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WHAT TO MAKE WITH SUMMER FARMERS MARKET PRODUCE. 5B

The Anniston Star

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HEALTH

90% of C-19 cases in county, state among unvaccinated

By THE ANNISTON STAR

The overwhelming majority of Alabama's COVID cases and deaths have been among the unvaccinated, according to the latest data from the state health officials.

From April 1-Aug. 18, 90 percent of Alabama's COVID cases were among

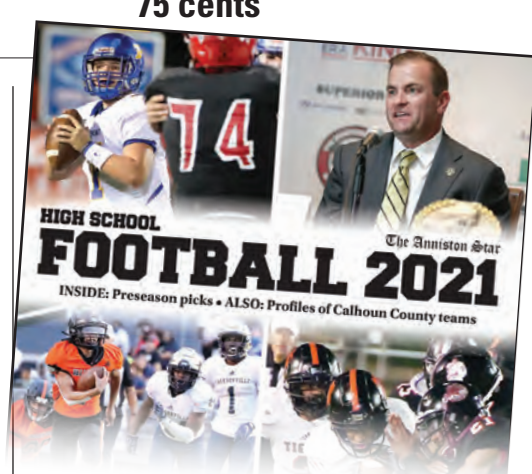
unvaccinated people. Unvaccinated Alabamians accounted for 95 percent of the state's COVID deaths.

"Current data shows that fully vaccinated persons who get COVID-19 are much less likely to get severely ill, go to the hospital or die from COVID-19," according to the Alabama Department of Public Health. "The COVID-19 vac-

cines are working."

In Calhoun County, that trend is reflected in new numbers released by Regional Medical Center, where 50 patients were hospitalized for COVID-19 on Monday — 46 of them unvaccinated. Of those patients, 13 were in the

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COMING FRIDAY

Look for The Anniston Star's annual football section in Friday's paper

COVER STORY

Big time fun



Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star

Jacksonville State University student athletes have a great night of fun and fellowship during the JSU Athletics Back to School Social at Big Time Entertainment in Oxford on Monday. See page 4A for more photos from Monday's fun.

New Oxford entertainment complex hopes to soon announce opening date

By LISA DAVIS

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Big Time Entertainment, the enormous new active entertainment complex in Oxford, plans to announce an opening date this week, according to the venue's Facebook page.

"We just completed our final soft opening training exercise, and are now preparing to open our doors to the general public," the Facebook post stated.

The 58,000-square-foot complex features 18 bowling lanes, electric go-karts

on a multi-level track, more than 70 arcade games, a two-story laser tag arena, axe throwing, miniature golf, a "soft play" area for children, and indoor and outdoor dining.

The complex has been open this month for private events, including the JSU Athletics Back to School Social on Monday.

The Big Time complex is spread over two buildings on five acres just off Interstate 20's Exit 185, near the new Planet Fitness, across from Walmart on Alabama 21.

Construction began in January 2020,

and at the time owners said they hoped to be open by November 2020.

By September 2020, the target opening date had been pushed back to early 2021 due to construction delays caused by rain and communications issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Greg Morrow, one of the principal investors in Big Time Entertainment, explained at the time.

In May, posts on the Big Time Entertainment Facebook page said the complex would be "opening in summer 2021."

ELECTION 2022

Walker files to run as Republican in Georgia

By GREG BLUESTEIN

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



ATLANTA — Former University of Georgia football star Herschel Walker launched a campaign Tuesday for U.S. Senate, bringing both his celebrity and his untested political background to one of the premier national contests on the 2022 ballot.

Walker becomes the most prominent Republican to line up against Democratic U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock in next year's contest, ending intense speculation that he'll move from his home in Texas to Georgia to run for the office.

Walker didn't immediately com-

ment, though he filed paperwork Tuesday with the Federal Election Commission establishing his candidacy and recently registered to vote in Georgia. A formal announcement is expected within days.

He entered the race at the urging of former President Donald Trump, who said the one-time running back would be as "unstoppable" as a candidate as he was on the field.

Trump's seal of approval, combined with Walker's lofty name recognition and outsider persona, make the ex-Bulldog the

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ANNISTON

Funeral procession, blood drive honor late firefighter

By BEN NUNNALLY

Star Staff Writer

Dozens of fire, police and emergency response vehicles participated in a funeral procession Sunday for Justin Roberts, 40, an Anniston Fire Department lieutenant who died Thursday after being hospitalized for COVID-19.

Roberts' funeral service was held at Leath-erwood Baptist Church on Old Gadsden Highway, and the procession took him from there along U.S. 431 to Middleton Cemetery behind Oak Bowery Church in Ohatchee.

About 20 people parked their cars at the intersection of Old Gadsden Highway and U.S. 431 to show support for Roberts, his family and his fellow first responders.

Earlier this week, fellow firefighters said that Roberts was family, even outside of his own department.

"Firefighters spend one-third of their lives together," said Oxford fire Chief Gary Sparks. "Every third day, you live with that person for 24 hours. You become like family. Justin is a part of that family."

His older brother, retired firefighter Chad Roberts, said Justin Roberts would be missed not only for his character, but the positive impact he had on his community.

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WEATHER, 10B



Drake Haring, Pleasant Valley Elementary

SCATTERED STORMS

HIGH: 88 LOW: 70

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