

# GETTING CLUCKY

The legendary Haunted Chicken House opens in Heflin. 1C



# JSU FOOTBALL

Tight end Barry happy to be back on the field. 2B



# The Anniston Star

Weekend Edition, October 10-11, 2020

A home-owned newspaper

\$2.00

ANNISTON

## COVID disrupts fundraising for local animal welfare group

BY BEN NUNNALLY  
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One of the myriad effects of social distancing due to the pandemic is the inability of crowds to gather at fundraising events.

### INSIDE

Wreath sale steps up as Habitat for Humanity fundraiser

PAGE 4A

The restriction has had a severe effect on the League for Animal Welfare, a no-kill shelter for dogs and cats on Bynum Leatherwood Road in Anniston. It had to cancel its annual Tailwaggers Gala that had been set for later this month.

"The Tailwaggers Gala usually makes enough to pay for vet bills," said Melisa Rollins, rescue coordinator for the League. "We've really had a kind of devastating year."

The gala income accounts for about \$5,000 in the League's budget, which the shelter uses to pay veterinarians for spay and neuter services, vac-

Please see ANIMALS | Page 4A



Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star

Heather Wilson holds her dog, Scooter, dressed as Pennywise the clown at the League for Animal Welfare in Anniston.

COMMENTARY

## The 'old soul' joining Anniston's City Council

Debra Foster has known Ciara Smith "since before she was born," so when she dusts off a story from the Anniston councilwoman-elect's childhood it's fresh and largely cobweb-free. Decades haven't faded it, though they will in due time.

"I will never forget years ago," Foster says, which means before Smith was class president at Anniston High School, and before she served on Anniston's Main Street board of directors, and before she interned with U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson, and before she attended a Congressional Black Caucus Institute boot camp in Washington, D.C.

Before she became today's Ciara Smith, in other words.

Please see TUTOR | Page 4A

COVER STORY



Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star

Site preparation work at Village at the Springs in Anniston is ongoing.

## Rain, COVID slow new Golden Springs housing development

BY TIM LOCKETTE  
tlockette@annistonstar.com

Sometime in the next few weeks, Don James will be able to start selling lots at Village at the Springs, the new housing development he's building in Golden Springs.

When he will be able to complete construction on the site, though, is hard to say.

"We don't know, exactly, when everything will be finished," James said. "We've been dealing with lots of

issues."

Anniston city leaders have been eagerly awaiting the opening of Village at the Springs, a 126-home development that James is building on 41 acres just southeast of the intersection of Choccolocco Road and Veterans Memorial Parkway.

It is the first major housing development in recent memory inside Anniston city limits. The city's population has been in decline for 20 years, following the Army's closure of Fort McClellan, a source of anxiety for

city leaders.

James hopes to build houses in the \$200,000 range, marketed to relatively affluent retirees who are scaling down from larger houses. City officials say that could bring more retailers to the city, noting that businesses often look for places with a dense population of people with money to spend.

"Rooftops are important, and they're important from the standpoint that they fuel development," said City Councilman Jay Jenkins.

Please see HOUSING | Page 3A

COMMENTARY

## 4 earn promotions in talented newsroom

The Anniston Star won first place in the 2019 and second place in the 2020 Alabama Press Association contests for best local news coverage.

We wish we could win the top award every year. The measuring stick reflects a commitment to outstanding journalism, in our eyes.

To underscore our push to do even better, it's my pleasure to announce the promotion of four Anniston Star staffers.

Lisa Davis, Mark Edwards, Danielle Stallworth and Jared Gravette have new titles, effective Monday.



James Bennett  
Editor's Notes

August. She will be senior editor for news and features, coordinating coverage of a talented team of reporters.

Davis and Edwards have been promoted to senior editor. Stallworth and Gravette have been bumped up to assistant features editor and assistant sports editor.

Davis has been interim editor of the newspaper since August. She will be senior editor for news and features, coordinating coverage of a talented team of reporters.

She will continue to write her popular weekly humor column, which won first place in the Alabama Press Association in 2020.

The Anniston resident has 36 years of experience as a newspaper and magazine editor. She joined The Star as features editor in 2009, and the features section has won top honors from the Alabama Press Association for the past five years in a row.

In 2011, the Society for Features

Please see BENNETT | Page 4A

## PINK PAGES

Check out our annual Breast Cancer Awareness section inside today's Star!



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### OBITUARIES, 6A

Caffey Bell Bester, Kansas  
Constance Darlene Bosse, Anniston  
Coralean Brown, Auburn, Ga.  
Lindie Karen Brown, Bessemer  
Ronda Shea Daniell, Trickett Valley  
Shirley "Joyce" Hail Doss, Alexandria

Corene S. Griffin, Lineville  
Betty Bundrum Hinds Hurst, Jacksonville  
Lucretia Ann Looney, Jacksonville  
Mariyah Destiny Swink, Eastaboga  
Messiah Taylor, Lincoln  
Carolyn S. Yates "Neicy", Anniston

### INDEX

Lottery . . . . . 2A  
Comics . . . . . 7A  
Life & Arts . . . . . 1C  
Puzzles . . . . . 5B  
Classifieds . . . . . 6B

### WEATHER, 8B



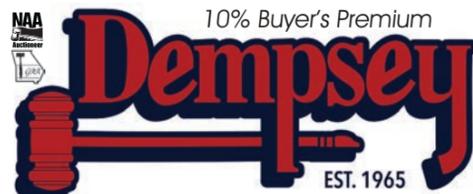
RAIN CHANCE  
HIGH: 80 LOW: 70  
Caleb Shrew,  
Pleasant Valley Elem.

## ABSOLUTE AUCTION | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 10:00AM

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