

Senior News

Georgia

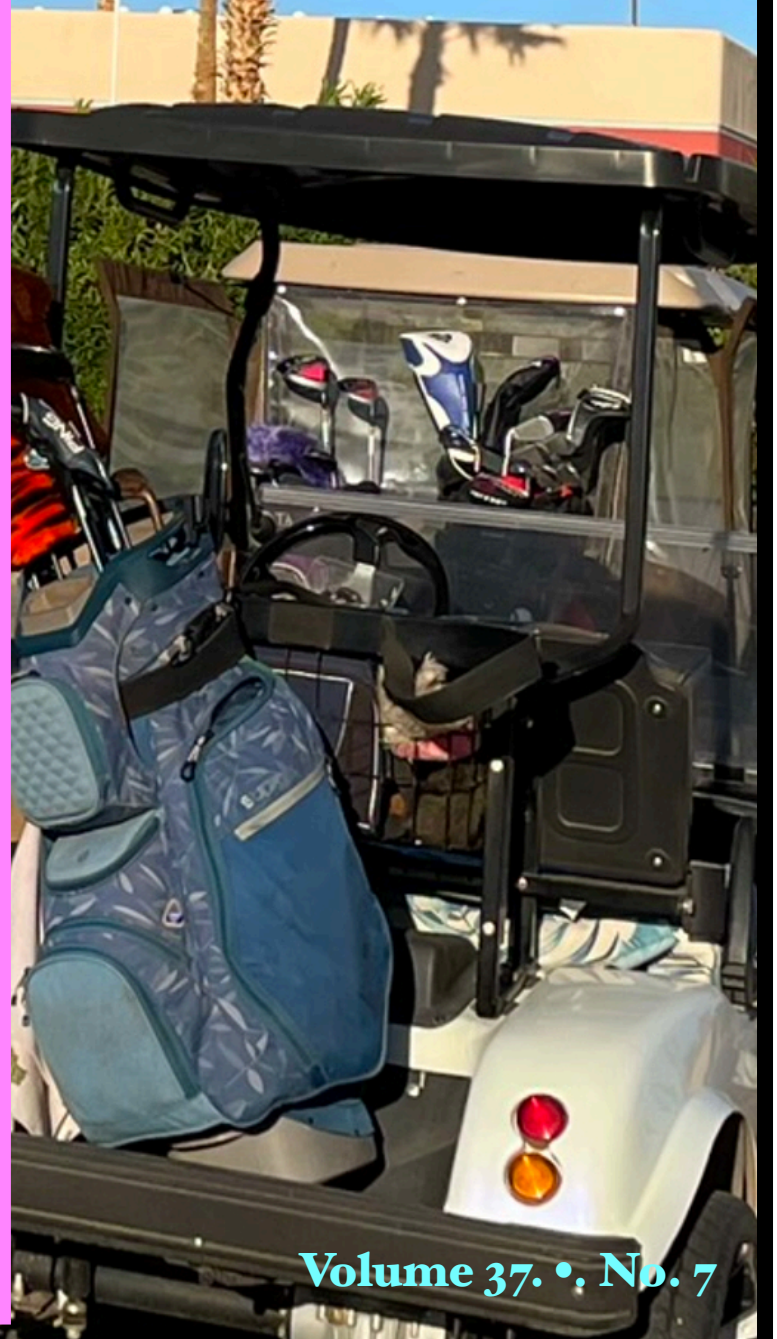
Providing Helpful Information for Mature Adults in GEORGIA!

Enjoying A Trip to Yuma, Arizona!

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Three Sisters Go Spa...ing!

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Volume 37. •, No. 7

BBB Tip: How to make your next home improvement project a success

Submitted by Kelvin H. Collins, President/CEO, Better Business Bureau
Serving the Fall Line Corridor, Inc. • BBB.org/central-georgia • Office: 478.742.9034 (Direct)

OFFICES

Macon: 277 M.L. King Jr. Blvd, Ste 201, Macon, GA 31201. • **Augusta:** 119 Davis Road, Ste 3-B, Augusta, GA 30907
Columbus: 233 12th Street, Ste 911-B, Columbus, GA 31901

Do-it-yourself is an attractive way to save money on home improvement projects. Home centers stay busy each spring with people looking to improve their homes and yard.
Whether you are remodeling your home, making needed repairs, or sprucing things up to put your house on the market, **the following tips will help make your next home improvement project a success.**

- **Come up with a budget and stick to it.** Home improvement projects can get expensive fast. If you don't want to break the bank, create a realistic budget to figure out how much you can spend ahead of time. Be upfront with contractors you hire about how much you can spend on a project.
- **Think about the pros and cons of DIY projects.** If time and motivation are no problem for you, you may be able to tackle some basic home improvement projects on your own, but other projects may require further expertise. Suppose you don't have a background in construction. In that case, it's usually best to hire a contractor to help with larger projects, such as plumbing, tiling, tree removal, exterior painting, and general remodels.
- **Give high priority to projects that keep your home clean and safe.** If your home needs repairs, take care of those projects first. For example, fix that leaky roof before you give your home's walls a fresh coat of paint. In addition, don't forget to stay on top of regular home maintenance tasks to maximize the cleanliness and safety of your home.
- **Up the value of your home with a bathroom or kitchen remodel.** Remodeling your bathroom or kitchen can completely change the look and feel of your home, creating a space you enjoy being in - not to mention it can add quite a bit of value to your home. For large-scale remodels, hire a contractor specializing in construction and remodeling services.
- **Improve energy efficiency.** Save money (and the environment) by improving your home's energy efficiency. Energy-saving projects worth taking on include checking and replacing the seals on all windows and ducts in your home, installing new windows, and looking into green energy options like solar panels.
- **Get multiple quotes from contractors.** When you are ready to start your home improvement project, get multiple quotes from several companies. Never be pressured into hiring the first person you speak with. Comparing pricing and services is a critical step in choosing a skilled contractor you can trust.
- **Properly vet contractors before you hire.** Even if the price is right, don't hire a contractor before researching. Ask the contractor to provide references. Look up their name or company name online and pay close attention to any reviews or complaints from previous customers. Verify that the contractor is licensed and insured and get an estimate and contract in writing. Read contracts carefully before you sign them.
- **Think about permits.** For larger projects, you may need to pay for building permits. Do your research ahead of time and understand that even if you hire a contractor, you may still be responsible for the cost of the permits.
- **Don't get scammed.** Stay alert to any suspicious behavior by "home improvement specialists." Red flags include not putting things into writing, demanding upfront payment, unexpected price changes, high-pressure sales tactics, unsolicited free inspections (that usually reveal the need for an urgent repair), and cash-only deals.

For more information, see BBB's Home HQ at BBB.org for tips on everything in and around your home.

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Let Us Entertain You!

By Claire Houser-Dodd

One hundred and one years ago in the small but prosperous town of Fort Valley, in the state of Georgia, a Peach Festival was born. It was called the Peach Blossom Festival and was held in March to welcome the very first beautiful little pink blossoms. This was no ordinary festival; it was a beautifully done classic entertainment. Miss Pauline Eaton Oak from Maine was hired to organize and direct this major event. The costumes were designed by Miss Lucy Finney of Macon and it was not unusual for one outfit to cost \$500.00. The actor was responsible for having it made.

The year was 1922! America was thriving and peaches in this area had replaced Cotton as King. There were around forty big peach growers and packing sheds, and money was pouring into the county.

The programs were more like a classic Greek opera which traced Peach (played by many as the story progresses) on her journey from Asia through Europe and finally with the help of Science (a male actor) whom she wed in an unbelievably fantastic and beautiful wedding celebration. The royal couple arrived by a gorgeous carriage (designed by John Farren of Macon) to the throne of gold at the top of more than a dozen steps and backed by an enormous fan of all the colors of the rainbow.

Nothing about this festival was half-done, and the World knew it! It was followed by National Geographic, The New York Times, The Atlanta Journal and even the Hollywood Studios came to shoot some scenes.

Too good to be true? Perhaps! People came from all over the World to see the enormous undertaking and the gorgeous view of NATURE. The blooming of the Peach Trees, said to out-do even the beautiful Cherry Blossoms of Japan! Still an exciting thing to see. To this day, we of Middle Georgia look forward to it, discuss it, and call each other to proclaim seeing the very first “pink cloud” above the trees.

I was born only seven years after the last of the five Peach Blossom Festivals and remember all the talk and the pride of everyone involved.

My daddy, Doddridge Killen Houser, was a teen at the time and said, “My friends and I were the Grunts!” We did the running back and forth to help at the 75ft. table of BBQ. My granddaddy, Mr. Johnney Houser, was in charge of that and he worked us to death! Mother, Emily Anderson, was in many of the dance scenes. This enormously successful festival was in line with Mardi Gras and California’s Rose Festival; interestingly thousands stopped in 1926. It was revised as the Georgia Peach Festival much as we see it today.

This year the now Georgia Peach Festival held in Fort Valley and Byron in June is not so classic, nor well visited, but still fun! The only classic thing left is probably the Historical Society’s lovely seated Chicken Salad Luncheon at the Saxon House. The most remarkable is the 5’ by 11’ by 8” deep Largest Peach Cobbler in the World dished out to hundreds at 2 p.m. They use 75 gallons of freshly sliced peaches from Lane’s, Pearson’s and Dickie’s sheds; but, you may want to scale down and use our Peach Festival family recipe...

2 cups sliced peaches, 1 cup self-rising flour, 1 stick of butter, 1 cup milk. Heat the oven and your cooking utensils to 350 degrees. Be sure your butter is melted in the bottom and sizzling before you put your mixture in. This ensures a crusty pastry.

This year’s festival featured the Georgia Beauty Queens in the parade. They are the decorations for the new red convertibles. Other interests are: The Pink Pancake Breakfast, the main stage for local talent, The Food Trucks, Art Wares; and, even bags of Peaches for sale very inexpensively!

On June 10th in Byron at North Peach Park, Big Daddy and his band was the big draw plus the fireworks at the end!

Don’t you wonder how today’s clientele (2023) and the clientele of the 20” s would jell? Can you just see one of our teenagers in shorts and tees, flip flops and purple hair showing up at the wedding of the King and Queen? Or the King and Queen walking the runway and opting for a hot dog... all the way?

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Publisher

Billy R. Tucker
478-929-3636
seniornewsga@cox.net

Advertising

Billy R. Tucker
478-929-3636
seniornewsga@cox.net

Columnists

Claire Houser-Dodd
Carolyn Brenneman
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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Taking Care

Plan Ahead To Beat The Heat... How To Enjoy Outdoor Events With An Older Relative!

By Lisa M. Petsche

The long, warm days of summer bring many opportunities for being outside, not only on your balcony or porch or in the backyard, but also at organized events. The latter may include outdoor weddings, family reunions and other types of celebrations, as well as sporting events, concerts and festivals held in various types of open air venues.



Lisa
Petsche

As enjoyable as these may be, it's important to exercise caution and plan ahead, because summer sun, heat and smog can be harmful to older adults, especially those whose health is already compromised. If you are a caregiver, you must therefore be extra vigilant as temperatures soar.

The following tips will help you protect your relative's health and maximize their comfort during outdoor events.

Before You Go:

Call ahead to find out if the venue has shaded areas. Also inquire if any buildings on the premises are air conditioned and accessible. While you're at it, ask about handicapped parking spaces, paved walkways and accessible washroom facilities.

If your relative has trouble walking long distances, check if the venue has wheelchairs available. If not, rent a folding wheelchair.

If you will be traveling out of town, have your car--including the air conditioning--checked and serviced before departure.

For events that span a whole day, such as outdoor festivals: plan to attend in the morning, before the heat reaches its peak, or in the evening when the temperature is cooling down.

Set realistic expectations about time frames, since the heat may sap your relative's energy. It simply may not be feasible to attend an entire event. For example, you may decide to attend only the ceremony or reception portion of a wedding, rather than both.

Clothing should be lightweight and loose-fitting to allow air to circulate and perspiration to evaporate. Stick to natural fibers like cotton, or microfiber materials with an open weave. Shoes should be sturdy and comfortable, with good treads. Don't forget a cardigan in case of a sudden weather change, cool evening or chilly indoor environment (if you'll be in an air conditioned setting at some point).

What To Bring:

A wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and a large umbrella (the latter for protection from the sun as well as rain showers).

A cooler containing beverages. Water is best, but if your relative isn't a water drinker, try vegetable juice or diluted fruit juice.

A battery-operated personal fan and spare batteries.

Sufficient prescription and over-the-counter medications to cover the time you plan to be away.

Sunscreen, insect repellent and antihistamine.

Any necessary medical equipment and supplies, such as a walking aid, food supplements, incontinence pads and diabetic supplies.

A cushion or two for comfortably positioning your relative in the car, and some music CDs for enjoyment, if you're driving a considerable distance.

Disabled parking permit.

While You're Out:

Try to find a parking spot in the shade, or use sun shades on your vehicle's windshield.

If you must be outdoors in the middle of the day, get out of the sun regularly. Take shelter in the shade or an air conditioned indoor space, if available.

Ensure your relative eats lightly to avoid taxing their digestive system. That means going easy on protein, avoiding spicy and high-fat foods, and selecting plenty of fruits and vegetables, which have a high water content.

Discourage your relative from drinking alcohol, or limit consumption to one drink. They should also avoid caffeinated beverages, such as coffee and cola, which similarly cause dehydration.

Before heading home, open all your vehicle's windows or doors to let heat escape before your relative gets in.

Final Thoughts

Don't forget to protect yourself from the adverse effects of excessive summer sun and heat, too. You are just as important as the person you care for.

Be flexible about plans and expectations and give yourself an out. You may need to forego an event if a heat alert or air quality warning is issued, especially if your relative has respiratory problems.

Lisa M. Petsche is a social worker and freelance writer specializing in health and elder care.

Trends of the Trans

Daniel W Gatlyn, USN Ret
Minister/Journalist

The present trends and triangles of the transgender are mind boggling. We have "messed with the nest" to the extent of rendering unorthodox procedures, surgeries, and pathological instance to (otherwise) innumerable vessels; and, have introduced a host of both obstacles and questions to the general population. As with another thousand of inconceivable semantics, there has surfaced a difficulty which leaves a shallow balance. We have "pitched the hitch" of confusion beyond all rationale... assembling untold numbers to abstract conditions and circumstances... all in violation of ethical and physical relationships.

To place transgendered personnel in restrooms (or sports lounges) designated "male or female," or, in other compromising situations, is confusion of the highest order. To do so invites embarrassment, intimidation, and intervals of violence. There is no debate, all clear minded leadership will know where this leads. The conflicts of physical relationships are obviously "purpose driven!"

All citizens with an ounce of biological understanding, readily recognize that through the years, extenuating physical differences, for a host of reasons, have come about; producing individuals with differing anatomical features. It is also understood that such differences challenge all normal settings. Professionally trained Medical, Psychological, and Psychiatric personnel have encountered alternately created persons of this setting; and, have been greatly instrumental in orchestrating reasonable paths of treatment and existence. It is incumbent upon all applicable personnel... Medical, Academic, and Governmental... to engage in specifically accredited treatments and protocol – those which pose no detriment to the normal male and female.

It should be apparent to the leadership of all dimensions, that with the increase in population, there is a proportionate increase with individuals that are alternately endowed. Those numbers have now grown to the extent that concepts, treatments, training, relationships (and other), must be considered. They obviously are different physically, mentally, psychologically, and aspirationally. Forcing those individuals to compete with those who exhibit normal anatomies is unethical, impractical, and inconsistent; and, unfair practice.

Facilities and programs specifically originated and orchestrated toward the "UNUSUAL" is a must! To continue in the present mindset is a disservice to all involved. Surgeries or hormones introduced to "uncertain participants" must be specifically approved and unequivocally monitored. Doing anything less is a departure from that which is civil. Giving Transgenders fair treatment and separate facilities is a reasonable solution.

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A Trip to Yuma, Arizona!

By Carolyn Brenneman

COVER: The golf carts are handy for getting around!

During our thrilling road trip toward the western states, we stayed a few weeks in Yuma, Arizona, a small desert community. Yuma is quite fascinating with adobe homes, mobile home parks and trailers all throughout the town. This month, we stayed with my sister Jane at her second home, an updated and quaint mobile home which was built in 1994. Jane’s husband, Russ, is a developer and builder and thus he made this cute 800 square foot mobile house in Yuma into a home with beautiful and luxurious white Statuario Marble Tile throughout the home and on the patio floors, and granite countertops in the tiny kitchen and bathrooms.

The mobile home park is Cocopah Golf resort and is run by the Cocopah Indian Tribe. It is over 300 acres next to the Colorado River and has over 400 homes and RV pads in the resort. Golf is the passion of the senior residents.

Yes, the favorite pastime is to play golf everyday as there are many teams and about 300 golfers. Jane and Russ have played golf for over 10 years and are well-known in the community. In addition to golf, there are games of pickle-ball, cards, crafts, and potlucks. Yes, potlucks are a festive gathering of neighbors and usually occur at my sister’s house. Everyone brings a delicious side dish and Russ cooks chicken... or hamburgers... or tacos... or fish.

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Jane getting ready for golf!



Here’s Jim posing for the camera!



Jane plays golf well!

Trip to Yuma!

From page 6

Cocopah Golf Resort is a very friendly senior community and has many arts and crafts activities, a pickle-ball court and a swimming pool with a jacuzzi. Here seniors have so many activities to participate in that they don't have time to be bored. Church is held on Sundays in the ballroom, and there are daily card games, dance lessons, quilting and needlework, and chair-basketball, which is fun. On Friday evenings, we enjoy a movie in the ballroom. What fun that is!

Well what about the town of Yuma?

Now most people think of Yuma, Arizona as a big, dusty desert, hot in the summer months and cooler in the spring and winter months. Yet, people are surprised to learn that agriculture is Yuma County's main industry. As a matter fact, the city of Yuma is known as America's winter lettuce capital, as Yuma produces over 90% of iceberg lettuce, Chinese lettuce, onions and broccoli, as well as other vegetables and wheat. Yuma, a dry desert town, has plenty of sunshine, rich soil due to the Colorado River, a high quality irrigation system, and plenty of labor.

If you happen to come by Yuma, Arizona anytime soon, and love golf, drop by and take a tour of Cocopah Resort and make a reservation for a day of golfing fun!



My sister Jane and yours truly!



A nice gathering of golfers!



Rows and rows of Chinese cabbage in a field!



Marge and Don with friend Angie... and ready to play!

Three Sisters Go Spa...ing!

By Claire Houser-Dodd
Columnist

COVER PHOTO

**L-R: Evelyn Wood, Leigh Giles
and Jo Polch!**

Many want to go to a Spa, but few actually do. Three sisters, Evelyn, Joe and Leigh of Georgia and Florida really made the trip to Safety Harbor Spa in Florida around Saint Pete. They were celebrating two birthdays... Jo's on May 23 and Leigh's on May 26. Evelyn went along to keep peace!!!

No, no, these sisters get along perfectly. All are nice, sweet and positive. So much alike they go shopping and end up buying the exact same T-shirt. Amazing! Almost like twins!

We had a friend in Atlanta who went to a spa in Miami every time he gained a little weight. We decided that was the "Fat Farm!" This spa the girls chose is definitely not the reason for the season... these girls are in wonderful shape. All athletes and busy!

Since Jo and Evelyn live in Bradenton, they meet up there to hop on I-275 for about 60 miles, pop off at Saint Pete and go right to Safety Harbor Spa, and there they are! All dressed up and ready to sign in.

Me thinks the signing in for a certain amount of time is the one thing that makes many people hesitate. You know there have been quite a few movies and TV shows that use handsome spa locations for murder mysteries. But not these girls. They are determined to ENJOY!

And so, they do! The first treatment

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L-R: Jo Polch, Evelyn Wood and Leigh Giles!



L-R: Evelyn Wood, Leigh Giles and Jo Polch!

Three Sisters

From page 8

was the herbal wrap. The girls are wrapped much like a mummy with warm, good smelling herbs in a dark room with quiet relaxing music. Leigh and Joe say that was their favorite. Evelyn picked the facial for her most enjoyable. She said, “It was so calming, relaxing and just felt so good!”

Evelyn is the only one of the sisters who has not retired. She is a school nurse and loves it. All the girls were in people-involved careers. Leigh, a school counselor, and Jo, first an RN in ICU, then a nurse practitioner in a Dr.’s office. She enjoyed both and is having a blast with retirement. Actually, Jo and her sister had been to a spa before. Last year in St. Augustine; and, in 2009 their father, Ed Richardson, sent them to a spa in Costa Rica. This trip they joined a social group in Bradenton, the BAGS (Beautiful Aging Girlfriends), who do wonderful things.

They have recently given a spa day at a nursing home. Jo said, “I did hand massages and nails, and found it so rewarding. We really made a big difference for a day.” The BAGS also get a special rate when they go to spas and other trips all together as there are twenty some odd of them!

Leigh was so impressed by the beauty of the spa. She said, “The flowers and palms were just gorgeous as was the design and décor of the spa. All this goes hand-in-hand with a relaxing vacation.”

They all had a ball, loved all the perks of the spa, massages, saunas, hot tubs; and, even the escape time shopping. They all bought the same turtle to put in their car’s rear window- Why are we not surprised?! Happy days ahead for these beautiful and remarkable sisters.



L-R: Evelyn Wood, Leigh Giles and Jo Polch!

BBB Offers Tips to Keep Your Vacation Stress Free

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School is out, summer is almost here, and we’re hitting one of the peak times for vacation planning. As you’re making your plans for some fun and relaxation, be sure to do your research and stay alert so you can keep your trip as stress free as possible. According to data provided to [BBB Scam Tracker](#), the amount of money lost by U.S. consumers has been growing each year, with a median loss of nearly \$700 in 2022. The Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) Consumer Sentinel Network reports that travel-related fraud cost U.S. consumers [\\$105.1 million in losses](#) and accounted for 16% of all fraud reported to the agency in 2022.

When planning an event or looking for a good deal for a family vacation or getaway, be careful with tempting offers for vacation packages or other deals at unrealistically low prices. This includes third-party booking companies who offer to manage your vacation planning. While some of these offers may be valid, you’ll want to do considerable research and document all details to help identify the great offers from the bad deals. [BBB.org](#) is a great place to start. You can check out companies and find reputable travel agencies, hotels, rental car agencies, and other travel related businesses.

BBB adds the following tips to help ensure an enjoyable vacation:

- Plan ahead.** Allow plenty of time to research hotels, flights, and your stay area. Typically, the earlier reservations are made, the better the deals and the lower the risk of the destination being booked solid. Making reservations in advance also locks in rates and prevents higher prices later during prime spring break, peak summer, or holiday travel seasons.
- Avoid broad internet searches.** Entering phrases like ‘best deals’ into whichever search engine is used can sometimes bring up-websites that look official or sound similar to well known, reputable brands, but are designed solely to get your money with little or no value in return. Be sure to double check website links and know whose site you are searching.
- Be alert for travel scams.** Watch out for phone calls or letters claiming a 'free trip' or websites offering prices that appear too good to be true. It’s easy to extend questionable offers like these, but most leave hopeful travelers in limbo – and out of money.
- Do your homework.** Ask family and friends to recommend a travel agent or website and visit [BBB.org](#) for free Business Profiles and to locate BBB Accredited Businesses offering these services. Research each business you’re considering and read complaint details and customer reviews about any rentals under consideration.
- Get trip details in writing.** Before making any payments, be sure you have all trip details in writing. This should include the total cost, restrictions, cancellation penalties, and names of the airlines and hotels. It’s highly recommended that you verify your reservations directly with the airlines and hotels to ensure the bookings are in place and confirm again just before your departure. Review and keep a copy of airline and hotel cancellation and refund policies, as well as the cancellation policies of the travel agency or booking site used.
- Consider travel insurance.** Travel insurance covers things like trip cancellations or medical emergencies. There are various levels of coverage based on what type of plan purchased. Ask questions, and always read the fine print to see what’s covered and what’s not before deciding to purchase a plan.
- Pay with a credit card.** Paying with a credit card provides additional protection if something should go wrong with the travel reservation. No matter when or where you are traveling, take extra precautions to protect yourself:
- Wait to post on social media.** It's fun to post adventures with friends and family but wait until getting back from the trip. Photos and social media posts of the family having a fun time also lets thieves know the house is empty.
- Check your home insurance.** If your home will be unattended while away, make sure you know your responsibilities under your home insurance policy. Some policies do not cover damage if nobody checks on your home for a while. Share a copy of the itinerary with a family member or close friend. Include the contact information of someone joining you on your trip.
- Take a map.** People rely heavily on smartphones and GPS. Consider having an atlas or hard copy map just in case of technical difficulties.
- Check the weather conditions** where you will be traveling and pack appropriate supplies and clothing.
- Avoid traveling alone.** Use the buddy system and stick with the group.
- Use a hotel safe** to store extra cash and keep valuables under lock and key.

You can find more information at [BBB.org](#), including [BBB's travel HQ](#), BBB’s tips on [travel insurance](#) and additional advice when searching for a trustworthy [travel agent](#).

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30-Day Timely Filing Rule

VA Travel Pay Reimbursement

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The extension granted by Congress to allow for filing travel pay claims submitted more than 30 days after the appointment date will expire June 9, 2023. Veterans are asked to please remember that proof of attendance is required for all community care claims and claims could be denied for lack of proof. This sometimes occurs when non-VA care providers do not return medical records in a timely fashion, so please ask the provider to do so without delay. For more info, please contact Shannon Fisher at ext. 72813. Thank you!

Reference: 42 USC 1320b5(g)(1) & 38 CFR Part 70, subpart A

Emory & Morehouse Grads On A Mission to Help Seniors Conquer Tech

by RYAN GREENE

Submitted by Ciara Green; ciaracoylegreen@gmail.com

According to AARP, more older adults now view technology as a positive way to stay connected than before COVID-19. They also say four out of five adults 50 and older use tech as their main way to stay in touch with family and friends. On top of that, seniors’ use of smartphones to order groceries, for things like telehealth visits, making appointments or ordering prescriptions, and for fitness information has risen dramatically since the pandemic.

But for anyone who’s ever run across a technology roadblock, they either know immediately how to take care of it, they might try to tinker with it a bit and find out they’re still stuck. At that stuck spot, there are a number of avenues to follow. Call a big box store’s computer assistance, try to find an email address for the product producing the issue, or the more obvious - call or text someone who knows about these things, namely kids or grandkids.

At 76, David Snow loves playing train and 18-wheeler truck simulator games on his computer. Complete with steering wheel and pedal attachments to his PC for the games, his set up is better than what most 15-year-olds’ gamers dream of. David is also a published cartoonist. He’s relatively tech savvy, but even he gets confounded by tech. It’s a universal denominator no matter what age we are. A couple months ago, David let me know his computer was in need of a tune-up. For him, it was like going 35 mph in a 55 zone, for his emailing and big-rig driving.

People like David, and my 87-year-old grandfather, Sidney, are the reason why we created Quincy. The goal is to make what we call Cybercare friendly, accessible and very affordable for seniors. Kind of like a grandchild-on-demand, Quincy allows users to call or click a website button anytime they need help with something to do with technology.

Dr. Muhammad Abdurrahman, my co-founder, a Morehouse graduate who also attended secondary school in north Fulton, and I had spent years helping our families with tech tasks. We were happy to help. We also thought there should be a better way for them to get the assistance with tech they needed. I also found out some of them consulted the help of big box stores and were charged several hundred dollars at one sitting. This felt wrong.

Everyone has tech problems. From large companies with whole IT departments to a loved-one in an independent living community, we call it the true common denominator across generations. For our team, we didn’t feel anyone should be charged exorbitant amounts just to do something pretty normal in today’s world like streaming shows, getting help with email, or even getting a computer to run faster. This is where Quincy comes in. We designed it to be super easy, and free or very low cost. “I like that you just go and click the button and someone calls you really fast,” said David. “There’s always a real person to help me through whatever my computer is throwing at me that day.” He said he used to use a phone carrier’s computer support subscription plan, though when they went out of business, they recommended he try Quincy. He’s been using the service for about two years.

Technology can be confusing for anyone of any age. I feel really good knowing my grandfather has something he can reach out to and not be lost with tech tasks.

Ryan Greene received his undergraduate degree in Economics and Psychology from Emory University. He went on to earn an MBA from Columbia Business School. Reach out to him or find out more about Quincy at GoGoQuincy.com.



Ryan Greene

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Submitted by "Hans Hassell, IOP Director at Florida State University"
iop@fsu.edu>

While most national polling focuses on electoral horse races and issues highlighted by President Biden or members of Congress, the IOP has recently released information about Americans concerns about issues in their local communities.

“Local issues are important to so many citizens,” said Dr. Hans Hassell, IOP@FSU Director and Associate Professor of Political Science at Florida State University. “The results show that despite our differences, many Americans are concerned about similar things in their local communities.”

The Institute of Politics at Florida State University (IOP@FSU) is a institute that promotes engagement in politics by students and citizens housed within the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy at Florida State University

The IOP@FSU offers wide-ranging opportunities for FSU students to become civically engaged; promotes research in politics, citizen involvement, and public service; and promotes the awareness of politics, citizen involvement and public service in the general public. For additional information, please go visit coss.fsu.edu/iop.

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Issue	Percent Viewing Issue as a Big or Very Big Problem in Community
Availability of affordable housing	61.9%
Drug use and addiction	55.6%
Quality of K-12 Public Schools	42.8%
Crime and Gun Violence	39.9%
Condition of roads and bridge	37.1%
Racism	34.2%
Access to public transportation	33.9%
Electrical infrastructure	23.2%

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