

The Clinch County News

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Wednesday, April 8, 2020

HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

10 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Bargains, Coupons & Deals
INSIDE with these sales papers:

Walgreens

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's going on in your community

Homerville City Council meeting postponed

The Homerville City Council meeting normally scheduled for **Thursday, April 9** at 6 p.m. has been postponed. The City Council plans to reschedule at a later date, and will announce those plans soon.

County Commission meeting cancelled

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

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.

Census Day event at library postponed

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

Raffle for Jekyll Island vacation

Suzie's Friends is having a raffle for a Jekyll Island 5-day Vacation Raffle. Tickets are \$10. The winner will receive a 5-day/6-night or 2 3-day weekend vacations at Jekyll Island (an \$1800 value). Go online to: <https://suziesfriends.org/vacation> to purchase a ticket.

Downtown brick pavers for sale

Homerville's Main Street Program has brought back the Brick Paver Project for the Downtown Homerville fountain. Anyone interested in having their loved one's name engraved on a brick paver and installed around the fountain, please contact Main Street Manager Rebecca Carter at (229) 445-0385.

CMH Auxiliary seeking new volunteers

Clinch Memorial Hospital's Auxiliary (Pink Ladies and Red Vests) is looking for volunteers. Interested persons should call Alice Babbitt (912) 520-0095 or Phyllis Bennett (912) 487-5617.

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Third Clinch COVID-19 case confirmed

By Len Robbins
Editor/Publisher

Clinch County now has three confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Monday evening, the state Department of Health announced the third confirmed case of COVID-19 among Clinch County residents. Thursday, the second case was revealed. The first case was reported on March 17.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp announced a "shelter in place" order, which mandates Georgians

What does 'Shelter-in-Place' mean?

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

Gov. Brian Kemp has issued a statewide shelter-in-place order to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. Here are some frequently asked questions surrounding the order and answers supplied by the governor's office:

How long does the executive order last?

The shelter-in-place order took effect at 6 p.m.

stay at home until April 13 unless they are involved in "essential services" or traveling to or from work, among other restrictions.

Friday (April 3) and expires at 11:59 p.m. April 13

What businesses and professionals must cease in-person operations and close to the public during this time?

Bars

Nightclubs

Gyms

Fitness centers

(Continued on Page 3)

The order allows Georgians to leave their homes to buy groceries, purchase medical equipment, go outside to exercise, head to doctor's appointments, or travel for work. The shelter in place restrictions started Friday (Continued on Page 3)



Above are 850 bags filled with food for local children in the Clinch County High commons area Thursday. The bags were delivered to children in Clinch County by the school system. This week, Jesus & Jam is delivering meals to children in the community. Next week, the school system will again be delivering meals, but will deliver only on Mondays and Wednesdays (see story for details).

Governor mandates closure of schools

On Wednesday, April 1, Governor Brian Kemp announced that all state schools, including those in the Clinch County School System, will be closed the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

On Friday, Clinch County Schools Superintendent Dr. Lori James released the following information for parents and students concerning the school year, high school graduation, and Pre-K registration, among other topics.

Information for Parents & Students

School Year: Governor Kemp issued an executive order closing all schools for face to face instruction through the remainder of the school year. The 2019-2020 school year has not been modified. Therefore, Spring Break remains scheduled for April 6-10. No meals will be delivered and teachers may not be available via email during that week. However, learning

activities and meal distributions will resume on April 13 and will not stop until the end of the scheduled year (May 22).

Graduation Ceremony: It is too early to make any final decisions about graduation except to say this: we will celebrate our seniors with a graduation ceremony! As circumstances are constantly changing, we will continue to monitor the situation and release plans in the coming weeks. We are committed to recognizing and honoring these seniors for their accomplishments. We are proud of them and look forward to them having their moment to shine.

Meal Deliveries: To help limit unnecessary exposure to our employees and community, the Georgia DOE recommends delivering meals only one or two times per week. Beginning Monday, April 13, we will deliver meals on (Continued on Page 3)

Hospital has limited number of test kits

By Len Robbins
Editor/Publisher

Since receiving a positive test result for COVID-19 on March 17, Clinch Memorial Hospital hasn't received any more positive test results.

As of Monday, the hospital had performed 38 tests, with just that one positive result, and five more currently pending. The other positive result in Clinch County was tested elsewhere.

But CMH CEO Angela Ammons said with increased testing will likely come more positive test results for the virus in the near future.

"When we increase our testing, there is a strong likelihood that we will see more positive tests. This does not mean that there has been an 'invasion' of the virus in our community, but that the opportunity for testing has increased," Ammons said. "Please do not blame, point fingers or direct anger towards those that may receive a positive result. There are many who have contracted the virus and have recuperated without ever being tested. If you still visit the gas stations, grocery stores, church, etc., you run the risk of contracting the virus."

CMH had ordered 300 test kits weeks ago, but only received 10. Since then, they have diversified their suppliers in an effort to get more kits and received more. Still, they are urging only those showing symptoms of the virus to get tested.

"We do have a limited supply and these are being reserved for the sickest of patients that present in our ER requiring admission or placement in another facility," said Ammons. "Worldwide, there is still a shortage of kits and every facility is receiving a rationed amount, so this is why we have to be conservative with the supplies that we have." (Continued on Page 3)

Traffic stop leads to sizable meth bust for Homerville Police

By Blake Pittman
Staff Writer

A recent traffic stop led Homerville Police officers to a methamphetamine trafficking arrest.

Last Monday, officers with the Homerville Police Department stopped a vehicle near the intersection of Highway 84 West and Hampton Street for travelling almost 30 mph over the speed limit. Upon approaching the vehicle, officers noticed the smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle, according to the report. Officers requested the assistance of the K9 unit.

Upon arrival, the K9 unit alerted on the vehicle, and on a black duffel bag that had been taken from the vehicle by one of the occupants. Alexandria D. Jones, 24, of a Brunswick address.

During the search of the vehicle, officers recovered over 50 grams of methamphetamine, over an ounce of synthetic marijuana, a mobile device SIM card, as well as a loaded handgun from



Eric Stevens



Alexandria Jones

the black duffel bag. Officers noted that all items were found concealed inside of black duct tape, which is a tactic commonly used to attempt to mask the odor of various controlled substances.

According to Homerville Police Captain Derrek Manning, subsequent investigation of this case found that Jones and her passenger, Eric Stevens, 31, both had traveled from Brunswick to a Walmart parking lot in Valdosta to pick up the narcotics, and were on

their way back to Brunswick so that the narcotics could be introduced into the Glynn County Sheriff's Office Jail Facility, where Jones was employed as a food service supervisor.

Jones and Stevens both remain in the Coffee County Jail without bond and have both been charged with felony trafficking of methamphetamine, felony possession with the intent to distribute synthetic marijuana, felony possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime, and speeding.

Captain Manning stated that he plans to present this case to attorneys with the Middle District of Georgia for possible federal prosecution.

Homerville Chief Desmond DiLorenzo stated that he commended the officers for working together to bring a resolution to this case and that this should send a clear message that the Homerville Police Department remains vigilant and will continue to combat narcotics coming through Homerville and Clinch County.