



Wolves take Lady Blazers down to the wire.
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TIMES-GEORGIAN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021 • \$2

CARROLL COUNTY'S TRUSTED INFORMATION LEADER SINCE 1871

Central student being treated for COVID-19

BY JAY LUZARDO
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

A Central High School student-athlete was rushed to the Tanner Medical Center emergency room early Monday after contracting the coronavirus last week. Doctors there told the family it's the most severe case they have seen in a teenager thus far.

"We'll take all the prayers we can get right now," said Rodney Edge, the father of the patient, Kameron Edge.

As of Tuesday, the 16-year-old has shown improvement in his condition. The virus had left the youth severely dehydrated, wreaking havoc on his kidneys and vital organs. Kristian Edge, his mother, said doctors suspect he can return home soon if he's hydrated and capable of not throwing up after a meal.

"He's been throwing up probably about every hour," Kristian said.

While COVID-19 is considered a respiratory tract infection, it affects people differently. Some people have problems with their respiratory system or neurological system, but Kameron's case involved his gastrointestinal system.

Kameron is on continuous intravenous (IV) fluids, nausea medication, and Tylenol to combat incessant nausea and fever, which began last Thursday.

Kameron's parents said they suspected he had a stomach bug



Kameron Edge is connected to IV fluids as he rests in bed at the Tanner Medical Center in Carrollton on Tuesday.
Courtesy of Kristian Edge

SEE **STUDENT/PAGE A8**

Local man accused of impersonating deputy

Haralson sheriff arrests Merritt at Temple church

BY LAURA CAMPER
THE GATEWAY-BEACON

A Villa Rica man was behind bars on Monday after lawmen say he impersonated a deputy in order to collect donations he then used for himself.

William Merritt, 57, was being held in the Haralson County Jail charged with theft by deception, failure to appear — both misdemeanors — and impersonating a public officer or employee — a felony.

He was picked up at a church in Temple when one of the Haralson County investigators recognized Merritt sitting in a pew at his church on Sunday morning. The investigator called Sheriff Stacy Williams, who came to the church personally to make the arrest.

SEE **DEPUTY/PAGE A3**

Vaccine appointments again available

BY STEPHANIE ALLEN
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

Appointments for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are again available in Carroll County through the Department of Public Health

The Georgia Department of Public Health appointment line will re-open today (Feb. 3) to schedule appointments, and it will remain open through Friday. The number is 762-888-8180 and it can be accessed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Georgia Department of Public Health is currently administering COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1a which includes healthcare workers; residents and staff of long-term care facilities; adults at least 65 years old and their caregivers; and law enforcement, firefighters, and other first responders.

SEE **VACCINE/PAGE A3**

City council approves 2 UWG campus projects

BY MICHAEL O'HEARN
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

Two projects at the University of West Georgia were approved by the Carrollton City Council on Monday night. A GreenBelt spur next to the Richards College of Business is getting some upgrades, while the Strozier Hall parking lot will nearly double in size.

The Carrollton City Council unanimously awarded a \$391,621 bid to Marietta-based contractor Lewallen Construction to remove and replace approximately 170 linear feet of the existing GreenBelt path from Aycock Drive to the Richards College of Business, which is currently under construction.

Carrollton City Engineer Tommy Holland told council members on Monday night that a 60-foot steel beam bridge would also be built on this path. Other improvements, such as storm drainage and bicycle racks, will also be installed as part of the project.

SEE **CAMPUS/PAGE A8**

Kemp calls for 'teacher pipeline' for state schools

Local educators praise governor's initiative

BY STEPHANIE ALLEN
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

Local educators praised the state's governor Tuesday after he announced new legislative priorities for a "teacher pipeline."

Gov. Brian Kemp, Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, and state education leaders gathered on Tuesday to announce initiatives to keep the state supplied with teachers and to support them via a legislative package they call their "teacher pipeline."

Kemp is looking to recruit more teachers, particularly minority teachers in conjunction with Georgia's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Kemp's legislation would require the Professional Standards Commission work with HBCUs to create programs that help recruit more minority teachers into classrooms.

"Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities play a significant role in teacher preparation and they should play a major role in teacher placement," Kemp said Tuesday. "I want to ensure they lead the charge to create ways to get more minority teachers into our classrooms so students from all backgrounds and ethnicities can see themselves in their teachers."

SEE **TEACHER/PAGE A8**

Bridges chosen as mayor pro tem

She is first Black woman to hold post

BY MICHAEL O'HEARN
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

Carrollton Ward 1 Councilman Jacqueline Bridges on Monday was elected as the first Black woman to hold the mayor pro tempore position on the city council.

Ward 3 Councilman Jim Waters, who held the title for two years, nominated Bridges, saying she has learned much about being a new council member in her seven months as a city leader.

"I just want to say thank you to the previous administration for electing me for two years, and I am happy to pass the baton, so to speak, to someone else," Waters said. "We've all talked about it individually, but it should be a unanimous decision. (Bridges) has come along as quickly as anyone possibly could to learn what in the world it is we do up here. I think she would do a great job."

A mayor pro tempore is elected by the city council and serves for one calendar year. The role requires the person to carry out the duties of mayor in the case of an absence, disability or vacancy in office, according to a resolution passed by the panel in 2016.

Bridges is a business owner and was elected in June as the first Black woman to lead west Carrollton as the city's Ward 1 representative. She is filling the

unexpired term of former Ward 1 Councilman Gerald Byrd, who resigned in January 2020.

During her tenure, Bridges has worked to see improvements in Ward 1 with a new walking trail down Robert Hendrix Drive and encouraging the council to approve funding in November for a new GreenBelt spur on Alabama Street to connect to downtown Carrollton.

The Carrollton City Council has elected a mayor pro tempore at the beginning of each year since 2016. Byrd was elected as the first council member to hold the position, and he was reappointed each year until Waters was elected in January 2019.

Bridges will be up for reelection alongside Ward 2 Councilman Brett Ledbetter in November. Ledbetter was elected in November 2019 to fill the remainder of former Councilman Rory Wojcik's term.

After she was elected, District 2 County Commissioner Clint Chance congratulated Bridges on his Facebook page and wrote that her "life story is one of determination, resilience, positive attitude and perseverance."

"Thank you for serving our community and for never slowing down upon your faith to help others," Chance wrote Monday night. "Leading by example with a positive force unlike few I have ever witnessed in my life, Jacqueline is as authentic as they come. What you see is what you get."



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