

Playoff picture in Class 3A, Region 5 begins to take shape. **1C**

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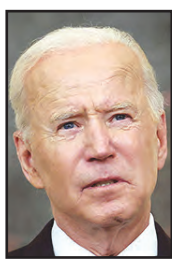
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COVID-19

'Our patience is wearing thin'

Biden institutes vaccine rules for many businesses, decries hesitancy

**BY DAVE GOLDINER
AND TIM BALK**
New York Daily News



BIDEN

President Joe Biden, visibly frustrated by the country's inability to immunize a reluctant chunk of its population in the fight against COVID, said Thursday that the "time for waiting is over" as he uncorked another round of mandates that now touch many private businesses.

COVID-19," the president said. "And a distinct minority of Americans supported by a distinct minority of public officials are keeping us from turning the corner."

The blueprint ordered by the White House requires that employers with

more than 100 staffers make sure their workers receive shots or take weekly tests, and it creates a new mandate for federal employees who previously had the option of taking frequent tests instead of getting inoculated.

Biden, who was once reluctant to institute mandates in the vaccine effort, has decidedly changed his tone after the delta variant wreaked havoc in a disappointing second summer of the pandemic.

The president first moved to force federal employees to get shots or undergo regular testing six weeks ago, in what was then viewed as a major escalation in the battle to vaccinate Americans.

But on Thursday he pushed the effort into a new gear, pairing his new plans to push people to get vaccinated with his toughest talk of the pandemic.

In a direct appeal to the holdouts, he said: "We've been patient, but our patience is wearing thin

and your refusal has cost all of us."

Roughly 4 million federal workers, plus millions of contractors, will be required to get vaccinated under an executive order signed by Biden on Thursday. Federal workers who do not get vaccinated will face disciplinary action, according to the White House.

The president's plan also includes provisions to require

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COVER STORY

Voice of the Bulldogs



Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star

Demetric 'DD' Roberts is in his 12th year calling Anniston High School football games.

Demetric 'DD' Roberts has deep roots with Anniston High football

BY BILL WILSON
wwilson@annistonstar.com

At last week's Anniston High School football game, a familiar voice greeted the fans over the PA system.

It could be heard several blocks away from Lott-Mosby stadium.

"Tonight's contest features the vis-

iting Golden Eagles from up the road in Jacksonville and your host Anniston Booooooo Daaaaaawgs," bellowed out Demetric Roberts, better known to the Anniston faithful as "DD." One of Roberts' signature vocalizations is his pronunciation of 'bulldogs' when he invokes the name of the team's mascot.

Roberts' mission, of course, is to keep

the crowd motivated during the game, a game which on this particular night saw Anniston claim a 22-9 win over the team from Jacksonville High School.

"Are there any Bulldogs in the house tonight?!" Roberts asked, much to the approval of the crowd as yelps and

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9/11

JSU panel reflects on 20th anniversary

BY SHERRY KUGHN
skughn@annistonstar.com

JACKSONVILLE — An audience of about 70 gained a new perspective on the historic events of 20 years ago as they listened Thursday to a panel of university- or military-connected personnel speak of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C.

The 9/11 20th Anniversary Remembrance Panel was sponsored by and held at Jacksonville State University. Lori Owens, a professor of political science at JSU, served as the organizer of the event and its emcee.

JSU President Don Killingsworth welcomed the guests. Four of JSU's ROTC students presented the national colors, and Kaya Knox sang the "Star-Spangled Banner." The Rev. Michael Walker led a prayer for the group.

Owens introduced each panel member and expressed regret that Pearl Williams could not be present on account of being quarantined with COVID pneumonia. She is a Gold Star mother whose son Dwayne Williams was killed in the attack on the Pentagon. Owens mentioned Pearl Williams has a biography due out soon called "Never Give Up."

Below are the panel members and a remembrance each had of 9/11.

Bill Meehan was the president of JSU on Sept. 11, 2001. He told the audience Thursday that he remembered being in a meeting when he learned

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CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL

Mayor: City weeks away from extension property ownership

BY BILL WILSON
wwilson@annistonstar.com

Within weeks, the city should own the property needed to complete the Chief Ladiga Trail cycling path by bringing it into downtown Anniston. The trail's nearest point to Anniston is currently Mike Tucker Park just south of Weaver.

Anniston Mayor Jack Draper said this week that all parties to the necessary transactions are working on the

language with regard to the property deeds.

"I'm hoping all that will work out and ultimately we get that recorded in a few weeks," the mayor said.

City officials have been working for years to extend the Ladiga Trail — the bike and footpath that runs through Calhoun County on what was once the path of a railroad — into the middle of Anniston. The remaining seven miles of trail to be paved include a

scenic bridge over Cane Creek and a large railroad truss bridge near Anniston Middle School.

The mayor said once the deed is recorded, the city will initiate the bid process to get a contractor to construct the trail.

"It's public works and so it's subject to bid laws," he said.

Draper said the city is committed to finishing the trail, which will end at

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Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star

Patrick Wigley, owner of Wig's Wheels in downtown Anniston, is excited about the Chief Ladiga Trail extension which will bring the trail into the heart of the Model City.

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OBITUARIES, 6C

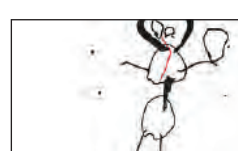
Carolyn Dobson Brooks, Jacksonville
Earl Patrick "Pat" Daniel, Jacksonville
Freda Cain Haynes, Port Saint Lucie, Fla.
Celia R. Johnson, Gadsden
Julius R. Parker, Lineville

Ollie M. Ray, Anniston
Thomas Wilson Smith, Jacksonville
Annie Laura Lott "Mimi" Thomas, Dauphin Island
Virginia "Jenny" Owens Watson, Heflin

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Austin Lambert,
Church of the Good
Shepherd Kindergarten