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– HOLIDAYS –

TUNE IN: CITY OF CULLMAN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING TONIGHT

The City of Cullman's tree lighting ceremony is normally held at Depot Park with thousands of spectators. This year, due to COVID-19, the event will be virtual and streamed online at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2020.

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CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

– FAITH –

CHRISTMAS AT THE GROTTO NOW OPEN



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Christmas at the Grotto opened Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman's number one tourist destination, the Ave Maria Grotto at St. Bernard Abbey, opened its gates Thursday evening to kick off "Christmas at the Grotto," featuring lights and music throughout the grotto park to create what Grotto Manager Roger Steele called a blend of "Christmas wonderland" and a celebration of the artistry of Bro. Joseph, the Benedictine monk who built the grotto.

This year's event will feature a bigger light exhibit than last year, as well as special activities Dec. 19.

Steele told The Tribune that visitors will see "the entire park lit up; last year we did about 60, 65% of it. This year, it's the entire trail, which covers about four city blocks.

So all of Bro. Joe's structures have Christmas lights on them, all the way around the park; either lights themselves, string lights, net lights.

We have push lights in some of the wayside shrines, spotlights all the way through, we have music. Up in the gift shop we have coffee, and we'll have some wassail or hot cider here in a few minutes, cookies, whatnot. The gift shop is open. We'll do this 12 times, unless there's a huge rain or something of that sort, 4-9 p.m. every Thursday, Friday and Saturday of December."

On Dec. 19, the Grotto will host a parking craft show starting at noon, featuring up to 30 crafters and the Johnny's Bar-B-Q food truck. At 5 p.m., St. Symeon Orthodox Church's Byzantine chant choir will perform in the grotto, followed later in the evening by the monks' chant choir of St. Bernard Abbey.

Coordinators are also considering lighting and tours of other parts of the Abbey campus.

At a glance

Christmas at the Grotto

- Ave Maria Grotto, 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE, Cullman

Dates

- Dec. 4,5 – 4-9 p.m.
- Dec. 10,11,12 – 4-9 p.m.
- Dec. 17,18 – 4-9 p.m.
- Dec. 19 – noon-9 p.m.
- Dec. 26 – 4-9 p.m.
- Dec. 30,31 – 4-9 p.m.

Admission

- Adults – $6
- Students – $3
- Children 3 and younger – free

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/avemariagrotto/.

Juvenile transported to hospital after accidental shooting in Holly Pond

» PAGE 8

EDUCATION

CATA students box up food, love, compassion for families in need



COURTESY OF CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

» PAGE 5

Merchants Bank donates $21K to 3 local charities



MERCHANTS BANK

Merchants Bank presented checks to local charities Wednesday. Left to right are Rhonda Swann and Tonya Foster with Hospice of Cullman County, Merchants Bank Vice President Ross West, Jolanda Hutson and Cindy Barnett with Good Samaritan Health Clinic, Merchants Bank Executive Vice President Clark Rainwater, Javon Daniel with Cullman Caring for Kids, Merchants Bank President and CEO Charlie NeSmith and Nancy Bryant with Cullman Caring for Kids.

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STATE

ALEA: Increase in Troopers equals decrease in Thanksgiving holiday traffic fatalities

Brandon Bailey
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Troopers within the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Highway Patrol Division saw nearly a 30% decrease in overall traffic fatalities during the extended 2020 Thanksgiving travel period. ALEA Troopers investigated only eight traffic-related deaths as compared to 11 during the same holiday travel period in 2019.

ALEA Secretary Hal Taylor said Troopers are truly committed to saving lives, particularly during popular holiday travel periods such as Thanksgiving.

"Investigating three fewer traffic deaths this past weekend is certainly an achievement," he said; "however, we are continuously striving to reach the point to where we celebrate a holiday weekend without any loss of life. It is ALEA's mission to ensure everyone makes it home alive and well. Through our campaigns, initiatives and proactive patrolling, we believe this goal will soon become a reality."

This year's Thanksgiving travel period began at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25 and ended at midnight Sunday, Nov. 29. The fatal traffic crashes occurred in Colbert, Coosa, Jefferson, Morgan, Russell, Tuscaloosa and Walker counties. One pedestrian and a motorcyclist were among the eight individuals killed.

Of the six who were killed while traveling in vehicles equipped with seat belts, three were not wearing them at the time of the crash.

During the past two major holiday travel periods, Labor Day and Thanksgiving, ALEA Troopers have seen a decrease in traffic-related deaths.

"We saw over a 60% decrease in traffic fatalities over Labor Day weekend, and with nearly a 30% decrease during Thanksgiving, we are hoping to see that trend continue with more Troopers on Alabama roadways," Taylor said.

Thanks to the continued support from Governor Kay Ivey and the Legislature, ALEA has hired 118 Troopers since Jan. 1.

The agency graduated one of the largest classes in recent history on Nov. 4, adding 52 new ALEA Troopers throughout the state.

Said Taylor, "We greatly value the assistance from citizens and other motorists who work with ALEA to make our roadways safer.

"We ask everyone to continue to help us promote traffic safety in a joint effort to prevent crashes, injuries and fatalities throughout the remainder of the holiday season. Let's all work together toward a holiday season with zero traffic-related deaths."

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 3

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 3, 2020. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Nov. 30
- domestic violence; CR 781
- receiving stolen property; Hwy. 69 N
- burglary; Hwy. 278 W
- theft of property; CR 1082
- harassment; CR 189
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 N
- domestic violence; CR 222
- harassment; CR 310

Dec. 1
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1114
- domestic violence; Lindsey Road
- trespassing; CR 38
- domestic violence; CR 388
- theft of property; CR 998
- harassment; CR 18
- unlawful possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; Pear Drive NW

Dec. 2
- criminal mischief; Reid Road
- criminal mischief, trespassing; Hwy. 278 W
- criminal mischief; CR 216
- harassment; Beech Ave.
- burglary; CR 501
- burglary; CR 490
- burglary; CR 1114
- burglary; CR 974
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 719
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; Doc Clemmons Road

ARRESTS

Nov. 30-Dec. 2

Bentley, Amanda Dawn, 43
- probation revoked- second-degree theft of property

Christiansen, Joseph Wayne, 34
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- first-degree receiving stolen property
- first-degree theft of property
- second-degree theft of property
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Davis, Jason Wayne, 26
- probation violation- first-degree theft of property

Gaines, Joseph Allen, 55
- aggravated stalking

Haney, Makayla Renee, 22
- chemical endangerment of a child

Henry, John Wayne, 64
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Knutson, Brian Aaron, 20
- judge's order- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Pannell, Michael Blake, 33
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Phelps, Crystal Michelle, 35
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Roden, Joshua Michael, 34
- domestic violence- strangulation/suffocation

Saucier, Michael Scott, 37
- certain persons forbidden to possess a pistol
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Tubbs, William Albert, 40
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 2
- second-degree forgery, second-degree possession of a forged instrument, second-degree theft of property; EvaBank; Cherokee Ave. SW; forged check
- identity theft; person

ARRESTS

Dec. 2

Phelps, Crystal M., 35
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Ford, David L., 42
- FTA- driving while suspended

Uselton, Johnathan S., 29
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property (3 counts)
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing
- FTA- attempting to elude
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- expired tag
- FTA- insurance violation

Colburn, Connie A., 54
- FTA- driving while revoked (2 counts)
- FTA- switched tag
- FTA- insurance violation

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE
The St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church is temporarily closed due to COVID-19. Plans are to re-open Monday, Dec. 7, 2020.

Free Firewood
Free firewood from oak tree (will need to be cut up). Call 256-796-0686.

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

Church Services
- Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
- Prayer meetings- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Please join us to pray or come for prayer.
- Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Sundays at 10 a.m. adult, youth and children's classes; 11 a.m. children's classes; praise and worship, and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd

Cullman Moose Lodge Annual Turkey Shoots
At the Lodge on Eva Road at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Proceeds will go to benefit the Lodge Special Projects Fund and local charities. Call 256-318-3013 for additional details or information.

18th Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park
- Guests can enjoy driving through the park, train rides, carriage rides, hot chocolate and pictures with Santa.
- This year a few things had to be tweaked due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The train has Plexiglass to separate riders. Santa will also be positioned with Plexiglass separating himself from the kids.
- Admission to the Winter Wonderland is $10 per vehicle. A photo with Santa is $5. Only cash will be accepted. The display will be open (weather-permitting) from 5-10 p.m.
- Dec. 4-6, 9-13, 16-23 and 26-27 (drive thru-only the 26-27). Dec. 23 will be the last day for the train.
- Free admission for seniors 60 and older Dec. 18-20
- Sportsman Lake Park is located at 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman.

2nd Annual Christmas at the Grotto
- Christmas lights return to the Grotto! Come and experience the beauty of Br. Joseph's work at night surrounded by lights and music! We have expanded this unique holiday experience throughout the grounds and have added several dates!
- On Dec. 19, we will have a Christmas Crafts Fair in our parking lot, plus have live musical performances throughout the park!
- Coffee and cookies will be available each night. Make your plans to visit now!
- Ave Maria Grotto, 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE, Cullman

- Dates
Dec. 4,5 – 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 10,11,12 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 17,18 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 19 – noon-9 p.m.
Dec. 26 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 30,31 - 4-9 p.m.

- Admission
Adults - $6
Students - $3
Children 3 and younger - free

Hanceville Quarterback Club Turkey Shoot
- Every Saturday until Dec. 19 at 8 a.m. along U.S. Highway 31 South between Barbee Motors and Domino's. Look for the signs.
- All proceeds support Hanceville Quarterback Club.

4D Farm "Country Christmas"
- Games, activities, food, sweets, rides, and of course, farm animals. Most of the farm's normal attractions will be open, as well as Santa's Barn, where Santa will be available for families to take pictures.
- Sleigh rides will take visitors on the Country Christmas Light Trail. For those not comfortable with a sleigh ride, don't worry, visitors can opt to drive their own vehicles.
- $14.95 + tax per person includes attractions and light trail. For $5, treat cards are also available for purchase- they include treat kits as well as feed for the farm animals. For those just wanting to drive through the Country Christmas Light Trail, the cost is $10 per vehicle.
- Social distancing at the farm should not be a problem. The attractions are spread out, and the farm is a large area which allows for families to stay distanced. Masks are encouraged.
- 4D Farm is located at 7182 County Road 703 in Cullman. The farm will be open from 3-9 p.m. Friday-Sunday from Dec. 5-20. The drive-thru light show is open Wednesday-Sunday from 5-9 p.m.
- Find out more at www.4dfamilyfarm.com or www.facebook.com/4D-Farm.

City of Hanceville Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. at Veterans Park

Christmas in Cullman Virtual Tree Lighting
Join us live on Facebook at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 for a virtual tree-lighting ceremony that you don't want to miss! We're trying to find Santa and keep Cullman's Christmas spirit alive in 2020, and we need your help! www.Facebook.com/ChristmasinCullman

Cold Springs Royal Blue Band Turkey Shoot
- Saturday, Dec. 5 at 8 a.m. beside Pop's Place in Dodge City, 721 Alabama Highway 69 S
- Shots are $4 or 3 for $10
Come on out and win a turkey, bacon or pork shoulder!

Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation Mastectomy Bra and Prosthesis 2-Hour Sale Fundraiser
- Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Cullman VFW, 112 Veterans Drive SW

We will have:
- New mastectomy bras, in various sizes, for a minimum donation of $10
- New, in box, prostheses in various sizes for a minimum donation of $25
- If you use these products, this is a great deal for you!

31st Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade
Saturday, Dec. 5 at noon, along U.S Highway 31 from Wallace State to Hanceville Fire Station no. 1

Kids Loving Kids
- Dec. 12 at Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
- A community outreach that provides clothes and toys for children and teens. Help us provide for those in need by donating gently used clothes or toys, new toys or cash! Bring donations to the church Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call Joanne at 256-339-4138 to arrange a different time to drop items off. Call Alisha at 205-717-7478 to arrange for pick-up. To register to receive these items, sign up on Kids Loving Kid's Facebook page or go to https://form.jotform.com/202483601332041.

St. Paul's Back to the 80s New Year's Eve Bash
- Thursday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. at the Abbey Byre at Saint Bernard.
- The party will include everything that made the 80s fun- high hair, great tunes and totally awesome food. Costumes are encouraged. Two Maids & a Mop of Huntsville will be sponsoring the costume contest with the prize winner taking home $200. Time capsules will be raffled off featuring great 80s pop culture throwbacks. Seasoned Catering will be serving up some tasty eats.
- A limited number of tickets is available for this event to ensure proper distancing. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the venue and masks will be provided for those who need one. Our goal is to have a safe and responsible event.
- Tables are also available for purchase. Tickets can be purchased online at www.stpaulscullman.com. This is an 18 and older event.

HOLIDAYS: Lighting up the holidays

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Loading the family in the car and cruising around gazing at the twinkling Christmas lights has long been a favorite holiday activity. It could be considered the ultimate socially-distanced event. In a year full of cancellations and bad news, this time-honored tradition will continue in many places in and around Cullman County. Here are a few that your family can enjoy.

Winter Wonderland at Sportsman Lake Park
When- 5pm-10pm Dec. 4,6, 9,10,12,13,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23 (weather-permitting) Drive-thru only Dec. 26-27

Cost- $10 per vehicle; sleigh rides are an additional $5

Where- 1544 Sportsman Lake Road, Cullman

Hanceville Civitan Tinsel Trail
When- now through Jan. 1

Cost- free
Where- Hanceville Veterans Memorial Park

4D Farm Country Christmas
When- The farm will be open from 3-9 p.m. Friday-Sunday from Dec. 5-20. The drive-thru light show is open Wednesday-Sunday from 5-9 p.m.

Cost- $14.95 + tax per person includes attractions and light trail. For $5, treat cards are also available for purchase- they include treat kits as well as feed for the farm animals. For those just wanting to drive through the Country Christmas Light Trail, the cost is $10 per vehicle.

Where- 7182 County Road 703, Cullman

2nd Annual Christmas at the Grotto
When- Dec. 4,5 – 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 10,11,12 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 17,18 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 19 – noon-9 p.m.
Dec. 26 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 30,31 - 4-9 p.m.

Cost- Adults - $6
Students - $3
Children 3 and younger - free

Where- Ave Maria Grotto 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE Cullman, Alabama

The Wilbanks Family Light Display (Residential)
When: Now through Christmas

Cost- Free

Where- U.S. Highway 278 West across from Spring Hill Baptist Church

Christmas in the Park- Arab
When- Now-Dec. 31 dusk-9:30 p.m.

Cost- Free

Where- Arab City Park, 844 Shoals Creek Trail NE, Arab
www.facebook.com/christmasintheparkarab

Christmas Lights at Palisades Park in Oneonta
When- Through Dec. 31 (closed Dec. 24 & 25) 5-9 p.m.

Cost- Free with donations accepted

Where- 1225 Palisades Pkwy., Oneonta

Bama Lights in Pinson
When- Now until Christmas Day 5-9:30 p.m. (tune car radio to 88.1 FM)

Cost- Free but donations appreciated, with donations benefiting Magic Moments

Where- 8333 West Hill Road, Pinson

Christmas at the Falls (Noccalula)
When- Now through Dec. 23 & Dec. 26- Jan. 2 from 5-9 p.m. weekdays and 3-9 p.m. on weekends

Cost- Tickets sold online only with time slots to choose from. Visit www.noccalulafallspark.com.

Where- 1500 Noccalula Road, Gadsden


FACEBOOK/CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK IN ARAB

Grand Menorah Lighting at The Summit
When: Sunday, Dec. 13, 5-6 p.m.

Cost: Free, www.menorahlighting.com

Where: REI parking lot at the Summit in Birmingham, 335 Summit Blvd.

Wonderland Under Warrior (Rickwood Caverns State Park)
When-Dec.4,5,6,9,10,11,12,13, 16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23 from 2-8 p.m.- time slots will be available throughout each day and reservations are highly recommended (www.alapark.com/parks/rickwood-caverns-state-park/wonderland-under-warrior)

Cost- $10 per person 4 and older

Where- 370 Rickwood Park Road, Warrior

Glow Wild at the Birmingham Zoo- An Animal Lantern Celebration
When- Now-Jan. 18 from 5-9 p.m. on select nights Wednesday-Sunday

Cost- Varies with reservations required- www.birminghamzoo.com/glowwild

Where- Birmingham Zoo, 2630 Cahaba Road, Birmingham

Huntsville Botanical Gardens- Galaxy of Lights
When- Now-Jan. 2 5:30-9 p.m. (driving nights)

Cost- Prices starting at $23 per vehicle with up to 10 passengers. Tickets must be purchased at www.hsvbg.org/galaxy.

Where- Huntsville Botanical Gardens, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave. SW, Huntsville

2020 Spectacle of Lights- Decatur
When- Dec. 17-20 from 5-10 p.m.

Cost- Free

Where- interactive map available at www.decaturdowntown.org or www.decaturjaycees.com.

EDUCATION

Wallace State offering new Google IT Support Professional Certificate

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Wallace State Community College's Computer Science program is offering the newly-created Google IT Support Professional Certificate.

Through a grant from Jobs for the Future (JFF), Wallace State students can earn the specialized online certificate, preparing them for an entry-level job in information technology support - one of the fastest growing jobs in the United States.

"The Google program is a great opportunity for learners who are interested in information technology.

"It provides a great foundation and builds skills needed to fulfill a high-demand, high-wage job," said Wallace State computer science instructor Gregory Knight.

"We've included the courses in our full-degree plan or students can complete those specific classes."

The five required courses for the certificate cover important IT components, including troubleshooting, customer services, networking, system administration, security and operating systems.

The courses are hosted by the Coursera online learning platform.

Joshua Apodaca, 31, completed the Google IT Support Professional Certificate this semester, as he pursues an associate degree in cyber-infused networking technology.

Apodaca is currently employed as an operations technician for Mazda-Toyota Manufacturing in Huntsville.

"It's a fantastic program, and I appreciate my instructors encouraging me to complete it.

"Once I finish my degree, one of my goals is to transfer into the IT Department at Mazda-Toyota, and I hope having the Google IT Certificate on my resume will speak volumes and give me a competitive advantage," Apodaca said.

Through the JFF grant, the IT Support Professional Certificate is available to community college students in 16 states, including at Wallace State.

According to Burning Glass Data in 2018, there were 215,000 unfilled IT support jobs in the U.S, and the median wage for computer user specialists is $54,760 according to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For more information about enrolling in the Google IT Support Professional Certificate at Wallace State, contact Knight at 256-352-8158 or by email at gregory.knight@wallacestate.edu.

Visit www.grow.google/itcert to learn more about the certificate.

Registration is underway at Wallace State for the spring 2021 semester. Spring classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 19. Register at www.wallacestate.edu/register-now.

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu.

Lighting (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The City of Cullman recently canceled its annual Christmas parade and Christmas tree lighting extravaganza, but the lighting will go on in virtual form tonight at 7 p.m., streamed on the websites of Cullman Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism (CPRST) and The Cullman Tribune, and shared on The Tribune's and CPRTS's Facebook pages.

CPRST Executive Director Zac Wood said, "2020 looks a little different, but we're really excited to be able to bring the community together with a virtual tree lighting of Cullman's beautiful tree. We want to invite everyone to tune into this really special broadcast that we know you'll be proud of."

"We'll be kicking off the holiday season with a virtual tree-lighting extravaganza," the department said in a media release.

"In-person events for Christmas in Cullman were unfortunately canceled in an abundance of caution, but we are fortunate to be able to bring a virtual experience to the community. Unlike a typical tree-lighting ceremony, this year's production will feature a full story that you'll have to tune in to the online broadcast to see.

"In the production, we'll be travelling all over Cullman to try and keep our Christmas spirit alive, and we'll end with a live tree lighting at Depot Park.

"All week long, we've been asking for kids and families to send in their Christmas wishes on social media or in our special red mailbox at Festhalle, and Santa will be granting one child's wish live during the ceremony!

"You'll want to tune in to see if yours is granted!

"The broadcast will take place at 7pm at ChristmasInCullman.com or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/ChristmasInCullman, and we're hoping that everyone helps spread Christmas cheer on their own through social media by using the hashtag #ChristmasInCullman.

"While Depot Park will be open and the tree will be lit, the way to get the full tree-lighting experience this year will be to tune in live at 7 p.m. for the virtual ceremony."

CPRST Marketing Coordinator Jasef Wisener said, "During the event, we want to see the ways that our community is helping to spread Christmas cheer in their own ways!

"Whether it's posting a picture of your favorite ornament, sharing a photo of who you're watching the tree-lighting with, showing off the decorations at your house or anything else that celebrates the spirit of Christmas, we want to see it!

"All you have to do is use the hashtag #ChristmasInCullman, and your photos may be featured during the production!"

CPRST Recreational Development Director Christy Turner said, "This holiday season is definitely a different one for all of us!

"We believe that this tree lighting can be a fun time for the entire community to enjoy.

"We hope that you can join us as we light our Christmas tree and celebrate the magic of the season while we reflect on our many blessings."

Pop-up shopping Saturday
In its statement, CPRST also reported, "We're also excited to be bringing a few Christmas Pop-Up Shops to the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center on select Saturdays in December beginning with Initial Impression on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m."

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 215,938 (+2,766 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 44,421 (+765 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 3,375 (+49 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 401
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 3,485 (+59 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 1,317 (+23 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 36 (+1 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 10
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 26,396
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,456
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 873
- Total tested in Alabama: 1,615,948
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 35,031
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 119,188
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 1,827
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 26,062
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 168,387

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

Monday, Nov. 30 update from Cullman Regional
The hospital reported 53 positive COVID patients, with 11 on ventilators.

Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 COVID-19 update from Alabama's K-12 COVID-19 School Dashboard
- Total cases reported by Cullman City Schools last week: 30
- Total cases reported by Cullman County Schools last week: 54

See more details at https://bit.ly/31Z4uhd.

LEGALS

PB WIL BK 98 PG 845 - 11/19/2020 02:22 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
LAWRENCE EDWARD SHELTON * CASE NO PC 2020-331
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **Diana Marie Coleman**, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Lawrence Edward Shelton, deceased, on the 18th day of November, 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.

Diana Marie Coleman
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Personal Representative
200 1st Avenue, SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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 WIL BK 98 PG 836 - 11/19/2020 02:22 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MELVIN CLYDE SMITH, JR. * CASE NO PC 2020-319
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **Amy Whaley a/k/a Amy Brown**, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Melvin Clyde Smith, Jr., deceased, on the 18th day of November, 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.

Amy Whaley a/k/a Amy Brown
Personal Representative

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
PO Box 834
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 4, 2020

Alabama takes down UNLV, 86-74, in Maui Invitational 2nd round

UA Athletics
rolltide.com

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – Alabama connected on a season-best15 three-pointers and scored a season-high 86 points total as it blew past UNLV, 86-74, in the second round of the Camping World Maui Invitational on Tuesday night. With the win, the Crimson Tide (2-1) moves into the fifth-place game where it will take on the Providence Friars (2-1) who defeated Davidson in its second-round matchup.

Alabama was led by guard John Petty Jr.'s 22 points on 7-of-12 shooting from the field and 6-of-10 from beyond the arc. He also had six assists compared to one turnover in his nearly 34 minutes of action. The Huntsville, Ala., native led five UA players who reached double digits on the night as Jahvon Quinerly (19), Herbert Jones (16), Jaden Shackelford (13) and Joshua Primo (11) all contributed on the offensive end of the floor.

The Crimson Tide's offense was efficient throughout the contest, as UA connected on 48 percent from the field, 38 percent from beyond the arc, hit 15 three-pointers (15-of-40) and had 21 assists on its 29 makes with only 11 turnovers.

UNLV was led by Caleb Grill's game-high 27 points to lead all scorers.

Coach Nate Oats Postgame Comments

• "It was a much better effort tonight. We stressed closing the first half and opening the second half. It was a big last four, first four because we ended the half on a 12-6 run to even the game and started the second half on a 6-0 run which forced them to call a timeout. So it was an 18-6 run in all which was much better than (Monday) night. Our big thing is we just need to play harder. I thought some of our guys are figuring out how hard they have to play in a Division I basketball game to get a win.

"You can't afford to relax or you're giving up a wide-open three. I thought our guys played well and it was nice to finally make some shots. Petty was able to get out of his slump and I'm really happy with the overall game he played. Herb played better than he's played and I thought Jordan Bruner was really good, especially on defense. James Rojas gave us good minutes inside in the second half. A lot of good efforts from our guys tonight."

Team Stats

• Alabama finished the contest with season highs in points, assists and threes made

• 17 of Quinerly's 19 points were scored after halftime as he connected on 5-of-8 shots from the floor after intermission after going just 1-of-3 in the opening stanza

• Shackelford extended his streak to 18 consecutive games scoring in double figures

• The Tide connected on 13-of-19 attempts from the charity stripe compared to UNLV going 3-of-4

• Alabama's bench outscored UNLV's reserves, 14-5

• The Tide scored 16 fastbreak points while holding the Rebels to only 9 points in transition

• After the teams were deadlocked at 38-apiece at intermission, Alabama shot 56.7 percent (17-of-30) from the floor in the second half and outscored the Runnin' Rebels, 48-36, over the final 20 minutes

First Half

• Alabama started the game on a 11-3 run, knocking down 4-of-4 from beyond the arc

• UNLV responded with a 9-0 run to take the 12-11 lead with 15:29 remaining.

• After trailing by as many as six points (32-26), the Crimson Tide closed the half by outscoring UNLV 12-6 over the final 7:29 to draw even at 38-38 at the intermission

• John Petty Jr. scored 14 points in the first half on 4-of-6 shooting from beyond the arc to lead UA

Second Half

• Alabama opened the half with back-to-back treys over the first 1:31 to take a 44-38 lead, forcing a UNLV timeout

• In all, the Tide went on an 18-6 that spanned halftime and lasted a total of 9:00

• UNLV battled back and was able to tie the game at 53-53, but the Crimson Tide used an 8-0 run to take a 61-53 lead with 12:00 remaining in the game and never looked back

• Alabama extended its lead to as many as 14 points before settling for the 12-point victory

Up Next

Alabama and Providence will square off for fifth place in this year's Maui Invitational on Wednesday night at 6 p.m. CT (7 p.m. ET) on ESPN2.

For all the latest information on the team, follow AlabamaMBB on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. General athletic news can be found @UA_Athletics on Twitter and Instagram and Alabama Athletics on Facebook.



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama's Herb Jones (1) finished with 16 points in the Crimson Tide's 86-74 win over UNLV Tuesday night.

Auburn trio named to Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2021

George Nunnelley
AU Athletics

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Auburn greats Willie Anderson, Hal Baird and Cliff Ellis were announced as members of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2021 Wednesday.

Anderson, Baird and Ellis are three of the eight newly inducted honorees announced by the Board of Directors of the State of Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. The complete list can be found here.

The 53rd Annual Induction Banquet and Ceremony will be held in the Birmingham Ballroom, at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, on May 8, 2021. For more information or two purchase tickets, please contact the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Museum at 205-323-6665.

Anderson played offensive tackle at Auburn from 1993-95, where he was named All-America and twice-named All-SEC. He was selected 10th overall in the 1996 NFL Draft by the Cincinnati Bengals and went on to be named a four-time Pro Bowler and three-time First Team All-Pro selection. Anderson played his first 12 seasons with the Bengals before playing his final season with the Baltimore Ravens in 2008. During his NFL career, he played in 195 games, starting 184. Anderson only surrendered 16 sacks in his 13-year career and did not give up a sack between 1999-2001.

"After being inducted into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame in 2011, I found out more about the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame at that time," Anderson said. "I always wondered what the requirements were and really wanted to be involved in that. I've seen former Auburn players from Georgia - Takeo Spikes and Ronnie Brown - make it recently. For guys from Alabama, it really means a lot to us. You see names like DeMarcus Ware and Ben Wallace, guys who I saw play professionally, and Coach Baird and Coach Ellis. It's definitely a big honor for me to be honored by my state, with me being from Alabama," Anderson added. "Along with the rest of the people being honored, it's a big deal for us."

Willie Anderson

In 16 years at the helm of the Auburn baseball program from 1985-2000, Baird posted a 634-328 career record, retiring as the winningest coach in program history and the fourth winningest coach in the history of the SEC. He guided the Tigers to a pair of College World Series appearances (1994, '97), three NCAA regional championships (1994, '97, '99), two SEC Tournament titles (1989, '98) and two SEC West crowns (1987, '95).

Baird mentored 13 All-Americans during his career in the orange and blue, and 51 of his players went on to hear their name called in the MLB Draft, including Bo Jackson, Tim Hudson and Frank Thomas.

"It's the first time for me to have a chance to enter a hall of fame in which three of my former players are in there," Baird said. "Bo Jackson, Tim Hudson and Frank Thomas, all three are enshrined in the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. That's an over-the-top for me. That really does make it particularly satisfying."

Baird pitched at Eastern Carolina, where he recorded 105 strikeouts in the 1970-71 seasons. He was drafted by the Cleveland Indians and also played for the Kansas City Royals organization. In 1977, he returned to ECU as an assistant coach and was named head coach in 1980. He accumulated a 145-66-1 record, three NCAA Tournament appearances and two ECAC-South Championships. He is also set to be inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in January.

"It's really overwhelming," Baird added. "The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame is widely considered to be the best in the country. Everyone who's ever had any experience with it, as an inductee or going to the banquet, says there's nothing in the world done any better. To think about this state and the number of unbelievable people who have come out in every sport, Major League Baseball hall of famers, NFL hall of famers, it's very humbling. I couldn't hardly believe it when I got the call."

Hal Baird

From 1994-2004, Ellis was the head basketball coach at Auburn, where we won 186 games, second only to Joel Eaves, and was named the SEC Coach of the Year twice. Ellis led the 1998-99 Tigers to the SEC Championship and the Sweet 16 with a 29-4 record and was named the National Coach of the Year. The Tigers also reached the Sweet 16 during the 2002-03 season.

"The 10 years I spent at Auburn were precious times that I'll never forget," Ellis said. "I have a lot of great memories. Without those 10 years, this would not be happening. I'm thankful for all the people who have been a part of it. I'm truly blessed by it."

After starting his college coaching career at Cumberland University, Ellis was hired as the head coach at South Alabama in 1975. Four years later, he had the Jaguars in the NCAA Tournament and six seasons later they were ranked in the top 10. From 1975-84, he led the Jaguars to three Sun Belt titles, two NCAA Tournament appearances and two NIT appearances. After the 1984 season he was named the head coach at Clemson, where he led the Tigers to eight postseason appearances, including three NCAA Tournament appearances, in 10 seasons. During the 1989-90 season, Ellis led Clemson to its only ACC title in school history and made it to the Sweet 16.

He was a two-time ACC Coach of the Year (1987 and 1990) and is currently the winningest coach in program history.

Since 2007, Ellis has coached at Coastal Carolina, where he is second all-time in wins. Going into the 2020-21 season Ellis' 780 NCAA Division I wins rank him 15th all-time and third amongst active coaches.

"I'm honored and humbled by it," Ellis added. "When you look at the roster and the people who are in there, it's very touching. I think the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame probably sets the tone for all the states because when you look at the people involved with it, it's really amazing. I'm really touched by it. For me, my first thoughts go to the players who played for me at Auburn and South Alabama. All the players who played for me, all the coaches who were part of this."

Cliff Ellis



AU ATHLETICS

Former Auburn Baskebtall Coach Cliff Ellis has been announced as one of this year's ASHOF class members.

Donation (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Merchants Bank on Wednesday presented checks totaling $21,000 to three local charities: Cullman Caring for Kids, Good Samaritan Health Clinic and Hospice of Cullman County each received $7,000 from the proceeds of the bank's 27th annual Merchants Charity Classic Golf Tournament held at Terri Pines Country Club Sept. 28. In addition to the three local charities, a donation will also be made to the Boys and Girls Ranches of Alabama.

Merchants Bank Vice President Ross West told The Tribune, "Earlier this year with the way 2020's been, we (weren't) sure if we could even have it (the golf tournament), so to be able to get to this point where we're giving away over $20,000, it was a huge success."

West noted, "The tournament wouldn't be possible without our sponsors and the golfers that show up and play. We had 33 teams, almost a full field, so with the way the year's been, to still have that kind of turnout was a huge success. We just couldn't do it without our community support.

"The bank doing this tournament is not possible without the community support, and in turn we get to turn around and give this money to three great organizations.

"It makes Cullman special, that we're able to do this. Everybody at Merchants Bank, we're glad that we're able to give back to the community."

Donation to VFW



JACQUELINE SCHENDEL

The Cullman County Republican Women donated $500 to Cullman's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214 recently. President Jacqueline Schendel presented the check to Post Commander Brian Monk. The Republican Women meet monthly at 6 p.m. at the VFW building located at 112 Veterans Dr. SW. (No meetings in July or December.) Everyone is welcome to attend.

CATA (from Front)

Cullman County Schools
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA) Health Science students are taking empty boxes and turning them into an overflowing good deed. The students, from across Cullman County, are already learning what it is like to put others first due to the nature of the field they are preparing to enter.

"(We want) to provide for people who are not exactly able to provide for themselves. We are a helping group," said Morgan Nail, a Vinemont High School sophomore and second-year CATA Health Science student.

The students are filling empty donated boxes, provided by Cullman company WestRock, with items such as toothpaste, toilet paper and deodorant.

The students held a Christmas T-shirt sale fundraiser to be able to purchase the items. In addition, the students and their teachers worked with the Cullman Electric Cooperative (CEC) to secure food donations for the boxes. Brian Lacy with the CEC said the Cooperative held a food drive among its employees, and Thursday that food was delivered to the students. Those students, with help from other students from the Cullman County Child Development Center, unloaded hundreds of pounds of food Thursday and will soon prepare the boxes for distribution.

"We wanted to give what we could offer because I've always been taught to give unto others as you would want..." said Jaeden Smith, a freshman at West Point High School and first-year CATA Health Science student. "In a health care facility you always help your patients first; help everyone who needs it first, then you help yourself."

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The Cullman Tribune
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Letters will be published online and many in print
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OUTDOORS

Public land provides opportunities to hunt rut all season

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

Most people think the rutting activity of white-tailed deer in Alabama occurs mostly in January and into February. However, if you're willing to travel, hunters can take advantage of the rut in the state from mid-November through early February.

Plus, you can hunt the rut during that lengthy period on public land, according to Chris Smith of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division.

Early in the 20th century, Alabama's deer herd was extremely limited because of unregulated harvest. Most of the animals were in southwest Alabama, with isolated pockets throughout the state. Extensive restocking efforts were conducted, which included trapping and relocating deer from southwest Alabama, mainly from the Clarke County area, as well as bringing in deer from other parts of the United States. Deer were transported from Arkansas, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin.

For the most part, the transplanted deer maintained their native rutting activity, which is why Smith, Assistant Chief in the WFF's Wildlife Section, said hunters can find rutting activity in Alabama for most of deer season.

For the majority of the state, the deer rut considerably later in the season, and it was reasonable to extend the season dates to end on Feb. 10. The seasons in Zone D and Zone E start early and end early.

Smith said WFF-owned, maintained or managed wildlife management areas (WMAs) are pretty much scattered throughout the state.

"We've got WMAs in the Black Belt region, some in the Cumberland Plateau, some in the Tennessee River Valley," he said. "We have a WMA in every physiographic region of the state."

The WFF's Wildlife Section manages about 750,000 acres within the WMA and Special Opportunity Area (SOA) programs. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) owns 366,000 acres through WFF, the State Lands Division and Forever Wild Land Trust. Federally owned acreage of 345,000 acres is managed through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. About 38,000 acres are privately owned acreage managed through "In-Kind" lease agreements.

"One of the unique things to me and something that people are starting to realize is that the rut situation across the state allows somebody to hunt during rutting activity from the first of November until the end of deer season on Feb. 10," Smith said.

This year, Zone D in northwest Alabama and Zone E with areas in northeast and southeast Alabama opened the gun deer season for antlered bucks on Nov. 7 and their season will close on Jan. 27, 2021.

The Black Warrior WMA is in Zone D, and the Choccolocco WMA is in Zone E.

"For the first time, we had gun season and multiple gun hunts during the peak rut on those WMAs," Smith said. "This year, the season opened Nov. 7, and I keep getting emails with photos of some superb mature bucks taken on those two WMAs because they're hunting during the rut."

Despite the regular gun deer season closing on Jan. 27 in Zone D and Zone E, the gun hunts on Black Warrior and Choccolocco end in December.

"We don't have January hunts on those WMAs because a lot of those bucks have dropped their antlers," Smith said. "We don't want to have any hunts where people might shoot a buck thinking it's a doe because it didn't have antlers."

Of course, white-tailed deer is not the only hunting opportunity on public land in the state.

"Several of our WMAs have fantastic squirrel and rabbit hunting," Smith said. "One of the opportunities that is coming along through some habitat work we've been doing the last several years is we're starting to see an increase in our bobwhite quail populations. That is something a lot of people would like to see.

"The habitat work involves converting commercial forests into longleaf pine forest. And we're starting to manage some early successional habitat. We're starting to see a response to that. We monitor quail covey calls. Although it's not going gangbusters, in these WMAs where this habitat work is being done, we're seeing an increase in the number of coveys each year."

Smith said if anyone is hesitant about hunting on one of the WMAs or land available to hunting through the Forever Wild program, they can contact WFF personnel for advice.

"One thing people seem to be afraid to do is to give us a call," he said. "I can't tell you how many people I've talked to who just decided to call us one day. In that phone conversation, they're kind of shocked that we could provide so much helpful information. That's our job. I would encourage people who are interested in hunting our WMAs to call the district office or the WMA manager. Their jobs are providing hunting habitat and hunting access. Now sometimes they are busy, but don't be afraid to ask questions."



ADCNR

Kenneth Powell took a 231-pound, nine-point during the rut at Black Warrior.

With new technology, a plethora of information about the public hunting opportunities is available, but Smith said nothing can replace boots on the ground.

"I hunt Hollins WMA for turkeys," he said. "When I started hunting there, I wanted to learn the land. You can go and hunt, but, while you're hunting, take the opportunity to learn the access points and terrain.

"And take advantage of map programs like OnX to do some desktop scouting. Look for the drainage ditch points and saddles. Look for a curve in a road or a curve in a creek. Then you can go on the ground and actually check those areas out. If you don't know what to look for, pick up the phone and call."

One thing about hunting public land, especially on weekends, is the likelihood that you will encounter other hunters, which means courtesy is paramount.

"If you go to an area you had in mind to hunt and see a vehicle parked there, go to plan B or plan C," Smith said. "Have respect for the other users. If you do, you generally get the same respect in return. Take it slow, practice hunting safety and be respectful of your public hunting brothers and sisters."

To hunt the WMAs, you'll need a valid statewide hunting license, a WMA license, and either a printed WMA permit for the area you plan to hunt or registration on the Outdoor AL app on your smartphone.

"On the WMAs in District II, you also have to have a daily permit, either paper or on your Outdoor AL app," Smith said. "Next year, that requirement will be statewide. You will either check in and check out with the Outdoor AL app or get a daily permit from one of the kiosks at the WMAs, fill it out and drop it in the box."

For people who are still a little hesitant about hunting public land, Smith suggests planning a trip during the week instead of the weekend. Of course, you'll have to check each WMA to determine what hunting is allowed.

"People who go to our WMAs during the week often have thousands of acres all to themselves," Smith said. "If you're new to hunting public land, go during the week, get your feet on the ground, do your scouting and have many, many acres to yourself."

Visit www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/where-hunt-alabama for more information on hunting on public land.

HEALTH

Investment in UAB genomic research offers significant dividends

Bob Shepard
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Officials at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Alabama System say the planned Genomic Medicine and Data Sciences Building at UAB will have a profound effect on the health care of residents of the state and beyond.

Gov. Kay Ivey recently announced the project would receive $50 million in state funding from the Public School and College Authority. Jefferson County leaders previously committed $5 million.

"The Altec Styslinger Genomic Medicine and Data Sciences Building represents the future of modern health care, and the combined support from our local and state elected officials and private donors is truly an investment in the lives of every Alabama citizen," said UAB President Ray L. Watts, M.D. "This facility will accelerate advancements in precision medicine, informatics and data sciences as we gain greater understanding of the roles our genes and the environment play in major human diseases."

UAB Senior Vice President of Medicine and School of Medicine Dean Selwyn Vickers, M.D., estimates the building will support more than 50 additional leading researchers and 300 research support staff, and an increase of $75 million-$85 million in research funding.

"The facility will be pivotal to recruiting and retaining high-level researchers," Vickers said. "We are already on the leading edge, but this facility will increase our competitive advantage in supporting researchers who will bolster our local economy."

UAB leaders say areas of focus will change over time; however, initial programs will include cancer research, neuroscience research, rehabilitation medicine and pediatric research, as well as research into the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the new collaborations will include clinicians serving on the front lines of patient care and enhance translational health initiatives already active at UAB.

"Genomic medicine — personalized medicine — is the future of health care," said Finis St. John, chancellor of the UA System. "State funding will allow UAB to create a state-of-the-art genomic medicine facility in Birmingham and advance the university's leadership role in a field that promises to revolutionize health care through its focus on a patient's genetic makeup.

"In addition to the governor's foresight and dedication to this project, this transformational project would not have been possible without the support of our elected leaders and a generous gift from the Altec/Styslinger Foundation."

UAB's Associate Dean for Genomic Medicine, Bruce Korf, M.D., Ph.D., says this is the golden age for genomics and precision medicine.

"Genomics has emerged as a major driving force in biomedical research," Korf said. "Every cell contains genetic information, so genomics cuts across every aspect of medicine and has relevance to all areas of health and disease."

Korf says the strength of a building dedicated to genomics and data sciences is that it reaches across scientific disciplines and links researchers from different fields who share a common interest in genomics. Collaboration among scientists with different backgrounds and approaches has great potential to yield significant results.

"Genomic approaches have provided powerful tools to diagnose — and recently even to treat — rare disorders due to changes in individual genes," Korf said. "We are now able to extend this analysis to understand the genomic underpinnings of common disorders such as diabetes and heart disease. The promise of this building, and of the work that will take place within it, is to employ genomics to bring new knowledge of disease risk, and new strategies for prevention and treatment of both rare and common diseases."

UAB is a recognized leader in genomic and precision medicine. The School of Medicine and the Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology partnered to create the Center for Genomic Medicine in 2014 with the primary mission of conducting research and facilitating translation of research findings into clinical practice.

UAB also established the Hugh Kaul Precision Medicine Institute and the UAB Informatics Institute in 2014.

In 2017, UAB and HudsonAlpha received state funding to launch the Alabama Genomic Health Initiative, one of the nation's first statewide efforts to harness the power of genomic analysis to help identify those at high risk for a genetic disease and provide a basis for continuing research into genetic contributors to health and disease.

The following year, UAB joined the National Institutes of Health All of Us Research Program as the lead institution of the Southern



UAB

The Altec Styslinger Genomic Medicine and Data Sciences Building will help cement UAB's place as a leading research institution in genomic and precision medicine.

All of Us network. All of Us, a momentous effort to advance individualized prevention, treatment and care for people of all backgrounds, will gather genomic and other data over time from more than 1 million people living in the United States, with the ultimate goal of accelerating research and improving health.

"UAB has assembled a leading team of genomic scientists and researchers in the country," St. John said. "It has the people and potential to attract an even greater team to Alabama to maintain this position of preeminence. UAB is poised to be the leader in this field in the country and the world. This is a project for the future of all residents of Alabama."

"Recognizing this rare opportunity for our state, Chancellor St. John, the University of Alabama System and Board of Trustees made this transformational project a top priority," Watts said. "We share a great appreciation for Governor Ivey's affirmation and visionary leadership, along with that of our Jefferson County legislative delegation led by Senators Jabo Waggoner, Rodger Smitherman and Greg Reed, as well as the Jefferson County Commission and our Birmingham business community. This support will allow UAB and Alabama to be a leader in the future of precision medicine."

The Altec Styslinger Genomic Medicine and Data Sciences Building will house the Hugh Kaul Precision Medicine Institute and the Informatics Institute, along with many of their investigators. The facility will also be home to faculty in translational science and staff from the Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Office of Sponsored Programs.

The new facility will involve renovation of the existing Lyons-Harrison Research Building, 701 19th Street South on the UAB campus. It will encompass 145,000 square feet of new computational research, research support, office, administrative and scientific collaboration and meeting spaces designed to meet the specific needs of genomics and precision medicine investigators and their programs.

Construction costs are $52.1 million, and the total cost of the project will be $75 million.

HOME: Tips and tricks for slow cookers

Mary Leigh Oliver
Contributor



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. – The cool, brisk air settling in can only mean one thing; it's time to pull out the slow cookers! Yes, tis the season for cozy slow cooker creations. However, proper use can help cooks avoid catastrophes.

Janice Hall, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System food safety and quality regional agent, said it is imperative to read the manual before beginning to use the slow cooker. The manual should provide certain guidelines, such as the proper safety, care and cooking suggestions, for their particular slow cooker.

Slow cookers have the reputation of being a "put the food in and leave it" kind of appliance. However, it is important to first read the manufacturer's directions for safe attendance and use of the cooker. Some cookers may be left unattended, while others may need supervision.

It's cooking time

When it's time to cook, start clean. Wash hands, utensils and the slow cooker before handling the food. Also, before cooking, make sure all meats and other ingredients are completely thawed. It is equally as important to preheat the cooker while the food is being prepped.

"Preheating allows the food to have a head start on the cooking process," Hall said.

When choosing which setting to cook on, Hall said people should not cook on the warm setting. This particular setting will not allow temperatures to get high enough to actually cook your food.

"The warm setting is designed to keep your cooked food warm," Hall said.

While the food is cooking, make sure to keep the lid closed. As tempting as it may be to check on the food, opening the lid will allow heat to escape, lowering the temperature by 10 to 15°F each time it's opened. This will substantially increase the overall cooking time.

After successfully cooking the food, cool down leftovers before storing them. Hall recommends dividing the food into smaller portions, using stainless steel containers, and placing these containers into an ice bath. Stir food frequently to distribute the cold temperatures. This will cool the food without having to place it in the fridge warm.

There may be times where something is cooking in a slow cooker and the power goes out.

Hall offers the following recommendations if this happens:

- When no one is home and the power goes out before the meal is done, discard the food even if it looks okay.

- If someone is home and the power goes out before the meal is done, try to continue cooking the food by some other means.

- If the cooking process is completed, the food will remain safe for up to two hours.

Is there anything it can't do?

With what seems like the magic cooking ability of a slow cooker, the question remains; is there anything that can't be cooked in them?

According to Hall, the only thing people should not cook in a slow cooker is large cuts of frozen meats. This is because of the temperature danger zone where bacteria can start to grow.

"Bacteria grows rapidly at temperatures between 70 and 125°F," she said.

Slow cookers cook food at a low temperature over several hours, generally between 170 and 280°F. Therefore, it is essential to thoroughly thaw meats before cooking.

"Cooking frozen meat at a slow rate and temperature can cause bacteria to grow, resulting in a contaminated product," Hall said.

When cooking meats, always check the internal temperature before consuming.

The following are the proper temperatures for some of the meals people commonly cook in a slow cooker:

- roasts of meat – 145 to 160°F

- poultry (chicken, turkey parts and duck) – 165°F

- soups, stews and sauces – 165°F

Cleaning and storing

Again, make sure to check the manual for the best cleaning options for that particular slow cooker. Some inner pots are dishwasher safe, while others may need to be hand-washed.

"Once dried, place the inner pot back into the heating unit and store it with the lid in place," Hall said. "Storing with the lid in place prevents air contaminants from settling in the pot."

More information

Whether you're cooking up a hearty chili or a warm chicken dish, there is almost no way to go wrong with a seasonal slow cooker creation. For more information on food safety this holiday season, visit the Alabama Extension website www.aces.edu.

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 4



On Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, Kathleen Dellaccio, a loving wife and mother of four children, passed away at the age of 70. Kathleen was born Dec. 16, 1949 in Mobile, Alabama to Vernon and Vida Blackwell. She was raised in the Mobile area until seventh grade when her family moved to Atmore, Alabama. It is there that she met her husband Doug Dellaccio, Sr. The couple married in December of 1967. Kathleen and Doug later moved to the Birmingham area where they raised their four children Doug, Jr., Charles, Angela, and Laci. Kathleen's greatest joys centered around being a wife, a mother, and for the last 23 years, a dedicated grandmother. Kathleen instilled a strong foundation of faith in her children. She was a homemaker and a fierce ally for her entire family. Her focus was on raising her children and being the best "Baba" that could have existed. You could find her at many a dance recital or ball field joyfully cheering on her grandchildren. Kathleen is preceded in death by her parents Vernon and Vida Blackwell. Kathleen is survived by her husband Doug Dellaccio, Sr.; her children Doug, Jr. (Nicole) Dellaccio, Charles Dellaccio, Angela Dellaccio, and Laci (Justin) Schuman; her grandchildren Douglas III and Elise Dellaccio, Haley, Charlie and Hannah Dellaccio, James and Joseph Greene, and Bailey and Logan Schuman; her siblings Danny Blackwell, Buddy Blackwell, and Shannon Blackwell; and several cousins, nieces and nephews. Due to COVID precautions, the family will hold a private celebration of life for Kathleen at Ridout's Valley Chapel in Homewood, Alabama Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts be made to the UAB Coronavirus Response Support Fund www.uab.edu/fightcovid19/impact/medicine-fund.

A private funeral service for Ronald Gene Rusk, 76, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020 at Emeus Baptist Church with interment in the adjoining cemetery. Revs. Steven Sutter, Lane Sheppard, Paul Cleghorn and Tyler Sheppard will be officiating. The family welcomes everyone to attend the graveside service with military honors for Mr. Rusk. A visitation for the family will be from 1-2 p.m. Everyone is requested to please wear a mask when attending. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Rusk passed away Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at Cullman Regional Hospital. He was born Dec. 31, 1943 to William Troy and Mary Idella Pullen Rusk. He was a longtime member and deacon of Emeus Baptist Church. He was a man that loved everyone, and even people that weren't related to him called him PawPaw Gene. Gene served his country in the United States Army and served in Vietnam. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Bobby Rusk, Joe Rusk, and Carlton Rusk; and sisters Bonnie Cornelius and Birdie Harrison. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Rita Kilpatrick Rusk; daughters Gerrita (Paul) Cleghorn, Ginger (Wayne) Sheppard, and Jarria Rusk; brothers George (Carolyn) Rusk, Rayburn Rusk, Larry Rusk, Buehl (Marvalene) Rusk, and Jerry Rusk; sisters-in-law Betty Rusk and Decca Rusk; grandchildren Nikki Jenkins, Brady (Carley) Cleghorn, Greyson (Dylan) Hand, Tyler Sheppard, and Aubry Cleghorn; great-grandchildren Ezra Jenkins and Everlyn Cleghorn; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Vickie Sue Stromatt, 66, of Double Springs passed away Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at Southern Tennessee Regional Medical Center in Lawrenceburg, TN. She was born July 15, 1954 in Decatur, Illinois to Donald and Daisy Norman Coggins. Vickie enjoyed gardening, baking, crocheting and watching westerns. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Roger Lee Stromatt; and eight siblings Betty Poirier, Daisy Mae Hodges, Leahla Rousseau, Edna "Peggy" Wright, Anne Richard, Martin Wright, Donald Coggins, and David Coggins. Survivors include four children Roger (Tonya) Stromatt, Alicia (Heath) Taylor, Charise Bailey, and Elizabeth (Nathaniel) Godsey; 12 grandchildren Leah Ferrell, Tanisha Taylor, Colby Taylor, Jaden Stromatt, Taylor Lackey, Kayla Stromatt, Mitchell Taylor, Jarett Bailey, Tristan Stromatt, Aubree Bailey, and Olivia Godsey; two great-grandchildren Jace Ferrell and Karter Ferrell; and four siblings Helen (James) Grabney, Faye (Larry) Clark, James (Candace) Wright, and Jayne Allison. A memorial service for Mrs. Stromatt will be announced by Nichols Funeral Home at a later date.

Kenneth Eugene "Bud" Cagle, 81, of Double Springs entered into rest Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at his residence. He was born March 30, 1939 in Double Springs, Alabama. He was a member of Rock Creek Freewill Baptist. He loved to coon hunt in his younger days and loved caring for his farm animals, goats and dogs. He enjoyed working in the woods and drinking coffee. Visitation will be Friday, Dec. 4, 2020 from 5-7 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs, where the service will be Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at noon. Burial will follow in Shady Grove Cemetery. Bud is survived by his wife Erma Estelle Cagle; sons Silas Darrell (Deborah) Cagle, Bradford Doyle Cagle, Darrick Eugene Cagle, and Darry Lee Cagle; daughter Tina Elaine (William) Bailey; sister Mary Lou Borden; 14 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; special friend Homer Rice; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Silas Murphy Cagle and Willie Mae Bobo Cagle; son Kenneth O'Dell Cagle; brother Benjamin Murphy "Benny" Cagle; sister Evey Mae Cagle; and a great-grandson Adanias O'Dell Cagle.

William Floyd "W.F." Bailey II, 77, of Double Springs entered into rest Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at Walker Baptist Medical Center. He was born Sept. 14, 1943. W.F. was born and raised in Double Springs and was very fond of his hometown. Kindhearted and a loyal friend, he was well liked by everyone who knew him. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening and spent a lot of time in the woods. He was very big on family and was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Graveside services will be Friday, Dec. 4, 2020 at 1pm at Double Springs Memorial Cemetery. Brother Shawn Blanton will officiate. W.F. is survived by his wife of 54 years, Delores Ann Street Bailey; daughter Elizabeth Bailey Rogers; son William "Bill" Bailey III; granddaughters Krista Suzanne Rogers and Aubree Elizabeth Bailey; grandson Jarett Chance Bailey; great-grandson Hunter Kole Patterson; son-in-law Steve D. Rogers; sister Joan Bailey Franks; and brother Robert F. Bailey. He was preceded in death by his parents Floyd and Alice Hood Bailey; his son William Anthony Bailey; and sisters Betty Bailey Pollard and Shirley Bailey Gilbreath.

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Shooting (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. – A juvenile was transported to an area hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries following what authorities are calling an accidental shooting inside a residence near Holly Pond Thursday afternoon.

"I can confirm that it was a juvenile. It was ruled an accident," said Cullman County Sheriff's Office Communications Director Chad Whaley. "There's no criminal charges pending."

Whaley said the weapon was fired by another juvenile in the home.

The sheriff's office did not release the ages or any other information about the two juveniles.







