

GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

www.gordongazettega.com

Volume 3, No. 16

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

COVID-19: Honesty with Responders is Paramount

Important update from the Calhoun-Gordon County COVID-19 Task Force concerning emergency calls to Gordon County 911

STAFF REPORTS

The Calhoun-Gordon County COVID-19 Task Force wants to take this time to let the citizens know that local government leadership and public safety from all municipalities continue to work alongside each other to address issues relevant to COVID-19 within the community by communicating daily and holding bi-weekly meetings. These bi-weekly meetings serve as a tool to make sure everyone is collaborating together to stay up to date on the current situation as well as that around the nation. The task force also monitors numbers daily to include increases of cases and deaths both statewide and in Gordon County as well as numbers from the local hospitals on COVID-19 cases, bed availability and ventilator availability. The task force wants to assure the

citizens that local public safety is ready to respond at any given moment to any emergency when they are needed no matter what the emergency is. All calls to E 9-1-1 are screened with questions to assess if the caller or anyone in the residence potentially has COVID or has been exposed to COVID. It has been noticed over the last couple of weeks that callers to the E9-1-1 center requesting assistance may not be fully answering the questions related to COVID-19 symptoms and exposures for the fear that "nobody will come and help them if they think they have COVID." Please know this would never happen. However, also know that it is very important to answer all questions fully and honestly so that local first responders are protected.

See COVID, page 11A



Temitope Afon, MD, joins AdventHealth Medical Group

ADVENTHEALTH GORDON

AdventHealth Medical Group is pleased to announce that Temitope Afon, MD, pictured, has joined AdventHealth Medical Group Family Medicine at Owasa.

Dr. Afon joins Robert Lester, MD; Chris Yamamoto, MD; Charlotte Brooks, FNP-BC; Rhonda Gilbert, FNP-C; Tiffany Kelley, FNP-C; and Cayla Pulliam, FNP-C, at AdventHealth Medical Group Family Medicine at Owasa, which offers a wide range of medical services for the entire family. Serving the Calhoun and Gordon County community since 1980, the clinicians carefully listen to patients

and provide thorough exams and offer solutions to make sure you stay at your best. The practice also helps patients prevent or manage medical issues, including diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and many other conditions that need close monitoring.

Dr. Afon is a graduate of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. She completed her residency in family medicine at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. Dr. Afon is board-certified in family medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Medical Association and the Medical Association of Georgia.

To schedule an appointment, please call 706-625-0333.

About AdventHealth Gordon

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

commitment to making communities healthier and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states. For more information about AdventHealth, visit AdventHealth.com or Facebook.com/AdventHealth.

CHAMBER BEGINS SUCCESSFUL 2021 SALES CAMPAIGN

Twenty-Four Chamber Members Committed to Sponsor Keep It In The County

GORDON CHAMBER

The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce began its annual sale of Keep It In The County sponsorships in November and twenty-four businesses already have claimed one of the thirty slots available for the coming year. The shop-local campaign will

officially launch in January.

First conceived at the Chamber's 2008 Planning Retreat and launched at a July 2009 Booster Breakfast sponsored by the Starr-Mathews Agency, which celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary this year, Keep It In The County has become one of the Chamber's signature programs. The

goal of the program is to educate citizens about the importance of local spending and the economic impact those choices have on the business community. It also provides the sponsors with significant marketing opportunities at substantial discounts.

"The Chamber is proud of its programs, especially

those that serve individual members as well as the entire business community. Keep It In The County has been able to provide sponsors with deeply discounted promotion packages while also reaching the public about the value and impact of their decisions to shop locally," said Kathy Johnson, President & CEO of the

Gordon County Chamber of Commerce.

The twenty-four sponsors of Keep It In The County 2021 are AdventHealth Gordon, Calhoun-Gordon Council

See CHAMBER, page 11A

Editor of local paper resigns after arrest in Rome Saturday on DUI, drug charges

Brandi Owczarz
staff@gordongazettega.com

It was announced Monday afternoon that the managing editor of the waning Calhoun Times had resigned his position after was arrested in Rome over the weekend on multiple charges, including DUI and drug possession, after a traffic stop.

According to the incident report from the Rome Police Department, around 1:30

a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28, an officer with the Rome Police department observed a gray Dodge pickup truck traveling west on Turner McCall Boulevard, failing to maintain its lane by crossing the left-hand line and slightly weaving back and forth. The officer initiated a traffic stop and the truck pulled into the parking lot of Bojangles at 708 Martha Berry Boulevard.

The officer made contact with the driver,

identified as Daniel Joe Bell, 37, of 102 Back Penn Road, Summerville, and while speaking to Bell, noticed that he was slurring his words. He also smelled the odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle. The officer asked Bell how much he'd had to drink, and Bell told him he'd had one "bourbon and diet." The officer asked Bell if he would perform some evaluations to make sure he wasn't driving impaired; Bell submitted

and exited his vehicle. According to the report, the officer began the evaluations and the odor of alcohol became even stronger, suggesting it was coming from Bell and not his vehicle. The officer stated he observed Bell had watery, bloodshot eyes. While giving the instructions for the "walk and turn evaluation," Bell advised



BELL, DANIEL

See ARREST, page 12A

PHOTO: Floyd County Sheriff's Office

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Food City Pharmacy to offer COVID-19 vaccines for free once available to the general public.

EDUCATION 10A



Ashworth Middle School inducts REACH Scholars.

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Second Front

Hamilton Health Care offers podcasts, radio show

HAMILTON HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Hamilton Health Care System recently began providing Health for Life podcasts and a radio show on various health topics, in English and Spanish.

“These podcasts and radio shows cover health topics that matter most to you,” said Michelle Turner, producer of the podcasts. “They’re easily accessible content for your busy life.”

Podcasts are added weekly.

Current topics include:

• “Open Heart Surgery is Coming to Hamilton Medical Center” with Jim Stewart, MD, interventional and structural cardiology chief of Cardiology at Hamilton Cardiovascular Institute

• “How to Reduce Your Risk of a Heart Attack and the Effects of COVID-19 on the Heart” with Gary Olson, MD, cardiologist at Hamilton Physician Group – Cardiology

• “Breast Cancer Detection and Prevention” with Neil Patel, MD, radiologist, and Victoria Schwark, registered dietitian at Peoples Cancer Institute

• “Breast Cancer Prevention: Mammograms, Genetic Testing, and More” with Eric Manahan, MD, general surgeon and breast specialist

• “The Importance of Palliative Care and Advance Directives” with Syed Abid, MD, palliative care physician at Hamilton Physician Group – Specialty Care

• “Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Treatment” with Norman McCulloch, MD, wound care physician at Hamilton Wound and Hyperbaric Center

• “How to Find Back Pain Relief” with Justin Hare, DO, pain medicine physician at Hamilton Physician Group – Neurosurgery and Spine

• “The Vascular Risks of Smoking and Vaping” with Michael Hartley, MD, vascular surgeon at Hamilton Vascular Center

• “How to Recognize Seizures and Strokes” with Ashish Kabir, MD, neurologist at Hamilton Physician Group – Neurology

• “What is Hamilton Physician Group?” with Steven Paynter, MD, general surgeon and executive medical director at Hamilton Physician Group

• “Solutions for Pain

Relief” with Josh Hare, DO, pain medicine physician at Hamilton Physician Group – Neurosurgery and Spine

• “What You Need to Know About Vascular Disease and Varicose Veins” with Hector Dourron, MD, vascular surgeon at Hamilton Vascular Center

• “The Benefits of Family Medicine” with Megan Brown, MD, family medicine physician at Hamilton Physician Group – Catoosa Campus

• “What is Internal Medicine?” with Daniel Grace, MD, internal medicine physician and associate program director of outpatient medicine at Hamilton Internal Medicine Clinic

• “What You Can Do About COVID-19” with Lee Connor, MD, infectious disease specialist at Hamilton Physician Group – Specialty Care

• “What You Need to Know About Diabetes & Thyroid Disorders” with Chantal Lewis, MD, endocrinologist, and Brooke Green, nurse practitioner, both with Hamilton Diabetes and Endocrinology Center

• “Why Do You Need a Primary Care Provider?” with Timothy Snodgrass,



Jim Stewart, MD, interventional and structural cardiology chief of Cardiology at Hamilton Cardiovascular Institute (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

DO, family medicine physician at Hamilton Physician Group – Convenient Care

• “Treatment Options for Colon Cancer and Crohn’s Disease” with Ganesh Aswath, MD, gastroenterologist at Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology

• “The Dangers of Colon Cancer and Heartburn” with Daniel Marcadis, MD, gastroenterologist at Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology

• “Back to School Tips for Parents” with Nancy Carnevale, MD, child development pediatrician and medical director at Anna Shaw Children’s Institute

• “Anxiety in Children” with Evan Anderson, PhD, child psychologist at Anna Shaw Children’s Institute

To listen to the podcasts, visit <https://health-for-life.captiveate.fm/listen> for English or <https://salud-de-por-vida.captiveate.fm/listen>

for Spanish. You can subscribe to the Health For Life Podcast on Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts or Spotify.

On the radio, you can listen to the programs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. on Mix 104.5, 98.3 The Mountain, News Talk 1340 and News Talk 1230.

In Spanish, you can listen on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. on Que Buena 101.9 and 93.9.

Food City Pharmacy to offer free COVID-19 vaccine once available to general public

STAFF REPORTS

Food City Pharmacy is partnering with the Department of Health & Human Services to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations once the vaccine is approved and available to the general public.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our team of Supermarket Heroes has gone above and beyond the call of duty to meet the needs of our customers and the communities we serve. From the extraordinary efforts of our front-line associates to those working behind the scenes, this has truly been a team effort and we’re proud to have the opportunity to partner with HHS to offer free COVID-19 vaccine once it becomes readily available,” says Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

Once an adequate supply of COVID-19 vaccine is available to support broader vaccination efforts beyond the initial critical populations, it will be important to swiftly increase access to the vaccine for the general population. HHS is partnering with pharmacies like Food City to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine for the U.S. population. Through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19 Vaccination, federal pharmacy partners will receive a direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccine.

Pharmacists are trained to administer vaccines and are trusted vaccinators within their respective communities,

as they provide seasonal flu and other routine vaccines as part of their established services. With more than 90% of the population living within five miles of a pharmacy, pharmacists can be a crucial public health partner, offering convenience and increasing access to COVID-19 vaccine.

“Food City’s immunizing pharmacists are certified to administer vaccinations in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Pharmacists Association and the corresponding state pharmacy associations. Food City offers a number of affordable preventative immunizations, including seasonal flu, pneumonia and shingles shots and has done so for over a decade”, says Mickey Blazer, Food City executive vice president of pharmacy operations.

COVID-19 vaccine will be administered at partners’ pharmacy locations like Food City at no cost to recipients. These pharmacy partners have widespread reach and operational capacity to support large-scale vaccination efforts in their communities. Providing vaccines directly to jurisdictions and pharmacies will allow the federal government to quickly and efficiently get the vaccines to millions of people. States, pharmacies, and the CDC will streamline and optimize efforts by working closely to coordinate, track, and monitor distribution. The CDC has engaged pharmacies and pharmacy professional organizations in pandemic vaccine planning over the last 10 years.

Food City Pharmacy will be following CDC vaccination guidelines to administer the COVID-19 vaccine, including guidance to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Once available, customers interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccination should visit foodcity.com for additional details.

Headquartered in Abingdon, Virginia, K-VA-T Food Stores (Food City’s parent company) operates 134 retail outlets (including 110 pharmacies) throughout southeast Kentucky, southwest Virginia, east Tennessee, Chattanooga and north Georgia.

DID YOU KNOW THE E-EDITION ARCHIVES ARE ONLINE...FOR FREE VIEWING?

GORDON GAZETTE E-EDITION FREE ARCHIVES

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

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

Rubber- Interviews required-7p-7am Monday – Friday some Saturdays -\$11.50 HL (Trimmer)

Flocking – Interviews required -7p-5:30am Monday – Friday some Saturdays-\$11

Packaging- No Interviews needed -5pm-5am Monday – Friday

SHOP WORKER: \$11-12/hr, day shift, will work wrapping/cleaning up cabinets for shipping, clean in shop, work as needed to assist in shop for making commercial grade cabinets

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

Front End Loader - rotating days \$14/hr pft required. FEL experience required

Sand Prep- PFT required, forklift experience required, rotating days, \$15/hr-1 opening

GENERAL LABOR: \$10/hr, 12 hour shifts 7am to 7p and 7p to 7a, 7 days a week right now, lots of over time, bilingual/Spanish is a must!

for cutting, sealing boxes, packing, and able to work fast paced

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

TEACHER: \$8.25, must pass background check, experience in planning, teaching, following up, needs to have certificate in field or Associates Degree, must show work history on resume to submit to client

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

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

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

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Obituaries

December 2, 2020

Rev. Perry Blackstock

Rev. James Perry Blackstock, 82, of 110 Wexford Drive, Calhoun, on Nov. 27, 2020, passed from the loving arms of his family into the arms of his Lord, Jesus Christ.



Rev. Blackstock was the son of the late Marvin and Maude Gallman Blackstock. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Lilian Blackstock Baker and Jean Blackstock Parrott; his brother, Richard Lee Blackstock; his grandson, Will Blackstock; his in-laws, James and Ruth Brock.

His wife of fifty-nine years, Carolyn Brock Blackstock; his son and daughter-in-law, James Scott and Gina Dills Blackstock, survive him.

Perry was a graduate of Red Bud High School in the class of 1956. He proudly served in The United States Army for two years and was posted to the Panama Canal Zone for most of that time.

Perry announced his call to the ministry in April 1967; his first sermon was preached at Greer Baptist in Greer, S.C. on April 26, 1967. Rev. Blackstock received his religious education at Tabernacle Baptist College in Greenville, S.C. He was licensed to preach by Calvary Baptist Church in Smyrna, Ga. and he was ordained by Maranatha Baptist Church in Calhoun.

In 1967, Perry and Carolyn moved to Smyrna to become the Superintendents of Calvary Children's Home. For the five years they served there, Rev. and Mrs. Blackstock were able to minister to more than forty-three children in a loving and nurturing environment. After serving at Calvary, Perry and Carolyn came home to Calhoun in 1972.

During his ministry, Rev. Blackstock pastored White Graves Baptist Church in Gordon County; in Murray County, he served as pastor at New Prospect Baptist Church for thirteen years and at Prayer Baptist for eight years. Between pastorates, he served as minister of music for Maranatha Baptist Church for thirteen years. He was gifted with a pastor's heart and was both loved and respected by all his church membership.

Perry loved to travel. He had visited almost every U.S. state. He traveled throughout Europe, touring in Switzerland, Rome, Italy, Athens, Greece, and the Holy Land. In March 2005, Perry took the trip of a lifetime with Pastor David Dickerson to London, Wales, and Scotland. While in London, he was privileged to visit Dr. Charles H. Spurgeon's church and stand in his pulpit; he also preached in Wales and Scotland.

For more than 30 years, Perry was with Shaw Industries. He retired as the Quality Control Manager of the Calhoun Yarn Plant.

Rev. Blackstock was a loving and devoted husband, father, pastor, neighbor and friend. Those who knew and loved him will both miss him greatly and treasure the memories of his life and ministry. His family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude for both Pruitt Hospice and his caregivers.

The Blackstock family received friends on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 from noon until 2 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

The service followed at 2 p.m. on Tuesday from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The burial followed in the family plot at Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery. Dr. David Dickerson and Rev. Scott Tidwell officiated. Honorary pallbearers were John Grooms, Luke Corn, Joe Silvers, Ricky Chapman, Rev. Isaac Johns, Rev. Danny Jenkins, Rev. Joe Hall, Rev. Lamar Long, and Rev. James Baker.

Memorials may be made to Peachtree Baptist Church for Georgia Baptist College at 3867 Hwy 85, Senoia, GA 30276; online at peachtreebaptist.org.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Rev. James Perry Blackstock.



Marilyn Farr

Mrs. Marilyn Ward Farr, age 80, of Adairsville, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020, with her family at her side.



She was born in Adairsville on Feb. 7, 1940, daughter of the late Troy Odell Ward and Mildred Herndon Ward. She was a member of The Church at Liberty Square and a devout woman of faith. Over the years Marilyn enjoyed working at various places. She was a school bus driver and safety director for Bartow County Schools for several years, after retiring she enjoyed working at Elite Jewelry and Fashion and the Adairsville Florist. A talented seamstress, she loved sewing items for her children and grandchildren. She was a loving mother and grandmother whose memory will be cherished.

Mrs. Farr was preceded in death by her husband, Jackie Lowell Farr; brothers, Wendell Ward and John Daniel "Danny" Ward; sisters, Edrice Ward and Milva Williamson.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Ronnie and Tammy Farr, Darryl and Karen Farr, and

Lamar and Lisa Farr; daughter and son-in-law, Jacki and Wes Thacker; grandchildren, Houston Farr, Shelbi Farr, Candice and Jason Broce, Caylen and Jason Celler, Jessie Farr, and Wesley Thacker; great-grandchildren, Beau Broce, Jack Broce, and Haven Paradise; several nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Barton Funeral Home with Mr. Fred Painter officiating. Interment will follow in Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church Cemetery, Adairsville. The family will receive friends Friday from 11:00am until 2:00pm at Barton Funeral Home.

Pallbearers include Ronnie Farr, Darryl Farr, Lamar Farr, Houston Farr, Wesley Thacker, Phillip Furrow, and Jerry Hoover.

Family and friends attending services will be required to wear face mask and observe social distancing.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of funeral arrangements for Mrs. Marilyn Ward Farr.

Barton Funeral Home

Shirley Hancock

Mrs. Shirley Ann Hancock, age 78, of Fairmount, departed this life Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, at the AdventHealth Gordon in Calhoun. Shirley was born Jan. 17, 1942 in Ellijay, the daughter of the late Lindsey and Faye Mandy Fountain Hancock. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Sheila Jane Postell and her brothers, Rayford Lee Hancock and Richard Lee Hancock.

She is survived by her daughter, Derhonda Lynn Colter; sons, Timmy Eric Hancock and Tommy Edward Hancock all of Fairmount; grandchildren, Jessica Phillips, Tabitha Postell, Christy Cruz, Jonathan Mulkey, Misty Holland and Christopher Holland; great-grandchildren, Faith Postell, Hope Postell, Tyler Brandon, William Holland, Breanna Clayton and Adam Wear; great-great-grandchildren, Destiny Phillips, Ryson Thompson and Jace Cornett; aunts, Minnie Hancock, Bonnie Burton, Nancy Young and Ella Fountain all of Pickens County; several cousins.

Services to celebrate the life of Ms. Shirley Ann Hancock will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at 1 p.m. at the Ponders Fairmount Chapel, 2566 Hwy. 411, Fairmount, GA, with Reverend Bobby Timms officiating. She will be laid to rest with her family at Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery in Ludville, Ga. Her family and close friends will serve as pallbearers.

The family will receive friends at Ponders Fairmount Chapel from 5 – 9 p.m. Friday and after 11 a.m. Saturday until the service hour.

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

Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.pondersfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements will be announced by, Ponders Fairmount Chapel 2566 Hwy 411 Fairmount, GA 30139, 706-337-3784 www.selectedindependentfuneralhomes.org and www.ogr.org



Maj. Lars "Trey" Pierson

Maj. Lars G. "Trey" Pierson III, age 55, of Calhoun, passed away suddenly on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020.

Trey was born on June 13, 1965 in Stuttgart, Germany, son of Carol Acree Pierson and the late Lars Gustav Pierson, Jr. He was a member of the Calhoun First Baptist Church. Trey was a graduate of Calhoun High School Class of 1983, where he participated in both the arts and athletics playing football, wrestling, and playing the lead in several plays winning best actor for playing the lead in the Sound of Music. Trey earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from North Georgia College and State University and was commanding officer of his senior class serving as Cadet Colonel. After receiving his college degree in 1987, he began his career in the United States Army as an Infantry 2nd Lieutenant and assumed command of a rifle platoon. He held several other platoon/detachment and staff officer positions before branch transferring to Military Intelligence. He was then given a company of more than 150 soldiers to lead, train, and command. Trey served from 1987-1999 and 2001-2003. He earned the Distinguished Military Student Award, John C. Marshall Award. He was Brigade Commander, Boar's Head Brigade, Brigade Command Sergeant Major, Company First Sergeant. He attended Ranger School, Airborne School, and Air Assault School. He earned the Expert Infantry Badge, Counterintelligence and Signals Intelligence Specialist award, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Operation Desert Storm Service Medal. He was presently employed as an IT professional with VoestAlpine Technology. If you have attended a Calhoun High School football game over the last several years you couldn't miss Trey's presence on the field, taking picture of the players, cheerleaders, and people in the stands, always supporting his beloved alma mater.

In addition to his mother, Trey is also survived by: his wife of 33 years, Monica Hutchinson Pierson

of Calhoun; son, Lars G. "Duke" Pierson IV and his wife Elizabeth of Calhoun; and daughter, Molly Pierson of Augusta.

Due to Covid and the need for an open-air venue, the memorial service for Lars G. Pierson III will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at 6 p.m. on Hal Lamb Field at Phil Reeve Stadium. All are encouraged to wear Calhoun Yellow Jacket or UGA Dawgs attire. Please enter through the North Gate off Yellow Jacket Drive. Masks and social distancing will be required to help keep our community safe. Thank you for helping us celebrate the life of Trey and his many contributions to the Jacket Nation. Don't forget your cowbell!

*If you would like to contribute to The Trey Pierson 12th Man Memorial Scholarship, please take your donations to Greater Community Bank, 305 West Belmont Drive, Calhoun, GA.

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Maj. Lars G. "Trey" Pierson, III.



Ruby Smith

Ruby Lee Smith, 82, of Calhoun, died Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. She was born on Oct. 22, 1938, to the late Dewey and Irene Glass Casey. She was preceded in death by her sister-in-law, Rhelda Casey, and brother-in-law, Ken Smith.



She was a lifelong homemaker. Prior to retirement, she was employed with the Calhoun Times and Ron Hall Insurance. She was a member of Riverview Baptist Church. She will be missed dearly by the ones she loved.

She is survived by her loving husband, Rembert A. "Bert" Smith; sons and daughters-in-law, Roger and Trenna Smith, Mickey and Cathy Smith; brothers and sister-in-law, Rev. Winford and Virginia Casey and M.D. Casey; sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda Smith, Joyce and Glenn Smith, and Sandra and Allen Davis; grandchildren, Davis Smith, Makenna Brown, Jared Smith, and Jordan Smith; a great-granddaughter, Evie Smith; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives also survive along with a lifelong friend, Grapell Headrick.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at 1 p.m. from Riverview Baptist Church with Rev. Winford Casey and Rev. Josh Pilgrim officiating. Her body will lie in state at the church from 12 p.m. until the service hour. A private family graveside service will follow in Gordon Memorial Gardens on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020. Pallbearers serving include; Todd Davis, Keith Smith, Greg Montgomery, Donald Bowen, Bryson Davis, and Scott Smith. Honorary pallbearers will be the Ladies Sunday school class of Riverview Baptist Church.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, www.maxbrannonandsons.com

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Ruby Lee Smith.



Johnny Summers

Johnny P. Summers, 72, of Resaca, died Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020 at AdventHealth Gordon. He was born on June 13, 1948 in Whitfield County to the late Henry and Laura Williams Summers. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Jerry Williams and Henry Summers; sisters, Alice Hammock, Linda Summers, and Caroline (Chester) Grace; grandson, Matthew Russell Riffle.



He grew up in the holiness faith and attended Grace Baptist Church.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Mildred Baggett Summers; sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Jade Summers and Jeff and Angela Summers; daughters and son-in-law, Melaine and Larry Arnold and Rebecca Gilbert; brothers and sister-in-law, Eddie and Nancy Summers and Bobby Summers; sisters and brother-in-law, Cathy Maines and Teresa and Michael Kilpatrick; grandchildren, Jilena Summers, John Davis, Emily Davis, Brittany Gravitt, Chris Summers, Desenty Lamb, Corey Williams, and Jamey Puckett; great grandchildren, Laura Lynn Gravitt, Ava Gravitt, Noah Towe, Elizabeth Towe, Haisley Davis, and Emerson Bryant; special friend, Wayne Hollingsworth.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 from 5 – 9 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon

Hometown Holidays



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RELIGION

HOW DO I LOOK?



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

There is a silent killer in our world that's wreaking

havoc on families. Depression was first seen during the time of the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden. Satan has continued to use it to afflict lives of every nation, state, community, and home. There's no family immune to it. It has no respect of person, age or gender. Just this past weekend, I have counseled with four teenage boys from schools in 2 counties who are getting professional help for depression.

Proverbs 18:14 reads, "The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?"

King David said in Psalm 32:3 and 4, "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah."

Signs and symptoms according to the National Institute for Mental Health include but are not limited to... Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" feelings, Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism, Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness, Irritability, restlessness, Loss of interest in activities or

hobbies once pleasurable, including sex, Fatigue and decreased energy, Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, and making decisions, Insomnia, early-morning wakefulness, or excessive sleeping, Overeating, or appetite loss, Thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts, Aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems that do not ease even with treatment.

Anyone who is depressed or knows someone who is, please seek medical attention. From the NIMH... "Even those with the most severe depression,

can get better with treatment. Medications, psychotherapies, and other methods can effectively treat people with depression."

But the best help comes from God, who according to 2Corinthians 7:6, "comforts and encourages and refreshes and cheers the depressed. Through His word, God offers strength to those who are suffering. Good examples of people who overcame in battles against depression.

And perhaps the greatest thing the Bible offers is hope through a relationship with Jesus

Christ. The blessing of knowing that we are never alone; and his promise that if we draw nigh to Him, He will draw nigh unto us. But the greatest hope is the hope of Heaven, when this temporary part of our life ends. At that time, God has promised to remove all the things that lead to depression. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind", Isaiah 65:17.

Look further than the appearance others today, as it can be deceiving. Be blessed.

The Basement to host Eric Gilmour Jan. 15-16

STAFF REPORTS

Get ready family for Friday, Jan. 15, 2021 and Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 as The Basement hosts guest speaker and musical artist Eric Gilmour.

Gilmour is an author, itinerant minister and musician, seeking to bring the Church into a deeper experience of Jesus. He believes that experiencing God at all times is the very source of the authentic Christian life. Gilmour has written multiple dozens of books, released countless songs and shared hundreds of videos on YouTube which have challenged innumerable believers to seek and find Jesus through continual rest in



His presence.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. and ALL are welcome. The Basement is located at 903D South Wall Street Calhoun.

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



Belmont Baptist Handbell Choir to host 10th annual Christmas concert

Celebrate Christmas with the Belmont Baptist Handbell Choir on Monday, December 7 or Tuesday, December 8 at 7 pm. at the GEM Theatre.

The group will ring a variety of secular Christmas songs and beloved Carols.

Tickets are free, but you must reserve a ticket at calhouncemtheatre.org because of social distancing limited seating. Each family is encouraged to bring a bag of groceries to help feed those in need through the Blewer Food Bank.

2020 marks the Ten Year Anniversary of this special event. Get your tickets soon.

Merry Christmas!

Church Calendar

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

-Calhoun First United Methodist Church Sunday Worship times: 9:00 a.m., traditional worship; 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m., contemporary service (in the CAC).

Calhoun First UMC is located at 205 East Line Street in downtown Calhoun.

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

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

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

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

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

-Pleasant Valley Baptist Church is a Bible believing & teaching church located in the Red Bud Community. Pastor Keith Gibson and the congregation invite you to come and worship with us at 3882 Red Bud Rd., Calhoun. Opportunities for worship: Bible Study for all ages 10 a.m., Children's Church up to 5th grade 11a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. Wednesday night service times Prayer Bible Study and Student Ministries 7 p.m. 706-624-0198, Find us on Facebook or email 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 Dewes Pond Road. Pastor Mark Kirby invites everyone to Fellowship and Worship with us. Children's Church on Sunday Services starts at 11:00am Childrens Church

starts at 11:30am. Wednesday nights Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm. Come out and see what the Lord is doing!

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

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

-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.

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Finance

Cash Flow with Joe: COVID, cabinets and courthouses



Joe & Ashley English

Owners of Focus Property Solutions, LLC
focuspropertysolutionsllc@gmail.com

The effects of COVID-19 have reached many facets of our lives in 2020. On the real estate business level, they have affected our purchasing capabilities — specifically how we've been able to purchase materials on our rehabs. It started out with 5/4 boards not being available for building decks. Then the shortage moved into other lumber areas before the eventual price increase on almost all building material really hit hard in

September and October.

When I noticed that, I went to all my suppliers and asked where they predicted material shortages in the near future. One of the things on their lists was cabinets.

This news was bad because we were going to need cabinets to complete two full kitchens on our rehabs at the time.

Armed with that knowledge, we went ahead and put in our order for cabinets before there was a shortage. That was on Sept. 3. As I'm writing this column two full months later, we still have not received our order. (update: they came in on 11-12.)

There have been other challenges in regard to material availability with appliances and even tool purchases, but these all had to do with manufacturers being shut down. But COVID-19 shut down other places, like our court houses, which affected us landlords too.

Thankfully, we

took time to find rental applicants who could do the four jobs of a tenant which are: 1. Take care of house. 2. Pay on time. 3. Be comfortable to work with by staying in good communication and being respectful. 4. Be a good neighbor.

Because we made sure they could do job No 2., we've maintained good communication with our tenants during the shutdown. We've even been able to work with the ones who needed a little financial grace.

The only hiccups we have had came from an inherited tenant. This was someone who was already installed and under lease when we bought the property.

There were two things wrong with this situation. First, when you buy a property with a tenant in it, you are buying subject to the existing lease. The lease we inherited was a one-page document that basically said when and how much the tenant should pay and that there was no deposit collected.

The second thing was that the tenants had learned poor communication and property maintenance habits from the previous landlord. Since the lease didn't say anything about the tenants responsibilities of upkeep of the property, we had to wait until they violated the payment portion of the lease to remedy the situation.

They didn't pay, and they didn't communicate, so we filed for dispossession. They were served, they answered the summons and a court date was set.

Now, I didn't know what to expect of the courthouse since I hadn't been there since the shutdown. But I did my normal court time routine. I made a bullet point outline for the judge that clearly and concisely showed where the tenants had missed payment, how we contacted them and when we sent the pay or quit notice, along with a few other things that were specific to the case.

I then printed supporting documents, highlighted the relevant portions and had them in order so that the judge could find them easily.

This process is very important if you are going to court. Giving the judge the facts that he needs, and not inundating him with information will help him to see your point and not have to wrestle with lots of details trying to make a judgement.

On the day of court, everything was normal at the Gordon County Courthouse except that they took my temperature when I came in and all the doors to the offices were shut.

Our case went before Judge Baines. I liked him a lot. I found him to be cordial, evenhanded and resolution oriented. These are good qualities to find in a judge. And just so you know, we didn't win. Our case got dismissed. The reason was we messed up when we filed the affidavit for dispossession online.

You see, we normally

do it in person at the courthouse. The lease we inherited had a signer and a co-signer. On the online form, it was easy to put the signer's name in, but there was an extra button we needed to press to add the co-signer. We missed the button and assumed the co-signer would fall under "all other occupants" on the affidavit. They did not fall into that category and the case was rightly dismissed because we could not just dispossess one party and not the other.

That was big lesson. Had we filled out the affidavit at the courthouse like normal, we wouldn't have done this. But, since the online process is strongly advised due to COVID-19, well, we got to learn a lesson.

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS: Managing Your Retirement Plan Under a New Employer



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

Your employer-sponsored retirement plan is a valuable asset. But sometimes things happen that can affect the status of your plan. So, for example, if you work for a hospital that changes ownership, and you have been participating in a 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) retirement plan, what should you do with it now?

Basically, you have four options:

- Cash out your plan. You can simply cash out your plan and take the money, but you'll have to pay taxes on it, and possibly penalties as well. So, unless you really need the funds and you have no other alternative, you may want to avoid liquidating your account.

- Roll your account into your new employer's plan. If it's allowed, you can roll over your old 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) plan into your new employer's plan. Before making this move, you'll want to look at the new plan's investment options (which should be numerous) and fees (which should be low). If you move the money directly to the new plan, you won't be taxed at the time of the transfer, and your funds can continue to grow tax-deferred.

- Leave your plan with your old employer. If your account balance is above a certain level, you may be able to leave your plan with your old employer's plan administrator. You won't be able to contribute any more money to the plan, but if you like the investment options you've chosen,

keeping the money in your old plan might be a viable choice.

- Move your account into a traditional IRA. One possible advantage to moving your 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) into a traditional IRA is you'll open up a world of new investment options, because you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of vehicle, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and exchange-traded funds. And if you already have a traditional IRA, you can combine the new funds with the old ones, making it easier to track your holdings. As is the case with leaving your money in your old employer's plan or transferring it to a new plan, you'll continue to benefit from tax-deferred growth. Keep in mind, though, that IRAs have costs, too, possibly including transaction costs to buy or sell new investments. (One more thing to keep in mind: When you want to move a retirement plan to an IRA, you may want to make a direct rollover, so the old plan's administrator moves the money directly into the IRA, allowing you to avoid immediate taxes. If you were to make an indirect rollover, you'd get the money yourself, but your old employer would have to deduct 20% for federal taxes, and you'd have to deposit the entire balance, including the withholding, into your IRA within 60 days.)

Which of these choices is best for you? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. You'll want to consider all the options and possibly consult with your tax advisor and financial professional. But do all you can to protect your retirement plan — you've worked hard to build it, and you'll need to rely on it to help you pay for your years as a retiree.

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

ASK CONSUMER ED: Car Repossession

Dear Consumer Ed:

Once your car is repossessed, how much time are you given to pay the overdue amount before your vehicle is sold? Also, how long does a repo company have to wait before getting rid of any belongings you left in the vehicle?

Consumer Ed says:

Generally, Georgia law requires that the lienholder send you notice within 10 days of the repossession, via registered or certified mail or statutory overnight delivery. The notice should inform you of your rights to redeem your vehicle and to demand a public sale of the vehicle. Regardless of whether the lienholder provides this notice, you usually have the right to get your vehicle back up until it is sold. To do so, you must pay the outstanding loan amount in full plus any associated fees, not just the amount of the overdue loan payments.

You should also be aware that if, and only if, the lienholder sends you the aforementioned notice and subsequently sells your vehicle for less than the outstanding loan amount, it may seek to collect from you the difference between the loan balance plus any associated fees and the price at which the vehicle was sold. To do this, the lienholder may send your account to collections or even sue you.

As to your second question, Georgia law requires that a repo company notify you within 10 days of the repossession that it has your belongings and intends to dispose of them. You then have 30 days to respond and retrieve your property by collecting it and paying any reasonable storage or notification charges. If you do not respond, a second notice is sent and the company is given another 30 days before

it may dispose of your property.

If you are notified that your vehicle is going to be repossessed:

Contact your lienholder to find out why and see what, if anything, you can do to prevent the repossession.

If the vehicle has already been repossessed, contact your lender or the

repossession company to find out how you can get your vehicle and/or your belongings back.

If you cannot get your vehicle back, either because you cannot afford to do so or because the vehicle has already been sold, find out whether you still owe your lender any money.

Remember that late

or missed loan payments, vehicle repossessions and collection items can all hurt your credit and will generally remain on your credit file for seven years. You can start rebuilding your credit right away by paying your bills on time and trying to pay down your debts.

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GORDON GROWN

Homeowner Pesticide Safety



Greg Bowman
Gordon County
Extension Agent

gbowman@uga.edu

As a UGA county agent, I am an educational resource for many situations in and around the home. I deal with agricultural based issues that can involve insects, diseases and weeds for example that can be problematic for the homeowner as well as the farmer. Many times, clients may decide that chemical control is the best option to handle the problem. This article is not to debate the use of chemicals and compare to non-chemical methods for example. This article will give basics in regards to safety if you choose to use a chemical pesticide around the

property. I will be sharing information from a UGA publication revised by Tim Daly, Gwinnett County Extension Agent.

For starters, what is a pesticide? A pesticide is a product that is designed to kill damaging organisms.

Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, bactericides and rodenticides would all be considered pesticides.

According to our information, pesticides by nature are hazardous and require cautious handling. At the same time, when a pesticide is used properly, they can help control an offending organism with little risk to the environment and non-target items. Keep in mind that the most important consideration for the safe, effective use of pesticides is to follow all label directions and safety precautions according to our information.

I will state that chemical options are not the only way to limit pests. Some problems can be solved with non-chemical methods. You need to properly identify

the pest in order to select the best control option for you. In growing seasons, many clients will bring in weed samples and plants samples for me to look over for disease issues plus even insect samples. I at times can do the identification in the office myself or send images digitally to a specialist. There are some occasions where a physical sample has to be sent to a specialist for analysis.

There are times if a chemical option is used, you can do it yourself. There are also times, you may have to hire a professionally licensed pest control operator.

I can't state enough how important the label is and how important it is for you to read the label of any pesticide before use. The pesticide label will give you all of the information you need to use safely, effectively and legally use the product. You must follow the instructions exactly. The instructions are also designed to ensure your safety while giving you the best results.

On a label, you

usually should be able to find the chemical name which is the long name for the active chemical ingredients. You should see a common name which will be a shorter name for the pesticide. You should also see the formulation of that product which would be the form such as liquid, wettable powder or dust for example.

You should be able to find signal words which indicate the possible hazard of that product to humans. Common signal words are danger, warning and caution. Danger would mean a highly toxic product and caution would mean fairly low toxicity.

Labels will give precautionary statements and statements of practical use which would describe emergency first-aid measures. A label will also give directions of use for the product. The label will have a misuse statement that will be a reminder that it is illegal to use the product in a manner inconsistent with the labeling.

Article space will not allow me today to go into

major depth, but I will go over a few major safety points when handling a pesticide.

Before making the product purchase, read the label and make sure that particular product is registered for the pest and site you wish to treat. Look at the signal words and select the safest product available. Again, read the label entirely before using the pesticide and follow all of the instructions exactly. Make sure to observe all safety precautions on the label like "Keep out of the reach of children" or "Do not use near fire, sparks or flame" for example. Make sure you wear protective clothing especially clothing that is mentioned specifically on the product label. You need to always wear liquid proof gloves and shoes along with a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and even a wide brimmed hat.

You should never eat, drink, smoke or go to the restroom while handling pesticides, wash your hands first.

If a product is to be mixed or diluted, only

do so in a well-ventilated area. You need to mix only the amount you need so do not mix a large batch and store for later use.

You should also remove pets and toys from an area to be treated.

Sometimes, the kitchen cabinets are the area that need to be sprayed. Prior to doing so, remove food, dishes, pots and pans before you spray the shelves. You would wait until the shelves are dry before returning those utensils.

Finally, there are more handling tips available. Plus, you need to be aware of points such as proper pesticide storage, how to dispose of pesticides and how to handle spills and correct first aid steps. I will add to NEVER store pesticides in an old food or drink container, because someone may mistake it for something edible. This could be a fatal mistake.

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

Gordon County 4-H competes in area Virtual Cotton Boll Consumer Jamboree; Seniors headed to State



GEORGIA DNR

The 2020 Gordon County 4-H Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging Team competed at the Area Virtual Competition on Monday November 9th. The 4-H Cotton Boll and Consumer Jamboree is a competition where 4-H'ers learn and utilize evaluation and decision making skills.

This contest is sponsored by the Georgia Cotton Commission. The contest emphasizes cotton but allows 4-H members to use their judging skills when they judge four classes of items, which include one class on clothing, one on a consumer item, one on a foods item and one on a consumer service. At this year's competition the class items were: Vending Machine Snacks, Smart Watches, Pajama Pants and Fitness Center Memberships. The 4-H'ers were given a situation in each class and rank the preferred items in each class and give one set of oral reason defending their placement of a class.

The junior team members also had to prepare and present a poster along with 30 second commercial promoting

cotton. The senior 4-H team members had to prepare and present a 90 second advertisement on some aspect of cotton. For example, they may talk about cotton production, new trends in cotton, the economic impact of cotton, caring for cotton clothing, how cotton fits their lifestyle or any other topic related to cotton.

The Gordon County 4-H Junior Team placed 3rd out of 11 teams. Madison Ensley was 3rd overall out of 28 other individuals, 3rd in placing and reasons class and 8th in commercial. Jenica Weaver was 5th high individual, 1st in commercial and 10th in placing and reasons. Preslie Parish placed 7th in placing and reasons and 10th as an individual. William Parish placed 9th in placing and reasons and 11th as an individual. Annie Betancourt was 6th in Commercial and 16th as an individual. The Gordon County 4-H Senior Team won the Area Competition placing 1st of 12 other teams and will move on to the State Virtual Competition December 12th. Holli Kile was 3rd high individual of 68 other competitors, 3rd in placing and reasons and 6th on commercial. Hannah Jones placed 8th

as an individual and 5th in her placings and reasons class. Makayla Blackstock placed 11th as an individual and 2nd in commercial.

"All our 4-H'ers contributed to how well Gordon County 4-H placed at this year's competition by coming to practices, studying and working together as a team! They are already looking forward to next year and our

seniors are excited about going to state competition" said Becky Pass, Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging coach and Gordon County 4-H Program Assistant.

Learn more about Gordon County 4-H at www.ugaextension.com/gordon, find us on Facebook: Gordon County 4-H or by calling UGA Cooperative Extension of Gordon County at 706-629-8685.

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HEALTH NEWS

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Many hospitals report rise in COVID patients, fear post-holiday surge

ANDY MILLER
Georgia Health News

Many Georgia hospitals have seen a steady and troubling rise in COVID patients in recent weeks.

And hospital leaders are worried that gatherings during the Thanksgiving holidays will drive those numbers even higher in the next couple of weeks.

Many states are currently being hit harder than Georgia in terms of a COVID hospital crunch. A record-high 96,039 virus patients were hospitalized in the United States as of Monday evening, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

Still, there are currently 2,197 COVID patients hospitalized in Georgia, the Daily Digest reported Monday. That total is 290 more than last Monday. The state has not seen a number this high since Aug. 26, said Amber Schmidtke, who runs the report. "We are effectively reversing the gains we made after the summer surge," she said.

In Georgia, the rising hospitalization trend is not occurring statewide.

Several rural hospitals say they are not seeing cases go up. Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and Navicent Health hospitals in Middle Georgia report no increases so far. Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany — which gained national attention when flooded with COVID patients early in the pandemic — has not had a recent rise in cases.

But large health systems such as Wellstar, Emory, Piedmont, Northside and Northeast Georgia have seen steady patient increases. The uptick has also occurred at Augusta and Savannah hospitals.

Emory Healthcare has seen a doubling of its hospitalized COVID

patients over the past month, said Dr. Jonathan Lewin, CEO of the 11-hospital Atlanta-based system.

Emory's COVID hospitalization numbers aren't as high as during the July/August surge, but they're still troubling, he said.

"It's been unrelenting," Lewin said Tuesday. If there's no broader change in behavior or regulation, he said, "we're in for a very, very challenging winter coming up. There's no reason to think it's going to slow down."

He added, "We're still at high risk of running out of [hospital] capacity in the state."

Covid Exit Strategy lists Georgia's ICU capacity at a "strained" 91 percent.

Georgia hospital systems told GHN that they're working hard to add staffers and increase stocks of personal protective equipment (PPE) as they wait for an expected Thanksgiving-related uptick to come in two or three weeks.

Public Health officials reported Tuesday more than 5,000 new COVID cases in the state (including those identified from rapid antigen tests), a large daily increase.

Gov. Brian Kemp's office said the governor would meet with hospital CEOs on Wednesday to discuss COVID developments.

Staff burnout cuts into workforce

Wellstar Health System, with 11 hospitals, said Tuesday that it's seeing an uptick of virus patients over the past two weeks. Many of these patients are older or have chronic medical conditions, "but we are also seeing younger people in their 20s and 30s requiring hospitalization and critically ill," said Dr. Danny Branstetter, medical director of infection prevention for

Wellstar.

Marietta-based Wellstar has developed plans for a potential COVID patient influx, including adding more hospital space for these patients. "We're worried about it," Branstetter said.

Staffing is a constant concern. Doctors, nurses and other staff are experiencing "COVID care fatigue," Branstetter noted. Wellstar is working hard to provide mental health and wellness resources for employees, he said.

The American Hospital Association told Modern Healthcare that it has heard anecdotal reports from health systems across the country that staff members are retiring early or looking for jobs that don't involve caring for hospitalized patients. And with each such departure, the nation's health care staffing crisis worsens.

The increasing COVID patient load "raises concerns about staffing and keeping other services running," said Dr. Clifton Hastings, chief of medical staff for the Gainesville-based Northeast Georgia Health System.

"We've said since the beginning of the pandemic that we can add more beds and rooms, but the bigger issue is having enough staff with the proper training to care for everyone who needs us," Hastings said. "That's an issue every hospital is dealing with, and we're all adding as many critical care nurses, physicians and advanced practitioners as we can. There just aren't enough to go around."

Northeast Georgia Health System has seen steady upticks in both the percentage of COVID tests coming back positive and the number of people admitted to the hospital for the past month.

"Both are now at



levels that we've only seen on our way to peaks in April and July, and we're headed for a new peak," said Hastings. "The only question is, how high will this peak be?"

The Atlanta-based Northside system has seen a 100 percent increase in total COVID-19 patients over the past month.

"Northside continues to have sufficient equipment, bed capacity, and staffing, thanks to our medical staff and interdisciplinary hospital leadership throughout the pandemic," said Lee Echols, Northside's vice president of marketing.

He added that Northside Hospital Gwinnett, in Lawrenceville, has expanded its inpatient capacity with 35 fully equipped modular units — being used for inpatient care of all types — with another 36 beds going online in mid-December. Northside's Duluth hospital, also in Gwinnett County, has added 16 beds, with all rooms being ICU-capable if needed.

Some hospital officials said they fear that if bed capacity and services are squeezed by COVID, there may have to be another postponement of elective surgeries. These procedures are not only important for patients

but also generate a lot of revenue for hospitals.

Preparing for the worst

Memorial Health in Savannah said Tuesday that it's treating 40 COVID patients in the hospital, double the total from Nov. 18.

"Certainly an increase in number of patients increases the demands on PPE and staffing to appropriately care for patients," said Dr. Stephen Thacker, associate chief medical officer and pediatric infectious disease specialist for Memorial.

"As part of HCA Healthcare, we have continued to manage our PPE well throughout the pandemic, never running out. Nursing shortages across the nation impact us here locally as well. We have been actively recruiting, hiring and training new staff to meet our patient care needs."

Augusta University Medical Center (AUMC) said it has seen a slow rise in hospitalizations and ventilator use for COVID-19 patients, and 43 such patients are in the hospital currently.

AU Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Phillip Coule said that "overall, AUMC has managed to maintain normal operations with the additional COVID patients, but we will

continue to watch the situation closely and are anxiously awaiting the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine."

A temporary hospital was set up early in the pandemic at the Georgia World Congress Center, a large convention center in downtown Atlanta. It has not been used in a while, but it can be reactivated if needed, officials said.

To fight the spread of COVID, all hospital officials emphasized the public's need to follow safety guidelines: wearing masks, washing hands and social distancing.

"We know people are tired of hearing about wearing masks, washing hands and watching their distance," said Hastings of Northeast Georgia. "Trust me, our nurses, doctors and other staff are tired, too. But those are the only actions that can limit the spread and keep the next peak from being overwhelming."

Emory's Lewin, like other hospital leaders, praised front-line medical workers for their resilience and effort in caring for patients. "The staff, Emory faculty and clinicians have risen to the call in a way that's inspiring," he said.

Andy Miller is the CEO and editor of Georgia Health News.

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.

-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.

 **Anna Shaw Children's Institute**

Southern Magnolia room on the lower level
1201 Burleyson Road | Dalton, Georgia

Parent Support Group

The Parent Support Group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm.

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

Anna Shaw Children's Institute follows social distancing and CDC safety guidelines.

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Education

Winners named in Tolbert Elementary Spelling Bee

CONTRIBUTED

On Tuesday, December 1, 2020, Tolbert Elementary School held the annual school, Scripps Spelling Bee. Congratulations to the winner, fourth-grader Bentley Hayes, and

runner-up, fifth-grader Gage Sanders.

Moving forward, both students received a list of words from (Words of the Champions) to help prepare for the county-wide Scripps Spelling Bee scheduled for later this school year. Bentley will be the school

representative, and Gage will be the alternate representative for the school.

Pictured right: Winner Bentley Hayes, Stacy Calvert, Instructional Lead Teacher, Gage Sanders, runner up and Holly Sisson, Assistant Principal.



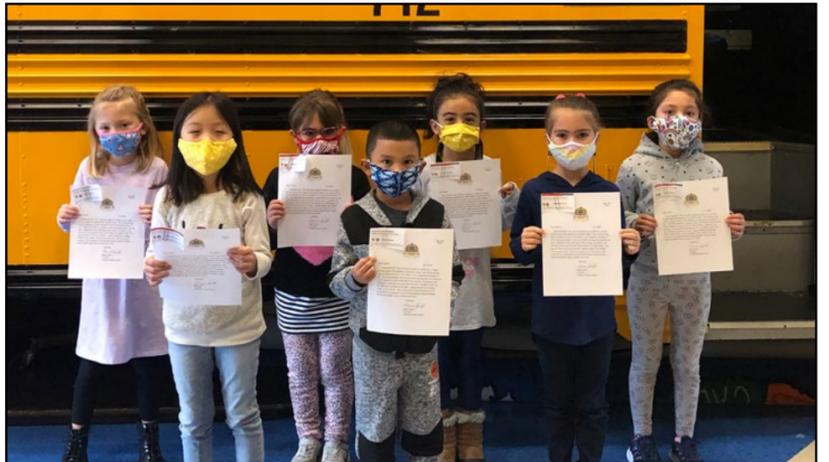
CPS announces Huddle House Write to Win winners

CONTRIBUTED

Calhoun Primary School is proud to recognize our Huddle House "Write to Win" recipients for November. Students whose writing was selected will earn free meals at Huddle House for a month and their writing will be

available in the restaurant for patrons to enjoy while dining. Please ask your server for the author of your choice to enjoy specific writings while you dine. We appreciate the generous support Huddle House continually provides to our students and we congratulate our writers on a job well done!

- Write to Win November Winners**
- Kindergarten**
Hazel Steely
Alexis Morales
Alex North
- 1st Grade**
Tatiana Wilson
Kaitlyn Aplicano
Blakely Anderson
- 2nd Grade**
Darlene Mosso
Tiffany Nguyen



Ashworth Middle School inducts REACH Scholars

CONTRIBUTED

Ashworth inducted four eighth grade students into the REACH Georgia mentorship and scholarship program: Alicia Dela Cruz, Tayib Evans, Jayden Jones and Kaitlyn Smith. The students were joined by family members for the ceremony. Mrs. Sket Angland, AMS Principal, and Mr. Jamey Angland, GCHS and AMS Graduation Coach, addressed the

students and led them in their pledge to the REACH Scholarship program goals. Each student signed an agreement to recognize their commitment. Dr. Kimberly Fraker, GCS Superintendent, and Mr. Mike Evelti, GCS Director of Student Services, were also in attendance. REACH Scholars are paired with a mentor and an academic coach through middle and high school. They must maintain good grades

(2.5 GPA), behavior and attendance through middle school and high school. Scholars who successfully complete the program and graduate from high school are awarded a \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500/year) that can be used at any HOPE-eligible institution in Georgia. The majority of Georgia colleges are matching or doubling this scholarship. The scholarship is in addition any other grant or scholarship the student receives.



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CHAMBER
From page 1A

for a Literate Community, Care at Home, Chick-fil-A Calhoun, City of Calhoun, Larry Dixon Construction, Family Savings Credit Union, First Bank of Calhoun, Flipper McDaniel & Associates, Georgia Power, Greater Community Bank, Hamilton Health Care System, Harbin Clinic, HMTX Industries/Halstead New England Corporation, Mohawk Industries, Momon Construction, Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC, North Georgia E.M.C., Prater Ford, RAK Outfitters, Shaw Industries, Starr-Mathews Agency, Synovus, and The Council on Alcohol and Drugs. Flipper McDaniel & Associates, HMTX Industries/Halstead New England Corporation and Prater Ford are new sponsors. RAK Outfitters is coming back as a 2021 supporter after taking a couple years off, while AdventHealth Gordon, City of Calhoun, Starr-Mathews Agency and Synovus are legacy sponsors.

The mission of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce is to connect members and the community to promote economic growth.

COVID
From page 1A

These questions are not to assess if anyone will be sent to help. They are used to let the responders know what situation they are going in to so they can wear the proper equipment and take the proper precautions.

The task force will continue to monitor situations daily and do all that can be done to keep citizens safe. Since the beginning of this pandemic, the task force has worked diligently to try and stay ahead of this virus as a team here in Gordon County. The task force asks that citizens continue to do the things that can be done during this time to help the community as a whole.

If you do feel you need to be tested for COVID-19, the Gordon County Health Department continues testing at the Gordon County Senior Center, which is currently closed to normal operations. The Senior Center is located at 150 Cambridge Court in Calhoun and free testing will be conducted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. No appointment is needed for this testing.

GORDON
Gazette

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

2020: Need for emergency disaster lodging surges amid COVID-19 pandemic

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Facing a relentless disaster season, families in the U.S. have spent more nights in emergency lodging in 2020 than in any other year over the past decade.

More than 1 million times this year, a person relied on the Red Cross for a safe place to sleep after a disaster in the U.S. That's more than four times the annual average from 2011 to 2019.

"As the coronavirus pandemic wears on, disasters like residential fires in Georgia — plus a relentless wildfire and hurricane season — have upended hundreds of thousands of lives here and across the country," said Danella Hughes, Disaster Officer for Georgia's Red Cross. "Through it all, more people are stepping up as Red Cross volunteers to help others — even as they cope with these events and COVID-19. It's a true testament to the humanitarian spirit of people in Georgia and in our country."

Thousands of people throughout Georgia have been impacted by home and apartment fires, severe storms, and tornados, which ripped through the state in the spring displacing over 200 families. The post-landfall paths of Hurricanes Sally, Delta, and Zeta also directly impacted hundreds of families across the region, causing flooding, downed trees, power outages, and damage to homes.

This year (through September), Georgia Red Cross volunteers have aided over 8,000 people affected by residential fires, including a massive apartment complex fire in Atlanta at the Avana on Main, where nearly 300 people received assistance. Statewide, the Red Cross has responded to 1,765 fires — 17 of those at apartment buildings — to help people affected with emergency needs for lodging, food, clothing, and personal items. During the pandemic, volunteers are working virtually and in-person, following the CDC and Health Department guidelines to ensure their safety and that of clients served.

Darrell Stafford is among the residents displaced by the blaze that destroyed the Buckhead apartment building in August during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dozens of Red Cross disaster workers from across the state sprang into action to help him and his neighbors.

"I was in a state of shock for days," said Stafford, a fourth-floor resident of the building at the time of the fire. "Emotional support was one of the most valuable things the Red Cross provided. Throughout the years, you're aware of the Red Cross and how they step up to help, but to see it happening in real-time



and have things run as smoothly as they did — it surprised me."

THOUSANDS ANSWER CALL TO HELP

This year, more than 70,000 people across the country joined the Red Cross as volunteers — who represent more than 90% of its workforce. In Georgia, new volunteers have stepped up in extraordinary numbers as the state grapples with the pandemic. The region has seen its number of new volunteers double this year in comparison to 2019. Young people have played a crucial role in disaster response — with Millennials and Gen Z representing more than half of new Red Cross volunteers across the country.

Additionally, the Georgia Red Cross has sent out over 250 volunteers on nearly 600 deployments as part of relief efforts across the country in 2020. Local responders have helped people devastated by the California and Oregon Wildfires and across the southern United States battered by an unforgiving hurricane season.

Nationwide, 75% of new volunteers also stepped up at a pivotal time to fill mission-critical positions, such as shelter and health workers addressing urgent disaster needs, as well as blood donor ambassadors and transportation specialists helping to provide cancer patients, trauma victims, and others with lifesaving blood.

NEW BLOOD DONORS SAVE LIVES

In 2020, Red Cross blood drive cancellations tripled nationwide compared to the year prior — mostly due to COVID-19. Since March, over 50,000 blood drives were canceled as the pandemic forced schools, businesses, and community organizations to close, impacting over 1 million blood donation appointments.

Still, people rolled up their sleeves — more than a half-million of them giving for the first time. Blood donation is an essential service. The Red Cross follows the latest public health guidelines, as well as has put additional precautions in place to ensure everyone's safety.

This pandemic has also caused the Red Cross to adapt its collections to include plasma from COVID-19 survivors to potentially help those battling the virus to recover. Thousands of COVID-19 survivors have stepped up to share their potentially lifesaving antibodies by giving plasma. Since April, nearly 25,000 COVID-19 survivors have rolled up a sleeve — many of whom are new to blood donation. Their donations have enabled the Red Cross to ship nearly 50,000 units to hospitals across the country treating COVID-19 patients.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

On Giving Tuesday and during the holiday season, help people in need by donating at redcross.org/gift. A gift of any size makes a difference. If you're healthy and feeling well, we also urge you to donate blood this holiday season. Your blood donation can make a lifesaving difference for a patient in need. Visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment today.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

How Dollar General Serves Others

DOLLAR GENERAL

At Dollar General, our mission of Serving Others is the foundation on which our business was built and continues to operate each and every day. During the holiday season and as an unprecedented year comes to an end, we reflect on our mission and how we have been able to live it out in the communities we proudly serve in 2020.

Since the beginning of the year, Dollar General, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and the Dollar General Employee Assistance Foundation have donated a combined \$28.4 million to charitable efforts.

Natural Disaster Support

In the aftermath of this year's tornados, hurricanes and wildfires, Dollar General awarded more than \$150,000 to the American Red Cross as well as product donations to our neighbors and communities impacted by natural disaster. The Company also accepted in-store collections to benefit the American Red Cross.

Pledge to Support Racial Justice and Education

Dollar General and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation announced a combined \$5 million pledge in support of racial equity. The funds will be distributed to national and local organizations focused on literacy, education and racial and social justice.

Dollar General Literacy Foundation Community Support with Save the Children

In late May, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation contributed \$2 million to support Save the Children's coronavirus response efforts across rural America. These efforts were dedicated to ensuring children continued to learn, had access to nutritious food during the nationwide school closures and helped prevent wide-scale learning loss. Save the Children's programs also supported by this donation helped to maintain reading achievements and academic progress made during the current school year, provide resources to families to begin or continue at-home learning processes and distribute educational games and toys, as well as hygiene materials and shelf-stable foods.

Beyond Words Grants

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) have presented \$60,000 to four schools in 2020. Provided through the

organizations' joint Beyond Words grant program, the funds aim to support schools' library recovery efforts following natural disasters that includes purchasing books and technology.

Reading Revolutions

This year, Dollar General donated \$200,000 to twelve schools to support schools' library and literacy programs, which included purchasing books, technology programs, computers and/or other education supplies or resources. Since its inception in 2013, Dollar General has donated more than \$3 million to schools through its Reading Revolution program.

Dollar General Literacy Foundation

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation announced the award of more than \$15.1 million year-to-date, including its largest one-day grant announcement in May. The grants provide financial support for summer, family and adult literacy programs to organizations within a 15-mile radius of a Dollar General store or distribution center.

Since its founding 27 years ago in 1993, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded more than \$186 million in grants to schools, libraries and organizations to support adult, family, summer and youth literacy. These funds have helped positively impact more than 12 million people by providing funding and resources to help individuals take their first steps toward learning to read, learning English, or completing their high school equivalency.

To learn more about the 2021 Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant cycle, please visit the link here.

Dollar General Employee Assistance Foundation

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year, Dollar General awarded the Dollar General Employee Assistance Foundation with \$5.25 million to support employees in their times of need.

Launch of the Yellow Glasses Project

To shine a light on literacy and foster a brighter future for those in need, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation launched a colorful awareness campaign — the Yellow Glasses Project. Beginning on July 20, customers at each Dollar General store across the country had the opportunity to purchase a pair of yellow sunglasses for \$2 each. For every Yellow Glasses Project purchase, 100 percent of the proceeds supported the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

DG Kindness

Whether it is providing exceptional customer service or supporting their favorite causes or organizations, our team members are the fabric of the communities we call home. To recognize their commitment to Serving Others, the Company began a new DG Kindness campaign aimed at highlighting employees' positive impacts in communities across the country.

This year, our team members joined cleanup efforts and provided supplies to families who lost their homes to the devastating fires in California; partnered with local food banks to distribute essentials to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and even organized a surprise birthday party for a special customer. To support the heartwarming, important and thoughtful efforts of employees, the Company made a \$1,000 donation to an organization within their local community. In total, the Company has donated \$14,000 to organizations in employees' local communities as part of the DG Kindness Campaign.

To learn more about Dollar General's DG Kindness honorees, please visit the link here.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Thanks and Giving

In 2020, Dollar General is commemorating its 15th anniversary of partnering with the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Thanks and Giving® campaign. To further support St. Jude, the Company will provide a \$125,000 donation and collect in-store donations from November 20 through December 18. Since 2005, Dollar General and customers' in-store donations have provided more than \$26.3 million to support childhood cancer research.

Additionally, DG plans to help make the holidays brighter by extending cheer and donating Santa's Workshop presents to children and their families at St. Jude this season.

Holiday Drives

DG also plans to support families this holiday season through its annual in-store toy drives. Between November 20 and December 4, customers may donate toys at each DG store to benefit a local toy drive or the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Store managers at each store chooses the recipient organization of the toy drive so that items donated are distributed in the local community. Dollar General is also providing a \$100,000 donation to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to support and further their work.

OBITUARIES

From page 3A

and Sons Funeral Home with Pastor Randy Ellis officiating. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery at Hall Memorial. Pallbearers are, John Davis, Chris Summers, Todd Collins, Robert Wells, James Summers, and Corey Williams. Honorary pallbearers are, Larry Arnold and Wayne Hollingsworth.

To leave condolences and sign the online guest book please go to, www.maxbrannonandsons.com

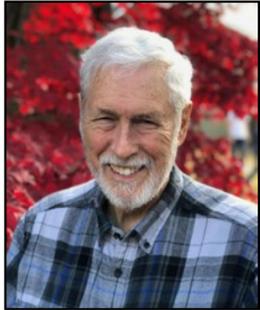
The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Johnny P. Summers.



Thomas Wingard

Mr. Thomas Randall "Tom" Wingard, 77, of Adairsville, entered into the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while he was surrounded by his loving family on Nov. 27, 2020, at his residence.

Tom was born in McKenzie, Ala. on July



31, 1943. He was the son of the late Paul and Ola Lee Athey Wingard. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers: Carl Wingard and Paul Ray Wingard.

Prior to his retirement, he was in telecommunications with Lucent Technology. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force having served in the Vietnam era, 1961-1965. He was of the Christian faith and was a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Calhoun.

Tom was a husband who dearly loved his wife of 54 years, they were one. He set an example to his boys on how to love their wives; they watched him and their mother hold hands while walking, their dancing, their hugs and kisses. He taught his sons to work hard, to touch people's lives in a positive way any chance they had, and to love one another. He and JoAnn always kept an open home for their son's friends to feel comfortable and drop by at any time. He grew the family closer together and taught us love, compassion, and still gave us so much laughter.

Survivors include his wife, JoAnn Peavy Wingard; three sons, Christopher (Linda) Wingard, Thomas (Wendy) Wingard and Paul Kevin (Melissa) Wingard; five sisters, Sarah Wingard Thomas, Mary Wingard Langham, Carolyn Wingard Beasley, Virginia Wingard Bennett, and Connie Wingard Peavy; two brothers, Don Wingard and Frank Wingard; grandchildren, Courtney Wingard, David Wingard, Carl Wingard, Morgan Wingard, Joseph Wingard, Kaylan Wingard, Levi Wingard, Nathan

Wingard, Gavin Wingard, Morgan Evans Rogers (Christian), Sarah Evans and Will Evans; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

A service to celebrate the life of Thomas Randall "Tom" Wingard will be held Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at 6 p.m. from Trinity Baptist Church with Rev. Jerry Adair and Rev. Eddie Brannon officiating. On Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, military honors will be accorded at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton by the United States Air Force Honor Guard at 2:30 p.m.

The family will receive friends Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, from 5 p.m. until the service hour of 6 p.m. and one hour following the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given in Tom's memory to The Blewer Memorial Food Bank, 373 Morrow Road SE, Calhoun, Georgia 30701 and/or Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105. Flower deliveries will be received after 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at Trinity Baptist Church, 1170 Rome Rd SW, Calhoun, GA. 30701.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Thomas Randall "Tom" Wingard.



ARREST

From page 1A

the officer that he had a prior ankle injury but said that the injury would not hinder him during the rest of the evaluation. The officer noted that Bell expressed several times that he understood the instructions of the evaluation, but failed several of the commands, including failing to maintain his balance, stopping while walking, missing the heel to toe command, stepping off the line and using his arms for balance for a total of five clues. During the instruction for the "one leg stand evaluation," Bell told the officer several times that he understood the instructions but swayed, used his arms for balance and put his foot down for three clues.

The officer said in the report that he retrieved his issued BPT (Intoxilyzer 500) and asked Bell if he would give a sample of his breath. Bell complied and gave a

sample that was positive for alcohol, blowing 0.137 BrAC (almost twice the legal limit). Bell was placed under arrest and read the Georgia Implied Consent Notice. The officer asked Bell to submit to the State Administered Breath Test, but Bell refused.

Bell's truck was then searched, where an officer found a clear, plastic cup within the driver's reach that had a brown liquid that smelled like an alcoholic beverage. The truck also had the smell of marijuana inside the vehicle, according to the report. The officer asked Bell if there was any marijuana in the truck and Bell told the officer that there was marijuana in the bed of the truck. The officer recovered a small case from the truck bed that had a cigar pack inside the case with two buds of marijuana inside it, a marijuana grinder and a glass smoking pipe.

The officer retrieved some of Bell's belongings from the vehicle, and read Bell the Georgia Implied Consent Notice a second time, again asking Bell to submit to the State Administered Chemical Test of his blood and

urine. Bell again refused. Bell was read his Miranda rights and the officer asked Bell if he'd be willing to talk to his supervisor about his situation, explaining that his supervisor was an expert and that he would perform more evaluations. Bell agreed and was transported to the Rome Police Station, where the supervisor performed his Drug Recognition Expert (D.R.E) evaluations. The supervisor determined that Bell was impaired.

Bell was then transported to Floyd County Jail where he was booked without incident. He has been charged with one count each of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Failure to Maintain Lane, Marijuana Possession-Less than One Ounce, Open Container Violation and Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects.

Bell had been with the Calhoun Times, which is owned by the Marietta Daily Journal, for more than a year. Prior to his time at the Calhoun Times, he worked at the Rome News Tribune, a sister company of the Calhoun Times, and the Dalton Daily Citizen.

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