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– EDUCATION –

'That's the whole joy of the holidays'

Hanceville students embrace the joy of giving



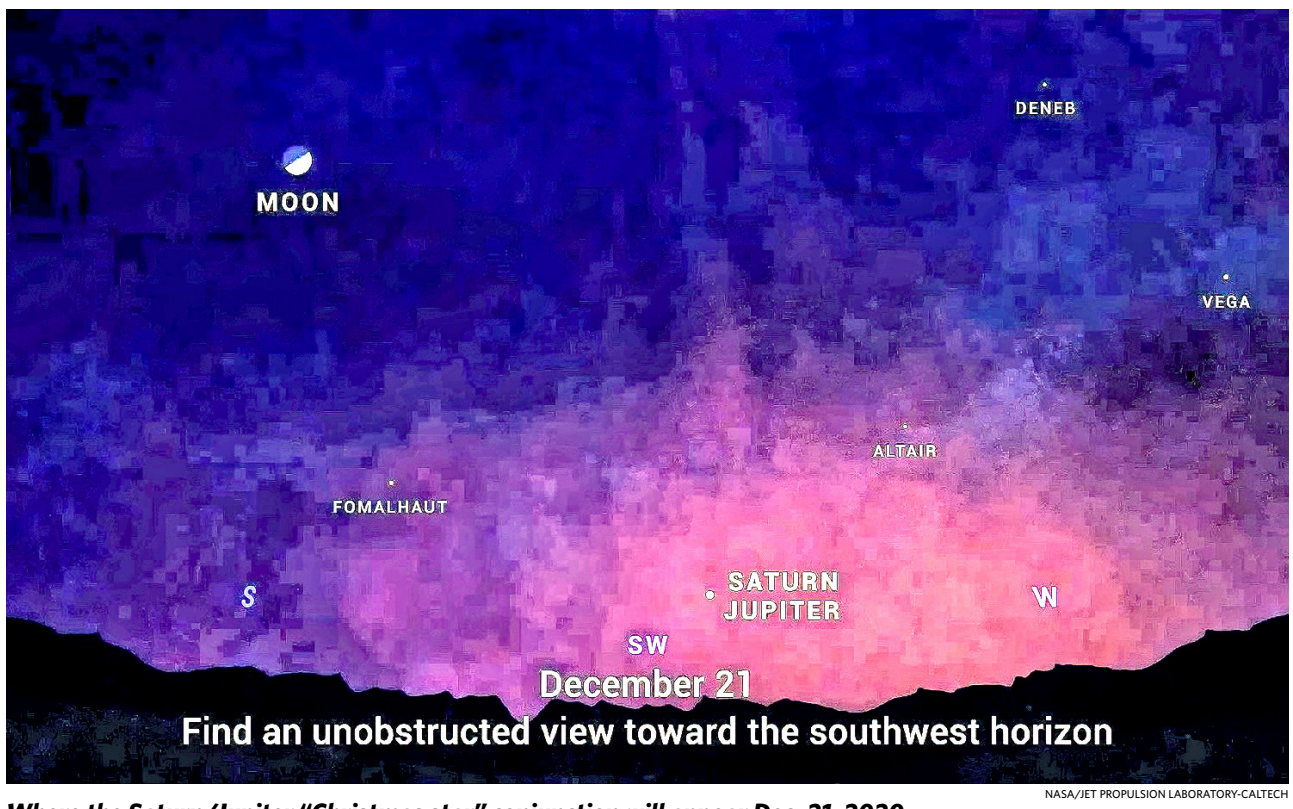
TINA WELDON

Hanceville Leo Club members wrap gifts ahead of next week's gift exchange for elementary students. » PAGE 8

– FEATURE –

'CHRISTMAS STAR'

Astronomical phenomenon to be visible for 1st time in 800 years



NASA/JET PROPULSION LABORATORY-CALTECH

Where the Saturn/Jupiter "Christmas star" conjunction will appear Dec. 21, 2020

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – An astronomical phenomenon is getting a lot of attention due to its proximity to Christmas on the calendar this year. Jupiter and Saturn's orbits bring them into what appears to be a close pass of each other- known as a "great conjunction"- every 20 years. Of course, the planets are not actually close; their orbits just happen to align with that of the earth in such a way that they appear close. While these events happen regularly, this one will be special. According to astronomy specialists Deborah Byrd and Bruce McClure with Earthsky.org, in the early evening of Dec. 21, 2020, Jupiter and Saturn will have their closest conjunction since 1623 and the closest observable conjunction since 1226.

According to a report from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), "Jupiter and Saturn have been traveling across the sky together all year, but this month, get ready for them to really put on a show. Over the first three weeks of December, watch each evening as the two planets get closer in the sky than they've appeared in two decades. Look for them low in the southwest in the hour after sunset. And on December 21st, the two giant planets will appear just a tenth of a degree apart – that's about the thickness of a dime held at arm's length! This means the two planets and their moons will be visible in the same field of view » PAGE 4



PIXABAY

Some astronomers and historians believe that a similar event created what is known popularly in Christianity as the "Christmas Star," that led the three wisemen to Bethlehem.

ARTS

'Holiday spirit' goes virtual

CHS Christmas concert goes online for 2020



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Members of the Cullman High School band performed their Christmas concert online Thursday evening, Dec. 10, 2020. » PAGE 3

LIFESTYLE

Remember our seniors this season



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Seniors play bingo at the Donald E. Green Active Adult Center in December 2019.

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Christmas is only two weeks away, and for residents in assisted living and nursing homes, this year will be very different as the lockdown on long-term care facilities due to COVID-19 continues. Administrators, staff and caregivers within these facilities have become their family and do their best to keep their residents active, engaged and healthy.

These facilities had to lock their doors to visitors in March, and although porch visits and other creative means of interaction with family and friends were implemented, recent spikes in COVID cases in Alabama and nationwide have resulted in added precautions.

What can the » PAGE 5

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STATE

Ivey signs emergency proclamation to address tax and economic development issues delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Governor Kay Ivey on Friday signed a supplemental emergency proclamation to address tax and economic development issues that were delayed in the Alabama Legislature's 2020 Regular Session due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This proclamation will allow Alabama citizens and businesses to avoid paying state taxes on certain benefits received under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

It also would extend the sunset dates for the Alabama Jobs Act and Growing Alabama tax credits.

"In coordination with the Alabama Legislature, we are pleased to address items that were delayed due to COVID-19," Ivey said.

"This action is a short-term solution until these items can be considered by the full legislative body during the 2021 Regular Session. In the meantime, the people of Alabama need clear guidance prior to filing their 2020 taxes.

Therefore, the state will not be collecting taxes from individuals or businesses who received benefits from the CARES Act because these benefits were designed to help our citizens survive the pandemic's strain on the economy.

It is both my intent, and the will of the Legislature, to ensure CARES Act payments extend their full value to the people who need it the most."

This proclamation directs the revenue commissioner to alter the tax-return forms and instructions to ensure that Alabama citizens and business will not have to pay taxes to the state government on the financial benefits they received from Congress through the CARES Act such as tax credits, advance refunds and loan forgiveness.

Alabama citizens and businesses have received more than $7.2 billion in such benefits under the CARES Act.

Around 70,000 Alabama businesses received loans under the CARES Act's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and 2.5 million Alabama citizens received CARES Act stimulus payments.

This proclamation also changes the previously established sunset dates for two tax-credit programs that assist Alabama's economic-development efforts, the Alabama Jobs Act tax credits and the Growing Alabama tax credit.

The Alabama Jobs Act credits are set to expire Dec. 31, 2020, while the Growing Alabama credit expired on September 30, 2020.

Both tax-credit programs will now be extended until the Legislature has an opportunity to enact legislation addressing the programs.

"The Alabama Jobs Act and Growing Alabama tax credits are essential to the success of Alabama's economy, and we've seen a great return on investment across our state," Ivey said.

"The state is currently negotiating potential economic projects that hinge on the availability of these tax-credit programs, and without today's extension, we risk losing nearly $3 billion in direct capital investment and over 7,000 new direct jobs."

Established in July 2015, the Alabama Jobs Act credits have played a vital role in securing 171 projects in 44 different counties.

Those projects, in turn, have resulted in new capital investment in the state totaling $16.65 billion and the creation of 29,249 new jobs.

Established in July 2016, the Growing Alabama credit has funded 17 projects including four tech accelerators, one STEM marketing program, and twelve site-preparation and public-infrastructure improvement projects.

The site-preparation and infrastructure-improvement projects, in turn, have resulted in 2,361 new direct jobs with an annual new payroll of $93 million and 3,609 new indirect jobs with a new annual payroll of $119.2 million.

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 11

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 11, 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. 8

- third-degree burglary; person; Sportsman Lake Road NW; miscellaneous
- third-degree burglary; person; Sportsman Lake Road NW; miscellaneous
- third-degree burglary; person; Sportsman Lake Road NW; miscellaneous

Dec. 10

- fourth-degree theft by deception; person; cash; $70
- first-degree theft of property; person; Town Square SW; '02 Nissan Sentra, miscellaneous
- harassing communications; person
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart Distribution Center; 7th Ave. SW; vacuum; $50

ARRESTS

Dec. 10

Wren, Daniel R., 24

- fourth-degree theft of property
- third-degree criminal trespassing
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Thompson, Joshua A., 40

- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Dingler, Erica L., 34

- fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Friday, Dec. 11, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 237,879 (+2,887 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 50,896 (+966 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 3,612 (+44 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 474
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 3,989 (+53 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 1,552 (+14 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 45 (+0 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 12
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 28,196
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,920
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,196
- Total tested in Alabama: 1,696,439
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 46,413
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 131,119
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 2,111
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 28,146
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 174,805

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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. 12-13, 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. 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/4D-Farm.

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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Funny Things From Yesterday: Jogging suit and a bonnet

Robert N. Tidwell, Sr.
robertntidwellsr@gmail.com



This is an article about modern trends and old traditions. A few years back many people had to walk when they were going somewhere. But as time moved on many people had a family car. Then from there we moved on until everyone in the family had to have a vehicle. So, walking went out of style. As time moved on, we needed to walk for exercise and keep our bodies fit.

In order to walk now, you have to have all kind of new garments. Walking shoes- you can't use jogging shoes to walk in for jogging and walking shoes are different.

The man who sells walking shoes in our area almost makes each customer believe it is against the law to be caught walking in a pair of jogging shoes. I've heard of people being arrested for jogging in the buff, but never for walking in a pair of jogging shoes.

Another new item you now need is a jogging suit. You can either walk or jog in a jogging suit for there seems no specific law on this. There is a problem when you buy one, however.

Have you seen all the colors these things come in? You can spend all day trying to pick out the right color. Some match your eyes, some match your hair and some probably will match your complexion. But, matching your complexion you might get pulled over to be sure you are not in the buff.

Earlier this fall, I saw an elderly lady out walking in her nice new pink jogging suit. This was a modern trend for she had on a jogging suit, but she also held on to the old tradition of having on her old fashioned bonnet. The kind of bonnet that entirely covered her head, her ears, the back of her neck, and it even had a little bill to shade her eyes. All I could see was her little round face peering out from under her head covering. Modern trends were certainly not going to overcome her old traditions.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Please, with everything within

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



You, Have A Merry Christmas

On the one hand, I can hardly believe fifty years have already passed since that night. On the other hand, it seems like that was in another lifetime. Thursday evening, December 10, 1970, is burned deeply in my memory. I have replayed it in my mind more times than I can count. I've wished I had said more. I've wished I had asked more. I had not seen my dad for almost two weeks. I'm thankful that I had a least one more night with him. That Thursday was the last time I would ever see him or speak to him again, at least in this world. We were both too young. He was only 54, and I was only 15. This week marks the 50th anniversary of his sudden passing.

The final two years of Dad's life were spent driving one of his trucks on long hauls. He was home for Thanksgiving but left right afterwards. He took a load of something to Mexico, or New Mexico, picked up another load there and took it to California. Somewhere along the way he began to get sick with a cold. Rather than seeing a doctor there, he opted to drive back home. By the time he reached home, he was so sick he couldn't get out of his truck and walk in the house without assistance. He looked horrible and was burning up with fever. Mama tucked him in bed and did all the things that Mama's do. Soon, he called me to his bedside.

He gave me a giant-wooden pencil with New Mexico written on it. I still have it. He was so weak and hoarse that his voice was almost gone. I leaned in close to hear what he said, but I have never forgotten our conversation. I have never known for certain, exactly what he meant when he said he wasn't going back out on the road again. The next morning he went to see his doctor, and he sent him directly to the hospital. A strep infection and fatigue had taken a toll on his system. He was a diabetic, and his sugar level had risen to over 500.

I went on to school on that Friday, and then spent that night with my friend David. Somewhere around 2:00 that night, I heard a phone ring. Even though I had not imagined he was going to die, when I heard the phone, I said to David, "I think my dad just died." In a few minutes, David's mom came in, sat beside me on the bed, and told me the bad news. We buried my father on a cold and snowy day, less than two-weeks before Christmas.

Christmas of 1970 was one of the hardest and saddest Christmases I've ever experienced. One week after Dad died, my Uncle Webster was killed in a car accident. Christmas should be a time of joy and happiness. It should be a time when families are together...when they laugh, sing, eat way too much, and exchange presents. Christmas should be all those things, but sometimes it simply isn't. For many, it is a season of sadness, depression, and a longing for those who've gone. I truly understand. I've never had a man-to-man talk with my dad, but sometimes I want to so badly it hurts. If this is where you are this Christmas, I know the pain, and I'm praying for you. The wound eventually heals, but it does leave a scar. Please know that God loves you, and He cares about your pain. He gave up His Son for you and me. Please spend time with those you have left. Love them and let them love you. Even if all your family is gone, find a friend, find someone to be with. Please, with everything within you, have a merry Christmas!

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office).

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: 1900, 1930, 1950

From the files of 1900

Vick Clark is among the clerical force at the Racket Store.

Ed Daniel has opened a restaurant in the old Speegle store building.

George Parker, Junior, went to Montgomery to witness a street fair yesterday.

E.E. Burnum, of West Morgan, is visiting his brother, Doctor F.B. Burnum, here.

Miss Clara Hewlett will teach a guitar class at her home.

Miss Bertha Engle is now employed in the millinery department of Koopman and Gerdes.

S.M. Allison has opened a jewelry shop, near the Bargain Store.

Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Heidelburg will leave the last of the month for Los Angeles, California where they expect to make their future home.

Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Robertson, who have been residing in Virginia, will move back to Cullman soon.

Reverend George Clair held an Episcopal service at the Baptist church on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Mrs. David H. Speegle, mother of Mrs. J.A. McMinn, Mrs. Tom Vandiver and Mrs. R.H. Baird, died at her Trimble home on Monday.

Miss Hassie Mayo, who had taught school at Walter and Baileyton died recently at the home of her brother, Thomas Mayo, at Walter.

William H. Waldrop has been appointed Notary Public in Beat 13.

Doctor James P. Moon and Miss Joe Ann Johnson were married, at Bremen, on October 7.

Charles Fricke has been quite ill.

From the files of 1930

The Coterie was presented the "Loulie Jones" gavel for community service at the district federation club meeting in Hartselle on October 15. Those attending from Cullman were Mesdames M.H. Killingsworth, O.P. Jackson, O.D. Kennamer, Charles Alley, V.H. Collins, J.M. Oldacre, W.S. Leeth, C.L. Martin, J.C. Martin, W.A. Green and Bess Morrow.

Otto Denson and Rosco Brown, of Cullman, were injured in a truck wreck near Fayetteville, Tennessee on Friday.

From the files of 1950

Thirty-three Cullman County 4-H Club boys and girls will feed calves for 1951 county, district and state fat calf shows. The following will feed calves: Bobby Ellenberry, Raphael Lowry, Betty Lou Phillips, Dale Stallings, Lady Claire Davidson, Ralph Jenkins, Junior, Mary Frances Hanby, Colonel Filyaw, Donnie Blair, Talmadge Filyaw, John Vernon Oaks, Fay Eddleman, Delton Stidham, Wade Stewart, Mary Lee Hesterly, Bryon Eidson, Jerry Aldridge, Charles Helton, Erma Dean Bailey, Asa Blalock, Junior, Ralph Blalock, Delton Blalock, L.J. Hollis, Donald Ware, Joe Stallings, Dwyane Hand, Roland Hinkle, Kennon Wood, Dois Sims, Dan Sims, Iola Graham, Marlin Graham, Jackie Atchley and Maurice Blalock.

Concert (from Front)

Cullman City Schools
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – From football games to simply having class, 2020 has presented a truly unique set of challenges for schools. So when it came time to figure out how to hold the Cullman High School Band's annual Christmas concert in the midst of a pandemic, the staff knew it would need to get creative.

The band had been using the auditorium as a practice space, with students positioned all across the audience seating, one of the only rooms on campus big enough to allow the student band members to properly and safely distance from one another while still rehearsing together. That took care of practice, but what about the holiday concert itself? With the band scattered across the seating area, Fine Arts Department Chair and Director of Bands Christopher Smith said they had to get creative when it came to the audience.

If the audience couldn't come to the concert — they figured they'd bring the concert to them.

"We decided we'd still have the concert, but only have the students in the auditorium, and then we had John Drake and our great TV production team live stream it," Smith explained. "That's what we've been working toward the last month, and we're so excited we pulled it off. It's easily the most unusual concert I've ever conducted, but it's certainly one of the most fulfilling."

So Thursday, Dec. 11, Smith conducted from the stage, flanked by the properly-spaced jazz band, with the remainder of the band members spread out all across the auditorium.

The video team provided multiple angles of the students as they played, and parents, community members and anyone who enjoys a good Christmas concert was able to tune in online. The performance has also been saved for posterity, and anyone who wants to view the concert can revisit it on-demand at www.nfhsnetwork.com/events/cullman-high-school-cullman-al/evt21ba945edf.

Cullman High School Principal Kim Hall said she was proud they were able to pull off the event, especially in a year where virtually everything has been somehow affected by the coronavirus pandemic, with health and safety standards requiring social distancing and limiting large events.

"I know it's not ideal, none of this is, but I hope people can appreciate we're making things happen and finding ways to do it as safely as possible," she said.

"Seeing the smiles on the faces of the students last night was one of the highlights of my year. I was so proud, and it was evident they were very proud of themselves. To be able to pull off their Christmas concert this year, in a way that's never been done in the history of Cullman bands, is a tremendous accomplishment."

After a school year in constant flux, Smith said making it to Christmas with a full band concert is something every student, faculty member and family should be proud to have accomplished.

"At the beginning of the school year, with marching band all through to concert season, we didn't really know what we'd be able to do," he said. "We didn't know if there'd be games, or if we'd be able to perform, or especially have a concert. But we've marched forward, safely of course, to work though the pandemic."

In a challenging year where so many things have had to be changed or reduced, to move forward safely, Hall said she hopes students and families can look back and realize what they've learned and gained through this experience, despite the challenges.

"I told the students after the event was over, 'Everybody is telling you what you've lost, and what you haven't gained or been able to do this year,'" she said. "But from March 12 when this all began, we had a plan to carry on and we are doing that. We've never been willing to say we can't do it, and everyone in our school has persevered to find a way, safely, to move forward. You solve problems, you find a way around the challenge. I hope that's what we can all take from this."

Of course, it being just a couple of weeks from Christmas, Smith added he hopes the concert was able to provide a much-needed bit of cheer for the community: "Hopefully, we're able to help get everyone in the holiday spirit a little bit," he said.

POET'S CORNER

Psalm 24

The Holy Bible KJV

The earth is the Lord's, and
the fulness thereof; the world,
and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas,
and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the
hill of the Lord? or who shall
stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure
heart; who hath not lifted up his soul
unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing
from the Lord, and righteousness
from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of
them that seek him, that seek
thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and
be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even
lift them up, ye everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of
hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

COMIC – CHIRP & FLIT



Star (from Front)

through binoculars or a small telescope. In fact, Saturn will appear as close to Jupiter as some of Jupiter's moons."

What will it look like?
Unfortunately, like nothing on a Christmas card. The two planets are each bright- Jupiter, when visible, is the brightest object in the sky- and when they come together, so they will light up their corner of the sky.

They will not overlap, but some estimates say they might appear as a single elongated star.

No one will know for sure until the 21st. But all the experts agree that, if you are an astronomy fan, it will be worth your while.

How to see it
Find a place, preferably elevated, where you can see as much sky just above the southwestern horizon as possible. At approximately 45 minutes after sundown, look to the southwest and the planets should be quite visible if the sky is clear.

Be ready to look quickly; the conjunction will not be high in the sky, and the planets will set early in the evening.

What if I miss it?
Don't. The great conjunction happens from time to time, so you may have another opportunity . . . in another 20 years.

Another conjunction this close? Check back in March 2080! This means that, for most of us, this month's .1 degree great conjunction will be a once in a lifetime event.

The Bible
Some astronomers and historians believe that a similar event created what is known popularly in Christianity as the "Christmas Star," the star Christians believe led the three wisemen, or magi, to Bethlehem after Jesus was born. According to the Bible's Gospel of Matthew, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Read the full Earthsky.org story at https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/great-jupiter-saturn-conjunction-dec-21-2020.

Read about all of December's astronomical events from NASA at https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/resources/2567/whats-up-december-2020-video.

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Seniors (from Front)

community do to help spread Christmas cheer to those who will not be able to be with family this year? Here are a few ideas!

Christmas cards and letters

Pen pal programs have become a new source of correspondence between residents and the community since the pandemic began. Everyone loves getting a handwritten letter from someone who has been thinking of them. This is a great community service activity for school and church groups or any individual or organization.

If you don't have a specific pen pal, that's OK. A batch of letters or cards can be delivered to a facility and distributed among its residents. Besides being the bright spot in a senior's day, this simple act of kindness could be the spirit boost we could all use.

Car parades

In the beginning of the pandemic, car parades became an innovative way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones. They also became a way to show love, support and smiles to those in long-term care facilities. As the weather got cooler the car parades seemed to fade away. They don't have to stop!

USA Healthcare-Alabama LLC Community Relations Director Stephanie Coleman suggested that car parades can continue. "Car parades are always successful. Even if it's cold, the residents can gather at their windows to see the car decorations and signs."

A festive Christmas car parade would certainly bring some cheer to loved ones.

Good old-fashioned caroling

Children visiting nursing homes to sing Christmas carols and holiday favorites is a long tradition. This year doesn't have to be different, maybe just a little colder. Families, choirs or any group searching for a place to sing for others should consider nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Contact the facility and arrange a time to sing outside the entrance or windows. The sights and sounds of carolers would be a heartwarming way to show love and bring Christmas cheer.

Goody boxes and prizes

Bingo and penny auctions continue to be popular pastimes for seniors, and now, more than ever, a much needed fun activity. Personal hygiene items and small gifts and activities would make these games much more fun and help hard-working facility staff. A few suggested items include hand sanitizer, tissues, socks with grips, shampoo, snacks, coloring books and activity/puzzle books.

Those working in these facilities could use a little extra TLC, too. They have become the new family to those they care for in the absence of their actual families.

Besides giving expert care, the staffs have continued to come up with creative activities and ideas to keep residents' morale up during these difficult times. Taking care of the caregivers is a must.

One way to let them know their hard work is appreciated is through gift cards for a delicious lunch. The community sponsoring meals is a great way to say thank you and Merry Christmas!

West Point Intermediate School spelling bee winners



MIKE JONES

Abram Motte (runner-up) and Skylar Echols (winner)

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DECEMBER 12, 2020

Sams, Wiggins win Bassmaster Team Championship, earn berths to Classic Fish-Off on Harris Chain

Emily Harley
B.A.S.S. Communications

LEESBURG, Fla. – Wesley Sams and Jordan Wiggins caught the heaviest bag of the Bassmaster Team Championship on Thursday to earn a come-from-behind victory on the Harris Chain of Lakes.

Sams and Wiggins, who hail from Cullman, Ala., and represent the Alabama Bass Trail, bagged a five-bass limit that weighed 22 pounds, 5 ounces to vault from seventh place on Day 1 to the top of the leaderboard on Day 2.

Coupled with Wednesday's 17-3 limit, the duo finished with 39-8 overall to top the 142-team field.

By virtue of their victory in the team portion of the tournament, Sams and Wiggins advanced to the Classic Fish-Off.

They, along with the second and third-place duos, will have their weights zeroed and begin another two-day competition Friday.

This time they will be fishing individually for the final berth in the 2021 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk scheduled for March 19-21 on Lake Ray Roberts near Fort Worth, Texas.

"It's an awesome feeling to win the team championship," Sams said.

"But the big prize is a chance to get in the Classic. If it's not me in it, I'm pulling for (Wiggins). And I know he'll be pulling for me, too."

Sams and Wiggins, who earned a $20,000 cash prize from Ranger/Mercury for winning the team competition, have fished on the Harris Chain before, cashing a check in the 2018 Team Championship.

They revisited some of the spots that produced two years ago, as well as one spot Wiggins' brother Jesse fished to win a Bassmaster Open several years ago.

None of those locations were hitting this year, however, with the tandem having only two small bites late Wednesday morning.

Determined to do better, they motored to a strip of hydrilla Wiggins spotted on his electronics about 6 feet underneath the surface of Lake Harris.

Every fish they weighed in the Team Championship came from that same short stretch of aquatic grass.

The winners weren't sharing which bait they used to spark their bite, but they'll definitely be using it again in the fish-off.

"I'll have three rods on the deck and I'll have that tied on all three of them," Sams said.

Wiggins concurred.

"We just have to get lucky," he said.

Sams said once he and Wiggins found the right spot Wednesday, they knew they had a chance to make the fish-off.

They were in seventh place heading into Day 2 and had nearly 5 pounds to gain on Day 1 leaders Keith Ellis and Roger Kendrick of the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Bass Association.

"We thought if we could get over 20 pounds today, we'd have a shot (to make the fish-off)," Sams said.

"And if we got 22 1/2 or 23, we thought we could win it today."

Andy Walls and Keith Tuma of the Minnesota B.A.S.S. Nation finished second in team standings with 10 bass for 39-1, including a 21-6 limit Thursday.

They were in sixth place on Day 1 but advanced to the Classic Fish-Off with a strong finish.

Keith Mayfield and Daryl Adams, who like Sams and Wiggins qualified for the championship via the Alabama Bass Trail, placed third overall with 38-2 and rounded out the Top 6 for the fish-off on Friday and Saturday.

Mark Condron and Tony Simeri, yet another tandem from the Alabama Bass Trail, finished fourth with 38-2.

Ellis and Kendrick slipped to fifth with a 13-3 limit Thursday and 35-5 overall.

Two teams tied for the Big Bass Award and split the $500 prize four ways.

Danny Lavoie and Sammy Bailey of the Alabama Bass Trail caught their 8-7 largemouth Wednesday, while Rick Imler and Scott Newlon of Ohio's Great Lakes Largemouth Series matched the feat a day later.



BRENDEN KANIES/B.A.S.S.

Wesley Sams and Jordan Wiggins, from the Alabama Bass Trail, have won the 2020 Bassmaster Team Championship on the Harris Chain of Lakes with a two-day total of 39 pounds, 8 ounces.

Wednesday's temperature was cool, with highs near 60, but a warming trend is sweeping across central Florida.

Thursday's highs hovered at 70 degrees and the temperature is expected to reach 80 by Saturday, which many anglers feel could make the Harris Chain bass bite even more productive.

In all, 142 two-person teams (284 anglers) qualified via their respective trails for the Team Championship. The field at the Harris Chain split a total purse of $77,000.

The Classic Fish-Off begins at 7 a.m. ET both Friday and Saturday from Ski Beach Park in Leesburg's Venetian Gardens.

Weigh-ins are scheduled for 3 p.m. at the park and fans can catch all the action live on Bassmaster.com.

The tournament is being hosted by GO Sports, Visit Lake and the City of Leesburg.

SEC and ESPN reach milestone 10-Year media agreement

Southeastern Conference
secsports.com

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Southeastern Conference and ESPN have finalized a milestone 10-year agreement that grants ABC and ESPN exclusive broadcast rights to premier SEC football and basketball events beginning in 2024-25 and continuing through 2033-34, as announced today by Greg Sankey, SEC Commissioner, and Jimmy Pitaro, Chairman, ESPN and Sports Content.

The landmark deal, which represents a significant expansion of the conference's current partnership with ESPN, will establish ABC as the new broadcast network home for Saturday afternoon SEC football games, as well as selected Saturday primetime football games and the annual SEC Football Championship Game, which has grown into one of the most popular sporting events of the year. In addition, approximately eight incremental marquee men's basketball games will be featured across ABC or ESPN.

The new First Tier rights agreement puts all SEC media rights under The Walt Disney Company umbrella, giving the SEC exposure on ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN+, SEC Network and SEC Network+. The exclusive partnership with ESPN comes with significant scheduling flexibility that will produce an array of benefits for member schools, student-athletes and college football fans. Under the new agreement, a number of game times and broadcast windows will be announced in advance of the season, giving fans an ability to plan more seamlessly.

"This is a significant day for the Southeastern Conference and for the future of our member institutions. Our agreement with ESPN will greatly enhance our ability to support our student-athletes in the years ahead and to further enrich the game day experience for SEC fans around the world," said SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey. "The broadcast industry's intense and widespread interest in securing the SEC's First Tier rights is a direct reflection of the sustained excellence achieved by our 14 member schools, and we are thrilled to have been able to maximize our current position of strength to benefit our student-athletes, the fans who go to our games and home viewers."

BROADCAST AND SCHEDULING ELEMENTS
The agreement includes a number of significant elements that will benefit student-athletes and fans alike:

- Regular SEC Football Game on ABC on Saturday Afternoons
- Additional football games on ABC Saturday Nights
- SEC Football Championship Game on ABC
- Introduction of a modernized, more fan-friendly scheduling process, with many game windows solidified earlier while providing flexibility to maximize the exposure of the Conference's biggest games
- More marquee men's basketball games on ABC or ESPN
- Additional non-conference men's basketball games on ABC, ESPN and ESPN2
- Beginning with the 2021-22 season, the right to place a limited number of non-conference football and men's basketball games on ESPN+ that will allow schools autonomy to determine start times

"One of our primary goals was to improve the television scheduling process in ways that will benefit our students, coaches, alumni and fans," Sankey added. "With all SEC events now under The Walt Disney Company umbrella, we were able to craft an agreement that includes more lead time for many game time announcements, and in many ways modernizes the college football scheduling process."

"This new agreement was born from a strong foundation which began almost 25 years ago and now reflects a shared vision of the future with the SEC, Commissioner Sankey and their member institutions" said Pitaro. "With all the conference's games under the ESPN umbrella and adding ABC and ESPN+ to our distribution channels, ESPN will have complete scheduling flexibility, resulting in maximum exposure and adding significant benefits for SEC schools, student-athletes and fans."

Perhaps most beneficial to fans who attend games, beginning in Fall 2024, is the early assignment of most games to designated game windows. This new scheduling process means that, well in advance of the season, fans will know the general start time for many of their games, while still providing adequate flexibility for ESPN to maximize the exposure of the SEC's biggest and best games and react to storylines throughout the season.

The SEC's new agreement with ESPN will ensure more national appearances for SEC men's basketball teams across ABC and ESPN and more non-conference games on ABC, ESPN and ESPN2.

In addition, the agreement features the right for ESPN to move a limited number of non-conference games in football and men's basketball to ESPN+ beginning in the 2021-22 season. One added benefit of a game appearing on ESPN+ is that the home institution will determine the start time. Launched in April 2018, ESPN+ has grown quickly to 10.3 million subscribers in just over two years, offering fans thousands of live events, original programming not available on ESPN's linear TV or digital networks, as well as premium editorial content.

The new agreement is separate and in addition to existing agreements with ESPN for events in football, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball, as well as the agreement that created and under which ESPN operates the SEC Network. These existing agreements also continue through 2033-34.

Evolution Media Capital (EMC), an affiliate of Creative Artists Agency (CAA), served as the media advisor to the SEC.

SEC-DISNEY MEDIA AGREEMENT SUMMARY
All elements begin in the Fall of 2024 unless otherwise noted

FOOTBALL

- All SEC-controlled regular season games produced and distributed nationally via ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN+, SEC Network or SEC Network+
- SEC Football Game to be televised regularly on ABC on Saturday Afternoons
- Option to feature marquee SEC games in primetime on ABC's Saturday Night Football
- Annual late afternoon Thanksgiving Friday game on ABC or ESPN
- SEC Football Championship Game on ABC
- Maximum one non-conference game per school per season on ESPN+ or SECN+ (begins with the 2021-22 season)

GAME BROADCAST WINDOW
Early Window (start time between Noon and 1:00 pm ET)

- Afternoon Window (start time between 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm ET) - Games may appear on ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN+, SECN and/or SECN+ without any broadcast exclusivity
- Primetime Window (start time between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm ET)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Appearance Guarantees

- Approximately eight new ABC/ESPN National Windows
- More non-conference games on ABC, ESPN and ESPN2

Digital Platform Games

- Maximum two non-conference games per school per year on ESPN+ (begins with the 2021-22 season)

C-USA West Division title on the line as UAB travels to Rice

Ted Feeley
UAB Athletics

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The UAB football team looks to win its third-consecutive Conference USA West Division title this Saturday as the Blazers conclude the regular season at Rice. Kickoff is scheduled for 12 p.m. CST on ESPN3.

Despite not having played since Halloween, UAB (4-3, 2-1 C-USA) still controls its own destiny, and a win at Rice (2-2, 2-2 C-USA) would put the Blazers in their third straight C-USA title game.

]No team in Conference USA history has ever appeared in three straight championship games.

- **Who**: UAB (4-3, 2-1) at Rice (2-2, 2-2)
- **Where**: Rice Stadium – Houston, Texas
- **When:** Saturday, Dec. 12 – 12 p.m. CST
- **Watch**: ESPN3
On the Call: Matt Pedersen (play-by-play), Taylor McHargue (color)
- **Listen**: WJOX 94.5 FM
On the Call: David Crane (play-by-play), Steve Irvine (color), Trey Ragland (sideline)
- **Series**: UAB leads, 5-3
- **Last Meeting**: Oct. 5, 2019 – UAB, 35-20
- **Streak**: UAB – W3

WHAT TO WATCH FOR:
When UAB takes the field this Saturday, it will have been 4 days since the Blazers last played a game. The Blazers have had each of their last four games canceled.

Conversely, Rice is coming off the program's biggest win in recent memory with last Saturday's 20-0 shutout victory over then undefeated and No. 21 ranked Marshall on the road in Huntington.

The Owls intercepted Marshall quarterback Grant Wells five times, and for their efforts Rice was named the FWAA Co-National Team of the Week.

The last time these two teams met, it ended up being the longest game in UAB history.

After two lightning delays that each span over an hour and a half, the Blazers defeated Rice 35-20 in a game that lasted six hours and 15 minutes.

UAB has defeated Rice every year since returning to action in 2017 and has outscored the Owls 129-41 in those three games, including a 42-0 shutout last time the Blazers played in Houston.

UAB will continue to lean heavily on its run game which averages 206.7 yards per contest.

However, the Owls will present a challenge with the league's fourth ranked rush defense (141.8) and fifth ranked total defense (338.5).

As has been the trend over the last three seasons, UAB continues to boast a stout defense and enters this game ranked 18th nationally in total defense and 12th nationally in pass defense.

UAB's pass defense will be put to the test against Rice quarterback Mike Collins who leads Conference USA with an average of 267.3 passing yards per game, and wide receiver Austin Trammell who is averaging 111.7 receiving yards per game and has six touchdown receptions in just three games.

If the Blazers defeat Rice, they will face Marshall in the Conference USA Championship game which will be played in Huntington, W.Va. on Friday, Dec. 18.

If the Blazers don't win, UTSA will represent the West Division in the title game.

Saturday's game at Rice will be live streamed on ESPN3, and fans can also receive in-game updates by following @UAB_FB on Twitter and Instagram.

LIFESTYLE

A Round of Applause for the Joy-Givers: The 2020 Christmas Porch Drop-Off Cookie Swap-Off

Laurie Johnson
Tribune Columnist

HOORAY FOR THE JOY-GIVERS! We always need more smiles, music and laughter. This fun series salutes those seriously unsolemn people, places and things that bring joy to the world. Starting during the pandemic, an oft joy-challenged time, readers are introduced to present-day joy-givers and reminded of cherished joy-givers of the past. Each salute will have online links to add more opportunities for happiness in the comfort of your socially-distanced home. Many installments of the series will include a salutary food or drink recipe to add another element of pleasure.

The "SHIELD THE JOYOUS" shields, which will be given to those honored or to their family, are inspired from a passage in "The Book of Common Prayer" (1662). Prayers are lifted to "tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying...and shield the joyous." Joy-givers are precious. Let us preserve them, protect them, treasure them, smile with them, laugh with them, tap our toes with them and give them A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

PLEASE GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE 2020 CHRISTMAS PORCH DROP-OFF COOKIE SWAP-OFF

There is an old saying that "variety is the spice of life," originating from "The Task" by English writer William Cowper in 1875. He was telling us that life would be very boring if everything were the same. When it comes to Christmas treats, I would add to Mr. Cowper's words that, "variety is the sugar and spice of life." Even in 2020, say NO to boring holiday treat platters!

In an old-fashioned cookie swap, everyone bakes big batches of one favorite holiday treat, packages them in shareable quantities using festive bags or tins and shares them with friends who come to the swap party. Everyone leaves with a several different treats to add variety to their holiday snacking festivities. Sampling goodies and connecting with friends during the party is half the fun!

In 2020, hosting or attending a party where everyone visits in close quarters and eats from communal trays is challenging at best. Is there a safe way to still swap treats with friends?

One option is to have the exchange outside and ask everyone to package individual samples. With unpredictable December weather and the plethora of plastic packaging involved, this could also be challenging. Another way that I recommend is to organize a virtual party (via FaceTime, Zoom, etc.) to visit with the other bakers and then share the treats via "porch drop-off."

The benefits of a virtual swap party and porch drop-off, cookie swap-off:

- You have a safe, holiday visit with friends.
- You get to try treats and recipes that you may not have ever considered.
- While you have ingredients and utensils messing up your entire kitchen, you can focus on making a lot of one recipe. You then swap and truly get the sugar and spice of life - a variety.

Below is a road map to safely hosting a virtual party and porch pick-up/drop-off exchange.

1. First, decide how many bakers you want and how many treats each should make. Choose friends who are excited to participate and live in close proximity. In 2020, you will have smaller holiday gatherings during which to serve your treats, so I'd recommend to start small. A small and easily manageable group is four friends who each make four dozen of their chosen treat. Each person ends up with a dozen of four different treats, including their own. You can clearly add more bakers or treats per baker as desired.

2. Second, learn what everyone wants to make. You don't want to end up with four dozen chocolate chip cookies! You can also decide if you want a theme. For instance, if everyone has small children, you might want to choose treats that speak to kids. If no one has small children, you might want to include snacks that go well with coffee or cocktails. Remember, one reason you swap is that "variety is the sugar and spice of life!"

3. Third, choose a time for a virtual party and ask a techie among your group to host the event, during which you can visit and share your recipes and treat photos. Given the two potential themes mentioned above, you could invite children to participate or you can all have a cocktail during the meeting. Or both! That was a joke, but maybe necessary!

4. And finally, choose a day and time window when everyone puts their packaged treats into a festive container on their front porch or other outdoor protected area. During the time window, every baker goes to each of the other homes to drop off their shared package and pick up one. Alternatively, one baker might volunteer to do all the pick-ups and deliveries. Use whatever logistics work for your group.



BendigoArt.com/CullmanTribune.com



LAURIE JOHNSON
Forgotten Cookies and Salted Caramel Pecan Bites

When you are deciding on the treats you and your friends will swap, think about variety but also about everyone's specialty and what fits your theme, if you have one. Also, think about treats that are easy to make in bulk and easy to package, keep and transport. For some of the treats below, package them in batches that would be about 12 servings, similar to packaging a dozen cookies.

- For a child centric theme, you might make decorated sugar cookies including the popular Grinch cookies, traditional or a variation on chocolate chip cookies, sprinkled haystack treats, or the sweet version of Chex Mix called Muddy Buddies (recipe on the boxes of Chex).
- For a savory theme, you could add cheese straws, traditional Chex Mix (recipe on the boxes) or toasted pecans.
- For more easy treats that will appeal to everyone, think about my newest favorite, Salted Caramel Pecan Bites (Food Network) or my oldest favorite, Forgotten Cookies (from my sister who makes these every Christmas). These recipes are included below.

For quick and easy bites, try dark or white chocolate bark. Melt the chocolate and pour onto parchment paper into a rectangle, about 1/4 inch thick. While still hot, sprinkle with your chosen toppings – be creative with your choices. Let cool completely and break into bark pieces. Two of my favorites are described below.

- From chef, Ina Garten, via the Food Network, use white chocolate and sprinkle with dried cranberries, shelled toasted pistachios and chopped dried apricots.
- Another favorite is dark or white chocolate topped with crushed candy canes.

RECIPE FOR SALTED CARAMEL PECAN BITES
Courtesy of Elizabeth Heiskell, via Food Network

- Pre-heat oven to 350 F and line a jelly roll pan or 9.5 x 13 inch casserole pan with foil that overhangs each side by about an inch. Spray the foil liberally with cooking spray.
- Roast 1 cup chopped pecans in the oven (in another pan) for ~ 10 minutes, stirring halfway.
- Arrange graham cracker rectangles in a single layer to cover the surface of the foil lined pan.
- Combine 1 cup packed brown sugar, 6 oz. butter, and 2 tbsp. heavy cream in a saucepan. Bring to a boil for a minute or two and then stir in 1 tsp. vanilla extract and the 1 cup roasted pecans. (I also added ~1/2 cup toffee chips here.)
- Pour and spread the caramel mixture evenly over the graham crackers in the pan. Place into the pre-heated oven and bake for about 10 minutes until browned and bubbly.
- Remove from oven and immediately sprinkle all over with ~ 1/2 tsp. coarse salt. Cool the pan on a rack for a few minutes. Lift the mixture, by the foil out of the pan onto another rack and let cool completely.
- After cool, use large spatulas to remove from the foil onto parchment or a cutting board and cut into small pieces. Store in an air-tight container.

RECIPE FOR FORGOTTEN COOKIES
Courtesy of my sister, Sherilan

- Preheat oven to 325 F and line a cookie sheet with foil.
- Beat 2 egg whites until very, very stiff with an electric mixer on highest setting (3-5 minutes).
- Lower the beater speed and blend in 3/4 cup sugar, a pinch of salt and 1/4 tsp. vanilla extract.
- By hand, fold in 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips and 3/4 cup chopped pecans, being careful to not stir too much and break the stiffness of the meringue.
- Using two spoons, spoon onto the foil lined sheet in about 2 tsp. mounds. They don't expand much so they can be pretty close together - makes about 36 cookies on a regular cookie sheet.
- This is the REALLY EASY part. Put them into the oven and turn it off, go to bed or work, and FORGET them. When the oven is cool, you will have perfect meringue cookies that keep for a while. (Hint, put a sticky note on the oven door so you will remember them before you pre-heat it for something else. Been there, done that, burned them!)

However your 2020 treat drop-off, swap-off turns out, please try to delight in this tough 2020 year by connecting with friends and sharing your baking skills while learning about theirs. Certainly, you will have fun and variety that truly is the sugar and spice of life!

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LEGALS

PB ADT BK 57 PG 516 - 11/20/2020 08:12 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re: The Matter of Adoption of MAH,
DOB: November 9, 2007
A Minor Child

Case Number: AD2020-089

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: Randy Campbell
Address Unknown

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, BY DAVID ALLEN MYERS, PETITIONER. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055

DONE THIS THE 20th DAY OF November, 2020.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate
Cullman County, Alabama

Shay Persall, Esq.
Attorney for Petitioner
ST. JOHN & ST. JOHN, LLC
108 3rd Street SE
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 734-3452

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 12

In loving memory of Milton L. Burns- Milton L. Burns passed away Dec. 10, 2020. Milton was born in Blount County in 1934 to John and Lora Burns, who preceded him in death. He was married over 67 years to Mary Day Burns of Hanceville. Milton is survived by his wife; two daughters Debora Burns Peerce (Brian) and Amy Burns; three grandchildren Brandon Peerce (Desirae), John Peerce (Chloe), and Alex Peerce; two great-grandchildren Peyton and Jack Peerce; and a sister Carolyn William. He was preceded in death by a sister Faye Burns Childers and a brother Gene Burns. Milton retired from CSX Railroad after a 30-year career, then worked another 18 years at Gardendale Barbershop. He was a devoted Christian who was always there, thick and thin, to love and support his family. In light of the pandemic, a celebration of life will be held at a later date. A private graveside service will be held Dec. 12, 2020, at Fairview West Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Fairview West Cemetery Fund.

Lillie Ferrell, 76, of the Walter community passed away Dec. 11, 2020. She was born Jan. 1, 1944 in Cullman County to Benjamin and Ruby Sherrer Robertson. Mrs. Ferrell is survived by her husband Henry Warren Ferrell; daughters Lisa (Todd) Thompson and Janet (Chris) Abbott; grandchildren Anthony (Jennifer) Ferrell, Courtney Thompson, Tyler Roat, and Kaytlin Abbott; great-granddaughter MacKayla Ferrell; brother Wayne (Martha) Robertson; sisters Mae Brown, Fae Neely, and Geraldine Sweatmon; brother-in-law Charles (Vickie) Ferrell; and Joe (Debbie) Ferrell. Graveside services for Lillie are at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 in Duck River Cemetery, with Pastor Caleb Elrod officiating. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Ferrell family.

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Holidays (from Front)

Christy Perry
christ@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – For the second year, students at Hanceville High School will be able to experience one of Christmas' greatest joys-giving. For the past couple of months, the high school students were encouraged to bring in a toy to be given to Hanceville Elementary School students. Each high school student will give an elementary student a gift and create a lifelong memory by doing so.

The idea came to Hanceville High School theater teacher and Leo Club Advisor Tina Weldon last year, she explained, "Our school, we have a lot of students who are low income and I felt like, with a lot of our kids, they've never been given the opportunity to really feel what it feels like to give someone else something. That's the whole joy of the holidays. It is for me. It feels good to do something for someone else."

Last year with the help of the Hanceville Leo Club, more than 600 toys were collected and wrapped for the younger students at the elementary school. The entire high school student body then lined up in the hallway as the elementary students arrived to receive their presents.

The younger kids were thrilled, and Weldon observed, "My high school students, the looks on their faces and the excitement they exhibited, it was so heartwarming."

This year, with COVID-19 and the schools adhering to a hybrid schedule, Weldon was fearful that they wouldn't be able to pull off the gift exchange. The elementary teachers soon began reaching out to say their students were asking if the gift exchange would happen again. Weldon told them, "We will get this done!"

Knowing the year has been difficult on families, she braced herself for a slow response. What happened next was quite the opposite. Gifts began pouring in, as did offers from the high school kids to help in any way possible.

More than 600 gifts were quickly donated by the student body and the Leo Club has been spending extra time at school making sure the gifts are properly divided by age/grade level and wrapped for their young friends.

Weldon added, "Right now we have all 600 gifts wrapped and we have students that still want to help. Yesterday, students began bringing in new shoes, coats and all kinds of things just to reach out and help their fellow classmates who would not get a Christmas otherwise.

"It's so, so exciting and the kids, I couldn't be more proud of them. Hanceville is a really special place to be, and the kids don't seem to form the cliques like they seem to do in other schools. The empathy they have toward others, I can't even explain how sweet it is."

Next week, the gift exchange will take place, but due to the hybrid schedule, two days will be needed to make sure each high school student is able to participate.

"The giving is the emphasis of the project and the opportunity for the older students to better understand the positive impact they can have on the younger students.

"The things that happen to you in elementary school, the people you encounter and the way you are treated, it sticks with you for a lifetime," Weldon said. "I don't know that we are necessarily teaching generosity, but being a role model for that and setting an example really makes a difference. My high school kids who bring in toys, they are just beaming. They come in and it's like they are carrying a pot of gold even though it's just Dollar Tree toys. You can tell they feel like they are making a difference, and that's important."

Weldon hopes these types of projects make school a fun and safe place to be for all the students. The wrapped gift might be a toy, but the real gift is the interaction between the kids as they experience the joy of giving.

Smiled Weldon, "They all love it SO much."



