

GORDON Gazette

Weekend, July 25, 2020

www.gordongazettega.com

Volume 2, No. 83

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Gordon County Board of Education learns about P.U.L.L. Movement at latest meeting

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Local businessman Adrian Lyles, president of Lyles Wealth Management, addressed the Gordon County Board of Education Monday night, giving an impassioned presentation on the P.U.L.L. Movement.

Lyles is the Board chair for P.U.L.L. Movement, Inc., a non-profit initiative focused on dispelling the myth of race. P.U.L.L. is an acronym for People United in Life and Liberty.

“(P.U.L.L.) is a message of life and liberty,” said Lyles. “The idea is that we are all one people and should unite in the pursuit of life and liberty.”

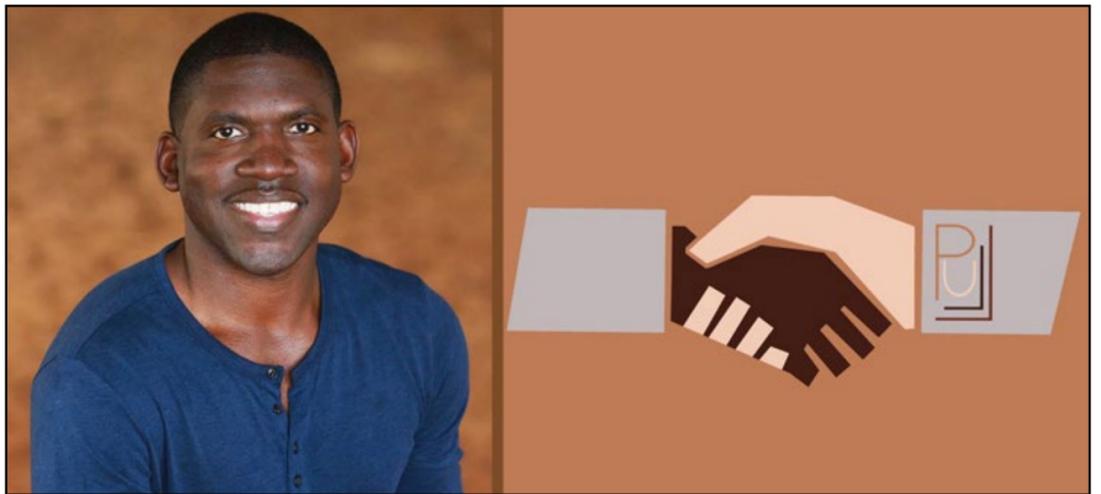
“The concept and

the conversation around racism and race in our country is one that is heightened of late,” said Lyles, adding that it’s a topic that needs to be addressed.

According to their social media page, P.U.L.L. is an organization committed to continuing the dialogue around cultural inclusion. The main mission of P.U.L.L. is to dispel the myths surrounding race. The goal of P.U.L.L. is to gain 7 billion pledges to acknowledge that we are all human.

Lyles began his presentation by showing the Board a photo of his family: his wife, Maggie and sons Wyatt and Aidan.

“The interesting thing about this photo is the variations of the color



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Adrian Lyles, pictured, is the Board chair for P.U.L.L. Movement, Inc., a non-profit initiative focused on dispelling the myth of race. P.U.L.L. stands for People United in Life and Liberty.

of our skin,” said Lyles, noting the photo, which shows the variations of light to dark skin within his immediate family, is a perfect representation of the P.U.L.L. movement.

Lyles then asked the Board to guess the race of his wife, Maggie, noting that her pigment is extraordinarily light and her hair straight, and that it doesn’t resemble

a photo of her parents, who he also had a photo of that he showed to the Board.

“As you notice in that picture, (she) doesn’t resemble the descendants

that you see pictured,” said Lyles of his wife. “Her father was three times felon black. He was

See P.U.L.L., page 8A

Local Justice store in outlet mall closing as part of parent company’s bankruptcy

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Justice, a clothing retailer geared towards girls age 6 – 12 that was formerly known as Limited Too, will be closing both the Calhoun location in the Calhoun Outlet Marketplace on Belwood Road, and the Rome location, in Mount Berry Square Mall, after parent company Ascena Retail Group announced on Thursday

they have filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The New Jersey-based Ascena also operates Lane Bryant, Catherines, Ann Taylor, Loft, Lou & Grey and Cacique and has plans to close around 1,600 of the company’s 2,800 stores, according to court documents. Court records said that Ascena intends to transition Justice to a

PICTURED: The Justice store in Calhoun, located in Calhoun Outlet Marketplace, is closing as part of a bankruptcy filing by parent company Ascena.

(BRANDI OW CZARZ, Staff)

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GOVERNMENT 7A



Graves honors Rep. John Lewis on House Floor.

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Mannington CEO presents at Gordon Chamber’s virtual State of Industry Event

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With COVID-19 changing the way businesses, churches governments and even households run and operate, the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce proved their innovation and flexibility by holding the 10th annual State of Industry event through a webinar on Friday, July 25.

“While this event certainly looks different than the nine preceding it, please know it has been planned with the same measure of attention and concern as we strive to develop a program that would deliver value and substance at this time,” said Chamber President & CEO Kathy Johnson.

The keynote speaker of the event was Mannington Mills President & CEO Russell Grizzle.

“We are proud to be home to one of their divisions for the past 53 years,” said Johnson of Mannington Commercial.

Mannington Commercial is a division

of Mannington Mills, Inc., one of the world’s leading manufacturers of flooring, manufacturing residential and commercial sheet vinyl, luxury vinyl, laminate and hardwood, as well as commercial carpet and rubber.

Grizzle has spent the past 10 years of his long career in flooring with Mannington. He is past chair of the Resilient Floor Covering Alliance, the Carpet and Rug Institute and the Georgia Textile Manufacture’s Association.

Originally from Bartow County, Georgia, Grizzle earned his Bachelor’s degree at Georgia Tech and later attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.

Grizzle began his discussion of Mannington, including the history of the company, their philosophy of doing business and how they have navigated business during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that Mannington is proud to have ties to Gordon County, a place he is



Russell Grizzle, president and CEO of Mannington Mills, was the keynote speaker for Friday’s State of Industry Event presented by the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce.

familiar with.

“This is especially exciting for me since this is close to my home,” said Grizzle. “I am a Georgia native; I was born and raised in Cartersville and I’m a graduate of Cass High School, just down the street from Calhoun.”

Grizzle then asked the question, “Who is Mannington?” saying that the company is about to celebrate 105 years in business.

“We are a fifth-

generation, family-owned company for that whole time,” said Grizzle. “Our Chairman of the Board is Keith Campbell, he is fourth generation. We have the sixth generation up-and-coming and we plan to maintain that legacy well into the future.”

Grizzle said that Mannington operates a little differently than a normal, family-owned business.

“We call it professional

management and family ownership,” said Grizzle. “We have a very small shareholder base, we have an independent Board of Directors and we have very few family members involved in the business.”

Grizzle went on to say that much of Mannington’s success comes from a set of core values established long

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Second Front

REMINDER: First Responder Appreciation Day to be held tomorrow at BB&T Park in downtown Calhoun

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Focus Property Solutions, the company owned by Gordon Gazette contributors Joe and Ashley English, is hosting a First Responder Appreciation Day this Sunday, July 26, at BB&T Park, located on North Wall Street in downtown Calhoun. The event will be held from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The organizers said that all Gordon County first responders and their families are invited to be their guests to a lunch of an all-beef hot dog with all the fixings, chips, drinks and ice cream, courtesy of Focus

Property Solutions. There will also be a dunking booth on hand.

“We just wanted to do something special to let our first responders know that we are grateful for them,” said Joe English. “You know, they put in some long hours and work really hard to take care of our community here in Gordon County. They always take the call and they always show up when we need them the most — and they do an outstanding job! We have a really great place to call home, and it’s because of their efforts.”

Focus Property Solutions, locally owned and operated by Joe and his wife, is a real estate

investment company located in Calhoun. The company buys, sells and rents properties throughout Northwest Georgia. Their feature column each Wednesday in the Gordon Gazette provides tips on property investments, buying real estate, how to start and run a business and offers encouragement.

“This event is just a little token to let first responders know that we appreciate them and that we don’t take their service for granted. We also want their families to know our community values them as well. So see, we understand it’s not just the first responder who’s on shift. So, the family



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

supporting them deserves credit and gratitude too,” said English.

For more information website at <https://focuspropertysolution.com/> on Focus Property Solutions, visit their

Tallatoona Community Partnership offers LIHEAP CARES Cooling Assistance

CONTRIBUTED

Beginning Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, Tallatoona will begin accepting appointments for the LIHEAP CARES Cooling Assistance Program for the general public.

All households that did not receive LIHEAP CARES Cooling Assistance during the month of July 2020 are eligible to apply for assistance with their electric bill. Households (including those previously assisted during the months of November 2019 through June 2020) are eligible to schedule an appointment.

For additional information or to schedule online, visit www.tallatoonacap.org or schedule by

phone at 770-817-4666, Option 2, or 770-773-7730, Option 2 (toll free for 706 area code).

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, all Tallatoona offices are closed to the public. Appointments will be completed remotely by telephone. All required documents will be accepted via fax, mail or quick drop off (if available) at local county offices.

Tallatoona serves Bartow, Cobb, Douglas, Floyd, Gordon, Haralson, Paulding and Polk counties.

Funding provided under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law on March 27, 2020.

Cushman & Wakefield selected to oversee leasing of Union Grove Logistics Center



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CONTRIBUTED

Cushman & Wakefield has been selected by Developers of Calhoun, LLC, to oversee leasing of Union Grove Logistics Center, a 98-acre master planned park located at Interstate 75 and Union Grove Road in Calhoun.

John Wilkinson, Pat Murphy, Greg Dickerson, Tara Healy, and DeVonne Boler of Cushman & Wakefield have been retained as the leasing team for the speculative industrial development.

“Union Grove Logistics Center offers a fantastic opportunity for a user that’s seeking a significant amount of space with easy access to Interstate 75 in the northwest Georgia corridor, the preferred access route to the Appalachian Regional Port, in the heart of one of the most established

submarkets for the flooring industry,” Wilkinson said.

Developers of Calhoun, LLC’s, parent company is Peykar Capital, which is developing the adjacent 435,000-square-foot property occupied by Nourison Industries. The company is planning an additional 320,000-square-foot expansion by early 2021.

“We are excited to partner with Developers of Calhoun, LLC, to bring this best-in-class building to the market,” Murphy added.

Fox Brindle Construction Co. will kick off Phase I of the project later this year,

which will feature a 180,000-square-foot cross-dock configuration building with 36’ clear heights, expandable to 720,000 square feet. The project is slated for completion in early 2021.

About Cushman & Wakefield

Cushman & Wakefield (NYSE: CWK) is a leading global real estate services firm that delivers exceptional value for real estate occupiers and owners. Cushman & Wakefield is among the largest real estate services firms with approximately 53,000 employees in 400 offices and 60 countries. In 2019, the firm had revenue of \$8.8 billion across core services of property, facilities and project management, leasing, capital markets, valuation and other services. To learn more, visit www.cushmanwakefield.com or follow @CushWake External Link on Twitter.

Calhoun-Gordon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting to be held Tuesday, Aug. 4

CONTRIBUTED

The Board of Trustees of the Calhoun-Gordon County Public Library will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, August 4th, 2020, at 4:30 p.m via online through Google Meet. To join

this meeting you can call in using: +1 252-656-5199

PIN: 530 456 714#

Please note, when joining this meeting, guests will be automatically muted, but will be able to converse through text chat. This meeting is open to the public.

GORDON Gazette

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Two GNTC students place at Phi Beta Lambda Nationals

GNTC

After competing virtually in the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) 2020 National Leadership Online Experience, two Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) students placed eighth in the Management Analysis and Decision Making competition.

Tatiana Edwards, a Logistics and Supply Chain Management major, and Amber Grant, a Business Management major, worked together to complete an objective test and interactive presentation, which placed them in the national top 10. Edwards and Grant

placed first in the same category during the state competition held earlier this year.

“I am so thrilled to have two students place in the PBL national competition,” said Trish Wiggins, GNTC Student Life coordinator. “These young women worked diligently to create a presentation during a time that made everything much more difficult.”

Competing at the national event is a huge undertaking during a normal year. However, working around a pandemic and virtual competition is on a completely different level, Wiggins said. The 2020 National Leadership

Online Experience, originally planned to be in Salt Lake City, ran through the month of June with competitors participating completely online.

“While preparing for the Georgia State Leadership Competition I never thought we would end up going to nationals,” Grant said. “Placing eighth in nationals was the most gratifying accomplishment and it is something I will never forget.”

According to Edwards, the competition utilized Facebook to create a conference setting. This setting helped create a virtual office from home, which was not included

in previous national competitions. Organizers stuck to rigorous schedules and professional standards to create a well-planned experience. It was an honor to compete against PBL students from traditional four-year universities, community colleges and other technical colleges, she said.

“After finishing first in Georgia, the pressure was on to do well on the national level,” Edwards said. “I had a great teammate in Amber Grant and tremendous support from Mark Upton, PBL Advisor and director of Marketing Management at GNTC, and Trish Wiggins.”

The Phi Beta Lambda



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

FROM LEFT: Tatiana Edwards, GNTC Logistics and Supply Chain Management major and Amber Grant, GNTC Business Management major.

student organization has been active on GNTC campuses for the past 10 years. Members of the organization work on building their resumes,

meet with business leaders in their community, participate in volunteer opportunities, travel and other special activities.

Obituaries

July 25, 2020

Larry Cobb

Mr. Larry Delaney Cobb, age 79, of Folsom-Glade Road, Adairsville, passed away Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at Redmond Regional Medical Center.



He was born in Gordon County, Dec. 16, 1940, to the late Rev. Emmet Franklin Cobb and Annie Lee Mealer Cobb. He was of Christian faith. A true southerner, he enjoyed tinkering outside, hunting and fishing and listening to good ole country music. He loved front porch sitting with family and his best dog, Rex. Larry will be remembered as a great man but an even better husband, father, grandfather and brother. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Bobbie Jean Colston Cobb; daughters, Jennifer Hight and Delaney Gravitte; brother, Thomas F. Cobb; and sisters, McBeth Parker and Barbara Pasley.

Survivors include his daughter, Audrey and Greg Franklin; grandchildren Clint (Angela) Hight, Keri (Matt) Wright, Courtney (Jason) Miles, Chris Gravitte, Ariel (Stephen) Emmons, Beau Franklin, and Raquel Franklin; great-grandchildren, Luke Hight, Landry Wright, Aiden Puente, Wesley Miles, Lachlan Lopez, and Lane Emmons; brothers, Robert (Gwen) Cobb, Carlise Cobb, and Dallas (Diane) Cobb; sisters, Ann Collins and Gail (Thomas J.) Pierce; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 3 p.m. from the chapel of Barton Funeral Home, Adairsville with Rev. Barry Adcock officiating. Interment will follow at Hayes Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Brian Adcock, Gus Adcock, Lewis Cobb, Jerry Gravitte, Clinton Hight, Danny Higgins, Stephen Emmons, Sr. Honorary pallbearers will be Dearn Adcock and Doyle Adcock.

The family will receive friends Saturday from 1 – 3 p.m. at Barton Funeral Home.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of arrangements for Mr. Larry Delaney Cobb.

Barton Funeral Home

Richard "Dick" Gilbert, Jr.

Richard O. "Dick" Gilbert, Jr., age 74, of Calhoun, passed away on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at his residence.

Dick was born on July 20, 1946 in Gordon County, son of the late Richard O. Gilbert, Sr. and Lorraine Haley Gilbert. Dick was a graduate of Valley Point High School Class of 1964. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force serving in Vietnam and Thailand. Dick retired from AT&T. He was a member of Calhoun First Baptist Church and taught the Sycamore Sunday School Class, and previously had taught Sunday school at Sonora Baptist Church for many years. He enjoyed golf and was proud to have served in the United States Air Force in Vietnam. Nothing brought Dick more joy than being a granddaddy.

In addition to his parents, Richard was also preceded in death by: his wife, Dianne Butler Gilbert.

Dick is survived by: three daughters, Christi Bennett and her husband Shannon, Becky Johns and her husband Ian, and Hayley Arnold all of Calhoun; brother, Bill Gilbert and his wife Yvonne of Sugar Valley; sister, Pat Ford and her husband Tommy of Dalton; sister-in-law, Charne Harmon and her husband Larry of Jasper; four grandchildren, Ella Bennett, Lilli Bennett, Anna George, and Blair Johns; three step-grandchildren, Jana Johns, Jaide Johns, and Jace Johns. Special nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Saturday, July 25 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Dr. John Barber and Dr. Bert Vaughn officiating. Interment will follow in Fain Cemetery with Rev. Jether Cochran in charge of graveside rites.

The family will receive friends on Saturday from 12 p.m. until the funeral hour at 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

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

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Richard O. "Dick" Gilbert, Jr.



David Hammill

David Lawrence Hamill, 77, of Ringgold, died Monday, July 20, 2020. He was born on Aug. 23, 1942 in Ringgold to the late Clarence and Jeulette Curtis Hamill. He is also preceded in death by his brother, Delano Hamill and his sister, Charity Taylor.

David proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He received 5 bronze stars and served 2 tours to Vietnam. He held rank of Staff Sergeant.

David was an upholsterer for many years at

Fortress Upholstery and was a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Ringgold.

He is survived by his sons, Clarence (Yvonne) Hamill, Roy Ashley Hamill; his daughter, Tammy (William) Mason; his brother, Paul Hamill; sisters, Christine Gibbs, Loretta Heatherly, Judy Cole; grandchildren, Rachel Hamill, James Hamill, Wesley Mason, Jasmine Ammons; and five great grandchildren.

To honor David's wishes, he was cremated, and the family will have a private service.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of David Lawrence Hamill.



John Lethco III

John W. Lethco III, 63, of Chatsworth, died Monday, July 20, 2020 at Hamilton Medical Center. He was born on Aug. 15, 1956 in Morristown, Tenn. to the late John W. Lethco Jr. and Frieda Burgess Gibson. He was also preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Ruby Long.

John proudly served his country in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his loving wife, Tammy Lethco; his son, William Lethco; his sisters, Jeanete Lethco, Joan Lethco, Sandy Lethco Hendrickson, Joyce Wilson and her husband, Larry; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and neighbors.

The family will receive friends Thursday, July 30, 2020, in the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home from 9 – 10 a.m. The funeral service will follow at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in the Georgia National Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank the nurses, technicians and all the staff of US Renal and Calhoun Dialysis for the wonderful care he received.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of John W. Lethco III.



James Mooney

James Arnold Mooney, 63, of Calhoun, died Wednesday, July 22, 2020. He was born on Dec. 12, 1956 in Canton to Arnel T. Mooney and the late Bessie McLure Cox. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Mooney.

James worked as a truck driver for Shaw for many years and was a Jack-of-all-trades, who could do anything with his hands. He was a member of Sonora Baptist Church.

He is survived by his son, Joshua Drew Mooney (Alaina); his daughter, Olivia J. Bowling; his brother, Jimmy Mooney; his sister, Dorothy Woodall (Woody); grandchildren, Kiley, Graeme, Lachlan, and Allister. He is also survived by several step-children and step-grandchildren.

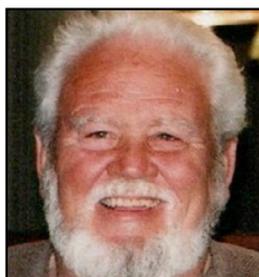
The family will receive friends Saturday, July 25, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 12 p.m. with Pastor Jamey Hunt officiating. Burial will follow at Sonora Baptist Church Cemetery. Due to COVID-19, it is requested that social distancing guidelines be followed and masks be worn.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of James Arnold Mooney.



Bob Pack

Bob Pack, 78, of Calhoun, died Wednesday, July 22, 2020 after several years of declining health. Bob was born in Gordon County on Oct. 24, 1941. He was raised in the Red Bud Community. Bob was the son of the late Fred and Viola Bearden Pack. Along with his



parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, James R. Pack; his longtime companion, Peggy Sheriff. Bob was a member of New Zion Baptist Church. He loved his children and grandchildren greatly. He also adored his cat, Downey. Bob was a great poker player and enjoyed being a member of the Sons of The American Legion. He was an avid fan of the Alabama Crimson Tide Football team. After many years of service, Bob retired from Lockheed.

Bob is survived by his daughters, Connie Pack and Dena Ables; his grandchildren, Jarrett Ables and his wife, Jenna, and Jade Ables; his great-grandson, Cash Ables; an honorary grandson, Chase Dean; the mother of his children, JoAnn Pack Dean; his sister-in-law, Jeri Pack; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

The Pack family received friends on Friday, July 24, 2020 from 4 – 6 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The memorial service followed the

visitation in the funeral home chapel on Friday at 6 p.m. Rev. Lamar Bearden will officiate. Honorary pallbearers are Chase Dean, Billy Hiles, Bud West, Earl Priest, Donald Bearden, Billy Johnson, and Mitchell Pack. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, masks are requested.

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 Bob Pack.



Leon Romine

Mr. Leon Romine, 89, of Fairmount, departed this life on Tuesday evening, July 21, 2020 at his residence. Mr. Romine was born in Fairmount on April 29, 1931 in Canton. He was a son of the late Ralph and Ethel Davis Romine. He was also preceded in death by his daughter,



Wanda Romine; brother, Roy Lee Romine; sister, Beatrice Pinyan.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Betty Jean Romine of the residence; daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Bruce Mealer; grandsons, Bradley and Missy Mealer, Craig and Crystal Mealer; great grandchildren, Braxton, Luke, Owen, Ava and Ivy Mealer all of Fairmount; brother and sister-in-law, Bobby and Janice Davis of Canton; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Eugene and Alma Townsend of Macon.

Services to celebrate the life of Mr. Leon Romine will be on Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 10 a.m. at the Ponders Fairmount Chapel with Reverend Jerome Silvers officiating. Interment will be in the Pleasant Grove Ryo Baptist Church. The family received friends at the funeral home from 5:30 – 8 p.m. on Friday. Bruce Mealer, Bradley Mealer, Craig Mealer, Braxton Mealer, Luke Mealer, Owen Mealer, and Ava Mealer will serve as pallbearers.

Due to the national health crisis, crowd limitations may be enforced, and social distancing is encouraged. For anyone attending services please wear a mask for the safety of everyone.

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

Arrangements by locally owned and operated Ponders Fairmount Chapel, 2566 Hwy 411, Fairmount, Georgia.



Sarah Jo West

Sarah Jo West, 86, of Calhoun, died Monday, July 20, 2020. She was born on Aug. 8, 1933 in Gordon County to the late Joseph Doyle West and Dorothy Nell Graham. She was also preceded in death by her son, Stephen Michael Keith; daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Keith; grandson, Chris Hall; her two brothers, Harry West and Randall West.



Sarah was retired from Horizon Industries and was a member of Riverview Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Joann (Tim) Sandidge; her sister, Jean (Bill) Tinch; grandchildren, Scott and Stacia Hall, Tony and Laura Hall; 10 great-grandchildren; and many great- great grandchildren also survive.

Funeral was held Friday, July 24, 2020 at 1 p.m. Burial followed in Holder Memorial Gardens in Birchwood, Tenn. Due to COVID-19, the services are for the immediate family only. It is requested that social distancing guidelines be followed, and mask be worn.

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 Sarah Jo West.



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STATE NEWS

German Automotive Parts Manufacturer GEDIA to Locate First Southeast U.S. Site in Whitfield County, Create 200 Jobs

OFFICE OF GEORGIA GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

Governor Brian P. Kemp on Friday announced that GEDIA Automotive Group, a family-owned international company that specializes in making state-of-the-art automotive parts, will build an advanced manufacturing facility that will begin production with a focus on parts for electric vehicles. GEDIA will invest \$85 million in this project, delivering 200 jobs to the greater Dalton area at a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) certified property in Whitfield County.

“As we are a national leader in manufacturing, logistics, and workforce training, I’m confident this family-owned business will be very pleased with their decision to join the growing electric vehicle ecosystem here in Georgia,” said Governor Kemp. “Once again, the state’s consistent investment in our Germany-based European office is paying off, and I look forward to seeing the opportunities GEDIA creates for hardworking Georgians in Whitfield County.”

Supported by Georgia’s government partners in the Free State of Bavaria, one of Georgia’s strategic partner regions, the announcement comes as Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) Commissioner Pat Wilson is currently traveling in Germany to meet with government officials, tourism and trade partners. In addition

to his meeting at GEDIA headquarters, he is also safely visiting other companies in the final stages of the decision-making process on entering the U.S. market.

With more than 100 years of experience, GEDIA supplies lightweight structural automotive parts to Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, and numerous other world-renowned companies. Headquartered in Germany, this will mark the company’s first site in the Southeast and its second facility in the United States.

“This project is an essential step into the future for GEDIA, and we are delighted to be taking this step with the State of Georgia. Moving closer to the original equipment manufacturers allows us to serve the American market even better,” said Markus Schaumburg, one of two GEDIA Automotive Group CEOs. “In addition, our new innovative production facility with 200 planned positions not only increases the value of our company, but also contributes to the ongoing development of Whitfield County.”

“The heart of our plant in Whitfield County will be the hot-forming line with our patented TemperBox®, which will allow us to broaden our product range and expand our value chain for a constantly evolving automotive market,” said Helmut Hinkel, GEDIA Automotive Group’s additional CEO. “The highly innovative GEDIA TemperBox® takes tailored tempering technology to the next level, enabling us

to create body components with lower weight and significantly higher crash safety performance while at the same time conserving energy and material.”

GEDIA will use state-of-the-art press hardening, tempering, and automated welding processes to produce parts for electric vehicles, and operations are expected to begin in the third quarter of 2021.

“We are thrilled to welcome GEDIA to Whitfield County’s industrial park. Our location in the heart of the Southeast automotive manufacturing market will provide a significant advantage for the company. We are excited to add these new great jobs to our community for our citizens,” said Whitfield County Board of Commissioners Chairman Lynn Laughter.

GEDIA will be offering opportunities for management and staff positions, highly skilled technicians, and production workers. Individuals interested in a career with GEDIA should visit gedia.com/en/careers/overview. Additional information will be available by the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2020.

GEDIA will build and occupy a 180,000-square-foot facility on a GRAD Certified property in Carbondale Business Park. To earn a GRAD program certification, a property must undergo due diligence and complete specific certification requirements prior to a visit by a prospective business. Completing the



GRAD certification program with the Georgia Department of Economic Development is a proactive way both community planners and landowners can help catalyze economic growth and industrial development for the regions they serve. Since the inception of GDEcD’s GRAD certification program, more than 8,000 jobs have been created on GRAD sites.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development was represented in this competitive project by Director of International Relations Nico Wijnberg, in partnership with the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, Whitfield County, and Georgia Quick Start.

“I am thrilled to be here with Markus Schaumburg and his team in Germany today to personally, but with a safe distance, thank him and GEDIA for choosing to build their first Southeastern U.S. facility in Georgia. As they will focus their operations on electric vehicle parts, our state continues its commitment to developing an ecosystem for

new mobility and attracting the entire supply chain,” said GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson. “I want to commend our community partners in Dalton and Whitfield County for their support of this innovative and strategic industry by investing in a GRAD certified property that undoubtedly was a main driver in GEDIA’s site selection process.”

About GEDIA GEDIA was founded in Germany more than 110 years ago and has been manufacturing products for the automotive industry since 1955. Globally GEDIA currently employs more than 4,300 people in eight production plants (and counting) and is also involved in joint ventures and research companies. With an annual turnover in 2019 of \$750 million, the GEDIA Automotive Group develops and produces lightweight body-in-white automotive parts and assemblies, as well as chassis components. For further information about GEDIA, visit www.gedia.com.

Adam Dortch

PHOTOGRAPHY

706-252-5679

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GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Restaurants grapple with COVID among workers; concerns rise over PPE, supplies

ANDY MILLER,
Georgia Health News

Dozens of metro Atlanta restaurants have temporarily closed in recent months after employees tested positive for the coronavirus.

They include the Varsity, a historic fast food restaurant in Midtown Atlanta, which has since reopened.

At the popular Ponce City Market in Atlanta, six retail establishments or tenants closed at least temporarily after employees were infected, the company that owns the property confirmed to GHN.

Earlier this week, Minero Restaurant, a Mexican eatery in the market, stood closed. But an employee said Friday that the restaurant patio has reopened, along with the offering of takeout orders, and that the main dining area will soon open as well.

A post last week on Minero's Facebook page said, "We are closed temporarily, due to a positive COVID-19 test result on our team. Minero Restaurant is committed to the safety of our staff, guests and community and follows all CDC guidelines for our restaurant. We must offer a safe place for you to dine, and our teams to work."

Since the pandemic began, many restaurants and small businesses have fought to survive while facing a big decline in customers. The CEO of the Georgia Restaurant Association said the COVID-19 crisis has been much worse for the group's members than past economic downturns.

Karen Bremer told WABE's Rose Scott that in conversations with some restaurant owners, "I've heard desperation in people's voices."

Some restaurants have closed for good, she told GHN on Friday. "It's gut-wrenching" for owners, she added. "You've put your heart and soul into it."

The food service industry has always promoted hand-washing by staff and customers, as well as sanitizing of restaurant premises, she noted.

The health of workers and customers is paramount for restaurant owners, Bremer added. The association is working with Gov. Brian Kemp, Public Health officials and the CDC on the COVID-19 response, she said. "We all are working together."

At Ponce City Market, everyone is required to wear a mask. A reporter visiting the complex this week saw no one without face coverings except for people who were eating.

Jamestown, the owner and operator of Ponce City Market, said this week that the COVID cases among employees in the market haven't been unusually high over the months of the pandemic. The company informs tenants and apartment residents of these cases.

"Jamestown is very concerned about our tenants, customers, and employees," said Dara Nicholson, director of property management for Jamestown. "We are providing additional cleaning outside the retail space."

Ponce City Market tenants helped direct the reopening of the complex after the state shutdown earlier in the pandemic, she said. Customer traffic is down in general at the market, but is picking up on the weekends, she added.

Two residents of the Flats, which are apartments in the market complex, have tested positive for the virus, according to communications to residents. Jamestown said

it has done special cleanings for common areas, elevators, lobbies and the health club.

Concerns about possible shortages

Getting enough personal protective equipment has re-emerged as a challenge for some medical providers. PPE includes gowns, masks, face shields and gloves for personnel who treat COVID-19 patients or deal with potentially infected individuals.

That comes as COVID-19 cases surge in Georgia. State Public Health officials Friday reported a new daily record of cases, with 4,831. The number of deaths reported was also high, at 82.

Some hospitals have adequate supplies, but others are having trouble getting protective gear, according to the Georgia Hospital Association. "It's still not easy to get PPE," said Anna Adams, a GHA vice president.

At Augusta University Health, officials are closely monitoring how quickly clinicians are using up PPE, Dr. Phillip Coule, chief medical officer at Augusta University Health, told the AJC.

Duane Kavka of the Georgia Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers across Georgia, told GHN on Friday that due to the surge of COVID-19, "we are being told by PPE suppliers that we may be facing shortages of PPE in the very near future."

(The health centers are also facing limitations on the number of COVID-19 test kits from the two national labs - Quest and LabCorp, Kavka added.)

The PPE situation is also on federal officials' radar.

The nation's top emergency

official told lawmakers Wednesday that the U.S. could face PPE shortages in areas with rising COVID-19 cases, and said the reliance on overseas suppliers is a "national security issue."

While the U.S. has more face masks, gloves and other PPE than it did two months ago, a surge in demand in states with growing hospitalizations could cause "micro-shortages," Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Pete Gaynor told the House Committee on Homeland Security, according to a CNBC article.

"We're in a much better place than we were coming out of March and April. However, we are not out of the woods completely with PPE," Gaynor said.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Brian Kemp said that according to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, the state's PPE supply chain is functioning well.

"When I asked [GEMA director] Homer Bryson, he said it's the best it's been since the public health emergency started," said Candice Broce, the spokeswoman.

"Getting reagents is still difficult, however," Broce said.

A reagent is a chemical used in a reaction to detect or measure a substance of interest. A critical part of COVID-19 testing, reagents typically are used in a lab to test patient swab samples to determine a positive or negative COVID-19 result.

Shortages of reagents or other materials limit the ability of labs to test samples.

Pushing for masks

The Hospital Association,

meanwhile, is launching a social media campaign to urge Georgians to wear masks in public.

Adams, the association vice president, said Thursday that hospitals "have very clearly been experiencing a pretty nasty surge statewide."

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 have hit a record level recently in Georgia. According to a state website, just 13 percent of critical care beds are available in Georgia.

The Twitter handle for the mask campaign is #MaskUpGA.

Even a small increase in mask wearing "would have a huge impact," Adams said.

"People are not being as careful as in the beginning" of the pandemic, she said. "My concern is that the workforce is tired" from fighting the virus. "They're burned out. It takes a toll on you."

The Hospital Association is working with Gov. Kemp and has reached out to the Atlanta Braves, the Falcons, Delta Air Lines and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, among other organizations, to help push the message.

Adams did not endorse a statewide mask mandate. "If people don't feel a social responsibility, they're not going to do it. There are still a lot of people who don't wear seat belts."

A judge has ordered Kemp and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms to mediate their legal dispute over the city's mask requirement and business restrictions.

Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News. For the latest health news in the state, visit www.georgiahealthnews.com.

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Graves Honors Rep. John Lewis on House Floor

Joined Rep. Sanford Bishop to lead a moment of silence

OFFICE OF REP. TOM GRAVES

On Monday, July 20, Rep. Tom Graves (R-GA-14) joined Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA-2) to lead a moment of silence on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to honor Georgia Congressman and civil rights champion John Lewis. Rep. Graves also spoke on the House floor to honor Rep. Lewis, that video along with his remarks can be seen [HERE](#).

"I first met John Lewis just a few feet from where we are right now, in the well of the house. I was a special elect member-to-be and it was John who welcomed me down in the well. I'll never forget that day," said Graves.

"It was his thunderous voice that filled the

chamber as he welcomed me and introduced me to each of you. He honored me that day. Afterwards, he embraced me and then he stood by me as I put my hand up and took the oath of office. It is truly a privilege now for me to be able to stand before you and to honor him, not far from where he honored me. As we remember the life and the legacy of (a man) who is known as a gentle, gentle giant.

"A man whose courage and strength in the face of injustice and violence will forever be remembered. A man whose kindness and humility was apparent to anyone who had the opportunity to meet him. Our nation has indeed lost a giant, and it's times like these that we must be reminded of the



shoulders that we stand on. The shoulders of giants, like John.

"I'm better off because of John Lewis, we are all

better because of John Lewis. Our nation is so much better because of John Lewis. So in the days to come, we should

all strive to be a little bit more like John: humble, grateful and thankful for the opportunity to leave this nation in better shape

for the next generation. May God bless John Lewis and bring peace to his family in the days to come."

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.

-Volunteers make a wonderful difference! PruittHealth Hospice is looking for people of vision and empathy who wish to make a difference in their community one person at a time. If you have a heart for others and wish to be of service, please contact us at 706-602-9546. Remember...you can make a difference for the good!

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

-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 Calhoun Pregnancy Center Inc., located on the corner of Peters Street and East Belmont Drive, is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from noon until 4 p.m. The center is also open each Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday available by appointment only. Closed Wednesdays and Sundays. To visit the center, call 706-625-5768 to make an appointment.

-La Leche League of Calhoun and Rome offers free breastfeeding support and information. The meetings are open to all mothers (children also welcome), expectant mothers and women interested in breastfeeding. Calhoun location meets the second Monday of each month at 10 a.m. Leaders are available to answer questions. For more information, call Erin at 706-234-3980 or email at LLCalhounRome@gmail.com.

-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.

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

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

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

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

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

-Grief Recovery Group for those who have lost loved

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

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

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

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

-Looking for a 12-step meeting for men and women? At "Road to Recovery," recognizing Jesus Christ as our higher power, they take the 12 steps and compare how they are taken from scripture and how to apply them to our lives to experience true freedom from the bondages of addiction. The meetings are free and open to the public at World Harvest Church locations in Cherokee and Gordon counties. For more information, call 706-602-1919. The Calhoun church is located at 2335 Red Bud Road. The meetings here are every Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

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

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

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 Relevelate 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Louise W. Elmore.

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

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

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

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

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

-Old Sugar Valley United Methodist Church located at 2659 Old Rome Dalton Road in Calhoun has Breakfast Social at

9:30 am every Sunday. The church history is colorful, dating back to the Civil War, small cozy country church nothing fancy! Come join us!

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

DWTS From page 1A

someone who was very kind at heart but he could not find his way through society in many regards. Her mother is what we would consider extra white core trailer park. She lived in the depths of poverty growing up and despite her efforts and attempts to rise above the socio-economic ladder, she was unable to do so during her lifetime. This relationship would be frowned upon today despite our acceptance and tolerance in society yet still, if we're honest with ourselves if we look at this picture of this couple (of his wife's parents), we say there is something just not right."

"I ask you, 'What is Maggie's race,'" said Lyles. "The question that's posed to you has been posed to many before you, and one hundred percent of participants who have been asked this question have failed and missed the mark. It's because we have been given a paradigm by which we define race that's broken.

"The aim and mission of the P.U.L.L. movement is to reteach the concept of race by dispelling the myths that have been given to us by generations before us," said Lyles. "If you write down on your page after seeing an image of my wife today and after seeing an image of my wife as a child and answer the question 'what is her race' and your answer is anything other than 'human,' you've missed the mark. Because we have been taught that race is a determination based off of skin pigmentation. That is an absolute myth; it is false. We've been taught that we do not see color. I would suppose that is true for someone that is indeed color blind. If you cannot see that I am a dark brown man before you, then you can consult an optician who can help you with your condition; though I can assure you my skin is indeed dark brown, but it's not who I am and it's not the defining factor of myself, it is just the fact of how you see me. It's not who I am; it's not my race."

"Race is a sub-classification of species," said Lyles. "What we have done as a society is we have defined humans the same way we define plants and animals. This makes no sense when you absolutely try to define it, yet we live our lives based off of this foundation. What makes a person a Negroid? What makes a person a Caucasoid? The indigenous people of America are categorically considered Caucasian. Because of this broken paradigm, even the indigenous people with brown skin are considered Caucasian."

"The theory and the myth of race were based off the

concept that people's skin color depicted their level of humanity," said Lyles. "And there were certain people who were not actually human at all. Those who had darker skin were considered sub-human. There was this theory that still exists today that is called the pre-adamite theory, which is a theory that was purported by Charles Darwin, that there were indeed two different species: Adam was a white, blonde, blue eyed individual and there was another species that came before him, and intermixing with these various species is what we have today which creates variations in colors of skin. Now saying it loudly makes you gasp and wonder 'who would teach such a thing?' The number one mission of the P.U.L.L. Movement is to dispel the myth of race by eliminating the concept of it altogether."

Lyles then reviewed many different government forms, such as tax forms, forms patients fill out when seeing a doctor and even school registration forms, all requiring a person to "check a box" that establishes their race.

"I serve on the Board of various organizations in North Georgia, some of which have received PPE loans. I sat in a Board meeting a few weeks ago to discuss how to obtain forgiveness for said loans. This packet asked the question of race. I asked myself, 'Why does this matter, Mr. or Mrs. Government? Are you going to make the determination of whether or not I am forgiven for this loan based off of how I check this question? Surely not, because listed in an asterisk below that question is the disclosure of this information is not a determination of your forgiveness of this loan.' So then I ask the question: why would (the government) want to know? I'm human; I do not believe my race is determined by the color of my skin. My race is human. And I stopped checking the box that asks that question years ago. I answer that question as human, as all of you should. I will not let anyone sub-classify me as anything other than human."

Lyles said he explains to anyone that if they ask him what his skin color is, he explains it's dark brown, but that he doesn't understand why they need that information, when they can see that he is indeed a dark brown man.

"Why does (my skin color) matter?" said Lyles.

"We have been conditioned to answer a question (on race) that has no basis, no foundation. To answer the question of race simply implies or suggests that we are a different classification than others and we are something other than human," said Lyles.

Lyles then proposed to the Board members is remove the question of race from the Gordon County Schools Student Application.

today to protect the future of the business for all of our stakeholders," said Carrie Teffner, Interim Executive Chair of Ascena on Thursday. "The RSA formalizes our lenders' overwhelming support for a comprehensive plan to deleverage our balance sheet, right-size our operations and inject new capital into the business. With the cash generated from our ongoing operations and the new money financing commitments we received from our lenders, we expect to have sufficient liquidity to meet our operational obligations during the court-supervised process. We expect to move through this process on an expedited timeframe as our talented leadership team, established over the last year, stays focused

Manufacturers and Top 6 globally.

"We're committed to customer satisfaction and have a long-term competitiveness in being good manufacturers; we're manufacturers at heart. Our mission is to be the best people in the industry to do business with," said Grizzle.

Grizzle said that while the company is headquartered in New Jersey, the most strategic campus for the company is the one in the heart of the local community.

"Our single largest location in terms of footprint, number of associates, sales, etcetera, is actually Calhoun, Georgia," said Grizzle. "We manufacture WPC LVT, SPC LVT, Commercial-grade Carpet and Rubber as well as our major distribution hub, and it is home to our Commercial business."

Grizzle said that Mannington Commercial business is one of the leaders in offering hard surface and soft surface combinations and solutions to the flooring marketplace.

"We have a very large sales organization writing specifications every day, and one of the things that make us unique, particularly in the Resilient (hard surface) side of the market, is that 99 percent of our sales are domestically manufactured in the U.S."

Supporting the local community is important to Mannington, and Grizzle said the company supports the United Way of Gordon County, the Gary Sinise Foundation and Habitat for Humanity, among others, and that the company tries to help out with any flooring needs in the community as well.

"We are in some unique times, and I think this presentation being virtual says exactly what's going on with the COVID-19 impact and how we try to change the way we do business," said Grizzle. "Thankfully we've been listed as an essential business at all of our operating locations. We've been able to continue to run throughout this pandemic. We were able to set up a large number of associates to work from home. Our I.T. department worked very hard getting programs and laptops in place for those associates that could work from home and for us to continue to maintain our business. Where those jobs are not allowed or could not work from home, we've put in plenty of protocols, from temperature checks to cleaning guideline, encouraging and enforcing social distancing to washing hands and hand sanitizer. We've been able to make it through so far. We acted very quickly in this.

"We also have taken this time, when things are a little bit different, to focus on how we get better; how do we improve every facet of our business to improve and be ready for when this pandemic is over. We have focused on how to be a better company when this is over. So we have been focusing on training and a few key initiatives that we can do remotely during this slower time to be ready for the eventual turnaround," said Grizzle.

Grizzle said the company has had some manageable and relatively short-term supply chain interruptions due to COVID-19.

"We have been able to manage through that and we are nearly back to normal operating inventory levels

"I've talked to several people throughout the state of Georgia and around the country and I realize there is a desire to collect that information," said Lyles. "I am proposing a solution to collecting information that matters. There are a lot of questions we could ask that could tell us more about the demographic of our student body population; the question of race tells you nothing. It tells you nothing other than the person before you is human. If you want to know the color of their skin, just ask. Then you have to ask yourself 'Why does it matter?' If you want to know their citizenship, then why not ask? By the way, in some counties in the state, you cannot ask that question, but you can ask them an implication that they are something other than human. If you want to know where they trace their heritage, why not ask that question. I can tell you, my family has been born in the state of Alabama for hundreds of years, yet the option here is African American. I have never been to the continent of Africa. Why must I select that my heritage is traced to a continent to which I've never been? In fact, I cannot even tell you which country in Africa my family derives, if they in fact derive from Africa. What about the people who can trace their heritage to Jamaica or Croatia or other parts of the world that look like me and has skin color like mine? What option to they check? Race is the wrong question. If you want to know the heritage, the culture, the ethnicity, the color of the person before you, the best thing you should do is ask."

Lyles told the Board that the P.U.L.L. Movement is currently working on video-based curriculum that will be presented to school systems around the country and teach the ideas he presented at Monday night's meeting.

"I would like for the Gordon County School System to be the first of school systems to do so, and teach that race is a myth; your race is no different than anyone else despite the color of your skin. This will be bigger than all of us, and it would be great if we could start right here (in our community). I have spoken to several executives and business leaders to adopt this idea of truth, just today, and I can tell you it's far bigger than anything I've ever been a part of. If we reject the idea, it will not look good. How do I work with those who reject the idea that I'm human? How do I work with organizations and entities, school systems, businesses and places of worship who suggest that one person is human and one person is not, because I do not have the intention of demeaning or minimalizing any organization. I just want to express the truth, and I want you to be part of that."

To learn more about the P.U.L.L. Movement, visit [HERE](#).

JUSTICE From page 1A

mainly online platform.

There are 826 Justice stores around the country, and Ascena plans to shut more than 600 of those stores.

"The meaningful progress we have made driving sustainable growth, improving our operating margins and strengthening our financial foundation has been severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, we took a strategic step forward

on generating profitable growth and driving value for customers and stakeholders."

Like many retailers with a presence in shopping malls, Ascena was dealing with declining in-store sales before the coronavirus pandemic, which has led to an increase of retailers filing for bankruptcy. Coresight Research estimates 25,000 stores could shut this year as businesses continue to reel from the impacts of COVID-19.

SB360 Capital Partners will manage the going-out-of-business liquidation sales, court records show. According to Ascena, store closing sales are expected to last between 30 to 60 days.

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ago that the company runs on.

"We live and breathe these every single day," said Grizzle. "They are Care, Do the Right Thing, Work Hard/Play Hard, and Control Our Own Destiny."

Grizzle then played a video that gave some information on the history of the company.

Since the company was founded in 1915, they have experienced 16 recessions, three devastating fires, two World Wars and five generations of ownership.

Mannington Mills was founded, and is still headquartered, in Salem, New Jersey by John Boston Campbell in 1915. JBC, as he's affectionately referred to, immigrated to the United States and helped oilcloth companies convert to making a felt-based floor covering products. One of the plants he converted was located in Salem, and that was the beginning of the John B. Campbell Manufacturing Company, later renamed Mannington.

In 1968, Mannington acquired Wellco Carpet, which was based in Gordon County.

"That was the start of Mannington Commercial Carpet," said Grizzle.

In 1997, the company divided into two divisions: Residential and Commercial, with Commercial being housed in Gordon County.

"What we did early on was offer a very wide range of products through one sales force, servicing multiple end-use markets. But Mannington was one of the pioneers (in separating residential and commercial segments) and it's not an easy transition, but we were able to navigate it," said Grizzle.

In 2008, Mannington acquired rubber flooring manufacturer Burke and in 2012, they acquired Luxury Vinyl Tile manufacturer Amtico International, a European company who had 1/3 of their sales in the U.S.

"As LVT continued to grow, in 2015, we expanded the U.S. operation down in Madison, Georgia, and more than doubled the output and we continue to grow in LVT," said Grizzle.

In 2017, Mannington acquired the former OMC/Faus building on Marine Drive in Calhoun, and that has become the major distribution hub for the company in the whole country. In 2018, Mannington brought their rubber manufacturing to Gordon County, moving it from the West Coast. In 2019, a new facility that makes Rigid Core LVT was opened in Calhoun, and earlier this year, the company acquired Phenix Flooring in Dalton.

"So it's quite a good story of growth, innovation and successful acquisitions," said Grizzle. "Our company's legacy was sheet vinyl, going all the way back to the early 1900's, but now we're quite a diverse flooring supplier with over 100,000 SKU's that we're offering to the marketplace with very quick service."

Mannington is ranked in the Top 5 in U.S. Flooring

and supply chain response," said Grizzle. "We were able to do some things that are a little unique, through some innovation ideas that the folks in our plant had. For example, we've been able to make face shields and donated those to healthcare workers both in Madison, Georgia and the U.K. We've been able to respond quickly when folks need temporary hospitals. One example was in New York, where we were able to supply sheet vinyl for a temporary hospital – we supplied over 12,000 s.f. – and in under five days was installed and up and running by the Corps of Engineers."

A snapshot provided of Mannington Commercial operations in Gordon County shows that there are more than 250 acres of land and more than 1.3 million square feet of manufacturing space and more than 800 associates working in Gordon County.

The Mannington Distribution Center on Marine Drive is fully operational after using the past couple of years to expand, and now, more than 80 percent of all U.S. sales come out of the location.

"It's modern with a lot of updates that will help us grow into the future," said Grizzle.

The other big investment in Gordon County has been Mannington's purchase of the old Daltonian building, which was expanded to be the first U.S. manufacturing site for Rigid Core LVT.

"It is 10-and-a-half acres; it has the capability to make WPC and SPC production, it is currently in start-up mode and when finished will bring over 200 jobs to Gordon County and also bring those back on shore," said Grizzle.

All-in-all, in Gordon County, Mannington now manufactures carpet, LVT and rubber, and holds the major distribution hub. It's come a long way in the past 53 years.

"It is, by far, the most explosive growth area in Mannington Mills for the last seven to eight years," said Grizzle. "We've grown over 400 new jobs, we've purchased two new buildings and we spent a lot of money and capitol to reposition Mannington for the future and the changing marketplace that we face. A very large part of that has been in Georgia, and a very high percentage in Gordon County."

Grizzle ended his presentation with a short video titled "Let's Make Some Noise," a video that he said hits home the belief that Mannington has in manufacturing.

After the video, Johnson asked Grizzle questions from those who were participating in the webinar.

The State of Industry Event was made possible by a host of sponsors, with AdventHealth Gordon designated as Signature Sponsor. Fox Systems, Mannington Mills, Mohawk Industries, Shaw Industries, Starr-Mathews Agency, and Synovus were sponsors at the President's level. The Development Authority of Gordon County, Family Savings Credit Union, Georgia Power, and M&S Logistics sponsored at the Engineer's Level. Gordon County Schools and Calhoun City Schools were Innovator's Level sponsors.

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