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“Leaf Shelter,” a new sculptural bus shelter by Joni Younkin-Hertzog and Rick Herzog, has been installed on Lexingon Highway across from Elations. The series of new art shelters is funded by the Athens Cultural Affair Commission, Athens Transit System and SPLOST.
Gov. Brian Kemp’s recent decision to allow restaurant dining rooms, movie theaters, hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors, bowling alleys, gyms and some other types of previously nonessential businesses to reopen drew widespread ridicule and anger, both in his hometown of Athens and across the country.

Even President Donald Trump—who propped up Kemp in February by linking Kemp to the Republican nomination with a tweet in 2018—threw him under the bus. CNN reported that Trump’s coronavirus task force sent public health advisor Deborah Birx to convince the president not to support Kemp’s reopening plan. It worked. Trump said Kemp was acting “too soon,” because Georgia hasn’t met the administration’s standard of 14 days straight of declining COVID-19 deaths. Fox News host Sean Hannity called the plan “dumb.”

Athens’ ultra-conservative congressman, Jody Hice, apparently didn’t get the memo. He wrote an op-ed for Townhall accusing public health experts and government officials of shutting down the economy for nothing. In reality, social distancing has worked, so the death toll hasn’t been nearly as high as it could have been. Hice also voted against the most recent coronavirus relief bill, which includes an additional $310 billion for small businesses.

The situation left liberals in the odd position of agreeing with a president they loathe. “Without enough testing, without enough supplies for doctors and nurses, and without listening to medical professionals, the governor’s actions today will make this crisis even worse and put more Georgians at risk,” Democratic Party of Georgia chairperson Nikema Williams said after Kemp’s announcement Apr. 20.

Athens-Clarke County Mayor Kelly Girtz appeared with Kemp to “beg” residents to continue sheltering in place. “It’s like telling your quarterback, ‘We don’t have a helmet on our quarterback, ‘We don’t have a helmet, we have some limiting factors there in terms of federal aid and when UGA reopens.uploads. It’s just not safe for you, and you do decide to separate, you have the ability to file a claim,” Williams said. Those who return to work part-time can earn up to $300 a week and retain their unemployment benefits, he added.

What about a property tax break for struggling residents? ACC has already asked the state legislature to raise the homestead exemption for low-income homeowners. But the county budget is likely to be strapped for the coming fiscal year, depending on federal aid and when UGA reopens.

“While some prospect of a reduction exists, we have some limiting factors there in terms of basic operating needs,” Williams said. [RA]
Politics in a Pandemic
WITH DOOR-KNOCKING OUT, CANDIDATES CALL AND GO ONLINE

By Martin Matheny and Megan Wahn news@flagpole.com

With Athens-Clarke County under both local and state stay-at-home recommendations, local political candidates have been scrambling to rewrite their campaign playbooks and find ways to reach voters without their usual tactics of face-to-face contact.

What is often called “retail politics” — neighborhood canvassing by the candidate and volunteers, plus events and phone banking — is a staple of local races, one that has been largely curtailed by shelter-in-place recommendations. “Before, my campaign was heavily, heavily centered on knocking on doors,” says Andrea Farnham, who is running for Athens-Clarke County Commission in District 8 on the Eastside. “We historically have very low voter turnout, so the only way to get to voters is by going to their door and talking to them. And now that is different.”

One thing that campaigns can lean on is technology and social media. Farnham has been relying on email communication as one tactic. “There’s a lot of effort right now being made to get email lists,” Farnham says. “Because you know there’s neighborhood listservs and local school governance teams and those kinds of things. So, to be honest, email, especially in my district, is a lot more effective mechanism to be reaching people.”

But, Farnham warns, email and social media are just one tactic. “Not everybody is on social media,” she says. “And not everyone is on social media, so it sort of self-selects, unfortunately, which people can be reached.”

While not everyone might have an internet connection and a Facebook account, most voters do have a phone. Farnham and one of her opponents, Carol Myers, are shifting campaign resources to phone banking — though individually, not through the traditional groups of volunteers gathered together. “I have a team of people working with me making phone calls,” Myers says.

Some of those calls have been almost as productive and lengthy as the conversations she might have had in-person. “One afternoon I started calling, and this woman answers the phone,” Myers says. “I was on the phone 40 minutes with her. Every day I’ve had lengthy conversations with people, and I’ve taken notes.”

Even with a heavier focus on phone calls and technology, there are still ways for candidates to take their messages to the streets. Farnham meets voters — while adhering to the rules of social distancing — in supermarkets and Walmart parking lots, while Myers uses exercise as a means to meet voters.

“When I’m in my neighborhood walking, I feel that I need to go. ‘Hey, hi,’” Myers says. “You know, everyone’s being a little friendlier. And then I’m going ‘Hey, hi.’ And I’m talking to someone. I’m saying, ‘Hey, listen, you know, I live over here. And these signs, you see, that’s me. I’m running for office.’ And so I’ve been having these discussions.”

Beyond reaching voters, candidates in the era of COVID-19 also have to be mindful of their message. While they may have started their campaigns wanting to talk about transportation or affordable housing or inequality, the coronavirus and governmental response to it is at the top of most voters’ minds right now. That presents a challenge for candidates, according to Audrey Haynes, associate professor of political science at the University of Georgia and director of the school’s certificate program in Applied Politics.

Several of her students are involved with local campaigns and report that not everyone wants to talk politics when they’re not sure how they’ll pay their rent or have a phone bill. “The job for candidates is, then, is to show how they will help those voters amidst these difficult times.”

“Candidates have to be very careful in how they present themselves,” Haynes says. “Really being authentic and genuine, and your empathy and care, and perhaps showing that you have ideas.”
incumbent commissioner faces activist in district 6

By Blake Aued news@flagpole.com

The District 6 race for Athens-Clarke County Commission is another that pits an incumbent with a wealth of experience against a younger upstart who brings fresh ideas to the table.

Jerry NeSmith, 71, has represented the Westside district since 2013. Prior to that, he served for 10 years on the ACC Planning Commission. The retired University of Georgia IT director is also a member of the board of directors of Advantage Behavioral Health Systems, a mental health and addiction nonprofit, and leads a committee devoted to the revitalization of Atlanta Highway—both have been signature issues for him during his time on the commission.

Jesse Houle, 34, got involved in local politics during the Occupy Athens movement of 2011, then went on to work on now-commissioner Tim Denison’s 2014 mayoral campaign and become a founding member of Athens for Everyone. They now work at Nuçi’s Space. (Houle prefers gender-neutral pronouns.) A fixture behind the podium during public comment at commission meetings, they’re now looking to move behind the rail.

Both candidates recently answered a few questions from Flagpole to help voters decide Election Day for nonpartisan commission races is June 9, and early voting begins May 18. Absentee ballots are now available from the ACC Board of Elections.

Flagpole: How would you rate Athens-Clarke County’s response to the coronavirus pandemic?

Jesse Houle: Our local government has stepped up meaningfully while the state and federal government flounders. This highlights both the importance and limits of local government. We’d be better equipped in these times had ACCUG been more proactive before now.

We should make current emergency measures permanent, such as fare-free bus service, an emptied jail, increased indigence resources and humane policing. We also need to strengthen measures under consideration, including eviction reform, creative direct aid that navigates the gratuitous clause and a New Deal-style jobs program.

I’m heartened by the cultural shift of our county manager and attorney inviting our mayor and commission to lead in policy development. The commission must step up and do so.

Jerry NeSmith: Given the resources at our disposal, I give our community a very high rating for the following reasons: ACC was one of the very first jurisdictions in Georgia to implement a shelter-in-place emergency order. The commission gave the county manager power to modify the emergency order to list essential business and rules of no-contact protocols as new information arrives. (The governor’s emergency order superseded that order.)

With the $3 million-plus Resiliency Package, we are responding within our financial and legal limits to the needs of affected employees, businesses and the indigent community. The strategy and organization of this package will roll out in phases, beginning with the $150,000 grants awarded on Apr. 14 to four indigent care agencies.

We are working hard to collaborate with partners/providers to consolidate resources and reduce duplication of services. We are collaborating with and empowering Envision Athens, the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce (Athens Works Initiative) and the newly formed Athens Arts Coalition, a coalition of several arts organizations with the resources of the Arts Division of the ACC Leisure Services Department.

Flagpole: What would you do to protect the arts sector and contribute to the economic recovery?

Jerry NeSmith: In the mid-term and going forward, I support developing a strategic initiative using the findings of the “Network for Southern Economic Mobility in Athens” study published in 2019. That study emphasized creating opportunities around family support, race/equity, workforce and development, education and social capital/stability.

Jesse Houle: We are communicating daily as a government and as individual commissioners to our constituents about local events, opportunities and news relevant to coronavirus and shelter in place.

FP: What is your plan to reduce Athens’ persistently high poverty rate?

JH: Most artists cobble together a living from part-time jobs and gigs. We must acknowledge the precarity of labor locally and generally exacerbated by the ways of working in an “at will” state. Many Athenians aren’t paid for all their hours, have tips stolen and suffer abuse, harassment and unethical termination. Workers deserve resources to understand, expand and assert their rights with workers’ centers, subsidized legal counsel and better enforcement of existing laws.

First, focus the Resiliency Package and COVID-19 relief explicitly on local business and employees affected by federal aid. Then, enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, designate western downtown an historic district, and advance zoning laws that safeguard against further harmful development. Next, refocus the Economic Development Department to nurture local businesses with pro-worker policies and living wages. Recruit only large businesses and developers that meet a rigorous standard.

JN: I believe the poverty in our community has not changed over the last several years—37%, or, when excluding UGA students, 28%.

Many of our residents live from paycheck to paycheck. Unfortunately, with COVID-19, we expect this situation has worsened already and may continue so until we are in a local economic recovery. So now we must do what is required to enter into a local economic recovery, beginning with the Resiliency Package and going forward with incentives and programs from the government and our partners to bring back our local businesses and support those who are struggling as a result of the pandemic.

FP: Is it time to redevelop Georgia Square Mall? If so, what should be done with it, and what city resources should be brought to bear?

JH: Downtown, once a corporate hub, saw businesses flee to the mall. In their shells, our music and art scene grew. Likewise, in the mall’s withering husk, we may sow seeds for the next generation. We can’t legislate creativity; we facilitate its growth.

There are many exciting redevelopment ideas—a community rec center, workers’ center, cohousing. The District 6 commissioner’s role is to facilitate a community-led process to make a plan, fund and carry out. This requires intensive outreach to bring in the whole community. My philosophy of collaborative governance leaves month-to-month maintenance for public servants and encourages community members into the good stuff and the big stuff.

JN: The mall has great potential. The mall is an ideal place to implement an Athens Transit Hub. It would be the center of an expanded bus system that would better serve the needs of the Westside by expanding the range and the frequency of bus routes to include Caterpillar and main thoroughfares of our commercial corridors, our public service providers and our neighborhoods. It has an ideal location on Atlanta Highway (39,000 cars per day) and Loop 10. Its footprint is about the size of downtown Athens. Redevelopment as a multi-use development with retail space, office space, housing, restaurants and public recreation is the future of this huge parcel. Housing, including market-rate and subsidized affordable housing, would fit well.
It is important to understand that the mall is private property. What we must do is encourage thoughtful, successful and needed development occurs includes creating a Tax Allocation District that includes the mall, so that capital is raised to make capital improvements and provide development incentives; amend our stormwater, zoning and land-use ordinances to encourage re-development; incentivize inclusion of affordable housing and public facilities; and work with Hendon Properties, LLC, the owner of the property, to envision a development that achieves objectives of the owner and the county.

**FP:** Please list any other issue(s) you feel are important and your solution(s).

**JH:** We must end unpaid inmate labor, which is present-day slavery. Instead, convert that necessary work into living wage jobs with hiring focused on formerly incarcerated people.

Publicly operate 911 and emergency medical services through our fire departments. This means no contract renewal with the for-profit company, National EMS. Until then, we need transparency, accountability and ACC dispatching all 911 calls.

Athens’ outermost neighborhoods need to be looped in. This means adequate sewer and stormwater infrastructure; expanded sidewalk, bike, and trail networks; and trash, recycling and bus services covering the whole county.

Finally, commissioners must share power and rethink how government operates, bringing it out of City Hall while being more transparent, accessible and accountable. Regular town halls, participatory budgeting, and community-driven redevelopment of spaces like the mall are great first steps.

**JN:** The pandemic will have an unpredictable impact on the tax revenue of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County. I would build an FY21 budget that is conservative but can be amended as impacts become clearer.

Aicc’s anti-discrimination ordinance is narrow and difficult to enforce. Implement broader, more enforceable anti-discrimination ordinances.

The vast majority of ACC contracts are awarded to companies outside of Clarke County, and ACC procurement policies prevent local business practices that would encourage and enable local businesses to win contracts, supporting those businesses and keeping spent tax money in our local and regional economy.

Parallel sidewalks, no trails and no pedestrian/bicycle connectivity exist in District 6. Build a sidewalk/trail system on the west side, particularly on Mitchell Bridge Road, connecting to Timothy Road.

This has been no collaborative planning or problem solving between Athens-Clarke County Unified Government and the Clarke County School District, resulting in imbalanced school attendance zones, unformatted future planning, and duplication of effort. County and local government must build a collaborative relationship with the Clarke County School District to facilitate smart planning by both entities; cooperate on job training initiatives and other mutual interests.

Failing jail inmates have diagnoses of behavioral disorders before their incarceration and are recidivists. Improve the criminal justice system to provide behavioral health services.

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### Music Feature

**For Arrowhawk Records, the Show Must Go On**

By Chad Radford [music@flagpole.com](mailto:music@flagpole.com)

On Apr. 25, Alyssa DeHayes was supposed to host a party at Flicker Theater. Arrowhawk Records, the independent label that she owns and operates from an office near Athens’ Boulevard neighborhood, turned seven years old in April, and a stack of new LPs, cassettes, T-shirts and stickers are in the queue.

From the blend of psychedelic pop-country melodies of Arbor Labor Union’s New Petal Instantis and Portland, OR songwriter Jeffrey Silverstein’s You Become The Mountain, to the outsider snarl and jangle of Nana Grizol’s South Somewhere Else (out June 19 via Arrowhawk/Don Giovanni), DeHayes had laid down all of the groundwork for the label to have a banner year.

But as Georgians began self-quarantining to slow the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, weeks before Governor Brian Kemp declared a statewide shelter-in-place order, it was clear the anniversary party was off.

For DeHayes, however, the show must go on. Orders for Arrowhawk Records’ releases are still coming in every day, and singles such as Shana Falana’s “Everyone Is Gonna Be Okay” are still rolling out online. There is social media content to push and packages to be mailed out.

With her hands-on network of part-time staffs and interns staying home and practicing social distancing, DeHayes is working harder than ever. With her tan and white fox-tailed dog Greta to keep her company, Arrowhawk is pressing forward as a one-woman operation, innovating the process one step at a time—and as perfectly as possible.

“Handling orders is very different now,” she says. “Normally I have interns or part-timers who help pick and pack. Right now our shipping time is delayed, since for everyone’s safety, I’m handling all packing alone at the office at night, on weekends, anytime I can fit in some packing sessions with a mask and gloves and constant hand washing. When I have a small stack, I schedule a touchless USPS pickup rather than going to the post office and putting postal workers at risk,” she adds. “I have also been trying to put as much fun extras (stickers, postcards, etc.) into packages as I can, to make everyone feel good, and because I think folks could use a shipment that feels a bit like a present to unwarp right now.”

DeHayes grew up on the outskirts of Atlanta and moved to Athens in 2005, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Public Relations at the University of Georgia. She founded Arrowhawk Records in 2013 with the arrival of Bambara’s Dreamviolence LP. Since then, the label’s catalog has garnered international distribution for releases by Georgia-based acts such as Cinemekanica, Shepherds and Arbor Labor Union, along with Nashville/Los Angeles-based actor and songwriter Chris Crofton, Detroit’s power pop trio Deadbeat Beat, and more.

Each release in the label’s catalog defies a singular musical aesthetic. “I’m friends with everyone first,” DeHayes says. “As far as a sound goes, it’s kind of all over the place—I don’t know that I could pin it down, but I know it when I hear it.”

Since founding the label, DeHayes has also settled into roles as a partner and national publicist with Riot Act Media, working on national campaigns for various touring independent artists and record labels such as New West, Captured Tracks, Polyvinyl and Mexican Summer.

In 2015, she also began working as an adjunct professor teaching Publicity and Promotion for Music through UGA’s business school. Soon, she will be taking a break to focus on other endeavors as Andrew Rieger of Elf Power teaches the class.

More recently, in 2019, DeHayes took yet another job handling social media marketing for Smithsonian Folklows in Washington, D.C. Each week, she manages Smithsonian Folkways’ social media accounts and social marketing. She gets to sift through the historic nonprofit label’s digital archives and share older recordings that resonate with newer releases.

DeHayes ability to manage so many endeavors underscores her profile as a nimble, self-made entrepreneur. It’s a skill with Brooklynnite Bailey Elder. Vinyl LPs are pressed at Kindercare Records, and all of Arrowhawk’s merch is printed at RubySue Graphics, including a Nalgene bottle branded with artwork from Jeffrey Silverstein’s You Become The Mountain.

As the pandemic became a reality, Silverstein had to cancel a tour supporting the new release. Shana Falana’s first SXSW was canceled, and much of the advance work for Nana Grizol’s new album has been disrupted, but the plan is to move forward. In April, Nana Grizol released a video for “Future Version” from South Somewhere Else, in hopes that the world will be moving again by June.

For DeHayes, the seven-year anniversary party will happen later, although it’s too soon to say when. In the meantime, her mission is to keep music flowing out to the people who want it and need it most. “We’re doing an indie record store exclusive of colored vinyl with the Nana Grizol LP,” DeHayes says. “That’s something we do with most releases, but it feels more important now to offer something to independent shops that big box retailers won’t have. Everyone is pointing to the Spanish flu as our historical model, but that was not in most peoples’ lifetimes,” she adds. “We’re all trying to logistically navigate a situation that is unprecedented in our lifetimes.”

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**Feature Image**

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Filmmaker James Preston Seeks Donations for Local Relief Funds

By Jessica Smith art@flagpole.com

Sometimes the most effective documentaries are those that abandon academic formalities and allow for a more subjective impression of a precise place in time. Throughout his pair of Athens Rising films—now available to stream for free through athensrising.com—local filmmaker James Preston introduces a handful of figures who collectively build an overarching story through eclectic vignettes and interviews. Never needing to wax nostalgic about the music and arts scene as it was 40 years ago, Athens Rising brings the here and now to the forefront.

Athens Rising: The Sicyon Project (2018) presents a well-rounded crash course in the town’s various scenes—music, stand-up comedy, dance, food, visual art and performance—by visiting The Pity Party, engineer Joel Hatatza, Jesse Mangum of The Glow Recording Studio, Peepa Show, Volumes Hip Hop, Krakin Jokes, artist and activist Broderick Flanigan, AthFest, Heirlooms Café, Small Box Series and poet Celest Divine. Further investigating the creative class, Athens Rising 2: Transmission (2019) highlights Avid Bookshop, ATHICA, Nuçi’s Space, Mokah and Knowa Johnson, Canopy Studio, Lyndon House Arts Center, Wild Rumpus and chef Peter Dale. Beautifully shot and cleverly edited, the degrees of separation between subjects seem to become smaller and smaller as the films move along. Athenians may be a tiny town, but the overlapping, personal histories of its inhabitants run deep.

"The first film is all about individuals or very small groups of people with minimal resources who woke up one day and started something because they wanted to see it in their community," says Preston. "The second zooms out a bit to look at the nonprofits and businesses that make up and support our creative community, and what we can accomplish when we can come together. Both films are just a tiny glimpse at our community, and there are so many amazing stories that didn’t make it into either. I’m certain I could make 20 of these and still have left out dozens of amazing Athenians."

Preston’s decision to release his films during a pandemic was partly to increase accessibility among an audience sheltering in place, but he additionally hopes to motivate viewers to take an active part in financially sustaining the individuals and institutions that help preserve Athens’ distinct sense of character in an increasingly hegemonic world. Local artists and musicians typically self-fund their own projects, and as their wallets become lighter, so will their creative output. Galleries and nonprofits will face severe limitations on their future programming, too, if membership dues, donations and grants all evaporate. As a solution, Preston includes a handy list within the video descriptions that compiles several local relief efforts—the Garrie Vereen Memorial Emergency Relief Fund, Athens Virtual Tip Jar, Classic City Love, Athens Works Initiative and the Athens Area Community Foundation’s COVID-19 Community Response Fund—as well as direct links to several of the films’ subjects.

"I think discomfort is always where opportunity lies. Janet Geddis spent four years trying to get Avid Bookshop open after the financial crisis and opened on a shoestring budget. The idea of Nuçi’s Space sounded straight-up crazy to people 20 years ago, when Bob Sleppy was a bartender and gigging musician. The Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement was started by Mokah and Knowa Johnson in response to that horrible General Beauregard’s debacle," says Preston. "I believe that the artists, nonprofits and businesses we’ll all herald in a decade will be formed in our current discomfort. Those ideas are being born right now, and it’s our job to be the community that makes those ideas possible. Which is why it’s more important than ever to support our creative community."

In addition, Preston plans to release two different video series based off of a pair of "Arts in Community" panel discussions that were funded by the Athens Cultural Affairs Commission last year. Scheduled for Apr. 29, "How to Build Organizations for Change in Athens’ spotlights Mokah; Jasmine-Johnson of AADM, Bob Sleppy of Nuçi’s Space, Ann Woodruff of Canopy Studio, and Rashe Malcolme of Rashe’s Cuisine and The Culinary Kitchen of Athens. Set for May 6, "How to Start a House Show in Athens" features segments with Kelly Petronis of Krakin Jokes, Taylor Chicoine of The Pity Party, Sam Lipkin of Volumes Hip Hop and Montu Miller of AthFactor Entertainment.

It’ll be a while, of course, before people can responsibly or comfortably gather again, but quarantine isn’t a bad time to daydream about how you want the future to look.

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PHIL Hughes
Honda

If you are in crisis due to domestic violence, Phil Hughes Honda wants you to find help.

When you are struggling to meet the demands of a controlling and jealous partner it is hard to plan for the future. Project Safe has advocates available to help you sort through what options are available to you, and how you can stay safe while you explore options. All services are free and confidential.

706-543-3331
Hotline, 24 hours/day
Linea de crisis, las 24 horas del día
One block to Five Points. 1 1/2 block off Milledge and UGA bus stop. 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bath. Comfortable for up to 4 students or 2 adults. Pet friendly with deposit. $1500/month, including utilities. 770-375-7446.

FOR SALE

NEED SOME OLD NEWSPAPERS FOR YOUR GARDEN? An art project? Or how about that new puppy? Well, they're free at the Flagpole office! Call ahead, then come grab an armful. Please leave current issues on stands. 706-549-0301.

HOME AND GARDEN

Clean Pool Care LLC will keep your pool clean and safe. Call or text Kevin at 706-247-2226.

SERVICES

ATLANTIC ENERGY SOLUTIONS Are currently seeking experienced electricians. AES provides essential services to homes and businesses including grid-tied and off-grid solar PV and battery back-up systems for critical loads. AES also provides monitoring of these systems to ensure minimal downtime. If you are interested in learning more about our team, have questions, or wish to apply, request an application or send your resume to info@altenergyse.com.

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Tears for the Dying Share Memories

By Gordon Lamb
threatsandpromises@flagpole.com

KEEP IT BETWEEN THE DITCHES: The new album by Georgia Dish
Boys, Suitecase of Life, won’t come out until June, which
seems to leave a lot of time for new music to fill the void. A couple
of weeks back, the band released the song "HWY 1," and it’s a
true winner from its clever radio-tuning intro through to its
Replacements/hokey tonk-esque dark exploration. If you’re
up for pre-ordering, this is available digitally and vinyl-ly.

MORE LIKE PURE GOLD: Although it could have just packed
up and laid low until next year, The Winterville Marigold
Festival has gone virtual for the people. Across three
Saturday nights, the first of which has passed, the festival
is bringing live performances to you through Facebook
Live. The May 2 show features Sir. Crazy Pants and Bo
Beddingfield, and the May 9 show features Caroline
Aiken and Dodd Ferrelle & Adam Poulion. The shows
begin at 6 p.m., so please tune in at facebook.com/
MarigoldFestival.

BENEATH THE SHADOWS: The
new album from Athens
death rockers Tears for The
Dying is named Memories,
and it slipped out in late
March. Of course, they began work on this awhile
back, and they named the band many years ago, so if
this all seems a bit on the nose, don’t blame them.
One major thing I’ve always appreciated about the band
is that they’re a continual reminder of how guitar-ori-
ented first-wave goth and death rock really was,
revisionist historians be damned. Also, rather than
taking to heart England and
European influences, their approach has always been very
Los Angeles/USA-oriented. Thus, their character is more
hard-edged than one might expect at first blush. Highlights
here include “Palomine,” “Lost Girls,” “ACAB” and their
cover of Christian Death’s 1982 song “Spiritual Cramp.”
Check it out at tearsforthedying.bandcamp.com.

FLOW MOTION: Nick Bradfield (White Rabbit Collective) tipped
me to the fact that he finished mixing and mastering the
new album by one of the projects he’s been sitting in with
for a while. The group is named Kwazymoto, and the album
is named Whirring Dervish. Bradfield plays erhu and janghu
appearance at the club this past Feb. 25. It’s a tight, sev-
len-song set in which the band punches its way through that
particular Tuesday night and grabs it by the throat. This
was produced with the assistance of live recording engineer
Sloan Simpson (Southern Shelter) and Music Business
Program student Erin Cribbs, who mixed it as her spring
semester project. This arrives practically right on the back
of the band’s new EP, Kill or Be Killed. This three-song
offering is a rapid fire assault that showcases Kwazymoto’s
increasingly complex methods of arrangement. This is espe-
\n
record review
Kudzu Samurai: Kudzu Samurai (Independent Release) Kudzu Samurai, a
psychedelic six-piece based in Athens, released their self-titled album at the
end of March. The prog rock band first formed in 2017, and is influenced by
music from Palm, Mild High Club, and King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard,
though the members explore a diverse array of genres within their own work.
Kudzu’s first full-length features four songs, starting with “Dream Machine,”
a hazy, lo-fi track that steadily slides on a nonlinear plane of fluid time sig-
natures and layers of craggy reverbs. This cosmic orientation overflows into
“Politicco One,” introducing elements of surf punk and smoky bass flavors
that darken the melody’s cyclical descent. Flute and other wind instruments
highlight notes of bossa nova in this song, as well as “Bossh Battle,” which
pairs cacophonous jazz with abstract imagery while maintaining its consistent interstellar twang. “Letter” brings
the record to a close, incorporating jangle pop into Kudzu’s trippy, tidal repertoire. [Lily Guthrie]
**Art**

**AAAC GRANTS (Athens, GA)** The Athens Area Arts Council is seeking applicants for its quarterly $500 grants. All artists, arts organizations or arts-based projects are welcome to apply. The deadline is March 15. [Learn more](https://www.aaac.org/grants).

**ART FOR ATHENS (Athens, GA)** The Red & Black is organizing Art for Athens, an online fundraiser to benefit the local service industry. All proceeds from sales of prints and original art will be donated to the Greene-Vernon Memorial Emergency Relief Fund and Athens Giving Kitchen. Artists can donate works and set their own prices, and The Red & Black will handle the promotion of the sale, totaling pieces, shipping and payment processing. [Learn more](https://www.redandblack.com/)

**ARTSCENTROnLINE (Lyndon House Arts Center)** Through currently closed to the public, the Lyndon House is still offering educational programming and art activities online. Search for the hashtag #ArtScenOnline on Instagram and Facebook for art education programs for families, sequenced in their homes, virtual tours and other art-related activities designed for sheltering in place. [Learn more](https://www.athensgri.org)

**ARTS IN COMMUNITY GRANTS (Athens, GA)** The Athens Cultural Arts Commission awards grants of $1,500 each to promote creative placemaking in the community.

**City of Watkinsville (Downtown Watkinsville)** “Public Art Watkinville: A Cultural Capital” consists of previously painted public locations around downtown. Artists include Benjamin Lock, William Massey, Stu Mullins, Robert Clements, Harold Rittenburg and Joni Younkins-Heitz. [Learn more](https://www.cityofwatkinsville.com).

**Georgia Museum of Art (Athens, GA)** “Tiny Universe #3” is an exhibit of original art works around town. Artists include Claire Clements, Peter Losey, Andy Chernwisk, Lisa Freeman, Manda McKay and others.

**GALLERY AT INDIODO (College Ave.)** “Tiny Universe #5” is an exhibit of small works by over 70 artists from Athens and Atlanta. Through May 30.


**LAMAR DODD SCHOOL OF ART (270 River Rd.)** Art works are on view in an online gallery at art.uga.edu, “Amiko Li: The Purpose of Disease” presents the Dodd MFA Fellow in photography’s explorations into acupuncture, pain relief, psychopharmacology, herbs, supplements, and the regulation of limbs. [Learn more](https://www.athensgri.org/online-library).

**LYNDON HOUSE ARTS CENTER (270 Hoy St.)** “The 6th Juried Exhibition” presents 190 works by 144 local artists. Through July. [Learn more](https://www.athensgri.org/online-library).

**OCONEE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION (34 School St., Watkinsville)** Juried by Chris Clamp, the 25th annual “Southworks” exhibition features a juried show of works in all media submitted from across the country. The 2020 Director’s Choice exhibit presents “Inside and Outside,” a solo show by Tom Stanley of Rock Hill, SC. [Learn more](https://www.athensgri.org/online-library).

**THE CLASSIC CENTER (2142 W. Broad St.)** Paintings by Melody Crotty. Through May 6.

**UGA OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY (1180 E. Broad St.)** “The Earth Day (Art) Challenge” is a virtual exhibition of works commemorating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Visit sustainability.uga.edu/earth-day-art.


**THE WORLD FAMOUS (315 N. Hull St.)** A series of drive-by art auctions are held in front of several downtown locations, and bidding is done through Facebook. [Learn more](https://www.athensgri.org/online-library).
I was 86’d (kicked out) from Flagpole about a month ago because of my age and have been working from my dining room since. My wife, Gay, and I take our quarantine seriously. I have been out several times to pick up food, but otherwise we have stayed home and exercised precautions. Thanks to co-publisher Alicia Nickles and her husband, Matt Alston, plus Bryn Adamson, we have been well supplied with groceries, and Gay has outdone herself cooking good food. I have contributed corn muffins from time to time, more or less following The Grit Cookbook. This would be like a vacation, except that, working from home, I’m never sure when I’m off duty.

We’ve been gardening, too. As Gay’s yardman, I have been pulling weeds and digging up Star of Bethlehem, wild garlic and potato vine and treating the roses, trees and shrubs to a dose of compost—more than our kitchen compost can cover.

We needed more of the Lowe’s compost and manure mix recommended by former White House gardener Wayne Amos, happily keeping his green thumb in the dirt back here in Athens. I decided to venture out for the first time for something other than food. Lowe’s did not allow ordering this mixture online. I had heard how crowded the Oconee Lowe’s has been, but I reasoned that I would just be in the garden section outside. The parking lot was filled, and people strolled alone or together toward the store and the garden annex unmasked, ungloved, unchanged from the last time I was there before the pandemic. I felt like I had just come out of a cave into the real, Technicolor world. To be sure, about one-fifth had on masks, as I certainly did, though my gloves were the only ones I spied.

So, this is life outside the jurisdiction of Mayor Kelly Girtz and the commission! But, wait a minute, Gov. Brian Kemp has overruled Kelly. Wait another minute, President Trump has overruled Kemp. But Kemp is, as I write, still saying go right on ahead and get that tattoo: No problem. But the president’s top-level health advisers say Kemp is wrong and is risking the lives of hard-working Georgians, the only Georgians he ever acknowledges. Now, our Congressman Jody Hice says all the sheltering and social distancing was based on faulty information, that we destroyed our economy—not in Oconee—for nothing, and he demands a Congressional investigation to find out how that happened.

Then, at the end of last week, in his press conference to guide the country through the COVID-19 crisis, Trump mused that maybe ingesting Lysol would cleanse that virus right out of us, especially if we light up our insides with UV rays.

I mean, what the hell is going on? Our health officials and medical workers are desperately trying to grapple with it, but politi-
Screening Options for COVID-19

Anyone with symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) can be tested for COVID-19. Health care workers, first responders, and long-term care facility residents and staff are prioritized for testing with or without symptoms. Residents without a doctor or primary care provider can visit an urgent care center or federally qualified health center or contact the following:

**Athens Free Clinic Mobile Unit**
706-308-4092
- For residents without transportation or have barriers to care
- **Monday-Friday**
  - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Northeast Health District Nurse Line**
706-340-0996
- **Monday-Friday**
  - 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **Saturday**
  - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Augusta University Health Virtual Screening**
- Free screening 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- AU ExpressCare app available on Apple App Store and Google Play
- Online screenings through augustahealth.org

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) advises wearing cloth face coverings in public settings and to help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Below are two types you can make at home. For use and cleaning, who should not wear one, and other details, visit cdc.gov/coronavirus.

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**Quick Cut T-shirt Cloth Face Covering (no sew method)**

**Materials**
- T-shirt
- Scissors

**Tutorial**
1. Cut 7–8 inches and tie strings around neck, then over top of head.
2. Cut off 6–7 inches.
3. Fold filter in center of folded bandana.
4. Fold top down. Fold bottom up.
5. Place rubber bands or hair ties about 6 inches apart.
6. Fold side to the middle and tuck.
7. Tie strings around neck, then over top of head.

**Bandana Cloth Face Covering (no sew method)**

**Materials**
- Bandana (or square cotton cloth approximately 20”x20”)
- Coffee filter
- Rubber bands (or hair ties)
- Scissors (if you are cutting your own cloth)

**Tutorial**
1. Cut coffee filter
2. Fold filter in center of folded bandana.
3. Fold top down. Fold bottom up.
4. Place rubber bands or hair ties about 6 inches apart.
5. Fold side to the middle and tuck.