

The Clinch County News

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Wednesday, April 15, 2020

HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:

Walgreens

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's going on in your community

Jesus & Jam to provide box lunches

Jesus & Jam will be giving out food boxes and lunches to those who need them on **Sunday, April 19**, from 2-4 p.m. The food boxes and lunches will be given to cars going through the drive-thru in front of Jesus & Jam between the lanes of Highway 84.

County Commission cancels April meeting

The Clinch County Board of Commissioners have cancelled their regular monthly meeting for April, set for **Monday, April 6**, due to COVID-19 concerns.

Huxford Library closed until June 1st

As a precautionary measure, the Huxford Genealogical Library will be closed to patrons until **June 1, 2020**. The Huxford Library quarterly meeting scheduled for May 17 will be not be held. The library is closed to the public but you can call or email the library. However, this mode of operation is subject to change.

Assistance for animal food is available

If pet owners are having issues paying for dog or cat food or kitty litter during the COVID-19 crisis, a benefactor has donated dog and cat food and kitty litter to qualified individuals. E-mail *The Clinch County News* at mail@theclinchcountynews.com, or call 912-487-5337 if in need.

Clinch Foundation event postponed

After looking at the advice of the CDC (which now recommends no gatherings of 50+ people for the next 8 weeks), the medical communities, and the government of our state, the Clinch Foundation Charity Event planned for Friday, March 27, has been postponed. We will hold the event as soon as the health situation and the weather are reasonable for a successful event. It is a postponement and not a cancellation. The community still wants – and needs – to give scholarships for Clinch County High School students, and the Foundation will continue to fund those scholarships. Please watch for an announcement rescheduling the event.

Library Census event is postponed

A Census Day event planned for **Wednesday, April 1**, at the Clinch County Public Library has been postponed due to the Coronavirus situation.

Register Family Reunion cancelled

The annual Samuel & Elizabeth Skinner Register Family Reunion is being cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 crisis. The reunion was set for Saturday, May 16, at Wayfare Baptist Church. Plans are for the annual reunion to resume next year on the third Saturday in May.

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Clinch County up to six cases of COVID-19

By Len Robbins
Editor/Publisher

There are now six confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Clinch County.

On Sunday, Clinch Memorial Hospital reported its fifth positive result of COVID-19 from its testing. One of those positive tests was from someone who lived outside Clinch County. Two other positive results were tested outside Clinch County, but are Clinch County residents.

One local health official said some county positive results can be traced back to a recent "card game" involving some of the people who have tested positive.

As of Monday, Clinch Memorial was reporting 63 tests for the Coronavirus, with five positive results, 53 tests that came back negative, and five currently pending.

Statewide, there are 13,315 confirmed cases of the virus, with 464 fatalities.

In other related COVID-19 news:

- On Wednesday, Governor Brian Kemp announced he was extending the state's "Shelter-in-Place" order until April 30. It was originally supposed to end April 13.
- Earlier that day, Kemp and other state leaders extended the state's public health emergency status, from April 13 to May 13.
- The City of Homerville is urging businesses and seasonal workers to observe state-mandated social distancing guidelines. In particular, busloads of workers are prohibited from going into local businesses. The city urges work crew leaders to create a grocery list and have one or two individuals purchase items for their group.

Clinch County's gets a grade on social distancing

C

By Len Robbins
Editor/Publisher

Clinch Countians aren't doing that well on social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to an online "Social Distancing Scoreboard."

In Monday's scoreboard, Clinch County had a grade of C. Georgia had a grade of D, while the United States had a C grade.

The website www.unacast.com created the scoreboard, which is updated daily, "to empower organizations to measure and understand the efficacy of social distancing initiatives at the local level."

The scoreboard uses three metrics to compute its grades: Mobility - distances traveled compared to pre-Covid-19 levels; Non-essential visits - again, compared to pre-Covid-19 levels; and Encounters density - potential encounters between people compared to a national baseline.

The scoreboard's grades can change wildly in a day, based on what data is showing that day. For instance, Clinch
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GRADING SOCIAL DISTANCING

County	COVID-19 CASES	GRADE
ATKINSON	2	B-
BACON	14	D+
BERRIEN	6	D
BROOKS	19	C
CLINCH	6	C
ECHOLS	2	C
LANIER	5	C
LOWNDES	65	D
WARE	56	D-

Number of cases as of Monday, April 13, at 3:30 p.m.
Unacast.com grades as of Monday, April 13.



Robert Varnedoe of Lee Container (middle) holds packages of berries that Lee Container donated funds for, to put in lunch bags that the school system is distributing to Clinch County school children. He stands with Jason Bell (left) and Clinch Schools Superintendent Dr. Lori James before the buses delivered the meals Monday.

A 'Win-Win': Lee Container donates funds to purchase local blueberries for school lunches

The Coronavirus pandemic has made life difficult for us all – particularly farmers. Homerville's Lee Container recently did something to help our local farm families and schools.

Lee Container Corporation started a project with the Clinch County and Brooks County school systems, and area blueberry farmers, using local berries in sack lunches distributed by the school system to children while they aren't in session.

Robert Varnedoe, President of Lee Container, had the idea to donate funds to enable both school districts to purchase blueberries from area farmers and include them in their school lunches. Varnedoe lives in Clinch County, and grew up in Brooks County. Both districts are delivering lunches every week to their students: 875 students in Clinch County and 900 students in Brooks County. The program is expected to last approximately six weeks,

and to purchase and deliver over 20,000 pints of blueberries.

Working with both school districts, Varnedoe worked out the logistics to deliver the fruit by refrigerated truck to the two school lunch programs.

"We support our area schools, and we're proud of their efforts to provide good, nutritious meals to students during this pandemic crisis," said Varnedoe. "We also wanted to help our South Georgia farmers in these challenging times. This is a Win-Win, as this will contribute to the children's health, and help promote healthy Georgia Grown produce in our community."

In Homerville, Jason Bell is the Director of Operations for the Clinch County Schools, and he's also a blueberry farmer. He worked closely with Varnedoe to quickly turn this idea into a working program in two school districts.

"It's wonderful that we can give fresh
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Ga. Primary election delayed until June 9th

By Beau Evans
Capitol Beat News Service

Georgia's primary election set for May 19 will be postponed three weeks to June 9 due to health and safety concerns over coronavirus, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger announced last week.

The move came after Gov. Brian Kemp extended the state's public health emergency status another month to May 13, a step Raffensperger said was legally necessary before the primary could be delayed.

"This decision allows our office and county election officials to continue to put in place contingency plans to ensure that voting can be safe and secure when in-person voting begins and prioritizes the health and safety of voters, county election officials and poll workers," Raffensperger said in a statement Thursday.

Early voting for the primary now starts Monday, May 18. Voter registration will end May 11.

Raffensperger's office is sending absentee ballot applications to every Georgia voter. Requests for mail-in ballots that have already been sent in will still be valid to receive an absentee ballot for the June 9 election, Raffensperger's office said in a news release.

The June 9 primary is poised to be the first statewide test of Georgia's new voting machines, which involve touchscreens and scanners that officials have hailed as a secure, paper-based voting process.

Without a delay, the primary election featuring presidential, state and local primary contests scheduled for May 19 faced a scenario in which many poll workers may not have shown up to staff voting precincts.

Poll workers on average tend to be older adults who are more at risk
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