



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021

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MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL

*Plus*

TWO YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS  
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# Weddings

## ISSUE





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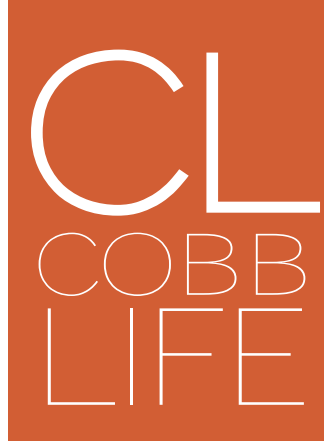
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A man and a woman are walking away from the camera on a grassy path in a park. The man is on the left, wearing a light-colored sweater and dark pants. The woman is on the right, wearing a white puffer vest over a dark top and dark pants. They are holding hands. A brown dog is walking alongside them, looking up. The background is filled with trees in autumn colors (yellows, oranges, and browns) under a clear blue sky. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden light.

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# Letter

## from the EDITOR



*Cobb Life Editor Katy Ruth Camp, second from the left, poses with her family after the wedding of her cousin, Cassy Mathis, to Greg Hester on March 14, 2020.*

PHOTO BY SOUTHERN FRAME STUDIO

On March 14, 2020, my beautiful cousin, Cassy Mathis, married her one and only, Greg Hester. The ceremony, held at Meadows at Mossy Creek in Cleveland, Georgia, played host to plenty of happy, dancing people who traveled to the mountains to celebrate their love.

But the coronavirus, which seemed to be a large wave looming in the distance, was about to come crashing down on the country. About 40 people, including our beloved grandmother, decided to stay home to be cautious and I know Cassy was disappointed they couldn't be there, but was understanding nonetheless. No one knew how bad this virus really was at that point, and rumors of quarantines were just that – rumors.

Hers was likely one of the last weddings to take place as planned in 2020, and we counted our blessings that she and Greg were able to have at least some semblance of the celebration they had planned. You have to understand, when

Cassy was a little girl (and even a little older), her favorite toys were not dolls or roller skates or Beanie Babies.

They were bridal magazines.

Every summer, we would spend two weeks at our grandparents' house and Cassy would come armed with stacks and stacks of bridal magazines, each weathered and worn. Page after page was dog-eared or marked by circles and notes. A wedding wasn't just something she wished for – it was her dream of all dreams, so we were so thankful she could have that. And it just so happens she got to have that while marrying the most perfect and wonderful fella in Greg.

I know many couples planned their celebrations past Cassy's fateful date, and many of those were moved or postponed or just not quite what the couple dreamed of. And that's hard. But hopefully 2021 will bring with it new hope, new loves and, yes – a whole lot of weddings.

*Katy Ruth Camp*



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# “INN” new hands

*A new kind of history is now  
being made at one of  
Marietta’s most historic  
and beloved homes  
and wedding venues*

BY KATY RUTH CAMP



*Alexis Amaden  
with her family  
in front of The  
Whitlock Inn*

Just off the Marietta Square on Whitlock Avenue is a stately home that has been given a lot of love in its 120 years, and has seen a lot of love, too. The Whitlock Inn is one of the city’s most popular wedding venues with its grand rooms, dramatic staircases and a courtyard whose blooming trees and vines provide the perfect backdrop.

The person who lovingly restored the home 27 years ago and made it what is today, Alexis Amaden, has seen nearly 3,500 glowing brides and almost half as many galas, parties and celebrations as its owner. But on May 11, 2020, Amaden made the decision to free up her nights and weekends to spend more time with her family, and faithfully turned the veil to a new owner.

“It’s of course bittersweet, but I’m so excited, too. The new owner is just wonderful, and I know she will take such good care of it and the legacy will continue,” Amaden said.

That new owner is Kathy Heilman, who came to The Whitlock Inn from Barnsley Resort in Adairsville as its wedding director. She and her husband, Jim, live in Acworth and have three daughters. Heilman purchased both the business and the building, but she and Amaden confirmed that all of the staff and Carriage House catering would remain, with no major changes to operations.

## A HISTORY OF LOVE

According to Amaden, the grounds originally held the M.G. Whitlock House in the 1890s and was a famous 150-room Marietta resort before it burned to the ground. Prior to that and before the Civil War, it was a popular showplace for tourists taking the train from hot coastal towns, like Savannah, to the cooler foothills of Georgia. The resort occupied nearly the whole block of Whitlock Avenue, where The Whitlock Inn, a private residence and the Trust Company Bank building now stand.

In 1900, part of the land was purchased by Herbert C. Dobbs and his wife, Annie. That is when they built The Whitlock Inn as it is seen today, serving as a home for their family of eight. In 1910, the home was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Kemper Smith, who, after several years of residence, sold the home to the Dosser family. The much-loved Dossers were active in the First United Methodist Church of Marietta, which is located directly across from The Whitlock Inn. Mrs. Dosser is remembered as a favorite piano teacher and the giver of elaborately-decorated Christmas parties, which is appropriate for The Whitlock Inn’s own use today as the site of the annual Marietta Pilgrimage Christmas Home Tour (pre-pandemic).

In 1977, the Dosser heirs sold the home to the city of





*Couple with Alexis Amaden*

Marietta for use as a senior citizen center. In 1993, the center moved to a newer facility and the city put the home up for bids.

Living just two doors down from The Whitlock Inn, the Edwards family had for several years been concerned about the neglected condition of the house and jumped at the chance to purchase the property.

"I was right out of college and always loved the building, and it was my dream to own a bed and breakfast, so me and my parents, Sandy and Nancy Edwards, bought it. I think my dad wanted me to have a job, too," Amaden said, with a laugh. "The building was literally falling in, so it was a lot of work, but we restored it and turned it into a bed and breakfast."

That included adding nine bathrooms, as the grand home had a single bathroom on the property. Amaden said she also turned the gravel backyard into a blooming oasis for outdoor wedding and events, and made sure every renovation she made to the home met historic preservation standards to keep its original charm and beauty. After 18 years and with a growing family, Amaden stopped the bed and breakfast aspect of the business to operate it as solely a weddings and event space.

"I feel like I grew up there. I lived in that carriage house where Carriage House Catering is now as a single girl, and that's where my love affair with the Square began," Amaden said. "I'm still going to stay a Square-a-holic, but I'm excited to have more time with my family."

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## A NEW ERA

Amaden said she began thinking about selling the inn in summer 2019, when she realized she was missing so much time with her twin boys at home. They are 10 years old now, Walter and Peter, and it really hit her during the that holiday season after she spent much of her time managing holiday parties at the inn while having to miss her own family's holiday gatherings.

"When I had kids, I knew the overnight stays were going to be too much so I stopped the bed and breakfast operation. But then I was still finding myself having to work odd hours that didn't line up with theirs, and I felt like I was missing too much. The people who bought this, they're a dream couple. They have so much experience in weddings and when they approached me about buying it, I just knew it was time and that the stars had aligned," Amaden said.



Kathy Heilman

Heilman is the sole owner, but said her husband, Jim, helped her a lot with the transition and will continue to be a right-hand man of sorts for her as the new owner.

"We were having up to about 70 weddings a year at Barnsley and things were going great, but I always thought about one day owning my own venue and doing it myself," Heilman said. "My husband found the inn was for sale on a confidential business website we had signed up for and we took a look at it and, the minute I stepped in, it felt like home. I fell in love. It's charming, it's historic, it has a great reputation, and the staff is so loved and they have such a great history behind them. Coming from Barnsley, which is bigger because it is a resort, I loved that it was entrenched in history and that this did, too."

Heilman said that she doesn't plan to change much about the inn, but she does hope to focus more on corporate events, such as dinners, parties and meetings.

"Obviously, it's a crazy time right now and we're navigating some strange things with the virus, but we are keeping the safety and well-being of everyone in mind," Heilman said. "It just feels like home and I can't wait to meet everyone and everything has been very well-cared for — we're just so excited."

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# A MATCH MADE IN THE HEAVENS: *Dobbins couple marries on C-130*

BY ANDREW PARK (94TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

**BRIDE AND GROOM:**

Lyndsy Harrison  
& Will Jones

**DATE OF WEDDING:**

Nov. 10, 2020

**VENUE:**

Back of a C-130

**PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Andrew Park  
(94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



There is an old superstition that says rain on a wedding day brings good luck and will lead to a marriage that lasts.

Two aircrew members from the 700th Airlift Squadron found themselves not only lucky enough to tie the knot with one another, but also found a way to tie in their love of flying on their special day.

"I think when he brought up the idea of us getting married in the back of the plane, he threw it out there as a joke," said 1st Lt. Lyndsy Harrison, a 700th AS navigator, recalling how she and Capt. Will Jones, 700th Airlift Squadron pilot, came up with the idea to get married on the back of a C-130. "But when I approved and was just as stoked about it as he was we didn't want to do it anywhere else."

As the C-130H Hercules landed at Dobbins on Nov. 10, 2020, it ended like any other flying mission at Dobbins. The plane taxied around the flightline on a drizzly afternoon. Once the plane got closer to its parking spot, however, it was apparent that this was a unique flight.

Lyndsy, the flight's navigator and bride to be, waved enthusiastically from the flight deck to a small group of

friends and family members watching from the flight line.

"As we were taxiing back, I was overwhelmed with a lot of different emotions," Lyndsy said. "I was super happy that I was minutes away from marrying my guy. I was excited for our families and my sons who admire Will so much. I was happy that people actually showed up, but I was also extremely sad that I'll never get to fly with Will again. He is an amazing pilot and I am fortunate to have flown with him."

Not unlike other couples planning their special day, the two aviators also ran into their fair share of challenges. For one, regulations restrict married couples from flying on the same plane. Will said they had originally planned to get married on the flight, which would have been fine since they weren't married when they took off, but then what about the landing? Another issue was planning the flight itself. They obviously couldn't fly the plane just for the sake of the wedding, so they found a flight on the schedule where they were both flying and planned the wedding around that date.

"It was a planned training sortie," Lyndsy explained. "We were both being evaluated by instructor aircrew."



Since it was a training mission, and one flown in the rain at that, it was important for them to stay focused on the task at hand and not let their nervous excitement about the big day cloud their vision. Luckily, they're trained to stay focused regardless of any outside distractions.

"We do a pretty good job of compartmentalizing everything," Will explained. "My biggest concern was flying a two-ship tactical mission in the weather. I didn't get nervous or have the wedding portion on my mind until the engines were shut down and I was unbuckling my seatbelt."

And finally, they had to be in leave status for the ceremony so they weren't on the clock. It could only commence after engine shut down and all the checklists were complete, Will said. Lyndsy also pointed out that most brides get all day to work on their hair, but she had to settle for helmet hair in lieu of a fancy up-do.

After a crew chief marshalled in the plane, the aircrew lowered the ramp, revealing a U.S. Flag hanging as a backdrop. The pilot and navigator — or in this case, the bride and groom — rushed off the back of the plane like a

couple late to the chapel and got into position. Will's mother affixed a yellow rose boutonniere to her son's flight suit while Lyndsy's parents handed their daughter a small bouquet of yellow roses.

Next, Capt. Sara Parris, 94th Airlift Wing chaplain and wedding officiant, stood in front of the flag and prepared to begin the wedding ceremony from the back of the C-130.

Although this might be an unusual location for a wedding, it seemed fitting for the two Dobbins aviators, as their love of flying is what brought them together.

Lyndsy began her career at Dobbins in the medical squadron before finding an opportunity to become an officer and attend navigator training. It was a long process with challenges of its own, she explained. As for Will, he grew up in an Air Force family so he had been around C-130s his whole life and found a love for aviation at an early age, he said.

"Flying for me has been therapeutic, it is relaxing and I feel in my place up there," Lyndsy said. "I never gave up on my dream of flying and went after it. During that time Will



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and I started dating. He encouraged and supported me to reach my goals that I was told were impossible. He continues to motivate and inspire me to be better.”

The rest of the wedding proceeded as any other. Before the ceremony even started, one of their fellow flyers, Lt. Col. George Pelech, jokingly split the group into two sides based on association to the bride or groom. The bride’s father walked her to the makeshift altar and gave her away to the groom. The chaplain discussed the importance of marriage and guided the couple through the ceremony. The couple exchanged rings and were then pronounced husband and wife.

Before they made their exit, the groom ran back into the cargo hold and began lowering the topside of the ramp to reveal the words “Just Married” written on the back in chalk. Everyone cheered while the new married couple embraced



and then began greeting all those in attendance.

Anyone who has ever done a FOD walk, a requirement on flight lines to look for Foreign Object Debris, will be happy to hear that no rice was thrown at the end of the ceremony. 

*The Joneses celebrate with Lyndsy’s two sons after their marriage on the back of a C-130.*

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## A TALE OF TWO WEDDINGS



**BRIDE AND GROOM:**

Hannah Galt &  
Terna Ityokumbul

**DATE OF WEDDING:**

March 13 and  
March 14, 2020

**VENUES:**

The Brickyard, then  
Atlanta Christian Church  
and Westside Warehouse

**NUMBER OF GUESTS:**

185

**PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Mary Hannah Harte  
Photography







### *From the bride:*

Terna (pronounced "Tay-nuh") and I met on a dating app. We had our first date on the Beltline and we immediately knew we had both found something good. Fast forward to January 5, 2019 and Terna proposed at the top of Kennesaw Mountain on a supposedly typical hike with our friends.

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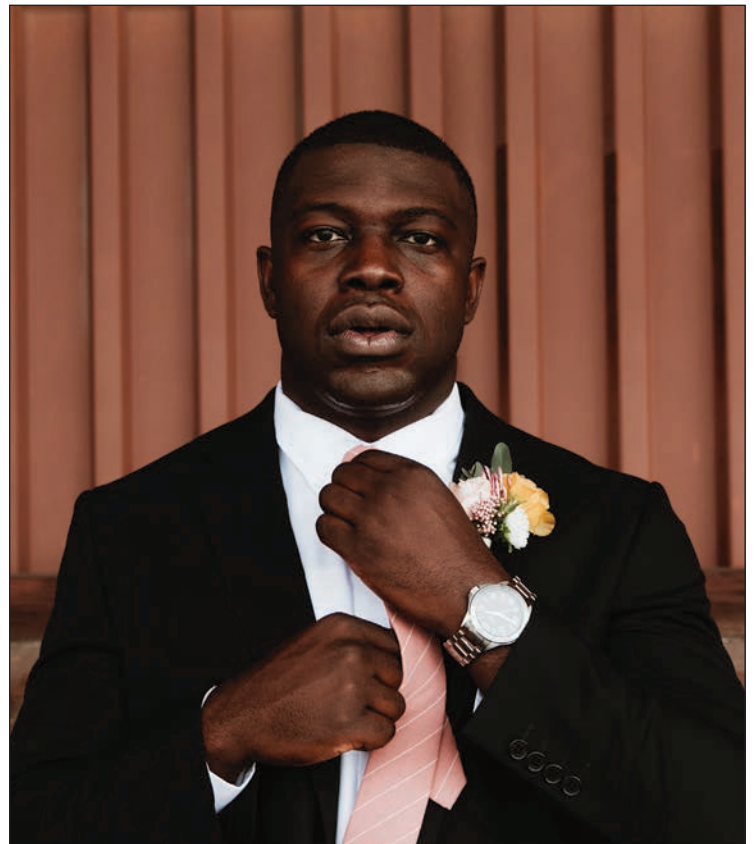
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**BRIDE AND GROOM:**  
Hope Gross &  
Hugh Elwood

**DATE OF WEDDING:**  
*March 21, 2021*

**VENUES:**  
*Royal Kona Resort*

**NUMBER OF GUESTS:**  
38

**PHOTOGRAPHER:**  
*Kelilina Photography*

ALOHA AU IĀ 'ŌE







### *From the bride:*

We are both from different areas of Marietta, but met at one of our now favorite spots on Canton Street in Roswell called Roux in 2015. We instantly bonded over our shared love for the band Phish. After hours of talking, we also found out we had many mutual good friends (small world scenario). A few short months later, we decided to combine our living arrangements, and I moved into Hugh's place on the Chattahoochee River. We purchased our first home together on the river in August of 2018.

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We got engaged in Hawaii over Thanksgiving 2018 while visiting my brother and his family, who live there. The Big Island has become one of our favorite places to visit over the years, and we try to make it out there once a year. Our wedding day was gorgeous - we hardly needed any floral arrangements because the natural foliage of the island provided a beautiful backdrop. The weather was perfect, and we had a small group of close friends and family there. Due to COVID, many guests/wedding party members/family were not able to come last minute, and

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we missed them, but it was perfect in its own way. Our processional song was “Lovely Day” by Bill Withers. Our first dance was “They Love Each Other” by the Grateful Dead. Hugh made everyone laugh by dancing with his mom to “Dear Mama” by Tupac. We drank endless Mai Tai’s, enjoyed traditional Hawaiian cuisine, and danced through the sunset into the night on the sandy cove where our reception was held. **CH**



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## THROUGH THE LENS

**MARIETTA PHOTOGRAPHER PAVEL KUZNETSOV HAS FOUND HIS SPECIALTY, AND IT'S IN CAPTURING THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY FOR MANY PEOPLE – THEIR WEDDING DAY. HE SHARED SOME OF HIS FAVORITE WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS WITH COBB LIFE, AND GAVE SOME INSIGHT INTO HIS CRAFT AND CAREER.**

**CL:** How did you get into photography?

**PK:** I grew up watching my dad use a small film camera for still photos and enjoying the home movies he made, so I first thought of photography as something fun that people could do to capture special moments in life. I was 10 years old when my grandpa gave me my first camera, and throughout the rest of my childhood, I worked on learning to use it, photographing friends and family. I didn't dive into the world of professional photography

until 2010, and I officially registered Pavel VK Photography, Inc. as a small business in Marietta in March of 2014.

**CL:** Tell us a little about yourself - where did you grow up, where do you live now, and what are some of your hobbies outside of photography?

**PK:** I was born in Ukraine and I've traveled the world since I was about a year old. My dad served in the Russian military, so my family spent two years in the south of Russia and four years in

the far north above the Arctic Circle, where temperatures would reach -20F in the winter. I attended school in Germany for grades 1-5, spending most of the '90s in Eastern Germany. Photography was more affordable there for my dad, and he really got into film and darkroom, developing film in our kitchen once a month using "the latest" German techniques at the time. My family moved to St. Petersburg, Russia when I was 10; I finished high school there, got my college degree in radio-engineering, and completed a









philosophy degree at the Russian Christian Academy of Liberal Arts.

In 2002, while working on a Christian Retreat in St. Petersburg, I met an intriguing young American woman who would soon become my wife. In 2004, my mom and I made our first visit to the United States...to attend my wedding at the Marietta Methodist Campground! After a honeymoon spent driving from state to state to see the sights and visit friends, we moved to St. Petersburg, where we lived until we returned to the States for good in 2005. My wife, Leah, is a Marietta native, and we now live in Marietta with our two sons, 11-year-old Kristian and Lucas, who is 5. I'm now a U.S. citizen.

When I'm not photographing weddings, Leah and I both work at Glory Haus, Inc. in Marietta, where I do all the catalogue and other photography and help Leah with

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visual merchandising for large Merchandise Mart events throughout the year. I love music, outdoor activities such as hiking and camping, and spending time with my family.

**CL: What are some of your favorite memories from weddings you've photographed?**

**PK:** My first big wedding shoot was in 2009. A lot went into it; I brought all my studio lights in case it was too dark, and I made sure I had a backup camera, memory cards and batteries. Even though it was one of the most stressful days of my life, I loved it! There's something about spending a day photographing the most exciting day of someone else's life that really gets to me every time. I think it is a huge privilege to see the bride in her wedding gown before the groom sees her, and it's hard to even describe the emotions when Dad sees his little daughter in that dress for the very first time as he prepares to lead her down the aisle to a man he has to trust. The groom writing a note to his bride before he sees her, Mom

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crying as she gives her son a final hug before the ceremony...I love those moments. Every one is unique, full of joy and love. After 11 years, I still can't think of a better vocation.

**CL: What do you wish people knew about what it takes to photograph a wedding?**

**PK:** Wedding photography in general is tough. There's no place to take a break, nor time to sit down while you're shooting a wedding. You are NOT allowed to get sick the day before the wedding. The best wedding photographers out there are the best because they've done it enough to know where to stand and what to see at certain moments throughout the wedding day to capture those unique moments. They know their gear, and they know how to communicate to large crowds and to people who are nervous, emotional, tired, and stressed. These are just a few examples!

I still can't eat anything until I meet and greet the bride and groom where they're getting ready, and introduce myself to the rest of the wedding party. Then, the stress goes away, and I pull out my energy bar and a bottle of water and I'm ready to work.

**CL: What tips would you give to brides and grooms to make sure they have the best photos possible?**

**PK:** To the bride and groom I would say, get to know your wedding photographer a bit before you hire him or her for your wedding day. Do a short engagement shoot; if that's not possible, even a Zoom conference is good. The personality of the lead photographer is important; their ability to serve and communicate will





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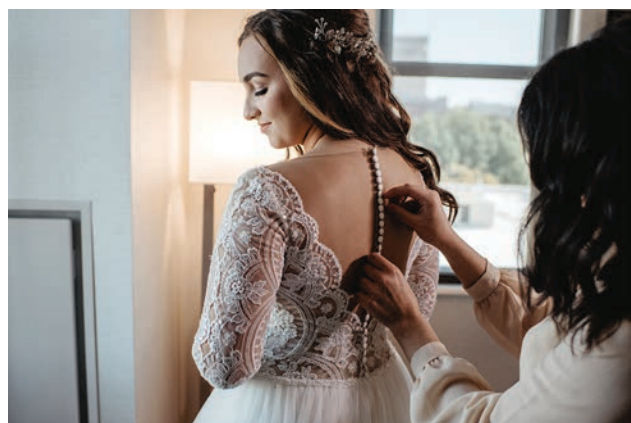
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help everyone throughout the day. I like to say it makes the videographer's day when there is a good lead photographer in place, because ultimately that's who everyone is, or should be, listening to. The lead photographer's job is to know the exact expectations of the bride and groom, and be able to communicate those expectations effectively on (and before) the big day.

#### **CL: Where can people learn more about your work?**

**PK:** You can find me as "Pavel VK" on Facebook, Instagram, and all major social media platforms, and on my website, [pavelvk.com](http://pavelvk.com). I'd love for you to follow my work, see some sample shoots, and keep up with my news in general. I do many other kinds of photography in addition to weddings, so take a look at my work and get in touch at any time! 📷



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DANCING INTO A

dream

STORY BY KATY RUTH CAMP, PHOTOS BY HADLEY(S) PHOTOGRAPHY



## At just 28 and 33 years old, Gray Stoner and Ashleigh Whitworth traded their pointe shoes for high heels in buying storied Marietta Square dance company



**In the summer of 2019**, friends and co-workers Ashleigh Whitworth and Gray Stoner took a trip to Stoner's family beach condominium relishing a vacation from their roles as artistic director and assistant artistic director of the Georgia Metropolitan Dance Theater.

Well, not relishing it, entirely.

That fateful trip sealed the deal for the students-turned-colleagues-turned-friends to have an honest and life-changing discussion about their next career moves.

"We were in the ocean and just chatting and we knew the owners of GMDT and the studio (Georgia Dance Conservatory) were probably ready to retire and likely sell,"

Stoner said. "They, Billy and Lisa Touns, had owned studios for over 40 years in different areas, so they were ready, and we were ready, having grown up at GMDT and GDC and now loving what we were doing in our roles. So it just seemed like good timing and we decided then that, if they decided to sell, we wanted to buy."

And so they did.

In August 2019, Stoner and Whitworth became the official owners of both GMDT and GDC, located in the nearly 9,000-square-foot historic building at the corner of Mill Street and West Park Square on the Marietta Square.

The two organizations are separate but still very much



intertwined. GMDT is the professional company side of the duo's ownership, the side that puts on productions and operates as a nonprofit. GDC is the studio side, or the "school" side, which is for profit and currently trains nearly 260 students, something Stoner said she and Whitworth are very proud of, given the effects of the pandemic.

The duo is especially proud to own something they grew up loving so much, and spent so much time with as budding dancers. Stoner and Whitworth both started at what was then called Ruth Mitchell Dance Theatre when they were seven, though Stoner is about 4.5 years younger than Whitworth. Stoner was even of Whitworth's students when Stoner was in sixth grade, calling her now-business partner "the cool, hip teacher."

Both Stoner and Whitworth pursued dance after their high school graduations from The Walker School and Sprayberry High School, respectively, with Stoner earning a degree in dance from the University of Arizona in 2015 and Whitworth earning a degree in dance from the University of



*Gray working with her 7th graders in Contemporary*

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Both Stoner and Whitworth had dreams of becoming professional dancers and both spent some time pursuing that dream, until they were eventually called back to the place they once called home.

*Ash and Gray on first day of classes in Aug 2020*



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Above: Ash directing Battle Scene of Nutcracker

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the Arts in Philadelphia in 2011.

Both had dreams of becoming professional dancers and both spent some time pursuing that dream, until they were eventually called back to the place they once called home.

“We’ve both always been in leadership positions here,” Whitworth explained. “It has been both of our dreams to come back and own a dance studio. I think we both thought it would happen later in our careers, but it happened when we were pretty young. But the opportunity presented itself and both she and I were interested in what’s the next step for our careers, longevity-wise. It’s a lot - you wear a lot of hats. You do admin, you do customer service, you’re a dance teacher, you’re a therapist, you’re a cheerleader, a problem solver, a firefighter...but we love it, and we work extremely well together.”

Stoner said their studio’s model is unique in the area as they offer all forms of dance to all of their students, and encourage them to step out of their normal dance styles to condition different muscles and expand their artistic abilities.

Teaching dance during a pandemic, though – something that is nearly impossible to do right





Top: Ash and Gray at Halloween 2020

Bottom: Ash and Gray after DWTS 2019

virtually – has been a challenge. But the students persevered and most are back to in-person classes, with strict safety measures put in place, such as being required to wear face masks throughout their interactions and classes.

“I could just see on Zoom that our kids were not okay,” Stoner said. “Especially our teenagers. They were not okay. So you can just tell that when they’re here, they are here and they’re loving every minute of it. It’s like they have a new appreciation for it and



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**Left:** Gray teaching on Zoom. This day the theme was 80s jazzercise in her contemporary class

**Top:** Pre-Primary Online Student

when they could step away from their home office and get in a studio and dance, it just meant so much.”

Another aspect of their operations is fundraising, which Stoner said they expected to take a huge hit, but the community has really stepped up to help them raise even more than they were expecting, to keep them going. One of their biggest fundraisers of the year is always the Marietta Dancing With the Stars, which raises on average \$45,000 each year. The 2020 Dancing With the Stars took place on Feb. 1 last year, so they were able to operate as usual, but this year’s date has yet to be determined.

Still, the young owners have hope that their students can perform to live audiences once again in the near future, and are thankful everyday that they get to live their dreams through their jobs.

“Owning this and being involved in dances is a passion and there’s this sense of freedom that it gives me personally that I don’t get anywhere else,” Stoner said. “I think a lot of dancers will tell you that they didn’t choose dance, dance chose them, and Ashleigh and I certainly feel that way. I just feel at peace and at home whenever I’m involved with anything dance, so to live in that everyday with Ashleigh is just a dream.”



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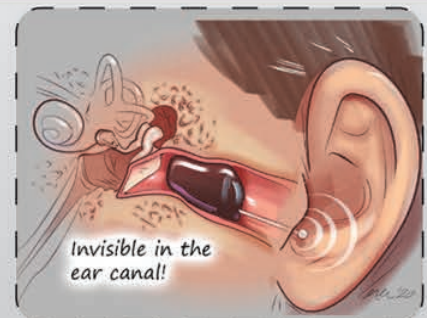
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## ALBUMS

### ★ **MEDICINE AT MIDNIGHT** Foo Fighters February 5

On Foo Fighters' 10th studio album, lead singer-songwriter Dave Grohl has said the band set out to make a fun, upbeat record akin to David Bowie's "Let's Dance," and their single "Shame Shame" lines up with that assertion. Grohl mentioned that "Shame Shame" is unlike anything Foo Fighters have ever done before and that the song allowed them to "move into another territory" with their sound. It's percussive and almost funky, but it's also slightly tinged with melancholy, especially on a string-laden chorus that sounds very much like the Foo Fighters fans have always known.

### ★ **LIFE ROLLS ON** Florida Georgia Line February 12

After being dogged by both a COVID-19 diagnosis and break-up rumors late last year, Florida Georgia Line has announced their fifth studio album, "Life Rolls On."

The duo of Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley produced the album with Corey Crowder. "I think this personally is just a big, celebratory chapter," Hubbard, who weathered the coronavirus in November, said in a statement. "We've come a long way since 2012 when we dropped our first album. It's wild to think about the journey we've been on – the things we've got to do, the places music has taken us. We're celebrating life and the good times, the ups and the downs, and the journey it took us to get where we're at."

### ★ **STILL WOMAN ENOUGH** Loretta Lynn March 19

Looking back at a career which spans six decades, icon Loretta Lynn has announced her new album "Still Woman Enough." Marking her 50th studio release, the collection celebrates women in country music and includes new compositions along with reinterpretations from Lynn's catalog. The album also features appearances from Margo Price, Tanya Tucker, Reba McEntire and

Carrie Underwood. "I am just so thankful to have some of my friends join me on my new album. We girl singers gotta stick together," Lynn said in a statement. "It's amazing how much has happened in the 50 years since 'Coal Miner's Daughter' first came out and I'm extremely grateful to be given a part to play in the history of American music."

## STREAMING & MORE

### ★ **CLARICE** CBS February 11

"Clarice" offers a deep dive into the untold personal story of FBI Agent Clarice Starling as she returns to the field in 1993, six months after the events of "The Silence of the Lambs." Brilliant and vulnerable, Clarice's bravery gives her an inner light that draws





monsters and madmen to her. However, her complex psychological makeup that comes from a challenging childhood empowers her to begin to find her voice while working in a man's world, as well as escape the family secrets that have haunted her throughout her life.

### ★ THE GREAT NORTH

FOX

February 14

Following the Alaskan adventures of the Tobin family, as a single dad, Beef does his best to keep his weird bunch of kids close — especially his only daughter, Judy, whose artistic dreams lead her away from the family fishing boat and into the glamorous world of the local mall. Rounding out the family are Judy's older brother, Wolf, and his fiancé, Honeybee; her middle brother, Ham; and 10-year-old-going-on-50 little brother, Moon. While their mother is not in the picture, Judy seeks guidance from her new boss, Alyson,

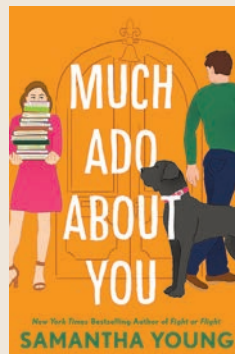
and her imaginary friend, Alanis Morissette, who appears to her in the northern lights.

### ★ SUPERMAN & LOIS

The CW

February 23

After years of facing supervillains, monsters and alien invaders, the world's most famous superhero, The Man of Steel (aka Clark Kent) and famed journalist Lois Lane come face to face with one of their greatest challenges ever — dealing with being working parents in today's society. Complicating the already daunting job of raising two boys, Clark and Lois worry about whether their sons, Jonathan and Jordan, could inherit their father's Kryptonian superpowers as they grow older. And there's never a dull moment in the life of a superhero, especially with Lois' father, Gen. Samuel Lane looking for Superman to vanquish a villain or save the day at a moment's notice.



## BOOKS

### ★ THE FOUR WINDS

By Kristin Hannah

February 2

Texas, 1934. Millions are out of work and a drought has broken the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as the crops are failing, the water is drying up, and dust threatens to bury them all. One of the darkest periods of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl era, has arrived with a vengeance. In this uncertain and dangerous time, Elsa Martinelli — like so many of her neighbors — must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or go west, to California, in search of a better life. "The Four Winds" is a portrait of America and the American Dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

### ★ MUCH ADO ABOUT YOU

By Samantha Young

February 2

At 33-years old, Evangeline Starling's life in Chicago is missing that special something. And when she's passed over for promotion at work, Evie realizes she needs to make a change. Some time away to regain perspective might be just the thing. In a burst of impulsivity, she plans a holiday in a quaint English village. The holiday package comes with a temporary position at Much Ado About Books, the bookstore located beneath her rental apartment. There's no better dream vacation for the bookish Evie, a life-long Shakespeare lover. Not only is Evie swept up in running the delightful store as soon as she arrives, she's drawn into the lives, loves and drama of the friendly villagers.

### ★ 21ST BIRTHDAY

By James Patterson and

Maxine Paetro

March 2

SFPD Sergeant Lindsay Boxer has sworn to defend against all enemies, foreign and domestic. As Lindsay prepares to celebrate her own daughter's birthday, she clashes with rising Chief Charlie Clapper over a family case. When a distraught mother pleads with Chronicle reporter Cindy Thomas to investigate the disappearance of her daughter, Tara, and baby granddaughter, Lorrie, Cindy immediately loops in SFPD. But Tara's schoolteacher husband, Lucas Burke, tells a conflicting story that paints Tara as a wayward wife, not a missing person. And there's reason to believe he may be telling the truth. As new details and allegations emerge, Lindsay comes to realize there isn't a woman in the state of California who's safe from the reach of an unspeakable threat.





**Left:** With “Passing the Torch” by David Uhl are, from left: back row: Sally Macaulay, executive director of Marietta Cobb Museum of Art, George Tingley, Kevin Kennedy of CURE Childhood Cancer, Douglas Collins, Mark Augustyn, Brit Turner, drummer for Blackberry Smoke and Vince Champion of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. Front: Madeline Beck, museum curator, Jennifer Fox, the museum’s director of operations, and Chauna Wiggins and Kathy Kemp of The Litas Atlanta women’s motorcycle group.

## Braves painting housed at Marietta museum gets motorcyclist sendoff

BY SHANNON BALLEW  
AND EMILY BOORSTEIN

A painting of Atlanta Braves Hall of Famer and the Truist Park had an unusual sendoff in January: more than two dozen motorcyclists to escort it to its next location.

For two years, “Passing the Torch” by David Uhl of Colorado was on loan to the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art, said Sally Macaulay, the museum’s executive director.

It depicts Braves pitcher Tom Glavine, with his son, Kienan, pointing at a statue of pitcher Warren Spahn in front of the ballpark and standing behind a Harley-Davidson motorcycle with a sidecar.

Why the motorcycle? Because the painting was commissioned by Tomahawk Harley-Davidson, which is in The Battery Atlanta, adjacent to the Braves’ stadium, Truist Park. Also, Uhl has been doing artwork for the brand since 1993 and became the company’s first licensed oil painter five years later, according to the artist’s website.

The painting is meant to celebrate fathers and sons and “their involvement in two great American pastimes: motorcycling and baseball,” Uhl’s website states.

The painting’s stay at the museum was bookended by a number of bikers who are also fans of the Atlanta-based Blackberry Smoke, a Southern rock band. Two of the band’s members were raised in Smyrna.

The band has been holding a motorcycle ride charity for the past few years to donate



**Above:** Mark Augustyn, left, and Douglas Collins move the “Passing the Torch” painting out of the Cobb Marietta Museum of Art.

to Cure Childhood Cancer. That event has included a raffle of a signed print of the Uhl painting.

The band got involved with Cure after drummer Brit Turner’s daughter, Lana, was diagnosed with Stage 4 neuroblastoma at just 3 years old. She recovered and is now 14.

Two years ago, the band created the first Blackberry Smoke Ride for Cure, which was hosted by Glavine and saw a group of motorcyclists ride from the Tabernacle in downtown Atlanta, where the band performed a concert, up to Marietta to see the painting when it was first displayed in the museum, said George Tingley, one of the organizers of the ride. The second year, about 600 motorcyclists traveled from the Tabernacle to Truist Park.

This year, the ride was canceled because

of the pandemic, but organizers continue to raise money, including raffling off another “Passing the Torch” print signed by Glavine and Uhl. They plan to present the print to the winner when they give the original back to Uhl at Daytona Bike Week in March.

“We wanted to keep the conversation going and not let people forget that children are still fighting (cancer) today,” said Tingley.

About 30 bikers pulled up to the museum once again to see the painting off to its new temporary home, the headquarters of Cure Childhood Cancer in Dunwoody. Organizers will then return the painting to the artist in March.





## Oprah Winfrey Foundation gives Cobb nonprofit \$50k for rental assistance

STAFF REPORTS

We Thrive in Riverside Renters Association received a \$50,000 grant from the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation, We Thrive founder Monica DeLancy announced.

DeLancy is a renters' rights activist in the Six Flags area. The grant will "provide immediate and much needed rental assistance to local families," she said in a news release.

Local nonprofit Sting Inc. will disburse the funds.

"Empowering our next generation is difficult when families are faced with high rents and minimal assistance," Sting Executive Director Geneva Vanderhorst said. "We are pleased that the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation is supporting families in Cobb County during this challenging time. This endeavor will have a positive and lasting impact on our local youth and their future success."

Last year, Hunger Free America gave We Thrive \$10,000 to support "community outreach activities in marginalized communities."

## Cobb's first baby of 2021 born to Austell couple

BY SHANNON BALLEW

Iora Reiman was welcomed into the world shortly after midnight at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, the first baby born in Cobb County in 2021.

*Above: Pictured are Monica DeLancy and volunteer Arthur Brown.*



*Above: Alora Reiman is Cobb County's first baby of 2021, born 12:21 a.m. Jan. 1 to parents Kristen and Matthew Reiman at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital.*

Alora was born at 12:21 a.m. Friday to parents Kristen and Matthew Reiman of Austell, weighing 4 pounds 11 ounces. She's the couple's first child.

The newborn made her entrance a little early and had an original due date of Jan. 16, her father told the MDJ.

"My wife went in for her doctor's appointment, and her blood pressure was a little high, so they sent her into triage, and they decided they were going to induce her," he said. "At seven o'clock her water just broke, and then at 12:21 our daughter was born."

Alora and her mother were sleeping Friday afternoon after the family's long day. The new parents are "tired, but very happy," Matthew Reiman said.

"My reaction was like, 'I can't believe we made something like this.' She was beautiful," he said.

Matthew Reiman is training to become an emergency medical technician, and Kristen Reiman is an interior designer. As parents of the first baby of the year, the couple received a gift bag with a stuffed animal and other toys.

Wellstar Health System reports it delivers 15,000 newborns a year at seven of its 11 hospitals. At Wellstar Kennestone, about 5,600 babies are delivered a year.

## After 10 months, vaccinated Marietta doctor set to rejoin family

BY ALEKS GILBERT

On March 13, a Friday, Marietta neurosurgeon Franklin Lin left the home he shared with his wife and two of his children for a motel.

He has relatives in Taiwan, and he had been getting updates "on how bad things were getting on that side of the world." He knew the novel coronavirus was serious, and he would likely be exposed to it as a surgeon for Wellstar Health System, where he worked. Lin said he thought he could protect his family and set an example for their neighbors by moving out.

"We were going to be responsible, not vectors of transmission," he recalled thinking.

Lin and his wife, Annesia, thought the voluntary separation would last two weeks.

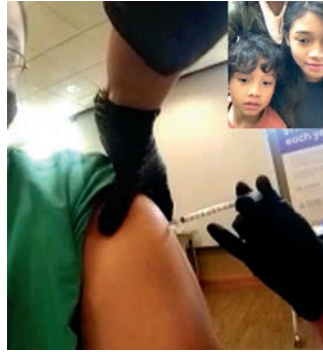
But in January, more than nine months later, Lin was set to rejoin his family, having received his first dose of a coronavirus vaccine. Shortly into the pandemic, he said, it became obvious the U.S. did not have the virus's spread under control, postponing his homecoming.

"It was just always kind of simmering," he said. After a summer surge, new cases began



**Left:** Neurosurgeon Franklin Lin is vaccinated against the coronavirus while his wife and children watch.

**Right:** Neurosurgeon Franklin Lin recently received his first dose of the coronavirus vaccine.



to fall. "We were kind of hopeful, and then everything just shot right back up. ... We were thinking, 'We've come this far, let's keep going.'"

It was hard at first, he said. Not being to help his wife around the house, not being able to give his youngest children, who are 6 and 9 years old, a concrete timeline for his return.

"It was way harder on them," he said. Eventually, though, they got used to it.

Lin, with little to do outside the hospital, took on extra shifts. He has read 20 books on the history of World War II. When the weather was nice, he would visit the house and talk to his family from the other side of the fence or in their backyard. He moved from the motel to an Airbnb and played Minecraft with his children, a video game in which players collect resources and build just about anything they can dream up.

"It got to the point where they almost preferred interacting with me that way as opposed to FaceTime, which was kind of funny," he said.

As the summer turned to fall, news that Germany's BioNTech, in partnership with Pfizer, and Moderna were making rapid progress on a vaccine, bolstered their resolve to continue. He had assumed vaccines would take years to develop but that the U.S. would successfully flatten the curve, allowing people to live their lives, albeit while continuing to social distance, wear masks and the like.



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"When the vaccine development came, I certainly had concerns, like, 'They came up with a vaccine so fast, is that going to be problematic?'" he said. "From what I gather, the science is pretty good. You've got to give credit to the fact that we had an urgent situation, and when there's urgent situation, you rev up your resources even harder to do something."

When he was scheduled to receive his first dose of the vaccine — for peak effectiveness, it must be administered in two doses, three weeks apart — he didn't think much of it.

He FaceTimed his wife and children. Elated, Amnesia Lin took screenshots of their call.

"When those pictures came out I saw it I saw how — I saw my kids faces, I saw my wife's face," he said. "You know, I kind of saw — it's almost like a, like a little vignette, you know, a microcosm of what the health care worker has been going through. That's when it dawned on me: okay, this vaccine was a big deal."

Among other things, Lin looks forward to putting his children to bed again. They have a

rule: "We never wake up to a mess," Lin said, so part of the bedtime ritual is making sure their rooms are clean.

During a recent nighttime video chat, his daughter ran upstairs to clean her room, "thinking after the first vaccine (that) I was coming home."

### ***New laws taking effect this year***

BY DAVE WILLIAMS

Legislation the General Assembly passed in 2020 covering a wide range of subjects from health care to law enforcement to Georgia's foster care system will take effect with the new year.

Here is a summary of key bills that took effect Jan. 1:

House Bill 888 takes aim at the practice of "surprise billing" by requiring health insurance companies to cover emergency services a patient receives whether or not the provider is a participant in the patient's insurance network, leaving it to providers and

insurers to settle their differences through arbitration.

House Bill 911 prohibits foster parents from engaging in improper sexual behavior with children in their care, closing a loophole in current state law. The measure was part of Georgia First Lady Marty Kemp's initiative to better protect foster children.

House Bill 838 is aimed at protecting police and other first responders from bias-motivated crimes committed because of the victims' "actual or perceived employment as a first responder." Legislative Republicans pushed the bill as a companion measure to passage of the state's first hate crimes law.

House Bill 1037 puts the state's popular film tax credit under additional scrutiny by requiring all film productions located in Georgia to undergo mandatory audits by the Georgia Department of Revenue or third-party auditors. It also tightens rules governing how film companies transfer or sell unused tax credits to other businesses.

House Bill 244 assigns the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) the task of deciding how much the state's electric



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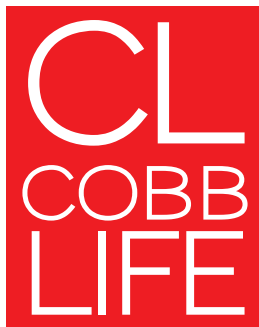
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May 2021 - Home Issue	4/25/2021	3/17/2021
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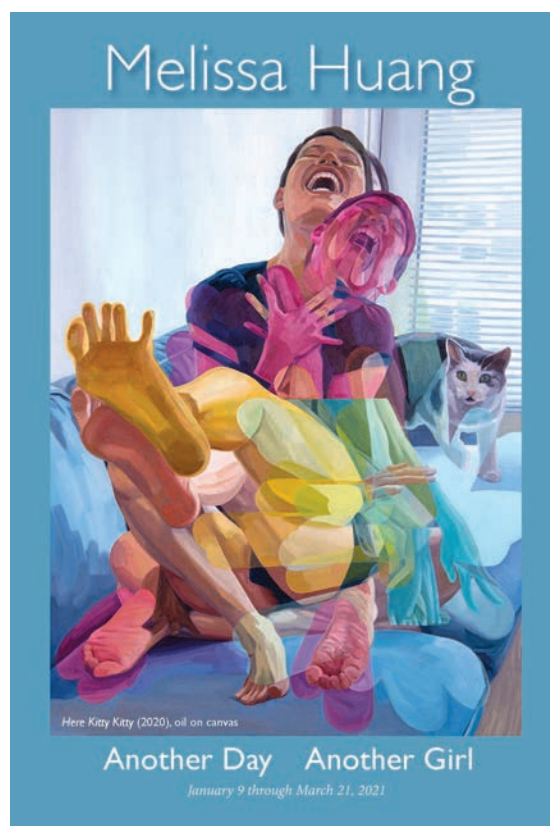
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membership cooperatives can charge telecommunications providers for broadband attachments to their utility poles, a bid to promote the expansion of rural broadband service. The new rates set by the PSC will take effect July 1.

Senate Bill 426 requires manufacturers that use the cancer-causing chemical ethylene oxide to report any waste spills or gas releases to the state within 24 hours. The director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division then must post the information on the agency's website.



## Marietta Cobb Museum of Art's new exhibits run through March

STAFF REPORT'S

The Marietta Cobb Museum of Art, 30 Atlanta Street SE in Marietta, announced the opening of two new exhibitions on Jan. 9.

The exhibitions will run through March 21.

**Melissa Hunang: Another Day Another Girl** will explore themes like personalities versus personas and technology and social media's effects - both positive and negative - on the search and establishment of identity.

**Permanent Collection: Ten** will display and discuss the majority of the Museum's acquisitions that have occurred since the year 2010. This exhibition seeks to study and present the patterns and evolution of the Museum's collection over the past decade.

**For more information, call 770-528-1444 or visit [mariettacobbartmuseum.org](http://mariettacobbartmuseum.org).**

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## Cobb Community Foundation's Operation Santa distributes PPE to 44 local nonprofits

STAFF REPORTS

When Georgia Center for Nonprofits, MedShare and others partnered up to gather and distribute donated PPE across the state, GCN's president/CEO Karen Beavor knew exactly who to call.

"We wanted to work through community foundations," Beavor said. "They have wide reach to local nonprofits and can act swiftly as local coordinators. They have been terrific partners in multiple collaborative efforts with GCN to strengthen local nonprofits."

When Cobb Community Foundation learned about the thousands of bottles of hand sanitizer and masks donated from companies like UPS, Disney and others, they immediately launched Operation Santa.

Using its online directory of Cobb and other nearby nonprofits, CCF immediately reached out to its CONNECTION partners.

Within a few days, 44 Cobb-based nonprofits added 3,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, 5,300 adult non-disposable masks and 20,000 Disney masks for children to their lists of holiday wishes.

MedShare handled all of the logistics. They could provide the sleigh, but four pallets of hand sanitizer and masks had to be delivered to a location where they could be stored, packaged and picked up, requiring more space than CCF's office could not accommodate.

"Not having any room at the inn was NOT going to stop us from helping our nonprofit partners," said Cat Gankofskie, CCF team member and the organization's Nonprofit Liaison and the Santa Claus of the operation.

"We had just cleaned out our garage, and the kids were home on break and needed something to do," so Gankofskie made her Kennesaw residence the North Pole for Operation Santa.

On Dec. 22, MedShare's sleigh delivered the pallets to Gankofskie's Kennesaw residence and volunteer elves. Paul and Matthew Gankofskie and Graham and



*Paul Gankofskie fills nonprofit requests for PPE.*

Zachary Washington put the packages together for the 44 nonprofits to pick up their gifts of PPE just in time for Christmas.

**For more information, email Gankofskie at [Catherine@CobbFoundation.org](mailto:Catherine@CobbFoundation.org) or visit [cobbfoundation.org](http://cobbfoundation.org).**

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## CEILING SHATTERED

*The new year brought with it a new county commission that will make the history books. In January, Cobb County Commissioner Monique Sheffield (left), Chairwoman Lisa Cupid (center) and Commissioner Jerica Richardson (right) were sworn into office, making Democrats a majority on the five-member board while also making it an all-female board for the first time in Cobb history.*

PHOTO BY JON GILLOOLY



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