

# COVID-19 numbers rise by 30 in September

The daily COVID-19 case count increase is posted on the Donalsonville News Facebook page

As of press time on Wednesday, September 9, thirty confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Seminole County so far in the month of September. Since March, Seminole County has now been recorded with 313 positive cases, eight of which, sadly, have resulted in Coronavirus related deaths. The 313 number is not a total of the number of active local cases, but rather, as stated above, a cumulative total of individuals testing positive in Seminole County since March. As of Wednesday, September 9, since March there have been 285,350 cases of COVID-19 state-wide - out of 2,820,289 people tested - and 6,070 deaths reported to state health officials. Since this time last week, 148,491 additional Georgia residents have been tested, with 12,653 of them testing positive for COVID-19. During that same time period, the state's number of COVID-19 related deaths increased by 337.

As of press time, Seminole

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# Three new COVID-19 cases found in schools

As of today, Wednesday, September 9, the Seminole County School System is reporting thirteen students, eleven at the middle high school, and two at the elementary school, have tested positive for COVID-19 - an increase of three cases since this time last week. The school system followed all the guidance and directives of local and state health departments in each situation, and immediately contacted any persons who had come into contact with a person testing positive for the virus. 179 students, 162 at the middle high school, and 17 at the elementary school, who were identified as having direct contact with a virus infected student were sent home to be quarantined for 14 days.

Following local and state health department COVID-19 safety guidelines, school officials plan to proceed with in-person instruction, sanitizing classrooms

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SEMINOLE

County!



# Dr. Henry is back home and in the house

Southwest Georgia Healthcare Clinics and Donalsonville Hospital are pleased to announce the homecoming of one of its own, Obstetrician and Gynecologist Desmond M. Henry, M.D. Dr. Henry is a 2006 Seminole County High School Alumnus who completed his undergraduate degree at Columbus State University, his medical degree at Mercer School of Medicine and his OB/GYN residency training at Morehouse School of Medicine where he served as Chief Resident. Dr. Henry is now seeing new patients at Southwest Georgia Healthcare Clinics located at 900 N. Wiley Avenue in Donalsonville. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 229-524-8489. Dr. Henry, the son of Crystal Hunter and Sheldon Henry, is thrilled to be back in Donalsonville to serve his hometown community and help deliver the next generation. He offers the following insight on who he is, his journey in becoming a doctor, his excitement on returning to practice back home, and some advice on living in the COVID-19 new normal world.

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# “Roll with Don Cole” 2nd District tour to stop in Donalsonville on Wednesday, September 16

Republican Congressional Candidate Don Cole, a pastor, public administrator, consultant and former member of the Trump Administration, announced the “Roll with Don Cole” tour of 29 counties across the 2nd Congressional District. Cole invites citizens to come meet him and share their concerns. The tour will stop in Donalsonville Wednesday, September 16 at 11 a.m. in the Family Boutique parking lot located at 603 South Tennille Avenue, across the street from the Board of Education offices.

Cole stated, “We are the largest Congressional District in Georgia with 29 counties, nearly a quarter of the state. Every county and every person in every county is important to me.” On the tour, Cole will point out the vital connection between his congressional race and the support of President Trump. “Sellout Sanford trampled over the people of our district and groveled at the feet of Nancy Pelosi and voted with her to impeach our President in the sham impeachment. If you support the President,

then take a vote away from Nancy Pelosi by voting for Don Cole.” Economic development and Agriculture for the 2nd District are two of Cole’s top concerns. “After nearly 30 years of the same Democrat representing the District, little has changed for people’s lives. The only ones better off because of him being in Congress is Nancy Pelosi and the incumbent himself. He is a Pelosi puppet and takes voters for granted.” Cole’s priority is to build strong relationships with the Georgia De-

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Don Cole, Republican 2nd Congressional District Candidate

# It’s official - Harvest Festival is cancelled

With a heavy heart, the Donalsonville-Seminole County Chamber of Commerce announced this week the 2020 Harvest Festival has been cancelled. “In this year of the unusual, we made the decision to follow suit with all of the neighboring local events, small and large. We all have made a call to err on the side of caution. We want our community to be safe and we are trying to prevent any serious spikes in the local COVID-19 numbers,” commented Chamber President Sarah Avery. With this year’s cancellation, it is now three years in a row the Chamber of Commerce has had to make this difficult decision. In October



of 2018, in the wake of Hurricane Michael, there was no question. Last year, a tropical storm caused too many safety concerns for the event to go on in October, and this year’s cancellation is the result of COVID-19 and the pandemic’s socially distanced safety precautions. “The chamber’s Board of Directors made the

call last week and while we do feel like it’s the right thing to do, we are so disappointed, and I know the whole of Seminole County will be as well,” added Avery. The only part of the festival that will still take place will be the second Harvest Festival Golf Tournament and Raffle to be held at the Donalsonville Country Club. More information about this event will follow in the weeks ahead. The Harvest Festival has been an annual tradition in Seminole County for decades. It’s something residents look forward to in the Fall. It is a day to get out and celebrate and be together, to enjoy entertainment, food and fellowship.

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# Millers receive UGA’s Peanut Achievement Club honor as one of state’s top producers

The University of Georgia Peanut Team honored Georgia’s top peanut producers recently at the annual Georgia Peanut Achievement Club. Top producing farmers/farms were recognized around the state in their home counties as Georgia’s highest-yielding peanut growers. The UGA Peanut Team also held an open forum session with peanut producers and industry leaders. Again this year, Seminole County’s 4 Miller Farms, represented by Dee and Eddie Miller, Jr. received the 2019 Georgia Peanut Achievement Club State Winner award in the 700 plus acres

category. They had 7,066 pounds for 707 acres. “We’ve climbed in yields in these categories with the growers that we have. I mean they’ve continued to stay well above 6,000-pound averages across the board,” said Scott Monfort, UGA cooperative extension peanut agronomist. “This is taking into consideration their entire farm, whether it’s dryland or irrigated. Their entire farm is counted. It’s just phenomenal.” Georgia is the No. 1 producer of peanuts in the United States. Georgia farmers provide more than 45 percent of the country’s peanut crop every year.



Dr. Scott Monfort, Eddie Miller Jr. and Dee Miller