

Senior News

Serving **AUGUSTA** & the CSRA
Information For Ages **50 PLUS!**



*Let's Get
A Pet!*

Story on page 5

March 2018
Vol. 32, No. 3

Taking Care

Take Charge of Your Health to Reduce Complications

by LISA M. PETSCHÉ

As we age, our chances of being hospitalized increase due to the increased likelihood of developing chronic health conditions.



Lisa Petsché

The good news is that numerous risk factors are within our control. There are many ways we can help to prevent or manage a variety of health problems, reducing our chances of complications and hospitalization.

Follow these tips to help preserve your well-being and independence, or that of a loved one for whom you're providing care.

Physical health

- Get regular medical checkups. If you miss an appointment or test, reschedule it right away.
- Have your vision and hearing tested regularly.
- Ensure vaccinations are up to date. Get vaccinated against influenza annually and early in the

season.

- Stay away from people with contagious illnesses. Keep hand sanitizer by your front entrance and use it coming and going. Also keep a travel size bottle in your vehicle, or a miniature-sized one in your pocket or handbag.

- Take medications exactly as prescribed. If any of the instructions on prescription containers or over-the-counter products are unclear, contact your pharmacist for clarification. It's important to fill all prescriptions at the same pharmacy. If you take more than a few medications or your memory's not the greatest, ask the pharmacist about available aids for organizing and remembering to take your pills.

- Practice healthy lifestyle habits: eat nutritious meals, get adequate rest and exercise regularly. If you smoke, enlist your doctor's help to quit.

- Limit your sun exposure and always use sunscreen outdoors. A wide-brimmed hat is also advisable, as are sunglasses that block 100 percent of ultraviolet rays.

- Do as much for yourself as possible, to maintain your abilities.

- Investigate available resources in your community, which might include grocery delivery services, meals on wheels, volunteer driver programs, accessible transportation, home health services and accessible seniors' housing. Such information can be obtained from the local office on aging.

Mental health

- Do things that center you and bring inner peace, such as practicing yoga, keeping a journal or spending time in nature.
- Set aside daily time for relaxation – engaging in reading or music listening, for example.
- Keep in regular contact with friends. If your social network has diminished, make new connections. Taking a class, volunteering or joining a club are great ways to meet new people.

Safety

Hazardous conditions in home environments are a major cause of falls resulting in hospitalization.

Fortunately, there are numerous ways to reduce these hazards for yourself or a loved one. Read on for specifics.

- *In stairwells: Ensure steps are in good repair and have a non-skid surface. Keep them free of clutter. Have solid handrails installed on both sides of stairways and ensure adequate lighting.*

- *In the kitchen: Keep regularly used pots, dishes, staple foods and other supplies within easy reach. Ensure the heaviest items are stored in the lower cupboards. If you must reach high places, get a step stool that has a high handrail and rubber tips. Never use a chair.*

- *In the bathroom: Have grab bars professionally installed by the toilet and in the bathtub or shower area. Use a rubber mat in the tub or shower, and a non-skid bath mat on the floor. Consider getting a raised toilet seat, a bathtub seat or shower chair and a hand-held shower attachment.*

General tips

- Wear slippers or shoes that fit well, offer good support and have a non-skid sole.
- Remove throw rugs and scatter mats, which are a tripping hazard.
- Keep walkways clear of electrical and telephone cords.
- Avoid clutter in rooms and hallways.
- Use night-lights in the bedroom, hallways and bathroom. Get the kind that automatically turn on in dim conditions. Also get plug-in, rechargeable flashlights that activate when the power goes out.
- Sign on with a personal emergency response service, whereby you wear a lightweight, waterproof pendant or bracelet that has a button to press if you run into a crisis and need to summon help.
- Visit a medical supply store and check out the many products that can make daily activities easier and safer.
- Consider a cane or walker if balance is a concern. Make sure you are fitted with the appropriate type and size of aid and receive instruction on how to properly use it.

Lisa M. Petsché is a medical social worker and a freelance writer specializing in boomer and senior health matters.

Georgia Dermatology

Jason Arnold, MD - Lauren Ploch, MD
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AmeriCorps VISTA Second Annual Career Fair

Over twenty employers looking to hire

Special to Senior News

Spring into a new beginning at the AmeriCorps VISTA Career Fair on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, from 10 am to 1 pm at the Headquarters Library located at 823 Telfair St., Augusta. Meet with over twenty employers looking to hire smart and dedicated workers like you from food and beverage, retail, healthcare, and government industries. The first twenty jobseekers will receive free flash drives. Brush up on your resume and dress to impress!

This event is sponsored by AmeriCorps VISTA, the United Way

of the CSRA, and the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System.

About ARCPLS: The mission of the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System is connecting the community to knowledge by providing information to people.

The six libraries in Richmond County serve a population of almost 300,000, containing within them over half a million items. All libraries are equipped with computer access to the state-wide PINES catalog of materials, and have public-use computers for Internet access and office applications. Friendly staff make customer service a priority.

Agency Alert

The IRS is extremely complex... help is available to assist with your tax problem

by KATHLEEN ERNCE
Executive Director, The Senior
Citizens Council Augusta, Georgia
kernce@seniorcitizenscouncil.org

The IRS is extremely complex and it is no surprise that so many people run into tax problems each year. There are many different problems that taxpayers run into for various different reasons. The IRS understands that problems do arise and they have created methods to make things easier on individuals. The IRS is willing to work with individuals on resolving their tax problems as long as they are upfront about their problem and make the appropriate tax filings to correct the situation. Even if there is a problem that exists that the IRS does not have a solution for, there are tax professionals that can help. So if you think there is no way out, you can be assured there is a solution to every tax problem out there.



Kathleen
Ernce

Unpaid Taxes

Have unpaid taxes that you can't pay? There are many options available to you depending upon how much you owe, your current financial situation and your anticipated future financial situation. The worst thing to do would be to ignore your problem as the IRS is very understanding when it comes to individuals that cannot pay. If you do not notify them and make appropriate filings you will be charged stiff penalties.

Tax Liens

A tax lien is the first major step the IRS takes against individuals that owe taxes. With a tax lien the IRS is taking legal claim to assets in order to ensure payment. A tax lien can be removed if you can pay the taxes owed or if you can assure the IRS that you will be paying. There are many different settlement methods the IRS will accept. Understand more about why a tax lien is in place, the effects of a lien and what is required to remove the tax lien.

Tax Levy

A tax levy is the harshest of the collection mechanisms the IRS has. They can legally take your

assets in order to satisfy the tax liability. The IRS can take your wages, money in your bank account, your house, your car, or anything else of monetary value. The IRS will typically give 30 days notice before they do any of this and this will give you enough time to take action and stop them. Understand more about how a tax levy works and actions you can take to stop the IRS.

Unfiled Tax Returns

Not filing a tax return and having back taxes is actually much worse than filing a return and not paying what is owed. The sooner you take action the better. The IRS has an unwritten rule to not punish people that intentionally file before they are found by the IRS. Find more information on the proper way to file back taxes, even if you do not have the right documentation or money to pay. Every year millions of Americans finish the year with an un-filed tax return. Some don't need to file, but many others forget and ignore the process. Some get confused as to whether they need to file. Filing requirements vary based on your income and several other factors. As of the tax year 2016, you must file a return if you fall into any of the following categories:

- Single, under age 65, and gross income exceeds \$10,350.
- Single, 65 or older, and income exceeds \$11,900.
- Married filing jointly, under age 65, and income exceeds \$20,700.
- Married filing jointly, at age 65, and income exceeds \$21,950.
- You earned more than \$400 from self-employment, after expenses.
- Sold your home during the tax year.
- Owe taxes on your retirement account.
- Owe Social Security or Medicare taxes on tips from your employer.

The IRS updates these numbers annually, and there are different income thresholds for widows with dependent children and people who are married filing separately. Therefore, to double check if you have a filing requirement, consult the IRS's instructions for the 1040 form for the year in question. Nearly every tax issue can now be resolved online or by

phone from the convenience of your home or office. If you need help from a Taxpayer Assistance Center (TAC), call to schedule an appointment. All TACs are now providing service by appointment: the Augusta Office can be contacted at 3154 Perimeter Parkway, in Augusta, Georgia 30903 or by calling 706-868-1374 for an appointment.

Need help filing taxes, you may contact AARP at The KROC CENTER OF AUGUSTA, 1833 Broad St., Augusta, GA 30904-3917; AUGUSTA RICHMOND COUNTY LIBRARY at 823 Telfair St., Augusta, GA 30901-2209; JEFF MAXWELL LIBRARY, 1927 Lumpkin Rd., Augusta, GA 30906-3524; MARVIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 4400 Wheeler Rd., Martinez, GA 30907-9704; COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARY 7022 Evans Town Center Blvd., Evans, GA 30809-4314; EUCHEE CREEK

LIBRARY, 5907 Eucree Creek Dr., Grovetown, GA 30813-4005.

Or perhaps you prefer a private tax preparer. This writer knows someone who has been filing taxes and helping individuals for over 31 years. Robert Piercy may be contacted at 706-840-9195. He will be happy to answer your tax questions or concerns and will make a convenient appointment. Just be sure to gather all of your tax documents to bring with you for your appointment.

By the time you are reading this article, The Senior Citizens Council will have moved to 30711th Street, in downtown Augusta, Georgia 30901. Our telephone number remains 706-868-0120. Please give us a few days to reorganize the new office and get things set up again. We will be happy to meet and give you the required assistance on or about March 6, 2018.

Vintage Gardens At Sweetwater



Senior Living at its best! Enjoy the quiet gazebo with flowers, individual gardening areas, and a community center with planned activities for everyone.

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Vintage Gardens At Sweetwater

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Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday by appointment

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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

Poets' Corner

Trees

by Janice E. Childers

I love trees for many reasons.
They are always giving.
They give us spices which are nice,
and fruit that's good to eat.
Nuts for snacks and other things;
wood for furniture and houses too!
They give shade in the summer, a
home for birds and squirrels, gum
from the gum tree.; and, syrup
too!
Medicine, let's not forget that!
Eucalyptus for sore muscles and
coco for chocolate and candy.
Trees give us paper to write on and
other uses too.
Trees are for climbing, tree houses
and hide and hide and go seek.
Now, let's not forget their beauty
and smell;
They give us flowers in the summer
and colorful leaves in the fall.
Is there more? Oh, yes, the most
important thing of all;
They give us oxygen to breath to
keep us alive.
I love trees for so many reasons.
I hope after hearing this, if you
don't, you will too.

If I Can Dream –

A Miracle in the Making

by Joel M. Adams (Grandpa Adams)

(with help from

Elvis A. Presley and songs)

I know I came early, *That's All
Right Mama* and *Don't Cry
Daddy*, cause (*Let Me Be Your
Teddy Bear* and *I Need Your
Love Tonight*.
I'm *A Big Hunk of Love*. I know
everyone is *All Shook Up*
and they *Can't Help Falling in
Love* with me!
*Where Could I Go But
To The Lord*.
If I could Dream – *My Way*
*I would Just Pretend I'm The Long
Legged Girl* (with the short Dress
on).
*It's A Matter of Time - I Believe -
It's No Secret (What God Can Do)*.
Take My Hand, Precious Lord and
lead me over the *Bridge Over
Troubled Waters*.
*I Want you, I Need You,
I Love You!*
*Are You Lonesome Tonight? It
Hurts Me too!*
Lord, you *Gave Me A Mountain*
and *I Love You So*,
but you will *Take Good Care
of Her*; I *Surrender* my trust to
The Wonder of You!
Everyone *Don't be Crying in
the Chapel*, I'm a *Little Sister*
that's *Stuck on You*.
We won't have a *Blue Christmas*.
I'll *Be Home for Christmas*.

One of these days I'll have
Memories and *I Just Can't
Help Believin'*.

I have a *Burning Love* in me!
Sometimes, *That's the Way It Is*,
but we'll *Patch It Up!*
GRU ain't no *Heartbreak Hotel!*
The doctors and nurses all *Love
Me Tender* and love me true,
but *One Night* soon I'll be
with You!

Love, Lil Savannah
Presley (Adams)

**Author's Comments: If I Can
Dream – A Miracle in the Making**
was written about our granddaughter
(1st grandchild) Savannah Presley
Adams. She was born 10 weeks pre-
mature. Our son was raised on Elvis
music and was/is a fan, so he used
"Presley" as her middle name. His
second child (our 2nd grandchild), a
boy, is named Blake Aron Adams,
Elvis' middle name. Savannah
stayed in GRU (Georgia Regents
University), or MCG as we call it,
for 8 weeks. So, I came up with this
poem on just one try. It just came to
me and just put it together. The
author went on to share how his
poem had touched others and was
displayed in the children's wing of
MCG and that he hopes it may touch
someone's heart who is also experi-
encing a similar situation.

Opinion

“RACISM? You Say What?”

by DANIEL W. GATLYN, USNRet.
Minister/Journalist

If I hear "Racism" men-
tioned one more time, I'm going to
scream so loud that King Tut will
resurrect!! Honestly, it appears that
every third word uttered by those
in the loop is patterned after the
most simple minds – another bloke
has "stripped an oral gear," and,
has indicted all on the left and
right... and in between. You would
think that some had been indoctrin-
ated on the premise that "satura-
tion is abomination." That would
apply to most any subject.

For those in the loop, out of
the loop, (or just plain loopy), let
me endeavor to bring you up to
speed. I was born before most
reading these words; and, have
witnessed just about every form of
conduct, speech, vanity, sarcasm,
vindictiveness that one could pos-
sibly imagine. These traits have
been around since day one; and, it
is highly unlikely that any pro-
gram, exhortation, admonition,
threat, or indictment will alter the

scenario. Trips through the courts,
the academy, the desperations,
intimidations – even incarcerations
– will not bring daylight to those
whose lifestyles and pursuit are
"set in stone!" Just as indiscreet are
the labels which are assigned erro-
neously. With all the definitive
terms set forth by pseudo-intellec-
tuals, pundits, or illiterates from
every race and creed, it is clearly
obvious that most have no valid
stance on just who is a "racist!"
Politics, guesswork, revenge, and
"carnival oriented babble birds"
have so tainted the vocabulary of
humanity until it sounds like a
reincarnation of the Tower.
Garbage in and garbage out!!!

My previous words do not
imply that I dismiss wrong doing
(or saying)... I DO NOT! But sure-
ly by now we can identify the end-
less oration as streams emanating
from the pit. To pin the label of
"racist" on anyone whose fancy
does not float your boat is analo-
gous to calling every fish a whale!
It simply isn't so! To ride that
horse (halt, mane, and tail) through
the entire circuit, effectively

reduces the accusation to insolvent
turf!

We, as civilized homosapians,
can be versed in abstract feelings
(and actions) without resorting to
barbarism. Learn to discover posi-
tive values, factual issues – pursue
fairness and decency – with all
races and mind set. Recognize that
everyone is different; with varied
approach, slanted ideology, alter-
nate paths... some of which are just
as virtuous as those you endorse!
(Of course some are wrong and
spiteful; but, your yelling will only
kindle the fires of discontent.)
Racism is not in every transaction.
Where there is disagreement, settle
the issue amicably; or, simply walk
away! To lose your cool is to
honor indiscretion.

To make your point without
malice is to win a friend; and, per-
haps the entire company! To dis-
creetly avoid the use of a tool (or
word), will eventually assign the
item to antiquity. Racism is much
like a fire... kindle the floundering
remains and the flames, along with
smoke, will consume all in its
path!

On the Cover

Let's Get A Pet!

by CAROLYN BRENNEMAN

Hey everyone, do we want some friendly companionship in our life? Then why not get a pet! Those furry, wagging creatures can be the best of companions. Pets provide a comfort system and actually produce a chemical chain reaction in the brain that helps to lower levels of the stress-inducing hormone, cortisol. It also increases the production of hormones that allow us to have a sense of well being, like the chemical serotonin. And pets have been shown to reduce stress levels, help us fight any depression or sad moments, and can help protect somewhat against heart conditions. As seniors, caring for our animals gives us a sense and purpose and thus promotes healthy living.

Dogs and cats absolutely make great companions for seniors of all ages. Dogs can certainly brighten our day and help us stay physically and emotionally active and alert. Dogs are such happy creatures and love to give and receive affections and attention from us. No wonder they are called man's best friend. And, in addition, another best friend for a senior is cat. So, if we prefer a pet with a great per-

sonality that may be somewhat independent, and on its own, but yet a great companion, we could look into getting a cat. Cats provide great company for seniors and improve mood in anyone. Cats require minimal care and they are happy to stay indoors all the time and require only a half hour of playtime per day. And we can play with our cat sitting in our favorite chair.

Back to man's best friend, seniors interested in acquiring a pet can look into programs for seniors adopting pets' programs. Want to find a good match with our new friend? There are many programs that place dogs and cats with senior citizens who are at least 60 years old.

One such program, the CSRA Humane Society which has a Pet Center, is located at 425 Wood Street just past Lake Olmstead Stadium and is open for adoptions and visiting. All pets are microchipped, up to date on shots and ready for a new family. The program is known as petfinder (petfinder.com) and there are photos, histories and important tips about each pet on the website. They even provide a comprehensive guide to pet adoptions and tips on how to bond with our pet within the first thirty days. Check it out! To date, there is Keylee, a shep-

herd; April a labrador retriever, GiGi, a terrier, and Griffin, a boxer. Prefer a cat? See Tina Marie, Gabbie, Jessica, Frankie, Sandy, Walter, Randall, and Pawla Revere. They are all so cute.

So let's look into Adopting a Pet and the CSRA Humane Society and get our new companion this year. Remember, dogs and cats not only provide companionship and affection for us, but also can help improve our physical and mental health. Don't wait! Let's check it out today.



A senior enjoying her new pet



Cats and dogs are great companions



Linda with her lovable Sammy



THE LEDGES APARTMENTS

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Additional Senior Services & Events Information Available at www.seniornewsga.com

The Senior Citizens Council
30711th Street (downtown), Augusta,
Georgia 30901; 706-868-0120;
www.seniorcitizenscouncil.org

The Senior Citizens Council is
open Monday through Friday for the
following services:

- Advocacy Programs Department –
including: Caseworker Services -
Caregiver Respite, Referral
Information and Support (CRRIS);
Bill and Money Management
(MAP); Senior Health Insurance and
Education (SHINE) - the Center for
the Prevention of Elder Abuse,
Neglect and Exploitation.
- The Senior Corps Department:
Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)
and Senior Companion Program
(SCP) for income-eligible persons
age 55 and older who "serve up to
20 hours a week with special needs
children or adults." Call us at 706-
868-0120 for complete details. The
Retired and Senior Volunteer
Program (RSVP) for individuals
looking for "fun and rewarding ways
to make a difference in the commu-
nity" or just get out-of-the-house a
few hours a month. RSVP recruits
individuals age 55 and over for the
opportunity to apply their skills,
expertise, and experience to help
meet critical community needs while
meeting other like-minded folks in
our community. RSVP pairs talented
volunteers with a variety of local
nonprofit, health care, governmental,
and faith based organizations to
assist these groups with meeting the
needs of those they serve. Please call
us at 706-868-0120 for details on
any of our programs or make an

appointment for a needed service.
Our physical address is 4210
Columbia Road, Suite 13A,
Martinez, GA 30907, Monday
through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00
p.m.

CSRA Senior Life Enrichment Centers

Over 60? Do you enjoy socializ-
ing, parties, cards, crafts, Bingo and
travel? Are you interested in staying
healthy and active? Are you tired of
eating lunch alone?

If you answered YES to these
questions, check out a Center near
you!

• Blythe Area Recreation Department

Patricia Strakosch, Brenda Buck
3129 Highway 88, GA 30805; 706-
592-6668

• Carrie J. Mays Recreation Center

Kristy Banks, Tammy Olive
1015 11th Ave., Augusta, GA 30901;
706-821-2831

• Henry H. Brigham Senior Center

Heather Koons
2463 Golden Camp Rd., Augusta,
GA 30906; 706-772-5456

• McBean Community Center

Dana Pettigrew, Willamae Shaheed
1155 Hephzibah/McBean Rd.,
Hephzibah, GA 30815; 706-560-
1814

• Sand Hills Community Center

Brandi Robertson, Linda Taylor
2540 Wheeler Rd., Augusta, GA
30904; 706-842-1912 or 706-842-
1916

• McDuffie Woods Community Center

Frank Booker
3431 Old McDuffie Rd., Augusta,
GA 30906; 706-771-2656

• New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc.

Sheridan Glaze
1336 Conklin Ave., Augusta, GA
30901; 706-722-0086

• Columbia County Senior Center

Christie Lowe
5913 Euchee Creek Drive,

Grovetown, GA 30813; 706-556-
0308

• Burke County Senior Center

Jackie Brayboy, Sherry Moody
717 W. 6th St., Waynesboro, GA
30830; 706-437-8007

• Glascock County Senior Center

Anita May
568 Brassell Park Ln., Gibson, GA
30810; 706-598-3050

• Betty Hill Senior Citizens Center

Knakia Huff
330 Waters Work Rd., Sparta, GA
31087; 706-444-7532

• Harlem Senior Center

Sabrina Threet
405 B West Church St., Harlem, GA
30814; 706-449-8400

• McDuffie Senior Center

Kimberly Ivy
304 Greenway St., Thomson, GA
30824; 706-595-7502

• Jenkins County Senior Center

Errand Drake
998 College Ave., Millen, GA
30442; 478-982-4213

• Jefferson County Leisure Center

Tammie Bennett
1841B Highway 24 West, Louisville,
GA 30434; 478-625-8820

• Lincoln County Senior Center

Pam Parton
160 May Ave., Lincolnton, GA
30817; 706-359-3760

• Sylvania Senior Center

Cathy Forehand
209 E. Ogeechee St., Sylvania, GA
30467; 912-564-7727

• Taliaferro County Senior Center

Velma Harris
119 Commerce St., Crawfordville,
GA 30631; 706-456-2611

• Warren County Senior Center

Porsha Johnson
48 Warren St., Warrenton, GA
30828; 706-465-3539

• Washington County Council on Aging

Lynne Beal
466 Maurice Friedman Rd.,
Sandersville, GA 31082; 478-552-
0898 (Mon., Tues., and Thurs.); 478-
552-0013

• Wilkes County

Diana Hall
108 Marshall Street, Washington,
GA 30673; 706-678-2518

• Shiloh Comprehensive Community Center

Elizabeth Jones
1635 15th St., Augusta, GA 30901;
706-738-0089

Aiken County Parks, Recreation & Tourism

902 Vacluse Rd., Aiken, SC 29801;
803-642-7559;

www.aikencountysc.gov/tourism
Courtney Senior Center

49 Roy St., Wagener, SC; 564-5211

• Senior Bingo: 3rd Fri., 2 p.m., Free

• Canasta Club: Wednesdays, 12
noon, Free

Harrison-Caver Park

4181 Augusta Rd., Clearwater, SC;
593-4698

Aiken County Recreation Center

917 Jefferson Davis Hwy.,
Graniteville, SC; 663-6142

Roy Warner Park

4287 Festival Trail Rd., Wagener,
SC; 564-6149

AAugusta Area Libraries

Headquarters Library

706-821-2600; TTY: 706-722-1639;
823 Telfair St, Augusta

Morris Museum of Art

1 Tenth Street at Riverwalk in
Augusta Riverfront Center. Call 706-
724-7501 for more information or
visit the Museum's website at
www.the.morris.org.

• Create With Me: BBQ is on the
Menu: Thurs., March 8, 10:30-11:30
a.m.

Augusta Museum of History

560 Reynolds Street in downtown
Augusta. Call 706-722-8454 for
events information.

• All Aboard: History of Our Trains:
March. 5

• Brown Bag Series: Business of
Healthcare and its Impact in
Augusta: March 14

General Business Directory For Seniors



TrueCare Personal Care Home
We provide peace of mind
Welcome to a place you'll truly love to call home.

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World War II and Gulf War POWs to Speak at National POW Museum 20th Anniversary Event

Event to occur at Andersonville National Historic Site on Sunday, April 8, 2018

Special to Senior News

ANDERSONVILLE, Georgia

The National Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville National Historic Site is dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories of American Prisoners of War (POWs) from the Revolutionary War to today. Since opening in 1998, the museum has helped over 2.6 million visitors better understand the sacrifices and experiences of American POWs.

On Sunday, April 8, 2018, former POWs, veterans, and others will gather at Andersonville National Historic Site to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the National Prisoner of War Museum. Featured speakers will include Seymour Lichtenfeld, held prisoner by Germany during World War II, and David Eberly, a former POW during Desert Storm.

Mr. Lichtenfeld served his country as a U.S. Army rifleman in both airborne and combat infantry units during World War II. During the Battle of the Bulge, his unit was surrounded. After three days, with no food or ammunition left, he was captured on December 19, 1944. He spent

more than five months as a Prisoner of War in Germany. He has been awarded the Combat Infantryman's badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Prisoner of War Medal, World War II Battle of the Bulge Medal, European Theater of Operations Medal with three battle clusters, and many others.

Colonel (ret) Eberly was the senior-ranking Allied Prisoner of War in Baghdad during the Gulf War in 1991. He served as a U.S. Air Force airman and participated in the initial air strike into Iraq. On January 19, 1991, his Strike Eagle was shot down. After evading the enemy for three nights, he was captured and held prisoner for 43 days. He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and many others.

Please join us on Sunday, April 8th, as we gather to honor the sacrifices and service of Mr. Lichtenfeld, Colonel (ret) Eberly, and other former POWs and veterans. Activities begin at 1:30 pm, when the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Ceremonial Band will perform. At 2:00 pm, Mr. Lichtenfeld and Colonel (ret) Eberly will share their stories during a commemorative ceremony. Other planned

activities include a performance by the Lee County High School Military Drill Team; a Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) program; a military fly-over; and display of a UH-1 Huey helicopter. All activities are free and open to the public.

Andersonville National Historic Site is located 10 miles south of Oglethorpe, GA and 10 miles northeast of Americus, GA on Georgia Highway 49. The national park features the National Prisoner of War Museum, Andersonville National Cemetery and the site of the historic Civil War prison, Camp Sumter. Andersonville National Historic Site is the only national park within the National Park System to serve as a memorial to all American prisoners of war. Park grounds are open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The National Prisoner of War Museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., daily. Admission is free. For more information on the park, call 229 924-0343, or visit at www.nps.gov/ande/. Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AndersonvilleNPS, Twitter www.twitter.com/andeNHS

About the National Park Service:

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 409 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov. Visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

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Avoiding Fraudulent Tax Preparers

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

Tax scams, including fraudulent tax return preparation, cost taxpayers billions of dollars every year and is continuing to grow. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reports that criminal investigations into fraudulent tax return preparers continue to rise.

Dishonest tax preparers can commit fraud in a number of ways. They can claim inflated personal or business expenses, false deductions, unallowable credits or excessive exemptions on returns prepared for their clients. Fraudulent preparers also may manipulate income figures to obtain fraudulent tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Missing the signs that a preparer could be abusive could cause the taxpayer considerable financial problems. Some of the most common signs include:

- Claiming that they can obtain larger refunds than other

preparers.

- Basing their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund. Fees should be based on the complexity of the return, never on the size of the tax savings or refund.

- Claiming they can get you immediate payment of your return. Keep in mind that this is a loan. Fraudulent tax preparers often pad their pockets by giving cash up front at a high interest rate while presenting it as an instant refund from the federal government.

- Refusing to sign the tax return or provide the taxpayer a copy for his or her records. Always make sure that you have something in hand that shows proof of what transpired, and you should have a receipt for services rendered.

Taxpayers should be very careful when choosing tax preparers. While most preparers provide good service to their clients, a few unscrupulous tax preparers file false and fraudulent tax returns and ultimately defraud their clients. It is important for taxpayers to

know that even if someone else prepares their return, they are ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return. The Better Business Bureau, along with the IRS, recommends that taxpayers follow these tips when hiring a preparer:

- Get referrals from satisfied clients and check their BBB Business Review.

- Ask the preparer about their training, experience and current knowledge of tax law.

- Find out whether the preparer has ever represented taxpayers in an audit or has ever been denied eligibility to do so.

- Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of the tax return months or even years after the return has been filed.

Most importantly, taxpayers should always review their return before signing, ask questions on entries they do not understand, and get a copy of

the return for their records. Finally, do not ever sign a blank tax form or one filled out in pencil!

For more trustworthy consumer tips, visit BBB.org.

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 Council of Better Business Bureaus. 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: www.bbb.org or E-mail: info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org.

Pilot International announces new member specialist

Special to Senior News

Macon, GA, February 22, 2018

Buffi Jackson has joined Pilot International in its Macon headquarters as a Member Specialist.

Buffi is a current member of the Pilot Club of Jones County, GA. She enjoys her role within her club and is excited to join the Pilot

International HQ team. In her role, she will work closely with members and provide her expertise and energy to the entire organization. She comes to Pilot with 13 years of experience in the health and life insurance field and has strong sales and customer service skills. In her most recent role she worked with the Al Sihah Shriners of Macon, GA.

About Pilot International: Pilot International is a community-based volunteer service organization founded in 1921 in Macon on the principles of friendship and service. The name "Pilot" was inspired by the mighty riverboat pilots of that day who represented leadership and guidance.

With more than 7,200 members in some 300 Pilot Clubs, Pilots can be found across the U.S., the Bahamas, Japan and South Africa. Pilots carry out their mission to "Do More, Care More and Be More" by providing financial and hands-on support for national and local initiatives in keeping with its causes of youth development and leadership, brain safety and fitness, and caring for families in times of need. Also, there are more than 7,500 school-level Anchor Club members worldwide.



Buffi Jackson

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