

CORONA COUNT
659
as of Tuesday afternoon according to the Georgia Dept. of Public Health
for an average of 1.8 cases per day since March 24, 2020

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Shooting battle between cars lands two juveniles in RYDC

Another shooting incident, also possibly gang-related, occurred last Wednesday, March 10, causing alarm in the Baltimore area of Washington.

At about 5:45 p.m. on that day, Wilkes County Sheriff deputies received a call of shots fired in the Baltimore Road and Faver Avenue area, according to Chief Investigator Thomas Bailey. Also, Deputy Del Branch was just getting off duty and actually heard some of the shots. "So he headed that way also," Bailey said, noting that there were multiple calls of shots fired received.

When Branch, other deputies, and Investigator Bud Harrison arrived in the area, they encountered some juvenile males "running in the area," Bailey reported. "The males were apprehended and then deputies found two vehicles sitting right there

in the Baltimore Road and Faver Avenue vicinity," he said.

The investigation shows that the two vehicles "were on Baltimore Road and started firing shots at each other from vehicle to vehicle, back and forth," Bailey said. "The two vehicles wound up having a head-on collision with each other. The subject, or subjects from one of the vehicles fled the scene and left the area. The other vehicle had a total of three juvenile males inside."

There was bullet damage to each vehicle and evidence was recovered from inside both vehicles. Gang activity is suspected.

Two juvenile males were arrested and charged with aggravated assault and held in the Regional Youth Detention Center in Washington. A preliminary hearing was held Monday afternoon, March 15, and

both juveniles were remanded to the RYDC pending their next hearing.

Typically, that next hearing would occur in about 10 days but it depends on the judge's decision, Bailey explained.

"There very likely will be other charges made against other individuals," Bailey said, "and the case is continuing to develop at this point."

As of Tuesday morning, no other charges or arrests had been made. The Wilkes County Sheriff's Office urges anyone with any further information to call and report it at 706-678-2224.

Other reports say that a Little League baseball team was practicing at the old W-W Tiger baseball field on Ashley Avenue when the shots were fired. Reportedly, as a precaution, the practice session was canceled to avoid any risk.



Four "E" kid Caylee Lowe couldn't wait to read one of the newly donated books from Preface Project, and sitting down on the front steps of City Hall asked student mentor and volunteer Taliyah Reid to open one up for the pair of them to explore.

Books donated by Preface Project will promote literacy, mentorship

By JANE ELLYN AARON
staff reporter

The celebration of a newly formed partnership between the City of Washington and Preface Project came in the form of 150 new children's books being donated for the promotion of literacy and student mentorship for local kids this past Saturday.

Preface, a non-profit organization, the goal of which is to "jump-start childhood literacy by pairing high school mentors with elementary school students to set them up for a lifetime of learning," considers the donation of books as a "Legacy Gift" to the community. The books will be housed at the Four "E" Youth center at Booker Park and coincide with that special mentorship program as it's currently being implemented for the benefit of Wilkes County's children – which is also completely free.

The books weren't the only things donated either. Thousands of dollars in healthcare resources such as disinfectants, sanitizing gels, and more were also generously gifted to the Washington community by Preface, thanks to Earth Baby, one of its supporting entities.

Washington Mayor Bill deGolian and Preface Founder and Executive Director Jonathan "J.T." Wu coordinated the donations as part of Preface's expansion into rural areas.

"On behalf of the city, first of all, we're flattered that you've chosen to come out to Washington to make this presentation to us – thank you so much for that," deGolian remarked. "We're just so pleased because I do feel like this is a really good tool in building community, in building literacy, and connecting the younger kids with the older kids. There's just so many positives with this program."

Based in Atlanta, the Preface Project states that its model is simple:

"We recruit motivated high school student tutors looking to give back to their communities, both in-person and virtually. We train these 'ambassadors' in educational best practices through a multi-week program designed by expert teachers. We pair our ambassadors with young children who are struggling to read – providing individualized educational support. And we create win-win solutions so everyone thrives – students, families, and communities."

"We're so excited to be here on this beautiful Saturday here in Washington thanks to Mayor deGolian, and the great folks at Four 'E,' and the Wilkes County Community Partnership (WCCP) to present this first ever 'Legacy Gift,' as we like to call it," Wu said. "We're a non-profit organization operating nationally,



Jonathan "J.T. Wu," founder and executive director of Preface Project, addressed those in attendance at the donation ceremony and expressed his gratitude and excitement for the newly formed partnership with the City of Washington.

but founded right here in Georgia, that basically provides – and hopes to empower – communities to build peer-to-peer mentorship relationships between older students and younger students.

"Early Childhood literacy is our bread and butter, and we really believe in equality through education,"

Wu continued. "So, what we try to do is really provide communities with the resources and tools and solutions to become those types of beacons of light – as the older students work directly with younger students to help get them on track

(continued on page 12)

BOE takes initial step to begin Phase 2 of energy and facility management

By JANE ELLYN AARON
staff reporter

A resolution to pursue funding for Phase 2 of the energy savings and facility management program through ABM was met with approval from the Wilkes County Board of Education this week. While it will open the floor to contract negotiations, the project will not be locked in until certain funding is secured.

Representatives with ABM were present to give an overview of its engineering survey findings to the board on necessary upgrades – which primarily pertain to the HVAC systems at the middle and high schools – and also to make suggestions for possible funding options.

"This is a proactive approach to taking care of infrastructure needs," Rick Higginbotham with ABM said, explaining that the idea is to replace things before they get into further disrepair. In the long run, if not repaired, it will not only waste money, but also disrupt the learning environment of the schools.

While replacing the outdated HVAC systems at W-WMS/HS is the main upgrade, the HVAC on the gymnasium roof would also be removed and replaced, the roof would be repaired, the gutter system

replaced, with some interior repairs as well.

According to Higginbotham, not only are the HVAC systems great for energy savings, but they are also equipped with bipolar ionization components that help to purify the air of bacteria and particles including that of COVID-19.

Two-year maintenance on the new HVAC units will be included, along with one-year equipment maintenance, and the promise of "improved efficiency and life cycles on all the equipment," Higginbotham said.

The alternative school would also receive upgrades as a new covered entry would be constructed, along with roof repairs, and other interior and exterior upgrades. The tennis courts would be graded and repaved, and a three-ton split system will be replaced at the elementary school.

The only unnecessary upgrade to the school system would be the addition of LED outdoor lighting to the middle and high school baseball and softball fields and tennis courts. The lights would come with a 25-year warranty.

"The return is safer, cleaner, and healthier schools," Higginbotham declared. "The beautiful thing about

(continued on page 5)



Visitors at the Gordon Street property viewed the site, filled out surveys, and had hot dogs and refreshments during the city-sponsored open house Saturday.

Open house at Gordon Street property allows visitors to see site, fill out survey

The City of Washington continues its feasibility study of the Gordon Street school site, and is requesting community input for the potential development of the area.

A luncheon cookout on the grounds last Saturday gave community members an opportunity to lay eyes on the old high school building and grounds, and also to fill out a survey which solicits questions regarding housing, retail, and recreational opportunities as well as hosting opportunities for community-based events.

According to Councilman Larry Hill, "Today is the start of our community survey. Next week we'll begin going door-to-door to speak with people, and we'll set up at grocery stores, gas stations, and other places people frequent with the surveys."

"This is just to get the community's input on what this site could possibly become – we're looking at what's

present and what's absent in the community and seeing what needs could possibly be fulfilled," Hill said.

Councilman Matt Denard concurred, noting that the hope is that once the community surveys are complete, a full scope of what can actually be made available at the site is anticipated.

The property, half of which is city owned, the other half belonging to the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), includes both entities planning and working together for development.

Around 10 acres on the front half of the property are URA owned, and 17 acres on the back half belong to the city.

Henry Crew, URA board member, explained that the entity's hope is to preserve the old school as a "historic site" and to develop it in three stages.

The first stage, which saw partial development last summer, is the

construction of an amphitheater. The second phase would be to refurbish the cafeteria-side of the school and the third phase would be to refurbish the old gymnasium.

Aspirations to not only make the site a meeting ground between Districts 1 and 2, but also for possible employment were described by both Hill and Crew.

"The idea is for this to benefit the entire community," Crew said.

Alongside soliciting community input, both the city and URA are awaiting survey results from the Sizemore Group which specializes in sustainable architecture, planning, and design. The entity's findings and consultation are expected to add to the present feasibility study.

The survey, along with further details regarding the development of the Gordon Street site, may also be found on the City of Washington's website at <http://cityofwashingtonga.gov>.

'Keep It Clean' effort in Washington gaining momentum as groups plan April 'Litter Rally'

The Iris Garden Club, the Washington Rotary Club, and F&M Bank are joining the City of Washington in the Georgia Department of Transportation's "Keep It Clean, Georgia" campaign to eliminate litter and protect the environment.

Specific efforts have already begun with the two civic clubs holding litter pickup activities on the first Tuesdays and second Saturdays of every month. On Saturday, April 17, 2021, a "Litter Rally" from 8-10 a.m. on The Square in Washington will be held as an invitation to the community to join in the effort to keep Washington-Wilkes beautiful.

Students in all four Wilkes County Schools are also joining the effort by participating in poster design contests, the winners of which will be recognized and rewarded at the rally.

"We will have gloves and trash bags available for everyone and a list of streets for pick up," Jane Bundy, one of the initiative's orga-

nizers said. "We invite every club, church, service organization, sports team, and individuals who care about Washington to come out and help to kick off this campaign." She further encouraged those who cannot attend the rally to "please make it a point to pick up the litter in front of your property. We encourage businesses to help by policing the area around their store fronts. Every effort we make has a positive impact on our community."

In the poster contest, there will be a cash award for the best poster from each of the schools. Home-schooled and private school students are welcome to submit posters as well. Students are encouraged to create a poster with a slogan and/or mascot on 8½x11" or 9x12" white paper and turn it in to their school office, the Chamber of Commerce, or Ain't It Guud Restaurant by April 9, 2021. Winners will be announced at the rally on April 17.

"Litter in Washington impacts our environment, economy, street and road safety, as well as our ecosystem," Bundy said. "Our rural countryside is a valuable asset and we need to protect it. Our city is so fortunate to have a beautiful town square and streets lined with lovely homes. It's time to get it clean and keep it clean, Washington."

Monthly litter pick up is held every first Tuesday and second Saturday from 8-9 a.m. On Tuesdays, the groups gather alternately at the Robert Toombs House and the parking lot across from First Baptist Church. On Saturdays gatherings meet at the Chamber of Commerce on The Square. Bags and gloves are furnished.

Watch for additional scheduled meeting places in *The News-Reporter*. "Please join us for Spring Cleaning in Washington," Bundy said.

For further information, call Barbara Fulbright at 770-656-9209.

SB260 could be devastating to counties' hope for control

The ability of counties in Georgia to regulate the dumping of what has been termed "biosludge" could take a step backward if Senate Bill 260 advances to approval in the House of Representatives, according to Wilkes County Commission Chairman Sam Moore.

The bill passed the Senate easily and is now in consideration by a House committee.

Georgia law now provides that "no local government shall be prohibited or impaired from adopting or enforcing any zoning ordinance, including the adoption of buffers and setbacks." That allows Georgia counties in which the dumping occurs to prescribe how far away from residences, property lines, etc. the dumping must be. The new

bill amends that section of Georgia law by adding, "provided, further, that no such buffer or setback shall exceed 100 feet in width."

"It makes it sound like they're going to give us something but the way it reads is crazy," Moore commented. However, he is hopeful that the House of Representatives may not go along with SB260, at least in its current form.

"The problem with this stuff is, you can't hardly get far enough away from it [the smell]," he said. He also admitted that he doesn't know where the bill will end up.

In the years-long effort to bring control and regulation of the dumping to the counties in which it occurs, Wilkes, Oglethorpe, and Elbert county officials have spearheaded

efforts to gain control of the regulation but the state has been resistant and slow to act, if at all. However, Warren County and Madison County are now also on board with the effort and Moore says he is hoping that Lincoln and Franklin counties will join as well.

"Maybe with a larger group we can get some things changed," Moore said.

At their regular monthly meeting held last Thursday, March 11, the Board of Commissioners also voted to start the bidding process to secure a disaster relief company to be under contract in case the need arises.

Wilkes County Emergency Management Director Blake Thompson explained that such a contract must be in place in case the county can't handle relief efforts for a federally declared disaster. "If it's too big for us, this company will take care of it and it will cost us nothing," Thompson said.

Thompson also reported that his department has a new ambulance in service and that the old one which was replaced has been donated to the county road department. He further reported that the EMS has acquired another ventilator for use in its trucks.

Vaccines administered locally by the Wilkes County Health Department amounted to 121 on Tuesday, March 9, and 109 on Thursday, March 11, Thompson said and he indicated that he is trying to get approval for EMS personnel to deliver vaccines to people who are homebound.

County Clerk Karen Burton reported that Local Option Sales Tax monies received for the month of January amounted to \$66,676.35, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax was \$102,579.32, and TSPLOST was \$80,605.56.

The next regular meeting of the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 8, in the Wilkes County courthouse with a work session in the chairman's office immediately prior beginning at 1 p.m.



Preface Project and City Officials, WCCP and Four "E" students and directors, and some Wilkes County School System employees, along with others were present at the donation ceremony held at City Hall Saturday included (front, l-r) Four "E" kids KaMya Norman, Nesi Cade, Malaysia Taylor, Kylie Kent, Joscelyn Steed, Caylee Lowe, Jylchirah Bell, Taliyah Reid, Nariah Climons, and Justin Davis; (back, l-r) Preface Project Founder JT Wu, WCCP Executive Director Amethyst Wynn, Four "E" Director Roxanne Cobb, Washington Mayor Bill deGolian, art teacher Leigh Hearn, W-WES Principal Angela McGill, Assistant Superintendent Lisa Isham, home parent educator with Jumpstart Jeanie Ferrell, parent Senikka Davis, parent Rick Davis, grandmother Darlene Wilkinson, United Way volunteer Nadine Freeman, and Preface Director of Educational Standards Heather Phillips.

Preface Project makes donation ... (continued from page 1)

to where we all know they can be, that's really what the core of our organization is all about."

Wu further expressed his gratitude to the city and its officials, Four "E" Youth and its Director Roxanne Cobb, and WCCP and its Executive Director Amethyst Wynn for the partnership with Preface.

Elaborating on the inner workings and ideologies of Preface was Heather Phillips, director of educational standards.

"What we do at Preface is teach mentors to work with the younger kids and teach them, really, that it's not that hard to be teachers. You just have to build that relationship and love on the kids, that's what it's really all about," Phillips said.

Through Preface's program, student mentors are given guidance that leads them in the direction of teaching. Those mentors then focus on helping younger students learn things like vocabulary; they help them gain background knowledge in the stories they read; and they even check the overall comprehension of those stories, honing in on each child's levels of understanding.

Students grow in vocabulary, their understandings of life, and much more, plus they formulate re-

lationships that will last a lifetime, according to Phillips.

"Kids learn from people that they like, so once you build that relationship then you can get them into books," she said.

Making that physical connection, in Phillips' estimation, is even more crucial now living in the digital age that so often separates individuals; captivating the attentions of most children and youth.

"There's something so special about reading to someone," she said. "There really is a special connection that happens."

"So, to partner these older kids with the younger students—already the younger kids just look up to the mentors, they think they've hung the moon—and then to get them to read together, something very, very amazing happens in that time," Phillips exclaimed.

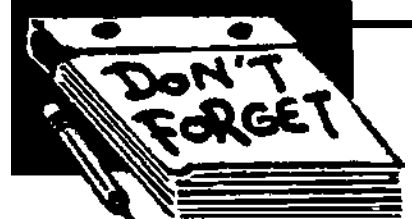
For us it really is such a joy to watch these student ambassadors working with the kids, reading with the younger students, helping them to achieve success, and bridging comprehension gaps saying "hey, these are things that you can do every single day, reading can be fun, and we can have fun together while you're doing it," Wu added. "Together with the expertise and

insights of Washington's leaders like Ms. Wynn, Ms. Cobb, and Mayor deGolian, we're excited to help further empower high school students in Washington to make an impactful difference in their communities by investing in the lives of young readers—especially during these challenging times," Wu said. "The students of Washington are the future of Washington and we're eager to do all we can to support our amazing educators in equipping and empowering this next generation."

Preface began in 2019 and has adhered to its core belief that "relationships matter," because today it operates in ten states across America. It's a Georgia-grown partnership that was even featured by the Georgia Department of Education as being an "innovative program."

The organization is passionate about fighting for "equality through education," emphasizing early childhood literacy.

"We're grateful for the City of Washington since it's going to be at the forefront of this kind of innovation when it comes to literacy, and for these community partnerships," Wu said. "We hope this is the start of something new, something fruitful, and that it will continue for generations to come."



The Washington Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5899 will host its monthly Steak Night on Monday, April 12, 6-8 p.m., at 240 Andrew Drive. Hot dog meals are available for kids. Call-in orders are welcome at 706-678-1166.

The Washington City Council will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, April 12, at The Pope Center. A work session will begin at 5 p.m. with the regular meeting to follow at its completion.

An "Egg-streme Easter Egg Hunt" will be hosted by the Four "E" Youth Organization from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Reese J. Booker Center in Washington on Saturday, April 3. There is no cost for parking or admission. Volunteers are needed.

The Iris Garden Club and Washington Rotary Club litter pickup for April will meet at the Robert Toombs House Historic Site at 8

a.m. Tuesday, April 6, and disperse from there. Public participation is welcome.

Gibson Grove Baptist Church has changed the time of its morning service to 11 a.m. at the Third Shiloh Rev. G.L. Avery Center parking lot.

The Tignall City Council will hold its next meeting at the lunchroom next to the Tignall Gym on Wednesday, April 14, at 5 p.m.

God's Marketplace is now open and will continue to be open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays from 9 a.m.-noon. Masks are encouraged and only three people will be allowed in the store at a time.

Jackson Chapel A.M.E. and Black Rock A.M.E. (Washington Circuit A.M.E. Churches) are having virtual services every Sunday beginning at 11:15 a.m. on Facebook live, and on phone conference calls at 1-605-313-6335 - 103151# (long distance from a landline phone). Bible Study is held every Wednesday evening beginning at 6:15 p.m. at the same phone number.

Answers on page 5 Super Crossword JUMBLE OF TREES

ACROSS: 1 Item in a place setting, 6 Duffels, e.g., 10 Grand tales, 15 Hence, 19 Boundary, 20 "Three Ships", 21 "Park (Edison's home)", 22 Took off, 23 Really big tree?, 25 Fundamental tree?, 27 Longs for, 28 Franz who composed "The Merry Widow", 30 Early settler, 31 "Erin Burnett OutFront" channel, 32 Passes on, as a story, 34 French brandy, 35 Chinese ideology centered around a tree?, 39 Actor Mahershala, 41 "Family Guy" creator MacFarlane, 42 Soon, 43 Two of Henry VIII's wives, 44 Coagulates, 46 "Gunga Din" studio, 47 Recorded digitally, in a way, 49 LAX datum, 51 Wharf locale, 56 Tree-dwelling hooded snake?, 60 Tree whose trunk curves?, 62 Cut of pork, 63 Dutch Renaissance scholar, 65 Rake part, 66 Nuances people think like a French place setting, 70 Of delicate beauty, 72 A shot, 73 Love-struck which trees are visible?, 75 Tree sold at a low price?, 78 Cantaloupe growing on a tree?, 83 More flavorful, 84 Indy circuit, 86 Auction site, 87 Union promise, 88 Slant, 90 Millionaire-making game, 93 Menial type, 94 Provoke, 96 Corp. wheel, 99 Charm, 102 Nancy of the House, 104 Like sown seeds, 106 "Ally McBeal" co-star Lucy, 107 In total, 109 "Gay (Will B-29)", 110 Tea-scenting blossom, 114 Tree that makes people think like a French novelist?, 116 Window sections through, 117 Overthrow, 18 Potato stuff, 24 Suvani of Hollywood, 26 Ghostly cry, 29 "Siddhartha" novelist, 32 Soul music is a form of it, 33 "soda (cleanser)", 35 Singer Cohn, 36 Jimmy Durante's "Dinka Doo", 125 Flow inventor John, 37 "Park" a ship, 38 Central Georgia city, 40 Gets bested, 44 Vivid crimson, 45 Egg pouch, 47 Slender material, 5 Ships' rears, 6 Slant, 7 Viper variety, 8 Old warship, 9 Deary, 10 Prepare for a god, 11 Oyster bead, 12 People with clout, 13 Applaud, 14 Asked for, 15 Nasal singing tones, 16 Curtis of cosmetics, 17 Overthrow, 18 Potato stuff, 24 Suvani of Hollywood, 26 Ghostly cry, 29 "Siddhartha" novelist, 32 Soul music is a form of it, 33 "soda (cleanser)", 35 Singer Cohn, 36 Jimmy Durante's "Dinka Doo", 37 "Park" a ship, 38 Central Georgia city, 40 Gets bested, 44 Vivid crimson, 45 Egg pouch, 47 Slender material, 48 CBS military law show, 50 Fez dangle, 52 Small and, 53 Chief Norse god, 54 Talk wildly, 55 Deuce taker, 57 Hackneyed, 58 Grid of fine lines in an eyepiece, 59 Franklin of soul, 61 "de-sac", 64 See 71-Down, 66 Splinter group, 67 Laugh sound, 68 Golf coups, 69 Thurman of Hollywood, 70 Funny Carvey, 71 With, 64-Down, hostile swarming insect, 73 Suit fabric, 74 Old computer language, 76 Entertainer Zadora, 77 Gift for a drawer, perhaps, 79 Deal! (out), 80 In — of (replacing), 81 Gas leak giveaway, 82 Zitch, 85 Suburb of Dallas, 89 Hack (off), 91 Prohibits, 92 High crime, 93 Bird feathers, 94 Gaps, 95 Mammal's fur, 96 Comic Tracey, 97 Holy-poly, 99 Cavalry soldier, 100 Actor Ruck, 101 Talked like Cindy Brady, 103 Alert at sea, 105 Car contract, 108 As is fitting, 110 Joke, 111 About, 112 — do-well (dider), 113 Punta del —, 115 1,000 G's, 117 Luau bowlful

Next batch of Georgians getting vaccine as metrics 'headed in the right direction'

By BEAU EVANS Capital News Beat Service

Georgians ages 55 and older as well as those with a variety of health issues were eligible for COVID-19 vaccines starting Monday amid a recent boost in supplies. Vaccines could also potentially be available for all Georgia adults starting next month if the current number of shots that federal officials are sending weekly to the state continues to increase as it has in recent weeks, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp said at a news conference.

"Provided we continue to see increasing vaccine supply, it is our intent to open up vaccination to all adults the first part of next month," Kemp said.

Along with adults 55-years and older, vaccines are now open to Georgians with health conditions including cancer, moderate-to-severe asthma, heart conditions, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, hypertension, liver disease, COPD, chronic kidney disease, and compromised immune systems.

Kemp said he is expanding eligibility to keep pace with the increasing supply of vaccines Georgia is receiving from the federal government and to avoid seeing lagging demand among currently eligible people. Georgia is currently receiving weekly shipments of 223,000 vaccine doses.

"Adding these additional high-risk Georgians will mean that vaccination will be available to categories that have accounted for 92 percent of our deaths due to COVID-19 in Georgia," Kemp said.

"As we have from the beginning, we will protect the most vulnerable to severe illness, hospitalization, or death, and enable Georgians to get back to normal."

Nearly 2.5 million vaccines have been given so far in Georgia, including to roughly two-thirds of all people 65-years and older in the state, according to Kemp's office. Vaccination rates have climbed as the state receives more doses of the Pfizer, Moderna, and recently approved Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Kemp, who said he will get the vaccine soon, urged teachers and others

who are already eligible for vaccines to sign up for appointments now with demand expected to spike from the newly eligible group of Georgians.

"This is your opportunity to get in the queue and get your vaccines," Kemp said. "This is going to move rapidly, especially in certain parts of the state, and what we want is for people to get vaccinated."

Georgians can pre-register for a vaccine appointment at myvaccine-georgia.com even if they do not yet qualify under the governor's eligibility criteria. They will be notified once they qualify and scheduled for an appointment.

The governor also said his administration is aiming to quickly expand eligibility further to Georgians who have been hit hard by the pandemic including restaurant, agriculture, and

grocery workers. How soon those groups will be able to get the vaccine depends on supplies holding steady.

"We want to move that population as quickly as we can and try to protect them and keep our economy going," Kemp said. "All of this helps get us back to normal."

The vaccine ramp-up comes as COVID-19 positive case rates and hospitalizations continue falling after a surging outbreak that swept over Georgia around the winter holiday season. Hospitals have seen a fall in COVID-19 patients from around 5,700 during the winter to 1,500 currently, Kemp said. Deaths traced to the virus are also starting to decline, he added.

"Every metric in the COVID-19 pandemic is headed in the right direction," Kemp said.

Community Calendar

- First Mondays Lions Club, Lions Club building, 6:30 p.m.
- First Tuesdays Iris Garden Club litter pickup, various locations
- Tuesdays Washington Kiwanis Club, Woman's Club, 1 p.m.
- Thursdays Alzheimer's Support, Connely Gallery, 11 a.m.
- Washington Rotary Club, Woman's Club, noon
- Classic South Quilt Guild, First United Methodist Church, Wesley Hall, 2 p.m.
- March 19 Carter's Grove gospel sing and music, 3 p.m.
- March 20 Chamber of Commerce Business Power Hour, Maddy's Public House, 5-6:30 p.m.
- April 1 Four "E" Egg-streme Easter Egg Hunt, Booker Center, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- April 3 Iris Garden Club/Rotary Club litter pickup, meet at Toombs House, 8 a.m.
- April 6 Board of Registrars, courthouse, 10 a.m.
- April 8 Board of Commissioners, courthouse, 2 p.m.
- April 10 W-W Humane Shelter doughnut sale, downtown F&M Bank, 8-noon.
- Keep Washington Clean and Beautiful Anti-Litter campaign, meet at CoFC, 8 a.m.
- DAR, Woman's Club, 11:30 a.m.
- April 12 Woman's Club, clubhouse, noon
- Washington City Council, Pope Center, 6 p.m.
- April 14 Tignall City Council, lunchroom, 5 p.m.
- April 16 Classic South Quilt Guild Field Trip to Annie's Pretty Pieces, gather at FUMC, 10 a.m.
- April 17 City-wide clean-up day, on The Square
- April 19 Board of Education, board office, 2 p.m.
- April 24 Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Bi-Lo Shopping Plaza, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- "Music and Makers," The Square, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
- May 8 Cruise-In on The Square, 4:30-8:30 p.m.
- May 22 Iris Garden Club Spring Garden Tour, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- October 9 Mule Day, Callaway Plantation