Local COVID-19 cases are rising; vaccination rate is not

donalsonvillenews.com

In the past two weeks ninetyone additional Seminole County residents have tested positive for COVID-19, according to data posted on the Georgia Department of Health daily status report website. Counties through the southwest Georgia area are experiencing similar high numbers with Decatur County reporting 257 new cases, Miller County reporting 53 new cases, Early County reporting 123

Thursday, January 13, 2022

new cases, and Grady County reporting 332 new cases in that same two week time period. The majority of Georgia's counties are now shaded dark red on the Department of Health's website, indicating the highest level recorded of positive case transmission.

Donalsonville, Georgia 39845

Local and state health officials continue to implore all residents to get vaccinated, and they are now encouraging again the wearing of

masks, and social distancing when in crowded and indoor areas.

Locally in Seminole County, 3,773 residents are considered fully vaccinated as of Wednesday, January 12, according to the D.P.H.'s online Vaccine Distribution Dashboard. That's only 45 percent of the county's population.

The information indicates that 49 percent of the county's population, or 4,087 residents, have

received at least one dose of the vaccine. Seminole County's fully vaccinated rate has experienced no significant increase in over a month.

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All Georgians over the age of five are now eligible for COVID vaccination. Booster doses of vaccine are recommended for adults 18 and older who have completed their first series of vaccine.

The vaccine finder website, vaccines.gov, reports that the free vaccines are available at the Seminole County Health Department and Walgreens Pharmacy in Donalson-

Since the pandemic began in March 2020, there have been 1,321 cases here based on P.C.R. and antigen positive testing, and 23 county residents have died from the disease caused by the novel Coronavirus, the state public health information



Centennial planning meeting is Thursday, January 13 at 6 p.m.

Planning meeting will be held at the Beall Center on Cherry Street

The COVID-19 pandemic and its health and safety prtocols completely derailed the planning of Seminole County's centennial event, a county-wide celebration to highlight and celebrate the county's progress and its first 100 years.

Originally scheduled to be held in 2020, and then in 2021, organizers of the event have announced the county's milestone event will happen - in the Spring

Seminole County Manager Paula Granger has proposed target dates for the celebration to be held in April of 2022.

A two-day event featuring a fishing tournament, lake activities, history assignments and presentations, along with a Centennial Ball, are all on the list for potential activities.

A planning meeting to restart the process of developing the details and specifics necessary to staging the event will be held January 13 at 6 p.m. in the Beall Center located at 222 Cherry Street in downtown Donalson-

All interested in joining the planning team and helping to bring the dream of the event into a reality are welcome to attend.

Due to the increase in positive COVID-19 cases locally, the wearing of masks and social dis-



Will Pace is the 2022 STAR Student for **SCMHS**

Gay Williams chosen as his STAR Teacher

Seminole County Middle/High School proudly announces William Hilton Pace (Will) as its 2022 STAR Student. Pace, selected on the basis of his SAT scores, class standing and scholastic averages, has chosen Ms. Gay Williams as his STAR teacher.

Will Pace is the son of John and Amanda Buckhaulter and Wes Pace. He has attended Seminole County Schools since kindergarten. Will is honored to be named the 2021-2022 STAR student and would like to thank his teachers, friends, and family for supporting him throughout his journey.

Will has served as the local parliamentarian, secretary and president of Future Business Leaders of America and currently serves as the State Vice President of Communication. He has served as the local treasurer, secretary, and president of FFA and served as the Area 5 Reporter his Junior year. He is the current chapter president of the National Honor Society and a member of Family Career and Community Leaders of America

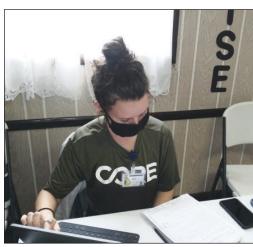
Will was the recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award and also served on the state school superintendent's advisory council in 2019-2020. This past Summer Will was selected as one of two delegates to represent Georgia at Boys Nation hosted by the American Legion. In

→See STARS on Page 9



2022 SCMHS STAR Student Will Pace and STAR Teacher Gay Williams

One-day vaccine drive returns MLK weekend



Vaccines for eligible children added this time

Amid soaring cases of COVID's Omicron variant throughout the country, a one-day vaccination drive aimed at raising the level of shots in arms within the local African-American and Latin communities in and around Seminole County returns to Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, January 16th from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on the eve of nationwide observances of MLK Day. All those eligible are welcome to come and

get vaccinated or boostered.

The church is located at 221 N. Dowling Avenue in Donalsonville on the corner of N. Dowling Avenue and, ironically, Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

"It's interesting, if not prudent, to ask the question of what would Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. do and say to people at a time like this as we honor and celebrate his life and legacy?", says Rahn d. Fudge, Creator and Executive Producer of the Phoenix Affaire Group which will again partner with the CORE Re-

◆See **GET VACCINATED** on Page 8

Pictured at left, a member of the CORE Response Agency's medical mobile unit is seen pouring over data from a vaccine drive held last month at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Donalsonville.

Nominations now open for the 2021 Seminole County Citizen of the Year award

Submit your nomination to the Donalsonville-Seminole County Chamber of Commerce by 5 p.m. February 4th.

What one dedicated citizen has worked tirelessly to promote progress and improvements to the quality of life in this community? The Donalsonville-Seminole County Chamber of Commerce invites citizens and organizations of Seminole County to nominate that person for the 2021 Citizen of the Year award. The recipient will be honored at the Chamber's Annual Meeting and Banquet to be held in February.

Nomination letters received after the Febru-

ary 4th deadline will not be accepted or considered by the out-of-town selection committee set to review the nominations to determine a recipient based on the following cri-

Nominee prominently participated in a new or existing civic endeavor during 2021 and the results of their efforts provided a clear, discernible positive impact on the citizens of Seminole

Actions taken must have influenced or aided in the advancement of a community ideal such as education, charity, civic coopera-

tion, beautification, patriotism, etc.

Written nominations should include the name, contact information, and reasons the individual should be considered. It must also have the name, address and phone number of the person or persons making the nomina-CITIZEN tion. Anonymous nominations OF THE YEAR will not be accepted.

Nominations may be mailed the Donalsonville-Seminole County Chamber of Commerce, 122 East Second Street, Donalsonville,

Georgia 39845, dropped by the chamber office ►See COY on Page 8

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