

Senior News

Georgia

Providing Helpful Information for Mature Adults in GEORGIA!

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April 2024
Volume 38, No. 4

Let Us Entertain You

by Claire Houser-Dodd, Columnist

Some weeks can be a little slow and a little boring and some are not. We just had one that was not. On Tuesday we had the Study Club meeting where Margaret Mathews presented a delightful program and Deborah Hunnicutt served the best pound cake ever.

Wednesday we had a day of rest and Thursday we were off to a doctor's appointment and Friday we attended a lovely dinner party for the judges judging in the Camellia Show on Saturday. The dinner was held at the Magnolia House in Marshallville, a really lovely older home built by the Lee's and resurrected as a wedding and party venue. The décor and antique furniture was breathtaking, so beautiful and so well arranged. Dinner was delicious and served on the enormous back deck overlooking the gorgeous yard. It was just lovely! Almost makes you want to get married again.

Saturday night we went to the farm and hunting cabin of Connie and Frank Freshwater and enjoyed a fabulous fish fry. Sunday I ate with Daughter, Emily, and husband Mike. Always enjoyable and good food too!

Monday I had an explosion in the oven. Oh yes, I was cooking some late night S'mores and had just put them in the oven when BOOM! Quiet a loud explosion. I pulled the oven door open and you have never seen such a fire. It was coming out the front and I was huffing and puffing and wet an oven mitt and was trying my best to beat out the fire on the coils. Nothing seemed to work. The main fire was out but the hot coils were not responding to my endeavors. I finally realized I had to call 911. I explained to the lady operator that it was a small fire, really just two flames smaller than a match flame. And I ask if she could send just one fireman. I did not need the big trucks! She wasn't sure how to respond to my explanation I'm sure, so here came all the big fire trucks and a fireman running to the back. I stopped him and led him through the front and in seconds he had put the fire out and unplugged the stove and advised me to buy a new stove. There may have been ten firemen ready for action, but luckily only one was needed. They were fast and efficient and much appreciated. My neighbor ran to help as well. He also advised me to get a new stove.

All this is enough for an elderly citizen... but hold on, my good neighbor, Ed, invited me to go see Jesus Christ Superstar at the Grand in Macon. It is always a pleasure to visit the beautiful old Grand Theater, and especially to see a good show; and, this one out did itself! It was superb in every way from beginning to end. Never a dull moment at any time. Believe it or not we sat 90 minutes without moving. I don't think anybody in the whole theater moved. It was another spellbinding Andrew Lloyd Webber production with music by Webber and Rice.

The story of the last days of Jesus through song and dance was absolutely mesmerizing. A Rock Opera Concert Extraordinaire! An extra dramatic presentation and enlightening night!

Andrew Lloyd Webber was Knighted in 1992 by Queen Elizabeth II and appointed a peer in '97. He has written an autobiography called "Unmasked" which was published in 2018 by Harper.

If you get a chance... **see this show!**

MACON HOUSING AUTHORITY PUBLIC HOUSING – WAITING LIST OPENING

This is to notify the public that **Macon Housing Authority** will begin accepting pre-applications for the **Public Housing Program from April 5-12, 2024**. Public Housing has several scattered sites within the portfolio in various neighborhoods with bedroom sizes ranging from **1-5 bedrooms**. **Macon Housing Authority** gives preference on the waiting list to families whose head of household is either working, elderly or disabled and receiving benefits, receiving other types of income, and/or homeless. The maximum income limit for the household is 80% AMI for Macon-Bibb County. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, provide proof of age and SS numbers for all household members, have an acceptable rental history; and, pass a criminal background check.

Request an application via:

1. **MHA website:** <https://maconhousing.com> - Select "Programs," "Public Housing;" **or**
2. **Email:** scattersites@maconhousing.com; **or**
3. **Telephone:** 478-752-5054 (Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. or Fri: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Return the application via:

1. **Mail:** Macon Housing Authority, PO Box 4928, Macon, GA 31201 – Attention: Subrea Morris, PM
2. **Drop Box:** Located at 2015 Felton Avenue, Macon, GA 31201. **or**
3. **Email:** scattersites@maconhousing.com

Pre-applications will not be available in person or at the property. Incomplete or unsigned pre-applications will not be accepted. Hearing, speech impaired applicants or applicants with limited English proficiency requiring assistance with the application process, may call the Georgia Relay Service at 7-1-1, go to <http://georgiarelay.org> or call 478-752-5054 for assistance. There are units available designed for persons with mobility, hearing, and/or visual impairments. **Macon Housing Authority** is an **Equal Housing Opportunity** agency and provides housing to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, age, or national origin.



2024 Georgia Golden Olympics

By Lisa M. Petsche – lmepetsche@gmail.com

The 2024 Georgia Golden Olympics is scheduled for September 17-21 in Warner Robins and surrounding areas. Please join us for fun, fellowship and competition. Registration will begin on May 1, 2024. The registration form will be on the website: georgiagoldenolympics.org by this date. If you have competed in the games in previous years you may register online. If not, please print the form from the website and mail to the address listed along with age verification and fees.

The complete 2024 schedule is not final at this time. Check our Facebook page and the website for more information and updates.

If you are not interested in competing, please join us as a volunteer. Volunteer are always needed and appreciated. The volunteer form will be available for the website also. Georgia Golden Olympics.

World Class Racewalking Weekend - April 2024

Race walk clinic led by world-renowned coach and clinician Dave McGovern to be held April 13-14, 2024 in Douglasville, Georgia.

Do you want to learn to racewalk? Or to racewalk – or power walk – faster, more efficiently and with fewer injuries? Join twenty-time United States National Racewalk Team international competitor and fifteen-time U.S. national champion Dave McGovern for this unique racewalking event.

Appropriate for ALL levels, participants will learn techniques used by both elite and Masters Champion walkers to walk faster and more efficiently with fewer injuries.

And if you don't race, these same techniques can help you to lose weight, get fit and feel great!

For information contact USATF Georgia Race Walk Chair Kellie Crawford at (404-358-1259) or KellieRCrawford@gmail.com or visit www.racewalking.org. See our website for additional details provided by the Race Walk Committee.

The Georgia Golden Olympics is funded by registrations and donations from friends and organizations who care about the health and well being of older adults.



Georgia Athletes in the National Senior Games Parade of Athletes!

Over 200 athletes from Georgia competed at the 2023 National Senior Games In Pittsburgh, PA returning home with 139 medals. 57 gold, 42 silver and 40 bronze. We are very proud of the athletes and hope they all attend the 2024 Georgia Golden Olympics to qualify for the 2025 National Games to be held in Des Moines, IA, July 24, - August 4, 2025. Updated National rules are available on the national website: nsga.com.



**Darryl Hodson, MD - Mark Bonner, MD - Russell Harris, MD
Misty Banknell, PA-C - Tamika Chester, NP - Jim Lekas, PA-C
Kelly Miller, NP - M. Huntley Sanders, PA-C**

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Taking Care!

Productive Medical Visits: Tips for Communicating with Your Doctors

By Lisa M. Petsche – lmpetsche@gmail.com

These days, health care is viewed as a partnership between patient and provider, with both parties responsible for ensuring a constructive relationship. Good communication is essential, of course, to any positive doctor-patient relationship, whether it involves your primary physician or a specialist.

Here are some ways to do your part to make the most of medical visits.

Before an appointment

Make a list of the things you want to discuss, in order of priority. Also jot down any symptoms you're experiencing, including their frequency, duration and intensity, and how they're affecting your daily life.

Note, too, any treatments you have tried. Always bring a list of the medications you're taking, prescription and over-the-counter drugs as well as any natural remedies, including the dosage.



**Lisa
Petsche**

Consider asking a good friend or family member to accompany you. That individual can help with processing information and remembering instructions. They may also have questions that hadn't occurred to you.

During the visit

If you have a hearing or vision impairment, let the doctor know at the outset. If you have a language impairment from a stroke or other condition that makes it hard for others to understand you, bring along someone who knows you well and can interpret your responses if necessary, or ask questions on your behalf.

Share information. Provide as much detail as possible about any problems you're experiencing and how these are affecting you. Don't leave out anything. Let the doctor decide what's relevant.

Be honest about your lifestyle and habits. For example, if you're diabetic but you don't stick to the recommended diet, or you haven't been taking medications as prescribed.

Let the doctor know about anything going on in your life that may be contributing to your situation – for example, a recent loss or other event that's causing significant stress.

Write down important information provided to you. If you have brought someone along, ask them to do this so you can give the doctor your undivided attention.

Ask for details. If you're diagnosed with a medical condition, inquire about what to expect, including how long it's likely to last, treatment or management options, and where you can get more information. For any recommended test or treatment, inquire about cost, where it must be done, what's involved, benefits and risks, and alternatives.

Request a layman's explanation if you don't understand medical jargon used by the doctor. Summarize aloud the information he or she gives you, to check if you have interpreted it correctly.

Don't try to be an expert. While there's a wealth of medical information readily available to consumers these days (especially via the internet), and it's good to be informed, don't act as if you know more than the doctor does. Be tactful if you wish to challenge findings or recommendations. For example, it's much less threatening to say, "I've read about a new medication called X; what do you think of it for my situation?" rather than, "Why aren't you prescribing X?"

Don't hesitate to voice doubts, worries or fears. If, after your doctor addresses them, you're still uncomfortable with a diagnosis or the treatment options presented to you, request a second opinion.

Don't worry about taking up too much of your doctor's time. Ask all of your questions and express any concerns. However, prioritize your issues (lower priority ones may have to wait for another appointment), be concise and don't get off topic.

Before leaving, make sure you're clear about any next steps – for example, whether you should schedule another appointment, when and how you'll learn of test results, and what you should do if your condition worsens or you experience an adverse reaction to a new medication.

Ask about the best time to call if more questions occur to you after you leave the office.

Lisa M. Petsche is a social worker and freelance writer specializing in boomer and senior health and wellness.

Opinion

Exceeding Compatible Margins

By Daniel W Gatlyn, USN Retired – Minister/Journalist

Without doubt I could begin with an alternate heading, but this will do! It will work because my lines delineate perimeters of acceptability, or parallel with common sense. First of all, let me inform readers of why I shall feel somewhat comfortable in what I am saying. I am now Ninety Four Years of age, have circled the block a few (dozen) times; and, have decades of experience. I have a diploma; but, my education has come from multiple sources. I have an average IQ... I think... which merely means there are millions smarter than I... but, something is drastically wrong! We are witnessing error on a colossal scale, with a fix being an in-depth investigation, a coffee break; and, the issuing of "the same song... tenth verse!" I am really a "nobody," but I am also weary of what I see and hear; knowing that reports could possibly reveal a better story.

I have watched early on as scores of supervisors from every walk have surmised the "botched-notch" of the Baltimore Bridge incident. A One Thousand Foot International cargo ship plows into the Bridge span – which immediately falls to the waters below. I am not aware of all conditions and circumstances that were present; but, I am aware OF WHAT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN! Steering a ship this large is a problem and needs to be aptly handled by "creeping speeds," a super qualified Harbor Pilot, and with sufficient Tug Boats to place the "monstrous vessel" heading into proper channels. I have watched scores of journeys of larger ships (Aircraft Carriers, if you will) enter ports both in America, and abroad. I know what it takes to stop a Super Vessel moving at Ten Knots. And I know what will happen if the MARGIN OF SAFETY is exceeded... nothing less than a catastrophe!

In America, we are presently witnessing over 40,000 people die on the highways each year, with speed being the prime culprit. I have no alternative but to travel with the flow of traffic... with posted speed limits on the Interstates from 70 to 80 MPH. At that rate, A VEHICLE REALLY BECOMES A MOVING MISSILE! Every Citizen knows I speak the truth... BUT WE WILL NOT SLOW DOWN! The same lack of personal discipline applies to the conduct with Drugs, with Guns, with Food, with Fire, with Boats, with Aircraft, with Alcohol, AND MUCH MORE! Safety Factors are for others! But we KNOW BETTER! All this as we hold a million funerals, with Leaders extending the Margins on an annual basis. The obviously OVERLOADED CARGO SHIP is a prime example! We heartily endorse Burger King... AND HAVE IT OUR WAY!

I do not advocate paths that I myself find extreme. In the past five years – past 88 years of age – I have driven over 100,000 miles with no tickets, no dings, no flats; and, NO REGRETS! In addition, with 94 years behind me, I have never had a broken bone, nor have I had surgery. This didn't "JUST HAPPEN," THERE WAS A REASON!" I am not a perfect soul; but, I do give "living" a practical shake! I follow vehicles at a safe distance... I try to eat in practical fashion... I respect the rights of others! And, I deeply care about humanity – past, present and future! And, I am working on better judgement and a better behavior!

Hope you are listening. Forgive me while I mention once more that, "the saddest song, and greatest sin, are all the things that might have been!"

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(803) 819-3139

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



The Flower Fantasy!

by Clair Houser-Dodd, Columnist

When Paul and Delise Knight bought the old Bassett home on Taylor's Mill Road, nobody questioned what all would go on there. Besides many great parties and beautiful weddings, the Flower Fantasy took root and started several years ago. If you haven't seen it you won't believe it. It is Fantasia! It's an unbelievable, wonderland of gorgeous flower arrangements displayed in an old world setting. This year's inspiration is "Gardens Around the World" and is sponsored by the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and will be presented by the Magnolia Garden Club of Fort Valley. Tickets for this endeavor will benefit the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Fund.

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The knights named their spread, “Pineola Farms,” for the many trees around. In the front left yard is a children’s playhouse, an all time favorite and mine for sure as it reminds me of my childhood playhouse in Rome, Georgia. It was built just for us and I loved it so.

Many lovely items will take you back to your childhood and the days you visited your grandmother’s or great-grandmother’s house.

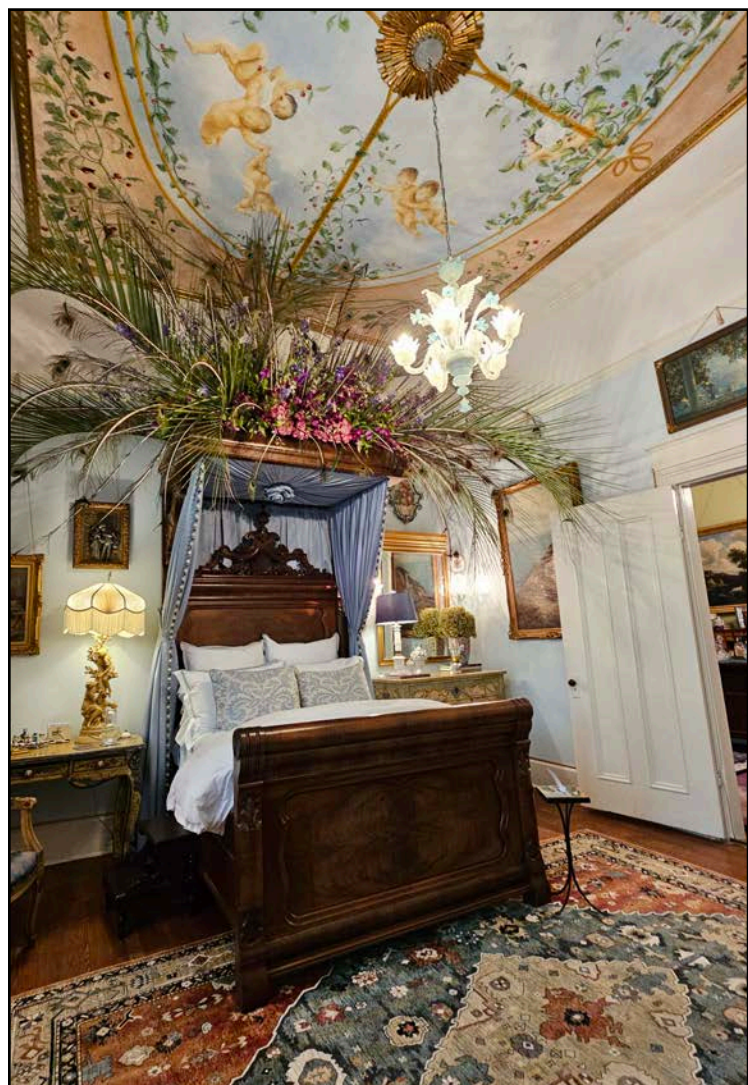
The Flower Fantasy is like no other. It is held in a historical and gorgeous home belonging to the Bassetts for many years and brought back to grandeur by Delise and Paul. And, we might add, with very much love!

The “around the world arrangements” will definitely be out of this world. Do not go expecting any less as you are in for a show of magnificent renderings.

There will also be vendors and an expert speaker in the gardens. A truly Spectacular Event!

The show is scheduled for April 20th and 21st at 1195 Taylors Mill Road, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.

For additional details you may call 478-227-2084 or visit Pineola Farms’ website at www.pineola.com.



MHA ANNOUNCES MURPHEY VILLAGE APARTMENTS ~ WAITING LIST OPENING ~

This is to notify the public that **Murphey Village Apartments**, located at 900 A Street, Macon, GA will be accepting pre-applications for housing from **April 24th – May 2nd, 2024**. Those interested may obtain an application during this time as follows: (1) **Go to:** <https://www.maconhousing.com> and print a pre-application packet; **or,** (2) Email a request to: murpheyoffice@maconhousing.com; **or,** (3) Call: (478) 752- 5004 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Friday. The pre-application and release forms must be filled out completely, signed by all adults, dated, and returned via: (1) **Mail** – Macon Housing Authority, PO Box 4928, Macon, GA 31208, Attn: Murphey Village Applications; **or,** (2) **Email** – murpheyoffice@maconhousing.com; **or,** (3) **Drop Box** – located at 2015 Felton Avenue.

No pre-applications will be taken in person at MHA or at the property. Incomplete or unsigned pre-applications will not be accepted. Persons with hearing or speech impairments, or limited English proficiency, may call the Georgia Relay Service at 7-1-1 or go to their website at: <http://georgiarelay.org>. Murphey Village is a family property with Section 8 PBRA rental assistance and LIHTC funding. The property contains 182 units consisting of 2-5 bedrooms. All units are accessible and adaptable as defined by the Fair Housing Amendments Act. There are units available designed 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 application line or Georgia Relay Service for assistance.

To qualify for residency, the head of household must be at least 18 years of age with a total family income within the current published HUD and Tax Credit income limits for Macon-Bibb County, have a good rental history, and pass a background and criminal history screening. Murphey Village gives preference on the waiting list to families whose head or spouse are employed, elderly/disabled, or homeless. Murphey Village is an Equal Housing Opportunity property and provides housing to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, age, or national origin.



It's The Month For Golfing!

by Carolyn Brenneman, Columnist

It is finally here! Yes, April is the month for attending golf events, shows, and tournaments. It is here finally... The Masters Golf Tournament... often referred to as "The Granddaddy of Them All" which is held in Augusta, Georgia. It has a status as one of the most prestigious and iconic golf tournaments in the world.

This year, the Augusta Georgia Masters Tournament will be held from April 11th to April 14th at the most prestigiously world-known golf venue... the Augusta National Golf Course. Thousands and thousands of tourists visit Augusta each year during this time and stay in hotels, resorts, and rented-out luxury homes. These friendly folks spend thousands of dollars here in Augusta on lodgings, food, entertainment and costs associated with taking in the tournament.

If you are special enough to become a member of this elite golf club and able to pay big bucks, you may attend the tournament, or part of it, during this azalea blooming month. Or, if you want to economize, you can watch it on CBS and ESPN at your favorite sports bar, restaurant, or, of course, at home.



Mini-golf at Jekyll Island

When did it start? The Masters was first played in 1934 and was won by a golfer named Horton Smith. Amateur golfer Bobby Jones and investment banker Clifford Roberts, the founders of Augusta National Golf Club, started the Masters as a way to promote their newly formed golf club and as a way to give back to the game of golf. It is one of the major tournaments in men's professional golf. Yes, it is only for men! Augusta National Golf Course only allows men in the club. And will most likely stay that way. However, there is an Augusta National Women's Amateur event that has attracted positive media coverage. Rose Zhang won the 2023 Augusta National Women's Amateur in a playoff.

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Alex enjoys golf everyday



Women are great golfers

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Just who is it that owns this prestigious resort? Well, it was purchased in August 2022 by Tesla famous Elon Musk! And no, he does not play golf.

So not everyone is a professional golf player but enjoys the game enough to make it a full time hobby. Take, for example, my friends, George, Sam and Alex. They have made golf their professional hobby and play everyday for enjoyment, companionship and even awards.

Then there are the many of us who enjoy golf in the easiest way possible. That is, miniature golf. My favorite place to play with the grandkids is in Jekyll Island located in southeast Georgia. The mini golf course located there is great fun; and, the actual greens there are in great condition. There are various decorations and fun events on the golf course for everyone to enjoy.

So, let's make a change this April and watch the Augusta Masters on TV, play some golf together; and, even if we are not a professional, we can always take in miniature golf. It's just fun for all!



Winner Rose Zhang



Masters played at Augusta National



The owner of Augusta Nationals

MHA ANNOUNCES DAVIS VILLAGE APARTMENTS ~ WAITING LIST OPENING ~

This is to notify the public that **Davis Village Apartments**, located at 905 Main Street, Macon, GA will be accepting pre-applications for housing from **Tuesday, April 16th – Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024**. Those interested may obtain an application during this time as follows: (1) **Go to:** <https://www.maconhousing.com> and print a pre-application packet; **or,** (2) Email a request to: davisvillage@maconhousing.com; **or,** (3) **Call:** (478) 752- 5160 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Friday. The pre-application and release forms must be filled out completely, signed by all adults, dated, and returned via: (1) **Mail** – Macon Housing Authority, PO Box 4928, Macon, GA 31208, Attn: Davis Village Applications; **or,** (2) **Email** – davisvillage@maconhousing.com; **or,** (3) **Drop Box** – located at 2015 Felton Avenue.

No pre-applications will be taken in person at MHA or at the property. Incomplete or unsigned pre-applications will not be accepted. Persons with hearing or speech impairments, or limited English proficiency, may call the Georgia Relay Service at 7-1-1 or go to their website at: <http://georgiarelay.org>. Davis Village Apartments is a family property with Section 8 PBRA rental assistance and LIHTC funding. The property contains 208 units consisting of 1-5 bedrooms. All units are accessible and adaptable as defined by the Fair Housing Amendments Act. There are units available designed 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 application line or Georgia Relay Service for assistance.

To qualify for residency, the head of household must be at least 18 years of age with a total family income within the current published HUD and Tax Credit income limits for Macon-Bibb County, have a good rental history, and pass a background and criminal history screening. Davis Village Apartments gives preference on the waiting list to families whose head or spouse are employed, elderly/disabled, or homeless. Davis Village Apartments is an Equal Housing Opportunity property and provides housing to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, age, or national origin.



6 Tips On How To Discuss Your Mental Health With Others

by Stan Popovich, Author: <http://www.managingfear.com>

It can be frustrating to struggle with your mental health and to get your family and friends to understand where you are coming from. Although most people may be understanding, there is usually one or two people who will make things more challenging for you.



Stan Popovich

As a result, here are six suggestions on how to deal with the people you know regarding your mental health situation.

- 1. Listen to the professionals:** Your friends may mean well, but when it comes down to it, the professionals are aware of your circumstances more than anyone. It is important that you listen and follow the advice from your doctor or medical professional rather than following the advice from your friends and other people you may know.
- 2. Don't argue with others:** It is important that you do not get into arguments with those who are giving you a tough time. It is not your job to worry about how others may view your circumstances. Focus on managing your mental health rather than trying to get everyone's approval.
- 3. Choose your friends wisely:** Distance yourself from those who won't make an effort to help understand what you are going through. You need to surround yourself with positive and supportive people. If you have problems or issues with a particular person, then its best to keep your distance and hang out with those people are more supportive.
- 4. Attend a mental health support group:** There are many mental health awareness support groups in any given area. Many hospitals, churches, and counselors in your area will be able to provide you with a list of these organizations. These groups will be aware of your situation and can give you additional advice regarding your concerns.
- 5. You are not alone:** There are millions of people around the world who struggle with their fears, anxieties, and depression. Many of your relatives and friends more than likely struggled with anxiety and stress sometime in their life. Do not feel that you are alone when it comes to your mental health situation because there all kinds of people around you who can relate.
- 6. Your goal is to get better:** Focus on how you can handle the anxieties and stresses in your life rather than arguing with others who are giving you a difficult time. This isn't a public relations event where you need to get approval from everyone. This is your life, and you need to be more concerned about getting your life back on track rather than pleasing everyone else.

BIOGRAPHY

Stan is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>.



The most important trial in the history of the World.
You are seated in that courtroom
where Governor Pontius Pilate resides.
Witness the testimonies of THE WITNESSES.
Hear the Evidence that ends in a Verdict
that will forever change the
Eternal Destiny of Humankind.

[Click here - Cast 1](#)

We would like to introduce you to our 2 casts!

[Click here - Cast 2](#)

Click the links to watch the video announcements!

Tickets ON SALE May 11th

Ticket Prices:

Adult - \$24
Child (under 12) \$18
Senior (65 and up) \$20
Groups of 10 or more \$20 each

Performed at ENOPION's Flowing Wells Theatre
286 Flowing Wells Rd., Martinez GA 30907
706-771-7777

Show Dates and times:

Friday April 12th @ 7pm
Saturday April 13th @ 3pm
Friday April 19th @ 7pm
Saturday April 20th @ 3pm
Thursday April 25th @ 7pm
Friday April 26th @ 7pm
Friday May 3rd @ 7pm
Saturday May 4th @ 3pm
Thursday May 9th @ 7pm
Friday May 17th @ 7pm
Thursday May 23rd @ 7pm
Friday May 24th @ 7pm

What to expect:

The scene begins in the courtyard, just outside of Pilot's judgement hall.

The Clerk will call the trial to order and the witnesses will enter and take their seats beside you. The Trial begins as Pontius Pilate takes his place. Each witness bears testimony for the defendant, telling of miracles, his character, and proof that the man on trial is indeed...

God.

At times, those in the room with you, react to the testimonies and to Pilate as he wrestles to make a decision. The verdict is given, the sentence pronounced - Crucifixion.

But just wait 'til you see what happens on that third day!

Since this trial takes place all around you, once you are in the courtroom, please do not leave your seat until recess is called.

Silence all cellphones, no pictures or video allowed. Concessions will be Available.

Connect with us



BBB Alert: Watch out for “free roof inspections”

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

With the warmer weather and summer storms, roofing scams become more common. [BBB Scam Tracker](#) frequently receives reports of shady “free” roof inspections. Homeowners should be on the lookout for these cons.

How these scams works

You receive a call, or a person shows up at the door claiming to represent a roofing company. According to [Scam Tracker](#) reports, con artists often use the name of the state (i.e. Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina) plus “Roofing” or “Construction” as their business name. The “roofer” offers a free inspection. Why, you ask? The person may claim that their company is working on a neighbor’s home and is offering inspections to those living nearby. But if you ask questions about where the business is located or how their services work, you’ll most likely be met with vague answers, or, if you are speaking on the phone, they may simply hang up.

You accept the free inspection, and the “inspector” shows up at your house. If they don’t find enough wear and tear to merit a whole new roof, they may fabricate it, by tearing off shingles to mimic wind damage. Or they may simply show you pictures of someone else’s damaged roof. Don’t hire this company! Any repairs done by such a dishonest business are not likely to be high quality.

How to avoid roofing scams

- **Beware of unsolicited offers.** Most scams begin with a contractor who “just happens to be in the area” and notices your roof or home has the appearance of needing repairs from the outside. Roofing scams typically increase in frequency after a [powerful storm](#), so stay alert.
- **Get your insurance company to inspect your roof.** Filing a claim with your insurance company goes on your record and could affect future claims or your continued coverage. Before signing any paperwork or contracts with a roofing company, have your insurance company to come out for an inspection to verify the need for repairs or replacements.

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- **Research roofing companies before you hire.** Look at a company's business rating on [BBB.org](https://www.bbb.org). Keep a close eye on previous reviews and any complaints other consumers might have had. This is one of the best ways to know if a roofing company is reputable or just a cover for a scam.

Storm chasing has become a multi-million-dollar industry, complete with computerized hail forecasting, teams of out-of-state installers and trained salespeople who go door-to-door soliciting work. Trust your instincts and thoroughly research any company knocking on your door.

For more information about hiring a roofing company, see [BBB.org/Roofers](https://www.bbb.org/roofers). You can also find valuable information at [BBB.org/ScamTips](https://www.bbb.org/scamtips) and our [Consumer HQ](https://www.bbb.org/consumer).

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

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