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SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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– CRIME –

2 arrested in child kidnapping in Cullman County



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Erika Monique Byrd, left; Marsha McCord Byrd, right

» PAGE 2

9/11 REMEMBRANCE TONIGHT AT DEPOT PARK

» PAGE 3

– GUEST ESSAY –

9/11 - MY STORY

What I saw firsthand with President Bush that day



FRANK NÜRNBERGER/PIXABAY

Still from 9/11 Memorial

Terry Abbott
Guest Columnist

September 11, 2001 – Sarasota, Florida: It was a beautiful day as I stepped out of a bungalow at a tennis resort where President Bush and his traveling team, including Secretary of Education Rod Paige and I, had stayed overnight. As Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Education, I had flown with the President on Air Force One to Florida the day before to make appearances at schools as part of the effort to generate support for the passage of the President's No Child Left Behind education reform bill. Our job that morning, September 11, was to visit Emma Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Florida, talk to the children about the importance of reading, and talk to the Congress and the nation about the need to enact federal education reforms.

The furthest thing from my mind that morning was a terrorist attack. I was not thinking at all about the Top Secret security briefing Secretary Paige and I had received at the White House a few months earlier, when the secret "Continuity of Government" plan, the "COG" as it was known, was explained to us. When I received that briefing, in the basement of the White House, about what our nation would do in the event of a massive attack, where the President's cabinet members would assemble, how the government would continue to operate, I remember thinking clearly "this will never happen."

All of us traveling with the President that day had been instructed to place our luggage outside the doors of the bungalows very early on the morning of September 11. The Secret Service would inspect all the luggage before it was loaded into vehicles and taken to the Sarasota Airport to be loaded onto Air Force One for the scheduled return trip to Washington that morning. As officials picked up the luggage, I headed down to the motorcade lineup to wait with Secretary Paige.

The Secretary and I expected to ride together that morning several cars behind President Bush, but just before we were to leave for the school, the President called for Secretary Paige to join him in the Presi- » PAGE 7

CRIME

Cullman Middle School student arrested with handgun

» PAGE 5

ARTS

'Nothing can replace that'

Live entertainment events, venues face grave threat from pandemic; Cullman on forefront of response

» PAGE 3

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 123,267 (+687 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 12,298
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 2,176 (+15 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 125
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 1,495 (+1 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 241
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 15 (+0 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 2
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 14,830
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,343
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 116
- Total tested in Alabama: 993,440
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 10,270
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 89,962
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 834
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 15,339
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 54,223

See more details at https://bit.ly/2VjCQbP.

Latest COVID-19 update from Cullman Regional Medical Center

- 11 positive patients, with 2 currently on ventilators
- Cullman Regional has reported 22 COVID deaths to ADPH. Of these, 16 were Cullman County residents

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Sept. 10

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Sept. 10, 2020. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Sept. 8

- domestic violence; CR 1043
- theft of property; CR 202
- theft of property; CR 146
- criminal mischief; CR 1118
- theft of property; Hwy. 91
- theft of property; CR 844
- theft of property; CR 814
- domestic violence; CR 818
- reckless endangerment; Hwy. 69 S
- domestic violence; CR 584
- harassment; CR 1711
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69 S
- burglary; CR 1648
- theft of property; CR 234
- theft of property; CR 222

Sept. 9

- theft of property; CR 684
- violation of a protection order; CR 1301
- unlawful possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, domestic violence; CR 369
- domestic violence; CR 234
- domestic violence; CR 735
- trespassing, criminal mischief; CR 222
- harassment; CR 404
- theft of property; CR 8
- unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; CR 1564
- harassment; CR 241
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 109
- stalking; CR 222
- violation of a protection order, domestic violence, criminal mischief; CR 431

ARRESTS

Sept. 7

Bolin, Megan Jovita, 30

- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing
- FTA- giving false name to law enforcement

Byrd, Erika Monique, 30

- first-degree burglary
- first-degree kidnapping

Byrd, Marsha McCord, 69

- interference with custody

Edwards, Donald Lee, 62

- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Jones, Amy Renee, 42

- second-degree criminal mischief
- fourth-degree theft of property

Noe, Savannah Blake, 28

- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Rodriguez, Mariana Krystal, 21

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Sept. 8

Autwell, Terry Ray, 29

- judge's order- criminally negligent homicide
- judge's order- failure to register/establish employment SORNA
- judge's order- failure to update required registration information SORNA
- judge's order- first-degree theft of property

Bartlett, Shannon Joey, 41

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Boatright, Corey Jason, 43

- unauthorized use of a motor vehicle

Bomberry-Wright, Dylan J., 26

- FTA- public intoxication

Collier, Dakota Allen, 25

- probation revoked-first-degree theft of property

Davis, James Nicholas, 37

- probation revoked-third-degree burglary

Drummond, David Richard, 61

- FTA- DUI- influence of alcohol

Klosinski, Mary Elizabeth, 31

- false reporting to law enforcement

League, Cobie Thomas, 21

- unlawful breaking and entering of moto vehicle (with theft)

Lynn, Brent Tyler, 30

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Lynn, Christine McClendon, 27

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Moreland, Terry Wayne, 42

- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Terry, Kielynn Blane, 21

- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle (without theft)

Sept. 9

Chappell, Samantha Elizabeth, 32

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Coots, Steven Douglas, 30

- FTA- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

Goodwin, Kelli Melissa, 28

- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Graham, Asia Ryan, 29

- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree promoting prison contraband (2 counts)
- tampering with physical evidence
- trafficking illegal drugs
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana (3 counts)
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Joslyn, Christopher Michael, 65

- failure to register quarterly SORNA

Lovell, Anthony Ray, 45

- nonsupport

Parker, Christina Michelle, 46

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Parker Sr., Therron Dewayne, 51

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Ponder, Trevor Lindley, 29

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Tucker, Matthew Karl, 36

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Wilson, Jeremy Matthew, 42

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Sept. 9

- identity theft; person

ARRESTS

Sept. 9

Bagwell, Dachery D., 28

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- insurance violation (3 counts)
- FTA- driving without a license (2 counts)
- FTA- driving while revoked (3 counts)
- failure to register vehicle

Dauksza, Hope O., 28

- attempting to commit a controlled substance crime
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree promoting prison contraband
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property (4 counts)
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing

Coots, Steven D., 30

- attempting to commit a controlled substance crime
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- fourth-degree theft of property
- third-degree criminal trespassing
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing
- FTA- insurance violation (3 counts)
- FTA- switched tag
- FTA- improper lights
- FTA- failure to yield

Nunnery, Trevor A., 32

- FTA- driving while suspended

Patterson, Dawson J., 23

- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

Find arrest reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.

Kidnapping (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Two Jefferson County women have been charged in connection with a kidnapping in Cullman County.

According to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), a 2-year-old child was reported missing on Smith Lake Monday evening, Sept. 7. CCSO deputies and investigators, along with local volunteer fire departments, responded to the scene. Upon investigation, it was determined the child was taken from his father, who has full legal custody. The CCSO said the child's mother, Erika Monique Byrd, has no legal rights to the child.

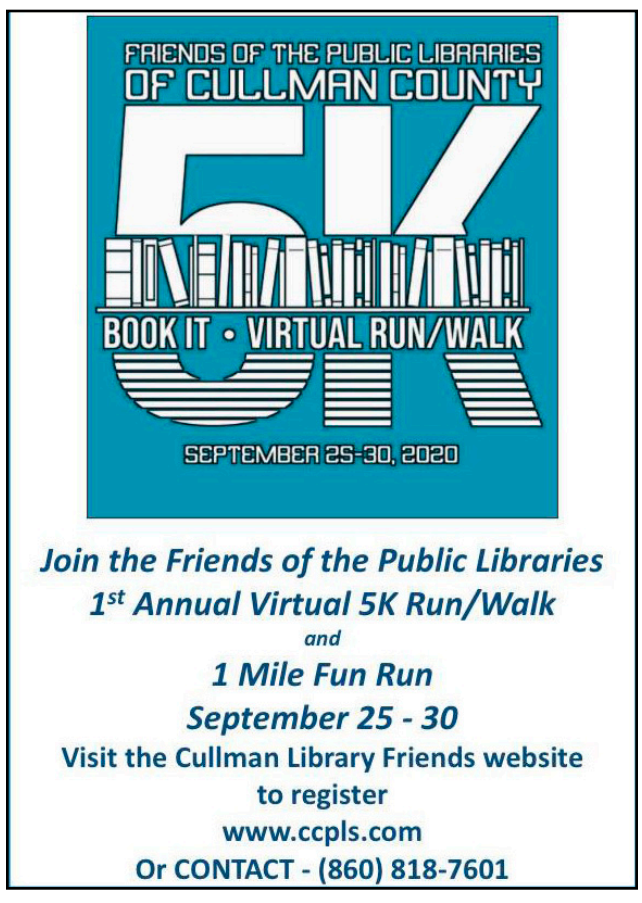
Working with the Cullman County District Attorney's Office, the Walker County Sheriff's Office and the Fultondale Police Department, investigators located Byrd and the child in Fultondale, Alabama.

The CCSO said investigators also determined Marsha McCord Byrd participated in the minor's kidnapping.

"Any time a child is missing and taken we take that very seriously, and I am glad we were able to locate the child unharmed and reunite the child with the father," said Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry. "I would also like to think all our deputies, local volunteer fire departments and the other law enforcement agencies who assisted in locating this child."

Erika Byrd, 30, of Fultondale is charged with first-degree burglary and first-degree kidnapping. She is being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $60,000 bond.

Marsha Byrd, 69, of Birmingham is charged with interference with custody. She has made bond.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit your calendar items or public notices to wendy@cullmantribune.com

Power of Produce (POP) at Festhalle Cullman
• Saturdays through October at the Festhalle from 8 a.m.-noon
• Children ages 14 and younger can pick up a recipe and receive POP market money of $4 per person to spend on fresh produce, until we run out!

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Monday and Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Prayer Meetings at Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Come pray with us for our nation, healing, etc. or come to receive prayer.

Bible Study at Spirt Life Church of GOD
• Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Pastor Bobby Dodd will be offering a teaching series entitled "Events of the End Times."

North Alabama Agriplex Harvest to Home Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction
• Since we cannot all be together, we are inviting the community to prepare our fresh, local foods into a meal at home then enjoy the bounty of the harvest knowing your neighbors are also tasting the same great flavors. Our locally-sourced meal prep boxes come complete with pre-portioned ingredients and a custom tailored recipe from local Farm to Table Chef Braxton Taylor of Dreher's in Cullman. The meal prep boxes will be available for pre-order Sept. 4-13, with a drive-through pickup at the Agriplex Sept. 17 from 2-5 p.m. Each box will cost $50 and serve two people.
• Our always popular Silent Auction will be online this year at www.agriplex.org. Browse and bid on items from Sept. 4-13 with pickup Sept. 15 or 17. Items are diverse - featuring gardening and farming items, plants, original works of art, gift cards to local businesses, local farm produce, and lots more. Check out the North Alabama Agriplex Facebook page for previews of Silent Auction items.

Dates to remember
• Sept. 13 - Last day to bid on Silent Auction and pre-order meal boxes; site closes at 5 p.m.
• Sept. 15 - Early Silent Auction pickup at the Agriplex from 2-5 p.m.
• Sept. 17 - Harvest to Home Meal Prep Box pickup, plus Silent Auction pickup at the Agriplex from 2-5 p.m.

9/11 Remembrance Event
• Friday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. at Billy Bob's Super Store, 1670 County Road 437, Good Hope, AL 35055
• This is a remembrance event to remember those who lost their lives from terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001. Food will be provided starting at 6 p.m. At dark we will light the sky with searchlights in honor of those we lost and will keep the lights going until midnight.

American Idol's Brandon Elder at Goat Island Brewing
Friday, Sept. 11 from 7-10:30 p.m. at Goat Island Brewing, 1646-A John H Cooper Dr. SE, Cullman

Sportsman Lake Park Fall Yard Sale
Saturday, Sept. 12 from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park, 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW, Cullman

Farm Kids Club PIGS!
• Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex
• Limited space; registration required; $5 per child; $10 max per family; adults free; masks required and social distancing; https://bit.ly/2Gxlfbx

Cub Scout Fishing Derby
• Cullman and Cullman County youth–Cub Scouting wants you! Now is the time to join the fun and excitement of America's foremost youth program for youth—Cub Scouting. Sign-up nights are currently taking place throughout Cullman and Cullman County.
• Cub Scouting is for youth in the kindergarten through fifth grades. The program combines outdoor activities, sports, academics, and more in a fun and exciting program that helps families teach ideals such as honesty, good citizenship, and respect.
• On Sept. 12 from 9 a.m.-noon, we are hosting a fishing derby for youth interested in joining. Parents can learn more about the local unit's activities and how Scouting can benefit their child.
• For more information, please contact District Director Vicki Rosengarten at 256-272-3523 or Vicki.Rosengarten@scouting.org.
• For more information about finding scouting near you, visit www.beascout.org.

Genesis Presents Suicide Prevention
• Saturday, Sept. 12 from 6-9 p.m. at Arise Coffee Co., 113 Commercial St., Hanceville, AL 35077
• Music by Genesis, fellowship, suicide prevention information from Tommie Sanders with WellStone (formerly Cullman Area Mental Health) and suicide awareness information from Karen Heaton with Cook Ministries; Redemption Church Youth will be doing face painting.

Name That Tune: 80's Night hosted by Matt "The Ostrich" Mitchell
• Saturday, Sept. 12 from 7-9 p.m. at Goat Island Brewing, 1646-A John H Cooper Drive SE, Cullman
• Prepare yourself for a radical game of Name That Tune as Matt "The Ostrich" Mitchell challenges your team with some of the most righteous music of the 80s. Can your team identify the song title and artist before time runs out? Come down to Goat Island Brewing in Cullman and find out! Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams!
• This event is following CDC guidelines** Tables are spaced 6 feet apart. Trivia is paperless and teams will submit their answers with their cell phone.

Cullman Chapter of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) Meeting
• Monday, Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. at the Golden Corral
• Masks will be worn and social distancing maintained.

United Way Day of Caring
• Tuesday, Sept. 15
• Because of COVID-19, volunteers will not gather in large groups like previous Days of Caring. Businesses are encouraged to gather a team of co-workers, friends or family and select a project that fits the group size and skills. Outdoor projects are available to adopt at www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D-4FADAA22A6FEC16-dayofcaring (examples include landscaping and painting).
• Volunteers are asked to take recommended public health precautions and to avoid close contact, wear face coverings when appropriate and maintain distance as much as possible.
• To donate, visit www.uwaycc.org. For more information, call 256-739-2948.

Pilot Club of Cullman Meeting
• Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. at Stone Bridge Farms- Paddock Vue dining facility, 281 County Road 717, Cullman
• Program - Pilot International Founders Day
• Masks will be worn and social distancing maintained.
• Prospective members are welcome.

Virtual Pond Management Class: The Big 5 of Pond Management: Create Great Fishing and Aesthetics
• Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020 at 6 p.m.; FREE
• Register in advance for this meeting at https://bit.ly/355BKpj

Lunch and Learn: Raised Bed Gardening Online Class
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020 at noon; free; no registration required; taught by Raydonna Sims; check for link on North Alabama Agriplex Facebook page.

Drive-Through Food Bank at Spirt Life Church of GOD
• Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9-11 a.m. at 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Bring a form of ID.

2020 Cullman Grown Virtual Markup Open Online
Monday, Sept. 21 at noon- Tuesday, Sept. 22 at noon; contactless drive-up pickup Wednesday, Sept 23, noon-2 p.m.; www.agriplex.org

Heritage Homeschool Outdoor Survival Skills
Friday, Sept. 25, 2020 9-11 a.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex; for ages 9 and older (can be dropped off); $8 per child, $16 per family; limited space; registration required; masks required and social distancing; https://bit.ly/355CpXS

Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County Book-It Virtual 5K Run/Walk
• Sept. 25-30
• Register for Book-It 5K and you can run or walk the 5K - but you decide when (between Sept. 25-30) and where. Simply upload your results to the registration site. You can use any of the numerous running apps and fitness devices that can help with distance and timing.
• Register at https://raceroster.com/events/2020/33358/1st-annual-book-it-virtual-5k.
• Registration is $25 for the 5K and $15 for the 1-Mile Fun Run.

Free Outreach Lunch from Spirt Life Church of GOD at Five Points
Sat. Sept. 26 11 a.m.-noon in the Five Points Area

Drive-Thru Oktoberfest German Dinner at Sacred Heart
• Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 4-7 p.m.
• Sponsored by Sacred Heart of Jesus Church's Altar Society
• Due to COVID-19, this will be a drive-thru event. The meal will be bratwurst, German potato salad, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, bread and dessert (no drinks!) costing $12 for adults and $5 for children.
• It is requested and highly recommended that tickets be purchased ahead of time by going to www.SacredHeartChurchCullman.org. Press the donate button, go to events, select Oktoberfest German Dinner and follow instructions. Tickets may also be purchased the night of the event while going through the drive-thru.
• Cars will enter the parking lot and follow directions to pick up dinners. This is one of the Altar Society's main fundraising projects with the money being used for upkeep of the church altar and miscellaneous work.

Cullman Oktoberfest 2020
• The 39th annual celebration of Cullman's German heritage will be held Oct. 2-3, 2020! Be sure to join us for food, live German music, beer, games, arts & crafts, and so much more!
• Find out more at http://bit.ly/CullmanOktoberfest2020.

Cullman County Fair Parade
• Saturday, Oct. 3 at 2 p.m.
• U.S. Highway 31 from First Baptist Church to McGriff Tire
• Fair Parade registration starts at 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 21 and ends at noon Wednesday, Sept. 30.
• Registration is at the fair office-$20 per entry - cash or check only
• Download the registration form at http://bit.ly/CFPregistrationform.

Cullman County Fair
• Oct. 8-17 at the Cullman County Fairgrounds
• All in One Passes go on sale Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Peoples Bank locations.
• Find out more at www.cullmanfair.org.

EDUCATION

Javier Figueroa of Holly Pond receives nursing scholarship

Melissa Parker
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – Eight students from The University of Alabama's Capstone College of Nursing received the DCH Health System's BSN Scholarship, including Javier Figueroa of Holly Pond, AL.

"We are so appreciative of this opportunity for our students," said Dr. Suzanne Prevost, CCN dean. "The need for nurses has never been greater, and many of our nursing students are experiencing increased financial challenges due to the pandemic. The DCH Health System BSN Scholarship is easing the financial burden of pursuing a BSN, while ensuring that qualified nurses remain in our community during this time of great need."

The DCH BSN Scholarship Program is open to all BSN college students enrolled in their last four semesters at an approved nursing program. Recipients of this scholarship are expected to become employed as full-time RNs at DCH Health System, and to remain employed at DCH for 12 months for each semester of scholarship assistance.

"Some of these students have already been gaining experience at DCH. From those experiences and what we have read, they are an exceptional group," said Faye Zwieg, chief nursing officer at DCH Health System. "We are excited to offer these scholarships and look forward to working with each of them."



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Javier Figueroa

Remembrance (from Front)

Leanne West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. - Sept. 11, 2020, marks the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Tonight, a blue searchlight will shine from Depot Park into the sky in remembrance of those lost that day. The light will be projected from 7-11 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, 2020.

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs began planning this shortly after it was announced that New York City had canceled its blue lights this year.

"Even though New York City has decided to have their 'Tribute in Light' ceremony after all, we still feel it's a good thing for us to try to do here in Cullman, too," said Jacobs.

The City of Cullman reminds anyone who may go to Depot Park tonight to follow all COVID-19 related social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

Response (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Every business field and industry in the country has suffered from the effects of COVID-19 and the accompanying shutdown and restrictions, but the live entertainment event industry, which relies on revenue from packed arenas and theaters, has felt a particularly harsh impact from which portions of the industry may never recover.

Rock the South Founder and Premier Productions Owner Shane Quick told The Tribune, "I doubt there's an industry in America that has been more affected in a negative way by COVID than (the live entertainment event) industry. There can't be. I mean it's absolutely been decimated. Most people in the live entertainment industry have been affected; no less than 90-95% of their business is gone.

"Now, when I say event industry, it's near 100%, and the music industry, I would say, the only thing left right now is streaming music like Spotify, iTunes, things like that.

"Most artists in our industry would make anywhere between 70 and 80% of their income from live events, and that income is completely gone. One of the main problems is there's no way to social distance inside of an arena or a theater or a club. Your traditional music venues have no way to facilitate a 6-foot social distancing protocol."

"You would be surprised how many venues are closing their doors permanently across the country. Before this is said and done, there will be hundreds if not thousands of venues- event venues from large to small- that close their doors forever.

"I don't think it's a stretch to say that the live entertainment industry has been probably affected more than any other industry. So Premier Productions, we're one of the top five event promoters in the country, and we do somewhere between 600 and 700 events a year. Our next event is in April of next year, currently on the books. We had to reschedule around 600 events from 2020 to 2021. We've had to lay off quite a few people, waiting on everything to start back."

Virtual events filling a gap, but not solving the problem

Some performers have been putting music online through services like iTunes, and musical and theatrical performances can be found through paid access services and on platforms like Facebook and YouTube. For Quick, the efforts are worthwhile but still do not have the power and draw of in-person experiences.

"A lot of us in the live event industry for many years have been trying to figure out how to have virtual events, streaming events where people actually watch a concert online. I don't think it will ever come close to replacing the live concert, the live event. There's just something special that happens when people come together. We feel it at church, we feel it at a football game, we feel it at a concert, and you just can't replace that action on your computer screen or on your phone," he said. "But it has been one outlet that artists have been able to have, to stay engaged with their fans, and I'll say that, for a lot of people that never would have done something like that have found themselves doing live music that way, because that's the only option we have, currently.

"But yeah, I think that industry's going to grow. There'll be more and more virtual events, virtual concerts, but it'll never replace the live show."

Alan Jackson Drive-In Concert an experiment that could go nationwide

The Alan Jackson Drive-In Concert in June was something of an experiment to find a way to restart the concert industry, and not just in Cullman.

Said Quick, "The Alan Jackson event in Cullman was one of the bright spots in the entire live event industry in this country, that we did in Cullman.

"It was a success story, and there's been very few of those since March. We're hoping that there can be more of those, but right after the Alan Jackson event, the cases exploded.

"After the Alan Jackson event that we did in Cullman and Fairhope, we were looking to do several more, but right after that the cases exploded, and we started to see a lot of pushback from different cities about doing events, and resistance from ticket buyers as well."

Despite the bad timing of the spike in cases, Quick and his team have continued to brainstorm ways to bring live events back to venues here and nationwide, coming up with their own ideas and reaching out to other promoters to see what might be working for them.

Slowly turning the corner, maybe

"To me, it feels like we're getting back to a place where the numbers are dropping, people are being smart- wearing their masks, social distancing- and the numbers are dropping," noted Quick. "We're hoping that, very soon this fall, that we'll be able to see more events happen, even here in Cullman. We're talking to several artists from many different genres. Some of the most well-known names in the country would like to come to Cullman and different cities, and try to entertain some people in a safe way.

"We've been working for the last several months to find ways to have safe events, because our number one priority is the safety of the fans. But there's no question that if we could put together some world-class events- safe events- it could make a huge impact, a huge positive impact on our hotels and on our tourism dollars that are so greatly needed right now in our local economy.

"We're working around the clock to find a way to produce safe live events in Cullman and around the country. We're putting our heads together to figure out how to bring some events to Cullman, to help boost the local economy here. Premier has nearly 20 employees in Cullman, and a lot of those people are laid off, and we sure would love to find a way to get them some work and get them back to Premier.

"You know, these are people we consider family, and we would love to have some work again to get going. It's been one of the hardest seasons in the history of live events in the world. It's not just America; it's all around the world. But we're excited to try to figure out how to get something back to Cullman."

The final word

Quick finished by saying, "We're all in this together, and nobody in our industry wants to start back before we should. All of us want to keep people safe. We love what we do, and we can't wait to get back to work, but we've got to do it safe. We're hoping (for) a vaccine and after the election that we'll see people willing to get back out, venues opening again, and festivals starting back and people getting back to being together again. I don't think that'll ever change, no matter what happens. I think people will come back together, and nothing can replace that.

"There's absolutely nothing greater than people connecting to music together, even movies. There's one thing to watch a movie together, a new movie release, watching at home versus watching at the theater. They're both great, but different. We think that will come back, and we're excited and can't wait for that to come back. We hope it comes back soon."



LEGALS

PB WIL BK 97 PG 580 - 08/26/2020 09:16 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2020-151

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BENNIE L. COLLUM, DECEASED.

AMENDED NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to CATHY S. SMITH and KATHLEEN COLLUM PHILLIPS on the 25th day of August, 2020, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

CATHY S. SMITH and KATHLEEN COLLUM PHILLIPS
Joint Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sharon H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Personal Representatives
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

PB WIL BK 97 PG 620 - 08/27/2020 10:11 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
ROBERT WAYNE COOK * CASE NO.: PC 2019-302
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to BILLY MCELROY and LARRY KIRKLAND as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of ROBERT WAYNE COOK, deceased, on the 27th day of August, 2020, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Billy McElroy
Larry Kirkland
Co-Personal Representatives

Jonathan W. Cartee
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
2325 Henry Street
Guntersville, AL 35976

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 97 PG 594 - 08/26/2020 03:52 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
BERTIS EDWARD MCGRIFF a/k/a * CASE NO PC 2020-258
BERTIS E. MCGRIFF *
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **BARRY E. MCGRIFF,** as Personal Representatives of the Estate of BERTIS EDWARD MCGRIFF a/k/a BERTIS E. MCGRIFF, deceased, on the 26th day of August, 2020, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Barry E. McGriff
Personal Representative

Nancy C. Hughes
Hughes & Scalise
880 Montclair Road, Suite 325
Birmingham, Alabama 35213

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB MIN BK 190 PG 941 - 09/03/2020 02:36 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JANICE SUE WISENER, * CASE NO.: PC2020-267
*
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Christopher Jerome Wisener, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Janice Sue Wisener, deceased, on the 3rd day of September, 2020, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

Christopher Jerome Wisener
Personal Representative

Kristin Waters Sullivan
Attorney for Personal Representative
The Five Points Law Group
2151 Highland Avenue South
Suite 205
Birmingham, AL 35205
(205)352-4455

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

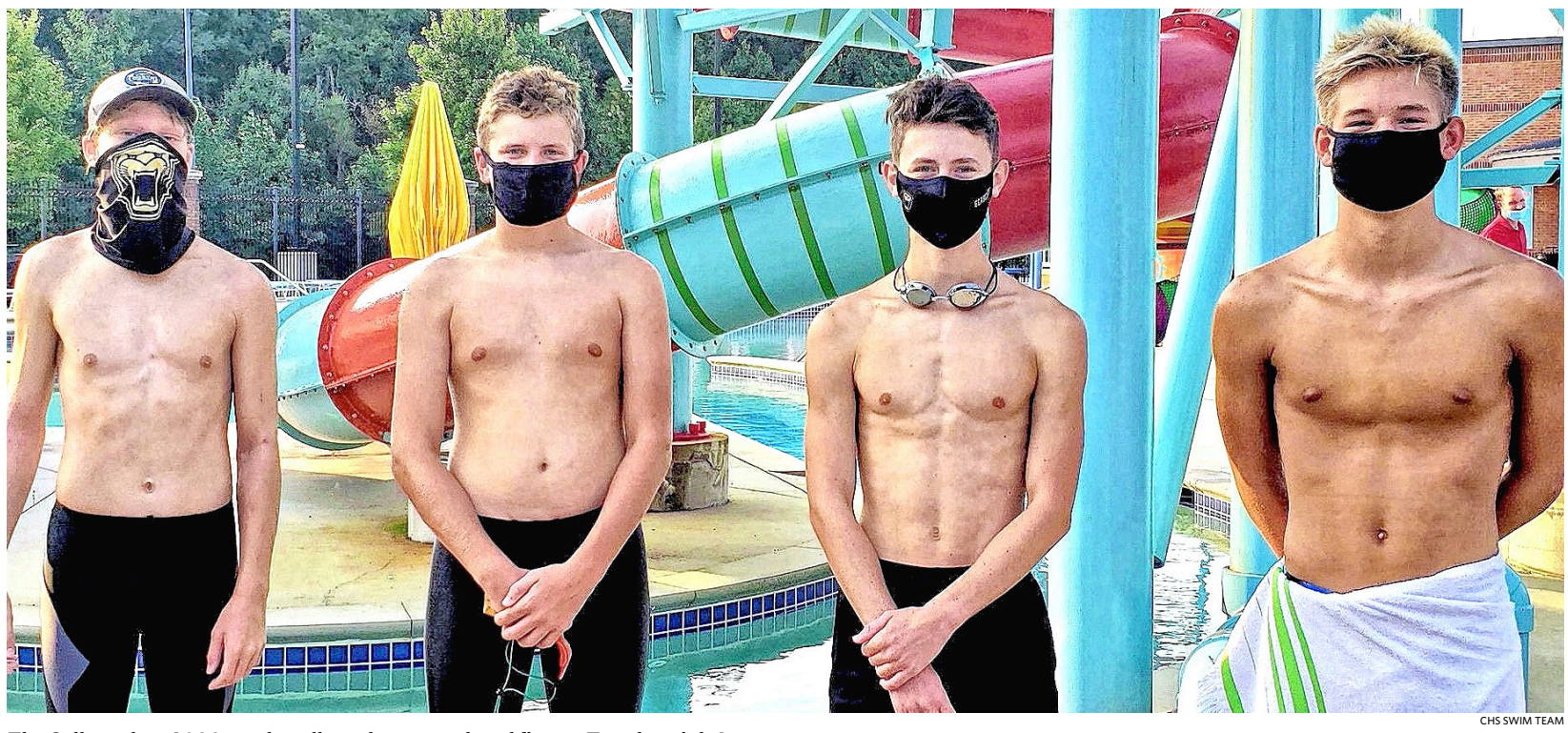
Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PREP SWIMMING

Cullman boys, girls place 2nd in 1st meet of season

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com



CHS SWIM TEAM

The Cullman boys' 200-yard medley relay team placed first at Tuesday night's meet.

CULLMAN, Ala. – Swimming season officially got underway Tuesday night and both Cullman's boys and girls squads collected second place finishes. Cullman finished just behind Westminster Christian Academy. The Bearcats defeated St. John Paul II and Madison County to place second. Cullman swimmers collected a number of personal records and individual honors Tuesday night.

Cullman girls' results

- Rudy Hudson – 2nd place 100-yard freestyle, 2nd place 200-yard freestyle, 2nd place 50-yard breaststroke (PR)
- Madison Clements – 2nd place 50-yard butterfly (PR), 2nd place 50-yard backstroke, 3rd place 100-yard IM (PR)
- Anna Page – 3rd place 100-yard freestyle, 3rd place 50-yard butterfly
- Morgan Fuller – 3rd place 200-yard freestyle, 28.77 50-yard freestyle (PR)
- Reese McNeel – 3rd place 50-yard backstroke
- Peyton Arnold – 1:10.23 100-yard freestyle (PR), 42.85 50-yard breaststroke (PR)
- FK Kruger – 41.99 50-yard backstroke (PR), 59.18 50-yard breaststroke (PR)

Cullman boys' results

- CJ Arnold – 1st place 50-yard freestyle, 1st place 50-yard backstroke, 2nd place in the 100-yard IM
- Brody Schaefer – 1st place 100-yard freestyle, 2nd place 50-yard breaststroke
- Chase Duncan – 3rd place 50-yard backstroke, 1:03.01 100-yard freestyle (PR), 26.86 50-yard freestyle (PR), 30.91 50-yard backstroke (PR)
- Rhett Tysinger – 3rd place 50-yard butterfly
- CJ Arnold, Brody Schaefer, Rhett Tysinger and Chase Duncan – 1st place 200-yard medley relay

Cullman will host its next meet of the season at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center next Tuesday night.

Barrett Tindall senior spotlight: 'Forever grateful'

Gabe Arena
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – Senior linebacker Barrett Tindall wasn't always the fastest or the strongest, but he has definitely always had perseverance and grit.

Tindall always had his eyes set on playing at Auburn. His father Craig is an Auburn University marketing alum, so Barrett's family has long-time ties to the school. Barrett had opportunities for scholarships through academics elsewhere, but his mind was made up.

"I never wanted to go anywhere else," Tindall said. "Auburn was the only school I applied to.

"'War Eagle' is a two-word phrase that embodies the values and beliefs that Auburn men and women live out daily. While my time at Auburn as a student has been the best years of my life so far, I've been a part of the Auburn Family my whole life."

In the spring of his senior year at Briarwood Christian School in Birmingham, he had begun to think about walking on to the Auburn football team. He knew it would be a tall task, but he was up for the challenge.

Tindall's high school coaches remained in contact with the Auburn coaches, but entering his freshman year, the Tigers didn't hold walk-on tryouts because the roster was full.

Later, after some injuries, a few roster spots opened up, and Tindall was asked if he was still interested.

"It was something I couldn't pass up," he recalled. "It really is a dream come true."

While his playing time has been limited, he vividly remembers the 2018 game against Liberty when he saw his first game action, especially looking up and seeing his family in the stands.

"That was a moment that fulfilled a dream," said Tindall, who says he still gets chills just thinking of running out of the tunnel for that game.

Tindall embodies both sides of the student-athlete equation. An honors student in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, he has been named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll three times, and is scheduled to graduate in May 2021, with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with a specialization in construction.

He has interned the past few summers with a construction company and a civil design company and is still weighing his future career options.

A member of Phil Gamma Delta fraternity, Tindall has loved all the facets of his college experience at Auburn, but what means the most to him are his teammates.

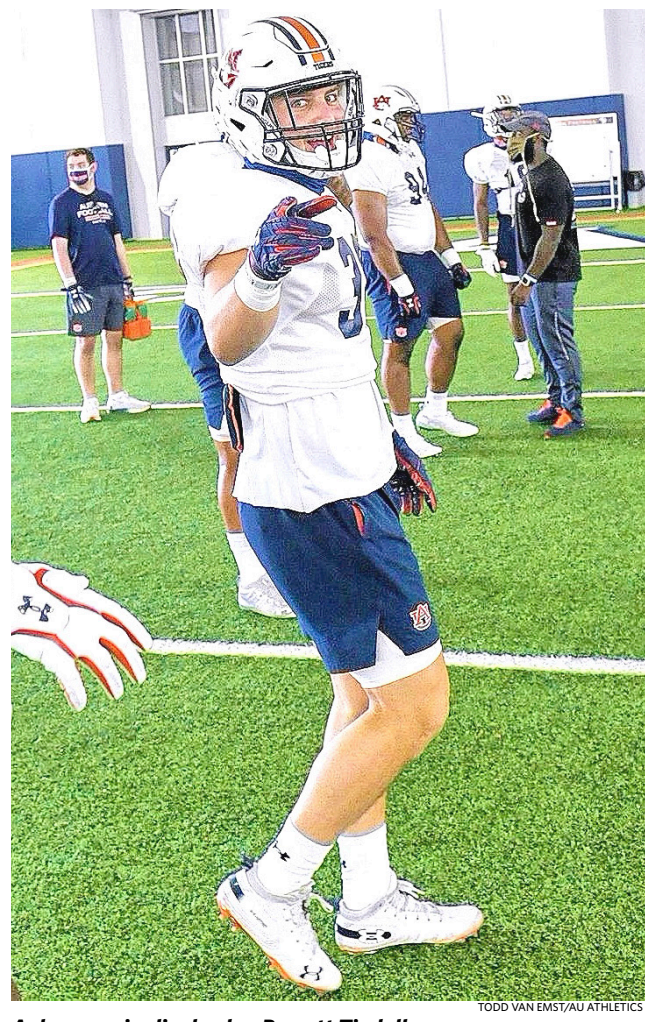
"The brothers I have made on the team," he said. "Three or four years ago, I didn't know these guys, but now I consider them family and brothers. The most important thing about this season for me will be to get one last season together and make more memories."

One of his favorite memories is last year's home win over Alabama.

"I was as happy as anyone on the field after that game," he said.

"The atmosphere on the sideline was electric, and when you grow up in Alabama and you're for Auburn, that's the best win every year. Being a part of that was a dream come true. God has been good.

"To me, Auburn isn't great because of the place, the school or the sports – it's great because of the people who make up those things. No matter what your niche is or your passions are, we will always share a bond because of the impact Auburn has made on us, and I'll forever be grateful to be a part of the Auburn Family."



TODD VAN EMST/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn senior linebacker Barrett Tindall.

Troy Athletics announces naming additions to north end zone facility

Adam Prendergast
Troy Athletics

TROY, Ala. – Several prominent rooms inside Troy's state-of-the-art North End Zone Football Facility were bestowed with new names this past month following private donations to the Troy Athletics Leadership Society.

"On behalf of Troy Athletics, we are incredibly grateful to the donors and stakeholders who made this dream into a reality," Director of Athletics Brent Jones said. "This facility is the best in Sun Belt Conference and if not the best in the Group of 5 one of the best in the Group of 5. The North End Zone facility provides our student-athletes, staff and coaches with the space, function and resources they need to succeed and excel. We could not have achieved this without these gracious individuals who believed in the vision of Troy University Athletics. Every single one of these Trojans embodies what it means to be part of the Troy Family and I am thrilled to have them honored in this building."

The newly named areas in the North End Zone Facility feature a plaque with a brief biography of whom the room is named for in addition to the name prominently displayed outside the room.

Four areas were named for longstanding supporters of Troy Athletics – Dr. Jeffrey R. Dugas Athletic Training Room, Dodds Family Conference Room, Bill Horn Nutrition Room and Randall Moore Quarterback Room – while two anonymous sources provided donations for the Al Lucas Players' Lounge and Judy Morgan Wall of Champions.

The Troy Athletic Leadership Society is a key contributor to philanthropic giving to Trojan Athletics. This society provides impactful financial resources for facilities and athletic program opportunities, like the North End Zone Facility. There are various naming right opportunities still available throughout the North End Zone Facility, as well as throughout all of Troy's athletic facilities. For more information on naming rights opportunities and the Troy Leadership Society, please contact Gary Wilbert at gwilbert@troy.edu or Chase Blake at blakec@troy.edu.

Dr. Jeffrey R. Dugas Athletic Training Room

Dr. Jeffrey Dugas' connection to Troy began in 1999 and since that time he has helped thousands of Trojan student-athletes recover and rehabilitate from injuries. Dr. Dugas, who began working with Troy student-athletes as a fellow under Dr. James Andrews, is leading voice in the world of sports medicine and assumed the role of Troy's team physician following Dr. Andrews. A native of Schenectady, N.Y., Dr. Dugas graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. A world-renowned surgeon, Dr. Dugas continued his education at Duke University School of Medicine and completed his orthopedic surgery residency at the renowned Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. Following his orthopedic training, Dr. Dugas accepted a fellowship in sports medicine at the American Sports Medicine Institute (ASMI) in Birmingham, Alabama.

Randall Moore Quarterback Room

The Troy Football Quarterback Meeting Room is named after Randall Moore, a 1978 Troy University graduate, who has been an influential and dedicated supporter of Troy Athletics for a number of years. He was honored by Troy in 2003 as an Alumni of the Year and again in 2009 with the Distinguished Leadership Award from Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. Moore has a deep love for Troy University and has always looked for ways to give back to the University that means so much to him. His service to Troy University includes active roles on the Troy University Sports Hall of Fame Board of Advisors and the Troy University Foundation Board. Throughout the years, Moore has distinguished himself through his exemplary work, philanthropy, leadership and service to his profession, community and alma mater.

Judy Morgan Wall of Champions

Judy Morgan, better known as Momma Judy to the scores of Troy football players who she has impacted over the years, has been a fixture at Troy University since 1994 and with the Trojan football program since 1997. Quick with a smile or a snack for a visitor who passes her desk, Morgan has dedicated her life at Troy to loving and caring for a countless number of young men who have left home for the first time to play football at Troy. Morgan's place in Troy Football history is unmistaken as she was part of Troy's historic run of Sun Belt Conference titles and bowl victories. Morgan prides herself as being the biggest Troy Trojans football fan who always supports her team whether on the road or at home. Throughout her career, she has left an indelible mark on Troy Football.

Al Lucas Players' Lounge

Two-time All-American and 1999 Buck Buchanan Award winner, Al Lucas was a true force on Troy's defensive line during the late 1990s. Lucas led the Trojans to an 11-2 record and a berth in the 1999 NCAA FCS quarterfinals as he finished the season with 129 tackles and 20 tackles for loss. Lucas played 20 games for the Carolina Panthers in the NFL from 2000-01 before moving to the Arena Football League and in his first season was named to the AFL All-Rookie Team. Lucas tragically passed away at the age of 26 from an injury suffered on April 10, 2005, in an AFL game between Lucas' Los Angeles Avengers and the New York Dragons. The AFL renamed its Hero Award to the Al Lucas Award, while the Maxwell Football Club named its AFL Player of the Year award in his honor. Al Lucas' legacy and memory will always live on.

Dodds Family Conference Room

The Dodds Family Conference Room is named in honor of Mike and Cindy Dodds for their unwavering support of Troy Athletics. Throughout the years, the Dodds have financially supported facility upgrades for the softball, golf, track & field and football programs. Their support for the North End Zone project began in 2012 as they were key contributors in laying the foundation for this magnificent building for the Troy Football program. The Dodds support Troy Athletics, not just financially, but also by their ardent passion for all athletic programs as they are frequently seen attending games at all venues. Few individuals can match the love and support displayed at all times by Mike and Cindy Dodds for Troy University as they truly embody the mindset of being Trojans One and All.

Bill Horn Nutrition Room

The Bill Horn Nutrition Room is named for Bill Horn as a gift from his children and grandchildren to ensure a lasting legacy in his honor. Bill Horn and the entire Horn family are ardent supporters of Troy Athletics and this room is an enduring gesture to recognize Bill's support and love for both Troy University and Troy Athletics.



Student (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – A Cullman Middle School student was arrested Thursday for allegedly bringing a 9mm handgun and ammunition to school.

Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper confirmed a male student was arrested Thursday morning before classes began.

"The School Resource Officer and the staff got a tip, and they found it and the kid was arrested," said Culpepper. "We've put an extra officer there, but there is no further threat."

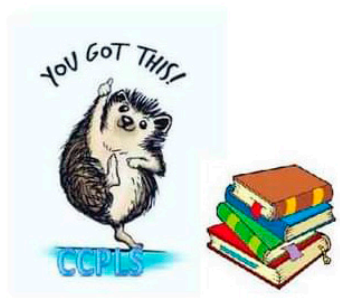
The student has not been identified as he is a minor.

"It's under investigation," said Culpepper, "but we don't feel like there is any continuing threat."





Join Culley Hedgehog



And Read

1,000 Books before Kindergarten!

The journey begins September 15, 2020

9:00 A.M.

Cullman County Public Library

Any parents with toddlers from 0-5 years of age may stop by the library and pick up instructions and materials to begin the program.

The program is easy:

1. Pick up your materials from library personnel.

2. Begin reading to your child or children. Any book read to the child counts, even if it is a favorite that the child wants to hear more than once.

3. As your child reaches each milestone of 100 books bring them by the library to receive a small incentive such as a sticker, a trip to the reading treasure chest or a paper craft to take home.

4. With parental permission we will also post pictures of children as they reach milestones on our wall of star readers.

5. A graduation celebration will be held every May for the children that complete the program. They will receive a certificate, a graduation hat and a book to add to their own library.

So join the fun and increase your child's success by developing a love of reading!



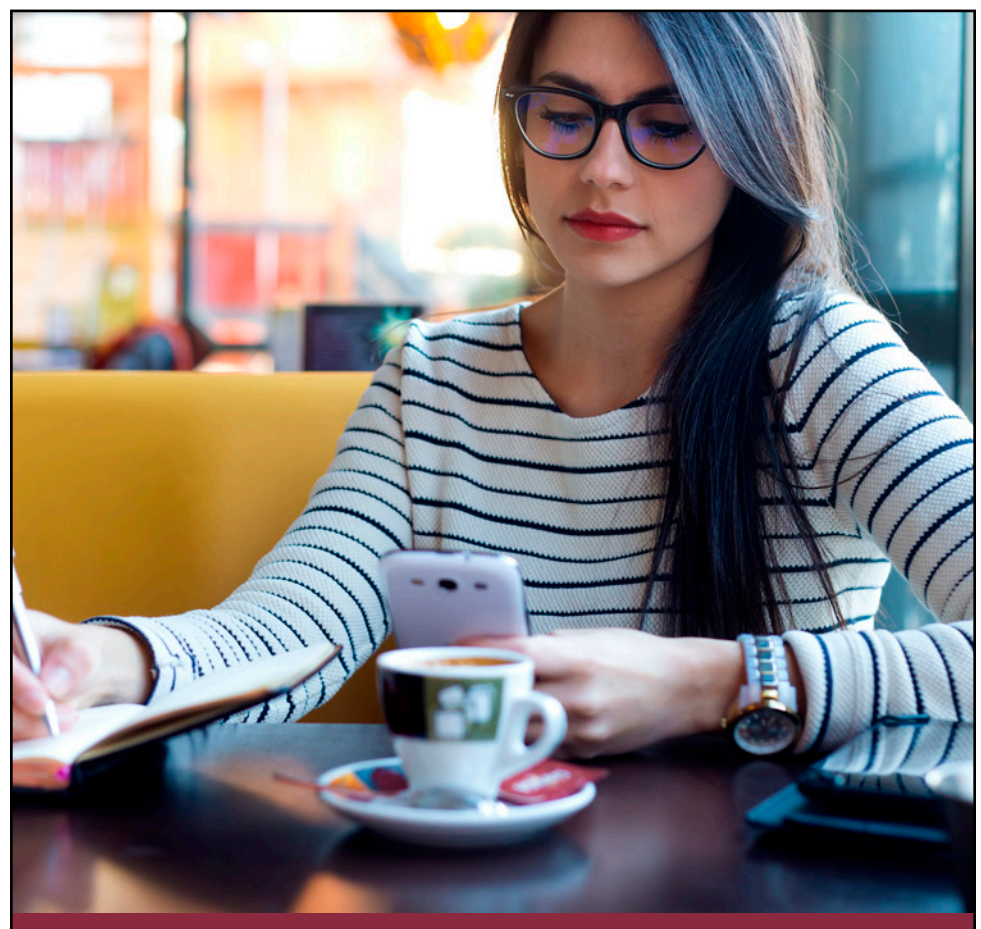
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Sports

7:55 a.m. ESPN2 Formula 1 Racing Tuscan Grand Prix, Practice 2. (Live)
8:00 a.m. GOLF European PGA Tour Golf Portugal Masters, Second Round. (Live)
8:30 a.m. FSEE Powerboat Racing
9:00 a.m. FSEE MLB Baseball
11:00 a.m. ESPN2 2020 U.S. Open Tennis Women's Doubles Final. (Live)
GOLF 2020 LPGA ANA Inspiration Second Round. (Live)
12:00 p.m. FSEE NBA Basketball
2:30 p.m. FSEE MLB Baseball
3:00 p.m. ESPN 2020 U.S. Open Tennis Men's Semifinals. (Live)
GOLF PGA Tour Golf Safeway Open, Second Round. (Live)
5:00 p.m. FS1 MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Washington Nationals. (Live)
6:00 p.m. FSEE MLB Baseball
GOLF 2020 LPGA ANA Inspiration Second Round. (Live)
7:00 p.m. WABM High School Football Thompson at Spain Park. (Live)
WBRC WWE Friday Night SmackDown (Live)
7:30 p.m. TNT NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets vs Los Angeles Clippers. (Live)
8:00 p.m. FS1 College Football SMU at TCU. (Live)
8:30 p.m. GOLF PGA Tour Champions Golf Sanford International, First Round. (Same-day Tape)
10:00 p.m. FSEE MLB Baseball
10:30 p.m. GOLF PGA Tour Golf Safeway Open, Second Round.

Movies

6:00 a.m. FX "Roman J. Israel, Esq." ★★½ (2017) Denzel Washington.
6:25 a.m. SHOW "Morning Glory" ★★½ (2010) Rachel McAdams (Premiere)
7:00 a.m. HBO "Crazy, Stupid, Love." ★★★ (2011) Steve Carell A self-styled Lothario teaches a suddenly single 40-something how to be a hit with the ladies.
7:30 a.m. TCM "Abbott and Costello in Hollywood" ★★½ (1945) Bud Abbott.
7:45 a.m. MAX "The Zookeeper's Wife" ★★½ (2017) Jessica Chastain
8:00 a.m. AMC "Escape From New York" ★★★½ (1981) Kurt Russell. Joined in Progress. A hardened criminal is offered a pardon if he rescues the president from convicts in the prison city of Manhattan.
8:25 a.m. SHOW "Stand Up Guys" ★★ (2012) Al Pacino
8:30 a.m. TMC "Spy Kids" ★★★ (2001) Antonio Banderas When a technical genius kidnaps retired spies, only their children can save them.
8:58 a.m. HBO "Downton Abbey" ★★★ (2019) Hugh Bonneville The beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit from the king and queen of England soon unleashes scandal, romance and intrigue — leaving the future of Downton hanging in the balance.
9:00 a.m. TCM "Merton of the Movies" ★★½ (1947) Red Skelton.
9:30 a.m. AMC "Mission: Impossible" ★★½ (1996) Tom Cruise.
FX "Sisters" ★★½ (2015) Amy Poehler.
9:55 a.m. MAX "The Eagle" ★★½ (2011) Channing Tatum
10:00 a.m. SHOW "Stand by Me" ★★★★ (1986) Wil Wheaton A boy and his three buddies set out in the summer of 1959 on a hike to find a dead body.
TMC "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" ★★ (2009) Kevin James
10:30 a.m. TCM "Show Girl in Hollywood" ★★ (1930) Alice White.
11:00 a.m. HBO "In Time" ★★½ (2011) Justin Timberlake
11:30 a.m. SHOW "Parenthood" ★★★ (1989) Steve Martin A middle-class man, his wife, his father and a divorcee try to be good parents.
11:35 a.m. TMC "The Switch" ★★½ (2010) Jennifer Aniston
12:00 p.m. AMC "Mission: Impossible II" ★★★ (2000) Tom Cruise. IMF agent Ethan Hunt and his team try to stop a former agent from unleashing a deadly, engineered virus.
FX "Spy" ★★★ (2015) Melissa McCarthy. When her partner falls off the grid and another top agent is compromised, a desk-bound CIA analyst volunteers to go deep under cover as the world's newest and unlikeliest secret weapon.
12:50 p.m. HBO "X-Men: Dark Phoenix" ★★ (2019) James McAvoy
1:15 p.m. TCM "Talent Scout" ★★ (1937) Donald Woods.
1:25 p.m. TMC "Remember" ★★½ (2015) Christopher Plummer
1:30 p.m. FREE "Happy Feet" ★★★ (2006) Voices of Elijah Wood. Animated. Born without the ability to sing, a young emperor penguin expresses himself and hopes to attract a mate through his amazing dancing talent.
MAX "I Love You Phillip Morris" ★★★ (2009) Jim Carrey A former police officer comes out of the closet, becomes a con artist, lands in jail, and meets the love of his life.
1:45 p.m. SHOW "The Karate Kid" ★★★½ (1984) Ralph Macchio A New Jersey teen moves to California, meets bullies and learns karate from a handyman, Mr. Miyagi.
2:30 p.m. FX "Ted 2" ★★ (2015) Mark Wahlberg.
TCM "Pick a Star" ★★ (1937) Jack Haley.
2:50 p.m. HBO "La La Land" ★★★½ (2016) Ryan Gosling Mia, an aspiring actress, and Sebastian, a dedicated jazz musician, are struggling to make ends meet in a city known for crushing hopes and breaking hearts.
3:00 p.m. AMC "Mission: Impossible III" ★★★ (2006) Tom Cruise. Now a trainer for IMF recruits, agent Ethan Hunt squares off against the toughest foe he has ever faced: a ruthless arms and information broker.
BET "Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself" ★★½ (2009) Tyler Perry.
3:10 p.m. MAX "Cake" ★★½ (2014) Jennifer Aniston
3:45 p.m. TCM "Boy Meets Girl" ★★½ (1938) James Cagney.
4:00 p.m. FREE "Matilda" ★★★ (1996) Mara Wilson. A little girl develops extraordinary mental abilities, despite neglectful parents and a brutal headmistress.
SHOW "Good Will Hunting" ★★★½ (1997) Matt Damon A therapist, a mathematician and working-class roughs vie for the soul of a janitor with a genius IQ.
4:55 p.m. MAX "Mary Queen of Scots" ★★½ (2018) Saoirse Ronan
5:00 p.m. FX "Bad Moms" ★★½ (2016) Mila Kunis.
TMC "Indecent Proposal" ★★½ (1993) Robert Redford
5:15 p.m. TCM "Movie Crazy" ★★ (1932) Harold Lloyd.
5:30 p.m. E! "Speed" ★★★½ (1994) Keanu Reeves. A SWAT team ace must keep the speed of a Santa Monica bus above 50 mph, or a madman's bomb will explode.
TBS "Godzilla" ★★½ (2014) Aaron Taylor-Johnson.
6:00 p.m. AMC "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" ★★★ (2013) Ian McKellen. Bilbo and his companions continue their journey east and brave many dangers on their way to the Lonely Mountain, culminating in an encounter with the fearsome dragon Smaug.
BET "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" ★★½ (2007) Tyler Perry.
FREE "101 Dalmatians" ★★½ (1996) Glenn Close.
6:10 p.m. SHOW "Morning Glory" ★★½ (2010) Rachel McAdams
7:00 p.m. DISN "Ferdinand" ★★★ (2017) Voices of John Cena. Animated. A bull's peaceful existence comes crashing down when authorities return him to his former captors. With help from a wisecracking goat and three hedgehogs, the giant but gentle bovine must find a way to escape before he meets a bullfighter.
FX "The Proposal" ★★½ (2009) Sandra Bullock.
LIFE "The Holiday" ★★½ (2006) Cameron Diaz.
PARMT "Tommy Boy" ★★ (1995) Chris Farley.
TCM "She" ★★½ (1965) Ursula Andress.
MAX "The Recruit" ★★½ (2003) Al Pacino (Premiere)
TMC "The Switch" ★★½ (2010) Jennifer Aniston
8:00 p.m. E! "Speed" ★★★½ (1994) Keanu Reeves. A SWAT team ace must keep the speed of a Santa Monica bus above 50 mph, or a madman's bomb will explode.
FREE "Freaky Friday" ★★★ (2003) Jamie Lee Curtis. Two fortune cookies cause an engaged psychotherapist and her teenage daughter to magically exchange bodies.
TBS "Transformers" ★★★ (2007) Shia LaBeouf. Humanity's fate rests in the hands of a youth when two races of warring robots make Earth their final battleground.
SHOW "Hustlers" ★★★½ (2019) Constance Wu Ramona shows Destiny how to finagle her way around the Wall Street clientele who frequent their strip club. But when the 2008 economic collapse cuts into their profits, the gals and two other dancers devise a daring scheme to take their lives back.
8:45 p.m. TMC "Second Act" ★★ (2018) Jennifer Lopez
8:55 p.m. MAX "The Mule" ★★½ (2018) Clint Eastwood
9:00 p.m. TCM "Clash of the Titans" ★★½ (1981) Harry Hamlin.
9:30 p.m. FX "The Proposal" ★★½ (2009) Sandra Bullock.
9:45 p.m. AMC "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" ★★½ (2012) Ian McKellen.
10:42 p.m. BRAVO "The Break-Up" ★★ (2006) Vince Vaughn.
11:15 p.m. TCM "Casino Royale" ★★★ (1967) Peter Sellers. Sir James Bond leaves retirement to confuse SMERSH with several other secret agents, all posing as James Bond.

FRIDAY EVENING — MOVIES — SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

		5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
WABM-MyTV	2	25 Words or Less	America Says	Family Feud	Friday Night Rivals Blitz	High School Football Thompson at Spain Park. (N) (Live)						CSI: Miami A tornado tears through a murder scene.	
WBIQ-PBS	4	Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot	Peg & Cat (El)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Washington Week (N)	Capitol Journal		Great Performances "Romeo and Juliet" Royal Ballet perform Romeo and Juliet. (N)				Beyond the CANVAS
WVTM-NBC	5	WVTM 13 News at 5p (N)	NBC Nightly News - Holt	WVTM 13 News at 6p (N)	WVTM 13 News at 6:3	America's Got Talent "Semi-Finals 1" Eleven semifinalists perform.				Dateline NBC (N)		WVTM 13 News at 10p	Tonight Show-J. Fallon
WBRC-FOX	7	WBRC FOX6 News at 5pm	WBRC FOX6 News	WBRC FOX6 News at 6pm	Inside Edition (N)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (N) (Live)				WBRC FOX6 News at 9pm	WBRC FOX6 News	WBRC FOX6 News at 10pm	(:35) WBRC FOX6 Sideline
WIAT-CBS	8	CBS42 News 5pm (N)	CBS Evening News	CBS42 News 6pm (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	MacGyver The city's power grid is taken hostage.		Love Island The islanders must couple up. (N)		Blue Bloods A woman asks Frank for a favor.		CBS42 News 10pm (N)	Late Show-Colbert
WTTO-CW	9	The Goldbergs	2 Broke Girls	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Masters of Illusion	Masters of Illusion	Being Reuben (N)	Being Reuben "Puppy Love"	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	The Andy Griffith Show	The Andy Griffith Show
WPXH-ION	11	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Redemption"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Beating/rape.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Care"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Sexual assault by women.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Monogamy"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Protection"	
WABM2-ABC	12	ABC 33/40 News at 5PM	ABC World News	ABC 33/40 News at 6PM	Wheel of Fortune	9/11 Remembered: The Day We Came Together (N)		20/20 (N)				ABC 33/40 News at 10PM	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!
A&E	42	(4:00) Live Rescue "Live Rescue -- 09.05.20"				Live Rescue: Rewind (N)		Live Rescue "Live Rescue -- 09.11.20" (N)					
AMC	53	(3:00) ★★★ "Mission: Impossible III" (2006) Tom Cruise.		★★★ "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" (2013, Fantasy) Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman, Richard Armitage. Bilbo and company encounter the fearsome dragon Smaug.							(:45) ★★ "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" (2012) Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman.		
ANPL	47	River Monsters Face-to-face with fighting fish.		River Monsters Creature in Botswana's Okavango Delta.		River Monsters: Deadliest Man-Eaters "Predators Below" A beast lurking in Bolivia's rivers. (N)				Mysteries of the Deep "The Bermuda Triangle Conspiracy"		Chasing Monsters (N)	
BET	55	(3:00) ★★ "Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself"		★★ "Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" (2007, Comedy-Drama) Tyler Perry, Janet Jackson, Jill Scott. Eight married friends grapple with commitment and betrayal.						House of Payne	House of Payne	Assisted Living	Assisted Living
BRAVO	58	Million Dollar Listing	Million Dollar Listing New York "Four Men and a Baby"	★ "Little Fockers" (2010, Comedy) Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller. The whole clan arrives for the Focker twins' birthday.					(:36) ★ "Little Fockers" (2010) Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller. The whole clan arrives for the Focker twins' birthday.				(:42) "The Break-Up"
CMTV	61	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	To Be Announced							
CNBC	35	Mad Money (N)		Shark Tank All-female golf caddy company.		Shark Tank Vegan soups; vegan sushi restaurant.		Shark Tank An automatic dog potty; a tipping app.		Shark Tank Smartphone security app; bicycle brakes.		Shark Tank Vegan soups; vegan sushi restaurant.	
CNN	37	The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer (N) (Live)		Erin Burnett OutFront (N) (Live)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (Live)		Cuomo Prime Time (N) (Live)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N) (Live)		CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N) (Live)	
COM	56	South Park "Insecurity"	(:35) South Park	(:10) South Park	(:45) South Park Animated. The boys take up smoking.		(:20) South Park	(7:55) South Park	South Park "Manbearpig"	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	(:36) Chappelle's Show
DISN	49	Jessie	Jessie	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	★★★ "Ferdinand" (2017, Children's) Voices of John Cena, Kate McKinnon. 'PG'			(:40) Bunk'd	(:05) Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home
DSC	43	Bering Sea Gold "Pain in the Ice" Shawn embarks on a dive.		Bering Sea Gold: Dredged Up "Total Meltdown" (N)		Bering Sea Gold Shawn proves the viability of TOMCOD. (N)		(:03) 100 Days Wild The colony's food supply is threatened.		(:05) Homestead Rescue "Surviving the Wild: Home-Base Homestead" (N)			
E!	21	(4:30) Celebrity Game Face	★★★ "Speed" (1994, Action) Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper, Sandra Bullock. A transit bus is wired to explode if it drops below 50 mph.					★★★ "Speed" (1994, Action) Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper, Sandra Bullock. A transit bus is wired to explode if it drops below 50 mph.					10 Things You Don't Know
ESPN	29	(3:00) 2020 U.S. Open Tennis Men's Semifinals. From the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, in Flushing, New York. (N) (Live)										SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N) (Live)	
ESPN2	30	SportsCenter (N) (Live)		To Be Announced								Coco Gauff: The Lines Are The Same	
FOOD	45	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives The top 10 burgers of all time.		Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives
FREE	48	(4:00) ★★★ "Matilda" (1996) Mara Wilson, Danny DeVito.		★★ "101 Dalmatians" (1996) Glenn Close, Jeff Daniels. A flamboyant fashion plate plans to skin pups for a coat.				★★★ "Freaky Friday" (2003) Jamie Lee Curtis, Lindsay Lohan. A woman and her daughter magically exchange bodies.				The 700 Club	
FS1	20	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Washington Nationals. From Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. (N) (Live)						College Football SMU at TCU. From Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas. (N) (Live)					
FSEE	32	(2:30) MLB Baseball	Braves Live! Pregame	MLB Baseball						Braves Live! Postgame	3 Wide Life (N)	MLB Baseball	
FX	28	★★ "Bad Moms" (2016, Comedy) Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell. Three overworked and stressed-out mothers go wild.				★★ "The Proposal" (2009, Romance-Comedy) Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds. A woman pretends to be engaged to evade deportation.					★★ "The Proposal" (2009, Romance-Comedy) Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds.		
GOLF	82	(3:00) PGA Tour Golf Safeway Open, Second Round. (N) (Live)		2020 LPGA ANA Inspiration Second Round. From Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif. (N) (Live)				Golf Central (N) (Live)	PGA Tour Champions Golf Sanford International, First Round. (N Same-day Tape)				PGA Golf
HALL	72	"Love Under the Stars" (2015) Ashley Newbrough, Wes Brown, Barry Bostwick. A woman befriends a young girl and a widower.				"The Christmas Club" (2019, Romance) Elizabeth Mitchell. Two busy strangers meet when they help an elderly woman.				The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls
HGTV	46	Home Town An inherited house is too small.		Home Town Ben and Erin help a couple of newlyweds.		My Lottery Dream Home	My Lottery Dream Home	(:01) Selling the Big Easy	(:31) Selling the Big Easy	My Lottery Dream Home	My Lottery Dream Home	(:01) House Hunters	(:31) House Hunters
HIST	40	9/11: 102 Minutes That Changed America Terrorist attack.				9/11: The Final Minutes Of Flight 93 (N)		9/11: The Pentagon The moments after the attack. (N)		(:03) 9/11: Inside Air Force One The flight deck of Air Force One.			
LIFE	23	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	★★ "The Holiday" (2006, Romance-Comedy) Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law. Two women from different countries swap homes at Christmas.						(:03) ★ "What Happens in Vegas" (2008) Cameron Diaz.	
MSNBC	36	The Beat With Ari Melber (N) (Live)		The ReidOut (N) (Live)		All In With Chris Hayes (N) (Live)		The Rachel Maddow Show (N) (Live)		The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell (N) (Live)		The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N) (Live)	
NGC	22	9/11: Voices From the Air		Inside 9/11: War on America Investigation of events.				George W. Bush: The 9/11 Interview		(:03) Bin Laden's Hard Drive: Declassified (N)		(:03) Inside 9/11: Zero Hour	
PARMT	57	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	★★ "Tommy Boy" (1995, Comedy) Chris Farley, David Spade, Brian Dennehy. An heir tries to save his father's business.				Bellator MMA Live (N)			
TBS	25	Family Guy	★★ "Godzilla" (2014, Science Fiction) Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Ken Watanabe, Elizabeth Olsen. Godzilla and malevolent foes battle for supremacy.					★★★ "Transformers" (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson, Josh Duhamel. Two races of robots wage war on Earth.					
TCM	79	(:15) ★★ "Movie Crazy" (1932, Comedy) Harold Lloyd, Constance Cummings. Clumsy Kansas farm boy goes to Hollywood.				★★ "She" (1965, Fantasy) Ursula Andress, John Richardson. An amorous immortal seeks the reincarnation of her lover.				★★ "Clash of the Titans" (1981, Fantasy) Harry Hamlin. Perseus battles mythic beasts to win the hand of Andromeda.			
TLC	24	90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days		90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days		90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After? "More to Love: Hot Tempers and Cold Feet" The day of Angela and Michael's wedding.				90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?		90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?	
TNT	26	Bones Brennan and Booth's first case together.		Bones "Aliens in a Spaceship" A killer buries his victims alive.		Shaq Life		NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets vs Los Angeles Clippers. Conference Semifinal action, Game 5. (If necessary). (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)				Inside the NBA (N) (Live)	
USA	27	Chicago P.D. The team probes a home explosion.		Chicago P.D. Olinsky goes under cover as a hit man.		Chicago P.D. A nighttime photographer is murdered.		Chicago P.D. The team helps Burgess find her sister.		Chicago P.D. A van explodes during a street festival.		Modern Family	Modern Family "Integrity"
WE	71	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "On Fire"		Love After Lockup "Love Don't Cost a Ring" Shavel and Quaylon's families clash.				Love After Lockup Tony is burdened by his mistake. (N)		(:01) Love After Lockup Tony is burdened by his mistake.		(:01) Love After Lockup Tony is burdened by his mistake.	
HBO	518	In the Shadow of the Towers	(:32) Hard Knocks: Los Angeles	(:32) Lovecraft Country "A History of Violence"		★ "The Sitter" (2011, Comedy) Jonah Hill, Max Records, Ari Graynor. 'R'				Real Time With Bill Maher (N) (Live)		Room 104 "No Dice" (N)	Real Time, Bill Maher
MAX	549	(4:55) ★★ "Mary Queen of Scots" (2018) Saoirse Ronan. Chronicles Mary Stuart's attempt to overthrow Elizabeth I. 'R'				★★ "The Recruit" (2003, Suspense) Al Pacino. Premiere. A CIA rookie must ferret out a mole within the agency. 'PG-13'				(8:55) ★★ "The Mule" (2018) Clint Eastwood. A DEA agent pursues a 90-year-old drug courier for a cartel. 'R'			
SHOW	578	(4:00) ★★★ "Good Will Hunting" (1997) Matt Damon.		(:10) ★★ "Morning Glory" (2010) Rachel McAdams. A producer tries to revitalize a struggling morning-news program.				★★★ "Hustlers" (2019, Comedy-Drama) Constance Wu. Four strippers turn the tables on their Wall Street clients. 'R'				Love Fraud "Wichita" Things get weird at Krab Kingz.	
TMC	598	★★ "Indecent Proposal" (1993, Drama) Robert Redford. A man offers a couple $1 million for a night with the wife. 'R'				★★ "The Switch" (2010, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. 'PG-13'			(:45) ★★ "Second Act" (2018) Jennifer Lopez, Leah Remini. A woman uses her street smarts to wow Madison Avenue. 'PG-13'				"I Don't Know How"

Best Bets

7 p.m. on HIST
9/11: The Final Minutes Of Flight 93

When terrorists hijacked multiple airliners on Sept. 11, 2001, one of the planes never made it to its intended target, thanks to the gallant sacrifice of several passengers who forced United Flight 93 to crash in rural Pennsylvania. This new one-hour documentary pieces together previously classified bits of evidence to present a gripping moment-by-moment account of the final moments on that doomed flight, including phone records and air traffic control transmissions.

8 p.m. on WTTO
Being Reuben

This winning docuseries closes out its first season with two back-to-back episodes, starting with a nervous Reuben attending a beauty convocation in Los Angeles in "California Dreaming." Then, in the finale "Puppy Love," Reuben gets a warm reception at a launch party for his product line, and his family welcomes a surprise addition to their household. Reuben, his mom and siblings also reflect on what a strange year they've just gone through.

8 p.m. on FOOD
Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives

In another new episode produced under pandemic restrictions, "Takeout: Global Comes Local" finds host Guy Fieri and his son Hunter cooking up some Triple-D-style takeout, while getting tips from four chefs over video chat. Their diverse culinary menu includes authentic Mexican fare from Phoenix, kolaches (fruit pastries) from Salt Lake City, Baltimore pit beef, and succulent pork belly all the way from Maui.

8 p.m. on HIST
9/11: The Pentagon

The U.S. War Department broke ground on a massive new five-sided headquarters on Sept. 11, 1941, 60 years to the day before a hijacked airliner crashed into that very building as part of the largest coordinated terrorist attack ever on American soil. This new documentary features eyewitness testimony regarding the dramatic story of what happened inside the Pentagon in the harrowing moments after impact. What emerges is a story of tragedy, heroism and survival.

8 p.m. on TRVL
Extreme Paranormal Witness

In the new episode "Releasing the Pain," an inmate is released from prison on a weekend furlough to attend the funeral of his abusive grandfather. The good-hearted family who puts him up for the night gets far more than they bargained for, however, when a demonic entity attaches itself to the young man.

8:01 p.m. on HGTV
Selling the Big Easy

Real estate agent Brittany Picolo-Ramos helps potential homebuyers find their dream home in historic New Orleans while making the whole experience as much fun as possible in this new series. The premiere, "Uptown Mansion vs. Lakefront Estate," finds Brittany working with a couple who relocated to New Orleans and made a fast purchase to accommodate their move on a temporary basis. Now they're ready to find a forever home, although one loves historic New Orleans architecture, while the other is hoping for a modern touch. Another episode follows.

8:30 p.m. on WBIQ
Great Performances

"Romeo and Juliet," Shakespeare's timeless tragedy of young star-crossed lovers, loses none of its passion, fury and romance in its translation to the ballet stage, to a soaring, muscular score by 20th-century Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev. Dancers of London's Royal Ballet, led by William Bracewell and Francesca Hayward in the title roles, perform Kenneth McMillan's dazzling choreography, filmed on opulent, atmospheric sets and locations across Budapest, the capital city of Hungary.



William Bracewell and Francesca Hayward star in "Romeo and Juliet" on "Great Performances" on PBS.

Obituary Announcements: Sept. 11



Era Thelene Bowling, of Cullman passed away at her residence Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 at the age of 88. She was born June 16, 1932 to Albert and Valera Schnittker Smith. Visitation will be at Moss Service Funeral Home Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Graveside service will follow at 2:30 p.m. at Flint Creek Cemetery with Bro. Allen Kuykendall officiating. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband James "Jim" Bowling. Survivors include her son Mike Bowling; grandson Jason (Nikki) Bowling; great-grandson Cooper Bowling; sisters Inez McDonald and twin Vera (Doc) Brown; and faithful companion Bama. Condolences and special memories may be shared with the family at www.mossservicefh.com.

Larry Dale Johnston, 52, of Vinemont passed away Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020 at his residence. He was born Jan. 1, 1968, to Willie Mancel and Nancy Lynn Johnston. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his sisters Becky (Paul) Spinks and Jennie (Frank) Dixon; brothers Michael (Crystal) Johnston and William "Conway" (Ann) Johnston; nieces Breonia Dixon and Brittany (Blake) Vavak; nephews Jeremiah Johnston, Xander Payne, and Colton Petree; great-nieces Avory Vavak and Paisley Vavak; and great-nephew Clay Vavak.

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Story (from Front)

dential limousine.

I climbed into a vehicle five or six cars behind the President with Sandy Kress, the President's in-house education adviser. As the motorcade rolled toward the school, Sandy and I talked about what we needed to do that day and about the prospects for the passage of No Child Left Behind.

I looked out the windows of the motorcade and saw hundreds and hundreds of people lined up along the roadway to greet the President, most welcoming him with signs and applause, some protesting his presence.

As we arrived at the school and exited the car, we noticed the President and Secretary Paige being moved very quickly into the school. As Sandy and I walked up the sidewalk to go into the school, someone said something I couldn't make out

Then Sandy turned to me and said "did you hear what he said? A plane has crashed into the World Trade Center."

I was stunned. My first thought was that a small plane had accidentally crashed into one of the buildings. My immediate instincts were about the effects on our news event in Florida – and how what I assumed was a small plane crash would take up much of the media's attention that day at a time when we really needed to have the American people and the Congress focus on the importance of improving education.

The President, Secretary Paige, Chief of Staff Andy Card and others went to a classroom where the President was to read to students. Sandy Kress and I and others went into a separate area where the President was to address a larger group of students and the media.

I made my way over to a television in the room and watched it on and off as we prepared for the start of what was to be the main event in that room.And that's when it happened, the moment that changed the world: we saw the reports immediately that a second plane had crashed into the World Trade Center.

All of us in the President's group knew right away the awful truth – America was under attack. I grabbed my cell phone and immediately called my then-wife Molly, who, with our son Lane, was in Alabama visiting my parents on their way to moving to Washington, DC to join me as I served in the young administration. I told Molly: "turn on the TV. We're under attack. I'm fine."

For me at that point it was all instinct. I frantically tried to reach my office at the Department of Education by phone. The cell phone service was already very spotty but the early version of the Blackberry that I was carrying worked.

I emailed with my assistant, Cheri Arnott, at the Department of Education, and was told that the White House was frantically trying to get in touch with me. Cheri said the White House wanted me to get Secretary Paige prepared to stay at the school and finish up the event for President Bush so that he could leave immediately after making initial remarks to the nation about the attacks.

I ran outside the building and saw President Bush and Secretary Paige coming toward my position. The President walked right past me, within five feet, as he went to the library area where we had gathered for him to address the nation for the first time about the attacks.

As Secretary Paige reached me I grabbed him and said "sir, I need your speech material. I've got to rewrite it quickly. You have to stay here and finish this event for the President, and he has to leave because of what's happened." I'll never forget the look on Secretary Paige's face as he said "what's happened? I don't know."

In the immediate chaos, apparently no one had told the Secretary of Education what had just happened. So it fell to me to explain: "Mr. Secretary, the nation has been attacked by terrorists. They have flown two planes into the World Trade Center. There may be thousands dead."

The Secretary was immediately calm. That was one of Rod Paige's greatest strengths – an absolutely unshakeable focus on forging ahead and getting things done. Whether that came from his years as a football coach or as superintendent of the Houston school district, seventh largest in the country, I don't know. I told him that day "you must have ice water in your veins." He was a stoic as anyone could be.

I stood about 10 to 15 feet to the President's right as he announced to the audience, to audible gasps, that America had been attacked, and promised that terrorism against the United States "will not stand".

Immediately after he finished the remarks, the President again walked right past me and exited the building. We had been directed to stay behind at the school and finish the event and do anything we could to comfort those who had just heard the news. Secretary Paige stepped to the podium and gave his newly rewritten remarks to finish up the event.

Secretary Paige and I exited the building moments later. The President was gone – already en route to the Sarasota Airport. My first instinct was that we had to get protection for Secretary Paige because in the federal government, American-born cabinet secretaries are all in line of succession to the presidency.

No one knew at that point if the entire nation was under attack, if our leaders were being targeted. I only had my instincts – that the Secretary of Education – I believe at the time he was 11th in line of succession to the presidency – had to be protected.

So I ran to the assembled local police, told them who Secretary Paige was, and told them we needed to protect him immediately in the event that he too was targeted as part of a broader attack.

The police responded immediately, hurrying Secretary Paige into a squad car for a trip to the Sarasota Airport to try to catch up with President Bush and Air Force One before they left. The Secretary and I rode together to the airport as the police officer turned up the commercial radio station so we could hear news about the attacks.

When we arrived at the Sarasota Airport we learned that Air Force One was gone, and Secretary Paige and I were stranded in Sarasota. The federal government immediately dispatched a special military aide to join the Secretary at the airport as a special information envoy to keep him informed of developments. I stuck close by the Secretary and the military aide to keep up with what was going on.

I had always heard about the phenomena known as the fog of war – how in war time situations mistakes are made, information can be wrong, decisions difficult. In those next moments, I witnessed that first hand.

We learned very shortly afterward that the Pentagon had been attacked. Then shortly afterwards the military aide told us of reports that a plane had crashed on the National Mall in Washington. That turned out, of course, to be false.

And then most startling: a few minutes later the military aide informed the Secretary of reports that the U.S. government had shot down a passenger plane in Pennsylvania. That scenario seemed entirely plausible to us at the time – the nation was under attack by multiple airliners, so it made sense the government might have to shoot one down if it was considered a threat. We learned later, of course, that United Flight 93 had actually crashed after the heroic actions of passengers who were determined to stop the terrorists before they could crash another plane into a building.

Reports already were beginning to come out that other buildings and individuals might become targets in this attack, even Air Force One itself.

When I heard that, I froze: my two then-high-school age daughters, in class in their hometown in Alabama, knew that I was scheduled to fly on Air Force One back to Washington with the President that day. If they heard that Air Force One might be targeted, that might be terrified. With a few frantic tries, I was able to get through on the cell phone to their school, where I talked with their mother and asked her to go see the girls in their classroom and let them know I was okay, and that I was NOT on Air Force One.

The government soon made the unprecedented decision to ground all air traffic across the nation. Secretary Paige and I were left there at the Sarasota Airport with the military aide and no way back to Washington. All I knew was that I had responsibility for a very important leader of the government, and so his safety continued to be my number one priority.

As we watched the news unfold on the television sets in the airport, I stayed in contact with my office by Blackberry. Other leaders of the Department of Education -- I believe Deputy Secretary Bill Hansen, a great and solid leader in his own right -- were in charge at the building. I remember telling my assistant Cheri I thought they should all get out of the building, but of course, they were way ahead of me. The Secretary was concerned about the safety of those 5,000 people in the Department of Education.

Soon, Secret Service agents arrived from Tampa to put Secretary Paige under protective cover. The secret Continuity of Government operation we had been briefed about months earlier was working. The agents put us in vehicles and drove us back to Tampa to an office building for safety. They did a great job of protecting the Secretary and keeping him informed. As we drove to Tampa, the Secretary was very quiet, closing his eyes and listening closely to the radio. I wish I knew what he was thinking, but I couldn't even imagine.

After we were briefed by the Secret Service, the agents took us to a hotel where Secretary Paige was put into a room and placed under 24-hour guard. I had another job to do at that point: Air Force One had left that morning with the Secretary's luggage and mine, and we had no clothes! I borrowed a van from the hotel and drove to a K-Mart in Tampa to buy clothes for the two of us. I walked around the K-Mart picking out clothes in an almost surreal scene: people were trying to go about normal day-to-day activities but families whispered quietly to one another, and shoppers moved around with a look that could only be described as shock. I felt the same way.

That night I peeked outside my hotel room door a couple of times and looked down the hall to see the Secret Service agent sitting dutifully right outside Secretary Paige's door. The Secret Service agents did their job that day, just like they always do. It was a comfort to see the agent out there.

After a sleepless night, the next morning we got word from the White House that a military transport plane, a C-130, was at the Sarasota Airport and that we might be able to catch a ride back to Quantico, Virginia (Reagan National Airport was closed, of course) that day if we hurried. We took that chance because the Secretary badly wanted to get back to Washington to help the President and to check on the people who worked for him at the Department of Education.

The Secret Service drove us back to Sarasota and we made it in time to board the plane. We had arrived in Florida on the best airplane in the world, Air Force One. We were going back on a loud, rattling troop transport plane. And that was just fine with us.

As we flew back to the Washington area that day, I saw something I had never seen before; the skies were completely devoid of air traffic. We were the only plane in the sky that I could see. There was still so much uncertainty at that point, I remember clearly thinking "I sure hope someone knows that we're up here in the sky and that we're supposed to be up here." It was a nervous flight back, but when we landed in Quantico, we were glad to be back.

The whole world changed that day. Nearly 3,000 people were killed by a terrorist organization that still targets us and targets freedom around the world today, 19 years later. I worry that too many Americans have nearly forgotten what happened that day.

I will never forget what I saw and felt that day. And I hope most Americans never forget it. For our safety, we can't afford to forget.

Terry Abbott is now the director of communications for the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles. He is a graduate of Holly Pond High School in Cullman County.

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OUTDOORS

Alabama State Parks online campground reservation system now live

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

Ready for a camping trip to one – or several – of the beautiful Alabama State Parks? Ensuring you'll have a site for your RV, travel trailer or tent just became much easier recently when the new online campground reservation system (www.reservealapark.com) went live.

When Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Commissioner Chris Blankenship was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey in 2017, one of his first initiatives was to connect all Alabama State Parks to broadband internet service and to implement an online reservation system for Alabama State Parks. Parks officials spent months integrating the technology into the 17 parks the system will serve, and the new online tool will include a variety of features that park visitors have requested.

"One of the things we were intentional about providing to the customer was to look at a site's availability for the whole year instead of one specific date range," said Emily Vanderford, Natural Resources Planner with the State Parks Division. "This new system gives them a longer date range. If they have a favorite campsite, they can look at availability and book it. That is something customers asked for – being able to look at that site's availability across the year."

Another feature of the new reservations system is the ability to book at multiple parks during one online visit.

"If someone is making a road trip and they want to book several parks along the journey, they can do that in one booking," Vanderford said. "There are some specific features that people have wanted, like saving their bookings into their account to know which sites they've stayed on in the past. Also, now you can purchase a gift card and use a gift card in that same system."

Vanderford thinks people are really going to appreciate this tool with the user-friendly online system.

"But we also want people to know that if they have questions, they can call us, and we will be happy to help," she said.

State Parks Assistant Director Rob Grant started the work on the new online system with a Request for Proposals (RFP) last fall. After Parks officials selected a vendor, Vanderford took the lead.

"We really appreciate the hard work Emily has done since she took on the role," Grant said. "After the RFP was finally issued, Emily joined in and ran with it. And our staff has been fantastic in navigating the new system."

Prior to the new system, nine parks had campground reservations on an online system, but that system linked to each park separately and did not include many features.

"Before, all our parks on the online system, ran their own system," Vanderford said. "So, if you wanted to make a booking at Cheaha, you had to go to a Cheaha-specific booking link. If you wanted to make a reservation at Lake Lurleen, you had to call that park.

"With the new system, we have all of the parks we operate on the online reservation system. There were multiple pieces to the puzzle. One was to transfer the old reservation system into the new system. Then we had to prepare all of the campgrounds that had been in the old system for the new system. The challenging part was to do that in a way that provided some uniformity. With this system, everything comes into one centralized source that can make a booking for any and all of our camping parks. That was one of the bigger challenges, making sure we could bring everything into one system and make it work so the customers could pull up the sites and see all of our parks."

With the new campground reservation tool, campers can go online and find numerous options to plan a trip to Alabama's most scenic destinations, from the Appalachian Mountains to Mobile Bay.

"Visitors may not know which park they want to go to," Vanderford said. "With the new system, they might want to camp in central Alabama. They could type in Birmingham, and the system will pull up a list of parks in the area. Then they can book any or all of those parks from the same place.

"Starting last fall, there was a lot of detailed setup work for pricing and availability. All of those things have to be ready to go so the customers can book online and avoid issues for them or Parks operations. We don't want customers showing up to campgrounds they've made a booking for and the site not be available."

The 17 parks included in the online booking system had to have upgrades to internet service to ensure the parks' offices had the computing power to integrate into the new system.

Vanderford said now that parks' offices have upgraded internet service, the plan is to add more internet access for park users as soon as possible.

"High-speed internet is definitely something we are working towards for the campers, but it may not be distributed throughout the parks for the campers at this time," she said. "That's a totally different challenge – making sure there is secure Wi-Fi. We had park offices that did not have enough internet service to run the system, so we had to upgrade those first."

Grant added, "We have been redoubling our efforts to expand the Wi-Fi access now that we have fiber to each park and the online booking system launched. This continues to be one of Commissioner Blankenship's top priorities."

The new campground reservations system has been online since August 19, and it appears there are many happy campers.

"A lot of bookings have been made since the system went live," Vanderford said. "When you launch a system of this magnitude, there are always some things you have to work out. I'm invested in making sure the customers have the best experience they can.

"All in all, I think it has gone really smoothly. Customers have been asking for some features for a long time that we can now provide. We have staff all across the state who have done a great job of learning the new system. We will be able to answer questions people may have."

Grant said the feedback he's received has been positive.

"We have had some rave reviews from guests who have accessed the new system," Grant said. "They've had some great comments and some suggestions. We're still tweaking it and making adjustments. We're adding in more and more functionality, but we're pleased with the system and the progress we've made."

Currently, the new online system includes campsites and camping cabins. Chalets, cabins and hotel rooms at the parks will remain in the legacy system for the time being.

"We are working to put everything in one system," Vanderford said. "That's something we will be working on this fall."

State Parks Director Greg Lein said that this has truly been a team effort to improve services to park guests, and that the project especially benefitted from the dedication of two Parks employees over the last year.

"Rob Grant spent countless hours in 2019 researching companies and reservations systems to prepare our agency for the formal Request for Proposals and to develop the eventual contract," Lein said. "Emily Vanderford led our efforts to review proposals and implement the transition process from the old system to the new system over the last 9 months. She has literally lived and breathed reservations over the summer to the point where they are probably part of her dreams. This work could have never been accomplished were it not for Rob and Emily's leadership and commitment to the project and our park guests, and the support we received from Commissioner (Chris) Blankenship, Deputy Commissioner (Ed) Poolos, and our Information Technology staff."

To look at the new online booking options, go to www.reservealapark.com. For more information on reservations, please visit www.alapark.com/reservations.

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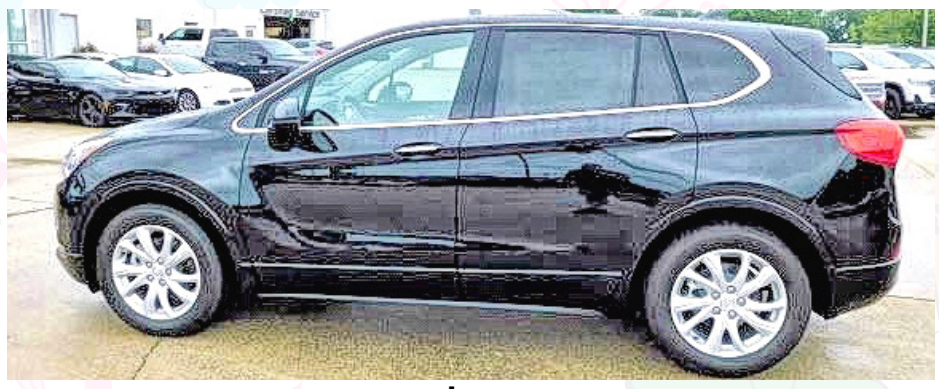


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