

GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

County approves closing docs for property on Hwy. 53

Brandi Owczarz
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The Gordon County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday night voted to approve the closing documents to purchase the property at Liberty Church Road and Highway 53, the former Cherokee Grocery that the County has been working to purchase for almost a year.

"This property has been deemed by the Board, when we contracted to buy it, as

very important to the multi-purpose facility project," said County Administrator Jim Ledbetter. "It provides critical road frontage on State Route 53. Right now, we are not guaranteed continued use of access off of Hwy. 53 to the Fairgrounds property that the County owns.

After an updated survey, it was determined the property consists of 2.08 acres. Because it used to be a gas station, the County

had an environmental study performed that recommended closure and removal of underground storage tanks, which the owners had removed. The Georgia EPD has given the County a letter of clearance.

Ledbetter said that the County is paying under the fair market value for the property; the 2-plus acre purchase will cost \$175,000.

See COUNTY, page 13A



The property at the corner of Hwy. 53 and Liberty Church Road that the County has agreed to purchase sits right in front of the County's property at the fairgrounds. (BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff)

CFD receives grant to buy extrication equipment



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The Calhoun Fire Department received a Firehouse Subs Public Safety Grant in the amount of \$13,262.13 to purchase battery powered extrication equipment for their squad vehicle. The lightweight cutting, spreading and ram tools quickly and safely assist first responders with extricating victims in

car accidents and structural collapses.

Firehouse Subs has granted more than \$55 million dollars to hometown heroes over the years, benefiting close to 5,000 organizations through the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

Pictured with the equipment are Calhoun Fire Department's Mason Wade and Ricky Daniel.



Property Tax Exemptions for 2021 must be applied for by April 1, 2021

CONTRIBUTED

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR 2021 MUST BE APPLIED FOR BY APRIL 1, 2021: Attention all Gordon County Taxpayers - The final date to file for exemptions, April 1st, is fast approaching. If you are a homeowner and live in your home, please visit the Tax Commissioner Office and file for your exemptions before April 1, 2021 for the exemptions to be applied on your 2021 Tax Bill.

Gordon County offers a regular homestead to all homeowners, living in the home with no age or income requirements. Other homestead

exemptions exist for:

- 100% service-connected disabled veterans
- surviving spouses of police or firefighters killed in the line of duty
- surviving spouses of members of the armed forces killed in action
- four different age-based (65 & 70) homestead exemptions pertaining to school tax.

In addition to the above exemptions other homesteads exist. Please call or come by for more information and to determine if you are eligible for these exemptions. The Tax Commissioner's contact number is 706-629-9242.

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EDUCATION 9A



2025 REACH Scholar recognized at CCS BOE meeting; Several County schools name Young Georgia Author winners.

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Gordon County Board of Commissioners present proclamation declaring the month of March American Red Cross Month

Brandi Owczarz
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Leigh Brock-Barba, the executive director of the American Red Cross of Northwest Georgia, was on hand at Tuesday night's meeting of the Gordon County Board of Commissioners as the Board recognized March as American Red Cross Month with a special proclamation.

"This is for the 140th anniversary of the founding of the American Red Cross and for the wonderful work of our Gordon County and Northwest Georgia volunteers," said Brock-Barba.

Commissioner Bud Owens read the proclamation, saying that American Red Cross month, a special time to honor the kindness of the neighbors who aid families every day in Northwest Georgia, across the United States and around the world. Millions of lives are positively affected by

the work of American Red Cross each year, as they carry out the organization's 140 year mission of preventing and alleviating suffering.

In Gordon County, families have relied on American Red Cross of Northwest Georgia volunteers for comfort and hope throughout the years while coping with home fire and tornado events. In 2020, American Red Cross Northwest Georgia volunteers assisted 279 area families, including 221 after-disasters locally such as home fires, tornados and floods by addressing food, lodging and recover support needs.

Last year, the American Red Cross of Northwest Georgia trained 4,680 people in CPR skills and AED usage, aided more than 1,000 armed forces and veterans families, and installed 212 free smoke alarms in local, at risk homes.

"This lifesaving work is vital to strengthening our



The Proclamation presentment for American Red Cross Month on Tuesday night, March 2. From left: Gordon County Commissioner Kevin Cunningham, Red Cross of Northwest Georgia Executive Director Leigh Brock-Barba, Commissioner Chad Steward, Becky Hood, Bruce Potts and Bud Owens. (BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff)

community's resilience," said Owens. "Nearly 200 years since the birth of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, we dedicate this month of

March to all those who continue to advance her noble legacy. The Board of Commissioner declares March as 'Red Cross Month' and encourages all

Americans to reach out and support its humanitarian mission. We are thankful for all the American Red Cross of Northwest Georgia does for our community."

Second Front

AdventHealth Gordon offers free diabetes education class

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

AdventHealth Gordon is hosting a diabetes education class on Tuesday, March 16 from 9 am to 12 pm in Conference Room A.

Designed to provide information and education to those diagnosed with diabetes, participants will learn about diabetes management, exercise, long-term complication prevention, medications, diet, problem-solving, coping and more. Free glucose meters, diabetic-friendly foods and other free samples will be available. Classes will be

limited to 6 participants and a guest. Masks are required to be worn while on campus of AdventHealth Gordon.

For more information or to RSVP, please call 706-602-7800 ext. 2310.

About AdventHealth Gordon

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

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



Early voting for E-SPLOST continues this week

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Early Voting for the Special Election for the E-SPLOST continue this week, with Friday, March 12, 2021 being the last day to cast your ballot early for the Education SPLOST.

A copy of the sample ballot is seen right..

To cast your ballot early you will go to the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office located at 408 Court Street (across the street from the Post Office) office hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The last day to request an absentee ballot is March 12, 2021. If you would like to request an absentee ballot please call the Elections and Voter Registration Office at 706-629-7781.

The Calhoun City Schools Board of Education and the Gordon County Board of Education held a joint meeting in December to approve and sign a joint resolution to request the eSPLOST go before the voters. The current eSPLOST will expire in June 2022.

The resolution states that no more than \$62,000,000 would be collected in the eSPLOST to finance projects for Calhoun Schools and Gordon County Schools.

Gordon County Schools would receive 60.2 (\$37,324,000) percent of the amount, with Calhoun City Schools receiving 39.8 percent (\$24,676,000) of the monies collected.

Capital outlay projects and costs proposed by Gordon County Schools include:

-The acquisition and installation of digital resources and improvements to technology throughout the district

-Renovations and modifications to W.L. Swain Elementary, Ashworth Middle School, Gordon Central High School, Sonorville High School, GCS Central Office, Fairmount Elementary, Sonorville Elementary, Red Bud Middle, Red Bud Elementary, Belwood Elementary and Tolbert Elementary

-Facility renovations and modifications needed for Career, Technical and Agricultural education courses and pathways

-Acquisition and equipping of buses

-Expansion and improvements of parking lots

-Acquisition of any property, both real and personal, and equipment necessary in connection with described capital outlay projects, including energy management systems, heating and air

conditioning systems, lighting and similar equipment

- Acquisition, construction, equipping, renovation and expansion of athletic fields and facilities

- Acquisition, construction and equipping of new auditoriums throughout the district

-Acquisition of real property for future schools, facilities, administrative offices, support services and other purposes of Gordon County Schools.

The maximum cost of the projects listed by GCS is approximately \$37,324,000.

Capital outlay projects and costs proposed by Calhoun City Schools include:

-The construction of the Early Learning Academy to include Junior Jacket Academy, PreK and Kindergarten

- Acquisition, installation of computers and new technology system-wide

-Land acquisition around the middle/high school campus for enrollment growth and parking

-HVAC replacement/repairs throughout the district

-Acquisition and equipping of school buses

- Renovations / modifications,

construction, improvements and additions to and equipment for existing academic and athletic facilities and the infrastructure supporting these facilities including security systems, painting, carpet and/or tile replacement and lighting on all campuses in the district.

The maximum cost of the projects listed by CCS is approximately \$14,714,000.

The City system will also use around \$9,962,000 to pay the general obligation debt for middle/high school construction debt for the retirement of 2011/2012 bonds. The combined cost to pay off outstanding debt and new capital outlay projects is \$24,676,000.

Gordon County Special Election March 16, 2021 Sample Ballot

Sales and Use Tax for Educational Purposes (Vote for One)

Shall a one percent sales and use tax for educational purposes be imposed in Gordon County for a period of time not to exceed 20 calendar quarters and for the raising of not more than \$62,000,000, (1) up to approximately \$37,324,000 (60.2%) of which shall be received by Gordon County School District for the purposes of (a) the acquisition and installation of digital resources and improvements to technology throughout the Gordon County School District; (b) renovations and modifications at Swain Elementary School, Ashworth Middle School, Gordon Central High School, Sonorville High School, Central Office, Fairmount Elementary School, Sonorville Elementary School, Red Bud Middle School, Red Bud Elementary School, Belwood Elementary School and Tolbert Elementary School; (c) facility renovations and modifications needed for Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education courses and pathways (d) acquisition and equipping of buses; (e) expansion and improvements of parking lots; (f) acquisition of any property, both real and personal, and equipment necessary in connection with the above described capital outlay projects, including energy management systems, heating and air conditioning systems, lighting and similar equipment; (g) acquisition, construction, equipping, renovation, and expansion of athletic fields and facilities; (h) acquisition, construction, and equipping of new auditoriums throughout the Gordon County School District; and (i) acquisition of real property for future schools, facilities, administrative offices, support services, and other purposes of the Gordon County School District and (2) up to approximately \$24,676,000 (39.8%) of which shall be received by the City of Calhoun School System for (a) the retirement of previously incurred general obligation debt or refunding or replacement debt, incurred for middle high school construction, in the maximum of \$9,962,000, and (b) for the following capital outlay purposes: (a) the construction of an Early Learning Academy to include Junior Jacket Academy, PreK and Kindergarten; (b) acquisition / installation of computers and new technology throughout the system; (c) land acquisition around the middle / high school campus for enrollment growth and parking; (d) HVAC replacement / repairs throughout the district; (e) acquisition and equipping of school buses; (f) renovations / modifications, construction, improvements and additions to and equipment for existing academic and athletic facilities and the infrastructure supporting these facilities including security systems, painting, carpet and/or tile replacement, and lighting on all campuses throughout the City of Calhoun School System, at a maximum cost of \$14,714,000 or the difference between the amount necessary to pay the outstanding general obligation debt described above and the City of Calhoun School System's receipts from the Educational Sales Tax.

If imposition of the tax is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the Gordon County School District in a principal amount not to exceed \$25,000,000, for the above purposes.

YES
 NO

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GORDON Gazette

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

GENERAL LABOR: \$15/hr, will do deep cleaning of warehouse-prep work for moving into the warehouse. Removing light fixtures, moving out old shelves, machines, and putting in new. -2-3 week job. For the right people could go temp to perm. 3 openings

MACHINE OPERATOR: 5pm – 3am (machine operating-ex-trusion/TMO experience)-2 OPENINGS-\$14/hr starting

MACHINE OPERATOR: 7pm – 7am (creeling, TMO/EXTRU-SION-doffing experience) – 1 OPENING-\$14/hr starting

ORDER PICKER: \$12/hr, day shift, must send profiles to client and will interview, wants previous experience order picking and able to drive lift.

CUSTODIAN: \$11.09/HR, will do deep cleaning, and some cleaning after events/games to ensure facility stays clean and covid free for all students/faculty/guests 3:30pm to 8:30pm M-F & full time 12:30pm to 8:30pm & hours 11am to 7pm. 3 Positions Open

TIRE HANDLER: \$13 & UP BASED ON JOB/SHIFT-12hr swing shift days—7am-7:30pm, 2nd & 3rd—Tire Handlers 3pm-11:30pm/ 11:00pm-7:30am

INDUSTRIAL BINDING: (sewing machine) candidates that have sewing machine experience we will pay them \$14.25 per hour. They must have previous sewing experience. 2nd shift- and work Monday – Thursday 5pm to 3:30am & 6:30AM TO 4:30PM

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Obituaries

March 3, 2021

Warren Jackson

Mr. Warren Vance Jackson, 80, of Calhoun, died Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 in Erlanger Medical Center after several years declining health.

Mr. Jackson was born in Grayson, Ky. on April 30, 1940, son of the late Raymond and Hattie Suttles Jackson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, David Jackson on Feb. 24, 2021, and by his brothers and sisters.

Mr. Jackson was a member of Olivia Baptist Church in Dalton, a veteran of the United States Air Force, and prior to retirement, he was employed by Regions Bank.

Survivors include his wife, Donna Talley Jackson; daughter, Andrea (Phillip) Anderson; sons, Steven Jackson, Randall Jackson and Ryan Jackson; grandchildren, Kristian, Parker, and Chloe Anderson; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Rev. James and Maxine Cobb; a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives survive.

At Mr. Jackson's request, he was a donor and his body was cremated and no service will follow.

Online condolences may be expressed and the guest book signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Warren Vance Jackson.



and Florence Godfrey, Frank and Ruby Kelley.

Along with his mom, Patty Kelley, Brandon is survived by his son, Tyler Kelley; brother, Dustin (Joanna) Kelley; sister, Miranda Kelley; nephews, Kolter Kelley, Camden Cusick; niece, Kayleigh Kelley.

The family received friends at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The funeral service followed the visitation on Tuesday at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Stacey Hensley officiating. Burial followed at Chandler Cemetery. Pallbearers were Kevin Chastain, Will Pritchett, Ian Seritt, Cason Seritt, Brody Seritt, and Terry Wilbanks.

Due to COVID-19 mandated guidelines, it is requested that masks be worn at all times in the funeral home and social distancing guidelines be observed.

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



Lenville Rader, Jr.

Lenville E. Rader, Jr., age 76, of Calhoun, passed away on Monday, March 1, 2021 at his residence.

Lenville was born on Aug. 4, 1944 in Louisville, Ky., son of the late L. Earl Rader, Sr. and Christine Lawson Rader. Lenville was also preceded in death by a brother, Norman Rader. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving in Vietnam.

Lenville is survived by: his wife of 31 years, Laura Rader; daughters, Lynn (Randy) Thompson, Pam (Rob) Rader, and Monica (Robert) Wilkie all of Kentucky; step-daughter and caregiver, Jennifer (Steve) Pulliam; and step-sons, Jack Mowry of Florida, Michael Mowry of Calhoun, Greg Mowry of Indiana, Doug Mowry of Kentucky, and Dan Mowry of Calhoun, GA. Many grandchildren, great-

grandchildren, nieces, and nephews also survive.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 5 – 7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

A celebration of the life of Lenville will be held on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Rev. Zach Gallman officiating. Burial will follow in Chandler Cemetery.

Due to the ongoing national health crisis, face coverings must be properly worn by all those who plan to attend. Social distancing guidelines must be followed at all times while attending the service.

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Lenville E. Rader, Jr.



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Brandon Kelley

Brandon Paul Kelley, 43, of Calhoun, passed away Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021. He was born on June 30, 1977 to the late Bruce Kelley and Patty Godfrey Kelley. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, James



Help for the Hurting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

706-629-0777.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-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

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RELIGION

ONE DAY, EVERYONE WILL RECOGNIZE JESUS



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

Last week, I wrote an article titled "WHAT DOES JESUS LOOK LIKE?" The article was a starting place for many conversations. One nice gentleman from Adairsville even brought

a huge, framed picture for me to see. It filled the back of a minivan!! As it turned out, it was a picture of a banner. To both of our surprise, I knew the lady who had hand sewn the banner. Her name is Sue Hensley, a beautiful lover of the Lord.

I began last week's article by explaining how Jesus probably looked much different than what is portrayed through most pieces of artwork. Most all pictures of artwork, and even characters in plays and movies envision Jesus as a tall man, with long hair and a pale complexion. As I explained in the article, this would most likely be inaccurate in many ways.

Jesus would have looked like a common, Jewish man of the time he was on Earth.

Today, I very proudly proclaim to you that Jesus Christ, the Son of God (who also is God), will return some day. The Bible tells us so! We don't know when He's coming; but according to scriptures, all prophecies that had to be fulfilled prior to His return have been fulfilled. Mark 13:32 says, "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Jesus could return before you finish reading this article. I hope you're ready to meet Him if He does.

When Jesus returns, it will be totally different than when He came to Earth the first time. There won't be anything common about it, not that there was anything common about the birth of Christ. When he comes the second time, men won't need a star to find Him. He will come in full glory. Jesus' second coming will be just like when He went to heaven the first time. Acts 1:9-11 reads, "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white

apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

The ascension of Christ was only witnessed by a small group of men. His second coming will be way different. Every man, woman, boy and girl on the planet will see Jesus. He will come back personally and literally. Revelation 1:7 says, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him." No one will be unaware of Jesus' return.

Not only will everyone behold Him at

his return, but everyone will also recognize Jesus at His return. Not only will everyone recognize Jesus, but everyone will also proclaim Him as Lord! Philippians 2:9-11 says, "Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place, and gave Him the name above all names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father..."

Whoa to them that wait to choose sides on that day. Choose Christ today.

Be Blessed.

Church Calendar

ONGOING

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

-Faith Deliverance Ministry and Outreach will be taking donations of clothes, shoes, also all 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 United Methodist Church-Loving One Another To Christ. Sunday School at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. Children's Church provided. New Minister now Leading. New programs and community outreach coming soon.

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

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

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

p.m.. Everyone is invited.

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Pleasant Valley Baptist Church is a Bible believing & teaching church located in the Red Bud Community. Pastor Keith Gibson and the congregation invite you to come and worship with us at 3882 Red Bud Rd., Calhoun. Opportunities for worship: Bible Study for all ages 10 a.m., Children's Church up to 5th grade 11a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Wednesday night service times Prayer Bible Study and Student Ministries 7 p.m. 706-624-0198, Find us on Facebook or email pvbcecalhoun@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 Dwayne Smith, holds weekly services: Sunday school at 10 a.m., Sunday; morning worship at 11 a.m., Sunday; Sunday night service at 6 p.m.; and Bible study on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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

-Boone Ford Baptist Church invites you to attend its services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. and Worship services at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday night services are at 6 p.m. on the first and third Sunday night of each month. Wednesday night services start at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Gary Quarles, pastor.

-Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and Pastor David Peeler invite everyone to attend weekly services. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Sunday evening activities and discipleship training begin at 6 p.m., and children's and youth programs at 7 p.m. Wednesday service begins at 7 p.m., along with Bible study programs for children and youth.

-Pastor Steve Corbin invites everyone to regular services at New Zion Baptist Church. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m. and Sunday night service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

night Bible study is at 7:15 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

-Greater Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, 259 Herring Road, NW, Armuchee, invites you to come worship and fellowship with us on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Pastor Reginald McDaniel and Church Family also welcome you to attend Mid-Week Bible Study, Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. and Sunday School at 10 a.m.. We are a church on the move for Christ, come share with us as we grow in the Word of God.

-Resaca First Baptist Church and Pastor Rev. Harold Blackstock would like to invite you to attend our Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Sunday night service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday night service at 6 p.m. for children and youth.

-Liberty Baptist Church Pastor Gene Ratcliff invites everyone to church services in Ranger; service times are 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Sunday worship and 7 p.m. Wednesday worship.

-Brother Joe Hall and the congregation of Ranger Baptist invite everyone to its regular services on Sunday morning. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. Worship is Wednesday night with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Bible study at 7 p.m. For more information, call 706-629-3425.

-Oak Grove Baptist Church of Adairsville is located at 997 Brownlee Mountain Road S.W. Service times are Sunday school 9:45 a.m., with

worship at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Pastor: Roger Fisher.

-Fellowship Baptist Church of Plainville will hold a Brotherhood Breakfast on the second Sunday of each month at 8 a.m.

-Hope in Christ Ministries, 306 Peters St., is holding services every Sunday morning. Adult Bible Study starts at 10 a.m. with praise/worship service at 11 a.m. Bishop W. S. (Billy) Weems is the pastor. Rev. Earnest Diamond Jr. is assistant pastor. For more information, call the church at 706-602-2433.

-Talking Rock Creek Chapel has a new pastor, the Pastor Donald Broachurst and family. Service times are 9 a.m. for Sunday school and Children's Church and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday. For more information, call 706-669-0854.

-Rev. Israel and Bishop Rita Partin Spaulding will host a Gathering of Eagles Revival Service each Saturday night at 6:30. These meetings are designed for those individuals who have a desire to go higher in God. Come expecting your breakthrough. The location is 799 Pine Street in the Church of God in Christ building. Rev. Israel and Bishop Rita are International Speakers with a Life Changing Word. For more information please call 423-883-3138.

-Philadelphia Baptist Church operates North

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

-Calhoun Church of Jesus Christ, located at the corner of Damascus Road and Pine Drive, invites everyone to attend their weekly services. Sunday services take place at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday's service is at 7 p.m. The church's pastor is Joshua Maddox and assistant pastor is Hunter Quarles.

-Big Springs Baptist Church, 3326 Dews Pond Road SE, Calhoun, invites families and individuals from all walks of life to attend their services (casual dress). The worship service includes contemporary music along with traditional hymns and Southern Gospel. Children's Church is provided for ages K- 3rd grade and nursery for babies - pre-k. Service times: Sunday mornings: fellowship breakfast, 9:15-9:30 a.m.; Bible study (all ages) 9:45 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m. Evening worship 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. For more information on the church you may contact Rev. Tommy Phillips at 678-986-7404.

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FINANCE

CASH FLOW WITH JOE: I felt like I was lied to



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

Today I want to share something with you that is interwoven with real estate, but is really a message I hope that you'll share with the younger people in your life.

It all started when I stopped by a flip project this week and began talking with my lead man, Charles, about a recent article he had read about the shortage of skilled labor in our country. And by skilled labor, I mean people in the

construction field.

This notion was perplexing to Charles.

Charles has been a carpenter most of his life. He has built residential houses and custom log cabins all over the country. Some people have fish stories. But if you spend any time talking Charles, you realize quickly that he has house stories. That's because he has been building most of his life, and he's done all kinds of interesting things, met all kinds of people and has one of the best knowledge banks in regard to construction of anyone I know. Couple that with his tremendous work ethic, and to say I'm grateful to have him on my team is an understatement.

As we talked about the labor shortage, Charles brought up his view that our society makes it sound like a bad thing to have a job that requires you to work with your hands. He even pointed out that there are many plumbers and electricians who make as

much as some lawyers, but that their schooling didn't accumulate all the debt often incurred with a law degree.

As he said that, I reflected on my experience. You see, when I was in elementary school, I remember the teachers telling us we needed to get good grades so we could go to college. In middle and high school, the teachers said the same thing but added "so you can get a good job."

In high school, there were two paths to a diploma: college preparatory and vocational. And I remember feeling an implication that the votech diploma, as it was called, was inferior to the college prep diploma.

As such, I never even considered anything but going to college. That's because I knew that I must "go to college to get a degree to get a good job." Because that was what I had been told. So, go to college I did.

Now I don't want to brag, but I got my 4-year degree in only 7 years.

As you can tell, it took me a while to figure out what I wanted to do. By the time I got my bachelor's in biology to pursue a career in physical therapy, I nearly had enough credit for an additional degree.

During those seven years, I worked for a painter painting houses. That led to working with a handyman doing house repairs and then to working with a builder framing and finishing custom homes. There, I learned how to frame, side, roof, lay hardwood and tile flooring, build decks, and anything else you can think of to do with a house.

As I recounted this experience to Charles, I also told him about what happened when I graduated. You see, I needed to go to graduate school for physical therapy. But I was unable to apply in the same year I graduated college, and it was going to be almost a

year before I could do so. So, I thought I would put my new bachelor's degree to work, and I started applying for jobs.

In the end, the only jobs my degree afforded me were for a pest control company as a field tech and working on a line as a quality control tech in a plant. And to me, those weren't what I considered to be the "good jobs" that my high school teachers told me I would get once I graduated.

I remember sitting on my bed, pondering this realization, and thinking to myself, "I've been lied to." You see, I went to school, I graduated with honors, but in order to get a good job, I was told I needed to go to graduate school. That didn't make sense to me.

To make a longer story short, I went back to construction and found work on a crew rehabbing houses for an investor in Atlanta, which is where I learned about real estate investing.

As I told Charles this story, it hit me — I would not be where am I today if I hadn't learned to how to work with my hands.

With that fact in mind, please let the younger people in your life know that working with their hands can be a lucrative thing. The baby boomer generation is retiring, and there are fewer high school graduates pursuing the skilled jobs they are leaving, thus causing the shortage of labor. This situation has driven salaries up and presented an opportunity to be paid very well while not accumulating the debt associated with a college degree because of all the tech school assistance that is available.

So don't discount working with your hands.

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

How Can Women Overcome Obstacles to Financial Security?



Dewayne Bowen
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at Edward Jones
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On March 8, we observe International Women's Day, a celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Of course, women still tend to encounter more obstacles than men in the

pursuit of financial security. Let's consider a few of them.

To begin with, women are still more likely to leave the workforce, at least temporarily, to raise children, resulting in lower contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans such as 401(k)s. And women are often the ones who become full-time caregivers of aging parents or other relatives. Caregiving duties can exact a big financial toll: The lost wages, pensions (including 401(k)s and similar plans) and Social Security benefits that a woman loses to become a full-time caregiver amount to more than \$300,000 over her lifetime, according to the National Academy of

Sciences.

Women also may be more susceptible to financial downturns. Consider the COVID-19 pandemic: Just a few months ago, in December, women lost 156,000 jobs, while men gained 16,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which also reported that women accounted for 54% of the jobs lost from the pandemic in 2020.

And women are not unaware of their circumstances and outlook. Just 41% of women are confident about retirement, compared with 56% of men, according to a survey by Edward Jones and Age Wave.

But if you're a woman, you can take steps to help

improve your financial outlook. Here are a few suggestions:

Take full advantage of retirement plans. If you are still working and your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan, take full advantage of it. Put in as much as you can afford each year and increase your contributions when your salary goes up. Also, within your plan, you'll want to choose the mix of investments that can help provide the most growth potential, given your individual risk tolerance. Also, even if you contribute to a 401(k) or similar plan, you may also be eligible to fund an IRA, which gives you even more investment choices.

Evaluate your Social

Security options. You can typically start taking Social Security benefits when you're 62, but your monthly checks will be much larger if you wait until your "full" retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. You might also consider whether you'd be better off by taking spousal benefits, if you're married and your spouse earned more money than you. You're generally even eligible for spousal benefits if you are divorced, as long as you were married at least 10 years and you haven't remarried.

Look for unexpected income opportunities. Even after you've formally retired, you may still find ways to receive some earned income. Perhaps you can work part time or

do some consulting. And if you're a caregiver, you might be able to receive some compensation for your work. Many local governments pay non-spouse caregivers who act as personal attendants, although the rules vary greatly by state and county.

These certainly aren't the only ways you can improve your financial status, but they may prove useful to you. In any case, be aware of the challenges facing you and do whatever you can to brighten your future.

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

CONSUMER ED: Social Security number compromised in a security hack

CONTRIBUTED

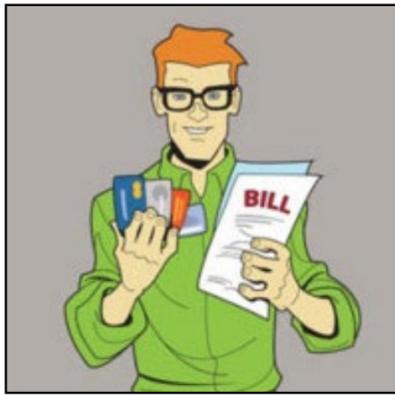
Dear Consumer Ed:
I just heard about a security hack that left my Social Security number out there. How can I protect myself?

Consumer Ed says:
Identity thieves use Social Security numbers for a variety of purposes: to file tax returns, to apply for government benefits, to obtain employment, to open credit cards, bank accounts and/or take out loans, or get medical care. If you think your Social Security number was compromised during a hack, follow these steps:

Contact the Social Security Administration. An identity thief may use your Social Security number to get work. If the employer then reports that individual's income to the IRS using your Social Security number, you might have issues later because it will appear as though you didn't report all of your income to the government. You can contact the Social Security Administration to review your earnings record by calling 1-800-772-1213 or visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). An identity thief who has used your Social Security number to obtain a job or file a tax return might try to change the address on file with the IRS in order to have a tax refund sent directly to him or her. To contact the IRS Identity Protection Unit, call 1-800-908-4490 or visit www.irs.gov/uac/Identity-Protection.

Place a security freeze with each of the three credit bureaus. A security freeze (also known as a "credit freeze") locks your credit file so that no one can see your credit report or credit score unless you lift the freeze. Since banks and lenders access your credit



file in order to determine whether or not to extend credit to you, a security freeze will prevent an identity thief from using your information to get a credit card or loan. You will need to contact each of the credit bureaus to place the credit freeze:

Equifax.com
1-888-766-0008

Experian.com
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion.com
1-800-680-7289

Get copies of your credit reports. You can get free credit reports each year by going to annualcreditreport.com. Review your reports carefully. If you come across any accounts or collection items that you do not recognize, contact the credit bureaus to dispute the matter and get it resolved. Note that under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report each year from each of the three major credit bureaus. Georgia residents are entitled to an additional two free credit reports per year from each of the bureaus.

March Gas Prices: In Like a Lion, but Out Like a Lamb?

AAA

Gas prices continue to increase, with the national average up nine cents on the week to \$2.72. That is a 30 cent increase from the beginning of February, 28 cents more than a year ago and the most expensive daily national average since August 2019.

The latest price jumps are a direct result of February's winter storm that took 26 U.S. refineries offline and pushed refinery utilization from an average of about 83% down to an atypical low of 68%, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). In its latest data, EIA also reported demand at 7.2 million b/d. Both utilization and demand rates have not been reported this low since last May.

AAA forecasts the national gas price average to hit at least \$2.80 in March. For motorists, that means they can expect continued increases of at least 5-10 cents in local markets until refinery operations are stable.

"Barring hurricane season, March may bring the most expensive pump prices of 2021," said Jeanette Casselano McGee, AAA spokesperson. "While the month is roaring in like a lion, by the end of it we could see some relief at the pump as refineries resume normal operations, especially if crude oil prices show signs of stability."

While California (\$3.68) and Hawaii (\$3.46) started the year above the \$3/gallon mark, a few other states have followed or are close to following suit: Washington (\$3.09), Nevada (\$3.01), Arizona (\$2.98), Pennsylvania (\$2.95), Oregon (\$2.95), Illinois (\$2.89), Washington, D.C. (\$2.88) and Alaska (\$2.87).

Today, every state average is more expensive on the week and the month.

Only three states have averages cheaper year-over-year: Hawaii (-10 cents), Alaska (-7 cents) and Oregon (-3 cents).

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases: Arizona (+25 cents), Colorado (+13 cents), Nevada (+13 cents), Michigan (+13 cents), Oklahoma (+13 cents), New Mexico (+12 cents), Utah (+12 cents), Arkansas (+12 cents), California (+12 cents) and North Dakota (+12 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets: Mississippi (\$2.38), Louisiana (\$2.41), Texas (\$2.42), Missouri (\$2.45), Alabama (\$2.46), Arkansas (\$2.47), South Carolina (\$2.48), Oklahoma (\$2.49), Tennessee (\$2.50) and Montana (\$2.50).

Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session, WTI decreased by \$2.03 to settle at \$61.50. Although a stronger dollar and market concerns regarding interest rates pushed crude prices lower to end the week, prices increased over \$2 earlier in the week—up to \$63.22—due to growing market optimism that as vaccines become more available, crude demand will recover. Crude prices rose mid-week despite the EIA's latest report revealing that total domestic crude inventories increased by 1.3 million bbl last week, bringing the supply level to 463 million bbl. For this week, crude prices could rise if EIA's next weekly report shows a decrease in total stocks.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

GORDON GROWN

Flowering Dogwood Basics



Greg Bowman
Gordon County
Extension Agent
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One of the more popular landscape items in the area is the flowering dogwood. The flowering dogwood is native to the eastern United States and can be found throughout Georgia. One key to growing success is planting the dogwood in the correct location in the first place. One fact to note is the actual flower on the dogwood. What most consider the flower of a dogwood tree is actually bracts. The true flower is in the center of the bract and is not as visually appealing.

I will be sharing information on dogwoods

from a revised UGA publication by Bodie Pennisi.

The planting season for dogwoods is dependent on how you purchased the dogwood. Container grown dogwoods can be planted anytime if they are watered correctly. The B & B or balled and burlapped trees and bareroot dogwoods need to be planted when they are dormant. That time would be from November to March. The importance of the correct planting site cannot be underestimated.

The best situations are when dogwoods are planted with larger trees that will give the dogwood moderate shade. Think about when you go on the Sunday drive to see dogwoods when the bracts are showing off. In nature, you will see dogwoods growing under hardwoods and pines. That is why they are called an understory tree. You can see growth issues when they are planted in hot and dry exposures. I remember as a young agent in

Bartow County being called out to look at a dogwood problem for a homeowner. The problem was easy to figure out. This young dogwood was planted in full sun with small rocks being used as mulch. To add to the problem, there was a lot of cement just beyond the small planting area. This young dogwood was burning up. On the flipside, you do not need to plant dogwoods in dense shade because this can result in poor flowering.

I will add that dogwoods can adapt to different soil types, but prefer moist and fertile soil that is high in organic matter. Dogwoods must be planted in areas that will drain excess moisture well too.

Pennisi states the primary demands are good soil drainage and protection from drought.

Improper soil preparation at planting can lead to issues with dogwood establishment and slow growth.

Research data states that maximum growth is achieved when a large

and wide planting hole is dug and the backfill soil is worked well. When planting, make sure the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Then you will backfill with the same soil that you removed from the hole. Make sure to bust up soil clods and remove rocks and other debris. Stay away from adding organic material in the planting hole. With the heat and the drought, we have a lot of compacted soils in the area. If planting in these compacted soils, keep in mind the importance of a large planting hole with loose backfill soil.

Proper watering is key and mulch can be beneficial with dogwoods. Our information states that adequate watering in the first two growing seasons may be the big factor to determine if the dogwood lives or dies. It is suggested to water the dogwood completely 1 to 2 times per week during dry times.

Make note to not over-do-it on water either. Watering too

often can lead to root rot. You also need to water in dry fall months. Keep in mind that most of the tree roots are in the top 12 inches of soil and can go several feet beyond the tree canopy. Mulch can play a helpful role. Mulching a wide area under the tree can help insulate the roots from heat and cold and can also conserve soil moisture. Pine straw, pine bark and fallen leaves at a 3 to 4-inch depth is recommended.

I would like to go back a step and talk about dogwood selection. Most of the dogwoods planted in Georgia are the white-bracted native dogwoods that are grown from seed. There are many vegetative produced options on the market now. They are more expensive normally, but are known to flower earlier in age and be more showy per our info. Some varieties with white bracts are Barton, Cherokee Daybreak, Cherokee Princess and Cloud 9 to name a few. Pink or red bract varieties are American Beauty

Red, Cherokee Chief, Cherokee Sunset, Junior Miss and Stokes Pink. No matter the variety, you need to choose a healthy appearing tree with good form. Do not purchase stress appearing trees or ones with visually seen damage to the stem. A container grown dogwood should have healthy looking white roots that are not pot bound. Our info adds that you should select bareroot and B & B trees with roots that have been protected from drying out by means such as "heeled-in" moist sawdust or some other type organic matter. Make sure you follow recommended fertilizing plans and know about common pest issues for dogwoods. For more information, contact UGA Extension- Gordon County at 706-629-8685 or email gbowman@uga.edu.

Finally, follow us on Facebook at Gordon County Extension/ Agriculture and Natural Resources for the latest seasonal information

Forestland owners: Take advantage of property tax incentives

GEORGIA FARM BUREAU

Georgia forestland owners generally have access to four property tax incentive programs—Conservation Use Value Assessment (CUVA), Forest Land Protection Act (FLPA), Qualified Timber Property (QTP) and Agricultural Preference, all of which reduce the amount participating landowners pay in property taxes.

Dr. Bob Izlar of UGA's Harvey Langdale Jr. Center for Forest Business outlined how property taxes are assessed on forestland and the details of the three incentive programs in a presentation during the 2021 Virtual Ag Forecast on Jan. 29.

Georgia is the No. 1 state in timber harvest, with 24.6 million acres of forestland, 90% of which is privately owned. These are bragging points, but also present a thorny tax situation.

"Property taxes remain the top concern for private forest landowners in Georgia, because there are so many of us and we own so much of the land base," Izlar said.

Even if they participate in one of the four exemption programs available to them, Georgia forestland owners are taxed at higher rates than their peers in neighboring states. Izlar and colleague Yanshu Li published a study on Georgia property taxation rates in 2018 and found that on average, exemption

participants pay \$5.51 per acre, exceeding those in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia by more than \$1.50 per acre.

Without participating in any of the tax incentive programs and paying taxes based on fair market value, forestland on average is taxed at \$15.41 per acre.

CUVA, FLPA, QTP and Agricultural Preference are well worth exploring, Izlar said.

"If you're in South Georgia/Rural Georgia, outside of the influence of the metropolitan area, all we tell folks is to get with their CPA. Put the pencil to it. Know whether it may be better for you to go into ag pref, or it may be better for you to pay fair market value, because in some counties, FMV is cheaper than CUVA," Izlar said. "It all depends on where you are. But I can almost guarantee that if you're north of the Fall Line, one of these programs is going to help you. A big part of the decision is, 'Do I want to tie my land up for 10 years?'"

A look at the four exemption programs:

-Agricultural Preference: (established in 1983) Land may be used for agriculture or forestry. There is a 2,000-acre maximum, assessment is at 75% of fair market value. A 10-year covenant is required, with penalties for withdrawing the land from the covenant.

-CUVA: (established in 1990) Land may be used for agriculture or forestry. There is a 2,000-acre maximum. A 10-year covenant is required, with penalties for withdrawing the land from the covenant.

-FLPA: (Established in 2008) Land may be used for forestry. A minimum of 200 acres is required, with no maximum. A 10-year covenant is required, with penalties for withdrawing the land from the covenant.

-QTP: (Established in 2018) Land may be used for forestry. A minimum of 50 acres is

required, with no maximum. Assessment is 175% of the CUVA value. The agreement is subject to annual certification, and there is no penalty for withdrawing land from the covenant.

To watch Izlar's presentation, visit <https://agforecast.caes.uga.edu/previous-outlooks/2021.html>. For a copy of Izlar and Yanshu's report, "Property Tax Incentives for the Georgia Landowner," visit www.ugaicfb.com/property-tax-incentives-for-the-georgia-landowner/.



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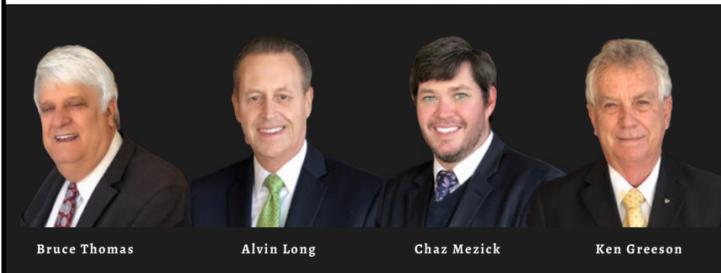
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HEALTH NEWS

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: House panel OKs bill allowing some hospital, nursing home visits during emergency

ANDY MILLER, Georgia Health News

A committee of the Georgia House, despite industry opposition, passed a bill Monday allowing people to visit patients in hospital and long-term care facilities during a public health emergency — like the current pandemic.

House Bill 290 would allow a “legal representative,” usually a loved one, to visit a patient or resident for a minimum of an hour a day, if that person meets a facility’s safety standards.

The House Human Resources and Aging Committee held a robust debate for a third time on the bill and took up several amendments before approving the legislation.

“We’ve heard everybody’s voice,” said Rep. Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah), chairman of the committee. “There are

no bad guys in this.”

Hospitals and long-term care facilities have performed heroically during the pandemic, he added. “This issue is about policy.”

Rep. Ed Setzler (R-Acworth), the main sponsor, said the patient representative is “an essential part of the delivery of care,” as important as those bringing meals and staff doing basic medical duties, such as changing IV lines.

Long-term care visitation has been restricted by Gov. Brian Kemp’s executive order and under federal guidelines. The limits on visits were imposed early in the COVID pandemic, as nursing homes and other long-term care facilities endured a horrific disease toll.

Setzler referred to his father-in-law having a heart attack, being hospitalized in Gwinnett County, and not being allowed to get a visit from his daughter. “Turning

away legal representatives from hospital settings is unacceptable,” he told the committee.

Facilities could impose “reasonable safety requirements” on the legal representative’s visit, such as wearing personal protective equipment. “We have crafted this to not be in conflict” with federal health regulations, Setzler added.

The Georgia Hospital Association spoke in opposition to the bill. Anna Adams, an association vice president, said hospitals were very concerned about possible spread of infection, about giving a legal representative too much power, and about the potential for court fights over such visits..

Committee Democrats opposed the bill, saying its “reasonable” standard was too vague. Rep. Donna McCleod (D-Lawrenceville) said, “If it’s not clear, we’re going to cause chaos.”



The state’s long-term care ombudsmen have urged Kemp to ease his rules and allow an “essential visitor” — typically a relative — to come into the facility to see a patient.

With long waits to see their family members, patients are experiencing isolation and loneliness, and “are just withering away,” Melanie McNeil,

the state’s chief long-term care ombudsman, told GHN recently.

The Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA), which represents long-term care providers, had expressed reservations about the updated legislation. “The version of the bill that was passed yesterday resolved a number of these conflicts, and we thank Chairmen

Setzler and Petrea for the opportunity to address our long term care concerns,”

said Devon Barill, a spokeswoman for GHCA.

If Setzler’s bill becomes law, it will go into effect July 1.

Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News.

How Mental Health Affects Whole Health

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

It’s no surprise that having a chronic illness can make you feel down at times. Or that being diagnosed with a serious disease can lead you to feel anxious or fearful. But what does that stress do to your body?

It turns out that your mental health has important influences on your whole health. People who have

a positive outlook and feel more joyful about life have a better chance of being healthy, while those who struggle with mental health may be more likely to experience health challenges. Let’s talk about why.

The Body and Mind Connection

Think about what it’s like to feel sad or depressed — you may feel like avoiding that fun social gathering or reaching for comfort food and other

unhealthy things as a coping mechanism.

Challenged mental health may also lead people to avoid seeing a doctor and to miss taking their prescribed medicines, which can lead to more serious problems.

For example, ongoing stress can lead to high blood pressure. Infections are more common among people who are stressed or anxious, and depression is linked to an increased risk of heart disease.

Smoking, which is

far more common in people with mental health conditions, is the most common cause of lung cancer. And weight gain from an unhealthy diet can lead to diabetes, high blood pressure and arthritis.

Power Up Your Whole Health

Mental health conditions can hinder your spirit, making it more difficult to prioritize self-care. If you feel depressed, anxious, stressed or have other mental concerns, talk

to your doctor. He or she can recommend a counselor or licensed therapist who is experienced to meet your individual needs. There are also medications that may be recommended as a part of your treatment plan.

While your path to complete health in body, mind and spirit is unique. There are some tried and true ways to get a head start on improving your whole health. Here are a few:

Be physically active every day

Don’t smoke
Eat healthy foods
Get enough sleep
Take time for yourself
Whole Health Takes a Whole Team

Your primary care physician (PCP) is a very important part of your wellness team and can help with support for every aspect of your health — physical, mental and spiritual. If you don’t have a primary care doctor, visit AdventHealth to find one who is right for you.



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EDUCATION NEWS

GNTC Aviation Technology student awarded scholarship from Women in Aviation International

GNTC

For a student trying to reinvent her career, a \$2,500 scholarship can help pay tuition costs and allow Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) major Theresa Harper to focus on her studies.

Harper received word that she earned the Helicopter Association International Women in Aviation International (HAI/WAI) Maintenance Technician Certificate Scholarship in early February. The AMT student said the award is a relief as she continues her career transition from accounting to aviation repair.

The 41-year-old has spent most of her career in an office doing accounting work, until one day she decided it was time for a change.

"I have always loved looking at planes," Harper said. "There was a US Air Force base behind my house as a kid and I would just sit and watch the planes in the sky."

The aviation maintenance student discovered the field of aircraft repair in June of 2019 through a Delta Airlines mechanic who lived next to her sister. Steve Barding, who just celebrated his 30th work anniversary at Delta,

showed Harper how to replace landing gear parts on his personal plane and brought her along on a few flights.

"I had never done anything like that before, so it was a bit of a challenge," she said. "It turns out it was something I really enjoyed doing."

Later that year, Harper found a job at a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified repair station in Thomaston, Ga. She began spending her days using a grinder to remove corrosion from airplane parts, a big change from crunching numbers.

"The station manager said he would hire this career accountant to work in his hangar," she said laughing. "I was having fun even though it was still really new to me."

During her time working at the repair station, Harper began to consider making a career change from accounting to aviation maintenance and began looking into programs around the state. After driving to Marietta, she made the trip to GNTC to get more information on the program.

"I drove to Rome on a hunch and now I am at the best aviation school in the state," Harper said. "I am in class full-time and while I do a few side gigs school is my life."

The AMT student said

she loves using tools and troubleshooting repairs in the GNTC Aviation Training Center labs. She has to do a little extra studying to make sure she stays on track, but considers herself fortunate to be able to focus solely on her technical training. After graduation, she hopes to get her pilot's license and start a full-time career repairing aircraft.

"Theresa is a great student and is showing signs of being on-track for a very successful career in aircraft maintenance," said Jon Byrd, director of Aviation Maintenance Technology at GNTC. "Theresa and her classmates are on track to meet their eligibility for the FAA Mechanic Certificate and Airframe Rating before the end of fall semester later this year."

Byrd said this is the second year in a row an AMT student has received a scholarship from the WAI. In 2020, Stephanie Tarbous received a scholarship from the organization which helped pay for her tuition.

"What a lot of students don't understand is scholarship money is out there and in some cases it goes unclaimed," he said. "I am thrilled Theresa and Stephanie took the time to seek out the WAI scholarships and received recognition for their hard work."



GNTC student Theresa Harper stands next to a plane in the GNTC Aviation Training Center hangar. Harper is the recipient of the HAI/WAI Maintenance Technician Certificate Scholarship and will receive recognition at the 32nd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference in March.

According to Women in Aviation International CEO Allison McKay, the organization has awarded over \$415,000 to more than 100 recipients of all ages in 2021. WAI will recognize scholarship winners during the 32nd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference, which will be held virtually, March 11-12.

"WAI scholarships have helped thousands of girls and women take significant steps toward making their aviation dreams a reality," said McKay. "The scope of scholarships available spans all the aviation specialties, with awards available for WAI members of all ages and

stages of life. We know that scholarships change lives, and we are thrilled to support more than 100 winners in WAI2021." The HAI/WAI Maintenance Technician Certificate Scholarship award provides \$2,500 to applicants who are in training to become aviation maintenance technicians. Applicants must already be enrolled in a maintenance technician certificate program at an FAA-approved Part 147 school or international equivalent.

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, 11,820 people benefited from GNTC's credit and noncredit programs. GNTC has an annual credit enrollment of 8,591 students and an additional enrollment of 3,229 people through adult education, continuing education, business and industry training and Georgia Quick Start. For more information about GNTC, visit us at www.GNTC.edu. GNTC is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia and an Equal Opportunity Institution.

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2025 REACH Scholar, Isabella Sanchez Recognized at February Board of Education Meeting

CALHOUN CITY SCHOOLS

A Class of 2025 REACH Scholar, Isabella Sanchez was recognized during the February Board of Education meeting on February 22, 2021. Chairman Eddie Reeves welcomed guests to the event. Chief Academic Officer, Mrs. Kelli Kendrick, who oversees REACH shared that Isabella has worked very hard to get to where she is. The Class of 2025 REACH Scholars consist of Sheyla Herrera-Monroy, Anthony Velazquez and Isabella Sanchez. Each of these scholars signed their contracts in December 2020 at a commitment ceremony. However, Isabella was unable to attend the ceremony.

The goal of Governor Nathan Deal's Complete College Georgia initiative is to graduate an additional 250,000 college students by 2020 with relevant postsecondary degrees for an ever-changing workforce. One of the programs created to help achieve that goal is Realizing Educational

Achievement Can Happen (REACH).

From the Alabama border to the Atlantic Ocean inside the Peach State, there are academically promising students who strive to be the first in their family to attend college. REACH encourages both students and the community to shed their preconceived notions and ensure those dreams become reality. Deal launched this initiative state-wide as a "strategic investment in our students and our state." Through college scholarships and academic and community support provided by the REACH program, more students can attain postsecondary credentials and be workforce ready.

REACH Scholars are required to sign a contract vowing to maintain good behavior, keep a cumulative grade point average above 2.5, meet with their REACH mentor at least twice a month and, along with their parents' guidance, focus on achieving both a high school diploma and college degree.

Starr Mathews, the Calhoun Rotary



Club, Georgia United Credit Union, Calhoun City Schools' faculty and staff and the Calhoun High School student body have all pledged their support of the REACH Scholars Program. "We are blessed to have these partnerships to ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to be successful," stated Dr. Michele

Taylor, Calhoun City Schools' Superintendent.

Pictured from L-R: Andy Baxter, Board Member; Rhoda Washington, Vice Chair; Michele Taylor, Superintendent; Isabella Sanchez, REACH Scholar; Eddie Reeves, Chairman and David Scoggins, Board Secretary

Red Bud Elementary names Young Georgia Author writing contest winners



RED BUD ELEMENTARY

Congratulations to Gisele Lewis (1st grade) and Marynell McLendon (3rd grade)! Their writing pieces won first place in the system level competition for the Young Georgia Author writing contest. We wish them the best of luck as they move on to the next level of the competition. Way to go RBE authors!

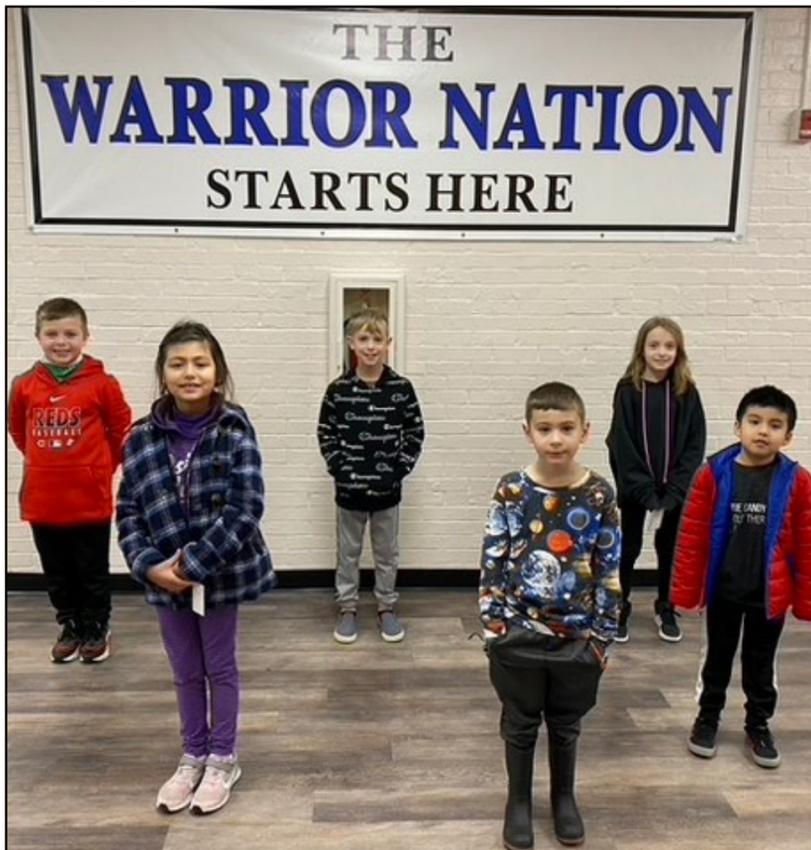


Belwood Reading Bowl Team finishes season ranked Top 4 in State

BELWOOD ELEMENTARY

Congratulations to Skylin Manis, Maddie Anglin, CeCe Kolterman, Calvin Kellog, Jenna Baker and Caroline Soesbe from the Belwood Reading Bowl Team. They have finished the season for the second year in a row ranked among the top four teams state-wide. The team will be moving on to compete at the Tome Society Reading Bowl State Championship! Mrs. Burnett and Mrs. Johnson do a wonderful job coaching the BES Reading Bowl Team.

W.L. Swain Elementary names Young Georgia Author writing contest winners



W.L. SWAIN ELEMENTARY

Congratulations to the winners for W.L. Swain's Young Georgia Authors. Front Row- Amaya Garcia (second grade), Jace Revette (Kindergarten), Xavier Gutierrez (first grade); Back Row-Will Schmitz (fourth grade), Ryder Lanham (third), Azariah Buske (fifth grade)



Gordon Central names Young Georgia Author winners

GORDON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to Gordon Central's Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition Winners. Winning entries will now move on to the system-level writing contest, and if chosen as the winner, then will move forward to the RESA-level competition. Pictured from L to R--Kaylin Reid 9th Grade, Alexandria Rampley (not pictured) 10th Grade, Elaina Richardson 11th Grade, and Holli Kile 12th Grade.

- 9th--Kaylin Reid, The Comfort of the Past and the Adrenalin of the Future
- 10th--Lexi Rampley, Ballad of a Poet
- 11th--Lainey Richardson, Of My Branches to Burden
- 12th--Holli Kile, To Die a Meaningless Death

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REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL from Rep. Rick Jasperse



Rep. Rick Jasperse
R-Jasper, District 11

Do I ever not say "It's a busy week"? Well, this one was! All committees and members are pushing to get ready for Crossover Day, which will be on Monday, March 8. It's the day a bill must pass the House and cross over to the Senate for them to review. I have the honor

to serve on the Rules Committee that reviews each bill in depth to recommend for a vote on the House floor or not. It takes a lot of time each day, but this group really looks at each bill and evaluates it and its effect on Georgians.

Our communities are very pro-Law Enforcement and appreciate the sacrifices that these folks do in keeping us safe. Legislation to stop local governments from defunding the police, HB 286, passed on the House floor Wednesday 101-69. There was at least an hour debate on the bill, mostly from those wanting the ability to cut police budgets. Slashing police budgets puts our most vulnerable at risk. I'm

proud that we have passed this important measure to keep our families safe.

The use of the internet to do business and care for Georgians continues and grows, and we are having to make some changes in the law to allow it. The Georgia Telehealth Act will further the advancements made in Telehealth by including several specific measures to increase access to Telehealth in our state - authorizing a healthcare provider to offer Telehealth services from home and patients to receive Telehealth services from their homes, workplaces, or schools. There were other measures voted on where courts, counselors, professional boards, and business boards can use

the internet to conduct their business.

House Bill 442 was also passed by the House this week, and this legislation highlights the prevalence of social media in today's society. Currently, Georgia's child custody laws require one or both parents to be responsible with decision-making authority for a child's education, health, extracurricular activities, and religious upbringing. HB 442 would require parents to also include social media management in their joint parenting plan. As technology and social media have evolved, they have become much more customary in our children's daily lives, and this bill would allow our child custody laws to remain relevant with the

ever-changing technology in our world.

House Bill 218 would allow reciprocity for any state's weapons carry license as long as the holder carries according to Georgia's laws, and the bill would limit the Governor's emergency powers in regards to seizing or prohibiting the possession and sale of legal weapons and ammunition. My neighbor Rep. Mandi Ballinger from Canton was the sponsor of this bill, and I was a cosigner.

Our Special Committee on Election Integrity held many additional meetings this week. There was a lot of meeting time dedicated to public comment and listening. At weeks' end the committee passed House Bill 531. That

legislation moved to the Rules Committee, and we passed it out for a floor vote on Monday, March 1. This bill includes several provisions - including an ID requirement on absentee ballots, outlining the processing of absentee ballots, and transparency measures for poll watchers.

In a short article you can't cover everything, so if you want more information or to comment on work that's going on or want more detail on what we have passed, please ask. I keep a weekly summary I can send you. My Capitol office number is 404-656-7153, my home 770-893-2039, and my email address is rick.jasperse@house.ga.gov. Please contact me anytime.

Georgia House committee takes up new horseracing measure

DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – With legislation aimed at legalizing pari-mutuel betting on horse racing stuck in a Georgia Senate committee, a House panel aired a new version of the measure Tuesday.

Rep. Ron Stephens, R-Savannah, pitched a constitutional amendment asking voters to decide whether to legalize the sport as a way to reenergize rural Georgia's struggling economy.

"It will create a new industry in Georgia of horse breeders and horse sales that could have over \$1 billion [a year] in economic impact in our state," Stephens told members of the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee, which he chairs.

Stephens held out Ocala, Fla., as an example, home to 37,000 racehorses, by far the largest breeding and training ground for horseracing in the nation. The industry generates an annual economic impact of \$1.5 billion in Marion County, where Ocala is located, he said.

Stephens said horse breeding could become a safety net for tree farmers who lost their pecan crops to Hurricane

Michael in 2018. It will take 20 years to grow new pecan trees to replace those lost to the storm, he said.

"This would allow those farmers to get into another industry," he said.

To broaden support for the constitutional amendment in the General Assembly, the measure would dedicate 10% of the net proceeds from pari-mutuel betting on horse racing to health care. Most previous horse racing legislation has proposed putting the proceeds exclusively toward Georgia's lottery-funded HOPE Scholarships and pre-kindergarten programs.

Stephens said the portion of the proceeds going to health care could be steered to rural communities, where some cash-strapped hospitals have been forced to close in recent years.

But Rep. Winfred Dukes, D-Albany, complained that the language in the measure isn't specific enough.

"If it's not specifically outlined, my concern is that the money would go everywhere," he said.

Stephens said another part of the proceeds would be used to create "an opportunity fund" that would provide

need-based scholarships and pre-k assistance to Georgia families with annual incomes below \$58,000. Currently, HOPE scholarships are based on merit rather than need.

If the constitutional amendment passes the committee, it would require two-thirds majorities of the House and Senate to get it through the General Assembly and onto next year's statewide ballot.

That promises to be a difficult hill to climb considering many lawmakers oppose legalized gambling both on moral grounds and because of its tendency to enable addictive gamblers.

"We can put a lot of lipstick on this pig," said Rep. Randy Nix, R-LaGrange, referring to the promises of rural economic development and funding for education and health care. "But at the end of the day, we're going to expand gambling big time in the state of Georgia."

After several committee members objected they hadn't had a chance to review the new proposal, Stephens agreed to limit Tuesday's meeting to a hearing only. The panel is expected to vote on it Thursday.





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Georgia Senate approves Zell Miller monument for state Capitol

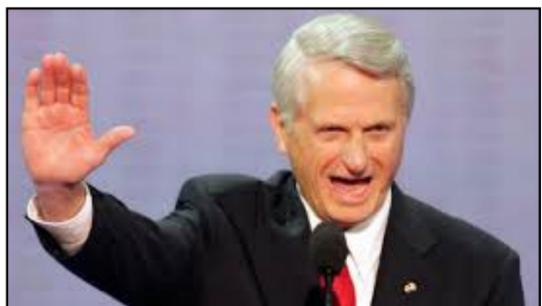
DAVE WILLIAMS
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – The late Gov. Zell Miller will be honored with a monument on the grounds of the Georgia Capitol under legislation the state Senate passed unanimously Monday.

"This is about the man who gave us HOPE," Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-Chickamauga, the bill's chief sponsor, told his Senate colleagues during a brief presentation. "He passed the HOPE Scholarship that has sent thousands and thousands of people to get higher education who never could have otherwise."

Miller, a Democrat who served both as Georgia's governor and as a U.S. senator, died in 2018 at age 86 after battling Parkinson's disease.

During two terms as governor in the 1990s, Miller was the driving force behind the creation of the



popular HOPE Scholarship program, funded through the Georgia Lottery.

Before that, the native of Young Harris served four terms as lieutenant governor.

After leaving the Governor's Mansion, he was appointed to the Senate in 2000 by then-Gov. Roy Barnes after the sudden death of Republican Sen. Paul Coverdell.

Miller decided not to seek re-election in 2004 after a public falling out with the Democratic Party, which he criticized with his book "A National Party No More."

Under Senate Bill 140, the monument's design will be chosen by a six-member committee.

Two members will be appointed by the speaker of the Georgia House and two will be appointed by the lieutenant governor. The final two members – one from the House and one from the Senate – will be chosen by the governor.

The bill also stipulates that funding for the monument will be raised from private donations. The measure now moves to the House.

Gordon County Family Connection announces mini-grant program, offering eight partner organizations \$500 grants

CONTRIBUTED

Gordon Family Connection has announced a competitive mini-grant program to support the work of its partners. This is an opportunity for eight organizations who are working to improve outcomes for Gordon County children and families to receive a grant of \$500.

Grantees should have a history with the Gordon County Family Connection collaborative and should be able to explain how their proposal aligns with the Collaborative's strategies and desired outcomes: "Implementing strategies that are aimed at improving child and family well-being with a focus on child abuse and neglect and youth risk-taking."

Collaboratives interested in applying can submit their application online at <https://forms.gle/jQu11JCggCsGph5k8>

The application process will be open the whole month of March.



The Gordon Co. Family Connection
 Implementing strategies that improve child and family well-being,
 with a focus on child abuse and neglect and youth risk-taking

Mini Grant Program

Are you a Gordon Co. Family Connection Collaborative partner in need of funds to support your program for children and families?

COUNTY

From page 1A

The multi-use facility was approved in the 2018 SPLOST. According to the 2018 SPLOST Projects Resolution on the Gordon County website, the Agricultural Event facility and Economic Development, which includes acquiring land, design, development, construction and equipping a multi-purpose public facility for agriculture exhibits and competitions, concerts, performances, graduations and for other economic development capital improvement projects with remaining funds is budgeted for \$4,301,896.

In other news from the meeting:

The Board approved a request from Gordon

County E-911 for two trainee replacements.

The Board approved contracts with three vendors chosen as pre-event debris removal service providers with Southern Disaster Recovery, KDF Enterprises and Ceres Environmental.

The Board approved Resaca Church's request to hold Easter Sunrise Services at the Resaca Battlefield the morning of April 4, 2021.

In Ledbetter's Administrator Report, he told the Board that SPOST and LOST collections are up substantially, 12.05 percent and 10 percent respectively.

The County has taken a step towards emergency radio coverage; a formal request for proposals has been posted to the public for delivery of an emergency radio system as a managed service. This option gets the County out of the expense of a tower business; the County will pay an annual fee to the provider for the radio service coverage, and

the County will make sure there are fail-safe and redundant systems to ensure that the radio system will stay up and running, providing better coverage than the County has now, such as inside certain large buildings. New radios and accessories will have to be purchased; Ledbetter said that Gordon County Fire & Rescue are researching grants for their department to help offset costs of their radios. Ledbetter said the current radios are older and would need to be replaced despite changing coverage services. Costs for the radios will be figured into the budget, and are expected to be in the low \$200,000 range after grant money is applied. Ledbetter told the Board that the overall savings of the new plan would make the cost of radios feasible.

The next meeting of the Gordon County Board of Commissioners will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at the Administration Building on North Wall Street in downtown Calhoun.



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