

GORDON Gazette

Weekend, April 18, 2020

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Local nursing home has 17 percent of residents, four staff members test positive for COVID-19

Brandi Owczarz
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According to Friday's Long-Term Care Facility COVID-19 Report released by the Georgia Department of Community Health, Calhoun Health Care, a nursing home facility located at 1387 Highway 41 North in Calhoun, has had 12 of 71 total residents test positive for COVID-19, along with four staff members. Additionally, one of the positive resident cases resulted in a death.

Due to HIPAA laws, no names of the patients or fatalities have been released.

The Long-term Care Facility COVID-19 Report by DCH shows COVID-19 cases in licensed nursing homes, assisted living communities and personal care homes of

25 beds or more based on data reported by the facilities to the Georgia Department of Community Health as of 2 p.m. on the date of the report. The data in this report is contingent on information received by the department. According to Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's office, the report will be updated daily, Monday through Friday, by 7 p.m. each day.

The report can be found at dch.georgia.gov.

The report was released just after the Friday night state COVID-19 case numbers were announced. On Saturday, Gordon County had 57 COVID-19 cases. There have been five total deaths in Gordon County so far. As of 12 p.m. Saturday, Georgia has 17,669 total cases, with 673 deaths. There are 3,420

COVID-19 positive patients hospitalized throughout the state.

Neighboring Bartow and Floyd counties have some of the largest numbers of COVID-19 cases in the state, with Bartow having 246 COVID-19 cases and 22 deaths, and Floyd having 121 COVID-19 cases and eight deaths. Whitfield County sits at 43 COVID-19 cases and three deaths, while Murray County is at 18 COVID-19 cases and no deaths.

The new numbers come on the heels of Gov. Kemp's Thursday afternoon announcement that he'd soon outline how Georgia will move forward from the pandemic.

"Many Georgians are ready to get back to work, and the fundamentals of our economy remain strong," said Kemp.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Calhoun Health Care, pictured above, currently has 12 of 71 residents, 17 percent, confirmed as having COVID-19, along with four staff members. One of the resident cases resulted in death. The Long-Term Care Facility Report will be released by the Georgia Department of Community Health daily, Monday through Friday, by 7 p.m. each day.

"I am confident that we will successfully rebound from this public health emergency. The Peach State will continue to prioritize our citizenry's health and well-being."

Public asked to Go Virtual in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month

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April usually marks the arrival of dozens, if not hundreds, of pinwheels around the Depot in downtown Calhoun, in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, which happens annually each April as a time to act collectively to raise awareness and empower people across the state of Georgia to play a role in "making great childhoods happen." The blue pinwheels, representing innocence, is the national symbol of

child abuse awareness. The pinwheels "planted" at the Depot each year represent each baby born at AdventHealth Gordon the previous year in hope that every one of those children has a healthy, happy and safe childhood.

Due to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the pinwheels were not planted at the Depot, but instead sit in colorful pails on the site of Family Resource Center of Gordon County. While officials and the public are missing annual events, such as Pinwheels for Prevention

tea parties, 5K runs and family resource fairs, along with gathering at the state capitol as Governor Brian Kemp proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, there are many ways being pushed to virtually recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month.

In this time of physical distancing, the public is encouraged to keep the messages of child abuse prevention month and that of social connectedness strong in alternative ways, such as reaching out to neighbors and families

through phone, text, and FaceTime. Even just offering emotional support is important, according to officials. With that in mind, Prevent Child Abuse Georgia is offering the #IStayHomeFor #PinwheelsforPrevention Competition

"This year we are having the #IStayHomeFor #PinwheelsforPrevention crafting competition. We're calling on you to design and create your

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WE MUST CHOOSE COMPASSION OVER COMPLIANCE: State Superintendent Woods pens letter to school districts parents, teachers and students.

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GCS to end instructional learning May 5; other updates from Monday's BOE meeting

Brandi Owczarz
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Gordon County Schools announced this week they would be ending instructional learning on Tuesday, May 5 after discussing at Monday night's Board of Education meeting the possible need to help students catch up with work because 19 percent of students system-wide have not turned in instructional

work since school buildings were closed on Friday, March 13.

The meeting, which was live streamed on the system's website, saw all seven members of the Board attempt to participate in the meeting through the GoToMeeting platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even

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GCSO arrests man in domestic violence incident

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On Wednesday, April 15, the Gordon County Sheriff's Office arrested a Calhoun man after he fled a domestic violence incident.

According to the GCSO, around 2 p.m. Wednesday, law enforcement responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at a home on Cash Road near Sonoraville involving a woman having been assaulted by her spouse. The man, identified as 24-year-old Miguel Angel Canales, pictured, fled the scene before deputies arrived. There were no serious injuries. After an exhaustive search throughout the Sonoraville community, Canales was found and arrested early



GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Wednesday evening. Canales has been charged with Felony Aggravated Assault, Reckless Conduct, Reckless Driving and two counts of Cruelty to Children.

Gazaway joins Gazette as director of Ad Services

STAFF REPORTS

The Gordon Gazette is excited to announce that Tracy Gazaway has joined their staff as director of Ad Services.

"I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to join such an organization that is taking Calhoun-Gordon County into the future of news reporting," said Gazaway.

Gazaway brings more than 20 years of experience in advertising services to the Gazette, previously working in print news, but is excited to switch to online news.

"With today's technology society demands their news immediately, which has led to a steady decline in print news. It is an honor to be a part of such a viable marketing solution for Calhoun and Gordon County," said Gazaway. "I'm excited to bring my knowledge and expertise to the online and social media sector, which is the fastest growing way Americans receive their news."

"Tracy is a known media-savvy advertising executive throughout North Georgia, and we're honored she has chosen to take her career to the next level with the Gordon Gazette," said owner/publisher Brandi Owczarz. "Tracy's professionalism, combined with her ability to form loyal relationships with advertisers, is the perfect fit for Calhoun-Gordon County's sole community news



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advertising Executive Tracy Gazaway has joined the staff of the Gordon Gazette as director of Ad Services.

outlet." About Gordon Gazette The Gordon Gazette is Calhoun-Gordon County's only locally owned and staffed media outlet. With the astronomical growth of online media in America, the Gordon Gazette focuses solely on breaking news through online platforms, including their website and through social media. The Gordon Gazette has more than 5,000 paid subscribers to their website, gordongazettega.com, and a social media average reach of more than 150,000 people per month.

Second Front

Turner joins Hamilton's Peeples Cancer Institute

CONTRIBUTED

Eric Turner, MD, says he approaches patient care with the philosophy of hope and compassion. "It is important to me that patients understand their condition and the treatment approach," he says. "And, it is important for me, as the healthcare provider, to try to understand the patient's perspective. I want to take care of a patient the same as I would want my family member treated."

Turner joins Peeples Cancer Institute as medical director and medical oncologist. He specializes in adult cancer and hematology disorders.

Board certified in medical oncology, Turner completed his internal medicine residency at University of Virginia Health Systems in Charlottesville, Va., and his medical oncology/hematology fellowship training at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, N.C. Turner practiced medical oncology in Calhoun

for 15 years before joining Hamilton.

"I chose healthcare as a profession because it allows me to make a difference in people's lives," he says. "Healthcare, especially medical oncology, allows me to fuse my scientific interest with my clinical interest. After many years of research experience, I decided that I would like to take that knowledge and experience into the exam room and apply it towards treating cancer patients."

Turner enjoys exercising and is a classic car enthusiast – especially 1960s muscle cars. His family enjoys playing tennis together, eating together – at home and at restaurants, and traveling.

To schedule an appointment with Turner, call Peeples Cancer Institute at 844-PCI-HOPE.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eric Turner, MD, joins Peeples Cancer Institute as medical director and medical oncologist.



GC students nominated for Georgia Girls State Program

CONTRIBUTED

Congratulations to Gordon Central High School juniors Holli Kile, Grace Kirkland, and Sydney Rainwater for being nominated to this year's Georgia Girls State Program. This program is sponsored by

the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion and focuses on educating our youth about the basic ideals and principals of our system of government. We applaud these young ladies for their efforts and continued interest in learning more about our

system of government. Pictured: Renee Hughes, nominating teacher; Holli Kile; Sydney Rainwater; Dr. Joann Meadows, education chairman for the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 47; Ashli Hall, nominating teacher

CONSUMER ALERT: Carr warns Georgians of home repair fraud in wake of recent storms

CONTRIBUTED

ATLANTA, GA – The storms and tornadoes that passed through Georgia have put a number of residents in the position of having to repair and rebuild homes that were damaged. Unfortunately, there are home repair scammers out there who will try to exploit this disaster by asking for up-front payments for home repair services and then disappear without ever doing the work. In other cases, scammers may charge exorbitant prices, charge for unnecessary repairs or do sub-standard work.

"Storm victims are often more vulnerable to home repair fraud because they may be so desperate to get their lives back to normal that they don't question the costs they're quoted or thoroughly check out the person they're hiring," says Attorney General Carr. "Our Office encourages those affected by storm damage to be extra vigilant and do their homework before hiring a contractor."

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division offers the following tips to those who are in need of home repair work or tree-removal services:

•Avoid door-to-door offers for home repair work. Instead, ask friends and neighbors for referrals.

•Steer clear of any contractor who asks for full payment up-front, only accepts payment in cash, or who refuses to provide you with a written contract.

•Ask contractors for three references of customers who had projects similar to yours, and check them out.

•Get written bids from at least three contractors. Be skeptical if the bid is too low. Cheaper is not necessarily better.

•Always insist on a contract for work to be performed, with all guarantees, warranties and promises in writing. Agree on start and completion dates and have them written into the contract.

•Never pay for the entire project before the work begins. Consider paying no more than one-third of the total cost as a down payment, with remaining payments tied to completion of specified amounts of work, and the final payment not due until the job is completed.

•Be skeptical of any contractor that offers to pay your insurance deductible or offers other no-cost incentives, as these can be signs of fraud. You should always talk to your insurance company before committing to any repairs or even allowing a roofer to inspect your roof for any damage.

•Check with the Better Business Bureau (bbb.org) to if there are any complaints against the business.

•Make sure that the tree removal has a valid arborist license by visiting the International Society of Arboriculture's website at www.isa-arbor.com.

•Make sure that general contractors, electricians, plumbers and heating and air conditioning contractors are licensed by going to the Secretary of State's website at sos.georgia.gov. Note that certain specialty occupations such as roofers, tree removal services, painters, drywall contractors and repair handymen are not required to be licensed by the state.

If you think that you may have been the victim of home repair fraud, please contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division by visiting consumer.ga.gov or by calling 404-651-8600 or 1-800-869-1123 (toll-free in Georgia, outside of the metro Atlanta calling area).

Heritage Baptist giving away wooden crosses

STAFF REPORTS

Heritage Baptist Church, located at 345 Curtis Parkway in Calhoun, has a goal of putting 1,000 wood crosses in the community. The church has given out 500 so far. Members will be building more of them this Saturday, April 18. If you'd like to help build, meet at the church at 12 noon to get started. Crosses will be ready for pickup at 2 p.m. Anyone who wants a cross just needs to show up at the church at 2 p.m.



ELECT BRUCE POTTS

Gordon County Commissioner District 3



Commissioner Focus:

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Public Safety, Emergency Management, Ambulatory/Life Flight with ideas that make our agencies stronger. I plan to connect leaders in the region, state, and nation to the best of Gordon County.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation design-redesign, Improve alternate means of Travel, Varied services provided for our community, Increase our Band Width with Internet for all of Gordon County, Growth Planning and Implementation make-up the infrastructure needs. Service Delivery Strategy review.

WORKFORCE/INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Recruit a diverse Industry base and develop business partnerships that offer the necessary training to retain the needed workforce. Workforce will shape the future of Gordon County.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR GORDON CO.

Designed to improve Gordon County for those who call this our home. Home ownership, Pro-Family, Senior Care, Recreation is a part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Visit me on Facebook at 'Bruce Potts- GC Commissioner District 3'

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Obituaries

April 18, 2020

Flo "Moma" Baldrige

Flo "Moma" Baldrige, 67, of Plainville, died Wednesday, April 15, 2020 following a year of declining health. She was born on Nov. 24, 1952 in Dalton to Orabell Pace Ray and the late Paul Ray. She was preceded in death by her children, Randall Sanford and Tammy Sue Sanford; grandchildren, Courtney and Daniel; and stepson Jeff "Red" Shaw.

She is survived by her loving husband Lesley "Shorty" Baldrige; children, Chris and Khristy Baldrige, Vickie and Mel Maddox, Rickie Baldrige, Jackie and Keith Reed, Rebecca and Dwayne Payne, Bankie and Jenniffer Baldrige, and Kevin and Lois Sanford; brothers and sisters-in-law, Harvey and Kay Ray, Lonnie and Carolyn Ray, Leroy Ray, and Fred Ray; grandchildren, Deila, Matthew, T.J, Jamie, Cheyenne, Miriam, Charity, Savanna, Ariana, Mary Jane, and Bailey; great grandchildren, Emmaleigh, Ansleigh, Miranda; great great grandchild, Carter.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no formal public visitation or funeral service. She will be buried in Immanuel Church Cemetery.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Flo "Moma" Baldrige.



Mary Jo "Miss Jo" Reeves

Mary Jo (Miss Jo) Reeves, 62, of Calhoun, died Thursday, April 16, 2020, from complications of a heart attack. She was born in Cherokee County, Ala. on June 2, 1957, daughter of the late Paul Reeves Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Howell Reeves.



Miss Jo loved her job as custodian of Calhoun Primary School, primarily because of her love for all the kids and faculty; she felt as though they were part of her family. She was a member of the 1977 graduating class of Red Bud High School.

She is survived by her brothers and sister-in-law, Paul David Reeves and Paul Reeves Jr. and his wife Darlene; nephews, Heath Reeves, Jacob Reeves, Brodix Oree, and Holli Nix, great-nieces and nephews, Ansley and Ayden Reeves; other family and friends also survive.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no formal public visitation or funeral service. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

The private family-only funeral service will be held Monday, April 20, 2020, at the chapel of Max

Brannon & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Frank Bramlett officiating.

A live video will be hosted on Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Facebook page at 12 noon Monday, April 20, 2020. Interment will follow at Providence Baptist Church Cemetery in Alabama, beside her parents.

To share condolences with the family and sign the online guestbook, go to, www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

In lieu of flowers, you can choose to support the family at this difficult time. No donation is too small and your support would be greatly appreciated. Just click the donation tab above the obituary.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mary Jo (Miss Jo) Reeves.



Help for the Hurting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Caring Connection is a telephone support group especially for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's who cannot leave their homes because of care responsibilities. This support group is as close as the phone. Call

706-275-0819 or 1-800-272-3900 and ask to be enrolled in Caring Connection.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Dealing with a

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

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

joining the Alzheimer's Auxiliary, contact the Alzheimer's Association at 706-275-0819.

- Families Anonymous, a 12-step, self-help recovery program is for parents, relatives, and friends concerned about their loved ones current, suspected or past abuse of drugs or alcohol. Working together, members find ways of overcoming feelings of helplessness and despair. The weekly meetings are held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at 654A Red Bud Road N.E. (beside Calhoun Counseling Center). There is no cost for membership.

-The Georgia Tobacco Quit Line 1-877-270-stop (7867) provides free counseling, support and referral services for Georgia residents 18 years of age or older who want to stop using tobacco, as well as concerned parents of adolescents using tobacco. Call today to become tobacco-free!

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



VOTE
KEN PADGETT
CORONER

TIME
FOR
CHANGE

My goal is to bring the Coroner's Office into the 21st Century. The County has plans to build a new morgue and coroner's office, and I want to elevate the office to better serve Gordon County.

- Only candidate that has been a certified EMT, Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer
- More than 28 years in law enforcement with the Calhoun Police Department and GCSO
 - Has worked numerous death investigations, including murders and child death
 - Strong working relationship with all departments in Gordon County government
 - Ready to hit the ground running for Gordon County

Visit me on Facebook at 'Padgett for Coroner'

Paid Political Advertisement

We must choose compassion over compliance

An open letter from State School Superintendent Richard Woods to school districts parents, students & teachers

Georgia State School Superintendent Richard Woods

It has been one month since Georgia's school buildings closed and transitioned to distance learning. In that month, Georgia's teachers, educational leaders, parents, and students have done a remarkable job adapting to this "new normal" and continuing to learn in circumstances none of us could have imagined when the school year began.

We have seen public education rise up and make the best of a bad situation. Georgia's teachers have gone far above and beyond the call of duty to serve their students – displaying the creativity, resilience, and commitment to students that define our profession. I know our teachers, so I am not surprised – but I could not be more proud or impressed.

At the same time, we know distance learning comes with challenges – for teachers, students, and parents. Even students who are in the ideal situation for e-learning are coping with a crisis. They may have parents or grandparents who are affected by COVID-19 or going to work in a medical setting each day. They may themselves have pre-existing conditions that place them at higher risk for complications from the virus. Their parents may be out of work, or working full-time while attempting to navigate the new learning landscape.

Other students may have no internet

access, no digital devices, or may be sharing a single device among multiple children. They may have little food to eat. Some high-school students are picking up extra hours at work. Other children, heartbreakingly, are in abusive home environments and have lost the refuge of the traditional school day.

And our teachers are working to serve students while taking care of their own children or other responsibilities at home.

Those who have said the model being implemented here is not traditional distance learning or homeschooling but "crisis learning" are exactly right.

My message to school districts – which I shared directly with district superintendents earlier this week – is that our focus during this time should be on compassion over compliance.

To be clear, we must continue to be vigilant in support of our students. But our focus during this time should not be on test scores, accountability or percentiles. Our marker for success should be that our children got through this time healthy, safe, and nurtured. It is not a time to be rigid or inflexible – it is a time to extend grace to each other.

I would encourage parents to extend that same grace to their child's teachers and school district.

I know there is nothing simple about supporting your child's education during this time. If you are concerned

about the assignments your child is receiving or their ability to manage the workload, reach out to their teacher or principal and let them know. Keep the lines of communication open, and remember this is brand-new for teachers as well.

I have received some questions about why the school year has not been called off altogether, rather than continued through distance learning. School districts do have the flexibility to select an earlier end date if they choose, and I fully support those who are making that decision. Let me share from the heart of an educator why an immediate, statewide end to the school year (rather than simply the closure of school buildings) was not considered.

First, I believe we owe it to our students to keep extending opportunities for them to learn and grow. While it will take continued communication, patience, and creativity I believe this can be done without placing an undue burden on parents or students.

Second, for many students, the support and care of their teachers is a lifeline. For many of us, it was unthinkable to cut off access for those students completely in the midst of a global crisis.

For all of us, it is tempting to look around to other districts and schools to compare what is going on to your reality. No two schools or districts are alike. The capabilities and communities vary. Everyone is doing

their best to make this situation work.

At the Department of Education, we have focused on providing flexibility from state and federal mandates so school districts have the freedom to focus on learning, growth, and student safety. Our guidance to them has been that no student should be penalized, or held back in their expected progression, due to circumstances over which they have no control (i.e. the COVID-19 school closures).

One month into distance learning, I am proud of the creativity, flexibility, and commitment Georgia's educators have displayed. I am proud of Georgia's parents, who have advocated for their children and taken on a role they never thought they'd have. And I am proud of Georgia's students – especially our graduating seniors – who have demonstrated great resilience and integrity.

This challenge is not over. There are more difficulties ahead. But if we keep the focus on compassion over compliance and extend grace to each other – grace from principals to teachers, from teachers to students, from parents to teachers – we will get through this time together and be stronger for it.

Sincerely,

Richard Woods
State School Superintendent

GNTC transports emergency equipment to Floyd Medical Center

CONTRIBUTED

To aid the Department of Public Health and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS), state agencies including the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) have been doing what they can to help public healthcare workers on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Georgia

Northwestern Technical College was happy to do their part by utilizing the Commercial Truck Driving program to bring GEMA/HS provided hospital beds to Floyd Medical Center. According to Mark D'Alessio, TCSG executive director for Communications and PR, technical colleges around the state have pitched in to do their part in bringing relief to overwhelmed healthcare workers.



ABOVE: Matt Spears (left) and Seth Long (right) of Floyd Medical Center's Receiving Department unload a hospital bed supplied by GEMA/HS. Georgia Northwestern Technical College's Commercial Truck Driving program drove the items to Floyd Medical Center on Thursday, April 16, as part of a large network of state agencies lending a hand to public health across the state. TOP RIGHT: Robert Browder, GNTC program director and instructor of Commercial Truck Driving, unloads hospital mattresses and beds supplied by GEMA/HS. Browder drove the items to Floyd Medical Center on Thursday, April 16, as part of a large network of state agencies lending a hand to public health across the state. RIGHT: Matt Spears of Floyd Medical Center's Receiving Department, unloads a hospital bed supplied by GEMA/HS. Georgia Northwestern Technical College's Commercial Truck Driving program drove the items to Floyd Medical Center on Thursday, April 16, as part of a large network of state agencies lending a hand to public health across the state.

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GORDON GAZETTE E-EDITION FREE ARCHIVES

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

VOTE

ROD BREHM
Gordon County Board of Education Post 4

I will work for the residents of Gordon County

"My belief in government is that I work for the people of Gordon County. If elected, I want to be informed on what the public wants. For this to happen, there needs to be an open door policy, there needs to be transparency. This is something some of the current members of the Board of Education lack. I want to change that."

- Believes in an open, transparent government
- Will fight to use your tax dollars wisely and reduce the burden on tax payers
- Wants our students prepared for the real world and our teachers to have a voice
- Ready to serve Gordon County Schools

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GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Here and elsewhere, obesity a major factor in severe COVID-19 illness

ANDY MILLER,
Georgia Health News

Obesity has emerged as a major predictor of severe COVID-19 illness, according to new research.

That linkage is demonstrated in Albany, where dozens of patients have died of COVID-19 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

Phoebe's chief medical officer, Dr. Steven Kitchen, said the hospital has not yet gathered precise data on obesity rates of coronavirus patients. But he told GHN on Thursday that "a disproportionate percentage of our critically ill patients in our ICUs are morbidly obese."

Other medical conditions are frequently associated with obesity, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and kidney disease, Kitchen noted. "Morbid obesity is probably an independent risk factor for poor health outcomes," he added.

Obesity is a rising problem in Georgia and the U.S. as a whole. Roughly one in three adults in the state is obese, according to County Health

Rankings. That percentage is higher for African-Americans than other racial or ethnic groups.

And Dougherty County has a higher obesity rate than the Georgia average, Kitchen said.

The hospital is doing epidemiological studies on its COVID-19 patients with state public health officials and the CDC, as well as with the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University. Phoebe Putney reported nine more COVID-19 patient deaths Thursday, bringing the hospital's total to 64.

Impact on the Southeast

The CDC recently reported that among hospitalized COVID-19 patients studied, almost half were obese.

At Ochsner Health, a system with 41 hospitals in Louisiana and southern Mississippi, Dr. Leo Seoane, the company's senior vice president, said that 60 percent of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 had obesity, and that obesity appeared to nearly double their risk of requiring a ventilator, the New York Times reported.

Louisiana and Mississippi

have a high number of deceased COVID-19 patients who were obese, USA Today reported.

The Georgia Department of Public Health said it hasn't tracked the rate of obesity among COVID-19 cases or among those who have died from the disease.

The new research points to obesity as the most significant risk factor, after only older age, for being hospitalized with COVID-19. Young adults with obesity appear to be at particular risk, studies show.

The age-adjusted prevalence of obesity among U.S. adults was 42 percent in 2017-2018.

Body mass index (BMI) is a measure of body fat based on height and weight that applies to adult men and women. A BMI of 30 or more is considered obese.

New studies point to impact

In one of two new studies released this week, COVID-19 patients who were younger than 60 and had a body mass index BMI between 30 and 34 were twice as likely as their non-obese peers to be

admitted to the hospital for acute care instead of being sent home from the ER, the Los Angeles Times reported. They were also 1.8 times more likely to require critical care in a hospital's intensive care unit.

In a second report, a team of NYU doctors and researchers examined the factors that appeared to predispose 4,103 COVID-19 patients of all ages to hospitalization. The research is preliminary, and not peer reviewed. The study found that being older than 75 was the most potent predictor of hospitalization for COVID-19, followed by being between the ages of 65 and 75. The third-best predictor was having a BMI over 40, a condition doctors call "severe obesity."

When all other factors were held equal, COVID-19 patients with severe obesity were more than six times more likely to be hospitalized than were patients who were not obese.

Dr. Phillip Coule, chief medical officer for Augusta University Health, said Thursday that "there is certainly evidence to support

a high body mass index as a major contributing factor to severe complications for COVID-19."

Obesity alters respiratory physiology, interfering with adequate function of the lungs, he said. And an obese patient is harder to "prone" — positioning the individual on the stomach — a technique that is used to improve respiratory mechanics, Coule said.

Obesity appears to disproportionately worsen COVID-19 outcomes, Coule told GHN.

The new findings about obesity risks are bad news for all Americans, but particularly for African-Americans and other people of color, who have higher rates of obesity and are already bearing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 deaths, the New York Times reported. High rates of obesity are also prevalent among low-income white Americans, who may also be adversely affected, the newspaper reported.

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

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CAP

From page 1A

own pinwheels and share them with us via Facebook,” said PCA Georgia in statement. “We want to see pictures of pinwheels of all shapes, sizes, media and materials coming to life in your homes, whether you draw, color, sculpt, paint, knit, bake or any other way you find to make a pinwheel. Share it with us all month long at @PreventGeorgia! At the end of the month, we’ll announce the top three most creative Pinwheels and yes, THERE ARE PRIZES- Get crafting!”

Also, on Monday, April 20, there is a free online screening of the documentary “Resilience” at 1 p.m., with an expert panel discussion at 2 p.m. The documentary reveals how toxic stress can trigger hormones that wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time, and early death. While the broader impacts of poverty worsen the risk, no

GCS

From page 1A

though there were several kinks in the meeting, with Board member Kacee Smith not able to be heard for most of the meeting, the Board members soldiered on, discussing the effects of COVID-19 on the school system at length, including that 19 percent of students system-wide have not turned in instructional work during the pandemic.

“We are proposing we stop new content and online instruction on May 5, then have students submit work, then the next couple of weeks, would be teacher’s working with students who have not submitted work, they would be grading work and they would be working with students that have failing grades; with seniors that we need to make sure are going to graduate,” said superintendent Dr. Kimberly Fraker. “We’re going to need some time at the end of this semester to get some of that work back in and get the grades finalized, and also to handle some of the general housekeeping items. We’ve still have to offer time for students to come back into our buildings to get items and for teachers to be able to get their items. And also to have time at the end of the year to work with teachers to decide how we’re going to address these learning gaps when the next school year comes.”

On Wednesday, the system released the framework for the remainder of the school year through a letter from Fraker, which reads:

“Dear Parent/Guardian,
“The closing of schools to in-person instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly created an unexpected and somewhat sad ending to our current school year. I think we all will be grieving this abrupt ending in some way, which is only natural. While we are all disappointed, we are also in a unique position to continue to positively impact the lives of our students through our continued offering of at-home learning. It is the intention of the Gordon County School System that we provide, to the best of our ability, a meaningful educational experience through at-home learning for all students, including students with disabilities, English language learners, and those without internet access.

“As our schools will remain closed to in-person instruction through the remainder of the school year, our teachers continue to create meaningful distance learning opportunities electronically, as well as paper materials, as needed. Individual schools will communicate with families regarding accessing new material and submitting completed work for the remainder of the semester. I am so thankful for the dedication of our parents and other caregivers to ensuring that our students continue academic work during this time. I know doing this puts another responsibility on our families that no one was prepared to handle. With all of this in mind, we created an

segment of society is immune. Resilience, however, also chronicles the dawn of a movement that is determined to fight back. Trailblazers in pediatrics, education, and social welfare are using cutting-edge science and field-tested therapies to protect children from the insidious effects of toxic stress—and the dark legacy of a childhood that no child would choose. The screening is hosted by Prevent Child Abuse Georgia along with the Prevention and Community Support Section of DFCS and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Panelists for the screening include Tim Johnson, Director of Family Connection – Communities in Schools of Athens; Jewell H. Gooding, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Georgia; Deborah Richardson, Executive Director, International Human Trafficking Institute; Danette McLaurin Glass, Coordinator and Consultant, Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative Consortium; Dr. Terri McFadden, Associate Professor in Pediatrics at Emory. For more information on the free screening, visit <https://abuse.publikealth.gsu.edu/>

adjusted timeline for completion of course work and a framework for grading so that no child’s grade is negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and our school closure. Details are outlined below.

“Submitting Completed Work:

While we continue to operate within the CDC guidelines and those outlined in the most recent Executive Order by the Governor, please remember the preference for receiving, completing, and submitting student work is electronically through Schoology, DoJo, Remind, etc. Students who received a paper packet to complete are asked to send the completed work to the teacher via email or text message, if at all possible. Students who have no way of submitting completed work electronically will be provided directions for submitting work by their local school.

“Continuing At-Home Learning:

Teachers continue providing instruction/activities Monday-Thursday (using Friday for review/ make-up work).

“Teachers will grade assignments and provide feedback to students.

“All Georgia Milestones Assessments (End of Grade/End of Course) have been cancelled and requirements for completing them have been waived. There will be no final exams.

“At the end of the year, it is our intention that students will be promoted to the next grade, unless the student is significantly behind and a meeting has already been held with the parents to discuss the topic of retention. Each student must attempt the at-home learning assignments and complete them to the best of his/her ability. Failure to submit work for grading may result in a final grade of “Incomplete” for the course, and the student may be required to participate in additional remediation once in-person instruction begins for the 2020-2021 school year. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, each school with the support of the system staff, will spend time addressing learning gaps and individual student needs.

“Timeline:

May 5th: Teachers will stop delivering new content.

“May 6th –8th: Students will submit any remaining completed work. Students who are behind or need additional time will continue working with their teacher(s) and may submit work through May 15.

“May 6th –22nd: Teachers will grade student work, review reports, remediate those failing, and post grades. Virtual year end and student recognition celebrations will be held May 18 – 22.

“Grading: Student work for the last nine weeks (all work after March 12) will be used to enhance the student’s grade, not be used as a punitive measure.

“Elementary K-2: K-2 students will receive a standards-based report card. Any standard without evidence will not be evaluated. K-2 grading is a reflection of the student’s mastery of standards to prepare for instruction/remediation for the 20-21 school year.

In addition, it is suggested that any organization that has to delay or cancel an event to host an online donation drive, collecting donations or sharing amazon wish lists, since many children and families face additional hardship due to school closings which result in access to free and reduced lunch and add the additional burden of childcare costs.

Another way to recognize Child Abuse Prevent Month is to Facebook live your pinwheel planting, and encourage others to virtually share how they are spreading awareness and helping families during CAP month.

About PCA Georgia

At Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia, we envision a state where all children and families thrive in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. However, Georgia is currently ranked 38th in the nation for child well-being. PCA Georgia works to prevent maltreatment and improve the well-being of Georgia’s children through education, advocacy and the promotion of evidence-based prevention strategies.

“Elementary 3-5: Grades 3-5 will receive an average of the first three nine weeks. Work submitted the last nine weeks will supplement the average. No child will receive a numeric grade lower than the average of the first three nine weeks.**

“Middle School: Grades 6-8 will receive an average of the first three nine weeks. Work submitted the last nine weeks will supplement the average. No child will receive a numeric grade lower than the average of the first three nine weeks.**Nine weeks Connections classes will receive a final grade of Pass or Incomplete based on the student’s work.

“High School: The course averages a student had on March 12th at the nine weeks is the lowest numeric grade the student can receive.**

Dual Enrollment courses will be governed by the affiliated College or University.

Details regarding the graduation ceremony are forthcoming.

“** Failure to submit work for grading may result in a final grade of “Incomplete” for the course (K-12) and the student may be required to participate in additional remediation once in-person instruction begins for the 2020-2021 school year.

“Please accept my sincere appreciation for all that you are doing for your child and for partnering with our school system during this difficult time. If you have specific questions regarding your child’s work or grades, please contact your child’s school.”

At press time, the system was still gathering information from parents and students to plan graduation ceremonies for both Gordon Central and Sonorville High School.

In other news from Monday night’s meeting:

With the deadline delayed until September, the Board approved moving forward with implementing and completing the Exemplary Board Recognition Criteria.

The Board approved the new policy GAG-Staff Conflict of Interest, which relates to relatives working in the same school building. Those who already work in the same building with relatives are grandfathered in and can continue to work in the same building.

The Board approved ESS Contracts for fiscal year 2020-2021 for services for special needs students. There was no price increase in the services.

The Board approved the RFP for Gordon Central High School’s Football Stadium Audio System. In addition to getting a remodel on the press box, the school will receive a new audio system, at a cost of \$30, 962, which keeps the system coming in under the budgeted amount for the press box. The RFP was awarded to Vuscore, who is including \$1,000 worth of upgrades to the audio system at no cost.

The next meeting of the Gordon County Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020, but it is unclear at press time whether they will continue to meet online or meet publicly while using social distancing recommendations.

Community Support Groups

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

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

Thursday 7 - 8 p.m. Call 770-548-7849 for more information.

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

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

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

602-9546. Remember...you can make a difference for the good!

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

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

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

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

at 706-629-0777.

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

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

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

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

See news happening?

Call 770-547-1044 or email staff@gordongazettega.com

Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line
866-399-8938

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Behavioral Health Link (BHL), Beacon Health Options.

The Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line provides 24/7 free and confidential assistance to callers needing emotional support or resource information as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emotional Support Line is staffed by volunteers, including mental health professionals and others who have received training in crisis counseling

A partnership between The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities, Beacon Health Options and Behavioral Health Link

Georgia Crisis & Access Line
1-800-715-4225
 mycal.com

Sponsored by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)

Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL)
1-800-715-4225

GCAL is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year to help you or someone you care for in a crisis



CARES Warm Line
1-844-326-5400
 Substance Abuse Challenges
 Call or Text Every Day of The Year
 8:30AM - 11:00PM



COVID-19 Hotline (844) 442-2681
 The State of Georgia has a new COVID-19 hotline. If you believe that you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to the novel coronavirus, please contact your primary care doctor or an urgent care clinic. Please do not show up unannounced at an emergency room or health care facility.

PEER2PEER Warm Line
PEER SUPPORT FOR GEORGIA
888-945-1414
 24/7/365
 www.peer2peer.center

The services offered by the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network and its funded providers are provided with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities.

Peer2Peer Warm Line
 Operating since the opening of the Peer Support and Wellness Center of Decatur in 2008, the warm line provides Georgians the opportunity to receive peer support over the phone 24 hours a day.

How to contact the Peer2Peer Warm Line
 Call 888-945-1414 (toll-free) statewide, or locally:
 Decatur: 404-371-1414
 Bartow County: 770-276-2019
 Colquitt County: 229-873-9737
 Henry County: 678-782-7666
 White County: 706-865-3601



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Church Calendar

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

-Fairmount Church of Christ, located at 265 South Avenue in Fairmount, Ga. Minister Bobby Gayton. Everyone is invited to visit and worship with us. Sunday morning Services at 11 a.m.; Bible study at 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study at 6 p.m.

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

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

-Faith Deliverance Church & Outreach Ministry Welcomes Everyone to an Anointed Church Service at 1320 Dawnville Road in Dalton every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Thursday at 7 p.m. Pastor and Evangelist Evelyn Adams, also an Anointed Gospel Singing. Come expecting Jesus to move for you. Miracles, Healing, Deliverance, Salvation. For more information or directions, call Minister Evelyn Adams (706) 671-7988

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Red Cross mounts Georgia-wide response after tornados, storms

CONTRIBUTED

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic the American Red Cross has mounted a statewide response to help those affected by the recent tornados and storms, providing a place to stay, warm meals, clothing and other needs to hundreds of Georgians.

Those affected who haven't talked to a Red Cross representative are urged to call 1-855-891-7325 around the clock.

"Call us if you need

help," said disaster response director Bob Sheldon. "Our response may look different but we're meeting the same needs across 40 counties so far."

He added, "We're giving help and hope – just not the hugs."

Red Cross workers are following public health guidelines for the pandemic, including wearing masks and making contactless deliveries of meals to commercial lodging where people are staying across the state, rather

than a Red Cross shelter. While there might be fewer team members out in the community, they are backed by many more working from their phones and computers at home.

Health services, mental health and spiritual care are also being offered, though sometimes by video chat.

More than 700 households needing help have been identified.

Already, Sheldon said, the operation has assembled a virtual casework team from

volunteers across the state to start working with each family to build a recovery plan that ensures those affected have a path to getting back to normal.

Red Cross meeting needs across the state

Sheldon said the largest focus currently for lodging and meals is in the northwestern part of the state, focusing on Catoosa, Chattooga, Walker, Dade, Whitfield and Murray counties. Additionally, the Red Cross is working with

individual families on lodging and meals in northeastern Georgia in Banks, Hall, and Stephens Counties.

"In the central and southern portions of Georgia we are providing lodging and meals in Burke, Washington, Sumter, Coffee, Wayne, and Upson counties," he continued. "Throughout the rest of the state we're working individually with families and those affected to meet their immediate needs following the storms."

How you can help

The Red Cross depends on financial donations to be able to provide disaster relief immediately. You can help people affected by disasters like storms and countless other crises by making a gift to Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. Visit redcross.org, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

USACE Mobile District Extending Campground Reservation Cancellations through Sunday, May 17

CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District announced today that as a continued public health and safety measure in the ongoing wake of the COVID-19 emergency, our recreation areas are extending campground reservation cancellations through Sunday, May 17.

At the present time, visitors who wish to camp at our recreation areas may be able to block reservation dates for dates starting on Monday, May 18. Please note that the COVID-19 emergency is not yet over, potentially necessitating additional change to the campground reservation policy at a later date. Recreation area visitors wishing to use our campgrounds should check our recreation area Facebook pages regularly for up-to-date information on campground reservations, or call

the recreation area project office of your choice.

While our visitor centers, campgrounds, and beaches are not currently open, certain water and land access areas remain accessible to the public, including:

- Boat Launches
- Nature Trails
- Viewing Areas

As we keep these sites accessible to the maximum extent possible, please be aware that all USACE recreation area facilities remain subject to closure as conditions surrounding the COVID-19 emergency may evolve. USACE also strongly encourages our visitors to continue practicing social distancing as well as other safety practices communicated by public health officials.

For more information, you may contact the USACE Mobile District at 251-690-2505, and please follow USACE Mobile District and its recreation areas on Facebook:

- USACE Mobile District Headquarters @USACEMobile
- USACE Alabama River Lakes @ARLMobileDistrict
- USACE Allatoona Lake @USACEAllatoonaLake
- USACE Bay Springs Lake @USACEBSSO
- USACE Black Warrior & Tombigbee Lakes @BWTLakes
- USACE Carters Lake @CartersLakeUSArmyCorpsOfEngineers
- USACE Lake Seminole @USACELakeSeminole
- USACE Lake Sidney Lanier @LakeSidneyLanierUSACE
- USACE Tenn-Tom Waterway @USACE.TennTom.Columbus.MS
- USACE Walter F. George Lake @WalterFGeorgeLake
- USACE West Point Lake @WestPointLake.USACE

AdventHealth App Makes it Easy to Access Virtual Care

CONTRIBUTED

Have you ever wished you could have your entire medical history at your fingertips? Needed to get your children's medical records before camp or the start of the school year? Forgotten a doctor's instructions, or wished you could remember the dates of your last blood tests? With the AdventHealth App, you can do all of these things — and much more.

The AdventHealth App is a centralized app designed to help manage your family's journey to wholeness. Seamlessly access your medical records, coordinate your care, schedule appointments, see test results and connect with doctors all from the palm of your hand.

With AdventHealth App, you can:

Find a Physician

Searching for a primary care physician or medical specialist is easy with the advanced physician-finder tool. Search by zip code, physician's name, specialty or location. You'll find doctor biographies, areas of specialty and educational videos that can help you choose the physician that's right for you.

Schedule an Appointment

Now you can schedule or request an appointment with your primary care doctor, a specialist, a medical imaging facility or laboratory right from your computer or smartphone.

Access Medical Records

You're able to create personalized profiles for your family health history that can be viewed throughout our network. You'll have direct access to your medical records including lab results, medical images, surgeries, physician notes and more.

Virtual Urgent Care

By downloading our eCare app, you can conveniently video chat with an urgent-care doctor from the comfort of your own home or on the go. Once a physician diagnoses your condition, they can submit a prescription to the pharmacy of your choice. Virtual visits are available in most states where AdventHealth is present, with more being added all the time. Common conditions treated through virtual visits include:

- Conjunctivitis or pink eye
- Coughs, colds, bronchitis and flu
- Lower back pain
- Seasonal allergies
- Sinus and upper-respiratory infections
- Skin conditions
- Urinary tract infections

If you believe you're experiencing symptoms that might be more serious, like those associated with COVID-19, you can schedule a virtual visit for a diagnosis and peace of mind.

Communicate With Your Care Team

Have a follow-up question for your doctor or want to send the office staff a message without having to make a call? Connecting with your care team is easier than ever with convenient in-app messaging that lets you filter messages by topic.

Prescription Refill Requests

Are your medications running low? No problem. Just use the app to make a quick and easy refill request and be on your way.

Online Bill Pay

View paper bills and make payments all in one central location. You'll never have to worry about losing track of a paper bill again.

View Upcoming Appointments

See your upcoming appointments and confirm appointment times online.

Lab Results

Get your results quickly, in a beautifully designed dashboard that's convenient and easy to understand.

Find Care Now

View urgent care clinic and ER wait times and locations near you.

A Connected Network of Care

At AdventHealth, our goal is to grow and innovate in ways that make your health care journey easier and more accessible. That's why we're using our app as a way to put your family's whole health at your fingertips.

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

SERVICES PROVIDED

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

SCREENING PRACTICES

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

TESTING

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



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