

Calhoun Times

and Gordon County News

Covering Calhoun, Fairmount, Ranger, Oakman, Plainville, Sugar Valley, Resaca and the unincorporated areas of Gordon County since 1870

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Qualifying will start Monday

◆ Seats will be open for the city councils of Calhoun, Fairmount, Resaca and Plainville, as well the Calhoun Board of Education.

By Daniel Bell

DBell@CalhounTimes.com

Qualifying for a host of elected positions begins on Monday in Calhoun and around Gordon County ahead of November's general election.

The City of Calhoun will be taking qualifying packets for two city council seats and two school board seats between Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon.

The incumbent elected officials are Jimmy Palmer, who has been the mayor of Calhoun for more than 20 years now; on the City Council, Post 1 Councilwoman Jackie Palazzolo and Post 2 Councilman Al Edwards; and on the Calhoun City Schools Board of Education, Post 4 Board Member Eddie Reeves and Post 5 Board Member Tony Swink.

Swink announced earlier this week that he will not seek reelection.

By not having all of their officials run for reelection in one voting season, the city follows a staggered election process, which City Administrator Eddie Peterson said allows for long-term continuity.

Qualifying fees are listed at \$432 for the mayor position, \$252 for city council and \$1 for the board of education.

SEE QUALIFY, A5

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Calhoun Times

Crowley welcomed at NW Ga. Regional Commission

By Kelcey Caulder

KCaulder@CalhounTimes.com

Calhoun Mayor Pro Tem George Crowley was welcomed as the latest member of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission at its meeting on Thursday, filling the last vacant seat available for representatives from Gordon County.

Crowley was appointed to the commission by the Calhoun City Council on July 1.

As a commission member, he will work with representatives from Bartow, Catooza, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk,

Walker and Whitfield counties to improve the quality of life for every Northwest Georgia resident.

The commission generally works to conserve natural and historical resources, promote growth and care for and develop Northwest Georgia's human resources.

"We appreciate you serving and look forward to you being here through many years of service," Commissioner Ted Rumley said. "He was on the City Council for what, 14 or 15 years, and before that he was on the school board. We are glad to have him."

SEE CROWLEY, A11



Kelcey Caulder

Blake's House Classroom Instructor Shelley Barton, Gordon County Sheriff Mike Ralston, and Blake's House Product Coordinator Teresa Hall pose with an art piece dedicated to law enforcement officers.

Calhoun nonprofit organization donates handmade art to Gordon Sheriff's Office

By Kelcey Caulder

KCaulder@CalhounTimes.com

The walls of the Gordon County Sheriff's Office are decorated with photos of old employees, historic town buildings, artistic renderings of well wishes from the community, and now — thanks to a donation from local nonprofit Blake's House of Independence — a handmade, wood pallet art piece depicting the law enforcement flag and the silhouette of a kneeling officer.

Gordon County Sheriff Mike Ralston accepted the piece from Teresa Hall, the



Julia McKinney

Art available for purchase at Blake's House of Independence's Calhoun location.

artist behind the work and the product coordinator at Blake's House, and Blake's House Classroom Instruc-

tor Shelley Barton.

"I painted this and then, once I saw it, knew it was something we had to give

our law enforcement. We wanted to show our appreciation and say thank you for everything that they do to keep this community safe," Hall said.

Barton and Hall, who have worked in design for more than three decades, regularly use their art as a way of giving back to the local community. It is part of their work at Blake's House of Independence, a nonprofit that assists adults with special needs integrate into the workforce and develop social skills through art classes.

SEE BLAKE'S, A8



Daniel Bell

The first tiny house built by Tiny House Hand Up was undergoing final touches like paint and drapes this week.

Concert to benefit Tiny House Hand Up

By Daniel Bell

DBell@CalhounTimes.com

The first tiny house built by Tiny House Hand Up will be displayed in front of the Gem Theatre on Saturday during the organization's fundraising concert, and Executive Director Cindy Tucker said it will be dedicated to the memory of founding board member Vickie Booker.

"There's been a lot of thought, a lot of planning and a lot of minds working together," Tucker said about the work of the group.

The goal of Tiny House Hand Up is to provide an affordable housing option for people who don't make a lot of money.

A tiny house built by the group will be between 350 and 800 square feet, but it will only cost about \$100 per square foot to build.

Tucker said this area is great for bringing in industry and providing jobs, but often those jobs are on the lower end of the pay scale. Meanwhile, she said, there is a severe shortage of affordable housing.

SEE TINY HOUSE, A8

Young Artists

The Calhoun Times is looking to feature student artwork in our Young Artists section. Pictures of artwork can be emailed to Managing Editor Daniel Bell at DBell@CalhounTimes.com. Please keep photos in their original format and do not alter them. Also, be sure to include the name of the student, their grade and the school they attend.

Inside

Four musicians are on tap for the Acoustic Cafe at Harris Arts Center. Learn about the performers on page A3.

The Sonorville and Gordon Central football teams met in preseason scrimmage action on Thursday. See how the game went and who stood out in Sports, page B1.

CONTACTS

To reach the Calhoun Times please call 706-629-2231, and when prompted, use the following extensions to be transferred to a department: FRONT DESK — 6001 for Meghan Long; ADVERTISING — 6004 for Advertising Representative Billy Steele; 6006 for Advertising Representative Anny Perkins; EDITORIAL — 6012 for Editor Daniel Bell; 6005 for Sports Editor Michael Baron; 6011 for Staff Writer Kelcey Caulder



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