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– LOCAL GOVERNMENT –

## Holly Pond council votes to move ahead with tornado siren repair



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Members of the Holly Pond Town Council are seen Monday night, Dec. 7, 2020.*

» PAGE 6

– EDUCATION –

# Library wishes granted

### Vinemont school librarian receives two grants for new books




CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Vinemont Middle School Librarian Danielle Partain poses for a photo at school this week with some of the new books she was able to purchase thanks to two grants.*

**Christy Perry**
christy@cullmantribune.com

**VINEMONT, Ala.** – The students at Vinemont Middle School have new books in their school library to enjoy, thanks to two grants totaling close to $3,500 awarded to Librarian Danielle Partain.

Partain received a Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant and the Cullman Electric Cooperative Operation Round-Up Grant.

"The Dollar General grant was a process that I actually started last year, but then when COVID hit in March, it kind of delayed everything," she said. "It was about literacy and about improving reading for students and it was to help me, besides getting books on levels that children can read to match their reading levels, it also allowed me to buy teacher resource books and items to help do one-on-one reading awareness with students. I do a lot of one-on-one activities with my students who struggle with reading."

The Dollar General grant focuses on literacy and helping the struggling reader. This helped Partain purchase some special resources and activities for students with dyslexia or who struggle with reading.

"They (Dollar General) have always been great if it pertains to literacy," she said, "because their big thing is helping a child to read and literacy."

Of the Operation Round-Up Grant Partain said, "It was basically to help replace all the books that we were not able to receive back from COVID because a lot of books went home with children, but then getting them to bring them back to put back in inventory was a difficult task for us this year. Rather than stress over it, I wrote a grant to replace and add books."

For school libraries, COVID has

» PAGE 7

# Man killed in afternoon wreck in Jones Chapel

**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmantribune.com

**JONES CHAPEL, Ala.** – A two-vehicle wreck claimed the life of one man Tuesday afternoon in Cullman County.

The incident happened along the 3500 block of County Road 1114 in the Jones Chapel community at approximately 2:30.

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick confirmed the fatality; however, as of press time the victim's identity had not been released.

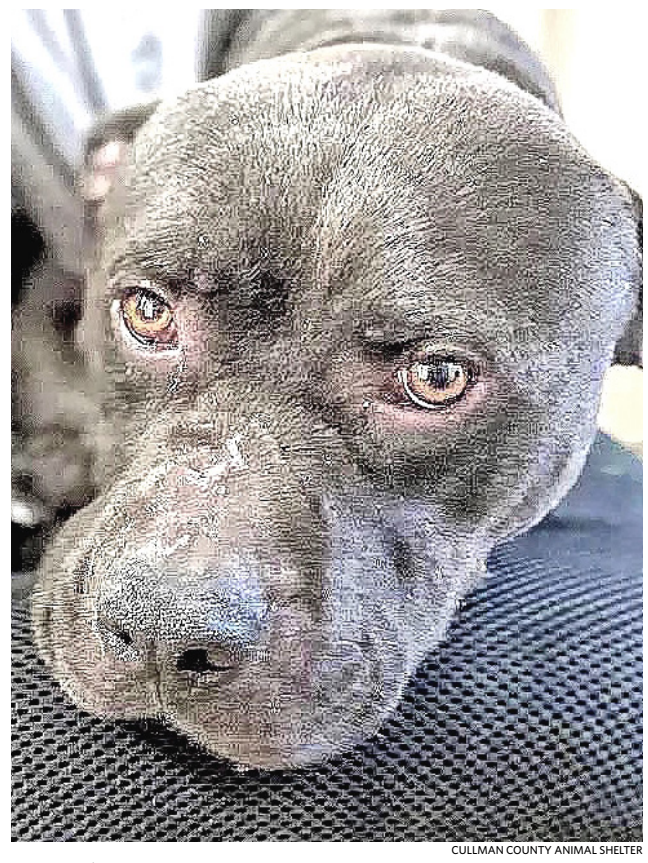
The roadway was closed for more than three hours.

Kilpatrick said the crash involved a pick-up truck and a dump truck. The driver of the dump truck was not injured.

Alabama State Troopers are still investigating. Check www.CullmanTribune.com for the latest.

PET OF THE WEEK

# Say hello to Samuel!



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

*Samuel*

» PAGE 7

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EDUCATION

# Wallace State Future Foundation raises almost $120K for student scholarships

**Gail Crutchfield**
WSCC



WALLACE STATE

***Wallace State Future Foundation supporter Jenny Folsom picks up the meals she ordered at the Student Investment Lunch-In. The annual fundraiser raised almost $120,000 for student scholarships.***

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** – The Wallace State Community College Future Foundation raised almost $120,000 for scholarships thanks to sponsors and donors participating in the annual fundraiser for the scholarships program at the college.

"We are eternally grateful to our community, and the businesses and individuals who understand the difference Wallace State education and training can have on the life of an individual, and that has never been more important than in this year of uncertainty," said Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics. "Thank you, everyone, for your generosity and for opening your hearts to our students. We couldn't be more pleased with the outcome of this year's fundraiser."

The modified Student Investment Lunch-In took the place of the annual Student Investment Luncheon usually held in the Traditions Bank Arena at the Tom Drake Coliseum with an attendance of around 600.

It was instead held at the new Traditions Bank Operation Center in Cullman, with participants driving through to pick up meals catered by Seasoned Catering and the Historic Bakery.

About 200 meals were pre-ordered for pick-up by about 30 different sponsors from area business and industry as well as individuals.

Another 150 or so meals were pre-ordered for delivery over the next two weeks to Legacy, Gold and Premier sponsors.

"We really didn't know what to expect today, but we've been pleasantly surprised with the support," Suzanne Harbin, Vice President for Advancement and Innovation, told a local reporter the day of the event. "Bottom line, we have great supporters who believe in what we're doing, which is to support Wallace State students and provide scholarships to them so that they can continue their education, start their education or finish their education."

The Foundation assists students in many ways, from small gifts that help a student pay for the gas they need to get back and forth to campus and purchase food to larger scholarships that help pay for tuition, fees, books, supplies and more.

An online auction was held in conjunction with the Lunch-In, replacing the live and silent auction normally held at the luncheon, bringing in more than $8,000. Many items were donated by sponsors to be placed in the auction.

Lion Leaders, a group of students who have received scholarships from the Future Foundation, were on hand to assist with the event. They explained to the reporter how that has helped them in their education and careers.

"Without the scholarship from the Future Foundation, I probably wouldn't be able to go to college," said Noa Dia, a sophomore Computer Science major. "It's been a real blessing. Thank you so much."

"Because of the Future Foundation I was able to continue pursuing my college education," said Ernie Pantoja, a freshman Business Management major. "I'm so grateful and thankful."

Haley Self-Tumlin was able to complete two degrees at Wallace State with the help of the Future Foundation. She first earned a degree in Engineering Technology and most recently completed a degree in Building Construction.

"The ability to complete both degrees has given me the opportunity to already be hired by an architectural firm in Cullman," she said.

"So, I'm blessed by not just getting money to complete my degrees, but the degrees that I was able to get with your support led to an amazing lifelong career. Thank you so much!"

Applications for students seeking scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year will be open from Jan. 6-March 5.

For information about scholarships, contact Cherie Smith at 256-352-8046 or cherie.smith@wallacestate.edu.

The Future Foundation will gladly accept donations. Donors can choose to give to the general fund or choose a specific scholarship fund.

For more information, visit www.wsccfuturefoundation.org or call 256-352-7842.

CRIME

# Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 8

**Cullman Tribune staff**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 8, 2020. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

**CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

No incidents or arrests reported.

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INCIDENTS**

**Dec. 4**

- first-degree criminal trespassing; person; 6th Ave. SW

**Dec. 7**

- fraudulent use of a credit or debit card; person; miscellaneous charges
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; Olive St. SW; damage to '15 Toyota Corolla; $1,000

**ARRESTS**

**Dec. 7**

**Oden, Arthur J., 62**

- FTA- leaving the scene of an accident

**Maddox, Dusty G., 35**

- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- DUI- controlled substance

**Myers, Jonathan E., 43**

- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

**Smith, Richard C., 59**

- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

**Elms, Roena R., 45**

- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property (2 counts)
- FTA- running a stop sign
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- expired tag

**HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**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**

- 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
- Dec. 23, 7 p.m. Candle Lighting & Communion Service by Pastor Bobby Dodd. Everyone welcome!

**Church Services- St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

- Advent Season will be highlighted at St. Paul's Lutheran Church during weekly evening prayer services held every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. The focus of the readings will be chapters 47, 48 and 49 from the prophecy of Isaiah.
- St. Paul's Christmas Eve services are scheduled for 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. The service of lessons and carols will begin at 6 p.m. and feature talents and voices from Sunday school students, members of the Senior Choir, the Hand Bell Choir and a chamber ensemble from St. Paul's and the community featuring woodwinds, brass and percussion. The 11 p.m. service will feature carols and candlelight in the Divine Service. Divine Service will begin at 9 a.m. Christmas morning.
- All are welcome to join in these celebrations at 513 Fourth Ave. SE in Cullman.

**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. 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. The Cullman County Commission will hand out candy to seniors Dec. 18-19.
- 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. 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 through Dec. 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/4DFarm.

**37th Annual Cullman Band Christmas Concert (Virtual)**

- Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 at 7 p.m. The Combined CHS Symphonic and Concert Bands, the CHS Percussion Ensemble and the CHS Jazz Band will perform.
- Although parents and guests will not be able to attend this year's concert in person, everyone can watch the event using this live stream link www.nfhsnetwork.com/events/cullman-high-school-cullman-al/evt21ba945edf.

**Wallace State Christmas Spectacular Concert (Virtual)**
Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 from 7-9 p.m. Wallace State Community College's Fine and Performing Arts program will present "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" as its annual Christmas Spectacular concert with a virtual event via its Facebook page at https://bit.ly/2JHxTpR.

**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.

**(Drive-Thru) Baileyton Christmas Party**

- The Town of Baileyton's annual Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 12 from 5-7 p.m. in a true 2020 fashion- a drive-thru.
- Traditionally the community gathers at the town's community center, but this year the event will take place next door at the Baileyton Volunteer Fire Department.
- Town council members have teamed up with the Baileyton VFD once again to give back to the community any way they can while still adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. They will be giving out hamburgers, hotdogs, fruit and candy.
- The tradition of raffling large stuffed animals will continue. Town Clerk Pat Gilbert said, "This year, we'll just have to call the winners."

**Santa in Garden City**

- Friday, Dec. 18 at noon at Dollar General in Garden City
- He's going to be checking who's been naughty and nice and letting everyone get a picture with him! Cause who wouldn't want a picture with Santa!! We all hope to see you there! Look for the big red engines!

**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.

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**Nick Griffin -VarsitySports Editor**
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**Howard Cole - Photojournalist**
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**Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist**

AGRICULTURE

# Cullman's Haynes re-elected State Women's Leadership Committee vice chair

## Alabama Farmers Federation holds 99th annual meeting

**Debra Davis**
Contributor

Still farming. That was the theme of the Alabama Farmers Federation's 99th annual meeting in Montgomery Dec. 6-7 where members of the state's largest farm organization gathered to elect leaders, discuss policy and chart a path into the next century.

COVID-19 brought many changes to the meeting. Programs were shortened, members practiced social distancing and wore protective masks, however, Federation business continued in many ways as it has for nearly a century.

"I love what I do, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you," said Federation President Jimmy Parnell, who was re-elected to his fifth two-year term.

"Parnell praised the work of farmers who persevered through a pandemic, trade wars and storms in 2020.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall attended the meeting and echoed Parnell's remarks.

"We want to let the general public know we're still farming and let them know the challenges the pandemic has brought," Duvall said.

"We want them to know how wonderful it is to live in a country with food security because of what you do each day."

In addition to elections for Federation state officers and board members, elections also were held for the Women's Leadership and Young Farmers state committees.

Outstanding county Federation boards, committees and individual leaders were recognized during the conference as were new and outgoing county Federation presidents.

Individual Leader Awards were presented to those instrumental in establishing or supporting county-level programs.

Those included Young Farmer Award - Abby Stewart of Clay County, Chris and Jordyn Upchurch of Clay County, and Andrew Pinyan, St. Clair County; Women's Leadership Award - Faye Dial of Clay County, and Emily Taylor of St. Clair County; Commodity Division Award - Hobert Harris (posthumously) of Cleburne County; Public Relations and Communications Award - Brooks Wall, Shelby County; Local and Community Service Award - Jan Parker of St. Clair County and Jerry Mobley of Winston County. Jimmy Jimmerson of Cleburne County was recognized with the Senior Leader Award for service to agriculture, his community and the Federation.

Thirty-six counties were recognized with a County Award of Excellence for Federation activities. They were Baldwin, Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Choctaw, Clay, Coffee, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dale, DeKalb, Elmore, Fayette, Franklin, Henry, Houston, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lee, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, Tallapoosa and Winston counties.

In the Women's Leadership Division, four county organizations were honored for outstanding work for the past year. Those were: Region 1, Marion County; Region 2, Jefferson County; Region 3, Clarke County; and Region 4, Barbour County.

Other special events were held during the conference, including a tribute breakfast to honor Federation leaders who passed away in 2020.

In the opening general session of the meeting, Bill Alverson, former assistant dean of the Auburn University College of Agriculture received the Service To Agriculture Award, the highest honor given by the Federation.

Young Farmer contestants and winners were announced and recognized during the annual meeting. Winners will represent Alabama in contests with other state young farmer winners at the National Young Farmers & Ranchers competition during the American Farm Bureau Federation's virtual convention Jan. 8-14.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of plans for the organization's centennial celebration that will culminate at the Federation's 100th annual meeting Dec. 5-6, 2021 in Montgomery.



ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION

*Lydia Haynes of Cullman County was re-elected vice chair of the Alabama Farmers Federation State Women's Leadership Committee during the Alabama Farmers Federation 99th annual meeting in Montgomery Dec. 6. She was also re-elected to represent Region 1, which includes Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan and Winston counties.*

HEALTH

# Deaths due to mitral valve disease in U.S. increased in last 6 years, after 14 years of continuous decline

**Adam Pope**
Contributor

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** – A new study published in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings by University of Alabama at Birmingham researchers shows that deaths related to mitral regurgitation, a common disease of heart valves, are now increasing since 2012 after showing an initial decline between 1999 and 2012. The death rates were highest among women, older individuals (≥85 years), Black individuals, and those living in the non-metropolitan regions and in the western United States.

Vibhu Parcha, M.D., a clinical research fellow in the UAB Division of Cardiovascular Disease, says this study was an extensive surveillance exercise at a national level to look into the implications of advancements in the treatment of mitral regurgitation, a common heart valve disease. Mitral regurgitation is frequently seen in up to 10% of individuals more than 75 years of age and is associated with a high risk of mortality due to cardiovascular causes.

Parcha and his investigative team analyzed the nationwide mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's mortality database. This database registers the cause-specific mortality data for all Americans. This study by UAB researchers identified some key temporal changes and areas of inequities and disparities in deaths due to mitral regurgitation valve disease.

"We found that, in the last two decades, there was a decline in deaths due to mitral regurgitation until 2012 at approximately 4% per annum," Parcha said. "However, since 2012 there has been a concerning increase in the mortality rate at approximately 1.5% per annum. Overall, we found that women, older persons, those from racial minorities and those living in non-metropolitan areas disproportionately bear the mortality burden of this common heart condition."

Parcha added that improvements in surgical techniques, availability of minimally invasive surgical procedures and adherence to guideline-directed medical therapy may have contributed to the declining mortality.

"The recent increase in the death rates could be due to increased recognition of the disease, overall aging of the U.S. population and plausible contributions by valve diseases following increasing drug abuse," he said.

"The increase seen in the last five years could be due to the increased availability of advanced heart imaging modalities that allow us to detect this disease early," said Garima Arora, M.D., who is a senior author on this investigation.

"Resultantly, more deaths may have been attributed to this condition than what was previously recognized. Our study has found some important areas of disparities, such as that evident among women and those from racial minorities. These warrant our attention and further investigation. UAB's Cardiovascular Institute caters to the needs of patients with heart valve diseases, including mitral regurgitation, in Alabama and the surrounding states. Our excellent team of cardiologists, surgeons and caregivers provide comprehensive care for our valve disease patients."

The UAB Cardiovascular Institute provides a broad spectrum of health care services for people with all types of heart disease in the southeastern United States. UAB Cardiology has set the standards in the field by providing patient care by compassionate, patient-centered and clinically advanced physicians and staff.

"While this is an important nationwide surveillance study of mitral regurgitation mortality, there are some limitations, such as the dependence on ICD-10 codes in the death certificates to capture the disease mortality," said senior author Pankaj Arora, M.D., a physician-scientist in UAB's Division of Cardiovascular Disease. "Hence, we could not identify the exact etiology, the severity of the disease and the kind of treatment received by the people who died due to mitral regurgitation in the U.S. in the last 20 years. Despite these limitations, this is the largest surveillance study of mitral regurgitation mortality in the U.S."

COURTS

# Former Limestone Co. district judge sentenced to 4 years for ethics, exploitation, theft

**Joy Patterson**
Contributor

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** – Attorney General Steve Marshall on Tuesday announced that former Limestone County district judge Douglas Lee Patterson has been sentenced to serve four years in prison. Patterson pleaded guilty Oct. 30 to three felony charges: use of official position or office for personal gain, financial exploitation of the elderly in the first degree, and theft of property in the third degree.

For each of the counts of ethics violation and financial exploitation, Patterson was sentenced today to 16 years, which was split for him to serve four years in prison followed by six years of supervised probation.

Patterson is required to serve all of the four years in prison, and if he fails to abide by the terms of probation, he could be ordered to serve the remainder of the 16 years in prison.

For the third count of theft, he was sentenced to two years. All of the sentences run concurrently.

He also was ordered to pay restitution totaling $72,822 to his victims.

"It is fitting that Patterson has received a stern sentence for his crimes and that we have brought a measure of justice for his victims," said Marshall.

"He betrayed the citizens of Limestone County and exploited those who trusted him, stealing from the most vulnerable among us—children, the disabled and the elderly.

"This sentence serves to restore the public confidence in our judicial system and sends a strong warning that such despicable actions will not be tolerated, and all will be held equally to account under the law."

FBI Birmingham Special Agent in Charge Johnnie Sharp Jr., said, "Everyone, even judges, are subject to the rule of law.

"The sentence handed down today demonstrates the FBI's firm commitment to work with our law enforcement partners to address public corruption at every level and hold public officials accountable when they violate the law, their oath of office and the public's trust."

As part of Patterson's plea agreement, he admitted to violating his oath of office and Alabama law by stealing $47,800 from the Limestone County Juvenile Court Services Fund which was designated to support the children of Limestone County.

As Limestone County's juvenile court judge, Patterson could and did impose supervision fees in certain juvenile cases, which he later stole and used for his own personal benefit.

By the time Patterson's actions were discovered, he had emptied the juvenile account.

Patterson also admitted in court that, while serving as a private attorney, he financially exploited Charles Lee Hardy, for whom he served as a court-appointed conservator.

Hardy, who died in December 2015, was a disabled military veteran living in a nursing home.

Patterson disregarded his obligation to protect Hardy's finances and instead plundered his account by taking Hardy's money and spending it on himself.

By the time Hardy died, Patterson had emptied his account and left his family nothing to inherit from the account.

Finally, Patterson admitted that he stole from another conservatorship client, Rudolph Allen, while in private practice.

In this case, Patterson stole $601 from Allen three years after he died in July 2015.

Patterson spent the money on himself rather than turn it over to Allen's family.

Marshall thanked the Birmingham Division/ Huntsville Resident Agency of the FBI for partnering with his Special Prosecutions Division to investigate this matter.

Attorney General Marshall also thanked Presiding Circuit Court Judge Robert Baker of the Limestone County Circuit Court as well as the other employees of the Limestone County judiciary for their assistance and cooperation in this matter.

He commended the attorneys and Special Agents of the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Division for their outstanding work to achieve this conviction.

## COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 229,007* (+3,218 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 47,658* (+1,218 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 3,496 (+31 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 446
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 3,814* (+148 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 1,485* (+81 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 44 (+2 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 12
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 27,622
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,758
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,097
- Total tested in Alabama: 1,664,090
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 40,405
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 120,183
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 2,097
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 27,323
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 168,387

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

*** Important Notice (12/08/20):**
The Alabama Department of Public Health processed two backlogs totaling 1,038 positive PCR results and 473 positive antigen results from two facilities on December 7. These will be classified as 1038 confirmed cases and 473 probable cases reported on 12/08/20 even though the tests were performed during November 30 through December 5, 2020. All laboratories are required by law to report all results (including positive and negative results) for SARS-CoV-2 to ADPH. Delays in reporting by required reporters is not within control of ADPH. Processing the backlog will not impact the ADPH COVID-19 Risk Indicator Dashboard. Please see Tab 7A: Daily Number and 7-Day Moving Average of Cases by Infectious Date to see cases by their infectious date and not the date reported.

**Friday, Dec. 4, 2020 update from Cullman Regional**
The hospital reported 54 positive COVID patients, with 9 on ventilators.

**Friday, Dec. 4, 2020 COVID-19 update from Alabama's K-12 COVID-19 School Dashboard**
- Total cases reported by Cullman City Schools last week: 16
- Total cases reported by Cullman County Schools last week: unreported

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

# 9 Alabama football players named semifinalists for national awards

**UA Athletics**
rolltide.com

**TUSCALOOSA, Ala.** – Alabama football had nine players selected to 11 different semifinalist lists as awards season begins.

The Crimson Tide's list of semifinalists includes: Landon Dickerson (Outland); Christian Harris (Butkus); Najee Harris (Doak Walker, Maxwell); Mac Jones (Davey O'Brien, Johnny Unitas Golden Arm, Maxwell); Alex Leatherwood (Outland); Dylan Moses (Lott); Will Reichard (Groza); DeVonta Smith (Biletnikoff, Maxwell); and Patrick Surtain II (Bednarik, Lott, Thorpe). In addition, Crimson Tide head coach Nick Saban was named as a semifinalist for the George Munger Award, presented annually to the nation's top head coach.

**Landon Dickerson**
**Outland**

- Rated as the No. 1 overall run-blocking center by Pro Football Focus with a 91.3 grade
- Also ranked as the No. 3 overall center by PFF at 89.9
- Graded out at 99.6 percent on all assignments while maintaining a 91.1 grade from the Alabama coaching staff
- Played 583 total snaps with just two missed assignments and only one quarterback pressure allowed

**Christian Harris**
**Butkus**

- Paces the Crimson Tide defense in tackles with 64, including a team-high 43 solo stops
- Ranks second on UA in quarterback hurries with six and is third in sacks at 2.5 (-20 yards)
- Added five tackles for loss (-23 yards) to go with two pass breakups

**Najee Harris**
**Doak Walker | Maxwell**

- Leads the nation in total touchdowns (20), rushing touchdowns (20) and scoring (120)
- Third nationally in forced missed tackles (64) while sitting at fourth in both rushing yards (1,038) and scoring per game (13.3)
- Totaled two or more rushing touchdowns in six of nine contests with at least one score in eight games this season
- Ranks third in Alabama history for single-season rushing touchdowns with 20 this season and is fourth for career rushing scores at 40

**Mac Jones**
**Davey O'Brien | Johnny Unitas Golden Arm | Maxwell**

- One of college football's top passers who leads the nation in seven separate categories including total QBR, PFF offensive grade for a quarterback, adjusted completion percentage, completion percentage, NFL passer rating, collegiate pass efficiency rating and yards per pass attempt
- Thrown for the most passing yards (3,113) and holds the highest completion percentage (75.7) by an Alabama quarterback through the first nine games of a season
- Totaled 13 touchdowns and 1,154 yards with a 232.75 passer rating against ranked opponents (Texas A&M, Georgia, Auburn)

**Alex Leatherwood**
**Outland**

- Made 37 consecutive starts along the Alabama offensive line
- Played 539 snaps and missed only two assignments
- Averaging an overall blocking grade of 90.8 by the Alabama coaching staff and has graded out at a team-high tying 99.6 on all assignments

**Dylan Moses**
**Lott**

- The leader of the Crimson Tide defense
- Paces UA in assisted tackles (27) while ranking second in total tackles (59) and third in solo stops (32)
- Added 5.5 tackles for loss (-30) to go with an interception and two pass breakups

**Will Reichard**
**Groza**

- Tied for the national lead in consecutive made field goals with 11 dating back to last season
- Owns a perfect field goal percentage to tie for the lead in Division I
- Has gone 69-of-69 on all kicks, including 10 made field goals and 59 consecutive PATs



UA ATHLETICS

***Nine Alabama football players have been named semifinalists for several national awards.***

- Also contributing on kickoffs, totaling 2,038 yards on 36 boots with seven touchbacks

**DeVonta Smith**
**Biletnikoff | Maxwell**

- The national leader in receiving touchdowns (15), receiving yards (1,305) and yards after the catch (677)
- Pro Football Focus' top-rated wide receiver this season and in the history of the site at 94.9
- Ranks second in the Alabama single-season ranks for receiving scores while sitting at third in the Tide record books for receptions (80) and receiving yards
- Totaled four 200-plus yard receiving games for his career, including two this season, to set the Alabama career mark

**Patrick Surtain II**
**Bednarik | Lott | Thorpe**

- Rated as the nation's top corner and No. 7 overall defender by Pro Football Focus
- Maintains a coverage grade of 88.1 according to PFF, the third-best grade in the country
- Allowed 25 yards receiving or fewer in eight of the Tide's nine games this season
- Targeted just 36 times all season and allowed only 14 completions (1.56 cpg) and 156 yards (17.3 ypg)

Finalists for awards will be announced in the coming weeks.

Get all the latest information on the team by following @AlabamaFTBL on Twitter and Facebook and AlabamaFBL on Instagram. General athletic news can also be found at UA_Athletics on Twitter and Instagram and AlabamaAthletics on Facebook.

# 4 score in double-figures in UAB's 77-55 victory over Troy

**Ted Feeley**
UAB Athletics

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** – Trey Jemison tied his career-high with 13 points and pulled down 10 rebounds in UAB's 77-55 victory over Troy on Sunday afternoon at Bartow Arena. The Blazers (4-0) are off to their best start since the 2008-09 season. That team also began the season 4-0.

Tavin Lovan scored a game-high 18 points on 7-of-10 shooting and Michael Ertel added 17 points, making 6-of-12 shots. Kassim Nicholson led all players with a career-high 11 rebounds. Quan Jackson scored 13 points and added three steals.

Troy's Zay Williams scored a team-high for 17 for the Trojans (1-3). The Blazers came out of the gates scoring the game's first 11 points. The UAB defense forced 10 straight Troy misses from the field and a pair of turnovers before the Trojans got on the scoreboard at the 14:55 mark of the 1st half.

The Blazers would see a 17-point lead twice in the first half and would lead by double-figures from 4:39 mark to the end of the contest.

Ertel's 3-pointer at 15:05 of the 2nd half sandwiched between Jackson's dunk and layup put UAB up 53-31 and gave the Blazers their first 20-point lead of the contest.

Less than two minutes later, Tyreek Scott-Grayson's free throws made the score 57-32 and gave the Blazers their largest lead of the game at 25 points. Tobias Rotegaard's 3-pointer with 53 seconds remaining also put UAB ahead by 25.

"I thought we really defended well," said head coach Andy Kennedy. "With Troy's recent travel schedule, we wanted to apply pressure and through it would be problematic. Defensively I thought we were outstanding."

The Blazers held the Trojans to 30.5% shooting and held leading scorer Kam Woods (14.0 ppg) to just five points on 1-of-10 shooting. This was also the fourth consecutive game that the Blazers' defense held the opponent under 40% from the field.

"I'm pleased with the 22-point win. I'm pleased we've gotten off 4-0 and we are looking forward to try and build on that Wednesday night."

UAB will host Mobile (4-4) at Bartow on Dec. 9. Additionally, the Rams, who are an NAIA program, have also played three Division I games against South Alabama, Florida Atlantic and Jacksonville State, which do not count towards their regular season record. Tipoff is at 6:30 p.m.

**GAME NOTES**

- The two other UAB squads that began 4-0 were the teams in 2004-05 and 1983-84
- Nicholson's previous career rebounding high was nine on Nov. 11, 2019 against Alabama A&M
- This is Jemison's second straight double-double game – he had 13-and-14 against Kennesaw State on Dec. 2
- Four Blazers players were over a +20: Ertel (+28), Jackson (+26), Jemison (+24) and Nicholson (+22)
- Kennedy is 29-2 all-time against Sun Belt teams and is 6-0 against Troy
- UAB improves to 12-1 against Troy and was their second biggest margin of victory over the Trojans – UAB defeated Troy by 23 on Nov. 17, 2016, 74-51



UAB ATHLETICS

***UAB's Tavin Lovan (3) put up a game-high 18 points in the Blazers' 77-55 win over Troy Sunday.***

# 'Never give up': Brodarious Hamm wins James Owens Courage Award

**Jeff Shearer**
AU Athletics

**AUBURN, Ala.** – His grandmother's words inspire Brodarious Hamm to persevere, no matter the obstacle. God gives his toughest battles to His strongest warriors, she told him.

Brodarious Hamm knows about tough battles. He survived cancer as a teenager, only to experience an even more devastating loss, the death of his son, Karter, in February.

Through it all, he became Auburn's starting right tackle, inspiring teammates with his fortitude.

Before Auburn's final home game Saturday, Hamm received the James Owens Courage Award, presented annually to a current or former Tiger football player who has displayed courage in the face of adversity, distinguishing himself while contributing to the betterment of Auburn University,

"It meant a lot to me," Hamm said. "I'm very thankful for Auburn University picking me to receive the award. I'm just thankful that my coaches and my peers see me in that way. That's how I try to carry myself. "

"He's a wonderful human being who's faced major adversity whether it's been cancer when he first got here, or losing his child, which was unbelievably hard," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said. "For him to battle – he's one of our starters, he's one of our leaders, he's respected by every one of his teammates. I can't say enough good things about Brodarious Hamm and how deserving he is of this award."

Auburn team chaplain Rev. Chette Williams officiated the memorial service for 3-month-old Karter Hamm, who passed away unexpectedly in February.

"I love Brodarious tremendously and his family is so sweet," said Williams, the 2018 recipient of the James Owens Courage Award. "During the tragedy, we got really close.

"It's been tremendous for me to watch his matriculation from when he first got here, knowing he couldn't even go out on the field. To see his fortitude in continuing on and not giving up, that's courage in itself.

"Knowing it was going to take two years for him to even get on the field. On top of that, for him to do the rehab, the physical work on and off the field. He was just amazing. I've never seen anything like it, plus going through radiation treatments and then coming out here.

"On top of that, last year for the tragedy to hit his family and for him to bounce back the way he has and now become one of the premier tackles in the SEC, it's a huge, huge accomplishment, not only for him but for his wife and his family."

Diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma two weeks after signing with Auburn in 2016, Brodarious credits his faith and his wife, Kayla, for helping him endure.

"We're strong together," he said. "She was there for me and I'm there for her, still to this day. We pick each other up. She was there through everything, chemo, then our son passing. She's a strong woman. I'm thankful that God put her in my life.

"I'm a big family guy. I give all thanks to God. Through my faith, my grandma, she's always told me to put God first in everything you do, and He'll never let you down."

Brodarious and Kayla welcomed daughter Kalani Grace on Nov. 29, bringing anew to their home the joy the Hamms felt last year when Karter was born.

"He opened my eyes to a lot," Hamm said. "You wouldn't think you could love a person so much to bend over backwards for him. Even though he wasn't here that long, I just felt different."

Brodarious Hamm learned of the courage of James Owens, Auburn's first Black football player, from his friend and teammate James Owens Moss, the grandson of James Owens.

Like the namesake of the award he received, Brodarious encourages others to press on.

"I want to tell people to never give up," Hamm said. "Keep believing and chasing your dreams. God has a plan for everyone."



TODD VAN EMST/AU ATHLETICS

***Auburn offensive lineman Brodarius Hamm (56) was presented with this year's James Owens Courage Award before Saturday's game.***

HEALTH

# Alabama reviews 14-day home quarantine for COVID-19 contacts

**Karen Landers, M.D.**
Contributor

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** – The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is working to make the changes in processes to allow for a reduced quarantine period for persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Only the Alabama State Health Officer has the authority to establish state quarantine and isolation requirements.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended two additional options for quarantine and asked states to review their respective COVID-19 situations. In its commitment to protect Alabamians during this pandemic, ADPH is studying the information and supporting documentation to make recommendations specific to Alabama. Record high numbers of new COVID-19 cases, deaths, and hospitalizations have occurred in Alabama this week, requiring ongoing review of what the impact of changes in home quarantine requirements could have in our state.

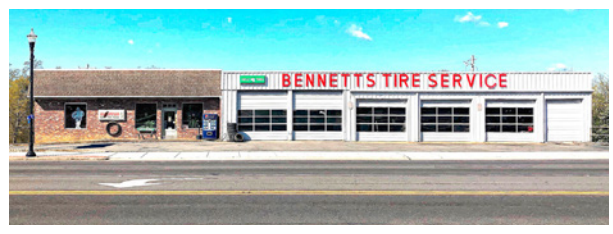
According to CDC, 14 days remains the optimal time for home quarantine, as this time frame covers the broad range of the incubation period for COVID-19. Exercising options for home quarantine of less than 14 days carries attendant risks of disease, especially in Alabama's environment of widespread community transmission, high overall percent positivity, and need to preserve testing capacity for symptomatic and high-risk individuals.

ADPH is working to make the changes needed to allow the release of persons from quarantine at 10 days under certain conditions identified in the CDC's recommendations. CDC's updated guidance requires additional conditions for home quarantine of 10 days which include no COVID-related symptoms, daily self-monitoring for symptoms, and consistent social distancing and mask wearing. This will require ADPH to make changes to current processes which should be finalized before December 11. Even if excused from 14-day quarantine, persons must use extreme caution regarding monitoring for symptoms for the full two weeks and practice mitigation strategies within and beyond the quarantine period. Home quarantine for residents of long-term care and correctional facilities will not change from the current 14-day requirement.

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris said, "While we would like to be able to decrease the home quarantine time frame to seven days for persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19, this is not possible at this time due to a number of reasons including our high case numbers and the disparity in testing resources among different parts of our state. We should not knowingly increase the percentage of possibly infectious asymptomatic persons out and about. Even though there is hope that our first doses of COVID-19 vaccine may arrive in the next two weeks, we are still months away from having enough vaccine to protect everyone. So, ADPH continues to encourage every Alabamian to stay home when possible, and to practice social distancing and wear masks when they must be out. Please protect the most vulnerable people in our state by doing the right things."

For additional information concerning the CDC's quarantine guidance, please go to www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html.

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The Cullman Tribune

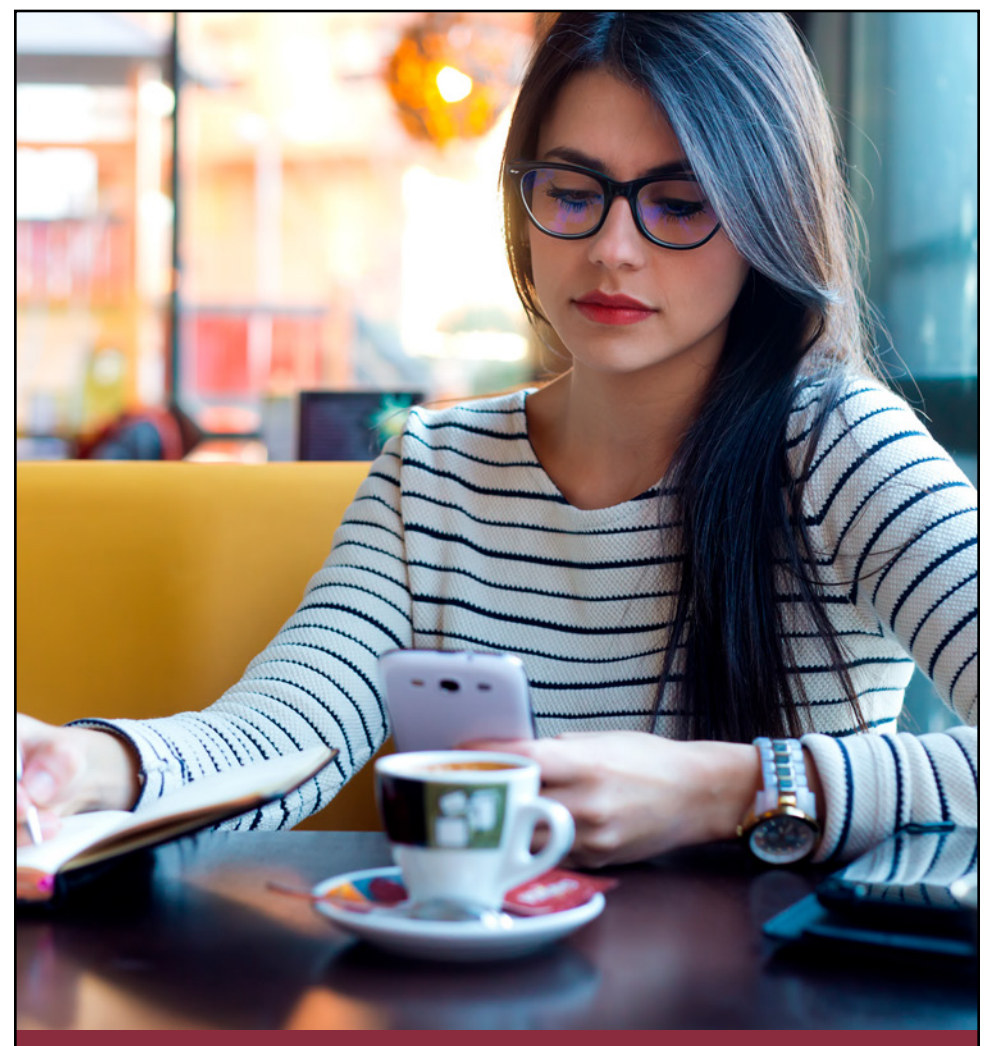
LETTERS TO SANTA

Letters will be published online and many in print

Deadline for print Dec. 18

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HOME

# Poinsettias: Caring for the Christmas flower

**Justin Miller**
Contributor

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala.** – Poinsettias reign supreme as the main flowers of the holiday season. Also known as the Christmas flower, these beautiful plants offer a variety of colors that complement any holiday decorations. During Christmas, red and green poinsettias are the most common. However, there are a wide variety of other colors, including pink, white, orange, marbled, pale green and cream. To keep poinsettias thriving through the holidays, there are few things people must do.

**Choosing the plant**

Chip East, an Alabama Extension commercial horticulture regional agent, said to have a vibrant poinsettia through the season, the first step is choosing the correct plant.

"When picking a poinsettia, choose one with colorful bracts but one that the blooms have not opened," East said.

Bracts are the colorful leaves most people associate with the plant. The actual poinsettia flower is the small green or yellow flower in the center of the bracts. Plants should appear full, with dark green leaves attached from the colored bracts to almost the base of the plant. The leaves should be completely free of disease and insects.

**Care and maintenance**

Poinsettias do not tolerate high moisture or shaded areas. After purchasing, place the poinsettia in a windowsill when possible. They can be moved to areas for display when needed. They thrive in bright sunlight with moderate temperatures no higher than 70 degrees. However, if the sunlight is too direct, the bracts will discolor.

"If a decorative wrap is around the pot, remove the plant from the wrap before watering," East said. "Allow the water to drain before placing the plant back in the wrap."

**Lifespan**

The average lifespan of an attractive poinsettia is about two to four weeks, or with exceptional care, six to eight weeks. However, it is actually a perennial plant that could live for many years. If someone wants to attempt to reflower and maintain their poinsettia, it will need more attention than in the Christmas season.

"Getting a plant to reflower is difficult for the home grower but can be done," East said. "Spending time to reflower a poinsettia would make a home grower appreciate the nursery that originally grew it."

**More information**

For more information on caring for Christmas poinsettias, visit www.aces.edu or contact your county Extension office.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# Holly Pond (from Front)

**Christy Perry**
christy@cullmantribune.com

**HOLLY POND, Ala.** – The residents of Holly Pond will soon have their tornado siren again after the council on Monday night approved the estimated $20,000 cost to repair it. Although the repair was previously approved by Former Mayor Bill Oliver, the cost had not been determined. New Mayor Carla Hart informed the council of the estimated cost Monday. The council approved moving forward, with Councilman Charles Holcomb saying, "I look forward to hearing it."

The council approved the re-appointment of Linda Pope as town clerk. ]

Members of the council had several questions about the town clerk's employment package and felt they needed more time to discuss the subject in detail.

The council will meet Monday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. in to discuss the schedule, pay and other details of the position.

A familiar face was in attendance Monday. Former council member Ricky Carr said he is "happy to be back." Carr, who will be focused on the wastewater treatment plant, was appointed to fill the Place 3 vacancy on the council.

**In old business the council discussed and took the following actions:**

• Lower Bros. Tennis Courts of Birmingham will come look at and give an estimate on the cost of repairing/ resurfacing the town's tennis courts

• Seamless gutters have been added to the senior center as well as some concrete work completed.

**In new business, the council discussed and took the following actions:**

• The council approved Hart to spend up to $3,000 on needed repairs to the Town's bush hog. A new gearbox and blades are needed.

• The council approved the payment of $3998 to Air Med for another year. This covers all residents within the town limits of Holly Pond who would need Air Med in Holly Pond and Cullman County.

• Approval of $100 to People Against a Littered State (PALS)

• Approval of $1,000 donation to Good Samaritan Health Clinic

• Approval of the purchase of 12 new globes for the lamp posts at Danes Statue-cost $347.86

• The council will continue to look into the purchase of new trash cans for Governors Park.

• Approved Town employees to make repairs to the retaining wall at the entrance to the ballpark

• Voted to discontinue the Wi-Fi service at the town's parks when it expires Dec. 31, 2020

• Hired Ann Harris for temporary part-time work at the library when needed

• The requested purchase of new tires for the Ranger truck was tabled.

• The request for a weed-eater with a longer shaft and strap was tabled.

• A one-time pay adjustment in mid-December of $100 was approved for the Town's four employees.

• Approved reimbursing council members for expenses when doing business for the Town.

Hart thanked the Holly Pond Civitans for the donation of $3,333 for the new pavilion at the park. Also, the luminaries will be lit in Governors Park Dec. 12, 2020.

# LEGALS

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF )
LINDA G. CASON, ) CASE NO PC2013-085
Deceased. )

**NOTICE OF HEARING**
**PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT AND**
**AMENDED PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT**

TO: **LOWELL CHAFFIN, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF VIRGINIA CHAFFIN, GLENDEL HALE, BARBARA CROW, SUE HOOD, FRED HALE, RANDY HALE, SANDRA ALLISON MANION, TOMMY HALE, JR., INDIA ALFORD, WANDA MOSLEY AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTEREST PARTIES**

Please take notice that a hearing on the Petition for Final Settlement and Amended Petition for Final Settlement, filed by Kenneth Weldon, Attorney for Sandra Allison Manion, Personal Representative of the Estate of Linda G. Cason, is set for hearing on the **21st day of January, 2021, at 10:00 A.M.**, Before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Done this the 23rd day of November, 2020.

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

**Kenneth Weldon**
Attorney for Personal Representative
1170 County Road 1152
Vinemont, AL 35179

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
RANDY WAYNE POPE, JR.,
Deceased
CASE NO. PC2020-231

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF**
**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Administration of said decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 24th day of November, 2017, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the 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.

**All claims must be filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County.**

**Randy Wayne Pope, Sr.,**
Personal Representative

**C. Blake West**
Attorney for the Petitioner
1701 Main Avenue SW, Suite 5
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper.

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

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JOHN DAVID HANES, DECEASED CASE NO. PC2020-295

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED**
**BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

THE ESTATE OF JOHN DAVID HANES, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Jonathan Scott Hanes and Kristopher Justin Hanes on the 23rd day of November, 2020, by the Honorable 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.

Jonathan Scott Hanes and Kristopher Justin Hanes
Personal Representatives (Administrators)
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail:

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT FOR MONROE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Petitioner,**

**v.** **Docket No: J20-0303**

**JACKIE KENNEDY, and**
**ROCK KENNEDY,**

**Respondents.**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**
**TOBY KENNEDY DOB: 03/06/2006**
**A CHILD UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE**

**ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**

It appearing to the Court from the allegations of the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights, Motion for Service by Publication and Affidavit of Diligent Search that the whereabouts of the Respondent Rock Kennedy is unknown and cannot be ascertained by diligent search, therefore, the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon Rock Kennedy. It is therefore, ORDERED that said Respondent be served by publication of the following Notice for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Cullman Tribune, a newspaper published in Cullman County, Alabama.

It is further ORDERED that if the Respondent Rock Kennedy does not enter an appearance or otherwise Answer the Petition, further personal service or service by further publication shall be dispensed with and service of any future notices, motions, orders or other legal documents in this matter may be made upon the Respondent by filing same with the Monroe County Juvenile Court Clerk, 4500 New Hwy 68, Suite 4, Madisonville, TN 37354.

**NOTICE**

**TO THE RESPONDENT: ROCK ALLEN KENNEDY**

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a Petition against you seeking to terminate forever your parental rights to Toby Kennedy. It appearing that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby **ORDERED** to serve upon Ian McCabe, Attorney for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, 182 Frank L. Diggs, Suite 100, Clinton, Tennessee 37716, Phone No: 865-425-4400, an Answer to the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Tennessee Department of Children's Service, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, which will be 30th day of December 2020, or appear personally in the Juvenile Court of Monroe County, Tennessee, at 4500 New Hwy 68, Suite 4, Madisonville, TN 37354, on the 12th day of March, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., to personally answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights. Failing to appear for the hearing of this date and time, without good cause, will result in the loss of your right to contest the petition to terminate your parental rights to the child(ren) listed above. You may view and obtain a copy of the Petition and any other subsequently filed legal documents at the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office, 4500 New Hwy 68, Suite 4, Madisonville, Tennessee 37354.

ENTERED this 23 day of November, 2020.

DWAINE THOMAS
Juvenile Court Judge

NOTICE

Any appeal of the trial court's final disposition of the complaint or petition for termination of parental rights will be governed by the provisions of Rule 8A, Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure, which imposes special time limitations for the filing of a transcript or statement of the evidence, the completion and transmission of the record on appeal, and the filing of briefs in the appellate court, as well as other special provisions for expediting the appeal. All parties must review Rule 8A, Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure, for information concerning the special provisions that apply to any appeal of this case.

APPROVED FOR ENTRY:
Ian McCabe, BPR #, 028590
Assistant General Counsel
Department of Children's Services
182 Frank L. Diggs Drive, Suite 100
Clinton, TN 37716
Phone: (865) 425-4400

# Samuel (from Front)

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay shares The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week:

Samuel is a 5-year-old Terrier mix. Despite his laid-back pose for the photo, he's a fairly lively medium-energy pet described as "an unassuming fellow who has remarkable social skills."

He has good spatial awareness and is great on his leash. He's patient and calm when in his kennel.

He cherishes time with his people and will be very comfortable sitting in a chair close by.

Samuel has the makings of a good therapy, companion or reading dog.

Samuel's adoption fee is $100 which includes DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, neutering, microchip, free 30-day health insurance policy issued by 24PetWatch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax).

Animal shelter staff and volunteers work with their dogs to make sure they are accustomed to being around people, walking on a leash and practicing good behavior.

Several of the shelter's canine friends have even been "hired" to work as therapy and special needs service dogs.

Please consider adopting, to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.

Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE.

# Granted (from Front)

brought a new set of challenges as books can't be sanitized in the same way other equipment can. The excitement of going to the library and searching the shelves and thumbing through the books in hopes of finding a great read can't happen. Partain has been creative while trying to make sure her students are staying excited about reading.

She explained, "I go into the classroom a lot with the students. I go in and do a lot of lessons with them- Digital Citizenship lessons or just trying to promote reading, maybe tell them about a new book coming out. They like that."

The kids are able to use their Chromebooks and see the books available in the library. The students then reserve books and Partain delivers the books to them. Now, when a student returns a book, the book must sit for a total of four days untouched to make sure it is safe for the next student.

"Their favorite way to pick out a book is to be able to look at the cover, look at the pictures, hold it and read the summary, but they can't do that this year," said Partain. "I give them the choice, since they can't do that this year. If they get a book and they say, 'I don't know about this,' I let them bring it back. I let them request a different book." She said students really miss coming in the library.

Partain said some of the new books that are extremely popular among the middle school students are the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," "Big Nate" and "Harry Potter" series. She said the big things right now are graphic novels, which are written in a comic book style. Books such as "Stranger Things" and books about Greek mythology are in huge demand and written in the graphic novel style.

The "I Survived" series is another great reading choice. It is a hybrid between fiction and real historical events.

Said Partain, "This series, I have it two ways. One like a chapter book and one like a graphic novel. It takes historical events but then it turns into a fictional story set in that time period. They love that."

Topics like the sinking of the Titanic and the Hindenburg disaster are included in the "I Survived" series.

"It's hard to give one particular title because he has written several series," Partain said, referencing one of her students' favorite authors Rick Riordan. "This author, no matter what series it is, they want more!"

Partain was able to purchase more of the books her students really love with the grants and she said she is appreciative of the help.

"We really do appreciate Dollar General for giving teachers the opportunity to write grants about literacy. I am grateful because they are good to the schools and giving back to students. Then, of course, Operation Round-Up. I don't know what we would do without them," she smiled. "Through my years of teaching, I have received multiple grants from them from when I taught kindergarten to second grade to being elementary, middle school and high school librarian. They've been really good to us."

# Obituary Announcements: Dec. 9

**Funeral services for Myrtle "Tiny" Hardin Oaks**, 89, of Eva will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at Daniels Chapel Baptist Church with Tim Aris, Jeremy Calloway, and Tim Kinney officiating; interment in Daniels Chapel Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Oaks passed away Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at Summerford Nursing Home. She was born Jan. 28, 1931 to Isaac and Cammie Lee Hardin. She was preceded in death by her daughter Donna Mackentepe; husbands Edward Oaks and Elijah Peppers; and parents Isaac and Cammie Lee Hardin. Survivors include her daughter Debra Hunter; son Dwight (Edith) Oaks; son Dewayne (Daphne) Oaks; daughter Dewanda (Earl) Brinkley; 14 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

**Leoma White Hood**, 93, of Double Springs entered into rest Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at her home. Leoma was born Jan. 12, 1927 in Winston County to W.F. and Ludie Bailey White. No public services will be held. Leoma is survived by her son Larry Hood; daughter Rita Banner and her husband Doug; brother Clovis White and his wife Betty; three grandchildren Delilah Atkins, Marcie Hill, and Michael Hood; and five great-grandchildren Triston Atkins, Kailee Hill, Kyeler Hill, Melissa Hood, and Molly Hood. She was preceded in death by her husband Willard Hood; parents W.F and Ludie White; and siblings Zona Pinkard, Nova Whitehead, Dotty Husky, Nolan White, and Noble White.

**Funeral services for Clyde Jerome Speegle**, 70, of Crane Hill will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Stephen Link officiating; interment in Brushy Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m.-noon prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Speegle passed away Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at his residence. He was born Sept. 18, 1950 to Clyde and Vonda Lee Speegle. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Darrell Speegle and Michael Speegle. Survivors include his wife Robin Speegle; daughter Wendy Speegle; son Jason (Rita) Speegle; daughter Stacy Amber (Stacy) Peck; grandchildren Jonathan Speegle, Wyatt Peck, Madison Speegle, and Rileigh Peck; sisters Ann Hedge, Linda Link, and Sara Tyree; and a host of nieces and nephews.

**Memorial service details are incomplete at this time for Jennifer Michelle Hill**, 30, of Hanceville. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Hill passed away Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at UAB Hospital. She is survived by her mother Tammy (Brian) Cornelius; grandmother Dorothy Miller; mother and father-in-law Bobby and Cloressia Mattox; husband Denzel Mattox; son Gabriel Laney Mattox; daughter Hazel Kindred Chandler; brothers Jimmy Hill, Joseph Hill; family and friends.

**Linda Gail Hall**, 78, of Double Springs entered into death Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at her home surrounded by her loving family. Linda was born June 25, 1942 in Double Springs. She loved gardening, canning, and sewing. She loved her family and was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Visitation will be held Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 from 10 a.m.-noon at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs, where services will be at noon. Brother Chris Comeens will officiate. Burial will be in Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Cemetery. Linda is survived by her husband Louis A. Hall; son Jeff Franks and his wife Johnna; granddaughter Brandi Morgan; grandson Craig Franks; great-grandchildren Addie and Coda Morgan, and Kimber Franks (on the way); sister Janice Hill; brother Jimmy Comeens; three stepchildren Louis Hall Jr, Jimmy Hall, and Sandra Wright; stepgrandchildren Jackson Hall, Park Hall, Brantley Hall, Laurel Hall, Jonathan Wright and Halee Morris; and step-great-grandchildren Lynlee Morris and Saylor Wright. She was preceded in death by parents Reverend J.D. and Jeanette Comeens; brothers Larry, Lamar, and Luther Wayne Comeens; and sister Lori Comeens.

**Funeral services for Aaron Dewayne Freeman**, 84, of Hanceville, Alabama will be at noon Friday, Dec. 11, 2020 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Persimmon Grove Cemetery in Brushy Pond, Alabama. Leon Mauldin will be officiating. Visitation for Mr. Freeman will be from 10 a.m. until service time at the funeral home. Mr. Freeman is survived by his children Danita (Leo) Smith and Tracey (Darrell) Talley; grandchildren Destiny Jade (Heath) Jones, Sonny Bernard (Melissa) Doss and Alexander Dewayne (Joselyn) Doss; great-grandchildren Lilly Belle Jones, Amberly Doss, and Jackson Doss; a host of nieces and nephews; and a great aunt Edna Graves. Mr. Freeman was preceded in death by his wife Sarah Glenda Sue Price Freeman; parents Leldon and Lillie (Chandler) Freeman; and sister Joyce Alafaye Sherer.

**Anthony Gene Yates**, 52, of Holly Pond passed away Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020. He was born June 28, 1968 in Marshall County, to Donald Gene Yates and Gladys Louise Arrington. Mr. Yates enjoyed football and the outdoors. Before his retirement, Anthony worked as a dog catcher for the City of Huntsville. He was full of mischief and was always causing "trouble." Anthony was a son, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and a friend. His joy came in spending time with his grandchildren and he loved being their "Papa." Mr. Yates is survived by his father Donald Gene Yates; mother Gladys Louise Arrington Carr; daughters Jennifer (Jimmy) Bedsole; Laura (Garrett) Totcky; brothers Kevin (Tara) Yates, Brian (Cassie) Carr; sister Glendia Breaux; godson Damen Guthrie; grandchildren Christopher Bedsole, Luke Bedsole, Drew Bedsole, Layla Totcky; and a host of nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Mr. Yates are at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020 at Union Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church; Dr. David Chambers officiating. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery. Phil White, Chris Culp, Eric Arrington, Jason Arrington, Damen Guthrie, Christopher Bedsole, Tony Arrington, and Glenn Arrington will serve as pallbearers. Friends may visit with the family Sunday, Dec. 13 at the church, beginning at 1 p.m. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Yates family.

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HEALTH

# Understanding health insurance referrals and prior authorizations

**Jennifer Bowen**
Contributor

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** – Some health plans require referrals or prior authorization before you receive services from health care providers other than your primary care provider (PCP). A referral is an order from your PCP to see a specialist or receive certain medical services from some providers. Your PCP helps make the decision about whether specialist services are necessary for you.

Prior authorization is approval from the health plan before you get a service or fill a prescription. The health plan reviews medical records from your providers and decides whether the service or prescription drug meets the plan's rules for medical necessity.

When they are required, your health plan may not pay any of the costs of the services without a referral or prior authorization.

**Top considerations**

Some health plans, like Point of Service (POS) plans, require referrals to see specialists. Other types of health plans, including Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) and others, may require prior authorization for some services.

If you need special treatment, service, or medical equipment, you may need to get approval first from your health plan. This is called prior authorization. A health plan gives prior authorization when a service is medically necessary. Without it, your health plan may not pay any of the costs. You can ask your provider if you need prior authorization. Some providers contact the health plan directly for prior authorization.

**Things you should know**

In an emergency, you should go to the closest hospital. Your health plan can't require prior authorization before you go to the emergency department. You may still have to pay some of the costs of emergency services depending on your plan. For instance, you may have to pay a co-pay or part of the costs if you haven't met your deductible.

When it's not an emergency, you can check your health plan website or documents, or call the plan, to find out if a service you need requires a referral or prior authorization.

**Top things to remember**

- Contact your health insurance plan for referrals. In some instances, if you don't get a referral before receiving care, the plan may not pay any of the costs of the services.
- Ask your provider if you need prior authorization for your medical care. Some providers may contact your health plan on your behalf for prior authorization. If prior authorization is required, the plan will likely need medical records from your provider.
- If you go to an emergency department, your health plan can't require prior authorization before your visit.

OUTDOORS

# Alabama announces closure of the 2020 red snapper season for private anglers

**Ala. Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources**

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** – After completing a review of the extended fall weekend private angler red snapper season, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has determined the private angler red snapper quota for the 2020 season has been met. Therefore, Alabama waters will remain closed to private angler and state-licensed charter red snapper fishing until the 2021 season is established.

For the 2020 season, NOAA Fisheries allocated Alabama 1.12 million pounds of red snapper for private anglers.

"This has been an interesting year for red snapper fishing," said Scott Bannon, director of ADCNR's Marine Resources Division. "The season started out with an amazing amount of effort due to favorable weather, with the exception of Tropical Storm Cristobal, and we closed earlier than anticipated. It was determined that there was enough quota remaining to have limited fall weekend fishing which was something many anglers had previously asked us for. The weather did not cooperate with three more hurricanes impacting Alabama during the fall reopening and it took an additional 17 days to use the quota."

"Once again, Alabama's private recreational anglers have benefited from the state management of private angler red snapper," said Chris Blankenship, ADCNR commissioner. "We are able to monitor the harvest accurately and in a timely manner allowing anglers maximum opportunities to fish the Alabama quota. Under federal management we would have been tied to the harvest of all of the Gulf states and we could have seen a much shorter season this year. The federal system definitely would not have been able to make adjustments week to week and may not have been able to keep anglers from fishing over the quota, as we have done."

Additional red snapper landing information from the 2018 - 2020 seasons is available at www.outdooralabama.com/2020-red-snapper-landings-summary.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through four divisions: Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit www.outdooralabama.com.

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