

Making plans now for the August 2nd School Supply Scramble

I've always loved the first day of school better than the last day of school. Firsts are best because they are beginnings.
- Jenny Han

Even though school is out for Summer, that has not slowed us down at Seminole Family Connection. Honestly, Summer is one of our biggest seasons besides all things pumpkin in October. A few years ago, we totally revamped how we reached the community's children through school supplies and the Seminole School Supply Scramble was born.

We are extremely excited to get to share that the event will take place on August 2nd this year. The elementary school has great plans for this day but I will let



them share what's in store on their end and focus on how you can get involved with Family Connection to make this event successful. We now have data for two years to help us plan to make this our best yet. The number of students that received our supplies increased by almost 95.

With that information we are



Billie McLendon
Seminole County Family Connections Coordinator

inviting partners to come out and set up booths in the gym as we did pre-COVID. If your agency would like to set up a booth, please let us know. If you would like to pass out information or promotional materials you will need 400 units to cover the projected families that will attend.

Something new we have added

this year to really allow this to be a community effort is an Amazon Wish List. In years past we have had the resources left over from Hurricane Michael efforts. This year we are starting off with no supplies in surplus. Our vision is to see students still receive backpacks as part of this project. You can click our link from our Facebook page and it will send you directly to the items we need to put in backpacks as well as the backpacks themselves. The items will ship directly to us so there is no hassle with you trying to drop the items off. If you want to see what items we need and pick them up at another store we are ok with that as well. We just need all items in by July 19th. We will be packing backpacks on July 21st.



For more information or to get involved reach out by email or phone. Our email address is scfamilyconnection@gmail.com and our office number is 229-209-0531.

Bill to limit cutting police budgets in Georgia is now a state law

Gov. Brian Kemp has signed legislation to limit how much local governments in Georgia can cut funding for police agencies.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Houston Gaines, R-Athens, forbids cities and counties from cutting the budgets of most police agencies in the state by more than five percent over a five-year period, except during times of financial trouble such as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Its passage largely along party lines in the General Assembly came as Republican lawmakers moved to block efforts to reduce police budgets in the wake of last Summer's nationwide protests against police brutality and racial injustice.

Democratic leaders slammed the measure as a power grab by the state over local governments, noting also that criminal-justice advocates have largely called for shifting some budget dollars from law enforcement to other areas like mental health and housing rather than outright gutting police agencies.

Kemp framed the bill as a show of support for Georgia police officers who, he said, "continue to sacrifice their lives for the sake of others" despite growing backlash from local leaders and communities over recent high-profile killings by police including the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last year.

"The defund-the-police movement seeks to vilify the men and women

who leave their families every day and put their lives on the lines to protect all Georgians," Kemp said at a bill-signing ceremony held in Barrow County where he was flanked by several officers.

Besides limits on budget reduction, the bill also allows state and local public-safety employees including police, correctional officers, firefighters and EMS operators to deduct pay from their salaries to secure legal representation if they are sued or prosecuted for their actions on the job.

On another criminal justice front, Democrats joined Republicans during the 2021 legislative session to pass legislation overhauling Georgia's citizen's arrest law following last year's killing of Ahmaud Arbery near Brunswick.

Georgia Pines Board meets Thursday, June 17

The Georgia Pines Community Service Board for area mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases services has scheduled a meeting to be held on Thursday, June 17 at 12:30 p.m. at the Georgia Pines Administrative Offices Conference Room located at 1102 Smith Avenue in Thomasville, Georgia.

This meeting is open to the public for in person attendance. 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.

Sign up now for Father's Day breakfast

All Neighborhood Development Corporation is sponsoring their annual Father's Day breakfast on Saturday, June 19 from 8 to 11 a.m., at R.D. Rambeau Gym, located at the corner of Moore Street and Adams Avenue.

Breakfast will be included for the first 40 participants; afterwards a \$10.00 donation will be required. Door prizes will also be given out.

To sign up, contact Lindsay C. Register, Sr. at 229-400-3817. All men, fathers, and sons are invited.

SCVFD July 4 BBQ set for Saturday, July 3

Spring Creek Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will again host their annual July 4th BBQ, on Saturday, July 3rd. Meat pick up will be from 8:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon. Prices are: Boston butts \$32 and ribs - sheet \$22.

Plate lunches are \$10 and include pulled pork with fixin's. Lunches will be served from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

There will also be a bake sale. Vendor spaces are available for \$15.00.

The fire department is located at 2682 Hwy. 253, Donalsonville. For more information or to place your order, call Judi at 229-254-2638.



Placing fifth in State competition - Seminole County 4-H Shotgun Senior Team, coaches, and volunteers: front row: Steve Whitaker, Janet Whitaker, Peyton Baker, Paul Hornsby, Peyton Brown, Gabe Williams, Cody Spooner, Rob Weir, and Thomas Chance; back row: Celia Weir, Kim Chance, Ron Chance, and Josh Milner. Not pictured, Gavin Womack.



Merle Hodges' century plant preparing to bloom

The late Merle Hodges planted this century plant about 25 years ago, at her home at 408 East Sixth Street here in Donalsonville. Merle's daughter, Cindy, now lives there. Cindy has been taking care of the flowers and recently noticed that the century plant, which she guesses is at least 30 feet tall, was going to bloom. As of press time, a few flowers were open.

The century plant, *Agave americana*, is monocarpic, meaning it will bloom once in its lifetime. That bloom may not appear for 10, 20 or more years, depending on the climate. Many species in the genus *Agave* flower just once, although there are a few that are repeat bloomers. The name "century plant" comes from the fact that the slow-growing plant takes years — although not 100 — to flower.

The upward-facing yellow flowers grow in clusters at the end of horizontal branches near the top of a tall stalk that emerges from a thick basal rosette of gray-green leaves. The flower structure resembles a candelabrum and sits atop a flower stalk that may be 10, or in the case above, sometimes up to 30 feet tall.

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