

Madison County Journal

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Mustangs muscle past Franklin Co.

— Page 8A



2-0 Red Raiders face Stephens Fri.

— Page 1B

ANIMALS

Feral cat spay, neuter program runs through Sept. 17

The Madison-Oglethorpe Animal Shelter (MOAS) announced that the Madison county Board of Commissioners has offered to financially cover the cost to spay and neuter feral cats within the community at the shelter's onsite spay/neuter clinic.

Every year the Madison-Oglethorpe Animal Shelter (MOAS) takes in almost 3,000 animals with the vast majority of these intakes being cats and kittens, according to a press release.

"A person would not think that the shelter's work is seasonal but, historically, the summer months have proven to be brutal with hundreds of animals entering the shelter system daily," Shelter Director Andrew Kitchens said.

"Many well-intentioned residents begin feeding feral/wild cats that wander onto their property, but quickly find themselves being overwhelmed with the number of cats once they begin reproducing. Many cats and kittens eventually find themselves being surrendered to the local animal shelters. To assist our county residents from finding themselves in these sit-

See 'Cats' on 2A

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Winning Moment



Madison County Red Raider softball team members celebrate a score in a 2-0 Region 8-AAAA win over Flowery Branch Sept. 2. See more on Page 1B. Photo by Sonia Coile

EVENTS

Fair set for Sept. 21-25

The 73rd Madison County Agricultural Fair will be held at the Comer Fairgrounds Sept. 21-25.

The annual event, which is sponsored by the Comer Lions Club, includes livestock shows, music, rides, exhibits, nightly drawings, a variety of food and more.

The 2021 Madison County Agricultural Fair Entertainment Schedule is: Ramblin' Country, 7 p.m., Sept. 21; Bluegrass Confidential 7 p.m., Sept. 22; Country River Band 7 p.m., Sept. 23; Ronnie Pittman and Big Daddy's Band 7:30, Sept. 24; Grains of Sand Band 7:30 p.m., Sept. 25.

All shows are included in gate entrance fee of \$5.

"Be sure to keep your ticket stub and deposit half in the barrel at the prize tent for nightly drawings," organizers said. "You must be 18 or older and you must be present to win."

The Saturday matinee will open at noon and close at 4 p.m. Gate admission is \$1 for ages 15 and under.

The Madison County Fair Association is currently accepting applications for vendors for this year's fair.

"Please come out and support your local vendor," fair officials said.

For more information, call Angie McGinnis at 706-540-0404 or email her at Angie.McGinnis@piedmont.org.

CHILDREN

Number of child care workers declines in Georgia

By Tim Darnell
 Capitol Beat News Service

A new study from a Washington, D.C.-based think tank shows a decline in the number of child-care workers in Georgia over the last several years, a decline that has been particularly devastating during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the Bipartisan Policy Center's updated National and State Child Care Data report, there were 14,350 child care workers in Georgia in 2020. That number represents a 17% decline in the number of child care workers from 2019 and a 25% decline since 2016.

In 2020, the annual mean salary for Georgia's child care workers was \$21,100. The ratio of child care workers in Georgia to infants is 1 to 6; 1 to 8 for young toddlers; 1 to 15 for older toddlers; and 1 to 18 for preschoolers. According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, best practice ratios should be 1 to 4; 1 to 4; 1 to 6 and 1 to 10 for those respective categories.

"COVID-19 laid bare many of the challenges in our nation's child care system," said Luci Manning, spokesperson for the organization. "These issues include retaining and recruiting staff, the high-cost burden on parents, and lack of a sustainable business model for child care providers—many of which are women-owned



small businesses."

According to the organization, nearly 24 million children ages 5 and under live in the U.S., with 63% living in households in which both parents work.

In Georgia, there are 784,969 children ages 5 and under, according to the report. While 63% of those children live in households in which both parents work, 24% live in families below the poverty line.

INSIDE

OPINION: 'The yellowed pages of the new millenium,' Page 4A

OPINION: 'Understanding Georgia's labor shortage crisis,' Page 5A

CRIME: Man arrested for assault after domestic dispute, Page 6A

CORONAVIRUS

Delta cases

Student covid numbers down, while county deaths and hospitalizations mount

By Zach Mitcham
 zach@mainstreetnews.com

Madison County School System covid numbers were down this past week compared to the previous week, but covid claimed four more Madison County lives this past week and hospitalizations continue to mount.

The Georgia Department of Public Health reported 47 confirmed covid deaths in Madison County as of Aug. 31. That number rose to 51 by Sept. 7. Nineteen Madison County residents have been hospitalized over the past two weeks, according to the DPH.

The county's positivity rate was 28.8 percent Tuesday, the highest its been since February, with 166 new cases reported between Aug. 31 to Sept. 7.

The school system released updated covid numbers Sept. 3, with 31 students positive at the time for covid and 11 staff members. That was down from 62 students and 14 staff members positive the previous week. The report listed the following combined student/staff active positive cases by school on Sept. 3: Hull-Sanford Elementary School, 11; Madison County Middle School, eight; Madison County High School, eight; Comer Elementary School, four; Danielsville Elementary School, two; Colbert Elementary School, two; Early Learning Center, two; and Ila Elementary

See 'Covid' on 2A

COUNTY GOV'T

BOC to talk comp plan, other matters Monday

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 13 in the county government complex.

- Agenda items include:
- Chairman's report
 - Business involving guests, groups or multiple visitors:
 - Addie Mitcham, Atlanta and Chicago Ballet Workshop Acceptance
 - Daughters of the American Revolution, proclamation naming September 17-23, 2021 Constitution Week
 - Kelsey Tyner, Shelley Parham, Alan Lapczynski, grant opportunities and discuss funding for Madison County Center for Active Living
 - Hearing and actions on zoning matters:
 - Ruben Borza is requesting to subdivide and rezone, from his 91.65-acre parcel, approximately four acres with 2 homes and 3.5 acres of land only from A1 to RR portion. The property is located on McGee Fitzpatrick Road and Hwy. 98 on Map 11 Parcel 94 in District 1.

See 'BOC' on 2A

