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Phoebe COVID-19 numbers continue to climb as vaccine administration expands



Special Photo: Phoebe

To date, Phoebe Putney Health System has administered 3,151 COVID-19 vaccines in southwest Georgia.

From staff reports

ALBANY — Not since April has facilities in the Phoebe Putney Health System seen COVID-19 numbers that the hospital is seeing now in the wake of the Thanksgiving/Christmas/New Year's celebrations.

As of noon Tuesday, Phoebe facilities in Albany and Americus housed 122 COVID patients, 103 in Albany at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital and 19 in Americus at Phoebe Sumter Medical Center.

"We have had double digit COVID-19 hospital admissions 10 out of the last 14 days, and our system is now caring for more COVID-19 patients than at any time since April 2," Phoebe Health System President/CEO Scott Steiner said in a news release.

"The troubling difference is that back then, our numbers were declining rapidly. Today, we remain in the middle of a significant surge."

"As we continue to expand our capacity to care for the growing number of COVID-19 patients throughout southwest Georgia, we have re-opened the modular hospital built by the state on our Phoebe North campus last spring. This morning, we were caring for five of our lower acuity COVID-19 patients there, with the ability to expand as needed."

Phoebe's COVID-19 numbers at noon Tuesday included:

- ◆ COVID-19 patients in Phoebe Putney

SEE **VACCINE**, A6

Albany State to launch Centers for Diversity, Inclusion, Social Equity

From staff reports

ALBANY — Albany State University President Marion Fedrick announced Tuesday the launch of the Albany State University Centers for Diversity, Inclusion and Social Equity (DISE).

"In summer 2020, the university formed a partnership with Fort Valley State University and Savannah State University to 'stand united' against racism, and the social and economic injustices that continue to plague our country," Fedrick said in a news release. "Our institu-

tions have a historic legacy of developing strong leaders who fight at the forefront for equality in education, social justice and who died for civil rights. DISE is ASU's opportunity to remain at the forefront of these issues and to affect change."

The tri-part center will educate ASU students and stakeholders about the attributes, behaviors and actions that support people of various races, genders, abilities, ages, sexual orientations, and socio-economic

SEE **LAUNCH**, A6



Special Photo: ASU

Albany State University President Marion Fedrick announced Tuesday the launch of the Albany State University Centers for Diversity, Inclusion and Social Equity.

\$400,000 grant for Albany Municipal Court will target recidivism

By Alan Mauldin
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ALBANY — A federal grant will help expand a program aimed at reducing the number of repeat offenders appearing in Albany Municipal Court.

The court's program began as a pilot in March 2018 that was designed to explore alternative-sentencing options by identifying causes of recidivism and offering social-service and educational interventions when appropriate.

The goal was to establish a "pathway to self-sufficiency" instead of the stigma a criminal record brings.

"I'm excited," Albany City Commissioner Chad Warbington said of the grant. "I think it's really going to help out. I think in general we've got a big problem with recidivism."

The City Commission agreed in December to accept the \$400,000 grant from U.S. Department of Justice through its National Community Courts Site-based and Training Technical Assistance Initiative. The award to the Albany Works! Community Court was one of eight made in the country through the grant program in 2020.

There is no requirement

SEE **GRANT**, A6



Special Photos: Dorothy Kozlowski/UGA

UGA alumni bell-ringers gather in front of the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building during a ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of desegregation at UGA.

'Welcoming to all'

Ceremonial ringing of UGA chapel bell marks desegregation anniversary

By Camie Williams
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ATHENS — In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the desegregation of the University of Georgia, the Main Library at UGA is hosting an exhibit that chronicles the historic events of 1961, when Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter (now Hunter-Gault) became the first African-American students admitted to the university.

Honored guests, including the Holmes family and members of the UGA Black Alumni Council, were among the first to tour the exhibit, "Georgia Trailblazers: Honoring the 60th Anniversary of Desegregation at UGA," on the day it opened, Jan. 9, the 60th anniversary of Holmes' and Hunter's enrollment.

The day began with remarks by UGA President Jere W. Morehead and others before a ceremonial ringing of the Chapel Bell by African American UGA alumni from each decade since the university's desegregation.

"This anniversary gives us an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as an institution. It also reminds us that our work is not done," Morehead said. "This progress continues today as students, faculty, staff and alumni work together to build a di-



A recent bell-ringing ceremony marked the 60th anniversary of desegregation at UGA.

verse university community that is welcoming to all."

After the bell ringing, the group visited the Main Library on UGA's historic North Campus.

The exhibit includes images, documents and other items from this significant time period. Designed

in collaboration with Hunter-Gault and the Holmes family, the exhibit includes items from the Special Collections Libraries as well as items borrowed from the Holmes family, such as the fraternity sweater that Holmes

SEE **UGA**, A6

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A woman who is denied an education is denied equality."
— **Barack Obama**, U.S. president (1961-)

CORRECTION

This newspaper is committed to publishing fair and accurate information. Errors should be brought to the attention of Editor Carlton Fletcher at (229) 888-9360. Corrections or clarifications will appear in this space.

Partly cloudy

54°
32°

Henry, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

