

# GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

## Man apprehended after standoff at Express Inn on Hwy. 225 Tuesday afternoon

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A Tennessee fugitive was apprehended in Gordon County on Tuesday at a local motel after an hours-long standoff with law enforcement.

According to Gordon County Sheriff Mitch Ralston, just after 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, deputy sheriffs were dispatched to the Express Inn on Hwy. 225 near I-75 after a receiving several complaints from an occupant of another room at the hotel concerning two suspects who were fugitives and were involved in illegal drugs, counterfeiting, firearms and fake identification documents.

According to an update from Sheriff Ralston, two deputies were at the motel to investigate the complaints, and while talking to the offenders, determined that they were wanted by authorities in



A deputy searches the area of a hotel parking lot during a standoff at a hotel on Hwy. 225 Tuesday afternoon.

Tennessee. The deputies arrested a female suspect, Schalles Williams, age 55, of 211 Arrow Drive, Signal Mountain, Tenn., without resistance. A man, identified as Wesley Swartout, age 52, of 689 Highway 225, Calhoun, produced a handgun and pointed it at the deputies. One deputy fired at Swartout, who

retreated back inside his motel room and barricaded himself inside. Swartout was not hit by the deputy's shot.

The Georgia State Patrol SWAT Team was then requested to the scene. The state troopers attempted to negotiate with the man without success. The troopers then deployed an armored, special



Wesley Swartout, left, and Schalles Williams were arrested on various charges after Swartout was involved in a standoff with law enforcement on Tuesday, May 26. (GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE)



purpose vehicle and broke down the motel room door and window. OC gas (also known as pepper spray) was deployed before the troopers entered the room and took Swartout into custody.

Sheriff's detectives secured a search warrant for

the crime scene and conducted a thorough search

of Swartout and Williams' motel room and the surrounding area. They took a number of

See **STANDOFF**,  
page 10A

## REMINDER: Early Voting opportunity offered this Saturday, May 30 in Gordon County

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Chairperson of the Gordon County Elections and Voter Registration Office Shea Hicks reminds registered voters that there is an opportunity to cast your ballot early this Saturday, May 30.

"We will be open on Saturday, May 30 for early voting from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office. Please remember that our office has been relocated in the Gordon County Annex Building at 101 S. Piedmont Street," said Hicks.

According to Hicks, as of

Wednesday morning, there have been 521 registered voters to cast ballots early. Of the 6798 absentee ballots by mail issued by Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office, 3519 absentee ballots have been turned into the office.

"Considering the circumstances, we are very pleased with the early voting turnout," said Hicks. "We would like to encourage voters to wear a mask when coming in to vote during early voting and when they go in to vote on Election Day.

See **ELECTION**,  
page 10A



## There is still time to complete the 2020 Census

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Officials with the United States Census Bureau want to remind the public that it's time to respond to the 2020 Census. The easiest way to take the Census is online.

This is the first time Census offers the opportunity to respond online at my2020census.gov, making it easier than ever to take the Census. There is still the option to call in and take the Census, or use the paper format of taking the Census. There are just 10 questions to answer on the 2020 Census.

Once 2020 Census data collection is complete, the Census Bureau begins a lengthy, thorough and scientifically rigorous process to produce the apportionment counts, redistricting information and other statistical data products that help guide hundreds of billions of dollars in public and private sector spending per year.

The U.S. Constitution mandates a headcount every 10 years of everyone residing in the United States and includes Puerto Rico and the island areas of the U.S. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens... if you live in the United States, it is imperative you are counted in the Census.

The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once and in the right place. More than \$675 billion every year (more than \$4 trillion each decade) is distributed to state and local governments using Census numbers. Census data is used in at least 50 ways, including drawing

federal, state and local legislative districts; attracting new businesses to state and local areas; planning hospitals, nursing homes and clinics; forecasting future housing needs for all segments of the population; developing rural areas; establishing fair market rents and enforcing fair lending practices and dozens of other ways that affect every resident in the community.

"It impacts our local community from education development to healthcare. It's important that we here in Georgia get our fair share of representation as well as the funding," said Tina Nguyen, a Census representative.

It is stressed that the Census is never used to alert law enforcement or immigration to a person's legal status in the United States; by law, the Census cannot share any Census taker's information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement or allow it to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits.

In the Calhoun-Gordon County area, it will be important for everyone to be counted, including the local homeless population, Hispanic population, and children, especially those under the age of five. In the last census, around 1,000,000 children were not counted in the Census, and it is feared close to 2,000,000 children might not be counted in this Census. Those correct numbers are imperative for education and health funding and planning.

If you are unable to respond to the Census online, you can have a paper questionnaire mailed. Simply call 1-844-330-2020.

## Calhoun Fire responds to two fires over long holiday weekend



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Firefighters with Calhoun Fire worked two fires over the long holiday weekend.

According to Deputy Fire Chief Terry Mills, around 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 22, firefighters responded to a kitchen fire at an apartment located at 101 Forest Heights Circle. Upon arrival, firefighters discovered a fire that had started in a microwave. The kitchen received smoke damage.

Around 12:30 p.m. on Monday, May 25, firefighters responded to AmeriPride, located at 1317 North Highway 41, in response to calls of passerby's seeing smoke from the building. A bin containing soiled uniforms and linens that was located inside a transport truck had caught on fire. The truck was parked inside the building. The container and truck received fire damage, with some smoke damage to the building reported.

No estimates on cost of damages were available at press time.

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### Inside this issue:

**SECOND FRONT 2A**



Anna Shaw Children's Institute offers family class on June 2.

### CRIME 9A



Multiple arrests made by CPD over the holiday weekend.

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## Second Front

# Toilet training is topic for Anna Shaw Children’s Institute family class scheduled for June 2

HAMILTON MEDICAL

The Anna Shaw Children’s Institute (ASCI), 1201 Burleyson Road, will hold a family support class on Tuesday, June 2 at 6 p.m. in the Southern Magnolia Rooms on first floor of the facility. ASCI follows social and CDC guidelines.

Nancy Carnevale, MD, medical director, and Elizabeth Gregory, board-certified behavioral analyst, will provide a presentation on toilet training.

This class is part of ASCI’s CHAMP series. CHAMP stands for Classes to

Help, Advise and Motivate Parents. The CHAMP series is open to families of children of any age.

Please register by calling 706-226-8911. Space is limited. Limited childcare for children 12 and under will be available. To receive assistance with interpretation services and/or auxiliary aids during this event, please let us know when registering.

Participants are encouraged to park in the lower lot since the upper doors will be locked by 6 p.m.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Businesses and Residents of Georgia Affected by April Thunderstorms, Excessive Rainfall and Tornadoes

CONTRIBUTED

WASHINGTON – Georgia businesses and residents affected by thunderstorms, excessive rainfall and tornadoes on April 12 -13, 2020 can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Administrator Jovita Carranza announced today.

Administrator Carranza made the loans available in response to a letter from Georgia

Gov. Brian Kemp on May 18, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Murray County and the adjacent counties of Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon and Whitfield in Georgia; and Bradley and Polk in Tennessee.

“The SBA is strongly committed to providing the people of Georgia with the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist businesses of all sizes, homeowners and renters with federal disaster loans,” said Carranza. “Getting businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

In accordance with health precautions for the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the SBA will not establish a field presence to assist survivors. However, SBA will continue to provide first class customer service and conduct outreach virtually with webinars, skype calls, phone assistance and step-by-step application assistance. To this end, SBA has opened a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center (VDLOC) to help survivors apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/> and there are virtual customer support representatives available to assist applicants with completing the online

application. The VDLOC information: Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center (VDLOC)

Open: Monday – Friday  
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Closed: Saturdays and Sundays  
Closed: Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day  
[FOCE-Help@sba.gov](mailto:FOCE-Help@sba.gov)  
Phone for Businesses: 571.422.6078  
Phone for Individuals: 470.363.5611 or 404.895.8439

These services are only available for the Georgia disaster declaration as a result of the thunderstorms, excessive rainfall and tornadoes on April 12 -13, 2020, and not for COVID-19 related assistance.

Survivors should contact the Disaster Assistance Professionals at 571.422.6078, 470.363.5611 or 404.895.8439 to schedule an appointment for immediate one-on-one assistance in completing their applications. Requests for SBA disaster loan program information may be obtained by emailing [FOCE-Help@sba.gov](mailto:FOCE-Help@sba.gov). The SBA will conduct extensive outreach to ensure that all impacted by the disaster are afforded the opportunity to seek assistance.

“Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets,” said SBA’s Georgia’s District Director Terri Denison.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan



assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” said Kem Fleming, center director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East in Atlanta.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

Interest rates are as low as 3.75 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for nonprofit organizations, and 1.563 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amount and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is July 20, 2020. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Feb. 22, 2021.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

GORDON

Gazette

The ONLY **LOCALLY OWNED AND LOCALLY STAFFED** news outlet covering the Calhoun-Gordon County community

[www.gordongazettega.com](http://www.gordongazettega.com)

# Red Bud Middle Student Lifts Seniors’ Spirits with Handmade Cards

CONTRIBUTED

Ella Offutt was inspired by social media to do something very special. A student at Red Bud Middle School, Ella saw where someone had made handwritten cards for Mother’s Day and gave them to the seniors at a nursing home. Ella decided that she wanted to do a good deed for seniors as well. She spent an entire day making handwritten cards with drawings, Bible verses, and special messages written inside for all 63 of the residents at the Morning Pointe of Calhoun assisted living and Alzheimer’s memory care community! With her grandmother’s help, she was able to deliver the cards to the assisted living and memory care



community and Morning Pointe associates made sure that every resident got one. “The residents enjoyed receiving and reading the handwritten cards. They were touched

by the messages inside. It made their day!” said Keisha Cox, the life enrichment director at Morning Pointe of Calhoun.

VOTE

ROD BREHM

Gordon County Board of Education Post 4

I will work for the residents of Gordon County

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

Visit me on Facebook at ‘Rod Brehm for Gordon County Board of Education’

Paid Political Advertisement

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



# Obituaries

## May 27, 2020

### Joyce Culberson

Mrs. Joyce Elaine Lacey Culberson, age 86, of Adairsville, went to be with her Lord and Savior Saturday morning, May 23, 2020.

She was born in Cassville, Ga. on Oct. 21, 1933, to the late Sanford Bell Lacey, Sr. and Ruby Lillian Venable Lacey. She was a member of Adairsville Baptist Church and past member of Garden Lakes Baptist Church and Tabernacle Baptist Church. A faithful Christian, she loved to serve and help in her church. She retired from Bell South after 35 years of service and was a member of the AT&T Pioneers. Joyce genuinely loved her community and always found a way to give back. She was one of the first women to become a member of the Adairsville Lions Club in 1986. Over the years she has held several positions with the Lions Club; past president, Gold Chain Chairman, Region Chairman, and Zone 4 Chairman. She enjoyed helping with the fundraisers, especially at the Great Locomotive Chase where she was known for her funnel cakes. She was a lifetime member of the San Souci, served on the Advanced Adairsville Committee, volunteered at the Downtown Depot, and the Cartersville Elementary School, and helped with the local GED program. Joyce loved her family and was a proud wife, mother, and grandmother. She was an avid gardener, enjoyed tending to the family farm, and lover of flowers. She will always be remembered as a gracious, honorable, loving, and beautiful lady. She was preceded in death by her parents, son, Brian Culberson, granddaughter, Elizabeth Lacey Culberson, and brothers, Leonard, Glenn, and Sanford Lacey.

Survivors include her loving husband of 67 years, Earl Culberson; son, Rusty and Theresa Culberson; grandchildren, Ami and Ty Jones and Sarah and Glenn Mitchell; great-granddaughter, Piper Jones; and several nieces and nephews.

Private memorial service will be held Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Barton Funeral Home with Rev. Bob Skelton and Rev. Eric Sorrell officiating. Interment will follow in Eastview Cemetery, Adairsville.

A celebration of Joyce's life will be held at a later date.

Members of the Adairsville Lions Club will serve as honorary pallbearers.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of the funeral arrangements for Mrs. Joyce Elaine Lacey Culberson.

### Barton Funeral Home

### Douglas Fowler

Mr. Douglas Billy Fowler, age 76, of Adairsville, passed away peacefully Friday evening, May 22, 2020, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Canton, Ga., Dec. 24, 1943 to the late Ladis Wes Fowler and Mattie Lee Cline Fowler. Mr. Fowler was a faithful member of Oak Grove Baptist Church for 50 years. He was the vocational construction teacher at Cass High School for 27 years before retiring. He was the Host of the Peach Meet Club for 10 years and past director and current member of the Midwest Tool Club Area M. A true antique small hand tool collector, he traveled many places finding pieces to add to his collection. He was a loving husband, brother, uncle, teacher, and friend who will be missed by many. Mr. Fowler was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Doris Watkins; brother, J.C. Fowler; and brother-in-law, Jerry King.

Survivors include his loving wife of 49 years, Geraldine King Fowler; sister, Bobbie and Charles Anderson of Canton; brother, Glenn and Mary Fowler of Gray; sisters-in-law, Betty and Waymon Dutton of Plainville, and Jo Anne Burnette of Plainville; nieces and nephews, Robert Watkins, William Anderson, Connie Hatcher, Tammy White, Kristy Bramblet, Sammy Brown, Steve King, Carla

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.

**-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

Boelhouwer, Pam Fowler, Kris Reese, Gina Tuttle, Amanda Easterwood, and Patty Turner; and several special great nieces and nephews.

Private funeral services were held Monday, May 25, 2020, at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Barton Funeral Home with Pastor Andrew Campbell, Rev. Roger Fisher, and Rev. Jackie Clayton officiating. Graveside services will follow in Franklin Cemetery. Following social distancing guidelines the family will receive family and friends Monday from 12 noon until 2 p.m. at Barton Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Grant Hollingsworth, Sammy Brown, Leroy Taylor, Zackary Grantham, Barry Tuttle and Frank Moorehead.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Heyman Hospice for all their care and support given, especially Sharon Seabolt, Alicia Hendricks, Bob Lee, Shannon Watley, Kenosha Staples, Kelly Boroski, and Sandra Wendt.

### Barton Funeral Home

### Ronald 'Ron' Kinsey

Mr. Dennis Ronald Kinsey, better known as "Ron", 62 of Sugar Valley, departed this life on Sunday evening, May 24, 2020 at Redmond Regional Medical Center in Rome.

Ron was born in Calhoun on Feb. 24, 1958. He was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin Franklin Kinsey, and Carolyn Griffith Kinsey; also, two brothers, Terry Kinsey and Keith Kinsey.

He was a Veteran of The United States Army and was a 1976 graduate of Calhoun High School.

Ron is survived by his brother, Rick Kinsey of Sugar Valley; niece, April Kinsey Charles, and her husband Lee Charles of Calhoun; an aunt, Linda Bailey also of Calhoun.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, May 30, 2020 from 1 – 3 p.m. at the graveside in Sugar Valley Old Methodist Church Cemetery.

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

Arrangements are by family owned and operated Ponders Calhoun Chapel and Ponders Crematory. We own and operate our own crematory, ensuring your loved one never leaves our care. 675 Jolly Rd Calhoun GA 30701 706-625-7577



### Tammy Sanford

Tammy Mulkey Sanford, 55, of Ranger, died Monday, May 25, 2020. She was born on May 17, 1965 in Calhoun to Donald and Sylvia Mulkey.

She worked at Georgia Bank and Trust for many years. After her retirement from the bank, she worked with her family at Trilake Tufters. She enjoyed hunting, fishing, craftwork and camping. She was a member of Fairview Church of God.

She is survived by her husband of 33 years Jeff Sanford; son and daughter-in-law, Coby and Siarra Sanford; father and mother, Donald and Sylvia Mulkey; brothers and sister-in-law, Timmy and Tricia Mulkey and Terry Mulkey; sister and brother-in-law, Tina and Michael Wigington; Father-in-law and mother-in-law, Grady and Geraldine Sanford; Brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Grady Jr. and Raina Sanford; nieces and nephews, Kristin and Dustin Mulkey, Whitney Cordell, Christopher Fletcher, Stephaine Jackson, Brent and Elex Sanford.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 2 p.m. from Pleasant Valley Baptist Church with Rev. Kenny Sheriff and Johnny Parker officiating. Burial will follow at Haven of Rest Memorial Park with Bishop Terry Jones officiating. Pallbearers include, Michael Lee, Mitchell Lee, Chris Fletcher, Steve Fain, Greg Holcomb, and



Grady Sanford Jr.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, May 27, 2020 from 5 – 8 p.m. from Pleasant Valley Baptist Church. Her body will lie in state Thursday from 1 – 2 p.m.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Tammy Mulkey Sanford.



### Mary Stamey

Mary Ellon Stamey, 78, of Calhoun, passed away at her home on Saturday, May 23, 2020. Mary was born in Lumpkin County on Dec. 22, 1941; she was the daughter of the late M.W. and Dola Crane Sheffield. She was preceded in death by her son Greg Stamey and her son-in-law, Rev. Dr. Brent Davis; her siblings Edward Sheffield, Loy Dean Sheffield, Tommy Sheffield, Ira Sheffield, Hazel Barr, and Merle Gaddis. She was a member of Heritage Baptist Church.

She is survived by her children, Andy and Delorise Stamey, and Jennifer Davis; her grandchildren; Max Stamey, Taya Davis, and Cana Davis; nieces, nephews and other relatives also survive.

The family will receive friends Tuesday from 1 – 3 p.m. at Heritage Baptist Church; the funeral service will follow the visitation at 3 p.m. on Tuesday from the church. Rev. Shane Parrott is presiding.

For memorials the family suggests Heritage Baptist Church 345 Curtis Parkway, Calhoun, Georgia 30701.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mary Ellon (Sheffield) Stamey.



### Sam Wilson

Sam Wilson, 34, of Calhoun, died on Sunday, May 24 at AdventHealth Gordon. Sam was born in Dalton on March 23, 1986 to Mike and Susie Terry Wilson. He was preceded in death by his grandparents George and Shirley Wilson and R.L. and Joyce Terry; his father-in-law Tommy Langston; his lifelong friend, Rev. Dr. Brent Davis.

Sam was a member of Heritage Baptist Church. He was also an avid golfer and enjoyed cooking, especially on the grill. He volunteered with Camp Sunshine to work with children that had health problems and was active in The American Cancer Society Relay for Life. His children were his passion; he will be remembered as a loving and caring dad.

He is survived by his wife of nine years, Amanda Kasey Langston Wilson and two sons, Cooper Thomas Wilson and Cohen Langston Wilson; his parents, Mike and Susie Wilson; mother-in-law Sandra Langston; sisters Wendy (Jamie) Stanley, Hollie (Will) Brooks; sister-in-law Gina (Michael) King, Rhonda (Michael) Mealor; brother-in-law Brian Davis; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and close friends.

The funeral service will be conducted on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 3 p.m. from Heritage Baptist Church. Rev. Shane Parrott will officiate. Pallbearers are Richie Wright, Shay Wright, Jake White, David Locke, Caris Roland, Paul Crump, Matthew Price, Daniel Whitehead, Steve Godwin, and Dewayne York.

The Wilson family will receive friends at Heritage Baptist Church on Wednesday from 2 p.m. until the funeral service at 3 p.m.

The family suggests that memorials be made to Camp Sunshine, 1850 Clairmont Road, Decatur GA 30033.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Sam Wilson.



## Help for the Hurting

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

**-The Northwest Georgia Parkinson Disease Association, Inc., is offering a monthly support group** for persons living with Parkinson

Disease, their caregivers, family and friends. The support group will meet at Gordon Hospital; Conference Room A. For any questions about the support group and future meetings, call James Trussell at 706-235- 3164 or 706-346-5678.

**-Families Anonymous is a 12-step program, for those concerned about drug abuse and behavior problems of a relative or friend.** Completely anonymous, non professional, and non religious. No dues, no fees.

Not connected with any hospital or agency. Located on Red Bud Road in plaza below Fitness First, next to Calhoun Counseling Center (Dr. Bledsoe's office). Meeting every Thursday 7 - 8 p.m. Call 770-548-7849 for more information.

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

**-The Georgia Chapter**

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

**-Special Care Plus, a free one-on-one consultation program, offers education and**

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

**-Want to make a difference in the community? Tapestry Hospice is seeking volunteers to provide companionship** to our patients, read books, make crafts, garden, light house cleaning,

administrative work, etc. If you're interested contact Megan at [megan.guthrie@tapestryhospice.com](mailto:megan.guthrie@tapestryhospice.com)

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



# ELECT BRUCE POTTS



## Gordon County Commissioner District 3

A proven leader dedicated  
to Calhoun-Gordon County

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

### About Bruce

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

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

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

### Commissioner Focus:

#### SAFETY AND SECURITY

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

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

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

#### WORKFORCE/INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

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

#### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR GORDON CO.

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

### Important Dates To Remember

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



Church News

God can fulfill His purpose in you, here and now!



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

This September 16th will make 19 years since I was gloriously saved. When I really

understood just what it was that Jesus did for me that day, there were two things that stood out...

First, it just seemed as if Jesus was too good to be true. I mean how many people would give up the highest position of royalty and ultimately suffer crucifixion on a cross, for someone who really wasn't even interested in knowing Him?

Secondly, Jesus was just too good for me to keep to myself. It's natural for an unsaved person to not share their testimony. It's unnatural

for a saved person to not tell their testimony. When someone I know gets saved, other Christians will want to talk about it. However, if the only place you hear about their salvation is from someone else, something's missing!!

As we yield our plans to His daily plan for our lives, people will be drawn to Christ. While there's nothing wrong with wanting to do something big for God with our life, God wants us to simply wake up every day and give that day to the ministry He

has for us.

You may ask, "How I do this ministry that God as for me?" I want to share a few things that might help you from an event in the life of Shamgar, judge of Israel; as found in the book of Judges Chapter 3. Verse 31 tells us, "And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel."

First of all, you need to start where you are. Shamgar started on the farm, because that's

where he was. God called Shamgar to do a mighty work from the farm. God's calling you to do a mighty work wherever you are. You just need to get started.

Not only do you need to get started where you are, but with what you have. Shamgar killed six hundred Philistine men, who were probably skilled fighters with the best weapons of that day, with an ox goad (a farm tool). We have the greatest weapon of all time, The Bible! Many weapons are designed to take lives, but only

God's Word can give it!

Lastly, we need to do what we can. Some days you'll feel exhausted, but just imagine how Shamgar felt after he had killed sixty of those men. Then know, by faith in God, he went on to kill ten times that number. Faith in God means that when we've done all we can, we believe He'll do all we can't!

Whatever God's purpose is, HE can do it through you right now, right where you are!

-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.

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

**-Pine Chapel United Methodist Church,** located at 2232 Pine

Chapel Road in Resaca, "A place to begin, belong and become." Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Louise W. Elmore.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**-Pleasant Valley Baptist Church is a Bible believing & teaching church located in the Red Bud Community.** Pastor Keith Gibson and the congregation invite you to come and worship with us at 3882 Red Bud Rd.,

Calhoun. Opportunities for worship: Bible Study for all ages 10 a.m., Children's Church up to 5th grade 11a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Wednesday night service times Prayer Bible Study and Student Ministries 7 p.m.

706-624-0198, Fine us on Facebook or email pvbccalhoun@gmail.com

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

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

Come out and see what the Lord is doing!

**-The College Street Church of God, 731 College St., Calhoun,** 706-483-3666, pastor 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.

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# Cash Flow With Joe: Don't let innovation disrupt you



**Joe & Ashley English**  
Owners of Focus  
Property Solutions, LLC  
[focuspropertysolutionsllc@gmail.com](mailto:focuspropertysolutionsllc@gmail.com)

There's a really cool book you should check out called "Disrupt You" by Jay Samit. Jay is a serial entrepreneur with a background in media and computer programming. To define the concept of what a disruption is, Jay tells a personal story about how he failed big-time. He had a computer

programming company that was bidding on a state contract to make kiosks so people could purchase lottery tickets on demand during the 1990s. Jay's team built a beautiful machine with a full-color display and a friendly voice that would guide people through the purchase. Jay sunk almost every dollar he had into making this prototype. He believed he had a superior product that was ahead of its time for that era. The problem was that the government felt it was too advanced and chose a machine with a green glowing font that looked similar to the other computers typical of that time. D e c i m a t e d , disappointed and broke, Jay used his last few bucks to catch a flight back home. The whole way, he

questioned what he was going to do. When he got off the plan at the busy LAX hub, he noticed a foreign couple trying to figure out where to go and how to call for a cab. The information desk was on break and there was no one to help. He thought to himself that it would be great if there was a kiosk that could help people find where they were going and how to call for a cab — even in multiple languages. He looked down at the prototype he had in hands and knew what to do. With only a few minor tweaks, Jay was able to accomplish his goal and sold his machines to airports all over the world. In the book, Jay says, "Things Change. And they change really rapidly." He says that if you own a business, you have to get your head wrapped around

this fact and be willing to change, too. He defines these changes in the marketplace as disruptions. And Jay's book goes through case studies of companies that changed during a disruption and those that did not. Just like Jay's airport kiosk, change breeds opportunity if you are willing to take note and innovate. And we have seen some major changes in the real estate world since we have been on lockdown. Truthfully, I believe we will see quite a bit more change as we come out of lockdown. Innovation will come, and you will need to change the way you do business. Chances are you have been using Zoom and Facetime way more than you ever did two months ago. But be careful as you innovate. Sometimes it can

get away from you and become counterproductive. Here is a case in point. We have been using a software to track our marketing so we can determine which is most effective. To do that, we've been using different phone numbers on our marketing pieces as a tracking tool. For instance, the number on our postcard may be different than the number on a letter. All the numbers are forwarded to us, or to our answering service if we are not available. The beauty of this system is when someone calls a particular number, the software uses that information to make a seller card, which tells who called and from what marketing piece so that we can be more efficient with our marketing dollars — that is if it was working

correctly. This week, we found we had an error in the way we set things up, and it had been affecting the system for a couple of months. Because of that fact, we have missed some seller calls, not gotten the tracking we desired and had been paying for a service we weren't really using. That was pretty much the opposite of what we were trying to accomplish. Innovation is great, and in most cases, a necessity. Just be careful that you don't get so busy innovating that those changes disrupt your business and become counterproductive. *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](http://www.cashflowwithjoe.com) or call Joe at 678-986-6813.*

# Know Risk Tolerance at Different Stages of Life



**Dewayne Bowen**  
Financial Advisor  
at Edward Jones  
[dewayne.bowen@edwardjones.com](mailto:dewayne.bowen@edwardjones.com)

As an investor, you'll always need to deal with risk of some kind. But how can you manage the risk that's been made clear by the recent volatility in the financial markets? The answer to this question may depend on where you are

in life. Let's look at some different life stages and how you might deal with risk at each of them: When you're first starting out ... If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or even five decades to go until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk, as risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Consequently, your risk tolerance may be relatively high. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly. When you're in the

middle stages ... At this time of your life, you're well along in your career, and you're probably working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and possibly for your children's college education. So, you still need to be investing for growth, which means you'll likely need to maintain a relatively high risk tolerance. Nonetheless, it's a good idea to have some balance in your portfolio, so you'll want to consider a mix of investments that align with each of your goals. When you're a few years from retirement ... Now, you might have already achieved some key goals — perhaps your kids have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. This may mean you have more

money available to put away for retirement, but you'll still have to think carefully about how much risk you're willing to take. Since you're going to retire soon, you might consider rebalancing your portfolio to include some more conservative investments, whose value is less susceptible to financial market fluctuations. The reason? In just a few years, when you're retired, you will need to start taking withdrawals from your investment portfolio — essentially, you'll be selling investments, so, as much as possible, you'll want to avoid selling them when their price is down. Nonetheless, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. However,

you can further reduce the future risk of being overly dependent on selling variable investments by devoting a certain percentage of your portfolio to cash and cash equivalents and designating this portion to be used for your daily expenses during the years immediately preceding, and possibly spilling into, your retirement. When you're retired ... Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all. But you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. Establishing a withdrawal rate — the amount you take out each year from your investments — that's appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can

reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to lower your withdrawal rate temporarily. As you can see, your tolerance for risk, and your methods of dealing with it, can change over time. By being aware of this progression, you can make better-informed investment decisions. The road to your financial goals is a long one, with many twists and turns. So you might like to have some experienced company along the way. *This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

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# GORDON GROWN

## Carpenter Ant Control Tips



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

Carpenter ants are known by many to be the largest of the ant species that homeowners will encounter. In Georgia, there are two carpenter ant species. In our part of the state, we will see more of the black carpenter ant. The black carpenter ant is dull black in appearance with an abdomen that is covered with yellowish hairs. The other is the Florida carpenter ant that is seen more in southern and southeastern Georgia. The Florida carpenter ant has a reddish looking head and thorax and a

shiny black abdomen. As I stated, the black carpenter ant will be seen more in this part of the state. For many homeowners, they see the carpenter ant as a nuisance pest. This can be related to the size of the ant as they are out foraging for food. I saw a few carpenter ants this morning on the concrete as I entered my car so they are active now. They are also seen as a pest because they are looked upon as a mild wood-destroying organism. They do not eat wood, but they do chew wood to make nest sites. Today, I will be sharing information from a UGA circular by Dan Suiter and Brian Forscher, UGA Entomologists.

This is the time of year that carpenter ants will become active. This activity will go until fall. You can see carpenter ants during the day, but they are more active at night. About fifteen minutes after sundown, large numbers of carpenter ants will

leave the nest. Carpenter ant activity can be very interesting. When they travel, these ants can move hundreds of feet between nest site and feeding sites. They do this on semi-permanent paths. You can see them moving on these pathways.

Carpenter ants can nest in various places in and outside the home. Some examples of nesting sites in our information are in moisture damaged wood around chimneys and skylights, under bathtubs, inside the walls of dishwashers, wall voids under window sills, inside hollow doors, door frames, under fiberglass insulation in crawlspaces, wall voids, in wood porch supports and columns, under siding and wood shingles and in wood damaged eaves.

Outdoors, carpenter ant nests can be found in hardwood trees. The ants will look for knotholes, treeholes or other voids in the tree. The ants will chew the wood to make

galleries for nest sites. You may find nests in stumps, logs and railroad ties for example.

If you feel you need to control the carpenter ants, the key is finding the nest. When you find the nest, you have the option of either physically removing the nest or treating the nest with an approved insecticide. You may have to turn into an investigator to find the nesting site. It actually could be a family activity in finding the nest. With all of the social distancing, we find our family more outdoors on the farm or in the landscape more than normal. Indoors, you can try to follow a few of the ants to where they are nesting. Outdoors, the investigation needs to start about 30 minutes after sunset.

Keep in mind that carpenter ants in the home many times may be found nesting outdoors. Again, searching outdoors after sundown may be a fun

activity by the family. To find outdoors nests after dark, you can start by inspecting larger tree by shining a light up and down the trunk. If there is a nest in the tree, you should be able to see the carpenter ants going up and down the trunk area. You may even see a pile of sawdust appearing shavings on the ground at the base of the tree. These piles are from the excavation work done by the ants. The kids may even want to check the shavings out because it may hold parts of dead carpenter ants and also pieces of other dead insects that were brought into the nest for food.

Our information states that in most cases, the insecticidal baits are the preferred way to control carpenter ants. It is suggested that indoors to use baits that are in childproof, plastic bait stations.

Place bait stations in areas where ants have been seen or where they will come in contact with

foraging ants. Outdoors, gel baits can be used. Our information states to deliver gel baits from two or three small piles about the size of a quarter in areas where the ants have been seen. This can be next to or on semi-permanent pathways or even on the bark of trees that you find are home to a carpenter ant nest. It is important to use the gel baits in the evening or at night in order to make sure day foraging ants do not eat the bait before carpenter ants become active at night.

I can provide tips to prevent carpenter ant issues at a later time. I will add that if the problem continues, you may have to hire a pest management professional.

Finally, if you use any insecticide product, you must read the label for proper use, warnings and safety precautions.

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

## USDA announces details of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

GEORGIA FARM BUREAU

Beginning May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Farm Service Agency (FSA), will begin accepting applications from farmers and ranchers whose markets have been negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The USDA will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to eligible producers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of ag commodities that have suffered a 5% or greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

Farmers and ranchers will receive direct support, drawn from two possible funding sources. The first source of funding is \$9.5 billion in funds appropriated in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act to compensate farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020, and mid-April 2020. This funding provides support for specialty crops that had been shipped from the farm between the same time period but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channels. The second funding source uses the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate producers for \$6.5 billion in losses due to on-going market disruptions.

How payments will be determined:

- Non-Specialty Crops and Wool - Non-specialty crops eligible for CFAP payments include upland cotton, corn, soybeans, canola, oats, sorghum, durum wheat, hard red spring wheat, malting barley, millet and sunflowers. Wool is also eligible. Producers will be paid based on inventory subject to price risk held as of January 15, 2020. A payment will be made based on 50% of a producer's 2019 total production or the 2019 inventory as of January 15, 2020, whichever is smaller, multiplied by the commodity's applicable payment rates.
- Livestock - Livestock eligible for CFAP include cattle, yearlings, hogs and lambs. The total payment will be calculated using the sum of the producer's number of livestock sold between January 15 and April 15,

2020, multiplied by the payment rates per head, and the highest inventory number of livestock between April 16 and May 14, 2020, multiplied by the payment rate per head.

- Dairy - For dairy, the total payment will be calculated based on a producer's certification of milk production for the first quarter of calendar year 2020 multiplied by a national price decline during the same quarter. The second part of the payment is based on a national adjustment to each producer's production in the first quarter.

- Specialty Crops - For eligible specialty crops, the total payment will be based on the volume of production sold between Jan. 15 and April 15, 2020; the volume of production shipped, but unpaid; and the number of acres for which harvested production did not leave the farm or mature product destroyed or not harvested during that same time period, and which have not and will not be sold. Specialty crops include, but are not limited to: almonds, beans, broccoli, sweet corn, lemons, iceberg lettuce, spinach, squash, strawberries and tomatoes. A full list of eligible crops can be found on [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap). Additional crops may be deemed eligible at a later date.

There is a payment limit of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits where members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

Additional information and application forms can be found at [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap). Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed. Applications will be accepted

through August 28.

To ensure the availability of funding throughout the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only; field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. More information can be found at [www.farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus).

In addition to the application form, farmers may be required to complete portions of Form CCC-902 (Farm Operating Plant). The following forms will be needed for CFAP; for existing customer FSA customers, this information is likely on file at their local service center:

- CCC-901 (Also Available in Spanish) – Identifies members of a farm or ranch that is a legal entity. Member information will be completed by legal entities and joint operations to collect member names, addresses, and Tax Identification Numbers, and citizenship status;
- CCC-941 (Also Available in Spanish) – Reports average adjusted gross income for programs where income restrictions apply;
- CCC-942 – If applicable, this certification reports income from farming, ranching and forestry, for those exceeding the adjusted gross income limitation;
- AD-1026 (Also Available in Spanish) – Ensures compliance with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation;
- AD-2047 – Provides basic customer contact information;
- SF-3881 – Collects banking information to allow USDA to make payments via direct deposit.

FSA does not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed.

In addition to this direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program is partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat and deliver boxes to Americans in need.

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# HEALTH NEWS

## GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Budget cuts for mental health, disabilities alarm patient advocates

ANDY MILLER  
Georgia Health News

“The safety net is stretched to the max.”

Judy Fitzgerald, commissioner of the agency that oversees mental health and substance abuse services, gave that stark assessment in January to state legislators who were considering budget cuts to her department.

Now, even deeper cuts are on the table.

Georgia’s budget plans of just a few months ago have been overturned by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) last week outlined \$172 million in budget reductions for the upcoming fiscal year. The recommendations come as state agencies respond to Gov. Brian Kemp’s mandate to find ways to reduce spending by 14 percent.

Georgia Senate budget subcommittees will take up the recommendations from agency leaders this week. “We have to deal with the cards we have on the table right now,” said the new Senate Appropriations Committee chairman, Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia), according to the Capitol Beat News Service.

The cuts loom even as the coronavirus crisis

has sparked new mental health stresses among Americans.

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll found more than half of Americans — 56 percent — reported that worry or stress related to the outbreak has led to at least one negative mental health effect. Another report, from the Well Being Trust, said the pandemic could lead to 75,000 additional “deaths of despair” from drug and alcohol misuse and suicide due to unemployment, social isolation and fears about the virus. (Here’s a recent GHN article on increased anxiety.)

The DBHDD budget includes reductions of:

- \*\*\$6 million for school-based Apex mental health services.
- \*\*\$3 million for the Marcus Autism Center.
- \*\*\$10 million for adult mental health services.
- \*\*\$13 million for family support services for people with developmental disabilities.

The budget recommendations as outlined “will increase the costs down the road for increased ER visits, homelessness, institutionalization and incarceration,” said Susan Goico, an Atlanta Legal Aid attorney.

The properties of closed hospitals in Rome and Thomasville will not be adapted for

other use but will be left idle, for a savings of \$2.5 million.

Agency employees will have furloughs of 24 days. Dozens of jobs will be eliminated, but it is believed that many of these positions are currently vacant.

Advocacy groups, when asked about the recommended cuts, predicted many negative consequences.

“We know that prior to the pandemic, more than 40 percent of children and youth were not able to access the mental health services they need, and many kids with developmental disabilities likewise struggled to access services and supports,” said Polly McKinney of advocacy group Voices for Georgia’s Children.

“The state, however, was starting to make significant progress in addressing these needs with school-based health and school-based mental health, both of which improve kids’ life trajectories, are more cost-effective, and actually save lives.”

Many children and youths will return to school while dealing with mental health challenges, McKinney added. “We just hope that as our lawmakers wrestle with this economic downturn that they will keep kids front of mind” when they work through the budget.

Georgia’s renowned



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A closed Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital in Rome.

peer services for mental health will see significant cuts, as will drug treatment courts.

“Social isolation, unemployment, loss of health insurance, food insecurities and other precipitating risk factors will likely exacerbate mental health [needs] for more Georgians and increase the number of individuals who will need treatment and crisis support to address suicide and substance abuse,” said Jewell Gooding, executive director for Mental Health America of Georgia.

For people in substance abuse recovery, a range of services will be pared, including residential beds for people in treatment.

“They are Death Star-like blows to the Georgia recovery community which will cost lives, increase crime, hurt families, weaken the workforce and threaten jobs,” said Neil Campbell, executive director of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse.

Isolation is the No. 1 factor that hampers recovery from addiction and mental illness, Campbell said.

“Combined with stress, anxiety, and uncertainty, it is essential Georgia address the inevitable mental illness and [addiction] recovery issues which will grow exponentially as a result of the current pandemic,” she added.

“There are over 800,000 people across Georgia in recovery from addiction who can attest to the benefits of the types of services and supports that are apparently on the chopping block.”

Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News. For the latest health news in the state, visit [www.georgiahealthnews.com](http://www.georgiahealthnews.com).

Adam Dortch

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Law & Order

Three arrested on various drug charges by CPD after traffic stop on Memorial Day

STAFF REPORTS

A Calhoun man and two acquaintances from White, Ga. were arrested on a variety of drug, other charges in Calhoun on Memorial Day after a traffic stop due to non-working brake lights.

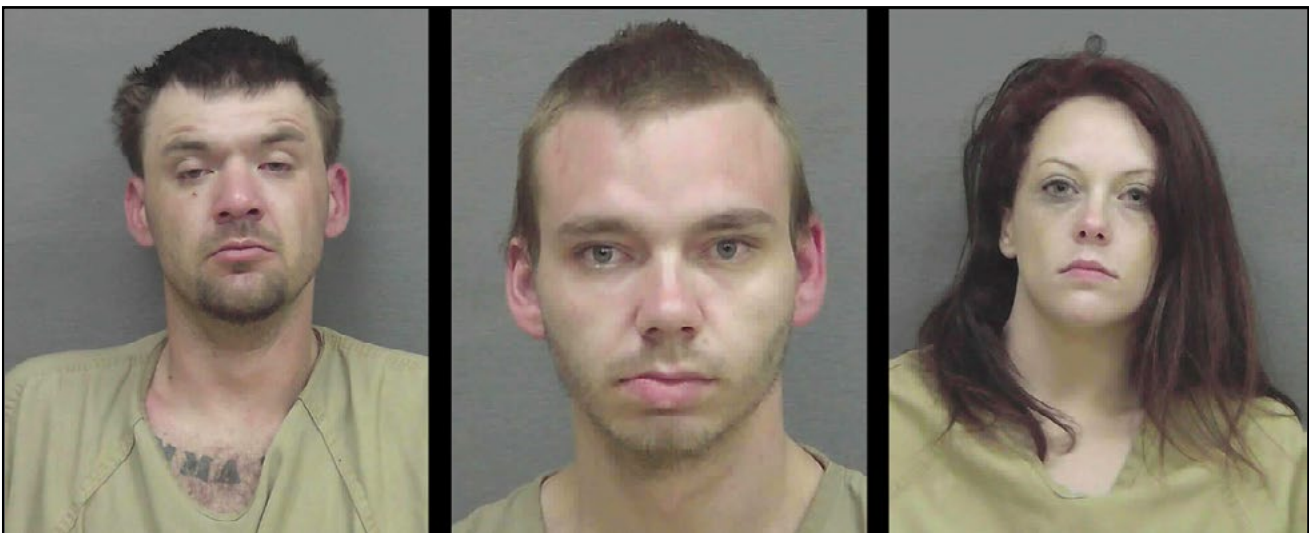
Around 2 p.m. on Monday, May 25, an officer with the CPD noticed a silver Buick Lucerne without a working brake light. The officer ran a search on the tag, which came back as belonging to a Honda. At that time, the officer performed a traffic stop on the vehicle which had two males and a female inside.

The driver of the Buick, identified as Christopher Wade Fuller, 31, of Town Creek Drive, Calhoun, gave a false name (Chris Jerry Wade) initially. The officer noted that Fuller was extremely nervous, shaking while the officer was speaking to him. The front passenger, identified as Tira Anne Wolfe, 30, of Broadland Drive, White, told the

officer the vehicle was hers, saying that she purchased the vehicle from someone who is currently incarcerated for stolen vehicles in Bartow County. The man in the backseat, identified as Robert Carroll, 25, of Pine Ridge Road, White, would not make eye contact with the officer. When Carroll’s name was searched through dispatch, it came back with probation warrants in Bartow County.

The officer asked “Wade” (Fuller) to step out of the vehicle; he complied and told the officer he was nervous, advising that Tira had him “nervous over the car now.” The officer asked the man several times if he was giving a false name due to his behavior and the way he was answering questions. The officer asked him for consent to search the vehicle, and the man complied. The officer asked him if there was anything illegal in the vehicle, Fuller responded “there shouldn’t be.”

The officer then asked



GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

From left: Christopher Wade Fuller, Robert Carroll and Tira Wolfe.

Carroll to step out of the vehicle and asked for consent to search his person. Carroll gave consent; the officer located two half Xanax bars in the left watch pocket of his jeans. Carroll was placed in cuffs.

Another officer arrived on scene and asked Wolfe to speak to her. Wolfe was searched and the officer found four half Xanax bars in her bra. Wolfe told the officer that the officers

were going to make her loser her kids over this.

While searching the vehicle, an officer located a glass case with a glass methamphetamine pipe inside; the case was located inside Wolfe’s suitcase, which was located inside the trunk.

The first officer then spoke with Fuller and asked for his mother’s phone number; the officer called it and spoke with Pattie, Fuller’s mother. The officer asked the woman for her son’s

information, and she stated her son’s full name was Christopher Wade Fuller, and that he had a tattoo on his forearm. After the call, Fuller admitted he’d given the officer false identification, and that he figured that become of the COVID-19 pandemic, he had warrants for not reporting. Both Fuller and Carroll came back with probation warrants through Bartow County.

Fuller was arrested and charged with Driving

While License Suspended, Giving False Name and Date of Birth, No Brake Lights and Probation Warrant. Carroll was charged with Possession of a Schedule IV Drug (Xanax). Wolfe was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Schedule IV Drug (Xanax) and Drug Related Objects. All three remain in Gordon County Jail Wednesday morning.

Calhoun Police arrest couple early Monday morning on various drug, theft charges

STAFF REPORTS

Calhoun Police arrested a couple early Monday morning on various drug and theft charges after a traffic stop.

According to the report, around 1:30 a.m. on Monday, May 25, an officer observed a red Volkswagen Tiguan SUV on Highway 53 with a tag on it that belonged to a 2018 Nissan Sentra. The Volkswagen was weaving out of its lane, almost striking the raised median at Highway 53 just west of I-75. The officer initiated a traffic stop, and the car pulled into the EconoLodge on Highway 53. The driver then attempted to exit his vehicle. The officer advised the man, identified as Robert Pierce, 45, of Ballground, to stay in his vehicle and to place his hands on the steering wheel. The officer then asked the driver if he had a license and he did not. The officer noted that

the man was shaking and appeared nervous.

Pierce told the officer he borrowed the vehicle from his friend Jacob. Also traveling in the car was passenger Lindsey Peters, 38, of Dallas, Ga.

Pierce was asked if there was anything illegal inside the car, and he stated there was not. Pierce gave the officer voluntary consent to search the vehicle.

Peters was then questioned, and she told officers the vehicle belonged to Pierce. The vehicle identification was processed through dispatch, and it came back as stolen out of Cobb County.

Inside the vehicle, a black digital scale was found in the back floorboard on the driver’s side, which contained believed methamphetamine residue. There was also a clear plastic bag containing a clear crystal substance believed to be methamphetamine inside a purse on the floorboard

where Peters was sitting. Inside Peters’ wallet and purse, there was \$2822 found.

Pierce was taken to the side and read his Miranda warning; Pierce then told the officer he wanted to talk to him. The officer asked Pierce where he got the vehicle from, and Pierce advised that he “came across it.” The officer asked Pierce how he came across it, and Pierce said “at a dealership in Town Center,” and told the officer it was at Jim Ellis Volkswagen. Pierce said he was walking by the vehicle at the dealership and saw the keys lying in the seat, and that he took the vehicle. The officer asked Pierce how long he’d had the vehicle, and Pierce admitted he’d had it for three months. Pierce then told the officer he obtained the tag on the vehicle from the ALM dealership in Kennesaw and put it on the Volkswagen.

Peters was then read her Miranda warning.



GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

From left: Robert Pierce and Lindsey Peters.

She advised officers that she had just sold her 2009 Pontiac G6 for \$2800; that she sold her vehicle in Rome at the Walmart located on Highway 411. Peters was asked how she sold the car and she first said on “Let Go” and then changed her story to Facebook. Peters told officers she did not realize the Volkswagen she was traveling in was stolen. She told officers that she

thought the vehicle was Pierce’s friends named Mac, which was different from what she originally told officers. She told officers that Pierce had had the vehicle for about three months. She told officers she didn’t know the suspected methamphetamine was in her possession.

Pierce and Peters were transported to Gordon County Jail without incident. Pierce

was charged with Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, Possession of Drug Related Objects, Driving on Suspended License, Failure to Maintain Lane and Concealing the Identity of a Vehicle. Peters has been charged with Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Related Objects.

Calhoun man arrested on assault, other charges after altercation over case of beer

STAFF REPORTS

Calhoun man was arrested on a variety of charges Saturday evening after he stole a case of beer, which caused a physical altercation with the man he stole the beer from.

According to the incident report, just before 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, officers with the CPD were dispatched to Apt. 22 at 525 Peters Street in response to a fight in progress. When the officers arrived on scene, they heard male voices arguing and went upstairs to the apartment, where they observed a man identified as Anthony Vuran standing in the doorway fighting with Roberto Hernandez-Raymundo, 20, of the apartment. Offices restrained the men and noted Vuran was cooperating with the commands that were

given to him, but that Hernandez-Raymundo was actively resisting by refusing to obey the commands to put his hands behind his back. Even after several officers restrained Hernandez-Raymundo and had him in handcuffs, he continued to not follow the commands of standing up and walking to the patrol car.

Once Hernandez-Raymundo got to the patrol car, he refused and had to be physically placed in the vehicle. While officers attempted to get Hernandez-Raymundo in the back seat of the car, he became physically combative, kicking an officer in the arms, legs and stomach. Officers placed Hernandez-Raymundo on his side in the patrol car, but he pushed his legs against the door to prevent officers from shutting the door. Hernandez-Raymundo continued kicking officers as they attempted

to place him in leg restraints, finally restraining him and securing him in the vehicle.

Officers spoke to Vuran, who said that he and Hernandez-Raymundo had been drinking, and Hernandez-Raymundo took a 12-pack of beer from the deck that belonged to Vuran and put it in his own freezer. Vuran asked Hernandez-Raymundo to return the beer, but Hernandez-Raymundo refused and told Vuran that if he wanted the beer he would have to come into the apartment to get it. Vuran told the officers that he tried to enter Hernandez-Raymundo’s apartment to get the beer and Hernandez-Raymundo pushed him. Hernandez-Raymundo then grabbed the silver necklace that Vuran was wearing and pulled it, breaking the necklace. Hernandez-Raymundo then grabbed Vuran

around his neck and tried to push him to the floor. Vuran began pushing Raymundo to get him to stop, and Hernandez-Raymundo grabbed an empty glass beer bottle and hit Vuran in the head with the bottle.

Officers saw visible marks on Vuran’s neck and after learning he wasn’t the aggressor, they took him out of handcuffs. Inside the apartment, officers found the broken glass beer bottle in the doorway, and Vuran’s beer in Hernandez-Raymundo’s freezer.

According to the report, Vuran was just the co-owner of the beer, and he and the other owner did not want to press charges against Hernandez-Raymundo for theft; they just wanted the beer back, which was returned to its owners. Hernandez-Raymundo was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault, two charges



GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Roberto Hernandez-Raymundo

of Obstructing or Hindering Law Enforcement Officers, two charges of Simple Battery and a charge of Criminal Trespass.



# STANDOFF

From page 1A

items into custody as evidence, including a partially loaded handgun, ammunition, drug-related paraphernalia, fake identification documents, fake license plates, counterfeit money, an electronic credit card reader, computers and printers, and cash. The detectives also impounded a recreational vehicle (camper), two motorcycles, and a car. Williams is reported to be wanted by authorities in Bradley County (Cleveland), Tennessee for Forgery. Swartout

# ELECTION

From page 1A

We are sanitizing after each voter and taking necessary measures to ensure that we are safe and that the voters are safe when coming in to cast their ballots.”

Hicks reminds all voters that the last day to cast ballots early is Friday, June 5. The Elections and Voter Registration office is open Monday – Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

“We would like to remind voters that we do have a drop box outside of our office in the Gordon County Annex Building at 101 S Piedmont Street where you can drop off your absentee ballot, you can access this drop box anytime, day or night and on weekends,” said Hicks.

Those qualifying for local office this election cycle includes:

County Commissioner, District 1:  
M.L. “Bud” Owens (Incumbent - Republican)

County Commissioner, District 3:  
Norris Sexton (Incumbent - Republican)

is reported to be wanted by authorities in Hamilton County (Chattanooga), Tennessee for Forgery. At the time of his arrest, Swartout was reported to have been free on bond after having been arrested in Chattooga County, Ga. in January 2020 for fraud, firearms related offenses, and obstructing law officers. Here in Gordon County, Swartout is being charged with Aggravated Assault Against Peace Officers, firearms-related offenses, and fraud-related offenses, as well as being held for other jurisdictions. Williams is still being held for other jurisdictions as well. More charges against the pair are expected.

Sheriff Ralston said, “I commend all of the

officers, state and local, who successfully resolved this issue and effectively apprehended a dangerous offender and his co-conspirator. The State Patrol are great partners to have in our mission of keeping Gordon County safe, and we know that we can always call on them. My deputies also did a good job in identifying these violators and collecting the evidence necessary for prosecution. We are thankful that no innocent people were hurt, and this incident serves as a reminder of how dangerous law enforcement can be, and how fortunate our community is to be served by the individuals on my staff as well as the State law enforcement agencies.”

Robert “Rob” Ballard (Republican) Bruce Potts, Jr. (Republican) County Commissioner, District 5: Kevin Cunningham (Incumbent - Republican) Clerk of Superior Court: Grant Walraven (Incumbent - Republican) Corner: James Carver (Incumbent - Republican) Ken Padgett (Republican)	Post 2: Jason Hendrix (Incumbent - Republican)
Judge of Probate Court: John “Richie” Parker (Incumbent - non-partisan office)	County Board of Education, Post 4: Bobby Hall (Incumbent - Republican) Rod Brehm (Republican)
Sheriff: Sheriff Mitch Ralston (Incumbent - Republican)	County Board of Education, Post 6: Christie Owens Fox (Republican) Samuel T. Jewell (Republican) Bryon Reeves (Republican)
Tax Commissioner: Scott Clements (Incumbent - Republican)	Magistrate Judge: Pat Rasbury (Incumbent - Republican)
County Board of Education,	Full ballots for all local, state and federal offices up for election, and additional election can be found on the Gordon Gazette’s free Election Information page at <a href="https://www.gordongazettega.com/2020-election-local-candidate-info">https://www.gordongazettega.com/2020-election-local-candidate-info</a>

## Support Groups

- Calhoun AA Group meetings. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 7 - 8 p.m.;** Tuesday and Thursday from 12 - 1 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Located at 318 North River Street, Calhoun, GA, 30701.
- 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.
- 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.
- BONDAGE BREAKERS - Breaking the chains of addiction one soul at a time.** Every Thursday night at 7 p.m. at Crane Eater Community Church, located at 3168 Red Bud Rd Calhoun, GA 30701.
- The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association is sponsoring a monthly support group at Morning Pointe Assisted Living,** 660 Jolly Road, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information or directions, call Mary Braden at 770-548-4683 or Karen Parrott at 706-346-5220. For more information about dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, call 800-272-3900 or visit [www.alz.org/georgia](http://www.alz.org/georgia).
- Special Care Plus, a free one-on-one consultation program, offers education and information to primary caregivers of persons with dementia.** Any primary caregiver who is caring for a loved one with dementia in the home is eligible to receive this program. To learn more about the Special Care Plus program, call 800-272-3900.
- The Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** seeks to improve the quality of life for residents of long-term care facilities. For more information, call Linda Ann Daniel at 1-866-565-8213 or 706-272-2158.
- The Alzheimer’s Association’s Caring Closet was created to help offset the high cost of incontinent products** and give the families support they often desperately need. If you would like to visit the nearest Closet, call the chapter office to receive a flier with locations and hours. Morning Pointe in Calhoun has a Caring Closet; call Mary Braden at 706-629-0777.
- The Northwest Georgia Parkinson Disease Association, Inc.,** is offering a monthly support group for persons living with Parkinson Disease, their caregivers, family and friends. The support group will meet at Gordon Hospital; Conference Room A. For any questions about the support group and future meetings, call James Trussell at 706-235- 3164 or 706-346-5678.
- Are you interested in losing pounds and inches? Join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** for support and how-to information. Meetings are on Monday nights. Weigh-ins begin at 6 p.m., and group support and information starts at 7 p.m. at the Gordon County Senior Citizens Center, 150 Cambridge Court, Calhoun. **For more information, call 706-847-3306.**
- Community volunteers are needed at Countryside Hospice Care,** where the mission is to promote comfort and dignity at the end of life. The agency covers 26 Northwest Georgia counties between three offices in LaFayette, Rome, and Newnan. If you would like to participate in this rewarding program, call 706-638-7651 or 1-800-660-7381.
- Discovering Hope, an autism support group for Northwest Georgia,** meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, Rocky Face. For more information, call Connie Post at 706-673-7765 or [www.discoveringshope.us](http://www.discoveringshope.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.

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Face masks provided to all patients, regardless of symptoms

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# THE HUNT FOR FILM: Top 10 Westerns



### COOPER HUNT

Movie Reviews at  
The Hunt For Film

#### #1 True Grit (2010)

The 1969 original isn’t one of my favorites of the genre, so I was surprised at how much I enjoyed the vast improvement that is the 2010 version. Perhaps its only hindrance is the absence of John Wayne, yet Jeff Bridges still turns in a fantastic performance that perfectly encapsulates the character of Rooster Cogburn. Hailee Steinfeld also leaves an incredibly impressive mark in her debut as Mattie Ross, and the rest of the supporting cast fill in the background remarkably well. Roger Deakins’ cinematography is gorgeous as always, the screenplay is strong in both its dramatic and humorous moments, and I instantly fell in love with the orchestral takes on hymns that are used for the score. While the story dictated by the source material still has flaws such as the needless snake pit scene, the Coen brothers direct an artistically beautiful and very rewatchable modern western classic.

Grade: A-

#### #2 Tombstone (1993)

On the other end of the spectrum, this 90’s classic has captured the hearts of audiences due to its entertainment value and brutally exciting action as opposed to its critical integrity. I have a number of issues with the story, whether it be the conclusion to Wyatt’s arc with his mistress, the utilization (or lack thereof) of Virgil and Morgan, or Doc’s abilities of teleportation which he uses in the climactic finale. However, despite the script’s flaws, it also packs in countless iconic sequences full of brilliant one-liners and dialogue, heart-pounding tension and combat, and one of the most complex and compelling cinematic figures in the heartbreaking and powerfully human Doc Holliday. How Val Kilmer didn’t receive an Oscar nomination for Supporting Actor, I will never understand.

Grade: A-

#### #3 For a Few Dollars More (1965)

While most viewers consider the third piece of Sergio Leone’s Dollars trilogy to be the best, I personally enjoy the

middle chapter the most. The film wields the third movie’s greatest qualities, such as a fantastic Morricone score and stylistic direction/editing, but provides stronger and clearer character development for both Clint Eastwood’s Monco and Lee Van Cleef’s Mortimer. The mystery of the haunting tune in the music box was intriguing and the payoff didn’t disappoint, while the shoot-outs and duels exceeded those of the previous movie. The screenplay has the trilogy’s best one-liners, whether it be the closing “trouble with my adding” bit or, my favorite, the great opening sequence in which Monco’s opponent loses a game of poker... and his life.

Grade: A-

#### #4 El Dorado (1967)

When the Duke teams up with Robert Mitchum, not to mention young James Caan as a sidekick, you get quite a memorable western. The story is a fairly simple and classical one, revolving around the sheriff and his deputies running a corrupt rancher out of town, but things become complicated when the sheriff becomes a drunkard and the rancher hires a gunslinger. The screenplay is filled with great scenes and wonderful comedic bits, and the action sequences such as the old church shoot-out are very well-done. The rivalry between the villainous McLeod and Wayne’s Cole Thornton is tense and exciting from the get-go, and Thornton’s relationship with Caan’s young Alan Bourdillion Trehearne (“No wonder he carries a knife”), also called Mississippi. When it comes to John Wayne westerns, this is one of the classics, even if he is slowly aging out of his gun belt.

Grade: B+

#### #5 The Magnificent Seven (1960)

They lose some points for lack of originality, but the story of Akira Kurosawa’s Seven Samurai (1954) is still undeniably compelling when it stars gunslingers, the 19th century American equivalent of samurai. Endlessly parodied and remade, as we’ll discuss later, the film is immensely popular for good reason since the majority of its seven titular characters are all likable and/or interesting. Elmer Bernstein turns in a score that’s so good he practically copied himself with The Sons of Katie Elder (1965) and True Grit (1969). The movie also carries along plenty of well-written quotes, as all good westerns must (“We deal in lead, friend”). If you haven’t seen the film, you’re missing out on a classic.

Grade: B+

#### #6 The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966)

It took me a while to decide

how I felt about this movie as it didn’t quite live up to my expectations given its legendary reputation as the greatest western ever made (or in Quentin Tarantino’s opinion, the greatest movie ever made). I respect the film as art more than I enjoy it as a western, seeing as its rather short on Eastwood’s dry humor or his thrilling duels. The plot is incredibly slow-paced, and there are several side adventures that sporadically occur and, while serving a thematic purpose, overstay their welcome (the trip through the desert, the Civil War battle, etc). The audio syncing is lacking, with the lip dubbings from Italian to English being very obvious and distracting. Nonetheless, the technical and artistic work that went into the filmmaking process are undeniably impressive as Sergio Leone is operating in peak form, Morricone delivers what is by far the best western score ever composed, and the final fifteen minute sequence is truly iconic on a cinematic level.

Grade: B+

#### #7 Big Jake (1971)

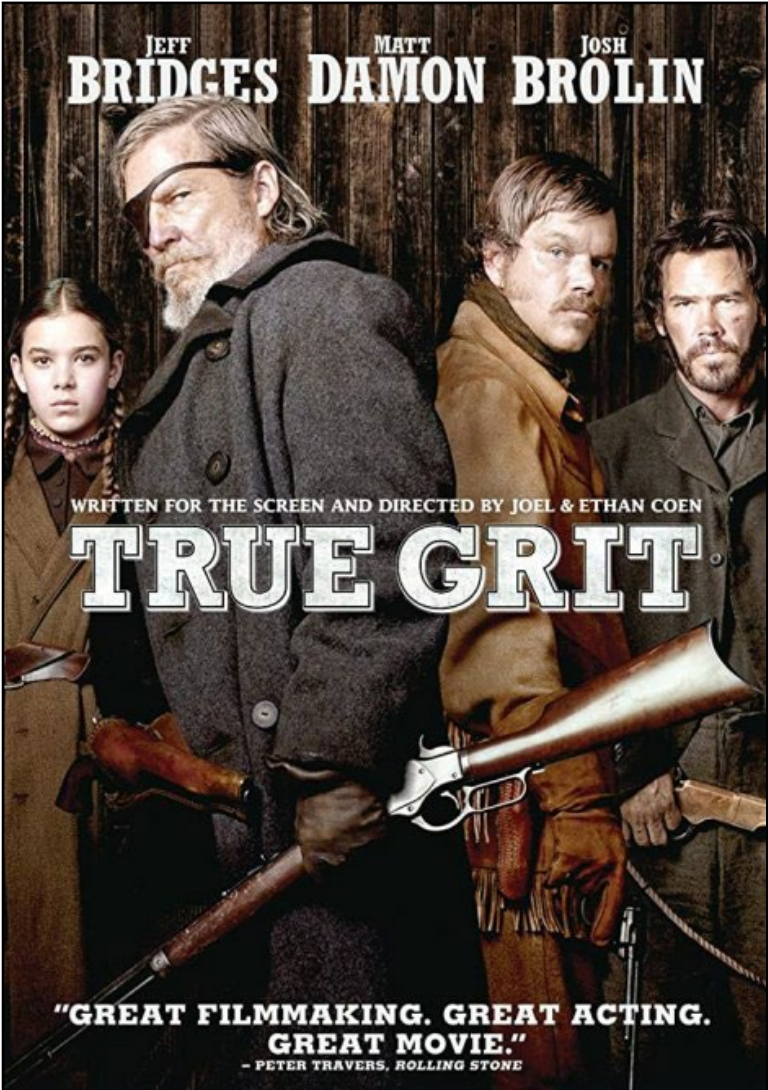
I’m always a sucker for a great revenge story, and this movie mostly delivers on its premise of a lonesome man hunting down the men who murdered his oldest son and kidnapped his grandson. While the supporting cast isn’t particularly strong here, namely John Wayne’s son Patrick and Robert Mitchum’s son Christopher, Wayne himself is as solid as ever and Richard Boone is a delightfully diabolical and charismatic villain. My greatest grievance with this movie is its conclusion as I don’t feel the protagonist’s integral vengeance was fully realized, but the movie is still quite entertaining and the scenes between Wayne and Boone are some of the best in the Duke’s filmography.

“Now you understand. Anything goes wrong, anything at all... your fault, my fault, nobody’s fault... it won’t matter: I’m gonna blow your head off. No matter what else happens, no matter who gets killed, I’m gonna blow your head off.”

Grade: B+

#### #8 Three Amigos (1986)

As I said before, both Seven Samurai and The Magnificent Seven have been parodied and remade countless times across all mediums... but never as brilliantly as Martin, Chase, and Short do here. While there may not be seven of them, these hired guns are called in to defend a Mexican village oppressed by outlaws, whether they know it or not. The evil El Guapo and his sidekick Jefe are hilarious, and the main movie star trio make me laugh out loud every time I revisit this gem. From the Singing



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bush and Invisible Swordsman to the debate on the word “plethora” and Chevy Chase asking a woman not to kiss him on the veranda, this movie is packed full of comedic genius in nearly every scene and is a spectacular, if irreverently untraditional, addition to the genre.

Grade: B+

#### #9 A Fistful of Dollars (1964)

Simplicity is the name of the game. Leone and Eastwood make their debut in the initial Dollars film that clearly takes a great deal of inspiration from Yojimbo (1961) as a lone gunfighter arrives in a small town and seeks to rid it of the evil-doers in power... for a price, of course. Leone hasn’t quite found his masterful footing yet, but he still crafts a film that’s grittier and more interesting than many movies that preceded it, acting not as a niche picture but the start of a new era for westerns. It isn’t as well-directed or captivating as its sequels, yet its protagonist and story are so simplistic and purely enjoyable that it remains a great piece of film history and an important step for the western genre.

Grade: B+

#### #10 The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948)

While not your traditional cowboys and gunslingers western, this John Huston and Humphrey Bogart film still holds a place in the American western filmography and is a worthy inclusion at that. It’s not as exciting or explosive as many others on this list, but it’s very well-written and act-

ed, painting a grim portrait of the universal human tendencies towards pride, greed, and eventually violence. Bogart is detestable in the film, displaying some high levels of hypocrisy and perhaps even madness towards the end while Walter Huston and Tim Holt play their roles with admirable fortitude. Though maybe the story is a bit predictable or drawn out, the twists in the plot are still surprising and the unpredictable final act drives home the film’s moral message, solidifying it as a classic.

Grade: B+

I’ve provided a list of 10 honorable mentions followed by a more detailed review of my 10 personal favorite westerns of all time, whether they be classic, comedic, or modern pieces.

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

- The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962)
- 3:10 to Yuma (2007)
- Rio Lobo (1970)
- McLintock! (1963)
- The Sons of Katie Elder (1965)
- Blazing Saddles (1974)
- True Grit (1969)
- The Shootist (1976)
- The Magnificent Seven (2016)
- Young Guns (1988)

Cooper Hunt is a senior at Gordon Central High School. A movie buff, Hunt runs “The Hunt for Film,” where he reviews recent releases from Hollywood. You can check out his reviews at [thehuntforfilmwordpress.com](http://thehuntforfilmwordpress.com)

## Community Events

### June 2020

**-The GEM Theatre, located at 114 North Wall Street in Calhoun, is excited to welcome back to their stage, 90’s Alt-Rock band Sister Hazel.** The show will be held on Friday, June 26, beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets for the GEM performance range from \$40 - \$50 and can be purchased online by visiting the GEM’s website [www.calhouncemtheatre.org](http://www.calhouncemtheatre.org).

### August 2020

**-Who’s Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience is coming to the GEM Theatre on Saturday, Aug. 1,** beginning at 7:30 p.m. The performance is presented by Floyd Urgent Care in Calhoun. The GEM is located at 114 North Wall Street. Tickets for the event at the GEM range from \$35 - \$40. For tickets, visit [www.calhouncemtheatre.org/](http://www.calhouncemtheatre.org/)

**-Carman, the Christian artist who has consistently operated outside the box of Christian music, will be taking the state of the GEM Theatre for a nice of worship on Friday, Aug. 7,** beginning at 7:30 p.m. The GEM is located at 114 North Wall Street in Calhoun. Tickets range from \$30 - \$35 and can be purchased online by visiting the GEM’s website [www.calhouncemtheatre.org](http://www.calhouncemtheatre.org).

### Notices

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

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

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

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

It’s important to note that due to health and safety concerns related to COVID 19, appointments for assistance will be completed remotely by phone. Tallatoona officers are currently closed until further notice.

**-Story times at the Calhoun-Gordon County**

**Library, 100 N. Park Ave. in Calhoun, are 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays**

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

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

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

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

**-The Gordon County Saddle Club meets the fourth Thursday of each month.** The meetings will be held at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center, 1282 Hwy 53 Spur SW Suite 200, Calhoun, Ga. 30701. Contact 770-548-5956 for more information.



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