

## **Journal Entry**

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**12-1-19 – 12-7-19**

I demonstrated Competency 2.1 by reading 2 articles relating to different cultures and populations within Catoosa County. I read an article about Catoosa County GA that had many interesting statistics and information about the different categories within Catoosa County. This article talked about Education, Housing, Food and Nutrition, Public Safety, Environment, Equity, as well as other topics. The article shared that the obesity prevalence in Catoosa County is 34.3% which is higher than the U.S. rate which is 28.4%. Diabetes prevalence was 10.7% which was also higher than the U.S. rate at 9.2%. I thought it was interesting that in Catoosa County a person needs to work 50.4 hours a week to be able to pay for affordable housing. I was surprised to see that the average weekly wage in Catoosa County is \$647 where as the U.S. average is \$1,059 and the state average is \$1,004.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/georgia/catoosa-county#infrastructure>.

I read another article about homelessness in Catoosa County and discovered that almost a month ago, an emergency urban camping ordinance was passed with the goal of moving a group of sex offenders out from under a bridge near South Chickamauga Creek and Highway 41. The article said that 23 of the sex offenders that were released from prison this year and came to Catoosa County and 9 of those were immediately homeless. Sadly, in Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade and Walker counties, there are no homeless shelters that can let sex offenders stay there due to state regulations. The sex offenders have to register an address with the local police department and the bridge near South Chickamauga Creek and Highway 41 was a location that could comply with the state law since it was a location that was far enough from any schools or churches. LaFayette gave donations to help get 3 of the 4 men living under the bridge into apartments. People put up funds to get the other man into a hotel for a couple weeks, but they are

still looking for a more permanent solution. Law enforcement does not want to arrest him and are trying to find other ways to help them.

<https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2018/nov/15/homeless-ordinance-moves-forward-ringgold-res/483172/>.