

Senior News

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Born to Teach... Beverly Ussery!

by CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD

While seeking an Art teacher for Grand, Matthew, we were told to check out Beverly Ussery of Hawkinsville, GA who teaches at the Perry Art Center plus several other places.

We were extremely impressed with the depth and breadth of her artwork. We were also impressed with the variety of mediums that her students chose! It was obvious that Beverly took notice and had understanding of her young artists' talents and desires. And know this, she also had older students doing their thing. This is not a one-size fits all customers. Not by a long shot! This class is geared for the individual student, which we hope to be one day!

Beverly interviews the would-be artist and gives him a drawing she would like for him to do. From this oral ad drawn test she analyses the ability and talent of the student, and usually which medium for which he is suited. Some are immediately seen to be multi-talented and at home with several types of paint. Matthew seems to be more interested in water color, so that is where he started.

It seems there are quite a few contests and exhibits around Perry and the Middle Georgia area in which Mrs. Ussery places her students. They win many first-place ribbons, etc. Giving them encouragement and confidence in their Art and themselves, both of which are positive build-ups for the future whether they become artists or teachers or doctors or whatever. Confidence goes a long way toward successful living!

Although born in Cordele, Beverly has lived in Hawkinsville since 1965. After receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Wesleyan, she and Donald Ussery married, had 2 boys, Blake and Adam, and at this writing are all still in the Hawkinsville area. Before attending Wesleyan, Beverly had gotten her associate's degree from Middle Georgia in Cochran and after leaving Wesleyan she received her Master's Degree in Art Education at Georgia Southern in Statesboro.

Mrs. Ussery taught 18 years in Hawkinsville, then moved to Warner Robins High when they completed the big new High School. Started teaching in 1976, retired after 30 years in 2007, and started teaching at the Perry Art Center, in her own studio in Hawkinsville and at The Painted Door in Warner Robins. (Stop by, it is a wonderful place down on the left of Watson Blvd. toward the BASE) where some of her pictures are hung.

When asked about some of her outstanding events, kudos and winnings, etc., we got a few things out of her. For instance,

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January 2017
Vol. 31, No. 1

Flint Energies employee recognized for outstanding service

Volunteer Champions Children's Rights and Improves Quality of Life for Youth in Middle Georgia

Special to Senior News

During a recent statewide meeting, Flint Energies employee and long-standing community servant Jesse Lockhart was named Volunteer Employee of the Year and presented the Georgia EMC 2016 Community Service and Volunteerism Award.

According to Flint Energies Manager of Public Relations Marian McLemore, Lockhart is Flint's number one volunteer.

"No one comes close," she says. "He volunteers for nearly every event that our co-op offers or that we support. In the rare instance he doesn't participate, it's because Jesse is volunteering for another cause not directly related to the co-op."

Lockhart's community service reaches far and wide in middle Georgia. Known as a "gentle giant", he is passionate about improving the lives of children. He fights for the abused and neglected through his service to Rainbow House, a child advocacy center, and organized a 5K to build awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. He also encourages children to be healthy through participation in the Georgia High School Association, Kids and Pros, and Linemen for

Little Ones, to name a few.

In addition to Lockhart's service on behalf of children and youth, in the past year alone, he mulched Christmas trees for the local Keep Georgia Beautiful chapter, wrangled the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon at local festivals, coached a football camp for area youth, volunteered for multiple days at the Georgia High School Association championship events, donated blankets to the needy on the coldest day of the year, stocked a food pantry, and donated school supplies to a local school.

In addition, he has volunteered with a number of organizations such as Keep Warner Robins Beautiful, Butler Volunteer Fire Department, Perry Dogwood Festival, Georgia Strawberry Festival, Battle of Byron Festival, Meals on Wheels, and many, many more.

Employed with Flint Energies for 13 years, Lockhart is currently supervisor of TNS and described as both a team member and team player.

Nominations for the awards were reviewed by an independent panel of judges with a solid reputation in statewide volunteer circles: Division Director of Community Development Rusty Haygood, Director for the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism Linda Thompson, and Director of Regional



Jesse Lockhart

Community Service Corinne Thornton.

The purpose of the Georgia EMC Community Service and Volunteerism Award is to spotlight the outstanding efforts and initiatives of EMC management, individual directors and employees who are working to build stronger communities.

Lockhart was presented the award during Georgia EMC's Annual Meeting on Nov. 14 in Savannah. To commemorate the occasion, a donation in his name will be made to a charity of his choice.

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Let us entertain you

by CLAIRE HOUSER DODD

What a wonderful tribute to Doyle Mendheim Billy Tucker did in this publication last month. We were also privileged to know and work for Doyle. We'd forgotten that he had founded *Senior News* in 1987. We knew we were an early-on employee, starting in 1988 pretty soon after moving back down from Atlanta, when Daddy got sick. We knew of Billy Tucker and *The Byron Gazette*; had not met him, yet. Yes, Doyle and Merle (a retired school teacher) were always talking about their FARM! And finally these two service buddies settled on a price; thus, Billy Tucker and his sister Ann Tunali became the proud owners of *Senior News*. We are happy to say they inherited or adopted us, and we've been working for them for twenty very happy years. So... this long friendship has formed. All in all, this writer has been with *Senior News* for nearly 30 years. We were also reviewing theatre productions for *The Macon Telegraph* for the majority of those years.

The Middle Georgia Camellia held their beautiful Christmas dinner on the same Thursday night as

another "to do." We had to report on it, missing the Camellia party. Not to worry, at The Railroad Café down on the tracks at 117 Lowe Street, Jeff and Wendy outdid themselves. The whole of the main table was taken up with THE TABLE laden with most everything you can think of! From the bottom of the sea to the light of the sky, and nary a discouraging word. This made everybody happy, especially the hosts: The Peach Regional Chamber of Commerce, headed by Tom Morrill and his helper, Barbara Davidson; Fort Valley Main Street headed by Kathy Lambert, and B.J. Walker and Jill Bowen of the Development Authority of Peach County. They all did a superb job; the place was not only laden with food, but people too. Some we haven't met from Byron and Fort Valley. The Railroad Café is becoming a "Destination."

We spoke to Mayor Barbara about getting a "Dock in the Box," better known by all as a MedStop. A friend started this in Atlanta and has always called it a "Doc in the Box." It's a wonder Dr. Dodd wasn't one back then, as we both knew the same people! And, as to the ungodly time of ambulance answering calls, she's handled that one. A friend called a couple of weeks ago

and the ambulance got there in less than 10 minutes! Thus probably saving her life. Kudos, Barbara!

Decorations around town are lovely. Some of us are later than others!

We were so worried about Grand, Matthew, not being here on his birthday, Dec. 23rd to turn 8 – not 10 yet... as he keeps stretching tall to be; but, we're sure Jesus intervened as his mother in South Georgia had to go out of town and asked Eli if he could pick Matthew up on Thursday before Christmas. Whew! Another miracle! We wonder how many folks he had to move around to arrange this particular miracle. See. Don't worry. Turn your life over to Jesus and he will handle it. Let go and let God!

So, Matthew got to come home

and enjoy his birthday at his mother's (Emily Griffin's) home. Thus, making everybody happy, especially a young man newly eight years old.

Did you order anything on line for Christmas? Are you trying to deal with the aftermath now? We are. Oh yes, we know we promised to NEVER do that again! However, around 2 a.m. we heard a Krill ad, for arthritis, that sounded "To Good To Be True." It was, and although we called and canceled another order, sure 'nuff, here it comes again. We had already called Discover and told them not to accept the bill, send it back, etc. We promise again... NEVER to even entertain the thought of ordering anything again.

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Senior News & Views of Georgia

Nancy White named Executive Director of Pilot International

Special to Senior News

The Pilot International Board is pleased to announce Nancy White has joined its organization as Executive Director.

Ms. White's professional career includes healthcare operations, new business development, marketing and public relations, government affairs, and public health. She served as an elected member of Macon City Council from 2006-2013. Ms. White is active in community affairs, serving on the Macon Rotary Club Board, DFCS Board, Macon Symphony Board, Hutchings Career Center Advisory Board, and Clayton and Carol Paul Fund for Animal Welfare Board.

Pilot International is a communi-



Nancy White

ty-based volunteer service organization founded in 1921 in Macon, GA on the principles of "Friendship and

Service." With more than 7,200 members in almost 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 & leadership; brain safety & fitness; and caring for families in times of need. In addition, there are over 7,500 school-level Anchor Club members worldwide. Through a professionally developed curriculum and strategic partnerships, Pilot encourages and provides opportunities for youth development & leadership.

Pilot remains headquartered in Macon, where its staff serves its international constituency. The name "Pilot" was inspired by the mighty riverboat pilots of that day who represented leadership and guidance.

AARP Foundation Experience Corps

Special to Senior News

United Way of Central Georgia is the recipient of a grant from the AARP Foundation, a grantee of the Social Innovation Fund, to expand Experience Corps to Macon. Working through the United Way of Central Georgia's agenda to focus on early childhood literacy, AARP Foundation's Experience Corps empowers adults 50+ to serve as tutors in

grades kindergarten through third, assisting in reading skills. Children who are not reading at grade level by the fourth grade are less likely to graduate to graduate high school; Experience Corps offers an inter-generational model, which focuses on offering additional support to help ensure that children are proficient readers by 3rd grade.

Close to 50% of third grade students in Bibb County School District are reading below grade level (2015 data). The grant from AARP Foundation allows

Experience Corps to invest more time and energy towards the endeavor of literacy and to connect students with volunteers whose training, life experience, maturity, and commitment are the essential ingredients that ensure these children have the tools available to assist their reading journey, ensuring their opportunity to succeed in school and life.

Currently, we are looking for adults 50+ to become trained tutors in 4 of our elementary schools in Macon-Bibb: Brookdale Elementary, Porter Elementary, Riley Elementary, and Southfield Elementary. Tutors need to be able to serve for at least one school year, volunteer for 2 hours twice a week, and attend 25 hours of quality ongoing training. As a tutor, you must pass a background check and have a high school diploma/GED to participate. For more information about how to get involved with Experience Corps in Macon, contact Danielle Grisamore, AARP Volunteer Recruitment Specialist at 478-621-7799 or dgrisamore@unitedwaycgc.com. To learn more about the AARP Foundation Experience Corps, please visit www.read-unitedcgc.com.

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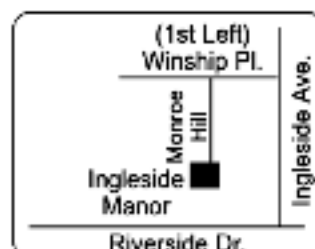
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BEVERLY USSERY

from cover page

winnings at Georgia Nat'l Fair in Perry, some Blue Ribbons in Savannah, but obviously, she had rather talk about her students' improvement, growth and winnings than her own sidewalk shows, art-works, and different contests around the states.

When asked about her preferences in painting, she did not hesitate. "I love working with colored pencils and graphite, and acrylics. I love doing portraits in Pointillism, (a

dot-dot system created by French artist Georges Seurat), Impressionism that I love to do with a cotton swab. You dab a little paint on the very end and top, quickly. This is one method my students seem to love, and it's my very favorite form of art."

Congratulations to Beverly; one more happy Wesleyanne, who still enjoys her art and uses her education to full advantage. This makes people really happy. We can't wait to try Pointillism with that cotton swab and acrylic paint. We hate Oil. It makes us, and many others, sick.

If you're interested in portraiture

or most any other form of art in and around Middle Georgia, give Beverly Ussery a call at 478-893-1570. She has been chosen by the Perry Chamber of Commerce as the 2017 Perry Dogwood Festival Official Artist, and she is designing the Dogwood Festival Poster and Brochure Cover. Check it out! It's the 29th Dogwood Festival of Perry, Georgia.



Exotic Lady done oil pastels.



Painting done with cotton swabs.



Blueyed Lion in colored pencil.

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Each month, you'll be mailed a monthly newsletter, complete with a list of all of the available events offered at the hospital. This newsletter will keep you updated with the classes and support groups that are offered at Coliseum Medical Centers and Coliseum Northside Hospital. Each quarter, you'll receive the H2U magazine which is full of health related articles.

Our monthly meetings are a big hit with the H2U members. Each month, you enjoy a free breakfast

and listen to a guest speaker. Sometimes, you'll hear from Coliseum physicians, nurses, therapists or other health professionals about a current health topic. Often, we'll bring in an outside speaker, comedian, or entertainer. H2U offers free Bingo games once a month where you can win fun prizes and bragging rights! We also have a group that meets for bridge twice a week. Once a year, we also have special hamburger and hotdog picnic, complete with entertainment. We also have an annual Thanksgiving dinner, where members bring a Christmas gift to give to the Kids Yule Love charity.

Another popular offering of H2U is the opportunity to go on our day trips! Each month, we load up a bus and go to exciting places like Braves games, the North Georgia Mountains, the Fox Theater, Savannah, and so much more! This is a great chance for some of members to go places they wouldn't normally go alone. Many of members don't feel comfortable driving themselves to places like Atlanta and so our day trips are so appreciated.

As a member of H2U you will receive local and national discounts. Locally, you'll receive a discount in the cafeteria of Coliseum Medical Centers and Coliseum Northside Hospital. In the unfortunate event that you find yourself as a patient, we will provide a hospital cafeteria meal ticket for one caregiver per day. You also can get a fantastic deal on a Mathews Wellness Center membership at Wesleyan College. Here, you'll have access to their gym as well as water aerobics, yoga, and other classes. Nationally, you'll receive discounts on prescriptions, car rentals, hotel reservations, ADT services, and more!

Most importantly, the best thing that H2U has to offer is friendship and comradery. At our age, it's so important to stay connected to one another. We need to laugh together. We need to go on trips together. We need to keep learning new things to keep our minds sharp. H2U is a great way to stay young at heart!

All that for just \$20 – you really can't beat it! You can buy a membership for yourself – and you could even give your friend a membership as a gift this Christmas! It's so easy to join! Call Coliseum Health System's H2U office at (478) 765-4116 or (478) 471-6868 today!

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

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continued on page 7

Poets' Corner

Editor's Note: If you have written a
"well-worked" poem which you would
like considered for publication, please
email it to seniornewsga@cox.net or
mail it to Senior News, 214 Wilsons
Creek Bend, Bonaire, GA 31005. Please
include your name and address on your
poem. We will publish selected poems
(or excerpts) as space permits.

WE THE CHURCH
by Joy Mitchell-Booker

*The collective voice of the Church
Has been silent for far too long
We've neglected our commission
To help keep our nation strong
Our collective voice has been silent
When we should have been shouting
out loud
Have we been quietly asking?
When we should have been
demanding
It is up to us to lend a guiding hand
To assist those in power positions,
help them to take a stand
Our light is no longer shining
bright
Our salt has all but lost is flavor
It's no wonder the world is lost
We've not glorified our Savior
We should be the moral compass;
we speak out God's word*

*Regardless of the consequences,
in spite of what we've heard
We will be held accountable for
not taking a stand
Allowing the world to dictate to
us, when we know they don't
understand
The Word of God is final, no
further discussion needed
Our nation was built on this
foundation
Why has the Church conceded?*

THIS IS TO YOU, JESUS
by Pauline M. Brown

*I love you Jesus, I belong to you.
Never knew love, until you set
me free.

This is to you Jesus, you made
my day,
And my life is better because you
made a way.

This is to you Jesus, thanks for
holding my hand.
I could have fallen if you didn't
help me stand.

Jesus you've been good, you've
been my water
So many times I've fallen, but*

you still remain loyal.

*is to you Jesus, You've been
a good dad.
When I couldn't make ends meet,
you kept me fed.*

*This is to you Jesus, you died
for me.
There are so many people in the
world, but you choose me.*

*Jesus I love you, not for what
you can do,
But, I love you because you are you.*

IS THERE NO ROOM?
by Shirley Glisson

*A child was born long years ago
In the town of Bethlehem,
A lowly manager was his bed,
There was no room for Him.*

*The star shone brightly overhead
As He nestled in the hay,
And herald angels brought the news,
Messiah is born today.*

*This precious gift to all mankind
Was rejected by His own.
Have you, as they, refused
God's gift,
In your heart is there no room?*

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EVENTS

from page 6

Houston County Council Of The Blind

The Houston County Council of the Blind meets the first Saturday of each month at the Centerville Lions Club located on Houston Lake Road voicing state and local concerns for the blind or visually impaired. Fellowship and membership are welcomed.

Theatre Macon

438 Cherry Street, Macon
478-746-9485

• Disney's *Beauty & The Beast*: Jan. 6-15

Volunteers Needed

GeorgiaCares, Georgia's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), needs volunteers to assist seniors and persons with disabilities with Medicare problems, fraud, and abuse. Must be computer savvy. Rewarding volunteer work. Call Carol Cannon, GeorgiaCares Coordinator for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission/Area Agency on Aging, at 478-751-6489 or email: ccannon@mg-rc.org for details.

Heart of Georgia Chapter 2 Blue Star Mothers of America

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Heart of Georgia Chapter 2, meets

the first Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Coldwell Banker's SSK Realtors located at 470 S. Houston Lake Road, Warner Robins. For additional information contact PJ Johnson at 478-284-6905 or email: chiefstrib@cox.net.

Houston County Council on Aging/Meals on Wheels

Houston County Council on Aging/Meals on Wheels is a non-profit that delivers meals to home bound seniors. We have openings for seniors in need of meals and for volunteers able to distribute meals. Please call Alesha Mathis, Meals on Wheels Coordinator, at 478-328-6070 for more information, to sign up for meals, or to volunteer.

United Methodist Women of Centerville UMC Purse Ministry

The United Methodist Women of Centerville United Methodist Church will start a "purse ministry." All friends are asked to "clear out their closets" and donate used purses in good condition. The purses will then be filled with toiletries, feminine products and beauty items... "anything a woman can keep in her purse." Persons donating purses may also fill with useful items if they so desire. Please leave purses at the door of the church by placing them in boxes located there for collection purposes. Purses may also be left at the door to the mission closet. Purses

will be donated to "ladies in need." For complete details, contact Carrie at 478-396-2201.

Ocmulgee Audubon Society

Meets 2nd Monday monthly (except July), 7:30 p.m., Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Rd., Macon. Birders and visitors welcome. Additional information, call

478-477-7016; <http://ocmulgeeaudubonsociety.blogspot.com>.

Free Car Seat Checkup

2nd Wed. of the month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Bibb County Health Dept., 171 Emory Hwy., Macon. SAFEKIDS Central Georgia. For details call 478-749-0144.

~ Now Accepting Applications ~

HUNT SCHOOL VILLAGE IS NOW LEASING. This is to notify the public that Hunt School Village, located at 990 Shurling Drive, Macon, GA., will begin accepting applications beginning on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Those interested may call the application line at 478-752-3781 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and request that an application be mailed. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may call the Georgia Relay Service at 7-1-1, or go to their website at <http://georgiarelay.org>. Hunt School Village is a HOME/LIHTC funded senior property with Section 8 Project Based Voucher rental assistance. The property contains 36 1-BR, and 24 2-BR units. All units are accessible and adaptable as defined by the Fair Housing Amendments Act. In addition, units are available that are designed specifically for persons with mobility, hearing, or visual impairments. Persons with disabilities or those with limited English proficiency needing assistance filling out the application may call the above application line or Georgia Relay Service for assistance. In order to qualify for residency, all family members must be at least 62 years of age with a total family income that does not exceed the HUD published 50% AMI income limits for Macon-Bibb County, have a good rental history and acceptable background screening. Hunt School Village is an Equal Housing Opportunity property and provides housing to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.



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Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD Section 8 Program). Annual income must not exceed income limits set by HUD.



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General Business Directory For Seniors

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FREE screenings will include:

- Fasting lipid blood test (cholesterol, triglycerides, and glucose)
- Weight and body mass index
- Hip to waist ratio
- Blood pressure
- Physicians and nurses from Coliseum Medical Centers will discuss nutrition, medication and exercise

Register at (478) 746-4646

Screenings run from 7am to 11am (please arrive by 10:30). Seminars will begin at 9:00am.
Enjoy snacks in between the screenings and seminars!

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