

## Cooler Photo Contest!

Stay cool and enter the *Donalsonville News*' Sizzling Seminole Summer photo contest. Show us how you beat the heat in a Seminole County Summer. Send your entries to [news@donalsonvillenews.com](mailto:news@donalsonvillenews.com) by 5 p.m. July 29th. The "coolest" shot will appear on the front page of the August 4th edition of your *Donalsonville News*. Photos must contain a Southwest Georgia resident and must be an image you would be proud to share with your mother.



2014, 2016 and 2019 recipient of the Georgia Press Association's Service to the Community Award

# Donalsonville News

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## Chris West to challenge Sanford Bishop in November

Thomasville attorney and Republican candidate Chris West pulled off what will go down as one of the biggest political upsets of the year.

In Tuesday's runoff election West collected 51 percent of the vote and beat West Point graduate and former Army captain Jeremy Hunt by 755 votes of the 28,461 cast, according to unofficial results. In Seminole County West received 348 votes to Hunt's 289.

West will now face incumbent Congressman Sanford Bishop in November's General Election.

Hunt's campaign and two political action committees — American Patriots PAC and American Values First PAC — spent more than \$2.5 million on the campaign, flooding the airwaves and mailboxes with pro-Hunt, anti-West messages.

The West campaign spent about \$200,000 through the primary and runoff and did not have the political action committee support Hunt did.

"I think it came down to authenticity and the people of this district want someone who lives here and knows what it's like to live under these high gas prices and inflation through the roof. They know what we got to do something different and what Washington has been sending our way isn't working."

Hunt conceded and vowed to work to beat Bishop.

"Of course, the results did not come back as we wanted," Hunt said. "We have a couple of more votes coming in, but it's certainly not looking good for us. But I will tell you this, this movement is just beginning."

There is still work for Republicans to do, Hunt said.

"We are going to rally behind the Republican party and make sure we flip this seat this year," Hunt said. "I tell you right now, we are still on the path to defeat Sanford Bishop. And that's the No. 1 priority for us. We are all in. We are going to support the Republican nominee and we are going to move forward."

In the race for Lieutenant Governor the majority of statewide voters preferred Atlanta Attorney Charlie Bailey over former U.S. Rep. Kwanza Hall. In Seminole County Bailey received 138 votes to Hall's 36. Bailey will now face Republican candidate Burt Jones and Libertarian candidate Ryan Graham in November.

In the race for Secretary of State a majority of statewide voters preferred Bee Nguyen over Dee Dawkins-Haigler. In Seminole County Nguyen received 118 votes to Dawkins-Haigler's 55. Nguyen will face incumbent Brad Raffensperger in the November General Election.



Pictured left to right, Denver Davis, PSB Ag Lender; Katie Hatcher, Donalsonville Hospital CFO; Mitchell Blanks, PSB board member; Caleb Stuckey, PSB Co-President; Erin Stuckey, PSB Co-President; Herman Brookins, President and Chairman of the Board; James Moody, Donalsonville Hospital Administrator; April Massey, Assistant Hospital Administrator; and Bradley Grantham, PSB Branch Mgr/VP

## PeoplesSouth Bank makes \$50,000 Georgia HEART Donation to Donalsonville Hospital

PeoplesSouth Bank has donated \$50,000 to Donalsonville Hospital through the Georgia HEART Rural Tax credit program for 2022. This is the third year that the bank has invested in rural healthcare at Donalsonville Hospital.

"This is among the largest Georgia HEART PeoplesSouth donations our hospital has received since the program's inception" said James Moody, Donalsonville Hospital's Administrator. "The funds raised through this program directly impact our ability to deliver quality healthcare to our community."

We truly appreciate that PeoplesSouth has chosen to honor us with this generous Georgia HEART contribution."

About their participation, Bradley Grantham, Donalsonville Branch Manager and Vice President of PeoplesSouth Bank said, "We are proud to benefit our community hospital through this program, especially as access to quality healthcare has taken center stage these last few years. We have always been a community bank where people are more than just a number. Investing in healthcare is investing in people."

The State of Georgia uniquely empowers its citizens and businesses to make 100% tax credit-eligible contributions to qualified rural hospitals of their choice and help enhance rural healthcare for thousands of Georgians. In other words, the state of Georgia is allowing taxpayers to 'spend' some of the taxes they must pay anyway to improve Donalsonville Hospital's financial condition and patient offerings.

After June 30 of 2022, for so long as a portion of the \$60 million cap on RHO tax credit.

See **GEORGIA HEART** on Page 10



## State Route 45 bridge now open

The new State Route 45 bridge over Dry Creek in Seminole County reopened early Thursday afternoon, June 16, replacing the original bridge that was built in 1972. Work on the bridge, located about three miles north of Iron City, began in October of 2021. Traffic has been detoured for the past seven plus months during construction. The old bridge had posted weight limits and did not meet current design standards due to the vehicles used in the design 50 years ago. The former bridge showed minor cracking in various places and there was a risk of erosion of soil around the foundation. New construction now provides a bridge that meets current design standards, and the shoulders almost doubled in width, from 3.9 feet to six feet. This is a safety benefit in the event a motorist has to stop on the bridge or someone needs to cross it on foot. The new 12-foot travel lanes are a half foot wider than the old bridge.

The construction contract was \$2.3 million, but preliminary engineering and right of way added about another \$1 million to the total cost of the project.

## Charity Bingo event set for Saturday, June 25

### All proceeds go to support the Olive Theatre

Sign up for an afternoon of bingo fun and great food for a great cause! All funds from the event will go to support renovations to downtown Donalsonville's historic Olive Theatre, specifically for the purchase of a new heating and cooling system and front entrance awning.

For a \$55 charitable donation you will receive a Bingo card and the opportunity to enjoy great food, a frozen drink bar and the possibility of winning great prizes.

The host for the event will be Marjorie King, the new director of the Olive Theatre. In addition to being an established chef, King has been involved with

theatrical productions since the age of three. A published playwright since 2003, she has performed on stage in productions of *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Swamp Gravy* and has been a part of The Shadow Box and The Gallows acting companies.

"I am excited about this event and all that we have planned to support the arts in this community in the upcoming months. Join me in helping to keep the arts alive, and let's have a whole lot of fun," commented King.

The event will be held at the Beall Center on Cherry Street in downtown Donalsonville beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 25.

To reserve your spot RSVP to Virginia Harrison at 229-400-3772 or Marjorie King at 229-309-1185.



Olive Theatre Director Marjorie King

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