

Senior News

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*Augusta
Gets A
Face Lift!*

Story on page 5

August 2019
Vol. 33, No. 8

Taking Care

Recreation leader ensured a memorable vacation

by LISA M. PETSCHKE

The year I turned thirteen, my parents booked a week at a family-oriented lakeside resort, a departure from our family's usual summer plans. This afforded us a wealth of recreational opportunities. Little did we know, though, how big a role the activities director would play in our enjoyment of them.



We met Richard our first evening there, at a welcome reception in the lodge. He was dressed as a genie. At first we didn't know what to make of

him. But he was entertaining and outgoing, and guests – ourselves included – were drawn to him.

A colorful, 30-something character, Richard had boundless energy, a love of adventure, a wacky sense of humor and a gift for storytelling. He'd traveled to exotic places and regaled us with tales, some no doubt embellished. He embraced New Age beliefs and practices – which at the time were novel – such as holistic health and healing, yoga and transcendental meditation. We'd never met anyone like him.

Delightfully spontaneous, Richard would show up in the main lodge dressed as a fortune teller or with a guitar in hand, ready to start a sing-a-long. He connected effortlessly with people, as well as nature. This made

Richard perfect for his job.

No one knew what Richard did or where he lived the rest of the year, or how the resort's owners had found him. An intriguing sense of mystery surrounded him.

In keeping with Richard's easygoing nature, the recreation program was informal. Some activities were pre-planned, while others were announced at breakfast. Day trip destinations varied according to Richard's whims.

The most memorable events were the "wet shoe" trips.

There was the excursion to one of the local falls, where we crossed white water by hopping on boulders. And the island trip where, in order to glimpse a blue heron's nest, we had to scale a muddy cliff.

Then there was the river trek. A mixed group of families, honeymooners and retired couples, we were dropped off mid-morning at the riverbank with canoes, paddles, lifejackets and boxed lunches.

The water was unusually shallow, and cautious navigation was required. At times we had to carry our canoes. One of the newlyweds became mired in mud and it took considerable effort to free him.

During our lunch break, rain clouds moved in. The drizzle continued most of the afternoon and the temperature dropped significantly. Richard tried his best to keep our spirits up, but throughout the afternoon I silently counted the hours and then minutes until we reached our pick-up point and could get out of the elements. What a disaster, I thought, drenched and miserable. That evening, though, Richard had us laughing about our misadventure.

With Richard's persuasion, my sisters and I also tried water skiing – again and again, until we got the hang of it. "Can't" was not in his vocabulary.

The following summer we were thrilled to reunite with Richard for another week of adventures. Highlights included climbing a 100-foot fire tower, participating in a postcard photo session as we engaged in a variety of activities on the resort premises and launching a war canoe--constructed over several summers with the help of guests – an event covered by the local press.

Disappointingly, Richard was not on staff when we returned the next year. He had not been available, no one knew details. There was a new recreation director, capable enough, but things simply weren't the same. They couldn't be.

My family has often reminisced about those two unique vacations and wondered where life's journey has since taken Richard.

I envision him still single and nomadic, a free spirit pursuing eclectic interests around the globe. Somehow I can't imagine him settled down, with a steady job, a wife and kids and grandchildren. But you never know.

In any case, thanks, Richard. Not only for all the fun, but also for encouraging us to stretch our limits.

We went home with some great stories we've enjoyed sharing over the years – no embellishments needed.

Lisa M. Petschke is a boomer and a writer specializing in elder care and slice-of-life vignettes about family life.

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Advocacy and More

Submitting a Complaint Helps You and Others!

From the desk of KATHLEEN ERNCE
Executive Director, The Senior Citizens
Council, Augusta, Georgia
kernce@seniorcitizenscouncil.org
706-868-0120

Do you feel you need to file a complaint about Identity theft, a credit scam, or a misleading product or service? You can submit a report about the issue to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC helps protect consumers from unfair and/or fraudulent business practices and you may be able to help them combat dishonest businesses by reporting your problem or concern.



Kathleen
Ernce

QUESTION: How can I submit a consumer complaint to the FTC?

ANSWER

To report fraud, identity theft, or an unfair business practice, visit ftc.gov/complaint, click on the FTC Complaint Assistant icon, and answer the questions.

The more information you can provide about the situation, the more useful your complaint will be. If possible, be prepared to provide:

- Your contact information: name, address, phone number, email
- The type of product or service involved
- Information about the company or seller: business name, address, phone number, website, email address, representative's name
- Transactions Details: the date, amount you paid, how you paid, etc.

The FTC cannot resolve individual consumer complaints; however, The FTC has tips to help you get your money back. You can use our sample complaint letter to ask the seller or manufacturer for a refund, get tips and strategies for making your case, and find organizations that may be able to help. Don't be fooled by scammers who promise to get your money back for a fee.

You'll also find information about the FTC's refund program. The FTC sues companies that make deceptive claims about their products and services.

Complaints help the FTC and other law enforcement agencies bring scam artists to justice and put an end to unfair and misleading business practices.

If you have a complaint, file it online at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/> or Ask Solving Consumer Problems at www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0228-solving-consumer-problems how to file. Here are some tips and strategies that you can use to resolve the problem.

Buyer's Remorse: When the FTC's Cooling-Off Rule May Help

The FTC's Cooling-Off Rule gives you a

3-day right to cancel a sale made at your home, workplace or dormitory, or at a seller's temporary location, like a hotel or motel room, convention center, fairground or restaurant. But not all sales are covered.

Disputing Credit Card Charges

To learn how to resolve billing errors on your credit card accounts visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0219-disputing-credit-card-charges.

State and Local Consumer Agencies

Contact your local consumer protection office to report frauds and scams or to get help with a consumer complaint. The directory includes consumer protection offices,

banking authorities, insurance regulators, securities administrators, and utility commissions.

Refunds from the FTC

Sometimes FTC cases result in refunds for the people affected. Want to see what kind of refund cases the FTC handles? Check out our chart of recent cases at www.ftc.gov/enforcement/cases-proceedings/refunds.

How and Where to File a Complaint

If you have a complaint about a company or its business practices, the FTC wants to know. Use our online complaint assistant or call 1-877-FTC-HELP.

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Website

www.seniornewsga.com

Publisher

Billy R. Tucker
478-929-3636

Email: seniornewsga@cox.net

Advertising Sales

Billy R. Tucker, Publisher
478-929-3636

seniornewsga@cox.net

Carolyn Brenneman

706-407-1564

seniornewsga@att.net

Columnists

Carolyn Brenneman

Kathleen Ernce

Lisa Petsche

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CORPORATE OFFICE

Billy R. Tucker,

President/Publisher

Phone/Fax: 478-929-3636

www.seniornewsga.com

E-mail: Seniornewsga@cox.net

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Senior News & Views of Georgia

Opinion A Corn of Wheat!

by DANIEL W. GATLYN, USN Ret.
Minister/Journalist

Some things, and values, are destined to last forever. That fact brings inspiration to a world which is clearly satisfied with a passing fancy! The Biblical phrase uttered by Jesus Christ, and recorded in St John 12:24, captures such a truth. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground, and die, it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit." Of all the proclamations that have entered my abode, I would guess that this one holds priority.

Of what do I speak? Let me explain. While recently on an Honor Flight to our Nation's Capitol, my son and I were privileged to tour a lengthy list of Memorials dedicated to the Warriors of Liberty over the past two hundred years. One of these is the Vietnam Wall, containing thousands of names of those who sacrificed their all in behalf of the Nation we love. Obtaining the information to locate certain ones, we were able to find the name of Ben Howell, who gave his life in 1968. That has now been fifty one years, with family and friends scattered in a host of directions. History, even the most horrid of circumstances, has a way of becoming extinct. Only those who were intricately involved, dares a lasting grasp. My son (who was thirteen at the time), and I, remember the calender well.

After Military Retirement in 1967, my wife and I had taken the pastorate of a church in Milledgeville, Georgia; feeling safe from the distant War in Vietnam. In July of that year, Master Sergeant Ben Howell was on his way to that war, and left his family in our city. Joining in a few services before his departure, it was obvious that his mind was troubled... concerned that danger was just ahead. His premonition proved to be on the mark, for in just four weeks of combat, Ben was killed. His family of four, and the entire church, was crushed beyond comprehension.

Helping with the Military Funeral, my spirit was questioning the reason why this dedicated man had to die. We had earnestly prayed for his safety – now this. Answers would not come quickly – but were on the way.

At the cemetery, words and prayers were delivered – the flag was presented – the thundering sounds of guns were made – taps were sounded – personal condolence was extended to Carolyn & children; and, the finale left me standing at the casket – still in question. As I gave a final salute and walked away toward family and friends at a distance. I was met by a young lady who made her way back to the scene, knelt at the casket, and pledged her life to Christ. Only then was it made clear to me some rationale for his passing. A Corn of wheat had fallen – a price was paid – and victory was now before us!

Registration for Fall Children's Classes are OPEN!

Classes run August-November

Special to Senior News

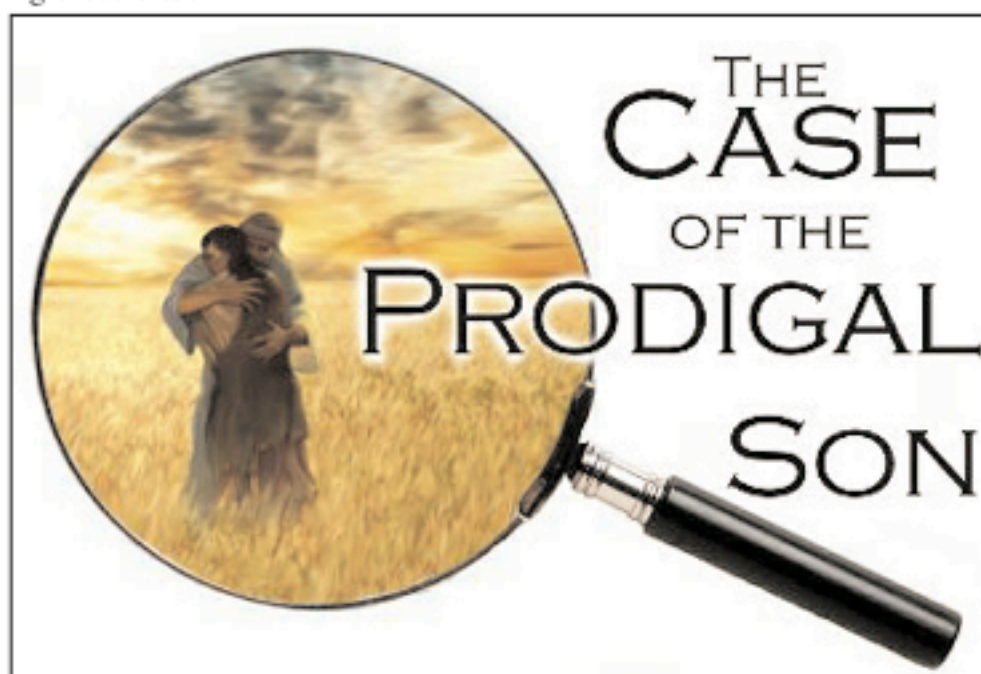
In August we will be welcoming children ages 9 and up to the theatre! Each class will culminate with a play put on by the children and along the way we will be learning theatre techniques while building our faith together.

A little about this production: In the Biblical account, found in Luke 15:11-32, a father has two sons. The younger son asks for his inheritance and leaves home. Our story picks up after the son has been gone for a time. His mother becomes concerned and hires a Private Detective to find him. The Detective goes throughout the town meeting several witnesses that lead him to the

son. But he is too late! Find out what happens in our 10 week Fall Session... *The Case of the Prodigal Son*.

All classes are \$125 for the 10 week session. A \$25 deposit is due upon registration.

For complete details call (706) 771-7777 or visit www.ivoryboxtheatre.com. The Ivory Box Theatre By Enopion is located at 3814 Commercial Court, Martinez, GA 30907.



On the Cover

Augusta Gets A Face Lift!

by CAROLYN BRENNEMAN

COVER
Georgia Cyber Center

Well, Augusta residents, we have some great news! Augusta's economy is booming now big time, after several years of slow growth. This is mainly due to the newly built Cyber Center in downtown Augusta, which is aimed to be the state's cybersecurity center and hopefully an international hub for cyber technology. Near the Augusta Commons area, across from the statue of James Brown, is a stunning multi-story glass building which is home for Augusta Cyber Security Center.

This center is a public and private collaboration among academia, state, federal and local government, law enforcement, the US Army and private businesses. The Center will bring academia, industry and government to work together all in our city of Augusta. As of now, the Center is home to three higher education institutions, two

international defense contractors and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Cyber Crime Center. The facilities will provide state-of-the-art training for various fields in cyber security to assist our industries and the military.

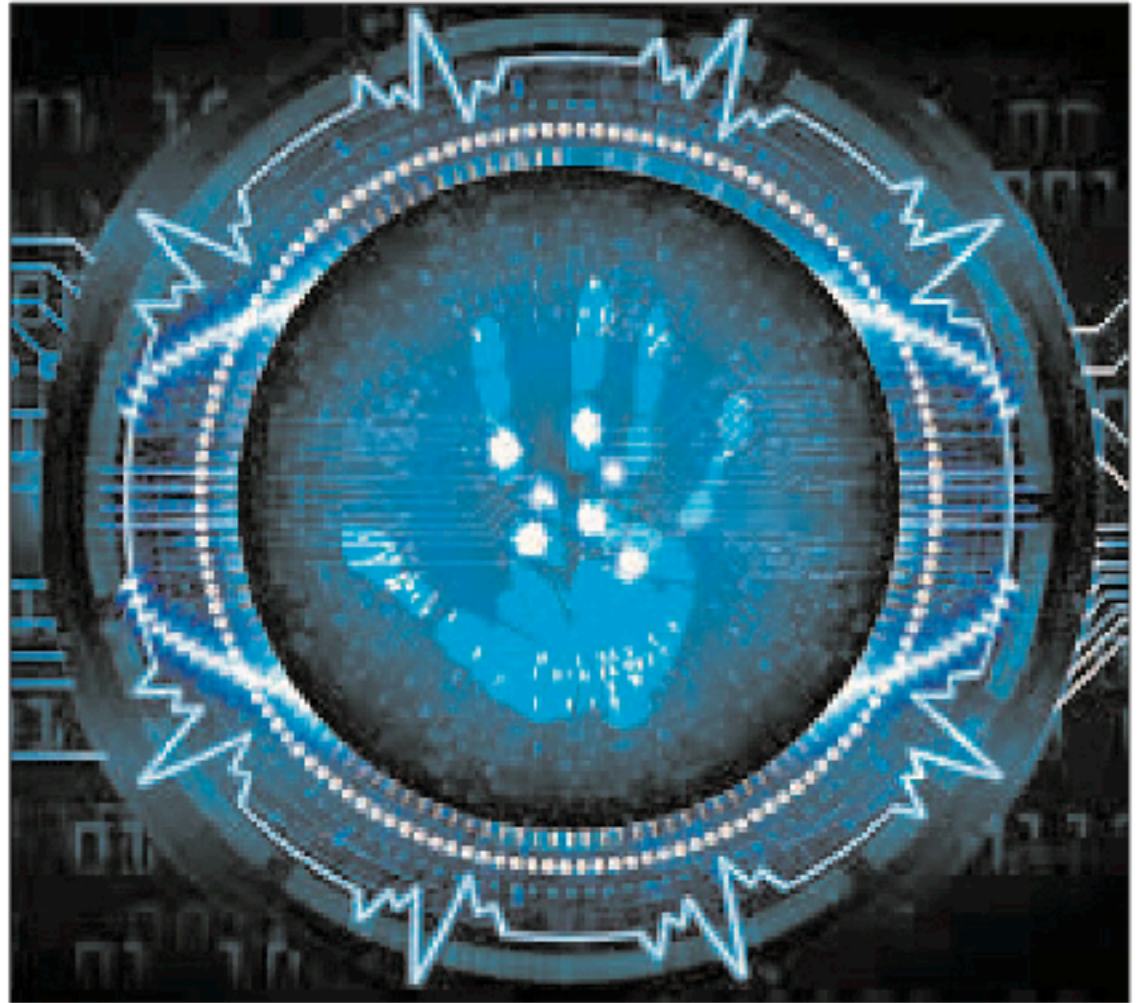
This is a big win for Augusta and provides training for our young adults and students in the field of cyber information technology. Many new degree types are offered at Augusta University and Augusta Tech schools.

For the Center's education and training mission, there are now classrooms, faculty offices, conference rooms, an auditorium and networking labs. These labs are specially equipped spaces where technology professionals can collaborate

and test strategies designed to assist in cybersecurity research and development.

The Center is definitely a plus for Augusta and its economy and will only bring more

jobs and growth to our city and hopefully make Augusta a truly national cybersecurity center. Check out www.gacybercenter.org for more information.



Cyber crime in 2019



Cyber attacks affects all of us

Get on Stage and Share the Gospel! Audition for *The Day After A Christmas Carol*

Special to Senior News

WANT TO BE PART OF THE ENOPI-ON FAMILY AND SOMETHING TRULY INSPIRATIONAL?

Auditions are always open! We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in being part of one of our upcoming productions.

Auditions are now open for our Fall 2019 Production: *The Day After A Christmas Carol*. We are looking for actors ages 18 and up and will have two casts, running November- December 2019. See synopsis and audition materials below. Rehearsals begin August 15.

To Audition: Please call (706) 771-7777 to schedule and come prepared with the following:

- All of our actors profess a belief in Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- Prepare a one-minute monologue. You may choose one of ours or prepare your own.
- Sides will also be given for a cold read.
- Each actor must also sing a song - with accompaniment or acapella.
- The Day after A Christmas Carol: a new, original production premiering by ENOPION in November:

The story goes that Ebenezer Scrooge had a night of "ghostly" visitations the evening before Christmas Day. It supposedly changed his mind about what Christmas really meant and on Christmas Day he visited the home of his nephew and family. It was a wonderful celebration as they dined on Christmas dinner and shared memories of days gone by. It truly seemed that Ebenezer had changed his mind, but had his heart been changed?

Our setting is the day after Christmas and we will soon see if that night of "ghostly" visitations had done the trick or if it is going to take another



night of sleeplessness for our Mr. Scrooge and a visitation by another ghost - The Holy Ghost.

We are always looking to join hands with dependable, dedicated, and disciplined actors. Through rehearsals and our productions you will be supported, encouraged, and truly able to use your gifts for the glory of God. We are a theatre company unlike any other! The stage is a great catalyst for spreading the gospel message, making each actor an ambassador for Christ. We are a volunteer-based group run by a professional theatre staff and each production is thoughtfully put together to include all original scripts, music, modern light and sound technology and sets that are professionally built by a team of volunteers. In our 19th year, we have a loyal and growing audience and produce three shows per year. The ENOPION way is God-oriented. Our vehicle is the stage, but the purpose is always to glorify God. We end each production with a bow and "To God Be The Glory!" Every role in our company is essential with the sole purpose of bringing the truth of God's Word to our audience.

"I enjoy producing an art form alongside those sharing my core beliefs for not only fun, but as also a ministry; demonstrating biblical principles through a great medium."

Joel, Actor with Enopion Theatre Company

The show will have two separate casts for daytime and evening productions. Rehearsals begin August 15. The daytime cast will practice Monday and Wednesday at 2 p.m. and the evening cast will meet Monday and Thursday at 6 p.m.

Daytime Cast

- Friday Nov. 22 at 3 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 30 at 3:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m.
- Friday Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 16 at 1PM
- Saturday, Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Evening Cast

- Friday Nov. 22 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 23 at 1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

For complete details call (706) 771-7777 or visit www.ivoryboxtheatre.com. The Ivory Box Theatre By Enopion is located at 3814 Commercial Court, Martinez, GA 30907.

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VA extends Agent Orange presumption to “Blue Water Navy” Veterans Eligible Veterans may now be entitled to disability compensation benefits

Special to Senior News

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for “Blue Water Navy” Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. They may also qualify for a presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure.

The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

“VA is dedicated to ensuring that all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “We are working to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water

Veteran community and minimize the impact on all Veterans filing for disability compensation.”

Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

Veterans who previously were denied for an Agent Orange related presumptive condition can file a new claim based on the change in law. Eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans also may benefit from the new law and may file claims for benefits based on the Veterans’ service.

The new law affects Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, as defined in Public Law 116-23. An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans.

To qualify, under the new law, these Veterans must have a disease associated with herbicide exposure, as listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne or similar acneform disease

- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus Type 2
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin’s disease
- Ischemic heart disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Parkinson’s disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma or mesothelioma).

For more information about Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam waters (Blue Water Navy Veterans), visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/vietnam-waters/>.

Veterans seeking more information should contact their Veterans Service Officer, call VA’s toll-free number at 800-827-1000 or visit the VA Blue Water Navy Agent Orange website.

Richmond County Retired Educators’ officers installed recently

Special to Senior News

The officers for the Richmond County Retired Educators were recently installed by Georgia Retired Educators Association Area 12 Director Emanuel Larkin, Jr., for the 2019-2020 year.

The elected officers are shown below: Installing officer Emanuel Larkin, Jr., President Joseph Moore, President-elect Pat Bureau, Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Foss, Recording Secretary Tim Bufford, and Treasurer Annie Rogers.

The Georgia Retired Educators Association, Inc. is comprised of 30,000 members. The organization’s mission is to unite retired educators in Georgia for fellowship, support, and educational/community service; and, to improve benefits for all retired educators through cooperation with local, state, and national organizations.

GREA provides an educational basis for continuing identity with the education profession, promotes programs and legislation beneficial to education, cooperates with organized groups having similar concerns, encourages fellowship among retired educators, recognizes the contributions of retired educators, supports retirement as a time of dignity, independence and purposes, and encourages educators in the workforce to prepare for retirement.



USDA proposes to close SNAP Automatic Eligibility Loophole

USDA is working to ensure benefits are provided with integrity to those most in need

Special to Senior News

WASHINGTON, July 23, 2019

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today proposed closing a loophole that allows states to make participants receiving minimal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits automatically eligible to participate in USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The proposed rule published today in the Federal Register would limit SNAP/TANF automatic eligibility to households that receive substantial, ongoing TANF-funded benefits aimed at helping families move towards self-sufficiency. The proposed rule would fix a loophole that has expanded SNAP recipients in some states to include people who receive assistance when they clearly don't need it. In fact, the depth of this specific flexibility has become so egregious that a millionaire living in Minnesota successfully enrolled in the program simply to highlight the waste of taxpayer money. This proposal gives USDA the ability to save billions of dollars, ensuring nutrition assistance programs are delivered with consistency and integrity to those most in need.

"For too long, this loophole has been used to effectively bypass important eligibility guidelines. Too often, states have misused this flexibility without restraint," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "The American people expect their government to be fair, efficient, and to have integrity – just as they do in their own homes, businesses, and communities. That is why we are changing the rules, preventing abuse of a critical safety net system, so those who need food assistance the most are the only ones who receive it."

Currently, benefits may be as minimal as simply providing a household with an informational brochure describing social services or access to hotline numbers. These nominal benefits are often given without conducting a robust eligibility determination. Congress has established clear eligibility standards. It is USDA's responsibility to make sure those who receive benefits are eligible.

To confer automatic eligibility for

SNAP under the proposal, a household must receive TANF-funded cash or non-cash benefits valued at a minimum of \$50 per month for at least 6 months. In addition, non-cash benefits that could convey automatic eligibility would be restricted to subsidized employment, work supports, or child-care. By establishing clear standards and requiring that benefits be ongoing and substantial, the proposal will ensure SNAP benefits go toward Americans most in need.

USDA encourages all interested parties to provide input on the proposed rule through www.regulations.gov. The comment period will be open for 60 days.

To learn more about this proposed rule, view this fact sheet.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) works to reduce food insecurity and promote nutritious diets among the American people. The agency administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that leverage American's agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. FNS also co-develops the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.



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