

GORDON Gazette

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office is working to raise awareness of...and funds for...fighting domestic violence in our community. In the hopes of reducing the stigma and opening dialogue on the issue of domestic violence, a local survivor shares her story.

Brandi Owczarz
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October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Gordon Gazette will be on hand this Friday, Oct. 4, for the Walk A Mile In Her Shoes event, a men's march held each year to not only bring awareness of domestic violence in our community, but to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence.

According to the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence website,

between Oct. 2017 and Sept. 2018, almost 46,000 domestic violence crisis line calls were answered in the state of Georgia, with more than 10,000 rape and sexual assault crisis line calls answered in the same time period.

The GCADV says that, statistically, around 70 percent of domestic violence deaths in Georgia each year are committed using firearms, with 850 Georgians killed by firearms in domestic violence incidents between 2010 and 2018.

In Gordon County,

there's a place for victims of Domestic Violence to get the help they need to break the cycle of abuse at the Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office, located at 717 South Wall Street, Suite D, in Calhoun across from the Sonic. It's the place that Betty*, a former resident of Henry County who has lived in Gordon County the past seven years, went to get help to leave an abusive relationship.

See **BETTY**,
page 6A

* Name changed for protection of survivor.



Gordon County BOE votes 3-2 to keep millage rate of 19.172 instead of taking rollback

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One person spoke passionately... and bluntly...to the Gordon County Board of Education Monday afternoon during the third and final public hearing concerning the millage rate proposal of 19.172, which will keep the same millage rate as last year, instead of taking a partial rollback of 18.990 or full rollback of 18 mills, while a school administrator asked the Board to keep the millage rate but didn't have the accurate numbers for that millage rate. Only five of the Gordon County Board of Education members were available for the vote; members Chris

Johnson and Bobby Hall were both absent from the meeting.

As stated previously, even though the millage rate will stay the same, it is still considered a tax increase because the tax digest in Gordon County increased this year after property assessments.

What that means for a homeowner under the homestead exemption with a fair market value on their home of \$150,000 (the average property value for a home in Gordon County), the cost difference at the current 19.172

See **BOE**,
page 2B



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the Gordon BOE's final public hearing concerning millage on Monday, from left, Dr. Kimberly Fraker, Eddie Hall, Kacey Smith, Jason Hendrix, Dana Stewart and Charlie Walraven.

Calhoun Fire begins firefighter training class



BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff

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The Calhoun Fire Department this week began a new Firefighter 1 training class for five recruits; three who will be new hires for the Calhoun Fire Department, and two who will be hires for Chatsworth Fire Department.

The three recruits for Calhoun Fire are Mike Chavez, Chase Potter and Gage Potter. Chatsworth Fire's recruits Garrett Jones and Alaska Gaddy round out the training course.

The three Calhoun recruits for Class #04 are much needed help for a department that has seen

its fair share of big fires in the last few weeks.

Calhoun Fire's Training Chief Chris Cox said that there was a rigorous process for the three recruits before being selected as their potential new hires.

"They had to do a physical ability test; once they passed that, they had a written test the same day," said Cox. "Anybody that passed the physical ability test, we looked at their written test, along with a short essay they had to write, and then brought them in to interviews."

Cox said that by the end of the eight-week class, the recruits would have the minimum

training needed to become certified as a Firefighter 1 in the state of Georgia.

"The first week and a half is going to be hazardous materials training; we'll train them and they'll test next week on the hazardous materials operations level," said Cox. "They have to have that training to be able to get their Firefighter 1. After we get through HAZMAT and test for it, then we move into the firefighter portion. That'll be six to six-and-a-half weeks of firefighter training, everything from

See **CFD**,
page 2B



Gordon County implements temporary burn ban

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The Gordon County Board of Commissioners on Monday night voted unanimously to impose a temporary burn ban.

Due to the extremely dry conditions, Gordon County Fire Chief Doug Ralston requested an immediate temporary ban on all types of outdoor burning, including CAMP FIRES, OPEN COOKING FIRES,

WARMING FIRES AND BONFIRES in all unincorporated areas of Gordon County.

This also includes a ban on the use of CONSUMER FIREWORKS.

Gordon County Fire & Rescue responded to 13 brush fires in September, all during the time of the state-mandated burn band.

Violation of this local burn ban could result in a \$1,000 FINE and

up to SIX MONTHS IN JAIL. In addition, the violator could be held responsible from an out of control fire. The Board also reminds the public it is always illegal to burn household trash, furniture, cardboard and similar materials.

The burn ban is in effect from 6:30 p.m. Oct. 1 and will remain in effect until it is revoked by the Board of Commissioners.

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Board of Commissioners vote to keep same millage rate as last year, electing not to take rollback.

COMMUNITY 1B



Annual New Echota Heritage Day to take place Saturday, Nov. 2.

PREP FOOTBALL 1C



Sonoraville, Gordon Central ready for region matchups on the road on Friday.

Second Front

Board of Commissioners vote to keep millage rate the same as last year at Tuesday night's meeting

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The millage rate will stay the same as last year at 9.63 mills with the Board of Commissioners not electing to take the rollback at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday night. Even though the millage rate will stay the same, it is still considered a tax increase because the tax digest in Gordon County increased this year after property assessments.

"It is the lowest millage rate since 2010," said County Administrator Jim Ledbetter.

It was explained at the Sept. 24 meeting of the Commissioners that with property values increasing, that staying at the 9.63 millage rate will collect additional revenue for the

County.

"The cost of providing goods and services has gone up, just like property values have gone up," said Ledbetter at that meeting, point out that a major expense for the county is insurance costs, which have gone up around \$800,000 and is expected to go up again, and that cost is not being passed down to employees.

There was a third and final public hearing on the matter Tuesday night, with two citizens voicing their opposition to keeping the millage rate at 9.63 mills.

Victoria Choate, who lives on Roland Hayes Parkway, was the first to speak.

"The reason I'm here is because when I read in the paper there's been little attendance of these public meetings, with little opposition, I

felt like I needed to be here this evening to voice my opposition to these increases," said Choate. "And people that I have talked to aren't even aware of it because so many people don't get the newspaper. They don't list to the local radio and it's been on the radio, so they aren't even aware of it. I'll be honest with you, I have not read every little detail; the budget I've tried to read all the information in the newspaper. I know as an individual at the corporate business level, when you don't have enough money you cut back on every entity that you can. I did read that that was looked at in details and that if there were any ideas to propose them. I don't know if layoffs with some of the county employees was addressed or perhaps even merging department heads where one person could be over multiple departments

to reduce salary expenses. But I just wanted to voice my opposition to these tax increases."

Donna Sandy of Riverband Road, Plainville, also addressed the Board.

"I'd also like to express my having a problem with this rate increase," said Sandy. "We moved here 15 years ago because the rates were so low, and every year, they seem to go up \$2000 or \$3000, and of course in Plainville we don't really see the benefit of that for the most part because we're so isolated. I don't know where the money is going so all I can tell you that as a single wage earner for our family, these continual increases every single year are a real hardship."

All five commissioners voted in favor of keeping the 9.63 millage rate.

Obituaries

October 2, 2019

Linda English

Linda Sue English, 73, of Calhoun, died Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 at AdventHealth Gordon. She was born in Kingwood, W.V. on Jan. 11, 1946, daughter of the late LTC Ellsworth and Annabel DeBerry Metheny. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her fur baby, Dawn.



Being the daughter of a military Dad, she traveled extensively, living in Turkey, Korea and Alaska, and visiting Europe, Russia, and the Holy Land. Linda and her family owned and operated Pasquale's in Calhoun from 1979 until 1994. She moved to Panama City Beach, Fla. in 2012, moving back to Calhoun in June of 2019. She was very artistic, a writer and an avid bowler.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Angie English; her daughters, Lisa Brzozoski and Barbara Bass; her grandchildren, Jason English and Kendra, Terri Garmon and Aaron, Matthew Williams, Jacob Brzozoski and Lindsey, Shannon Junkins and Justin, and Andrea Brzozoski; nine great-grandchildren; her sister and brother-in-law, Sandra and Tom McKinney; and a special niece and nephew, Kris Hiitt and Brett, and John Decker and Heather.

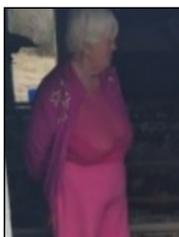
A Memorial Service to honor her life will be held Sunday, Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home, with Rev. Henry Hazzard officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Sunday, Oct. 13 from 12:30 p.m. until the service hour.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home of Calhoun.



Sue Galmon

Ms. Sue Ann Galmon, known by most everyone as "Susie", 62, of Mt. Zion Road, the Resaca community, departed this life suddenly Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 at her home.



She was born on Sept. 20, 1957 in Calhoun. She was a daughter of the late Hubert and Viola Lance Gallman. In addition to her parents she was also preceded in death by her sister, Martha Gallman.

She was a member of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Resaca.

Sue is survived by her brother, Henry Gallman; her best friend and who was just like family, Rachel Gallman all of Resaca; several nieces, nephews, a large church family and many friends also survive.

Memorial Services to celebrate the life of Ms. Sue Galmon was held on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019 at 7 p.m. from Mt. Zion Baptist Church with Reverend Kenny Sheriff and Reverend David Peeler officiating.

Sue's family will receive friends on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church from 6 p.m. until the service hour.

Arrangements by locally owned and operated Ponders Calhoun Chapel and Ponders Dalton Crematory, Hwy 41 North, Calhoun, Georgia. 706-625-7577



Helen Hall

Mrs. Helen Louise Jackson Hall, age 89 of the Farmville Community, passed away after several years of declining health on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at her residence.



Helen was born on September 10, 1930 in Gordon County, GA to the late William Dayton Jackson and Louise Hollaran Jackson. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by: her husband, Jack Hall in January 2006; daughter-in-law, Emily Etheredge Hall; sister, Margie Jackson Nesbitt; two brothers, William Harold Jackson and Norman Jackson; three sisters-in-law, Frances Hall Davis, Mary Hall Thomas, and Inez Hall Bramlett; and two brothers-in-law, Don Hall and Howard Hall.

Helen was a Charter Member of Philadelphia Baptist Church and was a retired employee of Gordon County Schools.

Helen is survived by: her son, Ben (Dianne) Hall of Calhoun; daughter, Judith (Robert) Arnold of Fairmount; three grandchildren, Adam (Kim) Hall of Woodstock, GA, Elizabeth (Duke) Arnold Pierson of Calhoun, and Robbie Arnold of Fairmount; two great-grandchildren, Reese Hall and Rylan Hall both of Woodstock, GA; three sisters, Eloise Jackson Moody of Houston, TX, Betty (Avis) Jackson Allen of Calhoun, and Joyce (Buck) Jackson Collum of Calhoun; three brothers, Jerry (Carolyn) Jackson

of Calhoun, Billy Jackson of Calhoun, and David (Barbara) Jackson of Calhoun; two sisters-in-law, Essie Ann (Gene) Holsomback of Calhoun and Jewel Hall of Calhoun; and brother-in-law, Lee (Lillie Mae) Hall of Calhoun. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

The family would like to give special thanks to Helen's caregivers, Lynell Harris, Chasity Harris, Audrey Harris and to the staff of Hometown Hospice.

Funeral Services for Mrs. Helen Hall will be held on Friday, October 4th at 11 AM at Philadelphia Baptist Church with Reverend Rodney Kelley officiating. Music will be arranged by Janice B. Steelman and Julie B. Whitworth. Interment will follow in the family lot in Blackwood Springs Cemetery.

Pallbearers serving are nephews. Honorary Pallbearers are Charley and Hilda Chadwick, Ken and Latricia Sutherland, William Nix, and Charles Kinnam.

The family will receive friends on Thursday from 5 PM until 8 PM at Philadelphia Baptist Church. The family will also receive friends on Friday from 10 AM until the funeral hour at 11 AM at Philadelphia Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Philadelphia Baptist Church Building Fund at 358 Hensley Road, SE, Calhoun, GA 30701.

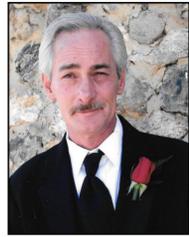
You may leave the family online condolences at www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com

Thomas Funeral Home oversees the arrangements for Mrs. Helen Louise Jackson Hall.



Wendell Mathews, Sr.

Wendell Ray Mathews Sr., 62, of Calhoun, died Friday, Sept. 27, 2019 at AdventHealth Gordon, following an extended illness. He was born in Fairmount on June 20, 1957, son of the late George Clifford Mathews and the late Larry and Inez Smith. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Jocelyn Mathews.



Wendell was retired from Mohawk Industries. He was a member of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

Survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, Wendell Ray and Mandi Mathews Jr., and Jonathan and Sonja Mathews; his daughters and sons-in-law, Chanel and Nick Hancock, and Elizabeth and Nathan Gay; his grandchildren, Austin and Mary Sue Cook, Tyler Cook, Emily Hancock, Hayden Mathews, Kaydence Mathews, Rhett Mathews, Laine Hall, Will Hall, Dakota Mathews, and Gracie Gay; his great-grandchild, Cason Cook; his brother and sister-in-law, Randall and Donna Mathews; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Marilyn and Keith Gibson, Peggy and Roger Pitts, and Betty Wilson; and his girlfriend, Dawn Pickering.

Services to honor his life were held Monday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. from Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, with Rev. Keith Gibson officiating. Music was arranged by the Pleasant Valley Praise Team. Interment followed in Crane Eater Cemetery. Grandchildren served as pallbearers.

The family received friends on Monday, Sept. 30 at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, from 4 p.m. until the service hour of 6 p.m.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to Dr. Anthony Captain, nurses on the PCU floor at AdventHealth Gordon, Ben Griffin with Griffin Medical Supply, and the staff and nurses of Homestead Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Hospital, and the Animal Rescue League of Northwest Georgia.

Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home of Calhoun.



Rev. Jerry McBrayer

Rev. Jerry Charles McBrayer, 72, of Calhoun, died suddenly on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 at his home. He was born in Murray County on Dec. 10, 1946, son of the late Fred C. and Bonnie M. Sexton McBrayer. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant sister, Rosia Irene McBrayer, and a brother, Billy Hoyt McBrayer.



He was a graduate of Murray County High School and Reinhardt University. Rev. McBrayer pastored several churches, including Evergreen Baptist, Corinth Baptist, and Bethel Baptist, and assisted at New Prospect Baptist. He played guitar at church, with church groups, quartets, and was currently playing at Damascus Baptist with his sister on piano.

Survivors include his sons, Charlie McBrayer and

his wife Amy, and Billy McBrayer; his grandchildren, Nicholas and Rhonda McBrayer, Bryan and Tasha McBrayer, Kelsey McBrayer, and Jordan Bain; his great-grandchildren, Aubrey and Drennon; brothers and sisters-in-law, John and Kay McBrayer, James and Laura McBrayer, Roy and Rita McBrayer, and Lamar McBrayer; his sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Bill Price; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A Memorial Service to honor his life will be held Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 1 p.m. until the service hour.

The family requests flowers be omitted, and memorial donations made to Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Charlie McBrayer, 188 Deer Park Drive, Chatsworth, GA 30705.

Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home of Calhoun.



Ray Thurman

Ray Thurman, 57, of Calhoun, died Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019 in Redmond Regional Medical Center, following two years of declining health.



Ray was born in Cartersville on Aug. 6, 1962, son of Willie Bell Thurmond Cowart and the late Luther Harold Whitener. He enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, hunting, and mowing his lawn. Prior to retirement, he was employed by Mohawk Industries. He was of the Christian faith.

Survivors include his daughter, Amber Thurman and her fiancé, Sammy McGee of Calhoun; his mother, Willie Bell Thurman Cowart of Calhoun; his sister, Tammy Thurman; along with an aunt, uncles, and cousins.

Services to honor the life of Ray Thurman were held Monday, Sept. 30, 2019 at 11 a.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home, with Rev. Terry Timms officiating. Interment followed in Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery near Rydal. Pallbearers serving included Anthony Gregory, Ricky Thurman, Ronald Thaggard, Nicole Simerly, Emma Russell, and Sammy McGee.

The family received friends on Sunday, Sept. 29 between the hours of 2 - 7 p.m.

Condolences may be expressed and the guest register signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ray Thurman, 57, of Calhoun.



Elbert Watkins

Elbert Olen Watkins, age 80, of Calhoun, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019 at AdventHealth Gordon.

Elbert was born on Feb. 27, 1939 in Gordon County to the late Harold Watkins and Mary Elizabeth Harris Watkins. In addition to his parents, Elbert was also preceded in death by his wife, Shelba Jean Erwin Watkins; and daughter, Melissa Watkins. Elbert served in the United States Air Force and was a Veteran of the Vietnam Era. He was retired from G.E. of Rome and was a good mechanic.

Elbert is survived by: two brothers, Jimmy R. Watkins and Loyie Watkins; brother-in-law, Larry Erwin; two sisters-in-law, Estelle Watkins and Elaine Erwin; four nephews, Keith Watkins, Steven Watkins, Jerry Watkins, and Phillip Erwin; and two nieces, Tracie Watkins and Andrea Erwin.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 1 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Reverend Winfred Casey officiating. Interment will follow in Chandler Cemetery.

Pallbearers serving include: Keith Watkins, Steven Watkins, Larry Erwin, Phillip Erwin, Tim Watkins, and David Patterson.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Oct. 1 from 5 until 8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

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

Thomas Funeral Home oversees the arrangements for Elbert Olen Watkins.



Gordon County Chamber of Commerce to present Candidates Forum Thursday night, Oct. 3, at Calhoun Depot

CONTRIBUTED

Gordon County, Ga, October 1, 2019—The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce Community & Government Affairs Committee will present a Candidates Forum at 5:30pm on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at the Calhoun Depot. The event will begin with a half-hour Meet & Greet with the forum itself beginning at 6:00pm. All candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves but only opposed candidates will participate in the question-answer session. There are fourteen positions on the ballot, with twenty qualifying candidates in six contested and eight uncontested races.

"The Candidates Forum is an important Chamber event, as it allows the presenting committee an opportunity to convene candidates and constituents during the election cycle for a meaningful exchange of information, which is one of our driving ambitions. The Chamber is not a political organization and does

not endorse any candidate or issue but works hard to provide its membership and community members access to the candidates and their platforms," said Kathy Johnson, President & CEO of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce. "A public forum is the best way to accomplish that mission in a way that is fair to all the candidates."

Chamber Board Members Jarod Powell, a Deputy with the Gordon County Sheriff Office's Community Crime Prevention Unit, and Brent Reynders, Vice-President of Sales and Marketing with M&S Logistics, lead the Community and Government Affairs Committee. Johnson will open the event with welcoming remarks and then local Boy Scout Troop #22, sponsored by Calhoun First United Methodist Church, will offer the Presentation of Colors. Mrs. Lucila Thompson, an educator with Calhoun City Schools, will perform the national anthem and Jeremy Kirby, Pastor at Meadowdale Baptist Church, will offer the invocation.

William R. Thompson, Jr., attorney for the Development Authority of Gordon County, will serve as moderator. The event will be available for public viewing on the City of Calhoun's youtube channel. Daniel Bell, Managing Editor of the Calhoun Times, Brandi Owczarz-Farrer, owner and editor of Gordon Gazette, and Sam Thomas, owner of WJTH Radio AM900/101.7, will form a three-person media panel partnering with students from all four local high schools to prepare and present questions to the opposed candidates.

The Municipal General Election Ballot includes current Mayor Jimmy Palmer running unopposed for reelection, current City Councilperson Jackie Palazzolo running unopposed for reelection to Post One, and incumbent City Councilperson Al Edwards running against Judy Peterson for Post Two. Eddie Reeves is unopposed for reelection to Post Four of the Calhoun City School Board while Becky George and Don Hood are competing in the race for Post

Five on the Calhoun City School Board, which was vacated by Tony Swink.

In Fairmount, Steve Brannon and Harry L. Pierce are running against one another in the mayoral race. John Holsomback is unopposed for Fairmount City Council Post Two and Billy Mauldin is unopposed for Fairmount City Council Post Four.

Resaca's mayoral race includes candidates Mitch Reed and Nathan Wyatt. Todd Rutledge is unopposed for Resaca Town Council Post One but Post Two sees competition between Ben Niles and Christopher "Kit" Cunningham.

James Miller and Taylor Payne are running against one another in the City of Plainville mayoral race, while Ray Black is unopposed for Post One on the City Council and Clark Bunch is unopposed for Post Two on the City Council.

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

Pierce promoted to president and CEO of NGBN

CONTRIBUTED

Chris Pierce was recently promoted to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of North Georgia National Bank in Calhoun. Prior to joining the NGBN team last year as Senior Vice President and Co-Senior Lender, he served in various capacities during his career, including Commercial Loan Officer, Market Leader and Market President.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After graduating from Calhoun High School, Pierce went on to graduate from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Management. He serves the community as an Executive Board Member for United Way and a Member of the United Way Trust Committee. Pierce is also a Board Member for the Calhoun High School Governance Committee and the Calhoun College and Career Academy, as well as, an active member of the Calhoun

Rotary Club.

"We feel very fortunate to have been able to assemble the management team we currently enjoy and know that with Chris' leadership, we will be able to serve our customers, our community, our associates, and our shareholders beyond

expectations as we grow the North Georgia area in the coming years. A big thank you for welcoming him in each of the communities we serve and I encourage everyone to let him know how he may serve your needs." Says Tom Kinnamorn, Chairman of the Board.



Calhoun Fire Department congratulates Lieutenant Clay Brown (pictured right) with 32 years of service, and Lieutenant Mark Dooley (pictured left) with 30 years of service, on their retirement from the Calhoun Fire Department during this month of October 2019.

On Behalf of Chief Lenny Nesbitt and the entire Calhoun Fire Department, we wish you both a Happy Retirement and thank you for more than 30 years of service.

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OP-ED

Opinions and Editorials

GORDON Gazette

Ken Herron: The Impeachment Frenzy



Ken Herron, Sr.
Local Columnist

kenherron37@yahoo.com

The Democrats lost the presidential election in 2016 to the Republicans and Donald Trump. All during the primary season the liberal press laughed about Donald Trump running for president. They were surprised when he won the nomination at the Republican convention but they thought he could never beat Hillary Clinton.

When the election was over, they could not believe that Hillary lost the election. They were certain that something had been done by Donald Trump that was illegal and caused him to win the election. The Democrats did achieve a victory by winning the majority of the House of Representatives in 2018. For the first two years of his presidency Donald Trump had a majority in both houses of Congress. The Senate did not have enough of a majority that they could get critical

bill passed. It only takes 51 votes to pass a bill in the Senate but it takes 60 votes to close debate. The Republican Speaker of the House was a Never Trump man and he did not help the president to achieve changes that the president wished to make. Since the Democrats gained control of the House of Representatives they have only passed liberal bills and sent them to the Senate. The Senate will not vote on these bills.

Since the results of the election became known, the Democrats have been searching for a crime or an illegal action by Donald Trump that will allow them to remove him from office. The Department of Justice and the FBI left in place by President Obama worked on this project to try to remove the president from office.

Many of them lost their jobs over this effort and eventually some of them may serve time in prison. None of the investigations, including Robert Mueller's 2 1/2 year foray, has shown any wrongdoing by President Trump. This has not slowed down the criticisms and accusations from the Democrats and the liberal media that believe something had to be wrong for President Trump to be elected. Many of them have the attitude that if anything is wrong anytime it must be somebody else's

fault. Hillary Clinton and the Democrats were so confident that she was going to win the presidency that she did not work very hard. After all it was her time to become president. Many of the Democrats thought that winning the Democratic nomination for president was a guarantee that she would be elected. There are more Democrats in the United States than there are Republicans. Two times since I have become an adult the Republicans have won the presidency with a minority vote. The founders of our country established the Electoral College to prevent three or four large states from determining who will be president. Republicans often win the vote in as much as 70 percent of the land area of the country. This represents less votes than are cast in the large states.

After trying every angle that they could think of, the Democrats have been unsuccessful in removing Donald Trump from the presidency. The latest effort involves a person they are calling a whistleblower. He is accusing President Trump of threatening to withhold aid to the nation of Ukraine if they do not restart their investigation of Joe Biden and his son Hunter. It is a matter of record that while Joe Biden was vice president, his son

was given a position at the largest energy company in the Ukraine. He was paid \$50,000 per month for his service. He had no experience in the energy business. There was a prosecutor in the Ukraine who was investigating the company for corruption. He has stated that his next interviews were to determine why Hunter Biden was put on the board of directors. The most obvious reason was that this would give them influence with the vice president of the United States. Vice President Biden threatened the president of Ukraine with withholding aid from the United States government if this prosecutor was not fired. He told the president of Ukraine that he was leaving the country in six hours and if this man was not fired within that time the Ukraine would not receive any aid from the United States. A new president was elected in the Ukraine in July 2019. President Trump called him on the telephone to congratulate him on his election. President Trump admits that he suggested that the new president investigate this incident with the Bidens but there was no threat of withholding aid.

There are four men who listen to all of the president's telephone calls and write down what they have heard from both parties of the telephone call. They compare their notes and the official record is a consolidation of the four sets of notes. None of the four men is the whistleblower. A copy of the consolidated notes is sent to each of the 15 intelligence departments. Locating the leak is a very difficult task. There is no sound recording of the president's telephone calls. The whistleblower stated that he had not seen the transcript of the call himself but it was told to him by someone who had read it. His identity has not been disclosed but he is thought to be a member of the intelligence services.

The new president of the Ukraine stated that there was no threat either verbally or implied by President Trump that aid would be withheld by the United States. The Democrats in the House of Representatives have jumped on this information and are using it to stir up their members on the subject of impeaching the president. None of the information was officially released to them at the time of their declarations and they were using their imagination as their current evidence. The transcript of the telephone call was released on Wednesday, September 25, after the multitude of Democrats had declared that it was worthy of impeachment.

The transcript did not contain a threat of any sort. In my mind the biggest investigation of this incident should be how the whistleblower obtained his information. The president's telephone calls should be private and not available to anyone. As it relates to foreign affairs the president should be able to assure the other party that what is said on the telephone by either of them will not be revealed. One unusual feature of the whistleblower's report was that it was written in a legal format indicating that it was prepared by a lawyer. It makes you wonder which member of Congress arranged this. There is a law that protects the identity of whistleblowers in the intelligence departments. It protects a person who has seen something firsthand that is improper.

The person who reported this telephone call does not qualify for the protection of whistleblowers since what he reported was secondhand and hearsay. Ken Herron is a long-time resident of Calhoun-Gordon County, and a long-time conservative columnist. The opinions he expresses in his columns do not necessarily represent the views of the Gordon Gazette. Readers can contact Ken Herron by emailing kenherron37@yahoo.com.

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Church News

Reaching out in Faith



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

One of my favorite passages of scripture is found in Acts chapter 3, verses 1-10. This is a recording of the first miracle of the New Testament Church, where Peter and John were on their way to the temple to pray.

"Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour." It's important to know two things about the timing of this event. First of all, this happened right after Pentecost. Secondly, this event took place at the hour of prayer, which was immediately following the hour of sacrifice. Peter and John didn't go to the temple for the hour of sacrifice, because they knew that Jesus had already become the only sacrifice that would be needed.

"And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the

temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms." This wasn't the first time that Peter and John had seen this man, because it says that he was laid there daily. However, since this was right after Pentecost, this was the first time they had seen the man through the power of the Holy Spirit. When a believer looks at people, they should see them differently than those that are not indwelt with the Spirit.

"And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, 'Look at us.' So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive

something from them." Every day the man laid helplessly asking people for money. The church should be a place for people to come when they have a need. It's important for the church to pay attention to the needs of folks around them.

"Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.' God used Peter to heal the man. There are people all over the world that are asking for help with real needs.

We must not turn away from them. You may not have the material thing that that person needs, but you do have that spiritual thing that they need, a personal relationship with Jesus. Don't be afraid to reach out to people by faith in his name.

"So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God." When healing comes to someone, whether it be physical or even greater spiritual, they will praise God for that great thing He has done for them. Those who experience the saving power of God will not get over it. "And all the people

saw him walking and praising God. Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

When someone receives the gift of Eternal Life through Christ, they will have a difficult time hiding it. Because of this, they will affect many around them.

Get outside the church today, and be the church. There are spiritually lame folks all around you, begging for your help. Reach out to them today in the name that's above every name. Be Blessed!

Church Calendar

Ongoing

-The Basement will hold **Nights of Worship** weekly each Saturday, with fellowship at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. The Basement is located at 903 D South Wall Street in Calhoun, beside Family Dollar Store.

-Oostanula Baptist Outreach Ministry will be open on the third Saturday of each month, taking donations for food and clothing.

-Oakman Baptist Church will open their monthly OVERFLOW Community Kitchen & Pantry open the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 5 to 6 p.m. They will be providing a meal and community fellowship, as well as food and other essential items to help meet needs of people in the community. All are welcome. Oakman Baptist Church is located at 2706 Highway 411 in Ranger. For more information,

visit the Oakman Baptist Church Facebook page or call 706-264-2555.

-Celebrate Recovery - Every Monday night at NorthPointe Church in Adairsville: Cross Talk Café begins at 6 p.m., Large Group Worship at 7 p.m. and Open Share Groups at 8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-Centered recovery program offering healing from life's Hurts, Habits and Hang-ups. NorthPointe is located at 30 Orchard Road, for more information contact Kitty at 404-642-3605 or go to www.northpointechurch.com.

-The Closet of Hope at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Calhoun will be open the third Saturday of each month from 9 - 11 a.m. There will be a free breakfast served until 10:30 a.m. The Closet of Hope is a community-wide, non-profit, faith-based clothing

ministry. If you would like to make a donation: Because of limited space right now, we can only take in donations of summer clothing and shoes in new or slightly used condition. For more information you can call 770-315-0556 or 706-676-6518. Check us out on Facebook by searching Pleasant Valley Church Calhoun or email us at pvcocalhoun@gmail.com.

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

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

New Town Homecoming



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Jordan Family Band will be singing at New Town Baptist Church, located at 897 New Town Church Road NE in Calhoun, on Sunday morning, Oct. 13, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The special singing is part of New Town Baptist's Homecoming Celebration. All are invited.

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BETTY

From page 1A

Betty, 37, wasn't just in one abusive relationship, but found herself in two abusive relationships. The first abusive relationship was with her husband of 10 years, whom she had two sons with. After getting away and divorcing her husband, Betty began dating a family friend who she felt was charming, her "knight in shining armor," who ended up being equally abusive. Here is her story:

"I was born and raised in Peachtree City," said Betty. "I moved up here almost seven years ago, escaping an abusive relationship. Ms. Debbie and Ms. Beth were the first two people I met up here."

Beth Peters is the Outreach Coordinator for Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office, and Debbie Lane is a Legal Advocate for the office.

"Neither relationship started out bad," said Betty. "It was very much a honeymoon. You slowly lose control of different things that it doesn't, at the time, look like you're losing control of; you just think they're caring. 'That was sweet, he's just checking to see if I made it to the store.'" But then it gets to the point of 'You've been gone too long. Who were you talking to? I know you're cheating.' And then the physical abuse would start. 'You're lying to me.' Then I would promise I wasn't but then I'd get beat on. Then my job was to the point where they weren't going to let me come to work, so he would beat on me where you couldn't see it. But then it's always 'I'm sorry. I didn't mean to do that. I'll never do it again.' It's a constant circle. In my case, with my ex-husband, my abuse got worse when he was having affairs. It got to the point where he would check the mileage on my car, but you don't call the police in general because in the beginning it was 'I'm sorry. I won't do that again.' At the end, it was 'I'll kill you if you call the police. I'll kill the kids if you call the police.'"

"The last incident (in Henry County), I finally called the police after 10 years of putting up with it," said Betty. "He had pushed me through a glass storm door, flipped me off my porch. My thumb was dislocated. He was choking me around the neck (and pinned me) on the ground. I kicked him to get him off of me. That was the night I called the police. The police came. He didn't leave any marks. They said 'Either you both go to jail or nobody goes.' Unfortunately, not a lot of officers don't understand the cycle of domestic violence, either they haven't been trained or they just don't know. Or they have women like me that call and the officer may have been to the house 10 times but when they get there, they caller says they are okay, not understand that our husband just told us they were going to kill us if we said anything. That's one thing that Ms. Debbie and Ms. Beth do is a great job with the law enforcement here (in Gordon County) is education, and how the domestic violence cycle works."

Betty's husband told her he wouldn't get a divorce; he would quit his job and wouldn't give her child support. Betty filed for divorce anyway. The couple had a race car – they lived near Atlanta Motor Speedway – which was in her name. During the divorce hearings, the judge ordered her husband to return the car to Betty.

"He was mad," said Betty of that day in court. "I knew the bailiff and the judge; they let him leave first. The bailiff walked me to the end of the courthouse and asked me if he wanted me to walk to parking deck. It had been about 20 minutes, so I said, 'No, he's probably gone by now.' So I walked to the parking lot, and my ex-husband pulls out and tries to run me over. It's on video at the courthouse. So they arrest him. The police officers that watched the video testified on my behalf. The judge let him go because the video didn't have audio. So, I had to break the cycle in that county (Henry County), because I didn't know where his connections were. He continually got out of everything."

Finally able to get a divorce and start a fresh life, Betty began dating, off and on for two years, a "nice guy" who was a family friend. She said that her ex-husband and ex-boyfriend abused her in very different ways. She had a baby boy with him.

"He was a family friend who I thought I knew, but I didn't know," said Betty. "My ex-boyfriend was very controlling. No makeup, he chose what I wore, he chose what color my hair was going to be."

"Statistics say an average victim goes back seven times," said Betty. "With my ex-husband, I way exceeded that seven times, but with the boyfriend too. We would stay apart, then it was 'I changed. I'm working here. I'm a religious person and I'm going to church and I'll go to church with you. We need to be a family for our son.'"

"All tugging at the heartstrings," said Debbie Lane, who sat in on the interview. "And it's the shame of the victim as well. They don't want anybody to know what they are going through. It's embarrassing and humiliating."

"You don't want anybody to see that part of you," said Betty. "And a lot of it is 'Well, you don't leave. You keep going back so it must not be that bad.' I've got that a lot, even from family."

"Nobody takes into consideration that the person that's abusing is a person the victim loves; it's the person they fell in love with" said Lane.

"I wasn't allowed to have friends, I wasn't allowed to talk on the phone with family, wasn't allowed to visit my grandmother," said Betty. "Nobody would think anything was wrong."

In addition to the physical and emotional abuse, one of the worse things for Betty was her loss of

identity.

"I was Little Miss Sunshine," said Betty. "I was in charge of the morale team where I worked; I worked for a big corporation. I was a cheerleader. I was a very social person. It to the point where I'd go in public and my head was down and I never made eye contact with anybody. They break you little by little and you get to the point where when you go out, you're walking on eggshells because you don't want to give them any reason 'Why were you looking at that man at the grocery store?' You don't give them any reason. 'You didn't do the dishes today, who did you sneak over here?' You're so broke down that at that point, you don't think rationally."

"A lot of women have talked about how they have had to adapt to their abusers way of thinking, so they've forgot who they were," said Lane. "They don't even know who they are when they get out of the relationship. They don't even remember what they like or enjoy."

"It's all picked for you," said Betty. "My thing was, when I got divorced I was so, 'You can't survive without me, nobody will want you,' well, here comes my knight in shining armor and I was still very damaged and broken from my marriage and probably didn't see the signs. By the time I realized it, it was too late. Then it's the shame, 'I just got out of this one, what is everybody gonna say?' But the second (relationship), there's a term called gas lighting where the abuser does things to you but they make you think that they didn't and it makes you think you're crazy. It could be as simple as moving the car into the next parking place and telling you they didn't."

"They do things to intentionally make them crazy," said Lane of gas lighting. "Even to the point if they just slapped them across the face, they tell them, 'I didn't do that.' I've been doing this for seven and a half years, and I've had two women to check themselves into the hospital because they really felt they were losing their mind only to be told they were in an abusive relationship. They came out of that fine and came out of the relationship. One survivor told me that there was one day she was propped up against the wall and she just slid down because there was nothing there anymore, her abuser had taken everything."

Betty's boyfriend ended up abusing her so bad she lost a pregnancy.

"He had gotten me pregnant and I was two weeks from finding out what the baby was; he beat me and kicked me in the stomach," said Betty. "I lost the baby. They had to do surgery and get the baby out. I wasn't healed from that and he got me pregnant with my youngest child. That's when I went to the domestic violence shelter (in Henry County) and we made a plan and I came up here, to Gordon County, and Ms. Debbie and Ms. Beth stepped in and were able to help me get restraining orders and things put into place."

After having her son, Betty said that her boyfriend locked her in a room, one time for three days.

"He ended up locking me in a room one time and I got out," said Betty. "Our baby was two months old and was in a baby carrier. He snatched the baby carrier and threw him across the room. The baby doesn't remember that but I do."

Betty said that her third son hasn't had to deal with her older two sons have dealt with since he was so young.

"The older two, I found out years later, my ex-husband had sexually abuse my oldest son," said Betty. "My middle son was only two at the time but we don't know if anything happened to him. It probably did but he wouldn't have been able to communicate that. My ex-husband was also physically abusive to them. Not in front of me. Looking back, I was told, 'Oh, he fell off his bicycle. Oh, he tripped on the sidewalk.' Things at the time that seemed plausible because they're boys and they do ride bicycles and climb trees. Also, women think that if there child is sleeping, they don't see or hear the abuse. Mine did. I thought that they were sleeping and didn't know what was going on. But they saw and heard way more than I thought they did."

Betty and Lane both agreed that due to proactive steps taken by Betty, both of the older boys have adjusted remarkably well and that Betty has three really great sons.

"They are in counseling and are pretty well adjusted," said Betty. "They're very well behaved. But I think you won't really know until they get into that first relationship what might manifest. In general, all three are good boys. I think being proactive with counseling and talking. A lot of us don't talk about the elephant in the room with our kids, and I didn't for a long time because I thought it was protecting them but it wasn't. Once we started talking about it, they can address their fears. You have to just let them talk. I've made it very clear we don't hit; I have two nieces and they know that we're a family and we protect each other. No secrets. If somebody tells you not to tell mommy something, you come immediately and tell mommy."

"Statistically, it's one in four women," said Lane. "Chances are, the couple of hundred that show up for the Walk A Mile on Friday, we're going to have a lot of participants that are also victims."

At the Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office, an array of resources and help are offered to victims of domestic violence. A support group that Betty has been a part of for years, led by Lane, meets regularly at the office.

"It's not a therapeutic group, it's more of an educational group," said Lane. "It's very empowering for women to be in a room with other women that

have been through the same things, because often times they feel like they're the only ones that have gone through what they're going through. And whether one was emotionally abused and another was physically abused, the common thread if power and control. That's what everyone needs to realize; there's a misconception about it being an anger issue. It's not about being angry. A person that abuses can hold their temper when they're out at the store shopping. If they are inclined to be abusive across the board, social situations would set them off, but it doesn't. It's exclusive to an intimate partner because they want to control every aspect of their life."

"We were known in the community in Henry County, and when I started talking about it, (the reaction from people was), it wasn't true," said Betty. "We were active church members, we knew a lot of the community, upper-middle class."

"And people don't want to hear it," said Lane. "It's like child abuse. It's very difficult to hear and if they do believe it, what do they do with that information?"

When asked what a person should do if someone they know has confided in them about a domestic violence situation, Lane said, "The first thing you did was believe them. And don't say, 'Oh, it can't be that bad.' You believe them and have a number to give them to let them know there are people out there that can help them."

The local 24-hour domestic violence hotline at 706-278-5586; TTY: 706-529-9336.

"Time and time again, you'd think that women would have access to everything but they don't. Often times the first time they know about the Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office is when they call law enforcement and they refer us. They don't know they have rights and they can be protected from the abuse."

"I didn't know until a court liaison in Henry County told me about it," said Betty. "But the thing is, actually getting the nerve to come talk, because a lot of times we've been shut down by law enforcement or the legal system. The biggest step we can do (as domestic violence victims) is stepping into this office and knowing that we've got a friend here that will listen to us."

"Our court staff is great; they're compassionate to victims that come in," said Lane. "This past week, for example, I think they've done three protective orders. So the judges will accommodate us to bring the victim in. And we're not, no one in this office is an attorney, but we're authorized by the courts to prepare their petitions and their orders and take them before the judge. All of our judges are wonderful to work with. We're very fortunate in Gordon County because that's not the case in many counties in the state."

"I've gotten more done here than I ever did in Henry," said Betty.

"There are other counties where a victim has to do everything herself," said Lane. "She has to go to the clerk's office, she has to get that paperwork, she has to figure out how to get before the judge, she has to figure out how to get that paperwork serve. What's sad about that is, it's hard enough to take the step to get here, but if you have to do all of that stuff yourself, as a victim, you're going to stop (the process). The victims don't have the energy to move forward with that. So we're very fortunate in Gordon County. We do all of that here (in the Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office)."

Lane said that the office also tries to do some kind of fun activity at least twice a year for the kids.

"That's the great thing about them, they're very active with helping the kids," said Betty. "A lot of times, the victims don't have the resources to go to McDonalds or bowling or swimming. To spend that time with our kids where they can just have fun is huge as a mother."

"Over the summer, the Calhoun Rec games us the pool for a couple of hours one day a week for the kids to go swimming," said Lane. "They provided a lifeguard and two hours of swim. We just did a bowling event. It's wonderful to see the victims interact and have fun with their kids."

Lane said that the Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office also has a shelter located outside of Gordon County.

The Gordon County DVOO also offers help with travel for victims of domestic violence as well as other services.

"Another service we offer is, say a domestic violence survivor has family in California; we can help them get there," said Lane. "We help with transportation. We have received a grant that helps with an attorney if they get a TPO that will represent them at the final hearing. We also have money to help with divorces. If you're in an abusive relationship, they need to call us because we have grant money for divorces right now. Lots of things we can help with. They just need to reach out and call. And people can call our office and anonymously receive information to see what their options are, because we realize sometimes they're not quite ready, they're just trying to get a plan together."

When asked what she would say to another woman going through this, Betty begs them to stay strong.

"There's hope and there are people that will listen. Just keep on keeping on. You sometimes have to be your own light at the end of the tunnel, but there is hope. I'm still recovering and I think it might be a lifelong process. But there's hope and there's people that will believe you."

What I learned at Magistrate Court



Joe & Ashley English

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

Yesterday I got to do something that all landlords are forced to do at one point or another. I had to go to court over a dispossessory that we had filled on a tenant due to non-payment. We've been blessed. We've only been to court a total of four times in nearly a decade of landlording. That's because most of the time, we've been able to work

things out with the tenant, and they've left without us having to go to court. This time, however, the tenant answered the summons.

If you're not familiar with what that means, filing for dispossessory goes as follows in the state of Georgia. First, you must notify the tenant with a letter of demand. The letter of demand will state what the issues are and how the tenant can fix those issues.

If the tenant doesn't comply, you go to magistrate court and fill out an affidavit of dispossessory. This gets the case started in the court. The constable will then take that paperwork, which is called a summons, and serve the residents with it at the address listed on the affidavit for dispossessory.

The tenant then has seven days from the time they were served to "answer." They can answer

that they agree or disagree with the grievances listed on the affidavit. Either way, if the tenant answers, a court hearing is set.

We were notified that the tenant had answered our dispossessory and that a court hearing was set for the following day... which always produces a sinking feeling.

Now, if you've never been in this situation before, it's inevitable that one day you will be there if you have rental property. So, it's a good practice to prepare for court from day one with your tenants. That means all correspondences take place via email or texts. This practice establishes a time stamped and dated timeline that you can print out and use as evidence in court.

When you filled out the affidavit of dispossessory, you noted what your grievances were against the

tenant. If you are going to court, you have to show the judge in a concise manner what the tenant agreed to and how they've not done what they promised.

To do this, take your lease and use a yellow highlighter to show what parts of the contract the tenant has violated. Then use a red sharpie to categorize each violation in order of importance. For example: 1. They aren't paying on time. 2. They're not communicating well, etc ... Remember, you need to keep it concise.

Preparing in this way will give you a smooth-flowing case while giving the judge an overview of the contract.

Next, make yourself an outline using your red numbers as bullet points. Print out all the emails, letters of demand and texts that show how you talked to the tenant about each

point and how the tenant responded. Highlight the dates associated with each.

Finally, make sure you make three copies of everything: one for you, one for the judge and one for the tenant.

When I showed up for court, the judge had us go first. We laid everything out in a clear concise way. Then the judge allowed the tenant to speak. They agreed with all the evidence we showed but took issue with our grievance that they hadn't communicating well. They said they'd sent us emails that contradicted our grievance. They were, of course, unable to produce those emails at the judge's request.

At the end of the day, we were awarded a money judgment, and the tenant was given seven days to vacate. Before the ruling, the

judge chastised us on something though. The tenant was late with the rent, incurring both a late fee a bounced check fee. Per our lease, these fees are considered additional rent. So, when we filled out the affidavit of dispossessory, we put as "total rent owed" the back rent plus those fees.

The judge said we should have separated the fees and the back rent on the affidavit. And since we did not, he would not award us those fees on the money judgment. Instead we were awarded just the back rent and court costs.

That was an expensive learning lesson.

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

How to Become a Long-term Investor



Dewayne Bowen
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones
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It's a fairly predictable pattern: When the stock market rises, more people invest, but after a large-scale drop, many of these same people head for the exits. But by staying out

of the financial markets, and only putting their money in "safe" vehicles that offer few or no growth prospects, are they really helping themselves?

Here's the bottom line: If you're going to make progress toward your long-term goals, you have to become a long-term investor. But how?

To begin with, you need to understand that long-term investing involves accepting inevitable short-term price swings. You may not like seeing those sharp price drops, but it will help your outlook greatly if you can keep them in perspective. Studies have shown that the longer you hold your investments, the less

impact market volatility can have on them.

So, to reach that point where the market's ups and downs have less of a cumulative impact on your holdings, consider the following actions:

•Only invest money you won't need for a long time. If you can tell yourself that the money you are investing today is money you won't really need for 20 or 30 years, you'll be better prepared, psychologically, to get through the down periods of the financial markets. And as long as you aren't overextending yourself financially in other parts of your life, you really shouldn't need those investment dollars for

a very long time. They should be earmarked for goals you hope to achieve far into the future, such as a comfortable retirement.

•Keep your focus on what is most important to you. If you can visualize your long-term goals, you'll find it easier to keep working toward them. For example, if you are hoping to travel extensively when you retire, keep thinking about what that might look like. You might even research the countries you plan to visit, even if these trips are far in the future. Ultimately, if you know where you're going and you're determined to get there, you'll get past the bumps in the road. •Don't spend excessive

time reviewing your investment statements. A bad month or two can cause some noticeably negative numbers on your investment statements. But if you can discipline yourself to avoid spending too much time dwelling on these figures, you may feel less stress about investing – and you may even be less tempted to make short-term moves that could have unfortunate long-term results. However, if you do want to study your investment statements, don't just stop at the most recent results. Instead, look for trends that might tell a different story. Has the number of shares you own in various

investments increased significantly over time? And over the past five or 10 years, has your portfolio's overall performance been positive? By digging a little deeper into your statements, you might gain more confidence in the course you're following.

Short-term price drops are not pleasant to experience. However, you can help yourself become a better long-term investor by following the above suggestions, so put them to work soon – and stick with them.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Dewayne Bowen.



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New Echota Heritage Day to be held Saturday, Nov. 4

STAFF REPORTS

Celebrating our community's heritage, New Echota Heritage Day, a day to learn about the history of the New Echota Cherokee Nation's capital, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Friends of New Echota will be hosting the annual event, always held during Native American Indian Heritage Month. The public is invited to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the 19th century way of life of the Cherokee at New Echota State Historic Site, located at 1211 Chatsworth Highway in Calhoun.

During the event, Mary (Missy) Crowe will be in the museum demonstrating how to make Cherokee Corn Husk dolls. Attendees can walk the grounds and listen to history and storytelling by Fred Bradley, who will be discussing the Cherokees of today and the history of the grounds of New Echota and how the Cherokee people lived, in the Council House.

Demonstrations of the Cherokee Phoenix, the first Native American newspaper, will be printed at the Print Shop. The Cherokee homestead will be open, and the public can talk with a basket weaver or watch fiber artist Cindy spin yard, or learn how Cherokee corn soup is made the old way.

Bill Radford will be on hand at the barn with carving and jewelry making, carving pipes, bowls, and figures. At the Rogers cabin, there will

be a blacksmith working the forge. At the Court House will be Jack Flute Holland, playing the flute, and his CD's will be available for purchase. Cindi Quay will also be on hand in Vann Tavern making herbal teas and tinctures, soaps, and answering questions on remedies. Jacki Lynn will also be available, telling the history of Vann Tavern.

Karmen James, potter, making beautiful clay pots and she will be under the Corn Crib. Then, travel back to the Worcester house where you will hear the history of Samuel Worcester, the missionary who worked with the people at New Echota.

Most items being demonstrated can be purchased, and it is encouraged for attendees to speak to the demonstrators Admission is \$5.50 - \$7, which includes admission to the museum and theatre.

New Echota is open Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., and on Sunday opening at 1 p.m. In late November, hours and days change from Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The mission of Friends of New Echota is to assist New Echota's site manager with planning, organizing and implementing special events and to promote public awareness and support of and involvement in New Echota State Historic Site. You can find them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/newechota/>

com/newechota/



Some of the sights from last year's New Echota Heritage Day. BRANDI OWCZARZ/ File Photos

Resaca Fall Festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 19

STAFF REPORTS

The Town of Resaca invites the community to their annual Resaca Fall Festival, which will be held at their recreation center, on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 12 – 8 p.m. Admission if free.

Food will be served from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. and it is recommended to bring a lawn chair. There will be lots of food, fun and entertainment, live music, a petting zoo from 4 – 6 p.m., inflatables, cake walks, hayrides, various vendors and a costume contest for ages newborn – 6 and 7 – 12 beginning at 5 p.m.



Community Events

Week of Sept. 29

-FIRST THURSDAY BOOK CLUB will meet on Thursday, Oct. 3, at Shoney's on Red Bud Road at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss The Baker's Secret by Stephen P. Kiernan. A dazzling novel of World War II—a shimmering tale of courage, determination, optimism, and the resilience of the human spirit, set in a small Normandy village on the eve of D-Day. ALL ARE WELCOME! Arrive a little earlier to enjoy dinner! For more information contact Roberta Charbonneau at 678-773-5655.

-Gordon LEPC Health & Safety Fair at Home Depot on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Home Depot is located at 1280 Curtis Parkway SE in Calhoun. The Gordon County LEPC will host the annual Health & Safety Fair in the parking lot of Home Depot, located on Curtis Parkway in Calhoun, on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Each year, a variety of health and public safety agencies come together to put on the fair. As always, a Kids Workshop will be presented by Home Depot during the event. Resources will be given out concerning how to keep children safe, with an emphasis this year on “Stranger Danger.” This year, there will be a special visit from The Berenstain Bear's Sister Bear, who will be in attendance to give away ‘The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers’ book (one per family). Those in attendance will get a chance to tour emergency vehicles and meet the community's first responders.

-10th Annual Gordon County Hunger Walk on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 at 2 p.m. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. Event will be held at the Calhoun Recreation Dept. - McDaniel Station Road, Calhoun. The Gordon County Christian Ministerial Alliance is again sponsoring the Gordon County Hunger Walk to raise money for four food banks in the area. The walk is scheduled on the walking trails at the newer part of the Calhoun Recreation Center off of McDaniel Station Road at 2 p.m. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. at the pavilion next to the black and yellow playground. The walk will be held (rain or shine) on the walking trails at the newer part of

the Calhoun Recreation Center off of McDaniel Station Road at 2 p.m. A new trail has just recently opened up. Please come early enough to register, prior to the walk. Registration is from 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm. Registration will be in the pavilion next to the Black and Yellow playground, near the George Chambers Resource Center. The walk will begin at the Pavilion. For more information, call Jody Bryson, Calhoun First United Methodist Church at 706-629-2685 or Rosellen Burns, New Echota United Methodist Church, at 706-629-2445.

Week of Oct. 6

-Seventh-annual Rock Garden Lighting on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019 from 5:30pm-8:00pm. The 7th-annual lighting of The Garden, a rock garden located at 1411 Rome Road SW in Calhoun behind the Seventh-day Adventist Church, will be held Sunday, Oct. 6, 2018 beginning at 5:30 p.m., with first match at 6:45 p.m. As always, this is a free, family-friendly event.

Week of Oct. 13

-AdventHealth Gordon Foundation Race Around the Rec 5K on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, beginning at 6 p.m., with Fun Run beginning at 5 p.m. Race will be held at the Calhoun Recreation Dept. - McDaniel Station Road side. Registration is now open for the AdventHealth Race Around the Rec 5K. The event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6 pm at the Calhoun City Recreation Department, beginning at the black and gold pavilion and playground behind the George Chambers Resource Center which is located at 1000 Highway 53 Spur SW, Calhoun, GA 30701. In addition to the 5K race for adults and students ages 13 and older, a Children's Fun Run will take place at 5 pm. All proceeds benefit breast cancer services at AdventHealth Gordon. You can register for the race by visiting RaceRoster.com and searching “AdventHealth Race Around the Rec 5K.” If you prefer not to register online, you can complete a registration form and mail it to the AdventHealth Gordon Foundation. Registration forms

for both races can be found at AdventHealthGordon.com. Please mail the form along with your entry fee to: Wendy Taylor, P.O. Box 304, Calhoun, GA 30703. The cost of the race is: \$15 students ages 6 - 18; \$20 before Sept. 28; \$25 between Sept. 28 - Oct. 16; \$30 on race day; \$10 Fun Run (ages 12 and under). Race day check-in and registration begins at 4 pm at the Calhoun City Recreation Department at the black and gold pavilion and playground behind the George Chambers Resource Center. For more information, please contact Wendy Taylor at 706-602-7800 ext. 2318 or via email at Wendy.Taylor@AdventHealth.com.

Week of Oct. 20

-Acoustic Café at the Harris Arts Center on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, from 7 - 10 p.m. at the HAC, located at 212 South Wall Street, Calhoun. The Harris Arts Center is proud to announce its newest concert series, Acoustic Café. Inspired by The Bluebird Café in Nashville, Acoustic Café will offer patrons the opportunity to hear local talent in a relaxed setting. April's Acoustic Café, featuring Joseph Evans, Stephen Hare, Jackson Lawrence and Cody Landress-Gibson, was so successful that the Music Guild at the Harris Arts Center confirmed that it would be a bi-monthly occurrence featuring various singer/songwriters. Each performance will begin at 7 p.m. and will have a cash bar available. There will be a \$5 “cover charge” at the door – tickets will not be sold in advance. Audience members are encouraged to tip the entertainment if they so desire. For more information, please contact the Harris Arts Center at 706-629-2599.

-Phil Vassar in concert at the GEM Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, from 7:30 - 10 p.m. The GEM Theatre is located at 114 North Wall Street in downtown Calhoun. Phil Vassar's reign of signature songs include 10 No. 1 singles and 26 Top 40 hits, including Carlene, Just Another Day in Paradise, Six-Pack Summer, When I Love You, and many more. Tickets \$35 - \$50.

BOE

From page 1A

mills, the annual tax would be \$1,111.98, or \$92.66 a month. A total rollback to 18,000 mills, the cost per year would be \$1,044.00, or \$87.00 per month.

While that might not seem significant, to a county that has a high rate of citizens that make less than the average income, it is a lot of money that is usually not budgeted into family expenses.

Gordon County resident Renae Pearce passed out a printout of an email that she sent to the Board more than a week prior, that she said she received no responses from.

“When I reached out to a couple of (Board members) and asked why I received no response, I did get to talk with them. I'm not going to be speaking of that because I know you saw it so there's no reason to say you didn't. I am speaking on behalf of more than one citizen today and I am going to read an email that someone asked me to read to you guys,” said Pearce.

The email Pearce read stated:

“People usually frown on tax increases in general. In order for the public to demonstrate a level of support for a tax increase, there must be a high degree of trust and confidence in the elected officials proposing the increase. To be blunt, the public does not trust this Board of Education with its money. This Board only devoted one work session to the planning and study of the current budget, and after shirking the responsibility for careful planning and study, adopted an unbalanced budget. This Board then approved a policy for making unlimited projects of up to \$20,000 each to be carried out without the Board's approval; a policy that was strongly opposed by many citizens, and a policy which certainly does not reflect responsibility in monitoring the unbalanced budget. (This) Board's fix for all of this is to simply hike the tax rate, basically asking the citizens they were elected to serve to make up for the Board's incompetent performance as stewards of public funds. This Board has a huge public relations problem and a huge public trust problem. Unfortunately, citizens do not see an effort by the Board to remedy either of these problems. Therefore, lacking sufficient trust in the Board's proven financial responsibility, myself and my fellow citizens say NO to any proposed tax increase.”

Pearce then gave her own additional thoughts to the Board:

“One of the things I wanted to bring up is I did have a conversation, and I'm not going to name names because I don't want the rest of you to flock to them, trying to intimidate them because they had a private conversation about it, but their statement to me was there were certain (Board) members worried about a budget shortfall,” said Pearce. “You guys voted for a \$20,000 no oversight, no approval (purchase policy). Where do you think the shortfall could have been handled? By a \$5,000 no approval (per project)...(by) a lower amount? Which would require you to do a little bit of extra work but that was what you were elected for - to work for us; to take care of our schools and work within a budget. You haven't even bothered to do away with the superintendent (former superintendent Dr. Susan Remillard) that is no longer here and was not good for the county...you're trying to vote on her budget and without even looking at it to see what you can cut besides hitting people that are on fixed income. The other problem I have is there are a ton of people on social media that post out directly to you guys and post their distaste for having a tax increase or their inability to absorb one because, unlike you guys with our money, we do have to budget. And some of these people on fixed incomes don't budget for you guys inability to work a budget and live within that budget. So ‘NO’ is the only way. And I'm not threatening, but I'm telling you, I will be one of the most vocal opponents of any of you that vote yes and run (for office).”

The next to speak was current Red Bud Middle School principal Amy Stewart, who spoke confusingly on behalf of keeping the same millage as last year, asking for the Board to keep the current “9.631 millage rate,” which is not the millage rate the Board was voting on.

“Based on the information provided on GordonCounty.org, the proposed rate would result in a minimal increase per family, but if elected it could provide for things previously not allowed due to budget constraints,” said Stewart. “There's lots of things, but I felt like one concrete example are that our nurses currently work only seven hours each day in our schools and therefore are not on campus during normal operating hours for students. Currently my middle school nurse has had more than 1200 visits to our clinic so far this school year. She is hustling and multi-tasking from the moment she enters the building to provide care for students who come to school sick, or with an injury or to dispense medication to those who must take it daily. In addition, school nurses must assist

CFD

From page 1A

searches, fire attacks, ventilation, forcible entry and extrication. We'll do about a week-and-a-half of firefighter survival, training them on ways where if something happens, they can protect themselves and get themselves out. (We'll train them with) Drown-proofing firefighters- we'll go to a pool one day and let them get in the pool with full gear and learn how to manage that and get themselves out of that, because it does happen. A lot of businesses have pits outside, and when we put water on a fire, those pits fill up and it could happen that a firefighter fall into

with immunization compliance, sports physicals, hearing, dental and vision screen, scoliosis and much more. Most school campuses also have special needs students with significant needs and health issues or disabilities that provide professional care or immediate response. School nurses are critical in helping to maintain the attendance rate each of our schools exhibit. For example, of the more than 1200 visits to Red Bud Middle's clinic in the past eight weeks, less than 10 percent were sent home. The rest of the students were evaluated and treated if necessary and able to return to class so they could continue learning. Additional funding for the proposed millage rate would be sufficient in allowing Gordon County Schools to provide nurses to work eight-hour days so that they are present from the time students arrive to the time they are dismissed. This is just one of many examples on how the increase in funding generated could greatly benefit our students. As an administrator, as a tax payer, as a parent of a Gordon County student, I strongly support the approval of the 9.631 millage rate.”

The 9.631 millage rate that Stewart kept referencing is, again, not the millage rate proposed by the Gordon County Board of Education, but is instead the millage rate that the Gordon County Board of Commissioners proposed for the county.

Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Fraker then showed a few slides to review how the system proposed keeping the 19.172 millage rate instead of taking the partial or full rollback.

“We each year go through a budget process and we use projects and gather information from the schools. The budget annually has to be approved by June 30, that's required by the state,” said Fraker. “It's approved prior to getting the digest. Our tax digest information this year was received in August which led us to these hearings, because each year the Board is tasked at setting a millage rate that will support our school budget. When we build a budget, it is also centered on our school goals for teaching and learning, then we follow it up each month with financial reports at each of our Board meetings. Some considerations regarding our budget this year and the millage rate, right off the bat next year we have a few things that will require more out of our budget. One being our Freeport exemptions this year for the county will go to 100 percent, which will mean about a loss of \$300,000 in tax revenue in the future for us. We always have budget unknowns from the state department when they set budgets to give to the schools, but one thing we do anticipate is Governor Kemp had promised a \$5,000 raise for teachers and this year they passed along \$3,000 and it's anticipated that next year he will pass along the additional \$2,000. And for that, the cost to our system is above what the state provides for us; it's \$400,000 for certified faculty and then \$80,000 for every one percent raise we give to classified (employees), and this year we gave a three percent raise to classified to balance what the certified (employees) were being given by the state. Positions that we've not yet fully restored from our last recession, we still have the bulk of our custodians being provided by a staffing agency and pre-k teacher pay was frozen with no step increases back during the last recession and we haven't restored that. If we want to look at restoring that in the future, it would cost the system about \$520,000 to be able to do that. Of course we always have the rising cost of education, we see it as shoppers. Every time we go to the store, everything's cost is rising and it's no different. But we also have to balance the need to improve our compensation with our benefits and salaries to make sure we are competing with surrounding systems to be able to keep the best teachers and retain those teachers over time, so we are putting the best people that we can in front of our children. We must maintain an adequate fund balance. Ms. Goble (finance director Mendy Goble) and I met with a consultant on Friday to talk about bond ratings, and their recommendation, or bar that they set, is to have a higher bond rating, you must retain at least three months of operating expenses in your fund balance, which is about where we are right now. So we do have a need to maintain what we have in our fund balance for the future.”

Fraker also mentioned a news story from last week where a state fiscal economist states there is a 50/50 change of a recession in 2020. “That's always a concern,” said Fraker. “Because the last time we had a recession, the way it effected our employees was you lost 10 days of pay when we did furloughs; if both spouses worked for the school system, it was 20 days, which is a month of pay. We are very sensitive to how that could affect our employees moving forward if we were to get in that situation again.” Fraker also explained that the current millage rate of 19.172 is the lowest since 2011.

“We've decided before of the need to get to a balanced budget,” said Fraker. “That is my goal for the future to continue to look at what we have in the budget, continue to look for ways to balance our budget. I know some people have brought up concerns of projects that were in the past. Every time something is brought up, even though it was

before me, I have looked up those to see what did we do and what we can do better as a school system. I have not found that any departments have ever gone over their budget. There's always ways to get better but we have also started to put other checks and balances in place as a school system as far as our PO process that we are using and how those approvals are going through several people and also in the policy that was approved for spending is starting at \$5,000 to get informal bids, then formal bids then at \$20,000, a sealed bid process. So we have started looking at ways already as we go into our next budget year; of course we will look for ways to do that but always trying to look for ways to increase the quality of education we are providing our students.”

Fraker then discussed balancing the budget. By staying at the 19.172 millage rate, revenues will be \$64,119,584, with expenditures at \$66,603,630, for a deficit of \$2,484,046. If the system took the rollback of 18,000 mills, the revenues would be \$63,113,781, for a total deficit of \$3,489,849. “So even staying at the current millage rate, our deficit is at just over \$2.4 million,” said Fraker. “When you talk about ways to close that gap in the future and balancing our budget, I think it's always important to look at that we're always increasing the quality of our instructional program and maintaining our facilities too. Our general fund budget, that doesn't include grants we may receive, a little over 85 percent is all salaries and benefits. Then 3.71 percent is utilities and 11.17 percent is other, which is security, transportation, any kind of teaching supplies and materials, and maintenance. So when we talk about cutting \$2.4 million dollars out of our budget, it's almost sure to affect people. And we try to be careful how we're affecting our employees at the same time. We're a people business and we keep students at the center of what we're doing, and that will always be the goal no matter what our budget is or what our economy does in the future. We try to be prepared and try to plan ahead.”

Fraker then recommended to maintain the millage rate of 19.172.

Board member Dana Stewart made the motion to accept the millage rate, while member Jason Hendrix gave the second. Board Chair Charlie Walraven then gave the time of discussion for the Board. “I'd like to point out again that Dr. Fraker has inherited this budget and she's trying to make it work with what she has and I appreciate that,” said Board member Eddie Hall. “But I don't know of any budgets at any company that I've ever worked for, where you start to immediately charge more without finding ways to reduce expenses, and I feel like that's what we're doing. We did not review this budget other than the one night we went over it, we did not look for ways to cut expenses. To address some of the things we've talked about today: Losing Freeport- it is a hit but we've got the after school funds that we seem to continue to accumulate with no good place to spend them it seems; We're talking about raises that the Governor may make- if he did it'd be in the budget after this one. It wouldn't be in this one; Our bond rating- we haven't even decided about any building projects. I'm sure there will be some, but from going through that process before I don't think there'll be a shortage of people to loan us money if we want to go that route; Talk about a recession- a 50/50 shot? Some people say we're in a recession now. I don't think nobody could see the big one that hit that was really a depression. I don't think we can plan on what may happen. And I do agree, we need to get to a balanced budget, but I don't think adding more money to the pot is the first choice to balance the budget. I think you have to look at cuts first. Then if that doesn't work, look at putting more money in the pot.”

Hendrix then said that he had read every email but was still in support of keeping the current millage rate.

“I've read numerous Facebook posts, but I also took the opportunity to call as many administrators, principals, teachers that I could. The people that would be most affected by this if we took money from the budget would be our people trying to teach our students,” said Hendrix. “I'm a Gordon County taxpayer but in no way can I compromise the quality of education and I feel like (taking the rollback) could possibly do that. I wish everybody would take the opportunity to talk to a principal, talk to an administrator. Some of them were almost in tears talking about how much they love our students. My kids will be at the school until 7:30 tonight; somebody employed by Gordon County Schools will see my kids today more than I will. I want the best people possible seeing them. There are ways to cut, there's a lot of ways to cut, but I cannot consciously jeopardize the quality of the education. I cannot vote to support a rollback. As a Board of Education member, I'm looking first at the quality of education, then for the community. I understand (the community's concerns) but I have to look first at education.”

The motion passed 3-2, with Stewart, Walraven and Hendrix voting to continue the current millage rate, and Eddie Hall and Kacee Smith voting against.

a pit full of water, just like a pool. So they have to learn how to survive that.”

Each of the recruits said they were inspired to become a firefighter for a love of community.

“I just wanted to help my community,” said Chase Potter.

“Definitely community, and I like helping people,” said Gage Potter.

“It's a good way to give back,” said Chavez.

And just about all of the recruits also had relatives who have served as firefighters and said they were also inspired by those loved ones.

The three recruits for Calhoun Fire will be hired on once they pass their training for Firefighter 1.

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GORDON Gazette

www.gordongazettega.com

GAZETTE SPORTS

Weekly Prep Football Preview

Sonoraville at Ringgold:

Phoenix look to take momentum into region matchup at Ringgold

Alex Farrer, Sports Editor
gordongazettega@gmail.com

to know to get you ready for the important matchup: Wright (DB/WR, Sr.)

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Records: Sonoraville 2-2 (1-1 in 6-AAA); Ringgold 0-5 (0-3 in 6-AAA)

Last Week: Sonoraville defeated Murray County 34-3; Ringgold lost to Calhoun 48-3

All-Time Series: Ringgold leads 5-3

Last Meeting: Ringgold won 28-7 in 2018

Sonoraville Key Players: Ben Burns (WR, Sr.), Case Collins (LB/RB, Sr.), Loren Hiles (DB/WR, Sr.)

Ringgold Key Players: Kyle White (QB/LB, Soph.), Brayden Broome (WR/DB, Sr.), Dylan

Sonoraville Coach Quote: "It feels good to get the first region win (against Murray County last week). We worked hard the past week on defending the option, and I think our defense did a good job of limiting them throughout the night. I thought we were a lot more sound in the kicking game this week also. Ringgold is a team that scares you somewhat because of their capability. They were up on North Murray at half and have played good football at times. Their line of scrimmage will be the biggest we have seen this year. We have an experienced group of players that realize that we can't afford to have any off nights in this region. I expect our kids to remain focused at the task at hand and work hard this week in our preparation for Ringgold. We need to be able to start fast again this



File photo by LARRY GREENSON / Staff

Sonoraville runs onto the field prior to their game last Friday against Murray County.

week and continue to stay on the gas throughout the game." -Sonoraville head coach Denver Pate

See PHOENIX, page 2C

Gordon Central at Dade County:

Warriors head to Dade County motivated to get first win

Alex Farrer, Sports Editor
gordongazettega@gmail.com

The calendar turns to October this week, and that means that the season is heading down the stretch in high school football. Each region matchup from here on out takes on more and more importance as the schedule winds down toward the final few weeks, and that is the case for both Sonoraville and Gordon Central this Friday with huge region games.

The Gordon Central Warriors had a close call on a long night at Rater Stadium last Friday as they narrowly lost a 7-AA contest vs. Chattooga. They hope to bounce back this week and earn their first win of the season as they take the long road trip to Dade County.

Below is all the info you need to know to get you ready for the important matchup:

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Records: Gordon Central 0-5 (0-2 in 7-AA); Dade County 0-5 (0-2 in 7-AA)



File Photo by FRANK CROWE

GC's Bryson Fowler (5) makes a cut off a block on a kick return a recent game at Pepperell.

Last Week: Gordon Central lost to Chattooga 14-10; Dade County lost to Rockmart 48-0

All-Time Series: Dade County leads 7-4

Last Meeting: Dade County won 13-12 in 2018

Gordon Central Key Players: Nelson Gravitt (QB/DB, Sr.), Carlos Escobar (OL/DL, Jr.), Bryson Fowler (WR/DB/Returner, Sr.)

Dade County Key Players: Makinley Everett (QB/DB, Soph.), Josh Williams (RB/DL, Jr.),

Cooper McGarey (RB/LB, Soph.)

Gordon Central Coach Quote: "We competed really well against Chattooga last week. We actually had a wide open receiver when we ran the fake that would have given us a TD. We have to capitalize on those opportunities. It just didn't work out in our favor. We like our chances against Dade County. They will bring a pretty good defense, and they run triple option. We have to play sound football and take care of our responsibilities on the defensive side of the ball. Offensively we have to execute and do it one play at a time...Have to win first down and third downs. When we have opportunities to make big plays we must make those plays. We're looking forward to a great game at Dade County this week." -Gordon Central head coach TJ Hamilton

Analysis: Sometimes a turning point for a season doesn't always come in a win. Sometimes lessons are

learned or points are proven in losses. It's still yet to be determined but that turning point could've come in Gordon Central's narrow 14-10 loss to Chattooga. The Warriors battled for the entire game with the Indians, who were one of the four playoff teams from 7-AA last season and look to be one of the top contenders for a playoff spot in 2019. There are no moral victories, but there are things you can point to in order to gain confidence, and the Gordon Central staff will definitely do that when they look at the film of the loss. What is going to matter though is if the Warriors come into this week with the confidence they built against Chattooga and use it to improve and get ready for Dade County. The Wolverines are also winless on the season and looking for something to turn their year around. They are in the first year under a new head coach just like Gordon Central and they lean a lot on their running game as well. The Warriors put some solid drives together offensively in

last week's game but were unable to finish many of them with touchdowns. That will be a point of emphasis in this matchup and down the stretch this season. Gordon Central must finish drives with touchdowns to win these tough games in Region 7-AA. Gordon Central quarterback Nelson Gravitt also showed that the team's passing game is coming along with the highlight being a 30-yard touchdown pass to Bryson Fowler to put the Warriors up on Chattooga briefly in the fourth quarter. They will need to continue to build on that to balance out their offense and make things less predictable for opposing defenses. Gordon Central has been showing improvement over the last few weeks but that elusive first win has yet to come. Could this be the week on the road in Trenton? Many signs point to it, and if they pull off the win, it sets up an important stretch of games with the state playoffs still a possibility.

GG Prediction: Gordon Central wins, 24-17

Prep Softball

Calhoun misses chances, Ringgold capitalizes in 6-AAA title series

Alex Farrer, Sports Editor
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RINGGOLD — The Calhoun Lady Jackets went into Tuesday's Region 6-AAA Championship series at Ringgold with designs on earning their eighth straight region title. The host Lady Tigers had other ideas, however, and for the first time since 2011, Calhoun is going into the state playoffs as something other than a No. 1 seed.



Photo by ALEX FARRER / Staff

Calhoun's Espree Reyes (right) lays down a bunt during Game 1 of the Region 6-AAA Championship Series at Ringgold on Tuesday.

Calhoun and Ringgold battled in a doubleheader on Tuesday for 6-AAA supremacy and both games were a tale of timely hitting for the Lady Tigers and missed scoring opportunities for the Lady Jackets with the home team earning the sweep and the region crown thanks to 4-2 and 3-1 victories.

Game 1 went to extras with the score tied 2-2 all the way to the ninth before Ringgold's Amber Gainer ended it with a walk-off

two-run homer to give her team the momentum in the series. Game 2 saw both pitchers get out of multiple jams and the game tied 1-1 going into the sixth before a string of hits from the top of the Lady Tigers' lineup put them into the lead for good at 3-1.

Calhoun coach Diane Smith said it was a disappointing result for her team, especially with as many opportunities as they had with runners on in both games.

"We played better in the second game, and we were able to get out of jams, and as far as our pitching in both games, I thought both of the girls did a good job against a really good lineup like Ringgold has," said Smith. "I'm really disappointed in Game 1. We had so many runners on and couldn't get them in. We left more than 10 runners on base. You can't do that in a region championship series like this. We hit too many fly balls. We tell the girls we're looking for hard line drives or hit the ball on the ground and make the defense make plays, but we didn't do that today."

Calhoun (16-12) left a total of 16 runners on base in the doubleheader with 11 of those coming in Game 1. The Lady Jackets got on the board first in the first game of the series with a two-run homer by Hannah Mashburn in the second inning. Mashburn also helped keep her team in it defensively with some big plays in left field, throwing out two Ringgold runners at home and one at second. The last one came in the seventh as she gunned out the potential game-winning run to force extras.



Photo by ALEX FARRER / Staff

Calhoun's Maggie McBrayer delivers a pitch to the plate during Game 1 of Tuesday's series.

Ringgold (21-3) got the score back even at 2-2 with a pair of solo homers in the second and third innings coming from Ava Raby and Riley Nayadley, respectively. That's where the score stayed for a while as both pitchers, Calhoun's Maggie McBrayer and Ringgold's Kaylee Phillips, were able to work out of multiple jams into extra innings.

In the ninth, Ringgold's

Addi Broome reached on a leadoff single and was then bunted to third after she reached second a few pitches earlier on a ball that got to the backstop. That's when Gainer stepped up and crushed a two-run homer over the left-field fence to send her team into a celebration and a 4-2 win.

See SERIES, page 3C

Prep Softball

Sonoraville downs Lady Colts to push postseason streak to seven

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One goal is checked off the list. Now the Sonoraville Lady Phoenix can focus on bigger things ahead.

The Lady Phoenix put together another complete performance with their offense, defense and pitching to earn a 6-0 victory over Coahulla Creek at the Region 6-AAA Tournament on Monday and clinch their seventh straight trip to the state playoffs.

"That's big," said Sonoraville coach Chad Hayes of his team clinching the State berth. "It takes the pressure off now that you know you're in the state playoffs, and we can really look forward to what we can do in the postseason now. We've been playing relaxed and focused ever since losing to Calhoun right before the region tournament so the girls can just continue that same approach, and hopefully we've got a long playoff run ahead of us."

Sonoraville (13-9) grabbed the momentum in the third inning on Monday, scoring five runs with some timely hitting and some help from a couple Coahulla Creek



Photo by LARRY GREENSON / Staff

Sonoraville's Taylor Long (3) delivers a pitch to catcher Sandra Beth Pritchett during an at-bat for Coahulla Creek's Emma Snyder during the second inning of Monday's game.

defensive errors as they took a 5-0 lead.

That was all the support that Sonoraville starting pitcher Taylor Long needed as the sophomore put together her second straight complete-game shutout effort, pitching seven innings and

allowing five hits while striking out 13 to earn the win in the circle.

"(Taylor) is a warrior," said Hayes. "She just goes out there and battles, and we've seen her mature a lot over the course of this season. She doesn't get rattled when she walks a batter or gives

up a hit. She just keeps throwing and finds ways to get outs. She was able to get out of a few jams today, and I couldn't be anymore proud of her."

The Sonoraville offense saw production up and down the lineup with Katie Williams contributing a double and an RBI, and Sandra Beth Pritchett also driving in two runs on a hit. Haley Williams also had a double and two runs scored, Shayna Dutton and Grace Crocker each went 2-for-3, and Karley Thomas reached base three times with a hit and two walks and scored a run.

"I think we are starting to see the ball well these last few games," said Hayes of his lineup. "The first time through today we made some contact, but they didn't fall. But we kept putting the bat on the ball and making adjustments through the game and was able to put together a big inning. We need to continue doing that as we go into the playoffs."

Sonoraville added an insurance run in the fifth to make it 6-0, and the offense for Coahulla Creek (13-7) never answered thanks to the strong work by Long and Sonoraville's solid defense.

The Lady Colts' had hits from McKinley Staten, Tatum Poe, Mikayla Teems, Emma Snyder and Amaris Bailey, but they were never able to string enough hits together to break up the shutout by Long. Coahulla Creek's RJ Janke also reached base three times, drawing two walks and a hit-by-pitch.

With the win, Sonoraville advances to the next round to await either LFO or a rematch with Coahulla Creek in the third-place game on Tuesday. Hayes said while the State berth is clinched, his team still has their sights set on finishing the region tournament off strong and earning that No. 3 seed from 6-AAA.

"You obviously don't want finish fourth and have to go on the road to face a region champion," said Hayes. "We match up against Region 8-AAA in the first round, which along with our region, has some of the best softball teams in the state. So the better seed you get, the better chance you have of advancing. We feel like we can beat anyone so we're confident going into the playoffs. We still definitely want to get that No. 3 seed though."

Lady Phoenix open 6-AAA Tourney with focused win over Haralson

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Any time a team suffers a consequential loss, there is always the worry of it carrying over to the next game. The Sonoraville Lady Phoenix don't subscribe to that theory.

Just a few days after falling to rival Calhoun in a loss that kept Sonoraville from having a chance to play for a region title, the Lady Phoenix showed no negative effects whatsoever as they came out focused and ready and proceeded to earn an impressive 6-0 victory over Haralson County in their first game of the Region 6-AAA Tournament at the Calhoun

Rec Department.

"I really felt good about today," said Sonoraville coach Chad Hayes. "I felt like the girls were focused on what was in front of them and not behind. Tuesday was a letdown, but we were able to put it behind us and come out here relaxed and focused. They were able to make adjustments to the pitching today, which is something we've been trying to work on lately, and we got the bats going in the third. Overall, I'm proud of the effort, and we're ready to move on to the next one on Monday."

With the win the Lady Phoenix (12-9) advanced to play Coahulla Creek on Monday with the winner

clinching a Class AAA State Playoff berth. It would be the seventh straight trip to the postseason for Sonoraville.

On Saturday, the Lady Phoenix hit the ball hard over the first couple innings but had nothing to show for it as they teams went to the third inning tied at 0-0. That changed in the third when a couple runners got on in front of Sonoraville cleanup hitter Shayna Dutton, and the senior delivered with a rocket two-RBI double to the left center gap to make it 2-0.

Dutton continued her big day in the fifth when she doubled the Sonoraville lead by connecting on a mammoth two-run homer to bring home Sandra Beth Pritchett, who had doubled previously in the inning, to make it 4-0.

The Sonoraville bats weren't done as they continued to add on in the sixth to give starter Taylor Long more insurance with Haley Williams driving in a run with an RBI-double and Pritchett following with an RBI-single of her own to make it 6-0.

Hayes said it was good to see his offense take a more patient approach at the plate and come through with some timely hits after some struggles in the past few weeks.

"It's really just a mental thing for us," said Hayes. "It's about getting in the box and sitting on our pitch rather than chasing and being impatient. I looked



Photo by LARRY GREENSON / Staff

Sonoraville's Shayna Dutton (25) prepares to make a throw to first base during Saturday's game against Haralson County.

at our stats this week, and it showed that we are only seeing an average of 2.9 pitches per plate appearance. Today we were able to sit back, see some pitches and when we got one to hit, we drove it.

"Shayna has had a lot of good at-bats this year, but the power hasn't been there like we're used to seeing from her. Hopefully today will get her going, and she has a lot of big hits in the next few weeks."

Dutton finished 3-for-4 in the game with a homer, double and four RBIs. Pritchett also had two hits, including a double, with an RBI and two runs scored, and Kinsley Long was a perfect 3-for-3 with a double. Haley Williams added the double, an RBI

and a run scored, and Grace Crocker also had a double and a run scored.

Taylor Long and the Sonoraville defense took care of the rest in the region-tournament victory over the Lady Rebels. The sophomore pitcher tossed a complete-game shutout, going seven innings and allowing just two hits while striking out six.

"We know what we're going to get out of Taylor each time out," said Hayes. "She's going to go out there and fill up the strike zone and get outs. It was good to see us give her some run support today. It's a lot easier to pitch with a 6-0 lead. She was great again today."

Morgan Martin and Abby Brown had the lone

hits for Haralson County (16-11) who fell into the loser's bracket to face North Murray on Monday.

Hayes said he knows Coahulla Creek will be a tough test, but he looks forward to watching his team compete for a possible State berth and wants them to carry their same mindset forward from Saturday's win into Monday's game.

"That's what the goal is for us before we start the season is to go to State so we've got to come out on Monday and take care of business," said Hayes. "Coahulla Creek is a really good team, and they have been playing really well lately. They've got great pitching so we need to swing the bats like we did today."

PHOENIX From page 1C

Analysis: The Phoenix and Tigers have produced some of the most entertaining games in Northwest Georgia in the past few years including four of the past six meetings being decided by 10 points or less. Among those was a three-point win for the Tigers in 2017 and a 38-35 double-overtime

victory for Sonoraville in 2016 to secure a playoff spot. While Ringgold's record in 2019 doesn't look very promising, the winless Tigers have shown flashes of still being explosive offensively and having the opportunity to pull off an upset. They were in the game against North Murray and LFO before both of those opponents pulled away in the second half.

The Tigers still lean heavily on their passing game like they have

over the past several season with quarterback Kyle White directing the charge and using several receivers. As Pate mentioned above, they also have some nice size on their offensive and defensive lines that Sonoraville will have to deal with accordingly. Sonoraville showed the kind of potential their offense has with a big performance last Friday against Murray County as they had a balanced effort, using their

passing and running game to score points and put the Indians away by halftime. Blade Bryant continued his impressive season so far being equally as dangerous in as a runner and receiver, and quarterback Brady Lackey seems to be gaining steam and becoming more prolific directing the Phoenix offense as the season goes along. Ringgold is a tough place to play on the road so Sonoraville needs to get off to a strong start to grab

some momentum and confidence early.

The Phoenix have a good chance to get another 6-AAA victory on Friday, but it won't be as easy as some people believe. Sonoraville makes some big plays in the fourth quarter to pull away late and bring back a nice road win.

GG Prediction: Sonoraville wins, 33-20

Upcoming Prep Schedule

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2

SOFTBALL
5:30 p.m. — Rockmart at Gordon Central

THURSDAY, OCT. 3

VOLLEYBALL
5 p.m. — Calhoun at Paulding County, with Haralson County
5 p.m. — Sonoraville at Dalton
5 p.m. — Gordon Central at Woodland

FRIDAY, OCT. 4

FOOTBALL
7:30 p.m. — Sonoraville at Ringgold
7:30 p.m. — Gordon Central at Dade County

SATURDAY, OCT. 5

VOLLEYBALL
TBA — Gordon Central at Area 7-A/AA Public Tournament (Site TBA)
CROSS COUNTRY
TBA — Calhoun, Sonoraville, Gordon Central

at Rome All-Area Meet (Georgia Highlands College, Rome)

TUESDAY, OCT. 8

VOLLEYBALL
5 p.m. — Armuchee, Heritage at Sonoraville

College Football

Randall, Wilson, Lester highlight recent performances of locals

From staff reports

Several former players from Calhoun, Gordon Central and Sonoraville have moved on to the next level and are making an impact on the college gridiron for their teams.

Here are the players from the area that appeared in the box score last week during their respective teams' games:



RYAN RANDALL
Jr., Carson-Newman

loss.

THOMAS LESTER,
Calhoun, West Georgia

Lester, a senior, started at wide receiver and had four catches for 38 yards and a touchdown in the Wolves' 44-10 road loss at Florida Tech on Saturday.

GAVIN GRAY,
Calhoun, Berry

The freshman quarterback Gray threw for 59 yards on 6-of-14 passes with one touchdown in the Vikings' 31-14 home win over Millsaps on Saturday. He also had one rushing



JIREH WILSON
Sr., Wofford

attempt for one yard.

ZACK FULLER,
Calhoun, Berry

Fuller, a freshman running back, had three carries for eight yards in Berry's 31-14 home conference win over Millsaps on Saturday.

BAYLON SPECTOR,
Calhoun, Clemson

Spector, a redshirt-sophomore linebacker, contributed two assisted tackles in the Tigers' 21-20 road victory against ACC foe North Carolina on Saturday.



THOMAS LESTER
Sr., West Georgia

HAYDEN MURPHY,
Gordon Central, Berry
Murphy, a senior H-back, had one catch for three yards in Berry's 31-14 win over Millsaps at home on Saturday.

DREW McENTYRE,
Calhoun, The Citadel

McEntyre, a senior offensive lineman, started at right guard in the Bulldogs' 61-55 overtime road loss at Samford on Saturday.

JACK DeFOOR,
Calhoun, Georgia Tech

DeFoor, a redshirt-junior offensive lineman,

started at left guard in the Jackets' 24-2 road loss at Temple on Saturday.

KENNY COOPER,
Calhoun, Georgia Tech

DeFoor, a senior offensive lineman, started at center in the Jackets' 24-2 road loss at Temple on Saturday.

BRENT SILVAR,
Gordon Central, Shorter

Silvar, a sophomore, started at linebacker and had two solo tackles and one assist for a total of three in the Hawks' 44-7 home loss to Valdosta State on Saturday.

ZEKE NANCE,
Calhoun, Lenoir-Rhyne

The redshirt-freshman defensive lineman Nance had one assisted tackle in the Bears' 56-28 road win at Mars Hill on Saturday.

LANDON RICE,
Calhoun,
Jacksonville State

Rice, a redshirt-junior tight end, participated but didn't record any stats in the Gamecocks' 52-33 road loss

at Austin Peay on Saturday.

DAVIS ALLEN,
Calhoun, Clemson

Allen, a freshman tight end, participated but didn't record any stats in the Tigers' 21-20 conference road win at North Carolina on Saturday.

TRIPP HOBLITZELL,
Calhoun,
Birmingham-Southern

The freshman linebacker Hoblitzell participated but didn't record any stats in the Panthers' 34-24 home loss to Hendrix on Saturday.

KAELAN RILEY,
Calhoun, Mercer

Riley, a redshirt-junior quarterback, completed 1-of-3 passes for -3 yards and an interception in the Bears' 34-27 home loss to Campbell on Saturday.

NOTE: If there is a former local football player making an impact on the college level and they weren't in our roundup, let us know by email gordongazettesports@gmail.com.

JIREH WILSON,
Calhoun, Wofford

Wilson, a senior, started at outside linebacker and had two solo tackles and eight assists for a total of 10 in the Terriers' 51-36 road win at Virginia Military Institute. Among Wilson's stops were two tackles-for-

Prep Football Stat Recap

Chattooga 14, Gordon Central 10

Team Stats

Gordon Central Fumbles – 2 fumbles, 1 lost
Gordon Central Penalties – 1 penalties, 5 yards
Gordon Central Punts – 4 punts for 35 average
Gordon Central Total Offensive Yards – 146 total (88 rushing, 58 passing)
Gordon Central Yards Allowed Defensively – 235 total (218 rushing, 17 passing)

Individual Offensive Stats

Passing

Nelson Gravitt – 7-of-16, 58 yards, 1 TD

Rushing

Nelson Gravitt – 18 carries, 48 yards

Jordan Boone – 6 carries, 12 yards
Edwin Herrera – 5 carries, 30 yards
John Victor Rainwater – 2 carries, 2 yards
Sean Gray – 1 carry, -4 yards

Receiving

Josh Wilson – 4 catches, 11 yards
Bryson Fowler – 3 catches, 47 yards, 1 TD

Punting

Peyton Parker – 4 punts for 35 average (long of 50)

Turnovers

Gordon Central 1 (1 fumble), Chattooga 1 (1 fumble)



File photo by FRANK CROWE

Gordon Central quarterback Nelson Gravitt (right) drops back to pass behind his offensive line on Friday vs. Chattooga.

NOTE: Full stats from Calhoun and Sonoraville's games last Friday were not available at deadline.

SERIES
From page 1C

Ringgold jumped on top early in Game 2 with a run in the first inning, but Calhoun pitcher Lona Sims and the Lady Jackets' defense continued to work around Lady Tigers' baserunners with no more damage into the late innings. Calhoun tied it at 1-1 in the fifth when Espee Reyes scored on an RBI-single by Mattie Jane Mashburn after Reyes had tripled earlier in the inning.

Ringgold answered in the sixth by stringing together three straight hits by Gainer, Baileigh Pitts and Nayadley to go along with a sac fly by Shelby Cole to push the Lady Tigers back in to the lead at 3-1. Phillips finished things out from there, pitching a scoreless sixth and seventh to earn her second win of the day in the circle and send Ringgold to a region title.

Phillips went seven innings for the complete-game win in Game 2 and gave up one run

on four hits while striking out one. That followed a nine-inning performance in Game 1 when she allowed two runs on 10 hits and struck out four.

"We need to be able to make adjustments as the game goes on, and we didn't do that today against Ringgold's pitcher," said Smith. "She didn't throw it with a lot of velocity, but we still had a hard time hitting her. We've got to find a way to put the ball in play on the ground with runners on and make the defense make plays, and (Phillips) made it hard for us to do that."

Calhoun's pitchers McBrayer and Sims each gave up several hits to the opposing lineup but were able to keep their team in both games with timely outs. McBrayer went 8 1-3 innings in Game 1 and allowed four runs on 13 hits, and Sims went seven innings in Game 2 and gave up three runs on 12 hits.

Ringgold's offense was led by the top five in their order who combined for 15 hits in the series. Gainer finished with four hits, including the clutch

two-run homer in the first game, to go with two runs scored and Nayadley also had four hits with a homer, two RBIs and two runs scored. Jade Gainer contributed four hits and an RBI in the two wins, and Pitts and Cole each had three hits apiece with Cole having a double and driving in a run. Broome also had four hits in the two games.

The Calhoun offense was led by Hannah Mashburn who had three hits in the doubleheader, including her two-run homer. Mattie Jane Mashburn also had three hits for the day with an RBI and four stolen bases, and Lyndi Rae Davis added three hits, including a double, and also reached base twice on walks. Espee Reyes and Erin Barnes each contributed two hits apiece with one of Reyes' knocks being a triple. Molly Banks also had a hit and a run scored in the series.

Calhoun will now enter the Class AAA State Tournament as the No. 2 seed from Region 6-AAA and host the No. 3 seed from 8-AAA in a first-round series starting with a doubleheader

next Wednesday. Ringgold goes into the postseason as the No. 1 seed and will host the No. 4 seed from Region 8-AAA in the first round.

Smith said she still believes her team has the ability to be one of the final teams standing at the Elite Eight in Columbus later this month, but everyone has to play up to their full potential.

"We can do it," said Smith. "I believe that we have the talent to win the whole thing. I've just got to get everyone playing like I know we can play. We've got to get everyone on the same page, but I know the girls will work hard to do that these next few weeks."

In other prep softball action from Tuesday:

**Sonoraville 8,
Coahulla Creek 3**

Sonoraville busted out of the gates for a seven-run first inning and didn't look back from there as they earned a victory in the third-place game at the Region 6-AAA Tournament at the Calhoun Recreation Department

on Tuesday.

The Lady Phoenix (14-9) had 10 hits spread among six different players in the win, including a perfect 3-for-3 day for Shayna Dutton who also had an RBI. Grace Crocker had a big day as well with two hits, including a triple, two RBIs and two run scored.

Also contributing to the offensive effort was Karley Thomas with two hits, including a double, and an RBI, Payton Townsend with a hit and two RBIs and Taylor Long and Kinsley Long who each added a hit and an RBI.

Taylor Long also earned the win in the circle, her third in three region tournament games, as the sophomore pitched all seven innings and gave up three runs on five hits while striking out 12.

Sonoraville will now go into the Class AAA State Tournament as the No. 3 seed from Region 6-AAA and visit the No. 2 seed from Region 8-AAA in the first round starting with a doubleheader next Wednesday.

Sports Happenings

CALHOUN ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT — The 2019 Calhoun Rotary Golf Tournament, sponsored by Hamilton Medical Center and the Calhoun Rotary Club, is set for Wednesday, October 16 at Fields Ferry Golf Course. Registration starts at 11 a.m., Shotgun start at 1 p.m. A box lunch will be provided. Proceeds to be used in support of Calhoun Rotary's efforts with the youth of Calhoun and Gordon County. For more information and entry forms, contact Jim Rosencrance at proshop@fieldsferrygolf.com or 706-263-6631.

ADVENTHEALTH RACE AROUND THE REC 5K — Registration is now open for the AdventHealth Race Around the Rec 5K. The event will be held on Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Calhoun City Recreation Department, beginning at the black and gold pavilion and playground behind the George Chambers Resource Center, which is located at 1000 Highway 53 Spur SW, Calhoun.

In addition to the 5K race for adults and students ages 13 and older, a Children's Fun Run will take place at 5:00 p.m. All proceeds benefit breast cancer services at AdventHealth Gordon. Race day check-in and registration begins at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Wendy Taylor at Call 706-602-7800 x2318 or via email at Wendy.Taylor@AdventHealth.com.

SONORAVILLE XC BIKE RIDE — The Sonoraville Cross Country Team will host its first-ever Bike Ride on Saturday, Oct. 26 starting at 11 a.m. at Sonoraville High. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and kick stands up at 11 a.m. Cost for bike and passenger is \$20. The ride will travel throughout Gordon County and will head southbound on Hwy 41 to finish at Southern Devil Harley Davidson in Cartersville. Each registration comes with raffle ticket for a drawing at the end of the ride. For additional details, contact butchburch@gcbe.org. FFA BBQ plates will be available for

\$8 along with the raffle and live music.

CALHOUN COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM BASKETBALL CLINIC — The Calhoun Community Education Program will host a Basketball Clinic for girls and boys ages 5-15 on Sunday, Nov. 3 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in the Calhoun High gym. Instructors for the clinic will be Calhoun High boys head coach Vince Layson, Calhoun High girls head coach Jaime Echols and Calhoun High players. Cost for the clinic is \$25 through Oct. 31 and then after that, it will go up to \$40. Registration is available online at <https://securepayment.link/calhounschoools/summer-camps/>.



Listings in Sports Happenings are free. Submit listings to GordonGazettesports@gmail.com with all necessary information needing to run.