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OPELIKA CHEF AMONG THE TOP 5

GREG GAYNE. © 2024 FOX MEDIA LLC.

Contestants Bryson, left, and Asher, right, compete in the "Pancakes & Ice Cream" episode of Masterchef Junior, which aired on Monday, April 22 on Fox.

Bryson survives elimination on MasterChef Junior

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Despite facing two challenges and burning a key ingredient to his dish, Opelika's Bryson McGlynn survived another elimination and secured his spot in the Top 5 on the fifth season of MasterChef Junior.

After the April 15 episode forced contestants to face their fears, Monday's episode presented two challenges in one — both focused on desserts. Bryson failed to win the first challenge, but he bounced back during the elimination challenge and created one of the top dishes.

For the first challenge, the six contestants were split into pairs and given the task of cooking the most perfect stacks of pancakes in 15 minutes. The pairs were Michael Seegobin and Jordyn Joyner, Remy Powell and Alfred Eggermont, and Bryson McGlynn and Asher Niles. Each of the stacks had to have three pancakes and be topped with fruit, a fruit syrup and powdered sugar.

While the challenge was dubbed a "pancake race," the judges emphasized that only stacks that were up to MasterChef standards would be counted. After 15 minutes, the team of Remy and Alfred made the most stacks in total with 17, but only seven stacks counted. Bryson and Asher made 14 stacks, with nine counting and the team of Michael and Jordyn won with 10 of their 14 stacks counting.

As the winning team, Michael and Jordyn secured their spots in the top five and got to hit two of the judges with the "Pancake Blaster 5,000." They chose Gordon Ramsay and Aaron Sanchez.

After Michael and Jordyn headed to the balcony with their safety, and free sundaes, secured, the remaining four junior home cooks were given the parameters for their next challenge. They had to make their own ice cream dessert using liquid nitrogen and a blast chiller. They each had 75 minutes and sprinted to the pantry once time started.

Bryson's dish was a pecan ice cream with peach compote and caramelized pecans on top of cornbread. Once again being inspired by southern culture, Bryson said "in the south, you've got to have cornbread," when asked about including it in the dish.

Bryson faced a major obstacle when he burnt several of his pecans, which were meant to go in the ice cream.

"I'm freaking out right now. My pecans are burnt and you do not want burnt taste in your ice cream.," Bryson said. "So I tried to find the good ones to put in my ice cream, and I'm hoping that the pecans do not bring the dish down."

Please see **MASTERCHEF,** Page A2

Moores Mill Road lane closures expected to begin on April 24

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The City of Auburn has temporarily closed lanes on Moores Mill Road between Hamilton Road and Stoneridge Drive for resurfacing.

The resurfacing work, which began on Wednesday, is expected to last approximately one week, city officials said. The lanes will be closed as a contractor repaves the road each weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Traffic control measures will be in place to help direct traffic around the closures. The city advised drivers to use caution in the area and take alternate routes to avoid delays.

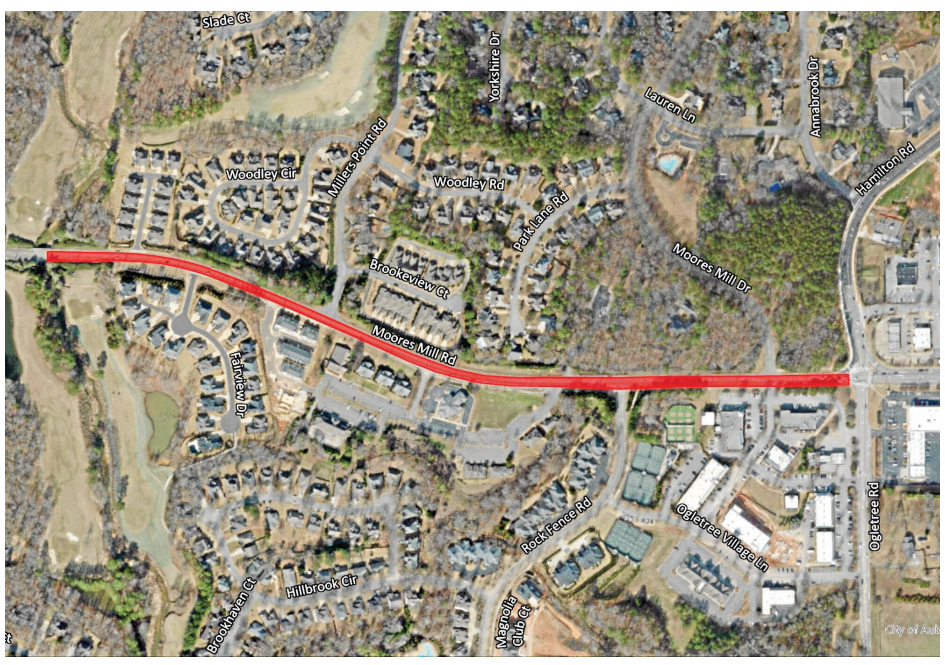
City officials said they aim to keep two lanes open for two-way traffic while the work is taking place.

Plans to repave the road were originally scheduled to take place from April 10 to 17, but it was delayed due to projected rain and supply issues.

The repaving is part of the FY2023 Street Resurfacing Project that's meant to "keep Auburn's streets in good repair for as long as possible and repave streets before they begin to deteriorate," city officials stated in a news release.

In July, the Auburn City Council approved a contract for the FY23 Streets Resurfacing Project in the amount of up to $2.75 million for one year. They have an option to renew the contract for two consecutive one-year terms.

Priority streets were identified for the project based on data collected during a comprehensive citywide street assessment, according to the City of Auburn.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF AUBURN

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