

GORDON Gazette

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

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Calhoun-Gordon County's #1 Source for News

CPD takes 1st place in their category at Governor's Office of Highway Safety Challenge Awards

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The Calhoun Police Department racked up at the annual Governor's Office of Highway Safety Challenge Awards on Friday, Nov. 6, hosted by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's office in Macon, receiving both 1st place in the Governor's Challenge in their category and a special award.

Governor's Challenge is designed to highlight outstanding

achievements in highway safety enforcement and education. It recognizes agencies for the approach and effectiveness of their overall highway safety programs. Agencies are evaluated not just for enforcement initiatives, but for innovative problem-solving in their communities, using public information activities and creating departmental policies that support their traffic enforcement campaign efforts.

The recognition

program is for statewide law enforcement agencies of all sizes, and features awards in several different categories based on department size as well as several other specialty categories.

The Calhoun Police Department, in award Category 3 for departments of 26-45 officers, received 1st place in the Governor's Challenge, and was also awarded the Teen/Young

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Sgt. Christy Nicholson accepts an award at the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Challenge Awards ceremony in Macon on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020.

Electric Vehicle Manufacturer TEKLAS to Open HQ in Calhoun, Create 120 Jobs

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
BRIAN KEMP

Atlanta, GA – Governor Brian P. Kemp on Tuesday announced that TEKLAS, a Turkish advanced research and development, manufacturing company and supplier of electric vehicle (EV) parts, will invest \$6.5 million in opening their first North American facility and headquarters in Gordon County, delivering 120 jobs to Calhoun.

"It's a pleasure to welcome TEKLAS to the Peach State," said Governor Kemp. "I'm confident that our highly skilled workforce, top-notch logistics network, and pro-business environment will make TEKLAS very pleased with their decision to join Georgia's growing electric vehicle parts industry. As they build



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

their North American headquarters in Gordon County, we're grateful for the opportunities this will bring to hardworking Georgians and their families in the region."

Founded in Turkey in 1971, TEKLAS designs, develops, and manufactures fluid circulation systems for cooling and heating applications, which

includes hoses and pipes from rubber, plastic, and metal for the global automotive industry. TEKLAS uses highly innovative and automated manufacturing processes using advanced water molding technology. TEKLAS USA will include assembly lines to serve the most prominent original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the industry with the

start of its operations in the spring of 2021.

"Headquartered in Turkey, and with locations in Bulgaria, Serbia, Mexico, and China, along with sales offices in Germany and France, we are very excited to open a

See TEKLAS,
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GBI arrests former local public safety officer on Child Pornography charges

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The GBI arrested Grady David Sanford Jr., 56, a Gordon County native with a long history of public safety service, mostly during his time with the Georgia State Patrol, on Tuesday, Nov. 10, on two charges of Distribution of Child Pornography following a search warrant executed at 209 Windsor Green Court in Canton. Sanford had recently been the Chief Deputy of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.

"An investigation into Sanford's internet activity by the GBI's CEACC Unit began after



GRADY SANFORD
(Contribute Photo)

a report was received from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) on November 6, 2020,

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Huddle House Calhoun receives a 48/U on their latest restaurant inspection; to be reinspected Friday.

EDUCATION /SPORTS 10A



SHS sophomore named to Georgia Volleyball Coaches' Association AAA All-State 1st Team.

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Smith becomes new minority owner of the Columbus Lions indoor football team

Brandi Owczarz
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The Columbus Lions have announced that Calhoun native Kacee Smith has been named a minority owner of the organization, as announced on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The Columbus Lions are a professional indoor football team based in Columbus, Ga. and a founding member of the National Arena League for the 2017 season. The Lions were founded in 2006 as an expansion team of the World Indoor Football League.

Smith, a life-long resident of Calhoun, is a well-known local businessman. He's the agency owner at Brightway Insurance -The Kacee Smith Agency and serves as the Sales Director at Owen Security Solutions. He is also a member of the 7-person Gordon County Board of Education.

A 2005 graduate of Gordon Central High School, Smith earned a Marketing Management degree from Georgia

Northwestern Technical College. With the goal of combining his passion for football and community, Smith then founded the Georgia Rampage, a professional indoor football team, where he served as president and general manager. He later also served as president of the X-League Professional Indoor Football League. Smith's passion for developing, nurturing, and expanding relationships has since led him to the insurance industry, where he enjoys meeting new people, understanding their needs, and the opportunity to educate on the importance of not only being insured, but being insured properly.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Columbus Lions football team, a solid organization that has been successful for over 14 years," said Smith. "I have always been a fan and the Columbus Lions had a huge impact on the beginning of my football career. I hope now that my years of arena football, sales and marketing experience



Local businessman and elected official Kacee Smith, pictured with his family, has become the new minority owner of the Columbus Lions football organization. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

can be an asset for the team and help me give back to the organization. I am looking forward to making memories with my family and the Lions organization."

"Kacee brings a wealth of arena football knowledge and sales experience to the Lions organization. I can't wait to start working with him,"

said Columbus Lionshead coach Jason Gibson.

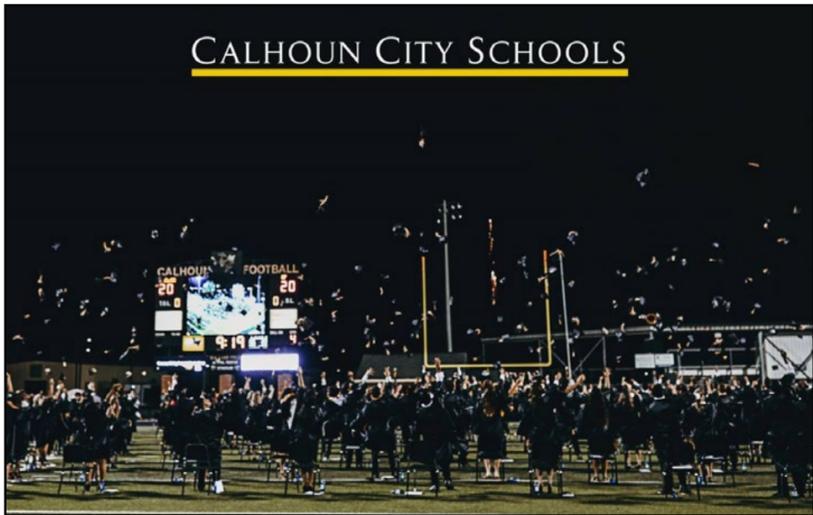
Smith is supported by his wife, Belinda, and two children, Kacedon and Kacelee.

The Columbus Lions have been in operation since 2007 and are currently one of the longest running teams in the United States. Columbus has established a well-known reputation in

football for its winning on the field and its business practices and operations. The football organization strives to provide reasonably priced, family-friendly entertainment to the local Columbus/Fort Benning, and East Alabama community. Their motto is 15 years of FAMILY, FUN, and FOOTBALL.

Second Front

Both local school systems increase graduation rates well above state average in latest report



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Both Calhoun City Schools and Gordon County Schools had graduation rates well above the state average in the recent report from the Georgia Department of Education, which was released Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Georgia's graduation rate increased again in 2020, rising to 83.8 percent – an all-time

high since the state began using the adjusted cohort calculation now required by federal law

Calhoun City Schools' graduation rate for the Class of 2020 was a perfect 100 percent.

"Calhoun's grad rate has risen significantly from 67.1 percent in 2005 to 85.28 percent in 2011 to today's newly released rate of 100 percent. In 2010, CCS cast the vision to have a 100 percent graduation

rate by 2020. Even amidst the challenges of COVID-19 and a year full of disruptions, the Class of 2020 prevailed and became the first class to all cross the finish line," said the system in a statement.

"We are extremely proud of our graduates and commend our teachers and staff who work tirelessly to meet the needs of all of our students. Dr. Coombe and his staff went above

and beyond to connect with students during school closures to make sure that all students were successful. It was a team effort with the culminating event being the Class of 2020 graduation ceremony on Hal Lamb Field at Phil Reeve Stadium August 1st, 2020. Calhoun High School is committed to continuing their efforts to ensure all students graduate. With the focus on our students, our

people, our organization and our community, we can make that happen," said Dr. Michele Taylor, superintendent of Calhoun City Schools.

Meanwhile, Gordon County Schools also saw an increase in the graduation rate at both Gordon Central High School and Sonorville High School. The overall graduation rate for GCS was 93.5 percent for the Class of 2020. Gordon Central High School's

rate increased from 93.62 percent to 94.06 percent, and Sonorville High School saw an increase from 91.19 percent to 93.10 percent.

"Despite an incredibly unusual year for the Class of 2020, Gordon County's high school graduation rates followed the trend, with the

See **SCHOOLS**, page 12A

CPD arrests Rome man after traffic stop turns into foot chase

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A Rome man was arrested by Calhoun police Sunday night after fleeing from a traffic stop downtown, then abandoning his car on Pisgah Way and exiting his car, leading police on a foot chase.

Around 8:45 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8, an officer with the Calhoun Police Department conducted a traffic stop on Court Street at Wall Street on a silver Nissan Altima, which had a

cancelled license plate. The officer attempted to make contact with the driver, but when the officer approached the car, the driver, identified as Joshua Wade, 30, of Ashley Park Blvd., Rome, put the car into "drive" and fled the scene at a high rate of speed. The officer noted in the incident report that Wade almost ran over their foot as he fled, at an excessive speed heading north onto Wall Street and running a red light. The officer then ran back to the patrol car and pursued Wade, notifying him

to stop his car with both siren and lights.

Wade then turned onto East Line Street, driving at excessive speeds, then turned left onto Pisgah Way. Wade exited his car, leaving it in "drive" at Pisgah Way and Fain Street, then fled on foot, jumping a fence into a back yard and running away. More officers showed up on scene, and Wade was eventually taken into custody.

A small baggie with suspected marijuana was found on Wade during a search. Officers noted that the

smell of alcohol was coming from Wade. Wade freely and voluntarily agreed to a breath sample, where he tested .031 and .027. Upon examining Wade's car, officers found a still-cold and opened Bud Light Platinum, almost empty, in the cup holder. There was also a black sock in the center console which had a "very strong odor of raw marijuana" on it. Inside the sock, officers found a large baggie with suspected marijuana. A scale was also found while searching the car.

Wade was transported to Gordon County Jail, where he has been charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs, Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Police, Obstruction/Hindering Law Enforcement, Open Container and Operation of Vehicle without Current License Plate, Criminal Attempt to Commit a Felony, Obedience to Traffic Control Device, Marijuana Possession-Less than 1 oz. and Improper Parking. He remains in Gordon County Jail at press time.



JOSHUA WADE
(Photo: GORDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE)

Huddle House Calhoun receives 48 on latest restaurant inspection

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Huddle House, located at 566 Highway 53 in Calhoun, made a 48/U score on their current Food Service Establishment Inspection Report. The inspection was held on Nov. 5, 2020.

The last score, from late June of this year, was an 80/B. The score before that was an 81/B in June of 2019.

The restaurant had a total of 18 violations of code, with observations including the person in charge was not able to demonstrate active managerial control as multiple risk factor violations were observed during inspection, with a recommendation of conduct training of all staff for food safety training. Other notes made were observing an employee not washing their hands in-between changing tasks, employee leaving restroom and entering kitchen without washing hands upon entering kitchen before prepping food, employee touching hair before donning gloves to prepare food, employee touched mask several times while preparing food; Observed multiple employee drinks without a lid or straw in the kitchen stored on food prep surface; Observed waffle irons not cleaned at a frequency to keep them clean to sight and touch. Heavy debris and grease buildup on waffle irons; Observed eggs stored out at room temperature eggs were at 72 degrees Fahrenheit and had been out for at least 30 minutes; Observed container of chili and green beans in reach-in cooler with discard date of Oct. 23 and inspection performed on Nov. 5; Observed containers of gravy and mashed potatoes without date marking; Observed storage of degreaser on counter over prep-top

table; Observed multiple working containers of food without common name of food on container; Observed employee prepping food without a hair restraint; Observed shelving with heavy rusting throughout the facility; Observed inside of microwave, and on the sides of cooking equipment with food buildup; Observed multiple kitchen tiles missing, handwashing sink faucet leaking, and broken tiles around mop sink; Observed inoperable equipment (reach in coolers) and any other equipment not being used or not working throughout the facility; Observed exposed cinder blocks going into the ceiling outside of the walk-in cooler. Drywall missing in several locations; and observed unsealed wood in back of kitchen.

Time frames were given for the violations to be remedied, most being mid- to late- November. The follow-up inspection will be this Friday, Nov. 13.

- Other restaurants inspected were:
- DAIRY QUEEN #4558 at 2111 U.S. Highway 41 North in Calhoun; Current Score: 85/B
 - GONDOLIER PIZZA at 427 Highway 53 East in Calhoun; Current Score: 83/B.
 - HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS FOOD SERVICE at 135 Hampton Drive in Calhoun; Current Score: 92/A
 - MCDONALD'S #2903 at 749 Highway 53 East in Calhoun; Current Score: 100/A.
 - WENDY'S #4558 at 2111 U.S. Highway 41 North in Calhoun; Current Score: 84/B.
 - WENDY'S at 659 Highway 53 in Calhoun; Current Score: 86/B.
 - YELLOW JACKET at 801 Oothcalooga Street in Calhoun; Current Score: 91/A.



WE'VE GOT JOBS!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

GENERAL LABOR: \$10/hr, 12 hour shifts 7am to 7p and 7p to 7a, 7 days a week right now, lots of over time, bilingual

TEACHER: \$8.25, must pass background check, experience in planning, teaching, following up, needs to have certificate in field or Associates Degree

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

CREELING: Experience -7p – 7a starting pay is \$14 hour and up

MACHINE OPERATOR: -5p – 3a starting pay is \$14 hour and up

A1 Molding department: \$10.00 for 1st shift 15 temps - \$10.50 for 2nd shift 15 temps weekends required-lots of overtime

INDUSTRIAL BINDING: (sewing machine) candidates that have sewing machine experience we will pay them \$14.25 per hour

513 Lovers Lane Road S.E., Calhoun, GA

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Obituaries

November 11, 2020

Tammie Ankney

Mrs. Tammie Ollene Smith Ankney, 52, of Resaca, died Friday, Nov. 6, 2020, in a Stockbridge, Georgia Hospital following a probable heart attack.



Tammie was born in Dalton on June 24, 1968, daughter of the late John L. Smith and Maxine Cantrell Smith. Tammie was employed for many years at The Chuckwagon Restaurant. She loved her family and cherished spending time with them, especially her two granddaughters.

Tammie is survived by her husband, Bobby Ankney, to whom she was married for 34 years; son and daughter-in-law, Colt and Katie Ankney; granddaughters, Autumn Rain and Auburn Rose Ankney who Tammie named (and she would always say, "I did it"); brothers, Timmy (Rhonda) Smith, Johnny (Ann) Smith, Jammy Smith; sister, Linda (Daryl) Silver; mother-in-law, Judy Green and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services for Mrs. Tammie Ollene Smith Ankney were conducted Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020 at 11 a.m. from the chapel of Max Brannon & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Duke Ankney officiating. Pallbearers serving included Matthew Silver, Travis Silver, Timothy Smith, Jordan Ankney, Colt Ankney and Bobby Ankney.

The family received friends at Max Brannon & Sons Funeral Home on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020, between the hours of 5 – 8 p.m.

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

Online condolences may be expressed and the guest book signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mrs. Tammie Ollene Smith Ankney.



Dianne Coates

Dianne Shaw Coates, age 56, of Adairsville, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020 at her residence.

Dianne was born on March 7, 1964 in Floyd County, daughter of Laverne Young Shaw and the late Jackie Shaw. In addition to her father, Dianne was also preceded in death by her sister, Sheila Medlin.

Dianne is survived by: her husband, Fred Anthony Coates of Adairsville; daughter, Heather Guillen and her husband Miguel of Calhoun; two sons, Roy Medlin and his wife Ashley of Calhoun, and Robert Jefferson Jones, III of Calhoun; mother, Laverne Young Shaw; four grandchildren, Starlin Medlin, Alex Medlin, Willow Medlin, and Gavin Guillen; two sisters, Patty McNabb of Calhoun, and Angela Bricker of Calhoun; and brother, Wesley Shaw and his wife Laura of Pensacola, Fla.

A celebration of the life of Dianne will be held on Friday, Nov. 13, 2020 at 1 p.m. from the Chapel of Thomas Funeral Home.

The family will receive friends on Friday from 12 p.m. until the funeral hour at 1 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

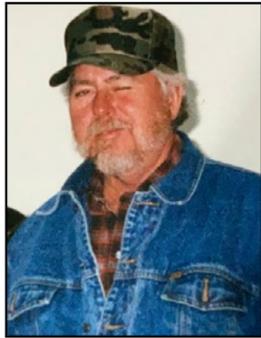
You may leave the family online condolences at www.thomasfuneralhomecalhoun.com

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Dianne Shaw Coates.



Robert Logan, Jr.

Robert Logan Jr., 74, of Calhoun, passed away Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020. He was born on Oct. 11, 1946, son of the late Robert and Anlen Muse Logan Sr. He was preceded in death by his son, Shane and brothers, Jack Logan and Ed Logan. He retired after being employed for many years from the Gordon County Road Department.



He is survived by his wife, Patricia (Patty) Logan, to whom he was married for 50 years; one son, Randy Logan; one daughter, Crystal Logan; brothers, Steve (Linda) Logan, Rickey (Brenda) Logan; sisters, Mildred (Johnny) Wright, Rebecca Matsko, Ruth Price, Cathy (Rickey) Coggins, and Angie Logan; grandchildren, Dillon and Kayla Logan, Brittney and Jake Bullock, Gage Logan Long, Stetson Logan Long; great-grandchildren, Penelope Denton, Griffin Bullock, Leo Bullock.

The service for Robert Logan Jr. was held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, at Crane Eater Community Church with interment at Crane Eater Cemetery. Pallbearers serving included John Roberts, Zack Davidson, Eric Davidson, Dillon Logan, Jerry Redd, and Jake Bullock.

The family received friends on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020 at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home from

5 – 8 p.m.

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

Online condolences may be expressed and the guest book signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Robert Logan Jr.



Thomas Rice

Thomas Edward Rice (b. Nov. 27, 1941) died Nov. 10, 2020 at the age of 78 with his wife, Delores, by his side. Married 61 years to his lifelong sweetheart, he is also survived by his children Tim Rice (Tina) of Epworth, Ga., Tammy Rice of Dalton and Tracy Cochran (Eric) of Calhoun. He is also survived by his grandchildren, who were the delight of his life: Katie Rice, Melissa Rice (Luke), Abigail Williams (Zach), Daniel Rice, Ana Rodriguez, Cecilia Rodriguez, Thomas Gray (Alexis) and Cassie Wortendyke (Peter); his two surviving brothers Dan Rice (Betty Jean) and Parks Rice. He was preceded in death by his parents Cecil and Lucy Rice and his brother Peyton Rice.

A most beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Thomas was a retired Navy man, educator, football coach, fisherman, and a UGA Dawgs fan like few others. "Coach Rice" loved traveling with his wife and holidays with his family, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

The family will receive friends Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020 from 5 – 8 p.m. at Max Brannon and Sons Funeral Home. The graveside service will be held Friday, Nov. 13, 2020 at 11 a.m. from Haven of Rest Memorial Park.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Thomas Edward Rice.



Ethel Shaw

Ethel Viola Johnson Shaw, 90, of Adairsville, joyfully reunited with her late husband, Norman, the evening of Thursday, Nov. 5 when she peacefully passed away at their home.

Born Sept. 23, 1930, in Brunswick, she was the daughter of the late Vivian Browne Johnson and the late Monroe Dykes Johnson. After spending her early childhood in Brunswick, the family moved to Texas, where she completed her education.

Mrs. Shaw was a classically trained vocalist. For a large part of her life she used her beautiful voice to celebrate the weddings of family and friends, to comfort them at funerals, and to provide joy in their worship. Most of all, she loved to share her talent at her home church of Connesena Baptist Church in Kingston. She was also a pianist and a violinist.

Even though she trained as a vocalist before and during her college years at North Texas State University, Mrs. Shaw ultimately chose a commercial (business) degree from that institution. In the early 1950s, she moved to Adairsville where she began a new chapter in life teaching at the Adairsville and Cass schools. She was very proud of her students and kept newspaper articles marking their 25th and 50th class reunions in the old school annuals from her teaching career.

It was while teaching at Adairsville that she met Norman, who taught veterans' classes. They fell deeply in love and began building a 60-year marriage in which she focused on raising their four children and caring for her in-laws and her own parents. Over the years, Mrs. Shaw was a member of the Sans Souci Women's Club, the Adairsville Lions Club, Connesena Vacation Bible School director and church treasurer. Her true passion and focus, however, remained her family.

Mrs. Shaw helped support her family with the massive numbers of tomatoes, green beans, pickles, and other vegetables that she canned or froze from the family's yearly garden. Her creative talents included design and custom creation of casual and church clothes, as well as prom and formal gowns, for her children. She loved to crochet and quilt. And, she was literally and figuratively, the driving force behind football, band, 4-H, basketball, and youth group activities for her son and daughters.

Her survivors include her children, Kay (Dennis) McCollough, Anna (Robert) Sullivan, Phyllis (Andy) Ray, and Norman Glenn (Candy) Shaw. Her grandchildren include Megan Ray (Brandon) Beckerman, Brooke Ray (Devin) Watson, and Stephanie Ray, as well as Tara, Faith, and Natalie Shaw, and Connor, USMC Sgt. Ethan, Katherine, and Daniel Sullivan. Two joys of Mrs. Shaw's life are her great-grandchildren Rex and Nova Watson. She is also survived by one first cousin of the same age, Trudie Gibbs of Jonesborough, Tenn., with whom she shared a lifelong friendship and hours of daily laughter on the phone in the last few months. Numerous nieces and nephews also remain to cherish her memory.

Due to current health concerns in our community, the family planned a private remembrance at the Chapel of R. Dudley Barton and Son Funeral Home at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. If desired, in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Connesena Baptist Church, c/o Church Treasurer Kim McClure, 1224 Rock Fence Road NW, Adairsville, GA 30103

to honor Mrs. Shaw's love of music.

R. Dudley Barton & Son Funeral Home, Adairsville, is in charge of arrangements for Ethel Viola Johnson Shaw.

Barton Funeral Home

Vernon Silvers

Vernon Floyd Silvers, age 93, of Calhoun, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020 at Floyd Medical Center.

Vernon was born on Jan. 2, 1927 in Pickens County to the late Steve Edgar Silvers and Carrie Allen Silvers. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving in the Korean War, after returning he was employed by the Ford Motor Company at the Hapeville Plant where he retired after many years. Vernon was a member of the Ball Creek Baptist Church. In addition to his parents he is preceded in death by: three sisters, Cleo Herrington, Toy Crump, and Velma Hales; and one brother, Olan Silvers.

He is survived by two brothers, Bill Silvers and Paul Silvers; sister, Jerlean Goble; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services will be conducted on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 at 2 p.m. from the chapel of Thomas Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Ball Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020 from 2 – 7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

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

Thomas Funeral Home has proudly been entrusted with the care of Vernon Floyd Silvers.



Annie Ruth Walraven

Mrs. Annie Ruth (Ann) Fite Walraven, 89, a long-time resident of the New Town Community, died Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020, at her residence after a period of declining health.



Annie Ruth was born in Gordon County, daughter of the late Eunice Fite. In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by her daughter and son-in-law, Janice Tomlinson Meadows and her husband Byron; sister, Jackie Fite; brother, Robert Craig and by her first husband and father of her children, Jack L. Tomlinson in 1968. She grew up in the Curryville Community and was a graduate of Oostanaula High School. Prior to her retirement, she was employed by O'Jay Mills and Coronet Industries. She loved and adored her family and her church family at New Town Baptist Church where she was a member.

Survivors include three sons, Jimmy Tomlinson, Gary (Charlotte) Tomlinson and Frankie (Terresa) Tomlinson; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister, Mildred Branton; sister-in-law, Patsy Craig; nieces and nephews, and other relatives.

A service to celebrate Ann's life was held Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, at 3 p.m. from New Town Baptist Church with Rev(s) Walter Hare and Eddie Brannon officiating. Jeff Rogers arranged the music. Interment followed in Fain Cemetery. Pallbearers serving included Tony Tomlinson, David Craig, Kurt Craig, Cole Craig, Danny Parker, and B.J. Swanson.

The family received friends Tuesday from 1 p.m. until the service hour of 3 p.m. at New Town Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to New Town Baptist Church in Mrs. Walraven's memory.

The family would like to especially thank Homespun Hospice and the nurses and support staff that loved and cared for Annie Ruth.

Online condolences may be expressed and the guest book signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Annie Ruth (Ann) Fite Walraven of the New Town community, Calhoun.



Herb Woodall

Herbert "Herb" Woodall, 64, died at his home while surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020. Herb was born in Dalton, the son of the late Rev. Herbert and Marie Woodall. Herb and his wife Cindy choose to serve our country transporting goods, as long haul truck drivers for Mike Frost Trucking.



His loving wife of 36 years, Cynthia (Cindy) Woodall, survives him. He is also survived by



Christmas Open House 2020
Sunday | November 22 | 1:00-5:00
Retailers Across Calhoun-Gordon County

The Gordon County Chamber of Commerce encourages you to spend locally as you shop for goods and services this holiday season--and all year long.



Keep It In The County

RELIGION HOW I LOOK?



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

There is a silent killer in our world that's wreaking havoc on families. Depression was

first seen during the time of the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden. Satan has continued to use it to afflict lives of every nation, state, community, and home. There's no family immune to it. It has no respect of person, age or gender. Just this past weekend, I have counseled with four teenage boys from schools in 2 counties who are getting professional help for depression. Proverbs 18:14 reads, "The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?" King David said in Psalm 32:3 and 4, "When

I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah." Signs and symptoms, according to the National Institute for Mental Health include but are not limited to... Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" feelings, Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism, Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness, Irritability, restlessness, Loss of interest in activities or hobbies once pleasurable, including sex, Fatigue

and decreased energy, Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, and making decisions, Insomnia, early-morning wakefulness, or excessive sleeping, Overeating, or appetite loss, Thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts, Aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems that do not ease even with treatment.

Anyone who is depressed or knows someone who is, please seek medical attention. From the NIMH... "Even those with the most severe depression, can get better with treatment. Medications,

psychotherapies, and other methods can effectively treat people with depression."

But the best help comes from God, who according to 2 Corinthians 7:6, "comforts and encourages and refreshes and cheers the depressed."

Through His word, God offers strength to those who are suffering. Good examples of people who overcame in battles against depression.

And perhaps the greatest thing the Bible offers is hope through a relationship with Jesus Christ. The blessing of knowing that we are

never alone; and his promise that if we draw nigh to Him, He will draw nigh unto us. But the greatest hope is the hope of Heaven, when this temporary part of our life ends. At that time, God has promised to remove all the things that lead to depression. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind", Isaiah 65:17.

Look further than the appearance others today, as it can be deceiving. 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 Relevant 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.

-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, Find us on Facebook or email pvcballhoun@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 Oothcaloga 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.

-Hope in Christ Ministries, 306 Peters St., is holding services every Sunday morning. Adult Bible Study starts at 10 a.m. with praise/worship service at 11 a.m. Bishop W. S. (Billy) Weems is the pastor. Rev. Earnest Diamond Jr. is assistant pastor. For more information, call the church at 706-602-2433.

-Talking Rock Creek Chapel has a new pastor, the Pastor Donald Broachurst and family. Service times are 9 a.m. for Sunday school and

Children's Church and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday. For more information, call 706-669-0854.

-Rev. Israel and Bishop Rita Partin Spaulding will host a Gathering of Eagles Revival Service each Saturday night at 6:30. These meetings are designed for those individuals who have a desire to go higher in God. Come expecting your breakthrough. The location is 799 Pine Street in the Church of God in Christ building. Rev. Israel and Bishop Rita are International Speakers with a Life Changing Word. For more information please call 423-883-3138.

-Philadelphia Baptist Church operates North Georgia Baptist College and is registering students. It is a local church ministry designed to prepare men and women for serving the Lord. It will provide basic training for preachers, Sunday school teachers, Christian schoolteachers, evangelists and missionaries. For more information call the church office at 706-625-3233 or visit the college's web site at www.northgabaptistcollege.com.

-Calhoun Church of Jesus Christ, located at the corner of Damascus Road and Pine Drive, invites everyone to attend their weekly services. Sunday services take place at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday's service is at 7 p.m. The church's pastor is Joshua Maddox and assistant pastor is Hunter Quarles.

-Big Springs Baptist Church, 3326 Dews Pond Road SE, Calhoun, invites families and individuals from all walks of life to attend their services (casual dress). The worship service includes contemporary music along with traditional hymns and Southern Gospel. Children's Church is provided for ages K- 3rd grade and nursery for babies - pre-k. Service times: Sunday mornings: fellowship breakfast, 9:15-9:30 a.m.; Bible study (all ages) 9:45 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m. Evening worship 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. For more information on the church you may contact rev. Tommy Phillips at 678-986-7404.

-Oakman Baptist Church and Pastor Jason Pace invite everyone to attend their weekly services. Sunday School is at 10 a.m. and morning worship is at 11. Sunday evening activities, which include worship and children and youth programs, begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday services begin at 7 p.m., which include Bible study and programs for youth and children.

Looking to buy or sell a home?

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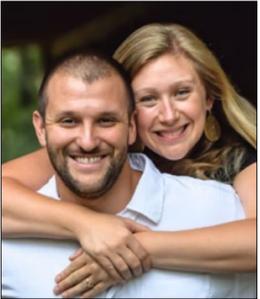
Ronald Amyx

678.848.3031

508 S. WALL STREET, CALHOUN, GA

706.629.2747

Cash Flow with Joe: 2020 - the year of clarity



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

As folks were doing their planning for the beginning of this year, a common theme was that 2020 was going to be “the year of clear vision.” I even have a really cool t-shirt printed with the saying that I got from a business mastermind meeting. Now that we are almost to the end of the year, things look a little different than expected.

Somewhere between February and April is when it began to get blurry. Strategies

we had used for acquisitions changed dramatically. One of our main focuses for finding properties has always been door knocking the pre-foreclosures. And since there was a stay on foreclosures during COVID-19, that strategy went out the window. The shelter in place and social distancing put a damper on regular door knocking, as well.

That situation caused us to take a long look at what we needed to do to keep buying houses. After evaluating our marketing techniques, it became very clear that referrals from interpersonal relationships with friends, clients and other real estate professionals was what was producing a bulk of our house leads. So, we cut out our other costly marketing methods and focused on those.

Having a personal touch is something that we are known for with both our flipping and property management. But since we

couldn't get face-to-face with people, we had to figure out a different way to maintain our personal service. For us, that meant using technologies like Zoom and BombBomb to record videos and interact with our tenants, buyers and sellers on a personal level. Not only have we been able to provide great service using these, but it has also been very efficient.

But one of the biggest changes that we have had this year didn't come from a new property management system or new lead generation technology. It came from a money management system that has been around for generations. You're probably familiar with it if you have ever listened to Dave Ramsey. He calls it “the envelope system” and says your grandmother probably used it. But a guy named Mike Michalowicz took that same methodology and applied it to the way businesses

should run their finances. He calls this system “Profit First.” And it has been game changing for our company this year.

We were blessed. We got introduced to a guy named David Richter who is co-writing a book with Mike called “Profit First for Real Estate Investors.” David has a company called Simple CFO, and they came in and helped us implement the profit first system.

Basically, instead of envelopes like granny would've used, you set up five accounts called the foundational accounts. They are Profit, Income, Expense, Tax and Owner's Compensation. Then when money comes in from a sale or after rents, you allocate a percentage of that money to each account — just like granny did on payday.

This allows you to intentionally tell your dollars where to go before they are spent rather than trying to figure out where they went

from looking at the profit and loss and balance sheet reports that quicks books pumps out.

For the first time ever, we have accounts where we intentionally allocate money to pay us for both the work we do in the business (Owners Compensations) and paying us for owning the business (Profit.) This is huge because most entrepreneurs pay themselves after all expenses are paid... assuming there is money left over.

That was huge. But the biggest thing came from when David and his team did what they call “the instant assessment.” It looks at the past numbers in your business and reveals how you've been doing.

As it turns out, we have spent a lot of time and effort flipping. But we are not very profitable at it. On a house by house basis our deals make money. But as an overall means of generating income for the business, the instant assessment revealed

our property management side was the money maker.

Armed with that knowledge we started focusing more of our efforts on that side. The result is we have devised a debt snowball plan and have already paid off two mortgages this year.

This is huge because Ashley and I have aspirations of starting a religious camp called Camp Yahweh. And I thought our flipping company would be what funded it. But because of David and guys like Tim on the Simple CFO Team, it looks like the property management side is where we start getting our funding.

2020 was not the year of clear vision. But because of the things it revealed, it became the year of clarity for us.

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.

Protect Your Finances from “Cyberthieves”



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

You've no doubt heard reports of personal data being stolen and used for financial fraud – anything from online shopping on your credit cards to actual theft from your financial accounts. This problem won't go away anytime soon

– but you can take steps to defend yourself.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Use multifactor authentication or other extra security options with online accounts. Many of your online accounts offer extra security by giving you the option to prove your identity in different ways. With multifactor authentication, you must provide at least two different factors to prove your identity when you log in to an account. This additional layer of security provides you with much greater protection.
- Be creative with passwords. Create different passwords for work, financial services sites, social media and email – and give each password some length

and complexity. Consider passphrases – actual words combined with symbols and numbers (for example, “ThisIsAPassphrase!2468”), for sites that allow them.

• Protect your computer and your key data. Keep your antivirus software updated. And don't install bootleg or unlicensed software, which could infect your computer with a virus. Also, back up your important data.

• Watch out for fake websites or apps. When making financial transactions, be sure you're on the website of your bank or financial institution – and not on a fake site established by hackers. Your financial statements should have the legitimate website, so bookmark it and use it when doing anything with

your accounts. Also, be careful when downloading apps – stick with those from established providers such as Google Play or the App Store.

• Avoid “over-sharing” on social media. Cyberthieves constantly stalk social media platforms for information they can use to commit their crimes. You can help stymie them by limiting what you share online. It's a good idea to keep your full name, address and birthday private. You might also avoid discussing your plans for upcoming vacations. And review your privacy settings periodically so that only people you know or approve can see your information.

• Limit use of public Wi-Fi. Hackers often set up

their own Wi-Fi networks in public areas, such as the computers found in hotel business centers. Ask an employee for the name of the legitimate network. And even when you use it, log off when you're finished.

• Don't take the bait of “phishers.” Cyberthieves go “phishing” for sensitive information – usernames, passwords and account numbers – by sending communications, such as emails, purporting to be from a business or financial institution with which you often do business. They may claim your account was “suspended” or that an “unauthorized transaction” was made, and you'll be asked to click on a link that takes you to what appears to be the company's website.

If you go along with this request, you could find malicious software being downloaded on your computer. But legitimate businesses generally won't ask for account numbers or passwords unless you initiate the transaction. Other signs of phishing include threatening language, “urgent” requests, misspelled words or odd word choices. If an email does look suspicious to you delete it without opening it.

This list is not exhaustive, but by putting these steps to work, you can at least reduce the risk of becoming victimized by cybercriminals.

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

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Dawn Charles, Owner

Audrey Clayton, Groomer



GORDON GROWN

History and Care of the Holiday Poinsettia



Greg Bowman
Gordon County
Extension Agent
gbowman@uga.edu

I enjoy something about every season of the year, but I may enjoy this time of year the most. The turning of the leaves, calving season on the farm, supporting the Georgia Bulldogs and knowing high school basketball season is just around the corner tops the list. I also enjoy the holidays and the decorating that goes along with the festivities. When we go with a real tree in the house, I don't mind having the chore of watering the tree either.

Today, I will center on the history and care of the most popular flowering

plant in the United States, the poinsettia. I will be sharing information from a variety of sources. I will be using a UGA publication by former UGA Horticulturists, Dr. Paul Thomas and Dr. Mel Garber and also fact sheets from Clemson Extension and Illinois Extension.

For starters, poinsettias are the most popular Christmas plant with the majority sold in a six-week period leading up to that holiday representing some \$60 million worth in sales. California from research is the top U.S. poinsettia producing state. The history of the poinsettia is interesting. Joel R. Poinsett that lived from 1779-1851 was the first United States ambassador to Mexico. While in Mexico, Poinsett collected and introduced a wild plant he found to the Bartram Botanical Garden in Philadelphia in 1828. It is said that Robert Buist, a Philadelphia nurseryman and florist, saw the potential of this new plant and named it after Poinsett. Note, that December 12th is Poinsettia Day and marks

the death of Joel R. Poinsett in 1851. Keep in mind that the wild plant from Mexico looks different than the poinsettia that we know today. In Mexico, the plant is 12-15 tall with 1 or 2 stems.

The red floral bracts are narrow and droopy in appearance when compared to the modern poinsettias.

The wild plants also have large open centers. The true flowers of poinsettias called cyanthia are small clusters of yellow blooms in the open center of the red floral bracts. Through modern plant breeding work, the cyanthia are now in tighter, smaller and less apparent clusters according to our information which gives more emphasis to the more showing red bracts. Note that plant breeders have produced more poinsettia colors besides the ones with the traditional red bracts or modified leaves. The color options of white, pink, peach, yellow, marbled and speckled bracts give people more options when using poinsettias for

holiday decorations. The red poinsettia is still the most popular.

When selecting a poinsettia, look for a plant with fully mature, completely colored bracts. You also should select plants with an abundance of dark and rich green foliage all the way down the stem. The leaves and bracts should not be drooping. The poinsettia should be full, attractive and balanced from all sides. The plant should have stiff stems, good bract and leaf retention with no signs of wilting, breaking or drooping. You should also select poinsettias with yellow flowers in the center that are not quite open.

When you get the plant home follow certain tips to keep the poinsettia looking great. Place the plant in a spot that will give 6 hours of bright, indirect light each day. Direct light can cause the bract color to fade. If direct light can't be helped, you can filter the sunlight with a light shade or sheer curtain.

Temperature in the

room is important and you should not go above 70 degrees F. On the flipside, the poinsettia can get chill damage if in a spot where temps fall below 50 degrees F. Keep the plant away from drafty areas or spots with excess heat or dry air such from appliances, fireplaces or vent ducts.

Poinsettias need moderately moisture soil. You should water completely when the soil surface is dry to the touch. Do not let the soil mix dry completely out, but also do not let the poinsettia set in standing water either. It is suggested that when watering to take the plant out of the decorative pot cover.

Water till you see water seep out of the drainage holes of the container and when the soil is saturated.

You should no fertilize a blooming poinsettia.

After the holidays, if you keep the poinsettia, you can re-flower the plant, but it does take work. To re-flower, keep the plant indoors until the danger of spring frost has passed. Then move the poinsettia

outdoors. You should remove bracts as they wilt and discolor. Keep the plants in a spot that gets morning sun and afternoon shade. You should water and fertilize often. You can shape the plant as you prefer. Pruning or pinching the plant will encourage branching. You should bring the plant back indoors when night temps starting going below 60 degrees F. You should continue to fertilize and water. Starting on October 1, give the plant 14 hours of continuous darkness daily until bract color is fully developed. This should take to middle of November. Complete darkness can be a closet or even covering with a cardboard box. Keep in mind that any light when the plant needs darkness will hinder flowering. Night temperatures should be between 60-70 degrees F. The plant needs maximum light the other 10 hours each day.

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

Gordon County 4-H has outstanding showing at Georgia National Fair

Congratulations to Kylie Hurd, a current freshman at Sonorville High School who qualified for the National FFA Agriscience Fair this year while an 8th grader at Red Bud Middle School, who won the national title in Animal Systems: Division 1.

The National FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises. Students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food and natural resources. The agriscience fair is for middle and high school students. Students compete in one of six categories in the agriscience fair and under one of the six divisions—either individually or in a team.

"I am beyond proud of her," said Rebecca Macedo, the Agriculture Education and FFA Advisor for Red Bud Middle School. "Kylie is an outstanding student who served on the Red Bud Middle School FFA Officer team during her middle school tenure, specifically as the President during her 8th grade year. She participated in a multitude of FFA activities that spanned all areas of the agriculture industry, finding high success in many of those areas."

Macedo went on to say that for the Agriscience Fair Contest, students have to identify a modern and relevant issue within the agriculture industry, come up with a hypothesis, design an experiment to test their hypothesis, research and write a scientific paper and present their findings for a set of judges and answer higher-level questions about their research, findings and conclusions.

"Kylie's experiment specifically examined different cattle deworming regimens and which method of dewormer- injectable or pour-on- had the greatest initial effect and the longest lasting effect on the amount of internal parasite populations in the animals," said Macedo. "She did this by treating the animals with their respective treatments and then examining their parasite loads over time and collecting this data. She concluded that both

methods of dewormer had the same initial effect on the parasite load, however the injectable dewormer method saw the longest lasting effect."

Macedo said that last April, Hurd's FFA Agriscience project won the Georgia State FFA Agriscience Fair, which earned her a spot in the National FFA Agriscience Fair Contest. She found out a month ago that her project was a Top 3 National Finalist, and found out the final results at the First Session of the 93rd National FFA Convention, which was held virtually this year. Hurd was recognized through the national broadcast of the convention. This title earns her a plaque and \$1,000 cash prize

The National FFA Agriscience Fair is sponsored by Cargill, John Deere and Syngenta; Bayer, Corteva, General Mills, Wrangler and Zoetis are sponsors of the agriscience fair pathways. The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 760,000 student members as part of 8,700 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

About National FFA Organization
The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 760,000 student members as part of 8,700 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. For more, visit the National FFA Organization online at FFA.org and on Facebook and Twitter.

About National FFA Foundation
The National FFA Foundation builds partnerships with industry, education, government, other foundations and individuals to secure financial resources that recognize FFA member achievements, develop student leaders and support the future of agricultural education. A separately registered nonprofit organization, the foundation is governed



Gordon County Young Farmers selling Smoked Boston Butts and Turkeys for Thanksgiving

STAFF REPORTS

Gordon County Young Farmers are selling Smoked Boston Butts and Turkeys for Thanksgiving.

The meats are prepared by Gordon County Young Farmers.

All proceeds to benefit the GCYF youth fund.

Orders will be available for pickup on: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Payne Farm & Produce, located at 204 Salem Rd SW, Calhoun.

Boston Butts are \$35.00 whole 7-9 lbs. or \$40 pulled 7-9 pounds.

Turkeys are \$55 whole, 10-plus pounds.

Deadline to order: Tuesday, November 17, 2020

To place your order, please contact:

a youth livestock exhibitor or Annemarie Carr- Gordon County Young Farmers by emailing acarr@gcbe.org or calling 770-519-3619

Payment due at pick-up via cash, PayPal, Venmo, or check payable to GCYF.

HEALTH NEWS

GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS: Justices' remarks signal ACA may survive latest legal challenge

ANDY MILLER
Georgia Health News

It's perilous to predict a court or jury decision based on the arguments presented.

But supporters of the Affordable Care Act will be heartened by the comments of two Supreme Court justices Tuesday during oral arguments on the bid by several states to overturn the 2010 law.

Georgia is among the 18 states, all led by Republicans, aiming to strike down the ACA, commonly known as Obamacare.

At the center of the case, *California v. Texas*, is the individual mandate, an original part of the health law. It required most Americans to buy health insurance or pay a tax penalty, but Congress removed the penalty in 2017.

The Republican attorneys general, backed by the Trump administration, argue that if that key mandate is unconstitutional, the whole law must be struck down.

Two members of the court's conservative majority, though, indicated that they are not inclined to strike down the balance of the law. In legal terms, they said the mandate is "severable" from the rest of the law, the *New York Times* reported.

"It does seem fairly clear that the proper remedy would be to sever the mandate provision and leave the rest of the law in place," said Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

And Chief Justice John Roberts pointed out that "Congress left the rest of the law intact when it lowered the penalty to zero."

Roberts and Kavanaugh are considered the swing votes in *California v. Texas*, *Modern Healthcare* reported.

Roberts, who wrote the 2012 Supreme Court decision upholding the act's constitutionality, suggested again that the justices should not do something that Congress itself has declined to

do — repeal the health law, the *Washington Post* reported.

The U.S. Supreme Court made Medicaid expansion optional for states. "I think it's hard for you to argue that Congress intended the entire act to fall if the mandate were struck down when the same Congress that lowered the penalty to zero did not even try to repeal the rest of the act," Roberts told Kyle D. Hawkins, the Texas solicitor general leading the effort to throw out the ACA. "I think, frankly, that they wanted the court to do that. But that's not our job."

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, through a spokeswoman, issued a statement Tuesday that emphasized his support of the legal challenge to the ACA: "Americans deserve a health care law that is constitutional and that delivers better outcomes, more access and affordable choices. We can do both."

Just the latest challenge

It's the third time a challenge to the ACA has been taken up by the Supreme Court.

Among other provisions, the law has barred insurers from discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions, has created state insurance exchanges for individuals and families who don't get government or employer coverage, and has added funding for states to expand Medicaid to cover low-income adults.

Georgia is one of 12 states to have rejected Medicaid expansion, with Republican leaders consistently arguing it would be too expensive.

The Supreme Court has substantially upheld the ACA in both previous cases, though the justices in 2012 did limit the federal government's ability to pressure states to adopt Medicaid expansion.

Throwing out the entire



Affordable Care Act would be a tremendous shock to the U.S. health care system, experts say. That move could eliminate:

** Protections for people with pre-existing conditions

** Subsidies to make individual health insurance more affordable

** Expanded eligibility for Medicaid

** Coverage of young adults up to age 26 under their parents' insurance policies

** Coverage of preventive care with no patient cost-sharing

** Closing of the so-called doughnut hole under Medicare's drug benefit

Striking down the law would also appear to void Georgia's waiver plan for reinsurance and to replace the healthcare.gov enrollment set-up. (Here's a recent AJC article on the waiver.)

New justices could affect ruling

Since the last major challenge to the ACA, in 2015, three new justices have joined the court, all conservatives appointed by President Trump. One of them, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, has been critical of the earlier rulings,

the *New York Times* noted.

In an interview after the 2015 decision — when the court upheld the way tax subsidy provisions were being administered on the ACA exchanges — Barrett, who was then a law professor, said, "I think the dissent has the better of the legal argument."

But she added at the time, "That's not to say the result isn't preferable. . . . It's clearly a good result that these millions of Americans won't lose their tax subsidies."

The latest challenge to the ACA has moved relatively swiftly through the lower courts.

A federal judge in Texas ruled that the entire law was invalid, but postponed the effects of his ruling until the case could be appealed. In December, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in New Orleans, agreed that the mandate was unconstitutional but declined to rule on the fate of the rest of the law, asking the lower court to reconsider the question in more detail.

Seeking to defend the ACA, Democratic-led states and the U.S. House of Representatives, which is controlled by Democrats, asked the Supreme Court to intervene, saying a

prompt decision was needed to remove the uncertainty caused by the lower courts' decisions.

Striking down the health law would swell the ranks of the uninsured in the United States by more than 20 million people — a nearly 70 percent increase — according to estimates from the Urban Institute.

The high court is expected to rule in the case by June 2021.

For consumers, the court case does not change the coverage they have today or their 2021 insurance plans, noted Laura Colbert of the consumer advocacy group Georgians for a Healthy Future.

"Georgians should take advantage of the current open enrollment period and enroll before the December 15th deadline for 2021 coverage," she said. "This is especially important for those who have lost their job-based health coverage or experienced other life changes in recent months due to COVID-19."

Andy Miller is the owner and editor of Georgia Health News.

Hamilton Health Care System to hold Food Services, Environmental Services hiring event

HAMILTON MEDICAL

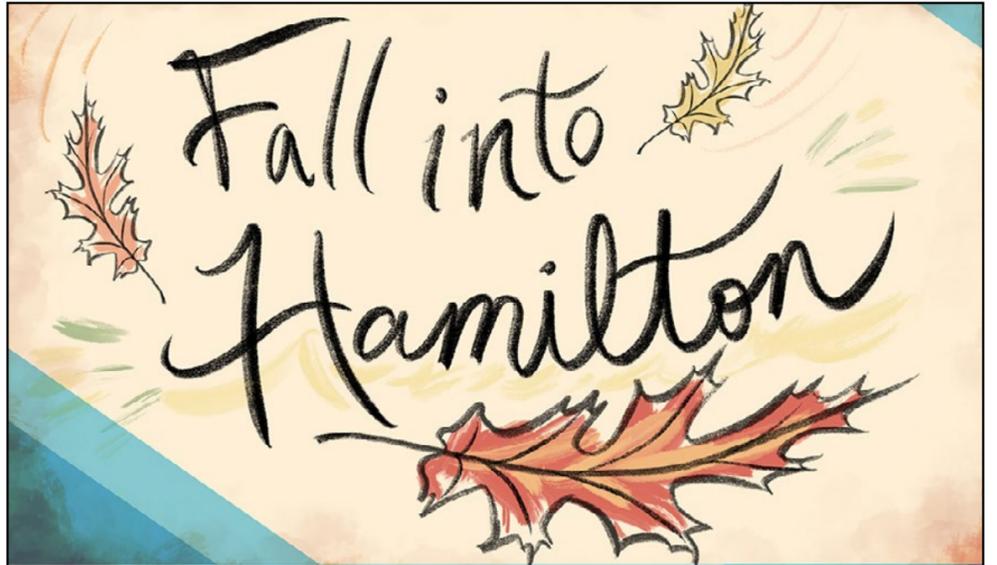
Hamilton Health Care System (HHCS) will hold Fall into Hamilton, a hiring event for Environmental Services and Food Services employees on Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Brown Conference Center at Hamilton Medical Center.

Interviews and offers

will be conducted on site. Participants are encouraged to bring identification and an updated resume.

HHCS follows social distancing and safety guidelines.

Please visit HamiltonHealth.com/careers for a complete list of current opportunities. Call 706-272-6271 for more information about this event.



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.

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

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

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

-The Alzheimer's Association's Caring Closet was created to help offset the high cost of incontinent products and give the families support they often desperately need. If you would like to visit the nearest Closet, call the chapter office

to receive a flier with locations and hours. Morning Pointe in Calhoun has a Caring Closet; call Mary Braden at 706-629-0777.

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

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

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ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE FOCUS: *you*



Education

SHS sophomore Cole named to Georgia Volleyball Coaches' Association AAA All-State 1st Team

CONTRIBUTED

Sonoraville High School sophomore Alley Cole, pictured, was recently named to the Georgia Volleyball Coaches' Association AAA All-State 1st Team.

Cole helped lead the Lady Phoenix to a 40-14 record and a berth in the Georgia High School Association AAA "Final 4."

As a second-year starter and second year "First Team All-Area" middle hitter, the 6'2 Cole shattered several school records during the 2020 campaign, including blocks per season (127), kills in a single match (8), kills in a single match (28), kill percentage (53) and hitting percentage (.426). She's also already closing in on the career blocks record for the school.

She finished the season ranked second across all Georgia classifications and first in AAA in total blocks, and she was 12th overall and third in AAA in hitting percentage. She was also third in AAA in total kills.

"Alley is a special player," praised Sonoraville Head Coach

Trace Vaughn. "Her height is a definite advantage, but she is very skilled, moves well for her size, has great hands and a high volleyball I.Q., and she absolutely loves the game. The big thing for me is that she is very coachable and doesn't get down on herself. I push her hard, and she never gets upset with me because she understands that I have high expectations for her."

Vaughn sees this award as more than just an individual accomplishment. "This was a great team for her

to be a part of due to both the senior experience on the court and the talented classmates she had with her. The seniors, especially Raleigh (Hooper) and Abby (Chambers) really pushed her because they could see her potential to take over a match at any given time. This is really a recognition of the team's efforts and success. I am extremely proud of what these young ladies accomplished this season. Alley has a bright future ahead, and I'm excited to see where she takes it."



Calhoun High School Performing Arts Presents Freaky Friday

CONTRIBUTED

Get your tickets now for "Freaky Friday The Musical" presented by Calhoun High School Performing Arts!

Shows will be November 12-16, 2020 at the Calhoun Performing Arts Center.

Cast A will perform:

Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 15th at 2:30 p.m.

Cast B will perform: Saturday, November 14th at 2:30 p.m.

Monday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for Calhoun High School's production

of "Freaky Friday The Musical" are on sale now at bit.ly/epactix. All seats are \$12 and must be purchased in advance.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Tickets will be available online up until 15 minutes prior to each show.

Presented By: Calhoun High School Performing Arts
November 12-16, 2020

SHOW DATES

Cast A: Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, November 14th at 2:30 p.m.
Cast B: Saturday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 15th at 2:30 p.m.

GNTC and Yancey hold heavy equipment training



LEFT PHOTO: Jeffery Brown. RIGHT PHOTO: Robert Freeman, left, GNTC lab assistant for the Commercial Truck Driving program, talks with GNTC graduate Jeffery Brown about his work as a truck driver for Sierra Express, Inc. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

GEORGIA NORTHWESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Pulling his brand new tractor-trailer truck into the parking lot of Georgia Northwestern Technical College's (GNTC) Walker County Campus (WCC), Jeffery Brown, a Commercial Truck Driving graduate, talked with current students of the program about how it changed his life.

"Truck driving saved me," he told them. "There is a need for good drivers with a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and GNTC will teach you everything you need to know."

Brown is a convicted felon; something he said has barred him from several jobs since his release. The GNTC alum said he was not sure where to turn until he found the Commercial Truck Driving program and his entire perspective changed. He reached out to the GNTC Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program (WIOA) for help paying for classes.

"When I left prison everything had changed, I didn't know how to handle the new world," he said. "I needed help to figure things out."

According to Gena Williams, WIOA assistant, Brown qualified for program assistance and was able to receive financial aid. Brown said Williams and the WIOA program came to him with help. It was because of them he was able to complete his classes and graduate.

"They saw me as a student and not as a felon," he said. "If we don't help former felons they are going to do exactly what they were doing beforehand."

Work has not stopped despite the COVID-19

pandemic, Brown said. His cargo varies from food items to pallets of inventory and as a part of the nation's food supply chain he is an essential worker. Brown currently works for Sierra Express, Inc. in Chatsworth and hauls freight across the nation on a regular basis.

"I love driving cross country and seeing what is in each state," Brown said. "During my trips I get to see mountains, valleys, deserts and oceans. I will be on the Pacific Coast one day and the Gulf Coast a few days later."

Brown said he wanted to visit GNTC to tell students the benefits of obtaining their CDL. The alum talked about how his company takes care of its employees and recently purchased 70 new tractor-trailer trucks for the drivers. The company has an open door policy with management and the owner of the company talks with each driver after they return from a trip.

"They want me out here recruiting future drivers," said Brown. "They have never held my past against me and I am so grateful for Sierra Express."

Even though this was his first trip to visit the Commercial Truck Driving class, Brown still checks in with the WIOA staff, said Williams. He stays in touch through sharing photos of his travels. Williams said she is proud of the hard work he has put in and his success as a truck driver.

"He was always the first one here and the last one to leave," she said. "He drove his motorcycle through all kinds of weather to get to class and graduated with a 4.0 GPA. He should be proud of his achievements because he has earned it."

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity

Act Program (WIOA) is a federally funded work-training program that assists students who meet both eligibility and suitability requirements. The eligible student will be learning new skills for tomorrow's workforce. WIOA may pay a small travel stipend or assist with childcare expenses to those who qualify. It may also pay for program required tuition, fees, books, supplies and other related materials that fall within program limits. For more information visit www.gntc.edu.

The Commercial Truck Driving certificate program provides basic training in the principles and skills of commercial truck operations. The program is based on the definition of a truck driver as one who operates a commercial motor vehicle of all different sizes and descriptions on all types of roads. At the completion of the program, students are administered the Georgia CDL Skills Exam.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College provides quality 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. This past year, 12,454 people benefited from GNTC's credit and noncredit programs. With an annual credit enrollment of 7,730 students, GNTC is the largest college in Northwest Georgia. GNTC has an additional enrollment of 4,724 people through adult education, continuing education, business and industry training, and Georgia Quick Start. For more information about GNTC, visit us at www.GNTC.edu. GNTC is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia and an Equal Opportunity Institution.

Georgia Economic Development Investments, Job Creation Continue Strong Pace in FY21

OFFICE OF GEORGIA GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

Governor Brian P. Kemp, in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), on Tuesday announced that Georgia remains on a record pace for economic development investments and job creation in the state during fiscal year 2021. Between July 1 and October 31, Georgia has increased economic development investments by 56% and jobs by 45% compared to the same period last year.

Since the start of fiscal year 2021 on July 1, Georgia has secured \$4.31 billion in expansions and new project investments, creating 11,833 jobs. Eighty-three percent of the investments came outside the 10-county metro Atlanta region. Additionally, the 32 new projects located during October 2020 constitute a 10% increase over October 2019.

“These incredible numbers are proof that our focus on protecting lives and livelihoods in Georgia is working,” said

Governor Kemp. “Despite a global pandemic, we are laser-focused on creating new jobs and securing new investments across every area of our state, and I congratulate our public and private economic development teams in communities throughout the Peach State on maintaining this incredible momentum.”

Sixty percent of the jobs announced since July 1 were created from new project locations, and Georgia’s existing businesses accounted for 80% of investments in the state as they selected Georgia as the best location for continued growth.

An industry breakdown shows that the top job-creating industries included food and beverage processing, manufacturing, and logistics and distribution. For instance, BandD Foods announced in October that they would open their eastern U.S. headquarters in Americus, Georgia. Toyota Industries Compressor Parts America (TICA) announced they would expand their production facility in Pendergrass to meet growing demand in the electric

vehicle market for their onboard power electronics. On October 14, Hooker Furniture announced that their Home Meridian International division would open a new distribution facility in Liberty County’s Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) Certified Tradeport East Business Center. This \$23.5 million investment will deliver 50 new jobs to the area.

Foreign direct investment accounted for 23% of jobs created in fiscal year 2021 through October 31. As GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson met with businesses and prospective Georgia investors in Italy and Germany in early October, famous tomato sauce producer La Regina Atlantica announced they would create 250 jobs and invest \$20 million in a new food processing facility in Alma, Georgia, and Kysor Warren Epta announced they would invest \$27 million to expand their commercial refrigeration operations and create 200 jobs in Columbus. To view other state-announced economic development



projects, visit www.georgia.org/newsroom.

“Georgia’s investments in our international offices and partnerships in our state and abroad continue to pay off in the form of jobs and opportunities for Georgians,” said GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson. “I’m incredibly proud that Georgia’s reputation as a solid location for business is only growing, and we’re working every day with our many partners to ensure we support our businesses with

the tools they need to succeed and grow here.”

In September, Georgia was named “Top State for Doing Business” for a record-breaking seven years by Area Development magazine, determined by site selectors who help businesses choose the right location for long-term success. Georgia ranked No. 1 in 10 of the 13 ranked categories and placed in the top five in the other three categories.

PUA Benefits Exhaust for Many in Georgia

GEORGIA DOL

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), established under the March Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, has provided almost \$1.7 billion in benefits to over 323,000 Georgians during the pandemic. PUA provides unemployment benefits to those who are not usually eligible for regular state benefits, but lose work, through no fault of their own, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many of these have included gig workers, independent contractors, employees of churches and non-profits, or those with limited work history who do not qualify for regular state unemployment benefits. For many of these recipients, self-employed and IRS Form 1099 workers in the state of Georgia, these benefits have already stopped or will be exhausting in the next few weeks after reaching the 39-week limit in accordance with federal program guidelines.

Over 25,000 PUA claimants could potentially exhaust benefits in the next two weeks having received payments for the maximum 39 weeks. The CARES Act does not include any provisions for additional extended benefits beyond the 39 weeks of PUA. Federal extension programs are enacted by the US Congress. The Georgia

Department of Labor (GDOL) does not determine whether any extension programs will be enacted.

“The PUA program issued benefits to many in the self-employed community allowing these individuals to recoup a portion of the wages lost when their businesses had to shut down due to the pandemic,” said Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner Butler. “Federal programs, like PUA and other disaster-related programs, are intended to temporarily provide support for those displaced during a crisis. Never before have we seen a federal program rolled out on a nationwide scale within such a demanding timeframe to so many people.”

Today, over 168,000 jobs are listed online at EmployGeorgia for Georgians to access. These job opportunities have more than doubled since the April 2020 listing of just 73,000 jobs. The GDOL offers online resources for finding careers, building a resume, and assisting with other reemployment needs. GDOL’s Business Services Unit hosts job fairs for businesses across Georgia and promotes employment positions regularly on EmployGeorgia.

Last Monday, the GDOL launched its pilot program for the agency’s on-line appointment scheduler. The scheduler found on the agency’s website at <https://dol.georgia.gov/appointment> allows claimants to request an appointment with a claims representative to ask questions regarding their claim. Each

appointment is assigned a two hour window in which a representative calls the claimant. The initial two weeks of appointment slots filled quickly after the scheduler launched filling over 2,800 appointments for the pilot period. More appointments will be added next Monday for the following week.

Georgians have received more than \$15.5 billion in unemployment insurance benefits since March of this year, more than the past 28 years combined. Last week, the GDOL dispersed over \$170 million in benefits, which included \$55 million in regular unemployment and more than \$6 million in federally funded Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) supplements, \$39 million in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), \$51 million in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), \$13 million in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and \$5 million in State Extended Benefits.

Last week regular UI initial claims totaled 37,253, down 6,442 over the week. The GDOL has worked diligently to dramatically decrease the amount of time it takes to release payments and is now processing regular UI claims within a week of a claim file date. All eligible payments have been released for claims that require neither additional determinations or validation for separation. If a separation is due to

reasons other than lack of work, such as a quit, discharge, leave of absence, or receipt of severance/retirement pay, additional review will be necessary to determine claimant eligibility. This review can potentially delay payments.

The sectors with the most weekly regular UI initial claims processed included Accommodation and Food Services, 7,869, Administrative and Support Services, 4,194, Health Care and Social Assistance, 3,490, Retail Trade, 3,438, and Manufacturing, 3,341. Many claimants in the Accommodation and Food Services division have utilized the \$300 earnings exemption rule allowing workers to earn wages and still receive unemployment benefits. An individual can make up to \$300 per week without reducing their maximum weekly benefit amount, allowing employees to work reduced hours and still qualify for state weekly benefits.

The number of initial unemployment claims filed throughout the United States for the week ending Oct. 31 was 751,000, a decrease of 7,000 from the previous week’s revised level of 758,000.

Resources for reemployment assistance along with information on filing an unemployment claim and details on how employers can file partial claims can be found on the agency’s webpage at dol.georgia.gov.

Senator Perdue takes action to ensure fair elections Sponsors Bill To Increase Transparency, Criminal Penalties For Interference

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR DAVID PERDUE

U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA) today cosponsored the Securing Our Elections Act to ensure fair elections and increase criminal penalties for bad actors who attempt to interfere with America’s election system, whether that be through illegal and fraudulent ballot harvesting, voter intimidation or identification theft.

“There is nothing more sacred to our democracy than the premise of one person, one vote,” said Senator Perdue. “Anyone who attempts to take advantage of this premise through fraud or other means should face severe consequences. This bill ensures the penalty for meddling in our election system matches the severity of the crime, and there is no greater responsibility than protecting the sanctity of our elections.”

“The American people deserve

transparent, fair and free elections,” said Senator Loeffler. “I’m thankful Senator Perdue joined this effort to protect the integrity of our elections and ensure that anyone who attempts to interfere in our election process is held accountable. At this critical time, we must take action to ensure every legal vote is counted and our democratic election process is preserved.”

The Securing Our Elections Act will hold accountable those who intentionally attempt to deprive or

defraud Americans of a fair and impartial election process by increasing the current penalty of up to five years in prison to five to 15 years and up to a \$100,000 fine. The bill is currently sponsored by Senators Kelly Loeffler (R-GA), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Tom Cotton (R-AR), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Mike Braun (R-IN).

Food City Friends & Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive

FOOD CITY

Food City is preparing to kick-off their third annual Friends & Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive.

“Hunger is a serious problem throughout our region, especially during the holidays and colder winter months. Food City is proud to host a number of hunger relief programs throughout the year, including our Friends & Pets

in Need Holiday Food Drive. The drive will benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters throughout our area at a critical time,” says Steven C. Smith, Food City’s president and chief executive officer.

Beginning Wednesday, Nov. 11 and continuing through Dec. 31, specially marked bags containing non-perishable food items, as well as bags containing pet food products will be available for

purchase for only \$10 (plus tax) at all area Food City locations. Customers wishing to purchase the bags may deposit them in the collection bins located at the front of the store. 100% of the products collected will benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters throughout the region.

“Millions of Americans and animals need food assistance each year. The Food City Friends & Pets in Need

Holiday Food Drive is another way we can help those in need right here in our own area,” adds Kevin Stafford, vice president of marketing for Food City.

“Food City’s ongoing hunger relief initiatives have been a tremendous success and we are hoping to set a new record with this year’s drive to help our neighbors and furry friends in need,” said Smith.



OBITUARIES

From page 3A

his daughter, Lee (Noe Vicente) Vicente; his brother Michael Woodall (Pam); sisters, Carol Netherton and Cathy Williams; granddaughter Adeline Nicole Vicente (D); nieces and nephew, Amber (Jesse) Goad, Russell Goforth, Heather (Derek) Wilkinson, Jason Woodall, Brandon Woodall, Ashley Woodall, Kalia Cassels, and Ashley (Mikey) Poindexter; his best friend James Jernigan.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020, from 6 – 7 p.m. The memorial service will follow the visitation at 7 p.m. on Wednesday from the funeral home chapel.

Due to the national health crisis, masks must be worn properly at all times; social distancing must be observed when visiting the funeral home.

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Herb Woodall.



Clay Woody

Mr. Jackie Clay Woody, 74, of the Red Bud community, died Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020 at his residence following several years of declining health.

Clay was born on Nov. 2, 1946, son of the late Robert Coy Woody and Odem Landrum Woody. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a daughter, Tammy Burchett; two grandchildren, Jamie Burns and Molly Jones and a great-granddaughter, Savannah.

Clay loved his family very much and enjoyed spending time with them. He loved being outdoors and enjoyed the simple things in life, especially fishing. You could always find Clay at Carters Lake, fishing weekly Pot tournaments and winning more than his share.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Gay Woody, to whom he was married for 48 years; one daughter, Lea Kinney; three sons and daughters-in-law, Marty and Kim Jones, Robert and Carman Woody and John Jones; one sister, Martha Weeks; two brothers, Jim (Kathie) Landrum and Bobby (Mary) Landrum;



grandchildren, David Pryor, Dennis Haney, Mark Haney, Shalinda Haney, Sadie Woody, Coy Woody, Amy Mills, Will Mills, Madison Jones, Levi Jones and Trevor Jones; great-grandchildren, Taylor, Brayland, Makala, Garrison, Brody, Brooklin, Dillan, Emmie, Andy, Tatiana, Natalia, Eric, Flynn, and Ascher. Nieces, nephews and other relatives also survive.

Funeral service for Mr. Jackie Clay Woody was conducted Monday, Nov. 9, 2020 at 12:00 Noon at the chapel of Max Brannon & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Mitch Phillips officiating. Following the service, Mr. Woody's wishes were to be cremated.

The family asked that floral tributes be omitted and contributions be made in Clay's memory to "Georgia Masonic Children's Home, P.O. Box 4183, Macon, Georgia 31208"

Online condolences may be express and the guest book signed at www.maxbrannonandsons.com.

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

The Brannon family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mr. Jackie Clay Woody.



SCHOOLS

From page 2A

district rate increasing from 92.34 percent for the class of 2019 to 93.5 percent for the Class of 2020," said the system in a statement.

"Despite the lack of in-person instruction, the Gordon Central High School faculty and staff worked tirelessly to reach out and contact families to ensure students were submitting work and receiving credits to graduate," said GCHS Principal Brian Hall. "Communication was the most important factor, and we had staff members willing to drive out to houses to drop off or receive work. It was truly a community effort, and we are proud of the graduation rate we were able to achieve in the face of the pandemic crisis"

"The teachers and staff of SHS continue to promote the importance of preparing our students to be college and career ready through their commitment to the academic success of our students," said SHS Principal Jennifer Hayes. "Phoenix families have

proven, yet again, that we can work together and RISE UP!"

"I am incredibly proud of our faculty, staff, students, and families for this accomplishment. The graduation rate reflects the culmination of many years of work and dedication to learning by students and families, as well as teachers and system staff from PreK-12th grade and beyond," said Dr. Kimberly Fraker, GCS Superintendent, "and I am proud to serve our community, advocate for our children, and work alongside such an amazing group of individuals."

According to the State BOE's announcement, Georgia's graduation rate has increased by 14.1 percentage points since 2012, with steady increases each year.

In 2020, 105 Georgia school districts and 230 schools recorded graduation rates at or above 90 percent. Twenty-nine districts and 89 schools recorded rates at or above 95 percent.

"I'm very proud today of the class of 2020," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. "These students were faced with difficulties none

of us could have imagined due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but they have shown over and over again -- in ACT and SAT results, in their personal accomplishments, and now in this graduation rate -- that they were able to rise above. While these results are positive, we cannot stop here. We must provide tailored and personalized pathways to ensure every student sees the relevance in their education, stays in school, and receives a high-school diploma that prepares them for their future."

Georgia Graduation Rates 2012 to 2020

- 2020 – 83.8 percent
- 2019 – 82.0 percent
- 2018 – 81.6 percent
- 2017 – 80.6 percent
- 2016 – 79.4 percent
- 2015 – 79.0 percent
- 2014 – 72.6 percent
- 2013 – 71.8 percent
- 2012 – 69.7 percent

CPD

From page 1A

Driver Safety Award.

The Teen/Young Driver Safety Award is a special award handed out to one department in the state

who has scored the highest among certain criteria pertaining to the award, such as Teen Driver's Education at the local high school, where the CPD presents on the effects of drinking and driving, speeding, distracted driving, and occupant protection (seat belts) to students.

The Georgia Governor's Challenge is aligned

with the national traffic safety priorities of impaired driving, occupant protection, and speed. Agencies are also encouraged to include information about any local issue you are addressing, such as distracted driving, pedestrian crashes, young drivers, etc.

For more information on the Georgia Governor's Challenge program, visit www.gahighwaysafety.org.

TEKLAS

From page 1A

new plant in Calhoun, Georgia," said Regional Director for Teklas Arcan Ergur. "Our Calhoun, Georgia location will help us be closer to our main customers."

The 200,000-square-foot facility and headquarters will be located at 320 South Industrial Boulevard in Calhoun, Georgia. TEKLAS will be hiring for positions at a variety of skill levels, including positions in advanced manufacturing, management, and supervision.

Individuals interested in careers with TEKLAS are encouraged to visit <http://teklas.com/talent> for additional information.

"We applaud the efforts of our state and local partners who helped encourage the company to come to this decision and welcome them to our community," said Larry Roye, chairman of the

Development Authority of Gordon County.

"The Calhoun and Gordon County community commend TEKLAS for their research and advancements in electric vehicle manufacturing and for their contribution to the expansion of the automotive sector of our manufacturing base," said Gordon County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Kathy Johnson.

Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) Project Manager Fernanda Kirchner represented the Global Commerce division on this competitive project in partnership with the Economic Development Authority of Gordon County and Georgia Power. The Center of Innovation for Logistics, a division of GDEcD, also provided freight analysis to support the project and company planning.

"The State of Georgia is focused on attracting and growing the jobs of the future, and TEKLAS choosing to establish their North American headquarters and

build their very first U.S. advanced manufacturing facility in Calhoun is another great example of these efforts producing results," said GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson. "As the automotive industry continues to transform and move toward electric vehicles and e-mobility, we will work to foster an ecosystem of manufacturers and suppliers on the leading edge of the industry's transition. I am very proud to welcome TELKAS to the diverse family of EV suppliers that call Georgia home."

About TEKLAS

TEKLAS is a global automotive fluid circulation system supplier for major car original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). With more than 45 years of experience, TEKLAS serves its customers with design, development, and production capabilities. TEKLAS provides innovative solutions for thermoplastics, rubber, and metal products to its customers.

ARREST

From page 1A

indicating child sexual abuse images had been uploaded to the Internet using a popular email platform," said the GBI in a statement. "The IP address that was used to log into the email platform physically resolved to the above address in Canton, Georgia."

According to the GBI, Sanford was booked into the Cherokee County Jail.

According to a statement released on Tuesday from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, Sanford was terminated from his position with the agency.

"At 7:40 a.m. the Georgia Bureau of Investigation contacted Sheriff Freeman regarding a search warrant that was being executed at an employee's home. The search warrant was in reference to child pornography and the employee was identified as Chief Deputy Grady Sanford. After the search warrant was executed, probably cause existed to make an arrest. Sheriff Freeman immediately terminated Mr. Sanford's employment with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office."

"To say this is a shock is a gross understatement," said Sheriff Ron Freeman. "We intentionally set our standards high at Forsyth County. Regardless of rank, every employee must meet those moral and legal

standards. There is no room for this type of crime in our State, and certainly not in the law enforcement profession. Our trust and that of our community has been betrayed. I've made a commitment to be transparent, even when one of our own employees does wrong. No one is exempt and no one is above the law."

According to the GBI, the investigation is part of the ongoing effort by the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, housed within the GBI's Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit, to identify those involved in the child pornography trade. The ICAC Program, created by the U.S. Department of Justice, was developed in response to the increasing number of children and teenagers using the Internet, the proliferation of child pornography, and the heightened online activity by predators searching for unsupervised contact with underage victims.

Sanford was born and raised in Gordon County, and in 2014 was appointed as commander of Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Troop A. Troop A is comprised of patrol posts located in Calhoun, Cartersville, Dalton, Jasper, Paulding, Rome and LaFayette, covering 20 counties in northwest Georgia.

According to published reports, Sanford began his career with the Department of Public Safety in 1987 as a radio operator at GSP Calhoun. In 1988, he was promoted to Trooper Cadet in April and graduated from

the 63rd Trooper School in October. He was assigned to GSP Cartersville after graduation. In 1992, he transferred to GSP Calhoun and worked there until his promotion to Corporal at GSP Kennesaw in 1997. After being promoted to Corporal, he progressed through the ranks to Sergeant at GSP Cedartown in 2000; to Sergeant First Class (Post Commander) at GSP Calhoun in 2001; to Lieutenant (Assistant Director of GSP Training Division) in 2003; and to Captain (Troop B Commander) in 2011. He then served as director of the Capitol Police Division from July 1, 2012 through 2014.

In 2017, after leaving the GSP, Sanford began serving with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, becoming a high-ranking officer there.

Sanford received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Thomas University, and a Masters of Public Administration degree from Columbus State University. He was also a graduate of the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College (Class 46) and the FBI National Academy (242nd Session). He served for a time as the 1st Vice President of the Georgia Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates.

The GBI asks that anyone with information about other cases of child exploitation to contact the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit at 404-270-8870.

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