

# Senior News

## Georgia

Serving those age 50 PLUS in GEORGIA!

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Joyous May!

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May 2020  
Vol. 34, No. 5



# Chamber rolls out Cards for Caring Program

Columbia County Chamber providing restaurant gift cards to support front line Healthcare Worker's Families

Submitted by OLIVIA REICH  
Communications Manager  
Columbia Chamber of Commerce  
Olivia@columbiacountychamber.com

EVANS, Ga

The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce has launched a new program that gives back to frontline Healthcare worker's families, "Cards for Caring, You Take Care of Us, Let Us Care Of Your Family." This program will allow the community to donate in \$25,

\$50 and \$100 increments through the Chamber's website and the Chamber will purchase gift cards from area chamber restaurants members to be distributed to the three local hospitals. The goal is to help provide for the healthcare workers family while supporting local restaurant members.

"We are grateful for this partnership, where the Chamber is supporting our local business, while showing great appreciation to our front line staff, and their families, while they are here taking care of those in need." Doug Welch, CEO of Doctors Hospital.



"University Health Care System is thankful for our longstanding partnership with the Columbia County Chamber. The Chamber and many others in the community have been so supportive of our staff and physicians during this Covid pandemic. We are especially touched that the Chamber has thought of donating gift cards from local restaurants so that our healthcare workers and their families can enjoy meals together." Laurie Ott, President of University Health Care Foundation.

"It's times like these that we, as the state's academic medical center, step up and lead. Healthcare workers at the Medical College of Georgia and Augusta University Health were some of the first in our state to develop in-house testing capability, drive-thru specimen collection locations and virtual screening, all of which work to help slow the spread of the virus and protect our community. I'm grateful to our AU heroes and all community health care workers for their selflessness and dedication in fighting this pandemic." Cedric Johnson, Director of Community Affairs for Augusta University Health.

"Many people want to help! This program will help provide food for the families of frontline healthcare workers while they are taking care of pandemic patients at work. It's a win-win for two deserving industry segments." Tammy Shepherd, President & CEO of the Columbia County Chamber.

The Columbia County Chamber's Board of Directors has pledged \$5,000 to purchase 200, \$25 gift cards from Chamber member's restaurants to kick-off for this initiative.

If you are interested in donating to feed local frontline healthcare workers family, visit inset chamber master link or for a direct link [www.cardsforcaring.com](http://www.cardsforcaring.com). For more information, contact Tiffany Heitzman, Vice President for the Columbia County Chamber, at [tiffany@columbiacountychamber.com](mailto:tiffany@columbiacountychamber.com).



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## Let us entertain you

by CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD

**P**robably everybody already knows that it's not too smart to be dumb! However, in this Covid-19 Pandemic we all really, really know it is not smart to be dumb! Our prayer is that you are following the guidelines, being smart and saving yourself as well as your family, friends, neighbors, et al.

Most people we know are trying to make the best they can of a very bad and scary situation. Our neighbor and us are busy cooking and eating. We intend to top 300 lbs. by the time this is over! We can't understand people who don't cook or eat! While checking on cousins George and Howard Anderson, Howard was telling us about a neighbor who lived next door, didn't cook or eat much, but you could count on her to come over for coffee every morning and any other time she could for whatever. Amazingly she has done this for years and years! Our thought was if you get hungry, you'll learn to cook. After all, if you can read, you can certainly learn to cook! Or learn to do most anything else! We don't know about people who don't like to eat. We've known very few, and don't pretend to understand it, and we hate it for them. They're not having any fun! God bless them!

We fall in the Cook and Eat class, but checking around, let's see what we can find out about others...

Daughter and hubby are working. Busy, Busy, rarely coming up for air – on the phone, on the computer, writing, selling, organizing, collecting legals and enjoying the Montezuma people. They are productive. The yard was also getting a little attention.

Granddaughter and hubby are working some too. She online with the last of her Wesleyan degree classes and tests, both hunting when possible. They are playing hide and seek with a large Tom Turkey. They sighted him once. He is huge (smart too, obviously). The hen, we'll call her Trixie Turkey, comes out often and makes her prissy feminine noises. Tommy Turkey is often seen playing with little sister Turkey, but naught to shoot. Me thinks the fun is in the chase anyway! They are also busy keeping their four dogs happy and satisfied. The dogs are happy to have Mommy and Daddy, but confused about the most all work and not enough play! There's lots of good cooking and grilling going on here.

Grandson is playing basketball with Great Grandson, trying to play with another hyperactive dog. We thought the last one, Rosco, was the most hyper, but alas, no. This one, Ace, has topped him. Our question is, "How do you play with a spinning dog?" They tell me that if you can wear him out, you can play with him. Alas, you're not able to play anymore! They're getting yard work done and doing a lot of cooking; baking in; and, grilling out. They are making Easter Eggs at this writing and planning on having an Easter Egg hunt for Matthew. This will be his first Easter without all of us. Guess we'll be on the phone and he can send us pictures. At first Matthew was having fun and happy to be out of school. That, however, did not last long. He is so excited to have his lessons now and working on his computer. Hope his Easter at home with the big Bible we got him will be a happy one. He is very proud of it and calls to

talk about the Resurrection!

Sunday before Easter the Baptist Church held a ceremony in their parking lot, across the street and a young couple was sitting in our driveway. We will be waiting for them on Easter Sunday. This will be fun. Reminds us of Atlanta when we went to all sorts of places for Easter. The river was nice, but our favorite was the one held on Stone Mountain. The message matters, not the place. WMAZ weather Guru, Ben Jones, warns us that Chilly Willy may return Saturday night with rain for Easter. Let us pray it holds off till P.M!

We believe the President was congratulating the American people for walking and exercising and staying in shape. Well we don't belong to that group. Our group is busy, however, getting into shape. What shape? ROUND! We're all cooking and creating in the kitchen which, of course is great for your psyche, but not so much for your

figure! Oh well, as soon as we all escape from house arrest, we'll all be out jogging away! No!

One of our friends has escaped several times to visit our friend in Macon who has a pool and has gone swimming and gotten an early start on a tan. Not us. We'd rather stick with the kitchen and it shows. Remember those pounds we lost after Christmas? They're BAAACK! And probably to stay this time.

We're glad to be out a bit but have sense enough to know that we should all have sense enough to know that we all should still be cautious. Stay away from close quarters with people, wear masks, wash hands. Use common sense. Remember the old saying though, "Common sense is not common." Set a good example and be mindful of others. This is still an awfully bad pandemic, and we do NOT want a second one. Stay well and God Bless.

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## On the Cover

# Create a Garden for a Joyous May!

By Carolyn Brenneman

Cover: Dragons Breath

**M**ost of us know that plants of any type make us feel better and give us increased energy.

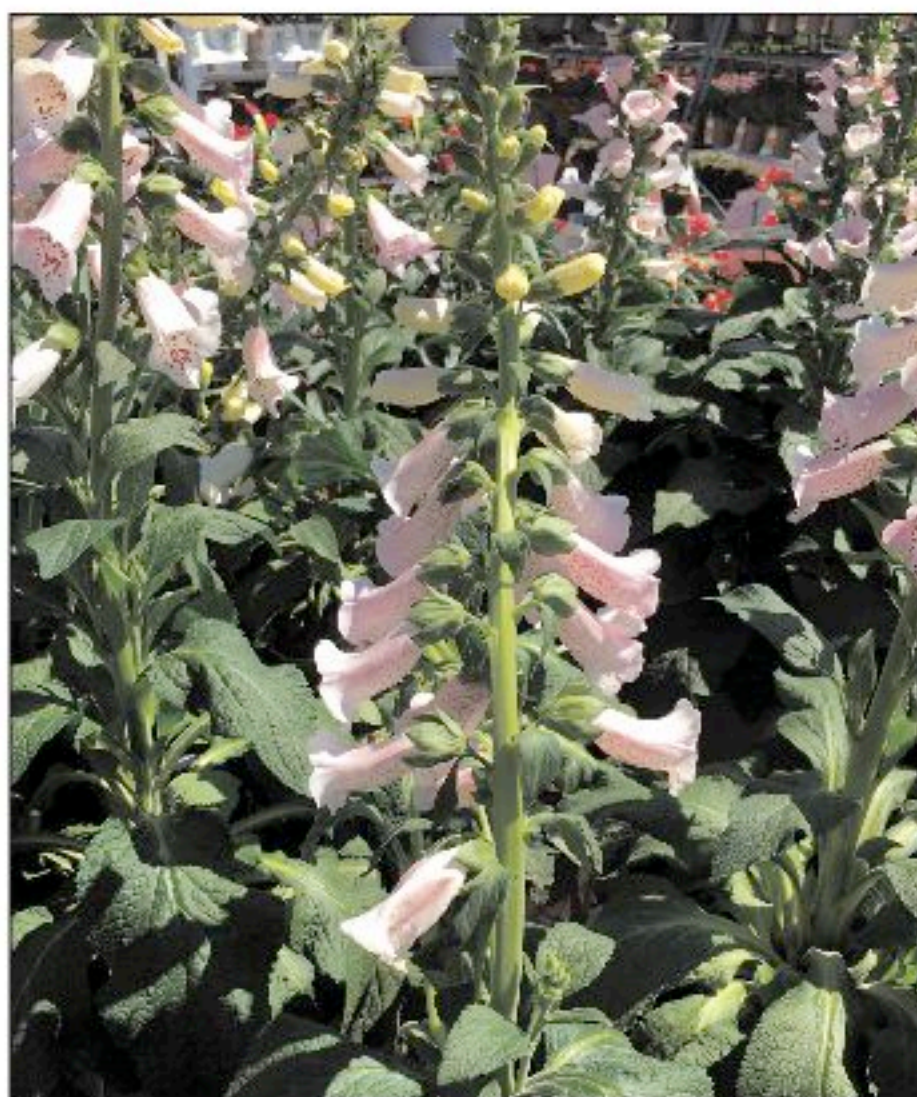
Flowering and non-flowering plants bring feelings of vitality and improve our state of mind. The subliminal effect of plants has an effect that lifts the spirit and brings happiness to us all.

Beautiful colorful flowers make me feel happy. How about you? Well, now many of my friends who are staying home, due to shelter-in-place, are really excited to begin a small flower garden. Many of us were never really interested in the growing and cultivating of plants and flowers. Now all of that has changed! My good friend, Shelly G. of Evans told me recently, "flowers are making me feel happier and joyful for what I do have in life!"

There have been several studies which show that plants and flower gardens, can and do boost our moods, and help to reduce stress. From chrysanthemums to lavender, many plants are well-known for their calm-inducing qualities and make beautiful additions around our home.

Taking care of our plants encourages us to enjoy the present moment. Anyone can have a garden even if it is very small. Gardens are peaceful and when we are

continued on page 5



Camelot Lavender Foxglove



Celosia



# Garden

from page 6

surrounded by flowers we become aware of the moment and all of our senses come into play. And of course, being still and enjoying the present moment can help reduce our anxiety and fears, even on a subconscious level. After all, as my friend Tom G. of Augusta, an avid gardener, said "Flowers always make me feel better, more content, and more productive as they are my sunshine and medicine for my soul."

For thousands of years, humans have cultivated flowers with love and affection and we can enjoy this activity too. Even with just a small space, we can plant and grow our favorite flowering plants and enjoy the beauty, scent and love they will instill upon us.

Did you know that daisies, very popular now for May, are one of the most popular, cheerful flowers that will make us feel happier? Gerbera daisies are big colorful flowers that will give a warm feel to any room in our home. I have seen some in yellow, red, orange, pink and light lavender at many of the stores. Just observing the flowers,

nurturing the plant and watching it grow is very rewarding and helps boost self-esteem. One garden expert stated that our time spent in our garden allows us to "zone out" and stay in the now.

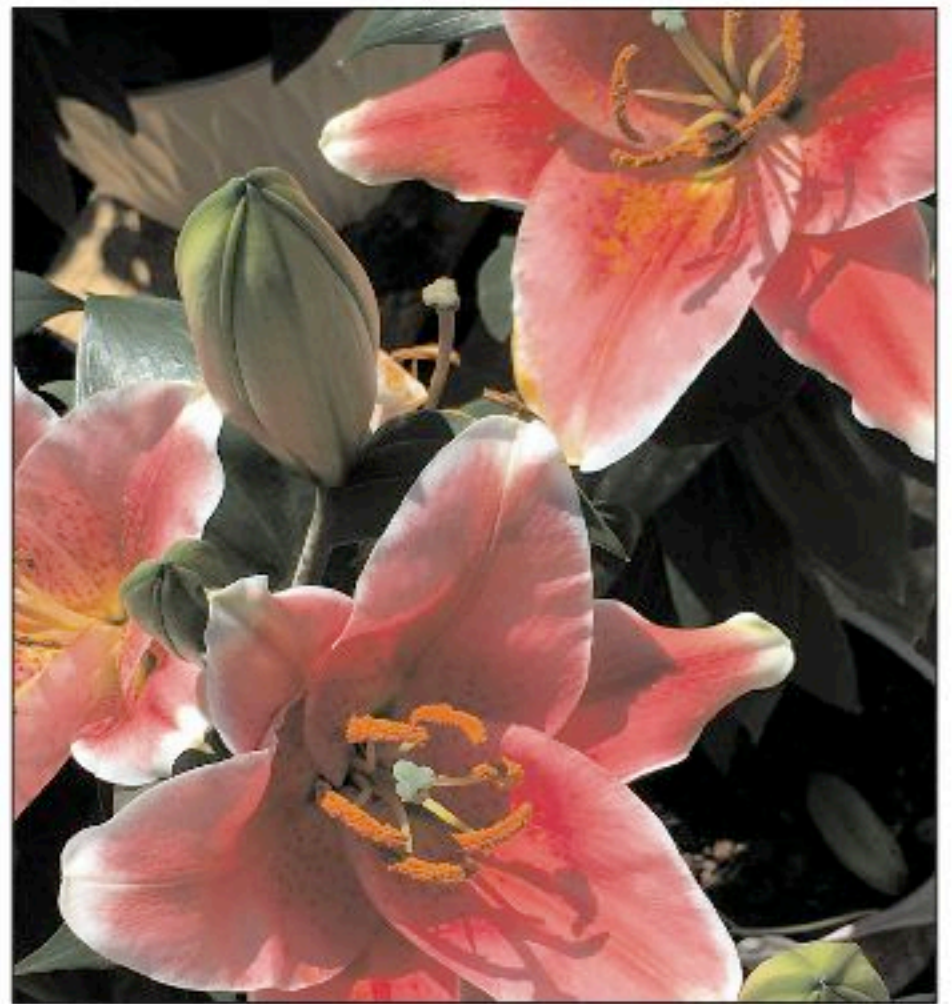
Don't know which plants are easiest to care for and longer lasting? Well, a recent visit to Home Depot, an essential store still opened, has a beautiful nursery area and each plant is tagged with information on what type of lighting the plant needs and how much watering and care are needed. I found this so handy, since much of my tiny backyard space for my garden is in a shaded area with limited sun. So I focused on celosia, foxgloves and coleus which are super colorful, and, of course, a few yellow lilies. Of course, I just had to have those Gerbera daisies in yellow and red and found a tiny sunny spot to keep them in their colorful pots.

So let's all start our little or big gardens! After all, just looking after beautiful flowers becomes a small labor of love. We will really enjoy watching the blooms and just knowing that we have cared and nurtured our plants every step of the way. Enjoy!

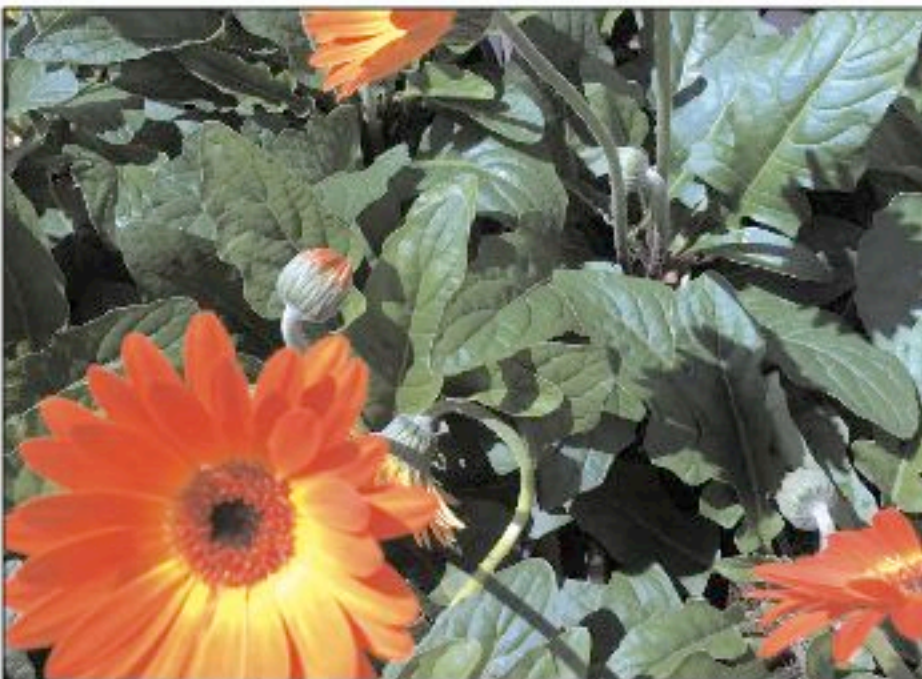
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**Red Gerbera Daisy**



**Sunny Robyn Oriental Lily**



**Sweet Sunset Gerbera Daisy**



**Yellow Gerbera Daisy**



# Senior... Strong... and Smiling!

Special to Senior News

**O**ver 40 years ago a 21 year old, new Air Force recruit weighed in at 129 lbs, soaking wet! Tired of being one of the smallest guys in his unit, Meyers decided to take advantage of the free weight rooms at McChord Air Force Base in Washington state! After a couple years of working out and being transferred to CLARK Air Base in the Philippines, Meyers decided to enter his first powerlifting competition... and... he won!

Meyers was thrilled and he continued to compete overseas and stateside!

He began to win state, regional, USA; and, finally, World Drug Free Championships, setting numerous American and World records.

He is a lifetime "Drug

Free" (no steroids) powerlifter and is not the typical build for a muscle head! At 5' 10" and 195 pounds... he is known in the powerlifting community as the "Skinny Man"... and the "World's Strongest Grand Daddy!"

Meyers' best lifts include 710 pounds in the squat, 400 pounds in the bench press and 761 pounds in the deadlift at a bodyweight of 187 pounds!

He holds the "All Time Greatest Record" of 761 pounds in the deadlift... and 51 years old, 710 pounds at 60 years old; and, now at the age of 63, he consistently lifts 680 to 705 pounds at various competitions!

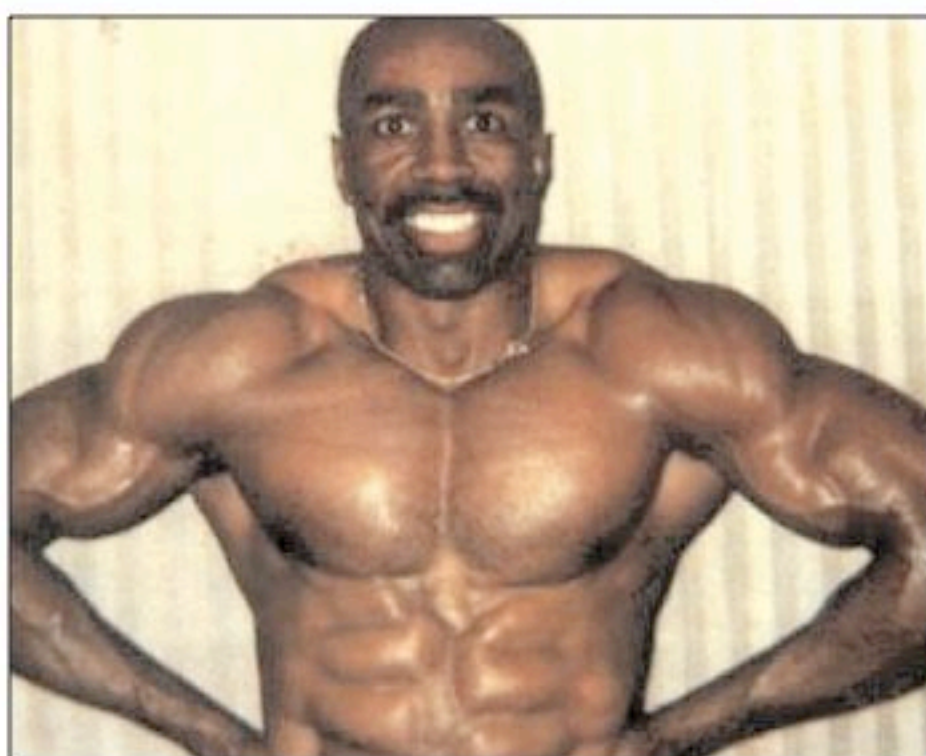
Even more amazing is that in 1997... at the age of 41 years Meyers suffered a severe back injury with two broken bones. Ten years later at the age of

51, he broke the World Record again!

Meyers now helps to train people from 16 years up to 90 years old and over... to be as strong as possible; and, he vows to keep lifting, training, encouraging and winning as long as God allows!



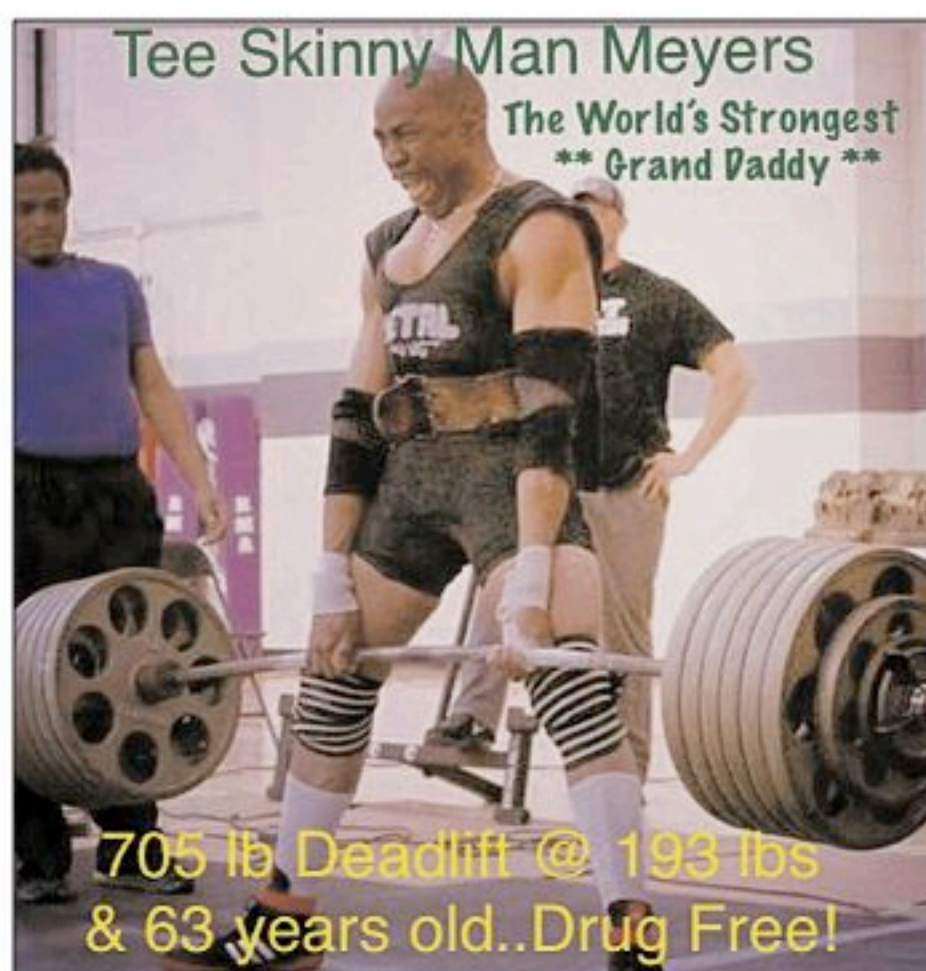
Tee Meyers at 129 pounds!



Tee Meyers at 189 pounds!



Tee Meyers in the "weight room!"





# Venmo Scam Sends You Money “By Accident”

by **KELVIN COLLINS**, President/CEO  
BBB of Central Georgia & the CSRA, Inc.

**I**f someone sends you money out of the blue, it's probably an honest mistake, right? Not necessarily. If you use Venmo or another digital wallet, such as Zelle or Apple Pay, watch out for this high-tech twist on a classic fake check con.

Here's how the Scam Works. You get a message in Venmo. It reads something like: “Oops! Can you send that back?” You check your balance history, and someone you don't know just sent you several hundred dollars. Must have been a mistake! After all, it's easy to mistype a username. You might think you are doing the right thing by returning the money, but don't fall for it!

What's happening here? Scammers connect stolen credit cards to Venmo and use them to transfer money to unsuspecting users. If you send the money back to the scammer, they will delete the stolen credit card from their account and add their own card in its place. Then, the money you are sending will go on to their personal card. Eventually, the stolen funds will be removed from your account, and you will be out that money.

This scam is just one of many cons using digital wallet apps, such as PayPal, Venmo, Zelle, and Apple Pay. Be aware that unlike credit cards, many digital wallet vendors will not shoulder the cost of fraud. If you pay scammers using a digital wallet, you may not ever get reimbursed.

Protect yourself when paying with a money transfer app by following this advice:

- Use money transfer with friends: Protect yourself from scams by only using money transfer apps for their intended purpose -- sending money to people you personally know. Never send money to people you don't know.
- If someone sends you money by mistake, ask them to cancel the transaction: The sender can request that the vendor cancel the transaction. If the person refuses, it's probably a scam.
- Enable additional security settings: Check your account settings to see if you can turn on additional security measures, such as multi-factor authentication, requiring a PIN, or using face and fingerprint recognition.
- Link your money transfer app to a credit card: As with many other purchases, using a credit card will help protect you if you don't get the goods or services you paid for. Linking to a debit card or directly to your bank account does not give you that added protection.

• Check your account to be sure that the money transferred: If you do use a peer-to-peer payment app to sell something, be aware that it takes a few days for some payments to transfer. Be sure that the money transfers before you send the goods. If you have any concerns that a payer didn't really send the money, be sure to check your account directly.

Learn more about staying safe when using a peer-to-peer payment system like Zelle, Venmo or Apple Pay at BBB.org. If you've spotted a scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). The Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior, monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: BBB.org or E-mail: info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org.*

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## **On the Cover**

# Memorial Day Reflections!

by CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD

**I**n Webster's New Word College Dictionary, "Memoria Day is a Legal Holiday in the U.S. (the last Monday of May in most states) in memory of the dead members of the armed forces of all wars."

This year Memorial Day will fall on May 25. We've been wondering where those beautiful Red Poppies went. When we were young, we sold or gave them away on the streets of Fort Valley. Some of the time, Daddy bought a big basket of them and we gave them away in front of his office on Camellia and Main. They were lovely reminders of all the brave and patriotic who had fallen in battle and to honor them as well as provide millions of dollars to help support our disabled veterans.

We have inquired of our younger friends (50 and below) if they remember selling the beautiful red poppies. An outstanding "No" is their answer. Since WWI it has been, not only a national, but an international icon of honor. Poppies are grown at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery in West Flanders, Belgium to honor the graves of the World War I soldiers. You will remember "In Flanders Fields" by Lt. Col. John McCrae of Canada, a physician and soldier, who wrote for his fallen comrades around whom graves grow red poppies symbolizing the blood they shed. In the last verse, he administers the world to continue to carry the torch, to keep faith with our fallen heroes; or, "we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders Fields."

As we spoke to our owner and editor of *Senior News*, he remembered a beautiful green lawn covered with poppies on sticks being displayed in London, England by West Minster Abbey. He believes there may have been names on white tags of each one. He remembered seeing them during his and his wife's visit to London in November 2008, and from our research, he was correct on all accounts. The very patriotic and proper

Evangelist celebrates Remembrance Sunday on the closest Sunday to Armistice Day, November 1st, instead of our late May date. Our publisher remembers

**continued  
on page 9**



**Poppies honor the war dead at West Minster Abbey**



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## VETERANS DAY POPPIES from page 8

seeing them on display at West Minister Abbey on England's Remembrance Day of November 11th.

The latest GEMC Georgia Magazine had an article about the Poppy Lady launching a world-wide remembrance of fallen soldiers. Her name was Miona Michael, a school teacher from Good Hope in Walton County, Georgia. She was a dedicated horticulturist, but "neither a wife, widow, nor mother," who helped many young people during and after WWI. She was too young to be able to join the young women she trained to serve over seas or predecessors to the USO hostesses. She was in Germany when Countess Sophie and husband Archduke Frank Ferdinand of Austria were assassinated and tensions in Europe erupted and WWI began. Michael escaped on the Carpathia, the ship that had rescued survivors of the Titanic disaster.

Back to Athens, at what would

become UGA's College of Education, Moina taught a summer class for disabled veterans and knew first-hand the hardships they suffered. She had found the silk red poppies of which she was most fond at Wanamaker's on Manhattan. Her own brother had recently been buried on a battlefield in France. That year the Armistice was signed, Nov. 11, 1918, the Carpathia was sunk by the Germans and poet

McCrae died of pneumonia, and Miona Michael, with the American Legion Auxiliary and the VFW, started the poppy making program which benefits veterans to this day. Barbara Davidson's mother, Evelyn Roberts Hale, was in the dorm with Moina at UGA... known to this day as The Poppy Lady.

How proud are we to have her be a Georgian!



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## **Taking Care**

# **Life After A Hospital Discharge**

## **Discharge options following hospitalization!**

by LISA M. PETSCHÉ

**T**here's a good chance that, sooner or later, your parent, or another aging loved close to you, one will require hospitalization, especially if they have chronic health problems.



Lisa Petsche

Once their condition is stable, hospital staff will work with them and the family to formulate a discharge plan.

When a patient makes a good recovery, planning may be simple and straightforward. In other situations, though, varying degrees of assessment and problem solving are required.

A good discharge plan involves communication and collaboration among the patient, family members and healthcare providers. It addresses issues around medical management, activities of daily living (self-care and home management skills), mobility, safety and finances, as well as psychosocial needs. The goal is to determine the most appropriate setting to meet the patient's needs and facilitate a smooth transition.

The hospital discharge planner – usually a social worker – serves as the coordinator. An expert on community resources, he or she can assist with decision making and provide information and referral to community support services as needed. The planner may also arrange a discharge conference that includes key members of the health care team.

### **Options**

Read on for an overview of typical settings to which a hospital patient may be discharged.

### **Home**

Many people are able to return directly to their home, especially if they have good family support. Some may require specialized equipment and/or support services on a transitional or long-term basis.

It's important during the planning stage to be open and honest with your relative and the healthcare team about the type and amount of assistance you're prepared to provide. If your relative is receptive to outside help, community or private pay agencies may be able to fill in any gaps.

Prior to discharge, clarify your rela-

tive's medication needs and ensure necessary prescriptions are provided. Obtain details about any home healthcare services being arranged. Also inquire about follow-up medical appointments and tests, including who is responsible for arranging them.

### **Convalescent Care**

Some patients, especially if they live alone, need additional time to regain their strength before they can adequately manage at home. Selected retirement homes and nursing facilities have short-stay programs that, in addition to providing meals and housekeeping service, offer medical monitoring, treatment (such as surgical wound care), personal care and perhaps also some degree of physical therapy during this recuperation period.

### **Rehabilitation**

If your relative has been hospitalized due to a stroke, hip fracture, prolonged acute illness or other type of major health crisis, an inpatient rehabilitation program may be recommended. Reactivation may occur on-site or at an acute rehabilitation facility or skilled nursing home. The goal is to help patients regain their strength and endurance, through participation in various kinds of therapy.

### **Long-Term Care**

Some patients do not make a good

recovery and require a setting where 24-hour supervision or assistance is available. Even if they are able to perform self-care activities, they may have difficulty with one or more instrumental tasks that are necessary for independent living, such as medication management, meal preparation, doing laundry and housekeeping.

Several levels of long-term care are available, depending on the type and degree of services required.

### **Hospice/Palliative Care**

For patients in the end stage of a life-limiting illness, inpatient hospice or palliative care may be recommended. The focus is on maximizing comfort and quality of life. Patients receive medical care to alleviate pain and other distressing physical symptoms and interventions that address psychological and spiritual concerns.

This type of program is not limited to patients with a cancer diagnosis. People with advanced heart, lung or liver disease and neurological diseases such as Parkinson's disease are among those who may benefit from specialized end-of-life care.

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*Lisa M. Petsche is a medical social worker and a freelance writer specializing in boomer and senior health matters. She has personal experience with elder care.*

## **Chamber To Host Virtual Candidate Forum**

**Special to Senior News**  
**Submitted by Olivia Reich**  
**Communications Manager**  
**Columbia County Chamber of Commerce**

EVANS, Georgia

**T**he Columbia County Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee will host its Annual Candidates Forum, virtually, on May 12 at 6:00 p.m..

This event, held virtually for the first time, will give voters an opportunity to learn about each candidate in the Georgia Senate District 23 race, the Columbia County Commission District 2 and the Columbia County Board of Education District 7 seat. The primary will be held on June 9, 2020 with early voting from May 18- June 5, 2020.

Each candidate will give an opening statement, followed by rotating questions,

and then a closing statement. The program will begin with the Senate race, followed by the Commission race and end with the Board of Education seat. Each section should last approximately 35 minutes. The Chamber will also inform voters about the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) referendum.

Advanced registration is required by registering through this link, <http://columbiacountychamber.chamber-master.com/events/details/zoom-candidates-forum-virtual-session-17766>, and will be held on the Zoom platform. This virtual event is open to the public.

Candidates include: GA Senate District 23: Trey Allen (R), Max Burns (R) and Ceretta Smith (D); Columbia County Commission District 2: Lee Benedict (R), Mark E. Petersen (R), Don Skinner (R), and Robert G. Willis Jr. (R); Columbia County Board of Education District 4 (Non-Partisan): William S "Billy" Jackson and Lee Ann Myer (I).



## Chamber Upcoming Virtual Engagement Series Each Week

Special to *Senior News Georgia*  
Submitted by Olivia Reich  
Communications Manager  
Columbia County Chamber of Commerce  
Olivia@columbiacountychamber.com

EVANS, GA

**T**he Columbia County Chamber of Commerce will begin hosting two weekly webinars called "Chamber Virtual Engagement Series." Every Wednesday and Friday at 1:00pm, the Chamber will feature different topics and speakers through the video conference program, "Zoom."

Wednesday's call will feature Ginger Carrington, District 7 Regional Director for Georgia Department of Labor. The Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) is updating its current systems to distribute federal unemployment funds as part of the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) bringing economic relief to many Georgians. Several programs will be discussed:

- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Program (FPUC)- Individual and Employer Filed Claims.
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Question and Answer Session

To register for this event, use this link <http://columbiacountychamber.chamber-master.com/events/details/zoom-department-of-labor-covid-19-update-17757>.

Friday's call will feature Wendy and Michael Perry, owners of Catalyst Executive Advising & Development. They will be speaking on the topic "Keep Calm and Lead Effectively Through Crisis, Keys to Keep Your Head Under Pressure." To register for this event, use this link: <http://columbiacountychamber.chamber-master.com/events/details/zoom-keep-calm-and-lead-effectively-3-ways-to-keep-your-head-under-pressure-17758>.

These Virtual Engagement Sessions are complimentary to all members or \$20 for non-members. If you are not a member or want more information, contact Sabrina Griffin, Events & Programs Director, at [sabrina@columbiacountychamber.com](mailto:sabrina@columbiacountychamber.com).



**The Richmond County Retired Educators recently presented a \$1,000 scholarship to each of two teachers in the Richmond County School System.**

Scholarship Recipients (L-R): RCREA President Joe Moore; Diamond Lakes Elementary Principal Ms. L. Pinkney and recipient Carissa Keels; Cecil Clark, HR Richmond County Board of Education; recipient Kamiya Jackson and Goshen Elementary School Principal Ms. C. Scoggins; RCREA Committee Chair Dr. Gloria Toy.

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Opinion

Portraits of a Lady's Purse!

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

I have always been baffled, yet intrigued, by the variable valuables that must accompany every lady on her earthly journey. A select few will choose to grip tightly, in one hand or both, their cherished items; but, most elect to carry some kind of purse or handbag. These inanimate creatures of cloth, beads, buttons, and bows have been the center of attraction on millions of shopping sprees; and, dollar signs to merchants.

There seems to be a never ending flow of large ones, small ones, those with long straps, and those with none, shallow ones, deep ones; some that fasten on belts, others that hang on the back; red ones, black ones, brown, white, and even pink; some made of leather, others of eel

skin or alligator; and, even more made of shoes, shells, or mittens. And no matter how small or large, they seem to always be bulging with items sufficient to supply a flea market. I have always wondered just what they carry; and, why it is so important that half the house has to make every trip to town. It has been said that you can tell much about the character and mentality of a woman by what purse she carries and what it contains. If so, one could have attached an entire biography to my wife's "tote," for her's weighed in at just under twenty seven pounds.

Since my lady has been gone a lengthy period (deceased), I can relate the following story without a fear of retaliation.

I never really had the inclination to investigate what she might have placed in this compartmentalized disarray, even when we entered customs; but, I did know that if we ever mugged, it would serve as a defensive weapon; and, have about the

same effect as being hit by a compact automobile. To be honest, I never really wanted to know what was inside.

Only the Creator knows my surprise (and dismay) at having to assemble and inventory the strange contents of my wife's "priceless parcel" when an unusual accident occurred and scattered the scores of items down the aisle of a supermarket. I set up a barricade with shopping carts, placed some warning signs marked "proceed at your own risk," partially shielded the episode with my coat; and, prayed fervently for no familiar faces. I was totally unprepared for the number of gadgets that my eyes fell upon, and felt sure we would be there for hours in an effort to retrieve her belongings. My first impulse was to hide some in produce.

There were several hankies, six ball point pens (none that worked), one red magic marker, twenty feet of string, a boiled egg (things did smell

a little); a wallet of pictures, cards, and a lock of hair from God knows who; a pair of slippers, three tubes of super glue, a generous supply of estrogen, a small bottle of Tylenol (I expected that, for Tylenol cures all); a checkbook with a zero balance, three pair of glasses, my golfing gloves, a skate key she hadn't used in twenty five years; a scarf, a make up kit with enough tidbits to furnish a store; six sets of keys, assorted safety pins, a bottle cap, three USO's (Unidentified Scary Objects), a box of silly putty, a thirty year old picture of Gregory Peck (I wondered about that); a pack of gift certificates for stores from Miami to Omaha, four dollars in bills, three dollars in nickels, and one hundred fifty one pennies. The last item I picked up was some forty year old bus tickets to the coast. I wondered how long it would be before she missed me, if I took advantage of one.

This would be a perfect time.

\*\*\*\*\*

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