



The Alma Times

Bacon County's Number One Source for News & Advertising

114th YEAR • ISSUE 1 • ALMA, GEORGIA 31510 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020 • 16 PAGES, TWO SECTIONS • \$1 INCLUDING TAX



Shiya "Spring" Zhao and husband, Yousaf "Joseph" Khan, of Melbourne, Fla. the new owners of the Blueberry Plantation Inn and Golf Course.

New Owners of Blueberry Plantation Move To Alma

The Blueberry Plantation and Golf Course has been purchased by Zhao Khan, LLC. of Melbourne, Florida.

The new owners are Shiya "Spring" Zhao and Yousaf "Joseph" Khan.

"We fell in love with Alma and its people when we came to see the property", said Joseph Khan. Both said they were amazed at how friendly the people were to someone from out of town.

But at first when he heard and saw the property was for sale he thought it was in the middle of nowhere.

"My wife told me I should respect the real-estate person's efforts and go see the property, so I did."

Joseph Khan has operated a successful furniture business for the past ten years in Melbourne. He brings good management and sales experience to Alma. "My husband is the best salesman I have ever met," Spring said.

He and Spring explained they want to change the na-

ture of the plantation of golf course to more of a resort with mansion accommodations and a resort type atmosphere for Bacon County and the region.

The new name will be the Blueberry Mansion, Golf Course and Resort. "It's like we found the shining diamond in the rough," Spring exclaimed.

Their plans started last week with the adding of a new chef and additional staff for the Blueberry Mansion's restaurant.

Joseph, a former chef, and Spring have good culinary skills and plans to expand and improve the menu.

Spring has two MA degrees in Electrical Engineering and an MBA degree from the Florida Institute of Technology.

She has a solid business background, her family has a large construction and concrete business with multiple warehouses in China.

The couple's plans include broadening the menu and "spicing up" some new Italian dishes and adding more local favorite dishes. They ask that anyone please give suggestions and recommendations for the menu.

The two said they plan to add very nice furniture and remodeling is

in the future. Again with their furniture experience, plans will be for that "resort type" feel at the mansion.

The facility is open seven days a week, except the restaurant. Sunday brunch will begin early and last through the day for local members, golfers and after church guests.

Special events are scheduled like different blueberry contests, Disney night for kids, a girls night out, nightly specials, Karaoke night, a new sports bar with TV's and multi-games.

(Continued to page 8A)

E.M.S. And Alma P. D. Awarded Car Seat Grant

Alma Bacon County E.M.S. and the Alma Police Department were awarded the 2020 Car Seat Mini-Grant by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Injury Prevention Program.

This program is funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to help ensure Georgia's children are safe while riding in motor vehicles.

And it works! Since 2007,

ing to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, car seats reduce fatal injuries by 71 percent among infants and by 54 percent among children ages 1 to 4 years in passenger cars.

Blueberry

(Continued From Page 1)

Also plans are to host weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries and more school prom events.

One reminder, Joseph added, the golf course is a public facility and not for

members only. "We want everyone from Alma and the surrounding areas to come and play on this beautiful course.

Hours for the Blueberry Mansion and restaurant will be Tuesday-Sunday lunch 11

a.m. - 2 p.m., and Tuesday-Saturday - 5 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The bar will be open Monday - Sunday 11a.m. - 10p.m.

Sunday lunch buffet will also be available. Golf course hours will be the same.



Joseph Khan and Spring Zhao say hello from the Blueberry Golf Course. They say its one of the most beautiful courses they have seen.



Spring Zhao and Joseph Khan, new owners, tour the Blueberry Plantation Golf Course with the club house and "Blueberry Mansion" in the background.

February is...
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

The Alma Times

Bacon County's Number One Source for News & Advertising

February
is Also...
**Heart
month**

114th YEAR • ISSUE 4 • ALMA, GEORGIA 31510 • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 • 14 PAGES, ONE SECTION • \$1 INCLUDING TAX

Governor Bryan Kemp Visits Bacon County

"We have the lowest unemployment rate in years, we have the most people in the work force and we need another good agriculture cycle with good weather for rural Georgia," explained Governor Bryan Kemp.

Kemp spoke to some 70 citizens from Alma on Friday morning as he stopped in at the Blueberry Mansion.

County Commission Chairman Andy Hutto introduced Kemp and said he was one of the most personable men that had ever served as a Governor and Secretary of the State.

Hutto said Kemp spoke at the graduation services of his granddaughter at Valdo-

sta State College. Following the service, Hutto text Kemp to congratulate him on his speech and what a good experience it was for the granddaughter. Kemp in turn text Hutto's granddaughter and congratulated her on her graduation.

Hutto said what better text could you get.

Kemp said Georgia has been named the number one state in business by Site Selection Magazine for a record-breaking seventh year in a row.. Two examples were he recently attended expansion of businesses in Bainbridge with over 600 new employees and over 100 in Sylvania.



Local citizens and community leaders met with Governor Brian Kemp on Friday at the Blueberry Mansion. (L-R) Spring Zhao, Joseph Khan, owners of the Mansion, Senator Tyler Harper, Sara Davis, County Chairman Andy Hutto, Kevin Ellis-Development Authority Director, Governor Kemp, Judge Joe Boatright, County Commissioner Larry Smith, Tax Commissioner Bill Johnson and County Commissioners Richard Foskey, John Thoma and Lee Hagans.

He added last year, the General Assembly passed a historic \$3,000 pay raise for educators in Georgia. In this

year's budget, Kemp has included an additional \$2,000 raise, to fulfill his promise of a \$5,000 raise made during

the campaign.

He explained this was needed due to losing 44 percent of new teachers each year.

girl had lost her childhood".

Another issue is combating criminal street gangs. Kemp said they were in all areas of Georgia. Working