

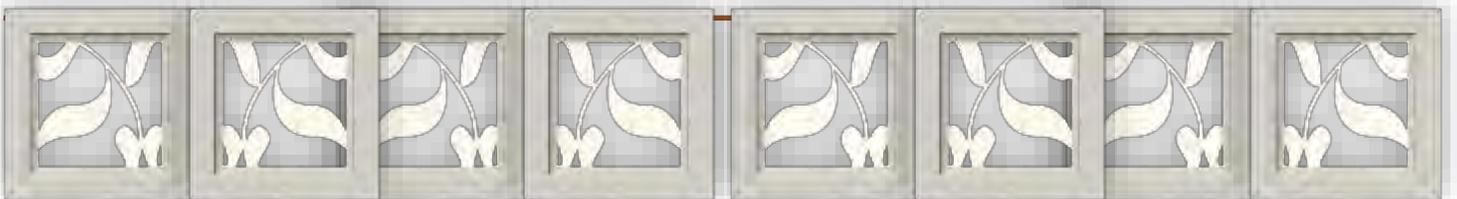
IN THE NEWS

June 2018

Parks & Recreation Programs
Frances Meadows Aquatic and Community Center
Gainesville Civic Center
Lake Lanier Olympic Center
City / County Issues
Miscellaneous



Gainesville Parks and Recreation Agency
830 Green Street
Gainesville, GA 30501



Gainesville officials are proposing a 0.5-mill increase in the city's property tax rate to fund transportation projects and raises for public safety workers as part of the city's \$40.2 million budget.

There is not a water or sewer rate increase in the proposed budget, which was presented at the City Council's work session on Thursday, May 31.

The city's informational video on the proposed budget explains that for every city tax dollar, 30 cents goes to general operations, including Gainesville Police; 44 cents to the fire department and 26 cents to parks and recreation. The millage rate increase would add 17 cents to that dollar — 11 cents for transportation, four for public safety and two for general operations. That would provide the city with \$2.3 million in additional revenue to invest.

The proposed millage increase would result in a \$100 tax increase for someone with a \$200,000 home.

Gainesville's population has grown from about 35,000 in 2010 to an estimated 41,000 people now, and the city needs to invest in transportation and public safety to meet the needs of that growing population, City Manager Bryan Lackey said. While the millage rate has declined over the past few years, those decreases are not sustainable, Lackey said.

"To be able to do the things we do, in order to invest in our community, we are proposing a half mill increase in our property tax rate so we can have the investments we need in transportation and public safety ... That level of rolling back is just not sustainable to do the things we need to do, the things you've talked about, the vision that you have for the city of Gainesville," he said at Thursday's work session.

Transportation priorities include the Dawsonville Highway connector, Highlands to Islands Trail, roundabouts on Green Street and Park Hill Drive improvements. The city also plans to upgrade network security, upgrade police and fire radios, and replace police and fire equipment. The city will likely add a fifth fire station within the next few years and will focus on planning for that, although a site has not been finalized, Lackey said.

Gainesville will be investing in competitive salaries for public safety personnel to retain employees who may otherwise leave for another position

Gainesville City Council meeting

When: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 5

Where: Public Safety Complex, 701 Queen City Parkway, Gainesville



Lackey

Tax proposal would fund transportation projects, raises

BY MEGAN REED
mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

6-1-18

TAX

■ Continued from 1A

in the private or public sector. City officials had previously discussed making compensation for public safety employees a priority in the budget.

Lackey said officials began the budget process in February and after seeking input from city departments and the community, the city decided on five budget priorities: relief of traffic congestion; infrastructure; housing; employee compensation and benefits; and transportation alternatives, especially the Highlands to Islands Trail, a trail that will connect downtown Gainesville and the Rock Creek Greenway to the University of North Georgia's Gainesville campus.

Lackey said other cities may use reserve funds to avoid increasing millage rates, but Gainesville invests surplus funds. The city's budgeted fund balance for the proposed budget is \$3.5 million.

"We don't have a large surplus of fund balance that we can dip into," Lackey said. "We do keep three months of operating reserve on hand in case we have a bad day or rainy day and need to adjust ... Outside of that, we roll everything into capital (projects) for next year."

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the budget at its meeting on Tuesday, June 5, and will vote on the budget at its June 19 meeting. The city's new fiscal year begins July 1.

6-1-18

■ Please see TAX, 8A
6-1-18

Deluge leaves problems at park



Photos by **DAVID BARNES** | The Times

Jim O'Dell, high performance and dragon boat coach at the Lake Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, boats by the Olympic tower at Lake Lanier Olympic Park in Gainesville, on Saturday, June 2, after several days of rain brought Lake Lanier above full pool.

6-3-18

Extra caution needed as visitors enjoy sunny day at Lanier

BY LAYNE SALIBA
lsaliba@gainesvilletimes.com

Jim O'Dell stood in his john boat, cupped his hands around his mouth and shouted.

He was shouting to some visitors near the beach at the Lake Lanier Olympic Park on Saturday, June 2, a family there to enjoy some of the sun that Gainesville hasn't seen much of in the past couple of weeks.

But with the rain comes runoff. And with runoff comes pollution.

"These waters failed bacteria testing just two days ago," said O'Dell, the high performance and dragon boat coach at the Lake Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club. "I coach kids and I wouldn't let them out on this water."

Dale Caldwell, headwaters director at Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, said the Environmental Protection Agency standard for safe recreation is 235 colonies of E. coli per 100 milliliter sample. When they tested water at the Olympic Park beach, that number was at 2,419, which may seem high, but he said it's nothing to worry too much about because "we see these numbers every time it rains."

"It's above the standard, but these numbers will go down within days more than likely," Caldwell said. "We would tell people not

to swim in there now, but by next Saturday, I mean, things would be fine."

After testing water in the lake for years and studying the numbers

every week, he said "what it boils down to is, stay out of the water after rain events."

Eric Lomax lives in East Hall and was visiting the Olympic Park

with his wife, Misty, and her parents who were visiting from Athens. They don't go on the lake or get in the water

■ Please see **PARK, 3C**



Above: A sign is displayed at Lake Lanier Olympic Park warning beachgoers of high bacterial levels of the water in Gainesville, on Saturday, June 2, after several days of rain. People are taking advantage of the sunny skies after bouts of heavy rain have brought Lake Lanier above full pool. **Below:** Water levels have risen dramatically at the Olympic Park boathouse after several days of rain.



PARK

■ Continued from 1C

much, but said they still enjoy being around it. Eric Lomax moved to Gainesville in 1998 and was surprised to see the water rising over the shoreline. Recent heavy rains have risen Lanier's waters 3 feet past full pool of 1,071 feet above

sea level.

"I've never seen it where you can't see the banks," Eric Lomax said. "I've never seen it in the trees."

O'Dell was worried about the water level, too. Sandbags were protecting the Olympic Park boathouse and some of its air conditioning units. He was at the boathouse early Saturday to help get things in order, including securing docks to make sure they wouldn't get washed away or damaged. The dragon boats were

filled with water, so he's been making sure they get pumped out twice a day.

"I honestly didn't expect it to get this high," O'Dell said.

The rain affects just about everything that happens on the lake. Since the facility was built to accommodate full pool level, much more than that "cripples operations," O'Dell said. Camps likely get canceled, rentals aren't made, rowers can't practice and larger events on the

lake can't take place.

One of his major concerns for the lake was the debris that could destroy boats and hurt people.

"You can damage rudders, you can damage engines, you've got boat hulls," O'Dell said. "Obviously it washes up on everything."

Farther south, there were plenty of people at the Gainesville Marina on their boats. Linda Drees was out with her husband, Dennis, her brother, Bob Tucker, and her dog,

Max. She wasn't too worried about debris or bacteria. She said she's a "lake girl," so "if it's going to be this hot, I'm going in."

They like to get out on the water every weekend and visit friends at their docks. The weather wasn't going to change those plans.

"We're just happy it's at full pool," Linda Drees said. "I mean, I'm sure it does have to come down a little bit, but it doesn't affect us. We're happy just to be out."



Photos by DAVID BARNES | The Times

Rachel Craft, from Bogart, surveys Lake Lanier as the water level creeps up toward the parking lot at Lake Lanier Olympic Park in Gainesville, on Saturday, June 2, after several days of rain. People are taking advantage of the sunny skies after bouts of heavy rain have brought Lake Lanier above full pool.



Jim O'Dell, high performance and dragon boat coach at the Lake Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, secures a dock at the Olympic Park boathouse in Gainesville.

EDITORIAL

In wake of the flood

Heavy rains after recent drought put water issues, pending court decision in spotlight

Not enough rain. Too much rain. The see-saw weather and its effect on Lake Lanier has again tilted the other way.

Two summers ago, North Georgia was in the grips of a drought that dropped the lake some 10 feet below full pool, drying up coves, leaving docks in the mud, exposing underwater objects and discouraging tourism at beaches and parks ringed by unsightly shorelines.

Normal rains helped ease worries last year and eventually restored the lake to normal levels. But in recent weeks, an early tropical storm brought heavy rains to the state. After a soggy Memorial Day weekend, a half-foot of rain caused streets to flood in Helen and washed over part of a highway. A few days later, rain washed out a culvert in Flowery Branch and damaged water pipes, affecting pressure to homes.

At Lanier, water levels have risen 3 feet past full pool and have inundated the docks and the timing tower at Lake Lanier Olympic Park, leading to a two-week delay in the Dragon Boat Challenge. Several boat ramps, beaches and parks have been closed until the water recedes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages Lanier, responded by increasing water releases from Buford Dam downstream. Releases will run for 24 hours over the next two weeks to lower the level, said E. Patrick Robbins, Mobile District spokesman.

6-3-15



DAVID BARNES | The Times

The Olympic tower at Lake Lanier Olympic Park is surrounded by water in Gainesville on Wednesday, May 30, after heavy rain caused water levels to rise beyond the banks.

In wake of the flood

Heavy rains after recent drought put water issues, pending court decision in spotlight 6-3-18

chapter by the end of this month when the U.S. Supreme Court issues its ruling over the lawsuit filed by Florida over Georgia's water use. The case was heard last year by a court-appointed special master, Maine attorney Ralph Lancaster, who ruled Florida had no case to limit our state's water use through its claims of mismanagement by metro Atlanta and farms down state.

Yet at the Supreme Court hearing in January, lawyers from both states faced tough questioning from the justices. That led some to speculate the court may seek a compromise solution that would grant Florida some of what it wants rather than come down fully on one side or the other.

It all flows together: Searing drought. Torrential rains. Courtroom drama. Nature volleys our water back and forth while everyone waits for the line judges to decide who should get more of it.

The court's ruling, while much-anticipated, is unlikely to resolve a dispute that has raged unabated for 20-plus years through several governors' administrations. Other suits are pending, some involving Alabama, the third state in the water tango, and the corps. At some point, too, it's possible Congress could get involved in how the corps has redrawn its water-use manuals for Lanier and the river basin. It's a midterm election year and potential campaign fodder for lawmakers looking to score points.

It's also an election that will produce new governors in Georgia and Florida, and perhaps a fresh

chance to negotiate a deal outside of the courts both states can live with. Georgia's Nathan Deal and Florida's Rick Scott began such talks a few times over the years but were unable to come to an agreement. Three years ago, a group of river basin stakeholders outside of state politics devised a plan they believed would equitably share the water. But the governments didn't buy in, and political pressure in Florida led to the federal suit, ending any hopes of a brokered deal.

Depending how the court rules, the new governors might want to start talks fresh rather than rely on the justices or the clouds to provide relief. Better still, the stakeholders' plan could be revived as a blueprint for a solution all states can live with.

Win or lose, this feud has been an expensive one for both states. Georgia's legal tab for its dozens of lawyers has topped \$50 million in the last four years, and Florida has spent even more. That's money both states could use for schools, public safety, transportation or refunds to taxpayers rather than keeping teams of attorneys in stylish Italian shoes. One way or another, this needs to end.

It's clearly evident how fickle the weather can be in the Southeast, and legal deliberations or legislative action are just as uncertain. Somehow, someway, sober heads need to rise above this unending conflict to devise a way to share the water in the basin fairly, both when there's a little and when there's a lot. Based on recent history, we know it often will

Friday, the Lake Lanier Association asked the corps to hold off on such releases over fear of too much water flowing downstream and its belief the lake's summer full pool level should be raised to 1,073 feet above sea level to increase water storage for the droughts yet to come. Considering the capricious nature of the weather, that might be wise.

This discussion and the long-term effects of such moves are timely, not just because of the weather but that water releases from the dam are the crux of the two-decade dispute between Georgia and Florida over the amount of water in the Chatahoochee River basin allowed to reach those thirsty little oysters in Apalachicola Bay.

That dispute will enter its next

Popularity of summer jobs falls



Photos by **DAVID BARNES** | The Times

Elizabeth Wimbish, right, 17, a rising senior at Jefferson High School, swaps stations with Jackson County High School rising senior Mekenna Cantrell, 17, at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center in Gainesville on Wednesday, May 30, where they both hold seasonal jobs as lifeguards.

6-4-18

Fewer young people working during break from school

BY JOSHUA SILAVENT
jsilavent@gainesvilletimes.com

Hudson Mitchell, 22, knows the value that seasonal employment can bring young adults beyond the pleasure of a paycheck.

But working a summer job is something fewer young people are doing than in the past 30 years.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the number of people ages 16 to 24 years old working summer jobs peaked in 1989.

Mitchell, a North Hall High graduate who now attends Young Harris College, is working this summer as a supervisory counselor for Gainesville Parks and Recreation's day camp for kids.

The work brings her opportunities to interact with the community and educate children while having fun.

"I like being a positive influence," Mitchell said.

The city's parks department currently employs 80 part-time seasonal workers filling 23 positions, such as lifeguards, water safety instructors, concessionaires, ticket booth operators, front desk staff and day camp counselors.

But it's becoming more difficult to fill these positions, officials said, for a number of reasons.

Zandrea Stephens, the interim division manager at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center in Gainesville, said requiring online applications has limited the employee pool, though perhaps it's also weeded out poor candidates for important jobs.

But the parks department has strict drug-testing requirements and mandated safety training that are not common in retail and restaurant jobs, which employ lots of young people.

Scheduling conflicts are also limiting the pool of applicants for summer jobs.

In particular, many youth sports



Bailey Morrison, 15, a rising sophomore at Johnson High School, watches over children playing in the splash zone at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center in Gainesville on Wednesday, May 30.

and associated training run year-round nowadays.

The offseason is a bit of a thing of the past for young basketball, baseball, soccer and football players, for example, who attend specialty camps for those sports during the summer.

And even some schools begin sports practice during the summer months to prepare for the fall season.

Last year, young people working as camp counselors, lifeguards and even retail jobs had dropped below 61 percent, a 17 percent decline from three decades prior, according to labor department data.

And only 4 in 10 teenagers are now working summer gigs compared with 7 in 10 in 1978.

Working for parks and recreation, however, provides essential values and experience that young people can carry over into their long-term careers, Stephens said, such as cus-

tommer service skills. It can also help young people identify career choices.

Bailey Morrison, 15, a lifeguard at Frances Meadows just two weeks now into her first job ever, said she is enjoying the sense of responsibility and independence work is providing.

"It helps me learn responsibility, definitely, and just seeing how the world actually is," she said, adding that meeting new people, having new experiences and maturing beyond the tutelage of her parents are important at her age. "It's been great. I love it."

Elizabeth Wimbish, 17, first began working as a lifeguard at Frances Meadows two years ago.

Earning her own keep has made her more responsible and mature faster, she said.

"I learn how to spend money better because I realize it's my own money," Wimbish added. "Money doesn't grow on trees. I'm working hard for it."

6-4-18

JUNE 2018

Wednesday, June 6

Healthcare Committee

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Thursday, June 7

Business After Hours

Sponsor: **Mountain Fresh Creamery**

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

6615 Cleveland Highway | Clermont

Friday, June 8

Economic Development Council

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

New Flowery Branch City Hall

Tuesday, June 12

Small Business Workshop

7:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Featherbone Communitiversity
999 Chestnut Street | Gainesville

Tuesday, June 12

Ambassador Council

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Fish Tales | Flowery Branch

Wednesday, June 13

Network Over Coffee

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Sonic | Pearl Nix Pkwy | Gainesville

Wednesday, June 13

Human Resource Council

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Luna's | Downtown Gainesville

Tuesday, June 19

South Hall Business Coalition

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Chicopee Woods Golf Course
2515 Atlanta Highway | Gainesville

Wednesday, June 20

Issues Committee

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, June 20

Lunch 'n Learn

Speaker: Mark Benkiel, *Fairway Outdoor Advertising*

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ramada Inn Lanier Center | Lanier A
400 E.E. Butler Parkway | Gainesville

Thursday, June 21

Chamber Executive Committee

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, June 27

Network Over Coffee

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Steak 'n Shake | Thurmond Tanner
Road in Oakwood

★ Thursday, June 28

Chamber Board of Directors

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center | Gainesville

JULY 2018

Tuesday, July 10

Small Business Seminar

7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Chamber

Tuesday, July 17

Business After Hours

Sponsor: **Purple House Gallery**

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

226 W Academy Street | Gainesville

AUGUST 2018

Thursday, August 2

Business After Hours

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

1642 Calvary Industrial Drive | Gville

Online: GreaterHallChamber.com

6-5-18

Welcoming the World BACK to Gainesville-Hall County!

Lake Lanier Olympic Park (LLOP) will host the largest international sporting event in the area since the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games with the **ICF Dragon Boat World Championships** (September 13-16) including 20 countries and 1,000 athletes. **Team USA** will be selected after over 800 athletes participate in five regional trials held across the United States and will gather at Lake Lanier Olympic Park in July for the only training camp prior to the world championships.

As a show of support for Team USA and a fundraiser for the ICF Dragon Boat World Championships, a concert will be held on **Saturday, July 21** featuring the **Fly Betty Band** at **Brenau University's Ampitheater** in Gainesville. Help support Team USA and prepare for the first World Dragon Boat Championships to be held in North America by attending this concert. For more information on this exciting fundraising event, tickets or sponsorship opportunities: Robyn Lynch, Director, LLOP, 770-535-0397. Email: robyn@lakelanierolympicvenue.org



6-5-18

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 5, 2018 • Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce

10

- **Jacobs Media** celebrates its 69th anniversary and company CEO **John W. "Jay" Jacobs III** announced the promotion of a longtime employee to lead the company and the addition of a new radio station. **Bill Maine**, host of WDUN's "Morning News with Bill & Joel" and a 38-year employee of the station, was named executive vice president and general manager. Maine will oversee operations of Jacobs Media, which includes WDUN AM/FM, WGGA AM and *AccessWDUN.com*
- **Terry Merck**, VP, **American Yazaki Corp.** (AYC Plastics), a plastics parts producer, announced the company as the recipient of Yamaha Motor Company's 2017 YMMC Supplier Excellence Award. Merck credits "the greatest employees at AYC help us win these awards year after year. Our team takes the approach that they not only work for AYC, but also for the customer and end users that receives the product."
- ★ • **Greater Hall Chamber Board of Directors** meetings are held monthly and open to Chamber Members. Division reports are reviewed, and meetings often include a speaker or program on an issue important to the business community. Join us for the next meeting on **Thursday, June 28 at 12-1:30pm at the Gainesville Civic Center**. \$15 per person; Includes Lunch. Reservations required. Gerri Collins, 770-532-6206 x106 or *gcollins@ghcc.com*
- **John B. "Jack" McKibbon Jr.** began flying at the age of 14 from a field now known as Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport. McKibbon was recognized for a history of flying – from bombers in World War II to planes for business travel – with his induction in the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame. McKibbon founded **Mar-Jac Poultry** with brother Marvin in 1954. They entered the hotel and restaurant business that today, operated by son, **John McKibbon III**, is an industry leader developing, owning and managing 80 hotels (partnering with 18 brands) in 30 cities. *mckibbon.com*
- The **Town of Braselton's** centennial celebration closed with the unveiling of oil portraits of all five mayors commissioned by accomplished portraitist, **Neal Dunlap Hughs** of Gainesville. The mayors' (**William Henry Braselton**, **James Lewis Braselton**, **Henry Edward Braselton**, **Pat Graham**, **Bill Orr**) portraits hang in the Police & Municipal Court Building. **Sandy C. Weinel**, is Braselton's new capital projects

- coordinator. Weinel brings 20 years of experience most recently working with Oconee County in various related fields. Major projects she will oversee include GA 211 widening, development of a municipal recreation park and ongoing downtown development. *braselton.net*
- **ITNLanier** continues increased transportation services for seniors and vision impaired adults in Hall County, delivering 3500 total rides with 2200 rides occurring in the second year. Entering its third year, ITNLanier announces **Dana Chapman** as new Executive Director to manage the growing operation. Dana served for the past six years as Executive Director for **The Guest House** providing daytime medical care and activities for older seniors. *itnlanier.org*
- **Roger Burgess** of Gainesville-based **ProCare Rx** announced a partnership with MC-21, the market leading Pharmacy Benefit Manager in Puerto Rico. Both companies will continue to concentrate on health insurance plans, managed care, self-insured employer groups, government employees, unions, public health organizations, hospices and worker compensations plans. The combination of ProCare Rx and MC-21 will focus on serving the medicare and medicaid MCO market by driving down costs and gaining share in these fast growing markets. *procarerx.com*
- ★ • **Food Truck Friday** is the third Friday of each month. Join the fun on the lake on **Friday, June 15 at Lake Lanier Olympic Park** from 5pm - 8pm with Food Trucks, Retail Vendors, Beer and Wine from Tap It, DJ and Live Music, Kids Activities and more. Free to attend. *lakelanierolympicvenue.org*
- **Gwinnett Stripers Business Special:** Save 50% on Infield and Field Box Tickets for Stripers home games on June 7 and June 21 (12:05pm). Offer is online only. Visit *GoStripers.com/Tickets* and use offer code **CHAMBER**. Expires 2 hours prior to each game. Details: 678-277-0340. *gostripers.com*
- **Ken Dixon, MD, FACS**, a surgeon with Surgical Oncology of Northeast Georgia practicing over 35 years, launched a new Gainesville-based company leading the way in cancer care tumor storage. **SpeciCare's** mission is to arm patients with as many options as possible to fight cancer. *specicare.com*

GOT NEWS?

Email: *kwest@ghcc.com*

Lessons on stage

Students learn through theater
during summer musical production



Will Baudin rehearses Wednesday, June 6, with a group of youngsters.

6-7-18

BY LAYNE SALIBA
lsaliba@gainesvilletimes.com

This summer, students will get together for the first time to brush up on their scripts, rehearse and perform a musical titled "Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical" in a matter of two weeks as part of the Pam Ware Summer Community Theatre workshop presented by Gainesville Parks & Recreation.

Performances are set for 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on June 13 and 14 at the Pam Ware Performing Arts Center on the Gainesville High School campus. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors.

The musical is about a girl who moves to a new town and doesn't quite fit in. She's picked on and left out, but is befriended by one person who helps others see it doesn't matter if someone is different, they should be treated equally.

"I like this play the most because it tells you there's no difference in people — no matter the pattern of their skin or what they look like," said Vince Kiesel, 12, a rising seventh-grader at Gainesville Middle School who plays Sky Square. "It gets across a good message."

Everything the students, ranging

Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical

When: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. June 13 and 14

Where: Pam Ware Performing Arts Center, 830 Century Place, Gainesville

How much: Adults \$10, children and seniors \$5

More info: www.gainesville.org/community-theatre

from third through eighth grades, learn comes in the first four days of the workshop. The following week, they rehearse and perform four shows.

Learning a play in little time may seem challenging, but Kiesel said "it's not really difficult." They get their scripts and songs in January, so they're able to memorize everything by the time practice and rehearsal roll around.

Kiesel has been taking part in the workshop since he was in third grade. He used to be part of the ensemble, but he's been able to work his way up to a leading role. Kiesel's mother, Kim, said the program, and theater in general, has changed him.

"It's really helped his confidence and public speaking," Kim Kiesel

'I've always had a love for singing and performing. My mom told me in third grade that there was this opportunity, and I went and tried out. After I did, I loved it.'

Isabella Garrish,
Rising Gainesville High school freshman

said. "He doesn't shy away from speaking with adults, and I honestly believe it's from all of this theater experience, I really do. So as a parent, it has been tremendous for our house."

Isabella Garrish, 14, a rising ninth-grader at Gainesville High who plays Ms. Square, said she likes being in front of an audience. She said she knew she wanted to perform since she was young, singing every song that came on the radio.

"I've always had a love for singing and performing," Garrish said. "My mom told me in third grade that there was this opportunity, and I went and tried out. After I did, I loved it."

The summer workshop helps students grow accustomed to theater and encourages them to learn new things during a time of year when students tend to take time off from learning.

Pam Ware, the director of theater at Gainesville High, who

directs the summer workshop, said she tries to make it fun while still teaching skills the students can carry with them.

"We want it to be fun, and we want them to learn something from it," Ware said. "We want them to learn about developing a character, of course, and making their dialogue sound like real conversation rather than like memorized lines."

Even though it's just a week of learning and rehearsing, Ware doesn't take it easy on the students who come. She tries to teach them the same way she teaches her high school students.

"As I always say to my students, you have got to always perform like half of your audience is visually impaired, so it's what they hear," Ware said. "The other half of the audience is deaf, so it's what they see. So if you put the two of those together, you've created reality."

6-7-18

Layne Saliba Life reporter | 770-718-3416 | getout@gainesvilletim



Photos by **SCOTT ROGERS** | The Times

Gainesville High senior Delaney Benson leads a group of youngsters Wednesday, June 6, as they rehearse a musical titled "Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical" at the Pam Ware Performing Arts Center.

6-7-18

month ahead

Food Truck Friday

When: 5-8 p.m. June 15

Where: Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, Gainesville

How much: Free

More info: 770-535-0397, Robyn@lakelanierolympicvenue.org

6-7-18

John Jarrard Foundation Lake Show

When: 6-10 p.m. June 9

Where: Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, Gainesville

How much: \$20; VIP tables \$500

More info: www.johnjarrardfoundation.com

6-7-18



Hall County Dems look for leaders

BY NICK BOWMAN
nbowman@
gainesvilletimes.com

Hall County Democrats will choose the next members of their leading committee on Monday, June 11.

County Democrats are invited to meet for the annual election at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Gainesville Civic Center, according to an announcement from the party. Registration to vote and run for a spot on the committee will be open for 10 minutes beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Seats are allotted along the lines of Hall County Board of Commissioners districts. There are two seats in District 1 (South Hall), 2 (West Hall around Lake Lanier) and 3 (North and East Hall). There's one seat open in District 4, which covers Gainesville and the center of the county. Two at-large seats are also open.

Both voters and candidates must be registered and live in Hall County, and candidates in specific districts must live in and be registered to vote in those districts.

Call Kim Copeland, chairman of the Hall County Democratic Committee, at 470-577-0095 for more information.

6-7-18



'Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical'

When: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. June 14

Where: Pam Ware Performing Arts Center, Gainesville High School Campus, 830 Century Place, Gainesville

How much: \$5-10

More info: 770-531-2680,
parkandrec@gainesville.org,
www.gainesville.org

Food Truck Friday

When: 5-8 p.m. June 15

Where: Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, Gainesville

How much: Free

More info: 770-535-0397,

6-14-18

Recovering addict seeks support for other users

BY JOSHUA SILAVENT
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The perfect man may have some wisdom to dispense about how to stay out of trouble and leap the pitfalls of temptation.

But Avery Nix has learned that shared experience is the greatest teacher of all, particularly when it comes to supporting recovering drug addicts.

"I really do believe that the more people in recovery who lean on others in recovery — that's ultimately what helped me so much," he said.

Nix, who attended and played football at North Hall High and continues to reside locally, has spent much of the last year becoming a vocal and dedicated crusader in the fight against addiction. He has been featured in The Times' series of stories and podcast on the opioid crisis.



Nix

With that crisis flourishing amid the easy availability and nightmarish consequences of prescription painkiller abuse, Nix wants to share his experience using intravenous opiates, including heroin, to help others crawl out from under the claws of addiction.

He has in mind developing a Recovery Community Organization, a kind of nonprofit found in many communities across the nation that are led and governed by people in recovery and treatment for substance abuse.

RCOs provide advocacy, outreach, education and peer-based recovery support services, Nix said.

"It's one person in recovery helping another in recovery," he said. "I think we need RCO's all over the place, not just in Gainesville."

Though it's premature to say what a local RCO might entail, and when it might launch, Nix said a flag football event scheduled for Saturday, June 16, is a start that will unite supporters and interested sponsors.

"I don't want to just speak it into existence," he added.

■ Please see **SUPPORT**, 4C

Flag football for recovery

What: Event for addiction recovery community and supporters

Where: 525 Prior St. NE in Gainesville, on the baseball field at City Park near Martha Hope Cabin and the tennis courts. Snacks and refreshments available.

When: 4-8 p.m. Saturday, June 16

6-10-18

River Forks Park, Lake Lanier Olympic Park beaches have reopened

BY MEGAN REED
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The beaches at River Forks Park and Lake Lanier Olympic Park have reopened, according to a Facebook post from Hall County Parks and Leisure.

The beaches had previously been closed because of high amounts of rain, but the water has been tested for bacteria levels and the areas have been cleared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Chris Lovelady, the corps' assistant operations project manager for Lake Lanier, said it is difficult to test for bacteria after heavy rains because of all the water flowing into the lake.

"We did our round of testing, and we got our results, and the lake went up and then we stopped," Lovelady said.

Today is also a free fishing day, so Georgia residents do not need a license to fish on public waters.

6-9-18

Annual Lake Show matches high water with high spirits



Photos by **DAVID BARNES** | The Times

Above: Mellow Steel performs during the 4th annual John Jarrard Foundation Lake Show at Lake Lanier Olympic Park in Gainesville, on Saturday, June 9. Proceeds benefit local charities such as Good News Clinics, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier and Georgia Mountain Food Bank.

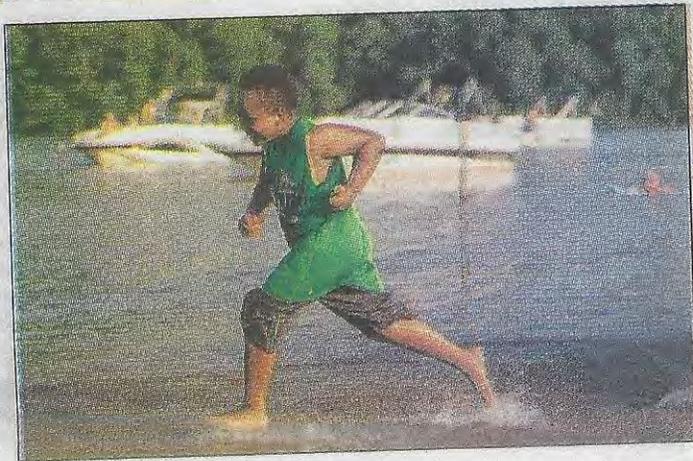
Right: Attendees wait in line for food and refreshments. **See more photos, page 4C.** 6-10-18



Annual John Jarrard Foundation Lake Show



Above: Mellow Steel perform during the fourth annual John Jarrard Foundation Lake Show Saturday, June 9.
Below: Tjah P., from Fayetteville, runs in the high water at Lake Lanier Olympic Park.



Boaters drop anchor at Lake Lanier Olympic Park during the fourth annual John Jarrard Foundation Lake Show in Gainesville, on Saturday, June 9. Proceeds benefit local charities such as Good News Clinics, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier and Georgia Mountain Food Bank.

Photos by **DAVID BARNES** | The Times

6-10-18

How to paddle your dragon



Photos by **DAVID BARNES** | The Times

Members of the J.A. Walters YMCA dragon boat team prepare to board their dragon boat during the Gainesville Hall County Dragon Boat Challenge, on Saturday, June 16, at Lake Lanier Olympic Park.

6-17-18

Event on Lake Lanier challenges novice paddlers for fun, charity

BY LAYNE SALIBA
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Boats with dragon heads carved out of the front and tails carved in the back lined up at the starting line on Lake Lanier at the Lake Lanier Olympic Park. Contestants, all armed with paddles, were inside the boats ready to race. As soon as they heard the cue, they were off.

But these weren't professional paddlers on the lake Saturday, June 16. They were members of Hall County's business community racing to raise money for Hall County Special Olympics during the Gainesville Hall Dragon Boat Challenge.

"It's a great cause, and we come out and want to show support for the community," said Brad Rounds, part of the Hall County Sheriff's Office team. "Plus it's a blast."

Rounds said the sheriff's office has "dominated" the past couple of years, so it likes to make sure there's a team representing it as often as it can. He said the sheriff's office has won in its division every time over the past two years, so "we're pretty good."

But it's not as easy as it looks. The team got out on the water to practice for the



The J.A. Walters YMCA dragon boat team finishes first in the 100-meter race in heat 1 of the Gainesville Hall County Dragon Boat Challenge.

event a few times. Rounds said it's all about timing and making sure everyone is in sync. That's why there's a drummer, or caller, in the boat's bow.

"If you don't have coordination and timing down, the boat is not going to go anywhere," Rounds said. "People are going to be smashing into each other. It's actually a lot tougher than you think. You've got to concentrate and you've got to really work."

During their first heat,

Jim O'Dell, high performance and dragon boat coach at the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, said the finish between the sheriff's office and the team from Wrigley was too close to call.

Gainesville's J.A. Walters Family YMCA has fielded a team almost every year, and included some new members this time around. Among the first-timers was Taylor Bond, who said she had a lot of fun. Her crew only practiced once before the race but ended up win-

ning in its first heat, which Bond credited to Emily Young, wellness director at the YMCA.

"Emily sent a whole bunch of videos for us to watch before we did a little bit of practice," Bond said. "So I felt pretty prepared."

Young said the YMCA has a good relationship with the LCKC and she always wants to be a part of its events.

"My favorite part is the adrenaline rush," Young

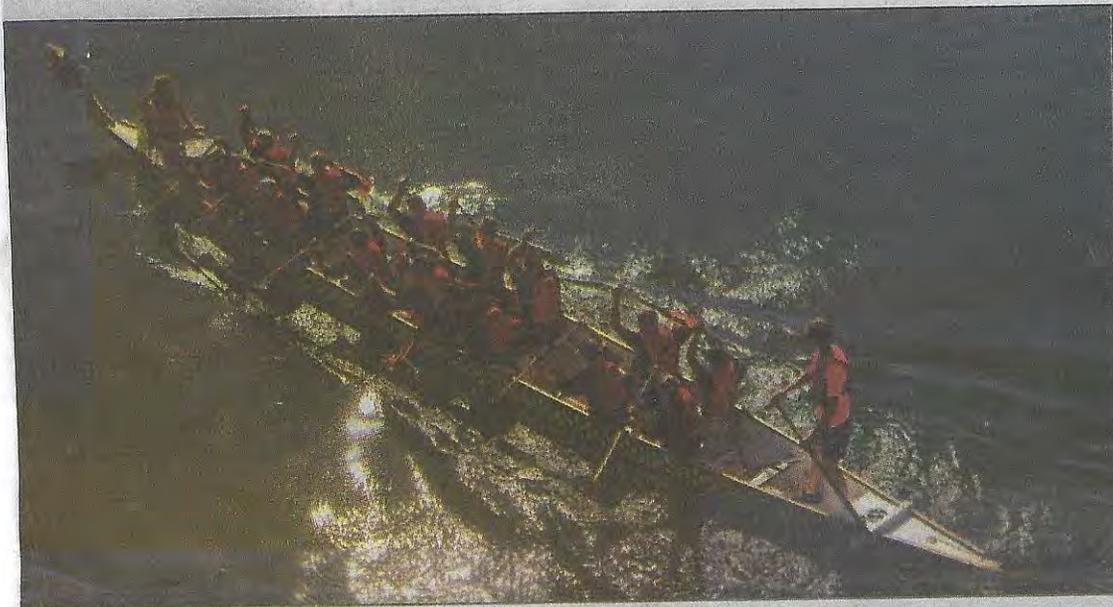
■ Please see **DRAGON, 3C**

6-17-18



Photos by DAVID BARNES | The Times

Above: Participants dock their dragon boats after racing. **Below:** The Hall County Sheriff's Office dragon boat team paddles out to the race course during the Gainesville Hall County Dragon Boat Challenge in Gainesville, on Saturday, June 16, at Lake Lanier Olympic Park.



DRAGON

■ Continued from 1C

said. "Because when you get a group of people together who aren't together all the time ... everybody gets in there and works together. And then when we win, it's super exciting."

The event was originally scheduled for June 2 but heavy rains brought the lake above full pool and led to postponement due to debris and dangerous conditions. The change in date caused half the teams to back out.

"It's not as crowded as it usually

is," said Kat von Hacke, personal trainer at Limestone Personal Training and member of the YMCA team. "It's a little bit more relaxed in a way."

Though there were fewer competitors, there was still a sense of community as people came together for fun and to raise money for a good cause. Each team paid a \$650 entry fee and some raised more through fundraisers.

"It's such good team-building and friendship event," said Beth Hefner, volunteer with the LCKC. "It's just so fun and the people love it. They come out here and think they can't do it, but then they do."

'It's such good team-building and friendship event. It's just so fun and the people love it ...'

Beth Hefner

LCKC volunteer



Jim O'Dell, high performance and dragon boat coach at the Lake Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, bails water out of a dragon boat before the start of a race.

6-17-18

Lake rentals spike during summer

Businesses offer kayaks, canoes, other watercraft to Lanier visitors looking to beat heat



Kayaks and lifejackets that are available to rent are displayed at the Olympic Park Boathouse in Gainesville, on Saturday, June 16, where paddleboats, canoes and paddleboards are available on the weekends.

Northeast Georgia Paddling Company

When: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday - Sunday

Where: 2680 Hammond Dr.,
Cumming

Contact: 770-285-8774

More Info: www.northgapaddling.com

LCKC Rentals

When: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday

Where: 3105 Clarks Bridge
Rd., Gainesville

Contact: 770-287-7888

More Info: www.lckc.org/programs/recreational-opportunities

Lanier Boat Charter

When: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Monday - Sunday

Where: 6800 Lights Ferry
Road, Flowery Branch, GA
30542

Contact: 678-882-8062

More Info: www.lanierboatcharter.com

6-18-18