WCKA JACKSONVILLE, AL QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT 2ND QUARTER 2020

WKCA ascertains that we need to provide our listeners with programming and public service announcements that address issues that concern our local community. These issues include...

- Charity
- Health
- Elderly Services
- Education
- Youth Services
- Food Bank Shortage
- Holiday's
- Census
- Tourism
- Jobs
- Volunteer's
- Pet Safety
- Politics/Voting
- Covid-19

LOCAL PROGRAMS

ISSUE	PROGRAM/TITLE	DESCRIPTION	GUEST	DATE	TIME	DURATION
HEALTH / COVID-19	COMMUNITY CALENDAR	TIMES EACH DAY MONDAY - FRIDAY. TOPIC COVERED COVID- 19	SHERIFF JOHNATHAN HORTON,	4/8/20, 4/24/20, 4/30/20	6A, 7A, 8A, 9A, 12N, 4P	2 MINUTES
HEALTH / COVID-19	COMMUNITY CALENDAR	DAILY FEATURE THAT RUNS 6 TIMES EACH DAY MONDAY - FRIDAY. TOPIC COVERED COVID- 19	CALHOUN COUNTY EMA DIRECTOR MICHAEL BARTON	5/1/20,5/15/20,	6A, 7A, 8A,	2 MINUTES
HEALTH / COVID-19	COMMUNITY CALENDAR	DAILY FEATURE THAT RUNS 6 TIMES EACH DAY MONDAY - FRIDAY. TOPIC COVERED COVID- 19	ETOWAH COUNTY EMA DIRECTOR DEBORAH GAITHER	4/15/2020	6A, 7A, 8A, 9A, 12N, 4P	2 MINUTES
HEALTH / COVID-19	COMMUNITY CALENDAR	DAILY FEATURE THAT RUNS 6 TIMES EACH DAY MONDAY - FRIDAY. TOPIC COVERED COVID- 19	ETOWAH COUNTY CHAMBER PRESIDENT HEATHER BROTHERS NEW	5/11/2020	6A, 7A, 8A, 9A, 12N, 4P	2 MINI ITES
HEALTH / COVID-19	COMMUNITY CALENDAR	DAILY FEATURE THAT RUNS 6 TIMES EACH DAY MONDAY - FRIDAY. TOPIC COVERED COVID- 19	ETOWAH COUNTY EMA DIRECTOR JOSH TANNER	6/10/2020	6A, 7A, 8A, 9A, 12N, 4P	
HEALTH/JOBS	JIM MORGAN SHOW	LIVE INTERVIEW TO DISCUSS COVID-19 AND THE EFFECTS ON JOBS	ETOWAH COUNTY CHAMBER DIRECTOR HEATHER BROTHERS NEW	5/11/2020	4:15PM	5 MINUTES
TOURIUM	RICK SISK MORNING SHOW	LOCAL COMMUNITY BASS TOURNAMENT IN GADSDEN, AL TO ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO THE COMMUNITY.		6-12-20 & 6-19- 20	8AM	3 MIN EACH
HEALTH / COVID-19	JIM MORGAN SHOW	LIVE INTERVIEW TO DISCUSS COVID-19 AND EFFECTS ON BUSINESSES	PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER FOR CITY OF ANNISTON JACKSON HODGES		4:15:00 AM	

ISSUE	PROGRAWTITLE	DESCRIPTION	GUEST	DATE	TIME	DURATION
HEALTH/JOBS	JIM MORGAN SHOW	LIVE INTERVIEW TO DISCUSS CONTACT TRACING AND SAFE PRACTICES WITH COVID-19	CALHOUN COUNTY EMA MYLES CHAMBLEE	5/18/2020	4:15PM	5 MINUTES
TOURIUM	RICK SISK MORNING SHOW	LOCAL COMMUNITY BASS TOURNAMENT IN GADSDEN, AL TO ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO THE COMMUNITY. LIVE INTERVIEW WITH MANAGER.	MANAGER OF	6-12-20 & 6-19- 20	8AM	3 MIN EACH
HEALTH / COVID-19	JIM MORGAN SHOW	LIVE INTERVIEW TO DISCUSS COVID-19 AND EFFECTS ON BUSINESSES	PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER FOR CITY OF ANNISTON JACKSON HODGES	4/28/2020	4:15PM	5 MINUTES
HEALTH / COVID-19	RICK SISK MORNING SHOW	MAYOR DISCUSSED HOW PIEDMONT ALABAMA WAS HANDLING PUBLIC SAFETY	MAYOR BILL BAKER	5/19/2020	8:15M	5 MINUTES
PETS	RICK SISK MORNING SHOW	FEATURE TO PROMOTE	1	4/3/20 THRU 4/25/20	9:38AM	3 MIN EACH
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

			# OF TIMES
ISSUE	TITLE/ORGANIZATION	DURATION	IT RAN
	SALUTE TO AREA HIGH SCHOOL	Maria de la companya	
SENIOR SALUTE	SENIORS WHO WILL NOT BE GETTING	:45	846
	LOCAL UNSUNG HEROES RECOGNIZED	- Andrews	
UNSUNG HEROES	FOR THEIR WORK	:30	703
	DAILY FEATURE THAT RUNS M-F 6 TIMES		
	EACH DAY COVERING LOCAL	and the same of th	
	COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS. SEE		
COMMUNITY CALENDAR	ATTACHED COPY	2 MIN	408
	REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER FREE		and the same of th
HEALTH / COVID TESTING	COVID TESTING 4-27-20	1 MIN	3
	CITY OF ANNISTON, HOBSON CITY,	/	
	ANNISTON PUBLIC HEALTH, RMC		
	STRINGFELLOW HOSPITAL, ST.		
HEALTH / COVID TESTING	MICHAEL'S MEDICAL CLINIC PROVIDED	1 MIN	18
HEALTH / FREE FOOD	CT LUKES CHURCH PICE AND DEANS		-
HEALTH / FREE FOOD	ST. LUKE'S CHURCH RICE AND BEANS	:30	6
PUBLIC NOTICE, CURFEW	CITY OF JACKSONVILLE	:30	3
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04-15-2020 East CC22

In Calhoun County the Alabama Department of Public Health is getting geared up for a Drive Thru COVID-19 Testing taking place today, April 16th from 10 AM - 2 PM at Jacksonville State University Pete Mathews Coliseum

A one-day "drive-through" COVID-19 testing clinic is offered by the Calhoun County Health Department to patients who meet the testing criteria and while supplies last.

For more information call 256-237-7523.

And from the Calhoun County Emergency management office there is a new PSA from St Michaels Clinic...

(Nannet Widium?) (IN News)

This program is for Calhoun County residents who have tested positive for Covid-19

Call 256-240-5505 to learn more.

In Etowah County the Gadsden Etowah Emergency Management office says that a preliminary assessment by the National Weather Service in Birmingham survey team, reveals the damage in parts of Etowah County Sunday night were from an EF-2 tornado - sustained winds of 115 mph.

The GECEMA will continue their damage assessments and so far, 79 homes have received some measure of damage.

And the Etowah County Sheriff's office has announced that businesses in our community continue to join forces and do whatever it takes to help through these unprecedented times.

If you would like to donate needed supplies, such as, PPE, cleaning supplies, Lysol, etc, all 6 McDonalds in Etowah County are collecting donated items.

The items can be dropped off or left in the lobby.

With the help of the EMA, these items will be given to those with the highest priority of need.

#covid19etowah

CC22 04-16-2020

In Calhoun County the local United Way branch is just one of the organizations waiting for a loan under the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, set up as part of the federal coronavirus stimulus package.

As many are still working to help others while not being paid themselves.

Demand for the loans is massive, particularly because nonprofits are allowed to apply.

The pandemic has touched everybody, even doctors' offices and churches who can no longer operate Day Care Centers.

Still, local bankers say that the government this week seems to have ironed out many of its problems with the program, with applications now running more smoothly than last week.

At Noble Bank in Anniston, president Anthony Humphries Told the Anniston Star, so far only 40 loans have been, for a total of about \$6 million. He said he expects another 150 loans to close this week.

Loans that will keep an estimated one thousand people working.

And Thursdays drive thru Covid 19 testing event at JSU had a large turnout. The total number of tests is not known at this time, and the results will take some time to process. 04-21-2020 PSA Free Covid 19 Testing will take place at Glen Addie Homes in Anniston

People with symptoms of COVID-19 can get tested for the virus at a walk-in and drive-in screening site at Glen Addie Homes in Anniston on Wednesday, city officials announced Monday.

Regional Medical Center will provide testing for people who live at Glen Addie, though anyone who has symptoms can drive up and ask for a test.

According to the flyer for the event, to meet the criteria for testing, a person needs to have a fever, a cough or shortness of breath.

No doctor's recommendation will be required Wednesday at Glen Addie.

Test results will take three to five days to come back.

People who test positive and don't have a physician of their own will be offered admission into the free coronavirus care program at St. Michael's Medical Clinic.

Drive-in patients don't need to make an appointment, but will need to maintain social distancing, walk-in patients should call first to set an appointment.

Glen Addie Homes residents should call the Anniston Housing Authority at 256-236-1575 ext. 130. All other walk-ups can call 256-236-3422.

The screening site will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., unless testing supplies run out first.

CC22 04-21-2020

In Calhoun County the next Free Covid 19 Testing will take place at Glen Addie Homes in Anniston

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The screening site will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., unless testing supplies run out first.

In Calhoun County the numbers of cases of COVID-19 continue to risa as there are 82 confirmed cases out of 820 total tests with 3 confirmed dead out of an estimated population of 114,000.

And in Etowah County, the Chamber of Commerce will hold a WEBINAR: called Ask the Sheriff with Etowah County Sheriff Jonathon Horton

It will take place at 10am on Thursday, April 30, 2020

Hear the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

For details contact the Etowah Chamber at (256) 543-3472

In Etowah county there are now 105 confirmed cases out of 785 total tests with 8 reported deaths and 7 who died from illness out of an estimated population of 102,000.

CC22 04-22-2020

In Calhoun County, Wednesday morning on front steps of the East Metro Alabama Crime Center in Oxford there was a news converence where JSU President Don Killingsworth provided some good news for area first reponders...

(Killingsworth 1)

Calhoun County District attorney Brian McVey said through the efforts of JSU and the Porch Indians they now have 3,000 masks and another 5,000 on the way.

In Calhoun County there are 86 confirmed cases out of 820 total tests With 3 who have died from illness out of an estimated population of 114,000.

In Etowah County the Gadsden/Etowah EMA Director Deborah Gaither gave the Gadsden City Council a report on the Covid 19 situation and asked city leaders to consider a soft approach to re-opening business.

The main reason for the request is there is a shortage of Personal Protection Equipment...

(Gaither 3)

Gaither said she would hate to see a resurgence of Covid 19 cases without more PPE.

(Gaither 4)

Gaither said 17 people have fully recovered, while 99 still have or are carrying the virus at this time.

In Etowah County: there are 116 confirmed cases out of 785 total tests With 8 who have died from illness out a population estimated at 102,000.

CC22 04-26-2020

In Calhoun County Emergency Management Director Michael Barton held a news conference today where he gave out the latest info on Covid-19.

(Barton 5)

The official word is the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Gadsden will be closing, after last year's layoffs and the buyouts months ago had dropped the workforce to 411 employees.

City and county leaders say they are continuing their work to bring new industry and more jobs to the region, to keep the loss of Goodyear from bringing the area economy to its knees.

City officials learned of the closure through reported corporate filings and the media's confirmation.

Alabama's current SNAP recipients can expect an increase in benefits because of the coronavirus, and some families with children who didn't previously receive food stamps will qualify for benefits as well.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service approved Alabama's application to issue Pandemic EBT benefits to eligible students, the Department of Human Resources announced Thursday.

The benefits are designed to cover meals missed since schools were closed statewide March 18, through the end of the school year May 29.

Current recipients will be the first to receive the pandemic funds, receiving an additional \$5.70 per day, per child for the months of March, April and May. The retroactive funds will be put on EBT cards. No application is required.

CC22 04-27-2020

In Etowah County the head of the Chamber of Commerce, Heather New says the portal for the Paycheck Protection Program forgivable Ioan will reopened Monday at 9:30 am central.

If you have already worked with a lender but did not get submitted in time before the first allocation was expended, you may want to check with that lender to ensure no additional information may be needed.

If you have not yet begun the process, but intend to, we recommend that you connect with your preferred lender as soon as possible.

We understand that the new allocation is anticipated to serve more smaller businesses than the first allocation, but it is worth noting that the first allocation was fully expended within only a few weeks.

Please do not hesitate to begin the process if you plan to make application for this loan.

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan portal has not yet reopened and no date has been established yet for it to reopen.

We encourage you to continue to check your credit history and bank account if you have previously submitted an EIDL request and had not yet been funded.

If we can help you in any way, please email me at heather.new@etowahchamber.org or call us at 256-543-3472.

In Calhoun County the City of Anniston has announced that Regional Medical Center will offer free walk-up and drive-in screening for COVID-19 at Constantine Homes on Wednesday.

People don't have to be Constantine Homes residents in order to be screened, and they don't need a doctor's recommendation.

Screening will be limited to people who show symptoms of coronavirus, including fever, a cough or shortness of breath.

The testing site will open at 10 a.m. and will close at 2 p.m., or sooner if supplies run out.

Those who use the walk-up clinic will need to schedule their visit, according to Jackson Hodges, a spokesman for the city of Anniston.

Constantine residents can call 256-831-0901, extension 1, while all others can dial 256-236-3422.

Results typically take 3-5 days.

People who test positive but have no insurance will have the opportunity to enroll in free coronavirus care through St. Michael's Medical Clinic.

CC22 04-29-2020

Gadsden City Finance Director Lisa Rosser spoke to the Gadsden City Council about the city's financial status,

She said with Goodyear closing, that would be a drop of \$2.5 million in revenue for the city.

From what she has seen of March's numbers, revenue is down across the board, though Lowe's and grocery stores showed an increase.

The full impact of the COVID-19 shutdown won't be more clear until May, when April's taxes are due, Rosser said.

The council also accepted a grant for \$89,258.21 from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency under the Homeland Security Grant Program for conducting exercises, receiving training and purchasing equipment for the Coats Bend Volunteer Fire Department, Altoona Fire Department and Ballplay No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department.

Though Gadsden is not involved in the training or purchase of the equipment, Gadsden-Etowah EMA Director Deborah Gaither said the city is acting as a pass-through because EMA is the homeland security contact for all of Etowah County.

In Calhoun County there will be another Drive Thru & Walk Up COVID-19.

Regional Medical Center will conduct the testing Thursday, April 30th from 10 AM- 2 PM at the Oxford Civic Center. Results may take 3 to 5 days.

You do not need a physician referral, but you do need to be symptomatic.

And the Calhoun County EMA are asking owners, "Is your business Pandemic Ready?"

Let your customers know that your business is safe and prepared!

A link to the check list is on the Calhoun County Facebook page.

Once you have completed the checklist, contact the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce at 256-237-3536 to complete the virtual interview to become certified as Pandemic Ready. In Calhoun County there are 92 confirmed cases out of 1,325 total tests

And three who have died from the virus.

Reporting from Calhoun County Alabama for Gradick Communications, I'm Jim Morgan.

CC22 04-30-2020

In Calhoun County the County Courthouse is set to open Monday and to find out more we called Circuit Clerk Kim McCarson to get some details...

McCarson K1

And in other news the Covid 19 testing at the Oxford Civic Center was well attended, however no exact number of those tested is known.

And in Etowah County this morning Sheriff Jonathan Horton spoke about the current situation in his area via a Webinar held by the Gadsden Etowah County Chamber of Commerce...

(Horton J4)

Sheriff Horton also said that there have been no cases of Covid 19 in the County Detention Center.

05-01-2020 Calhoun Chamber Helping Small Business During Pandemic

ANNISTON, AL - The Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center in partnership with the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama is responding to the urgent need for assistance to sustain Calhoun County's small businesses as they fight for their survival amidst the COVID-19 crisis. As Calhoun County unites together to support its small business community, the Small Business Relief Fund has been established to quickly administer much needed funding during these challenging times.

Working with generous partners and donors, we've established the "COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund." The goal of the Small Business Relief Fund is to expedite financial support for temporary relief for small businesses (2 - 25 full-time equivalent employees) facing unexpected expenses, which are extra challenging to cover during this period of business inactivity due to the COVID-19 response. Grant amounts of \$2,000 to \$5,000 per business will be available to meet these one-time needs.

Whether you are a business, foundation, or an individual, we must rally together to provide relief for our community's small businesses. Our local economy thrives on small businesses and the need for help is urgent. Give big and support small today.

To donate today to the Small Business Relief Fund:

Donate Online: Visit www.yourcommunityfirst.org, click on the Donate Now button in the upper-right have corner of the page, then click on Small Business Relief Fund, and then complete the donation.

Donate by Check: Make payable to Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama - Memo: Small Business Relief Fund and mail to: Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, 1130 Quintard Avenue Suite 100, Anniston, AL 36201 The Small Business Relief Fund is a collaboration between the Community Foundation of NE Alabama and the Calhoun County Area Chamber & Visitors Center. All contributions are tax deductible.

CC22 05-04-2020

In Calhoun County, Emergency Management Agency head Michael Barton was asked at a recent news conference what will keep the County from having to go back to staying at home or into a full lockdown.

(Barton M7)

In Etowah County, the First Baptist Church of Gadsden regularly has been distributing food on Wednesdays, but this week, an additional 3,000 pounds of groceries will be given out.

The distribution is at 4 p.m. Wednesday at the church and each household will receive a 30-pound box of groceries.

There are no special eligibility requirements for the distribution.

The church will be holding its regular "backpack" food distribution earlier on Wednesday, from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

And as medical workers, first responders and other essential workers continue to work through the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic, a group of local community members are working to do what they can to protect those who are more exposed to the virus.

The group organizes itself through a Facebook group, Northeast Alabama Mask Makers, to work together to sew cotton masks that are distributed to health care workers and others who need them in the Etowah County area.

The private group had more than 260 members at the end of April, who together have made between 4,000 and 5,000 cotton masks, all of which have been given away at no cost.

CC22 05-05-2020

In Etowah County Although all locations of the Gadsden Public Library remain closed, we have reopened our book drops at all three branches so citizens may begin to return thier borrowed materials.

Library staff will immediately disinfect all returned materials and quarantine them for seven days before adding them back to the circulating collection.

They also note that no books that were checked out prior to their closure on March 17th will not be over due until June 15th 2020.

They also have free access to WI-FI in all of their parking lots while they remain closed.

To reserve materials for contactless pickup, please call 256.549.4699, Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM.

And as of May 1st vegetative burning is prohibited from until November 1st in the following counties: DeKalb, Etowah, Jefferson, and Talladega.

This burn ban was established by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to minimize air quality impacts in critical months.

Illegal open burning can result in Alabama Department of Environmental Management imposing a fine to the responsible party.

Any questions regarding the yearly burn ban, please contact ADEM at (334) 271-7879

In Calhoun County The Emergency Management Office is asking area business Have you participated in our Pandemic Ready Program yet? It's a great way to show your dedication to the safety of your staff and customers, especially with such a visible sticker!

You can find links on their Facebook page.

And in Anniston, Monday, police chief Shane Denham announced that he'll retire in June after more than 25 years with the department.

Denham, who announced his retirement in a post on the Police Department's Facebook page, said he planned to leave his position June 4.

The Anniston Star reports Denham was initially appointed police chief in March 2013, replacing Layton McGrady. Denham said Monday evening was his 25th anniversary with the department.

CC22 05-06-2020

In Etowah County EMA Director Deborah Gaither gave the Gadsden City Council an update on how the city and County may be able to acquire some much needed PPE...

(Gaither D5)

And a Gadsden Native, Keegan Bost is a wonderful poet and song writer from Gadsden Alabama who said on his Facebook Page called Keegan Bost Music

"Well guys, I'm super excited to let you all know that I had the AMAZING opportunity to pitch a song to the one and only Julia Michaels on Songland for season 2 of the show!

I can't wait for you guys to see the episode! The season premieres on April 13 on NBC so be sure to tune in!"

Keegan and his also talented wife, Mary both sing together on the page and he also sang a song he wrote at their wedding.

Good Luck to Keegan Bost.

In Calhoun County EMA Director Michael Barton tells the Anniston Star that he wants you to keep wash your hands and give your fellow residents some space and to wear masks if you can.

Barton said that last week had the fewest new cases of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, since the virus took hold in March. But ignoring COVID safety directives — or making the assumption they're not necessary — could lead to a spike in cases.

CC22 05-11-2020

The Class of 2020 received some good news Friday. Hours after Gov. Kay Ivey loosened restrictions of the current public health order, Alabama's top education official State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey told school superintendents that high school graduation ceremonies can be held on school campuses, beginning May 11, as long as they follow the state's new health order.

"At a minimum, gatherings must be held in a facility that would allow a distance of six feet between households," Alabama State Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey wrote in guidance to superintendents Friday afternoon. "Family members of the same household may sit together without regard to the social distance rule."

The Alabama High School Athletic Association wrote that high school athletics will not resume until at least June 8, in line with Mackey's timeline.

A little more than a month after closing to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic, Gadsden is reopening City Hall on Monday with new procedures and policies.

Visitors to the second, third and fourth floors will sign in on the floor/department-specific sheets at the security station on the first floor. Each floor with be limited in visitor capacity.

And Friday afternoon the Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency held their weekly update on the Covid-19 situation where the volunteers for the 211 service were thanked for all the hard work, and EMA Director Michael Barton said Calhoun County is out testing most thanks to Regional Medical Center Anniston's efforts...

(Barton M9)

RMC infectious disease control specialist Candi Williams also said the some who have tested positive may not even feel sick...

(Williams C1)

Barton also said there is another Covid-19 Testing event that will take place on Thursday at the County AG building off of Bynum Leatherwood Rd.

For details check the Calhoun County EMA Facebook page or our Facebook page at Alabama810 94.3 and 97.1.

CC22 05-12-2020

In Calhoun County the Health Dept will be offering COVID-19 Drive Thru Testing every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 A.M. until 10:30 A.M. To schedule an appointment call 256-237-7523.

We ask you remain in your car and call the clinic when you arrive for your scheduled appointment.

And the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce say if you want to make a positive impact on your community?

Take part in the Census online today at my2020census.gov or by phone (ENGLISH: 844-330-2020 or ESPAÑOL: 844-468-2020.)

The process should take around 3-10 minutes depending on the number of individuals living in your household.

Our goal is at least an 80% participation score for the County, and we'd love for you to help us reach it!

Be sure to spread the word to your friends and family to be counted in Calhoun County!

CC22 05-13-2020

In Calhoun County, Monday, the Jacksonville City Council held their regular meeting via ZOOM and among the highlights, was the council's decision to approved a tax free holiday for the "back to school" season.

Mayor Johnny Smith said that even though the city needs the money, a lot of families are going to be hurting, too.

Monday was Jacksonville City Hall's "soft opening," with half of the staff working there and the other working from home.

Mayor Smith said the doors were locked, and residents could only come in by appointment.

Those who had appointments also had to wear masks and have their temperatures taken.

And County Commissioners are getting ready to prepare for first meeting since the lockdown as Tuesday they held a work session at the County Administration Building where everyone wore masks while spaced apart.

The Commissioners also heard from Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency director Michael Barton, who noted that health officials will hold another free coronavirus testing event at the County Agricultural Center on Thursday.

Barton added that 10 percent of people who've tested positive at past events had no obvious symptoms of COVID-19 before the test. He said that number shows why the commission and other public bodies need to continue observing social distancing at their meetings.

Thursday, the commission will meet and vote on an agenda packed with "new business" items that have been piling up since the end of March.

And there will be a few new rules for the public who wants to speak to the commission, as they will have to wait outside the meeting room spaced apart before their turn to talk.

In Etowah County the Gadsden/Etowah County Emergency Management Agency announced that the Etowah County Health Department is hosting a Drive Thru COVID - Testing at Gadsden, Parks and Recreation, Carver Community Center located at 1030 Tuscaloosa Ave, Gadsden, Alabama 35901 today from 10am until 2pm while testing supplies last.

Please call (256) 547-6311 for an appointment and to preregister. Patients must meet certain criteria to be tested.

More details can be found on Facebook at Etowah County Health Department.

CC22 05-14-2020

With eased restrictions on gatherings, local schools can set their graduation dates -- with many holding ceremonies on the dates they planned before the COVID-19 pandemic upset the school schedule. All the Etowah County School System high schools will have graduations May 21 or May 22, and all will be outdoors, with limited attendance to allow for social distancing.

The Southside City Council named Blake Ragsdale chief of the municipality's police department at Monday night's council meeting. Mayor Wally Burns and all council members expressed their appreciation for Ragsdale's service thus far with the police department, and their confidence in him as the department's chief. Ragsdale has been acting chief for several months

The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed another victim, in terms of public events. Gadsden-Etowah Habitat for Humanity announced the cancellation of the 2020 Habitat Dragon Boat Festival because of current concerns surrounding the COVID-19 crisis. The event had been scheduled for Aug. 15.

In Gadsden the Farmer Market Hosted by 5th Street Market and Gadsden Parks and Recreation sends out the invite for a weekly fruit and veggie party. Come find local produce, fruit, meats, cheese, eggs, honey, jams and other handmade goods!

Market will open each Friday starting May 22, 2020

~Shopping Manners, Rules & Procedures~

ONE SHOPPER PER HOUSEHOLD

8 a.m.- 1 p.m.

- MAINTAIN 6 FEET APART OF SOCIAL DISTANCE
- PLEASE USE OUR HAND WASHING STATIONS, BE KIND and SANITIZE
- DO NOT TOUCH ITEMS ON DISPLAY.

VENDORS WILL BAG YOUR ITEMS YOU HAVE SELECTED.

STAY AT HOME IF YOU ARE OR HAVE BEEN SICK

In Calhoun County, the Oxford City Council voted to contribute \$100,000 to the Small Business Relief Fund, a program of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, which provides grants up to \$5,000 to eligible small businesses in Calhoun County.

The deadline to apply for the Small Business Relief Fund is this Friday, May 15th at 5 PM! Be sure to complete your application and submit it online before then!

To start your application or read the application guidelines, please visit yourcommunityfirst.org

CC22 05-15-2020

Though the summer semester began Wednesday at Jacksonville State University, students and faculty are all working online.

The campus will be sanitized during the summer period, Killingsworth said, with a goal of having first-time freshmen able to have face-to-face academic advisory sessions in July.

Jacksonville State University administrative staff will start the incremental reopening of university offices Monday, the school announced, with plans to resume in-person classes in the fall.

That plan, though is subject to change, depending on the course of the pandemic.

Acting university President Don Killingsworth met with department supervisors to coordinate the full return of school services,

Each supervisor is working through the Pandemic Ready checklist this week, a questionnaire that asks business owners to examine their ability to reopen, so they can spot potential trouble before workers return in full force.

And in Jacksonville, Starbucks submitted plans last week to open a location at 611 Pelham Road South, intending to demolish the building on that site and build a new one.

The chain's submission came the same week the owners of Java Jolt Coffeehouse, less than half a mile to the north, listed their business for sale.

In Etowah County, Gadsden State Community College custodial and maintenance staff returned to the college's campuses Monday to perform systematic sanitization, according to a release sent Wednesday afternoon.

Information technology employees, meanwhile, have started installing new equipment for classrooms and labs, unrelated to the virus, while all other employees continue to work remotely.

Martha Lavender, president of the college, in the release said cleaning and upgrades will continue through May 31.

Should the state lift its safer-at-home restrictions and allow a statewide reopening, the statement reads, "Gadsden State will open on June 1 allowing students and visitors on campus in a safer modified capacity."

Students are expected to continue online courses for now, according to the release.

It's not downhill from Wilmington, North Carolina, to Gadsden, but that hasn't stopped Russell Larkins from picking up momentum as he's been running.

According to the Gadsden Times

What started as one man putting one foot in front of the other to raise money and awareness has turned into an effort involving a full team, nonprofits and even a corporate sponsorship.

Larkins, a Marine Corps veteran, is raising money for the Semper Fi Fund, a nonprofit that assists wounded veterans in all branches of the military; Team Rubicon, a veteran service organization that uses disaster response to help bring veterans back into civilian life; and the Gary Sinise Foundation, a veteran service nonprofit founded by the actor that portrayed Lt. Dan in the movie Forrest Gump.

CC2205-18-2020

Friday Afternoon Calhoun County Emergency Management Director Michael Barton held another weekly situation update on Covig-19 and had some good news for area resident's...

(Barton M10)

Barton also said Calhoun County continues to out test all other counties in Alabama as well as the national average. He said there is another drive thru testing coming up on Thursday in Oxford at the civic center from 10am until 2pm.

Check the Calhoun County EMA's Facebook page for more iformation.

And in Marshall County there was a miracle of sorts as two people walked away apparently unharmed from a seaplane crash in Lake Guntersville Friday evening.

According to Jeff Reaves, senior trooper with the Marine Patrol Division of the Alabama State Troopers.

The pilot tried to land there in (Lake) Guntersville, and as he's coming in for a landing, something happened and the plane flipped in, end over end, as he touched down in the water.

He said the seaplane's occupants were able to swim out from underneath the overturned aircraft.

The two were then helped out of the water by the Guntersville Rescue Squad.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the incident.

What's next for Keegan Bost? The Gadsden songwriter is fresh off being named the winner of Monday night's episode of 'Songland.'

Bost's song actually was chosen by Julia Michaels about two months ago.

He had to keep it a secret all this time.

Bost watched his episode of 'Songland' with his family.

But it was more than a watch party. It was a time to say goodbye, as Bost and his wife Mary left to move to LA to continue writing songs, on Tuesday morning.

CC22 05-19-2020

In Calhoun County, McKenzee Webster is 25 years old and was just starting a new job in Anniston in March when she first began to feel ill.

She went to an urgent care center, but didn't feel better.

By April 1, Webster was on a ventilator in the coronavirus unit of Regional Medical Center in Anniston.

She didn't emerge from the hospital until Friday, when doctors and nurses sent up a cheer as Webster was rolled out of RMC. She was still on a stretcher.

Webster told the Anniston Star, "If I could give anybody any advice: go to the hospital, wear your mask, stay inside, And keep God first. I wouldn't have made it without God."

She was on a ventilator for 31 days.

She has been free of the virus since at least Tuesday — she was moved out of the coronavirus ward and to another part of the hospital after testing negative.

And in Calhoun County the Chamber has put out some important voting info, as the Primary Election Run-Off will be TUESDAY, JULY 14TH

And Municipal Elections on TUESDAY, AUGUST 25TH and the General Election will be held November 3, 2020

Remember to Bring your Photo ID!

For additional info or to register go to Alabama Votes dot gov. Or Call toll free at 1-800-274-8683

Etowah County has been chosen to receive \$74,821 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs as well as funding to respond to COVID-19's impact on the community, according to a news release from United Way of Etowah County. The Phase 37 Award is \$30,845 and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding is \$43,976.

The funding was made available through the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Shelter National Board program.

CC22 05-20-2020

In Calhoun County, the city of Piedmont, has been doing quite well despite the situation with the Corona Virus as Mayor Bill Baker informed Rick Sisk on his morning show Tuesday...

(Baker B1)

Mayor Baker also said the city is about to have their first Dollar Tree open soon, and said they will have plans in place to keep the opening safe for staff and shoppers.

And the Calhoun County EMA has listed some tipsfor area residents for isolating at home if you are confirmed positive or if you have been tested for COVID-19:

- Stay home
- Monitor your symptoms
- Have a designated sick room
- Do not share household items
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Stay in contact with your doctor

In Etowah County, while some deadlines for renewing tags have been extended — and may be extended again — the deadline for 2019 property tax was not.

Revenue Commission Linda Barrett-Vaughan said the county's delinquent tax list is being published in The Gadsden Times, and the auction of delinquent properties will proceed as scheduled.

The auction is slated for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 17, at the door of the Etowah County Courthouse. Vaughan indicated the location of the sale may need to be changed.

And Gadsden Parks and Rec has announced that the highly popular Barbarian Challenge 2020 will take place on June 20th. To get more information and to register stop by the Gadsden Parks and Rec Facebook page.

PSA 05-20-2020 Jacksonville Police Department Announcing Graduation Parade

ATTENTION ATTENTION

Thursday Night 05-21-2020

Please help celebrate the wonderful class of 2020 at Jacksonville High School by attending The Senior Spotlight Parade.

The parade will begin at 8P.M. Therefore, the roads will be closed at 745P.M to allow the parade to line up. We ask that you plan your route ahead of time and be prepared for delays if traveling on Pelham Road South.

The Parade will travel south on Pelham Road from First United Methodist Church and end at the high school football stadium.

If you want to support our seniors please come to the square, or you may park at the Public Safety Complex and walk down to George Douthitt Drive to support the parade.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JACKSONVILLE CLASS OF 2020!!!

PLEASE SHARE SO TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS

CC22 05-21-2020

Wednesday Piedmont Mayor Bill Baker said in a Facebook Post that the Calhoun County EMA contacted him regarding free coronavirus testing that they are doing countywide.

Mayor Baker said they are interested in coming to Piedmont and offering this service to anyone interested.

More than likely this will be a one day test only and you do not have to have any symptoms to be tested.

Results are confidential.

This will be a drive thru event and I will share more details with you when this is arranged.

Feel free to share with anyone interested in being tested.

And the city of Jacksonville and Jacksonville city schools are inviting citizens to a Senior Salute Parade.

The parade will begin at 8P.M. Therefore, the roads will be closed at 745P.M to allow the parade to line up.

We ask that you plan your route ahead of time and be prepared for delays if traveling on Pelham Road South.

The Parade will travel south on Pelham Road from First United Methodist Church and end at the high school football stadium.

If you want to support our seniors please come to the square, or you may park at the Public Safety Complex and walk down to George Douthitt Drive to support the parade.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JACKSONVILLE CLASS OF 2020!!!

The Etowah County Health Department will conduct a drive-thru COVID-19 testing clinic May 27 in Altoona for people who meet testing criteria. The clinic is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Youth Football Field located at 3333 Main Street, Altoona. Testing will be available as long as testing supplies are available. Details can be found on the Gadsden/Etowah Facebook Page.

And a drive-by, send-off parade occurred in Southside on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, for Landen Skillman, a 10-year-old battling cancer.

Signs with words of encouragement and support were shown in support and many have young Landen Skillman and his family in their prayers.

Landen and his parents leave for Memphis, Tenn. on Thursday to head to St. Jude's for treatment.

CC22 05-22-2020

Wednesday afternoon a post from the Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency said, Today is a day we should celebrate in Calhoun County!

- Only 9 new cases in the last 7 days
- Only 11 "active cases" (within 14 days of being positive)
- 0 COVID positive hospitalizations (first time since March 29)
- 0 deaths in the last month (Since April 20)

And it says Good job Calhoun County! Thanks for all you have done and keep up the common sense approach to protecting yourself and others from COVID-19!

And in Calhoun County the 2nd annual June Jamboree is coming up.

This is a free event for the community.

There will be several arts/crafts/trade vendors along with live music and a reptile show, bounce houses, and face painting.

There will also be a raffle benefitting Pink Heals Eastern Al. They will be there with their pink fire truck.

Also, Sherman Williams (former running back for the Alabama Crimson Tide and the Dallas Cowboys will be in attendance too signing autographs!

It will take place on the last Saturday in June (June 27th) from 9am to 3pm at 220 Iron City Cutoff Rd. Anniston, Al. 36207.

For more info go to the Facebook Page June Jamboree

In Etowah County According to a release from general manager Jeff Bailey of Max Packaging Company in Attalla quickly acted on news that one employee - then others - had tested positive for COVID-19.

The company will temporarily shut down and arranged for testing of all employees.

Max Packaging paid for these tests for any employee including management without insurance and also made arrangements to cover any co-pays for employees with insurance.

No employee with a positive test will be permitted to return to work until the recommended quarantine period has expired, Bailey said in the release.

Adding that Max Packaging will be reopening the plant soon for those employees who have tested negative.

Ani in Gadsden, First responders from the City of Gadsden's Fire and Police departments recognized front-line healthcare workers at Riverview Regional Medical Center on Wednesday evening during a shift change.

The first responders will be holding another event Thursday evening at Gadsden Regional Medical Center.

And Thurday, Governor Ivey has amended the State of Alabama's Safer at Home Order. The changes will go into effect May 22nd (Friday) at 5:00pm, and ends on July 3rd at 5:00pm.

Changes that will open ENTERTAINMENT VENUES SUCH AS ARCADES, THEATERS, BOWLING ALLEYS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: CHILD DAY C ARE FACILITIES: and SUMMER CAMPs all under certain rules and guidelines.

But large entertainment venues remain closed off, as do senior citizen centers.

For details on the web go to alabamapublichealth.gov/index. Facebook most EMA have a list of those

CC22 06-05-2020

Wednesday the Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency announced that their plan to help the Alabama Department of Public Health slow the spread of COVID-19 through contact tracing was rejected.

The plan which would have had nurses from the Calhoun County Schools system work on contact tracing by identifying people potentially exposed to COVID-19 through contact with others that later confirmed to have had the virus, and helping them get tested and self-monitor at no cost to the state through May. The plan was submitted in late April.

One reason for the denial may have been due to a lack of state health officials being able to provide much needed data.

Calhoun County COVID-19 Cases Update Thursday, June 4th

Currently in Calhoun County:

- 167 total cases
- 14 new cases in the past 7 days
- 0 deaths since April 20th, 3 total deaths

Continue to do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19:

And the organization East AlabamaWorks is proud to partner with a variety of community agencies to present a Skilled Industrial Job Fair on June 10th at the Oxford Civic Center.

Local manufacturing companies are hiring skilled employees!

If you are looking for a new job, this is the event for you!

In Etowah County, Community Action of Etowah County Inc. is scheduling appointments for the Regular and Crisis Cooling Utility Assistance programs, according to a news release from the agency.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, no walk-in appointments are allowed, according to the release. Appointments must be made in advance by calling the agency's office at 256-546-9271 from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CC22 05-26-2020

According to Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington.

Gadsden is among the state's major cities with the highest unemployment rates for the month, at 22%.

Even higher is Anniston's rate at 22.1%

The April unemployment rate for the state was 12.9% — significantly up from March's revised level of 3%, and last year's rate of 3.2%.

In people terms, that represents 283,787 people out of work — 216,738 more than the month before.

The culprit, of course, has been COVID-19.

Gov. Kay Ivey said in a press release, "While we are certainly disappointed to see our unemployment rate rise so sharply this month, it's not surprising," adding "This global pandemic and national disaster has certainly impacted Alabamians' ability to work.

And in Etowah County the Health Department have plans for another Drive thru testing for Covid-19 that will take place Wednesday May 27th in Altoona at the Youth Football Field on Main Street. The testing will start at 10am and will end at 2pm or when testing supplies run out. For more info or details check the Gadsden Etowah EMA Facebook Page or call 256-547-6311.

And in Calhoun County, EMA Director Michael Barton released an announcement updating the Covid-19 situation in Calhoun County...

(Barton M12)

CC22 05-27-2020

In Calhoun County, The City of Anniston will host its annual #Summer Day Camp Program. The Summer Camp will run from June 1st until August 7th, from 7:00am until 5:30pm (Monday - Friday), and it will take place at 3 of their community centers: the Anniston Aquatic & Fitness Center, Norwood Hodges, & Wiggins!

The Summer Camp will comply with the rules and guidelines set forth by the State of Alabama's Amended 'Safer at Home Order,' as they relate to Summer Camps.

→ Please note, in-order to better comply with state guidelines, each camp site will have a limited number of registration slots available, and Registration slots will be given on a first-come-first-served basis.

For more details including a link to a registration form go to The City of Anniston, Alabama Facebook page.

Now that Gov. Kay Ivey has allowed movie theaters to reopen, the Amstar 12 theater at Quintard Mall in Oxford is easing back into business, offering private screenings of classic movies.

The Anniston Star reports that Amstar has an agreement with Universal Pictures to show some of its older movies or bring a gaming console and games and play on the big screen.

The Quintard theater will start by offering private screenings, For \$100, you can rent an entire theater and bring up to 20 people. And choose from among 50 movies.

The concession stand will be open

The theater needs seven days' advance notice before a private screening. To book, call 256-310-2452.

In Etowah County, the COVID-19 situation has had no effect on the outdoor work underway at the Etowah County Mega Sports Complex site, but late winter/early spring rains put a damper on progress, according to Ralph Burke. Burke, chairman of the Etowah County Mega Sports Complex Authority, said when you're on a bulldozer, social distancing is a given.

The site is off Lumley Road in Rainbow City, where the city is constructing a new road to connect Kinzie Lane with Lindsey Street, which leads to Alabama Highway 77.

Milam and Company Construction is optimistic about completing its work at the site by July.

CC22 05-28-2020

In Etowah County it's been more than two months since the City of Gadsden closed most of its parks and recreation facilities because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some facilities have been reopened, Parks and Recreation Director Jen Weathington told the City Council Tuesday, but before all facilities are open, they will need to have more employees hired as those working now are stretched into many areas...

(Weathington J1)

Gadsden City Mayor Sherman Guyton also responded...

(Guyton S1)

The City Council will transfer \$30,000 from a Natural Disaster Trust Fund to the Gadsden/Etowah County Emergency Management Agency to purchase COVID-19 supplies.

And Etowah County Sheriff Jonathan Horton is warning citizens, to please be aware that there are individuals making phone calls posing as Etowah County Sheriffs Office Investigators/Employees requesting money to be given for warrants.

This is a scam. Do not give money or any information to these individuals.

In Calhoun County, Anniston Public Information Officer Jackson Hodges spoke with Jim Morgan about the need for citizens to complete the 2020 Census...

(Hodges J1)

CC22 06-01-2020

In Calhoun County, Ohatchee police chief Jason Oden told the Anniston Star that a bear was seen in Ohatchee on Friday afternoon

Chief Oden said a resident spotted the bear around 4 p.m., took photos of it and called police.

He said the bear was black and mid-sized.

Oden encouraged locals in the area not to approach the bear or shoot it.

If the bear is seen again, he urged people to call Ohatchee police at 256-892-3156 so police can keep track of its movements.

If the bear becomes a "problem," he said, police will involve state conservation officers.

And protests and marches over the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis are happening in many parts of the country those in Alabama have for most part been very peaceful.

Oxford Police Chief Bill Partridge has been vocal on social media and in one post he said, Protesting a grievance is perfectly legal and a constitutional right.

Violence, rioting, destruction of property, and stealing are not. They are a crime.

Americans are united in that justice must come to the fired officers who killed George Floyd.

But Americans are not in agreement with the violence and destruction of cities in the name of justice.

Those participating are criminals. This is not the way to make a point. Innocent people were injured and killed during these riots.

Innocent people are being hurt and their property destroyed by criminals who are using the death of George Floyd to steal and destroy.

It must stop.

And in an earlier post Chief Partridge spoke about the officer who has angered many Americans, saying "This is not a police officer. This is not

American law enforcement. This is someone who has no integrity, honor, emotion, or respect."

In Etowah County be aware of possible traffic delays on U.S. 411 in Rainbow City this week as the City will begin work toward a plan to three-lane a portion of Rainbow Drive/U.S. Highway 411 this week, and area police want drivers to be cautious.

The added lane would extend from Alabama Highway 77 to Lumley Road. The preliminary engineering work will progress along that route from now through Friday.

And the Gadsden Parks and rec has announced the 13th Annual City of Gadsden Coosa Landing Super Bass Tournament is set to take place on June 20th.

And there are some really nice cash prizes for the top 5 in the tourney starting at \$5000 for first place.

Entry fee is just \$150.00.

Entry fee deadline is 30 minutes prior to blast off.

For more information, please call Julie Tucker at 256-549-4677 or Mike Godfrey at 256-453-6546.

CC22 06-02-2020

The CALHOUN COUNTY AREA CHAMBER & VISITORS CENTER BEGINS ROUND 2 OF the COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND

With the conclusion of Round 1 of the Small Business Relief Fund review process, 31 grants will be awarded to small businesses in Calhoun County, totaling in the amount of \$120,000.

With the demand and need of our community being so great, and thanks to the many generous donations we have received, we are now able to implement Round 2 of the Small Business Relief Fund review process to aid our small businesses even more.

For updated Round 2 guidelines, please visit the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama's Grants page.

And in Anniston the Cornerstone Church is working hard to meet the needs of those who are struggling as they have announced that there will be a food distribution on Tuesday, June 9th at the church located at 2885 Choccolocco Road that will start at 9:30am. All you have to do to receive a box of food is show up, no questions asked. This is being done in addition to their monthly Mana House food distribution where they will be delivering groceries to those on their list. For info on that call them at (256) 236-1603

Heather Brothers New, the President & CEO of the the Chamber of Gadsden & Etowah County is warning of a potential scam as she writes that one of our members forwarded an email they received from an entity that we feel may be attempting to scam our members.

Please know that if you are contacted by any business, entity or organization that offers to sell you anything related to The Chamber you should contact us first to ensure its legitimacy. We do not use third parties to sell anything that we provide.

If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call or send us an email. We want to protect you from potentially harmful solicitations.

The phone number is (256) 543-3472

The email address is heather.new@etowahchamber.org

The primary vote in February seems like a distant memory now, but a number of unresolved races will be on Etowah County's ballot in runoffs for Republican candidates.

Locally, Becky Nordgren and Jeff Overstreet compete for the Republican nomination for Etowah County revenue commissioner. Nordgren is a state representative; Overstreet is a former Etowah County Commissioner.

PSA 06-02-2020

The Calhoun County EMA has announced there will be another drive thru testing for Covi-19 that will take place Thursday, June 4th, at the Sports Complex next to the Piedmont High School.

The event will take place from 10am until 2pm or when supplies run out.

For details and other information check the Calhoun County EMA's Facebook page.

CC22 06-03-2020

In Etowah County, the city of Gadsden marks the end of an era that was reinforced on Tuesday to those driving on East Meighan Boulevard. Crews worked Tuesday morning to remove the familiar Goodyear logo from the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s Gadsden plant, which is permanently closing. Goodyear on April 23 announced its plans to end production in Gadsden after 91 years.

The City of Gadsden has announced the start of its assistance program for residents who have fallen behind on utility bills because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate a financial hardship because of loss of income or reduction in income, a household member tested positive for COVID-19 or a household member had to quarantine because of close contact with a positive person, and the household must meet federal low-moderate income requirements.

If a Gadsden resident meets those requirements, he or she may qualify for up to three consecutive months of assistance on garbage, water, electricity and gas bills.

Applications are available on the city's website at www.cityofgadsden.com, or on the first floor of City Hall.

The Gadsden Trolley System resumes operation Monday June 8th with modified routes and policies because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Gadsden's Transportation offerings are being modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacts. Starting Monday, June 8th the Gadsden Trolley Service is resuming with modified routes and policies.

The trolley service will operate Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Gadsden Regional, Central, and West routes will be the only routes running, with two trolleys on each route on weekdays. The Gadsden State Community College route will not be running, but the DART service is still available.

In order to meet social distancing and capacity guidelines, each trolley will be limited to 4 passengers at a time. Customers are encouraged to wear a mask and should use the trolleys for essential trips during this pandemic.

For More Information call Gadsden Transportation Services at 256-543-3278 or 256-549-4519 ext.3.

CC22 06-15-2020

In Calhoun County, Saturday in Anniston there was a gathering designed to get diverse voices talking to one another, and each conversation eventually reached the same place: a desire to make the future safe for the next generation, our children.

According to the Anniston Star, a group comprising black and white locals met Saturday evening at Zinn Park in the Martin Luther King pavilion, part of an event organized by Change in Action. The local equal-rights activism group has participated in protests and demonstrations in Calhoun County all of which have been peaceful.

The gathering Saturday had been announced as a networking event, an opportunity for white and black business owners to meet and talk and hopefully find common ground.

Lesa Lace, an Army veteran and mother from Oxford who organized the meetup, said she'd hoped to see like-minded people gather, meet one another, and establish connections, or even friendships.

Turnout to the event was limited, comprising largely members of Change in Action itself.

The people that attended seemed unfazed; some said they had expected drawing in a large gathering to be difficult.

In Etowah County, the county's Rural Transportation will offer full services again starting today, to provide transportation for residents throughout the county.

Director Lora Weaver said Rural Transportation service never completely shut down. Though no one thinks about it, she said Rural Transportation's drivers are essential employees, too. They've continued to provide rides to dialysis, medical appointments and other necessary trips for people without access to other public transportation.

However, service was limited to essential trips.

Preparations for Monday have been underway for some time, and will continue this weekend with troubleshooting from a consultant and training for drivers.

And in food related news the USDA has announced that Lakeside Refrigerated Services, a Swedesboro, N.J. establishment, is recalling approximately 42,922 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "EST. 46841" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to retail locations nationwide.

The problem was discovered during routine FSIS testing. There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products.

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854)

CC22 06-16-2020

In Etowah County Alabama Public Health statistics on Friday reported 52 new cases of COVID-19 in the County in the last 14 days, part of a 6,320-case increase in the state in the last 14 days -- including a single day increase of 800 cases reported Thursday.

Etowah County Health Department Emergency Preparedness Nurse Robbie Stubbs told the Gadsden Times that there are a few factors in the spiking numbers.

"We're increasing testing like crazy in Gadsden," she said. In Etowah County, there is free testing at the health department on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and more testing is being done at clinics in various parts of the county.

Stubbs added that while testing more obviously leads to more positive test results, the reopening of more of the state is a big factor in the increase.

Gadsden/Etowah County Emergency Management Agency Director Deborah Gaither and Mary Gomillion of the health department spoke of "hotspots" in Altoona and East Gadsden – both places where recent drive-thru/walk-up clinics were conducted.

Of those tested at the East Gadsden site, about 20% tested positive.

Both told the Times there is need for continued precautions – practicing social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, avoiding touching your face and staying home if you have health conditions that make you more vulnerable to complications from the virus – despite the relaxing of the state health order.

A drive-thru/walk-up clinic is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday at Dwight Baptist Church, at 520 N. 29th St. In addition to free COVID-19 testing, Stubbs said, free Hepatitis A vaccinations will be available as well.

For more information, contact the health department.

In Calhoun County the EMA office reports County COVID-19 Cases Update Monday, June 15th show 196 total cases 18 new cases reported in the past 7 days, Currently, 2 hospitalizations and no deaths since April 20th, and a total 3 deaths since the beginning.

The EMA encourages citizens to continue to do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19: by Washing your hands frequently, Cover your coughs and sneezes, If you feel sick, stay home, avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth and avoid close contact with individuals if possible.

In Anniston officials told the Anniston Star they plan to select a new police chief by the end of July, to replace the former Anniston police Chief Shane Denham, who retired June 4^{th} .

City spokesman Jackson Hodges told the Star that three captains who made the highest scores qualified for the position, and each will have 15 days to serve as chief in the interim to ensure the city makes "a well-informed and fair decision."

The three candidates are Capt. Justin Sanford, Capt. Clint Parris and Capt. Nick Bowles.

CC22 06-17-2020

In Anniston, there are reports that Mayor Jack Draper wants the city council to discuss removing a Confederate monument from the city.

A statue memorializing Lieutenant John Pelham, a Confederate artillery officer who was originally from Calhoun County.

He died in action in Kelly's Ford, Virginia in 1863. He was buried in Jacksonville.

The statue is located on the center median on Quintard Avenue in Anniston, where it intersects with 12th Street.

Mayor Draper says if it is removed, a good place to relocate it would be Janney Furnace Park in Ohatchee.

And out of a concern for public safety, Jacksonville State University has made changes to the Spring and Summer 2020 commencement ceremonies scheduled for July 31 and August 1, 2020.

All ceremonies will now be held outside at JSU Stadium to allow for proper social distancing and ventilation. As a result, the ceremony times have been adjusted to avoid the hottest times of day.

Everyone in attendance will be required to wear masks. Graduates will be provided a mask at the ceremony and will be distanced from one another on the field and during processional/recessional. Only one row of graduates will rise at a time to go to the stage. Graduates will cross the stage wearing masks. Professional photographers will take photos of graduates onstage, wearing their masks, but will also take photos off-stage without masks before graduates return to their seats.

And there is a relatively new service to the Calhoun County area.

Snake Removal of Calhoun County is here to assist residents that find these legless creature's on their property and want to have them safely removed. They will come to your home/business and address any kind of snake (venomous and non-venomous). Please stop by their Facebook page and give them a like, you may need them one day.

At this time they are not charging any money for the service although users might want to offer something for their gas. Call them at (256) 405-6755 between 9am to 9pm for more info'

And in Etowah County, a reminder, as the Etowah County absentee election manager's office is accepting absentee ballot applications for the July 14 runoff election.

The last day to apply for an absentee ballot is July 9. The last day voters can return ballots in person is July 13. Mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than July 13 and must be in by noon July 14. Medical emergency ballots must be delivered by the voter's designee no later than noon July 14.

The absentee election manager's office is located in the office of Circuit Clerk Cassandra Johnson in the county Judicial Building, 801 Forrest Ave. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; the phone number is 256-549-5355.

All applications must be submitted with a current, valid photo ID, unless the voter is exempt from the ID requirement.

CC22 06-19-2020

In Etowah County, the Health Department has received a number of complaints about restaurants failing to adhere to guidelines still in place on their opening for dine-in service because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agency has received a number of complaints about restaurants - some about servers not wearing masks, some about patrons violating the social distancing guidelines even when restaurants had taken steps to establish the six-foot distance.

The health department has been taking an educational approach for restaurants when they get a complaint and they contact the business and remind them of the recommendations still in place under the state's "Safer at Home" order.

There are potential fines of up to \$500 for violating the state public health orders.

And the Etowah Chamber of Commerce said in a release that in an effort to further build relationships within our local community and to help small business with the additional expense of supplies needed while dealing with COVID-19, Lowe's has been able to acquire KN95 masks to donate, and has a desire to prioritize Woman and Minority Owned businesses in our local community.

Lowe's does have a limited supply, so there may be limits per business based on number of employees, and additional considerations may be given for businesses that work in direct contact with others.

To apply business' will need to complete a survey if they have a need for masks for thier business.

The Woman & Minority Owned Business PPE Support Survey can be found on the web at etowahchamber.org Or call 256-543-3472

In Calhoun County Emergency Management Director Michael Barton held a press conference at their facility Wednesday afternoon where he said there has been an uptick in the number of cases in Calhoun County...

(Barton M12)

Barton also said residents need to continue their efforts to help slow the spread...

(Barton 13)

To check out the entire video go to Calhoun County EMA's Facebook page or YouTube page for a complete report from the EMA.

CC22 06-22-2020

In Etowah County, the Southside City Council recently approved making three city intersections three-way stops, and that change in traffic flow will be effective next week as signs are put into place.

The new three-way stops will be at

Fowler's Ferry Road and Hampton Road

Fowler's Ferry Road and Dunn Road

Hood Road and Christopher Avenue

The Southside Police Department will be monitoring the intersections and encourages everyone to drive safely and be aware of the new traffic signs.

And a report from the Gadsden Times says a Rainbow City boy is recovering at Children's Hospital after a near drowning incident Thursday, according to a Facebook page started by his parents.

the victim 6-year-old Lucas Hutchins, was rushed to a local hospital then flown to the Birmingham facility, according to posts, after his older brother saved his life by finding him in a swimming pool and alerted his parents.

The boys' father Joseph Hutchins is a deputy with the Etowah County Sheriff's Office, and he performed CPR on the child until emergency responders arrived.

According to posts on the "Prayers for our little fighter Lucas" Facebook page, says his condition has improved and family members continue to ask for prayers for his recovery, and for the family.

In Calhoun County Amtrak will end daily service on many of its long-distance routes, including the one that stops in Anniston, beginning Oct. 1, according to a spokeswoman for the rail company.

Kimberly Woods, a spokeswoman for Amtrak told the Anniston Star that the move to service on three days per week as Amtrak will be cutting 20 percent of its workforce as a result of the financial strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The company said that the pandemic has reduced ridership and ticket revenue by 95 percent.

Woods said. "Our goal is to restore daily service on these routes as demand warrants, potentially by the summer of 2021."

Saturday, in Anniston, dozens of hardworking people surrounded a building that many years ago held Girl Scout offices but now holds a group known as the Legacy Club on Christine Avenue. Inside, dozens more painted walls for the Legacy Club, which provides mentoring and educational programs for local youth.

Vikki Floyd, who heads the organization said more than 100 volunteers had come and gone from the site since renovations started Saturday morning. She struggled to find the words to say how happy it made her.

She said volunteers from area churches, businesses and nonprofits were landscaping, painting, replacing the building's roof and floor and doing electrical and plumbing work.

CC22 06-23-2020

In Calhoun County, The City of Anniston has partnered with the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce and the Anniston Housing Authority in order to provide assistance to citizens in completing their 2020Census!

The Census is important to all Alabamians as the count determines how much the state will receive in federal funding.

Anniston Public Information officer Jackson Hodges says they will be out at Norwood Homes, on June 24th (this Wednesday), from 10:00am until 12:00pm to assist those who need help.

Anyone who still needs to complete their #Census may come up and do so! We will also be happy to help answer anyone's questions about the Census!

And in addition, everyone who completes their Census at this event will be entered to #Win one of five \$25 Walmart Gift Cards!

To take the Census online go to 2020Census.gov, or call toll free 1 822 330 2020.

And the Calhoun County EMA has announced that Wednesday, June 24^{th,} the Alabama Department of Public Health, RMC, and the EMA will be partnering with the city of Ohatchee to host a Drive Thru COVID-19 testing site at the Ohatcheee Town Hall located at 7801 Alabama Hwy 77

The event will start at 8am and go till noon.

It is FREE and anyone who feels the need is encouraged to come get tested while supplies last.

In Etowah County, the Gadsden Public Library now hopes to reopen -- in part -- on June 29, after three months of serving the community online and through a pick-up service for library materials. Director Craig Scott is pleased that the Gadsden library was able to provide that service for people -- allowing them to request materials and having library employees get it, bag it and let people come by for pick-up.

The library had hoped to re-open earlier but a surge in cases caused a pause in those plans.

The staff continues to work, disinfecting materials as they are returned to the library -- through the book drop and audio-visual drop by the front doors only -- and quarantining them to ensure that any lingering virus dies before someone else gets that material.

The Etowah County Health Department is still testing by appt. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Call 256-547-6311 to schedule a drive up appt. at their East Broad Street location.

CC22 06-24-2020

In Calhoun County the regular Monday night meeting of the Jacksonville City Council met for their regular meeting and what was not on the agenda was the high light of the gathering where several people dressed in black attire asked the City to consider removing a Confederate memorial statue from the city's public square while there were others who believe the removal would censor history. And say the statue has absolutely no connection to Racism.

Not all who spoke were actual residents of the City and the council listened but made no comment on the matter that Mayor Johnny Smith says will be addressed in the near future.

On Tuesday, the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees formally named Dr. Don Killingsworth as the university's 13th president.

Killingsworth has served as interim president since Oct. 2019.

Randy Jones, JSU Board Chair told news outlets that "With every challenge that presented itself during his tenure as acting present, Don rose to the occasion, many times being three steps ahead in how to approach each matter, His caliber, overall expertise and what he's accomplished since since October have since far surpassed our expectations."

JSU's Board of Trustees is set to ratify Killingsworth's contract in July and will integrate both incentives and success goals, according to JSU.

In Etowah County Tuesday, the Gadsden City Council voted to accept \$1,677,217 in coronavirus relief funds from the CARES Act, pending state approval of the city's plan for spending the money. Public Affairs Director Eric Wright said the grant is reimbursement money — the city has to spend the money, then be repaid with the federal funds administered by the state.

Wright also said that all expendatures must be related to Covid-19.

And Riverview Regional Medical Center will offer COVID-19 testing Wednesday afternoon, with results available the next day.

The drive-thru clinic is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the hospital's Medical Arts Building, 303 Bay St. Patients must: – Call 256-442-5153 to make an appointment; – Complete the coronavirus testing form located on RRMC's website at riverviewregional.com

CC22 06-25-2020

The Federal Communications Commission has announced that some local television stations in our local area are changing frequencies to help open up airwaves for new high-speed wireless services.

Only viewers who receive their local channels using a TV antenna will be affected. Cable and satellite subscribers do not need to rescan; as providers will take care of that.

To rescan, viewers will need to find "auto tune," "program" or "rescan" in the "setup" menu of their TV or converter box remote control. For more information and tips on how to rescan, viewers can visit fcc.gov/TVrescan or call 1-888-CALLFCC or (1-888-225-5322).

And while the City of Anniston is working hard to get people counted for the 2020 Census As of today, Alabama's participation in the Census lags far behind other states.

Our rural growth, Congressional representation, federal funding, and economic development are at stake. Low participation in the Census could have a negative impact on Alabama's future.

If you have not already done so, please take the Census today. There are only 10 questions and it takes about 5 minutes to complete.

Participate in the 2020 Census on the web at <u>2020census.gov/</u> or call toll free 1 822 330 2020.

In Etowah County Sheriff Horton is making an effort to stop a scam that has been around before. On the departments' Facebook page it says, "Scam Alert: Fake checks are being sent with attached instructions to participate in a Resident Research Secret Shopper program, instructing participants to purchase gift cards at CVS, Walgreens, or Walmart. Do not be a victim of this scam."

And at this weeks meeting of the Gadsden City Council, EMA Public Information Officer Josh Turner has some serious numbers on the counties Covid 19 situation...

(Turner J1 Located in News Folder)

Turner also said there are now four other locations for testing other than the local Department of Public health for more contact the EMA at (256) 549-4575

CC22 06-26-2020

In Calhoun County while the pandemic continues to have reservations about a lot of what once normal, there some who look forward to something positive, as the Cities of Oxford and Jacksonville do plan to celebrate our independence as Oxford announced a few weeks ago that it would proceed with its annual Freedom Festival at Oxford Lake Park on July 4th, and the night before in Jacksonville the 11th annual Jax Fest will be held at the Jacksonville High School football stadium on July 3rd.

However, both have to make changes to ensure the safety of the traditional celebrations.

In Jacksonville the Kids Zone was cancelled due to issues with keeping it sanitized and social distancing issues.

Families are being encouraged bring lawn chairs or blankets and to follow social distance guidelines between one family and another.

There will be live music and some nice prizes awarded before the Fireworks go aff at 9pm.

In Oxford where the Freedom Festival has been an all day event right up to the fireworks at dark, has also changed as there are plans for Saturday at 11 A.M. for a fun family event as they rededicate Freedom Park at Oxford Lake! There are a lot of new water features.

Events from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. include a parade, petting zoo, cycle races, pet show and carnival games; fireworks are canceled due to COVID-19.

And in Etowah County, the County Commission will have a special called meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday to address an emergency change in a polling location for the July 14 primary runoff.

Earlier this week Probate Judge Scott Hassell alerted the commission to a COVID-19 pandemic related issue with voting at Wallace Hall.

And according to the Alabama Broadcasters Association Albertville police were asking the public to be on the look out for a missing man believed to have dementia.

This morning the ABA announced that 81-year-old Arnold Lee Patterson was located and he was also safe.

CC22 06-29-2020

In Calhoun County, a student and a staff member at Jacksonville State University tested positive for COVID-19, according to Jeff Ryan, director of the university department of emergency management

Areas of the school where the student tested positive student had been, were sanitized and disinfected, according to the announcement.

The student who tested positive is in self-isolation and will remain so for at least 8 more days. The three students exposed are in self-quarantine and will remain so for 10 more days.

And Anniston city officials have scrapped the planned July 1st reopening of the Zinn Park splash pad due to the spread of the coronavirus.

Anniston Public information Officer, Jackson Hodges announced Friday that The well-being of our residents is always the City of Anniston's top priority.

Alabama has seen a surge of new infections in the past two weeks, with the number of coronavirus cases nearing 34,000 statewide Friday. Hodges said the splash pad's reopening was canceled due to the difficulty of sanitizing the pad properly.

The splash pad will remain closed until further notice.

In Etowah County, As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Etowah County, the Gadsden Public Library will remain closed to prevent potential spread of the virus.

In a press release, it says the library will not safely be able to open its doors to the public for now and will remain closed until further notice.

The library will continue to provide the following services to our community:

- Materials may be reserved for contactless pickup by calling 256-549-4699 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.Monday through Friday, or emailing gpl@gadsdenlibrary.org.
- Free WiFi is available to the public 24/7 from the parking lots of all three GPL facilities. Individuals are strongly encouraged to stay in their vehicles at all times, and respect the safety measure of social distancing (six feet to eight feet).

In Montgomery, Alabama's "safer at home" order is set to expire Friday and Gov. Kay Ivey has yet to decide whether to renew it.

The order limits social gatherings, requires employees of restaurants and other businesses to wear masks and encourages masking for anyone who goes out in public.

Its existence is uncertain even though there's been a big surge in COVID-19 cases recently. Alabama repeatedly set and broke record highs for new confirmed cases in a single day this month.

The Alabama Department of Public Health confirmed Saturday 888 new virus cases overnight, bringing the state's seven-day average of daily new cases to a record 782.7.

The state also reported 11 new deaths, bringing the total deaths because of the coronavirus to 898.

Many press outlets say Governor Ivey and ADPD Head Dr Scott Harris may address the issue sometime this week.

CC2206-30-2020

In Etowah County, members of Black Lives Matter Gadsden and others gathered Sunday for a March for the Community from Alabama City to Carver Square.

The goals of the march were to help build youth facilities, fund communities and youth organizations, restore the MLK Building and build a mental wellness center.

And if you have a child between the ages of 3 and 21 with a suspected handicapping condition and live within the confines of the Gadsden City school system, testing is available for a number of conditions.

Contact the Gadsden City Board of Education's Special Education Department at 256-549-2914.

Testing is available for autism, deafness, blindness, developmental delay, emotional disability, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, specific learning disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, speech and language impairment, traumatic brain injury and visual impairment.

And in Calhoun County the June Jamboree on Saturday June 27th will feature craft & trade vendors, rides, food vendors, Yarbrough's Educational Reptiles came back again this year, and we added the pink fire truck from Pink Heals Eastern Al. and Sherman Williams aka the Crimson Cowboy! Admission and parking are free, a 220 Iron City Cutoff, in Anniston. For details check out thier Facebook page under June Jamboree 2020.

Calhoun County has moved from the "Moderate" rate to the "Moderately High" rate of COVID-19 cases in in the last 14 days. This designation indicates a higher level of community spread of the infectious disease as the number of cases each week are increasing in the County. Overall, the percentage of positive tests as well as hospitalizations continue to increase across the State of Alabama.

Although, Calhoun County has now entered the "Moderately High" category, Calhoun County's confirmed cases per 100,000 people still remains the second lowest in the Alabama, with Cleburne County as the lowest.

Individuals in Calhoun County are highly encouraged to take precautions such as social distancing, wearing face coverings, and practicing good hygiene in order to keep yourself and others safe.

For the latest updates on the web go to calhounema.org/latest-updates.

PSA 04-27-2020 Anniston

In Calhoun County the City of Anniston has announced that Regional Medical Center will offer free walk-up and drive-in screening for COVID-19 at Constantine Homes on Wednesday.

People don't have to be Constantine Homes residents in order to be screened, and they don't need a doctor's recommendation.

Screening will be limited to people who show symptoms of coronavirus, including fever, a cough or shortness of breath.

The testing site will open at 10 a.m. and will close at 2 p.m., or sooner if supplies run out.

Those who use the walk-up clinic will need to schedule their visit...

Constantine residents can call 256-831-0901, extension 1, while all others can dial 256-236-3422.

Results typically take 3-5 days.

People who test positive but have no insurance will have the opportunity to enroll in free coronavirus care through St. Michael's Medical Clinic.

PSA Covid-19 Testing In Hobson City 05-01-2020 (Kill 05-06)

Hobson City has partnered with the City of Anniston, Alabama Public Health, RMC Stringfellow Memorial Hospital, and St. Michael's Medical Clinic to provide a #Free COVID-19 collection clinic at 715 Martin Luther King Dr, Hobson City, AL 36201 (Hobson City Hall/Old C.E. Hanna School) on May 6th (Wednesday) from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

This clinic will offer both drive thru collection, as well as walk-up collection. Anyone with symptoms is welcomed to come.

Criteria: Patient is symptomatic with at minimum: a Fever OR Cough OR Shortness of breath. Patient could also have at least two of the following symptoms: Fever, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat and/or New loss of taste or smell.

- → If you are planning to participate in the walk-up collection and reside in Hobson City, please contact 256-831-4940 to schedule a collection time. All other walk-ups may call 256-236-3422 to schedule a time.
- → Results will take 3-5 days. St. Michael's Medical Clinic will contact you with your results if you are positive.
- → Those without insurance or a primary healthcare provider, who's collection tests positive, will be offered enrollment into St. Michael's Medical Clinic's free COVID CARE Program.

PSA 05—4-2020 (Jacksonville Free Food)

Menus combining rice and beans offer "complete protein." St. Luke's Episcopal church will distribute free rice and beans on Saturday, May 9, at the Episcopal campus ministry center, corner of Church Avenue and Drayton Street in Jacksonville. If you would like three pounds of rice and two pounds of pinto beans, come by from 10 A.M. until they are gone. We will deliver curb side. For further information, call 256-435-9271.

Deacon Stan Easton

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

256-435-9271

256-282-4458 (mobile)

Friday Morning Amber Alert 05/08/2020

This morning at 8:29am a AMBER Alert was issued for Cambrrylln Mayfield a 4 month old child was abducted.

The abductor an unknown white male, took the vehicle, a white 2014 Chevrolet Sonic at gun point.

The Alabama tag number is 61DS546.

The abduction took place in the area of Dorothy Lane in Talladega.

The child is believed to be in extreme danger.

If you see the vehicle or have any information your asked to call Talladega Police at (256) 299-0011 or call 911.

PSA 06-03-2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA

CURFEWS OF CITY PARKS

The City of Jacksonville, Alabama is instituting a curfew for all city parks beginning
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 until further notice.

CURFEW HOURS:

8:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. daily

PSA Jacksonville Free Rice and Beans

Deacon Stan Easton of St. Luke's Episcopal Church has announced the church will distribute free rice and beans on Saturday, June 13, at the Episcopal campus ministry center, corner of Church Avenue and Drayton Street in Jacksonville.

If you would like three pounds of rice and two pounds of pinto beans, come by from 10 A.M. until they are gone.

We will deliver curb side. For further information, call Deacon Easton at 256-435-9271 or his cell number 256-282-4458.