

GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

Gazette, community mourns death of photographer Greeson

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When it came to taking photos of local students, Larry “JR” Greeson could not say ‘no.’ “Uncle Larry” was known to drop anything he was doing to run and take a photo of any of the kids from the three local high schools.

Greeson died

Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021 after a brief illness.

“To know him was to love him, and I sure did love my uncle ‘Uncle’ Larry,” said Sonoraville High School graduate and former basketball player Grace Darnell. “Man how I’m gonna miss (him).”

While photographing sports was his first preference, he was also known for taking senior

pictures, prom photos and special events.

“We could always count on (JR) for taking pictures of all our kids at games, proms, Shop with the Phoenix,” said Kim Hopkins, who works for Gordon County Schools. “He was a huge presence in the Phoenix Community and I am so thankful to have called him a friend. He was a wonderful man.”

Greeson was a loyal friend of the Gordon Gazette, having taken event and sports photography in recent years. Some of his most memorable photos were of President Donald Trump’s visit to Rome in November 2020, air shows and political

See **GREESON**,
page 13A



Early Sunday morning wreck on I-75 at Exit 320 claims life of 11-year-old

Brandi Owczarz
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An early morning wreck on I-75 Valentine’s Day claimed the life of an 11-year-old from Arrington, Tenn.

According to the Georgia State Patrol Motor Vehicle Crash Report, just after 4 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14, a 2020 Cadillac Escalade driven by 41-year-old Meghan Underwood of Arrington, Tenn., was traveling on I-75 north around Exit 320 – Resaca/LaFayette in Gordon County, when it ran off the roadway on the east shoulder into the ditch before traveling up

the embankment.

The vehicle then vaulted before striking a concrete bridge support pillar with its front and left side; the vehicle continued traveling north and struck a second concrete support pillar with its left side. The Cadillac then struck a third concrete bridge support pillar, causing it to rotate counterclockwise. The GSP said in the report that the area of impact was determined by tire marks in the grass, ditch, furrow marks, embankment, tire marks on concrete support pillar, fluids, debris and final rest.

After impact, the SUV

came to an uncontrolled rest facing west between two concrete bridge support pillars.

Underwood had to be extricated from the car and was transported by AdventHealth Gordon EMS to Hamilton Medical in Dalton with serious injuries. Four minors were in the vehicle: a 16-year-old male from Murfreesboro, Tenn.; a 13-year-old male from Arrington, Tenn.; a 13-year-old female from Murfreesboro, Tenn.; and an 11-year-old female from Arrington, Tenn.

According to the report, the 16-year-old male suffered

minor injuries but was transported to Hamilton Medical via AdventHealth Gordon EMS. The 13-year-old male suffered serious injuries and was also transported to Hamilton Medical by AdventHealth Gordon EMS. The 13-year-old female had minor injuries and was transported to Hamilton Medical by AdventHealth Gordon EMS. The 11-year-old female was ejected from the vehicle and pronounced dead on scene.

GSP SCRT continues their investigation into the accident at press time.



BBQ, Boogie & Blues returning to downtown Calhoun this September

Brandi Owczarz
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Get your stretchy pants ready! The annual BBQ, Boogie & Blues festival in downtown Calhoun, a renowned

barbecue competition that is a nationally sanctioned competition of the Kansas City Barbecue Society, returns in 2021. The festival, traditionally held the last weekend in April, was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. This year, the event will take place Sept. 24-25 in downtown Calhoun.

A celebration of family, community and barbecue, the event will be held in compliance with recommendations by the CDC and the Governor’s Office of the State of Georgia.

Just as in years past, the event is expected to bring in dozens of competitors from across the country for the

barbecue competition. There will also be a variety of vendors selling crafts, homemade goods and snacks.

Details are still being hammered out, and entertainment for the event will be announced at a later date.

“An event Gordon County residents look forward to every year has returned – the BBQ, Boogie and Blues will be held Friday and Saturday. Vendors from surrounding areas will be gathered in downtown Calhoun this weekend to participate in the annual event. The festival is a highly anticipated event and has a history of attracting crowds from beyond county



limits. This event offers family-friendly activities, arts and crafts, live entertainment and a variety of different styles of food in addition to barbecue,” said

organizers in a statement.

The event is sponsored by the Calhoun Downtown Development Authority and the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce.

There is plenty of time for competitors and vendors to apply for the event. Anyone interested in renting a booth can do so by visiting www.bbqboogieblues.com.

Baxter Dean Runway Show to be held April 30

Brandi Owczarz
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There’s still time to purchase tickets for the 10th annual Baxter Dean Runway Show, to be held on Friday, April 30.

This year’s show is presented by Brian’s Auto Sales.

The annual event is a showcase of local high school seniors, showing off the latest in fashion.

The fashion show acts as a fundraiser. After production costs, proceeds go towards senior scholarships and a local organization. This year, proceeds will go to United Way of Gordon County.

Online tickets are now available for the show. To purchase tickets, visit andybaxterphotography.com/runway-show



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SECOND FRONT 2A



AdventHealth Gordon to hold virtual Living Well class.

LAW & ORDER 9A



Calhoun Police nab suspect wanted in connection with the murder of two people.

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Second Front

AdventHealth Gordon to host virtual Living Well class

ADVENTHEALTH
GORDON

AdventHealth Gordon is hosting a virtual Living Well class featuring Julia Danforth, MD, on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm online via a Zoom meeting.

During this class, participants will learn how to start a spring garden. Chris Harvey, a member of the Living Well plant-based group, will lead the virtual class alongside Dr. Danforth and share tips for the beginning gardener, focusing on establishing a small raised bed garden to grow spring vegetables.

Dr. Danforth is a board-certified family physician. She believes that health is more than

just the physical body, but mental and spiritual wellness as well. Dr. Danforth earned her medical degree from the Loma Linda University School of Medicine in California followed by a residency in family practice at Florida Hospital in Orlando. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice and the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. Dr. Danforth was board-certified in Lifestyle Medicine in 2017 and is blessed to be able to formally pursue her lifelong career passion.

To join this virtual Living Well class, email georgialivingwell@gmail.com to request a Zoom meeting invitation. Participants

can use Zoom on their smartphone, computer or tablet. Participants can also dial in with their phone to join the meeting. For more information, please call 770-773-9201 and press 1 to speak with or leave a message for Dr. Danforth's nurse.

About AdventHealth Gordon

Founded in 1935, AdventHealth Gordon is proud to be a member of AdventHealth. With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth is a connected system of care for every stage of life and health. More than 80,000 skilled and compassionate caregivers in physician practices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled



nursing facilities, home health agencies and hospice centers provide individualized, wholistic care. A shared vision, common values, focus on whole-person health and commitment to making communities healthier unify the system's nearly 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states. For more information about AdventHealth, visit AdventHealth.com or [Facebook.com/AdventHealth](https://www.facebook.com/AdventHealth).

‘MORE WITH MOHAWK’: Company launches new, enhanced employer brand

CONTRIBUTED

Mohawk Industries' newest brand is more than flooring.

The recently launched "More with Mohawk" employment brand reflects the company's evolving culture and a redefined commitment to employees at every level of the organization.

With a call to action that encourages both current employees and potential applicants to "find your More with Mohawk," the brand was designed to highlight the unique role every individual plays in propelling their career with the world's largest flooring manufacturer.

"'More with Mohawk' perfectly captures the vast opportunities available within our entrepreneurial organization and reinforces the company's commitment to reinvesting in our people," Senior Vice President of Human Resources Rod Wedemeier said. "At Mohawk, we encourage employees to determine what 'more' means to them and use that passion to build momentum with their career while improving the

way we do business."

The "More with Mohawk" brand combines extensive research and authentic feedback to capture the full spectrum of employee experiences at Mohawk. The brand was developed by Mohawk's marketing team in collaboration with the company's talent acquisition and human resources teams with input from various employee focus groups from the manufacturing floor to the leadership teams.

"One of the recurring themes we heard from our employees is that 'Mohawk is what you make it,'" Vice President of Human Resources Katie Engleman said. "During our focus groups, employees shared countless stories of how they've grown professionally here and how they've reached personal milestones because of opportunities at Mohawk. We celebrate each person's sense of individuality and have cultivated a culture where people can transform their personal goals into our shared success."

"More with Mohawk" will be fully integrated into social media, hiring materials and employment

advertising for all open positions as well as mohawkcareers.com, the recently redesigned website that features Mohawk's abundant opportunities to support our growth.

The company currently has positions available for entry-level and skilled manufacturing, drivers, internships, engineering, finance, human resources, operations and supply chain, sales and more, with an award-winning training program to help people succeed.

Find your "more" with Mohawk. Apply today at careers.mohawkind.com.

About Mohawk

Mohawk Industries is a leading global flooring manufacturer that creates products to enhance residential and commercial spaces around the world. Mohawk's vertically integrated manufacturing and distribution processes provide competitive advantages in the production of carpet, rugs, ceramic tile, laminate, hardwood, stone and vinyl flooring. Our industry-leading innovation has yielded products and technologies that differentiate our brands in

the marketplace and satisfy all remodeling and new construction requirements. Our brands are among the most recognized in the industry and include Mohawk, American Olean, Daltile, Durkan, IVC, Karastan, Marazzi, Pergo, Unilin and Quick-Step. During the past decade, Mohawk has transformed its business from an American carpet manufacturer into the world's largest flooring company with operations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, India, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.



Tickets go on sale March 27 for final presentation of Calhoun's Dancing with the Stars

CONTRIBUTED

United Way of Gordon County Executive Director Jennifer Latour has announced the final presentation of Calhoun's Dancing with the Stars. The record-setting fundraiser will close with an April 16 finale presented at the Calhoun Performing Arts Center. It will feature a combination of adult and student dance teams and be presented by three premier sponsors: Mohawk Industries, Calhoun-Gordon Community Foundation, and Morning Pointe of Calhoun.

"I have had the pleasure of working with the Dancing with the Stars (DWTS) Committee to help execute one show and plan two others since I joined United Way," said Latour. "The tenth year of Dancing with the Stars is a blend of



everything accomplished in the past decade," she continued. "This may be our last dance, but the future is bright indeed!"


Latour went on to thank the DWTS Planning Committee -- Andy Baxter, Kristy Brown, Jennie Coker, Bekah Kirby, Amy Parker, and Michelle Frix Ward -- for their hard work over the years. She also thanked all the sponsors, especially Mohawk Industries, which has been the premier sponsor all along and will be joined by two others this year.

"Mohawk has been proud to serve as the title sponsor of Dancing

with the Stars since the event's inception," said Robert Webb, Senior Director of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications with Mohawk Industries. "For a decade, the dancers have entertained audiences and raised over a million dollars to support the important work of United Way's partner agencies. We salute all the individuals who have shared their talents to make this such a successful fundraising event year after year."

The finale will include

See DWTS,
page 13A



WE'VE GOT JOBS!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

GENERAL LABOR: \$15/hr, will do deep cleaning of warehouse-prep work for moving into the warehouse. Removing light fixtures, moving out old shelves, machines, and putting in new. -2-3 week job. For the right people could go temp to perm. 3 openings

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

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

ORDER PICKER: \$12/hr, day shift, must send profiles to client and will interview, wants previous experience order picking and able to drive lift.

CUSTODIAN: \$11.09/HR, will do deep cleaning, and some cleaning after events/games to ensure facility stays clean and covid free for all students/faculty/guests 3:30pm to 8:30pm M-F & full time 12:30pm to 8:30pm & hours 11am to 7pm. 3 Positions Open

TIRE HANDLER: \$13 & UP BASED ON JOB/SHIFT-12hr swing shift days—7am-7:30pm, 2nd & 3rd—Tire Handlers 3pm-11:30pm/ 11:00pm-7:30am

INDUSTRIAL BINDING: (sewing machine) candidates that have sewing machine experience we will pay them \$14.25 per hour. They must have previous sewing experience. 2nd shift-and work Monday – Thursday 5pm to 3:30am & 6:30AM TO 4:30PM

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Obituaries

February 17, 2021

Thomas Barnes

Mr. Thomas Barnes, age 73, of Adairsville, passed away at home in the loving care of his wife, three children, and one granddaughter on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 53 years, Marilyn Leeds Barnes; children, Michelle Hibbett and husband Billy, Tommy Barnes and wife Monica, and Megan Barnes Mingone; his eight grandchildren whom he adored, Jordan, Asa, Elijah, Christopher, Tommy, Liliana, Karisma, and Gianluca.

Thomas was born in Lockport, N.Y., May 21, 1947, to the late John Barnes and Elizabeth Fisher Barnes. Lockport is where Thomas met and married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Marilyn. They moved to Florida in 1969, working in construction. Along with his wife he eventually started up his own business, Wood ‘N You. They successfully owned and operated it for 20 years, instilling an entrepreneurial drive in their children. He sold his business, retired early and moved to Georgia in 2004. There he continued keeping busy, always working on projects big or small and sharing his knowledge with his children and grandchildren. The love of God and family were the center of his life. He was an avid outdoors man and lifelong fisherman, sharing several special fishing spots with his family. He was a true man of character, had a generous heart, and was always willing to help others. Mr. Barnes was well-known for sharing the abundance of vegetables grown from “Papa’s Garden” with the Adairsville Community. Thomas was a dedicated husband, father, and Papa who will be greatly missed.

His faith in the Lord gave him the strength to endure many challenges throughout his life. He fought hard in his last and final battle with Esophageal Cancer. Heaven has gained a new warrior.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7.

Due to COVID-19, our family will have a private memorial service to protect our mother and our loved ones. We appreciate your understanding, love, and support as our family grieves the loss of our amazing patriarch.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of arrangements for Mr. Thomas Barnes.

Barton Funeral Home

Lavon “Bonnie” Beard

Lavon “Bonnie” Beard, 62, of Ranger, passed away Friday, Feb. 12, 2021. She was born in Bennettsville, S.C. on Feb. 21, 1958, to the late Prentiss and Katherine Folk Pruitt. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Melton Pruitt, Ebbie Pruitt, Richard Pruitt; sister, Dorothy Ingells; brother-in-law, David Usher; sister-in-law, Kathy Pruitt.

She is survived by her spouse of 46 years, Robbie Beard; son and daughter-in-law Jonathan and Kaylen Beard; daughter and son-in-law Katherine and Mark Thurman; sisters, Betty Usher, Patricia (Tex) Taylor; grandchildren Caroline Beard, Brooklyn Beard, Savannah Thurman, and Katelin Thurman.

The family received friends Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, from 12 – 2 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The service followed the visitation at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons. Burial followed in Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

The Brannon Family and staff are honored to serve the family of Lavon “Bonnie” Beard.



Jennie Childers

Jennie Lou Parks Childers, 55, of Plainville, died Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 after several years of declining health. She was born on Feb. 17, 1965 in Atlanta to the late David and Bonnie Lynell Wilkey Parks. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Tim Parks, Allen Parks, and L.E. Parks.

She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer (Glenn) Grimsley; brother, Thomas Parks; special nephews, Cody (Tori) Parks and Timothy Parks.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home.

The funeral will be conducted on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021 at 11 a.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. Pallbearers are, David Greeson, Gene McEntire, Anthony Wilkey, Cody Park, Tommy Payne and Josh Smith. Burial will follow in Scott Cemetery.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Jennie Lou Parks Childers.



Mary Devore

Ms. Mary Wanda Devore, age 71, of Fairmount, departed this life on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 at her home. Wanda was born June 26, 1949 in Taylorsville, Ga., a daughter of the late Jasper Asbery “Jack” and Lucille Bryant Jacobs. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Teresa Devore.

She is survived by her son, Jamie Henson; sisters, Jackie Hightower and Faye Callahan of all of Fairmount; brothers, Charles and Ruby Jacobs of Centre, Ala., and Ray Jacobs of Cassville; aunt, Virginia Seymour of Double Springs, Ala.; several nieces and nephews.

Services to celebrate the life of Ms. Wanda Devore will be Saturday evening, Feb. 20, 2021 at 7 p.m. at Ponders Fairmount Chapel with Reverend Johnny Hightower officiating. Inurnment will follow at the Cassville Cemetery in Bartow County.

The family will receive friends at Ponders Fairmount Chapel after 5 p.m. Saturday until the service hour.

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

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

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



Sandy “Dee” Dove

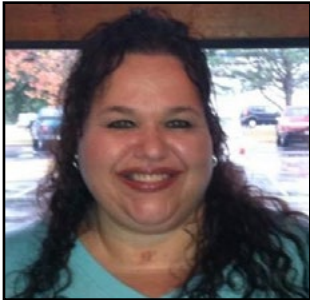
Sandy “Dee” Dove, 52, of Resaca, died on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021. Sandy was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 6, 1968. She attended Holly Creek Baptist Church. For several years, she worked at Service Master. Her family will recall her as a loving, caring, and unforgettable wife, daughter, sister, and as the world’s most loving and involved aunt.

Sandy is survived by her husband, Jerry Dove; her father and his wife, Paul and Rosa McGregor; her mother and her companion, Sandra Ridenour and Roger; her siblings and their spouses, Amanda (Jeff) Langston, Tisha Ledford, Paul McGregor Jr., Shelly Mai, and Jack McGregor; her beloved nieces and nephews, Alex Haynes (Katlyn), Ashton Ensley, Seth Maggard (Cecily), Lauren Adams (John), Jordyn Ledford (Ridge Green), Landen Ledford, Rhett McGregor, and Hadley McGregor; her great-nieces and great-nephews, Chloe, Nash, Quincy Mae, Baylor, and Brody; many other relatives and friends.

The graveside service was conducted on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021 at 10 a.m. from Mount Pleasant Cemetery with Rev. John Bagley officiating. Her nephews and other family members served as pallbearers.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Sandy “Dee” Dove



Roy Green

Mr. Roy Lee Green, 82, a well-known resident of the Resaca Community, died at his residence on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, while surrounded by his loving family.

Mr. Green was born in Bradley County, Tenn. on Oct. 13, 1938, son of the late Oscar and Martha Howard Green. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Geraldine Morgan and her husband Lee; brothers-in-law, Henry Weller and Roy Flowers; two half-brothers and one-half sister.

Prior to his retirement he owned and operated Resaca Grocery, was a graduate of Cohutta High School, a veteran of the United States Army, a member of Sugar Valley Church of God, a member of the Dalton Masonic Lodge #105 F&AM.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Louise Green, to whom he was married for 63 years; daughter, Angela Louise (Randy) Lewallen; sons, Michael Lee (Cyndi) Green, Johnny Lamar Green; grandchildren, Hailey Marie (Tyler) French, Michael Seth Green, Meagan Elizabeth Darnell, Johnna Rae (Daniel) Sivley, Jonathan Gabriel, Matthew David and Caroline Grace Lewallen; several great-grandchildren; sisters, Wilma Flowers and Patsy Weller; one half-brother; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Dwaine Shadix officiating. Interment will follow in United Memorial Gardens in Dalton. Pallbearers are Seth Green, Tyler French, Jonathan Lewallen, Matthew Lewallen, Danny Phillips, and Dennis Flowers. The family will receive friends at the funeral home, Wednesday, Feb. 17 between the hours of 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The service will be recorded and added to Mr. Roy Lee Green’s obituary page at www.maxbrannonandsons.com

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, masks are required and social distancing guidelines are to be followed in the funeral home.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Roy Lee Green of the Resaca Community.



Carolyn Tierce

Carolyn W. Tierce, age 82, of Calhoun, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021 at her residence.

Carolyn was born on June 1, 1938 in Mississippi, daughter of the late Gordon Bernard Wilson and Margaret Velma Smith Wilson. In addition to her parents, Carolyn was also preceded in death by her husband, Billy Tierce. Carolyn enjoyed the company of others and gardening.

Carolyn is survived by: two sons, Bill Tierce and his

wife Tootsie and Ray Tierce and his wife Darlene; daughter, Beth Jobe; sister, Jean Sharp and her husband Gary; four grandchildren, Andrew Tierce, Wilson Tierce, Olivia Tierce, and Jacy Breneman and her husband Justin; and two great-grandchildren, Makenzie Breneman and MaryKate Breneman.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Dr. Bert Vaughn officiating. Burial will follow in Fain Cemetery.

Pallbearers serving are: Mark Dunn, Andrew Tierce, Justin Breneman, Wilson Tierce, Jeff Rampy, and Kevin Holsomback.

The family will receive friends on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 from 12 p.m. until the funeral hour at 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

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

Due to the ongoing national health crisis, face coverings must be properly worn by all those who plan to attend. Social distancing guidelines must be followed at all times while attending the service.

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Carolyn W. Tierce.



Larry “JR” Greeson

Larry “JR” Greeson, 57, of the Plainview Community, died Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021, after several weeks of declining health. He was born on Sept. 7, 1963, in Warner Robbins to Shirley and the late Larry Wilson Greeson Sr. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Emory and Ioma “Mama D” Ruddell Dilbeck and Don and Bertha Dempsey.

Larry was a member of Plainview Baptist Church. After graduating from Calhoun High School in 1981, Larry proudly served in The United States Air Force. He was an entrepreneur who owned his own business. He also consulted with many restaurants, including Captain D’s. Larry was a well-known sports and activity photographer for many area schools.

Larry is survived by his wife, Michele Mathis Greeson; his children, Kady Greeson and Kyle Greeson; his mother, Shirley Greeson; his brother, Greg Greeson; other loving relatives and many friends.

The family received friends on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021, from 4 – 8 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral home.

The funeral service was conducted on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at 2 p.m. from Plainview Baptist Church with Rev. Donnie Mattila officiating with a eulogy by Michael Farley. Music was arranged by Travis Stephens and recorded tribute was arranged by Jason Henson. Burial followed in Plainview Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Steven Williams officiating at the graveside. Pallbearers were Spencer Bradley, Javier Hernandez, Jason Thomas, Zane Clifton, Cord Crider, Michael Bohannon, Brandon Mathis, and Brent Casey. Honorary pallbearers were Zach Kennington, Rob Kennington, Terry Mulkey, John Luzzi, Monte Erwin, Alan McCormick, Steve Sanders, David Simmons, Dr. Suzzete Chin, Jeff Grizzle, and Dorian Johnson.

The family suggests that donations be made to Sonoraville High School Athletic Booster Club 7340 Fairmount Highway Calhoun, GA 30701 and to Gordon Central High School Touchdown Club in memory of JR.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Larry “JR” Greeson.



William “Will” Rogers, II

Mr. William Earl “Will” Rogers, II, age 60, of Fairmount, departed this life on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021 at the Wellstar Cobb Austell Hospital in Austell, Georgia. Will was born Oct. 6, 1960 in Kingston, Penn. He was a 1979 graduate of Chartiers Valley High School in Bridgeville, Pa., and earned a degree as a machinist at Parkway West Career and Technology Center in Oakdale, Pa.

Will was an avid outdoorsman. He loved hunting, camping, hiking and anything outdoors. He had rather be in the woods than in a group of people. He was very proud of being an Eagle Scout.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Theresa Florence Qualtiere Rogers and two beloved pet dogs, Buddy and Augi Dog.

He is survived by his loving wife, Linda Porter Rogers of the residence; son, William Travis Rogers of Dahlonga; father, Dean William Rogers of Pittsburgh, Pa.; sisters, Mary Jo Rogers of Pittsburgh, Cindy Rogers and Steve Ellis of Norman, Okla.; brothers, Dean and Kirsten of Bridgeville, Pa., Mike Rogers of Pittsburgh, and Mark and Lil Rogers of Orlando, Fla.; his two beloved Airedale Terriers, Ivan and Roxie; several nieces and nephews.

No services will be held at the time.

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

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RELIGION

FIVE FACTS ABOUT JESUS



Randy Muse
Antioch Baptist Church
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rmuse1@yahoo.com

There’s so many things that happen in this life that don’t make sense to us. Many of these won’t matter, still many do. Although

every verse of scripture is true, sometimes even those truths leave us wondering. There’s so much in the scriptures that we will never fully understand. However, here are five facts about Jesus that are readily made known to us. Let’s consider these together.

First of all, Christ is necessary! Jesus is absolutely our only way to God. Here on earth, we can enter into His presence spiritually. One day, we’ll see Him face to face in Heaven. When I came to know Christ, I didn’t even know what I was looking for. I just knew that something had to change in my life. I

never really considered the fact that I was lost. I thought I was a decent guy and had it all together, but I found out quick that wasn’t what was necessary. Jesus was necessary! In John 14:6, Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Secondly, Jesus is instantly accessible. In Psalm 145:18 it is written, “The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.” The child of God does not have to take a number, and wait until your number is called. Our access is instant, there is no waiting

period. When I realized I needed to give my life to Christ, my friend Stacy Hensley was there, but most importantly, Jesus was there!

Thirdly, we know that Jesus is totally sufficient. We have seen where He is totally sufficient in salvation. Not Jesus Christ plus good works; not Jesus Christ plus the Baptist Church (even though I love the Baptist Church). Only the blood of Jesus affords salvation. We can testify that He is totally sufficient in meeting all of life’s problems. The promise, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches

in glory by Christ Jesus” in Philippians 4:19 goes way beyond having food on our table or clothes on our back. We need to keep the emphasis on the word “ALL” because life has needs that are spiritual, emotional, and physical.

Fourth, Jesus is singularly satisfied. Jesus satisfies my soul. All that I’ve ever needed or ever will need, I’ve found in Him. Have you ever had one of those days where you’re so thirsty, and you can drink water, and more water, and more still; but your thirst just isn’t quenched? That’s how we are many times in life; we look for satisfaction in so

many things. I did, only to be left thirsting for something more! Christ alone is satisfying!

Lastly, Christ is eternally the same. Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Who He was, He is. What He has said, He will do! The promises He has made, He will keep! What a wonderful and glorious truth this is.

There’s so much we can know about Christ. But it’s not knowing “about” Him that matters; it’s knowing Him. Message me if you have questions of how you can.

Be Blessed.

Church Calendar

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

-Pastor Terry Reisner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

at 11 a.m. and Sunday night at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

-Evangelistic Outreach Ministries on

1590 Dews Pond Road. Pastor Mark Kirby invites everyone to Fellowship and Worship with us. Children’s Church on Sunday Services starts at 11:00am Childrens Church starts at 11:30am. Wednesday nights Bible Study 7:00pm-8:00pm. Come out and see what the Lord is doing!

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

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

-Boone Ford Baptist Church invites you to attend its services for Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. and Worship services at 11 a.m. every

Sunday. Sunday night services are at 6 p.m. on the first and third Sunday night of each month. Wednesday night services start at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Gary Quarles, pastor.

-Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and Pastor David Peeler invite everyone to attend weekly services. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Sunday evening activities and discipleship training begin at 6 p.m., and children’s and youth programs at 7 p.m. Wednesday service begins at 7 p.m., along with Bible study programs for children and youth.

-Pastor Steve Corbin invites everyone to regular services at New Zion Baptist Church. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m. and Sunday night service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night Bible study is at 7:15 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

-Greater Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, 259 Herring Road, NW, Armuchee, invites you to come worship and fellowship with us on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Pastor Reginald McDaniel and Church Family also welcome you to attend Mid-Week Bible Study, Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. and Sunday School at 10 a.m.. We are a church on the move for Christ,

come share with us as we grow in the Word of God.

-Resaca First Baptist Church and Pastor Rev. Harold Blackstock would like to invite you to attend our Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Sunday night service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday night service at 6 p.m. for children and youth.

-Liberty Baptist Church Pastor Gene Ratcliff invites everyone to church services in Ranger; service times are 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Sunday worship and 7 p.m. Wednesday worship.

-Brother Joe Hall and the congregation of Ranger Baptist invite everyone to its regular services on Sunday morning. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. Worship is Wednesday night with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Bible study at 7 p.m. For more information, call 706-629-3425.

-Oak Grove Baptist Church of Adairsville is located at 997 Brownlee Mountain Road S.W. Service times are Sunday school 9:45 a.m., with worship at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Pastor: Roger Fisher.

-Fellowship Baptist Church of Plainville will hold a Brotherhood Breakfast on the second Sunday of each month at 8 a.m.

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Revival @ Heritage


345 Curtis Parkway, Calhoun, GA 706-629-0060

February 21st - 24th

Sunday morning @ 11:00am


Sunday Night @ 6:00pm

Monday - Wednesday @ 6:30pm



Evangelist Rick Coram has been preaching the Gospel since 1988. During those years he has preached over 700 revivals, crusades, camp meetings & conferences. This man is definitely God's servant! Don't miss a night!

Lauren Talley Hoyle, formerly with The Talleys, will be singing at each service, she has an amazing talent she gives to the Lord!



EVERYONE WELCOME! See you there!

FINANCE

CASH FLOW WITH JOE: Train, train and retrain your tenants



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

I tend to be an open book, especially when I mess up, because it holds me accountable and helps me to learn from mistakes. So, with that fact in mind, I’m going to tell you about something I messed up on with a rental, and then, I’ll tell you how we remedied it. I got a little lax with doing inspections on our properties during 2020. I rationalized it in my head by saying COVID-19 was keeping me away.

But in reality, I was just not putting in the effort to make sure our tenants were doing their four jobs. And just to remind you, the four jobs are: 1. Take care of the house. 2. Pay on time. 3. Be comfortable to work with by staying in good communication and being respectful. 4. Be a good neighbor. Last month, I began to realize that fact, and I started making a concerted effort to do better. One day, I was leaving one property to come back to the office, and my route took me past another. It was lunch time, and I wanted to get back to eat, but as I passed the property, that little voice inside me said, “You’d better go check on that house.” So, I did. Now, the last time I was at the house was in April of 2020 to do a repair. And as I pulled in, I could see the house was not the same as I left it. The first thing I saw

was a pop-up canopy hanging from the satellite dish that was attached to the roof. I have no idea how it even got up there. I went to investigate and found that the backyard and back porch had been trashed. It put me in the mind of the foreclosures we would visit in 2012 where people had just left and left everything behind, food and all. The appearance of the outside made me wonder if our tenants had left. I knocked on the door, but no one came. So I went back to the office to get a key because I needed to make sure we didn’t have any leaks in the roof due to that canopy. When I returned, I knocked again, and the tenant opened. I let them know I was there to inspect and why, and what I found on the inside wasn’t great. The carpet had been ruined, there was an appliance out of order, and there was a Doberman in the house.

Not good! When I confronted the tenant about the issues, I got a long apology and promise to do better. Truthfully, I was at a loss for words. We have never had anything like this happen before. So, I took the drive back to the office to think things over. What we did was issue a letter of demand. In the letter, we itemized all the lease violations that we saw in detail, and we explained what the tenant must do in order to remedy them. The first thing was that the Doberman, an unauthorized dog, needed to leave. We gave them the weekend to rehome the dog, and I went over on Monday to make sure it was gone. Next, our lease says that if we ever see damage that caused by the tenant, we will give them seven days to fix it to our standard. We went through, line by line, and talked about each issue,

such as the trash and the carpet, and how we expected them to be fixed within the seven days. Then, we gave a time and date that inspection would be made. On the day of inspection, we scheduled a sit-down with the people. First off, they had the house looking great again and had even replaced the carpet. I was glad of that fact, but I needed to know what went wrong to let things get so bad. When I asked the tenants what happened, they again apologized and talked about how they had been working long hours and that schooling from home had caused extra messes. But they wanted to iterate that the rent had always been on time. At that, I asked them to repeat the four jobs of a tenant. They couldn’t remember them. You see the jobs are listed in order. And the first job is to take care of the house, which is before paying on time.

And since I hadn’t been doing inspections, where I continue to train the tenants, the tenants had forgotten the order and importance of the four jobs. We went over the jobs again and again until they could repeat them word for word. Next, they got put on probation. What that means is I’ll be stopping by for surprise inspection periodically until I’m satisfied that they are doing the four jobs. In the end, they understood how close they were to leaving the property and were glad for the second chance. But this whole scenario illustrates how important it is to train, train and retrain your tenants. Joe and Ashley English buy houses and mobile homes in Northwest Georgia. For more information or to ask a question, go to www.cashflowwithjoe.com or call Joe at 678-986-6813.

FINANCIAL FOCUS: Estate Planning for Blended Families



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

If you’re in a blended family, you’re already aware of the emotional and financial issues involved in your daily life. But what about the future? When it’s time to do your estate planning – and it’s never too soon for that – you’ll need to be aware of the entanglements and complexities that can get

in the way of your vision for leaving the legacy you desire. You can take comfort in knowing that you’re far from alone. More than half of married or cohabiting couples with at least one living parent, or parent-in-law, and at least one adult child, have a “step-kin” relationship, according to a study from researchers at the University of Massachusetts and other schools. That’s a lot of estate-planning issues. Nonetheless, the task does not have to be overwhelming – as long as you put sufficient time and thought into it. Here are some ideas that may help: • Seek fairness – but be flexible. Even in a nonblended family, it’s not always easy to be as equitable as you’d like in your estate plans – too often, someone feels

they have been treated unfairly. In a blended family, these problems can be exacerbated: Will biological children feel cheated? Will stepchildren? Keep this in mind: Fair is not always equal – and equal is not always fair. When deciding how to divide your assets, you’ll need to make some judgment calls after carefully evaluating the needs of all your family members. There’s no guarantee that everyone will be satisfied, but you’ll have done your best. • Communicate your wishes clearly. When it comes to estate planning, the best surprise is no surprise – and that’s especially true in a blended family. Even if you’re the one creating your estate plans, try to involve other family members – and make your wishes and goals clear. You don’t have

to be specific down to the last dollar, but you should provide a pretty good overall outline. • Consider establishing a revocable living trust. Everyone’s situation is different, but many blended families find that, when making estate plans, a simple will is not enough. Consequently, you may want to establish a revocable living trust, which gives you much more control than a will when it comes to carrying out your wishes. Plus, because you have transferred your assets to the trust, you are no longer technically the owner of these assets, so there’s no reason for a court to get involved, which means your estate

can likely avoid the time-consuming, expensive and very public process of probate. • Choose the right trustee. If you do set up a living trust, you’ll also need to name a trustee – someone who manages the assets in the trust. Married couples often serve as co-trustees, but this can result in tensions and disagreements. As an alternative, you can hire a professional trustee – someone with the time, experience and neutrality to make appropriate decisions and who can bring new ideas to the process. Above all else, make sure you have the right estate-planning team in place. You’ll certainly need

to work with an attorney, and you may also want to bring in your tax advisor and financial professional. Estate planning can be complex – especially with a blended family – and you’ll want to make the right moves, right from the start. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

CONSUMER ED: Can Social Security benefits be garnished?

CONTRIBUTED

Dear Consumer Ed: I receive monthly Social Security benefits that are deposited directly into my bank account. I just received notice that my bank account was garnished by a creditor and that my funds have been frozen and will soon be turned over to the court. I thought that Social Security benefits were exempt from garnishments of creditors. What can I do to stop the garnishment and get access to my money?



Consumer Ed says: According to both state and federal law, certain funds are exempt from garnishments, meaning they cannot be seized by a creditor as part of a garnishment proceeding. You are correct that, in many circumstances, Social Security benefits, along with some veterans, unemployment, worker’s compensation and federal employee pension benefits, may be exempt from garnishments. While banks have some responsibilities to make sure that exempt funds remain available to their accountholders, you should nevertheless take action to assert your belief that these funds are exempt before the money is released to the creditor. Since garnishment proceedings are often expedited

and have very short timelines, it is important that you assert your claim quickly and accurately. When you received the notice of the garnishment, you should have also received a “Defendant’s Claim Form,” which outlines some of your rights and gives you the opportunity to assert that the funds in your account are exempt. Once you file the Claim Form with the county clerk, the court will likely schedule a hearing within ten days to determine whether your funds are exempt from garnishment. Many county clerks’ websites also have Defendant’s Claim Forms that you can fill out and submit online. You may also want to consult with an attorney to ensure your legal rights are protected.

GORDON
Gazette

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This special, online publication of the Gordon Gazette
will be FREE for all to enjoy beginning next week,
in observance and honor of
the 171st birthday of Gordon County.

GORDON GROWN

Avoiding Bed Bugs in Your Home



Greg Bowman
Gordon County
Extension Agent
gbowman@uga.edu

I prefer my articles to not only be informative, but at the same time entertaining. I will be the first to admit that an article on bed bugs may cover the first part of being educational, but may not be the most entertaining topic to cover. I will say that having factual information on bed bugs is important for everyone. You can say that bed bugs can be equal opportunity employers. Anyone at some point can have problems with bed bug issues.

The article this week will provide background on bed bugs and tips on how to reduce the chance of having a problem with them in your home. I will share information from a UGA publication by Pam Turner and Jacquelyn Ogden, UGA staff and Melanie Badding, Armstrong State University.

Identification of bed bugs can be tough because of they can be confused with immature cockroaches and carpet beetles. Keep in mind that bed bugs go through three life cycle stages.

The egg stage will be the size of pinheads and white in color.

The nymph state will have the bed bugs the size of a poppy seed. They will be transparent or yellowish in color, but will become darker with each of five molts.

The adult stage can have bed bugs the size of an apple seed. They will have a flat and oval shaped body plus brown in color. After feeding, the adult bed bug will be

reddish/brown in color with an elongated and balloon shaped body.

If you see what you believe are bed bugs, you do need to have them correctly identified. If you bring samples to me, I normally will have a good idea of the identification, but I will also send the samples to the lab for a 100% identification for a \$5 charge.

There are a few signs that can lean towards bed bugs being in your home. The first is seeing and identification of live bed bugs.

You may also see dark spots on your fabric and sheets that is from bed bug excrements. You may find shed skin of immature bed bugs or bed bug eggs.

How can bed bugs get into your home? Luggage is one way when traveling. Bed bugs will hide in your luggage and you then bring them back to your home. A tip is to not put luggage on hotel beds or on the hotel room floor. You should

place your luggage on a luggage rack away from the wall.

If you have traveling house guests, your visitors may bring bed bugs into your home by way of their personal belongings. It is suggested to inspect the room of your guests when they leave.

It should be noted that movie theaters or other places when people sit for a long time can be known to have bed bugs. Also, secondhand items including clothing and furniture can be a home for bed bugs. Be sure to check used items for bed bugs and clean those items before bringing into your dwelling. Keep in mind that bed bugs can hide in tiny holes, cracks and along seams. I will add that we do have before purchasing and after purchasing recommendations for secondhand items that we can share with you by request.

Where do bed bugs hide in a home? During the day, bed bugs

normally crowd together in small spaces. They can hide behind headboards, in box springs, seams of mattresses, along the baseboard and corners of a room and inside or behind furniture such as couches, chairs or nightstands. Bed bugs can even hide in screw holes, in electric sockets and behind switch covers.

What can you do to keep bed bugs from infesting your house? For starters, reduce the amount of clutter in your house. Clutter reduction will reduce hiding spaces for bed bugs. You should vacuum your home often and also use protective covers on your bed frames and mattress. The protective covers again will reduce hiding places for bed bugs. Be sure to check and clean secondhand items before bringing into your house. You should also wash clothes immediately after returning home from a trip. Another tip is during warm weather, you can place suspected items in a car parked in the

sunshine with windows rolled up.

What can you do if your have found bed bugs in your home?

First, consult a pest management professional because of the difficulty of controlling bed bugs. Look for professionals that will use integrated pest management steps and have experience with bed bug control. You will need to prepare your home for treatment. This means to reduce clutter, clean all items in the infested area, launder items that can be laundered and dry laundry on the highest setting to kill the bed bugs then store laundry in sealed plastic bags. It is also suggested to encase the mattress and box springs in a cover made to keep bed bugs inside. Please note to never treat bedding with insecticides. You should also wash pet bedding.

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

USDA extends Evictions and Foreclosure Moratorium to June 30, 2021

USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced an extension of eviction and foreclosure moratoriums on USDA Single Family Housing Direct and Guaranteed loans through June 30, 2021. The actions announced today will bring relief to residents in rural America who have housing loans through USDA.

“USDA recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an almost unprecedented housing affordability crisis in the United States. That’s why USDA is taking this important action today to extend relief to the hundreds-of-thousands of individuals and families holding USDA Single Family Housing loans,” USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Justin Maxson said. “While today’s actions are an important step for them, we need to do more. The Biden Administration is working closely with Congress to pass the American Rescue Plan to take more robust and aggressive actions to bring additional relief to American families and individuals impacted by the pandemic.”

A recent Census Bureau survey showed that 8.2 million homeowners are currently behind on mortgage payments, and of that 8.2 million, 3 million homeowners behind on payments were Black or Hispanic.

This effort underscores a commitment by USDA to bring relief and assistance to farmers, families and communities across the country who are in financial distress due to the coronavirus pandemic. In January,

USDA took action to bring relief to more than 12,000 distressed borrowers of USDA farm loans by temporarily suspending past-due debt collections, foreclosures, non-judicial foreclosures, debt offsets or wage garnishments, and more. Learn more at the following link: USDA Temporarily Suspends Debt Collections, Foreclosures and Other Activities on Farm Loans for Several Thousand Distressed Borrowers Due to Coronavirus.

Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for additional information on USDA’s Rural Development COVID-19 relief efforts, application deadline extensions and more. USDA Rural Development will keep our customers, partners and stakeholders continuously updated as additional actions are taken to bring relief and development to rural America.

Homeowners and renters can also visit www.consumerfinance.gov/housing for up-to-date information on their relief options, protections, and key deadlines from USDA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

BACKGROUND:

Foreclosure Moratorium Extension

The actions announced today make it possible for the foreclosure and eviction moratorium announced by USDA, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Program (SFHDLP) and the

Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program (SFHGLP) on Jan. 20, 2021, to be extended until June 30, 2021. The moratorium does not apply in cases where USDA or the servicing lender has documented the property is vacant or abandoned.

Forbearance Options

Lenders may continue to provide impacted borrowers relief by offering forbearance of the borrower guaranteed loan payment for up to 180 days. In addition, the initial forbearance period may be extended up to an additional 180 days at the borrower’s request. Lenders may approve the initial 180-day COVID-19 forbearance no later than June 30, 2021. SFHGLP borrowers that received a COVID-19 forbearance prior to June 30, 2020, may be granted up to two additional three-month payment forbearances. Lenders should outline potential solutions that may be available at the end of the forbearance period and explain to borrowers that a lump sum payment of the arrearage will not be required.

During the forbearance options outlined above, no accrual of fees, penalties or interest should be charged to the borrower beyond the amounts calculated as if the borrower had made all contractual payments in a timely fashion.

Post Forbearance Options


Upon completion of the forbearance, the lender shall work with the borrower to determine if they can resume making regular payments and, if so, either offer an affordable repayment plan or term extension

to defer any missed payments to the end of the loan. If the borrower is unable to resume making regular payments, the lender should evaluate the borrower for special relief measures, which include Term Extensions, Capitalization and Term Extensions, and a Mortgage Recovery Advance.

Questions regarding program policy and this announcement may be directed to the National Office Division at sfhglservicing@usda.gov or (202) 720-1452.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural


areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.



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HEALTH NEWS

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Families fear ‘heartbreaking’ cuts in disability programs

ANDY MILLER ,
Georgia Health News

Matt Gaffney (pictured right, center) had trouble living in a group home for people with disabilities like himself.

He’s nonverbal and suffers from multiple conditions: severe autism, bipolar disorder, chronic gastrointestinal issues.

In group homes, Matt, now 42, had his medications “raised to higher levels,” says Sue Gaffney, his mother. And she adds that his last group home “dumped” him into a state hospital.

Sue and her husband, Phil, moved Matt to an independent home in Athens about 20 years ago. The Gaffneys, who live in Evans, cover the cost of his cottage plus other expenses. The state pays for support workers to assist him 24 hours a day, so he’s not left alone. These aides help him eat, bathe and dress, and take him shopping, among other duties.

The Athens home helped Matt “become part of the neighborhood,” Sue Gaffney says. He works for a half-hour once a week at a local YMCA.

But now the services that he gets could be reduced under proposed state limits on hours of support received. “We are extremely concerned and nervous about this,” Sue says. “It’s heartbreaking.”

“There’s no way our son can be left alone for even five minutes,” she adds.

Georgia’s Department of Community Health (DCH), which runs the state’s Medicaid program, has proposed changes that may cut the current support hours for Matt Gaffney and

187 other Georgians with severe medical or behavioral health needs. These individuals are served under two federally authorized waiver programs, and any changes such as Georgia is seeking must be OK’d by U.S. health officials.

State officials say their goal is to serve more people, because thousands of people are now on waiting lists for community services.

But the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) and the New Options Waiver (NOW) have caused an uproar among the parents of individuals getting these services. They say their children are likely to be moved to group homes, where they won’t get the services they need.

“It will be so traumatic for Matt to move him to a group home,” Sue Gaffney says.

State officials say the approach that Georgia is taking is consistent with what other states are doing. It will provide access to as many people as possible, said Lynnette Rhodes, a DCH official, at an agency board meeting last week.

And a second state agency, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, which administers the programs, says that there are no budget cuts proposed for waiver services.

“DBHDD has worked with DCH to propose adjustments that ensure as many Georgians as possible who are living with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to access the supports these waivers provide so that they may live in their communities,” said

DBHDD in a statement Tuesday. The state’s share of the care for the 188 people is about \$9 million annually, officials say.

But at a House Appropriations subcommittee Monday, parents expressed outrage about the waiver changes.

“They’re looking at this in terms of a spreadsheet and faceless individuals,” John Zoller told the panel. His daughter Katie lives independently in Lawrenceville with help of 24-hour services.

Zoller, who lives in Flowery Branch, said that other states such as Minnesota, Oregon and Hawaii have preserved the 24-hour help. He noted that while Katie was living in a group home, she assaulted other people and hurt herself.

“I’m going to die,” he told lawmakers. “And she’s got to have a life structure when I’m no longer here.”

The waiver change adds another major Medicaid-related issue to emerge at the Georgia General Assembly.

The House on Tuesday unanimously passed a bill to extend Medicaid benefits automatically to thousands of uninsured children who get food stamps.

And the Biden administration is threatening to undo Gov. Brian Kemp’s proposal to add low-income adults to the Medicaid rolls by challenging Georgia’s eligibility requirements for recipients — such as holding a job, being enrolled in school or participating in a volunteer program. How Kemp and Georgia will respond to this federal stance is a question that has many legislators speculating.



State board debate

The proposed waiver changes have led to rare dissent on the DCH board.

Mark Trail, a board member who’s a former Georgia Medicaid director, asked agency officials tough questions about the move. He persuaded the board in January to table the issue until the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) could weigh in on the changes.

This month, the board approved the proposal, with Trail voting against it.

Trail told GHN in an interview that he didn’t get “clear answers” from state officials on the waiver changes.

If the changes are approved by CMS, Trail said, “there will be some people who will be no longer to live independently, and will have to live in a shared living environment.”

An alternative would be to add more funding for those on the waiting lists, Trail said.

The state proposal would reduce hours of service from 24 hours to 16 maximum for skilled nursing services. Others could see their current

service hours reduced even lower, families say.

State officials plan for 18 months of transition time before any individual loses the coverage.

“You have our commitment we will work with you personally to ensure that your loved one continues to get the absolute best care,” said Frank Berry, DCH commissioner, after the board vote.

D B H D D Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald said Tuesday in a statement, “We know that change is difficult, and it is especially scary for vulnerable individuals with complex needs.

“But one thing will not change: DBHDD is required and strives to meet the needs of every individual who receives waiver services. Even as we make adjustments to our programs so others can access this vital support, we still have an obligation to meet the needs of our existing participants.”

The state proposal allows some exceptions to the service changes.

But Shelly Dollar says her daughter Gabby, 31, won’t qualify for an exception.

Gabby normally lives in a Lawrenceville home with 24-hour care, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been back home with her family. Her mother and another relative are caring for her until she gets vaccinated.

“She’s so medically fragile, we couldn’t risk her getting COVID,” says Shelly Dollar, who lives in Atlanta.

Gabby has cerebral palsy, autism and multiple physical disabilities. She can’t feed herself, dress herself or do anything independently.

“She can’t do anything for herself,” Shelly says. “She can’t be alone for a minute.”

Shelly Dollar is in her 60s, like the other family member who’s helping out. She says caring for Gabby is exhausting.

“With the help of the COMP waiver, my daughter is integrated into her community.”

“Some people do great in group homes,” Shelly says. “They don’t have the physical and emotional needs of these 188 people.”

Andy Miller is CEO and Editor of Georgia Health News.

Hamilton Medical receives national recognition for support of perioperative nursing certification

HAMILTON MEDICAL

Hamilton Medical Center recently earned the CNOR® Strong designation from the Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI). The Certified Perioperative Nurse (CNOR) credential is the only accredited certification for perioperative registered nurses. Earning the CNOR is a mark of distinction and demonstrates a commitment to upholding the highest standards in patient safety.

The CNOR Strong designation is awarded annually to facilities that achieve at least a 50 percent certification rate in their eligible perioperative nursing staff and consistently recognize and reward nurses who become

certified perioperative nurse (CNOR) certified or complete recertification.

The CNOR certification program is for perioperative nurses interested in improving and validating their knowledge and skills and providing the highest quality care to their patients. Certification also recognizes a nurse’s commitment to professional development. It is an objective, measurable way of acknowledging the achievement of specialty knowledge beyond basic nursing preparation and RN licensure.

Research shows that nurses who earn the CNOR credential have greater confidence in their clinical practice. Thus, a team of certified nurses who have mastered the standards of perioperative practice provides even more empowerment,



Pictured are certified perioperative nurses at Hamilton Medical Center. From left are Todd Hudgins, Judean Bowling, Kimberly Jones, Jesse Echeverria and Madison Mills.

further advancing a culture of professionalism and promoting improved patient outcomes. This strength in numbers is why CCI launched the CNOR Strong program; to recognize those facilities committed to making a difference for patients both inside and

outside of the operating room.

“Patient safety and positive surgical outcomes are very important to Hamilton,” said Kimberly Jones, RN, MSN, CNOR, Surgical Services educator. “Supporting nurses to exceed expectations and

achieve perioperative nursing certification shows Hamilton’s commitment to these core values.”

The Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI) has been the leader in perioperative certification for more than 40 years, certifying

over 40,000 nurses internationally. An industry leader in nursing competency assessment, CCI is the credentialing body for the CNOR, Certified Surgical Services Manager (CSSM), and Certified Perioperative CNS (CNS-CP) credentials.

LAW & ORDER

Armed standoff on North 41 ends peacefully

GCSO minutes whereupon the offender, subsequently identified as George Barry Goodwin, age 64, of 2532 US Highway 41 NW, Calhoun, retreated inside a utility shed behind his home. Goodwin, armed with a shotgun, kept the deputies at bay for some time until an experienced Sheriff's Office crisis negotiator arrived on the scene. The negotiator convinced Goodwin to surrender himself. Goodwin was taken into custody without further incident. Deputies recovered the weapon with which Goodwin was armed. Goodwin was not injured during the incident and is lodged in the county jail. He will face firearms related charges, and detectives are investigating reports that he threatened bystanders as well.



CPD apprehends Sandy Springs murder suspect

STAFF REPORTS

The Calhoun Police Department announced on Monday they had apprehended Jesus Alvarez De La Rosa, pictured right, in Calhoun on Sunday night. De La Rosa was wanted by Sandy Springs Police Department in connection with a double homicide..

According to the Sandy Springs Police Department, on Thursday, Feb. 11, De La Rosa and other individuals allegedly committed an armed home invasion, which

resulted in the shooting deaths of two individuals at 789 Hammond Drive in Sandy Springs.

A BOLO was placed on De La Rosa, who was wanted for Felony Murder, 1st degree Home Invasion and other felony charges.

The Calhoun Police Department's Emergency Service Unit was called in late Sunday night, Feb. 14, to execute a search warrant on a private residence in the City of Calhoun in Parks Place subdivision. Officers from the Sandy Springs (Georgia) Police Department contacted



CPD and stated they had evidence that indicated De La Rosa had fled the city of Sandy Springs and was hiding out in Calhoun. The suspect was successfully apprehended by ESU.

Help for the Hurting

- The Life Choice Hospice Bereavement Support Group will be meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The support group is open to anyone in the community who would like to attend. The office and support group are located at 189 Professional Court, Suite 300, Calhoun. For Information, contact Jennifer at 706-602-9001.
- The Northwest Georgia Parkinson Disease Association, Inc., is offering a monthly support group for persons living with Parkinson Disease, their caregivers, family and friends. The support group will meet at Gordon Hospital; Conference Room A. For any questions about the support group and future meetings, call James Trussell at 706-235- 3164 or 706-346-5678.
- Families Anonymous is a 12-step program, for those concerned about drug abuse and behavior problems of a relative or friend. Completely anonymous, non professional, and non religious. No dues, no fees. Not connected with any hospital or agency. Located on Red Bud Road in plaza below Fitness First, next to Calhoun Counseling Center (Dr. Bledsoe's office). Meeting every Thursday 7 - 8 p.m. Call 770-548-7849 for more information.
- Bondage Breakers- Breaking the chains of addiction one soul at a time. Every Thursday night at 7 p.m. at Crane Eater Community Church, located at 3168 Red Bud Rd Calhoun, GA 30701.
- The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a monthly support group at Morning Pointe Assisted Living, 660 Jolly Road, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information or directions, call Mary Braden at 770-548-4683 or Karen Parrott at 706-346-5220. For more information about dementia and Alzheimer's disease, call 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/georgia.
- Special Care Plus, a free one-on-one consultation program, offers education and information to primary caregivers of persons with dementia. Any primary caregiver who is caring for a loved one with dementia in the home is eligible to receive this program. To learn more about the Special Care Plus program, call 800-272-3900.
- Want to make a difference in the community? Tapestry Hospice is seeking volunteers to provide companionship to our patients, read books, make crafts, garden, light house cleaning, administrative work, etc. If you're interested contact Megan at megan.guthrie@tapestryhospice.com
- The Alzheimer's Association's Caring Closet was created to help offset the high cost of incontinent products and give the families support they often desperately need. If you would like to visit the nearest Closet, call the chapter office to receive a flier with locations and hours. Morning Pointe in Calhoun has a Caring Closet; call Mary Braden at 706-629-0777.
- Community volunteers are needed at Countryside Hospice Care, where the mission is to promote comfort and dignity at the end of life. The agency covers 26 Northwest Georgia counties between three offices in LaFayette, Rome, and Newnan. If you would like to participate in this rewarding program, call 706-638-7651 or 1-800-660-7381.

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U.S. Department Of Labor Awards TCSG \$4.85 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants

GNTC

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) announced the award of \$4.85 million to a consortium of Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) colleges to help meet labor market demands for a skilled workforce. The “Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants” aim to address the skill development needs of employers and to support workers in gaining skills and transition quickly from unemployment to employment. The grants also build the capacity of community and technical colleges to address challenges associated with the Coronavirus pandemic, such as expanding online and technology-enabled learning.

“One of the Peach State’s greatest economic strengths is our workforce,” said Governor Brian Kemp. “As we continue to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, it is critical that we build on that strength to ensure Georgians are able to find work and opportunity in the days ahead. Our economic development team continues to announce projects in every region of the state, and these grants will help our technical colleges ensure businesses find a team of skilled, hardworking Georgians ready to meet their needs no matter where they locate.”

Georgia’s grant recipients are a consortium of technical colleges that are undertaking capacity building and systems change at the state level. The consortium will work with workforce development

partners and employer partners to train a broad spectrum of workers, including dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and new entrants to the workforce. The industries of focus in Georgia are healthcare, information technology, and manufacturing.

“As Georgia recovers from the impact of the Coronavirus, our technical colleges play a vital role in training the workforce that business and industry needs,” said TCSG Commissioner, Greg Dozier. “We are extremely grateful for this grant provided by The U.S. Department of Labor as it will provide us with the resources necessary to get more people skilled with industry-recognized credentials and back to work in some of Georgia’s leading sectors.”

TCSG’s consortium partners are as follows:

- Athens Technical College
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Coastal Pines Technical College
- Columbus Technical College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Georgia Piedmont Technical College
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Lanier Technical College
- Ogeechee Technical College
- Savannah Technical College
- Southern Regional Technical College
- Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Georgia (TCSG) are Georgia’s top resource for skilled workers. TCSG offers world-class training in 600 associate degree, diploma and certificate programs to students who are trained on state-of-the-art equipment by instructors who are experts in their fields. The system also houses Georgia’s Office of Adult Education, which promotes and provides adult literacy and education programs, including the GED testing program, throughout the state. In addition, TCSG partners with companies through Quick Start, the nation’s top customized workforce training program, and through its individual colleges, who work with local industry to provide workforce and training solutions. For more information, visit [TCSG.edu](https://tcsgeu.edu).

Business Students Gain Hands-on Tax Prep Experience

DALTON STATE COLLEGE

More than 30 student and alumni volunteers from the Wright School of Business have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by helping community members prepare and electronically file their state and federal tax returns.

Student volunteers will also be offering tax prep services to the public at the Georgia United Credit Union on Fridays from 5:30 – 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, services are limited and by appointment only. Services at both locations are free, and both sites will follow COVID-19 safety guidelines. The

service will be offered to Dalton State students and staff also.

These services are part of the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program’s partnership with the Georgia United Credit Union. VITA supports underserved individuals and communities by partnering with various organizations to offer free tax preparation services. This year marks VITA’s 10th year of service in the Dalton area. Its partnership with the Georgia United Credit Union not only benefits community members by offering tax prep services, but it also provides an opportunity to gain hands-on experience for many business students.

“The VITA program is

a valuable opportunity for our accounting majors to apply the skills and knowledge from the classroom to benefit our community,” said Dr. Marilyn Helms, dean of Wright School of Business.

This year, 10 professional development student volunteers, 20 accounting student volunteers and seven alumni volunteers will work under faculty guidance to provide tax prep services to community members. Students from the professional development course will serve as receptionists, greeters and managers, while accounting students will take a short course and certify with the IRS before helping prepare taxes for


individuals and families.

By applying their unique skill sets in a real-world environment, students will have the opportunity to gain practical work experience and build their resumes. Students can gain volunteer hours and have access to valuable credentialing through the IRS program certification required to prepare and file taxes.

“Participating in VITA makes our accounting majors more valuable to employers,” Helms said.

“It’s a great opportunity for these students to learn more about volunteering and to become excited about potential accounting and business careers.”

In 2020, student volunteers completed and filed over 600 tax



returns from late January through mid-March. This year, the more than 30 student and alumni volunteers will continue to serve their community, and in doing so, will gain invaluable hands-on experience that will serve as an entry point to potential careers.

Berry professor to speak at Smithsonian event

BERRY COLLEGE

The Smithsonian Institution will feature a Berry College geology professor discussing her research on Iceland for the Smithsonian Associates Streaming series.

Associate Professor of Geology Tamie Jovanelly will present “The Top Ten Geological Wonders of Iceland” from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., Feb. 17 via Zoom. The event requires tickets and is open to the public. Tickets for this lecture are available for purchase at <http://events.si.edu/149741916/GeologicalWondersofIceland>

“Iceland is a mecca for geologists as it represents the world’s best exposures of plate tectonics, volcanics, and glacial features on an island the size of Kentucky,” says Jovanelly.

Smithsonian Associates is part of the Smithsonian Institute, the world’s largest museum, education and research complex. Smithsonian Associates is the largest museum-based educational program in the world. Through this program, individuals have access to programs and courses, studio arts classes, virtual tours inspired by the Smithsonian Institution’s research, collections and exhibitions and

more. Lectors invited to speak are distinguished experts, professionals and researchers of various fields of interest.

Jovanelly will discuss the forces that have shaped the Icelandic landscape, specifically the influence of structure, process and time on the island’s geologic evolution. The lecture will last for 50 minutes with an additional 30 minutes for questions and answers.

In July 2020, Jovanelly published an advanced geological textbook, “Iceland Geology: Tectonics, Volcanics, and Glacial Features.” After publishing this textbook, she began a 16-stop book tour and, since the onset of COVID, has spoken virtually at more than 30 museums, science cafes and universities around the country. The Smithsonian Institution invited her to speak after hearing one of these lectures.

She first visited Iceland in 2006 and has since returned many times to conduct research and lead undergraduate students on study abroad trips.

For more information on Berry College’s Geology department, visit <https://www.berry.edu/academics/majors/geology/>.



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REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL from Rep. Rick Jasperse



Rep. Rick Jasperse
R-Jasper, District 11

It was good to see a few folks from our community at the Capitol this week. It has been so quiet under the Gold Dome, since groups of kids and interested parties are not here. I miss the visitors from all over Georgia. The building isn't closed at all; just with Covid and all, folks are not coming.

But that hasn't stopped folks from emailing or calling, which is fine. I was answering email on Saturday night catching up. The most important Committee to be meeting right now besides our appropriations budget committee's is the Speaker's Special Committee on Election Integrity. These 14 people have a lot on them, and the committee is bipartisan, if you were wondering. They are listening to us give them our ideas, as we are listening to you giving us ideas. The good thing for all of us, is these meetings are online and you can watch them. If you are interested in getting on the notification list for when these meetings are, email or call me, and I will get

you on the list. Some of the ideas are that all of Georgia's 159 County Board of Elections need uniformity in the way elections are operated, monitored, and secured, and authority given to the State Election Board to suspend and replace, as needed, to ensure accuracy and integrity to the election process. Fulton, DeKalb, and Gwinnett counties should operate the same as Pickens, Gordon, and Murray counties. Absentee ballots should be checked for accuracy, including proper identification and proof of residency. All facets of elections should be spelled out and enforced through statute, so as to prohibit legal challenges determined by the Judicial system. Constitutional laws,

as written, should be adhered to and enforced. Drop boxes eliminated or manned as they are in Florida. Defining poll watchers' rights and responsibilities and others. Right now, there are 30+ different bills that they are working with and evaluating and getting input from all of us on. It's the time of the year when special interest groups get their email machines rolling, because they don't like a bill or do like a bill. I will have to tell you these mass emails have little impact. A personal email/letter/call from you on your opinion has plenty of impact. It doesn't have to be long to make a point, say what do you like, or don't like, and suggestions if you have any; be sure to

identify yourself as my constituent, so that I will focus on you. Local legislation is coming through. Cities and counties have a lot of power given to them by the Legislature. We regularly name roads, and change rules for Boards, City Charters, and local Authorities. Recently-elected Pickens County Commission Chairman Kris Stancil asked me to review the current laws regarding the boards he appoints. Due to the volume of work that our legislative council is under right now, I picked a few: Airport Authority, Library, and Elections boards. I should hear back from them any day, as I asked a few weeks ago for their opinion. What I will do then if changes

are needed, is to notify the Commissioner and create local legislation to do what our legal counsel recommends to keep everything right. Remember that in the past few years, we redrew local School Board district lines to keep representation equal and legal. Those are the quick highlights, as I am limited in space. If you want details, I can provide them it you; you just have to ask! As important bills come up for debate, please call on me to fill in the blanks that are not reported. I like doing that a lot. Either call my Capitol office 404-656-7153 or email me at rick.jasperse@house.ga.gov, and we will do our best to answer your questions or concerns.

Term limits for Georgia lawmakers proposed in General Assembly bill

BEAU EVANS
Capitol Beat News Service

A state Senate committee debated a measure Monday to limit terms for Georgia House and Senate members to 12 years total, as well as doubling the term for state senators from two to four years. A constitutional amendment proposed by Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, would set term limits for state House members at six two-year terms and for senators at three four-year terms. The limits would kick in starting after the 2024 elections. Currently, both House and Senate lawmakers in Georgia have unlimited recourse to seeking two-year terms. Dolezal's resolution would also limit Georgia's lieutenant governor to two four-

year terms instead of the current unlimited tenure. "Term limits are something that have bipartisan support in every state of the union," Dolezal told members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee Monday. "The only thing that people seem to agree on is that we should come down here, accomplish our work [and] have it be a season of our life as opposed to perhaps the entire book of our life." No votes were taken on the constitutional amendment on Monday. If it clears committee, both chambers in the General Assembly would have to pass it by a two-thirds vote. It would then be placed on the ballot for Georgia voters to decide. The resolution met with pushback Monday

from freshman state Sen. Nikki Merritt, D-Grayson, who argued term-limited state lawmakers might be more swayed by lobbyists during their final years in office without the incentive of seeking reelection. "To me, they'd just be more indebted to lobbyists," Merritt said. "I just don't feel like they would be as motivated toward the end of their terms to serve their constituents as effectively." Dolezal said his resolution aims to oust career politicians from the state Capitol and curb the "influences with an outsized advantage" when wealthy groups and lobbyists back long-tenured state lawmakers who gain political influence over the years.



Kemp administration announces Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act

CONTRIBUTED

Governor Brian P. Kemp has announced the roll out of House Bill 304, the Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act, carried by Representative Jodi Lott (R - Evans). One of the Kemp Administration's key initiatives for the 2021 Legislative Session, this bill will incentivize the production of medicines and medical devices in Georgia, limiting the state's need to compete with other states or foreign nations for critical supplies. "One of the lessons we learned early on in the pandemic is that we cannot waste time in bidding wars with others for life-saving supplies," said Governor Kemp. "Last session, we incentivized the production of PPE in the

Peach State to alleviate that problem, build up our stockpile, and make it easier to stay in business in the era of COVID-19. HB 304 is a natural next step to that program and will help us build on Georgia's momentum to become a leader in all sectors of the health care industry. No one state or nation should hold a monopoly on critical medicines and medical supplies, and we should bring these industries and the jobs that come with them back to America and here to Georgia." During the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, the State of Georgia enacted a PPE Tax Credit to incentivize manufacturers of personal protective equipment, including those existing Georgia manufacturers which did not traditionally manufacture PPE

but began doing so in response to COVID-19. The Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act is modeled off that legislation, increasing the amount of credit available under the Jobs Tax Credit to incentivize job creation and investment in the medical equipment and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries. This measure will work to ensure collaboration between the public and private sector in Georgia to cultivate long-term growth and development of the state's health care ecosystem. Currently, the Georgia Department of Economic Development's COVID-19 Suppliers Map features more than 350 suppliers of PPE throughout the state. The map is available for viewing [here](#).

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GREESON

From page 1A

rallies. One of the last photography requests he'd made was to cover the annual Smoker/Culberson Golf Classic, held last weekend.

"Obviously he was a tremendously talented photographer, one of the best in the business, but his loyalty and friendship are what will forever remain etched in my memory," said Gazette Owner and Publisher Brandi Owczarz. "Larry's photography was so relied upon and requested by our community because he honestly cared; he never met a stranger, he instantly loved you and he always wanted the best for everyone. He wasn't just a good one...he was a great one...and his presence in Gordon County will be missed for many, many years. It was an honor to call him, not just my best friend, but my brother... my family."

Greeson was born on Sept. 7, 1963, in Warner Robbins, Georgia to Shirley and the late Larry

Wilson Greeson Sr. His dad preceded him in death in September 2020. After graduating from Calhoun High School in 1981, Greeson proudly served in The United States Air Force. He was an entrepreneur and was a restaurant consultant for many establishments, including Captain D's.

He is survived by his wife, Michele Mathis Greeson; his children, Kady Greeson and Kyle Greeson; his mother, Shirley Greeson; his brother, Greg Greeson; other loving relatives and many friends.

Greeson was known for taking people in and making them feel at home. An extremely generous soul, he had made numerous donations to sports teams and school clubs throughout the years, even helping to buy a car for a student who was having to walk to his job.

"I do not really remember when I first met JR, but I am pretty sure it was in a gym. We became fast friends who always gave each other a hard time cheering on our favorite teams," said Calhoun School Board member Becky Gilbert George. "He has taken so many amazing pictures of the girls

over the years but he was so much more than a great photographer. He was generous and truly cared about others. There was never a time I asked him to support a child at Christmas or a family in our community that he didn't give generously and then he would pick up the phone and call his friends to get their support. He truly wanted the best for all our kids no matter what school they attended. Our community lost a great person."

"(He was) one of the best men to have ever walked this Earth," said Fit from the Core owner Dorian Johnson, one of many Greeson called family. "(He) had a heart of gold and there will never be another Larry Greeson."

"We are heartbroken over the loss of one of our most avid supporters. Larry's photography has captured many memories and special moments over the years, but it's his love and devotion to our community and students we will miss most," said a statement from the Sonoraville High School Tip-Off Club.

DWTS

From page 2A

a video featuring comments from members of the planning committee, a bloop reel, and a memorial tribute to Major Lars G. "Trey" Pierson, III. A driving force on the planning committee during the early years, Pierson danced in the contest twice and was a 2013 Judges' Choice Winner. He died suddenly in November. United Way's former Executive Director Vickie Spence will present a Trey Pierson Spirit Award to the 2021 dancer considered by the committee to best reflect his spirit of commitment and enthusiasm.

The dance teams, listed alphabetically

by the female partner's first name, are Abby Crowe and Ben Bingham; Aubry Dorsey and Isaac Nance; Carly Curtis and Skylar Benham; Carson Glaze and Grant Glaze; Joy Nudd and Garrett Nudd; Kaylan Gaines and Addison Baker; Lily Stephens and Nate Stockman; Megan Wright and Christian Lewis; Raven Pasley and Ian King; and Suzanne Roberts with Tony Pyle.

First and second-place winners will be identified in two categories-Judges' Choice and People's Choice-for both the student and adult teams. People's Choice winners are determined based on their fundraising successes. Judges' Choice winners are determined based on the scores the contest judges give their dance performances. The adult teams winning in those categories will receive trophies

and bragging rights. The student teams winning in those categories will receive trophies, bragging rights, and college scholarships. Each student on the first-place team in each category will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and each student on the second-place team will receive a \$750 scholarship. A panel of judges will be assembled from field professionals outside Gordon County.

Tickets will go on sale to the public on Saturday, March 27. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis. Sponsorships remain available for individuals or corporations wishing to support the fundraiser. Those arrangements may be made by contacting the United Way office at 706.602.5548, or online at <https://www.gordoncountyunitedway.org>.

United Way of Gordon County is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the Gordon County area. It works every day to advance the common good by investing in quality human service programs and by working with philanthropists, businesses, churches, local governments, and dedicated community volunteers to create lasting and measurable changes. United Way creates opportunities for all by focusing on the building blocks for a good life: Education, Basic Needs, and Health. The mission of United Way of Gordon County is to accurately assess the needs of Gordon County and to mobilize available resources to meet those needs. It serves eighteen local agencies in Gordon County, as well as serving as a referral source for the community.

GORDON Gazette

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