

# SMOKE SIGNAL

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 9

*Serving the Smoke Rise Community since 1968*

December, 2021

www.smokesignalnews.com

## Happy Holidays!

Best wishes for a safe, joyous holiday season!

--The Smoke Signal Staff

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## A Whole Lot of Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere you go!

That sentiment is definitely true at 1833 Smokerise Summit. The Christmas season is in full swing and the lights are shining brightly. As in years past, donations are being collected for the Georgia Make-A-Wish Foundation. Please note that 100% of collected donations go directly to this worthy charity. Help us exceed last year's total of \$11,456 and reach our new goal of \$12,000.



To help achieve this goal we are asking individuals and local businesses to get involved and match donations or a portion of donations so that we can bring as much cheer as possible to local children through the Georgia Make-A-Wish Foundation. Since 2012, a total of \$48,160 has been collected for charity. For information on matching donations, please call Victor at (404) 786-1330.

Merry Christmas and be sure to come by and enjoy the lights with your friends and family!



## A Dazzling Display of Holiday Events

*by Barbara Bruschi*

It's the time of the year when everybody wishes good cheer! Enjoy the many holiday festivities that will make the Christmas Season a joyful event for the young and old.

Here are some selections of local social gatherings that will bring you Christmas joy, lift your spirits, and warm your heart. Please check with the event organizers on their COVID-19 policy as some, like concert venues and theaters, may require proof of vaccination and masks.

### A Christomas Carol at the Alliance Theater

November 12-December 24

An old-time favorite that generations have enjoyed. This performance has a dramatic makeover! For tickets call (404) 733-4600.

### Stone Mountain Park Christmas

November 13-January 2

A magical experience with a fantastic light display, parades and Santa that is sure to mesmerize you! <https://stonemountainpark.com/>

### Garden Lights, Holiday Nights

at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

November 13-January 15

See the lights perform a dance, go along the flower walk, and just delight in the breathtaking displays. <http://bit.ly/ABGglight19>.

### Callanwolde Winter House

November 26-December 11

This offers a reflection of an art-filled experience.

Call (404) 872-5338 for tickets.

### Atlanta Ballet's Nutcracker

at Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center

December 4-29

This captivating story and dazzling production will inspire the imagination of children and foster the appreciation of the fine arts. It's a treat for everyone! <https://www.atlantaballet.com/performances/nutcracker>

### Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

at the Fabulous Fox Theatre, December 7-12

For tickets call (855) 285-8499 or visit

<https://www.foxtheatre.org/events/detail/the-grinch>.

### Cinnamon Grits, Christmas in the South

at Art Station Theater in Stone Mountain

December 9-19

A delightful play that will warm your heart and provide an unforgettable evening. For tickets call (770) 469-1105 or visit <http://artstation.org/>.

## Our Amazing Smoke Rise Neighbors

Many Kanawha residents know Beverly Banister from her work for four years now heading up our Kanawha Community Association Welcome Committee and from her friendly waves during her regular walks in the neighborhood. What you might not know is that she was inducted into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame Class of 2021 at a recent awards ceremony.

Beverly graduated from Auburn University in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. After college, she joined the EPA as a project manager working to clean up hazardous waste sites, then on to management of water projects addressing water pollution. She climbed the ladder at the EPA, eventually becoming director of the Region 4 Water Division.

Following her tenure in the Water Division, Beverly became the director of the Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division for Region 4. In 2019, her leadership and expertise were rewarded with an appointment as the Region 4 Deputy Regional Administrator, the No. 2 EPA official, for the entire Southeast. She retired in that role last year.

For more than 30 years, Banister has championed initiatives including establishing the first Women in Science and Engineering chapter in her region. She serves on Auburn's Engineering Council and is highly involved in Auburn's 100+ Women Strong program, which seeks to attract, support and retain female students in Auburn Engineering.

What a great honor and deserving recipient. Kanawha is proud to have Beverly as a neighbor!



...Continued on page 3



## Smoke Signal

P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085  
 A non-profit service organization devoted to furthering neighborhood cooperation with the aid of good neighborhood communication.

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Views and/or opinions expressed in articles, stories or letters published in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the *Smoke Signal* or its staff. The information contained in it is believed to be accurate, but not warranted in any way. It is the policy of the *Smoke Signal* to publish signed letters to the Editor. We will not publish unsigned letters, but will withhold the writer's name upon request. All content may be edited.

### Preferred Formats for Smoke Signal Submissions

When sending articles and photos to the *Smoke Signal*, it is helpful if articles could be sent in .doc or .docx format. Articles sent in .pdf format cannot be edited or changed in any way. Also photos sent in .jpg format can easily be opened and formatted to fit a particular space, so that is also a preferred method. Thanks for helping us make your neighborhood paper the best it can be!

In the future, digital copies of the *Smoke Signal* will be posted to the archives at [www.smokesignalnews.com](http://www.smokesignalnews.com). For now, you can request a digital copy of the current issue, after the first of each month, by contacting [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com). You can also visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews](http://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalNews) to view postings of newsletter pictures and stories throughout the month.

## Smoke Signal Deadlines

### DECEMBER 13

Please e-mail articles to:

[staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)

(Word documents or text file attachments preferred)  
 PLEASE DO NOT SEND CLASSIFIED ADS  
 TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS

Extra copies may be picked up at  
 The Smoke Rise Community Garden on Hugh Howell Rd.

Deadline for classified ads is DECEMBER 10

### SMOKE SIGNAL FLYER INSERT POLICY

Cost: \$150 by check to *Smoke Signal*  
 Deadline to Receive: 6:00 p.m. on 19th of month  
 Flyer inserts should be 8 1/2" x 11" (flat, not folded)  
 Please provide 2,300 copies  
 Reservation Required:  
 Contact Barbara Luton, (770) 491-6711 by 15th of month.

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### Correction:

The November issue front page article, "A Grateful Nation Gives Thanks for its Blessings" contained a typo. The third paragraph, first sentence, references the date of December 11, 1960. Research shows that December 21, 1620 is the correct date for when the Pilgrims came ashore at Plymouth. The *Smoke Signal* staff regrets this error.

### Dudes on Food

are taking a break in December but will return in the New Year with fresh insights on local dining. Happy Holidays from the Dudes to you!

### ATTENTION GRADUATES, NEWLYWEDS, AND HONOREES

Please send in your picture and a brief article for publication in the *Smoke Signal*.  
 Email submissions to [staff@smokesignalnews.com](mailto:staff@smokesignalnews.com)



### DID YOUR PAPER GET WET?

EXTRA COPIES OF THE SMOKE SIGNAL ARE NOW AVAILBLE AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN Look for the wooden box labeled *Smoke Signal*.



### ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

The *Smoke Signal* has reached its ad-space limit and we are now keeping a waiting list for future advertisements.

Please send your ad-size requests to Frank Luton, [luton@mindspring.com](mailto:luton@mindspring.com), and your ads will be included as space becomes available, in the order requests are received.

## Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Connecting in New Ways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Chris George: Senior Pastor  
 Bart McNeil: Associate Pastor of Administration,  
 Ministry Support and Congregational Care  
 Becky Caswell-Speight: Minister of Families,  
 Faith Formation and Connection  
 Jim Smith: Pastoral Care Associate  
 Amanda Coe Burton: Ministry Director for Children and Families  
 Harrison Litzell: Co-Director of Weekday School  
 Stacey McNeil: Co-Director of Weekday School  
 Telephone: (770) 469-5856  
[SmokeRiseBaptist.org](http://SmokeRiseBaptist.org)

### SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Attend Sunday School through Zoom or In-Person  
 Schedule Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)  
 11:00 a.m. Attend Worship via Live Stream or In-Person  
 Live Stream Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/streamingatsmokerise/)  
 5:00 p.m. Children and Youth Activities In-Person

### MONDAY

7:00 p.m. Journeys Racial Justice Study Group  
 Zoom or In-Person  
 Schedule Available at [smokerisebaptist.org/journeys/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/journeys/)

### WEDNESDAY

5:00 p.m. Dinner  
 6:00 p.m. In-Person Programing for all ages,  
 join the Adult Bible Study via Live Stream

Live Stream at [smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/](http://smokerisebaptist.org/wednesday-evening-activities/)

## Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor ~ Rev. J. Caleb Clarke III  
 Director of Spiritual Formation ~ Jeanine Fulton  
 Director of Family & Outreach ~ Mark Sauls  
 Interim Director of Music ~ Ben Holcomb  
 Organist ~ Carole Mitchell  
 Financial Coordinator ~ Jan Zabarac  
 Director of Weekday Ministries ~ Celeste Sears  
 Office Coordinator ~ Christina Wetzel-Sizemore  
 5801 Hugh Howell Road ~ Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
 770-469-4881 ~ [www.eastminster.us](http://www.eastminster.us)

### Sundays:

9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom and In-Person  
 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School via Zoom and In-Person  
 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Live streaming of Worship service

### Events:

December 8 at 5:30 p.m. Game Night and Dinner  
 Reservations required by December 3  
 December 13 at 5:30 p.m. "Voces Amicis" Chamber Choir in Concert  
 December 19 at 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols Worship service  
 December 24 at 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service

Sunday School Zooms and streaming information can be found on our website at <https://www.eastminster.us/sundays>.

## MC3 Church

Senior Minister: Art Stansberry  
 Worship Minister: Leslie Riley  
 Student Minister: Will Tyler  
 Children's Minister: Rae Tyler Caggiula  
 (770) 783-1035 ~ [www.mc3.life](http://www.mc3.life)

Sunday Worship at Parkview High School Auditorium

9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts; adult and student c-groups; nursery and Sunday school for infants to 5th graders.  
 10:30 am. Worship service

C-groups throughout the week at various homes -- check out our website for more times and addresses

### Business Address and Hours:

1316 Rockbridge Rd, Suite M  
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mailing Address: 1227 Rockbridge Rd., SW, STE 208-251  
 Stone Mountain, GA 30087

## First Moravian Church

Pastor: Rev. Elroy Christopher  
 Congregational Acolyte: Bill Hitz  
 (770) 491-7250, (770) 755-8289  
[www.gamoravian.org](http://www.gamoravian.org)

Sundays: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School--Adults & Children  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

## Incarnate Word Lutheran Church

Please join us for worship on Sundays at 8:45 a.m.  
 at the First Moravian Church sanctuary  
 4950 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087

## Mountain West Church

Pastor: Michael Shreve  
 (770) 491-0228 ~ [www.mwchurch.com](http://www.mwchurch.com)  
 4818 Hugh Howell Rd., Stone Mountain

### Sunday Services:

9:00 a.m. masks required  
 11:00 a.m. masks optional

In-person and streaming online on Facebook and [mwchurch.com](http://mwchurch.com)

**Hops at the History Center**

On Tuesday, December 14th, DeKalb History Center will host its next Hops at the History Center Author Event. Author Neely Young will be talking about his book, *Georgia Made: The Most Important Figures Who Shaped the State in the Twentieth Century*, which highlights the lives of Georgia's most influential people of the twentieth century.

The people mentioned in the book helped Georgia morph into the diverse and prosperous state it is today. Influential people like Martin Luther King Jr., Jimmy Carter, Alice Walker, "Hammerin' Hank" Aaron, Ted Turner, and many more, whose trades varied from sports, art, business, civil rights, to changing lives in immeasurable ways.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://dekalb-history-center.square.site/>.

**Dazzling Display... continued from page 1**

**United Tucker Methodist Church Christmas at Tucker**  
December 12 at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
For tickets please call (770) 938-3030.

**Celebrate the Holidays at Atlanta Symphony Hall**  
December 17-18  
Featuring Handel's Messiah and other concerts. For tickets call (404) 733-5000.

The Atlanta Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola, and Atlanta area museums might offer something inspiring things to do, as well. Also, remember to check the *Smoke Signal* for local churches' holiday activities or call the respective churches for their Christmas programs.

To all of you, far and near, wishing you a Merry Christmas Season and a happy, healthy, and successful New Year!

~ **A Christmas Tapestry** ~  
Music of the season woven together in concert  
Presented by the Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
Sanctuary Choir and Instrumentalists  
*Featuring artists:*  
*Kathy Farmer, flute*  
*Luther Enloe, classical guitar*  
*and Gillian Huff, trumpet*  
~ **Sunday, December 19 at 7:00 PM** ~  
Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
5901 Hugh Howell Road

**Our Community Celebrates Christmas Eve on Main Street**

The tradition continues! Coffee & Cocoa beginning at 11:00 to 11:30 p.m. Carols & Candlelight from 11:30 on. Organized by volunteers from all across our Tucker community. We again expect more than 100 people to continue the tradition of celebrating Christmas Eve together and sharing the wonder of the season.

For additional information, contact Art Wood at [art@artwoodonline.com](mailto:art@artwoodonline.com) or call (404) 909-3567.

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**TUCKER WALK TO REMEMBER**  
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Website: [CenturionAG.com](http://CenturionAG.com)  
Home Office: 3900 Millstone Lane

*We'll Enjoy Connecting With Our Smoke Rise Neighbors.*

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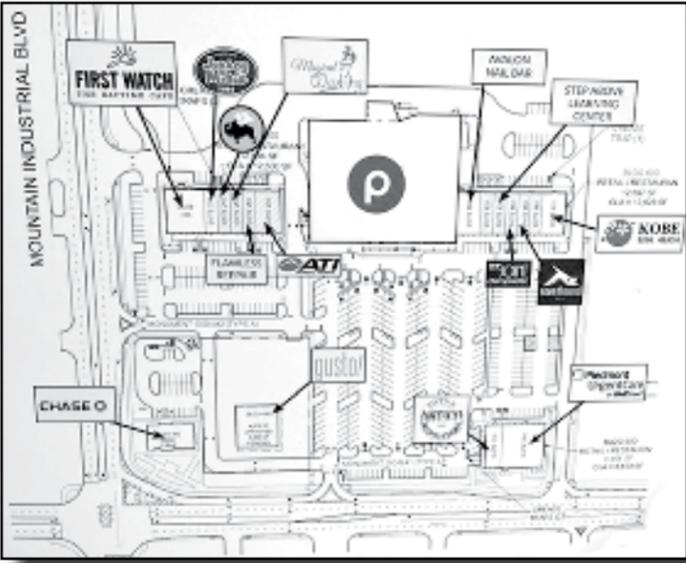


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**Coming Soon!**

We are excited to see what is opening in the new shopping center at the corner of Hugh Howell and Mountain Industrial. Publix is rumored to open this month, and the developer reports an unprecedented 90+ percent of the available spaces are already leased. In this diagram, you can see some of the new businesses expected to open early next year.



*Tucker on the Big Screen*

by Rachel Caines

Thank you to our readers and the City of Tucker for helping compile the following list of productions in Tucker so far this year...

Movies:

- A Very Loud Christmas!\* (Nickelodeon)
- Dog Gone\* (Netflix)
- Jerry and Marge Go Large (Paramount+)
- My Best Friend's Exorcism (Amazon)
- Senior Year (Netflix)
- The Out-Laws (Netflix)

TV Series:

- BMF aka Black Mafia Family (Starz)
- Class of '09 (FX)
- I Love a Mama's Boy\* (TLC Reality)
- Just Beyond (Disney+)
- MacGyver: Season 5\* (CBS)
- Monarch (Fox)
- P-Valley\* (Starz)
- Queens (ABC)
- Sweet Magnolias (Netflix)
- The First Lady (Showtime)
- The Wonder Years\* (ABC)

Commercials:

- Cars.com\*
- Iora Primary Care
- Spectrum Cellular\*

\* Denotes filming conducted in Smoke Rise.

Got a lead? Send it to [blowinsmokeSR@gmail.com](mailto:blowinsmokeSR@gmail.com).

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**Smoke Rise Elementary Recognized as National ESEA Distinguished School**

by Barbara Luton

Smoke Rise Elementary has been recognized as a 2021 National ESEA Distinguished School. This is a national honor awarded by the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators to two of the highest performing Title 1 schools in each state. Hill City Elementary in Pickens County was the other recognized Georgia school. ESEA stands for Elementary Secondary Education Act which is funded by No Child Left Behind.

“Despite the challenging circumstances of the last year, Smoke Rise put forth an outstanding effort to provide an excellent education for every student,” State School superintendent Richard Woods stated. “This is a well-deserved national honor for the faculty, staff, students and parents of the school.”

Smoke Rise has made notable progress in student achievement in ELA, math, science, and social studies over the last 4 years. Students have a wide variety of enrichment opportunities including STEM, science lab, agriculture lab, gifted/advanced content courses, guided reading, an afterschool program and clubs like art, chorus and coding. The school has 40 community partners volunteering their time and resources to support the students.

Thank you for the hard work of the administrators, counselors, teachers and paraprofessionals who collected and analyzed data, ensured students were receiving standard aligned instruction and observed classrooms. A lot of extra work goes into applying for this recognition. Congratulations on a job well done!

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**Busy Fall for Woman's Club**

Fall and the holidays are a busy time for the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club. The members support many charities during the year and especially near the holidays.

An ongoing project this year has been in cooperation with the Tucker United Methodist Church in assembling bags for the homeless in our area. Items such as



combs, toothbrushes, socks, soap and washcloths have been placed in bags to be distributed. The Tucker police precinct keeps the bags in cars to be given out when needed.

Several new projects have included collecting shoes for Afghan refugee children in conjunction with St. Vincent de Paul charity. Our Night Guild has taken Halloween bags and has been gathering personal care items and items for the house at Wellspring Living. Ongoing projects include Christmas boxes for Samaritan's Purse and cards for our veterans and for active-duty military.

The club filled 150 Trick or Treat bags for the Stone Mountain Trunk or Treat event and assembled a scarecrow for the contest in Stone Mountain village. If you attended Tunes by the Tracks this fall, you may know that the Woman's Club supports that event

as well with a monetary donation. Members are also active in planting, tending and making identity stakes at the Stone Mountain Community Garden.

If you might be interested in joining a service club that has a lot of fun and does a lot to help our community, please give Barbara Luton a call at (770) 491-6711 or email at [info@stonemountainwomensclub.org](mailto:info@stonemountainwomensclub.org).



**Smoke Signal Staff Shout Out**



*Special thanks to the Smoke Signal staff for their work and dedication. We are grateful for this talented and committed group of volunteers (and neighbors) who come together every month of the year to thoughtfully author and curate stories that connect us and remind us why we love our Smoke Rise-Tucker community. Best holiday wishes to you and yours!*

**GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club**

salutes its members for their dedication to community service:

*13,069 volunteer hours  
\$49,400 funds donated  
\$29,293 value of goods donated*

*In support of organizations and individuals in Stone Mountain, Tucker, and the greater East Metro area.*

<https://www.stonemountainwomensclub.org>

**Place of Gratitude**

by Victoria Crosby

When your relationship is one with the source of all,  
your higher power, God, spirit,  
by whatever name you call  
her, him or it,  
when you surrender to this,  
accept what is, and don't resist  
don't try to change  
what you know you can't change,  
let it be, as in the prayer for serenity,  
be grateful for who you are,  
your accomplishments so far,  
and be open to receive,  
and believe the blessings that will come to you  
when you are in that place of gratitude.

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**Out the Window**

by Beth Henson

Early morning was well on its way as I groggily padded through the kitchen in search of my first cup of coffee. Our patchwork calico kitty was skillfully threading figure eights through my legs as Bella, our fuzzy black fur baby, danced a careful circle around us, both anticipating their forthcoming kibble. As I peered out the kitchen window, I saw a flash of brilliant scarlet in the leafy azalea bush hugging the corner of the house. On second glance, I spotted Mr. Cardinal in a quiet but animated conversation with his beautiful but more camouflaged soft brown mate. Their intense chips and chirps indicated that something important had their attention. Just then, I noticed movement high in the now bare poplar tree nearby. A majestic red tailed hawk (the most common hawk in North America) was carefully surveying his kingdom with his keen golden eyes. I had often seen him in the wooded patch of our front yard, swooping tree to tree with his large wings (up to 52 inch span). I was always captivated by his sheer beauty and amazing aerial talents. In a facing wind he is able to stay aloft without even beating his wings!

Suddenly, something moving in my neighbor's creeping green ivy caught the vigilant hawk's attention. I watched as he effortlessly took flight to investigate. I wanted to shout, "The coast is clear!" as I watched the perceptive cardinal couple quickly fly away to safer ground!



Red Tailed Hawk by Beth Henson

**Cherokee Rose Restaurant**

By Patricia Baumann, MD

Cherokee Rose Restaurant is now serving fabulous gourmet food on the corner of Main and East Mountain Streets in the village of Stone Mountain. Its online name, "BBQ Bar and Kitchen," doesn't really tell you how good it is. It has more in the way of fine dining than that name implies!

Cherokee Rose opened after a lengthy remodel of a building dating back to 1895. Its beautiful interior features a stunning reclaimed wood bar, reclaimed wood on the walls, and custom-made tables. In addition to the regular tables, there is elegant lounging area that includes a leather sofa and chairs.

The menu is the creation of Executive Chef Greg Herndon, among the best of Atlanta's high end chefs. Greg was formerly Executive Chef at the 57th Fighter Group. He also showcased his culinary talents many years ago in Virginia Highland, as owner and Executive Chef of the Tiburon Grill. His fried soft-shell crab was the best I personally ever tasted! We are fortunate that such talent is now in our neighborhood!

Owner Jonathan Hartnett is a Stone Mountain native, and recently moved to Smoke Rise. This is Jonathan's third restaurant after opening the Peruvian restaurant Las Brasas in Decatur with Mike Koechlin in 2007. He also opened the Mexican eatery Los Arcos in Stone Mountain in 2016. Cherokee Rose is named after the state flower, the menu features traditional Georgia recipes, beer, and wine.

Our dining experience was wonderful, highlighted by our excellent waiter. I sampled a sparkling Cherokee Rose from Georgia but decided on a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc instead. My husband discovered an excellent Chardonnay as well as a superb local lager beer. He enjoyed the colossal shrimp cocktail with large fresh shrimp, and I had the featured arugula salad with pear, cheddar cheese, and pecans. Excellent for both! We split an entrée, the pecan brown butter trout, a huge serving that was easily enough for both of us. The trout was impeccably prepared and tasty! For sides, we chose the cauliflower burnt ends (delicious and not as black as I feared) and the burgundy cremini mushrooms (excellent). My husband also enjoyed a chocolate pot de crème for dessert.

Overall first impression: 5 stars!

This restaurant is open seven days a week, hours are 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. It also features live music Saturday and Sunday! Brunch is coming soon. Word of mouth is spreading fast about this restaurant, so call for reservations or visit during the weekdays.

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**Talk About Talent!**

By Susan Gilbert

Lindsay Jason, a local artist has always been a superfan of Atlanta United's Josef Martinez. When she returned home from UGA for summer break, she decided to focus on her hobby of painting and working part time at the Fanatic's store at the Mercedes Benz stadium trying to grab a glimpse of the Atlanta United Soccer games and Josef Martinez during her breaks.

Lindsay wanted to create her own masterpiece of soccer star Josef Martinez and went to work completing a large painting of him incorporating elements of him being the King of Atlanta United, his signature victory look after scoring, and combining his Atlanta and Venezuelan culture. When the painting was finished, she posted it on Instagram as she does with many of her pieces and lo and behold, she received so many comments. She and many others tagged Josef Martinez and the two of them chatted back and forth. When Lindsay asked Josef if he would sign her art, he shocked her by saying yes! Ironically, Lindsay is minoring in Spanish at UGA, so their conversation was in Spanish!

Atlanta United's media person contacted Lindsay letting her know Josef had shared her artwork with her and they wanted to give her two tickets to the match and would coordinate a meeting with Josef after the game. This was all amazing, and the entire family was so excited for Lindsay!



Lindsay and her brother, Spencer went to the game and were escorted to meet Josef. Lindsay was in a state of shock. She met Josef in person, he saw the painting in person and was smiling from ear to ear. He gave her a great big hug and took multiple selfies with Lindsay as the crowd cheered them on. Josef signed the painting, and she was shaking so much that Josef took her phone and took their selfies for her. As though this moment couldn't get any better, Atlanta United had just won the match 1-0 and Josef scored the winning goal! Josef gave Lindsay his winning jersey.

This amazing story was featured in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, Major League Soccer, and other sports mediums. This entire experience was amazing for Lindsay who was able to meet Josef Martinez and have him appreciate her artwork of her making him the King of Spades!

Lindsay played soccer at various local soccer clubs growing up in Tucker. She also studied art and played soccer at Greater Atlanta Christian School. Lindsay is a rising Junior at UGA majoring in Ecology and is currently studying abroad in Costa Rica and is still receiving commentary about her painting.

Lindsay and Spencer are the children of two remarkable parents who are Kanawha neighbors. Her dad, Daniel Jason, is the managing partner of Jason and Bradley, LLC a personal injury law firm, and her mom, Claire Jason, is a judge serving the DeKalb County Magistrate Court.



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**HANCHETT-CLARKE**

Dr. & Mrs. Donald (Geonice) Hanchett would like to announce the marriage of their son, Mr. Kevin J. Hanchett, to Ms. Diamond Clarke on June 25, 2021. The Hanchett Family is honored to Introduce Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Hanchett. The couple had a beautiful wedding and an amazing honeymoon. We are so happy for both of them and wish them a lifetime of love and happiness!

**A New Tradition Has Begun!**

by Susan Gilbert

This fall, Smoke Rise Country Club proudly hosted our community's first Annual Car Show on the Green. The perfect fall weather made it especially fun to stroll around, talk to the car owners about their project cars, and meet neighbors.



The Club provided an impressive buffet of finger food and beverages on the back patio overlooking the driving range filled with cars so car buffs could enjoy a sunny fall afternoon with neighbors and friends.

Ted Siljestrom, CEO of AutoGlo, is the driving force behind this event. Back in 1997, he began the company with a mobile crew doing repair work for metro-Atlanta car dealerships. Seeing there was a business offering this service, the business graduated to a 5,000 square foot body shop in Marietta. Building on that success, a few years ago, Ted moved his business to Tucker and could not be happier with the move.

Naturally, being in the body shop business, Ted got to know many of our area's devoted classic car owners. Knowing how proud they are of their antique and some exotic vehicles, he wanted to create a venue to showcase them... and a tradition was born.

Participants and attendees alike encouraged Ted to make this not just an annual event, but a spring and fall event for the Smoke Rise community, and so it was done. The Smoke Signal will keep you posted on the date (and rain-date) for the spring event. In the meantime, let your classic car friends know it is coming and contact Ted at AutoGlo for advance information, if you are interested in entering one of your cars or just coming out for a fun afternoon with friends and neighbors.

Car shows are fun, but this one takes it up a notch with the cars on the driving range with a beautiful country club as a backdrop.

**CDC: Safer Ways to Celebrate Holidays**

Holiday traditions are important for families. Here are a few ways to enjoy holiday traditions while protecting your health:

- Protect those not yet eligible for vaccination such as young children by getting yourself and other eligible people around them vaccinated.
- Wear well-fitting masks over your nose and mouth if you are in public indoor settings if you are not fully vaccinated.
- Even those who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask in public indoor settings in communities with substantial to high transmission.
- Outdoors is safer than indoors. Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces.
- If you are sick or have symptoms, don't host or attend a gathering.
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have a close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- If you are traveling for a holiday or event, visit CDC's Travel page to help you decide what is best for you and your family. CDC still recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated.

For the CDC's full list of recommendations and special considerations for this holiday season, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html>.



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**HEALTH NOTES:**

by Cheri Schneider, M.D.

**CBD, Marijuana and Hemp:  
Should you put this in Granny's stocking?**

I've thought about writing an article about CBD for several months now but hesitated because CBD has become a flashpoint of heated discussion with many people. Much of the 'flash' is opinion that is based on testimonials and stories from friends and family instead of from well-controlled scientific studies. I thought many people might want to know a little bit about what the differences are between CBD, marijuana and hemp, which all come from the same plant species. At another time I will go into whether there is evidence for use of CBD. Spoiler alert: there is, but don't go wild until you know more.

The earliest Cannabis pollen was found in Western China and the northeast plateaus of Tibet. The pollen is indistinguishable from the pollen of hops, leading some to believe they were at one time the same plant. The classification of the Cannabis plant has been under debate for centuries. Some of this could be due to human interventions like cross breeding of the plant. There is a wild form of cannabis which still grows in eastern Europe and Asia. While scientists debate whether Cannabis is one or three species, the main species currently recognized is *C. sativa*. From *C. sativa*, we get Hemp and Marijuana.

There are 483 identifiable chemicals known to exist in the cannabis plant. 85 of these chemicals, called cannabinoids, have been isolated from the plant-- including the two most abundant forms- Cannabidiol (CBD) and Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). CBD is not psychoactive (active in the brain). THC is psychoactive and gets credit for the marijuana 'high'. Currently cannabis plants are categorized by their ratio of CBD to THC. Non-drug plants like Hemp have low levels of THC (<0.3%) and higher levels of CBD. Intoxicating or drug plants have high levels of THC and lower levels of CBD.

HEMP is the Cannabis variety that has the psychoactive component cross bred out of it. It is primarily used for oil, food or feed, and fiber for clothes and other products like paper and rope. Hemp fiber is much longer lasting and stronger than cotton fiber. The Controlled Substances Act in 1970 outlawed growing or selling of both Hemp and Marijuana in the United States. In 2014, the Agricultural Act differentiated between Hemp and Marijuana, freeing Hemp from many of the regulations that marijuana had been held under. This means Hemp products are now widely available. Hemp must contain < 0.3% THC to be grown or imported into the US. Hemp oil is high in omega three fats, amino acids, vitamin C, calcium, iron and magnesium.

MARIJUANA is the Cannabis variety that is bred for the psychoactive component THC that gives marijuana its 'high'. Several states have made marijuana legal for recreational use. It comes in many forms including plugs to smoke and edible food products like gummies and brownies. These products are not well regulated or monitored by any agency. This is a cause of concern for the DEA and FDA as there are increasing accounts of products being contaminated with other drugs and substances. Edible marijuana is processed more slowly by the body than the smoked variety and can result in a high that may hit several hours after ingestion and may last 24 hours or more. Because it takes a long time for the high, some are taking a second 'helping' or using other drugs with the edible and are getting themselves into trouble when the edible kicks in.

CBD is a non-psychoactive chemical found in the Cannabis plant. It is present in all cannabis plants to varying degrees. With the exception of Idaho, South Dakota and Nebraska, CBD and Hemp oil is legal if the THC level is under 0.3%. CBD products are not regulated by any agency. Because of this, the 'purity' of the product varies widely and, in some cases, contains no cannabidiol at all.

DRUG testing: Hemp oil and CBD products can contain tiny amounts of THC (must be <0.3%, remember?); however, they are not regulated. This can cause a routine drug test to be positive for THC. If you work for a company that must drug test, it is important to know that a drug test will not be able to distinguish between use of marijuana or tiny amounts of THC from regular ingestion of hemp oil or use of CBD products. And because most products are unregulated, they could contain more THC than is allowed, so the positive drug test could be a true positive. Marijuana use can result in a positive drug test that remains positive for days or even weeks depending on how often you use and the form you choose.

Keep an eye out for a future article dedicated to CBD products.



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*These members of our community have donated to help us accomplish our mission. We hope you will consider supporting our good cause of keeping our local news flowing. Thank you!*

*If you would like to join your fellow neighbors as patrons, all you have to do is to send your contribution to the Smoke Signal, P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085. Your check should be made out to the Smoke Signal. The subject line should say, "Patron Contribution."*

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Charles Dickens' Christmas

by Victoria Crosby

The holiday season of Dickens' time evokes an image most sublime. Like a Christmas card from long ago, a scene of softy falling snow. People dressed in velvet and lace, wearing a happy smiling face underneath top hat or hood, fur muff and cape, which certainly would keep away the winter chill. If you close your eyes, you can see it still. Horse drawn sleighs with jingle bells, smoky, roasted chestnut smells. Every year at Christmastide there is a longing far and wide to be in England in Charles Dickens' Day and hear the carols the church bells play; to relive The Christmas Carol story of redemption and of glory. It resonates within our hearts with a timeless message which imparts the knowledge that we really should try to always see the good in every person that we meet, which makes our own life more complete. That financial success or material things by themselves seldom brings happiness, for that is found in helping others all around. So make this the season you fulfill the Christmas promise of goodwill.

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**'Tis the Season?**  
by Joel Gilbert

You would think that everyone would be happy campers at this time of the year. After all, they finally got to spend time with family and loved ones

over Thanksgiving and are now looking forward to the Christmas season and the New Year.

Oh, yeah... there are supply chain disruptions that are diminishing our hopes for some things under the tree. And, yes, prices for everything are going up. And, yes, it is disappointing when the political process to solve these problems seems more divisive than helpful.

However, when you dig a bit deeper you often find many people are down now for other reasons: they are remembering loved ones who are no longer with them; and they are concerned about their health, safety, and financial well being over time. Some of these feelings could be fueled by the conditions of their environment. But, perhaps it is more about perspective. Let me explain.

As I have talked to people who have come back from some of the most desperate situations around the world, where people truly fear for their lives and have no assurance of food for their families, their positive perspectives have surprised me. Without exception, they tell me that they are happy despite these hardships-- they treasure their families, their traditions, and what they do have.

Reflecting on this, I wonder if we make ourselves 'unhappy' by comparing our lives to those we admire or yearning for what others have? It is important to take note of - and responsibility for - what we absorb from the environment around us and the impact on our sense of well-being. This includes the content we consume on TV and other screens in our lives (PCs, laptops, and phones).

In general, overconsumption of media can be unhealthy for us. The constant droning of the news cycle and social media can raise our blood pressures and widen the chasm between how we view life and others. Recent exposure of Facebook (now META) shows the potentially harmful effects of its content on users. Sure, some media operate in the public good and do no harm, but these are not the ones that most people spend their time consuming.

Therefore, I encourage everyone to take time during this holiday season to take stock of what you are ingesting. Spend less time consuming media and more time with people who lift you up and fill you with joy.

**NEWS YOU CAN USE** by Aviva Hoffmann

**So, You Think You Paid a Scammer?**

'Tis the season for spending and scamming! You should be cautious all year long but also especially aware of potential scams during the holidays. If you think you've paid a scammer, there may still be something you can do about it. Even if this doesn't apply to you, you probably know a friend, family member, or someone in your community who might find themselves in this kind of predicament.

Scammers can be very convincing, when they call, email, or send text messages trying to get your money or personal information. They often target specific communities and frequently use scare tactics. And, unfortunately, they're often successful at getting what they're after. If you – or someone you know – have already paid someone you think is a scammer, what is your next step? You should act quickly. If you think you've sent money to a scammer or government impersonator, contact the bank, gift card, or credit card company you used to send the money. Tell them it was a fraudulent transaction. Then, ask them to reverse it and give you your money back.

It's common for scammers to ask for payment through a wire transfer. If you sent money via wire transfer (and suspect it was not legitimate), contact the wire transfer company. Tell them it was a fraudulent transfer. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back. Two common wire transfer companies are MoneyGram: 1-800-MONEYGRAM (1-800-666-3947) and Western Union: 1-800-325-6000. The FTC brought successful cases against both Western Union and MoneyGram, and the companies agreed to return hundreds of millions of dollars to people who were tricked into wiring money to scammers using their services. The settlements also required both companies to make changes to make it harder for scammers to use MoneyGram or Western Union to defraud customers.

Be highly suspicious if someone asks you for a payment via a gift card. Once you use the money on the card, the funds are gone. Or, perhaps you sent cash. If so, chances are it's gone. But, contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at (877) 876-2455 and ask them to intercept the package. To learn more about this process, visit USPS Package Intercept online. If you used another delivery service, contact them as soon as possible to see if anything can be done.

If you spot a scam, tell your loved ones and people in your community about it so they can avoid it too. Then tell the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Your reports can make a huge difference in knowing what is happening in our community.

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### Morning Glories Garden Club Celebrates the Holidays

The November 2021 meeting of the Smoke Rise Morning Glories was a fun event. Members were asked to bring new toys to donate to the Wellroot Family Services, a ministry of the United Methodist Church in North Georgia. Members donated 160 toys that ranged from balls and puzzles to books and dolls and stuffed animals. Wellroot supports youth from infancy through early adulthood, so the range of gifts was considerable. The December Morning Glories meeting will be a presentation from Sharon Brewer who is the Community Cultivator for Wellroot. If you are interested in their wide variety of programs, please go to the website at [www.wellroot.org](http://www.wellroot.org).



The November program was a creative workshop on floral design by our member, Janet McGinnis.

Janet joined the Morning Glories in 1972 and has been a very active member of our club and Redbud District and National Garden Club, serving on multiple boards. Her special talent is floral design, and she is a National Flower Show Judge and Garden Club of Georgia Flower Show Credentials Chairman. For our meeting, Janet asked each attendee to bring a bouquet of grocery store flowers, a vase, and some clippers. She demonstrated what she called the "Five Minute Flower Arrangement" and then instructed each of us to try it with our own bouquets. Her technique was very creative and useful to apply to any arrangement to compliment your dinner table at the holidays or for everyday enjoyment.



In other club news, the Morning Glories won several awards from Garden Club of Georgia for activities over the past two years. In early December, the club will decorate the historic Wells Brown House in Stone Mountain Village using period appropriate greenery and natural accents. Happily the house will be decorated inside again as many special events are planned by the Stone Mountain Historic Society for this holiday season.

Warm wishes to all and Happy Holidays to our Smoke Rise friends!

### Mountain Mums Host White House Holiday Decorator

The Mountain Mums November 10th meeting and luncheon was so much fun!

President Lynne Malone hosted and allowed the guest speaker Jamie Parrish to decorate her dining room for Thanksgiving - it was spectacular! Considering that her wallpaper and tablecloth were pink, the transformation to fall using somewhat non-traditional colors of navy, burgundy, white and green was stunning. In addition to pumpkins filled with artificial and real flowers, gourds, artichokes, dragon fruit, pomegranates and berries rounded out the scene. Magnolia leaves were used as placeholders. The silver teapot literally dripped flowers from the spout.



Jamie is a self-taught decorator who does weddings and interesting jobs like.... decorating the White House for Christmas! He entertained us with stories of three separate occasions when he was chosen to decorate the Oval office tree and once the Blue Room fireplace mantle.

Did you know they cover the mantle with plexiglass and do not allow nails or tacks to mar the wood?

We learned from Jamie that there is a huge warehouse (a former Home Depot) that is carefully maintained by the Smithsonian. It contains White House linens, place settings, cushions, napkins, and all kinds of décor. Each is stored in carefully labeled and photographed boxes. There are aisles and aisles of decor. Each aisle is labeled with the First Lady's name and date of the administration. Also catalogued are the times and places various items were used. Whole aisles are dedicated to décor chosen by Lady Bird Johnson, Jackie Kennedy (Onassis) and Nancy Reagan. He said that you can use new items to decorate a room, but cannot use the décor of more than one administration per room. So if Jackie Kennedy has her china in a dining room, Lillian Carter's ornaments cannot be on the tree.

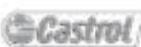
Jamie's next project? A March 2022 launch of the Raised Southern magazine. Jamie also sells hand blown and painted glass Christmas ornaments from Poland.

The Mountain Mums next meeting will be their annual luncheon at the Smoke Rise Country Club. Join us! Call Mary Jacobsen at (770) 316-3225 for more information.



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Classified and display ads: Frank Luton, luton@mindspring.com  
Flyers: Barbara Luton at barluton@aol.com

All classified ads are limited to 20 words, with the *Smoke Signal* reserving the right to edit any copy. Ads are \$15.00 per month, (\$75.00 per six months if prepaid). Deadline is the 10th of each month. ADS NEED TO BE PREPAID. Checks should be made out to *Smoke Signal* and mailed to P.O. Box 763, Tucker, GA 30085. When submitting classified ads, please include your full name, address, and phone number. This information is for our records only!

For information on display (box) advertisements or flyer inserts, see contact information on page 2.

## Classified Ads

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## Amen, Let's Eat!

by Joyce Ray



Happy Holidays! This month I have scanned my collection of *Christmas with Southern Living* cookbooks and chose from the most dog-eared and spatter-stained pages along with a few that I overlooked in years past. These selections are perfect choices for a holiday buffet table.

### Smoked Salmon Spread

(from the 50th Anniversary Edition - 2016)

12 ounces softened cream cheese  
8 ounces cold-smoked salmon, torn into small pieces  
½ cup sour cream  
2 T finely diced red onion  
1 T fresh lemon juice  
1 T capers, drained  
1 T chopped fresh dill (or ½ T dried dill)  
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper.

Process cream cheese, sour cream, 1 T of red onion, lemon juice, pepper in food processor for coarse blend. Remove to a bowl and mix in salmon, capers, remaining onion, and dill. Season to taste with salt. Refrigerate. Serve on bagels for brunch or with bagel chips or water crackers. Makes 3 cups.

### Twice-Baked Potatoes

(from the 2021 Edition)

5-6 medium sized baking potatoes  
canola oil  
1/2 cup softened butter  
1 (8 oz) container sour cream  
8 slices thick-cut bacon, cooked and crumbled  
½ cup milk  
½ tsp. seasoned salt  
½ tsp black pepper  
4 oz grated white cheddar cheese (about 1 cup)  
¼ cup chives  
1 cup crumbled blue cheese

Preheat oven to 400°. Rub clean potatoes with oil. Bake uncovered on baking sheet 45-50 minutes until potatoes are tender and skins are crisp. Remove from oven and let cool 15 minutes. Stir together butter and next 5 ingredients in a large bowl. Reduce oven temp to 300°. Cut potatoes in half lengthwise and scoop out pulp into bowl with butter mixture, leaving potato shells intact. Mash potatoes with potato masher. Stir in cheese, salt, pepper, and chives. Spoon mixture into shells. Place on baking sheet. Sprinkle with blue cheese. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until cheese is melted and potatoes are thoroughly heated. Garnish with crumbled bacon. For a colorful change of pace, make this recipe with sweet potatoes!

### Crumb Topped Spinach Casserole

(from the 2008 Edition)

1 T Butter  
1 medium onion, diced  
2 garlic cloves, diced  
4 (10 oz) pkgs frozen chopped spinach, thawed  
1/2 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese  
2 T all-purpose flour  
2 large eggs  
½ tsp salt  
¼ tsp pepper  
1 cup milk  
8 oz pkg shredded cheddar cheese  
1 cup Panko or homemade breadcrumbs  
3 T butter, melted

Sauté onion and garlic in 2 T butter in a large nonstick skillet until tender. Drain spinach well, pressing between paper towels to remove excess moisture. Blend cream cheese and flour in a large bowl until smooth. Whisk in eggs, salt, and pepper. Whisk in milk until well blended. Blend in onions, spinach, and cheese. Spoon into lightly greased 11x7 inch baking dish. Combine breadcrumbs with melted 3 T butter. Toss well and sprinkle over casserole. Bake, uncovered at 350° for 30-35 minutes until bubbly and breadcrumbs are brown - 8-10 servings.

The purpose of the *Smoke Signal* classifieds is to advertise goods and services to the community.



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