

GORDON Gazette

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Longtime downtown businessman Jimmy Payne dies

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The Calhoun community is mourning the death of Jimmy Payne, owner of Jimmy Payne's Coast to Coast on Court Street, who died at the age of 79 on Monday, April 27.

"Jimmy Payne has been an important part of downtown. He was a friend of mine and to all of Calhoun," said Calhoun Mayor Jimmy Palmer. "He was a person you never heard anything negative about, and he will certainly be

missed."

Jimmy Milton Payne was born on June 8, 1940 in Gordon County to the late Robert L. Payne and Evelyn Hendrix Payne. In 1957, Jimmy and Robert started Economy Auto franchise store. At that time, to get a building downtown, they had to purchase the inventory of the previous business. The duo had to come up with \$3000 to purchase that inventory, which they turned around and sold to another individual for \$500. They later moved to a larger building in town and

gradually expanded over the years, acquiring the neighboring buildings in downtown.

In 1966, the Economy Auto Company was bought out by the Oklahoma Tire and Supply Company (also known as OTASCO) and the Payne's changed the name of their store to OTASCO. In the late 90's, Otasco's wholesale division was purchased by the Coast to Coast Hardware Company. The store then became known as Jimmy Payne's Coast to Coast Home & Auto. The Coast to Coast

Hardware Company went through several mergers and acquisitions, which resulted in that company merging with True Value Hardware - which remains today.

Payne was a hard worker who was known for his kind, personal service to all of his customers, taking the time to build relationships.

"Jimmy was a fixture in the downtown Calhoun community. You could always count on him to be



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Calhoun businessman Jimmy Payne pictured with his wife, Sue.

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City in good position to weather economic uncertainty due to COVID-19 as budget talks begin

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The Calhoun City Council met for a brief regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 27, discussing a small amount of business before adjourning for a Budget Work Session to discuss the fiscal year 2020-2021 operating budget.

During the regularly scheduled meeting, the Council approved a recommendation from Engineering Manager David Burnett to award the contract, in the amount of \$731,350 for the Georgia Cumberland Academy Sanitary Forcemain project to UWS, Inc. There were eight total bids submitted for the project, ranging from the low bid of \$731,350 up to \$1,168,225.

City Administrator Paul Worley then gave the general fund cash report through the end of March.

"The current general fund balance is \$3,697,000. This compares to about \$3.8 million last month," said Worley. "Our Restricted Cash Excise Tax we typically don't transfer that over but quarterly, so on the last cash report that was \$151,000; you'll notice this month it's at \$203,000. We have a reduction in the Recreation-Hotel/Motel account. Last month we were

at about \$67,000; this month, we're at \$36,000 in large part due to the completion and payroll expenditures of our dog park. Last month, our golf account was at \$146,000; this month we're up to \$227,000, so that's a nice increase. SPLOST revenues continue to come in monthly. We're currently at \$2,566,000 for 2018 in uncommitted funds, and about \$1.9 million for committed funds for Peters Street. We currently have about \$507,000 in the Revolving Loan (account). The cash report is in good standing this month; we'll be watching this closely as a lot of the sales tax revenues and hotel/motel revenues we expect to be decreasing and haven't reflected yet on this cash report."

Utilities Administrator Larry Vickery then presented the Council with the monthly utilities report.

"Electric, water, sewer, telecommunications and utilities administration operating accounts have \$4,730,424.46. For electric, water, sewer, telecom and all the other reserve accounts, we have a cash balance of \$7,754,934.37 for a total of \$12,485,358.83. That's a good standing," said Vickery.

The Council meeting adjourned and Mayor Jimmy Palmer opened the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Calhoun City Council, from left: Mayor Pro Tem George Crowley, Council member Ray Denmon, Mayor Jimmy Palmer, Council members Al Edwards and Jackie Palazzolo.

Budget Work Session.

Palmer reminded those in attendance that the first public hearing for the 2020-2021 budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, May 11 at the Depot in downtown Calhoun.

"I'd like to remind everybody that with this (public hearing),

public attendance will be limited in accordance with the actions and directions of the President, Governor and the CDC. This is to maintain social

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Gordon County Schools adjusts Food Program after staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

COMMUNITY 11A



Lewis named assistant principal of Calhoun Middle School.

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UPDATE: Man sought by Calhoun Police on drug and obstruction charges apprehended

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Octavius Curtis, 32, of 130 Ashland Park Blvd., Rome, was apprehended on Sunday, April 26, several days after fleeing a traffic stop on Red Bud Road.

Around 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, an officer received information that Octavius Curtis was possibly in the area of North Dale Avenue. Curtis had multiple warrants through Gordon County, as well as Obstruction warrants where he fled the traffic stop. While in the area of Cove Street and Mac Avenue, the officer saw

Curtis walking toward North Dale Avenue. The officer exited his patrol car and drew his weapon due to Curtis having felony warrants and possibly being armed.

Another officer arrived on scene, and both officers began giving Curtis loud, verbal commands to put his hands up. Curtis put his hands up, but continued to walk, according to the report. The officers then commanded Curtis to stop walking, but he refused, and began running toward North Dale Avenue. Two other officers arrived, and all began chasing

Curtis, giving him commands to stop, which he refused. Curtis continued running down Cove Street, and into a yard that led to woods. Curtis continued running into the woods, where an officer drew his Phazzer and advised Curtis that he was tase him. One of the other officers was able to catch up to Curtis and grab the gray jacket he was wearing, and Curtis and the officer fell to the ground, striking a fence. Curtis then began to pull away from the



GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Octavius Curtis

See **CRIME**,
page 10A

Agencies can now apply for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds awarded to Gordon County

CONTRIBUTED

Gordon County has been awarded Federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

The amount of funds awarded to Gordon

County will be released on the EFSP website www.efsp.unitedway.org on Friday, May 1, for Phases 37 and the supplemental CARES Phase.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from

American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, The Jewish Federations of North American, The Salvation Army, and United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-

need areas around the country.

A Local Board will determine how the funds awarded to Gordon County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in Gordon County. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds

and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chose to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds,

See **FOOD**,
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Second Front

Gordon County Schools modifies School Feeding Program after staff member tests positive for COVID-19

CONTRIBUTED

Gordon County Schools was notified on the afternoon of Monday, April 27 that one of our School Nutrition Program staff members recently tested positive for COVID-19. The employee was preparing meals at Sonoraville High School on April 20 and has not worked with the program since that date. The employee is at home recuperating. Our thoughts and prayers are with our staff member for a complete recovery. Following CDC guidelines, staff members who worked with the employee have been notified.

Though not required under Department of Public Health guidelines, we have made the decision to temporarily close the kitchen at Sonoraville High School to support our staff members and allow for additional cleaning and disinfecting. Due to the shutdown of the kitchen, there will be no meals provided for the remainder of the week (Thursday and Friday) out of Sonoraville High School or mobile sites served from the Sonoraville High School kitchen. Meals will only be distributed at Gordon Central High School and mobile sites serviced by the Gordon Central High School kitchen. Those

who normally receive meals from Sonoraville High School are welcome to go to Gordon Central High School on Thursday to pick up meals for Thursday and Friday. We plan to reopen all sites the week of May 4. Our School Nutrition Program had already taken many precautions to mitigate the spread of the virus by following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Georgia Department of Public Health, and the Gordon County Health Department. This has included self-reporting when symptoms occur, wearing gloves during food prep and distribution, use of masks or face coverings, limiting the

number of employees in the kitchen and prep areas, and practicing social distancing among staff and the public. To further help promote public wellness, meal distribution was reduced from daily to two days a week beginning April 13. Gordon County Schools is committed to providing food for families while promoting public health and safety. Therefore, we are taking further actions to protect all of those involved in the meal service program. Starting Thursday, April 30, school nurses will be on hand to screen all of those working in the meal service program. Additionally, we are continuing to monitor



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

guidance from national, state and local health organizations, and will make adjustments accordingly while striving to maintain meal distribution service for those in need. Our current school meal program will end on May 22, and our summer meal service will begin June 1 and run through July 31, with no service the week of June 29-July 3.

Georgia Chamber: Free Enterprise Responds



Chris Clark
President & CEO
Georgia Chamber

Over the last few weeks, the power of free enterprise has been on full display as companies around the world have shifted, planned, reprogrammed and adjusted to protect employees and customers across a very different economic landscape. At the same time, we have witnessed small businesses and gig workers struggle in the economic aftermath of coronavirus. Thankfully, government leaders at the local, state and federal levels moved swiftly to enact major legislation saving thousands of U.S. companies, their employees and families. Though the road ahead will be difficult, the combined forces of a democratic republic and free enterprise will overcome.

During this time, I have heard the drumbeat of an old tune grow louder. Extremists want to argue that since the government offered loans to support some businesses, this action somehow translates into a failure of the free market; a crisis of no business making. However, the restrictions imposed on business and the public by governments around the world to protect their citizens does not mean that capitalism has failed or was at fault. In fact, quite the opposite is true. When the western world was attacked by this pandemic, it immediately turned to the free market for help. And, just like that, businesses stopped their normal operations, focused on the problem at-hand and delivered solutions to fight a common enemy that threatened the very life of mankind. Just as industry in the U.S. turned from making cars to manufacturing tanks in World War II, the power of the free

market has, once again, taken problem-solving to completely new levels of innovation.

Around the world, large and small companies alike have done what they do best. Innovative workers adapted to disruption, leveraged knowledge and ingenuity, and harnessed the power of talent and skill to marshal resources for attacking the problem. Government asked for more and better effective testing, and bioscience companies responded. Government asked for more personal protection equipment, and manufacturing responded. Government asked for businesses to protect employees and customers, and we all responded. Government asked for ideas to protect Americans, and again, the business community responded. The forces of free enterprise have risen to the challenge and found solutions, flattened the curve and saved lives. And while business has been doing its job to innovate and provide, government has bravely protected and defended our families, workers and front-line companies. Socialism - or even social democracy - would have fallen far short.

Here, in Georgia, we have seen the same response. At every call from Governor Kemp, the free market responded and with little thought to its own bottom line. Though there are many stories, here are a few companies that have risen to the challenge of protecting employees, clients, customers and the general public by fighting COVID-19 in very strategically innovative ways:

Abbott Laboratories, in Alpharetta, is a medical device and healthcare company that launched a compact test which can detect COVID-19 in as a little as five minutes. Anheuser-Busch, in Cartersville, is using its supply and logistics network to produce and distribute hand sanitizer to communities across the U.S. through the Red Cross.

In like manner, Pretoria Fields, a craft brewery in Albany, made and delivered over 200 bottles of alcohol-based sanitizer to public safety professionals and first-

responders.

Uber, a transportation network, has activated several of its partners to support the relocation of domestic violence victims to safety during this pandemic.

UPS is providing unprecedented resources to transport testing kits, personal protection equipment (PPE) and medical devices in support of public safety, virus diagnosis and therapy for COVID-19.

KIA Motors, in West Point, has shifted from making cars to producing face shields for frontline healthcare workers. In one month, the plant can produce approximately 200,000 face shields.

American Textile Company in Tifton has transitioned to manufacturing thousands of face masks to meet the ever-growing demand due to COVID-19.

Anthem Health has offered its members free screening and testing services, is waiving cost shares for COVID-19 treatment, and is offering telephonic services to deliver quality healthcare directly into the homes of Georgians.

Hospitals of all sizes across the state are leading the day-to-day life and death fight against this powerful enemy.

Banks, financial services and credit unions, both small and large, are answering government's call with readied staff to process and deliver application approvals of stimulus loans like PPP and EIDL, essential to small business survival.

Local restaurants and food-service establishments have stepped up to the plate to provide meals for frontline workers.

And when President Trump needed advisors to help restore the economy, he turned to Georgia. Georgia-headquartered companies Chick-Fil-A, Coca-Cola, Home Depot, Southern Company, UPS and Waffle House as well as dozens of other companies with Georgia operations are partnering with all members of Georgia's Congressional Delegation to further the response and recovery.

For a century, the Georgia Chamber and local chambers across the state have been fighting for the future

of free enterprise because we know that it is tied directly to democratic governance, economic mobility and enhanced prosperity for all Georgians. The New Georgia Economy will see a prioritization on sustainability, resiliency, innovation and wellness. At this time in our history, we require a unique partnership between government and business and in doing so, we will move from pandemic to prosperity in a new way for a truly

better Georgia.

The Georgia Chamber seeks to provide access to recommendations, regulations, services and expertise to its members. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this mission remains constant. Prior to acting, members should consult their own professional advisors for information and counsel specific to the individual and unique situations faced by organizations, individuals and corporations. The opinions, interpretations

and recommendations of the Georgia Chamber are informational only and should not be relied upon by the recipient as legal or professional advice. The Georgia Chamber makes no representations as to the accuracy or reliability of the content contained herein. Users of this information accept any and all risks associated with the use of such information and agree that the Georgia Chamber has no liability to user.

ELECT
BRUCE POTTS

Gordon County
Commissioner
District 3

Commissioner Focus:

SAFETY AND SECURITY

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

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

WORKFORCE/INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR GORDON CO.

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

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

Paid Political Advertisement

Obituaries

April 29, 2020

Brenda Gallman

Brenda Joyce Long Gallman, age 71, of Adairsville, passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at her residence.

Brenda was born on Aug. 23, 1948 in Calhoun, to the late R.C. Long and Betty Parris Long. In addition to her parents, Brenda was also preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Childers. She was a member of East Calhoun Church of God and sang in a gospel group for over 30 years.

Brenda is survived by: two daughters, Misty McClure and Christy Stewart; brother, Gary Long and his fiancé Teskola Swims; two sisters, Jean Cline and her husband Ben and Hilda Fowler; half-sister, Marsha Mitchell; nieces, Brook Ramsey, Tanya Nesbitt, Angle Nesbitt and Tiffany Couch; nephews, Jamie Long, Chad Cline, Grant Nesbitt, Kelley Nesbitt and Shawn Cline; and special caregiver, Ashley Dress.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the family has chosen not have services during this time.

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

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Brenda Joyce Long Gallman.



Jimmy Payne

Jimmy Milton Payne, age 79, of Calhoun, passed away on Monday, April 27, 2020 at AdventHealth Gordon.

Jimmy was born on June 8, 1940 in Gordon County to the late Robert L. Payne and Evelyn Hendrix Payne. Jimmy was owner and operator of Jimmy Payne's Coast to Coast and was a member of Nellie Peter's Methodist Church. He loved antique automobiles and baseball.



Jimmy is survived by: his wife of 57 years, Sue Baker Payne; two sons, Mitch Payne and his wife Tonya and Michael Payne and his wife Christie; granddaughter, Catelyn Payne; step-granddaughter, Jessica Watwood; sister, Bobbie P. Johnson; brother-in-law, Ted Baker and his wife Faye; two nephews, Tyron Johnson and Douglas Baker; and additional great-nieces and great-nephews survive.

Private Services will be conducted for the Payne family in Fain Cemetery with Reverend Sean Hachem officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Nellie Peter's Methodist Church at 1122 South Wall Street, Calhoun, GA 30701.

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

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Jimmy Milton Payne.



Brenda Sue Potts

Mrs. Brenda Sue Young Potts, 64, of Reinhardt College Parkway in Waleska, Ga., departed this life early Tuesday morning, April 28, 2020 in the comfort of her home surrounded by her loving family.

Mrs. Potts was born in Fairmount on July 4, 1955. She was a daughter of the late Earl and Gertrude Cantrell Young.

She is survived by her loving husband, Bobby Potts of the residence; her daughter, Lisa Potts; granddaughter, Paige Potts; her two grandchildren, Jase Sparks and Paysie Potts all of Waleska; sisters, Kathy Burns of Cartersville, Bobbie Jo Goldman of Kingston, Darlene Neal of Pine Log, and Betty Jo Fronebarger of Stamp Creek; brother, Ricky Young of Adairsville; her special little Chihuahua, Foxy;



and several nieces and nephews also survive.

Services to celebrate the life of Mrs. Brenda Potts will be on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 2 p.m. from the graveside at Oak Hill Baptist Church Cemetery in Waleska. Reverend Randy Harris and Reverend Hoyt Jones will officiate. Music will be provided by Sally Jones.

The Potts family will receive friends on Friday from 11:30 a.m. until the service hour of 2 p.m. at the graveside in Oak Hill Baptist Church Cemetery on Highway 140.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Pott's family at www.pondersfuneralhome.com

Arrangements by family owned and operated Ponders Fairmount Chapel and Ponders Crematory, Hwy 411, Fairmount, Georgia. 706-337-3784. Funerals, Cremations, Cemeteries, and Florists



Christopher "Chris" Seritt

Christopher Neal "Chris" Seritt, age 42, of Sugar Valley, passed away on Monday, April 27, 2020 at his residence.

Chris was born on Dec. 2, 1977 in Gordon County, son of the late Susan Roberts. He was a member of Sugar Valley Church of God and worked for the City of Calhoun.

Chris is survived by: his daughter, Taurasi Seritt and her mother, Brittany Bartenfield; aunt, Peggy Seritt; six cousins, Melinda Williams, Timmy Pack, Brian Pack, Leroy Pack, Mitchell Pack, and Terry Pack; and his best friends, Camron Haygood, Noe Prieto, and Jared Raines.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the family will have a private graveside service with Reverend Jared Raines officiating.

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

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Christopher Neal "Chris" Seritt.



Help for the Hurting

-The Life Choice Hospice Bereavement Support Group will be meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

The support group is open to anyone in the community who would like to attend. The office and support group are located at 189 Professional Court, Suite 300, Calhoun. For Information, contact Jennifer at 706-602-9001.

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

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

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

-The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a monthly support group at Morning Pointe Assisted Living, 660 Jolly Road, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information or directions, call Mary Braden at 770-548-4683 or Karen Parrott at 706-346-5220. For

more information about dementia and Alzheimer's disease, call 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/georgia.

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

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

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

-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.

-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.

-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.

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

-SING (Surviving Infidelity Necessary to your Growth) has

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

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

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


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

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

-Caring for a loved one who is suffering from late-stage cancer is certainly one of life's hardest experiences. But you do not have to go through this alone. The Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital provides a place for you to meet each month with others who

understand what you are going through during this difficult time. Strength for Caring, a support group for caregivers of patients with advanced stages of cancer meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 2-3 p.m. at the Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital, 1035 Red Bud Road. For more information, please call 706-879-5853.

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



VOTE
KEN PADGETT
CORONER

TIME FOR CHANGE


My goal is to bring the Coroner's Office into the 21st Century. The County has plans to build a new morgue and coroner's office, and I want to elevate the office to better serve Gordon County.

- Only candidate that has been a certified EMT, Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer
- More than 28 years in law enforcement with the Calhoun Police Department and GCSO
 - Has worked numerous death investigations, including murders and child death
- Strong working relationship with all departments in Gordon County government
 - Ready to hit the ground running for Gordon County

Visit me on Facebook at 'Padgett for Coroner'

Paid Political Advertisement





Hamilton

Physician Group

Calhoun Campus

Michelle Little, DO

Family Medicine

Jennifer Smith, FNP-C

Family Medicine

Justin Hare, DO

Neurosurgery and Spine

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Hamilton Physician Group-
Neurosurgery and Spine

706.529.7124

HamiltonHealth.com/calhoun



Cash Flow with Joe: Here’s what we’re seeing right now



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

Who would have predicted that a virus could’ve had this much of an impact on us? I didn’t see it coming.

So, what are we seeing right now?

April was good as far as rentals go. We are at about 90% on our collection rate. What I wrote to you about talking to our tenants and

being proactive really proved to be effective and beneficial. What we found at the time was that most people were still working. (Remember, this was late March when we were calling people and was before Gov. Kemp gave the shelter in place order.)

As we talked to our tenants, we were glad to hear that many of them had already filed their taxes and had set their refunds aside for living expenses. We even had one who had a few months’ worth stored up. That was good news. Our people were all healthy and optimistic.

Of the 10% we hadn’t collected from, two needed to be modified with different payment dates, one needed a rate reduction, and the last was unable to pay due to Covid-19 issues.

As far as stimulus checks are concerned, none of the ones who had payment issues had received those funds yet.

At the time of this writing, we had two flips scheduled to sell within the week. One, which was supposed to have closed at the end of March, just got pushed back for the third time to next week. That means if it does close, we went almost a month past the contract date. This is supposedly due to the mortgage company employees having issues working from home.

The second was supposed to close today. It was a full-price offer, with minor closing costs. We got through due diligence and did some pretty impressive fixes — like replumbing the house. But all was good, and we were

ready to get it sold.

Like I said, we were supposed to close that house today. But I just got off the phone with my selling agent, who was calling let me know that our buyers couldn’t get a mortgage and were terminating the contract. I don’t think we have ever had someone terminate the contract on the day of closing. And it has been a while since we’ve had someone terminate the contract due to financing issues, especially after they had passed their financial contingency.

If you don’t know, the financial contingency is the part of the contract that allows the buyer a certain amount of time to apply for a mortgage and terminate the contract if they can’t qualify. Having that date keeps the

buyer and the mortgage company motivated to get things done in a timely fashion and make sure the sale of the property is not hindered by someone who can’t actually purchase it.

This one fell all the way through, and now we get to go back on market at a time where people are getting laid off and furloughed for at least a month and possibly two.

That thought brings on a sinking feeling.

The good news is that that house appraised well. So, once we get it back under contract with someone who can get a mortgage, we know appraisal will not be an issue. We will also get the \$500 earnest money deposit since the buyers went beyond the time allotted in their financial contingency before they

terminated. But that money doesn’t even pay for half the interest we incurred on our loan for the property while we were under contract. So that money is nothing to get excited about.

Looking forward to May, we will need to touch base with our tenants just like we did for April. The shelter in place order caused many of them to be out of work this month, so May’s collection rate could possibly drop. That’s why now is the time to be even more proactive.

And that’s what we are seeing.

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

How Should Millennials Respond to Market Decline?



Dewayne Bowen
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at Edward Jones
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The coronavirus crisis has unsettled every age group, as we are all worried about our health and that of our families and communities. And if you’re in the millennial generation, generally defined as anyone born

between 1981 and 1996, you might also be concerned about your financial future, given the sharp decline in investment prices. How should you respond to what’s been happening?

Your view of the current situation will depend somewhat on your age. If you’re an older millennial, you had probably been investing for a few years when we went through the financial crisis in 2007-2008. And you then experienced 11 years of a record bull market, so you’ve seen both the extremes and the resilience of the investment world. But if you’re a younger millennial, you might not have really started investing until the past few

years, if you’ve started at all, so you’ve only seen a steadily climbing market. Consequently, you may find the current situation particularly discouraging, but this is also a lesson in the reality of investing: Markets go down as well as up.

But no matter where you are within the millennial age cohort, you might help yourself by taking these steps:

Enjoy the benefit of having time on your side. If you’re one of the younger millennials, you’ve got about four decades left until you’re close to retiring. Even if you’re in the older millennial group, you’ve probably got at least 25 years until you stop working. With

so many years ahead, you have the opportunity to overcome the periodic drops in investment prices, and your investments have time to grow. And, of course, you’ll be able to add more money into those investments, too.

Invest systematically. The value of your investments will always fluctuate. You can’t control these price movements, but you may be able to take advantage of them through what’s known as systematic investing. By putting the same amount of money at regular intervals into the same investments, you’ll buy more shares when the share price is lower — in other words, you’ll be “buying low,” which is one of the first

rules of investing — and you’ll buy fewer shares when the price rises. Over time, this strategy can help you reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio, although it can’t ensure a profit or protect against loss. Plus, systematic investing can give you a sense of discipline, though you’ll need to consider the ability to keep investing when share prices are declining.

Focus on the future. You’re never really investing for today — you’re doing it to reach goals in the future, sometimes just a few years away, but usually much further out. That’s why it’s so important not to panic when you view those scary headlines announcing big

drops in the financial markets, or even when you see negative results in your investment statements. By creating an investment strategy that’s appropriate for your risk tolerance and time horizon, and by focusing on your long-term goals, you can develop the discipline to avoid making hasty, ill-advised decisions during times of stress.

As a millennial, you’ve got a long road ahead of you as you navigate the financial markets. But by following the suggestions above, you may find that journey a little less stressful.

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

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GORDON GROWN

Control Tips for Argentine Ants



Greg Bowman
Gordon County
Extension Agent
gbowman@uga.edu

One of the most common nuisance insect pests in the southeastern United States is the Argentine ant. It is noted that a mature colony of Argentine ants can have a population of a million worker ants and hundreds of queens. In addition, Argentine ants can form large colonies that can have many nesting sites that can cover over several properties for foraging. These ants can travel hundreds of feet from the nesting sites to feeding areas or other nest sites on what we call well-organized trails. It has also been noted that Argentine ant trails have been measured

more than 350 feet in Georgia. Today, I will be giving background on these ants and tips on how to control Argentine ants by use of a UGA publication by Dan Suiter and Brian Forschler, UGA Entomologist. For starters, Argentine ants in the outdoors are well versed in finding nesting sites. Argentine ants have been known to nest in mulch with pine straw being very popular to them in our area. They will nest in leaf litter, compost piles, rotted logs and under rock, patio stones and potted plants to name a few. Our information states that one common ecological characteristic of all Argentine ant nest sites are they will retain moisture even when the area around the nest is dry. In the warm times of the year, Argentine ants will feed in the top of trees and shrubs on honeydew. As most know, honeydew is the sugar-rich excrement made by aphids and scale insects that will feed on plant sap. Honeydew is a very important food source for Argentine

ants as well as other ant species during the warm time of the year. As you know, 2020 overall has been a wet year so far, but summer is normally drier and hot. Note that Argentine ant infestations can be more common in really hot and dry summers. The warmth can push colony growth thus larger ant numbers. Dry conditions can push these larger ant populations to look for limited food resources so you have more of a chance for ant and human issues. To make it through the winter, Argentine ants will move into protected environments. Our information states these protected areas are warmer and the environmental conditions are more stable. This could be a void area in a structure. When springtime arrives, the Argentine ants will move back to outdoor nest sites where the colony will grow again in warm months. In our area, colony populations will peak in late summer. It is suggested that to prevent large late season populations and

the problems that can happened with winter infestations, you need to follow management practices, especially outdoor baiting in the spring that is kept going into the warm season. I would like to share some tips that will hopefully assist in preventing indoor Argentine ant infestations. Go back to where I stated that honeydew is an important food source for Argentine ants in the warm season. The ants will be foraging on trees and shrub, so you need to keep all vegetation from touching outside walls of the structure, gutters and all other parts of the building or home. Any vegetation that touches will give an access to the inside. It is also noted that because of where Argentine ants will nest, you need to clean up yard debris such as leaf litter. This means to also clean out the gutters. You may need to minimize the use of mulch. Follow these practices along with chemical control options. When you treat infestations chemically, you first need to do an

inspection indoors and outdoors to figure out the source or origin of the infestation. The inspection should identify areas where chemical control should be directed. During the warm season, it is stated that many indoor infestations can be tracked to nests around the outside of the structure. Our information states that there are a number of methods that can be used for the treatment of existing Argentine ant infestations, but no single insecticide based approach is completely effective. Following an approach that will use both chemical and non-chemical methods is normally best in controlling Argentine ants. Baits are effective against ants because they share food in an ant behavior known as trophallaxis. Baits are made up of a toxicant that is incorporated into a food source that is palatable to Argentine ants. Our information says to place baits where ants are seen foraging inside and outside structures. Inside, place

baits where ants are seen trailing, but out of reach of non-target organisms. Read the label of any product to make sure where it can be used such as indoors and also for all safety precautions. Outdoors, place bait in areas where ants are known to nest or seen trailing. Note, because colonies can be large and they can forage over a large area, a large quantity of bait may be used (i.e. multiple placements) per our information. There are also granular products that can be used in nest sites such as mulch or leaf litter. Spray treatments can be used, but should only be used outside where Argentine ants are found nesting. Per our information, if chemical options are utilized, it is important that property owners read and follow all pesticide label instructions and never do more than the label permits. For more information, contact UGA Extension-Gordon County at 706-629-8685 or email gbowman@uga.edu.

Georgia Farm Bureau seeks input from Georgia Farmers on COVID-19 impact

GEORGIA FARM BUREAU

Georgia Farm Bureau is partnering with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture and the UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development to gather information on how COVID-19 is affecting Georgia agriculture. During this pandemic, we recognize that Georgia’s food and fiber industry is being impacted across all agricultural sectors. In order to accurately tell the story and represent farmers’ needs, we have developed a survey to collect information on how the COVID-19 crisis is affecting Georgia farmers and their operations. If you are a farmer in Georgia, we invite you

to take 10 minutes to provide feedback. As an industry, it is critical that we work together to evaluate the needs of our farming community during this time. You can participate in the survey by visiting https://ugeorgia.cal.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4GBA8BLVeLTPK97. The survey is to be completed only once for each farm/ranch operation. Your name will NOT be recorded for each survey record completed. All information will be kept strictly confidential. You may choose whether to participate in the survey, and you may withdraw at any time. There is no personal compensation provided for participation. The Qualtrics survey system uses data encryption, so there is minimal risk that security of any online data may be breached.



Community Events

Notices
-TALLATOONA BEGINS LIHEAP COOLING ASSISTANCE. Low Income Energy Assistance Program Cooling Assistance available; appointments have begun for seniors: Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Inc. has begun the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Cooling Assistance for Gordon County. On April 1 at 8:30 a.m., Tallatoona began accepting appointments for the LIHEAP cooling program for senior households age 65 and older, along with homebound households. Appointments for the general public will be accepted beginning May 1, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Gordon County residents who qualify will receive either \$350 or \$400 toward their electric bill. To schedule an appointment, visit the Tallatoona website at www.tallatoonacap.org and click ‘BookNow,’ or call 770-817-4666, extension 2.

It’s important to note that due to health and safety concerns related to COVID 19, appointments for assistance will be completed remotely by phone. Tallatoona officers are currently closed until further notice.
-Story times at the Calhoun-Gordon County Library, 100 N. Park Ave. in Calhoun, are 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays
-Fairmount Library is now located inside of City Hall on the second floor. Story time is held every second Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. and New Horizon Book Club is held on the second Thursday of the month. For more information call 706-337-5306.
-If your school, church, civic or other organization would like a representative from the Georgia State Patrol to come and speak with your group on law enforcement or public safety matters, call 706-624-1477.
-MOMS Club of Calhoun is a new local chapter of an international nonprofit group. MOMS Club is a support group designed for the at-home mother of today. Membership is open to all moms who live in Gordon County. Events are scheduled weekdays during the day and children are welcome at all events. Mothers of any age children are welcome. The goals of the group are to provide a support group for mothers who choose to stay at home to raise their children, provide a forum for topics of interest to all mothers, to help children in the community and perform at least one service project yearly helping needy children. For more information

call 706-383-3853 or email info@calhounmoms.org for location and more information. Check out the webpage at www.calhounmoms.org.
-Story times at the Calhoun-Gordon County Library, 100 N. Park Ave. in Calhoun, are 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays.
-The Calhoun Adult Learning Center has so much to offer. Make the center your window to the world. Free study programs are offered during the day and evening sessions. Enroll in adult education today. Call 706-624-1111. The center is located on the campus of Georgia Northwestern Technical College.
-The Gordon County Saddle Club meets the fourth Thursday of each month. The meetings will be

held at the Gordon County Agricultural Service Center, 1282 Hwy 53 Spur SW Suite 200, Calhoun, Ga. 30701. Contact 770-548-5956 for more information.
-The Gordon County Nutrition Site would like to invite seniors ages 60 and over to come to the Senior Center, located at 150 Cambridge Court Monday–Friday at 11:30 a.m. for a nutritious meal. The meal is free of charge. We are also the center for Meals on Wheels for the homebound. For more information, please contact Jackie Owens, Nutrition Site Manager at 706-629-0392.
To add your community event to Gordon Gazette’s Community Events Calendar, email Staff@GordonGazetteGa.com

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HEALTH NEWS

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Kemp says COVID tests available, maintains there’s no rift with Trump

ANDY MILLER
Georgia Health News

Any Georgian with COVID-19 symptoms can now get tested, Gov. Brian Kemp said Monday.

“We have the tests, we have the physicians, we have the sites, and we have the bandwidth. What we need now is more Georgians to participate,” Kemp told reporters at a press briefing at the state Capitol.

The governor also defended his decision to reopen certain businesses Friday, and restaurants and movie theaters Monday. Georgia’s reopening plan is considered the most aggressive of any state during the pandemic.

Kemp also did not show any resentment of President Trump’s criticism of Georgia’s reopening plan. Trump said last week that Georgia was moving too fast.

“The president and I share a common goal and that is to protect both the lives and livelihoods of Georgians as well as the American people,” Kemp said. “I want to continue to applaud the president’s leadership during these difficult times.”

The governor said the country is looking at “Depression-like” unemployment forecasts, and that he shares Trump’s goal of restoring the economy to its past levels.

Kemp said there was “no bad news” when businesses reopened Friday.

Many Georgians were excited about the reopening of hair salons, barbershops, tattoo businesses, bowling

alleys and nail salons, Kemp said. By following health guidelines, businesses “were protecting themselves and their customers,” he said.

“A lot of people decided to wait” to reopen their businesses, he said. “I support them 100 percent.”

The directive on reopening “wasn’t a mandate,” the governor noted. “I didn’t order anybody to open their business, or order anybody to patronize any business.”

The governor’s shelter-in-place order expires May 1. But Kemp said vulnerable people with medical conditions and residents of long-term care facilities need to continue to shelter until May 13.

How much testing is enough?

“Our testing numbers are quickly increasing,” Kemp said. Georgia is now 36th among states in per capita COVID-19 testing, up from 42nd. “We still have work to do.”

He said he based his reopening decision on case numbers. Hospitals are reporting lower number of COVID-19 cases, Kemp said.

Yet a new analysis by Harvard researchers and STAT, published Monday, said that more than half of U.S. states will have to significantly step up their COVID-19 testing to even consider starting to relax stay-at-home orders after May 1.

To detect hot spots, Georgia must do 9,600 to 10,000 tests per day, and it has been averaging around 4,000, the analysis said.

Dr. Kathleen Toomey, commissioner

of the Department of Public Health, acknowledged Monday that the state did not meet the White House Task Force guidelines on reopening businesses, but said progress is being made on those goals.

The guidelines include adequate COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and health care capacity. The guidance also says that before reopening, a state should have seen a decline in new COVID-19 cases for 14 days. Georgia has not yet met that standard.

But Toomey also said that Kemp is looking at factors other than data in making his decisions.

Dr. Harry Heiman, a Georgia State University health policy expert, said the testing capacity is improving in the state. “But numbers alone don’t ensure that there is adequate capacity in all parts of our state with equitable access by all communities,” he said.

“Even with some of the expansion of testing sites to rural communities, we are still focusing on drive-in centers,” Heiman said. “These remain inaccessible to those without a car. We are already seeing compelling data that low-income communities, communities of color, and rural communities, like Dougherty County and the surrounding counties in southwest Georgia, are being disproportionately impacted. These same communities continue to experience some of the greatest barriers to testing.”

Gainesville sees increase in cases

Toomey said she envisions the contact tracing effort – to identify an infected person’s contacts — having a workforce of up to 1,000 people in the state.

Public Health reported Monday night that there have now been 24,349 total COVID-19 cases in Georgia. The state’s death toll from the disease now stands at 1,000.

Kemp said the Georgia COVID-19 numbers have been skewed upward by the Albany outbreak, but added that situation in the city in Dougherty County is easing.

He also said the Gainesville area has noted an increase in COVID-19 cases, and hospitals there have seen more infected individuals. Gainesville is a center of the poultry industry, and Kemp said state Insurance Commissioner John King met with industry leaders “to ensure that their workers understand public health guidance and that we continue to work together to stop the spread of COVID-19.”

Kemp touted a breakthrough on personal protection equipment that has been developed in Georgia.

A new system in Atlanta uses vapor hydrogen peroxide to decontaminate N95 respirator masks. It can decontaminate up to 80,000 N95 respirator masks per day, with each able to be decontaminated up to 20 times.

Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News. Visit www.georgiahealthnews.com.

EVENT CANCELLATIONS/POSTPONEMENTS

As a precautionary measure, all Hamilton Health Care System hosted and sponsored events and support groups have been canceled/postponed for May 2020. These include the following. Others may be announced at a later date.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
5/1/20-5/31/20	Labor & Delivery Tours & Classes	Turner Maternal & Infant Care Center
5/5/20	CHAMP Seminar Series	Anna Shaw Children’s Institute
5/6/20, 5/13/20, 5/20/20, 5/27/20	Read Around The Tree	Anna Shaw Children’s Institute
5/8/20	Latino Parent Support Group	Anna Shaw Children’s Institute
5/12/20	Hospice Support Group	Royal Oaks
5/12/20	Parent Support Group	Anna Shaw Children’s Institute
5/21/20	Survivor’s Club (Cancer Support Group)	Peoples Cancer Institute

Connect with us at HamiltonHealth.com/connect or the Hamilton Health Care System Facebook page for updates.



REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

from Representative Rick Jasperse

BY: RICK JASPERSE,
(R-Jasper, District 11)
State Representative

Let’s have some **Good** news this week and something we can all agree on. For those attending a higher education institution like UGA, Dalton State, Kennesaw State, or any other state school, there will not be a tuition increase this year. Good news, students! It was good news to learn that the University System of Georgia Board of Regents (USG-BOR) unanimously approved a recommendation to keep tuition the same for the upcoming fiscal year.

Undergraduate and graduate students will pay the same for the 2020-21 academic year as they did for the 2019-20 academic year. If you were wondering, the University of Georgia in-state tuition is \$4,895 per semester for students taking more than six hours. Out-of-state tuition is \$14,415 per semester for students taking more than six hours.

This is the third time in the past 10 years the USG-BOR has not increased tuition.

Great news.

Georgia resident students will pay the same tuition rate for **online** classes as they would for **in-person** classes. Out-of-state students will pay the same tuition rates as they did for spring 2020.

The USG-BOR approved the elimination of all mandatory fees — excluding the special institutional fee and technology fee — for the summer 2020 semester.

You can imagine that the COVID-19 has hit the Board of Regents in the pocketbook just like most everything and everyone has been. The BOR’s revenue losses are expected to be between \$330 and \$340 million through the summer semester. The BOR is expected to receive approximately \$125 million in funds from the federal government. A decision on how these funds will be used has not been reached yet.

School Lunch program

More good news. A lot of folks are not on Facebook and may not read every bit of the paper, but I just wanted to give a shout of APPRECIATION to our school lunchroom folks.

During all this stay at home, our lunchrooms have been preparing food for our students all over our district’s counties. Bus drivers have been taking these lunches to the students where they are. This has been a giant task, and these folks have done an outstanding job. Even in the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, they stood so big and tall to take care of their/our children.

Since I am the Chairman of Education in the GA House of Representatives, I know that this is not the case all over our state. In our area it has been a hit for many of our struggling families.

Businesses reopening

More good news: Governor Kemp has okayed the reopening of many businesses that were closed during the start of the Pandemic. You have heard about it on every news show and of course just heard about parts of the plan. When you see the 27-page Executive Order that set the rules for reopening our small businesses, I think you will see the care that went into the decision. Many will choose to wait to reopen, and that

is up to them, and we can choose not to go. I would still be smart and wash those hands and pay attention to the rules when you enter a place of business that may be open. Work with the owners of our small businesses if they request you to sit in a certain area, etc.; we need to work together on the reopening. Yes, I got some looks when I had my mask on this past weekend while picking up a few things. But I think it’s smart to do that right now.

If you would like your copy of Governor Kemp’s Executive Order on reopening, you can go to the Governor’s Website and get it, or you can email or call me, and we will send it to you.

Also, if you have questions about reopening, I will do my best to answer them. It was busy this weekend answering the harder questions out there on reopening.

One of the most rewarding parts of this job is when you get to help a citizen cut through red tape and get the information or help, they need. I appreciate all the calls, emails, and opportunities to do



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

this most every day.

If you need the Executive Order or help, please give me a call at home or at the Capitol. My aide, Lisa Fountain, is working from home right now, helping me help you, so don’t hesitate to call on us. Email rick.jasperse@house.ga.gov or 770-893-2039 or 404-656-7153.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Representative.

Governor Kemp Gives COVID-19 Update

**OFFICE OF GEORGIA
GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP**

Atlanta, GA - On Monday, Governor Brian P. Kemp delivered the following update on COVID-19. Governor Kemp was joined by Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Kathleen Toomey, Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency Director Homer Bryson, and Georgia National Guard Adjutant General Tom Carden.

“Good afternoon. Today I’m joined by General Tom Carden, Dr. Kathleen Toomey, and GEMA Director Homer Bryson.

“Before we get started, I want to thank the faith leaders and Georgians who participated in our day of prayer. In our fight against COVID-19, we must continue to pray for our healthcare workforce, frontline workers, law enforcement, and Georgians affected by the coronavirus.

“As of noon today, we have 23,773 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 942 deaths, and a total of 127,169 tests. Through the leadership of public health departments, the National Guard, partnerships with Augusta University, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, and others, our testing numbers are quickly increasing – but more must be done.

“As of this morning, Georgia ranks 13th among states and territories in the total number of tests, and for per capita testing, we are now 36th overall. In less than one week, Georgia moved up from 42nd in per capita testing to 36th. We still have work to do, and we will keep fighting to improve testing access and capacity.

“From the beginning – when we launched the Coronavirus Task Force and held our first press conference – we promised to lead with transparency and provide regular updates as we fight this virus together. The Department of Public Health has worked tirelessly to integrate information for testing, hospitalizations, and transmission to keep the public informed. We realized as a team that we can provide a more unified, user-friendly platform for Georgians in every corner of our state.

“Earlier today, we unveiled a new COVID-19 dashboard. It offers interactive reports which track emerging indicators, rates of growth, and outcomes of COVID-19 interventions. Geo-mapping capabilities support our efforts to identify and address emerging hotspots. The dashboard allows decision-makers to evaluate multiple scenarios to identify vulnerable populations, such as healthcare workers, the medically fragile, and communities with at-risk populations. This data is presented

in multiple formats, including an interactive map where users can hover to see key statistics, such as the incidence rate per 100,000 people in a county’s population. Additionally, charts and statistics display demographic information for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. Most information will be updated hourly, but the total number of tests will continue to be updated twice per day. Right now, the new dashboard is accessible through the same website address, but the format is easier to use.

“As I’ve said many times, the expansion of testing is key to our fight against COVID-19. For weeks, the state has worked closely with private labs and local health departments to address the need for more testing and ramp up capacity in each region of Georgia. We have leveraged partnerships with well-respected companies – like CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens – to open more specimen collection sites and encourage symptomatic Georgians to get tested. Last week, we launched a new partnership with Augusta University Health System for free, statewide COVID-19 screening and testing by leveraging the power of telemedicine. Since then, Augusta University Health has conducted 2,059 screenings with its clinicians and referred 1,513 symptomatic Georgians – or 73 percent – for COVID-19 testing.

“We have the tests; we have the physicians; we have the sites; and we have the bandwidth. We just need more Georgians to participate. Right now, all symptomatic Georgians can take advantage of this resource, and I am calling on anyone who is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to act. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following symptoms are consistent with coronavirus infection and may appear two to fourteen days after exposure:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell

“To get a free screening by an Augusta University Health System doctor, visit AugustaHealth.org, download AU Health ExpressCare on your smartphone, or call (706) 721-1852. If you meet criteria for testing, staff will contact you to schedule a test at one of the state’s designated testing locations near your home. From there, we will leverage the power of several key academic institutions in the state to process tests, including Augusta University, Georgia State University, and the Georgia Public Health Lab. In roughly seventy-two hours, you

will be able to access your test results via a secure patient portal, and a medical provider will contact you directly if you are positive.

“Since the start of the public health state of emergency, local public health test sites across Georgia have collected more than 32,000 specimens for COVID-19 testing. Last week alone, by aggressively pushing for more testing, local departments collected 12,086 specimens for testing – a 64 percent increase from the previous week. Georgia’s public health departments now have forty-nine test sites open across the state.

“Yesterday, we announced a partnership with Walmart, eTrueNorth, and state and local officials to set up drive-thru sites in communities with limited testing access. Beginning today, a mobile testing unit will now serve Augusta, Milledgeville, Tifton, and the surrounding regions on a rotating basis. This unit will test Georgians with symptoms of COVID-19, and healthcare providers and first responders can be tested whether or not they are exhibiting symptoms. Georgians can make an appointment at www.DoINeedCOVID19Test.com and on-site scheduling will also be available. We are grateful to Walmart, eTrueNorth, and community leaders for their help to get this operation up and running.

“To prepare for patient surge, our hospitals have worked around the clock to identify hundreds more general use and critical care beds for COVID-19 treatment. Hospitals were able to identify hundreds more, and as of this morning, we have 1,023 critical care beds available for patients. It’s the highest number of critical care beds that we’ve had available since hospitals began tracking the data.

“Ventilator use has also declined over the past few weeks. There are roughly 1,000 ventilators in use across Georgia with more than 1,800 ventilators available for a total capacity of more than 2,800.

“Currently, there are nine recovering COVID-19 patients at the alternate care facility at the Georgia World Congress Center. They were transferred from Grady, Emory, and WellStar to open acute care hospital beds for incoming patients. We continue to coordinate with our hospitals to monitor capacity and, if needed, accept non-critical or non-intensive care patients.

“In Southwest Georgia, we partnered with local leaders to build out Phoebe North in Albany for use by nearby Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. Of the twelve ICU rooms completed on April 20, ten are currently occupied, and out of thirty general patient rooms that we built, nineteen are currently occupied. By April 29, we expect to have an additional twenty-nine

rooms with a minimum of fifteen new ICU rooms. Although we are seeing declining transmission in the community, we will continue to identify opportunities for expanded access to ensure the locals have what they need to fight the virus.

“As I’ve mentioned previously, the state purchased four temporary hospital units to deploy to Albany, Rome, Macon, and Gainesville. By May 6, we will complete installation of units at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Floyd Medical Center in Rome, and Navicent Health in Macon. Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital will gain twenty-four general hospital beds, Floyd Medical Center in Rome will gain six critical care beds and fourteen general hospital beds, and Navicent Health in Macon will gain seven critical care beds and seventeen general hospital beds. By May 14 when installation of the fourth unit is complete, Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville will gain ten critical care beds and ten general hospital beds.

“Across the nation, the coronavirus has had a devastating impact on long-term care facilities, putting vulnerable populations at increased risk and causing alarm among public health officials, healthcare professionals, and families. Georgia’s battle against COVID-19 in these facilities wages on, and we are fighting it with everything in our power to keep the medically fragile and elderly out of harm’s way. On April 8, I signed an order mandating strict sanitation protocols and changes in existing living arrangements - including a ban on visitors except for end-of-life circumstances - to stop the spread and improve conditions. The Department of Community Health has been working day and night to check for compliance and hold facilities accountable. Surveyors are contacting facilities daily to ensure they are utilizing appropriate resources to safeguard residents and staff.

“The Department is also publishing reports every Monday through Friday to show COVID-19 case numbers and deaths in licensed facilities, giving families the transparency that they deserve to protect their loved ones. The Department has also recently launched a temporary nurse aide training program to address staffing challenges in long-term care. This program was established with assistance from the Georgia Health Care Association and Alliant Health Solutions to provide quick onboarding for nurse aides needed to care for residents during this emergency period. I commend Commissioner Frank Berry and his team for developing these resources for Georgia families.

“For weeks now, my team has

worked closely with the Trump Administration and our federal counterparts to mitigate the impact of coronavirus in Georgia. Our decisions and direction are informed by data and public health recommendations, and we remain focused on protecting the lives – and livelihoods – of all Georgians.

“To slow the spread of COVID-19 and prepare for hospital surge capacity, we asked Georgians to shelter in place and closed specific businesses throughout our state. Most businesses remained open with restrictions to ensure community health and well-being. We were successful in our efforts to protect Georgians and our state’s healthcare infrastructure. With favorable data and approval from health officials, we took a measured step forward by opening many shuttered businesses throughout Georgia for limited operations. Starting today, theaters may reopen and restaurants and dining rooms, including those at private social clubs, are allowed to resume dine-in services if they meet certain mandatory criteria to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Bars, nightclubs, operators of amusement park rides, and live performance venues will remain closed, and the shelter in place order remains in effect through April 30, 2020. Medically fragile and elderly Georgians must continue to shelter in place at least through May 13, and as we assess the situation, we will continue to provide updates.

“Over the weekend, the Department of Public Safety was on call to respond to complaints regarding compliance with the executive orders for specific businesses reopening. On Saturday, none of our nine Georgia State Patrol command centers reported any sustained complaints of non-compliance. On Sunday, Georgia State Patrol received twelve calls with only two sustained complaints, both involving large gatherings. Officers used those opportunities to raise awareness about social distancing rules – as they have been doing for weeks now – and both groups voluntarily dispersed.

“Georgians are heeding the advice of public health officials and law enforcement to ensure the health and well-being of customers and workers, but we will continue to monitor compliance in every region of our state. Before I move on, I want to take some time to thank our law enforcement community for their work through this pandemic. Like our healthcare workers, they are working long hours to keep Georgians safe in every zip code, and we appreciate their sacrifices. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers, including their loved ones,

PAYNE

From page 1A

sitting outside his store daily talking to everyone who knew him,” said Suzanne Roberts, City of Calhoun Downtown Development Director. “He was committed to his business and serving the citizens of Calhoun and Gordon

CITY

From page 1A

distancing and slow the spread of COVID-19,” said Palmer. Worley gave a highlight of the proposed 2020-2021 budget as it stands at this time, telling the Council that it is online at www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com under the Finance tab. “All the line items are very detailed,” said Worley. “Once we get closer to the passing of the budget, we should have more summaries that are easier to follow than the line items. Early in the game, we don’t have all the level of details with presentations and summaries available just yet.” Worley also reminded this is subject to change due to the current economic climate. “As we stand right now, I feel pretty confident we’re in a good position. We have a balanced budget with a surplus,” said Worley. “We have concentrated closely on our revenues. We are currently at a revenue for the General Fund of \$15,060,000. We’ve really looked hard at this; early in the process, back in February, when we began looking at revenue projections; we were closer to \$15.8 million, so we’ve reduced our revenue

CRIME

From page 1A

officer; other officers tried to get Curtis to give them his hands and comply. It is noted that Curtis’ left hand was underneath him and it was unknown at the time if he was attempting to get a weapon, so compliance strikes were made in attempt to get Curtis into custody as quickly and safely as possible. Curtis finally complied and was placed under arrest. A search of Curtis’ person began, and a black sock with a clear, glass smoking device containing believed methamphetamine was located in the front of his underwear. EMS was called to the scene due to Curtis having a nose bleed and tone of the officers suffering a cut behind his left ear and cuts on his arm while attempting to arrest Curtis. Curtis was cleared by EMS for jail. During the chase, one of the officers radio mic wire was damaged, at an estimated cost of \$80. Curtis was questioned why he ran during the traffic stop on April 22 at the BP, and he told officers he didn’t want to go to jail because he was on parole. When asked about the suspected cocaine that was found in the car during the traffic stop, Curtis advised it wasn’t his cocaine, but the driver’s, Alejandro Serrano. Curtis also said the scale that was located in the vehicle was not his either, and that he was trying to get Serrano some customers to pass out the cocaine.

Curtis was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, four counts of Obstruction, Possession of Drug Related Objects, Interference with Government Property and Battery (Police Officer). The Gordon Gazette originally reported that, according to the incident report, just before 5 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22,

FOOD

From page 1A

3) have an accounting system, 4) practice non-discrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capacity to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. The Local Board also requires that local agencies receiving funds must: 1) be in good standing with the National and

KEMP

From page 9A

and please pray for the loved ones of fallen Smyrna officer Christopher Ewing, who lost his life in the line of duty a few days ago. He was beloved by his community, and he will be sorely missed. “Working with Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Santiago Marquez – who serves on our Community Outreach Committee – and Insurance Commissioner John King, we are strengthening efforts to inform Georgia’s Latino community about the risks of COVID-19. Partnering with the Mexican Consulate, General King and Mr. Marquez will continue to actively engage communities across our state, starting with Hall County. Over the past few weeks as other areas of our state have seen reduced transmission of the virus, the Gainesville area has experienced an increase in cases, and our hospital partners in the area are seeing more hospitalizations. General King is there today speaking with leaders in the poultry industry to ensure that their workers understand public health guidance and that we continue to work together to stop the spread of COVID-19. “Under the leadership of General Carden, the Georgia National Guard has worked tirelessly to assist emergency response efforts across our state. Currently, there are 3,145 soldiers, airmen, and state defense force personnel engaged in the COVID-19 response with infection control teams, medical support teams, food bank support, school lunch delivery, and general support teams as needs arise. Right now, there are 978 personnel working in sixty-nine infection control teams assigned to decontaminate Georgia’s 790 long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, personal care homes, community living arrangements, hospice, and similar facilities. To date, these dedicated teams have provided critical support – by sanitizing the facility and training staff on enhanced infection control protocols – to 710 facilities, which is 90 percent of Georgia’s long-term care facilities, with some receiving multiple visits. “Given the heightened risk of adverse consequences for the medically fragile and elderly, this work by the Guard is truly lifesaving. Their efforts have been highlighted by the Trump administration as well as national, state, and local media, and they have started to train other states on their practices. Their hard work doesn’t stop there. Right now, the Guard has 206 personnel in twenty medical support teams deployed to twenty hospitals in Georgia, lending a helping hand to our healthcare workforce and necessary medical care to patients. They have

County. He will be greatly missed.” In addition to his business, Payne was known for his collection of antique cars and his love of baseball. He is survived by: his wife of 57 years, Sue Baker Payne; two sons, Mitch Payne and his wife Tonya and Michael Payne and his wife Christie; granddaughter, Catelyn Payne; step-granddaughter, Jessica Watwood; sister, Bobbie P. Johnson; brother-in-law, Ted Baker and his wife Faye; and

projects by over \$700,000. The majority of that reduction is in Local Option Sales Tax (LOST). We’ve reduced (LOST) by around 15 percent. We think that is going to be hit hard due to the economic shutdown. We reduced hotel/motel tax by around 25 percent; that industry has also been hit very hard. We’ve reduced some of our utility transfers to the General Fund, anywhere from 3 – 5 percent depending on the line item.” Worley said that property taxes look stable at this time. “We are basing (property taxes) on our current digest and current millage rate,” said Worley. “(At this time), there is no millage rate increase proposal.” “We’re at a little over \$15 million in revenues; total expenses in the General Fund is at \$14,873,000, so that’s a positive variance of \$186,000,” said Worley. “We’d really like to hold onto that variance right now until we get more financial information and sales tax data to review. That could be reduced even farther if we feel like we need to reduce our revenue projections more.” Worley said that the biggest expense increase the City will see this coming fiscal year is an employee health insurance increase of 9.5 percent over the present fiscal year. “We basically only have 0.7 percent increase overall in the

an officer observed a black Honda Civic traveling south on Newtown Road in Calhoun. The vehicle made an improper left turn onto Red Bud Road by turning into the outside lane. The officer initiated a traffic stop at the BP station on Red Bud Road. While the vehicle was still moving, the officer observed the front passenger side door open, and a black male wearing a black hoodie and camouflage cargo shorts exited the vehicle, running toward R. Timms Road and The Prescription Shop. The officer began giving the three subjects left in the vehicle the command to exit the car, while other officers arrived and began chasing the man who fled, giving the man verbal commands to stop, which he refused. The driver of the Honda was identified as Alejandro Serrano, age 23, of Longmeadow Drive in Rome. The passenger behind the driver was identified as a teen/juvenile. The other backseat passenger was identified as Luis Corzo, age 19, of Woodberry Court, Calhoun. All three were detained due to the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. The officer noted that while looking inside the vehicle, there was a green substance in the floorboard believed to be marijuana shake.

The officer began a probable cause search of the vehicle, locating a clear plastic bag containing a white powdery substance believed to be cocaine; it was tested with an issued field test kit and tested positive to be cocaine. There was also what the officer believed to be a marijuana cigarette in the front center console area. A black digital scale was found in the front passenger floorboard. The officer read the three their Miranda Rights separately, with all three stating they would talk to the officer. While speaking to Serrano, the officer asked where they were coming from and Serrano said they had left a house party and were on the way to the BP station on Red Bud Road. The officer then

Local board regarding documentation requirements if funds were received in prior phases, 2) utilize the local emergency assistance database as approved by the Local Board, 3) be utilized to serve residents in Gordon County, and 4) be currently operating programs which provide food, shelter, or emergency programs providing rent/mortgage or utility assistance (no new start-ups will be funded). During the prior funding period for Phase 36, Gordon County received \$24,381 which was disbursed to Voluntary Action Center, Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center,

190 personnel in seven hospital entry support teams deployed to conduct patient arrival screening at healthcare facilities. 170 soldiers are supporting eight food banks, loading and unloading shipments and packing containers for distribution - and at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, supporting the movement of six million pounds of food, the equivalent of five million meals. There are fifty-five service members helping with school lunch deliveries, supporting the delivery of over 137,000 meals to students in Fulton County alone. “Soldiers are also providing support to the Department of Public Health with drivers and couriers at thirteen of their eighteen regional health offices, logistics support at their warehouse, and reinforcement at test sites. The Guard is supporting Walmart’s mobile testing initiative in Richmond County today, and will support them in Milledgeville and Tifton in the coming days. Personnel are providing reinforcement at nine specimen collection sites in conjunction with Augusta University, covering Albany, Moultrie, Decatur, Forsyth, two sites in Atlanta, Kennesaw, Morrow, and Sparta. “As I mentioned last week, the Guard has galvanized ten mobile strike teams for test specimen collection, focusing on nursing homes, first responders, law enforcement, and mental health facilities across Georgia. They are also supporting our partnership with Augusta University at their command center with forty-nine personnel. I applaud the brave men and women who have answered the call to service and who are fighting the virus with every fiber of their being. “Speaking of local heroes, we have a great resource for frontline healthcare workers with the Battelle Decontamination System set up right here in Atlanta. The Battelle Decontamination System is a self-contained device that uses vapor hydrogen peroxide to decontaminate N95 masks. The device consists of eight 20-foot shipping containers, and starting today, it can decontaminate up to 80,000 N95 masks per day with each mask being able to be decontaminated up to 20 times. This system will give us the ability to recycle critical supplies, and it is currently available to all medical facilities, long-term care facilities, and first responders. I encourage healthcare facilities to reach out to GEMA and take advantage of this resource as they continue their work on the frontlines of our fight with COVID-19. “Over the last several days, many have written about Georgia’s plan to slowly reopen the businesses shuttered by our state’s shelter in place order, and many more have written about the President’s insight and advice on our game plan. Rest assured, the President and I share a common goal and that’s to protect both the lives and livelihoods of Georgians and the American people. We had another great call today with

two nephews, Tyron Johnson and Douglas Baker all of Calhoun. Private Services will be conducted for the Payne family in Fain Cemetery with Reverend Sean Hachem officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Nellie Peter’s Methodist Church at 1122 South Wall Street, Calhoun, GA 30701. expenditure side of the General Fund, which is good,” said Worley. “We do have a 9.5 percent increase on employee health insurance, and that is more than the majority of basically all the increase on the General Fund side. The department heads did a very good job of holding the line on items that they could control, so we’re very pleased to see that on the expenditure side.” “I want to thank Mr. Worley and all the department heads for the job they’ve done and the time they’ve put into this,” said Palmer. “I also want to thank the Finance Department and the work they’ve put into this (budget).” On the Utilities side of the budget, Vickery mirrored that his departments are being cautious during the economic uncertainty pertaining the COVID-19 pandemic. “We’ve asked all of the department heads to resist capital-item purchasing until we are pretty secure in the revenues that will take place and the transactions and what’s going to happen with the slowdown in business that is taking place,” said Vickery. “We’ve asked them to hold off on those purchases until January 2021.” Vickery said that there was also some 2011 SPLOST dollars left to use on the Peters Street and other utilities projects.

asked Serrano who the male subject was that ran but Serrano said he didn’t know but Luis Corzo did. The officer then asked Serrano if the suspected cocaine was his, and Serrano told the officer that it wasn’t and that it was flour. While speaking to Corzo, the officer asked if he knew who the man was that fled, and Corzo said that he didn’t know him. The officer then advised Corzo that Serrano had told him that he knew him, and Corzo then told the officer the man was “OT,” also known as Octavius Curtis, 32. The officer then asked Corzo if the suspected cocaine was his, and Corzo advised it was not and that it was flour. The officer then spoke with the juvenile, asking him if the cocaine was his, who advised the officer it wasn’t and that it was flour. Serrano and Corzo were transported to Gordon County Jail, while the juvenile was placed in the back of the patrol car and transported to the Calhoun Police Department, where juvenile intake was contacted and made aware of the incident. The juvenile was then turned over to his legal guardian. While at the police station, the officer ran Octavius Curtis through the system and retrieved his photo, confirming he was the man that ran from the car. The juvenile also told the officer that Curtis was the subject who ran from the car. After running Curtis through the system, it was learned that Curtis had active warrants for Larceny out of Gordon County. Serrano was charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Related Objects and Improper Turn. Corzo was charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, Possession of Cocaine and Possession of Drug Related Objects. The juvenile was charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, Possession of Cocaine and Possession of Drug Related Objects. Salvation Army, and Blewer Memorial Food Pantry. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must apply in writing to the Local Board Chair. Requests for funding should be mailed to Courtney Taylor, Local Board Chair, 4543 Fairmount Hwy, Calhoun, GA 30701. The contact phone for the Local Board Chair is 706-602-2905. Requests can also be emailed to ctaylor@gordoncounty.org. Written requests for funding must be received by the Local Board Chair by no later than 5PM on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

the President, Vice President, members of the administration, and our nation’s governors. We appreciate the President’s leadership during these difficult times, and we are grateful for the resources provided as we work to keep Georgians safe and ensure a bright and prosperous future in every corner of our great state. “While it’s easy to get discouraged or lost in the noise, I have found inspiration and encouragement from small business owners who were able to safely open their doors and serve customers in their city or town. I know this situation can test your patience and your faith, but please know, we stand with you. “Over the weekend, I also heard from doctors in our state concerned about patient health and well-being. Given the shelter in place order and need to social distance, many with chronic diseases or medical needs have avoided the doctor’s office or the pharmacy. If you have a medical need, please take advantage of the telehealth opportunities that many doctors have embraced during this pandemic. At the very least, call your physician to check in and schedule your appointment. Make the necessary arrangements today to ensure a healthy tomorrow. “I want to close today with a renewed call for unity. These are unprecedented times in our state and nation, but we are making great progress. We have accomplished much, but there’s still a long way to go. “There are differing opinions on how best to tackle COVID-19; how and when we reopen parts of the economy; the path forward to ensure a safer, stronger, and more prosperous future for our state. But I can promise you this: there is more that unites us than divides us. We all want to protect our families and our neighbors. We all want to emerge from this pandemic safe and victorious. “So please, stand with us in the days and weeks and months ahead. Encourage your loved ones to follow the Executive Orders and social distancing guidance. Find a way to support your local businesses, and take care of your neighbors who need help. Use social media to share important updates and highlight the good that’s going on around us. “And I would ask all Georgians to do what I do every day. Pray for the state’s health leaders who are helping chart our course forward. Pray for those on the frontlines, and pray for your elected officials who are trying to do what’s right for the people they serve. “I urge you to continue to follow our guidelines and take care of the most vulnerable. If we do, I am confident that together, we will defeat COVID-19 and our best days will remain ahead.”

GORDON

Gazette

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY EVENTS | EDUCATION | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | GORDON COUNTY LIFE

Lewis named assistant principal at CMS

CONTRIBUTED

Misty is currently in her 19th year as an educator. She presently serves as an English Language Arts teacher at Calhoun Middle School and Leadworthy Coach for Calhoun High School. Misty is a proud 1995 graduate of Calhoun High School. She recently returned to her alma mater and was excited to give back to the school system that gave so much to her. Misty received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southern University. She continued her education at Piedmont College to obtain a Masters Degree in Leadership and a Specialist Degree

in Curriculum and Instruction. Misty also holds a Gifted Endorsement. Misty began her teaching career in 2001 in Burke County. She has had the opportunity to work within several school systems, due to her husband’s job, which also gives her a unique perspective and varied levels of experience. Misty made the move back to Gordon County in 2016 where she taught at Red Bud Middle School, before joining the Calhoun Middle School team in 2018. Misty’s end goal was to return to Calhoun so that she could influence students within the same school system where she was impacted by so many influential teachers. Misty has taught ELA, Reading, and Social

Studies within grades 5-8. She has served as a Curriculum Team Leader, Diversity Task Force team member, Mentor Teacher, Beta Club Sponsor, Yearbook Advisor, served on various School Leadership Teams, is a current member of the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee, and has been recognized as a past Teacher of the Year. Misty has also worked at our local Boys and Girls Club as the teen director working with middle and high school aged students. She used this outlet to foster positive relationships with many of her current and former students and their families. Misty is self-motivated, flexible, and equipped to work effectively with the

campus administrative team as we look to make the 2020-2021 school year the best year yet! Misty comes into this position with some specific and strategic plans to improve discipline practices at CMS. She believes in looking at the whole child during the discipline process to determine root causes as to why students behave the way they do and offering progressive resolutions that support the teacher but also support the student in understanding their role in the process. Misty is married to Tim Lewis and they have two sons, Christian and Christopher, who are 10th graders at Calhoun High School. We welcome Mrs. Lewis to the administrative team at the Campus.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stanley chosen as finalist for Governor’s Honors Program

CONTRIBUTED

Congratulations to Sonoraville High School junior, Sydney Stanley, who was recently chosen as a finalist for the Georgia Governor’s Honors Program in the area of Theatre. GHP is a summer program for the state’s most gifted and talented students. Sydney was selected through an application process as well as an interview and audition.



CCS announces Jacket Jamboree Summer Program on hold, but not cancelled

CONTRIBUTED

Due to current guidelines provided by Governor Kemp and the CDC, Jacket Jamboree is unable to open at this time. However, as soon as it is deemed “safe” for students to be on campus, we will open Jacket Jamboree for summer programming. We look forward to once again opening our doors to students in the community, stated Superintendent Dr. Michele Taylor. Please continue to monitor our website at www.calhounschools.org



and the Calhoun Community Education facebook page for up to date announcements. Stay safe and stay well!



Mannington donates face shields to Sheriff’s Office

CONTRIBUTED

Gordon County Sheriff Mitch Ralston extended a sincere ‘Thank You’ to Mannington Industries here in Calhoun on Tuesday for their gracious donation of face shields to the Sheriff’s Office. The shields will be used by deputies as protection against possible infection during the current public health crisis. Sheriff Ralston said, “I’d like to thank all the great people at Mannington Industries for this kind donation. We appreciate the shields very much and we will put them to good use. Mannington Industries is a great community partner.” Pictured, left-to-right: Jane Rierson of Mannington Industries, Deputy Sheriff Jarrod Powell and Corporal Cody Black, and Senior VP Michael Edwards of Mannington Industries



Gordon County Fire & Rescue performing hydrant service

CONTRIBUTED

Gordon County Fire & Rescue crews are currently out performing the mission of hydrant service and maintenance operations. Please be mindful of fire apparatus and firefighters in the roadways over the next couple of weeks as they preform this important function to ensure our hydrants are accessible and operational. This may cause some temporary dingy or rust colored water from faucets. Should you experience any dingy or rust colored water, simply allow the water to run for a short while to clear the water from your pipes. We apologize for any inconvenience. Pictured, FF S. Moore and FF J. Oliver. Photo credit: Lt. B. Nicholson

Tallatoona LIHEAP Cooling Assistance has begun

CONTRIBUTED

The annual Tallatoona LIHEAP Cooling Assistance Program has begun. Low Income Energy Assistance Program Cooling Assistance available; appointments have begun for seniors: Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Inc. has begun the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

(LIHEAP) Cooling Assistance for Gordon County. On April 1 at 8:30 a.m., Tallatoona began accepting appointments for the LIHEAP cooling program for senior households age 65 and older, along with homebound households. Appointments for the general public will be accepted beginning May 1, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Gordon County residents who qualify will receive either \$350 or \$400 toward their electric bill. To schedule an appointment, visit the Tallatoona website at www.tallatoonacap.org and click ‘BookNow,’ or call 770-817-4666, extension 2. It’s important to note that due to health and safety concerns related to COVID 19, appointments for assistance will be completed remotely by phone. Tallatoona officers are currently closed until further notice.

THE HUNT FOR FILM: Rewatching the 2000s



COOPER HUNT
Movie Reviews at
The Hunt For Film

TOP 20 OF THE 2000s

My Top Twenty isn’t based on objective critical quality or awards-deserving attributes. These are simply the films I personally enjoyed and appreciated the most from the 2000’s.

#1 The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)

Viggo Mortensen and Sean Astin own this film, not to mention Serkis as Gollum or Shore’s music, and it serves as an unspeakably satisfying, emotionally-charged conclusion to my all-time favorite trilogy. “A day may come when the courage of Men fails, when we forsake our friends and break all bonds of fellowship, but it is not this day. An hour of wolves and shattered shields when the Age of Men comes crashing down, but it is not this day. This day we fight!”
Grade: A+

#2 The Dark Knight (2008)

Christopher Nolan’s true magnum opus tests our hero’s idealistic stance through a defining performance from Heath Ledger, equipped with a magnificent script, supporting cast, and score. “He’s the hero Gotham deserves, but not the one it needs right now. So we’ll hunt him because he can take it. Because he’s not our hero. He’s a silent guardian, a watchful protector... a Dark Knight.”
Grade: A+

#3 The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)

Tolkien’s world is realized to perfection, powerfully enlivened by one of the best ensemble casts ever gathered and enriched by artists with Oscar-winning skill in costumes, makeup, visuals, and music. “All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us. There are other forces at work in this world besides the will of evil... And that is an encouraging thought.”
Grade: A+

#4 Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003)

The quintessential swashbuckling adventure

is made memorable by Johnny Depp’s best performance and the unique directing style of Gore Verbinski in addition to a truly ingenious story and screenplay.

“A dishonest man you can always trust to be dishonest. Honestly, it’s the honest ones you want to watch out for because you can never predict when they’re going to do something incredibly... stupid.”
Grade: A+

#5 The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002)

A grimmer sequel in which Andy Serkis’ Oscar-worthy performance is the best of numerous highlights, the world is expanded brilliantly, and it’s topped off with the best battle in cinematic history. “Even darkness must pass. A new day will come. And when the sun shines, it will shine out the clearer... there’s some good in this world, Mr. Frodo, and it’s worth fighting for.”
Grade: A+

#6 O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000)

A simple idea of true comedic inspiration that meets the high mark of The Odyssey with side-splitting, endlessly quotable dialogue and performances, as well as a wonderful amalgamation of timely tunes. “You sold your soul to the devil? Well, ain’t it a small world, spiritually speaking. Pete and Delmar have just been baptized and saved. I guess I’m the only one that remains unaffiliated.”
Grade: A

#7 Inglorious Basterds (2009)

Tarantino writes/directs a mind-boggling screenplay packed with heart-pounding suspense and tension as well as that signature dark hilarity, brought to life by powerhouses Brad Pitt and Christoph Waltz. “You said the rendezvous was in a tavern... You know, fightin’ in a basement offers a lot of difficulties. Number one being, you’re fightin’ in a basement.”
Grade: A

#8 Casino Royale (2006)

Daniel Craig’s 007 debut is the best Bond film as it grounds the character in an unprecedented sense of realism and relatable humanity, including scene after scene of engagement in both action and drama. “Any thug can kill. I want you to take your ego out of the equation.”
Grade: A

#9 Gladiator (2000)

My favorite revenge film earns its awards by

incorporating subtexts of not only mortality but morality and honor, featuring Oscar-worthy showcases from Joaquin Phoenix, Russel Crowe, and Oliver Reed. “Ultimately, we’re all dead men. Sadly, we cannot choose how, but what we can decide is how we meet that end, in order that we are remembered... as men.”
Grade: A

#10 The Prestige (2006)

Nolan crafts a genuinely shocking and underrated thriller that keeps the mind-blowing twists coming and only becomes more haunting and compelling every time that it’s rewatched. “Now you’re looking for the secret. But you won’t find it because, of course, you’re not really looking. You don’t really want to work it out. You want to be fooled.”
Grade: A

#11 Up (2009)

One of Pixar’s best, it’s a tearfully heartwarming story that, through the beautiful vessel that is Carl Fredrickson, encourages us all to rediscover the value of youth, innocence, and our sense of adventure. “Adventure is out there!”
Grade: A-

#12 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest (2006)

A remarkable sequel that nearly exceeds the original by means of its perfected plot and character developments, well-acted villain, special effects, and Hans Zimmer’s truly phenomenal musical score. “That you would risk your life to save Jack Sparrow’s does not mean that he would do the same for anyone else.”
Grade: A-

#13 Shrek 2 (2004)

One of the most overlooked great sequels that features a ridiculously amazing soundtrack and hilarious character-based writing that audiences are hard-pressed to find in recent animated films. “Donkey, you have the right to remain silent. What you lack is the capacity.”
Grade: A-

#14 Rocky Balboa (2006)

Sylvester Stallone beats the odds yet again as the trifecta of actor, writer, and director in an unexpected comeback by bringing Rocky’s personal story to a poignant finish. “It’s your right to listen to your gut, it ain’t nobody’s right to say no after you earned the right to be where you want to be, do what you want to do... the older I get the more things I gotta leave behind, that’s life.”

Grade: A- #15 The Incredibles (2004)

An action-packed and strikingly stylish family flick exceeds the mark of many live action superhero films and sets a high bar for original storytelling at Pixar that has rarely been met since then. “WHERE IS MY SUPER SUIT?”
Grade: A-

#16 Ratatouille (2007)

Pixar takes an incredibly unique turn into French culture and cuisine in a beautiful animated film that engages all the senses and is enough to make even the harshest critic crack a smile. “The bitter truth critics must face is that the average piece of junk is more meaningful than our criticism designating it so. There are times when a critic truly risks something, the discovery & defense of the new.”
Grade: A-

#17 Catch Me If You Can (2002)

Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks go head-to-head in a humorous yet dramatic international battle of the wits that keeps the viewer questioning as to who they’re morally obligated to root for. “Sometimes it’s easier living the lie. I’m going to let you fly tonight, Frank. I’m not even going to try to stop you. That’s because I know you’ll be back on Monday. Frank, look... Nobody’s chasing you.”
Grade: A-

#18 WALL-E (2008)

The initial 45 minutes may be Pixar’s greatest work ever put to screen as a gorgeously animated sci-fi silent film with adorable character design, robot romance, and a healthy dose of social commentary. “Try Red! It’s the new Blue!”
Grade: A-

#19 Star Trek (2009)

J.J. Abrams makes a rare hit with a reboot that brings fresh blood via an amazing cast and,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

despite lacking the property’s subtler nuances, results in a great voyage aboard the Enterprise. “Your father was Captain of a starship for twelve minutes. He saved eight hundred lives, including your mother’s and yours. I dare you to do better.”
Grade: B+

#20 The Simpsons Movie (2007)

Though not their best storyline, the show-runners deliver a film which works as an essential Simpsons misadventure with countless laugh-out-loud satirical bits from all of our favorite Springfield residents. “D’oh!”
Grade: B+

HONORABLE MENTIONS OF THE DECADE

Some films that I enjoyed or appreciated but didn’t make it into my Top 20 were...

The Patriot (2000)

The Bourne Identity (2002)

Johnny English (2003)

Finding Nemo (2003)

Harry Potter and

the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004)

Napoleon Dynamite (2004)

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy (2004)

Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005)

Walk the Line (2005)

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005)

Nacho Libre (2006)

Hot Fuzz (2007)

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End (2007)

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007) Iron Man (2008) Avatar (2009)

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

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

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GAZETTE SPORTS

Prep Football

NWGFOA in need of officials for high school football

Brandi Owczarz
gordongazettega@gmail.com

The Northwest Georgia Football Officials Association (NWGFOA) is looking for those in the community interested in making a difference in the lives of teenagers throughout Northwest Georgia, including Calhoun-Gordon County.

According to the NWGFOA, there’s a critical shortage of high school officials in almost every sport, with some communities having to postpone or cancel games due to the lack of officials to call games.

“Becoming a high school official is the easiest call you’ll ever

make,” said an official with NWGFOA. “High school officials protect the integrity of the games our kids love to play by demonstrating qualities like honesty, objectivity, consistency, courage and common sense. Officials have the opportunity to help teenagers learn life lessons that will benefit them. As veteran officials continue to retire, new officials have an opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of young people every year.”

NWGFOA said there are many benefits to becoming an officials, including being a role model for the youth of your community; being

an official is a great way to stay in good physical condition; the hours are flexible; you will earn extra income; it’s a good way to network and make lifetime friends; the earlier you begin, the higher levels you can achieve; you can stay connected to the sports you love; and it’s a lot of fun.

According to the official, the average annual pay for a football official is \$1,500 per year, but the more you are available to work, the more you can make. Some football officials make as much as \$3,000 per year, with others making up to \$10,000 annually by calling multiple high school sports.

NORTHWEST GEORGIA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION



SCAN TO REGISTER

If you love football, your journey to making a difference and helping prep sports begins by visiting the NWGFOA website at www.nwgfoa.org.

Coaching News

Green set to take over as head wrestling coach at CHS

CONTRIBUTED

Calhoun High School alumni Luke Green (‘13) has been named the new head coach of the Calhoun High School wrestling program for the 2020-2021 school year. His recommendation for employment as a science teacher at the campus of Calhoun Middle and High School was approved by the Board of Education on Monday. Coach Green has spent the past two years teaching science and coaching at Chattooga High School. In addition to coaching wrestling at Chattooga High, Coach Green also served as a football assistant coach. As an assistant, Coach Green helped lead the wrestling team to a pair of state titles in 2020 as Chattooga High School captured the team duals and traditional wrestling state championships. Coach Green also helped Chattooga to a third-place team finish in the 2019 state traditional finals.

The 2013 Calhoun High School graduate wrestled and played football all four years of high school. Coach Green became accustomed to winning while at Calhoun as he was a member of one state championship (2011 - football), three state runners-ups (2009, 2010, & 2012 - football), and five region championships (2012 - wrestling, 2009-2012

- football). After graduating from Calhoun High School, Coach Green attended Shorter University where he played football for four years and was a three-time member of the Gulf South Conference Academic Honor Roll. Coach Green was awarded a Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship to attend Kennesaw State University to obtain his master’s degree after graduation from Shorter University.

Coach Micheal Herndon will continue to support the wrestling program by electing to transition to the head coach position of Calhoun Middle School. Coach Herndon looks forward to using his eight years of high school head coaching experience to help develop Calhoun’s wrestling program. Coach Green provided the following comment about the future of Calhoun wrestling: “I am honored to return to my alma mater and accept my dream job as the head wrestling coach at Calhoun High School. While growing the high school program into a state title contender is my main priority, I look forward to working with Coach Herndon and our community to engage wrestlers at the middle and elementary levels to build a strong foundation for sustained success. I would like to thank the Board of Education, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Coombe, and Mr. Holley for the opportunity to lead the wrestling program and I am ready to get to work.”



CJ Collins joins CHS staff as football assistant

CONTRIBUTED

CJ Collins will be joining the Calhoun High School football staff as an assistant coach after his recommendation for employment was approved by the Board of Education on Monday. Coach Collins will be teaching high school math and was most recently a teacher and offensive line coach at Cherokee High School. Coach Collins is a graduate of Sequoyah High School and attended Kennesaw State University where he received a Bachelor’s degree in mathematics education. He is also finishing his Master’s degree in secondary mathematics education from Kennesaw State University this summer. CJ was a four-year football letterman at Kennesaw State where he achieved numerous accolades including 2017 & 2018 1st team All-Big South and 2018 Consensus All-American honors.



Kent Howard tapped to lead CMS Boys Basketball

CONTRIBUTED

Kent Howard has been named the new head coach of the Calhoun Middle School boys basketball team after his recommendation for employment was approved by the Board of Education on Monday night. Coach Howard will be joining Calhoun High School as a special education teacher after serving as the Area Director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) for the past five years. He joins Calhoun City Schools with 13 years of teaching experience and 12 years of high school coaching experience. Coach Howard has coached basketball, track, and football during his time at Model High School, Rome High School, and Adairsville High School. While at Adairsville High School, Coach Howard served as the head boys basketball coach from 2012-2014, the Career Technical Agricultural Education (CTAE) department chair, and was a finalist for Adairsville High School Teacher of the Year in 2011. Kent added the following statement about his hiring at Calhoun: “I am honored and excited to work alongside the leadership at Calhoun City Schools to continue building great academic and athletic programs. My two children attend Calhoun City Schools and being with them each day will be a tremendous blessing. I constantly hear great leaders and athletes talk about the tremendous influence that their middle school coaches had on their life. The opportunity to coach these young guys as they cross the bridge from childhood to their teen years is priceless. I am grateful to Dr. Taylor and the Board of Education, as well as Dr. Coombe, Mrs. Parker, Mr. Holley,



and Coach Layson for their vote of confidence as the new middle school boys basketball coach”.

Coach Howard is a graduate of Rome High School where he was an all-region and all-state basketball player. He was named the North Georgia Player of the Year by the Atlanta Tip-Off Club and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He was also named the Player of the Year by the Rome News Tribune. He continued his basketball career at Shorter University where he was a four-year letterman setting multiple individual and career records. Coach Howard graduated from Shorter University with a degree in Business Administration and holds graduate degrees from Walden University and Liberty University. Kent has been married to his wife Lauren for 20 years and together they have two children: Isabelle (14) and Mac (10).

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