

COVID-19 UPDATE

54 new COVID-19 cases reported locally in past thirteen days

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

A vaccine for the COVID-19 may now be a reality; however, until it is administered wide spread, the continued risk of the virus also remains a grim reality for Seminole County citizens and beyond.

Seminole County’s positive COVID-19 case numbers continue their daily rise, as local medical personnel, first responders, and residents 65 years and older begin the process of receiving the long awaited COVID-19 vaccine.

Fifty-four new positive cases have been reported locally in Seminole County over the past thirteen days. As of presstime on Wednesday, January 13 twelve new cases were reported locally in the past 48 hours, and 41 additional cases have been reported for Seminole County by the Georgia Department of Public Health since this time last week.

Since March of 2020, Seminole County has been recorded with 618 positive cases, twelve of which, sadly, have resulted in Coronavirus related deaths.

As of Wednesday, January 13, since March 2020, there have been 648,694 cases of COVID-19 state-wide - out of 6,183,753 people tested - and 10,444 deaths reported to state health officials. Since this time last week, 238,753 additional Georgia residents have been tested, with 51,486 of them testing

See COVID-19 on Page 11

Manna Drop is Saturday, January 16th

This month’s Manna Drop will be held this Saturday, January 16. A community outreach ministry of Donalsonville’s Friendship United Methodist Church, the monthly Manna Drop distributes boxes of free food to those in need. Recipients are requested to line up beginning at 7:30 a.m., and no later than 9 a.m., on Woolfork Avenue, just west of the church’s location.

STOP

Seminole County!



Making room for progress

The Thomas house, located on the west side of the former Ponder Enterprises complex in downtown Donalsonville, was removed on Tuesday, January 12 to clear the path for the construction of a drive-thru facility and parking area for the new Donalsonville location of First Port City Bank.

Plans are to maintain the integrity and historical elements of the Webb-Ponder house as it currently is, with limited changes inside to accommodate banking activities.

Seminole County Indians hire new football coach

The Seminole County Indians have a new chief. In last Monday night’s meeting of the Seminole County Board of Education Cedric L. Stegall was selected and hired as the next head coach for the Seminole County Middle High School Indians.

He succeeds Coach Trey Woolf, who retired from the post at season’s end last November.

Stegall is a Newnan, Georgia native and a graduate of East Coweta High School where he played football, basketball and baseball. In 1995, he received a football scholarship to Middle Tennessee State University. While at MTSU, Stegall was a four year starter, chosen as an Ohio Valley All-Conference Defensive Back and a third team All-American.

He graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Physical Education and a minor in Health. He has been fortunate enough to coach football and track at numerous schools, classifications and positions throughout Georgia. Stegall began his teaching and coaching career at East Coweta High School in 2001 and later moved to Manchester. From there, he moved to Worth County High.

He has served as defensive coordinator for Worth County, Americus-Sumter and Upson-Lee High School football programs. Presently, Stegall is the head football Coach and assistant athletic director of Central High School in Talbotton, Georgia.

He is married to Allison, also in the education profession for nearly 20 years and together they have two daughters: Kensley (16) and Sydnee (11). Stegall, who was introduced to the team on Tuesday, and his family look forward to making their new home in Seminole County.



Cedric L. Stegall

Steven Aase joins Ameris Bank as Market President

Ameris Bank Regional President Michael Lee announces that Steven Aase has joined Ameris Bank as Market President for several of the bank’s markets, including Donalsonville, Dothan, and Panama City, Florida. Aase will be responsible for building and strengthening the bank’s banking relationships and community involvement throughout the areas.

With over 15 years of banking experience, Aase is a seasoned banker bringing years of industry insight and banking knowledge to Ameris Bank and its clients. Prior to joining Ameris Bank, Aase was a senior vice president, market president for Regions Bank, overseeing their Bay County market. He also served as a vice president, commercial banker for Hancock Bank and held commercial banking leadership roles at SunTrust Bank and Wachovia Bank.

“Steven is an extremely well rounded banker and we are excited to have him join our team,” says Lee. “His previous market leadership experience will allow him to effectively oversee and grow our Dothan, Donalsonville and Panama City markets. I know our current and future customers will benefit from his knowledge and dedication to relationship banking.”

Aase is dedicated to his community and has been a member of the

See AMERIS on Page 9



Steven Aase

Vaccine Administration in Georgia

WE ARE IN PHASE

1A+

- Healthcare workers including nurses, physicians, EMS, laboratory technicians, environmental services
- Long-term care facilities (LTCF) staff and residents
- Adults 65+ and their caregivers
- Law enforcement, fire personnel (including volunteer fire departments), dispatchers, 9-1-1 operators


1B

- Essential workers (non-healthcare) who perform job tasks across critical infrastructure sectors, ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health, safety, economic and national security

1C

- Persons aged 16-64 with medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19

Equity Statement: In each population group, vaccine access will be prioritized geographically, based on vaccine accessibility, disease burden and risk associated with socio-economic status, race and ethnicity, and geographic location. Final populations are dependent on approved EUA guidance and ACIP vaccine eligibility recommendations (e.g., children and pregnant women).



Patience urged amid slow COVID-19 vaccine rollout

Local providers are struggling to administer COVID-19 vaccines in Georgia as health clinics have been swamped with requests for doses since Gov. Brian Kemp expanded eligibility to those 65-years and older.

The deluge of vaccine seekers came as the General Assembly grappled with the highly infectious virus on Tuesday. A top lawmaker in the Georgia Senate announced he tested positive just two days into the 2021 legislative session in Atlanta.

Georgia is currently being shipped around 120,000 doses of

See VACCINE on Page 9

Georgia COVID-19 vaccine locator tool launched


Georgia has added a new tool to find COVID-19 vaccine providers as the state continues its vaccination distribution plan.


The new COVID-19 vaccine locator tool is aimed at helping people find the nearest vaccination site to them - anywhere in the state.

Currently in phase 1 of the vaccine distribution plan the Georgia Department of Public Health announced on Sunday that the agency had launched its own “COVID vaccine locator” to allow users to find vaccine providers in their communities.

Access the tool at dph.georgia.gov/locations/covid-vaccination-site

See LOCATE on Page 9

One Section	Lifestyles	4	Lake & Farm	10
50 Cents	Editorials	5	Looking Back	11
	Church News	7	Classifieds	13
	Obituaries	8	Public Notices	14



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