

# GORDON Gazette

Weekend, May 2, 2020

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

## Annual open burn ban to begin June 1 for Gordon County

State ban begins May 1; Gordon, six other counties given extra month by Georgia EPD due to recent storms

**Brandi Owczarz**  
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While the annual state burn ban begins May 1, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has announced that seven counties, including Gordon, can begin their burn ban on June 1, giving them extra time to clear vegetative debris from April storms. The seven counties are Banks, Catoosa, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Upson and Walker counties.

According to the EPD, typically, the ban prohibits citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing

debris during the summer ozone season, which runs from May 1 through September 30. This is in addition to the rule that prohibits the burning of household garbage. Burning household garbage is never allowed anywhere in Georgia.

There are a few types of fires exempt from the open burn ban, including recreational activities such as campfires and grilling. Burning of vegetative materials at agricultural operations is also exempt.

Gordon County Fire & Rescue responded to a slew of burns during the ban last year. An official with GCF&R said that when they respond to an

illegal burn during the ban, they document the incident and turn it over to the Gordon County Ordinance Officer, who will review the case and issue a citation if warranted.

Some Georgia counties and cities have burning restrictions that are more stringent than the EPD open burning ban. EPD recommends that citizens check with their local Fire Marshall and the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) before conducting any burning. Permits for hand-piled, natural vegetation collected on site



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## Calhoun Recycling Center reopens on Monday

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The City of Calhoun announced that the Calhoun Recycling Center, located at 212 Pine Street in downtown Calhoun, will reopen on Monday, May 4. The City closed the center on March 30 due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns.

Proper precautions have been put in place to ensure the public's safety and the employee's safety when the center reopens Monday. Social distancing and all CDC

recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19 will be required.

"We ask that people unload their cars one at a time," said Paul Worley, City Administrator. "If someone is unloading their recycling items, please wait until they are done before pulling all the way into the center to unload yours. This will help ensure all CDC social distancing guidelines are upheld. Our recycling attendants have been instructed to limit their contact with the public as much as possible, and they

will be cleaning/sanitizing the area as much as possible."

For the next several weeks, Worley said they expect more recycling than previously experienced.

"There will more than likely be a larger volume of material for the next several weeks, so please be patient when we have to rotate out full recycling bins more often," said Worley.

The recycling center is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Calhoun-Gordon County COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force meets

### STAFF REPORTS

The Calhoun-Gordon County COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force met on Wednesday, April 29, releasing a community update after the meeting.

"We want to take this time to let our citizens know that Gordon

County, Calhoun, and leadership and public safety from all municipalities continue to work alongside each other to address issues relevant to COVID-19 within our community. Today we held the ninth meeting via web conference of the Calhoun-Gordon County COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force comprised of all local governments, state government,

public safety agencies, schools, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, public health, churches, non-profit organizations, and our hospital. These weekly meetings serve as tools to make sure we are all collaborating together to stay up to date on our current situation as well as that around our nation.

This local task force was created

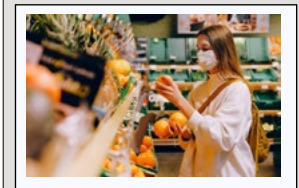
early in the stages of the COVID-19 response. By coming together collaboratively to assess cases and needs early, often and ongoing we feel this has helped us to keep our case numbers down relative to many

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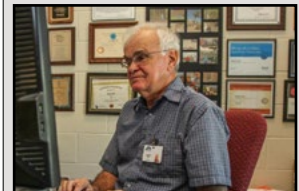
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With Shelter in Place expired for most Georgians, officials urge usage of face masks.

### EDUCATION 4A



Georgia Northwestern Technical instructor named Amazon Web Services Educate Ambassador.

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## Getting to know the Republican candidates of the 14th District race

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One of the most anticipated races in the General Primary on June 9 is for the 14th Congressional District, the seat currently held by Rep. Tom Graves, R-Ranger, who announced earlier this year he would not be seeking re-election.

On the Republican side, there were nine to qualifying to run for the office. One of these nine will face Democrat Kevin Van Ausdal in the General Election in November.

With such a deep field on the Republican side, the Gordon Gazette had each candidate answer a set of questions to help the public learn a little more about them. Each candidate is featured below, in alphabetical order by last name.

**Name:** Dr. John D. Barge

**City:** Rome, Georgia

**Bio:** With roots dating back in Georgia to the late 1700's, my family has lived, worked and worshiped here for nine generations. My

great-great-great-great-grandfather, Lewis Barge, was the second signer of the Liberty Point Resolves, which preceded the Declaration of Independence by one year. I moved to Floyd County in 1984. I grew up in a large family. While poor in means, we were rich in hope and had a strong work ethic. I became an entrepreneur at the age of nine, starting my own grass-cutting business so I could help pay my way growing up. That hard work paid off when I earned academic and journalism scholarships to Berry College and became a first-generation college graduate. I achieved all of this despite having an alcoholic, abusive father, who passed away in my teens. I graduated from Berry College in Rome with a bachelor's degree and from the University of West Georgia with both masters and specialist degrees. I went on to earn a doctorate in educational leadership from the

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Dr. John D. Barge



Ben Bullock



Kevin Cooke

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Dr. John Cowan



Clayton Fuller



Marjorie Taylor Greene

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Andy Gunther



Bill Hembree



Matt Laughridge

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Second Front

AdventHealth Gordon recognized nationally with an ‘A’ for the spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

CONTRIBUTED

AdventHealth Gordon was awarded an ‘A’ in the spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing AdventHealth Gordon’s achievements providing safer health care. The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety. The Safety Grade is a letter grade assigned to all general hospitals across the country and updated every six months, assessing how well the hospital prevents medical errors and other harms to patients.

“We are proud to once again receive an ‘A’ for patient safety,” said Karen Steely, interim president and chief operating officer of AdventHealth Gordon. “I am honored to work side-by-side with our team to improve patient care and the well-being of our community.”

“As the nation copes with a challenging pandemic, our gratitude extends to hospital leadership and health care workers everywhere for their tremendous dedication,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “We hope this ‘A’ helps to thank the people who work and volunteer for AdventHealth Gordon. They are role models in putting patients first, and their service has been extraordinary in our country’s time of need.”

Developed under the guidance of a national expert panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade’s methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

AdventHealth Gordon was awarded

an ‘A’ grade today, when Leapfrog updated grades for spring 2020. To see AdventHealth Gordon’s full grade details and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit [hospitalsafetygrade.org](https://hospitalsafetygrade.org) and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter and Facebook.

About AdventHealth Gordon

Founded in 1935, AdventHealth Gordon is proud to be a member of AdventHealth. With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth is a connected system of care for every stage of life and health. More than 80,000 skilled and compassionate caregivers in physician practices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and hospice centers provide individualized, holistic care. A shared vision, common values, focus on whole-person health and commitment to making



communities healthier, unify the system’s nearly 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states. For more information about AdventHealth, visit [AdventHealth.com](https://AdventHealth.com) or [Facebook.com/AdventHealth](https://Facebook.com/AdventHealth).

About The Leapfrog Group

Founded in 2000 by large employers

and other purchasers, The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps forward in the quality and safety of American health care. The flagship Leapfrog Hospital Survey and new Leapfrog Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Survey collect and transparently report hospital and ASC performance, empowering purchasers

to find the highest-value care and giving consumers the lifesaving information they need to make informed decisions. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog’s other main initiative, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

Seminario promoted to director of patient experience and operational excellence

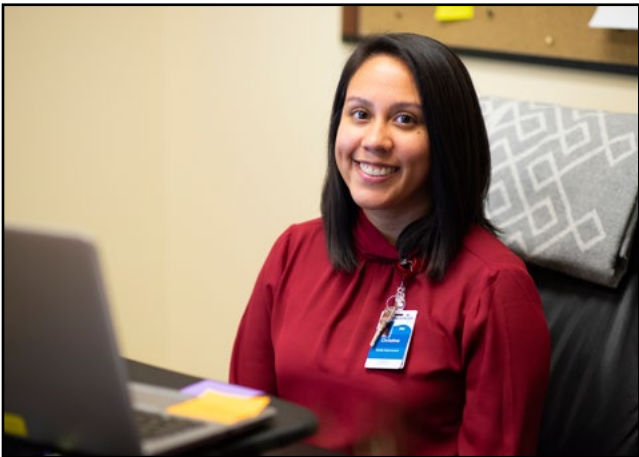
CONTRIBUTED

AdventHealth Gordon is pleased to announce that Christina Seminario, pictured, has been promoted to director of patient experience and operational excellence.

Seminario has been part of the AdventHealth team for over seven years. She has worked as a nurse in the medical-surgical unit, a data analyst, and most recently, she served as manager of operational excellence.

“Christina has been instrumental to the success of the operational excellence and patient experience department as a manager,” said Wes Fetner, assistant chief nursing officer of AdventHealth Gordon. “We are excited to see her grow into this new role.”

Seminario is currently pursuing her master’s degree and enjoys trying new recipes, hiking and



spending time with her family and friends.

About AdventHealth Gordon

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



With shelter-in-place ending for most Georgians, officials urge Georgians to wear face coverings to fight COVID-19

STAFF REPORTS

On Thursday, April 30, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp announced the state-wide Shelter in Place Order was expiring at 11:59 p.m. for most Georgians. Kemp said that moving forward, he urges Georgian’s to stay home when possible. He thanked Georgian’s for helping to flatten the curve and bolster healthcare infrastructure, but that the fight against COVID-19 is far from over. The governor said that businesses across the state must operate under strict social distancing and sanitation guidelines, through May 13, 2020.

Kemp said he was signing an order to protect the elderly and medically fragile by requiring those groups to continue to Shelter in Place until June 12, 2020. He is also ordering long term care facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities to utilize enhanced infection control protocols, ensure safer living conditions and protect residents and staff from coronavirus exposure.

Kemp also announced that all bars, nightclubs, public swimming pools, live performance venues and operators of amusement park ride will remain closed through Wednesday, May 13, 2020.

On Friday, Governor Kemp announced he is formally extending the State of Emergency through June 12, 2020, to continue enhanced testing across Georgia, ramp up contact tracing and maintain effective emergency response operations. Governor Brian P. Kemp, Dr. Kathleen Toomey, and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) urge all Georgians to continue to follow safe daily habits to reduce our risk of exposure to COVID-19 and keep the virus from spreading. Wear a face covering in public settings, practice social distancing, and wash your hands frequently.

A cloth face covering should be worn whenever people are in a community setting where social distancing may be difficult such as in the grocery store or picking up food at a restaurant or riding public transportation, and especially in areas of widespread community transmission of COVID-19. Cloth face coverings help slow the spread of the virus and help people who may be infected and not know it from transmitting it to others. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has easy to follow instructions on how to make a low-cost cloth face covering.

Cloth face coverings

should allow for breathing without restriction, cover the nose and mouth and be laundered and machine dried after use.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under the age of 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

The use of cloth face coverings does not take the place of social distancing. Stay at least 6 feet from other people, do not gather in groups, stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings.

Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) when soap and water are not readily available. Practice good health hygiene covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

For more information about COVID-19 visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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

Gordon County Board of Elections & Voter Registration Office installs Absentee Ballot Drop Box

CONTRIBUTED

The Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office has installed an “Official Absentee Ballot Drop Box” for voters to use when dropping off their absentee ballots to the Elections and Voter Registration Office. The “Official Absentee Ballot Drop Box” is located at the Gordon County Annex Building at 101 S. Piedmont Street, Calhoun, Georgia. Voters will be able to deposit their absentee ballot in the secured drop box anytime, even after regular business hours and on weekends.



Obituaries

May 2, 2020

Leon Chastain

Leon Chastain, 79, of Rydal, died Thursday, April 30, 2020. He was born on April 11, 1941 in Gordon County to the late Harvey Leon and Annie Stella Faye Williams Chastain.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Bohannon Chastain; daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa Chastain Dutton and her husband Kevin, and Donna Chastain Lambert and her husband Michael; brothers and sisters-in-law, Troy and Janie Chastain, Edward and Elise Chastain, and Gerald and Janie Chastain; grandchildren, Heather and Brandon Hudspeth, and Brittany and Aaron Vowell; great grandchildren, Aidan Hudspeth, Reagan Hudspeth, and Alison Vowell; several friends and family also survive.

A graveside service will be held Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 2 p.m. from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery in Rydal, with Pastor Eddie Cochran officiating. A live stream will be held by the funeral home.

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

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



Robert “Bob” Linn

Robert James Linn, age 73, of Calhoun, passed away on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at AdventHealth Gordon.

Bob was born on July 27, 1946 to the late James Hurley and Mabel Chastain Linn. He lived his entire childhood in Calhoun, attending Calhoun schools and graduating in the Calhoun High School Class of 1964. He attended Emory University, graduating in 1968 with a degree in English. While at Emory he was active in Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and Barkley Forum Debate team. After teaching at CHS for two years, he went to the University of South Carolina where he earned both a Masters and a PhD in English, then returned to Calhoun in 1975 as Chairman of the English Department, a position he held until his retirement in 2002. He then taught part time at CHS until 2005. During his career at CHS he assisted Sandra Silvers with Debate and started two student publications, Southwind and New Methods of Construction. He also coached the golf team for several years, winning Region and placing at State. In 1983 he was a State Semi-Finalist for Teacher of the Year and was Star Teacher in 1997.

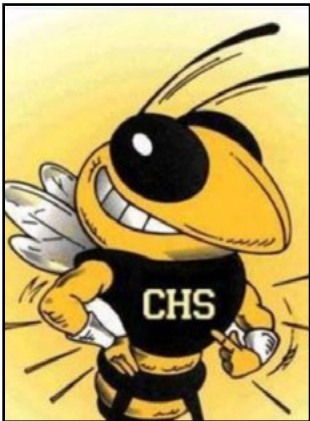
In 1970, Bob married Lee Gardner from Birmingham, whom he had met as a debater at Emory. They were married 50 years this past January. He is also survived by two sons: Gardner, of Missoula, Montana, and Will and his wife Nichol, of Calhoun; Will and Nichol have two children, Clara and James.

In 1998, Bob and Lee started The Ridge Books, specializing in antiquarian books, primarily history, literature and music. Bob loved seeking out rare and unusual books and documents and researching their history. During the past few years, Bob had especially enjoyed time with his grandchildren, as well as visiting and hiking in state and national parks.

A reception to celebrate the life of Bob Linn will be conducted at a later date.

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

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Robert James “Bob” Linn.



Carol Poe

Carol Jean Poe, 80, of Calhoun, died Thursday, April 30, 2020 after several months of declining health. She was born on Nov. 30, 1939 in Rome, to the late Verbal Henry and Claude Harris Shugart. She was of Methodist Faith. She was preceded in death by her husband Larry Poe; brothers, Rex Shugart, John Shugart, and Jerry Shugart.

She is survived by her sons and daughter-in-law, Terry and Lisa Poe, and Jeff Poe; grandchildren, Reece Poe, Reagan Poe, and Kate Poe; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives also survive.

A funeral service will be held Monday, May 4, 2020 at 1 p.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home, with Rev. Eddie Brannon officiating. A live stream will be held by the funeral home. Pallbearers serving include Juddie Campbell, Clint Baker, Stacy Hunt, David Shugart, Johnny Shugart, and Eddie Gabiness. A private burial will follow at Haven of Rest Memorial Park.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Carol Jean Poe.



Marianna Ray

Marianna Grace Ray, age 14, of Calhoun, passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at her residence.

Marianna was born on Oct. 18, 2005 in Gordon County, daughter of Greg Ray and Kathy Ray. She was preceded in death by: David Ray, Rheba Jo Patterson, and Kristopher Cody Warren.

Marianna is survived by: her parents, Greg and Kathy Ray; five brothers, Kobe Ray, Jayden Ray, Trace Ray, Michael Connell, Justin Patterson and his wife Megan; two sisters, Alex Harstine and her husband Henry and Autumn Wilson and her husband Jared; grandparents, Lamar Patterson and Betty Ray; aunts and uncles, Patty Talley and her husband Keith and Tim Patterson and his wife Robin; beloved nieces and nephews, Waylon Harstine, Ellie-Kate Harstine, Luke Harstine, Jedidiah Wilson, Lennon Wilson, Owen Patterson and Henlee Patterson; and a host of cousins also survive.

A celebration of life for Marianna was held on Friday, May 1 at 1 p.m. from the chapel of the Thomas Funeral Home with Reverend Dino Bishop officiating.

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

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Marianna Grace Ray.

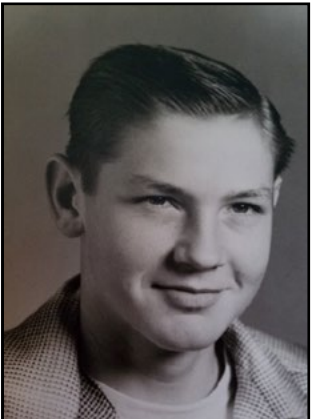


Henry Craig

Mr. Henry Clay Craig, 78, of Marietta, formerly of Gordon County, died Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at WellStar Kennestone in Marietta.

Henry was born in Gordon County, son of the late John William Craig Sr. and Zena Puckett Craig. He grew up in the Oakman Community, one of six siblings, and attended Oakman School and was a member of the 1959 graduating class of Fairmount High School. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one who called him dad, Christopher Alan Wilson; two sisters, Hanna Nix and Betty Herndon; three brothers, Gordon Craig, Bill Craig, and Robert Craig. He was a mischievous soul with a heart of gold, he enjoyed gardening, farming and was a commercial offshore Snapper fisherman.

He is survived by his life partner, Carol Lucretia Cook of Marietta; two children, Jill Carey and her



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](http://www.alz.org/georgia).

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

**-Want to make a difference in the**

**community? Tapestry Hospice is seeking volunteers to provide companionship** to our patients, read books, make crafts, garden, light house cleaning, administrative work, etc. If you’re interested contact Megan at [megan.guthrie@tapestryhospice.com](mailto: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](http://www.discoveringhope.us).

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

Connection.

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

**-The Compassionate Friends of Dalton and N.W. Georgia** is part of a worldwide effort that

has helped many families cope with the loss of a child and to honor our children’s memory. The Compassionate Friends meets on the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Evangelical Methodist Church (in the “Gathering Place” building), 1035 Abutment Road, Dalton (on the hill behind the old Lowe’s off Walnut Avenue). For more information, call Dawn at 706-277-3312 or 706-264-4458 or e-mail [dawnsisson@msn.com](mailto:dawnsisson@msn.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

# Georgia Northwestern Technical instructor named Amazon Web Services Educate Ambassador

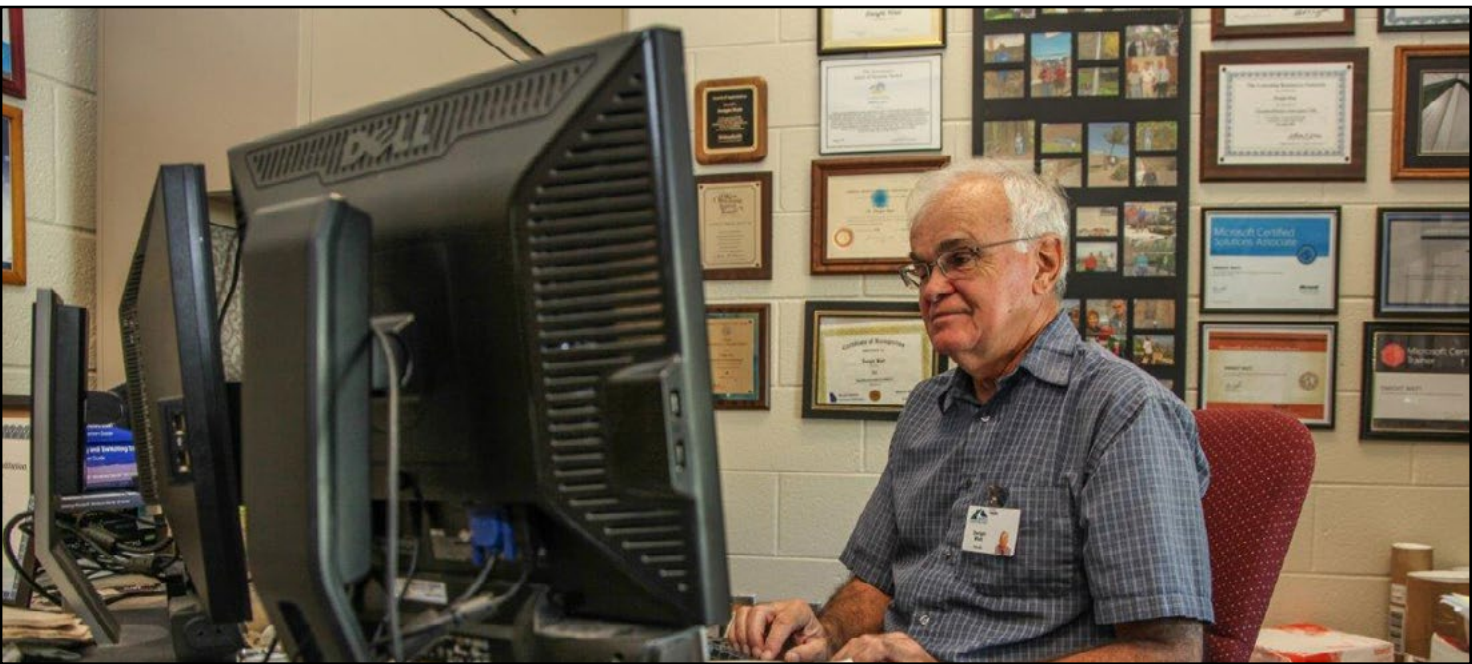
CONTRIBUTED

Amazon Web Services Inc. (AWS) an Amazon Company, recently announced its new round of AWS Educate Ambassadors including Georgia Northwestern Technical College’s (GNTC) own Dr. Dwight Watt, Computer Information Systems Technology instructor, who will serve a two year appointment.

According to their website, The AWS Educate Cloud Ambassador Program is for top-tier cloud educators who serve as ambassadors for AWS Educate. The program has a total of 432 overall ambassadors including the 224 appointed this year. The ambassadors hail from 45 different countries and 205 institutions.

“I am honored to be chosen as an AWS ambassador and to work alongside an international team of educators while also representing Georgia Northwestern Technical College,” said Watt. “As an ambassador I get to speak to various groups promoting the program and write articles and blogs promoting the program.”

AWS provides educational materials to schools and colleges which allows them to teach about the cloud and AWS, Watt said. The program also includes free credits for students to use the AWS program in learning.



GNTC is a member of both AWS Educate and an AWS Academy, according to Watt. AWS Academy is designed to prepare students for AWS certifications. Watt holds an AWS Cloud Practitioner certification and is an approved AWS Academy instructor. He also holds CompTIA Cloud+ and Cloud Essentials+ certifications.

Since May 2015, AWS Educate has provided over 500 institutions with access to cloud computing training, tools and technologies. The new AWS Educate capabilities are available to students in the United States, India, Singapore, South Korea, Japan and China at launch. To learn more about AWS Educate, visit: <http://www.awseducate.com>.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College provides quality workforce education to the citizens of Northwest Georgia. Students have the opportunity to earn an associate degree, diploma, or a certificate in business, health, industrial, or public service career paths. This past year, 12,454 people benefited from GNTC’s credit and noncredit programs. With an annual credit enrollment of 7,730 students, GNTC is the largest college in Northwest Georgia. GNTC has an additional enrollment of 4,724 people through adult education, continuing education, business and industry training, and Georgia Quick Start. For more information about GNTC, visit us at [www.GNTC.edu](http://www.GNTC.edu). GNTC is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia and an Equal Opportunity Institution.

# Dalton State Uses CARES Relief to Assist Students

CONTRIBUTED

Dalton State has begun disbursing relief funds received through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act directly to eligible students to assist with financial challenges they may be facing as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19)

pandemic.

Dalton State received approximately \$2.4 million in federal relief funds to help students through this difficult time. Eligible students will receive DSC CARES grants between \$300 and \$700 each.

“We are committed to doing everything we can to help our students overcome any burdens they may currently be facing,” said Dr. Margaret Venable, president of Dalton State. “So many of our students work and have family commitments, and we know they’re facing additional challenges and stresses right now due to this global pandemic. If our students are worried about basic needs, they won’t be able to focus on school. We don’t want this crisis to slow anyone’s education or

get in the way of graduation.”

Some of the CARE relief money is being placed in the Roadrunner Student Emergency Fund, which students with specific hardships can apply to receive.

For those not eligible for CARES Act funding, the Dalton State Foundation is partnering with the Dean of Students Office to provide additional resources to assist with emergency needs.

# Graves, Perdue, Loeffler Urge Trump to Provide Federal Emergency Resources Following Deadly Storms

Severe storms and tornadoes caused damage and deaths throughout Northwest Georgia earlier this month

CONTRIBUTED

Following the deadly storms and tornadoes in Northwest Georgia earlier this month, Rep. Tom Graves (R-GA-14) and Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Kelly Loeffler (R-GA) sent a letter to President Donald Trump requesting a major disaster declaration for the State of Georgia. A major disaster declaration would make a range of additional federal resources and funds available. The Members of Congress requested that the declaration be made under the Stafford Act, which would allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance to the state.

On April 12th and 13th severe storms and tornadoes touched down

in Northwest Georgia, causing eight fatalities and severe property damage to more than 750 homes. Many families still remain displaced by the storms.

“This event was particularly damaging considering our state resources are already challenged by the ongoing CoVID-19 pandemic and the other recent disasters our state has suffered,” the Members wrote. “These additional circumstances will further harm our ability to recover from these disasters and underscores the need for federal individual assistance to those who have been affected by this event.”

Governor Brian Kemp (R-GA) made a similar request to President Trump on April 22, 2020.

The letter reads:

We respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Georgia pursuant to your authority under the Stafford Act for the damage caused by the severe storms and tornadoes, particularly in the northwest part of our state, on April 12-13, 2020.

On April 22, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp submitted a formal request for a disaster declaration and for individual assistance to be made available under the Stafford Act. We urge you to act quickly in granting this disaster declaration. The state suffered eight fatalities as a result of at least twenty-one tornadoes as well as severe property damage to more than 750 homes, including more than 500 in Catoosa, Dade, and Murray counties.

We commend the efforts of the American Red Cross, the Salvation

Army, and local churches to support the more than 170 people displaced by the storms. However, this event was particularly damaging considering our state resources are already challenged by the ongoing CoVID-19 pandemic and the other recent disasters our state has suffered. These additional circumstances will further harm our ability to recover from these disasters and underscores the need for federal individual assistance to those who have been affected by this event.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your leadership of our country during this challenging time. We stand ready to support and assist in your efforts to help our citizens recover from this disaster in our state.

GORDON

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## Community Events

**Notices**

**-TALLATOONA BEGINS LIHEAP COOLING ASSISTANCE.** Low Income Energy Assistance Program Cooling Assistance available; appointments have begun for seniors: Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Inc. has begun the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Cooling Assistance for Gordon County.

On April 1 at 8:30 a.m., Tallatoona began accepting appointments for the LIHEAP cooling program for senior households age 65 and older, along with homebound households. Appointments for the general public will be accepted beginning May 1, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Gordon County residents who qualify will receive either \$350 or \$400 toward their electric bill.

To schedule an appointment, visit the Tallatoona website at [www.tallatoonacap.org](http://www.tallatoonacap.org) and click ‘BookNow,’ or call 770-817-4666, extension 2.

It’s important to note that due to health and safety concerns related to COVID 19, appointments for assistance will be completed remotely by phone. Tallatoona

officers are currently closed until further notice.

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

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

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

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

**-The Calhoun Adult Learning Center has so much to offer. Make the center your window to the world.** Free study programs are offered during the day and evening sessions. Enroll in adult education today. Call 706-624-1111. The center is located on the campus of Georgia Northwestern Technical College.

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.”

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# GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: 10 percent of COVID-19 cases in Georgia are among health care workers

ANDY MILLER,  
Georgia Health News

Ten percent of the people known to have been infected with COVID-19 in Georgia are health care workers, state figures show.

The Public Health data, as of midday Thursday, show that of the 2,600 infected health care personnel in the state, 81 percent are female. Half are African-American.

Workplace exposure to COVID-19 patients is a major cause.

A recent CDC report found that infected health care workers reported contact with COVID-19 patients in health care, household and community settings. But the majority said the exposure occurred in health care settings.

Georgia nurses, in separate surveys, have voiced concern about inadequate personal protective equipment, a problem that has been identified nationwide. PPE, such as gloves, gowns, face shields, and N95 respirator masks, can protect nurses and other workers from being infected by patients.

Current state data do not list how many health care workers have died. Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic has sickened more than 26,000 people in the state and killed more than 1,100, according to

the latest figures.

“We have been very concerned that no one in Georgia is tracking morbidity and mortality among nurses related to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Lisa Eichelberger, an RN and dean of the College of Health at Clayton State University.

The only information about nurses with COVID-19 infections or deaths come from reports to the Georgia Nurses Association Rapid Response Committee, or from personal accounts, she said. “Nurses probably spend the most time in prolonged contact with COVID-19 patients when they are hospitalized so it would not surprise me if they majority of the health care workers infected were nurses,” Eichelberger said.

GHN recently reported the COVID-19 death of a Piedmont Henry Hospital nurse. The AJC reported this week that her death is being investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, based on allegations that an unsafe work environment at the Stockbridge hospital exposed the employee to the virus. The complaint is among dozens that OSHA is looking into involving recent deaths of health care workers across the U.S.

The toll that the disease has taken on health care workers can be seen in Georgia’s long-term care facilities and state-

run hospitals.

More than 1,500 employees of nursing homes, assisted-living facilities and personal care homes have tested positive, according to state figures.

The data do not list how many of those workers died.

Those facilities with more than 30 employees infected are PruittHealth nursing home in Albany, with 47; Rome Health and Rehabilitation Center in Rome, with 36; Arbor Terrace assisted living in Atlanta, 35; At Home Senior Living in Cochran, with 33; and Windermere nursing home in Augusta and Bostick Nursing Center in Milledgeville, with 33 each.

In the five state psychiatric hospitals, 97 staff members have tested positive. Two of them have died, both at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, according to the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

**Shelter-in-place order largely dropped**

Gov. Brian Kemp on Thursday lifted the shelter-in-place order for most Georgians effective Friday, but he extended it another month for the medically fragile and the elderly.

The latter must continue to shelter in place through June 12.

The Kemp order requires



sheltering for, among others, people 65 and older; residents of long-term care facilities; people with chronic lung disease and/or severe heart disease; and the obese.

Kemp said businesses in Georgia must continue to operate with strict social distancing and sanitation rules to keep customers and employees safe through May 13. “Those rules vary by business type for a measured, health-driven approach.”

He’s also extending a public health state of emergency through June 12 “to continue enhanced testing across Georgia, ramp up contact tracing, and maintain effective emergency response operations in every region.”

“I am urging Georgians to continue to stay home whenever possible,” he added.

Kemp’s plan to allow reopening of some businesses

is among the most aggressive in the nation. He told The Associated Press in a Thursday interview that he has been pleased with how the effort has gone.

“Georgians are smart, they’re entrepreneurs, and they’re innovators, and many of them had figured out how to deal with this in a safe way,” Kemp said, according to AP. “So I’ve been very pleased.”

“Georgians that don’t feel comfortable getting out — especially if they have these medical conditions — they don’t need to do that,” Kemp said Thursday. “But if people want to, then I believe they ought to have the opportunity to do that. And that’s all I did, was give people that opportunity.”

*Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News. Visit [www.georgiahealthnews.com](http://www.georgiahealthnews.com).*

# Happy Paws



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# BURN BAN

## From page 1A

can be secured online at GaTrees.org or by calling 1-877-OK2-BURN. Permits for any other types of burning should be obtained by contacting the county GFC office.

Citizens can access more information on the open burning ban by visiting <https://epd.georgia.gov/> and clicking on “Open Burning Rules for Georgia” under Popular Topics, or by calling the EPD District Office serving their area.

Counties included in the ban and contact information for the corresponding EPD District Office are as follows: (Burn

# TASK FORCE

## From page 1A

other counties within our state although they have risen each week. Our goal would have been to keep cases affecting our citizens at zero as we realize every number reported is one of our families

# ELECTION

## From page 1A

University of Georgia. During my 30-year career in Georgia’s public education system, I served as a high school teacher, assistant principal, principal, district curriculum director, district superintendent, State Director of Career, Technical and Agriculture Education for the Georgia Department of Education, and as Georgia’s State Superintendent of Schools from 2011-2015.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** Unlike many of the candidates in this race, I actually live in the 14th Congressional District. I chose to make Floyd County my home over 30 years ago. I went to college here, taught school here, worshipped here, married here, and raised my family here. My daughter graduated valedictorian from Model High School here in Floyd County. Upon graduation from college, my daughter returned home to Floyd County where she and her husband opened a successful small business and are raising their two children here in Floyd County. I love Northwest Georgia and having recently retired from public education after 30 years of service, I stand ready to continue my service by defending our values in Washington. I have faced tough times and tackled difficult problems throughout my life. As State School Superintendent, when Washington tried to tell me how Georgia must evaluate teachers or risk losing funding, I went to Washington and fought and retained both the right to evaluate our teachers on our terms and our money!

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** I am the only candidate in this race with experience fighting Washington on behalf of Georgia citizens. Now, I am ready to tackle the biggest problem of them all: Nancy Pelosi’s squad in D.C. and their push to turn America into a Socialist country. When there were 16 candidates vying for the Republican nomination for President four years ago, President Donald Trump was my choice and I stand ready on day one to fight alongside him to drain the D.C. swamp and preserve the values of this great country. I will fight alongside our President to ensure the Chinese government is held accountable for the atrocities it has perpetrated around the globe with the Coronavirus pandemic. I will stand with the President in withholding funds from the World Health Organization until it undergoes a restructuring of leadership and reaffirms its commitments to the welfare and health of all nations of the world.

What are your goals if elected? My main goal if elected is to work with President Trump in Keeping America Great! In doing so, I will: Support President Trump’s efforts in deregulation that have allowed a significant return of manufacturing to our area and the rest of the nation; Support our local farmers; Support full-funding and completion of President Trump’s border wall to keep our citizens safe and our jobs secure; Support cutting spending, reducing the size of federal government, and stopping federal overreach by eliminating wasteful programs like U.S. Department of Education and Housing and Urban Development (these are State responsibilities); Support the appointment of conservative, constitutionalist judges to our judiciary system.

**Additional Information:** My passion is to serve people. I maybe idealistic, but I believe, if done correctly, government can serve the people. Despite the constant attacks of liberals and a majority of the mainstream media, President Trump has honored his pledge to “Make America Great Again.” In order to “Keep America Great,” we must send solid, conservative men and women of integrity to Washington to support him. Here I am. Send me!

-----

**Name:** Ben Bullock

**City:** Dallas, Georgia. I’ve moved into my Grandmother’s old home that was in our family for 60 years.

**Bio:** I am a Christian, a family man, a businessman, and a veteran. My platform and positions are really a reflection of my experiences over my lifetime. My business background is in real estate and I own a small real estate business. I know what it is like to run a small business and how they are the backbone of our economy. I am an intelligence officer in the Air Force (currently in the reserves) that works specifically on counterterrorism as it relates to Afghanistan and Pakistan, which gives me valuable insight on U.S. foreign policy goals in the Middle East. I have more than 200 years of family history in this district, primarily in the Southern portion. My wife and I also have two daughters who are the loves of our lives. I want to leave America in a better place

ban is effective June 1 in Banks, Catoosa, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Upson and Walker counties.)

Mountain District Office (Atlanta): 404-362-2671 Carroll, Clayton, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Heard, Henry, Rockdale, and Spalding counties.

Northeast District Office (Athens): 706-369-6376 Banks, Barrow, Butts, Clarke, Hall, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Putnam, and Walton counties.

East Central District Office (Augusta): 706-667-4343 Columbia and Richmond counties.

West Central District Office (Macon): 478-751-6612 Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Lamar, Monroe, Peach, Pike, Twiggs, Upson, Meriwether, and Troup counties.

Mountain District Office (Cartersville): 770-387-4900

affected. For this reason, we must remain diligent in our efforts.

As the Governor begins to open our state back up for business we realize more and more people will begin slowly going back to normal but we urge this to be a “new normal.” Please continue to utilize social distancing techniques when you can and utilize frequent hand washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching any

when I leave than when I found it.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** To serve my country to the best of my ability, per the oath of office I took when I joined the military, as well as to preserve American values and make sure that the country that I leave to my children is one that I would want to live in.

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** I want to stop the socialist wave in our nation and promote our capitalist economy that has brought us great success, and continuing to foster that through a business friendly environment.

**What are your goals if elected?** I will focus on economic development, which means bringing more jobs and better infrastructure to the district, reducing the national debt, establishing a better national security posture as it pertains to China, fighting socialism, and supporting President Trump’s agenda. I also will vehemently defend Pro-life values and support new and existing legislation that protects the right to life.

**Additional info:** Regarding the right to life, our founding fathers said we have a right to life, liberty, and a pursuit of happiness. I think that extends to people in the womb, and I believe that life begins at conception. Abortion shouldn’t be a method of birth control.

-----

**Name:** Kevin Cooke

**City:** Bremen, Georgia

**Bio:** Kevin Cooke has served in the General Assembly, representing Georgia State House District 18 for the past ten years. He and his wife Crystal have been married for 13 years and are blessed with two daughters, Ella and Sadie. Kevin is a 1998 graduate of Carrollton High School and attended the University of West Georgia for two years before finishing his degree in Sport Studies, with a business emphasis, at the University of Georgia. Kevin currently serves as the Associate Athletic Director at Shorter University in Rome and is a farmer, small businessman and former law enforcement officer. As a follower of Christ, a husband, and a father, Kevin’s most fundamental principle has always been to remain steadfast in his values and true to his word. Outside of work and politics, Kevin enjoys spending time on Saturday mornings eating breakfast with his girls before a full day of playing soccer outside and UGA football. He and his family attend Roopville Road Baptist Church.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** During my time at the State Capitol, I quickly realized that political party alone is not an accurate way to measure a person’s principles and beliefs in limited government. In fact, too often we saw Republican candidates who campaigned on solid conservative values, cave to political pressure from career politicians the moment they stepped foot in Atlanta. The truth is, it’s easy to stand up to the crazy radical left and their liberal agenda - any establishment Republican can do it. The question is who do you trust to stand up to big government Republicans behind closed doors? We must stop the slow drift away from our Constitution that has been allowed for decades by BOTH parties. We need a congressman who will limit government, expand freedom, and protect the Constitution NO MATTER the cost. It is simply no longer enough just to send ‘conservatives’ to Washington, we need proven principled conservatives.

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** We must limit the size and scope of government. It is all too common for legislatures in BOTH parties to try and legislate away issues. The federal government has no business serving as our healthcare provider or bank. Before I even consider a piece of legislation, it will have to filter through a simple 3 question test. § Does it increase the size and scope of our federal government? § Does it infringe upon our freedom as citizens? § Is it unconstitutional? If the answer to ANY of the questions above is yes, then I will not support the legislation regardless of party, political pressure, or special interest investment.

**What are your goals if elected?** Constitutionally limiting government, protecting the lives of the unborn, defending our Second Amendment right, cutting spending and paying down our national debt.

**Additional Info?** For nearly a decade, I have stood up for our Georgia values in the State House and I am running on my record, not from it. We will all say we want to stop socialism, support our President, protect life, defend the Second Amendment and build the wall but I am the only candidate in this race who has both campaigned on AND voted for our conservative principles. I am certified PRO-LIFE by Georgia Life Alliance and endorsed by Georgia’s lone Freedom Caucus member, Congressman Jody Hice. I am tested,

Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Cobb, Dawson, Floyd, Forsyth, Gordon, Haralson, Lumpkin, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, and Walker counties.

For more information about alternatives to burning, such as composting and chipping, please visit <https://cpd.georgia.gov/air-protection-branch/open-burning-rules-georgia/alternatives-burning>.

Debris can also be hauled to a commercial processing/grinding/composting operation or to an inert or construction and demolition landfill. For a list of landfills in your area, please call EPD’s Solid Waste Management Program at 404-362-2692 and/or visit the Land Protection Branch website for more details: <http://epd.georgia.gov/land-protection-branch>

area of your face with unwashed hands, avoid close contact with any people who are sick, stay home if you are sick, cover your cough and sneeze and disinfect frequently touched items.

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 5th. We will continue to work daily to be prepared to protect our citizens and visitors no matter the threat we are faced with. We also continue to ask for your prayers for our community, our state, and our nation.

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**Name:** Dr. John Cowan

**City:** Rome, Georgia

**Bio:** I grew up on a cattle farm in northwest Georgia. After high school, I played football at Davidson College and graduated with honors with a Physics degree. I earned a medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where I met my wife, Dr. Annie Cowan. I completed my Neurosurgery residency at the University of Michigan, where I studied under now-U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Dr. Ben Carson. Today, I work as a neurosurgeon with the Harbin Clinic in Rome. As a Christian, doctor, and small businessman, I’m devoted to serving the northwest Georgia community where Annie and I are raising our four children.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** I was born and raised in northwest Georgia, and I’m committed to being a servant leader for our communities. I believe our children should have even better opportunities to learn, grow, succeed right here where they grew up. Strong conservative principles and smarter government will deliver results for the people, and I have the experience to tackle America’s most pressing issues. President Trump needs strong allies in Washington, and I’m running for Congress to stand with him in Making America Great Again and protecting our Constitutional rights. I refuse to stand by while the radical left attempts to rebrand socialism and the Swamp seeks to undermine the President, to the detriment of the American people.

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** America’s healthcare system is broken. Even as the nation has rallied behind healthcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen that significant improvements are still needed to keep our communities healthy now and in the future. Today, healthcare costs are a leading driver in our increasing national debt, while many Americans of all backgrounds still face issues while trying to access care. As a doctor in Congress, I’ll lead the way in crafting and introducing conservative healthcare proposals to strengthen our healthcare system, lower the costs of care for individuals, and end the liberal agenda for socialized medicine. Now more than ever, we need representatives in Congress with the experience to find conservative solutions for America’s healthcare system.

**What are your goals if elected?** Stand with President Trump: President Trump needs allies in Congress to support his plans to Keep America Great. In Washington, I will stand up to the radical left and weak Republicans who refuse to put Americans first. Every day, I’ll always support President Trump’s work to protect our God-given rights, and join his fight to stop the socialists who want to end private healthcare and stop the American Dream. Fix America’s Healthcare System: As a doctor, I know firsthand the issues facing our broken healthcare system. I will use my background and experience in the healthcare industry to improve delivery, lower costs and ensure we never endure another crisis such as the Coronavirus pandemic. Defend our Second Amendment rights: Radical liberals have seized upon the COVID-19 pandemic to once again try to take guns away from law-abiding citizens. In Congress, I will always protect our Second Amendment rights – regardless of circumstances. I will oppose unconstitutional “red flag” laws and lead the fight to pass legislation such as the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. Secure our Border: I will fight to end illegal immigration and stand with the President to secure our borders and finish the wall. I’ve been endorsed by several sheriffs who represent counties of the 14th District, and I look forward to working with state and local law enforcement to crack down on gang violence and protect northwest Georgia’s communities. Grow the Economy: As a small business owner and entrepreneur, I know how to balance a budget, create jobs and meet payroll. In Washington, I will work with President Trump to return the economy to normal, cut burdensome regulations and lower taxes to put hardworking Georgians first.

**Additional Info?** Unlike other candidates in this race, I didn’t go shopping for a district to run for Congress. I want to represent the 14th District – this is my home. I will always put the citizens of Northwest Georgia first. I work here, I own a small business here, and I’m proud to raise my children here. Northwest Georgians deserve a representative in Washington who understands the issues we face. If elected, I will fight for our communities, and



# ELECT BRUCE POTTS



## Gordon County Commissioner District 3

**A proven leader dedicated  
to Calhoun-Gordon County**

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

### About Bruce

“I have served this community in public education for 31 years total and 22 years for the citizens of Gordon County. I have an insight to all of our service providers and have a proven leadership record that brings a philosophy of teamwork, ideas and collegial thought to problems that we currently face and will face in the future.

“My passion for service and wanting the best for Gordon County are what drives me to seek to serve as a Commissioner for the people of Gordon County. Solid common sense leadership principles are what has led my previous work and will be who I am in this role.

“I have lived in Gordon County for 56 years and it is the place where my family established it roots three generations ago. Calhoun and Gordon County is home to my family and will be home until my last days of life. Since retirement from the principalship at Sonoraville High School, I have prayed to be placed in a role of service to others. Being a Commissioner is a role that appeals to me and my mission to be of service to others. I appreciate your vote on June 9th, 2020.”

### 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.

### Important Dates To Remember

- Voter registration deadline is May 11, 2020
- Early voting begins May 18, 2020
- Primary Election Day Tuesday, June 9, 2020

# ELECTION

From page 7A

I will stand up to any Washington Democrat who wants to infringe on our Constitutional rights, implement socialist healthcare, or push an open borders agenda.

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**Name:** Clayton Fuller  
**City:** Lookout Mountain, Georgia  
**Bio:** An 8th generation North Georgian, Mr. Fuller and his wife Kate live in Lookout Mountain with their two young children. He’s a devout Christian, and a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church. In 2018, Mr. Fuller was appointed by President Donald Trump as a White House Fellow. The highly selective White House Fellows program, created in 1964, is the nation’s most prestigious program for leadership and public service. Mr. Fuller worked in the Office of the Vice President, assisting Second Lady Karen Pence with her response to the opioid crisis, and for the Department of Defense where he assisted with special operations oversight in worldwide counterterrorism operations. After finishing the White House Fellows program in August 2019, Mr. Fuller and his wife Kate founded Atticus Impact Investing, a strategic investment firm focused on revolutionizing the economies of Appalachian small towns. In founding Atticus, the Fullers chose to focus their efforts on the renewal of communities important to their family’s future and so many others in the region. Prior to the White House Fellowship, Mr. Fuller served as an Assistant District Attorney for Georgia’s Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit, where he prosecuted some of the circuit’s toughest violent and sexual crimes. He secured convictions in numerous cases, including rape, child molestation, and armed robbery. In one rape case, he secured a conviction for a perpetrator who had been victimizing women in the North Georgia community for three decades and had avoided being brought to justice in other courtrooms. Mr. Fuller also served in the United States Air Force as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer. While on active duty, Mr. Fuller was diagnosed with cancer, and his personal victory ovee cancer required a thirteen-hour surgery and a two-week ICU stay at Walter Reed. Upon completing his active duty service in the Air Force, Mr. Fuller became a member of the Air National Guard, where he continues to advise commanders on providing the nation with superior F-16 capabilities.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** Prior to becoming president, Ronald Reagan called for a Republican Party with a platform “that is a banner of bold, unmistakable colors with no pale pastel shades.” Today, we must do the same for the 14th District. The 21st Century must be an American century with America as the leader of world order. This New American Century must first focus on lifting the communities of Middle America instead of wealth concentrating on the coasts. Communities, like those that make up the 14th District, need Washington, and in particular the U.S. Congress to better respect the values of these communities and to ensure long-term economic sustainability.

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** The recent pandemic caused by the Chinese government has brought our country to a halt. China lied about the coronavirus, unleashing it on the entire world and putting lives and jobs at risk. The U.S. is dangerously dependent on China in our supply lines in a number of industries. We need to end America’s dependence on Chinese in these industries—but in particular drugs, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices need to be made right here at home. Once the coronavirus pandemic has passed and the world economy is up and running again, China should face economic sanctions for lying about the origins and spread of the virus. China’s actions cost lives and devastated the economy and must be held accountable.

**What are your goals if elected?** If I’m elected as the 14th District Representative these will be my first principles and the following reforms will be brought to the House Floor within the first 100 days of the 117th United States Congress: I pledge to be a Representative who is pro-life, supports the 2nd Amendment, stands for traditional family values, tirelessly works toward getting our fiscal house in order, and will never support any form of amnesty for illegal immigrants and will support immediately securing the Southern Border via construction of the wall; Ensure the 21st Century is an American Century- Law and policy will be oriented toward growth and prosperity for small town America. 2020 = 1933, Communist Party of China = Nazi Germany. All law and policy will be oriented to countering the Communist Party of China and to ensure the Party’s influence in the 14th District is neither corrupting to our founding principles nor coercive; Pledge to Create a Red Wall - Joint, written agreement with the representative of the 9th District, currently Representative Doug Collins, to vote and align messaging between the 9th and 14th districts. To counter Georgia turning purple, it is all the more important that North Georgia voters and their representatives remain in lock step support of the other; The Unseen Victims Bill - A bill that would radically change the current tax law of the United States to incentivize capital investment in enterprises that combat the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics or lead to long-term economic development in towns impacted by the crisis. It would also raise awareness of the “carnage” suffered by the unseen victims of the opioid crisis; The Congressional Military Spouse Award - Currently no government award exists to honor the contributions of military spouses. This must change; Conduct Hearings on Reforming the Pentagon - Conduct an extensive review of the Pentagon apparatus, and provide the President with recommendations to eliminate the Undersecretary

for Policy position and to create a new position at the Undersecretary level focused on Special Operations and Unconventional Warfare; Homeland Security Reform Act-Goldwater Nichols 2.0. As we are threatened with new threats from cyber, EMP strikes, and ransomware attacks, as well as traditional forms of terrorism, we must be able to better respond to acts of terror both foreign and domestic; I have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge to never vote to raise taxes on hard working Georgians.

**Additional Info?** I am a patriot and a conservative to my core. I was raised in North Georgia, and am raising my own family here because the values of these communities are the ones that have shaped my entire life. I have always chosen the path that serves my God, my country and my community. I am veteran with over a decade of national security experience, an accomplished prosecutor, a champion for North Georgia’s small businesses and economic growth, and a decorated Trump appointee. In this race, I am the only candidate with this resume, and I have the knowledge, experience, integrity, and drive to take GA-14’s fight to Capitol Hill.

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**Name:** Marjorie Taylor Greene  
**City:** Rome, Georgia  
**Bio:** My name’s Marjorie Greene. I was born and raised in Georgia. I graduated from University of Georgia where I met my husband of nearly 25 years. I’ve spent the last two decades building my businesses and raising my three children alongside my husband, Perry.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** Like President Trump, I’m a business owner in the construction industry. I’ve created thousands of jobs in 11 different states. I also started and built one of the most successful CrossFit gyms in the entire country. As a business owner, I cannot sit by while Nancy Pelosi, AOC, and Ilhan Omar roadblock President Trump and the American people. I’m running to fight against Nancy Pelosi and the socialists in Congress.

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** It’s not just one issue that needs to be addressed. The Republican Party can’t afford more Mitt Romney-type Republicans who care more about being liked by the Fake News Media than they do about standing firm for conservative values. I will fight to DEFUND abortion mills like Planned Parenthood. I will NEVER vote for gun control, and fight against “Red Flag Gun Confiscation.” I will pass TERM LIMITS on Congress. The American people are sick of the career politicians. We need to pass Term Limits to get them out! I will fight to Secure the Border: Build the Wall, Fully Fund Our Border Patrol, Defund Sanctuary Cities.

**What are your goals if elected?** Save America, Stop Socialism! I’m going to stand with President Trump and fight back against the left-wing socialists who want to wreck our country.

**Additional Info?** To Save America and Stop Socialism, we must take back the Senate, kick Nancy Pelosi’s Congress to the curb, and re-elect Donald Trump for four more years in 2020. I’ve been endorsed by Congressman Jim Jordan, Congressman Matt Gaetz, Gun Owners of America, Debbie Meadows’ (Mark Meadows Wife) Right Women PAC, and the House Freedom Caucus.

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**Name:** Andy Gunther  
**City:** Bremen, Georgia, Haralson County  
**Bio:** I was raised in a military family. In 1981 I joined the Army and became a Ranger qualified Paratrooper. I have been on missions to project U.S. Policy and resolve to 3 Continents. I married Victoria of Bremen, Georgia in 1993. Shortly afterwards we bought the land we currently live on. We retired from the Army in November of 2002, and moved back to Bremen. We have two sons, a software engineer in who lives in Atlanta and our youngest is a Combat Medic in the Army. I have been a servant leader all of my adult life. I have had leadership roles in the Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, church, Veterans of Foreign War, and the Haralson County and 14th District Republican Party. I have earned a Bachelor’s of Business Administration, and a Masters of Business Administration degrees.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** I am running in this district because I am 1 of only 4 candidates that lived in this district as of January 1, 2020. I am running for Congress because I have often told my soldiers and my sons, that you are either part of the problem or part of the solution. I, for years, have been calling and writing our elected officials. I believe there are many problems at the federal level that the House has failed to seriously address. Take the widely lauded Paul Ryan budget proposals for instance. They were widely embraced and propelled him towards house speakership and even being selected as the 2012 Presidential Running Mate. I felt that the house was not serious about addressing the deficit and the national debt then and it is not now. At its current rate the debt will be approaching 40 Trillion dollars in just four years. It is past the time to be serious. I am serious and I am choosing to be part of the solution. I am seeking to serve in the most significant way I know how.

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** There are many issues I want to address. I think that our national debt is very high on my priorities. We do this by addressing both sides of the equation. Revenue and Spending. We need a smaller government with a much smaller budget (Currently in absence of a budget we spend over 6 Trillion Dollars per year). The House should adopt a Zero-Based budget that will require each department to justify each line item. No more Omnibus Spending filled with Pork and no more debt ceiling increases. Priority national security issues such as the wall on the southern border and modernizing the military need to be funded.

**What are your goals if elected?** Understanding

that I would be a Freshman Congressman, what I would like to accomplish over the next two years is very optimistic. I would like to build the relations with other members of the House. To earn their trust and confidence in my abilities in order to seek their support towards reducing our National Debt. To finish building the wall, addressing our national immigration problem and numerous other National Security Issues. We should be on a path towards a smaller government with less spending. I want to be part of the conversation and provide input to the problems we face. I want to make myself available to have open and regular face-to-face discussions all over this district on a regular basis to get input and ideas from the people that matter. I will strive to uphold the expectations of the voters of the 14th District.

**Additional Info?** I am the most qualified all-around candidate in this race. I have twenty-two years of military service as a Ranger Qualified Paratrooper. I have been on missions to three continents projecting U.S. policy and resolve. I have seen Socialism first hand, inside Eastern Bloc Countries before the Collapse of the USSR and since. I know what Socialism looks like and what it does. While other candidates spew rhetoric against Socialism, I am the only candidate that has fought against Socialism since 1981. I have earned a BBA and MBA in management from the University of West Georgia, where I also took graduate level Public Administration Courses. I have life-long experience volunteering in leadership positions with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the Special Olympics, and in my church. I commanded the Rome CAP Squadron where I was a member from 2008 to 2015. I became certified in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as Logistics Officer, Operations Officer, and Incident Commander. My education and volunteer experience coupled with my extensive international experience makes me more prepared to make educated decisions and to seek out solutions, from day-one, than any other candidate in this race.

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**Name:** Bill Hembree  
**City:** Winston, Georgia  
**Bio:** Bill Hembree was born and raised in Northwest Georgia, the youngest of five children. As the first in his family to graduate from college, Bill earned his Associates Degree and a Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing, both Cum Laude Honors. He also studied finance for one year in a Master’s program. After graduating from college, Bill returned to Northwest Georgia and married his high school sweetheart, Beth. Here, they built a home, raised three boys and have been married for 29 years. Bill began his career as an Auditor with Arthur Anderson. After eight years in the business world, Bill opened his own small business- Hembree Insurance Agency. Bill grew his business to three offices and 14 employees. Bill was elected the first Republican State Representative for District 67 - serving Paulding and Douglas Counties. As a conservative legislator, Bill stood up for our values by supporting tax cuts, while defending our Second Amendment rights and the rights of the unborn. As one of the first state lawmakers to actively campaign for Donald Trump from the start of his 2016 Presidential Election, Bill is excited about the changes happening in our country under President Trump’s leadership, and will serve as a strong conservative voice for Georgia and a valuable contributor to that change.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** I am a conservative Republican and a patriot who believes in the foundation of our country and I am running for United States Congress in Georgia’s 14th district with a passion for serving my home state and protecting the identity of America. It is time for me to re-enter the fight because I believe we are in the fight of our lives.

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** Illegal immigration is the hot button issues throughout the United States. Bill will keep the focus on getting qualified, legal American citizens to work in Georgia and he will pursue policy that puts an end to birth-right citizenship.

**What are your goals if elected?** My goals include to protect our Second Amendment rights and stand up for the unborn. I will work diligently to stop illegal immigration, end birth right citizenship, and build the wall. I will protect social security and Medicare for our seniors. I will always support our veterans and strengthen our military. As a farm insurance agent, I will stand up for our farmers and small businesses. I will work alongside President Trump to develop a fair and simple tax code.

**Anything else you’d like to add?** As a representative of Georgia’s 14th District, Bill will seek to continue the work of his predecessor, bring a unique perspective and background to the table, connect with people across Northwest Georgia and give their voice volume in Washington, DC.

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**Name:** Matt Laughridge  
**City:** Cartersville, Georgia  
**Bio:** Matt Laughridge is a Serious Businessman, a Political Outsider and a Trump Republican. Matt’s father, Terry Reid Laughridge, grew up in a poor family, often sleeping in a sock drawer. One summer, Terry volunteered to wash cars at a dealership. The owner liked his work ethic, taught him the business and Terry would eventually go on to own several dealerships himself. When Terry was leaving the company, Matt felt called to return home to North Georgia, leaving a lucrative career in order to continue his family’s legacy, put himself in a position where he could create good local jobs, and support the communities he loves here in Northwest Georgia. There are no handouts in the Laughridge

# ELECTION

From page 10A

family – Matt won an open bid to buy the company from his father, then went to work growing his new business. Now, Matt owns and operates Terry Reid Automotive Group, builds restaurants and hotels and has created hundreds of good-paying jobs for Northwest Georgians. He gives back to his community by volunteering as chairman of a local scholarship fund that helps 200+ Georgia kids through school every year, for example, and by donating generously to charities and to conservative elected officials. Now, Matt wants to give back to his community again, this time by Reviving the American Dream that has allowed his family to be successful, getting government OUT of your life and saving future generations from being tangled up in red tape and taxes while they’re trying to support their family, like he and Terry and millions of Americans are every year.

**Why are you running for the 14th Congressional District?** To give the people of Northwest Georgia the chance to send President Trump a Wingman in Washington; To Refuel the Working Class and Revive the Economy; I’m the ONLY candidate for Congress who is a serious businessman and tough decisionmaker – like Trump; the only candidate who can help Our

President re-open the country, bring back jobs, and fight for everyday Georgians against Swamp Politicians; and the only candidate who will Make American Manufacturing Great Again, and stop depending on China; To protect the American Dream and the freedoms that ensure it: Strengthen 2nd Amendment rights, be a strong voice for Unborn Life, get government out of our lives, slap term limits on career politicians, cut red tape and taxes, and Defeat Socialism for good.

**What is the one hot button issue you want to address if elected?** I fully support the States who are suing China for the Virus they unleashed on the world. I will take it further. Do not forget: the Chinese Communist Party manufactured the Coronavirus in a lab, allowed it to spread across the globe, and lied about it the whole time – with massive propaganda campaigns that even dared to blame US troops for the Chinese Virus. They have to be held accountable and I have a plan to do it. I will send the Chinese Communist Party a bill for every penny the federal government and states spend on coronavirus relief. We’re asking taxpayers to spend trillions of dollars to clean up China’s mess, while our country “owes” China trillions in debt – that’s wrong. The Chinese Communist Party should pay; cancel the debt and send a bill to China.

**What are your goals if elected?** Revive the economy: This is a serious moment in American history, and I am

the serious businessman Trump needs at his side in Congress to bring back jobs and get the economy back on track; Refuel the working class: Simplify taxes. Greatly shrink the size and power of government. Take down the political ruling class by passing term limits and forcing Congress to balance their budget, like everyone else has to; Reopen the country: I am the tough decisionmaker who can help Trump crush the Invisible Enemy (the Chinese Coronavirus) and reopen the country to Make America Great AND Safe Again; Bring back American manufacturing: North Georgia has shown what we are capable of. We work hard. We build cars and carpets and anything in between. We even repurposed our factories to manufacture masks during a pandemic. America should follow Georgia’s lead. Aren’t you sick of seeing “Made in China” on everything? Now it’s not just children’s toys or electronics, but the equipment and

medicines we need to save lives. You shouldn’t have to worry about being able to get your prescription filled because the drug is made in China. You shouldn’t have to worry about your kid choking on a cheap toy because it was made in China. We’ve got to bring back American manufacturing: Build American. Buy American.

**Additional Info?** Everyone in this race is saying they support this President – of course we do. We don’t need any more politicians who just SAY things. I’ve built hotels and condos like President Trump. I’ve grown businesses like President Trump. I’ve created good jobs like President Trump right here in Northwest Georgia. And if you send me to Washington, I’m going to fight, just like President Trump has, for YOU. Revive the Economy. Refuel the Working Class. Make America Great & Safe Again.

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