nephews.

Service to celebrate the life of Mr. John Lewis Henderson will be held Monday Jan. 11, 2021 at 1 p.m. from the Ponders Melrose Chapel with Pastor Drew Startup officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5 – 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Due to the National health crisis and the Covid-19 virus, masks must be worn properly at all times and social distancing must be observed when visiting the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.pondersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pondersfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements by, Ponders Melrose Chapel 138 Melrose Drive Dalton, GA 30721, 706-226-4002 [www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org](http://www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org) and [www.ogr.org](http://www.ogr.org)



### Bobby Roe

Bobby Roe, 84, of Resaca, died Saturday, Jan. 2, 2020. He was born on May 29, 1936 in Calhoun to the late Louie and Ella Silvers Roe. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Beverly Roe, in 1993.

He graduated from Red Bud High School. After retiring from Kobelco, he worked as part of the Prater Ford family for many years. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He will be missed by the ones he loved.

He is survived by his children, Tina Brooks and Tim (Robin) Roe; grandchildren, Walker Roe, Wimberly (Adam) Rutledge, Noah Brooks, Nathan Brooks, and Noelle Brooks; great grandchildren, Evan June Rutledge, Jaydin Harris, Huey Brooks, Chase Brooks, Bailey Brooks, Jaycie Sharp, and

Raelyn Curtis.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 from 2 – 4 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The Graveside service will follow at 4 p.m. at Chandler Cemetery with Rev. Eddie Brannon officiating. Brent Rutledge along with his Prater Ford family will serve as pallbearers.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, [www.maxbrannonandsons.com](http://www.maxbrannonandsons.com)

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



### Kenneth Sisk

Mr. Kenneth Elbert Sisk, age 50, of Resaca, departed this life Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at the local hospital. He was born June 28, 1970 in Dallas, Ga., a son of the late Alvin Lee and Patricia Ann Callahan Mullins.

He survived by his wife, Angela Sisk of the residence; sons and daughters-in-law, Joshua Travis and Candice Sisk, Joshua Wayne and Destiny Whitaker of Chatsworth; daughters and son-in-law, Magan Rachele Sisk of Dalton, Melody Keturah and Jimmy Seay of Tunnel Hill, Jessica Leonara Nadine Sisk, Daphanie Cheyenne Arnold of Chatsworth; siblings, Eddie Sisk, Dewayne Sisk of Kentucky, Joseph and Susan Mullins of Savannah, Chris Williams of Trenton, Leonara and Ricky McIntosh of North Carolina, Barbara Sisk, Katie and Anthony Cloer of Savannah; 13 grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Service to celebrate the life of Mr. Kenneth Elbert Sisk will be held Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at 11 a.m. from the Ponders Melrose Chapel with Johnny Carnes and Johnny Mullins officiating. Interment will follow in the Ponders Murray Memorial Gardens. The family received friends at the funeral home from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Due to the National health crisis and the Covid-19 virus, masks must be worn properly at all times and social distancing must be observed when visiting the funeral home.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.pondersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pondersfuneralhome.com).

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### Robert Smith

Mr. Robert Earl Smith, age 73, of Resaca, departed this life Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020.

He was born Feb. 22, 1947 in Dothan, Ala. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leo Smith and Florine Saunders, daughter, Patricia Smith, brother, Bruce Smith, Peggy Maddox. He proudly served his country in the United States Army.

He is survived by his sons, Robert Lee Smith of Dothan, Ala., Robert Earl Smith of Resaca; brother and sister-in-law, Leo and Dee Smith of Dumas, Texas; sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Jerry Crawford of Bushnell, Fla.; grandchildren, Christopher Mullins, Destiny Smith, Bruce Smith, Alex Smith.

No services will be held at this time.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.pondersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pondersfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements will be announced by, Ponders Melrose Chapel 138 Melrose Drive Dalton, GA 30721, 706-226-4002 [www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org](http://www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org) and [www.ogr.org](http://www.ogr.org)



### Mildred Sutherland

Mildred Lee Sutherland, 86, of Calhoun, died Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. She was born on Sept. 26, 1934 in Gordon County to the late Fred and Willie Mae Sullivan Hartley. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Raymond Sutherland; son, Jeffery Sutherland; granddaughter, Brittany Sutherland; great grandson, Noah Rain; brother, Floyd Hartley; sister, Jessie Mae Hartley; brother-in-law, J.C. Jarrett.

Before Mildred's health declined, she enjoyed working in her yard, walking, visiting friends and neighbors, and providing childcare for many years in her home. Most of all she enjoyed spending time with



# Hometown Holidays



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RELIGION

WHO WERE THE FIRST SUPERHEROES?



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

From an early, early age we begin to recognize superheroes. Ironically, as a child I always thought Aquaman was cool, even though I swim like a rock. My son is a Captain America fanatic. I couldn't think of a fictional character that I'd rather him look up to. Then there are those who we may have never met. These may be trained public service people such as law enforcement, EMTs, and fireman; or maybe just ordinary people like me and some

of you. As I aged enough to realize I didn't know everything like I had imagined, my dad quickly became my superhero. I believe we all have a real person in our lives that eventually fit that role, whether it's a parent or a mentor. Many of us are blessed to have multiple superheroes. With all the evil in the world today, you can't have too many. I think we have to first consider, what is a superhero? Superheroes are people who have the

supernatural ability to rise above insecurities and face challenges in their lives. They ultimately are found to be victorious. Where does the idea of superheroes come from? I believe it comes from scriptures beginning in the Old Testament. Davis was a small shepherd, whom God made into a warrior. Joshua led his army to collapse the fortress walls of Jericho, without drawing a weapon. Elijah stood against 450 prophets of Baal. Moses was a very insecure man with

a speech impediment, which God chose to give orders to Pharaoh. Daniel spent the night in a den of lions...and lived to tell about it. What's the common denominator among all these biblical men? They all were given supernatural power from God, so that with them, good could win over evil. Of course, the greatest, and first, hero would have to be Jesus Christ! He's always been around. One of many names for Jesus is The Word.

John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The beginning... that's about as far back as you can go. Jesus wasn't only the creator of the universe, but He's also the master of it. And while, He has all power and authority, He humbled Himself to become one of us to defeat the enemy "Death" for us. Lots of Superheroes save lives, but only one can give it. Be Blessed.

Church Calendar

The Basement to host Eric Gilmour Jan. 15-16

STAFF REPORTS

Get ready family for Friday, Jan. 15, 2021 and Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 as The Basement hosts guest speaker and musical artist Eric Gilmour. Gilmour is an author, itinerant minister and musician, seeking to bring the Church into a deeper experience of Jesus. He believes that experiencing God at all times is the very source of the authentic Christian life. Gilmour has written multiple dozens of books, released countless songs and shared hundreds of videos on YouTube which have challenged innumerable believers to seek and find Jesus through continual rest in His presence. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and ALL are welcome. The Basement is located at 903D South Wall Street



Calhoun. Make sure you invite family and friends and pack the house for an amazing night of worship and Gods presence.

Night Services are at 7 p.m. Everyone is Welcome. Pastor Richard Webster. -Evangelistic Outreach Ministries on 1590 Dews Pond Road. Pastor Mark Kirby invites everyone to Fellowship and Worship with us. Children's Church on Sunday Services starts at 11:00am Childrens Church starts at 11:30am. Wednesday nights Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm. Come out and see what the Lord is doing! -The College Street Church of God, 731 College St., Calhoun, 706-483-3666, pastor Dwayne Smith, holds weekly services: Sunday school at 10 a.m., Sunday; morning worship at 11 a.m., Sunday; Sunday night service at 6 p.m.; and Bible study on Wednesday at 7 p.m. -Victory Fellowship Center, 925 Oothcalooga St., invites you to weekly worship services held at 11 a.m. every Sunday morning. Pastor Joe Stewart and the VFC family also invite everyone to join each Wednesday at noon and 7:30 p.m. for anointed and enlightening Bible studies. If you are looking to grow in your understanding of God's plan for your life and gain greater insight of the life changing power of His word, come and join us as we study the word. -Boone Ford Baptist Church invites you to attend its services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. and Worship services at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday night services are at 6 p.m. on the first and third Sunday night of each month. Wednesday night services start at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Gary Quarles, pastor. -Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and Pastor David Peeler invite everyone to attend weekly services. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Sunday evening activities and discipleship training begin at 6 p.m., and children's and youth programs at 7 p.m. Wednesday service begins at 7 p.m., along with Bible study programs for children and youth. -Pastor Steve Corbin invites everyone to regular services at New Zion Baptist Church. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m. and Sunday night service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night Bible study is at 7:15 a.m. Everyone is welcome. -Greater Mt. Taber 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 of Fellowship and Worship, 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

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ONGOING

-Philadelphia Christian School is located off Highway 41 between Calhoun and Adairsville. The school offers 4-year-old kindergarten through 12th grade, using the A-Beka curriculum. To find out more about the school, call the office at 706-625-3233. -Faith Deliverance Ministry and Outreach will be taking donations of clothes, shoes, also all house hold items to help needy families. Call Minister Evelyn Adams at 706-671-7988. -Celebrate Recovery, a faith based 12-step program, meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Relevance Church in Ranger off 411. Call Nicole for information: 706-979-4713/706-290-8028. -East Calhoun Church of God, at 401 Peters Street, gives out groceries and clothing through the "Feed the Needy" ministry each Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The church hosts a miracle healing service every first Friday at 7 p.m. For more information, contact "Feed the Needy" ministry director Florence Jones at 706-409-1981. Senior pastor is Keith Reid.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

coming soon. -Pastor Terry Reisner invites everyone to the Vision Pentecostal Ministry located at 401 South Wall Street in Calhoun. Come hear the truth of God's Word Sundays at 11 a.m. --Pine Chapel United Methodist Church, located at 2232 Pine Chapel Road in Resaca, "A place to begin, belong and become." Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Louise W. Elmore. -Resaca Assembly of God, located at 904 Resaca Lafayette Rd NW, would like to welcome everyone to please come and join in worship and meet our Pastor Steve Burns and his lovely wife Cathy. Sunday school at 10 a.m., worship service on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.. Everyone is invited. -Calhoun First United Methodist Church Sunday Worship times: 9:00 a.m., traditional worship; 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m., contemporary service (in the CAC). Calhoun First UMC is located at 205 East Line Street in downtown Calhoun. -First Presbyterian Church, located at 829 Red Bud Road N.E. in Calhoun. Pastor David McDonald invites you to join us on Sunday for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Bible Study Class Tuesday 10 a.m. -Oakman Baptist Church located at 397 Oakman Rd. Oakman, Georgia, has Sunday school at 10 a.m. Covered dish dinner every third Sunday following worship. Everyone is invited! -Damascus Baptist

Church, located on North Highway 41 in Calhoun, Sunday School at 10 a.m. Sunday worship at 11 a.m. and Sunday night at 6 p.m. -Old Sugar Valley United Methodist Church located at 2659 Old Rome Dalton Road in Calhoun has Breakfast Social at 9:30 am every Sunday. The church history is colorful, dating back to the Civil War, small cozy country church nothing fancy! Come join us! -Faith Deliverance Ministry and Outreach with Evelyn M. Adams, Minister has been ordained as a Minister of the Gospel since 1972. Call anytime to come minister to your church of place or event at 706-337-3241. 24-hour prayer line at 706-671-7988. Send all prayer requests to P.O Box 394, Fairmount GA, 30139. -Pleasant Valley Baptist Church is a Bible believing & teaching church located in the Red Bud Community. Pastor Keith Gibson and the congregation invite you to come and worship with us at 3882 Red Bud Rd., Calhoun. Opportunities for worship: Bible Study for all ages 10 a.m., Children's Church up to 5th grade 11a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Wednesday night service times Prayer Bible Study and Student Ministries 7 p.m. 706-624-0198, Find us on Facebook or email pvbccalhoun@gmail.com -Maranatha Baptist Church on Hwy 225 across from paradise Drag Strip, Calhoun would like to invite you to attend our services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday

at 10 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. Taber Baptist Church, 259 Herring Road, NW, Armuchee, invites you to come worship and fellowship with us on

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# FINANCE

## CASH FLOW WITH JOE: A great reason to have assets



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

I was talking with a friend recently who was going through a tough time. You see, my friend had had some medical complications that had caused her to have multiple surgeries over the past few years. (By multiple I mean 10 plus.) To make a long

story short, every time the surgeon would go in to fix the problem, it weakened the adjacent area, which it would tear shortly thereafter.

This situation has wreaked havoc on my friend's life. Not only has she had to endure lots of surgeries, but her weakened health state has kept her from her friends and her career.

But there was some hope. The doctors said there was a surgery they could do that would strengthen the problem area and allow her body to heal once and for all. This was great news! The only thing they needed to schedule the surgery was go-ahead from her insurance company.

But then the adversity struck again. The insurance company said

that the surgery the doctors were proposing was classified as a cosmetic surgery and would not be covered.

That stunk, but my friend would not be deterred. She scheduled the surgery anyway and then went to work trying to figure out how to pay for it. That was an optimistic, yet tenuous move. And I liked it.

As she and I were on the phone she was going over all the ways she and her family were trying to raise the needed funds. She went through a couple of their ideas. One included cashing out a retirement fund she had. To me, that should be a last resort. But when she talked about getting a loan against her house to pay for the procedure, I had to stop her and

remind her of something — she had assets!

You see, my friend is an investor. She had been out of the game for a while due to the illness and had no active deals going, but she still had assets. She had some performing notes that, truthfully, she had kind of forgotten about because they were so passive. She knew the funds were hitting her bank account but had lost sight of the value still associated with them.

She was able to take one of those notes and sell it off to another investor to generate the funds she needed to pay for the surgery. Doing this allowed her to keep her retirement money and not acquire any personal debt to pay for the surgery. Instead, she

used assets to do what they were supposed to do — take care of her.

How cool is that?

This reminds me of a passage from the bible in the book of Proverbs. You can read it in Chapter 27 verses 23-26.

There it states that you should pay attention to your flock — in other words, your assets. Solomon goes on to talk about how riches are not forever and that things change over time. In verses 26 and 27, he points out you should use your assets for different things. He says you should use a portion of them for your household needs like “garments.” (For us that includes monthly expenses like utilities) You should allot a portion for investing — “goats for the price of

the field” — and also, for your living needs — “goats’ milk enough for your food, for the food of your household, and sustenance for your girls.”

In this case, my friend, who just happens to be a girl, needed that surgery in order to be sustained. And without having that note to sell, things would have been more difficult. But because she did have it, and knew different ways to use it, she is on her way to having a better life. And that is a great reason to have assets. *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.*

## FINANCIAL FOCUS: Avoid Tapping Into 401(k) Early



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

If you've been contributing for many years to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan, it may be your largest pool of money. So, if you are facing a financial need, you may think about tapping into your account. After all, it's your money — why not use it?

But touching your 401(k) before you retire may not be a good idea,

as it can lead to some unwanted consequences.

First, taking funds out of your 401(k) now could increase the risk of running out of money during retirement, which could last for decades.

Also, withdrawals taken from your 401(k) before age 59½ may be taxed as ordinary income and are generally subject to a 10% penalty for early withdrawal, although there are some exceptions. And a sizable taxable withdrawal from your 401(k) could bump you into a higher tax bracket.

Therefore, if you are facing a financial crunch, you may want to explore some options before tapping into your 401(k). For starters, see if you can cut your expenses where possible and explore financial assistance programs that service providers, such as utility companies,

might offer.

Also, if you have an emergency fund, now may be the time to use it. For most folks, it's a good idea to keep three to six months' worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. But even smaller amounts can help in a financial crunch.

You might also find another source of cash in your taxable investment accounts. Any uninvested cash in these accounts is an easy place to start. You might also look at selling investments to free up some cash. However, before making this decision, you may want to consult with a financial professional to discuss the pros and cons.

Another cash-generating option is a 401(k) loan, assuming your plan permits such loans. Unlike a direct

withdrawal, a 401(k) loan is not taxable if it's repaid on time. (If it isn't, you could also incur penalties.) And, although the loan may have some fees, the interest on it will be paid to your account, rather than to a bank. However, you won't earn investment returns on the loan balance, because you can't use this money to invest. And if you leave your job before you've fully repaid the loan, you'll likely have to come up with the remaining balance

quickly.

You could also consider using your credit cards to generate cash, but these types of loans or advances can be quite costly. Instead, you may want to look at other possibilities, such as a home equity loan, the cash value of a life insurance policy, the “margin” on your investment accounts or a personal loan. Again, you should talk to a financial professional to discuss the tradeoffs of taking out these loans and to develop a payoff

strategy, if you decide to use any of them.

Your 401(k) is a long-term investment designed to meet a long-term goal: your retirement. So, if you think you might require these funds before retirement, explore all alternatives first to find the right decision for your needs.

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

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This special, online publication of the Gordon Gazette will be FREE for all to enjoy beginning Thursday, Feb. 22, 2021, in observance and honor of the 171st birthday of Gordon County.



Publishing Friday, January 8, 2021

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- Success Stories
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A Free Publication of the **GORDON Gazette**

# GORDON GROWN

## The Versatile Crape Myrtle



**Greg Bowman**  
Gordon County  
Extension Agent  
gbowman@uga.edu

move to travel basketball which can find us in many states in the spring and summer. There is not much time to worry about the landscape items when we are gone.

Crape myrtles are one of my favorite plants because once established, they can require little maintenance while at the same time looking great. I will be sharing information today from a UGA publication by Dr. Bodie Pennisi, UGA Commercial Landscape Horticulturist and Dr. Jean Woodward, UGA Extension Plant Pathologist.

For starters, we are not going to discuss pruning of crape myrtles in detail today. I will state that if you choose to prune your crape myrtles, it needs to be done in the dormant season such as late winter to early spring before growth starts. Avoid fall pruning because pruning stimulates new growth this can keep the plant from going dormant.

Pruning at the wrong time can also set the plant up for death from hard freezes. Keep in mind you do not have to prune crape myrtles either.

Some of the best looking crape myrtles that look natural and awesome are the ones with limited or no pruning. You can also have more aphid problems due to increased succulent growth caused by aggressive pruning.

I will say that crape myrtles have qualities that should fit most ever landscape. They are very drought tolerant when established and they have little issues with disease and insects for the most part.

Crape myrtles bring a lot to the table as far as flower color ranging from red and pink to lavender and white. You even have options in growing height with some of the newer cultivars with crape myrtles that will grow less than 3 feet to some that will grow in excess of 20 feet.

I will add that our info states that many of the newer cultivars will have improved flower color, better fall leaf color, a more appealing bark look and better cold and disease resistance.

If you decide to plant crape myrtles on the property, site selection is an important decision.

Ideally, you plant crape myrtles in full sun. This will help aid growth and flowering. If you plant in heavy shade, it can lead to reduced growth and flowering plus a greater chance of problems such as sooty mold and powdery mildew.

In addition, if you are planting in heavy shade, you are probably planting around larger trees. These trees will compete with the crape myrtles for moisture thus increasing chance of poor growth and flowering. Our information states that lack of sunlight and moisture are the common causes of poor growth and flowering.

When you plant, keep in mind that crape myrtles can make it in some poor soil conditions, but will do better in prepared soil. Note that good soil preparation is worth the effort. Soil preparation does involve digging a large planting hole. The planting hole should be two times wider than the root ball.

Set the plant in the hole no deeper than it grew either in the container or the field.

You then backfill the hole with the same soil that was removed. Take time to breakup soil clods and remove rocks and debris.

Research work has shown that organic matter amendments are not necessary if you are planting in individual holes. Amendments in the hole can keep roots from spreading out into the surrounding native soil. Amendments can be helpful if they are incorporated evenly throughout the soil surrounding the planting hole. After planting, you need to water completely to help settle the soil around the root area.

Mulch can come into play at this time. If you mulch, 3 to 5 inches of pine straw, pine bark, shredded hardwood mulch or shredded leaves can be placed over the planting hole. If you have the time and material, mulching a larger area beyond the planting hole is better. I had said it before that mulch can help in many areas. Mulch will help conserve valuable soil moisture, help reduce weed issues and can help

insulate roots from cold and heat. Again, water crape myrtles well at planting time and then once per week in the absence of rainfall for the first two months after planting. As I stated earlier, established crape myrtles can tolerate drought times, but your summer flowering will be better if the plants are watered during dry times that happen during the flowering season.

Finally, general purpose fertilizers such as 8-8-8, 10-10-10, 12-4-8 or 16-4-8 are great for crape myrtles. For the freshly planted one-gallon plants, you can apply 1 teaspoon of fertilizer monthly from March to August. The larger established plants can use a spring broadcast fertilization. It is suggested to apply 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 at a rate of 1 pound per 100 square feet or 12-4-8 or 16-4-8 at a rate of 1/2 pound per 100 square feet.

For more information, contact UGA Extension-Gordon County at 706-629-8685 or email gbowman@uga.edu.

## Georgia State Park Passes and Travel Guide help you explore more in 2021 - Plan outdoor adventures for the entire year

### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

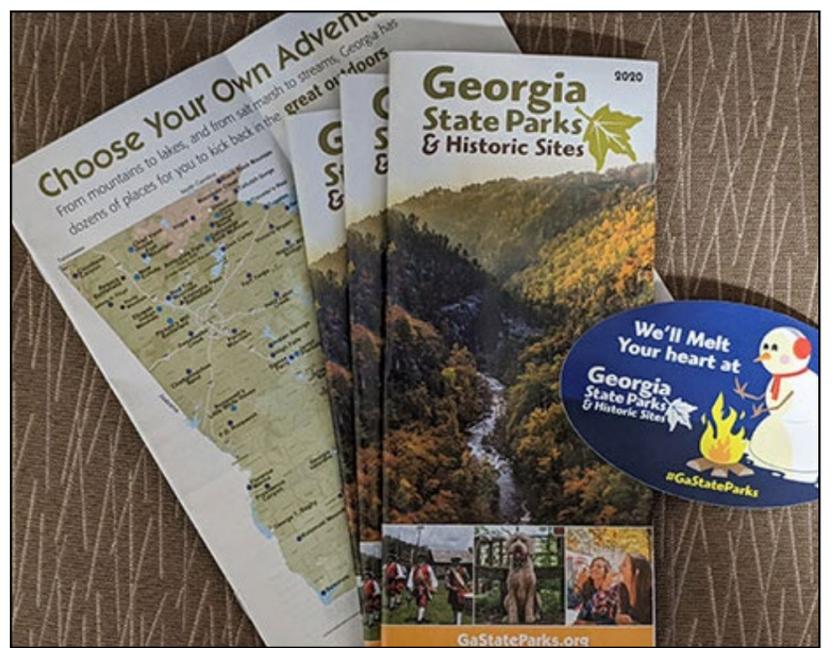
One silver lining from 2020 has been discovering the joy of outdoor adventures. Parks all across the country welcomed record numbers of visitors looking for fresh air, peaceful scenery and heart-pumping exercise. The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to start daydreaming about future getaways. The newly published "2021 Guide to Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites" is a helpful resource for planning spring break, romantic retreats and summer vacations. The

booklet is filled with tips on the best hiking trails, fishing spots, pet travel, golf courses, cabins and campsites, as well as many new photos shared by park users.

Frequent visitors may also want to purchase new 2021 passes. A \$50 Annual ParkPass provides free parking at more than 40 destinations, including Fort Yargo, Tallulah Gorge and Providence Canyon. The separate Historic Site Pass covers admission fees at 15 sites, including Etowah Indian Mounds, Dahlonega Gold Museum and Fort King George. The Historic Site Pass is \$25 for students and \$50 for families.

"One advantage of having an annual ParkPass or Historic Site Pass is that it encourages people to explore parks and historic sites they've never been to before," said Georgia State Parks Director Jeff Cown. "Your parking and admission fees are already covered for the whole year, and you may even find a new favorite campground, historic site museum or hiking trail."

The 2021 Travel Guide is available free in park offices or can be viewed on GaStateParks.org. Passes may be purchased online, by calling 770-389-7286 or in park offices as well.



## 2021 Georgia Fishing Regulations Available: Go Fish Georgia!

### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Kick off the brand new year by using the 2021 Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations Guide as you make all your fishing plans says the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

"Anglers, new or

experienced, should always begin with this publication," said Scott Robinson, Assistant Chief with the WRD Fisheries Management Section. "Biologists and staff work to make sure this guide book has the most current and accurate information on regulations and new opportunities, and anglers can access it in multiple ways, including

online, from our Outdoors GA app or in the printed copy."

The 2021 Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations Guide provides information such as a color fish identification chart for both freshwater and saltwater fish, license purchasing information, contact information for Wildlife Resources Division and Coastal Resources Division

fisheries management offices and DNR Law Enforcement offices, trout stream listings, public fishing area information, state record fish listings, fishing regulations for Georgia and more.

The 2021 Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations may be found online at <http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/fishing/>, or through the Outdoors

GA app (free app for iPhone or Android users). Anglers also can pick up a printed copy at any Wildlife Resources Division fisheries management or DNR Law Enforcement office, or at fishing license vendors throughout Georgia.

Where else can you find fishing information? The Angler Resources page on the WRD website, <http://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/angler-resources>, is a great place for new or experienced anglers and includes information about taking kids fishing, reservoir and river fishing tips, fish ID info and much more. If you are looking for the latest fishing tips, check out the weekly Georgia Fishing Report (<https://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/>).

**GORDON Gazette**

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

Looking to buy or sell a home? I'm here to help!

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**Ronald Amyx**  
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706.629.2747

# HEALTH NEWS

## GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Health experts urge stronger COVID measures; new strain appears in state

ANDY MILLER,  
Georgia Health News

With Georgia topping 5,000 current hospitalizations for COVID-19, public health experts are calling for more state restrictions to curb the virus surge.

Yet another ominous factor popped up Tuesday: Georgia Public Health officials reported the state's first case of the more contagious COVID-19 variant discovered in Britain last month and subsequently detected in several nations and U.S. states.

The variant was discovered during analysis of a specimen sent by a Georgia pharmacy to a commercial lab, state officials said. The Georgia resident is an 18-year-old male with no travel history, and is currently in isolation at home. Public Health said it's working to identify close contacts of the individual and will monitor them closely and test them for the variant.

"So far, there is no evidence that the B.1.1.7 variant causes more severe illness or increased risk of death," the state's Department of Public Health said in a statement.

"The emergence of this variant in our state should be a wake-up call for all Georgians," said the Public Health commissioner, Dr. Kathleen Toomey. "Even as we begin roll out of a COVID-19 vaccine, we must not let down our guard and ignore basic prevention measures — wear a mask, social distance and wash your hands frequently."

In Britain, the fast-spreading variant led Prime Minister Boris Johnson to impose a strict new national lockdown, as the surge threatened to overwhelm the nation's beleaguered hospitals, the New York Times reported.

After several days of

frighteningly high and escalating case numbers, Johnson ordered schools and colleges in England to close their doors and shift to remote learning. The prime minister, who last year spent several days in the hospital with COVID-19, is appealing to people to avoid leaving home except for a few necessary activities, including essential work and buying food and medicine.

### Hospital beds filling up

Aside from the variant threat, the hospital crisis in Georgia continues to escalate. On Monday, 90 percent of the hospital ICUs were filled.

The 5,124 COVID hospitalizations Monday in Georgia was a sharp rise from the 4,000 mark just eight days before. "Before that it took 10 days to go from 3,000 to 4,000," said Amber Schmidtke, a microbiologist who publishes the Daily Digest, which tracks COVID in the state. Virus patients represent 31.2 percent of all hospitalized patients — an alarming percentage.

And a map from Brown University, which includes positives from antigen tests, shows that 158 of Georgia's 159 counties "have disease rates that are beyond the point that contact tracing can isolate and manage cases," Schmidtke said Monday. She noted that Liberty County in east Georgia was the only exception.

"Georgia is on fire with COVID-19," she added.

"The demand this disease is placing on our health care system is intense."

Schmidtke urged a stronger state intervention, "whether that's a mask mandate, a ban on gatherings, limiting indoor dining and bars and prioritizing outdoor service, etc. None of these things



will be popular, but they also wouldn't be forever. If asking people to do the right thing were a viable strategy, it would have worked by now. It hasn't, so we need to do something else."

Gov. Brian Kemp previously issued a statewide stay-at-home order in April, along with other restrictions on businesses, but later lifted those rules.

A press spokesperson for Kemp could not be reached for comment on the potential for stronger restrictions.

A top infectious disease expert, Dr. Carlos del Rio of Emory University, told GHN on Tuesday that he was "very, very concerned" about the capacity of the health care system to handle the increasing patient load from COVID.

"It is really bad right now and it's going to get worse," del Rio said.

If conditions deteriorate further, he said, doctors may have to tell patients who are sick that "there may not be a hospital bed for you."

"We've got to do something." He said the COVID vaccinations — proceeding at a slow and uneven rate — "may not have a benefit for several weeks."

Del Rio suggested restricting social gatherings to 10 people

or less (it's now 50), and closing or limiting the operations of bars and restaurants.

### More 'hot spots'

Georgia communities are creeping up in the New York Times lists for COVID hot spots.

The Times, on its hot spot lists, rates Dublin in Middle Georgia at No. 10 among U.S. metro areas in terms of new cases per capita over the past two weeks. And Upson County, also in Middle Georgia, is No. 15 among county hot spots in the nation.

Public Health reported more than 10,000 new COVID cases Tuesday (including positives from rapid antigen tests).

Hospitals in other areas of the state are seeing the effect of the steady, huge numbers. About 40 Georgia hospitals reported Tuesday that they were on total ambulance diversion and/or on ICU/Critical Care diversion.

"The rest are extremely busy, and struggling with it," said Jimmy Lewis, CEO of HomeTown Health, an association of rural hospitals in the state. "We're trying to give care to patients in hospitals and give out vaccinations and placate the community at the same time."

Tift Regional Medical

Center in South Georgia said Monday that "we are still seeing a significant number of COVID-19 patients in the ER, which can contribute to longer than normal waits. Additionally, [the hospital] is still on critical care diversion. This means that our Intensive Care Unit is currently full and we have to refer patients to other hospitals which have open ICU beds."

In southwest Georgia, Phoebe Putney Health System reported Tuesday "a dangerous COVID-19 surge, and our latest projections indicate we are at least several weeks away from the peak of that surge."

In the past month, more than 30 of Phoebe Putney's COVID-19 patients have died, said CEO Scott Steiner. "We are taking extraordinary measures to expand our capacity to handle the surge, including hiring additional staff and reorganizing staffing resources to maximize our COVID-19 clinical care capabilities."

And Gainesville-based Northeast Georgia Health System was treating 307 COVID-19 patients as of Tuesday, 14 more than the day before. There are no available beds in the ICU at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville or the health

system's Braselton hospital. The system's numbers set several records in recent weeks, the Gainesville Times reported.

Dr. Mark Ebell, a professor of epidemiology at University of Georgia's College of Public Health, says such numbers show the need for strong action.

"We should have had a mandate for masks in public indoor spaces months ago," Ebell said. "It's unconscionable that we are one of the few states not to do so. We are now entering a critical time with cases increasing in Georgia due to holiday and New Year's gatherings, and it is coinciding with when we also expect to see rising cases of influenza and pneumonia caused by other pathogens."

Ebell added that capping gatherings at 50 people "is way too high. It should be 10 as it is in many other states. There is just too high a chance that someone in a group of 50 is infected."

"I also think we have to decide what is more important to keep open for the next few months until vaccination is widespread: bars or schools?"

Andy Miller is CEO and editor of Georgia Health News.

## First Case of COVID-19 Variant Identified in Georgia

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is announcing Georgia's first case of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7, the same variant discovered in the U.K. and in several other countries and U.S. states. The variant

was discovered during analysis of a specimen sent by a pharmacy in Georgia to a commercial lab.

The Georgia resident is an 18-year-old male with no travel history, and is currently in isolation at home. DPH is working to identify close contacts of the individual and will monitor them closely and

test them for the variant.

Preliminary epidemiologic information suggests that this variant is significantly more contagious than the SARS-CoV-2 virus. So far, there is no evidence that the B.1.1.7 variant causes more severe illness or increased risk of death.

"The emergence of this variant in our state should be a wake-up call for all Georgians," said DPH Commissioner Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H. "Even as we begin roll out of a COVID-19 vaccine, we must not let down our guard and ignore basic prevention measures — wear a mask, social

distance and wash your hands frequently."

DPH, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will continue to watch for emerging COVID-19 variants and will provide more information as it becomes available.

For more information about COVID-19

<https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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

**GORDON  
Gazette**

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All parents, grandparents, guardians, and other family members of children with special needs are invited to take part in a new parent-led Parent Support Group.

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# GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE: GHC program coordinator receives leadership award

## GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE

Georgia Highlands College's Bachelor of Business Administration Program (BBA) Coordinator Mecole Ledbetter has been named a recipient of the Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce's 2020 IMPACT Awards.

According to the chamber's website, the annual IMPACT Awards are designed to recognize emerging leaders within the Chamber community. These individuals are "leading the field in their line of work and are making a significant difference in their community through their service to others."

"The chamber's IMPACT Award embodies the very nature of GHC as an institution by capturing its ability to nurture and develop

leaders from within, as well as GHC's significant contributions to the community through continued service," Ledbetter said.

Ledbetter said her work as a program coordinator at GHC allowed her to further develop leadership skills through program development within the realm of the college's bachelor's degree programs. In addition, her role at GHC has provided community outreach opportunities through service in areas such as committees, boards, leadership programs and community service-learning projects.

In order to be considered for this prestigious award, applicants must be under the age of 40 and employed by a Chamber Member organization. They should be professional leaders who have

demonstrated a strong record of innovation and outstanding performance.

GHC Campus Dean for Cartersville Leslie Johnson nominated Ledbetter for the award.

"When the call for nominations went out, Mecole immediately came to mind. Her impact on GHC, the local workforce and our educational community makes her the perfect candidate," Johnson said. "In her role as BBA Program Coordinator, she helps build a successful program that meets the needs of our students and our workforce. She supports the Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce as chair of the Adult Leadership Bartow program and gives back to the community through her work mentoring K-12 students." Johnson said the



IMPACT Award is a wonderful way to shed light on Mecole's accomplishments and illustrates how highly regarded she is by the community and her GHC colleagues.

Ledbetter said she appreciates being named an award recipient

and was honored to be considered for the distinction among other highly-skilled individuals in the community.

"I was really surprised because I can only imagine the number of amazing people who were nominated

along with myself," Ledbetter said. "I was also humbled by the announcement because I never do anything with an expectation of recognition. It is always a commitment to the mission that I remain focused on."

# Berry Business students excel in virtual sales

## BERRY COLLEGE

Berry College business students made it rain in a recent virtual sales competition called RNMKRS (rainmakers).

The Berry College Marketing and Sales team is a group of 11 students with a focus in business and entrepreneurship. The team traditionally competes in sales competitions throughout the year. During the 2020 virtual sales competition, 2,177 students nationwide competed. The Berry team brought home the following recognitions and awards:

Finishing in the top 10% of all competitors: Carson Gilliam (Roswell, G), Bryce Nethery

(Trenton, Ga.), and Loren Kim (Duluth, Ga.)

Finishing in the top 20% of all competitors: Breelan Baxter (Canton, G) and Olivia Nye (Lynchburg, Va.)

Top School Performer: Kim

Most Practice Role Plays: Erika Sprecher (Marietta, G)

Top Student in the Southeast: Kim

Coaches award: Best in Class on-boarding – engagement: Assistant Professor of Marketing Melissa Clark

The training leads to a world-wide sales competition where students are recognized for their skills. Afterward, employers like Dell, Gartner, Herc Rentals, Tom



James and Techtronic Industries hand select students for jobs.

"The purpose of the

team is to sharpen skills, build resumes, assist in career placement, win competitions, and grow

the overall character of the student," Clark said.

To learn more about the Campbell School of

Business, visit <https://www.berry.edu/academics/schools/school-of-business/>.

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**GORDON Gazette**

**YIR**  
From page 1A

In Ceremony for their newest fire engine on Monday morning, July 6, at Calhoun Fire Station No. 1, located on South Wall Street in downtown Calhoun. Firefighters from A-Shift, representing all three stations of the Calhoun Fire Department, were on hand for the ceremony. The new 2020 Pierce Saber Pumper was placed into service on Tuesday, June 30. The truck cost the department \$452,000, which was provided by leftover funds from the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year budget.

**County approves Leash Law ordinance amendment:** The Board approved the Ordinance Amendment to the Gordon County Animal Control Ordinance for the Leash Law Section at the Tuesday, July 7, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. The move will address dogs and cats that are running loose and unattended. Animals that are considered not under control would be in violation of the ordinance; animals under control are considered to be on a leash, heeled, or with a person and obedient to their commands. The ordinance reads that anyone violating the ordinance could receive a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 60 days in jail.

**Local Justice store closing as part of parent company's bankruptcy:**



Justice, a clothing retailer geared towards girls age 6 – 12 that was formerly known as Limited Too, announced on July 24, 2020 they would soon be closing both the Calhoun location in the Calhoun Outlet Marketplace on Belwood Road, and the Rome location, in Mount Berry Square Mall, after parent company Ascena Retail Group announced on Thursday they have filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

**Gordon County Board of Education learns about P.U.L.L. Movement at latest meeting:** Local businessman Adrian Lyles, president of Lyles Wealth Management, addressed the Gordon County Board of Education Monday night, July 20, giving an impassioned presentation on the P.U.L.L. Movement. Lyles is the Board chair for P.U.L.L. Movement, Inc., a non-profit initiative focused on dispelling the myth of race. P.U.L.L. is an acronym for People United in Life and Liberty. “(P.U.L.L.) is a message of life and liberty,” said Lyles. “The idea is that we are all one people and should unite in the pursuit of life and liberty. According to their social media page, P.U.L.L. is an organization committed to continuing the dialogue around cultural inclusion. The main mission of P.U.L.L. is to dispel the myths surrounding race. The goal of P.U.L.L. is to gain 7 billion pledges to acknowledge that we are all human.

**Mannington CEO presents at Gordon Chamber's virtual State of Industry Event:**

With COVID-19 changing the way businesses, churches governments and even households run and operate, the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce proved their innovation and flexibility by holding the 10th annual State of Industry event through a webinar on Friday, July 24. “While this event certainly looks different than the nine preceding it, please know it has been planned with the same measure of attention and concern as we strive to develop a program that would deliver value and substance at this time,” said Chamber President & CEO Kathy Johnson.

**AUGUST 2020**

**Greene takes 14th District Republican Primary:** Marjorie Taylor Greene, the candidate running a strong campaign based on saving America by stopping socialism, won the 14th District Republican Primary runoff on Tuesday night, Aug. 11, defeating challenger John Cowan, a neurosurgeon from Rome. Greene, a businesswoman originally Milledgeville who now calls Rome home, graduated from South

Forsyth High school, then went on to graduate from the University of Georgia Terry College of Business. She said she was running for public office to save the future for her children.

**Gordon County man arrested on arson charges after early Saturday morning fire on Shope Lake Road:** A Rydal man has been arrested in connection with an early Saturday morning fire at 1422 Shope Lake Road. According to Gordon County Fire & Rescue, fire personnel responded to a fire around 4 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2020 at 1422 Shope Lake Road SE in Rydal. According to GCF&R in a statement on Monday, no one was home at the time of the fire, and GCF&R and the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office investigated the suspicious fire. In a statement, the Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner said that on Monday, Aug. 24, fire investigators with the Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King issued a warrant charging Joshua R. Hazelwood, 42, of Rydal, with Arson in the 1st Degree.

**Cherokee Judicial Circuit Judge David K. Smith announces October retirement:** Cherokee Judicial Circuit Judge David K. Smith, who has sat on the bench in Gordon and Bartow County Superior Court for almost 20 years, announced in late August his retirement effective Oct. 31, 2020. “I’m turning 60 years old, I’m eligible to retire and I’m in good health,” said Smith of his decision. “My wife and I have a brand new grandson, who is the cutest grandson ever put on this earth, and we’re looking forward to spending time traveling and spending time with our families.”

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Community mourns the death of Truett Moss:**



The community mourned the death of local businessman Truett Moss, Sr., who founded the Gordon County Republican Party back in the mid-1960's, and worked with the Republican Party at the State level for years, working to build the Republican Party in a state that was predominantly Democrat at the time. Moss passed away on Sunday, Sept. 6, at the age of 90.

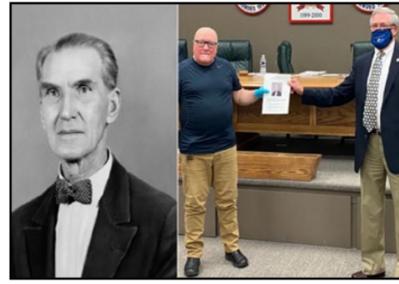
**Gordon County Fire & Rescue training five new recruits:** The month of September saw Gordon County Fire & Rescue training five new recruits for their department. The recruits, Tyler Wyatt, Josh Cronan, Tristan Key, Clay Cantrell and Sam Magnicheri, are on in the fifth week of training this week. According to GCF&R Chief Nathan Saylor, the recruits worked on learning the basics of firefighting and rescue techniques, along with search and rescue tactics, advanced firefighting tactics and rapid intervention training for firefighter rescue.

**Key featured on Times Square jumbotron, national t.v. commercial:**



2020 was a whirlwind of a year for Calhoun native Grace Key. The 2018 Calhoun High School graduate's ventures did not slow down due to COVID, and she's celebrated the continued growth of her business, Candidly Kind, became a social media influencer for several companies, starred in a national television commercial for FabFitFun and on Saturday, Sept. 12, Key was featured, along with her boyfriend, Bradley Carlise, on the famous jumbotron in New York's Times Square as part of the National Down Syndrome Society's annual Times Square video presentation.

**City Council declares 2020 William Laurens Hillhouse Centenary Memorial Year at latest meeting:**



At the Monday night, Sept. 14, 2020 meeting of the Calhoun City Council, Mayor Jimmy Palmer read a proclamation declaring the year 2020 as the William Laurens Hillhouse Centenary Memorial Year, in commemoration of 100 years since Hillhouse built the rock church on Trammel Street in downtown Calhoun. The church, originally Calhoun Presbyterian Church, is now St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and the building is the oldest continuously occupied house of Christian worship in Gordon County.

**County honors local public safety officials:**



The Gordon County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday night, Sept. 15, 2020 presented a resolution to several members of the Gordon County Sheriff's Office in honor of their work last week during the search and capture of a Texas fugitive. Late Sunday night, Sept. 6, 29-year-old Dalton Potter, of Leakey, Texas, was pulled over for driving with a stolen trailer in southern Whitfield County around Carbondale. Once pulled over, Potter fired numerous gunshots at Whitfield County Sheriff's Deputy Darrell Hackney from inside his vehicle. Potter escaped driving south on I-75. Potter later wrecked the truck, and the stolen trailer was located on I-75 South near the Whitfield /Gordon County line. Potter escaped into the woods on foot and was on the loose for three days while at least 150 law enforcement officers and more than 20 agencies searched for the fugitive. The resolution presented by the Board was a way for the Commissioners to recognize the dedication and heroism of local and regional law enforcement officers who, at risk of grave danger, pursued and captured the suspect.

**North Georgia Autism Center opens office in Calhoun:**



North Georgia Autism Center announced in late September the opening of a new office in Calhoun, located at 703 Curtis Parkway. NGAC is dedicated to serving families and their individual needs by applying the scientific principles embodied within Applied Behavior Analysis. Their belief is that the application of ABA leads to observable and socially significant change. At NGAC, a team of dedicated and innovative therapists work one-on-one with clients to implement individualized behavior change programs catered to the individual needs of each child.

**Support Groups**

**-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. 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.

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**OBITS**  
From page 3A

her family.  
She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Mark Leberman; sons and daughters-in-law, Mike and Vicki Sutherland and Terry and Misty Sutherland; sister, Marie Jarrett; grandchildren, Jonathan Leberman, Laura Leberman Hudson (Tylon), Monica Sutherland, Melanie Lewis (Dillon), Bryan Purvis (Stephaine), Kaleb Kidd, Matthew Sutherland, Hannah Sutherland, and Zachary Sutherland; great grandchildren, Landon Ivey, Dawson Lewis, Layla Lewis, Cloey Tanner, Angel Welch, and Bella Purvis; nieces and nephews, Susan (Ricky) Boswell, Jason (Kacee) Jarrett, Ronald (Debra) Hartley, Kim McBee, Tracey (Jim) Black, and Keila (Tracy) Gowens; several great nieces and nephews also survive.  
The family received friends on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2020 at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home from 1 p.m. until the service hour of 3 p.m. with Rev. Ed Archer officiating. Burial followed in Fain Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jonathan Leberman, Bryan Purvis, Matthew Sutherland, Zachary Sutherland, Kaleb Sutherland, and Jason Jarrett.  
To leave condolences and sign the online guest

book please go to, [www.maxbrannonandsons.com](http://www.maxbrannonandsons.com)  
The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mildred Lee Sutherland.



**Beverly Van Dyke**

Beverly Ann Van Dyke, 81, of Springfield, Ohio died Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at Regency Park in Dalton. She was born on Oct. 16, 1939 in Springfield, Ohio to the late Clarence and Alberta M. Riley. She was preceded in death by her loving husband in 2013, Dan Van Dyke; sisters, Brenda Hobson and Rita Walton; grandson, Robert Jason Walker.



She worked in management with Waffle House. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and friend. She will be missed dearly by the ones who loved her.

She is survived by her children, Kenny (Dinah) Manis, Maria Goble, Loretta (Rodney) Walker, Wayne (Karen) Manis, and Steve (Lisa) Manis; sisters, Cora Yowler, Paulette Watson, and Lana Sue Bennett; 15 grandchildren including, Jay Patton, Dylan, Kayla, and Devin Manis, Harvey Walker, Angel Allen, Shay Henry, Cody Manis, Wayne Manis, Jennifer Andrews, Amanda Summey, John Mullins, Taylor Hampton, Chelsea Chambers; 24 great grandchildren including Jasie Allen; several friends and other relatives also survive.

The family received friends on Monday, Jan. 4, 2020 from 4 – 8 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

The graveside service was held on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2020 at 1 p.m. from the graveside of Crane Eater Community Church. Pallbearers were Gary Williamson, Lamar Franks, David Chambers, Jay Patton, Wayne Manis, and Devin Manis.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, [www.maxbrannonandsons.com](http://www.maxbrannonandsons.com)  
The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Beverly Ann Van Dyke.



**BEARDEN**  
From page 1A

1990, the Gordon County Juvenile Court met half a day each week. That first year I heard 364 cases, and I was appreciative of the work done by my predecessors, J.C. Maddox and Charles Williams, who first created a professional court,” said Bearden. “The legal requirements of the job soon changed, and the community changed along with it. Over the years we transitioned to more cases, more hearings per case, and more depth per hearing, requiring a quintupling of delinquency, abuse and neglect cases in court. The addition of attorney Guardians ad Litem, and then CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocate), gave us invaluable insight into our cases. New alternatives to detention diverted many children from sad fates, and I could not be prouder of how the system has developed to serve both the safety of our children, and the safety of the community.”

In addition to being the sole Juvenile Court judge for Gordon County, Judge Bearden has held various professional offices throughout the years. He is the President for the Council of Juvenile Court Judge of Georgia, and has served on the Judicial Council for the Supreme Court, the Committee on Justice for Children and served as a judicial liaison to state agencies, including the Department of Juvenile Justice. He has also served as the Chair of the Gordon County Child Abuse Protocol Committee

since August 1990 and has authored the current Protocol, as well as presenting annual reports before Gordon County Grand Juries for the past 30 years. In addition, Judge Bearden has served on a variety of different County organizations, including the Child Fatality Review Subcommittee, the School Attendance Committee and even served two years as a member of the venerated Gordon County Lice Committee.

Judge Bearden said that his success was due in part to the people he worked with throughout the years.

“Throughout my service, I have been fortunate to have been surrounded at all times by a tremendous staff dedicated to the ideal of a neutral and detached agency dedicated to the principles for which the court was established: To protect children, to return them home as soon as possible, and to keep them safe whenever that was not possible,” said Bearden. “The fact that the juvenile court bar has had an unending supply of dedicated attorneys has made us an extremely fair and efficient court – and for this I will be forever grateful. I may even now have time to finish some of the articles I have worked on for years – and hope to stay engaged with the juvenile justice community.

“I have long appreciated the support of the Superior Court Judges of the Cherokee Circuit, and the Gordon County Administration and Board of Commissioners, and could not have done my job without them,” continued Bearden.

In retiring, Judge Bearden has continued to

fight for the Juvenile Court in Gordon County, recommending a full time judgeship; Bearden’s position with Gordon County Juvenile Court has just been a part-time position the whole time he has served, even though cases numbers have quadrupled over the last 30 years and all counties surrounding Gordon have at least one full-time judge serving their Juvenile Court. According to Bearden, the State of Georgia recommended a full-time Juvenile Judge for Gordon County more than 20 years ago.

“I have strongly recommended that the Superior Court establish, and the County fund, the position as full time, as was recommended by state authorities more than twenty years ago. The office is too important to ask another person to try to fulfill the duties on a part-time basis,” said Bearden.

According to Bearden, Bartow/Cherokee Circuit Chief Judge Neal Brunt will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of Gordon County Juvenile Court, saying the court is left in good hands.

“I’m sure I made mistakes over the last three decades, but it was never because of a lack of caring for the thousands of children and families that appeared before me,” said Judge Bearden, saying that he intends to focus now on his private personal injury practice. “I have always been honored to represent Gordon County individuals and families in serious injury cases in and around Georgia, and look forward to getting back into the courtroom – although from the other side of the bench.”

**RUNOFF**  
From page 1A

votes (82%) over Democrat challenger Daniel Blackman.

Statewide results are not in at this time. The Gordon Gazette will give a final update once those results are final.

For more on the Gordon County runoff results, visit <https://gordoncounty.org/.../01/ElectionSummaryReportRPT.pdf>

Statewide, results were still up in the air Wednesday morning.

In Loeffler’s U.S. Senate race, it appeared Democrat challenger Raphael Warnock would be declared the winner with 98 percent of the precincts reporting. Warnock received 2,227,296 votes state-wide (50.6%) to Loeffler’s 2,173,866 votes (49.4%).

Results were still too close to call for Perdue’s U.S. Senate race; with 98 percent of precincts reporting state-wide, Democrat challenger Jon Ossoff has the lead over Perdue at press time, with 2,208,717 votes (50.2%) over Perdue’s 2,192,347 (49.8%).

In the Public Service Commission race, incumbent McDonald is the projected winner with 2,211,840 votes state-wide (51%) over Democrat challenger Daniel Blackmon, who had 2,142,864 votes (49%).

**ARREST**  
From page 1A

stated that the number he dialed failed and gave it back to the complainant. Roberson told the complainant that he’d go next door because he knew the people there. The complainant told Roberson that he would not know the residents there because it was the complainant’s daughter’s residence. The complainant said that Roberson then walked down the driveway and went down the mountain.

The complainant said that his granddaughter then came outside and asked who the male was that was leaving. The complainant began asking the girl about the male, and she told the complainant she knew it was Dakota Roberson; she told the complainant she believes Roberson is her biological brother and that they have located their birth father in Alabama. The complainant stated the juvenile then began to argue with him, so he called a representative with the Gordon County Department of Family and Children Services and let the juvenile talk to representative. The complainant said that after the juvenile talked to the DFCS representative, she began walking down the driveway; he said that he told his granddaughter that if she left the driveway, he was

calling law enforcement. The complainant saw that the juvenile walked in the same direction that Roberson had taken, so he called Gordon County 911, and drove around trying to locate the juvenile. The complainant believes that the girl may have got in the car with someone because he drove down the road a few minutes after the juvenile walked away and never found her.

The complainant believed that the juvenile had planned on running away and invited Roberson over. A deputy was dispatched to the residence and once on scene, the complainant told the deputy that the juvenile had threatened to run away in the past but had never attempted to. While talking to the deputy, the man received a text message from the juvenile stating “I’m in Rome.”

On Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, deputies arrested 19-year-old Dakota Alexander Roberson, 19, whose address is listed as Richland Street, Calhoun, on 15 charges: one count of Aggravated Sexual Battery, four counts of Aggravated Child Molestation; four counts of Child Molestation; one count of Contributing to Delinquency, Unruliness or Deprivation of a Minor; four counts of Statutory Rape and one count of Tattooing the Body of Any Person Under the Age of 18. Roberson remains in Gordon County Jail at press time.

**PUPS**  
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were very hungry and thirsty.  
The officer noted in the report that he thought the workers were joking about all six puppies being inside the small crate, because the crate was just large enough for only two of the puppies to fit, with the crate being 16-inches long, 10-inches wide and 10-inches tall. The puppies appeared to be over a month old and are a medium-to-large breed dog and weighed between 6 and 8 pounds each.

The officer took the puppies to the Calhoun Animal Shelter, giving them an initial dose of de-wormer and more water. The Calhoun Animal Shelter then made the call to Animal Rescue League of Northwest Georgia, who is currently taking care of the pups. ARL is the first-call rescue for both Calhoun and Gordon County Animal Control. Founded in 2007 as a farm-based rescue in Fairmount, ARL has dozens of both indoor and covered outdoor kennels where they house unwanted, abandoned and special-needs dogs that are in need of rescuing.

“We are dedicated to improving the lives of both dogs and people in Northwest Georgia by taking in these rescues, then treating, vaccinating and spaying and neutering them, then placing them in carefully screened and loving homes,” said Lucia Eastham, who serves on the Board of the ARL and acts as a community liaison for the group. “While these puppies being dumped is an act that is horrendous in nature, it’s not the first time we’ve seen this problem. We would like for anyone who might have seen someone dumping anything suspicious in the dumpster behind Food Lion to call the Calhoun Police and report what they saw. In the meantime, Animal Rescue

League will be taking care of the puppies, making sure they are healthy and then, in a couple of months, adopting them to loving families.”

ARL has already begun the process of improving the health of the puppies; all six suffered from some form of worms and were given additional treatments. The puppies were also cleaned, given proper shelter and are eating an appropriate diet. They will be given shots beginning this week to prevent them from becoming sick. In the coming weeks and months, the puppies will be spayed or neutered and microchipped for safety. After they are healthy, ARL will begin the adoption process, which includes posting the availability of the puppies and a strict vetting process for anyone who applies to adopt.

ARL is a Gordon County United Way Agency and is the only local rescue that is licensed by the Department of Agriculture, participating in annual inspections of their facility to ensure compliance with state regulations. Being the first call rescue for both the City and County Animal Controls, ARL provides immediate medical attention for animals referred to them by the City and County, such as dogs who have been shot, hit by a car, abused, attacked by another animal, pregnant, suffers from mange or neglect. ARL also rescues dogs from animal hoarders and lost or abandoned pets. In 2019, ARL rescued 197 dogs in Gordon County, and 2020 was just as busy.

Anyone with information on the dumping of the puppies at Food Lion is asked to call Calhoun PD at 706-629-1234.

For more information on ARL, or to find out how to apply to adopt one of their animals, visit their Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/Arlofnwga1/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Arlofnwga1/?ref=page_internal) or visit their Pet Finder page to see the animals they have available for adoption at <https://www.petfinder.com/member/us/ga/calhoun/animal-rescue-league-of-northwest-georgia-ga338/>

