

# GORDON Gazette

Weekend, July 18, 2020

www.gordongazettega.com

Volume 2, No. 81

Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News



## Gordon County Chamber of Commerce STATE OF INDUSTRY VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR

Presented by AdventHealth Gordon

Friday, July 24 • 1:00 - 2:00PM

Guest Speaker: **RUSSELL GRIZZLE**  
CEO of Mannington Mills



GORDON COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## 14th District candidates speak at recent Republican Party meeting ahead of early voting, which starts Monday

Brandi Owczarz  
gordongazettega@gmail.com

Early voting begins Monday for the 14th District Republican runoff, and both of the race's candidates, John Cowan and Marjorie Taylor Green, spoke to those who showed up at Thursday night's Gordon County Republican Party meeting, which was held at BB&T Park in downtown Calhoun. The candidates did not debate, but did have seven minutes each to introduce themselves and state their platforms. After the meeting

was adjourned, each candidate was available to speak with those in attendance.

Cowan, a neurosurgeon from Rome, told the audience that he grew up on a cattle farm in Bartow County, just down the road from his grandfather, who in addition to being the mayor of Cartersville for many years, was also head of the Cattlemen's Association in the late 60's and early 70's. Cowan's mom was an educator and his dad was



BRANDI OWCZARZ/Staff

14th district candidates John Cowan, left, and Marjorie Taylor Greene address a crowd at the recent Gordon County Republican Party meeting.

See **ELECTION**,  
page 9A

## Food City, Walmart, Kroger and CVS to require face masks for shoppers beginning this week

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The corporate offices of Food City, Walmart, Kroger and CVS, who all have stores located in Calhoun, announced this week that they will

be requiring customers to wear face masks beginning next week to help in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

On Friday, Food City, a popular chain of grocery stores with a location at the corner

of Dews Pond Road and Lovers Lane, announced that effective Thursday, July 23, face coverings are required to shop or work in all of their grocery stores (unless legal exceptions apply).

The grocery chain, which is based in Abingdon, Va., has stores located in Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, Northeast Tennessee and North Georgia.

"We care about

protecting our neighbors, associates, and the local economy," said Food City in a statement. "Due to the recent spike in positive COVID-19 cases in our communities, face coverings will be required while shopping

or working in our stores beginning Thursday, July 23 (unless legal exceptions apply).

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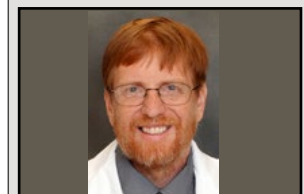
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4th annual Back to School Celebration to be held on Saturday, Aug. 1.

### HEALTH 9A



Hamilton Physician Group – Behavioral Health recently began seeing patients at its new location

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@gazettegordon

## 'Mohawk Presents Dancing with the Stars Gets Schooled!' introduces sixth team: Glaze, Carpenter

CONTRIBUTED

"Mohawk Presents Calhoun's Dancing with the Stars Gets Schooled!" will put eighteen local high school students onstage for back-to-back shows at 1:30 and 7:00 on Saturday, August 8 at the Calhoun Performing Arts Center. Nine dance teams will vie for trophies, bragging rights and college scholarships as they compete to raise funds for United Way of Gordon County.

"Planning an event like Dancing with the Stars truly takes a village. We have a planning committee

that consists of Andy Baxter with Andy Baxter Photography, Jennie Coker with Calhoun City Schools, Kristy Brown with Greater Community Bank, retired educator Michelle Frix Ward, and Dr. Amy Parker with Gordon County Schools that has been working to put the 2020 show together. This committee is a hands-on group of local professionals who are fully committed to the success of the event and United Way," said Jennifer Latour, Executive Director of

See **DWTS**,  
page 8A



PHOTO: ANDY BAXTER

Caitlyn Glaze and Hayes Carpenter

## CPD to participate in Operation Southern Shield beginning Monday, July 20

CONTRIBUTED

Law enforcement officers in Georgia are ready to put the hammer down on drivers who are hammering down on their gas pedal during the fourth annual "Operation Southern Shield" speed enforcement operation.

After the last three year's highly successful operation

that drew national attention, Georgia will join neighboring states in Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and South Carolina in pulling over drivers who are breaking the law by traveling above the legal speed limit on interstates,

See **CPD**,  
page 4A





# Second Front

## Kinsey recognized with DAISY Award

ADVENTHEALTH  
GORDON

April Kinsey, RN, has been named AdventHealth Gordon's latest DAISY Award recipient. This award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the super-human tasks nurses perform every day.

Kinsey, a nurse in the surgical services department at AdventHealth Gordon, received the following nomination from a coworker: "I am nominating April for this nursing recognition award for her dedication, leadership and relentless pursuit of excellence in our OR.

"April started working in the OR in January of 2013. She began as a circulating nurse. She quickly stood out as a proficient circulator, and I always enjoyed being

in the same room with her or taking call with her. She consistently took great care of her scrubs and surgeons and was adept at picking up patient issues which would impact their anesthesia and surgical care.

"Her leadership skills and dedication have allowed her to now work as the charge nurse for the OR. I cannot adequately express her dedication, willingness to work over and do whatever is required to make the day happen and make the OR run as smoothly as possible.

"Many medical leaders or middle-management personnel lose their clinical skills and become detached from those 'in the trenches.' This is not so for April. Daily, she's staying on top of running the board, interacting between anesthesia and surgical staff,

coordinating surgical product representatives, retrieving in-patients and circulating or even scrubbing in if required.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for April and believe she is so worthy of recognition. She is the type of nursing leader that we need to exhort, embrace and keep in the family."

If you or a loved one have been a patient at AdventHealth Gordon and would like to nominate an extraordinary nurse for the DAISY Award, please call 706-602-7800 ext. 2258.

To find out more about the program, including the growing list of partners, please go to [www.DAISYfoundation.org](http://www.DAISYfoundation.org).

About AdventHealth Gordon

Founded in 1935, AdventHealth Gordon is proud to be a member



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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, unify the system's 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

## Morning Pointe Seniors Give Back to Sonoraville High Seniors



CONTRIBUTED

In light of the unusual circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the senior citizens at Morning Pointe of Calhoun assisted living community showed their support for another

group of seniors—the senior class at Sonoraville High School. The Class of 2020 faced a spring semester that was far from typical, and the residents at Morning Pointe wanted to make these students were honored and celebrated for all of their hard work. "The residents enjoyed giving the seniors



gift bags full of treats for them. We try to incorporate intergenerational activities into our programming whenever possible because it enriches the lives of both our seniors and the students. Congratulations to the Class of 2020 from all of us here at Morning Pointe!"

LEFT PHOTO: (Front row, left to right) Haley Williams and Davis Kilpatrick, (Back row, left to right) Juanita Henry and Jane Ledbetter

RIGHT PHOTO: (Front row, left to right) Ansley Shelton and Brooke Childs, (Back row, left to right) Jean Pennel and Jane Bigham

## 4th annual Back to School Celebration to be held Aug. 1

STAFF REPORTS

The CCO Clothing Closet & Ministry is holding its 4th annual Back to School Celebration at the Calhoun Recreation Department, located at 601 South River Street, on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Several churches, businesses and groups come together each year to provide free backpacks, school supplies, free kids haircuts, clothing, shoes, food fun and fellowship, along with music and special super hero characters.

Donations are still being accepted for the event. Some of the items still needed

include: backpacks, markers, colored pencils, notebook paper, composition books, kid's scissors, bottled waters, index cards and hand sanitizer. For drop off information, message or call 678-767-0071.

Christian Community Outreach is a collection of various churches, groups, businesses and individuals who come and work together to share the gospel of Jesus to all while helping provide variety of items needed by families in and around the Gordon County community. For more information, visit their Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/Eccclothing/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Eccclothing/?ref=page_internal)



## GNTC student receives \$5,000 scholarship from Delta Air Lines

GEORGIA  
NORTHWESTERN  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

To assist in earning her second academic degree, Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) Aviation Maintenance Technology major Stephanie Tarbous received the \$5,000 Delta Air Lines Aircraft Maintenance Technology Scholarship, which will pay for her education until she graduates next month.

"The money is out there, you just have to apply for it," said Tarbous, a resident of Rome. "You might think you don't have a good enough story to receive a scholarship, but if you show passion for your field it really helps."

This is the fourth scholarship Tarbous has

received during her time at GNTC. The money she receives makes it possible for her to focus solely on her second degree. Tarbous has a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design from Philadelphia University, but after graduation she wanted to go specifically into the field of aviation.

"I remember my dad taking me to the airfield when I was younger to watch the planes take off," she said. "I loved watching them fly. Planes are so huge and powerful, but they have to be handled with great care."

Her goal once she graduates is to work on airplane turbine engines in an overhaul shop. According to her instructor Jon Byrd, director of Aviation Maintenance Technology

at GNTC, working on airplanes comes naturally to Tarbous.

"She not only strives to learn as much as she can, but she also helps other students by sharing what she has learned with them," said Byrd. "I have no doubt she will make an extremely valuable employee soon after graduation."

In the meantime, Tarbous is at GNTC's Aviation Training Center located at the Richard B. Russell Regional Airport in Rome working on the many planes housed at the hanger. Earlier this year, she and her fellow Aviation Maintenance Technology students deconstructed an engine prior to the college-wide closure at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's been two months

since we took it apart," she said. "I hope we took good notes!"

On top of the scholarship, Tarbous attended the annual Women in Aviation International Conference in early March for free. Andrew Csondor, Delta aviation maintenance technician and technical analyst, said Tarbous also had the opportunity to meet with some of Delta's upper management at the conference and attended multiple educational classes.

"I hold Stephanie in high regard," Csondor said. "She is extremely driven and her passion for the aviation maintenance trade shines through brightly."

Tarbous also received the Fred and Diane Fitts Aviation Scholarship



in 2019, the ATP and Case Bank Aircraft Maintenance Technology Scholarship in 2019 and the Pratt & Whitney Engine Maintenance Training Scholarship. She was also a Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) semifinalist for GNTC in 2020.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College provides workforce education to the citizens of Northwest Georgia. Students have the opportunity to earn an associate degree, diploma, or a certificate in business, health, industrial, or public service career paths. For more information about GNTC, visit us at [www.GNTC.edu](http://www.GNTC.edu). GNTC is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia and an Equal Opportunity Institution.

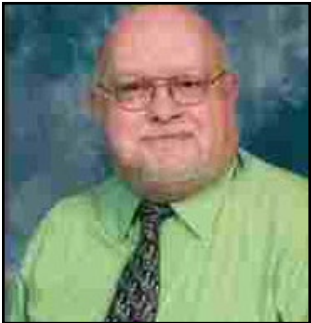


# Obituaries

## July 18, 2020

### Winfred Bearden

Mr. Winfred Ray Bearden, 73, of Resaca, departed this life Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at his residence surrounded by his loving family.



Winfred was born June 29, 1947 in Chatsworth. He was a 1966 graduate of Murray County High School and a graduate of Dalton Vocational School with an associate’s degree in Health Occupations. Winfred had a compassion for others and retired from Hamilton Medical Center after thirty-seven years as a LPN and Distribution Supervisor.

He received Jesus Christ as his personal savior at an early age and was a Deacon and Lay minister at the Chatsworth Church of God of Prophecy (Central Community Church) and at the time of his passing he was attending Crane Eater Community Church in Calhoun.

Winfred was preceded in death by a son, Donald Bearden; his father, J.C. Bearden; his mother and stepfather, Mertes Cates Bearden Baine and Bobby Baine; his father-in-law, and mother-in-law, Walter Vernon and Anna Evans.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Deborah Evans Bearden of the residence and would have celebrated their forty-sixth wedding anniversary, Dec. 8, 2020; daughters and sons-in-law, Kelly and Jimmy Cardin of Resaca, and Britany and John Kersey of Waycross; grandchildren, Charity Bailey, Evan Kersey, Gabriel Quinones, Michael Kersey and Spencer Cardin; brothers and sister-in-law, Charles and Beneta Bearden of Chatsworth; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Frances and Kenneth Tate, Gary and Beverly Evans all of Cohutta, Dewayne and Tina Evans of Dalton, Phillip and Erica Evans of Ft. Oglethorpe; several nieces and nephews.

Services to celebrate the life of Mr. Winfred Ray Bearden were held Friday, July 17, 2020 at 4 p.m. at Ponders Melrose Chapel with Reverend Paul Gay, Brother Larry Hamilton, Pastor Edwin Puckett, Bishop Mark Menke and Reverend Marty Lawson officiating. He was laid to rest at the Crane Eater Community Cemetery in Calhoun, with Reverend Howard Strickland officiating. Honored to serve as pallbearers were Brad Hall, Dennis Henry, Scott Bearden, Chris Bearden, Michael Evans and Keith Evans. Honorary pallbearers were Brent Parker, the 1966 graduates of Murray County High School and the Men’s Council of Crane Eater Church of God.

The family received friends at Ponders Melrose Chapel from 5 - 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Sandy, Paige, Destiny and Peyton from Homestead Hospice for their loving care of our beloved husband and father.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.pondersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pondersfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements by Ponders Melrose Chapel 138 Melrose Drive Dalton, GA 30721, 706-226-4002



### Thomas Bradford

Thomas Lee Bradford, 89, of Calhoun, died Monday, July 13, 2020. He was born on Sept. 22, 1930 in Alabama to the late Robert Lee and Loree Fleming Bradford. He is preceded in death by his sons, Ricky Bradford, Lee Allen Bradford, Kim Bradford and daughter, Diane Bradford Jones.

He was the owner and operator of Brads Used Auto Parts. He proudly served our Country in the United States Army during the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Edith Easter Garrett Bradford; sons, Larry Bradford and Mickey Bradford; daughters and sons-in-law, Debbie (Ricky) Randolph, and Darlene (David) Farrell; brother, Billy Bradford; grandchildren, Sabrina O’Neal, Nicole Jones, Brandy McGinnis, Nicholas Bradford, Aaron Bradford, Ashley Farrell, and Jason Evans; seven great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives also survive.

The Funeral service to honor his life will be held Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Eddie Brannon officiating.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 from 12 p.m. until the service hour of 2 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, social distancing guidelines will be observed.

To leave condolences and sign the online guestbook please go to, [www.maxbrannonandsons.com](http://www.maxbrannonandsons.com)

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Thomas Lee Bradford.



### Pamela Franklin

Pamela Walraven Franklin, age 54, of the Red

Bud Community, passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at AdventHealth Gordon.

Pamela was born on March 8, 1966 in Rome to Dorothy Brown Walraven and the late Otto “Toby” Walraven. In addition to her father, Pamela was also preceded in death by: her sister, Janice Copeland; and a brother, Tony Edwards. She was a lifetime resident of Gordon County and worked as a caregiver for the elderly.

Pamela is survived by: her mother, Dorothy Walraven; two brothers, Walt Walraven and his wife Wanda and Joey Walraven and his wife Sharon; sister-in-law, Donna Edwards; nieces and nephews, Stephanie Walraven, Christen Walraven, Weston Walraven, Robert Copeland, Autumn Johnson, Amanda Rhodamer, Candi Walraven, Dawn Franklin, and April Edwards; and special great-nephew and great-niece, Hudson Walraven and Carter Walraven.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Sunday, July 19 at 3 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home with Reverend Lance Johnson officiating. Interment will follow in Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers serving include: Weston Walraven, Hudson Walraven, Greg Brown, Barry Walraven, Timmy Walraven, Brent Walraven, and Robert Copeland.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, July 19 from 1 – 3 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

The family respectfully asks that guests abide by CDC Covid-19 guidelines.

You may leave the family online condolences at [www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com](http://www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com)

Thomas Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Pamela Walraven Franklin.



### Walter Gardner

Mr. Walter Esbon Gardner, age 74, of Adairsville, passed away Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at his residence.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, July 21, 2020, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Barton Funeral Home. A private funeral services will follow with Elder Susie Gilbert and Bishop Billy Harris officiating. Interment will be in the Georgia Nation Cemetery, Canton with military honors.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, will be in charge of funeral arrangements for Mr. Walter Esbon Gardner.

### Barton Funeral Home

### Larry Johnston

Mr. Larry Ralph Johnston, 60, of Fairmount, died Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at AdventHealth Gordon surrounded by his loving family.



He was born in Floyd County on Aug. 4, 1959, son of the late Ralph Kimball Johnson and Edna Pendley Johnston Baker. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Randy Johnston, and step-father, Buddy Baker.

Larry was a member of the 1977 graduating class of Calhoun High School and a graduate of the University Of Georgia School Of Pharmacy in 1983. Larry was a Registered Pharmacist having worked at Moore Pharmacy in Cedartown, and owned and operated Sonoraville Pharmacy until ill health forced his retirement. He and his wife Deborah were members of Belmont Baptist Church where he served as a Sunday School teacher, Deacon, and leader of the Christian Men’s Sportsmen group. Larry always enjoyed the outdoors, especially trout fishing with family and friends.

Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Deborah Brookshire Johnston; daughter, Bryttany Johnston Cochran and her husband Justin; son, Cole Johnston; sister, Carol Causey and her husband Bob of Winston, Ga.; step-brother, Steve Baker and his wife Debbie of Marshall, Ky.; grandchildren, Kayce Cochran, Silas Cochran, Kamryn Lawrence and Ivy Johnston, niece, Ariel Carter of Calhoun and Chad Causey of Winston; Aunt and Uncle, Pat and Everett Nix of Calhoun; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Diane and Billy Carter of Calhoun along with cousins and other relatives.

A service to celebrate Larry’s life was held Friday, July 17, 2020, at 2 p.m. from Belmont Baptist Church with Pastor Stephen Williams, Rev. John Price, and Rev. Tommy Phillips officiating. The family received friends at the church Friday from 12 until 2 p.m. Pallbearers serving included the men of Larry’s Sunday School Class, Men of the Christian Sportsmen’s group, Billy Carter, Jeff Pirkle, Robert Paris, Jerry Littlefield, Gene Holsomback, Dr. Alan McHan, Kelvin Ratliff, Justin Cochran, Cole Johnson, Timmy Jordan, Larry Thomas, Dave Roberts, J.P. Foster, Eric Warner, Jeff Nation, Tony Langford, and Rev. Tommy Phillips.

The family request that flowers be omitted and contributions be made to the charity of your choice or the American Cancer Society in Larry’s memory.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Larry Ralph Johnston.



### Betty Lipham

Ms. Betty Joyce Lipham, age 75, of Adairsville, passed away Friday, July 17 2020, at AdventHealth Gordon.

Ms. Lipham was born in Moultrie on April 20, 1945, to the late L.C. Hobgood and Nellie Euphemia Miles Hobgood. She attended Norristown Revival Center. Betty enjoyed a good cup of coffee and a word search, cooking, and a good find on QVC. Ms. Lipham was preceded in death by her parents; granddaughter, Kristina Nicole Peacock; and sister, Donnis Elaine Singletary.

Survivors include her daughters, Nellie Faye Lipham, Bettina Joyce McStotts (Mitch), Revenia Irene Lipham, Jennifer Vernell White, and Angela Denise Lipham; grandchildren, Darrell Jason Rich, Ritchie Lewis Rich, Andrew Bryant White, Glenn Lynn White II, and Hannah Michelle Lipham; great-grandchildren, Michael Levi Rich, Emily Emma Rich, Natalie Isabella Rich, Willow Grace Rich, Alexander Lewis Rich, Brooklyn Elaine Floyd, Justice Love Riley, and Serenity Jade Curtis; sister, Clara Delores Carter and several nieces and nephews also survive.

Graveside service will be held Monday, July 20, 2020, at 4 p.m. at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Norristown, with Pastor Jack Stafford officiating.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Inc., Adairsville is in charge of arrangements for Ms. Betty Joyce Lipham.

### Barton Funeral Home

### Mary Jo Rickett

Mary Jo Rickett, 66, of Calhoun, departed this life Thursday morning, July 16, 2020 in the comfort of her sister’s home surrounded by her loving family.

Ms. Rickett was born in Cartersville on March 28, 1954. She was a daughter of the late Willard and Lois Epps Lee. Prior to ill health she had been employed at Ridgewood Manor Nursing Home in Dalton.

She is survived by her sisters, Annette Lamb of Calhoun, Sharon Wade, Tammy Hall, and Linda Waters; brothers, Joe Lee, Richard Epps, David Lee, Jerry Lee of Fairmount, and Donald Lee; several nieces and nephews also survive.

To fulfill her wishes Ms. Rickett will be cremated and no formal services will be held.

Condolences may be sent to the family and the guestbook may be signed by visiting our website at [www.pondersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pondersfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are by family owned and operated Ponders Calhoun Chapel and Ponders Crematory. We own and operated our onsite crematory ensuring your loved one never leaves our care. 675 Jolly Rd Calhoun GA 30701 706-625-7577.



### Jorge Monson-Villatoro

Jorge Monson-Villatoro, 73, of Calhoun, died Monday, July 13, 2020, at Redmond Regional Medical Center in Rome from complications of a heart attack. He was born on Nov. 11, 1946, in Guatemala.



Jorge and his family owned and operated Estela’s Produce in Calhoun. Jorge loved his family and cherished his friends and enjoyed greeting and talking with his customers.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Estela Castillo; his son, Jorge Monzon; his daughter, Heidi Castillo; and stepdaughter, Suceli Monzon; his grandchildren, Oliver, Alex, Gaby Cardona; his sister, Francisca Monzon; his brother, Pablo Monzon and other relatives.

The family will receive friends Sunday, July 19, 2020, in the Chapel of Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home between the hours of 1 – 3 p.m. The funeral service will follow at 3 p.m. Burial will be in Fain Cemetery. Pallbearers serving include Byron Najera, Alex Cardona, Jovany Cortez, and Jorge Monzon.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Jorge Monson-Villatoro.





STATE NEWS

REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

from Representative Rick Jasperse

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

We are in unusual times, and the last two weeks of the 2020 legislative session was a memorable one for sure. We heard the statement from Speaker Ralston, “sine die,” two weeks ago. I should have written this article then, but had some family time to make up! I will spend the next few weeks going over what we did and didn’t do in the 2020 legislative session.

When we came back to the Capitol after the coronavirus break, we were all spread out over the House chamber, the balcony, and another room. It was unusual. We had our masks on, and some hallways were closed that are normally bustling with citizens expressing their views and concerns about their specific issues. Security was there checking your temperature as

you entered the building and offering coronavirus testing and antibody testing. Before reconvening, Marcia and I were tested and received negative results for the virus. You may have read earlier that I thought I developed coronavirus from the first session, and looks like I did, because I tested positive for antibodies. Somehow Marcia, my sweet wife, tested negative for antibodies.

I have to say I miss the citizen interaction part, because it’s always good to see people from home or talk to individuals who are passionate about an issue. There were a few people there, but nothing like normal. I also missed not having Pages, those young people to help deliver messages and get to see the Capitol, maybe for the first time in person.

The Senate had the hardest job. We had passed our version of the 2020 budget right before

we left in March, and they had to create a new budget taking into account reduced revenues due to coronavirus effect on the economy. They did a very good job working with the revenues and expenses they were presented. As you know, our money is not unlimited. I will spend next week’s article talking about what is in the budget and what’s not.

Our committees worked as we normally do, but with everybody spaced out, and people speaking for and against bills lined up outside the rooms so we didn’t overcrowd the rooms. The professionals who worked out the logistics like microphones and seating and video did a great job, as many people who couldn’t attend could watch from the comfort of home. I had an education meeting, and over 300 people watched online. I was worried that bills would not receive the scrutiny that normally comes with a

committee meeting, but the members didn’t let us down in speaking their minds and helping perfect legislation.

We passed around 150 bills in the two weeks we were in session. Voting was done by roll call, meaning every one of those votes had a voice vote. The Clerk, Bill Riley, is still saying those names in his sleep. I figured he said every one of our 180 names over 225 times. Ouch.

I want to brag on my Assistant, Lisa Fountain. Lisa started with me in the Chairman’s office in January and did great. During the corona break, she worked for many of you in helping you with your unemployment benefits and other issues of state government. She was very attentive to you and your issues and believes, like I do, that customer service in doing this job right is very important.

Saying that, we are here to help and answer questions the



best we can about legislation, budget, and the services of Georgia. You can call us at the Capitol, 404-656-7153, or by email at [rick.jasperse@house.ga.gov](mailto:rick.jasperse@house.ga.gov). A lot of folks call me at home, and that’s okay, too: 770-893-2039. Now, let’s go do something with these cucumbers.

CPD

From page 1A

major highways and local roads beginning Monday, July 20, 2020.

Chief Tony Pyle encourages motorists to drive safely and slow down.

“Our main focus this week is reducing crashes and providing a safer transportation experience

for motorists traveling in our city and throughout Georgia.”

According to the latest data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number of traffic deaths reported in the state during last year’s Southern Shield was 29 percent lower than the past several years during the last two weeks of July.

“If you are pulled over next week, don’t ask for a warning because this is it; the speed limit on every road in this city and state is set to protect everyone

who is traveling on them,” stated Chief Pyle.

While state and local law enforcement agencies will be handling their own speed enforcement operations across the five southeastern states, Georgia will once again join their law enforcement partners in Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and South Carolina for joint operations during the week.

For more information about the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, follow us on Facebook at Georgia GOHS, and on Twitter and Instagram at [gohsgeorgia](#).

GORDON

Gazette

[www.gordongazettega.com](http://www.gordongazettega.com)

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# GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS

## Rise in COVID-19 cases called ‘frightening’

ANDY MILLER,  
Georgia Health News

Georgia’s confirmed COVID-19 cases rose by 3,871 in the 24 hours ending Wednesday afternoon, the state’s second-highest daily increase since the pandemic began.

Hospitals’ critical care bed capacity, meanwhile, continues to dwindle, with just 16 percent of beds available. Three hospital regions of Georgia – in the northeast, central and southern regions of the state — have seven or fewer beds available, state figures show.

COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state increased by 45 to reach a record level of 2,786.

Grady Health System CEO John Hauptert said Wednesday in a public statement that “the numbers are frightening. COVID-19 is spreading at an alarming rate, and there are real indications that local hospitals will be stretched well beyond capacity before infection rates are brought under control again.”

The COVID-19 numbers were released by the state Department of Public Health as Gov. Brian Kemp approached a deadline to either implement new virus rules or halt the state’s current restrictions. Later Wednesday, the governor again extended a set of coronavirus restrictions. The extension will be in effect until midnight July 31.

Kemp has strongly encouraged Georgians to wear masks to curb the transmission of the virus, but has not moved to order a statewide requirement on face coverings. Some Georgia cities however, have ordered mask wearing in public, including Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah.

And in Alabama, the governor Wednesday took that same step. Saying “numbers don’t lie,” Gov. Kay Ivey said her executive order

on mask wearing will be in effect from 5 p.m. Thursday through July 31. The order comes after Alabama reported a record 40 new deaths Tuesday.

Ivey’s order requires people to wear a face covering outdoors or in public places indoors if they cannot maintain a distance of at least six feet from other people. The order also applies to people using public transportation and to groups of 10 or more people gathered outside.

**‘People are very apprehensive’**

Hospital systems across Georgia are seeing a continuing surge of COVID-19 patients.

Dr. Robert Jansen, chief medical officer at Grady Memorial Hospital, said Tuesday that the Atlanta safety-net facility is treating more COVID-19 patients than ever before. Grady clinics are also seeing higher numbers of such patients, he added.

Health care leaders in Atlanta “are really on edge,” Jansen said. “People are very apprehensive that if thing don’t slow down, we’ll run out of capacity.”

Piedmont Healthcare, with 11 hospitals, said Wednesday that it’s also seeing a rise of COVID-19 patients in its facilities.

The new Marcus Tower at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital opened Wednesday on a permanent basis, 17 days ahead of schedule, as part of the system’s response to the pandemic.

“Our mission as a nonprofit healthcare system is to serve patients in our communities, and the new Marcus Tower will incorporate the latest technology and larger patient rooms to provide for enhanced care, among numerous other benefits,” Kevin Brown, Piedmont Healthcare CEO, said in a statement.

Patients from the third floor of the existing Piedmont Atlanta Hospital were moved

into the Marcus Tower, creating additional capacity. A Piedmont agreement with the state calls for the possibility of an additional 40 more beds.

“These hospital beds will provide additional surge capacity for healthcare facilities in metro-Atlanta and ensure COVID-19 patients receive the essential care they need,” Kemp said in a statement.

Because of limited testing capacity, Piedmont also said that it’s performing pre-procedure tests only on patients requiring admissions and those in labor and delivery. Other patients are being screened and are being treated by staff wearing personal protective equipment.

There are other troubling reports on testing – a lag in getting results back.

Dr. Kathleen Toomey, Public Health commissioner, told WSB-TV on Monday that the state is taking action on these delays.

“I will be very frank with you, that is absolutely unacceptable,” Toomey said. “We need a better response and turnaround time.”

Both Athens area hospitals, St. Mary’s and Athens Piedmont, are diverting patients, Athens-Clarke County Commissioner Russell Edwards said Wednesday.

Attempts to get official confirmation went unanswered by both hospitals and state officials.

Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, which has seen more than 100 patients die from COVID-19, saw a leveling off of the number of hospitalized virus patients in the 30s during May and June. Now the hospitalized patients have increased, though far from the hospital’s peak in April. Still, the rising numbers have hospital officials concerned.

“All the other hospitals are getting packed,” said spokesman Ben Roberts on Tuesday. “I worry we’re approaching the day when there’s no hospital capacity.”

Some hospitals have reached that point in Texas, Arizona and Florida.

The Medical Center, Navicent Health said Wednesday that it is currently at capacity.

“But we want to assure our community that this is not due to COVID patient care,” said Navicent spokeswoman Megan Allen.

“As a tertiary referral center, we frequently reach capacity at our 637-bed Macon hospital, and we work with the other hospitals in our system and region to ensure patients in need receive uninterrupted care. We have a plan in place when we reach capacity, and we do not want anyone to be alarmed.”

**Vaccine shows promise**

In other COVID-related news in Georgia:

\*\* The vaccine developed by the biotechnology company Moderna in partnership with the National Institutes of Health has been found to induce immune responses in all of the volunteers who received it in a Phase 1 study.

Emory University’s Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit was one of two sites in the nation where the COVID-19 vaccine was tested.

“These interim results are very encouraging,” said Dr. Evan Anderson, principal investigator for the trial at Emory.

\*\* New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is sending help to Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms to curb new infections.

11Alive said that according to Cuomo’s office, Atlanta will be receiving thousands of test kits, gowns, gloves, N95 masks and face shields Friday.

Cuomo announced the state will deploy resources to teams in Atlanta, as well as share expertise on contact tracing and provide technical assistance to support Atlanta’s contact tracing program.

New York was the epicenter of U.S. coronavirus cases for weeks, and it still has the nation’s highest number of deaths from the virus. but state officials say they have drastically reduced the infection rate.

\*\* The Trump administration ordered hospitals to bypass the Atlanta-based CDC and send all COVID-19 patient information to a central database in Washington, starting Wednesday, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Michael Caputo, HHS assistant secretary for public affairs, said in a statement the new coronavirus data collection system would be “faster,” and that the CDC has a one-week lag in reporting hospital data.

Public health experts expressed concern over the reporting change because of how it could disrupt public access to the data, NPR reported. It also comes at a time when the Trump White House has sparred with CDC Director Robert Redfield and other federal scientists about the pandemic response.

“It’s really hard not to see this as some kind of interference or snub [to] the CDC,” said University of Arizona epidemiologist Saskia Popescu, according to NPR. “With so many concerns over the politicization of data right now, this is concerning.”

In a phone conversation with the media on Wednesday, Redfield defended the change, saying it was designed to “streamline reporting.”

“No one is taking access or data away from CDC,” Redfield said.

*Freelance journalist Jessica Luton contributed to this article.*

*Andy Miller is editor and CEO of Georgia Health News. For the latest health news in the state, visit [www.georgiahealthnews.com](http://www.georgiahealthnews.com).*

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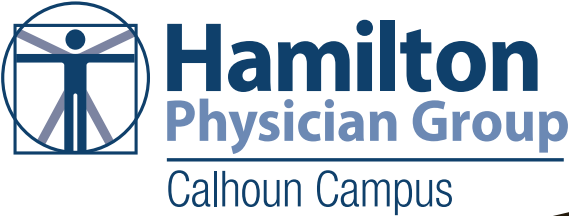
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# Jain joins Hamilton Physician Group – Specialty Care

## HAMILTON MEDICAL CENTER

Vikas Jain, MD, says the backbone of his practice philosophy is applying evidence-based medicine in a timely manner to help understand the complete problem.

“I approach every

patient very personally,” Jain says. “I take time with my patients to understand their problems. There is no substitute to good one-to-one talk.”

Jain recently joined Hamilton Physician Group – Specialty Care. He is a board-certified pulmonologist and provides treatment for

respiratory diseases, including asthma, bronchitis, COPD, occupational lung diseases and lung cancer.

He completed medical training at SUNY Upstate Medical University in New York.

Jain says he chose health care as a career because he was always fascinated by the way

modern science has revolutionized our lives. “No other profession provides the opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life the way a job in healthcare can,” he says. “And, I wanted to help people breathe easy.”

Wanting to stay up-to-date, Jain likes to read medical journals. In

his free time, he enjoys movies and music from all over the world. He likes to stay active and enjoys tennis, chess and ping pong. He says his family likes to hike, bike and spend time together.

To schedule an appointment with Jain, call Hamilton Physician Group – Specialty Care at 706-529-3072.



# Hamilton Physician Group – Behavioral Health moves location

## HAMILTON MEDICAL CENTER

Hamilton Physician Group (HPG)–Behavioral Health recently began seeing patients at its new location, 475 Reed Road, Suite 104.

The practice continues to have a location in Ringgold at 45 College Park Drive, inside HPG – Catoosa Campus.

Due to COVID-19, many recent appointments have been conducted through telehealth. “Telehealth visits are a safe and convenient way to get the help you need,” said John Beckner, MD, psychiatrist with HPG – Behavioral Health (pictured right).

Beckner said that dealing with the stress of COVID-19 could

be affecting a person’s focus, sleep and eating habits. “It’s not unusual to have anxiety during a disease outbreak, but chronic stress isn’t good for your body or mind,” said Beckner. “You might need to take steps to relieve the pressure you’re feeling.”

Services provided by the practice include counseling, cognitive

behavioral therapy (CBT), medication management and neurocognitive testing.

HPG – Behavioral Health provides treatment for alcohol and substance abuse, anxiety, bipolar disorders, depression, eating disorders, mood disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), personality disorders, post-traumatic

stress disorder (PTSD), thought disorders and stress management.

“You’re not alone,” Beckner said. “If your situation becomes unbearable and you feel constantly overwhelmed, reach out for help. We’re here for you.”

For more information, visit [HamiltonHealth.com/behavioral](http://HamiltonHealth.com/behavioral) or call 706-529-8710.



# Support Groups

**-Calhoun AA Group meetings. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 7 - 8 p.m.;** Tuesday and Thursday from 12 - 1 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Located at 318 North River Street, Calhoun, GA, 30701.

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

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

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

**-The Life Choice Hospice Bereavement Support Group will be meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month.** The support group is open to anyone in the community who would like to attend. The office and support group are located at 189 Professional Court, Suite 300, Calhoun. For Information, contact Jennifer at 706-602-9001.

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

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

**-La Leche League of Calhoun and Rome offers free breastfeeding support and information. The meetings are open to all mothers (children also welcome), expectant mothers and women interested in breastfeeding.** Calhoun location meets the second Monday of each month at 10 a.m. Leaders are available to

answer questions. For more information, call Erin at 706-234-3980 or email at [LLCalhounRome@gmail.com](mailto:LLCalhounRome@gmail.com).

**-The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association is sponsoring a monthly support group at Morning Pointe Assisted Living, 660 Jolly Road,** on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information or directions, call Mary Braden at 770-548-4683 or Karen Parrott at 706-346-5220. For more information about dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, call 800-272-3900 or visit [www.alz.org/georgia](http://www.alz.org/georgia).

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

**-The Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** seeks to improve the quality of life for residents of long-term care facilities. For more information, call Linda Ann Daniel at 1-866-565-8213 or 706-272-2158.

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

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

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

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

**-Discovering Hope, an autism support group for**

**Northwest Georgia,** meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, Rocky Face. For more information, call Connie Post at 706-673-7765 or [www.discoveringhope.us](http://www.discoveringhope.us).

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

**-Grief Recovery Group for those who have lost loved ones and friends,** receive support and guidance with the Four Tasks of Grieving. Cost is Free. Second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at Harris Radiation Therapy Center at Gordon Hospital. For more information or to RSVP, please call 706.879.5850.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# DWTS

From page 1A

United Way of Gordon County.

“Several of our committee members – Andy Baxter, Kristy Brown and Michelle Frix Ward – have competed in previous shows. Joni Harbin will return as event emcee along with her daughter Olivia Harbin – Their duo-gig is sure to be a blast! Michelle Frix Ward is volunteering her time and talents by providing the choreography for the group dance while Andy Baxter Photography is donating his time to offer free photography for all the dancers and for digital content promotion,” Latour continued. “I would like to thank Mohawk Industries for being the Premier Sponsor of Dancing with the Stars! If you are sponsoring a couple or are an event sponsor, you are directly helping United Way make a difference in our community.”

The planning committee is central to the success of the show, but the group that really matters consists of the 18 students who will hit the stage to compete in August. The dancers, listed alphabetically by last name, are Ben Bingham, Isaac Brackett, Hayes Carpenter, Ethan Crump, Jayce Derryberry, Aubrey Dorsey, Madeline Erwin, Caitlyn Glaze, Catherine Govignon, Will Holden, Marlee Jackson, Mariah

Key, Aavyn Lee, Jackson Murray, Sierra Scott, Cameron West, Megan Wright, and Meghan Young.

Two very talented students will hit the stage as the sixth dancing duo in this year’s competition. Caitlyn Glaze and Hayes Carpenter are partnering in the contest. Glaze is the daughter of Grant and Missy Glaze while Carpenter is the son of Kevan and Holly Carpenter.

Glaze will soon begin her senior year at Calhoun High School, where she is a football cheerleader and a member of the elite competition squad. She was a homecoming court nominee last football season. An excellent student, she received an academic letter for “A” Honor Roll. Glaze is involved with Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), which competed at the state level and was invited to advance to the national level. She and her family are active members at Rock Bridge Community Church.

A talented performer, Glaze enjoys singing and has performed in several events, including vocal solos at churches and community events, as well as theatre. While Glaze has many interests and hobbies, she does admit to an obsession with tennis shoes.

Carpenter will join Glaze as the other half of Team Six and as a fellow member of the Class of 2021 at Calhoun High School. He is a member of the Yellow Jackets football team. Carpenter belongs

to a large family and has five siblings.

An avid outdoorsman, he enjoys hunting and fishing. He is a member of Future Farmers of America (FFA) group at Calhoun High School. He was a featured speaker at a proclamation event observing Farm-City Week in November. At that event, Carpenter spoke about the history of Farm-City Week and the value of relationships between rural and urban partners.

This year, only the winners and runners-up of the People’s Choice and Judges’ Choice will receive scholarships. The first-place team will receive \$1,000 per student; the second-place team will receive \$750 per student and the third-place team will receive \$500 per student.

This will be the fourth student show, which spun off the adult version that ran for five years at the historic GEM Theatre. The dancers are learning more about United Way, its agencies and programs. As details unfold and plans are finalized, additional information will be made available through social media and the United Way website.

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.

# MASKS

From page 1A

“The CDC recommends face coverings as an additional step to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with every day preventive actions and social distancing in public settings,” the statement continued.

On Wednesday, Walmart announced it would require shoppers to wear masks at stores nationwide beginning Monday, July 20.

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our focus and priority has been and continues to be on the health and safety of our associates, members and customers.

“As the number of confirmed cases has spiked in communities across the country recently, so too have the number and types of face covering mandates being implemented,” said Walmart in a statement. “Currently about 65 percent of our more than 5,000 stores and clubs are located in areas where there is some form of government mandate on face coverings. To help bring consistency across stores and clubs, we will require

all shoppers to wear a face covering starting Monday, July 20. This will give us time to inform customers and members of the changes, post signage and train associates on the new protocols.”

Kroger, the largest grocery store chain in the U.S., announced they will require masks in all of its locations as of Wednesday, July 22. Small children are exempt, and those who can’t comply due to a medical condition should use alternatives such as face shields or use pickup or delivery services.

“We are committed to doing our part in reducing the spread of COVID-19. With the increase of cases across the country, all customers will be required to wear a mask when shopping in our stores starting July 22nd,” said Kroger in a statement on Twitter. “Kroger’s most urgent priority throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been to provide a safe environment for our associates and customers while meeting our societal obligation to provide open stores, ecommerce solutions and an efficiently operating supply chain so that our communities have access to fresh, affordable food and essentials. As an employer, grocery provider and community partner, we have a responsibility to help keep our

associates, customers and communities safe. According to the CDC, wearing a facial covering, combined with social distancing and frequent handwashing, has been scientifically proven to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Starting July 22, we will require all customers in all locations to wear a mask when shopping in our stores, joining our associates who continue to wear masks. We are taking this extra step now because we recognize additional precautions are needed to protect our country. We respect and acknowledge that some customers, due to medical reasons, may not be able to wear a mask (small children are exempt). We encourage those customers to consider an alternative option like a face shield or facial covering. If they’re unable to wear a mask or an alternative design, we request that they use our ecommerce services like pickup or delivery. To support all households during the COVID-19 pandemic, our grocery pickup service remains free (generally a \$4.95 fee). We thank our associates and customers for partnering with us to slow down the spread of COVID-19.”

The pharmacy giant CVS announced on Thursday it will require all customers wear face coverings at its 9,900-plus stores across the country

as of Monday, July 20.

“Since the pandemic began, we’ve done everything we can to keep people safe and healthy. This includes requiring that store employees wear face coverings and encouraging our customers to do so as well. In any community with state or local laws mandating the use of face coverings, we’ve made that very clear through signage and other reminders. With the recent spike in COVID-19 infections, we’re joining others in taking the next step and requiring all customers to wear face coverings when entering any of our stores throughout the country effective Monday, July 20. To be clear, we’re not asking our store employees to play the role of enforcer. What we are asking is that customers help protect themselves and those around them by listening to the experts and heeding the call to wear a face covering,” the company announced in a statement.

At press time, the State of Georgia has had 135,183 cases of COVID-19, with 3,132 deaths attributed to the virus, according to the Department of Health. Gordon County has now had a total of 653 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 19 deaths.



Gordon County Chamber of Commerce

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CEO of Mannington Mills



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GORDON COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Where it all comes together



ELECTION  
From page 1A

a doctor.

“I learned a lot about hard work from my granddad; working on the farm in the summer time. And I learned the value of education from my parents, my mom in particular,” said Cowan. “I got to see my dad work at the individual level, trying to heal people. My granddad was a people-person; he had a knack of getting in front of people, talking and just making (people) feel better and he did that through his political career. So in that mix of growing up on the farm, (it) developed me and gave me the passions that I have today.”

Cowan attended Davidson College, playing football all four years, and then attended Johns Hopkins University for his medical training. It was at Johns Hopkins that he met Dr. Ben Carson, also a neurosurgeon who currently serves as the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

“I operated with (Dr. Carson) several times, and he was one of the inspirations for me to go into neurosurgery,” said Carson.

Cowan said that he took the opportunity to come back home to practice at the Harbin Clinic and has been back in the area for 12 years.

“It’s been my honors to preserve and protect (the lives) of those I’ve been entrusted to,” said Cowan. “Neurosurgeons are taught to run toward a fire, to run toward the trauma. We don’t run away from it. If there’s a challenge, we tackle it.”

Cowan said he’s appreciative of his family; his wife and four children have been very supportive of him during the process of running for office.

Cowan said that he has served in his church through mission trips, as a Sunday School teacher, an elder and a deacon in a Presbyterian church in Floyd County.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work on the Community Foundation in Rome and Floyd County,” said Cowan. “We’ve started a number of not-for-profits there, and we’ve started a number of groups that have worked in foster care, in human trafficking (prevention), and providing meals for kids on weekends and in the summertime.

“I have a heart for service, and when Tom Graves decided he wasn’t going to run for Congress, my wife and I spent about a month praying; went out and met with leaders in our community and people around the district and we felt convicted that it was time for me to step outside of my normal routine and put myself out there to be a servant leader,” said Cowan. “And that’s what we’ve done over the last six months.”

Cowan said he plans to take his faith, his Northwest Georgia roots, his work ethic and his intelligence to Washington D.C.

“(I want to try) to transform it to be the type of place that honors our founding fathers,” said Cowan. “Ben Franklin was famously quoted as saying ‘We have a Republic if we can keep it.’ I’m afraid right now with all the division in the country, with all the liberal media and radical Democrats (that) are trying to destroy America and they’re trying to keep us from keeping what was given to us. Until we recognize that we are one nation under God, we are not going to be able to fulfill the concepts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, because it’s only God that gives us those unalienable rights. I want to fight along with President Trump to help America realize that we are one nation under God. I’m going to protect President Trump; I’ve been called other things in the media, (but) I’m staunchly conservative, I’m 100 percent pro-Trump and I will support him every step of the way. I’ve been asked if he were to get up for impeachment again, would I defend him? I applaud Doug Collins, and even people like Jim Jordan for standing up to protect Donald Trump during the bogus impeachment.”

Cowan said that he’s pro-life and will work to preserve the sanctity of life.

“I’ve spent my life protecting and preserving life,” said Cowan. “I think it’s a shame that the Heartbeat Bill just got held up in federal court, but as your next Congressman, I will bring forth the Life at Conception Act. I think it’s one of the great tragedies and stains on our God-given democracy that we allow that practice to occur. I’m prayerful that someday, we’re

going to look back and mourn for those sins that we allowed to be perpetrated by those who came before us. I think we need to bring about a renewed spirit of the value of life, all lives, because all lives matter, especially the unborn.”

Cowan said that he’s also pro-Second Amendment and a supporter of law enforcement.

“I’m pro-gun,” said Cowan. “I’m a conceal carry and have been for a number of years. I’ve taught all my kids how to safely use a firearm. I’m a reserve deputy in the Floyd County Sheriff’s Department and I support and volunteer with our SWAT Team, backing them up when needed. I’ve been endorsed by nine sheriffs in our district, who knows that Dr. Cowan will have their back.”

Cowan ended with asking everyone to not only go out and vote in the runoff election, but to prayerfully consider who to vote for.

“I hope you vote for a home-grown leader; someone who loves his Lord, loves his wife, and loves his country.”

It was then his opponent’s turn to speak, and businesswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene introduced herself, saying that she was born in Milledgeville, Georgia, graduated from graduated from South Forsyth High School then went on to get her degree from the University of Georgia Terry College of Business.

The wife and mother of three said this is an important time in the life of her family.

“We feel like we’re fighting for our children’s future,” said Greene. “It’s been an amazing thing for me to say that I’ve truly lived the American dream. I feel like one of the luckiest women in the world. I grew up with very humble beginnings but watched my dad grow his company into something incredible and become successful. Then I was so honored to have the opportunity to buy that business from my parents then have my husband join me to continue living that American dream, owning and operating a business. We’ve created thousands of jobs all over the Southeast, and I’m very proud of that.”

Greene said that she’s had to overcome obstacles, just like the people of Northwest Georgia.

“We’ve struggled through hard times, like many of you,” said Greene. “Like during the downturn in 2008 and 2009. That was very tough for us. So I understand what it’s like to struggle and have to make the right decisions to get back on our feet.”

Greene said the biggest blessing in her life has been her children, and she’s concerned about their future.

“That’s why I’m so driven running for Congress because I don’t see the same future ahead for my children that my husband and I have had,” said Greene. “The Democrat party has turned into an anti-American party and all of their policies are policies of socialism. They are policies that will destroy our rights, will destroy our freedom of speech. They’re chipping away at our second amendment rights. They also violate our freedom of religion, which is something I treasure because of my Christian faith. I know that God created everything and Jesus is my (personal) savior, and (freedom of religion) is something I will defend with everything that I have, just like I will defend our freedom of speech, our second amendment rights and every other right that we have.

“It’s these policies that the Democrats are bringing forward that are so radical they are going to destroy our economy, crush our jobs and kill our children’s future opportunities,” continued Greene. “My kids are coming out of college very soon, and they need opportunities and I want them to have (opportunities), but I’m afraid they’re going to be taken away. I’m very concerned.”

Greene said she got into politics because she was one of those people who thought that her voice mattered.

“I thought that when I went to Washington and spoke to my representatives and senators, that when I showed up and told them, ‘I’m a business owner and I’m a tax payer’... and that when I walked in (Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s) office and told her that I’m against her Green New Deal, that it will destroy the energy sector of our country, that the Green New Deal was wrong, I thought she would listen to me. But she didn’t. She closed the door and locked me out of her office.

“I’m also one of those Americans that I thought, when I went up to Washington D.C. and went and spoke to Ilhan Omar or Rashida Tlaib and told them that I’m against Sharia Law and that I’m concerned about



these type of beliefs and carrying this type of ideology into Congress and what that may cause in the future in our country, I was concerned when they did not share my concern as women. That’s something I’m worried about, because I have two daughters,” continued Greene.

“I’m outspoken, I speak the truth and I have no problem saying I’m against radical Islam and I still consider it to be a danger; one of the worst dangers to our country.”

“I also thought that when I went to Washington D.C. to support President Trump like I always have – I supported him before we voted for him as president, I voted for him in 2016, I started donating money to him before he (was elected) president – I believed that when the Republicans failed us in the first two years of his presidency and they didn’t fund the wall, and they didn’t defund Planned Parenthood and they didn’t repeal Obamacare and they didn’t defund sanctuary cities, I thought that if I organized a big rally and a march and we marched from the Capitol to the White House, I thought “We the People” might make a difference. But I was sadly disappointed that it didn’t matter. It didn’t matter to Nancy Pelosi, it didn’t matter to Congress and we didn’t get our wall funded.”

Greene said that didn’t stop her; she became National Director of Family America Project, an organization out of California that, as Greene said, “works very hard against the radical, sex education curriculum that’s being taught in California schools that’s teaching children there’s far more than two genders and far more awful things that I don’t think we want our children being taught starting in kindergarten.”

“I became their national director, and we began working across the country with many organizations and groups in many different states, warning them of these radical sex-ed curriculums.

“I thought being a citizen activist could make a difference but I’ve been disappointed,” said Greene. “The radical Democrats on the left are still pushing their policies and they won’t stop until they achieve their goals. There’s something I believe in, though... I believe in people. My entire campaign has been people over politicians because I know that we actually have been given the power to make sure that our country is run correctly, and I believe that together, we can make sure that happens.

“This is why I’m running for

Congress; I know that once I’m elected, I know I can go there and work hard against the overspending, to work to get the wall built, to support president Trump like I always have, to overturn abortion in this country, to save our second amendment rights and to fight back and stop radical Democrat socialism: the party of Antifa, the party of BLM and the party of attacking our police officers, the defund the police movement,” said Greene. ”We have a lot of work to do, and I ask for your vote in this important runoff election.”

The election for the runoff in the 14th district Congressional race between Republicans John Cowan and Marjorie Taylor Greene is set for Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020, and early voting begins this Monday, July 20 and runs through Friday, Aug. 7.

A few reminders for runoff include: The last day to register to vote or to change your name or address on your voter registration is Monday, July 13, 2020. You can register to vote in person at the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office located in the Gordon County Annex Building at 101 S Piedmont Street, Calhoun or you can register to vote online at [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov) or <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov>

Early Voting for the Republican Party Primary Election Runoff will begin on July 20th and will end on August 7, 2020. To cast your ballot Early you will go to the Gordon County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Office, office hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

All Voting Precincts will be open on Election Day on August 11, 2020, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

If you voted a Democratic Ballot in the General Primary Election on June 9, 2020, you will not be eligible to vote in the Republican Party Primary Election Runoff.

If you cast a Republican Ballot in the General Primary Election on June 9, 2020, then you will be eligible to vote in the Republican Party Primary Election Runoff.

If you did not vote in the General Primary Election, you will be eligible to vote in the Republican Party Primary Election Runoff.

If you voted a Nonpartisan ballot in the June 9, 2020 Nonpartisan Election, you will be eligible to vote in the Republican Party Primary Election Runoff.

Anyone with questions can call the Gordon County Board of Elections Office at 706-629-7781.



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