

Local public health district hiring registered nurses and healthcare workers

As demand for COVID testing and vaccinations increases, Southwest Public Health District 8-2 is searching for additional registered nurses and healthcare workers, says Charles Ruis, MD, District Health Director, Southwest Health District.

If hired for the temporary positions, qualified registered nurses will be paid \$45 an hour and assigned to COVID-19 testing and vaccine sites throughout the 14-county district. They will provide public health nursing services to individuals, including but not limited to, collecting specimens for testing, test processing, immunizations, and dis-



charge education.

Applicants should meet all of the following requirements – must be a licensed RN with an active and unencumbered Georgia license and be certified in CPR. Preference may be given to those applicants that also have supervisory and management experience and/or experience with administering vaccines, specimen collections, shipping,

and packaging.

Southwest Public Health is also hiring dependable healthcare workers for temporary part-time positions (maximum 29 hours/week) at \$15 an hour. Workers must have a high school diploma at minimum and would be responsible for these and other duties: register patients, collect and package specimens; provide discharge education; answer phones; greet and assist people as they arrive; conduct data entry.

To apply for these positions or for more information, visit southwestgeorgiapublichealth.org and look for the links on the homepage.

Georgia Chief Justice Harold Melton again renews statewide judicial emergency

Georgia Chief Justice Harold Melton on Friday extended the statewide judicial emergency in effect since the Coronavirus pandemic took hold across the state in mid-March.

Melton signed an order prohibiting jury trials not already in progress. As with previous orders, the Chief Justice's 10th emergency order also urged all courts "to use technology, when practicable and lawful, to conduct remote judicial proceedings as a safer alternative

to in-person proceedings."

The order also reminded courts that any in-person proceedings "must be conducted in full compliance with public health guidance."

Melton included a caveat that grand jury hearings and trials will not actually start until a month or longer after a process for resuming them has been put in place due to the time required to summon potential jurors.

The order also acknowledged sub-

stantial backlogs of unindicted and untried cases.

"Due to ongoing public health precautions, these proceedings will not occur at the scale or with the speed they occurred before the pandemic," the order stated.

As a result, statutory deadlines for indictments and jury trials will remain suspended, Melton wrote.

The order extends the statewide judicial emergency until Feb. 7 at 11:59 p.m.

Southwest Georgia Farm Credit *Fresh from the Farm* Program to award ten mini grants

Health experts, trending chefs and Joanna Gaines fans alike are helping push the farmhouse, farm to table, farm stand, and micro-farming cultures to a whole new level. And we dig it (pun intended)! Taking a closer look at current trends, the source of all the hype stems from a newfound appreciation of our food and sustainability. The transparency of the sourcing local ingredients movement is also about gaining the consumer's trust. People want to know the origins of their food and that includes looking for locally grown produce in their communities. Like shopping local, they want to eat local.

Southwest Georgia Farm Credit began the Fresh from the Farm Mini-Grant pro-



gram nine years ago. Our goal is to recognize our regional producers and their contributions to our healthier lifestyles. This grant is just another way for Southwest Georgia Farm Credit to partner with, promote and support local farmers.

The Fresh from the Farm grant program provides cash for grant recipients to enhance their marketing and

promotions, like buying ads or developing a website and social media presence.

In 2021, 10 recipients will be selected to receive a \$500 mini-grant. Southwest Georgia Farm Credit is proud to serve farmers, farm businesses and people who live and work in the small towns and communities in southwest Georgia.

Fresh from the Farm ap-

plications can be downloaded from our website: www.swgafarmcredit.com

Completed applications can be submitted via MAIL: Southwest Georgia Farm Credit, Attention: Fresh from the Farm, 305 Colquitt Highway, Bainbridge, GA 39817 or EMAIL: kforeman@swga-farmcredit.com

The deadline for submitting applications is April 13, 2021.

Dual enrollment parent and student meeting set for January 28

There will be a Dual Enrollment parent and student meeting on Thursday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the Seminole County Middle/High School cafeteria. Students in the tenth and eleventh grades who are interested in participating in the Dual Enrollment program for the 2021-2022 school year and their parents are encouraged to attend. Spencer Stewart, Director of Enrollment Management at ABAC- Bainbridge, will be conducting the meeting and answering questions.

Georgia Pines board meets January 21

The Georgia Pines Community Service Board for area mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases services has scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, January 21 at 12:30 p.m. at the Georgia Pines Administrative Offices Conference Room located at 1102 Smith Avenue in Thomasville.. This meeting is open to the public.

Due to COVID-19, a Zoom link is available upon request. You may contact Jill Baggett at the Administrative Office at 229.225.4335 for additional information.

ABAC moves start of Spring Semester to Jan. 25

To ensure a safe start and productive Spring term, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is moving the opening day of the Spring semester to Jan. 25.

ABAC President David Bridges said ABAC hopes to gain an advantage on the post-holiday COVID-19 surge by giving students, faculty, and staff more time to prepare for a safe beginning for the 2021 Spring term.

"We gain an extra week of time for the surge to resolved, and we only lose four days of classes because we were scheduled to start on January 19 anyway," Bridges said. "Everything we do is predicated on providing for the health and safety of our students and our employees."

ABAC compressed its 2020 Fall semester so that all classes and final examinations ended on Nov. 24. Students went home for the Thanksgiving holidays without having to return to the campus until the Spring semester.

"The hard work, planning, cooperation, and personal responsibility of our faculty, staff, and students made the Fall semester plan work," Bridges said. "Now we want to do everything we can to position ourselves for a successful Spring term."

"Our primary goal is to have a Spring semester with students on campus engaging with faculty and having the opportunity to attend face to face classes."



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