

POA Town Hall live-streamed from homes; governance with social distancing due to COVID-19

BY BARBARA SCHNEIDER
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The March 28 POA Town Hall meeting—live streamed from home offices and living rooms to 290 property owners' computers wherever they might be—was a far cry from past events in the Big Canoe Chapel; the usual site for these events. But the changed venue didn't deter property owner involvement or lessen the importance of topics covered, starting with COVID-19.

POA President Bob Crouch reviewed actions and precautions taken to protect the community. Big Canoe Public Safety director and Fire Chief Ricky Jordan and Public Works are managing the plan.

"They contacted several other communities to see what they were doing to protect their residents and forwarded that information to the board," said Crouch. There is a Big Canoe POA pandemic plan he added.

"The success of the rollout depends on property owner social distancing. That's the key to success," he said. The reports of larger social gatherings (more than 6-10) in Big Canoe are concerning, he added. According to feedback to realtors from prospective home buyers, there is a perception of Big Canoe as a safe harbor. As a result of the uncertainty

generated by the pandemic the board is deferring non-emergency expenses. "We will continue to plan for the Creek Golf Course and Capital Contribution Fee but will not ask for a vote until the pandemic is over," he said. "There's a tentative vote for Creek [golf course] scheduled for June 2020 but we will wait and see where we are by then."

Utilities of Georgia plans rate hike in May

UG announced a 27.96 percent increase in its water rates in Big Canoe as of May 1, 2020. This increase will raise property owner monthly water bills by an average \$22 a month.

The rate raise was no surprise. When UIG purchased the Big Canoe Utilities Company in April 2018, the firm agreed to hold the current water rates firm for two years while the true condition of the water company was assessed and initial improvements were completed. At that point there would be an increase in water rates.

The POA board in conjunction with a POA water committee, made up of property owners with specific and specialized knowledge, have been working with UIG management for the past two years, finalizing an agreement that included key performance indicators to ensure certain agreed to standards and measurements would

be met by UIG. The POA and UIG also agreed—based on capital improvements and operating costs incurred in 2019—to an increase to rates in order to achieve the stated 12 percent return per the Service Level and Operating Agreement.

"When the sale of the Big Canoe Utilities Company was finalized in April 2018, we expected the deferred rate increase to be north of 30 percent," said Aaron Accardo, UIG president. "UG was able to come in under that with a 27.8 percent increase."

"After the purchase, when UIG was able to really assess the condition of the water company, the number of outages, reliability and poor conditions, the PRVs [pressure reducing valves] were much worse than expected and caused line breaks and pressure problems," explained Ron Medders, UIG regional manager who has been the point man for UIG in Big Canoe and reported monthly at POA meetings for the last two years.

"Valves failed as the water loss was much higher than the 50 percent that was expected" when UIG purchased the water company, he said. They replaced 85 percent of the valves in first two years. UIG was concerned with the lack of fail-safe and redundant equipment—similar to the cause of the 2015 outage—water-meter age and accuracy was way



View from the top—Doting mother and baby eaglet are perched high in a tree on Eagle Island in the middle of Lake Petit. The first eagle sightings were recorded in 2016 by Bert and Bunny Loftman. Big Canoe's nature photographers Mark Green and Marcia Captan started sharing their spectacular photos of the growing family throughout the years with "eaglet watches" beginning each spring. PHOTO BY MARSHA CAPTAN



Although Cherokee County has issued a stay-in-place order for its residents, Gibbs Gardens has been exempted from the county order because it has made adjustments to facilitate social distancing. For information about the Cherokee order go to: www.smokesignalsnews.com/cherokee. Gibbs Gardens, a 326-acre outdoor venue, has added an outdoor entrance to access the gardens for members, their guests and day visitors who buy tickets online and print them out at home. For more information about social distancing at Gibbs Gardens, go to www.gibbsgardens.com.

New smokesignalsnews.com digital-age website launched

Smoke Signals announces its new digital age website: smokesignalsnews.com—its biggest news since Big Canoe neighbors started the newspaper 48 years ago.

Brand new smokesignalsnews.com provides you, our readers, with a robust, hi-tech platform with multimedia content, 24/7 updated state and national news plus the news you need from *Smoke Signals'* award-winning staff, contributors and local experts.

Smoke Signals selected TownNews' robust content management platform—built specifically for the unique requirements of the media industry—to develop smokesignalsnews.com

More than 2,000 newspaper, broadcast, magazine, and web-native publications rely on TownNews for their web, print, mobile and social media products. Based on its 30-year proven record with news organizations, in-house expertise, digital services and

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The past comes back to haunt a former GBI agent

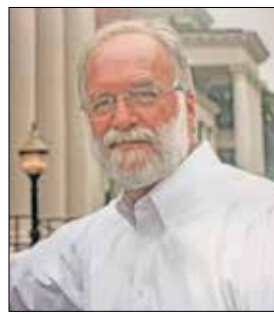
BY DENISE RAY
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With a career in law enforcement spanning nearly 30 years, John Cagle, 65, has covered countless cases.

Many could assume he might have become accustomed to the criminal behavior that occupied the streets of Georgia during those years. But there is one case that still haunts him. A case that was solved and closed within 30 days—the fastest time span Cagle can recall. A case that involved "pure evil" and "the all-American girl."

That case is the murder of Meredith Hope Emerson.

While the homicide was solved and closed very quickly, several nuances of the case are taking longer to fade. Cagle took pen to paper with the hope of exorcizing his demons. The result of that time is "Those Days in January: The Abduction and Murder of Meredith Hope Emerson," Cagle's personal account from his unique perspective



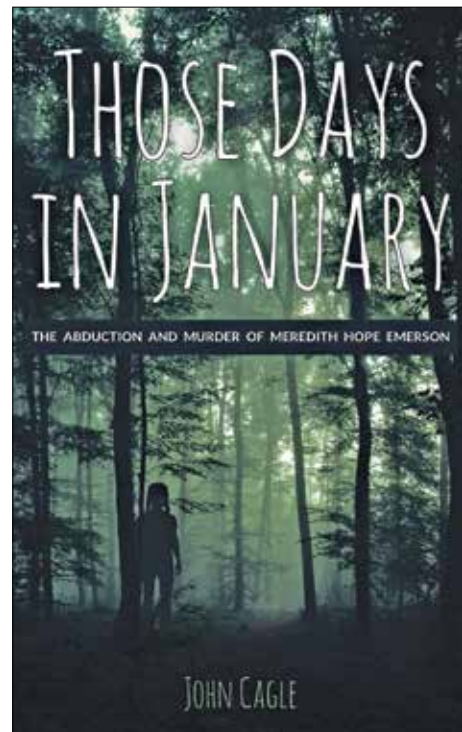
John Cagle. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOKLOGIX

as lead investigator for the GBI.

"I struggled with this case—as has many others—and I just figured it was time to write out it. Hopefully that might get me beyond it," the lanky Pickens County native said.

There was also another less therapeutic reason for the book: to provide his readers with a closer look at the investigative operations that happened back then.

"There's been a lot of coverage about this case over the years and I felt like I could go into a little more detail than some of the other publications could; kind of a behind the scenes look. I wrote it so the reader could find out through the eyes of the investigator rather than a reporter's



perspective," he said with a hint of a smile.

The book's dedication is telling: thanking those who searched for Emerson and the criminal investigators whose lives are "forever changed" by the horrific events they investigate. "You're not alone," it concludes.

Cagle begins his account in a personal manner, sharing details of a post-high school graduation summer job near the nuclear reactor site in Dawson County. He recalls exploring the area after his shift ended.

"It was spooky. Everything around the nuclear reactor site was dead, bark was off the trees, it was just spooky," he shared. "I hoped I'd never have to come back there because it was so spooky. Little did I know that one night 36 years later, I'd be back there."

After college, Cagle became an educator, like his mother and grandmother.

"Back in the 70s if you taught high school it made you want a career where you could carry a gun,"

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A note from the editor

Smoke Signals is very fortunate to have a dozen regular contributing columnists and scores of volunteer writers who have expertise in fields ranging from literature to legal matters to pet care and medicine, and a desire to give back to the community. Smoke Signals' relationship with these volunteers is strictly as publisher, without board interference, of their writings that we find pertinent and of interest to our readers and community.

The opinions expressed by our op-ed writers are not necessarily endorsed by Smoke Signals Community Services, Inc.

POA President Crouch reviews March 28 town hall, shares his thoughts on moving forward

POA President's Report

BOB CROUCH

The start of my term as a director on the POA board has been quite eventful. Assessment of the Bobby Jones Links agreement, a decision to delay a property owner vote on the Creek 9 renovation, a plan for a measured approach for another property owner vote on a capital contribution fee (CCF) and building an effective team beginning with the POA board has been very rewarding.

And then there is that unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

I am gratified that there are so many good people working on these thorny issues. It is inspiring from volunteer property owners, our invaluable employees, our very impressive interim general manager from Bobby Jones Links to six other property owners who comprise the POA board.

Words that I use to describe what you can expect from the POA board in 2020 are openness, responsible, urgent without rushing, inclusive of all property owners, transparent, diligent, truthful, humble, teaming and responsive.

You should have already seen some of those words translated into actions. We have published the fact that there are many work sessions in addition to the monthly open session due to the wide range of issues to be dealt with. We now publish the topics

that are under consideration and provide property owners the opportunity to ask questions at our open work session and board meeting.

COVID-19 has prevented this from being a planned face-to-face dialogue so we have a process where they can be presented in writing or via call-in during the session.

The very important assessment of the Bobby Jones Links agreement includes many experienced and competent volunteer property owners to assist in the board's decision process. You can expect calls for further volunteers to participate in the CCF and Creek renovation efforts and several other opportunities. It has been gratifying to see many volunteers I have worked with in the past continue to step up. It will be exciting to see new faces filling key roles.

Patankar Gautam, the interim general manager, has been delightful to work with. He has already announced a significant re-organization that includes a director of amenities and a director of operations reporting to the GM. The director of amenities will have oversight of the golf activities and pro shop, tennis, fitness, swim, marina, membership and food and beverage services.

The director of operations will oversee public safety, public works, golf course maintenance, landscaping and AECD. Each of these directors will work closely with department heads to provide the needed focus to maintain a high level of service in Big Canoe.

This new structure is also more cost effective than the previous plan. Gautam has been a significant contributor in developing actions to protect property owners in this COVID-19 pandemic while providing a

proper level of services. His survey of other properties revealed that Big Canoe was the only one to have a pandemic plan. Their actions to balance services and safety in this situation contributed to our thoughts on how to proceed.

A March 28 Town Hall meeting was live streamed and gave everyone the opportunity to hear an update on the UIG water rate increase, Gautam's views on the 2019 food and beverage issues and on the latest on key board deliberations. Included in Gautam's presentation was his initial findings on how to reduce the current operating deficit in the clubhouse. He spoke on staffing levels and changes, cost controls, improved and consistent food quality, clubhouse booking policies and procedures already put in place to immediately reduce the aforementioned deficit. We distributed the presentation materials in advance so that property owners could review them and formulate good questions. Two hundred ninety property owners watched the live stream and we expect a much larger number will view the video.

I have received very positive feedback from property owners on the start to 2020. There are significant challenges and opportunities and we need your continued support and patience as we move forward to achieve success. When the property owners of Big Canoe come together there is no limit to that future.



BOB CROUCH

Agent

Continued from page 1

he chuckled. "So, I just applied. I didn't have any law enforcement experience and at that time you didn't have to have any."

Fast forward to the Spring of 2007 and Cagle contemplates retirement. He's given a retirement date of April 1, 2008.

"We'd come off some high-profile cases, a lot of attention on the agency and me and I was hoping to slide in under the radar until April. Everything was going fine. By December I thought I might be able to slide right out with no other big cases," he said. That plan was foiled with the start of 2008, literally.

The murder of Meredith Emerson

As Cagle recounts the investigation, he remains respectful of Emerson's memory, her family and her friends. He sheds light on those who tried to capitalize on her death, too. Cagle doesn't include crime-scene pictures, explaining "learning how she died will be enough."

The University of Georgia alumna went for a hike January 1, 2008 with her beloved dog, Ella, on Blood Mountain in the Chattahoochee National Forest. She lost her life three days later at the hands of serial killer Gary Michael Hilton. Within a month, Hilton would plead guilty and be sentenced to life in a Georgia prison.

"I've never known a case like this to progress through the criminal justice system in 31 days. It never happened in a case like this," Cagle said. "Meredith was abducted on Jan. 1, killed on Jan. 4, he [Hilton] was indicted in the morning of Jan. 31 and pled guilty that afternoon and got a life sentence."

Throughout the conversation, Cagle refers to the avid hiker by her first name, rather than a more formal "Miss Emerson" as law enforcement often does out of respect for victims.

"To see the horror on the faces of Meredith's family and friends as we progressed, it was just heartbreaking," Cagle said.

After Hilton's arrest in Dekalb County January 4, authorities wanted to give Emerson's family closure and allow them to give her a funeral. Hilton asked if the Union County prosecutor would take the death penalty off the table in exchange for the location of her body. Emerson's body was quickly recovered in Dawson County.

"We became aware during the investigation that we were obviously dealing with a serial killer and he [Hilton] thought that taking the death penalty off was a good strategy. It was not," Cagle explained. "When he was tried in Florida, he was convicted of the Cheryl Dunlap murder. In the sentencing portion of the trial, our case

came in as aggravation in support of the death penalty so our case contributed to their death penalty case in Florida in which he was sentenced to death."

Reflections about the case

Part of writing the book meant reliving the case and Hilton's actions.

Cagle broke a couple of rules and writes about them in the book. For example, during a criminal investigation it isn't wise to disclose a lot of details about your strategy and what you're doing outside the investigating group, he explained.

"After I met Meredith's family, I knew I had to tell them everything. Even though what I would tell them was not what they wanted to hear," Cagle said of his daily briefings.

Another misjudgment was to become personally involved with the case.

"I got too close to this case because Meredith was such a good girl, her parents are good folks and she had good friends," Cagle said.

There were a few setbacks that Cagle thinks could have resulted in a different outcome of the case, which he shares in his book. They include the attempts to get money from Emerson's bank accounts at ATMs and a phone call Hilton made to his former employer that had gone unreported.

The third "is on me," Cagle said.

Hilton placed a phone call from the house phone of Huddle House restaurant in Marble Hill.

"The Huddle House is about three miles as the crow flies from my old job sight. Why didn't I think to go look in there? It occurred to me that if I'd thought of that, we might've had a shot at rescuing her," Cagle said.

Retired from GBI but not the case

On April 1, 2008, Cagle retired from the GBI, but never retired from the case. "This one, this is the only one that's stuck with me," Cagle said.

He teaches two courses at the University of North Georgia and has written a textbook about writing better police reports. He lives atop a mountain and enjoys spending time with grandchildren, including a granddaughter named Emerson.

"That adds a little twist, doesn't it?" Cagle commented.

Writing the book has helped somewhat. "I'm kind of embarrassed when somebody asks me to sign it. I've never done this before. I have a lot of good comments on it, but I didn't write it for that reason I told the people at Booklogix. I'm not writing this to make money, I'm writing this to try and feel better."

Cagle describes "Those Days in January" as a "two-drink book, whatever you're drinking."

His editor told him the book should be 30,000 to 40,000 words but his is 25,000.

POA

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off. "Plus, there was a safety concern for employees who had to read the meters," he said. Large capital investments were needed right away.

According to UIG, \$4.58 million has been spent on improvements to date; the firm plans to spend \$2.4million more in 2021 and \$1.03 million more in 2022.

Medders noted that tier pricing has been changed to encourage conservation. For residential customers the new tiers are 0-5,000 gallons, \$4.86; 5,000 to 15,000 gallons, \$6.40 and >15,000 gallons, \$10.24.

The POA's water committee met with UIG monthly for the past two years. Com-

mittee Member David Howe explained the modification to the rate calculation developed between the committee and Utilities Inc. financial personnel to replace imprecise wording and exhibit in the original SLOA. The average user in the Big Canoe water system will see an increase of approximately \$22 a month in water rates to a \$100 average monthly charge.

Update on Bobby Jones Links status

The board is still working through a final agreement with Bobby Jones Links. "We want to make sure the employees are taken care of," said Crouch. There is a focal point for employees' concerns and issues. Jason Brownell will continue as director of Operations and Robert Sabat has been hired as director of Amenities.

Gautam Patankar, interim general man-

ager, said the POA board agreed to continue paying full and part time hourly workers based on an average of the last six months' salary as well as insurance. Patankar went through a detailed explanation of Big Canoe's food and beverage loss in 2019 and the likely reasons for some of the issues. For 2020, he seeks to reduce labor costs, retain cost of goods and reduce operating costs. To achieve these financial goals, he seeks to generate new and creative clubhouse programming to make the restaurant more of a destination for property owners; to reinvent Duffers, food truck and swim club; and provide consistent food quality. He is also looking at pricing clubhouse usage with pricing for all clubs and marketing Big Canoe as a wedding destination.

Continued on next page

Second Front

Dear Valued *Smoke Signals* Reader:

We appreciate your support of our award-winning newspaper and we plan to continue serving you even in these extraordinary times.

Our new website, smokesignalnews.com, was launched March 14 with expanded coverage of our community and region with a new look and navigation. Additionally, to provide better local coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has offered to share with *Smoke Signals* much of their coverage of the pandemic in Georgia.

Our *Smoke Signals* staff is also working very hard to provide local coverage of the effects of the pandemic

on our community including business closings and service modifications such as restaurant curb delivery of meals, and messages from medical facilities about CDC recommendations and changes in critical services. We also provide links to and about other reliable sources of information. We will continue to get as much vital information to our readers as our resources will allow.

For those who have concerns about the safety of our printed issues found in the racks located in key places in Big Canoe and throughout North Georgia, we offer this information from the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* who prints *Smoke Signals*:

"We also recognize you may have questions about the safety of mail/pack-

ages, and that would certainly apply to print newspapers. According to guidance from Cox Enterprises, our parent company, and information from the [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int) (WHO), a highly credible source of factual information, the likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, traveled and exposed to different conditions and temperatures is also low. This would apply to newspapers as well."

And for those who prefer to read the digital version of our newspaper, that will always be available at smokesignalnews.com. Additionally, the *Smoke Signals* weekly eBlast will always be available to subscribers.

Our extraordinary volunteers, columnists and reporters, ad reps and administrative staff, who work together virtually from the safety of our homes and offices, are dedicated to providing our community with free but relevant news and entertainment even through these unprecedented times.

We thank you for supporting *Smoke Signals* and the businesses that advertise in our paper.

Sincerely,

Wayne Tidwell
Executive Editor
Smoke Signals Publications



Home Restaurant's Matt Dunagan makes a socially-distanced curbside delivery to a hungry Big Canoe resident on Sunday, March 29. Home has suspended dining room service until further notice but offers a full curbside menu. For more information about curbsides and pick up service at Big Canoe's Black Bear Pub, Sourwood Restaurant, Home Restaurant and other local restaurants go to "New take-out, home delivery options for feeding the socially distanced—and hungry," (https://smokesignalnews.com/news/big_canoe/new-take-out-home-delivery-options-for-feeding-the-socially/article_5c4a41ca-6e07-11ea-a4c1-27dc93e7c5fc.html). You'll find menu information as well as IGA shopping curbside pickup and Forno's new delivery to your front door. PHOTO BY JIM FRANCIS

UIG suspends water shutdowns

Savannah, GA. – Aaron M. Accardo, president of Utilities Inc. of Georgia, has announced that the company will be suspending water service shutdowns for delinquent payments in all its service territory effective immediately. Additionally, the company will begin reconnecting service to those customers who are currently not receiving water service due to lack of payment on delinquent accounts.

Utilities Inc. of Georgia customers impacted by this decision will be notified as quickly as possible and reconnections will begin promptly. Accardo indicated that the policy will remain in effect until at least March 30 and will be reevaluated at that time considering the prevailing COVID-19 conditions.

COVID-19 Friends and Family Guide

Provided by the CDC Posted In: *Coronavirus Disease 2019 Response, Snapshot*

News of its increase spread through the world is ratcheting up public uneasiness about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). CDC has been providing regular updates on how we are working to contain the spread of this new public health threat, while also preparing for the possibility of a global pandemic. As of 4 p.m. March 30 there are 140,904 cases and 2,405 deaths.

Because you are part of the CDC workforce, you are probably being asked questions by neighbors, friends, and family wondering how this mysterious new virus will impact them. This is a dynamic circumstance where the outbreak landscape changes daily, so knowing how to respond to anxious inquiries can help prevent healthy curiosity from the worried well from becoming rampant paranoia.

Many of the questions are predictable from well-meaning members of our social circle, such as "Should I wear a face mask," or "When will there be a vaccine?" While working at CDC doesn't make you an expert about all things COVID-19, you can be a voice of reason to stem the spread of unfounded fear and rumors. You can direct people to what is known now and provide much-needed perspective.

We've compiled the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions, the current responses and, most importantly, a definitive source of accurate information about the disease – CDC's COVID-19 website.

Q: How can I avoid getting COVID-19?

A: There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. Avoiding exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 is the best way to prevent infection. Practice everyday preventive actions recommended to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- Stay home when sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

When soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Q: Should I wear a mask?

A: CDC does not recommend that healthy people wear facemasks to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and have symptoms, a mask is warranted to protect others from the risk of infection. Health workers and other people taking care of someone infected with COVID-19 in close settings should wear facemasks.

Q: When will there be a vaccine for COVID-19?

A: Currently, no vaccine exists to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

Q: I know the outbreak began in China. Should I avoid people who appear to be from China or may be of Asian descent?

A: People—including those of Asian descent—who have not been in an area of ongoing spread of COVID-19 or been in contact with someone with a confirmed or suspected case of the virus in the last 14 days are not at greater risk of becoming sick than other people. The greatest risk is to people who have recently visited an area of ongoing spread, as well as healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 and those in close contact with patients.

Q: What is the risk of infection for the average American?

A: At this time, some people will have an increased risk of infection, such as healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients and other close contacts of patients. For the general American public, the immediate risk from COVID-19 is considered low at this time.

Q: Can I get COVID-19 from products shipped from China?

A: The virus that causes COVID-19 is related to previous coronaviruses—SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV. While it's too early to say this new virus will behave in exactly the same way, we can use the information gained from those earlier coronaviruses to guide us. Generally speaking, coronaviruses do not survive well on surfaces, and are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. There is likely very low risk of spread from products or packaging shipped over time at ambient tempera-

tures. So far, no cases of COVID-19 in the US have been linked to imported goods.

Q: Should I be nervous about traveling and visiting public spaces (restaurants, retail stores, museums, etc.) right now?

A: For the general American public, the immediate risk from COVID-19 is considered low at this time, but we do have heightened concern for certain communities in the United States. You might see local communities begin to take action with the goal of limiting exposure by reducing face-to-face contact and preventing spread among people in community settings. What these actions look like at the community level will vary depending on local conditions. Friends and family should heed the guidance of their local or state health departments on these matters. For people interested in traveling, it is always a good idea to see if there are any travel health notices posted for their destination. Visit the COVID-19 Information for Travel page on CDC.gov for specific travel health notices about this outbreak.

Q: I'm worried about being prepared. Should I be stocking up on supplies at home? If so, what should I have?

A: Americans should be prepared for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak in their community. Everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy.

Help protect yourself and your community from getting and spreading respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 by following CDC guidance for home, work, and school: Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities. Individuals can practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes. CDC also provides information on how to be ready for many types of emergencies.

Q: When someone is sick with COVID-19, what symptoms do they have and what steps should they take for treatment? How long are they contagious?

A: Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to isolate at home during their illness. You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care.

Sandy Lipkowitz asked "Which employees are included in the 76 percent labor cost?"

"Front house sales, Duffers, Food and Beverage, Swim Club, food truck—those who present, make and sell food," responded Patankar.

Ellen Harrison asked if there were any plans for The Chimneys.

"Yes, we have plans for weddings and banquets. We are actively selling for 2021," replied Patankar.

Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Avoid using public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis. For more information about the various steps to take when sick, individuals should visit the What to Do If You Are Sick With COVID-19 page on the CDC website.

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions.

People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Q: I heard that someone's dog tested positive for COVID-19 in Hong Kong. Should I be worried about my dog getting infected and passing on the infection to others?

A: At this time, there is no evidence that pets, including dogs, can spread COVID-19. There is no reason to think that any animals, including pets, in the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus. However, it is important to include pets in your family's preparedness planning efforts including having a 2-week supply of pet food and pet medicines available.

Q: I have heard some cleaning products claim they can kill coronavirus. Is that true? If so, which products should I use?

A: As this is a new virus and products have not been tested against this specific strain, standard cleaning products that kill other viruses will be presumptively fine against COVID-19.

Most commercially available household disinfectants are expected to be effective in disinfecting contaminated surfaces. Product label instructions must be followed. The strongest evidence so far indicates that COVID-19 is transmitted by respiratory droplets—coughs and sneezes—from infected individuals. It's not yet clear how likely humans are to be infected by touching possible contaminated surfaces. It is not recommended at this time to do anything beyond routine cleaning in your household if no one is sick.

Martin Whitt asked about the revenue impact projected for revenue and expenses at the clubhouse due to COVID-19.

"Our curbside sales are rising," said Patankar. "We have lowered our on-hand inventory and operating costs are down but we are still paying employees based on a six-month average."

Ed. note: As of Monday, March 30, Eagles Rest Park on top of Mt. Oglethorpe has been closed until further notice at the request of Pickens County.

■ Continued from previous page

Questions submitted prior to the meeting included one for UIG about the unsightly look of well pump houses on Quail Cove Road. Medders said he intends to "make aesthetic improvements."

Crouch was asked about closing the gates to short term renters during the COVID-19 crisis. He said the entire question of closing the gates regarding property owners—full time, part time, time

share, guests and renters—is being studied. "After this pandemic is over, we intend to study issues at the gates and come up with some recommendations for the future."

Questions from the audience: Andrew Crane asked, "What's the basis of getting water losses below 50 percent?"

"We've fixed the low-hanging fruit," Medders replied. "More pressure release valves are needed." He will target leaks through district meters and service line replacements.

Trump okays federal emergency aid for Georgia

FEMA announced Sunday, March 29 that federal emergency aid has been made available for the state of Georgia to supplement the state and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

pandemic beginning on Jan. 20, 2020 and continuing.

Federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protec-

tive measures (Category B), including direct federal assistance under Public Assistance, for all areas affected by COVID-19 at a federal cost share of 75 percent.

Gracia B. Szczech has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for feder-

al recovery operations in the affected area. Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further assessments.

Important medical links for accurate updated COVID-19 information

The following sources updated 5 p.m., Sunday, March 29 offer information that may be of interest during the current COVID-19 pandemic. If you have other sources and/or suggestions, please share them with our readers and email them to editor@smokesignalsnews.com.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

This page includes a listing of topics to click on: Situation Summary, School, Workplace and Community locations, Information for Healthcare Professionals, Cases in the U.S., FAQs, Resources for Home, Symptom, Cases and Latest Updates, World Map. The statistics are updated daily and sometimes hourly—offers guidelines on what you will need to do and how to prepare for and/or help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The site explains what to do if you get sick and a series of other helpful and informative topics.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Dawson County Updates

[https://www.dawsoncounty.org/pr/page/covid-19-](https://www.dawsoncounty.org/pr/page/covid-19-coronavirus-dawson-county-updates)

coronavirus-dawson-county-updates
As of Sunday, March 30, Dawson County Government is operating as business as usual. Please use the menu buttons below, or to the left, for more information on specific departments or offices. Dawson County is NOT under a shelter-in-place order NOR is the County under a curfew

Dawson County Planning & Development by appointment only:

Dawson County Tax Commissioners Office: taxpayers encouraged to use online services

Dawson County Tax Assessors Office: office close to the public.

Pickens County

<https://pickenscountygga.gov/>
Pickens County Administrative Offices were closed to the public as of Monday,

March 16. The Board of Commissioners declared a local state of emergency and enacted emergency ordinances. This declaration is effective immediately through April 7, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. All citizens are to shelter-in-place to avoid all nonessential outings and stay indoors as much as possible. "The public will not be able to enter the Administrative Office Building during this time.

Georgia Department of Health

[https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-](https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report)

status-report
As of Sunday, March 29, The number of confirmed Georgia COVID-19 cases 2,683 with 678 hospitalized (25%) and 83 deaths (3.09%).

SCAM ALERT — The Better Business Bureau

serving metro Atlanta, Athens and Northeast Georgia sent an alert about a potential scam involving a phone message from a company with the phone number 844-989-1702 that urges consumers to keep their family safe from coronavirus by purchasing healthcare plans from the caller.

Hospital guidelines and updates

UPDATED MARCH 17

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Hospitals

<https://www.nghs.com/covid-19>

Only select entrances will be open for patients and visitors at each Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) hospital starting the afternoon of Sunday, March 15. Each patient and visitor will be screened for COVID-19 as they enter. You can see a complete list of open entrances, updated visitation limitations and other helpful information at www.nghs.com/covid-19.

If you have a fever and cough or difficulty breathing, these steps will help you find the care you need and limit the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in our region:

Call before you come. Please call your doctor's office or an urgent care clinic for advice about where you should go for treatment. If you already have an appointment scheduled and have recently traveled to an area affected by Coronavirus, please call the office before you leave your house.

Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. Calling 9-1-1 is always the fastest and most efficient way to get proper treatment for medical emergencies.

Consider staying home and completing an E-Visit. We have updated our online E-Visits to ask screening questions that may indicate if you have Coronavirus. Just visit www.ngpg.org/evisit-info for instructions about how to complete an E-Visit from the comfort of your home.

Piedmont Healthcare

[https://www.piedmont.org/patients-](https://www.piedmont.org/patients-visitors/coronavirus)

visitors/coronavirus
A no-visitor policy until further notice, except in special circumstances. The only visitors who will be permitted are essential family members who must receive prior approval from the patient care team in cases such as end-of-life care, labor and delivery patients, and for legal guardians of minors receiving care, which includes our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Visitors who are approved must pass the health/quarantine screen. Visitors will not be permitted into the room of a patient who is presumptive positive, confirmed or a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19. (See Piedmont Mountainside news article on page 8.)

Emory Healthcare

<https://www.emoryhealthcare.org/covid/index.html>

• Emory Healthcare updated its visitor policies as of March 24. "We are no longer allowing visitors in patient care areas, except for special circumstances.

• Family meetings to make health care decisions on behalf of the patient will be organized by phone from home." For comprehensive information, go to the url above. Emory previously announced it postponed all inpatient and outpatient elective surgeries and procedures as of March 17.

Northside Hospital

<https://www.northside.com/covid19>

The State of Georgia has a new COVID-19 hotline. If you believe that you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to the novel coronavirus, please contact your primary care doctor or an urgent care clinic. Please do not show up unannounced at an emergency room or health care facility. 844-442-2681

Effective immediately, entry to all five Northside hospitals and specialty facilities is temporarily restricted. Visitors will not be accepted at Northside Gwinnett Extended Care Center, Northside Gwinnett Joan Glancy, and all Northside Hospital Cancer Institute outpatient oncology practices and infusion centers.

Visitor restrictions for Northside Hospital Atlanta, Northside Hospital Cherokee, Northside Hospital Duluth, Northside Hospital Forsyth and Northside Hospital Gwinnett are outlined on the website. No visitors will be allowed for a known COVID-19 patient or a patient under investigation for COVID-19.

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<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>476 WILDCAT DRIVE Pristine custom David Hall Wildcat home with 30 mile long range views 4BR, 4.5BA ~ \$949,000</p>	<p>LUXURY WITH A VIEW</p>  <p>80 TEABERRY LANE Warm and Gracious Home in a great location w/Beautiful Mountain Views 5BR, 5.5BA ~ \$775,000</p>	<p>PRICE REDUCTION</p>  <p>18 NUGGET LANE Quality Custom Home on 1.59 Acres 4BR, 4.5BA ~ \$689,000</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>630 PORTICO POINT Large Family Home on Private lot in Highly Sought Alpharetta SD 7BR, 6 BA ~ \$639,000</p>	<p>FABULOUS TIMBER FRAME</p>  <p>371 MYSTIC TRAIL, THE PRESERVE AT SHARP MTN. Elegant Timber Frame Home in Premier Gated Community 3BR, 2FULL/2 HLF BA ~ \$625,000</p>
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<p>PRICE REDUCTION</p>  <p>78 PONY LANE Custom Built/Great Value & Location 4BR, 3.5BA ~ \$349,000</p>	<p>FABULOUS LIKE NEW CONDO</p>  <p>1070 BROOK KNOLL LANE The Orchards at Brannon Oak Farm Cumming's Nicest Active Adult Community 3BR, 3BA ~ \$347,900</p>	<p>ADORABLE MOUNTAIN COTTAGE</p>  <p>57 SHAGGY MAPLE Open Plan exudes "Mountain" charm on secluded cul-de-sac 3BR, 3.5BA ~ \$325,000</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>2130 MACEDONIA RD ELLIJAY Country Cottage with acreage 2BR, 2BA ~ \$269,900</p>	<p>FRESHLY PAINTED & NEW HVAC</p>  <p>1752 RIDGEVIEW DRIVE Wonderful Opportunity! A little vista pruning a you'll have a gorgeous interior BC view. 3BR, 2.5BA ~ \$249,000</p>

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Northside Hospital COO shares latest information about coronavirus prevention

BY WAYNE TIDWELL
wtidwell@smokesignalnews.com

Ed. note: The information in this article about the COVID-19 pandemic is as of March 6 when the presentation was made. Updated information can be found at CDC.gov.

Bearing hand sanitizers for those attending the March 6 Big Canoe Breakfast Club (Formerly Squires & Stags), Northside Forsyth Hospital COO Lynn Jackson provided important information about the subject on everyone's mind today.

"What do you think the elephant in the room is right now?" Jackson said. "We didn't give you hand sanitizer for nothing."

Jackson of course was referring to the coronavirus but she also reminded the group that there were other health concerns.

"We should be as worried about the flu as we are about this (coronavirus)," she said. We are still seeing in our hospital active cases of the flu."

Jackson said Northside was using advice from the CDC to deal with the coronavirus "because we want to go straight to the experts."

"What they are telling us is there is no vaccine for the coronavirus," she said. "The new coronavirus is called COVID-19. Just to be clear, people have been getting coronavirus for a long time. But that is a different strain."

When it comes to wearing masks, Jackson said the CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask. Face masks should only be worn by those who show signs or symptoms or have been exposed.

"We use facemasks when we are taking care of patients but we have to use a specialized one because patients may cough on us or sneeze on us and we have direct contact with patients so it is appropriate in a healthcare environment," Jackson told the group.

She said the best place to go to get current information (about coronavirus) is CDC.gov.

Some recommendations by Jackson any time there is someone in the home sick include: Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, stay home if you are sick, cover your cough or sneeze, clean and disinfect what you touch, wash your hands with soap and water.



Lynn Jackson, Chief Operating Officer of Northside Forsyth, speaking at the Big Canoe Breakfast Club.

PHOTO BY WAYNE TIDWELL

"We recommend that you wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds or the time it takes to sing 'Happy Birthday' twice," Jackson said. "Or you can use sanitizer. Rub your hands good and let it dry."

When it comes to travel decisions, Jackson recom-

mended the CDC website where there is a section about travel and what cautions you should take depending on what country you are traveling to.

She said there were no COVID patients at Northside.

"Northside has received no COVID patients at any of our locations," she said. "Now, I am not going to tell you we haven't seen in every hospital everywhere in the country what the CDC calls PUI, 'persons under investigation.' That means if someone comes in and says they have traveled and have a cough or cold. We have an immediate response to that. No patients have gotten to the point of needing to be tested."

Jackson said that there is no such thing as a coronavirus testing kit.

"No hospital in the country can test for COVID," she said. "They can test for corona but not for COVID. The CDC and several specialty centers have exclusivity of those because there are not a lot of them yet. The hospital will be required to do a lot of testing before they will be given permission to send a specimen to the testing facility."

Jackson said infection preventive measures are not new to Northside.

"Infection preventive measures are always a priority at Northside, so we are doing this every day. We have had as many as 50 flu patients in our ER at a time so this is not new to us or any hospital. We all know how to handle this. We are adhering to the CDC's recommendations and guidelines not only for prevention but for surveillance and treatment. That's the important thing, that you stick to the guidelines because they are changing literally hour by hour day by day."

Jackson recommended talking to your doctor before deciding to go to a hospital when feeling ill.

"We didn't give you hand sanitizer for nothing."

"If you just have symptoms, even if you have traveled to the affected areas, you can manage it at home," she said. "Remember, this is a virus, so there is no treatment. You treat the symptoms. Anti-virals do not work on this particular COVID virus. But you can manage that at home. You don't need to go to the hospital to get diagnosed. You should call your healthcare provider before you visit a hospital so the hospital can prepare for you."

Northside Hospital

Jackson provided a lot of information about Northside Hospitals, which includes five acute care hospitals, one nursing home and one rehab hospital, over 21,000 employees, 1600 in-patient beds and 250 out-patient locations from Blairsville to Macon.

"Last year we saw more than 3.7 million patient visits," Jackson said. "We have over 3500 physicians on our medical staff, the largest in the southeast. Probably about 700-800 of those are OBGYN. One in six babies in Georgia are born at Northside. They deliver more babies than any hospital in the country."

Jackson said compassionate support of patients was a high priority at Northside Hospitals.

"Nobody wants to be in a hospital," Jackson said. "So, we as employees have to be very supportive of that journey."

Jackson said Northside participates in a lot of activities that help benchmark their process against the performance of other organizations.

All three of the Northside Hospitals are ranked as best hospitals in Georgia by U.S. News and World Report, according to Jackson. Northside received the Gold Seal of Approval for healthcare quality by the Joint Commission and has been ranked in the top 100 large employers best place to work in the United States, the only Georgia hospital to receive that award.

Northside has been recognized nationally for patient experience.

"That's near and dear to us because the hospital experience is everything" Jackson said.

Northside Forsyth has been recognized for its safety and was recently recognized as a five-star hospital by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, only achieved by 11 percent nationwide.

Northside Cherokee has 200 beds, 22 operating rooms and has had continuously grown since they started about two years ago.

In fiscal year 2019, Forsyth, with 325 beds, had 785,000 patient encounters, 62,000 in ER and 15-16,000 surgeries, a 25% increase year over year, according to Jackson.

Big Canoe is centered between Northside Cherokee and Northside Forsyth. (27 miles to Forsyth, 28 miles to Cherokee).

Forsyth opened its women's center in 2008. Prior to that the area of Forsyth had been without hospital-based OB services for 25 years, according to Jackson.

Forsyth also does the most gamma knife (radiation surgery for those with brain tumors) cases in Georgia.

"We have the largest same day total joint replacement program in the state and now the Southeast," Jackson said. "We have the shortest length of stay for total joints in the country (.6 days). We have stayed almost entirely away from opioid use. Our re-admission rate is almost the lowest in the country. We are top two in hospital survey ratings."

Forsyth has 600 designated campus physicians, 3500 employees, 360 volunteers, 24 operating rooms, 26 hospitalists (internists who practice hospital medicine).

"In the new operating rooms they have Indigo Clean Technology continuous disinfection technology that kills harmful bacteria that might be linked to hospital acquired infections," Jackson said. "A purple light comes on when doors are closed and no one is in the room. When the doors are opened the lights turn off."

Construction of two more floors will add 64 new beds and 45,000 square feet. It will go live in fall 2021, according to Jackson. At 10 stories it will be the only skyscraper in Forsyth County.

In the Q&A period Jackson was asked what hospital one should go to if having heart or stroke issues. She answered "the closest" one. Ambulances typically have the ability to send EKG and other information to the hospital from the ambulance so that the hospital can prepare for the victim.

Jackson urged Big Canoers to volunteer at the hospital. A free lunch is provided for those who serve a 4-hour shift. More volunteer information can be found at www.northsideforsythauxillary.com.

For a complete list of services and locations visit www.northside.com or call 404-845-5555.

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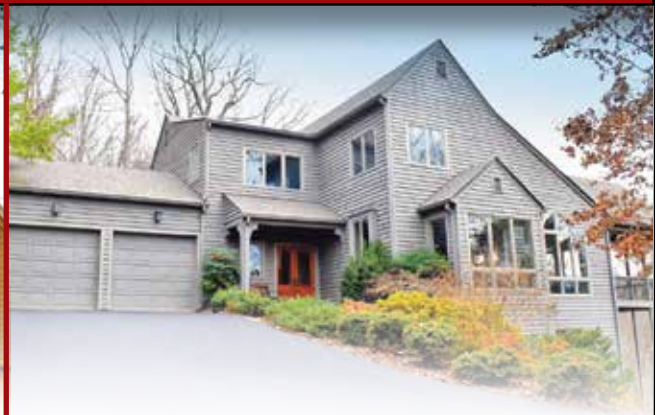
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In Memoriam

Linda Lee McClure Gordon
January 27, 1940 – March 11, 2020

Linda Lee Gordon entered the arms of her heavenly Father on March 11. Born in Locust Grove, Ga. on January 27, 1940, she was chosen by her adopted parents, Lee and Coral McClure.

Linda Lee grew up in Atlanta, attending E. Rivers Elementary School and Northside High School. She attended the University of Alabama where she met her future husband, Chuck Gordon whom she married in 1959. They were active in Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, leading singles and young adult Sunday School classes there. She was



a member of the Rabin Gap – Nacoochee Guild and worked at Floyd and Stanford Law Office.

The Gordons moved to the Big Canoe community in the mountains of North Georgia in 1997. She was a member of The Big Canoe Chapel, and for 11 years she served as the chapel Membership and Visitation Coordinator, visiting new residents to the Big Canoe community. She participated in many areas of chapel life including: Woman's Guild, Ridgerunners, Seekers Sunday School Class and Women's Guild Bible Study. In the community, Gordon was a member of the Lettuce Read Book Club and Wildflower Bunch Garden Club. Because

of her love for animals, especially dogs, she volunteered for many years with Big Canoe Animal Rescue.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by daughters, Cathy Gordon Wallace and Virginia Gordon Holmes; grandchildren, Gordon Trent Wallace, David Alexander Wallace (Charlotte), Laura Catherine Wallace, Christin Nesbitt, and great-granddaughter, Haven Holmes.

A Celebration of Life Service will be scheduled at a future date. The family suggest memorial donations may be made to the Big Canoe Chapel Membership / Visitation Program, or Big Canoe Animal Rescue.

It took a village to save Mama and her pups

BY JANE GALVIN

When Karen Rickards took her two dogs to meet friends at the dog park one recent Saturday, she had no idea that she would be returning with six new dogs.

A call on a friend's cell phone, while at the park, from Kristen Vanucchi was about to change her life. Kristen was traveling on Old Federal Highway in Cumming by the recycling facility when Mama and her five puppies appeared. Kristen was on her way to an appointment but stayed with Mama and the pups until Karen arrived with crates. A call to Forsyth County Animal Shelter confirmed it was full and could not take the dogs for a few days. From there Karen tried Pickens Animal Control but since she had a Dawson county license plate, Pickens would not take the dogs.

Karen returned to her home in Big Canoe with her now extended family and made more phone calls. Big Canoe Animal Rescue could not take them since they were found outside its jurisdiction.

BCAR has very strict bylaws agreements with the POA on what BCAR can do. One of the bylaws states that all animals coming into the shelter must be found in Big Canoe or the immediate area. However, the situation did warrant help from BCAR's outreach program. Karen said that BCAR has been her lifeline with a special shout out to Liz Wintter, the kennel director.

BCAR has covered food and all medical expenses.

Dr. Tomlinson at Wayside Animal Clinic put aside a chunk of time to examine all



Karen Rickards, the last two puppies and Mama. PHOTOS BY JIM FRANCIS

five dogs. They are all healthy and would be ready for adoption by March 30. By then the puppies will have had their second round of shots and the time period for an owner coming forward will be up.

Karen said she is overwhelmed by the generous help from her "village."

She would like to thank Liz Wintter and BCAR; Anne Jaeckle, who fostered three puppies; Charlene Mosshart; Ursula Berl; Traci McLeod; Sherri Post; Monica Harris; Kate Critchett; Dr. Tomlinson, Wayside Animal Clinic; Kelly Ingram, Forsyth Humane Society Fur Kids; and Be-Paws We Care, Jasper.

As of this writing three of the puppies have been adopted. If the other two and Mama are not, they will be traveling to Dog Orphans in Massachusetts. It would be wonderful if they all could stay in the area.

All the pups are males.

The biggest shout out goes to Karen Rickards who unselfishly stepped up to the plate and saved the lives of five dogs. When asked where she met so many helpers she

replied, "the dog park."

Thanks to this special village these dogs will enrich the lives of the people and their families who adopt them for years to come.



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A friend and partner to Big Canoe



'An event that affects the whole world is unprecedented'

You Don't Say...

JILL PHILMON

In sitting back and retrospectively looking at the actions the Coronavirus has created thus far, it's pretty amazing to realize that so much can change, very quickly, in our world. We are used to terrible things happening in the world all the time but our sympathy is normally toward one area or country at a time. To have an event that affects the whole world is unprecedented. But that's where we currently are, and I have to admit it's a bit scary!

Isolation, quarantine or shelter-in-place—I don't care what you call it, it means stuck at home alone with my dog. I do have to admit that's probably better than home with two kids I'm home schooling, so believe me I'm not feeling sorry for myself,

just a little self-pity at this point.

It's a bit ironic that I consider myself "alone." I have hundreds of things to watch and binge on cable TV. There is Facebook, twitter, email, text and phone calls. I have been in communication with over 1,000 people but I am still complaining I am alone. Maybe this is because I'm a baby boomer and I need, or require, the human interaction and one on one. I miss hugs and pats on the back. I miss looking at someone eye to eye. I miss my social life.

Speaking of eye to eye, I have also learned the need for great hygiene goes out the door when you are only communicating through social media. My dog loves me no matter what I smell like and my iPhone isn't complaining about my bad breath. I have also learned that the longer you stay in isolation the less underwear you require. God help the UPS man if he actually has to deliver to my door and not the postal facility. I hope mental health is included in his benefits plan.

I digress! What I have learned during this period of isolation is the need for quiet



COURTESY OF DAVE JOHNSON

prayer time and appreciating the life I've been gifted. We are so blessed and often take it for granted. Something like this happens and it forces us to look internally at all we have. It is during this time we have so many to call on, even if it's through social media, we still can feel love and friendship. It's a time to reflect and give thanks.

Thursday, I have an appointment to pick up groceries I ordered online at IGA and I'm as excited as a child headed to Disney World, but the IGA is open. I'm actually going to see people and if I'm lucky they might even have the toilet paper I requested. Kudos to Sandy and Jeff Downing, Mark Butts and all the staff at the IGA for working so hard to make sure our community at Big Canoe didn't do without for very long. You are unsung heroes.

To close, I applaud the overall community of Big Canoe. There's no place on earth I'd rather be stuck during a pandemic. I pray this will end soon and I can go back to hugging.

BSA Troop 20 enjoys Blue-Bird ski weekend



BY MARC RESTAR

It was a chamber of commerce approved blue-bird weekend! The snow was plentiful! The conditions were perfect for the "Southern Boys" of Troop 20 to earn their Snow Sports Merit Badge at the Cataloochee Ski Area in Maggie Valley, N.C.

Like most merit badges, preparation started well in advance of the trip with the dreaded classroom instruction that included winter sports safety and first aid, the skiers responsibility code and proper gear use. But with all that out of the way, scouts and siblings alike took to the slopes and within hours were shredding it up and holding their own next to the "Northerners" of Carolina. As a matter of fact, the entire troop was still on the slopes enjoying the glistening lighted slopes, when the lifts closed at ten o'clock at night.

As the van was loaded Sunday afternoon after another awesome day of skiing, it was unanimously decided the troop will make this ski trip an annual event. If you are interested in joining Troop 20 on the ski trails or the Appalachian Trail, please contact Scoutmaster Dodson, 706-248-9818.

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital adds mobile unit

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital announced Monday, March 23, it has added a mobile unit that can expand its emergency department if needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The mobile unit, located outside of the emergency department, is not a COVID-19 testing center. It will be


reserved for patients who are seeking emergency care, but who do not have respiratory symptoms.

"In addition to increasing capacity, the mobile unit will allow us to care for patients who don't have respiratory symptoms in a different location from patients who do have respiratory symptoms," said

Denise Ray, CEO of Piedmont Mountainside Hospital. "Most importantly, this offers a way to make sure we're able to offer high-quality care to people in our community in the most efficient way possible."

The addition of the mobile unit is the latest of a number of efforts at Piedmont Mountainside aimed at protecting pa-

tients, visitors and staff from exposure to coronavirus. Piedmont has worked closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies, including the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), to stay up-to-date with the latest information.



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CHRIS TUCKER

SHERIFF

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- Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration
- Currently employed by Lockheed Martin as a Logistics Management Analyst

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MANAGING OVERSPENDING: Since 2008 the Sheriff's budget has increased from 4.2 Million dollars to 7.5 Million dollars.

- In 2019 alone, the department was overbudget approximately \$470,000.
- In the last 5 years the department has been over budget 1.7 million dollars.

DRUG ACTIVITY: The rampant drug issues have been plaguing our community with no local resources to combat the growing drug epidemic that affects each and every one of us on various levels.

Let's Talk

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"The purpose of U.S. strategic forces is the avoidance of war by assuring an overwhelming and devastating response in the event of a first strike by an adversary."

The nuclear triad and global competition

BY DAVID HOWE
dwhowe01@gmail.com

Colonel Bob Priest, USAF (Ret) treated the North Georgia Veterans in their March meeting to a strategic overview of the current U.S. strategy for military and economic supremacy and its evolution over the decades since the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Priest emphasized that national power is important when viewed in relation to other countries around the globe. Among the various elements that describe national power, the key measures are military power and GDP (national wealth), where in both areas the U.S. presently excels. His key warning about the threat to the supremacy of U.S. national power came at the end of the talk when describing the growth of two aggressive world economies: China and India.

Simply put, Priest described the Cold War emerging after WWII as our response to the Stalinist goal of spreading communism across Europe and beyond. With a nuclear capability already in hand, the U.S. used the threat of nuclear retaliation to effectively halt that spread. As the USSR eventually acquired a nuclear capability, the principle of mutually assured destruction, or MAD, became the watchwords of deterrence.

The four-and-one-half decades following the end of WWII saw continuous development of aircraft, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and nuclear capability, mostly between the U.S. and the USSR. Until the mid-1990s under the U.S. Strategic Air Command (SAC), the U.S. developed and managed fleets of bomber aircraft and ground-based missiles. SAC was the primary organizational structure maintaining U.S. deterrence over that period.

Priest described the current "nuclear triad" under the U.S. Strategic Command, successor to the Strategic Air Command, in terms of ground, air and sea power.

Minuteman is the ground-based solid fuel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) carrying a 1.2 megaton multiple independent (MIRV) warhead. A megaton is the explosive equivalent of one million tons of TNT. Five sites in the north-central U.S. house the Minuteman, along with 24/7 operational controls that are pre-

pared to act virtually instantly on orders of the President.

The second leg of the nuclear triad is air power. Since the 1950s, the subsonic B-52 has been the principal aircraft with nuclear capability. The current fleet consists of the 58 B-52 aircraft in operation. The B-2 Spirit, a stealth bomber developed in the 1970s, provides additional airborne support with nuclear-capable bombs and cruise missiles. Currently, U.S. has 20 B-2 bombers.

The sea power side of the triad encompasses the Ohio class nuclear submarine and its capacity of 24 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). By treaty, only 20 missile silos can contain the current Trident II ICBM, which also has MIRV warheads. Priest pointed to stealth as the obvious advantage of a mobile underwater launch platform in responding to a first strike. He noted that there are currently 14 Ohio-class submarines operating in the world's oceans.

Priest pointed out that by treaty, tactical nuclear weapons in artillery configuration have been generally eliminated.

He stated that under the command and control of the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP), 1,400 missiles in any combination are currently available to be launched on a moment's notice in response to an attack.

Priest was careful to emphasize that current military policy under which the nuclear triad exists does not include any option to initiate a first strike. The purpose of U.S. strategic forces is the avoidance of war by assuring an overwhelming and devastating response in the event of a first strike by an adversary.

Priest described the cost in human terms of nuclear attacks on large cities. The extent of physical destruction and loss of human life, not just in the immediate aftermath of a nuclear explosion but the long-term effects of radiation on the surviving populace, is hard to comprehend. An 800-kiloton bomb dropped on Washington D.C., according to Priest, would kill one million people and subject 2.5 million to deadly radiation. A 450-kiloton weapon dropped on Moscow would kill 3.5 million and subject 8 million to physical injury and radiation poisoning, Priest estimated.

Priest concluded by pointing to the potential growth of our adversaries in



Colonel Bob Priest speaking at the March meeting of the North Georgia Vets. PHOTO BY WAYNE TIDWELL

"Priest emphasized that national power is important when viewed in relation to other countries around the globe."

military and economic terms during this century. He stated that the so called "belt and road" strategy of China is to become the dominant economic and geopolitical influence in the world. He said further that the Chinese military today is already on par with the U.S. and that the Chinese GNP is predicted to exceed the U.S. in less than 10 years.

Russia, he said, continues to pursue the strategy of undermining NATO and international order, "letting us destroy ourselves." He said that Russia "has violated every treaty agreement" and is currently pursuing the development of hypersonic weapons and others such as an unmanned submarine carrying a 100-kiloton weapon which, if detonated off the U.S. coast, would produce a deadly tsunami.

By mid-century, India is predicted to exceed the U.S. in GNP and closing in on China, Priest said.

Colonel Bob Priest, USAF (Ret),

spent 43 years in military service. During three decades in the Air Force, he gained operational experience in the Strategic Air Command (SAC) with assignments as a flight commander in the Minuteman II ICBM and Headquarter SAC staff. Colonel Priest held command positions during Desert Storm and managed DOD Security Assistance Programs for Egypt (US Embassy Cairo), developed and managed command, control & communications (C3) systems in Europe (HQ USAFE), in Washington, DC as Asst Sec USAF-Acquisition and in Headquarters Air Combat Command (ACC). He helped develop the first use of instructional technology in USAF training and taught at Air University and the USAF Academy. His remaining years of service were mostly Joint oriented, supporting the DOD analyzing and consulting on future Joint and Combined operations based on US Iraqi wartime experiences.

The North Georgia Veterans welcome honorably discharged veterans of all military services. Monthly luncheon meetings are held in the Big Canoe Clubhouse at Lake Sconti on the second Wednesday of each month. Information can be found at ngvets.org. Registration for lunch is required.

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Program to honor deceased military veterans proposed for Big Canoe

BY PHIL ANDERSON

The North Georgia Veterans (NGV), in concert with the POA, the Boy Scouts and Wood Workers, are proud to propose a Big Canoe property owner program to honor our deceased military veterans. Through this proposed program, property owners will be able to sponsor military tribute banners to honor their fathers, mothers, family members and fellow veterans—deceased former US military service members—willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom.

While on display during the weeks that include Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day, these banners will serve as a fitting tribute to the brave service members we honor and proudly convey that Big Canoe is a patriotic and appreciative community that will never forget their sacrifices.

Big Canoe Boy Scout Leaders, Jeff Dodson and Marc Resetar, wholeheartedly and without reservation support the program whereby our Scouts will install and recover the banners when on display three times each year.

As pictured with this article the pro-

posed two-sided color banners are 18" x 36" in size and made of reinforced vinyl. Cape Coral, Florida-based Military Tribute Banners, the vendor, currently supports more than 30 cities and towns. References for the vendor report that their banner programs are extremely popular and that the vendor is highly professional and totally reliable.

Property owners interested in sponsoring a banner will make application on the vendor's website at <https://militarytributebanners.org>. Payment for each banner in the amount of \$150 will be by check to the NGV to cover the cost of fabrication, supporting brackets, shipping, wood, hardware, storage, and any needed repairs and replacements.

The NGV will sponsor community information and property owner assistance sessions to kick off the program. When sponsoring property owners permanently relocate from Big Canoe, their banners will be given to them.

All banners will be displayed three times each year on Lake Petit Dam as a fitting complement to the existing Veterans Memorial Overlook that was dedicated on September 8, 2001, just three days prior to 9-11. The design and construction of the Memorial Overlook was entirely funded by 67 private donations, 13 of which were \$1000

or more. The stacked field stone obelisk supporting the flagpole holds a brass plaque with the inscription "This Memorial Overlook is dedicated to the men and women of Big Canoe who have served their country faithfully in times of peace and war."

Details for POA approval of this proposed program will be addressed during the April 16 POA work session and April 23 board meeting.

Veterans Day, November 11, 2020—the target date for the first deployment of the banners—is subject to any date change due to the current COVID-19 crisis. This program will be fully funded by the NGV and the banner sponsors with no POA funding required.

A February 12 Power Point presentation was given to the POA board along with a complete information paper, vendor video and frequently asked questions (FAQs) and can be found at <http://www.ngvets.org/> in the bulletin board section under Military Tribute Banner Program.

We invite your questions and comments to POA Board Member Wayne Crawford at wcrawford@bigcanoepoa.org and NGV members Phil Anderson at anderspabc@aol.com and Paul Goldstein at paul.fgoldstein@gmail.com.

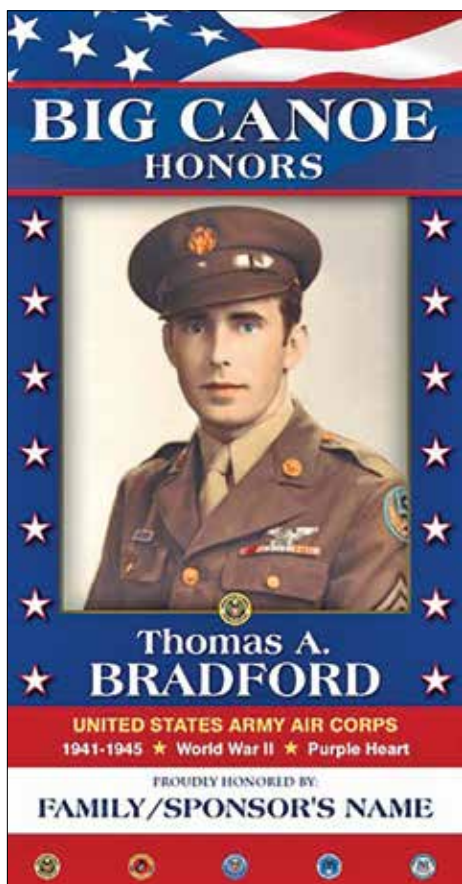


PHOTO TAKEN IN KAREN WEBSTER'S BACKYARD ON SUNDAY, MAR. 29.

Big Canoe Climate

RAINFALL FOR FEBRUARY

	This Yr	Last Yr	Rain Last 31 Yrs		
	2020	2019	Max	Avg	Min
February	14.6"	16.2"	16.2"	6.3"	2.3"
Year to Date	24.1"	23.6"	23.6"	12.7"	7.8"

Courtesy of Joseph Raley

TEMPERATURE FOR FEBRUARY

	This Yr	Last Yr	Temp Last 15 Yrs		
	2020	2019	Max	Avg	Min
Avg Daily High	50.1°	54.4°	57.0°	49.6°	42.2°
Avg Daily Mean	43.7°	47.9°	50.1°	42.6°	34.2°
Avg Daily Low	37.4°	41.5°	43.8°	36.0°	26.7°

Courtesy of Bill McClatchey

Please share your garden shots with *Smoke Signals* readers each month. Send your photos to: editor@smokesignalsnews.com with a brief description of what's in the photo.



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New World War II book features three Big Canoe veterans

“I didn’t do anything special.” Those are the words Rona Simmons, a North Georgia resident and published author, heard repeatedly as she interviewed veterans across the country for her latest book, “The Other Veterans of World War II.”

The daughter of a WWII fighter pilot, Simmons says she was lucky. After the war, like so many other veterans, her father had put the war behind him and moved on with his life. In the late 1990s, however, she persuaded him to sit down and share his memories. “When we were done,” she says, “he rose from his chair and I am certain he stood an inch taller.”

Inspired by the experience and realizing how few of our veterans have shared their stories, Simmons decided to give them a voice. She would write a new book on WWII—not “just another WWII book,” but one about the war from an as yet unexplored point of view. In 2016, a chance meeting led her to Jill Lyons, the daughter of Pete Peterson, a veteran who had served with the army’s graves registration unit. Through Peterson’s memoir and letters home and Jill’s childhood stories, Simmons pieced together his story and discovered how little she knew about veterans who had served behind the front lines. She suspected others had a similar gap in their knowledge and that a book on noncombat veterans could offer a fresh perspective on the war.

“Finding the veterans and convincing them to sit down had its challenges.” Thankfully, groups like the Atlanta World War II Roundtable and Big Canoe’s North Georgia Veterans Organization came to the rescue. “The North Georgia group,” she says, “practically kidnapped every World War II veteran within 50 miles and brought them to me.”

Over a year and a half, Simmons met 19 noncombat veterans—men and women, whites and blacks, Christians and Jews, representing all branches of the military and all major theaters of war. Each told her they had done nothing special and thought they had nothing to say. Undaunted and convinced their depiction as pencil pushers or grease monkeys or worse was far from the truth, Simmons listened and took notes. Along the way, she scoured bookshelves, attended lectures, and talked to historians to flesh out the story behind the stories.

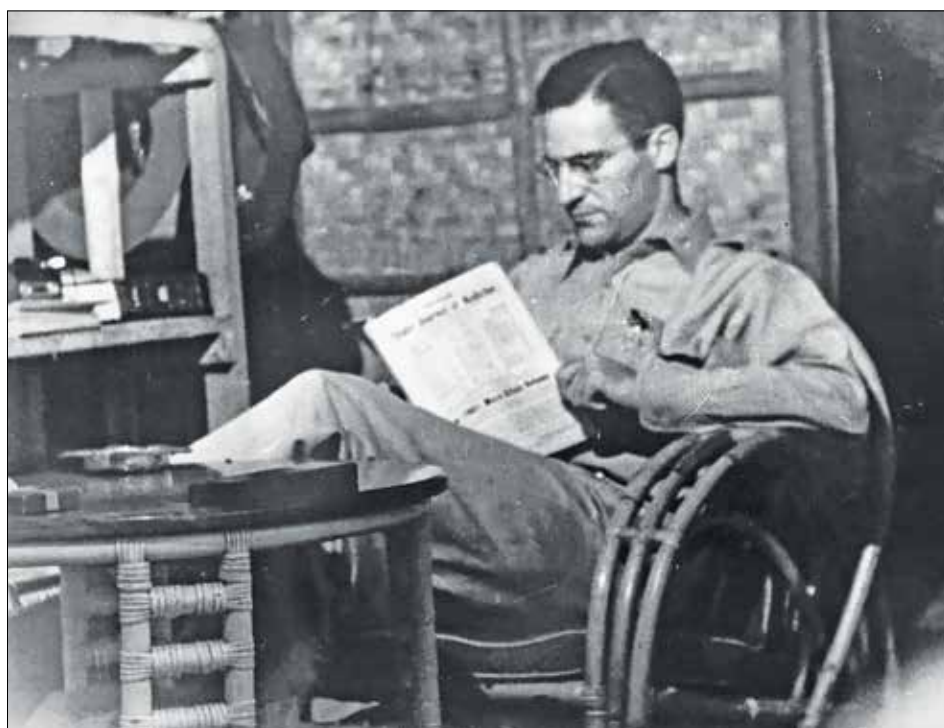
Three of the veterans Simmons spoke with had ties to Big Canoe: Marie Touart Stepp, Louis Thompson, and Frank Cone



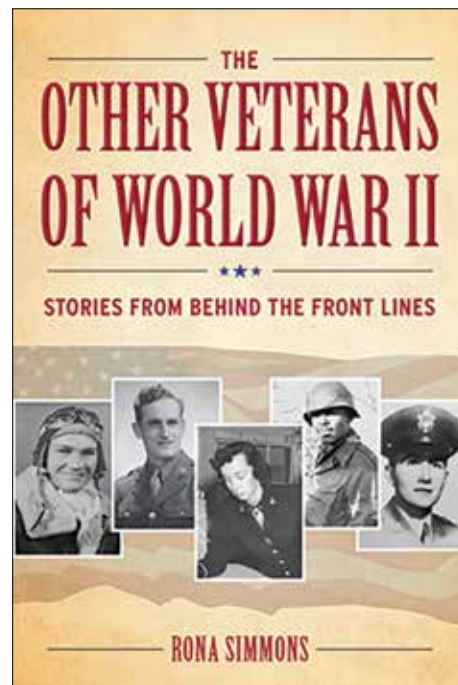
Former Big Canoe resident and the mother of Rita Van Fleet. Stepp was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and treated the wounded returning from the Battle of the Bulge. COURTESY OF MARIE STEPP



Cumming resident and member of the North Georgia Veterans group. Thompson flew over 1,000 missions to help deliver supplies to American troops on the ground in Asia. In 2019 he was chosen to lead the pledge of allegiance at Governor Brian Kemp’s inauguration. COURTESY OF LOUIS THOMPSON



The father of Big Canoe resident Knox Glass, Cone served in the Philippines as a horse-mounted battalion surgeon. Cone survived the Bataan Death March only to perish soon after in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. COURTESY OF KNOX GLASS



(through his son Knox Glass).

But the book is more than just the stories; it is the war in a nutshell. And, she says, “It brings long-overdue appreciation to the men and women whose everyday tasks, unexpected acts of sacrifice, and faith and humor had as much to do with the successful outcome of the war as their brothers on the front lines did.”

This is Simmons’s second book on WWII. In 2016, she coauthored “Images from World War II: The Art of Jack Smith with Georgia artist and WWII veteran Jack Smith, telling the story of the War in the Pacific through Smith’s paintings. Last year, Simmons began a third book on the war. This one, she says, is a blend of fiction and nonfiction and tells the story of another special group of veterans and provides another new angle on the war.

Ed Note: Rona Simmons, the author of “The Other Veterans of World War II,” was scheduled to speak at the April North Georgia Vets luncheon meeting before it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Smoke Signals* will inform readers of the new date for the event as soon as it’s rescheduled. “The Other Veterans of World War II: Stories from Behind the Front Lines,” published by Kent State University Press is available or can be ordered wherever books are sold.

Submitted by Rona Simmons for North Georgia Vets

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Multi-purpose event venue opening in refurbished Lakota Cove facilities

BY WAYNE TIDWELL
wtidwell@smokesignalsnews.com

The 6.1-acre Lakota Cove site on Old Mill White Road at Cove Road is now The Lodge at Old Mill; a multi-purpose event venue. Big Canoe resident Mike O'Brien and business partner David Jones closed on the property December 4, 2019 and have been refurbishing the 12,000-square-foot main building and 2,700-square-foot secondary building.

O'Brien had been retired for one week when he got a call from Jones in late October asking if he would be interested in the venture.

"He was very interested in this property and wanted a business partner who was up in this area," O'Brien said. "I'm no longer retired because I am the acting general contractor for the renovation. We have been working on the property five to six days a week since we closed. It's been a full-time job and then some."

Renovations to the buildings were made to accommodate weddings and corporate events and can host up to 325 guests. O'Brien said they have knocked down walls and put in a 20-foot high, 12-foot wide stacked stone fireplace as a center piece in the main room. He said the facilities have been updated to current fire code requirements, the kitchen has been upgraded and a new bar has been installed.

O'Brien retired after 43 years in IT and Jones has been in commercial real estate for 35 years. They have partnered with Debbie Ley who runs Tatum Acres and The Corner District in Ball Ground.

"I have a lot of experience in business and management so I said I would take over the business side," O'Brien said. "We didn't want to run the wedding side of the event business so we had to find an operating partner and that's why we got Debbie involved."

With the 325-person capacity, The Lodge will be able to host large meetings.

"I'll be working on getting companies and club events booked," O'Brien said. "Since we have a 325-person capacity we can do a pretty large conference here and off-site planning sessions and large



A 20-foot high and 12-foot wide fireplace has been added to the large room of the Lodge at Old Mill multi-purpose venue, formerly Lakota Cove Furnishings. PHOTOS BY JIM FRANCIS



The old Lakota Cove facility is being thoroughly refurbished as a multi-purpose venue.

clubs-The Ridgerunners in Big Canoe for example. Although we will be doing lots of weddings, we want to book as many non-wedding business events, holiday parties, luncheons and dinners and other events as possible."

O'Brien thinks The Lodge will appeal to

large non-profits and companies in Atlanta who like to get off-site and away from Atlanta. It's close enough to be an easy drive for people yet it is a way to get away, he said.

O'Brien pointed to the modifications that have been done or will be done to the property including an enlarged parking lot with handicap parking, and refurbishing of the bridge over the creek. Posts supporting the large building are now all stacked stone. The kitchen has been completely rebuilt, according to O'Brien.

"We'll have a bridal prep area and lounge and a hair and makeup room for five or six women, a changing room, and a



The entrance to the Lodge at Old Mill.

"Renovations to the buildings were made to accommodate weddings and corporate events and can host up to 325 guests."



The wood carved entrance door to The Lodge.

separate groom dressing area and a groom's man cave, which is also available for small parties, with a bar and big screen TV, foosball table and things like that," O'Brien said.

The main room can be configured for large or small events and there will be two outdoor venue sites, according to O'Brien.

"We will not do food prep here although we have a full kitchen for convenience only," O'Brien said. "We will have a caterer's room with stainless steel counter tops and warming ovens, an ice machine and hand washing sink. Every event is intended to be catered. There will be a bar with coolers for drinks, etc."

The Lodge will open in April. Some events have been booked, according to O'Brien, nine months to a year out. Big Canoe rentals will be utilized for visitors to The Lodge events.

Tours of the venue are available, according to O'Brien.

The Lodge at Old Mill, 230 Old Mill White Road, Jasper, GA, 30143. For more information go to <https://lodgeatoldmill.com>.

Local nonprofit helps children of Dawson County's incarcerated



A two-year old boy checks out his new book from Isabelle's Book Club, Inc. Waiting for his scheduled visit with his father, the youngster made all the sound effects while going through his book about monster trucks. PHOTO BY DENISE RAY

BY DENISE RAY
dray@smokesignalsnews.com

If you happen to be in the Dawson County Detention Center on a Sunday afternoon, you might wonder what the cheerfully decorated table covered with stacks of new books is all about. The books are there for the children visiting a parent who is a Dawson County inmate. Volunteers, like myself, with Isabelle's Book Club, a local nonprofit, sit at the table and strike up conversations with caregivers. We explain that the books

are provided free to the children and then ask if the children may pick out a book. The reactions are relief (on the part of the caregiver because books are free) and delight (on the part of the child because they make the decision). Children are encouraged to take up to two books a visit.

It's not uncommon to have children choose books beyond their ability, but they're encouraged to take it. Volunteers believe "they'll grow into it," meaning the child will learn to read it themselves. Meanwhile family members can read it to them.

■ BOOK CLUB | Page 15

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"The questions were provided by Dawson County residents with the offer of anonymity. Candidates were then given a week and 1,000-word limit to formulate responses and submit them to the paper."

Meet the candidates for Dawson County Board of Commissioners Chair

BY DENISE RAY
dray@smokesignalsnews.com

Two candidates have entered the race for Chairman of the Dawson County Board of Commissioners: Rene Duren and Billy Thurmond. Both are running on the Republican ticket. Billy Thurmond is seeking re-election. He is being challenged by Renee Duren.

Smoke Signals presented the candidates—listed in alphabetical order—with several questions. The questions were provided by Dawson County residents with the offer of anonymity. Candidates were then given a week and 1,000-word limit to formulate responses and submit them to the paper. All responses were taken exactly from the submissions and are listed in alphabetical order.

One of the duties of the county commissioners is to construct, approve and implement a budget. Should any part of the county budget be shielded from cuts? And if so, which area?

DUREN: I expect all departments to operate efficiently while providing quality services to citizens. Wasteful spending must be eliminated in each area of the county budget. No department is automatically immune to cuts. With that said, Public Safety (Emergency Services, Fire and Law Enforcement) is a top priority and should only be shielded from cuts that would negatively impact the safety and welfare of our citizens.

THURMOND: The primary function of the board of commissioners is to protect the health and safety of the citizens. The public safety organizations, public works and the courts must be adequately funded to ensure that this happens. The other departments and agencies are also important to our citizens as they provide wanted and needed services. This is why this board has worked hard to find alternative funding sources other than property tax to ensure we can fund each department adequately.

The primary duty of a county commissioner is to create and implement policy. Are county land-use regulations and permitting processes doing enough



Rene Duren. PHOTO COURTESY OF RENE DUREN

to assure the public interest or are they too onerous?

DUREN: With over 3,000 residential units permitted or approved through zoning changes in 2019, it's clear that our land use regulations and permitting processes are not too burdensome. Our land use regulations will help assure public interest only if the board of commissioners require developers to comply with our regulations.

THURMOND: This board of commissioners recently updated the land use ordinances for the first time since 1998. These revised ordinances give the board the additional options needed to make decisions on future land use requests. We also updated the comprehensive plan along with the future land use map. The changes to these ordinances and updates to the permitting process, which must be an ongoing process, are all part of an effective growth management plan that will protect public interest.

What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the county?

DUREN: The most pressing needs for infrastructure are roads and bridges. Some of our roads have been neglected for 20+ years. We have bridges in need of replacement to serve increased traffic and



Billy Thurmond. PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLY THURMOND

loads. Roads are a concern for the majority of citizens I've met while campaigning. This is a great time to plan for current and future transportation needs with the development of a transportation plan based on community feedback.

THURMOND: Full implementation of the county transportation plan with proper funding. This will allow us to take care of our roads and bridge infrastructure. The board receives the most calls from our citizens about our roads' infrastructure. The board placed the TSPOST referendum on the May 19 ballot, that if passed, would provide the proper funding source to accomplish putting this plan into action.

When managing public agencies, is it better to have more employees at a modest wage or few employees at a wage high enough to attract quality applicants?

DUREN: Finding the right balance between workload and pay is key. Regardless of pay, a consistently overworked employee is likely to leave—especially if they feel unappreciated. Not to mention, the quality of their work will deteriorate. So, having few employees at a wage high enough to attract quality applicants is better only if the workload is reasonable. It's important that we consider other fac-

tors as well. Good leadership can foster a work environment that leaves employees feeling valued and respected leading to job satisfaction and employee retention.

THURMOND: It is important to have the right number of employees in each department and pay a competitive wage to recruit and obtain qualified staff. If you do not do both you will have a reduction in productivity and cost efficiency. When you pay a non-competitive wage, you will be constantly recruiting personnel. Vacant positions mean less productivity.

If elected, what goals do you have for your term?

DUREN:

- Make improving our roads a top priority. Repave crumbling roads, repair potholes, replace stormwater culverts and bridges as needed

- Work with Emergency Services and Law Enforcement to ensure adequate coverage for the safety of citizens throughout our county

- Create a Code of Ethics and an Ethics Board made up of citizens. Ethics complaints related to commissioners or other county employees or appointees will be evaluated by the Ethics Board

- Develop a Future Land Use Plan that truly reflects the citizens' vision for the county and consistently implement that plan. Our Future Land Use Plan is the best tool we have to manage growth

- Develop a balanced budget, eliminate wasteful spending, and prepare for an economic downturn

- Improve communication between the citizens and the board of commissioners by holding monthly town hall style meetings on Saturdays to update citizens, answer questions and listen to concerns.

THURMOND:

- Improvement to our service delivery strategy

- Continue to look at alternative funding sources to property taxes

- Continue to update all county ordinances

- Work with all of our community partners for a better Dawson County for all of us.

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PAID FOR BY FRIENDS TO ELECT MARCUS SEWELL FOR SHERIFF

Book club

■ Continued from page 13

The organization has plans to grow by five jails in the state within the next year.

"I applaud the volunteers with Isabelle's Book Club for their passion, vision and desire to positively influence our most vulnerable—our children," Dawson County Sheriff Jeff Johnson said.

Holiday visits are hard

I've been volunteering with the organization since its inception in 2014. I'm often called "The book lady" and have met children whose stories are unforgettable. Sometimes I turn away, so they don't see the tears welling up in my eyes.

I remember one little boy who spied a Harry Potter book and asked if he could have it. The book was hard cover and several inches thick, and probably weighed as much as the child. I told him of course he could have it and I hoped he would enjoy reading it. He looked at me and said it was going to be a Father's Day gift for his father, who he was about to visit.

Another boy asked if he could have one and gift it to a young cousin.

What do you say to that request?

Holiday visits are the hardest on children and volunteers. I'll never forget the boy who brought his Christmas presents to the jail so his mom would watch him open them. Ever since then, I make sure there are books at the jail at Christmas.

Reprieves and academics

Isabelle's Book Club provides brand new books for the kids for two very specific reasons. First, it offers a reprieve from a life that can be chaotic, heartbreaking and uncertain. The second reason is for academics.

When a parent is arrested and in jail it means loss of income—sometimes both incomes. Necessities such as food, clothing and a place to live are top priorities. Caregivers—family members or foster care—may not be able to understand homework or have a lot of opportunity to help the child. Support through the school system is great but limited. So, academics may fall lower on the priority list.

Sometimes children dealing with parental incarceration are placed in the foster system as family members are not able to take care of them. For these children the books are significantly more important as the new book may be the child's sole possession.

Another significant reason for getting books into the hands of the young members of the community is their education.

Having the child choose the book(s)

is key. If they want to read it, they will. It won't be "school" or "homework."

Statistics show that the more a child reads, the stronger their academic skills become. If a child isn't reading proficiently by third grade, there's a 20 percent chance they won't graduate high school. A child learns to read by third grade and from then on, they read to learn. If reading is a struggle, frustration builds and grades decline.

Volunteers and children

Vicki Jones is the newest member of the volunteer team. The Dawsonville resident gives of her time when she's not growing her real estate business.

"Seeing a child smile while picking out a book means so much," Jones said. "It's not only their smile in that moment, it's also knowing that they will discover new worlds through books."

Because the stigma of family incarceration can be painful for the children, volunteers are encouraged to simply smile if they encounter the children some place other than the jail. The kids sometimes don't hesitate to greet me, and one instance made me laugh.

I encountered two girls after they'd visited the jail and one said, "you're the lady from jail." Her comment drew a few looks from passersby.

The organization is a 501(c)(3) as of 2014 and is run solely by volunteers. Dawson has had a program since 2016 and has provided children with almost 400 books.

"Statistics show that one in 28 children have a parent that is incarcerated. That translates roughly into one child in every classroom in the state of Georgia. Think about that the next time you attend an event at your child's school."

"Somebody I love is in jail"

Interactions with the children are delightful and often informative. Often the children will share their story or ask questions about what happens in the jail.

I met with Dawson County Sheriff Johnson and created "Somebody I Love is in Jail," a booklet designed to help address the concerns children have about a parent living behind bars. Tackling questions like "what happens if my parent gets sick?" and "what do they eat?" and explain words like "pod," "inmate" and "incarceration," among others in the booklet. The booklet is given to children and has been well-received. It has garnered high praise from judges, CASA, school social workers, DFACS and most importantly, the kids themselves.

Witnessing parental arrest is traumatic, there are medical studies that prove it. The booklet is to reassure the child that their parent is safe and has his or her needs met. It helps take one worry off the child's mind.

"Statistics show that the more a child reads, the stronger their academic skills become."

"I am excited to see a publication directed to helping those who otherwise may be forgotten. Often times in an arrest situation, the children are the ones most impacted with questions and uncertainty," Johnson said. "This insightful book truly illustrates and explains the where, why and how their parent is being held."

Donated books needed now

Two years ago, Barnes & Noble's The Collection designated Isabelle's Book Club a recipient of donated books during the holidays. The result was overwhelming, and the generosity of the community was just incredible. But book quantities are starting to wane as the need to increase the number of programs grow.

Currently there's a need for books for babies. Giving babies books they can literally sink their teeth into is a wonderful introduction to reading. The importance of reading to a child can't be stressed enough.

The recent visit of a grandmother and her grandson made me realize that not everyone may be able to read the book to

a youngster. The little boy chose a book about Monster Trucks. The pair sat down and waited for their scheduled visit. The child—who would turn two in as many weeks—was fidgeting and not interested in his grandmother's keys. I went to them and asked if I could read the book to the child and "Nana" agreed. As I turned the pages, the little fella made all sorts of engine noises. I pointed to things on pages and he quickly told me what I was pointing to, adding animal sounds for the various animals that apparently attend monster truck shows. He learned the word "blue" that day.

Isabelle who?

One question often asked at speaking engagements and events is "who is Isabelle?" Isabelle is the aunt of the nonprofit's founder whose Christmas tradition of gifting books had a profound impact on the founder. The idea for the organization came about to advocate and bring awareness to the silent population—children of the incarcerated. Strengthening academic skills could keep children in school longer, increase graduation rates, provide greater opportunities post-graduation and break the cycle of generational crime. It just needed a name.

For more information visit the website www.isabellesbookclub.org.

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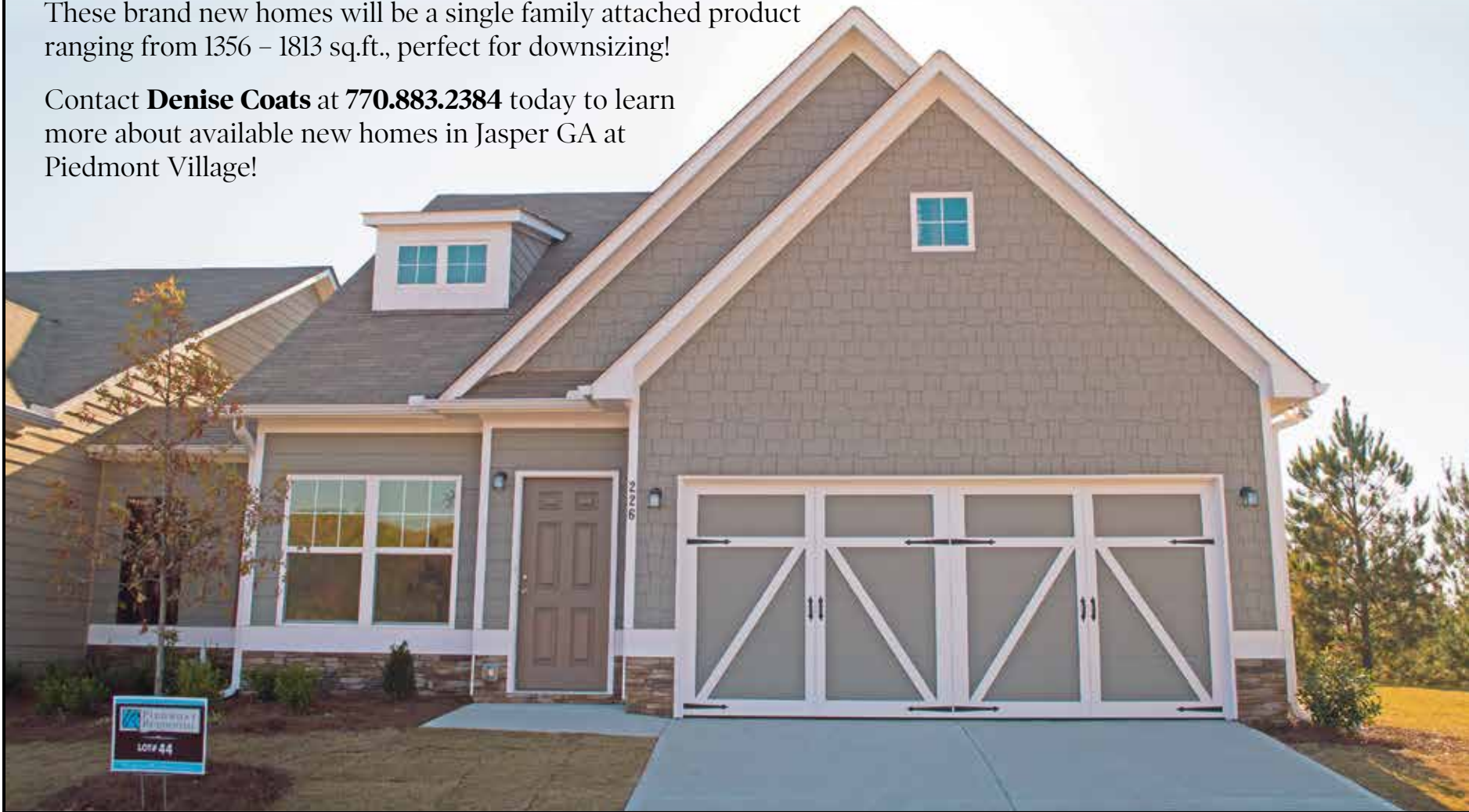
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Pickens Habitat for Humanity, Big Canoe Men's Fellowship support International Women Build Week 2020



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BY COLLEEN ADAMS

Habitat for Humanity Pickens County Board Member

Pickens County's Habitat for Humanity participated in the International Women's Build 2020 on Saturday March 7, partnering with Lowe's and Big Canoe Men's Fellowship.

In conjunction with International Women's Day, celebrated worldwide on March 8 each year, Habitat for Humanity locations in Canada, India and the United States promoted International Women Build Week, March 1-8, 2020.

Habitat for Humanity-Pickens County (HFHPC) Home Repair Ministry, led by Dennis Guerard, partnered with Big Canoe Men's Fellowship, led by Mike Twiss, on a home repair project for a local family. Lowe's building supply contributed and Quick Burger of Jasper stepped in to provide lunch.

The project was to remove old siding and some dry rotted oriented strand board, an engineered wood similar to particle



board, install new OSB where needed, wrap the building and then install new siding. This was a tall order for the first ever women's volunteer build week not to mention an all-day job. Eager women volunteers—Gina Vann, Rebecca Coleman, Monique Vinelli, Debra Cook, Colleen Adams—showed up and were ready for the challenge. Along with the men from the Home Repair Ministries—Dennis Guerard, Mark Tooker, Bill Shellheart, Grady Hopper, Steve Greenwell and Mark Twiss—hammers pounded, power saws sang and ladders were hoisted. Working together, the group of 15 volun-

teers completed the task in just a day and a half.

While HFHPC builds new homes for families in need, the Home Repair Ministry provides yet another important outlet for families to allow them to stay in their homes by repairing what they already have. Often the elderly are especially in need of assistance for home repairs. Thanks to the many volunteers that give of their time and talent and to the local businesses for supporting these worthwhile ministries, another home repair has successfully been completed.

There are a lot of things to be proud of here—and a lot of "firsts" for our affiliate:

The first Women's Volunteer Day
The first repair ministry project
The first project we're doing in conjunction with Habitat International & Lowes
The first fundraising "job site" project
A very sincere thank you to our volunteers.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity Pickens County or to learn more about donating or volunteering, go to www.pickensfh.org.

The Pickens Report



New facility for public works being built.

BY TUCKER GREEN

Pickens County Information Officer

A crazy month of weather has not slowed down activities in Pickens County. Several projects are underway throughout the county. One major project is the construction of a new facility to house the Departments of Public Works, and Utilities.

The new 15,000 sq. ft. facility is being built by Momon Construction Inc. out of Calhoun. They were awarded the contract as the low bidder. The facility will include: four pull-through bays to work on equipment, offices, a break room, sign shop, and storage areas for parts and materials. Currently, construction is roughly 60 percent complete and expected to be finished this Summer.

During the month of February:

- Pickens Animal Shelter brought in 55 animals, and 46 went out through various forms of adoption. Animal Control responded to 12 cases.

- The 911 Operations Center received 1,619 total calls, 731 were medical responses or fire related.

- The Water Department installed nine new meters.

- The Department of Planning and Development issued 43 new building permits.

- Pickens County Recreation Department had 550 kids sign up for baseball, softball, and T-ball. These young athletes will be spread across 49 teams.

- The Road Department has been performing routine road maintenance, and prepping roads for the upcoming paving season.

The Pickens County government departments continue to stay busy working for the citizens of Pickens County. The Pickens County Board of Commissioners continue to do a great job of leading these efforts. Stay connected with us by liking our Facebook page: Pickens County Ga Government, follow us on Twitter: @pickensgov and monitor our website: www.pickenscountyga.gov for updates.

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During my time in the private sector, I worked my way up from cashier to Branch Manager - mastering many other accounting positions including collections management, accounts payable and receivable, human resources, budgets, bank reconciliations, and internal auditing. I currently work as an automotive accounting professional in Holly Springs.

Along with Real World Experience and OTJ Training, I obtained several accounting certificates from our local college in order to further my career.

For the position of Tax Commissioner, we need strong leadership and someone not afraid to take on the responsibility of accountability.

I am capable and ready to step up and take on that role.

It would be a privilege to serve as the next Pickens County Tax Commissioner, and I ask for your support and vote.

Please cast your vote for Amy L Gibson in the May 19th, 2020 Republican Primary.



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Christopher Pence

PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POST 4

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- Ensure that policies are in place to adequately assess the effectiveness of leadership within the central office.
- Ensure the community is investing in our students through mentoring, apprenticeship, and allowing job shadowing.
- Ensure that a wider variety of programs are available so that students can participate in the programs that are in best interest of each individual student.

I am a product of Pickens County Schools, a current parent, a volunteer and a businessman. It is my belief that the board must work together to improve school effectiveness and efficiency. I will always put our children first. Please contact me at PenceForPickensCounty@gmail.com or 770-403-3121 if you have any questions.

Paid for by: Christopher Pence, PO Box 366 Tate Ga 30177

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SENSATIONS
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Tanner announces congressional run

Backed by Nathan Deal for his track record and effectiveness

BY DENISE RAY

dray@smokesignalsnews.com

Former Georgia Governor Nathan Deal headlined a campaign kick-off event in Gainesville for State Rep. Kevin Tanner's campaign for Congress March 4.

At the event, Governor Deal endorsed Tanner (R-Dawsonville) for Georgia's 9th Congressional district seat.

The two share a long history together, personally and professionally. Tanner was a member of the Dawson County Steering Committee for former Governor Nathan Deal's campaign.

Throwing his support behind Tanner, Deal added another chapter to the relationship.

"Kevin is very special to my family and me. I first met Kevin when he was serving as Deputy Sheriff in Dawson County," Deal said. "Later on in his career he was elected to the State House where he played a vital role in helping with my agenda to move Georgia forward."

Deal continued to be impressed with the legislator's work under the Gold Dome.

"With everything from dealing with issues like the opioid crisis, transportation, and criminal justice to cutting income taxes and supporting efforts to make and keep Georgia the #1 state to do business, I could always rely on Kevin to be effective."

Tanner's track record and effectiveness make him the right candidate for the seat, Deal said.

"Now Kevin is running to continue his service," Deal said. "Running for Congress is a high calling but the atmosphere in Washington has gotten a lot worse since I was there."

Strong character and determination were just two of Tanner's characteristics that Deal highlighted as qualifications for the Washington, D.C. position.

"It really takes someone with a lot of courage to be able to stand up and do the right thing. Kevin will be one of those people," Deal said. "He will be one of those leaders in Congress that we can count on to take the lead and get the job done. I am pleased to endorse Kevin Tanner to be the next Congressman for Georgia's 9th District."

Surrounded by family and throngs of supporters, a humble Tanner shared his remarks about Deal's endorsement.



Kevin Tanner and family pose with former Governor Nathan Deal after Tanner announced his candidacy for U.S. Congress. Deal offered his endorsement of the Dawson County resident because of his track record and effectiveness. PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN TANNER

"I am honored to have the support of Governor Deal for my campaign. He has been a strong leader for Georgia, and I was proud to work with him to advance his agenda to move Georgia forward," Tanner said. "Now, I am ready to continue the 9th district's legacy of conservative leadership like that of Governor Deal. In Congress, I will continue my record of fighting to protect our North Georgia families and values."

The decision to run was something Tanner considered for a while, he said and make the choice after prayer and discussion.

"I have spent the last several days praying about the decision and talking it over with my family," Tanner said. "I have truly enjoyed serving in the State House, but I feel the call to try to make a difference at the national level."

In a statement that accompanied the announcement, Tanner highlighted his background in both public service and law enforcement. He added that he would continue to represent his "unapologetical conservative" values in congress.

"I am ready to continue our district's 27-year history of having conservative leadership in Congress," he said. "I am ready for the fight to stop the radical left and work alongside President Trump to protect the conservative values that make North Georgia and all of America great."

Tanner also voiced his appreciation for the Dawson County community and said that it has been an honor to serve local citizens for so many years.

"I've had the pleasure of working and

serving the citizens of Dawson County for 30 years now in various roles from law enforcement to county manager to their state representative," he said. "I'm proud of where I come from, I love the community that I've been blessed to grow up in and to live in and I look forward to having the opportunity to continue to serve them at a different level."

Tanner has a long and dedicated 27-year history of public service. His career began with Dawson County as a volunteer fireman in 1989. He then worked for the Dawson Sheriff's Office in 1990 where he served in many positions. Tanner previously served as Dawson County manager before his four terms as Georgia's District 9 Representative. Currently he represents an area that includes portions of Lumpkin, Dawson and Forsyth counties.

Tanner was recognized in 2011 as the Appointed Official of the Year by Georgia's Association of County Commissioners. In 2007, Georgia Trend Magazine named Kevin one of Georgia's "40 Under 40." He has also been recognized as one of Dawson County's Citizens of the Year.

The North Georgia College and State University (now University of North Georgia) alum has been heavily involved in community and civic activities in the North Georgia area for many years. He served as the past vice chairman of the board of trustees for Chestatee Regional Hospital in Dahlonega and as a past member of the Rainbow Children's Home board in Dahlonega.

A successful local small business owner, Tanner also served as the pre-

vious chairman and now serves as the vice chairman of the board of trustees of Lanier Technical College. He is a member and past president of the Dawson County Rotary Club and past assistant district governor for Dawson, Lumpkin and White counties. Tanner is a member of the Dawson and Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Dawson and Lumpkin county Republican parties, having served six years as the chairman and vice chairman of the Dawson County Republican Party. He was a former Dawson County Chamber of Commerce board member. Tanner is also a member of the advisory board for the Brain Injury Association of Georgia.

He currently serves as the chairman of the House Transportation Committee and has been a member of several other committees in the House, including Appropriations, Education, Special Rules, Natural Resources and Intergovernmental Coordination committees. In 2019, he was appointed to serve as the co-chair of the joint Georgia Commission on Freight & Logistics. He has previously served as chairman of the House Commission on Transit Governance & Funding and has served on several special study committees, including chairman of the House Unmanned Aircraft Study Committee. Kevin is a current member of the executive board of the Northeast Georgia Boy Scout Council and was appointed by Governor Perdue to serve as the 9th congressional district representative on the State Board of Corrections.

Tanner has an impressive list of legislation to his credit. He authored legislation that relates to brain and spinal injuries, mental health issues, transparency within the Georgia Parole Board, educational incentives and the current opioid epidemic. Tanner has also authored a major education reform bill designed to help low-performing schools. In doing so, he was able to build a coalition of support from members of both the Democratic and Republican parties and the education community.

Tanner has been married to the former Stacie Pickering for more than 20 years. They are the proud parents of three beautiful daughters, Kaitlyn, Abbie and Chloe. The family attends church at Bethel Baptist Church.

The 9th Congressional district seat has been held by Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA) since 2013.



Happy Easter!

<p style="text-align: center; color: green;"><i>Lake Views</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">SOLD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">226 OWLS BROW \$599,000</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">3 bedroom 4 bath. Tranquility, comfort, beauty. One of a kind lakefront home.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: green;"><i>Lake and Golf Views</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">SOLD IN 15 DAYS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">9 CHESTNUT KNOLL \$304,000</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">4 bedroom 3.5 bath. Cottage with Lake and Golf Views! Wall of windows in great room.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: green;"><i>Great Get-A-Way Cabin</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">SOLD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">31 LAUREL TURN \$239,900</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">2 bedroom, 2 bath. Located near the nature valley trails and Jeep trail entrance. FMLS #6018701</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: green;"><i>Large Screen Porch</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">SOLD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">639 WAKE ROBIN DRIVE \$399,000</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">3 bedroom 3 bath. Opportunity to own this rare 3 bedroom ranch with three car detached garage and level driveway.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: green;"><i>Spectacular Mtn Views</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">SOLD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">100 HUCKLEBERRY TRAIL \$459,900</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: green;"><i>Spectacular Mtn Views</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">SOLD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">29 BEAR CREEK WAY \$614,900</p>

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Ball Ground food truck offers unique dining option



Dominic's pizzas and burgers are cooked in a 1,000-degree wood fire oven. PHOTOS BY WAYNE TIDWELL

BY NANCY DERAJTYS

If you have been wondering what this food truck craze is all about there is a new truck (a.k.a. restaurant) in Ball Ground that is worth checking out. Dominic's Truck and Dine opened last June and has a permanent location in what was once Martin's General Store at 340 Gilmer Ferry Road.

This is a unique restaurant with no table service or wait staff. When you first arrive just follow the tantalizing smell toward the wood fire grill in the food truck. Once there you will find an ever-changing menu of options.

Items always on the menu are wood-fired pizzas and burgers, but daily specials are worth a try too. They also have veggie and gluten-free options. You can order your food from the food truck then sit inside the 50s style retro building or on the front or back porch and enjoy the 50s tunes playing on the jukebox. Sodas, beers and wines are available inside as well as a free water station. Also be sure to check out Dominic's homemade ice creams and fresh fruit organic ices. Some evenings live music is offered as well as trivia, dress contests and bingo.

Weekly specials include:

- Wood-Fire Wednesdays- Wood Fired Tacos
- BBQ Fridays- Baby Back Ribs, Brisket, Pulled Pork and Chicken
- Steak Night Saturdays- Rib Eye Steaks while they last
- Sunday Fundays- Pasta, Pizza and



Dominic's food trucks are parked at the location of the old Martin's General Store.



Owner Dominic Napolitano, Toni Chancey and Kevin Cummins ready to serve from the Dominic's Truck and Dine food truck in Ball Ground.

Salads only. Sunday is the only day you can order a large pizza.

Dominic's, has several other food trucks that cater special occasions such as graduation parties and elementary school field days. There is also a location at Truck and Tap in downtown Woodstock.



Dominic's inside dining (limited to 10 diners at a time) is in a 1950's retro building.

Dominic's normal hours in Ball Ground are Wednesdays and Thursdays 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4:30 p.m. Pickup orders are available by calling ahead to place an order.

Note: Dominic's is doing call-ahead

curbside pickup Wednesday-Sunday during the Coronavirus pandemic. Inside dining is limited to 10 diners and outside tables are separated for social distancing.

Be sure to call before visiting as service levels can change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (678-454-3463)

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Books

Reading about the South

TURNED PAGES



KEN REYNOLDS

Way back when yours truly was a young southern man, I moved to the Pacific Northwest to live and work. Let me make a disclosure here: My father taught me to take nothing for granted and to make sure I understand what I am doing and why I am doing it. After several months on my new job, the boss, not for the first time, expressed frustration about my questions.

We had our usual chat about just doing the work, and then he made a statement that has stuck with me. He said, "I just don't understand the southern mind." The comment startled me because it had not occurred to me that minds in the South were any different than minds in any other place. I could not help him to understand, but since then, I have come to recognize he was over-attributing a personality trait to the influence

of culture. He had little, if any, curiosity and did not ask questions or wonder why his boss wanted something done. He just did what his boss told him to do.

In a recent column, I described a request from a friend seeking recommended reading to help him understand the South. His southern parents had moved to the Northwest when he was a toddler. In the column, I requested suggestions from *Smoke Signals* readers. And you responded.

My hearty thanks to each of you who sent your recommendations. Unfortunately, I cannot include every one of the books here, but I did try to respond to each of you personally. I have terrible clerical skills, and if I missed responding, please accept my apology.

If I had not believed it before, your responses have convinced me it will take my friend a lifetime of reading to meet his goal. The South today is not the South of the 1960s when his parents moved. Although each place in the South has much in common with the others, Georgia is not Mississippi, and neither of them is Virginia. The same is true of North Alabama as opposed to Southern Louisiana, and the residents of the Coastal Carolinas do not live like the hill and mountain residents to the west.

The differences described above also apply to other states and regions.

It may not have been openly acknowledged in the 1940s, 50s or 60s, but in the South, life was different for African Americans and whites, and the wealthy and the working class and the poor. In short, my friend's question is too big to answer in one or two (or maybe even 100) manageable sized volumes. One person cannot give voice to a region, but many try. Even more troublesome is trying to pin down the exact geography of where the South starts and ends. And is the "New South" still "The South?"

There is much that ties southerners together, and those ties make us of one ilk. There is no question that the lasting impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction shaped the South of my and my friend's parents and the generations before and after them. The boll weevil, the depression, industrialization, and the mass migration of millions to the urban north are only some of the larger influences on my parents' generation.

To go any deeper here would be to attempt what I have just said can't be done. However, it is important to note that compared to urban areas populated with people from multiple nationalities, the thinly spread

population of the agricultural South was more likely to adhere to ancestral folkways, especially when almost all the neighbors were of similar ancestry.

Reader responses to my plea were wide-ranging. I appreciate those of you who identified yourselves as transplants from the North and identified books that you found helpful. Some people recommended humorous books, while others recommended the Bible or academic histories. Some of you focused on fiction, others on non-fiction. Some readers went so far as to group recommendations by state.

Almost to a person, you asked me to share the responses. Please see the accompanying article for a list and some commentary.



KEN REYNOLDS

Ken Reynolds is *Smoke Signals' Books Feature Editor*. He is addicted to books and to questioning why things are the way they are. Email kreynolds@smokesignalsnews.com.

Reader recommended books about the South

BY KEN REYNOLDS

kreynolds@smokesignalsnews.com

At least a decade before the Civil War, serious scholars wondered and wrote about the American South. I doubt that anyone has cataloged every one of those efforts. In addition to the scholarly works, novelists, short story writers, poets and pundits of all sorts have written about or harangued about the South. We may live in one of the most written about parts of the universe.

All those words were written in a quest to understand what may surpass understanding. Yet you, the readers of this newspaper, were not reluctant to add your recommendations to a reading list for someone who wants to try.

There were so many responses that we cannot include all of them. Some of you listed titles and authors; others included comments about the recommendation. We hope some of these will prompt further reading and thought about this place we call The South.

Every southerner knows of our affinity for stories, whether true or tall tales. Perhaps Faulkner and O'Connor have made too many people associate gothic tales with writing about the South, but we are also fond of sentimental, off-beat, and just plain funny stories. Some of the recommendations were for fiction, but most were non-fiction. And not all the authors are southerners.

Here are the titles with multiple recommendations:

"Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" by John Berendt is non-fiction set in Savannah, Ga. A real-life murder mystery peopled with a wide range of Savannahians, including a southern belle, black debutantes, a redneck gigolo, and a voodoo priestess.

Beginning with "All Over but the Shoutin,'" Rick Bragg's accounts of his family's life on the margins in Northeast Alabama may not help you understand the South, but they definitely give you an authentic feel for southern story telling. His "The Best Cook in the World: Tales from My Momma's Table" might even help you get some idea of growing up with a real good cook as your mama.

James Lee Burke set his Dave Robicheaux novels in and around New Iberia, Louisiana. A sheriff's deputy encounters a wide range of characters in literature disguised as detective fiction. Burke is a master of descriptive prose.

"The Mind of the South" by W. J. Cash was rooted in a series of magazine articles. Cash wrote for "American Mercury" in the early thirties. Cash's book is sweeping in scope and loaded with history and sociology, yet it earned wide critical acclaim, importantly from northern and southern reviewers. It also met much negativity, primarily because the book is more explanatory than praising. Cash did not hide the warts, and at times he was openly critical.

"A Lesson Before Dying" and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "A Gathering of Old Men" are novels by Ernest Gaines, who grew up near Baton Rouge and based his works upon his knowledge of the people and legends and facts of the area.

"Cold Sassy Tree" by Olive Ann Burns is a novel set in the early 1900s. An older man's romance rocks a small Georgia town, and a boy's childhood melts into adolescence. How people lived and died in a small Southern town at the turn of the century.



"Tell about the South. What's it like there. What do they do there. Why do they live there. Why do they live at all."

Question to Mississippian Quentin Compson by his Harvard Roommate in "Absalom, Absalom" by William Faulkner
Rowan Oak, William Faulkner's home in Oxford, Mississippi. PHOTO COURTESY VISIT MISSISSIPPI VIA FLICKR.COM

"A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote is an autobiographical tale of a rural Alabama boyhood.

"An Hour Before Daylight" by Jimmy Carter is his account of a Great Depression-era boyhood on a Georgia farm before the civil rights movement.

"The Water is Wide" by Pat Conroy is an autobiographic tale of an eager young teacher at the height of the civil rights movement in a community still bound by the bitter effects of racism.

"The Potlikker Papers, A Food History of the Modern South" by John T. Edge. A narrative of the American south through poverty, the Civil Rights era, the rise of convenience food, and finally the New South. A Wonderful expiration of southern history captured through the lens of food.

Lists that did not name William Faulkner were in the minority, but only two of his titles received multiple recommendations: "As I Lay Dying" and "Absalom, Absalom."

In 1989, Pulitzer Prize in history winner David Hackett Fischer published "Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America." Fisher contends that early America was settled primarily by people from four distinct and competing cultures and that their beliefs and customs have influenced American life and history. Of interest to those wanting to understand the South are the sections dealing with immigrants from the South of England, 1642-1675 and from the northern borderlands of England, the lowlands of Scotland, and Northern Ireland, 1717-1775. Hackett maintains those cultures still drive us today, including our politics.

"Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café" by Fannie Flagg takes place in Whistle Stop, Alabama, in a little joint with good coffee and outstanding barbecue and a huge secret. Her "A Redbird Christmas" was also mentioned.

"Cold Mountain" by Charles Frazier is a fictional description of life for non-combatants in the mountains of North Carolina during the Civil War while a wounded, disheartened soldier struggles toward home across the disintegrating South. He encounters slaves and marauders and bounty hunters. He finds help and danger.

"Dispatches from Pluto" by Richard Grant, a real-life account of a modern non-southerner's attempts to meet Delta residents of all stripes and learn about local culture from rural Mississippians near Greenville.

"Praying for Sheetrock" by Melissa Fay Greene is a non-fictional tale set in

1970's McIntosh County, Georgia, where the white sheriff controlled everything and everybody. Changes wrought by the civil rights movement had bypassed McIntosh. An uneducated, unemployed black man, Thurnell Alston, challenged the sheriff and his courthouse gang.

"A Painted House" by John Grisham was, inspired by Grisham's childhood in rural Arkansas. The seven-year-old narrator lives in the cotton fields with his parents and grandparents in a little house that's never been painted. They farm 80 rented acres.

Lewis Grizzard wrote fiction and non-fiction set somewhere in or out of Lewis' mind. If you can't laugh-out-loud at life's absurdities, skip Grizzard. But if you appreciate spot-on skewering of pretense of all sorts, you will find it exemplified in his "The Atlanta Journal-Constitution" columns. Grizzard's take on not liking the New South is priceless.

"Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston first appeared in 1938. Hurston's novel features a strong-willed black woman recounting her life in central and southern Florida, including being charged with murder.

"Mudbound" by Hilary Jordan. Two WWII veterans, one black and one white, experience the turmoil of Jim Crow Mississippi.

In Sue Monk Kidd's "The Secret Life of Bees," strong black women struggle with racism in South Carolina and find shelter and solace with beekeepers.

"Our Southern Highlanders" by Horace Kephart was one of the earliest realistic non-fiction portrayals of life in the rural Appalachian Mountains and one of the first serious analyses of Appalachian culture.

Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" needs no further comment. Alabama.

Neither does Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind." Georgia

Albert Murray was a literary and jazz critic, novelist, essayist, and biographer. In his memoir, "South to a Very Old Place," about growing up in Alabama during the 1920s and 30s, Murray smoothly blends remembrances of his youth with snippets of conversation, African American folklore, and cultural criticism

Born into the post-war planter class near Greenville, Mississippi, William Alexander Percy, died in 1942 after producing his remarkable memoir, "Lanterns on the Levee: Recollections of a Planter's Son." He memorialized life in the Mississippi Delta of his youth and his coming to terms with the

changing world.

Janisse Ray describes the life of a poor white girl growing up in a fundamentalist family in the middle of a junkyard. "Ecology of A Cracker Childhood" addresses her love of and hope for the future of the longleaf pine forest in South Georgia.

"Rammer, Jammer, Yellow Hammer" by Warren St. John, Non-Fic is about RV'ers who follow the Alabama Crimson Tide from game to game.

Ferrol Sams' trilogy, "Run with the Horsemen," "Whisper of the River," and "When All the World Was Young" describes life in a small Georgia town through the Depression and after.

Celestine Sibley wrote chatty and folksy columns and tales set mostly in Georgia, in and around Atlanta. Her fans treasure her books.

Kathryn Stockett wrote about work as a black maid in a white household in 1960s Jackson, Mississippi. The 2011 movie, "The Help," won multiple awards.

Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn. What else is there to say?

In Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, J. D. Vance vividly describes how people removed from their native culture became trapped in and dependent upon a new economic reality. After a generation, independent mountain people of West Virginia struggle with the collapse of coal mining.

"Yesterday in the Hills" by Floyd Watkins and Charles Hobert Watkins is non-fiction about the loves of old-time hill people of North Georgia from the 1890s until World War II.

NPR commentator and author Bailey White focuses on South Georgia eccentricities. "Mama Makes Up Her Mind" is humor about her life as a first-grade teacher who lives with her mother in a small Georgia town.

Mississippi is the place many non-southerners think of as emblematic of racial hostility. Perhaps despite, or because of its history, the state has produced an admirable number of writers of both races. Faulkner heads most lists, but it would be a serious mistake for anyone wanting to understand the south to overlook Richard Wright. "Black Boy," is his 1945 telling of his childhood in Jim Crow Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee and his transition to life in Chicago.



The family home of Floyd Burroughs, cotton sharecropper. Hale County, Alabama. Published in the book, "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men." Photo by Walker Evans, 1936.

Although no one mentioned it, this list needs one more title. Several years ago, the late great Fred Shaw, a transplanted Pennsylvanian, recommended James Agee's "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men." Although I knew the book was a classic, unpersuading account of life in the rural Depression-era South, I had never bothered to read it. At Fred's urging, I filled a grievous gap in my reading list. Walker Evans' photographs are haunting.

Books

BOOK REVIEW

The Reincarnation of Spenser?

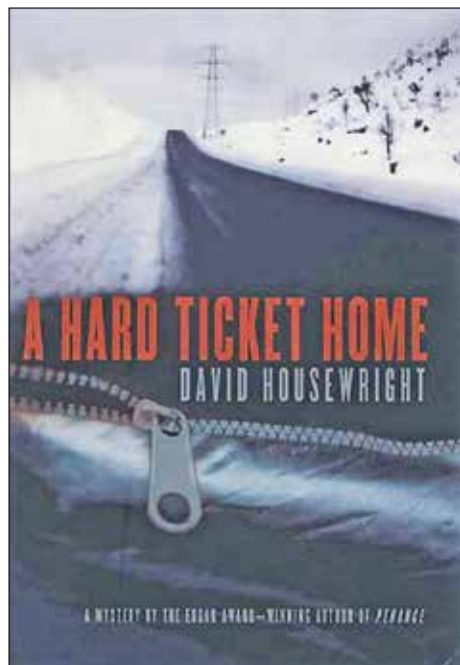
Murder, etc.

TRISHA DONOVAN

I'm an unapologetic fan of the "bad boys" of the mystery genre. The fast-talking, wise-cracking private eyes who have a problem with authority and a soft spot for damsels in distress. Although I loved the hard-boiled "gumshoes" in the novels of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler, it was Hammett's Nick Charles who charmed me. He was witty and sophisticated, but he also had friends in low places. Then I fell for Archie Goodwin, Nero Wolfe's eyes and ears in Rex Stout's series, and the bane of New York's Finest. After that, I found John D. MacDonald's Travis McGee, a self-named "salvage consultant," who took on detecting to support an enviable lifestyle on his houseboat, "The Busted Flush."

And then I met Spenser, the most famous creation of Robert B. Parker. A former English Lit professor, Parker endowed his Boston PI with knight-errant qualities; he was loyal, brave, and single-minded in his quest for whatever truth he was seeking. Spenser took on cases that the police had abandoned; he also championed vulnerable women and children and went after some very bad guys in the city's underbelly.

A man with his own code of honor, Spenser walked a fine line when it came to



"A Hard Ticket Home" is the first book in David Housewright's series about McKenzie. The 17th volume, "From the Grave," is due this summer.

the law. Handling violence daily seemed to be part of his job description, especially when he teamed up with Hawk, his favorite mercenary. But every knight has a lady love, and Susan Silverman, a Harvard-educated psychologist, was Spenser's. Their relationship was the source of a lot of the humor and witty dialogue in Parker's novels.

When Parker died in 2010, I began looking for someone who might replace Spenser. Lee Child's Reacher almost fit the bill, but there wasn't enough humor. And John Corey, Nelson DeMille's NYPD detective, was certainly funny and iconoclastic enough, but he wasn't a private eye.

A year ago, I found David Housewright, an Edgar-winning crime writer. His protagonist, McKenzie, is a former Minnesota cop turned unlicensed PI who does "favors" for friends in trouble, at no charge. He doesn't need the money because he'd tracked down an embezzler a few years earlier, netting over \$2,000,000 in insurance money. But first, he had to resign from the St. Paul PD, since police officers can't accept rewards or finder's fees. Also, 11 years on the job without making detective—his justifiable, but highly publicized shooting of an underage armed robber was too problematic—had taken a toll. Most of McKenzie's colleagues never forgave him; the rest simply envied him.

As the first novel in the series, "A Hard Ticket Home," opens, McKenzie agrees to help a middle-aged couple find their runaway daughter. His girlfriend dumps him; she doesn't like the class of people for whom he does his favors. But before long, McKenzie is wishing he'd taken her advice and become a stockbroker. Or even a lawyer.

"A Hard Ticket Home" isn't for the faint-hearted. It's a gritty and graphic novel, exposing the reader to a level of violence that threatens to curdle the soul.

But it introduces an irreverent hero whom Spenser, and even Hawk, might take along on a mission. He will do anything for his friends, especially St. Paul PD Commander Bobby Dunstan and his family, as well as the "lowlifes" his former girlfriend scorned. We also meet the lovely Nina Truhler, who owns a jazz club/restaurant called Rickie's. Nina and McKenzie become a couple over the next few books, although she refuses to consider marriage, no matter how often McKenzie proposes. She understands his need to help people and gets a thrill out of tagging along sometimes, even when, as in "The Devil May Care," she gets in harm's way:

"Does it hurt?" I asked.

"Yes, it hurts. So does childbirth and stepping on a Lego with your bare foot."

"We'll get you some ice."

"Get me a drink."

"That, too."

The humor, fast-paced dialogue, and fascinating cast of characters in Housewright's series leaven the violence in the 16 books he's written so far. I've read all but two of them. He's not Robert B. Parker, but then, who could be?



Trisha Donovan is retired from law enforcement and writes crime novels as P.L. Doss.

Trisha Donovan.

BOOK REVIEW

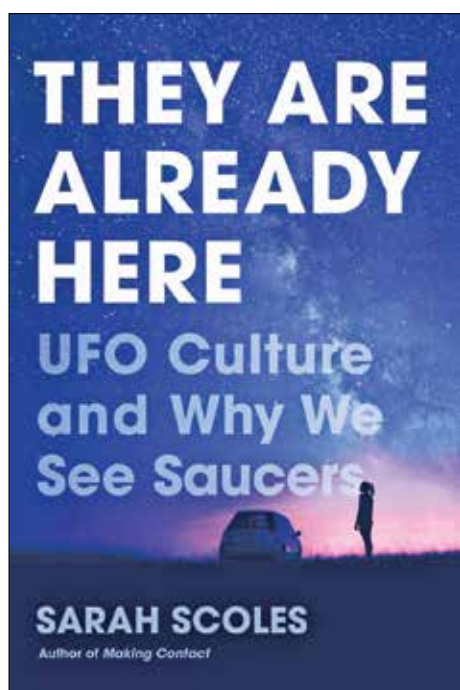
Along the Extraterrestrial Highway

BY STEVE DONOGHUE

Sarah Scoles, a science journalist and contributing editor at "Popular Science," follows up her terrific 2017 book "Making Contact" with "They Are Already Here: UFO Culture and Why We See Saucers." Making Contact was about the pioneering scientist Jill Tarter, who was crucial to SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. They Are Already Here is about the many people—loners, crackpots, enthusiasts, even a few scientists—who believe extraterrestrial intelligence has already come looking for us.

The book is about the strange and proliferating world of UFO deniers, skeptics, and true believers. Scoles goes to their meetings, tramps out to their wasteland 'crash sites,' and sits by their campfires at night, hearing and remembering everything. She has mastered that rarest of all journalistic talents: the ability to listen to flagrantly implausible stuff with sympathy without ever sacrificing her critical rigor.

She has a fine-tuned BS detector, but she also has a heart. And in the course of this delightful book, she needs both, often. She presents dozens of the outlandish characters she's met in her quest to understand what she describes as "UFO culture." Thousands of Americans every year report seeing UFOs, and They Are Already Here asks what these people have in common, what separates them, and what it is they



"They Are Already Here: UFO Culture and Why We See Saucers." By Sarah Scoles, Pegasus Books, March 2020, 248 pgs.

might actually be seeing. Like Christopher Bader, Joseph Baker, and Carson Mencken in their landmark 2011 study "Paranormal America" (given a substantially revised second edition by NYU Press in 2017), Scoles tries to get at the root of the whole phenomenon.

As she eventually makes clear, that phenomenon is most certainly not rooted in reality. In this case, reality, is prosaic. On June 14, 1947, on a ranch a few miles outside of Roswell, New Mexico, rancher William Brazel and his son Vernon came across some small scraps of tinfoil, rubber strips, paper, and sticks in the desert, an amount of material that wouldn't cover half a picnic table. No metal. No saucers or saucer fragments. No alien writing. No engines. Certainly, no bodies, alive or dead.

When the Brazels' five pounds of miscellaneous scrap made it to the Eighth Army Air Force base in Texas, it was identified as the remains of a weather balloon, or perhaps a balloon-lofted radar target. And that's just where things stood, for decades.

Gradually the situation was transformed into a different narrative: heroic UFO believers fighting for the truth against an all-powerful government intent on suppressing it. The more government officials say, "But ... but this is just five pounds of flimsy garbage you found in the desert," the more UFO believers yell, "See? That's just what we'd expect you to say, if you were covering up the truth!"

To be fair, as Scoles clarifies, the US military probably is indeed covering up the truth—but again, it's prosaic truth: Area 51 and other UFO hotspots have hosted cutting-edge military aircraft testing for well over half a century, including both

the U-2 spy plane and its successor, the Oxcart project. The CIA has stated: "Over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s and 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights (namely the U-2) over the United States." And as Scoles explains, the last thing the military wants is for people to see lights in the sky and think "spy planes."

Scoles comes to feel a great deal of companionship with the various UFO believers she meets along the so-called "Extraterrestrial Highway." Of a visit to Campfire Hill, a couple of miles from the front gate of Area 5, she recounts feeling something like a light electric touch at the back of her neck. It was "Like an autonomic reaction that twists the mouth's muscles into a smile, tilts the head to the sky, and makes the mouth say, 'WHERE ARE THEY?'"

They're not here, and they have never been, but even so, They Are Already Here is neither nagging nor negative. Rather, it's concerned with deeper narratives, and with putting a very human face on what's become almost an American mythology. Even die-hard skeptics shouldn't miss it.

Steve Donoghue is a book reviewer whose work has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, and the Christian Science Monitor.

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OPINION

Is reelection the only way to judge the success of our political leaders?

By KEN REYNOLDS

Kreynolds@smokesignalsnews.com

Do you remember playing Follow the Leader? It is a terrific game for kids as it requires no unique skills to lead the group. Kids want to play, and they will follow and do as the leader does. When players cannot or will not do as the leader wants, they drop out of the game, and the only consequence is the game goes on without them —and maybe a bit of feeling dejected until the next game starts. Follow the Leader was my introduction to the word “leader” —a person to follow.

Later, I learned there are other types of leaders; scouts, sports, religion, military, business, civic, and political, to name some. To be effective, each of those leaders must have some special skill or knowledge. With so many groups needing leaders, leadership became the subject of academic study. There are diverging and often contradictory philosophies of leadership.

One incontrovertible truth in each of those philosophies is that some people are leaders, and most of us are followers. Too often, those in positions of authority mistakenly think they are leading when, in fact, subordinates are doing nothing more than complying with the boss’s directives. They follow because they are not prepared to deal

with the consequences of not following the leader —a military obligation, the money, or any of hundreds of other possible reasons, including ambition and peer pressure.

Although becoming a boss or business owner or a minister, a general, a governor, a CEO, or president usually indicates some previous leadership success, achieving the titles does not make a person an effective leader.

When all is right with the world, possessing the title is usually enough to be successful, because subordinates tend to comply with orders or direction from higher up. When things begin to go wrong, leadership faces a genuine test. In adversity, an indefinable something either makes people trust and want to follow the person who holds the title or find a replacement.

Although leadership as an entity may be indefinable, we know trust is an essential element of effective leadership. We must believe our leader has the knowledge and determination to guide us in the right direction and will do it for our good and not for personal gain or glory.

The need for specialized knowledge increases as organizations become bigger and more complex. There is no more far-reaching organization in the world than the United States government. I cannot imagine a more difficult and demanding job than being the president of our country and

carrying the burden of the informal title “leader of the free world.”

If the president is to be effective, he must be willing to seek advice and counsel from people who have specialized knowledge and skills. It is unrealistic to think one person can have adequate knowledge to address every issue that arises in a government that touches lives in every corner of the earth. Obtaining such advice is a defining characteristic of an effective leader —the ability to identify and use the right advisors, who are willing and able to present information the president does not want to hear. Advisors who toady to the leader’s desires, weaken the leader’s effectiveness.

Effective leaders assume accountability for conditions they inherit, and they work toward improving those conditions that are less than ideal. They do not disavow responsibility or blame others for the problems that existed when they assumed the mantle of leadership.

All organizations, and particularly governments, have a fundamental obligation to continue their existence. For that to happen, the elements of the group must be working toward the same objective. Effective leaders work to unite the citizens in efforts to make the government better, stronger, and yes greater. They do not demonize opponents and others who disagree with their policies. For everyone to work toward the same

objective, the leader must be clear about the objective. In Follow the Leader, guidance was unequivocal; we saw the leader doing what needed to be done.

Today, we are experiencing a COVID-19 pandemic. Each person reading this has an opinion as to whether our leadership has heeded the warnings generated by multiple government-run pandemic simulations, including one as recently as last year. The simulations clearly showed we were not prepared. You likely also have decided whether guidance and instructions from our leadership have been adequate. For all our sakes, I continue to hope they have been.

Each type of organization has its measurement of success. In business, it is profit. If the business is not profitable, it fails, or the directors select a new leader to save it.

For politicians, the measure of success is reelection. Unfortunately, reelection does not measure the president’s leadership effectiveness. It measures popularity only in key states, not national popularity. We know from experience that the person who receives the most individual votes may lose the election. Human nature assures that we focus our attention and efforts toward the things that generate rewards. When we do that, the law of unintended consequences too often leads us to neglect other things that may lead to failure —even disaster.

“This is America and whenever there is some sort of organized revolution around a track, the approved direction is counter-clockwise as in NASCAR and horse racing.”

Playfield culture and the strategies walkers use to track performance

Silver Threads Among The Old

ROBERT C. SMITH

It’s not widely known but something sinister is happening at the playfield. Seemingly out of nowhere, sticks, pinecones, rocks and other tokens are appearing on the railing of the bridge which crosses a small creek close to the playground.

This is the bridge walkers cross as they traverse the gravel track around the periphery of the playfield. Recently these mysterious formations were noticed by my wife Diane and I as we embarked on our new exercise program.

My heart procedure in December and no-nonsense cardiologist compelled us to get serious about daily exercise by which I mean ... we had to do some.

We had done some casual walking on the Jeep Trail and Wildcat loops but these were mostly to enjoy the outdoors with exercise playing something of a secondary roll. These were pre-Fitbit days and walking was regarded as something that did not have to be quantified, analyzed and catalogued. Simply put, walking was exercise, not data.

But that all changed as we strapped on our Christmas present Fitbits and approached the playfield track in a grim and business-like manner. This quarter-mile, gravel track is well used by walkers, joggers and dog exercisers and close enough to the postal facility to include that in your daily routine.

My wife and I had never walked there and, as a matter of fact, we could never understand why people chose to simply walk around in a large circle with no change of scenery. Once we tried it, however, we found that the setting has its own peculiar charm.

It really does have a very dramatic setting with the looming dam a magnificent presence capped as it is with a fluttering American flag. Geese in formation and very occasionally our homegrown bald eagles overfly earnest exercise walkers as they complete their rounds. The soundtrack to all this is the dam’s rushing outflow channel that thunders along the eastern edge of the field.

But most importantly, we thought, with each lap being exactly a quarter mile, it’s easy and convenient to track your progress.

Or so we thought ... which brings us back to those mysterious objects on the bridge.

It wasn’t long before my wife and I tumbled to the realities of walking the playfield. It’s hard to keep track of your laps. It sounds like it should be easy. You walk one lap around the perimeter. Then you walk another. And then maybe a third or a fourth.



What are these sticks for and why do they appear mysteriously on the playfield bridge?



Our magnificent dam (second largest earthen dam in Georgia) provides the backdrop for exercise walkers on the playfield gravel track. PHOTOS BY ROBERT SMITH

And while the walking may be more monotonous than strenuous, (the playfield is dead level), the truly hard part is remembering which lap you are on and how many you have done in total.

In today’s world this shouldn’t be a problem ... even for old people like ourselves.

Digital fitness trackers, specialized Apple watches, countless phone apps and the whole gamut of other hi-tech devices are more than willing to measure pulse rate, distance walked, calories burned and, in a pinch, the astrological signs of its users.

Not one, however will help you remember how many laps you’ve walked without some mental gymnastics concerning pace length, number of steps and track length. But, judging by the number of sticks, rocks, pine cones and other tokens placed by exercise walkers on the bridge at the playfield track, we’re not the only ones who seem to have a problem translating “steps” into laps walked.

The low-tech solution many walkers have come up with involves placing your markers (sticks, rocks, etc.) on sections of the bridge delineated by vertical posts and then advancing them, one section at a time, as you complete each lap.

It serves as something of an abacus for those too absorbed in listening to their podcasts, music playlists or telephone conversations to keep track of their progress.

Walkers’ etiquette

Which brings us to playfield etiquette. This is America and whenever there

“There is the rare walker, who, for reasons known only to themselves, chooses to walk around the track in a clockwise direction”

is some sort of organized revolution around a track, the approved direction is counter-clockwise as in NASCAR and horse racing. Even movie directors have their chase scenes run from left to right across the big screen.

For the most part, the majority of walkers adhere to our counter-clockwise culture and march around the track like cars on the interstate, all in the same direction. However, there is the rare walker, who, for reasons known only to themselves, chooses to walk around the track in a clockwise direction.

It could be that they are from a country in the Southern Hemisphere, such as Australia, where, as we all believe, everything (water draining, etc.) is upside down and backwards.

By doing so, these rebels completely upset the time-honored mores of track etiquette. When everyone is walking essentially single file, there is no need to constantly acknowledge the passage of your oncoming fellow walkers with a nod or a hello or a quick comment about the weather.

But when you have a counter-walker, there is always an awkward approach moment when you have to decide (A) to unplug your earplugs and make a comment different from the comment you made on the last lap five minutes ago, or (B) do everything you can to avoid eye contact, usually by fiddling with your earphones or suddenly looking around as if something is amiss like a bear sighting or the dam springing a leak.

Most of us simply give an unfocused smile and nod to these wrong-way walkers. But I like to say, “Why, ‘ello, mate!”

(Okay, okay ... for all you scientists out there, it is a commonly held misconception that water always drains counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere because of the Coriolis effect imparted by the Earth’s rotation. But it’s more fun to think this debunked belief is alive and well on the playfield.)

Dogs

Dogs are a big part of the playfield experience. There are actually dogs that walk calmly by their owners’ sides and completely ignore other dogs, people, birds and squirrels. These are rare. A good number are like our late Cocker Spaniel Toby who was pointedly excluded from all exercise walks because of his non-linear approach to exercise walking and his insistence on sniffing every third blade of grass and fallen leaf. One circuit of the track would take 20 minutes instead of the usual five.

Signs are posted reminding owners of POA rules. They insist that you leash and clean up after your dog and there are doggy bag dispensers adjacent to the track. Most owners scrupulously follow the rules but track etiquette dictates that onlookers discretely avert their eyes while this procedure is being carried out.

Finally, harking back to its heritage as the community’s only baseball field, there is a wonderful vintage backstop that the POA has, in its wisdom, allowed to remain. There are no base paths, pitcher’s mound or any other nod to baseball basics.

For those of us of a certain age, this is the backstop of our youth. It evokes a time before pickup baseball games at the schoolyard were homogenized into little league teams with uniforms, adult coaches and rules.

This timeworn chain link backstop has the requisite bulge around the bottom that says it was well used by generations of Big Canoe families as they took practice cuts with the bat, chased down passed balls or slid across the plate in close plays at home.

In fact, that backstop is to pickup baseball games what the bridge lap counter is to exercise walkers. It is low tech, but it works and it’s not digital.

Robert C. Smith (foxglove@windstream.net) is a longtime resident of Big Canoe who can be found most mornings walking around the track at the playfield.

OPINION

“In the United States 90 percent of the population have heard of living wills, 71 percent have thought about them but a dismal 29 percent have executed one.”

National Healthcare Decision Day on April 16 raises tough questions

BY ALBERT BARROCAS, MD, FACS, FASPEN and SHOSHANA COHEN

National Healthcare Decision Day, April 16 raises some tough questions for families—with no easy answers any day of the year.

Most, if not all, of us make decisions every day without thinking. However, there are some decisions we ignore or postpone until a critical situation arises that creates confusion, stress and strained relationships with family and friends.

In this article we raise the questions and hopefully offer a path to making healthcare decisions when confronted with a critical, terminal, or end-of-life care condition. The scenario becomes more significant in the setting where you or your loved ones may no longer have decision-making capacity. Without an advance directive (e.g., living will and/or proxy designation) healthcare providers are forced to make uncomfortable decisions for their patients within the limits of the law.

In the United States 90 percent of the population has heard of living wills, 71 percent have thought about them but a dismal 29 percent have executed one.

The impetus for this discussion at this time is that National Healthcare Decision Day (NHDD) (<http://www.nhdd.org>) is April 16 each year. Considering the adage that “The two certainties of life are death and taxes,” NHDD is easy to remember since it takes place one day after the deadline for filing state and federal income taxes on April 15. NHDD is part of the Conversation Project, an Initiative of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), a non-profit organization leading in healthcare improvement worldwide. The NHDD website offers a multitude of resources including what I recommend as the first “must see” step, a 3+ minute video entitled “Imagine” on the landing page <https://theconversationproject.org/nhdd/>. The next recommended step in your journey towards a healthcare decision is the often emotionally laden critical/crucial conversation(s) with family and friends.

The Conversation Project (<https://theconversationproject.org/>) has developed a plethora of resources to assist in this very important process. In the first page of this website you will find a link to what should be your second exercise by utilizing the “Your Conversation Starter Kit” that provides an excellent template for anticipated conversation(s) with family friends, healthcare providers and any other selected individuals.

The last page of the starter kit links to the third step in your journey: the execution of an advance directive and proxy determination within the confines of state law. The state of Georgia has such a document in a PDF-filler format, allowing completion online at <https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk15/?projectId=415010888#749d4a18aa-05046fad37a7b32f06b2cb>

“Are you comfortable leaving this kind of life or death decision up to someone who may not even know you?”

Tu.be or not Tu.be?

Tough questions require educated answers. One of the decisions individuals or surrogate decision makers confront is the use of feeding tubes. Long-term feeding tubes are inserted using a variety of methods, but the most used is the Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy or PEG. Prior to decisions regarding insertion or withdrawal of these tubes, we should use the acronym to ask another question: Please Explain the Goal of the intervention?

Tube feedings are part of what is known as Artificial/Specialized Nutrition Support when individuals are unable to meet their nutrition demands by the oral route. Tube feedings fall in the category of Enteral Nutrition (EN), utilizing the gastrointestinal tract, while some individuals need partial or total feedings through their veins in a process known as Parenteral Nutrition (PN) with those totally dependent on the Intravenous route as Total Parenteral Nutrition or TPN. At this juncture it is important to differentiate this form of artificial nutrition and hydration (ANH) from naturally available food and water which most of us enjoy.

Although the concern for nourishing individuals unable to ingest food and water by mouth was present centuries ago, the ability to do so was limited and ineffective. In the late 1960s, thanks to the pioneering effort of Dr. Stanley J. Dudrick and his team at the University of Pennsylvania, the first successful patient was managed totally through the intravenous route (TPN, initially referred to as Hyperalimentation). In the years that have followed, refinements in the techniques, formulas, and equipment have resulted in saving millions of lives and improving the lives of many more. TPN has been described as one of the four most significant accomplishments in the history of modern surgery together with the discovery and development of asepsis and antisepsis, antibiotic therapy and anesthesia.

Medical technology vs the ethics dilemma

Technological advances in ANH in some respects outpaced changes in the bioethical and legal arenas. I have referred to the conflicts/dilemmas created by what can be done technologically, what should be done ethically, and what must be done legally as “The Troubling Trichotomy” (TTT). We can begin to answer the original question posed by using TTT via a brief summary as follows:

Technologically we can maintain the nutrition status of individuals totally via tube feedings. At the same time multiple



Drs. Albert Barrocas (left) and Stanley J. Dudrick during the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) Conference March 2019. Dr. Dudrick, who died on January 18, 2020, received many prestigious awards including being recognized as one of the “Fifty Most Influential Physicians in History” by Medscape. PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. BARROCAS

studies have indicated that individuals not receiving nourishments, particularly in end of life situations including severe dementia, neither suffer nor experience the sensations of thirst or hunger while avoiding undesirable side effects such as being restrained, fluid overload and incontinence.

But ethically, just because it can be done should an intervention be carried out if the risks outweigh the benefits.

Western society bioethics is based on four basic principles:

- Autonomy - Individuals of adult age and decisional capacity have a right to make determination regarding their care. This principle outweighs or trumps the other three.
- Beneficence - Doing the best for the individual in his/her best interest.
- Non-maleficence-Above all do no harm: “Primum non nocere.”
- Distributive justice-Fair treatment for all

As it relates to decisions whether to insert a tube for feeding, the autonomy principle dictates that it is the individual's right to make the determination provided that the healthcare team discusses the appropriate evidence-based information. Two examples of decision algorithms for the insertion of PEG tubes and the roles to be carried out by the healthcare team are: In some settings certain professionals may not be available. In that case the concept of transdisciplinarity or cross-functioning is implemented. The appropriate function is carried out by the most qualified substitute.

Legally some factors must be considered, even if technology and ethics are in concert regarding the tube feeding decision.

As is the case in the ethical realm, the law has long maintained that an adult of

sound mind has a legal right to determine what healthcare he/she will accept.

The law differs from state to state particularly in the situation when an individual is deemed as decisionally incapable. This situation is one of the main reasons for advanced care planning with execution of a living will/advance directive including assignment of a proxy.

Other perspectives to consider

As you ponder the answer to the original question keep the following in mind: The overwhelming majority of theologians, clergy, ethicists, etc., do not differentiate between withholding and withdrawing an intervention such as a PEG tube, though the latter is more emotionally burdensome and requires that “When in doubt, don't take it out.”

In some instances, the healthcare team may withhold a potentially beneficial intervention, such as PEG feedings, for fear that when found to be ineffective and/or associated with risks, the emotions from patients and families may create a major conflict.

To avoid this confrontation and still provide a potential beneficial therapy, a limited timed trial is recommended with the caveat that at the point that the healthcare team determines that the intervention is no longer beneficial or “low yield,” it will be withdrawn without input from patient or family.

Your wishes should be codified in an acceptable legal form, kept in a safe place, shared with pertinent family, friends and healthcare providers; and updated at the time of hospitalization or annually during HCDD.

Although you have an ethical and legal right to accept or reject proposed interventions, that right does not translate to a right to demand care and/or intervention not acceptable to the healthcare team.

Major nutritional, geriatric, mental health and hospice organizations support the concept of withholding/withdrawing ANH and particularly tube feedings in patients with advanced/severe dementia and those in end of life states provided the informed affected individual or surrogate decision maker agrees. For more information go to <https://www.choosingwisely.org/patient-resources/feeding-tubes-for-people-with-alzheimers/>

Without a properly executed advance directive there is no documentation of what you, as an individual desire. Oftentimes physicians are left to make the decisions for you. Do you have an advance directive (living will and or designated proxy)? If not are you comfortable leaving this kind of life or death decision up to someone who may not even know you?

In conclusion, what is the answer to the question “Tu.be or not Tu.be?” The answer is the one that you will make based on the efforts you will undertake with good evidence-based information with this article as a beginning to additional inquiry.

The doctor ate the chicken that ate the soybeans that ate the algae that ate the what?

Big Canoe Law School

GEORGE FOX

To lighten your day: here's a true medical story that has nothing to do with the Coronavirus.

Once upon a time, a physician-to-be was in college in the zoology honors program. He got a job separating female virgin fruit flies from the rowdy male fruit flies. (Don't ask.)

He did it so well that he was awarded a National Science Foundation summer fellowship. He traveled to Southern California to work on a project for North American Aviation.

Our budding physician was excessively bright, so they put him on a project which would launch a specific strain of bacteria into space, bring it back, and then examine it upon the rocket's return. Heady stuff, right?

Unfortunately, when the satellite was coming back down, the rocket misfired. There was no backup. R.I.P. that strain of bacteria.

Our young doctor was disappointed. But because of his outstanding perfor-



mance and being in the right place at the right time, he was assigned to travel to the Mojave Desert and report on algae populations as they grew through the night.

Now algae grows 10 times more rapidly than terrestrial plants, and it grows on non-productive and non-arable land. Algae doesn't require fresh water, it can be fertilized more efficiently than land crops, and you can avoid the intensive water usage and wasteful fertilizer runoff. Sounds lofty, right? Well, our physi-

cian-to-be was assigned to watch algae grow . . . on sewage at a processing plant.

Those algae were eventually harvested. They were used to fertilize soybeans. The soybeans were then processed into chicken feed.

The fowl that ate the feed were grown, slaughtered and eventually judged “safe” for human consumption.

And the culmination of the exciting summer was a big chicken barbecue celebration to which all the scientists and students were invited to partake.

Nice story, right? Well, eventually the doctor realized he was a sort of celebrity. He had the honor of being one of the first people on the planet to eat chicken that had been fed a steady diet of soybeans which were fertilized with (yuck) algae.

And not just any algae; this was special algae that thrived on the sewage at a processing plant.

So as our young doctor realized he was truly heroic, a pioneer. Columbus crossed the Atlantic. Franklin discovered electricity. And our doctor was among the first people on the planet to eat chicken that had been fed soybeans which were fertilized with algae that were raised on excrement.



GEORGE FOX

Meet with George Fox and his lawyers in their Sandy Springs or Big Canoe offices, or via phone, Facetime, Zoom, and others. They'll teach you what you need to know.

Fox is also adjunct professor in Emory Law School's Center for Transactional Law. Questions are welcome; reach him at Fox@GaLaw.com. He also cautions that what's above is not legal advice, and you should seek professional advice before doing or not doing something based on this material.

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One man's trash is ... an exhibit at Bowen

Contest remembering Big Canoe artist searches for beauty in the commonplace

BY CHRISTOPHER BARKER

With almost everyone non-essential "sheltering in place" for the foreseeable future, readers have most of what they need to become creative and competitive artists.

Time.

Trash.

Both should be in abundance as responsible Americans protect themselves and everyone else by isolating as much as possible in family groups that are creating more packaging and other household waste than normal because they're not leaving home to work and dine in restaurants.

Add creativity and thinking outside the box that has become trash, and the result can be entries in the earth-friendly Eco Art Competition postponed until July at Bowen Arts Center in Dawsonville.

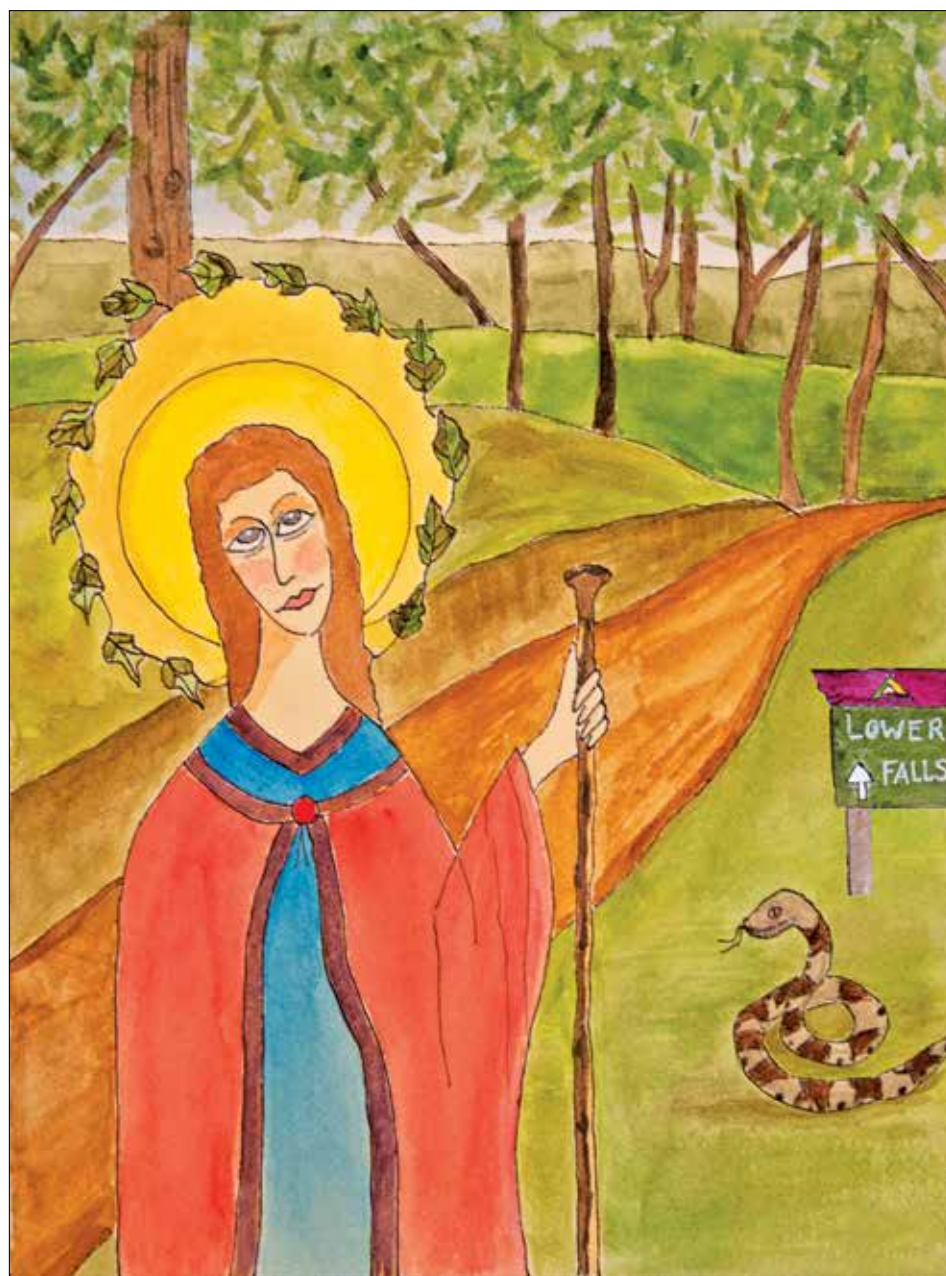
The contest and July 11-31 exhibit honors the efforts of late Big Canoe resident and artist Sara Lindkrantz, who championed the diversion of discarded materials from the waste stream into beautiful art. She and a friend, fellow Big Canoe resident and artist Lisa Schnellinger, had talked about the need for an eco-art show before her passing in April 2019.

"The show arose from my friendship with Sara," says Schnellinger, who met Lindkrantz in the photography club she was leading after Schnellinger's move to Big Canoe in 2007.

"Sara was not bound by traditional ideas – not pretty pictures," says Schnellinger at the outset. "It's hard to describe her art; she dabbled in many different mediums and was extraordinarily creative."

A glass artist who creates in a glass studio she inherited in DeKalb County, Schnellinger says her friend "was doing interesting montages, combining her own

"Sara Lindkrantz championed the diversion of discarded materials from the waste stream into beautiful art."



"Matron Saint of Big Canoe Hiking Trails," a painting by late Big Canoe resident and artist Sara Lindkrantz, is featured on a card for sale at the Bowen to support the Eco Art Competition in July.

photography of nature around Big Canoe with photos she found in antique shops. It was so imaginative."

Both were painting – "trying things and spurring each other on creatively," says Schnellinger.

"Her other great love was the environment, and she was a very early person going to war against plastic bags and pesticides. She often talked about ways to

use material headed for the landfill in art.

"She combined a love of art and the environment," such as making a work of sculpture from plastic CD cases and painting with discarded house paints.

"We discussed asking Bowen to have a show with this theme: 'Don't toss it – make art!'"

But Lindkrantz lost her 8-year battle with stage 4 breast cancer despite "being



Self-portraits were photographed by Sara Lindkrantz of herself. "I called her my Glitter Girl, because she loved bling," says friend Lisa Schnellinger.



"Chad the Shad" is a community project created from plastic lids and bottle caps at the Glynn Visual Arts Center in St. Simon's. PHOTO BY LISA SCHNELLINGER

relentlessly positive – people remarked on that. She had chemo, but if not for her super-short hair, you'd never know it. She continued to be her positive self, and she was inspirational."

Lindkrantz and her husband didn't want a memorial service, so her friend put together a retrospective exhibit – "every artist wants a retrospective," says Schnellinger with a laugh. ■ BOWEN | Page 6



"Uncle Preston" shows the Waterford bridge in Big Canoe combined with a discarded vintage photo in a digital montage that Sara Lindkrantz made.



"Christmas Journey" features Big Canoe's Lake Petit and a discarded vintage photo put together in a digital montage created by Sara Lindkrantz.

We're all in this together

Below is the text of an open letter from a group of Atlanta theaters, which was published by Atlanta InTown Paper. It was written by Matthew Terrell, communications director for Dad's Garage Theatre.

TO OUR LOCAL THEATRE FANS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY:

Right now is an unprecedented time for our community, and the local theatre community will likely be hit especially hard. COVID-19 has caused a great deal of change, and we are all facing a tremendous amount of uncertainty. Currently, our leaders are making the hard but necessary choice to ban mass gatherings of people, and nobody is sure how long this may go on. This directly affects theaters, as we will most likely be unable to host shows and sell tickets for an extended period of time. Theaters are facing a major loss in revenue because of this. In addition to the impact on our organizations, the performers, artisans, and administrative staff of local theaters

are also likely to have personal financial struggles through the coming weeks.

We are coming to you now to ask for your continued support of local theatre, even as we temporarily shutter our doors. There are three easy ways you can help support us through these uncertain times: make a donation, buy a gift certificate and talk to your legislators.

Make a donation. All of the theaters listed in this letter are nonprofit organizations. That means that we re-invest any profits we make back into our mission, rather than paying shareholders. As non-profit organizations, it also means we can accept tax-deductible donations! This is by far the best thing you can do right now to support your local theaters. A pledge for monthly support is also a wonderful way to provide sustained support as we work to recover in the coming months. Finally, if you bought a ticket to a show that gets cancelled, consider turning the cost of that ticket into a donation, rather than asking for a refund.

Buy a gift certificate. Many local

theaters have the ability to issue gift certificates that patrons can use for future shows. Please check with the theaters you frequent, and inquire if they can sell a gift certificate. Treat your future self to a night of entertainment, and once life returns to normal we look forward to welcoming you into our theaters!

Talk to your legislators. In the coming weeks there will likely be bills put forth on the state and national levels for economic relief for those affected by COVID-19. Please reach out to your legislators and let them know that nonprofit arts organizations and artists should be included in these relief packages.

We can make it through this together, but local theaters need your support to help weather this storm. Even once COVID-19 passes, theaters will still be facing financial gaps and tight budgets, and will likely be asking for your donation to offset our losses. Please have patience with us. We are all dedicated to bringing you amazing theatrical experiences.

We look forward to seeing you once again at our theaters. Until then, stay safe and healthy.

This too shall pass.

7 Stages
Actor's Express
Alliance Theatre
Aris Theatre
Atlanta Lyric Theatre
Aurora Theatre
Center for Puppetry Arts
City Springs Theatre
Dad's Garage Theatre
Georgia Ensemble Theatre
Horizon Theatre Company
Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre
Out Front Theatre Company
Serenbe Playhouses
Stage Door Players
Synchronicity Theatre
Theatre Buford
Theatre du Reve
Theatrical Outfit

North Georgia
Arts&Entertainment
APRIL 2020 | www.smokesignalsnews.com | COVERING GEORGIA, NORTH GEORGIA

One man's trash is ... an exhibit at Bowen
Contest remembering Big Canoe artist searches for beauty in the commonplace

When you think of art, you probably think of a painting or a sculpture. But what if you could find beauty in the most ordinary of things? That's the idea behind "One Man's Trash is ... an exhibit at Bowen," a contest remembering Big Canoe artist searches for beauty in the commonplace.

"Sara Lindqvist discovered the beauty of discarded materials from the waste stream into beautiful art."

We're all in this together

Being in a pandemic has changed the way we live. It has changed the way we work, the way we play, and the way we connect with each other. We're all in this together, and we need to support each other in whatever way we can.

Elm Street releases digital version of new play



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRONSON KURTZ

While Elm Street Cultural Arts Village had to cancel live performances of the Georgia premiere of Will Coleman's "Helvetica" due to COVID-19 concerns, the downtown Woodstock-based arts center has launched a complete digital experience of the play. Audiences can enjoy the show from the comfort and safety of home for free through May 10.

"Arts access has a new meaning these days," says Christopher Brazelton, Elm Street's executive director. "We still need it and this show was created for connecting — a relevant, intergenerational connection." The digital package includes a recorded version of the play, available to stream now. It was filmed by David Thompson Technologies LLC (DDT-Live). Also included: a digital copy of the program, storybook and an online gallery of production photos by Bronson Kurtz. To make the show as accessible as possible to



audiences during this time, Elm Street is offering the digital experience of "Helvetica" for free. "If you enjoy it, we ask that you consider supporting Elm Street with a tax-deductible donation which will help our programming continue during these difficult times."

In the play, children's book author Helvetica is introduced three different

times in her life. As was one of the most famous and respected children's authors in the world, her books captivated millions, but the life she led wasn't quite a storybook affair. Through the eyes of her beloved stuffed bear, Myron, we see the three women she was—the past, present, and future of the person no one knew.

"Helvetica" is recommended for ages 16+ due to strong language and mature themes. Audiences are able to experience the show digitally using the following website link: <https://elmstreetarts.org/helvetica-the-digital-experience>.

Elm Street will continue to provide updates on how the outbreak impacts the rest of their programming and the most up-to-date information will be available on their social media as well as their website.

Submitted by Elm Street Cultural Arts Village

Arts&Entertainment

A publication to highlight arts, entertainment and cultural events across North Georgia.
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"The Alliance has also launched a variety of digital resources to support learning and entertainment while much of the population is stuck at home."

ATLANTA

Alliance Theatre utilizes costume shop artists to sew masks for hospital staff



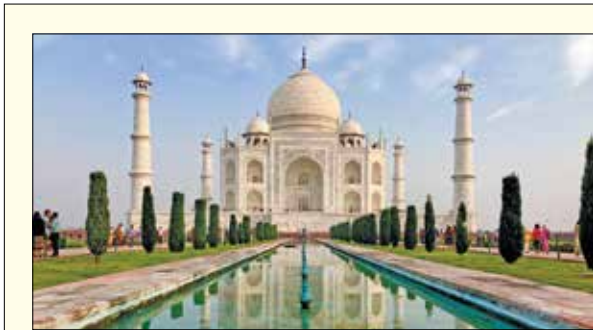
Theatre costume designers sew masks during hiatus.



The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has led to shortages nationwide in the supply of face masks at hospitals. In response, artists at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre's costume shop are working to sew masks that will be distributed to Georgia hospitals. Although the Alliance Theatre remains closed to support the call to limit public gatherings, artists are continuing to work from home to produce the masks. They will go to Emory Healthcare and other area hospitals.

The Alliance has also launched a variety of digital resources for families, teachers, youth, teens, and adults to support learning and entertainment while much of the population is stuck at home. These online resources include live virtual coaching and virtual classes for instruction on screenwriting, playwriting, arts criticism, script analysis, voiceover, monologue coaching, audition techniques: sides, self-taping, acting, and more. The Alliance is streaming its most recent productions. More information on these digital offerings is available at www.alliancetheatre.org/digital.

Submitted by Alliance Theatre



Due to precautions necessary to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), theaters and museums around the world are currently closed. Fortunately there are ways to bring culture into our homes during this unprecedented hiatus. Visit <https://artsandculture.google.com> to see inside the Dalí Theatre-Museum in Spain, the Taj Mahal in India or the Bogd Khaan Palace Museum in Mongolia (among many others). Ballet performances are available as well as concerts and shows. Google's Arts and Culture is an outstanding portal and a way to see the world while keeping safe.

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bigcanoenews.com/art-entertainment

CANTON

Canton Festival of the Arts returns with unique gifts



The Chalk Spot is back by popular demand.

Families will enjoy shopping for unique gifts for moms, grandmothers and wives the week before Mother's Day at the 17th annual Canton Festival of the Arts. The event will run Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3. See one-of-a-kind art by more than 50 artists, live chalk art demonstrations and live music.

The festival is produced by the Cherokee County Arts Center, a nonprofit dedicated to enriching community life through the arts. While entry is free, a \$5 donation per adult with a \$10 family cap is suggested to benefit the nonprofit, as this event serves as its primary fundraiser.

"We're excited that this festival is no longer a well-kept secret because of great participation in recent years," said Lisa Brunelle, board president of Cherokee County Arts Center. "It's a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful spring weather, while shopping for those sometimes hard-to-find gifts for mom. Here, finding the gift that will make an impression for a great price is easy."

Artist's Market

The popular Artist's Market is the centerpiece of Canton Festival of the Arts, showcasing more than 50 local and national artists. Visitors will find fine works of art including paintings, jewelry, pottery, woodwork, glass, sculptures and textiles at a variety of price points and styles for purchase. All artists will be onsite and some will demonstrate their craft.

Canton Chalk Spot

Last year's chalk event returns in 2020 by popular demand, now on both days of the festival. Aspiring artists will have the opportunity to create live chalk art. It is recommended to register ahead of the festival; day-of walk-in registrations are welcome while space and supplies last. There is a



MAY 2-3 BROWN PARK

"We're excited that this festival is no longer a well-kept secret because of great participation in recent years."

small registration fee, and an early bird fee if submitted by April 24.

Maker's Market

New this year! Visit our Maker's Market for homemade jams and jellies as well as handcrafted soaps, lotions and accessories for children and pets plus other fine crafts. All are handcrafted and American made.

Music Cafe

Relax and snack on great local food while listening to a talented lineup of singer songwriters and bands from Northwest Georgia.

The festival is May 2-3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Brown Park at 251 E. Marietta St. in downtown Canton, rain or shine. Free, on-street parking is available or in the Cherokee County Courthouse parking deck located at 94 N. Main Street.

The Cherokee Arts Center is located in downtown Canton serving citizens of Canton and surrounding counties. The mission is to enrich the quality of life by promoting, developing and coordinating excellence in the Art. The gallery is free and open to the public and all proceeds from the festival directly support the educational and outreach programs. Visit www.CantonArt-Festival.com or follow @CantonFestival on Facebook for more information.



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MARBLE HILL

Terraces announces summer season lineup

BY GRAHAM NICHOLSON
for the Terraces Committee

We are proud to announce the Terraces Committee has finished bookings for the 2020 season. We look forward to hosting you, your family and friends with the following musical acts, mostly on Saturdays (save for July 3) and starting at 7 p.m. Our season opener will be quite a gem, as we begin not only with one great band, but two.

On Saturday, May 23, we welcome The Wildermen, an eight-piece Americana band hailing from the foothills of the North Georgia Mountains. They live and breathe these roots, therefore sing about them with passion and emotion. The band is headed by Randy Dobson and Frankie Sparks who split time with vocals, guitar and bass. The dynamic duo of Daniel Johnson and Dallas Hyde combine on harmonica and electric guitar. Stephen Clark covers the rhythm section and percussion responsibilities. To round it off, be sure to catch Andrew Olsen, Blue Goodman and Tyler "Turtle" Smith as they create sultry horn melodies on trumpet, trombone and French horn, respectively. This group of musicians has played in various forms since their high school days. They performed with Dolly Parton as part of her Netflix series "Heartstrings" and performed in the Clint Eastwood directed movie "Richard Jewell."

Headlining that night is Madam Radar, another North Georgia band, who now calls Austin, Texas home. The band is made up of Kelly Green (lead/slide guitar and vocals), Kody Lee (drums/saxophone/vocals), Jace Cadle (rhythm/vocals), along with Violet Lea (bass/vocals), who they recruited through a Craigslist ad in Austin. They were previously named Texas K.G.B. (Kelly Green Band), which their producer Gody Quist thought needed a rebranding, and after many brainstorming sessions, agreed on their current name, Madam Radar. The group blends Americana, country and blues music. With the band now having three strong singers and songwriters, it is easy to hear contributions from all three in every song on their self-titled album. While songs have different songwriters, they all stay true to the band's sound.

We have booked the following acts for the remainder of the season:

Saturday, June 20 – The Brotherhood – Doobie Brothers Tribute Band
Friday, July 3 – The Wildflowers – Tom



Madam Radar. PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRACES COMMITTEE



The Wildermen.

Petty Tribute Band
Saturday, July 25 – AIA – Jimmy Buffett
Tribute Band
Saturday, Aug. 15 – 120 East Band
Saturday, Sept. 5 – MainStreet – Bob
Seeger Tribute Band

Please watch *Smoke Signals* and the Terraces website for information on the Clubhouse's mobile kitchen availability. Contact the Clubhouse at 706-268-2420 for further information.

"Our season opener will be quite a gem, as we begin not only with one great band, but two."

We have various ticket packages and prices for this season. Please check www.terracesconcerts.com for further information and for purchase availability. You will also be able to purchase tickets through the alpha box at the Big Canoe Postal Facility, Stand Around at Big Canoe Chapel and at the box office at the venue on concert day.

We are currently working on our supported charities for this season.

Should you have any questions regarding this upcoming Terraces Concert series, please contact Shelby Collins at 404-863-2676. During the season, we will continue to have the Concert and Weather Hotline available at 470-273-6767. For GPS address information, the Terraces Amphitheater is located at 1849 Steve Tate Highway in Marble Hill.

See you at the Terraces Amphitheater for incredible evenings of music, dance and fellowship!



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Calendar

APRIL 2020 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

THE TEMPTATIONS & THE FOUR TOPS



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3

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Theatre

- "Hamilton," Fox Theatre, Atlanta (through May 3) - PPD
- "Much Ado About Nothing," Shakespeare Tavern, Atlanta (through April 5) - PPD
- "On Your Feet," Aurora Theatre, Lawrenceville (through April 12) - PPD
- "The Outsider," Stage Door Players, Dunwoody (through April 12) - PPD
- "The Brothers Size," Actor's Express, Atlanta (through April 11) - PPD
- "The Light," Horizon Theatre, Atlanta (through April 26) - PPD

Visual Arts

- 20 Years of the Bowen - a retrospective, Bowen Center for the Arts, Dawsonville (through April 17)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Music

- Karen Waldrup, Crimson Moon, Dahlonega
- Terry Fator, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Music

- The Temptations & The Four Tops, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta - PPD

Visual Arts

- "Appalachian Perspectives" (in conjunction with "Crossroads: Change in Rural America"), The Art Center, Blue Ridge (through June 6)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Theatre

- "Menopause The Musical," City Springs Performing Arts Center at Byers Theatre, Sandy Springs, (April 4-5)

Music

- Banks & Shane, Holly Theatre, Dahlonega - new date Sept. 5
- 16th Annual ATL Blues Festival, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta - PPD
- Keith Anderson, Crimson Moon, Dahlonega
- Surrender Hill, Fainting Goat Vineyard, Jasper
- Sarah Forde, Cartecay Vineyards, Ellijay
- Orchid Care Clinic, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Music

- Alicia Keys, Atlanta Symphony Hall, Atlanta - PPD
- Boomers Gone Wild, Crimson Moon, Dahlonega
- Aspen Anonda, Fainting Goat Vineyard, Jasper
- Scott Stambaugh, Cartecay Vineyards, Ellijay

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Theatre

- "Trouble at the Tropicabana," Blue Ridge Community Theatre, Blue Ridge (PPD until 2021)

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Music

- Ben Rector: The Old Friends Acoustic Tour with Cody Fry, Atlanta Symphony Hall, Atlanta

Other

- Bill Burr, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta - PPD



KATHY HUTCHINS / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Atlanta Symphony Hall

TYLER HENRY

19

State Farm Arena

NIALL HORAN

22



TINSELTOWN / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Music

- The Official and Original Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band, Holly Theatre, Dahlonega (new date Jan. 9, 2021)
- The Mastersons with Bonnie Whitmore, Crimson Moon, Dahlonega
- Tommy Joe Conner, Fainting Goat Vineyard, Jasper
- Adrian Stover, Cartecay Vineyards, Ellijay

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Happy Easter

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Theatre

- "Moon Over Buffalo," School Street Playhouse, Cumming (through May 10)

Music

- Midori and Bartók, Atlanta Symphony Hall, Atlanta (April 16, 18)

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Music

- Rescheduled - Justin Moore & Tracy Lawrence, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta
- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at KSU - PPD

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Music

- 70s Soul Jam, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta - PPD
- Darrell Scott, Crimson Moon, Dahlonega
- Bee Gees Gold: The Tribute, Falany Performing Arts Center, Waleska
- Amanda Roark, Fainting Goat Vineyards, Jasper
- Gregg Erwin, Cartecay Vineyards, Ellijay

Visual Arts

- Eco Art Competition, Bowen Center for the Arts, Dawsonville (PPD - please see details on page 1B)

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Music

- Styx with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Ameris Bank Amphitheatre, Alpharetta - PPD
- Lindsey Beth Harper, Fainting Goat Vineyards, Jasper
- Camille Rae, Cartecay Vineyards, Ellijay
- Bert Kreischer, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta
- Tyler Henry, Atlanta Symphony Hall - PPD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Theatre

- "Cotton Patch Gospel," Theatrical Outfit, Balzer Theatre, Atlanta - PPD

Music

- RAIN: A Tribute to The Beatles, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta - PPD
- Niall Horan, State Farm Arena, Atlanta

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Music

- ASO's Donald Runnicles conducts "Carmina burana," Atlanta Symphony Hall, Atlanta (through April 26)

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Theatre

- "Ripcord," Holly Theatre, Dahlonega (new dates May 8-17)

Music

- Alexis Cole, The Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center, Gainesville (April 24, 25)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Music

- Just Roxie, Crimson Moon, Dahlonega
- Ace Suggs, Fainting Goat Vineyards, Jasper
- Travis Bowlin, Cartecay Vineyards, Ellijay
- Earth Day Celebration, Bowen Center for the Arts, Dawsonville

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Music

- Megan Fowler, Fainting Goat Vineyards, Jasper
- David Wilcox, Crimson Moon, Dahlonega
- Tommy Joe Conner, Cartecay Vineyards, Ellijay

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Music

- One Night of Queen performed by Gary Mullen & The Works, Atlanta Symphony Hall, Atlanta - PPD

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Music

- ASO's Stephen Mulligan conducts "The Rite of Spring," Atlanta Symphony Hall, Atlanta (April 30 and May 2)
- Sarah Peacock, Crimson Moon, Dahlonega

In light of the rapidly changing developments resulting from the coronavirus (COVID-19), many theaters have cancelled the remainders of their seasons, museums have closed and concerts are postponed. Those planning to hold shows at press time may cancel/postpone. Always confirm dates with venues.



Bowen

■ Continued from page 1

Art from the artist's home, art borrowed from Lindkrantz collectors and a 100-slide presentation comprised the artist retrospective at Big Canoe's Swim Club last June. Sold art and the sale of photographer John Seibel's prints of Lindkrantz's work provided the prize money for the Eco Art Competition.

Bowen Arts Center Director Ginny Greenwood was receptive to the proposal for "Sara to have the eco art show she never got to have," says Schnellinger. Originally scheduled for April, the show and contest reflected "perfect timing with Earth Day, but it's better to be safe."

"With climate change and the pandemic, there are plenty of environmental things to be concerned about. Using trash to create beauty can be inspiring to non-artists and also a chance for people who don't think of themselves as artists to be creative. Taking something ordinary and commonplace like trash and looking at it differently as a resource is a great exercise in imagination and thinking outside the box."

With the current virus limiting movement, "maybe there's more time to look at

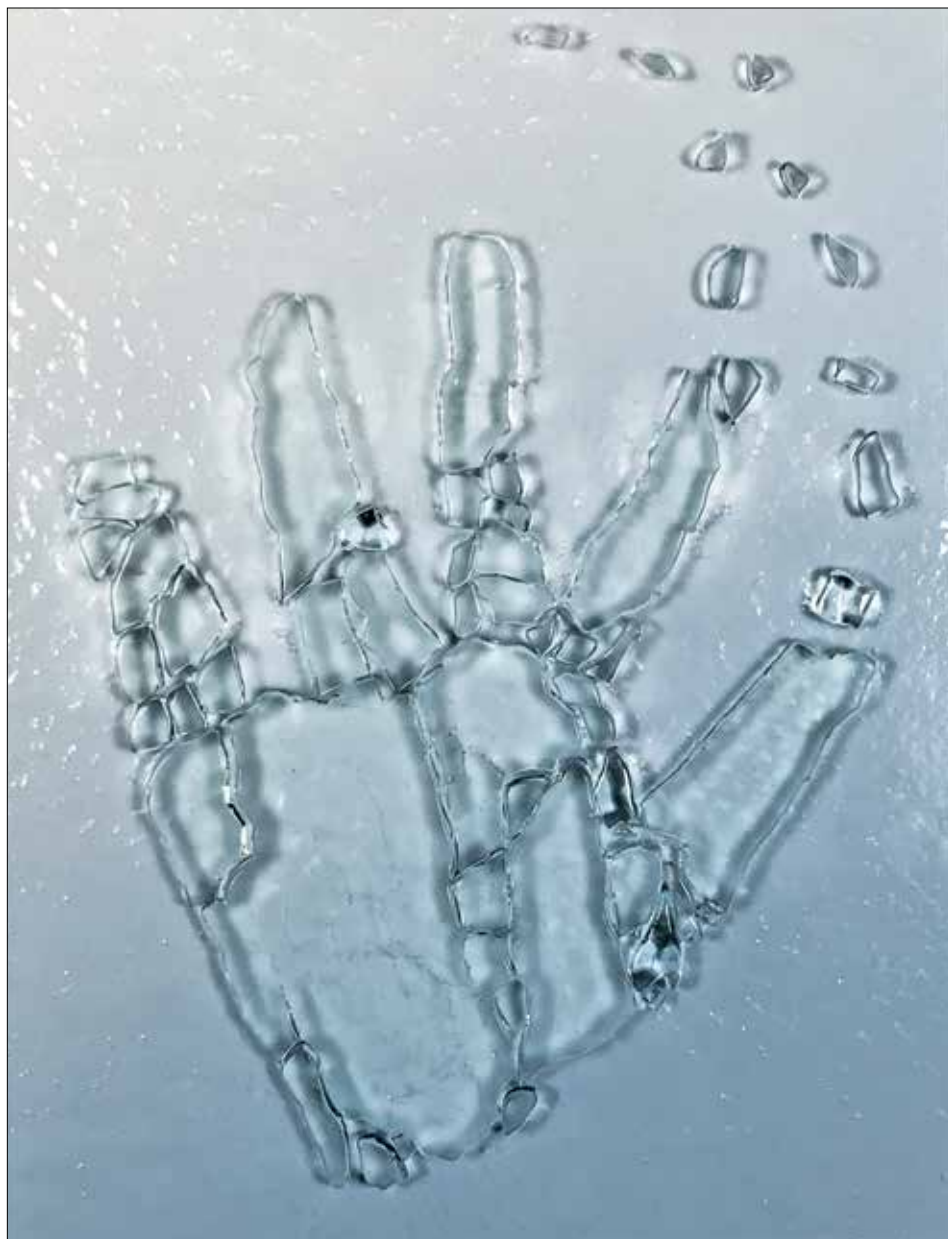


"Departure" is a kiln-carved piece made of broken picture frame glass repurposed by Lisa Schnellinger.

things more closely. I've seen artists make wonderful things from waste materials," including more than 100 artists exhibiting in a recent show about climate change.

Schnellinger says great examples of trash-from-art are at St. Simon's Island, where two pieces are on display: rags tied artistically on chain-link fencing, and colorful plastic lids and bottle caps in exhibits both "remarkable and weatherproof."

The artist says her art reuses the waste glass she finds in Big Canoe - "tabletops, windowpanes, vases. I've seen people make tapestry out of plastic bag strands they weave and collages out of old photo-



"Dissolve to Rise: Grasping" shows the use of broken tempered-glass pieces fused into artwork by Lisa Schnellinger.



"Entering the Glacier" is made from discarded glass tabletops that Lisa Schnellinger cast into a sculpture.

■ Continued on next page



Gibbs Gardens in Ball Ground is a perfect place to practice social distancing. Currently, tickets are available exclusively online. Visit www.gibbsgardens.com for the latest operational changes implemented to keep guests safe. PHOTO COURTESY OF GIBBS GARDENS



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April 29, 2020
Big Canoe Golf Club

For questions contact:
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FMLS #6667937



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FMLS #6691245



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FMLS #6649466



SOLD
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Big Canoe, GA
\$189,000, 3BR/2BA,
FMLS #6634434



SOLD
301 Kilmartin Point
Big Canoe, GA 30143
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UNDER CONTRACT
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Big Canoe, GA 30143
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00 Valley View Drive, Jasper • \$64,900 • FMLS #6660473 • UNDER CONTRACT
240 Sanderlin Mountain Drive N. \$49,900 • FMLS #6534583 • NEW PRICE
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70 Foothills Pkwy • \$175,000 • FMLS #6677863
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Continued from previous page

“Taking something ordinary and commonplace like trash and looking at it differently as a resource is a great exercise in imagination and thinking outside the box.”

graphs – not the pictures, but the materials in them that contain color. I expect we’ll see some pretty cool collections where people have used trash creatively.

“We got a surge of entries when this was first advertised, and they were inspiring – the sort of things that would prompt people to say: ‘I can do something really different here.’

“We’ve been promoting the show in Atlanta, and we hope to get pieces from artists all over the state. It would be a great tribute to Sara, and I think she’d be happy this finally happened.”

The juried show at the Bowen will bestow Sara Lindkrantz Best-in-Show awards using retrospective proceeds: \$500 for first place among adult entries, \$200 for second and \$100 for third; and student awards of \$200, \$100 and \$50.

Exhibitors may show and sell up to three entries that “must be original in concept, composition and execution by the artist,” according to guidelines. “Any recycled material can show artistic flair for a collage, sculpture or wall hanging.

“Build your work from used materials such as recyclables, post-consumer materials (no foods or liquids), scraps, fiber, plastic, glass, metal, wood, broken furniture, old paint, tools, junk, old stuff, treasures, pipes, PVC or toys,” but nothing “smelly.”

July 2 is the deadline to enter at www.bowenarts.org, and professional and amateur artists can bring their entries to the Bowen from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 2, 3, 7. Adults pay \$10 per entry, and students under 18 pay no entry fees “because we want to encourage young people to create something.” During a time when outside socializing is discouraged, “It could be a great family project as well.

“There’s no limit to what you can do – the goofier, the better. Google artfromtrash. This is not limited to professional artists.

“I hope people are having fun, because that’s what Sara was like, and I think it



Another self-portrait photographed by Sara Lindkrantz of herself.

means Sara is still ‘alive.’ I think it will be a fun show with a more serious back-story.”

Creating art from discarded materials isn’t new. “‘Upcycling’ is what a collage artist does, and you might not realize something is made from trash,” says Schnellinger.

“‘Arte povera’ is an Italian term that means ‘poor art,’” and it refers to an artistic movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s when impoverished artists “started using rags, mud, all kinds of things,” says Schnellinger. The art in that movement was “not just done by poor artists but done by well-known artists who wanted to take a different approach, turning traditional art on its head and in a symbolic way challenging commercialized art. It was an important movement with global influences that most people aren’t familiar with.

“It’s not just about an environmental issue; it’s about developing the ability to see and imagine beauty, and that’s always good for the planet.

“There’s so much beauty in the world, even in things we don’t put value on, like moss and tree bark. I think Sara saw that, and we hope to get more people to see that.”

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'Emma'



Jane Austen's "Emma" gets yet another remake. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOX HILL FILMS/FOCUS FEATURES

"Visually, this 'Emma' is straight-up eye candy between the art direction, costumes and many colorful food decorations during the tea time and dinner party sequences."

Say what you will about Paltrow's real-life online presence, but no one was more tailor-made for this character than she was over two decades ago. She effortlessly made the young woman charming and lovely, but just as much privileged as she exudes. Garai and Silverstone did fine jobs of accomplishing these traits as well. Indie film star Taylor-Joy's delivery has Emma at her brattiest, but not at a disadvantage. In fact, I'd say it makes her character arc by the end even more rewarding.

Goth and Flynn might seem like miscasting on paper, but the actress makes a surprisingly adorable Harriet and the actor-musician brings a whole extra level of masculinity to Mr. Knightley. Between "Emma," "Little Women" and Celine Sciamma's "Portrait of a Lady on Fire," fancy period pieces presently look to be the go-to genre for female filmmakers.



MEGAN BIANCO

Megan Bianco is a southern California-based movie reviewer and film historian, providing entertainment content exceeding 700 published articles to various publications since 2010. She has a degree in Film Criticism & Screenwriting from California State University, Northridge. You can follow her on Instagram @moviemuses.

Megan At The Movies

MEGAN BIANCO

Just like with Greta Gerwig's "Little Women" only two months ago, when the trailer for Autumn de Wilde's new interpretation of Jane Austen's classic romantic comedy "Emma" first dropped, my immediate question was, why? How many more on-screen versions of this popular tale do we need? Over the decades, we've already gotten a dozen or so adaptations that include an impressive feature film starring Gwyneth Paltrow in 1996; a stellar mini-series with Romola Garai from 2009; and arguably the most creative adaptation when filmmaker Amy Heckerling and starlet Alicia Silverstone modernized the story, set it in a Beverly Hills high school and called it "Clueless" (1995). So with these quality screen takes to live up to, can the new movie for a new decade hold its own?

As we know, it's 1815 in Austen's fictional Highbury, England, where 21-year-old Emma Woodhouse (Anya Taylor-Joy) is pretty, rich and precocious. She can

afford to not get married, so rather than waste time looking for a husband she may not love, her primary interest is playing matchmaker for her friends and acquaintances (and more for her own amusement than anything else). Emma's latest protégé is a new orphan girl in town named Harriet Smith (Mia Goth), who she feels is in desperate need of some guidance and social advice. The only person who sees through Emma's façade and calls her out on her shenanigans is her brother-in-law's brother George Knightley (Johnny Flynn).

Bill Nighy co-stars as Emma's humorous father and Miranda Hart is an equally amusing Ms. Bates. Like Gerwig, de Wilde began her career in a different artistic position before film directing (photography in the latter's case). Visually, this "Emma" is straight-up eye candy between the art direction, costumes and many colorful food decorations during the tea time and dinner party sequences. De Wilde's vibrant direction along with Eleanor Catton's witty script make for possibly the funniest retelling of Austen's tale yet. Similar to Scarlett O'Hara, Emma herself as a protagonist doesn't exactly have the most likable personality. She can be charismatic and sophisticated, but also—unapologetically—a brat. The specifics in the portrayal and performance can make all the difference in how appealing she is.



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“The group walked a mile in the dark to get to the boat and starting taking images around 4:30 a.m.”

Teamwork makes for stunning capture



“Milky Way over the Donna Kay.” PHOTO BY RANDY LEWIS, JUNE LEWIS, BRIAN ROBBINS & JERRY DEEDS

Big Canoe Photo Club

STEVE CARLISLE

Back in 2018, the Donna Kay, a shrimp boat working the Gulf of Mexico, washed up on the white sandy beaches of Cape San Blas, Florida, during Hurricane Michael. Four photographers from the Big Canoe Photography Club, Randy and June Lewis, along with Brian Robbins and Jerry Deeds, made the drive to

the Florida Panhandle to photograph the Milky Way above the Donna Kay. The Milky Way is only visible part of the year and on this night in February it was dark over the boat, because they were shooting out over the Gulf of Mexico, allowing the Milky Way to sparkle brightly.

The group walked a mile in the dark to get to the boat and starting taking images around 4:30 a.m. They set their cameras to make 20 to 30 second exposures at ISO 3200, with the f-stops as wide open as their lenses would allow. Brian was inside this very dirty boat lighting the inside and controlling his camera remotely with a Cam-Ranger. June lit the exterior of the boat for very short periods of time with the flashlight in her cell phone. It was truly a group effort and the resulting image is certainly spectacular!

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The rise of the Sober Curious movement

The Curious Corner

ARTSY CHOW ROAMER

*Oh demon alcohol
Memories I can't recall
Who thought I would fall
A slave to demon alcohol*
- Alcohol - Hailey Tuck

If you're like me, January 1 meant coming off a continuous run of non-stop eating and drinking through the holidays. Dry January was a desirable necessity. But why do it? As George Clooney would say, "... mainly to prove we still can!" There has been a substantial shift in drinking habits and a growing number of people are looking for ways to cut back or cut out alcohol altogether; a movement called Sober Curious.

Named after a book written in 2018 by Ruby Warrington, it is the perfect asset for those interested in an alcohol "free-ish" lifestyle. I decided to research product options to see just what might be available



Seedlip offers three distinct flavors in their distilled spirits. PHOTO COURTESY OF SEEDLIP

for January dryness. I got out the google machine and banged away. What I found was both surprising and interesting. Those dang millennials were at it again!

Ever disdainful with their "OK, Boomer" remarks, millennials have decided they aren't going to drink the same way and they are driving a change. They want to feel like they are drinking without the actual alcohol part messing things up. Not a bad idea, really, and the markets are responding.

Alcohol free beer and wine have been around for a while. My first foray into wine produced disappointment and after trying again recently, it still does. Prominent wine writer, Emma Beckett, says she really couldn't recommend any particular brand but offered that a shot of balsamic vinegar in red and verjus (acidic juice from unripe grapes) in white went a long way towards making it taste better. Sour cherry juice stands in for a pinot noir. I admit I did not try this so I can't honestly report on whether it works or not.

Heineken had a "no alcohol" product, but like others it did have a tiny amount. Their new beer is called 0.0 with absolutely none! I'm not much of a beer drinker but my husband is so we grabbed a six-pack to test. My husband thought it was great and very drinkable. ■ Continued on next page



Kin's High Rhode cocktails provide the buzz without alcohol.



Mocktails are a fun way to cut back.



Heineken 0.0 has all the great taste you expect. PHOTO BY ARTSYCHOWROAMER

Dive into Digital with *Smoke Signals* Weekly Newsletters.

Dive right in! *Smoke Signals'* Weekly newsletters are filled with news and information about activities and events in Big Canoe and nearby North Georgia communities.

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Read about local farmers markets, local theater/events, health/wellness programs sponsored by area hospitals and health centers, Terraces' concerts, Big Canoe club activities, seasonal celebrations, recycling/conservation updates, BCAR's furry friends, letters to the editor, obits, trail hikes, tournaments . . . and so much more.

If you want to know what's going on in and around Big Canoe take a tip from our doggy paddling friend and dive right in to *Smoke Signals'* Weekly newsletters. It's free, friendly and fun to read.

Sign up now at: www.smokesignalsnews.com.

Some things—just like labs and water—naturally go together. *Smoke Signals'* monthly print editions and *Smoke Signals'* Weekly newsletters: your go-to source for community news and events.

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Continued from previous page



Kin Euphorics Dream Light is a nightcap promising good sleep.

(to the degree I never seem to have one in the fridge) and I did too. Craft beers are getting into the game as well by making new flavors. Surreal Brewing Company won the World's Best Non-Alcoholic Beer in 2019 with their new craft recipe.

Seedlip is the world's first distilled non-alcoholic spirit. If vodka with water or soda is your thing, then this is your stuff. Made to be used with mixers to create grown up "mocktails," inventor Ben Branson wanted to offer unique flavor profiles using specific blends of real ingredients distilled with alcohol which burns away in the process.

Coming from a generational farming background in the UK, Branson began with Garden 108 utilizing peas, hay and local herbs like rosemary. He wanted to recreate the memory of eating fresh peas in the hayfield with his grandfather (BTW, he has the letters P-E-A-S tattooed on his right hand). It is a floral blend, but don't think gin.

He has gone on to create Spice 94 based on the Jamaican allspice berry and Citrus 42 with three types of citrus. They are not really meant to be sipped by themselves but you could if you wanted to. They are complex and a little bitter and meant to shine through in a mix like bourbon or tequila. In other good news, there is no burn going down or any additives or sugar.

Is it catching on? The products have been spotted in swanky bars such as Bacchanalia in Atlanta, the French Laundry in California and the Dead Rabbit in New York City. Hmm ... maybe it's not just a millennial thing. You can purchase Seedlip on their website at www.seedlipdrinks.com along with a book filled with recipes developed specifically for their spirits.

The next new thing in no booze is euphorics, specifically Kin Euphorics. It is manufactured using adaptogens to help manage stress, nootropics to support good cognition and several nourishing healthy plants like hibiscus and licorice. Kin is meant to elevate your state without making



Spritz is the go to for BYOC get togethers.
PHOTO BY EUPHORICS: HEIDI'S BRIDGE

you drunk or high. Can it really do that? The company claims the drinks react with your own body chemistry. While one might make you feel real laid back or Zen-another might make you feel energized and ready to party.

You could stick to water or seltzers but why not sip on something different or mix it with one of Kin's products for a "conscious connection?" Dream Light is a nightcap described as having a smooth smokey-spiced flavor that helps you sleep better and wake clearheaded. It is meant to be sipped just like any other good nightcap would be. Spritz in a can is ready to drink as your sparkling go-to for the next get together.



"Jumpin' Jack Flash" acrylic on museum profile canvas, 30x30 inches, by Jacqueline Allison.

Big Canoe Artists Club

ARTIST GALLERY: JACQUELINE ALLISON

The Big Canoe Artists Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Broyles Community Center at the Big Canoe Chapel. Membership in the club is \$25 per year, and is open to all Big Canoe property owners regardless of skill level. Members enjoy the camaraderie, educational and collective exhibit and marketing opportunities provided by association with the club. For information about club membership or club artists and their work visit www.bigcanoeartists.com.

Just grab a six-pack and BYOC!

High Rhode is promoted as a mixer; floral and tart with an herby finish. It's your ready-to-party euphoric that will energize in the best of ways. There is a great gift package with an awesome flask along with their products at www.kineuphorics.com. Get some fabulous recipes for some of the prettiest drinks I have ever seen. Being an artsy fartsy type, can I just say the bottle designs on these products will make you want the stuff.

Now you know just a few reasons why Sober Curious is on the rise and the markets are listening.



ARTSY CHOW ROAMER

Artsy is a freelance writer, columnist and full-time blogger at www.ArtsyChowRoamer.com. The North Georgia mountains and Big Canoe offer the beauty, inspiration and quiet

for the lonely endeavor of writing. Her husband and furry travel buddies are the best partners in crime. Don't be a stranger - follow her on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram & Twitter.

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ATLANTA

Theatrical Outfit announces 2020–2021 season

Theatrical Outfit is excited to announce the 2020–2021 season under the leadership of incoming Artistic Director Matt Torney.

Theatrical Outfit is deeply invested in how theatre can strengthen Atlanta's communities by starting urgent, exciting, profound conversations, by celebrating the power of live art to bring people together and recognizing an active, vibrant culture helps make a better future.

The season features six award-winning plays by the best American writers that will be extraordinary in The Balzer Theater at Herren's—intimate, with exceptional design, and outstanding acting ensembles. Opening the season, Matt Torney will direct the daring Outer Critics Circle award-winning satire "Admissions" by Joshua Harmon. "Tiny Beautiful Things," based on the book by Cheryl Strayed and adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos, will rearrange TO in a bold new way. The holidays will see a hilarious mystery for the whole family with "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" by Ken Ludwig. The New Year will get off to a rocking start with the Drama Desk award-winning musical "Passing Strange," with book and lyrics by Stew with music by Stew and Heidi Rodewald. Next, Tom Key will return to the TO stage in the haunting Tonya award-winning drama "The Humans" by Stephen Karam. Finally, the season will conclude with a powerful partnership with Theatre J in Washington D.C. on a co-production of "Fires In The Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Other Identities," by Anna Deavere Smith.

"When selecting plays for my first season I asked three questions: Will audiences love this story? Will this play shine in the Balzer Theater? And does the play start 'a conversation that matters?' For each of this season's plays the answer is a resounding yes," says incoming Artistic Director Matt Torney. "The work is theatrically daring, offers an extraordinary showcase for talented Atlanta artists, and speaks powerfully to the present moment. Additionally, I am thrilled to bring Theatrical Outfit to Washington D.C. for the first time with a co-production of a masterpiece of documentary theatre with Theatre J. This season has the potential to make a huge impact, and I can't wait to welcome you to Luckie Street to get the conversation started."

Join Theatrical Outfit's smart, authentic and vital 2020–2021 season. Season tickets are now on sale and range from \$120-240 for a six-show package. Season tickets may be



Theatrical Outfit Artistic Director Matt Torney. PHOTO CREDIT JERRY SIEGEL

purchased by calling 678-528-1500. Fees apply. Balzer Theater at Herren's is downtown at 84 Luckie St. NW, Atlanta.

"Admissions" Sept. 9–Oct. 4, 2020

Fresh from sold-out, critically acclaimed runs in New York and London, Joshua Harmon's "Admissions" boldly and hilariously tackles the college admissions process. Sherri Rosen-Mason is the white head of admissions at a New England prep school fighting to diversify the student body, yet, when her son is denied admission to an Ivy League college, the entire family's values are put to the test.

"Tiny Beautiful Things" Oct. 21–Nov. 15, 2020

Based on the New York Times bestselling book by Cheryl Strayed and adapted by Academy Award nominee Nia Vardalos ("My Big Fat Greek Wedding"), "Tiny Beautiful Things" explores Strayed's time as the anonymous, unpaid, advice columnist Dear Sugar. While navigating her readers' questions and pleas for advice, Strayed weaves together her own personal experiences to create a column full of light, laughter and humanity.

"Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" Dec. 2–27, 2020

Who killed Sir Charles Baskerville? Is his nephew Henry in danger? And is there any truth to the legend of a supernatural hound? This sounds like a case for the world's most famous detective! From the award-winning mastermind of mayhem, Ken Ludwig, comes a fast-paced comedy mystery that takes us from Baker Street to the haunted Dartmoor. Join Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as they try to escape a dizzying web of clues, disguises and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than 40 characters.

"Passing Strange" Jan. 27–Feb. 21, 2021

From singer-songwriter and Tony Award winner Stew comes "Passing Strange"—a daring autobiographical musical that takes audiences on a journey across the boundaries of place, identity and theatrical convention. Desperate to escape his boring middle-class upbringing in L.A., a young African American artist travels across Europe in search of "the real." With a Tony award-winning book, and a roof-raising score filled with gospel, rock and punk music, "Passing Strange" is "The Freshest Musical In Town" (Wall Street Journal).

"The Humans" March 17–April 11, 2021

Named the Best Play of 2016 by every major publication including NPR and TimeOut New York, "The Humans" takes a hopeful, heartbreaking and humorous look at the decline of the American middle class, and one family's hopes and fears. Erik Blake has brought his family from Pennsylvania to celebrate Thanksgiving at his daughter's new apartment in the city, but as darkness falls, mysterious things start to happen and family tensions reach a boiling point. Tom Key returns to the stage to star in this Tony award-winner and Pulitzer Prize finalist.

"Fires In The Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Other Identities" May 5–30, 2021

Theatrical Outfit and Theater J join forces to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Crown Heights riot by bringing Anna Deavere Smith's (Shonda Rhimes' "For The People") documentary theatre masterpiece to life with soaring theatricality. Taken directly from a series of interviews with over 50 members of the Jewish and black communities following the historic riots, "Fires In The Mirror" turns their voices into a tour de force one-woman show starring January Lavoy.

Planning pays in retirement

Personal savings are key to living comfortably

Michael doesn't see himself living on the beach when he retires, but he'd like to vacation there with his wife. He worries he isn't saving enough in the 401(k) account he has at work, but he isn't sure what more he can manage with two kids, a mortgage and credit cards.

Michael is like most Americans. He faces two dilemmas:

1. Saving enough money for a comfortable retirement.
2. Making those savings last his lifetime.

Retirees today are spending more than they expected. The average Social Security benefit is less than \$1,300 per month,* and it's uncertain if it will be there for Michael when he retires.

It has become rare for companies to fund traditional pensions for their employees, leaving retirees to rely on income from part-time jobs, personal savings and tax-advantaged retirement savings, such as 401(k) plans and individual retirement accounts, called IRAs.

A professional financial representative in your community can explain your retirement savings options in simple terms, so you can decide what's the best option for you. Some options include:

- **Traditional and Roth IRAs**, offering potential income tax benefits while saving for retirement.
- **401(k) and 403(b) plans**, allowing contributions to be made directly from your paycheck and grow on a tax-deferred basis. Plus, many companies match your contributions up to a certain percentage.
- **Fixed annuities**, offering a guaranteed interest rate, tax-deferred growth and a range of income options at retirement, including lifetime income you can't outlive.
- **Variable annuities**, which allow you to actively manage your investments and earn a return based on performance of the options selected.

Saving for retirement doesn't have to be complicated or costly. A financial representative can help you determine how much money you'll need in retirement and develop a plan to save.

The key is to set goals and get started. The longer you wait to start saving, the more you will have to save to reach these goals.

Let's start the conversation.



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ATLANTA

Police drummer to play with ASO

Stewart Copeland's "Police Deranged for Orchestra" is a high-energy orchestral celebration of legendary rock star and composer Stewart Copeland and his career as the founder of one of rock's most beloved bands, The Police. Performing with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Stewart will take the Symphony Hall stage Friday, Nov. 13. With more than 60 million records sold worldwide, six Grammy awards, and induction to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, The Police—founded when Copeland recruited Andy Summers and Sting in 1977—have been a defining force in rock music for over forty years.

"Police Deranged for Orchestra" is bursting with The Police's biggest hits, including "Roxanne," "Don't Stand So Close To Me" and "Message in a Bottle." With Copeland on drums, three singers, guitarist and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, these unique compositions, also arranged or "deranged" by Copeland, give new life to classic songs and select hits from the career of one of the generation's greatest and most influential artists.

Tickets are now available for the show at Atlanta Symphony Hall. Tickets are \$149.50, \$89.50, \$69.50 and \$49.50 through Ticketmaster and the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office.

■ NOV. 13
ATLANTA
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Police drummer Stewart Copeland visits Atlanta in November. RANDY MIRAMONTEZ / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

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"As with the vaccine, there are many pharmaceutical and biotech companies studying potential treatments for Covid-19."

Coronavirus—what else?



Ask The Pharmacist

DR. BOB ANDERSON

By now we are all familiar with the drill: frequent hand washing (especially soap and water); social distancing (6 feet); no handshaking, fist bumps, high-fives or hugs—elbow bumps only; self-quarantine with any kind of cold symptoms; cancel cruise plans for at least a month or two; and try not to fly anywhere outside the country. The Atlanta Metro area and Big Canoe have initiated virus mitigation policies that have cancelled

all events at least through March and probably April.

Prevention and containment procedures are extremely important as there is no immunity against the virus and no proven vaccine or approved treatment. The elderly and those with compromised immune systems are most vulnerable. Let's take a glimpse at the development of future vaccines and treatments as well as what we have learned thus far from this pandemic.

Vaccines—in development

Normally, a vaccine takes many years before it can be FDA-approved. The best attack of the virus must be identified, the safety and efficacy of the vaccine must be studied in healthy and sick humans, and it must be mass-produced for consumer use.

There are many large pharmaceutical and small biotechnology companies that are

"Prevention and containment procedures are extremely important as there is no immunity against the virus."

exploring how best to attack this specific coronavirus. Some are testing injectable and intranasal vaccines in their existing pipeline for SARS—seasonal acute respiratory syndrome—which is a similar, though not identical, to coronavirus.

One small biotech company received a \$9 million grant to accelerate the development of its novel Covid-19 specific vaccine. Clinical studies in healthy volunteers are due to start as early as March in the U.S.,

China and South Korea with results reported later this year. One million doses will be available in late 2020 for further testing and emergency use.

Drug treatment—in development

As with the vaccine, a new drug takes years in development. However, there are many pharmaceutical and biotech companies studying potential treatments for Covid-19. Fortunately, due to genetic testing and artificial intelligence, this process can be sped up considerably. In these desperate times, the World Health Organization has recommended the use of the antiviral Remdesivir. This drug has shown some effectiveness in animal studies against a similar coronavirus.

There are currently two Phase III clinical studies to identify the optimal dose in 761 moderate **■ COVID-19 | Page 3**

Stay healthy while social distancing



BY CHRISTINE FLAHERTY

We're all supposed to be social distancing. This new phrase has been at the top of every public health hit list as one of the ways to squelch the new coronavirus. So, are you hunkering down at home in an effort to avoid infection? Are you wondering when your life will return to normal? Or are you thinking . . . as much as I care about this person I am now with 24/7, I do feel a little outside stimulus might be a welcome diversion?

If you answered yes to even one of these pressing questions, this could be the time to join the Healthy Living Committee for one of its three-per-week walks. Choose Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 9:30 a.m. to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and get some valuable exercise—all while maintaining the aforementioned social distance.

Monday, we walk the relatively easy 1-mile loop at McDaniel Meadows, where walkers are free to do one loop or two.

Wednesday, we do the moderate half-mile loop around the outer perimeter of the Wildcat Pool area. Again, walkers choose the number of loops to do. Friday, we do the 2-mile red loop at the Wildcat Park (1 mile past the pool). It is a bit more challenging and includes the optional addition of the 1-mile blue loop.

Of course, then you can go home and binge-watch your favorite TV shows. Or you could clean out some closets, start writing that novel or take on a much-neglected repair project. Whatever you do, don't forget to wash your hands.

Contact Christine Flaherty at christine.flaherty21@gmail.com for more information, to add your name to our walkers' email reminder list, and to confirm the walks are being conducted.

The Healthy Living Committee is a part of the Wellness Collaborative, a 501(c)3 organization. Visit the Wellness Collaborative website at www.bcwell.org for more Healthy Living offerings and information about our other services.

"While we isolate ourselves and think we are indestructible, this tiny virus has other ideas."

Together

Mountain Musings

ANN PIKE, PH.D.

A microscopic particle in China—someone coughs and sneezes—sickness in large numbers—stock markets plunge, jobs lost—deaths ensue—commerce trembles to a halt—pandemic within three months.

It started with a cellular particle discernable only under an electron microscope. Is there any doubt we are all intimately connected with each other? Somebody coughing in China can make me sick and possibly die. I never knew his name and he never knew mine. We don't speak the same language and have never shared a meal. Yet we are intimately connected through this microscopic particle.

While we isolate ourselves and think we are indestructible, this tiny virus has other ideas. It teaches us what it can, within its web of contagion. We are all connected. We are connected more than we would like to believe. This is unsettling to our sense of independence and invincibility. This tiny particle challenges our belief that we are independent actors, making decisions about



A meal delivered to someone in quarantine is a reassuring gesture.

ourselves in unconnected ways. Surely it can't be true that when someone coughs in China hundreds of thousands get sick here. This is scary, to say the least, but as scary as it is, it is the truth.

Fortunately, there is a less unsettling side to this scenario. Ironically, it is because we are connected that we will survive. If I embrace the fact that what I do affects you, and vice versa, perhaps we can connect around what is good for both of us. Perhaps even a microscopic particle can't divide our resolve if we unite around a common good. We are not so independent as we want to think. This is what this virus has to teach.

The question is, are we listening? Can we accept this mutual interdependence as a reality? Accept it or not, it is the truth.

On a large scale, if we share research, resources and knowledge, we can all benefit. On a small scale, if I don't shake your hand, don't be offended. Thank me. I am looking out for you and me. What was once bigger than any of us individually, becomes manageable by all of us. If you go out of your house only when necessary, I thank you for looking out for me. I will look out for you by wiping down the grocery cart when I have to shop. Even though I may not know you, your health is a concern to me. It

may eventually be my own health that is at risk, if I don't.

If we play by these rules, the virus won't win. We will. This virus is a bit of a blessing because it calls on us to be our best selves by looking out for others. If we resist, we do so at our own peril. This is the truth.

It is a danger when any of us feels invincible and separated from the rest of us. They are mistaken and perhaps deluding themselves out of fear. Let's reassure them by putting meals or medicines at their doorstep if they are sick. Call people who live alone and may feel socially isolated or depressed. Let them know in their moments of loneliness they are doing their part for someone else. Thank them.

We will get through this together. The whole is always greater than the sum of its parts.



ANN PIKE

Ann Pike, a 13-year resident of Big Canoe, spins tales from the comforts of her mountain home. She attributes her success to generous friends who support her with encouragement and inspiration. By day, Dr. Pike is a licensed psychologist in Jasper, appreciative of the opportunity to witness all those who triumph over life's challenges.

'Getting Through the Going Through'

Big Canoe Chapel Women's Guild

SUSAN STARLING

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
-Philippians 4:6

All women in Big Canoe and the surrounding area are invited to attend the Women's Guild meeting on Wednesday April 9. This, our last meeting of the season, will be in Broyles Center beginning at 10 a.m. During this time of social distancing, please confirm the meeting is being held.

The guild is looking forward to having Nancy Lucenay speak on "Getting Through the Going Through" and sharing stories of how people in Asia are counting on God. Cathy Wentworth will entertain us on the Bell Tree.



Nancy Lucenay. COURTESY OF NANCY LUCENAY

Nancy, a native of Dallas, Texas, has been married to Harry for 50-plus years. Harry and Nancy have been in ministry 51 years, serving churches in Texas, Mississippi, Hong Kong and Georgia. Committed to encouraging impoverished church leaders on the mission field, they founded Way Walkers Worldwide, a nonprofit organization providing culturally

sensitive leadership training. Nancy has been a Bible teacher for 50 years, teaching in the U.S. as well as Hong Kong, Myanmar, Malawi and the Philippines. Her interest in racial reconciliation led to her involvement in the establishment of the Baptist World Alliance Freedom and Justice Commission. With a passion for understanding Scripture, Nancy is an avid student of biblical and Majority World cultures. She blogs at www.nancylucenay.com.

Join us to support Books and More, the guild's major fundraiser for this year. See accompanying article for details.

The purpose of the Big Canoe's Women's Guild is to bring together women of Big Canoe and the surrounding communities, to encourage Christian fellowship, to understand God's will for our lives through Bible study, and to promote activities that benefit the chapel and surrounding communities. More than \$1 million has been donated to agencies in Dawson and Pickens counties through fundraising efforts of the guild. For more information about the Women's Guild, visit www.bigcanoechapel.org.

Books and More

BY SUSAN STARLING

Big Canoe's Women's Guild has postponed Books and More. A new date will be announced.

When the event occurs, come browse the "Ye Olde Book Knook" and find some entertaining books and puzzles. Visit the "Nearly New Boutique," featuring gently used scarves, purses, shoes, jewelry and more. After shopping, relax and enjoy refreshments with friends at the "Heavenly Coffee Shoppe."

This is the guild's major fundraiser for the year, so bring your friends and help support many very worthwhile agencies in Dawson and Pickens counties.

What really happened at the Broyles Mission Conference

BY BRENT CARROLL

The 30th Broyles Mission Conference, Feb. 20-23, at Big Canoe Chapel has successfully concluded, with no thanks to Mother Nature.

Winter's breath blew cold with snow, rain and icy roads resulting in a mad scramble to reschedule, reorganize, reprint and essentially replan how to pack a four-day event into 36 hours. The call was sounded, the gauntlet hurled and the Broyles Mission Committee courageously met that challenge—with lots of help from chapel staff, members and the guest speakers from Atlanta Mission, Hope for Haiti's Children, Young Life Pickens and North Georgia Family Partners.

Calm was restored and the conference proceeded, better than ever. Over 200 chapel members enjoyed a gourmet dinner, cookies, ice cream and lots of fellowship. Musical performances by the renowned University of North Georgia Singers brought standing ovations. Saturday's fun-filled Hospital Art PaintFest resonated with laughter, smiles and amazing wall murals by Big Canoe amateur painters. But the showstoppers were the moving, powerful and inspirational presentations delivered by the four speakers from each of the Christian organizations represented.



Broyles Mission Conference Co-Chairs Frank and Nancy Schwartzmiller launch the three-day event.



University of North Georgia Singers delight the audience during the Broyles Mission Conference. PHOTOS BY RAY DUNCAN

Conference Co-Chairs Frank and Nancy Schwartzmiller stated, "It takes many hands to prepare for the mission conference. We were blessed with an incredible team who worked with amazing flexibility. They never lost sight of the larger purpose, which was bringing the community together in fellowship to see how they can be the hands and feet of Christ through outreach and service. This community continues to blow us away with its service and commitment."

Hearts were moved. Minds engaged. And Big Canoe stepped up with giving. If you've wondered how the gifts are used, consider this. Last year, three Indonesian villages were so malnourished that 1 out of 5 children died before the age of 5. Today, the villages are free of malnutrition.

Here at home, the Broyles Mission Conference helped No Longer Bound increase its staff to serve men with diagnoses of substance abuse, depression, anxiety and bipolar disorders. In Syria, Help the Persecuted has aided hundreds of Syrian families with winter clothing, food, furniture, kitchen supplies and heaters for cold days. On behalf of Help the Persecuted, Mary O'Brien writes, "...



It takes many hands to pull off an anniversary dinner celebration for 200 people. Chapel members Susan Schwall, left, Pam Hopper, Dan Bellenger, Judie Bellenger, Glenda Mitchell, Jayne Greene, Peggy Nelson, Jan Cates and Bill Nelson.



Amateur painters, including chapel members Bob and Susan Schwall, enjoy the Hospital Art PaintFest.

never seen this much joy on the faces of children and adults."

For the past 30 years, the Broyles Mission Conference has supported over 180 selected organizations in 50 countries with well over \$1,500,000 given toward

the improvement of the human condition. Donations may be mailed or dropped off at Big Canoe Chapel, 226 Wolfscratch Circle, Jasper, Georgia 30143. Checks should be made payable to Big Canoe Chapel/Missions.

Living



This Side Of The Guitar • 7

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iTips Of The Month

A few of my favorite things

BY GARY CHERRY

To satisfy the frequent requests I receive about apps for the iPhone, I've listed the most popular—and useful—ones available. While many may not interest you, go through the list and choose those you can use.

If you download and install an app and find that you don't need it, it's simple to delete it. Just hold on the unwanted app to get it wiggling (on earlier model iPhones) or to open a small menu. Choosing Edit from the menu choice gives a wiggling app. In both cases, there will be an X to delete the app.

General apps

Google. This is possibly the most downloaded app, and for good reason. Want to find nearby restaurants or track a package using your voice? Google's app isn't just for searching the web. The official app allows users to have full-fledged conversations with their phone. It's also an excellent place to find the latest news. Indispensable!

YouTube. Next to Google, YouTube (owned by Google) is the most used and downloaded app. Coincidentally, during almost every iPhone class we conduct, Google and YouTube are the two places we recommend to search for information about the iPhone's use.

Dropbox. Dropbox lets you back up photos and videos and access files stored on any of your computers or mobile devices—from anywhere. It's easy to send any file, large or small, to anyone.

Kindle. If you like to read books on



WhatsApp is a useful app for your iPhone. ALEX RUHL / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

your iPhone or iPad, this app is for you.

WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a great choice for anyone who doesn't have unlimited texting and spends a lot of time connected to Wi-Fi. It lets you send and receive messages, pictures, audio notes and video messages. Most importantly, this app allows you to FaceTime and chat with Android users. It's one of the most feature-packed chat apps out there and absolutely worth downloading. Do yourself a favor and give it a try.

GIPHY. GIPHY is your top source for the best and newest GIFs and animated stickers online. Find everything from humorous GIFs, reaction GIFs, unique GIFs and more. Use them with text messages.

Travel apps

Google Maps. Google Maps gives a somewhat different look and with proprietary traffic conditions. I like to compare its information with what I get from Apple Maps.

Waze. In my opinion, this is the best

mapping app for active directions while driving. It even lets you know of stopped traffic and radar sites ahead.

Google Translate. This app is very useful if you travel abroad.

TripAdvisor. Whether you're at home or abroad, TripAdvisor is one of the best apps to download. Its massive database has over 700 million reviews from travelers all around the world on attractions, restaurants and more.

Mobile Passport. Mobile Passport is a program authorized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, designed to help travelers move more quickly through U.S. Customs checkpoints when returning to the United States from an international trip. Once downloaded, you only need to have Wi-Fi or mobile service at a participating port of entry into the U.S. to use this app.

Maps.me. Download and save city maps, which can then be used with no cell service.

Currency FX. This app is an easy-to-use currency converter.

iExit. One of my most recommended travel apps, iExit gets lots of information at all interstate highway exits.

Fly Delta. Who doesn't use Delta out of Atlanta?

FlightAware. This app is very helpful if you want to know if a flight has departed/landed. It's also fun to track the progress of any flight, using the flight or tail number of the airplane in question.

Tune in next month for more discussion of popular apps.

“Imagine her excitement, or shock as she put it, upon learning she won Grand Prize in the national contest, having her photograph judged the very best out of a whopping 2,500 entries.”

Diane Hooper wins national photography contest

Big Canoe Photo Club

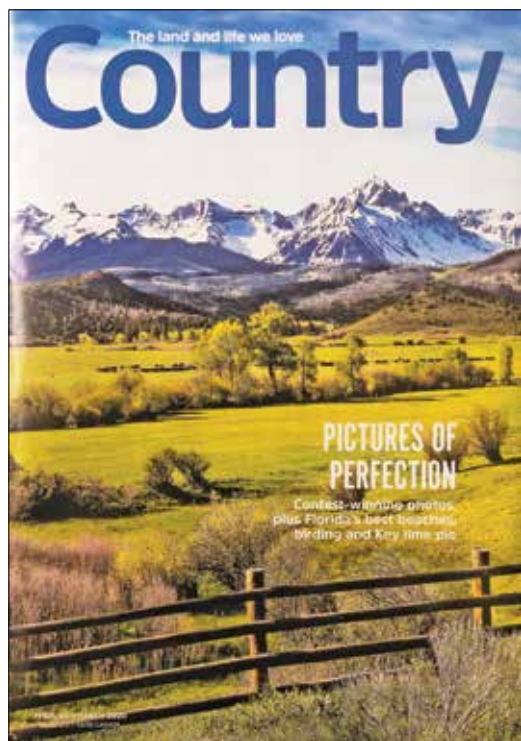
STEVE CARLISLE

The deadline was looming and she knew the competition would be formidable, but at the last minute and on the spur of the moment, Diane Hooper bravely submitted her landscape image, hoping for any kind of recognition. Imagine her excitement, or shock as she put it, upon learning she won Grand Prize in the national contest, having her photograph judged the very best out of a whopping 2,500 entries. It's every photographer's dream to win a contest, but seeing your picture on the cover of a magazine is exhilarating!

Diane Hooper attends the Photography Club meetings during the wintertime, when she and her husband live at their home in Big Canoe. She shared her joy with other members at a recent meeting, proudly holding up the magazine with her picture on the cover.

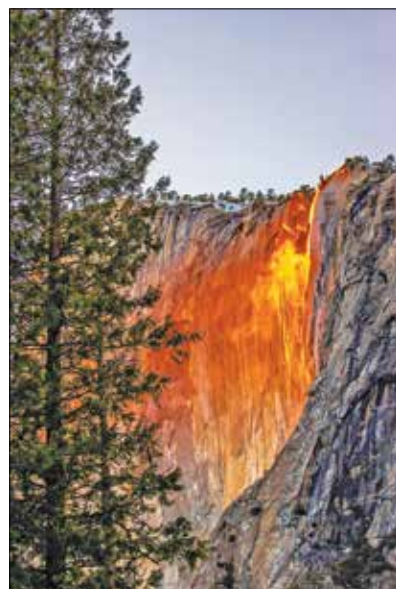
Not only did she win the Country magazine photo contest, but the grand prize came with a check for \$1,000. She took the award-winning picture of the majestic, snow-covered peaks in the San Juan Mountains of southwest Colorado, where she spends the summer each year.

It had been a really tough winter with record-breaking amounts of snowfall.



Diane marveled at the striking contrast between the fresh grass and budding leaves against the background of soaring mountains, still dressed in white. It was a gorgeous spring day and the brilliant blue sky and the picturesque fence framed her shot beautifully. She captured the scene with an 18-55mm wide-angle zoom lens on her Canon camera.

Diane Hooper came upon a rare sighting a few years ago while visiting Yosemite with her daughter. Mother Nature's



“Let the fire fall!”

Diane Hooper's grand prize-winning photo (left) of the San Juan Mountains. PHOTOS BY DIANE HOOPER

“firefall” only happens in February when the sun hits the top of Horsetail Falls at a certain angle creating an illusion of molten lava being poured over the edge to the delight of the crowds below. She scrambled to park the car and set up her tripod before the light dimmed and ended the spectacle for another year. Hooper found a spot and took the magical photograph titled “Let the fire fall!” accompanying this article.

The Yosemite firefall began as a nightly event in the late 19th century as

actual spilling of burning hot embers over the top of Glacier Point to the valley 3,000 feet below. This spectacular event thrilled park visitors at precisely 9 p.m. every night for almost 100 years. David Curry, who was the master of ceremonies, would stand at the base of the fall and shout, “Let the fire fall!” The glowing embers made a dazzling display of bright orange as they flowed to the valley below, delighting the national park's campers. The park stopped the event in 1968 because of damage by spectators and the belief it was not fitting with the theme of nature.

In 1973, with the 100th anniversary of the park nearing, a natural firefall was photographed by Galen Rowell at Horsetail Falls. His iconic photograph has brought the exciting event back to Yosemite, this time as a natural occurrence that resembles the manmade firefall from the past.

Diane typifies of the kind of photographer that makes the Big Canoe Photography Club well known for its depth of talent and experience. But the range of expertise extends from seasoned pros to those eager to learn and spend a few hours mingling with other residents of our community who share a love of this fascinating medium.

The group gathers in the upstairs room at the Swim Club the third Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m. April 18 will be the next meeting and anyone interested in photography is welcome to attend. Please confirm this meeting before coming to the Swim Club.

COVID-19

Continued from page 1

and severe hospitalized patients with the Covid-19 virus in China. My former employer, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, is coordinating a global study on Remdesivir's safety and efficacy in 394 patients in 50 sites. One of their first patients is from the Princess cruise ship! These studies are considered the “gold standard,” double-blind, random-assignment and placebo-controlled, so the results should be meaningful.

Kaletra is a currently marketed combination antiviral drug for HIV which attacks a key enzyme needed for viral replication.

A U.S. pharmaceutical company donated a large supply of this drug in January for experimental treatment for hospitalized patients in China. Additional clinical studies are planned for the U.S. and Europe.

Favilavir, a derivative of the antiviral Acyclovir (used to treat the herpes virus) was recently approved in China to fight the coronavirus. In a small clinical study of 70 patients in China, the drug showed some efficacy and safety. More studies will be needed for FDA approval.

What have we learned?

I think our government underestimated the scope and significance of the Covid-19 virus and is playing catch-up with 9th-inning funding. There has been a shortage of viral test kits and confusion on access and procedures for their proper use

and delays in getting results. Equipment—especially face masks for health personnel and respirators in hospitals—are in limited supply and/or distribution. South Korea has found that frequent testing and isolation is the best way to contain the virus. If the virus is not adequately contained here in the U.S., it will easily overrun our healthcare system.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has been the scapegoat for many of these issues. Since the SARS epidemic of the early 2000s, the government still does not have a pandemic policy. Even Big Canoe has one! In recent years, funding for the CDC and National Institutes of Health has been the subject of several unsuccessful attempts for major cuts.

If report cards were issued, I think the

U.S. government so far gets a “D” due to its unpreparedness. Despite inconveniences and cabin fever, I think U.S. citizens—including Big Canoe residents—are following recommendations by their state, county and local officials and deserve an “A.” Hopefully, we will have a proven vaccine, treatment and a better pandemic strategy in place for the 2020-21 seasons.

In the meantime, better stay healthy!



DR. BOB ANDERSON

Dr. Anderson is professor emeritus from Mercer University and a full-time resident of Big Canoe.

He is Risen



We welcome everyone to join us in the celebration of Easter

- APRIL 5th PALM SUNDAY SERVICES 9:00 & 10:30 am
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- APRIL 10th GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 pm
- APRIL 12th TERRACES SUNRISE SERVICE 7:00 am
- APRIL 12th EASTER SERVICES 9:00 & 10:30 am



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Gatherings

BY ANITA ROSEN

arosen@bigcanoenews.com

Editor's Note: During this period of social distancing due to COVID-19, please check for cancellations of any of the dates described below.

Big Canoe Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge Group

The cards were good to Taylor Leonard and Bruce Toups playing North/South on Feb. 14 and finishing with 60.50 percent. Donna Welsh and Dottie Nix combined for 58 percent to lead the East/West position. Feb. 21, it was Bob Crouch and Chuck Palmer topping North/South at 59 percent; East/West was dominated by Gary Charles and David Gillard, 68 percent. The final game in February brought Crouch and Palmer top honors for all players at 65.10 percent. March 6, it was Crouch and Palmer again, 65.53 percent, but Arthur and Leni Olsen took the leading position March 13 at 64 percent.

The group meets Fridays. Games start at 12:30 p.m., registration is at 12:15 p.m. Bob Crouch can provide information on location, schedules and fees, 706-579-3375/rfcrouc@aol.com. Scores submitted by Big Canoe Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge Group

Big Canoe Artists Club

At the March meeting, Lisa Schnelinger discussed a juried art show she is arranging to honor former club member Sara Lindkrantz that will focus on found object/recycled items art ("eco art"). Sara, who saw the value and beauty in everything, encouraged others to help Mother Earth and give new life to recyclables. The sale of Sara's works will provide prize funds for this exhibit. Show details and entry form can be found at <https://www.bowenarts.org/events/eco-art-competition> and in the cover story of this month's Arts & Entertainment



Guest speaker Brian White leads Pine Needle Quilters in a session on foundation piecing. PHOTO BY CAROLE ENGLISH

section. Contributed by Monica Burnette

Pine Needle Quilters Guild

There is no better way to start the month than by learning a new quilting technique. The quilt guild was excited to have Brian White return for another workshop, this one on foundation piecing. This class lived up to Brian's reputation for providing fun and information in a relaxed, enjoyable class. As shown in the accompanying photo, everyone went home with at least one block completed and the skills to complete the other eight.

March continues to be a busy month for our guild with several outings planned. On March 12, members carpoled to the Original Sewing and Quilt Expo in Duluth. Lots of chatter, planning, drooling over fabric and buying of quilting necessities was present on the trip, which was followed by a great lunch. March 17 was our regular SEW&SEW at the Village Station. Mem-

bers were busy picking out and preparing projects to take to our annual retreat, which is scheduled for March 31-April 3 at The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge. Over half of our members are planning on attending the retreat this year. There will be lots of sewing, laughing, eating and fun for all.

April will arrive with an unusual meeting for our guild. We will share the highlights and pictures of our "Fun and Games" meeting featuring "Let's Make A Deal" and "Strip Poker." Members are encouraged to wear Vegas-themed hats for the meeting—and don't forget your "strips."

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m., in the lower level classroom at the chapel. There are always door prizes, show-and-tell, refreshments and lots of friendly faces to welcome prospective members. If you are interested in joining the guild, whether you are an experienced quilter or a beginner, contact Barb Fraser,



Beth Moreau explains proper framing at the Big Canoe Artists Club meeting. PHOTO BY MONICA BURNETTE

757-373-4527. Contributed by Barb Fraser

Travel Club postpones meetings

Due to concerns about the novel coronavirus, the Travel Club regretfully announces the postponement of its April meeting and hopes to reschedule the speaker for a future date. The meeting was to have featured Kim Guimaraes, Abercrombie & Kent's national sales director for Luxury Expedition Cruises.

When Travel Club resumes, members and guests are invited to come early to meet and mix and enjoy a complimentary beverage. Programs begin at 6 p.m., in the Mountains Grill at the clubhouse. Contributed by Margo Vallone

Contact Anita Rosen, arosen@bigcanoenews.com, with club or community gatherings. Check www.bigcanoepoa.org for information on Big Canoe clubs/organizations. Always confirm meeting times and locations.

Ridgerunners to hold 'Spring into Fall' Luncheon, Sept. 8

BY CHRISTINE FLAHERTY

It may seem too early to think about fall, but perhaps a bit of focus on the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel will serve us well. Unfortunately, given the current climate and in the interest of keeping all residents healthy (and happy?), Ridgerunners is postponing its annual spring luncheon, formerly scheduled for April 14. We likely

have all heard the "abundance of caution" explanation way too frequently of late, but once again it applies.

So, mark your calendars as we will launch the fall season with a fun and festive "Spring into Fall" luncheon, Tuesday, Sept. 8. The venue will be the rustic and charming Willows Farm. It is a short ride from Big Canoe and will be festooned with decorations to celebrate the season. The announcement of the

Ridgerunners' Big Canoe Woman of the Year will also take place at this event, which will open the 2020/2021 Ridgerunners' season. Like the butterfly emerging from its cocoon, Ridgerunners will surely be ready to spread their wings and gather together as we discontinue the glum and challenging practice of social distancing. Members for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 seasons will all be invited. Additional details on this event will be

circulated this summer and posted on the Ridgerunners' website, www.bigcanoerr.com.

Ridgerunners is Big Canoe's largest women's social and educational organization. All women residents of Big Canoe over the age of 21 are invited to join. To become a member, visit our website at www.bigcanoerr.com. Ridgerunners' events are open to members only.

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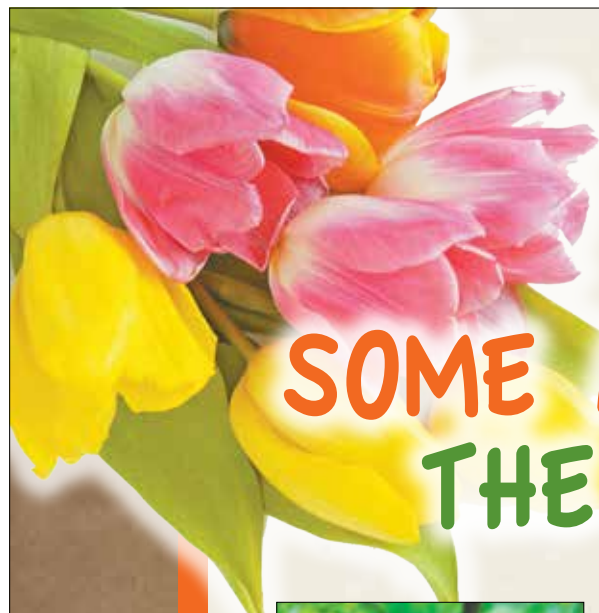
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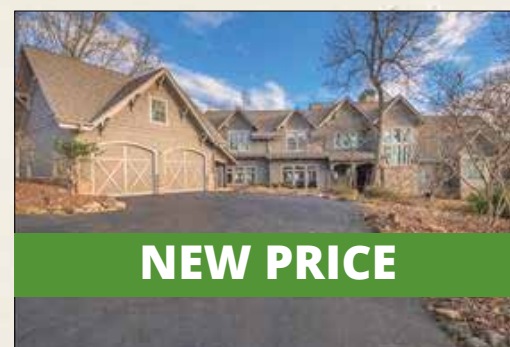
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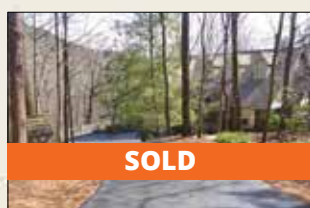
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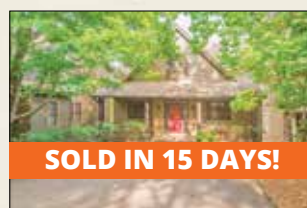
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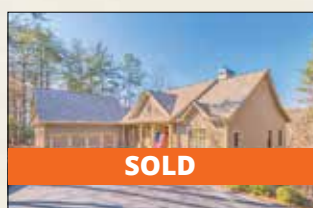
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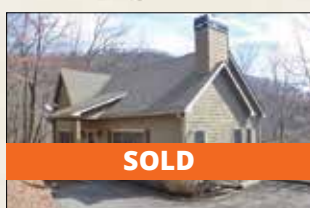
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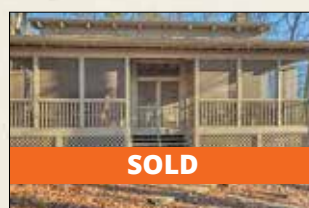
9 Chestnut Knoll



88 Woodpecker Way



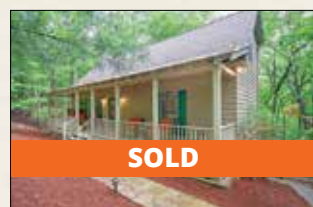
566 Deer Run Ridge



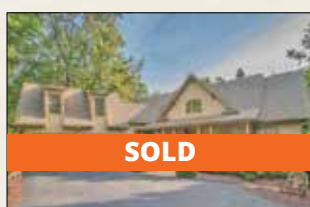
30 Buckskull Point



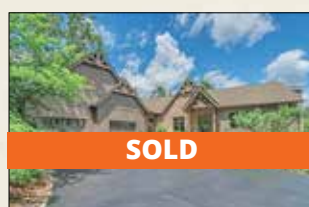
196 Petit Ridge



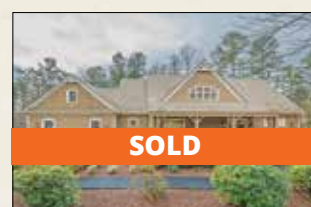
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"It was pretty bad for Joan for a while, and also for me as I had to do all the cooking, cleaning and shopping for six weeks."

Banana peels and a perverted sense of humor

Snapshots: Tales Of Big Canoe

BRENT CARROLL

As a kid, I loved the Road Runner animated cartoon series. Wile E. Coyote always got clobbered in the end, winding up on crutches, bandaged head-to-toe, getting his just desserts. Same with Bluto in the Popeye episodes. How that guy survived all those injuries was amazing, I don't care if it was make-believe. Call me sick, but it's just funny stuff. Like slipping on a banana peel.

Well, life imitates art. A few weeks back, when my friend Rick was driving home from a long day of painting houses, a 3-inch, blood-red Japanese hornet flew through his driver's side window. Bad enough, but worse, the SOB flew smack into Rick's open mouth where it promptly impaled its dagger in Rick's tongue and cheek. Rick managed to hack and spit out the devil, but it then flew down the back of his shirt, and for added measure, stabbed him a few more painful times.

I never thought to ask Rick why his mouth was wide open to begin with, and he didn't volunteer that information. I'm guessing maybe he was singing to himself. Yodeling or yawning. Or, maybe he was making that awful clucking sound that Joan does when she's trying to get her ears unstopped. Whatever, it was a really bad situation but still funny in a perverted kind of way.

I mean, heaven forbid, if he had corked off how would his obit have read? "Rick so-and-so died unexpectedly March 10 after a momentary struggle with an attacking red Japanese hornet. The Pickens County Coroner declared death by murder. The murderer is still at large. Rick is survived

by his wife of 32 years, Rebecca, who requests that in lieu of flowers, family and friends band together to hunt down what local entomologists proclaim as the only sighting ever recorded of a giant killer hornet in the U.S." Something like that, anyway.

Well, the rest of the story. Rick's no dummy, so when he started wheezing and noticed in the rearview mirror that his face was swollen as a tick, he floor-boarded it to Piedmont. They took care of him with an IV and a shot in the fanny. He's fine, but now drives with his windows rolled up, permanently. You have to be careful out there.

Closer to home, golf is a dangerous sport. Joan broke her wrist the other day after launching a drive that landed 3 inches from the Choctaw par 3 second hole. Giddy with excitement, jumping up and down like a bobble head, elatedly skipping

"I never thought to ask Rick why his mouth was wide open to begin with, and he didn't volunteer that information."

back to the cart, she tripped on the tee box marker and face-planted. Her face came up OK, but her wrist looked like something from a horror movie.

It was pretty bad for Joan for a while, and also for me as I had to do all the cooking, cleaning and shopping for six weeks. And, to top it all, I had to be really encouraging, supportive and nice to Joan. All that can take a lot of a man. Anyway, like Rick, she's fine now, but is considering giving up golf on a high note (a birdie on Choctaw 2, and a permanent limp wrist to show for it.) You have to be careful out there.

Then there's our friend Brenda, who, standing on a chair endeavoring to reach a container situated on a high shelf, fell backwards, crashing back-first on the hardwood floor. "I broke my back," she croaked. Well, she managed to crawl to her cell phone, called hubby who fortuitously answered on the first ring. "I've broken my back!" Brenda croaked again. "Come home right away, I need to go to the ER."

"Brenda," he said. "You've not broken your back, besides I'm about to tee off with my group. Take two Advil."

"John!" she yelled. "I've broken my back! I heard it snap! Get over here right now."

"Brenda, calm down. It's probably just a bruise. I'll try to come home at the turn. See you in a couple of hours."

As Brenda tells it, John came home three hours later, a touch soused from the 19th hole. He took one look at her pain-grimaced face and semi-slurred, "Maybe we should take you to the ER."

Once there Brenda informed the doctor, "I fell and broke my back."

"Now, now," expressed the doc. "Let's not jump to conclusions, I think it's likely bruised, but let's get a scan to be sure." Thirty minutes later, the good doc announced, "Her back's broken!"

"What?" asked John. "Her back's broken!"

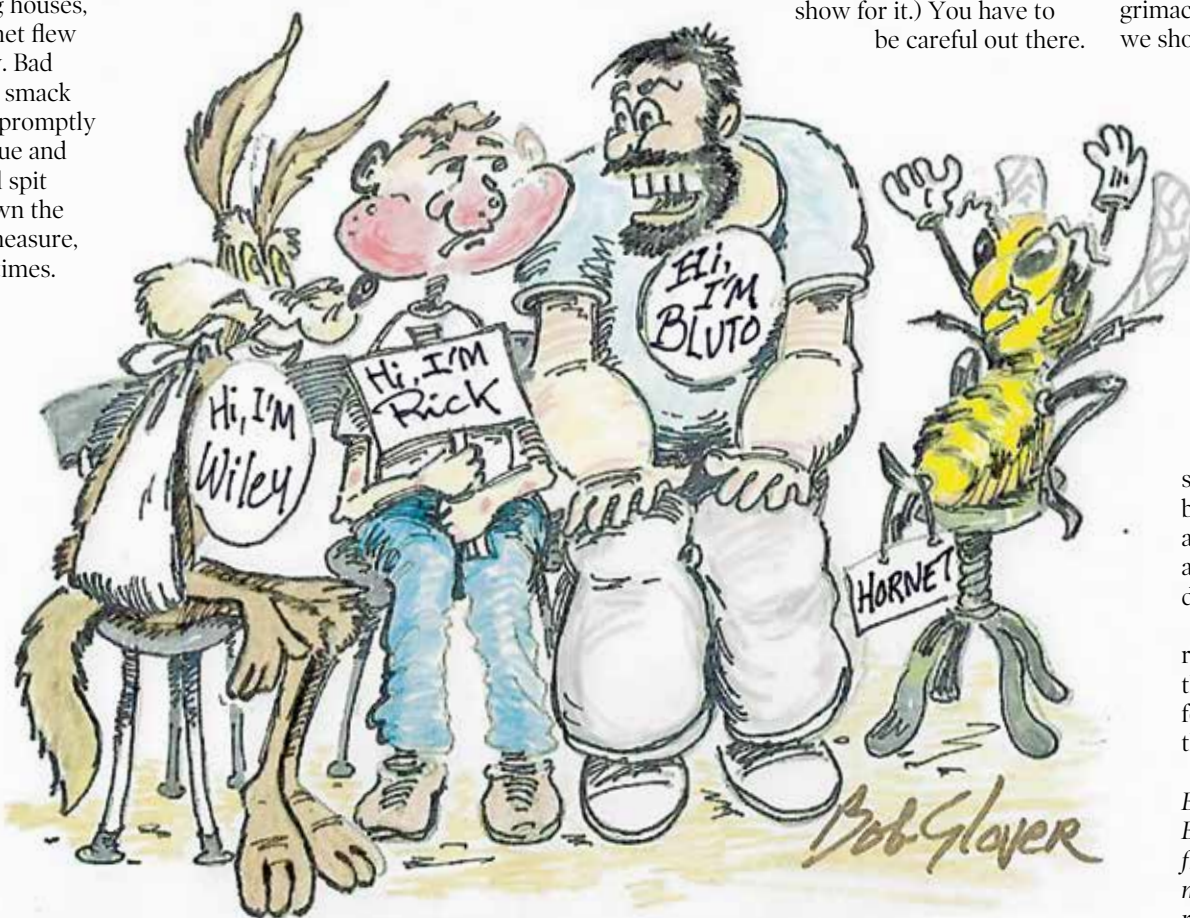
Doctor: "She broke her back!"

Brenda: "I broke my back!"

Some people are just plain stubborn. But, Brenda's back is, well, back, and she's about her business as usual. That was about three years ago. I believe John is still in the doghouse.

I don't know if all this is age-related or what. But, I'm convinced that no matter, we have to watch out for banana peels and be careful out there.

Brent and Joan Carroll moved to Big Canoe in 2014. He is an avowed frustrated writer, recognized by mixed tenses, copious commas and run-on sentences. Still, he is widely published—in his own mind.



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Acoustic Showcase pleases all musical tastes

This Side Of The Guitar

TOM KILPATRICK

“What’ll ya have, what’ll ya have?” No, you are not at The Varsity in Atlanta. You are at the monthly Acoustic Showcase in Big Canoe. Just like The Varsity, you can pick from a varied menu, musically speaking.

Partial to Folk/Americana? Listen for a song from the Kingston Trio or Woody Guthrie. Like Bluegrass? Tap your toe to Bill Monroe. Classic rock ‘n’ roll? Dance in your seat to anything from Buddy Holly to Led Zeppelin to the Stones. Contemporary more to your liking? Could be the Cranberries, perhaps Prince, maybe Madonna, often originals. Country? How about a Hank Williams’ pain song or a Dewberry train song? Only enjoy classical? You might be surprised to hear Mozart on the mandolin or Beethoven on the violin. You name it—love songs, foot-stompers, tear-jerkers, patriotic songs and everything in between. Except rap—we have to draw the line somewhere.

You get the idea. Acoustic Showcase is a musical smorgasbord. With onion rings and a fried pie, musically speaking.

April Showcase canceled

The POA has stated, “The CDC has recommended implemented social distanc-



Deb Osgood delights the March audience.

ing measures including limiting social group activities ... for organizations that serve high-risk populations, cancel gatherings of more than 10 people.” To conform with this, Acoustic Showcase is canceling the April gathering.

We are hoping for a very short-term break and to be back in May. In the meantime, wash your hands often and be safe and we will see you all real soon.



Acoustic Showcase performers take center stage. PHOTOS BY STEVE PAPKE

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Revisiting wine trends while staying home

Wayne On Wine

WAYNE CRAWFORD

I am at home, with my wife Kathy, following national guidelines for coronavirus social distancing. Kathy is careworn to have me home habitually. Having canceled the Wine Group this month to sidestep a group tasting and not violate health recommendations, my article will revisit wine encounters confronting Georgia and the wine world. I am also editing the next edition of my book, "Georgia Vineyards and Wineries: A Historical Guide to Modern Georgia Wines."

Over the past several years, we have lost vineyards, wineries and key dynamic Georgia wine leaders. Including new businesses, there continues to be just over 60 wineries and multiple grower vineyards with about 1,000 acres under vine. Three years ago, there was close to 74 vineyards growing in vineyards with *Vitis rotundifolia*—muscadine—with about 500 acres planted in grapes just for wine. Yes, Georgia is the leading muscadine producer in the world. We also grow *Vitis aestivalis*—Norton, *Vitis vinifera*—cabernet sauvignon, American and French hybrids which embrace blanc du bois and chambourcin. Over several years, Georgia growers have added new grapes and removed others. This is normal in agriculture, and we see considerable new opportunities in grape genetics.

We were very fortunate to have Dr. Cain Hickey, Ph.D. in Viticulture, join the University of Georgia teaching staff three years ago. He injected significant improvement in vineyard management and harvesting techniques to help raise the Georgia wine industry, now a \$4-billion-plus business. Unfortunately, his considerable skills have him departing to Penn State University. We wish him well, but UGA and the Georgia legislature have no plans to replace him immediately, given current cost-saving measures. Perhaps, neither UGA nor the Georgia legislature have the aids to assess must-replace positions. Moreover, we need a senior professor in wine production at UGA. These professors are directly helping the state wine industry make money and enhance tourism. They are carrying their expertise across the state and, most importantly, training students to



Five years of wines, including 1989 Chestnut Mountain signed by David Harris from the Mossy Creek Vineyard, now owned by Habersham Vineyard and Winery. The second Chestnut Mountain wine is the 1990 Chenin Blanc, which is the front part of the label showing the tribute to Gay Dellinger. The next three bottles are vintage years 1991 to 1993 of Chateau Elan wines, all produced using Georgia *Vitis vinifera* grapes. PHOTO BY WAYNE CRAWFORD

become the next-generation Georgia wine experts.

Climate changes

Another world trend involves climate shifts in varietal growing regions that are beginning to impact what a vineyard can plant. In agriculture, successful planting strategies include crop diversity, pest control, soil, sunlight, water and consistent temperatures. For example, pinot noir, the great Burgundy red grape, does not grow well in Georgia; the same is true for riesling from Germany and Alsace. Both need colder growing regions to survive.

In Georgia, climate, weather, soil, location, altitude and pests are driving change. As temperatures rise, this is also true in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and other countries. Wine grapes grow now in England and Belgium. In England, both sparkling and white wine production is on the rise with temperature changes. Wine geeks had understood Champagne was the northernmost region in France growing wine, and Belgium was good for beer. Now, Belgium has been increasing vineyard acreage since the early 1990s, and, yes, sparkling and white wine based on chardonnay and other grapes are emerging

as a first choice.

Georgia's challenges

Georgia grapes grow mostly in the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain region, which is humid and subtropical with low elevation—below 2,000 feet down to sea level. A small section is North Georgia in the Blue Ridge, with Ridge and Valley being humid continental. Accordingly, Georgia better supports warm-weather grapes, muscadine and hybrids, particularly those able to resist Pierce disease, which has expanded further north, up to 1,800 feet, given in part to the last several warm winters.

Given Georgia's climate and weather, diseases must be countered regularly during the year for vineyards and other crops to survive. Downy and powdery mildew are notable, but Pierce's disease is the primary disease to limit European grapes, *Vitis vinifera*, according to Dr. Philip Brannen at UGA. Brannen spends long hours across the state teaching and sharing his expertise on plant disease through the many extension agents in the counties.

Concurrently and, perhaps, with significant long-term benefit for Georgia and California vineyards is the work going on

at University of California, Davis producing new wine and raisin grapes resistant to both Pierce disease and powdery mildew. Dr. Andrew Walker, a geneticist and professor of viticulture and enology, leads the program. UC Davis is one of the foremost wine education and research centers in the world. Two years ago, at the request of the UGA agriculture team and Georgia Wine Producers, Walker attended the annual conference at Chateau Elan. We tasted four experimental wines that showed great potential to be resistant to Pierce disease, all with favorable results.

The great news is UC Davis, pursuing the genetic success led by Walker for over 20 years, released five new patent-pending varietals well suited to both California and the Southeast. Rootstock is in short supply, but vineyards can place orders with the few vineyards with vines. Walker did a great job explaining how he selected Southwest and Mexican grape species that demonstrated high resistance to Pierce disease to crossbreed. He linked them to *Vitis vinifera* or European grapes to produce highly resistant vines to these critical diseases.

The new vines are three red grapes and two whites, and, by all accounts, they make good wine. The four wines I tasted two years ago showed great potential to produce excellent wines. Pasaente noir is like zinfandel; Comminare noir is similar to cabernet sauvignon and petite sirah; and Errante noir is more aligned with cabernet sauvignon. The two white wines are Ambulo blanc, much like sauvignon blanc, and Caminante blanc, similar to a blend of sauvignon blanc and chardonnay.

We have a considerable growth industry in Georgia that has matured from its latest inception in 1979. Usually, I would encourage readers to enjoy Georgia wineries but the timing is not right, with the Georgia Highway Wine Trail postponed due to COVID-19 precautions.

'Drink What You Like'

My next article will focus on Red Zinfandel.



WAYNE CRAWFORD

Wayne Crawford is the author of "Georgia Vineyards and Wineries—A Historical Guide to Georgia Wines" (www.wayneonwine.com), and is a French Wine Scholar, a Certified Specialist of Wine and holds a Wine Scholar Master Certificate in Champagne.

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Easter Worship

Sunday, April 12

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Maundy Thursday
April 9th

Good Friday
April 10th

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First BCMYC Frostbite Regatta concludes



Two T-37s cut through the fleet the downwind leg. PHOTOS BY GIDGE DADY

"In fact, this was one of our milder Georgia winters, which made for more fun."



Dragonflies round the mark.

View From The Quarterdeck

JOHN HERZLER

Last year at this time, the BCMYC was just forming and recruiting anyone living in our great community with an interest in radio-controlled yachting. Flash forward one year and we've completed our first Frostbite Regatta with no less than 12 yachts competing in two separate categories and heats. Quite an accomplishment to this observer who has been around almost since the beginning. It's also a great compliment to our Commodore Rich McLeod, as well as our other club officers who've put in a lot of hard work to make this happen.

While I've resided in Georgia since 1993, it's difficult for this Northerner to describe the past three months as a Frostbite—far from it. In fact, this was one of our milder Georgia winters, which made for more fun. In addition to the variable weather, some of us (yours truly) were also dealing with equipment/shakedown issues. During this last regatta, I was the victim of an unruly rudder, which caused

me to finish in last place in two out of the four T-37 heats.

Because our scoring system is cumulative over the entire series, you can have a bad day but still do well in the overall series. This will be of particular importance once we commence the regular season, which should have a minimum of seven regattas.

With congratulations to all, the final cumulative standings for the Frostbite series are as follows:

- DF-95s: Rich McLeod First, Rick Himes Second, Mark Dady Third.
- T-37s: Rich McLeod First, Skip Earle Second and John Herzler Third.

A big thanks to Race Director Rick Himes, as well as the members of our race committee for overseeing and tabulating all regattas.

As we deal with the social distancing issues and precautions so correctly imposed by our POA, our monthly club meetings and the commencement of the regular regatta season are postponed until further notice. However, that doesn't mean that an occasional solo sailor might not show up at Lake Sconti. We'll keep you up to date on our website (www.bcmcy.org). BCMYC is a sanctioned RC Sailing Club of the American Model Yacht Association. For additional information, contact us at info@BCMZYC.org.

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“Understandably, most do not respond correctly according to the scale because it is an approximation, not a universally recognized measurement.”

How many is many?

Word Of Mouth

FRAN HOLMAN

Principle Seven: There should never be any doubt left as to how many. English has many traditional figures of speech for estimating number, which have now lost their original connotations. From an early level of national experience, a “legion” seemed a huge number of armed men. But when a speaker now says: “The mothers who ungrudgingly do without sleep themselves, if their babies are sleepless, are a credit to the country—their name is ‘legion,’” he means that there are “millions of mothers like that.” Yet a Roman legion consisted of four or five thousand men only. Similarly: “There are a myriad grains of sand on this beach”—but a myriad is only ten thousand and probably “tens of millions” is intended. —“The Reader Over Your Shoulder,” Robert Graves and Alan Hodge

In this classic discussion of rhetoric, Graves and Hodge present “Principles of Clear Statement.” Principles Six and Seven particularly address specificity of amounts. Using what they characterize as a “popular measure of proportion with approximate percentages,” the authors present an incremental scale using the gold bar wealth of Mr. Jordan. Percentages for wholly, half and none are readily understood, but consider a large part, the greater part and a small part, three of the 19 entries from the scale. If you determined the percentages respectively as 40, 70 and 15, you are correct. Understandably, most do not respond correctly according to the scale because it is an approximation, not a universally recognized measurement.

Graves and Hodge and a myriad of others plea for definitive numbers over rhetorical ciphers: “There are disingenuous measures of number that ought to be avoided in writing: for example, ‘handful’ when not applied to nuts, blackberries, coffee beans and similar small objects.”



How many grains of wheat form a heap?

“The more skillful the writer/speaker, the more possibility for the reader/hearer to decipher less independently.”

To assist student-writers, The Bryan Writing Center of Blinn College posts a “Vague Words Table.” The 34 entries to be preferred over very as a modifier include considerably, chiefly, incredibly, profusely and vastly. The words on this list and similar ones also lack precisification.

Many and much are quantifiers that do not specify quantity. Their usage, though, is specific. Many is chosen to qualify plural, countable items. For example, “Many dogs can be taught new tricks.” “Many dog” or other singular combination are incorrect. Much is used for singular, uncountable items. “Much rain has fallen in the last three days.”

Blurred quantification is ancient. Eubulides of Miletus, a 4th century B.C. student of Euclid, is credited with sorites. This word, Greek *soros* for “heap,” references reasoning which employs given propositions to form a conclusion. Eubulides illustrates with the example of a heap of wheat grains.

Is, Eubulides queries, one grain of wheat a heap? Is 1,000 grains a heap? The import of Eubulides’ puzzle is at what point, at what exact number, is a heap a heap.

Two “many” caveats: First, rhetorically, vagueness may lean to a side, to a border. The writer/speaker has an intended meaning of the term, and the reader/hearer deciphers the meaning of the term. The more skillful the writer/speaker, the more possibility for the reader/hearer to decipher less independently.

Second, the situation itself informs when precisification is necessary. Sometimes, indefiniteness is enough.

Dr. Fran Holman, honored as University Distinguished Professor and College Endowed Professor at Louisiana Tech University, lives in Big Canoe with her husband.

WORDS to quantify Mr. Jordan's fortune	%
Mr. Jordan's fortune consisted WHOLLY of bar-gold.	100
PRACTICALLY all his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	99
His fortune consisted ALMOST ENTIRELY of bar-gold.	95
NEARLY ALL of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	90
BY FAR THE GREATER PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	80
THE GREATER PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	70
MORE THAN HALF his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	60
RATHER MORE THAN HALF his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	55
HALF his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	50
NEARLY HALF his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	45
A LARGE PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	40
QUITE A LARGE PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	35
A CONSIDERABLE PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	30
PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	25
A SMALL PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	15
NOT MUCH of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	10
A VERY SMALL PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	5
AN INCONSIDERABLE PART of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	1
NONE of his fortune consisted of bar-gold.	0

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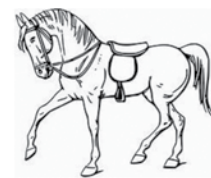
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“Travis liked the challenges of nature and the beckoning of what lay beyond though sometimes what lay beyond wasn’t what he imagined.”

Travis McDaniel and the art of paying attention

Tapestry: Story Threads From North Georgia

BONNIE EAST

Just as ashes are picked up by the wind and carried to the oak, falling to the grass and to the coat of the deer, to the bed of the forest and the foot of a bird, to the pool of water and to the shoreline, there is a man who walks among us.

This man has heard the voices of the ashes as they pass by. He has held them for a moment, captured their stories and filled a void that exists within the unknown by any man brave enough to pay attention.

Travis McDaniel pays attention. He is an artist, craftsman, musician, songwriter, poet, published author and historian whose knowledge of his ancestry and the movement of generations over geography rivals any.

Born in 1936, Travis always was drawn to the outdoors. He became a Boy Scout so he could hike through forests, canoe rapids, climb over mountains and camp in the wilderness. He was comfortable when he was outdoors. And he was brave when he was exploring.

Travis acquired his work ethic early in life. “My father started me in the pest control business when I was five, a penny apiece for every bean beetle picked.” This was the same year his father, an agricultural county agent, was killed in a collision involving his vehicle, a cotton truck, and a farm tractor.

His widowed mother lost her father from a stroke and his other grandfather, “a farmer trying to make a living on a cottoned-out red dirt Georgia farm,” died years earlier while hauling a massive gravestone for his parents when the wagon and stone turned over on him. Not knowing his grandfathers and barely knowing his father left a void that sat unresolved in Travis until his 40s.

The only college degree that interested Travis was wildlife management, “But I didn’t have confidence in myself,” he said. “In school, I wasn’t any good at subjects like math or chemistry or spelling.” One of Travis’ teachers, Ms. Camp, said, “Travis, if you will try your very best, I will guarantee you at least a D.” And, in spelling, a D it was.

A college-bound friend encouraged Travis, “You can do anything if you want it bad enough.” “That moment,” Travis said, “changed my life.” He headed to college.

Travis liked the challenges of nature and the beckoning of what lay beyond though sometimes what lay beyond wasn’t what he imagined. His first job after graduating college with his wildlife management degree was on a remote shoreline in Virginia. Travis, his wife Joyce and their first two (of three) children headed for the refuge. “The only way to get there was to drive five miles along the shore during low tide.”

After 17 years working refuges across six states, Travis—now in his 40s—and his family moved to Atlanta where he worked in the regional office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service for another 17 years. This move presented a new opportunity, being only one block from the Georgia Archives. After a few visits to research his ancestry, Travis heard the voices of the ashes as he began a journey began that would take him back 1,000 years to 1100 AD.

Travis’ 36th great-grandfather was the great Celtic/Viking warrior Somerled, a historic figure known as “Lord of the Isles” who eventually controlled the Western Isles and Highlands of Scotland. Travis, a genetic genealogist, has the DNA match to prove his grandpa was Somerled. “The only thing



Dragging Canoe’s head. PHOTOS BY BONNIE EAST

“Travis’ 36th great-grandfather was the great Celtic/Viking warrior Somerled, a historic figure known as ‘Lord of the Isles’ who eventually controlled the Western Isles and Highlands of Scotland.”



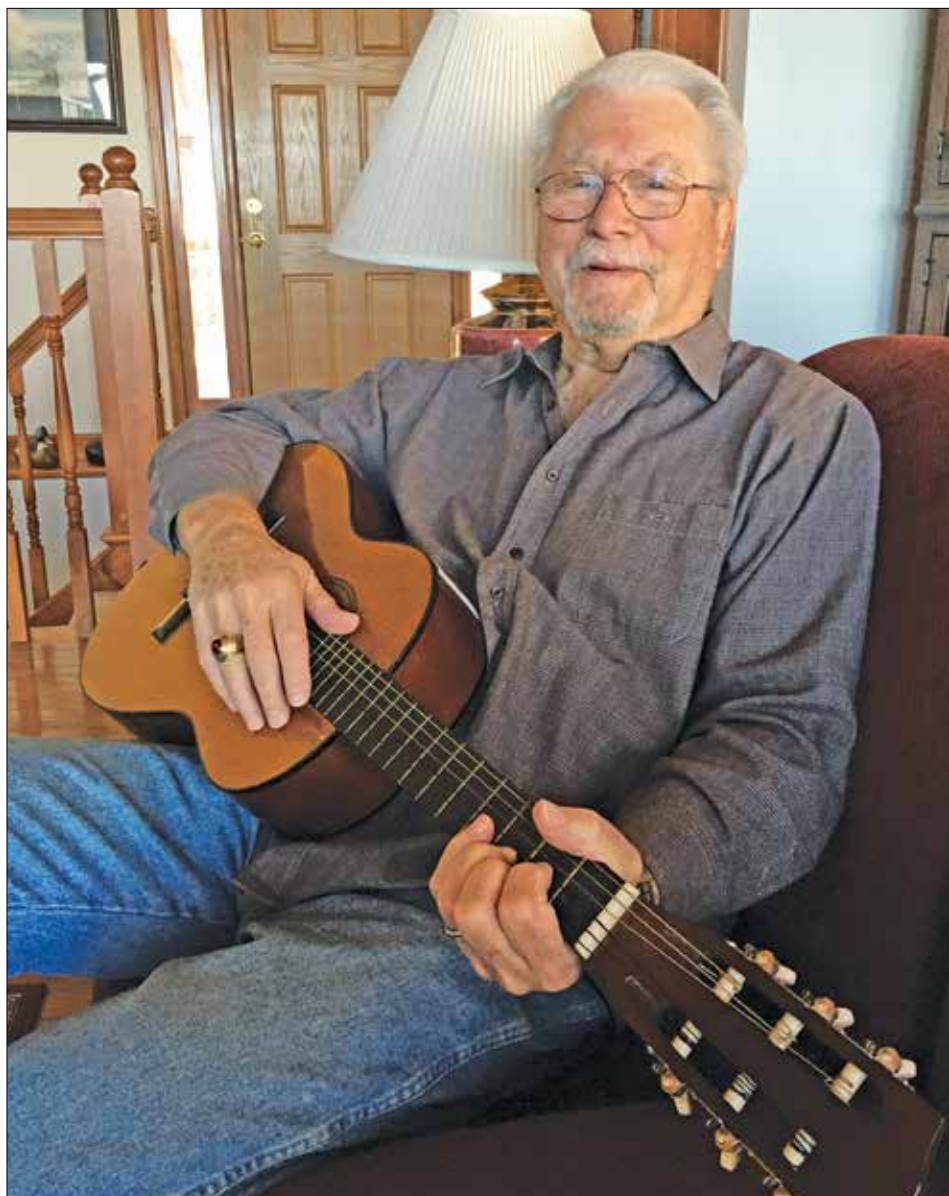
The march of hand-carved animals.

standing between me and chiefdom is my unfortunate birth order,” Travis chuckled.

Fast forward to the 1700s. A Fain cousin (Fain being Travis’ mother’s maiden name), traveling with his militia near the Little Tennessee River, was ambushed and killed by Cherokee warriors under the leadership of a young radical named Dragging Canoe. As a youth, Dragging Canoe begged his father to let him fight. Though too young, the tribal leaders told him if he could drag the canoe to the river by himself, he could join them.

Travis reached high on a shelf and brought down one of his handmade sculptures. He touched the face of Dragging Canoe and said, “He feels anguish from his obligations.”

In the 1800s, another cousin, Clayton Fain, formed a Civil War regiment of Union sympathizers hiding in remote areas of Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina.



Travis enjoys a moment strumming his guitar.



“There is over 100 years of grain in this bear’s back,” said Travis.

One hundred and fifty years after Clayton’s execution, Travis crawled through 20 yards of dense thickets to uncover Clayton’s dulled, forgotten gravestone. “There was something tugging at me to find it, to complete the story and unearth the perilous, bold history of my cousin.” The Georgia Historical Society erected a marker in Blue Ridge to acknowledge the efforts of Union sympathizers in Georgia history.

Travis’ story thread of history, nature, loss, compelling passion and resolution has continued throughout his life. He lost one of his daughters in a traffic accident in 1991 and, last year, his beloved wife Joyce passed away.

A display of beautiful hand-carved wooden sculptures of animals Travis has known march across a table in his home, each body carved and sanded from memory. Rubbing the smooth Western cedar, he said, “There is over 100 years of grain in

this bear’s back.” This particular grouping of figures was created since Joyce died. I began, “Their bodies are moving ...” and Travis finished, “... with melancholy.”

There is far more to Travis than the sum of his exquisite ancestral archive. Travis is a transformer. He turns void into fulfillment and loss into works of art. He turns self-doubt into achievements and the unknown into understanding.



BONNIE EAST

Bonnie East has lived in Big Canoe for four years and is an avid listener of oral history. If you, or someone you know, has a story, big or small, of heart or grit or is a one-of-a-kind pioneer, please contact Bonnie at bonnie@bigcanoenews.com.



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“She needed an owner who would spend time with her—someone she could shadow throughout the day.”

BCAR celebrates as Grayson finds forever home

Big Canoe Animal Rescue

TOM ATTAWAY

Grayson is a black-and-white flecked, 55-pound, female Australian cattle dog, otherwise known as a blue heeler. In January 2018, at the age of 2, she was found wandering Afton Road and Steve Tate Highway. She has been at BCAR ever since, a little over two years.

These dogs are related to Australia's famous wild dog, the dingo. If blue heelers are not challenged, they easily become bored and get into mischief. Someone who has had blue heelers her whole life recently told me, “Blue heelers are crazy, but they are well worth it!” We at BCAR can confirm this with some examples.

- Driving Grayson to the vet one rainy day, I turned on the wipers. Grayson went after my windshield wipers! I had to shut them off. Every time Grayson looked out the side window I quickly swept the windshield wipers so I could continue driving.

- I once put a sticky trap under the sink and behind the soiled towel bin at BCAR to catch a mouse that had evaded conventional traps. Grayson, of course, found the trap and got it stuck on one of her hind paws. Trying to get this off was complicated by Grayson's thrashing and the big mouse caught on this trap. I wish I had a video.

- One day, I was using my shop vac in Grayson's outside run. I had her locked in the next yard. Hearing a commotion, I ran into the next yard and found Grayson with her paw caught in a loop made out of the



How smart is Grayson? Smart enough to pilot a pontoon. PHOTO BY KAREN ATTAWAY

handle of a leash someone had, for some reason, clipped onto the gate of this yard. After I got her loose, she ran back into her yard, where the shop vac was running. By the time I got over there, she had the nozzle in her mouth. I had to turn the shop vac off to get her loose. Fortunately, she still had her tongue.

In addition to the above, Grayson presented BCAR with the following challenges.

- Australian cattle dogs, and Grayson in particular, do not like other dogs unless they are also blue heelers. Blue heelers see themselves as the elected “hall monitors.”

If another dog is barking, for example, they see it as their job to tell that dog to shut up and stop being so rude. While not trying to start a fight, they will nip or bite a barking dog to get its attention in order to get it to behave. This is one of a blue heeler's perceived responsibilities.

- One of the two trainers Grayson spent six weeks with summed it up: “Grayson does not have a clue how to behave around other dogs.” He said Grayson was challenging. He also commented that, in spite of this, he really enjoyed working with Grayson “because she is so damn smart.”



BCAR's Director of Adoptions Jodette Endsley, left, congratulates Terri, Kyle and Grayson. PHOTO BY TOM ATTAWAY

As a consequence of the above, we had to isolate Grayson from the other dogs at BCAR, walk her separately and ensure she did not have a chance to interact with our other resident canines.

Initially, Grayson was not used to life in a shelter. During her first few months at BCAR Grayson lifted one of the chain link gates off its hinges. She also pulled a 4-inch x 6-foot piece of trim board off the outside of the building—nails and all.

Grayson needed a home with some land—a farm or a ranch. She needed room to run and, most importantly, work to do. She needed a home with no other pets. She needed an owner who would spend time with her—someone she could shadow throughout the day. ■ GRAYSON | Page 2

Sports & Outdoors

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Another mother's tale with an ursine twist

BY WILL JACKSON
Black Bear Project

Big Canoe had an adventure with black bear motherhood on Christmas Day (*Smoke Signals*, February 2020). In that case, a very pregnant female bear scooted out from under a home's low deck—with some caring encouragement from Georgia's Department of Natural Resources' professionals—and headed into the woods to find a more private site for her upcoming labor and delivery.

In early February, a Big Canoe resident in a different neighborhood was surprised to discover an uninvited Bear Mom (a different female) had dropped by to stay awhile and deliver two cubs. There are important differences in these two situations, and the second case presents some timely learning opportunities.

Bear Mom 2 got pregnant last summer, then spent the late summer and early fall gorging on available food to fatten up for her winter dormancy and the approaching demands of motherhood. Some key points are worth knowing about how a bear's pregnancy differs from human reproduction stages.

- It's not unusual for two cubs to have been sired by different males, but the fathers don't stay with the mother. They flunked the Mr. Mom course and have no protective instincts to care for their offspring. Later on, Mom Bear may have to defend her cubs from aggressive attacks by the male(s).



Cubs stay with their mother for about 18 months, learning to climb trees, find food and avoid humans.

“Big Canoe's Bear Mom 2 and her two tiny cubs were discovered at a Big Canoe home near Wildcat by contract workers setting up a ladder.”

- After mating in the summer, the female's reproductive system waits a few months, until late fall, before a delayed attachment of her embryos into her womb occurs. Surprisingly, the gestation period of a bear is only about eight weeks, usually around December and January, before cubs are born in late January and February.

- Adult black bears will eventually weigh hundreds of pounds, but newborn cubs are tiny, weighing only a few ounces, and are about the size of a chipmunk or small rodent.

- The small newborn cubs are obviously unable to care for themselves, but Bear Mom nurses them with a fat-rich milk that promotes rapid growth. After their first nursing months, cubs will quickly grow to nearly eight pounds and begin to venture out with Mom.

- Cubs will stay with their mother for about 18 months, learning life lessons about climbing trees, finding food and avoiding humans, after which the mother will push them away into their young adulthood. The mother will not mate or produce any new litters during that time. She will birth new cubs only every other year.

■ BEAR | Page 2

“While the virus is presently not contagious to our canine and feline companions, I wonder if this pandemic will affect our pets in indirect ways.”

COVID-19, a threat to my pets?

Vet's Q&A Clinic

DR. RAY HABERMANN

Q: Dr. Habermann, with the concerns right now regarding the novel coronavirus in our society, is there anything I need to be concerned with regarding its effects on my pets?

A: In short, the answer to this question is no—at least for now. One concern vets have is coronavirus, like the influenza virus, has the potential to mutate and become infective to other species of animals.

There is a theory this is what happened with the current pandemic—that the virus started in one species of animal and mutated to be infectious to humans. When the world first became aware of the outbreak that spread quickly through China, there was a report of a dog in Hong Kong testing positive for the disease. However, the story was invalidated quickly when scientists determined the test was positive due to an environmental contamination from the virus and not because the dog was carrying or sick from the virus.

To prevent some confusion, there are coronaviruses that affect both dogs and cats. In dogs, the virus causes a viral diarrhea (it's a GI virus) similar to parvo, though less severe

and with fewer deaths than parvovirus. We vaccinate for this virus in younger dogs but, as they age, they're less susceptible and not typically vaccinated once they're adults.

There is also a coronavirus that infects cats. It's a very complicated infection, too much to go into details in this article. It causes a condition in cats known as FIP, feline infectious peritonitis. These viruses are different than the one currently causing the human outbreak and are not contagious to humans, at this time.

As I write this article, the country is literally going on lockdown with closures of most, if not all, schools, amusement parks, sporting events, etc. While the virus is presently not contagious to our canine and feline companions, I wonder if this pandemic will affect our pets in indirect ways. Will people stop taking them to dog parks, doggy daycares, grooming salons, etc., to avoid being in public? Will the supply chain of foods, veterinary medications and basic pet products be interrupted by the dramatic change in the way society operates for a short time? Will animal healthcare facilities (vet clinics, specialty and emergency clinics, veterinary teaching hospitals) remain open during the pandemic? The answers to these questions remain elusive. Hopefully, by the time this article is published, this will be behind us, and we can get back to some normalcy in our routines.



RAY HABERMANN

Direct questions about this topic or any other you would like Dr. Habermann to address in future articles to foothillsvet@windstream.net or 706-216-1356.

“It is hoped the scheduled speaker, Big Canoe Landscape Manager Mathew Parks, will be available to give his informative talk later in the year.”

Wildflower Bunch announces postponements



Members enjoyed a lovely and healthy brunch buffet at the March meeting. PHOTO BY JUDY KAUFMAN

Wildflower Bunch Garden Club

JUDY KAUFMAN

Wildflower Bunch is postponing its annual Plant Sale, originally scheduled for April 17-18, until the fall. In addition, the April 1 meeting at the clubhouse is cancelled. It is hoped the scheduled speaker, Big Canoe Landscape Manager Mathew Parks, will be available to give his informative talk later in the year.

March meeting
WFB's board started the new season with a refreshing new agenda.

Members were invited to a brunch buffet in the greeting area at the clubhouse, where a long table, brimming with healthy and yummy brunch foods, awaited. This plan allowed easy mingling, meeting new members and greeting old friends. Many thanks to the board for creating this very successful gathering. Cynthia Hendry presented a new program, filled with humor and eye-popping photographs. Read more about that next month to find out what kind of gardener you are.

Information on how to be part of this dynamic club can be found at the postal facility, just to the right of the window, or at www.wildflowerbunch.com. The annual membership fee is \$20. The club's board has planned a vibrant year, filled with a variety of horticultural opportunities that are sure to appeal.

Grayson

Continued from page 1

However, BCAR mainly adopts dogs out as indoor pets. It was a challenge to find a suitable owner for Grayson. BCAR's Directors of Adoption during Grayson's time with us, first Bonnie Plikaytis and now Jodette Endsley, went to heroic efforts to find Grayson a home. They tried everything. Jodette finally handed out flyers in local feed stores, and this did the trick.

A forever home is found

"It's been a little over a week since Kyle and Terri came to visit Grayson at BCAR's Saturday Open House, and it was love at first sight," said Jodette. "That same afternoon the family called and wanted to come back to get Grayson. They had been to PetSmart and were driving back with all new goodies for Grayson. All they needed was her.

"Kyle and Terri had recently lost their dog. They have had a lot of experience with blue heeler. Grayson was meant to be a part of this family. With no other pets (except a donkey) and no children at home, Grayson's new home meant she would be queen diva and their constant companion.

"Grayson now spends her days on a 15-plus acre ranch with lots of room to run. She makes trips with her new owners in the car, rides around their property with them

in an ATV, and even goes to work with Kyle. Terri said, 'Grayson is always with us; she is our baby.' This is truly the best possible outcome for all; there is no better family for Grayson to spend her life with than Kyle and Terri. Grayson is loved and she is blessed."

In my opinion, Grayson is the smartest dog we have had at BCAR. She is loving and affectionate with people and will no doubt make Terri and Kyle an obedient and loyal dog. I love Grayson and have enjoyed spending time with her these last two years, including during our adventures. Though I will miss her, I am celebrating, as are all the BCAR volunteers, that Grayson has found her forever home and family.

Good luck, Grayson. We wish you, Terri and Kyle the best life has to offer. Thank you, Terri and Kyle, for opening your hearts and giving Grayson a chance. I know you will not be disappointed.

To find out more about BCAR, call 706-268-1346; check the BCAR poster in the postal facility; go to www.bigcanoanimalrescue.org; check us out on Facebook; come to Open House every Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and volunteer!

BCAR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, no-kill shelter for homeless dogs and cats found in the Big Canoe community, providing them with a safe, healthy and positive environment until they are adopted into their forever, loving homes.

Bear

Continued from page 1

Big Canoe's Bear Mom 2 and her two tiny cubs were discovered at a Big Canoe home near Wildcat by contract workers setting up a ladder. They heard a huffing sound—a black bear's common warning signal—coming from under the front porch. A very quick peek confirmed the presence of the new family.

Public safety was notified, the Black Bear Project was called and the DNR was contacted. Wildlife experts from DNR came to Big Canoe to assess the situation and provide guidance. They advised that Bear Mom 2 had likely made her birthing den under the porch in December and had been quietly waiting for her due date to welcome her babies. Beneath the porch was a perfect choice—dry, warm, quiet and undisturbed. DNR recommended leaving the mother and her young, fragile babies under the porch, anticipating they

would leave peacefully when the cubs were older and more able. That should be around April.

The homeowner reacted calmly and thoughtfully. The health and safety of the bear family were so much more important to her than the occasional use of her front porch. Access was roped off and signage was posted directing visitors to another entrance. In a couple of months, Bear Mom and her cubs will move up the mountains to continue their challenging journey.

This incident provided another example of how informed and conscientious Big Canoe neighbors can handle bear issues when they arise. Kudos, again, to DNR for its support, and a special thank-you to a conscientious homeowner for setting a heroic example.

Reminder: Bird feeders should have been put away on March 1. Please help spread the word. Your support of Bear-Wise standards makes a difference—especially to the bears.

“In return, the thrift store receives funds to give back to the community, and the surplus items are prevented from ending as waste. Over 30,000 pounds are shipped monthly.”

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Conservation benefits a community

BY GRETCHEN HUDOCK

Conservation can begin at home, sometimes with spring cleaning or clearing out a cupboard. No matter what inspires you to organize, items donated to the Community Thrift Store in Jasper can benefit your neighbors and the environment.

The mission of the Pickens County Community Thrift Store, www.pickenscommunitythriftstore.org, is “to serve the members of our community who find themselves in need of essential goods and basic human and life-enhancing services.” To meet these goals, the thrift store accepts donations of clothing, household items, collectibles, furniture, etc., to sell to the public at greatly reduced prices or to donate to those who qualify.

Don Russell, who launched the thrift store with a core of volunteers in 2000, explained the store's simple philosophy: “There are no employees, no supervisors, no manuals. God is in charge; volunteers manage it.”

The thrift store, said Russell, is an example of “people helping people.” Even the trash generated is a blessing to those in that business as it gives them work. The Red Cross gives vouchers to victims of home fires so they can shop for household items at no cost. The store helps those who come to socialize, look for the latest find or just exercise by walking the aisles. Sales tax generated assists the county and schools.

Since its opening on Jan. 25, 2000, the thrift store has donated over \$6 million to the residents of Pickens County through organizations that help others. Its employee base is totally volunteer and can include those who need community service hours.

Donations of items of acceptable quality, i.e., not wet, dirty or stained beyond help, are appreciated, as are those having all their parts, such as cords, attachments and manuals. The store does not take paint, toxic chemicals, mattresses or old TVs, however, short tapers and stumps left after burning a candle can be recycled, as can metal bed frames, bicycles beyond repair, etc. A designated bin outside the building is available for proper disposal of American flags.

To maximize funds going back to the community, items such as antiques or collectibles are placed online for sale. Books, especially current fiction and cookbooks,



Sales of larger items benefit the community. PHOTOS BY JUDY KAUFMAN



Clothing is available at the thrift store.

and bookcases are popular items. Clean textiles and articles, though imperfect, having some useable life—linens, curtains, clothing, towels, hats, shoes and larger yardages of fabric—are also in demand. Excess stock is crated and sent to countries in need. In return, the thrift store receives funds to give back to the community, and the surplus items are prevented from ending as waste. Over 30,000 pounds are shipped monthly.

The thrift store is at 110 Samaritan Drive, Jasper. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Donation hours are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, when helpful staff is there to assist in

unloading items into the building. Leaving donations outside can render them unsaleable and create trash that costs money to remove, leaving fewer funds to be shared with the community. At-home pickups can be arranged for large items.

Volunteers are the core of the Community Thrift Store. To help, contact the Community Thrift Store, 706-253-7770, or Don Russell, 770-894-3246.

Editor's note: March 16, the Community Thrift Store in Jasper closed until further notice due to coronavirus concerns. Please do not leave donations until they open.



The Community Thrift Store is on Samaritan Drive, Jasper.

Sports & Outdoors



Maggie's House • 9

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"Nature provides numerous white-flowering herbaceous natives."

Big Canoe perfection: the white garden

Mountain Gardening

CYNTHIA HENDRY

Nothing is prettier in the semi-shade of Big Canoe's massive oak and hickory forests than a green and white garden. With many good native plants blooming white, it is easy to combine them with other non-natives to create an evolving display from spring to fall.

Easy native trees and shrubs

No white garden could be complete without our native dogwood, but an earlier blooming serviceberry can steal the show in March. Both are bird-friendly as the abundant fruit are relished by the birds. The serviceberry produces fruit in early summer and the dogwood in fall. Two other white-blooming native trees are silverbell, blooming in April, and sweet bay magnolia, blooming in June.

At the shrub layer, use oakleaf hydrangea and the smaller smooth hydrangea. Extensive breeding work has been done on these two natives to present smaller plants in the oakleaf types and sturdier structure in the smooth hydrangea types. Both of these hydrangeas have long blooming periods. My favorite smooth hydrangeas are the cultivars 'Annabelle' and 'Bounty.' 'Bounty' has a smaller bloom but is tough as nails.

One of the earliest blooming native shrubs is fothergilla. It can get leggy in part shade, so I recommend giving it a good pruning just after it blooms. Blooming a little later in spring is itea. My favorite selection is a cultivar 'Henry's Garnet,' famed for a deep garnet leaf color in fall. If you have sun and want your garden to be tremendously fragrant in summer, grow 'Summersweet' clethra. It appreciates continued moisture. There is a new white cultivar available called 'Einstein.'

Herbaceous natives

Nature provides numerous white-flowering herbaceous natives. My favorite resource for studying the presentation and growth needs of these plants is Dr. Allan Armitage's beautiful book "Armitage's Native Plants." His candid discussions and detailed descriptions reveal the truth rather than a sales pitch.



Bloodroot



Serviceberry



White crested iris



Mountain mint



Mountain laurel



'Annabelle' hydrangeas



Butterfly weed



Foamflower



White aster



Chionoides rhododendron



False Solomon's seal



'Einstein' clethra



Showy trillium



Fothergilla



Black snakeroot

"No white garden could be complete without our native dogwood."

By far, the easiest white-flowering perennial is white aster. While I have written about it before in these pages, I would add a new conclusion about this plant. It can be used as a ground cover. Bonnie Plikaytis and I were studying hers in the dead of winter and marveled at how crisp it looked. Of course, Bonnie properly cuts it back in late fall as soon as the new foliage appears at the base of the taller flowering parts.

The white-flowering spring ephemerals like trillium, spring beauty, anemone and bloodroot can be difficult to locate in retail. However, they are often available at native plant rescues and sales. Be sure to carefully select your site and amendments for these precious plants.

Summer-blooming natives like aruncus and white phlox are more widely available. There is a good cultivar of the white phlox called 'Davidi' that is more fungal resistant. Aruncus appreciates consistent moisture.

Another easy late-summer bloomer is 'Autumn Bride' heuchera. My best source for this plant is also Big Canoe's favorite fern source, Elinor Craig. Sadly, Elinor has semi-retired, but she plans to be at Gibbs on Mother's Day selling ferns and her favorite perennials.

In conclusion

Combine your white plants with the blue-green foliage of *Illicium paniculata* and variegated plants like *Osmanthus variegata* and *Pieris japonica*. Not only is their foliage color complementary, they are deer resistant. Hopefully, their odor will mislead the deer away from your more vulnerable plants. The sight of these groupings just makes me swoon on a warm spring day.

Happy spring gardening!



CYNTHIA HENDRY

Cynthia Hendry has lived and gardened in Big Canoe for more than 30 years. Her landscape design work includes Best of Show for Big Canoe Street of Dreams, as well as Big Canoe Show Homes for Southern Living and Atlanta magazines.

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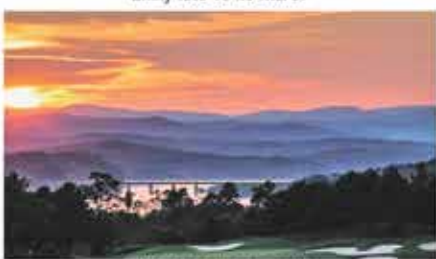
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"Can the fan and participant base of the game be that easily defined—you're either a 'Caddyshack' slob or an Augusta National snob?"

Slobs vs. snobs?

WaterSports

RANDY WATERS

Forty years ago, marketing efforts billed the July 1980 release of the movie "Caddyshack" as class warfare on the fairways and greens of fictional Bushwood Country Club. It didn't really work because the film was a triple bogey at the box office, failing miserably. In the decades since, it's become a cult classic.

You can find it on TV most any time of year, but especially during the Masters Tournament month of April. That's kind of ironic because no two concepts or visions of the game of golf are farther apart. Can the fan and participant base of the game be that easily defined—you're either a "Caddyshack" slob or an Augusta National snob? Let's examine the issue here with some key contrasts.

If you're a slob, your favorite greenskeeper of all time is Carl Spackler, Bill Murray's character in the movie. Who else could get away with dynamiting an entire fairway to eliminate one furry little gopher? The movie was shot at a country club in Davie, Florida and, for that scene, the crew tricked management into leaving just in case severe damage was done. It wasn't dynamite but there was quite a bit of damage to the green and nearby fairway.

If you're categorized as a snob, your favorite place on the planet is Augusta National. The last time anyone saw a weed or piece of litter there was the day Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts first walked the property in 1931. The grounds aren't mowed, they're manicured. One could argue Mother Nature created azaleas specifically for Masters' week.

However, that brings up a couple not-so-pleasant incidents from the past, or at least not so pleasant for the announcers involved. On the CBS telecast in the mid-1990s, Gary McCord said the greens were so slick they'd been treated with "bikini wax." Mr. McCord was never invited back. The Masters Committee then and now controls who works the broadcast.



Framed picture of "Caddyshack" cast. PHOTOS BY RANDY WATERS



Author's 1998 Masters' bag tag—replacement cost \$50.

"It's OK to say 'that one's in the lumber yard' when you shank a shot at a nice country club."

In 1966, Jack Whitaker looked at the number of people moving into position for the Monday playoff between Gay Brewer, Tommy Jacobs and Jack Nicklaus and described the crowd as a "mob." Whitaker was taken off the broadcasts for a few years after that but was eventually invited back. Fortunately, no one really considers that a black mark on Whitaker's brilliant career. He passed away last August.

Most PGA tournaments allow cell phones on the course, but not at the Masters. Pull out a phone or camera on a tournament day and run the risk of ejection. If the ticket is in someone else's name, the ticket owner is subject to permanent loss of that credential.

The slobs would rather watch the Caddy Day at the Bushwood pool scene

than see an Olympic swim competition. They think Ty Webb (Chevy Chase) and Carl Spackler are the greatest comedy team in history, even though they're only on screen together for one scene—a few minutes in the movie.

The snobs hit the Augusta National souvenir shop armed with passion and plastic. Examples of current products/prices include: visor, \$50; bag tag, \$50; yard gnome, \$189.99. OK, I get the first two, but I'd be afraid the gnome would come to life and nail me with a 3-wood. It would probably be justified for damage I've done to the integrity of the game with a 3-wood in my hands.

Truth is, many slobs are also snobs and many snobs are also slobs. It's OK to say "that one's in the lumber yard" when you shank a shot at a nice country club. It's also fine for the same person to stop and catch their breath, and just soak it all in the first time Amen Corner comes into view at Augusta National.

Thank goodness we got a mulligan after King James II of Scotland banned anyone from playing "gowf," because it distracted from practicing archery for military purposes. Although, there have been many times when having the ability to put an arrow through my scorecard would have come in handy.

So, let's allow Judge Elihu Smailes (Ted Knight) write the final verdict: Guilty as charged on both counts—leaning on the comedic genius of late producer Harold Ramis and the "Caddyshack" cast to laugh at and with the most frustrating game those crazy Scots invented roughly 563 years ago, as well as admiring the people and the places they provide to play the game at the highest level.



RANDY WATERS

Randy Waters has been a TV/radio sportscaster since 1973 in Lexington, Louisville, Pittsburgh and Atlanta—WXIA/II Alive (1984-2013.) He hosted the Falcons programming on CW69 and is the color analyst for Georgia Tech/IMG basketball radio network, 1994-current.

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Announcer upgrade

Golf ... And Other Things Out Of Doors

JIM RICE

With the weather warming and flower buds popping (at Gibbs anyway), I've come back to watching a bit of golf on TV. What a wonderful surprise and an awesome upgrade to have Davis Love and Paul Azinger doing color and on-course commentating instead of being screamed at by Gary McCord. An upgrade for sure. Azinger is able to bring insightful analysis to the shots and the situation without being personally critical of the individuals or wandering down some rabbit hole of a story only the announcers know about.

As for on-course announcers, it's now Jim "Bones" Mackay. Having carried the bag for Phil Mickelson for over 25



Nick Faldo. JIM HUNTER / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

years, he's seen shots hit successfully from some pretty incredible spots. Phil is a magician and an escape artist; his short game usually makes up for his errant driver. Mackay has seen every lie possible in golf and can read them better than most players. One of the color commentators will mention a player is in an impossible spot with an incredibly bad lie. Bones will take a look and respond with something like, "It's not that bad; the player should be able to get it close." Sure enough, the ball comes out high and soft and rolls to 3 feet of the pin. Not as dramatic but way more accurate.

Another thing about this new round of announcers is none of them feels he has to put on this fake British accent ... except for, of course, Sir Nick Faldo. While being British gives him some excuse (so is Bones Mackay), it hardly covers for the heavily fake accent. Frankly, if I want to listen to sentences that I can hardly understand, I'll binge-watch episodes of "The Crown." The other thing you just really don't want to hear from Nick is any sentence that

begins with: "When I played..." just announce the game without all the self-glorifying tales. The man has more "I's" than an Irish potato ... really.

Anyway, I am excited to see and hear this new wave of golf announcers—less drama, more accuracy and no personal attacks on the individual golfers just because they hit a poor shot. We've all done that, right?

Hurray for the upgrade and bring on spring golf with warm temps, dry fairways and birdie chances ... I am sooooo ready.



JIM RICE

Jim Rice is an Alabama boy living in North Georgia with a Pittsburgh Yankee. He markets sculptural art for money, plays golf for fun and enjoys fine wine on all such occasions. Living the dream in Big Canoe with his lovely bride for more than 20 years.

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Drop zones

BY THE RULES GUYS

While not widely known, Big Canoe has one of the largest groups of rules officials in the state of Georgia. On an experimental basis, we are offering in *Smoke Signals* a monthly rules discussion and updates on course changes in Big Canoe. We will also weigh in occasionally on significant rules controversies that make it into the press. With this in mind, here we go.

Recent course marking changes

The week of March 16, a new Red Penalty Area (PA) line was marked behind Choctaw 4. This is between the back of the green and the row of holly bushes that shield the green from Steve Tate Road. The line is an extension of the current Red PA, which runs the length of the hole along the creek from tee to green. It has been decided to mark this area as a Red PA to speed play and reduce the chance of injury to players from the dense, sharp holly branches. It also resolves any question of where the out-of-bounds area lies between the hole and Steve Tate by making it a moot point. The relief area available may not be very large as there will be spots directly behind the hole location where it will be difficult to find a large area not closer to the hole.

Rules discussion

Once every few years, the subject of drop zones becomes a hot topic in Big Canoe. The two most commonly discussed are Creek 3 and Choctaw 9, as they remove a significant carry over the penalty area.

Drop zones (DZs) are not mentioned in the 24 Rules of Golf, although they receive brief coverage in a document called "Course Marking for General Play." In this piece, the USGA defers to the local course committee to determine the appropriateness and location of drop zones, providing a few guidelines to use in the process.

First and foremost, DZs are established to provide additional relief options to a player along with the usual Rule 17.1d relief options. As an example, consider gold and red tee players on Creek 3. If they hit a ball into the Red PA without crossing land, their three options would normally be Lateral Relief (LR), Back-On-The-Line relief (BOTL), and Stroke & Distance (S&D). The first two options would yield a reference point essentially the same as Stroke & Distance, effectually offering the player only one relief option. With the availability of a drop zone, the



player now has two practical options.

In establishing the location of the DZ, the guideline states the committee should attempt to maintain the architectural challenge of the hole. It should not be closer to the hole than where the player would normally be dropping if normal relief options were available and should be set in an area where at least part of the PA is negotiated. The USGA also encourages that other factors, such as pace-of-play and course design, be considered in determining the location of the DZ.

The sticking point in this second guideline for Cherokee 3 and Choctaw 9 would be the absence of penalty area between the DZ and the green. Note, however, the USGA uses the word "attempt." Currently, there is no place on these two holes to create a second relief option that meets this criterion. The need for an alternative option, along with the pace-of-play and course playability

considerations, ultimately led to the placement of current DZ. To confirm this decision, our local officials have reached out to the USGA for additional input. In reviewing our specific hole designs, they concurred the current locations were appropriate.

Why not just eliminate these drop zones for a competition? The USGA cautions against making changes to a course for a net competition that might have a significant impact on the validity of the course handicap. While the DZs may have little impact on the handicaps of better golfers, this would certainly not be true for a significant part of our golfing population.

April 2020 quiz

You are having a bad day. A *really* bad day. Standing on the Creek 8 tee, you carefully check that your ball is properly within the teeing area and visualize a great shot that will surely turn things around. Instead,

the ball clunks off the toe of the club, hits a tree to the right of the tee, and bounces directly backward, rolling to a stop on the spot you just hit from within the teeing area. Enough is enough. You pick up the ball, and with a mighty heave, it rockets across the road, takes a large bounce in the parking lot, and is last seen heading for the Canoe Lodge. Without thinking, you tee up another ball and hit the shot you originally envisioned, stopping one foot from the flag. Your putt rolls into the hole. What is your score?

- (a) Par (b) Bogey (c) Double Bogey
(d) Triple Bogey

To find the answer visit the Big Canoe Rules Golf Genius website at: <https://bcgc-bigcanoerules.golfgenius.com/>. Look under: "SS Rules Ques."

Your BC Rules Guys are: Bill Buss, Edd McClain, Jack Foster, John Hansen, Keith Sievers, Ray Haas, Richard Hudock and Tim Towle.



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WGA adjusts 2020 schedule

Women's Golf Association

MARTHA POWER

As this article is being written, Big Canoe Women's Golf Association's plans for the 2020 season are being modified to accommodate the coronavirus protocol implemented by the POA.

"BCWGA Opening Day, scheduled for April 1, is now cancelled and regularly scheduled play days and tournaments are on hold or will be modified as more protocols materialize," stated Janet Vandembark, WGA president. "The BCWGA will work very hard to keep its membership informed with the latest updates. Tee times on Monday and Wednesday for play days will still be on the tee sheets. Whether those times are used for structured play days or casual golf for WGA members will be communicated as the dates grow closer."

Cognizant of the above information, regularly planned play days will start April 5 for 9-hole players and April 7 for 18-hole golfers. Lady Players will continue to play 18 holes on Fridays. The 4Gs, a new group designed for the 18-holers with a moderate to higher handicap, or no handicap at all, will play earlier on Monday mornings starting April 20. Players can sign up for



Big Canoe Women's Golf Association officers have big plans for the 2020 season. Seated from left are 9-hole Vice President Carolyn Witt and Janet Vandembark, WGA president. Standing from left are Malissa Jett, treasurer; Donna Welch, secretary; Leslie Grogan, Katie Lane, 18-hole play day co-chairs and Joyce Fitch, 9-hole play day co-chair. Not pictured is 18-hole Vice-president Carol McClain and 9-hole play day Co-chair Lynda Waters. PHOTO COURTESY OF BCWGA

"BCWGA Opening Day, scheduled for April 1, is now cancelled."

all play days and tournaments on the Golf Genius platform on the golf amenity section on the POA website.

Carol McClain, vice-president of the WGA, will head a subcommittee to plan 18-hole tournaments. The first tournament of the year is the very popular Ringer, a two-day event for 18-hole players scheduled for Monday, May 4 and Friday, May 6. Golfers will play both days with exactly the same hole locations. Individuals will record the best scores from 18 of the 36 holes. Lynn Burns is in charge of the Ringer tournament. Other tournaments for the season and the committee member responsible for them are Sandy Towle, Tri-Member Tournament; Carol McClain, Member-Member Tournament; and Peggy Williams, Big Canoe Cup Challenge. Again, the plans are fluid and the BCWGA Executive Committee will keep members posted on updates and modifications, as necessary.

Nine-hole Vice President Carolyn Witt is responsible for 9-hole tournaments starting with the Ringer on May 11 and May 18. "A Ringer tournament is a competition with each individual trying to improve her 9-hole individual score, playing the same nine holes twice and choosing the best score," explained Carolyn.

MGA cancels Opening Day tournament, match play to proceed

Men's Golf Association

KEITH SIEVERS, MGA PRESIDENT

Well, last month I was lamenting the snowfall that was impacting our ability to get out on the golf course. How things can change in a heartbeat.

As of today, the MGA has cancelled the Opening Day tournament scheduled for late March. By the time this is published, we should have an announcement out to members regarding our April Replay tournament. With information

on CV-19 changing almost daily, it is hard to know where we might be by mid-April. The top priority of the MGA board, however, is the health and safety of the entire community, and we will gladly support whatever actions are necessary to prevent the incursion of this virus into our homes.

There is some good news, however. At the present time, the MGA's Individual and Team Match Play competitions, as they are not large gatherings, don't present significant risk and will proceed. We were inundated with record-setting sign-ups for both events and ultimately expanded the tournament brackets to accommodate an additional 24 players. We hope this surge in participation and enthusiasm will bode well for tournaments throughout 2020 when our season reopens.

In the interim, the MGA board will work with the POA and the golf professionals to adapt to changing circumstances. We will look for opportunities to create competitions in line with public safety. As always, we will keep the membership informed as we move forward.



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Trails Committee stays busy with improvements

Trails Committee

CLARDY SCHWARZ

On a very chilly February morning, a group of Big Canoe Trails Committee volunteers ventured out to improve the Lake Petit Trail. Phil Waldrop, Brian and Rita Boje, Javier Rodriguez, Joe Tipton, Bob Kenyon, Doug Hanley, Reg Richard, Bill Dempsey and Clardy Schwarz braved the cold morning temperatures to improve one of Big Canoe's top amenities.

A re-route around a low-lying, muddy area was carved into the hillside next to the creek. Several bog bridges were relocated to the new site, improving the hiking experience for all who use this trail. The hillside was raked, a layer of duff was removed, and soil and roots were cleared to create a proper hiking treadway. Some branches and small saplings were cut, but special care was given to preserving mountain laurel and rhododendron. Pulaskis, McClouds, rakes, hand pruners and small saws were used to cut in the new trail.



A new path takes shape on the Lake Petit Trail. PHOTO BY RITA BOJE

Another re-route took place on the Wildcat Trail Access Path in the Wildcat neighborhood where Malcolm Halls singlehandedly moved a section of the trail from a low-lying, muddy area to higher ground. A bog bridge was relocated from the Lake Petit Trail to the Wildcat Trail Access Path.



Malcolm Halls works hard on the Wildcat Trail Access Path. PHOTO BY CLARDY SCHWARZ

Time to sign up for Big Canoe summer sports camps



Junior Golf Camps

This camp is for all levels of players, ages 5-15. Campers will receive instruction putting, chipping and full swing. Lunch is provided each day. The final day of camp is a parent/junior 9-hole scramble tournament.

The cost per week is \$275 per camper. Camp dates are July 7-10 and July 21-24. Call the pro shop for more information or to sign up: 706-268-3323.

Junior Tennis Camps

Tennis Camp is for all levels of players from beginners to advanced. Campers will receive technical training and instruction to develop fundamentals and skills.

Beginning the week of June 1, camps will run through the week of July 27. Camp starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. each day for children 7 and up, for \$250 weekly/\$55 daily. Instruction for kids 7 and under (PeeWees) is from 9-10 a.m. daily and costs \$50 weekly/\$15 daily. Contact the Racquet Club at 706-268-3367 to sign up.

Kids Summer Fish Camps

Fishing camps are June 24-26 and July 22-24; \$125 per camper, per session. Price includes rod and reel, tackle, bait, boat and instruction. Call the Marina at 706-268-3303 to reserve a spot.



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Mollee’s magic

Maggie’s House

FRANCES H.

On Jan. 11, Mollee became my companion. My husband had passed away in September and loneliness had set in. My neighbor, who lived in Big Canoe for 15 years, told me about Big Canoe Animal Rescue and drove me to Maggie’s House to adopt a cat.

Mollee’s name was then Lolita. I renamed her after my husband, whose name was Lee. She has been my delight. She was so well taken care of when I got her—it just amazed me. It took a few days for her to settle in and adjust to me and the house, but, after only a month, we are best buddies.

Mollee comes to me when I call her name. She is very sweet and loves to play with her toys and sit on her favorite perch to check out all the movement on

the outside. She settles next to me when I sit on the couch to watch TV, taking any opportunity to rub up against my arms and face. This cat has taken away the loneliness I was beginning to experience after my husband’s passing.

Thank you, BCAR, for giving me the opportunity to adopt Mollee. She is everything I had hoped for in a cat and more.

- Call BCAR 706-268-1346.
- Check out the BCAR adoption postings in the Big Canoe postal facility.
- Go to www.bigcanoeanimalrescue.org.
- Check us out on Facebook.
- Come to Open House every Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Volunteer!

BCAR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit no-kill shelter for homeless dogs and cats found in the Big Canoe Community, providing them with a safe, healthy and positive environment until they are adopted into their forever loving homes.



Beautiful Mollee has found a loving home. PHOTO BY FRANCES H.

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PAT GARLAND

Volunteer at Big Canoe Animal Rescue and resident since 1994



Big Canoe Hiking Club

BY LAURA SMITH

The Big Canoe two-night hiking trip is just weeks away. April 14 through 16, the Hiking Club will be at Cloudland Canyon State Park. This park is in northwestern Georgia near the small town of Trenton. It is easy to find with Google maps and is about 2 hours and 15 minutes away. Club members will be arriving around noon and then congregating at Cabin 16 to do our first hike.

After the hike, members can check into cabins or yurts. The cabins are two or three bedrooms with a kitchen and bath. Yurts are a bit more spartan. Members will bring food for breakfast and lunch, but we will go out to dinner as a group with barbecue the first night and a more upscale favorite café the second night. After dinner the first night, the group will meet for a game of Dirty Hiker and socializing around the campfire. For Dirty Hiker, members bring a gift or re-gift from home. These gifts are often quite humorous, such as the stuffed chicken that has been passed around for more than a year.

The club visited and enjoyed Cloudland Canyon three years ago. We are expecting 30 or more hikers on this trip. Our hikes will include views of the canyon. Many waterfalls will be flowing at capacity after our rainy winter. There is always the option of hanging out and enjoying the scenery instead of a hike. Cloudland is one of the more scenic parks in our state park system. On day two, the club will do a morning and afternoon hike and then out to dinner again. On the third day, we will take a short morning hike and then return to Big Canoe. The club is keeping fingers and toes crossed for good weather on this trip. We all have spring fever and are more than ready to escape the house and hit the trails!

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"By studying how dogs age, we can get a better understanding of how humans age as well."

How old is your dog in human years?

Doggie Dialogues

DORIS DRESSLER, CPDT-KA

Dog owners often use the "seven-year-rule" to calculate their dog's age in human years: Simply multiply your dog's age by seven. This would make my 13-year-old Labrador retriever 91 years old in human years.

This calculation is not supported by science, so how did this calculation evolve? The most common explanation is in the early 1950s, when this calculation became popular, the average life expectancy of a human was about 70 years and canines about 10 years; thus the 7:1 ratio became a logical (and easy) way to calculate a dog's age in human years.

But new scientific research suggests there is a more accurate way to calculate your dog's age in human years.

Why the interest in how dogs age?





The obvious answer to this question is having a more accurate estimate of our dog's age in human years can help us take better care of our senior dogs. Results of recent research by geneticists may also give new knowledge about how to extend the life of our beloved canines—which may also be applicable to humans.

Size matters

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has determined that different breeds age differently. Based on data collected from veterinary hospitals, pet insurance companies and breed club surveys, large breed dogs generally have shorter lifespans than smaller breed dogs. Cornelia Kraus, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Göttingen in Germany, estimates that every 4.4 pounds of body mass reduces a dog's life expectancy by about one month. Why this is happening is unclear, though the www.akc.org website suggests that "larger dogs may succumb to age-related illnesses sooner and that the accelerated growth of large dogs may lead to a higher likelihood of abnormal cell growth and death from cancer."

2019 Epigenetic Clock Study

A team headed up by Tina Wang at

APPROXIMATE AGE OF YOUR DOG IN HUMAN YEARS				
				
	< 20 lbs	21-50 lbs	51-100 lbs	> 100 lbs
AGE OF DOG	AGE IN HUMAN YEARS			
1	15	15	15	12
2	24	24	24	22
3	28	28	28	31
4	32	32	32	38
5	36	36	36	45
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	79
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	100
14	72	78	88	107
15	76	83	93	114
16	80	87	99	121

What is your dog's age in human years? CHART BY DORIS DRESSLER WITH DATA FROM WWW.AKC.ORG

the University of California has proposed a far more accurate way of calculating a dog's age by using DNA methylation, a process that occurs in both humans and dogs.

What is DNA methylation? The www.akc.com website has the simplest explanation. "In both dogs and humans, methyl groups are added to DNA molecules throughout aging, altering DNA activity without altering the DNA itself. As a result, DNA methylation has been used

by scientists to study aging in humans through an epigenetic clock."

Epigenetics is the study of how environmental factors cause these adjustments. The www.bark.com website explains dogs are good models for humans because "they have similar genetics, share our environment and they also have similar diseases and health issues." By studying how dogs age, we can get a better understanding of how humans age as well.

Wang's team studied the DNA sequencing in 104 Labrador retrievers of all ages and compared their "epigenetic clocks" to those of humans.

Based on this new research, the AVMA suggests this updated calculation to estimate a medium-sized dog's human age:

- The first year of a dog's life equals 15 human years.
- The second year of a dog's life equals about nine human years.
- After that, every five dog years equals about one human year.

Note: The actual formula is a bit more complicated. Google "sciencemag.org convert dog years" and enter your dog's age into the "dog age calculator." The website www.Sciencemag.org states the calculation is "the natural logarithm of the dog's real age, multiplied by 16, with 31 added to the total."

Additional research on other breeds is in the works.

Dog Aging Project

The objective of the Dog Aging Project is to recruit 10,000 pets and their owners to participate in a 10-year study to identify biological and environmental factors that may affect health and longevity. Out of this group, 500 dogs will be selected to test a new drug that may help slow down the aging process and may be useful to humans in the future as well.

The goal of the Dog Aging Project is to understand how genes, lifestyle and environment influence aging and to use that information to help dogs and people increase the period of their life that is spent disease-free.

For more information and/or to register your dog, go to www.dogagingproject.org.

This month, instead of winding up my column with my regular salutation, I end with a quote from Sydney Jeanne Seward: "Blessed is the person who has earned the love of an old dog."



DORIS DRESSLER

Doris Dressler is a CPDT-KA (certified professional dog trainer, knowledge assessed) with more than 20 years' experience training service dogs and family pet dogs.



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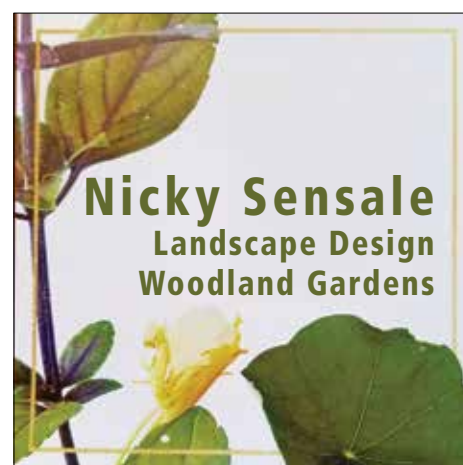
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS. You can make a difference in the life of a child! Contact volunteer@bgcng.org / 706-253-CLUB (2582).

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - PICKENS COUNTY seeking volunteers. Many skill needs. Current priorities are volunteer relations, jobsite management. Contact Monique Vinelli: 706-253-4610 / pickenshfh@gmail.com / www.pickenshfh.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center. Medical experience not required. Please call our volunteer office, 706-253-4673, or email vol-unteer@goodsamhwc.org.

ANGELS ON HORSEBACK, a non-profit serving Pickens and surrounding counties, is looking for volunteers. Contact angelsonhorseback.org or 770-894-7297. Horse experience not required!

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Weekly eBlasts.

706-669-7095

Smoke Signals
News and views from Big Canoe and around North Georgia

April Showers Sales on Big Canoe!



BUILDER'S PERSONAL HOME!

PENDING

393 RED COAT PASS
\$379,800 • FMLS #6502449
 4 Bedrooms/3.5 Baths
 Loaded with Charm
 Beautifully Maintained

FABULOUS HOME

PENDING

457 SUMMIT DRIVE
\$999,999 • FMLS #6116357
 4 Bedrooms/4.5 Baths
 Custom Home with Panoramic Views
 Loaded with upgrades!

LAKE FRONT

PENDING

100 WATER LILY
\$995,000 • FMLS #6630949
 4 Bedrooms/3.2 Baths
 Fabulous Lakeside Home!
 Recent updates-Perfection!

CUSTOM HOME

SOLD!

95 BUTTERCUP LANE
\$399,000 • FMLS #6517039
 4 Bedrooms/3.5 Baths Fabulous View
 Featured on 2017 Garden Tour
 Designers Home-Beautifully done

NEW LISTING

SOLD!

161 BLUEBELL CIRCLE
\$250,000 • FMLS #6664148
 3 Bedrooms/3 Baths
 Updated with Covered Parking
 Walk to Nature Valley

NEW LISTING

PENDING

55 HILLSIDE WAY
\$425,000 • FMLS #6696306
 Great Location
 Loaded with Extras

NEW LISTING

PENDING

113 SCONTI KNOLL
\$547,000 • FMLS #6527391
UNDER CONTRACT IN 5 DAYS!

NEW PRICE

SOLD!

11 WOOD POPPY COURT
\$799,000 • FMLS #6086299
 4 Bedrooms/5.5 Baths
 Custom Prairie Style Home
 Double Lot-One POA Fee

VIEW! VIEW! VIEW!

SOLD!

145 CLIFF FERN POINT
\$475,000 • FMLS #6511512
 4 Bedrooms/3.5 Baths
 Convenient Location and VIEW!
 Beautiful Custom Home

NEW LISTING

PENDING

40 LAUREL RIDGE TRAIL
\$299,000 • FMLS #6675162
 3/4 Bedrooms/ 3.5 Baths
 Walk to Amenities!
 Cozy, Cottage in a great location!

VIEW!

PENDING

484 HUNTERS TRACE
\$445,000 • FMLS #6626009
 3 Bedrooms/3 Baths
 4 minutes from Gate with VIEW!
 Beautifully Renovated

NEW PRICE

SOLD!

668 RIDGEVIEW DRIVE
\$449,000 • FMLS #6629609
 3 Bedrooms/2 Baths
 One of the best views
 in Big Canoe!!

NEW LISTING

PENDING

54 BUCKSKULL BROW
\$189,000 • FMLS #6520607
UNDER CONTRACT IN 4 DAYS!

BUILDER'S PERSONAL HOME

SOLD!

691 TURNBURY LANE
\$775,000 • FMLS #6118927
 4 Bedrooms/5.5 Baths Custom Home -
 3 Car Garage - Golf Course and Lake Views
 Owner is a licensed Real Estate Agent

NEAR WALKING TRAILS

SOLD!

35 GADALUTSEE PASS
\$439,900 • FMLS #6527302
 4 Bedrooms/4 Baths
 2 Bedrooms on the Main
 Minutes from North Gate

PRIVATE LOT!

PENDING

63 THE PADDOCK
\$499,000 • FMLS #6651022
 5 Bedrooms/4.5 Baths
 3 Stone Fireplaces~Sunroom
 2 Bedrooms on Main~Private Location

NEW LISTING

SOLD!

77 CHEROKEE KNOLL
\$435,000 • FMLS #6631184
 3 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths
 Close to North Gate and Wildcat Hiking
 Trails. Spacious Rooms, Office & Workshop

PRIVACY AND A VIEW!

PENDING

776 BLACK BEAR TRAIL
\$725,000 • FMLS #6585058
 6 Bedrooms/6.5 Baths
 Inlaw Suite with Kitchen and Private Entry
 3 Car Garage/6 Minutes from North Gate

RIDGE LINE VIEW

SOLD!

95 TREETOP KNOLL
\$149,900 • FMLS #6536163
 2 Bedrooms/2 Baths
 Centrally located
 Walk to Amenities

NEW PRICE

PENDING

291 WOODLAND TRACE
\$375,000 • FMLS #6650834
 3 Bedrooms/3 Baths
 Custom Home with recent Updates!
 Flowing Stream and Privacy!

NEW LISTING

SOLD!

64 HIGHLAND FARMS COURT
\$275,000 • FMLS #6539935
 3 Bedrooms/2 Baths
 Convenient to Village and Amenities
 Beautiful Renovation-Wheelchair Ramp

VIEW!

PENDING

1239 MCELROY MTN DRIVE
\$350,000 • FMLS #6643625
 4 Bedrooms/3 Baths
 Convenient to North Gate
 2 Bedrooms on Main

NEW LISTING

PENDING

142 BLACK GUM DRIVE
\$425,000 • FMLS #6564242
 4 Bedrooms/3.5 Baths
 Beautifully Maintained and Updated
 Near Amenities and Nature Valley

NEW PRICE

PENDING

811 MCELROY MTN DRIVE
\$599,000 • FMLS #6562660
 4 Bedrooms/4.5 Baths
 One of the best views in Big Canoe!!!
 Updated and Move in Ready

NEW PRICE

PENDING

40 TROUT LILY TRAIL
\$215,000 • FMLS #6539718
 3 Bedrooms/2 Baths
 Walk to Nature Valley
 Seasonal Interior View

NEW PRICE

PENDING

84 SOURWOOD CIRCLE
\$375,000 • FMLS #6547506
 4 Bedrooms/3.5 Baths
 Beautifully Maintained. Sunroom,
 2 Fireplaces, Private Guest Spaces

NEW LISTING

PENDING

34 SCONTI RIDGE, UNIT 405 • \$134,900
48 SCONTI RIDGE, UNIT 409B • \$136,000
 2 Bedrooms/2 Baths
 UPDATED!
 Lake and Golf Course View



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RESOURCE CERTIFICATION - SFR

BIG CANOE LOTS

- 2592 Summit Dr. West \$110,000
Great View of Lake and Mountains - SOLD
- 112 Disharoon \$80,000 - VIEW, VIEW, VIEW!!
- 7024 Sourwood Circle \$24,999
Interior View!! Level Lot!!
- 160 Yanegwa Knoll \$25,000
- 152 Bellflower Drive \$35,000
Seasonal Ridgeline View!
- 327 Woodland Trace \$10,000
Corner of Woodland Trace and Lone Wolf - SOLD

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