



The Anniston Star

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COVID-19

County schools go virtual for two weeks

BY BEN NUNNALLY
Anniston Star Staff Writer

Infection data hard to come by from some school systems

Department of Public Health from the school system, there were 184 positive cases in the Calhoun County system last week.

The Calhoun County school system announced Monday that it will switch to virtual learning for all students for the next two weeks.

Superintendent Donald Turner said in a call to parents in the school system that all classes would be virtual starting Tuesday, with a planned end date of Sept. 13.

"This is due to the rising number of COVID cases of adults and students in our district," Turner said in the message. "The inability to find substitutes for our adults has led us to this decision."

The school system had earlier this month announced it would not require masks or vaccinations, to varying levels of approval from area residents.

According to the most recent data submitted to the Alabama

Rising numbers of COVID-19 cases have been charted in various ways by school systems in

Please see VIRTUAL | Page 4A

COVER STORY

Making the grade



Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star

Anniston Police Department's Sgt. Justin Hartley, center, counts the number of sit-ups applicants do during the department's open testing at McClellan on Saturday.

Anniston police applicants have something to prove

BY BEN NUNNALLY
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physical fitness. They had to shove an Anniston police car 15 feet with the gear in neutral, climb or leap up and over a 6-foot chain-link fence, balance on a beam and get through a window (dive-rolling was against the rules). If they passed the test, the applicants would have taken the first step toward a job with the APD.

The last obstacle was to lug a 165-pound, dead-weight, human-shaped dummy 15 feet. The face painted on his Cordura-fabric head was an expression at the center of a Venn diagram charting anger, boredom and bemusement. He was sassy.

But the dummy had it easy. Alyssa

Please see ANNISTON | Page 9A

HURRICANE IDA

3 injured in south Alabama tornado

Storm had minimal impact in Calhoun County

BY JOHN SHARP
AND HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

Alabama Media Group

J.J. Nelson said he'll never forget the sound of a can opener ripping off the roof of his family-owned buffet that is popular spot for Sunday brunches and family gatherings in Saraland.

"It was a high-pitch whistle and then we heard these terrible groaning sounds," said Nelson, whose family has owned the buffet for more than 12 years.

Approximately 30 people were inside the restaurant during the lunch hour. Another 12 or employees were working in the kitchen.

"Everyone in the dining room took cover in the middle of the room," said Nelson. "The employees in the back, they had knives in their hands and were working the fryers. They dropped everything and had (to seek cover)."

Saraland Mayor Howard Rubenstein said that a tornado touched down in his city around 12:15 p.m. Monday, causing damage to multiple buildings along U.S. 43 and leaving three people with non-life threatening injuries. No one was injured inside the buffet.

The National Weather Service's Mobile office on Tuesday confirmed that a tornado caused damage in Saraland and Creola on Monday, when Tropical Storm Ida roared through Alabama's Gulf Coast.

"Storm surveys are ongoing this afternoon, but so far our team has found EF1 tornado damage in Saraland and Creola," the NWS Mobile's Twitter account wrote Tuesday.

Hurricane Ida had minimal impact here in Calhoun County — unlike Hurricane Zeta, which last October knocked down trees across the county and left nearly 30,000 people without power, some for nearly a week.

"We didn't have any reports of any-

Please see IDA | Page 5A

OXFORD

Big Time Entertainment opens to excited crowd



Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star

Terry Payton bowls during the grand opening at Big Time Entertainment in Oxford Monday morning.

BY BILL WILSON
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greeter exclaimed "Come on in!" to the 30 or so customers who had been lined up waiting for the complex to open.

After several construction

Please see BIG TIME | Page 9A

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OBITUARIES, 8A

Jason "Jase" Thomas Alderman, Jr., Anniston
Isaiah Lee, Anniston
Paula S. Roberts, Anniston

Effie L. Ross, Anniston
Mildred White Smith, Anniston
Willie J. Smith, Jr., Anniston
Bobby Ed Ward, Anniston

INDEX

Classifieds7B
Comics5B
Food6B
Opinion6A
Lottery2A

WEATHER, 10B



CHANCE STORMS
HIGH: 84 LOW: 63

Broly Putman,
Pleasant Valley Elem.

Wakefield's Labor Day Weekend SALE

BOGO SHOES 50% OFF
Friday & Saturday Buy One Pair Get One Pair 50% Off*
In Our Shoe Department
*50% Off Pair Must Be Equal or Lesser Value. Excludes Advertised Sale Shoes, Birkenstock, Chacos, Crocs, ON CLOUD & HOKA Running Shoes, Uggs, \$10 and under shoes.

Super Savings Throughout the Store Today ~ Saturday
Shop 10-6 Monday ~ Saturday
Closed Sunday and Labor Day