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BARTOW COUNTY'S ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER

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JAMES SWIFT/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Bartow county Elections Supervisor Josph Kirk at a Sept. 12 public meeting.

BARTOW COUNTY

Board approves advance voting sites

By JAMES SWIFT
 james.swift@daily-tribune.com

Members of the Bartow County Board of Elections and Voter Registration approved the locations for advance voting ahead of the Nov. 8 general election at a public meeting held on Sept. 12.

The biggest change from previous years is the decision to open advance voting at the Cartersville Civic Center, at 435 West Main St., for three weeks instead of just one.

Bartow County Elections Supervisor

Joseph Kirk said the expansion is required to take some of the load off the elections office headquarters building at 1300 Joe Frank Harris Parkway in Cartersville.

"In 2020, we opened up for all three weeks and we had a decent turnout there for all three weeks, but 2020 was a very different election than what we have right now," Kirk said. "But in 2018, the numbers we saw at this facility were similar to the numbers we saw in 2020. And that about broke us."

SEE BOARD, PAGE 8A

BARTOW COUNTY

Residential mixed use rezoning approved

By JAMES SWIFT
 james.swift@daily-tribune.com

Bartow County Commissioner Steve Taylor approved a request to rezone about 76 acres along Walnut Grove Road for a proposed residential mixed use development at a public meeting on Sept. 14.

Applicant Manor Restorations, LLC, sought the rezoning of the property from A-1 agriculture to a planned unit development (PUD) classification, along with a land use map amendment that shifts the tract from rural estate to residential mixed use.

The Bartow County Planning Commission voted 6-1 on Sept. 12 to recommend that both requests be approved — albeit, with the condition that certain design guidelines are followed.

"It includes a lot of different things, so not all of it was recommended," Bartow County Zoning Administrator Richard Osborne said. "It includes anything from a design review board, restrictions and stipulations, site planning, grading, lighting, utilities, architectural designs, height limitations ... but specifically, the planning commission voted to recommend approval with a



JAMES SWIFT/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS
 Bartow County Commissioner Steve Taylor at a Sept. 14 public meeting.

condition [for] article ten, which is the architectural design for the homes, the townhomes and commercial, as well as exhibit D, which is the list of prohibited uses. And it is specific to the commercial area, with the intention of having commercial being neighborhood or boutique commercial that is not general, not heavy commercial."

SEE REZONING, PAGE 3A

Empty Bowls Project to benefit Backpack Buddies Sept. 25

By MARIE NESMITH
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SPECIAL

Brenda Foxx, left, and Angie Pinkard choose bowls to take home from the Empty Bowls Project last year. Presented at the Bartow County College and Career Academy, the event raised money for the Backpack Buddies program.

Continuing to generate awareness and funds for Backpack Buddies, the Empty Bowls Project is returning Sept. 25. The benefit will be presented from noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Bartow County College and Career Academy, 738 Grassdale Road in Cartersville.

"We held our first event in the fall of 2011," said Jayme Laney, an art teacher at Adairsville High School who spearheads the event. "We had a goal of selling 300 bowls to raise \$6,000. Now we have increased our goal to 500 bowls and \$10,000."

"Food insecurity is still a reality for many students in Cartersville City and Bartow County Schools. Our fundraising event is focused on supporting Backpack Buddies financially. Children in this

SEE BOWLS, PAGE 2A

Taylor OKs \$4M-plus water tank contracts

By JAMES SWIFT
 james.swift@daily-tribune.com

Bartow County Commissioner Steve Taylor approved two contracts related to the Peoples Valley Road water tank replacement project at a public meeting on Sept. 14.

One contract with Pre-Con Corp. was tabbed at \$2,786,000, while the other contract with Unity Construction came in at \$655,478.

Bartow County Water Department Director Lamont Kiser said the project is expected to be financed via federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 dollars.



JAMES SWIFT/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

From left, Bartow County Administrator Peter Olson and Bartow County legal counsel Brandon Bowen.

The water tank project is one of half a dozen Bartow County infrastructure projects being paid for through ARP funding.

"Last year we identified six projects," Kiser said. "This is project No. 4 that we have bid ..."

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OBITUARIES

Owen FUNERAL HOME

Rose Marie Cabe

Rose Marie Cabe, age 82, of Cartersville, GA, passed away on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. She was born in Cartersville, GA, on November 22, 1939, to the late Gordon Moore and Ollie Kown Moore.

Rose is preceded in death by her husband, Willie Cabe, Jr; sister, Betty Woodall; and brothers, Ted Moore and Ellis Moore. She is survived by her sons, Ricky



Cabe

Lee Cabe (Tammy) and Randy Paul Cabe (Brenda); her grandchildren, Kayla Cabe, Tony Cabe (Corrie) and Jerry Cabe (Stephanie); her great-grandchildren, Kylee Cabe, Alexius Cabe, Christopher Cabe and Easton Cabe; and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at Owen Funeral Home with Charlie Gilliland officiating. Interment will follow in Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 pm at Owen Funeral Home.

Flowers will be accepted or those desiring may make memorial contributions in Rose's honor to the Bartow Christmas Coalition. Please visit www.owenfunerals.com to

leave online condolences for the family. Owen Funeral Home 12 Collins Dr., Cartersville, GA is honored to serve the Cabe family.

Gary Lee Lester

Lt. Gary Lee Lester, USN Ret., of Cartersville, Georgia, passed away Sunday, September 11, following a lengthy battle with COPD.

Gary was born on November 26, 1946, in Fairmont, West Virginia.

He is preceded in death by his parents Howard and Mable Lester and his daughter, Kimberly Toole.



Lester

Gary is survived by his sister, Melody Nottingham, brother-in law, George Nottingham of White, Georgia, nephew Jason Nottingham (Terri) of Fairmont, Georgia, nephew Rodger Nottingham (Camilla) of Woodstock, Georgia, niece Amanda Cagle (Terry) of White, Georgia, niece Joyce Madden of Woodstock, Georgia, West Virginia and Florida cousins and many great nieces and nephews.

Gary served his county proudly for 26 years in the United States Navy. As an enlisted man, he served in CBMU 301 (Seabees) in 1967-1968. Gary was deployed along with 200 other Seabees in CBMU 301 to establish a base at Dung Ha in the Quang Tri province in June of 1967. He worked on airfield maintenance and liked to tell how the Seabees laid the airfield

material during the day and the Viet Cong carried it off at night. Gary was later promoted and served out the remainder of his career as an officer.

In his retirement, Gary completed his bachelors' degree at the University of Maine-Machias. He developed a love of computers and enjoyed gardening, baking bread (especially West Virginia pepperoni rolls), socializing with his buddies at the shooting range, and caring for his beloved dachshund, Baby Girl.

He was recently privileged to have the shooting range named in his honor. A memorial service is being planned for the near future. Georgia Funeral Care and Cremation Services of Acworth is honored to handle cremation arrangements for Lt. Lester.

Bowls

From Page 1A

program are identified by teachers and counselors and can receive a backpack with meals and a snack for the weekend."

As in past years, the Empty Bowls Project is a community-wide effort.

Numerous artists and restaurants across Bartow are providing support for this fundraiser. During the event, attendees will be able to select — and later take home — a handmade bowl and fill the container with all-you-can-eat food donated from local dining establishments.

"For months, a team of artists, teachers, students and volunteers from all over the county and parts unknown have been busy making hand-crafted unique bowls to donate for this event," Laney said. "Others have contacted some of this area's best restaurants and asked for them to donate 5 gallons of food that can be served in a bowl."

"Coconuts and Mister Softee will be providing the desserts. The Wandering Willows is a local band that will be entertaining guests with their music. We still have restaurants calling us to donate so, this list is not complete: Sloppy Skillet, Chick-fil-A, Adams Bar-B-Q, Cicis Pizza, Pinkard's, Adairsville General Store and Mercantile Cafe and Water Tower Grille. If you know of a restaurant that would like to donate, please contact me. One-hundred percent of the money raised goes to Backpack Buddies in our community."

Backpack Buddies seeks to alleviate hunger among Bartow's at-risk students.

Launched during the 2010-2011 school year, the local outreach began with a \$5,100 Community Foundation grant that supplied 60 children — 30 from Cartersville City Schools and 30 from the Bartow County School System — with food on the weekends. Backpack Buddies currently assists more than 1,000 students from both school systems.

"I would urge the public to participate because it is a direct way you can make a difference in

your own community," said BCSS Homeless Liaison Ashley Saddler, about the Empty Bowls Project. "I do not think that many people understand how many children in the county have food insecurity. It takes a lot to make a program like Backpack Buddies run successfully and we could not do it without the support of the community."

"No child should ever have to worry about where their next meal is coming from and with the support of the community, we will continue to try to close this gap for our families. But we cannot do it without fundraisers like Empty Bowls."

Like Saddler, Paula Womack — who coordinates the Backpack Buddies program for

Cartersville City Schools — believes the Empty Bowls Project is a "win-win for all" involved.

"It is a great way for families to come out after church or morning activities, to have lunch and to go home with a beautiful piece of pottery while helping to feed one child for one month," Womack said.

For more information about the Empty Bowls Project, contact Laney at 770-546-4796. Tickets, which cost \$20 per person, also can be obtained in advance at https://secure.givelively.org/event/b-l-e-s-s-coalition-inc/empty-bowls/empty-bowls-2022 or at the door Sept. 25.

"One-hundred percent of the money raised goes right back into our community and it is utilized by many Backpack

Buddies groups that are already established," Laney said. "We feel like

your \$20 donation can go to really help someone in need."

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DAR's Etowah Chapter observes Constitution Week

By MARIE NESMITH
marie.nesmith@daily-tribune.com

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution's Etowah Chapter is actively shining a light on the U.S. Constitution. Through local activities, Etowah Chapter Regent Rita Terry Porter shared members are striving to "inspire our children to learn more about our great country and how it started."

"In 1955, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution petitioned Congress with a resolution to set aside Sept. 17 to 23 ... for the observance of Constitution Week," she said. "The annual celebration was established when signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on Aug. 2, 1956."

"NSDAR is committed to encouraging [the] study [of] and educating the public about the Constitution and the men who framed it. These are the goals of our chapter as well."

Along with promoting Constitution Week at the Rose Lawn Arts Festival in downtown Cartersville Sept. 17, the members are planning to highlight the 1787 document, known for providing the framework for America's government, in local schools.

"Our Constitution Week chair, Carolyn Key has sent packages with activities for children to do in our schools, especially in elementary school," Porter said. "At the high school, we have put up posters. I have a few posters available for other schools. There will be short announcements made each day with information about the Constitution. I believe that some of our media centers will have Constitution displays."

"This year, our Georgia State DAR will be celebrating Constitution Week at the Georgia State Capitol on Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon."

SEE DAR, PAGE 9A



SPECIAL
Cartersville Mayor Matt Santini and Bartow County Commissioner Steve Taylor sign a proclamation Aug. 30 highlighting the Daughters of the American Revolution and Constitution Week. Looking on are, standing from left, DAR Etowah Chapter members Carol Key, Beth Williams, Rita Porter, Stefani Patton and Leann Papp.

Rezoning

From Page 1A

Conceptual designs for the proposed "Leakes Walk" development calls for the construction of 161 single family residential lots, 150 townhome lots and about three acres reserved for commercial space.

"There are multiple parcels on this plan that you see here," said applicant representative Karl Lutjens. "Walnut Grove Plantation still owns a large tract here, which right now, is not part of the application."

Lutjens said the proposed project would include about 16 cottage style units, with detached single family homes priced around \$450,000.

"The reason why this property was chosen was because of a lot of the features," he said. "One is the Etowah River, two is Pettit Creek and the most important is the Leake Mound trail system, it's part of where you go around Sam Smith Park ... it's believed that this trail is more than just a multi-use trail, it could eventually become like a belt line or become more active."

John Cummings briefly took to the podium to speak in support of the rezoning and land use map amendment requests.

"I've been working very closely with the developers and Karl to make sure we protect the historical home located adjacent to this," he said.

Another applicant representative, Bernie Smith, also addressed Taylor.

"When we identified this property we saw this as like a premium location for Cartersville," he said. "Quality development is what we have in our sights for this, this is going to be a really nice development."

Mary Norton, a resident off Euharlee Road, raised concerns about the proposed development — particularly, its potential impacts on traffic.

"My research found that around 1,904 units have been approved by the planning commission, starting with the Stiles development in 2006," she said. "I'm not clear on the current status of the traffic study recommended — I personally find it difficult to keep a cumulative number of how many units have been, or how many units each development has."

Osborne said that traffic analyses are required countywide whenever residential developments consisting of 150 or more units are proposed.

"Before any civil plans and hydrology studies, before any land disturbance permit, a professional engineer must prepare and submit a traffic impact study of not just the property, but the area around the proposed development," he said. "The County engineer includes that in his review when civil plans, when the plan review is done."

Taylor said that Bartow County is growing — and so is traffic congestion.

"GDOT's been very good to this community,



JAMES SWIFT/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Cartersville City Manager Dan Porta at a Sept. 14 public meeting.

helping us and partnering with them, and we work closely with the City of Cartersville, too, in our road designs," he said.

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Speaking of Cartersville, the municipality's city manager, Dan Porta, also stepped to the podium during the public hearing.

"The City's not opposed to this, obviously it's adjacent to our water treatment control plant," he said. "I know Mr. Lutjens mentioned the Leake Mounds trails, obviously they're rerouting that and I just want to make sure that when they do reroute it, they build it to the specs that are needed — we do get a lot of use at that trail."

That's a point that merits reiterating, Taylor said.

"The owners that buy these homes need to know that there's a City sewer plant next door and the City treats the County's sewage, too," he said. "We don't want any surprises — the citizens will call us or the City, so it's kind of buyer beware here."

At the same meeting, Taylor was initially scheduled to render a decision on a proposal from applicant TPA Residential regarding a rezoning request to construct about 149 townhomes along Branton Road.

Osborne, however, said that the item has been tabled to a meeting to be held on Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. at the Frank Moore Administration and Judicial Center, located at 135 West Cherokee Ave. in Cartersville.

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This is an invitation to submit a bid to The City of Euharlee for Frankie Harris Park as indicated herein. Sealed bids will be received at the office of the City Manager (in the City of Euharlee City Hall Building at the above address) prior to **5:00 p.m., October 18, 2022** at which time they will be opened and publicly read.

Construction includes paving the existing entrance drive, existing eleven (11) RV Sites, constructing fifteen (15) new RV Sites, Sanitary Sewer, Water and Power in Frankie Harris Park.

Bid documents and plans can be obtained from TealE2.Consulting@gmail.com at a cost of \$150, however there is no charge for digital copies. Payments can be made via check, cash or card (there is a 3.5% fee for card payments). There will also be a non-mandatory pre-bid conference held on **September 26, 2022 at 1:00 pm** at the Frankie Harris Park located at 11 Euharlee 5 Forks Road, Euharlee, GA 30145. Those intending to submit a bid are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference. For additional information, contact **Mark Teal at 770-378-2408 or TealE2.Consulting@gmail.com (email is preferred).**

Instructions for preparation and submission of a bid-proposal are contained in this packet. Bids must be typed or printed in ink. Bids submitted as a result of this invitation must include the "Bid Sheet" along with all required documents and be returned in a sealed envelope or container marked, "SEALED BID for Frankie Harris Park" on the outside. Bids may not be considered unless so received.

Any questions and/or misunderstandings that may arise from this invitation shall be submitted in writing at least 10 days prior to the bid opening. Send to Mark Teal, PE at TealE2.Consulting@gmail.com. The City will not respond to any questions received within 72 hours prior to the bid opening. Answers to questions submitted that materially change the conditions and specifications of this invitation for bid will be promulgated to all email addresses as an addendum. Any discussions or documents will be considered non-binding unless incorporated and promulgated in an addendum.

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Not just another birthday

Riding sting-ray bikes with no real destination, sleeping out near the railroad tracks and going to Gray's Drug Store for a fountain cherry Coke and as many pieces of sour grape bubble gum as we could jam into our pockets were just some of the cool things to do long before any of us even knew where the driver's license place was, not to mention how long it would be before any of us would go there at fifteen years and eight months to get our learner's permit so we could drive with a licensed driver in the car.



Parker

Nobody has ever made a cherry Coke like Louise did. She had worked behind the counter at Gray's since the Mayflower dropped anchor near Cape Cod in the early 1600s, always wearing her white uniform with the even whiter apron she (or somebody) somehow managed to tie around her mid-section. Louise was as wide as she was tall, and hated it when we sat on the stools at the counter and spun around. There was always a towel over her left shoulder, but nobody ever saw her use it for anything.

Every time a bunch of us would go to Gray's, Lie-Ray Kirkland would show up and try to bully one of us into buying him a Coke and anything Louise might've been cooking at the time. Lie-Ray's real name was Larry Ray, but everybody called him "Lie-Ray" because it was easier to say and it saved a syllable.

Lie-Ray was a teenager, older than all of us, and one of the biggest hoods in town. A hood was a guy who skipped school, smoked in front of grown-ups and went around picking fights with younger guys. Louise would have none of Lie-Ray. She kicked him out of Gray's far more than she ever served him anything. Lie-Ray was pretty dense, but he knew better than to cross Louise.

SEE BIRTHDAY, PAGE 7A



Fighting with your life, for your life, while being homeless is a travesty that most cannot fathom, much less reference with experience, but it happens every day in the United States to its citizens. And I am one of those people.

I am dying and homeless in America and no matter how hard I battle, the outcome seems to be inevitable; me dying, dirty, hungry and without medical treatment.

I have been fighting for over a year to get medical help through disability and even though my diseases are fatal, my case just seems to sit there, never moving, never ending, and leaving me in a limbo of uselessness, pain and watching as my life passes by.

In the U.S. when you apply for disability you cannot earn more than \$1,300 a month to qualify while you await approval. That comes out to \$15,600 a year, a mere \$2,000 above the poverty income levels.

Now imagine you cannot earn that because your disability is so

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

debilitating. You have no income coming in, only medical bills. Now not only can you no longer afford things like food or housing, you cannot afford prescriptions, or to pay your ever growing pile of medical bills from your numerous trips to the E.R.

Since you cannot pay your medical bills they are then sent to collection agencies, which impacts your credit, so that even once — or rather, if — you get approved for medical help, you will not be able to rent or buy a home because your credit has tanked while waiting to be approved and your chances of rising out of homelessness become zero to none. Which means that even if you are able to finally get your life-saving surgery, you will spend your recovery time either on the streets or in a car, risking infections and

death. This is the reality of health care in the United States, one of the richest countries in the world, where its citizens seem to exist on paper to our politicians but not actually be the people whom they represent.

Before you think something like this couldn't ever happen to you, as I once did, it can.

I am the former partner of a construction company, a not-for-profit that donated monies to schools. I also owned a horse rescue and am a mother to three children. I was a productive member of society who just happened to be born with genetic diseases made worse by domestic violence.

I am your neighbor. Your friend. Your sister. Your co-worker. I am you.

Our elected officials must change the inhumane ways of our health care system so that people like me, who just want to get better, can and go on to lead productive lives once again.

— Charlie Miller (Adairsville)

Benham 2024

A long time ago I learned that you don't write editorials about presidential politics.

No. 1, that automatically dates whatever you're writing about. I'm sure all those fiery and impassioned op-eds about Walter Mondale and Dan Quayle back in the day were a hoot at the time, but today, they're pretty much worthless.

Secondly, it doesn't matter how reasonable, well-worded or level-headed your hot take may be. Whatever you say about the president, pro or con, is going to rankle at least half the people who read it. And there's no use in trying to convince the already converted, so all you're doing is wasting your time and a couple of extra gallons of ink that could've been used for more productive purposes.

That said, I WILL weigh in on the 2024 presidential election. Even if I'm a little early to the party here.



Right now, we don't know WHO will be running as president on the Republican ticket. Heck, it's not even a lock that Joe Biden will be the Democrat running for office in '24.

But what I can say — and I mean this with more sincerity than anything I've ever written in this paper — is that for our country to REALLY move forward, we don't need *anybody* with an R or a D next to their name in the White House.

We've had the two-party system for well over a century now, and look where THAT's gotten us. It's all endless bickering and infight-

ing and one side blaming the other side for everything going wrong in the world and vice versa.

If this country is going to get on track, it needs a TRUE independent sitting in the Oval Office. Somebody who is a real public servant, whose heart lies with the people of America and not their respective party.

We need somebody who has been through adversity and knows the system in and out. Somebody who is well-versed in just about everything. Someone who understands the ways of the common man and the corporate big shot alike. Somebody with keen insight into the nation's judiciary — after all, with so many government policies and executive orders destined for legal battles, you might as well have a shot-caller in D.C. who can plan for that kind of thing preemptively.

SEE BENHAM, PAGE 7A

CONTACTING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

FEDERAL

Sen. Raphael Warnock • B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-3643 • warnock.senate.gov

Sen. Jon Ossoff • 825 B&C Hart Senate Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20510 • 202-224-3521 • ossoff.senate.gov

Rep. Barry Loudermilk • 329 Cannon House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • 202-225-2931 • loudermilk.house.gov

STATE

Gov. Brian Kemp • 206 Washington St., Suite 203, State Capitol • Atlanta, GA, 30334 • gov.georgia.gov
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler • 3 Orchard Spring Dr. • Rome GA, 30165 • 404-656-0034 • chuck.hufstetler@senate.ga.gov

Sen. Bruce Thompson • 25 Hawks Branch Ln., White, GA 30184 • 404-656-0065 • bruce.thompson@senate.ga.gov
Rep. Matthew Gambill • P.O. Box 487 Cartersville, GA 30120 • 404-656-0254 • matthew.gambill@house.ga.gov

Rep. Mitchell Scoggins • P.O. Box 1051 Cartersville, GA 30120 • 404-656-0254 • mitchell.scoggins@house.ga.gov
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CARTERSVILLE

Cartersville posts \$1M general fund net loss

By JAMES SWIFT

James.swift@daily-tribune.com

Documents provided by City of Cartersville Finance Director Tom Rhinehart indicates the municipality's general fund expenditures outpaced its revenues by more than \$1 million in July.

The City concluded July 2022 with a little over \$2 million in general fund revenues. Fund expenses were reported at a little over \$3 million.

The City had similar numbers in July 2021, when the general fund revenues came in at about \$1.8 million and expenses came in at almost \$3 million.

Compared to July 2021's numbers, however, the July 2022 general fund revenues are up by about \$199,616.

Local option sales tax revenues over that one-year period increased from \$460,961 to \$529,353, while the City's building permit and inspection fee collections likewise increased from \$42,656 to \$273,736.

From July 2021 to July 2022 the City's general fund expenses increased by almost \$107,000.

"The general fund, obviously it's the first month of the [fiscal] year so we're just starting out," said Cartersville City Manager Dan Porta. "The sales tax numbers are improv-

ing, still ... that's going to trend a little better."

All of the City's utility funds, however, did report profits in July 2022.

Per City documents, total water and sewer revenues came in at about \$3.2 million, while fund expenditures tilted slightly above \$1 million.

Compared to July 2021 data, the fund's revenues were up by about \$961,000 in July 2022. Fund expenses over that same timeframe decreased by about \$21,000.

Gas fund revenues for that month were listed as about \$3.5 million, with fund expenses tabbed at \$2.3 million.

Of that \$2.3 million in expenses, about \$1.68 million came in the form of natural gas purchases.

July 2022 gas fund revenues were about \$1.84 million higher than those collected in July 2021. Expenses, however, increased by about \$793,000 over that same period.

Electric fund revenues came in at \$5.2 million, while fund expenditures were tabbed at about \$5.1 million — meaning the utility fund produced just \$59,253 in net profits.

There's no surprise what's driving up costs for the electric fund. In July 2022, the City reported paying \$4.5 million to purchase electricity; for fiscal year 2023, the City budgeted



City of Cartersville Finance Director Tom Rhinehart at a Sept. 15 public meeting.

\$41.9 million to cover the total anticipated costs of purchased electricity.

"The cost of what your utility bill is relative to the cost of what we pay for gas and electric," Cartersville Mayor Matt Santini said. "Expenses have increased in gas by \$793,000 and the increased cost of purchased gas is \$744,000. If you look at the increase in electric, that's increased \$839,000, the increased cost of purchased electricity is \$885,000."

July 2022's electric fund revenues outpaced those from July 2021 by \$819,694. Over

that one-year window fund-related expenses increased by \$839,753.

Fiber optics net profit was tabbed at \$119,904, while solid waste net profit was reported at \$94,286. Stormwater fund profits were listed at \$23,717.

"One thing to point out on the solid waste is that that \$276,000 for the month of July is a good number," Porta said, referencing the fund's July 2022 revenue collections.

A year earlier, that figure for the fund stood at almost \$522,000.

"It probably included a

[Georgia Municipal Association] lease pool payment," Porta continued. "That \$276,000 is slightly more than our budgeted revenue for the month."

For July 2022, \$217,498 was transferred from the City's water and sewer fund to its general fund. An additional \$300,000 was transferred from the City's gas fund to the general fund, as was \$278,163 via the City's electric fund.

At the end of July the City maintained \$6,351,849 in its SPLOST 2020 coffers. \$231,991.10 remained in the City's SPLOST 2014 account, while just \$57,360.22 was left in the City's SPLOST 2003 balance.

The City concluded July with \$64,621,361.87 in total unrestricted cash balance and \$196,770,985.78 in total restricted cash balance.

The total unrestricted cash balance increased by nearly \$1 million compared to June 2022, while the total restricted cash balance increased by well over \$7 million.

The uptick in unrestricted cash is attributed to increases in the City's water, stormwater, electric, solid waste and fiber optic funds.

The uptick in restricted cash is attributed to increases in the City's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, SPLOST 2020, debt service and pension funds.

Benham

From Page 4A

But most importantly of all, we need somebody who can TALK to people. Not as a candidate or a representative of some political tribe. But as a person. Somebody who can get people to understand how major policy issues affect them, and somebody who can talk some sense into people who otherwise would be foaming at the mouth over grandiose concepts they simply can't wrap their heads around.

We need a negotiator. A peacemaker. A storyteller. And somebody you can trust.

And folks, we've got JUST the right candidate here in Bartow County. And since he just retired from the Georgia Supreme Court, you know he ain't got much else to do, either, besides saving this country from the brink of political ruin.

Of course, the only person for the job is none other than former Chief Justice of the entire State Robert Benham. The guy has TWO bridges in town named after him, so you know he's the real deal right off the bat.

I'm not puffing up the guy when I say this. I've spoken to U.S. senators and governors and people who had a real shot at running for president. I've

talked to legit billionaires and astronauts and people who have won Nobel Prizes.

Judge Benham (he gets to keep the title even though he's retired, because he deserves it) is the BEST public speaker I've ever heard. He has this unparalleled ability to demonstrate his wit and wisdom, but without forcing it on you. Just listening to him speak, you can sense that he knows what he's talking about. He has a tone and a delivery that's both casual and incredibly intellectual. He could give a lecture at the Harvard School of Law and a three-minute pep talk at a BBQ fundraiser and not have to change a SINGLE word.

And since he was a Supreme Court justice for nearly half a century, I think he's pretty knowledgeable about a wealth of issues. The guy can talk about law enforcement, environmental protection, disability statutes, the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, health care reform, traffic misdemeanors and the tax code — I genuinely don't think there's a major political issue he WOULDN'T have substantial experiences dealing with.

Policy-wise, Benham has more than enough experience to be executive branch material. That's not even a matter of debate.

But the reason we need Benham in the White House is because our country desperately, direly needs a unifier. Everybody is at everybody else's throat. The political, racial, and socioeconomic

divide is getting wider and wider, and if somebody doesn't step in to make a little effort to close the gaps, we are all destined for some bleak times ahead.

If anybody is a unifier, it would be Benham. He's already shown that he can bring Republicans and Democrats together, that he can bring Blacks and Whites together and that he can bring Yankees and Southerners together.

It's not just that he's a wise man. It's that he's a kind man, too. And when it comes to Washingtonian leadership, compassion is in critically short supply today.

Of course, if Mr. Benham wants to ride out his retirement years and take a much, much-needed breather from State-level judicial politics, none of us can blame him.

But even if he doesn't run for president, I'm still casting my ballot for Bartow's very own.

Benham 2024, ya'll — and every subsequent four years after that, too.

Birthday

From Page 4A

When you sat down at the counter at Gray's, you took your gum out of your mouth and stuck it up under the counter. Every square inch of the underside of the counter at Gray's Drug Store was covered in chewed bubble gum. Mostly sour grapes. No other gum came close to the popularity of sour grapes. They were a penny a piece, and none of us ever left Gray's with less than a quarter's worth. When it was chewing time, there was a three-piece minimum. Will would chew five at a time, and his dad was a dentist. Somehow, that made it OK to chew at least three all at once. The flavor lasted about fifteen minutes, then it was time to spit it out (wherever you might've been at the time) and reload. The quarter's-worth of sour grapes lasted a couple of hours. That was it.

Man-oh-man, where have those days gone? It's impossible for most of us to remember and relive all that's happened between then and now, even if "then" wasn't as long ago for some as it was for others (like me). Sometimes, in a deep sleep, I'll dream about those days, and I'll

wake up wishing it was still that time in history, and not the time we live in now. It's a Mayberry thing.

Every year about now, I think about and remember sting-ray bikes, and sleeping out, and Louise, and Lie-Ray, and sour grapes, probably because I've just added another candle to the cake to celebrate (or at least acknowledge) another trip around the sun. It happened this past week, and I usually don't care or pay much attention to the number of small fires on top of the icing (the only part of the cake that really matters), but this time it was a little different; a little more sobering; a little more memorable.

Does everybody get those telemarketing calls about the upcoming expiration of their car warranty, whether they have a car or not? For the last year, not only have I been reminded that the warranty I never had was about to expire and that they could extend it for an easy-to-handle monthly payment, I've been getting hammered by (probably) the same people offering Medicare supplements and packages and unnecessary. Let this be a warning: You'll wish the car warranty was the only thing you were getting slammed with, and that you were still

getting that AARP junk you started getting when you were seventeen.

When those weird, 800-number calls show up, they get rejected immediately. They don't even get answered. Now, though, a lot of these calls come from a number in Casper, Wyoming, or Latrobe, Pennsylvania (anybody remember what Latrobe was famous for?), or Slidell, Louisiana. I don't know anybody in these places (or the dozens of

other places these calls come from), so they get rejected, too.

Some of these calls even look like they're coming from my next-door neighbor, because the area code and first three numbers are local. Sometimes I'll actually answer those calls just to make sure the house isn't burning down. When it's obvious it's a Medicare or car warranty vulture, I'll wait for

SEE BIRTHDAY, PAGE 10A

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Cartersville BOE approves new CPS' playground equipment

By MARIE NESMITH
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Cartersville City Schools' Board of Education approved the purchase and installation of the new Cartersville Primary School's playground equipment Sept. 12. The overall Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax-funded project will be overseen by Hasley Recreation of Flowery Branch for \$471,847.50.

"There are playground equipment designs that include ropes and wires, but we elected to only select materials that will likely better withstand the elements over time, such as metal structures and plastic," CPS Principal Gina Bishop said, adding the playgrounds will feature a turf surface. "The area will also be equipped with overhead shades and teacher benches.

"We have worked to create fun, engaging, safe spaces for our students to play and, hopefully, create lifelong



RANDY PARKER/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Cartersville Primary School's new building is situated on Carter Grove Road in the Carter Grove subdivision and will feature three playgrounds.

memories."

Bishop noted the three new play-

grounds will look "very similar" to CPS' existing playground area.

SEE BOE, PAGE 10A

Board

From Page 1A

Both the elections office headquarters facility and the Cartersville Civic Center will be open for advance voting from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Oct. 17.

The headquarters facility — but not the civic center — will be open for advance voting on two Saturdays, Oct. 22 and Oct. 29, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The final week of advance voting — Oct. 31 through Nov. 4 — the hours will be extended to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

That same week, two additional advance voting sites will open. The hours at the Allatoona Resource Center (6503 Glade Road in Acworth) and Manning Mill Park gymnasium (163 Manning Mill Road in Adairsville) will likewise be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during that time frame.

"We did go ahead and block off these locations earlier this year, so we shouldn't have any problems getting them," Kirk said. "Of course, our office has to be open for the entire period, that's starting the fourth Monday prior to the election, Monday through Friday, and for the first two Saturdays of that period, this building has to be open."

Kirk noted that once the dates are locked in, they cannot be withdrawn.

"But we can always add to them," Kirk said. "If we see that first Saturday we need to open the civic

center the second Saturday, we will."

Kirk said that during the 2020 presidential election cycle, the advance voting numbers in Bartow hit around 27,000. For the 2018 gubernatorial elections, the advance voting total came in around 16,000.

Kirk began the public meeting with a budget update.

So far, he said the elections office had used about 50% of its annual budget. After expending \$627,432.36, the office has about \$616,000 remaining in its coffers for the rest of the fiscal year.

As of Sept. 9, Kirk said Bartow County had 74,495 active voters and 7,173 inactive voters.

"That's 327 more active voters than last month, 161 less inactive and 166 more registered voters than we had in the previous month," he said. "We have a lot of returned precinct cards right now that we're processing — some of those have to be entered into our computer system as a point of contact, which generates what is called a confirmation notice."

Kirk said that if there is no response to that confirmation notice, the voter's status is changed to inactive.

"Keep in mind any one in inactive status can still vote, and the act of voting changes you back to active," he said.

Kirk said that Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) notices are expected to mail out by Sept. 23, possibly earlier.

"It's an effort by different states to compare registration data to keep our lists as clean as possible and it is our best tool for list maintenance," he continued. "I know there's some concerns about this from some groups right now about the ERIC organization, they are funded by the member states so they are self-funded. They let us know when folks move out of state, they look at different sources of information for that."

So far in the 2022 general election cycle, Kirk said the local office has accepted 772 absentee ballot applications.

"Of those, 521 are what are called rollover applications — folks who applied earlier this year that are elderly or disabled and signed up for all the ballots allowed for the year," Kirk said. "And there are 245 new applications that we received just for this election."

Seven of the new applications had to go through a curing process.

"Meaning there was a mismatch of information between the information on the application and the information on file," Kirk said.

Five other applications, he said, contained missing information and cannot be processed until that information is provided.

Kirk said his office continues to work on staffing the polls in anticipation of Election Day.

"We have a few managers who cannot work this election and can't work anymore because they are moving, we may shuffle people around," he said. "For example, right now we don't have a manager for Cartersville East because he went and got a full time job here as our absentee ballot coordinator."

The board also voted to challenge five voters with



JAMES SWIFT/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Bartow County Board of Elections and Voter Registration Chairwoman Janet Queen at a Sept. 12 public meeting.

addresses registered to post office boxes.

"Unfortunately, it fell through the cracks here," Kirk said. "They are more than welcome to receive their mail at these locations, but unless they are about three inches tall they cannot live in a post office box."

Two of those voters with P.O. box addresses did respond to earlier contact from the local elections office. Kirk said those individuals called back and have expressed intentions to re-register prior to the general election cutoff date.

The other three haven't responded at all.

"They've all been notified with more time than the law requires," Kirk said. "We need to go ahead and get these people off the list now so that we can block those addresses in our system."

The letters mailed to those individuals, Bartow County Assistant Elections Supervisor Cheryl Billard said, will include a fresh application with the voting registration cutoff date explicitly stated.

Logic and accuracy testing for the County's voting equipment, Kirk said, is slated to begin on Sept. 20.

"It will happen on weekdays after Tuesday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.," he said. "It will not be happening every single day ... we share that space for our training."

Kirk rounded out the public meeting by bringing up the issue of voting system security.

"We should already be in a defensive posture, we should already assume that people have access to that information and take steps to prevent them from using that information in a way they shouldn't," he said. "That's why we have such strict chain of custody procedures, that's why we have the post-election audits that we have."

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Water

From Page 1A

because this one had a specialty component to it, a tank contractor did not want to construct the water lines, so we basically bid two projects on one site, the water line to the tank from the road and the tank itself.”

Taylor also approved a clearing easement agreement with Georgia Power for property along the Highway 20 Spur and Center Road.

“Georgia Power’s trying to make sure they have 20-foot easements on all their power lines, so they have the right to clear trees that are interfering with the power lines,” Bartow County Administrator Peter Olson said. “They have contacted us, and I imagine they’re contacting thousands of property owners across the county because they’ve got a lot of lines, but these are two easements related to the power line that runs across the State Patrol property on Highway 20, which we own, and then the Center Road waste disposal site.”

The public meeting began with a hearing regarding the abandonment of a portion of Criss Black Road.

“It’s a very short road that bends from 411 to Arnold Drive,” Olson said. “This section splits a property that’s owned by the same owner on both sides and it’s zoned industrial. It works better, obviously, as one parcel there than the two, so they can put a large building in the middle.”

Olson said the resolution comes with an attached development agreement “where they agree to make sure that the

water department is satisfied as part of abandoning the road, because they have an existing line that runs down the road that serves those two homes.”

Taylor subsequently approved the item.

Taylor also approved the renewal of a contract with Traylor Business Services for property tax verification purposes.

“They randomly select companies of all different sizes to audit every year,” Olson said.

A proposal from firm R.S. Webb and Associates to perform the first phase of an archeological survey of the Wilderness Camp mountain bike trail area also received Taylor’s signature.

Taylor likewise voted to accept Covenant Drive into the Bartow County road system.

That section of Highway 20 was abandoned by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) following infrastructure improvements.

“It’s still named Highway 20, even though it’s not technically State Route 20 anymore,” said Bartow County Information Services Director T.J. Leffew. “Which is confusing to visitors.”

The name change impacts eight existing addresses, including the Bartow County Fire and Emergency Services Department headquarters and the New Covenant Church of Cartersville.

“All of those folks were notified by letter or I spoke to them personally,” Leffew said. “They mentioned things like delivery issues and visitors having trouble finding their facility, those kinds of things. So from a County standpoint, it’s going to be important for us to change the name so that 911 can respond as



JAMES SWIFT/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Bartow County Zoning Administrator Richard Osborne at a Sept. 14 public meeting.

quickly as possible.”

The meeting concluded with Taylor authorizing a declaration of taking.

Bartow County legal counsel Brandon Bowen said the declaration was requested by the County water department.

Taylor considered the agreement to constitute “a friendly condemnation.” Bowen concurred, noting that the property has been appraised at just \$300.

“It is for a small 0.294-acre tract of land along 293 in the Emerson area,” Bowen said. “The property is subject to a very onerous conservation easement and cannot sell voluntarily.”

DAR

From Page 7A

In honor of Constitution Week, Bartow County Commissioner Steve Taylor and Cartersville Mayor Matt Santini signed a proclamation Aug. 30 to “urge all [citizens] to pay tribute to the courage and dedication of all those who created this country.”

According to the “Honoring Daughters of American Revolution” proclamation, the DAR is the “largest women’s patriotic organization in the world with more than 165,000 members and 3,000 chapters, and it promotes patriotism through commemorative celebrations, memorials, scholarships and programs for new immigrants.”

Porter, an environmental science and forensic science teacher at Cartersville High School, joined the NSDAR in 2008.

“The Revolutionary patriot that I joined DAR through was John Trimble,” she said. “I do have several other patriots in my family. He and his father both joined because they felt passionately about our country’s independence.”

Porter noted both men fought in the Revolutionary War with a South Carolina regiment.

“I am keenly aware as a mother and grandmother that the decisions we make in life, as well as our values, shape the next generation,” she said. “I look back at my ancestors and think that if they made different decisions, I wouldn’t be here.

“They were real people who loved and fought for our country and their beliefs. I love my country and believe that it is my duty to love and support it to the best of my ability.”

Along with helping underscore the importance of the U.S. Constitution, Porter enjoys many other aspects of being a member of the DAR.

“It is difficult to pin down what my favorite moments are with DAR,” she said. “Certainly, helping veterans in our community and overseas is important.

“Last year, we sent over a hundred boxes to our deployed military around the world. We also donated three trees for Euharlee’s Festival of Trees. I absolutely love recognizing young people in our community as good citizens.”

Judge approves conditional release order

By JAMES SWIFT

james.swift@daily-tribune.com

Cherokee Judicial Circuit Judge Jeffrey A. Watkins signed an order on Sept. 13 allowing a man at one point indicted on murder charges to enter a conditional period of release.

In 2015, Cartersville resident Truitt Jermaine Cousin, then 32, was indicted on two counts of malice murder, two counts of felony murder, aggravated assault, aggravated battery and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony in connection with the fatal shooting of 32-year-old Jamaal Terrell Williams off Iron Belt Court on March 17 of that same year.

“He was subsequently found not guilty by reason of insanity on Jan. 25, 2016, by way of a consent order via the State at that time,” Cherokee Judicial Circuit District Attorney Samir Patel said in Bartow Superior Court. “The State, at this point does not have any evidence to contest the fact that Mr. Cousin does not currently meet the criteria [for inpatient commitment.]”

Patel, however, told Judge Watkins that he does have some concerns about Cousin’s discharge plan.

“In addition to the discharge plan, on this proposed order I’ve placed additional conditions on Mr. Cousin which he must satisfy or otherwise be deemed non-compliant,” he told the court. “Given the severity of the offense and my continuing concern regarding additional diagnoses — but at this point, that ship has sailed — I’m going to ask the court to grant the conditional period of release, however for the extended period of time for a minimum of five years.”

As for the additional conditions, Patel requested a provision that would require Cousin to obtain approval from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) before changing residences.

“Mr. Cousin shall have ankle monitoring or arm monitoring services at Mr. Cousin’s expense to ensure compliance,” Patel continued. “In the event DBHDD determines Mr. Cousin

is non-compliant with his medication, DBHDD will immediately report this back to the court.”

The conditions also require DBHDD to report Cousin to the court if he refuses to comply with “psychiatric appointments and recommended programming,” or if he does not attend or participate in individual psychotherapy or treatment.

Another condition requires DBHDD to report Cousin to the court if he does not engage in mandatory employment, educational or volunteering opportunities.

“Finally, Mr. Cousin shall submit to any and all urine and/or blood screens as requested by DBHDD,” Patel said. “They shall continue to require Mr. Cousin to submit to these tests on a consistent basis and they shall order screens of Mr. Cousin on a continuous basis.”

Family members of the deceased’s family were present for the Sept. 13 hearing.

Public defender Chris Paul said those conditions are acceptable for



SPECIAL

Truitt Jermaine Cousin

Cousin.

“I’ll also point out that the order also incorporates the fact that if there’s any violation — I think the discharge plan states ‘significant violations’ — the court’s incorporated into that order that if there’s any violations of any of these additional conditions than the court will be immediately notified of the fact,” Watkins said.

BARTOW BLOTTER

The following information — names, photos, addresses, charges and other details — was taken directly from Bartow County Sheriff’s Office jail records. Not every arrest leads to a conviction, and a conviction or acquittal is determined by the court system.

Sept. 13

Cheryl Linn Freesland, of Dandridge, Tennessee, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine.

Sept. 14

Grant Matthew Caldwell, of Hiwassee, Georgia, was arrested and charged with a probation violation.

Alyssa Meagan Clark, no address listed, was arrested and charged with criminal trespass-trespass on property and willful obstruction of law enforcement officers.

Terry Van Day, of Kingston, was arrested and

charged with possession of methamphetamine; driving with no insurance; and failure to maintain lane.

Donna Leigh Johnson, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine and theft of lost or mislaid property.

Yakara Jones, of Adairsville, was listed as boarded.

Craig Harrell Lusane, of Stockbridge, Georgia, was arrested on an agency assist.

Noel Martin, of Marietta, was arrested and charged with possession of a Schedule I controlled substance; possession and use of drug related objects; possession of cocaine; and purchase, possession, manufacture, distribute or sale of marijuana.

Danny Ray Mayton, of Acworth, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; driving while license is suspended or revoked; and a window tint violation.

Alan Arvid Pacheco, of Cedartown, was arrested and charged with a probation violation and willful obstruction of law enforcement officers.

Paris Marie Pegues, of Forrest Park, Georgia, was arrested and charged with possession of a Schedule I controlled substance; knowingly driving a motor vehicle on suspended, canceled or revoked registration; driving with an expired license plate; driving with no insurance; possession and use of drug related objects; possession of cocaine; and purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution or sale of marijuana.

Julian Helene Poliak, of White, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol to the extent that it is less safe for that person to drive; tag light required; and an open container violation.

Truman Allen Roadarmel, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of a knife or a

firearm during the commission of or attempt to commit certain felonies.

Melvin J. Pinot Rodriguez, of Sandy Springs, Georgia, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol to the extent that it is less safe for that person to drive; reckless driving; driving while license is suspended or revoked; and failure to maintain lane.

William Frank Sisk, of Dandridge, Tennessee, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine; possession and use of drug related objects; tag light required; and speed less than the minimum/impeding the flow of traffic.

Gavin Lydell Vaughan, of Cartersville, was arrested on an agency assist.

Caden Young Vaughan, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with a probation violation.

Austin Michael Wynne, of Carrollton, Georgia, was arrested and charged with burglary-building structure or vehicle and

theft by taking-motor vehicle.

Sept. 15

Sally Ann Blivens, of Marietta, was arrested on an agency assist.

Richard Douglas Brown, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with a probation violation.

Freddie Lee Butler, of Acworth, was arrested and charged with terroristic threats and acts.

Kalie Jean Chambers, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of drugs; failure to obey traffic control/regulations by pedestrian; a probation violation; failure to maintain lane; striking a fixed object; hit and run-second offense within five years; fleeing or attempting to elude police; and driving while license is suspended or revoked.

Christina Lynn Davenport, of Adairsville, was arrested and charged with driving while license is suspended or revoked-second offense within five years; driv-

ing with no insurance; and failure to appear.

Chasity Collum Deal, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with theft by taking.

Alicia Marie Esz, of Kingston, was arrested on an agency assist.

Richard Evan Goodwin, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with criminal trespass-trespass on property; simple assault-family violence; and criminal trespass.

Jerry Otis Joiner, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with willful obstruction of a law enforcement officer; loitering and prowling; and burglary-building structure or vehicle.

Stephen Michael Mays, of Cartersville, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

Jess Anthony Turner, of Kingston, was arrested on an agency assist.

Amanda Elizabeth Vaughn, of Kennesaw, was arrested and charged with simple battery-family violence.

BOE

From Page 8A

“Two playgrounds will be located nearest to the Early Learning Center side of the school,” she said. “One of those will service our pre-K students with features included for our special needs students as well. The other playground is geared for our kindergarten students.

“The third playground is located on the first-through third-grade side of the school and is suited to our older students. There are climbing features, including rock walls, swings and slides.”

The new 224,800-square-foot facility will welcome students August 2023.

CPS’ campus spans 33 acres and is being built on Carter Grove Road in the Carter Grove subdivision. In October 2021, the Cartersville School Board approved a construction contract with Alpharetta-based Parrish Construction Group for \$46.5 million, which was funded by the sale of bonds.

The structure’s design and increased size will enable Cartersville City School’s pre-K program and third grade students to also receive instruction at CPS. Its square footage is nearly 100,000 larger than the existing building at 315 Etowah Drive.

Other meeting highlights included the approval of:

- The purchase and installation of the new CPS’ wireless network from SmartWave Technologies of Alpharetta for \$99,108.20, to be paid from SPLOST.
- The purchase and installation of the Cartersville High School Phase II’s gym sound system from Presidio of Atlanta for \$81,785.62, to be paid from



RANDY PARKER/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Prior to the Cartersville City School’s board meeting Sept. 12, Cartersville Primary School STEAM teacher Metta Whitton leads a STEAM-related presentation featuring, from left, CPS students Charlie Patrick, Creed Flowers, Kinley Burnett, Olivia Womack and Mia Zurita.

SPLOST.

• A retention bonus — 3% of last year’s salary with a minimum of \$750 — for current employees who also were employed by Cartersville City Schools in 2021, to be paid from ESSER III-ARP funds.

• The installation of the new CPS’ low voltage data wiring to G & A Contracting of Blairsville for \$398,692.50, to be paid from SPLOST.

• The resignations of Terri Jones, school board secretary, retirement with regret, effective Jan. 1; Elise Eubanks, secretary to director of special programs, retirement with regret, effective Nov. 1; and

Laurie Groshong, bus driver, effective Nov. 5;

• The classified employment of Rachel Verscharen, parapro, CPS, effective Sept. 13; and James Allan Early, bus driver, effective Sept. 13.

Birthday

From Page 7A

them to come on the line (there’s always that pause of silence at first) and say, “It’s done, but there’s blood everywhere.” Then I hit the red “End” button.

Wow. That was a pretty lengthy digression. That’s what happens when you get old. You stray from whatever you were talking about, go down some bottomless rabbit hole (like I just did), then forget what

you were even talking about in the first place. Not this time.

This year’s trip around that bright star 93 million miles away (anybody remember that worthless slice of trivia from “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?”) put me at the age that at one time was when everybody retired. Now, people retire whenever they’ve done their time and the warden unlocks the jail cell. Some people can’t afford to retire. Some don’t want to. Some, tragically, don’t make it to retirement

age, whatever that age might be.

So now it’s official: I’ve joined the club of old folks who actually have to pay attention to Joe Namath commercials. (Namath was one of my favorites back in the “Gray’s days,” when he guaranteed a win over the Colts in Super Bowl 3 and won it, and now he and Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones compete to see how many lines and wrinkles they can fit onto their face.)

Yeah, I guess I’m feeling a bit nostalgic and mortal about now.

Sort of the same feeling I had in the third grade when I realized that there was an entire, in-tact skeleton somewhere inside me. After completing this latest voyage around del sol, I just want to go back to Gray’s, watch and hear Louise kick Lie-Ray out of the store, stick my three over-chewed sour grapes up under the counter, and have a Louise-made cherry Coke while I make her mad by spinning around on a counter-side stool. I’ll meet you there after school today.



Happy Birthday, Caitlin

Caitlin McClure celebrates her birthday on September 12, 2022, and this year is 5 years old. She is the daughter of Renea McClure of Cartersville. Grandparents are Clayton and Brenda Cox of Woodstock, GA, and the late Mary Sue Lee and Scotty Pickel of Cartersville, GA. Caitlin attends Pre-K. She has one brother, Mason, One sister, Mallory.



5 Day Forecast

Saturday 9-17



Sunny, with a high near 85. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 64. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday 9-18



Sunny, with a high near 87. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 62.

Monday 9-19



Sunny, with a high near 90.

Monday Night: Clear, with a low around 65.

Tuesday 9-20



Sunny, with a high near 92.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68.

Wednesday 9-21



Sunny, with a high near 93.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 69.

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Lady Canes take down Cass

By SCOTT POWER

scott.power@daily-tribune.com

The Lady Canes took advantage of six Cass errors to earn a 13-6 victory on the road on Thursday, Sept. 15.

Cass fell behind early before taking a 6-4 lead after four innings. But Cartersville scored three runs in each of the final three innings to come away with the win.

While the Lady Colonels' mistakes certainly helped, Cartersville Coach Glen Woodard said the Lady Canes forced some of those missteps.

"We used our speed and our bunting to force them to field it," Woodard said. "Elizabeth Nelson had some great bunts. Ava (Perkins) started the game and pitched a solid three innings. Then Kennedy Stevens came in and finished the game. She threw strikes and got the outs, she pitched really well."

For Cass, it was a frustrating night.

"We just made too many errors," Cass Coach Taylor Washington said. "We have to be more consistent. One game we will play really good defense and then the next night we will make too many mistakes. The girls wanted to win tonight, they competed hard. We just made too many mistakes."

Cartersville jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the second inning. Jordan Bishop led off the inning with a single and,



WILLIAM BRAMLETT/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Kennedy Stevens didn't give up a run on just three hits in her three innings of pitching on Sept. 15 as Cartersville defeated Cass 13-6.

one out later, Campbell Rogers singled and Layne Callan walked. Reese Dumas then singled home Bishop.

Erin McCrary then grounded into a fielder's choice to bring home Rogers and a Cass error on a bunt by Nelson

scored two more runs to make it 4-0.

Cass rallied with three runs in the bottom of the second. The bottom half of the inning started with a single by Reese Howard and walks by Harley Thomason and Braelyn



WILLIAM BRAMLETT/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Cartersville's Elizabeth Nelson lays down a good bunt (top photo) and beats out the throw to first base (bottom photo) during the Lady Canes 13-6 win over Cass on Sept. 15.

Franklin to load the bases. Bailey York then drew a walk to score a run and make it 4-1. Cass then made it 4-3 on a

passed ball and a RBI ground-out.

SEE CANES, PAGE 2B

Woodland defeats Dalton 9-3

By SCOTT POWER

scott.power@daily-tribune.com

Woodland softball took Dalton to the woodshed Thursday night in a 9-3 region victory.

The Lady Wildcats cranked out 14 hits, including a four-run sixth inning to put the game away. Woodland did not hit the ball well on Sept. 13 in a loss to Cartersville, but bounced back



RANDY PARKER/DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

The Lady Wildcats defeated Dalton 9-3 on Sept. 15. Woodland had 14 hits on the night.

with a solid offensive performance on Sept. 15. Woodland scored at least one run in all but two innings.

"We came out and hit the ball well, we had several doubles," Woodland Coach Todd Eubanks said. "Cambrie Carrington hit a home run and the kids hit the ball well against a good pitcher. We responded after not swinging the bats well on Tuesday. The biggest thing is we got runners on second base and got hits to get the runners in."

Defensively, the Lady Wildcats' pitching kept Dalton at bay.

"Ansley Baines started and threw three solid innings," Eubanks said. "Ashlyn Dowdy got her first varsity action pitching. She threw four innings and pitched really well."

Woodland took a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Peyton Dorn and Kamryn Smith both singled and Dorn scored on a double by Carrington. Then Smith came home on a ground out by Elizabeth Hartsfield.

Dalton made it 2-1 in the top of the second but added to more runs in the bottom of the second. Mackenzie Araya led off the inning with a single and, two outs later, advanced on a hit by Jordan Hammonds.

Alana Carnes, who had earlier reached on a fielder's choice, scored on a passed ball and then a single by Dorn scored Hammonds to make it 4-1.

SEE WOODLAND, PAGE 2B

Adairsville splits volleyball matches

By SCOTT POWER

scott.power@daily-tribune.com

Adairsville volleyball split a pair of matches against Paulding County and Hiram on Thursday, Sept. 15.

The Lady Tigers dropped a tough 25-22, 12-25, 11-15 decision to Paulding County in the first match and then rebounded with a 25-23, 25-18 win

over Hiram.

"We played a tough game against Paulding County and came out on the losing side of that game, but we learned from our first game (versus Paulding County) and we were able to pull out a win (against Hiram)," Adairsville Coach Kailey Bailey said.

SEE TIGERS, PAGE 2B



RANDY PARKER/DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS

Adairsville's Sherry Wells returns a volley as Adysen Garvey looks on during a match earlier this year.

Sept. 16, 2022 football coverage on our website

Sept. 16, 2022 football coverage on Twitter

Sept. 16, 2022 football coverage on Facebook



The Daily Tribune News



OUR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COVERAGE IS GOING MOBILE

Due to a change in our press schedule, The Daily Tribune News is adjusting its coverage of Friday night high school football — which means you're going to get all the gridiron coverage you crave faster and fresher than ever before.

While our full print coverage of the games will be pushed back to our Tuesday edition, you'll still be able to access

all the scores, highlights and photos of Adairsville, Cartersville, Cass and Woodland games through your smart phone.

We're giving you three ways to stay up to date on all the gridiron action, with the QR codes to the left offering you the most up-to-date digital local sports coverage around.

As always, more content is available online at www.daily-tribune.com.

We will continue to publish previews of all the local high school sport games in our Thursday print editions, with in-depth coverage and recaps of recent contests — now with even more photos, stats and interviews you can't get anywhere else — included in every Tuesday edition of The Daily Tribune News throughout the football season.

Canes

From Page 2B

The Lady Colonels then took the lead in the bottom of the fourth, with all the runs coming with two outs. Alexis Woods drew a two-out walk and then Haylee Dishmon singled. Ansley Hight was intentionally walked to load the bases.

Woods scored on a passed ball and then Darianna Sosa drew a walk to load the bases once more. Howard singled home a pair of runs to give the Lady Colonels a 6-4 lead.

Cartersville bounced back, however, to take a 7-6 led in the fifth. Kiley Arnold Bishop was hit by a pitch and two outs later both scored on a single by Callan to tie the game at 6-6. The bases were loaded after a walk by Stevens and McCary. Nelson then drew a walk

to score a run and make it 7-6, Cartersville.

Cass committed four errors in the sixth inning and the Lady Canes scored three more runs to make it 10-6. A pair of errors helped Cartersville go ahead 9-6 and then another error gave Cartersville the 10th run.

The Lady Canes scored three more runs in the seventh. Two runs came off two Cass errors and the final run came on a bases-loaded walk.

Cartersville finished with nine hits. Bishop and Callan each had two hits with Callan also driving in two runs while Bishop scored four runs. Perkins also had two RBIs with Nelson, Dumas, Stevens and McCary each with one RBI.

Perkins pitched the first 3 2/3 innings, giving up six runs, five of them earned, on three hits. She struck out four and walked seven. Stevens pitched the final 3 1/3 innings without giving



William Bramlett/The Daily Tribune News
Cass pitcher Emma Gibson fires a pitch early in the game against Cartersville on Sept. 15.



William Bramlett/The Daily Tribune News
Cass' Darianna Sosa is safe as Cartersville's Kiley Arnold catches the throw to third base.

up a run on three hits. She struck out two and walked none to pick up the win.

Cass had six hits with Howard going 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Woods and York each had one RBI.

Emma Gibson started for the Lady Colonels and pitched four innings. She gave up six runs, two of them unearned, on four hits while striking out one and walking four.

Woods pitched the next two innings. She gave up seven runs on five hits, but only two of them were earned runs. She

struck out one and walked five. York then threw the final inning without giving up a run or a hit. She struck out one and walked none.

Cartersville (9-5-1, 8-1) and Cass (7-10, 4-4) will both participate in the SCORE International Tournament over the weekend at Chattanooga's Warner Park.

Cass will face Prince Avenue, Dade County, First Presbyterian Day and Gordon Lee. Cartersville will face Ringgold and Gordon Lee.

Woodland

From Page 1B

Dalton pushed across a run in the top of the third to make it 4-2 before Woodland made it 5-2 on a single that scored Carnes in the fifth.

W

The Lady Wildcats blew the game open in the sixth with four runs. Hammonds led off with a single and scored on a double by Dorn. Smith then singled to bring home Dorn and Carrington blasted a home run to center field to make it 9-2.

The Lady Catamounts scored a single run in the seventh to make it 9-3, but it was too little, too late as the game ended on a groundout back to the pitcher, Dowdy.

Six different Lady Wildcats got at least one hit. Dorn went 4-for-4 with three RBIs and scored twice. Carrington went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and Hammonds went 2-for-4 and scored twice.

Smith and Hartsfield each drove in a run. Carnes, Carrington, Dorn and Bailey Sakacs all doubled.

Baines picked up the win after giving up two runs on six hits in four innings. She struck out three and walked two. Dowdy earned the save. She gave up one unearned run on one hit in three innings while striking out one and walking none.

The Lady Wildcats (9-8, 5-4) will play in the SCORE International Tournament in Chattanooga over the weekend. Woodland will play Ringold, Gordon Lee, Hebron Christian Academy and Dade County.

Tigers

From Page 1B

Against Paulding County, Richlyn Blair led Adairsville with eight kills while Addie Pearson finished with five and Jayna Wilson and Jordyn Hartline added three each. Wilson also had three aces and Jenna Claire Hendley had two.

A

Annie McCormick had seven assists and Pearson had four. Sherry Wells had 18 digs while Blair finished with eight and Pearson had seven. Adysen Garvey had six digs and Hendley had four.

Against Hiram, Blair made five kills and Hartline had four. Hendley and Pearson each made three kills. Pearson also had three aces.

McCormick finished with eight assists while Pearson had three assists and Hendley had two. Wells had 10 digs with Pearson, Garvey and McCormick each having six. Hendley had three digs.

Adairsville (7-12-2, 1-3) will host region foes Bremen and LaFayette on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Cartersville netters sweep matches

STAFF REPORT

Cartersville volleyball defeated non-region foes Rome and North Paulding in two sets at home on Thursday, Sept. 15.

The Lady Canes defeated Rome 29-27, 25-17 and took down North Paulding 25-23, 25-17.

Against Rome, Lauren Lawson and Ailee England had kills each against the Lady Wolves. Mia Nicklas had 11 digs, England had 10 and Lily Gochee had nine. Lawson added seven.

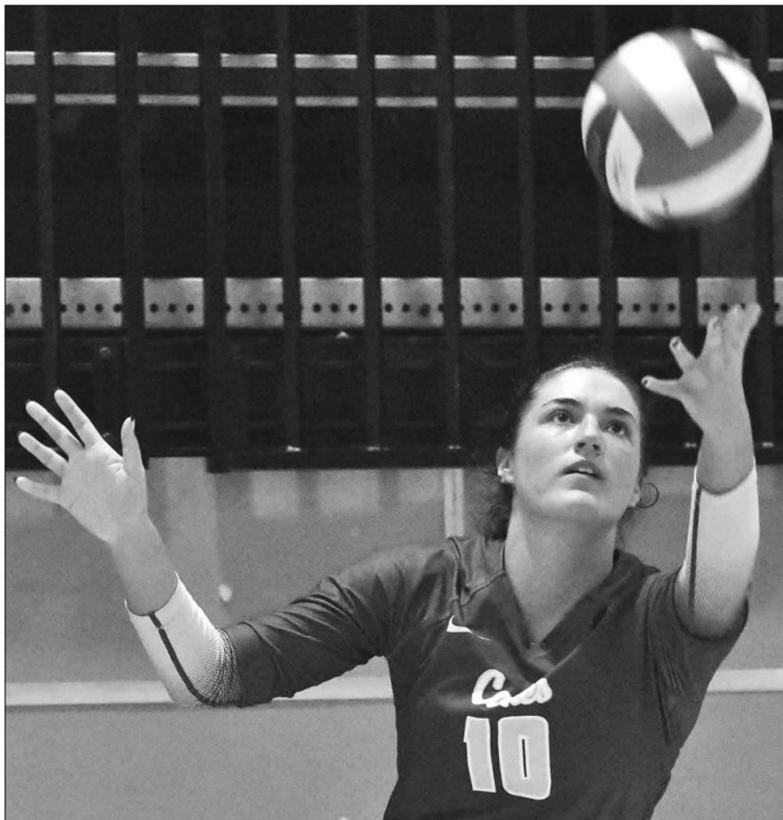
Gochee finished with 21 assists.

Against North Paulding, The Lady Canes finished with 32 kills, including 12 by England. Lawson finished with nine and Tennessee Abernathy had seven.

Lawson led Cartersville with eight saves while England and Nicklas both had six.

Gochee finished with 29 assists.

Cartersville (16-11, 2-0) will jump back into Region 7-5A



Randy Parker/The Daily Tribune News
Cartersville's Tennessee Abernathy reaches for the ball during a recent match.

play with a home match against Dalton at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday,

Sept. 20 and then host non-region opponent Lassiter at 7:30 p.m.

SC's Beamer focused on field, not on Georgia's No. 1 rank

By PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

South Carolina coach Shane Beamer was adamant about his team's approach — and enormous challenge — during Georgia week.

He emphatically told his staff on Sunday that he didn't want to hear about "shocking the world" or how the Gamecocks only had to better the top-ranked Bulldogs just one Saturday and not all 12.

"As soon as I walk out of the staff meeting, I have text messages on my phone from family members essentially telling me the same thing," said Beamer,

son of Hall of Fame coach Frank Beamer.

The Gamecocks (1-1, 0-1 Southeastern Conference) aren't nervous or fearful about the big, bad Bulldogs (2-0), who open SEC play Saturday.

"I don't have to rally them to make them believe," Beamer continued. "They believe. They have confidence, they should. We are a really good SEC football team. We have really good SEC football players."

South Carolina has struggled to show that early this season. It was mauled by Arkansas' potent run game, giving up 295 yards and five touchdowns on the

ground.

Georgia's offense is led by national championship quarterback Stetson Bennett, who has thrown for 668 yards and three touchdowns this season. The running game hasn't gotten lathered up yet, with 259 yards total through two games. That's OK with Bulldogs coach Kirby Smart, who leans on his players' skillsets.

"Right now, the strength of this team is probably its depth up-front, experience at quarterback. And a distribution of the ball across the entire offense to make you defend 53 yards," Smart said. "The evolution is based on what players you have."

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RIDING OUT THE STORM



RANDY PARKER/THE DAILY TRIBUNE NEWS/SPECIAL
Cass High School senior Micah David Hatzidakis received The Medal of Heroism at the end of his junior year. He was commended for his ability to provide comfort and aid to his family during an EF4 tornado in Gilbertsville, Kentucky, Dec. 10. The twister carved a wide path of destruction, traveling 165.7 miles and destroying the two-story log cabin Hatzidakis' family rented for his grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary.

Cass High senior underscores importance of emergency preparedness

By MARIE NESMITH
marie.nesmith@daily-tribune.com

Micah David Hatzidakis still can remember the horrific sounds of his two-story vacation home being torn to shreds.

To his dismay, a fun-filled celebration for his grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary in December turned into a dangerous experience as a tornado completely destroyed his family's rental cabin in Gilbertsville, Kentucky.

"The weather had started getting worse when six of us were hanging out on the porch," said Hatzidakis, now a senior at Cass High School. "We did not think much of the weather, until it started to thunder and flashes of lightning had gotten closer."

"The trees started to wane in the wind, and then the power went out. That is when we started to seek shelter. We took shelter in the basement, in the interior bedroom. We sat in the corner of the two concrete walls. I was frightened, but we never thought

that the tornado would hit us."

According to the National Weather Service, the EF4 tornado traveled 165.7 miles, measured 1.13 miles at its maximum width and featured peak winds of 190 mph. In Marshall County, where Gilbertsville is located, the brutal storm resulted in one death, 54 injuries, 341 damaged structures and 356 buildings that were uninhabitable or destroyed.

For his abili-

ty to provide aid and comfort throughout the Dec. 10 disaster, the 17-year-old received The Medal of Heroism at the end of his junior year.

The accolade was presented by the Department of the Army in May at CHS, where Hatzidakis then served as a company cadet first sergeant in the JROTC. His actions and even-tempered mindset also underscores the message of September's National Preparedness Month, which urges the public to be ready for natural or man-made disasters.

"I wasn't surprised by The Medal of Heroism, but I initially felt as if I

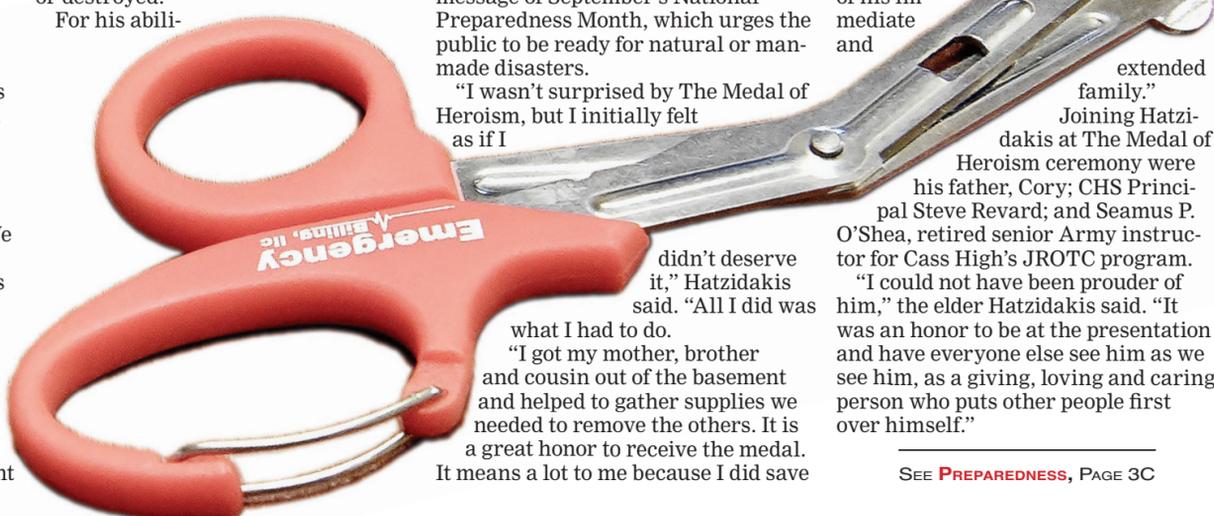
didn't deserve it," Hatzidakis said. "All I did was what I had to do. I got my mother, brother and cousin out of the basement and helped to gather supplies we needed to remove the others. It is a great honor to receive the medal. It means a lot to me because I did save

my family from being trapped."

Commending him for his "outstanding heroic acts," The Medal of Heroism's certificate stated "because of Micah's immediate calm actions as the storm approached and his quick rescue plan and actions after the storm passed, Cadet Micah Hatzidakis was personally responsible for saving eight members of his immediate and

extended family." Joining Hatzidakis at The Medal of Heroism ceremony were his father, Cory; CHS Principal Steve Revard; and Seamus P. O'Shea, retired senior Army instructor for Cass High's JROTC program.

"I could not have been prouder of him," the elder Hatzidakis said. "It was an honor to be at the presentation and have everyone else see him as we see him, as a giving, loving and caring person who puts other people first over himself."



SEE PREPAREDNESS, PAGE 3C

Keep me safe 'till the storm passes by

There is an old gospel song that goes:

"Till the storm passes over, 'till the thunder sounds no more. 'Till the clouds roll forever from the skies ..."

That old song comes to my mind as I read this verse; "Have mercy on me, O God have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by." In this verse, the Psalmist looks to the Lord for protection, "until the danger passes by."

I grew up on a dairy farm

in Kentwood, LA. Nothing interrupted milk time except for strong thunderstorms. My dad was very, very cautious about the weather. We had a parlor dairy barn that was surrounded by metal pipe. If a thunderstorm came up, we would shut the milking down and get out of the parlor. Daddy would say, "Let's shut it down until the storm passes by."

We face storms all the time. You may be driving and a strong storm develops. If it's strong enough, drivers may pull off the highway and sit



Potts

under an overpass "until the storm passes by."

In football or baseball games, if a storm develops, officials get the players off the field until the storm

passes.

I was at a college football game once in which the stadium had to be cleared.

Thousands of people ganged up in the concourses until the storm passed by. Some people left the stadium but most went back to their seats. The storm had passed.

Maybe you are going through a storm. It could be a financial, marital or some other type of storm. At times, it can feel like storms will last forever. But, as older people say regarding storms, "this too shall pass."

The Psalmist looks to the Lord for protection "until the danger passes by."

All of us go through times when we need protection. We go through storms and when we do, like the Psalmist, we hide beneath the shadow of the wings of the Lord.

Whatever you are going through, we can find shelter behind the wings of the Lord.

As the old spiritual I mentioned earlier closes:

"Hold me fast, make me stand in the hollow of Thy hand. Keep me safe 'till the storm passes by."

Siri was right this time and I still don't trust her voice

I don't know why I allowed this plant to grow. My first impression fell into the weed category. My object lesson: ignore the wise guys who write and talk about judging first impressions. Take that Roger Ailes and I don't need seven seconds to see past the surface. This plant sent up more than one stem and I allowed it to grow where it stood between a Sweetbay magnolia and Arnold tulip poplar.

I glanced at it daily on my way at dusk to shoo the ducks into their house. And I allowed it to grow although I had absolutely no idea what it was. Maybe I should've stuck to the duck adage - if it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it's probably a duck. If it looks like a weed, I should probably pull before it has a chance to go to seed.

But the taller this weed grew, the more non-descript it appeared to me. With its plain green coloring and lanceolate leaves, I was pretty sure it wasn't poke weed growing from a patch of wild strawberries. I needed to pull those too but wondering about the one plant led me to leave the other one alone. And it continued to grow.

I tried out my new sting trimmer on the bindweed and morning glories creeping toward the greenhouse holding area. That's all I needed. More creeping ground cover providing a highway for bugs to travel to the plants on the pallet tables that sit on cinder blocks on top of a heavy duty tarp. I

avoided cutting down the tall multi-stemmed green weed that appeared to setting some type of buds on branches emanating from atop the stems.

So I let the weeds go except for the one time I did cut the low growth with a push lawnmower. The morning glories put forth robin's egg blue flowers. I loathed and admired them at the same time. The wild strawberry vines set tiny red berries that peeked through the leaves of their runners. And finally one morning white flower clusters bloomed. The buds grew in several stages before finally showing clusters of white flowers exploding in the morning dew. I stopped in my tracks amazed at what I saw.

I went back to get my smart phone to take a photo of a bumblebee that I found on one of those white flowers. In the beginning I thought this plant might be a baccharis like the one that I saw a few years ago with a team during a consultation at Adairsville Middle School. Bartow County Extension Coordinator Paul Pugliese was the person who first saw the monarch butterflies at the top of this shrub-like native plant. Baccharis halimifolia is a native plant covering the eastern half of the United States. It obviously attracted butterflies - including monarch butterflies that are trying to eat enough to continue their migration during the fall months to their winter home in Mexico.

I tapped the button on my smartphone camera, tapped a photo icon in the lower left corner on the screen, swiped up from a spot underneath the photo, and then tapped a button to identify the plant in the photo. It wasn't baccharis. It was identified as 'Eupatorium serotinum' - late boneset.

Was this the plant that I attempted to grow three years in a row? That was Boneset, wasn't it? Yes it was! But it was common boneset, 'Eupatorium perfoliatum,' and for whatever reason my germination success with these seeds was exactly zero!

And here I stood beside a late boneset that I did not plant. I have absolutely no idea how it got there. I discovered once again a result that might come from being patient. I allowed a native plant - a weed - to grow between two trees that I purposely planted in their two spots. At this particular moment I stared at the clusters of small white flowers with scores of bumble bees bouncing from flower to flower in each cluster. I almost got a photo of three bumble bees on one umbel. I settled for two.



Humphreys

SEE SIRI, PAGE 7C

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September is National Food Safety Education Month

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every year, an estimated 1 in 6 people in the United States (or 48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from eating contaminated food. September is the month we try to highlight and push education for food safety.

What is a foodborne illness? Another common name for a foodborne illness is food poisoning. It is caused by consuming contaminated foods or beverages. Many different disease-causing microbes or pathogens can contaminate foods, so there are many different types of foodborne illnesses. Most foodborne diseases are infections caused by a variety of bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Other diseases are poisonings caused by harmful toxins or chemicals that have contaminated food. To note, many foodborne pathogens also can be acquired through recreational or drinking water, from contact with animals or their environment, or through person-to-person spread.

There are four steps to help prevent food poisoning. In the extension world, we call this the Fight BAC! Practices. These are the steps to "fight" and to reduce your risk of foodborne illness. The four core practices are clean, separate, cook and chill.

Let's start with clean. Be sure to wash hands and surfaces often. Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto hands, cutting boards, utensils, counter tops, and food. Did you know pathogens, which are harmful microorganisms, can be introduced into food from infected humans who handle the food without thoroughly washing their hands? These pathogens are thus transferred from trace amounts of fecal matter present on hands to the foods. That is why practicing good personal hygiene is important and washing hands for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food, after using the restroom, between tasks and before doing anything with food.



Bridges

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 7C

Preparedness

From Page 1C

Currently a battalion cadet command sergeant major, Hatzidakis credits God and his JROTC training for his ability to weather the raging storm.

“JROTC helped me to be prepared in leadership and being able to comfort my family,” Hatzidakis said. “My quick thinking and calmness I can account to JROTC and the public safety class at the BCCCA [Bartow County College and Career Academy].

“Being prepared for something like this, mentally, physically or both, is helpful because it gives you another chance to get out safely. It keeps you from making drastic mistakes, and in my experience it helped me to stay calm and think quickly.”

He added he is “thankful for the love of God” and the Lord is “the only reason we all survived.” As the EF4 tornado wreaked havoc above him, Hatzidakis remembers lifting his voice in prayer.

“Right before the pressure shift, all you heard was wind. Powerful, whistling wind all around us,” he said. “Then the pressure changed, and it just constantly popped my ears. Then I heard the house being ripped apart — first it was the full house ripping off the foundation, then the crashing and tearing of each room and story.

“It felt as if it was hours long. All I did was pray. Screaming out God’s name, asking Him to bless us and keep us safe. Asking for His protection and for our survival. I remember saying, ‘God — God, I don’t wanna die. Please don’t let me die.’”

After the tornado struck, Hatzidakis’ father shared he was “most impressed with Micah’s level-headedness” and “his calm and calculated demeanor,” which proved essential during their rescue efforts.

“The family was separated by a tree and a large amount of debris,” the elder Hatzidakis said. “So once we confirmed that everyone was basically OK, Micah went straight into assessing the situation and his surroundings, figuring out how to get out of the 10-foot basement concrete walls that they were next to.

“He got my wife — his mom, his brother and his cousin out of the room they were in. Once out, they looked for shoes because no one had any on, a place to cover them up from



Joining Micah David Hatzidakis, third from left, at The Medal of Heroism ceremony were Seamus P. O’Shea, retired senior Army instructor for Cass High’s JROTC program; Cass High Principal Steve Revard; and his father, Cory Hatzidakis.



the rain, and tools to start helping get us out,” he said, adding the foot of his son’s grandpa was wedged under a washing machine. “They even located a ladder to help the rest of us — my mom and dad, my brother and sister in law — get out of the basement as well.”

After crawling to safety, Hatzidakis viewed the overwhelming level of destruction around where their log cabin once stood. The catastrophic scene was “unimaginable and unexplainable” for the resident of White to initially process.

“The whole house had cascaded down the hill,” he said. “The small cabin above the hill had slid down to the left, and I remember a truck barely being stuck on the small slab. If that truck had moved 6 inches down, it would have killed us four. There were piles of wood, trash and destruction all around.

“A tree had fallen to the right of us, and was blocking the route out for my other family members. I remember us screaming and yelling for help. There were others who had been rescued and some who had little damages. They came over within 30 minutes and helped us escape.”

For Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services Chief Dwayne Jamison, Hatzidakis’ actions are a prime example of the importance of being proactive when faced with an emergency situation. Jamison — who also serves as the Bartow County Emergency Management Agency’s director — is currently busy promoting various components of National Preparedness Month.

“Our youth are our future and this year’s Preparedness Month theme is ‘A Lasting Legacy,’” he said. “By teaching our youth about preparedness, we are securing our lasting legacy.

“Many times we see that lessons taught to our youth result in saving lives. Another example would be in early 2020 when Noah Woods rescued his little sister and dog from a house fire and alerted his entire family to evacuate the house. It is vital that we educate our youth and pass on our experiences and lessons learned to keep them safe.”

With this in mind, Jamison shared the BCFES starts providing instruction on severe weather safety, water safety and fire safety, when students are in elementary school.

“The key is being aware and knowing how to respond when a disaster or emergency happens,” he said. “Remain calm, rely on lessons learned, have a plan and execute the plan.

“Always assess the situation and call for help as soon as possible. Before we respond, we need to know what the emergency is, where you are at, if anyone is injured and how many, and any additional information that would help emergency services determine the appropriate response resources to get the help needed in a timely manner.”

As in past years, National Preparedness Month is highlighting a



Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services’ fire chief, Dwayne Jamison, views items area residents should place in an emergency kit.

different topic each week — Sept. 1 to 10, Make a Plan; Sept. 11 to 17, Build a Kit; Sept. 18 to 24, Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness; and Sept. 25 to 30, Teach Youth About Preparedness. Along with BCFES, Cartersville Fire Department is emphasizing each week’s message in person and on its social media channels.

“Use this as an opportunity to be prepared and be ready,” CFD Fire Chief Scott Carter said. “It is not a matter of if a disaster will every affect you and your family, it is just a matter of when.”

With Carter being in the fire service for nearly 40 years, he has witnessed numerous types of disasters, including tornadoes, snowstorms and hurricanes.

“Preparation is second nature for me and my family,” Carter said. “We have practiced it for years — that is a hazard or benefit of my profession. Depends on how you look at it. No matter the amount of preparation, when true disaster strikes, it will be difficult to overcome. You will be challenged, physically and mentally.”

He noted it is important to prepare for emergencies by building an emergency kit, filled with basic supplies. Some of these include medications, water and nonperishable food for several days, flashlights, batteries, a first aid kit and pet-related items.

“It is imperative that individuals and families prepare ahead of time for possible disasters,” Jamison said. “Trying to figure out what to do in the middle of a flood or tornado is not the time. By then, it is too late. Every household should have plans for the most likely disaster they will face based on past events.

“They should also have a kit prepared to help them survive until help can arrive. Often during disasters, emergency services are overwhelmed with requests for assistance and it may take days for large shipments of supplies — like ice, water and food — to supply mass numbers of people to arrive. Everyone should have supplies to last for up to 72 hours if needed.”

For more information about National Preparedness Month and how to create a plan or build an emergency kit, visit Ready.gov/September.

“Hopefully our citizens will learn the importance of being prepared, having a plan and having an emergency kit,” Jamison said about the goals of National Preparedness Month. “Disasters can strike at any moment. The key to survival is planning and preparedness, and the time to start is now.”

To further prepare area residents, the BCFES Emergency Management Division will present Community Emergency Response Team classes in the near future. The offering will impart essential information, such as securing residences during a disaster, administering first aid and CPR, and how to shut off gas service and power.

Those interested will be able to view class schedules on BCFES’ Facebook page. Groups also can request a CERT class by calling EM Division Chief Bruce King at 770-387-5151.



Cartersville Fire Department Lt. Wesley Gilmer and Lt. Cory Sutton present a recent children’s public education program.



In light of September being National Preparedness Month, Cartersville Fire Department Firefighter Adam Sambor, from left, Sgt. Stetson Mealer and Capt. Shannon Horn emphasize the importance of residents building an emergency kit to use in natural or man-made disasters.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Table with 13 columns for time slots (12:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WSB, WAGA, WXIA, etc.) listing programs like 'The NFL Today', 'NBA Today', and 'The Bachelor'.

MONDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Table with 13 columns for time slots (12:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WSB, WAGA, WXIA, etc.) listing programs like 'General Hospital', 'The Bachelor', and 'The Contender'.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Table with 13 columns for time slots (12:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WSB, WAGA, WXIA, etc.) listing programs like 'General Hospital', 'The Bachelor', and 'The Contender'.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Table with 13 columns for time slots (12:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WSB, WAGA, WXIA, etc.) listing programs like 'General Hospital', 'The Bachelor', and 'The Contender'.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Table of TV listings for Thursday, September 22, 2022. Columns include time slots from 12:00 to 11:30 and various channels like WSB, WAGA, WXIA, etc. with program titles and descriptions.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

Table of TV listings for Friday, September 23, 2022. Columns include time slots from 12:00 to 11:30 and various channels like WSB, WAGA, WXIA, etc. with program titles and descriptions.

SATURDAY MORNING/AFTERNOON

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

Table of TV listings for Saturday, September 24, 2022. Columns include time slots from 6:00 to 5:30 and various channels like WSB, WAGA, WXIA, etc. with program titles and descriptions.

SATURDAY EVENING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

Table of TV listings for Saturday, September 24, 2022. Columns include time slots from 6:00 to 11:30 and various channels like WSB, WAGA, WXIA, etc. with program titles and descriptions.

Word Search puzzle titled 'Word Search' with a grid of letters and a list of words to find. The words include Ben, Addison, Ian, Jenn, Herbert, Raymond, Caitlin, Mason, Nanrissa, Ernie, Accelerator, Restart, Leaping, Journey, and Mysteries.

OUT AND ABOUT

For over four decades, the Pine Log Arts and Crafts Fair has been an annual rite in Rydal. This year's festivities were held on Sept. 10 and 11 on the campgrounds of Pine Log Church — in addition to all of the artisanal fare, the event also featured live musical performances and a bounty of delightful foodstuffs.



Photos by Randy Parker

Do you know your deeds?



English

I was talking to an investor recently, and he was trying to figure out how to do a deal. He was a successful flipper and wholesaler, and he had a deal that was under contract with a nice profit margin. The problem was the house needed some work. His sellers could not close for a few months, and he wanted to figure out a way to get the work done before the closing date while ensuring the sellers could not back out in the process.

We talked through a couple of different scenarios. One I offered was for him to buy an option from the seller to buy the property for the agreed-upon price, use the cost of the rehab as the consideration for purchasing the option and then get it recorded with the security instrument used in his state.

Now, I don't normally throw real estate at you, (you know, the language and jargon associated with real estate), but I need to illustrate a point this time. First off, did I just speak over your head? If I did, you aren't alone. It has been my experience that most novice and aspiring real estate investors do not know the language of real estate yet. That's because they're focused on how to get started, and, more importantly, how to get paid.

That being said, I often find very

experienced investors who cannot really answer questions like "what is a deed?" The reason is that they often get caught up in the daily grind of their business - doing what they are successful at and not creating the time to increase their education.

But let me tell you, knowing your way around the deed room can make you a lot of money. For instance, we once found a title flaw on a property that was an REO valued at \$80,000 at the time. The flaw allowed us to buy the property for \$7,500.

Yes, you read that right. We still have an interest in that property today, but now it's worth more than \$200,000. See how it pays to be educated?

With that in mind, I would like to increase your knowledge in real estate today. First, I want to define for you what a deed is, and then I'd like to go over some common deeds you'll see in the courthouse.

A deed is a written document, which transfers ownership or interest in real property to another person. And the most common and best way to transfer ownership is via a warranty deed because it is a guarantee that the seller has clear title to the property and has the right to pass ownership on

to someone else. And because of that guarantee, this is the strongest kind of deed for transferring ownership.

Now, there's another type of deed you'll see that transfers ownership: a quit claim deed. This deed passes ownership to another party, but it does not have the same guarantee of clear title found in a warranty deed. I have heard it put like this: "A quit claim deed says I may or may not have ownership in the property. But if I do, I'm giving any claim I have in the property to you."

There are a couple of other deeds you may see. The two I think of the most are a foreclosure deed and an administrative deed. The foreclosure deed is just what it sounds like. It's the deed created after a foreclosure auction, and it transfers title from the borrower to the new owner. And the administrative deed is used when the property owner dies to transfer ownership from their estate to someone else. The person who does signs for the transfer is called the administrator of the estate, and that's how the deed gets its name.

So, the ownership portion of deeds is pretty easy to understand. But what about the interest part of the deed definition?

An interest in a property can mean a

right, claim, tile or legal share in a property. The one we are going to focus on is the way a claim is attached to a property.

In Georgia, we use a security deed to attach a claim to a property. And by claim, I mean some sort of lien, which, most of the time, is in the form of a loan. When you get a loan to buy a house, you give the lender a security deed. And this document gets recorded at the courthouse so that when you get ready to sell the house, the attorney will see that there is a loan that needs to be satisfied to gain clear title.

Now, when you look at a normal chain of title, the first thing you'll see is the warranty deed (or one of the other ones listed above that transfers ownership), followed by the security deed if there is a loan on the property. And know you should know more about the deeds we use in Georgia.

— Joe and Ashley English buy houses and mobile homes in Northwest Georgia. For more information or to ask a question, go to www.cashflowwithjoe.com or call Joe at 678-986-6813.

Colleague's cancer fight waged in different manner

DEAR ABBY: My husband was diagnosed with advanced chronic leukemia seven years ago. After two rounds of chemo, he was better for a while but was diagnosed with advanced multiple myeloma a year ago. He has been through almost constant chemo and radiation, lost more than six inches

of height due to osteoporosis and fractures, and can barely walk around the house or get in and out of the car for his doctor's appointments. We almost lost him three times, but he's hanging on. For us, this is reality. But we have a teenage daughter, and I still have to work to support us. I do not share this infor-



Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

mation at work. A business colleague I'll call "Amy" was just diagnosed with chronic leukemia. It's in the early stages, with no chemo or radiation, just mon-

itoring. Now, in every business call and video meeting, Amy talks about how she is surviving cancer and is going to beat this because she is stronger than cancer. Everyone in the office is talking about Amy being a cancer survivor and saying we should do something for her. It grates on me because

my husband is so much sicker, and she's planning vacations and trips to concerts and telling everyone how great she feels. We all deal with disease differently, but I want to tell her to keep this to herself and focus on work. Should I, and if so, how? -- RESENTFUL IN NEW YORK

DEAR RESENTFUL: I sincerely hope you will refrain from doing that. Not all cancers are alike. Everyone's experience with this frightening disease is different. That Amy is doing as well as she is is a blessing. It could also be that she's trying to stay positive,

SEE ABBY, PAGE 8C

Safety

From Page 2C

The next core practice is separate. Cross-contamination is the physical movement or transfer of harmful bacteria from one surface, food, or person to another. Improper handling of raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs can create an inviting environment for cross-contamination. As a result, harmful bacteria can spread to food and throughout the kitchen leading to a foodborne illness. Be sure to separate raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs from other foods in your grocery shopping cart, grocery bags and in your refrigerator. Be careful to use one cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry and seafood. Also, never place cooked food on a plate that previously held raw meat, poultry, seafood or eggs.

The third core practice is cook. Be sure to cook foods to the correct, but more importantly, safe, internal temperature. Food is safely cooked when it reaches a high enough internal temperature to kill the harmful bacteria that cause foodborne illness. Use a food thermometer to measure the internal temperature of cooked foods. Some ways to prevent foodborne illness is to use a food thermometer which measures the internal temperature of cooked meat, poultry and egg dishes, to make sure that the food is cooked to a safe internal temperature. Make sure there are no cold spots in food (where bacteria can survive) when cooking in a microwave oven. For best results, cover food, stir and rotate for even cooking. If there is no turntable, rotate the dish by hand once or twice during cooking. Bring sauces, soups and gravy to a boil when reheating. Heat other

leftovers thoroughly to 165 °F.

The fourth core practice is to chill. Refrigerate foods quickly because cold temperatures slow the growth of harmful bacteria. Do not over-stuff the refrigerator. Cold air must circulate to help keep food safe. Keeping a constant refrigerator

temperature of 40 °F or below is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. Use an appliance thermometer to be sure the temperature is consistently 40 °F or below. The freezer temperature should be 0 °F or below.

Throughout this month, you will see various posts on our

UGA Extension Bartow County Facebook page, regarding food safety tips that will help you to prevent foodborne illness. Check out our Facebook page and give us call if you have any questions.

— Angelica B. Davis, RDN is the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent

for Bartow County Cooperative Extension, a partnership of The University of Georgia, The U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Bartow County. For more information and free home, health, nutrition and food safety publications, call (770) 387-5142 or visit our local website at ugaextension.org/bartow.

Siri

From Page 2C

We actually have three types of boneset native to our area. Besides common boneset and late boneset, we might find tall boneset (*Eupatorium altissimum*) in our area. One key is common boneset leaves grow around their stems while leaves on the other two plants grow with petioles. Late boneset has narrower leaves that have finer serrations along the edges.

In addition to bumblebees, I found hover flies and skipper butterflies feeding from this plant. If a few monarch butterflies find this plant, that'll be all right too! Although I still cannot trust an artificial intelligence source that provided me with an unexpected answer, I can surf the web to validate its response.

— Jim Humphreys is a Bartow Master Gardener. He has been gardening in Euharlee since the 20th Century. Information about gardening can be found on the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension website, <http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/>. Or contact the Bartow County Extension Office, 320 W. Cherokee Ave., Cartersville, 770-387-5142. The Extension Master Gardener Program is a volunteer training program for home gardeners offered through county offices of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

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Swift at the Movies



Swift

'Samaritan' is a good 'un

When it comes to coffee, I'm a pretty simple guy. In fact, whenever I order a cup of joe, I only have three unbreakable stipulations.

No. 1, it HAS to be black. Anybody who has to put creamer and sugar in coffee doesn't want coffee, they want a milkshake.

No. 2, it HAS to be dark roast. Not only can you tell whether a cup of coffee is a dark roast by its smell, you can tell just by looking at it. If you can see your reflection, it's not dark enough.

And No. 3, and this is easily the most important condition, it HAS to have enough caffeine in it to qualify as a low-grade rocket fuel. There is no such thing as "decaf coffee."

Without caffeine, it's just hot water. And if you're gonna drink hot water, you might as well change your name to Chauncey and move to England tomorrow.

You know how coffee works, right? The caffeine limits the blood flow to your brain, so you feel floatier than normal. So basically, every time you drink a coffee it's like letting one of

them Ultimate Fighters slowly and gradually choke you into a manageable stupor.

Everybody tells me coffee is a stimulant, but for me, it acts more like a relaxant. On those rare weekends where I don't have to be at the office to update the blotter or delete angry emails from people who erroneously think we're "Bartow News and Emergencies," I savor that first sip of coffee from my chipped-to-oblivion Las Vegas Raiders travel mug.

For just a few precious hours, it's me, the mug and whatever looks interesting on YouTube. And those moments are irreplaceable.

Of course, making coffee right is kinda' tricky. Anybody can make a frappe or a mocha latte delicious — again, those are more like liquified ice cream than REAL coffee. But actual coffee is hard to pull off.

Let's face it, can't nobody compete with the flavor of Starbucks French Roast — you know, the one that smells like a Camel Crush cigarette and makes your toenail hairs curl up as

soon as it hits your taste buds — so if you're a mom and pop chain, the way to make a name for yourself is to make your coffee as STOUT as possible.

For example, did you know that some Starbucks have in-house restrictions on just how many shots of espresso they can serve you? I know this because they've cut me off before.

Meanwhile, there's one local-ish coffee shop that markets one coffee with SIX espresso shots in it. At that point, you don't have to ask how many milligrams of caffeine you're getting, but how many miles to the gallon.

Yeah, I'm sure some physician type will read this and tell me I'm cruisin' for a coronary, but let's face it — in today's hectic economy, you've got to have SOMETHING around to keep you wired long enough to get all the football scores in.

Everybody's got a vice. And coffee is mine. Could be worse, you know. A LOT worse.

Speaking of things that'll make you want to run face-first through a brick wall, our flick of the week is the new Sylvester Stallone vehicle "Samaritan," which, much to my surprise, is kinda' good. Heck not just good, but one of the BETTER superhero movies I've seen in the last few years.

It's got a pretty simple premise. Sly plays this crusty and ornery garbage-man, and one day this precocious youngster in the apartment complex next door starts thinking to himself, "boy, he sure does look a lot like that one superhero that supposedly got exploded in an all-out melee a couple of years back."

Then Sly saves the kid from a bully beatdown. I think it's around the part where Stallone grabs a knife with his

bare hands and crunches it into original strength Gold Bond body powder that our pint-sized hero worshiper realizes "OK, this guy DEFINITELY ain't union."

And what a coincidence — the neighborhood crime kingpin just so happens to find a magical hammer that makes superheroes keel over dead, and now he wants to assume the mantle of a long-dead (or is he?) super villain so he can make everybody in town riot.

Well, it don't take an Encyclopedia Brown to figure out where this is headed. The only question that matters, I suppose, is just how many skulls does Stallone have to break in order to show America's wayward youth that shoplifting and petty property crimes aren't the way to go?

The answer? Pretty much ALL OF THEM.

Even better, most of the movie was filmed in Atlanta, so you can have extra fun pointing out all the places where you were almost robbed.

For whatever reason, this one ain't getting a theatrical release, so the only way you can watch it is if you order it through Amazon Prime Video. And while "Samaritan" probably isn't enough to justify subscribing to the service, it's still a VERY good action movie that feels like a holdover from the late 1980s.

And I mean that in the most loving way possible, obviously.

I've got no problems giving this one a solid THREE PIECES OF POPCORN OUT OF FOUR RATING. It's the best Sylvester Stallone movie since 2008's "Rambo" — here's hoping the 76 year old keeps kicking heiny on the silver screen 'til he's at least 90.

Abby

From Page 7C

putting on a brave face and living her life to the fullest extent for as long as she is able.

I am truly sorry for your pain. I have "walked a mile in your shoes." It's wrenching and awful. But you will not lessen it by telling your colleague to keep anything to herself. Leave the room instead.

DEAR ABBY: My two sisters live in our old hometown, a five-hour drive from my current home. When they have visited, my husband, kids and I open our home to them. We even welcome their dog. They are both empty nesters who live with their husbands in spacious homes. When I visit their town, they never invite us to stay with them. Never! This has hurt my feelings.

Our parents have passed away. I recall Mom and Dad telling us that once they're gone, we will no longer have their house, "the family hub," in which to gather, and that we'll need to make an effort to get together. I long for our family to be close, but I'm afraid it'll backfire if I say anything. Thank you for any advice you can offer. -- DISTANCED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR DISTANCED: I don't think it should

cause a rift in the family if you were to simply ask your sisters why your hospitality has never been reciprocated. And when you do, remind them what your parents said. There is always a reason. The answer could be as simple as their husbands being uncomfortable hosting houseguests.

DEAR ABBY: I live with my boyfriend and his father. I moved in two years ago to help them pay bills so they could keep living in the house my boyfriend grew up in. But the situation has become unlivable.

My boyfriend's father is rude, racist and self-centered. It doesn't matter that we are struggling; he goes out and spends all his money on guns and fancy dinners for other relatives. Then he complains about how he's broke and has no money to help buy things for the house. He has also raised our rent because he has "debt to the IRS," which has literally nothing to do with me or my boyfriend.

We can't talk to him without a big argument breaking out, and I'm at the end of my rope. It's too expensive to move, so please, any help or advice would be much appreciated. -- UNHAPPY ROOMMATE

DEAR ROOMMATE: I hope you now realize

that your boyfriend's father isn't going to change; his nature is fully formed. This rude, self-centered racist is WHO HE IS. Instead of continuing to buy things for the house, pay the man his rent and start saving for another place to live. If your boyfriend can contribute to that fund, he can move with you. If he's unwilling or unable to do that, leave and find a roommate with whom to share expenses. And be grateful, very grateful, you haven't married into this family and can escape with no entanglements. Move on -- the sooner, the better.

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married for 22 years. We have three beautiful children. We laugh and love a lot. For the past 10 years, I have been trying to keep a brave face when it comes to my mother-in-law. She makes fun of my looks (and my mother's) often, and puts me down in front of my husband. I'm embarrassed, appalled, angry and sad all at the same time. My husband has told me he talks to her about this, but nothing has changed. It has reached the point that I no longer want to be around her.

Tonight at dinner, she grabbed my stomach and told me how fat I was. I adore my husband so, while she has been cruel to me, I

have remained kind to her. I recently told him I would begin speaking to her the way she speaks to me. Please help. -- HARD TO STAY KIND IN MARYLAND

DEAR HARD: Stop expecting your husband to run interference for you. You both should have asserted yourselves with the old biddy years ago. The next time

she pipes up with a criticism, tell her you don't like her rudeness and will no longer tolerate it. The next time she grabs you or puts her hands on you, point out that what she's doing is committing assault. Your husband should have put a stop to this when it started, by telling her to leave immediately. At the very least, he should back you up now. The

longer you continue to silently put up with her abuse, the longer it will continue.

— Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



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